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Northern Ireland Care Leavers 2014/15



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- *Provide up-to-date, quality information on children and adult social services and community health;*
- *to disseminate findings widely with a view to stimulating debate, promoting effective decision-making and improvement in service provision; and*
- *be an expert voice on social care information.*

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The purpose of Community Information Branch (CIB) is to promote effective decision making in children and adult social services by providing quality information and analysis.

We collect, analyse, and publish a wide range of community information that is used to help monitor the delivery of personal social services policy. Information collected by CIB is used to assess HSC Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, policy evaluation, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions.

Information is widely disseminated through a number of regular key statistical publications and ad hoc reports, details of which are available online.

KEY FINDINGS

There were 289 care leavers aged 16-18 in 2014/15

Key findings indicate care leavers aged 16-18 continue to have a higher proportion of young people coping with disability (15%) than the general population (6%), and in terms of education, higher proportions of care leavers had a Statement of Educational Need (14%) compared with the general school population (5%).

Three quarters of care leavers had GCSEs or other qualifications. However, the proportion of care leavers obtaining 5 GCSE's (A*-C) or higher was 25% which remains much lower than for school leavers as a whole (79%). The proportion of young people leaving care with no qualifications was 26% in 2014/15.

Of care leavers for whom information was available, three in five (61%) were in education or training, 8% were working and 31% were unemployed or economically inactive.

There were 240 care leavers aged 19 in 2014/15

Some 68% of care leavers aged 19 were in contact with Health and Social Care Trusts at least once a month.

In terms of becoming a parent, 16% of all care leavers aged 19 were parents, with 26% of female care leavers aged 19 becoming mothers on or before their 19th birthday.

Of the care leavers for whom information was available, 66% were in education, training or employment, a small increase from 2013/14 (64%). This was higher than 19 year old care leavers in England, where 59% were in education, training or employment, and in Wales (55%).

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1. Northern Ireland Care Leavers

1.1. BACKGROUND

Children are taken into care for a variety of reasons, the most common being to protect a child from abuse or neglect. In other cases their parents could be absent or may be unable to cope due to disability or illness. Children who become looked after children by the Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust have often suffered many disadvantages in their lives and many of them attain low educational achievements which are likely to impact on their future lives and chances for employment.

The *Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002* was implemented in 2005. It aims to improve the life prospects of young people who are looked after by HSC Trusts as they make the transition to independent living and become care leavers. To achieve this, the Act amended the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 to place new and enhanced duties on HSC Trusts to support young people who are leaving care.

The main aims of the Act are to prevent premature discharges from care, improve preparation, planning and consistency of support for young care leavers, and to strengthen arrangements for financial assistance. Central to the Act, are duties to assess and meet young people's individual needs, provide personal advisers and develop pathway planning for young people up to the age of 21 (or beyond if continuing in education).¹

Standards for Leaving Care Services in Northern Ireland were published by Child Care Policy Directorate in 2012 which establish minimum standards for Leaving and Aftercare Services in Northern Ireland. The Standards specify the arrangements, services and procedures that need to be in place and implemented to ensure the delivery of quality services for young people leaving care. These Standards apply to HSC Trusts and those other agencies commissioned by a HSC Trust to deliver leaving and aftercare services.

The *Going the Extra Mile (GEM) scheme* is a DHSSPS initiative, unique to Northern Ireland, which was launched in 2006. The aim of the scheme is to promote continuity and stability of living arrangements in post care life for young people living with foster carers by ensuring that appropriate and agreed levels of financial support are available to assist carers to continue to meet the care, accommodation and support needs of these young people until the young person is aged at least 21. Allied to this, the scheme also aims to promote better outcomes for young people leaving care in relation to training, employment and education and avoid conflict with the law².

¹ The Children (Leaving Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 set out in more detail the matters to be taken into account by HSC Trusts when assessing and meeting the needs of those preparing to leave care and those who have left care.

² The scheme is facilitated under the Children (Leaving Care) Act (NI) 2002, the Children (Leaving Care) Regulations (NI) 2005 and Volume 8 of the Children (NI) Order 1995 Guidance - Leaving and Aftercare.

The Care Matters in Northern Ireland strategy³, which aims to improve support for children in care, was endorsed by the Executive in 2009. One of the recommended actions from the strategy was the introduction of a Personal Education Plan for looked after children or young persons for the expressed purpose of improving educational outcomes. Implementation of the Personal Education Plan and its associated materials took effect from 1 December 2011.

1.2. OC COMMUNITY INFORMATION RETURNS

The community information returns OC1, OC2 and OC3 collect data relating to children in care and care leavers in Northern Ireland, which together are designed to monitor and assess outcomes for children while they are in care and after leaving care. The OC1 return collects information on educational attainment of care leavers aged 16 to 18, the OC2 return collects information relating to the educational qualifications and health of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more at 30 September each year and the OC3 return collects information on the economic activity of care leavers aged 19. This bulletin report's findings from the OC1 and OC3 surveys relating to the year ending 31 March 2015.

Findings from the OC1 and OC3 surveys have previously been reported on in separate bulletins. This is the second bulletin where the findings have been combined⁴.

DEPARTMENTAL TARGETS AND INDICATORS	<i>The Health and Social Care (Indicators of Performance) Direction Northern Ireland) 2015</i>		
Ensuring the best possible outcome in life for care leavers is a priority for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. This is reflected in the Indicators of Performance Direction for 2014/15 where an Indicator was included regarding the economic activity of care leavers aged 16-18.	Indicator B21: Number of care leavers in education, training and employment by placement type		
	Of the care leavers aged 16-18 in 2014/15; those placed in kinship or non-kinship foster care prior to leaving care had the highest proportion of care leavers in education training and employment.		
		Number of care leavers	Number of care leavers in education, training and employment
	Residential Accommodation	37	19 (51%)
	Kinship Foster Care	60	51 (85%)
	Non-Kinship Foster Care	90	72 (80%)
Placed with Parent	30	13 (43%)	
Other	72	27 (38%)	
Total	289	182 (63%)	

1.3. CARE LEAVERS

Care Leavers in this bulletin cover young people aged 16-18 who left care during the year ending 31st March 2015 as well as young people who turned 19 years of age during the year ending 31st March 2015 and who had been looked after on 1st April three years previously. It excludes those young people who had been looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements (respite care).

³ http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/child_care/looked-after-children/care-matters.htm

⁴ Please see Technical Annex for further details.

Due to the small number of care leavers in Northern Ireland, some caution should be taken when interpreting figures presented in this bulletin, especially when the figures are broken down into sub categories. It is also worth noting, when comparing yearly figures, that each year has an individual cohort of young adults which may differ in characteristics to other years. For example, one year may include a higher number of children with special educational needs which could impact on the educational attainment figures for that year. As such, yearly variations in outcomes may be a reflection on the different cohorts of people in addition to actual trends or social care intervention.

2. Care leavers aged 16-18

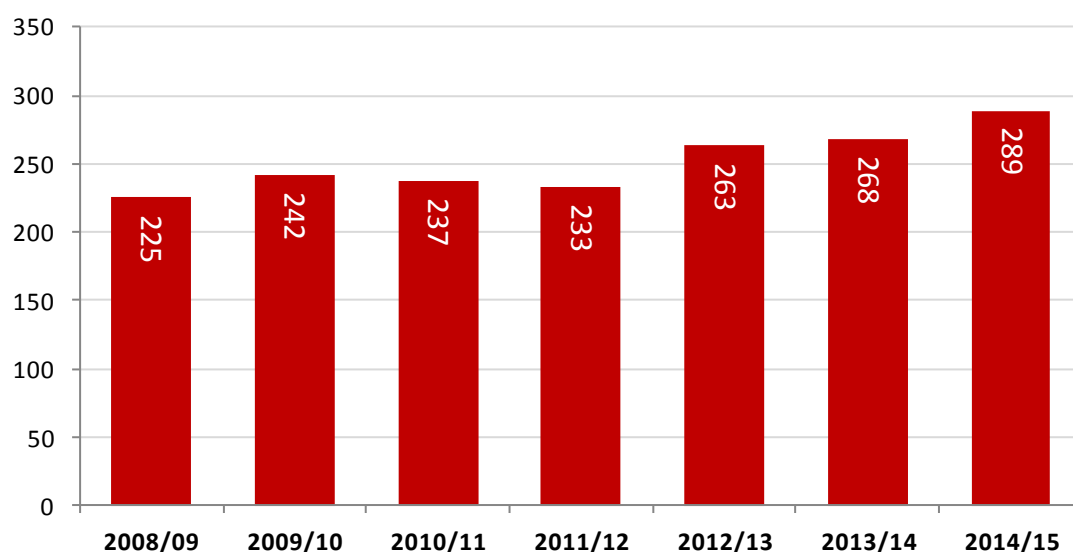
2.1. WHO ARE THE CARE LEAVERS AGED 16-18?

- *The majority of the care leavers left care aged 18*
- *49% were from Protestant and 43% from Catholic community backgrounds*
- *15% had a disability*
- *One in seven had a statement of special educational needs*

During the year ending 31 March 2015, 289 young people aged 16–18 left care in Northern Ireland. This was twenty one more than the previous year. The number of care leavers in this age category has remained relatively stable over the previous seven year period although there was an increase of 28% from 2008/09 to 2014/15. A rise in the number of care leavers would be expected following a continuing increase in the numbers of looked after children in recent years⁵.

There were more female care leavers than male in 2014/15 (53% and 47% respectively). This was contrary to the general population of that age group in Northern Ireland, where 51% were males and 49% females⁶.

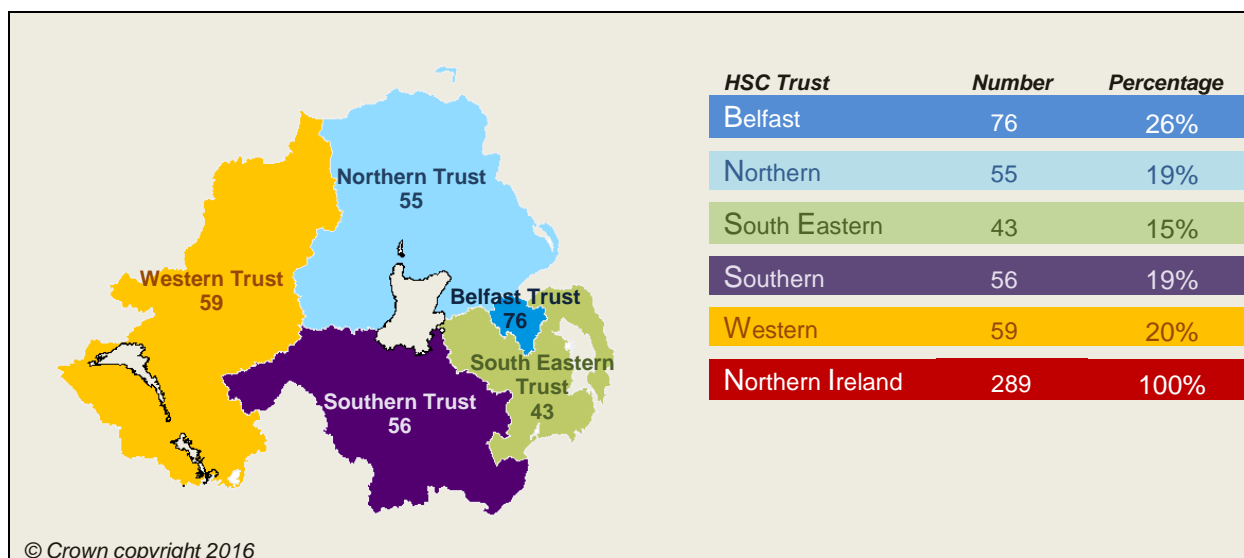
Figure 1 Number of care leavers aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland (2008/09 – 2014/15)



⁵ Figures for Looked After Children can be found in 'Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2015'

⁶ 2014 Mid Year Population Estimate (NISRA 2015)

Figure 2 Number of care leavers aged 16-18 – HSC Trust profile (2014/15)



As in 2012/13 and 2013/14, the Belfast Health & Social Care (HSC) Trust had the highest number of care leavers aged 16-18. Between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the Belfast HSC Trust saw the largest increase in care leavers from 58 to 76 (31%). The South Eastern HSC Trust had a reduction in the number of care leavers from 54 to 43 (-20%).

The care leavers' individual geographical location was linked with the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010⁷ to identify the deprivation quintile rank of home location before last entry into care and after leaving care⁸. For the children where geographical information was available⁹, a similar proportion had been living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland before the last entry into care (42%) as after leaving care (40%). Further analysis showed that two fifths the care leavers (43%) were living in an area of same deprivation rank when leaving care as before last entry into care. Furthermore, one quarter (26%) had moved into an area ranked of higher deprivation whereas a slightly larger proportion (31%) had moved into areas ranked with less deprivation.

2.1.1. Age Profile

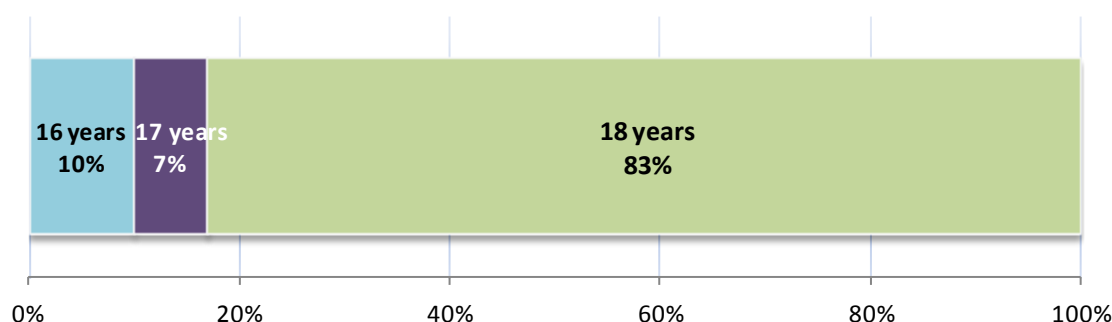
Of the care leavers in 2014/15, most stayed in care until they reached the age of 18 years (83%). Only 17% left care at the age of 16 or 17 years. This was similar to 2013/14. At HSC Trust level, there was some variation in the age profile of the care leavers. The Belfast, Northern and South Eastern HSC Trusts had a similar overall profile to that of Northern Ireland. In the Southern HSC Trust over a third of care leavers were aged 16-17 years (36%), while in the Western HSC Trust, almost all were aged 18 (93%).

⁷ Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2010 (http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/nimdm_2010.htm)

⁸ These analyses were only carried out for care leavers with Northern Ireland geographical location.

⁹ Northern Ireland geographical information prior to entering care was available for 97% of the care leavers and information was available for 92% upon leaving care. Information was supplied for 90% of the care leavers for both prior to entering care and after leaving care.

Figure 3 Age of care leavers (2014/15)



2.1.2. Religion and Ethnicity

Information on religion and ethnicity of care leavers is collected for equality monitoring purposes. There were greater numbers of care leavers from a Protestant community background (49%) than Catholic (43%) in 2014/15, with 8% from 'Other' denominations, including those with no religion, or whose religion was unknown or not recorded. The proportion of Protestant care leavers was 8 percentage points higher in 2014/15 than in 2013/14 with a 6 percentage point lower proportion of Catholic care leavers.

The vast majority of care leavers in 2014/15 had a White ethnic background (96%). This was a slight increase on the equivalent figure for 2013/14 (93%).

2.1.3. Disability

Having a disability can have an impact upon a person's life chances. People with disabilities can suffer from multiple disadvantage, being more likely to live in poverty, less likely to have educational qualifications and more likely to be economically inactive. Of the care leavers in 2014/15, 15% (42) were disabled. Of these, just over half (52%) had a learning disability, over a quarter (29%) were on the autistic spectrum and 12% had a mental health condition¹⁰.

There are no directly comparable disability figures for Northern Ireland. However, the 2011 Census reported that just over 6% of all young people of this age (16-18) in Northern Ireland had a long-term limiting illness¹¹. Furthermore, 6% of 16-17 year olds received Disability Living Allowance in February 2015¹². These comparisons continue to suggest that a disproportionate number of young care leavers are coping with disabilities.

