

**SFR 36/2013**

**26 September 2013**

**Coverage: England**

**Theme: Children,  
Education and Skills**

**Issued by**

Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

**Telephone:**

**Press Office**  
020 7925 6789  
**Public Enquiries**  
0870 000 2288

**Statistician**

Julie Glenndenning

**Email**

[cla.stats@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cla.stats@education.gsi.gov.uk)

**Internet**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-looked-after-children>

## **Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2013**

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides information about looked after children in England for the year ending 31 March 2013. It includes information on the number of looked after children, the reason why a child is looked after, their legal status and type of placement. It also includes information on the number of children who started to be, or ceased to be, looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013.

This publication also includes information on the number of looked after children who were placed for adoption, the number of looked after children adopted and the average time between different stages of the adoption process. Information on the accommodation and activity of former care leavers (now aged 19) is also included.

All figures are based on data from the SSDA903 return, this is completed each spring by all local authorities in England. This publication is the main source of information on the numbers of looked after children in England; it is used to inform policy decisions which aim to improve the outcomes for this vulnerable group of children. It is also used extensively by other organisations, including charities and campaigning groups, who have an interest in this subject.

### **KEY POINTS**

**Note: All of the comparisons below and in this document relate to 31 March of the year in question.**

- There were 68,110 looked after children at 31 March 2013, an increase of 2 per cent compared to 31 March 2012 and an increase of 12 per cent compared to 31 March 2009.
- There were 28,830 children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013, an increase of 2 per cent from 2012 and an increase of 12 per cent from 2009.
- There were 28,460 children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013, an increase of 3 per cent from 2012 and an increase of 14 per cent from 2009.
- There were 3,980 looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2013, an increase of 15 per cent from 2012 and an increase of 20 per cent from 2009. Although the number of looked after children adopted fell between both 2009 and 2010, and 2010 and 2011, the number of these adoptions has since increased and is now at its highest

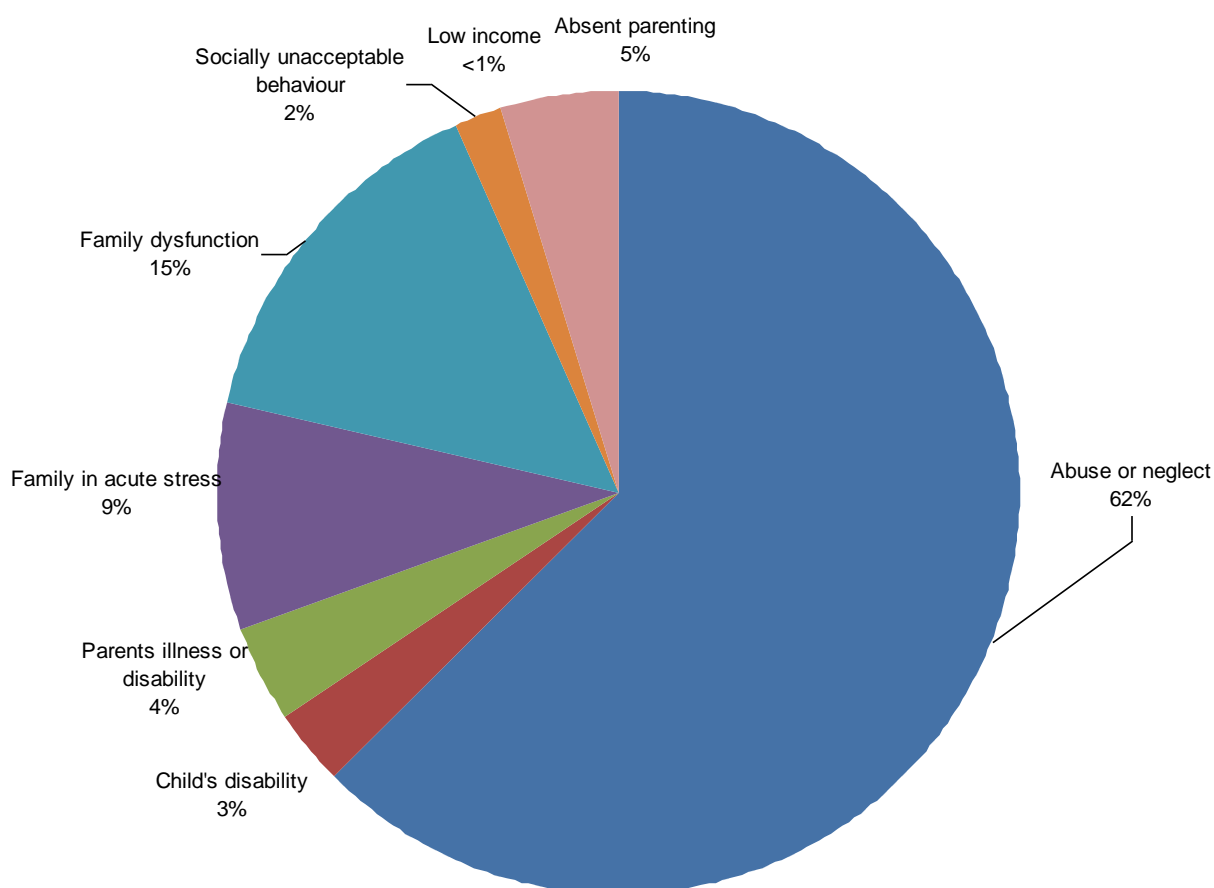
point since the start of the current data collection in 1992.

### CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH 2013

There were 68,110 looked after children as of 31 March 2013, an increase of 2 per cent compared to 31 March 2012 and an increase of 12 per cent compared to 31 March 2009. The number of looked after children has increased steadily each year and is now higher than at any point since 1985.

