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Northern Ireland Care Leavers 2015/16



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- *be an expert voice on social care information.*

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We collect, analyse, and publish a wide range of community information that is used to help monitor the delivery of personal social services policy. Information collected by CIB is used to assess HSC Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, policy evaluation, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions.

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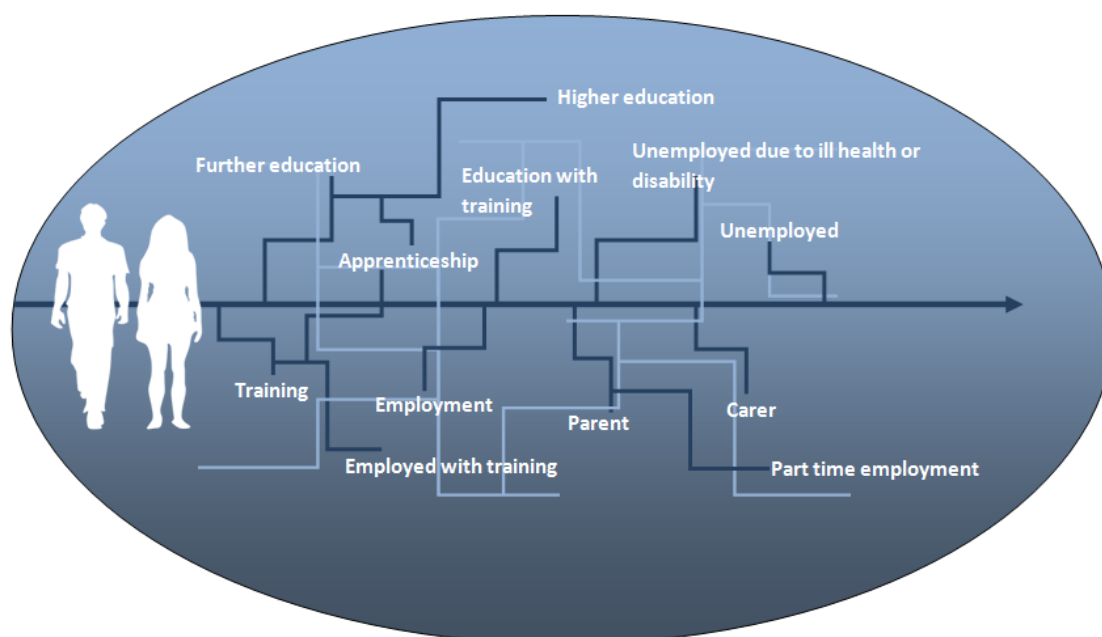
KEY FINDINGS

There were 313 care leavers aged 16-18 in 2015/16

- Some two thirds (67%) of care leavers aged 16-18 had GCSEs or other qualifications. The proportion of care leavers obtaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or higher was 21% which remains substantially lower than for school leavers as a whole (81%).
- Care leavers continue to have a higher proportion of young people coping with disability (15%) than the general population (6%). In terms of education, higher proportions of care leavers had a Statement of Educational Need (20%) compared with the general school population (5%).
- Of care leavers for whom information was available, three in five (63%) were in education or training, 10% were working and 27% were unemployed or economically inactive.

There were 252 care leavers aged 19 in 2015/16

- Some 92% of care leavers aged 19 were in contact with Health and Social Care Trusts; with 68% in contact at least once a month.
- Of the care leavers for whom information was available, 61% were in education, training or employment, a small decrease from 2014/15 (66%). This was still slightly higher than 19 year old care leavers in England (59%) and in Wales (57%).
- In terms of becoming a parent, 19% of all care leavers aged 19 were parents, with 25% of female care leavers aged 19 becoming mothers on or before their 19th birthday.



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1. Northern Ireland Care Leavers

1.1. BACKGROUND

Children are taken into care for a variety of reasons, the most common being to protect a child from abuse or neglect. In other cases their parents could be absent or may be unable to cope due to disability or illness. Children who become looked after children by the Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust have often suffered many disadvantages in their lives and many of them attain low educational achievements which are likely to impact on their future lives and chances for employment.

