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EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR SCOTLAND'S LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN 2010/11

25 June 2012

This document is the second in a series of an annual summary of the educational outcomes of Scotland's looked after children. It brings together information from the following sources:

- Children Looked After Statistics 2010/11
- The Pupil Census 2010
- Attendance, Absence and Exclusions 2010/11
- SQA Attainment data 2010/11
- School Leaver Initial and Follow-up Destination Surveys, September 2011 and March 2012

Supplementary data tables can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/EducOutcomesLAC>

Requests for further or additional analyses can be e-mailed to:

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Main Statistics

- The overall school attendance rate for looked after children was 88.6 per cent in 2010/11 compared with 93.1 per cent for all school children. This is an increase in overall school attendance rate of 0.8 percentage points from 2009/10 for looked after children. School attendance rates were lowest for children who are looked after at home (79.1 per cent). (Tables 1 & 2)
- The overall exclusion rate for looked after children was 326 per 1,000 looked after children, compared with 40 exclusions per 1,000 pupils for all school children. This is a drop from 365 per 1,000 looked after children in 2009/10. Exclusion rates were highest for children who were looked after in a voluntary home (1,032 per 1,000 children) (Tables 4 & 6)
- The average tariff score for looked after children who left school during 2010/11 was 79, compared to 385 for all school leavers. This is an increase of 12 points from the average tariff score of 67 for looked after children in 2009/10. However, this comparison is influenced by the fact that 88 per cent of looked after children who left school during 2010/11 were aged 16 years or under when they left school, compared to only 34 per cent of all school leavers being of this age when leaving school. (Table 8)
- Sixty-four per cent of looked after children who left school during 2010/11 were in a positive destination at the time of the initial destination survey, compared with 89 per cent of all 2010/11 school leavers. This is an increase of 5 percentage points for looked after children school leavers from 2009/10, but now includes looked after children school leavers who were taking part in an Activity Agreement. However, by the time of the follow-up destination survey, the percentage of looked after children who left school during 2010/11 who were in a positive destination had fallen to 55 per cent, compared with 87 per cent of all 2010/11 school leavers. (Tables 11a and 11b)

The following tables are available:

Table 1: Percentage attendance by all pupils, looked after children, stage and gender, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Table 2: Percentage attendance for looked after children for children who spent the entire 2010/11 academic year in a single placement, by accommodation type and gender, 2010/11

Table 3: Percentage attendance for looked after children, by number of placements and gender, 2010/11

Table 4: Cases of Exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils by all pupils, looked after children and stage, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Table 5: Number of different pupils excluded and exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils by all pupils, looked after children and sector, 2010/11

Table 6: Cases of exclusions for looked after children for children who spent the entire 2010/11 academic year in a single placement, by accommodation type, 2010/11

Table 7: Cases of exclusions for looked after children, by number of placements, 2010/11

Table 8: Average tariff scores of all school leavers and those who were looked after children, by age, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Table 9: Average tariff scores of looked after children who spent the entire academic year in a single placement and who left school during 2009/10 and 2010/11, by accommodation type

Table 10: Average tariff scores of looked after children, by number of placements, 2010/11

Table 11a: Percentage of school leavers by initial destination, for all school leavers and those who were looked after children, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Table 11b: Percentage of school leavers by follow-up destination, for all school leavers and those who were looked after children, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Table 12: Percentage of school leavers by sustained destination for all school leavers and those who are looked after children, 2010/11.

Introduction

This publication contains statistics obtained from linking looked after children's data provided by local authority social work services departments with educational data provided by publicly funded schools, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and Skills Development Scotland (SDS).

This publication presents key findings on a range of educational outcome statistics for children or young people who have been looked after continuously during the 12-month period, in different types of care placements, and for pupils with multiple placements within the school year. These differing outcomes will partly be dependent on the characteristics of which children are placed where. This should be taken into account when looking at these initial findings, but these results should inspire further analysis and discussion in order to gain a more detailed understanding of the underlying causes of these results.

Readers should also note that some local authorities social work departments were unable to fully provide Scottish Candidate Numbers (SCNs) for all of their looked after children in order for their data to be linked. Of the 9,886 children who had been looked after continuously during the entire 2010/11 academic year an SCN was provided for 9,207 (93 per cent) of them, of which 8,242 (90 per cent) matched to the September 2010 Pupil Census (see the section on 'Data Matching' in the Background Note for further details). While the data are therefore incomplete, there has been an increase in the number of SCNs provided from 2009/10, and we feel that key messages can still be taken from this information.

