

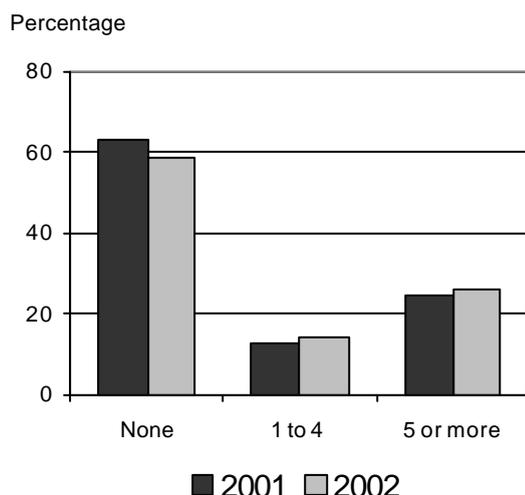
Care leavers, year ending 31 March 2002, England

This bulletin presents provisional statistics on the educational qualifications of young people who ceased to be looked after in England, aged 16 or over, during the year ending 31 March 2002, and on the activity & accommodation of former looked after children whose 19th birthday fell during the year.

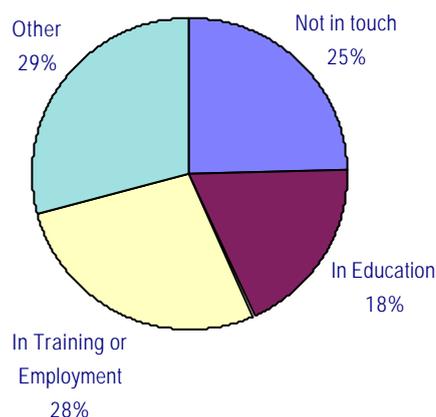
Main findings:

- It is estimated that 41% (or 2,600) of the 6,300 young people leaving care in 2001/2002 had obtained 1 or more GCSEs or GNVQs on leaving care, up from 37% last year.
- 35 local authorities reported that 50% or more of their care leavers had gained at least one GCSE or GNVQ.
- It is estimated that 5% (or 340) left care with at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C
- Councils remained in touch with 75% of former looked after children. 18% were known to be in education on their 19th birthday and a further 28% in training or employment.
- 38% of councils reported that the level of employment, training or education amongst young people who were formerly looked, reached the Government's target of being at least 60% of the level amongst all young people of the same age in their area

Percentage of care leavers with given number of GCSEs at grades A* - G or GNVQs, years ending 31 March 2001 and 2002



Percentage of care leavers at age 19, by activity, year ending 31 March 2002



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COMMENTARY

Introduction

1. This bulletin presents a summary of the data from two statistical returns, the OC1- "Educational Qualifications of Care Leavers" and the OC3 - "Care Leavers on their 19th Birthday" for the year ending 31 March 2002. The OC1 return was introduced from 1 April 1999, and this is the third year of collection whereas the OC3 is a new return introduced from 1 April 2001.

2. Both of these returns were introduced following the publication of the Government's objectives for children's social services in September 1999¹. One of these is "to ensure that children looked after gain the maximum life chance benefits from educational opportunities, health care and social care".

Educational Achievements

3. Educational attainment is felt to be an important Indicator of children's life chances. Research has shown that, on average, looked after children do less well in school than other children and on the basis of research findings the Government established the following two targets:

Increase to 50% by 2000/01 the proportion of children leaving care aged 16 and over with a GCSE or GNVQ qualification; and to 75% by 2002/03².

Increase to 15% by 2003/04 the proportion of children leaving care aged 16 and over with 5 GCSEs at grade A - C²*

and a related indicator (A2) as part of the Performance Assessment Framework (PAF):

The percentage of young people leaving care with at least 1 GCSE at grades A - G, or GNVQ.*

Coverage of Care Leavers - Table 1.

4. The OC1 collection covers all young people leaving care in England at the age of 16 or over, during the year ending 31 March, apart from those looked after solely under an agreed series of short term placements. It includes

some young people who were looked after for a short period, many of whom may have had no previous care history.

5. Table 1 shows that 6,300 young people left the care of local councils in England aged 16 or over during the year ending 31 March 2002. 3,500 of these were boys and 2,800 girls. 3,300 were aged 16 - 17 when they left, and 3,000 left care aged 18 or over (most of these left on their 18th birthday).

Date of sitting exams - Table 2

6. Most school children normally sit their exams during the June of their Year 11 at school. We can define the number of children eligible for Year 11 by their age on 31 August just before the start of the school year. Thus if a child was 15 years old on 31 August 2001 (with a date of birth between 1/9/85 and 31/8/86 inclusive) the child will have normally been eligible for Year 11 in the 2001/2002 school year. This means that some care leavers will have sat their exams as much as two years (or more) prior to leaving care, whilst others may have left care within weeks of taking exams. Table (i) below shows that of all care leavers during the year ending 31 March 2002, 44%

Table (i) Number of children ceasing to be looked after during year ending 31 March 2001 by date of birth

Date of birth	Date due to sit exams	Number	Percent age
Sept 79 - Aug 80	June 97	-	-
Sept 80 - Aug 81	June 98	10	16
Sept 81 - Aug 82	June 99	1,500	23
Sept 82 - Aug 83	June 00	2,800	44
Sept 83 - Aug 84	June 01	1,700	28
Sept 84 - Aug 85	June 02	370	6

would, under normal circumstances, have sat their exams in the summer of 2000, whilst a further 23% would have sat in 1999. However,

¹ The Government's Objectives for Children's Social Services, September 1999; Dept of Health

² The NHS plan, Annex 3, July 2000, Dept of Health

it can also be seen that 6% of care leavers in 2001/02 are not actually due to sit their exams until June 2002 (i.e. during the data year ending March 2003).

Anomalies in OC1 collection

7. This projection of the school year in which care leavers should have sat their exams is of course based solely on the dates of birth. It cannot take into account the fact that some young people for various reasons may sit exams later than most of their age group, or indeed that some more able children may sit some exams early. As a further complication, the OC1 also captures, inevitably, some children whose latest period of care started *after* the time they would normally sit examinations.

Duration of care

8. The duration of the latest period of care of children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2002 varies markedly by age. Table (ii) below shows that whilst 56% of care leavers aged 16 were looked after for periods of less than 1 year, the comparable figure for those aged 18 years and over was only 6%. The average duration for all boys leaving care during 2001/02 was 4 years 5 months, and the average for girls was 4 years 3 months.