The *Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002* was implemented in 2005. It aims to improve the life prospects of young people who are looked after by HSC Trusts as they make the transition to independent living and become care leavers. To achieve this, the Act amended the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 to place new and enhanced duties on HSC Trusts to support young people who are leaving care.

The main aims of the Act are to prevent premature discharges from care, improve preparation, planning and consistency of support for young care leavers, and to strengthen arrangements for financial assistance. Central to the Act, are duties to assess and meet young people's individual needs, provide personal advisers and develop pathway planning for young people up to the age of 21 (or beyond if continuing in education)¹.

Standards for Leaving Care Services in Northern Ireland were published by the Department in 2012 which establish minimum standards for leaving and aftercare services. The Standards specify the arrangements, services and procedures that need to be in place and implemented to ensure the delivery of quality services for young people leaving care. These Standards apply to HSC Trusts and those other agencies commissioned by a HSC Trust to deliver leaving and aftercare services.

The *Going the Extra Mile (GEM) scheme*² was launched in 2006. The aim of the scheme is to promote continuity and stability of living arrangements in post care life for young people living with foster carers by ensuring that appropriate and agreed levels of financial support are available to assist carers to continue to meet the care, accommodation and support needs of these young people until the young person is aged at least 21. Allied to this, the scheme also aims to promote better outcomes for young people leaving care in relation to training, employment and education and avoid conflict with the law.

The Executive recognise the importance of giving young people the best start in life, helping those in need, and in particular improving outcomes for Looked After Children. This has

¹ The Children (Leaving Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 set out in more detail the matters to be taken into account by HSC Trusts when assessing and meeting the needs of those preparing to leave care and those who have left care.

² The scheme is facilitated under the Children (Leaving Care) Act (NI) 2002, the Children (Leaving Care) Regulations (NI) 2005 and Volume 8 of the Children (NI) Order 1995 Guidance – Leaving and Aftercare.

been included in the Programme for Government 2016 – 2021 with related outcomes and a dedicated indicator which will be monitored and reported on.

1.2. OC COMMUNITY INFORMATION RETURNS

The community information returns OC1, OC2 and OC3 collect data relating to children in care and care leavers in Northern Ireland, which together are designed to monitor and assess outcomes for children while they are in care and after leaving care. The OC1 return collects information on educational attainment of care leavers aged 16 to 18, the OC2 return collects information relating to the educational qualifications and health of children looked after continuously for 12 months and the OC3 return collects information on the economic activity of care leavers aged 19. This bulletin reports findings from the OC1 and OC3 surveys relating to the year ending 31 March 2016.

