

Freedom of Information – Response – 27383

Please provide by return email the following information for each of the financial years:

- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25
- 2025/26 to date

1. How many looked after children known to your authority died during the year?

2022/23 - 0
2023/24 - 0
2024/25 - <5*
2025/26 to date – 0

2. How many care leavers known to your authority died during the year?

2022/23 – 0
2023/24 – 0
2024/25 – <5
2025/26 to date - <5

3. How many notifications concerning the death of a looked after child were made by your authority and/or safeguarding partnership to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel?

2022/23 – N/A
2023/24 – N/A
2024/25 - <5
2025/26 to date - N/A

4. How many notifications concerning the death of a care leaver were made by your authority and/or safeguarding partnership to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel?

2022/23 – 0
2023/24 – 0
2024/25 - <5
2025/26 to date – <5

5. Please provide copies of any local policies, procedures or guidance governing the notification or reporting of deaths involving care leavers.

Although no local policy, procedures or guidance exist Suffolk County Council follow the guidance in the attached document.

[Working together to safeguard children 2026](#)

Definitions

For the purposes of this request:

- "Looked after child" means a child who was looked after by the local authority under the Children Act 1989 at the time of their death.

- *"Care leaver" means any person who was previously looked after by the local authority and for whom the authority had, or would ordinarily have had, leaving care responsibilities under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and associated legislation.*
- *"Death" means the death of a looked after child or care leaver known to the authority, regardless of the cause of death.*
- *"Notification" means any referral, notification, report or submission made to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, whether directly by the authority or through the local safeguarding partnership.*

** Data suppression*

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.