



Department
for Education

Looked after children in foster care: analysis

February 2018

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Summary

This document has been produced to set out the analysis that the independent review into foster care for looked after children by Sir Martin Narey and Mark Owers draws on.

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

Information on looked-after children and outcome measures at both national and local authority levels for the financial year 2016 to 2017 is published on our [looked-after children statistics collection page](#).

Methodology

Quality and methodology information can be found on our [looked-after children statistics collection page](#). These provide further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed. The tables produced here largely provide further breakdowns of the published statistics found via the source above.

The figures are based on two data sources:

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

Extracts from the national pupil database (NPD) which contains detailed information (including special educational needs) about pupils in schools and colleges in England. The analysis on educational outcomes and special, educational needs and disability (SEND) status of children in foster care is produced by matching the information collected on the children looked after data collection (SSDA903) with information in the NPD. Further information on the matching methodology can be found on our [outcomes for children looked after by LAs collection page](#).

Rounding conventions

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

Main findings

1. Age of children in foster care

Information on the ages of looked after children in foster care as at 31st March 2017 is presented in table 1 below. The largest group were children between the ages of 10 to 15 (43%).

Table 1: Looked after children foster care, by age and provider type, as at 31 March 2017¹

31st March 2017		
Placement	Number of children	Percentage
Children in foster care	53,420	100
Under 1	3,110	6
1 to 4	6,360	12
5 to 9	12,070	23
10 to 15	22,990	43
16 and over	8,900	17
Children in public fostering placements	35,570	100
Under 1	2,680	8
1 to 4	5,410	15
5 to 9	8,490	24
10 to 15	13,760	39
16 and over	5,230	15
Children in independent fostering placements	17,850	100
Under 1	430	2
1 to 4	950	5
5 to 9	3,580	20
10 to 15	9,230	52
16 and over	3,670	21

Source: SSSA903

¹ "Public fostering placements" refers to own provision (by the local authority) and other local authority provision. "Independent fostering placements" refers to private provision and voluntary sector provision.

2. Gender of children in foster care

Information on the gender of looked after children in foster care as at 31st March 2017 is presented in table 2. A majority of these children were male (54%).

Table 2: Looked after children in foster care, by gender, as at 31 March 2017

31st March 2017		
Gender	Number of children	Percentage of children
Male	29,070	54
Female	24,360	46
Total	53,420	100

Source: SSDA903

3. Ethnic origin of children in foster care

Information on the ethnic origin of children in foster care at 31st March 2017 is presented in table 3 below. The majority of children were from a white background (76%).

Table 3: Looked after children in foster care, by ethnic origin, as at 31 March 2017¹

31st March 2017		
Ethnic origin	Number	Percentage
White	40,530	76
Mixed	4,990	9
Asian or Asian British	2,370	4
Black or Black British	3,610	7
Other ethnic groups	1,490	3
Other	450	1
Total	53,420	100

Source: SSDA903

¹ "Other" refers to the categories 'refused' or 'information not available'.

4. Distance from home of children in foster care

Information on distance between home and placement and locality of placement of children looked after in foster care at 31st March 2017 is presented in table 4. 11% of children in foster care were placed over 20 miles from home and outside their local authority.

Table 4: Looked after children in foster care, by distance and locality of placement, as at 31 March 2017^{1, 2}

31st March 2017		
Placement	Number	Percentage
20 miles or less	42,560	80
Inside boundary	29,640	55
Outside boundary	12,920	24
Over 20 miles	7,910	15
Inside boundary	2,290	4
Outside boundary	5,620	11
Not known or not recorded	2,950	6
Total	53,420	100

Source: SSDA903

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

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

5. Providers of foster placements (by number of children in placement)

Information on the providers of foster placements at 31st March 2017 is presented in tables 5a and 5b. The majority of children lived in own LA provision (66%). 29% lived in private provision whilst 4% lived in foster placements provided by the voluntary sector.

