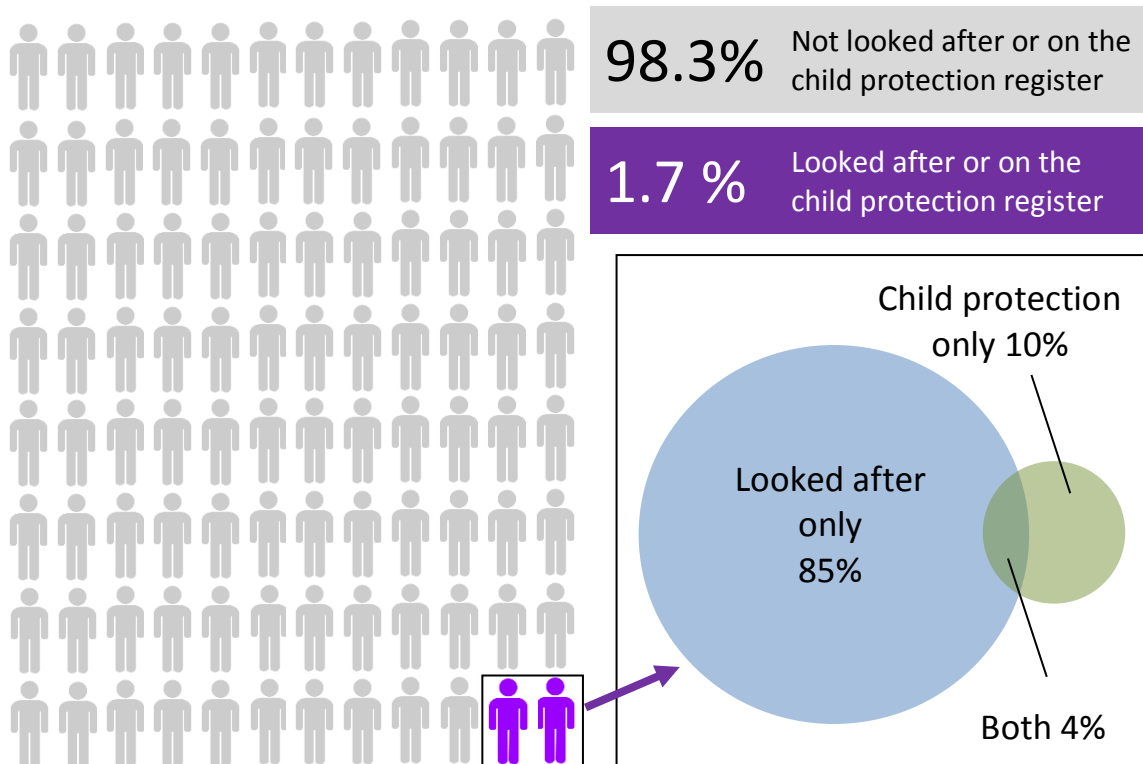




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## Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland, 2012-13



Each figure represents approximately 11,000 of the one million<sup>1</sup> children under 18 in Scotland. In July 2013:

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

**16,041** children were looked after

**2,681** children were on the child protection register of whom

**805** were also looked after

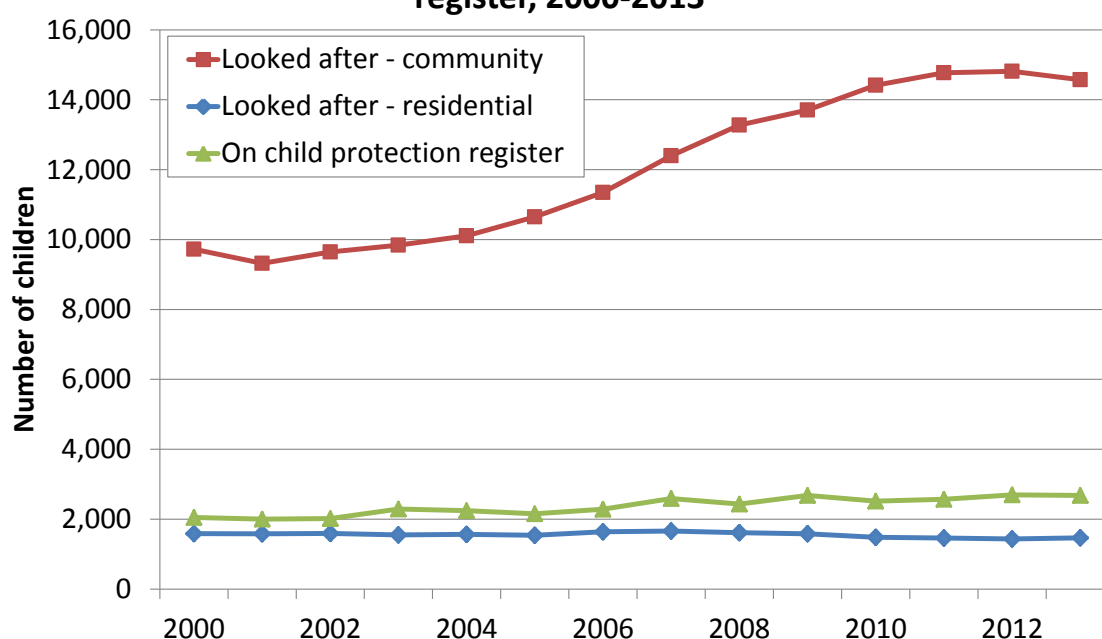
**78** young people were in secure care accommodation

<sup>1</sup> National Records of Scotland 2012 mid-year population estimates

## What are the general trends?

Children who are looked after by local authorities can be accommodated in a community placement (e.g. at home with parents, with family/friends or foster carers) or a residential placement (e.g. in a local authority or voluntary home, in a residential school). There was a 49 per cent rise in the number of children looked after between 2001 and 2011, driven by the increase in children looked after in community placements. Since 2011 numbers of looked after children have plateaued and started to decrease.

**Chart 1: Children looked after or on the child protection register, 2000-2013**

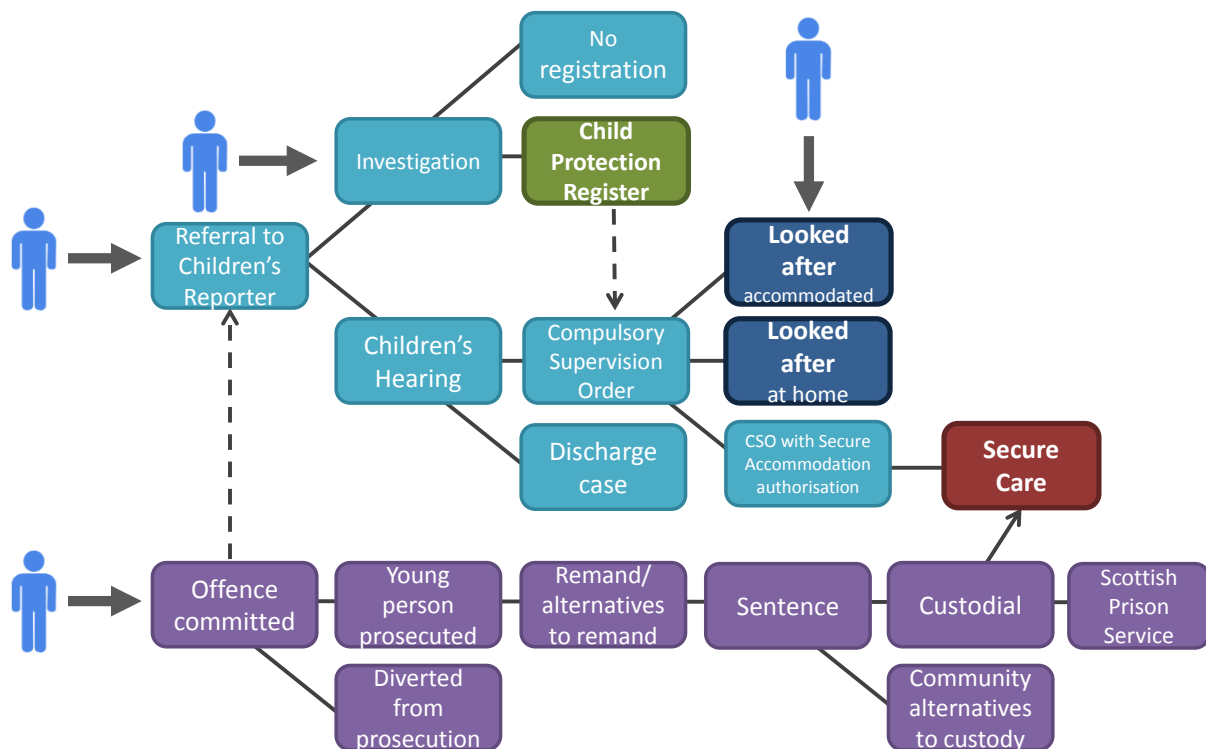


Since 2001 there has also been a less steep but steady 34 per cent increase in the number of children on the child protection register. Of the 2,681 children who were on the child protection register at 31 July 2013, almost one in three (30 per cent) were also looked after at that point, a slight increase from 27 per cent in 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 three and a half per cent of children looked after or on the child protection register (35.5 children per 1,000 under 18s) and lowest in Shetland, with less than one per cent of children looked after or on the child protection register (6.4 per children per 1,000 under 18s). In general rates are higher in the West of Scotland and urban areas.

