

Statistical Analysis of Child Social Services.

The following questions were sent as freedom of information requests to every council in the United Kingdom.

1. How many children have become LAC in your area each year for the past 10 years?
2. How many LAC are diagnosed with mental health issues in your area each year for the past 10 years.
3. How many LAC have tried or succeeded in committing suicide each year for the past 10 years?
4. How many parents of LAC have been diagnosed with mental health issues each year for the past 10 years?
5. How many parents of LAC have tried or succeeded in committing suicide each year for the past 10 years?
6. How many complaints have been filed against child social services in your area each year for the past 10 years?
7. How many LAC have run away or disappeared in your area each year for the past 10 years?
8. How many LAC have died of any cause in your area each year for the past 10 years?

Each of these questions will be looked at individually below with statistics taken from both FOI and Government websites where available. References to all data sources will be supplied under references.

For the purpose of this analysis LAC refers to Looked after children. Children who are in the care of the local authority.

Parents of LAC refers to the child's original parents. Biological or otherwise. The parent or parents who were looking after the child before they were taken into local authority care.

SS refers to child social services.

MH refers to mental health.

It soon became apparent when I started this report that the information differs in places between FOI and government statistics.

Gov.UK statistics are taken on 31 March each year, yet FOI responses can be calendar year, financial year or somewhere in-between.

Gov.Scotland statistics are taken on 31 July. FOI responses are same as English ones.

Gov.Wales doesn't say. FOI same as other places.

Gov.Ireland doesn't hold these statistics as they are on the held under health section. But date for statistics is 30 September each year.

Rather than viewing the research as a failure I decided to continue working with the statistics I had requested.

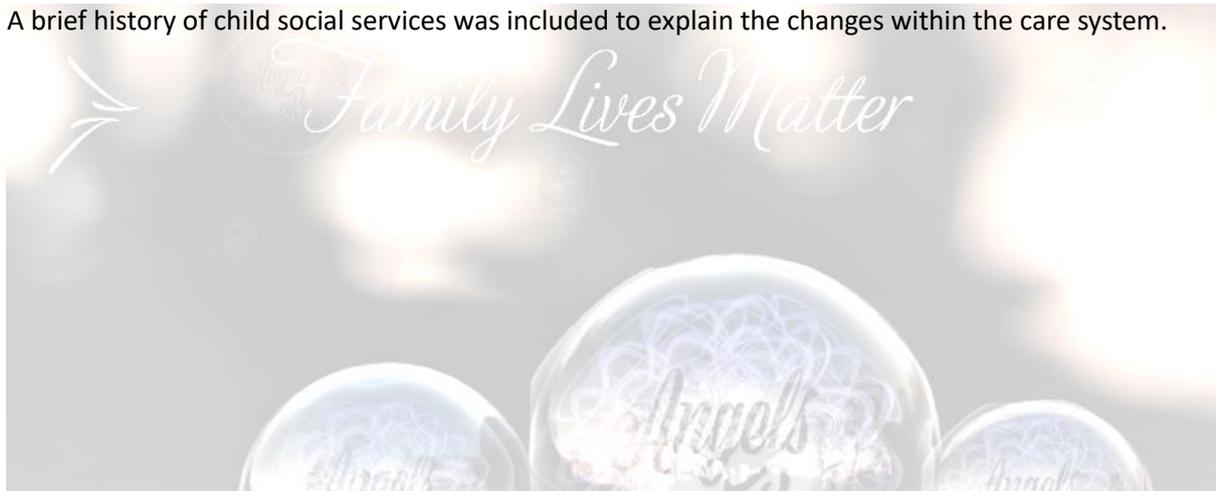
Extending my research from the main questions I have also compiled sub sections that cover total number of children in care and statistics for care leavers, including adoptions.

Missing children from care will also cover those with unauthorised absences from placements.

Complaints will cover public complaints, LAC made complaints and allegations.

Newspaper reports, news items and other media outlets have been used where no information was available on either governmental websites and FOI requests were refused. These can be found in their own section. However, I have avoided social media sites as I cannot back-up findings.

A brief history of child social services was included to explain the changes within the care system.



How many children have become LAC in your area each year for the past 10 years?

ENGLAND

Understanding these statistics would be easier if the formula used by governments was available.

I have tried to work out the formula myself using a logical approach. Formulas tried have been added to aid others who wish to research this topic further and so scholars can see where I made mistakes, so they're not repeated.

Mistakes regarding formulas where no clear formula is explained is part of researching and one, I am happy to accept as part of this information.

There may not be any formula used by governments. They might just use individual data and place it on a spreadsheet. If this is the case, then maybe they need to compile a formula that will check their findings.

All children who started, ceased and were adopted with totals during years ending 31 March using GOV.UK national tables.											
Data from 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
All LAC England	65510	67080	68070	68810	69470	70400	72590	75420			557350
Started LAC England	27520	28390	28980	30730	31350	32160	32940	32050			244120
Ceased LAC England	27120	27510	28650	30600	31350	31850	31410	29860			238350
LAC Adopted from England	3100	3470	4010	5050	5360	4710	4370	3820			33890
TOTAL	62810	64490	64390	63890	64110	66000	69750	73790			529230
Formula used. All LAC + Started LAC – Ceased Lac – LAC adopted.											
Difference Between All LAC Yearly Totals using formula (blue total) from previous year.											
		4270	3580	4420	5580	6290	6590	5670			36400
Total if formula used does not include removing LAC adopted from England.											
TOTAL	65910	67960	68400	68940	69470	70710	74120	77610			563120
Difference between All LAC Yearly Totals using formula (Green total) from previous year											
TOTAL		1170	110	410	530	930	1880	1300			6330
With or without the LAC adopted from England Values none of the ALL LAC ENGLAND yearly totals add up. Where do the extra LAC come from????											

Not one to give up I tried different formulas to make sense of the figures. The original formulas in the screenshot above gave very different results than expected and with no idea how the government come up with their figures I have tried a variety of different formulas.

The below contain different formulas. On the final formula I did manage to get a single year where there was no discrepancy.

FAMILY LIVES MATTER

All children who started, ceased and were adopted with totals during years ending 31 March using GOV.UK national tables.

Data from 31 March	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
All LAC England	65510	67080	68070	68810	69470	70400	72590	75420			557350
Started LAC England	27520	28390	28980	30730	31350	32160	32940	32050			244120
Ceased LAC England	27120	27510	28650	30600	31350	31850	31410	29860			238350
LAC Adopted from England	3100	3470	4010	5050	5360	4710	4370	3820			33890
New formula. each year total – previous year total should equal started LAC total.											
		1570	990	740	660	930	2190	2830			9910
New formula. Each year total – started LAC same year. Should give previous year all LAC total.											
Total	37990	38690	39090	38080	38120	38240	39650	43370			
Purple total + cased LAC total same year. Should give same year All LAC total											
Total	65110	66200	67740	68680	69470	70090	71060	73230			
All LAC England – same year Red totals differences											
	400	880	330	130	0	310	1530	2190			

If the LAC adopted from England is not part of the formula used to gain all LAC yearly totals why was it included as part of this segment of the data sheet?

For transparency I have added screenshots below of the original data file downloaded from GOV.UK website. This data file is in two screenshots due to the size of the file.

This clearly shows that the adopted information is part of the same data stream.

It also shows 7 notes made by the government in regard to understanding the statistics supplied, yet nothing to explain how the formula works.

As I am not a scholar, researcher or statistics analyst I freely apologise in advance if my attempts to work out which formula was used are wrong.

Children-looked-after-in-England-2018-National-tables 2.xlsx - OpenOffice Calc

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	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All children looked after at 31 March*	47,590	48,690	50,010	50,890	53,350	55,460	58,100	58,890	59,710	60,820	61,170	60,940	60,300	59,970	59,370	60,930	64,470	65,510	67,080	68,070	68,810	69,470	70,400	72,590	75,420
All children who started to be looked after**	30,220	31,730	31,710	29,560	29,620	28,090	28,400	24,640	24,820	24,390	25,020	24,910	24,590	23,960	23,250	25,680	28,090	27,520	28,390	28,980	30,730	31,350	32,160	32,940	32,050
All children who ceased to be looked after**	32,130	32,410	31,900	29,760	29,080	26,820	26,730	25,290	25,680	24,580	25,700	25,930	25,890	24,970	24,500	25,010	25,310	27,120	27,510	28,650	30,600	31,350	31,850	31,410	29,860
All looked after children who were adopted during the year ending 31 March*	2,190	1,980	1,870	1,830	2,190	2,060	2,710	3,070	3,430	3,540	3,760	3,770	3,700	3,330	3,180	3,330	3,200	3,100	3,470	4,010	5,050	5,360	4,710	4,370	3,820

- Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
- Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
- Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
- Figures for 1998 to 2003 are based on a one-third sample.
- Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
- Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
- Figures for 1998 to 2000 are based on a one-third sample.

FAMILY LIVES MATTER

Children-looked-after-in-England-2018-National-tables 2.xlsx - OpenOffice Calc

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	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD
1																				
2	ring the years ending 31 March ^{1,2,3}																			
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Source: SSDA 903

Documents and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

I have concluded that the adoption statistics don't play any role whatsoever in any formula relating to the all children looked after 31 March per year not only through tried and failed formula attempts above but also by section D1 of the same data file. This could prove that governments do not have a formula to check their data and simply input the numbers supplied by social services etc.

Children-looked-after-in-England-2018-National-tables 2.xlsx - OpenOffice Calc

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
4	Years ending 31 March 2014 to 2018															
5	Coverage: England															
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numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All looked after children who ceased to be looked after	30,600	31,350	31,850	31,410	29,860	100	100	100	100	100
Gender	30,600	31,350	31,850	31,410	29,860	100	100	100	100	100
Male	16,370	17,030	17,480	17,530	16,900	54	54	55	56	57
Female	14,230	14,320	14,370	13,880	12,950	46	46	45	44	43
Age on ceasing (years)	30,600	31,350	31,850	31,410	29,860	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	2,340	2,400	2,500	2,460	2,240	8	8	8	8	7
1 to 4	8,550	8,490	7,880	7,200	6,430	28	27	25	23	22
5 to 9	4,450	4,510	4,770	4,450	3,980	15	14	15	14	13
10 to 15	4,920	5,060	5,230	5,000	4,680	16	16	16	16	16
16	1,670	1,660	1,670	1,730	1,560	5	5	5	5	5
17	1,800	1,810	1,790	1,830	1,700	6	6	6	6	6
ceased on 18th birthday	6,830	7,360	7,970	8,700	9,200	22	23	25	28	31
ceased care after 18th birthday	50	50	30	30	60	-	-	-	-	-
Reason episode ceased ⁶	30,600	31,350	31,850	31,410	29,860	100	100	100	100	100
Adopted - application unopposed	2,660	2,860	2,430	2,190	1,990	9	9	8	7	7
Adopted - consent dispensed with	2,400	2,500	2,270	2,180	1,830	8	8	7	7	6
Died	50	50	40	40	50	-	-	-	-	-
Care taken by another LA	150	160	270	550	560	-	1	1	2	2
Returned home to live with parents or relatives	10,370	..	..	..	..	34	..	..	..	..

Adopted statistics are part of the ceased being in care statistics. So, why add them as a separate entity in a different section of the same data file???

England Governmental statistics for children taken into care which are available on their website are as follows. Government data sheets only cover 5 years. 1st set of numbers are from 2018 data sheet two of the totals change on the 2019 data sheet (written in blue) 2016 statistics only change by 10. 2018 statistics change by 140.

- 2014 31 March = 30,730
- 2015 31 March = 31,350
- 2016 31 March = 32,160 **2019 data = 32,170**
- 2017 31 March = 32,940
- 2018 31 March = 32,050 **2019 data = 32,190**
- 2019 31 March = 31,680

Total number of children in care using the same two data sheets. Results as of 31 March each year.

2016 data differs by 10. 2017 data differs by 20, 2018 data differs by 50 in the 2019 data report.

Why are there these differences?

- 2014 = 68,810
- 2015 = 69,470
- 2016 = 70,400 **2019 data = 70,410**
- 2017 = 72,590 **2019 data = 72,610**
- 2018 = 75,420 **2019 data = 75,370**
- 2019 = 78,150

Furthermore, when looking at a different data sheet the total number of children in care jumps dramatically.

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Table B1: Children looked after at any time during the year ending 31 March and those looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need, placement and ethnic origin^{1,2,3}
 Years ending 31 March 2014 to 2018
 Coverage: England

	All children looked after during the year ending 31 March					Children looked after during the year ending 31 March for at least 12 months				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All children looked after during the year	98,090	99,410	100,910	102,660	104,100	47,620	48,000	48,420	49,630	52,180

- 2014 differs by 29,280
- 2015 differs by 29,940
- 2016 differs by 30,500 using blue data
- 2017 differs by 30,050 using blue data
- 2018 differs by 28,730 using blue data.

This again raises the question on if the government data sheets have a formula to keep them stable or if this is data which is just added into new data sheets, which could be open to human error. As human error by these amounts seems unlikely, are we being given the true information on any of these excel data files?

To expand this theory on which data files can be trusted I have expanded the screenshot of the “rouge” data file to show where these new numbers come from. This is governmental data based on looked after children 31 March 2018.

	numbers									
	All children looked after during the year ending 31 March					Children looked after during the year ending 31 March for at least 12 months				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
All children looked after during the year	98,090	99,410	100,910	102,660	104,100	47,620	48,000	48,420	49,630	52,180
Placement¹	116,590	115,370	117,190	119,540	120,950	47,620	48,000	48,420	49,630	52,180
Foster placements	76,640	77,310	77,940	78,560	79,000	34,520	35,210	35,440	36,110	38,170
Placed for adoption	9,080	9,050	7,970	7,180	6,120	3,430	3,090	2,640	2,220	1,910
Placed with parents	6,400	6,550	7,180	8,290	9,070	2,510	2,720	2,940	3,180	3,470
Placed in the community	5,560	5,730	6,750	7,320	7,360	1,400	1,370	1,540	1,860	1,790
Secure units, children's homes and semi-independent living accommodation	11,820	12,310	13,240	13,670	13,960	4,920	5,080	5,330	5,610	6,050
Other residential settings	3,650	3,580	3,440	3,700	4,240	470	420	390	470	570
Residential schools	790	530	240	210	210	320	110	100	110	90
Other placement ¹	2,670	310	420	610	980	60	30	40	60	130
	116,610									

Source: SSSA 903

- Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. See looked after children statistics guide for more information on rounding.
- Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
- Excludes children looked after exclusively under one or more agreed series of short term placements at any time during the years ending 31 March.
- Age at the end of the latest episode of care, or at 31 March if child is still looked after.
- The total number of placements made for each looked after child during the year ending 31 March. For example, if a child has been placed in a foster placement, with parents and also in residential care homes they will appear three times in these figures - once in each category. If a child has had 2 foster placements and 1 placement in a residential care home, they will be counted once under foster care and once under residential care. For children looked after continuously for 12 months only the placement at 31 March is counted.
- Additional validation was added to the data collection in 2016, with local authorities entering the unique reference number for each individual placement, and the placement type being verified against this. This has resulted in some corrections to earlier years data where the child has been in the same placement for several years. Changes over time should therefore be treated with caution, and figures may differ to previously published figures due to corrections.
- Includes children missing from their placement for more than 24 hours for 2014. The way data on children missing from their placements is collected changed in 2015 and is now reported separately in Table G1.
- Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality. See looked after children statistics guide for information on data suppression.

The formula on this was very simply adding up placements by type. I checked the formula, and it works without issues. The reason the placements total is higher than the total number of children in care is explained in the notes: some children have been in more than 1 placement during the year. However, this does not explain why the total number of children in care for the year is significantly higher than the other two data sheets.

Children-looked-after-placements-by-English-local-authorities-as-at-31-March-2015---data-tables.ods - OpenOffice Calc

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Return to con				England			Local authority owned			Non-LA owned				
2	Topic	Sub-topic	Data		2013	2014	2015		2013	2014	2015		2013	2014	2015
3	Placement provision	Provision type	Local Authority Fostering Agency		34,830	34,635	34,860		34,830	34,635	34,860		..	..	..
4			Independent Fostering Agency		15,535	16,310	17,075		..	..	..		15,535	16,310	17,075
5			LA Adoption Agency		3,205	3,195	2,860		3,205	3,195	2,860		..	..	..
6			Voluntary Adoption Agency		300	375	440		..	..	..		300	375	440
7			Children's Home		6,010	5,960	5,935		1,725	1,525	1,365		4,285	4,435	4,570
8			Secure Unit/Training Centre		210	205	200		110	115	120		110	95	80
9			Residential Special School		185	170	130		25	20	15		160	155	115
10			Residential Family Centre		115	105	140		5	5	5		115	100	140
11			Not inspected by Ofsted		7,490	7,600	7,665		1,090	1,315	975		3,070	2,935	3,160
12			Total placements ¹		67,885	68,555	69,310		40,985	40,805	40,200		23,570	24,400	25,585

Once again some of the data doesn't add up and a few of the totals are out by a small amount. How do you get a total of 115 from 115 and 5? or 170 from 20 and 155?

Placement provision is an important part of child SS. Some children are placed outside of the local government area. A child from the Southeast could potentially be moved to Wales, South West, north East etc.

When this happens, they remain on the books of the original area, which, has the potential of causing the child to fall through the gaps.

Personally, on a child protection level I believe if a child changes area even if that is just from Bradford to Blackpool then they should be removed from the Bradford SS and join the Blackpool SS.

If a parent sent their child to live with a friend or family member miles away and anything happened to the child the parent would be ultimately responsible for anything that happened to that child and would have any other children, if they had any removed from their care. Why is it common practice for the child protection system to do this and not be held accountable?

When you look at the statistics for missing LAC children, allegations made by LAC and other risk factors changing the child SS team a child is under when their placement moves just makes practical as well as security sense. After all isn't child protection the main priority of Child SS and government legislation.

Adoption statistics.

Adoption statistics are part of the ceased being looked after statistics.

However, due to the nature of information on a lot of social media sites and The Times news report in 2017 about the ministry's adoption targets (Information in News section) I decided to add this section. The statistics for this section are just from the official data source.

England.

2014 = 5,050

2015 = 5,360 up from the previous year by 310

2016 = 4,710 down from previous year by 650

2017 = 4,370 down from previous year by 340

2018 = 3,850 down from previous year by 520

2019 = 3,570 down from previous year by 208

Using a simple formula of adding up the totals from each area some of the statistics differ. My calculations are in red at the bottom of the screenshot. These differences are not very big yet, they do show more inconsistency in the official data packs.

	Number of looked after children adopted during the year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
England	5,360	4,710	4,370	3,850	3,570
North East	380	270	300	310	280
North West	890	840	750	630	560
Yorkshire and The Humber	690	630	480	430	410
East Midlands	520	430	370	310	310
West Midlands	640	630	650	540	450
East of England	530	430	490	410	420
Inner London	240	210	150	100	130
Outer London	300	250	200	220	170
South East	740	660	610	530	510
South West	460	370	380	360	330
	5,390	4,720	4,380	3,840	3,570

Using the official statistics, it would seem that adoption rates have been falling since 2016. Does this mean an increase in public or private foster placements?

