

Statistics of Education:

**Children looked after
by Local Authorities
Year Ending 31 March 2003
Volume 1: Commentary and
National Tables**



*Children Looked After
by Local Authorities
Year Ending
31 March 2003
England*

Volume 1: Commentary and National Tables

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VOLUME 2: LOCAL AUTHORITY TABLES

Volume 2 can be downloaded from the Department for Education and Skills' web site at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000454/index.shtml>.

These tables are not available in hard copy.

Summary

The main findings for children looked after in England in 2003 are as follows:

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH 2003

- estimated number - 60,800 children, 2% higher than at 31 March 2002 (59,700) and 23% higher than in 1993-94 (49,300) - see graph
- legal status - 65% under care orders, 31% under single voluntary agreements
- placement – 68% in foster placements, 13% in children's homes and residential schools, 10% placed with parents
- 15% had experienced 3 or more placements during the year (indicator A1 of the Performance Assessment Framework)

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003

- estimated total number - 94,300 (85 per 10,000 children aged under 18)
- of these 12,300 (13%) were looked after under one or more series of short term placements

DAYS OF CARE PROVIDED DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003

- social service departments in England provided a total of 22 million days of care to looked after children, 11% more than during 1998-99

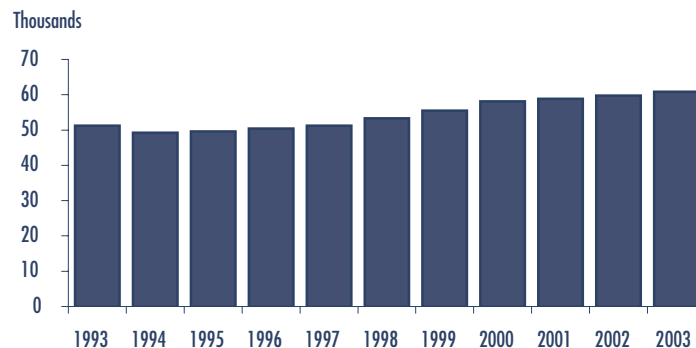
CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM CARE DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003

- of those placements for adoption that ceased during 2002-03, 94% ended in adoption
- number adopted – 3,500 (compared with 3,400 in 2001-02) or 6% of children looked after at 31 March 2003. This is a 30% increase on 1999-00
- 81% of looked after children who were adopted in the year ending 31 March 2003 were placed for adoption within 12 months of the best interest decision

CARE LEAVERS AGED 16 OR OVER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003

- the number of 16 year old care leavers - 2,000 (compared with 2,100 in 2001-02); the number leaving care on their 18th birthday - 3,200 (the same as in 2001-02)
- 2,800 (43%) of care leavers aged 16 or over gained at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ
- 380 (6%) of care leavers aged 16 or over gained 5 or more GSCEs at grades A* to C
- councils were in touch with 4,000 (80%) of care leavers on or near their 19th birthdays and 2,400 (49%) were either in education, training or employment

Number of children looked after at 31 March



FOUR WAYS OF PRESENTING DATA ON LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The SSDA 903 form provides a continuous picture of the population of looked after children. This publication uses four different approaches to viewing this population:

The number of children who have been looked after **at any time in the year** (regardless of whether they were still looked after on 31 March).

- *this forms the basis of National Tables E , K and L (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 2 and 3 (Volume 2).*

A “snapshot” count of the number of children who were looked after **on 31 March**;

- *this forms the basis of National Tables A-D, F-J (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 1 and 5-11 (Volume 2).*

The number of children who **started** to be looked after at any time in the year. (Where a child had separate periods of care, only the first start is counted);

- *this forms the basis of National Tables M-P (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 4, 12 and 13 (Volume 2).*

The number of children who **ceased** to be looked after at any time in the year. (Where a child had separate periods of care, only the latest time that a period of care ceased counted);

- *this forms the basis of National Tables Q-Z (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 4 and 14-19 (Volume 2).*

These categories are not mutually exclusive, so it is possible for a child who had separate periods of care in the year to be counted in each of the tables.

For fuller details of how the “started” and “ceased” figures are calculated, and for an explanation of “numbers”, “rates” and “percentages”, please refer to the Technical Notes and Appendix A.

All references to “year” in this publication refer to the standard financial year, which runs from 1 April to 31 March.

1. CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER IN ENGLAND

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The statistics on looked after children presented in this publication are derived from five statistical returns submitted by local councils in England.

1.2 The SSDA 903, which is the principal return, provides anonymous profiles of the care history of children who have been looked after since the implementation of the Children Act.

1.3 This information is then supplemented by three additional returns that provide more detailed information on key stages in the care history of some children. These are the AD1 form (which is completed for children adopted from care), the OC1 form (which is completed for children leaving care aged 16 or over) and the OC3 form (which is completed for former looked after children on their 19th birthday, providing they were actually being looked after on 1 April of their 17th year).

1.4 Finally, local councils provide additional aggregate data on children's services via the CLA100 collection. This return was introduced during 1998 to enable the Department to publish summary statistics in advance of the more detailed data presented here. This was the last year that the CLA100 return was collected (see technical notes).

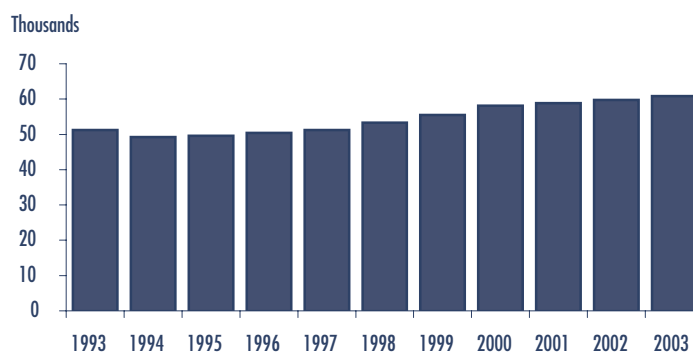
LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH

(Tables 1 and A)

1.5 The latest figures show that the **snapshot** total of children looked after in England at 31 March 2003 was 60,800, excluding those accommodated for on an agreed series of short term placements. This was a 2% increase on the number of children looked after at 31 March 2002 (59,700). 55 out of every 10,000 children of the resident population of England were looked after at the end of 2002-03.

1.6 The numbers of children looked after by local councils in England were in long term decline over the period 1973-74 (when the numbers were in excess of 90,000) to 1993-94, when this trend was reversed. This downward trend was the result of many factors, notably changes in social practice and legislation – the latter culminating in October 1991 with the implementation of the Children Act 1989, which radically altered the legislative framework for the provision of services to children.

Figure 1.1 Number of children looked after at 31 March, 1993 to 2003



1.7 At 31 March 1994, the number of looked after children was 49,300. Since then there has been a 23% rise in the actual number, and a 22% rise in the rate per 10,000 children (see Table A and Figure 1.1). This rise has been driven by quite different factors, the most obvious being a marked increase in the length of time each child is looked after (see paragraph 1.8 below). However, the rate of increase between 2001 and 2003 has slowed markedly.

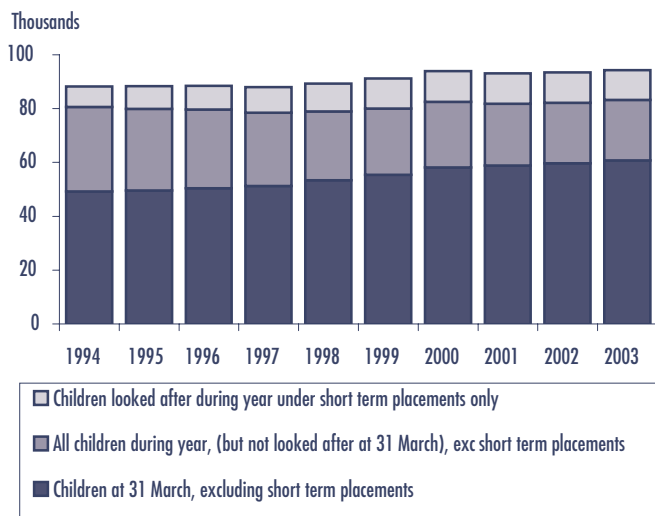
LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR

(Tables 2 and 3)

1.8 The number of children revealed by a **snapshot** is in many ways little more than a reflection of the volume of care provided at that time. This is because the chances of capturing any particular child in a snapshot view depends on the length of time that child is in care. If children are on average being looked after for longer, then more will be seen on any given day. A better measure, therefore, of assessing the growth in the number of children in the care system is to look at the number of children looked after **at any time** during the year.

1.9 The total number of children looked after during the year 2002-03, including children looked after at some time during the year under a series of short term placements, is estimated at 94,300. This is 1% higher than the revised estimate for the previous year, and represents 85 out of every 10,000 children under 18 years (see Table 3). Since 1993-94 the number of children looked after during the year has increased by 7% (compared with 23% in the numbers looked after at 31 March – see Figure 1.2).

Figure 1.2 Number of children looked after during the years ending 31 March 1994 to 2003



1.10 Table 3 and Figure 1.2 also show figures for the numbers looked after during the year excluding children who during that time were looked after only under a series of short term placements (see paras 1.22 to 1.25). It is estimated that on this basis 83,200 children were looked after at some time during 2002-03, an increase of 1% on the previous year (82,100) and 3% up on 1993-94. Children looked after under a series of short term placements only have risen by 28% over the same period.

STARTED TO BE LOOKED AFTER (Table 4)

1.11 The total number of children who started to be looked after during the 2002-03 year, excluding those starting an agreed series of short term placements, was 24,100 (compared with a revised figure of 25,300 a year earlier). The number of children who started to be looked after in 1993-94 was 31,400. This rose to 32,500 in 1994-95, since when the numbers starting during the year have fallen by 26%.

CEASED TO BE LOOKED AFTER (Table 4)

1.12 The total number of children who ceased to be looked after during 2002-03 was 24,000, a fall of 6% from 2001-02 (25,600). The number ceasing to be looked after in 1993-94 was 33,100, which rose slightly in 1994-95 to 33,200, since when, following a similar trend to the numbers starting, the figure has fallen by 28%.

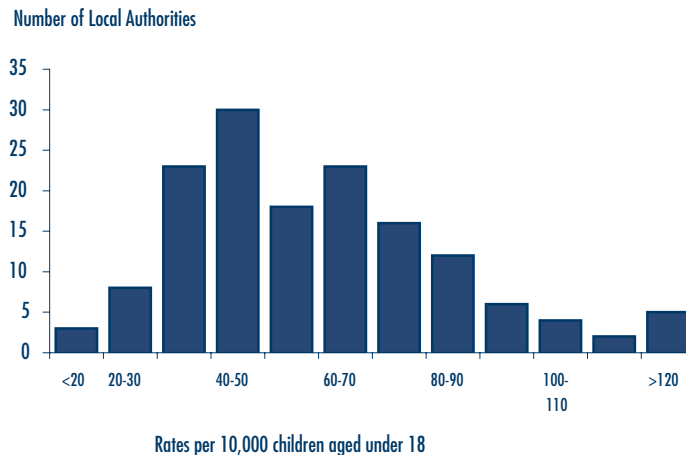
1.13 For details on educational qualifications of care leavers aged 16 and over and the activity of care leavers aged 19, see section 4.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COUNCILS

1.14 The aggregate figures for England conceal considerable variation between local councils as can be seen in Tables 1 to 5, 12 and 14. This variation reflects differences in the needs of the populations the local councils serve, as well as differences in the responses of the individual Social Service departments in meeting the needs of the children in their area.

1.15 For example, Table 1 provides **snapshot** rates at 31 March 2003, expressed as the number of children looked after per 10,000 children in the local population. Although the average rate for England is 55 the figures for individual councils range from 12 in Rutland to 135 in Islington. The distribution is illustrated in Figure 1.3.

Figure 1.3 Children looked after at 31 March 2003 in each local council

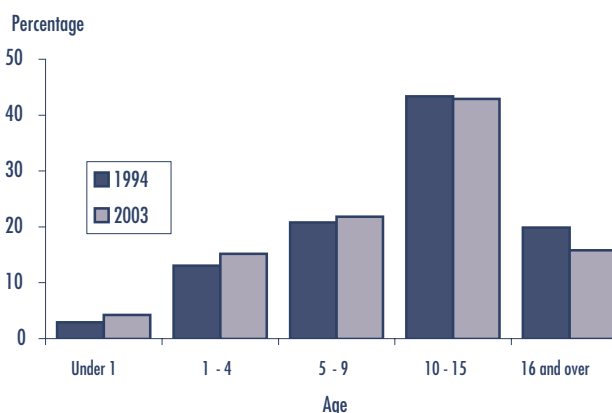


AGE AND SEX (Table B)

1.16 The **snapshot** at 31 March 2003 shows that there were more boys (55%) looked after than girls. The proportion of boys had been rising slowly since 1993 (Table B), until 2002, but has now fallen slightly to the same level as in 2001. As with last year, the proportion of boys is highest amongst the 10 to 15 years olds (57%). In the 2002 mid-year estimates of population, boys accounted for 51% of the population aged under 18.

1.17 Previous to 31 March 2000, the average age of children looked after had been steadily falling for a number of years; since when there has been a slight increase. The average age of children looked after at 31 March 2003 was 10 years 7 months, compared with the lowest average of 10 years 4 months at 31 March 2000. This compares to 11 years 3 months in 1994. At 31 March 2003, there were 25,100 children aged under 10 (41% of all children), compared with 18,100 (or 37%) in 1994 (Figure 1.4). Age on leaving care is considered in section 4.

Figure 1.4 Children looked after by age at 31 March 1994 and 2003



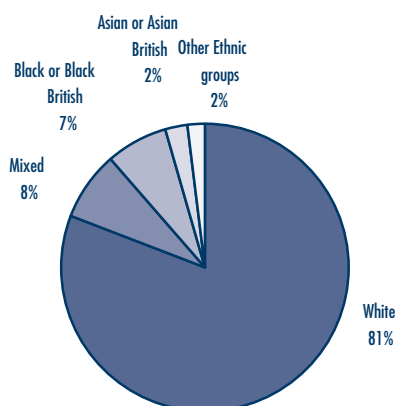
ETHNICITY (Table C)

1.18 The ethnicity of children looked after by local councils was collected for the first time for the year 2000-01. Figure 1.5 below shows that 81% of all children looked after at 31 March 2003 were White; the second highest groups were Black & Black British and Mixed Origin, which accounted for 7% and 8% of all children, respectively. Table C provides further details by age. Figures are similar to previous years.

UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC) (Table D)

1.19 Table Di shows there were 2,400 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children being looked after by local councils in England at 31 March 2003. The overwhelming majority (1,700 or 71 %) of these children were located in London, with a further 390 children (or 16%) being located elsewhere in the South East. 1,900 (or 76%) of all UASC were boys, and only 600 (or 24%) were girls. 1,200 (or 49%) were aged 16 or over.

Figure 1.5 Children looked after 31 March 2003, by ethnic origin



1.20 Table Dii shows that the same proportion of Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers were in foster placements as local children (both 68% - see paragraph 2.8). However compared with local children more were living independently (10% compared with 2%).

1.21 Independent figures collected by the Home Office confirm that around 90% of all UASC are located in London and the South East, although many metropolitan areas (such as Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield) also have a significant UASC presence. However, not all UASC become looked after children.

CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE SHORT-TERM BREAKS (Tables 2 and E)

1.22 Some looked after children are accommodated under an agreed series of short term placements

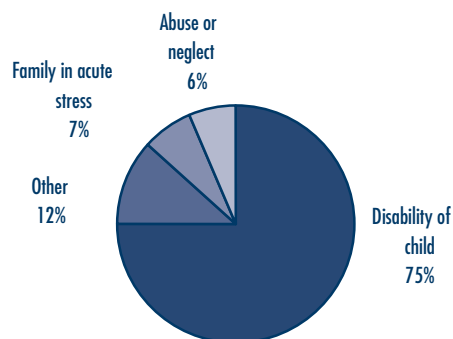
(often called 'family link placements' or 'short breaks') as provided for in *Regulation 13 of the Arrangement for Placement of Children (General) Regulations, 1991*. As explained in Appendix A (Background), local councils can record these either in terms of the period covered by an agreement, or as individual placements. For this reason it is not possible to include the data for children covered by these agreements in most of the tables in this publication. Instead, data for children who are looked after under these arrangements are presented separately at a national level in Table E and by local councils in Table 2.

1.23 A total of 12,300 children received at least one agreed series of short term placements during 2002-03, down from a revised figure of 12,600 for 2001-02. Of these 11,100 were looked after exclusively under short term placements, with the remaining 1,100 having also been looked after during the year in placements that were not part of an agreed series.

1.24 In 2002-03 62% of the children receiving at least one agreed series of short term placements were boys (see Table E), a higher proportion than for other looked after children. Also, unlike other looked after children, their average age has risen steadily over the past five years, from 11 years 4 months in 1998-99 to 12 years 4 months in 2002-03. 47% were accommodated in foster placements and 45% in residential accommodation.

1.25 A series of short term placements are generally used to provide relief to parents and families. Although sometimes thought of as being solely a means of supporting families caring for disabled children, it can be seen from Figure 1.6 and Table E that 25% of the children under short term placements are recorded as being looked after for reasons other than disability.