¹⁰ Please note that some of the children had multiple disabilities. For example, a small number of the children with a learning disability were also included in the percentage of children with mental health disabilities.

¹¹ <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/census/2011Census.html>

¹² DSD, February 2015 'Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary', http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/benefit_publications.htm

2.1.4. *Special Educational Need*

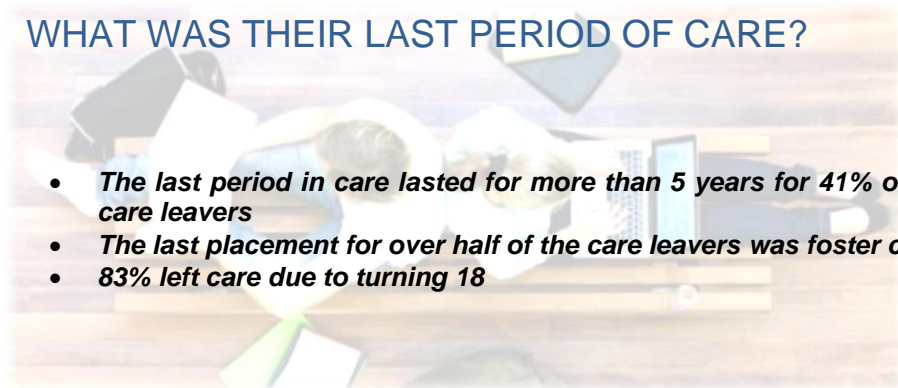
Children have special educational needs if they have a difficulty which calls for specific educational provision to be made for them. Further definitional and background information on this is detailed in the 'Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs', which is available from the Department of Education for Northern Ireland¹³.

One in seven of care leavers in 2014/15 (14%) had a statement of special educational need, 5 percentage points lower than the proportion in 2013/14 (19%). Although not directly comparable, 5% of the general school population in Northern Ireland¹⁴ had a statement of Special Educational Needs.

¹³ DENI, http://www.deni.gov.uk/the_code_of_practice.pdf

¹⁴ DENI Enrolments at Schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2014/15

2.2. WHAT WAS THEIR LAST PERIOD OF CARE?



- **The last period in care lasted for more than 5 years for 41% of the care leavers**
- **The last placement for over half of the care leavers was foster care**
- **83% left care due to turning 18**

2.2.1. Legal Status

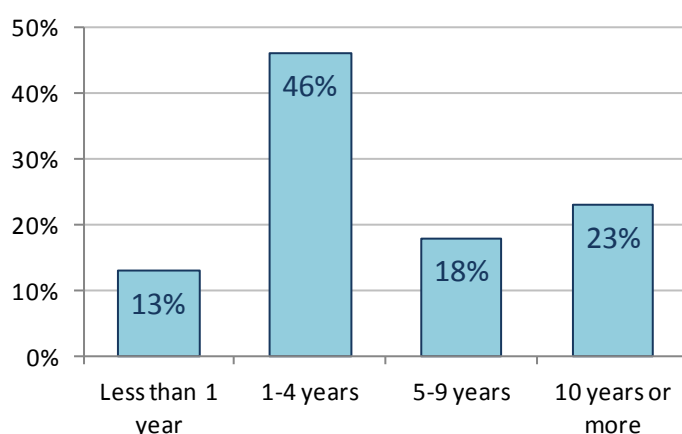
In regards to the legal status¹⁵ of the care leavers aged 16-18, the majority had been placed in care under a Care Order (59%), with just over a third (39%) Accommodated (Article 21). The remaining 2% of care leavers had other legal statuses including Interim Care Orders.

2.2.2. Length of Most Recent Period in Care

Some 46% of young care leavers had been looked after for between 1 to 4 years in their latest period of care¹⁶, 13% had been looked after for less than one year and a further 23% for 10 years or longer. On average, a girl's last period of care was longer (5 years 5 months) than a boy's (5 years 0 months).

The last period of care for the largest proportion of care leavers in each HSC Trust area was 1-4 years, apart from in the Belfast HSC Trust. This ranged from 51% of care leavers in the Western HSC Trust to 63% in the South Eastern HSC Trust. The largest proportion of care leavers in the Belfast HSC Trust had been looked after for 10 or more years prior to leaving care (32%).

Figure 4 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Length of most recent period of care



¹⁵ Definitions of the different legal statuses are set out in Appendix B.

¹⁶ The OC1 collection covers only the latest period in care and does not take account of any previous instances where a child was looked after.

2.2.3. Last Placement

As in previous years, the majority of care leavers in 2014/15 had been in foster care prior to leaving care (52%); 21% in kinship foster care (placed with relatives or a person known to the child) and 31% in non-kinship foster care¹⁷. Furthermore, 17% had been in independent living arrangements, this was divided between those with formal support (12%) and those without (4%). Some 8% had been in 'other'¹⁸ placement types which included placements such as hospital, young offender's centres, shared care and assessment centres.

Due to the small numbers involved, caution must be taken when analysing last placement type by gender. However, a greater proportion of the female care leavers aged 16-18 were in foster care compared with males (60% and 43% respectively).

Figure 5 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Last placement type (2014/15)

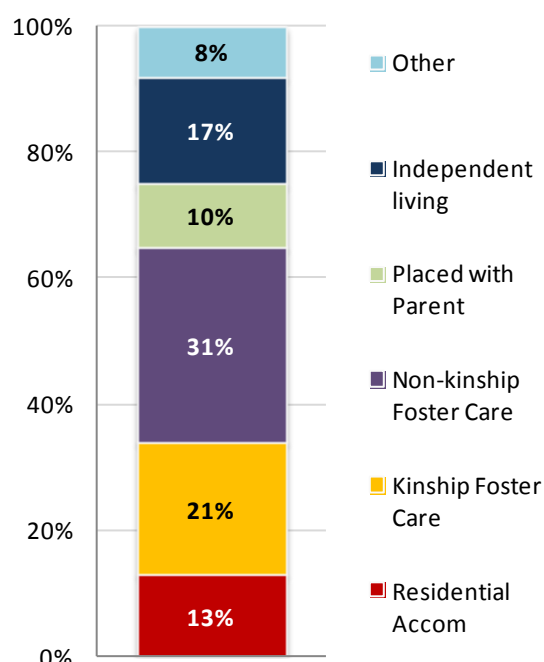
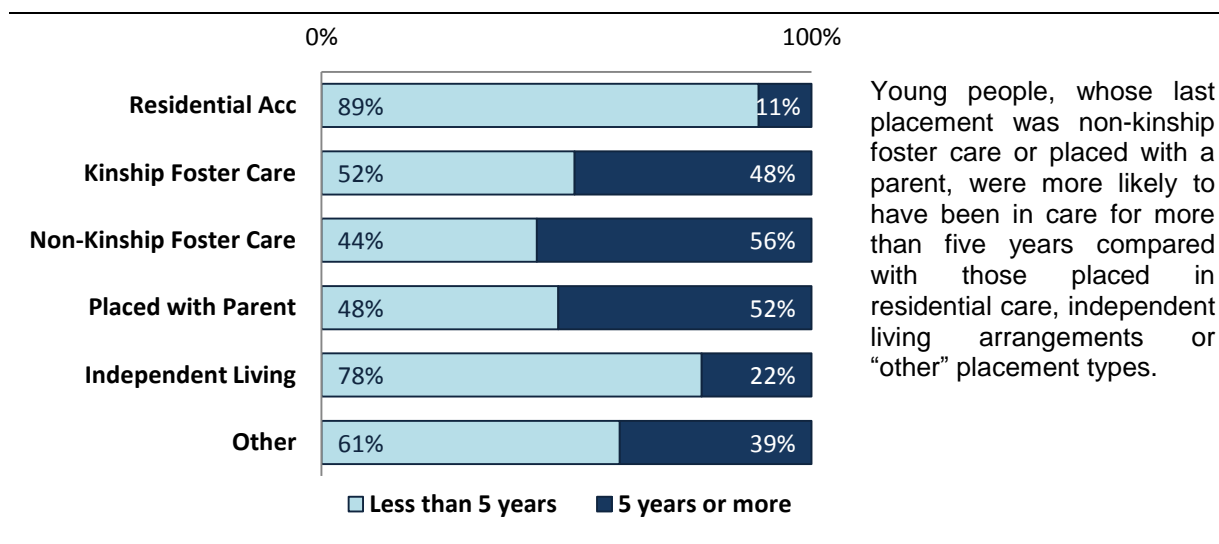


Figure 6 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Last placement by time in care (2014/15)



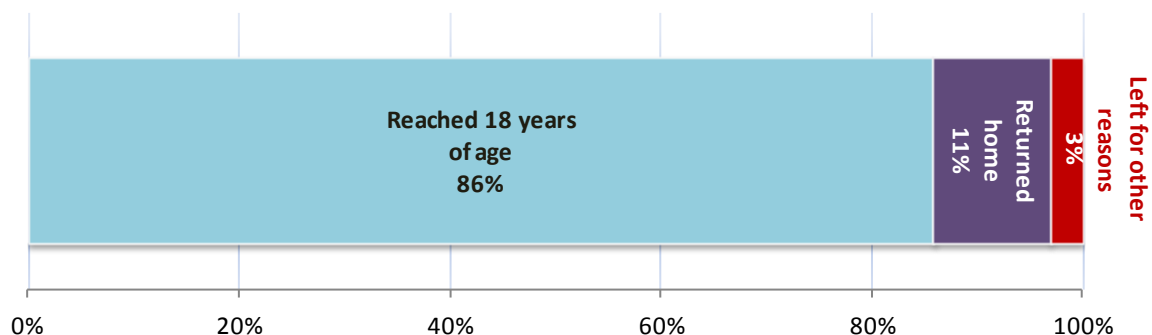
¹⁷ Please see appendix B for placement definitions.

¹⁸ Figures for Other Placements may differ from previous publications as they no longer include Independent Living

2.2.4. Reasons for Leaving Care

Of the 289 care leavers aged 16-18 years in 2014/15, the majority (86%) left care because they had reached 18 years of age¹⁹, with a further 11% left to return home to live with their parents²⁰.

Figure 7 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Reason care ceased



Note: "Left for other reasons" includes "Moved into supported accommodation", "Moved into unsupported accommodation", "Transferred to adult social services" and "Other".

Note: "Reached 18 years of age" includes a small number of care leavers aged 17 whose 18th birthday was within one week of leaving care.

¹⁹ This includes a small number of care leavers aged 17 whose 18th birthday was within one week of leaving care.

²⁰ Other reasons include: order discharged/revoked; care taken over by other trust; got married and refused service.

2.3. HOW ARE THEY DOING NOW?

- **Three quarters of the care leavers had GCSEs or other qualifications**
- **A higher proportion of those previously in foster care had GCSEs or other qualifications compared with all other placement types**
- **64% were in education, training or employment**

2.3.1. Current Accommodation

After having left care, over a third (37%) of the care leavers aged 16-18 were still living with their former foster carers. A fifth (19%) were living with their parents, with a further fifth (18%) living independently. Some 11% of care leavers were living in supported accommodation and the remaining 15% of care leavers were divided between residential accommodation, living with friends, custody and other accommodation.

2.3.2. Personal Education Plans

A Personal Education Plan (PEP) should be completed for every looked after child. It is a continuous running record of a child's educational history, identifying actions needed to enable the individual to fulfil his or her potential by establishing targets for the child relating to learning achievements. Two fifths (42%) of care leavers aged 16-18 in 2014/15 had a completed Personal Education Plan. Of those with a PEP, 32% had a review of their education plan during the previous 12 months.

2 in 5
care leavers
aged 16-18
had a Personal
Educational Plan

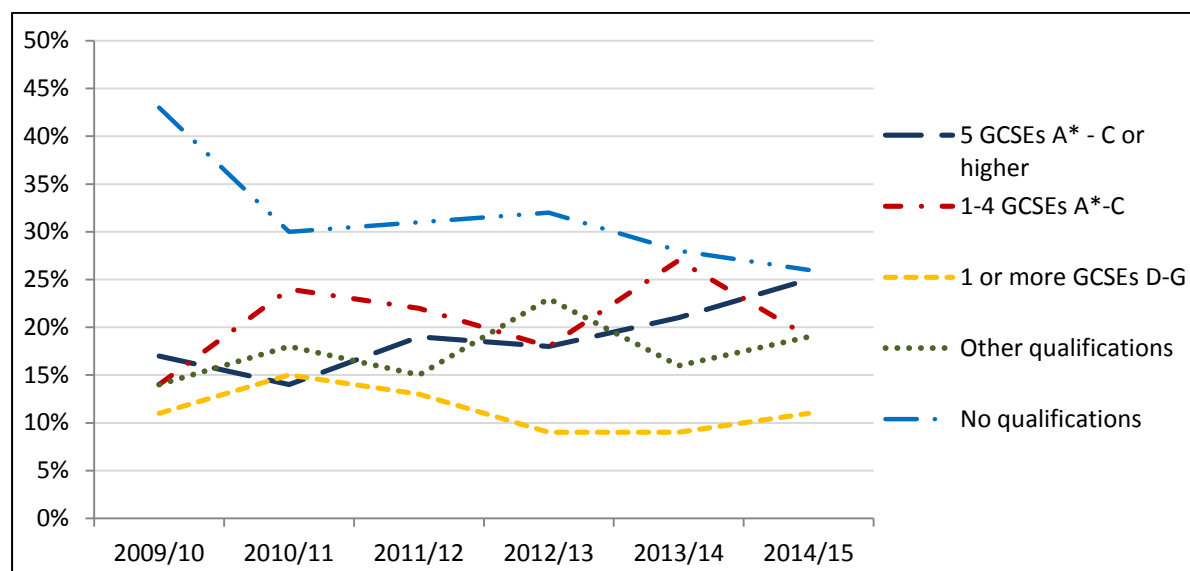
2.3.3. Educational Attainment

Educational attainment can be an important predictor of success in later life. Looked after children have often suffered many disadvantages in their lives and many of them have low educational achievements which may impact on their future lives and chances for employment.

In 2014/15, 74% of the care leavers aged 16-18 achieved GCSEs or other qualifications whereas 26% had no qualifications²¹. The Figure below sets out the yearly trend of educational attainment since 2009/10.

²¹ Figures exclude 7 care leavers with severe learning difficulties

Figure 8 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Care leavers' qualifications (2009/10 - 2014/15)



Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

As the characteristics of the cohort of care leavers can vary year on year, the outcomes may also vary. However, the proportion of young people leaving care with any GCSEs in 2014/15 was slightly lower than in 2013/14 (55% compared with 57%). This was accompanied by a similar reduction in the proportion of those with no qualifications (26% compared to 28%). The proportion of care leavers with 'Other qualifications' increased from 16% in 2013/14 to 19% in 2014/15.

As in 2013/14, a higher proportion of females (33%) than males (17%) obtained 5 GCSE's grades A*-C. A third (31%) of all males left care with no qualifications compared to 21% of females (see Tables for details).

