Department for Education

Children looked after data collection 2021 to 2022 validation checks

List of the validation checks which will be applied to all records covering the period from 1 April 2021 onwards - version 1.1

March 2021

Contents

This document lists the validation checks that will be performed on the children looked after records from 1 April 2021 onwards. This is a revision from previous years and should be studied with care. All validation checks that will be performed on records that have been loaded into the system are contained in this document; there are no supplementary lists.

The validation checks in this schedule will be performed in two stages. Only if a record passes all the validation checks in stage one, will the validation suite proceed to stage two. Failure to pass all the checks in stage one will bring the validation suite to a halt.

This is version 1.1.

For queries on this validation please raise a data collection service request form.

Version	Changes
1.0	Baselined version Aligned to 2020 to 2021 collection version 1.2 Rule 132 amended for the changes to care leaver activity codes
1.1	Aligned to 2020 to 2021 collection version 1.3 Rule 165 - amended so it no longer contradicts rule 628 Rule 335 - amended to include <REC> = E1, E11, E12. A documentation change to bring this document in line with the system. Rule 432 - coding rule typo corrected so that the new E17 code is included.

1. Summary

This schedule contains all the validation checks that will be performed on each record. For each check we have provided further comments and, in some cases, background information. These are designed to give the user more information about the context of the validation failure and suggestions on how to correct it.

The validation suite will initially perform all the validation checks listed below under stage 1. If a record passes all of these checks, the validation will move on to those checks listed under stage 2. Failure to pass all the tests at stage 1 will halt the validation process. Any errors detected at stage 1 will need to be addressed and amended before the validation of that record at stage 2 can proceed. The rationale behind performing validation checks in two batches is to prevent errors in certain primary data fields, such as date of birth, triggering numerous validation check failures, all of which are rooted in the incorrect date of birth field. This is particularly a problem in the operation of some cross-return validation checks.

Several checks involve time limits. Checks on durations will be calculated in a standardised manner by taking the start date away from the end date. Examples have been given to show how the duration is calculated. In some cases, checks are based on statutory time limits; however, the validation check applied to the record may allow a longer time than is stated on the face of the legislation. This is because the purpose of the validation checks is to identify records which are most likely to be incorrect. They are not designed as checks on court or children's social care service practices. If a child really was kept under a legal status for a longer period than the law allows, we would prefer that the statistics reflected reality, rather than insisting that a record be doctored so that it passes a strict validation check but no longer reflected what really happened.

2. Changes[1] to validation rules in 2021 to 2022

The following table shows the validation rules that have changed since the 2020 to 2021 children looked after data collection.

New validation rules	Amended[2] validation rules	Deleted validation rules
	132	

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[1] Rules are only highlighted as new, amended or deleted if the change took place for this collection year, i.e. if a rule was amended in 2020 to 2021 documentation but the 2021 to 2022 documentation was also updated at the same time, then the new/amended/deleted change will only be highlighted in the 2020 to 2021 documentation.

[2] Amended refers to where the coding description for the rule has changed. Updates or clarifications to the message or coding rule are not highlighted.

3. Codes, error messages and descriptions of checks

The table which follows consists of:

- The check number (please note that some numbers have been left unused, to accommodate new checks which might be required in the future).

- The error message (as it will appear at the bottom of each record in error).

- Explanatory text consisting of a brief explanation of the coding rule that has been broken, followed by background information or advice to help with correcting the record.

3.1 Stage 1

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
101	Gender code is not valid.	The gender data item must be either: 1 = male or 2 = female.	**<SEX>** must be provided and be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
102	Date of birth is not a valid date.	The date should be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY and should contain a valid date.	**<DOB>** must be provided, be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
103	The ethnicity code is either not valid or has not been entered.	The ethnic origin field must not be blank, and code must be taken from the list supplied in the DfE children looked after collection guide. Valid ethnic origin codes are WBRI, WIRI, WOTH, WIRT, WROM, MWBC, MWBA, MWAS, MOTH, AIND, APKN, ABAN, AOTH, BCRB, BAFR, BOTH, CHNE, OOTH, REFU, NOBT. Check that a valid ethnic origin code has been entered, taken from the list supplied in the DfE children looked after collection guide. The old ethnicity codes used in years prior to 2009 are no longer valid codes.	**<ETHNIC>** must be provided and be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
104	Date for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) status ceased is not a valid date.	Date should be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY and, if completed, should contain a valid date.	If provided **<DUC>** must be in a valid format, contain a valid date and be >= **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
105	Data entry for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) status of child is invalid or has not been completed.	Code for this data item must be either: 0 = Child was not an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC) at any time during the year 1 = Child was an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC) at some time during the year.	**<UASC>** must be provided and be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
112	Date should be placed for adoption is not a valid date.	If the child has been adopted during the year, the date should be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY and should contain a valid date.	If provided **<DATE_INT>** must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.
113	Date matching child and adopter(s) is not a valid date.	If the child has been adopted during the year, the date should be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY and should contain a valid date.	If provided **<DATE_MATCH>** must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.
114	Data entry to record the status of former carer(s) of an adopted child is invalid.	If the child has been adopted during the year, the code must be either: 0 = Child not adopted by former foster carer(s); 1 = Child adopted by former foster carer(s).	If provided **<FOSTER_CARE>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
115	Date of local authority's (LA) decision that a child should be placed for adoption is not a valid date.	If it has been decided that the child should be placed for adoption, this date should be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY and should contain a valid date.	If provided **<DATE_PLACED>** must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.
116	Date of local authority's (LA) decision that a child should no longer be placed for adoption is not a valid date.	If it has been decided (during the year) that the child should no longer be placed for adoption, this date should be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY and should contain a valid date.	If provided **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.
117	Date of decision that a child should/should no longer be placed for adoption is beyond the current collection year or after the child ceased to be looked after.	If the decision is that a child should/should no longer be placed for adoption, then the date of these decisions cannot be beyond the end of the current collection year or the date they ceased to be looked after.	If provided **<DATE_PLACED>** and/or **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** must not be > **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** or **<DEC>** of latest episode where **<REC>** not = 'X1'
118	Date of decision that a child should no longer be placed for adoption is before the current collection year or before the date the child started to be looked after.	If the decision is that a child should no longer be placed for adoption, then the date of this decision cannot be before the start of the current collection year or date they started to be looked after.	If provided **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** must not be prior to **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** or **<DECOM>** of the earliest episode with an **<LS>** not = 'V3' or 'V4'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
119	If the decision is made that a child should no longer be placed for adoption, then the date of this decision and the reason why this decision was made must be completed.	If a child should no longer be placed for adoption, both the date of this decision and the reason why this decision was reached must be recorded.	If either **<REASON_PLACED_CEASED>** or **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** is provided then both must be provided
120	The reason for the reversal of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption code is not valid.	If completed, the reason why the decision to place the child for adoption has been reversed must contain a code from RD1 to RD4.	If provided **<REASON_PLACED_CEASED>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
131	Data entry for being in touch after leaving care is invalid.	If care leaver information is provided then an in-touch value must be returned, and data entry must be one of: YES, NO, DIED, REFU, NREQ or RHOM.	If provided **<IN_TOUCH>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
132 (amended)	Data entry for activity after leaving care is invalid.	If reporting on a child's activity after leaving care, data entry must be a valid code in the range: F1, P1, F2, P2, F4, P4, F5, P5, G4, G5, G6 or 0.	If provided **<ACTIV>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
133	Data entry for accommodation after leaving care is invalid.	If reporting on a child's accommodation after leaving care, data entry must be: B, C, D, E, G, H, K, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z or 0. Each accommodation code should also be suffixed with 1 (considered suitable) or 2 (considered unsuitable). Note: Codes X and S can only be reported as unsuitable.	If provided **<ACCOM>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
134	Data on adoption should not be entered for the OC3 cohort.	If returning OC3 data for child, then adoption information must not be completed.	If any of **<IN_TOUCH>**; **<ACTIV>** or **<ACCOM>** are provided then **<DATE_INT>**; **<DATE_MATCH>**; **<FOSTER_CARE>**; **<NB_ADOPTR>**; **<SEX_ADOPTR>** and **<LS_ADOPTR>** must not be provided
141	Date episode began is not a valid date.	If completed date episode began must be a valid date and should be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY.	If provided **<DECOM>** must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
142	A new episode has started, but the previous episode has not ended.	Date and reason the previous episode ceased must be completed, before a new episode can start. Check the date the last episode ended and complete the previous episode accordingly.	For any episode prior to the current episode both **<DEC>** and **<REC>** must be provided
143	The reason for new episode code is not a valid code.	If completed reason for new episode must be coded S, P, L, T, U or B.	If provided **<RNE>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
144	The legal status code is not a valid code.	If completed the legal status must contain a code in the range C1, C2, D1, E1, V2, V3, V4, J1, J2, J3, L1, L2, or L3.	If provided **<LS>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
145	Category of need code is not a valid code.	If completed the child in need (CIN) field must contain a code in the range N1 to N8.	If provided **<CIN>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
146	Placement type code is not a valid code.	If completed, the placement type of each episode must contain a code from the range: A3 to A6, H5, K1, K2, P1 to P3, R1 to R3, R5, S1, T0 to T4, U1 to U6, Z1.	If provided **<PL>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
147	Date episode ceased is not a valid date.	The date should be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY and should be a valid date.	If provided **<DEC>** must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.
148	Date episode ceased and reason episode ceased must both be coded, or both left blank.	The date and reason an episode ceased should either both be coded, or both be left blank. Check which item is missing; if the episode is an open episode, still continuing at the end of the statistical year, both these items must be left blank.	If **<DEC>** or **<REC>** is provided, then both **<DEC>** and **<REC>** must contain a value
149	Reason episode ceased code is not valid.	Where reason episode ceased is completed it must be coded by E11, E12, E2, E3, E4A, E4B, E13, E41, E45, E46, E47, E48, E5, E6, E7, E8, E9, E14, E15, E16, E17 or X1.	If provided **<REC>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
151	All data items relating to a child's adoption must be coded or left blank.	The data items relating to an adoption should either be coded (all of them) or left blank (all of them). Enter missing data.	If any of **<DATE_INT>**; **<DATE_MATCH>**; **<FOSTER_CARE>**; **<NB_ADOPTR>**; **<SEX_ADOPTR>** or **<LS_ADOPTR>** are provided, then all must be provided
153	All data items relating to a child's activity or accommodation after leaving care must be coded or left blank.	Data items relating to activity or accommodation after leaving care should either be coded (all of them) or left blank (all of them). Enter missing data.	Where any of **<IN_TOUCH>**; **<ACTIV>** or **<ACCOM>** is provided, all must be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
157	Child is aged 4 years or over at the beginning of the year or 16 years or under at the end of the year and Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) 1 has been recorded as the reason for no Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score.	If the child has been looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March of the current collection year and is aged 4 years or over at 1 April or 16 years or under at 31 March of the current collection year, and does not have an SDQ score, then the reason for no score cannot be SDQ1.

If the child was aged under 4 or over 17 at date of the latest assessment, then no form should be returned and reason SDQ1 should be used.

Check that the correct reason for no SDQ score has been recorded; SDQ2 to SDQ5 would be valid reasons for children aged 4 to 16 at the date of the last assessment.

Check that the date of birth recorded for the child is correct. | If **<CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER>** = 'Y' and **<DOB>** >= 4 years prior to **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** and **<DOB>** <= 16 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** and **<SDQ_SCORE>** not provided then **<SDQ_REASON>** should not be 'SDQ1' |