Figure 1.6 The recorded category of need of children looked after during the year ending 31 March 2003 under at least one series of short term placements¹



¹ Relates to child's last period of care

2. DETAILS OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

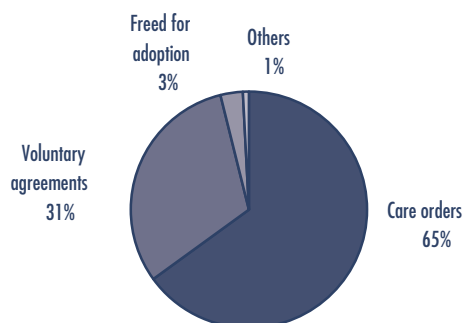
(Tables F, H, I, K, L, O, Q, R, S, 3, 9A, 9B, 10 and 11)

LEGAL STATUS (Table F)

2.1 At 31 March 2003, an estimated 39,600 children were looked after under care orders, 65% of all looked after children (see Figure 2.1). The number of children under care orders has risen by 15% since March 1999. This increase was especially marked for children under interim care orders, where the increase since 1999 has been 47%.

2.2 In contrast, the proportion of children looked after under voluntary agreements (Section 20 of the Children Act 1989) has fallen since 1999. At 31 March 1999 34% of children (18,800) were looked after under voluntary agreements (involving continuous care) compared to 31% of children (18,900) at 31 March 2003 (see Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1 Children looked after at 31 March 2003 by legal status



NEED CODE ANALYSIS AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

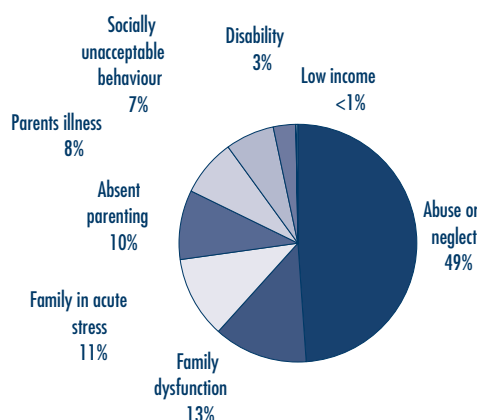
(Tables H, O and 3)

2.3 The main or principal reason the child needed a social service at the start of their latest period of being looked after, the "Children in Need" code, was collected in the SSDA903 return for the first time for the year ending 31 March 2001. Table H provides details of these Need codes for children looked after at 31 March 2003.

2.4 Table O provides details of the Need codes for children who started to be looked after during 2002-03. As can be seen in Figure 2.2, the most common need code recorded for children who started to be looked after during 2002-03 was Abuse or neglect (49%). The other commonly cited codes were Family Dysfunction (13%), Family in acute distress (11%) and Absent parenting (10%). Table O (ii) shows there is a marked difference in these figures between children of different ethnic origin. For instance, of all children who started to be looked after for the reason of Absent parenting, 46% were white and 29% were of black origin. This compares with 78% white and 9% black for all reasons.

2.5 Disability accounted for only 3% of all children starting to be looked after, which contrasts sharply with those children looked after during the year under a series of short term placements, where Disability was the recorded need code for 75% of the cases. (see Figure 1.6)

Figure 2.2 Children who started to be looked after during year ending 31 March 2003, by need code (reason) for being looked after.



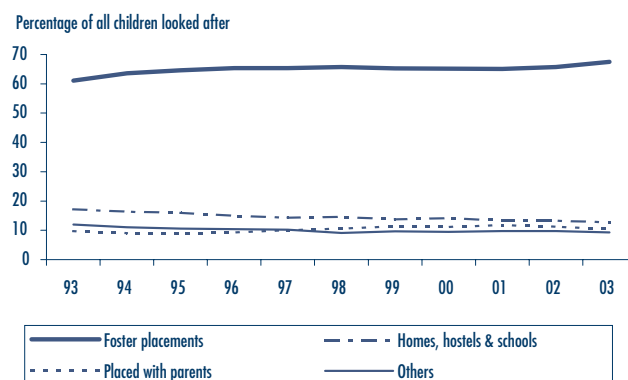
2.6 Considering the 94,300 children looked after at any time during the year (Table 3), 12,100 or 13% were recorded as looked after because they were disabled.

2.7 In addition to these 12,100, an unknown number of children who are looked after by local councils will have had disabilities but this will not have been recorded as being the main or principal reason for the child requiring social services. This means they cannot be identified as disabled from the data collected.

TYPES OF PLACEMENT (Table I)

2.8 Figures for the **snapshot** at 31 March 2003 show that the majority of children looked after were in foster placements (41,100 or 68% of the total). As can be seen from Table I, the number of children in foster placements has risen steadily from 31,300 in 1993. The proportion of looked after children placed in foster placements rose from 61% in 1993 to 65% in 1995, and remained fairly constant until 2001. Since then, there has been a slight increase to 68% in 2003 (Figure 2.3).

FIGURE 2.3 CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH 1993 TO 2003 BY PLACEMENT



2.9 In contrast, over the ten years since 1993 there has been a steady decrease in the proportion of looked after children in children's homes and residential schools¹. The number fell from 8,800 at 31 March 1993 to 7,700 at 31 March 2003. The 2003 figure represents 13% of children looked after, compared with 17% of those in care in 1993. However there was a slight rise against this trend during the years ending 31 March 1998 and 2000.

2.10 At 31 March 2003, there were 6,400 children looked after who were placed with parents, representing over 10% of all children looked after. The use of this kind of placement has dropped slightly since 2001; between the years ending 31 March 1995 to 2001 the proportion increased from 9% to 12%. Prior to this, the number had been falling. In 1993 there were 5,000 children under the charge and control of a parent or guardian, representing 10% of all children in care.

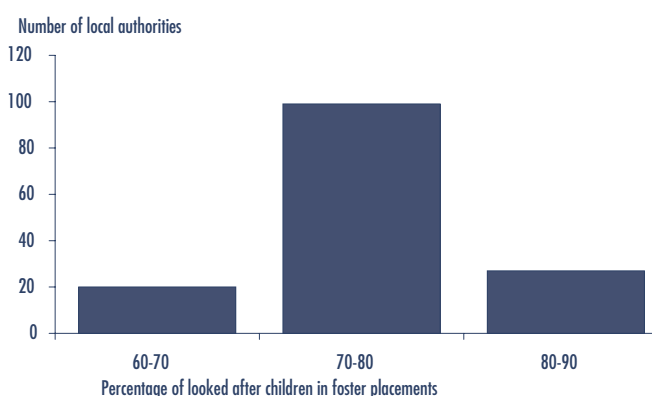
THE USE OF FOSTER CARE BY LOCAL COUNCILS

(Tables 9A and 9B)

2.11 Local councils vary considerably in the use they make of different types of placement for the children they look after. At 31 March 2003 68% of children looked after in England were in foster placements. This is equivalent to 75%, when expressed as a percentage of all children *excluding* those placed with parents (see Table 9a). This percentage has remained fairly constant for the last three years. The variation in the use of foster placements by local councils can be seen in Figure 2.4. At one extreme Islington had only 61% of its children (excluding those placed with parents) in foster homes, whilst at the other extreme Isle of Wight had 91%.

Figure 2.4 Percentage of looked after children who were in foster placements at 31 March 2003, excluding children placed with parents

2.12 PAF Indicator B7 measures the percentage of



looked after children at 31 March (excluding those placed with parents) who were in foster placements or placed for adoption. The national figure was 82%, but again there was variation between councils (for example Medway Towns with 92% and Islington with 66%).

¹The term 'children's homes' is defined here as including local council homes and hostels (including secure units), voluntary homes, private homes, and any residential school that is dual registered as a children's home. (SSDA 903 placement codes H1-H5)

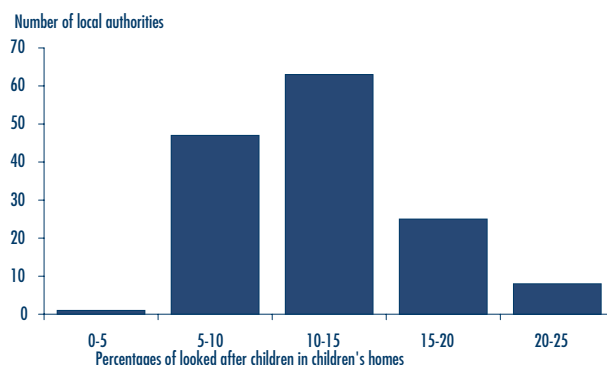
2.13 PAF Indicator C22 measures the percentage of looked after children at 31 March under the age of 10 (excluding those placed with parents) who were in foster placements or placed for adoption. At 31 March 2003, 97% of looked after children under 10 (excluding those placed with parents) were in foster placements or placed for adoption. However, at local council level this percentage varied from 85% (Sefton) to 100% (achieved by around 20 local councils, including South Tyneside and Hartlepool).

THE USE OF CHILDREN'S HOMES BY LOCAL COUNCILS

(Table 9A)

2.14 The data for children's homes also reveal variation between councils (Figure 2.5). At 31 March 2003 12% of children looked after in England, *excluding* those placed with parents, were placed in children's homes. At local council level this proportion ranged from 4% (Cornwall), to 23% (Waltham Forest).

Figure 2.5 Percentage of children looked after who were in children's homes at 31 March 2003, excluding those placed with parents



STABILITY IN CARE (Tables 10 and 11)

2.15 At 31 March 2003, 15% of all children looked after in England had experienced 3 or more placements during the year (compared with 15% in 2002 and 16% in 2001). However, within this total, the figures for individual local councils vary widely from 3% (Medway Towns) to 42% (Swindon), with the figures reported for inner London being lower than for the rest of the country. As Table 2.1 below shows the percentage of councils achieving 16% or less has increased steadily since 1999. In interpreting these figures it should be borne in mind that they will be distorted by any inconsistencies between councils in the reporting of placements. The figures for 1998-99 to 2001-02 have been revised, following amendments received from councils in 2003.

Table 2.1 Percentage of authorities with 16% of children or less receiving 3 or more placements during the year ending 31 March.

Year ending	% of authorities
1999	38.1
2000	40.1
2001	46.6
2002	58.5
2003	63.7

2.16 The figures for 2002-03 in Table 10 differ, for some councils quite markedly, from those provided for the 2002-03 Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) (published at www.publications.doh.gov.uk/paf). In general the PAF figures were lower than those shown in Table 10. The figures presented in Table 10 are derived from the SSDA903 data which is a survey of all episodes of care with no bias in the collection towards any particular child or data item, whilst figures in the PAF publication use provisional figures from the CLA100. (For further information see Technical Notes). Nationally, SSDA903 figures estimated that 15% of looked after children had three or more placements whilst the equivalent provisional figure from the CLA100, used in PAF, was 12%.

2.17 PAF Indicator D35 measures the long term stability of children looked after (see Table 11). In 2002-03 47% of children who had been looked after continuously for at least four years who were currently in a foster placement where they had spent at least two years. This is similar to previous years.

NUMBER OF CARE DAYS PROVIDED (Table K)

2.18 The best way of analysing changing patterns in the volume of care is to consider the total number of days of care provided during the year to looked after children. This involves, for each year ending 31 March, counting every day of care provided within the year.

2.19 Table K shows that the total number of days of care provided for all children (other than those looked after under a series of short term placements) during 2002-03 was 22.0 million, an increase of around 3% from 2001-02, and up 11% since 1998-99. The latter figure compares with an increase over the same period of just 4% in the number of children looked after at any time during the year (see Table 2.2 below) and as a result, there has been a steady increase in the average number of care days provided per child within the year.

Table 2.2 Number of children looked after at any time during the year and the number of care days provided during the year (excluding children looked after under a series of short term placements)

	Year ending 31 March				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children looked after in year (thousands)	80.1	82.5	81.8	82.1	83.2
Care days provided (millions)	19.8	20.8	21.2	21.4	22.0
Average care days per child within year (days)	248	252	259	261	265

2.20 The number of care days provided during the year follows a similar trend to the number of children looked after at 31 March. (See Table 2.3 and Table L). This is to be expected as the longer children remain in care, the greater chance they have of being captured in a snapshot picture of one day; hence the 31 March figure provides a measure of the volume of care. (See section 1 of the Commentary) As Table 2.3 shows, whilst these two parameters are more or less in line, the total number looked after at any time during the year has risen at a considerably slower rate. This is a further indication that children are staying in care for longer periods.

Table 2.3 Indices (31 March 1999 = 100) of the numbers of children in care at end of year, care days provided and total numbers looked after during the years ending 31 March 1999 to 2003

Years Ending 31 March	Number at 31 March	Care days provided	Children looked after during year
1999	100.0	100.0	100.0
2000	104.7	104.9	103.0
2001	108.9	107.0	102.2
2002	107.7	107.9	102.6
2003	109.6	111.0	103.9

LENGTH OF TIME BEING LOOKED AFTER

(Tables Q and R)

2.21 By “length of time being looked after” we refer to the total length of time that a child has been continuously looked after by a local council; this is also referred to in this publication as a “period of care”.

2.22 The children who ceased to be looked after during 2002-03 had on average been looked after for 772 days, a 2% increase over the previous year. This average has steadily increased from 1998-99 to 2002-03, as shown in Table 2.4 below.

2.23 This increase in the average duration of the latest period of care is the result of a number of different factors:

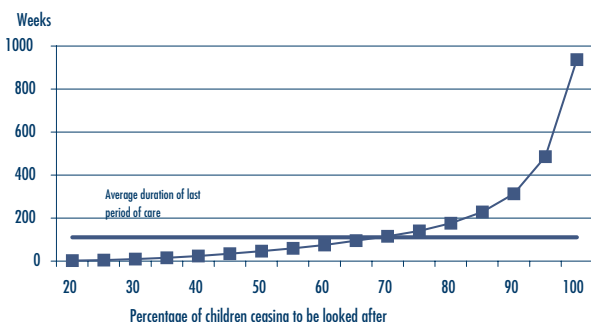
- the decline in the number of children looked after for very short periods ie. two weeks or less (See Table Q)
- the increasing use of care orders, and the decline in the use of voluntary agreements - children under a care order remain looked after for much longer on average than children voluntarily accommodated (See Table R)
- the increase in the number of children remaining in care until their 18th birthday (See Table W)

Table 2.4 Average length of last period of care (POC) and of placements in last POC of children who ceased to be looked after during years ending 31 March 1999 to 2003

Year ending 31 March	Average duration of last POC (days)	Average number of placements of last POC	Average duration of placement (days)
1999	598	2.40	249
2000	627	2.47	254
2001	709	2.78	255
2002	755	2.70	280
2003	772	2.85	271

2.24 Of the children ceasing to be looked after during the 2002-03 year, 59% had been looked after for more than 6 months, and 28% had been looked after for 8 weeks or less (see Table Q and Figure 2.6 below). Figure 2.6 in particular demonstrates that the long durations of stay (10 years and more) experienced by those at the top end of the distribution produce an overall average duration of 772 days (110 weeks), even though the majority of children are looked after for less than one year.

Figure 2.6 Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2003, by duration of the last period of care(weeks)



3. ADOPTION

(Tables V and 17)

Adoption of children looked after

3.1 The Government's target for adoption, included in the Priorities and Planning Framework 2003-2006, is to maintain current levels of adoption placement stability (as measured by the proportion of placements for adoption ending with the making of an adoption order) so that the quality is not compromised whilst increasing the use of adoption, as follows:

By 2004-05 increase by 40% the number of looked after children who are adopted, and aim to exceed this by achieving, if possible, a 50% increase by 2006, up from 2,700 in 1999-00. All councils will bring their practice up to the current level of the best performers (bands 4 and 5 of the PSS PAF indicator C23). (See paragraph 3.2).

By 2004-05 increase to 95% the proportion of looked after children placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that adoption is in the child's best interests, up from 81% in 2000-01, and maintain this level (95%) up to 2006, by locally applying the timescales in the National Adoption Standards, taking account of the individual child's needs. (See paragraph 3.9).

The Performance Assessment Framework indicator for adoptions of looked after children, PAF C23, is defined as follows:

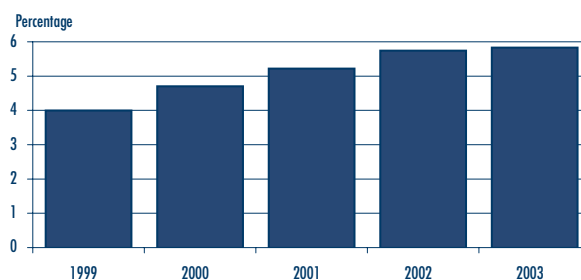
The number of looked after children adopted during the year as a percentage of the number of children looked after at 31 March who had been looked after for 6 months or more on that day. (See paragraph 3.3).

Children adopted from care

3.2 Table V shows details of the children who were adopted from care during the years from 1998-99 to 2002-03. The total number of looked after children who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2003 was 3,500, an increase of 4% on 2001-02 and a 30% increase on the 1999-00 figure.

3.3 Figures for PAF Indicator C23, based on data from the SSDA903 return, show that the number of children adopted in 2002-03 was 7% of the number of children looked after who had been looked after for six months or more at 31 March. This is similar to the figure in 2001-02.

Figure 3.1 Percentage¹ of looked after children adopted, years ending 31 March 1999 – 2003



¹ Percentage of children looked after at 31 March

Age and gender

3.4 The percentage of looked after children who were adopted has risen each year since 1999, as illustrated by Figure 3.1, although the percentage in 2002-03 is much the same as that in 2001-02. 6% of looked after children were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2003 compared to 4% in 1998-99.

3.5 Table V shows that in 2002-03 more boys were adopted than girls. This differs from 2001-02 when an equal number of boys and girls were adopted. The gender balance in the numbers adopted has fluctuated over the past 5 years.