Table 5a: Looked after children in foster care, by placement provider, as at 31 March 2017

31st March 2017		
Provider	Number	Percentage
Own provision (by the Local Authority)	35,270	66
Other Local Authority provision	300	1
Private provision	15,710	29
Voluntary/third sector provision	2,150	4
Total	53,420	100

Source: SSDA903

Table 5b: Looked after children in foster care, by LA and placement provider, as at 31 March 2017

31st March 2017				
Local Authority	Own provision (by the Local Authority)	Other Local Authority Provision	Private provision	Voluntary/ Third-sector provision
England	35,270	300	15,710	2,150
North East	2,880	10	620	240
Darlington	90	x	40	15
Durham	540	0	75	45
Gateshead	305	x	20	x
Hartlepool	175	x	25	10
Middlesbrough	170	x	115	35
Newcastle Upon Tyne	345	0	50	20
North Tyneside	190	0	25	5
Northumberland	260	0	40	20
Redcar and Cleveland	100	x	65	20
South Tyneside	135	x	50	20
Stockton-On-Tees	225	0	50	30
Sunderland	340	0	60	15
North West	6,370	80	2,430	310
Blackburn with Darwen	200	x	30	10
Blackpool	265	0	90	15
Bolton	390	10	15	x
Bury	185	0	35	10
Cheshire East	215	x	90	x
Cheshire West and Chester	235	5	80	5
Cumbria	270	x	125	50
Halton	105	x	40	x
Knowsley	130	x	55	5
Lancashire	690	20	475	25
Liverpool	495	x	260	35
Manchester	380	x	450	50
Oldham	280	0	50	x
Rochdale	245	x	60	15
Salford	270	15	65	x
Sefton	220	x	55	20
St Helens	205	x	95	10
Stockport	190	x	20	x
Tameside	250	0	100	10
Trafford	200	x	60	x
Warrington	180	5	60	x
Wigan	270	x	45	5

31st March 2017

Local Authority	Own provision (by the Local Authority)	Other Local Authority Provision	Private provision	Voluntary/ Third- sector provision
Wirral	495	0	65	10
Yorkshire and The Humber	4,180	30	1,090	420
Barnsley	130	0	70	15
Bradford	590	x	35	x
Calderdale	175	0	55	5
Doncaster	0	0	170	225
East Riding of Yorkshire	165	0	55	x
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	460	x	55	x
Kirklees	315	15	130	30
Leeds	780	0	165	40
North East Lincolnshire	210	0	15	x
North Lincolnshire	165	x	15	0
North Yorkshire	300	0	10	x
Rotherham	220	0	120	35
Sheffield	275	x	110	35
Wakefield	255	x	75	20
York	150	x	10	x
East Midlands	2,700	30	1,240	100
Derby	125	x	175	20
Derbyshire	335	0	115	20
Leicester	435	15	65	0
Leicestershire	245	x	135	x
Lincolnshire	535	0	15	0
Northamptonshire	390	x	280	30
Nottingham	195	x	280	10
Nottinghamshire	420	0	165	15
Rutland	20	0	10	0
West Midlands	4,210	10	2,570	280
Birmingham	670	x	590	70
Coventry	220	0	230	10
Dudley	330	x	185	20
Herefordshire	195	0	45	0
Sandwell	275	0	160	30
Shropshire	160	x	35	x
Solihull	175	0	100	10
Staffordshire	440	x	265	15
Stoke-On-Trent	285	0	180	5
Telford and Wrekin	180	0	90	x

31st March 2017

Local Authority	Own provision (by the Local Authority)	Other Local Authority Provision	Private provision	Voluntary/ Third- sector provision
Walsall	320	x	145	10
Warwickshire	370	0	140	20
Wolverhampton	265	0	190	55
Worcestershire	320	x	215	30
East of England	2,990	30	1,650	130
Bedford Borough	95	x	80	0
Central Bedfordshire	125	x	80	x
Cambridgeshire	220	0	255	35
Essex	560	0	185	20
Hertfordshire	505	x	165	10
Luton	145	x	115	x
Norfolk	445	x	370	20
Peterborough	175	x	90	15
Southend-on-Sea	190	0	30	x
Suffolk	410	0	160	15
Thurrock	115	15	115	5
London	2,320	40	1,590	140
Inner London	1,680	20	1,260	130
Camden	75	5	30	x
City Of London	0	0	10	0
Hackney	115	x	155	15
Hammersmith and Fulham	115	0	35	10
Haringey	160	x	140	15
Islington	140	x	105	x
Kensington and Chelsea	40	0	15	x
Lambeth	115	0	170	20
Lewisham	165	0	160	35
Newham	165	0	115	10
Southwark	260	0	110	15
Tower Hamlets	150	x	80	x
Wandsworth	90	x	95	x
Westminster	90	0	40	x
Outer London	2,320	40	1,590	140
Barking and Dagenham	235	0	75	x
Barnet	130	x	55	x
Bexley	125	x	35	x
Brent	115	x	80	x
Bromley	160	0	50	x

