

Reference Number: FOI-101004645412

Response provided under: Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request and response:

We are presently engaging in a piece of research relating to the increased use of what are colloquially known as project teams within Children's Services. These are where social work professionals are supplied into councils on a managed service rather than traditional agency basis. This is often in bulk and for a time limited period.

The use of project teams is becoming increasingly prevalent and presently, is not routinely monitored as part of statutory returns. However there is a feeling that there is increased usage in this area and it is impact on the cost, quality and level of supply of contingent labour within the Childrens Social Work arena.

We are therefore asking the following questions:

- 1. Has your council used project teams to increase social work capacity within Childrens Services?**

No

If so, for each project:

- 2. Which service area was the project team brought into support?**

N/A

- 3. When did the project team start operations?**

N/A

- 4. When did the project team cease operations?**

N/A



5. Was this end date the one originally scheduled or did the project finish early or later than imagined?

N/A

6. At its height how many social work professionals were engaged at any one time on the project?

N/A

7. What was the name of the provider of the project team?

N/A

8. What was the overall expenditure on the project team?

N/A

9. Did the decision on the IR35 status of the workers lie with you or was it made by some other party?

N/A

Collaborative Action on Agency Staffing.

In the past few years a number of councils and trusts have regionally collaborated to attempt to stabilise pay rates for social work professionals.

We are attempting to map the potential strength of these arrangements across the country.

Therefore is it possible for you to provide the following information:

1. Are you a signatory of a regional Memorandum of understanding or Co-Operation in relation to pay rates for Agency Social Work Professionals within Childrens Services?

Yes, Trevor Doughty, Strategic Director (Together for Families) is the signatory for Cornwall Council.

2. Can you provide contact details for the council or trust officer with responsibility for liaison in relation to this MoU or MoC?

Kat Drummond, 01872 323278, Katherine.drummond@cornwall.gov.uk

3. Has your council or trust breached the MoU or MoC to which you are a signatory?

No.

Information provided by: Together for Families Directorate |
People & Workforce, People, Change & Digital Service, Customer and Support
Services Directorate

Date of response: 1st November 2019