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## **Children and Young People offered or who received structured 1 to 1 support, mentoring, or equivalent relational support delivered or commissioned by Belfast Trust**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information. To minimise burden, Question 1 is the primary request. Question 2 is supplementary and may be answered at a high level where detailed data is not readily available.

### **Question 1, Primary Request**

**For each of the last three financial years, please provide the number of children and young people aged 10 to 18 who were offered or received structured 1 to 1 support, mentoring, or equivalent relational support delivered or commissioned by your Health and Social Care Trust.**

**For the purposes of this request, “structured 1 to 1 support, mentoring, or equivalent relational support” refers to planned, ongoing individual support offered beyond routine statutory casework, with a defined relational, mentoring, or guidance purpose. This does not include routine social work contact, assessments, or general case management activity.**

All services offered to children and young people are defined by statute. In line with the Children Northern Ireland Order 1995, the Children’s Community Services Directorate report via statutory function reporting on a six-monthly basis for all Children in Need. This is defined and reported as the total of all children / young people on social work files, i.e. Looked After (namely children in the care of the Trust), Child Protection, Children In Need (family support), Disability, whether pending referral, open case or investigations. All clients aged less than 18 years at end of each period (including disability) – the Trust reports the period end as of the end of March and the end of September. For the purposes of reporting arrangements, this information is broken down by the following age categories: <1; 1 to 4; 5 to 11; 12 to15 and 16 plus.

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Therefore, by virtue of the legislative framework and reporting arrangements, all children and young people aged 10 to 18 are statutory casework. Children’s Service staff provide structured 1 to 1 support, mentoring or equivalent relational support or guidance as part of their casework to enable assessment and intervention work with children and young people. Please find below an overview of the number of children over the past three full reporting years that the Trust was involved with, based on this definition:

**Please break this information down by:**

- Age
- Gender

Information to provide the breakdown for the 6 six-monthly reporting periods (broken by ages 10 – 18 years) is not currently centrally collated and would necessitate an additional data reporting to be implemented as this metric is outside the currently developed reporting systems. To provide the information broken down in this way would involve more than 18 hours work. Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the ‘Appropriate Limit’, as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

**Financial year 2024/2025**

**September 2024**

|              | <1        |           | 1-4        |            | 5-11       |            | 12-15      |            | 16+        |            | Total       |             |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | M         | F         | M          | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M           | F           |
| Children     | 71        | 66        | 330        | 285        | 904        | 677        | 494        | 448        | 239        | 177        | <b>2038</b> | <b>1653</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>71</b> | <b>66</b> | <b>330</b> | <b>285</b> | <b>904</b> | <b>677</b> | <b>494</b> | <b>448</b> | <b>239</b> | <b>177</b> | <b>2038</b> | <b>1653</b> |

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**March 2025**

|              | <1        |           | 1-4        |            | 5-11       |            | 12-15      |            | 16+        |            | Total       |             |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | M         | F         | M          | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M           | F           |
| Children     | 82        | 75        | 347        | 293        | 968        | 769        | 557        | 491        | 264        | 210        | 2218        | 1838        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>82</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>347</b> | <b>293</b> | <b>968</b> | <b>769</b> | <b>557</b> | <b>491</b> | <b>264</b> | <b>210</b> | <b>2218</b> | <b>1838</b> |

**Financial year 2023/24**

**Sept 2023**

|              | <1        |           | 1-4        |            | 5-11        |            | 12-15      |            | 16+        |            | Total       |             |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | M         | F         | M          | F          | M           | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M           | F           |
| Children     | 80        | 60        | 413        | 396        | 1067        | 821        | 554        | 482        | 238        | 199        | 2352        | 1958        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>60</b> | <b>413</b> | <b>396</b> | <b>1067</b> | <b>821</b> | <b>554</b> | <b>482</b> | <b>238</b> | <b>199</b> | <b>2352</b> | <b>1958</b> |

**March 2024**

|              | <1        |           | 1-4        |            | 5-11       |            | 12-15      |            | 16+        |            | Total       |             |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | M         | F         | M          | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M           | F           |
| Children     | 71        | 66        | 330        | 285        | 904        | 677        | 494        | 448        | 239        | 177        | <b>2038</b> | <b>1653</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>71</b> | <b>66</b> | <b>330</b> | <b>285</b> | <b>904</b> | <b>677</b> | <b>494</b> | <b>448</b> | <b>239</b> | <b>177</b> | <b>2038</b> | <b>1653</b> |

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**Financial year 2022/23**

**Sept 2022**

|              | <1        |           | 1-4        |            | 5-11       |            | 12-15      |            | 16+        |            | Total       |             |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | M         | F         | M          | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M           | F           |
| Children     | 65        | 81        | 398        | 373        | 953        | 753        | 516        | 424        | 217        | 183        | 2149        | 1814        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>398</b> | <b>373</b> | <b>953</b> | <b>753</b> | <b>516</b> | <b>424</b> | <b>217</b> | <b>183</b> | <b>2149</b> | <b>1814</b> |

**March 2023**

|              | <1        |           | 1-4        |            | 5-11        |            | 12-15      |            | 16+        |            | Total       |             |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | M         | F         | M          | F          | M           | F          | M          | F          | M          | F          | M           | F           |
| Children     | 78        | 67        | 434        | 359        | 1040        | 782        | 531        | 486        | 224        | 191        | 2307        | 1885        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>78</b> | <b>67</b> | <b>434</b> | <b>359</b> | <b>1040</b> | <b>782</b> | <b>531</b> | <b>486</b> | <b>224</b> | <b>191</b> | <b>2307</b> | <b>1885</b> |

The statutory function reporting provides a range of information and is available for all Trusts via the Department of Health website - [www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk), which may be of assistance.

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Please find below the links to the relevant reporting years to this request.

Year 2024/25: [Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2024/25 | Department of Health](#) ,  
Year 2023/24: [Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2023/24 | Department of Health](#)  
Year 2022/23: [Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2022/23 | Department of Health](#)

The Trust notes that routine social work contact, assessments, or general case management activity is excluded from this request. However, such activity is integral to all our work. The statutory reporting arrangements do not break down casework under the categories requested in this submission, namely:

1 to 1 support delivered or commissioned  
Mentoring delivered or commissioned, or  
Equivalent relational support delivered or commissioned

**Where possible, please also indicate whether the child or young person held Children in Need status at the time the support was offered or delivered.**

**This should include support delivered directly by the Trust and support delivered by commissioned voluntary or community sector organisations.**

To provide a breakdown under these categories would require a manual review of all records, including reviewing of completed assessments and case notes of each of these cases. Based on the service's experience of file reviews in this detail for a three-year period, it would take approximately 3 to 4 hours per file and, therefore, to provide this information would require more than 18 hours work. Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12.

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**Question 2, supplementary request**

**Please list any mentoring, 1 to 1 support, or relational support services for children and young people aged 10 to 18 that your Trust has delivered or commissioned in the last three financial years.**

**For each service, please provide, where readily available:**

- **the age range covered**
- **the primary referral route, for example early help, children's social care, youth justice**

**If any of the above information is not held, please specify which elements are not held.**

More clarity is required to allow us to address this request. Children's services do not specifically directly commission such services.

Almost all services are relational based and included in these services is 1 to 1 support and elements of mentoring.