31st March 2017

Local Authority	Own provision (by the Local Authority)	Other Local Authority Provision	Private provision	Voluntary/ Third-sector provision
Croydon	380	x	280	10
Ealing	110	0	115	10
Enfield	140	x	90	10
Greenwich	150	x	200	35
Harrow	95	0	35	0
Havering	95	0	75	10
Hillingdon	100	x	80	x
Hounslow	115	0	50	5
Kingston Upon Thames	35	x	40	x
Merton	60	x	40	x
Redbridge	65	10	95	10
Richmond Upon Thames	40	x	20	x
Sutton	75	0	75	5
Waltham Forest	90	0	95	15
South East	4,920	30	2,070	210
Bracknell Forest	60	x	20	0
Brighton and Hove	190	0	125	10
Buckinghamshire	135	x	170	20
East Sussex	340	x	80	x
Hampshire	765	x	285	20
Isle Of Wight	120	0	35	x
Kent	1090	x	245	45
Medway Towns	210	0	75	15
Milton Keynes	215	x	85	x
Oxfordshire	320	0	145	x
Portsmouth	225	x	50	5
Reading	95	x	110	x
Slough	x	x	85	55
Southampton	250	x	140	10
Surrey	395	x	215	5
West Berkshire	105	x	25	x
West Sussex	310	x	140	10
Windsor and Maidenhead	50	x	25	x
Wokingham	35	0	20	0
South West	3,030	30	1,180	180
Bath and North East Somerset	60	x	55	10
Bournemouth	110	x	65	x
Bristol, City of	385	x	120	40
Cornwall	255	0	55	15

31st March 2017				
Local Authority	Own provision (by the Local Authority)	Other Local Authority Provision	Private provision	Voluntary/ Third-sector provision
Devon	325	x	160	10
Dorset	290	x	70	x
Gloucestershire	350	5	90	35
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	110	x	55	10
Plymouth	180	x	100	10
Poole	105	x	20	x
Somerset	220	x	125	10
South Gloucestershire	110	x	10	10
Swindon	190	x	60	15
Torbay	145	0	65	10
Wiltshire	195	0	130	10

Source: SSDA903

6. Legal status of children in foster care

Information on the legal status of children in foster care at 31st March 2017 is presented in table 6. 76% of children in foster care were placed on care orders. The majority of the remainder (18%) were placed under a voluntary agreement under section 20.

Table 6: Looked after children in foster care, by legal status, as at 31 March 2017

31st March 2017		
Legal status	Number	Percentage
Care orders	40,630	76
Freed for adoption ¹	x	x
Placement order granted ²	2,920	5
Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989	9,820	18
Detained for child protection	40	-
Youth justice legal statuses ³	20	-
Total	53,420	100

Source: SSDA903

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

² Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.

³ Includes children detained in local authority accommodation under section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

7. Category of need of children in foster care

Information on the category of need of children in foster care at 31st March 2017 is presented in table 7. The primary reason for a child being placed in foster care was abuse or neglect (65%), followed by family dysfunction (15%).

Table 7: Looked after children in foster care, by category of need, as at 31 March 2017¹

31st March 2017		
Category of need	Number	Percentage
Abuse or neglect	34,800	65
Child's disability	810	2
Parents illness or disability	1,880	4
Family in acute stress	4,200	8
Family dysfunction	8,050	15
Socially unacceptable behaviour	490	1
Low income	60	-
Absent parenting	3,130	6
Total	53,420	100

Source: SSDA903

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

8. Educational Outcomes and Special Educational Needs (SEN) of children in foster care at KS2

Information on the number of eligible children in foster care at KS2 and their Special Educational Needs at 31st March 2016 is presented in table 8a. The performance of looked after children at KS2 is presented in table 8b. At KS2, 25% of children in foster placements reached the expected standard at the new headline measure in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Table 8a: Looked after children in foster care at 31 March 2016, KS2 eligibility by category of SEN^{1,2,3,4}

31st March 2016					
Placement	Total	No SEN	All SEN	SEN statements or EHC	SEN support
Children in foster care					
Reading	2,520	1,090	1,440	540	900
Writing	2,510	1,080	1,430	530	900
Math	2,520	1,090	1,440	540	900
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	2,520	1,090	1,440	540	900
Reading, writing and mathematics	2,510	1,080	1,430	530	900
Children in public fostering placement					