Local Authorities have a responsibility to provide support to certain vulnerable young people, known as 'looked after children'. A young person may become looked after for a number of reasons, including neglect, mental, physical or emotional abuse, parental substance misuse or poor parenting skills, complex disabilities which require specialist care, or involvement in the youth justice system, as well as other reasons. The majority of looked after children and young people come into one of two categories:

Looked after at home, where the child or young person is subject to a Supervision Requirement (with no condition of residence) through the Children's Hearing system. The child or young person continues to live in their normal place of residence (often the family home).

Looked after away from home (i.e. their normal place of residence), where the child or young person is subject to a Supervision Requirement (with a condition of residence) through the Children's Hearing system or a warrant from the Sheriff Court or Children's Hearing System, is provided with accommodation under section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (voluntary agreement) or is the subject of a Permanence Order. The child or young person is cared for away from their normal place of residence (e.g. in a foster care placement, residential/children's unit, a residential school, a secure unit or a kinship placement).

Statistics on looked after children in general can be found here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenLookedAfter> .

Earlier statistics on the educational outcomes of Scotland's looked after children can be found here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/EducOutcomesLAC> .

Previous statistics have shown that, in addition to fewer qualifications, looked after children tend to have poorer school attendance records, higher rates of school exclusion and are less likely to go onto employment, further or higher education, training or voluntary work after leaving school. Following this, the Scottish Parliament Education and Culture Committee agreed to hold an inquiry into the educational attainment of looked after children to examine the reasons why more significant progress has not been made since devolution in improving the educational attainment of looked after children and what can be done to address this. The final report of the committee can be found here:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/41975.aspx>

Educational Outcomes of Scotland's Looked After Children

Table 1 shows that the overall school attendance rate for looked after children was 88.6 per cent in 2010/11 compared with 93.1 per cent for all school children. This is an increase of 0.8 percentage points from 2009/10 for looked after children. The difference in attendance rates between looked after children and others were greatest in secondary stages S1 to S4.

Table 1: Percentage attendance by all pupils, looked after children, stage and gender, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Stage	2009/10						2010/11					
	All Pupils			Looked After Children			All Pupils			Looked After Children		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
P1	94.7	94.6	94.7	93.1	94.4	93.7	94.5	94.5	94.5	93.9	93.4	93.6
P2	94.7	94.7	94.7	93.5	93.6	93.5	94.7	94.7	94.7	93.5	94.7	94.1
P3	94.9	95.0	95.0	93.6	93.9	93.7	94.9	94.9	94.9	93.5	93.9	93.7
P4	95.0	95.1	95.1	93.0	93.1	93.1	94.9	95.0	94.9	94.0	93.7	93.8
P5	95.0	95.0	95.0	94.1	93.6	93.8	94.9	94.9	94.9	93.7	93.3	93.4
P6	95.0	94.8	94.9	94.0	92.9	93.4	94.8	94.7	94.8	94.1	92.9	93.5
P7	95.1	94.8	95.0	94.5	92.7	93.5	95.0	94.6	94.8	93.9	92.6	93.2
S1	93.2	92.9	93.1	86.2	83.0	84.5	93.2	92.8	93.0	90.5	86.5	88.4
S2	91.4	91.4	91.4	81.1	80.1	80.6	91.3	91.5	91.4	82.2	81.0	81.6
S3	89.4	90.1	89.8	73.5	76.0	74.9	89.5	90.1	89.8	77.6	78.7	78.2
S4	89.6	90.5	90.0	78.8	82.9	80.9	89.5	90.6	90.0	80.0	83.1	81.6
S5	90.8	91.8	91.3	87.9	88.7	88.3	90.5	91.6	91.0	90.6	91.1	90.9
S6	91.7	92.9	92.3	92.9	97.4	94.6	91.3	92.3	91.8	91.2	94.4	92.9
Primary	94.9	94.9	94.9	93.7	93.4	93.5	94.8	94.8	94.8	93.8	93.5	93.6
Secondary	91.0	91.4	91.2	80.2	80.8	80.5	90.8	91.4	91.1	82.9	82.7	82.8
Special	90.6	90.6	90.6	84.9	84.7	84.8	89.9	90.1	90.0	82.0	83.2	82.9
Scotland	93.1	93.3	93.2	87.8	87.7	87.8	93.0	93.2	93.1	88.8	88.4	88.6

Table 2 shows that the attendance rate for children who were looked after at home for the entire school year was only 79.1 per cent. Although this is a small increase of 0.4 percentage points from 2009/10, the attendance rate for those looked after at home is by far the lowest of all entire year single accommodation types. Attendance rates for children who were being looked after in foster care provided by the local authority for the entire school year was 96.0 per cent and with foster carers purchased by the local authority was 95.9 per cent.

