



Stability index 2020

Technical report

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Introduction

This analysis contains the 2020 update to the Stability Index: the Children's Commissioner's ongoing project measuring levels stability for children in care. This update focuses on the cohort of children who were in care on 31 March 2019.

In previous years, this work has examined rates of stability for children in care across three domains: placement changes, school changes and social worker changes. The 2020 update, however, only covers placement and school changes; it does not include analysis of social worker changes, because of the disruption caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

As before, data on placement and school changes comes from administrative data collected by Department for Education (DfE), in particular the Children Looked After Census and the National Pupil Database. Local authorities (LAs) submitted this data to DfE prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 and so this data was available as normal. However, information on social worker changes comes from a bespoke data request to LAs that was due to return data at the end of March 2020. With the outbreak of COVID-19 this data request was suspended to reduce the burden on LAs at a critical time in the pandemic.

This analysis therefore provides updated figures and trends on placement and school changes. It also examines in more depth how trends in key measures of school and placement stability for children in care have changed from 2016 onwards. An accompanying [dataset](#) provides key stability figures for each LA.

Executive summary

Placement stability

Just over 1 in 10 children in care (8,000 children) experienced multiple placement moves in 2018/19. This rate has remained largely unchanged since 2016.

Looking over the longer term, 1 in 4 children in care in both 2018 and 2019 (13,000 children) have experienced 2+ placement moves over 2 years. More than half of children in care in both 2017 and 2019 have experienced at least one placement change over this 3 year period. These rates have remained broadly constant since 2016.

Older children are more likely to experience multiple placement moves in a year than other children in care. 14% of children in care aged 16+ and 11.5% of children aged 12-15 have had two or more placement moves in 2018/19. Rates are highest amongst 12-15 year olds who also entered care aged 12-15, where nearly 1 in 5 of these children experienced multiple placement moves in 2018/19.

However, while rates are lower amongst younger children, the numbers with 2+ placement moves are increasing at a faster rate than the numbers of children in care in these age groups. For example, numbers of children aged 5-11 with multiple placement moves in 2018/19 are up 15% on 2016 levels compared to a population rise of 6.5%. Overall, amongst children aged 0-11 rates of multiple placement moves in a year are up 17% compared to a population rise of 10%.

This rise has been driven by rises amongst younger children looked after under full care orders where the rate of children with multiple placement moves is up 34% on 2016 levels compared to a 17% rise in the numbers of these children in the care population.

Rates of multiple placement moves have stayed broadly similar when analysed by a child's first type of placement during the year. Rates are highest for children whose first placement is in secure/specialist residential placements (25.5%) or children's homes (16.7%).

However, when children are moved the sorts of moves they are experiencing are changing. For example, there has been a small but consistent increase in the numbers of children being moved across LA boundaries at a placement move. The numbers of children whose initial placement was within their responsible authority who are moved out of area at least once during the year are up 15% on 2016 levels (up to 6,633 children in 2018/19) compared to a 9% rise in the population of children initially placed within area.

Similarly, children whose first placement is in an LA run placement are increasingly being moved into privately run placements. Numbers of children whose first placement in a year is in LA-provided care who then have at least one move to privately-provided care are up 8% on 2016 levels (4,220 children in 2019). By way of context, there has been a 2% rise in the population with their first placement during the year in LA-provided care.

Around 1,500 children have experienced sustained placement instability over 2017/18 and 2018/19, defined as 2 or more placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19. This equates to 3% of those in care in both 2018 and 2019).

The following types of children in care are more likely to be in this group:

- > Older children who have recently entered care - 6.6% of children aged 12-15 who also entered care age 12-15 experienced 2+ placement moves in both 2018 and 2019, more than double the average rate.
- > Children with social emotional and mental health (SEMH) identified as their primary SEN type - 2.8% of this group experienced 2+ placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 compared to 1.4% of those with no identified SEN. *Note: these percentages are limited to children in school in the Spring Census 2018*
- > Children whose first placement during 2018/19 was in a secure/specialist residential placement or children's home - 7.5% of this group experienced 2+ placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 (349 children).

Examining the placement journeys of a cohort of care entrants in 2018 that are still in care at 31st March 2019 suggests that children who experience sustained placement instability:

- > Are initially placed in similar placements to other care entrants but are more likely to have been moved into unregulated accommodation by 31st March 2019. At their first placement in 2018 4% were placed in unregulated accommodation, a similar rate to other children in the cohort. However, at 31st March 2019 17% of children that had experienced sustained placement instability over the period were placed in an unregulated placement (vs 5% of the rest of the cohort).
- > Are more likely to be moved out of area. At their first placement on care entry, children experiencing sustained placement instability were as likely to be placed out of area as the rest of the cohort (37% and 33% respectively). However by the 31st March 2019 this sustained placement instability group were notably more likely to be in an out of area placement, with 46% being placed out of area compared to 38% of the rest of the cohort.
- > Are more likely to be moved into privately run provision. At their first placement on care entry, children experiencing sustained placement instability were as likely to be placed in privately run placements the rest of the cohort (30% and 26% respectively). However by the 31st March 2019 this sustained placement instability group were notably more likely to have been moved into a privately run placement, with 44% being placed in private placements compared to 30% of the rest of the cohort.

School stability

Just over 11% of children in care aged 5+ who are enrolled in state funded school during 2018/19 experienced a mid-year school move (equivalent to 5,877 children). This rate has decreased slightly from 2016 levels where it stood at 12%.

Rates of children experiencing any form of school move during the year (either at the start of the school year or a mid-year move excluding expected moves such as from primary to secondary school) have remained constant at around 17% since 2016. This is equivalent to 8,904 children in 2018/19.

Looking over a longer time frame, rates of children experiencing any form of school move in the past 2 years have also remained constant at around 31% since 2016. This is equivalent to 12,621 children in care in 2018/19 that were in school in both 2018 and 2019.

Rates of mid-year school moves are highest amongst children aged 5-11 (14.3% - 3,071 children) and these rates have increased slightly compared to 2016 (13.9%). Amongst 12-15 year olds this rate has decreased since 2016, down from 13% in 2016 to 11.5% in 2019. This rate has also decreased amongst older recent care entrants: 19% of children aged 12-15 who also entered care aged 12-15 experienced a mid-year school move in 2019, down from 22.6% in 2016.

Around 1 in 5 of children in care were attending schools rated as 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' by Ofsted. These rates have decreased since 2016, when they stood at 25%. Rates of children with mid-year school moves are highest in schools rated 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' - where 12% and 13% of children in care experienced a mid-year school move in 2018/19 – compared to 7% in schools rated 'Outstanding'.

Rates of children in care with mid-year school moves are highest amongst primary academies. 16% of children in care whose first school was a primary academy experienced a mid-year school move in 2019. This is largely unchanged on 2016 levels. This compares to 12.5% amongst LA maintained primary schools, a rate which has dropped slightly compared to 2016 where it stood at 13.1%.

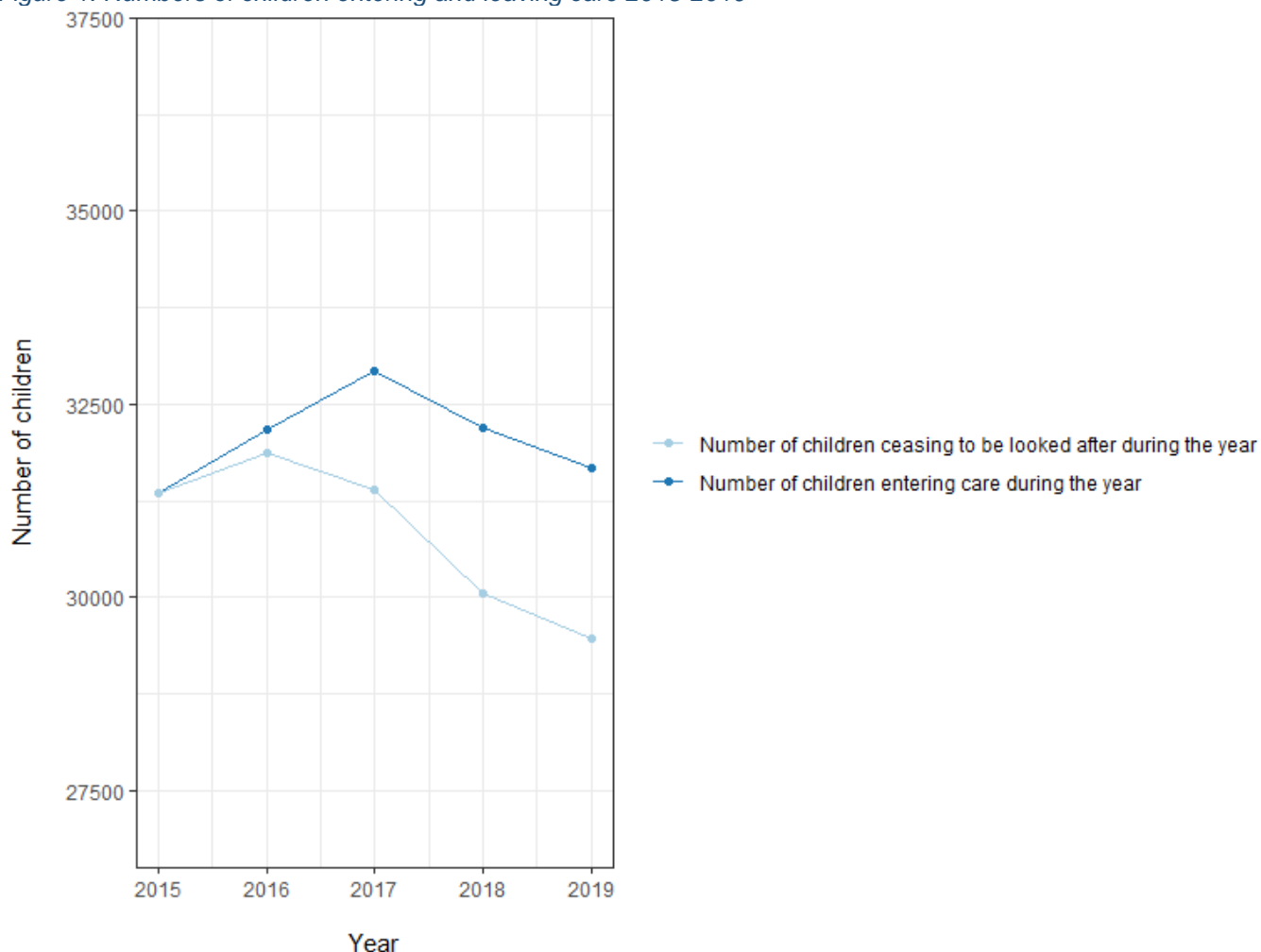
Context: Pressures on the care system since 2016

Since 2016 the rate of children in care has been growing relative to the population, driven primarily by a greater drop in numbers leaving care relative to the numbers entering care (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Table 1: Rates of children in care relative to 0-17 population 2015-2019

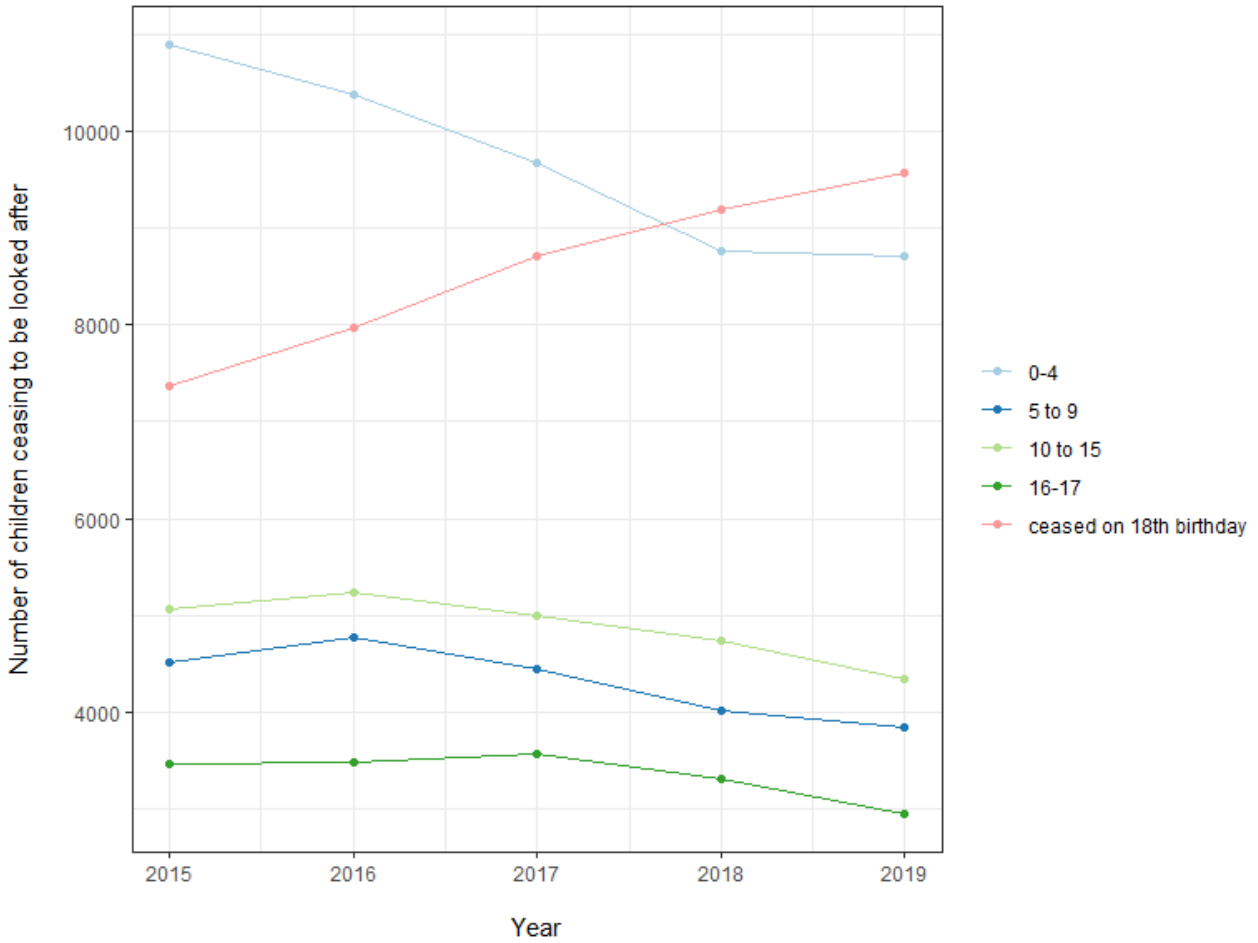
Year	Rate of children in care per 10,000 0-17 year olds
2015	60
2016	60
2017	62
2018	64
2019	65

Figure 1: Numbers of children entering and leaving care 2015-2019



This drop has been across all age groups but has been driven by decreases in the numbers of children aged 0-4 leaving care (Figure 2). There has also been a notable increase in children leaving care due to becoming adults (those leaving care at their 18th birthday).

