

36622 Children's Services Department

In your authority's children's services department, what was the highest caseload of a frontline child protection social worker as of 1 April 2022?

Please explain how the figures are calculated on occasions where there are multiple children in a family being supported. (i.e. Is there one case per child, or one case per family?)

As we do not have solely dedicated 'Child Protection Social Workers', we cannot therefore provide this information. Social Workers carry a range of cases including Child Protection cases.

In your authority's children's services department, what was the average caseload of a frontline child protection social worker as of 1 April 2022?

Please explain how the figures are calculated on occasions where there are multiple children in a family being supported. (i.e. Is there one case per child, or one case per family?)

As above, we do not have solely dedicated 'Child Protection Social Workers'. Our agreed aim is that a full-time social worker should have a case load of 14 Families or 19 Children. We consider this to be 14 families or 19 children where there is a high degree of complexity. Where there are be a number of children in the same family but there is less complexity, we may go over these numbers but would always take relative complexity into consideration. We would also consider the relative experience of social workers. In some situations, therefore their case load may be lower than 14 families or 19 Children if there is a high degree of complexity and need and in some situations, they may be higher.

In Disability team / Hospital team cases we may have larger caseloads as there may not be a need for an immediate service but rather periodic reviews, and these would be calculated differently.

In each of the following financial years, how many referrals did your authority's children's services department receive – where a referral is defined as a request for services to be provided by children's social care? 2017/18 to 2021/22

2017/18 - 12,100

2018/19 - 11,900

2019/20 - 10,800

2020/21 - 10,700

2021/22 - 10,100

What was the number of section 47 enquiries made by your authority's children's services in the following financial years? 2017/18 to 2021/22

This relates to English legislation and is not applicable in Scotland.

How many children in total were on child protection plans within your authority's children's services in the following financial years? 2017/18 to 2021/22

As at 31/03/2022:

2017/18 – 206

2018/19 – 128

2019/20 – 106

2020/21 – 103

2021/22 – 97

How many children were newly added to child protection plans within your authority's children's services in the following financial years? 2017/18 to 2021/22

2017/18 - 277

2018/19 - 221

2019/20 - 179

2020/21 - 183

2021/22 - 142

How many children exited child protection plans within your authority's children's services in the following financial years? 2017/18 to 2021/22

2017/18 - 285

2018/19 - 299

2019/20 - 201

2020/21 - 186

2021/22 - 148

How many children in total were categorised as 'in need' within your authority's children's services in the following financial years? 2017/18 to 2021/22

This information is not consistently recorded therefore accurate figures are not available.

How many children were newly assessed as 'in need' within your authority's children's services in the following financial years? 2017/18 to 2021/22

2017/18 - 4,965

2018/19 - 4,857

2019/20 - 5,243

2020/21 - 5,393

2021/22 - 5,966

How many children were removed from the 'in need' category within your authority's children's services in the following financial years? 2017/18 to 2021/22

This information is not consistently recorded therefore accurate figures are not available.

In the following years, how much was spent by your authority's children's services on early help and prevention services? 2011/12 and 2017/18 to 2021/22

As the specific categories of 'early help' and 'prevention services' are not used by the City of Edinburgh Council, we are unable to identify such a spend over this period.

On 1 April in the following financial years, how many children designated as 'in need' or as a child protection case were either not yet allocated a social worker or had been given a holding allocation? 2018 to 2022

There were no such children in this period as defined above. We would not have either children 'in need' or children where there is a Child Protection concern on any holding position. We may not immediately allocate 'in need' cases to workers but they will be open to our duty systems. All 'in need' cases are assessed on duty and either closed or allocated. Given the everchanging nature of this, we cannot answer this question as it is framed. All children who are subject to Child Protection investigations are allocated to teams and a worker when there is a clear Child Protection assessment and Child Protection Plan.