

24 March 2023

Homeless 16 & 17 Year Olds and Associated Costs

I hereby request that you provide me with the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act for the months of July to December 2022:

- 1. How many 16 year and 17-year-old young people have been assessed by your Trust following a presentation as homeless in each month detailed above?**

From July to December 2022:

- July 2022 3 x 17 year olds
- August 2022 1 x 17 year olds

We have provided data for 2 months as there were no presentations in the other months, to December 2022.

- 2. In respect of these cases how many of the 16 year olds were provided with accommodation under Article 21 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 following assessment? How many of these children were classified as a “looked after child”?**

Not applicable.

- 3. In respect of these cases how many of the 16 year olds were termed to be children in need for the purposes of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 following assessment?**

Not applicable.

- 4. In respect of these cases how many of the 17 year olds were provided with accommodation under Article 21 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 following assessment? How many of these children were classified as a “looked after child”?**

3 young people

- 5. In respect of these cases how many of the 17 year olds were termed to be children in need for the purposes of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 following assessment?**

1 young person

- 6. In respect of the cases above, how many of the 16 year olds were accommodated by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive?**

Not applicable.

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- 7. In respect of the cases above how many of the 17 year olds were accommodated by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive?**

2 young people

- 8. What is the budget within your Trust for providing accommodation to homeless 16 and 17 year olds?**

There is no specific budget for provision of accommodation. Accommodation is paid for under Article 18 or Article 27 of the Children NI Order.

- 9. What Trust facilities are available for providing accommodation to homeless 16 and 17 year olds within your Trust?**

Trust facilities for 16 year olds is residential or fostering provision. For 17 year olds, Trust provision is via fostering.

- 10. For each of the months above, how many 16 and 17 year olds within your Trust were accommodated in Bed and Breakfast accommodation? Please provide a figure for the cost of this accommodation by month above.**

No young people were accommodated in a B&B during this period.

- 11. How many 16 and 17 year olds presented to your Trust after having left the family home but were not assessed as being homeless?**

Zero

- 12. How many social workers are employed by your Trust to work with homeless 16 and 17 year olds?**

There are 2 x social work posts specifically designated to working with young homeless people – 1 Senior Practitioner in Gateway and 1 Social Worker in Family Support (currently vacant).

The allocated social worker from the Intensive Adolescent Service or Family Support Service also works with the young person in relation to their homeless and accommodation issues.

- 13. Does your trust run training on Article 21 homelessness and the regional good practice guidance on meeting the accommodation needs of homeless 16-21 year olds for its staff? If so what training.**

Belfast Trust does not facilitate training directly. However, staff can attend training provided by other relevant organisations for example, Housing Rights organisation. The guidance is implemented by Gateway and FS staff.