

Who are looked-after children? Some facts and figures

Definition

"Looked-after children" here means all children and young people who are looked after by a local authority in accordance with the Children Act 1989.

"Under the Children's Act 1989, a child is looked after by [a local authority] if he or she is in their care or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the [local authority]. They fall into four main groups:

- children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (Section 20)
- children who are the subject of a care order (Section 31) or interim care order (Section 38)
- children who are the subject of emergency orders for the protection of the child (Section 44 and 46)
- children who are compulsorily accommodated. This includes children remanded to the LA or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (Section 21)."¹

Local authorities also have a responsibility for 'eligible' children and young people:

"An 'eligible' child is a child who is looked-after, aged 16 or 17 and has been looked after by a local authority for a period of 13 weeks or periods amounting in total to 13 weeks, which began after they reached 14 and ended after they reached 16."²

Local authorities' definitions of "looked-after" vary; for some, it may not include those children and young people who are:

- in respite care
- disabled and in residential provision where parental responsibility does not lie with the local authority
- living with people other than their parents, but not under the supervision of social services
- on remand in, or sentenced to, local authority secure units – as opposed to welfare cases.³

In addition:

"In Scotland children looked after at home are included in the definition and in the statistics. In the England and Wales statistics children looked after at home are usually excluded. As a result, simply comparing the rate of children looked after gives figures for Scotland which are much higher than the rest of the UK."⁴

The Scottish Social Work statistics report also includes a very useful listing of the types of placement for children/young people in care:

- "At home with parent(s): at home with parent(s) or 'relevant person(s)' as defined in Section 93(2)(b) of the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995

- With friends/relatives: placed with friends or relatives who are not approved foster carers. Also referred to as 'kinship care'.
- With foster carers provided by the local authority
- With foster carers purchased by the local authority
- With prospective adopters
- Other community: such as supported accommodation, hospital (e.g. at birth)
- Local authority home: in local authority children's home/hostel, local authority home/hostel for children with learning disabilities, local authority home/hostel for physically disabled children
- Voluntary home: in voluntary children's home/hostel, in voluntary home/hostel for children with learning disabilities, in voluntary home/hostel for physically disabled children
- Residential school: in local authority residential school (home/hostel), in voluntary residential school (home/hostel), in private school, in independent school
- Secure accommodation: "Secure children's homes are children's homes which provide a locked environment and restrict a young person's liberty. They provide care and accommodation to children and young people who have been detained or sentenced by the criminal courts and those who have been remanded to secure local authority accommodation. They also accommodate and care for children and young people who have been placed there on welfare grounds by local authorities and the courts." At 31 March 2015, there were 194 young people in secure homes in England and 11 in Wales⁵.
- Crisis care: for example: in women's refuge, in local authority hostel for offenders, in voluntary hostel for offenders, in local authority hostel for drug/alcohol abusers, in voluntary hostel for drug/alcohol abusers
- Other residential: a known residential setting but does not fit with one of the above."⁶

Statistics – who's in care?

- At 31 March 2015:
 - 69,540 children were in care in England, an increase of 1% since 2014, and 6% compared to 2011.⁷ CAFCASS have noted that the number of applications for children to enter the care system in England is continuing to rise, with the figures for September 7% up on the same period last year. The court advocacy service received a total of 979 care applications in September 2015, up on the figure of 913 for September 2014.⁸ (In total, throughout the year 2014-2015, some 99,230 children were in care.⁹)
- At 31 March 2015:
 - 5,617 children were in care in Wales, 128 fewer than the previous year¹⁰
- At 31 March 2014:
 - 2,858 children were in care in Northern Ireland¹¹.
- At 31 July 2013:
 - 16,041 children in care in Scotland¹²
- In England, 75% were looked after in foster placements (at 31 March 2015, there were 52,050 children in fostering placements¹³]; 9% in secure units¹⁴,

children's homes & hostels¹⁵; 2% in other residential settings (eg residential care homes); 5% with parents, 5% placed for adoption, and 3% in "other" care (including residential schools, lodgings and other residential settings). Worryingly, there were also 110 young people who were "missing, whereabouts unknown", although recent research suggests that this estimate is far too low: "police data shows that there are an estimated 10,000 individual children going missing in a year from care"¹⁶. The most recent statistics on adoption also highlight the number of young people who went missing: "There were 13,305 instances of children going missing during 2013-14; an increase of 36%. The large majority of this increase was attributed to children going missing in Independent Fostering Agencies [...]"¹⁷