Table 2: Percentage attendance for looked after children for children who spent entire 2010/11 academic year in a single placement, by accommodation type and gender, 2010/11

Single Type of Accommodation throughout 2010/11	Looked After Children		
	Girls	Boys	Total
In the community:-			
At home with parents	79.2	79.0	79.1
With friends/relatives	92.1	91.6	91.8
With foster carers provided by LA	96.0	95.9	96.0
With foster carers purchased by LA	95.9	95.9	95.9
In other community ⁽¹⁾	97.9	96.8	97.2
Residential Accommodation:-			
In local authority home	85.7	85.2	85.4
In voluntary home	89.3	91.6	91.0
In residential school	95.4	91.6	92.6
In other residential ⁽²⁾	89.6	94.0	92.2
Total looked after children	88.8	88.4	88.6

Notes:

(1) includes 'with prospective adopters'

(2) includes 'in secure care accommodation' and 'crisis care'

Table 3 shows that attendance rates were generally lower for looked after children who had more placement moves during the school year, from 88.8 per cent attendance for children who only had one placement to 77.5 per cent for children who had six or more placements during the school year.

Table 3: Percentage attendance for looked after children, by number of placements and gender, 2010/11

Number of placements	Looked After Children		
	Girls	Boys	Total
1	89.2	88.5	88.8
2	89.2	89.1	89.1
3	82.6	85.9	84.3
4	85.6	84.8	85.2
5	87.1	83.8	85.1
6 or more	74.2	87.0	77.5
Scotland	88.8	88.4	88.6

Table 4 shows that the overall exclusion rate for looked after children was 326 per 1,000 looked after children, compared with 40 exclusions per 1,000 pupils for all school children. This is a fall from 365 exclusions per 1,000 looked after children and 45 exclusions per 1,000 pupils for all school children in 2009/10, which is a drop of 39 per 1,000 compared to the previous academic year for looked after children.

Please note that exclusion rates in table 4 are based on the number of exclusions, not the number of children excluded (i.e. a child who is excluded more than once during the school year will be multiple counted).

Table 4: Cases of Exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils by all pupils, looked after children and stage, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Stage	2009/10		2010/11	
	All Pupils	Looked After Children	All Pupils	Looked After Children
	Total	Total	Total	Total
P1	3	32	3	17
P2	5	56	4	67
P3	7	82	7	56
P4	11	108	11	60
P5	15	131	15	139
P6	18	190	18	139
P7	25	238	23	176
S1	72	757	64	569
S2	118	881	103	774
S3	144	793	130	810
S4	88	368	81	392
S5	15	59*	13	58
S6	5		4	0
Primary	12	123	11	96
Secondary	82	642	72	588
Special	174	591	148	516
Scotland	45	365	40	326

Table 5 shows the number of all pupils and looked after children who were excluded at any point during 2010/11 and the pupil exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils. Each pupil may have been excluded more than once. The rate per 1,000 pupils is much higher for those who were looked after than for all pupils, which is consistent with the rate of actual exclusions per 1,000 pupils shown in table 4. However, the pupil exclusion rate is lower than the number of exclusions rate, which indicates that the same pupils are being excluded more than once during the academic year.

Table 5: Number of different pupils excluded and exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils by all pupils, looked after children and sector, 2010/11

Sector	All Pupils		Looked After Children	
	Number of pupils excluded	Rate per 1,000 pupils	Number of pupils excluded	Rate per 1,000 pupils
Primary	2,339	6	199	46
Secondary	12,136	40	791	236
Special	451	69	122	209

Table 6 shows that exclusion rates were highest for children who were looked after in residential accommodation for the entire school year. There were 1,032 exclusions per 1,000 children who were looked after in voluntary homes for the entire academic year, and 949 exclusions per 1,000 children who were looked after in local authority homes. However, exclusion rates were lowest for children who were looked after by foster carers provided by the local authority, at 131 exclusions per 1,000 children.