3.6 The average age of children adopted from care has fallen from 4 years 4 months in 1998-99 to 4 years 2 months in 2002-03. The most common age group for children adopted from care was 1 – 4 years, which in 2002-03 accounted for 62% of all such adoptions (up from 57% in 1998-99). Only 5% of adoptions from care in 2002-03 were of children aged 10 and over.

3.7 Table V shows that the majority of children adopted from care were aged under 1 at the time they started to be looked after. In the year ending 31 March 2003, only 13% of children adopted from care started their final period of care aged 4 years or over.

3.8 Before looked after children can be adopted they must first be placed for adoption with their prospective adopters. This must be for a period of at least 13 weeks (except for children adopted by their former foster carers), although in practice it is usually much longer. However, not all placements for adoption result in an adoption. Of those placements for adoption that ceased during 2002-03, 94% ended in adoption, 6% were followed by another placement (mostly foster care), and less than 1% ended with the child ceasing to be looked after but not recorded as having been adopted.

Best Interest Decision

3.9 Once a local authority has decided that adoption is in a child's best interest, that child has entered the adoption process. As shown in Table 3.1, 81% of looked after children adopted in the year ending 31 March 2003 were placed for adoption within 12 months of the best interest decision. This is a slight increase on the figures for the two previous years, which were both 80%.

Table 3.1 Time taken between best interest decision and placed for adoption during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2003

	numbers		
	2001	2002	2003
All children ¹	3,100	3,400	3,500
Placed within twelve months of best interest decision	2,500	2,700	2,900
Percentage	80	80	81
Placed over twelve months of best interest decision	600	700	680
Percentage	20	20	19

¹ Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding

Comparisons with all adoptions

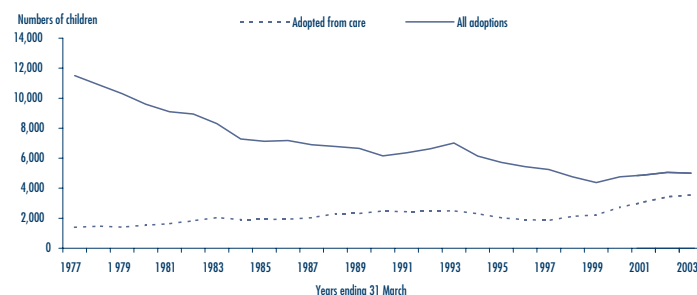
3.10 Since 1998-99 more than half of all children adopted in England have been looked after prior to adoption; most of the children who had not been in care prior to their adoption were adopted by step-parents or relatives.

3.11 The total number of looked after children adopted has risen from 2,200 in 1998-99 to 3,500

in 2002-03, which as a proportion of all adoptions represents a rise from 51% to 71%. This indicates that the upturn in the total number of adoptions in recent years is a direct result of the increase in the number of adoptions from care (see Figure 3.2).

3.12 As shown in Figure 3.2, the number of children adopted from care has risen slowly since 1976-77, with a marked increase in the last five years. However, the pattern for all adoptions is quite different, with a significant decrease in the number since 1976-77 (although there was a small increase between 1998-99 and 2001-02). In 1976-77 11,500 children were adopted in England, compared with 5,000 children in 2002-03, a decrease of 57%. It is important to note that the 'all adoptions' figures include those children who were adopted from care. In 1976-77 10,100 children were adopted who had not been in care compared with 1,500 children in 2002-03, a fall of 86%.

Figure 3.2 Children adopted from care, and all adoptions¹, years ending 31 March 1977-2003, England



¹Source: Office for National Statistics

4. CARE LEAVERS

(Tables W, X, Y, Z, 16, 18 and 19)

4.1 During 2002-03, 24,000 children ceased to be looked after (see paragraph 1.12 for details) and of these, 6,500 (or 27%) were aged 16 or over. Support for young people before, during and after leaving care was one of the key objectives under the Department of Health's Quality Protects Programme (1999-2004). In addition, the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 commenced in October 2001. The Act placed a duty on local authorities to provide services to most young people aged 16 and over who leave their care (see 4.3 and 4.6 below). The Public Service Agreement has also set a target to improve the level of employment, training and education of care leavers (see paragraphs 4.7 and 4.16)

4.2 Table W provides national figures for young people aged 16 and over who have **ceased** to be looked after in recent years. As noted in paragraph 4.1, it is estimated that 6,500 young people left care in this age range during the year ending 31 March 2003; this figure has fallen since 1998-99, although as a proportion of all care leavers, the ratio has remained fairly constant at around 27%.

4.3 One of the objectives of the Children (Leaving

Care) Act 2000 was to prevent young people being discharged from care before they were ready. There has been a noticeable change in recent years in the age distribution of care leavers aged 16 and over. The proportion of care leavers aged 16 or 17 has fallen sharply; in 1998-99 the proportion of care leavers aged 16 or 17 of those care leavers over 16 was 67% compared to 50% in 2002-03. Correspondingly the proportion of care leavers aged 16 or over who left care on their 18th birthday has steadily risen from 32% in 1998-99 to 49% in 2002-03 (see table W and Table 4.1 below).

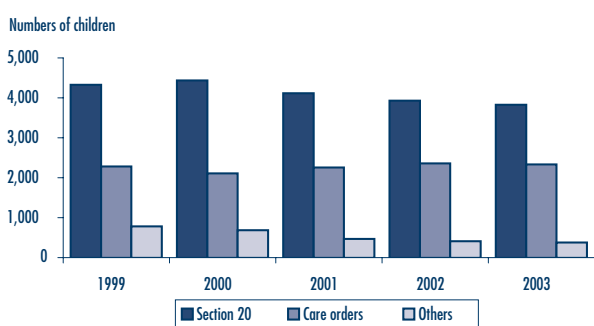
Table 4.1 Percentage of children aged 16 and over ceasing to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 1999 to 2003, by age on ceasing

Age	Year ending 31 March				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
16 & 17	67	59	53	51	50
18 birthday	32	40	46	48	49

4.4 Most of those who leave care having been looked after under a care order do so at the age of 18. With the number of children looked after under care orders having risen by 15% since 1998-99 (see paragraph 2.1), more children are remaining in care until their 18th birthday.

4.5 44% of young people leaving care aged 16 or over had last lived in a foster placement prior to leaving care, with a further 24% having last lived in a children's home. 64% of care leavers aged 16 or over had been looked after continuously for more than 2 years, while the proportion who had been looked after for less than six months was only 16% - down from 25% three years ago.

Figure 4.1 Children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 1999 to 2003 by legal status



Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000

4.6 The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 places a number of obligations on local councils, in respect of young people who leave care aged 16 and over who have spent 13 weeks or more being looked after since their 14th birthday. Table W shows that

approximately 88% of care leavers fell within this category in 1998-99, and this percentage has risen to over 90% in each of the last three years. The proportion of care leavers who have been continuously in care from their 14th to their 18th birthday, increased from 28% in 1998-99 to 33% in 2002-03.

PSA Target

4.7 The Government's overall aim is to improve the life chances of children in care and care leavers and to narrow the gap between their outcomes and those of their peers. The specific Public Service Agreement target on education and employment is to :

improve life chances for children, by:

Improving the level of education, training and employment outcomes for care leavers aged 19, so that levels for this group are at least 75% of those achieved by all young people in the same area by 2004.

Data presented in this publication relates to children leaving care. With respect to education, training and employment, 43% of councils reported that the level amongst young people formerly looked after reached the Government's previous target of being at least 60% of the level amongst all young people of the same age in their area. For 2003-04 the target is 75% and 17% of councils have already reached this target level.

Related indicators (A2 and A4) as part of the Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) are as follows:

The percentage of young people leaving care with at least 1 GCSE at grades A-G, or a GNVQ.*

The percentage of young people who were looked after on 1 April in their 17th year who were engaged in education, training or employment at the age of 19.

Paragraphs 4.10 and 4.16 provide further details on these indicators.

Educational Qualifications

4.8 Educational attainment is felt to be an important indicator of children's life chances. Research has shown that, on average, looked after children do less well in school than other children.

Coverage and date of sitting exam

4.9 Most school children normally sit their exams during the June of their Year 11 at school. We can define the number of children eligible for Year 11 by their age on 31 August just before the start of the school year. Thus if a child was 15 years old on 31 August 2002 (with a date of birth between 1/9/86 and 31/8/87 inclusive) the child will have

normally been eligible for Year 11 in the 2002-03 school year. This means that some care leavers will have sat their exams as much as two years (or more) prior to leaving care, whilst others may have left care within weeks of taking exams. *Table 4.2* below shows that of all care leavers during the year ending 31 March 2003, 45% would, under normal circumstances, have sat their exams in the summer of 2001, whilst a further 24% would have sat their exams in 2000. However, it can also be seen that 5% of care leavers in 2002-03 are not actually due to sit their exams until June 2003 (i.e. during the data year ending March 2004).

Table 4.2 Number of children ceasing to be looked after during year ending 31 March 2003 by date of birth

Date of birth	Date due to sit exams	Number	Percent age
Sept 82 - Aug 83	June 99	-	-
Sept 83 - Aug 84	June 00	1,600	24
Sept 84 - Aug 85	June 01	2,900	45
Sept 85 - Aug 86	June 02	1,700	26
Sept 86 - Aug 87	June 03	320	5

CARE LEAVERS ACHIEVING GCSES OR GNVQS
(Tables X & 18)

4.10 The figures provided by local councils are presented in Table 18 and show that about 2,800 young people left care having gained at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ, representing 43% of care leavers (PAF indicator A2). If the estimated 320 children who are due to sit their exams in June 2003 are excluded, together with a further 400 children who left care during 2002-03 *before* sitting their exams, then the proportion of care leavers who achieved at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ rises to 47%.

4.11 *Table 4.3* below shows that the percentage of care leavers with at least one qualification has steadily risen from 2000-01 to 2002-03, with girls performing consistently better than boys.

Table 4.3 Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2003 with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ

	Year ending 31 March		
	2001	2002	2003
All children	37	41	43
Boys	31	35	38
Girls	44	48	50

4.12 These results can be compared with the figures for all Year 11 children in state and independent schools in England in the 2001-2002 school year. 95% of these children obtained at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ (94% of boys and 96% of girls). This comparison should, however, be made with caution: firstly, the looked after population includes some of the most vulnerable and

disadvantaged children in our society; and secondly young people covered by the OC1 collection may be 16, 17 or 18 years old, whereas DfES data covers only children aged 15 at the start of the 2001/2002 academic year.

4.13 An estimated 380 young people (6%) left care in 2002-03 with at least 5 GCSEs at the higher grades of A*-C (*Table 18* and *Table 4.4* below), which is much the same as previous years.

Table 4.4 Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2003 by qualifications gained

	Year ending 31 March		
	2001	2002	2003
At least 1 GCSE/GNVQ	37	41	43
5 GCSE A* - C	5	5	6
No qualifications	59	55	54

Care leavers on 19th birthday

4.14 Information was collected for the first time in 2001-02 on former looked after children (OC3 collection). In 2002-03 this covers all young people who

- a) were looked after on 1 April 2000, and
- b) whose date of birth fell between 1 April 1983 and 31 March 1984.

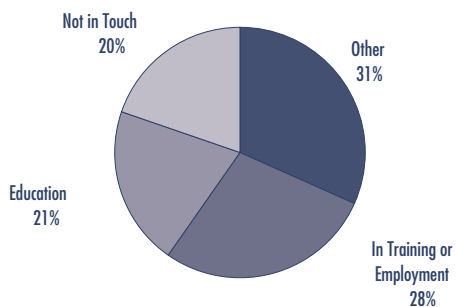
The information collected relates to their accommodation and activity on their 19th birthday, which as a direct consequence of the above definition will fall within the year ending 31 March 2003.

ACTIVITY OF CARE LEAVERS ON 19TH BIRTHDAY
(Tables Y and 19)

4.15 *Table Y* shows that for 2002-03 an OC3 return was required on 4,900 former looked after children. Of these, councils were in touch with 4,000 young people (or 80%) on, or near, their 19th birthday; councils proportionally maintained better links with girls (83% in touch) than with boys (78% in touch).

4.16 49% of the collection (or 2,400 young persons) were in education, training or employment (PAF indicator A4), whilst 32% (1,600) were not - 18% of those not in education, training or employment were because of disability. The figure of 49% for former looked after children in education, training or employment compares with 86% of all young people aged 19 in the population as a whole.

Figure 4.2 Percentage of care leavers at age 19, by activity, year ending 31 March 2003



4.17 17% of councils reported that the level of education, employment and training amongst young people aged 19 who were formerly looked after, reached the Government's target of being at least 75% of the level amongst all young people of the same age in their area. 13% of councils reached this target level last year.

ACCOMMODATION OF CARE LEAVERS ON 19TH BIRTHDAY
(Table Z)

4.18 Table Z shows that the largest category of placement for young persons was living independently, which accounted for 37% of the cohort. The second highest was Supported Accommodation with 15%. 120 young people were in custody, the overwhelming majority of whom were male.

4.19 In addition to recording the accommodation of the young person, councils were asked to make a subjective assessment as to its suitability. Of those young people who were in touch with their local council only 285 (7%) were in accommodation that was judged to be unsuitable by the council. Most of these were either in 'other' accommodation, in custody, living with parents or relatives or living independently.

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A

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH BY AGE AND SEX, 1993-2003¹

England		numbers and rates per 10,000 children under 18 years									
Age at 31 March	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children¹	51,200	49,300	49,600	50,500	51,200	53,300	55,500	58,100	58,900	59,700	60,800
Rates per 10,000	47	45	45	46	46	48	50	52	53	54	55
Boys	27,100	26,300	26,600	27,300	28,000	29,200	30,200	31,900	32,600	33,200	33,600
Under 1	670	790	830	880	900	940	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300
1 - 4	3,600	3,300	3,600	3,900	4,300	4,600	4,900	5,100	4,900	5,000	4,900
5 - 9	5,900	5,600	5,600	5,800	6,000	6,500	6,800	7,100	7,200	7,300	7,200
10 - 15	11,400	11,600	11,800	12,000	12,100	12,400	12,700	13,500	14,100	14,500	14,800
16 and over	5,500	4,900	4,800	4,800	4,700	4,800	4,700	5,100	5,200	5,200	5,400
Girls	24,100	23,000	23,100	23,100	23,200	24,200	25,300	26,200	26,300	26,500	27,200
Under 1	640	660	760	750	830	870	1,100	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,300
1 - 4	3,100	3,100	3,200	3,400	3,800	4,200	4,400	4,500	4,400	4,300	4,300
5 - 9	5,000	4,700	4,500	4,700	4,900	5,300	5,900	6,200	6,100	6,100	6,000
10 - 15	9,800	9,700	10,000	9,700	9,500	9,600	9,800	10,400	10,600	10,800	11,300
16 and over	5,600	4,900	4,600	4,500	4,300	4,200	4,100	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,200

B

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH BY AGE AND SEX, 1993-2003¹

England		percentages									
Age at 31 March	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children¹											
Under 1	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
1 - 4	13	13	14	14	16	16	17	17	16	15	15
5 - 9	21	21	20	21	21	22	23	23	23	22	22
10 - 15	41	43	44	43	42	41	41	41	42	42	43
16 and over	22	20	19	18	18	17	16	16	16	16	16
Boys	53	53	54	54	55	55	54	55	55	56	55
Girls	47	47	46	46	45	45	46	45	45	44	45

¹ Figures for children looked after in these tables exclude agreed series of short term placements



CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH 2003 BY ETHNIC ORIGIN AND AGE¹

England		numbers					
Ethnic Origin	All Children ²	Age at 31 March 2003					
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 & 17	18 & over
All Children^{1,2}	60,800	2,600	9,200	13,300	26,100	9,600	70
White	49,200	2,000	7,400	10,800	21,700	7,400	40
White British	46,900	1,900	7,100	10,500	20,600	6,700	40
White Irish	540	20	80	90	260	90	0
Any other White background	1,700	50	140	180	810	560	0
Mixed	4,700	300	970	1,100	1,700	560	0
White and Black Caribbean	1,800	120	350	440	720	180	0
White and Black African	360	30	80	70	120	50	0
White and Asian	640	50	130	150	220	90	0
Any other mixed background	1,900	110	410	460	680	240	0
Asian or Asian British	1,400	90	270	300	600	180	0
Indian	310	20	50	60	140	40	0
Pakistani	540	30	120	130	200	70	0
Bangladeshi	210	10	50	40	90	20	0
Any other Asian Background	370	30	50	60	180	60	0
Black or Black British	4,200	110	470	750	1,800	1,100	0
Caribbean	1,600	50	200	370	650	340	0
African	1,800	30	120	190	790	650	0
Any other Black background	840	30	150	200	330	140	0
Other Ethnic groups	1,300	60	120	180	490	400	0
Chinese	70	10	0	10	30	30	0
Any other ethnic group	1,200	60	120	170	470	370	0

¹ Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

² Figures for "All Children" are based on the CLAI00; other figures are derived from the SSSA903 sample. As a result, sum of columns may not agree with totals

D(i)**UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT
31 MARCH 2003 BY REGION AND AGE¹**

England	numbers				
	All Children ¹	Boys		Girls	
		Under 16	16 & over	Under 16	16 & over
England	2,400	940	910	300	280
North ²	100	40	20	20	10
Midlands & SouthWest ³	230	120	100	10	10
London	1,700	570	670	240	230
South East (exc. London)	390	210	120	30	30

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude any being looked after under an agreed series of short term placements

2 Includes North East, North West, Merseyside and Yorks & The Humber

3 Includes East Midlands, West Midlands, South West and Eastern regions

D(ii)**UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT
31 MARCH 2003 BY PLACEMENT¹**

England	numbers and percentages			
	UASCs		Local Children	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
All placements	2,400	100	58,400	100
Foster care	1,600	68	39,400	68
Children's homes and hostels ²	480	20	6,200	11
Placed for adoption	0	0	3,400	6
Living independently	240	10	980	2
Other	70	3	8,400	14

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude any being looked after under an agreed series of short term placements

2 Includes secure units, homes and hostels but excludes residential schools.

E

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR UNDER AT LEAST ONE AGREED SERIES OF SHORT TERM PLACEMENTS, YEARS ENDING 31 MARCH 1999 TO 2003¹

England		numbers and percentages									
		numbers					percentages				
		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children¹		12,700	12,800	12,500	12,600	12,300	100	100	100	100	100
Sex											
Boys		7,600	7,800	7,700	7,800	7,600	60	61	61	62	62
Girls		5,000	5,100	4,800	4,800	4,700	40	39	39	38	38
Age²											
Under 1		130	120	120	90	120	1	1	1	1	1
1 to 4		940	960	800	680	560	7	7	6	5	5
5 to 9		3,600	3,400	3,100	2,900	2,500	28	27	25	23	21
10 to 15		6,100	6,300	6,300	6,500	6,400	49	49	50	51	52
16 and over		1,900	2,000	2,200	2,400	2,600	15	16	18	19	22
Average age (yrs : months)		11:4	11:6	11:9	12:1	12:4					
Placement³											
Foster placement		6,500	6,400	6,200	6,000	5,700	51	50	49	47	47
Residential ⁴		5,300	5,300	5,300	5,500	5,500	42	42	42	44	45
Other		900	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,000	7	8	8	9	8
Child in need code³											
Disability of child	} Not available			9,000	9,300	9,200			72	74	75
Family in acute stress				1,200	920	840			9	7	7
Abuse or neglect				790	820	790			6	7	6
Other				1,500	1,600	1,400			12	12	12

1 All children looked after under one or more agreed series of short term placements at any time during the year ending 31 March. Some will also have been looked after under other legal statuses during the year, and will therefore be included in other tables in this publication.