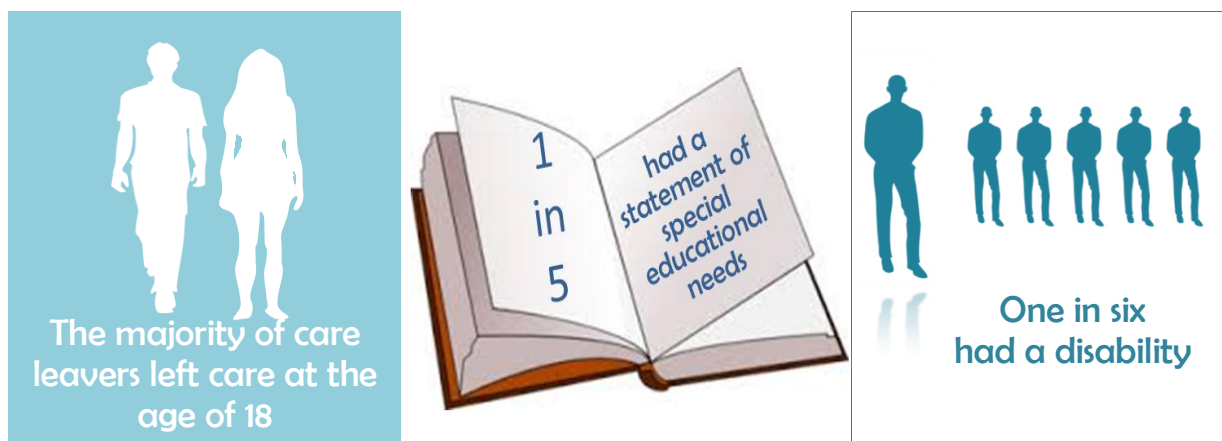
1.3. CARE LEAVERS

Children admitted to care may be discharged, if appropriate, at an age. *Care Leavers* in this bulletin cover young people aged 16-18 who left care during the year ending 31st March 2016 as well as young people who turned 19 years of age during the year ending 31st March 2016 and who had been looked after on 1st April three years previously. It excludes those young people who had been looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements (respite care).

Due to the small number of care leavers in Northern Ireland, some caution should be taken when interpreting figures presented in this bulletin, especially when the figures are broken down into sub categories. It is also worth noting, when comparing yearly figures, that each year has an individual cohort of young adults which may differ in characteristics to other years. For example, one year may include a higher number of children with special educational needs which could impact on the educational attainment figures for that year. As such, yearly variations in outcomes may be a reflection on the different cohorts of people in addition to actual trends or social care intervention.

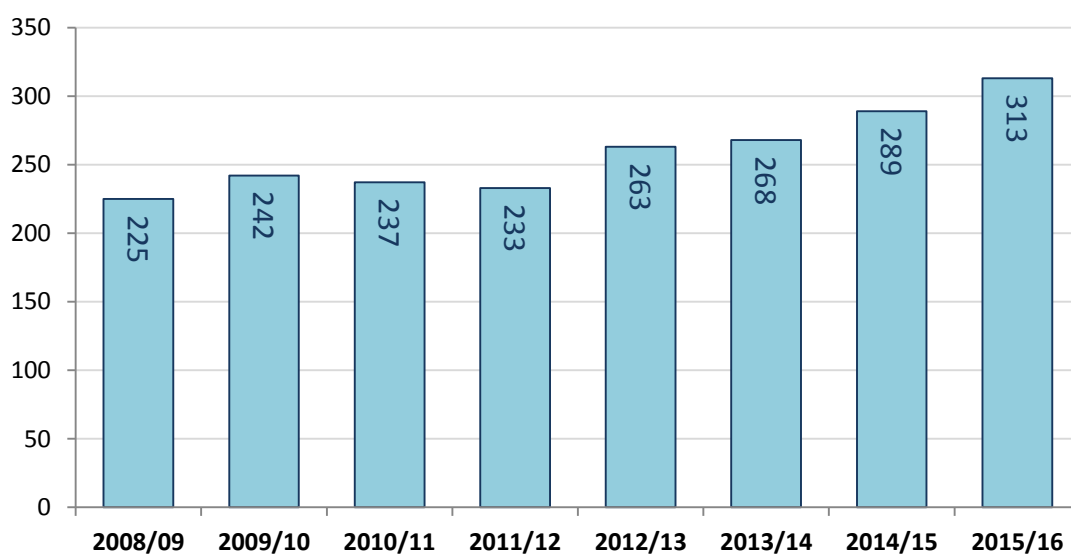
2. Care leavers aged 16-18

2.1. WHO ARE THE CARE LEAVERS AGED 16-18?



During the year ending 31 March 2016, 313 young people aged 16–18 left care in Northern Ireland. This was twenty four more than the previous year. The number of care leavers has steadily increased between 2011/12 and 2015/16, after a period of relative stability in the preceding years. A rise in the number of care leavers would be expected following a continuing increase in the numbers of looked after children in recent years³.

Figure 1 Number of care leavers aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland (2008/09 – 2015/16)



³ Figures for Looked After Children can be found in 'Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2016'

Figure 2 Number of care leavers aged 16-18 – HSC Trust profile (2015/16)



There were more female care leavers than male in 2015/16 (52% and 48% respectively). This breakdown differed from the general population of that age group in Northern Ireland, where 51% were males and 49% females⁴.