Table 6: Cases of exclusions for looked after children for children who spent the entire 2010/11 academic year in a single placement, by accommodation type, 2010/11

Type of accommodation	Total exclusions for looked after children	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils who were looked after
In the community:-		
At home with parents	909	409
With friends/relatives	356	195
With foster carers provided by LA	217	131
With foster carers purchased by LA	134	244
In other community ⁽¹⁾	0	0
Residential Accommodation:-		
In local authority home	223	949
In voluntary home	32	1,032
In other residential ⁽²⁾	41	436

Notes:

(1) includes 'with prospective adopters'

(2) includes 'in residential school', 'crisis care' and 'other residential'

Table 7 shows that exclusion rates were generally higher for looked after children who had more placement moves during the school year, from 287 exclusions per 1,000 children for those who only had one placement to 1,116 exclusions per 1,000 children for children who had five placements during the school year.

Table 7: Cases of exclusions for looked after children and rate per 1,000 looked after children, by number of placements, 2010/11

	Total exclusions for looked after children	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils who were looked after
Number of placements		
1	1,912	287
2	429	398
3	191	575
4	90	833
5	48	1,116
6 or more	17	680
Scotland	2,687	326

Table 8 shows that the average tariff score for looked after children who left school during 2010/11 was 79, compared to 385 for all school leavers. However, this comparison is influenced by the fact that 88 per cent of looked after children who left school during 2010/11 were aged 16 years or under when they left school, compared to only 34 per cent of all school leavers being of this age when leaving school.

The average tariff score for looked after children who left school during the 2010/11 academic year of 79 was 12 points higher than the average tariff score for looked after children in 2009/10 of 67.

Looking at the average tariff score of looked after children leaving school, compared with all school leavers, by age at leaving school shows that looked after children had, on average, lower tariff scores when leaving school compared with children of the same age who leave school.

Table 8: Average tariff scores of all school leavers and those who were looked after children, by age, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Age at 30th June	2009/10		2010/11	
	All school leavers	Looked After Children	All school leavers	Looked After Children
16 & under	141	51	145	57
17	489	198	491	226
18 & over	547	316	544	359
Scotland	372	67	385	79

Table 9 shows that the average tariff scores for looked after children who left school during 2010/11 were highest (176) for children who were looked after by foster carers provided by the local authority during the entire school year, and lowest (35) for children who were looked after at home for the entire school year. This is the same pattern as for 2009/10, but the average tariff scores are higher in 2010/11 for all types of accommodation than they were in 2009/10.

Table 9: Average tariff scores of looked after children who spent the entire academic year in a single placement and who left school during 2009/10 and 2010/11, by accommodation type

Single Type of Accommodation throughout academic year	2009/10		2010/11	
	Number of looked after children who left school during 2009/10	Average tariff score	Number of looked after children who left school during 2010/11	Average tariff score
In the community:-				
At home with parents	194	32	143	35
With friends/relatives	55	87	66	97
With foster carers provided by LA	59	160	77	176
With foster carers purchased by LA	16	103	29	145
In other community ⁽¹⁾	1	*	-	-
Residential Accommodation:-				
In local authority home	55	66	44	49
In voluntary home	5	100	3	*
In other residential ⁽²⁾	10	53	8	79
Single placement during the academic year	395	68	370	86
More than one placement during the academic year	118	62	102	54
All School Leavers who were looked after	513	67	472	79

Notes:

(1) includes 'with prospective adopters'

(2) includes 'in residential school', 'in secure care accommodation', and 'crisis care'

Cells containing * represent small numbers that have been suppressed to maintain confidentiality

Table 10 shows that the average tariff scores for looked after children who left school during 2010/11 were generally lower for children who had more placement moves during the school year, from an average tariff score of 86 for those children who only had one placement to 42 for children who had four or more placements during the school year.

The average tariff score of looked after children who experienced one placement during the entire academic year was 18 points higher in 2010/11 than it was in 2009/10. The average tariff score of those who experienced 4 or more placements during 2010/11 was similar to 2009/10, increasing only 1 point to 42 from the previous year.