- In 2011, 11% of the children in foster care were with family or friends¹⁸. "A family and friends carer is a relative, such as a grandparent, aunt, uncle or older sibling, or a friend who is raising a child who is unable to live with their parents. They are also sometimes known as kinship carers. There are estimated to be around 200,000 children being raised by family and friends carers. Children may be living with the family and friends carer for a range of reasons, including parental death, imprisonment, divorce, mental and/or physical ill health, alcohol and/or drug misuse, learning disability; a breakdown in relationships between child and parent; and child abuse."¹⁹ "But add in guesstimates of informal arrangements, and there are probably 2-300,000 children in kinship care, or a huge 1.7 - 2.5% of the whole UK child population. There are probably around 100,000 grandparents caring for children under 13."^{20, 21} In addition, only 6,800 of the children in kinship care are actually looked-after children²². Research based on analysis of 2011 Census data and published in 2015 estimated that 152,910 children – 1.4% of the 11.3 million children in England in 2011 – lived in kinship care; however, 76% of kinship children were living in a deprived household.²³
- In Northern Ireland, "... kinship care means children who are cared for by a 'relative' [a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of the full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step-parent] ... or by a family friend who has a prior connection to the child." In 2011, there were 8,655 children living in households in Northern Ireland without their birth parent present²⁴.
- In England, 5,330 children were adopted during the year 2014-2015²⁵. During the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, there were 84,450 children and young people who lived in fostering placements at some point in the year; and, as at 31 March 2014, there were 51,315 children in fostering placements; a 1% increase on the previous year's figure (50,617)²⁶
- Again in England, in the year ending 31 March 2015, 29% of children starting to be looked after were 10 to 15 years old; and 4,870 children aged 16+ started to be looked after.²⁷
- In England, the largest category of need for looked-after children was 'abuse or neglect', with an estimated 61% (42,710 children) of the total being in this category. The second largest category was 'family dysfunction' (11,000 children, 16%). Other categories include: child's disability (3%); parents' illness/disability (3%); family in acute stress (9%); absent parenting (5%)^{28, 29, 30}
- Just 2% are in care because of "socially unacceptable behaviour"³¹
- 30% of children in England placed in regulated children's homes are outside

their local authority area³²; 16 local authorities placed all their children outside the local authority area³³; in 15 local authorities, the only children living in children's homes in their area were the responsibility of other local authorities³⁴. According to a Freedom of Information request, in September 2014, 1,931 (37.7 per cent) of the 5,122 children in care in Greater Manchester had been placed outside their local area³⁵

