As at 31 July 2020, 16,530 children in Scotland were looked after or on the child protection register.

- 14,458 total looked after
- 2,654 total on child protection register
- 582 both

82 young people were in secure care accommodation, a 1% increase in number of children looked after.

Comparisons with 2018-19:

- 3% increase in number of children on child protection register
- 3 more young people, on average, during the year in secure care accommodation
Introduction

What do these statistics include?

We present information collected from local authorities and secure units on children and young people, who were formally looked after; under child protection measures; or in secure care at some point between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020.

How do children come to be counted in these figures?

There are a number of ways that a child may become looked after, on the child protection register or in secure care. Children may be referred to the Children’s Reporter¹, become voluntarily looked after or come via the criminal justice system. The diagram below gives a high-level illustration of the main routes by which children would be included.

¹ Most referrals to the Children’s Reporter come from partner agencies, such as the police, social work and education. However, anyone can make a referral, including parents, family members, carers or members of the public.
Revisions of 2018-19 data

Each year, data for Children Looked After, Child Protection and Eligibility for Aftercare are collected for the period 1 August to 31 July from all local authorities in Scotland.

It is normal practice that, during the child protection data collection process, local authorities revise their data for the previous year. This report reflects those updates provided by all local authorities for 2018-19.

Also, in this year’s report, figures on the number of young people eligible for aftercare services does not include those in continuing care. This revised method has also been applied to 2018-19 figures included in the supporting tables.

Child protection
The total number of children on the child protection register was previously reported to be 2,599 at the 31st July 2019. The revised figure in this report is 2,580.

Eligible for aftercare
The total number of young people eligible for aftercare services on 31st July 2019 was previously reported as 6,650. This figure has been revised to 6,492.

Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on these statistics
Statistics for the year 2019-20 in this report refer to the period from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020. Therefore, annual figures for 2019-20 are affected by any impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on social work practices, from March 2020.

Weekly data monitoring the impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable children and families, and how services were responding, have been collected and published by Scottish Government since April 2020.

To illustrate the impact of the pandemic on these figures, this report includes time series charts showing patterns by month within each of the last two years, in:

- children becoming looked after
- children ceasing to be looked after
- children registered on the child protection register
- children deregistered from the child protection register

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2 Vulnerable Children and Adult Protection - SG Education Analytical Services: Learning Analysis | Tableau Public
Children Looked After

The total number of children looked after has increased for the first year after seven years of consecutive decline.

The number of children starting to become looked after decreased by 9%, compared with 2019.

The number of children ceasing to be looked after decreased by 18%, compared with 2019.

This section presents data on looked after children from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020. This is referred to as 2020 for ease of reporting, with 2018-19 referred to as 2019, and so on.

Local authorities have a responsibility to provide support to certain children and young people, known as ‘looked after children’. A child may become looked after for a number of reasons, including neglect, abuse, complex disabilities requiring specialist care, or involvement in the youth justice system.

At 31 July 2020, there were 14,458 looked after children – an increase of 196 (1%) from 2019. This is the first year of increase after seven consecutive years of decline, falling from a peak of 16,248 in 2012 to 14,262 in 2019. The number of children ceasing to be looked after each year was consistently greater than the number becoming looked after between 2012 and 2019. However, the number of children ceasing to be looked after fell by 18% from 4,068 in 2019 to 3,325 in 2020. The number of children becoming looked after also fell – by 9% from 3,824 in 2019 to 3,490 in 2020. This figure was higher than the number of children ceasing to be looked after, as shown in the supporting publication tables 1.3,1.4 and Charts 2a-2b.

Placement type

There are several types of care setting in which looked after children or young people could be looked after, including:

- at home (where a child is subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order and continues to live in their usual place of residence)
- in kinship care (where they are placed with friends or relatives)
- with prospective adopters
- foster care
- residential unit or school
- a secure unit
Table 1.1 and Chart 1 show the proportion of children being looked after at home has decreased over the last decade, with 25% of the total in this group in 2020 compared to 39% in 2010. Increasing proportions of children are being looked after away from home in community settings. In particular, 4,456 children were placed formally with kinship carers in 2020 (31% of the total in 2020 compared with 20% in 2010). There has also been an increase in the proportion of children placed with foster carers – up from 30% in 2010 to 33% in 2020 – and this remains the most common accommodation type for looked after children. The proportion of children looked after in residential care settings remained static at around 10% of the overall total.

Table 1.1: Number of children looked after at 31 July, in each type of accommodation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Accommodation</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At home with parents</td>
<td>6,193</td>
<td>3,569</td>
<td>3,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Kinship Carers: friends/relatives</td>
<td>3,172</td>
<td>4,175</td>
<td>4,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Foster Carers provided by LA</td>
<td>3,651</td>
<td>3,335</td>
<td>3,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Foster Carers purchased by LA</td>
<td>1,046</td>
<td>1,463</td>
<td>1,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With prospective adopters</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In other community</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Accommodation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In local authority home</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In voluntary home</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In residential school</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In secure accommodation</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis care</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In other residential (1)</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total looked after children</td>
<td>15,892</td>
<td>14,262</td>
<td>14,458</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Information on the number of children looked after by accommodation type is available back to 1988 in chart 1 data of the spreadsheet version of the associated downloadable publication tables

(2) ‘In other community’ is a category that captures those people in community placements outside those listed, such as supported accommodation