Table 10: Average tariff scores of looked after children, by number of placements, 2010/11

Number of placements	Number of looked after	Average tariff score
1	370	86
2	56	60
3	28	48
4 or more	18	42
Scotland	472	79

Table 11a shows that 64 per cent of looked after children who left school during 2010/11 were in a positive destination at the time of the September initial destination survey, compared with 89 per cent of all 2010/11 school leavers. This is a 5 percentage point increase for looked after children compared to 2009/10 and a 2 percentage point increase for all school leavers.

However, by the time of the March follow-up destination survey, the percentage of looked after children who left school during 2010/11 who were in a positive destination had fallen to 55 per cent, compared with 87 per cent of all 2010/11 school leavers. However, this is an increase of 11 percentage points compared to 2009/10 for looked after children school leavers in a positive follow-up destination (table 11b).

Table 11a: Percentage of school leavers by initial destination, for all school leavers and those who were looked after children, 2009/10 and 2010/11

	2009/10		2010/11	
	Initial destination		Initial destination	
	Looked After Children		Looked After Children	
	School Leavers	All School Leavers	School Leavers	All School Leavers
Higher Education	1	36	*	36
Further Education	33	27	31	27
Training	18	5	15	6
Employment	6	19	9	19
Voluntary Work	1	0	*	0
Activity Agreement ¹	-	-	6	1
Unemployed Seeking	36	11	32	10
Unemployed Not Seeking	5	1	4	1
Unknown	0	1	*	0
<i>% in a positive destination ²</i>	59	87	64	89

Notes:

Cells containing * represent small numbers that have been suppressed to maintain confidentiality

1. Activity Agreements were introduced in 2010/11 and therefore are not included in 2009/10 figures.

2. Positive destination includes higher education, further education, training, voluntary work, employment and for 2010/11 also includes activity agreements. Activity agreements did not exist in 2009/10 and were therefore not included in the percentage in a positive destination for 2009/10. This should be considered when comparing the % in a positive destination between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Table 11b: Percentage of school leavers by follow-up destination, for all school leavers and those who were looked after children, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Table 11b: Percentage of school leavers by follow-up destination, for all school leavers and those who were looked after children, 2009/10 and 2010/11

	2009/10		2010/11	
	Follow Up Destination		Follow Up Destination	
	Looked After Children		Looked After Children	
	School Leavers	All School Leavers	School Leavers	All School Leavers
Higher Education	1	34	2	34
Further Education	25	25	22	25
Training	12	3	14	3
Employment	7	23	10	24
Voluntary Work	1	1	0	1
Activity Agreement ¹	-	-	7	1
Unemployed Seeking	47	12	36	10
Unemployed Not Seeking	7	2	7	2
Unknown	2	1	2	1
<i>% in a positive destination ²</i>	44	85	55	87

Notes:

Cells containing * represent small numbers that have been suppressed to maintain confidentiality

1. Activity Agreements were introduced in 2010/11 and therefore are not included in 2009/10 figures.

2. Positive destination includes higher education, further education, training, voluntary work, employment and for 2010/11 also includes activity agreements. Activity agreements did not exist in 2009/10 and were therefore not included in the percentage in a positive destination for 2009/10. This should be considered when comparing the % in a positive destination between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Table 12 shows that when comparing the destination types at the initial and follow-up destination surveys it was found that only 46 per cent of looked after children who left school during 2010/11 were in a positive destination in both surveys, compared with 83 per cent for all school leavers. However, this is a 10 percentage point increase for looked after children school leavers from 2009/10 compared to a 3 percentage point increase for all school leavers.

Eighteen per cent of looked after children who left school in 2010/11 and who were initially in a positive destination were reported as being in a negative destination at the time of the follow up survey, compared to this only being the case for 6 per cent of all 2010/11 school leavers. Conversely, 9 per cent of looked after children school leavers who were initially in a negative destination were reported as being in a positive destination at the time of the follow up survey.

Twenty-seven per cent of looked after children who left school in 2010/11 were in a negative destination at the time of both destination surveys, compared to only 6 per cent for all 2010/11 school leavers.

