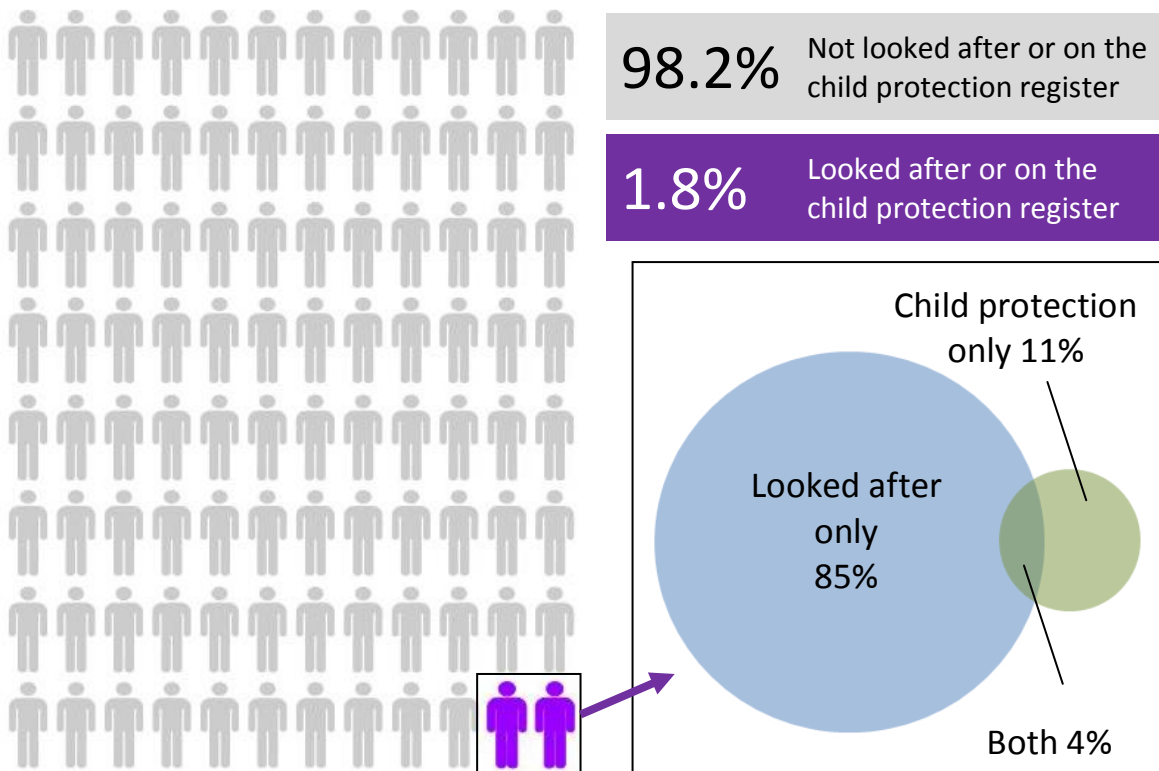




19 March 2013

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## Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland, 2011-12



Each figure represents approximately 11,000 of the one million<sup>1</sup> children under 18 in Scotland. In July 2012:

**2%** of children in Scotland were looked after by local authorities or on the child protection register

**16,248** children were looked after

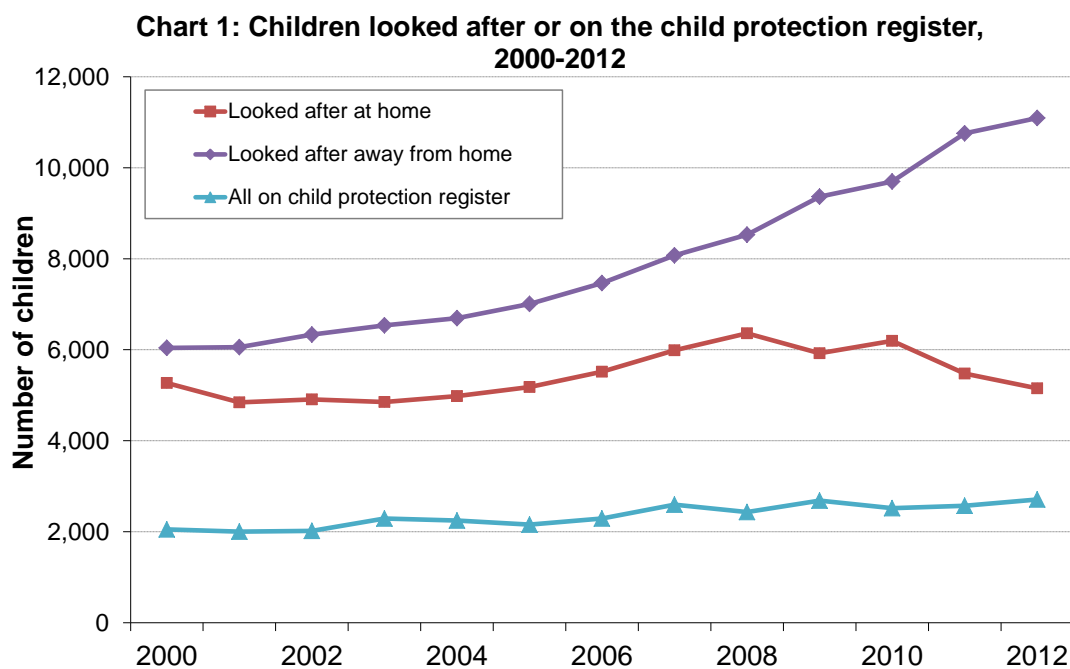
**2,706** children were on the child protection register of who

**730** were also looked after

**84** young people were in secure care accommodation

<sup>1</sup> National Records of Scotland 2011 mid-year population estimates

Children who are looked after by local authorities can either be looked after at home (e.g. supervised by the local authority but living at home) or looked after away from home (e.g. living in residential accommodation, in the community or with family/friends). There has been a 49 per cent rise in the number of children looked after since 2001, mainly driven by the increase in children looked after away from home. Since 2001 there has also been a less steep but steady 35 per cent increase in the number of children on the child protection register.



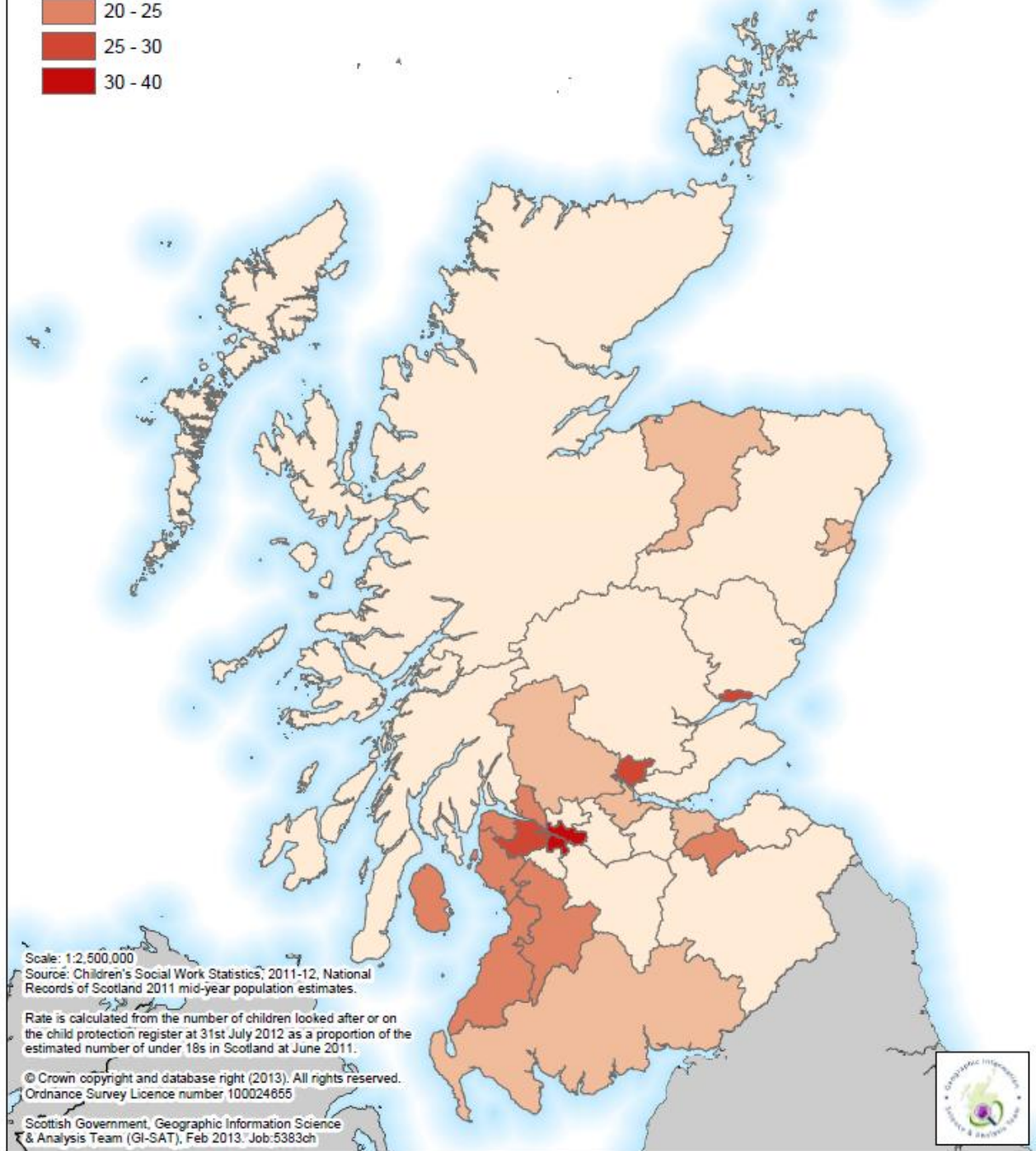
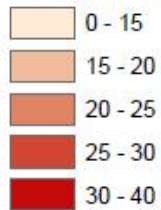
In 2011-12 individual-level data on the children who were on the child protection register at 31 July 2012 is available for the first time, letting us see the extent to which looked after children overlap with children who are on the child protection register. Of the 2,706 children who were on the child protection register at 31 July 2012, almost one in three (31 per cent) had also been looked after at some point during 2011-12 and 27 per cent (730 children) were both looked after and on the child protection register at 31 July 2012.

