

Freedom of Information – Response – 26679

1. Research Governance Procedure

Please provide:

1a. A copy of any policies, procedures, guidance documents, or process maps that outline your research governance procedure for external research studies involving Children's Social Care.

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council holds this information. However, the information is readily accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Section 21 of the FOIA states that a public authority does not need to provide information under section 1 of the Act if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

Information can be found on the Council's website: [Research governance - Suffolk County Council](#)

1b. Within these documents, or separately if necessary, please confirm who reviews and approves applications for external research studies involving children's social care (e.g., job titles, teams, panels).

Suffolk County Council (SCC) has a small Research Governance Panel, comprising:

- Head of Workforce Development
- Principal Social Workers
- Information Governance lead
- Professor of Social Work from a university
- A Specialist Teacher Children and Young People's Services
- A Quality and Improvement Lead from Adult Social Care

2. Number of Children's Social Care Research Applications Involving Child Participants (last 5 years)

For the period 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2024 (or the most recent five-year period for which you hold data), please provide:

2a. The number of research governance applications received for external research studies where children were intended research participants within Children's Social Care.

6

*2b. Of these, the **number of applications that involved children 11 years and younger. If you do not hold age data in this form, please state this.*

0

3. Outcomes of Applications (last 5 years)

For the same period, please provide:

3a. The number of applications approved for external research studies involving child participants within Children's Social Care.

6

*3b. Of these approved applications, the **number that involved children 11 years and younger.*

If data is not held in this form, please state this.

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4. Approval Timeframes (if held)

4a. Please provide any recorded information you hold on the time taken to process research governance applications relating to Children's Social Care during the same five-year period, including (where available):

- the date the application was received, and*
- the date the application was approved or declined.*

If this information is not held or not held in a retrievable format, please state this.

SCC does not hold this information in a retrievable format. However, the Panel meets monthly to consider applications. Timescales for approval or decline will depend on whether further information or clarification is needed.