31st March 2016					
Placement	Total	No SEN	All SEN	SEN statements or EHC	SEN support
Reading	1,560	720	840	290	550
Writing	1,550	720	840	290	550
Math	1,560	720	840	290	550
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	1,560	720	840	290	550
Reading, writing and mathematics	1,550	720	840	290	550
Children in independent fostering placements					
Reading	970	370	600	250	350
Writing	960	370	590	240	350
Math	970	370	600	250	350
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	970	370	600	250	350
Reading, writing and mathematics	960	370	590	240	350
All looked after children					
Reading	2,820	1,210	1,600	620	980
Writing	2,800	1,210	1,590	600	980
Math	2,820	1,210	1,600	620	980
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	2,820	1,210	1,600	620	980
Reading, writing and mathematics	2,800	1,210	1,590	600	980
Children in need					
Reading	13,810				
Writing	13,700				
Math	13,810				
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	13,810				
Reading, writing and mathematics	13,700				

Source: School Census-CLA matched data

¹ Children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March 2016 excluding those children in respite care. Only children who have been matched to 2016 census data and aged 4 or above (at 31 March 2016) have been included. Census data has been taken from the School Census (now including Pupil Referral Units).

² Children matched with known SEN status.

³ Children looked after in alternative provision are not included.

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

Table 8b: Looked after children in foster care at 31 March 2016, KS2 performance (percentage reaching the expected standard) by category of SEN^{1,2,3,4}

31st March 2016					
Placement	Total (%)	No SEN (%)	All SEN (%)	SEN statements or EHC (%)	SEN support (%)
Children in foster care					
Reading	41	63	25	15	31
Writing	46	74	25	12	32
Math	42	64	25	13	32

31st March 2016					
Placement	Total (%)	No SEN (%)	All SEN (%)	SEN statements or EHC (%)	SEN support (%)
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	44	72	23	11	30
Reading, writing and mathematics	25	45	11	6	13
Children in public fostering placements					
Reading	42	63	25	13	32
Writing	49	75	26	11	33
Math	43	64	26	12	33
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	46	72	23	9	31
Reading, writing and mathematics	27	45	11	6	14
Children in independent fostering placements					
Reading	40	63	25	18	31
Writing	41	71	23	13	30
Math	39	63	24	15	31
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	41	71	22	13	29
Reading, writing and mathematics	23	43	10	7	12
All looked after children					
Reading	41	62	25	15	32
Writing	46	74	24	11	32
Math	41	63	24	12	32
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	44	72	23	11	30
Reading, writing and mathematics	25	44	11	6	14
Children in need					
Reading	38				
Writing	44				
Math	40				
Grammar, punctuation and spelling	42				
Reading, writing and mathematics	25				

¹ Children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March 2016 excluding those children in respite care. Only children who have been matched to 2016 census data and aged 4 or above (at 31 March 2016) have been included. Census data has been taken from the School Census (now including Pupil Referral Units).

² Children matched with known SEN status.

³ Children looked after in alternative provision are not included.

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

9. Educational Outcomes and Special Educational Needs (SEN) of children in foster care at KS4

Information on the number of eligible children in foster care at KS4 and their Special Educational Needs status at 31st March 2016 is presented in table 9a. The attainment of

children in foster care at KS4 is presented in table 9b and the progress at KS4 in table 9c. The attainment 8 and progress 8 scores show that children in foster care have better average scores than looked after children overall.

Table 9a: Looked after children in foster care at 31 March 2016, KS4 eligibility by category of SEN^{1,2,3}

31st March 2016					
Placement	Total	No SEN	All SEN	SEN statements or EHC	SEN support
All looked-after children	4,890	1,760	2,730	1,460	1,270
Children in foster care	3,280	1,430	1,710	770	940
Children in public fostering placements	1,920	890	950	400	560
Children in independent fostering placements	1,360	540	760	370	380
Children in need	14,040				

¹ Children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March 2016 excluding those children in respite care. Among looked-after children for at least 12 months at 31/03/16, only the children who have spent at least 6 months in the same type of fostering placement at the 31/03/16 are taken into account. This includes children who have been at the same placement for 6 months but also children who have changed placements over the previous 6 months but remained throughout with a same provider type (i.e either public or private).

² Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages are rounded to the nearest unit.

