

## 60150 Children's Social Care Services

The total number of child relinquishment requests per year for each of the last ten years.

For the avoidance of doubt, this refers to instances where birth or adoptive parents contacted the local authority requesting that Children's Social Care Services assume care responsibility for a child.

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
1	2	3	2	0	0	2	1	2	0

For the calendar years 2023 and 2024, and for 2025 if available:

The number of referrals received by Children's Social Care Services where domestic abuse was recorded as a factor; and

If 2025 figures are incomplete, please provide whatever data is currently available and specify the date range that the data covers.

We are unable to provide a response to this. Due to system constraints, we do not record this level of detail at the point of referral and are only able to provide this information for children who are the subject of child protection investigations.

For each of the last five years, please provide either:

The annual staff (or ideally just social worker, if these figure exist) sickness or absence rate already held by the authority (for example, percentage of working time lost), or

If no such percentage is routinely recorded, the total number of working days lost to sickness/absence and the total number of contracted working days for Children's Social Care Services staff in each year.

Please see below sickness absence rates for social workers across Children's Services teams. This reflects absence rates per calendar year.

We moved to a new HR and Payroll system in October 2024. From October 2024 onwards, absence data is reported from the new system. It should be noted that we see some differences in absence rates reported between the two systems due to differences in system configuration and calculations.

Year	Absence rate – social workers
2020	1.07%
2021	1.23%
2022	2.01%
2023	1.96%
2024	2.56%
2025	2.70%

The average caseload, and the average number of children (if different) held by qualified social care workers in:

Frontline child protection assessment teams; and

Safeguarding teams

for each of the last five years.

We are unable to provide an accurate figure for caseloads per social worker in a team without having to undertake a manual trawl, the costs associated with undertaking this are noted below.

We would need to source a report from HR/Finance colleagues providing unique IDs for each social worker per team, we would then need to check whether each worker was F/T, P/T, reduced workload (due to sickness absences etc) and/or Newly Qualified (as caseloads would be different from experienced social workers) If we are to provide accurate figures (FTE per team and manually checking caseloads), we estimate this would take around 15-20 minutes to check each worker's contracted hours/status/caseload by hourly rate of £15.00 (around 400mins per team x 8 teams – 3,200mins) - equating to approx. 53 hours of work.