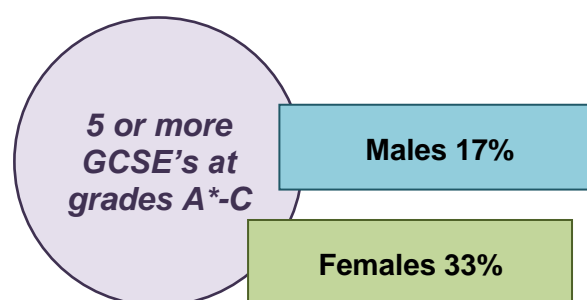
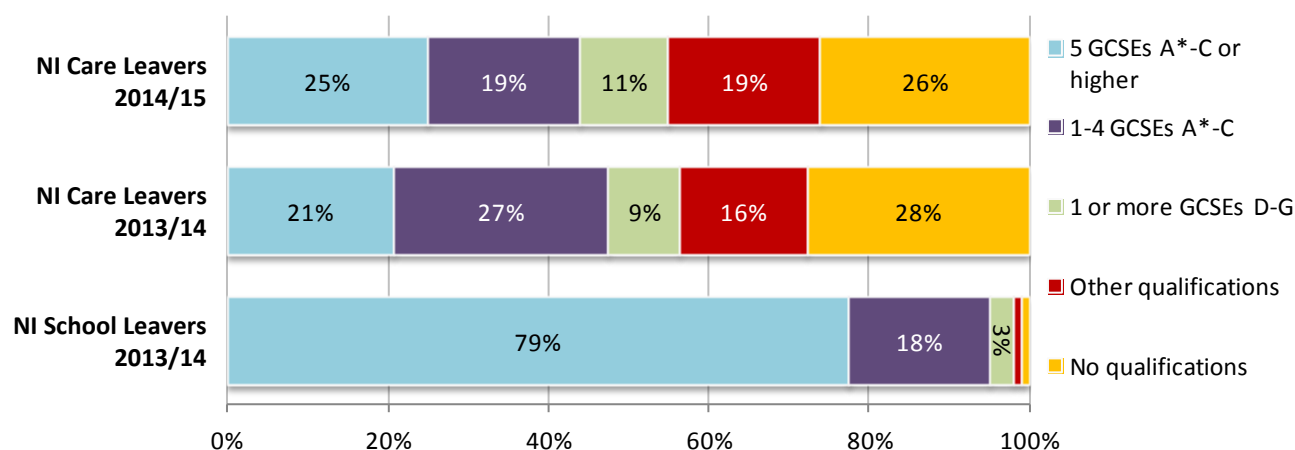


Figure 9 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Highest qualification of care leavers & Northern Ireland school leavers²²



Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

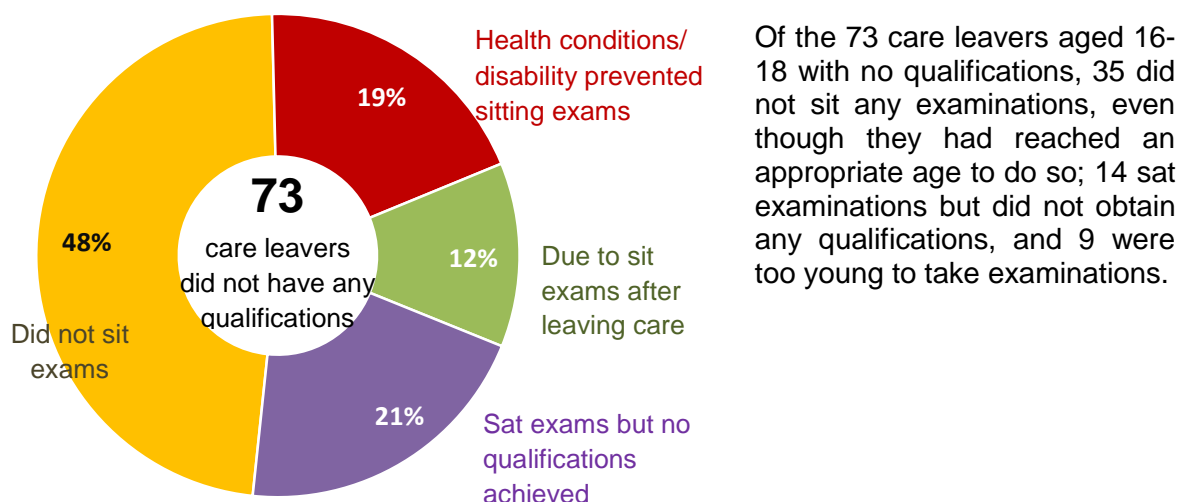
The above Figure details educational qualifications obtained by care leavers in 2014/15, compared with Northern Ireland school leavers as a whole (latest figures relate to 2013/14²³). Care leavers for 2013/14 have also been included for comparison.

The figure shows that there are important differences in educational attainment between care leavers and school leavers generally. For example, 25% of care leavers left care with 5 GCSE's (grades A*-C) or higher, compared with almost four fifths (79%) of general school leavers. Just over a quarter of all care leavers (26%) left care with no qualifications, compared with 1% of general school leavers. In this context it is worth noting the before mentioned higher proportion of care leavers with special educational needs (14% compared with 5% of the general school population). It is expected that this would influence and inflate the difference in the level of qualifications between the two groups.

²² Excludes 7 care leavers with severe learning difficulties

²³ Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2013/14, DENI.

Figure 10 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Reasons for having no qualifications (2014/15)

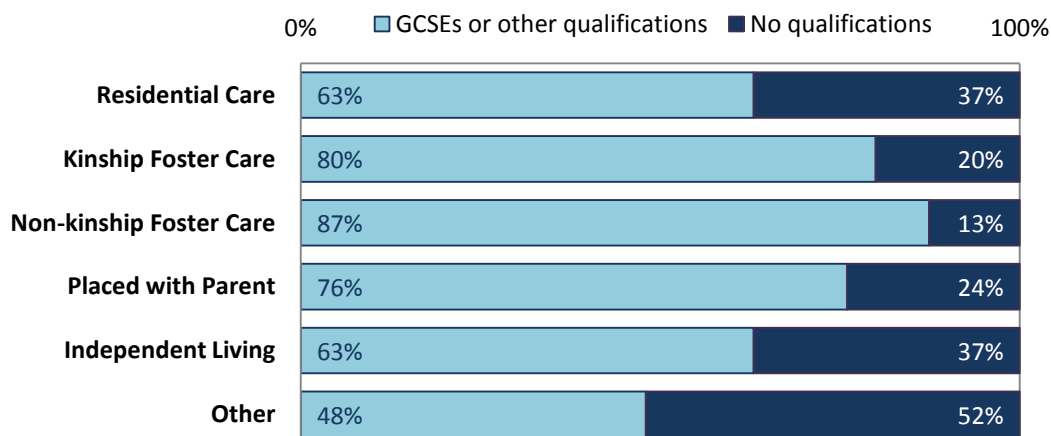


The following analyses compare those care leavers aged 16–18 with GCSE's or other qualifications (209, 74%) and those with no qualifications (73, 26%).

Educational achievement was similar for care leavers from Catholic and Protestant community backgrounds, with 76% of Protestants and 73% of Catholics leaving care with GCSEs or other qualifications.

Young people whose placement prior to leaving care had been foster care achieved more or higher qualifications than care leavers in all other placement types. Some 84% of care leavers previously in foster care placements achieved GCSEs or other qualifications, compared with between 59% and 73% in any other placement type. A third (37%) of those in residential care had no qualifications when leaving care.

Figure 11 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Qualifications achieved by latest placement type (2014/15)

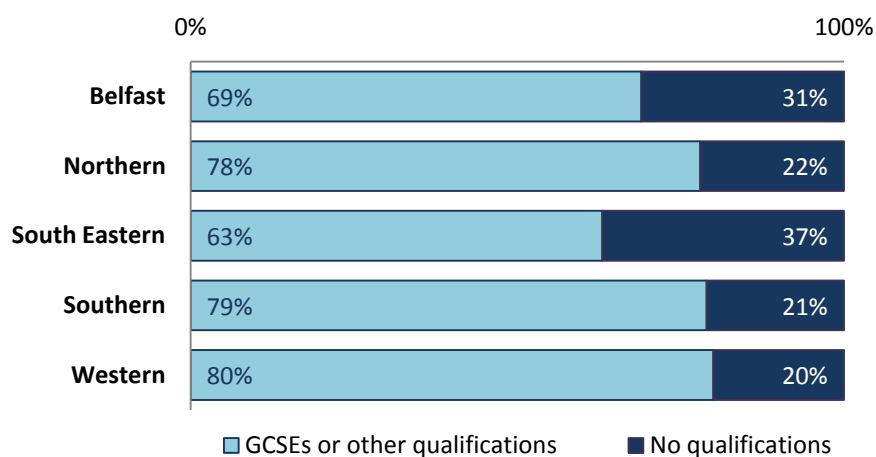


Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

Length of time of the last period of care also appeared to be important in terms of educational attainment. Children in care for ten years or more tended to do better academically than those in care for less than ten years; over four fifths (89%) of care leavers in care for 10 years or more had obtained GCSE's or Other Qualifications, compared with almost three quarters (70%) of those in care for less than 10 years. However, this difference may also be related to different placement types experienced by these two groups of care leavers.

Four out of five care leavers in the Western, Southern and Northern HSC Trusts gained at least one GCSE or other qualification in 2014/15. Care leavers from the South Eastern HSC Trust performed less well academically, with 37% leaving care with no educational qualifications.

Figure 12 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Highest qualification achieved by HSC Trust (2014/15)



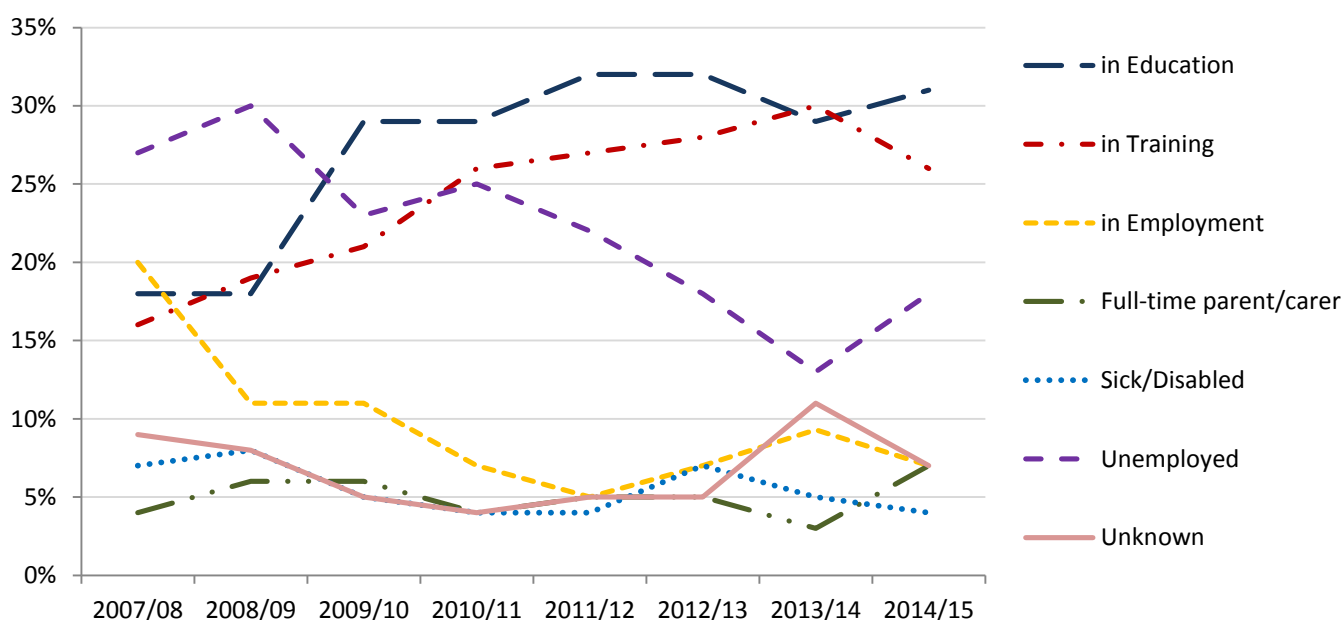
Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

2.3.4. Economic Activity

Figure 13 below details economic activity for care leavers aged 16-18 for each year from 2007/08 to 2014/15. It shows that the proportion of those in education has increased on the past year, while the proportion of those care leaves unemployed has also risen in the past year following a consistent decrease since 2008/09.

Most of the young people in 2014/15 were in education or training at the time of leaving care (31% and 26% respectively). In total, the proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment was 64%, 4% lower than in 2013/14. Between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the proportion of care leavers who were unemployed when leaving care rose by 5 percentage points from 13% to 18%, similar to the level of unemployment in 2012/13.

Figure 13 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity (2007/08 - 2014/15)

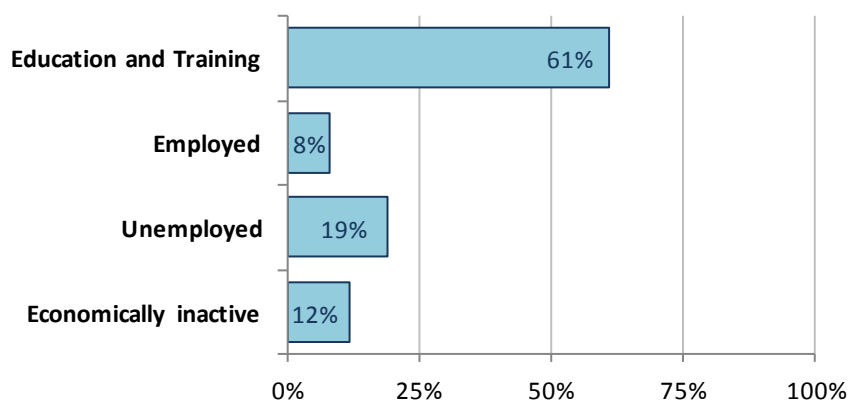


The findings in the remainder of this section relate only to those for whom economic activity was reported²⁴.

Of the 262 care leavers for whom information was available in 2014/15, two thirds were in education or training (61%), 19% were unemployed, 8% were in employment, and 12% were economically inactive through caring responsibilities or sickness/disabilities.

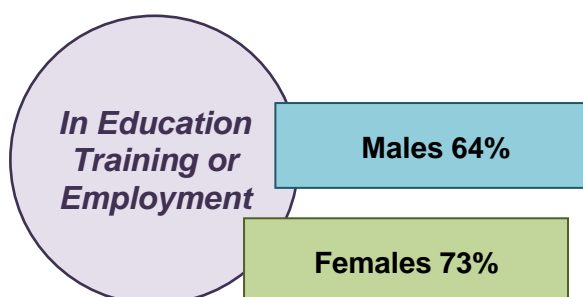
Economic activity amongst care leavers compared less favourably with that for young people of similar age; for example, 11% of young people in the general population aged 16-18 years were employed, compared with 8% of young care leavers²⁵.

Figure 14 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity on leaving care (2014/15)



Note: Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

Males leaving care were more likely than females to be unemployed or economically inactive. This was combined with a higher proportion of females in education, training or employment.



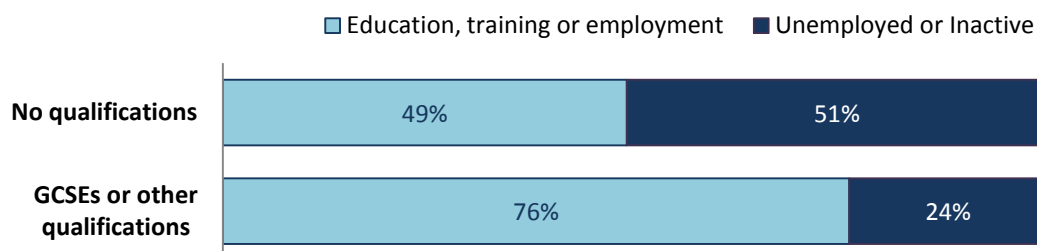
There was quite a decrease in the proportion of care leavers from Catholic community background in education or training, from 74% in 2013/14 to 66% in 2014/15. There was a continuing slow decrease observed amongst those from a Protestant community background, (from 57% to 56%) in those in education or training.

²⁴ Economic activity was not known for 27 of the care leavers aged 16-18 in 2014/15 (9%).

²⁵ Information provided by DETI from the Labour Force Survey April-June 2015. Reliable estimates were not available on numbers unemployed.

Having qualifications correlated highly with economic activity as 76% of those with GCSEs or other qualifications were in education, training or employment compared with 49% of those without qualifications. Furthermore, care leavers with no qualifications were twice as likely as care leavers with qualifications to be unemployed or economically inactive.

