

37658 Care Experienced Children/Young People

All references to “care” “care experience” are in relation to children/young person being looked after or accommodated (as set out in Section 17(6) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995) by a local authority either now or in the past and should not be confused with other types of care. All references to “The Promise reports” can be found here (<https://thepromise.scot/reports>)

Since 05/02/2020 how many relevant persons in relation to children appealed to a sheriff after a decision by your local authority to detain them in secure care?

Between 1 and 5

Given the small number of children involved we cannot provide the precise number as this could lead to an individual being identified. This would be a breach of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Since 05/02/2020 how many relevant persons in relation to children had a decision to detain them in secure care overturned by a sheriff?

As above, between 1 and 5

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Since 05/02/2020 how many sibling groups have been taken into care in your local authority area?

34 sibling groups (of two to four children), totalling 82 children, have been accommodated.

Since 05/02/2020 how many sibling groups have been separated after being taken into care in your local authority area?

24 sibling groups have been placed with all children together, seven groups have been placed with some children together and three groups (pairs) have been placed where none of the children are together. The table below provides a summary of the groups and placements.

Sibling Group of:	All Together	Partly Together	All Separate	Groups	Children
2	20	-	3	23	46
3	3	5	0	8	24
4	1	2	0	3	12
	24	7	3	34	82

Does your local authority ask potential employees if they have experience of care during the recruitment process?

No

What percentage of your workforce have care experience?

We do not hold a record of this.

Do new employees receive training on their role as Corporate Parents as part of any induction process?

There is currently role-specific training as appropriate, however, we are in the process of developing a module on Corporate Parenting and this will be made available to all current and new colleagues.

What specific policies or supports do you have in place for employees who have experience of care?

As we aim to have a diverse and inclusive workforce all our policies aim to be inclusive irrespective of background. We do offer all colleagues support within their own service via regular 1:1s and externally through an Employee Assistance partner who is available 24 hours per day, 365 days of the year.

Since 05/02/2020 how many care experienced people have your local authority housed in temporary accommodation?

214 – This includes households that were accommodated in Temporary Accommodation from 05/02/2020 to 11/07/2022.

Since 05/02/2020 how many care experienced people have registered as homeless with your local authority area?

188 between 05/02/2020 and 11/07/2022.

Since 05/02/2020 how many times has your local authority notified the Care Inspectorate of the death of a looked after child or young person?

None

What percentage of eligible care experienced people up to age 26 access their exemption to paying Council Tax within your local authority area?

We do not hold a record of this. The central database used for Council Tax is not linked to care systems, therefore we do not hold the initial figure for the number of eligible care experienced people. We would require this figure before we could calculate the percentage that have been awarded the Council Tax exemption.

Since 05/02/2020 how many eligible care experienced parents where offered early years places for their children at age 2 and what percentage of care experienced parents with 2 year old children does this number represent?

We do not hold information on Care Experienced Parents.

Does your local authority remove children from school to attend children's hearings or related meetings regarding their care?

Yes. If a young person wants to attend a review meeting, then their absence from school would be authorised and, if needed, would be supported by a member of staff from the school.

Since 05/02/2020 what is the average amount of school days lost due to absence by care experienced primary aged pupils in your local authority?, and the same for non-care experienced primary pupils?

39 days for Care Experienced and 25 days for all pupils.

Since 05/02/2020 what is the average amount of school days lost due to absence by care experienced secondary aged pupils in your local authority?, and the same for non-care experienced secondary pupils?

62 days for Care Experienced and 33 days for all pupils.

Since 05/02/2020 how many primary aged care experienced pupils have been formally excluded from school in your local authority area?

9

Since 05/02/2020 how many secondary aged care experienced pupils have been formally excluded from school in your local authority area?

49

Since 05/02/2020 how many secondary aged care experienced pupils have been on a reduced timetable? What is the average reduction in teaching hours? Same for non-care experienced pupils.

We are unable to provide the information requested as the cost to the Council of locating, retrieving and providing you with the information exceeds the statutory maximum of £600.

Since 05/02/2020 how many times within your local authority area have council/HSCP staff working in children's residential care contacted Police Scotland about the behaviour of a child living in a residential house setting?

In addition to the costings set out above in A21, this information is not readily accessible and would require the review of the daily records of all of the looked after children in our residential units for this time frame. The cost to the Council to locate, retrieve and provide this information would far exceed the statutory maximum of £600.

How many children that your local authority are directly responsible for are in placements outside your local authority area? Since 05/02/2020 what has been the cost of these placements to the Council?

There are currently 409 young people in placements outside the local authority area. This includes fostering, kinship, residential and secure placements.

The estimated costs for the placements for 2022-23 are £20.7m.

The estimated total cost for 2022-23 assumes that the current placements are all in place for a full year, albeit in practice there are likely to be changes throughout the course of the year, with movements in and out of placements occurring during the course of the year, and some placements being part-year only.

The Council's financial ledger does not record cost information on an individual child or placement basis, and therefore further work would be required to identify the placement duration for the individual placements included in the response and the associated placement costs for the period 05/02/2020 to date.

As with A22 above, the cost of this manual search of hundreds of individual records in order to locate, retrieve and provide the cost of these placements, would be in addition to the excessive costs set out in A21 above.

What is the weekly/monthly allowance for Foster Carers that your local authority directly commissions?

The average weekly cost for placements with independent foster agencies is £940. Costs vary across different providers, dependant on age and level of need of the young person being cared for.

Has the allowance paid to Foster carers increased since 05/02/2020?

Yes

Does your local authority provide Passports to all young people leaving care as a valid proof of identity?

Yes

Does your local authority offer to fund driving and or driving theory lessons or tests for all care experienced 17-26 year olds?

Yes

Does your local authority provide or offer extra private tuition to all secondary aged care experienced pupils?

No

How many care experienced people up to age 26 are currently on a waiting list for a referral or appointment with CAMHS in your local authority area?

We do not hold this information but would suggest that you may want to direct this part of your request to the NHS.

Does your local authority offer rent exemptions to care experienced people in receipt of the higher education care experienced bursary distributed by SAAS?

If so, how many care experienced people have benefitted from this?

No, this is not offered for Council house rents.

How much funding has your local authority received to 1/6/2022 to implement the recommendations with The Promise reports?

To date, the City of Edinburgh Council has received £70,000 from the Good Childhood funding connected to The Promise.

Has your local authority formally agreed either at a meeting of the Council or a meeting of the cabinet to implement the recommendations of the care review otherwise known as The Promise?

The Council's Business Plan which outlines the Council's commitment to delivering the Promise is published on our website at:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/28919/our-future-council-our-future-city>

What is the projected cost of implementing all of the recommendations contained within The Promise reports to your local authority?

The projected cost of implementing the recommendations contained within the 10-year plan are not recorded.