(3) The bulk of the ‘other residential’ placements are private/independent residential placements for young people with complex needs
Care Plan

When children become looked after, a care plan should be produced by the local authority. 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 shows that 96% of the 14,458 children who were looked after at the end of July 2020 had a current care plan, up from 94% in 2019. The proportion with a current care plan was 96% among those looked after at home and those looked after away from home. Of those looked after away from home, the proportion with a current care plan was slightly higher among those placed with foster carers (97%) or in residential care (97%), compared to those with kinship carers (95%) or with prospective adopters/ other community placement (93%).
Table 1.2: Children looked after with and without a current care plan, at 31 July 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>At home</th>
<th>Away from home</th>
<th>Away from home - breakdown by category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Kinship Carers: friends/relatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With current care plan</td>
<td>3,406</td>
<td>10,479</td>
<td>4,230</td>
<td>13,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without current care plan</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,563</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,895</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,456</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,458</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Foster Carers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With current care plan</td>
<td>3,406</td>
<td>10,479</td>
<td>4,619</td>
<td>14,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without current care plan</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,563</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,895</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,744</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,449</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With prospective adopters/ other community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With current care plan</td>
<td>3,406</td>
<td>10,479</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>13,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without current care plan</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,563</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,895</strong></td>
<td><strong>259</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,458</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without current care plan</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Some children without a current care plan may have one in progress on this date; local recording may differ with regard to when a care plan is recorded as being in place.

Children starting and ceasing to be looked after

The increase in total numbers being looked after is because fewer children or young people left care than started it.

As shown in table 1.3, 3,490 episodes of care began between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020. This represents a 9% decrease from the 3,824 episodes of care beginning in 2019.

Table 1.3: Number of children starting to be looked after, by age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number 2010</th>
<th>Number 2019</th>
<th>Number 2020</th>
<th>Percentage 2010</th>
<th>Percentage 2019</th>
<th>Percentage 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 1</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>1,146</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>1,463</td>
<td>1,137</td>
<td>1,060</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>1,555</td>
<td>1,128</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,859</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,824</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,490</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) A child may start to be looked after more than once in a year and so may be counted more than once.
(2) Table cells containing * have been suppressed to maintain confidentiality

Table 1.3 also shows a reduction in the proportion of children becoming looked after aged 12-15, from 32% in 2010 to 26% in 2020. The longer term pattern of children starting to be looked after at younger ages than this is offset by a slightly increased
proportion of children becoming looked after aged 16-17 - up to 5% in 2020 from 1% in 2010. Fifteen percent of children starting episodes of care were less than one year old, increasing from thirteen percent in 2010.

There were more boys than girls starting episodes of care in 2020 – 55% of those starting episodes of care were boys compared with 45% girls (the Scotland-wide population of under eighteens was 51% male in 2019\(^3\)). This is the most pronounced gender split of those starting episodes of care since 2007, during which period the proportion of those starting episodes of care who were boys has ranged from 51% to 55%.

**Table 1.4** shows the number of episodes of care which ceased, by length of time looked after. There were 3,325 episodes of care which ceased between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020, a decrease of 18% from the previous year.

The length of time for which children ceasing to be looked after had been looked after remained similar between 2019 and 2020. However, when compared with 2010, there are a higher proportion of children who had been looked after for more than five years, and a lower proportion who had been looked after for under one year.

**Table 1.4: Number of children ceasing to be looked after, by length of time looked after\(^1\)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of time looked after</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 6 weeks</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 weeks to under 6 months</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to under 1 year</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year to under 3 years</td>
<td>1,811</td>
<td>1,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years to under 5 years</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years and over</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,504</td>
<td>4,068</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) 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.

**Charts 2a** and **2b** show the pattern of children becoming and ceasing to be looked after by month within each of the last two years. In 2018-19, the number of children ceasing to be looked after was lower than the number of children becoming looked after in only two out of twelve months, with no clear pattern emerging over the year...
except lower numbers of cases in December. In 2019-20, the pattern of more children ceasing to be looked after reversed at the beginning of the year, but again with no clear pattern until a step change from April 2020 – the first full month of the COVID-19 pandemic. From April to July 2020, the numbers of children becoming and ceasing to be looked after were considerably lower than earlier in the year, although the figures rose steadily throughout those months. While from 1 August 2019 to 31 March 2020, the number of children starting (2,727) and ceasing (2,726) to be looked after was almost identical, there was a clear difference from April 2020 onwards (763 becoming looked after; 599 ceasing to be looked after).

![Chart 2a: Number of Children Starting and Ceasing to be Looked After by month, 2019-20](image)

![Chart 2b: Number of Children Starting and Ceasing to be Looked After by month, 2018-19](image)
When a child ceases being looked after, a destination is recorded (Table 1.5). This is the third year that Kinship Care Order and Continuing Care were included as destination categories in the Looked After Children data collection. A Kinship Care Order is a court order that confers all or part of parental responsibilities and rights to a friend or relative of the child and can be a trigger for receipt of kinship care assistance. More information on Continuing Care is available in the Continuing Care section.

