

## Freedom of Information – Response – 27235

We would be grateful if you could provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### 1. Demand and Placement Profile

- What is the current number of looked after children placed in children's homes by your authority?

Number of Children in residential homes as at 1/5/2026: 127

- Of these, how many are placed:

o Within your local authority area?

Number of Children in residential homes as at 1/5/2026: 84

o Outside of your local authority area?

Number of Children in residential homes as at 1/5/2026: 43

- How many children are currently awaiting a residential placement (if applicable)?

As at 6/5/2026: 9

Of these children, dual searches may apply. E.g. Fostering or Residential, Supported Accommodation or Residential.

7 children currently have a placement.

- What are the most common presenting needs requiring residential placements?

For the current 9 children awaiting residential placement:

MH - Past trauma/abuse
PPA - Physical violence against adults
PPA - Physical violence against children
PPA - Verbal aggression/threats
MH - Learning Disabilities or Difficulties
MH - Developmental Disorders
MH - Suicidal thoughts/behaviour
MH - Self Harm
FSR - Risks from family members
FSR - Risks from Internet/media
PPA - Risk of sexual harm
PPA - Unsubstantiated allegations
PPA - Damage to property

## 2. Out-of-Area Placements

- Does the authority currently place children outside of its local area?

Yes, when the needs of the children and young people require it.

- If yes:

o Approximately what percentage of residential placements are out-of-area?

In the 2025-26 financial year: 34% are situated outside of Suffolk.

o What are the primary reasons for out-of-area placements? (e.g. lack of local provision, matching needs, specialist requirements)

Suffolk County Council aim to place children in homes where they will receive the best outcomes. Sometimes this may mean out-of-area placement due to restrictions on children (e.g. bail conditions), matching needs, children's specialist requirements and a limited number/absence of local provision to meet the high-risk, complex needs of children.

- Is there a strategic objective to reduce out-of-area placements?

SCC aim to place children in homes that best meets the needs of the child.

## 3. Placement Types and Needs

- What proportion of placements are:

o Emergency placements

SCC have not made any emergency placements (placements within 24 hours of initial request) to registered residential homes in 2025-2026.

o Planned placements

All residential placements were planned in 2025-2026.

- What level of staffing is most commonly required? (e.g. 1:1, 2:1)

1:1

## 4. Spend and Cost

- What was the total spend on children's residential care placements in the last financial year?

£31,746,196

- What is the approximate average weekly cost of:

o Standard residential placements

o Higher-support placements (e.g. 1:1 or 2:1)

Suffolk County Council do not hold this information as Children's homes are not categorised as "standard residential" or "Higher-support placements" and therefore data cannot be supplied.

## 5. Provider Market and Sufficiency

- How many residential care providers does the authority currently use?

32 residential children's home providers. Some providers run multiple homes.

- Are there any identified gaps in provision? If so, please specify (e.g. EBD, mental health, smaller homes, crisis placements).

See FOI 26966

[Make a Freedom of Information \(FOI\) request - Suffolk County Council](#)

- *Does the authority have a current sufficiency strategy or commissioning plan for children's residential care? If so, please provide a copy or link.*

See FOI 26966

## [Make a Freedom of Information \(FOI\) request - Suffolk County Council](#)

### **6. Commissioning and Access**

- *How does the authority source residential placements? (e.g. framework agreements, dynamic purchasing systems, spot purchasing)*

Spot purchasing, block contracts, relational Commissioning with derogation.

- *Which frameworks or systems are currently in use?*

No framework agreements in place currently for residential. Suffolk is intending to join the Eastern Region framework, currently under development.

- *Is the authority currently open to onboarding new providers? If so, via which route?*

For initial discussions if you are interested in working with Suffolk, please contact: [cypcontractsmailbox@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:cypcontractsmailbox@suffolk.gov.uk)

### **7. Quality and Outcomes**

- *What are the key factors considered when selecting a residential placement provider?*

This is dependent on the commissioning route.

- *What are the most common reasons for placement breakdown?*

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).

This is because this information is not held in a reportable format and to complete the request we would need to manually review, retrieve and extract the information 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.

- *What outcomes are most important when assessing placement success?*

This is dependent on the Child's individual care plan milestones.

### **8. Contact and Structure**

- *Please provide the structure of the team responsible for commissioning or placing children into residential care.*

The Decision for placing children into residential care lies with Assistant Directors for Corporate Parenting, Assistant Director Family help, Service Director for Social Care and Family Support, and Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services.

The commissioning and finding of residential homes for children in care is carried out by the Strategic Commissioning and Home-finding team.

• *Please provide a generic contact email or central point of contact for placement enquiries.*

[cypplacements@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:cypplacements@suffolk.gov.uk)