Figure 15 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity and educational achievement

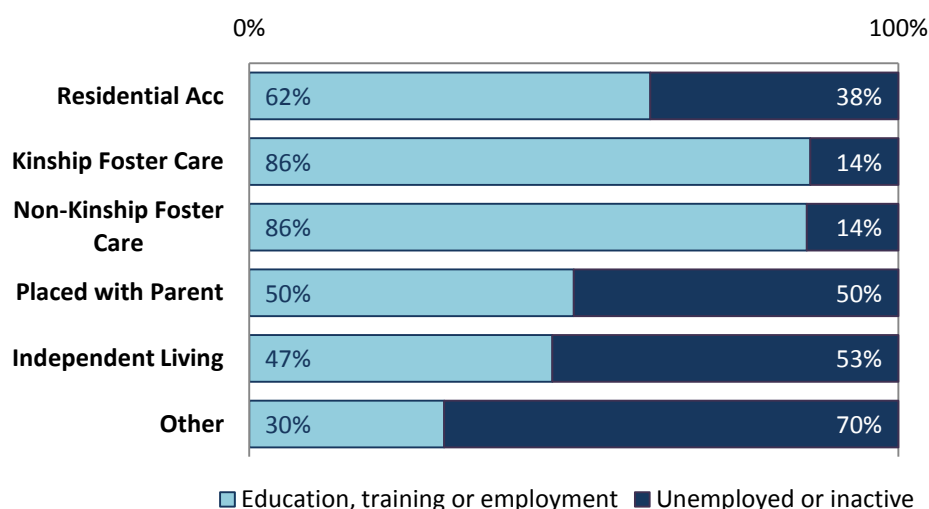


Note: Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

Young care leavers whose last placement was foster care (both kinship and non-kinship) fared better in terms of economic activity on leaving care, with 86% in education, training or employment.

Those who had independent living arrangements or had been placed with parents fared less well, with relatively high proportions unemployed or economically inactive (53% and 50% respectively). Two thirds (70%) of those whose last placement was “other” placement types were unemployed or economically inactive. “Other” placement types include placements like hospital, young offender’s centres and assessment centres.

Figure 16 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity by latest placement type (2014/15)

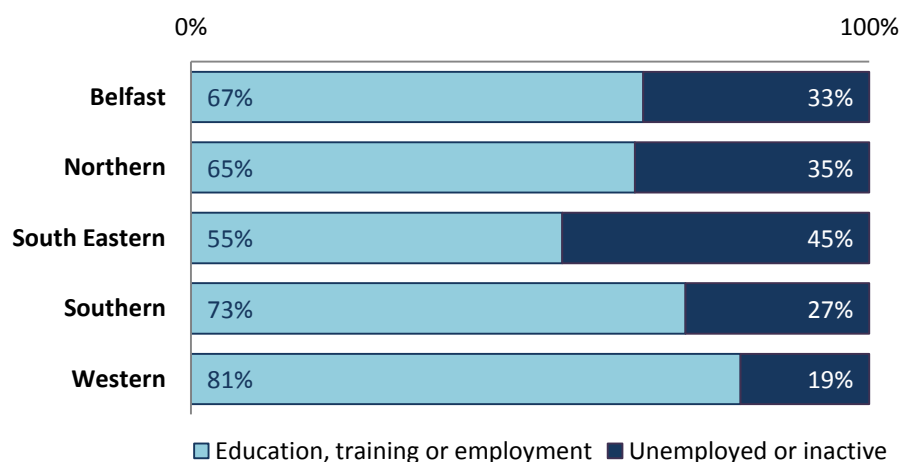


Note: Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

Those in care for less than 10 years were more likely as those in care for more than ten years to be unemployed or economically inactive (33% compared to 24%). Those in care for more than ten years were more likely to be in education or employment.

More than four fifths of the care leavers in the Western HSC Trusts were in education, training or employment (81%). In the South Eastern HSC Trusts the equivalent figure was 55%.

Figure 17 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity by HSC Trust (2014/15)



Note: Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

3. Care Leavers Aged 19

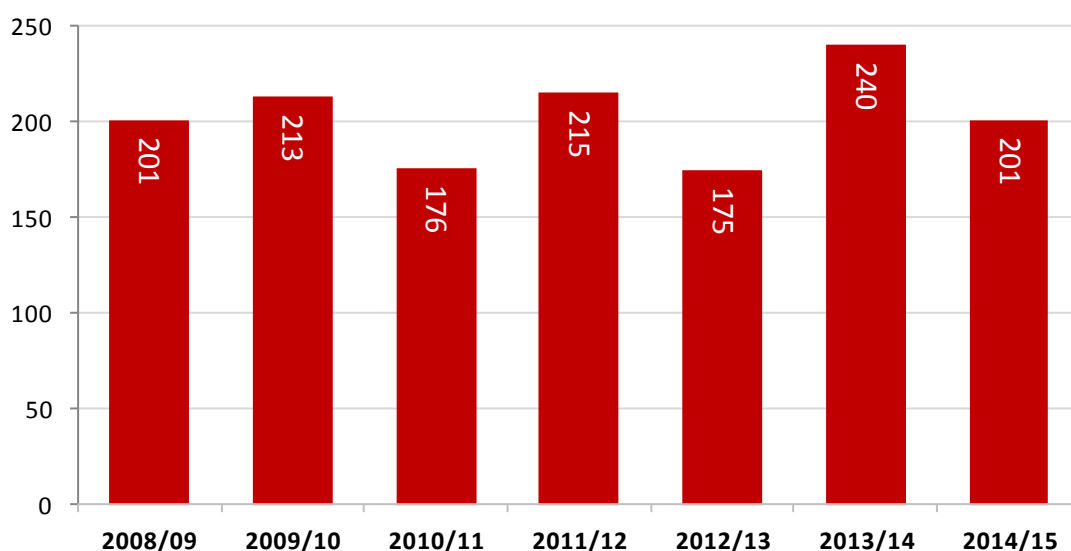
3.1. WHO ARE THE CARE LEAVERS AGED 19?

- 57% were male and 43% were female
- Almost all were of white ethnic background
- 16% were parents
- One in ten had a disability

During the year ending 31 March 2015, there were 201 young people in Northern Ireland, who had been in care on 1 April 2012, and who reached their 19th birthday during the year ending 31 March 2015. This was a decline of 16% on the previous year.

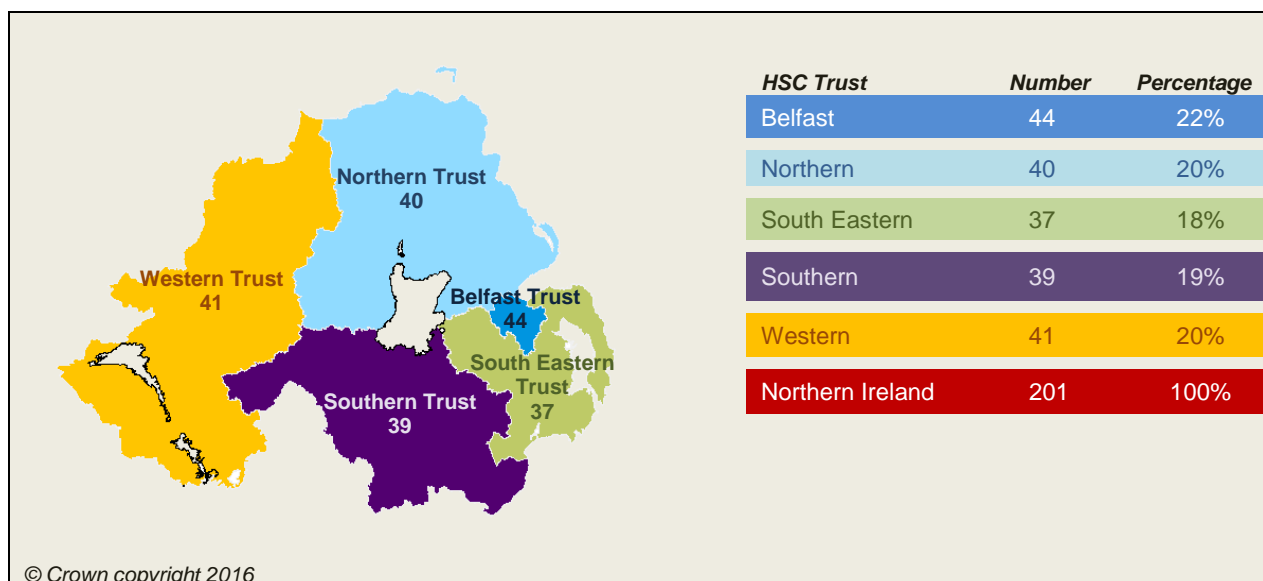
Of the 201 care leavers aged 19, 114 (57%) were male and 87 (43%) were female. This gender split was more pronounced than in the general population of that age group in Northern Ireland, where 51% were males and 49% females²⁶.

Figure 18 Number of care leavers aged 19 in Northern Ireland (2008/09 – 2014/15)



²⁶ 2014 Mid Year Population Estimate (NISRA 2015)

Figure 19 Number of care leavers aged 19 by HSC Trust (2014/15)



The highest proportion of care leavers aged 19 were in the Belfast Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust (22%) compared to 18% in the South Eastern HSC Trust.

The care leavers' geographical location was linked with the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010²⁷ to identify the deprivation quintile rank of home location before last entry into care and after leaving care²⁸. For the children where geographical information was available²⁹, a higher proportion had been living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland before the last entry into care (44%) than after leaving care (39%). Further analysis showed that almost half the care leavers (45%) were living in an area of same deprivation rank when leaving care as before last entry into care. Furthermore, one quarter (26%) had moved into an area ranked of higher deprivation whereas a third (30%) had moved into areas ranked with less deprivation.

3.1.1. Religion and Ethnicity

Information on religion and ethnicity of care leavers is collected for equality monitoring purposes. In terms of religion, there was an even split between the proportion of care leavers at 19 that had a Catholic community background (47%) and those from a Protestant community background (47%). Some 5% were of 'Other' or 'Unknown' religious background, which was a lower proportion than in the previous year.

Almost all (95%) of the care leavers aged 19 had a white ethnic background.

²⁷ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2010 (http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/nimdm_2010.htm)

²⁸ These analyses were only carried out for care leavers residing in Northern Ireland.

²⁹ Northern Ireland geographical information prior to entering care was available for 96% of the care leavers and information was available for 93% upon leaving care. Information was supplied for 88% of the care leavers for both prior to entering care and after leaving care.

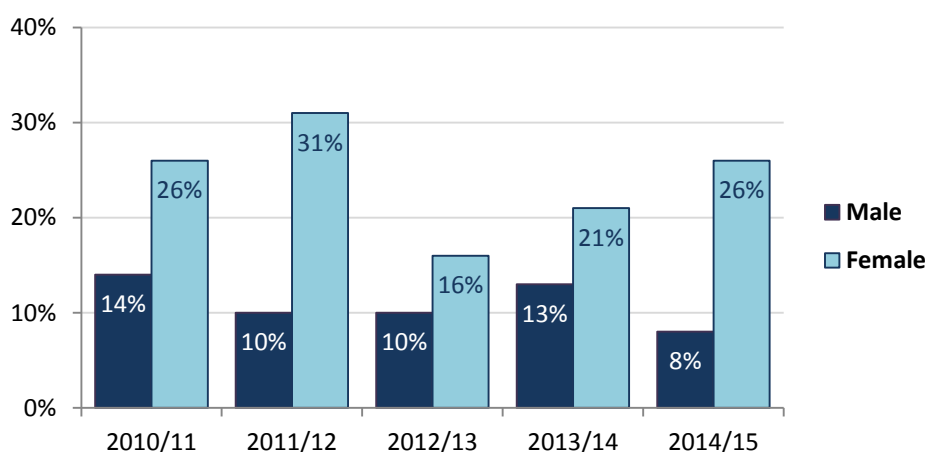
3.1.2. Disability

Just over one in ten (11%) of the care leavers aged 19 had a disability (22 care leavers). Of the care leavers with a disability, a third had a learning disability³⁰ (36%). Although not directly comparable, figures from the 2011 Census indicated that 7% of 18-19 year olds in Northern Ireland had a disability³¹. This suggests that a disproportionate number of care leavers have a disability.

3.1.3. Dependants

Findings from the 2014/15 OC3 survey indicated that 16% of all care leavers aged 19 were parents, 23 young women and 9 young men. The proportion of care leavers with dependents can fluctuate extensively year on year. This can be seen in the Figure below which sets out the proportion of care leavers who had dependants by gender.

Figure 20 Care leavers aged 19 with dependants by gender (2010/11 – 2014/15)



One in four (26%) of female care leavers aged 19 in 2014/15 became mothers on or before their 19th birthday. During 2014, 3% of all births in the general population in Northern Ireland were to teenage mothers and furthermore, 3% of the 19 year old female population became mothers the same year³². Although these figures are not directly comparable, it does indicate a higher prevalence of teenage mothers in the cohort of care leavers.

³⁰ Please note that the care leavers may have had multiple disabilities with other disabilities alongside learning disability.

³¹ Census 2011 – 18 to 19 year olds with long term health problem limiting day to day activities

³² Source: Births in Northern Ireland (2014), Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency 2015.

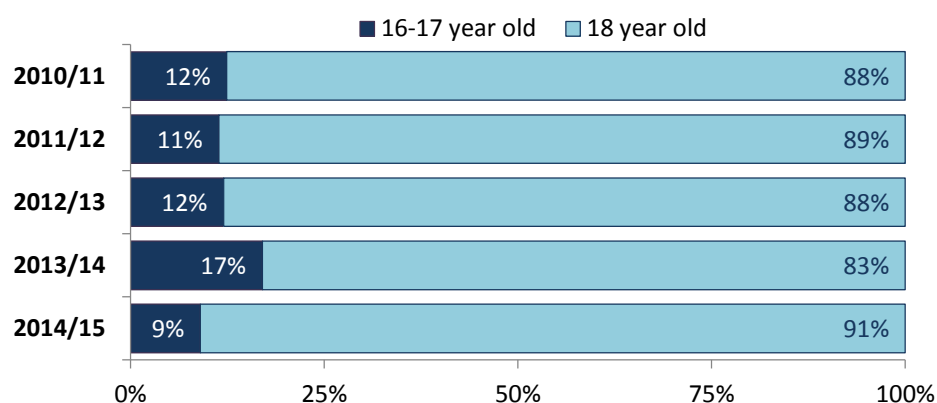
3.2. WHAT WAS THEIR LAST PERIOD IN CARE?

- Nine in ten care leavers left care when aged 18
- For a quarter of the care leavers, their last period in care lasted longer than 10 years
- Over half had been in foster care prior to leaving care

3.2.1. Age when leaving care

The majority of care leavers aged 19 left care on reaching 18 years of age (91%)³³ with 9% leaving at 16 or 17 years. This was a return to the trend observed between 2010/11 and 2012/13.

Figure 21 Care leavers aged 19 – Age when left care, year ending 31 March



3.2.2. Legal Status

The former legal status³⁴ of care leavers aged 19 showed that two thirds (70%) had been looked after under a Care Order, with 27% voluntarily accommodated (Article 21) and a further 3% were in care under 'Other'³⁵ arrangements.

In terms of the length of time spent in the last period of care, 45% of those who had been looked after for less than 5 years had been accommodated under Article 21, in comparison 88% of those looked after for 10 years or more had been looked after under a Care Order.

³³ This figure includes three care leavers aged 19

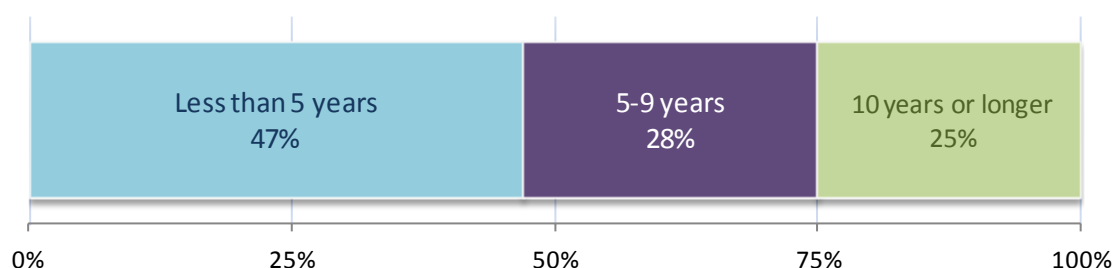
³⁴ Description of legal statuses is included in the appendix.