## How do children come to be counted in these figures?

There are a number of routes by which a child may come to be looked after, in secure care or on the child protection register. Children may be referred to the Children's Reporter, be the subject of an investigation without being referred to the Reporter, become voluntarily looked after or come in through the criminal justice system. The diagram below gives a high level illustration of the main routes by which a child can become looked after, in secure care or on the child protection register. See background note 1.1 for more information.

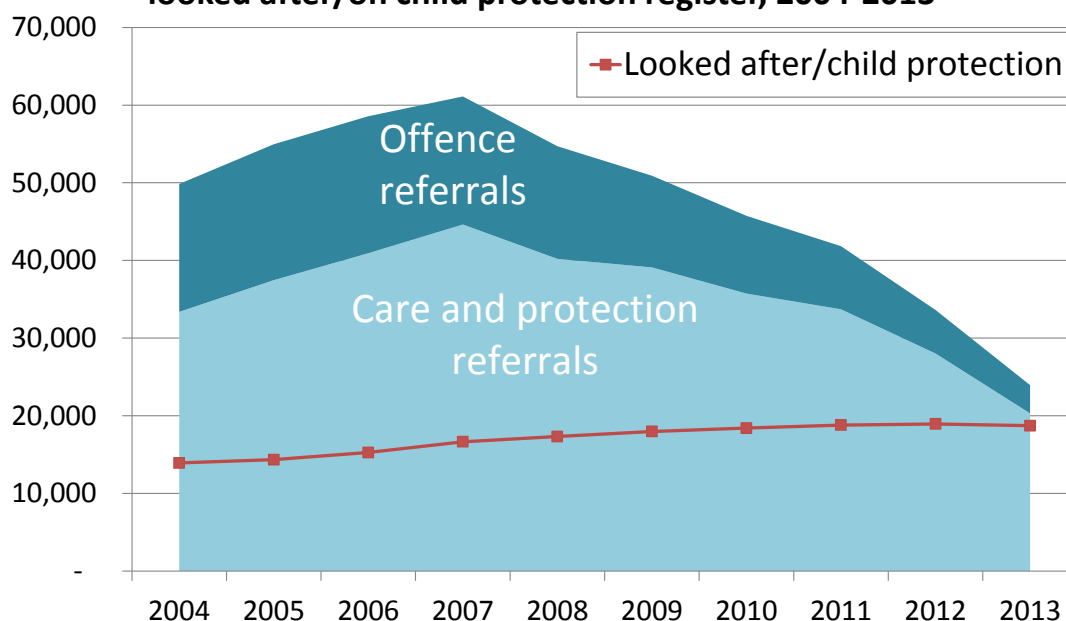


## What are the trends in other children's social work data?

Between 2004 to 2013 – a period in which the number of children who are looked after or on the child protection register has *increased* by 36 per cent – the number of children and young people referred to the Reporter *decreased* by more than 60 per cent<sup>2</sup>. The decrease is the result of falls in both the number of offence and non-offence referrals. Offence referrals now only account for 15 per cent all referrals, down from 33 per cent in 2003/04. As with the looked after and child protection statistics, younger children make up an increasing proportion of referrals.

<sup>2</sup> SCRA Official Statistics [http://www.scra.gov.uk/publications/online\\_statistical\\_service.cfm](http://www.scra.gov.uk/publications/online_statistical_service.cfm)

**Chart 2: Referrals to the Children's Reporter and numbers looked after/on child protection register, 2004-2013**



### **How do the SCRA figures square with the findings in this publication?**

The fall in referrals to the Reporter is likely due to pre-referral screening across many areas of the country leading to a reduction in referrals received by the Reporter where compulsory measures are not deemed necessary and a proportionate increase in referrals where they are deemed necessary.

The historic increase in the number of children who are looked after or on the child protection register at a time when referrals are falling means that the smaller number of referrals being received by the Reporter are potentially of a more complex nature and are more likely to end up being looked after or on the child protection register than in previous years. The plateau in numbers of children looked after and on the child protection register seen in 2012 and 2013 is likely to be linked to the fall in referrals starting to feed through to the later stages of the social work system.

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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 are available at:

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

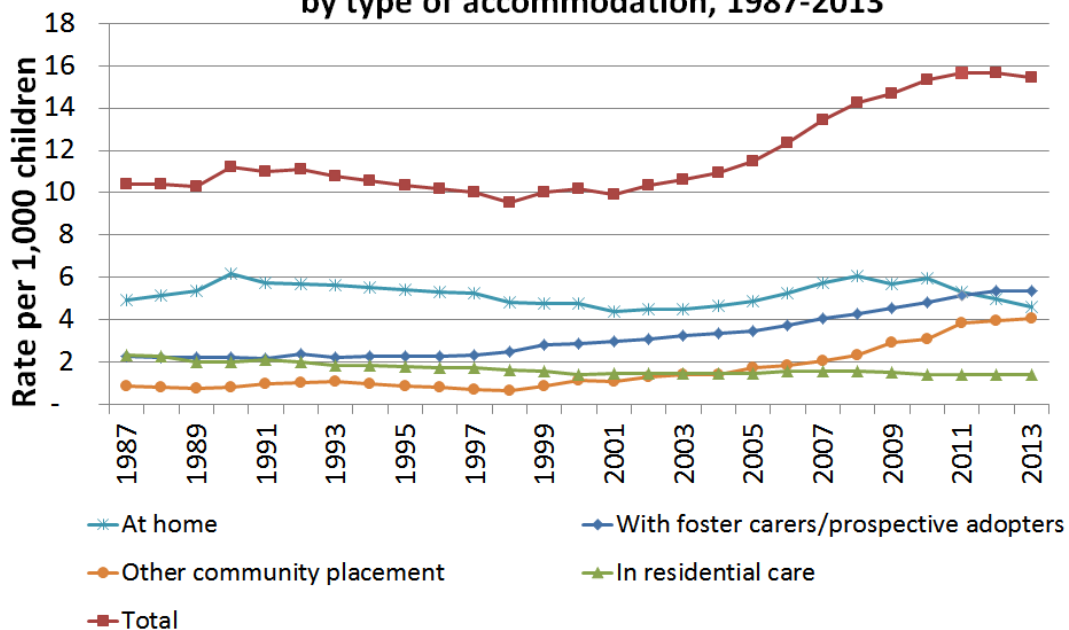
## Children Looked After

- ↓ The total number of looked after children has fallen for the first time since 2001
- ↑ Continuing increase in proportion looked after **in foster care and kinship care**
- 👤 Children continue to be looked after for a longer time

This section presents 2012-13 data on children looked after during the period from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013. 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).

**Chart 3: Children looked after per 1,000 children under 18 by type of accommodation, 1987-2013**



The number of looked after children increased from 2001 to 2012 before decreasing slightly in 2013. The decrease in numbers of looked after children is due to a reduction in numbers of children starting to be looked after. This is not a new trend (numbers starting to be looked after peaked in 2008), but this is the largest year-on-year fall since devolution.

There continue to be more children being looked after away from home in community settings, in particular with foster carers and with friends/relatives. 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.

The total numbers looked after peaked in 2012, with a one per cent decrease from 16,248 in 2012 to 16,041 in 2013. 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 second year running in 2013 there were more children looked after by foster carers/prospective adopters than looked after at home.

