

## **Freedom of Information – Response – 27402**

*Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request – Leaving Care Service Provision*  
*Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request access to information held by the Council regarding the evaluation, monitoring, and improvement of the Leaving Care Service.*

*Please provide the following information:*

*1. Evaluation of Reports:*

*The internal findings, assessments, or evaluation documents produced by the council in response to both the 2024 complaint report and the Ofsted report concerning the Leaving Care Service.*

*2. Service Assessments:*

*Documentation detailing all concrete steps, internal audits, and internal investigations undertaken by or on behalf of the council to assess the provision and performance of the Leaving Care Service.*

*3. Meetings and Governance:*

*The minutes, agendas, and logs of all internal consultations, management meetings, panel reviews, conferences, or specialised staff training sessions implemented to address the failures identified in the aforementioned reports.*

*4. Strategic Improvement Plans:*

*All strategic reports, implementation plans, action plans, and service development briefings produced with the explicit aim of improving the Leaving Care Service.#*

*Thank you for your request for information regarding the Council's Leaving Care Service. The Council has considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).*

Suffolk County Council can confirm that this information is held, however, the information requested covers a broad range of records, including internal findings, assessments, evaluation documents, audits, investigations, meeting records, consultations, training sessions, strategic reports, action plans and service development briefings relating to the Leaving Care Service.

In order to determine what information is held, and then locate, retrieve and extract all relevant information relating to your request, SCC would be required to conduct extensive searches across multiple service areas, records management systems, email accounts and document filing systems. The information requested is not held in a single location and there is no central record from which all relevant documents could be easily and readily identified, retrieved and collated.

SCC therefore estimates that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit prescribed by section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refused under section 12(1)

Section 12 provides that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request where it estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the statutory limit. When calculating this estimate, a public authority may take into account the time required to determine whether information is held and to locate, retrieve and extract that information.

### **Advice and Assistance – Section 16 FOIA**

Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance, where it is reasonable to do so. The ICO's guidance explains that where a request exceeds the appropriate limit, authorities should consider whether they can assist a requester to refine or narrow their request.

The Council notes that information relating to the Leaving Care Service and improvement activity has been considered through the Council's governance arrangements. You may therefore find relevant information within the publicly available committee papers for the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(05-03-2026\),%20Education%20and%20Childrens%20Services%20Scrutiny%20Committee](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(05-03-2026),%20Education%20and%20Childrens%20Services%20Scrutiny%20Committee)

If, having reviewed the documents available at the above link, you identify a specific report or other document for which you require further information, please let us know. We would be happy to carry out further targeted searches and consider any refined request.