2 Age at the end of the latest episode of care, or at 31 March if child is still covered by an agreement

3 Placement and need code relate to child's latest episode of care during the year

4 Includes secure units, homes, hostels and residential accommodation not subject to Children's Homes regulations

F

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH BY LEGAL STATUS, 1993-2003¹

England	numbers										
Legal status	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children¹	51,200	49,300	49,600	50,500	51,200	53,300	55,500	58,100	58,900	59,700	60,800
Care orders ²	31,500	29,100	28,700	29,000	30,200	32,100	34,400	36,400	37,600	38,400	39,600
S20 CA 1989 (voluntary arrangements)	18,400	18,800	19,500	19,800	19,200	19,100	18,800	19,300	19,100	19,000	18,900
On remand or committed for trial or detained ³	420	410	420	470	470	650	530	620	320	310	240
Other legal status ⁴	900	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,400	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,900	2,000	2,100

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude those looked after under an agreed series of short term placements

2 Includes both full and interim care orders

3 Includes children (for the years ending 31 March 1998 to 2000) who were subject to a compulsory care order under Sections 90-92 of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000

4 Includes child protection orders and freed for adoption. See Table G for a breakdown of the figure for 2003

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH 2003 BY LEGAL STATUS AND AGE¹

England							numbers
Legal Status	Age at 31 March 2003						
	All Children ¹	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 & over	
All Children¹	60,800	2,600	9,200	13,300	26,100	9,600	
Care Orders	39,600	1,600	6,700	10,300	16,100	4,900	
Interim care orders	10,200	1,400	3,300	2,900	2,400	200	
Full care orders	29,300	140	3,400	7,400	13,800	4,700	
Youth Justice legal statuses	250	0	0	0	120	120	
On remand or committed for trial	240	0	0	0	120	120	
Detained under PACE ²	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Supervision order	10	0	0	0	-	-	
Detained for child protection	220	20	50	120	20	10	
Police protection	40	0	0	40	0	0	
Emergency Protection Orders	180	20	50	80	20	10	
Under child assessment order	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Freed for adoption	1,900	120	850	610	250	40	
Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	18,900	810	1,600	2,200	9,700	4,600	
Wardship	0	0	0	0	0	0	

¹ Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

² Children detained in local authority accommodation under section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH 2003 BY CATEGORY OF NEED¹

England		numbers					
Need Code	All Children ^{1,2}	Age at 31 March 2003					
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 & 17	18 & over
All Children^{1,2}	60,800	2,600	9,200	13,300	26,100	9,600	70
Abuse or neglect	37,900	1,800	7,000	9,700	15,000	4,400	10
Disability	2,500	30	120	330	1,400	670	20
Parents illness or disability	3,500	150	510	740	1,600	450	0
Family in acute stress	4,100	-	520	700	2,000	720	-
Family dysfunction	6,400	-	700	1,100	3,200	1,200	-
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,800	0	50	60	1,100	630	0
Low income	130	10	20	30	50	20	0
Absent parenting	4,400	-	250	400	2,000	1,600	-

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

2 Figures for "All Children" are based on the CLA100; other figures are derived from the SSDA903 sample. As a result, sum of columns may not agree with totals

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH BY PLACEMENT, 1993-2003¹

England											numbers
Placement	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children¹	51,200	49,300	49,600	50,500	51,200	53,300	55,500	58,100	58,900	59,700	60,800
Foster placements	31,300	31,400	32,100	33,000	33,500	35,000	36,200	37,900	38,300	39,200	41,100
Living independently or in residential employment	1,900	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,200	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,200
Secure Units, homes, hostels and schools	8,800	8,000	7,900	7,500	7,300	7,800	7,600	8,200	7,900	7,900	7,700
Secure Units ^{2,3}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	} 6,400	6,600	6,400	6,700	} 190	220	210
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							
Homes and hostels <i>not</i> subject to Children's Homes regulations ²	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	160	120	180	330	520	540	560
Residential Schools ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	780	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100
Placed for adoption ⁴	2,400	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,400	2,400	2,900	3,100	3,400	3,600	3,400
Placement with parents	5,000	4,500	4,400	4,700	5,200	5,700	6,300	6,500	6,900	6,700	6,400
Other accommodation	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,100	990

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

2 Prior to 2001, secure units were classified under children's homes

3 Estimates of numbers of children re-calculated for 1997 to 2000 in line with the new coding structure which came into force on 1 April 2000

4 Increase since 1996 is, in part, a result of improved recording of this type of placement

I(ii)

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH BY PLACEMENT, 1999-2003¹

	England											
												numbers and percentages
	All ¹		Foster Placements		Children's Homes ²		With Parents		Placed for Adoption		Other ³	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
1999	55,500	100	36,200	65	6,600	12	6,300	11	2,900	5	3,500	6
2000	58,100	100	37,900	65	7,000	12	6,500	11	3,100	5	3,600	6
2001	58,900	100	38,300	65	6,800	11	6,900	12	3,400	6	3,400	6
2002	59,700	100	39,200	66	6,800	11	6,700	11	3,600	6	3,400	6
2003	60,800	100	41,100	68	6,600	11	6,400	10	3,400	6	3,300	5

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

2 Includes secure units, homes and hostels but excludes residential schools

3 Includes residential schools, lodgings and other residential settings

J

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH 2003 BY PLACEMENT AND AGE¹

England							numbers
Placement	All Children ¹	Age at 31 March 2003					
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 & over	
All Children¹	60,800	2,600	9,200	13,300	26,100	9,600	
Foster placements	41,100	2,000	6,100	9,700	18,300	4,900	
Foster placement inside Council boundary							
With relative or friend	5,700	160	1,000	1,700	2,300	640	
With other foster carer provided by Council	22,800	1,500	3,600	5,000	10,000	2,600	
arranged through agency	1,100	20	170	280	540	110	
Foster placements outside LA boundary							
With relative or friend	1,800	40	280	550	710	180	
With other foster carer provided by LA provided by Council	4,500	210	540	930	2,100	730	
arranged through agency	5,100	100	500	1,300	2,600	640	
Placed for adoption	3,400	200	1,700	1,300	240	10	
Placement with parents	6,400	180	1,300	1,700	2,300	850	
Other placements in the community	1,200	0	0	0	40	1,200	
Living independently	1,200	0	0	0	40	1,200	
Residential employment	10	0	0	0	-	-	
Secure units, homes and hostels	6,600	10	10	370	4,100	2,100	
Secure unit inside Council boundary	40	0	0	0	30	10	
Secure unit outside Council boundary	170	0	0	0	120	50	
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations							
inside Council boundary	3,400	0	0	160	2,200	940	
outside Council boundary	2,500	10	10	210	1,700	590	
Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations	560	0	0	0	80	480	
Other residential settings	620	100	30	40	220	240	
Residential care homes	270	0	0	20	150	90	
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	90	20	0	-	40	-	
Family centre or mother and baby unit	160	80	30	10	10	30	
Youth Treatment Centres	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Young offenders institution or prison	100	0	0	0	10	80	
Residential Schools	1,100	0	0	60	770	280	
Absent from agreed placement	170	-	-	10	70	80	
Other accommodation	200	-	40	-	50	80	

¹ Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

**NUMBER OF DAYS OF CARE PROVIDED BY LEGAL STATUS AND PLACEMENT DURING YEARS ENDING 31 MARCH
1999 TO 2003¹**

England	Thousands of days				
	Year ending 31 March				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children¹	19,800	20,800	21,200	21,400	22,000
Legal Status					
Care Orders	12,500	13,300	13,800	13,900	14,400
Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	6,700	6,800	6,700	6,700	6,800
Other Legal Status ²	680	720	750	800	830
Placement					
Foster care	13,000	13,500	13,600	13,800	14,500
Residential ³	2,300	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,500
Placed for Adoption	1,000	1,200	1,400	1,500	1,400
Placed with Parents	2,300	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,400
Other Placements	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

2 Includes children who are subject to a compulsory care order under Section 90-92 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (sentencing) Act 2000 for the years ending 31 March 1999 and 2000

3 Includes Secure Units, homes, hostels and other residential accommodation not subject to Children's Homes regulations

L

NUMBER OF DAYS OF CARE PROVIDED, NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR, AND THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AT 31 MARCH FOR YEARS ENDING 31 MARCH 1999 AND 2003, BY REGION¹

	England												numbers and percentages			
	1998-99				2002-03				Percentage increase							
	Care days provided (1000's)	Children in year	Days provided per child	Children at 31 March	Care days provided (1000's)	Children in year	Days provided per child	Children at 31 March	Care days provided	Children in year	Days provided per child	Children at 31 March				
England	19,800	80,100	248	55,500	22,000	83,200	260	60,800	11	4	7	10				
North East	1,200	4,800	242	3,300	1,200	4,600	261	3,300	3	-4	8	1				
North West	3,300	13,200	250	9,400	3,600	13,000	276	9,900	8	-1	10	6				
Yorks & The Humber	2,300	9,100	254	6,400	2,400	9,100	265	6,700	4	0	4	4				
East Midlands	1,400	5,900	246	4,000	1,500	5,600	261	4,000	1	-5	6	2				
West Midlands	2,200	8,800	254	6,300	2,600	9,500	268	7,100	14	8	6	14				
East of England	1,700	7,100	244	4,800	2,000	7,500	271	5,600	17	5	11	16				
Inner London	1,800	7,000	254	4,800	1,900	7,100	266	5,400	6	1	4	11				
Outer London	1,600	6,700	238	4,800	2,200	8,400	260	6,400	38	26	10	34				
South East	2,700	10,600	251	7,100	2,900	11,000	261	7,600	9	4	4	6				
South West	1,600	6,900	237	4,700	1,700	7,000	249	4,900	6	1	5	5				

¹ Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

CHILDREN WHO STARTED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEARS ENDING 31 MARCH 1999 TO 2003 BY LEGAL STATUS ON STARTING^{1,2}

England										
numbers and percentages										
Legal Status	numbers					percentages				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children²	28,400	28,600	25,200	25,300	24,100	100	100	100	100	100
Care Order	4,300	4,400	4,300	4,400	4,700	15	15	17	17	20
Interim care order	3,500	3,800	3,900	4,100	4,500	12	13	15	16	19
Full care order	880	540	480	330	210	3	2	2	1	1
Youth Justice legal statuses	1,400	1,300	830	760	700	5	5	3	3	3
On remand or committed for trial	1,200	1,200	750	710	660	4	4	3	3	3
Detained under PACE 3	180	150	60	40	40	1	1	0	0	0
Supervision order	10	20	20	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Detained for child protection	3,300	3,300	2,700	3,100	3,200	12	12	11	12	13
Police protection	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,900	5	6	6	6	8
Emergency protection order	1,800	1,700	1,200	1,400	1,300	6	6	5	6	6
Under child assessment order	10	0	-	20	-	0	0	-	0	-
Freed for adoption	110	20	20	20	20	0	0	0	0	0
Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	19,100	19,500	17,200	17,100	15,500	67	68	68	67	64
Other legal status	160	70	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted

2 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

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

CHILDREN WHO STARTED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003 BY LEGAL STATUS AND AGE ON STARTING^{1,2}

England		numbers				
Legal Status	All Children	Age on starting to be looked after				
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 & over
All Children²	24,100	3,800	4,600	4,600	10,100	1,000
Care Order	4,700	1,300	1,300	1,100	960	30
Interim care order	4,500	1,200	1,300	1,100	870	20
Full care order	210	30	40	40	80	20
Youth Justice legal statuses	700	0	0	-	420	-
On remand or committed for trial	660	0	0	-	390	-
Detained ³	40	0	0	0	30	10
Supervision order	10	0	0	0	-	-
Emergency order or Police protection	3,200	660	830	850	860	20
Police protection	1,900	250	470	520	620	10
Emergency Protection Order	1,300	410	360	330	230	10
Under child assessment order	-	-	0	0	0	0
Freed for adoption	20	-	10	-	0	-
Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placement)	15,500	1,900	2,400	2,700	7,800	710
Other legal status	0	0	0	0	0	0

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted

2 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

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

O(i)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO STARTED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003 BY CHILDREN IN NEED CODE AND AGE ON STARTING^{1,2}

England							numbers
Need code	All Children	Age on starting to be looked after					
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 & over	
All Children²	24,100	3,800	4,600	4,600	10,100	1,000	
Abuse or neglect	11,800	2,600	3,000	2,700	3,200	180	
Disability	730	50	60	160	360	100	
Parents illness or disability	1,900	250	510	500	580	10	
Family in acute stress	2,700	270	420	470	1,400	100	
Family dysfunction	3,100	300	370	440	1,800	160	
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,600	-	-	40	1,200	320	
Low income	80	10	20	10	30	10	
Absent parenting	2,300	280	170	290	1,400	150	

O(ii)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO STARTED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003 BY CHILDREN IN NEED CODE AND ETHNIC ORIGIN^{1,2}

England							numbers
Need code	All Children	Ethnic origin					
		White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other	
All Children²	24,100	18,900	1,700	670	2,200	720	
Abuse or neglect	11,800	9,500	890	340	820	210	
Disability	730	620	40	30	30	10	
Parents illness or disability	1,900	1,400	150	70	220	30	
Family in acute stress	2,700	2,300	150	40	140	80	
Family dysfunction	3,100	2,700	180	40	160	50	
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,600	1,300	110	10	120	20	
Low income	80	40	-	-	20	10	
Absent parenting	2,300	1,100	150	130	660	300	

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted

2 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

P

CHILDREN WHO STARTED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003 BY PLACEMENT AND AGE ON STARTING ^{1,2}

England							numbers
Placement	All Children	Age on starting					
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 & over	
All Children ²	24,100	3,800	4,600	4,600	10,100	1,000	
Foster placements	18,600	3,100	4,100	4,000	7,000	520	
Foster placement inside LA boundary							
With relative or friend	1,600	190	460	450	530	20	
With other foster carer provided by LA	13,000	2,400	2,900	2,700	4,700	350	
arranged through agency	480	40	80	130	220	20	
Foster placements outside LA boundary							
With relative or friend	280	50	60	70	80	20	
With other foster carer provided by LA	1,900	310	300	370	830	70	
arranged through agency	1,300	110	260	290	620	40	
Placed for adoption	20	10	-	-	0	0	
Placement with parents	1,600	250	420	400	450	50	
Other placements in the community	180	0	0	0	50	130	
Living independently	180	0	0	0	50	130	
Residential employment	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Secure units, homes and hostels	2,700	20	30	150	2,300	270	
Secure unit inside LA boundary	60	0	0	0	50	10	
Secure unit outside LA boundary	120	-	0	0	80	-	
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations							
inside LA boundary	1,900	10	20	90	1,600	130	
outside LA boundary	580	20	20	60	440	50	
Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations	110	0	0	0	60	50	
Other residential settings	630	420	50	20	110	40	
Residential care homes	90	0	0	-	70	-	
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	350	300	30	-	20	-	
Family centre or mother and baby unit	160	130	20	-	-	0	
Youth Treatment Centres	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Young offenders institution or prison	20	0	0	0	10	10	
Residential Schools	200	0	0	30	150	20	
Absent from agreed placement	50	-	10	10	30	-	
Other accommodation	110	20	10	30	40	10	

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted

2 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

Q

CHILDREN WHO CEASED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEARS ENDING 31 MARCH 1999 TO 2003 BY DURATION OF LATEST PERIOD OF CARE^{1,2}