Table (ii) Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during year ending 31 March 2002 by duration of last period of care

	Duration of last period of care			
	Under 1 yr	1 – under 3 yrs	3 – under 6 yrs	6 yrs & over
All	26	27	19	28
16 yrs	56	31	8	4
17 yrs	24	37	22	17
18 yrs & over	6	21	26	48

Care leavers achieving at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ - Tables 3 and 4

9. The figures provided by local councils are presented in Tables 3 and 4 and show that about 2,600 young people left care having gained at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ³, representing 41% of

care leavers (PAF indicator A2). If the estimated 370 children who are due to sit their exams in June 2002 are excluded, then the proportion of care leavers who achieved at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ rises to 43%.

10. Table (iii) below shows that the percentage of care leavers with at least one qualification has steadily risen from 1999/2000 to 2001/02, with girls performing consistently better than boys. The figures in this table for 1999/2000 may be understated, as a few councils were unable to supply complete information on the educational achievements of all care leavers (see Technical Note para (vi)).

Table (iii) Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2002 with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ

	Year ending 31 March		
	2000	2001	2002
All children	31	37	41
Boys	25	31	36
Girls	38	45	48

11. These results can be compared with the figures for all Year 11 children in state and independent schools in England in the 2000/2001 school year⁴. 95% of these children obtained at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ, 94% of boys and 96% of girls. This comparison should, however, be made with caution: firstly, the looked after population includes some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in our society; and secondly young people covered by the OC1 collection may be 16, 17 or 18 years old, whereas DfES data covers only children aged 15 at the start of the 2000/2001 academic year.

12. Both tables 3 and 4 show that the longer children are in care, the better their educational achievements, although beyond 4 years, the improvements, if any, are not as striking. However, it can be seen from Table 2 that, of the children who were due to sit exams in June 2002, there was a higher proportion who had

³ Qualifications approved for schools under section 400 of the Education Act 1996 and listed in DfEE circular 2/99.

⁴ www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics

been looked after for less than 1 year than for those children who sat exams at other times. Therefore, a more accurate picture of educational achievements against duration of stay can be obtained if this group is excluded (see table (iv) below).

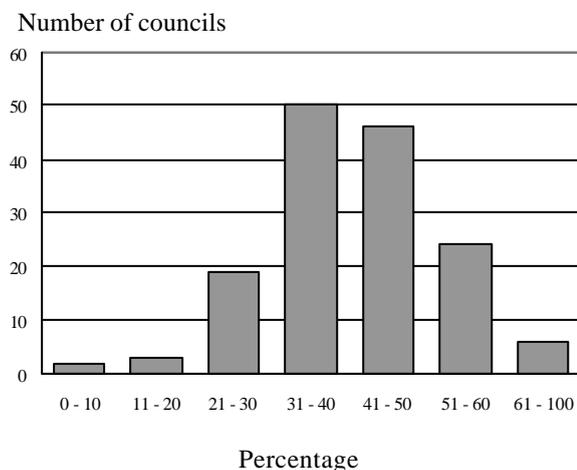
Table (iv) Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during years ending 31 March 2001 & 2002 (excluding those children due to sit their exams in the following year) who achieved at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ, by duration of last period of care

	2001	2002
Up to 1 year	25	28
1 yr to under 2 yrs	37	38
2 yrs to under 4 yrs	44	48
3 yrs to under 6 yrs	47	50
6 yrs to under 8 yrs	46	50
Over 8 yrs	48	52
All durations	39	43

Comparison between Local Councils

13. Appendix A gives the percentage of care leavers in each council area who had obtained at least one GCSE or GNVQ for the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2002. For the year ending 31 March 2002, the figures for 13 local councils have been suppressed where the number of care leavers is small (see technical notes), and whilst the results for councils with

Figure 1: Percentage of children leaving care with at least 1 GCSE at grade A* to G or GNVQ, year ending 31 March 2002



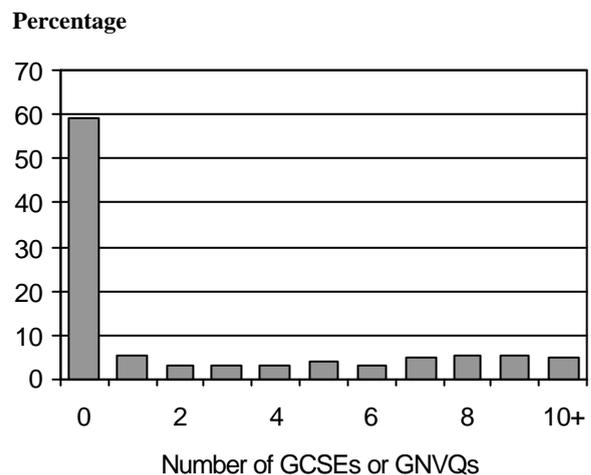
few care leavers should be treated with caution, their inclusion does not markedly affect the overall distribution pattern, which is shown at Figure 1 above. For 2002, 35 councils reported that 50% or more of care leavers achieved at least this minimum level of qualifications, compared with 31 councils for the previous year. Thus, 115 local councils (or 77%) failed to meet the 2001/02 target of 50% set by the Government.

13. At the other end of the distribution, 5 councils in 2001/02 reported less than 20% of care leavers with any GCSEs or GNVQs.

Comparison of the educational achievements of care leavers with all children

14. Comparisons between care leavers and all Year 11 school children should be treated with caution as they are quite different cohorts of children (see paragraph (11) above). Nonetheless, analyses on the number of passes at GCSE or GNVQ level achieved by each child does reveal striking differences. As can be seen in Figure 2 below, most care leavers failed

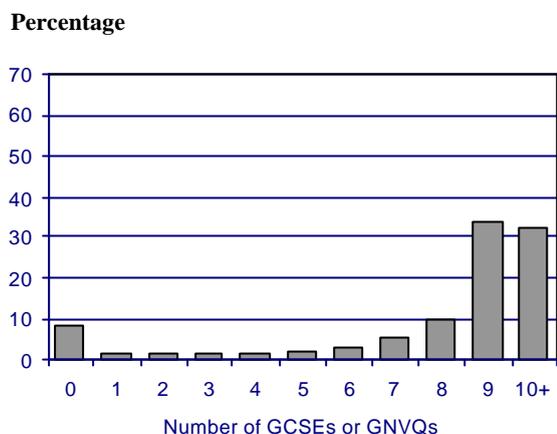
Figure 2: Percentage of care leavers with given number of GCSEs at grades A* - G or GNVQs, year ending 31 March 2002



to obtain any qualifications, whereas Figure 3 below, which illustrates the equivalent distribution for all Year 11 children in the 2000/2001 school year, reveals a peak at 9 passes. 26% of care leavers achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - G; the figure for boys was 22% and for girls 32%. The comparable figures for all children (including GCSE

equivalents) were 89%, 87% and 91% respectively⁵

Figure 3: Percentage of all children with given number of GCSEs at grades A* - G or GNVQs, in the 2000/2001 school year



Care leavers with 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C – Table 5

16. An estimated 340 young people (5%) left care in 2001/02 with at least 5 GCSEs at the higher grades of A* - C (Table 5), which is much the same as previous years (see table v below). The Government's target is for 15% of care leavers to reach this level by 2003/04. In 2000/01 school year, 50% of all Year 11 children attained this level of academic achievement⁵.