Figure 2: Numbers of children ceasing to be looked after during the year by age group



Particularly since 2017 this trend has in turn resulted in children staying in care for longer periods of time. The average length of a child’s period of care (amongst those ceasing to be looked after) has increased from 764 days in 2016 to 808 days in 2019 (source: [DfE Looked After Children statistics](#)).

This suggests that there is increasing pressure on local authorities to find placements (and in turn schooling) for a growing number of children in care who are also now staying in care for on average longer periods of time. The rest of this report explores (in a descriptive manner) how placement and school stability for Looked After Children (LAC) has changed in this context with a particular focus on trends since 2016.

Placement stability

Methodology for counting placement changes

All figures below relate to the cohorts of children in care at 31st March each year and are derived from the Children Looked After Census collected each year by the Department for Education. For our purposes a change in placement is defined as a change in a child's carer during their time in care. This includes any re-entries into care during the relevant time period, however for children not in care at the start of the year, we exclude their first entry into care from our counts. Clearly some of these changes of carer may be for good reasons however it is not possible within the CLA census to define or identify changes that are 'good' or 'bad'. For consistency with national statistics published by the Department for Education (DfE), we also exclude any episodes of respite care from our counts.

Where measures relate to numbers of placement changes over more than a one year period, children are only included in our figures if they are in care for at least 1 day in the first year of the relevant time period as well as being in care at the 31st March of the final year of the time period. For example, to be included in the counts of children in care with placement moves over 2 years in 2018/19, at a minimum a child would have to be in care for 1 day during 2017/18 and at the 31st March 2019.

There are some slight revisions to the previous year's figures for 2017/18, as a result of revisions to the underlying CLA Census extract produced by DfE. This is common with administrative data and simply reflects updated records in local authorities. To ensure consistency with published totals, levels of placement (and school) instability in 2017/18 have been recalculated based on this revised underlying data. This means results for 2017/18 (and other previous years) presented below may not match those in the 2019 Stability Index publication exactly, though differences are minor.

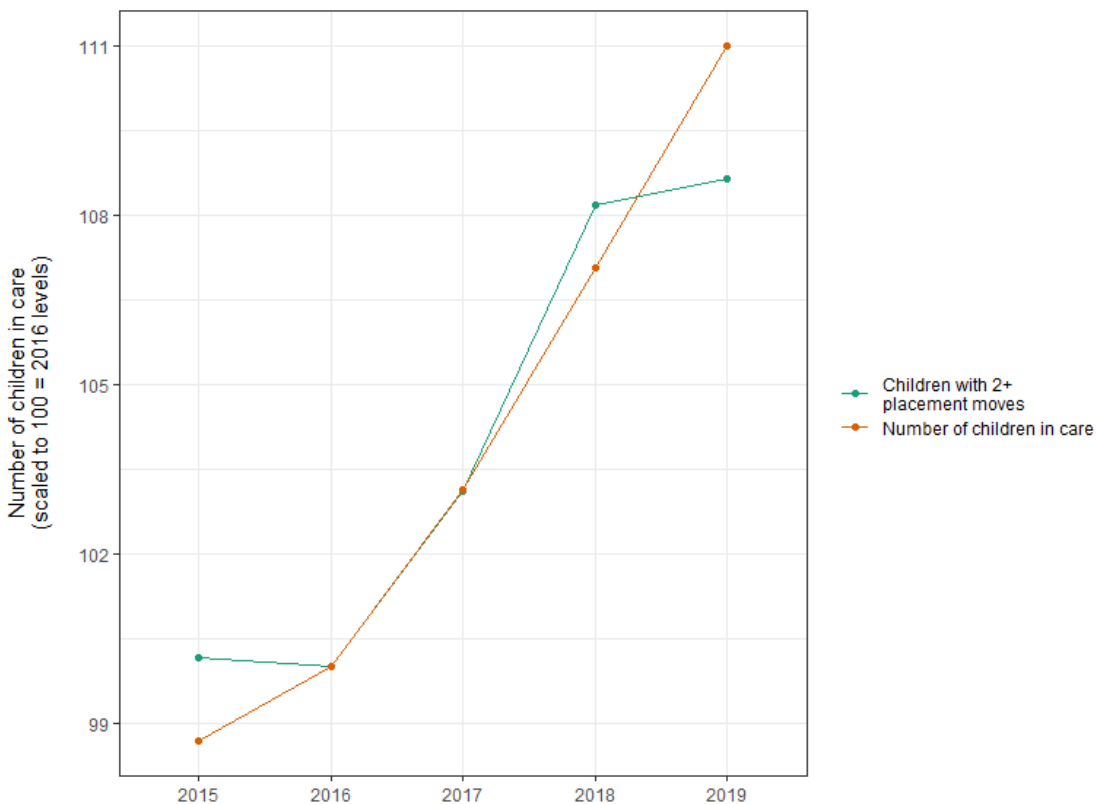
Overall trends in placement stability

Children are experiencing multiple placement moves during the year at a similar rate as in previous years (Table 2). In 2018/19, 8,098 children (10.4% of children in care at 31st March 2019) experienced 2 or more placement moves in 2018/19. Amongst these children, 1,517 (2.7% of children in care in both 2018 and 2019) had experienced 2+ placement moves in both 2018 and 2019.

Table 2: Rates of children in care experiencing x or more placement moves over the previous year

Number of placement moves in the last year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
0	67.3% (47369)	67.5% (48987)	67.4% (50799)	67.7% (52903)
1+	32.7% (23033)	32.5% (23613)	32.6% (24574)	32.3% (25250)
2+	10.6% (7453)	10.6% (7684)	10.7% (8063)	10.4% (8098)
3+	3.9% (2753)	4.1% (2984)	4.2% (3129)	4.1% (3188)
4+	1.7% (1189)	1.8% (1342)	1.9% (1402)	1.8% (1398)
5+	0.8% (572)	0.9% (641)	0.9% (681)	0.8% (663)
6+	0.4% (285)	0.4% (325)	0.5% (351)	0.4% (351)
7+	0.2% (143)	0.2% (178)	0.2% (171)	0.3% (209)

Figure 3: Trend in children in care at 31st March with 2+ placement moves during the year (green line) compared to population of children in care (orange line)



Rates of placement instability also remain similar to previous years when we look across longer timescales (Table 3 and Table 4)

Table 3: Rates of children in care experiencing x or more placement moves over the previous 2 years

Number of placement moves over 2 years	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
0	50.8% (25278)	52.9% (26947)	52.8% (28141)	52.7% (29364)
1+	49.2% (24513)	47.1% (24035)	47.2% (25174)	47.3% (26331)
2+	23.5% (11702)	22.7% (11580)	23.2% (12349)	23% (12822)
3+	11.2% (5584)	11.4% (5828)	11.5% (6148)	11.5% (6430)
4+	5.8% (2904)	6.2% (3136)	6.4% (3397)	6.1% (3419)
5+	3.3% (1631)	3.5% (1778)	3.7% (1965)	3.6% (1982)
6+	1.9% (953)	2.1% (1050)	2.2% (1183)	2.2% (1203)
7+	1.1% (559)	1.2% (634)	1.3% (716)	1.3% (732)

Table 4: Rates of children in care experiencing x or more placement moves over the previous 3 years

Number of placement moves over 3 years	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
0	43.6% (16434)	45.5% (17503)	47.7% (18936)	47.3% (19653)
1+	56.4% (21226)	54.5% (20967)	52.3% (20756)	52.7% (21924)
2+	30.9% (11646)	30.5% (11726)	30% (11901)	30.5% (12686)
3+	17.3% (6520)	17.4% (6696)	17.4% (6910)	17.4% (7242)
4+	10.3% (3873)	10.3% (3968)	10.4% (4143)	10.7% (4430)
5+	6.6% (2479)	6.3% (2413)	6.5% (2583)	6.8% (2807)
6+	4.2% (1595)	4% (1533)	4.3% (1693)	4.4% (1817)
7+	3% (1121)	2.6% (1002)	2.9% (1147)	3% (1242)

Trends in children with multiple placement moves within a year at LA level

In 2018/19 rates of children with multiple placement moves within a year ranged from 3% to 19.6%. The 10 LAs with the highest rates in 2019 are listed in Table 5.

Table 5: 10 LAs with the highest rates of children in care at 31st March 2019 with 2+ placement moves during the year

LA	Percentage	Count
Bracknell Forest	19.60	31
Kensington and Chelsea	18.30	17
Waltham Forest	17.00	49
Hampshire	15.90	264
Portsmouth	15.80	77
Hounslow	15.80	44
Windsor and Maidenhead	15.30	19
York	14.50	30
Somerset	14.40	77
Wolverhampton	14.10	88

For the most part, rates of children with 2+ placement moves are increasing in line with population across local authorities (see accompanying [dataset](#) for trends in all 151 local authorities). 48% of local authorities have seen less than a 2 percentage point change in their rates of children experiencing multiple placement moves during the year and 88% have seen less than a 5 percentage point change. However, there are some exceptions that have seen sustained rises over and above rises in numbers of children in care as demonstrated in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Selected LAs with large % increases in children with 2+ placement moves in a year relative to population increases

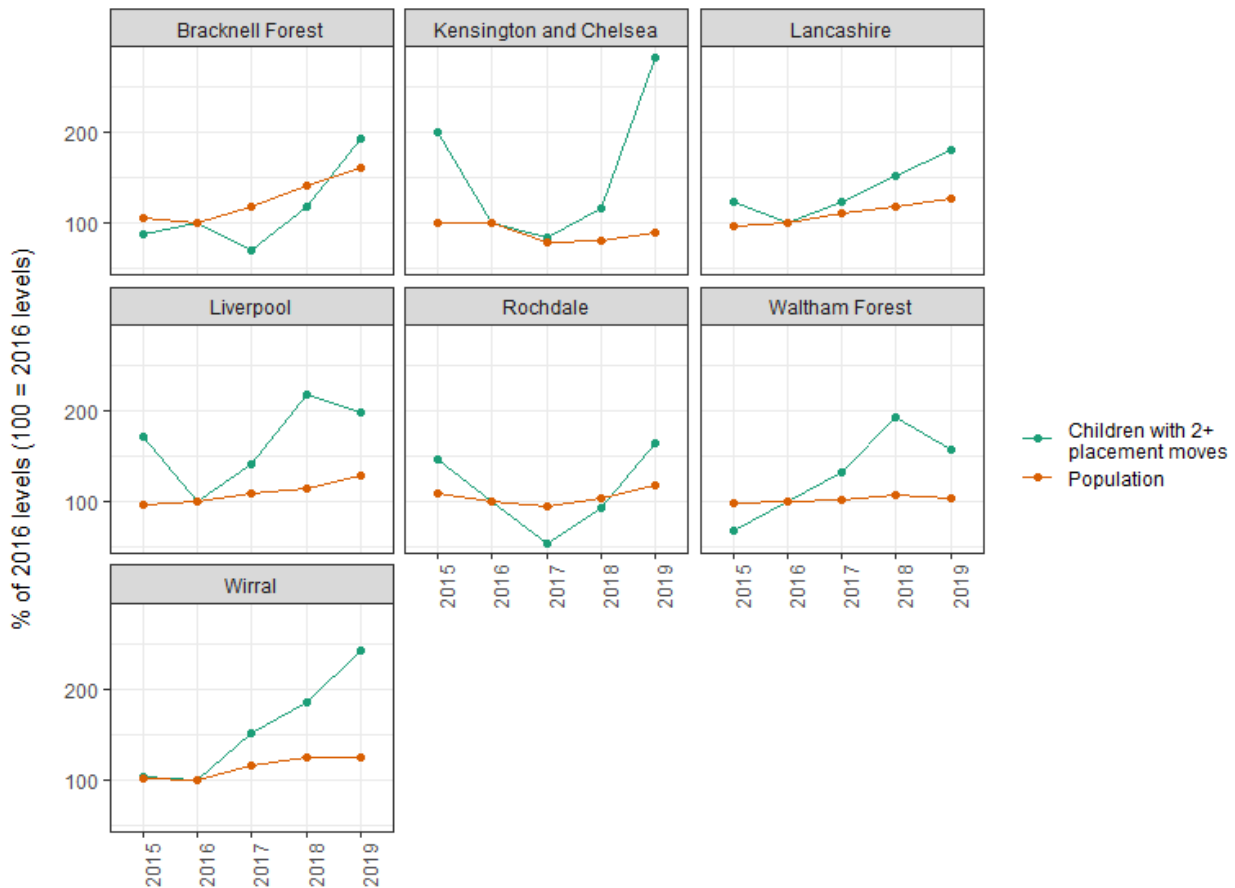


Figure 5 demonstrates that average rates of children experiencing 2+ placement moves in a year over the period 2016-2019 have varied from approximately 4% to 19.5%. Tables 6 and 7 show the 10 LAs with the lowest and the highest average rates over this period.