Across Scotland two per cent of under 18s are looked after or on the child protection register, but there is variation across local authorities. The rate is highest in Glasgow, with closer to four per cent of children looked after or on the child protection register (37.8 children per 1,000 under 18s) and lowest in Orkney, with less than one per cent of children looked after or on the child protection register (7.4 per children per 1,000 under 18s). In general rates are higher in the West of Scotland and urban areas.

# Rate of looked after children and children on the child protection register per 1,000 children under 18, by local authority, 2011-12

## Legend

Rate per 1000 under 18s



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## Further information

The information in this publication plus **additional tables** on looked after children, child protection and secure care and close support accommodation available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

## Children Looked After

	Rate of <b>increase in the total number</b> looked after continues to slow
	Continuing increase in proportion looked after <b>in foster care and kinship care</b>
	Children continue to be looked after at <b>younger ages</b> and are being looked after for a longer time

This section presents 2011-12 data on children looked after during the period from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012. At the time of last year's 2010-11 publication Glasgow City Council was able provide individual-level data for children receiving aftercare and children on short term placements, but not for the main looked after children collection. This section also presents updated 2010-11 data which includes Glasgow's individual-level data plus updated data from other local authorities. Please see background note 4.4. for more information on this.

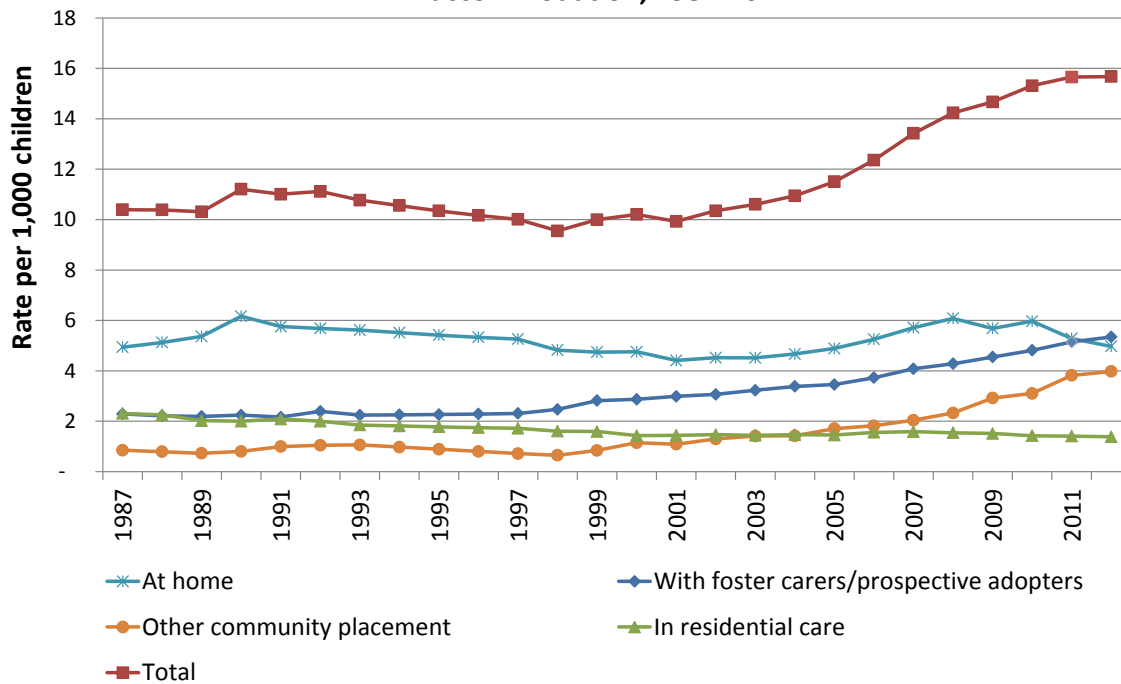
Local authorities have a responsibility to provide support to certain vulnerable young people, known as 'looked after children'. A young person may become looked after for a number of reasons, including neglect, abuse, complex disabilities which require specialist care, or involvement in the youth justice system.

There are several types of placements that looked after children or young people could be placed in, including at home (where a child is subject to a Supervision Requirement and continues to live in their normal place of residence), foster care, residential unit or school, a secure unit or a kinship placement (where they are placed with friends or relatives).

The number of looked after children has been increasing since 2001. The continuous increase in numbers of looked after children is due to more children being looked after away from home in community settings, in particular with foster carers/prospective adopters, with friends and relatives and other community settings. After previously increasing from 2001 to 2008, over the past five years there has been an overall decrease in the numbers of children looked after at home. Numbers of children looked after in residential care settings have been fairly static over recent years, but have seen a slight downward trend since 2007.

Between 2011 and 2012 the increase in total numbers looked after has slowed, with less than a one per cent increase from 16,231 in 2011 to 16,248 in 2012. The number of children being looked after by foster carers/prospective adopters or in other community placements remains at the highest level on record and, for the first time in 2012 there were more children looked after by foster carers/prospective adopters than looked after at home.

**Chart 2: Children looked after per 1,000 children under 18 by type of accommodation, 1987-2012**



**Table 1.1: Number of children looked after at 31 July 2011 and 2012 by type of accommodation<sup>(1)</sup>**

Type of Accommodation	2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	2012
<b>In the community:-</b>		
At home with parents	5,476	5,153
With friends/relatives	3,910	4,076
With Foster Carers provided by LA	3,871	3,946
With Foster Carers purchased by LA	1,197	1,333
With prospective adopters	267	262
In other community	49	45
<b>Residential Accommodation:-</b>		
In local authority home	615	564
In voluntary home	88	90
In residential school	460	451
In secure accommodation	86	95
Crisis care	13	14
In other residential	199	219
<b>Total looked after children</b>	<b>16,231</b>	<b>16,248</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2012-13. Information on the number of children looked after by accommodation type is available back to 1971 in Table 1.1a of the excel version of the publication tables: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

(2) 2011 figures are revised from original publication and overall number of looked after children has increased by 0.4%.

When children become looked after, a care plan should be produced. The care plan should include detailed information about the child's care, education and health needs, as well as the responsibilities of the local authority, the parents and the child. A care plan is considered 'current' if it has been produced or reviewed in the past 12 months.

**Table 1.2: Children looked after at 31 July 2012 with and without a current care plan<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Looked after at home	Looked after away from home	Total
With a current care plan	5,066	10,725	<b>15,791</b>
Without a current care plan	87	370	<b>457</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,153</b>	<b>11,095</b>	<b>16,248</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2012-13

Table 1.2 shows that a large majority of the children being looked after at 31 July 2012 had a current care plan. Ninety-seven per cent of the 16,248 children who were being looked after at the end of July 2012 had a current care plan, an increase of 4 percentage points compared with 15,030 in 2011. There was little difference between children looked after at home and away from home – 98 per cent of children being looked after at home had a current care plan, compared with 97 per cent of those being looked after away from home.

## Children starting and ceasing to be looked after

The levelling off of numbers being looked after is reflected in the narrowing of the difference between numbers starting and ceasing to be looked after. Table 1.3 shows the number of children who started being looked after between 2001-02 and 2011-12. A child will be counted more than once if they started being looked after more than once during the reporting year. There were 4,811 children who started to be looked after during 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012 a one per cent increase from the revised 2010-11 figure (4,746). The figures seen in 2010-2012 are similar after a decrease from higher levels (of around 5,200) seen in 2007-2009.

Over the last 9 years children have started to be looked after at younger ages. In 2003, twenty-five per cent of children starting to be looked after were aged under five, by 2012 this had risen to 38 per cent.

**Table 1.3: Number of children starting to be looked after 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010-2012, by age and gender<sup>(1)</sup>**

		Year ended 31st March				Year ended 31 July			Percentage of 2012 total <sup>(3)</sup>
		2003	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	2012	
<b>Male</b>	Under 1	146	218	207	323	335	383	387	15
	1-4	457	433	593	580	596	568	591	23
	5-11	783	666	864	830	792	764	811	32
	12-15	1,021	949	1,043	995	816	689	714	28
	16-17	163	100	164	33	32	32	30	1
	18-21 <sup>(4)</sup>			7	3	0	0	0	0
	Not known		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>2,533</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Female</b>	Under 1	123	182	205	318	315	318	366	16
	1-4	393	424	564	558	550	559	507	22
	5-11	568	589	649	733	671	721	698	31
	12-15	753	695	835	805	739	700	696	31
	16-17	108	74	110	22	13	12	10	0
	18-21 <sup>(4)</sup>			4	1	0	0	1	0
	Not known		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>1,965</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>2,288</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>All people</b>	Under 1	268	400	412	641	650	701	753	16
	1-4	850	857	1,157	1,138	1,146	1,127	1,098	23
	5-11	1,350	1,255	1,513	1,563	1,463	1,485	1,509	31
	12-15	1,773	1,644	1,878	1,800	1,555	1,389	1,410	29
	16-17	271	175	274	55	45	44	40	1
	18-21 <sup>(4)</sup>			11	4	0	0	1	0
	Not known		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,513</b>	<b>4,333</b>	<b>5,245</b>	<b>5,201</b>	<b>4,859</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>4,811</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Table excludes planned series of short term placements. Figures for 2011-12 are provisional and may be revised. Falkirk did not provide information on children starting to be looked after in 2007-08.

Prior to 2008, table includes rounded estimates wherever local authorities were not able to provide information.