As in 2013/14 and 2014/15, the Belfast Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust had the highest number of care leavers aged 16-18. Between 2014/15 and 2015/16, the South Eastern HSC Trust saw the largest increase in care leavers from 43 to 57 (33%). Only the Western HSC Trust had a reduction in the number of care leavers from 59 to 52 (-12%).

The care leavers' individual geographical location was linked with the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010⁵ to identify the deprivation quintile rank of home location before last entry into care and after leaving care⁶. For the children where geographical information was available⁷, a higher proportion had been living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland before the last entry into care (41%) than after leaving care (35%). Further analysis showed that 45% of the care leavers were living in an area of same deprivation rank when leaving care as before last entry into care. Furthermore, one quarter (23%) had moved into an area ranked of higher deprivation whereas a slightly larger proportion (32%) had moved into areas ranked with less deprivation.

2.1.1. Age Profile

Of the care leavers in 2015/16, most had stayed in care until they reached the age of 18 years (82%). Some 18% left care at the age of 16 or 17 years. This was similar to 2014/15. At HSC Trust level, there was some variation in the age profile of the care leavers. The Northern and Southern HSC Trusts had a similar overall profile to that of Northern Ireland. In the Belfast and South Eastern HSC Trusts around a quarter of care leavers were aged

⁴ 2015 Mid Year Population Estimate (NISRA 2016)

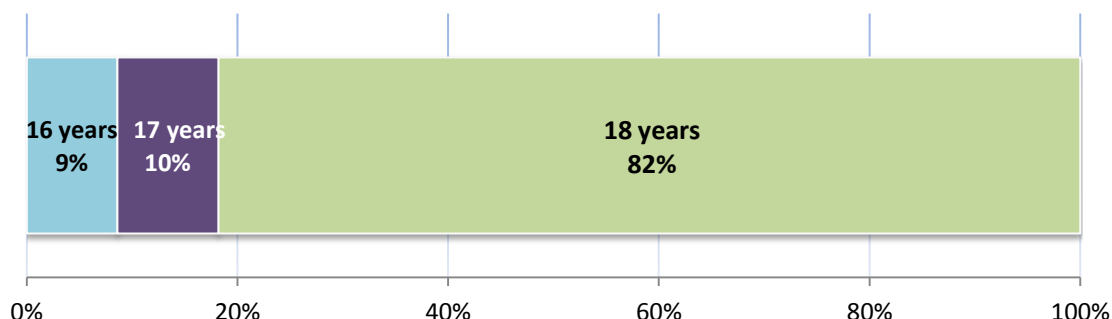
⁵ Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2010 (http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/nimdm_2010.htm)

⁶ These analyses were only carried out for care leavers with Northern Ireland geographical location.

⁷ Northern Ireland geographical information prior to entering care was available for 94% of the care leavers and information was available for 91% upon leaving care. Information was supplied for 88% of the care leavers for both prior to entering care and after leaving care.

16-17 years (23% and 28% respectively), while in the Western HSC Trust, almost all were aged 18 (94%).

Figure 3 Age of care leavers (2015/16)



2.1.2. Religion and Ethnicity

Information on religion and ethnicity of care leavers is collected for equality monitoring purposes. There were greater numbers of care leavers from a Protestant community background (46%) than Catholic (42%) in 2015/16, with 12% from 'Other' denominations, including those with no religion, or whose religion was unknown or not recorded. The proportion of Protestant care leavers was 3 percentage points lower in 2015/16 than in 2014/15 with a four percentage point increase in the proportion of care leavers of 'Other' denominations.

The vast majority of care leavers in 2015/16 had a White ethnic background (95%). This was similar to the figures recorded in 2014/15.

2.1.3. Disability

Having a disability can have an impact upon a person's life chances. People with disabilities can suffer from multiple disadvantage, being more likely to live in poverty, less likely to have educational qualifications and more likely to be economically inactive. Of the care leavers in 2015/16, 15% (48) were disabled. Of these, just under half (48%) had a learning disability, over a third (35%) were on the autistic spectrum and 15% had a mental health condition⁸.