Table (v) Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2002 by qualifications gained

	Year ending 31 March		
	2000	2001	2002
At least 1 GCSE/GNVQ	31	37	41
5 GCSE A* - C	4	5	5
No qualifications	66	59	55

Young people leaving care with no GCSEs or GNVQs - Table 6

17. 55% of the 6,300 care leavers in 2001/2002 were reported to have left care

⁵ The figures for all children is not strictly comparable as it includes 5 passes at Grades A* - G or GNVQ equivalents.

without any qualifications at all, and 59% left without any GCSEs or GNVQs. This compares with 8% of all Year 11 school students who failed to gain any qualifications during the 2000/2001 academic year.

18. Table 6 gives more information about these care leavers. 250 were recorded as having obtained qualifications other than GCSEs and GNVQs. For those with no qualifications, councils were able to record one of three reasons. 10% were due to take examinations later in the school year after leaving care. 6% had taken at least one examination but obtained no qualifications. A further 15% were said to have a health condition or disability that prevented them from taking examinations. For the remaining 69% no reason was given.

Care leavers on 19th Birthday

19. The OC3 collection, for which this is the first year of collection, covers all young people who

- a) were looked after on 1 April 1999, and
- b) whose date of birth fell between 1 April 1982 and 31 March 1983.

The information collected relates to their accommodation and activity on their 19th birthday, which as a direct consequence of the above definition will fall within the year ending 31 March 2002.

20. It will be noted that the above definition does not take into account the length of time a young person was in care; and also specifically excludes any children who were not being looked after on the key date of 1 April 1999. In these respects, the cohort of children captured by the OC3 will differ from the definition of eligible children under the Care Leavers Act.

21. Research shows that care leavers experience high levels of unemployment and are at risk of social exclusion. Based on that research, the Government has set the following target:

The level of employment, training or education amongst young people aged 19 in 2001/02 who were looked after by councils in their 17th year on 1 April 1999, to be at least 60% of the level amongst all

young people of the same age in their area⁶; and to be 75% by 2003/04.

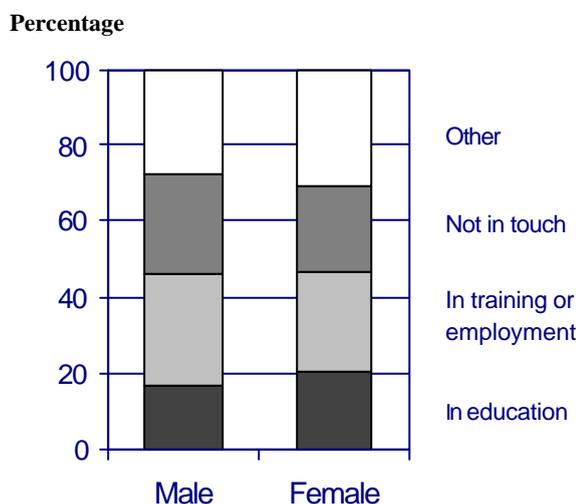
and a related indicator (A4) as part of the Performance Assessment Framework (PAF):

The percentage of young people who were looked after on 1 April in their 17th year who were engaged in education, training or employment at the age of 19.

Contact with Care Leavers – Table 7

22. Table 7 shows that at the time of publication, details on 4,700 children had been received. Of these, councils were in touch with 3,600 young people (or 75%) on, or near their 19th birthday; councils, proportionally maintained better links with girls (77% in touch) than with boys (73% in touch). Proportionally, more girls were engaged in education, whereas more boys are in training or employment. Taking these two groups together, there is little difference between the genders (see figure 4 below). Table 7 also shows that

Figure 4: Percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are not in touch with council, year ending 31 March 2002



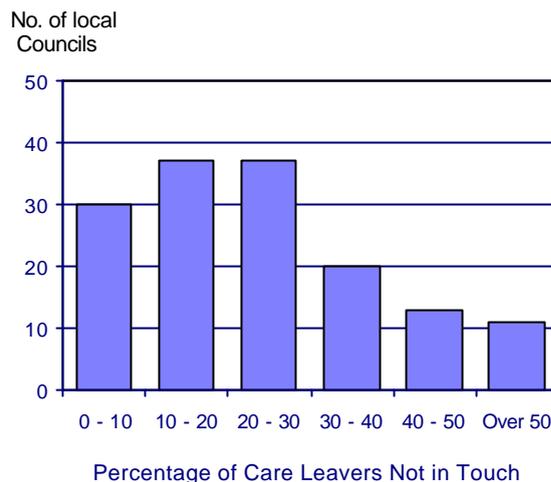
councils in London and the South East were in touch with a higher proportion of their former looked after children (80%) than other regions, where the proportion varied between 70% and 76%.

⁶ Data for all 19 year old in the local population is derived from the Labour Force Survey

See www.doh.gov.uk/stats/forms.htm#oc3.

23. There were far wider differences at local council level, with 7 local councils reporting to be in touch with all their former looked after children and a further 23 councils were in touch with over 90%. Conversely, 39 councils were *not* in touch with one third or more of their former clients (see figure 5 below).

Figure 5: Percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are not in touch with council, year ending 31 March 2002



24. Analysis by type of council (see table vi below) indicates that outside London there is little difference in the proportions of children who are either not in touch, or the type of activity in which they are engaged. A higher proportion of children previously looked after by shire counties were not in touch with their local council compared with those looked after by Unitary Authorities.