**Table 1.1: Number of children looked after 2009 to 2013 by type of accommodation <sup>(1)</sup>**

Type of Accommodation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>In the community</b>					
At home with parents	5,924	6,193	5,476	5,153	4,759
With friends/relatives	2,993	3,172	3,910	4,076	4,193
With Foster Carers provided by LA	3,594	3,651	3,871	3,946	3,906
With Foster Carers purchased by LA	905	1,046	1,197	1,333	1,427
With prospective adopters	242	299	267	262	244
In other community	49	51	49	45	45
<b>Residential Accommodation</b>					
In local authority home	611	620	615	564	576
In voluntary home	138	82	88	90	112
In residential school	598	471	460	451	439
In secure accommodation	102	82	86	95	65
Crisis care	18	17	13	14	12
In other residential	113	208	199	219	263
<b>Total looked after children</b>	<b>15,287</b>	<b>15,892</b>	<b>16,231</b>	<b>16,248</b>	<b>16,041</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2013-14. 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>

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 2013 with and without a current care plan<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Looked after at home	Looked after away from home	Total
	Number		
With a current care plan	4,637	10,992	<b>15,629</b>
Without a current care plan	122	290	<b>412</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,759</b>	<b>11,282</b>	<b>16,041</b>
	Percentage		
With a current care plan	97	97	<b>97</b>
Without a current care plan	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2013-14.

Table 1.2 shows that almost all children being looked after at 31 July 2013 had a current care plan. Ninety-seven per cent of the 16,041 children who were being looked after at the end of July 2013 had a current care plan, a slight increase on 2012. There was almost no difference between children looked after at home and away from home – 97 per cent of both groups of children had a current care plan.

## Children starting and ceasing to be looked after

**Table 1.3: Number of children starting to be looked after 2003, 2008, 2010-2013, by age<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Year Ending 31 March		Year Ending 31 July				Percentage of totals <sup>(2)</sup>		
	2003	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2003	2012	2013
Under 1	268	502	650	701	753	700	6	16	16
1-4	850	1,132	1,146	1,127	1,098	1,037	19	23	23
5-11	1,350	1,537	1,463	1,485	1,509	1,378	30	31	31
12-15	1,773	1,758	1,555	1,389	1,410	1,299	39	29	29
16-17	271	225	45	44	40	56	6	1	1
18-21 <sup>(3)</sup>	-	5	0	0	1	0	-	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,513</b>	<b>5,159</b>	<b>4,859</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>4,811</b>	<b>4,470</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Table excludes planned series of short term placements. Figures for 2012-13 are provisional and may be revised. 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.

Full data by gender and age group for 2000-2013 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) Due to rounding, the percentage totals may not equal the sum of their parts.

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

The reduction in total numbers being looked is reflected by decreases in the numbers of children starting and ceasing being looked after. Table 1.3 shows the number of children who started being looked after between 2005-06 and 2012-13. A child will be counted more than once if they started being looked after more than once during the reporting year. There were 4,470 children who



started to be looked after during 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013, a seven per cent decrease from the 2011-12 figure (4,811). The 2013 figure is the lowest since 2005.

Over the last 10 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 2013 this had risen to 39 per cent, although this has changed little since 2012. There is no gender pattern, with equal proportions of boys and girls of each age starting to be looked after in 2013.

Table 1.4 shows the number of children who ceased being looked after between 2006-07 and 2012-13. A child will be counted more than once if they ceased being looked after more than once during the reporting year. There were 4,722 children who ceased being looked after between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013, a decrease of one per cent from the 2012 figure (4,768) and an overall increase of 32 per cent since 2005, the year in which figures reached a low point of 3,566.

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 48 per cent between 2003 and 2013. The length of time children had been looked after at the point they stopped being looked after remained similar between 2012 and 2013, although the numbers of children looked after for more than three years has increased by 56 per cent since 2006.

**Table 1.4: Number of children ceasing to be looked after, by length of time looked after and age, 2003, 2008, 2011-2013<sup>(1),(2),(3)</sup>**

<b>Total</b>		<b>2003</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2003</b> %	<b>2012</b> %	<b>2013</b> %
<b>Under 1</b>	Under 6 weeks	26	46	35	40	39	37	29	27
	6 weeks to under 6 months	26	33	52	72	64	37	52	44
	6 months to under 1 year	17	21	29	27	41	24	19	28
<b>Total</b>		<b>97</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>1-4</b>	Under 6 weeks	86	119	86	76	100	15	8	11
	6 weeks to under 6 months	56	119	66	85	90	10	9	9
	6 months to under 1 year	133	119	153	168	164	23	18	17
	1 year to under 3 years	244	255	442	467	459	43	51	48
	3 years to under 5 years	54	66	120	116	138	9	13	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>611</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>5-11</b>	Under 6 weeks	144	141	94	103	107	14	8	8
	6 weeks to under 6 months	92	96	87	123	101	9	9	7
	6 months to under 1 year	190	173	192	249	239	19	18	17
	1 year to under 3 years	385	343	486	489	496	38	36	36
	3 years to under 5 years	143	206	261	238	267	14	18	20
	5 years and over	61	102	152	155	156	6	11	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,029</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>12-15</b>	Under 6 weeks	151	127	73	83	117	14	8	12
	6 weeks to under 6 months	155	149	104	104	121	14	10	13
	6 months to under 1 year	217	216	209	193	186	20	19	20
	1 year to under 3 years	430	337	419	377	335	39	37	35
	3 years to under 5 years	109	134	110	130	107	10	13	11
	5 years and over	40	79	86	121	86	4	12	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>924</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>16+</b>	Under 6 weeks	33	27	11	7	9	3	1	1
	6 weeks to under 6 months	92	107	39	23	31	7	2	2
	6 months to under 1 year	175	274	134	137	139	14	10	11
	1 year to under 3 years	613	656	533	517	465	48	38	36
	3 years to under 5 years	198	247	257	270	260	16	20	20
	5 years and over	163	233	381	398	405	13	29	31
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,483</b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,352</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	Under 6 weeks	440	460	299	309	372	11	6	8
	6 weeks to under 6 months	421	504	348	407	407	10	9	9
	6 months to under 1 year	732	803	717	774	769	18	16	16
	1 year to under 3 years	1,672	1,591	1,880	1,850	1,755	41	39	37
	3 years to under 5 years	504	653	748	754	772	12	16	16
	5 years and over	264	414	619	674	647	7	14	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,144</b>	<b>4,513</b>	<b>4,611</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>4,722</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Excludes children who are on a planned series of short term placements. Figures for 2012-13 are provisional and may be revised in 2013-14. If a child ceases to be looked after more than once during the year they will be counted more than once.

(2) Some totals do not exactly equal the sum of their component parts due to the effects of rounding.

(3) Falkirk did not provide information on length of time looked after for children ceasing to be looked after in 2007-08. 88 children ceasing to be looked after in this local authority for 2007-08 are included in the totals only.

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 within three months of the young person becoming compulsorily

supported. 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 2012-13. 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: Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after, by destination, 2007-2013<sup>(1),(2)</sup>**

Destination after leaving care	Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after in year ending						
	31 March			31 July			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Home with (biological) parents	52.0	51.8	63.7	62.0	60.0	68.2	67.5
Friends/relatives	8.7	8.4	11.4	11.8	13.1	12.1	13.7
Former foster carers	0.4	1.0	1.6	1.9	1.2	1.3	1.3
Adoption	3.2	3.0	4.6	4.8	5.7	5.7	6.3
Supported accommodation/own tenancy	5.0	6.2	5.1	5.7	6.2	5.5	5.7
Other <sup>(3)</sup>	12.8	7.0	6.3	6.7	4.9	5.8	4.5
Not known	17.8	22.5	7.3	7.0	9.0	1.4	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(1) Table excludes planned series of short term placements. 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) Figures for 2012-13 are provisional and may be revised in 2013-14.

Prior to 2008, table includes some estimates and some "not known"s where local authorities were not able to provide information.

(3) "Other" includes residential care, homeless, in custody and other destination.

There are a number of types of destinations that children can be allocated to on leaving care. The majority of children (67.5 per cent in 2012-13) go to live with their biological parents and a further 13.7 per cent went to live with friends or relatives. A striking trend is the increase in the proportion of children being adopted – this proportion has almost doubled to 6.3 per cent since 2007, although from a small base.

Three quarters (75 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 2012 to 31 July 2013 had a pathway plan. This is a two percentage point increase from 2011-12. 75 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, 68 per cent had a pathway plan and 69 per cent a pathway coordinator, compared with 81 and 80 per cent of those whose final placement type was 'away from home'.

**Table 1.6: Pathway plans and nominated pathway co-ordinators of young people who ceased to be looked after during 2012-13<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
	Number		
With a pathway plan	391	572	<b>963</b>
Without a pathway plan	184	132	<b>316</b>
With a nominated pathway co-ordinator	396	562	<b>958</b>
Without a nominated pathway co-ordinator	179	142	<b>321</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>1,279</b>
	Percentage		
With a pathway plan	68	81	<b>75</b>
Without a pathway plan	32	19	<b>25</b>
With a nominated pathway co-ordinator	69	80	<b>75</b>
Without a nominated pathway co-ordinator	31	20	<b>25</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2013-14. 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).