Although most children go home to their biological parents when they cease to be looked after, the proportion has declined from 62% in 2010 to 54% in 2020. A further 16% went to live in kinship care with friends or relatives or left care through a Kinship Care Order in 2020. The proportion of children leaving care due to being adopted was 6% in 2020, down 1 percentage point from 2019. The majority of adoptions (73%) are of children aged under five years old, as shown in Additional Table 1.9. There is a much more even spread of ages of young people leaving care to go home or to live with friends and relatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination after leaving care</th>
<th>Number 2010</th>
<th>Number 2019</th>
<th>Number 2020</th>
<th>Percentage 2010</th>
<th>Percentage 2019</th>
<th>Percentage 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home with (biological) parents</td>
<td>2,794</td>
<td>2,365</td>
<td>1,807</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinship carers: Friends/relatives (1)</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinship Care Order (2)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former foster carers (1)</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Care (2)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported accommodation / own tenancy</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (3)</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,504</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,068</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,325</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) 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.

(2) New destination categories of ‘continuing care’ and ‘kinship care order’ were added in 2018. Children who left care for these destinations in previous years were mostly recorded in the friends/relatives category for ‘kinship care order’ and the former foster carers category for ‘continuing care’, which partly explains the decrease in these 2 categories in 2018.

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

**Pathway Plans**

Local authorities have a duty to provide advice, guidance and assistance for young people who at the point of leaving care have reached 16 years of age. This is referred to as ‘aftercare services’. Local authorities are required to carry out a
pathway assessment for aftercare services for all currently looked after young people who are over the age of sixteen and every 'compulsorily supported person' (a care leaver who has not yet reached their nineteenth birthday). 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. The pathway assessment should be done within three months of a young person becoming a compulsorily supported person but it is expected that all young people over age 16 will have had their pathway assessment, and will have a completed pathway plan in place as to their future, before they cease to be looked after.

Of those young people who had reached 16 years of age at the time they ceased to be looked after during 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020, 79% (up from 71% in 2019) had a pathway plan and 70% had a pathway co-ordinator (Table 1.6), an increase from 60% in 2019. 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 young people whose last placement was at home, 68% had a pathway plan and 57% a pathway coordinator, compared with 83% and 74% respectively of those whose final placement type was ‘away from home’.

Table 1.6: Pathway plans and nominated pathway co-ordinators of young people who were at least 16 years of age on the date they ceased to be looked after during 2019-20(1,2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With a pathway plan</th>
<th>Number looked after</th>
<th>Percentage looked after</th>
<th>Away from home - breakdown by category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>at home</td>
<td>away from home</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a pathway plan</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without a pathway plan</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a pathway co-ordinator</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without a pathway co-ordinator</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>1,207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Figures include all episodes of ceasing to be looked after beyond 16 years of age (i.e. a child may be counted more than once).
(2) It may be the case that some young people who don't have a relevant pathway plan/coordinator may be receiving similar support from adult services instead.
**Aftercare services**

Table 1.7 shows the number of young people eligible for aftercare services by age and the percentage of these young people in receipt of aftercare on 31 July 2020.

From April 2015, aftercare eligibility has been extended to cover all care leavers up to and including people aged 25 where it previously only covered up to their 21st birthday. This extension of the original policy has now reached maturity so age groups entering eligibility for aftercare should broadly equal those sufficiently mature to leave aftercare. Figures for those eligible for aftercare have risen from 4,602 in 2016 to 6,492 in 2019 and increasing further to 7,198 in 2020.

For young people eligible for aftercare, Table 1.7 shows that 57% have taken up these services, in line with the proportion in receipt of aftercare services in 2019. As in 2019, the proportion of eligible young people in receipt of aftercare was highest among those aged 19-21, with 65% of those eligible and aged 19-21 being in receipt of aftercare services (67% in 2019).

**Table 1.7a: Young people eligible for and in receipt of aftercare services by age\(^{(1)}\), 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19-21</th>
<th>22+</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In receipt of aftercare</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>1,688</td>
<td>1,278</td>
<td>4,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in receipt of aftercare</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>1,184</td>
<td>3,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total eligible for aftercare</strong></td>
<td><strong>377</strong></td>
<td><strong>629</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,118</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,614</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,461</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,198</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In receipt of aftercare</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in receipt of aftercare</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total eligible for aftercare</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Age on 31 July 2020

**Table 1.7b: Young people eligible for and in receipt of aftercare services by age\(^{(1)}\), 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19-21</th>
<th>22+</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In receipt of aftercare</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>1,616</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>3,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in receipt of aftercare</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>1,206</td>
<td>2,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total eligible for aftercare</strong></td>
<td><strong>359</strong></td>
<td><strong>618</strong></td>
<td><strong>980</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,407</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,128</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,492</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In receipt of aftercare</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in receipt of aftercare</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total eligible for aftercare</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Age on 31 July 2019

**Continuing Care**

Continuing Care is the continued provision of the accommodation and other assistance that was being provided by the local authority immediately before the young person ceased to be looked after. Only children who cease to be looked after
aged 16 years or over and were looked after away from home are eligible for Continuing Care. Continuing Care has been available to eligible care leavers from April 2015, enabling eligible young people aged 16 or older to stay in the same kinship, foster or residential care placements when they ceased to be looked after. The ‘higher age’ for continuing care eligibility rose annually as part of a roll out strategy. Continuing Care became fully operational in April 2020, allowing all eligible care-leavers to remain in their care setting from age 16 until their 21st birthday.