Private Foster Placements. Per Year. 2005-2007

Table 1: Number of children reported to Local Authorities as being cared for and accommodated in private fostering arrangements^{1,2,3}

Year ending 31 March 2007

Coverage: England

	numbers				
	Number of children under private fostering arrangements at 31 March	Number of new notifications during the year	Number of new arrangements that began during the year	Notifications of arrangements coming to an end during the year	Number of arrangements that ended during the year
England	1,250	1,570	1,420	1,010	1,040
Region					
North East	50	80	80	40	50
North West	100	90	90	60	70
Yorkshire and Humberside	70	80	80	60	60
East Midlands	110	140	130	100	100
West Midlands	90	120	120	90	90
East of England	120	110	110	40	60
London	360	420	340	190	180
South East	210	260	250	190	200
South West	140	270	230	260	230

Source: PF1

1. Where a child has had more than one private fostering arrangement during the year, each arrangement has been counted.
2. Notifications received during the year include private fostering arrangements which may have started before 1st April 2006 or were due to start after 31 March 2007. The same applies to notifications of private fostering arrangements coming to an end.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Table 1 Number of children reported to Local Authorities as being cared for and accommodated in private fostering arrangements during year ending 31 March 2006^{1,2,3}

England	numbers				
	Number of children under private fostering arrangements at 31 March	Number of new notifications	Number of new arrangements	Number of denotifications received during the year	Number of arrangements that ended during the year
England	980	1,100	1,100	620	730
Region					
North East	40	60	60	30	30
North West	80	70	80	40	60
Yorkshire & Humberside	60	90	90	80	90
East Midlands	120	120	110	60	90
West Midlands	60	70	70	50	50
East of England	70	90	80	50	60
London	240	240	250	80	100
South East	170	140	140	80	80
South West	140	200	220	160	170

1. Where a child has had more than one private fostering arrangement during the year, each arrangement has been counted
2. Notifications received during the year include private fostering arrangements which may have started before 1st April 2005 or were due to start after 31 March 2006. The same applies to denotifications
3. Figures may not add up due to rounding

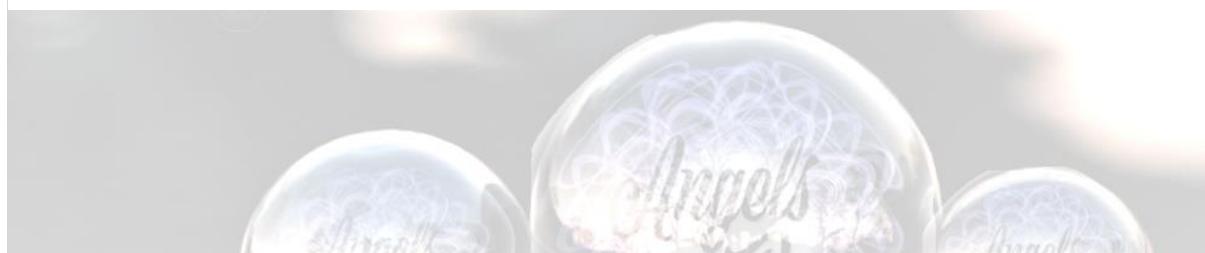


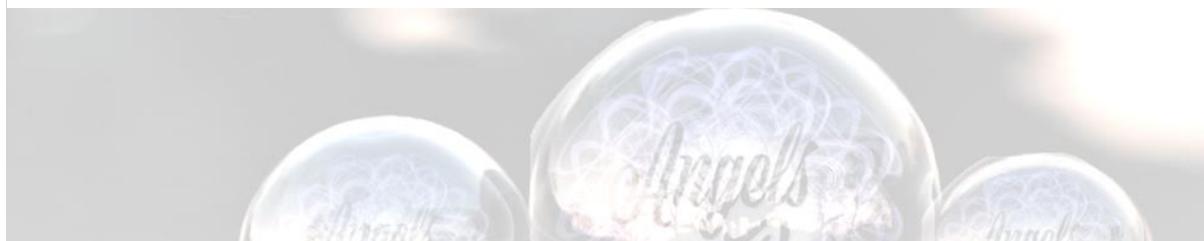
Table 1 Number of children cared for and accommodated in private fostering arrangements during year ending 31 March 2005^{1,2,3}

England	numbers				
	Number of children under private fostering arrangements at 31 March	Number of new notifications	Number of new arrangements	Number of denotifications received during the year	Number of arrangements that ended during the year
England	730	640	630	300	330
Region					
North East	30	20	20	-	-
North West	70	70	90	40	40
Yorkshire & Humberside	90	80	80	40	40
East Midlands	110	100	90	50	50
West Midlands	50	40	40	20	20
East of England	40	30	30	20	20
London	130	110	90	20	20
South East	130	100	100	50	60
South West	100	100	90	80	80

1. Where a child has had more than one private fostering arrangement during the year, each arrangement has been counted

2. Notifications received during the year include private fostering arrangements which may have started before 1st April 2004 or were due to start after 31 March 2005. The same applies to denotifications

3. Figures may not add due to rounding



NORTHERN IRELAND.

All data for Northern Ireland is set to 30 September each year.

They include adoption statistics as part of their totals. Unlike England, the data that is accessible is not extensive and due to Covid I have, to-date, not heard back from all the FOI requests. Considering that all information regarding looked after children is handled by the health board and they are dealing with a pandemic I do not expect to have responses from all FOI before I finalise this report.

Total number of children in local authority care are as follows.

2011 = 1,838

2012 = 1,878

2013 = 2,071 in total with 850 discharged.

2014 = 2,169 in total with 798 discharged.

2015 = 2,169 in total with 825 discharged.

2016 = 2,213 in total with 809 discharged.

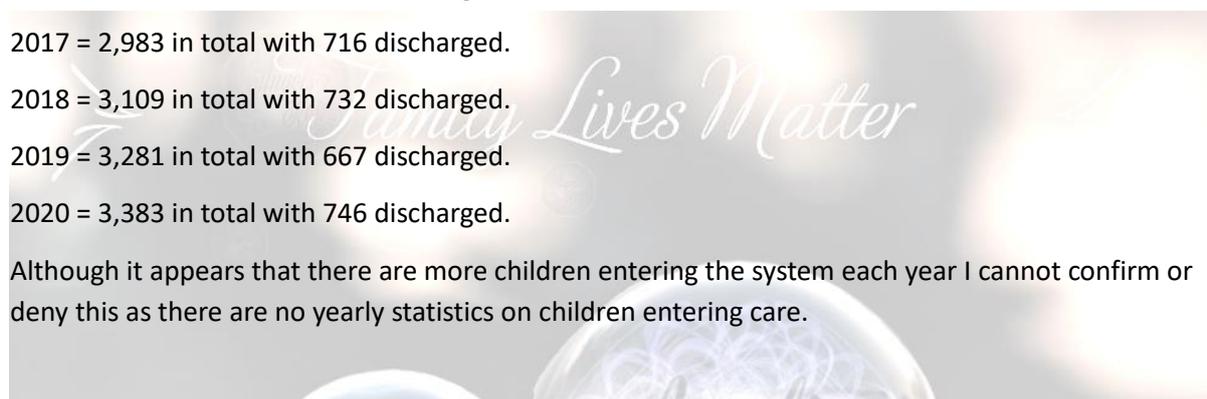
2017 = 2,983 in total with 716 discharged.

2018 = 3,109 in total with 732 discharged.

2019 = 3,281 in total with 667 discharged.

2020 = 3,383 in total with 746 discharged.

Although it appears that there are more children entering the system each year I cannot confirm or deny this as there are no yearly statistics on children entering care.



child-care-ni-tables-15-16.ods - OpenOffice Calc

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

A1 Table 1b: Demographic Trends of Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2016)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of children looked after for at least 12 months	1,838	1,878	2,071	2,163	2,169	2,213
Rate per 10,000 children	43	44	48	50	50	51

Very easy to read excel data files. Plus, when looking at other data packets by Northern Ireland the totals are the same with no discrepancies.

child-social-care-tables-19-20.ods - OpenOffice Calc

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Table 3.16: Discharges by Duration in Care at 31 March (2014 - 2020)

Duration in Care	Year													
	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
less than 3 months	185	23%	164	20%	169	21%	135	19%	161	22%	115	17%	174	23%
3 months < 1 year	172	22%	153	19%	168	21%	136	19%	152	21%	136	20%	161	22%
1 year < 3 years	184	23%	217	26%	194	24%	207	29%	170	23%	182	27%	189	25%
3 years < 5 years	93	12%	118	14%	98	12%	96	13%	98	13%	84	12%	89	12%
5 years < 10 years	94	12%	96	12%	101	12%	77	11%	91	12%	102	15%	91	12%
10 years or longer	70	9%	77	9%	79	10%	65	9%	60	8%	58	9%	42	6%
Total	798	100%	825	100%	809	100%	716	100%	732	100%	677	100%	746	100%

Source: Health and Social Care Board Corporate Parenting Return 10.3.41

The discharge totals include children who have been in care for less than a year, which means the discharge totals are lower than reported on the last page. However, the yearly totals only cover children who have been in care for at least 12 months.

It would be interesting to know the success rates of the children who were only taken into care for less than a year. Does this short time away from parents give the parents time to resolve whatever issues caused the child or children to enter care? How many of these short-term placements become long term placement and how long did returning home work before they ended up back in the care system?

As more than half of these children are discharged in under 3 years how many of them are adopted?

These questions and many others I can think of will need to be explored at a later date due to Covid.

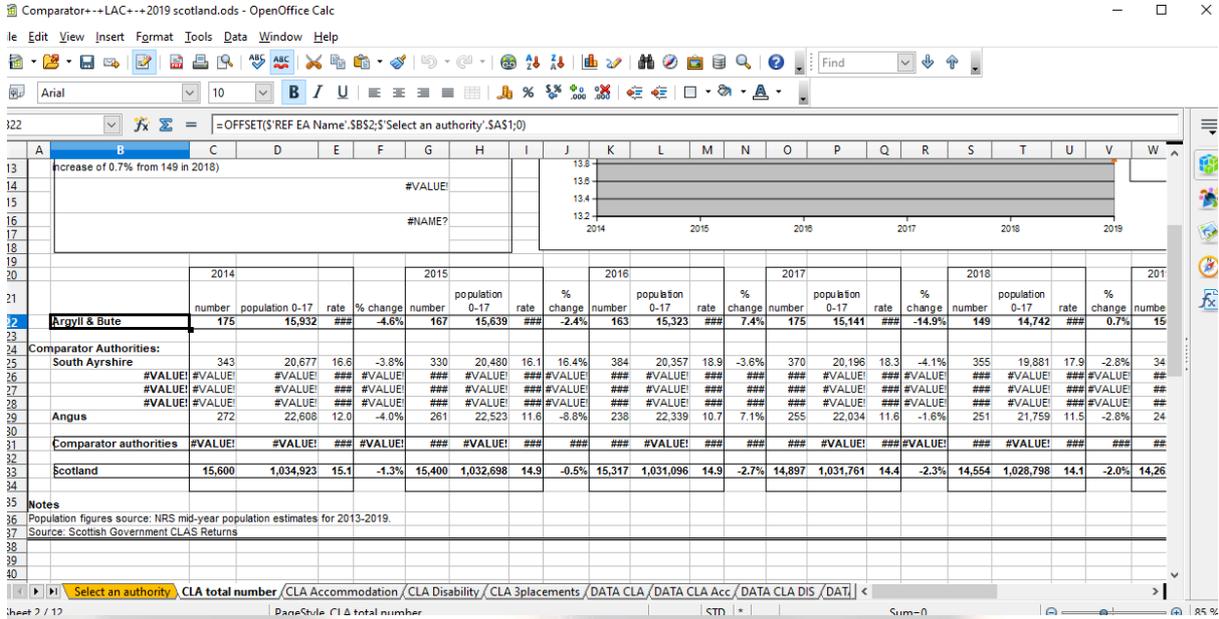
I would be very interested in finding out exactly what differences there are between how Northern Ireland handle child protection compared to other area of the U.K.

Is there anything we can learn from Northern Ireland which can lower the numbers of children being in long term care, do they continue to work with the parents with the idea of being able to return the children. What statistics are there for missing LAC in Northern Ireland. Do Northern Ireland totals include refugee /unaccompanied asylum seeker children?

SCOTLAND

Scotland's data is collected and set at 31 July each year.

The website is easier to use than the English one. They have a comparison file where you can compare between areas, which, if the macros worked for me would have been brilliant but the results on my computer were almost impossible to decipher or actually use.



As you can see, there was no way for me to locate anything I needed.

I tried the data cube spreadsheet.

STATISTICS.GOV.SCOT

ATLAS DATA SEARCH DATA CART HELP

Explore Tools

A spreadsheet from a data cube dataset

Looked After Children: a data cube spreadsheet

Information about the number of looked after children by type of care setting.

DATA ABOUT API

COUNT (CHILDREN) ADD 1 COLUMN TO DATA CART

Filter Areas by type: Any (no filter)

Reference Area	Count
Countries	
Scotland	5,247
Council Areas	
Aberdeen City	296
Aberdeenshire	182
Angus	102
Argyll and Bute	37

DIMENSIONS

Dimension	Value
Measure Type	Count Ratio
Reference Period	2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018
Residential Status	All At Home Foster / Prospective Adopters Other Community Placement Residential Care
Reference Area (showing types of area available in these data)	Countries Council Areas

The options offered would not allow me to search for new LAC children by year and although they have multiple options available, you cannot search by two different options at the same time.

As you can see none of the data, I was looking for can be found on the data cube spreadsheet.

Government statistics.

2011 = 4746

2012 = 4811

2013 = 4470

2014 = 4295

2015 = 4198

2016 = 4116

2017 = 4186

2018 = 3979

2019 = 3824

2020 = 3490

These statistics are only supplied as total started to be looked after for Scotland and are not broken down into areas. As such any FOI responses that refuse under the grounds of the information being available through the GOV.Scot are incorrect as you cannot find out this information on the government website.

FAMILY LIVES MATTER

Table 1.1a: Number of children looked after at 31 July, 2006-2020

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total looked after children	15,892	16,231	16,248	16,032	15,600	15,400	15,317	14,897	14,554	14,262	14,458

Table 1.3: Number of children starting to be looked after, 2003-2020⁽¹⁾

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	4,859	4,746	4,811	4,470	4,295	4,198	4,116	4,186	3,979	3,824	3,490

Table 1.4: Number of children ceasing to be looked after, 2003-2020⁽¹⁾

Age	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	4,504	4,611	4,768	4,731	4,696	4,371	4,223	4,274	4,327	4,068	3,325
	15537	16096	16205	16293	16001						
	355	135									

Is there a formula used to work out these numbers, which, I am just not getting?

	A	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Looked after child											
2	Table 1.1a: Number of children looked after by accommodation, 2006-2020											
3		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
4	In the community	14,412	14,770	14,815	14,566	14,133	13,871	13,840	13,388	13,042	12,814	13,022
5	At home with parents	6,193	5,476	5,153	4,762	4,142	3,925	3,870	3,766	3,789	3,569	3,563
6	With Kinship Carers: friends/relatives	3,172	3,910	4,076	4,183	4,217	4,158	4,279	4,138	4,073	4,175	4,456
7	With Foster Carers provided by LA	3,651	3,871	3,946	3,906	4,002	3,889	3,826	3,509	3,453	3,335	3,315
8	With Foster Carers purchased by LA	1,046	1,197	1,333	1,427	1,520	1,587	1,566	1,743	1,491	1,463	1,429
9	With prospective adopters	299	267	262	243	201	264	251	197	186	212	185
10	In other community	51	49	45	45	51	48	48	35	50	60	74
11	Residential Accommodation	1,480	1,461	1,433	1,466	1,467	1,529	1,477	1,509	1,512	1,448	1,436
12	In local authority home	620	615	564	575	579	564	581	619	599	581	556
13	In voluntary home	82	88	90	112	117	133	136	127	122	127	130
14	In residential school	471	460	451	439	392	402	376	375	383	344	329
15	In secure accommodation	82	86	95	65	82	79	60	56	57	63	59
16	Crisis care	17	13	14	12	15	18	7	0	0	0	0
17	In other residential ⁽¹⁾	208	199	219	263	282	333	317	332	351	333	362
18	Total looked after children	15,892	16,231	16,248	16,032	15,600	15,400	15,317	14,897	14,554	14,262	14,458
19	(1) The bulk of the 'other residential' placements are people with complex needs.											

Where fostering and adoption is concerned the below screenshot is the only information I can find online for Scotland.



Wales.

Gov.Wales use the same date as England for their statistics 31 March. This means it is easier to compare data between Wales and England than it is between England/Wales and Scotland or Ireland.

The website is fairly easy to use and being able to change the year from a drop-down box on all statistics is one of the most practical parts of their data packets. However, I could not find all the information I was looking for.

Year (2020)		Need								
Year Area code		Total children starting to be looked after by need for care								
Local authority		Disability	Parental illness or disability	Abuse or neglect	Family in acute stress	Family dysfunction	Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	Absent Parenting (including child given up for adoption)	Adoption disruption	Total children starting to be looked after by need for care
All Welsh local authorities		30	40	1,285	195	260	80	65	10	1,965
	Isle of Anglesey	*	*	40	*	*	*	*	*	45
	Gwynedd	*	*	75	*	*	*	*	*	80
	Conwy	*	*	25	*	10	*	*	*	45
	Denbighshire	*	*	30	*	5	*	*	*	40
	Flintshire	*	*	20	5	25	*	*	*	50
	Wrexham	*	10	70	5	5	10	*	*	105

Children looked after

Numbers and characteristics of children looked after by local authorities, including placement and legal status

Reports

-  [Children looked after at 31 March by local authority, gender and age](#) 
-  [Children looked after at 31 March by local authority and legal status](#) 
-  [Children looked after at 31 March by local authority and placement type](#) 
-  [Children looked after in foster placements at 31 March by local authority and placement type](#) 
-  [Children looked after at 31 March by local authority, number of placements during year and measure](#) 
-  [Children looked after at 31 March by local authority and ethnicity \(Prior to April 2016\)](#) 
-  [Children starting to be looked after during year to 31 March by local authority and need for care](#) 
-  [Episodes finishing for children looked after during year to 31 March by local authority and reason for finishing](#) 
-  [Short breaks for children looked after by local authority and placement](#) 
-  [Short breaks for children looked after by local authority and need for care](#) 
-  [Children looked after at 31 March per 10,000 population aged under 18 by local authority and year](#) 
-  [Children looked after at 31 March by local authority and ethnicity](#) 
-  [Children looked after at 31 March by local authority and location of placement](#) 
-  [Children looked after in foster care at 31 March by local authority and location of placement](#) 
-  [Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children being looked after at the 31 March by local authority](#) 

Wales Government statistics. 31 March each year

New children in care

2011 = 1890

2012 = 1985 increase of 95

2013 = 2030 increase of 45

2014 = 2015 decrease of 15

2015 = 2045 increase of 30

2016 = 2065 increase of 20

2017 = 2220 increase of 155

2018 = 2175 decrease of 45

2019 = 2135 decrease of 40

2020 = 1970 decrease of 165 lowest rate since 2011

Total number of children in care by Government statistics.

2011 = 5410 baseline

2012 = 5720 increase of 310

2013 = 5765 increase of 45

2014 = 5745 decrease of 20

2015 = 5610 decrease of 135

2016 = 5660 increase of 50

2017 = 5960 increase of 300

2018 = 6405 increase of 445

2019 = 6835 increase of 430

2020 = 7170 increase of 335

Total number of children leaving care by government statistics.

2011 = 3880 baseline

2012 = 4085 increase of 205

2013 = 4530 increase of 445

2014 = 4420 decrease of 110

2015 = 4430 increase of 10

2016 = 4305 decrease of 125

2017 = 4515 increase of 210

2018 = 4450 decrease of 65

2019 = 4580 increase of 130

2020 = 4475 decrease of 105

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
NEW LAC	1890	1985	2030	2015	2045	2065	2220	2175	2135	1970
TOTAL LAC	5410	5720	5765	5745	5610	5660	5960	6405	6835	7170
CEASED LAC	3880	4085	4530	4420	4430	4305	4515	4450	4580	4475
formula: previous total LAC – current year Ceased LAC + current year New LAC should give total for current year.										
		3730	3665	3360	3360	3370	3365	3365	3960	4330
	Difference	1990	2100	2385	2250	2290	2595	3040	2875	2840

Logically using the previous year's total number of children in care, minus the current years ceased to be looked after total and adding the current years new looked after children's total should give the current year's total number of looked after children. But again, this formula doesn't work.

Where does the difference come from????



Conclusion:

The English Gov website contains the most amount of information needed for this report, although it is harder to find. Furthermore, total numbers are not consistent between different data files reporting the same information.

Wales and England both use 31 March each year for data entries so you can compare them unilaterally.

Scotland and Northern Ireland use different dates for data entry which means although you can compare yearly totals you can't say for certainty how many new or total numbers of children are being looked after as of 31 March each year in the whole of the UK.

No matter which governmental statistics you use, if they have data for new, ceased and total children in the care system there is no way I have found to corroborate the statistics. I have shown a number of different formula and the numbers do not match.

Logically, using the previous year's total as a baseline you should be able to take away the current years ceased to be in care total, then add the current years new looked after children total and get the current year's total number of children in care. The difference between the results of this formula and the current total number of children in care is staggering.

If there is a working formula, I think it should be added onto each of the governments websites or as part of the data files.

As I could not decipher a formula that worked for England, Wales or Scotland I could not calculate how many children are taken into care each year for Northern Ireland as they do not provide these details.

Wales has the easiest to use statistical data files. The pick a year and drop-down boxes makes research a lot easier.

Scotland has a lot of information if you have the technology to open it without issues.

Northern Ireland seems to have the best FOI to Government results. This could be because all information is compiled by Health instead of local government areas.

England, Wales and Scotland have a lot of discrepancies between FOI answer and official governmental totals.

If my calculations are correct, then the discrepancies in totals need to be investigated further.

No matter what the numbers are not adding up and this is perplexing me. Hopefully someone with the resources and a team of people will be able to make sense of the discrepancies.

Not all FOI requests have been answered. Some areas have stated the information is accessible on the gov websites, where local council information is not held. Some have flatly refused citing costs involved in answering the question, some only gave data for a few years. Others have cited Covid as a reason for delays or not answering.

How many LAC are diagnosed with mental health issues in your area each year for the past 10 years.

Surprisingly, there is very little FOI statistics on how many children within the local authority care environment being diagnosed with any form of mental health issues.

Some local councils keep a record of how many new LAC enter the system with pre-diagnosed conditions but even then, these are far and few between.

Almost every council either refused to acknowledge this question or refused to answer the question on the cost of supplying the information. Pointing out how difficult it would be, and personnel needed to check each child's file for the past ten years.

With media campaigns during and after lockdown explaining the benefits of ensuring good mental health for our children it was a little perplexing to realise that child social services do not keep an active, accessible record of these statistics. Especially when risk of future emotional and mental harm plays such a big part of removing children from families.

Furthermore, the impact of removing a child from their family is bound to have an adverse effect on a child's mental health. Isn't this why so many separated parents file court orders against parental alienation?

Without access to these statistics, it is also difficult to establish what mental health effects separation from family causes LAC's on a long term basis. Although there has been some research undertaken in this regard and I have supplied news reports regarding this under the Newspaper, News and Media section of this report.