## 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 1.7 shows the number of young people eligible for aftercare services on 31 July 2013 by age and their economic activity. ‘Economic activity’ refers to whether a young person was in education, employment or training.

There were 3,886 young people reported to be eligible for aftercare services on 31 July 2013, of whom 69 per cent were receiving aftercare, an increase from 66 per cent in 2012. 43 per cent of those receiving aftercare and who had a known economic activity were in education, training or employment. This is a one percentage point increase on 2012.

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 58 per cent. The age groups least likely to be in education, training or employment was 19 to 21 year-olds at 38 per cent.

**Table 1.7: Young people eligible for aftercare services on 31 July 2013, by age and economic activity<sup>(1)(2)</sup>**

Economic activity on 31 July 2013	Age				Total	% of young people	
	15-16	17	18	19-21 <sup>(3)</sup>		eligible for aftercare	receiving aftercare with known economic activity
<b>In education, training or employment</b>							
In higher education	16	25	35	59	<b>135</b>	3	6
In education other than HE	60	66	75	111	<b>312</b>	8	13
In training or employment	54	106	145	254	<b>559</b>	14	24
<b>Not in education, training or employment</b>							
- due to short term illness	*	*	5	8	<b>16</b>	0	1
- due to long term illness or disability	*	*	20	56	<b>84</b>	2	4
- due to looking after family	0	13	27	59	<b>99</b>	3	4
- due to other circumstances	92	221	266	555	<b>1,134</b>	29	48
Not known	49	71	108	119	<b>347</b>	9	
Not receiving aftercare	131	292	411	366	<b>1,200</b>	31	
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>3,886</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Percentage in employment, education or training</b>							
<i>As percentage of all young people eligible for aftercare ("Total")</i>	32	25	23	27	26		
<i>As percentage of young people receiving aftercare with known economic activity ("Total" excluding "Not Known" and "Not receiving aftercare")</i>	58	45	45	38	43		

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2013-14.

(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.

## Short-term placements

**Table 1.8: All children with a current planned series of short term placements at 31 July 2013 by type of placement<sup>(1)(2)</sup>**

Type of placement	Number of children	Percentage <sup>(3)</sup>
Residential establishment	1,175	61
Hospital	8	0
Foster placement	483	25
Other placement	248	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,914</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2013-14.

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

(3) Figures include any child aged under 21 with a current plan, (even if they were not accommodated) but no open LAC episode on 31 July, or are reported as eligible for aftercare.

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 1.8 shows the number of children with a current planned series of short-term placements at 31 July 2013, by type of placement.

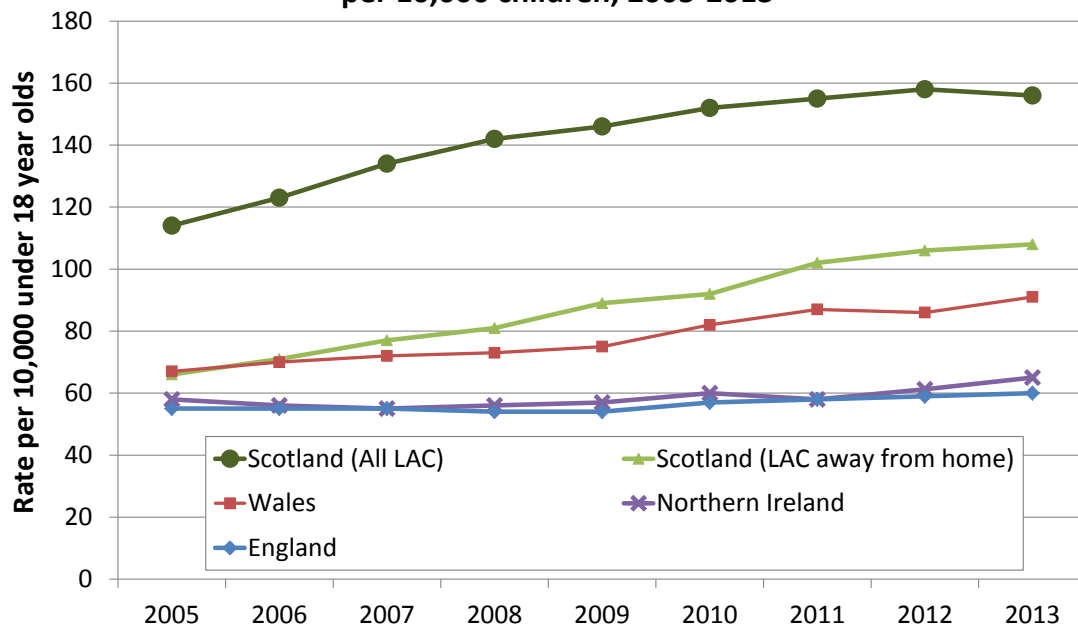
At 31 July 2013 there were 1,914 children being looked after on a current planned series of short-term placements. 61 per cent of these children were looked after in residential establishments, whilst 25 per cent of these children were looked after in foster placements, compared to 11 per cent in 2012. This contrasts with a fall of children in other placements from 28 per cent in 2012 to 13 per cent this year.

### **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 4 gives Scottish figures including and excluding children looked after at home. The published Scottish figure is at 31 July 2013 where other UK nations are at 31 March. To improve comparability, the Scotland figure at 31 March has been used in the comparison chart below.

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. Looked after children tend to be younger in Scotland than the rest of the UK – 11 per cent of looked after children Scotland are aged 16 or over, compared to 20 per cent in England (18 per cent in Northern Ireland and 16 per cent in Wales). Given this, the sharper increase in numbers in Scotland over the past 10 years, which coincided with a focus on intervening earlier in the lives of vulnerable children, may partly reflect different approaches across the UK.

**Chart 4: Cross-UK comparison of rate of looked after children per 10,000 children, 2005-2013**






Links to the cross-UK data underlying Chart 3 can be found in Background Note 1.7. There is more information on the comparability of looked after children data across the UK:

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

There are **additional tables** on looked after children available at:

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

## Child Protection

	Continued increase in <b>registrations</b> and <b>deregistrations</b> but a plateau in the <b>total number</b> on the child protection register after a period of increase
	Continuing decrease in <b>length of time</b> children tend to spend on the child protection register
	Children continue to be placed on the child protection register at <b>younger ages</b>

This section presents data on children on the child protection register from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013. 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 (a child protection registration).

For the first time in 2012-13 the child protection data has been collected entirely at individual level. In future years the additional detail provided by individual level data will allow much more sophisticated analyses, but in this transitional year the additional complexity of this collection has also increased the scope for error. While the high-level figures presented here are robust, the accuracy of the more detailed 2012-13 data is less robust. It is likely that the 2012-13 figures will be revised in future years as processes and validations improve. Additional breakdowns should also be available in future years as data quality improves.

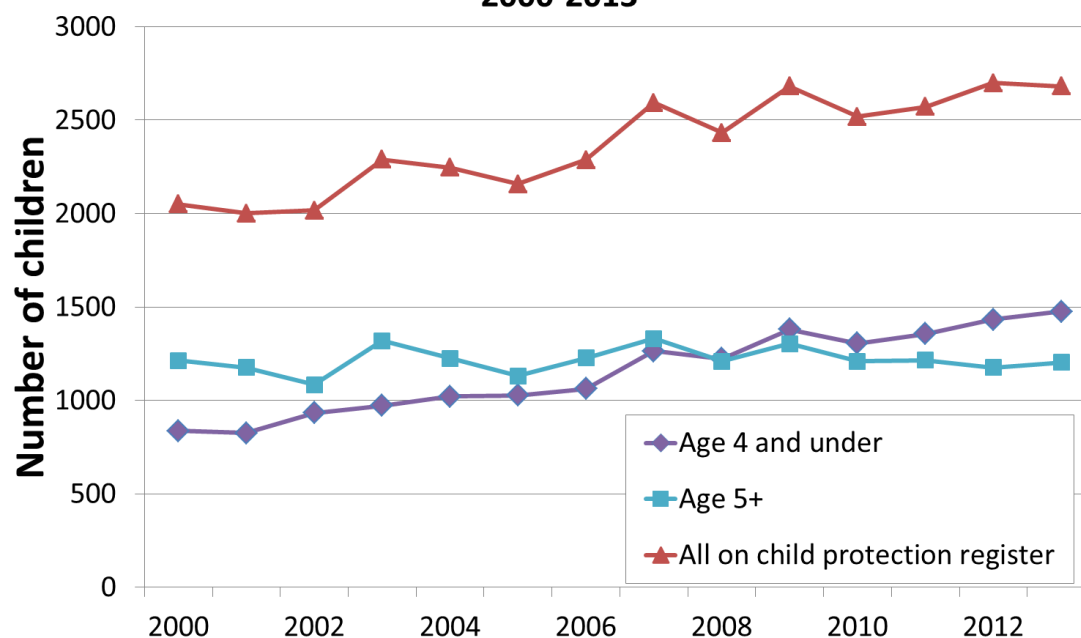
### Children on the child protection register

As Chart 5 shows, the number of children on the child protection register has fluctuated but overall increased by 31 per cent between 2001 and 2013 (from 2,050 in 2000 to 2,681 in 2013). Following updated information from local authorities the 2012 data has been revised down slightly from the initial published figure (from 2,706 to 2,698). The number of children registered has plateaued between the revised 2012 figure and 2013 (with a decrease of just 17 between 2,698 and 2,681). The small decrease at national level from 2012



to 2013 should also be taken in the context of large year-on-year changes at local authority level (see page 18 for more on this).