The data in Table 1.5 shows that 229 children who ceased to be looked after between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020 received Continuing Care. Additional data on the population in Continuing Care is collected as part of the above statistics on eligibility for aftercare. Table 1.8 uses that data to show that, in addition to the 229 young people recorded as ceasing to be looked after and staying in Continuing Care, there were an additional 77 young people in a Continuing Care placement, identified in the eligible for aftercare data. Therefore, in total there were 306 young people recorded as being in Continuing Care in 2019-20, up from 286 in 2018-19.

Table 1.8: Number of children in Continuing Care(1), 2019-20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Recorded as ceasing to be looked after with a destination of Continuing Care</th>
<th>Recorded as being in Continuing Care</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) There were 11 additional children recorded as being in Continuing Care in the eligible for aftercare data, but they were also included in the ceasing to be looked after with a destination of Continuing Care figures. They have been omitted from the ‘Recorded as being in continuing care’ figures to avoid double counting.

Cross-UK looked after comparisons

The definition of “looked after children” varies across the countries within the UK, which makes cross-UK comparisons difficult. To improve comparability, the Scotland figure at 31 March has been used, rather than the published 31 July figure, as the other nations publish figures as at this date.

Chart 3 gives Scottish figures including a breakdown for children looked after at home and away from home for comparability with the other nations. Scotland has a much higher proportion of children looked after at home than the rest of the UK, a placement which in Scotland requires a supervision order from the Children’s Panel. Overall, Scotland had the highest rate of looked after children in 2020 at 139 children per 10,000 under 18 population. The rate of looked after children in Wales is
lower, at 109 per 10,000, while the rates in Northern Ireland (77 per 10,000) and England (67 per 10,000) are much lower still.

Links to the cross-UK data underlying the chart can be found in Background Note 1.7. There is more information on the comparability of looked after children data across the UK on the Scottish Government website.

The data used to produce the charts and tables on looked after children in the publication are available in the supporting files accompanying the publication. There are also additional tables available in the supporting files. Children's social work statistics - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
Child Protection

Number of children on the child protection register increased by 3%, but is lower than the peak in 2014

There was a decrease in the number of child protection registrations and deregistrations in the last year, by 8% and 9% respectively

Most common causes for concern were emotional and domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, and neglect

This section presents data on children on the child protection register from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020. This will be referred to as 2020 for ease of reporting (with 2018-19 referred to as 2019 and so on). Child protection means protecting a child from 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 is 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).

This was the eighth year that child protection data has been collected entirely at individual level.

Children on the child protection register

The number of children on the child protection register increased from 2,580 in 2019 to 2,654 in 2020 (a 3% increase). There was a general upward trend in the number of children on the child protection register, until 2014 when the number peaked at 2,877. However, the number on the register then reduced in each of the next four years, before rising again slightly in 2019 and 2020.

As is usual, the number of children on the register in 2020 will be revised in next year’s publication, as updated information is received from local authorities. This report includes revised figures in 2019 for all local authorities.
Between 2008 and 2018, there were more children aged under five than five or over on the child protection register. This changed in 2019, with just over half of children being aged five or over. In 2020, again around half of children on the child protection register were aged under five (1,325) and half were 5 or over (1,329).

There is no strong gender pattern among children on the child protection register – 47% were boys, 48% were girls, and 5% were unborn (Table 2.1). Because of a change in how unborn children were recorded by local authorities in 2010, figures for unborn children are only comparable from 2011 onwards.

Table 2.1: Number of children on the child protection register, by gender(1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>1,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1,209</td>
<td>1,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unborns</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Children</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,571</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,580</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Unborn children include both unborn children with a known gender and those with an unknown gender. Those with a known gender are not included in the boys or girls categories in this table.
At child protection case conferences, multiple concerns can be recorded (rather than just the main category of concern). This means that the total number of concerns is larger than the total number of registrations. For the 2,654 children on the child protection register at 31 July 2020, there were 7,315 concerns at the case conferences at which they were registered – an average of 2.8 concerns per conference. Chart 6 below shows the most common concerns identified were domestic (1,132) and emotional (1,028) abuse, neglect (1,112), and parental substance misuse (1,135). The parental substance misuse category is further broken down by the type of substance misused. Alcohol misuse only was identified as a concern in 333 conferences, drug misuse only in 536 conferences and both in 266 conferences. Figures are shown in full in Additional Table 4.3.

Chart 5: Concerns identified at the case conferences of children who were on the child protection register, 2020
Child protection registrations and deregistrations

The number of registrations to the child protection register decreased by 8% between 2019 and 2020. The proportion of children registered who had never been registered before stayed at 80% in 2020 (Table 2.2). The remaining 20% of registrations on the child protection register were for children who had been registered previously. The largest group of these children was those who had been previously registered 2 years ago or more, with this group making up 11% of all registrations in 2020.