This is something that should be looked into on a countrywide level.

The Welsh Government site supplies information on mental health for children in need / looked after but only up to 2016. When they stopped reporting the statistics. Using the drop-down options I selected looked after children for the purpose of this report and took screen shots of the data they do supply. I would like to point out here that the Welsh Government site has the most user-friendly interface from any of the government statistics sites.

Age group (All Ages) Child Status (Children looked after at 31 March) Immunisations (All children in need) SubstanceMisuse (All children in need) Year (2011)

Age group Child Status Immunisations SubstanceMisuse Area code Year

Mental health

Local authority

		All children in need		Children for whom mental health information was available	Mental health information not available	All children in need
		Children for whom mental health information was available				
		Child mental ill health at 31st March	No child mental ill health at 31st March		Mental health information not available	
All Welsh local authorities		435	4,980	5,410	*	5,410
All Welsh local authorities	Isle of Anglesey	5	85	90	*	90
	Gwynedd	25	145	175	*	175
	Conwy	40	125	170	*	170
	Denbighshire	45	145	190	*	190
	Flintshire	5	185	190	*	190
	Wrexham	10	120	130	*	130
	Powys	15	150	165	*	165
	Ceredigion	5	70	80	*	80
	Pembrokeshire	10	135	145	*	145
	Cardiff	15	255	270	*	270
	Swansea	25	545	565	*	565
	Neath Port Talbot	50	395	445	*	445
	Bridgend	10	310	325	*	325
	Vale of Glamorgan	10	185	195	*	195
	Cardiff	45	465	510	*	510
	Rhondda Cynon Taf	35	510	545	*	545
	Merthyr Tydfil	10	155	165	*	165
	Caerphilly	*	330	335	*	335
Blaenau Gwent	15	115	130	*	130	
Torfaen	40	205	245	*	245	
Monmouthshire	*	75	75	*	75	
Newport	10	270	280	*	280	

However, as you will see from the below information, as much as these statistics are a good starting point for Wales and I applaud the fact that they were at one point keeping records I also have some reservations concerning the actual data. Concerns are written below each screenshot. The discrepancies between different government data are hard to be ignored and rise questions regarding the MH data.

Concerns. This is my baseline report being the first one for the years I am covering, where all available data from Gov.wales website regarding looked after children seems to match up. The data I am using to corroborate these statistics are: Information on totals from: Children starting to be looked after, Children ceasing to be looked after, Number of children being looked after and the all children in need section of the screenshots.

Please note: All children in need total of screenshots are the statistics for looked after children as per my option choice not all children on social services books. Plus, all governmental statistics for Wales are universally for the 31st of March each year.

Age group (All Ages) | Child Status (Children looked after at 31 March) | Immunisations (All children in need) | SubstanceMisuse (All children in need) | Year (2012)					
Age group | Child Status | Immunisations | SubstanceMisuse | Area code | Year					
Mental health					
Local authority	All children in need				All children in need
	Children for whom mental health information was available		Children for whom mental health information was available	Mental health information not available	
	Child mental ill health at 31st March	No child mental ill health at 31st March		Mental health information not available	
All Welsh local authorities	390	5,310	5,700	*	5,700
Isle of Anglesey	*	90	90	*	90
Gwynedd	25	170	190	*	190
Conwy	45	125	170	*	170
Denbighshire	45	130	180	*	180
Flintshire	10	155	165	*	165
Wrexham	*	150	150	*	150
Powys	10	160	170	*	170
Ceredigion	*	80	80	*	80
Pembrokeshire	25	120	145	*	145
Carmarthenshire	*	265	270	*	270
Swansea	10	510	520	*	520
Neath Port Talbot	20	480	505	*	505
Bridgend	5	335	340	*	340
Vale of Glamorgan	10	190	200	*	200
Cardiff	75	470	545	*	545
Rhondda Cynon Taf	30	595	625	*	625
Merthyr Tydfil	15	175	190	*	190
Caerphilly	5	340	345	*	345
Blaenau Gwent	20	115	135	*	135
Torfaen	10	300	310	*	310
Monmouthshire	10	95	105	*	105
Newport	5	265	270	*	270

Concerns.

Total number of looked after children for 2011 was 5,410 as per government records.

Total number of children who ceased to be looked after as per government records 3,880. Bringing the total number of LAC down to 1,530. (A*)

Subtracting episode ceased but new episode begins same or next day data from total ceased to be looked after data. The total number who left care drops to 1,665. Bringing total number of LAC down to 3,745 (B*)

Total number of children starting to be looked after as per government records 1,890. Bringing the total number of LAC up to 3,420 using (A*) stats or 5,635 using (B*) stats.

All children in need total for 2012 as per above is 5,700 and according to LAC government numbers 5,720.

This leaves a discrepancy of between 65/85 using (B*) data or 2,280 and 2,300 using (A*) data depending on which 2012 LAC totals for the year you rely on for statistical purposes.

Number of Children with Mental health issues according to governmental statistics falls from 435 to 390 in one year. A decrease of 45.

All data is taken from 31 March per year.

Age group (All Ages) | Child Status (Children looked after at 31 March) | Immunisations (All children in need) | SubstanceMisuse (All children in need) | Year (2013)						
Age group | Child Status | Immunisations | SubstanceMisuse | Area code | Year						
Mental health						
<input type="checkbox"/> All children in need						All children in need
<input type="checkbox"/> Children for whom mental health information was available			Children for whom mental health information was available	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health information not available		
Child mental ill health at 31st March	No child mental ill health at 31st March			Mental health information not available		
<input type="checkbox"/> All Welsh local authorities						
All Welsh local authorities	Isle of Anglesey	*	80	85	*	85
	Gwynedd	30	175	200	*	200
	Conwy	40	125	165	*	165
	Denbighshire	35	125	165	*	165
	Flintshire	10	175	185	*	185
	Wrexham	25	170	200	*	200
	Powys	15	135	150	*	150
	Ceredigion	5	65	75	*	75
	Pembrokeshire	20	110	135	10	145
	Carmarthenshire	10	255	265	*	265
	Swansea	10	570	580	*	580
	Neath Port Talbot	35	485	515	*	515
	Bridgend	15	360	370	*	370
	Vale of Glamorgan	10	160	170	*	170
	Cardiff	35	500	535	*	535
	Rhondda Cynon Taf	25	655	685	*	685
	Merthyr Tydfil	20	160	180	*	180
	Caerphilly	5	330	335	*	335
	Blaenau Gwent	15	120	135	*	135
Torfaen	10	285	295	*	295	
Monmouthshire	*	85	85	*	85	
Newport	20	235	255	*	255	

Concerns.

Total number of looked after children for 2012 was 5,700 as per above statistics.

Total number of children who ceased to be looked after as per government records 4,530. Bringing the total number of LAC down to 1,170. (A*)

Subtracting episode ceased but new episode begins same or next day data from total ceased to be looked after data. The total number who left care drops to 1,980. Bringing total number of LAC down to 3,720 (B*)

Total number of children starting to be looked after as per government records 2,035. Bringing the total number of LAC up to 3,205 using (A*) stats or 5755 using (B*) stats.

All children in need total for 2013 as per above is 5,770 and according to LAC government numbers 5,765.

This leaves a discrepancy of between 10/15 using (B*) data or 2,560 and 2,565 using (A*) data depending on which 2013 LAC totals for the year you rely on for statistical purposes.

Number of Children with Mental health issues according to governmental statistics increases from 390 to 395 in one year. An increase of 5.

All data is taken from 31 March per year.

Age group (All Ages) Child Status (Children looked after at 31 March) Immunisations (All children in need) SubstanceMisuse (All children in need) Year (2014)						
Age group Child Status Immunisations SubstanceMisuse Area code Year						
Mental health						
Local authority	<input type="checkbox"/> All children in need <input type="checkbox"/> Children for whom mental health information was available				All children in need	
	Child mental ill health at 31st March		Children for whom mental health information was available	Mental health information not available		
	Child mental ill health at 31st March	No child mental ill health at 31st March				Mental health information not available
All Welsh local authorities	425	5,250	5,675	*	5,675	
All Welsh local authorities	Isle of Anglesey	5	70	75	*	75
	Gwynedd	20	160	185	*	185
	Conwy	35	130	160	*	165
	Denbighshire	30	140	170	*	170
	Flintshire	5	195	205	*	205
	Wrexham	45	160	205	*	205
	Powys	20	135	155	*	155
	Ceredigion	10	70	80	*	80
	Pembrokeshire	*	115	120	*	120
	Carmarthenshire	5	240	245	*	245
	Swansea	30	495	525	*	525
	Neath Port Talbot	35	465	500	*	500
	Bridgend	10	375	390	*	390
	Vale of Glamorgan	*	110	110	*	110
	Cardiff	35	555	590	*	590
	Rhondda Cynon Taf	30	675	705	*	705
	Merthyr Tydfil	15	155	170	*	170
	Caerphilly	5	295	305	*	305
Blaenau Gwent	15	125	145	*	145	
Torfaen	30	265	295	*	295	
Monmouthshire	20	75	100	*	100	
Newport	5	240	245	*	245	

Concerns.

Total number of looked after children for 2013 was 5,770 as per above statistics.

Total number of children who ceased to be looked after as per government records 4,420. Bringing the total number of LAC down to 1,350. (A*)

Subtracting episode ceased but new episode begins same or next day data from total ceased to be looked after data. The total number who left care drops to 2,035. Bringing total number of LAC down to 3,735 (B*)

Total number of children starting to be looked after as per government records 2,010. Bringing the total number of LAC up to 3,360 using (A*) stats or 5,745 using (B*) stats.

All children in need total for 2014 as per above is 5,675 and according to LAC government numbers 5,745.

This leaves a discrepancy of between 0 and 70 using (B*) data or 2,315 and 2,385 using (A*) data depending on which 2014 LAC totals for the year you rely on for statistical purposes.

Number of Children with Mental health issues according to governmental statistics increases from 395 to 425 in one year. An increase of 30.

All data is taken from 31 March per year.

Age group (All Ages) | Child Status (Children looked after at 31 March) | Immunisations (All children in need) | SubstanceMisuse (All children in need) | Year (2015)						
Age group | Child Status | Immunisations | SubstanceMisuse | Area code | Year						
Mental health						
<input type="checkbox"/> All children in need						All children in need
<input type="checkbox"/> Children for whom mental health information was available		<input type="checkbox"/> Children for whom mental health information was not available		<input type="checkbox"/> Mental health information not available		
Child mental ill health at 31st March	No child mental ill health at 31st March			Mental health information not available		
<input type="checkbox"/> All Welsh local authorities						
	Cardiff	460	5,045	5,500	*	5,500
	Rhondda Cynon Taf	55	565	620	*	620
	Swansea	5	615	620	*	620
	Neath Port Talbot	20	475	500	*	500
	Neath Port Talbot	40	430	470	*	470
	Bridgend	20	365	385	*	385
	Caerphilly	10	280	290	*	290
	Torfaen	40	245	285	*	285
	Newport	10	250	255	*	255
	Carmarthenshire	10	225	235	*	235
	Flintshire	15	205	220	*	220
	Gwynedd	20	170	190	*	190
	Conwy	35	145	180	*	180
	Wrexham	40	130	170	*	170
	Denbighshire	20	145	165	*	165
	Merthyr Tydfil	20	140	160	*	160
	Powys	15	120	135	*	135
	Blaenau Gwent	20	110	130	*	130
	Vale of Glamorgan	15	105	120	*	120
	Pembrokeshire	15	95	105	*	105
	Monmouthshire	25	75	100	*	100
	Isle of Anglesey	5	80	85	*	85
	Ceredigion	5	70	80	*	80

Concerns.

Total number of looked after children for 2014 was 5,675 as per above records.

Total number of children who ceased to be looked after as per government records 4,430. Bringing the total number of LAC down to 1,245. (A*)

Subtracting episode ceased but new episode begins same or next day data from total ceased to be looked after data. The total number who left care drops to 2,190. Bringing total number of LAC down to 3,485 (B*)

Total number of children starting to be looked after as per government records 2,040. Bringing the total number of LAC up to 3,285 using (A*) stats or 5,525 using (B*) stats.

All children in need total for 2015 as per above is 5,500 and according to LAC government numbers 5,610.

This leaves a discrepancy of between 25 and 85 using (B*) data or 2,215 and 2,325 using (A*) data depending on which 2012 LAC totals for the year you rely on for statistical purposes.

Number of Children with Mental health issues according to governmental statistics increases from 425 to 460 in one year. An increase of 35.

All data is taken from 31 March per year.

Age group (All Ages) Child Status (Children looked after at 31 March) Immunisations (All children in need) SubstanceMisuse (All children in need) Year (2016)

Age group Child Status Immunisations SubstanceMisuse Area code Year

Mental health

Local authority

		Mental health		Children for whom mental health information was available	Mental health information not available	All children in need
		All children in need				
		Child mental ill health at 31st March	No child mental ill health at 31st March			
All Welsh local authorities		370	5,130	5,500	*	5,500
All Welsh local authorities	Cardiff	50	570	620	*	620
	Rhondda Cynon Taf	*	615	620	*	620
	Swansea	15	475	490	*	490
	Neath Port Talbot	35	380	420	*	420
	Bridgend	15	355	370	*	370
	Caerphilly	*	305	305	*	305
	Torfaen	35	240	275	*	275
	Newport	5	260	265	*	265
	Cardiff	5	205	215	*	215
	Gwynedd	25	185	205	*	205
	Wrexham	20	170	195	*	195
	Blaenau Gwent	20	165	190	*	190
	Conwy	25	145	170	*	170
	Denbighshire	25	145	170	*	170
	Flintshire	10	150	160	*	160
	Powys	15	130	145	*	145
	Merthyr Tydfil	10	130	140	*	140
	Vale of Glamorgan	10	115	125	*	125
	Monmouthshire	15	110	125	*	125
Pembrokeshire	15	105	120	*	120	
Isle of Anglesey	10	100	110	*	110	
Ceredigion	5	70	75	*	75	

Concerns.

Total number of looked after children for 2015 was 5,500 as per above records.

Total number of children who ceased to be looked after as per government records 4,305. Bringing the total number of LAC down to 1,195. (A*)

Subtracting episode ceased but new episode begins same or next day data from total ceased to be looked after data. The total number who left care drops to 2,020. Bringing total number of LAC down to 3,480 (B*)

Total number of children starting to be looked after as per government records 2,065. Bringing the total number of LAC up to 3,260 using (A*) stats or 5,545 using (B*) stats.

All children in need total for 2016 as per above is 5,500 and according to LAC government numbers 5,660.

This leaves a discrepancy of between 45 and 115 using (B*) data or 2,240 and 2,400 using (A*) data depending on which 2016 LAC totals for the year you rely on for statistical purposes.

Number of Children with Mental health issues according to governmental statistics falls from 460 to 370 in one year. A decrease of 90.

All data is taken from 31 March per year.

Conclusion.

There is little to no information regarding the mental health of looked after children.

When we evaluate the number of looked after children who go missing each year, number of incidents per year. Number of unauthorised absences from placements we can conclude there is obviously something going wrong, and these are just the numbers that are reported.

The care system is supposed to care for a child when the parents can't. However, where is the data to show this caring when it comes to mental health?

Mental health is a good indicator of emotional health. Emotional and mental abuse or risk of these in the future is one of the biggest reasons for removing children from families and ones that cannot be proved or disproved will happen in the future.

To establish if a system like this one is working as it should be there needs to be more accounting.

If thousands of children each year are being removed from their birth families and by the time, they leave the care system they are suffering from mental health problems this would indicate the system is failing. I'm not trying to say that all children in care will be diagnosed with mental health issues because this would call on my using the crystal ball method, which I am against.

What I am saying is that if a significant number of children in the care system develop mental health issues once inside the care system, then the way the system works needs to be re-evaluated.

What is a significant number? What percentage of children in care having mental health issues is small or big enough to prove a failing system? What kind of criteria would a child have to meet to be classed as having mental health?

Would the public or government believe a 1% is acceptable numbers? Would 50% be unacceptable? Or would we need to research to see the difference between children left at home and children taken into care?

childrens-social-work-statistics-2019-20-additional-tables.xlsx - OpenOffice Calc

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number				
England	61,200	61,000	60,300	59,970
Wales	4,320	4,380	4,530	4,640
Northern Ireland	2,510	2,530	2,440	2,360
Scotland (All LAC)	11,670	12,190	12,980	14,060
Scotland (LAC at home)	4,980	5,180	5,520	5,990
Scotland (LAC away from home)	6,690	7,010	7,460	8,070
Rates per 10,000 under 18 years				
England	65	66	65	64
Wales	66	67	70	72
Northern Ireland	57	58	56	55
Scotland (All LAC)	109	114	123	134
Scotland (LAC at home)	47	49	52	57
Scotland (LAC away from home)	63	66	71	77

(1) At 31 March each year for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
 (2) From 2010 onwards, the Scotland year data in this publication is given as at 31 July each year, however individual level data has made it possible for the 31 March figure to still be used in this table. Ireland operates under a different legislative framework, and as such are not directly comparable. For further information on the comparability of national data see: <https://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Revenue/Children/socialservicestats>
 (3) Figures have been rounded in England and Wales.
 (4) The sources for English Welsh and Northern Ireland statistics are given respectively below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2019-to-2020>
<https://statwales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Service/Childrens-Services/Children-Looked-After>
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/childrens-social-care-statistics-northern-ireland-201920>

Thanks to the Scottish Government website I can show you their cross-comparison data covering the whole of the UK. However, looking at the numbers from other government sites this data is inaccurate. Even different sections of the UK government can't get statistical numbers straight per year.

Table 2.8: Cross UK comparison^(a) of the number looked after children and rate per 10,000 children under 18, 2005-2020^{(b)(c)}

Number	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
England	61,000	60,300	59,970	59,360	60,890	64,470	65,500	67,070	68,060	68,810	69,480	70,440	72,670	75,420	78,150	80,080
Wales	4,380	4,530	4,640	4,640	4,710	5,160	5,420	5,730	5,770	5,745	5,615	5,660	5,955	6,405	6,845	7,172
Northern Ireland ^(d)	2,530	2,440	2,360	2,430	2,460	2,610	2,510	2,640	2,810	2,860	2,875	2,890	2,983	3,109	3,281	3,383
Scotland (A) ^(e)	12,190	12,980	14,060	14,890	15,290	15,900	16,200	16,360	16,170	15,625	15,360	15,330	14,982	14,554	14,262	14,294
Scotland (L) ^(e)	5,180	5,520	5,990	6,360	5,920	6,250	5,620	5,300	4,950	4,255	3,935	3,880	3,815	3,789	3,569	3,612
Scotland (LA) ^(e)	7,010	7,460	8,070	8,530	9,370	9,650	10,580	11,060	11,220	11,370	11,425	11,450	11,167	10,765	10,693	10,682
ENGLAND								67070	68060	68810	69470	70410	72610	75370	78150	80080
WALES								5720	5765	5745	5610	5660	5960	6405	6835	7170
Northern Ireland							2511	1878	2071	2163	2169	2213	2983	3109	3281	3383
TOTALS FOR THE YEAR ACROSS UK.								91800	92810	93040	93330	94320	96590	99488	102538	104929
				10% of totals.				9180	9281	9304	9333	94320	9659	9948	10253	10492
				50% of totals				45900	46405	46520	46665	47160	48295	49744	51269	52464.5

After inputting yearly totals from other government sources, I have also shown what 10 and 50% of totals would equate to in real numbers according to the Scottish statistics. Which of the % totals would you class as acceptable levels of mental health issues in looked after children before you thought there was a concern?

If a child enters the care system with no mental health problems but develops them whilst in care how much blame will be placed on the birth parents and how much on the care system?

This to some might sound like a stupid question but unfortunately history shows that any time there are failings within the care system someone else is blamed for those failings. Local councils are blamed for failings in their area, which is rightfully so. However, the government takes no responsibility for any of these failings overall and despite making a few changes the system itself has never been given a complete overall.

How long can you patch up big gaping holes with small plasters?

If nothing else, I hope this section of the report is taken up by a university or organisation outside of child social services to research and find the answers.

More importantly, I now wonder how many children who have been in the care system end up having their children removed by SS using: their time in care, their mental health, risk of future emotional and mental harm on the new child against them.

If a looked after child develops mental health issues whilst in the care system, wouldn't it be wrong to use that against them to remove their children?

How many LAC have tried or succeeded in committing suicide each year for the past 10 years?

With under 1 % of FOI responses and nothing available on any government statistical websites I was left with checking news reports to find any information regarding this matter. The news reports I did find have been added to the News section of this report.

Although this proves that there are many incidents of attempted suicide, self-harming and actual suicide within the care system, there are no actual statistics.

Countries like America report these incidents in the news far more than we do. Which, along with studies in Sweden make me wonder why this is not an important issue in the UK.

There is also evidence using news and media outlets that children who have been in the care system are also more likely to commit suicide later in life.

Furthermore, when a large percentage of care leavers under 18+, or who have finished with 18+ end up living on the streets the impact of attempted or actual suicide numbers are currently impossible to fathom.

Councils have explained that they would have to check each individual LAC record to find if there is mention of the above and as a single entity, I do not have the resources available to pay the monies requested by the local authorities for them to report these findings.