- Children who live in children's homes have high levels of emotional and behavioural difficulties. A recent research study³⁶ found that 38% of children living in homes had a statement of special educational needs; 62% had clinically significant mental health difficulties; 74% were reported to have been violent or aggressive in the past 6 months. Children who live in homes were found to have achieved lower attainment levels in Key Stage examinations than other children³⁷
- Again in England, some 53,600 (77%) of the looked-after children were white; 6,170 (9%) were mixed-race; 4,920 (7%) were Black; and 2,660 (4%) were Asian³⁸.
- "Black and Black British children who are looked after are more likely than children of other ethnicities to live in secure units, Young Offenders Institutions, or in prison. As at 31 March 2014, one fifth (20%) of children placed in secure units, YOIs or prisons were Black or Black British, though only 7% of all looked after children were of this ethnic group."³⁹
- Boys⁴⁰, children from some ethnic minority groups, disabled children and those from lower socioeconomic groups are over-represented in care⁴¹
- Most unaccompanied asylum-seeker children aged under 16 are taken into care on arrival, and now represent about 4% (2,630) of all children in care⁴²
- "There were 2,060 looked after children aged between 10 and 17 years who had been convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year ending 31 March 2012. This represents 6.9 per cent of all looked after children aged 10 to 17 years, compared with 7.3 per cent as reported in 2011. Offending was higher amongst older children and more frequent amongst boys."⁴³
- The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 aims to ensure that a local authority will provide help until a young person reaches the age of 21 and in some cases 24⁴⁴. Under new laws included in the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities have a duty to support care leavers who wish to continue to live with their foster carers when they reach 18. The "Staying Put" arrangement continues until the young person reaches age 21, or stops living in the household before then⁴⁵. However, there is a continuing culture of young people feeling that they have to leave care at 16, for example if they are moved into a hostel⁴⁶
- At the same time, in England for the year ending 31 March 2010, over 3,200 16- and 17-year-olds were taken into care (the major reason being 'absent parenting')⁴⁷
- The DfE has recently described the difference in performance for children in care between some local authorities as "startling" (eg the number of placements a young person has; the number of young people leaving care who are NEET, which ranges from 15% to 69%)⁴⁸.
- Worryingly: "There was a large increase in the instances of children going missing from foster homes last year, Ofsted statistics show. Children went missing from foster care on 13,305 occasions in 2013-14 - a 36% rise on the previous year. Nearly six out of 10 missing cases were from independent

fostering agencies, rather than a local authority, which have just under a third of placements.”⁴⁹

Independent Fostering Providers [IFPs]

According to The Fostering Network⁵⁰, where a local authority does not have any spaces left with their own foster carers or does not have a foster carer who is a good match, they do then go to independent fostering providers⁵¹ who have their own foster carers and who the local authority then pay to provide the placement.

“All IFPs have to be registered with Ofsted and follow the same standards and regulations as local authorities. Some of the largest IFPs such as Foster Care Associates and NFA are profit-making companies although many are not-for-profit organizations or charities. In Scotland, all IFPs must be charities or not-for-profit organizations.”

In some areas, eg London, some 40% of foster care may take place with IFPs⁵².

In England, “During 2013-14, two thirds of children were reported in placements within LA fostering services while children in IFAs accounted for one third of placements: 56,470 and 27,980 children respectively.”⁵³

Private fostering

“Private fostering describes an arrangement that lasts for 28 days or more, where a child is cared for by someone who isn’t a close relative. This means someone who isn’t a grandparent, uncle, aunt, step parent or older brother or sister. By law, parents and carers must notify their local authority of any private fostering arrangement.

Privately fostered children include trafficked children, unaccompanied asylum seekers, runaways and teenagers estranged from their parents who are sleeping on someone else’s sofa.”⁵⁴

The official statistics show:

- At 31 March 2015, 1,560 children were reported as being cared for and accommodated in private fostering arrangements in England.⁵⁵ (“The numbers have fluctuated between 1,250 and 1,650 over the past 9 years but overall are generally quite stable. The regions with the most children reported in these arrangements continue to be London and the South West.”)

However, according to the Somebody Else’s Child campaign, the true figure may be between 8,000-10,000⁵⁶; according to the Fostering Information Line:

“There are probably over 10,000 children in the UK who are currently being privately fostered. Very often circumstances can arise where a birth parent feels that it would be best for them to make an arrangement for their child to be cared for (often temporarily) by someone else. For example, when a couple separate or divorce, or where a single parent takes up employment away from home or abroad. There are also children who come from abroad,

for instance, to study and who are cared for by others whilst their birth parents remain overseas.”⁵⁷

Common situations when children are privately fostered include:

- African and African Caribbean children with parents or families overseas
- Black, white and minority ethnic children with parents working or studying in the UK
- Asylum-seekers and refugees
- Trafficked children
- Local children living apart from their families
- Adolescents and teenagers
- Children attending language schools, at independent boarding schools who do not return home for holidays
- Children brought in from abroad with a view to adoption
- Children of members of the Forces⁵⁸.

