

Freedom of Information – Response – 26714

This request is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Given the significant public interest in transparency regarding the expenditure of public funds on children's social care placements, and in line with your statutory duties under the Act, I am requesting detailed financial and commissioning data which Suffolk County Council unquestionably holds and uses for budget management, commissioning oversight, and strategic planning.

Please provide the following information for each of the last three financial years (2022–23, 2023–24, and 2024–25 to date):

1. Overall Position

Children that were not in a full time residential care setting have not been included.

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Total annual spend on children's residential care placements	£15,388,873.04	£24,615,265.49	£26,311,774.79
Total number of children placed in residential care	129	122	163
Average weekly placement cost	£5,175.76	£5,608.18	£6,045.53
Lowest weekly placement cost per year	£1,333.00	£1,504.00	£1,719.50
Highest weekly placement cost per year	£17,064.00	£14,738.00	£18,445.78
Mean weekly placement cost per year	£5,175.76	£5,608.18	£6,045.53
Median weekly placement cost per year	£4,220.00	£5,034.89	£5,505.00

2. Spend by Provision Type

For each financial year, please break down the above information by the following categories of children's residential care:

- *Learning Disabilities (LD) Children's Homes*
- *Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD) Children's Homes*
- *Solo / Single Placement Residential Homes*
- *Secure Children's Homes*
- *Therapeutic / Mental Health Focused Residential Homes*
- *Crisis / Emergency / Short Term Stabilisation Homes*
- *Residential Special Schools with linked children's homes*
- *Parent and Child Residential Assessment Units*
- *Step-Down / Transition Residential Services*
- *Semi-Independent / Supported Accommodation provision for 16–17 year olds*

For each of the above categories, please provide:

- Total annual spend
- Number of placements
- Average weekly cost
- Lowest, highest, mean and median weekly costs
 - Children that were not in a full-time residential care setting have not been included.
 - Supported Accommodation as a category has not been included in any of the breakdowns as it is not been considered as residential care

• Learning Disabilities (LD) Children's Homes	Total annual spend on children's residential care placements	£2,807,558.69	£5,351,588.21	£3,601,605.97
	Total number of children placed in residential care	19	24	28.00
	Average weekly placement cost	£4,610.39	£5,367.00	£6,027.50
	Lowest weekly placement cost per year	£3,107.22	£1,504.00	£3,464.24
	Highest weekly placement cost per year	£10,234.30	£14,738.00	£13,272.99
	Mean weekly placement cost per year	£4,610.39	£5,367.00	£6,027.50
	Median weekly placement cost per year	£3,710.00	£4,203.00	£5,359.33
• Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD) Children's Homes	Total annual spend on children's residential care placements	£10,514,619.89	£16,800,287.17	£18,127,964.84
	Total number of children placed in residential care	84	80	115
	Average weekly placement cost	£5,050.51	£5,577.34	£5,829.25
	Lowest weekly placement cost per year	£2,840.00	£2,867.50	£1,719.50
	Highest weekly placement cost per year	£14,187.00	£14,187.20	£18,445.78
	Mean weekly placement cost per year	£5,050.51	£5,577.34	£5,829.25

	Median weekly placement cost per year	£4,220.00	£5,472.50	£5,328.56
• Solo / Single Placement Residential Homes	Total annual spend on children's residential care placements	£914,852.71	£1,102,052.90	£2,616,890.29
	Total number of children placed in residential care	11	8	7
	Average weekly placement cost	£7,745.49	£9,771.11	£10,741.54
	Lowest weekly placement cost per year	£3,395.47	£4,375.00	£9,886.00
	Highest weekly placement cost per year	£17,064.00	£11,579.00	£11,579.00
	Mean weekly placement cost per year	£7,745.49	£9,771.11	£10,741.54
	Median weekly placement cost per year	£4,375.00	£11,195.00	£11,195.00
• Secure Children's Homes	Total annual spend on children's residential care placements	£190,080.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Total number of children placed in residential care	<5*	0	0
	Average weekly placement cost	£14,784.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Lowest weekly placement cost per year	£14,784.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Highest weekly placement cost per year	£14,784.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Mean weekly placement cost per year	£14,784.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Median weekly placement cost per year	£14,784.00	£0.00	£0.00
• Therapeutic / Mental Health Focused Residential Homes	Total annual spend on children's residential care placements	£0.00	£290,295.00	£470,710.71

	Total number of children placed in residential care	0	<5	<5
	Average weekly placement cost	£0.00	£5,722.50	£5,722.50
	Lowest weekly placement cost per year	£0.00	£5,550.00	£5,550.00
	Highest weekly placement cost per year	£0.00	£5,895.00	£5,895.00
	Mean weekly placement cost per year	£0.00	£5,722.50	£5,722.50
	Median weekly placement cost per year	£0.00	£5,722.50	£5,722.50
• Residential Special Schools with linked children's homes	Total annual spend on children's residential care placements	£929,257.30	£940,258.22	£1,411,495.84
	Total number of children placed in residential care	11	7	8
	Average weekly placement cost	£3,698.54	£4,037.76	£5,264.50
	Lowest weekly placement cost per year	£1,333.00	£2,192.61	£2,998.38
	Highest weekly placement cost per year	£6,029.00	£6,029.00	£6,757.89
	Mean weekly placement cost per year	£3,698.54	£4,037.76	£5,264.50
	Median weekly placement cost per year	£3,514.00	£4,040.92	£5,495.50
• Parent and Child Residential Assessment Units	Total annual spend on children's residential care placements	£32,504.45	£130,784.00	£83,107.14
	Total number of children placed in residential care	<5	<5	<5
	Average weekly placement cost	£6,347.72	£3,752.00	£5,012.50
	Lowest weekly placement cost per year	£3,643.17	£3,752.00	£4,950.00