The majority of looked after children – 62 per cent in 2013 - are provided with a service due to abuse or neglect. The reasons why looked after children are provided with a service have been relatively stable since 2009. Figure 1 shows the reasons for a child to be provided with a service and the proportions of children looked after recorded in each category as at 31 March 2013.

**Figure 1: Reasons why children looked after at 31 March 2013 were provided with a service**



The majority of children looked after at 31 March 2013 (74 per cent) are from a White British background. The ethnic breakdown for children looked after has varied little since 2009.

## **LEGAL STATUS OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

At 31 March 2013, 40,180 children were looked after under a care order (either an interim or full care order). This represents 59 per cent of all legal statuses of looked after children. Since 2009 the percentage of all looked after children who are looked after under a care order has remained relatively stable, although the number of such children has risen by 11 per cent since 2009 in line with the overall rise in the number of looked after children.

There were 18,190 children looked after under a voluntary agreement under Section 20 of the Children's Act. However, the number of children looked after under such a voluntary agreement has not risen in line with the overall rise in the number of looked after children. Between 2009 and 2013 the number of children looked after under a voluntary agreement has decreased by 6 per cent, and the proportion of children looked after under such an agreement has fallen from 32 per cent in 2009 to 27 per cent in 2013.

Placement orders had been granted for 9,240 looked after children. This represents an increase of 16 per cent from 2012 and an increase of 95 per cent from 2009. The proportion of looked after children where a placement order had been granted has also increased. In 2013 14 per cent of children were looked after under a placement order, an increase from 8 per cent in 2009.

There has been an increase in the number of children looked after who are on remand or committed for trial. In 2013, there were 310 such children, more than double the number in 2012. This is due to the implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act. This Act came into force on 3 December 2012, the Act states that all children remanded by the courts will now become looked after. We would therefore expect to see more children looked after under this legal status as a result of their involvement with the criminal justice system. The rise here mainly represents children remanded by the courts in the last quarter of the collection year only and we can therefore expect to see a further rise in the 2014 figures. Figure 2 shows the legal status of children looked after at 31 March for all years since 2009.

**Figure 2: Legal status of children looked after at 31 March 2009 to 2013**



1. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.

## PLACEMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

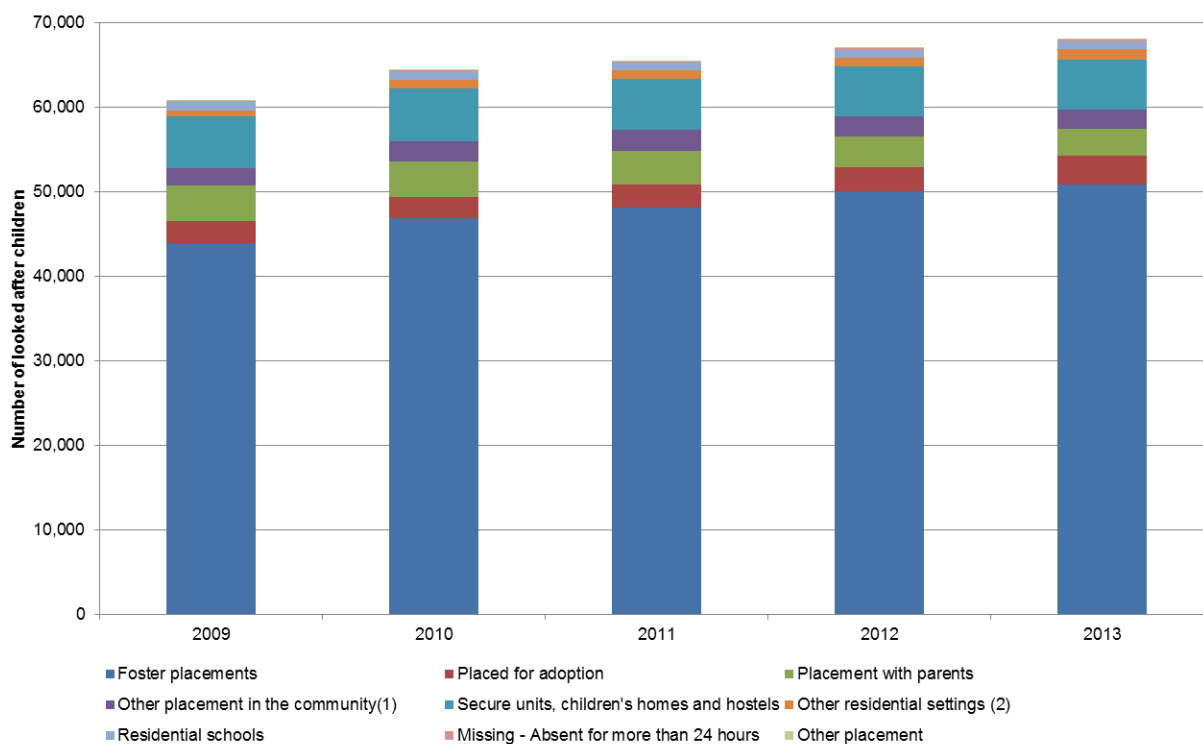
Of children looked after at 31 March 2013, 50,900 were cared for in a foster placement. The number of children placed in foster care has increased by 16 per cent since 2009, a higher rise than the rise in overall numbers of looked after children. This is reflected in the percentage of children looked after who are placed in foster care, this has increased each year since 2009. The percentage of looked after children cared for in foster placements was 72 per cent in 2009, in 2013 it has increased to 75 per cent.

There were 6,000 looked after children cared for in secure units, children’s homes and hostels, 9 per cent of all children looked after – a decrease from 10 per cent in 2009. Despite the rise in the number of children looked after, the number of looked after children placed in secure units, children’s homes and hostels has decreased by 2 per cent since 2009 showing that this type of placement is less likely to be used for a looked after child in 2013.