Figure 5: Map of average rates of children in care experiencing 2+ placement moves 2016-2019

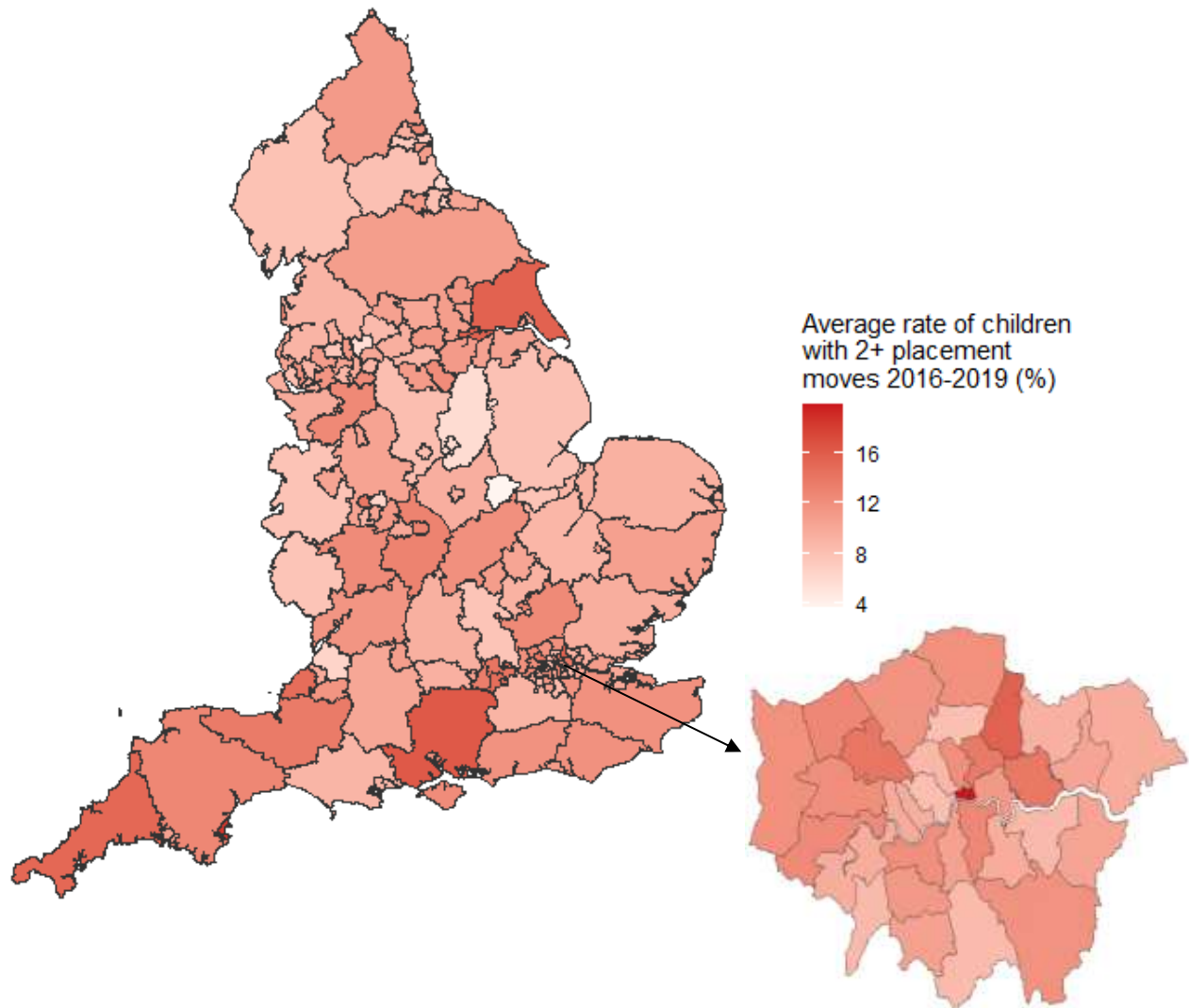


Table 6: 10 LAs with the highest average rates of children in care experiencing 2+ placement moves 2016-2019 (Note: excludes City of London and Torbay due to small bases and known differences in recording respite care respectively)

LA	Average rate of children in care with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019 (%)
Hampshire	16.37
Waltham Forest	15.72
East Riding of Yorkshire	15.68
Portsmouth	15.45
Cornwall	15.28
North Somerset	14.88
Bracknell Forest	14.80
Slough	14.45
Windsor and Maidenhead	14.25
Brent	14.16

Table 7: 10 LAs with the lowest average rates of children in care experiencing 2+ placement moves 2016-2019

LA	Average rate of children in care with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019 (%)
Rutland	3.71
Rochdale	5.60
Nottinghamshire	5.79
Hartlepool	6.40
Walsall	6.46
South Gloucestershire	6.47
Middlesbrough	6.89
South Tyneside	7.32
Gateshead	7.43
Bolton	7.56

There are a small number of LAs that have had consistently high rates over previous years. 11 LAs have been in the top 20% of LAs for the past 2 years. 5 LAs have been ranked in the top 20% since 2017.

Trends in children experiencing multiple placement moves in a year by age

Age at 31st March

Teenagers and older children in care continue to have the highest rates of placement instability of all age groups. 11.5% of 12-15 year olds (2,584 children) and 14% of 16+ year olds (2,577 children) in care experienced multiple placement moves in 2019, notably higher than the rates amongst younger children (Table 8).

Table 8: Rates of 2+ placement moves in a year amongst children in care at 31st March 2019 by age at 31st March 2019

Age at 31st March	Percentage	Count
0-4	9.30	1,350
5-11	7.00	1,587
12-15	11.50	2,584
16+	14.00	2,577

There is a similar pattern with children experiencing multiple moves in 2 consecutive years where rates are notably higher amongst children aged 12-15 and 16+ than younger children. 529 children aged 12-15 (2.9% of those in care in both 2018 and 2019) and 785 children aged 16+ (5.8% of those in care in both 2018 and 2019) experienced multiple placement moves in both 2018 and 2019. This compares to 0.9% of 0-4 and 5-11 year olds (Table 9).

Table 9: Rates of children in care in both 2018 and 2019 experiencing 2+ placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 by age at 31st March 2019

Age at 31st March	Percentage	Count
0-4	0.90	55
5-11	0.90	148
12-15	2.90	529
16+	5.80	785

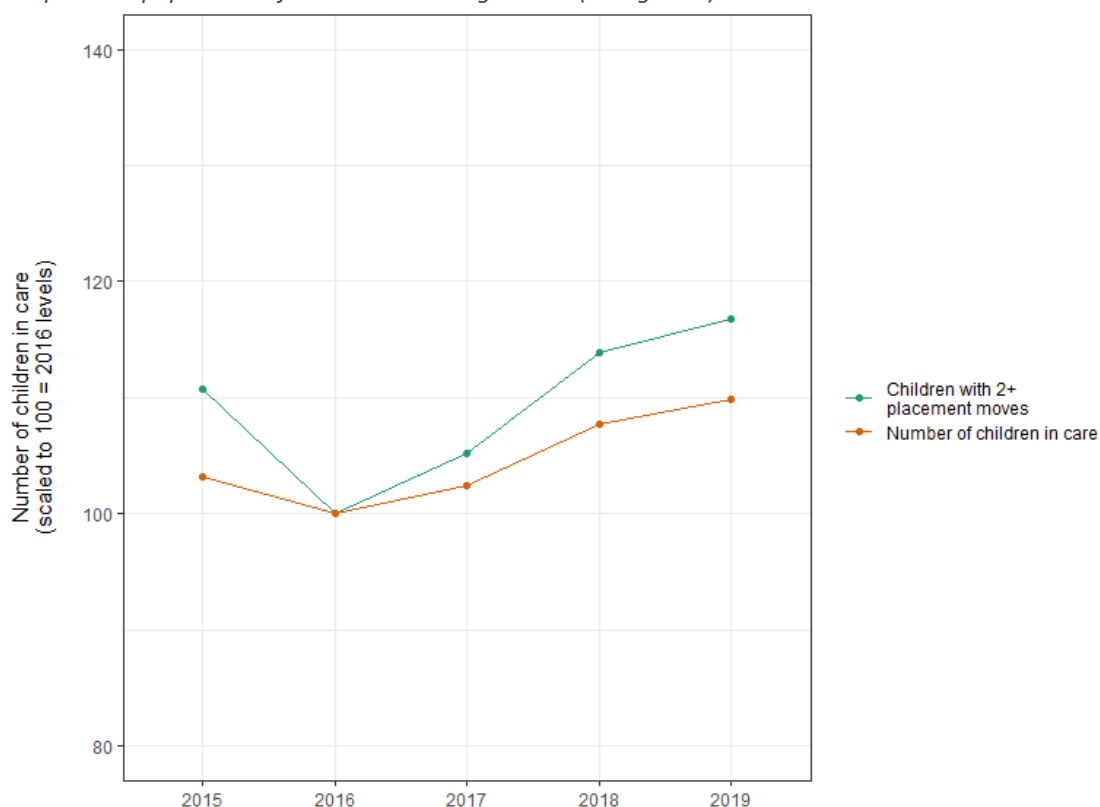
While still less common than in older children, since 2016 the greatest increases in children experiencing multiple placement moves have been amongst children aged 5-11 (and to a lesser extent those aged 0-4). The numbers experiencing 2+ moves in a year aged 5-11 has increased by 15.3%, more than twice the increase in the number of children in care of that same age (Table 10).

Table 10: Percentage changes in numbers of children experiencing multiple placement moves 2016-2019 by age at 31st March

Age at 31st March	Number with 2+ placement changes 2016	Number with 2+ placement changes 2019	% change in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
0-4	1,140 (9%)	1,350 (9.3%)	18.40	15.50
5-11	1,376 (6.4%)	1,587 (7%)	15.30	6.50
12-15	2,425 (12.1%)	2,584 (11.5%)	6.60	12.40
16+	2,512 (15.3%)	2,577 (14%)	2.60	11.60

Figure 6 below demonstrates that increases amongst 0-11 year olds have consistently been higher than changes in population across the period 2016-2019 and are up 17% on 2016 levels.

Figure 6: Trend in children in care at 31st March aged 0-11 with 2+ placement moves during the year (green line) compared to population of children in care aged 0-11 (orange line)



Age at entering care

Older children who have recently entered care have the highest rates of multiple placement moves in a year. For example, nearly 1 in 5 children aged 12-15 who recently entered care experienced 2+ placement moves, notably higher than children of the same age entering care aged 0-4 or 5-11 (Table 11).

Table 11 also demonstrates that rates of multiple placement moves are rising most amongst children aged 5-11 who entered care aged 0-4. Numbers of these children with multiple placement moves in 2018/19 are up 13.2% on 2016 levels compared to a population rise of 1.5%. There have also been rises

amongst younger, more recent care entrants. Numbers of children aged 5-11 who also entered care aged 5-11 experiencing multiple placement moves in a year are up 16.4% on 2016 compared to a population rise of 10.5%.

Table 11: Rates of multiple placement moves during the year by age at earliest care entry and age at 31st March 2016-2019

Age at care entry	Age at 31st march	Number with 2+ placement changes 2016	Number with 2+ placement changes 2019	% change in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
0-4	0-4	1,140 (9%)	1,350 (9.3%)	18.40	15.50
0-4	5-11	448 (4.8%)	507 (5.4%)	13.20	1.50
5-11	5-11	928 (7.7%)	1,080 (8.1%)	16.40	10.50
0-4	12-15	224 (7.4%)	298 (7.4%)	33.00	32.70
5-11	12-15	1,001 (9.7%)	1,109 (9.3%)	10.80	15.00
12-15	12-15	1,200 (18.2%)	1,177 (18%)	-1.90	-0.90
0-4	16+	167 (11.8%)	196 (12.1%)	17.40	13.70
5-11	16+	568 (12.7%)	591 (11.9%)	4.00	10.60
12-15	16+	1,275 (18.8%)	1,330 (18.8%)	4.30	4.30
16+	16+	502 (13.2%)	460 (9.7%)	-8.40	25.10

There is a similar pattern with regards to children experiencing 2+ placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 (Table 12). Older children that have entered care aged 12+ have the highest rates of multiple placement moves in consecutive years. For example, 6.6% of children aged 12-15 who also entered care aged 12-15 experienced multiple placement moves in both 2018 and 2019. This is nearly 3 times the rate of children aged 12-15 who entered care aged 5-11 (2.3%).

Table 12: Rates of children with multiple placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19, by age at earliest care entry and age at 31st March, amongst children in care in both 2018 and 2019

Age at care entry	Age at 31st March	Percentage	Count
0-4	0-4	0.90	55
0-4	5-11	0.60	55
5-11	5-11	1.10	93
0-4	12-15	1.70	64
5-11	12-15	2.30	256
12-15	12-15	6.60	209
0-4	16+	4.70	73
5-11	16+	4.50	222
12-15	16+	7.50	467
16+	16+	2.50	23

Trends in placement stability by children’s legal status

Table 13 shows that children looked after under Section 20 remain the most likely to have 2+ placement moves in a year. 13.1% of children looked after under section 20 (2,417 children) experienced multiple placement moves in 2018/19. This compares to 8.2% of children looked after under a full care order (3,164 children). This pattern is similar amongst those experiencing 2+ moves in consecutive years (Table 14).

Table 13: Rates of children with multiple placement moves in 2018/19, by legal status at first placement during the year. Note: excludes legal statuses with less than 100 children experiencing 2+ placement moves in 2018/19

Legal status	Percentage	Count
S20	13.10	2,417
Full care order	8.20	3,164
Interim care order	11.30	1,819
Placement order	7.10	184

Table 14: Rates of children with multiple placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 by legal status at first placement during 2017/18.

