

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 27155**

*I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This request relates aftercare under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 for children and young people (under the age of 18) within Suffolk.*

*Provide the following:*

*1. The number of individuals currently under the age of 18 who are eligible for section 117 aftercare in Suffolk, the annual number of those eligible for the past 5 financial year's.*

*32*

*2. The number of individuals under 18 newly deemed eligible for section 117 aftercare in each of the past 5 financial years in Suffolk*

*20/21 - 5*

*21/22 - <5*

*22/23 - <5*

*23/24 - <5*

*24/25 - <5*

*Data suppression - notes*

*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.*

*3. The total annual expenditure by Suffolk County Council on section 117 aftercare for individuals under 18, for each of the past 5 financial years.*

*4. A breakdown of that expenditure: in to at least the following categories but provide as detailed a breakdown as possible:*

*1. Residential placements, out-of-area placements and Supported accommodation 2. Community-based services 3. Staff time 4. Direct payments and personal budgets*

*5. The number of individuals who have transitioned from children's to adult services while remaining entitled to section 117 aftercare (per year, last 5 years)*

*6. Any recorded outcome data for under 18s receiving section 117 aftercare, including readmission rates under the Mental Health Act*

*Suffolk County Council (SCC) can confirm that this information is held however, it is being withheld under s.12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA.) s.12 allows a public authority to refuse a request where it is estimated that complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit (£450 calculated at 18 hours of staff time charged at £25 per hour.)*

The time required to collate this information across a five year period exceeds the time allocation for such FOIs. A sampling exercise has determined that the average time to review an individual file across the systems holding this information is approximately 40 mins as they can vary in size and length and it is a free text option that would be being searched for, therefore, to provide the information requested would take us in excess of 18 hours.

*7. Any commissioned, independent, internal audits, reviews, or reports (within the last 5 years) relating to section 117 aftercare provision for children and young people.*

There have been no independent reviews or reports in relation to section 117 aftercare provision.