There were 3,260 children looked after placed with their parents, this represents 5 per cent of children looked after - a decrease from 7 per cent in 2009. The number of looked after children placed with their parents has decreased by 22 per cent since 2009.

There were 3,350 looked after children placed for adoption at 31 March 2013. This is an increase of 16 per cent from 2012 and an increase of 25 per cent from 2009. Figure 3 shows the trends in placements from 2009 to 2013.

**Figure 3: Children looked after at 31 March by placement type**



1. Includes children living independently and in residential employment
2. Includes residential care homes, NHS trusts, Family centres or young offenders' institutions.

Of all children looked after at 31 March 2013, 66 per cent (45,180) had only one placement during the year, 23 per cent had two placements during the year and 11 per cent had three or more placements. The percentage of looked after children with 3 or more placements during the year has not varied since 2009. However, if a child is missing from their agreed placement for a period of 24 hours or more, this is counted as a placement and will contribute towards the calculation of placement moves. This methodology is currently under review.

### **CHILDREN WHO STARTED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2013**

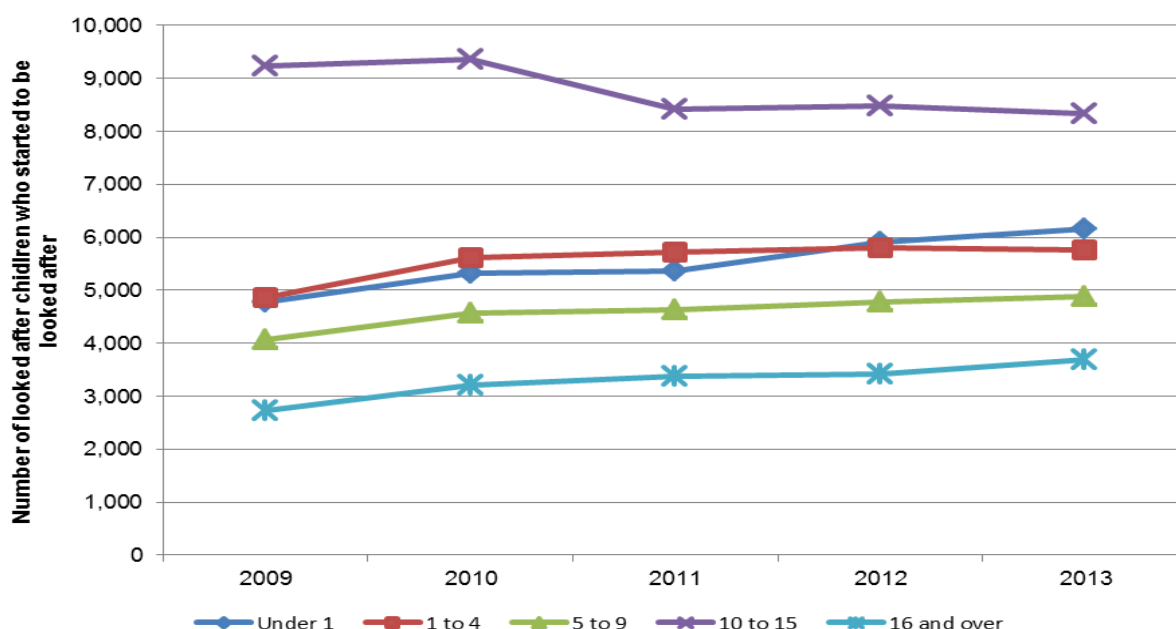
There were 28,830 children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013, an increase of 2 per cent from the previous year's figure of 28,390 and an increase of 12 per cent from 2009. Much of the increase in 2013 is accounted for by the rise in the number of children aged 16 and over who started to be looked after. In the year ending 31 March 2013, 3,690 children in this age group started to be looked after. This represents an increase of 8 per cent from 2012. For the younger age groups smaller increases, or decreases, are shown in the numbers of children who started to be looked after between 2012 and 2013:

- 6,150 children aged under 1 started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013, an increase of 4 per cent from 2012.
- 5,760 children aged between 1 and 4 started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013, a decrease of 1 per cent from 2012.

- 4,880 children aged between 5 and 9 started to be looked after during 2013, an increase of 2 per cent from 2012.
- 8,350 children aged between 10 and 15 started to be looked after during 2013, a decrease of 2 per cent from 2012.

Figure 4 shows the numbers of children who started to be looked after, for each age group, during the year ending 31 March.