Legal status	Percentage	Count
Full care order	2.20	668
S20	4.70	541
Interim care order	2.20	225
Placement order	1.10	15

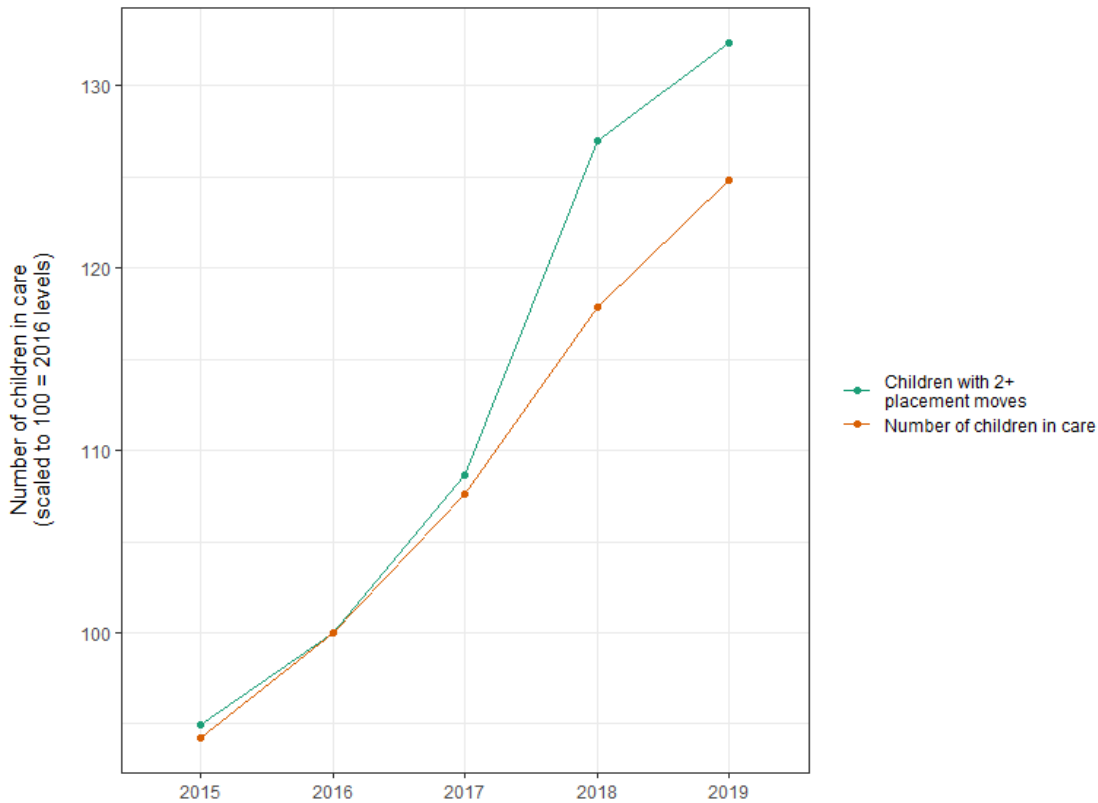
There are increasing rates of placement instability amongst children on full care orders. Numbers of children experiencing multiple placement moves have increased amongst children on full care orders at a faster rate than the increase in the numbers looked after under this legal status. These are up 32.4% on 2016 levels compared to a 24.8% rise in the numbers of children looked after under these orders (Table 15).

Table 15: Trends in children experiencing multiple placement moves during the year by legal status of first placement. Note: limited to legal statuses with at least 100 children experiencing multiple placement moves in 2019

Legal status	Number with 2+ placement changes 2015/16	Number with 2+ placement changes 2018/19	% change in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
S20	3,271 (13.8%)	2,417 (13.1%)	-26.10	-21.90
Full care order	2,390 (7.8%)	3,164 (8.2%)	32.40	24.80
Interim care order	1,120 (11.2%)	1,819 (11.3%)	62.40	59.80
Placement order	211 (6.3%)	184 (7.1%)	-12.80	-21.80

Figure 7 below demonstrates that rises in numbers experiencing multiple placement moves looked after under full care orders have been consistently higher than rises in this population of children looked after since 2016.

Figure 7: Trend in children in care at 31st March who are looked after under a full care order with 2+ placement moves during the year (green line) compared to population of children in care looked after under a full care order (orange line)



Figures 8 and 9 demonstrate that rises in children on full care orders experiencing multiple placement moves are more pronounced amongst younger children than those aged 12+. These are up 34.1% on 2016 levels compared to a 16.7% rise in the numbers of children looked after under these orders amongst children aged 0-11. Figure 9 demonstrates that this difference is much less pronounced for older children, where rises in numbers on full care orders with multiple placement moves have largely followed population growth.

Figure 8: Trend in children in care at 31st March who are looked after under a full care order with 2+ placement moves during the year aged 0-11 (green line) compared to population of children in care looked after under a full care order aged 0-11 (orange line)

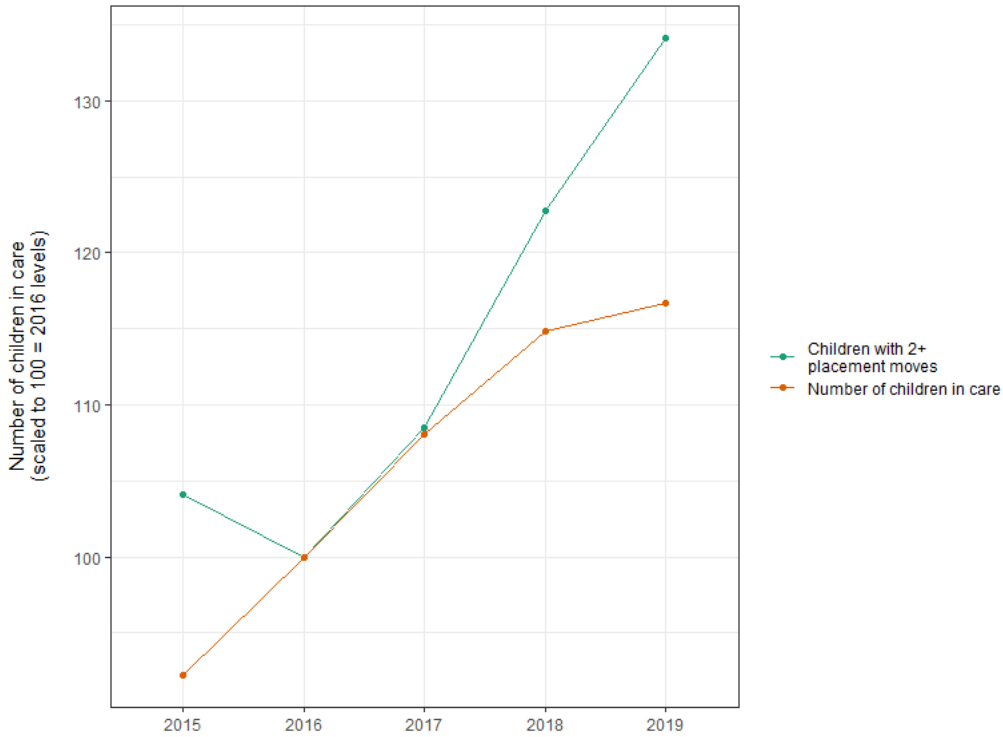
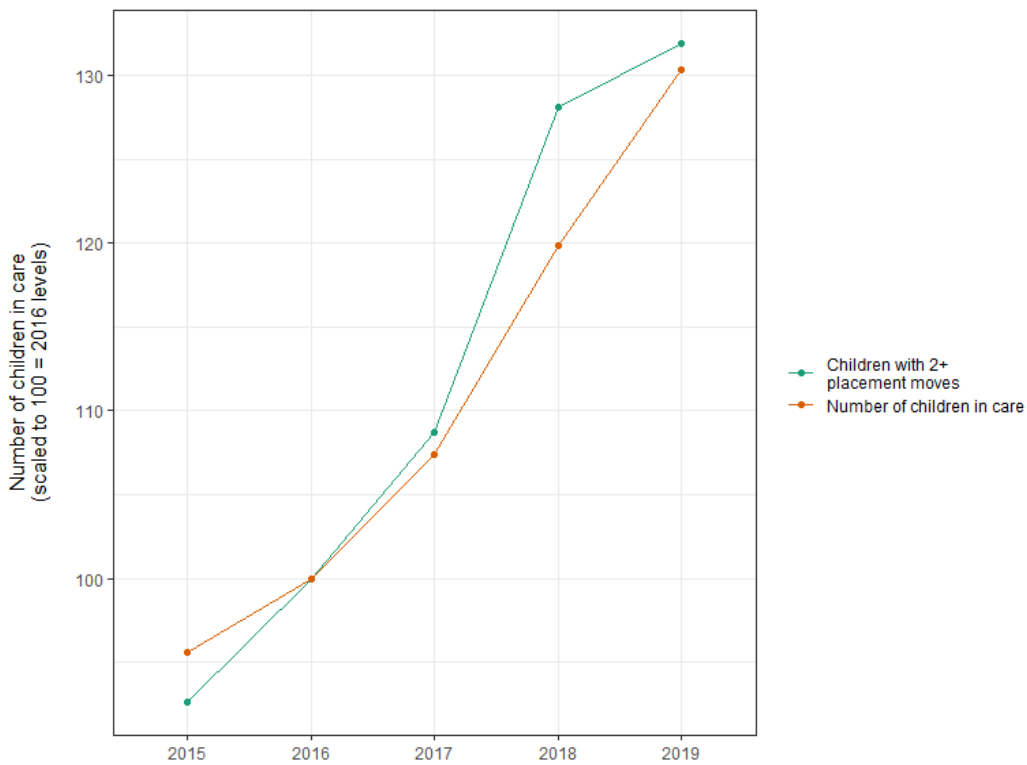


Figure 9: Trend in children in care at 31st March who are looked after under a full care order with 2+ placement moves during the year aged 12+ (green line) compared to population of children in care looked after under a full care order aged 12+ (orange line)



Trends in placement stability for children with special educational needs (SEN)

Note: findings in this section are limited to children aged 5-15 that are in state-funded school in the Spring term of the relevant school year. Average rates of placement moves are slightly lower amongst this group than the population of children in care as a whole

Rates of multiple placement moves are highest amongst those with SEN but no statement/EHC plan. 8.9% of children in care with identified SEN but no statement/EHC plan (1,127 children) had multiple placement moves in 2018/19 (Table 16). This compares to 7.5% amongst children with no identified SEN. These rates have remained in similar proportion to population levels between 2016 and 2019 (Table 17).

Table 16: Rates of children experiencing multiple placement moves during the year by SEN status

SEN status	Percentage	Count
SEN w/ EHCP	7.80	595
SEN - No statement/EHCP	8.90	1,127
Not SEN	7.50	1,441

Table 17: Trends in children experiencing multiple placement moves during the year by SEN status

SEN status	Number with 2+ placement changes 2015/16	Number with 2+ placement changes 2018/19	% change in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
SEN w/ EHCP	529 (7.5%)	595 (7.8%)	12.50	8.40
SEN - No statement/EHCP	1,147 (9.2%)	1127 (8.9%)	-1.70	1.30
Not SEN	1,264 (7.4%)	1441 (7.5%)	14.00	11.60

Rates of children experiencing multiple placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 are slightly higher amongst children with SEN but no statement, than among other groups. 1.9% of children with SEN but no statement/EHC plan (199 children) experienced 2+ moves in both 2018 and 2019, compared to 1.4% of children with no identified SEN.

Table 18: Rates of children experiencing multiple placement moves during both 2017/18 and 2018/19, by SEN status

SEN status	Percentage	Count
SEN w/ EHCP	1.40	86
Not SEN	1.40	215
SEN - No statement/EHCP	1.90	199

Rates of multiple placement moves in a year are highest amongst those with identified social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) issues than for other primary SEN types. 11.2% of children in care with identified SEMH (1,022 children) experienced multiple placement moves in 2019. This is notably higher than other primary SEN types (Table 19). There is a similar pattern with regards to children with

multiple moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 (Table 20).

Table 19: Rates of children experiencing multiple placement moves during the year by primary SEN type

Primary SEN type	Percentage	Count
Social, Emotional & Mental Health	11.20	1,022
Autism	5.90	63
Profound and multiple learning difficulties	3.80	12
Moderate learning difficulties	7.00	260
Severe learning difficulties	5.40	45
SEN but no identified primary type	7.70	30
Physical disability	3.20	11
Specific learning difficulties	5.70	71
Other	6.40	40
Speech, language & communication	6.30	150
Hearing impairment	5.10	6
Multi-sensory impairment	18.50	5
Visual impairment	5.90	7

Table 20: Rates of children experiencing multiple placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 by primary SEN type (* = figure suppressed due to small counts)

Primary SEN type	Percentage	Count
Social, Emotional & Mental Health	2.80	199
Speech, language & communication	0.70	14
Moderate learning difficulties	0.90	27
Autism	*	*
Severe learning difficulties	*	*
Profound and multiple learning difficulties	*	*
Other	2.70	15
SEN but no identified primary type	2.00	6
Hearing impairment	*	*
Physical disability	*	*
Specific learning difficulties	1.10	11
Multi-sensory impairment	0.00	0
Visual impairment	0.00	0
ASD	0.00	0

However, Table 21 demonstrates that rates of multiple placement moves amongst children with identified SEMH have decreased slightly between 2015/16 and 2018/19. There have also been small increases amongst children with identified speech and language issues and those with moderate learning difficulties.

Table 21: Trends in children experiencing multiple placement moves during the year by primary SEN type.