England	numbers of children and average duration of stay				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children^{1,2}					
Number of children	27,100	26,900	25,200	25,600	24,000
Average duration of stay (days)	598	627	709	755	772
Duration					
Under 2 weeks	6,600	5,600	5,000	4,800	4,300
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	4,100	3,900	3,000	2,900	2,500
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	4,500	4,200	3,400	3,300	3,000
From 6 months to under 1 year	3,400	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,700
From 1 year to under 2 years	2,900	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,700
From 2 years to under 3 years	1,700	2,200	2,200	2,400	2,400
From 3 years to under 5 years	1,800	2,400	2,200	2,600	2,400
From 5 years to under 10 years	1,400	1,600	1,800	2,100	2,000
10 years and over	710	880	1,100	1,000	1,000
England	percentages				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children^{1,2}					
Percentage of children	100	100	100	100	100
Duration					
Under 2 weeks	24	21	20	19	18
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	15	14	12	11	10
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	17	16	14	13	13
From 6 months to under 1 year	13	11	12	11	11
From 1 year to under 2 years	11	11	14	14	15
From 2 years to under 3 years	6	8	9	10	10
From 3 years to under 5 years	7	9	9	10	10
From 5 years to under 10 years	5	6	7	8	8
10 years and over	3	3	4	4	4

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

2 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status

R

CHILDREN WHO CEASED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003 BY LEGAL STATUS ON CEASING AND DURATION OF LATEST PERIOD OF CARE^{1,2}

England	numbers of children and average duration of stay				
	All Children	Full Care Order	Interim Care Order	Voluntary Agreements (S20 CA 89)	Other
All Children^{1,2}					
Number of children	24,000	4,900	2,400	13,800	2,900
Average duration of stay (days)	772	2,181	382	393	509
Duration					
Under 2 weeks	4,300	10	40	3,600	680
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	2,500	-	-	2,100	270
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	3,000	10	360	2,400	240
From 6 months to under 1 year	2,700	40	880	1,600	160
From 1 year to under 2 years	3,700	460	780	1,700	740
From 2 years to under 3 years	2,400	780	180	1,000	400
From 3 years to under 5 years	2,400	1,300	50	760	290
From 5 years to under 10 years	2,000	1,500	-	500	-
10 years and over	1,000	880	0	130	10

England	percentages				
	All Children	Full Care Order	Interim Care Order	Voluntary Agreements (S20 CA 89)	Other
All Children^{1,2}					
Percentage of children	100	100	100	100	100
Duration					
Under 2 weeks	18	0	2	26	24
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	10	-	-	15	9
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	13	0	15	17	8
From 6 months to under 1 year	11	1	37	12	6
From 1 year to under 2 years	15	9	33	12	26
From 2 years to under 3 years	10	16	8	8	14
From 3 years to under 5 years	10	26	2	6	10
From 5 years to under 10 years	8	30	-	4	-
10 years and over	4	18	0	1	0

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

2 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status

S

CHILDREN WHO CEASED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003 BY NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS IN CARE HISTORY, AND AGE ON CEASING^{1, 2}

England								numbers
Number of placements	Age on ceasing							
	All Children	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 17	18 & over ³	
All children ceasing^{1,2}	24,000	1,200	5,100	4,000	7,300	3,200	3,300	
1	8,000	690	1,400	1,400	3,000	870	560	
2	5,300	360	1,800	840	1,300	540	490	
3	3,400	100	930	610	840	440	460	
4	1,900	20	440	360	570	260	280	
5	1,400	10	260	220	370	240	240	
6	900	0	110	150	260	170	160	
7	650	0	70	130	170	140	140	
8	470	0	30	30	160	120	130	
9	370	0	20	60	110	80	100	
10 or more	1,700	0	20	140	420	390	720	

England								percentages
Number of placements	Age on ceasing							
	All Children	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 17	18 & over ³	
All children ceasing^{1,2}	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
1	33	59	28	36	41	27	17	
2	22	31	35	21	18	17	15	
3	14	8	18	15	12	14	14	
4	8	1	9	9	8	8	9	
5	6	1	5	6	5	7	7	
6	4	0	2	4	4	5	5	
7	3	0	1	3	2	4	4	
8	2	0	1	1	2	4	4	
9	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	
10 or more	7	0	0	4	6	12	22	

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

2 Only the latest occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted

3 Most children who ceased to be looked after aged 18 and over ceased on their 18th birthday (see Table W)

T

CHILDREN WHO CEASED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003 BY NUMBER OF PERIODS OF CARE IN CARE HISTORY, AND AGE ON CEASING^{1,2}

England								numbers
Number of periods of care	Age on ceasing							
	All Children	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 17	18 & over ³	
All periods of care	24,000	1,200	5,100	4,000	7,300	3,200	3,300	
1	17,700	1,100	4,300	3,000	4,700	2,000	2,500	
2	3,600	50	540	610	1,300	620	460	
3	1,400	10	120	200	600	280	150	
4	650	0	30	90	290	170	70	
5	240	0	10	30	120	70	20	
6	170	0	10	30	90	30	10	
7	120	0	-	-	50	30	20	
8	50	0	0	-	30	-	10	
9	40	0	0	10	30	10	0	
10 or more	100	0	0	20	60	20	10	

England								percentages
Number of periods of care	Age on ceasing							
	All Children	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 17	18 & over ³	
All periods of care	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
1	74	95	86	75	65	62	77	
2	15	4	11	15	18	19	14	
3	6	1	2	5	8	9	5	
4	3	0	1	2	4	5	2	
5	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	
6	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	
7	1	0	-	-	1	1	1	
8	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10 or more	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	

1 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

2 Only the latest occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted

3 Most children who ceased to be looked after aged 18 and over ceased on their 18th birthday (see Table W)

U(i)

DURATION OF PLACEMENTS CEASING DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003¹

England

numbers of placements and average duration

	Number of placements									
	All place-ments	1 to 7 days	8 days under 1 month	1 month under 3 months	3 months under 6 months	6 months under 1 year	1 yr under 2 yrs	2 yrs under 5 yrs	5yrs and over	Average duration (days)
All placements¹	71,800	13,500	11,300	11,300	9,800	10,800	8,500	5,100	1,600	268
Foster placements	44,500	9,700	7,700	6,800	5,300	5,900	4,900	3,100	1,200	272
Children's homes ²	11,400	1,700	1,800	2,300	1,900	1,700	1,200	660	90	212
Schools	580	20	50	70	70	80	100	150	30	610
Placed with parents	5,500	500	610	870	860	900	740	780	220	413
Placed for adoption	3,800	10	30	90	700	1,600	1,100	290	40	380
In lodgings, living independently or in residential employment	2,700	340	410	590	540	460	280	30	0	150
Other placements	3,500	1,200	740	610	390	280	150	50	0	88

1 Excludes placements forming part of an agreed series of short term placements

2 Includes community homes, voluntary homes and private registered children's homes

Note: this table gives figures for placements ceasing during the year and therefore differs from other tables, such as Table S, which give figures for children ceasing to be looked after

U(ii)

AVERAGE DURATION (IN DAYS) OF PLACEMENTS CEASING DURING THE YEARS ENDING 31 MARCH 1999 - 2003¹

England

average duration (days)

Year	Average duration					
	All place-ments	Foster place-ments	Children ¹ homes ²	Placed with parents	Placed for adoption	Other place-ments
1999	223	232	173	301	430	148
2000	228	231	164	350	428	161
2001	254	264	200	364	396	141
2002	266	270	198	417	393	169
2003	268	272	212	413	380	158

1 Excludes placements forming part of an agreed series of short term placements

2 Includes community homes, voluntary homes and private registered children's homes

Note: this table gives figures for placements ceasing during the year and therefore differs from other tables, such as Table S, which give figures for children ceasing to be looked after

England		numbers and percentages									
		numbers					percentages				
		1999 ³	2000 ³	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children²		2,200	2,700	3,100	3,400	3,500	100	100	100	100	100
Sex											
	Boys	1,100	1,400	1,600	1,700	1,900	49	50	53	50	54
	Girls	1,100	1,400	1,500	1,700	1,600	51	50	47	50	46
Age at adoption											
	Under 1	200	200	210	200	220	9	7	7	6	6
	1 to 4	1,300	1,600	1,900	2,000	2,200	57	58	62	59	62
	5 to 9	590	790	830	990	960	26	29	27	29	27
	10 to 15	150	140	130	180	180	7	5	4	5	5
	16 and over	10	10	10	20	10	0	0	0	1	0
	Average age (yrs : months)	4:4	4:4	4:2	4:6	4:2	0	0	0	0	0
Final legal status											
	Freed for adoption	740	1,100	1,200	1,300	1,500	33	41	39	39	43
	Care order	1,100	1,200	1,500	1,700	1,700	48	43	49	49	48
	Voluntary agreement (S20)	420	430	370	440	350	19	16	12	13	10
	Other legal status	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Duration of final period of care⁵											
	Under 1 year	240	240	230	260	230	11	9	8	7	7
	1 year to under 2 years	580	710	950	1,000	1,300	26	26	31	30	36
	2 years to under 3 years	610	810	920	900	950	27	30	30	26	27
	3 years and over	780	970	970	1,300	1,100	35	35	32	37	31
Age on starting final period of care⁵											
	Under 1	1,300	1,500	1,700	1,800	2,000	57	55	56	53	56
	1	290	370	430	500	450	13	14	14	15	13
	2	240	310	310	440	380	11	11	10	13	11
	3	120	210	260	220	290	6	8	8	7	8
	4 and over	300	350	340	450	450	14	13	11	13	13

1 Children who ceased to be looked after, where "adopted" was given as the reason final episode ceased

2 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

3 The All Children figure is taken from the Key Statistics Return (KS1). Other figures derived from SSDA903 sample

4 The All children's figure is taken from the AD1 return. Other figures derived from SSDA903 sample

5 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status

**YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 AND OVER WHO CEASED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEARS ENDING 31 MARCH
1999 TO 2003^{1,2}**

England		numbers and percentages									
		numbers					percentages				
		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Children²		7,100	7,200	6,800	6,700	6,500	100	100	100	100	100
Sex											
	Boys	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,800	3,600	57	54	55	56	55
	Girls	3,100	3,300	3,100	2,900	2,900	43	46	45	44	45
Age on ceasing											
	16	3,300	3,000	2,400	2,100	2,000	47	41	36	32	30
	17	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,300	1,300	20	18	18	19	20
	18th birthday	2,300	2,900	3,100	3,200	3,200	32	40	46	48	49
	Older than 18th birthday	70	60	80	30	80	1	1	1	1	1
Final placement											
	Foster placement	3,300	3,200	3,100	3,100	2,900	46	44	46	46	44
	Children's homes ³	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,600	21	22	23	23	24
	Living independently ⁴	1,200	1,300	1,100	1,100	1,100	17	18	17	16	17
	Placed with parents	430	450	470	530	520	6	6	7	8	8
	Other	620	670	520	490	450	9	9	8	7	7
Duration of final period of care⁵											
	Under 6 months	1,800	1,800	1,200	1,100	1,000	25	25	17	17	16
	6 months to under 1 year	630	720	630	570	470	9	10	9	8	7
	1 year to under 2 years	990	950	1,100	920	850	14	13	16	14	13
	2 years and over	3,600	3,800	3,900	4,100	4,200	52	52	57	61	64
Duration of care history since 14th birthday											
	Under 3 months	860	840	510	580	460	12	12	7	9	7
	3 months to under 6 months	450	480	360	280	270	6	7	5	4	4
	6 months to under 1 year	580	690	580	510	470	8	10	8	8	7
	1 year to under 2 years	1,200	1,100	1,100	980	920	17	16	17	15	14
	2 year to under 4 years	2,000	2,200	2,100	2,300	2,300	29	30	30	34	35
	4 years	1,900	1,900	2,200	2,100	2,100	27	26	31	31	32
	4 years and over	50	40	40	10	50	1	1	1	0	1

1 Only the latest occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted

2 Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short term placements

3 Includes community homes, voluntary homes and private registered children's homes

4 Includes living in lodgings, living independently, and in residential employment

5 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status

X(i)

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CEASED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003, AGED 16 OR OVER BY LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION ACHIEVED AND DURATION OF LATEST PERIOD OF CARE¹

Duration of latest period of care	All care leavers aged 16 & over				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A* - G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C	at least 1 GCSEs at grade A* - G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C
Up to 6 months	980	220	20	22	2
6 months to 1 yr	500	150	20	29	4
1 yr to under 2 yrs	860	340	40	39	5
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	930	410	60	44	6
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	620	320	50	52	8
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	390	190	20	49	6
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	330	170	20	50	7
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	270	130	20	50	7
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	240	130	20	55	7
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	220	110	20	52	9
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	170	100	20	60	13
10 yrs and over	970	550	70	57	7
All durations	6,500	2,800	380	43	6

X(ii)

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CEASED TO BE LOOKED AFTER DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2003, AGED 16 OR OVER WITH AN OPPORTUNITY OF SITTING EXAMINATIONS BEFORE LEAVING, BY LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION ACHIEVED AND DURATION OF LATEST PERIOD OF CARE^{1,2}

Duration of latest period of care	Care leavers aged 16 & over with opportunity of sitting exams ²				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A* - G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C	at least 1 GCSEs at grade A* - G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C
Up to 6 months	670	180	20	26	2
6 months to 1 yr	360	120	20	35	4
1 yr to under 2 yrs	720	300	40	42	5
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	870	390	60	45	7
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	600	320	50	53	8
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	380	190	20	50	6
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	330	170	20	51	7
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	270	130	20	50	6
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	240	130	20	56	8
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	220	110	20	52	9
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	170	100	20	61	13
10 yrs and over	950	540	70	57	7
All durations	5,700	2,700	370	47	6

¹ Data from this table is taken from the OCI return, and therefore may not agree with table W, which is derived from the SSDA903

² Children whose date of birth is later than 31 August 1986, and children whose date of birth is between 1 September 1985 and 31 August 1986 and who left care on or before 30 June 2002, have been excluded.

Y

ACTIVITY ON 19TH BIRTHDAY OF CARE LEAVERS WHO WERE LOOKED AFTER ON 1 APRIL 2000 AGED 16 (IN THEIR 17TH YEAR) BY GENDER, ACTIVITY AND REGION

England				numbers
	All young people	Council in touch with young person		Not in Touch
		In Education, training or employment	Not in Education, training or employment	
England	4,900	2,400	1,600	960
Males	2,700	1,300	780	590
Region				
North East	140	70	40	30
North West	360	190	100	70
Yorkshire & The Humber	260	120	90	50
East Midlands	160	70	50	40
West Midlands	290	130	100	60
East of England	220	120	50	50
London	660	330	190	140
South East	370	200	80	90
South West	240	110	80	60
Females	2,200	1,040	770	370
Region				
North East	110	40	50	20
North West	320	140	140	50
Yorkshire & The Humber	200	80	80	40
East Midlands	140	60	50	20
West Midlands	230	100	80	40
East of England	190	100	50	40
London	490	270	160	60
South East	320	150	90	80
South West	200	100	70	30

ACCOMMODATION ON 19TH BIRTHDAY OF CARE LEAVERS WHO WERE LOOKED AFTER ON ¹ APRIL 2000 AGED 16 (IN THEIR 17TH YEAR) BY GENDER, ACCOMMODATION AND REGION

England										numbers
	All young people	Council in touch with young person							Not in Touch	
		With Parents or Relatives	Community Home	Supported Accommodation ¹	Lodgings	Independent Living	Other ²	In Custody		
England	4,900	540	200	710	270	1,800	300	120	1,000	
Males	2,700	340	130	380	160	830	180	100	590	
Region										
North East	140	20	-	30	10	40	20	-	30	
North West	360	70	10	50	20	100	30	20	70	
Yorkshire & The Humber	260	40	10	30	20	80	20	20	50	
East Midlands	160	20	10	20	10	50	10	10	40	
West Midlands	290	50	10	30	20	90	20	10	60	
East of England	220	30	20	30	20	70	-	-	50	
London	660	50	30	100	20	260	40	20	140	
South East	370	40	20	80	20	90	20	10	90	
South West	240	30	10	30	30	60	20	10	60	
Females	2,200	200	70	330	110	970	120	20	370	
Region										
North East	110	10	-	10	-	60	-	-	20	
North West	320	40	-	50	20	140	20	-	50	
Yorkshire & The Humber	200	20	-	30	10	90	10	-	40	
East Midlands	140	10	-	20	10	80	-	-	20	
West Midlands	230	30	-	30	10	100	20	-	40	
East of England	190	10	10	30	10	80	-	-	40	
London	490	30	-	80	20	240	30	-	60	
South East	320	30	-	50	20	110	20	-	80	
South West	200	20	-	40	10	80	20	-	30	

¹ Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings, foyers

² Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation

COMBINING DATA FROM FIVE SOURCES

The statistics presented in this publication are, in the main, derived from five statistical returns submitted by local councils in England. Details of the returns are given in chapter 1.