	Highest weekly placement cost per year	£7,700.00	£3,752.00	£5,075.00
	Mean weekly placement cost per year	£6,347.72	£3,752.00	£5,012.50
	Median weekly placement cost per year	£7,700.00	£3,752.00	£5,012.50

*Data suppressed to avoid identification of individuals – please see below notes

3. Market Benchmarking – Anonymised Provider Analysis

For the same period, please provide an anonymised provider breakdown (for example “Provider A, Provider B, Provider C”), showing for each anonymised provider:

- *Total annual spend with that provider per year*
- *Number of placements per year*
- *Average weekly placement cost per provider per year*

(See table below)

Children that were not in a full time residential care setting have not been included.

*** Data suppression**

While there is a general obligation under the Freedom of Information Act, to release information held by public authorities, there are exemptions to protect individuals’ privacy and ensure compliance with data protection laws. The FOIA does not override data protection legislation if releasing information could lead to the identification of an individual directly or indirectly, thereby breaching their privacy rights.

Anonymised Provider	COUNT OF PLACEMENTS 22/23	22/23 YEAR COST	Average of 2022/23 Weekly Cost	COUNT OF PLACEMENTS 23/24	23/24 YEAR COST	Average of Weekly Cost 2023/24	COUNT OF PLACEMENTS 24/25	24/25 YEAR COST	Average of Weekly Cost 2024/25
Provider 1		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£26,785.71	£7,500.00
Provider 2	<5	£58,966.02	£1,994.02	<5	£313,702.39	£3,442.96	<5	£373,459.66	£3,581.12
Provider 3	9	£892,451.71	£4,162.00	6	£1,048,005.14	£3,764.00	8	£895,772.57	£3,579.00
Provider 4	<5	£110,770.00	£3,710.00	<5	£138,557.14	£2,650.00		£0.00	
Provider 5	<5	£251,647.62	£5,289.89	<5	£276,585.68	£5,289.89	<5	£371,436.76	£5,321.94
Provider 6	<5	£71,830.43	£5,190.38	<5	£542,764.93	£5,190.38	<5	£519,711.50	£5,190.38
Provider 7	<5	£658,048.07	£8,000.65	<5	£1,427,667.32	£11,933.87	<5	£419,590.49	£11,164.33
Provider 8		£0.00		<5	£123,795.00	£5,895.00	<5	£307,382.14	£5,895.00
Provider 9	5	£622,072.86	£3,742.16	6	£1,096,677.69	£4,158.49	5	£159,655.31	£5,439.69
Provider 10		£0.00		<5	£263,252.82	£5,034.89	<5	£237,177.23	£5,801.13
Provider 11	5	£144,850.17	£4,179.09	<5	£228,750.00	£4,375.00		£0.00	
Provider 12		£0.00		<5	£33,585.00	£11,195.00	<5	£583,739.29	£11,195.00
Provider 13		£0.00		<5	£34,737.00	£11,579.00	<5	£603,762.14	£11,579.00
Provider 14		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£438,204.29	£11,195.00
Provider 15	<5	£238,784.04	£4,579.42	<5	£301,931.42	£4,856.99	<5	£578,938.76	£4,848.96
Provider 16		£0.00		<5	£166,500.00	£5,550.00	<5	£163,328.57	£5,550.00
Provider 17	<5	£172,887.82	£4,231.52	<5	£199,235.76	£3,810.52	<5	£216,167.60	£4,145.68
Provider 18	<5	£277,673.14	£13,498.00	<5	£593,390.57	£11,349.00	<5	£372,951.43	£10,041.00
Provider 19	5	£0.00		<5	£745,803.43	£7,132.00	<5	£73,373.33	£8,705.31
Provider 20	<5	£330,400.00	£9,800.00		£0.00			£0.00	
Provider 21	<5	£257,038.13	£11,794.78	<5	£289,824.24	£14,187.20	<5	£509,029.87	£5,732.28
Provider 22	<5	£407,287.51	£8,679.76	<5	£519,631.11	£9,938.30	<5	£89,946.43	£1,725.00
Provider 23		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£218,023.92	£7,065.59
Provider 24	<5	£187,615.11	£10,506.45	<5	£211,590.33	£10,357.57	<5	£241,152.86	£11,253.80
Provider 25	9	£1,539,495.43	£5,792.22	9	£2,367,357.75	£5,750.96	7	£1,804,783.05	£5,855.68
Provider 26	5	£707,933.16	£3,263.02	6	£802,158.16	£3,110.16	13	£1,572,827.55	£3,747.60
Provider 27		£0.00		<5	£122,383.00	£5,321.00	<5	£651,318.01	£6,916.96
Provider 28		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£42,460.20	£3,669.40

