

02 July 2026

Safeguarding and Early Help Information

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding safeguarding concerns and Early Help activity within your local authority.

For the purposes of this request:

- “Education settings” includes:
 - Maintained nursery schools
 - Primary schools
 - Secondary schools
 - Academies
 - Private, voluntary and independent (PVI) early years settings (where recorded within your systems)
- “Statutory intervention” refers to cases progressed under Section 17 (Child in Need) or Section 47 (Child Protection).
- “Year” refers to the financial year (1 April to 31 March).

This request relates only to information held within the local authority’s Children’s Social Care and/or Early Help systems. I am not requesting internal safeguarding records held solely by individual schools or nurseries.

For each financial year (2021–2022, 2022–2023, 2023–2024), please provide aggregated totals for safeguarding referrals received from education settings, broken down by:

1. Total safeguarding contacts/referrals received

New UNOCINI Referrals received into Gateway, where the referral source is one related to a school/teacher/principal/nursery school etc.

Reporting year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Grand Total
Referrals received from education settings	494	509	557	1560

2. Of these, the number progressed to:

- Statutory intervention (Section 17 / Section 47)
- Early Help

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○ **Closed with no further action**

Referrals progressing to having a UNOCINI Initial Assessment, by outcome
(closed following IA, or placed on Pathway following IA)

Reporting year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Grand Total
Closed following Initial Assessment	72	82	67	221
Referrals placed onto pathway following Initial Assessment	73	74	55	202
Grand Total	145	156	122	423

○ **Early Help**

Report unavailable

○ **Closed with no further action**

Referrals closed with no UNOCINI Initial Assessment recorded

Reporting year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Grand Total
Referrals closed with no further action	349	353	435	1137

3. Number of repeat referrals within 12 months

Referrals where the source is from an education setting, and the date of referral is within 12 months of a previous referral where the source was an education setting but doesn't have to be the same education setting.

Number of repeat referrals within 12 months of previous referral for period 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2026	77
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4. Average time from referral to decision (days)

Two tables provided depending on type of decision.

1. Decision to proceed to UNOCINI Initial Assessment. Average calendar days between referral date and date UNOCINI Initial Assessment started

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	2021- 22	2022- 23	2023- 24	Grand Total
Average of Calendar Days from date of referral to start of initial assessment	49	77	60	62

2. Decision to close without assessment. Average calendar days between referral date and date referral closed.

	2021- 22	2022- 23	2023- 24	Grand Total
Average of Calendar Days from date of referral to close no further action	51	58	69	60