**Figure 4: Age of children on starting to be looked after, 2009 to 2013**



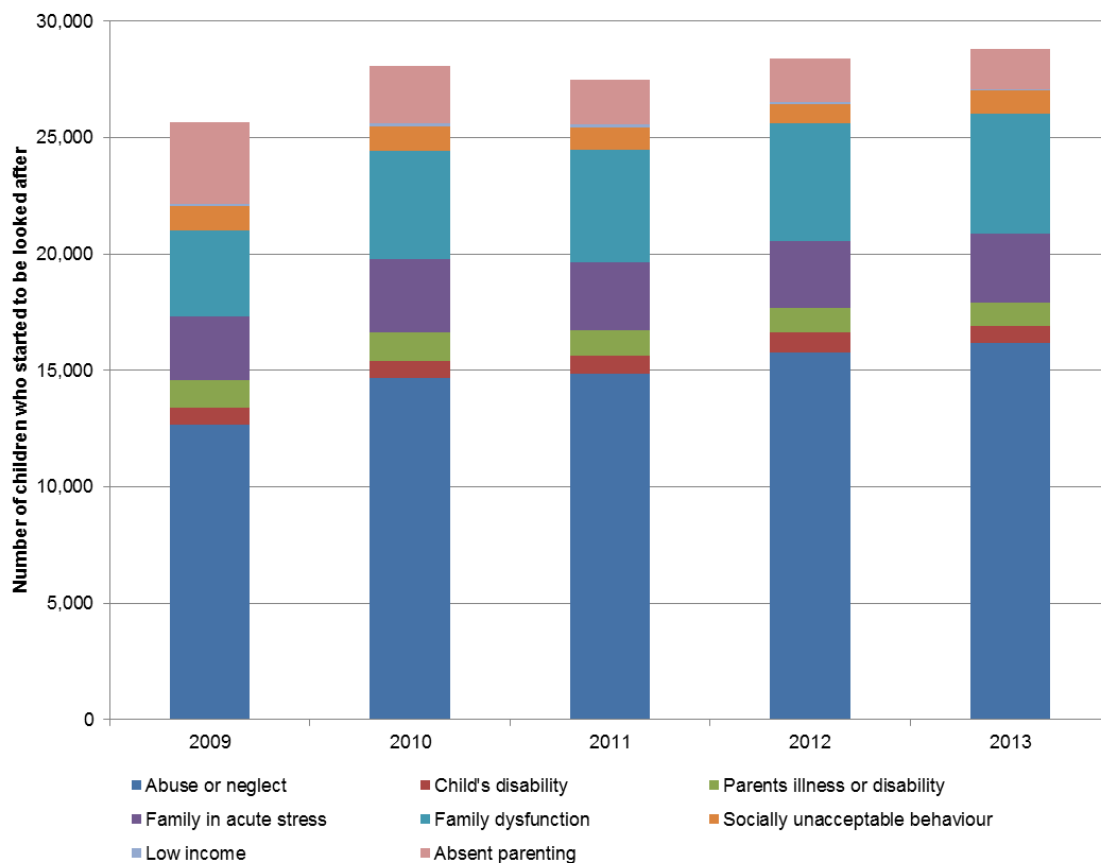
Of all children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013, 56 per cent were children provided with a service due to abuse or neglect, up from 49 per cent in 2009. The number of children starting to be provided with a service due to abuse or neglect has risen to 16,190 in 2013 – an increase of 28 per cent from 2009.

The second most frequent reason for a child to start being provided with a service was family dysfunction. This represents 18 per cent of all children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013 – an increase from 14 per cent in 2009. The numbers who were provided with a service due to family dysfunction have increased steadily in each year since 2009. In 2013 5,160 children started to be provided with a service for this reason – a rise of 41 per cent from 2009.

The percentage of children who started to be looked after due to absent parenting has decreased, from 14 per cent in 2009 to 6 per cent in 2013. The number of children who started to be looked after due to absent parenting has decreased by 50 per cent between 2009 and 2013. Previous releases have shown that this fall is connected with the fall in looked after children who are unaccompanied asylum seekers. Information on the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children looked after at 31 March 2013 by gender, age, category of need and ethnic origin will be published as an additional table to this release, in December.

Figure 5 shows the reason why children who started to be looked after were provided with a service for each year since 2009.

**Figure 5: Category of need of children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March**



Of the 28,830 children who started to be looked after, 38 per cent were taken into care. Children who were taken into care are children who started to be looked after under a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order or child assessment order. The number of children taken into care has increased by 9 per cent from 2012 and by 36 per cent from 2009.

### **CHILDREN WHO CEASED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2013**

There were 28,460 children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013. This is a small increase of 3 per cent from 2012 and an increase of 14 per cent from 2009.

By age group:

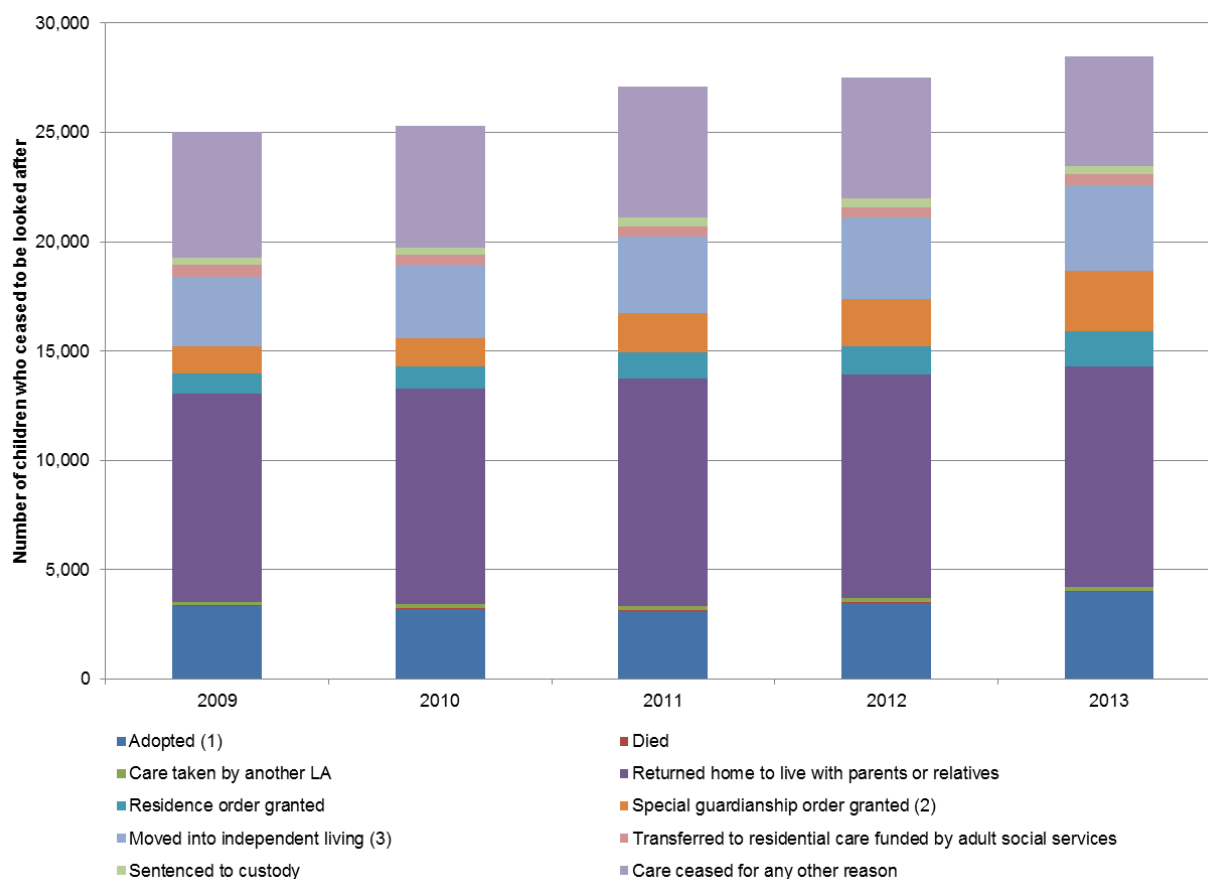
- 1,810 children aged under 1 ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013, an increase of 35 per cent compared to 2009.
- 7,610 children aged between 1 and 4 ceased to be looked after during the same period, an increase of 28 per cent from 2009.
- 4,140 children aged between 5 and 9 ceased to be looked after during 2013, an increase of 24 per cent from 2009.