The statistics presented in this publication are based on five returns made by local councils in England:

- form CLA100, on which councils provide a range of aggregate figures on their looked after children; (introduced in 1997-98)
- form SSDA 903, on which they provide detailed data on a 'one-third' sample of their looked after children, covering children born on a day of the month divisible by 3. This sampling approach was introduced from 1 April 1997;
- form OC1, on which authorities provide detailed data on the educational qualifications of all young people aged 16 or over who ceased to be looked after; (introduced for 1999-00)
- form AD1, on which councils provide information on all children adopted from care during the year (introduced 2000-01)
- form OC3, on which councils provide information on the accommodation and activity for a selection of former looked after children on their 19th birthday (introduced 2001-02)

Figures from the CLA100, AD1, OC1 and OC3 collections for the year ending 31 March 2003 were summarised in three Department of Education and Skills Statistical Bulletins published in November 2003¹. Since then some additional information has been received and as a result some figures have been revised in this publication.

Of the two data sources concerned with the numbers of children being looked after (the CLA100 and the SSDA903), it is generally felt that the SSDA 903 is the more accurate. There are three reasons for this:

- it is a straightforward survey of all episodes of care and there is no bias in the collection towards any particular child or data item
- all SSDA 903 records are subjected to a rigorous validation to ensure that all reported episodes are fully consistent with one another. Failure to pass any validation test renders the entire care-history of the child invalid, and these records are excluded from all analyses.

- efforts are made to ensure that for every child who is looked after at 31 March, a further episode for that child is submitted in the following year. No child can simply go "missing" from the database without this being reported back to the appropriate council.

The principal disadvantage of the SSDA 903, being a one-third sample survey, is that it is unable to produce reliable estimates when sample numbers are small.

This was the last year the data collection will be formed of these five returns. For 2003-04 the SSDA 903 will be a web based data collection covering 100% of all looked after children. The SSDA 903 will also collect data items that were previously collected via the AD1, OC1 and OC3. Hence this was the last year the CLA100 was collected.

ESTIMATION METHODOLOGY

Figures presented here for years before 1997-98 are based entirely on the detailed SSDA 903, which for those years covered all looked after children. For 1997-98 onwards data from the two collections, SSDA 903 and CLA100, have been combined to provide the best estimates available of the figures at a national level and at a local council level.

For the years 1997-98 and 1998-99, the methodology in the main has been to use a range of multiplying factors which are calculated by comparing CLA 100 totals for the numbers of children who

- started to be looked after during the year
- ceased to be looked after during the year
- looked after at 31 March

with corresponding counts of valid SSDA 903 records. For the year 2000-01, the count of the number of children starting to be looked after was dropped from the CLA100, and for 2001-02, the count of the number ceasing to be looked after during the year was also dropped. These changes resulted in a revision to the grossing methodology, and it was decided that, for the years 1999-00 and 2000-01, only one multiplying factor based on the number of children looked after at 31 March should be prepared for each local council. This change, which would have been introduced with effect from 2001-02 anyway, was brought forward to 1999-00 following a close examination of the

1 Children looked after in England: 2002-03
www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000424/index.shtml
Children adopted from care in England: 2002-03
www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000425/index.shtml
Care leavers, 2002-03, England
www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000423/index.shtml

CLA100 and SSDA 903 data which were found to deviate from each other in a number of key areas in recent years. By using just one factor, the results obtained will follow the pattern as revealed by the SSDA 903 sample, rather than the CLA100. For the reasons stated above, the SSDA 903 is considered to be the more accurate.

Additionally, OC1, OC3 and AD1 data has been used to prepare tables V, Xi, Xii, Y, Z, 16, 17, 18 and 19. As the coverage of these returns are 100%, the age and sex breakdown of care leavers as shown on this return differs slightly from the results obtained by grossing sample numbers from the SSDA903.

In some tables that present data on children being looked after at 31 March, figures from 1997-98 are based entirely on the aggregate data from the CLA100 return. These include Tables A, D, F, 1 and 5 - 7.

Figures from the two sources, SSDA 903 and CLA100, are presented on a consistent basis wherever possible, so that the sum of figures from the sample equals the total figure from the CLA100. However in some cases this has not been possible – and footnotes have been added to explain any inconsistency. The act of sampling invariably reduces the reliability of some of the breakdowns presented. This should be borne in mind when interpreting figures for individual authorities that are derived from the SSDA903, particularly where the figures for individual categories are relatively small.

MISSING DATA

All councils in England managed to submit data for all five returns for 2002-03 in time for inclusion in this publication. There are however, a few gaps in coverage for earlier years; all figures for England include estimates for any missing data.

DATA QUALITY

The Department goes to great lengths to ensure that the quality of its data relating to looked after children are as accurate as can be achieved within a reasonable time scale with the resources available.

Both the SSDA 903 and the CLA 100 are subjected to validation checks, as well as being compared with each other. Inconsistencies between the two returns are raised with councils for checking and correction.

The introduction of the AD1, OC1 and OC3 in recent years has required extra validation checks to be carried out across all five returns. Again, any inconsistencies found have been referred back to local councils, and these have, in the main, been addressed.

Table E2 at Appendix E gives a comparison of the CLA 100 and SSDA 903 databases as at the time they were “frozen” in order to prepare this publication. In this table ratios are given for each local council in respect of the number of children looked after at 31 March for the past four years. Taking into account leap years, the expected value of all ratios is 3.07, although this figure is unlikely to be achieved very often because of the chance effects of sampling. Ratios which indicate a significant difference between the CLA 100 and the SSDA 903 submission have been underscored, and any estimate in this publication that depends on an underscored ratio should be treated with caution.

It will be noticed that the number of councils with underscored ratios has remained fairly constant at around 23 for the past four years.

POWERS OF CRIMINAL COURTS (SENTENCING) ACT 2000

For reasons of simplicity, from 1997-98 to 1999-00 local councils were asked to include in their CLA100 figures children under Sections 90-92 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts Act 2000, (formally Section 53 of the Criminal & Young Persons Act 1933), even though these are generally not looked after. This requirement was however dropped for 2000-01. This means that estimates for the number of children looked after at 31 March 1997-98 to 1999-00 are inflated by about 100 children compared with figures for other years.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Local councils affected by reorganisation at the end of March 1998 supplied the Department with information indicating which successor council took over responsibility for which looked after child. This information covered all children looked after by these authorities since the implementation of the Children Act. It has therefore enabled us to present estimated data in this publication for the new authorities for years before they came into existence.

ROUNDING AND CONFIDENTIALITY

To ensure that no individual child can be identified from statistical tables, we have used conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. All figures which appear in national tables (Tables A to Z) have been rounded to the nearest hundred if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest ten otherwise; and all figures at local council level have been rounded to the nearest five. In addition, all figures at local council level of five or less have been suppressed.

It has on occasion been necessary to suppress other data whenever it would be possible to calculate missing data by means of simple

arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item. As a result, detailed figures may not sum to the totals presented. In addition, in local authority tables presenting figures used in the Performance Assessment Framework indicators (such as table 9A), it may have been necessary to suppress the third smallest number or a zero in order to avoid the suppression of a figure used in the indicator. For further details of roundings and suppression, see Appendix C.

RATES AND PERCENTAGES

Rates per 10,000 population have been calculated using the appropriate mid-year estimates of the number of children in England aged under 18, supplied by the Office for National Statistics. A small number of young people aged 18 and over are included in the figures, but this is not thought to seriously distort the rate. The mid-year population estimates for 2000 to 2002 are presented in Appendix E. These have been used to derive estimates of rates for the years 2000-01 to 2002-03 respectively.

Percentages are presented in the tables in italics. They are shown as whole numbers, and as a result may not sum to 100 due to rounding. All rates and percentages, where the numerator is five or less, or the denominator is ten or less, have been suppressed for reasons of client confidentiality.

ADOPTIONS DATA

The data for tables V and 17 have been taken from a number of sources. For the years 1998-99 and 1999-00 local council data have been taken from the former Key Statistics return KS1. Since 2000-01 local council data have been taken from the AD1.

Table V is based on the SSDA903 return. However, the sample numbers have been grossed up to meet

the England total number of adoptions, as reported on either the KS1 or the AD1 (rather than using the usual grossing factors).

CHILDREN IN NEED CODES

2000-01 was the first year of the implementation of the new "Children in Need" codes, which have replaced the former "Reason a child is being looked after" data item on the SSDA903 return. These new codes have been defined so as to identify the main or principal reason the child needed a social service at the start of their latest period of being looked after (for details see Appendix B – item 9), and bring the SSDA903 into line with the Department's biennial "Children in Need" data collection.

FIGURES ON THE INTERNET

The Department of Education and Skill's web site contains a copy of this publication, with all the national and local authority tables in a suitable format for downloading into Microsoft Excel. It can be found at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000454/index.shtml>

Please note that the local authority tables are only available from the website.

SYMBOLS USED IN THE TABLES

The following conventions have been used in the tables:

- .. not available
- data suppressed for reasons of confidentiality. Normally this will refer to numbers of five or less, or percentages where either the numerator is less than five or the denominator is less than ten

APPENDIX A

BACKGROUND

Why does the Department collect statistics on children's services?

The statistics presented in this publication are, in the main, derived from five statistical returns submitted by local councils in England. Details of the returns are given in chapter 1.

All of this data represents a substantial information resource that is used for:

- the evaluation of the outcome of policy initiatives and the monitoring of trends by the Department for Education and Skills and the Social Services Inspectorate;
- the evaluation of the quality of data provided by authorities for the Performance Assessment Framework and for the Quality Protects Management Action Plans;
- the provision of statistics and analyses to inform discussions on government expenditure;
- the provision of information to Ministers and Parliamentary Committees;
- the provision of statistical information in response to parliamentary questions;
- the provision of information for research;
- the publication of information about children looked after in England, including figures for individual local authorities, which can be used by those authorities and by others to assist with the monitoring of trends and the planning of services.

What is a 'looked after' child?

Social services for children are provided under the Children Act 1989, which was implemented on 14 October 1991. Under this Act a child is 'looked after' by a local authority if he or she is placed in their care by a court (under a care order) or provided with accommodation by the authority's Social Services Department for more than 24 hours. The Children Act is considered in further detail at the end of this appendix – see under Supplementary Notes on Childrens Act.

Scope of the "Looked After" statistical collection

It should be borne in mind that the statistics presented in this publication only refer to the 'looked after' population, as defined above. There will be many other children and young people who receive a service from a local authority, for example Section 17 of the Children Act provides that it is the duty of every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need. Such children do not appear in these statistics, unless at some stage they become looked after. Similarly, on reaching their 18th birthday, the vast majority of children who are still looked after at that age cease to fall within the definition of a looked after child

as given in the Children Act. As such, they are recorded as ceasing to be looked after in these statistics (see table W), even though many of these young people will continue to receive support from a local authority beyond their 18th birthday under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

Although these statistics are confined to England, a similar collection based on the SSDA 903 form is made in Wales. Figures for Wales can be obtained from the National Assembly for Wales, whose address is given at the end of this appendix.

The 'Children in Need' statistical collection

The Department undertakes a wider data collection to cover all children in contact with the Children's and Family Services of local authorities, including those who are looked after. This survey, conducted during a sample week, is designed to give a more comprehensive picture of the work of Social Services Departments with children in their area. The first survey was conducted in February 2000, and the second during September/October 2001. The results of both surveys are available on the internet at www.doh.gov.uk/cin/cin.htm. The third survey was conducted during February 2003 and the results can be found at www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/000451/index.shtml.

The SSDA 903 collection

The SSDA 903 is a statistical return submitted by local councils covering individual children in their care. A list of the codes that local councils can use, is reproduced in Appendix B. All SSDA 903 data received by the Department is subjected to a rigorous validation procedure, and any records that fail validation are returned to the local council for correction. From 1 April 1997 authorities were required to provide data for only a sample of their children; children born on a day of the month divisible by three are included in the sample.

The information collected contains details normally available when the child starts to be looked after (sex, date of birth, category of need, legal status under which looked after and the type of placement) and all subsequent changes to the legal status or placement (including ceasing to be looked after). On each occasion that there is a change, the date and reason for the change are recorded on the form. Information for each child is supplied to the Department for Education and Skills annually, and these records are then linked (by means of a unique identifier for each child) to any supplied by the same local council in preceding years (from 1992 onwards).

It should be emphasised that an individual child may start and cease to be looked after more than once in a particular year, or a single period of being looked after may span several years. As far as possible, the analyses presented relate to children rather than individual

episodes of care. (For the purposes of collecting data on form SSDA 903, the care history of each looked after child is recorded in “episodes”. In general, when a child’s placement, or legal status changes, a new “episode” is generated).

Until 31 March 1991, statistics were collected on children in care under the legislation that preceded the Children Act. Children looked after by local councils include a number who would not previously have been counted as children in care, for example those for whom a series of short term breaks was provided. For this reason the number of children looked after is not directly comparable with the number of children in care under old legislation.

The CLA100 collection

This publication also includes aggregate data from the CLA100 collection. This return was introduced during 1998 to enable the Department to publish summary statistics in advance of the more detailed data presented here. Provisional figures for 2002–03, based on the CLA100 collection, were published in three Department of Education and Skills Statistical Bulletins in November 2003. The approach used to combine CLA100 and SSDA 903 data in this publication is described in the Technical Notes.

Performance Assessment Framework

In November 2003 the Department for Education and Skills published the Performance Assessment Framework¹ (PAF) data for 2002–03. Local councils provided their PAF figures for the year on three returns - the PSSEx1, the KS1, (copies of which are on the Department’s web site²) and the CLA100. For those indicators relating to looked after children the PAF figures provided by authorities should have been consistent with their CLA100 or SSDA 903 returns. However, this was not always the case. In this publication, data have been based on the SSDA 903 returns rather than the PAF data.

Agreed series of short term placements

The statistical collection covers all children accommodated under an agreed series of short term breaks (under Regulation 13 of the Arrangements for Placement of Children Regulations 1991). Since April 1992 authorities have been given a choice of either recording every short term placement as a separate episode or recording, as one episode, the continuous period spent under an agreement. When this information was first collected, in 1991-92, authorities were only offered the first of these options. The difficulties experienced by many authorities in

gathering this level of detail made it necessary to provide a second option. Because of this alternative approach to recording these placements, figures on children accommodated under an agreed series of short term placements are not included in the main national and local authority analyses. The information available about these short term placements is summarised at national level in Table E and at local authority level in Table 2.

Children looked after at 31 March

Figures on children looked after at 31 March 2003 relate to all children looked after by a local authority at 31 March, excluding children who were the subject of an agreed series of short-term placements under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

Children starting to be looked after

Figures on children who started to be looked after relate to those who began a period of care during the year. The legal status, placement and age details represent the position when they started to be looked after. If they started to be looked after more than once during the year the figures relate to the first occasion. Where a period of care was initiated by an agreed series of short-term placements under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, this episode is ignored in producing the tables in this volume. Consequently, children with periods of accommodation initiated by and consisting only of these short - term placements are completely excluded. However, where an agreed series is followed by the child being looked after under another legal status (a care order, compulsory care or a single placement under Section 20), it is the start of this second period which is treated as the point at which the child “started to be looked after” for tabulation purposes.

Children ceasing to be looked after

Figures for children who ceased to be looked after are based on those who had a period of care that ceased during the year to 31 March. Where a child ceased to be looked after more than once during a year the figures relate to the last occasion. Where a child was the subject of an agreement for a series of short-term placements when he or she ceased being looked after, this period of accommodation has been ignored in producing the tables. Consequently, children who were only looked after for agreed series of short-term placements during the year are completely excluded from these tables. Conversely children are included if a period under such an agreement was preceded by a separate period which ended while the child was looked after under another legal status (a care order, compulsory care or a single placement under Section 20).

¹ Social Services Performance, Assessment Framework Indicators 2002-03, Department of Education and Skills

² www.publications.doh.gov.uk/paf

Revisions to the figures for previous years

Revised estimates for the years ending 31 March 1993 to 31 March 2002 have been included in this publication; these revised figures replace those previously published for these years.

Supplementary Notes on the Children Act 1989

The Children Act begins from the standpoint that when a local council has to arrange for a child to live away from home because the parents are unable to care for him or her properly, or need respite, this should preferably be under voluntary arrangements with the parents. Administrative measures to exercise compulsion when the child is looked after were abolished by the Act, which now provides for a range of court orders for those situations where the child either needs protection from his or her parents, or a secure substitute family.

Even when a child is under a care order the Act provides for the parents to retain parental responsibility (although the local council may limit its operation), to be involved in local council decision-making, and for them to have reasonable contact with the child unless the court provides otherwise.

To ensure that interventions are positive, the Act prohibits a court from making any order unless it is satisfied that the order will positively contribute to the child's welfare. This is intended to discourage court orders being made in all private proceedings, such as divorce, simply as part of a package and to ensure that the court, when considering whether to make a care or supervision order, considers whether the order will positively improve the child's welfare. Under the Act, a local council looks after a child if he or she is in their care or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours. Looked after children fall into three main groups:

- children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (under Section 20);
- children who are the subject of a care order;
- children who are compulsorily accommodated. This includes children on remand and those subject to short-term emergency orders for the protection of the child.

Further enquiries and analyses

Copies of the tables in this publication have been placed on the Department's web sites. Further analyses of the data can also be provided, although large requests may incur a charge to cover the costs involved. Please write to:

Julie Tillman,
SD3A, Department for Education and Skills,
Room 451C, Skipton House
80 London Road, London SE1 6LH

Telephone: 020 7972 5799 Fax: 020 7972 5662
E-mail: Julie.Tillman@doh.gsi.gov.uk

The Department for Education and Skills web site contains a copy of this publication, with all the national and local authority tables in a suitable format for downloading into Microsoft Excel. It can be found at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000454/index.shtm>

Please note that the local authority tables are only available from the web site.

