



Department  
for Education

# **Ad-hoc notice**

**Looked after children in residential care:  
analysis**

**July 2016**

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## Summary

The analysis in this document has been produced as part of an independent review into children's residential care by Sir Martin Narey.

This is an ad-hoc release and will not be produced annually.

Information on looked-after children and outcome measures at both national and local authority levels for the financial year 2014 to 2015 is published on our [looked-after children statistics collection page](#).

This release provides additional information, focusing on looked after children in children's homes, specifically, and their outcomes.

## Methodology

Quality and methodology information can be found on our [looked-after children statistics collection page](#). These provide further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

The figures are based on two data sources:

Data from the SSDA903 return is collected each spring from all local authorities. This publication is the main source of information on the numbers of looked after children in England. Further information can be found on our [children looked after in England including adoption collection page](#).

Extracts from the national pupil database (NPD) which contains detailed information (including special educational needs) about pupils in schools and colleges in England. The files used in the analysis for the SFR are produced by matching the information collected on the children looked after data collection (SSDA903) with information in the NPD. Further information can be found on our [outcomes for children looked after by LAs collection page](#).

## Rounding conventions

1. Rounding and suppression is applied to the data.
2. National and regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and Local Authority figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
3. For confidentiality purposes, numbers from one to five inclusive have been replaced in the published tables by a cross (x). To ensure the suppressed number cannot be identified by simple arithmetic secondary suppression may be required. In these cases, another number may be suppressed. Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure submitted was zero (0). The following convention has been used: "." means not applicable "-" means negligible – used to represent a percentage below 0.5% Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or less or the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x). Note that percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

## Main findings

In this analysis, children's homes refer to homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations. It also refers to children placed in schools that are dual-registered as Children's Homes, as defined in Section 1 (6) of the Care Standards Act 2000.

### 1. Age of children in children's homes

Information on the ages of looked after children in children's homes as at 31 March 2015 is presented in table 1 below. Most of these children were between the ages of 10 to 15 (56%) or 16 or over (41%) Their average age was 14.6 years old.

Table 1: Looked after children in children's homes, by age, as at 31 March 2015

31st March 2015		
Age	Number of children	Percentage of children
Under 1	x	x
1 to 4	x	x
5 to 9	140	3
10 to 15	2,970	56
16 and over	2,180	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: SSDA903

### 2. Gender of children in children's homes

Information on the gender of looked after children in children's homes as at 31 March 2015 is presented in table 2. A majority of these children were male (62%).

Table 2: Looked after children in children's homes, by gender, as at 31 March 2015

31st March 2015		
Children's homes	Number of children	Percentage of children
Male	3,290	62
Female	2,000	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: SSDA903

### 3. Ethnicity of children in children's homes

Information on the ethnicity of children in children's homes at any time during the year ending 31 March 2015 is presented in table 3 below. The majority of children were from a white background (80%).

**Table 3: Looked after children in children’s homes at any time during the year ending 31 March 2015, by ethnicity<sup>1</sup>**

<b>31st March 2015</b>		
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	5,440	80
Other	1,370	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: SSDA903

<sup>1</sup> “Other” ethnicity refers to Mixed, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, other ethnic groups, refused or information not available’.

## **4. Distance from home of children in children's homes**

Information on distance between home and placement and locality of placement of children looked after in children’s homes at 31st March 2015 is presented in table 4. 37% of children in children’s homes were placed over 20 miles from home and outside their local authority.

**Table 4: Looked after children in children’s homes, by distance and locality of placement, as at 31 March 2015<sup>1,2</sup>**

<b>31st March 2015</b>		
<b>Placement</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>20 miles or less</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>57</b>
Inside boundary	2,130	40
Outside boundary	880	17
<b>Over 20 miles</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>42</b>
Inside boundary	270	5
Outside boundary	1,930	37
<b>Not known or not recorded</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: SSDA903

<sup>1</sup> Placement locality denotes whether or not the placement at 31 March is within the geographical boundary of the responsible local authority.

<sup>2</sup> Home" address unknown or distance not recorded; this may occur for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. For reasons of confidentiality, distance and LA of some children including some children placed for adoption.

## **5. Ownership of children’s homes (by number of children resident)**

Information on providers of children in children homes at 31st March 2015 is presented in table 5. The majority of children lived in private provision (67%). 28% lived in local authority provision whilst 5% lived in homes provided by the voluntary sector.