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
158	Child has received an intervention for their substance misuse problem but the additional item on whether an intervention was offered has been completed.	If a child has been recorded as receiving an intervention for their substance misuse problem, then the additional item on whether an intervention was offered should be left blank.	Where <INTERVENTION_RECEIVED> = '1' then <INTERVENTION_OFFERED> should not be provided
159	Child has not received an intervention for their substance misuse problem and the additional item on whether an intervention was offered has not been completed.	If a child has been recorded as not receiving an intervention for their substance misuse problem, then the additional item on whether an intervention was offered should be completed as well.	Where <SUBSTANCE_MISUSE> = '1' and <INTERVENTION_RECEIVED> = '0' then <INTERVENTION_OFFERED> must be provided
164	Distance is not valid. Please check a valid postcode has been entered.	The distance must be between 0.0 and 999.9. If the distance is unavailable, please enter this as 999.9. This field must be completed for all placements, active or beginning after 31 March 2015, unless the legal status is V3 or V4 (looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements - respite).	If <LS> not = 'V3' or 'V4' then <PL_DISTANCE> must be between '0.0' and '999.9' Note: <PL_DISTANCE> is a calculated value based on Postcode.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
165	Data entry for mother status is invalid.	Code for this data item must be either: 0 = Female child is not a mother 1 = Female child is a mother This field should indicate whether the child was a mother or not on 31 March and must be completed for all female children looked after during the year ending 31 March of the current collection year (unless the child is being looked after under an agreed series of short term placements – legal status V3 or V4). This field should be left blank and not recorded as 0 for male looked after children. This field should be left blank for care leaver with no episode information recorded for this collection year.	If provided **<MOTHER>** must be a valid value If not provided **<MOTHER>** then either **<GENDER>** is male or no episode record for current year and any of **<IN_TOUCH>**, **<ACTIV>** or **<ACCOM>** have been provided
166	Date of review is invalid or blank.	The date should be entered in the form DD/MM/YYYY and should contain a valid date. The date of review should be in the collection year.	If provided **<REVIEW>** must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
167	Data entry for participation is invalid or blank.	If a review was held in the last two collection years this field should not be left blank and the code must be in the range PN0 to PN7. Check that a valid participation code has been entered that has been taken from the list supplied in the DfE children looked after collection guide.	Where **<REVIEW>** is provided then **<REVIEW_CODE>** must also be provided and be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
168	Unique Pupil Number (UPN) is not valid. If unknown, default codes should be UN1, UN2, UN3, UN4 or UN5.	The UPN must be 13 characters long (the first character is a capital letter other than I, O or S, and the remaining characters numeric, or if the UPN is temporary then the last character must be a letter). If it is unknown one of the default codes in the range UN1 to UN5 should be used.	If provided, **<UPN>** must either be 13 characters, where the first character must be alpha and a capital letter but not 'I'; 'O' or 'S', and the next 12 characters must be numeric OR if unknown **<UPN>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
169	Local authority (LA) of placement is not valid or is missing. Please check a valid postcode has been entered.	LA of placement code must be a valid LA education code or one of the default codes for children placed outside England: NIR, WAL, SCO, NUK or CON. It should be entered for all placements active or beginning after 31 March of the previous collection year unless the legal status is V3 or V4 (looked after under a series of short-term placements).	If **<LS>** not 'V3' or 'V4' then **<PL_LA>** must be provided and a valid value Note: **<PL_LA>** is derived from the provided postcode **<PL_POST>**.
171	Date of birth of mother's child is not a valid date.	The date should be entered in the form DD/MM/YYYY and should contain a valid date.	If provided **<MC_DOB>** must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.
174	Mother's child date of birth is recorded but gender shows that the child is a male	Date of birth of child, can only be entered if gender is female and mother status = 1.	If **<SEX>** = '1' then **<MC_DOB>** should not be provided
175	The number of adopter(s) code is not a valid code.	Code for this data item must be either: 1 = child has been adopted by 1 person 2 = child has been adopted by 2 persons	If provided **<NB_ADOPTR>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
176	The gender of adopter(s) at the date of adoption code is not a valid code.	Where gender of adopter(s) at the date of adoption is completed it must be coded by M1, F1, MM, FF or MF.	If provided **<SEX_ADOPTR>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
177	The legal status of adopter(s) code is not a valid code.	Where legal status of adopter(s) is completed, it must be coded by L0, L11, L12, L2, L3 or L4.	If provided **<LS_ADOPTR>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
178	Placement provider code is not a valid code.	If completed placement provider of each episode must contain a code from the range: PR0 to PR5. The placement provider code should be left blank if the record is only recording the young person's activity and accommodation after leaving care. The placement provider code should be left blank for children in any of the following placements: T0, T1, T2, T3, T4 or Z1.	If provided **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must be a valid value and should not be provided if **<PL>** = 'T0'; 'T1'; 'T2'; 'T3' or 'Z1' For allowed values please see associated code set.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
179	Placement location code is not a valid code.	If completed placement location of each episode must be coded as IN or OUT. This field should be completed for all placements active or beginning after 31 March in the previous collection year unless the legal status is V3 or V4 (looked after under a series of short-term placements).	If **<LS>** not = 'V3' or 'V4' then **<PL_LOCATION>** must be provided and a valid value Note: **<PL_LOCATION>** is a derived field based on postcode.
180	Data entry for the strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) score is invalid.	If completed the SDQ score should be in the range 0 to 40.	If provided **<SDQ_SCORE>** should be a numeric whole number in the range 0-40
181	Data items relating to children looked after continuously for 12 months should be completed with a 0 or 1.	The fields: Convicted Health check Immunisations Dental check Health assessment Substance misuse Intervention received Intervention offered should, if completed, be coded as 0 or 1.	If any of **<CONVICTED>**; **<HEALTH_CHECK>**; **<IMMUNISATIONS>**; **<TEETH_CHECK>**; **<HEALTH_ASSESSMENT>**; **<SUBSTANCE MISUSE>**; **<INTERVENTION_RECEIVED>** or **<INTERVENTION_OFFERED>** have been provided then they must be a valid value

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
182	Data entries on immunisations, teeth checks, health assessments and substance misuse problem identified should be completed or all OC2 fields should be left blank.	If any of the data entries on immunisations, teeth checks, health assessments and substance misuse problem identified have not been completed, then no other OC2 field (Convicted, Health Check, Intervention Received, Intervention Offered) should be completed.	If any of **<IMMUNISATIONS>**; **<TEETH_CHECK>**; **<HEALTH_ASSESSMENT>** or **<SUBSTANCE MISUSE>** have not been provided, then none of **<CONVICTED>**; **<HEALTH_CHECK>**; **<INTERVENTION_RECEIVED>** or **<INTERVENTION_OFFERED>** should be provided
185	Child has not been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March but a Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) score has been completed.	If a child has not been looked after for 12 months continuously at 31 March of the current collection year then the SDQ score should be left blank. The SDQ score should be completed for children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March of the current collection year and who were aged between 4 and 16 years old on the date of their last assessment. The SDQ score should not be completed for children who have been looked after under an agreed series of short term breaks at any time in the 12 months to 31 March of the current collection year (legal status V3 and V4).	If **<CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER>** = 'N' then **<SDQ_SCORE>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
186	Children aged 4 or over at the start of the year and children aged under 17 at the end of the year and who have been looked after for at least 12 months continuously should have a Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) score completed.	If a child has been looked after for 12 months continuously at 31 March of the current collection year and they were aged between 4 and 16 years old on the date of their last assessment, then the SDQ score should be completed. The SDQ score should be completed for children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March of the current collection year and who were aged between 4 and 16 years old on the date of their last assessment. The SDQ score should not be completed for children who have been looked after under an agreed series of short term breaks at any time in the 12 months to 31 March of the current collection year (legal status V3 or V4). If no SDQ is score available, then the reason for no SDQ score field should be completed in the range SDQ1 to SDQ5.	If **<CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER >** = 'Y' and **<DOB>** 4 years or more prior to **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** and **<DOB>** <= 16 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** then **<SDQ_SCORE>** should be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
187	Child cannot be looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March (OC2) and have any of adoption or care leavers returns completed.	If the child has been looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March of the current collection year, they cannot have adoption information completed, as this relates to children who have ceased to be looked after during the year. Care leaver information should only be completed for children who were looked after, but who have since left care, therefore these children will not be looked after for 12 months continuously in the latest year.	If **<CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER >** = 'Y' then the following information should not be provided **<DATE_INT>; <DATE_MATCH>; <FOSTER_CARE>; <NB_ADOPTR>; <SEX_ADOPTR>; <LS_ADOPTR>; <IN_TOUCH>; <ACTIV>; <ACCOM>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
188	Child is aged under 4 years at the end of the year, but a Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) score or a reason for no SDQ score has been completed.	The SDQ score and, where applicable, reason for no SDQ score, should be completed for children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March of the current collection year and who were aged between 4 and 16 years old on the date of their last assessment. Any child aged under 4 years old on 31 March of the current collection year should not have a SDQ score. Any child aged under 4 years old on 31 March of the current collection year should not have an entry for reason for no SDQ score.	If **<DOB>** < 4 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** then **<SDQ_SCORE>** and **<SDQ_REASON>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
189	Child is aged 17 years or over at the beginning of the year, but a Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) score or a reason for no SDQ score has been completed.	The SDQ score should be completed for children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March of the current collection year and who were aged between 4 and 16 years old on the date of their last assessment. Any child aged 17 or over on 1 April of the current collection year should not have a SDQ score. Any child aged 17 years or over on 1 April of the current collection year should not have an entry for reason for no SDQ score.	If **<DOB>** > 17 years prior to **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** then **<SDQ_SCORE>** and **<SDQ_REASON>** should not be provided
190	Child has not been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March but one or more data items relating to children looked after for 12 months have been completed.	If a child has not been looked after for 12 months continuously at 31 March of the current collection year then all data items relating to children looked after for 12 months continuously should be left blank. These fields should not be completed for children who have been looked after under an agreed series of short term breaks at any time in the 12 months to 31 March of the current collection year (legal status V3 or V4).	If **<CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER >** = 'N' then the following items should not be provided **<CONVICTED>**; **<HEALTH_CHECK>**; **<IMMUNISATIONS>**; **<TEETH_CHECK>**; **<HEALTH_ASSESSMENT>**; **<SUBSTANCE MISUSE>**; **<INTERVENTION_RECEIVED>**; **<INTERVENTION_OFFERED>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
191	Child has been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March but one or more data items relating to children looked after for 12 months have been left blank.	If a child has been looked after for 12 months continuously at 31 March of the current collection year then items on immunisations, teeth checks, health assessments and substance misuse problem identified relating to children looked after for 12 months continuously should be completed. Other fields on convictions, health checks, whether a substance misuse problem intervention was received or offered may also be required. These fields should not be completed for children who have been looked after under an agreed series of short term breaks at any time in the 12 months to 31 March of the current collection year (legal status V3 or V4). A child who has been looked after for at least 12 months (except children looked after under a series of agreed short term placements) should have OC2 data returned. This includes children who prior to this 12-month period were looked after under a series of agreed short term placements and whose legal status changed.	If <CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER> = 'Y' then the following items should be provided <IMMUNISATIONS>; <TEETH_CHECK>; <HEALTH_ASSESSMENT>; <SUBSTANCE MISUSE>;

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
192	Child has been identified as having a substance misuse problem but the additional item on whether an intervention was received has been left blank.	If a child has been identified as having a substance misuse problem, then the additional item on whether an intervention was received should also be completed. Only the item on whether an intervention was received must be completed once a child has been identified as having a substance misuse problem. The additional item on whether an intervention was offered is only required if the child was not offered an intervention for their substance misuse problem.	Where **<SUBSTANCE_MISUSE>** is provided then **<INTERVENTION_RECEIVED>** must also be provided
193	Child not identified as having a substance misuse problem but at least one of the two additional items on whether an intervention were offered and received have been completed.	If a child was not identified as having a substance misuse problem, then the two additional items on whether an intervention was offered or received should be left blank. Data is not accepted in either the intervention received or intervention offered fields once the substance misuse field is recorded as 0.	if **<SUBSTANCE_MISUSE>** is not provided then **<INTERVENTION_RECEIVED>** and **<INTERVENTION_OFFERED>** must also be missing