Welsh Data

Enquiries on published information for Wales should be made to:

Health Statistics & Analysis Unit
The National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Telephone: 029 2082 3625 Fax: 029 2082 5350
E-mail: stats.pss@wales.gsi.gov.uk

*Statistics Division Department for Education and Skills,
March 2004*

APPENDIX B

LIST OF CODES USED ON THE SSDA 903 FORM, 2002–03

The record header : coding items 1–4

This part of the record records the child's identity details and should not change from year to year. Any change in items 1–4 causes a validation error.

Item 1 – local authority

The designated local authority code.

Item 1a – area office

This is an optional item for local use. If Item 1A is not used it must be left blank.

Item 2 – child identifier

An anonymous unique identifier (no longer than 10 characters). For each child it must be retained from year to year. It can include alphabetic and numeric characters. This item is the sole means of DH computer identification of each child record, and the same ID is used on OC1, OC3 and AD1 returns.

Item 3 – sex of child

Code 1 for boys, code 2 for girls.

Item 4 – date of birth

Enter day, month and year as two digit numbers.

Examples:

Born 24 January 1990: enter as 240190

Born 15 November 1994: enter as 151194

Item 5A : Ethnic origin codes

There are no prescriptive instructions as to who should decide on a child's ethnic identity for the purpose of completing the 903 record. This recognises the many current variations in LA practice in this area.

This item should not be left blank.

The following list of categories reflects those which were used in the 2001 Census.

Ethnic Origin Code List

White

White British	A1
White Irish	A2
Any other White background	A3

Mixed

White and Black Caribbean	B1
White and Black African	B2
White and Asian	B3
Any other mixed background	B4

Asian, or Asian British

Indian	C1
Pakistani	C2
Bangladeshi	C3
Any other Asian background	C4

Black or Black British

Caribbean	D1
African	D2
Any other Black background	D3

Other ethnic groups

Chinese	E1
Any other ethnic group	E2

Item 6: Date episode commenced

This item records the date that each episode began.

Where episodes are consecutive, the new episode must start on the same day that the previous episode finished.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

Item 7: Reason for new episode

This item records the reason why a new episode is being shown on the 903.

As an episode basically consists of the combination of placement and legal status, a change in either or both of these triggers a new episode and the reason in item 7 reflects this.

Reason for New Episode Code List

Started to be looked after	S
Change of legal status only	L
Change of placement only	P
Change of both legal status and placement	B

Notes

Code **S** is used where a child starts to be looked after for the first time, or had previously ceased to be looked after and is now starting to be looked after again. Code **S** is also used where recording individual short breaks using legal status V1. For more information on short breaks see the section on Legal status codes.

Code **B** is used where both legal status and placement change on the same day.

Item 8 : Legal status which underlies being 'looked after'

The legal status code on the 903 records the legal status underlying the reason the child is being 'looked after'.

A renewal of an existing legal status does not generate a new episode. If the legal status code does not change, a new episode is not required, (unless there happens to be a change of placement at the same time).

In certain circumstances a child being looked after can have more than one 'looked after' legal status. In general this happens when a child who is already 'looked after' under a Children Act care order comes into contact with the youth justice system, and as a result is detained in local authority accommodation under a second legal status which would also make him or her 'looked after'. In such cases a new episode commences, which records *the latest legal status*.

Legal Status Code list**Care orders**

Interim care order	C1
Full care order	C2

Freed for adoption

Freeing order granted	D1
-----------------------	----

Voluntary accommodation

Accommodated under an agreed series of short-term breaks	V1
Single period of accommodation under section 20	V2

Detained on child protection grounds, in LA accommodation

Under police protection and in local authority accommodation	L1
Emergency protection order	L2
Under child assessment order and in local authority accommodation	L3

Youth justice legal statuses

On remand, or committed for trial or sentence, and accommodated by LA	J1
Detained in LA accommodation under PACE	J2
Sentenced to CYPA 1969 supervision order with residence requirement	J3

Item 9: CiN codes (Category of Need)**Children in Need Code list**

Need category at start of current period of being looked after	Definition	Code
Abuse or neglect	Children in need as a result of, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.	N1
Disability	Children and their families whose main need for services arises out of the children's disabilities or intrinsic condition.	N2
Parental illness or disability	Children whose main need for services arises because the capacity of their parents or carers to care for them is impaired by disability, illness, mental illness, or addictions.	N3
Family in acute stress	Children whose needs arise from living in a family going through a crisis such that parenting capacity is diminished and some of the children's needs are not being adequately met.	N4
Family dysfunction	Children whose needs arise mainly out of their living with families where the parenting capacity is chronically inadequate.	N5
Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	Children and families whose need for services arise primarily out of their children's behaviour impacting detrimentally on the community.	N6
Low income	Children, living in families or independently, whose needs arise mainly from being dependent on an income below the standard state entitlements.	N7
Absent Parenting	Children whose need for services arises mainly from having no parents available to provide for them.	N8

**Item 10: Placement
Placement Code list**

1) Family placements

Foster placements :
Carer lives inside LA Boundary

Foster placement with relative or friend	F1
Placement with other foster carer, provided by LA	F2
Placement with other foster carer, arranged through agency	F3

Foster placements :
Carer lives outside LA Boundary

Foster placement with relative or friend	F4
Placement with other foster carer, provided by LA	F5
Placement with other foster carer, arranged through agency	F6

Placed for adoption

Placed for adoption	A1
---------------------	----

Placed with own parents

Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility	P1
--	----

2) Other placements in the community

Independent living , e.g. in flat or lodgings without formal support staff, or in bedsit, B&B or with friends	P2
Residential employment	P3

3) Placements in residential settings

Looked after, and placed in secure unit

Secure unit inside LA boundary	H1
Secure unit outside LA boundary	H2

Placements in homes and hostels subject to *Children's Homes Regulations*

Homes and hostels inside LA boundary	H3
Homes and hostels outside LA boundary	H4

Placements in other hostels & supportive residential settings

Residential accommodation not subject to <i>Children's homes regulations</i>	H5
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Placements in other residential settings

Residential care home	R1
NHS/Health Trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care	R2
Family centre or mother and baby unit	R3
Young Offender Institution or prison	R5

Schools

All Residential schools, except where dual-registered as a school and children's home.	S1
--	----

4) Other placements

Absent more than 24 hours from agreed placement

In Refuge (section 51 of Children Act)	M1
Whereabouts known (not in Refuge)	M2
Whereabouts unknown	M3

Other placements not listed above

Other placements (must be listed on a schedule sent to DH with annual submission)	Z1
---	----

Item 11: Date episode ceased

The date the episode ceased, if applicable. An episode cannot start and end on the same day.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

Item 12 : Reason episode ceased/end of care

A single code, **X1**, is used in Item 12 to signify that an episode has ended and that a further episode has started.

All other codes in Item 12 record the circumstances when a child ceases to be looked after.

Reason Episode Ceased Code List

1) New episode follows, remains looked after

Episode ceases, and new episode begins on same day, for any reason	X1
--	----

2) Care ends, no longer looked after

Adopted (adoption order granted by court on date episode ceased)	E1
--	----

Died	E2
------	----

Care taken over by another LA in the UK	E3
---	----

Returned home to live with parents, relatives, or other person with parental responsibility	E4
---	----

Moved into independent living arrangement and no longer looked after : supportive accommodation providing formalised advice/support arrangements (e.g. most hostels, YMCAs, foyers, and care leavers projects)	E5
--	----

Moved into independent living arrangement and no longer looked after : accommodation providing no formalised advice/support arrangements (e.g. B&B, bedsit, own flat, living with friends)	E6
--	----

Transferred to care of adult social services	E7
--	----

Period of being looked after ceased for any other reason	E8
--	----

APPENDIX C

NOTE ON THE ROUNDING AND CONFIDENTIALITY CONVENTION USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. All numbers which appear in the national summary tables (tables A to Z) have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by a hyphen. 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 hyphen.

At local council level (tables 1–19) the England total numbers at the head of each table have been rounded either to the nearest 10, or 100 following the rule outlined above. All other numbers have been rounded to the nearest five, and numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the published table by a hyphen. 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 hyphen. Where a percentage is zero because the number from which that percentage has been calculated is a zero, the percentage is shown as zero.

The rounding convention has not been applied to the figures provided in tables E1 and E2.

In tables which include time series, this rounding convention has been applied to data for previous years for the sake of consistency, even though unrounded data for these years has been published in previous publications.

It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item. The only exception to this rule is to avoid the suppression of a figure used in Performance Assessment Framework Indicator calculations (such as table 9A). In this circumstance, which is indicated by a footnote, the third smallest data item or a zero may have been suppressed.

The following table gives some examples of the rounding convention used:

Actual Number	Numbers at England level, as shown in tables	Numbers at local council level, as shown in tables
0	0	0
1	-	-
2	-	-
3	-	-
4	-	-
5	-	-
6	10	5
7	10	5
8	10	10
9	10	10
10	10	10
11	10	10
12	10	10
13	10	15
14	10	15
15	20	15
16	20	15
17	20	15
18	20	20
19	20	20
20	20	20
120	120	120
124	120	125
125	130	125
126	130	125
994	990	995
995	1,000	995
999	1,000	1,000
1,949	1,900	1,950
1,950	2,000	1,950
1,955	2,000	1,955
1,956	2,000	1,955
1,957	2,000	1,955
1,958	2,000	1,960

APPENDIX D

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

Recent statistical publications available from the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Health

Children Looked After in England: 2002–03

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000424/index.shtml>

Educational Qualifications of Care Leavers year ending 31 March 2003; England

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000423/index.shtml>

Children adopted from care in England: 2002–03

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000425/index.shtml>

Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers: Year Ending 31 March 2003

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000444/index.shtml>

Children Accommodated in Secure Units, year ending 31 March 2003; England and Wales

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000409/index.shtml>

Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, twelve months to 30 September 2002; England

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000403/index.shtml>

Children in Need in England: Results of a survey of activity and expenditure as reported by Local Authority Social Services' Children and Families Teams for a survey week in February 2003: Local Authority tables and further national analysis

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000451/index.shtml>

Social Services Performance Assessment Framework Indicators 2002–2003

available from Department of Health at:
<http://www.publications.doh.gov.uk/paf>

The Children Act Report 2002

available from The Stationery Office, or from
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/childrenactreport/>

APPENDIX E

E1

Mid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2000 to 2002, by local authority^{1,2}

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2000	2001	2002
England	11,161.5	11,132.7	11,093.0
North East			
Shire Counties			
Durham	108.3	106.5	105.0
Northumberland	66.5	65.8	65.4
Unitary Authorities			
Darlington	22.4	22.2	22.2
Hartlepool	21.9	21.8	21.5
Middlesbrough	34.9	34.0	33.1
Redcar & Cleveland	32.6	32.4	32.1
Stockton On Tees	43.2	42.8	42.5
Metropolitan Districts			
Gateshead	42.0	41.7	41.4
Newcastle Upon Tyne	55.6	54.6	53.9
North Tyneside	41.5	41.4	41.1
South Tyneside	35.4	34.9	34.5
Sunderland	64.9	63.6	62.4
North West			
Shire Counties			
Cheshire	149.1	149.4	148.5
Cumbria	104.5	103.9	103.3
Lancashire	262.1	261.9	260.1
Unitary Authorities			
Blackburn & Darwen	38.9	38.7	39.2
Blackpool	30.2	30.1	30.1
Halton	29.6	29.2	28.8
Warrington	44.8	44.7	44.6
Metropolitan Districts			
Bolton	63.7	63.9	63.5
Bury	43.7	43.7	43.8
Knowsley	39.8	39.3	38.5
Liverpool	103.4	100.4	98.3
Manchester	95.8	96.8	95.4
Oldham	56.1	56.2	56.0
Rochdale	52.8	52.7	52.3
Salford	50.8	49.6	48.7
Sefton	65.2	64.9	64.1
St Helens	41.4	41.3	41.1
Stockport	65.0	64.9	64.3
Tameside	51.5	51.1	50.9
Trafford	48.7	48.0	47.6
Wigan	70.0	69.5	69.1
Wirral	74.1	73.4	72.4

E1**CONTINUED**Mid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2000 to 2002, by local authority^{1,2}

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2000	2001	2002
Yorkshire & The Humber			
Shire Counties			
North Yorkshire	123.7	124.6	124.8
Unitary Authorities			
East Riding Yorkshire	66.4	67.0	67.1
Kingston Upon Hull	60.0	58.9	57.8
N E Lincolnshire	39.1	39.2	38.9
North Lincolnshire	34.8	34.9	34.9
York	36.2	35.9	35.4
Metropolitan Districts			
Barnsley	50.2	49.8	49.4
Bradford	123.3	123.0	122.9
Calderdale	46.0	46.0	46.0
Doncaster	68.0	67.5	67.2
Kirklees	94.2	94.2	94.2
Leeds	161.4	160.2	158.9
Rotherham	58.6	58.7	58.5
Sheffield	110.7	109.3	108.4
Wakefield	73.0	72.8	72.3
East Midlands			
Shire Counties			
Derbyshire	162.1	162.3	162.3
Leicestershire	133.9	134.1	134.5
Lincolnshire	138.4	139.9	140.6
Northamptonshire	149.0	149.6	150.6
Nottinghamshire	165.8	165.8	165.9
Unitary Authorities			
Derby	53.1	52.3	52.1
Leicester	70.9	70.0	69.1
Nottingham	61.4	59.0	57.9
Rutland	7.6	7.8	8.3

E1**CONTINUED**Mid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2000 to 2002, by local authority^{1,2}

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2000	2001	2002
West Midlands			
Shire Counties			
Shropshire	61.5	61.5	61.6
Staffordshire	180.2	179.5	178.7
Warwickshire	110.4	110.8	111.7
Worcestershire	119.6	119.1	119.2
Unitary Authorities			
Herefordshire	38.0	38.1	38.1
Stoke-On-Trent	55.0	53.9	53.0
Telford & Wrekin	39.2	39.6	39.8
Metropolitan Districts			
Birmingham	259.2	256.0	255.0
Coventry	72.3	71.5	70.9
Dudley	68.3	68.3	68.1
Sandwell	69.5	69.0	68.8
Solihull	47.0	47.1	46.9
Walsall	62.2	61.8	61.5
Wolverhampton	56.7	55.6	55.1
East of England			
Shire Counties			
Bedfordshire	90.0	90.7	91.1
Cambridgeshire	120.5	120.5	120.7
Essex	292.3	293.9	294.2
Hertfordshire	238.9	240.0	239.4
Norfolk	163.6	163.0	162.5
Suffolk	151.3	149.0	148.5
Unitary Authorities			
Luton	49.1	48.6	48.1
Peterborough	38.6	38.4	38.3
Southend	36.1	36.0	35.7
Thurrock	34.5	34.9	35.2

CONTINUEDMid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2000 to 2002, by local authority^{1,2}

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2000	2001	2002
London			
Inner London			
Camden	36.3	37.0	37.4
City Of London	0.7	0.7	0.8
Greenwich	52.0	52.1	51.9
Hackney	52.7	52.7	52.9
Hammersmith & Fulham	29.6	30.3	30.6
Islington	36.3	35.9	35.4
Kensington & Chelsea	25.6	27.2	27.5
Lambeth	57.9	56.6	55.3
Lewisham	58.6	58.6	57.7
Southwark	55.6	55.0	54.6
Tower Hamlets	50.9	50.2	50.2
Wandsworth	46.5	46.8	46.5
Westminster	27.0	27.4	27.5
Outer London			
Barking & Dagenham	42.5	42.8	43.0
Barnet	71.2	71.5	71.3
Bexley	51.5	51.4	51.3
Brent	59.9	59.0	58.4
Bromley	64.7	65.6	65.9
Croydon	81.2	81.2	80.7
Ealing	67.6	67.1	66.2
Enfield	64.8	65.0	65.4
Haringey	50.8	49.8	49.8
Harrow	48.1	47.5	47.5
Havering	50.2	50.1	49.9
Hillingdon	57.9	57.4	57.3
Hounslow	49.7	49.2	48.6
Kingston Upon Thames	31.0	31.1	31.2
Merton	40.3	40.6	40.4
Newham	72.5	71.7	71.1
Redbridge	57.0	57.3	57.5
Richmond Upon Thames	35.0	35.7	35.7
Sutton	41.9	41.9	41.6
Waltham Forest	53.3	52.2	51.8

E1**CONTINUED**Mid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2000 to 2002, by local authority^{1,2}

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2000	2001	2002
South East			
Shire Counties			
Buckinghamshire	111.8	112.5	112.4
East Sussex	104.7	104.6	104.8
Hampshire	281.2	280.8	280.0
Kent	305.0	306.0	306.9
Oxfordshire	134.4	132.8	131.7
Surrey	230.4	230.8	230.4
West Sussex	161.5	161.9	161.7
Unitary Authorities			
Bracknell Forest	27.2	27.3	27.2
Brighton & Hove	46.4	46.1	46.0
Isle Of Wight	27.2	27.4	27.7
Medway Towns	62.9	63.0	62.8
Milton Keynes	53.0	53.3	53.1
Portsmouth	40.8	40.6	40.2
Reading	31.1	30.6	30.0
Slough	29.8	29.7	29.7
Southampton	45.6	44.8	44.3
West Berkshire	34.0	34.1	34.1
Windsor & Maidenhead	29.6	29.9	30.0
Wokingham	35.6	35.3	35.0
South West			
Shire Counties			
Cornwall	104.2	104.7	105.2
Devon	144.3	144.1	144.0
Dorset	79.2	79.3	79.9
Gloucestershire	125.1	125.0	125.0
Isles Of Scilly	0.4	0.4	0.4
Somerset	109.6	110.1	110.7
Wiltshire	97.7	99.1	99.7
Unitary Authorities			
Bath & N E Somerset	34.8	34.8	34.7
Bournemouth	30.6	30.5	30.3
Bristol	82.5	81.4	80.1
North Somerset	40.2	40.3	40.4
Plymouth	53.8	53.0	52.4
Poole	29.0	29.0	28.6
South Gloucestershire	57.0	57.0	56.8
Swindon	42.2	42.1	41.9
Torbay	26.3	26.4	26.5

¹ Figures are displayed for boundaries as at 1 April 1998. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 children and therefore may not sum to the total for England.