Table (vi) Number of care leavers, at age 19, in education or employment, year ending 31 March 2002

	Not in touch	In Education, employment	Not in Education, employment
Met districts	27	42	32
Shire counties	28	46	26
Unitary Authorities	23	46	32
Inner London	20	49	31
Outer London	19	54	27

Activity on 19th birthday

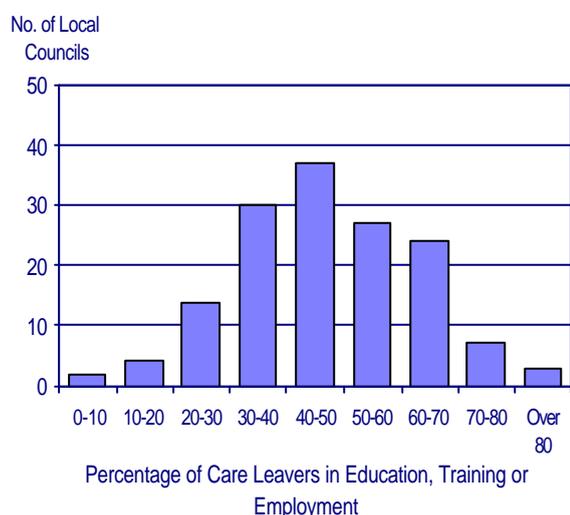
25. Local councils were asked to codify the activity of all those young persons with whom

they were in touch on their 19th birthday, into five separate categories (See Appendix C for list of codes). Table 7 shows 46% (or 2,200 young persons) were in education, training or employment, whilst 29% (or 1,400) were not - 4% because of disability and 25% for some other reason. The figure of 46% for former looked after children in education, training or employment compares with 86% of all young people aged 19 in the population as a whole.

26. The proportion of children in education, training or employment is higher for councils in London and the South East (52%), than in the rest of the country, although there is very little difference between males and females (46% and 47% respectively).

27. At local council level, the proportion of children in education, training or employment ranged from 0% to 86% (see figure 6 below). 38% of councils met the Government's target (for the percentage of former looked after children in education, training or employment to be at least 60% of the local rate) as set out in paragraph 20 above.

Figure 6: Percentage of care leavers at age 19 in education, training or employment, year ending 31 March 2002



Accommodation on 19th birthday – tables 8, 9 and 10

28. The accommodation of young people on their 19th birthday is classified into eleven separate groups (see Appendix D for list of codes and their definitions). Table 8 shows, that

the largest category of placement for young persons was Living Independently, which accounted for 34% of the cohort of the young persons captured by the OC3 return. The second highest was Supported Accommodation with 12%. 100 young people were in custody, the overwhelming majority of which were male.

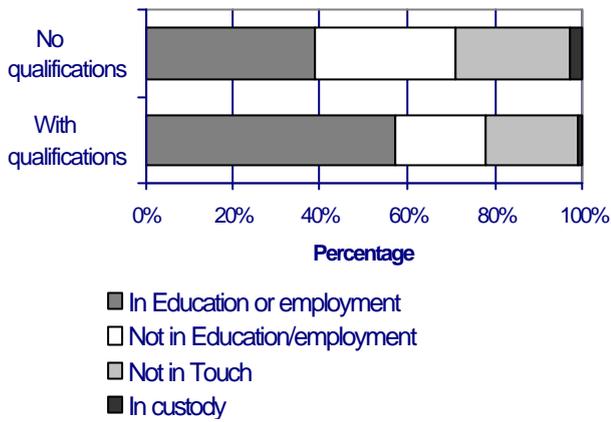
29. Table 9 shows that there is little or no correlation between activity and accommodation – with the largest number of children in four out of the five activity categories living independently. There are, however, wide variations at local council level (see figure 7 below). 22 councils reported less than 20% of their former clients were living independently, whilst ten councils reported over 60% living in this category of accommodation.

Figure 7: Percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are living independently, year ending 31 March 2002



30. Table 10 analyses the cohort of children captured by the OC3 by the number of qualifications the young person had obtained *at the time* of leaving care recorded on the OC1. (The analysis does not take into account any further qualifications that might have been gained after leaving care, as these are not collected centrally – also see Technical note). As would be expected, nearly three times as many young persons who left care with at least one GCSE or GNVQ were in education, training or employment, compared to those who were engaged in some other activity. The table also shows that at least 61% of the young people who are no longer in touch with their local councils are known to have no qualifications.

Figure 8: Percentage of care leavers at age 19, by activity, year ending 31 March 2002



31. In addition to recording the accommodation of the child, councils were asked to make a subjective assessment as to its suitability. Of those young people who were in touch with their local council only 270 (or 8%) were in accommodation that was adjudged to be unsuitable by the council. Nearly all of this unsuitable accommodation was Bed & Breakfast, Emergency Accommodation or other.

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 November 2002

Table 1 Number of children ceasing to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2002 by age, gender and duration of the latest period of care

England											number
Duration of latest period of care	Boys					Girls					
	All Boys	Age on leaving care				All Girls	Age on leaving care				
		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday	
Up to 6 months	650	500	120	30	-	410	290	80	40	-	
6 months to 1 yr	300	190	50	60	0	260	180	40	40	-	
1 yr to under 2 yrs	490	240	150	100	-	420	220	80	110	-	
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	450	100	120	220	10	370	80	100	190	-	
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	260	40	80	140	10	260	40	60	150	10	
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	190	40	30	110	-	190	20	40	130	-	
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	190	20	40	130	10	130	10	20	90	10	
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	140	10	30	100	-	130	10	20	100	-	
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	130	10	20	100	-	90	-	10	80	0	
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	100	10	10	80	0	80	10	10	60	-	
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	140	-	20	110	-	90	-	10	70	-	
10 yrs and over	510	20	50	430	10	360	10	40	310	-	
All durations	3,500	1,200	710	1,600	50	2,800	870	510	1,400	40	

Table 2 Number of children ceasing to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2002 by the time the child would normally sit exams¹ and duration of latest period of care

England							number
Duration of latest period of care	All Children	Time child would normally sit exams ¹					
		Jun 98	Jun 99	Jun 00	Jun 01	Jun 02	
Up to 6 months	1,100	0	50	240	590	180	
6 months to 1 yr	560	0	40	140	310	70	
1 yr to under 2 yrs	910	-	120	320	400	70	
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	820	-	180	420	190	20	
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	520	-	150	290	80	10	
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	380	-	120	200	60	-	
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	320	0	110	180	30	-	
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	280	-	110	140	20	-	
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	220	-	80	130	20	-	
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	180	0	60	110	10	-	
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	220	0	110	100	10	-	
10 yrs and over	870	-	340	500	30	-	
All durations	6,300	10	1,500	2,800	1,700	370	
Percentage	100	0	23	44	28	6	

¹ Based on date of birth

Table 3 Number¹ and percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2002 with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ, by age, gender and duration of the latest period of care

