

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 27130**

*For the purposes of this request:*

*“Electively Home Educated (EHE)” refers to any child of compulsory school age not registered at a school and whose education is primarily the responsibility of their parent/carer, regardless of how recorded by the local authority.*

*Please include children currently recorded as EHE, and those recorded as CME where they were previously known to be EHE prior to being moved to CME.*

*“Compulsory school age (CSA)” refers to children aged 5 to 16.*

*Where exact data is not held, please provide the closest available data and explain any limitations.*

### *1 - Population Data*

*a) Please provide*

*i) the total population of children in your area as of 1 April 2026*

*ii) how many of those are CSA*

*b) i) Total number of children known to Children’s Services as of 1 April 2026*

*ii) how many of those are pre CSA*

*iii) how many are post CSA*

*c) Number of those in b) recorded as EHE (as defined above)*

### *2 - Referrals*

*Between 1 April 2025 and 1 April 2026:*

*a) Total number of referrals to Children’s Services for CSA children*

*b) Number of referrals involving children recorded as EHE*

*c) Of those involving EHE how many children received more than one referral?*

*d) Of the referrals involving EHE children, how many involved children known to services due to adoption-related support?*

*3 - Section 47 Enquiries (Child Protection Investigations) Between 1 April 2025 and 1 April 2026:*

*a) Total number of Section 47 enquiries for CSA children*

*b) Number involving EHE children*

### *4 - Child Protection Plans (CPP)*

*Between 1 April 2025 and 1 April 2026:*

*a) Total number of CSA children subject to a Child Protection Plan*

*b) Number of those children who are EHE*

### *5 - Children in Need (CIN)*

*a) Total number of CSA children recorded as Children in Need*

*b) Number of those children who are EHE*

*c) Of the EHE children recorded how many are due to accessing disability services in the local offer?*

*d) Of the EHE children recorded how many are recorded as receiving adoption-related support?*

#### 6 - Children in Care (Looked After Children)

a) Total number of CSA children in care

b) Number of those children who were EHE immediately prior to entering care

#### 7 - Outcomes of Referrals (EHE vs Overall) For referrals identified in Question 2:

Please provide a breakdown of outcomes for:

No further action

Early help offered and if it was accepted/declined Child in need offered and if it was accepted/declined Section 47 enquiry initiated Please indicate, where possible, whether adoption-related involvement was a factor in EHE cases.

Provide this for:

a) All children

b) EHE children

#### 8 - Reasons for Referral

Please provide the recorded primary reasons for referral for EHE children (e.g. neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, education concerns, etc.).

If "education concerns" is a category, please specify how many referrals were solely due to concerns about education provision.

#### 9 - Source of Referrals

For EHE children, please provide the source of referrals (e.g. school, GP, hospital, police, local authority EHE team, family, anonymous, etc.).

#### 10 - Internal Recording Practices

a) Does your authority record EHE status within Children's Services systems?

b) If so, at what stage is this recorded (e.g. referral, assessment, ongoing case)?

c) If not, how would EHE children be identified within safeguarding data?

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council (SCC) holds this information; however, it is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

We cannot respond to your request in full as some of the information you have requested is not held in a reportable format and would require an individual employee to review each record of the children who were recorded as EHE by the local authority to locate and extract the relevant information.

A sampling exercise has determined that to provide this information would take us in excess of 18 hours as the data is recorded in free text and this would have to be searched manually to locate, determine and extract the information you have requested.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half working days in determining whether the Council holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Suffolk County Council estimate that it will exceed the time allowed for an FOI to locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request.

[Advice and Assistance](#)

Whilst we cannot provide you with all the information you have requested, we can provide some data for the following questions:

Q1

Q2 a

Q2 b (part data as a snapshot 1<sup>st</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026)

Q4 a

Q4b (part data as a snapshot 1<sup>st</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026)

Q5 a

Q5b (part data as a snapshot 1<sup>st</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026)

Q6a

Q7a

Q10

Please let us know if you would like to receive this information.