On a government budget level, understanding any correlation between a child being taken into care and the risks of self-harm, attempted suicide or actual suicide would be beneficial because once the information around how widespread this issue are steps could be taken to reduce the issue lowering the monies spent on aftercare.

Are birth parents informed when their looked after child tries to kill themselves? Do they get told of their looked after child's self-harm.

There are social media post pertaining to not being informed of their looked after child's death.

How often do social services inform birth parents of serious issues with their looked after child, or are these things withheld from the birth parents like so many other things.

When siblings are separated within the care system does the risk of self-harm, attempted suicide increase?

Is there any correlation between low number of contacts with birth parents and high number of self-harming or attempted suicides by looked after children?

Some looked after only get between 1 and 4, two hour visits a year. Mainly supervised so the child cannot discuss issues with their parents.

Again, I bring your attention to the section on missing incidents and complaints.

How many parents of LAC have been diagnosed with mental health issues each year for the past 10 years?

FOI responses regarding this issue were almost unilaterally they can not supply the information requested because they would have to check each child's file individually and even then there is no saying this information has even been added to the files. With only one or two responses to this question via FOI the data is unusable to estimate total numbers.

It would appear that once the children are removed from the parents, those parents become invisible to child SS. Like saying we've got your kids we no longer care.

However, as many of these parents will still see their children during contact visits, parental mental health should still be a concern.

More so when social workers tell parents not to show any emotion when the child has to leave at the end of contact. If a parent becomes too emotional during or at the end of contact the likelihood of the next contact being cancelled raises considerably.

As part of both parental and looked after children's mental health studies quality of contact should be taken into consideration. Threats by social workers to parents and children regarding what they can and cannot say, how they need to act etc also needs to be investigated.

Social media is being regularly used by birth parents of looked after children to air their issues. Looked after children are also trying to find ways of being heard. If these alleged (for legal reasons I have to state alleged; although, I have personal experience of this) verbal threats by social workers to both parents and children pertaining to how they need to not show emotion or not discuss certain things can be proven then social services are in breach of their own safeguarding rules and have become perpetrators of abuse towards both parents and looked after children. This is of course in direct breach of the human rights act. This is also an abuse of power. I have been verbally told by social workers more than once that the children's act trumps the human rights act so there is nothing a parent can do to fight these violations.

So, lets look at some of the human rights acts that are being walked all over by SS, which in turn cause parents of looked after children to develop mental health issues.

ARTICLE 3

Prohibition of torture

No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Any parent who has had any dealings with SS will attest to the fact that social workers degrade the parent whenever possible. Having a child removed because you have been in an abusive relationship

and SS refused to acknowledge that you needed help but then use it against you in court is both degrading treatment and punishment (Victim blaming). A pregnant woman who has her unborn baby placed on the at risk register because its needs are not being met (someone explain how a foetus can not have its needs met by the mother) is torture, inhuman and degrading. It would be interesting to know how many mothers have lost their child during pregnancy due to the stress applied to the mother by social services. Using freedom of speech, I will also state that I have asked repeatedly over the years how a victim of DV can possibly protect their child, children, from the abuser when SS with all its resources can't.

If a parent tries to work with SS and admit, after however many reports, assessments, coercion etc that there is a problem within the family then SS get what they want, an admission of guilt. If parents deny or fight back against SS then SS state that the parents are not seeing how serious the situation is and as such the parents are then also guilty of mental and emotional harm to the child.

Basically, parents have no rights when it comes to SS and even if they win against them once eventually, they or their children once older loose.

Being told continually no matter how much you change to suit SS that you are doing everything wrong is degrading by any standards. Different social workers want different things and have different ideas on how you should bring up your child. What they say to you verbally and what they then place in a written report can differ significantly until you have no idea what to believe.

Looking at some of the categories of allegations and complaints made by looked after children on the England government website I will conclude that at least in some incidents looked after children are also having this human right violated by foster carers and social workers.

ARTICLE 4

Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

- 1 No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.
- 2 No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.
- 3 For the purpose of this Article the term "forced or compulsory labour" shall not include:
 - (a) any work required to be done in the ordinary course of detention imposed according to the provisions of Article 5 of this Convention or during conditional release from such detention;
 - (b) any service of a military character or, in case of conscientious objectors in countries where they are recognised, service exacted instead of compulsory military service;
 - (c) any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community;
 - (d) any work or service which forms part of normal civic obligations.

1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

servitude

[ˈsɜːv.t(y)oʊd] 

NOUN

the state of being a slave or completely subject to someone more powerful.

synonyms: slavery · enslavement · bondage · subjugation · subjection · domination · thralldom · serfdom · vassalage

- *law archaic*
the subjection of property to an easement.

Servitude is such a brilliant way to describe any parent who has been involved with SS.

Parents have to jump through hoops to accommodate what SS want. Social worker says they intend to visit at a certain time or day, and you have to be available or it is used against you. They say you have to go on a parenting course etc. you have to do it, or it is used against you.

Looked after children are subjected to servitude by foster parents and social services because they have to adhere to everything they are told to do.

I would go as far as to say that even newspapers are in servitude to children's social services otherwise, they would report on a lot more horror stories than they currently do.

Moving back to the parents of looked after children. If a parent starts to speak out too loudly or says enough is enough, they are then verbally threatened (social services / workers deny this) with a list of things including but not withstanding: having their children immediately removed, not being allowed to see their children in care, gagging orders, being arrested etc. Looked after children are threatened with not being able to see their birth parents, having their placements changed, secure units etc.

Parents are coerced into signing voluntary placement agreements when they don't want to in order to avoid having all children removed from them or being taken to court. These parents are supposed to be able to rescind this agreement and take their children back out of care. However if they try to do this SS get an emergency care order to prevent the parent taking their child back, will be threatened with being arrested etc again to prevent the parent taking their child back. There are also cases where the children under this voluntary agreement have then been adopted.

Now tell me that this isn't covered under the heading of servitude?

Looking at the two answers to FOI I received from different areas that gave me the total number of new LAC each year removed by care order only and not just number of children who became LAC each year. It was shocking that the totals were significantly lower than the number of children in those areas who actually became LAC. This suggests that more children are removed by coercion methods, voluntary signing each year than actual court cases.

have an enforceable right to compensation.

ARTICLE 6

Right to a fair trial

- 1 In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.
- 2 Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.
- 3 Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:
 - (a) to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;
 - (b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence;
 - (c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;
 - (d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;
 - (e) to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

A fair trial. Is there really such a thing in family court? Parents are not only fighting SS but also Cafcass who listen to what SS want, children's guardian, possibly their partner if they have a spouse/partner, professionals from all different areas. Victim blaming has become an ingrained aspect of family court proceedings. Which, confuses and belittles the parent who has been abused, leaving them unable to focus or defend themselves.

They listen and take advice from their solicitors if they can find one willing to listen to their side and fight for them. Solicitors, who want to keep things as simple as possible. You can't share your paperwork with anyone outside the proceedings even after the trial has finished.

Parents are accused of so many things, often over the period of years that they focus on trying to defend themselves and when there is no way they can prove a negative against the professionals there is no way they can get a fair trial. Again, this is where victim blaming and misinformation from SS and other professionals comes into play.

Once the trial is ended there is no way a parent can defend themselves further when they are less emotional and work out what tricks were used against them. Social workers outright lie about things that the parents cannot defend themselves against.



Can I talk about my case outside court?

A guide for family court users

About this leaflet

This leaflet is for people who are taking part in family proceedings concerning children. It explains:

- why there are rules about talking about a case outside court;
- when you can talk about your case; and
- how you can share information about your case safely.

It also gives information on what happens if someone talks about a case when they shouldn't.

This leaflet does **not** apply to **placement** and **adoption proceedings** or to **parental orders applications** (under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act), where different rules are in place.

Are there rules for talking about a case outside court?

Yes. Sharing information about a case is sometimes called 'disclosure of information' or 'communication of information'. There are rules in the family court about what you can say and what information you can share about your case outside of court.

When can I talk about my case?

You can only talk about your case in these specific circumstances.

- You can discuss anything about your case with:
 - your legal representatives;
 - other people involved in the case and their legal representatives;
 - an expert appointed by the court;
 - Cafcass officers;
 - Welsh family proceedings officers; and
 - children's guardians involved in the case.
- You may also talk to any other person you think is appropriate but only if it is for one of the following reasons.
 - **To get confidential advice to help you present your case or to get support during proceedings** – although the discussions between you and the person you ask for the advice and help must be private.
 - **To get mediation or help to sort out a disagreement** between yourself and another person involved in the case.
 - **To get further help on a complaint you have made, or want to make**, about the proceedings or someone involved in them (such as an expert witness).

What can I say about my case?

You can share any information about the case in the circumstances listed above, except a draft judgment (one which hasn't yet been finalised and formally given by the court). This includes written information about your case, or anything that was discussed inside or outside of court. This means you can share information contained in:

- documents on the court file;
- evidence given in court, such as statements in a document or given in response to questioning;
- reports;
- the judgment; or
- any reasons the judge or magistrates give for the decisions and orders they make.

Page 2

The people or organisations you talk to can only use the information you share with them for the reason they received it – for example information shared for mediation purposes cannot be used for anything else. If they use the information for other purposes they could be in contempt of court and could face punishment by the court.

Always respect the privacy of the people involved in your case before sharing private information about them.

Remember...

You should bear in mind that other people involved in the proceedings can tell people about the case and share information you have provided in the proceedings without asking for your agreement. This information can also be passed on without your permission.

You, and the people you share information with, cannot share information about your proceedings with the public in general or with a section of the public under these rules.

If you, or another person, want to publish information about the proceedings to the public, you will need to get the judge's permission.

The court can authorise or restrict what information can be passed on in any case. If you have concerns about information being passed on to someone else, you should ask the court to consider restricting what information is passed on.

How can I share information about my case?

You can share information about your case verbally or by writing it down. This includes sending documents to someone by post or email. However, you cannot share information through web forums or blogs as this would make the information available to the public. The rules only allow you to talk about your case with individual people or organisations – they do not allow you to share information with the public in general or a section of the public.

How can I share information about my case safely?

It is essential that you share information about your case in a safe way. This is because the information may contain very personal or sensitive details about you or another person involved in the case, including children.

If you share information in a way that is not allowed by law, you could be in contempt of court, or even have committed a criminal offence, and could face serious penalties.

The system is set up to protect SS etc. not parents and children. You cannot have a fair trial when social services are involved. I have to love the irony of the first paragraph under REMEMBER.... Parents or family members who are part of the case are NOT allowed to show or share any information which makes up part of the case. However, other people involved in the proceedings (social workers, Cafcass, professionals, teachers etc.) can share information about the parents, children and family members without their permission. How is this fair or legal?

*ARTICLE 7***No punishment without law**

- 1 No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national or international law at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the criminal offence was committed.
- 2 This Article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations.

Got to love this one because so many parents are treated like criminals without a criminal case ever happening.

For myself I can attest that there were heinous allegations made against me in family court, that the judge stated were unfounded and could not be used against me because there was no actual evidence. Like I said previously social workers etc lie in family court. However, it has come to my attention numerous times over the years that they are still using these heinous allegations as facts when I was proved completely innocent because there was no evidence just lies. Over the years I have brought this up in the form of verbal or written complaints. In 2020 after being again accused of this I wrote to my MP and Sue Chandler cabinet member for integrated social services. I received two different calls from management at social services apologising for the misunderstanding, stating the social worker misread the information on the screen and that there was nothing in the records covering what the social worker said about myself and that this would not happen again. I explained to the managers on both calls that this was not the first time a social worker had said these things since my court case and obviously a lot of social workers had misread the files. I pushed my complaint as far as I could before suddenly, my MP etc. were told that the conversation (in front of witnesses) had never taken place and as such I had no choice but to stop fighting it.

This year and due to an issue with the same person who started the rubbish last year I now have written proof that social services have indeed accused me of the same thing, treating it as fact and that these false facts have been presented to the court in a case involving another member of my family. I again contacted social services, my MP and Sue Chandler because this is now at a point of completely ruining my life and the lives of other members of my family. However, social services refuse to amend the paperwork, knowing it isn't true and I can prove it isn't true. Cafcass refuse to return my calls so I can give them the information needed to prove they've been given false information. My MP etc. are not interested in helping with this.

Luckily, I still have the original paperwork proving that this is false information.

Under freedom of speech, I am willing to state that as far as I am concerned social service are continuing the mental and emotional abuse that was started over a decade ago. Abuse they used against me in court to remove my children from me. I will go as far as to state that my own mental health (that I did not have at the time of the court case according to the psychological and psychiatric assessments they had done) has become an issue covering every aspect of my life and that social services have a major part to play in what has happened to me concerning my mental health.

When you are innocent of something, when you have never been arrested for it or faced a criminal trial and yet are punished, hounded and destroyed by social services regarding it then that to be is breaking this human rights act.

health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

ARTICLE 10

Freedom of expression

- 1 Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.
- 2 The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

ARTICLE 11

Freedom of expression.

We are supposed to be able to freely express our opinions without interference from public authority, yet social services impose gagging orders on parents, professionals and the press when they try to expose what social services are doing. The lies, corruption, abuse within the care system etc.

Children are being silenced by social services, moved, isolated etc. to prevent them reporting the abuse they are going through inside the care system.

Need I say more?

ARTICLE 14

Prohibition of discrimination

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

Any parent who has had their children removed from them by social services is having this human rights act violated. We are discriminated against because our children were removed. Our children who are being looked after by the state are also discriminated against because they have been taken into care. The victims of domestic abuse are being victim shamed and blamed during any and all interactions with SS. They are being discriminated against because they are being abused by their partners yet expected to stop their abuser from harming their children.

If someone was kidnapped and held for six months or more would society, the government or other professionals' shame and blame them for not being able to protect others held under the same

conditions? Would they say it was the victims fault they were kidnapped and or abused by that kidnapper because they didn't fight harder to escape? There have been documented cases where someone was kidnapped and held for years, brainwashed etc, actually allowed to leave the residence of the kidnapper but returned to that residence each and every time. This is called conditioning and the victim of this situation would be treated fairly, given extensive therapy and support to cope within society.

How is being a domestic abuse victim any different? It is not like the victim asks the perpetrator to abuse them. It is not like they know as soon as they meet someone that they are going to be an abuser. Domestic abuse starts off very subtle, like concern for your welfare, protection, advice. A constant drop of water hitting a stone; which, over time creates a dent and then a hole. Most victims of domestic abuse will attest to the fact that by the time they realised what was happening was abuse they were estranged from family, friends. Had no support network and made to feel completely reliant on the abuser. No self-esteem, self worth was left and more importantly because most of these abusers are very confident and charming the outside world has no idea what they are like. This results in the victim not being believed or the perpetrator downplaying what has been said. Many times, the victim has by this stage repeatedly tried telling people what is going on including talking to SS or support workers who immediately tell the perpetrator what was said, who after convincing the professional nothing is wrong will then punish the victim for speaking out.

The best example I can give of fear tactics used by these abusers is when they tell their victim that if they speak out to professionals etc. that SS will take their children off them and put them in care, where the victim won't get to see them very often. Unfortunately, this is probably the only truth these abusers tell their victims because as soon as the victim reaches a stage where they know they speak out or they and, or their children will end up being killed by the abuser SS remove their children and blame them for not doing more to protect them.

Where are our human rights during all of this and it is not some new phenomenon it's been going on for decades. People shout and scream, write, blog, report how corrupt child social services are and yet nothing changes. Looked after children are being abused in every way on a daily basis and their cries for help are written off as being troublemakers because they are in the system.

ARTICLE 17

Prohibition of abuse of rights

Nothing in this Convention may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein or at their limitation to a greater extent than is provided for in the Convention.

Social services are breaking this along with all the aforementioned human rights acts on a daily basis and yet nothing is down to prevent it.

I could, like thousands of other parents and looked after children give multiple accounts under each of the articles above proving that our human rights are being ignored, walked on and destroyed by social services.

With our human rights being violated it wouldn't surprise me if over 50% of parents who have had their children removed from them by social services have later been diagnosed with mental health conditions.

It would not surprise me if 50% of the children taken into care every year are later diagnosed with mental health conditions during their lifetime.

There are no statistics on this because no one is considering the impact the care system and social services are having on thousands of people.

Our mental health services were at breaking point before covid, stretched even thinner whilst demand increased during lockdown.

The UK economy stalled because of Covid, not that it was ever actually that stable to begin with.

As parents who have lost their children into the care system can attest, mental health issues soon follow.

As expected in the majority of cases depression soon follows the removal of children and I would suggest that this happens to both the children as well as the parents. However, where there are support programs in place for the children. Or at least I hope there are. There is nothing in place for the parents, even when the court requests support be put into place.

After this the alienation from family and friends for the parent starts because no one fully understands the SS process and believes that the parent must have done something drastically wrong for their children to be removed. This is not always the case because sometimes there are other factors involved like domestic abuse between parents, where the victim parent is accused of not being able to change in time to be of benefit to the child. Or the "RISK" with no actual proof of harm in the future because child SS believe if you've been in one abusive relationship you will automatically go to another one and so on. Plus, there's always the you've been abused as a child so you will obviously go on to abuse your own kids tactic.

At risk (of child sexual exploitation)

This concerns any child where there is a concern that they will become subject to child sexual exploitation at some point, but this has not yet happened. The risk does not need to have been confirmed by other professionals.

Admittedly this screenshot is in relation to CSE. However, it does state that RISK does not need to have been confirmed by other professionals. It would appear that this wording, by the child social services who are a proxy for the Government, can cite future RISK without proof whenever they want. This future RISK of harm is often used in child court cases to obtain a care order on children.

I have read information online that seems to suggest the Government distance themselves from SS by saying that it is down to the local council, who, are in charge of SS in each area. Our local government (council) is supposed to represent the main government in each area. So, why do the government distance themselves from something they ultimately control?

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Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951

UK Public General Acts > 1951 c. 33 > Section 1

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What Version ?

● Latest available (Revised)

● Original (As enacted)

Opening Options ?

More Resources ?

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

1 Punishment of fraudulent mediums, &c.

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, any person who—

(a) with intent to deceive purports to act as a spiritualistic medium or to exercise any powers of telepathy, clairvoyance or other similar powers, or

(b) in purporting to act as a spiritualistic medium or to exercise such powers as aforesaid, uses any fraudulent device, shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) A person shall not be convicted of an offence under the foregoing subsection unless it is proved that he acted for reward; and for the purposes of this section a person shall be deemed to act for reward if any money is paid, or other valuable thing given, in respect of what he does, whether to him or to any other person.

(3) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four months or to both such fine and such imprisonment, or on conviction on indictment to a fine not exceeding five hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(4) No proceedings for an offence under this section shall be brought in England or Wales except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

(5) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall apply to anything done solely for the purpose of entertainment.

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As we have laws to protect citizens, unless for entertainment purposes, using any and all forms of mediumship why is it that child social services can use the crystal ball method of future RISK of harm to remove children from parents in court?

(2) other valuable things given, in respect of what he does, whether to him or any other person.

Our children are the most valuable things we have. By using 'potential future Risk' as a reason to secure a court order they are using a form of clairvoyance and as such breaking the law.

This act was repealed in 2018, but the premise still stands.

Had parents tried using this act to fight for their children prior to 2018? Is this why the act was repealed?

Next stage for parents who have lost their children into the care system is anxiety and trust issues.

PTSD can be a major factor for both parents and children who have been involved with SS.

As there are no statistics available for this subject matter the full impact of mental health issues starting for parents who have lost their children into the care system is again only conjecture. However, it can be likened to the effects on a parent of a child's death because the parent will still mourn the loss of their child or children.

Conclusion.

There needs to be some form of research undertaken to get the true numbers regarding parents of and looked after children's mental health declines after interaction with social services.

When more harm than good is happening then isn't it a failed experiment?

More needs to be done to stop victim blaming by social services.

An independent enquiry should be started to look into the human rights violations perpetrated by social services before, during and after children are removed from their parents. This enquiry should go back at least 10-12 years and every case should be reinvestigated without prejudice.

If we were hearing about human rights violations in any other country our government would be in the media condoning this behaviour. Yet, they sit back and do nothing when it is indoctrinated into the care system. Pretending it doesn't happen and stating the parents who fight against it are just not taking responsibility for their own actions etc. Victim blaming one on one.



How many parents of LAC have tried or succeeded in committing suicide each year for the past 10 years?

Just as there are no statistics on parents who end up with mental health issues after their child or children are removed, there are no statistics on how many of these parents end up trying to or actually commit suicide.

Again, every council told me the costs of checking individual child records was too excessive and that was even if the information existed.

Guilt can be a deciding factor when considering suicide along with feeling helpless and unable to change your situation.

Although I do not have statistics to back up my thoughts and beliefs I do have some knowledge regarding this subject.

PTSD is often associated with survivors guilt. If a parent who was the victim of an abusive relationship loses their child, over time the guilt they feel about not having those children with them and not being able to stop any abuse happening towards that child or children can cause them to think they should end their lives.

If their children grow up, have children themselves and then SS use the grandparents experiences against the looked after child as a reason to remove the grandchildren this guilt is compounded. Especially, when misinformation regarding the original parent is used as a reason to remove the 3rd generation with the family. Misinformation does happen. Unfortunately, because of the way child SS and courts are set up I can not supply evidence regarding this matter or I would be breaching a whole list of rules and laws set up to prevent any information regarding children's cases becoming public knowledge.

