

Your Ref:

Our Ref: FOI IAT 10583

Please ask for: Claire Jacobs

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Extension:

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11 November 2015

Dear Sir,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST FOI IAT 10583

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

Q1 Can you tell me how much unallocated money the council is holding at this current time?

- A. There is currently just under £6,000 uncommitted in the council's short breaks budget for 2015/16. The council can also spot purchase respite to meet assessed needs in consultation with parents, carers and the children themselves.

Q2 Can you tell me how much unallocated money the CCG is holding at this current time?

- A. The CCG doesn't have a budget for respite care, as this is a statutory responsibility of the council. It does provide an allocation for supporting both adult and family carers, which is fully allocated through a joint fund with the council called the Better Care Fund.

Q3 Can you tell me what the % of social services budget that will be saved over the coming year 2016-2017 and also the projected savings over the next 3 years on this service?

- A. The council has recently consulted on its budget priorities for 2016-2020, where it is estimated that it will need to save an additional £42 million during this year and the next four financial years. Until the overall budget is confirmed by Cabinet, it is not yet possible to say what the impact may be on the social services budget. To keep up to date with the budget consultation results, please visit the [priorities and budget consultation 2016 to 2020 webpage](#).

Q4 What was the exact reason for the CCGs withdrawal of funding to overnight respite care as do not they have a joint responsibility for health and social care?

- A. The CCG did not withdraw funding. The council was very clear that although Wye Valley NHS Trust (WVT) did not win the tender for providing social care respite, it would work in partnership with the CCG and WVT to continue to use 1 Ledbury Road, while discussions continued with families and alternative service models were developed.

The council holds the legal responsibility to provide respite services; however the CCG continues to fund the services through its contract with WVT, whilst the council works to put alternative provisions in place.

The CCG recognises that some of the children using 1 Ledbury Road have physical and mental health needs and will ensure their needs are met wherever they receive respite care.

Q5 What is the allocated budget for transport to any new respite provision?

- A. The council is required to provide home to school transport, which has previously been flexible enough to transport between a school and respite provision. The school transport budget for 2015/16 is £1.3 million. Transport arrangements will be considered as part of the short breaks matching process and will depend upon the pattern of rights that each child is accessing. In some cases the residential provider, foster carer or family will agree to meet transport requirements for some or all of their respite nights.

Q6 What are the number of children that have been referred to 1 Ledbury Road each year over the past ten years?

- A. In previous years, families were able to self refer or be referred by a single professional directly to 1 Ledbury Road. This means that there is no centralised data available for a period as large as the last ten years. Based on the experience of the council and WVT, as the main provider of overnight respite in recent times, it is estimated that there were fewer than five new referrals each year.

Q7 Do the council owe any unpaid invoices to WVT or the CCG regarding any services provided by Ledbury Road?

- A. The council has formally disputed some invoices issued by WVT for services related to 1 Ledbury Road. The two organisations are working together to resolve the disputes.

Q8 Has the CCG been the sole financial provider to 1 Ledbury Road for any period of time in the last year?

- A. No

Q9 Are all parents being consulted at this present time with developing new overnight respite provisions?

- A. Please note that from your question we are unsure whether you are referring to 'all parents' or 'all parents of children accessing 1 Ledbury Road'.

However, where a child is assessed as needing oversight respite, including those currently accessing 1 Ledbury Road, the council is working closely with families to explore the best service options to meet their needs. The council is also currently working with the CCG to formalise the options available for short breaks, including 1 Ledbury Road. Any decisions made by the CCG and the council affecting future provision of current services should and must be informed by a proper and meaningful consultation exercise.

The discussions between the council and the CCG are currently focused on developing the delivery of a public consultation exercise. Once this has been finalised, parents will of course be able to respond to the consultation.

Q10 Social services and the children with disabilities team giving regular monthly updates to all parents regarding One Ledbury Road?

- A. The families will have discussed their own personal circumstances during the completion of their individual care assessments.

Q11 What has happened to the funding that was in place for the reduced days and beds at Ledbury Road as the days and beds have been reduced?

- A. Herefordshire Council does not hold this information. To ascertain this information you will need to direct your query to WVT as the provider of the service at 1 Ledbury Road.

WVT can be contacted as follows:

The Freedom of Information Coordinator
Trust Headquarters
Wye Valley NHS Trust
The County Hospital
Union Walk
Hereford
HR1 2ER

Email: freedom.information@wvt.nhs.uk

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