England											numbers
Duration of latest period of care	Boys					Girls					
	All Boys	Age on leaving care				All Girls	Age on leaving care				
		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday	
Up to 6 months	110	70	30	10	0	120	70	30	20	0	
6 months to 1 yr	70	40	20	10	0	110	70	30	10	-	
1 yr to under 2 yrs	140	70	40	30	-	180	90	40	50	-	
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	160	40	40	80	-	190	30	60	100	-	
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	120	20	40	60	-	150	20	40	90	-	
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	90	20	20	60	-	100	10	30	60	-	
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	80	10	20	50	-	80	-	10	50	-	
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	70	10	20	40	-	60	-	10	50	-	
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	60	10	10	50	-	50	-	-	50	0	
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	50	-	10	40	0	40	-	10	30	-	
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	70	-	10	50	0	50	-	10	40	0	
10 yrs and over	250	10	30	200	-	210	10	30	170	-	
All durations	1,300	290	280	670	20	1,300	310	290	720	20	

percentages of children ceasing with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ

Duration of latest period of care	Boys					Girls				
	All Boys	Age on leaving care				All Girls	Age on leaving care			
		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday
Up to 6 months	16	14	24	29	-	28	24	35	44	-
6 months to 1 yr	23	20	36	22	-	41	38	65	28	-
1 yr to under 2 yrs	28	29	27	27	-	44	40	50	47	-
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	35	35	34	36	-	51	36	61	53	-
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	47	47	57	41	-	59	62	60	58	-
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	47	43	47	49	-	53	52	65	50	-
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	42	44	44	39	-	60	-	82	58	-
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	48	71	68	39	-	47	-	50	47	-
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	48	58	59	46	-	59	-	-	58	-
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	52	-	50	54	-	45	-	55	46	-
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	49	-	50	48	-	59	-	-	58	-
10 yrs and over	49	53	58	47	-	58	-	68	56	-
All durations	36	24	39	42	47	48	35	57	53	43

¹ Excludes three children whose date of birth was not recorded on OC1

Table 4 Number and percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2002, with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ, by the time the child would normally sit exams¹ and duration of latest period of care

England		numbers				
Duration of latest period of care	All Children	Time child would normally sit exams ¹				
		Jun 98	Jun 99	Jun 00	Jun 01	Jun 02
Up to 6 months	220	0	20	80	120	10
6 months to 1 yr	180	0	10	50	110	0
1 yr to under 2 yrs	320	0	40	120	160	-
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	350	-	80	190	80	-
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	280	-	70	160	50	0
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	190	-	50	110	30	-
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	160	0	50	90	20	0
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	130	0	40	70	20	0
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	120	0	50	60	10	0
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	90	0	20	60	-	0
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	120	0	50	60	10	0
10 yrs and over	460	0	170	270	20	0
All durations	2,600	-	650	1,300	620	10

		percentages of children ceasing with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ				
Duration of latest period of care	All Children	Time child would normally sit exams ¹				
		Jun 98	Jun 99	Jun 00	Jun 01	Jun 02
Up to 6 months	21	-	32	32	21	3
6 months to 1 yr	31	-	30	36	36	-
1 yr to under 2 yrs	35	-	32	37	40	-
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	43	-	42	46	40	-
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	53	-	47	55	62	-
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	50	-	43	55	53	-
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	49	-	48	50	55	-
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	47	-	41	49	75	-
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	53	-	58	49	67	-
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	49	-	39	56	-	-
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	53	-	47	59	60	-
10 yrs and over	53	-	50	54	64	-
All durations	41	-	44	48	36	3

¹ Based on date of birth

Table 5 Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2002, aged 16 or over, by gender and level of qualifications achieved

England		numbers and percentages									
	Number of care leavers aged 16 or over	number with					percentage with				
		at least 1 GNVQ or GCSE at grade A* - G	at least 1 GCSE at grade A* - G	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - G	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C	at least 1 GNVQ	at least 1 GNVQ or GCSE at grade A* - G	at least 1 GCSE at grade A* - G	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - G	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C	at least 1 GNVQ
All children	6,300	2,600	2,500	1,700	340	200	41	39	26	5	3
Boys	3,500	1,300	1,200	770	140	90	36	34	22	4	3
Girls	2,800	1,300	1,300	900	200	110	48	46	32	7	4

Table 6 Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2002 aged 16 or over, without GCSE or GNVQ qualifications

England		numbers					
	Number of care leavers with no GCSEs or GNVQs	Number with :		Reason for no qualifications ²			
		other qualifications ¹	no qualifications	due to sit exams after leaving care	sat exams but no qualifications obtained	health condition or disability	none of these reasons
All children	3,700	250	3,500	360	210	530	2,400
Boys	2,300	150	2,100	190	120	330	1,500
Girls	1,400	100	1,400	170	90	200	900

¹ Qualifications include A levels and those listed in DfEE circular 2/99

² For full definition of these categories see Appendix C

Table 7 Activity on 19th birthday of care leavers who were looked after on 1 April 1999 aged 16 and over, by gender, activity and region

England		numbers		
	All young people	Council in touch with young person		Not in Touch
		In Education, training or employment	Not In Education, training or employment	
England	4,700	2,200	1,400	1,200
Males	2,600	1,200	730	700
Region				
North East	135	55	35	45
North West	350	145	100	110
Yorkshire & Humberside	275	115	85	75
East Midlands	175	80	50	45
West Midlands	270	120	70	80
East of England	205	90	50	65
London	625	320	170	135
South East	360	190	100	70
South West	225	85	70	70
Females	2,100	990	650	480
Region				
North East	100	40	40	20
North West	320	130	105	80
Yorkshire & Humberside	190	90	60	40
East Midlands	135	55	55	30
West Midlands	245	110	65	65
East of England	200	85	55	55
London	480	250	150	80
South East	250	135	65	50
South West	190	85	55	50

Table 8 Accommodation on 19th birthday of care leavers who were looked after on 1 April 1999 aged 16 and over, by gender, accommodation and region

England										numbers
	All young people	Council in touch with young person							Not in Touch	
		With Parents or Relatives	Community Home	Supported Accommodation ¹	Lodgings	Independent Living	Other ²	In Custody		
England	4,700	470	210	570	300	1,600	270	100	1,200	
Males	2,600	300	140	330	160	720	160	100	700	
Region										
North East	135	20	10	15	5	30	-	-	45	
North West	350	45	10	40	30	80	20	15	110	
Yorkshire & Humberside	275	35	15	25	15	85	15	15	75	
East Midlands	175	15	10	15	20	45	15	5	45	
West Midlands	270	40	15	35	10	65	20	10	80	
East of England	205	25	25	20	15	40	-	-	65	
London	625	50	30	90	10	245	35	20	135	
South East	360	45	10	65	35	75	40	15	70	
South West	225	20	15	25	20	55	10	10	70	
Females	2,100	170	60	240	140	910	110	-	480	
Region										
North East	100	10	0	-	-	55	5	0	20	
North West	320	30	5	40	20	130	15	0	80	
Yorkshire & Humberside	190	20	10	15	15	70	-	-	40	
East Midlands	135	10	5	-	15	60	-	0	30	
West Midlands	245	20	-	20	-	110	10	0	65	
East of England	200	20	10	20	15	75	5	0	55	
London	480	25	-	65	25	245	25	-	80	
South East	250	20	10	45	25	80	15	0	50	
South West	190	10	5	20	15	80	10	0	50	