Primary SEN type	Number with 2+ placement changes 2015/16	Number with 2+ placement changes 2018/19	% change in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
Social, Emotional & Mental Health	1,008 (12.1%)	1,022 (11.2%)	1.40	9.30
Autism	51 (5.3%)	63 (5.9%)	23.50	10.50
Profound and multiple learning difficulties	5 (1.5%)	12 (3.8%)	140.00	-5.40
Moderate learning difficulties	260 (6.3%)	260 (7%)	0.00	-9.80
Severe learning difficulties	39 (4.2%)	45 (5.4%)	15.40	-10.10
SEN but no identified primary type	30 (9.1%)	30 (7.7%)	0.00	18.10
Physical disability	11 (4.1%)	11 (3.2%)	0.00	28.10
Specific learning difficulties	85 (7%)	71 (5.7%)	-16.50	2.10
Other	55 (7.5%)	40 (6.4%)	-27.30	-15.00
Speech, language & communication	110 (5.4%)	150 (6.3%)	36.40	17.80
Hearing impairment	15 (10.9%)	6 (5.1%)	-60.00	-15.20
Multi-sensory impairment	0 (0%)	5 (18.5%)	N/A	42.10
Visual impairment	7 (6.4%)	7 (5.9%)	0.00	9.20

Trends in placement stability for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

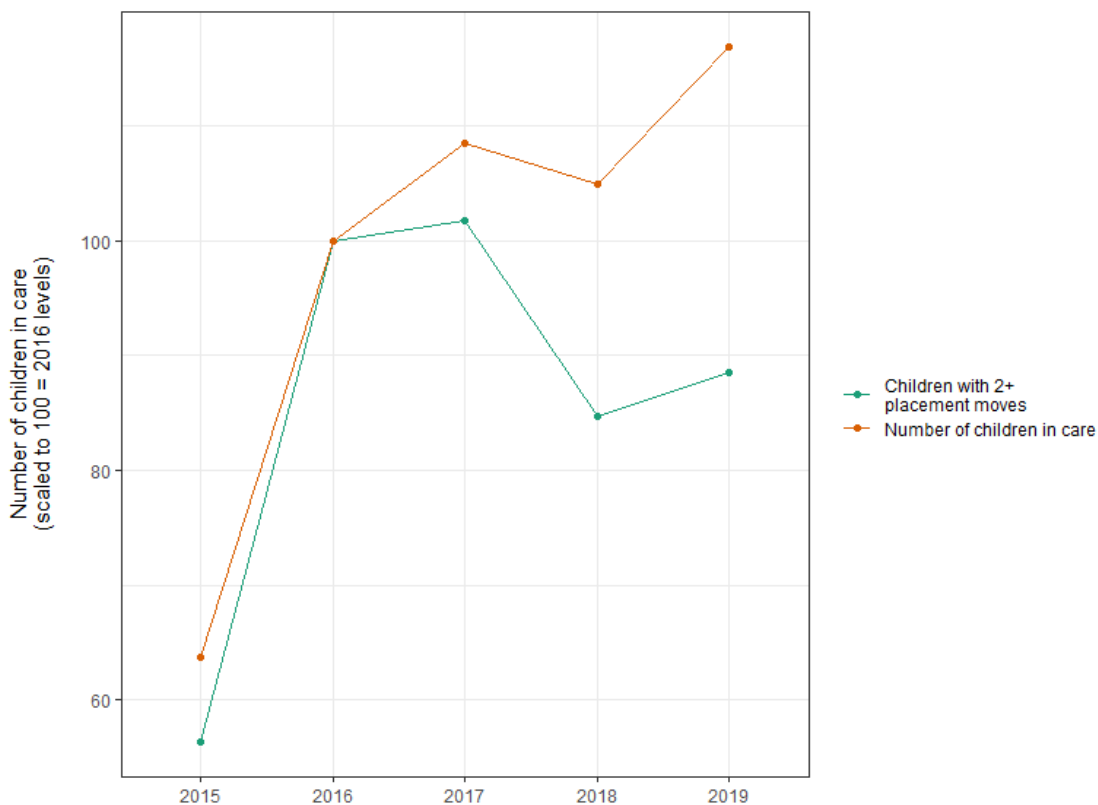
The numbers of UASC with 2+ placement moves in a year have decreased since 2016. These are down by 11.5% to 399 in 2018/19. This is during a period where the population of UASC in care has increased by 17%.

Table 22: Trends in children experiencing multiple placement moves during the year by UASC status.

UASC	Number with 2+ placement changes 2015/16	Number with 2+ placement changes 2018/19	% change in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
Not	7002 (10.6%)	7699 (10.5%)	10.00	10.60
UASC	451 (10.4%)	399 (7.9%)	-11.50	16.90

Figure 10 demonstrates that these falls cannot be explained by population change since 2016. The reason for this reduction is unclear though may be related to the implementation of the [National transfer Scheme for UASC children](#) implemented in 2016 (and amended in 2018).

Figure 10: Trend in children in care at 31st March who are UASC with 2+ placement moves during the year (green line) compared to population of UASC children in care (orange line)



Trends in placement stability by first placement type

Children placed in children’s homes and secure/specialist residential accommodation (incorporating children in secure children’s homes, those on remand in young offender’s institutions, children in NHS institutions and those placed in residential schools or care homes) have the highest rates of multiple placement moves in 2018/19 at 25.5% (Table 23). 16.7% of those placed in a children’s home at their first placement experienced 2 or more placement moves during 2018/19 (equivalent to 1,068 children). This is notably higher than for children in long term fostering (5%) or other foster placements (10.8%).

Table 23: Rates of multiple placement moves in 2018/19 for children in care by first placement during the year

Placement type	Percentage	Count
Children's home	16.70	1,068
Other foster placement	10.80	4,172
Long term fostering	5.00	1,073
Unregulated	14.10	560
Secure/specialist residential	25.50	509
Placed with parents	10.80	490
Other	22.40	210
Placed for adoption	6.20	16

There is a similar pattern with regards children experiencing multiple placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19. Rates are highest amongst children whose first placement in 2017/18 is in a children’s home and those that start the year in secure/specialist residential care (7.5% and 9.3% respectively) (Table 24).

Table 24: Rates of children in care in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 with multiple placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 by first placement during 2018

First placement during 2018	Percentage	Count
Children's home	7.50	349
Placed with parents	2.30	66
Long term fostering	1.30	234
Other foster placement	2.60	709
Unregulated	6.30	42
Secure/specialist residential	9.30	97
Other	5.40	20
Placed for adoption	0.00	0

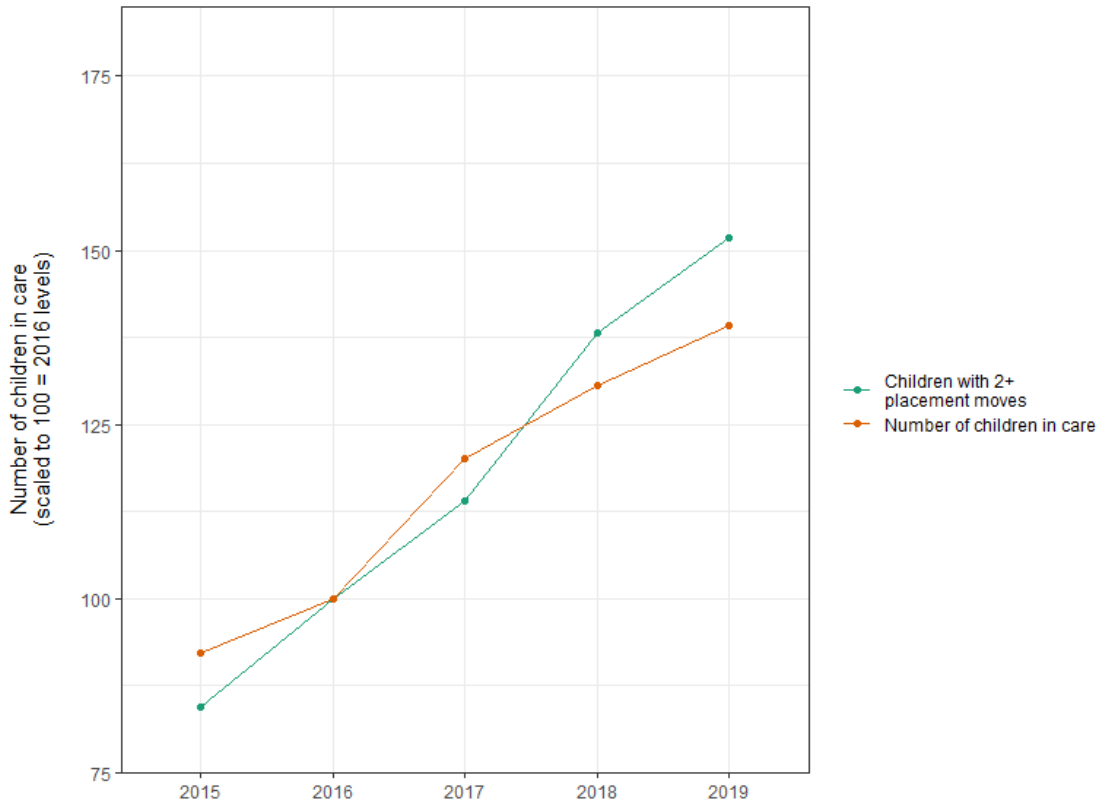
Changes since 2016 have been broadly in line with changes in relevant populations of children in care, with the exception of small decreases in rates of children with multiple placement moves starting the year in children’s homes and unregulated accommodation (Table 25).

Table 25: Trends in children experiencing multiple placement moves during the year by first placement type during the year

Placement type	Number with 2+ placement changes 2015/16	Number with 2+ placement changes 2018/19	% change in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
Children's home	1000 (17.3%)	1068 (16.7%)	6.80	10.60
Other foster placement	3770 (11.7%)	4172 (10.8%)	10.70	20.40
Long term fostering	1448 (6%)	1073 (5%)	-25.90	-11.70
Unregulated	441 (15.5%)	560 (14.1%)	27.00	39.70
Secure/specialist residential	353 (25.6%)	509 (25.5%)	44.20	45.00
Placed with parents	323 (9.9%)	490 (10.8%)	51.70	39.20
Other	96 (23.3%)	210 (22.4%)	118.80	127.40
Placed for adoption	22 (5%)	16 (6.2%)	-27.30	-41.00

Table 25 also demonstrates there has been a small rise in rates of instability amongst children initially placed with parents. These placements are most often when children are placed with someone with parental responsibility for a trial period as part of the care planning process. While relatively small numbers have 2+ placement moves during 2018/19, Figure 11 demonstrates these increases have been consistently higher than the rise in the numbers of children in these placements since 2016.

Figure 11: Trend in children in care at 31st March who's first placement is with their parents with 2+ placement moves during the year (green line) compared to population of children in care who's first placement is with their parents (orange line)



Changes in the types of placement moves children are experiencing since 2016

While placement instability by first placement type has been largely stable over time, there are indications that when children are moved, the types of move they experience have changed since 2016.

For example, while there has been little change in the rates of children in children's homes experiencing multiple placement moves (see Table 25 above), when these children are moved, increasingly they are being moved into semi-independent accommodation. 422 children who started the year in a children's home had at least one move into semi-independent accommodation during 2018/19, up 70% on numbers in 2015/16 (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Trend in children in care at 31st March who's first placement is in a children's home (non-secure) with 1+ placement moves into semi-independent accommodation during the year (green line) compared to population of children in care who's first placement is in a children's home (orange line)

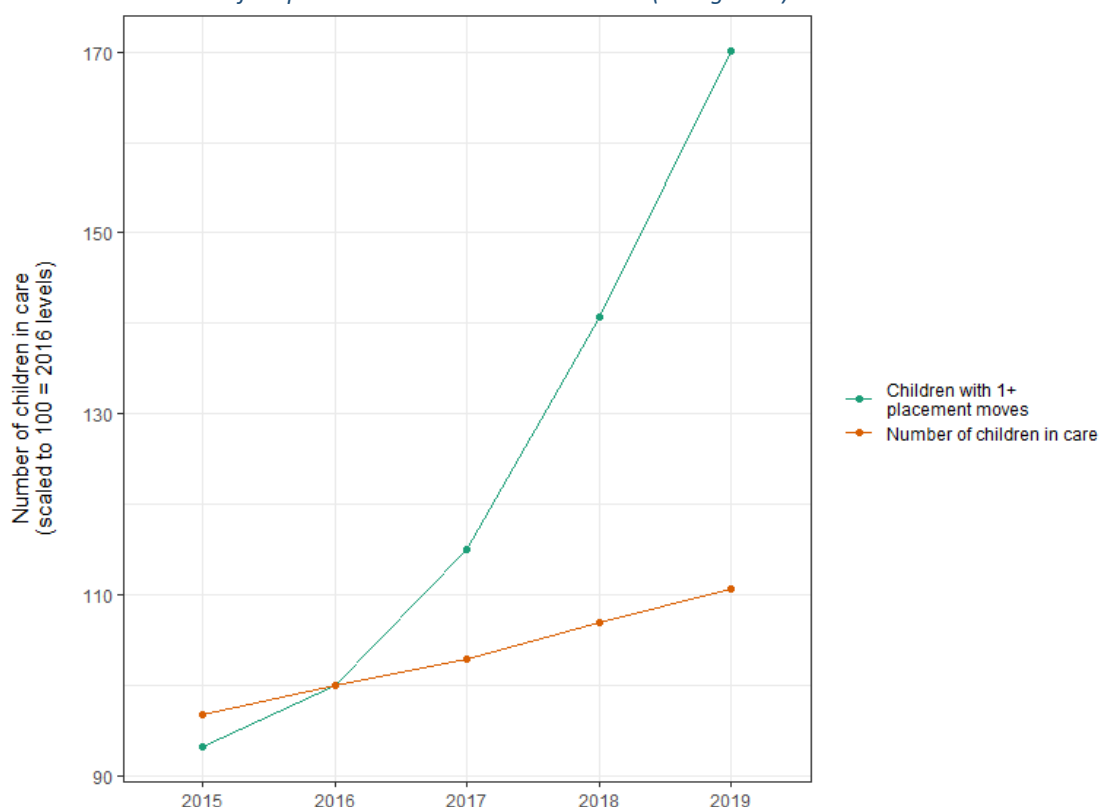


Table 26 demonstrates that there is little inherent difference between children placed in area and out of area at their first placement and that these rates have stayed broadly consistent since 2016.