Prior to 2005 'unknowns' were allocated to a category rather than being reported as unknown.

The number of looked after children aged 18+ was not asked for prior to 2006.

A child may start to be looked after more than once in a year and so may be counted more than once.

Changes between 2003-04 and 2004-05 are partly due to improved recording.

(2) Previously published figures for 2011 have been revised. Please see background note 4.4. for more information.

(3) Due to rounding, the percentage totals may not equal the sum of their parts

(4) The 18-21 category in this table may include a small number of looked after young people who were over 21yrs

Table 1.4 shows the number of children who ceased being looked after between 2002-03 and 2011-12. A child will be counted more than once if they ceased being looked after more than once during the reporting year. There were 4,768 children who ceased being looked after between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012, an increase of three per cent from the revised 2011 figure (4,611) and an overall increase of 34 per cent since 2005.



**Table 1.4: Number of children ceasing to be looked after, by length of time looked after and age, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011-2012<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Year ending						Percentage of 2012 totals
	31 March				31 July		
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	2012	
<b>Under 1</b>							
Under 6 weeks	26	56	55	63	35	40	29
6 weeks to under 6 months	26	28	29	42	52	72	52
6 months to under 1 year	17	9	13	30	29	27	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>1-4</b>							
Under 6 weeks	86	126	87	102	86	76	8
6 weeks to under 6 months	56	56	80	70	66	85	9
6 months to under 1 year	133	93	136	115	153	168	18
1 year to under 3 years	244	195	254	395	442	467	51
3 years to under 5 years	54	26	54	82	120	116	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>5-11</b>							
Under 6 weeks	144	145	105	132	94	103	8
6 weeks to under 6 months	92	80	112	68	87	123	9
6 months to under 1 year	190	161	185	182	192	249	18
1 year to under 3 years	385	317	351	382	486	489	36
3 years to under 5 years	143	114	190	212	261	238	18
5 years and over	61	71	86	103	152	155	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>12-15</b>							
Under 6 weeks	151	182	130	103	73	83	8
6 weeks to under 6 months	155	143	146	98	104	104	10
6 months to under 1 year	217	170	204	244	209	193	19
1 year to under 3 years	430	285	304	379	419	377	37
3 years to under 5 years	109	86	82	108	110	130	13
5 years and over	40	41	58	84	86	121	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>16+</b>							
Under 6 weeks	33	68	21	9	11	7	1
6 weeks to under 6 months	92	83	104	55	39	23	2
6 months to under 1 year	175	184	267	196	134	137	10
1 year to under 3 years	613	510	606	562	533	517	38
3 years to under 5 years	198	169	243	250	257	270	20
5 years and over	163	166	242	328	381	398	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,352</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>							
Under 6 weeks	440	578	398	409	299	309	6
6 weeks to under 6 months	421	390	471	333	348	407	9
6 months to under 1 year	732	617	805	767	717	774	16
1 year to under 3 years	1,672	1,308	1,515	1,718	1,880	1,850	39
3 years to under 5 years	504	395	569	652	748	754	16
5 years and over	264	278	386	515	619	674	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,034</b>	<b>3,566</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>4,394</b>	<b>4,611</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Table excludes children who are on a planned series of short term placements. Figures for 2011-12 are provisional and may be revised in 2012-13. Prior to 2008, table includes estimates wherever local authorities were not able to provide data. A child may cease to be looked after more than once during the year and will be counted once for each episode of care ending. Some totals do not exactly equal the sum of their component parts due to the effects of rounding.

(2) Previously published figures for 2011 have been revised, but the revised figures are known to overcount and should be treated as an estimate. Please see background note 4.4. for more information

Just as children are starting to be looked after at a younger age, children are also ceasing to be looked after at younger ages. The number of children ceasing to be looked after who were under the age of 12 increased by 45 per cent in 2011-12 compared with 2002-03.

Local authorities are required to carry out a pathway assessment for aftercare services on young people who are over school leaving age but are still looked after. These young people should be provided with a pathway co-ordinator who assesses their needs and a pathway plan which outlines how the local authority plans to meet the needs of the young person. Table 1.5 shows the number of children who were beyond their minimum school leaving age on the date they ceased to be looked after during 2011-12. A child will be counted more than once if they ceased to be looked after more than once during the reporting year.

**Table 1.5: Pathway plans and nominated pathway co-ordinators of young people who ceased to be looked after during 2011-12<sup>(1)</sup> who were beyond minimum school-leaving age on the date they ceased to be looked after**

	Looked after at home	Looked after away from home	Total
<i>Number</i>			
With a pathway plan	402	572	<b>974</b>
Without a pathway plan	200	162	<b>362</b>
With a nominated pathway co-ordinator	405	569	<b>974</b>
Without a nominated pathway co-ordinator	197	165	<b>362</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>1,336</b>
<i>Percentage</i>			
With a pathway plan	67	78	<b>73</b>
Without a pathway plan	33	22	<b>27</b>
With a nominated pathway co-ordinator	67	78	<b>73</b>
Without a nominated pathway co-ordinator	33	22	<b>27</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2012-13. Figures include all episodes of ceasing to be looked after beyond minimum school leaving age (i.e. a child may be counted more than once).

Seventy three per cent of young people who had reached their minimum school leaving age at the time they ceased to be looked after during 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012 had a pathway plan. This is a 16 percentage point increase from 2010-11. Seventy three per cent had a pathway co-ordinator, an increase of two percentage points from the previous year.

Where a young person's final placement type was 'at home' they were less likely to have a pathway plan or a pathway co-ordinator than if the final placement type was 'away from home'. Of children whose last placement was

at home, 67 per cent had a pathway plan or a pathway coordinator, compared with 78 per cent of those whose final placement type was 'away from home'.

## Aftercare services

Local Authorities have duty to provide advice, guidance and assistance for young people who – at the point they leave care – have reached minimum school leaving age, referred to as 'aftercare services'. Table 1.6 shows the number of young people eligible for aftercare services on 31 July 2012 by age and their economic activity. 'Economic activity' refers to whether a young person was in education, employment or training.

**Table 1.6: Young people eligible for aftercare services on 31 July 2012, by age and economic activity<sup>(1),(2)</sup>**

Economic activity on 31 July 2012	Age on 31 July 2012				Total	Percentage of all young people eligible for aftercare	Percentage of young people receiving aftercare with known economic activity
	15-16	17	18	19-21 <sup>(3)</sup>			
<b>In education, training or employment</b>							
In higher education	15	24	20	52	<b>111</b>	3	5
In education other than HE	42	44	83	118	<b>287</b>	7	13
In training or employment	73	107	148	207	<b>535</b>	14	24
<b>Not in education, training or employment</b>							
- due to short term illness	*	*	*	6	<b>13</b>	0	1
- due to long term illness or disability	*	*	16	43	<b>63</b>	2	3
- due to looking after family	*	19	*	77	<b>134</b>	3	6
- due to other circumstances	92	247	334	430	<b>1,103</b>	29	49
Not known	51	72	77	96	<b>296</b>	8	
Not receiving aftercare	191	332	513	292	<b>1,328</b>	34	
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percentage in employment, education or training</b>							
<i>As percentage of all young people eligible for aftercare</i>	28	21	20	29	24		
<i>As percentage of young people receiving aftercare with known economic activity</i>	57	39	39	40	42		

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2012-13

(2) Cells containing \* represent numbers that are suppressed to maintain confidentiality. Due to rounding, the totals for percentages may not equal the sum of their parts

(3) The 19-21 category in this table includes a small number of young people over the age of 21 who were receiving aftercare.

There were 3,870 young people reported to be eligible for aftercare services on 31 July 2012, of whom 66 per cent were receiving aftercare. Forty two per cent of those receiving aftercare and who had a known economic activity were in

education, training or employment. This is a 6 percentage point increase on 2011.

For the young people receiving aftercare where their education/employment status was known, 15-16 year olds were most likely to be in education, training or employment, at 57 per cent. The age groups least likely to be in education, training or employment was 17 and 18 year olds at 39 per cent.

## Short-term placements

If a child is subject to a planned series of short-term placements where, for the purposes of respite, they stay away from home for more than 24 hours continuously, they are categorised as being looked after by the local authority for that period. The statistics for these young people are not included in the main looked after children statistics. Table 1.7 shows the number of children with a current planned series of short-term placements at 31 July 2012, by type of placement.

At 31 July 2012 there were 2,029 children being looked after on a current planned series of short-term placements. The number of children under 18 years was 1,819, an increase of 12 per cent from 2011. Sixty per cent of these children were looked after in residential establishments, whilst 11 per cent of these children were looked after in foster placements.

**Table 1.7: All children with a current planned series of short-term placements at 31 July 2012<sup>(1)</sup>, by type of placement<sup>(2)</sup>**

Type of placement	Number of children	Percentage <sup>(3)</sup>
Residential establishment	1,218	60
Hospital	7	0
Foster placement	231	11
Other placement	573	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2012-13.