**Table 5: Looked after children in children’s homes, by placement provider, as at 31 March 2015<sup>1</sup>**

31st March 2015		
Provider	Number	Percentage
Own provision (by the Local Authority)	1430	27
Other Local Authority provision	40	1
Private provision	3540	67
Voluntary/third sector provision	290	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: SSDA903

<sup>1</sup> Local authority provision includes own provision (by the local authority) and other local authority provision.

## 6. Legal status of children in children's homes

Information on the legal status of children in children’s homes at 31st March 2015 is presented in table 6. 53% of children in homes were placed on a voluntary agreement. The majority of the remainder (46%) were placed as a result of care orders.

**Table 6: Looked after children in children’s homes, by legal status, as at 31 March 2015**

31st March 2015		
Legal status	Number	Percentage
Care orders	2,430	46
Placement order granted	40	1
Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989	2,800	53
Detained for child protection	x	x
Youth justice legal statuses	20	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: SSDA903

## 7. Category of need of children in children’s homes

Information on the category of need of children in homes at 31st March 2015 is presented in table 7. The primary reason for a child being placed in a home was abuse or neglect (45%), followed by family dysfunction (18%).

**Table 7: Looked after children in children's homes, by category of need, as at 31 March 2015<sup>1</sup>**

31st March 2015		
Category of need	Number	Percentage
Abuse or neglect	2,390	45
Child's disability	840	16
Parents illness or disability	80	2
Family in acute stress	680	13
Family dysfunction	960	18
Socially unacceptable behaviour	200	4
Low income	10	-
Absent parenting	130	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: SSDA903

<sup>1</sup> The most applicable category of the eight "need codes" at the time the child started to be looked after rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.

## 8. Special Educational Needs (SEN) of children in children's homes

Information on the Special Educational Needs of children in homes at 31st March 2015 is presented in table 8. 53% of children in homes had a statement or an EHC plan of SEN and a further 28% had identified SEN but didn't have a statement or an EHC plan.

**Table 8: Looked after children in children's homes at 31 March 2015, by category of SEN<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>**

31st March 2015		
Placement	Number	Percentage
<b>All Looked after children</b>		
No identified SEN	23,850	46
SEN without a statement	17,920	34
SEN with a statement	10,210	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,980</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Children in children's homes</b>		
No identified SEN	560	19
SEN without a statement	840	28
SEN with a statement	1,600	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,990</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: School Census-CLA matched data

<sup>1</sup> Children looked after at 31 March 2015 excluding those children in respite care. Only children who have been matched to 2015 census data and aged 4 or above (at 31 March 2015) have been included. Census data has been taken from the School Census (now including Pupil Referral Units).

<sup>2</sup> Children matched with known SEN status.

<sup>3</sup> Children looked after in alternative provision are not included.

<sup>4</sup> Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans were introduced from September 2014 as part of a range of SEND reforms.

## 9. Offending by children who are living in children's homes

Information on offending by children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months and reside in a children's home at 31st March is presented in table 9. The proportion of children in homes who received a conviction, a final warning or a reprimand fell in consecutive years from 17% in 2013 to 16% in 2014 and 15% in 2015. The conviction, final warning or reprimand leading to the conviction might have occurred before the child was in care or living in a children's home.

**Table 9: Offending by children in children's homes who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months at 31 March<sup>1,2</sup>**

31st March 2013-2015			
Year	Number looked after for 12 months aged 10 to 17 at 31 March	Number convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year	Percentage convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year
2013	3,640	610	17
2014	3,790	610	16
2015	3,820	590	15

Source: SSDA903

<sup>1</sup> Offending data is collected for children aged 10 or over who have been continuously looked after for at least 12 months as at 31 March excluding those children in respite care.

<sup>2</sup> This includes children who were convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 during the year for an offence committed while being looked after.

## 10. Proportion of looked after children living in homes, by LA

Information on the proportion of looked after children living in children's homes at 31st March 2015 is presented in table 10.

**Table 10: Proportion of looked after children in children's homes, at 31 March 2015**

31st March 2015			
LA	All LAC	Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations	Percentage
<b>England</b>	<b>69,540</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>4,290</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>9</b>
Darlington	200	25	12
Durham	620	40	7
Gateshead	340	20	6
Hartlepool	165	x	x
Middlesbrough	360	55	15
Newcastle Upon Tyne	505	45	9
North Tyneside	305	15	5