³⁵ This includes Deemed Care Orders and Interim Care Orders

3.2.3. Last period in care

Prior to leaving care, the average length of time in care was 6 years and 3 months; slightly longer than in 2013/14 (5 years and 11 months). The average last period in care was longer for males compared with females (6 years 8 months and 5 years and 8 months respectively). Half of the last periods of care for all care leavers lasted less than 5 years (50%) and over 10 years for a quarter of the care leavers (24%).

Figure 22 Care leavers aged 19 – Length of latest period of care (2014/15)

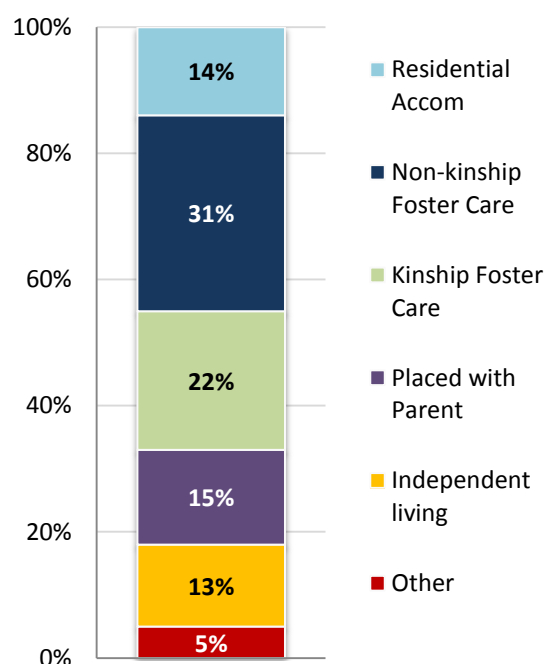


Appendix B sets out definitions of the different types of placements of care that are covered below. Before leaving care, over half (53%) of care leavers aged 19 had been in foster care (31% non-kinship and 22% kinship foster placements), with 15% placed with parents, 14% in residential care, 13% had been living independently³⁶ and 5% had been in Other³⁷ placement types.

Foster care (in particular non-kinship foster care) had been the most common placement for both males and females prior to leaving care. A larger proportion of females were in independent accommodation as their latest placement compared with males (15% and 11% respectively).

Non-kinship foster care was the most common placement for care leavers prior to leaving care regardless of the length of time spent in care³⁸.

Figure 23 Care leavers aged 19 – Latest placement prior to leaving care (2014/15)



³⁶ Independent Living includes living with and without formal support.

³⁷ Other placement types include; supported accommodation, privately rented and living with relatives.

³⁸ See Tables for further details

3.3. HOW ARE THEY DOING NOW?

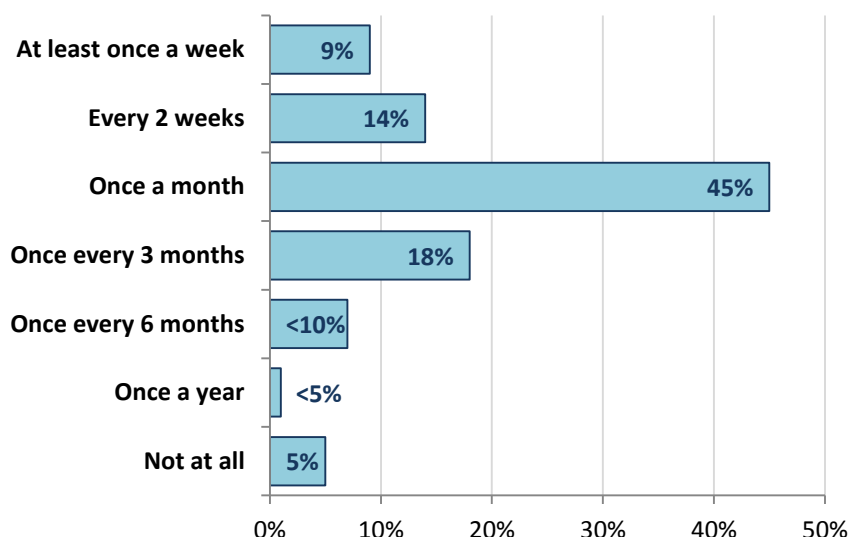
- Two-thirds of the care leavers were in contact with HSC Trusts at least once a month
- 33% were living with their former foster carers
- 3 in 5 were in education, training or employment

3.3.1. Contact with Social Services

The 'Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002' requires HSC Trusts to take reasonable steps to maintain contact with care leavers. For 2014/15, HSC Trusts reported contacts with 190 (95%) of 201 care leavers aged 19. This was an increase of 23 percentage points since 2003/04³⁹ when the contact rate was 72%, however a decrease of three percentage points from 2012/13. In 2014/15 the social services were in contact with two thirds (68%) of the care leavers at least once a month.

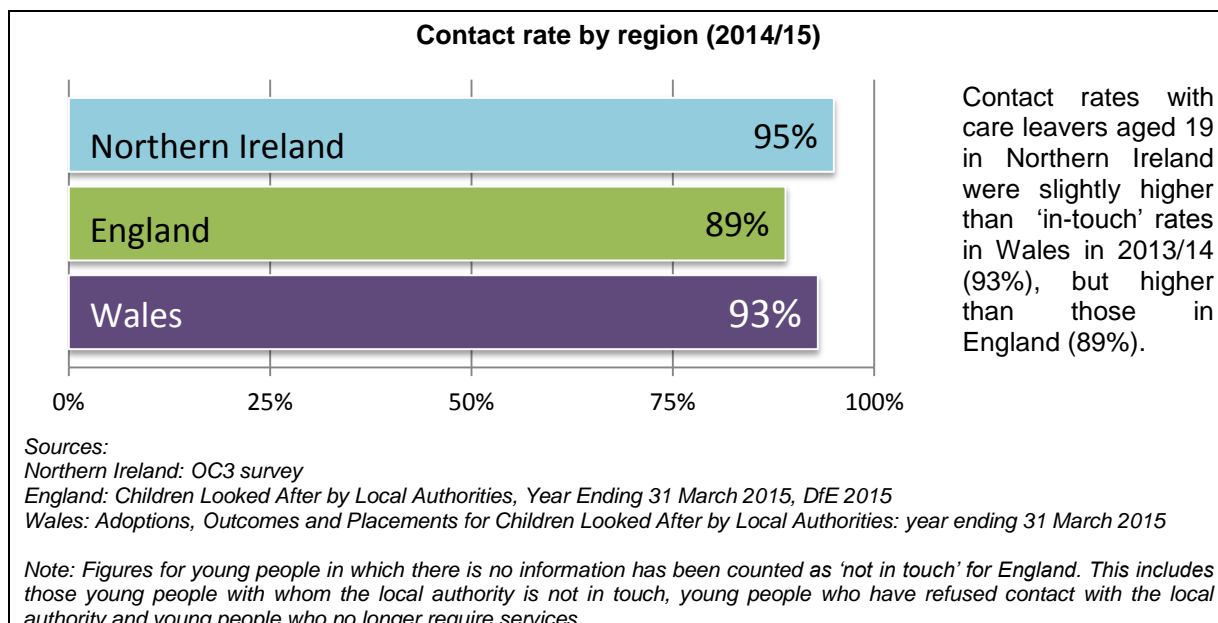
In regards to the last placement of the care leavers, contact rates ranged between 100% for those previously placed with parents to 88% for those whose last placement was independent living.

Figure 24 Care Leavers aged 19 – Contact Rates by Frequency of Contact (2014/15)



*HSC Trusts
were in contact
with
95%
of care leavers
aged 19*

³⁹ Former Care Leavers in Northern Ireland 2003/04, DHSSPS 2006

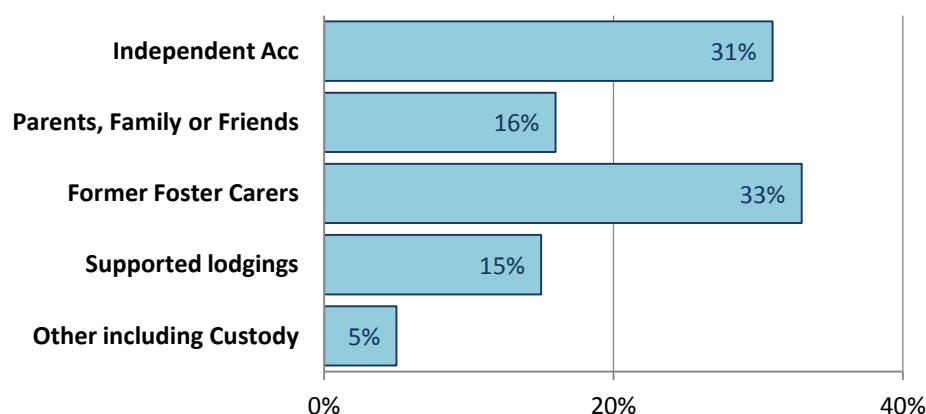


3.3.2. Accommodation

Care leaver's were living in a variety of types of accommodation on their 19th birthday. Almost a third were living in either independent accommodation (31%) or with their former foster cares (33%). Less than a quarter (16%) were living with their parents, relatives or friends and 15% were in supported lodgings⁴⁰.

Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 there was an increase of five percentage points in the proportion of care leavers living with their former foster carers (from 28% to 33%). This may indicate an increasing impact of the 'Going the Extra Mile' (GEM) Scheme which allows formerly looked after children to remain living with their foster carers between the ages of 18 and 21.

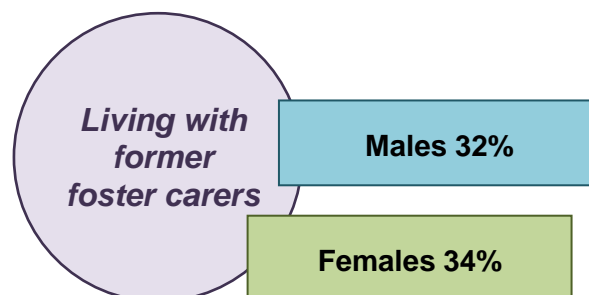
Figure 25 Care leavers aged 19 – Type of accommodation



Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

⁴⁰ Figures relate to those care leavers in contact with their HSC Trust.

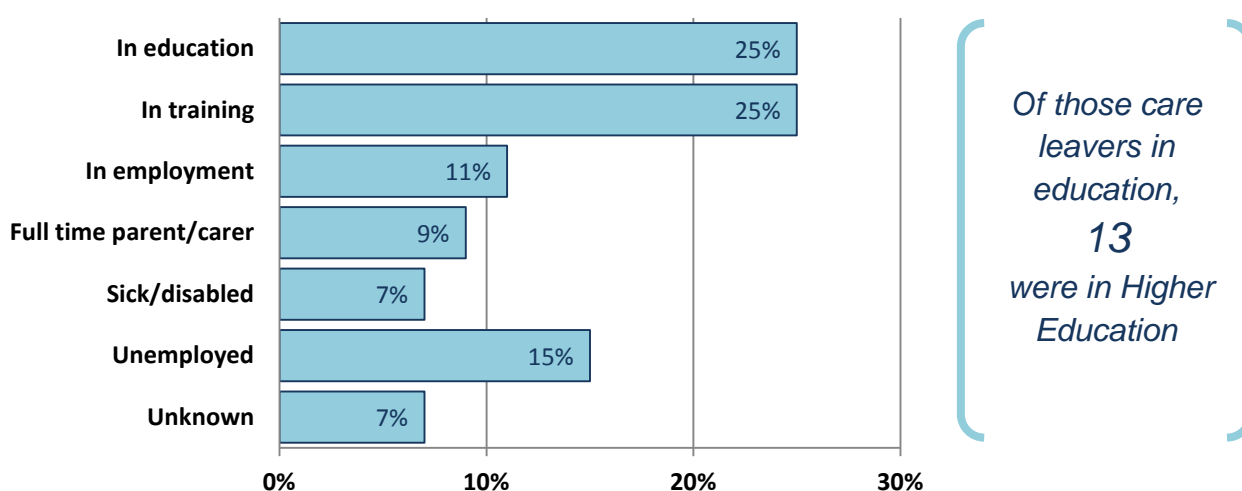
Young men and young women differed in the types of accommodation in which they were most likely to be living: a higher proportion (40%) of young women than young men (25%) were living in independent accommodation. In contrast, 18% of young men were living with parents, family and friends, compared with 13% of young women.



3.3.3. Economic Activity

Of all care leavers aged 19 in 2014/15, the majority were either in full or part-time training (25%) or education (25%). Some 15% were unemployed. Of the care leavers, 33 were economically inactive due to either being a full time carer or due to illness/disability. The economic activity was not known for 7% of the care leavers.

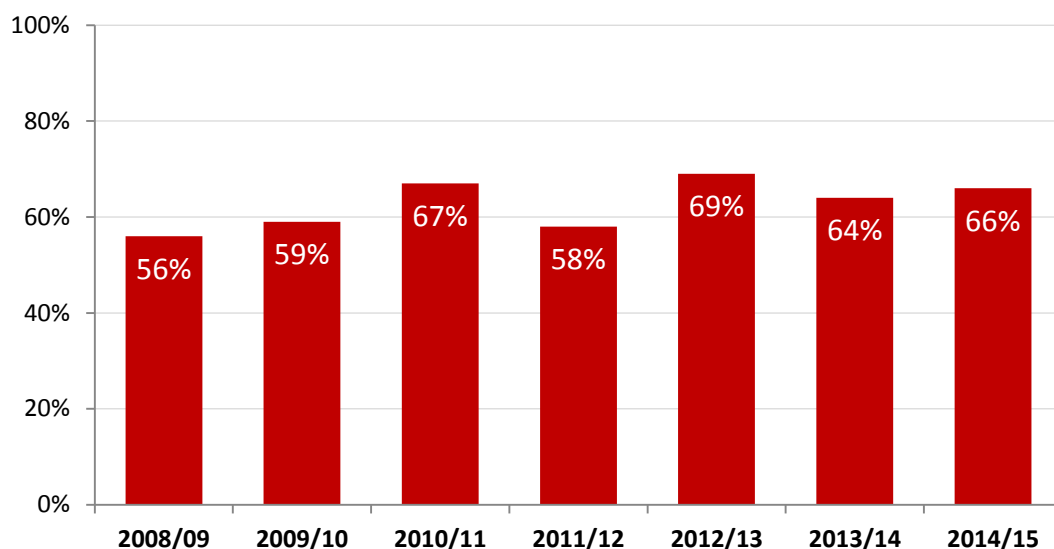
Figure 26 Care leavers aged 19 – Proportion of care leavers by current activity⁴¹



⁴¹ Higher education is defined as studies beyond A Level, leading to a degree or higher qualification. This includes diplomas in higher education, teaching and nursing qualifications, HNDs, ONDs and BTEC. This includes full-time and part-time study if it is considered the main activity

All information below, referring to the economic activity of care leavers aged 19, relates to care leavers who had been in contact with social services during the 12 months up to 31 March 2015, and whose economic activity was known.

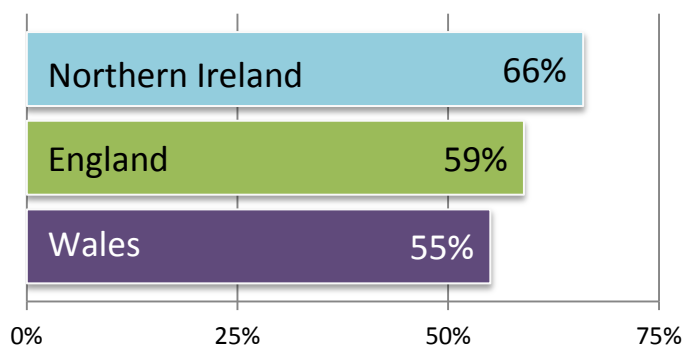
Figure 27 Care leavers aged 19 – Proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment (2008/09 – 2014/15)



Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

In 2014/15, 66% of all care leavers in contact with HSC Trusts, and whose economic activity was known, were in education, training or employment. This was a small increase from 2013/14 (64%). Just over a third (34%) were unemployed or economically inactive.

Proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment by region (2014/15)



The proportion of 19 year old care leavers in touch with local authorities who were in education, training or employment was higher in Northern Ireland than in England (59%) and Wales (55%).

Sources:

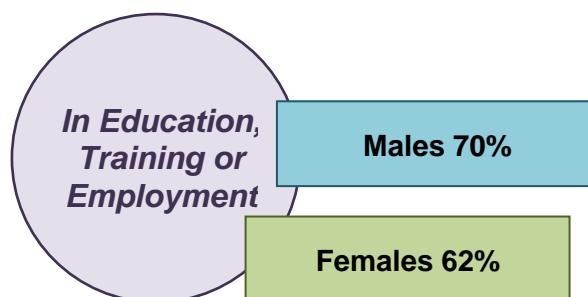
Northern Ireland: OC3 survey 2014/15

England: Children Looked After by Local Authorities, Year Ending 31 March 2015, DfE 2015

Wales: Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After by Local Authorities: year ending 31 March 2015

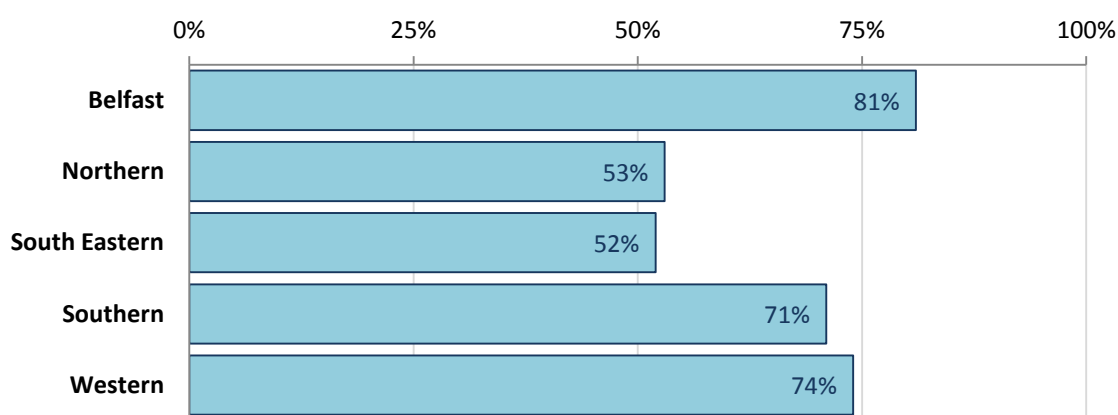
Note: Care leavers aged 19 who were in contact with HSC Trusts/Local Authorities.

As in previous years, a larger proportion of male (70%) than female (62%) care leavers aged 19 were in education, training or employment.



Between 71% and 81% of care leavers in the Belfast, Southern and Western HSC Trust were in education, training and employment compared with just over half on the Northern and South Eastern HSC Trusts. Each of the HSC Trusts, apart the Belfast HSC Trust, showed a slight decrease in the numbers of care leavers in education, training or employment from the previous year (see Tables for details).

Figure 28 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by HSC Trust

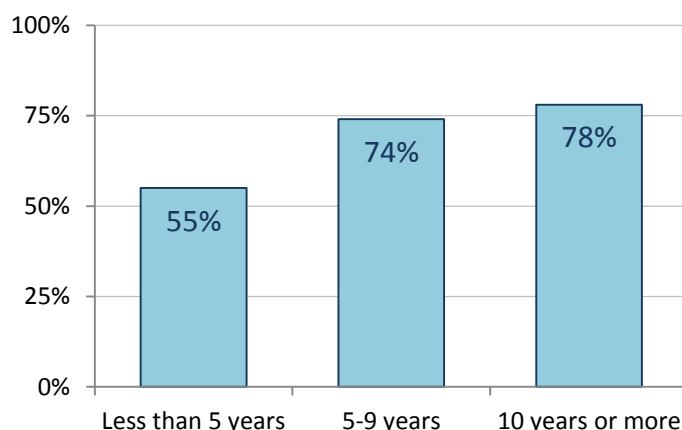


Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

Just over a quarter (27%) of the care leavers aged 19 who had dependent children, were in education, training or employment; 10 percentage points less than in 2013/14 (37%). It is however worth noting that due to small numbers of care leavers with dependants, the figures may fluctuate year on year.

In 2014/15, those with a disability were less likely to be in education, training and employment than those without a disability (35% and 70% respectively). The gap was less marked in the previous year however the opposite in 2012/13 whereas in 2011/12 there was no difference in the proportions of those with or without a disability in education, training or employment. This could indicate that having a disability does not correlate with economic activity or it may reflect that support can be in place that will affect the relationship between economic activity and disability. It must also be considered that each cohort of young people who have passed through this study is different. There may be more people with severe learning disabilities in one year compared with the next or greater/lesser numbers of able bodied care leavers who will not engage in education. These factors will all impact upon the outcomes.

Figure 29 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by length of time in care (2014/15)



Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

As highlighted previously, time in care and placement type seem to be linked. This is further emphasized as education, training and employment rates were higher for those in care for longer and for those whose last placement was foster care.

Three quarters (78%) of those who had been looked after for more than 10 years were in education, training or employment, compared with 55% for those in care for less than 5 years. This trend is similar to previous years.

NEET

The term NEET refers to young people not in education, employment or training. The term was first used in the 1990s and is now in common usage.

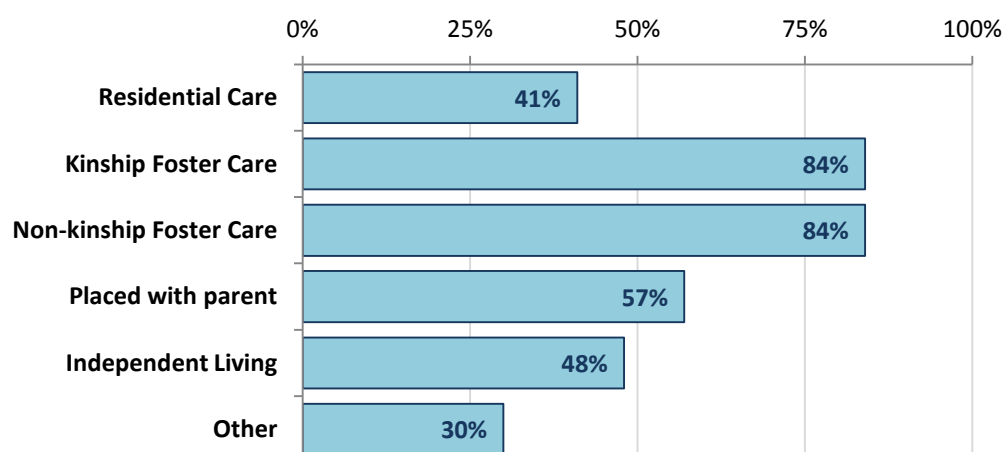
Calculating NEET depends on the information sources available. As such, there may be some difference, for example, between NEET figures for Northern Ireland in general and that of care leavers in this survey. In this survey, care leavers who are NEET refers to those who were not in part- or full time education, training^A or employment. Those care leavers whose activity was not known were excluded from the calculations.

In general, care leavers defined as NEET were either economically inactive, due to illness/disability or full time caring responsibilities, or they were unemployed.

^A Includes a small number of non-Government supported training programmes.

*In 2014/15,
34%
of care leavers
aged 19
were NEET.*

Figure 30 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by latest placement (2014/15)

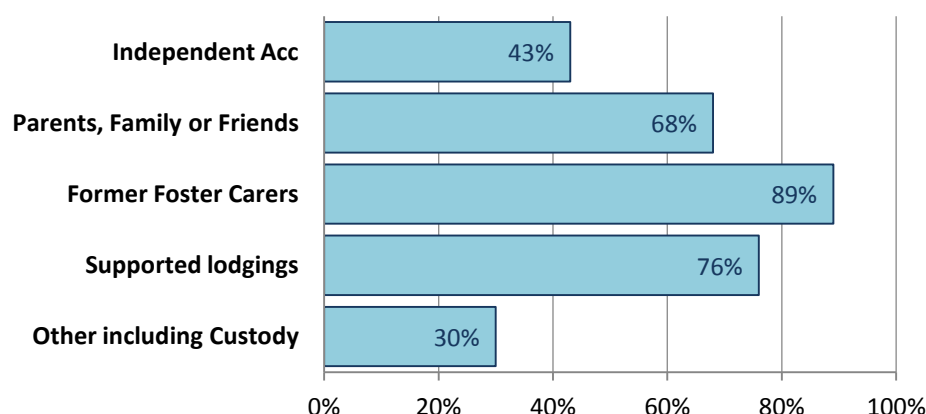


Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

Over 8 of 10 of those whose final placement had been in foster care were in education, training or employment (84% in both non-kinship and kinship care), compared with between 30% and 57% in all other placement types⁴². Although each person's journey through the care system is unique, it can be speculated that longer time in care may be linked to placement stability which again may impact on the life outcomes such as economic activity.

The care leavers current accommodation at age 19 also seems to be linked to economic activity. Nine in ten (89%) of the 19 year olds who were living with their former foster carers were in education, training or employment. This was considerably higher than all other accommodation types.

Figure 31 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by current accommodation (2014/15)



Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

⁴² Due to small number of care leavers in each placement group, trend figures for the last years have been somewhat variable, however those with foster care as last placement have consistently shown best outcomes (see Tables for further details).

Appendix A Technical Notes

Care Leaver Statistics for Northern Ireland

Statistics on care leavers have previously been published in two separate publications; “Care leavers Aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland” and “Care Leavers Aged 19 in Northern Ireland”. Due to the similarities of topic and to allow for better use of resources producing the publications, these two publications were merged to the bulletin “Northern Ireland Care Leavers”. This is the second publication of “Northern Ireland Care Leavers”. Historic publications on care leavers in Northern Ireland can be downloaded from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety’s (DHSSPS) website <https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/topics/dhssps-statistics-and-research>

OC1 and OC3 Surveys

The information presented in this bulletin derives from the ninth ‘OC1’ survey of care leavers aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland and the eighth OC3 survey of care leavers at the age of 19. These survey returns were provided by each of the five Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts in Northern Ireland to Community Information Branch (CIB) in the DHSSPS.

OC1 and OC3, together with its companion survey OC2 (children in care for 12 months or longer at 30 September), provide a comprehensive series of data on looked after children in Northern Ireland. It is a stated aim of DHSSPS to improve outcomes for children in care, by improving the quality and stability of placements and improving educational opportunities for young people as they make the transition to adulthood. These publications help to measure the Department’s progress in meeting these stated aims.

The OC1 survey, introduced in 2002, reports the circumstances of young people at 31 March aged 16-18 who had left care during the previous financial year. It collects a range of information, including educational achievement, economic activity, disability, duration in care and placement prior to leaving care.

The OC3 survey, introduced in 2004, reports the circumstances of care leavers at the time of their 19th birthday. It collects information on frequency of contacts with social services, economic activity and accommodation.

To help put some figures within their wider social context, comparative information with, for example, the general school population and looked after children in other countries in the United Kingdom have been included where possible. Users of these statistics find such comparisons interesting; though it should be stressed that they are not like-for-like comparisons and may merely reflect differences between different cohorts of children.

Data Collection

The survey used to collect this information has one record for each young person fitting the parameters of the collection. The survey is completed online by nominated HSC Trust staff using a secure web-based survey returns application. All records are anonymised to protect the confidentiality of these young people.

For inclusion in OC1, care leavers had to be aged 16-18 years when leaving care and left care during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. The information collected related to the last period in care.

The OC3 return relates to care leavers at the time of their 19th birthday. It provides data on all care leavers at age 19, who had been looked after on 1st April, 3 years previously.

All references made to 'Year' refer to the financial year, 1st April to 31 March, i.e. for the 2014/15 collection the reference period was 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.

Guidance notes and other documents associated with the completion of the OC surveys are available to view or download from the DHSSPS website:

<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/care-leavers-returns-and-quality-reports>

Rounding/Disclosure Conventions

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100. It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item.

Data Quality

All information submitted by HSC Trusts was validated at the point of entry, where Trust staff correct or amend data as required, and provide appropriate explanations if information is missing. CIB perform further checks, using historical data to monitor annual variations and emerging trends.

Changes to the 2014/15 surveys

In co-operation with major stakeholders, the OC1 and OC3 surveys are reviewed every year to ensure they reflect current policy agenda in relation to children in care and care leavers. For the 2014/15 surveys, no amendment were made to the questions from the previous year.

Main Uses of Data

The main uses of these data are to monitor the delivery of social care services to children, to help assess Trust performance, corporate monitoring, to inform and monitor related policy, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions. The bulletin is also used by academics/researchers, the voluntary sector and those with an interest in children in care.

Related Publications

Details of statistics on looked after children published by other countries in the UK (United Kingdom) can be found as detailed below.

Scotland

Children's Social Work Statistics 2013-14 published in March 2015, further information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/03/4375>

Wales

Adoptions, outcomes and placements for children looked after by local authorities are produced annually by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government. Data for the period up to the end of March 2015 were released in September 2015 and can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/adoptions-outcomes-placements-children-looked-after/?lang=en>

England

Statistics on Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers) are produced annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. Figures for the year ending 31 March 2015 were published in September 2015, and are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2014-to-2015>

Other statistics produced by the DHSSPS relating to looked after children and other areas of children's social care with relevant web links are detailed below:

Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland

<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/childrens-social-care-statistics-northern-ireland>

Children in Care in Northern Ireland

<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/articles/looked-after-children>

Child Protection Register

<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/articles/child-protection-register>

Children Adopted from Care in Northern Ireland

<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/articles/children-adopted-care>

A further source of information on issues relating to children and young people in care and care leavers is the virtual library hosted by the Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) charity. This virtual library can be accessed via the following link:

www.libraryinthesky.org

A National Statistics Publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

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.

If you have any comments on this publication, please contact Community Information Branch on Email: cib@dhsspsni.gov.uk or Tel: 028 90522580.

Appendix B Definitions

Placement

Foster care is when a child is placed by a Trust, or by its parents (or those with parental responsibility), with other persons who will care for, and rear the child. Foster Carers are approved by a Health and Social Care Trust and receive an allowance for their caring responsibilities from the approving Trust.

Kinship foster care (approved) is when a looked after child is placed by a Trust with a relative, friend or other person with a prior connection to the child, who will care for and rear the child. A person with a prior connection could be someone who knows the child in a professional capacity such as a childminder, a teacher or a youth worker although these are not exclusive categories. Kinship Foster Carers are approved by a Health and Social Care Trust and receive an allowance for their caring responsibilities from the approving Trust.

Placed for adoption refers to a child that has been approved to be adopted and is placed with his/her prospective adoptive parents pending affirmation from the courts. It can be distinguished between children who are placed for adoption with their former foster carers and those who are placed for adoption with 'others' (not former foster carers).

Residential care is when a looked after child is placed by a Trust in a Children's Home. Residential care for children/Children's Homes are there to ensure that the needs of children are met when they cannot live with their own family. They are a place for children to develop and grow, as well as providing food, shelter, and space for play and leisure in a caring environment. Children's Homes look after children with many different needs.

Secure accommodation is provided for children on a short term basis when it is likely that the child, in any other setting, will injure him/her self or abscond and is likely to suffer significant harm when absconding.

Placed with parent (in previous publications called "Placed with Family") refers to children for whom a Care Order exists and who are placed with their parents, a person who is not a parent but who has parental responsibility for the child or where a child is in care and there was a residence order in force with respect to him/her immediately before the care order was made, and who are placed with a person in whose favour the residence order was made.

Emergency foster care is when a looked after child is placed by a social worker in an emergency (short term) arrangement, for example emergency kinship foster care. Emergency kinship foster carers would normally not have been previously approved by a Health and Social Care Trust as foster carers.

Independent living arrangements refers to children placed in independent accommodation. This would refer to young people between 16-18 years old. Independent living arrangements can further be categorised into with or without formal support from Trust.

Other placements refers to any placement reported that are not covered by other categories given. This may include children in assessment centres, boarding schools etc, and also special arrangements relating to one Trust. The categories included may change from year to year.