(2) Due to rounding, the totals for percentages may not equal the sum of their parts

(3) Figures include any child who was aged under 21 years on 31 July and who has a current plan, even if they were not actually accommodated on 31 July, and who have not got an open LAC episode on 31 July, or are reported as being eligible for aftercare

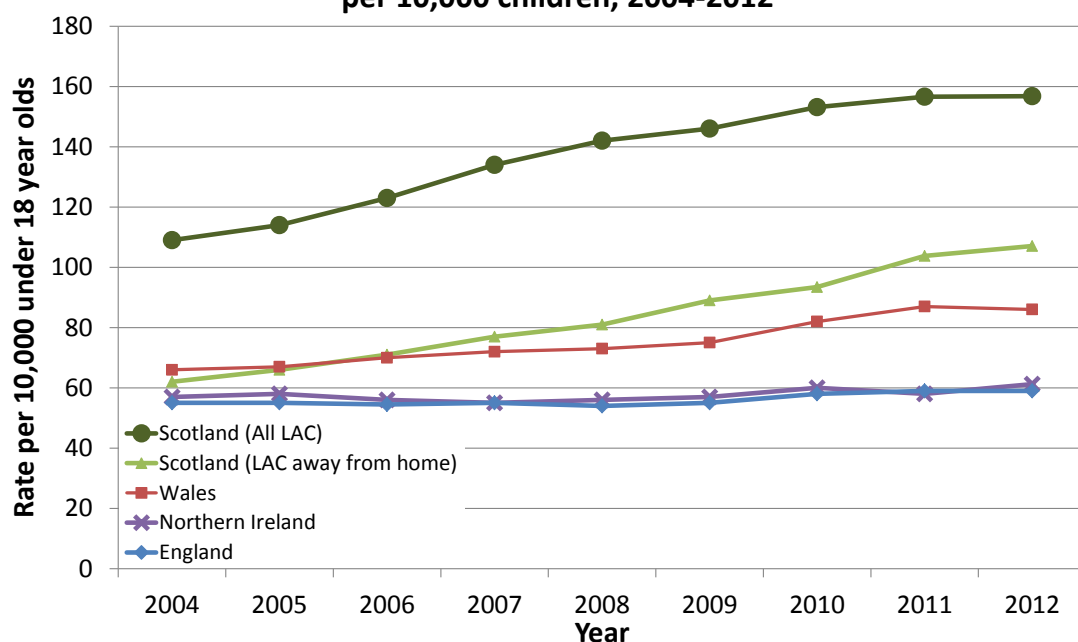
## Cross-UK looked after comparisons

The definition of “looked after children” varies across the countries within the UK. In Scotland children looked after at home are included in the definition and in the statistics. In the England and Wales statistics children looked after at home are usually excluded. As a result, simply comparing the rate of children

looked after gives figures for Scotland which are much higher than the rest of the UK.

Chart 3 gives the Scottish figure both including and excluding children looked after at home. When children looked after at home are excluded from the Scottish figures the rate is still higher and increasing more steeply than any of the other UK countries. There has been a similar, but less steep, increase in the rate of looked after children in Wales since 2006. Although England and Northern Ireland have seen small increases in the rates in recent years, the rate per 10,000 under 18 years population has remained more static.

**Chart 3: Cross-UK comparison of rate of looked after children per 10,000 children, 2004-2012**



There is more information on the differences between the collection of looked after children data in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland and how this affects the comparability here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/socialservicestat>  
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There are **additional tables** on looked after children available at:

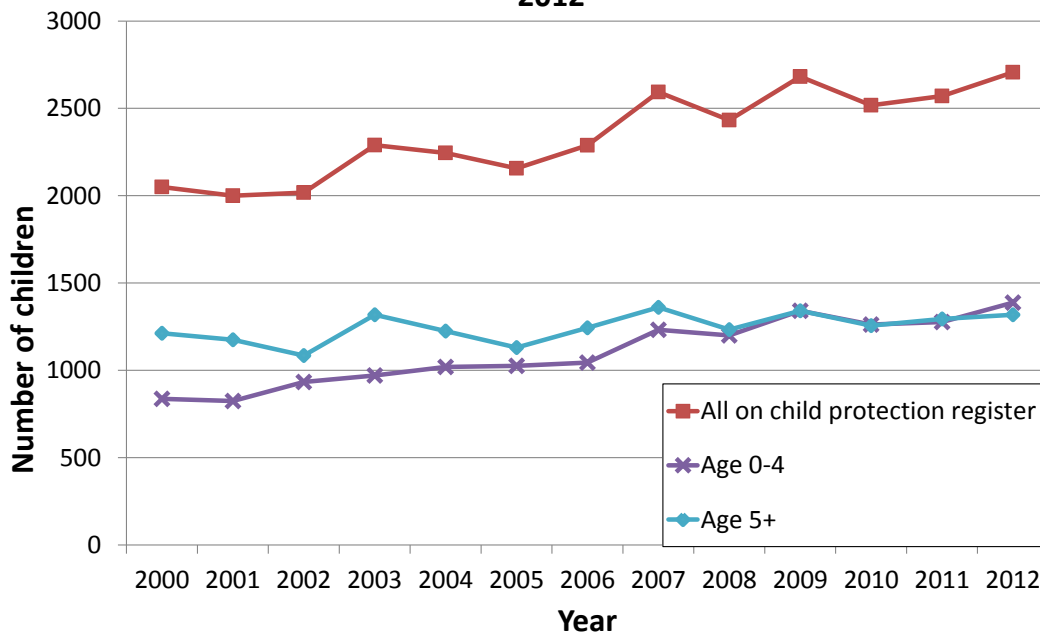
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## Child Protection

- ↑ Continuing the overall **increase in registrations, de-registrations** and the **total number** on the child protection register
- ↓ Continuing decrease in **length of time** children tend to spend on the child protection register
- 👤 Children continue to be placed on the child protection register at **younger ages**

This section presents data on children on the child protection register from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012. Child protection means protecting a child from child abuse or neglect. This can either be in cases where abuse or neglect has taken place, or in cases where a likelihood of significant harm or neglect has been identified. The risk of harm or neglect will be considered at a Child Protection Case Conference. Where a child is believed to be at risk of significant harm, their name will be added to the child protection register (referred to as a child protection registration).

**Chart 4: Children on the child protection register, by age, 2000-2012**



As Chart 4 shows, the number of children on the child protection register has fluctuated but overall increased by 35 per cent between 2001 and 2012 (from 2,050 in 2000 to 2,706 in 2012). Over the last 12 years there has been an

increase in the proportion of younger children on the child protection register and corresponding decrease in older children. In 2012, more than half of children on the child protection register (51%) were aged under five.

There is no strong gender pattern among children on the child protection register. Half were boys, 47 per cent were girls and the remaining 4 per cent were unborn children (these figures sum to more than 100% due to rounding). At 31 July 2012, there were 95 unborn children on the child protection register, an increase of 15 on 2011. Because there was a change in how unborn children were recorded by local authorities in 2010, only the 2011 and 2012 figures for unborn children are comparable.

**Table 2.1: Number of children on the child protection register by gender, 2000, 2005, 2010-2012<sup>(1)</sup>**

	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	% of total 2012	Rate per 1,000 children 2012 <sup>(2)</sup>
Boys	1,080	1,098	1,275	1,282	1,349	50%	2.9
Girls	970	1,059	1,199	1,209	1,262	47%	2.8
Unborns	-	-	44	80	95	4%	-
<b>All children</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>2,706</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3.0</b>

(1) Until 2010-11 data was collected at 31 March. From 2011 data has been collected at 31 July. Full data by gender and age group for 2000-2012 is available in Table 2.1 of the excel version of the publication tables -

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

(2) Source: National Records of Scotland, 2011 mid-year population estimates.

Table 2.2 shows that, in Scotland in 2011-12, three children in every 1,000 children under 16 were on the child protection register. At local authority level the rate varied from less than one per 1,000 children (0.9 per 1,000 children) in Orkney to 7.5 per 1,000 children in Midlothian.

In 2011 Midlothian saw a substantial increase in the number of children on the child protection register due to a higher level of identification of abuse and neglect within Midlothian and an increase in public and professional awareness of child protection. Following this increase, the level in Midlothian in 2012 is still higher than the rest of Scotland.

**Table 2.2: Number and rate<sup>(1)</sup> per 1,000 population aged 0-15 of children on the child protection register: 2007, 2009, 2011-2012<sup>(2)</sup>, by local authority**

Local authority area	At 31 March				At 31 July			
	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000
Aberdeen City	182	5.5	119	3.6	96	2.8	87	2.5
Aberdeenshire	81	1.7	51	1.1	68	1.5	73	1.6
Angus	82	4.1	92	4.7	66	3.4	59	3.0
Argyll & Bute	32	2.1	43	2.9	39	2.7	48	3.4
Clackmannanshire	58	6.0	56	5.9	39	4.1	55	5.8
Dumfries & Galloway	79	3.1	100	4.0	101	4.1	94	3.9
Dundee City	95	4.0	70	2.9	90	3.8	82	3.4
East Ayrshire	75	3.5	42	2.0	65	3.1	74	3.5
East Dunbartonshire	27	1.4	28	1.5	26	1.4	23	1.2
East Lothian	84	4.5	70	3.7	60	3.2	62	3.3
East Renfrewshire	29	1.6	31	1.7	24	1.4	34	1.9
Edinburgh, City of	287	4.1	256	3.6	244	3.4	227	3.1
Eilean Siar	23	5.1	6	1.3	4	0.9	11	2.5
Falkirk	93	3.3	73	2.6	56	2.0	79	2.8
Fife	191	2.9	220	3.4	187	2.9	206	3.2
Glasgow City	299	3.1	286	3.0	351	3.6	436	4.4
Highland	69	1.8	99	2.5	97	2.5	116	3.0
Inverclyde	42	3.0	35	2.5	29	2.1	33	2.4
Midlothian	90	5.9	96	6.2	158	10.2	117	7.5
Moray	66	4.2	44	2.8	48	3.1	45	3.0
North Ayrshire	56	2.3	60	2.4	77	3.2	74	3.1
North Lanarkshire	74	1.2	63	1.0	87	1.4	79	1.3
Orkney Isles	4	1.1	1	0.3	4	1.2	3	0.9
Perth & Kinross	43	1.7	49	2.0	62	2.5	37	1.5
Renfrewshire	126	4.1	119	3.9	102	3.4	86	2.8
Scottish Borders	47	2.3	32	1.6	34	1.7	37	1.9
Shetland	11	2.6	10	2.4	6	1.4	7	1.6
South Ayrshire	31	1.7	43	2.4	49	2.7	64	3.5
South Lanarkshire	117	2.1	135	2.4	141	2.5	165	2.9
Stirling	50	3.1	43	2.7	47	2.9	40	2.5
West Dunbartonshire	31	1.9	27	1.7	20	1.2	35	2.2
West Lothian	108	3.1	119	3.4	94	2.7	118	3.4
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>2,682</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2,706</b>	<b>3.0</b>

(1) Source: National Records of Scotland, 2008-2011 mid-year population estimates.

