

18 May 2026

Children’s Social Care Services

Q1. The total number of child relinquishment requests per year for each of the last ten years.

There have been 6 relinquishments over the past 10 years. These cannot be broken down by year as there is a possibility it may identify an individuals.

** Where numbers are low we have put <5 rather than state the actual figure. To ensure that patient remain non identifiable. Disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party.*

Q2. For the calendar years 2023 and 2024, and for 2025 if available:

- **The number of referrals received by Children’s Social Care Services where domestic abuse was recorded as a factor; and**

Domestic Violence	
Year	Number of Referrals
2023	2396
2024	1575
2025	1704

Q3. For each of the last five years, please provide either:

- **The annual staff (or ideally just social worker, if these figure exist) sickness or absence rate already held by the authority (for example, percentage of working time lost), or**
- **If no such percentage is routinely recorded, the total number of working days lost to sickness/absence and the total number of contracted working days for Children’s Social Care Services staff in each year.**

Please provide whichever of the above is held in recorded form.

The following figures represent the average percentage of absence (including sickness, maternity leave, and career breaks) among frontline social work staff across the following service areas: Gateway, Family Support, Looked After Children, Residential Services, Children with Disability, Fostering and Adoption Services, and the Regional Emergency Social Work Service.

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Please note that these figures do not include social work management. The data provided covers the most recent four financial years, which is the period for which this information has been centrally collated.

Year	Average percentage of absence
2022/23	13.2%
2023/24	13.9%
2024/25	11.9%
2025/26	12.8%

Q4. The average caseload, and the average number of children (if different) held by qualified social care workers in:

- **Frontline child protection assessment teams; and**
- **Safeguarding teams for each of the last five years.**

The Trust wishes to clarify that frontline child protection and safeguarding teams manage caseloads encompassing both children and families across a range of intervention pathways. Specifically, cases within the Family Support pathway are counted by families, whereas cases within the Child Protection and Children in Care pathways are counted by individual children.

The Trust does not routinely hold recorded information on average caseloads or the average number of children held per qualified social worker for frontline child protection assessment teams or safeguarding teams over the last five years. Caseload information is not captured or reported in a consistently recorded format across this historical period that would enable accurate year-on-year comparison.

Caseload data was collated by special request for operational workforce management purposes in July 2025. At this time the average caseload was 22 cases.

Caseload currency is the social work pathways in which social workers are involved with families and children. The caseload currency is individual children for children on the child protection register, and children in care and the count by families for children in need of support.

To provide data for earlier years would require a manual interrogation and retrospective analysis of individual staff and case records, which would exceed the reasonable limits set out under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting that information. It is therefore exempt from release.