

Freedom of Information – Response – 26866

Q1.

The total number of child relinquishment requests per year for each of the last ten years. For the avoidance of doubt, this refers to instances where birth or adoptive parents contacted the local authority requesting that Children’s Social Care Services assume care responsibility for a child.

Year	Total
2015/16	5
2016/17	<5
2017/18	<5
2018/19	<5
2019/20	<5
2020/21	<5
2021/22	<5
2022/23	<5
2023/24	<5
2024/25	<5
2025/26	<5

Please note that the above data has been suppressed, to avoid identification of any individual – please see further notes at the end.

Q2.

For the calendar years 2023 and 2024, and for 2025 if available:

- The number of referrals received by Children’s Social Care Services where domestic abuse was recorded as a factor; and

If 2025 figures are incomplete, please provide whatever data is currently available and specify the date range that the data covers.

This data is based on Social Work Assessment factors – the count of domestic abuse (DA) factors is based on individual assessments, therefore a child may be counted more than once if they have more than one assessment in a year.

	Domestic Abuse Factors
Jan-Dec 2023	2,135
Jan -Dec 2024	1,985
Jan-Dec 2025	2,470

Q3.

For each of the last five years, please provide either:

- *The annual staff (or ideally just social worker, if these figure exist) sickness or absence rate already held by the authority (for example, percentage of working time lost), or*
- *If no such percentage is routinely recorded, the total number of working days lost to sickness/absence and the total number of contracted working days for Children’s Social Care Services staff in each year.*

Please provide whichever of the above is held in recorded form.

The information below has been provided by HR and is the absence rate percentage by financial year for the whole of Children and Young People’s Services.

- 2021/2022 = 2.45%
- 2022/2023 = 2.59%
- 2023/2024 = 3.24%
- 2024/2025 = 3.39%
- 2025/2026 (April to January) = 3.64%

Q4.

The average caseload, and the average number of children (if different) held by qualified social care workers in:

- *Frontline child protection assessment teams; and*
- *Safeguarding teams for each of the last five years.*

Suffolk County Council do not have specific child protection assessment teams or case holding safeguarding teams so are providing published DfE Children’s Social Work Workforce data.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Average caseload - per FTE (as at 30 September)	15.0	15.5	18.6	15.6	14.1	16.3

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-s-social-work-workforce/2024>

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.