Table 2.2: Number of registrations following an initial, pre-birth or transfer-in case conference by length of time since previous deregistration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time since last deregistration</th>
<th>2010 Number</th>
<th>2019 Number</th>
<th>2020 Number</th>
<th>Percentage 2010</th>
<th>Percentage 2019</th>
<th>Percentage 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never been registered before</td>
<td>2,971</td>
<td>3,427</td>
<td>3,163</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered before but time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months - &lt; 1 year</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year - &lt; 18 months</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 months - &lt; 2 years</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years or more</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known if been registered</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,551</td>
<td>4,295</td>
<td>3,957</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Table 2.3 shows the numbers of deregistrations from the child protection register, by length of time registered and reason for deregistration. There were 3,879 deregistrations from the child protection register in the year to 31 July 2020, a 9% decrease from the 4,245 recorded in 2019. The most common reason for deregistration in 2020 was an improved home situation, recorded in 53% of cases. In almost half (48%) of deregistrations, the child had been on the child protection register for less than 6 months, and in 86% of cases for less than one year.
### Table 2.3: Length of time registered and reason for deregistration from the child protection register

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time since last deregistration</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length of time registered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 6 months</td>
<td>1,592</td>
<td>2,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to under 1 year</td>
<td>1,483</td>
<td>1,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year to under 18 months</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 months to under 2 years</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years or more</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No date of registration information</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason for deregistration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child taken into care &amp; risk reduced</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child with other carers</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child died</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal of perpetrator</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved home situation</td>
<td>1,220</td>
<td>2,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child automatically deregistered because of age</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child moved away - no continued risk</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reason</td>
<td>1,674</td>
<td>1,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason not known</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,822</td>
<td>4,245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Includes where a child transferred to another local authority and where reason has not been recorded.

Charts 6a and 6b show the number of children being registered on and deregistered from the child protection register in each of the last two years by month. While the number of deregistrations relative to the number of registrations has fluctuated across each of the last two years, and the patterns are broadly similar in each year, the number of deregistrations reached its lowest level over the two years in April 2020 at 225. The second lowest level of deregistrations over the two year period was recorded in July 2020.

In 2019-20, the numbers of registrations and deregistrations were lower than in 2018-19 in the period August to March (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic) by 9% and 7% respectively. For the remainder of the year, the numbers were lower than in the equivalent period the previous year by 5% and 13%.
Chart 7 shows that, since 2015, the percentage of deregistrations of children who spent less than six months on the child protection register increased each year till 2019, peaking at 51%. The current figure has fallen back to 48% of deregistrations in 2019-20. There has been a corresponding increase in the last year in the proportion of deregistrations for children who spent 6 months or more on the child protection register, with 38% of deregistrations in 2019-20 being of children who spent between 6 months and a year on the child protection register.
Child Protection Register Geographical Comparisons

Number on the register within Scotland

Table 2.4 shows the number and rate of children under 16 who were on the child protection register in Scotland in July 2020 by local authority. The rate varied from 0.5 per 1,000 children in the East Renfrewshire to 6.1 per 1,000 children in North Ayrshire.

There is a lot of variability from year to year in the numbers of children on the child protection register at a local authority level due to the small numbers of children involved in each local authority.
Table 2.4: Number of children on the child protection register and rate per 1,000 population aged 0-15 by local authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local authority</th>
<th>Number on Register</th>
<th>Rate $^{(1,2)}$</th>
<th>Number on Register</th>
<th>Rate $^{(1,2)}$</th>
<th>Number on Register</th>
<th>Rate $^{(1,2)}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen City</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeenshire</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angus</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyll and Bute</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Edinburgh</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clackmannashire</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumfries and Galloway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galloway</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee City</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Ayrshire</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Dunbartonshire</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lothian</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Renfrewshire</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falkirk</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow City</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverclyde</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlothian</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moray</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h-Eileanan Siar</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Ayrshire</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Lanarkshire</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orkney Islands</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perth and Kinross</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renfrewshire</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Borders</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shetland Islands</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Ayshire</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Lanarkshire</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stirling</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunbartonshire</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lothian</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scotland</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,518</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,580</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,654</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Per 1,000 population aged 0-15. Source: National Records of Scotland, 2007-2019 mid-year population estimates

(2) The rate shown in this table includes unborn children who are on the register
Number of child protection investigations within Scotland

A child protection investigation is a joint investigation launched following an Inter-agency Referral Discussion in order to determine if any child protection action is needed and whether a child protection case conference should be held.

Data on child protection investigations has been published for the first time in Table 2.5. The rate of child protection investigations varied from 1.2 in East Renfrewshire to 39.7 per 1,000 children in Clackmannanshire.

The number of initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences and registrations from these is also shown; for those with an investigation recorded within 90 days prior to case conference, the child’s progression through the child protection process from investigation to case conference and potentially registration can be followed.

However, there were 733 out of 4,978 total initial and pre-birth case conferences where no investigation was recorded within 90 days prior to case conference; this suggests that the investigations for these conferences may be missing from the figures shown. There may be other legitimate reasons for the investigation not being within 90 days prior to case conference.

4 Between Social work, police and health services, and any other agencies as required
### Table 2.5: Number of child protection investigations, initial and pre-birth case conferences, registrations from these conferences and rates per 1,000 population aged 0-15 by local authority, 2019-20(1),(2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local authority</th>
<th>Number(3)</th>
<th>Rate(3)</th>
<th>Number with an investigation recorded within 90 days of case conference</th>
<th>Number with no investigation recorded within 90 days of case conference(4)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rate(2)</th>
<th>Number with an investigation recorded within 90 days of case conference</th>
<th>Number with no investigation recorded within 90 days of case conference(3)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rate(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen City</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeenshire</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angus</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyll and Bute</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Edinburgh</td>
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<td>159</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clackmannenshire</td>
<td>395</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumfries and Galloway</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dundee City</td>
<td>698</td>
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<td>128</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Ayshire</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Dunbartonshire</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lothian</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow City</td>
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<td>317</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverclyde</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midlothian</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moray</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na h-Eileanan Sior</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Ayrshire</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Lanarkshire</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orkney Islands</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perth and Kinross</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renfrewshire</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Borders</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shetland Islands</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Ayrshire</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Lanarkshire</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stirling</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Dunbartonshire</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lothian</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scotland** 12,934 14.0 4,245 733 4,978 5.4 3,263 586 3,849 4.2

(1) Per 1,000 population aged 0-15. Source: National Records of Scotland, mid-year 2019 population estimates.