31st March 2015			
LA	All LAC	Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations	Percentage
Northumberland	370	20	5
Redcar and Cleveland	185	20	10
South Tyneside	300	25	9
Stockton-On-Tees	375	45	12
Sunderland	570	60	11
<b>North West</b>			
	<b>12,490</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>7</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	315	20	7
Blackpool	455	35	7
Bolton	570	40	7
Bury	295	15	5
Cheshire East	355	30	8
Cheshire West and Chester	500	25	5
Cumbria	680	50	7
Halton	230	30	12
Knowsley	305	20	7
Lancashire	1,610	125	8
Liverpool	995	60	6
Manchester	1,290	5	-
Oldham	390	30	7
Rochdale	525	35	6
Salford	585	50	9
Sefton	450	45	10
St Helens	410	25	6
Stockport	290	25	8
Tameside	415	55	14
Trafford	335	10	3
Warrington	300	25	9
Wigan	505	45	9
Wirral	675	35	5
<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>			
	<b>7,260</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>9</b>
Barnsley	240	20	7
Bradford	880	100	12
Calderdale	320	15	5
Doncaster	480	45	9
East Riding of Yorkshire	290	20	6
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	665	50	8
Kirklees	620	55	9
Leeds	1,245	65	5
North East Lincolnshire	265	35	12

**31st March 2015**

<b>LA</b>	<b>All LAC</b>	<b>Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
North Lincolnshire	175	10	7
North Yorkshire	445	45	10
Rotherham	410	40	10
Sheffield	530	50	9
Wakefield	495	45	9
York	195	20	11
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>5,130</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>9</b>
Derby	470	45	9
Derbyshire	605	40	6
Leicester	565	55	9
Leicestershire	470	45	9
Lincolnshire	630	50	8
Northamptonshire	935	110	12
Nottingham	580	70	12
Nottinghamshire	840	75	9
Rutland	35	0	0
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>9,370</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>8</b>
Birmingham	1,990	195	10
Coventry	590	70	12
Dudley	740	70	9
Herefordshire	270	15	6
Sandwell	540	20	4
Shropshire	310	30	10
Solihull	335	20	6
Staffordshire	930	100	11
Stoke-On-Trent	610	40	6
Telford and Wrekin	295	25	9
Walsall	605	35	6
Warwickshire	690	5	1
Wolverhampton	780	45	6
Worcestershire	685	80	12
<b>East of England</b>	<b>6,140</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>8</b>
Bedford Borough	250	30	11
Central Bedfordshire	275	20	8
Cambridgeshire	530	50	9
Essex	1,025	85	8
Hertfordshire	1,005	75	7
Luton	400	20	5

**31st March 2015**

<b>LA</b>	<b>All LAC</b>	<b>Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Norfolk	1,070	90	9
Peterborough	345	15	4
Southend-on-Sea	230	15	6
Suffolk	730	45	6
Thurrock	80	40	14
<b>London</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>4,220</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>7</b>
Camden	190	40	20
City Of London	10	0	0
Hackney	345	10	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	185	x	x
Haringey	450	15	4
Islington	350	20	6
Kensington and Chelsea	105	15	12
Lambeth	485	35	7
Lewisham	485	35	7
Newham	430	35	9
Southwark	505	40	8
Tower Hamlets	275	15	5
Wandsworth	220	15	8
Westminster	180	15	9
<b>Outer London</b>	<b>5,780</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>7</b>
Barking and Dagenham	455	x	x
Barnet	300	40	13
Bexley	275	20	7
Brent	325	25	7
Bromley	265	20	7
Croydon	805	10	1
Ealing	355	30	8
Enfield	360	25	7
Greenwich	520	40	8
Harrow	165	10	6
Havering	240	20	8
Hillingdon	335	40	12
Hounslow	295	25	8
Kingston Upon Thames	115	x	x
Merton	155	20	12
Redbridge	215	20	8
Richmond Upon Thames	95	10	11
Sutton	230	x	x

31st March 2015			
LA	All LAC	Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations	Percentage
Waltham Forest	270	30	11
<b>South East</b>			
	<b>9,310</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>8</b>
Bracknell Forest	105	10	12
Brighton and Hove	470	40	8
Buckinghamshire	435	55	12
East Sussex	545	45	8
Hampshire	1,340	105	8
Isle Of Wight	205	25	11
Kent	1,870	75	4
Medway Towns	425	40	10
Milton Keynes	340	25	7
Oxfordshire	515	80	16
Portsmouth	320	15	5
Reading	205	10	5
Slough	195	10	5
Southampton	580	15	2
Surrey	780	75	9
West Berkshire	170	5	4
West Sussex	640	80	13
Windsor and Maidenhead	100	10	9
Wokingham	75	x	x
<b>South West</b>			
	<b>5,560</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>6</b>
Bath and North East Somerset	130	x	x
Bournemouth	260	x	x
Bristol, City of	700	35	5
Cornwall	440	25	5
Devon	700	70	10
Dorset	385	20	5
Gloucestershire	520	30	6
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0
North Somerset	230	15	6
Plymouth	395	15	4
Poole	170	15	10
Somerset	490	35	7
South Gloucestershire	175	x	x
Swindon	250	20	8
Torbay	305	30	10
Wiltshire	405	35	9

Source: SSSA903

## 11. Looked after children in secure units

Information on the number of looked after children living in secure units at 31<sup>st</sup> March is presented in table 11.

