

Freedom of Information – Response – 27056

I have noted that this is 77% of my council tax charge is spent on vulnerable adults and children.

1. Please would you confirm the monetary breakdown of the amount of council tax money spent by Suffolk County Council on vulnerable children and on adults. For example, housing, education, transport, carers, social workers.

2. Please could that information be split showing adults and children.

We can confirm that this 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.

The Council sets its budget for a financial year ie 1st April to 31st March and therefore the response is provided in that context with information provided for the two financial years that covered 2025. In addition, Council Tax is only one element of the funding used to set a budget for Council services.

For the financial year 2024/25, the relevant information is available in the Suffolk County Council meeting papers. These can be accessed here: [Meeting Documents - Committee Minutes](#).

Please refer to Appendix E – Revenue Budget. The breakdown of the budget is provided on page 142 and the elements of funding on page 131.

- Please could I have this information for the period of 1st Jan2025 - 31st Dec 2026.

For the financial year 2025/26, the information is likewise available in the Suffolk County Council meeting papers: [Meeting Documents - Committee Minutes](#).

Please refer to Appendix E – Revenue Budget. The breakdown of the budget is provided on page 147 and the elements of funding on page 135.

- What categories of vulnerable people are there?

- What is the requirement to be in that category of vulnerability?

[Suffolk County Council's Directorate for Children and Young People's Services - Reply](#)
CYP use DfE defined categories of Children in Need including children with a Child in Need plan, a Child Protection plan, a Child in Care plan, and also Care Leavers (from DfE Vulnerable children and young people survey)

This could also include children who are undergoing assessment (Social Work Assessment) which would be the route into being assessed to be a “vulnerable” child.

There would be other categories of “vulnerable” children such as those with an EHCP, children with disabilities, etc and the requirements would be different for each category.

[Suffolk County Council's Directorate for Adult Social Care – Reply](#)

In Adult Social Care, Suffolk County Council does not use specific categories of “vulnerable people”.

Adults are assessed under the Care Act 2014, which does not categorise people by vulnerability. The Council’s communications may refer to “vulnerable adults” as a general descriptive term to explain that some adults have needs requiring support to live independently or stay safe.

There are no specific vulnerability categories or requirements to be within one.

Under the Care Act 2014, eligibility for Adult Social Care is determined following an assessment of needs. An adult’s needs meet the national eligibility criteria where:

- they arise from a physical or mental impairment or illness; (for example, this may include physical or learning disabilities, mental health, sensory impairment or age-related frailty);
- the person is unable to achieve two or more specified outcomes; and
- there is, or is likely to be, a significant impact on wellbeing.

Support is therefore based on individual assessed need, not on specific vulnerability categories.