(2) The rate shown in this table includes unborn children who are on the register.

(3) Includes 135 child protection investigations that took place prior to 1 August 2019 (in 2018-19) where the resulting case conference took place on or after 1 August 2019 (in 2019-20).

(4) Case conferences with no investigation recorded within 90 days are cases where no investigation was recorded in the data provided to Scottish Government in the 90 days preceding the case conference.

**Cross-UK child protection comparisons**

Child protection systems across the United Kingdom vary but are generally comparable. Scotland’s data collection year runs from 1 August to 31 July, so end-year figures are typically reported at 31 July in this publication, while the collection year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland runs from 1 April to 31 March...
The proportion of children on the child protection register has been broadly stable in Scotland over the last decade and this proportion is notably lower compared with the rest of the UK. Scotland did not experience the large increases in children on the register in 2007-2011 as seen in the rest of the UK. There is more information on the comparability of child protection data across the UK on the Scottish Government website.

The data used to produce the charts and tables on child protection in the publication are available in the supporting files accompanying the publication. There are also additional tables available in the supporting files.

Children's social work statistics - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
This section presents 2019-20 data on secure care accommodation. Following the conventions in the rest of this publication, 2019-20 is referred to as 2020. Secure care is used for a small number of young people who present high risk to themselves or others. A placement to secure care can only be authorised following a decision through the Children’s Hearing System or a Court, or as an emergency placement for up to 72 hours before attending a hearing or court.

**Bed complement**

There were 84 secure places available in five secure units in Scotland excluding emergency beds on 31 July 2020 (Table 3.1). Furthermore, there were an additional 7 beds available across these units for emergency and short-term use – these would normally only be used if required and on a short-term basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Number of secure care beds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh Secure Services</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Shepherd</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kibble</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rossie School</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary's Kenmure(1)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL UNITS</strong></td>
<td><strong>84</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Excluding emergency or short-term respite beds

**Capacity and usage**

Table 3.2 shows there were an average of 82 residents in secure care accommodation between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020, an increase from an average of 79 in the previous year. The average number of residents from within Scotland remained at 53, while the average from outside Scotland increased slightly from 26 to 28, all of whom were from England.
The number of nights emergency beds were used was 209 in 2020. This is a considerable decrease of 47% from 398 in the previous year. The number of residents using emergency beds decreased by 49%, from 55 in 2019 to 28 in 2020.

Table 3.2: Secure care accommodation capacity\(^{(1)}\) and usage, 2014-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Places at year end</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions during the year</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharges during the year</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of residents during</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents from within Scotland</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents from outside Scotland</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum number of residents during</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the year(^{(1)})</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum number of residents during</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the year(^{(1)})</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of nights emergency bed used</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>-47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>during the year(^{(2,3)})</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of residents emergency bed</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>used for during the year(^{(2,3)})</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

(2) Four units reported having an emergency bed: Rossie Secure Accommodation Services; Good Shepherd Centre; Kibble Education and Care Centre; and St. Mary's Kenmure. St Mary's Kenmure also have 3 short-term beds (see background notes for definition of an emergency or short-term bed).

(3) Figures for emergency/short term bed usage have been estimated for St. Mary's Kenmure. More information is available in the background notes section.

On 31 July 2020, 54% of young people in secure care accommodation were male and 46% were female (Table 3.3); 46% were aged 16 or over; and 78% were aged 15 or older.

On 31 July 2020, 9% of young people in secure care accommodation had at least one disability, defined as “a mental or physical impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”.
Table 3.3: Young people in secure care at 31st July 2020 by gender, age at admission, disability and length of stay\(^{(1,2)}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender of residents(^{(3)})</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of Residents</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years old or under</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 years or over</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents with disability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No/unknown</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of stay of residents at year end</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 month</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 month to under 2 months</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 months to under 3 months</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 months to under 6 months</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to under 1 year</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year or more</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) As at 31 July of each year.
(2) Cells containing * represent numbers that are suppressed to maintain confidentiality.
(3) Trans, intersex and non-binary individuals are grouped with males for the purposes of maintaining confidentiality.

Cross-UK secure care accommodation comparisons

Table 3.4 shows secure children's homes/secure care accommodation units, places approved, and children and young people accommodated across the United Kingdom. This shows that there is no clear trend in the number of children accommodated in England and Wales, as the numbers have fluctuated.

As noted earlier, the Scotland total includes a number of young people who are from elsewhere in the UK. The England and Wales totals may also include some children from other parts of the UK, but these numbers aren't published separately.
Table 3.4: Number of secure children's homes/secure care accommodation units, places approved and children accommodated at year end across the United Kingdom\(^{(1,2,3)}\), 2014-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>England</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of secure children's homes</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places approved</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children accommodated</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wales</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of secure children's homes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places approved</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children accommodated</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scotland(^{(4)})</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of secure care units</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places approved</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children accommodated</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Sources: England and Wales - Statistics on secure children’s homes: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-secure-children-s-homes; Scotland - Secure care accommodation census; Northern Ireland, official/national statistics are not produced on secure care accommodation. The legal routes into secure care can vary between the four UK countries.
(2) The Scotland total includes a number of children from the rest of the UK, so trends in each country based on the children's origin may be different.
(3) The figures from outside Scotland include children placed on welfare grounds only.
(4) To allow for comparison with England and Wales, Scotland's data for all years is 'at 31 March' within this table only.