Research by Ofsted suggests that the main categories are:

- Language college students, intending to return to their own countries
- Other educational placements
- ‘Sofa hoppers’ or those making alternative family arrangements
- Children who have been sent to England to live and intend to stay, often with relatives and/or for religious reasons⁵⁹.

Statistics – education

According to the latest DfE figures for England⁶⁰:

- The percentage of looked after children achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs or equivalent including English and mathematics (the headline measure) was 12.0 per cent in 2014. However, in 2014 there is a difference of 40.1 percentage points between the rates of looked after and non-looked after children achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs and equivalents including English and mathematics.
- 68 per cent of looked after children eligible to sit GCSEs have a special educational need. The percentage of looked after children with a special educational need achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs or equivalent including English and mathematics was 8.0 per cent in 2014, compared to 28.1 per cent for those without a special educational need. In 2014, 17.9 per cent of all children had a SEN which consisted of 2.8 per cent with a statement and 15.1 per cent without a statement.”⁶¹

In addition:

- Children in care have poor results in Key Stage tests. For example, at Key Stage 1, the attainment gap between looked-after and non-looked-after children is largest for writing at 25 percentage points⁶²; at KS2, 48% of 11 year-olds achieved the expected level in reading, writing and maths, compared with 79% of non-looked-after children⁶³.
- Only just over 6% of care-leavers went to university in 2014⁶⁴. However, the proportion of young people who have arrived in the UK as unaccompanied

asylum-seekers who go on to university is increasing – “By the time most refugees leave for Britain, they are in their mid-teens: old enough to have internalised their parents’ ambitions. For them, university is simply part of the educational idiom.”⁶⁵

In Northern Ireland, in 2013-2014, 72% of care-leavers aged 16-18 achieved GCSEs or other qualifications whereas 28% had no qualifications. In addition, 21% of care-leavers left care with 5 GCSEs (grades A*-C) or higher, compared with more than three-quarters (79%) of general school-leavers. Just over a quarter of all care-leavers (28%) left care with no qualifications, compared with 1% of general school-leavers⁶⁶.

Again in 2013-2014, some 7% of care-leavers in Northern Ireland were in higher education.⁶⁷

An investigation by the Centre for Social Justice published in 2015 has shown that: “Almost a thousand children in care have attended three or more schools in a single year, while more than 6,000 have moved at least once.”⁶⁸

Health needs of looked-after children

A briefing from the National Children’s Bureau⁶⁹ outlines key issues, including:

- Two-thirds of all looked-after children have at least one physical health complaint⁷⁰
- Looked after children are more likely than their peers to experience problems including speech and language problems, bedwetting, co-ordination difficulties and eye or sight problems⁷¹
- About 60% of those looked after in England have been reported to have emotional and mental health problems, around four times the rate for children generally⁷²
- Looked after children and young people are more likely than their peers to have experienced the death of a parent or sibling⁷³
- Looked after children are around ten times more likely than their peers to have significant learning difficulties, which for many will have implications for how they are best supported to understand health messages, manage risk, and be engaged in decisions about their health
- Looked after children and young people are around 3 times more likely to drink regularly and more likely to smoke than their peers. They are around four times more likely to simultaneously be a smoker, regular drinker and drug user⁷⁴.

Other impacts on future life

- In 2014⁷⁵, 38% of care-leavers in England were not in education, employment or training (NEET), far more than the overall rate amongst young people of 13%⁷⁶.
- Looked-after children and care-leavers are between four and five times more likely to attempt suicide in adulthood. They are also at five-fold increased risk of all childhood mental, emotional and behavioural problems, and at six to sevenfold increased risk of conduct disorders⁷⁷
- Children in care are three times more likely to run away than other children.⁷⁸

According to the NSPCC (based on police information supplied via a FOI request), “A total of 7,885 children went missing during [2012 in England & Wales] at least once and 2,959 ran away more than once.”⁷⁹