This is another thing that needs to be explored but is not subject to this report.

Any parent who has had their child removed will find it almost impossible to work in any sector involving children. Again there are no statistics I can find to show how many people on benefits have had their children removed from them or have been in the care system.

I do not understand how child SS can involve themselves directly with new parents who were at one time in the care system because if the care system worked the way it is supposed to then the new parent would be stable and have no need for SS involvement with their own children.

Again I believe this area is something that needs to be fully investigated.

More research needs to be done regarding the parts of this report that there is no current statistics on as it will help lower the strain on our nations resources, lower unemployment and help break the cycle of children ending up in the care system.

Conclusion:

Whether it is looked after children's or parents of looked after children's mental health and suicide risk research needs to be done to expose the figures.

I've shown how human rights are being walked over on both sides of the equation. The equation being the original family dynamic of the now looked after children.

Mental health is such a huge topic, suicide risks, self harming, anxiety, depression, PTSD, anorexia, eating disorders, sleep deprivation, split personality, bipolar, emotionally unstable personality disorder, dissociative disorder, agoraphobia, claustrophobia to name just a few.

Lack of mental health resources.

Why has no research been done into this looking at parents of and looked after children.

Why is there no statistical evidence?

How many of our countries homeless population were looked after children?

How many of our looked after children have their children removed from them?



How many complaints have been filed against child social services in your area each year for the past 10 years.

Most people would think this was a simple enough question with an easy answer but they would be wrong.

It would appear that statistics differ significantly between number of complaints and complaints upheld. Most responses to the FOI requests only cover the complaints upheld and do not mention how many complaints were actually made. Furthermore, none of the FOI request answers mention how many complaints have been filed by actual LAC children.

Complaints made by LAC are separated into different segments of complaints made and complaints upheld. Then there are complaints made to child social services about foster carers. These also being separated into total complaints and complaints upheld.

Types of complaints from all allegations made and complaints made are then placed in sub-sections looking at the data I found on the GOV.UK website.

However, this is where GOV.UK come into their own because, although a little difficult to find, the data and statistics for LAC related complaints can be accessed. These statistics do not cover the information supplied by FOI answers because they do not cover complaints filed directly against child social services or social workers.

Is there a reason that complaints made directly against child social services and social workers are not published?

At the time of writing this I still have not found anything on the other 3 government websites that make up the U.K. For Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland I can only use the statistics supplied by the FOI requests.

Complaints and allegations total by year from the GOV.UK website data packets. Plus number of recorded incidents of children physically restrained by foster carers.

2012-13 = 1,855 allegations and 1,645 complaints. 1,120 incidents of physical restraint.

2013-14 = 2,315 allegations and 1,625 complaints. 1,230 incidents of physical restraint.

2014-15 = 2,420 allegations and 1,550 complaints. 1,025 incidents of physical restraint.

2015-16 = 2,450 allegations and 1,470 complaints. 1,040 incidents of physical restraint.

2016-17 = 2,525 allegations and 1,530 complaints. 1,280 incidents of physical restraint.

2017-18 = 2,445 allegations and 1,500 complaints. 1,205 incidents of physical restraint.

2018-19 = 2,705 allegations and 1,435 complaints. 995 incidents of physical restraint.

FAMILY LIVES MATTER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Return to Contents	Return to Contents tab	England								
2	Topic	Data	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19		
3	Children and Young People	Number of children/young people in placements (at 31 March)	50,600	51,315	51,805	51,805	52,005	53,040	54,870		
4		Child sexual exploitation									
5		Number of CYP considered to be at risk of CSE	..	..	2,690	1,725	3,180	3,090	2785		
6		Number of CYP considered to be subject to CSE	..	..	865	500	985	835			
7											
8	Allegations of abuse & Complaints	Number of allegations of abuse									
9		Number of allegations against foster carers by fostered children	..	..	1,640	1,550	1,665	1,595	1745		
10		Number of allegations against foster carers by other sources	..	..	785	900	860	845	960		
11		Total number of allegations made	1,855	2,315	2,420	2,450	2,525	2,445	2705		
12		Number of children made allegations against foster carers	..	..	1,635	1,595	1,680	1,565	1730		
13		Number of foster carers subject to allegations	..	..	2,275	2,300	2,430	2,340	2650		
14		Category of alleged abuse									
15		Physical abuse	..	..	1,405	1,440	1,430	1,410	1570		
16		Sexual abuse	..	..	200	195	210	185	175		
17		Neglect	..	..	365	390	440	380	430		
18		Emotional abuse	..	..	450	430	440	470	530		
19		Outcome of investigation									
20		Concerns resolved, no further action	..	..	1,440	1,375	1,445	1,380	1535		
21		Continued monitoring for agreed period	..	..	405	475	390	430	450		
22		Concern remained, refer to fostering panel for review	..	..	570	580	670	630	705		
23											
24		Physical Restraint									
25		Number of recorded incidents of physical restraint by foster carers	1,120	1,230	1,025	1,040	1,280	1,205	995		
26		Number of CYP subject to restraint	555	580	570	580	650	630	645		
27		Number of households that restrained CYP	535	600	590	600	570	615	540		
28									290		
29		Complaints									
30		CYP (complaints made)	355	335	290	335	305	330	290		
31		CYP (complaints not upheld)	155	175	135	185	160	155	130		
32		Foster carers (complaints made)	570	540	545	460	465	415	445		
33		Foster carers (complaints not upheld)	240	245	255	210	200	180	185		
34		CYPs social workers (complaints made)	175	205	185	170	155	160	140		
35		CYPs social workers (complaints not upheld)	95	85	70	55	70	80	70		
36		Other professionals (complaints made)	140	140	140	135	135	125	160		
37		Other professionals (complaints not upheld)	55	60	65	50	55	45	70		
38		CYPs parents (complaints made)	215	195	200	185	285	260	190		
39		CYPs parents (complaints not upheld)	100	90	115	110	175	130	90		
40		Others (complaints made)	190	205	190	185	185	215	215		
41		Others (complaints not upheld)	100	105	100	100	105	105	95		
42		Total complaints (complaints made)	1,645	1,625	1,550	1,470	1,530	1,500	1435		
43		Total complaints (complaints not upheld)	740	765	740	710	765	695	630		

There are recorded more than 1,000 more reported allegations from looked after children each year than number of complaints.

It is unclear if the reported incidents of physical restraint are included within the allegations, although they appear to be separate.

Over half of the total allegations made by looked after children each year result in no further action taken. Just under a quarter of all allegations conclude with concerns remain, refer to fostering panel for review. There is nothing to say what happens at these reviews.

Around half the total of all complaints are not upheld.

There is no data to suggest what happens as a result of the physical restraint claims.

As this report does not include number of referrals made to child social services in regards to children within the family home, or the outcome of the assessments undertaken I can not say if the figures just given are in line with children within the family home. However, a comparison between the two sections could be beneficial in working out the risk factors for children within the care system.

Where FOI answers are concerned. Before even half of the councils responded there were more complaints filed against child SS than number of children removed by SS each year. This would suggest that if every council answered there would be more logged complaints against child SS than number of children in care each year. This is without considering the number of complaints that are not logged on the system.

FAMILY LIVES MATTER

Topic	Sub-topic	Data	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
		Number of which resulted in a recommendation being made to review the decision	66	90	90	96	68
Allegations of abuse & complaints	Number of allegations of abuse	Number of allegations against foster carers by fostered children	1,640	1,550	1,665	1,595	1,745
		Number of allegations against foster carers by other sources	785	900	860	845	960
		Total number of allegations made	2,420	2,450	2,525	2,445	2,705
		Number of children made allegations against foster carers	1,635	1,595	1,680	1,565	1,730
		Number of foster carers subject to allegations	2,275	2,300	2,430	2,340	2,650
	Category of alleged abuse	Physical abuse	1,405	1,440	1,430	1,410	1,570
		Sexual abuse	200	195	210	185	175
		Neglect	365	390	440	380	430
		Emotional abuse	450	430	440	470	530
	Outcome of investigation	Concerns resolved, no further action	1,440	1,375	1,445	1,380	1,535
		Continued monitoring for agreed period	405	475	390	430	450
		Concern remained, refer to fostering panel for review	570	580	670	630	705
	Timescale for investigation	Less than 21 working days	1,335	1,250	1,255	1,170	1,385
		22-30 working days (4-6 weeks)	395	385	400	370	360
		31-50 working days (6-10 weeks)	265	295	280	360	335
		More than 50 working days (more than 10 weeks)	430	495	565	530	615
	Physical restraint	Number of recorded incidents of physical restraint by foster carers	1,025	1,040	1,280	1,205	1,135
		Number of CYP subject to restraint	570	580	650	630	645
		Number of households that restrained CYP	590	600	570	615	540
	Complaints	CYP (complaints made)	290	335	305	330	290
		CYP (complaints not upheld)	135	185	160	155	130
		Foster carers (complaints made)	545	460	465	415	445
Foster carers (complaints not upheld)		255	210	200	180	185	
CYP's social workers (complaints made)		185	170	155	160	140	
CYP's social workers (complaints not upheld)		70	55	70	80	70	
Other professionals (complaints made)		140	135	135	125	160	
Other professionals (complaints not upheld)		65	50	55	45	70	
CYP's parents (complaints made)		200	185	285	260	190	
CYP's parents (complaints not upheld)		115	110	175	130	90	
Others (complaints made)		190	185	185	215	215	
Others (complaints not upheld)		100	100	105	105	95	
Total complaints (complaints made)		1,550	1,470	1,530	1,500	1,435	
Total complaints (complaints not upheld)		740	710	765	695	630	



FAMILY LIVES MATTER

41	Number of allegations of abuse	Number of allegations against foster carers by fostered children	1,550
42		Number of allegations against foster carers by other sources	900
43	Number of allegations	Total number of allegations made	2,450
44	Number of allegations	Number of children made allegations against foster carers	1,595
45	Number of allegations	Number of foster carers subject to allegations	2,300
46	Category of alleged abuse	Physical abuse	1,440
47	Category of alleged abuse	Sexual abuse	195
48	Category of alleged abuse	Neglect	390
49	Category of alleged abuse	Emotional abuse	430
50	Outcome of investigation	Concerns resolved, no further action	1,375
51	Outcome of investigation	Continued monitoring for agreed period	475
52	Outcome of investigation	Concern remained, refer to fostering panel for review	580
53	Timescale for investigation	Less than 21 working days	1,250
54	Timescale for investigation	22-30 working days (4-6 weeks)	385
55	Timescale for investigation	31-50 working days (6-10 weeks)	295
56	Timescale for investigation	More than 50 working days (more than 10 weeks)	495
57			
58	Referrals	Number of referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)	75
59	Referrals	Number of referrals to the local authority child protection team	1,460
60	Referrals	Number of Section 47 enquiries	830
61			
62	Physical Restraint	Number of recorded incidents of physical restraint by foster carers	1,040
63	Physical Restraint	Number of CYP subject to restraint	580
64	Physical Restraint	Number of foster carers who restrained CYP	600
65			
66	Complaints	CYP (complaints made)	335
67	Complaints	CYP (complaints not upheld)	185
68	Complaints	Foster carers (complaints made)	460
69	Complaints	Foster carers (complaints not upheld)	210
70	Complaints	CYP's social workers (complaints made)	170
71	Complaints	CYP's social workers (complaints not upheld)	55
72	Complaints	Other professionals (complaints made)	135
73	Complaints	Other professionals (complaints not upheld)	50
74	Complaints	CYP's parents (complaints made)	185
75	Complaints	CYP's parents (complaints not upheld)	110
76	Complaints	Others (complaints made)	185
77	Complaints	Others (complaints not upheld)	100
78	Complaints	Total complaints (complaints made)	1,470
79	Complaints	Total complaints (complaints not upheld)	710
80			

2015-2016 statistics for allegations and complaints from the GOV.UK website.

The below screenshot is also from GOV.UK website showing totals spanning between 2014/15 to 2018/19.

Physical restraint by foster carers against looked after children is a breach of the child's human rights as well as being against the very rules' child social services and the government impose on parents.

There is no data to say if these incidents are perpetrated by the same foster carers year after year. Nothing to say if the placements are barred from having any further children. Nothing to indicate if the victim of abuse on upheld cases are moved placements.

Does anyone take notice of these figures?

When the evidence shows around the same or higher numbers year after year why hasn't something been done already to protect the children who are supposed to be in the care of the local government?

Topic	Sub-topic	Data	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
		Number of which resulted in a recommendation being made to review the decision	86	88	88	95	88
Allegations of abuse & complaints	Number of allegations of abuse	Number of allegations against foster carers by fostered children	1,640	1,550	1,665	1,595	1,745
		Number of allegations against foster carers by other sources	785	900	860	845	960
		Total number of allegations made	2,420	2,450	2,525	2,445	2,705
		Number of children made allegations against foster carers	1,635	1,595	1,680	1,565	1,730
		Number of foster carers subject to allegations	2,275	2,300	2,430	2,340	2,650
	Category of alleged abuse	Physical abuse	1,405	1,440	1,430	1,410	1,570
		Sexual abuse	200	195	210	185	175
		Neglect	365	390	440	380	430
		Emotional abuse	450	430	440	470	530
	Outcome of investigation	Concerns resolved, no further action	1,440	1,375	1,445	1,380	1,535
		Continued monitoring for agreed period	405	475	390	430	450
		Concern remained, refer to fostering panel for review	570	580	670	630	705
	Timescale for investigation	Less than 21 working days	1,335	1,250	1,255	1,170	1,385
		22-30 working days (4-6 weeks)	395	385	400	370	360
		31-50 working days (6-10 weeks)	265	295	280	360	335
More than 50 working days (more than 10 weeks)		430	495	565	530	615	
Physical restraint	Number of recorded incidents of physical restraint by foster carers	1,025	1,040	1,280	1,205	1,135	
	Number of CYP subject to restraint	570	580	650	630	645	
	Number of households that restrained CYP	590	600	570	615	540	
Complaints	CYP (complaints made)	290	335	305	330	290	
	CYP (complaints not upheld)	135	185	160	155	130	
	Foster carers (complaints made)	545	460	465	415	445	
	Foster carers (complaints not upheld)	255	210	200	180	185	
	CYP's social workers (complaints made)	185	170	155	160	140	
	CYP's social workers (complaints not upheld)	70	55	70	80	70	
	Other professionals (complaints made)	140	135	135	125	160	
	Other professionals (complaints not upheld)	65	50	55	45	70	
	CYP's parents (complaints made)	200	185	285	260	190	
	CYP's parents (complaints not upheld)	115	110	175	130	90	
	Others (complaints made)	190	185	185	215	215	
	Others (complaints not upheld)	100	100	105	105	95	
	Total complaints (complaints made)	1,550	1,470	1,530	1,500	1,435	
	Total complaints (complaints not upheld)	740	710	765	695	630	

1945 – The first child abuse inquiry

The first formal child death inquiry took place in England in 1945 into the death of Dennis O'Neill, who was killed at the age of 12 by his foster father. (NSPCC history of child protection)

The very first child abuse inquiry took place because a foster father killed a child in his care.

Since at least the 1880's there has been some form of child social services. Around 200 years of children being removed from parents for a multitude of reasons, including poverty or risk of harm, placed into foster families and then once supposedly safe subjected to abuse in its many forms.

A	B	F	G	H	I	J
Return to Conte		Return to Contents tab	England			
Topic	Sub-topic	Data	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Child Sexual Exploitation	Child Sexual Exploitation	Number of CYP considered to be at risk of CSE	..	..	2,690	..
		Number of CYP considered to be at risk of CSE (at 31 March)	..	..	1,345	..
		Number of CYP considered to be subject to CSE	..	..	865	..
		Number of CYP considered to be subject to CSE (at 31 March)	..	..	485	..

The fact that there is a section allocated specifically to child exploitation in the statistical data for children in care is horrifying because it proves unequivocally that child social services and the government are aware that children being looked after by the local authority are at

risk of sexual abuse. The data above only covers 2014 – 15 with other years not showing information.

			England				
Topic	Sub-topic	Data	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Child sexual exploitation	Number of CYP considered to be at risk of CSE		2,690	..	3,180	3,090	2,765

As you can see from the above screenshot after 2015 the only data recorded for public viewing is the considered risks. Just to clarify exactly what this subject matter includes I have taken the following screenshot from the glossary section of the reports I obtained the data from.

At risk (of child sexual exploitation)
This concerns any child where there is a concern that they will become subject to child sexual exploitation at some point, but this has not yet happened. The risk does not need to have been confirmed by other professionals.
Child Sexual Exploitation
The DfE uses the following definition of CSE: Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. Working Together to safeguard children, DfE (updated 16 February 2017) www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2 (p.93)

This section of the report deals with complaints against child social services. Foster carers are in the employ of social services and as such complaints against them are as important as complaints made directly against child SS.

The reason for clarifying the terminology of definition regarding risk of child sexual exploitation actually has nothing to do with the subject matter and everything to do with the terminology definition of the word risk. I am in no way downplaying the seriousness of CSE.

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Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951

UK Public General Acts > 1951 c. 33 > Section 1

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What Version ?

- Latest available (Revised)
- Original (As enacted)**

Opening Options ?

More Resources ?

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

1 Punishment of fraudulent mediums, &c.

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, any person who—

- with intent to deceive purports to act as a spiritualistic medium or to exercise any powers of telepathy, clairvoyance or other similar powers, or
- in purporting to act as a spiritualistic medium or to exercise such powers as aforesaid, uses any fraudulent device, shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) A person shall not be convicted of an offence under the foregoing subsection unless it is proved that he acted for reward; and for the purposes of this section a person shall be deemed to act for reward if any money is paid, or other valuable thing given, in respect of what he does, whether to him or to any other person.

(3) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four months or to both such fine and such imprisonment, or on conviction on indictment to a fine not exceeding five hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(4) No proceedings for an offence under this section shall be brought in England or Wales except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

(5) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall apply to anything done solely for the purpose of entertainment.

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See below screenshot: Referring to the illegal use of clairvoyance unless for entertainment purposes. Using terms like potential future: harm, risk of abuse in any form, without undeniable proof that this will happen at some point in the future (which is impossible). Stating a parent cannot change in time to be of benefit to the child. (Never giving a time frame) is by definition of the Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951 breaking the law and is punishable by a fine or custodial sentence.

Although statistical evidence regarding nature of complaints made towards child social services does not include reason for complaints there are many online forums, groups, blogs and media. Covering personal accounts and testimony regarding parents interaction, subjectification, humiliation and complaints surrounding their involvement with child SS. Many of the posts deal with the impossibility of parents to disprove potential risk. I'm sure you've heard the term social workers crystal ball method. Simply put SS will tell the court etc that the parent cannot change in time to be of benefit to the child or children or that there is a potential risk to the child if left with the parent.

The terminology above would seem to back up these parental claims as by their own volition they state that the risk does not need to be confirmed by other professionals. However, when the tables are turned and it is the foster carer, secure unit, children's home, social worker or

child SS who could be the “RISK” to the child the definition of the word risk changes and complaints, etc. are written off or the person making the complaint / allegation is served with a gagging order.

When looking at statistical evidence we cannot ignore evidence from other sources just because there are no spreadsheets or excel files. Factors that can alter statistical data to prejudice results also need to be given some consideration. Especially as there are no records kept in regard to many of the complaints laid against child SS.

Looking at the news reports regarding historical claims of abuse within the care system, reports written to back up these claims and in some incidents victim statements. I believe there is a substantial number of complaints from both LAC and their birth families, other professionals and even in some cases social workers that are written off and not logged even though the complaints / allegations are valid and there is significant risk of harm to children within the care system.

I also believe that there were significant indicators, complaints, concerns raised at the time during these historic and well documented failures to protect children in care although I cannot give you statistical evidence to back up my belief. Furthermore, I believe that many members of society are or would be raising the same kinds of concerns regarding treatment of children within the care of the local authority if they were not scared of SS and gagging orders.

As previously stated in this report the whole child protection system has been set up to eliminate the chances of parents or other concerned professionals from being able to speak out or complain about the inadequacies within the system, misinformation and lies, parental alienation, abuse within the system on all levels and most importantly protection of children once in the care system.

Conclusion:

Research is needed to find out if the majority of children are safer at home or in the care system.

Understanding if looked after children simply stop complaining when their complaints and allegations are not upheld or listened to would also help identify if the numbers above are a true representation of the state of the care system. As would knowing how long these children have been in care before they started or stopped making allegations and complaints.

It is also worth noting that over 50% of the allegations made by children in care is relating to the category of physical abuse.

Research is also needed to establish how widespread these issues are across the UK care system and if every complaint is recorded or if some complaints are kept off file. i.e., are verbal complaints logged, if so what types. Does a complaint have to be in writing or through a 3rd party before it is logged?

Where FOI request numbers are concerned it would be good to know how many of these complaints are from former / birth parents of looked after children. If there is a difference between complaints made against a specific social worker compared to child social services as a whole. What category these complaints fall into.

Some data is better than none because it gives people a starting point but at the same time with the way these statistics are reported they also leave scope for interpretation.

Is the category of abuse alleged or complained about by the looked after child worse than the reason they were removed from their parents?