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
196	Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) reason is not a valid code.	If the child has been looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March of the current collection year and is aged between 4 and 16 years on the date of their last assessment but does not have an SDQ score, the reason no SDQ score field should be completed with a valid code in the range SDQ1 to SDQ5.	If provided **<SDQ_REASON>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
197	Reason for no Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) score is not required if SDQ score is filled in.	If a child has been looked after for 12 months continuously at 31 March of the current collection year and they were aged between 4 and 16 years old on the date of their last assessment, then the SDQ score should be completed. If the child has an SDQ score, then the SDQ score field should be completed and the reason for no SDQ score field should be left blank. If no SDQ score is available, then the SDQ score field should be left blank and the reason for no SDQ score field should be completed in the range SDQ1 to SDQ5.	If **<SDQ_SCORE>** has been provided, then **<SDQ_REASON>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
198	Child has not been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March but a reason for no Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) score has been completed.	If a child has not been looked after for 12 months continuously at 31 March of the current collection year then the reason for no SDQ score field should be left blank. The reason for no SDQ score should be completed for children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March of the current collection year and who were aged between 4 and 16 years old on the date of their last assessment and who do not have a SDQ score. The reason for no SDQ score should not be completed for children who have been looked after under an agreed series of short term breaks at any time in the 12 months to 31 March of the current collection year (legal status V3 or V4).	If **<CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER>** = 'N' then **<SDQ_SCORE>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
199	Episode information shows child has been previously adopted from care.	For confidentiality reasons, if a looked after child has been previously adopted from care (reason episode ceased codes E11 or E12), and subsequently becomes looked after again, then further episode information cannot be added for the child under the same record. Check that the reason previous episode ceased is correct. If the child was previously adopted from care, then record the post adoption episodes under a new child id code and with a new UPN. The two records should remain separate and unlinked.	If any episode has a **<REC>** = 'E11' or 'E12' then no later episode should be provided for this **<CHILDID>**
1000	This child is recorded as having died in care and therefore should not have the care leaver information completed.	This child has the reason for an episode ceased as E2 and therefore there should not be any information recorded for them on their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday, that is, whether they are in touch, and activity and accommodation.	If **<REC>** = 'E2' then **<IN_TOUCH>**; **<ACTIV>** and **<ACCOM>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
1001	The episodes recorded for this young person suggest they are not a relevant or a former relevant child and therefore should not have care leaver information completed.	This young person has not been looked after for at least 13 weeks after the age of 14 (these may be different episodes) with at least some care after the age of 16 (see children looked after collection guide for details) and ceased to be looked after through adoption. There should not be any information recorded for them on their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday, that is, whether they are in touch, and activity and accommodation.	If <IN_TOUCH>; <ACTIV> or <ACCOM> are provided THEN total days of previous episodes where <LS> is not = 'V3' or 'V4' must be >= to 91 days between the <DOB> + 14 years and the <DEC> of the final episode of care, with at least 1 day of that total between the <DOB> + 16 years and the <DEC> of the final episode, and the final episode <REC> must not = 'E11' or 'E12'
1002	This child has no previous episodes of care, therefore should not have care leaver information recorded.	This young person has no previous episodes of care recorded. There should not be any information recorded for them on their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday, that is, whether they are in touch, and activity and accommodation.	If count of episodes = '0' then <IN_TOUCH>; <ACTIV> and <ACCOM> should not be provided
1004	The start date of the missing episode or episode that the child was away from placement without authorisation is not a valid date.	The date should be entered in the form DD/MM/YYYY and should be a valid date.	If provided <MIS_START> must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
1005	The end date of the missing episode or episode that the child was away from placement without authorisation is not a valid date.	The date should be entered in the form DD/MM/YYYY and should be a valid date.	If provided **<MIS_END>** must be in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY.
1006	Missing type invalid.	Missing type should be either M - missing from care or A - away from placement without authorisation.	If provided **<MISSING>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
1007	Care leaver information is not required for 17- or 18-year olds who are still looked after.	If the child is still looked after on their 17th or 18th birthday in the latest year, then information on their activity and accommodation is not required. Please delete the OC3 information.	If **<DOB>** < 19 and >= to 17 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** and current episode **<DEC>** and or **<REC>** not provided then **<IN_TOUCH>**, **<ACTIV>** and **<ACCOM>** should not be provided
1008	Ofsted Unique Reference Number (URN) is not valid.	Please ensure the Ofsted URN is valid. Check against Ofsted's URN list to ensure URN is a valid children's social care service URN, not an education URN.	If provided **<URN>** must be a valid value (where valid values include 'XXXXXX') For allowed values please see Ofsted URN list.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
1009	Reason for placement change is not a valid code.	CARPL, CLOSE, ALLEG, STAND, APPRR, CREQB, CREQO, CHILD, LAREQ, PLACE, CUSTOD or OTHER are the only valid entries for reason for placement change.	If provided **<REASON_PLACE_CHANGE>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
1010	This child has no episodes loaded for current year even though there was an open episode of care at the end of the previous year, and care leaver data has been entered.	This child had an open episode at the end of the previous year, but no care details in the current year, and care leaver information has been returned. Please check that the episode details are up to date and a date and reason that the last episode ceased has been recorded. If the child has not left care, then please delete the care leaver information.	If the last episode in the Previous Year is open (**<DEC>** is null) AND count of the current year's episodes = 0 then **<IN_TOUCH>**, **<ACTIV>** and **<ACCOM>** should not be provided
1011	This child is recorded as having his/her care transferred to another local authority for the final episode and therefore should not have the care leaver information completed.	This child has the reason for the final episode ceased as E3 and therefore there should not be any information recorded for them on their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday, that is whether they are in touch, and activity and accommodation.	If final **<REC>** = 'E3' then **<IN_TOUCH>**; **<ACTIV>** and **<ACCOM>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
1012	No other data should be returned for OC3 children who had no episodes in the current year	For OC3 children who ceased to be looked after in a previous year, only OC3 information must be returned.	If count of episodes in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** = '0' THEN none of **<DATE_INT>**, **<DATE_MATCH>**, **<FOSTER_CARE>**, **<NB_ADOPTR>**, **<SEX_ADOPT>**, **<LS_ADOPTR>**, **<AMISSING>**, **<AREVIEW>**, **<PERMANENCE>**, **<OC2>**, **<AD_PLACED>** should not be provided. (Where **<AMISSING>**, **<AREVIEW>**, **<PERMANENCE>**, **<OC2>** and **<AD_PLACED>** are the module tags for the Missing, Review, Previous Permanence, OC2, and Should Be Placed modules and would cover the provision of any of the items within that module).
1014	UASC information is not required for care leavers	A child who has care leaver information and was not looked after in the current collection year must have a UASC indicator of '0' (Child is not a UASC) and no date that UASC status ceased	If **<IN_TOUCH>**, **<ACTIV>** or **<ACCOM>** are provided AND count of the current collection year's episodes = 0 the **<UASC>** must be '0' and **<DUC>** must be Null.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
1015	Placement provider is 'own provision' but child not placed in own local authority.	For any placement that is not fostering or adoption, if placement provider is 'own provision (PR1) then the placement local authority must be the same as your own local authority. Note: Placement location is not needed for respite cases.	If **<PLACEMENT>** not in 'U1' to 'U6' or 'A3' to 'A6' and **<LS>** not 'V3', 'V4' and **<PLACE_PROVIDER>**. = 'PR1' then **<PL_LA>** must equal **<LA>.**
NoE	This child has no episodes loaded for previous year even though child started to be looked after before this current year.	This child has no episodes loaded for previous year even though child started to be looked after before this current year.	If **<DECOM>** prior to **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** then count of episodes in previous year should be > '0'
357	This is the first ever episode recorded for this child, but reason for new episode is not started to be looked after.	If this is the first episode ever for this child, reason for new episode must be S. Check whether there is an episode immediately preceding this one, which has been left out. If not the reason for new episode code must be amended to S.	First episode **<RNE>** must be 'S'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
388	Reason episode ceased is coded new episode begins, but there is no continuation episode.	If reason episode ceased is coded X1 there must be a subsequent episode starting on the same day. If an episode ends but the child continues to be looked after, a new episode should start on the same day. The reason episode ceased code of the episode which ends must be X1. If a child ceases to be looked after reason episode ceased code X1 must not be used.	If **<REC>** = 'X1' then next episode **<DECOM>** must be = **<DEC>**
502	Last year's record ended with an open episode. The date on which that episode started does not match the start date of the first episode on this year's record.	Where last year's record ended with an open episode, the date on which that episode started must be the same as the date on which the first episode of the current year's record started. Check the start date for the current year. If it is correct, when did the last episode finish? Were there intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system.	Where previous collection year's episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<DECOM>** must be the same as that episode's **<DECOM>**

3.2 Stage 2

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
184	Date of decision that a child should be placed for adoption is before the child was born.	If the local authority decides that the child should be placed for adoption the date of this decision cannot be before the child was born.	Where provided **<DATE_PLACED>** must be > = **<DOB>**
1003	Date of LA's decision that a child should be placed for adoption is before the child started to be looked after.	Check that the date that a child should be placed for adoption is not prior to the date that the child started to be looked after.	**<DATE_PLACED>** cannot be prior to **<DECOM>** of the first episode with **<RNE>** = 'S'
202	The gender code conflicts with the gender already recorded for this child.	DfE holds an existing record for this child, but the gender details do not match. If you are certain that these details are correct and previous details are wrong, please amend through the master change function or contact DfE about correcting earlier years.	**<SEX>** from current year's record must = **<SEX>** from previous year's record

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
203	Date of birth disagrees with the date of birth already recorded for this child.	DfE holds an existing record for this child, but the date of birth details does not match. If you are certain that these details are correct and previous details are wrong, please amend through the master change function or contact DfE about correcting earlier years.	**<DOB>** from current year's record must = **<DOB>** from previous year's record
204	Ethnic origin code disagrees with the ethnic origin already recorded for this child.	DfE holds an existing record for this child, but the ethnic origin details do not match. If you are certain that these details are correct and previous details are wrong, please amend through the master change function or contact DfE about correcting earlier years.	**<ETHNIC>** from current year's record must = **<ETHNIC>** from previous year's record

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
205A	Child identified as UASC last year is no longer UASC this year, but date UASC ceased in both years does not support this	Child was reported as UASC last year, but not this year, and date UASC status ceased is not in last year.	If **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR> <UASC>** = '0' and **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR> -1 <UASC>** = '1' then: • **<DUC>** in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 must be in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 and • **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR> <DUC>** must be null
205B	Child previously identified as UASC is also UASC this year, but date UASC ceased in both years does not support this	Child reported as UASC last year is reported as UASC again this year, but: • date UASC ceased last year is not the child's 18th birthday (the default), or • date UASC ceased this year is not either the child's 18th birthday or a date in the current collection year.	If **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR> <UASC>** = '1' and **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR> -1 <UASC>** = '1' then: • **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR> -1 <DUC>** must be the child's 18th birthday • **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR> <DUC>** must be in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** or = **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR> -1 <DUC>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
205C	Child not identified as UASC either this year or last year but date UASC ceased has been provided	If a child is not UASC then date UASC ceased should not be provided.	If **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** and **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 **<UASC>** = '0' then both **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** and **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 **<DUC>** should be Null.
205D	Child identified as UASC this year but not identified as UASC status provided for the child last year	An unaccompanied asylum seeker acquires UASC status on starting to be looked after for the first time. If a child is UASC in the current year, then any existing record for the child in the previous year must also show them as being UASC.	If **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** **<UASC>** = '1' then **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 **<UASC>** should be '1'
207	Mother status for the current year disagrees with the mother status already recorded for this child.	DfE holds an existing record for this child indicating the child is a mother, but this disagrees with the current year's submission.	If previous year's record shows **<MOTHER>** = '1' then current year's record **<MOTHER>** should also = '1'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
208	Unique Pupil Number (UPN) for the current year disagrees with the Unique Pupil Number (UPN) already recorded for this child.	DfE holds an existing record for this child, but the UPN details do not match in previous year. If you are certain that these details are correct and previous details are wrong, correct previous year's record and, if necessary, contact DfE about correcting earlier years. If a child is UN1 in the previous year's collection, they can change to another UPN code (UN2, UN3, UN4, UN5 or UN6) in the following year.	**<UPN>** from current year's record must = **<UPN>** from previous year's record unless current **<UPN>** = 'UN2'; 'UN3'; 'UN4'; 'UN5' or 'UN6' and previous year's **<UPN>** = 'UN1'
209	Child looked after is of school age and should not have an unknown Unique Pupil Number (UPN) code of UN1.	Unknown UPN code of UN1 should only be used for children aged under school age who have not yet been assigned a UPN. School age is defined as those aged 4 at the start of the school year (31 August) who will therefore turn 5 during the year.	If **<DOB>** > = 4 years prior to 31/08/YYYY then **<UPN>** should not be 'UN1' Note: YYYY in this instance refers to the year prior to the collection start (for collection year 2020/2021, it would be looking at the 31/08/2019).

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
210	Children looked after for more than a week at 31 March should not have an unknown Unique Pupil Number (UPN) code of UN4.	Unknown UPN code of UN4 should only be used for children newly looked after (from one week before the end of the collection period, that is, from 24 March of the current collection year) and the UPN was not yet known at the time of the annual statistical return.	If **<UPN>** = 'UN4' then no episode **<DECOM>** must be > = 24/03/YYYY Note: YYYY refers to the current collection year.
213	Placement provider information not required.	Placement provider information is not required for children in temporary placements and children in other placements. The placement provider code should be left blank for children in any of the following placements: T0 to T4, or Z1.	If **<PL>** = 'T0' or 'T1' or 'T2' or 'T3' or 'T4' or 'Z1' then**<PLACE_PROVIDER>** should not be provided
214	Placement location information not required.	Placement location information is not required for children with a legal status of V3 or V4.	If **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4' then **<PL_POST>** and **<URN>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
215	Child has care leaver information but one or more data items relating to children looked after for 12 months have been completed.	A child who has care leaver information completed should not have data items completed which relate to children looked after for 12 months.	If any of **<IN_TOUCH>**, **<ACTIV>** or **<ACCOM>** have been provided then **<CONVICTED>**; **<HEALTH_CHECK>**; **<IMMUNISATIONS>**; **<TEETH_CHECK>**; **<HEALTH_ASSESSMENT>**; **<SUBSTANCE MISUSE>**; **<INTERVENTION_RECEIVED>**; **<INTERVENTION_OFFERED>**; should not be provided
217	If child is placed for adoption with current foster carer(s), reason for new episode must be T – change of placement (but same carer(s)) only or U – change of legal status and change of placement (but same carer(s)) at same time.	Children who are placed for adoption with current foster carers (placement types A3 or A5) must have a reason for new episode of S, T or U.	If **<DECOM>** >= 01/04/2015 and **<PL>** = 'A3' or 'A5' then **<RNE>** must be 'S', 'T' or 'U'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
218	Ofsted Unique reference number (URN) is required.	Please ensure Ofsted URN is recorded for ongoing placements at 1 April of the current collection year and also for new episodes from 1 April of the current collection year where the reason for new episode is P, T, B, U or S. Ofsted URN should not be provided for the placement types listed in rule 222, for confidential placements, placements outside of England.	Where **<PL>** not in 'H5'; 'P1'; 'P2'; 'P3'; 'R1'; 'R2'; 'R5'; 'T0'; 'T1'; 'T2'; 'T3'; 'T4' 'Z1' And **<PL_LA>** not in 'CON'; 'NIR' 'SCO'; 'WAL'; 'NUK' And **<DEC>** > 31/03/2015 or Null then **<URN>** should be provided
219	The Ofsted Unique reference number (URN) provided for the child's placement does not match the placement type recorded.	The placement type recorded against the Ofsted URN entered does not match the placement type recorded. Please check whether the Ofsted URN is correct and check whether the placement type is correct; for example, if the Ofsted URN relates to a secure unit, the placement type must be K1.	If **<URN>** provided and **<URN>** not = 'XXXXXX' then **<PL>** must = any URN Lookup **<PLACEMENT CODE>** of matching URN Lookup **<URN>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
221	The Ofsted Unique reference number (URN) provided for the child's placement does not match the placement postcode provided.	The postcode recorded against the Ofsted URN entered does not match the placement postcode recorded (where placement postcode has been provided). Please check whether the Ofsted URN is correct and check whether the placement postcode is correct. This is only applicable to placement types K1, K2, R3 and S1.	If **<URN>** provided and **<URN>** not = 'XXXXXX', and **<LS>** not = 'V3', 'V4' and where **<PL>** = 'K1', 'K2', 'R3' or 'S1' and **<PL_POST>** provided, **<PL_POST>** should = URN Lookup **<Provider Postcode>**

| 222 | Ofsted Unique reference number (URN) should not be recorded for this placement type. | Ofsted URN should not be recorded for the following placement types:

H5 – semi-independent living accommodation not subject to Children's Homes Regulations

P1 - Placed with own parent(s) or other person with parental responsibility

P2 - Independent living, for example, in flat, lodgings, bedsit, bed and breakfast (B & B) or with friends, with or without formal support

P3 - Residential employment

R1 - Residential care home

R2 – National Health Service (NHS) / health trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care

R5 - Young offender institution or prison

T0 - All types of temporary move

T1 - Temporary periods in hospital

T2 -Temporary absences of the child on holiday

T3 - Temporary accommodation whilst normal foster carer(s) is/are on holiday | If **\<URN\>** provided and **\<URN\>** not = 'XXXXXX', and where **\<PL\>** = 'H5'; 'P1' 'P2' 'P3'; 'R1'; 'R2'; 'R5'; 'T0' 'T1'; 'T2'; 'T3'; 'T4' or Z1 then **\<URN\>** should not be provided |

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
		T4 - Temporary accommodation of seven days or less, for any reason, not covered by codes T1 to T3 Z1 - Other placements.	
224	The Ofsted Unique reference number (URN) provided for the child's placement does not match the placement provider recorded.	The local authority recorded against the Ofsted URN entered does not match the placement provider recorded. Please check whether the Ofsted URN is correct and check whether the placement provider is correct; for example, if the Ofsted URN relates to private provision, placement provider must be PR4 – private provision.	If **\<URN\>** provided and **\<URN\>** not = 'XXXXXX', then **\<PLACE_PROVIDER\>** must = URN Lookup **\<PLACE_PROVIDER\>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
225	Reason for placement change must be recorded.	A valid reason for placement change must be provided for episodes which cease due to a change in placement from 1 April of the current collection year onwards.