Table 12: Percentage of school leavers by sustained destination for all school leavers and those who are looked after children, 2010/11

Sustained Destination	Looked After Children	
	School Leavers	All School Leavers
Same positive destination type in both surveys	36.4	74.8
Positive destination type to another positive destination type	9.5	7.8
Positive destination type to a negative destination type	17.8	6.3
Negative destination type to a positive destination type	9.1	4.6
Negative destination type in both surveys	27.1	6.4

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Sources and Methodology

Sources

The information in this publication is derived from a number of sources: the pupil census, the children looked after survey, the attendance, absence and exclusion collections, SQA attainment data, and school leaver destination surveys.

Data from the children looked after survey relating to children who were looked after by Glasgow City Council during the 2010/11 academic year is provisional, since the individual level data for Glasgow City Council's looked after children has not yet been finalised. We are looking to finalise this data over the next few months.

Data Matching

Using the looked after children data provided by local authority social work departments for the period 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011, there were 9,886 records that showed the looked after child had been looked after continuously throughout the entire 12-month period, and was also old enough to have started primary school (i.e. the child was born before 1 March 2006).

Of these 9,886 children, a Scottish Candidate Number was provided for 9,207 of them. Please note that although some of these children were technically old enough to have started primary school, a number of them will not have done so (e.g. because they have deferred entry to primary school). In these cases, it is expected that these children will not yet have a Scottish Candidate Number. However, in addition to these cases, some local authorities were unable to provide Scottish Candidate Numbers for all of their looked after children as part of their Children Looked After Return in 2010/11.

Of the 9,207 looked after children records with a Scottish Candidate Number, 8,242 matched to the September 2010 Pupil Census. Please note that some Scottish Candidate Numbers provided for looked after children may not match to the Pupil Census because the looked after child may not have been attending a publicly funded school at the time of the Pupil Census. Also, there were a number of older looked after children (e.g. 18 year olds) who had a Scottish Candidate Number according to the children looked after data, but the young person had already left school and therefore did not appear in the Pupil Census.

For school leavers in 2010/11, 472 pupil records matched with the school leavers cohort provided by Skills Development Scotland, suggesting that looked after children represented just under one per cent of the entire school leaver cohort.

Attendance and Absence

Information on the attendance and absence of pupils is provided to the Scottish Government by the local authorities and managers of mainstream grant-aided schools. The information shown for attendance, absence and exclusions is for the academic year 2010/11. Schools which closed during the academic session 2010/11, and for which data was available, were included.

The data for attendance and absence is affected by ongoing differences in recording procedures across local authorities and over time. Therefore caution should be taken when comparing local authorities and when considering year on year national level figures, particularly for sickness, other authorised absence and truancy.

Percentages for authorised and unauthorised absence relate to the total number of possible attendances. For many schools this is 380 half-day sessions during the school year. However, all but two schools in the Lothians and Edinburgh and three schools in Highland operate 342 (longer) half-day sessions in the school year.

Pupils arriving late are marked as such, with a distinction made for those arriving in the second half of a morning or the second half of the afternoon. Where summary data is necessary, if a pupil has attended most of an opening it is counted as attendance, but if they have been absent for most of a session it is included as authorised absence. They are of course still separately identified as being late but present for some of the time in the schools' systems for management purposes. Schools were also given the possibility of including all late marks on a pupil's record as attendance, if it is deemed beneficial for encouraging attendance. The distinction is also used in judging attendance records of those receiving bursaries and allowances.

Exclusions

Local authorities are required each year to collect certain statistics from schools on exclusions. The statistics relate to half-days of temporary exclusions and number of pupils removed from the register (previously known as 'permanent' exclusions).

An exclusion is temporary when a pupil is excluded from a school but remains on the register of that school because they are expected to return when the exclusion period is completed. The term 'removed from the register' refers to a pupil who is excluded and their name removed from the school register. Such a pupil would then be educated at another school or via some other form of provision.

Local authorities may also reach agreements with parents to move a pupil to another school without the use of a formal 'removal from register', but where the pupil is unlikely to have the option of staying in the school.

This data covers local authority primary, secondary and special schools. The receipt of data at pupil level enables data linkage with other data sets to enable analysis of exclusion by pupil characteristics.

Attainment

Information on National Qualifications are obtained from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is used as the basis for reporting attainment. The SCQF levels are shown below for information.