How many LAC have run away or disappeared in your area each year for the past 10 years?

These statistics started to be reported in 2015. Some local authorities have supplied data prior to 2015, although there are no governmental statistics to check against.

There also seems to be some resistance from some areas regarding providing this information either to the government or via FOI.

Furthermore, there are many discrepancies between FOI results and government data. This means interpretation of the information is difficult.

The government and local authorities class and run away or disappeared episodes as missing. Under the category of missing there are two different sets of statistics.

The first being the number of children who have gone missing from foster care and the second is the number of incidents as some of these children go missing on multiple occasions.

A further complication is that some of the FOI responses cover the total number of incidents, and some only cover the number of children. As such for this report I will work primarily on the number of children that went missing. However, I will include data on both statistics where possible.

It should be mentioned that even when FOI request answers are for number of children and not total incidents the statistics can still differ from the information supplied on the GOV.UK statistics.

These statistics are still classed as experimental on the official government site.

FAMILY LIVES MATTER

Sub-topic	Data	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Child sexual exploitation	Number of CYP considered to be at risk of CSE	1,125	..	1,350	1,120	1,020
Going missing	Number of children/young people who went 'missing' while living with foster carers	2,760	..	2,930	2,835	2,560
	Number of instances children/young people went 'missing' while living with foster carers	9,465	..	10,980	10,340	8,675
Total time missing	Less than 24 hours	1,570	..	1,435	1,390	1,410
	One to six days	880	..	930	920	715
	One week to 28 days	260	..	335	320	225
	Longer than 28 days	50	..	235	205	210
Primary reasons for going missing	Bullying	10	..	10	10	10
	Involvement in offending behaviour	285	..	75	50	40
	Substance misuse	255	..	50	40	30
	Contact with family or friends	5,105	..	1,730	1,845	1,680
	Alleged abuse within the foster home	15	..	5	10	5
	Because they are an asylum seeker	110	..	60	50	45
	Suspected sexual exploitation	675	..	145	115	100
	Any other known reason	935	..	490	400	415
	Reason unknown	2,040	..	370	320	235
Return home interviews	Number of return home interviews conducted	..	..	2,995	2,710	2,665
	Number of missing children/young people with no return home interview	..	..	1,750	1,695	1,385
Unplanned endings	Number of children experiencing unplanned endings	..	..	2,935	2,670	2,510
	Number of children experiencing placement moves within 24 hours of unplanned ending notification	..	..	685	720	945
Children who left agency	Transferred to LA fostering placement	..	..	2,650	2,855	2,830

Year 2015-16 data was missing from the above data source. Below is the information for the missing year from above.

Seeing as this information is available from the official government website, I wonder why it was missing from the above excel file.

CYP = Child young person			
	Return to Contents tab		
Sub-topic	Data		England
Information about CYP	Number of children/young people in placements (at 31 March)		51,805
Information about CYP	Number of disabled children/young people (at 31 March)^		4,855
Child Sexual Exploitation^	Number of CYP considered to be at risk of child sexual exploitation		1,725
Child Sexual Exploitation	Number of CYP considered to be subject to child sexual exploitation		500
Going Missing^	Number of children/young people who went 'missing' whilst living with foster carers		3,055
CYP Going Missing	Number of instances children/young people went 'missing' whilst living with foster carers		10,640
Total time missing^	Less than 24 hours		1,510
Total time missing	One to six days		1,095
Total time missing	One week to 28 days		315
Total time missing	Longer than 28 days		135
Primary reasons for going missing^	Bullying		15
	Involvement in offending behaviour		60
Reasons for going missing	Substance misuse		55
Reasons for going missing	Contact with family or friends		1,610
Reasons for going missing	Alleged abuse within the foster home		25
Reasons for going missing	Because they are an asylum seeker		35
Reasons for going missing	Suspected sexual exploitation		155
Reasons for going missing	Any other known reason		720
	Reason unknown		385
Return Home Interviews*	Number of return home interviews conducted in 2015-16		4,135
	Number of missing children/young people with no return home interview		1,405

UK.GOV statistics.

2013 = 3,325 children but 9,765 incidents

2014 = 4,245 children but 13,300 incidents

2015 = 5,055 children but 17,175 incidents

2016 = 3,055 children but 10,640 incidents

2017 = 6,925 children but 30,380 incidents

2018 = 6,835 children but 30,615 incidents

2019 = 6,395 children but 27,085 incidents

It is worth pointing out that the total time missing statistics are completely useless because the totals do not add up to either total above.

Total time missing is separated into four categories. Less than 24 hours, 1 to 6 days, 1 week to 28 days and longer than 28 days.

2013 total time missing 3,340 data records. 6425 incidents not recorded.

2014 total time missing 4,245 data records. 9055 incidents not recorded.

2015 total time missing 5,060 data records. 12115 incidents not recorded.

2016 total time missing 3,055 data records 7585 incidents not recorded.

2017 total time missing 6,925 data records. 23455 incidents not recorded.

2018 total time missing 6,835 data records. 23780 incidents not recorded.

2019 total time missing 6,395 data records. 20690 incidents not recorded.

It would appear that only the first missing incident is recorded but this doesn't make sense because to understand trends, patterns etc you would need to know all pertinent data. What if the first time the child went missing it was for around 8 hours, but the second time was a month?

How many of these children are still missing? Are they only counted as missing until SS know where they are, even if they are not returned to their placement?

In 2017 and 2018 there was almost as many total number of missing incidents as new children taken into care.

There are 9 categories under primary reason for going missing. These are as follows: bullying, involvement in offending behaviour, substance misuse, contact with friends and family, alleged abuse within the foster home, because they are an asylum seeker, suspected sexual exploitation, any other known reason and reason unknown.

There are no statistics for 2013. the remaining totals for all primary reasons are as follows: 2014 = 12890, 2015 = 17085, 2016 = 2760, 2017 = 6920, 2018 = 6840 and 2019 = 6400.

Again, you will notice that these totals do not add up to the total number of missing incident. As such, there is no way to know which main reason is behind any of the missing incidents.

Looking at the numbers given it is easy to believe that the main reason for missing incidents is to see family and friends, but what if those visits are to request help over abuse within the foster placement.

Is being an asylum seeker the only reason these children went missing?

To make matters worse if you look at the GOV statistics reported 2018 the above numbers differ significantly. However, these statistics do not give the same number of details as the above data packet.

2015 = 6130 children and 28700 incidents.

2016 = 8660 children and 42890 incidents

2017 = 10720 children and 60870 incidents

2018 = 11530 children and 70250 incidents

Please note on the government data packet it states that these statistics are experimental based on data collected for the first time in 2015 and should be treated with caution. Furthermore, figures are not comparable between years.

Yet on a different data file same year the numbers drop, did they suddenly decide not as many children went missing and there were less occasions of missing children?

Children still missing on 31 March.

2015 = 140. 2016 = 210. 2017 = 290 and 2018 = 340.

Total time missing was recorded for every incident.

Children who went missing more than once during the year	3,000	3,200	6,070	7,400
Children missing at 31 March	140	210	290	340
Durations of missing periods^{5,6}	28,700	42,890	60,870	70,250
Less than 1 day	9,820	15,810	22,400	24,390
1 to 2 days	15,670	22,190	32,020	38,090
3 to 7 days	2,320	3,570	4,770	5,740
8 to 10 days	270	420	500	650
11 to 15 days	210	290	400	500
16 to 20 days	90	130	140	230
21 to 30 days	90	130	160	190
More than 30 days	230	370	470	470

Why are these numbers not fully reported in a different data packet if they have the statistics and the statistics account for every missing incident?

Age of children at start of missing incident⁵	28,700	42,890	60,870	70,250
Under 1	10	20	30	40
1 to 4	20	30	30	40
5 to 9	80	100	190	180
10 to 15	14,840	22,510	30,970	33,480
16 and over	13,760	20,240	29,650	36,510

Stupid question. How does a child under the age of 1 go missing from care?

Below are screenshots from both data files.

FAMILY LIVES MATTER

1	back to contents					
2	Table G1: Children looked after who were missing¹ or away from placement without authorisation^{2,3}					
3	Years ending 31 March 2015 to 2018					
4	Coverage: England					
5	These statistics are experimental statistics, based on data collected for the first time in 2015, and should be treated with caution.					
6	Figures are not comparable between years. See footnote 4 for more details.					
7				numbers and percentages ⁴		
8						
9			2015	2016	2017	2018
10						
11						
12	Missing					
13						
14	Children who had a missing incident during the year ⁵		6,130	8,660	10,720	11,530
15	of which:					
16	Male		3,140	4,620	6,000	6,450
17	Female		2,990	4,040	4,720	5,080
18	Children looked after during the year		99,410	100,910	102,660	104,100
19	Percentage of whom had a missing incident during the year		6	9	10	11
20	Missing incidents during the year ⁵		28,700	42,890	60,870	70,250
21	Average number of missing incidents per looked after child who went missing ^{5,4}		4.7	5.0	5.7	6.1
22	Children who went missing more than once during the year ⁷		3,600	5,200	6,670	7,460
23	Children missing at 31 March		140	210	290	340
24						
25	Durations of missing periods⁸		28,700	42,890	60,870	70,250

Return to Contents tab		England							
Topic	Sub-topic	Data	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Children and Young People	Information about CYP	Number of children/young people in placements (at 31 March)	50,600	51,315	51,805	51,805	52,005	53,040	54,870
	Child sexual exploitation	Number of CYP considered to be at risk of CSE	..	..	2,690	1,725	3,180	3,090	2765
		Number of CYP considered to be subject to CSE	..	..	865	500	985	835	
	Going missing	Number of children/young people who went 'missing' while living with foster carers	3,325	4,245	5,055	3,055	6,925	6,835	6395
		Number of instances children/young people went 'missing' while living with foster carers	9,765	13,300	17,175	10,640	30,380	30,615	27085
	Total time missing	Less than 24 hours	1,730	2,300	2,515	1,510	3,115	3,125	3105
		One to six days	1,145	1,375	1,845	1,095	2,345	2,285	2100
		One week to 28 days	355	420	545	315	930	955	760
		Longer than 28 days	110	150	155	135	535	470	430
	Primary reasons for going missing	Bullying	..	45	35	15	40	35	40
		Involvement in offending behaviour	..	585	495	60	145	120	115
		Substance misuse	..	430	495	55	125	140	110
		Contact with family or friends	..	6,595	8,480	1,310	3,615	3,595	3285
		Alleged abuse within the foster home	..	15	70	25	15	20	20
		Because they are an asylum seeker	..	105	215	35	135	100	75
		Suspected sexual exploitation	..	530	1,250	155	340	265	220
		Any other known reason	..	1,395	1,805	720	1,365	1,365	1210
		Reason unknown	..	3,190	4,240	385	1,140	1,200	1325
	Return home interviews	Number of return home interviews conducted	..	..	..	4,135	11,540	12,800	11995
		Number of missing children/young people with no return home interview	..	..	..	1,405	3,130	2,965	2460

It is worth pointing out here that when a looked after child moves area, they remain under the original areas child social services domain. As such a child moved from Surrey to Glasgow remains the responsibility of Surrey.

How can the original area in this instance Surrey properly maintain the care they are responsible for when the child is in Glasgow and with so many children being moved areas is it not surprising that so many children go missing. Especially, when so many of these looked after children are filing their own complaints and allegations.

When so many looked after children are being shipped around the UK and in some cases outside the UK then I would expect far greater numbers of complaints from the children's birth families. Is this another example of social services using servitude and breaking other human rights like freedom of expression to quiet the parents and families of looked after children?

Using the latest statistical information from the Gov.UK website there are 3 years of data on unauthorised absence from placements, which appear to be separate from the missing children information. There is no information to explain the difference between these two subjects.

As this data comes through in a different format than the other statistical data files possibly due to be new data, I will cover this topic year by year with screenshots for clarity.

time period	geographic	country name	missing status	characteristic	Number
2018	National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Age of child away from placement - Total	15670
2018	National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 1 to 4 who were away from placement	10
2018	National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 10 to 15 who were away from placement	5080
2018	National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 16 and over who were away from placement	10560
2018	National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 5 to 9 who were away from placement	20
2018	National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged under 1 who were away from placement	3870
2018	National	England	Away from placement without authorisation	Total number of away from placement incidents during the year	15670
2018	National	England	Children away from placement by gender	Females	1650
2018	National	England	Children away from placement by gender	Males	2220
2018	National	England	Children away from placement by gender	Total Children who were away from placement without authorisation during the year	3870
2018	National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	All children looked after during the year	104250
2018	National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Average (mean) number of days per Away from placement incident	1.7
2018	National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Average (median) number of days per Away from placement incident	1
2018	National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Average number of incidents per looked after child who were away from placement	4
2018	National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Children away from placement at 31 March	50
2018	National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Children who were away from placement more than once during the year	2060
2018	National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Percentage of children looked after during the year who were away from placement	4
2018	National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Duration of away from placement periods - Total	15670
2018	National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 1 and 2 days	9060
2018	National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 11 and 15 days	120
2018	National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 16 and 20 days	40
2018	National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 21 and 30 days	50
2018	National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 3 and 7 days	1130
2018	National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 8 and 10 days	130
2018	National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is less than 1 day	5080
2018	National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is more than 30 days	70
2018	National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement being placed with parents	70
2018	National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement from secure units, children's homes and semi-independant placements	8150
2018	National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement in foster placements	3310
2018	National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement in placed for adoption	0
2018	National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement living independently	3900
2018	National	England	Placements from which children were away	Other placements	250
2018	National	England	Placements from which children were away	Placements from which children were away - Total	15670

According to the latest figures from GOV.UK total number of children being looked after 31 March 2018 is 75370. These statistics also state that in total 104250 children were looked after during 2018

Total number of children away from placement without authorisation 31 March 2018 is 3870 with 50 still AWOL. Total number of incidents is 15670.

2019

35						
36	2019 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Age of child away from placement - Total		13610
37	2019 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 1 to 4 who were away from placement	c	
38	2019 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 10 to 15 who were away from placement		3620
39	2019 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 16 and over who were away from placement		9960
40	2019 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 5 to 9 who were away from placement		20
41	2019 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged under 1 who were away from placement		10
42	2019 National	England	Away from placement without authorisation	Total number of away from placement incidents during the year		13610
43	2019 National	England	Children away from placement by gender	Females		1580
44	2019 National	England	Children away from placement by gender	Males		2020
45	2019 National	England	Children away from placement by gender	Total Children who were away from placement without authorisation during the year		3600
46	2019 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	All children looked after during the year		106630
47	2019 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Average (mean) number of days per Away from placement incident		2
48	2019 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Average (median) number of days per Away from placement incident		1
49	2019 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Average number of incidents per looked after child who were away from placement		3.8
50	2019 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Children away from placement at 31 March		40
51	2019 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Children who were away from placement more than once during the year		1890
52	2019 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Percentage of children looked after during the year who were away from placement		3
53	2019 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Duration of away from placement periods - Total		13610
54	2019 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 1 and 2 days		7820
55	2019 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 11 and 15 days		110
56	2019 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 16 and 20 days		40
57	2019 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 21 and 30 days		50
58	2019 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 3 and 7 days		1220
59	2019 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 8 and 10 days		160
60	2019 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is less than 1 day		4120
61	2019 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is more than 30 days		90
62	2019 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement being placed with parents		80
63	2019 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement from secure units, children's homes and semi-independent placements		7330
64	2019 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement in foster placements		2470
65	2019 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement in placed for adoption		0
66	2019 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement living independently		3470
67	2019 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Other placements		260
68	2019 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Placements from which children were away - Total		13610
69						

According to the latest figures from GOV.UK total number of children being looked after 31 March 2019 is 78140. These statistics also state that in total 106630 children were looked after during 2019.

Total number of children away from placement without authorisation 31 March 2019 is 3600 with 40 still AWOL. Total number of incidents is 13610. 10 of those AWOL were under a year old. Do these numbers include mother and baby placements?

2020

2020 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Age of child away from placement - Total		13700
2020 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 1 to 4 who were away from placement	c	
2020 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 10 to 15 who were away from placement		3840
2020 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 16 and over who were away from placement		9840
2020 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged 5 to 9 who were away from placement		10
2020 National	England	Age of children who were away from placement	Children aged under 1 who were away from placement	c	
2020 National	England	Away from placement without authorisation	Total number of away from placement incidents during the year		13700
2020 National	England	Children away from placement by gender	Females		1460
2020 National	England	Children away from placement by gender	Males		1930
2020 National	England	Children away from placement by gender	Total Children who were away from placement without authorisation during the year		3390
2020 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	All children looked after during the year		108630
2020 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Average (mean) number of days per Away from placement incident		2
2020 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Average (median) number of days per Away from placement incident		1
2020 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Average number of incidents per looked after child who were away from placement		4
2020 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Children away from placement at 31 March		60
2020 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Children who were away from placement more than once during the year		1810
2020 National	England	Children away from placement without authorisation	Percentage of children looked after during the year who were away from placement		3
2020 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Duration of away from placement periods - Total		13700
2020 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 1 and 2 days		7810
2020 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 11 and 15 days		170
2020 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 16 and 20 days		70
2020 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 21 and 30 days		60
2020 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 3 and 7 days		1380
2020 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is between 8 and 10 days		180
2020 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is less than 1 day		3960
2020 National	England	Durations of away from placement periods	Number of incidents where duration is more than 30 days		80
2020 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement being placed with parents		80
2020 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement from secure units, children's homes and semi-independent placements		7680
2020 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement in foster placements		2890
2020 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement in placed for adoption		0
2020 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Children away from placement living independently		2800
2020 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Other placements		240
2020 National	England	Placements from which children were away	Placements from which children were away - Total		13700

According to the latest figures from GOV.UK total number of children being looked after 31 March 2020 is 80080. These statistics also state that in total 108630 children were looked after during 2020.

Total number of children away from placement without authorisation 31 March 2019 is 3390 with 60 still AWOL. Total number of incidents is 13700.

Conclusion.

With the away from placement without authorization separate from the missing children numbers there is obviously something wrong with the system.

Why has no-one flagged these numbers previously?

Where is the data on missing and away from placement without authorisation from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales?

Does anyone read these governmental statistics?

There aren't any FOI responses to away from placement without authorisation because I didn't know to ask the question. I asked for disappeared or run-away totals and got told they use the term missing, which, is a separate statistic to this one.

Different data packets from the same year can report significantly different numbers on the same subject.

Without knowing which, if any, data packet is correct it is impossible to compare FOI requests to government statistics.

How many LAC have died of any cause in your area each year for the past 10 years?

Not surprisingly the information on this subject is withheld in a lot of FOI requests and on the GOV.UK website because they believe by giving a number under 5 or 10 means that people could identify the child or children who died.

Things like <5 or C are used to ensure no one can identify the child or children.

Undeterred, I will provide the information I have received alongside information from the office of national statistics. The ONS have statistics on all deaths, so the numbers include all deaths between the ages of birth (0) to 18.

Child social services looked after children statistics cover from birth (0) to 18, when the individual is moved to the 18+ team, covered by adult social services.

According to the GOV.UK data packet information I could find the number of looked after children who ceased to be looked after because they died is as follows.

2015 = 50

2016 = 40

2017 = 40

2018 = 50

2019 = 50

When you take into consideration that the average number of children who ceased being looked after during these years was approx. 30,000 these numbers look incredibly small.

The ONS data, which includes deaths of non-residents and covers England and Wales are as follows.

2015 = 529,655

2016 = 525,048

2017 = 533,253

2018 = 541,589

2019 = 530,841

When looking at these numbers the reported numbers of deaths within the care system in England each year are less than 1%.

However, I am minded that there are a significant number of reported substance abuse cases within the government statistics on looked after children as well as many allegations of abuse by these children. There are also significant numbers of children who are on the books of one local authority

yet live in the area of a different local authority, sometimes many miles apart. There are reported cases of children still missing or away from placement without authorisation on 31 March each year. That the missing and away from placement without authorisation statistics are no longer counted if the local authority knows where the child is supposed to be and as such the numbers still missing or AWOL could be much higher. Plus, as some local authorities do not pass on all information to the government, we do not have a clear picture of actual statistics. Finally, with so many statistical errors found in the documentation again these numbers could be higher.

It is my hope that the government figures are correct.



Brief history of child social services.

Timeline

Legislation to prosecute people accused of child cruelty has been in force since the 1880s. Over time a range of factors, including some high-profile child abuse deaths and subsequent inquiries, have contributed to the development of the child protection system we have in the UK today.

Now, statutory child protection guidance across the UK is regularly reviewed and updated in consultation with stakeholders.

1945 – The first child abuse inquiry

The first formal child death inquiry took place in England in 1945 into the death of Dennis O'Neill, who was killed at the age of 12 by his foster father.

1946 – Curtis committee and Clyde committee

The Care of Children Committee, led by Dame Myra Curtis, investigated and made recommendations about how care was provided for children who weren't able to live with their own parents or relatives in England and Wales.

James L. Clyde led the Committee on Homeless Children in Scotland, which had a similar remit.

The recommendations of both committees contributed to the development of the 1948 Children Act.

1948 – Children Act

The Children Act 1948 (no longer available online) set out new support measures for children across the UK. Under the Act, local authorities had a duty to provide care for any child whose parents were unable to care for them, if this was in the child's best interests.