³ The special educational needs and disability (SEND) provisions in the Children and Families Act 2014 were introduced on 1 September 2014. Children looked after in alternative provision are not included. From then, any children or young people who are newly referred to a local authority for assessment are considered under the new Education Health and Care (EHC) plan assessment process. The legal test of when a child or young person requires an EHC plan remains the same as that for a statement under the Education Act 1996. In addition, the previous "school action" and "school action plus" categories were replaced by a new category "SEN support".

Table 9b: Looked after children in foster care at 31 March 2016, Attainment 8 scores by category of SEN^{1,2,3}

31st March 2016					
Placement	Total	No SEN	All SEN	SEN statements or EHC	SEN support
Children in foster care					
All	29.1	38.8	22.7	13.3	30.4
Female	32.4	41.4	24.2	12.1	30.2
Male	26.3	35.6	21.7	13.7	30.5
Children in public fostering placements					
All	30.6	40.1	23.2	12.3	31.0
Female	33.9	42.7	24.8	10.9	31.4
Male	27.5	37.0	22.1	12.9	30.7

31st March 2016					
Placement	Total	No SEN	All SEN	SEN statements or EHC	SEN support
Children in independent fostering placements					
All	27.1	36.6	22.0	14.3	29.4
Female	30.1	39.3	23.4	13.6	28.5
Male	24.6	33.4	21.1	14.6	30.3
All looked after children					
All	22.8	35.2	17.2	9.3	26.3
Female	26.0	37.4	19.1	8.6	26.0
Male	20.2	32.5	16.0	9.6	26.5
Children in need					
All	22.6				

Source: School Census-CLA matched data

¹ Attainment 8 is part of the new secondary accountability system being implemented for all schools from 2016. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 0.1.

² Children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March 2016 excluding those children in respite care. Among looked-after children for at least 12 months at 31/03/16, only the children who have spent at least 6 months in the same type of fostering placement.

³ The special educational needs and disability (SEND) provisions in the Children and Families Act 2014 were introduced on 1 September 2014. Children looked after in alternative provision are not included. From then, any children or young people who are newly referred to a local authority for assessment are considered under the new Education Health and Care (EHC) plan assessment process. The legal test of when a child or young person requires an EHC plan remains the same as that for a statement under the Education Act 1996. In addition, the previous "school action" and "school action plus" categories were replaced by a new category "SEN support".

Table 9c: Looked after children in foster care at 31 March 2016, KS4 Progress 8 scores by category of SEN^{1,2,3}

31st March 2016					
Placement	Total	No SEN	All SEN	SEN statements or EHC	SEN support
Children in foster care					
All	-0.72	-0.41	-0.95	-1.22	-0.75
Female	-0.58	-0.35	-0.83	-1.12	-0.70
Male	-0.85	-0.49	-1.03	-1.27	-0.79
Children in public fostering placements					
All	-0.66	-0.34	-0.94	-1.26	-0.73
Female	-0.51	-0.26	-0.82	-1.14	-0.68
Male	-0.82	-0.45	-1.03	-1.32	-0.78
Children in independent fostering placements					
All	-0.80	-0.53	-0.96	-1.18	-0.77
Female	-0.69	-0.52	-0.84	-1.09	-0.73
Male	-0.90	-0.56	-1.04	-1.21	-0.82

31st March 2016					
Placement	Total	No SEN	All SEN	SEN statements or EHC	SEN support
All looked after children					
All	-1.14	-0.73	-1.39	-1.58	-1.21
Female	-1.01	-0.68	-1.29	-1.53	-1.17
Male	-1.26	-0.80	-1.45	-1.60	-1.24
Children in need					
All	-1.45				

¹ Progress 8 is part of the new secondary accountability system being implemented for all schools from 2016. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 0.01. A Progress 8 score of 1.0 means pupils in the group make on average a grade more progress than the national average; a score of -0.5 means they make on average half a grade less progress than average.

² Children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March 2016 excluding those children in respite care. Among looked-after children for at least 12 months at 31/03/16, only the children who have spent at least 6 months in the same type of fostering placement at the 31/03/2016 are taken into account. This includes children who have been at the same placement for 6 months but also children who have changed placements over the previous 6 months but remained throughout with a same provider type (i.e. either public or private).