(2) Information for all years from 2007 is included in the publication tables and a map of the 2012 rates is presented in the additional tables: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

Revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland was published by the Scottish Government in December 2010 which allows local authorities to record multiple risks/concerns (rather than just the main category of abuse) and expands the list of potential concerns. Because in 2012 multiple concerns can be recorded per child for the first time, the total number of concerns is larger than the total number of registrations. The changes in recording mean that the 2012 figures on concerns identified are not comparable to previous data on category of abuse/risk.



Table 2.3 shows that for the 2,706 children on the child protection register at 31 July 2012 there were 5,705 concerns at the case conferences at which they were registered – an average of 2.1 concerns per conference. The most common concerns identified were emotional abuse (38%), neglect (37%) and parental substance misuse (34%).

**Table 2.3 Concerns identified<sup>(1)</sup> at the case conferences of children who were on the child protection register at 31 July 2012**

Concerns identified at case conferences	2012	% of children registered at 31 July 2012
Neglect	1,006	37%
Parental substance misuse	918	34%
Parental Mental Health Problems	516	19%
Non-engaging family	453	17%
Domestic abuse	758	28%
Sexual abuse	229	8%
Physical abuse	471	17%
Emotional abuse	1,016	38%
Child Placing themselves at risk	46	2%
Child Exploitation	9	0%
Other concerns	283	10%
<b>Total concerns</b>	<b>5,705</b>	<b>211%</b>

(1) The 2012 data should **not** be compared to previous years' data on category of abuse/risk. The Scottish Government published revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland in December 2010 which expanded the categories for abuse/concerns identified at case conferences. As a result, many of the categories in 2012 may have been included in other categories previously or would not have been counted as they have no equivalent in previous years.

## Child protection registrations and de-registrations

The number of both registrations to the child protection register and de-registrations from the child protection register have both increased over the last five years. Table 2.4 shows that 16 per cent of children who were placed on the child protection register during 2011-12 had been on a child protection register before. This figure has fluctuated over the past five years, but is consistently between 13% and 16%.

Table 2.5 shows that there were 4,155 de-registrations from the child protection in the year to 31 July 2012, 332 more than in 2010-11. More than eight in ten de-registrations (83 per cent) in 2011-12 were for children who had been registered for less than a year. The most common reason for de-registration in 2011-12 (in 42 per cent of cases) was that the home situation had improved.

**Table 2.4: Number of registrations following an initial, pre-birth or transfer case conference, 2007, 2009, 2011-2012<sup>(1)</sup> – by length of time since previous de-registration**

Time since last de-registration	Year Ended 31 March		Year Ended 31 July		% of total 2012
	2007	2009	2011	2012	
Never been registered before	2,565	3,103	3,277	3,408	82%
Registered before but time unknown	8	0	3	10	0%
Less than 6 months	92	68	98	89	2%
6 months - < 1 year	68	78	107	99	2%
1 year - < 18 months	46	94	74	83	2%
18 months - < 2 years	43	54	61	79	2%
2 years or more	120	231	262	304	7%
Not known if been registered before	206	0	2	83	2%
Proportion of registrations to children who had been registered before <sup>(2)</sup>	13%	14%	16%	16%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,148</b>	<b>3,628</b>	<b>3,884</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>100%</b>

(1) Information back to 2007 is included in the excel version of the publication tables:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

(2) This is calculated as a proportion of registrations excluding cases where it is not known if a child had been registered before. Excludes cases where it is not known if a child had been registered before

**Table 2.5: Number of de-registrations from the child protection register, 2007, 2009, 2011-2012, by length of time on register and reason for de-registration<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Year Ended 31 March		Year Ended 31 July		% of total 2012	% change 2011-2012
	2007	2009	2011	2012		
<b>Length of time registered</b>						
Less than 6 months	1,329	1,498	1,713	1,929	46%	8%
6 months to under 1 year	1,092	1,178	1,477	1,535	37%	0%
1 year to under 18 months	362	447	419	516	12%	-9%
18 months to under 2 years	158	197	139	117	3%	-17%
2 years or more	143	179	75	58	1%	-39%
<b>Reason for de-registration<sup>(2)</sup></b>						
Child taken into care & risk reduced	-	536	501	582	14%	-7%
Child with other carers	-	295	278	295	7%	1%
Child died	-	6	6	9	0%	50%
Removal of perpetrator	-	82	56	70	2%	-31%
Improved home situation	-	1,195	1,186	1,742	42%	-3%
Child automatically de-registered because of age	-	16	14	6	0%	75%
Child moved away - no continued risk	-	33	32	20	0%	23%
Child transferred to another local authority	-	135	130	175	4%	-22%
Other reason <sup>(3)</sup>	-	1,201	1,620	1,256	30%	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>3,499</b>	<b>3,823</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>

(1) This table previously included breakdowns on the category of abuse/risk, which is not available from 2012.

Information for all years back to 2007 is included in the excel version of the publication tables:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

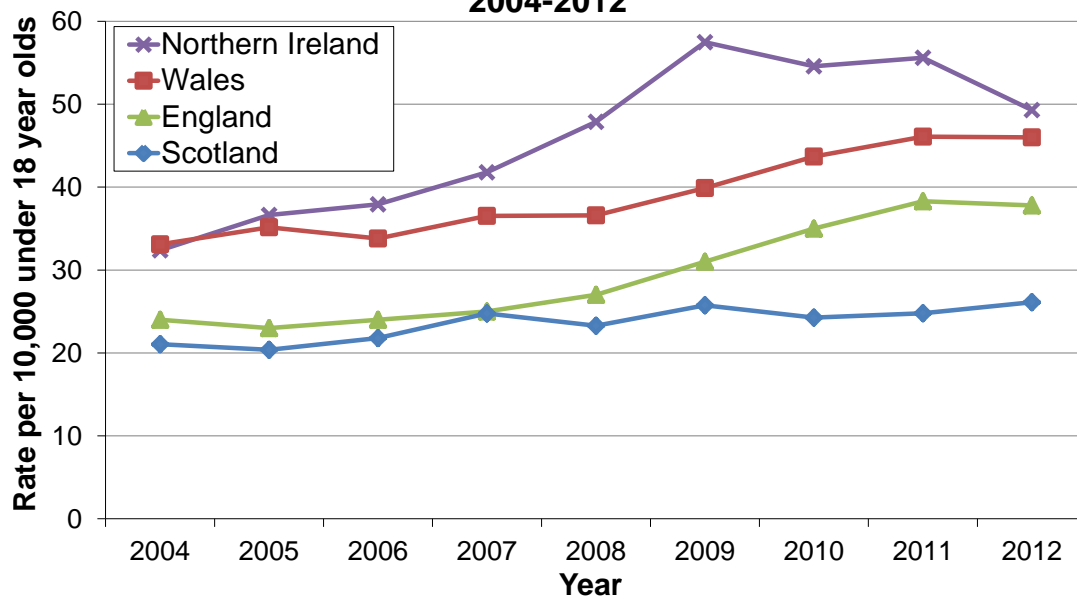
(2) Information on the reason for de-registration is not available prior to 2007-08.

(3) This category was called reduced risk (other) prior to 2012.

## Cross-UK child protection comparisons

Child protection systems across the United Kingdom vary but are generally comparable. While Scotland has seen an increase in the rate of registrations to the child protection register over the last decade, it is not as steep as the increase in England and Wales over the same period. Northern Ireland has seen a different pattern to the other three UK countries over the same period, with a very sharp increase in the rates of child protection registrations until 2009 and a relative decline in registrations since then. Between 2011 and 2012 the rate of registrations in England and Wales has stayed the same and in Northern Ireland has decreased. This has slightly narrowed the difference in rate of registrations to the child protection register between Scotland and the other countries in the UK.

**Chart 5: Cross-UK comparison of rate of children on the child protection register per 10,000 under 18s, 2004-2012**





There is more information on the differences between the collection of child protection data in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland and how this affects the comparability here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/socialservicesats>

There are **additional tables** on child protection available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

## Secure Care and Close Support

	Closure of one unit has reduced secure care <b>places available</b> from 112 to 94
	Over 90% of children accommodated in secure care accommodation units have <b>additional support needs</b>

This section presents 2011-12 data on secure care and close support accommodation. It also presents revised data for 2010-11.

Secure care generally refers to accommodation for children and young people who pose a significant risk to either themselves and/or others and are likely to run away or abscond. Placement within secure accommodation can only be determined by the authority of a Children's Hearing or by the order of a court.

Close support is residential accommodation providing a safe structured nurturing environment. A young person can be placed in close support either as a route into secure accommodation or on the way out of secure to help with the transition back to their families or communities. Close support could also be used to prevent young people being admitted to secure accommodation. Close support included in this publication are those that are in the same building as the secure unit i.e. that are related directly to the secure unit. The reason for only including close support in the same physical location as the secure unit is because capital and overhead costs will be inherently linked.

While the numbers of looked after children or children on the child protection register have increased over the last ten years, the number of young people in secure care has decreased overall since 2010. This downward trend follows Scottish Government's aim to reduce the number of young people who need to be held in secure care accommodation.

The number of young people involved in secure care and close support is also much smaller – less than one per cent of the populations of looked after children and children on the child protection register.

### Bed complement

There were 94 secure places available in six secure units excluding emergency beds on 31 July 2012 (Table 3.1). In addition, St. Mary's

Kenmure had three short term/respite beds which could be used when their service was at capacity. Three units had an emergency bed available (Good Shepherd, Kibble and Rossie) and there were three units providing close support accommodation. The average cost per secure bed per week during 2011-12 was £5,160, with costs in individual units ranging from £5,060 to £5,410.

