

Resources ◦ Corporate Complaints and Information Compliance ◦ The Lonsdale Building
The Courts ◦ Carlisle ◦ CA3 8NA
T: 01228 221234 ◦ F: 01228 226706 ◦ E: foi-dp@cumbria.gov.uk

28 May 2014

Your reference:

Our reference: FOI 2014-0400

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - DISCLOSURE

The council has completed its search relating to your request for information about troubled families, which we received on 06 May 2014.

The council holds information within the definition of your request.

Question 1

What was the cost to the public purse of the most expensive Troubled Family in the most recent year for which you have data?

Answer 1

Unfortunately we do not currently have the ability to accurately monitor the fiscal case with each "Troubled Family". The national Troubled Families team are working on a cost benefit analysis tool, which some local authorities have piloted. Once this is disseminated we will be in a better position to answer this request

Question 2

Please state how many interventions were made to assist this family and how many different services made those interventions in that year?

Answer 2

In Cumbria, the Troubled Family work goes under the name "Focus Family". As previously explained, we cannot pin point an exact family in need of services and, therefore, we cannot breakdown exactly which services they used. However, our ethos is not to minimise the support a family needs by reducing the number of services, but rather we aim to maximise the impact of each service through co-ordination and provision of holistic support. A good quality piece of work can mean that initially more services are used to address a family's needs but we would expect this to reduce as the family move toward universal provision. So far, this seems to be the pattern of our families.

Question 3

Please state how many Troubled Families you have in your area, and their total cost to the public purse in the most recent year for which you have data? [Where possible, this covers data local authority housing, anti-social behaviour and children's services, the health system].

Answer 3

In Cumbria we have identified 1060 Troubled Families. This is above our national target. Again, at the moment we are unable to provide a financial breakdown of the costs associated with these families. However, the document "The Cost of Troubled Families" provides some indication of possible costs. Comparable authorities with rural locations such as West Cheshire and Cornwall have estimated that one family can cost between £47,000 and £93,000 a year.

Most of the information that we provide in response to requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be subject to copyright

Serving the people of Cumbria

cumbria.gov.uk



protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by Cumbria County Council. However the copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated on the information itself.

You are free to use any information supplied for your own non-commercial research or private study purposes. The information may also be used for any other purpose allowed by a limitation or exception in copyright law, such as news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the information in analogue or digital form, including on the internet, will require the permission of the copyright owner. Where the copyright owner is the council you will need to make an application under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005.

For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organisation you must apply to the owner to obtain their permission.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Park
Team Leader – Corporate Complaints and Information Compliance

Internal Reviews

If you are dissatisfied with the way we have responded to your request or wish us to reconsider our decision, please write to:

Corporate Complaints and Information Compliance
Resources Directorate
Cumbria County Council, The Lonsdale Building, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8NA
E-mail: foi-dp@cumbria.gov.uk Fax: 01228 226706

If your internal review is not resolved you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office.