**Chart 5: Children on the child protection register by age, 2000-2013**



Over the last 13 years there has been an increase in the proportion of younger children on the child protection register and corresponding decrease in older children. Since 2008 there have been more children aged under 5 than over five on the child protection register. In 2013, more than half of children on the child protection register (55%) were aged under five.

**Table 2.1: Number of children on the child protection register by gender, 2000, 2005, 2010-2013<sup>(1)</sup>**

	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012 <sup>(2)</sup>	2013	% of total 2013	Rate per 1,000 under 16s 2013 <sup>(3)</sup>
Boys	1,080	1,098	1,275	1,282	1,335	1321	49%	2.7
Girls	970	1,059	1,199	1,209	1,268	1237	46%	3.1
Unborns	-	-	44	80	93	121	5%	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
<b>All children</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>2681</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2.9</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 2000-2013 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) Revised since original publication. See background note 4.10 for more information.

(3) Source: National Records of Scotland, 2012 mid-year population estimates.

There is no strong gender pattern among children on the child protection register – 49 per cent were boys, 46 per cent were girls and the remaining five

per cent were unborn children. Because of 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 2.2 shows that, in Scotland in 2012-13, just under three children in every 1,000 children under 16 were on the child protection register (2.9 per 1,000 children). At local authority level the rate varied from less than one per 1,000 children (0.7 per 1,000 children) in Shetland to 5.4 per 1,000 children in Clackmannanshire.

**Table 2.2: Number and rate<sup>(1)</sup> of children on the child protection register per 1,000 population aged 0-15: 2011-2013<sup>(2)</sup>, by local authority**

	2011		2012 <sup>(3)</sup>		2013	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Aberdeen City	96	2.8	87	2.5	92	2.9
Aberdeenshire	68	1.5	73	1.6	52	1.1
Angus	66	3.4	59	3.0	94	4.7
Argyll & Bute	39	2.7	48	3.4	17	1.2
Clackmannanshire	39	4.1	55	5.8	50	5.4
Dumfries & Galloway	101	4.1	94	3.9	78	3.1
Dundee City	90	3.8	82	3.4	51	2.2
East Ayrshire	65	3.1	73	3.5	61	2.8
East Dunbartonshire	26	1.4	23	1.2	43	2.3
East Lothian	60	3.2	62	3.3	50	2.7
East Renfrewshire	24	1.4	36	1.9	29	1.6
Edinburgh, City of	244	3.4	223	3.1	262	3.6
Eilean Siar	4	0.9	8	2.5	14	3.0
Falkirk	56	2.0	73	2.8	70	2.5
Fife	187	2.9	205	3.2	214	3.3
Glasgow City	351	3.6	436	4.4	437	4.6
Highland	97	2.5	116	3.0	80	1.9
Inverclyde	29	2.1	33	2.4	27	2.0
Midlothian	158	10.2	117	7.5	59	3.8
Moray	48	3.1	45	3.0	64	3.8
North Ayrshire	77	3.2	74	3.1	92	3.8
North Lanarkshire	87	1.4	80	1.3	96	1.5
Orkney Isles	4	1.2	3	0.9	9	2.5
Perth & Kinross	62	2.5	41	1.5	49	2.0
Renfrewshire	102	3.4	86	2.8	109	3.6
Scottish Borders	34	1.7	37	1.9	25	1.3
Shetland	6	1.4	7	1.6	3	0.7
South Ayrshire	49	2.7	64	3.5	49	2.7
South Lanarkshire	141	2.5	165	2.9	194	3.5
Stirling	47	2.9	40	2.5	57	3.6
West Dunbartonshire	20	1.2	35	2.2	35	2.2
West Lothian	94	2.7	118	3.4	119	3.4
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2,681</b>	<b>2.9</b>

(1) Source: National Records of Scotland, 2010-2012 mid-year population estimates.

(2) Information for all years from 2007 is included in the publication tables:

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

(3) Revised since original publication. See background note 4.10 for more information.

In 2011 a combination of factors in Midlothian (such as an increase in public and professional awareness of child protection and a focus on early intervention and prevention within the local authority) contributed to a substantial increase in the number of children on the child protection register (from 96 in 2010 to 158 in 2011). The 2012 rate was also noticeably higher than the rest of Scotland. Midlothian have reported that following the increased focus on early intervention the number of referrals that reach child protection registration have fallen leading to the drop in the number of children on the child protection register in Midlothian to 59 in 2013.

Since 2012 multiple concerns can be recorded at each case conference (rather than just the main category of abuse), meaning that the total number of concerns is larger than the total number of registrations and that figures on concerns identified are not comparable to previous data on category of abuse/risk.

Table 2.3 shows that for the 2,681 children on the child protection register at 31 July 2013 there were 7,386 concerns at the case conferences at which they were registered – an average of 2.8 concerns per conference. The most common concerns identified were emotional abuse (38%), neglect (38%) and parental substance misuse (37%).

**Table 2.3 Concerns identified<sup>(1)</sup> at the case conferences of children who were on the child protection register 2012- 2013**

Concerns identified at case conferences	2012 <sup>(2)</sup>	2013	% of children registered at 31 July 2013
Neglect	993	1,029	38%
Parental substance misuse	892	993	37%
Drug misuse	567	667	25%
Alcohol misuse	502	531	20%
Parental mental health problems	501	600	22%
Non-engaging family	451	548	20%
Domestic abuse	735	888	33%
Sexual abuse	233	208	8%
Physical abuse	467	537	20%
Emotional abuse	1,020	1,027	38%
Child Placing themselves at risk	43	56	2%
Child Exploitation	7	13	0%
Other concerns	280	289	11%
<b>Total concerns</b>	<b>6,691</b>	<b>7,386</b>	<b>Per conference: 2.75</b>

(1) The data from 2012 onwards should **not** be compared to previous years' data on category of abuse/risk. There were 40 conferences for which the cause of concern information was unknown.

(2) Revised since original publication. See background note 4.10 for more information.

## Child protection registrations and deregistrations

**Table 2.4: Number of registrations following an initial, pre-birth or transfer case conference, 2008, 2010, 2012-2013<sup>(1)</sup> – by length of time since previous deregistration**

Time since last deregistration	Year to 31 March		Year to 31 July		% of total 2013 <sup>(2)</sup>
	2008	2010	2012	2013	
Never been registered before	2,355	2,971	3,408	3,580	85%
Registered before but time unknown	5	0	10	2	0%
Less than 6 months	95	81	89	113	3%
6 months - < 1 year	68	98	99	87	2%
1 year - < 18 months	48	67	83	72	2%
18 months - < 2 years	53	60	79	54	1%
2 years or more	181	269	304	318	8%
Not known if been registered before	9	5	83	44	
Proportion of registrations to children who had been registered before <sup>(2)</sup>	16%	16%	16%	15%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>3,551</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>100%</b>

