From: Foi Enquiries
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI-16-1650 - Hair Testing
Date: 13 January 2017 12:43:44
Attachments: Further_Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf

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Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your information request of 9 December 2016. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information regarding child protection in the UK.

Where possible, please kindly include responses on the attached spreadsheet.

For questions 2-4 and 7 inclusive, please supply the following information as a snapshot at the end of the year for the financial years 2013/14 – 2016/17 (predicted).

1) Please could you supply the name, email address and telephone number of the officer with responsibility for children in need of help and/or protection.

Bernadette Oxley**,** Head of Children's Social Work, 01224 522110, boxley@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Further Details on Child Protection can be found on our website:

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/social_care_health/social_work/childrens_services/chi_ChildProtect.asp

If you have concerns about a child in Aberdeen please contact: - 01224 306877 (Joint Child Protection Unit), 01224 693936 (Emergency Out of Hours) or 101 (Police Scotland).

If you are worried about a child, you can also speak to a health visitor, teacher, nursery worker, family doctor, social worker, police officer or children's reporter.

2) Please advise on the number of children identified as looked after children.

2013/14	**2014/15**	**2015/16**	**2016/17** (as at 23.12.16)
590	563	553	575

3) Please advise on the number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan.

2013/14	**2014/15**	**2015/16**	**2016/17** (as at 23.12.16)

106	102	113	135

4) Please advise as to what proportion of these were related to drug/alcohol misuse.

If a child's name is placed on the Child Protection Register, Categories of Concern are considered at each Child Protection case conference where the child is either registered or not de registered. Children can therefore have multiple categories of concern which can change throughout the duration that their names remain are on the Child Protection Register. Our recording processes have changed considerably over the past two years to accommodate these changes.

The data below relates to the % of children who were on the CP Register on the dates specified who had a category of concern of either "Parental Drug Misuse" or "Parental Alcohol Misuse" which was current on that date.

31/03/2014	31/03/2015	31/03/2016	23/12/2016
36	49	46	36

5) At what points during Investigations and Child Hearings might drug and alcohol testing be used as evidence and who instigates these tests?

Aberdeen City Council Children's Social Work use a multi-agency approach for Child Protection Case Conferences and within this context, ACC may receive information from health professionals regarding substance misuse, including test results. However, this is a sharing of information between professionals rather than enforced testing.

6) For the financial year 2015/16 (and 2016/17 if available), how many hair drug and alcohol tests were conducted?

Aberdeen City Council Children's Social Work does not undertake any testing for drug or alcohol.

7) Please advise on the total expenditure on hair drug and alcohol testing during each financial year.

Not Applicable.

8) In a situation where hair drug/alcohol testing is used as evidence, do you have a preferred provider for this service? If not, please provide a list of providers used in these cases and the total expenditure with each provider for financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Not Applicable.

9) Is there a budget for hair drug/alcohol testing each year? If so, what is the expected budget for 2016/17?

Not Applicable.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Nicky Leiper
Information Compliance Officer

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

Information Compliance Team
Communications and Promotion
Office of Chief Executive
Aberdeen City Council
Room 1-24
Town House
Broad Street
ABERDEEN AB10 1AQ

foienquiries@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 523827/523602

Tel 03000 200 292

*03000 numbers are free to call if you have 'free minutes' included in your mobile call plan.
Calls from BT landlines will be charged at the local call rate of 10.24p per minute (the same as 01224s).

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