Please check that for episodes which end with reason episode ceased = X1 (excluding temporary episodes) and reason for new episode for the subsequent episode is P, B, T or U and the new placement is not a temporary placement, there is a valid reason for placement change recorded. | Where **<REC>** = 'X1' and **<PL>** not = 'T0'; 'T1'; 'T2'; 'T3' or 'T4' and episode +1 **<RNE>** = 'P'; 'B'; 'T' or 'U' and **<PL>** not = 'T0'; 'T1'; 'T2'; 'T3' or 'T4' then **<REASON_PLACE_CHANGE>** must be provided and a valid value

For allowed values please see associated code set. |
| 226 | Reason for placement change is not required. | Reason for placement change is not required for temporary placements or the placement prior to the temporary placement.

The reason for placement change should be left blank for the temporary placement and the placement prior to the temporary placement. | If **<PL>** = 'T0'; 'T1'; 'T2'; 'T3' or 'T4' then **<REASON_PLACE_CHANGE>** should be null in current episode and current episode - 1 |

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Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
227	Ofsted Unique reference number (URN) is not valid for the episode start date	The URN must be valid for the date on which the episode commenced. Please check, if the provider has a deregistration date, that the episode start date is before this date to which that URN relates.	If **<URN>** provided and **<URN>** not = 'XXXXXX', then if **<URN>** and **<REG_END>** are provided then **<DECOM>** must be before **<REG_END>**
228	Ofsted Unique reference number (URN) is not valid for the episode end date	The URN must be valid for the date on which the episode ended. Please check, if the provider has a deregistration date, that the episode end date is on before this date to which that URN relates.	If **<URN>** provided and not = 'XXXXXXX', and Ofsted URN **<REG_END>** not NULL then **<DEC>** if provided must be <= Ofsted **<REG_END>** OR if not provided then **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** must be <= **<REG_END>.** Note: For open episodes (those without an end date) a check should be made to ensure that the Ofsted URN was still open at the 31 March of the current year.
229	Placement provider does not match between the placing authority and the local authority code of the provider	The placement provider of the episode can only be 'PR1' if the local authority code of the provider is your local authority code. The placement provider of the episode can only be 'PR2' if the local authority code of the provider is different to your local authority.	If Ofsted URN is provided and not 'XXXXXXX' then: If **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** = 'PR1' then **<LA>** must equal Ofsted URN lookup **<LA code>.** If **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** = 'PR2' then Ofsted URN lookup **<LA code>** must not equal **<LA>.**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
301	Date of birth falls after the year ended.	Child's date of birth must fall on or before 31 March of the current data collection year. Check date of birth and amend record accordingly. If the date of birth is correct, this record should be deleted from this year's submission.	**<DOB>** must be <= **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>**
302	First episode starts before child was born.	Child must have been born on or before the date the first episode commenced. Check and confirm date of birth and date first episode began.	**<DOB>** must be before **<DECOM>** of first episode (lowest count of episode) where **<RNE>** = 'S'
303	If date unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC) status ceased is not null, UASC status must be coded 1.	Where a date UASC status ceased is recorded, the UASC field must be completed.	If **<DUC>** provided, then **<UASC>** must be '1'
304	Date unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC) status ceased must be on or before the 18th birthday of a child.	UASC status automatically ceases on a child's 18th birthday. Check these details and the child's date of birth.	If provided **<DUC>** must be <= to 18 years after **<DOB>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
331	Date of matching child and adopter(s) should be the same as, or prior to, the date of placement of adoption.	A child cannot be placed for adoption before the child has been matched with prospective adopter(s). Check that the date matched and the date the child was placed for adoption are correct and amend as appropriate.	If provided **<DATE_MATCH>** must be >= **<DECOM>** of latest episode where adopted = 'Y'
333	Date should be placed for adoption must be on or prior to the date of matching child with adopter(s).	A child cannot be matched with prospective adopter(s) until a local authority has formally decided that the child should be placed for adoption. Check date matched and date should be placed have not been transposed.	If **<DATE_MATCH>** provided, then **<DATE_INT>** must also be provided and be <= **<DATE_MATCH>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
334	Date child started to be looked after in latest period of care must be on or prior to the date should be placed for adoption.	The date a child started to be looked after (which will either be recorded in a previous episode or in the additional start of latest period of care data item) must be prior to the date on which the local authority formally decides that a child should be placed for adoption. Whilst an Adoption Panel may consider a case in principal before a child is looked after, no final recommendation can be made at that stage (Adoption Agency Regulations 1983 SI 1964 and circular LAC (84)3).	**<DATE_INT>** must be greater than **<DECOM>** of latest episode with **<RNE>** = 'S'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
335	The current foster value (0) suggests that child is not adopted by current foster carer, but last placement is A2, A3, or A5. Or the current foster value (1) suggests that child is adopted by current foster carer, but last placement is A1, A4 or A6.	Where a child is adopted by the former foster carer and placement is A2, A3, or A5, then current foster code must be '1'. Where the child is not adopted by the former foster carer and placement is A1, A4, or A6, then current foster code must be '0'.	Where **<PL>** = 'A2', 'A3' or 'A5' and **<REC>** = 'E1', 'E11', 'E12' **<FOSTER_CARE>** should not be '0'; or Where **<PL>** = 'A1', 'A4' or 'A6' and **<REC>** = 'E1', 'E11', 'E12' **<FOSTER_CARE>** should not be '1'. Change to the rule to apply from 2007 onwards
336	Child does not have a foster placement immediately prior to being placed for adoption.	To be in an A3 or A5 placement a foster placement must have occurred immediately prior to being placed for adoption.	Where **<PL>** = 'A3' or 'A5' previous episode **<PL>** must be one of 'A3'; 'A4'; 'A5'; 'A6'; 'U1', 'U2', 'U3', 'U4', 'U5' or 'U6'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
344	The record shows the young person has died or returned home to live with parent(s) or someone with parental responsibility for a continuous period of 6 months or more, but activity and/or accommodation on leaving care have been completed.	If the in-touch data item is 'DIED' or 'RHOM' the activity and accommodation fields should be zero. Information on a young person's activity and accommodation is only required if it is both reliable and up to date. Check the in-touch data item has been completed correctly.	If **<IN_TOUCH>** = 'DIED' or 'RHOM' then **<ACTIV>** and **<ACCOM>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
345	The data collection record shows the local authority is in touch with this young person, but activity and/or accommodation data items are zero.	If the in-touch data item equals yes, the activity and accommodation data items must be completed with a valid code. Information is required on the activity and accommodation of all young people with whom the local authority is in touch. See the list supplied in the DfE children looked after collection guide for a list of valid codes, including a full definition of remaining in touch. It is optional if the in-touch data item has been coded as NO, REFU or NREQ.	If **<IN_TOUCH>** = 'Yes' then **<ACTIV>** and **<ACCOM>** must be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
351	Child was over 21 at the start of the current collection year.	Child must have been aged 21 or under at the start of the collection period, that is, 1 April of the current collection year. Check that the date of birth is correct. A few young people remain accommodated in community homes up to their 21st birthday, (Section 20(5) of the Children Act (1989)) but it is not expected that they would be accommodated beyond then.	**<DOB>** must be <= 21 years prior to **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>**
352	Child who started to be looked after was aged 18 or over.	Children starting to be looked after must not be aged over 18. Check date of birth and date episode started.	**<DOB>** must be <= 18 years of **<DECOM>** of episode where **<RNE>** = 'S'
353	No episode submitted can start before 14 October 1991.	The date episode started must be on or after 14 October 1991.	**<DECOM>** must be greater than 13/10/1991

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Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
354	The episode starts after the end of the current collection year.	All episodes on this record must begin on or before 31 March of the collection year to which this record refers – 1 April to 31 March of the current collection year. Check the date episode commenced. If it is correct, should this episode be reported on next year's record instead?	**<DECOM>** must be <= **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>**
355	Episode appears to have lasted for less than 24 hours.	Episodes cannot start and cease on the same day. An episode which started and ended on the same day should not be shown on the data collection record.	**<DECOM>** and **<DEC>** cannot be the same date
356	The date the episode ceased is before the date the same episode started.	The date episode ceased of the current episode should either be blank or fall after the date episode commenced. Check both dates.	**<DEC>** cannot be prior to **<DECOM>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
358	Child with this legal status should not be under 10.	Where the legal status is J1, J2, or J3, date at start of legal status must be child's 10th birthday or over. Check that the date of birth and legal status are recorded correctly.	Where **<LS>** = 'J1' or 'J2' or 'J3' then **<DOB>** should <= to 10 years prior to **<DECOM>**
359	Child being looked after following 18th birthday must be accommodated under section 20(5) of the Children Act 1989 in a community home.	Where a child is recorded in care beyond their 18th birthday the legal status must be V2 and the placement must be K2. Check that the date of birth, legal status and placement data items are correct. If the young person is not accommodated under section 20(5) of the Children Act 1989 in a community home, they are not looked after and the episode should have ended on or before their 18th birthday.	Where **<DOB>** greater than 18 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** and current episode **<DEC>** not provided then **<LS>** must be 'V2' and **<PL>** must be 'K2'

| 361 | Police protection legal status lasted longer than maximum 72 hours allowed in the Children Act 1989. | Where the legal status is L1 - the legal status should not last longer than 3 days.

Legal status may extend across more than one consecutive episode.

Duration in days is calculated by taking the start date from the end date. If police protection starts on 1 June and ends on 4 June check will pass; if police protection starts on 1 June and ends on 5 June check will fail.

Section 46(6) of the Children Act 1989 lays down that police protection cannot exceed 72 hours. In practice 72 hours would normally fall across four calendar days, and when recorded on the data collection would last for four calendar days. By taking the start date from the end date a duration of 3 days would be calculated.

If after checking the record is correct as submitted contact DfE. | Duration in days of single or consecutive episodes where **<LS>** = 'L1' must not be greater than 3

Duration in days is calculated by taking the **<DECOM>** from the **<DEC>** of each episode and totalling them |
| 362 | Emergency protection order (EPO) lasted longer than 21 days. | Where the legal status is L2, this error is flagged if the legal status lasts longer than 21 days. | Duration in days of single or consecutive episodes where **<LS>** = 'L2' must not be greater than 21. |

| | | Legal status may extend across more than one consecutive episode.

Duration in days should be calculated by taking the start date away from the end date. If an emergency protection order starts on 1 June and ends on 22 June check will pass; if an emergency protection order starts on 1 June and ends on 23 June check will fail.

Section 45 of the Children Act 1989 lays down that an emergency protection order may be renewed once and cannot exceed 15 days in total, but allows additional days to be added to this total to take account of intervening Sundays or public holidays when the order is due for renewal.

This check has therefore been specified to allow a sufficient margin for such circumstances.

If after checking the record is correct as submitted contact DfE. | Duration in days is calculated by taking the **<DECOM>** from the **<DEC>** of each episode and totalling them |

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
363	Child assessment order (CAO) lasted longer than 7 days allowed in the Children Act 1989.	Where the legal status is L2 the legal status should not last longer than 7 days. Legal status may extend across more than one consecutive episode. Duration in days is calculated by taking the start date away from the end date. If the child assessment order starts on 1 June and ends on 8 June check will pass; if the child assessment order starts on 1 June and ends on 9 June check will fail. Section 43(1) of the Children Act 1989 lays down that a child assessment order cannot exceed 7 days and cannot be renewed. If after checking the record is correct as submitted contact DfE.	Duration in days of single or consecutive episodes where **<LS>** = 'L2' must not be greater than 7 Duration in days is calculated by taking the **<DECOM>** from the **<DEC>** of each episode and totalling them

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
364	**Sections 41-46 of Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE; 1984)** severely limits the time a child can be detained in custody in Local Authority (LA) accommodation.	Where the legal status is J2 the check will fail if legal status lasts longer than 21 days. Duration in days should be calculated by taking the start date away from the end date. If detention starts on 1 June and ends on 22 June check will pass; if detention starts on 1 June and ends on 23 June check will fail. The police have a duty to produce the accused before a court as soon as is reasonably practicable, which normally means the same day or next day. This check has been specified to allow a margin for any delays in arranging interviews. If after checking the record is correct contact DfE.	Duration in days of single or consecutive episodes where **<LS>** = 'J2' must not be greater than 21 Duration in days is calculated by taking the **<DECOM>** from the **<DEC>** of each episode and totalling them

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
365	Any individual short-term respite placement must not exceed 17 days.	Where the legal status is V3 or V4 (meaning individual short-term breaks under a respite agreement are being recorded), each episode of care cannot exceed 17 days. Duration in days should be calculated by taking the start date away from the end date. If short term respite placement starts on 1 June and ends on 18 June check will pass; if detention starts on 1 June and ends on 19 June check will fail. The maximum length of any one respite break is defined under the Children Act 1989.	Where **<LS>** = 'V3' then **<DEC>** must be <= 17 days of **<DECOM>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
366	A child cannot change placement during the course of an individual short-term respite break.	Where the legal status is V3 (meaning individual short-term breaks under a respite agreement are being recorded), the reason for new episode must be S. Check status of child to ensure that it is a genuine respite case. If the child has changed placement, the legal status is probably V2.	Where **<LS>** = 'V3' then **<RNE>** must be 'S'

| 367 | The maximum amount of respite care allowable is 75 days in any 12-month period. | The total duration of episodes with a legal status code V3 (individual short-term breaks under a respite agreement) cannot exceed 75 days in any 12-month period.

Duration in days should be calculated by taking the start date away from the end date.

The maximum length of any one respite break is defined under the Children Act 1989.

The possible time span of short breaks was amended following the publication of a revised legal framework for looked after children. This came into force on 1 April 2011. Previously the limits were 28 days of continuous care and 120 days in a 12-month period.