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels:	
Level 7	Advanced Higher at A-C
Level 6	Higher at A-C
Level 5	Intermediate 2 at A-C; Standard Grade at 1-2
Level 4	Intermediate 1 at A-C; Standard Grade at 3-4
Level 3	Access 3 cluster; Standard Grade at 5-6
Level 2	Access 2 cluster

School Leavers

Information on the destination of leavers from publicly funded schools was provided to the Scottish Government by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). SDS collected information on where each young person, they had identified as being a school leaver, was during September 2011 (initial destination) and the March 2012 (follow-up destination).

The initial destinations data provide information on the outcomes for young people approximately three months after leaving school while the follow up survey provides information on the outcomes of young people approximately nine months after leaving school. These collections should be seen as complementary to one another but it should be noted that various factors may affect the results at different time periods.

A school leaver is classed as a young person of school leaving age who left school during or at the end of the school year, where the school year is taken to run from 1 August to 31 July.

Age was calculated as of 30th June 2011.

The initial destinations data were published in "Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No.2 | 2011 Edition" on 7th December 2011:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/PubDestinationLeavers>

Follow up destination

Due to the very high follow-up rate, 98.4 per cent, again we have decided not to impute destinations for those leavers not contacted in March 2012. Instead of imputing a destination for those who were not followed-up, we have agreed to use the most up to date information that SDS hold on these leavers.

In March 2012, SDS were unable to contact 852 leavers to confirm the current destination they held, some of which had requested not to be contacted. Of these 337 have an Unknown destination while for 515 SDS either received an updated destination outwith the March survey period or no information to say that they had changed destination. For these 515 the most up-to-date destination SDS held was used.

2. Definitions and Data Quality

Leaver Destination

All destinations are based on self-reporting by school leavers. The following categories for leaver destinations are included in the Statistics Publication Notice.

Positive: includes higher education, further education, training, voluntary work and employment. This is in line with the definition of positive destinations set out in Indicator 10 of the Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/30090722/18>

Higher Education: includes leavers following HND (Higher National Diploma) or HNC (Higher National Certificate) courses, degree courses, courses for the education and training of teachers and higher level courses for professional qualifications. It also includes programmes at a level higher than the standard of the National Qualifications, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher, Advanced Higher and the National Certificate of Education of England, Wales or Northern Ireland at Advanced Level. Leavers with a deferred, unconditional place in higher education have also been included in this category.

Further Education: includes leavers undertaking full-time education which is not higher education and who are no longer on a school roll.

Training: includes leavers who are on a training course and in receipt of an allowance or grant, such as *Get Ready for Work* and *Skillseekers* (non-employed). Prior to 2009/10 only leavers on a national training programme were included. In 2009/10 leavers who were on a local authority funded training programme in receipt of a training allowance were included.

Employment: includes those who are employed and in receipt of payment from their employers. It includes young people undertaking training in employment through *Skillseekers* and Modern Apprenticeships.

Voluntary Work: includes those undertaking voluntary work, with or without financial allowance, who are not 'unemployed and actively seeking', as per the unemployed definition and those participating in Project Scotland/CSV or other voluntary programmes.

Unemployed and seeking employment or training: includes those who are registered with Skills Development Scotland and are known by them to be seeking employment or training. This is based on regular contact between Skills Development Scotland and the client. This does not refer to the definition of 'unemployed' used by the Benefits Agency to calculate published unemployment rates. Young people participating in *Personal Skills Development* (see below) are counted in this category.

Personal Skills Development: Leavers who participate in learning opportunities / personal and social development activities with the aim of improving their confidence and employability. These programmes can be viewed as a stepping stone towards a positive destination. They are often delivered by a community learning and development or third sector organisation. Included are those individuals engaging in the 16+ Activity Agreement pilots and these are recognised as an offer within 16+ Learning Choices.

Unemployed and not seeking employment or training: includes all those individuals who are not seeking employment or training for a range of reasons. The reasons may involve sickness, prison, pregnancy, caring for children or other dependents or taking time out.

NOTE: the above two categories are comparable to the single 'other known destination' category from publications prior to 2002/03.

Unknown: includes all leavers whose destination is not known either to Skills Development Scotland or to the school attended.

Destination unknown (both surveys): includes individuals who were not able to be contacted at either the September or the March/April survey point.

Unified Points Score Scale

The Unified Points Score Scale is an extended version of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) Scottish Tariff points system. A full list of courses, awards and corresponding tariff points is listed below. The tariff score of a pupil is calculated by simply adding together all the tariff points accumulated from all the different course levels and awards he/she attains.

