



Reference: RFI 1709024

Request:

Freedom of information request concerning early help/intervention services for children and families provided by local authorities and their partners in England.

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information will be used for research into the service provision in England's local authorities for children who have 'additional needs' not being met by universal services. These are young people not reaching the threshold for statutory social work assessment as 'child in need' under the Children Act 1989.

I appreciate that local authorities will have different data collection regimes and I am happy to offer any clarification that may be necessary to fulfill the information request. I am happy to accept spreadsheets or audit reports summarizing data relating to the questions I outline as specifically as I can below. I will appreciate any early feedback on the clarity of the request or ease of accessing the information requested.

1. Does the local authority gather information on cases/referrals where an early help/intervention service is offered to children with needs recorded at a threshold below/prior that of 'child in need' (Children Act 1989)?

Yes – we hold the central database for logging all Early Help Assessments that are received and the reviews. This shows us what support families are receiving under this framework.

2. Please can you tell me the numbers of closed, opened, and active cases of early intervention with children, young people and their families not reaching thresholds for recording as Children in Need statutory cases.

We have opened 183 Early Help Assessments in financial year 17/18, against 369 children. Our performance reporting does not currently collect other information

3. What groups of practitioners are case-holders or 'lead professionals' with regard to early intervention work with children and families?

Any professional working with a family can initiate an EHA. We have had EHAs from a wide range of statutory/non statutory services e.g Health / Schools/Police/Voluntary Sector

4. Please supply broad detail of models of practice used in working with this service users group. For example, Team around the Child, or Team around the Family, Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or other multi-agency systems of practice.

Team around the Family
Early Help Pathway
Early Help Assessments

5. If primary reasons for referral are routinely recorded in any statistical returns or reports for this service user group, please supply aggregate data for the most recent annual report?

We do not aggregate data in this way, however primary reasons for Early Help Assessments this financial year have been Education, Mental Health and Parenting Capacity.

6. In addition, if data breakdown of cases by age, gender, and ethnicity is recorded, please supply with the other information requested as above.

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Please see breakdown below, based on financial year 16/17

Age Range	Female	Male	Grand Total
0-5	160	211	371
6-11	190	230	420
12-16	141	177	318
17+	39	41	80
Grand Total	530	659	1189

	0-5	6-11	12-16	17+	Grand Total
Asian background other	4				4
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	4	4	2	4	14
Asian or Asian British Indian	2				2
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	2		1		3
Black or Black British African	1	2		2	5
Chinese ethnic background	2				2
Ethnic background other	5	2	2		9
Information not yet obtained	2	4			6
Mixed background other	4	5	1		10
Refused	2	8	2	1	13
Unseen	28	18	13	3	62
White and Asian	2	1			3
White and Black African	1			1	2
White and Black Caribbean	2				2
White background other	7	8	3		18
White British	303	367	294	69	1033
White Irish		1			1
Grand Total	371	420	318	80	1189

7. Does the authority compile strategic reviewing reports describing and analysing the early help/intervention work undertaken with children and families and can recent examples be supplied as part of this FOI request? For example, any recent reports or audits which describe the frameworks and models for local multi-agency practice in early help or intervention would be greatly appreciated.

Our performance reporting does not currently collect this information