**Table 3.1: Secure care and close support unit bed complement at 31 July 2012<sup>(1)</sup>**

Unit	Secure Care Bed Complement	Close Support Bed Complement
Edinburgh Secure Services	12	10
Good Shepherd	18	6
Kibble	18	0
Rossie School <sup>(2)</sup>	18	10
St. Mary's Kenmure <sup>(3)</sup>	24	0
The Elms <sup>(4)</sup>	4	0
<b>ALL UNITS</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>26</b>

(1) St. Philip's closed on 5 August 2011.

(2) Rossie School increased the number of close support beds on 1 April 2012 from 8 to 10.

(3) St. Mary's Kenmure provide a care services to 24 children and young people in secure care accommodation. In addition the service have 3 short term / respite beds which can be used when the service is at capacity.

(4) The Elms Close Support section closed on 31 July 2011.

## Staff

On 31 July 2012, there were 462 staff working across the secure estate, of who 14 were temporary. There were 15 vacancies, of which three had been vacant for more than three months. In close support, there were 101 staff, of who two were temporary. There were no vacancies. (Tables 3.2a and 3.2b).

**Table 3.2a: Secure care accommodation staff at 31 July 2012**

Secure Care	Care staff		Teachers/Instructors		Other staff		Total
	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time	
Permanent Staff	249	21	41	8	98	31	<b>448</b>
Temporary Staff	10	0	3	0	1	0	<b>14</b>
<b>Total number of staff</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>462</b>
Current vacancies	8	2	1	0	1	3	<b>15</b>
...of which were long term <sup>(1)</sup>	1	0	0	0	1	1	<b>3</b>
Vacancies as a % of all posts	3.0%	8.7%	2.2%	0.0%	1.0%	8.8%	3.1%

(1) Long-term vacancies are those lasting more than 3 months.

**Table 3.2b: Close support accommodation staff<sup>(1)</sup> at 31 July 2012**

Close Support	Care staff		Total
	Full time	Part time	
Permanent Staff	92	7	<b>99</b>
Temporary Staff	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total number of staff</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>101</b>
Current vacancies	0	0	<b>0</b>
...of which were long term <sup>(2)</sup>	0	0	<b>0</b>
Vacancies as a % of all posts	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

(1) Staff figures in this table only include those providing close support care provided in dedicated close support units within the same building as the secure unit, and does not include any close support provided in alternative settings.

(2) Long-term vacancies are those lasting more than 3 months.

## Capacity and usage

There was an average of 85 residents in secure care accommodation throughout 2011-12, down two per cent from 87 residents in the previous year (Table 3.3). The number of young people in secure care accommodation throughout the year ranged from 74 to 93.

There were 237 admissions in secure care accommodation between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012. This was a decrease of 14 per cent compared with 2010-11. There were 243 discharges between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012 (a decrease of nine per cent from 2010-11). Admissions and discharges have been decreasing since 2009-10.

Use of the emergency bed during 2011-12 increased significantly (536%) as did the number of young people the emergency bed was used for (700%). However, this followed a large drop between 2009-10 and 2010-11.

For revisions to the secure care accommodation 2010-11 data, most changes were increases of under five per cent compared to the original 2010-11 data with the exception of the minimum number of residents during the year which increased by seven per cent (from 73 to 78). There were no changes to the number of places available or to emergency bed usage.

There was an average of 19 residents in close support accommodation throughout 2011-12, a decrease of 10 per cent in the previous year. The number of young people in close support accommodation throughout the year ranged from 14 to 25.

**Table 3.3: Secure care and close support accommodation capacity<sup>(1)</sup> and usage, 2010-2012**

	During the year ending <sup>(2)</sup>			% change
	31 March	31 July		
	2010	2011 <sup>(3)</sup>	2012	2011-12
<b>Secure Accommodation</b>				
Places at year end	106	112	94	-16%
Admissions during the year	314	276	237	-14%
Discharges during the year	309	268	243	-9%
Average number of residents during the year	100	87	85	-2%
Minimum number of residents during the year	90	78	74	-5%
Maximum number of residents during the year	110	95	93	-2%
Number of nights emergency bed used during the year <sup>(4)</sup>	38	11	70	536%
Number of residents emergency bed used for during the year <sup>(4)</sup>	10	2	16	700%
<b>Close Support Accommodation<sup>(5)</sup></b>				
Places at year end	29	29	26	-10%
Admissions during the year	55	42	41	-2%
Discharges during the year	51	46	43	-7%
Average number of residents during the year	19	21	19	-10%
Minimum number of residents during the year	13	19	14	-26%
Maximum number of residents during the year	24	25	25	0%

## (1) Capacity

Young people can be admitted and discharged more than once during the year.

During 2011-12, St. Mary's Kenmure provided a care services to 24 children and young people in secure accommodation. In addition the service had 3 short term / respite beds which could be used when the service is at capacity.

St. Philip's 'wound down' from 1 July 2011 and closed on 5 August 2011.

Rossie School increased the number of close support beds on 1 April 2012 from 8 to 10.

During 2011-12, Edinburgh Secure Services reported overcapacity by one young person for 2 periods. However, this is likely to be a recording error.

The Elms Close Support section closed on 31 July 2011.

St. Mary's Kenmure's bed capacity increased on 1 July 2011 to 24 (from 18).

During 2010-11, St. Mary's Kenmure reported overcapacity for 9 periods which was due to using their 'mothballed' unit.

During 2010-11, St. Philip's reported overcapacity for 9 periods which was most likely due to using their 'mothballed' unit.

In 2009-10, Good Shepherd reported over capacity by one child for 8 periods. However, this is likely to be a recording error.

## (2) Change in reporting period from 2010-11 (from August to July). Previous years were from April to March.

## (3) Data revised for 2010-11.

## (4) Information on emergency bed usage was collected for the first time in 2010. Three units reported having an emergency bed: Rossie School, Good Shepherd &amp; Kibble in 2011-12 (see background notes for definition of an emergency bed)

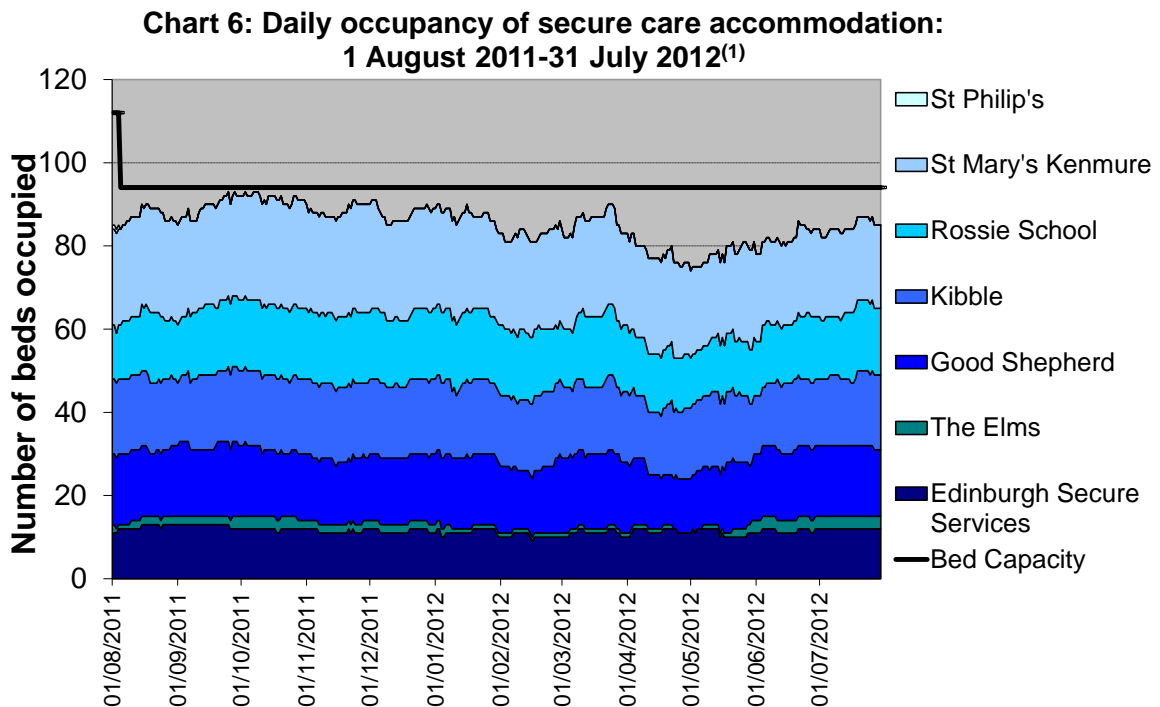
## (5) Information on close support accommodation was collected for the first time in 2010. Reported usage relates only to close support care provided in dedicated close support units, and does not include any close support provided in alternative settings.

Average, minimum and maximum number of residents during 2009-10 corrected for close support accommodation.

For close support accommodation, there were 41 admissions and 43 discharges between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012. This was a decrease of admissions of two per cent and a decrease of discharges of seven per cent on 2010-11.

For revisions to the close support accommodation 2010-11 data, the only change to the original 2010-11 data was to the number of discharges which increased by 10 per cent (from 42 to 46).

Chart 6 shows that total occupancy reached its highest capacity of 93 residents in secure care accommodation during four dates/periods (25 and 28 September 2011, 3 October 2011 and between 7 and 9 October 2011).



(1) Please refer to footnote 1 in Table 3.3 for information on centres that have opened and closed during 2011-12.

Table 3.4 shows that the number of young people in secure care accommodation on 31 July 2012 was 84. This has been decreasing over the past two years.

Sixty eight per cent of young people in secure care accommodation on 31 July 2012 were male and 42 per cent were aged 16 years and over. Young people in secure care accommodation tend to be older than those looked after and on the child protection registers – no young children would be in secure care accommodation. In comparison, the majority of children on the child protection register at 31 July 2012 were under five years old.



