

Your Ref:

Our Ref: FOI IAT 10145

Please ask for: Claire Jacobs

Direct Line / 01432 260 340

Extension:

Fax:

E-mail: accesstoinformation@herefordshire.gov.uk

27 August 2015

Dear Madam,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST FOI IAT 10145

Further to previous correspondence, your request for information has now been considered, and the council's response is set out below:

Q1 Currently how many qualified short term respite provision Carers for children with special and complex needs are registered with the County Council?

- A. There are carers within the generic fostering team who can provide respite for children with disabilities to support the existing carers of children with disabilities; these numbers vary according to the number and needs of children requiring such placements. Currently there are three registered / qualified respite carers who provide time limited support to in-house placements for existing foster care.

The short breaks scheme is currently going through its recruitment stage for additional carers.

Q2 Currently how many short-term respite provision Carers for children with special and complex needs are undergoing training (at today's date 4 August 2015)?

- A. The Fostering service provides Skills to Fostering Preparation training for all types of foster carers every two months throughout the year. Additional specialist training workshops are run all year round. The service has the support from experienced practitioners as well as health and education that help to deliver training tailored to meet the needs of individual children based on assessed needs. The scheme is new therefore training will commence once carers are approved.

Q3 Currently how many applications from prospective short-term respite Carers for children with special and complex needs are awaiting assessment by the Council?

A. The short breaks scheme is in the early stages of development, with recruitment underway. Two expressions of interest have been received and assessment is starting on another applicant. It is planned that there will be six full time short breaks carers in place by January 2016.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request or you would like a review of the response provided, further information regarding our review procedure is available in the 'Internal Review Procedure for EIR and FOI requests' which is published on Herefordshire Council's website via the following link:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/government-citizens-and-rights/data-protection-and-freedom-of-information/data-protection>

Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 745 www.ico.org.uk

Yours faithfully

CLAIRE JACOBS

INFORMATION ACCESS OFFICER