

REQUEST | **16653**

1. What is your total budget for looked after children's services?
2. What is your budget for placements?
3. How many children do you look after?
4. How many of those children are in sibling groups (including half siblings and step siblings) of:
 - a. 2 siblings
 - b. 3 siblings
 - c. 4 siblings
 - d. 5 or more siblings
5. How many of these sibling groups are in a placement together in care?
6. What is the decision-making process for matching children with placements?
7. Is this different for sibling groups? If yes how?
8. What are some of the factors when it comes to sibling group placement decision making?
9. For those who are not placed together, for how many sibling groups is contact maintained? How is this facilitated?

RESPONSE

1. £52.572M
2. £32.27M
3. 717 (as at 2/7/24)
- 4.

Sibling Group	Total
2	99
3	144
4	142
5 or more	249

5. 255 children over 114 Sibling Groups.
6. There is a matching form completed at the time of placement. There is a further matching form when decisions are made about this becoming a permanent placement and this 'match' is presented at 'Permanence Panel'. Siblings are included together on the form.
7. It is the same process for siblings.

8. If there are any worries about siblings being placed together then a 'Together or apart' assessment is undertaken using the Coram BAAF Framework. The factors considered include:

Background information including the child's lived experience and their experience of being parented.

- Direct Work and the child's wishes and feelings.
- Information about the individual needs of the child.
- Assess the quality of the attachment through observation of the child in different settings and as a brother and sister group

Views of parents and significant relatives need to be obtained.

- Views and observations by the Foster Carer, School Staff(s), Contact Supervisor(s) and Health Worker(s).
- The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and the Brother and Sister assessment forms need to be completed by family and professionals, and the outcome of these questionnaires will then require further analysis.
- An understanding of the brother and sister group relationship, including strengths and vulnerabilities.
- Detail of any support or intervention needed for the brother and sister group as a whole or for an individual child around promoting, repairing, developing or maintaining the brother and sister relationships.
- Analysis, conclusions and recommendations including recommendations in regards to placement and views on how placement moves could be facilitated.

9. If children cannot live together then family time is facilitated, sometimes by foster carers, sometimes by support workers.