**Table 11: Looked after children in secure units, at 31 March**

<b>31st March 2011-2015</b>	
<b>LA</b>	<b>2011-2015</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>930</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>50</b>
Darlington	x
Durham	10
Gateshead	x
Hartlepool	x
Middlesbrough	x
Newcastle Upon Tyne	10
North Tyneside	x
Northumberland	x
Redcar and Cleveland	x
South Tyneside	x
Stockton-On-Tees	x
Sunderland	5
<b>North West</b>	<b>130</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	x
Blackpool	5
Bolton	x
Bury	x
Cheshire East	x
Cheshire West and Chester	x
Cumbria	0
Halton	x
Knowsley	5
Lancashire	15
Liverpool	25
Manchester	20
Oldham	x
Rochdale	x
Salford	x
Sefton	x
St Helens	5
Stockport	x
Tameside	x
Trafford	x

31st March 2011-2015	
LA	2011-2015
Warrington	x
Wigan	0
Wirral	15
<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	
	<b>110</b>
Barnsley	x
Bradford	x
Calderdale	x
Doncaster	20
East Riding of Yorkshire	x
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	5
Kirklees	10
Leeds	20
North East Lincolnshire	x
North Lincolnshire	x
North Yorkshire	5
Rotherham	10
Sheffield	20
Wakefield	x
York	x
<b>East Midlands</b>	
	<b>60</b>
Derby	10
Derbyshire	10
Leicester	x
Leicestershire	x
Lincolnshire	10
Northamptonshire	x
Nottingham	5
Nottinghamshire	15
Rutland	0
<b>West Midlands</b>	
	<b>110</b>
Birmingham	35
Coventry	10
Dudley	x
Herefordshire	x
Sandwell	10
Shropshire	x
Solihull	x
Staffordshire	10
Stoke-On-Trent	x
Telford and Wrekin	x
Walsall	x

31st March 2011-2015	
LA	2011-2015
Warwickshire	5
Wolverhampton	10
Worcestershire	10
<b>East of England</b>	<b>40</b>
Bedford Borough	x
Central Bedfordshire	x
Cambridgeshire	x
Essex	5
Hertfordshire	x
Luton	5
Norfolk	x
Peterborough	10
Southend-on-Sea	x
Suffolk	x
Thurrock	0
<b>London</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>120</b>
Camden	10
City Of London	0
Hackney	x
Hammersmith and Fulham	10
Haringey	20
Islington	5
Kensington and Chelsea	x
Lambeth	20
Lewisham	10
Newham	x
Southwark	10
Tower Hamlets	15
Wandsworth	10
Westminster	x
<b>Outer London</b>	<b>140</b>
Barking and Dagenham	10
Barnet	x
Bexley	5
Brent	10
Bromley	5
Croydon	30
Ealing	10
Enfield	5
Greenwich	10

31st March 2011-2015	
LA	2011-2015
Harrow	5
Havering	x
Hillingdon	10
Hounslow	x
Kingston Upon Thames	x
Merton	x
Redbridge	5
Richmond Upon Thames	x
Sutton	x
Waltham Forest	x
<b>South East</b>	<b>90</b>
Bracknell Forest	0
Brighton and Hove	15
Buckinghamshire	x
East Sussex	10
Hampshire	15
Isle Of Wight	x
Kent	10
Medway Towns	x
Milton Keynes	x
Oxfordshire	10
Portsmouth	x
Reading	0
Slough	x
Southampton	10
Surrey	x
West Berkshire	x
West Sussex	x
Windsor and Maidenhead	0
Wokingham	0
<b>South West</b>	<b>70</b>
Bath and North East Somerset	x
Bournemouth	0
Bristol, City of	10
Cornwall	0
Devon	15
Dorset	5
Gloucestershire	x
Isles Of Scilly	0
North Somerset	x
Plymouth	10
Poole	x

31st March 2011-2015	
LA	2011-2015
Somerset	X
South Gloucestershire	X
Swindon	X
Torbay	X
Wiltshire	X

Source: SSDA903



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