Legal Status

The legal framework for compulsory intervention in the care and upbringing of children. If more than one legal status is indicated or in force for the child at 31 March, the latest one only is recorded.

Emergency Protection Order (Article 63 & 64): An Emergency Protection Order (EPO) is intended for use in urgent cases to protect a child in the short-term. Almost anyone with a concern can apply for an EPO, although in most circumstances a Trust will seek one. Where the applicant is a Trust or the NSPCC they must show that in the course of fulfilling their duty to investigate they are being unreasonably frustrated in gaining access to the child. Anyone else applying for an EPO they must show that the child is likely to suffer significant harm unless removed to, or allowed to remain, in a safe place.

An EPO last for eight days but can be extended on one occasion for a further seven days. An application to discharge the order cannot be made within the first 72 hours giving a Trust sometime to decide what actions to take in respect of the child. The person to whom the order is addressed also gains parental responsibility for the child for the duration of the order.

Accommodated (Article 21): Children with this legal status have been accommodated by a HSC Trust if there is no one who has parental responsibility for them, they have been lost or abandoned or of the person who has been caring for them has been prevented, for whatever reason, from providing them with suitable accommodation or care. Children are often accommodated with the permission of their parents.

Care Order (Article 50 or 59): A Care Order accords the HSC Trust parental responsibility and allows for the child to be removed from the parental home. This does not extinguish the parental responsibility of the child's parents but means that they cannot exercise this responsibility while the Care Order is in place. For a Court to make a Care Order it must be satisfied that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and that the harm or likelihood of harm is attributable to, the care given to the child, or likely to be given to the child, not being what it would be reasonable to expect a parent to give or the child being beyond parental control.

Interim Care Orders (Article 57): An Interim Care Order is put in place following an adjournment of proceedings for a Care Order or in any family proceedings in which a Court orders a Trust to investigate the circumstances of a child. An Interim Care Order can be in place for up to eight weeks initially and for a further four weeks upon renewal and subsequent occasions that Court deems an Interim Order necessary.

Supervision Order: This order requires the Trust to advise, assist and befriend the supervised child and can only be granted if the same threshold conditions that apply for Care Orders are met. This Order does not give the Trust parental responsibility. It does allow a social worker to issue directions about the child's upbringing including place of residence and involvement in certain programmes. Schedule 3 of the Children Order sets out the full range of matters that may be addressed in a Supervision Order.

Interim Supervision Orders (Article 57): An Interim Supervision can be put in place following an adjournment of proceedings for a Supervision Order or in any family proceedings in which a question arises with respect to the welfare of any child, it appears to the court that it may be appropriate for a supervision order to be made with respect to him, the court may direct the appropriate authority to undertake an investigation of the child's circumstances.

Appendix C Tables

The tables below are also available in excel format on the DHSSPS website
<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/articles/care-leavers>

Table 1 Care Leavers Aged 16–18 (2011 – 2015)

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of care leavers aged 16-18	237	233	263	268	289
Gender					
No. of Male Care Leavers	113	99	138	143	135
No. of Female Care Leavers	124	134	125	125	154
Age					
No. of Care Leavers Aged 16	20	28	24	26	28
No. of Care Leavers Aged 17	21	32	27	24	20
No. of Care Leavers Aged 18	196	173	212	218	241
Religion					
% of Care Leavers Catholic	41%	48%	51%	49%	43%
% of Care Leavers Protestant	53%	48%	37%	41%	49%
% of Care Leavers No/Unknown/Other	6%	4%	12%	10%	8%
Ethnicity					
% of Care Leavers White (excluding Traveller)	96%	98%	96%	93%	96%
% of Care Leavers Other	4%	2%	4%	7%	4%
Disabled					
% of Care Leavers with a Disability	16%	13%	14%	12%	15%
Special Educational Needs (SEN)					
% of Care Leavers with a statement of SEN	18%	16%	22%	19%	14%

Table 2 **Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Last Placement Type (2011 – 2015)**

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	237	233	263	268	289
Last Placement Type					
% of males in Residential Care	21%	14%	20%	12%	17%
% of females in Residential Care	14%	18%	14%	14%	9%
% in Residential Care	18%	16%	17%	13%	13%
% of males in Foster Care	39%	49%	42%	55%	43%
% of females in Foster Care	44%	51%	49%	49%	60%
% in Foster Care	42%	50%	45%	52%	52%
% of males placed with Parent	12%	14%	15%	10%	13%
% of females placed with Parent	13%	13%	8%	14%	8%
% Placed with Parent	13%	14%	12%	12%	10%
% of males in Other Care	28%	23%	23%	23%	27%
% of females in Other Care	29%	18%	30%	24%	23%
% in Other Care	28%	21%	26%	24%	25%

Table 3 **Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Length of Time in Care (2011 – 2015)**

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	237	233	263	268	289
Length of Time of Last Period in Care					
% in care for less than one year	11%	16%	22%	19%	12%
% in care for 1 - 4 years	43%	44%	38%	41%	46%
% in care for 5 - 9 years	24%	21%	22%	21%	18%
% in care for ten years or more	22%	20%	17%	18%	23%
Average Length of Most Recent Period in Care					
Males (Years)	5	6	5	5	5
Females (Years)	6	4	4	4	5

Table 4 **Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Reasons for Leaving Care (2011 – 2015)**

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	237	233	263	268	289
Reason for Leaving Care					
% Reached 18 years of age	65%	59%	82%	82% ¹	86% ¹
% Returned home	14%	21%	14%	12%	11%
% entered Supported Accommodation	7%	5%	<1%	1%	1%
% entered Unsupported Accommodation	2%	3%	0%	<1%	0%
% transferred to care in Adult Services	6%	7%	<1%	<1%	1%
% left for other reasons	6%	6%	3%	4%*	2%

* Other reasons includes Death

¹ This includes a small number of care leavers aged 17 whose 18th birthday was within one week of leaving care.

Table 5 **Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Educational Attainment (2011 – 2015)**

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	237	233	263	268	289
Highest Qualification					
% achieving 5 GCSE grades A* - C or Higher	14%	19%	18%	21%	27%
% achieving 1 - 4 GCSE grades A* - C	24%	22%	18%	27%	20%
% achieving 1 or more GCSE grades D - G	15%	13%	9%	9%	11%
% achieving Other Qualifications	18%	15%	23%	16%	17%
% with No Qualifications	30%	31%	32%	28%	24%
Qualifications by Gender					
% of males with 5 GCSE grades A* - C or Higher	10%	15%	16%	18%	18%
% of females with 5 GCSE grades A* - C or Higher	17%	22%	20%	23%	36%
% of males with 1 - 4 GCSE grades A* - C	15%	21%	19%	24%	20%
% of females with 1 - 4 GCSE grades A* - C	33%	23%	17%	30%	21%
% of males with 1 or more GCSE grades D - G	19%	10%	7%	13%	13%
% of females with 1 or more GCSE grades D - G	11%	15%	11%	6%	9%
% of males with Other Qualifications	20%	17%	23%	14%	19%
% of females with Other Qualifications	16%	13%	24%	18%	16%
% of males with No Qualifications	37%	36%	34%	31%	30%
% of females with No Qualifications	23%	27%	29%	23%	18%
Qualifications by Religion					
% of Catholics with Qualifications	79%	66%	69%	72%	75%
% of Protestants with Qualifications	66%	71%	69%	71%	78%
Qualifications by Length of Time in Care					
% with Qualifications in Care for < 10 Years	67%	67%	66%	69%	72%
% with Qualifications in Care for > 10 Years	81%	78%	80%	86%	90%
Qualifications by Last Placement					
% placed in Residential Care with Qualifications	56%	54%	62%	59%	67%
% placed in Foster Care with Qualifications	84%	80%	77%	81%	86%
% Placed with Parent with Qualifications	66%	58%	48%	66%	76%
% in Other Placements with Qualifications	62%	64%	62%	63%	59%

Table 6 **Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Current Activity (2011 – 2015)**

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	237	233	263	268	289
Current Activity					
% in Education	29%	32%	32%	29%	31%
% in Training	26%	27%	28%	30%	25%
% in Employment	7%	5%	7%	9%	7%
% Full Time Parent/Carer	4%	5%	5%	3%	7%
% Sick/Disabled	4%	4%	7%	5%	4%
% Unemployed	25%	22%	18%	13%	17%
% Unknown /Other	4%	5%	5%	11%	9%

Table 7 **Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Economic Activity for care leavers whose activity was known (2011 – 2015)**

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Economic Activity by Educational Attainment¹					
% with Qualifications in Education/Training	63%	68%	69%	71%	67%
% with Qualifications in Employment	9%	5%	8%	10%	9%
% with Qualifications Unemployed/Inactive	28%	27%	23%	19%	24%
% with No Qualifications in Education/Training	45%	47%	46%	54%	43%
% with No Qualifications in Employment	2%	6%	6%	7%	6%
% with No Qualifications Unemployed/Inactive	54%	47%	49%	38%	51%
Economic Activity by Gender¹					
% of males in Education/Training	57%	62%	58%	70%	57%
% of males in Employment	6%	8%	8%	12%	9%
% of males Unemployed/Inactive	37%	30%	34%	19%	35%
% of females in Education/Training	59%	62%	68%	63%	65%
% of females in Employment	8%	3%	7%	7%	8%
% of females Unemployed/Inactive	34%	34%	26%	29%	27%
Economic Activity by Religion¹					
% of Catholics in Education/Training	63%	64%	63%	74%	66%
% of Catholics in Employment	8%	6%	5%	5%	4%
% of Catholics Unemployed/Inactive	29%	31%	31%	21%	30%
% of Protestants in Education/Training	54%	60%	61%	57%	56%
% of Protestants in Employment	6%	6%	10%	16%	12%
% of Protestants Unemployed/Inactive	40%	35%	29%	27%	33%
Economic Activity by Last Placement Type^{1,2}					
% placed in Residential Care in Education, Training or Employment	67%	60%	71%	69%	61%
% placed in Residential Care Unemployed or Inactive	33%	40%	29%	31%	39%
% placed in Foster care in Education, Training or Employment	80%	80%	89%	80%	87%
% placed in Foster Care Unemployed or Inactive	20%	21%	10%	20%	13%
% placed with Parents in Education, Training or Employment	62%	45%	57%	74%	50%
% placed with Parent Unemployed or Inactive	39%	55%	43%	26%	50%
% placed in Other placements in in Education, Training or Employment	41%	59%	37%	72%	43%
% in Other Placements Unemployed or Inactive	60%	41%	63%	28%	57%
Economic Activity by Length of Time in Care¹					
% in Education/Training in Care for < 10 years	56%	61%	63%	65%	58%
% in Employment in Care for < 10 years	6%	4%	6%	8%	9%
% Unemployed/Inactive in Care for < 10 years	38%	35%	30%	26%	33%
% in Education/Training in Care for > 10 years	64%	67%	58%	72%	72%
% in Employment in Care for > 10 years	10%	11%	12%	15%	5%
% Unemployed/Inactive in Care for > 10 years	26%	22%	30%	13%	23%

¹ Care Leavers for whom information was available

² Employment has been grouped with Education and Training to avoid personal disclosure

Table 8 **Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Health & Social Care Trust (2014/15)**

	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Northern Ireland
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	76	55	43	56	59	289
Gender						
No. of Male Care Leavers	40	30	17	23	25	135
No. of Female Care Leavers	36	25	26	33	34	154
Last Placement Type						
% in Residential Care	24%	7%	16%	7%	7%	13%
% in Kinship Foster Care	20%	26%	26%	20%	15%	21%
% in Non-kinship Foster Care	34%	22%	16%	54%	27%	32%
% Placed with Parent	9%	15%	12%	7%	9%	10%
% in Other Care inc Independent living	13%	31%	30%	13%	42%	25%
Highest Qualification						
% achieving 5 GCSE grades A*-C or Higher	14%	31%	23%	33%	39%	27%
% achieving 1 - 4 GCSE grades A* - C	24%	17%	10%	25%	22%	20%
% achieving 1 or more GCSE grades D-G	14%	19%	8%	10%	4%	11%
% achieving Other Qualifications	23%	12%	23%	12%	18%	17%
% with No Qualifications	26%	21%	36%	21%	18%	24%
Current Activity ¹						
% in Education, Training or Employment	67%	69%	55%	79%	79%	69%
% Economic Inactive or Unemployed	33%	31%	45%	21%	21%	31%

¹ Excludes care leavers whose economic activity was not known.

NOTE: Some of the percentages are based on very small numbers. Care must therefore be taken when interpreting the figures.

Table 9 Care Leavers Aged 19 (2011 – 2015)

Year ending 31 March	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Total Number of Care Leavers	176	215	175	240	201
Gender (%)					
Male	52%	48%	44%	53%	57%
Female	48%	52%	56%	47%	43%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Religion (%)					
Catholic	53%	45%	45%	48%	47%
Protestant	45%	52%	47%	40%	47%
Other/Unknown	2%	4%	8%	12%	6%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Disability (%)					
Disabled	10%	13%	10%	18%	11%
Of those with a disability:					
Learning Disability ¹	76%	60%	53%	53%	36%
Age When Left Care (%)					
16 & 17 years old	12%	11%	12%	17%	9%
18 years old	88%	89%	88%	83%	91%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Care Leavers with Dependants (%)					
Male	14%	10%	10%	13%	8%
Female	26%	31%	16%	21%	26%

¹ Of those children with a disability 36% had a learning disability

Table 10 Care Leavers Aged 19: Length of Latest Period of Care for Care (2014/15)

Length of Latest Period of Care	< 5 Years	5 - 9 Years	10+ Years	
by Gender (%)				Total
Male	42%	29%	29%	100%
Female	53%	28%	20%	100%
by Placement Type (%)				
Residential Care	22%	4%	10%	
Kinship Foster Care	16%	28%	26%	
Non-Kinship Foster Care	22%	40%	38%	
Placed with Parent/Family	15%	16%	14%	
Independent Living	19%	5%	10%	
Other	5%	7%	2%	
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	
by Legal Status Before Leaving Care (%)				
Accommodated Under Article 21	45%	16%	6%	
Care Order	53%	83%	88%	
Other	2%	2%	6%	
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	

Table 11 **Care Leavers Aged 19: Latest Placement Prior to Leaving Care (2014/15)**

Latest Placement Type (%)	Male	Female	Total
Residential Care	13%	15%	14%
Kinship Foster Care	25%	17%	22%
Non-Kinship Foster Care	30%	33%	31%
Placed with Parent	17%	13%	15%
Independent Living	11%	15%	13%
Other	4%	7%	5%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%

Table 12 **Care Leavers Aged 19: Legal Status Prior to Leaving Care (2014/15)**

Legal Status Before Leaving Care (%)	Male	Female	Total
Accommodated Under Article 21	25%	29%	27%
Care Order	73%	67%	70%
Other	2%	5%	3%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%

Table 13 **Care Leavers Aged 19: Contact Rates (2014/15)**

Contact Rates	%
by Frequency of Contact (%)	
At Least Once a Week	9%
Every 2 Weeks	14%
Once a Month	45%
Once Every 3 Months	18%
At Least Every Six Months	7%
Not At All	5%
Proportion in Contact by Latest Placement in Care (%)	
Residential Care	96%
Kinship Foster Care	98%
Non-Kinship Foster Care	91%
Placed with Parent	100%
Independent Living	89%
Other	100%
Proportion in Contact by Region (%)	
Northern Ireland	95%
England ^{1,2,3}	91%
Wales ³	93%

¹ Source: Children Looked After by Local Authorities, Year Ending 31 March 2015, DfE 2015

² Figures for young people in which there is no information has been counted as 'not in touch' for England. This includes those young people with whom the local authority is not in touch, young people who have refused contact with the local authority and young people who no longer require services.