Check status of child to ensure that it is a genuine respite case. If the total amount of care provided on a voluntary basis exceeds 75 days in any 12-month period, the legal status of the child is probably V2. | Total days of episodes in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION YEAR>** where **<LS>** = 'V3' must not be greater than 75 |

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
370	Child in independent living should be at least 15.	Where the placement code is P2 the date at the start of the placement should be the child's 15th birthday or over. Check that the date of birth and the placement code are correct. If so contact DfE.	Where **<PL>** = 'P2' then **<DOB>** should be >= 15 years prior to **<DECOM>**
371	Child in semi-independent living accommodation not subject to children's homes regulations should be at least 14.	Where the placement code is H5 the date at the start of the placement should be the child's 14th birthday or over. Check that the date of birth and the placement code are correct. If so contact DfE.	Where **<PL>** = 'H5' then **<DOB>** should be >= 14 years prior to **<DECOM>**
372	Child in youth custody or prison should be at least 10.	Where the placement code is R5, the date at the start of the placement should be the child's 10th birthday or over. Check that the date of birth and the placement code are correct.	Where **<PL>** = 'R5' then **<DOB>** should be >= 10 years prior to **<DECOM>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
373	Child placed in a school should be at least 4 years old.	Where the placement code is S1 the date at the start of the placement should be the child's 4th birthday or over. Check that the date of birth and the placement code are correct.	Where **<PL>** = 'S1' then **<DOB>** should be >= 4 years prior to **<DECOM>**
374	Child in residential employment should be at least 14 years old.	Where the placement code is P3 the date at the start of the placement should be the child's 14th birthday or over. Check that the date of birth and the placement code are correct.	Where **<PL>** = 'P3' then **<DOB>** should be >= 14 years prior to **<DECOM>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
375	Hospitalisation coded as a temporary placement exceeds six weeks.	Placement T1 is only allowed for periods in hospital for the treatment of injury or acute illness and is therefore highly unlikely to exceed 42 days' duration. Duration in days should be calculated by taking the start date away from the end date. Check the reason the child has gone into hospital. If it is for the treatment of a chronic condition, the appropriate placement code is R2. If after checking the record is correct as submitted contact DfE.	Where **<PL>** = 'T1' then **<DEC>** should be <= 42 days of **<DECOM>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
376	Temporary placements coded as being due to holiday of usual foster carer(s) cannot exceed three weeks.	Where the placement code is T3 the validation check will fail if the period of placement lasts longer than 21 days. Duration in days should be calculated by taking the start date away from the end date. If a temporary placement starts on 1 June and ends on 22 June check will pass; if a temporary placement starts on 1 June and ends on 23 June check will fail. To qualify as a temporary placement, the holiday of the usual foster carer(s) cannot exceed three weeks.	Where **<PL>** = 'T3' then **<DEC>** should be <= 21 days of **<DECOM>**
377	Only two temporary placements coded as being due to holiday of usual foster carer(s) are allowed in any 12-month period.	Check will fail if there are more than two episodes with a placement code of T3 in any 12-month period. To qualify as a temporary placement only two holidays of the usual foster carer(s) are allowable in any 12 month period.	Count of episodes with **<PL>** = 'T3' must not be more than 2 within a 12-month period

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
378	A child who is placed with parent(s) cannot be looked after under a single period of accommodation under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.	If a child is placed with parent(s) (placement code of P1) they cannot be looked after under a single period of accommodation under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (legal status code of V2).	If **<PL>** = 'P1' then **<LS>** must not be 'V2'
379	Temporary placements for unspecified reason (placement code T4) cannot exceed seven days.	Where the placement code is T4 the check will fail if the period of placement lasts longer than 7 days. Duration in days should be calculated by taking the start date away from the end date. Temporary placement starts on 1 June and ends on 8 June check will pass; if temporary placement starts on 1 June and ends on 9 June check will fail.	Where **<PL>** = 'T4' then **<DEC>** should be <= 7 days of **<DECOM>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
380	A period of care cannot start with a temporary placement.	Where the placement code is in the range T0 to T4 the reason for new episode code must be P or B. A temporary placement, by definition, is one where there is clear expectation from the outset that a child will return to his/her normal placement and that this expectation is duly fulfilled.	Where **<PL>** = 'T0' or 'T1' or 'T2' or 'T3' or 'T4' then **<RNE>** must be 'P' or 'B'
381	A period of care cannot end with a temporary placement.	Where the placement code is in the range T0 to T4 the reason episode ceased must be X1. A temporary placement is, by definition, one where there is clear expectation from the outset that a child will return to his/her normal placement, and that this expectation is duly fulfilled.	Where **<PL>** = 'T0' or 'T1' or 'T2' or 'T3' or 'T4' then **<REC>** must be 'X1'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
382	A child receiving respite care cannot be in a temporary placement.	Where the legal status is either V3 or V4 the placement cannot be in the range T0 to T4. Temporary placement codes T0 to T4 only apply to children who are continuously looked after. A temporary placement, by definition, is one where there is clear expectation from the outset that a child will return to his/her normal placement, and that this expectation is duly fulfilled.	Where **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4' then **<PL>** must not be 'T0' or 'T1' or 'T2' or 'T3' or 'T4'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
383	A child in a temporary placement must subsequently return to his/her normal placement.	Where the placement code is in the range T0 to T4 the reason for new episode code of the next episode must be P, and the placement code of the next episode must be the same as the placement code of the previous one. A temporary placement, by definition, is one where there is clear expectation from the outset that a child will return to his/her normal placement, and that this expectation is duly fulfilled.	If previous episode **<PL>** = 'T0' or 'T1' or 'T2' or 'T3' or 'T4' then current episode **<RNE>** must = 'P' and **<PL>** must = previous episode -1 **<PL>**
384	A child receiving respite care cannot be in a long-term foster placement	Where the legal status is either V3 or V4 the placement cannot be U1 or U4. Long-term foster placement codes U1 and U4 only apply to children who are continuously looked after.	Where **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4' then **<PL>** must not be 'U1' or 'U4' NOTE: Please apply from episodes at 1 April 2014 when the U1 and U4 placement codes were introduced.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
385	Date episode ceased must be on or before the end of the current collection year.	The date the current episode ceased must be on or before 31 March of the current collection year. Check the date episode ceased has been correctly recorded.	**<DEC>** must be >= **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>**
386	Reason episode ceased is adopted but child has reached age 18.	If reason episode ceased is coded E11 or E12 the date current episode ceased must be before 18th birthday.	If **<REC>** = 'E11' or 'E12' then **<DOB>** must be < 18 years prior to **<DEC>**
387	Reason episode ceased is child moved into independent living arrangement but the child is aged under 14.	If the reason episode ceased is coded E5 or E6 the age at date episode ceased should be 14th birthday or over. Check reason episode ceased code and date of birth.	If **<REC>** = 'E5' or 'E6' then **<DOB>** must be >=14 years prior to **<DEC>**
389	Reason episode ceased is that child transferred to care of adult social care services, but child is aged under 16.	If the reason episode ceased is coded E7 the date episode ceased should be child's 16th birthday or over. Check reason episode ceased and date of birth.	If **<REC>** = 'E7' then **<DOB>** must be >= 16 years prior to **<DEC>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
389	Reason episode ceased is that child transferred to care of adult social care services, but child is aged under 16.	If the reason episode ceased is coded E7 the date episode ceased should be child's 16th birthday or over. Check reason episode ceased and date of birth.	If **<REC>** = 'E7' then **<DOB>** must be >= 16 years prior to **<DEC>**
390	Reason episode ceased is adopted but child has not been previously placed for adoption.	If reason episode ceased is coded E11 or E12 the placement code of the current episode must be A3, A4, A5 or A6. Check placement details of the adoption order. Section13(b) of the Adoption Act 1976 provides that an adoption order must be preceded by a period of at least 13 weeks during which the child is placed for adoption with the prospective adoptive parent(s).	If **<REC>** = 'E11' or 'E12' then **<PL>** must be one of 'A3', 'A4', 'A5' or 'A6'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
391	Young person was not 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 during the current collection year.	Data on a young person's whereabouts is only required for those young persons who reach their 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday during the current collection year (so their date of birth should fall in the range 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2002). Check date of birth. If correct delete all data items relating to the young person's accommodation and activity after leaving care.	If **<DOB>** < 17 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** then **<IN_TOUCH>**, **<ACTIV>** and **<ACCOM>** should not be provided
392a	Child is looked after but no distance is recorded.	Distance should be completed if child is looked after unless the legal status is V3 or V4 or the child is UASC, or formerly UASC.	If **<LS>** not = 'V3' or 'V4' and **<UASC>** = '0' then **<PL_DISTANCE>** must be provided
392b	Child is looked after but no postcodes are recorded.	Postcodes should be completed if child is looked after unless the legal status is V3 or V4 or the child is UASC, or was formerly UASC	If **<LS>** not = 'V3' or 'V4' and **<UASC>** = '0' and **<COLLECTION YEAR>** - 1 **<UASC>** = '0' and **<COLLECTION YEAR>** - 2 **<UASC>** = '0' then **<HOME_POST>** and <P_POST> should be provided
392c	Postcode(s) provided are invalid	Postcode(s) if completed should be valid.	If provided **<HOME_POST>** and **<PL_POST>** must be a valid value

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
393	Child is looked after but mother field is not completed.	If a female child is looked after under any legal status other than V3 or V4, this field should be completed.	If any episode in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR> <LS>** not = 'V3' or 'V4' and **<SEX>** = '2' then **<MOTHER>** must be provided
398	Distance field completed but child looked after under legal status V3 or V4.	Children who were looked after under legal status V3 or V4 should not have a distance returned.	If **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4' then **<HOME_POST>** and **<PL_POST>** should not be provided
399	Mother field, review field or participation field are completed but child is looked after under legal status V3 or V4.	Children looked after under legal status V3 or V4 are excluded from this data requirement.	If **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4' then **<MOTHER>**, **<REVIEW>** and **<REVIEW_CODE>** should not be provided
3001	Where care leavers information is being returned for a young person around their 17th birthday, the accommodation cannot be with their former foster carer(s).	A young person aged 17 who has left care cannot be living with their former foster(s) carers therefore Z is not a valid code for a care leaver around their 17th birthday.	If **<DOB>** +17 years >= **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** and <= **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** then if provided **<ACCOM>** must not = 'Z1' or 'Z2'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
406	Child is unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC) or was formerly UASC. Distance should be blank.	If child is UASC or was formerly a UASC within the current period of care, only the local authority of placement and placement location should be recorded, not the distance.	If **<UASC>** = '1' or **<COLLECTION YEAR>** - 1 **<UASC>** = '1' or **<COLLECTION YEAR>** - 2 **<UASC>** = '1' Then **<PL_DISTANCE>** should not be provided Note: **<PL_DISTANCE>** is a derived field in most instances
407	Reason episode ceased is Special Guardianship Order, but child has reached age 18.	If 'reason episode ceased' is coded E45 or E46 or E47 or E48 the date current episode ceased must be before 18th birthday.	If **<REC>** = 'E45' or 'E46' or 'E47' or 'E48' then **<DOB>** must be < 18 years prior to **<DEC>**
408	Child is placed for adoption with a placement order, but no placement order has been recorded.	Where a placement code is coded A5 or A6 the legal status code of the current episode must be E1. Check if the placement order has been granted.	Where **<PL>** = 'A5' or 'A6' then **<LS>** must be 'E1'

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Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
411	Placement location code disagrees with the local authority (LA) of placement.	If the child has a placement location code of IN then the local authority of placement code must be the same as your local authority code. Otherwise if the location code is OUT then the local authority of placement code must be different from your local authority code.	**<PL_LOCATION>** = 'IN' then **<PL_LA>** must = Return LA Note: **<PL_LA>** is a derived field in most instances as is the return LA
420	Local authority of placement completed but child is looked after under legal status V3 or V4.	Children looked after under legal status V3 or V4 are excluded from this data requirement.	If **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4' then **<PL_LA>** should not be provided Note: **<PL_LA>** is a derived field in most instances

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
426	A child receiving respite care cannot be recorded under a legal status of V3 and V4 in the same year.	A child who is subject of an agreement for the provision of short-term placements cannot be coded under a legal status code of V3 and V4 in the same year. A change of codes from V3 to V4 or vice versa between years is permitted. In practice if a local authority wanted to change between using V4 in the previous collection year to V3 in the current collection year, for the return any respite agreement open on 31 March in the previous collection year would have to be closed and a new episode started on 1 April of the current collection year (or whenever the child's next period of being looked after begins) under legal status V3.	If any episode in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** has an **<LS>** = 'V3' then no episode in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** can have an **<LS>** of 'V4'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
431	The reason for new episode is started to be looked after, but the previous episode ended on the same day.	If reason for new episode is coded S the episode cannot start on the same day as the previous episode ended. Check that the last episode ended, and the current episode started on the same day. If so, use reason new episode code P, L, T, U or B as appropriate.	If **<RNE>** = 'S' then **<DECOM>** must be greater than **<DEC>** of previous episode

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
432 (amended)	The child ceased to be looked after at the end of the previous episode but the reason for the new episode is not started to be looked after.	If the reason the previous episode ceased is coded in the range E2 to E9, E11 to E17, E41, E45, E46, E47, E48, E4A or E4B the reason for new episode code of the current episode must be S. Use of any of the reason episode ceased codes in the range E2 to E9, E11 to E17, E41, E45, E46, E47, E48, E4A or E4B the end of the previous episode means that the child ceased to be looked after on that date. Check whether there were one or more intervening episodes before the current one, which have not been recorded.	If previous episode **<REC>** = 'E2' or 'E3' or 'E4A' or 'E4B' or 'E5' or 'E6' or 'E7' or 'E8' or 'E9' or 'E11' or 'E12' or 'E13' or 'E14' or 'E15' or 'E16' or 'E17' or 'E41' or 'E45' or 'E46' or 'E47' or 'E48' then current episode **<RNE>** must be 'S'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
433	The reason for new episode suggests that this is a continuation episode, but the episode does not start on the same day as the last episode finished.	If the reason for the new episode code of the current episode is P, L, T, U or B, the current episode must start on the same day as the previous episode finished.