There are no directly comparable disability figures for Northern Ireland. However, the 2011 Census reported that just over 6% of all young people of this age (16-18) in Northern Ireland had a long-term limiting illness⁹. Furthermore, 6% of 16-17 year olds received Disability Living Allowance in May 2016¹⁰. These comparisons continue to suggest that a disproportionate number of young care leavers are coping with disabilities.

⁸ Please note that some of the children had multiple disabilities. For example, a small number of the children with a learning disability were also included in the percentage of children with mental health disabilities.

⁹ <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/census/2011Census.html>

¹⁰ Department for Communities, May 2016 'Northern Ireland Benefits Statistics Summary', <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/benefits-statistics-summary-publication-national-statistic-may-2016>

2.1.4. *Special Educational Need*

Children have special educational needs if they have a difficulty which calls for specific educational provision to be made for them. Further definitional and background information on this is detailed in the 'Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs', which is available from the Department of Education for Northern Ireland¹¹.

One in five care leavers in 2015/16 (20%) had a statement of special educational need, six percentage points higher than the proportion in 2014/15 (14%). Although not directly comparable, 5% of the general school population in Northern Ireland¹² had a statement of Special Educational Needs. Furthermore, 4% of school leavers in Northern Ireland had a statement of Special Educational Needs (2014/15)¹³. As indicated in respect of proportion of young people with disabilities, the above comparison again suggest that a disproportionate number of young care leavers have specific educational needs compared with the general population.

¹¹ DENI, <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/special-educational-needs-code-practice>

¹² DENI Enrolments at Schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2015/16

¹³ Source: Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2014/15

2.2. WHAT WAS THEIR LAST PERIOD OF CARE?



turning **18**
was the main reason for
leaving care

2014						
JUNE						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

the last period in care was
less than 5 years
for three-fifths of the
care leavers



foster care
was the last placement for
half the care leavers

2.2.1. *Legal Status*

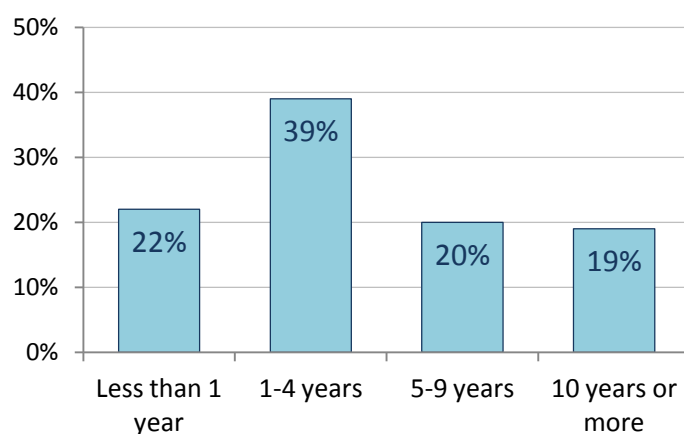
In regards to the legal status¹⁴ of the care leavers aged 16-18, the majority had been placed in care under a Care Order (56%), with two fifths (42%) Accommodated (Article 21). The remaining 2% of care leavers had other legal statuses including Interim Care Orders.

2.2.2. *Length of Most Recent Period in Care*

Every child's care history is unique and some children may experience more than one episode of care. For this publication, only information on the duration of the last period of care is collected.

Two fifths (39%) of the young care leavers had been looked after for between 1 to 4 years in their latest period of care, with a further fifth (19%) looked after for more than ten years. On average, a girl's last period of care was longer (4 years 9 months) than a boy's (4 years 6 months).

Figure 4 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Length of most recent period of care



¹⁴ Definitions of the different legal statuses are set out in Appendix B.

The last period of care for the largest proportion of care leavers in each HSC Trust area was 1-4 years. This ranged from 34% of care leavers in the Western HSC Trust to 43% in the Southern HSC Trust.