³ Care should be taken in comparing these figures due to differences in the definition of care leavers further information can be found at the following link :

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464759/SFR34_2015_QualityandMethodology.pdf

⁴ Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After by Local Authorities: year ending 31 March 2015

Table 14 **Care Leavers Aged 19: Current Activity (2011 – 2015)**

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
All 19 year old care leavers	176	215	175	240	201
19 year old care leavers who were in contact with their Trust (%)	97%	97%	98%	93%	95%
Current Activity					
% in Education	24%	30%	32%	26%	27%
% in Training	25%	16%	27%	29%	27%
% in Employment	18%	11%	10%	9%	12%
% Full Time Parent/Carer	7%	11%	8%	4%	10%
% Sick/Disabled	4%	7%	4%	9%	8%
% Unemployed	23%	24%	19% ²	23%	16%

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all figures relate to care leavers aged 19 who were in contact with their Trust and whose activity was known.

² Contains a number of care leavers in Young Offenders Centre

Table 15 Care Leavers Aged 19: Education, Training or Employment (2011 – 2015)

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
All 19 year old care leavers (%)	63%	56%	66%	60%	62%
19 year old care leavers who were in contact with their Trust (%)	67%	58%	69%	64%	66%
by Gender (%)					
Male	66%	59%	70%	65%	70%
Female	67%	57%	67%	63%	62%
by Dependants (%)					
With Dependants	47%	23%	33%	37%	27%
Without Dependants	71%	68%	74%	70%	74%
by Length of Time in Care (%)					
Less than 5 years	63%	49%	61%	49%	55%
5 - 9 years	69%	60%	76%	84%	74%
10 years or more	69%	72%	76%	75%	78%
by Placement Type (%)					
Residential Care	57%	46%	52%	29%	41%
Kinship Foster Care	76%	79%	79%	89%	84%
Non-Kinship Foster Care	92%	79%	88%	87%	84%
Placed with Parent/Family	46%	57%	54%	57%	57%
Independent Living	-	-	63%	46%	48%
Other	53%	33%	50%	43%	30%
by Trust (%)					
Belfast HSCT	57%	62%	57%	52%	81%
Northern HSCT	69%	48%	85%	67%	53%
South Eastern HSCT	63%	49%	67%	54%	52%
Southern HSCT	62%	50%	78%	75%	71%
Western HSCT	78%	81%	63%	79%	74%
by Legal Status (%)					
Accommodated Under Article 21	61%	45%	65%	49%	61%
Care Order	69%	64%	69%	71%	67%

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all figures relate to care leavers aged 19 who were in contact with their Trust.

'-' this information was not collected

Table 16 Care Leavers Aged 19: Type of Accommodation (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 31 March	2011	2012	2013*	2014	2015
Supported Lodgings	17%	17%	12%	13%	15%
Foster Carers	23%	21%	24%	28%	33%
Parents, Family or Friends	27%	25%	20%	22%	16%
Independent Accommodation	31%	35%	37%	28%	31%
Other including Custody	4%	3%	7%	10%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: Figures are for those care leavers 'in touch' with HSC Trusts

* Figures revised from the previous publication.

Table 17 **Care Leavers Aged 19: Type of Accommodation by Gender (2014/15)**

Type of accommodation (%)	Male	Female	Total
Supported Lodgings	18%	11%	15%
Foster Carers	32%	34%	33%
Parents, Family or Friends	18%	13%	16%
Independent Accommodation	25%	40%	31%
Other including custody	7%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Note: Figures are for those care leavers 'in touch' with HSC Trusts

Table 18 **Care Leavers Aged 19: Health & Social Care Trust (2014/15)**

	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Northern Ireland
Total number of care leavers aged 19	44	40	37	39	41	201
Gender						
No. of Male Care Leavers	29	22	24	20	19	114
No. of Female Care Leavers	15	18	13	19	22	87
Last Placement Type						
% in Residential Care	18%	8%	14%	18%	12%	14%
% in Kinship Foster Care	18%	25%	27%	18%	22%	22%
% in Non-kinship Foster Care	30%	30%	22%	36%	39%	31%
% Placed with Parent	18%	20%	16%	5%	15%	15%
% in Independent Living Arrangements	14%	10%	16%	13%	12%	13%
% in Other Care	2%	8%	5%	10%	0%	5%
Current Accommodation						
% Supported Lodgings	23%	10%	0%	18%	20%	14%
% Foster Carers	25%	33%	30%	28%	39%	31%
% Relatives, Family or Friends	16%	23%	16%	5%	15%	15%
% Independent Accommodation	30%	33%	41%	28%	17%	29%
% Other including custody	2%	3%	8%	8%	5%	5%
% Unknown	5%	0%	5%	13%	5%	5%
Current Activity¹						
% in Education, Training or Employment	81%	53%	52%	71%	74%	66%
% Unemployed or Economically inactive	19%	48%	48%	29%	26%	34%

¹ Figures are for those care leavers 'in touch' with HSC Trusts

NOTE: Percentages are based on very small numbers and care must therefore be taken when interpreting the figures.

Appendix D OC1 and OC3 Survey Forms 2014/15

Form OC1 2014/15

Educational Qualifications of Care Leavers

Complete one of these forms for each young person aged 16 or over who ceased to be looked after by your Trust at any time between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 inclusive.

1. Trust name: _____

2. SOSCAR number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Gender

Male

Female

4. Date of birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

5. Date of start of latest period of care:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

6. Date ceased to be looked after:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

7. Postcode of home address before the last entry into care

B	T						

8. Postcode of current address

B	T						

9. Reason ceased being looked after:

(Please tick as appropriate for every young care leaver, including those who left care on their 18th birthday)

Turned 18

Adopted

Died

Care Taken Over by Another Trust (including authorities outside Northern Ireland)

Returned home to live with parents/relatives

Moved into supportive accommodation

Transferred to care of adult social services

Reason Unknown

Episode ceased and new episode began on same/next day

Other

If 'Other', please specify below

.....

.....

.....

10. What is the young person's religion?

(see guidance notes, please tick as appropriate)

Roman Catholic

Presbyterian

Church of Ireland

Church of England

Methodist

Other Christian

Jewish

Muslim

Other

Not Known

None

11. Is the young person disabled according to the definition for the register of children with a disability, i.e. has an illness or difficulty and needs extra help to take part in activities around them in the way they would like and in the way other children of the same age do, respecting individual culture and circumstances?

(see guidance notes for fuller, formal definition)

Yes ☐
No ☐

12. If 'Yes', please state all disability types that apply to the child

Visually disabled
Hearing impaired
Physically disabled
Learning disabled
Autism spectrum
Mental health disability
Other (please specify below)
Not known

If 'other', please specify

13. To which ethnic group does the young person belong?

White (excluding Traveller)
Chinese
Irish Traveller
Roma Traveller
Indian
Pakistani
Bangladeshi
Black Caribbean
Black African
Black Other
Mixed ethnic group (please specify below)

.....
Other ethnic group (please specify below)

.....
Don't know

14. Was the young person an unaccompanied asylum seeker when in care?

Yes ☐
No ☐

15. Does the young person have any dependants?

Yes ☐
No ☐

15a. If 'Yes', please enter the number of dependants

15b. If 'Yes', Is the young person enrolled on the Family Nurse Partnership Programme?

Yes ☐
No ☐

15c. If 'Yes', Is the dependent child a Looked After Child?

Yes ☐
No ☐

16. What was the last placement arrangement for the young person prior to him/her leaving care?

Secure accommodation ☐

Other residential accommodation ☐

Placed for adoption with former foster carers ☐

Placed for adoption with others ☐

Emergency foster care (kinship or non-kinship) ☐

Fieldwork approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends) ☐

Panel approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends) ☐

Foster Care (Non-kinship) ☐

Placed with parents (or persons with parental responsibility) ☐

Independent living with formal support ☐

Independent living without formal support ☐

Other accommodation (please specify below) ☐

.....

17. If the last placement arrangement was Kinship foster care, please specify if the kinship carer was:

Grandparents ☐

Sibling ☐

Other relative ☐

Non-related connected person ☐

18. What is the current type of accommodation for the young person?

With parents ☐

With kinship foster carer or family ☐

With foster carer (non-kinship foster carer) ☐

With friends ☐

Community home or other form of residential care, such as an NHS establishment ☐

Semi-independent transitional accommodation (e.g. supportive hostel, training flats) ☐

Supported lodgings (where supervisory staff or advice workers are available to provide advice or support) ☐

Young Adult Supported Accommodation Project ☐

Foyer (the Foyer Federation runs locally based projects that provide accommodation and access to training and employment for young people aged 16-25) ☐

Independent tenancy (private rented flat, house or bedsit) ☐

Independent NIHE/housing association tenancy ☐

Accommodation provided by a college/university ☐

Emergency accommodation (e.g. night shelter, direct access, emergency hostel) ☐

Bed and breakfast ☐

In custody ☐

Other accommodation (please specify below) ☐

.....

Homeless ☐

19. What was the young person's legal status immediately before leaving care?

Police protection in Board/Trust accommodation (Article 23) ☐

Child assessment Order (Article 62) ☐

Emergency Protection Order (Article 63) ☐

Accommodated under Article 21 ☐

Interim Care Order (Article 57) ☐

Care Order (Article 50 or 59) ☐

Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 and 30 of Sch 8) ☐

Freed for adoption and looked after by Board/Trust ☐

Other (please specify below) ☐

.....

20. At any time during the last school year (September 2012 - July 2013) was the young person covered by a statement of special educational need?

Yes ☐
No ☐

If 'Yes', please specify the main reason the young person was covered by a statement of special educational needs

Learning Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe Learning Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emotional Problems	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behavioural Problems	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sensory Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health Problems	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not Known	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'Other', please state briefly the reason(s) for the statement

.....

If 'Yes' to question 21, go to question 23

21. At any time since the beginning of school, has the young person been covered by a statement of special educational need?

Yes ☐
No ☐

If 'Yes', please specify the main reason the young person was covered by a statement of special educational needs

Learning Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe Learning Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>

Autistic Spectrum Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emotional Problems	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behavioural Problems	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sensory Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health Problems	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not Known	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'Other', please state briefly the reason(s) for the statement

.....

22. Young person's qualifications on ceasing to be looked after:

Number of GCSEs at grade A* to C:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Number of GCSEs at grade D to G:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Number of NVQs:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Number of GNVQs:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Number of 'A' levels:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Number of other educational or vocational qualifications:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If 'Other qualifications', please specify below

.....

If no qualifications recorded:

23. Reason for having no qualifications on ceasing to be looked after:

Not applicable (at least one qualification recorded above)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Due to sit exams later in year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat at least one exam but obtained no qualifications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health condition or disability prevented sitting exams	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did not sit exams, other reason (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

.....

.....

24. What is the young person's activity at present?

Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time further education (up to 'A' level or equivalent standard)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time further education (up to 'A' level or equivalent standard)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Higher education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employment with planned training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employment without planned training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent – full-time carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other full-time carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed for other reason (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	
Other activity (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....	

25. Has a LAC Personal Education Plan been completed for the young person?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. Has the LAC Personal Education Plan been reviewed within the last 12 months?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. Does the young person have a Personal Advisor?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

27a. If 'yes' what is the profession of the Personal Advisor (e.g. Social Worker, Teacher)?

.....

**This is the end of the questionnaire.
Thank you for your cooperation.**

Form OC3 2014/15

Care Leavers on their 19th birthday

Complete this form for each young care leaver who at 1/4/12 was looked after by your Trust and whose date of birth falls between 1/4/95 and 31/3/96 inclusive.

1. Trust name:

2. SOSCAR number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Gender

Male
Female

4. Date of birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

5. Date of start of latest period of care

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

6. Date ceased to be looked after

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

7. Postcode of home address before the last entry into care

B	T						
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

8. Postcode of current address

B	T						
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

Form OC3 2014/15 Page 1

9. What is the young person's religion?

Roman Catholic
Presbyterian
Church of Ireland
Church of England
Methodist
Other Christian
Jewish
Muslim
Other
Not Known
None

10. Is the young person disabled according to the definition for the register of children with a disability, i.e. has an illness or difficulty and needs extra help to take part in activities around them in the way they would like and in the way other children of the same age do, respecting individual culture and circumstances?

(see guidance notes for fuller, formal definition)

Yes
No

11. If 'Yes', please state all disability types that apply to the child

Visually disabled
Hearing impaired
Physically disabled
Learning disabled
Autism spectrum
Mental health disability
Other (please specify)
Not known

12. To which ethnic group does the young person belong?

White (excluding Traveller)
Chinese
Irish Traveller
Roma Traveller
Indian
Pakistani
Bangladeshi
Black Caribbean
Black African
Black Other
Mixed ethnic group (please specify)
Other ethnic group (please specify)
Don't know

Form OC3 2014/15 Page 2

13. Was the young person an unaccompanied asylum seeker when in care?

Yes ☐
No ☐

14. Does the young person have any dependants?

Yes ☐
No ☐

14a. If 'Yes', please enter the number of dependants

14b. If 'Yes', Is the young person enrolled on the Family Nurse Partnership Programme?

Yes ☐
No ☐

14a. Is the dependent child a Looked After Child?

Yes ☐
No ☐

15. What was the last placement arrangement for the young person prior to him/her leaving care?

Secure accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other residential accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placed for adoption with former foster carers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placed for adoption with others	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Emergency</u> foster care (kinship or non-kinship)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Fieldwork approved</u> Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Panel approved</u> Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster Care (Non-kinship)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placed with parents (or persons with parental responsibility)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent living with formal support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent living without formal support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other accommodation (please specify below)	<input type="text"/>

16. If the last placement arrangement was Kinship foster care, please specify if the kinship carer was:

Grandparents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sibling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other relative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-related connected person	<input type="checkbox"/>

Form OC3 2014/15 Page 3

17. What was the young person's legal status immediately before leaving care?

Police protection in Board/Trust accommodation (Article 23)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child assessment Order (Article 62)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency Protection Order (Article 63)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accommodated under Article 21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interim Care Order (Article 57)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care Order (Article 50 or 59)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 and 30 of Sch 8)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freed for adoption and looked after by Board/Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="text"/>

18. How often were you in touch with the young person around his/her 19th birthday?

(see guidance notes for definition)

More than once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once every two weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once every three months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once every six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not at all – young person still resident in UK	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not at all – young person gone abroad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young person died before 19 th birthday	<input type="checkbox"/>

Form OC3 2014/15 Page 4

If in touch with the young person at his/her 19th birthday, please answer the following questions:

19. What was the young person's activity at his/her 19th birthday?

Not known ☐
 Full-time further education ☐
 Part-time further education ☐
 Higher education ☐
 Full-time training ☐
 Part-time training ☐
 Full-time employment with planned training ☐
 Full-time employment without planned training ☐
 Part-time employment ☐
 Volunteering ☐
 Parent – full-time carer ☐
 Other full-time carer ☐
 Unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability ☐
 Unemployed for other reason (please specify below) ☐

.....
 Other activity (please specify below) ☐

20. If the young person was in higher education, please specify:

Metropolitan College ☐
 Regional Colleges ☐
 Universities ☐
 Other (please specify) ☐

21. Has a LAC Personal Education Plan been completed for the young person?

Yes ☐
 No ☐

22. Has the LAC Personal Education Plan been reviewed within the last 12 months?

Yes ☐
 No ☐

23. What type of accommodation was the young person living in on his/her 19th birthday?

With parents ☐
 With kinship foster carer or family ☐
 With foster carer (non-kinship foster carer) ☐
 With friends ☐
 Community home or other form of residential care, such as an NHS establishment ☐
 Semi-independent transitional accommodation (e.g. supportive hostel, training flats) ☐
 Supported lodgings (where supervisory staff or advice workers are available to provide advice or support) ☐
 Young Adult Supported Accommodation Project ☐
 Foyer (the Foyer Federation runs locally based projects that provide accommodation and access to training and employment for young people aged 16-25) ☐
 Independent tenancy (private rented flat, house or bedsit) ☐
 Independent NIHE/housing association tenancy ☐
 Accommodation provided by a college/university ☐
 Emergency accommodation (e.g. night shelter, direct access, emergency hostel) ☐
 Bed and breakfast ☐
 In custody ☐
 Other accommodation (please specify below) ☐

.....
 Homeless ☐

24. Does the young person have a Personal Advisor?

Yes ☐
 No ☐

If 'yes' what is the profession of the Personal Advisor (e.g. Social Worker/Teacher)?

.....

**This is the end of the questionnaire
 Thank you for your cooperation**

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