Dear Freedom of Information Officer

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) in relation to the special schools provision of your Local Authority:

**In relation to the budget, spend and contract arrangements for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated.**

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| **Question 1** | **Response** |
| What is your annual budget and spend for commissioning services for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated? |  |

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| **Question 2** | | |
| What contracts or framework agreements are in place to source special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated for Children with needs? | | |
| **Response:** | | |
| **Question 3** | **Response** | |
| When were these contracts/ arrangements put in place? |  | |
| **Question 4** | | **Response** |
| When do you anticipate a new procurement process starting for the services covered by these contracts? | |  |
| **Question 5** | | **Response** |
| How many providers are delivering services through these contracts? | |  |

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| **Question 6** | **Response** |
| Does the capacity of contracted providers meet the full demand for these services (i.e. no need for spot contracting)? |  |
| **Question 7** | **Response** |
| If not what percentage of the spend is on spot contracts? |  |

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| **Question 8** | **Minimum** | **Maximum** | **Average** |
| What is the range of weekly fees for services delivered under established contracts? |  |  |  |
| **Question 9** | **Minimum** | **Maximum** | **Average** |
| What is the range of weekly fees for services delivered by spot contracts? |  |  |  |

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| **Question 10** | **Response** |
| Which role is ultimately accountable for these contracts? |  |
| **Question 11** | **Response** |
| Does the authority commission jointly with other authorities? If so which ones? |  |

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| **Question 12** | **Name** | **Type of provider?**  **(Internal, Private, 3rd Sector** | **What proportion of the total budget is with each provider?** | **How many children were looked after by each provider as at 31/1/21?** |
| Which providers are delivering services through these contracts? |  |  |  |  |

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| **Question 13** | **Response** |
| In the role of encouraging better outcomes, innovation and value are you actively encouraging new provider engagement for these services? |  |

**In relation to the quality and improvement priorities of services in place for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated**

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| **Question 14** | **Response** |
| Are the contracts performing well / meeting needs? |  |
| **Question 15** | **Response** |
| Is there a priority to improve outcomes? |  |
| **Question 16** | **Response** |
| Is there a priority to streamline the commissioning processes? |  |
| **Question 17** | **Response** |
| Is there a priority to streamline the commissioning processes? |  |
| **Question 18** | **Response** |
| Is there a priority to enable affordability? |  |
| **Question 19** | **Response** |
| Is there a priority to increase capacity? |  |
| **Question 20** | **Response** |
| If there are other priorities for improvement if so, what are they? |  |

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| **Question 21** | **Response** |
| How many children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated are living in commissioned Children's homes? |  |
| **Question 22** | **Response** |
| Do you currently commission residential and schools places together under a single arrangement? |  |
| **Question 23** | **Response** |
| Are you considering commissioning residential and schools places together under a single arrangement? |  |

**In relation to the demand and capacity of services in place for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated.**

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| **Question 24** | **Response** |
| How many children were receiving special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated on 31/1/21, commissioned by your authority? |  |
| **Question 25** | **Response** |
| Over the 12 months 1/1/20 to 31/12/20 how many new referrals of children did your authority refer to these services? |  |
| **Question 26** | **Response** |
| What percentage of children receive services in a location covered by another authority (out of county)? |  |
| **Question 27** | **Response** |
| How many children are receiving services, commissioned by your authority, from an unregulated provider? |  |

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| **Question 28** | **Response** |
| Over the last 2 years has the demand for children needing special school places and/or any alternative education provision including unregulated grown? |  |
| **Question 29** | **Response** |
| What growth are you anticipating over the next three years? |  |
| **Question 30** | **Response** |
| Is the budget growing at the same rate as the expected growth in demand after allowing for inflation? If not what is the expected impact? |  |

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| **Question 31** | **Response** |
| What is the average No of looked after children cases your social workers are expected to hold at any one time? |  |

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| **Question 32** | **Response** |
| What percentage of children are receiving services with a primary need categorised as social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH)? |  |
| **Question 33** | **Response** |
| What percentage of children are receiving services with a primary need categorised as learning disabilities? |  |
| **Question 34** | **Response** |
| What percentage of children are receiving services with a primary need categorised as autism? |  |
| **Question** | **Response** |
| What percentage of children are receiving services with a primary need not included above? Provide a summary of the additional primary needs? |  |