- 4,910 children aged between 10 and 15 ceased to be looked after during 2013, a decrease of 13 per cent from 2009. The numbers of children in this age group ceasing to be looked after have decreased each year since 2009. This is consistent with the general trend for children to leave care at a later age.
- 9,990 children aged 16 and over ceased to be looked after during 2013, an increase of 14 per cent from 2009.

In 2013 the most common reason why a child ceased to be looked after is because they returned home to their parents or relatives. Some 35 per cent of children ceasing care in 2013 returned home to parents or relatives, a small decrease from 2009 when the figure was 38 per cent.

Figure 6 shows the reasons why a child ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March.

**Figure 6: Reason why a child ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March**



1. Includes both adoptions where the application unopposed and where consent dispensed with.
2. Includes special guardianship orders made to former foster carers and to carers other than former foster carers.
3. Includes both supportive living and living with no formalised support.

In 2013, 1,640 children ceased to be looked after due to the granting of a residence order. This is an increase of 25 per cent from 2012 and an increase of 77 per cent from 2009.



There were 2,740 looked after children who ceased to be looked after due to the granting of a Special Guardianship Order. Special Guardianship Orders were introduced in 2005. The number of these has increased by 28 per cent from 2012 and by 122 per cent since 2009. The majority of Special Guardianship Orders are made to former foster carers; these account for 58 per cent of all Special Guardianship Orders made.

### **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WHO WERE ADOPTED DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2013**

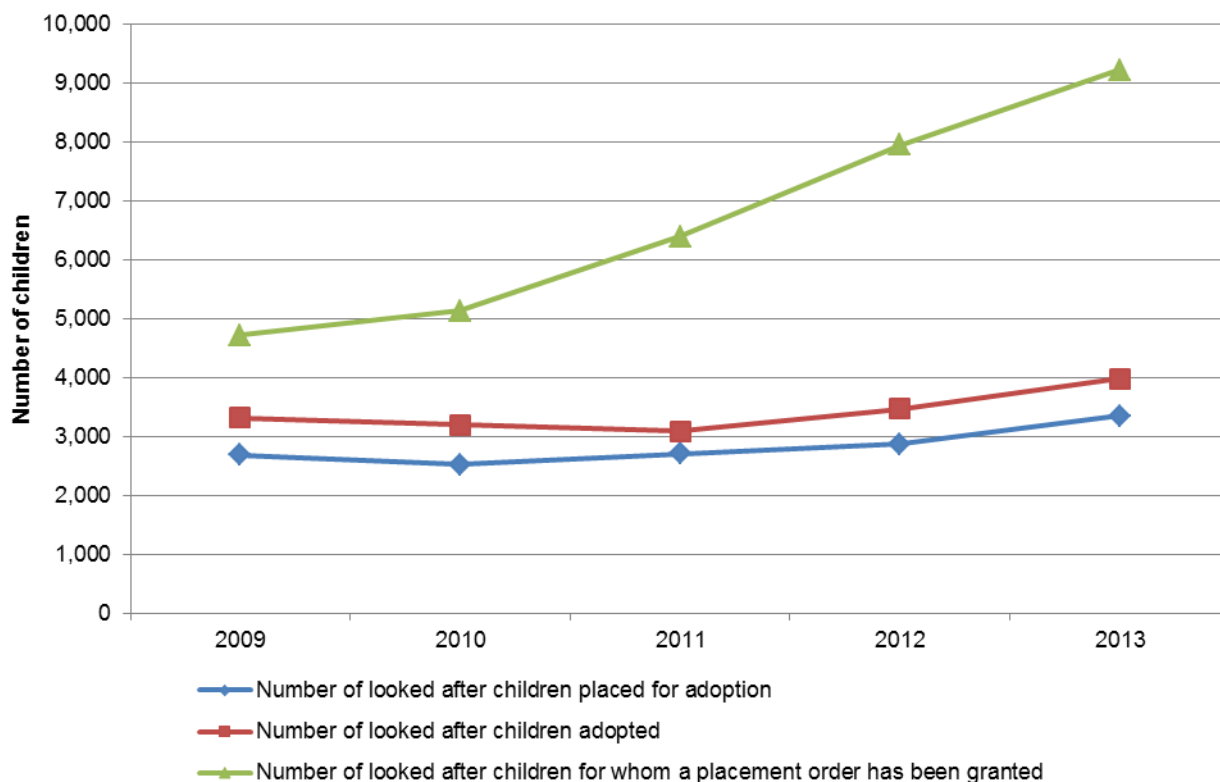
There were 3,980 looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2013, an increase of 15 per cent from the 2012 figure and an increase of 20 per cent from 2009. Although the number of looked after children adopted fell between both 2009 and 2010, and 2010 and 2011, it has risen in both years since 2011 and is now at its highest point since the current data collection began in 1992.