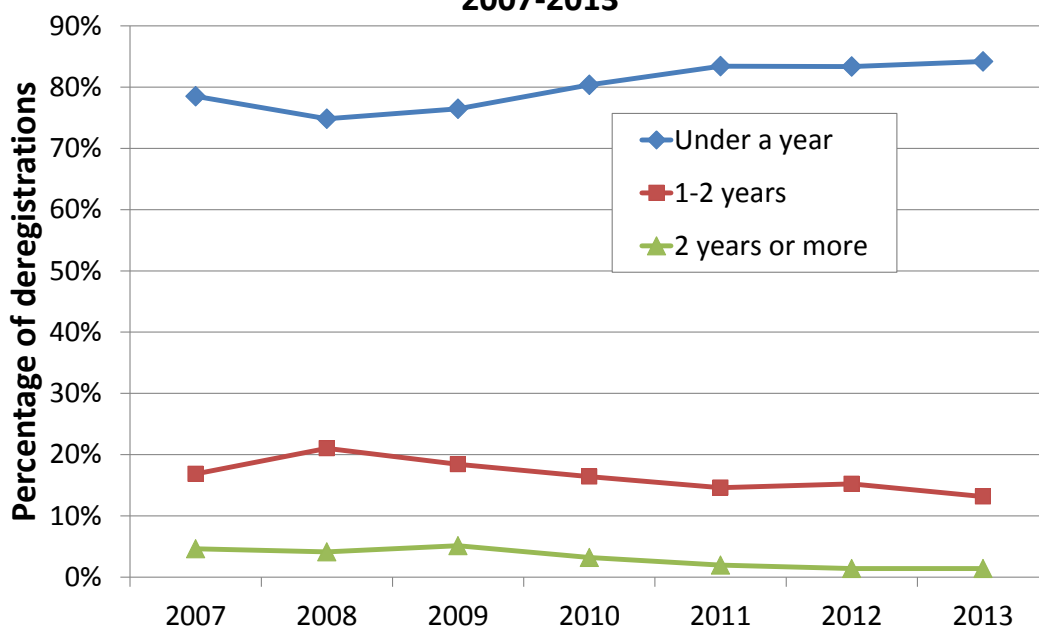
(1) Information back to 2007 is included in the excel version of the publication tables:

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

(2) Excludes cases where it is not known if a child had been registered before.

The number of registrations to and deregistrations from the child protection register have both increased over the last five years. Table 2.4 shows that 15 per cent of children who were placed on the child protection register during 2012-13 had been on a child protection register before. This figure has fluctuated over the past five years, but is consistently between 13% and 16%.

**Chart 6: Deregistrations by length of time registered, 2007-2013**



As Chart 6 shows, while there is an increase in number of children registered, the length of time for which children are registered has been decreasing since 2008. In 2013, 83 per cent of deregistrations were for children who had been registered for less than a year, compared to 75 per cent in 2008. In combination with the fall in the age of children on the child protection register, this suggests that children are being registered at earlier ages for shorter periods of time.

Table 2.5 shows the ongoing increase in deregistrations. There were 4,289 deregistrations from the child protection in the year to 31 July 2013, a three per cent increase on 2012 and a 34 per cent increase on 2008. The most common reason for deregistration in 2012-13 (in 50 per cent of cases) was that the home situation had improved.

**Table 2.5: Number of deregistrations from the child protection register, 2008, 2010, 2012-2013, by length of time on register and reason for deregistration<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Year to 31 March		Year to 31 July		% of total 2013	% change 2012-2013
	2008	2010	2012	2013		
<b>Length of time registered</b>						
Less than 6 months	1,245	1,592	1,929	1,994	46%	3%
6 months to under 1 year	1,148	1,483	1,535	1,582	37%	3%
1 year to under 18 months	470	460	516	428	10%	-17%
18 months to under 2 years	202	168	117	131	3%	12%
2 years or more	132	123	58	59	1%	2%
No date of registration				95	2%	
<b>Reason for deregistration</b>						
Child taken into care & risk	411	538	582	619	14%	6%
Child with other carers	218	275	295	321	7%	9%
Child died	4	4	9	8	0%	-11%
Removal of perpetrator	112	81	70	122	3%	74%
Improved home situation	830	1,220	1,742	2,140	50%	23%
Child automatically de-registered due to age	12	8	6	6	0%	0%
Child moved away - no continued risk	24	26	20	16	0%	-20%
Other reason <sup>(2)</sup>	1,586	1,674	1,431	1,015	24%	-29%
Reason not known	-	-	-	42		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>3,826</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>4,289</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3%</b>

(1) 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>

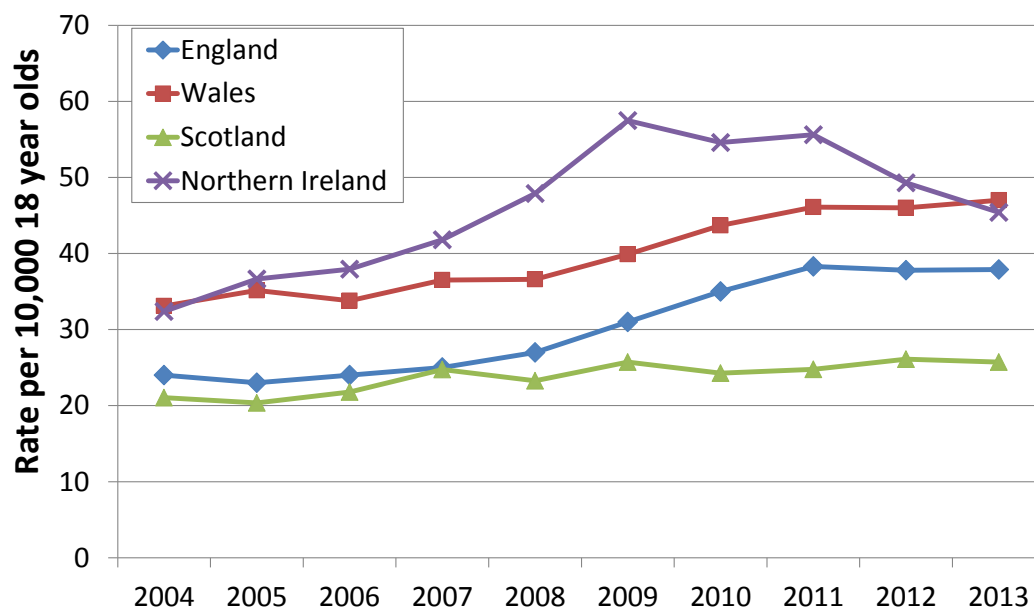
(2) This category was called reduced risk (other) prior to 2012.

## Cross-UK child protection comparisons

Child protection systems across the United Kingdom vary but are generally comparable. Scotland's collection year runs from 1 August to 31 July, so

end-year figures are reported at 31 July, while the collection year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland runs from 1 April to 31 March (so end-year figures are at 31 March). In future years, when the individual level child protection collection is more established, it will be possible to provide a 31 March figure for Scotland as well. The cross-UK figures are given as a proportion of under 18s in each country, while the other child protection rates in this chapter are given as a proportion of under 16s.

**Chart 7: Cross-UK comparison of rate of children on the child protection register per 10,000 under 18s, 2004-2013**



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, with a very sharp increase in the rates of children on the child protection register which peaked in 2009 and has declined since then. Between 2011 and 2013 the rate of registrations in England, Wales and Scotland has stayed approximately the same, while Northern Ireland decreased. Scotland continues to have the lowest levels of children on the child protection register in the UK.

There are links to the cross-UK data underlying Chart 7 in Background Note 1.8 and more information on the comparability of child protection data across the UK here:

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

**Additional tables** on child protection are 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 **places available** from 94 to 90



More than nine in ten young people in secure care were reported as having a non-medically diagnosed social, emotional or behavioural difficulty

This section presents 2012-13 data on secure care and close support accommodation. 2011 and 2012 close support information has been revised from the previous publication to remove Edinburgh's information, as they did not meet the criteria for inclusion (see Background Notes and paragraph below for further information). 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 there has been an increase in the numbers of looked after children and children on the child protection register that has recently plateaued, the number of young people in secure care has been decreasing 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 smaller and continuing to fall accounting for less than one per cent of the populations of looked after children and children on the child protection register.

## Bed complement

**Table 3.1: Secure care and close support unit bed complement at 31 July 2013<sup>(1)</sup>**

Unit	Secure Care Bed Complement	Close Support Bed Complement <sup>(3)</sup>
Edinburgh Secure Services	12	0
Good Shepherd	18	6
Kibble	18	0
Rossie School	18	10
St. Mary's Kenmure <sup>(2)</sup>	24	0
<b>ALL UNITS</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>16</b>

(1) The Elms Secure Unit closed on 20 December 2012.

(2) 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.

(3) Bed complement relates only to care provided in dedicated close support units, and does not include any close support provided in alternative settings. Edinburgh's close support beds are not included (see Background Notes for further information).

There were 90 secure places available in five secure units excluding emergency beds on 31 July 2013 (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 two units providing close support accommodation (Good Shepherd and Rossie). The average cost per secure bed per week during 2012-13 (excluding the Elms) was £5,230, with costs in individual units ranging from £5,090 to £5,400.

