

Freedom of Information – Response – 27180

For the purposes of this FOI, we are interested in better understanding local authority provision for teenagers (aged 13-18) who both experience and perpetrate behaviours generally recognised as domestic abuse within the context of their own romantic and sexual relationships. These behaviours include physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, coercive or controlling behaviour, economic abuse, or other forms of psychological or emotional harm. For young people aged 16-17, such behaviours fall within the statutory definition of domestic abuse.

Please answer the following questions in relation to this characterisation of teenage relationship abuse.

1. Does your local authority have a policy, protocol or written guidance on how to respond to children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse within their own relationships?

(Yes/no/don't know).

A – Suffolk County Council does not currently have a single discrete policy or protocol that is solely focused on children and young people who experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships (sometimes referred to as teenage relationship abuse). However, this area is covered through a combination of domestic abuse policy, safeguarding guidance, and statutory frameworks, rather than a dedicated document

If yes, please provide further detail, including any relevant documents, and specify which age group it applies to (under 16s, or ages 16-17).

A – N/A

2. Do you collect data on the number of young people aged 16 or 17 who have experienced domestic abuse within their own relationships?

A- (Yes/no/don't know).

If yes, please provide this data.

3. Do you collect data on the number of young people aged 13-16 who have experienced domestic abuse within their own relationships?

If yes, please provide this data.

A- Suffolk County Council does not hold this information, you may wish to redirect your response to Suffolk Constabulary.

4. Do you commission any dedicated or specialist support services primarily for young people who have experienced domestic abuse within their own relationships?

(Yes/no/don't know).

A – CYP do not commission any dedicated or specialist support services.

If yes:

a. Please describe what the service does (e.g. advocacy support, specialist or trauma-informed counselling, one-to-one or group work with young people on issues such as healthy relationships and boundaries, targeted support for carers or parents, preventative

or awareness raising initiatives, helplines, etc.)

b. What age group(s) does it work with? (13-16, 16 & 17s, all young people under 18, young people until their 18th birthday with the option of transitional support)

c. How many children has the service supported in the last financial year (25/26)?

d. How many children were on the waiting list to get support from this service in the last - financial year (25/26)?

A – N/A

5. Does your local authority commission any dedicated support services for young people who are perpetrating domestic abuse within their own relationships?

(Yes/no/don't know).

A – CYP do not commission any dedicated or specialist support services.

If yes:

a. Please describe what the service does (e.g. one-to-one or group work with young people on issues such as healthy relationships and boundaries, targeted support for carers or parents, preventative or awareness raising initiatives, helplines, etc.)

b. What age group(s) does it work with (13-16, 16 & 17s, all young people under 18, young people until their 18th birthday with the option of transitional support)

c. How many children has the service supported in the last financial year (25/26)?

d. How many children were on the waiting list to get support from this service in the last financial year (25/26)?

A – N/A

6. Young people experiencing or perpetrating domestic abuse within their own relationships may be identified by or referred to local authority commissioned services responding to other safeguarding concerns or harm types. Is this a common occurrence within your local authority?

(Yes/no/don't know).

A – N/A

If yes, please provide any further detail you can about:

a. Which services these young people are most commonly identified within or referred to (e.g. child sexual abuse support services, mental health and emotional wellbeing services, child exploitation support services, domestic abuse support services for adults or families including refuges, etc.)

b. Whether, in your professional opinion, you think these services meet the specific needs of these young people?

A – N/A

Whilst our primary research interest is on the issue of teenage relationship abuse, we recognise that this harm type is situated within a wider context in which children and young people of any age are legally recognised as victims of domestic abuse under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, when they are either victims themselves, or witnesses of, domestic abuse by a parent or someone with parental responsibility.

7. Does your local authority commission any dedicated support services for children and young people (of any age) who are legally classified as victims of domestic abuse in a family context?

(Yes/no/don't know)

A – CYP do not commission any dedicated or specialist support services.

If yes, please detail what the service does, including whether it provides support to children and young people only, or works with the family.

A – N/A

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with local authority commissioners, practitioners or professionals with specific expertise on the issue of teenage relationship abuse to explore the issues raised in this FOI request in more detail.

8. Would you be willing to meet with The Children's Society to discuss the responses to these questions in more detail, and to contribute more widely to our research through focus groups or interviews?

(Yes/no)

If yes, please provide the contact details of the most relevant contact(s).

A – You can find contact details on the following webpage for how to make contact with staff in Suffolk County Council:

[Contact us - Suffolk County Council](#)

You may also find the following web page useful:

[Search - Suffolk County Council](#)