

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27768

I am writing to request information regarding your local authority's use of Residential Family Centres (Residential Family Assessment Centres).

For each of the following financial years:

- 2023/24
- 2024/25
- 2025/26

Please provide the following information:

1. The total budget allocated by the local authority for Residential Family Centre placements.

Suffolk County Council do not hold this information as we do not budget at placement type level.

2. The total actual expenditure on Residential Family Centre placements.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
£98,602	£79,342	£140,764

3. The total number of families/placements placed in Residential Family Centres.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
<5	<5	<5

4. The total number of placement weeks purchased.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
25	16	27

5. The average weekly cost per family/placement, if held.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Information not held	£4,797.50	£4,064.17

6. The average length of placement, if held.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
88 days	56 days	93 days

7. Of the Residential Family Centre placements purchased in each year, where this information is held, the number purchased:

o on a spot-purchase basis; and

o through a framework, block contract, guaranteed-volume arrangement or other

commissioned arrangement.

All are spot purchased.

8. Please confirm whether the authority currently has any block-purchasing, guaranteed-volume or other contracted arrangement for Residential Family Centre provision.

Not applicable

9. The number of Residential Family Centre placements made outside the local authority area during each financial year.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
<5	<5	<5

10. The number of referrals for Residential Family Centre provision where a placement could not be secured, if this information is recorded.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
0	<5	<5

11. Where recorded, the number of families referred for Residential Family Centre assessment where the authority subsequently used a community-based family assessment/support alternative rather than a residential placement.

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
0	0	<5

12. Please provide the authority's agreed or forecast 2026/27 budget for Residential Family Centre provision, where available.

£210,383

Suppressed Data

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.