## Staff

**Table 3.2a: Secure care accommodation staff at 31 July 2013**

Secure Care	Care staff		Teachers/ Instructors		Other staff		Total
	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time	
Permanent Staff	223	29	41	11	101	21	<b>426</b>
Temporary Staff	6	1	0	1	1	2	<b>11</b>
<b>Total number of staff</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>437</b>
Current vacancies	10	3	2	1	2	1	<b>19</b>
...of which were long term <sup>(1)</sup>	1	0	2	1	1	1	<b>6</b>
Vacancies as a % of all posts	4%	9%	5%	8%	2%	4%	4%

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



On 31 July 2013, there were 437 staff working across the secure estate, of who 11 were temporary. There were 19 vacancies, of which six had been vacant for more than three months. In close support, there were 49 staff, none of which were temporary. There were four vacancies. (Tables 3.2a and 3.2b).

**Table 3.2b: Close support accommodation staff<sup>(1)</sup> at 31 July 2013**

Close Support	Care staff		Total
	Full time	Part time	
Permanent Staff	49	0	<b>49</b>
Temporary Staff	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total number of staff</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>
Current vacancies	4	0	<b>4</b>
...of which were long term <sup>(2)</sup>	0	0	<b>0</b>
Vacancies as a % of all posts	7.5%	0.0%	7.5%

(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 78 residents in secure care accommodation throughout 2012-13, down eight per cent from 85 residents in the previous year (Table 3.3). The number of young people in secure care accommodation throughout the year ranged from 67 to 91 (although this was due to two dates of overcapacity – excluding these would reduce the maximum to 90).

There were 215 admissions in secure care accommodation between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013. This was a decrease of nine per cent compared with 2011-12. There were 224 discharges between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013 (a decrease of eight per cent from 2011-12). Admissions and discharges have been decreasing since 2009-10. Use of the emergency bed during 2012-13 decreased (by 31 per cent) as did the number of young people the emergency bed was used for (down by six per cent). However, this followed a significant increase in the previous year.

The close support has been revised to remove Edinburgh's data because they did not meet the criteria of being directly related to the secure unit. This has reduced the previously published number of close support places by around half from 2010 onwards. There was an average of 9 residents in close support accommodation throughout 2012-13, a decrease of 18 per cent in the previous year. The number of young people in close support accommodation throughout the year ranged from 4 to 13. For close support accommodation, there were 37 admissions and 33 discharges between 1 August 2012 and 31

July 2013. This was an increase of admissions of 23 per cent and a decrease of discharges of three per cent on 2011-12.

**Table 3.3: Secure care and close support accommodation capacity<sup>(1)</sup> and usage, 2011-2013**

	2011	2012	2013	% change 2012-13
<b>Secure Accommodation</b>				
Places at year end	112	94	90	-4%
Admissions during the year	276	237	215	-9%
Discharges during the year	268	243	224	-8%
Average number of residents during the year	87	85	78	-8%
Minimum number of residents during the year	78	74	67	-9%
Maximum number of residents during the year	95	93	91	-2%
Number of nights emergency bed used during the year <sup>(2)</sup>	11	70	48	-31%
Number of residents emergency bed used for during the year <sup>(2)</sup>	2	16	15	-6%
<b>Close Support Accommodation<sup>(3)</sup></b>				
Places at year end	14	16	16	0%
Admissions during the year	30	30	37	23%
Discharges during the year	31	34	33	-3%
Average number of residents during the year	13	11	9	-18%
Minimum number of residents during the year	10	5	4	-20%
Maximum number of residents during the year	17	16	13	-19%

(1) Capacity: Young people can be admitted and discharged more than once during the year.

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

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.

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

From 2011/12, St. Mary's Kenmure provide 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.

The Elms Secure Unit closed on 20 December 2012.

During 2012/13, Rossie School reported 2 periods of overcapacity which was due to use of the emergency bed because of internal reorganisation rather than a new person coming into the unit. If excluded, the maximum number of residents during the year would be 90.

(2) Three units reported having an emergency bed: Rossie School, Good Shepherd & Kibble (see background notes for definition of an emergency bed).

(3) 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. 2011 and 2012 close support information has been revised from the previous publication as Edinburgh's close support has been removed.

Chart 8 shows that total occupancy reached its highest capacity of 91 residents in secure care accommodation during two dates in November. However, this includes the two dates of overcapacity for Rossie. If excluded, the maximum number of residents during the year would be 90. See footnote 1 in Table 3.3 for information on centres that have opened and closed in 2012-13.

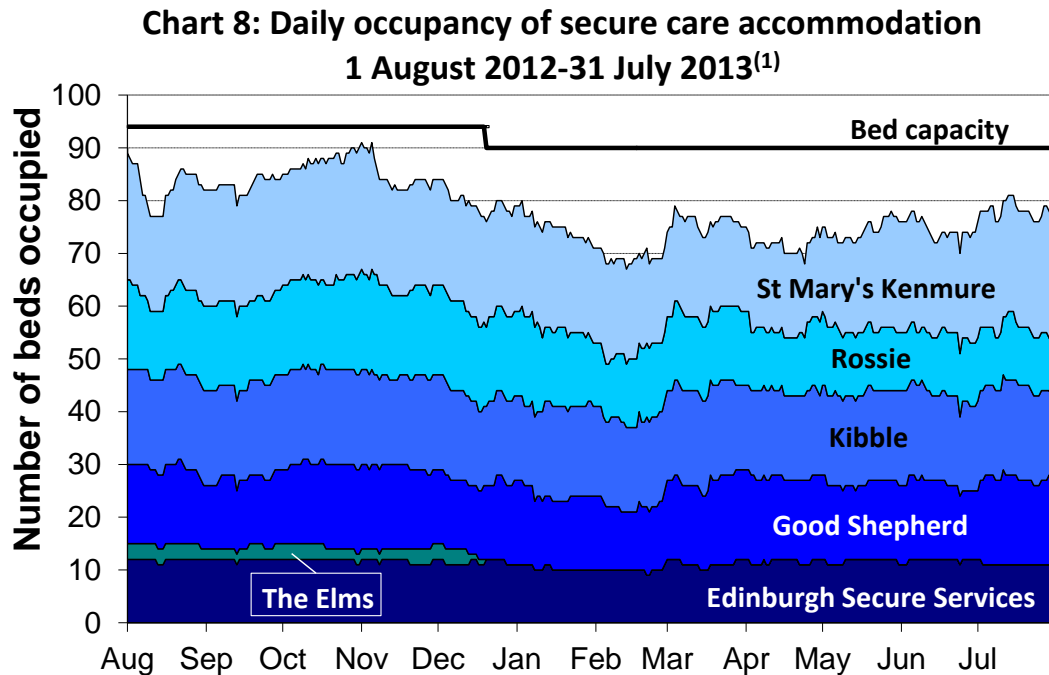


Table 3.4 shows that the number of young people in secure care accommodation on 31 July 2013 was 78. This has been decreasing over the past three years.

Sixty five per cent of young people in secure care accommodation on 31 July 2013 were male and just over half 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. In comparison, the majority of children on the child protection register at 31 July 2013 were under five years old.

Nearly 100 per cent of young people in secure care accommodation on 31 July 2013 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 92 per cent of all young people in secure care were reported as having.

**Table 3.4: Young people in secure care accommodation, 2011-2013<sup>(1)</sup> by gender, age, additional support needs and length of stay**

	2011	2012	2013	% of 2013 total
<b>Gender of residents</b>				
Males	59	57	51	65%
Females	30	27	27	35%
<b>Age of Residents</b>				
13 years old or under	9	8	10	13%
14 years	17	16	10	13%
15 years	25	25	18	23%
16 years or over	38	35	40	51%
<b>Residents with additional support needs<sup>(2)</sup></b>				
Any known additional support needs	87	78	77	99%
<b>Additional support needs, where known</b>				
Medically diagnosed social, emotional & behavioural difficulties	35	31	45	58%
Other social, emotional & behavioural difficulties	80	76	72	92%
Specific learning difficulties	11	12	11	14%
Mental health problems	13	23	26	33%
Language and communication disorder	9	12	6	8%
Physical or motor impairment	*	*	*	-
Visual impairment	12	*	13	17%
Combined sight and hearing loss	*	0	*	-
Other	20	32	31	40%
<b>Length of stay of residents at year end</b>				
Less than 1 month	34	11	18	23%
1 month to under 2 months	14	15	10	13%
2 months to under 3 months	10	16	12	15%
3 months to under 6 months	12	22	19	24%
6 months to under 1 year	11	10	10	13%
1 year or more	8	10	9	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100%</b>

(1) At 31 July of each year. From 2011 centres have opened and closed and total capacity has changed. Please refer to footnote 1 in Table 3.3 for more information on this.

(2) Since 2012 the disability category has been renamed additional support needs 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.

