



I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in relation to your local authority:

1. The number of children who have been subject to care proceedings during the following annual cohorts:
 - a. 2021/2022 2021/2022: 254
 - b. 2022/2023 2022/2023: 265
 - c. 2023/2024 2023/2024: 270
 - d. 2024/2025 (to date) 2024/2025: 219
2. For each of the above cohorts, please provide the number of families who have utilised a Residential Family Assessment Centre during the care proceedings.
2021/2022: 7
2022/2023: 6
2023/2024: <5
2024/2025: 5
3. Please confirm whether your local authority has access to, or operates, a Residential Family Assessment Centre within its boundaries.
There is one private/voluntary residential family assessment centre in Wigan which is operated by Progressive Care. The centre can accommodate 6 families. Wigan LA does not operate its own centre.
 - If yes, please provide the name and capacity of the centre.
4. Please indicate the Residential Family Assessment Centre that the council have used in the last year and how frequent with average duration.
Wigan LA utilises Placements Northwest FPS Framework and spot purchases. During the last 12 months the LA has commissioned several different private/voluntary residential family assessment centres with an average duration of 16 weeks.
5. Where available, please indicate the outcomes of proceedings for families referred to a Residential Family Assessment Centre (e.g., reunification, special guardianship, placement order).
Family returned home (reunification): 10
Child moved to foster care: 9
Parent and child moved to foster care for further support/continued assessment: 0
Child moved to kinship care: <5
Special Guardianship Order Granted: <5
Care taken over by another LA: <5
Yearly breakdown unavailable due to small cohort
6. How does your local authority measure the effectiveness of Residential Family Assessment Centre placements?
No specific tools. Performance is measured through statutory visits, quality of midpoint assessments, quality of final assessments and outcomes achieved through care planning meetings.
 - Are specific tools, performance indicators, or feedback mechanisms used to evaluate outcomes?
7. Does your local authority consider Residential Family Assessment Centres to be effective in supporting care planning and long-term outcomes for children and families?
Yes.