Check the date the last episode finished and the date the present episode started. | If **<RNE>** = 'P' or 'L' or 'T' or 'U' or 'B' then **<DECOM>** must = **<DEC>** of previous episode |
| 434 | Reason for new episode is that child's legal status has changed but not the placement, but this is not reflected in the episode data. | Where the reason for new episode is coded L, the legal status of the current episode must be different from the previous one and placement postcode, placement URN, placement type and placement provider must be the same.

Check the legal status and placement codes in current and previous episodes. If correct as recorded the reason for new episode should be amended. | Where **<RNE>** = 'L' then **<LS>** must not = previous episode **<LS>** and **<PL>**, **<PL_POSTCODE>**, **<URN>** and **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must = previous episode **<PL>**, **<PL_POSTCODE>**, **<URN>** and **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** |

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
435	Reason for new episode is that child's placement has changed but not the legal status, but this is not reflected in the episode data recorded.	Where the reason for new episode is coded P or T the legal status of the current episode must be the same as the previous one and the placement must have changed (in most cases at least one of placement postcode, placement URN, placement type or placement provider will have changed). Check the legal status and placement codes in current and previous episodes. If correct as recorded the reason for new episode code should be amended. This applies from the 2016 to 2017 data collection onwards.	Where **<RNE>** = 'P' or 'T' then **<LS>** must = **<LS>** of previous episode and at least one of **<PL>**, **<PL_POSTCODE>**, **<URN>** or **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must be different

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
436	Reason for new episode is that both child's placement and legal status have changed, but this is not reflected in the episode data.	Where the reason for new episode is coded B or U the legal status of the current episode must be different from the previous episode, and at least one of placement postcode, placement URN, placement type, or placement provider must also be different. Check the legal status and placement codes in current and previous episodes.	Where **<RNE>** = 'B' or 'U' then **<LS>** must not = previous episode **<LS>** and at least one of **<PL>**, **<PL_POSTCODE>**, **<URN>** or **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must be different
437	Reason episode ceased is child has died or is aged 18 or over but there are further episodes.	If reason episode ceased is coded E2 or E15 there must not be any later episode.	If **<REC>** = 'E2' or 'E15' then no other episode **<DECOM>** should be later than current episode **<DEC>**
440	Date of birth and review date are inconsistent with participation method.	Participation method indicates child was under 4 years old at the time of the review but date of birth and review date indicates the child was 4 years old or over.	If **<REVIEW_CODE>** = 'PN0' then **<DOB>** should be < 4 years prior to **<REVIEW>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
441	Date of birth and review date are inconsistent with participation method.	Participation method indicates child was 4 years old or over at the time of the review but the date of birth and review date indicates the child was under 4 years old.	If **<REVIEW_CODE>** = 'PN1', 'PN2', 'PN3', 'PN4', 'PN5', 'PN6' or 'PN7' then **<DOB>** should be 4 years or more prior to **<REVIEW>**
442	Unique Pupil Number (UPN) field is not completed.	An UPN or UPN unknown code is required for all children looked after other than those looked after under an agreed series of short-term breaks (legal status of V3 or V4).	Where any episode present, with an **<LS>** not = 'V3' or 'V4' then **<UPN>** must be provided
445	Legal status D1 cannot be started after December 2005.	A legal status of D1 cannot begin after December 2005. If a freeing order procedure was started before December 2005 and granted after that date due to court back log please consult DfE.	Where **<LS>** = 'D1' then **<DECOM>** must be prior to 31/12/2005
446	Legal status E1 cannot be started before December 2005.	E1 is not a valid code for episodes starting before December 2005.	Where **<LS>** = 'E1' then **<DECOM>** must be after 30/11/2005

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
451	Child is still freed for adoption, but freeing orders could not be applied for since 30 December 2005.	No new applications for freeing orders could be made since 30 December 2005 when placement orders came into force. Check with the adoption team manager to confirm that the legal status of the child remains freed for adoption and check whether the child is or is not living with the prospective adopter(s) who are to adopt them (refer the adoption team manager to section 8.25 of the Adoption Statutory Guidance 2013 for further information): If you are sure that the child is still subject to a freeing order, contact DfE.	Where **<DEC>** and **<REC>** are not provided **<LS>** should not = 'D1'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
452	Contradiction between local authority of placement code in the last episode of the previous year and in the first episode of the current year.	Where a placement has not changed as at 31 March in the previous year, the local authority of placement code should match the first episode of the current year. Check placement code, placement location code and local authority placement are correct.	Where **<RNE>** of first episode in current year = **<RNE>** of last episode of previous year and **<DEC>** of previous year episode is Null then **<PL_LA>** of both episodes should be the same
453	Contradiction between placement distance in the last episode of the previous year and in the first episode of the current year.	Where a placement has not changed as at 31 March in the previous year, the placement distance should match the first episode of the current year. Check placement code, placement location and local authority of placement are correct.	Where **<RNE>** of first episode in current year = **<RNE>** of last episode of previous year and **<DEC>** is Null then **<PL_DISTANCE>** of both episodes should be the same (A small tolerance (0.2 miles) should be allowed for in case the distance has changed slightly due to recalculation from an updated postcode file)
460	Reason episode ceased is that child stayed with current carers at age 18 (or above), but child is aged under 18.	If the reason episode ceased is coded E17 the date episode ceased should be child's 18th birthday or over. Check reason episode ceased and date of birth	If **<REC>** = 'E17' then **<DOB>** must be >= 18 years prior to **<DEC>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
501	A new episode has started before the end date of the previous episode.	The date the previous episode ceased must be the same (for a continuation episode) or before the date the current episode commenced. Check the date the last episode ended and the date the present episode started.	**<DECOM>** of current episode must be >= **<DEC>** of previous episode
503A	The reason for new episode in the first episode does not match open episode at end of last year.	Reason for new episode in the first episode must be consistent with equivalent details in the last episode of a previous year's record which was open at the end of the year. Check details for reason for new episode are correct. If they are correct, are the details in last year's final episode correct? Were there one or more intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system.	Where previous collection year's final episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<RNE>** must be the same as the previous episode

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
503B	The legal status in the first episode does not match open episode at end of last year.	Legal status in the first episode must be consistent with equivalent details in the last episode of a previous year's record which was open at the end of the year. Check details for legal status are correct. If they are correct, are the details in last year's final episode correct? Were there one or more intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system.	Where previous collection year's final episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<LS>** must be the same as the previous episode

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
503C	The category of need in the first episode does not match open episode at end of last year.	Category of need in the first episode must be consistent with equivalent details in the last episode of a previous year's record which was open at the end of the year. Check details for category of need are correct. If they are correct, are the details in last year's final episode correct? Were there one or more intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system.	Where previous collection year's final episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<CIN>** must be the same as the previous episode

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
503D	The placement type in the first episode does not match open episode at end of last year.	Placement type in the first episode must be consistent with equivalent details in the last episode of a previous year's record which was open at the end of the year. Check details for placement type are correct. If they are correct, are the details in last year's final episode correct? Were there one or more intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system.	Where previous collection year's final episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<PL>** must be the same as the previous episode

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
503E	The placement provider in the first episode does not match open episode at end of last year.	Placement provider in the first episode must be consistent with equivalent details in the last episode of a previous year's record which was open at the end of the year. Check details placement provider are correct. If they are correct, are the details in last year's final episode correct? Were there one or more intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system.	Where previous collection year's final episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must be the same as the previous episode

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
503F	The Ofsted URN in the first episode does not match open episode at end of last year.	Ofsted URN in the first episode must be consistent with equivalent details in the last episode of a previous year's record which was open at the end of the year.

Check details for Ofsted URN are correct. If they are correct, are the details in last year's final episode correct? Were there one or more intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system. | Where previous collection year's final episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<OFSTED_URN>** must be the same as the previous episode |
| 503G | The distance in first episode does not match open episode at end of last year. | Distance in the first episode must be consistent with equivalent details in the last episode of a previous year's record which was open at the end of the year.

Check details for distance are correct. If they are correct, are the details in last year's final episode correct? Were there one or more intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system. | Where previous collection year's final episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<PL_DISTANCE>** must be the same as the previous episode

(A small tolerance (0.2 miles) should be allowed for in case the distance has changed slightly due to recalculation from an updated postcode file) |

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
503H	The placement LA in first episode does not match open episode at end of last year.	Placement LA in the first episode must be consistent with equivalent details in the last episode of a previous year's record which was open at the end of the year. Check details for placement LA are correct. If they are correct, are the details in last year's final episode correct? Were there one or more intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system.	Where previous collection year's final episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<PL_LA>** must be the same as the previous episode

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
503J	The placement location in first episode does not match open episode at end of last year.	Placement location in the first episode must be consistent with equivalent details in the last episode of a previous year's record which was open at the end of the year. Check details for placement location are correct. If they are correct, are the details in last year's final episode correct? Were there one or more intervening episodes which have been left out? It may be necessary to enter additional episode details into the system.	Where previous collection year's final episode **<DEC>** not provided then first episode of this year's collection **<PL_LOCATION>** must be the same as the previous episode

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
504	The category of need code differs from that reported at start of current period of being looked after.	Where the current episode directly follows a previous episode the category of need code must be the same in both episodes. The category of need code recorded is that at the start of the current period of being looked after. So long as the child continues to be looked after without a break in care the same category of need code must be recorded on the data collection return.	Where previous episode **<REC>** = 'X1' then **<CIN>** must = previous episode **<CIN>**

| 505 | The child has been adopted but has not been previously placed for adoption for at least 10 weeks. | If a child is not being adopted by its former foster carer(s) (that is, where the foster care item is 0) then the period of being placed for adoption including any period of care resulting from change of placement with a reason for new episode 'T' must exceed 88 days. In other cases, the period of being placed for adoption should be at least one day.

Check placement details and date of adoption order.

When a child is adopted by his/her former foster carer(s) the time spent living with the foster carer(s) can count towards the 10-week period stipulated under section 42(2) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. The limit is set at 88 days to allow some latitude in the calculation of 10 weeks.

Duration in days is calculated by taking the start date of the placement away from the date episode ceased. | If **<ADOPTED>** = 'Y' and **<FOSTER_CARE>** = '0' then count of continuous days of episodes where **<PLACED_FOR_ADOPTION>** = 'Y' and **<RNE>** of episodes following the placed for adoption episode = 'T' must be > 88 |
| 510 | Data entry for the numbers of adopters shows he/she is a | If reporting that the number of person(s) adopting the looked after | If **<NB_ADOPTR>** = '1' then **<SEX_ADOPTR>** should be 'M1' or 'F1' |