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

The additional tables on secure care and close support accommodation include a table on secure children's homes/secure care accommodation units, places approved and children accommodated across the United Kingdom. These are available at:

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

## Background notes

### 1. Context and related publications

1.1 This publication includes data on children and young people who were looked after, on the child protection register or in secure care accommodation between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013. Children most commonly become looked after or placed on the child protection register following a referral to the Children's Reporter. The majority of referrals to the Children's Reporter are on care and protection grounds, although a small proportion are on offence grounds. Young people are placed in secure care either as an outcome of the criminal justice system or through a referral to the Children's Reporter. Figures on referrals to the Children's Reporter are published by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA):

[http://www.scra.gov.uk/cms\\_resources/Online%20annual%20dashboard%20012-13.swf](http://www.scra.gov.uk/cms_resources/Online%20annual%20dashboard%20012-13.swf)

1.2 This publication collates demographic data on children who were looked after during 2012-13. In June 2014 Education Outcomes for Looked After Children statistics 2012-13 will be published on a subset of these children – those looked after continuously for year from August 2012 to July 2013. The education outcomes publication will be available here:

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

1.3 The annual Civil Law Statistics published by the Scottish Government include a table (Table 8) which gives the number of petitions for adoption made through the courts. These figures include looked after children who are adopted from care as well as children who are outwith the care system. The 2012-13 Civil Law Statistics are available here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/civil-judicial-statistics/>

#### **Cross-UK comparability**

1.4 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.

1.5 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>

1.6 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>

## Equivalent data across the UK

1.7 **Looked after** statistics:

England	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption</a>
Wales	<a href="https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Children-Looked-After">https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Children-Looked-After</a>
Northern Ireland	<a href="http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats-cib-children_order">http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats-cib-children_order</a>

1.8 **Child protection** statistics:

England	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/characteristics-of-children-in-need-in-england-2012-to-2013">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/characteristics-of-children-in-need-in-england-2012-to-2013</a>
Wales	<a href="http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2012/1211282/?lang=en">http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2012/1211282/?lang=en</a>
Northern Ireland	<a href="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</a>

1.9 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. The latest national statistics on children accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales were released on 6 June 2013 and can be found at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-accommodated-in-secure-childrens-homes-in-england-and-wales-31-march-2013>

## 2. Data sources and coverage

2.1 The **looked after children** data in this publication were collected at an individual level from local authorities. Data were collected on all children/young people who were looked after between 1 August 2012 and 31

July 2013, on every episode of being looked after which occurred at some point in the reporting period, every placement that took place during these episodes and every legal reason for which a child was looked after. Statistics were also collected at an individual-level for eligible for aftercare and current planned series of short-term placements sections.

2.2 The **child protection** information in this publication has previously been collected in full or in part as aggregate summarised data. In 2011-12 individual-level information was collected on the children on the child protection register at 31 July 2012. For the first time in 2012-13, all child protection data was collected at individual-level and includes information on age, gender, ethnicity, religion, local authority, concerns identified at case conference and known/suspected abuser.

2.3 The child protection statistics survey covered the period 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013. 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). From 2011-12 information has been collected on child protection investigations which ended during the collection period. Information on child protection referrals has not been collected since 2010-11.

2.4 The **secure care and close support accommodation** statistics in this publication were collected from six secure care units which were open at 1 August 2012, two of which had dedicated close support units. One of these units (the Elms) closed on 20 December 2012, meaning that at 31 July 2013 there were five secure care units.

2.5 The secure care and close support accommodation census covered 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013. 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.

### 3. Definitions and notation

3.1 The survey forms, data specifications and guidance notes for the statistics presented in this publication (and previous years publications) are all

available online. The data specifications include the standard validation checks undertaken to quality assure these data.

	Online documentation
Looked after	<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildrenLookedAfter">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildrenLookedAfter</a>
Child protection	<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildProtection">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildProtection</a>
Secure care accomodation	<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveySecureAccommodation">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveySecureAccommodation</a>

### Children Looked After

3.2 *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. Information on this definition is available here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/10110037/2>

3.3 *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 the circumstances including any offending behaviour. The hearing decides 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 needed, 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.

3.5 *Permanence order* – This is an order that the sheriff court can make for the protection and supervision of children. By default, parents have a right for their child to live with them and control where the child lives. A Permanence order, which can only be applied for by the local authority, transfers this right to the local authority. Other parental rights and responsibilities can be shared between the local authority, birth parents and carers of the child (e.g. foster or kinship carers).

### 3.6 *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 which may be specifically for children with learning disabilities or for physically disabled children
- Residential school: in local authority or voluntary residential school (home/hostel), private school or independent school
- Secure accommodation
- Crisis care: in women's refuge, local authority/voluntary hostel for offenders or for drug/alcohol abusers
- Other residential: a known residential setting but does not fit with one of the above

3.7 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

3.8 *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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Child is <b>registered</b> or</li> <li>– Child is not registered</li> </ul>
Pre-birth	an unborn child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Child is <b>registered</b> or</li> <li>– Child is not registered</li> </ul>
Review	a child already on the child protection register or where there are significant changes in the child or family situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Child remains on register or</li> <li>– Child is <b>de-registered</b></li> </ul>
Transfer	a child already on the child protection register moving between local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Child is <b>de-registered</b> or</li> <li>– Child remains on register</li> </ul>

3.9 *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 2012 and 31 July 2013.

3.10 *Deregistrations* - Children who were subject to a transfer or review conference and subsequently removed from the child protection register between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013.

3.11 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**

3.12 *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.

3.13 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.

3.14 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.

3.15 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.

3.16 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.

3.17 *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 2012-13 and age at 31 July 2013 are the actual ages for all young people.

3.18 *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.

3.19 *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, but we are unable to publish a detailed breakdown of additional support needs due to small numbers and data confidentiality issues.

3.20 *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.

3.21 *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**

3.22 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**

3.23 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.

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

## 4. Data Quality and revisions

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 Automated validation checks are undertaken at the point the data is submitted. These validations are outlined in the relevant data specifications (see Background note 3.1 for links).

4.3 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).

4.4 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 – comparability over time

4.5 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.

4.6 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.

### **Looked after – data quality of specific variables**

4.7 From 2011-12, local authorities were 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, only information on the *final* legal reason that was recorded within the year has been published (Table 1.5 in the additional tables).

4.8 The only looked after field for which data is collected but not published is religion. This is due to data quality concerns as each year around 75 per cent of children are recorded with religion as 'unknown'.

### **Child protection**

4.9 For the first time in 2012-13 the child protection data has been collected entirely at individual-level. As there is much more detail and complexity to the 2012-13 data than in previous years there is much more scope for small errors. As a result, the accuracy of the 2012-13 data will be lower than in previous years. It is likely that the 2012-13 figures will be revised in future years as processes and validations improve.

4.10 The data on children on the child protection register at 31 July 2012 had been revised since the original publication for seven local authorities, resulting in a less than one per cent change in the national figure.

4.11 Prior to 2011-12, 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**

4.12 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.

4.13 Information was collected in 2011-12 to help monitor outcomes for the National Contract for Secure Care on whether a full medical assessment was received, an individualised Care/sentenced/remand plan completed, an individualised learning plan based on educational assessment completed and a transition/pathway plan in place. 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 have not collected the information listed above or on information on secure authorisations turned down from 2012-13.

4.14 This publication presents revised 2010-11 and 2011-12 data for close support accommodation. The revised figures exclude Edinburgh's data because they did not meet the criteria of being directly related to the secure unit. Edinburgh's close support is in a separate building and they have a mechanism to separate costs for their secure accommodation and close support provision. This publication only includes close support in the same physical location as the secure unit where capital and overhead costs will be inherently linked. This has reduced the previously published number of close support places by around half from 2010 onwards. Because of this revision, the close support numbers presented are comparable over time.

## 5. Enquiries

Please send any **media enquiries** to:

- Children Looked After/Child Protection: Lesley Brown, 0131 244 4001
- Secure Care and Close Support: Ashley Duff, 0131 244 3073  
Ruth Jays, 0131 244 3069

These data and **additional tables** on looked after children, child protection and secure care and close support accommodation 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).

Children and Families Statistics  
25 March 2014

## Children's Social Work Statistics 2012-13

### Publication tables

Excel versions of these tables are available here:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/01092>

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- Chart 3 Children looked after per 1,000 children under 18 by type of accommodation 1987-2013
- Table 1.1 Number of children looked after at 31 July 2009-2013, by type of accommodation
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## Children's Social Work Statistics 2012-13

### 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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### How to access background or source data

The data collected for this publication:

are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

are available via an alternative route

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact [childrens.statistics@scotland.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.statistics@scotland.gov.uk) for further information

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