



Reference: FOI2854

**Request:**

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Leaving care A letter sent to all local authority Council Leaders, Chief Executives, and Directors of Children's Services by the Secretary of State for Education on 21 April 2020 said: "Young people who have left, or are about to leave, care, whether that's foster families or residential care, may be especially vulnerable right now. So I am asking you to ensure no one has to leave care during this period, by looking very carefully at whether it is safe for those young people who would have been due to move out of your care to do so and to give care leavers extra support. The £1.6 billion of additional funding announced on Saturday will help local authorities give care leavers, and other vulnerable groups, the support that they need at this difficult time." In addition, the Department for Education's coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for local authorities on children's social care has included the following since its update on 6 May 2020: "In particular, we expect local authorities to take account of coronavirus (COVID-19) when making decisions about leaving care, and to ensure that no one has to leave care during this period..." Response below:

N.B. Questions 2-9 inclusive have been answered on the basis that they refer to the cohort identified in question 1.

1. How many young people ceased to be looked after by North Tyneside Council on or after their 18th birthday during:
  - a. May, June and July 2020? 4
  - b. Feb, March and April 2020? 11
  - c. Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan 2020? 9
  - d. Aug, Sep and Oct 2019? 6
  - e. May, June and July 2019? 12
  
2. How many young people ceased to be looked after by North Tyneside Council and moved into accommodation considered suitable during:
  - a. May, June and July 2020? No moves
  - b. Feb, March and April 2020? 1
  - c. Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan 2020? 5
  - d. Aug, Sep and Oct 2019? 1
  - e. May, June and July 2019? 3
  
3. How many young people ceased to be looked after by North Tyneside Council and moved into accommodation considered unsuitable during:

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- a. May, June and July 2020? No moves
- b. Feb, March and April 2020? None
- c. Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan 2020? None
- d. Aug, Sep and Oct 2019? None
- e. May, June and July 2019? None

4. How many young people ceased to be looked after by North Tyneside Council and moved into independent living during:

- a. May, June and July 2020? No moves
- b. Feb, March and April 2020? None
- c. Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan 2020? None
- d. Aug, Sep and Oct 2019? None
- e. May, June and July 2019? 1

5. How many young people ceased to be looked after by North Tyneside Council and moved into semi-independent accommodation, supported lodgings, ordinary lodgings, foyers or other accommodation during:

- a. May, June and July 2020? No moves
- b. Feb, March and April 2020? None
- c. Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan 2020? 1
- d. Aug, Sep and Oct 2019? None
- e. May, June and July 2019? None

6. How many young people ceased to be looked after by North Tyneside Council and moved to living with parents or relatives during:

- a. May, June and July 2020? No moves
- b. Feb, March and April 2020? 1
- c. Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan 2020? 4
- d. Aug, Sep and Oct 2019? 1
- e. May, June and July 2019? 2

7. How many young people ceased to be looked after by North Tyneside Council and continued living with former foster carers during:

- a. May, June and July 2020? 4
- b. Feb, March and April 2020? 6
- c. Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan 2020? 2
- d. Aug, Sep and Oct 2019? 2
- e. May, June and July 2019? 5



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8. How many young people ceased to be looked after by North Tyneside Council and moved into emergency accommodation, bed and breakfast accommodation, were recorded as having no fixed abode/homeless, or their residence not known during:

- a. May, June and July 2020? No moves
- b. Feb, March and April 2020? None
- c. Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan 2020? None
- d. Aug, Sep and Oct 2019? None
- e. May, June and July 2019? None

9. How many young people ceased to be looked after by North Tyneside Council and whose accommodation information was not known during:

- a. May, June and July 2020? None
- b. Feb, March and April 2020? None
- c. Nov, Dec 2019 and Jan 2020? None
- d. Aug, Sep and Oct 2019? None
- e. May, June and July 2019? None

10. In response to the instruction from the Secretary of State and guidance noted above:

- a. How many young people have had their current placements temporarily extended so that they do not have to leave care at this time?

Seven

- b. How long on average have these placements been extended for?

104 days

- c. Until what date is North Tyneside Council planning to continue abiding by the instruction that no young person should have to leave care?

All plans are made on an individual basis considering the needs and preferences of the young people involved and their carers. Discretionary payments to care leavers The Department for Education's coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for local authorities on children's social care has included the following paragraph since its original publication on 3 April 2020: "The government has announced additional funding for local authorities to help them address pressures arising from coronavirus (COVID-19). We would encourage local authorities to utilise some of this funding to provide discretionary payments to care leavers to cover items such as food, utilities and rent during this period if required."

Requests



North Tyneside Council

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11. How many care leavers supported by North Tyneside Council have received a discretionary payment to cover items such as food, utilities and rent during the period April - July 2020?

61 young people

12. What was the average amount (£) provided as a discretionary payment during the period April - July 2020?

£126.85/person

13. What was the total amount (£) provided as discretionary payments to care leavers during the period April - July 2020?

£7737.69

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