This rise in the number of looked after children who were adopted in 2013 reflects the rise in both the number of looked after children who were placed for adoption between 2012 and 2013 (Table A3), and the number for whom a placement order has been granted (table A2).

The number of looked after children placed for adoption increased by 16 per cent between 2012 and 2013 and by 25 per cent between 2009 and 2013. The number of looked after children for whom a placement order has been granted has increased by 16 per cent between 2012 and 2013 and by 95 per cent between 2009 and 2013.

It is therefore likely that both the number of looked after children adopted, and the number who are placed for adoption (but not yet adopted) will rise again in 2014. Figure 7 shows the number of looked after children placed for adoption, the number for whom a placement order has been granted and the number adopted, for each year since 2009.

**Figure 7: The number of looked after children placed for adoption, the number for whom a placement order has been granted and the number adopted during the year ending 31 March.**



The number of looked after children aged under 1 who were adopted showed a downward trend between 2009 and 2011, however small increases in the numbers adopted were shown in both 2012 and 2013. The number of looked after children aged under 1 when adopted is now 90, higher than in 2009.

The majority of adopted children are aged between 1 and 4 years at adoption. Of all looked after children adopted, 74 per cent are in this age group with the average age at adoption being 3 years and 8 months. This is the same as in 2012.

The length of the average final period of care for looked after children adopted is 2 years, 7 months. This figure has been fairly stable since 2009.

In younger children the adoption process was generally shorter. For children aged less than 1 year (on first entering care) the average time between entering care and adoption was 2 years and 3 months while for children aged 1 (when first entering care) the average time was 2 years and 11 months. For children aged 5 (when first entering care) the average length of the adoption process was 3 years and 4 months. The average length of time for the adoption process in children of all age groups has not changed significantly since 2009.

## **CHILDREN NOW AGED 19 YEARS OLD WHO WERE LOOKED AFTER WHEN AGED 16 YEARS**

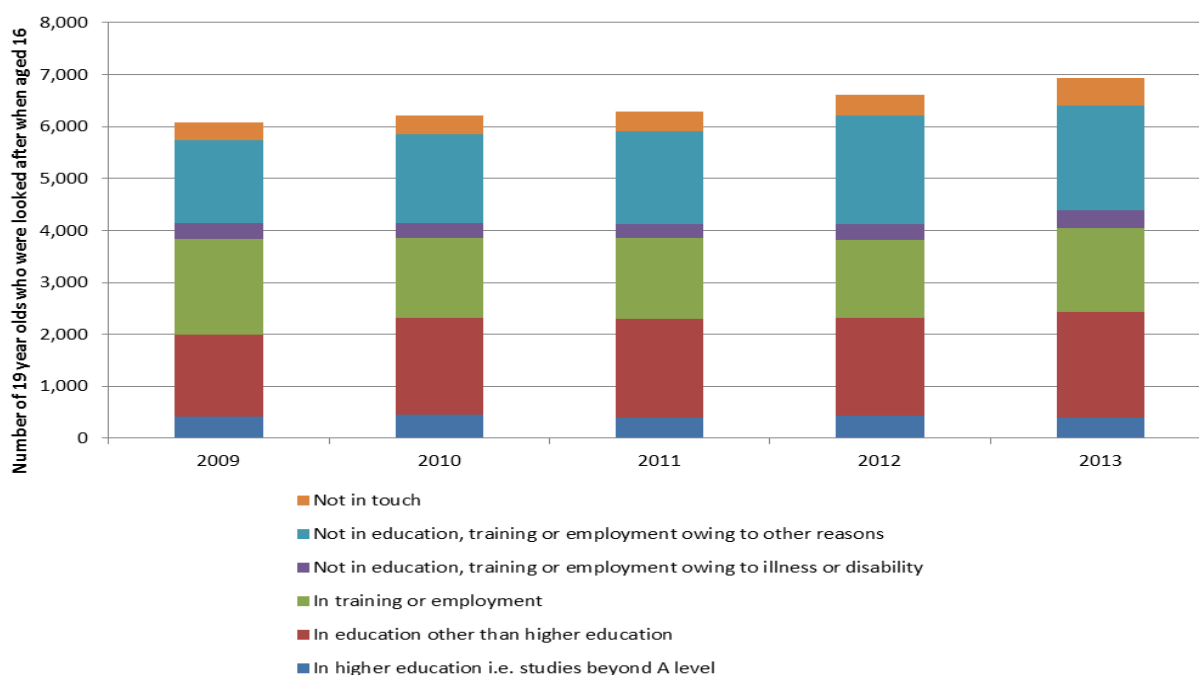
As part of the return, local authorities also provide the Department with information about the cohort of children who have turned 19 this year having been looked after when aged 16. The

number of children now aged 19 years who were looked after when aged 16 years is 6,930.

Of these young people, 2,360 (34 per cent) are not in education, employment or training (NEET). This is a decrease of 1 per cent since 2012, reversing the upward trend seen in previous years.

There are 400 young people now aged 19 years who are in higher education, a decrease from the 2012 figure of 430. This figure represents 6 per cent of all former care leavers. In addition 2,030 young people in this cohort are in education other than higher, with a further 1,630 in training or employment. This represents 29 per cent and 23 per cent respectively of all young people now aged 19 who were looked after when aged 16. These figures are similar to those reported in 2012. Figure 8 shows the activity when aged 19 of those children looked after when aged 16.