- A third of homeless people were formerly in care⁸⁰
- Children who have been in care are two-and-a-half times more likely to become teenage parents⁸¹
- At 31 March 2015, “there were 260 looked-after children in England's YOIs out of a custodial population of 706 – a proportion of 36.8 per cent. The proportion represents the highest level in the past five years. In 2011 it stood at 8.7 per cent (140 children in care out of a total number of 1,601). Since then the number of children in custody who are in care has risen, despite the overall number of under-18s in custody in YOIs dropping markedly in recent years.”⁸²
- Young people who have been in care are disproportionately likely to end up in prison: 23 per cent of the adult prison population has previously been in care⁸³, even though children in care and care leavers account for less than 1% of the total population.

3 November 2015

¹ Department for Education. Data Services Group. *School census for primary schools in England: preparation and guidance for 2010*. DfE, 2010. Thanks to Essex Schools InfoLink for the link to this document:

http://esi.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/si/esi/content/binaries/documents/Service_Areas/TOPC_Data_Services/School_Census/School_Census_Primary_Preparation_and_Guidance_2010_v1-3.doc#_Toc246842134.

² *Promoting the education of looked after children: statutory guidance for local authorities*. DfE, 2014,

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335964/Promoting_the_educational_achievement_of_looked_after_children_Final_23-....pdf.

³ Social Exclusion Unit. *A better education for children in care: Social Exclusion Unit report*. ODPM, 2003, <http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/SEU-Report.pdf.pdf>.

⁴ *Children's Social Work statistics Scotland, 2011-12*. The Scottish Government, 2013, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00416522.pdf> [pp12-13].

⁵ *Children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March 2015: England and Wales*. DfE, 2015,

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/431660/SFR15-2015_Text.pdf.

⁶ *Children's Social Work statistics Scotland, 2011-12*. The Scottish Government, 2013, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00416522.pdf> [pp29-30].

⁷ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 34/2015), 2015,

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464756/SFR34_2015_Text.pdf.

⁸ See: http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1154216/care-applications-rise-again?utm_content=&utm_campaign=121015%20Daily&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcyp%2Fnews%2F1154216%2Fcare-applications-rise-again.

⁹ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015: National tables*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 34/2015), 2015,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including->

[adoption-2014-to-2015](#).

¹⁰ See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-34402388>.

¹¹ See: <http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/statni#pc>.

¹² See: <http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/statscotland>.

¹³ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 34/2015), 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464756/SFR34_2015_Text.pdf.

¹⁴ At 31 March 2014, there were 229 children accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales. *Children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March 2014: England and Wales*. DfE, 2014, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/317365/SFR14-2014_Text.pdf.

¹⁵ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2014*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 36/2014), 2014, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/359277/SFR36_2014_Text.pdf.

¹⁶ *Report from the joint inquiry into children who go missing from care*. All Parliamentary Group for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults and All Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, 2012, http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/u32/joint_appg_inquiry_-_report...pdf.

¹⁷ *Fostering in England 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014*. Ofsted, 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/395004/Fostering_2013-14_key_findings.pdf.

¹⁸ See: <http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/pages/kinship-care.html>.

¹⁹ C Ashley (ed). *Could do better ... must do better: a study of family and friends care local authority policies*. Family Rights Group, 2015, http://www.frg.org.uk/images/Kinship_Care_Alliance/could-do-better-must-do-better-report-march-2015.pdf.

²⁰ See: <http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/pages/kinship-care.html>.

²¹ There is further background information about kinship care in: *Understanding family and friends care: the relationship between need, support and legal status – carers' experiences*. Family Rights Group, 2012, <http://www.frg.org.uk/images/e-publications/ffc-report-1.pdf>; and *Understanding family and friends care: the largest UK survey*. Family Rights Group, 2012, <http://www.frg.org.uk/images/e-publications/ffc-report-1.pdf>.

²² *A policy briefing on family and friends care: raising children within the wider family as an alternative to care*. Family Rights Group, 2010, http://www.fostering.net/sites/www.fostering.net/files/uploads/pdf/family_friends_care_policy_brief.pdf.