1973 – Reforms made to the child protection system

At the age of 7, Maria Colwell was killed by her stepfather after being returned home from foster care. The public inquiry that followed her death found that Maria had been failed by the child protection system.

The need to improve the system contributed to the development of stronger measures to enable professionals working with children to recognise and respond to child abuse and neglect, including the Children Act 1975.

1975 – Children Act

The [Children Act 1975](#) built on the 1945 Act and highlighted the importance of children's welfare. It also established the role of an independent social worker who would ensure the best interests of the child during court proceedings.

1984 – The transformation of child protection services

Further changes to child protection legislation were prompted partly by the inquiries into more child deaths, including 4-year-old Jasmine Beckford who was killed by her stepfather after being returned home from care.

1989 – Children Act for England and Wales

The [Children Act 1989](#) established the legislative framework for the current child protection system in England and Wales. It sets out the paramountcy principle – that the welfare of the child should be the court's main consideration.

1990 – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The UK signed the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC), which sets out the rights of every child in the world to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

1995 – Children Order and Act for Northern Ireland and Scotland

The [Children \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1995](#) and the [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#) established the legislative framework for the current child protection systems in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

1997 – Criminal records checks

[Part V](#) of the Police Act 1997 established a centralised system of criminal records checks across the UK.

1999 – Devolution

Since 1999 the process of devolution has seen power and responsibility transferred from the Houses of Parliament in Westminster to national governments in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

2000 – Major changes in child protection policies

The death of 8-year-old Victoria Climbié, following abuse and neglect by her great-aunt and great-aunt's boyfriend, led to Lord Laming's report (Laming, L., 2003).¹ This report contributed to sweeping changes to the way children's services were structured in England and Wales.

Three-year-old Kennedy McFarlane was killed by her mother's boyfriend when he hit her, leading her to crash into the leg of a bed. Her death led to the Scottish education minister, Jack McConnell, announcing a review of child protection in Scotland (Scottish Executive, 2002).²

2001 – First Children’s Commissioner

The [Children’s Commissioner for Wales Act 2001](#) created the first children’s commissioner post in the UK.

2002 – Reforms to child protection legislation

Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, both aged 10, were killed by Ian Huntley, their school caretaker. He had previously been investigated by police for crimes including burglary, indecent assault and rape.

Following his conviction, an inquiry led by Michael Bichard recommended the development of a system where people are appropriately vetted before working with children. This led to the strengthening of legislation across the UK to protect children from adults who pose a risk to them, including the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#) in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, and the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups \(Northern Ireland\) Order](#) and [Protection of Vulnerable Groups \(Scotland\) Act](#).

2003 – National guidance and Children’s Commissioner in Northern Ireland, Children and Young People’s Commissioner for Scotland

The statutory guidance *Cooperating to safeguard children and young people* was published in Northern Ireland, to set out requirements for safeguarding children in the statutory, private, independent, community, voluntary and faith sectors (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2002).³

Northern Ireland created the post of Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY).

The [Commissioner for Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#) established the role of Children and Young People’s Commissioner in Scotland.

2004 – Children Act, UNCRC

The [Children Act 2004](#), informed by Lord Laming’s report, established a Children’s Commissioner in England (the last of the UK nations to appoint one); created Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards (LSCBs) in England and Wales; and placed a duty on local authorities in England to appoint a director of children’s services and an elected lead member for children’s services, who is ultimately accountable for the delivery of services.

The Welsh Government formally adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Welsh Government, 2019).⁴

2006 – Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act and GIRFEC

The [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#) was passed in England, Northern Ireland and Wales following the recommendations of the inquiry into the events surrounding the deaths of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in 2002.

Scotland's Minister for Children published a review of the Children's Hearing System, entitled [Getting it right for every child \(GIRFEC\) \(PDF\)](#), highlighting a dramatic increase in identified children with multiple needs (Creegan, C., Henderson, G., and King, C., 2006).⁵

[Working together to safeguard children \(PDF\)](#), the statutory guidance for child protection in England, was first published (Department for Education (DfE), 2010).⁶

2007 – Protection of Vulnerable Groups in Northern Ireland and Scotland

The [Protection of Vulnerable Groups \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#) and [Protection of Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2007](#) were passed.

2008 –The case of Peter Connolly (Baby P)

The death of 1-year-old Peter Connolly (Baby P) following abuse and neglect by his mother, her boyfriend and her boyfriend's brother, led to further reviews of social service care in England by Lord Laming, with the House of Commons debating the case.

Lord Laming's [The protection of children in England: a progress report \(PDF\)](#) made 58 recommendations for child protection reforms (Laming, L., 2009).⁷

2010 – Working together guidance first published

Minister for Children and Families, Tim Loughton, announced that Local Safeguarding Boards in England should publish the overview report and executive summary of all case reviews initiated on or after 10 June 2010.

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, also commissioned Professor Eileen Munro to conduct an independent review of child protection in England.

2011 – Munro review in England, Safeguarding Boards and UNOCINI in Northern Ireland, and children's rights in Wales

Professor Munro's report [A child-centred system \(PDF\)](#) sets out recommendations to "help to reform the child protection system from being over-bureaucratised and concerned with compliance to one that keeps a focus on children, checking whether they are being effectively helped, and adapting when problems are identified" (Munro, E., and Department for Education, 2011).⁸ This led to a review of the statutory child protection guidance in England.

The [Safeguarding Board Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2011](#) set out the law for the creation of a new regional Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland and the establishment of five Safeguarding Panels.

The [Understanding the needs of children in Northern Ireland \(UNOCINI\) \(PDF\)](#) guidance was published to enable practitioners working with children to better meet the needs of children and their families (Department of Health, 2011).⁹

To ensure children’s rights are included in all policy making in Wales, the Welsh Government made the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) part of its domestic law through the [Rights of Children and Young Persons \(Wales\) Measure](#).

2012 – Operation Yewtree, Protection of Freedoms Act and Historical Institutional Abuse (HIA) Inquiry

Operation Yewtree was set up by the Metropolitan Police Service to investigate sexual abuse allegations against Jimmy Savile and others.

The [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) in England and Wales set out the requirements for vetting and barring checks for adults who are working or volunteering with children, whilst being supervised by someone else.

The Northern Ireland Executive agreed the terms of reference for its Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (the HIA Inquiry) and appointed Sir Anthony Hart as chair.

2013 – Review of sexual exploitation in Rochdale and updates to Working together guidance in England

The independent review into child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Rochdale examined the council’s response to issues around child sexual exploitation (CSE), after 47 girls were identified as victims of CSE (Klonowski, A., 2013).¹⁰

A new version of [Working together to safeguard children \(PDF\)](#) was published in England, informed by the Munro review (DfE, 2013).¹¹

2014 – National legislation and guidance in Scotland and Wales and Jay report

The [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) provided Wales with its own legislative framework for social services for children and adults.

Section 130 of the Act requires “relevant partners” of a local authority to inform the local authority if they have reasonable cause to suspect a child is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect or other types of harm.

Under Section 145 it gives powers to Welsh Ministers to issue codes of practice providing guidance, objectives and requirements on local authorities' provision of social services.

The [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) aimed to strengthen the rights of children and young people in Scotland. It provided extra support for children in care and care leavers and created systems to identify and respond to child welfare concerns at an early stage.

The [National guidance for child protection in Scotland](#) was published to provide a statutory framework for agencies and practitioners working together to safeguard children (Scottish Government, 2014).¹²

Professor Alexis Jay led an independent inquiry into child sexual abuse in Rotherham. The report estimated that 1,400 children in Rotherham had been sexually abused between 1997 and 2013. Most of the victims were White British children, and most of the perpetrators were from minority ethnic communities.

2015 – Abuse inquiries in England, Wales and Scotland, legislation in Northern Ireland and FGM reporting in England and Wales

The [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in England and Wales \(IICSA\)](#) officially launched to consider the growing evidence of institutional failures to protect children from child sexual abuse (IICSA, 2018).¹³

The [Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry](#) began investigating the abuse of children in care in Scotland.

The [Children's Services Co-operation Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#) required public authorities to contribute to the wellbeing of children and young people in regards to physical and mental health, learning and achievement and living conditions.

[Section 74](#) of the Serious Crime Act 2015 placed a mandatory reporting duty on regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to make a report to the police if:

- they are informed by a child that they have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM)
- they observe physical signs that an act of FGM may have been carried out on a child.

2016 – Football Association inquiries

The Football Association (FA) launched an internal review into child abuse following allegations of child abuse (FA, 2017).¹⁴

The Scottish FA produced an [interim report of the independent review of sexual abuse in Scottish football \(PDF\)](#) which addresses a large number of issues and made 96 recommendations for change (Scottish Football Association, 2018).¹⁵

2017 – UK wide protection from online pornography, social care acts in England and Wales and guidance and an inquiry report in Northern Ireland

The [Digital Economy Act 2017](#) extended protection from online pornography by allowing sites which display pornography to children to be blocked in the UK.

The [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) made several reforms to the child protection system in England. It established the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to review and report on serious child protection cases and replaced the model of local safeguarding children's boards (LSCBs) with local safeguarding partners.

The [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) provided Wales with its own framework for social services.

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland published an update to the statutory guidance [Cooperating to safeguard children and young people](#) (Department of Health, 2017).¹⁶

The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIA) in Northern Ireland published its final report (HIA, 2017).¹⁷ Recommendations included a public apology, a redress board, a compensation scheme and a statutory commissioner for survivors of institutional childhood abuse (COSICA).

2018 – Updated guidance in England and Domestic Abuse Act in Scotland

An updated version of [Working together to safeguard children](#) (Department for Education, 2018) was published for England, replacing Local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) with safeguarding partner arrangements.¹⁸

The [Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#) made it a statutory aggravation for domestic abuse to involve or affect a child (this includes a child hearing, seeing or being present during an abusive incident).

2019 – New guidance in Wales and UN rights in Scotland

The [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#) were published to provide guidance on safeguarding children and adults who are at risk of abuse and neglect (Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board, 2019).¹⁹

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) recognised breast flattening (the practice of using hard or heated objects to suppress or reverse the growth of breasts) as a form of child abuse in England and Wales (CPS, 2019).²⁰

The Scottish Government announced its intention to [incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\) into Scottish law](#) (Scottish Government, 2019).²¹

2020 – Safeguarding during coronavirus and corporal punishment made illegal in Jersey, Scotland and Wales

The conditions created by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic meant that everyone working with children and families had to adapt the way they keep children safe. Governments in all four UK nations published a range of [safeguarding and child protection guidance](#) during the pandemic.

In the States of Jersey, the [Children and Education \(Amendment\) \(Jersey\) Law 2020](#) came into force in April 2020. This abolishes the defence of reasonable corporal punishment of a child.

The Scottish Government abolished the defence of reasonable chastisement from November 2020 under the [Children \(Equal Protection from Assault\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#).

The Welsh Government introduced the [Children \(Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment\) \(Wales\) Act](#), which will abolish the defence of reasonable punishment from 2022.

The [Disclosure Scotland Act 2020](#) received royal assent in July 2020. This aimed to improve the system for checking the criminal history of people who work with children in Scotland.

Ref: History of child protection in the UK | NSPCC Learning [Nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Newspaper / News / Media articles on social services.

Hundreds of children abused while in care of Lambeth council, inquiry finds | UK child abuse inquiry
| The Guardian

UK child abuse inquiry

Hundreds of children abused while in care of Lambeth council, inquiry finds

Inquiry into child sexual abuse says abuse occurred over several decades on a scale 'hard to comprehend'



▲ Lambeth town hall. The inquiry said the south London council had allowed violence and sexual assault to proliferate in its children's residential homes. Photograph: Alamy

Patrick Butler *Social policy editor*

Tue 27 Jul 2021 17.41 BST

Hundreds of trafficked children 'lost' by local authorities | Human trafficking | The Guardian

Trafficking in focus Human trafficking

● This article is more than **2 years old**

Hundreds of trafficked children 'lost' by local authorities

As nearly 25% go missing from council care, studies claim the system is failing victims of trafficking



▲ British children make up the second largest trafficked group after Vietnamese. Photograph: Jack Sullivan/Alamy

Trafficking in focus is supported by

British social services allowed a young woman to be handed over in Islamic marriage to her abuser and placed in "domestic slavery" - Market Research Telecast

British social services allowed a young woman to be handed over in Islamic marriage to her abuser and placed in "domestic slavery"



Published by: MRT
Published on: July 29, 2021

Foster carer accused of abusing three children as council accept 'failings' - Liverpool Echo

Foster carer accused of abusing three children as council accept 'failings'

A serious case review found "gaps" in processes for keeping children safe in foster care



By **Jonathan Humphries** Public Interest Reporter
17:05, 3 AUG 2021

NEWS

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Wirral Council have accepted "shortcomings" in the case of a child who made...
Privacy inst her foster carers (Image: Liverpool ECHO)

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The advertisement displays a grid of clothing items. The top row shows a brown and white patterned short-sleeved shirt and a red and black patterned short-sleeved shirt. The middle row shows a black and white patterned short-sleeved shirt and a white and black patterned short-sleeved shirt. The bottom row shows a green and yellow patterned short-sleeved shirt and a pair of white shorts. A bell icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the advertisement.

<https://theworldnews.net/gb-news/wales-among-worst-in-the-world-for-children-in-state-care>

Wales among worst in the world for children in state care (theworldnews.net)


WORLD NEWS PLATFORM

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Wales among worst in the world for children in state care

With more than one in 100 children in some form of care, Wales has one of the highest proportions of children looked after by the state in the world.

Poverty and family collapse are believed to be driving the stark figures and there are some towns in Wales where one in 44 children are in state care.

Worryingly, the rates of children taken away from their families is growing faster than across the border in England.

Once people are in the system, it's difficult to get out. No one exemplifies this better than 34-year-old Jen, who lives in a small hilltop town in south Wales with her five-year-old son and one-year-old daughter. Talking to the Sunday Times as part of an investigation into the Welsh care system, she said: "Social workers haven't really been that great at giving me help or advice. There was 63% damp in the house and I was getting blamed for it."

Inside hell of private children's homes with missing kids, rape and drugs - Mirror Online



Black silhouette of teenage girl sitting on floor (Image: Getty)

NEWS

FOOTBALL

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Inside hell of private children's homes with missing kids, rape and drugs

EXCLUSIVE: The number of children in care began to decline in the early 2000s but is up a third since 2008 to 78,000 - with these vulnerable children being targeted by criminal gangs

PRIVACY | UPDATED 22:16 11 Nov 2020

UK Gov't: We 'Accidentally' Sold 10,000 Children To Child Traffickers - Prepare For Change



The UK government has admitted it 'accidentally' sold at least 10,000 children to known child traffickers in the last year alone.

Tens of thousands of children mysteriously disappear from government care every year, where they are groomed by sex traffickers, recently released government data reveals.

Social

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20 years on from the Cleveland Child Sex Abuse Scandal - Teesside Live (gazettelive.co.uk)

T News ▶ Local News

20 years on from the Cleveland Child Sex Abuse Scandal

TWENTY years ago the Butler-Sloss report on the Cleveland Child Sex Abuse Crisis was published.

SHARE   

By [Andrew Pain](#)
00:00, 8 JUL 2008 | UPDATED 23:03, 13 MAY 2013

NEWS



Vulnerable children treated 'like cattle' in care home system

Experts raise concerns over safety and privacy of young people in social care system in England and Wales



▲ The cost of children's placements is one of the main financial pressures on councils. Photograph: Nadezhda1906/Getty Images/iStockphoto

Vulnerable children are being “treated like cattle” and moved around care homes in England and Wales, with councils routinely inviting companies to compete for the contracts through an online bidding process, experts have said.

Rotherham abuse: 'blatant' failures of care system condemned in report | Child protection | The Guardian

Rotherham abuse: 'blatant' failures of care system condemned in report

Alexis Jay's horrifying report details children raped, doused in petrol, trafficked and assaulted. It says its estimate of 1,400 victims is 'conservative' and that the abuse continues



▲ Professor Alexis Jay. Her inquiry into sexual exploitation of children in Rotherham chronicles abuse that began in the early 1990s. Photograph: Dave Higgins/PA

In painstaking and at times horrifying detail, Alexis Jay, the professor whose inquiry investigated the sexual exploitation of children over 16 years in [Rotherham](#), has set out the alarming scale and heartbreaking individual instances of the abuse that began in the early 1990s.

Children who have lived in care homes are at greater risk of suicide (nationaleselfservice.net)

FEB
22
2012

Children who have lived in care homes are at greater risk of suicide

2 Responses »



Posted by
Andre Tomlin



There is remarkably little research in this field. Epidemiological studies of suicidal behaviour in children and young people from the care system have previously come mainly from Scandinavia. A Swedish longitudinal national cohort study (ref 2) from last year concluded that every seventh girl (14%) who left long-term foster family care after age 17 was hospitalised after a suicide attempt in her twenties.

This new retrospective cohort study (ref 1) comes from researchers in Manitoba, Canada. They looked back at 11 years of data from medical registers to find out if children and adolescents in the child welfare system are at increased risk of suicide and attempted suicide, compared with those not in care.

8,279 children and adolescents (aged 5–17 years) who spent at least 30 days in the care system from 1997-2006 were compared with a wider population-based control cohort of 353,050 similarly aged children and adolescents in the region not in care. All study participants in the care group had to have been removed from their home. All children studied were similar in terms of age and gender, but unsurprisingly the children in the care group were more likely to come from deprived families.

The outcomes measured were suicide, suicide attempts (defined as those where a diagnosis was recorded following a hospital admission), any inpatient hospital admissions, and other visits to the doctor.

Here's what they found:

Childhood in UK care system makes you twice as likely to die earlier, study shows | Life expectancy | The Guardian

Childhood in UK care system makes you twice as likely to die earlier, study shows

Research reveals 'shocking' mortality trend in those looked after by the state



▲ Children in care today face a far higher risk of early death. Photograph: Simon Dack Archive/Alamy

People who spent time in care as children are almost twice as likely to die prematurely than those who did not, stark new research reveals.

no 2 abuse



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33 + named Children that have Died from Social Services Failures inc Haringey Baby P

4th Nov 2009 | in [Baby P Haringey - News](#)

This article date has been updated to prepare for new names that will be added to the list

Social services failures are so regular it is a daily occurrence and children do die and they will continue dying because social workers, the police, the government and people like the NSPCC do not listen and are often part of the failures despite having millions of pounds to protect children.

These are just a few of social services failures that have ended up in the death of young children.

Baby P - Haringey

Tyra Henry - 21 months old - murdered by her dad - her brother Tyrone whose injuries - including fractures of thighs and skull, retinal haemorrhages, and brain damage causing fits - had left the boy blind and with a learning difficulty

Maria Caldwell - Social Services, NSPCC and Police did nothing = Maria Colwell died on 6th January 1973, aged 7

Jasmin Beckford, NSPCC, Social Services failures = Jasmine had been locked in a small bedroom with body-building weights tied to her broken legs to stop her moving. Emaciated and deformed, she weighed just 23 pounds. She had 40 injuries to her face and body - her ribs were also broken and she had ulcers, burns and cuts to her leg.

28 June 1944, **Dennis O'Neill** = Foster care abuse complaints ignored by Social Services - he died from the abuse

Carly Taylor - her childminder wrote directly to the Director of Social Services, having failed to persuade the senior social worker that Carly was in danger after neighbours and relatives were ignored by social services

Stephen Meurs (1975)

Heidi Koseda (1984),

Jasmine Lorrington was 4 when she died in Brent on 5th July 1984.

20-month old **Martin Nicoll** 67 injuries

8-yr-old **Victoria Climbé** kettle of boiling water tipped over her head. Her toes were struck with a hammer. She was beaten with a bicycle chain, belt buckle and had cigarettes stubbed out on her body. She lived in a freezing bath. On 25th February 2000 Victoria died of hypothermia and multiple organ failure, with 128 horrific injuries to her body, after suffering months of horrific abuse and neglect in a tiny flat in Tottenham, London.

Is there a link between the increase of children being removed and placed into care or adopted when national newspapers report on social services failings?

To Abuse or Not to Abuse - The Systematic Negative Conditioning of Children by Social Services | No 2 Abuse

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To Abuse or Not to Abuse - The Systematic Negative Conditioning of Children by Social Services

25th May 2009 | in [Looked after Children](#)

What do we do about child abuse within the system?

It is with increasing concern that I write this article . How can a Government be aware of child abuse within the system yet fail to do anything about it? I have never been into conspiracies but I am seeing more and more evidence of systematic child abuse within the system. These include the drugging of girls at Kendal house, the sexual and physical abuse of children in care homes in Staffordshire, Wales and Ireland, to name just a few. The abuse of children in foster care more recently the baby who died and had 13 broken ribs yet they are protected and not prosecuted contrary to what they do to the natural parents.

Alongside this I am increasingly concerned about the paedophile rings that seem to be included in some of this abuse.

I have thought about these cases extensively and the only reason I keep coming up with (and have seen research and blogs that seem to reflect the same) is the serious concern that some members both high profile and members of the Government are involved in direct child abuse itself.

Some I have seen are believed to be linked to paedophile rings .Where does all this leave our children.?