¹ Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings, foyers

² Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation

Table 9 Comparison between activity and accommodation on 19th birthday of care leavers who were looked after on 1 April 1999 aged 16 and over

England							numbers
	All young people	Council in touch with young person					Not in Touch
		In Higher Education (above A level)	In Education other than higher education	In Training or Employment	Not in Education or Employment owing to illness/disability	Not in Education or Employment for other reasons	
All young people	4,700	220	650	1,300	240	1,100	1,200
Not in touch	1,200						1,200
With Parents or Relatives	470	30	70	210	30	140	
Supported Accommodation ¹	570	40	150	220	40	130	
Lodgings	300	40	100	130	10	30	
Independent Living	1,600	100	220	630	70	610	
Other ²	580	20	120	120	90	220	

¹ Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings, foyers

² Includes community homes, bed & breakfast, emergency accommodation and in custody

Table 10: Care Leavers who were looked after on 1 April 1999 aged 16 and over, by activity and accommodation on 19th birthday and qualifications on leaving care

England				numbers
	All young people	With qualifications ¹	No qualifications	No record ²
All young people	4,700	1,700	2,700	290
Not in touch	1,200	360	720	100
In custody	100	20	80	10
In Education, Training or Employment				
All accommodation	2,200	970	1,100	130
With parents or relatives	300	130	150	30
Residential Care	130	20	90	20
Lodgings	270	150	100	10
Independent living	950	460	440	40
Supported accommodation ³	410	160	220	30
Other ⁴	120	60	60	10
Not in Education, Training or employment				
All accommodation	1,300	350	880	60
With parents or relatives	170	40	120	10
Residential Care	80	-	80	-
Lodgings	40	-	20	-
Independent living	680	220	430	30
Supported accommodation ³	170	-	120	-
Other ⁴	150	30	110	10

¹ At least 1 GCSE or GNVQ

² No OC1 record on file

³ Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings or foyers

⁴ Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation

Performance Assessment Framework - Indicators A2 and A4 for individual Local Councils¹

England	Percentage			
	A2 : The percentage of young people of leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at grades A* - G or GNVQ			A4 : The percentage of young people formerly looked after who were engaged in education, training or employment at age 19
	2000	2001	2002	2002
England	31	37	41	46
North East	24	35	39	41
Shire Counties				
Durham	39	42	42	33
Northumberland	35	52	41	54
Unitary Authorities				
Darlington	38	46	-	-
Hartlepool	-	-	43	-
Middlesbrough	-	-	-	86
Redcar & Cleveland	-	-	-	-
Stockton On Tees	17	38	40	42
Metropolitan Districts				
Gateshead	25	35	32	40
Newcastle Upon Tyne	15	22	27	33
North Tyneside	-	29	54	26
South Tyneside	23	39	38	42
Sunderland	15	41	44	56
North West	31	38	41	41
Shire Counties				
Cheshire	36	44	40	45
Cumbria	18	-	49	47
Lancashire	32	32	40	26
Unitary Authorities				
Blackburn & Darwen	31	59	48	50
Blackpool	17	33	35	-
Halton	-	61	58	58
Warrington	33	-	50	-
Metropolitan Districts				
Bolton	37	26	36	63
Bury	52	-	47	-
Knowsley	50	58	29	67
Liverpool	21	27	37	53
Manchester	18	33	40	39
Oldham	-	31	48	33
Rochdale	34	38	35	45
Salford	39	58	27	28
Sefton	33	30	41	-
St Helens	33	31	37	55
Stockport	44	51	44	39
Tameside	53	47	40	63
Trafford	40	39	47	-
Wigan	54	61	59	44
Wirral	46	54	56	45

continued..

Performance Assessment Framework - Indicators A2 and A4 for individual Local Councils¹

England	Percentage			
	A2 : The percentage of young people of leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at grades A* - G or GNVQ			A4 : The percentage of young people formerly looked after who were engaged in education, training or employment at age 19
	2000	2001	2002	2002
Yorkshire & The Humber	30	35	37	44
Shire Counties				
North Yorkshire	50	54	57	58
Unitary Authorities				
East Riding Yorkshire	21	33	-	-
Kingston Upon Hull	28	37	30	45
N E Lincolnshire	38	37	27	40
North Lincolnshire	34	40	64	40
York	57	50	57	55
Metropolitan Districts				
Barnsley	29	35	39	38
Bradford	28	27	31	50
Calderdale	33	36	53	64
Doncaster	-	26	31	34
Kirklees	-	29	37	42
Leeds	22	31	33	38
Rotherham	29	-	37	73
Sheffield	36	41	36	31
Wakefield	33	40	32	40
East Midlands	31	38	39	42
Shire Counties				
Derbyshire	42	36	51	30
Leicestershire	22	42	35	50
Lincolnshire	..	38	41	40
Northamptonshire	38	40	37	43
Nottinghamshire	25	57	59	47
Unitary Authorities				
Derby	44	53	33	67
Leicester	16	20	18	41
Nottingham	16	28	34	34
Rutland	-	-	-	-

continued..

Performance Assessment Framework - Indicators A2 and A4 for individual Local Councils¹

England	Percentage			
	A2 : The percentage of young people of leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at grades A* - G or GNVQ			A4 : The percentage of young people formerly looked after who were engaged in education, training or employment at age 19
	2000	2001	2002	2002
West Midlands	27	42	43	45
Shire Counties				
Shropshire	38	50	83	68
Staffordshire	18	30	35	38
Warwickshire	46	45	49	54
Worcestershire	17	57	45	52
Unitary Authorities				
Herefordshire	54	55	56	71
Stoke-On-Trent	-	37	33	68
Telford & Wrekin	46	41	46	33
Metropolitan Districts				
Birmingham	14	43	47	37
Coventry	30	52	52	68
Dudley	38	52	28	-
Sandwell	24	28	40	42
Solihull	32	36	30	39
Walsall	27	41	35	-
Wolverhampton	28	21	34	33
East of England	31	41	46	44
Shire Counties				
Bedfordshire	45	50	43	19
Cambridgeshire	40	54	56	39
Essex	25	32	44	46
Hertfordshire	32	40	47	63
Norfolk	33	46	42	45
Suffolk	33	43	51	42
Unitary Authorities				
Luton	32	56	57	50
Peterborough	-	33	56	-
Southend	41	33	42	68
Thurrock	-	27	31	-

continued..