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
	single adopter. This contradicts against the genders of adopters.	child is one adopter, then the code should only be M1 or F1. M1 = the single adopter is male F1 = the single adopter is female	
511	Data entry for the numbers of adopters shows they are a couple. This contradicts against the genders of adopters.	If reporting that the number of person(s) adopting the looked after child is two adopters then the code should only be MM, FF or MF. MM = the adopting couple are both males FF = the adopting couple are both females MF = The adopting couple are male and female.	If **<NB_ADOPTR>** = '2' then **<SEX_ADOPTR>** should be 'MM', 'FF' or 'MF'
514	Data entry on the legal status of adopters shows a single adopter but data entry for the numbers of adopters shows it as a couple.	If reporting legal status of adopters is L0 then the genders of adopters should be coded as M1 or F1. M1 = the single adopter is male F1 = the single adopter is female	If **<LS_ADOPTR>** = 'L0' then **<SEX_ADOPTR>** should be 'M1', or 'F1'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
516	The episode data submitted for this child does not show that he/she was with their former foster carer(s) during the year.	If the code in the reason episode ceased is E45 or E46 the child must have a placement code of U1 to U6.	If **<REC>** = 'E45', or 'E46' then **<PL>** must be one of 'U1', 'U2', 'U3', 'U4', 'U5' or 'U6'.
517	Data entry on the legal status of adopters' shows different gender unmarried couple but data entry on gender of adopters shows it as a same gender couple.	If reporting legal status of adopters is L3 then the genders of adopters should be coded as MF. MF = the adopting couple are male and female.	If **<LS_ADOPTR>** = 'L3' then **<SEX_ADOPTR>** should be 'MF'
518	Data entry on the legal status of adopters shows same gender couple not in civil partnership or marriage but data entry on genders of adopters shows it as a mixed gender couple.	If reporting legal status of adopters is L4 then the genders of adopters should be coded as MM or FF. MM = the adopting couple are both males FF = the adopting couple are both females	If **<LS_ADOPTR>** = 'L4' then **<SEX_ADOPTR>** should be 'MM', or 'FF'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
519	Data entered on the legal status of adopters shows civil partnership couple but data entered on genders of adopters does not show it as a couple.	If reporting legal status of adopters is L2 then the genders of adopters should be coded as MM, FF or MF. MM = the adopting couple are both males FF = the adopting couple are both females MF = the adopting couple are male and female.	If **<LS_ADOPTR>** = 'L2' then **<SEX_ADOPTR>** should be 'MM', or 'FF', or 'MF'.
520	Data entry on the legal status of adopters shows different gender married couple but data entry on genders of adopters shows it as a same gender couple.	If reporting legal status of adopters is L11 then the genders of adopters should be coded as MF. MF = the adopting couple are male and female.	If **<LS_ADOPTR>** = 'L11' then **<SEX_ADOPTR>** should be 'MF'
521	Date of local authority's decision (LA) that adoption is in the best interests of the child (date should be placed) must be on or prior to the date the child is placed for adoption.	A child cannot be placed for adoption before the LA decides it is in the child's best interest to be placed for adoption.	**<DATE_INT>** must be <= **<DECOM>** where **<PLACED_FOR_ADOPTION>** = 'Y'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
522	Date of decision that the child should be placed for adoption must be on or before the date that a child should no longer be placed for adoption.	It must be decided that the child should be placed for adoption before the decision that a child should no longer be placed for adoption can be made.	**<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** should be <= to **<DATE_PLACED>**
523	Date of decision that the child should be placed for adoption should be the same date as the decision that adoption is in the best interest (date should be placed).	A child adopted during the year cannot have a best interest date before the date it is formally decided that the child should be placed for adoption.	**<DATE_INT>** should be the same as **<DATE_PLACED>**
524	Data entry on the legal status of adopters shows married same gender couple but data entry on genders of adopters shows it as a mixed gender couple.	If reporting legal status of adopters is L12 then the genders of adopters should be coded as MM or FF. MM = the adopting couple are both males FF = the adopting couple are both females	If **<LS_ADOPTR>** = 'L12' then **<SEX_ADOPTR>** should be 'MM', or 'FF'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
525	A child for whom the decision to be placed for adoption has been reversed cannot be adopted during the year.	If the child should no longer be placed for adoption, then the child cannot be adopted during the year. If the child has ceased care due to the granting of an adoption order then the decision should have been taken to place them for adoption and information on the reversal of the decision to place the child cannot be completed. If the child should no longer be placed for adoption check to make sure that data items relating to adoption have not been completed.	If **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** not Null then **<DATE_INT>**; **<DATE_MATCH>**; **<FOSTER_CARE>**; **<NB_ADOPTR>**; **<SEX_ADOPTR>**; and **<LS_ADOPTR>** should not be provided
526	Child is missing a placement provider code for at least one episode.	For each episode of care other than placements T0 to T4 and Z1 a placement provider is required.	If **<PL>** not 'T0' or 'T1' or 'T2' or 'T3' or 'T4' or 'Z1' then **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must be provided
527	A placement provider code of PR1 cannot be associated with placements P1, R2 or R5.	Placement provider code of PR1 cannot be associated with placements P1, R2 and R5 as these placements cannot be provided by the local authority.	If **<PL>** = 'P1' or 'R2' or 'R5' then **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must not be 'PR1'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
528	A placement provider code of PR2 cannot be associated with placements P1, R2 or R5.	Placement provider code of PR2 cannot be associated with placements, P1, R2 and R5 as these placements cannot be provided by another local authority.	If **<PL>** = 'P1' or 'R2' or 'R5' then **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must not be 'PR2'
529	A placement provider code of PR3 cannot be associated with placements P1, A3 to A6, K1, K2 and U1 to U6.	Placement provider code of PR3 cannot be associated with placements P1, A3 to A6, K1, K2 and U1 to U6 as these placements cannot be provided by other public organisations.	If **<PL>** = 'A3' or 'A4' or 'A5' or 'A6' or 'K1' or 'K2' or 'P1' or 'U1' or 'U2' or 'U3' or 'U4' or 'U5' or 'U6' then **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must not be 'PR3'
530	A placement provider code of PR4 cannot be associated with placement P1.	Placement provider code of PR4 cannot be associated with placement P1 as these placements cannot be provided by private organisations.	If **<PL>** = 'P1' then **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must not be 'PR4'
531	A placement provider code of PR5 cannot be associated with placements P1.	Placement provider code of PR5 cannot be associated with placements P1 as these placements cannot be provided by voluntary/third sector organisations.	If **<PL>** = 'P1' then **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** must not be 'PR5'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
542	A child aged under 10 at 31 March should not have conviction information completed.	Conviction information is only required for children aged 10 or over at 31 March of the current collection year who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.	If **<DOB>** < 10 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** then **<CONVICTED>** should not be provided
543	Child is aged 10 or over at 31 March and has been looked after continuously for 12 months yet conviction information has not been completed.	Conviction information is required for children aged 10 or over at 31 March of the current collection year who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.	If **<DOB>** >= 10 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** and **<CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER>** = 'Y' then **<CONVICTED>** should be provided
544	A child with conviction information completed must also have data entries for immunisations, teeth checks, health assessments and substance misuse problem identified.	Any child who has conviction information completed must also have immunisation, teeth check, health assessment and substance misuse problem identified fields completed.	If **<CONVICTED>** provided then **<IMMUNISATIONS>**, **<TEETH_CHECK>**, **<HEALTH_ASSESSMENT>** and **<SUBSTANCE MISUSE>** must also be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
545	Child is aged under 5 at 31 March and has been looked after continuously for 12 months yet health promotion information has not been completed.	Health promotion information is only required for children aged under 5 at 31 March of the current collection year who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.	If **<DOB>** < 5 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** and **<CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER>** = 'Y' then **<HEALTH_CHECK>** should be provided
546	Children aged 5 or over at 31 March should not have health promotion information completed.	Health promotion information is only required for children aged under 5 at 31 March of the current collection year who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.	If **<DOB>** > = 5 years prior to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** and **<CONTINUOUSLY_LOOKED_AFTER>** = 'Y' then **<HEALTH_CHECK>** should not be provided
547	A child with health promotion information completed must also have data entries for immunisations, teeth checks, health assessments and substance misuse problem identified.	Any child who has health promotion information completed must also have immunisation, teeth check, health assessment and substance misuse problem identified fields completed.	If **<HEALTH_CHECK>** provided, then **<IMMUNISATIONS>**; **<TEETH_CHECK>**; **<HEALTH_ASSESSMENT>** and **<SUBSTANCE MISUSE>** must also be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
550	A placement provider code of PR0 can only be associated with placement P1.	Placement provider code of PR0 may only be associated with placement P1 as this placement has no formal provider.	If **<PLACE_PROVIDER>** = 'PR0' then **<PL>** must be 'P1'
551	Child has been placed for adoption but there is no date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption.	If a child has a placement code of A3 to A6 then the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption must be completed. If the child has been placed for adoption, then complete the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption. The date completed should be on or before the date the local authority formally decided that the child should be placed for adoption. This rule applies to all records from 1 April 2008.	If **<PL>** = 'A3' or 'A4' or 'A5' or 'A6' then **<DATE_PLACED>** must be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
552	Date of decision to place a child for adoption should be on or prior to the date that the child was placed for adoption.	A child cannot be placed for adoption until the local authority has made the formal decision that the child should be placed for adoption.	If **<PL>** = 'A3' or 'A4' or 'A5' or 'A6' then **<DATE_PLACED>** must be <= **<DECOM>**
553	Placement order has been granted but there is no date of decision that the child should be placed for adoption. If it is decided that the child should no longer be placed for adoption, the local authority is required to apply to the court to revoke the placement order and reactivate any care order granted.	If the child has a legal status code of E1 then the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption must be completed. If a placement order has been granted, then complete the date the local authority decided that the child should be placed for adoption. The date completed should be on or before the date that the local authority formally decided that the child should be placed for adoption.	If any episode in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** has **<LS>** = 'E1' then (COUNT of **< SHOULD_BE_PLACED >** records in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>**) > 0 and (if there is an open E1 episode in the **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** (i.e. **<DEC>** is blank) then there must be an open **<SHOULD_BE_PLACED>** record (i.e. **<DATE_PLACE_CEASED>** and **<REASON_PLACE_CEASED>** are blank)

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Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
554	Date of decision that the child should be placed for adoption should be on or prior to the date that the placement order was granted.	Date of decision that the child should be placed for adoption should be on or prior to the date that the placement order was granted.	Where **<LS>** = 'E1' **<DATE_PLACED>** should be <= **<DECOM>** of first episode in **<PERIOD_OF_CARE>** with **<LS>** = 'E1'
555	Freeing order has been granted but there is no date of decision that the child should be placed for adoption. If it is decided that the child should no longer be placed for adoption, the local authority is required to apply to the court to revoke the freeing order and reactivate any care order granted.	If the child has a legal status code of D1 then the date of the decision to place the child for adoption must be completed. If a freeing order has been granted, then complete the date the local authority formally decided that the child should be placed for adoption. The date completed should be on or before the date that the freeing order was granted. Note that freeing orders could not be applied for from 30 December 2005.	If any episode in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** has **<LS>** = 'D1' then (COUNT of **< SHOULD_BE_PLACED >** records in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>**) > 0 and (if there is an open D1 episode in the **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** (i.e. **<DEC>** is blank) then there must be an open **<SHOULD_BE_PLACED>** record (i.e. **<DATE_PLACE_CEASED>** and **<REASON_PLACE_CEASED>** are blank)

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
556	Date of decision that the child should be placed for adoption should be on or prior to the date that the freeing order was granted.	A local authority can only apply to a court for a freeing order when they have made the formal decision that the child should be placed for adoption. Note that freeing orders could not be applied for from 30 December 2005.	Where **<LS>** = 'D1' **<DATE_PLACED>** should be <= **<DECOM>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
557	Child for whom the decision was made that they should be placed for adoption has left care but was not adopted and information on the decision that they should no longer be placed for adoption items has not been completed.	If a child who was previously placed for adoption or was the subject of a placement order (or a freeing order) has ceased care without being adopted, then the date and reason why they should no longer be placed for adoption should be completed. Include the date the local authority formally decided that the child should no longer be placed for adoption. Date of the decision that the child should no longer be placed for adoption must be a valid date in the current collection year and cannot be after the child has left care.	Where **<PL>** = 'A3', 'A4', 'A5' or 'A6' Or **<LS>** = 'D1' or 'E1' and **<REC>** not = 'E11', 'E12' or Null then **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** and **<REASON_PLACED_CEASED>** must be provided
558	Child has been adopted during the year but the date of decision that they should no longer be placed for adoption has been completed.	If a child has been adopted, then the decision to place them for adoption has not been disrupted and the date of the decision that a child should no longer be placed for adoption should be left blank.	If latest episode **<REC>** = 'E11' or 'E12' then **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
559	Date of decision that a child should be placed for adoption was not in the current year but the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption was not completed in a previous return.	If the date of decision that a child should be placed for adoption falls in a previous year, then this information should be completed for the previous year as well. This rule does not apply if the date falls before 1 April 2008 as information on the decision to place a child for adoption was not collected before this time. When the rule applies the date that the child should be placed for adoption should be the same in both years.	If **<DATE_PLACED>** < **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** then **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 **<DATE_PLACED>** cannot be Null
560	Date of decision that the child should be placed for adoption this year is different from that recorded last year but the decision to place the child for adoption did not change.	If the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption in the current year is different to the date of the decision recorded in a previous year, then the decision to place the child for adoption must have changed, either in the current year or the previous year.	If **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 **<DATE_PLACED>** has been provided and **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** is Null then **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** **<DATE_PLACED>** should = **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 **<DATE_PLACED>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
		Check if the decision was made to place the child for adoption in both years. If the decision was made that the child should be placed for adoption in the previous year and the decision still stands in the current year without any disruptions, then the date and reason why the child should no longer be placed for adoption should be left blank in the previous year. Record the same date that the decision was made to place the child for adoption in both years. If the decision that the child should be placed for adoption changed during the previous year, then record the date and reason as to why the child should no longer be placed for adoption in the previous year; and if applicable, the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption in the current year.	

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
		If the decision that the child should be placed for adoption changed in the current year, then record the same date of this decision in both years. Also record the date and reason as to why the child should no longer be placed for adoption in the current year.	
561	Date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption this year is the same as that recorded last year but records show that the decision changed and the child should no longer be placed for adoption last year.	If the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption in the current year is the same as the date of the decision recorded in a previous year, then the decision to place the child for adoption must have remained the same.

Check if the decision was made to place the child for adoption in both years.

If the decision was made that the child should be placed for adoption in the previous year and the decision still stands in the current year without any disruptions, then the date and reason why the child | If **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** **<DATE_PLACED>** is = **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 **<DATE_PLACED>** then **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** and **<REASON_PLACED_CEASED>** should be Null |

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
		should no longer be placed for adoption should be left blank in the previous year. Record the same date that the decision was made to place the child for adoption in both years. If the decision that the child should be placed for adoption changed during the previous year, then record the date and reason as to why the child should no longer be placed for adoption in the previous year; and if applicable, the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption in the current year. If the decision that the child should be placed for adoption changed in the current year, then record the same date for the decision that the child should be placed for adoption in both years. Also record the date and reason as to why the child should no longer be placed for adoption in the current year.	

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
562	Episode commenced before the start of the current collection year but there is a missing continuous episode in the previous year.	If the episode started before 1 April of the current collection year, then there must be an episode in the previous year with the same start date. Add the missing episode to the previous year.	If **<DECOM>** < **<COLLECTION START DATE>** then **<DECOM>** must = **<DECOM>** of last episode in **<CURRENT COLLECTION YEAR>** - 1'
563	The child should no longer be placed for adoption but the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption is blank.	If the decision is made that the child should no longer be placed for adoption, then the date of the decision that the child should be placed for adoption should be completed as well.	If **<REASON_PLACED_CEASED>** and **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** are provided, then **<DATE_PLACED>** must also be provided.
564	Child was missing or away from placement without authorisation and the date started is blank.	If the child was missing or away from placement without authorisation (code M or A) then the date the period of being missing or away from placement without authorisation started must be completed.	If **<MISSING>** = 'M' or 'A' then **<MIS_START>** must also be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
565	The date that the child started to be missing or away from placement without authorisation has been completed but whether the child was missing or away from placement without authorisation has not been completed.	If the date that the child went missing or away from placement without authorisation has been completed, then the child must have been missing or away from placement without authorisation (code M or A).	If **<MIS_START>** is provided **<MISSING>** must also be provided
566	The date that the child's episode of being missing or away from placement without authorisation ended has been completed but whether the child was missing or away without authorisation has not been completed.	If the date that the child's episode of being missing or away from placement without authorisation ended has been completed, then the child must have been missing or away from placement without authorisation (code M or A).	If **<MIS_END>** is provided **<MISSING>** must also be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
567	The date that the missing episode or episode that the child was away from placement without authorisation ended is before the date that it started.	An episode where the child was missing or away from placement without authorisation must have an end date that is on or after the start date. The start and end date may be the same day if the child was missing for less than a day.	Where provided **<MIS_END>** must be >= **<MIS_START>**
570	The date that the child started to be missing or away from placement without authorisation is after the end of the collection year.	The date the child started to be missing or away from placement should be before the end of the collection year.	Where provided **<MIS_START>** must be <= **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>**
571	The date that the child ceased to be missing or away from placement without authorisation is before the start or after the end of the collection year.	The date that the child ceased to be missing or away from placement without authorisation must be during the collection year.	If provided **<MIS_END>** must NOT be <= **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** -1 **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** or > **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>**