Table 26: Trends in multiple placement moves amongst children placed inside/outside their responsible authority

Placement in/out of LA	Number with 2+ placement changes 2015/16	Number with 2+ placement changes 2018/19	% change in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
In area	4,494 (10.3%)	4,800 (10%)	6.80	9.40
Out of area	2,959 (11.1%)	3,298 (10.9%)	11.50	13.70

However, increasingly when children initially placed in area are moved, they are being moved to out of area placements. Figure 13 demonstrates that the numbers of children whose first placement is within their responsible authority and are subsequently moved out of area at least once during the year are up 15% on 2015/16 levels (up to 6,633 children in 2018/19), yet there has only been a 9% rise in the population of children initially placed within area.

Figure 13: Trend in children in care at 31st March who's first placement is within their responsible LA with 1+ placement moves to an out of area during the year (green line) compared to population of children in care who's first placement is within their responsible LA (orange line)

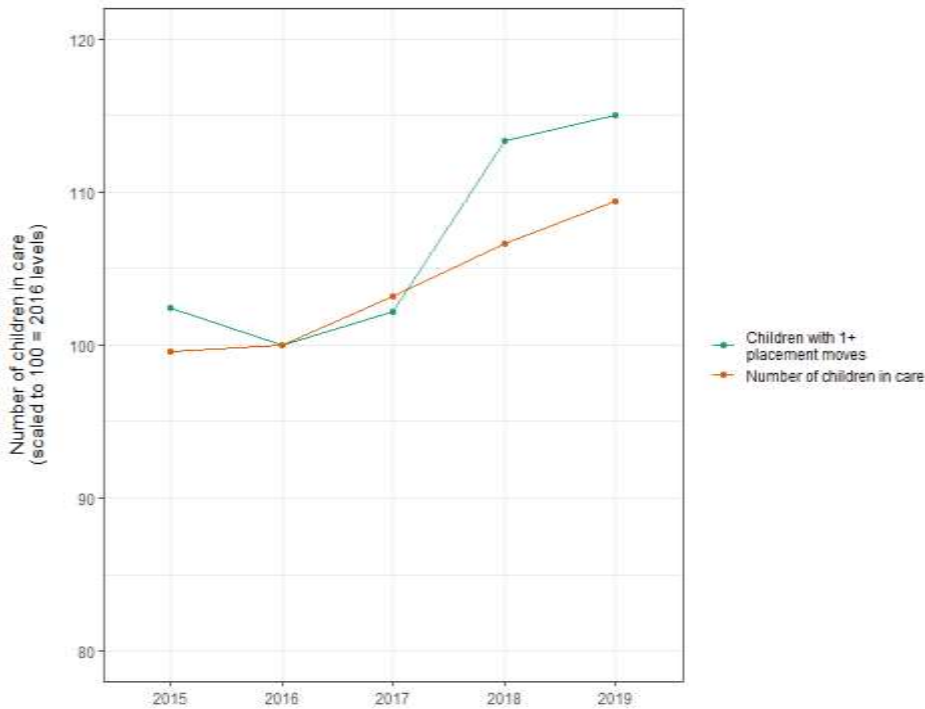
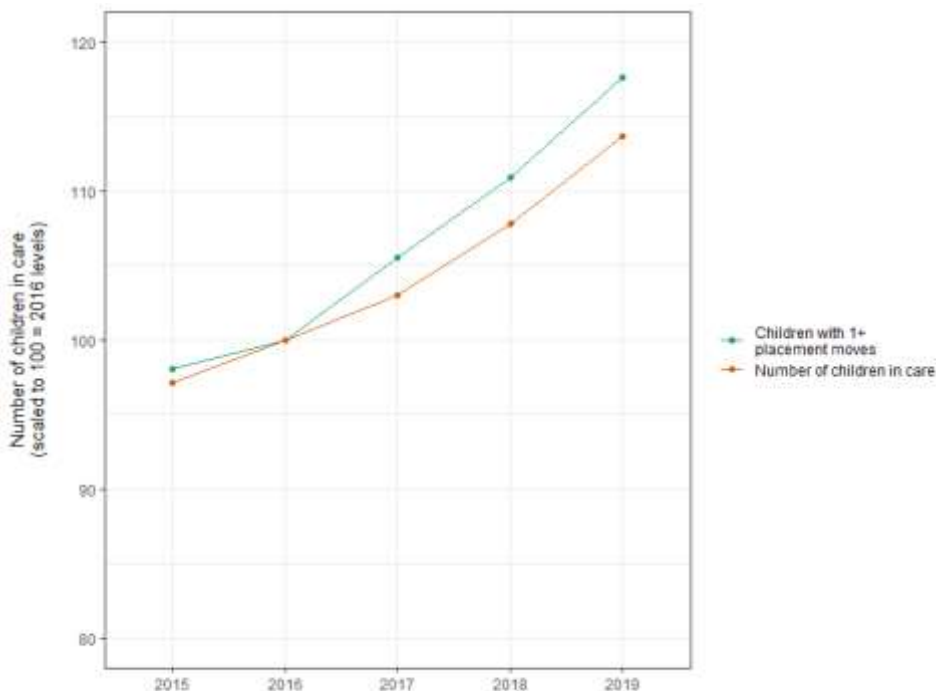


Figure 14 demonstrates that there has also been a rise in those being moved from out of area placements to within area placements though this is less markedly different from population increases.

Figure 14: Trend in children in care at 31st March who's first placement is out of area with 1+ placement moves into their responsible LA during the year (green line) compared to population of children in care who's first placement is out of area (orange line)



There is a similar pattern with regards to whether a placement is privately or LA run. Rates of children with 2+ placement moves are slightly higher if they start the year in a privately run placement (Table 27), however this is largely explained by differences in the type of placement being run. For example, Table 28 demonstrates no difference by provider type in rates of 2+ placement moves when limited to children starting the year in children's homes.

Table 27: Rates of children with 2+ placement moves in 2019 by initial placement provider

Placement provider type	Percentage	Count
LA	9.00	3,816
Private	11.80	3,007
Voluntary	9.40	376
Other public (e.g. PCT)	25.00	299
Parents	10.80	490

Table 28: Rates of children with 2+ placement moves initially placed in children's homes in 2019 by initial placement provider

Children's home provider type	Percentage	Count
Private	17.90	824
LA	17.10	202

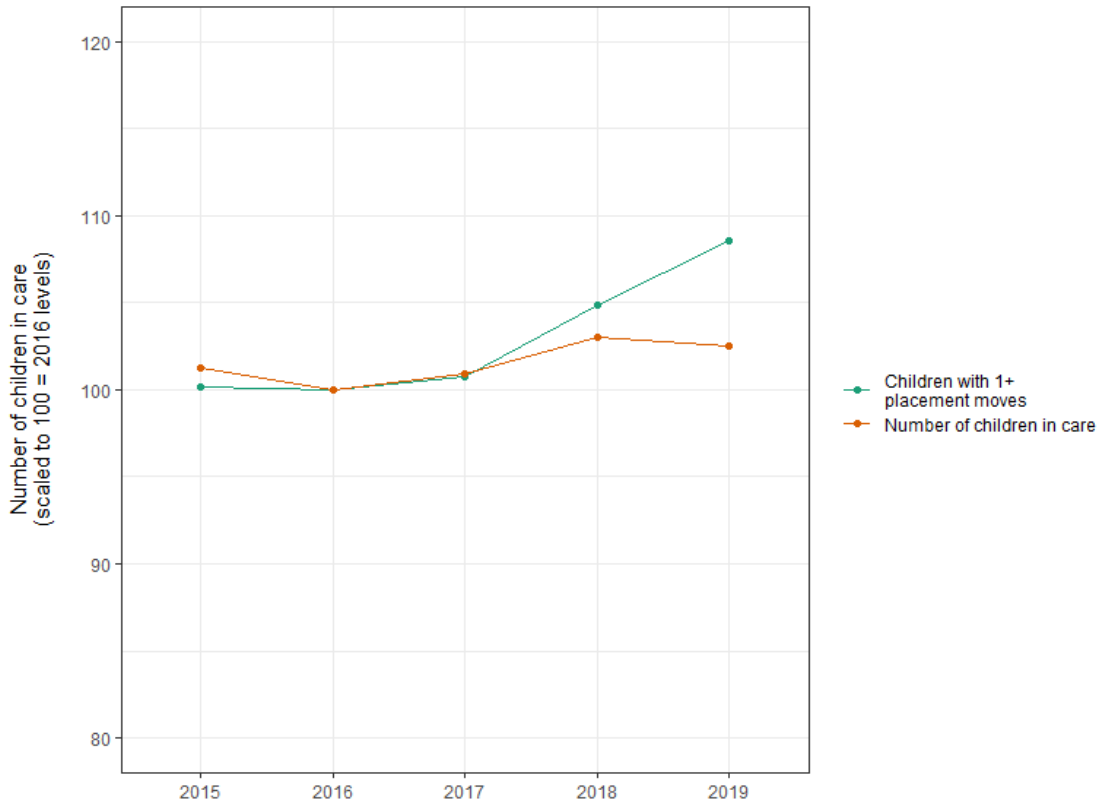
Changes in numbers experiencing multiple placement moves in a year have also been largely in line with population change amongst children placed in private/LA run placements (Table 29).

Table 29: Trends in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019 by placement provider type

Placement provider type	Number with 2+ placement changes 2015/16	Number with 2+ placement changes 2018/19	% change in children with 2+ placement moves 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
LA	3,924 (9.5%)	3,816 (9%)	-2.80	2.50
Private	2,728 (12.5%)	3,007 (11.8%)	10.20	17.10
Voluntary	290 (8.9%)	376 (9.4%)	29.70	22.70
Other public (e.g. PCT)	169 (24.5%)	299 (25%)	76.90	73.60
Parents	326 (10%)	490 (10.8%)	50.30	38.80

However, when children are moved from an LA run placement, there has been a small but consistent rise in the numbers moving into private provision. Numbers of children starting the year in LA accommodation with at least one move from LA to private accommodation are up 8% on 2015/16 levels (up to 4,220 children in 2018/19) compared to a 2% rise in the population with their first placement during the year in LA accommodation (Figure 15). This compares to an 8% decrease amongst children initially placed LA run accommodation moving to at least one other LA run placement during the year.

Figure 15: Trend in children in care at 31st March who's first placement is in LA run accommodation with 1+ placement moves into privately run accommodation during the year (green line) compared to population of children in care who's first placement is in LA run accommodation (orange line)



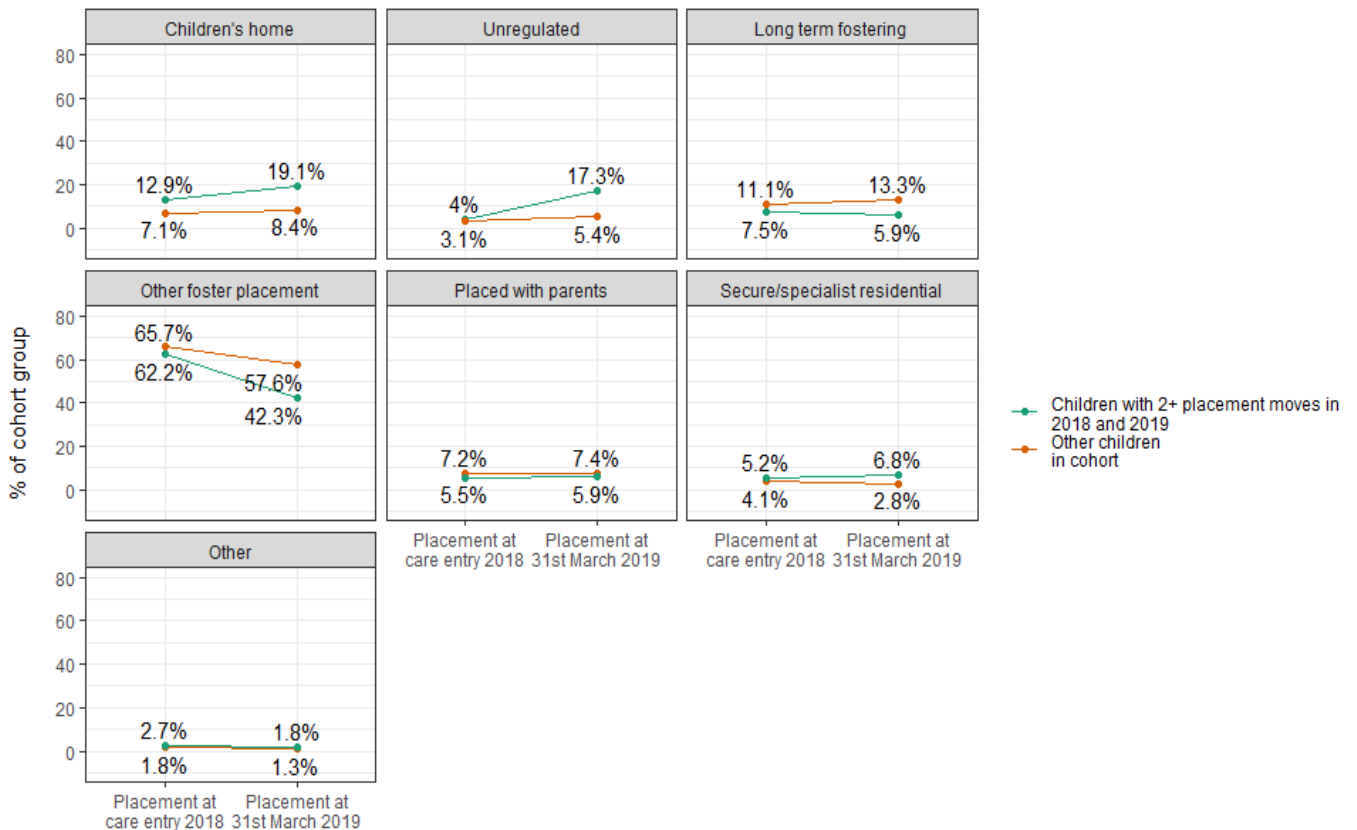
Placement journeys amongst children experiencing multiple placement moves in both 2018 and 2019

This section examines the placement journeys of the 32,063 children who entered care during 2017/18 and who are still in care at 31st March 2018/19. It compares those with 2 or more placements in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 (hereafter referred to as “sustained placement instability”) to the rest of this cohort of care entrants. We focus on this reduced cohort in this section so that we are comparing placement journeys amongst children who have been in care for similar amounts of time.