The relativities between types of certification are taken from the principle that the value of an A award at one level is as close as possible to, but lower than, the value of a C award at the next level above. For example, a pupil getting five Standard Grades would collect between 40 and 190 points, based on lowest to highest possible results. Five Standard Grades with the highest result along with three Highers and one Advanced Higher at A, would amount to 526 points.

Course Level	Award	Tariff Points
Advanced Higher	A	120
CSYS	A	120
Advanced Higher	B	100
CSYS	B	100
Advanced Higher	C	80
CSYS	C	80
Advanced Higher	D	72
Higher	A	72
Higher	B	60
Higher	C	48
Higher	D	42
Intermediate 2	A	42
Standard Grade	1	38
Intermediate 2	B	35
Intermediate 2	C	28
Standard Grade	2	28
Intermediate 2	D	24
Intermediate 1	A	24
Standard Grade	3	22
Intermediate 1	B	20
Advanced Higher	Unit	20
Intermediate 1	C	16
Standard Grade	4	16
Higher	Unit	12
Intermediate 1	D	12
Standard Grade	5	11
Standard Grade	6	8
Access 3	Cluster	8
Intermediate 2	Unit	7
Unallocated Unit	(NC Module)	6
Unallocated Unit	(Short Course)	6
Intermediate 1	Unit	4
Standard Grade	7	3
Access 3	Unit	2
Access 2	Unit	1
Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary project	1	60
Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary project	2	50
Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary project	3	40

3. Additional Tables and Analyses

A set of more detailed tables that accompany this statistics publication can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00979>. Additional analyses are available on request.

4. Resources

For historical statistics and background information on Children Looked After, please see the previous publications:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenLookedAfter>

For historical statistics and background information on the wide range of School Education statistical products, please see the previous publications:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Publications>

5. General

This is an Official Statistics Publication. Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. These statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

This publication is a new publication and has not been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority. The report was edited by Charlie Hogg and Shona Rennie.

All tables are available on the Scottish Government website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/EducOutcomesLAC>

Additional information can be found through the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/EducOutcomesLAC>

This is the second time the educational outcomes for looked after children has been produced by using a child's Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) to link individual looked after children data obtained from local authority social work services departments with individual level educational data obtained from local authority education departments (Attendance and Exclusions), the Scottish Qualifications Authority (Attainment) and Skills Development Scotland (School Leaver Destinations).

The results contained in this publication are deemed fit for purpose, but should be treated as provisional whilst the quality and completeness of the Scottish Candidate Number for Scotland's looked after children being submitted by local authority social work services departments improves over time. The proportion of Scottish Candidate Numbers provided has risen from 86 per cent in 2009/10 to 93 per cent in 2010/11.

6. Enquiries

Public enquiries (**non-media**) about the information contained in this News Release should be addressed to Charlie Hogg, Children and Families Analysis, Scottish Government Education Directorate, Area 2-B(Bridge), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ (telephone 0131 244 0822 or e-mail children.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Media enquiries about the information in this Statistics Publication Notice should be addressed to Barry McPherson on 0131 244 4001.

7. Consultations

If you would like to be consulted about new or existing statistical collections or receive notification of forthcoming statistical publications, please register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/scotstat .

AN OFFICIAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION FOR SCOTLAND

Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

Statistics assessed, or subject to assessment, by the UK Statistics Authority carry the National Statistics label, a stamp of assurance that the statistics have been produced and explained to high standards and that they serve the public good.

Further information about Official and National Statistics can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website at www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has previously designated the Children Looked After Statistics, Pupil Census, Attendance, Absence and Exclusions Statistics, SQA Attainment and A school Leaver Initial and Follow-up Destination Surveys as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The linked statistics contained within this publication are yet to be assessed for National Statistics designation.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN GROUP

Our Aim

To provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meet the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.

For more information on the Statistician Group, please see the Scottish Government website at www.scotland.gov.uk/statistics

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Further contact details, e-mail addresses and details of previous and forthcoming publications can be found on the Scottish Government Website at www.scotland.gov.uk/statistics

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service, please write to the Chief Statistician, 4N.06, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. We also welcome any comments or suggestions that would help us to improve our standards of service.

ScotStat

If you would like to be consulted about new or existing statistical collections or receive notification of forthcoming statistical publications, please register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website at www.scotland.gov.uk/scotstat

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