The data used to produce the charts and tables on secure care in the publication are available in the supporting files accompanying the publication. There are also **additional tables** available in the supporting files.

**Children's social work statistics - gov.scot** ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))
What are the trends in other children’s social work data?

Between 2009 and 2020 the number of children referred to the Children’s Reporter decreased by 73%\(^5\) (Chart 9), while the number of children looked after or on the child protection register has remained broadly stable over this period. The decrease is the result of falls in both the number of offence and non-offence referrals. Offence referrals now account for 21% of all referrals.

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

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\(^5\) Official Statistics - SCRA
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 2019 and 31 July 2020. 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): Official Statistics - SCRA

Figures on referrals of young people from the criminal justice system to the social work system are published at the bottom of the following link: Criminal justice social work statistics: 2019 to 2020 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

1.2. This publication collates data on children who were looked after during 2019-20. Education Outcomes for Looked After Children statistics are produced on a subset of these children – those whose Scottish Candidate Numbers have been supplied to Scottish Government. The latest education outcomes publication is available here: Education Outcomes for Looked After Children, 2018-19 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

1.3. The annual Civil Law Statistics published by the Scottish Government includes a table 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 out with the care system. The Civil Law Statistics in Scotland are available on page 48 of following link: Civil Justice Statistics in Scotland 2018-19 (www.gov.scot)

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: UK Comparability of Children's Social Services Statistics.

1.6. Work was commissioned by the Department for 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: UK Comparability of Children's Social Services Statistics.

Equivalent data across the UK

1.7. Looked after children statistics:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>Children looked after (gov.wales)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.8. Child protection statistics:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>Statistics: children in need and child protection - GOV.UK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 17 September 2020 and can be found at:-
Statistics: secure children’s homes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
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 2019 and 31 July 2020, 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 those eligible for aftercare.

2.2. All **child protection** information in this publication were collected at an individual level from local authorities. Information is submitted for each investigation and case conference held as well as demographic information for each child. Detailed individual data has been collected since 2012-13. Prior to this, data was collected as aggregate summarised data.

2.3. The child protection statistics survey covered the period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020. 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** statistics in this publication were collected from five secure care units which were open from 1 August 2019 till 31 July 2020.

2.5. The secure care accommodation census covered 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020. The data collected at the unit level covers the number of places. Individual-level information was collected on the characteristics of the young person, medical care, admissions and discharges in secure care accommodation.

2.6. The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) can provide information on staffing and vacancies of secure accommodation services, where a secure unit has provided that information to the Care Inspectorate, although this is not necessarily published. The data is an annual snapshot of the workforce on 31 December each year. If you require further information on staffing and vacancies on the other data held for secure accommodation services, you can visit the SSSC’s workforce data.
3. Definitions and notation

3.1. The survey forms, data specifications and guidance notes for the statistics presented in this publication are available on the Scottish Government website. The data specifications include the standard validation checks undertaken to quality assure these data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Online documentation can be found at the bottom of the following links.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Looked after</td>
<td>Scottish Exchange of Data: looked after children - gov.scot (<a href="http://www.gov.scot">www.gov.scot</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure care accommodation</td>
<td>Scottish Exchange of Data: secure accommodation - gov.scot (<a href="http://www.gov.scot">www.gov.scot</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children Looked After

3.2. Under the Children (Scotland ) Act 1995 , 'looked after children' are defined as those in the care of their local authority – sometimes referred to as a 'corporate parent'. Looked after children - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

3.3. **Supervision Requirement/Compulsory Supervision Order** – 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 or a Compulsory Supervision Order 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.
3.4. **Permanence order** – This is an order that the sheriff court can make for the protection 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 of residence to the local authority. In making a permanence order the court can, as it considers appropriate, to promote and safeguard the child’s health, development and welfare, also make ancillary orders which:

- give other parental rights and responsibilities to the local authority or other person(s),
- and/or remove those parental rights and responsibilities from the child(s) parents.

A permanence order may also specify arrangements for contact between the child and any other person the court considers appropriate and in the best interests of the child.

3.5. **Types of placement**

- At home with parent(s): at home with parent(s) or ‘relevant person(s)’ as defined in Section 200 of the Children’s Hearings Act 2011
- 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

3.6. There is information on the process by which children come to be looked after and legislation governing this on the Scottish Government website: [Looked after children - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)](http://www.gov.scot)
Child Protection

3.7.  *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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Who is it for</th>
<th>Potential outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>a child not currently on the child protection register</td>
<td>- Child is <strong>registered</strong> or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Child is not registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-birth</td>
<td>an unborn child</td>
<td>- Child is <strong>registered</strong> or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Child is not registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>a child already on the child protection register either receiving a regular</td>
<td>- Child remains on register or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>case review, or where there are significant recent changes in the child or</td>
<td>- Child is <strong>deregistered</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>family situation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>a child already on the child protection register moving between local</td>
<td>- Child is <strong>deregistered</strong> or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>authorities</td>
<td>- Child remains on register</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.8.  *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 2019 and 31 July 2020.