³ The special educational needs and disability (SEND) provisions in the Children and Families Act 2014 were introduced on 1 September 2014. From then, any children or young people who are newly referred to a local authority for assessment are considered under the new Education Health and Care (EHC) plan assessment process. The legal test of when a child or young person requires an EHC plan remains the same as that for a statement under the Education Act 1996. In addition, the previous "school action" and "school action plus" categories were replaced by a new category "SEN support".

10. Offending by children in foster care

Information on offending by children who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months and are placed in foster care at 31st March 2016 is presented in table 10. The proportion of children in foster care aged 10 to 17 who received a conviction, a final warning or a reprimand was 1% in 2016, compared to 15% for looked after children in all other placement types. The conviction, final warning or reprimand leading to the conviction might have occurred before the child was living in a foster placement.

Table 10: Offending by children in foster care who have been looked after continuously for at least twelve months at 31 March 2016^{1,2}

31st March 2016			
Placement	Number looked after for 12 months aged 10 to 17 at 31 March	Number convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year	Percentage convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year
Children in foster care			
Children in fostering placements	24,550	350	1.42
Children in public (LA) provision	14,680	210	1.40
Children in independent provision	9,880	140	1.46
Rest of looked after population			
Children in care (other than foster)	8,560	1,290	15

Source: SSSA903

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

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

11. Substance misuse by children in foster care

Information on substance misuse of children in foster care for the year ending 31st March 2016 is presented in table 11.

Table 11: Substance misuse of children in foster care, for the year ending 31 March 2016^{1,2,3,4}

31 March 2016		
Placement	Number	Percentage
Children in foster care		
Number of children in foster care, at 31 March 2016, looked after for at least 12 months at 31 March 2016	35,740	
Identified as having a substance misuse problem	580	2
Received an intervention for their substance misuse problem ³	270	46
Offered intervention but refused it ⁴	240	42
Children in LA foster care		
Number of children in LA foster care looked after for at least 12 months at 31 March	22,580	
Identified as having a substance misuse problem	340	1
Children in independent foster care		
Number of children in independent foster care looked after for at least 12 months at 31 March	13,160	
Identified as having a substance misuse problem	250	2

Rest of looked after population		
Number of children in care (other than foster) looked after for at least 12 months at 31 March	12,750	
Identified as having a substance misuse problem	1,270	10
Received an intervention for their substance misuse problem ³	660	62
Offered intervention but refused it ⁴	500	39

Source: SSSA903

¹ Figures include children who have been continuously looked after for at least 12 months as at 31 March. Figures exclude children who were looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

² The term 'drug' is used to refer to any psychotropic substance, including illegal drugs, illicit use of prescription drugs and volatile substances. Young people's drug taking is often inextricably linked with the consumption of alcohol. Therefore the term 'substance' refers to both drugs and alcohol but not tobacco. Substance misuse is defined as 'intoxication by (or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence on) psychoactive substances, leading to social, psychological, physical or legal problems'. It includes problematic use of both legal and illegal drugs (including alcohol when used in conjunction with other substances).

³ Number or percentage of children identified as having a substance misuse problem who received an intervention.

⁴ Number or percentage of children identified as having a substance misuse problem who were offered an intervention but refused it.

12. Emotional and behavioural health of children in foster care

Information on the behavioural and emotional health of children living in foster care for whom a Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was received is presented in table 12a and 12b.

Table 12a: SDQ scores of children in foster care aged 5 to 16, for the year ending 31 March 2016^{1,2,3}

31 March 2016	
Children in foster care	
Number of children in foster care aged 5 to 16 at 31 March 2016	29,720
<i>Percentage for whom an SDQ score was received</i>	77
Average (Mean) SDQ score	14
<i>Percentage of children for whom SDQ score is normal</i>	51
<i>Percentage of children for whom SDQ score is borderline</i>	13
<i>Percentage of children for whom SDQ score is cause for concern</i>	36
Average (Mean) SDQ score for children in LA foster care at 31 March 2016	13
Average (Mean) SDQ score for children in independent foster care at 31 March 2016	15
Rest of looked after population	
Number of children in care aged 5 to 16 at 31 March 2016	7,160
<i>Percentage for whom an SDQ score was received</i>	65
Average (Mean) SDQ score	16
<i>Percentage of children for whom SDQ score is normal</i>	39
<i>Percentage of children for whom SDQ score is borderline</i>	13
<i>Percentage of children for whom SDQ score is cause for concern</i>	47

Source: SSSA903

¹ Figures include children who have been continuously looked after for at least 12 months as at 31 March. Figures exclude children who were looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

² An SDQ score is required of all children aged 4-16 on the date of the last assessment. The date of assessment is not collected on the looked after children return (SSDA 903) and therefore this cohort has been restricted to age 5-16.