**Figure 8: Activity when aged 19 of children looked after when aged 16**



Most young people now aged 19 years who were looked after when aged 16 years are accommodated in independent living arrangements (37 per cent). This percentage has decreased over the last 5 years - in 2009 the percentage accommodated in independent living arrangements was 43 per cent. The majority (88 per cent) of young people now aged 19 who were looked after when aged 16 are classed as being in suitable accommodation (see Technical Note 9). There were 330 young people living with their former foster carers, this represents 5 per cent of this cohort of young people and is a similar figure to that of 2012.

## CHILDREN MISSING FROM THEIR AGREED PLACEMENT

As part of their SSDA903 return, local authorities record all children missing from their agreed placement for 24 hours or more. The number of children missing from their agreed placement for 24 hours or more at 31 March is shown in table A3 and the number of children missing from their agreed placement at any point during the year ending 31 March is shown in table B1. Comparisons

with other data indicate that the figures presented in this publication may be an undercount of the true figure. However extensive work has been carried out during the 2013 data collection to improve the quality of this data. This work will continue in future years. The number of children missing from their agreed placement shown in Table B1 will not therefore be a true increase in number but reflect the more accurate data which has been received. For further information see Technical Note 11.

## **LIST OF TABLES**

### **Children looked after at 31 March 2013**

- Table A1: All children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need, and ethnic origin, 2009 to 2013
- Table A2: Children looked after at 31 March by legal status, 2009 to 2013
- Table A3: Children looked after at 31 March by placement, 2009 to 2013
- Table LAA1: Children looked after at 31 March, by Local Authority, 2009 to 2013

### **Children looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013**

- Table B1: Children looked after at any time during the year ending 31 March and those looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need, placement and ethnic origin, 2009 to 2013
- Table LAB1: Children looked after at any time during the year ending 31 March and those looked after exclusively under a series of short term placements, by Local Authority

### **Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013**

- Table C1: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on starting, category of need and ethnic origin, 2009 to 2013
- Table LAC1: Children who started to be looked after and the number and percentage taken into care during the years ending 31 March, by Local Authority, 2009 to 2013

### **Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2013**

- Table D1: Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on ceasing, reason episode ceased, category of need and ethnic origin, 2009 to 2013
- Table LAD1: Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March, by Local Authority, 2009 to 2013

### **Children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2013**

- Table E1: Looked after children who were adopted during the years ending 31 March by gender, age at adoption, ethnic origin, category of need, final legal status, duration of final period of care and age on starting final period of care, 2009 to 2013
- Table E2: Children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March by average time between the different stages of the adoption process and age at start of period of care, 2009 to 2013

Table LAE1: Children who ceased to be looked after and the number and percentage adopted during the years ending 31 March, by Local Authority, 2009 to 2013

### **Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April then aged 16 years**

Table F1: Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after when aged 16 years by gender, activity and accommodation, 2009 to 2013

### **Additional Information**

Further information on looked after children, including detailed Local Authority level analysis will be released in December 2013. This will be arranged into 5 themes:

- Children looked after at 31 March
- Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March
- Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March
- Children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March
- Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April then aged 16
- A long term time series showing the number looked after at 31 March, number who started to be looked after, number who ceased to be looked after and number of looked after children adopted for all years since 1997

The date of the publication of this additional information will be announced at a later date. A full schedule showing which tables are included under each theme and their publication date is shown on the web site for this publication. This can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-looked-after-children>

The data underlying this release will be published on the same date in December.

Information on outcomes for looked after children will also be published in December, with some additional tables published in Spring 2014. This publication will include information on educational attainment, exclusions and absence from school, special educational needs, cautions and convictions, health and substance misuse of looked after children. It will also include information on the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children (SDQ scores).

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### Data Collection

1. The 2012-13 figures for looked after children are the latest in a regular series. Data are collected on the SSDA903 return, which provides the Department for Education with data on looked after children in England. It also covers adoptions of looked after children, the activity of former care leavers aged 19, and information on looked after children eligible for pupil premium.
2. All references made to “year” relate to the standard financial year which runs from 1 April to 31 March (for example 2013 should be understood as 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013).
3. The figures presented for the year ending 31 March 2013 are based on data reported by all 152 local authorities in England, with the exception of Isles of Scilly who are not required to submit a return as they do not have any looked after children within their care.
4. The database used to collect this information is longitudinal with one record for every child. As local authorities are continually updating the database every year, previous years’ figures have also been amended where there have been changes (see footnotes on historical changes in the relevant tables). The information collected contains details about the child (for example gender, date of birth, unique pupil number) and details about the child’s episodes in care (for example category of need, legal status under which the child is looked after and type of placement). When a change in legal status or placement (or both) occurs, a new episode of care is started and the date and reason for the change are recorded. Information is supplied to the Department for Education annually, and these records are then linked (by a unique identifier for each child) to any supplied by the same local authority in preceding years (from 1992 onwards).
5. Between 1997-98 and 2002-03 local authorities were required to submit a CLA100 return along with the SSDA903 return. The CLA100 was an aggregate return completed for all children looked after at 31 March while the SSDA903 was a one-in-three sample survey. From year ending 31 March 2004, the SSDA903 covered all children looked after and so the CLA100 was not required. Between 1997-98 and 2002-03, the AD1 return was completed for all children looked after who were adopted during the year; the OC1 return collected data on the qualifications achieved at the point of leaving care for young people leaving care in the year aged 16 and over; and the OC3 return collected data on the activity and accommodation of former care leavers at age 19 who were looked after on 1 April aged 16 years old (in their 17th year). From year ending 31 March 2004, these returns were collected as part of the SSDA903 data collection and so are not referred to as such anymore.
6. Further information on the data items collected in this return can be found in the guidance notes. This and other documents useful for the completion of the SSDA903 return can be found on the DfE children’s statistical returns website at:  
<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/stats/childrenlar/a00217479/cla2012-13>
7. Some of the information previously collected via the Outcome Indicators (OC2) return for children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March was added to the SSDA903 for the first time in 2008-09. The information collected included data on offending, health promotion checks, immunisations, dental checks, health assessments,

and substance misuse problem identification and intervention. This will form part of the Outcomes for Looked After Children Statistical First Release which will be published in December.