3.9.  *Deregistrations* - Children who were subject to a transfer or review conference and subsequently removed from the child protection register between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020.

Secure care accommodation

3.11. **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.

3.12. 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.

3.13. 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.

3.14. 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.

3.15. 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 The Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011. The conditions are -

   (a) that the child has previously absconded and is likely to abscond again and, if the child were to abscond, it is likely that the child’s physical, mental, or moral welfare would be at risk;

   (b) the child is likely to engage in self harming conduct;

   (c) the child is likely to cause injury to another person.

3.16. **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 2019-20 and age at 31 July 2020 are the actual ages for all young people.
3.17. *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.

3.18. *Emergency/short-term 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. Four units reported having an emergency bed: Rossie Secure Accommodation Services; Good Shepherd Centre; Kibble Education and Care Centre; and St. Mary’s Kenmure. St Mary’s Kenmure also has 3 short-term beds which, for ease, these beds are referred to as emergency in the report.

**Disability and additional support needs**

3.19. Prior to 2011, data was presented as ‘Disability’, and, because the categories in use did not match with definitions in the Equalities Act, from 2011-12 until 2014-15, data was presented as ‘additional support needs’. The statistics themselves did not change in any way – the content of the data and categories remained the same, so were still comparable over time. From 2016-17 onwards, a new disability question has been introduced for the child protection, children looked after and secure care accommodation data collections, and this reduced the question to a simple yes/no, but with a more stringent qualification: “does the young person have a mental or physical impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities?”. This is not comparable to data prior to 2016. Work is underway to find a unified set of disability criteria to provide more detail and to meet user needs.

Further information is available in the online documentation listed in section 3.1.

**Notation and rounding**

3.20. The following notation is used in this publication
- Data not available
* In cases where information is presented on a small number of children, indicates that data have been suppressed to prevent disclosure of personal information.

3.21. 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 are 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 having an estimated figure publically available, we would not publish that particular information.

4.4. Where data need to be revised due to the resubmission of data for a particular year, or to correct errors, the timing will be announced on our website and by email to those who have registered an interest in our statistics. The impact of revisions will be clearly explained in our published reports.

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, there have been significant improvements in the quality of data reporting as a result the collection of data about individuals. This should be borne in mind when comparing years.

4.6. Data collected on children in a planned series of short-term placements ceased after 2012/13. This was done in consultation with local authorities and data users. Historical figures are still available from previous years’ publications.

4.7. For this publication, local authorities were asked to review and revise their data for 2018-19 during the collection process, following quality assurance checks.
comparing data on individual episodes of care open in 2018-19 and 2019-20. This report reflects those updates to Looked After Children data provided by local authorities for 2018-19.

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

4.8. The data on looked after children is collected from local authority social work management information systems. There can be a delay between an event affecting the child and the data being updated on local authority management information systems. Therefore, the figures published may be the subject of future revision. However, Scottish Government and partner Local Authorities have been improving data flows and the need for revision is less likely.

4.9. 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). The quality of this information has consequently improved.

4.10. 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 two-thirds of children are recorded with religion as ‘unknown’.

**Child protection**

4.11. Since 2012-13, the child protection data has been collected at an individual level. It has been normal practice that, during the collection process, local authorities revise their data for the previous year. This report reflects those updates provided by local authorities for 2018-19.

4.12. 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 accommodation**

4.13. As the number of young people using secure care is very small, relative changes over time will show greater percentage changes than for data relating to children looked after or child protection.
Annex A

Children’s Social Work Statistics 2019-20 Publication Tables

Full Excel versions of these tables with additional detail are available in the supporting files accompanying the publication.

Illustration 1  All children in Scotland and relative number being looked after and on the child protection register at 31 July 2020

Looked after children

Chart 1  Children looked after per 1,000 children under 18 by type of accommodation 1987-2020

Table 1.1  Number and percentage of children looked after in each type of accommodation, 2009-2020

Table 1.2  Children looked after with and without a current care plan, at 31 July 2020

Table 1.3 and 1.3a  Number and percentage of children starting to be looked after by age and gender, 2003-2020

Table 1.4 and Table 1.4a  Number and percentage of children ceasing to be looked after by length of time looked after and age, 2003-2020

Table 1.5  Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after, by destination, 2002-2020

Table 1.6  Pathway plans and nominated pathway co-ordinators of young people who were 16 or over on the date they ceased to be looked after, 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020

Table 1.7  Number and percentage of young people eligible for aftercare services, at 31 July 2020, by age and economic activity

Table 1.7 31 July 2019 Number and percentage of young people eligible for aftercare services, at 31 July 2019, by age and economic activity

Table 1.8  Children in Continuing Care at 31 July 2020

Table 1.8 31 July 2019 Children in Continuing Care at 31 July 2019

Chart 2a  Children Starting and Ceasing to be Looked After by Month during 2019-20

Chart 2b  Children Starting and Ceasing to be Looked After by Month during 2018-19
Child protection

Chart 3  Cross-UK comparison of rate of looked after children per 10,000 children, 2004-2020
Table 2.1 Number of children on the child protection register by age and gender, 2000-2020
Table 2.2 Number of registrations following an initial, pre-birth or transfer-in case conference by length of time since previous de-registration, 2007-2020
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