**Table 3.4: Young people in secure care accommodation, 2010-2012<sup>(1)</sup> by gender, age, additional support needs and length of stay<sup>(2)</sup>**

	As at...			Percentage of 2012 total
	31 March	31 July		
	2010	2011 <sup>(3)</sup>	2012	
<b>Gender of residents</b>				
Males	64	59	57	68%
Females	36	30	27	32%
<b>Age of Residents<sup>(4)</sup></b>				
13 years old or under	8	9	8	10%
14 years	15	17	16	19%
15 years	43	25	25	30%
16 years or over	34	38	35	42%
<b>Residents with additional support needs<sup>(5)</sup></b>				
Any known additional support needs	81	87	78	93%
<b>Additional support needs, where known</b>				
Medically diagnosed social, emotional &	25	35	31	37%
Other social, emotional & behavioural	78	80	76	90%
Specific learning difficulties	*	11	12	14%
Mental health problems	9	13	23	27%
Language and communication disorder	*	9	12	14%
Physical or motor impairment	0	*	*	-
Visual impairment	9	12	*	-
Combined sight and hearing loss	0	*	0	0%
Other	14	20	32	38%
<b>Length of stay of residents at year end</b>				
Less than 1 month	17	34	11	13%
1 month to under 2 months	15	14	15	18%
2 months to under 3 months	11	10	16	19%
3 months to under 6 months	28	12	22	26%
6 months to under 1 year	24	11	10	12%
1 year or more	5	8	10	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100%</b>

(1) From 2010 to 2012 Centres have opened and closed and total capacity has changed. Please refer to footnote 1 in Table 3.3 for more information on this. There was a change in reporting period from 2010-11 (from August to July). Previous years ran from April to March.

(2) Length of stay is truncated at the 31st July from 2011 and 31st March for previous years.

(3) Data revised for 2010-11.

(4) Actual age is reported from 2010 (see background notes).

(5) Until 2012 the additional support needs category was presented as 'disability'. This has been amended because the information collected does not meet the definition of 'disability' outlined in the Equality Act 2010

Due to small numbers, some additional support needs categories have been included in the 'Other' category. These include 'autistic spectrum disorder', 'hearing impairment', 'learning disability' and 'other chronic illness/disability'. Note that a young person can have multiple additional support needs.

Cells containing \* represent numbers that are suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

Ninety three per cent of young people in secure care accommodation on 31 July 2012 had at least one additional support need and by far the most common category of additional support need was "other social, emotional and behavioural difficulties", which 90 per cent of all young people in secure care were reported as having.

For revisions to the secure care accommodation 2010-11 data, there was a decrease of one per cent compared to the original 2010-11 data (from 90 to 89 young people).

## **Cross-UK secure care and close support accommodation comparisons**

There are **additional tables** on secure care and close support accommodation available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

These additional tables include a table on secure children's homes/secure care accommodation units, places approved and children accommodated across the United Kingdom. In 2012, England had 16 secure children's homes, Wales had one secure children's home, Northern Ireland had one secure unit and Scotland had six secure units.

## Background notes

### 1. Sources

1.1 The **looked after children** statistics were collected at an individual-level from local authorities. This publication also presents revised children looked after data for 2010-11. Further breakdowns of the 2010-11 data will be published here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

1.2 The **child protection** survey collected aggregate information on the number of initial/pre-birth case conferences, the number of child protection registrations and number of de-registrations. For the first time in 2011-12 individual-level information was collected on the children on the child protection register at the end of the reporting year (31 July 2012). From 2012-13, all child protection data will be collected at an individual-level.

1.3 The **secure care and close support case accommodation** statistics were collected from seven secure care units, three of which had dedicated close support units. St Philip's closed on 5 August 2011, so five days into the 2011-12 reporting year. Therefore, at 31 July 2012, there were six secure care units. Aggregate information was collected on the units themselves, and individual-level information was collected on each of the young people in the dedicated secure care and close support accommodation units.

### 2. Coverage and Timing

2.1 The **looked after children** data were collected on all children/young people who were looked after between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012, on every episode of being looked after which occurred at some point in the reporting period, every placement that took place during these entire episodes and every legal reason for which a child was looked after.

2.2 Statistics were also collected at an individual-level for eligible for aftercare and current planned series of short-term placements sections. The survey forms, data specifications and guidance notes for the data presented in this publication (and previous years publications) can be seen at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildrenLookedAfter>

2.3 Until 2010, the **child protection** and **secure care accommodation** collections covered an annual period running 1 April to 31 March. From 2011 onwards the data reported covers the year 1 August to 31 July of each year, so the 2012 data for both child protection and secure care accommodation refer to the year 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012. The change in period covered has not had a noticeable effect on the statistics.

2.4 The **child protection** statistics survey covered the period 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012. If a member of the public or professional report concern about a child, a referral will be made to an agency such as the local authority social work team. If they decide that the child is at risk of significant harm, an investigation will be undertaken. In 2010-11 and previous years aggregate information was collected on the referrals that were initiated during the period (so numbers starting). In 2011-12 aggregate information was collected on child protection investigations which ended during this period. Information on child protection referrals was not collected in 2011-12.

2.5 The child protection data collection is moving to being collected at an individual-level. In 2011-12, information on age group, gender and concerns identified at case conference was collected by an aggregate child protection survey. A individual-level snapshot of children on the child protection register at 31 July 2012 also recorded information on age, ethnicity, additional support needs, religion, concerns identified at case conference and known/suspected abuser. From 2012-13 on, all child protection information will be collected at individual-level.

2.6 Survey forms and guidance notes for both the aggregate and individual-level data child protection collections can be seen at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildProtection>.

2.7 The **secure care and close support case accommodation** census covered 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012. The secure care and close support accommodation data collected at the unit level covers the number of places, emergency bed usage, staffing, and average cost per week per bed. Individual-level information was collected on the characteristics of the young person, admissions and discharges. For those in secure care accommodation information was also collected on medical care. The survey forms and guidance notes for the data presented in this publication (and previous years publications) can be seen at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveySecureAccommodation>

### 3. Definitions and notation

#### Children Looked After

3.1 *Looked after child* – The definition of a looked after child is in section 17(6) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, as amended by Schedule 2, para 9(4) of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007. A child is looked after when he or she is:

- (a) provided with accommodation by a local authority under section 25 of the 1995 Act or
- (b) subject to a supervision requirement made by a children's hearing, in terms of section 70 of the 1995 Act or
- (c) subject to an order, authorisation or warrant made under Chapter 2, 3 or 4 of Part II of the 1995 Act, and according to which the local authority has responsibilities in respect of the child. These include a child protection order, a child assessment order, an authorisation from a justice of the peace to remove a child to a place of safety or maintain a child in a place of safety, removal to a place of safety by a police constable, or a warrant to keep a child in a place of safety made by a children's hearing or a sheriff or
- (d) living in Scotland and subject to an order in respect of whom a Scottish local authority has responsibilities, as a result of a transfer of an order to it under the Children (Reciprocal Enforcement of Prescribed Orders etc. (England and Wales and Northern Ireland) (Scotland) Regulations 1996. These 1996 Regulations were made under section 33 of the 1995 Act or
- (e) subject to a permanence order made after an application by the local authority under section 80 of the 2007 Act.

3.2 *Supervision Requirement* – A children's hearing is a lay tribunal which considers and makes decisions on the welfare of the child or young person before them, taking into account all the circumstances including any offending behaviour. The hearing has to decide on the measures of supervision which are in the best interests of the child or young person. If the hearing concludes compulsory measures of supervision are necessary, it will make a Supervision Requirement which will determine the type of placement for the child. In most cases the child will continue to live at home but will be under the supervision of a social worker. In some cases the hearing will decide that the child should live away from home with relatives or other carers.

#### 3.3 *Types of placement*

- At home with parent(s): at home with parent(s) or 'relevant person(s)' as defined in Section 93(2)(b) of the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995

- With friends/relatives: placed with friends or relatives who are not approved foster carers. Also referred to as 'kinship care'.
- With foster carers provided by the local authority
- With foster carers purchased by the local authority
- With prospective adopters
- Other community: such as supported accommodation, hospital (e.g. at birth)
- Local authority home: in local authority children's home/hostel, local authority home/hostel for children with learning disabilities, local authority home/hostel for physically disabled children
- Voluntary home: in voluntary children's home/hostel, in voluntary home/hostel for children with learning disabilities, in voluntary home/hostel for physically disabled children
- Residential school: in local authority residential school (home/hostel), in voluntary residential school (home/hostel), in private school, in independent school
- Secure accommodation
- Crisis care: for example: in women's refuge, in local authority hostel for offenders, in voluntary hostel for offenders, in local authority hostel for drug/alcohol abusers, in voluntary hostel for drug/alcohol abusers
- Other residential: a known residential setting but does not fit with one of the above

3.4 There is information on the process by which children come to be looked after and legislation governing this on the Scottish Government website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/lac>

### Child Protection

3.5 *Child Protection Case Conference (CPCC)* – a meeting where the risk of harm or neglect of a child is addressed. There are four types of CPCC:

Type	Who it is for	Potential outcome
Initial	a child not currently on the child protection register	– Child is <b>registered</b> or – Child is not registered
Pre-birth	an unborn child	– Child is <b>registered</b> or – Child is not registered
Review	a child already on the child protection register or where there are significant changes in the child or family situation	– Child remains on register or – Child is <b>de-registered</b>
Transfer	a child already on the child protection register moving between local authorities	– Child is <b>de-registered</b> or – Child remains on register

3.6 *Registrations* - The children who were the subject of a child protection case conference and were subsequently added to the child protection register between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012.

3.7 *De-registrations* - Children who were subject to a transfer or review conference and subsequently removed from the child protection register between 1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012.