Children experiencing sustained placement instability in this cohort are most commonly placed in non-long term fostering at their first placement in 2017/18, but this is at a similar rate to other children in this cohort. Just over 60% of children with sustained placement instability and other children in this cohort are initially placed in non-long term fostering placements. However, during this two year period, children experiencing sustained placement instability are less likely to remain in this type of placement. At 31st March 2019, only 42% of children experiencing sustained placement instability remain in these foster placements compared to 58% of other care entrants during 2018 (Figure 16).

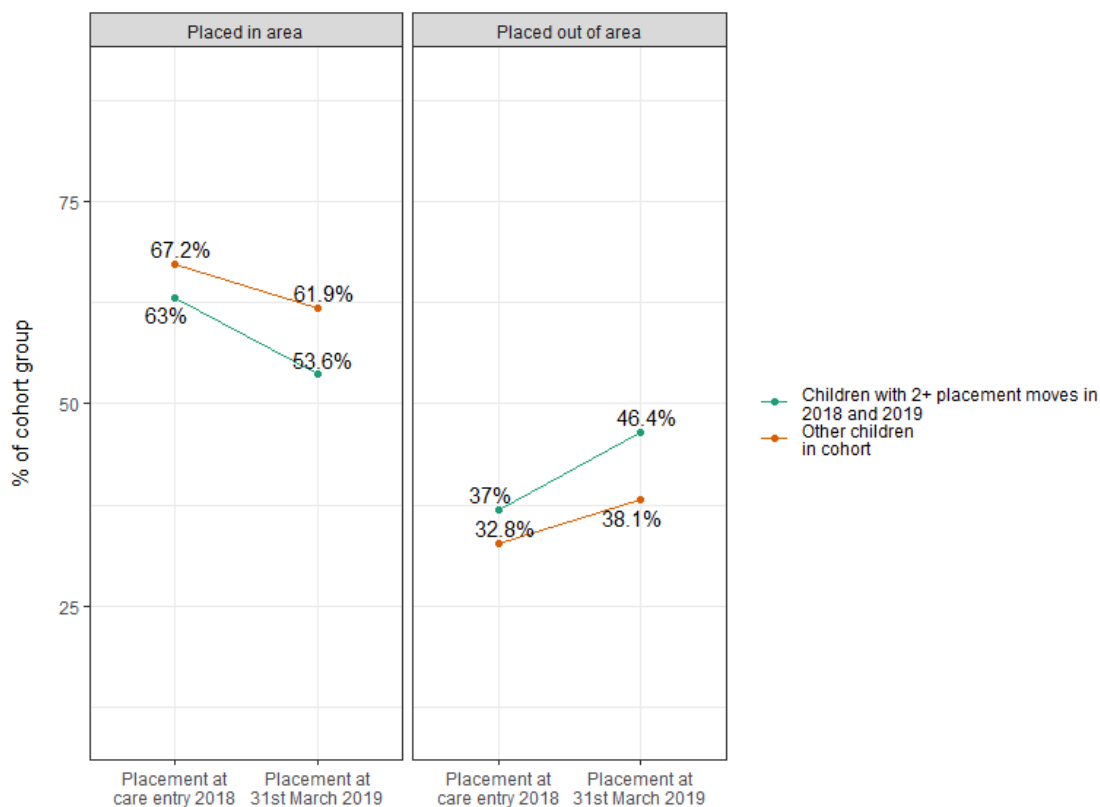
This group are notably more likely to finish the period in an unregulated placement or a children’s home. At 31st March 2019, children experiencing sustained placement instability are over 3 time more likely to be in an unregulated placement (17% compared to 5% of other care entrants) and just over twice as likely to be in a children’s home (19% compared to 8% of other care entrants), both notable rises on the proportions placed here at their first placement on care entry (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Changes in placement type for children entering care in 2017/18 who are still in care at 31st March 2019, split by children experiencing multiple placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 (green line) and other children in this cohort (orange line)



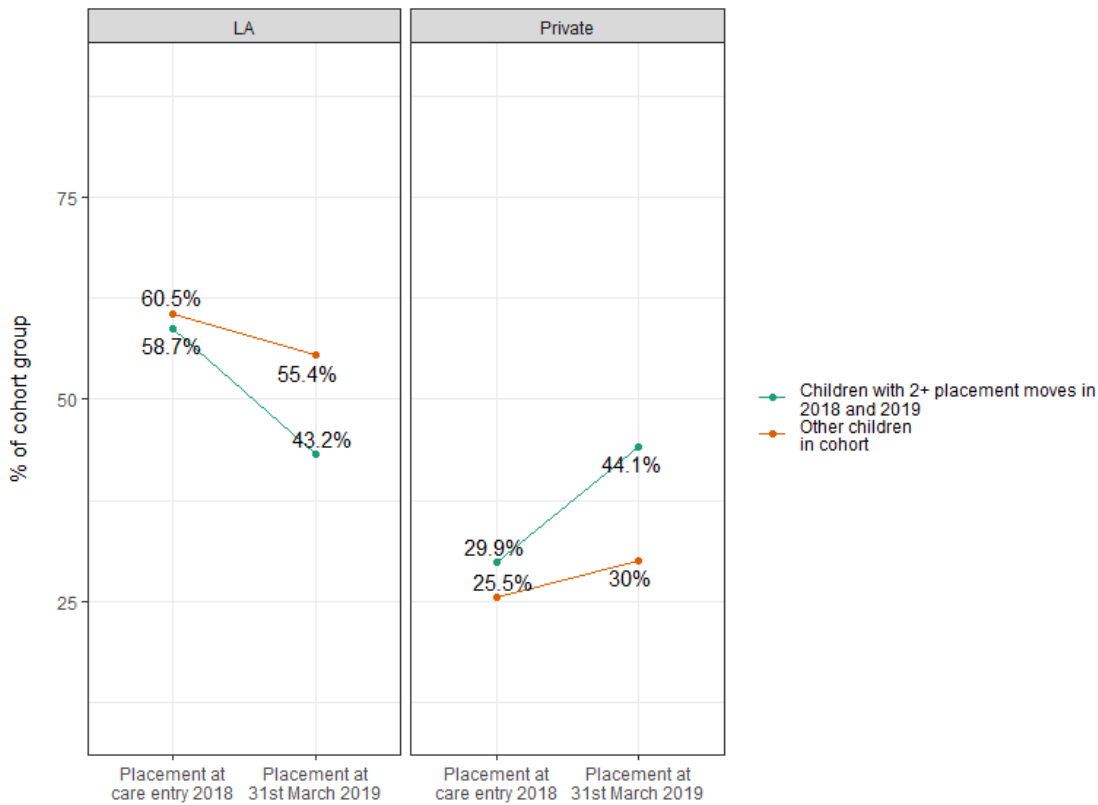
Children in this cohort experiencing sustained placement instability are also more likely to have moved into an out of area placement by the 31st March compared to other children in this cohort. 37% of children who experience sustained placement instability during 2017/18 and 2018/19 are placed out of area, rising by 9.4 percentage points to 46.4% at 31st March 2019. This compares to a 5.3 percentage point rise amongst the rest of the cohort (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Changes in placement location for cohort of children entering care in 2017/18 who are still in care at 31st March 2019, split by children experiencing multiple placement moves in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 (green line) and other children in this cohort (orange line)



Children in this cohort experiencing sustained placement instability are also more likely to have moved into a privately run placement by the 31st March compared to other children in this cohort. Initially 30% of children who experience sustained instability during 2017/18 and 2018/19 are placed in a privately run placement, rising by 14 percentage points to 44.1% at 31st March 2019. This compares to a 5 percentage point rise amongst the rest of this cohort (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Changes in placement provider for cohort of children entering care in 2017/18 who are still in care at 31st March 2019, split by children experiencing multiple placement moves in both 2018 and 2019 (green line) and other children in this cohort (orange line)



School stability

Method for counting children's school moves

As in previous years, the analysis below is restricted to children in care at the 31st March aged 5 or above who can be matched to the National Pupil Database (NPD) (via their unique pupil number) during any of the relevant school terms overlapping a financial year. Given the coverage of the NPD is state-funded schools this therefore excludes children in care in further education or privately run education.

Mid-year school moves are defined as instances where a child's school entry date is at any point in the year except during the 1st 3 weeks of September. Measures incorporating any form of school move (both mid-year and otherwise) exclude moves between primary and secondary or primary/secondary and middle schools. Furthermore, to avoid counting rare instances where entry dates correspond to a school's academisation rather than the pupil's entry we have linked predecessor and successor schools to a common school URN via links available at [Get Information About Schools](#). This is also the source for phase and school type information used below.

Ofsted inspection data is sourced from published management information data (available [here](#)) and relates to a school's closest inspection date to the beginning of the financial year.

Overall trends in school stability for children in care

Just over 1 in 10 children in care enrolled in state school during 2018/19 (11% - 5,877 children) experienced a mid-year school move in the year. This rate has decreased slightly since 2015/16, where it stood at 12% (Table 30).

Table 30: Trends in children in care experiencing a mid-year school move 2016-2019

Number with a mid-year school move 2015/16	Number with a mid-year school move 2018/19	% change in children with a mid-year school move 2016-2019	% change in children in care aged 5+ enrolled in state school 2016-2019
5,815 (12%)	5,877 (11.4%)	1.10	6.50

Rates of children experiencing any form of school move during the year (either at the start of the school year or a mid-year move) are around 17%, and this has remained broadly constant since 2015/16. In 2018/19 this was 8,904 children.

Looking over a longer time frame, rates of children experiencing any form of school move in the past 2 years have also remained constant at around 31% since 2015/16. This amounted to 12,621 children in care in 2018/19 that are in school in both 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Children who have experienced 2+ placement moves during the year remain around twice as likely to also experience a mid-year school move during the year, compared to other children in care. 21.8% of children enrolled in state-school in 2018/19 that experienced 2+ placement moves in the year also experienced a mid-year school move (1,121 children). This compares 10.2% amongst other children in care.

Trends in children experiencing mid-year school moves by local authority

In 2018/19 rates of children in care with a mid-year school move ranged from 0% to 20.5%. The 10 LAs with the highest rates are listed in Table 31.

Table 31: 10 LAs with the highest rates of children in care at 31st March 2019 with a mid-year school move during the year

LA	Percentage	Count
Cambridgeshire	20.50	103
Suffolk	18.30	108
Luton	18.10	47
Oxfordshire	17.50	89
Harrow	17.30	17
Derby	17.20	60
Stoke-on-Trent	17.10	96
Enfield	16.80	39
North Somerset	16.20	25
Brent	16.10	30

As with placement instability, for the most part, across LAs levels of children with a mid-year school move during the year are increasing in line with population. 94% of LAs have seen less than a 5 percentage point change in their rates of children experiencing a mid-year school move during the year compared to 2016.

Trends in children in care experiencing mid-year school moves by child's age

Rates of mid-year school moves are highest amongst younger children in care. In 2019 14.3% of children in care aged 5-11 and enrolled in state funded school during the year experienced a mid-year school move (3,071 children). This is notably higher than the rate for 12-15 year old children (11.5%).

Table 32 below demonstrates that rates of mid-year school moves have fallen amongst older children since 2015/16 but have stayed consistent amongst younger children. Numbers experiencing a mid-year school move aged 12-15 are down 4.2% on 2015/16 levels at a time when the population has increased by just over 10%. Figure 19 demonstrates that this reduction in rates has been primarily since 2017.

Conversely, numbers amongst 5-11 year olds have increased broadly in line with population during this period - up 7.6% on 2015/16 compared to a population rise of 5%.

Table 32: Trends in children in care aged 5+ enrolled in state funded school experiencing a mid-year school move 2016-2019 by age at 31st March

Age at 31st March	Number with a mid-year school move 2015/16	Number with a mid-year school move 2018/19	% change in children with a mid-year school move 2016-2019	% change in children in care (aged 5+) enrolled in state school 2016-2019
16+	562 (5.6%)	507 (4.9%)	-9.80	2.10
12-15	2,400 (13.3%)	2,299 (11.5%)	-4.20	10.60
5-11	2,853 (13.9%)	3,071 (14.3%)	7.60	5.00

Figure 19: Trend in children experiencing a mid-year school move 2016-2019 amongst 12-15 year old children in care enrolled in state schools during the year