²³ Dinithi Wijedasa. *The prevalence and characteristics of children growing up with relatives in the UK*. University of Bristol: Hadley Centre for Adoption and Foster Care Studies (Briefing Paper 001), 2015, http://www.bristol.ac.uk/media-library/sites/sps/documents/hadleydocs/Kinstat_%20Briefing%20Paper%20001.pdf.

²⁴ Heidi Rodgers and Iain Waugh. *Kinship care – children living in households without a parent present, Northern Ireland 2011*. Community Information Branch, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety, 2015, <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/statistics/kinship-care-ni-2011.pdf>.

²⁵ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015: National tables*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 34/2015), 2015, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2014-to-2015>.

²⁶ *Fostering in England 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014*. Ofsted, 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/395004/Foste

[ring 2013-14 key findings.pdf](#).

²⁷ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015: National tables*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 34/2015), 2015, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2014-to-2015>.

²⁸ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 34/2015), 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464756/SFR34_2015_Text.pdf.

²⁹ These categories of causes why young people are taken into care are from the Guidance notes to the *Children in need census*, <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/datastats1/guidelines/children/docs/2010-11-CIN-Census-Guidance-v1.1.doc>:

Abuse or neglect: children in need as a result of, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; also includes children at risk because of domestic violence.

Family dysfunction: children whose needs primarily arise from living in a family where the parenting capacity is chronically inadequate.

Different Children's Services departments may categorise children differently, so it may be safer to amalgamate these figures. (Thanks to Claire Davies, The Fostering Network, for help with this.)

³⁰ A recent report from the NSPCC has clarified the meaning of 'neglect': "In England, neglect is defined as the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment." [p6]

Spotlight on preventing child neglect: an overview of learning from NSPCC services and research. NSPCC, 2015, <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/spotlight-preventing-child-neglect-report.pdf>.

³¹ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 34/2015), 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464756/SFR34_2015_Text.pdf.

³² *Children's homes data pack, 13 September 2013*. DfE, 2013, <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/c/childrens%20homes%20data%20pack%20013.PDF>.

³³ *Children's homes data pack, 13 September 2013*. DfE, 2013, <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/c/childrens%20homes%20data%20pack%20013.PDF>.

³⁴ *Children's homes data pack, 13 September 2013*. DfE, 2013, <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/c/childrens%20homes%20data%20pack%20013.PDF>.

³⁵ Adam Offord "More than a third of children in care in Greater Manchester live 'out of area'", *Children & Young People Now*, 9 June 2015, http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1151922/more-than-a-third-of-children-in-care-in-greater-manchester-live-out-of-area?utm_content=&utm_campaign=090615%20Daily&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fnews%2F1151922%2Fmore-than-a-third-of-children-in-care-in-greater-manchester-live-out-of-area.