³ A higher score on the SDQ indicates more emotional difficulties. A score of 0 to 13 is considered normal, a score of 14 to 16 is considered borderline cause for concern and a score of 17 and over is considered a cause for concern.

Table 12b: SDQ scores of children in foster care aged 5 to 16, by local authority, for the year ending 31 March 2016^{1,2,3}

31st March 2017						
Local Authority	LA provision			Independent provision		
	Normal	Borderline	Concern	Normal	Borderline	Concern
North East						
Darlington	25	x	x	15	10	10
Durham	100	30	60	15	10	35
Gateshead	55	10	40	x	x	x
Hartlepool	45	5	20	x	x	x
Middlesbrough	30	x	x	45	15	30
Newcastle Upon Tyne	75	15	40	x	x	20
North Tyneside	45	10	30	x	x	10
Northumberland	40	5	25	x	x	25
Redcar and Cleveland	25	x	x	25	x	x
South Tyneside	10	x	x	x	x	10
Stockton-On-Tees	35	10	15	25	10	35
Sunderland	x	x	35	x	x	10
North West						
Blackburn with Darwen	40	15	30	15	x	x
Blackpool	60	10	20	20	5	25
Bolton	105	30	65	x	x	5
Bury	30	x	x	x	x	x
Cheshire East	50	10	55	25	5	25
Cheshire West and Chester	60	10	30	25	10	20
Cumbria	85	25	45	50	20	35
Halton	30	x	x	x	x	x
Knowsley	40	10	20	30	5	10
Lancashire	175	30	105	145	35	125
Liverpool	45	x	x	80	15	45
Manchester	115	25	40	215	55	115
Oldham	75	15	40	20	x	x
Rochdale	90	20	25	30	x	x
Salford	70	15	45	25	5	30
Sefton	40	10	25	15	10	10

31st March 2017

Local Authority	LA provision			Independent provision		
	Normal	Borderline	Concern	Normal	Borderline	Concern
St Helens	60	15	30	40	10	20
Stockport	45	15	35	10	x	x
Tameside	100	20	25	30	10	5
Trafford	90	20	20	10	x	x
Warrington	25	10	20	x	x	10
Wigan	100	25	65	x	x	15
Wirral	135	25	70	x	x	10
Yorkshire and The Humber						
Barnsley	20	10	10	15	5	15
Bradford	175	25	80	x	x	x
Calderdale	35	15	40	x	x	15
Doncaster	0	0	0	90	30	80
East Riding of Yorkshire	45	15	20	15	10	15
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	35	10	30	x	x	x
Kirklees	70	10	30	45	10	30
Leeds	170	50	130	60	20	70
North East Lincolnshire	45	5	30	5	x	x
North Lincolnshire	40	10	40	x	x	10
North Yorkshire	80	15	65	x	x	x
Rotherham	40	15	20	20	10	30
Sheffield	60	15	50	25	10	50
Wakefield	75	10	30	35	10	30
York	35	10	30	x	x	5
East Midlands						
Derby	20	10	30	35	5	45
Derbyshire	25	10	35	x	x	15
Leicester	55	15	55	10	x	x
Leicestershire	20	5	30	x	x	x
Lincolnshire	100	40	115	5	0	5
Northamptonshire	65	15	25	75	15	45
Nottingham	20	15	40	60	15	60
Nottinghamshire	90	20	70	40	15	35
Rutland	x	x	x	0	0	0
West Midlands						
Birmingham	190	40	70	230	40	160
Coventry	25	10	35	65	20	60
Dudley	105	15	45	90	10	50