Provider 29	<5	£3,237.29	£1,333.00		£0.00			£0.00
Provider 30	<5	£635,246.98	£5,891.89	<5	£789,514.29	£5,507.84	5	£923,357.14 £6,307.84
Provider 31	<5	£0.00			£0.00			£0.00
Provider 32	7	£787,934.29	£4,220.00	7	£1,218,884.00	£4,627.00	<5	£126,462.29 £3,658.00
Provider 33		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£220,912.20 £8,346.95
Provider 34	<5	£528,314.29	£5,900.00	<5	£1,357,337.14	£8,653.33	5	£1,228,780.04 £7,448.48
Provider 35	<5	£534,503.57	£5,175.00	5	£1,051,009.71	£7,047.00	5	£1,077,878.57 £7,290.00
Provider 36		£0.00			£0.00		7	£1,422,528.99 £11,662.81
Provider 37	<5	£732,673.89	£3,512.82	<5	£879,027.43	£4,203.00	5	£594,000.00 £4,500.00
Provider 38		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£178,374.86 £6,032.00
Provider 39	<5	£304,714.29	£17,064.00		£0.00		<5	£377,080.29 £9,886.00
Provider 40	<5	£234,642.86	£4,500.00	<5	£287,571.43	£5,500.00	<5	£113,142.86 £5,500.00
Provider 41		£0.00		<5	£121,904.57	£4,539.00	<5	£352,375.69 £6,757.89
Provider 42	<5	£72,288.00	£3,514.00		£0.00			£0.00
Provider 43	<5	£286,785.71	£5,500.00	<5	£608,128.82	£5,910.43	<5	£655,072.89 £6,360.43
Provider 44		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£10,607.14 £4,950.00
Provider 45		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£126,581.14 £5,868.00
Provider 46	<5	£72,780.54	£1,732.87		£0.00			£0.00
Provider 47		£0.00			£0.00		7	£762,503.43 £3,604.00
Provider 48	<5	£0.00			£0.00			£0.00
Provider 49	8	£861,691.29	£3,889.00	7	£798,922.29	£3,672.00	7	£875,120.57 £3,642.00
Provider 50		£0.00		<5	£0.00	£9,110.00	<5	£393,855.43 £10,062.00
Provider 51	<5	£165,099.29	£6,247.00	<5	£112,877.29	£7,249.00		£0.00
Provider 52		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£72,500.00 £5,075.00
Provider 53	<5	£334,228.94	£5,564.51	<5	£182,634.52	£3,493.01	<5	£195,441.73 £5,327.50
Provider 54	<5	£0.00	£3,132.00		£0.00			£0.00
Provider 55	7	£714,990.86	£3,132.00	5	£1,627,605.57	£7,243.00	<5	£820,119.14 £10,054.00
Provider 56	<5	£4,400.00	£7,700.00		£0.00			£0.00
Provider 57	<5	£209,803.29	£5,648.55		£0.00		<5	£0.00 £5,495.50
Provider 58		£0.00		<5	£5,882.00	£5,882.00	<5	£525,178.57 £5,882.00
Provider 59	<5	£393,366.65	£4,384.24	<5	£443,526.02	£5,100.91	<5	£576,980.24 £5,493.46
Provider 60		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£0.00
Provider 61	<5	£190,080.00	£14,784.00		£0.00			£0.00

Provider 62		£0.00		<5	£189,543.00	£8,241.00	<5	£327,665.71	£6,284.00
Provider 63	<5	£216,392.86	£4,150.00	<5	£216,985.71	£4,150.00	<5	£216,392.86	£4,150.00
Provider 64	<5	£28,104.45	£3,643.17	<5	£130,784.00	£3,752.00		£0.00	
Provider 65		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£0.00	
Provider 66	<5	£0.00	£2,198.52	<5	£0.00	£2,192.61	<5	£0.00	
Provider 67	<5	£207,569.86	£5,512.00	<5	£315,230.57	£5,512.00	<5	£381,048.17	£5,797.01
Provider 68	<5	£124,554.29	£2,840.00	<5	£414,633.51	£4,695.95	<5	£43,817.14	£2,840.00
Provider 69		£0.00		<5	£14,163.43	£5,832.00	<5	£219,697.29	£14,109.00
Provider 70		£0.00			£0.00		<5	£0.00	£5,230.00
Provider 71	<5	£304,612.31	£5,841.88	<5	£189,420.69	£3,622.80	<5	£304,612.31	£5,841.88
Provider 72		£0.00		<5	£654,166.57	£7,818.50	<5	£276,520.35	£5,569.57
Provider 73	<5	£19,456.96	£8,512.42	<5	£0.00	£1,504.00		£0.00	
Provider 74	5	£491,649.10	£4,476.01	6	£1,157,627.04	£5,000.50	6	£1,442,189.04	£5,359.74