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- ³⁶ David Berridge *et al.* *Living in children's residential homes*. DfE (Research Report DFE-RR201), 2012, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/184079/DFE-RR201.pdf.
- ³⁷ *Children's homes data pack, 13 September 2013*. DfE, 2013, <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/c/childrens%20homes%20data%20pack%20013.PDF>.
- ³⁸ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 34/2015), 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464756/SFR34_2015_Text.pdf.
- ³⁹ *Children looked after placements by English local authorities as at 31 March 2014*. Ofsted, 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444656/Children-looked-after-placements-by-English-local-authorities-as-at-31-March-2014.pdf.
- ⁴⁰ According to Adi Bloom "Window of opportunity", *TES* 17 Feb 2012, 56% of young people in care are male.
- ⁴¹ Social Exclusion Unit. *A better education for children in care: Social Exclusion Unit report*. ODPM, 2003, <http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/SEU-Report.pdf.pdf>.
- ⁴² *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 34/2015), 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464756/SFR34_2015_Text.pdf.
- ⁴³ *Outcomes for children looked after by local authorities in England, as at 31 March 201: Statistical first release*. DfE, 2012, <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/sfr32-2012v2.pdf>.
- ⁴⁴ According to A National Voice (<http://www.anationalvoice.org/rights/clcact2.htm>): "The Local Authority has a duty towards eligible and relevant and former relevant children: Eligible are those Young People still in care aged 16 and 17 who have been looked after for (a total of) at least 13 weeks from the age of 14. Relevant are Young People aged 16 or 17 who have already left care, and who were looked after for (a total of) at least 13 weeks from the age of 14, and have been looked after at some time while 16 or 17. Former Relevant are Young People aged 18-21 who have been **eligible** and/or **relevant** Children In Care – Young People who are looked after by a Local Authority either through a compulsory Care Order or remanded or accommodated by voluntary agreement including accommodation under section 20 of the Children Act."
- ⁴⁵ *Staying put: good practice guide*. The Children's Partnership, 2014, <http://thechildrenspartnership-knowledge.org.uk/media/1054/staying-put-composite.pdf>.
- ⁴⁶ See: *Sweet 16? The age of leaving care in Scotland – young person's report: summary ...* Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, 2008. Available to download from: <http://www.sccyp.org.uk/publications/adults/policyandresearch>. (Thanks to Zachari Duncalf, Care Leavers' Association, for help with this.)
- ⁴⁷ Thanks to the DfE for supplying this information via email.
- ⁴⁸ Lauren Higgs. "Care league tables get mixed reaction", *Children & Young People Now*, 15-28 Nov 2011, <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/1103793/Care-league-tables-mixed-reaction/?DCMP=ILC-SEARCH>.
- ⁴⁹ See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-30813400>.
- ⁵⁰ Email from The Fostering Network, 29 March 2012.
- ⁵¹ See: http://www.fostering.org.uk/information/independent_fostering_agencies.html.
- ⁵² See, for example: <http://www.fostering.net/providers/independent/london>.
- ⁵³ *Fostering in England 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014*. Ofsted, 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/395004/Foste

[ring 2013-14 key findings.pdf](#).

⁵⁴ “Leading Charities Warn Over 10,000 Children at Risk Because 91% of the UK Adult Population Don’t Know What Private Fostering is”, BAAF, 2015, <http://www.baaf.org.uk/node/7936>.

⁵⁵ *Notifications of private fostering arrangements in England: year ending 31 March 2015*. DfE, 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/440401/SFR22-2015_Text.pdf.

⁵⁶ See: <http://www.fostering.net/news/2009/somebody-elses-child-campaign-aims-raise-awareness-private-fostering>.

⁵⁷ Taken from: http://www.fostering.org.uk/information/private_fostering.html.

⁵⁸ BAAF “Private fostering in the UK”, <http://www.baaf.org.uk/info/lpp/pf/index.shtml>.

⁵⁹ *Private fostering, better understanding*. Ofsted, 2014, <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/private-fostering-better-information-better-understanding>.

⁶⁰ *Outcome indicators for children looked after by local authorities in England as at 31 March 2014*. DfE, 2014, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/384781/Outcomes_SFR49_2014_Text.pdf.

⁶¹ *Outcomes for children looked after by local authorities in England, as at 31 March 2014: Statistical first release*. DfE, 2014, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/384781/Outcomes_SFR49_2014_Text.pdf.

⁶² *Outcomes for children looked after by local authorities in England, as at 31 March 2014: Statistical first release*. DfE, 2014, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/384781/Outcomes_SFR49_2014_Text.pdf.

⁶³ *Outcomes for children looked after by local authorities in England, as at 31 March 2014: Statistical first release*. DfE, 2014, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/384781/Outcomes_SFR49_2014_Text.pdf.

⁶⁴ According to the DfE (email to John Vincent, 23 Feb 2015): “The Department now collects data on the activity of care leavers aged 19, 20 and 21. The data from the children looked-after by local authorities in England at 31 March 2014 shows that the proportions of 19, 20 and 21 year old care leavers in full-time higher education are 5%, 6% and 7% respectively ... the total numbers of each age range (27220) and the total numbers of those deemed to be in higher education (1740).”

⁶⁵ Adi Bloom “Window of opportunity”, *TES* 17 Feb 2012, p32.

