

09 February 2024

Direct Payments for under 18's

I would like to request the following information with regards to Direct Payments for under 18's

1. A copy or a link to the current Direct Payment Documents/Guidance/Procedure for Parents to apply for Direct Payments.

See attached.

Please note that where redactions have been made, this information is exempt from release under S40(2) Personal Information relating to a third party

With regards to Individuals names and signatures, this information is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which relates to personal information relating to a third party. Information of a personal nature is exempt from release where its disclosure would leave individuals open to identity theft and where its disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the GDPR 2018.

2. A copy of the Trust's Policy and Procedure on how the panel decide on whether to award or not award direct payments to under 18s.

Eligibility for Direct payments for children under 18 is based on an assessment of need for the child completed by a Qualified Social Worker. The BHSCT Social Work Service is required to assess Children in Need who require services within the UNOCINI framework. All assessments must be consistent with the statutory obligations under Article 17 and 18 of the Children's (NI) Order 1995, to assess need and provide services to meet the assessed need. The BHSCT has a responsibility to:

- Consider all assessments of need presented by the Social Worker to ensure that the assessments are comprehensive and clearly articulate the assessed needs of the child and the family.
- Scrutinise assessment and service requests
- Ensure that all assessments are comprehensive, consistent and of good quality
- Provide assurance to senior management that all assessments are carefully considered and that the provision of services is commensurate with the assessed need.

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3. Currently how many Under 18's have been approved direct payments and how many of these approved direct payments are not being utilised within your Trust?

Would not be able to provide this information within the 18 hour timeframe as this would require a full and individual review of every child who is in receipt of Direct Payments. This information is only held within the child and young person's individual records.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information

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 this information.

4. For the last five years how many approved direct payments have been awarded for an Activity/Interest e.g. horse riding, swimming lesson rather than or additional to a PA?

Would not be able to provide this information within the 18 hour timeframe as this would require a full and individual review of every child who is in receipt of Direct Payments. This information is only held within the child and young person's individual records.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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 this information.

5. Can you direct me or send me any engagement or consultation papers with parents or users in regards to Direct Payments?

The Trust cannot share information on individual cases.