31st March 2017

Local Authority	LA provision			Independent provision		
	Normal	Borderline	Concern	Normal	Borderline	Concern
Herefordshire	25	15	30	5	5	15
Sandwell	70	20	35	30	10	40
Shropshire	45	10	30	x	x	15
Solihull	30	10	15	25	x	x
Staffordshire	95	25	85	45	10	50
Stoke-On-Trent	60	15	45	45	10	40
Telford and Wrekin	35	5	35	25	10	20
Walsall	65	10	35	x	x	35
Warwickshire	85	25	45	30	15	35
Wolverhampton	40	10	35	70	30	45
Worcestershire	60	10	30	30	10	30
East of England						
Bedford Borough	x	x	15	15	10	20
Central Bedfordshire	35	5	15	30	5	30
Cambridgeshire	40	10	25	50	15	55
Essex	125	40	90	55	15	45
Hertfordshire	145	35	95	55	15	40
Luton	50	5	20	35	10	25
Norfolk	90	25	90	135	30	100
Peterborough	x	x	10	x	x	10
Southend-on-Sea	30	x	x	10	0	5
Suffolk	85	20	70	35	10	35
Thurrock	25	x	x	40	5	20
London						
Inner London						
Camden	20	x	x	20	x	x
City Of London	0	0	0	x	0	0
Hackney	20	x	x	45	10	20
Hammersmith and Fulham	20	x	x	20	x	x
Haringey	30	5	15	70	5	35
Islington	30	x	x	25	5	15
Kensington and Chelsea	15	x	x	5	x	x
Lambeth	30	5	15	60	10	25
Lewisham	40	10	25	35	5	30
Newham	30	10	20	50	10	25
Southwark	60	15	40	25	10	15
Tower Hamlets	40	5	10	25	x	x
Wandsworth	20	10	5	10	x	x
Westminster	25	x	x	20	x	x

31st March 2017

	LA provision			Independent provision		
Local Authority	Normal	Borderline	Concern	Normal	Borderline	Concern
Outer London						
Barking and Dagenham	45	10	20	25	10	15
Barnet	25	x	x	20	x	x
Bexley	30	10	30	10	x	x
Brent	30	15	25	20	5	25
Bromley	50	10	30	10	x	x
Croydon	80	5	30	60	x	x
Ealing	40	10	15	60	20	25
Enfield	30	5	15	25	10	15
Greenwich	50	10	10	80	25	55
Harrow	5	x	x	5	x	x
Havering	30	x	x	30	5	15
Hillingdon	30	x	x	20	5	15
Hounslow	40	x	x	15	x	x
Kingston Upon Thames	10	x	x	10	x	x
Merton	10	x	x	10	x	x
Redbridge	25	x	x	25	5	10
Richmond Upon Thames	10	x	x	x	x	x
Sutton	25	x	x	10	x	x
Waltham Forest	15	10	10	35	10	20
South East						
Bracknell Forest	15	x	x	x	x	x
Brighton and Hove	40	x	x	25	10	50
Buckinghamshire	x	x	15	25	10	15
East Sussex	65	25	45	15	10	5
Hampshire	185	35	100	60	25	60
Isle Of Wight	15	10	10	10	x	x
Kent	295	55	230	35	15	45
Medway Towns	45	20	45	x	x	30
Milton Keynes	55	10	20	20	10	20
Oxfordshire	30	10	35	20	10	20
Portsmouth	45	5	35	15	x	x
Reading	10	x	x	10	5	10
Slough	0	x	x	15	x	x
Southampton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	85	25	35	45	10	25
West Berkshire	10	10	25	x	x	15
West Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0

31st March 2017						
Local Authority	LA provision			Independent provision		
	Normal	Borderline	Concern	Normal	Borderline	Concern
Windsor and Maidenhead	10	x	x	5	x	x
Wokingham	x	x	x	x	0	x
South West						
Bath and North East Somerset	x	x	x	x	x	20
Bournemouth	25	10	10	20	x	x
Bristol, City of	85	15	70	35	15	40
Cornwall	65	15	30	15	5	10
Devon	55	20	70	30	15	45
Dorset	20	5	10	x	0	x
Gloucestershire	70	15	45	25	10	30
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	20	10	20	x	x	10
Plymouth	40	x	x	15	5	20
Poole	x	x	20	10	x	x
Somerset	40	10	30	30	15	30
South Gloucestershire	x	x	25	x	x	x
Swindon	35	x	x	x	x	x
Torbay	30	10	25	15	x	x
Wiltshire	40	5	30	25	10	35

Source: SSDA903

¹ Figures include children who have been continuously looked after for at least 12 months as at 31 March. Figures exclude children who were looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

² An SDQ score is required of all children aged 4-16 on the date of the last assessment. The date of assessment is not collected on the looked after children return (SSDA 903) and therefore this cohort has been restricted to age 5-16.

³ A higher score on the SDQ indicates more emotional difficulties. A score of 0 to 13 is considered normal, a score of 14 to 16 is considered borderline cause for concern and a score of 17 and over is considered a cause for concern.



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