

Freedom of Information – Response – 26739

Please may I make the following FOI request regarding Children's social care:

Please note that Suffolk County Council have interpreted this request as information about our Children's Social Care service and the provision of short breaks. It does not include information about the short-break provision and direct payments that are delivered from other services within Children and Young People.

1. Please provide the name(s), email(s), and telephone number(s) of the individual(s) responsible for Short Breaks provision

Fran Arnold, Head of Service, County Children with Disabilities Service.
Fran.arnold@suffolk.gov.uk, 01473 264620.

2. Do you provide grants or direct payments for Short Breaks provision?

o If so, how are they paid, e.g. bank accounts, prepaid cards, eWallets
o If not, are there any plans to provide grants or direct payments in the future?

Suffolk County Council's (SCC) County Children with Disabilities Service (CCwDS), delivers targeted and specialist support underpinned by assessed need focused on targeted and specialist packages of support including short breaks via direct payments.

These can be paid into bank accounts or as part of a support plan.

Suffolk County Council grant funds and has contracts in place with some overnight short break providers which offer overnight short break provision for children with disabilities. These are managed by Activities Unlimited on behalf of Suffolk County Council and payments are made direct to the provider.

3. Do you use on-line digital solutions to assist with the application, awarding and management of Short Breaks?

o If so, who is the provider and when is the contract due to expire?
o If not, are you considering using digital solutions to manage and oversee your Short Breaks?

No

4. Please provide the name(s), email(s), and telephone number(s) of the individual(s) responsible for personal budgets for education provision, e.g. SEND and EOTAS
cyppersonalbudgets@suffolk.gov.uk

5. Does the LA work contract with or recommend external direct payment support services and with which organisations?

o If yes, what services do they provide?
o When is the contract due to expire?

SCC's County Children with Disabilities Service (CCwDS) does not have a contract in place with any external direct payment support services.

SCC will broker and fund a support service for the direct payment recipient depending on the support needed to manage their direct payment.

This may include support for recruiting personal assistants, payroll services, general employment support services, money holding services.

The main providers SCC work with are :

- Suffolk Independent Living Services
- The Rowan Organisation.

6. Who oversees the management of personal budgets and direct payments for children/families and what are their contact details? – i.e. name(s), email?

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7. How does the council pay direct payments, i.e. bank accounts, pre-paid cards or eWallets?

Direct payments via CCwDS (Social Care team) are paid either direct to the direct payment recipient into their nominated bank account or directly to a support service to hold the funding on behalf of the direct payment recipient.

8. If the council uses pre-paid cards or eWallet solutions, who is the provider and when is the contract due to expire?

N/A

9. Who is the Director of Children's Services at the council and please provide their title, name and email address?

Suffolk County Council have an Executive Director of Children's Services

Sarah-Jane.Smedmor@suffolk.gov.uk

10. Who is the Assistant Director of Children's Services at the council and please provide their title, name and email address?

Suffolk County Council do not have an Assistant Director of Children's Services but do have Assistant Directors with responsibility for areas of Children and Young People Services. If you are able to confirm which area you are interested in then we may be able to provide you with some information.

In addition, we have service directors who line manage the ADs.

Areas are as follows:

- Corporate Parenting
- Commissioning, Performance and Quality Assurance
- Family Help
- Education and Learning
- SEND and Inclusion