The government fails to protect them, the church has in many cases actually abused them and Campaign groups and Organisations are doing their very best to expose the abuses of children but then the likes of the DCSF and MPs actually ignore it. Why?

Parents are having children removed by Social Services in many cases not because they have harmed them but because of a chance they may be harmed in the future, thought up by a Social Worker. The common theme in this is to protect from possible emotional harm and with no evidence to back this up and after attending the Channel 4 not so public debate those in positions of trust and authority weren't able to define emotional abuse. Some of these parents then have to sit back while the children who are now in local authority care are then abused within the system either physically, emotionally or sexually.

Social Services are decreasing child/ parent contact with almost every parent I have spoken too and yet one Social Services are allowing adopted parents to continue to see two adopted girls that were sexually abused by the Adopted parents paedophile friends (they men have since pleaded guilty to the abuse) in the Manchester area.

So when natural parents, despite the fact that the parent has never hurt the child and also very often against the child's wishes are not allowed any contact for abuse they haven't committed and emotional abuse that parents can't prove because it doesn't have any defination in law. Social Services have seen anything from as little as a child truenting when bullied at school yet the parent is blamed and not the schools inability to deal with the school bullies, too many sweets and various other made up abuses which are then misused against parents and used as emotional abuse. Then there are parents whom are wrongly accused after misdiagnoses by doctors and they never see their children again as adoption cant be reversed.

Section 3: The role of the Care Inspectorate when a care experienced child or young person dies

Notifications of the death of a looked after child or young person

Under regulation 6 of the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009², local authorities have a duty to notify the Care Inspectorate of the death of a looked after child. The guidance on these regulations requires local authorities to submit a report and supporting documentation following notification of a death. The Care Inspectorate reviews the local authority's report to:

- examine the arrangements made for the child's welfare during the time they were looked after
- assess whether action taken or not taken by the local authority may have contributed to the child's death
- identify lessons that need to be drawn to the attention of the local authority that had responsibility for the child and/or other local authorities or statutory agencies.

This report addresses the Care Inspectorate's final duty as listed in the guidance to:

- draw attention to the potential need for reviewing legislation, policy, guidance, advice or practice in the light of a case, or trends emerging from the deaths of looked after children.

The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 require local authorities to notify the Care Inspectorate of the death of a looked after child within one working day of the child's death. Following such notification, the local authority is required to submit a full report within 28 days. Almost all local authorities have notified us within one working day. Most local authorities submitted reports within the 28-day timescale. However, post-mortem reports and toxicology reports generally take much longer than a month to complete. This meant that local authorities often undertook a review before the exact cause of the child's death had been established. In such circumstances, they provided supplementary information as this became available.

Care services too focused on investigating families in crisis, says review - BBC News

Care services too focused on investigating families in crisis, says review

By Alison Holt
Social Affairs Correspondent, BBC News

🕒 17 June



Child protection services in England are too focused on investigating families in crisis and do not provide enough early support, a report says.

We are failing children in care – and they are dying on our streets | Louise Tickle | The Guardian

🕒 This article is more than **1 year old**

We are failing children in care - and they are dying on our streets

Louise Tickle

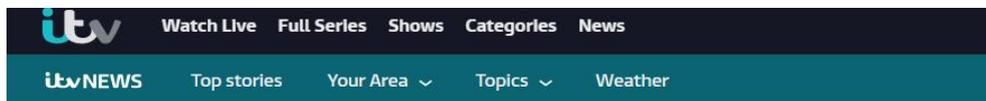
There is a lack of support for young people leaving care - but from privatisation of services to inadequate housing, the care system fails children long before the age of 18



▲ One on four care leavers are homeless at 18, with 14% sleeping rough. Photograph: Victoria Jones/PA

If one in four young adults found themselves homeless once they turned 18, with 14% sleeping rough, we'd be asking where the hell their families were. But these figures are the reality for young care-leavers. After they cease to be the official responsibility of their local authority on their 18th birthday, the risks they face as a result of having nowhere to call

Bradford authorities apologise for 'failing to protect' victims of child sexual exploitation | ITV News Calendar



Bradford authorities apologise for 'failing to protect' victims of child sexual exploitation

CALENDAR | BRADFORD | Tuesday 27 July 2021, 8:21pm



- Mark Douglas, Director of Children's Services, Bradford Council

Social workers missed signs to save toddler stamped to death by mother | Child protection | The Guardian

● This article is more than 3 years old

Social workers missed signs to save toddler stamped to death by mother

Serious case review of death of Ayeeshia-Jayne Smith said her killer's needs were allowed to overshadow those of the child



▲ Kathryn Smith was jailed for life after being convicted of killing her daughter, Ayeeshia-Jayne. Photograph: PA

Social workers and medics missed danger signs before a toddler was stamped to death by her mother in a “brutal and sustained attack”, a serious case review has found.

Kathryn Smith, 23, was jailed for life last year after being convicted of killing her 21-month-old daughter, Ayeeshia-Jayne, in an attack that left her with injuries usually only found in car crash victims.

Why did it take a child's death to reveal adoption system failings? | Stanley Mason | The Guardian

Why did it take a child's death to reveal adoption system failings?

Stanley Mason

The case of Elsie Scully-Hicks highlights inadequate levels of scrutiny that social workers have long known need reform



▲ The review into the death of Elsie Scully-Hicks identified important lessons for child protection professionals.
Photograph: Family Handout/PA

Our adoption system is failing children. The [review into the death of Elsie Scully-Hicks](#) identified important lessons for professionals involved in protecting children. But it does not go far enough: it misses a number of fundamental flaws in the system that were evident before her death. These flaws can lead to vulnerable children being rushed into unsuitable adoptions, and then pushed back into care once the adoption breaks down.

Children taken from parents and adopted 'to meet ministry targets' | The Times

Children taken from parents and adopted 'to meet ministry targets'

Frances Gibb, Legal Editor

Friday August 24 2007, 1.00am,
The Times

Record numbers of young children are being taken from their parents and adopted - sometimes unjustly - to meet government targets, it is claimed today.

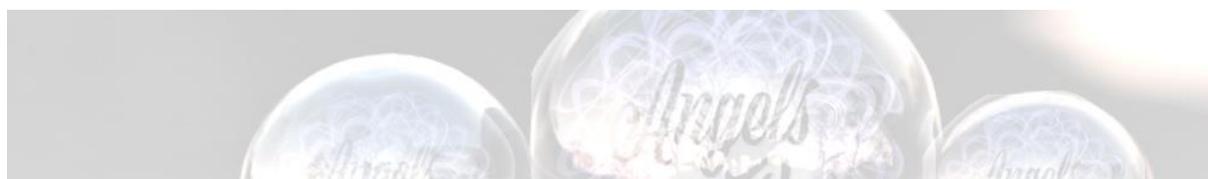
Each year some 1,300 babies under a month old are placed in care before adoption, compared with 500 when the Government came to power, BBC Radio 4's Face the Facts claims today.

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South Africa won the series, but how did a former England captain's predictions fare?

The programme is told that there are now more than 100 cases of possible miscarriages of justice in which children have been forcibly or unjustly adopted.



Powys suicide foster teen 'failed' ahead of leaving care - BBC News

Powys suicide foster teen 'failed' ahead of leaving care

By Jenny Johnson
BBC News

🕒 14 February 2018



A teenager who took his own life while in foster care was failed by agencies as he prepared to leave the care system, a review has concluded.

The boy, from Powys, killed himself three months before his 18th birthday after becoming anxious about living independently.

Living in Children's Homes Research report (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Research on residential care

Against this background, research conducted over the past 25 years has contributed to negative views of residential care but has also provided some pointers to its potential and to how it might be improved. A survey of 48 residential children's homes found that standards were very uneven, and that four in every ten residents with no previous criminal record got one if they stayed for six months (Sinclair and Gibbs, 1998). There were worrying levels of self-harm and threatened **suicide**. Improvements while living in the residential home usually did not persist after they left.

Another study found that going missing was far more widespread in residential care than in foster care and, in many cases, residents committed an offence while they were absent.

5

We were interested in the extent to which young people involved themselves in risky behaviour, such as smoking, drinking, offending etc. We did not quantify its exact incidence but smoking (outside the building) appeared quite common. From what we could see, staff overall did not strongly condemn this practice and there were not clear, anti-smoking messages. Four of the homes were currently concerned about other forms of self-harming behaviour including cutting. At one home, most the current female resident group was said to self-harm. In another, a girl had just shown first signs of self-injury: staff were very concerned and had contacted the CAMHS service immediately. One young man in a semi-independent flat believed to have an autistic spectrum disorder danced violently and hurt himself while listening to music. Staff at one home informed us that a recent former resident had attempted **suicide** by hanging.

Foster daughter who was abused by 'Britain's most sadistic mother' found dead aged 35 | Daily Mail Online

Revealed: Woman who suffered 17 years of hell at hands of her 'sadistic' foster mother was found dead aged 35 after being released from mental health clinic following 'breakdown' months earlier

- Victoria Spry was subjected to physical and mental torture for 17 years
- Eunice Spry forced her foster children to eat their own excrement and vomit
- The 35-year-old dedicated her life to helping protect other vulnerable children

By [ROSS SLATER](#) and [ANTONIA PAGET FOR MAILONLINE](#)

PUBLISHED: 11:05, 1 October 2020 | **UPDATED:** 09:56, 2 October 2020



A children's campaigner who suffered 17 years of abuse at the hands of her 'sadistic' foster mother had only just been released from a mental health clinic following a 'breakdown' in January when she was found dead at age 35.

The body of foster daughter Victoria Spry who was horrifically abused by 'Britain's most sadistic mother' was found at a property in Cheltenham, with police confirming the death was not suspicious.

Victoria was subjected to sickening physical and mental torture for nearly 20 years at the hands of Eunice Spry.

Brothers and sisters split up by the care system - BBC News

Brothers and sisters split up by the care system

By Chris Clements
Social affairs correspondent, BBC Scotland

🕒 6 February 2020



Siblings separated in the care system

A major review of Scotland's care system has said the pain of brothers and sisters being separated often has "profound and had lifelong consequences".

Thousands of siblings split up in care system - BBC News

Thousands of siblings split up in care system

By Paul Kenyon and Emma Forde
File on 4

🕒 14 January 2020



THEIGHAN

Sisters Theighan and Sophia were separated when they were in foster care

More than 12,000 children in care are not living with at least one of their siblings, the BBC has discovered.

Teens in unregulated homes face 'organised abuse' - BBC News

Teens in unregulated homes face 'organised abuse'

By Noel Titheradge and Ed Thomas
BBC News

🕒 18 September 2019



BBC News revealed that 14 council investigations have been launched into "organised and complex abuse" in unregulated homes

Vulnerable teenagers in care are being placed at risk of abuse while living in unregulated homes in England and Wales, a BBC News investigation has found.

'Alarm bells' over private equity foster care firms, councils warn - BBC News

'Alarm bells' over private equity foster care firms, councils warn

By Sanchia Berg
BBC Radio 4 Today programme

🕒 27 August 2019



Private equity firms buying up small agencies have "set off alarm bells" within England's foster care system, the Local Government Association says.

Three groups account for 45% of funds spent on independent fostering by English councils, according to new analysis.

The LGA said councils worry about what could happen if one group failed.

Council 'just left me' in abuser's care - BBC News

Council 'just left me' in abuser's care

🕒 29 March 2019



Rex Case was jailed for abusing five girls, including three foster children

A woman abused by her foster carer as a child has waived her right to anonymity to criticise the council involved in her care.

Abbey Richards was five years old when she was sent to live with Rex Case in Southampton. He was eventually jailed for abusing her and four other girls.

A serious case review revealed he was allowed to continue fostering despite several allegations made against him.

Birmingham council 'failed to investigate' care abuse claim - BBC News

Birmingham council 'failed to investigate' care abuse claim

🕒 13 March 2019



It was found to be at fault for its poor handling of a complaint raised in 2014 relating to a foster carer.

It is unknown whether the accused still fosters children.

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman said the council should remedy the situation by investigating now. The council has since apologised.

'Nothing was done'

When the watchdog investigated, it found Birmingham City Council's children's care services had not followed up a complaint by a man who was placed in foster care as a child.

It also found the council did not provide adequate reasons for its failure to investigate the complaint.

The complainant, known as Mr X, left the care system when he reached adulthood six years ago.

In its report, the watchdog said "nothing was done" when he first reported the complaint and his "terrible experience" of abuse had an adverse impact on his mental health and had left him in a "depressive state" requiring therapy.

The council claimed it had written Mr X a letter which he said he did not find out about until 2017.



Children in care 'unnecessarily criminalised' - BBC News

Children in care 'unnecessarily criminalised'

© 19 December 2018



Ella fears her criminal record will affect her future career prospects

Children in care are 13 times more likely to be criminalised than other young people, research suggests. Ella, who was arrested and charged within 10 days of entering a care home, says police are being called to manage minor misbehaviour.

"It was one of the worst homes I lived in probably," Ella, 19, tells the Victoria Derbyshire programme, speaking of the first care home she was placed in, four

Agony of fighting for my child in the courts...by a family lawyer | Daily Mail Online

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Agony of fighting for my child in the courts... by a family lawyer: In a candid account, a lawyer reveals how - when she found herself in her clients' shoes - it almost destroyed her

- Research shows nine out of ten women get no support through the family courts
- Michelle Goodman refused to let her daughter stay at her ex's flat overnight
- Barrister of 15 years' says being cross-examined in court left her feeling helpless
- Reveals her experience made her too traumatised to go back to her legal career

By MICHELLE GOODMAN FOR THE DAILY MAIL

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🕒 This article is more than 2 years old

Why do we separate the mother and child victims of domestic abuse?

Louise Tickle

It is a grotesque indictment of the child protection system that women are blamed for failing their children, not supported



▲ 'Removing children from their mother - often breaking up sibling groups in the process - by blaming that terrified victim for "failing to protect" is the ultimate in victim-blaming.' Photograph: Dave Hunt/AAP

Domestic abuse hurts children, whether they are the direct target, or find themselves witness to warfare in their home. The latest government figures show that half of all children assessed as needing social services support are in that plight through **domestic abuse** - and when social workers feel a child is no longer safe at home, they can be removed into the care system.

Why do we separate the mother and child victims of domestic abuse? | Louise Tickle | The Guardian

Domestic abuse and child protection: women's experience of social work intervention | Iriss

Domestic abuse and child protection: women's experience of social work intervention

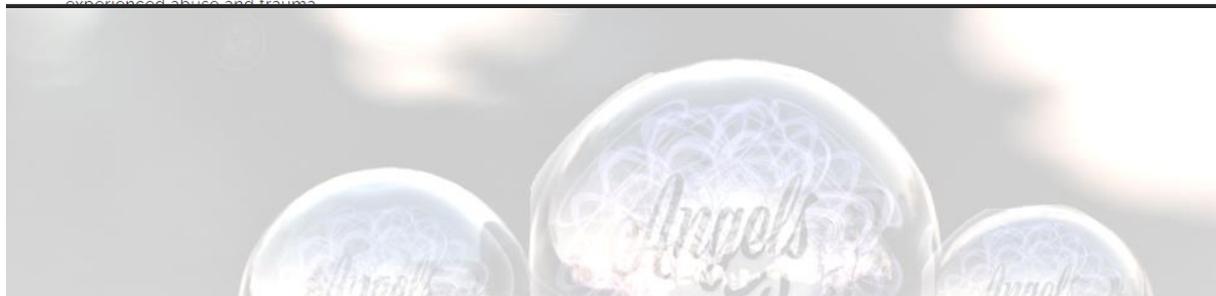
Insight 36

By David Watson

Published on 30 Mar 2017
15 min read (3977 words)

Key points

- Domestic abuse is rooted in gender inequality.
- Women are most often seen as primarily responsible for child safety, despite the perpetrators responsibility for harm and abuse.
- The social attitudes that fuel domestic abuse and attribute blame to women for men's violence can also be present in social work practice.
- The context of abuse, and of coercive control, is often not understood by practitioners, resulting in inappropriate demands being placed on women by social workers.
- Women do not feel listened to and do not have their needs met appropriately by social workers.
- The threat of having children removed by social workers is acutely felt by women. Often this threat denies the efforts women have made to protect their child from abuse, and does not take into account the challenges and the increased risk of violence faced by women when leaving their abuser partner.
- A failure by social workers to recognise the context of women's lives and respond appropriately can re-traumatise women who have already experienced abuse and trauma.



Posters attacking Worcestershire Children's Services appear in Worcester and Malvern | Worcester News

Posters attacking Worcestershire Children's Services appear in Worcester and Malvern



By Jemma Bufton | [@JemmaBuftonWN](#)
Reporter



[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#) [c](#) 6 comments

POSTERS advertising a protest against Worcestershire's children's services have appeared in Worcester and Malvern.

The posters seen at bus stops around the city read: "Have Worcestershire Children First taken your kids? Have they told lies about you? Have they used crystal ball laws to take your children (future risk of harm)? Have your children been forcibly adopted against your wishes? It's time to stand up to this corrupt profit making organisation."

Worcestershire County Council say they are aware of the posters and

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Overall conclusion.

Looking at all the information and statistics I have gathered during the research of this report I have to agree that the childcare system within the UK is in crisis.

However, this appears to be a crisis of its own making. Children are being removed from families, generally those who are classed as lower classed or poor using probability of future harm, (crystal ball method) emotional and mental abuse more than physical and sexual abuse.

During the pandemic the numbers of children removed from families was, in some areas, the highest number of children removed in a decade.

That there are inconsistencies between FOI responses and government findings as well as inconsistencies within different statistical reports in governmental findings.

Although, I have not found absolute proof, it would appear that after national news reporting on social services failings leading to the death of a child the number of children removed from families increases within a year or two of the events.

Parents and looked after children's concerns, complaints and allegations are not being fully reported to the government and even those that have a higher % of not upheld results.

Looked after children go missing or are away from placement without authorisation a staggering number of times each year. Which, in turn adds strain to the police force.

Siblings are generally separated from each other within the care system, which is fracturing families even further than if they were kept together.

There are no statistics on the effects of a child being placed into care or on the parents left behind. Which means that there is no cause and effect statistics to evaluate if the care system is doing more harm than good or the repercussions on other governmental agencies such as health and benefits.

It would be interesting to know just how much money is being spent each year not just in removing children (care system as a whole, court fees etc.) but also on benefits, health etc as a result of that removal. If as I suspect these numbers range in the millions, wouldn't it be more cost effective to spend money helping these families stay together?

Domestic abuse as opposed to child abuse seems to constitute the majority of child social services involvement within families and yet from everything I have researched (not all included in this report) social workers seem inadequately trained in helping the parent who is the victim of domestic abuse. Victim blaming and expecting a DV victim to basically police the abuser is a normal part of how SS work. The perpetrator of the DV abuse is rarely, if ever taken to task by SS. SS will state that they told the victim of DV to leave the situation on numerous occasions and that the victim went back to the abuser. What they don't say is that they don't actually tell the victim to leave, they may suggest it, but they do not offer practical or emotional help to achieve this. Nor do they offer help to maintain it. I can supply a detailed horror story of how SS failed to protect a mother and children from DV, which led to them having no choice but to return to the family home and which was later used against the mother in court without an explanation of the events. As this event was known

openly in the area by everyone, including the schools the children attended I have not included it in this report to protect the identity of the children.

As a result, both parents are treated as abusers and this is then used in court to remove the children. This creates a further issue because there are also staggering numbers of parents pressured into voluntarily signing their children over to social services to protect the children and then these children are not returned to the parent. Some remain in care whilst others are adopted.

The victims of domestic abuse are being further victimised by child social services.

Can't social services look after the children of these victims' short term and help the abused parent get away from the abuser, get back on their feet and give them their children back instead of victimising and abusing the parent further?

Social services areas would appear to use different criteria as to how a parent should parent their children and there are also cases where different social workers within the same area have differing opinions.

Looked after children are carted around and a high number of these have more than one placement during their time in care. Social workers for these children also change on a regular basis so there is no continuance of care.

Much more research needs to be done in regard to the care system, left behind parents, victim blaming and looked after children.

Reports on abuse and failings within the system do not seem to have made any positive changes within the system.

I am in no way saying that the system needs to be scrapped. What I am saying is that the system needs to be fully investigated, become more transparent, be consistent across the board, held accountable and most importantly rebuilt to avoid further harm to children within the system and the parents left behind. Basically, bring the system to the standards people expect with full accountability. Stop bullying parents, destroying human rights, victim blaming, and using gagging orders etc. to stop the truth from coming out.

Just looking at the news reports I have added, and these are not all the ones I found, there have been countless reports showing failings and these failings are still happening.

Those leaving care have been so institutionalised they have very little skills to live alone. Many end up on the streets as homeless. They've got no real support network and tend not to trust anyone. Moreover, I still wonder how many of these former looked after children end up having their own children removed from them.

If this was information, reports, statistics and news on another country within the world people would be up in arms over the abuse of human rights, violation towards children etc. But because this is our own country the enormity of the situation is hidden and complaints, concerns quelled.

There are so many websites and social media groups reporting forced adoptions, failings within the care system. Children social services and the care system stealing children for profit plus lots of other allegations against the government and social services that it's heart-breaking

to realise how many people, not just parents, want to see things change. Yet nothing is done.



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We are failing children in care – and they are dying on our streets | Louise Tickle | The Guardian

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