⁶⁶ *Northern Ireland care leavers 2013/14*. Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety, Community Information Branch, 2015, <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nicl-13-14.pdf>.

⁶⁷ *Northern Ireland care leavers 2013/14*. Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety, Community Information Branch, 2015, <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nicl-13-14.pdf>.

⁶⁸ Luke Stevenson. “Thousands of looked-after children forced to move school at least once a year”, <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2015/07/24/thousands-looked-children-forced-move-school-least-year/?cmpid=NLC|SCSC|SCNEW-2015-0729>.

⁶⁹ *Delivering the health reforms for looked after children: how the new NHS will work from April 2013*. NCB, 2013, http://ncb.org.uk/media/905675/lac_health_reforms_briefing_010213.pdf.

⁷⁰ Howard Meltzer *et al.* *The mental health of young people looked after by local authorities in England*. ONS, 2002, <http://www.esds.ac.uk/doc/5280/mrdoc/pdf/5280userguide.pdf>.

⁷¹ Howard Meltzer *et al.* *The mental health of young people looked after by local authorities in England*. ONS, 2002, <http://www.esds.ac.uk/doc/5280/mrdoc/pdf/5280userguide.pdf>.

⁷² National Institute for Clinical Excellence. *Public Health Guidance: Looked-after children and young people*. NICE, 2010, see: <http://www.nice.org.uk/PH28>.

⁷³ Becky Fauth *et al.* *Associations between childhood bereavement and children's background, experiences and outcomes: Secondary analysis of the 2004 Mental Health of Children and Young People in Great Britain data*. NCB, 2009, <http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/documents/FullReportAssociationswithchildhoodbereavement.pdf>.

⁷⁴ Howard Meltzer *et al.* *The mental health of young people looked after by local authorities in England*. ONS, 2002, pp 100-103, <http://www.esds.ac.uk/doc/5280/mrdoc/pdf/5280userguide.pdf>.

⁷⁵ *Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2014*. DfE (Statistical First Release, SFR 36/2014), 2014, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/359277/SFR36_2014_Text.pdf.

⁷⁶ *Children looked after by local authorities in England: year ending 31 March 2011*. DfE, 2011 (SFR21/2011), <http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/datasets/a00196857/children-looked-after-by-las-in-england>.

⁷⁷ *Consultation on preventing suicide in England: a cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives*. DOH, 2011, http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_128463.pdf.

⁷⁸ *Make runaways safe: launch document*. The Children's Society, 2011, http://makerunawayssafe.org.uk/sites/default/files/Make%20Runaways%20Safe%20-%20full%20report_0.pdf.

⁷⁹ Tristan Donovan "Thousands repeatedly run away from care, police figures reveal", http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1077014/thousands-run-away-care-repeatedly-police-figures-reveal?utm_content=&utm_campaign=240413_Daily&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcyp%2Fnews%2F1077014%2Fthousands-run-away-care-repeatedly-police-figures-reveal.

⁸⁰ J Dixon "Young people leaving care: health wellbeing and outcomes", *Child & Family Social Work* 13:2 (2008) pp207-217 – cited in: *Couldn't care less: a policy report from the Children in Care Working Group*. The Centre for Social Justice, 2008, <http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/Couldn't%20Care%20Less%20Report%20WEB%20VERSION.PDF>.

⁸¹ Social Exclusion Unit. *A better education for children in care: Social Exclusion Unit report*. ODPM, 2003, <http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/SEU-Report.pdf.pdf>.

⁸² See: http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/1154113/one-in-three-young-people-in-custody-are-in-care-system?utm_content=&utm_campaign=021015%20Daily&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fcyp%2Fnews%2F1154113%2Fone-in-three-young-people-in-custody-are-in-care-system.

⁸³ *Impact assessment for White Paper on Children in Care*. Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2007 – cited in: *Couldn't care less: a policy report from the Children in Care Working Group*. The Centre for Social Justice, 2008, <http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/Couldn't%20Care%20Less%20Report%20WEB%20VERSION.PDF>.