Performance Assessment Framework - Indicators A2 and A4 for individual Local Councils¹

England	Percentage			
	A2 : The percentage of young people of leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at grades A* - G or GNVQ			A4 : The percentage of young people formerly looked after who were engaged in education, training or employment at age 19
	2000	2001	2002	2002
London	26	28	34	51
Inner London				-
Camden	39	33	39	59
City Of London	..	-	-	-
Greenwich	-	34	42	52
Hackney	20	37	29	49
Hammersmith & Fulham	38	50	42	54
Islington	23	25	22	34
Kensington & Chelsea	33	43	43	73
Lambeth	16	33	26	29
Lewisham	16	40	37	56
Southwark	20	24	35	45
Tower Hamlets	64	-	49	35
Wandsworth	34	30	44	58
Westminster	26	37	43	65
Outer London				
Barking & Dagenham	21	-	39	22
Barnet	20	14	28	41
Bexley	43	30	32	64
Brent	21	30	16	31
Bromley	41	41	32	48
Croydon	31	31	46	60
Ealing	18	17	35	58
Enfield	35	33	43	46
Haringey	31	15	23	34
Harrow	27	42	33	75
Havering	24	27	-	30
Hillingdon	33	18	35	78
Hounslow	24	46	34	53
Kingston Upon Thames	-	28	50	67
Merton	29	56	58	57
Newham	29	18	25	47
Redbridge	43	46	44	67
Richmond Upon Thames	27	-	-	38
Sutton	38	-	38	-
Waltham Forest	14	19	42	82

continued..

Performance Assessment Framework - Indicators A2 and A4 for individual Local Councils¹

England	Percentage			
	A2 : The percentage of young people of leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at grades A* - G or GNVQ			A4 : The percentage of young people formerly looked after who were engaged in education, training or employment at age 19
	2000	2001	2002	2002
South East	41	40	45	53
Shire Counties				
Buckinghamshire	43	39	33	61
East Sussex	38	42	35	69
Hampshire	41	62	47	35
Kent	46	41	52	73
Oxfordshire	40	31	41	39
Surrey	43	41	55	47
West Sussex	28	27	30	58
Unitary Authorities				
Bracknell Forest	73	-	67	-
Brighton & Hove	41	38	50	26
Isle Of Wight	39	55	41	60
Medway Towns	38	52	37	54
Milton Keynes	..	36	47	24
Portsmouth	32	28	43	-
Reading	33	37	-	52
Slough	-	35	58	50
Southampton	60	40	48	30
West Berkshire	50	-	-	67
Windsor & Maidenhead	58	-	-	-
Wokingham	-	-	43	67
South West	39	41	52	41
Shire Counties				
Cornwall	53	54	63	42
Devon	38	37	50	34
Dorset	39	45	57	44
Gloucestershire	..	31	48	45
Isles Of Scilly	..	-	-	-
Somerset	40	39	72	38
Wiltshire	48	55	46	-
Unitary Authorities				
Bath & N E Somerset	67	40	-	-
Bournemouth	32	-	29	85
Bristol	17	31	38	44
North Somerset	45	52	38	69
Plymouth	15	45	55	23
Poole	65	56	67	69
South Gloucestershire	33	-	60	58
Swindon	45	46	54	64
Torbay	-	42	36	-

"-" Indicator suppressed for reason of confidentiality (see Technical Note)

¹ These figures include revisions since previous publications (see Technical Note)

Department of Health

Form OC1

2001/2002

Educational Qualifications of Care Leavers

Complete one of these forms for each young person aged 16 or over who ceased to be looked after by your authority at any time between 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2002 inclusive. Submit completed forms by 31 May 2002.

	Item
Local Authority Code :	1
Young Person's ID Number:	2
Sex (1 = male, 2 = female):	3
Date of birth:	4
Date of start of latest period of care:	5
Date ceased to be looked after:	6
Reason care ceased:	7
<hr/>	
Young person's qualifications on ceasing to be looked after:	
Number of GCSEs at grade A* to G:	8
Number of GCSEs at grade A* to C:	9
Number of GNVQs:	10
Number of other educational or vocational qualifications:	11
Reason for having no qualifications on ceasing: (select code from list in guidance notes)	12

Department of Health

Form OC3

2001/2002

Care Leavers on their 19th Birthday

Complete one of these forms for each young person who at 1/4/99 was 16 years old and looked after by your authority, and who has since left care.

Submit completed forms by 31 May 2002

	Item
Local Authority Code :	1
Young Person's ID Number:	2
Sex (1 = male, 2 = female):	3
Date of birth:	4
Date of start of latest period of care:	5
Date ceased to be looked after:	6

Situation on his or her 19th birthday:

Were you in touch with the young person on his/her 19th birthday?	<input type="checkbox"/>	(1 = yes, 2 = no)	7
---	--------------------------	-------------------	---

If your answer to item 7 was 'yes' complete the following using the most appropriate codes from the lists in the guidance notes.

If your answer was 'no' enter a zero for items 8 and 9.

Activity at 19th birthday:	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
Accommodation at 19th birthday:	<input type="checkbox"/>	9

OC1 Return year ending 31 March 2002

Item 12: Reason for having no qualifications on ceasing

- 0 Not applicable - i.e. at least one of items 8, 9, 10 or 11 are greater than zero.
- 1 Young person was due to sit exams later in the school year, after having ceased to be looked after.
- 2 Young person sat at least one exam, but obtained no qualifications.
- 3 Health condition or disability prevented young person sitting exams.
- 4 Young person did not sit exams, or was not due to sit exams later in the school year, and was not prevented from doing so by a health condition or disability.

OC3 Return year ending 31 March 2002

Item 8 Main Activity: Codes and definitions

G1 Young person engaged in **higher education** (i.e. studies beyond A level)

- 'Higher education' means all studies at a higher academic level than A level. This includes degrees, diplomas in higher education, teaching and nursing qualifications, HNDs, ONDs, and BTEC. For the purpose of OC3 this includes either full-time or part-time study.

G2 Young person in **education other than higher education**

- This means all other education not covered by G1.

G3 Young person in **training or employment**

- 'Training' includes government-supported training, including Youth Training, New Deal, Training for Work, and National Traineeships.

'Employment' includes paid employment, self-employment, and voluntary unpaid work.

G4 Young person **not** in education, employment or training, because of **own illness or disability**

- Refers to young people where none of G1, G2 or G3 applies, specifically because the young person's own illness or disability has prevented them from participating in any of these activities.