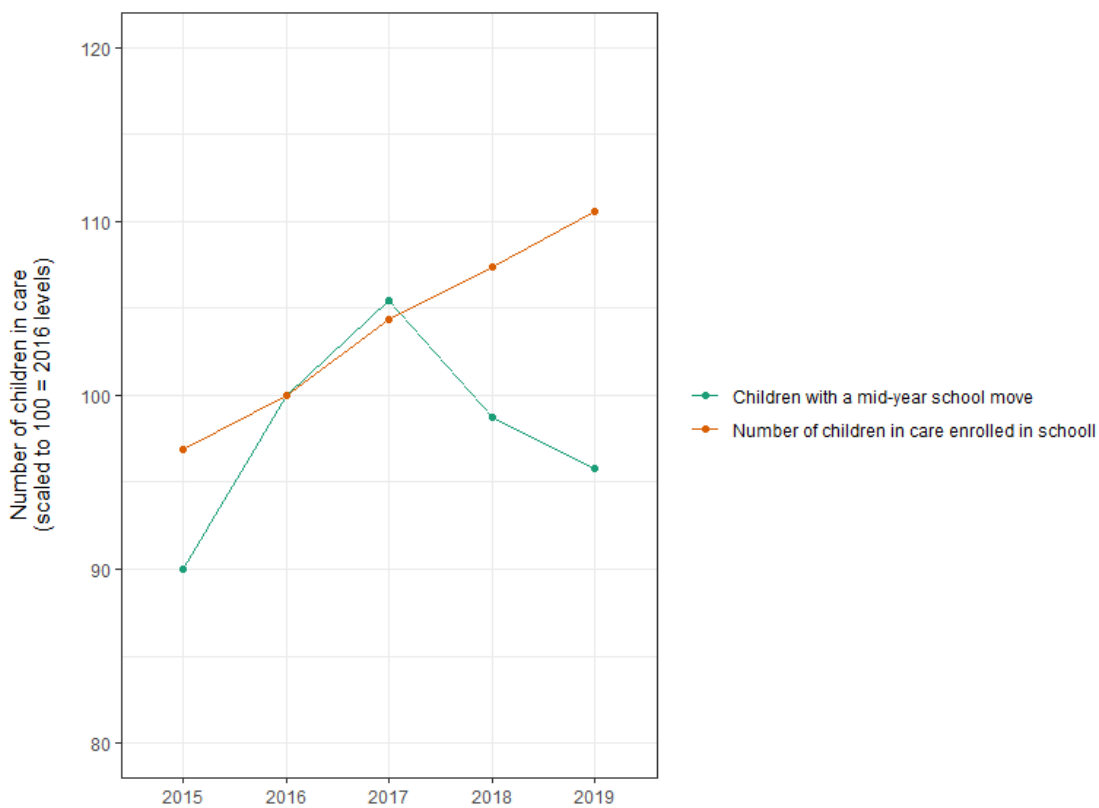
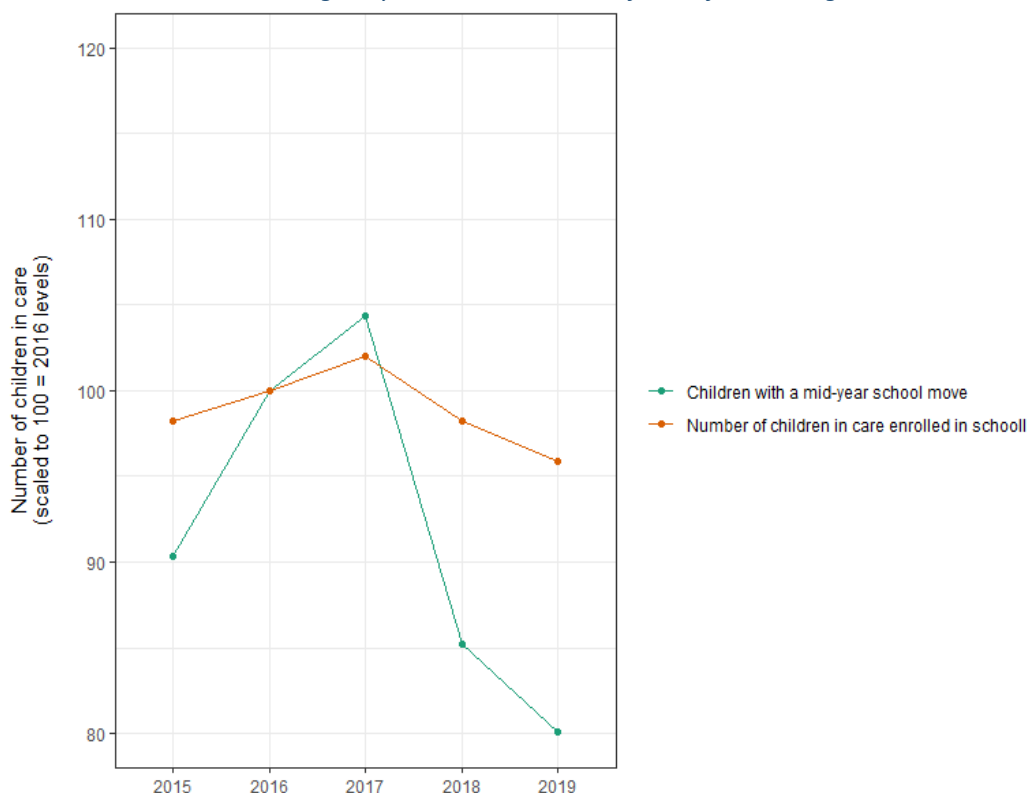


Table 33 demonstrates that this reduction in rates of mid-year school moves amongst 12-15 year olds has largely been amongst those that also entered care for the first time aged 12-15. Figure 20 confirms that this reduction has largely been from 2017 onwards. However, around 1 in 5 of these children still experienced a mid-year move in 2019, the highest rate of any of the groups in Table 33.

Table 33: Trends in children in care aged 5+ enrolled in state funded school experiencing a mid-year school move 2016-2019 by age at 31st March and age at care entry

Age at care entry	Age at 31st march	Number with a mid-year school move 2015/16	Number with a mid-year school move 2018/19	% change in children with a mid-year school move 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
0-4	5-11	1,025 (11.6%)	1,014 (11.6%)	-1.10	-0.30
5-11	5-11	1,828 (15.7%)	2,057 (16.1%)	12.50	9.10
0-4	12-15	204 (7.4%)	255 (7%)	25.00	32.60
5-11	12-15	867 (9.1%)	979 (9.1%)	12.90	13.40
12-15	12-15	1,329 (22.6%)	1,065 (18.9%)	-19.90	-4.20
0-4	16+	27 (2.6%)	36 (3.1%)	33.30	11.90
5-11	16+	80 (2.5%)	85 (2.4%)	6.20	9.90
12-15	16+	356 (7.9%)	310 (7.2%)	-12.90	-4.70
16+	16+	99 (7.9%)	76 (6.1%)	-23.20	-1.60

Figure 20: Trend in children experiencing a mid-year school move 2016-2019 amongst 12-15 year old children in care enrolled in state schools during the year who entered care for the first time aged 12-15



Trends in children experiencing mid-year school moves by children’s legal status

Rates of mid-year school moves have remained largely consistent over the period 2016-2019 when examined by children’s legal status, with the exception of a reduction in rates amongst children looked after under section 20 (Table 34). This likely reflects the reductions amongst children aged 12-15 highlighted above.

Table 34: Trends in children in care aged 5+ enrolled in state funded school experiencing a mid-year school move 2016-2019 by legal status

Legal status	Number with a mid-year school move 2015/16	Number with a mid-year school move 2018/19	% change in children with a mid-year school move 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
Full care order	2,024 (7.8%)	2,418 (7.6%)	19.50	21.50
S20	2,199 (15.5%)	1,369 (14.4%)	-37.70	-32.90
Placement order	411 (19.1%)	283 (20.8%)	-31.10	-36.90
Interim care order	910 (19.4%)	1523 (19.7%)	67.40	64.70

Trends in children experiencing mid-year school moves for children with special educational needs

Table 35 demonstrates that rates of mid-year placement moves are slightly lower in 2018/19 amongst children with identified SEN than children without. It also demonstrates that rates have fallen slightly amongst children with SEN but no statement/EHC plan.

Table 35: Trends in children in care aged 5+ enrolled in state funded school experiencing a mid-year school move 2016-2019 by SEN status

SEN status	Number with a mid-year school move 2015/16	Number with a mid-year school move 2018/19	% change in children with a mid-year school move 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
SEN - No statement/EHCP	1,811 (13.4%)	1,723 (12.6%)	-4.90	0.70
Not SEN	2,737 (14.3%)	2,956 (13.9%)	8.00	10.50
SEN w/ EHCP	746 (8.9%)	797 (8.9%)	6.80	6.50

When examined by primary SEN type, Table 36 demonstrates reductions in rates of mid-year school moves across most categories. Most notably the numbers of children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) identified as their primary SEN type have reduced by 1% since 2016 at a time when the population of children in care enrolled in school with SEMH has risen by 7.8%.

Table 36: Trends in children in care aged 5+ enrolled in state funded school experiencing a mid-year school move 2016-2019 by primary SEN type (* = Numbers suppressed due to small counts)

Primary SEN type	Number with a mid-year school move 2015/16	Number with a mid-year school move 2018/19	% change in children with a mid-year school move 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
Social, Emotional & Mental Health	1,405 (15.1%)	1,391 (13.9%)	-1.00	7.80
Other	84 (9.9%)	74 (10.5%)	-11.90	-17.00
Autism	85 (6.8%)	92 (7%)	8.20	5.80
Severe learning difficulties	53 (4.5%)	41 (3.8%)	-22.60	-8.20
Speech, language & communication	226 (10.6%)	279 (11.2%)	23.50	16.90
Moderate learning difficulties	421 (9.3%)	390 (9.5%)	-7.40	-9.50
Specific learning difficulties	143 (10.7%)	116 (8.3%)	-18.90	4.60
Physical disability	23 (7.5%)	27 (7%)	17.40	26.20
Profound and multiple learning difficulties	11 (2.5%)	22 (5.5%)	100.00	-9.90
SEN but no identified primary type	69 (18.9%)	61 (14.5%)	-11.60	15.60
Hearing impairment	20 (12.8%)	12 (8.8%)	-40.00	-12.80
Multi-sensory impairment	*	*	*	*
Visual impairment	15 (12.1%)	11 (8.3%)	-26.70	7.30

Trends in children experiencing mid-year school moves by school characteristics

Ofsted Rating

Table 37 demonstrates that around 1 in 5 children in care at 31st March 2019 attended schools rated as 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate' by Ofsted.

Table 37: Numbers of children in care at 31st March 2019 aged 5+ enrolled in state school, by Ofsted rating of their first school during the year. Note: Ofsted ratings relate to the closest full inspection date to the 1st April 2019

Ofsted Rating	Count	%
Outstanding	8,903	17.90
Good	31,197	62.90
Requires Improvement	6,865	13.80
Inadequate	2,424	4.90
Not inspected yet	230	0.50

The numbers and rates of children in care attending 'Requires Improvement'/'Inadequate' rated schools have decreased slightly since 2015/16. These are down 23% and 14% respectively at a time when the population of children in care aged 5+ enrolled in state schools has increased by 12%.

Table 38: Trends in children in care aged 5+ attending state schools by school Ofsted rating

Ofsted Rating	Number of children in care 2015/16	Number of children in care 2018/19	% change in children in care 2016-2019
Outstanding	7,767 (16.8%)	8,903 (17.9%)	14.60
Good	26,653 (57.7%)	31,197 (62.9%)	17.00
Requires Improvement	8,935 (19.3%)	6,865 (13.8%)	-23.20
Inadequate	2,823 (6.1%)	2,424 (4.9%)	-14.10
Not inspected yet	39 (0.1%)	230 (0.5%)	489.70

Children in care in schools rated 'Inadequate' or 'Requires Improvement' remain more likely to experience a mid-year school move than children in schools rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. For example, children in schools rated 'Inadequate' are nearly twice as likely to experience a mid-year school move compared to children in 'Outstanding' rated schools (13% vs. 7%). Table 39 also demonstrates that these rates have increased since 2016, driven by the fact that the decrease in numbers experiencing a mid-year school move has been at a slower rate than the population of children in care in these schools.

Table 39: Trends in children in care age 5+ enrolled in state funded schools experiencing a mid-year school move by school Ofsted rating

School Ofsted Rating	Number with a mid-year school move 2015/16	Number with a mid-year school move 2018/19	% change in children with a mid-year school move 2016-2019	% change in children in care (aged 5+) enrolled in state school 2016-2019
Outstanding	565 (7.3%)	629 (7.1%)	11.30	14.60
Good	2,800 (10.5%)	3,248 (10.4%)	16.00	17.00
Requires Improvement	1,033 (11.6%)	852 (12.4%)	-17.50	-23.20
Inadequate	337 (11.9%)	322 (13.3%)	-4.50	-14.10

School phase

Table 40 below demonstrates that rates of mid-year school moves are highest amongst children starting the year in primary schools (around 14% of children). This likely reflects the differences by age highlighted above. Table 40 also demonstrates that rates are broadly similar to 2016 levels, though there has been a slight reduction in rates of mid-year school moves amongst children attending alternative provision or pupil referral units (PRUs).

Table 40: Trends in children in care with a mid-year school move 2016-2019 aged 5+ attending state funded schools by school phase. Note: school phase relates to first school a child attends during the year. Other category is primarily composed of all-through schools

School phase	Number with a mid-year school move 2015/16	Number with a mid-year school move 2018/19	% change in children with a mid-year school move 2016-2019	% change in children in care (aged 5+) enrolled in state school 2016-2019
PRU/AP	161 (11.3%)	162 (10.5%)	0.60	8.60
Special schools	170 (3.1%)	192 (3.4%)	12.90	3.50
Primary	2,672 (13.5%)	2,847 (13.6%)	6.50	6.20
Secondary	1,629 (8.7%)	1,759 (8.6%)	8.00	9.10
Other	109 (11%)	122 (10.8%)	11.90	14.40

Table 41 demonstrates that rates of mid-year school moves for children in care are highest amongst academy primary schools (16%). These rates have stayed broadly stable since 2016 and compare to 13% in LA maintained primary schools. There has also been a slight reduction in rates amongst these LA maintained primary schools, where numbers of children in care experiencing a mid-year school move are down 15%, slightly more than the reduction in numbers of children in care in these schools.

Table 41: Trends in children in care with a mid-year school move 2016-2019 aged 5+ attending state funded schools by school phase and type. Note: table is restricted to primary and secondary phases (= Numbers suppressed due to small counts)*

Phase	School type	Number with a mid-year school move 2015/16	Number with a mid-year school move 2018/19	% change in children with a mid-year school move 2016-2019	% change in children in care 2016-2019
Primary	Local authority maintained	2,123 (13.1%)	1,796 (12.5%)	-15.40	-11.90
Primary	Academies	548 (15.8%)	1,043 (15.9%)	90.30	89.80
Primary	Free Schools	*	*	*	*
Secondary	Academies	951 (8.7%)	1183 (8.6%)	24.40	26.40
Secondary	Local authority maintained	656 (8.6%)	539 (8.6%)	-17.80	-17.80
Secondary	Free Schools	22 (13.4%)	37 (10.9%)	68.20	107.90



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