

30 June 2026

## Children in Care Statistics

- 1. The amount of children in care in the Belfast HSC Trust who have had an unmet need in their care placement between January 2026 and 8 June 2026.**

There are more than 1230 children in care of the Trust. To answer this question would involve undertaking an analysis of each case, which would require more than 18 hours of work to complete.

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.

- 2. The number of children in the Belfast HSC Trust who have been placed in care outside of their preferred Trust between January 2026 and 8 June 2026.**

Within the requested period, there were <5 children placed in care outside their preferred Trust.

**Use of <5 (less than five):** We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party, as the small numbers involved could make children personally identifiable.

Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

- 3. The amount of children in the Belfast HSC Trust placed in residential homes between January 2026 and 8 June 2026, and the amount of these under the age of 10.**

There were 11 young people placed in residential care between January 2026 and 8 June 2026.

Number of young people age under 10: <5

Again, small numbers involved mean we are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party