8. Children taken into care is defined as children who started to be looked after under a care order (full or interim), or who are detained on child protection grounds (police protection, emergency protection orders or child assessment orders).
9. Table F1 presents information on the numbers of care leavers not in suitable accommodation. Regulation 9(2) of the *Care Leavers Regulations* defines what is meant by 'Suitable accommodation'. It is accommodation, which, so far as reasonably practicable, is suitable for the child in light of his/her needs, including his/her health needs. The authority should have satisfied itself as to the character and suitability of the landlord or other provider; ensures that the accommodation complies with health and safety requirements related to rented accommodation; and that the authority has so far as reasonably practicable, taken into account the child's wishes and feelings; and education, training or employment needs. Further information can be found at: <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/v/volume%203%20planning%20transition%20to%20adulthood%20for%20care%20leavers.pdf>
10. The number of looked after children at 31 March 2013 (table A1) does not equate to the number at 31 March 2012 plus the number who started (table C1) minus the number who ceased to be looked after in the year (table D1). The reason for this is that a child is only ever counted once as starting to be looked after during the year, and once as ceasing to be looked after during the year, but in some circumstances a child may enter care and/or leave care more than once during the year. There are also a small number of children who move in and out of respite care during the year for whom the same will apply.

## Data quality

11. Data on children missing from their placement are presented in this publication in tables A3 and B1. Comparisons with other data sources, including numbers of missing children reported to the police, indicate that the figures presented in this publication may be an undercount of the true figure and should be treated with caution. Extensive work on improving this data was undertaken during the 2013 data collection. This work is continuing. The increase in the number of children missing from placements, and the number of "missing" placements, should not therefore be seen as a true increase but a reflection of the improved data quality.
12. The 2013 data shows that there are still children subject to freeing orders even though applications for freeing orders could not be made on or after 30 December 2005 as they were replaced by placement orders. Such high numbers of children subject to freeing orders six years after they have come to an end are not expected. Further guidance on the use of freeing orders has been included in our guidance notes.
13. In previous years grossing factors have been applied to the data in order to compensate for records with errors in their episodes. As the quality of data returned has improved the grossing factors applied have become very close to 1. We have therefore reviewed the use of grossing factors in 2013 and, after review, have decided to discontinue their use. Further information about the grossing methodology, the decision to discontinue and the impact can be found in the methodology document published with this release.



14. This publication is produced using a final version of the 2013 dataset and we do not plan to make any revisions to this publication. If we later discover that a revision is necessary, this will be made in accordance with our revisions policy which is published at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/statistics#latest-statistical-releases>
15. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act came into force on 3 December 2012. The Act states that all children remanded by the courts will now become looked after. Previously only certain groups of children remanded were considered to be looked after. As a result of this Act more children will become looked after under a youth justice legal status, as a result of their involvement with the criminal justice system. The rise in numbers shown in this publication mainly represents children remanded by the courts in the last quarter of the collection year. A further rise is expected in 2014 as this Act will apply to the whole collection year.

## **Rounding Conventions**

16. The National Statistics Code of Practice requires that reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that all published or disseminated statistics produced by the Department for Education protect confidentiality. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, Local Authority figures have been rounded to the nearest 5. For confidentiality purposes, numbers from one to five inclusive have been replaced in the published tables by a cross (x). Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure submitted was zero (0). The following convention has been used:  
  
    ". " means not applicable  
  
    "- " means negligible – used to represent a percentage below 0.5%
17. Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or less or the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x). Note that percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

## **Related Publications**

18. Details of statistics on looked after children published by other countries in the UK can be found below.

### ***Scotland***

Children Looked After Statistics are produced annually by the Scottish Government. The most recent data published on 19 March 2013 can be found at the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/03/5229>

### ***Wales***

Statistics on Children Looked After in Wales are produced annually by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government. Data for the period up to the end of March 2013 will be released on 26th September 2013 and can be found via the

following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/du/due-month/sept/?jsessionid=mhGBQWncScGj6971kr9Mb1hIMTC4t4JY1pgdJCx2tJHQBCnJDLZV!1219044931?lang=en>

### ***Northern Ireland:***

The Children Order Statistical Bulletin and Children Order Statistical Tables are produced by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and include information on looked after children in Northern Ireland. The most recent data published on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 can be found at the following link:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/stats-cib/statistics\\_and\\_research-cib-pub/children\\_statistics/children\\_order\\_quarterly.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/children_order_quarterly.htm)

### ***England:***

Information on referrals, assessments and children who were the subject of a child protection plan (taken from the Children in Need census) will be published at the end of October. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/statistics#latest-statistical-releases>

Information on care proceedings applications made by local authorities where CAFCASS has been appointed by the court to represent the interests of children are published by CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service). The latest information can be found at:

<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/leaflets-resources/organisational-material/care-and-private-law-demand-statistics/care-demand-statistics.aspx>

## **A National Statistics publication**

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics 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. This publication has been designated as National Statistics following assessment by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority.

## **Looked after children data user group:**

This is a group which aims to seek feedback on whether these statistics are meeting users' requirements and to consult on any future changes to this data collection and the timing

and format of our outputs. If you would like to participate in this group then please register your interest via [email](#).

## **Enquiries**

Enquiries about the figures contained in this press release should be addressed to:

Children and Early Years Data Unit, CSDSD,  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 3BT  
Email: [cla.stats@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cla.stats@education.gsi.gov.uk)

Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at:

Press Office  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 3BT  
Telephone Number: 020 7925 6789