G5 Young person **not** in education, employment or training: **other circumstances**

- Refers to young people not covered by the other categories. This includes people who are not able to participate in any of these activities because of pregnancy, or because they are parents or carers.

Item 9 Type of Accommodation: Codes and definitions

- B With parents or relatives** (See note below about ‘staying with friends or relatives’).
- C Community home** or other form of **residential care** such as an NHS establishment
- D Semi-independent, transitional** accommodation (e.g. supported hostel, trainer flats); self-contained accommodation with specialist personal assistance support (e.g. for young people with disabilities, pregnant young women and single parents); and self-contained accommodation with floating support.
- E Supported lodgings** (where supervisory staff or advice workers are available to provide formal advice or support).
- K Ordinary lodgings**, without formal support. In general this will include young people lodging with former foster carers
- T Foyers** and similar supported accommodation which combines the accommodation with opportunities for education, training or employment.
- U Independent living**, e.g. independent tenancy of flat, house or bedsit, including local council or housing association tenancy, or accommodation provided by a college or university. Includes flatsharing. (See note below about ‘staying with friends or relatives’).
- V Emergency accommodation** (e.g. night shelter, direct access, emergency hostel)
- W Bed and breakfast**
- X In custody**
- Y Other accommodation**

TECHNICAL NOTES

The OC1 Collection

(i) The OC1 collection, covers young people leaving care in England aged 16 or over between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2003 inclusive, regardless of how long they had been looked after. Some will have attended schools outside their home authority area. Local councils are required to report on qualifications gained from examinations taken during or before the latest period of care. Any qualifications gained from examinations taken after the end of the latest period of care are excluded.

(ii) The OC1 was first introduced for the year ending 31 March 2000. The data presented in this bulletin is for the third year of collection.

The OC3 Collection

(iii) The OC3 collection covers all young people who

- a) were looked after on 1 April 1999, and
- b) whose date of birth fell between 1 April 1982 and 31 March 1983.

The information collected relates to their accommodation and Activity on their 19th birthday, which as a direct consequence of the above definition will fall within the year ending 31 March 2002.

(iv) The OC3 was introduced for the first time for the year ending 31 March 2002. The data presented in this bulletin is for the first year of collection.

Form and Data items

(v) The OC1 and the OC3 forms are reproduced at Appendices A & B respectively. The codes and field definitions for the Accommodation and Activity data items of the OC3 are given at Appendix C.

Missing data

(vi) Data for both returns was received from all 150 local councils in England. The OC1 collection for the year ending 31 March 2000 was however incomplete, with several councils reporting difficulties in supplying the information. A few councils failed to submit any data, and the submission from a number of others was known

to be deficient, particularly in respect of children who had been looked after for a comparatively short time. Where a council was unable to find the information, this was recorded as the child having no qualifications. No attempt has been made to compensate for missing data in the percentages for 2000 given in Appendix A other than to apply the standard rules on rounding and confidentiality (see below). For this reason the figures for some councils for 1999/2000 may underestimate the proportion of their care leavers with qualifications, and the overall improvement from 1999/2000 to 2000/01 may well be, in part, the result of better recording.

Validation

(vii) The Department of Health subjected the OC1 and OC3 data to a number of validation checks including, where possible, comparison with other collections (notably the SSSA903). Local councils were informed of any validation failures. Many returned corrected data, although at the time of preparing this bulletin, inconsistencies remain in the figures for a number of authorities.

(viii) The OC3 collection effectively covers all children who were being looked after on 1 April 1999 aged 16. It follows that each of these children will subsequently leave care aged 16 or over, and is therefore also covered by the OC1 collection. At the time of publication, there were 292 OC3 records on file for which no OC1 had been received. 165 of these missing OC1 forms relate to the year ending 31 March 2000, 123 to 2001 and 4 to 2002. Based on an analysis of all statistical returns for children services, the estimated numbers of OC1 and OC3 returns missing for the datayear 2002 are 200 and 70 respectively.

Rounding and Confidentiality

(ix) To ensure that no individual child can be identified from statistical tables, the Department has recently introduced a new protocol for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. All figures in this Bulletin which exceed 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest hundred, and all other figures greater than 5 have been rounded to either the nearest five or nearest ten depending on the data presented. All figures of 5 or less have been suppressed, as have any percentages where

either the numerator is less than 5, or the denominator is less than 10.

(x) It has on occasion been necessary to suppress other data whenever it would be possible to calculate missing data by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item. As a result of all these changes, detailed figures may not sum to the totals presented.

Data Revisions

(xi) Because of the incomplete nature of the data and the outstanding validation failures the figures presented here should be treated with some caution. They may be updated during 2002 to incorporate additional data, revisions and further analysis.

(xii) Because of the longitudinal nature of the CLA database, historical figures in Appendix A have been revised to take into account any revisions received since the last publication. The data presented in this table reflects the data held

on the Department's database at the time of publication.

(xiii) Further information and analysis of OC1 and OC3 data at local council level (including any further revisions) will be published at a later date.

Figures on the Internet

(xiv) The Department of Health's web site contains a copy of this publication. It can be found under the heading Social Care Performance at:

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/hpssspub.htm>

Symbols used in tables

- Data suppressed for reasons of confidentiality. Normally this will refer to numbers of five or less, or percentages where either the numerator is less than five or the denominator is less than ten

Statistics Division
Department of Health
November 2002

Children's Social Services

Recent statistical publications available from the Department of Health:

Children Looked After by Local Authorities, year ending 31 March 2001; England
www.doh.gov.uk/public/cla2001.htm

Children Looked After in England: 2001/2002
www.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0222.htm

Children adopted from care, 2002; England

Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers, year ending 31 March 2001; England
www.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0124.htm

Children Accommodated in Secure Units, year ending 31 March 2001; England and Wales
www.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0117.htm

Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, twelve months to 30 September 2001; England
www.doh.gov.uk/public/oi2001.htm

Children in Need in England, September/October 2001
www.doh.gov.uk/cin/index.htm

Children's Homes at 31 March 2000; England
www.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0109.htm

Key Indicators of Local Authority Social Services
- available on CD-ROM only

Social Services Performance Assessment Framework Indicators 2001-2002 www.doh.gov.uk/paf

The Children Act Report 2001
available from The Stationery Office, or from www.doh.gov.uk/scg/childrenactreport2001.htm

For details and copies of these publications please telephone the Department of Health on the numbers given on the back page of this bulletin, unless otherwise stated.

Further enquiries

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Copies of this bulletin are also available on the Internet, with detailed local authority tables,
at the Department of Health website: www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats1.htm

("Education of Children and Young People in Public Care"; a joint DH and DfES
publication is available at www.dfes.gov.uk/incare)