² The mid year population estimates for 2000, 2001 and 2002 have been used to derive estimates of rates for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.

Source: Office for National Statistics Tel: 01329-813318

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903		
	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹
England	58,097	18,940	3.07	58,888	19,199	3.07	59,712	19,440	3.07	60,815	19,754	3.08
North East												
Shire Counties												
Durham	524	182	2.88	443	158	2.80	427	142	3.01	446	146	3.05
Northumberland	298	93	3.20	287	88	3.26	320	89	<u>3.60</u>	328	103	3.18
Unitary Authorities												
Darlington	117	34	3.44	117	41	2.85	130	46	2.83	157	59	2.66
Hartlepool	116	37	3.14	120	37	3.24	125	45	2.78	107	36	2.97
Middlesbrough	186	68	2.74	236	89	<u>2.65</u>	255	95	<u>2.68</u>	265	90	2.94
Redcar & Cleveland	164	68	<u>2.41</u>	185	68	2.72	187	68	2.75	152	57	2.67
Stockton On Tees	204	57	3.58	198	60	3.30	212	65	3.26	207	63	3.29
Metropolitan Districts												
Gateshead	259	77	3.36	273	75	<u>3.64</u>	255	77	3.31	251	79	3.18
Newcastle Upon Tyne	446	139	3.21	441	146	3.02	404	136	2.97	381	118	3.23
North Tyneside	280	84	3.33	328	95	3.45	316	87	<u>3.63</u>	273	89	3.07
South Tyneside	293	89	3.29	293	101	2.90	266	88	3.02	272	93	2.92
Sunderland	465	167	2.78	498	174	2.86	490	163	3.01	465	157	2.96
North West												
Shire Counties												
Cheshire	476	171	2.78	458	151	3.03	483	164	2.95	482	170	2.84
Cumbria	515	162	3.18	521	159	3.28	586	184	3.18	620	197	3.15
Lancashire	1,447	465	3.11	1,285	395	3.25	1,288	397	3.24	1,300	419	3.10
Unitary Authorities												
Blackburn & Darwen	277	90	3.08	275	93	2.96	292	108	<u>2.70</u>	290	96	3.02
Blackpool	283	92	3.08	296	107	2.77	274	90	3.04	244	77	3.17
Halton	174	69	<u>2.52</u>	169	64	2.64	173	60	2.88	188	68	2.76
Warrington	166	50	3.32	157	48	3.27	166	53	3.13	188	64	2.94
Metropolitan Districts												
Bolton	315	92	3.42	275	78	3.53	287	83	3.46	306	96	3.19
Bury	197	67	2.94	214	80	2.68	265	93	2.85	264	92	2.87
Knowsley	248	78	3.18	256	95	2.69	246	94	<u>2.62</u>	237	88	2.69
Liverpool	1,217	373	3.26	1,179	372	3.17	1,097	342	3.21	1,016	321	3.17
Manchester	1,237	422	2.93	1,232	425	2.90	1,247	438	<u>2.85</u>	1,239	419	2.96
Oldham	300	94	3.19	305	99	3.08	286	95	3.01	297	101	2.94
Rochdale	256	89	2.88	239	83	2.88	268	91	2.95	291	101	2.88
Salford	569	209	<u>2.72</u>	601	208	2.89	580	192	3.02	586	197	2.97
Sefton	301	88	3.42	306	96	3.19	319	100	3.19	370	122	3.03
St Helens	271	100	2.71	272	106	<u>2.57</u>	258	102	<u>2.53</u>	231	91	<u>2.54</u>
Stockport	351	119	2.95	393	119	3.30	384	115	3.34	378	116	3.26
Tameside	264	87	3.03	246	88	2.80	258	90	2.87	294	107	2.75
Trafford	151	42	3.60	165	53	3.11	179	57	3.14	200	65	3.08
Wigan	465	131	<u>3.55</u>	426	126	3.38	392	120	3.27	413	130	3.18
Wirral	393	125	3.14	412	144	2.86	479	158	3.03	498	171	2.91

CONTINUED

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903		
	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹
Yorkshire & The Humber												
Shire Counties												
North Yorkshire	340	106	3.21	378	115	3.29	369	123	3.00	380	133	2.86
Unitary Authorities												
East Riding Yorkshire	241	81	2.98	204	68	3.00	238	76	3.13	246	87	2.83
Kingston Upon Hull	645	216	2.99	573	196	2.92	584	175	3.34	616	182	<u>3.38</u>
N E Lincolnshire	275	86	3.20	277	92	3.01	272	91	2.99	241	80	3.01
North Lincolnshire	188	78	<u>2.41</u>	174	70	<u>2.49</u>	182	73	<u>2.49</u>	180	63	2.86
York	140	38	3.68	140	46	3.04	134	47	2.85	150	59	<u>2.54</u>
Metropolitan Districts												
Barnsley	337	102	3.30	318	105	3.03	279	92	3.03	251	86	2.92
Bradford	687	219	3.14	697	228	3.06	764	241	3.17	816	263	3.10
Calderdale	219	61	3.59	201	52	<u>3.87</u>	194	58	3.34	185	50	<u>3.70</u>
Doncaster	435	152	2.86	439	140	3.14	425	146	2.91	408	135	3.02
Kirklees	329	99	3.32	293	100	2.93	286	105	2.72	297	99	3.00
Leeds	1,273	443	<u>2.87</u>	1,278	440	2.90	1,324	443	2.99	1,349	464	2.91
Rotherham	371	116	3.20	411	126	3.26	396	126	3.14	412	127	3.24
Sheffield	695	207	3.36	673	206	3.27	697	219	3.18	716	245	2.92
Wakefield	455	154	2.95	446	154	2.90	454	165	<u>2.75</u>	434	151	2.87
East Midlands												
Shire Counties												
Derbyshire	646	200	3.23	642	198	3.24	637	201	3.17	582	193	3.02
Leicestershire	274	85	3.22	285	86	3.31	318	98	3.24	359	105	3.42
Lincolnshire	518	178	2.91	531	192	<u>2.77</u>	547	198	<u>2.76</u>	560	196	2.86
Northamptonshire	611	195	3.13	616	198	3.11	627	215	2.92	600	205	2.93
Nottinghamshire	530	163	3.25	516	155	3.33	506	149	3.40	529	166	3.19
Unitary Authorities												
Derby	443	141	3.14	412	131	3.15	391	123	3.18	386	124	3.11
Leicester	464	178	<u>2.61</u>	518	182	2.85	515	181	2.85	477	173	<u>2.76</u>
Nottingham	603	191	3.16	611	197	3.10	559	190	2.94	527	147	<u>3.59</u>
Rutland	9	12	4	3.00	7	1	7.00	10	2	5.00

CONTINUED

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903		
	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹
West Midlands												
Shire Counties												
Shropshire	189	67	2.82	169	49	3.45	199	56	3.55	202	65	3.11
Staffordshire	571	169	3.38	535	152	<u>3.52</u>	514	162	3.17	619	175	<u>3.54</u>
Warwickshire	349	114	3.06	325	105	3.10	405	127	3.19	400	129	3.10
Worcestershire	640	180	<u>3.56</u>	596	175	<u>3.41</u>	537	157	<u>3.42</u>	537	153	<u>3.51</u>
Unitary Authorities												
Herefordshire	197	60	3.28	194	61	3.18	187	54	3.46	189	53	3.57
Stoke-On-Trent	332	101	3.29	367	119	3.08	391	124	3.15	425	140	3.04
Telford & Wrekin	157	66	<u>2.38</u>	179	70	<u>2.56</u>	188	64	2.94	201	69	2.91
Metropolitan Districts												
Birmingham	1,758	537	<u>3.27</u>	1,779	575	3.09	1,984	645	3.08	2,054	684	3.00
Coventry	489	166	2.95	497	176	2.82	485	171	2.84	512	175	2.93
Dudley	382	126	3.03	377	121	3.12	403	115	<u>3.50</u>	408	127	3.21
Sandwell	438	145	3.02	458	143	3.20	478	174	<u>2.75</u>	524	180	2.91
Solihull	178	72	<u>2.47</u>	176	69	<u>2.55</u>	177	62	2.85	199	64	3.11
Walsall	367	116	3.16	406	129	3.15	418	139	3.01	464	150	3.09
Wolverhampton	381	113	3.37	391	114	3.43	371	119	3.12	385	130	2.96
East of England												
Shire Counties												
Bedfordshire	357	110	3.25	341	117	2.91	393	116	3.39	407	120	3.39
Cambridgeshire	396	125	3.17	375	129	2.91	345	122	2.83	344	131	<u>2.63</u>
Essex	1,207	399	3.03	1,197	420	<u>2.85</u>	1,183	406	2.91	1,248	409	3.05
Hertfordshire	810	284	<u>2.85</u>	798	279	2.86	891	291	3.06	959	315	3.04
Norfolk	679	212	3.20	707	224	3.16	761	248	3.07	728	220	3.31
Suffolk	533	171	3.12	643	199	3.23	665	207	3.21	677	226	3.00
Unitary Authorities												
Luton	306	101	3.03	328	108	3.04	351	122	2.88	398	126	3.16
Peterborough	391	129	3.03	353	114	3.10	337	108	3.12	323	95	3.40
Southend	252	79	3.19	250	80	3.13	249	84	2.96	265	84	3.15
Thurrock	184	61	<u>3.02</u>	192	66	2.91	227	76	2.99	224	73	3.07

CONTINUED

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903		
	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹
London												
Inner London												
Camden	328	102	3.22	314	104	3.02	353	111	3.18	343	112	3.06
City Of London	6	2	3.00	3	1	3.00	6	2	3.00	6	2	3.00
Greenwich	465	143	3.25	508	147	<u>3.46</u>	542	156	<u>3.47</u>	553	159	<u>3.48</u>
Hackney	488	169	<u>2.89</u>	497	171	2.91	461	151	3.05	457	136	3.36
Hammersmith & Fulham	366	114	3.21	397	160	<u>2.48</u>	434	155	2.80	388	135	2.87
Islington	546	194	<u>2.81</u>	531	184	2.89	485	160	3.03	479	143	3.35
Kensington & Chelsea	215	66	3.26	234	75	3.12	239	81	2.95	238	77	3.09
Lambeth	734	255	2.88	777	273	2.85	710	227	3.13	643	200	3.22
Lewisham	494	181	2.73	547	194	2.82	551	188	2.93	564	189	2.98
Southwark	599	224	<u>2.67</u>	657	209	3.14	657	210	3.13	679	217	3.13
Tower Hamlets	278	89	3.12	271	84	3.23	329	110	2.99	331	108	3.06
Wandsworth	346	97	3.57	366	104	<u>3.52</u>	366	101	<u>3.62</u>	365	104	<u>3.51</u>
Westminster	288	90	3.20	267	75	3.56	283	84	3.37	304	92	3.30
Outer London												
Barking & Dagenham	236	74	3.19	283	85	3.33	351	103	3.41	387	126	3.07
Barnet	264	82	3.22	285	97	2.94	331	117	2.83	381	135	2.82
Bexley	198	71	2.79	207	70	2.96	227	73	3.11	230	78	2.95
Brent	294	94	3.13	320	103	3.11	359	111	3.23	354	108	3.28
Bromley	250	92	2.72	296	94	3.15	327	101	3.24	311	93	3.34
Croydon	397	115	<u>3.45</u>	478	150	3.19	577	177	3.26	679	202	3.36
Ealing	431	127	3.39	409	130	3.15	378	127	2.98	408	131	3.11
Enfield	252	72	3.50	273	77	3.55	300	82	<u>3.66</u>	311	87	<u>3.57</u>
Haringey	434	123	3.53	460	131	<u>3.51</u>	463	130	<u>3.56</u>	519	159	3.26
Harrow	177	61	2.90	181	61	2.97	164	58	2.83	158	46	3.43
Havering	167	51	<u>3.27</u>	150	48	3.13	158	50	3.16	167	56	2.98
Hillingdon	384	119	<u>3.23</u>	419	112	<u>3.74</u>	418	123	3.40	461	134	<u>3.44</u>
Hounslow	257	94	2.73	322	118	2.73	339	117	2.90	321	112	2.87
Kingston Upon Thames	106	32	3.31	97	24	<u>4.04</u>	80	25	3.20	83	25	3.32
Merton	185	54	3.43	179	53	3.38	198	51	<u>3.88</u>	173	43	<u>4.02</u>
Newham	486	152	3.20	478	154	3.10	552	172	3.21	674	208	3.24
Redbridge	143	47	3.04	139	48	2.90	177	58	3.05	151	51	2.96
Richmond Upon Thames	111	39	2.85	112	37	3.03	125	40	3.13	117	37	3.16
Sutton	146	59	2.47	157	59	2.66	148	57	2.60	163	55	2.96
Waltham Forest	324	89	3.64	296	83	<u>3.57</u>	300	85	3.53	340	90	<u>3.78</u>

CONTINUED

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903			SSDA 903		
	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor ¹
South East												
Shire Counties												
Buckinghamshire	253	80	3.16	270	76	3.55	251	71	3.54	272	83	3.28
East Sussex	463	143	3.24	468	154	3.04	484	150	3.23	474	164	2.89
Hampshire	905	302	3.00	893	300	2.98	922	311	2.96	1,043	356	2.93
Kent	1,498	459	<u>3.26</u>	1,771	510	<u>3.47</u>	1,634	492	<u>3.32</u>	1,517	465	<u>3.26</u>
Oxfordshire	471	171	<u>2.75</u>	462	176	<u>2.63</u>	457	161	2.84	507	176	2.88
Surrey	671	224	3.00	681	236	2.89	700	241	2.90	709	250	2.84
West Sussex	750	253	2.96	763	274	<u>2.78</u>	723	265	<u>2.73</u>	702	230	3.05
Unitary Authorities												
Bracknell Forest	65	21	3.10	72	27	2.67	59	30	<u>1.97</u>	67	33	<u>2.03</u>
Brighton & Hove	344	122	2.82	360	116	3.10	347	114	3.04	384	128	3.00
Isle Of Wight	177	55	3.22	166	47	3.53	163	54	3.02	157	45	3.49
Medway Towns	344	120	2.87	324	112	2.89	320	105	3.05	357	113	3.16
Milton Keynes	..	97	..	236	72	3.28	220	61	3.61	223	63	3.54
Portsmouth	221	82	<u>2.70</u>	251	82	3.06	243	84	2.89	256	88	2.91
Reading	132	53	<u>2.49</u>	139	45	3.09	153	50	3.06	170	59	2.88
Slough	136	50	2.72	146	48	3.04	147	47	3.13	142	50	2.84
Southampton	365	129	2.83	413	140	2.95	372	133	2.80	341	123	2.77
West Berkshire	131	41	3.20	119	38	3.13	114	32	3.56	109	36	3.03
Windsor & Maidenhead	89	30	2.97	72	24	3.00	64	22	2.91	59	23	2.57
Wokingham	85	34	2.50	85	31	2.74	63	28	<u>2.25</u>	62	27	<u>2.30</u>
South West												
Shire Counties												
Cornwall	567	181	3.13	591	168	<u>3.52</u>	543	169	3.21	555	170	3.26
Devon	702	238	2.95	710	246	2.89	691	233	2.97	695	219	3.17
Dorset	271	99	2.74	255	99	<u>2.58</u>	280	102	2.75	278	103	<u>2.70</u>
Gloucestershire	507	180	2.82	544	172	3.16	522	166	3.14	464	159	2.92
Isles Of Scilly												
Somerset	336	101	3.33	338	93	<u>3.63</u>	333	92	<u>3.62</u>	366	101	<u>3.62</u>
Wiltshire	258	92	2.80	256	90	2.84	282	98	2.88	287	89	3.22
Unitary Authorities												
Bath & N E Somerset	147	48	3.06	141	43	3.28	147	49	3.00	139	44	3.16
Bournemouth	203	62	3.27	205	66	3.11	210	64	3.28	205	67	3.06
Bristol	556	182	3.05	561	172	3.26	516	170	3.04	535	182	2.94
North Somerset	152	47	3.23	166	57	2.91	152	50	3.04	161	47	3.43
Plymouth	405	140	2.89	463	153	3.03	479	155	3.09	505	162	3.12
Poole	144	46	3.13	136	47	2.89	154	52	2.96	138	46	3.00
South Gloucestershire	139	39	3.56	139	41	3.39	138	38	3.63	125	33	3.79
Swindon	179	57	3.14	162	54	3.00	195	64	3.05	218	62	3.52
Torbay	216	87	<u>2.48</u>	238	79	3.01	205	82	<u>2.50</u>	213	82	<u>2.60</u>

¹ The multiplying factor is the ratio of the total number from the CLA100 return divided by the number found in the SSDA 903 sample. With all records valid this ratio would be expected to be 3.07 but will depart from this by chance. The underlined figures are significantly different from the expected and indicate an inconsistency between the two returns.