3.8 The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, published in 2010, is available here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/12/09134441/0>

### **Secure care and close support accommodation**

3.9 *Secure accommodation legal framework* – The children’s hearings system has responsibility for dealing with most children and young people under 16 who commit offences or who are in need of care and protection. In some cases children’s hearings have responsibility for young people under 18 where the young person is under the supervision of the hearing when he or she reaches 16 and the supervision requirement is extended.

3.10 For children who commit very grave crimes (the circumstances are set out in the relevant Lord Advocate’s guidelines), the option remains for them to be jointly reported to the children’s reporter and the procurator fiscal and together, they will decide whether prosecution through the court is appropriate. The court may then sentence, or return the young person to the hearing to be dealt with.

3.11 A young person who appears in court accused of an offence, where bail is not considered appropriate, can be remanded to the care of the local authority responsible for them under section 51 of the Criminal Procedures (Scotland) Act 1995. Local authorities are then responsible for placing that young person in secure care.

3.12 A young person convicted of an offence in court can be sentenced to detention in secure accommodation under section 205 or 208 of the Criminal Procedures (Scotland) Act 1995. In these cases, it is the responsibility of Scottish ministers to place the sentenced young person in suitable accommodation.

3.13 Before a child or young person can be placed in secure accommodation through the children’s hearings system, the children’s panel must consider that the young person meets the legal criteria set out in section 70(10) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. That is:

- (a) having previously absconded, is likely to abscond unless kept in secure accommodation, and, if he absconds, it is likely that his physical, mental or moral welfare will be at risk; or
- (b) is likely to injure himself or some other person unless he is kept in such accommodation.

3.14 The recommendation of the children's panel must be authorised by the chief social work officer of the relevant local authority, which is then responsible for placing the young person.

3.15 *Average number* – The average number of young people in secure care accommodation over the year is calculated using the dates of admission and discharge for every child. Ages on admission, discharge during 2011-12 and age at 31 July 2012 are the actual ages for all young people.

3.16 *Ethnicity and Religion* – Data was collected on ethnicity and religion of young people in secure care and close support accommodation, but we are unable to publish this due to small numbers and data confidentiality issues.

3.17 *Additional support needs* – Additional support needs categories were based on ISD Health and Social Care Data Dictionary codes when the survey form was finalised in December 2007. Information was collected on types of additional support needs for young people in close support units during 2010-11, but we are unable to publish a detailed breakdown of additional support needs due to small numbers and data confidentiality issues.

3.18 *Emergency beds* – these can be used at short notice, for example, when a young person is admitted during the night as it is less disruptive for the other young people. The young person is usually admitted to the main facility the following day. Three units operated such a place.

3.19 *Mothballed* – The term mothballed was used when recommendation 6 from the Securing our Future Initiative report recommended the targeted closure of 12 beds to bring the capacity of each of the independent secure units down to 18 beds. Beds were mothballed for the first year with on-going review meaning provision was reduced although a group of key core staff were retained to provide emergency cover if there was ever a short term need to increase capacity.

### **Additional support needs**

3.20 The information that was previously labelled as 'disability' does not meet the definition of disability outlined in the Equality Act 2010 and is more accurately described as additional support needs. For this reason the



equivalent data that was labelled as 'disability' prior to 2011-12 will, from 2011-12 onwards, be presented as 'additional support needs'. The statistics themselves have not changed in any way – the content of the data and categories remain the same, so are still comparable over time.

### **Notation and rounding**

3.21 The following notation is used in this publication

- zero
- \* In cases where information is presented on a small number of children and is potentially disclosive, indicates that data have been suppressed.

3.22 The sum of the breakdowns in the tables may not sum to the total displayed due to rounding.

## **4. Data Quality**

4.1 The data for all three parts of this publication – looked after children, child protection and secure care – come from administrative data held by local authorities and secure units. As this information is used to monitor and manage these sectors it should be robust and accurate.

4.2 The Children and Families statistics team undertake a range of validation checks on administrative data as part of the quality assurance process of preparing this national statistics publication. These procedures include; trend analysis, comparing against other available sources, and checking outliers with data providers. The data providers are then asked to confirm their data – for looked after children and child protection data this confirmation comes from local authorities, for secure care accommodation this confirmation comes from secure units. In cases where concerns about data quality outweigh the value of have an estimated figure publically available, we would not publish particular information (e.g. legal reason data from the looked after children collection).

4.3 There is more information on the data quality of the administrative sources underlying this publication here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/sourcesand suitability/StatementAdminSources>

## Looked after

4.4 At the publication of the previous Children's Social Work Statistics (covering 2010-11) Glasgow were only able to provide a provisional set of summary aggregate tables in time for inclusion in the looked after children section of this publication. Since publishing the 2010-11 figures Glasgow have worked hard to provide accurate, full individual-level data for 2011-12 and to resolve the issues originally identified in 2010-11. This publication presents revised 2010-11 data which includes individual-level figures for Glasgow as well as revisions from other local authorities.

4.5 The revised Glasgow figures will allow more detailed information for 2010-11 than was available for publication in February 2012. There is a small trade-off between having more detailed information available and having complete data accuracy, particularly as the revised Glasgow figures were finalised at a later date when updates had been made to the system and further information was available. Despite this small impact on the accuracy of the revised 2010-11 figures, we believe them to be robust and comparable to other years. Additional tables giving more detailed information from 2010-11 will be available here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

4.6 Looked after children statistics for years prior to 2008-09 used data supplied by local authorities aggregated at a local authority level. Since 2008-09, local authorities are reporting significant improvements in the quality of their data reporting as a result of the new individualised collection methodology. This should be borne in mind when performing cross-year comparisons.

4.7 Data collected on children in a current planned series of short-term placements was collected for those up to 21 years old for the first time in 2010-11. In previous years it was only collected for those up to 18 years. This change is intended to capture more complete information on the provision of short-term placements by local authorities by including those who were receiving a service but were over 18 years old.

4.8 From 2011-12, local authorities are requested to supply information on all legal reasons for a child being looked after (i.e. a child may have more than one legal reason at any time). While the quality of this information is improving it is still not being consistently recorded across local authorities. As a result, information on legal reasons is not contained within this publication but is available on request.

## **Child protection**

4.9 Previously, some local authorities did not place 'unborn' children on the child protection register until the child was actually born. The revised National Guidance now states that 'unborn' children should be placed on the child protection register if this is required and not wait until the child is born.

## **Secure care and close support accommodation**

4.10 As the number of young people using secure care is very small, relative changes over time will show greater percentage changes than would be expected in children looked after or child protection.

4.11 Information was collected for the first time in 2011-12 to help monitor certain outcomes for the National Contract for Secure Care on:-

- 'Full medical assessment received (within one month of admission)' – this replaced 'General health discussion or advice received',
- 'Individualised Care/sentenced/remand plan completed (within one month of admission)',
- 'Individualised learning plan based on educational assessment completed' and
- 'Transition/pathway plan in place'.

However, as the contract for secure care continues to develop, this information has become less relevant to the annual collection. To reduce burden on units, we will not be collecting this information next year and did not follow up units to validate this information this year. Therefore, we will not be publishing information on this.

Information on secure authorisations turned down (which has been collected since 2008-09) was not published again due to inconsistencies in reporting, despite revised guidance notes and expanded categories over the years. We will not be collecting this information in future years.

4.12 This publication presents revised 2010-11 data for secure care and close support accommodation.

## **Cross UK comparisons**

4.13 It is possible to draw comparisons between the looked after children, child protection and secure care accommodation statistics of the four UK countries. However it should be borne in mind that there are differences in legislation, the children's social work systems and the definitions of categories that will affect these figures.

4.14 Work has been undertaken between the Scottish Government and administrations from England, Wales and Northern Ireland to document clearly the differences between each administration's **looked after children** statistics and to scope out the feasibility and need for a comparable dataset. Further developments from this work have been published on the Scottish Government children's statistics web site at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/socialservicestats>

4.15 Links to the cross UK looked after children statistics are available here.

England: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001084/index.shtml>

Wales: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Children-Looked-After>

Northern Ireland:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/children\\_s\\_social\\_care\\_statistics\\_for\\_northern\\_ireland\\_2011-12.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/children_s_social_care_statistics_for_northern_ireland_2011-12.pdf)

4.16 Work was commissioned by the Department of Education to document clearly the differences between each administration's **child protection** statistics. Further developments from this work have been published on the Scottish Government Children's Statistics web site at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/socialservicestats>

4.17 Similar cross-UK child protection statistics are available here:

England: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001095/index.shtml>

Wales: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Service-Provision>

Northern Ireland:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/stats-cib/statistics\\_and\\_research-cib-pub/children\\_statistics/stats-cib-children\\_order.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/stats-cib-children_order.htm)

4.18 The latest national statistics on children accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales were released on 24 July 2012 and can be found at

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001027/index.shtml> .

Official/national statistics are not produced on secure accommodation in Northern Ireland. However, there is one secure unit which when at full capacity can house sixteen 11 to 18 year olds.

## 5. Enquiries

Please send any **media enquiries** to:

- Children Looked After/Child Protection: Mark Dunlop, 0131 244 3070
- Secure Care and Close Support: Ashley Duff, 0131 244 3073  
Ruth Jays, 0131 244 3069

The information in this publication, **additional tables** on looked after children, child protection and secure care and close support accommodation and further breakdowns of the revised 2010-11 looked after children data are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

Email any requests for **further analysis** to  
[children.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:children.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

The third annual publication of Education Outcomes for Looked After Children statistics (covering 2011-12) will be available from June 2013 here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/EducOutcomesLAC>

Children and Families Statistics  
19 March 2013

## Children's Social Work Statistics 2011-12

### Publication tables

Excel versions of these tables are available here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/01032>

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## Children's Social Work Statistics 2011-12

### Additional tables

Excel versions of these tables will be made available here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

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## A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION FOR SCOTLAND

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Further contact details, e-mail addresses and details of previous and forthcoming publications can be found on the Scottish Government Website at [www.scotland.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/statistics)

### Complaints and suggestions

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