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Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
574	A new missing/away from placement without authorisation period cannot start when the previous missing/away from placement without authorisation period is still open. Missing/away from placement without authorisation periods should also not overlap.	The previous missing/away from placement without authorisation period must have a valid end date before a new missing/away from placement without authorisation period can start. Whilst missing/away from placement without authorisation periods should not overlap, one missing/away from placement without authorisation period may end and another start on the same day. Check that the previous missing/away from placement without authorisation period has a valid end date. Check that missing/away from placement without authorisation periods do not overlap.	If provided **<MIS_START>** from current Missing occurrence must be >= previous Missing occurrence **<MIS_START>** and previous Missing occurrence **<MIS_END>** cannot be Null

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
575	If the placement from which the child goes missing/away from placement without authorisation ends, the missing/away from placement without authorisation period in the missing module must also have an end date.	Since going missing/away from placement without authorisation, the child has changed placements. Therefore, the missing/away from placement without authorisation period must have a valid end date.\n\nCheck that an end date has been entered for the missing/away from placement without authorisation period.	If **<MIS_START>** >= **<DECOM>** and less than or = **<DEC>** where episode **<DEC>** is not Null then **<MIS_END>** must be provided
576	There is an open missing/away from placement without authorisation period in last year's return and there is no corresponding period recorded at the start of this year.	The start date of the open missing/away from placement without authorisation period in last year's return must match the start date of the first missing/away from placement without authorisation period in this year's return.	If **<MIS_START>** >= **<DECOM>** and less than or = **<DEC>** where episode **<DEC>** is not Null, then **<MIS_END>** must be provided
577	Child ceased to be looked after but there is a missing/away from placement without authorisation period without an end date.	Please enter an end date for the missing/away from placement without authorisation period to match the date the child ceased to be looked after.	If **<REC>** not Null or 'X1' and **<MIS_START>** not Null, then **<MIS_END>** must be provided and must =**<DEC>**

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Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
578	The date that the child started to be missing is after the child ceased to be looked after.	The date that the child started to be missing or away from placement without authorisation should not be recorded for children who are not looked after. Check that the missing/ away from placement without authorisation start date is whilst the child is looked after.	If <MIS_START> >= DEC, then no missing/away from placement information should be recorded
580	Child is missing when cease being looked after but reason episode ceased not 'E8'.	If a child is missing when they cease to be looked after on their 18th birthday, then reason episode ceased should be 'E8' (Other).	If <MISSING> = 'M' and <MIS_END> = DEC and the DOB + 18 years, then <REC> must equal 'E8'.

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
579	A new decision that the child should be placed for adoption this year cannot start when the previous decision is still open. Decisions to place the child for adoption should also not overlap. The date of any new decision to place the child for adoption must not be before the date placed ceased of previous decisions.	The previous decision to place the child for adoption must have a valid date and reason why the child should no longer be placed for adoption before a new decision to place the child can be recorded. Whilst decisions to place a child for adoption should not overlap, one decision to place a child for adoption may end and another is made on the same day. Check that the previous decision to place the child for adoption has a valid end date. Check that decisions to place the child for adoption do not overlap.	Within a group, **<DATE_PLACED>** must not be < previous record **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** and previous record **<DATE_PLACED_CEASED>** and/or **<REASON_PLACED_CEASED>** cannot be Null
586	Dates of missing periods are before child's date of birth.	Date of birth should be after the missing period, not before.	If **<MIS_START>** not Null, then **<MIS_START>** must be > **<DOB>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
601	The additional fields relating to adoption have not been completed although the episode data shows that the child was adopted during the year.	Code E11 or E12 (showing that the child was adopted during the year) has been entered under reason episode ceased of the episode data submitted for this child but the fields relating to adoption have not been accordingly completed. Check these details and either complete the missing items or amend the episode data accordingly.	If 1 or more episodes **<DEC>** >= **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** and <= **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** and **<REC>** = 'E11' or 'E12' then **<DATE_INT>**; **<DATE_MATCH>**; **<FOSTER_CARE>**; **<NB_ADOPTR>**; **<SEX_ADOPTR>** and **<LS_ADOPTR>** must be provided
602	The episode data submitted for this child does not show that he/she was adopted during the year.	There is no indication on the episode record that this child was adopted during the year. Either the data items relating to adoption have been completed in error or the episode data requires amendment. Check that all episodes of care have been included. If the child has been adopted during the year code E11 or E12 should be recoded as being the reason the episode ceased.	If no **<DEC>** >= **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** and <= **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** or **<REC>** not = 'E11' or 'E12' then **<DATE_INT>**; **<DATE_MATCH>**; **<FOSTER_CARE>**; **<NB_ADOPTR>**; **<SEX_ADOPTR>** and **<LS_ADOPTR>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
607	Child ceased to be looked after in the year, but mother field has not been completed.	This data item should be completed for all female children who ceased to be looked after in the year, excluding those looked after under legal status V3 or V4.	Where **<CEASED_TO_BE_LOOKED_AFTER>** = 'Y', and **<LS>** not = 'V3' or 'V4' and **<DEC>** is in **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** and **<SEX>** = '2' then **<MOTHER>** should be provided
611	Date of birth field is blank, but child is a mother.	Date of birth of the child must be completed if the child is a mother.	If **<MOTHER>** = '1' then **<MC_DOB>** must also be provided
612	Date of birth field has been completed but mother field indicates child is not a mother.	Mother field must be completed if the child is a mother.	If **<MOTHER>** = '0' or Null and **<SEX>** = 2 then **<MC_DOB>** should not be provided.
620	Child has been recorded as a mother, but date of birth shows that the mother is under 11 years of age.	If a child has been recorded as being a mother, then the mother's age should be their 11th birthday or above in the 12-month period. Check mother's field and mother's date of birth are correct.	If **<MOTHER>** = '1' then **<DOB>** should be 11 years or more prior to **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>**

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
621	Mother's field has been completed but date of birth shows that the mother is younger than her child.	Where the mother's child date of birth is completed it should be greater than the mother's date of birth. Check child's date of birth and mother's date of birth are correct.	If provided **<MC_DOB>** should be > **<DOB>**
624	Date of birth of the first child contradicts the date of birth of the first child previously recorded.	If a child has been recorded as being a mother in a previous year then the date of birth of the first child must be consistent between years, except when comparing to year ending 31 March 2006 if the date of birth of the first child was recorded as an approximate date.	If provided **<MC_DOB>** and previous year **<MC_DOB>** not null, **<MC_DOB>** must = previous year **<MC_DOB>**
625	Date of birth of the first child is beyond the end of this reporting year or the date the child ceased to be looked after.	If a child has been recorded as being a mother in the latest reporting year then the date of birth of the first child must not be beyond the end of this reporting year (31 March of the current collection year) or the date the child ceased to be looked after.	If provided **<MC_DOB>** must not be > **<COLLECTION_END>** or **<DEC>** of latest episode

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
626	Child was reported as a mother but the date of birth of the first child is before the current year which contradicts with the mother status recorded last year.	If a child has been recorded as being a mother in the latest reporting year and the date of birth of the first child is in a previous year, then the mother status must be consistent between the year the mother's child was born and the latest year.	If **<MOTHER>** = '1' and previous year **<MOTHER>** = '0' or null then **<MC_DOB>** must be >= **<COLLECTION_START>**
628	Motherhood details are not required for care leavers who have not been looked after during the year.	Mother status field should be left blank for young people for whom care leaver information is returned. However, if the care leaver also had episode information recorded for this collection year, motherhood status should be returned.	If no episode record for current year and any of **<IN_TOUCH>**, **<ACTIV>** or **<ACCOM>** have been provided then **<MOTHER>** should not be provided

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
630	Information on previous permanence option should be returned.	A new episode has started in the latest reporting year, with the reason for new episode being S, therefore data for items relating to previous permanence option must be returned. Data items: Previous permanence option; Local authority code where previous permanence option was arranged (unless previous permanence option is Z1); Date of order (unless previous permanence option is Z1). must be returned for all children starting to be looked after 1 April of the current collection year, this includes children with legal status of V3 or V4.	If **<RNE>** = 'S' then **<PREV_PERM>** must be provided as should **<LA_PERM>** and **<DATE_PERM>** if **<PREV_PERM>** is not = 'Z1'

Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
631	Previous permanence option not a valid value.	Previous permanence option not a valid value. Valid values are: P1 = Adoption P2 = Special guardianship order (SGO) P3 = Residence order (RO) or child arrangement order (CAO) P4 = Unknown Z1 = Child has not previously had a permanence option.	If provided **<PREV_PERM>** must be a valid value For allowed values please see associated code set.
632	Date of previous permanence order not a valid value.	Date should be entered in the format DD/MM/YYYY and should contain a valid date. The date should be before the start of this current episode of care. Acceptable value where date is not known will include zz, where zz is day, month or year value.	If provided **<DATE_PERM>** should be prior to **<DECOM>** and in a valid format and contain a valid date Format should be DD/MM/YYYY or one or more elements of the date can be replaced by zz if part of the date element is not known.

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Error code	Message to be shown on validation report	Coding rule (and comments which will be provided as information for local authority staff)	Coding Description
633	Local authority code where previous permanence option was arranged is not a valid value.	The local authority code should be a valid local authority code or one the following codes: NIR = Northern Ireland NUK = outside of the UK SCO = Scotland WAL = Wales.	Where provided **<LA_PERM>** must be a valid value
634	There are entries for previous permanence options, but child has not started to be looked after from 1 April 2016 onwards.	There are entries in either the fields for previous permanence option, but the child has no episode indicating that a period of care started after 1 April of the current collection year	If **<PREV_PERM>** or **<LA_PERM>** or **<DATE_PERM>** provided, then at least 1 episode must have a **<DECOM>** later than 01/04/2016
635	There are entries for date of order and local authority code where previous permanence option was arranged but previous permanence code is Z1.	If there was no previous permanence option arranged there cannot be a date, order or a local authority code where previous permanence option was arranged.	If **<LA_PERM>** and/or **<DATE_PERM>** provided, then **<PREV_PERM>** must also be provided

Annex A

A1 Bypassing errors

The following errors can be by-passed. Errors which can be by-passed are those where the data is unusual but could be correct as it reflects the actual situation. It would not be expected that data which triggers errors outside of this list would be correct and only those errors listed below can be by-passed. All requests to bypass an error must be entered on the notes section of the children looked after system and then you will need to notify the Data Collections Helpdesk via a [data collection service request form](#). Please note that requests to bypass errors should only be made once you have completed your final data load.

Error numbers of by-passable errors are given below.

Stage 1:

Rules 166 – 168

Stage 2:

Rules 205, 333-336, 358, 359, 361-363, 370-373, 376-377, 380, 383, 386, 390, 406, 431, 433, 435, 442, 445, 451, 453, 503, 516, 553, 555, 557, 559, 628, 1003

Annex B

B1 Commonly used expressions

This section contains commonly used expressions such as series of short-term placements, and a technical description of what these terms mean when validating rules. This allows the reference name for that expression to be used in the technical validation rules rather than having to write lengthy rules each time. It will also ensure that if the calculation for the expression changes it will only need to be amended in one place.

Data item name	Tag	Technical description
Collection start date	<COLLECTION_START_DATE>	**<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** = '01/04/YYYY' Example: for the collection year 2020 to 2021 **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** = '01/04/2020'
Collection end date	<COLLECTION_END_DATE>	**<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** '31/03/YYYY' Example: for the collection year 2020 to 2021 **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** = '31/03/2021'
Current collection year	<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>	**<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** to **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** Example: for the collection year 2020 to 2021 **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** = '01/04/2020' and **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** = '31/03/2021' so **<CURRENT_COLLECTION_YEAR>** = '01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021'
Start date looked after	<START_DATE_LOOKED_AFTER>	If no episode has **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4' **<START_DATE_LOOKED_AFTER>** = **<DECOM>** of latest episode with **<RNE>** = 'S'. If any episode has **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4' then **<START_DATE_LOOKED_AFTER>** = **<DECOM>** of first episode after the final episode with **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4'

Data item name	Tag	Technical description
Placed for adoption	<PLACED_FOR_ADOPTION>	If **<PL>** = 'A3'; 'A4'; 'A5' or A6' then **<PLACED_FOR_ADOPTION>** = 'Y'
Adopted	<ADOPTED>	If **<REC>** = 'E11' or 'E12' then **<ADOPTED>** = 'Y'
Period of care	<PERIOD_OF_CARE>	1. Non-respite - all episodes that run consecutively where **<LS>** is not = 'V3' or 'V4'. **<PERIOD_OF_CARE>** is calculated from the **<DECOM>** of the first episode in the sequence to the **<DEC>** of the last episode in the sequence where **<DEC>** is not = 'X1' OR **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** if the **<DEC>** of the last episode in the sequence is Null 2. Respite - all episodes that run consecutively where **<LS>** is = 'V3' or 'V4'. **<PERIOD_OF_CARE>** is calculated from the **<DECOM>** of the first episode in the sequence to the **<DEC>** of the last episode in the sequence where **<DEC>** is not = 'X1' OR **<COLLECTION_END_DATE>** if the **<DEC>** of the last episode in the sequence is Null
Looked after continuously	<LOOKED_AFTER_CONTINUOUSLY>	If count of episodes in current year = '0' or any episode has **<LS>** = 'V3' or 'V4' and **<DEC>** >= **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** or Null or any episode**<DEC>** >= **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** and **<REC>** not = 'X1' or any episode **<RNE>** = 'S' and **<DECOM>** > **<COLLECTION_START_DATE>** Then **<LOOKED_AFTER_CONTINUOUSLY>** = 'N' else **<LOOKED_AFTER_CONTINUOUSLY>** ='Y'
Ceased to be looked after	<CEASED_TO_BE_LOOKED_AFTER>	**<DEC>** of the current episode is not null, and **<REC>** is not = 'X1' or null

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