2.2.3. Last Placement

As in previous years, the majority of care leavers in 2015/16 had been in foster care prior to leaving care (52%); 21% in kinship foster care (placed with relatives or a person known to the child) and 31% in non-kinship foster care¹⁵. Furthermore, 13% had been in independent living arrangements, this was divided between those with formal support (11%) and those without (3%). Some 9% had been in 'other'¹⁶ placement types which included placements such as supported accommodation projects, bed & breakfast, hospital and friends.

Due to the small numbers involved, caution must be taken when analysing last placement type by gender. However, a greater proportion of the female care leavers aged 16-18 were in foster care compared with males (60% and 43% respectively).

Figure 5 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Last placement type (2015/16)

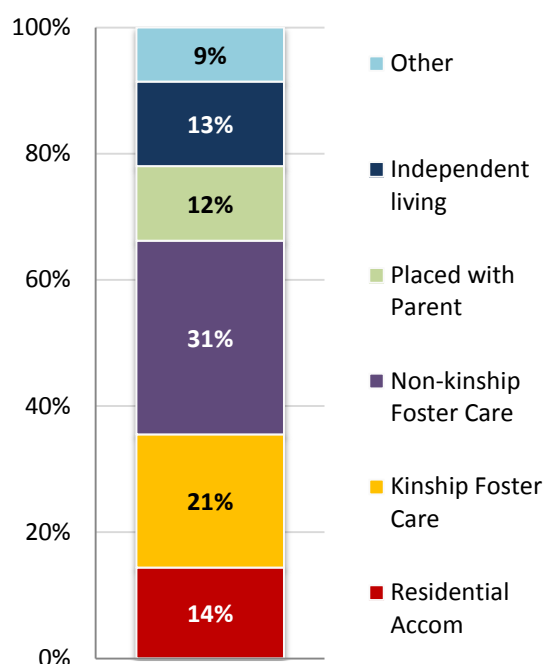
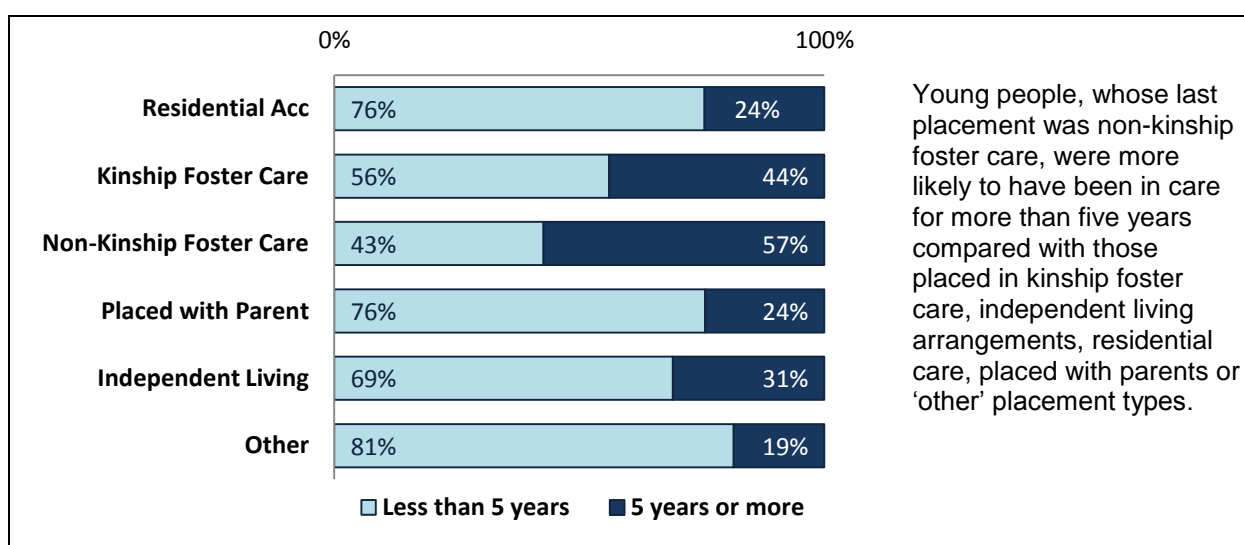


Figure 6 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Last placement by time in care (2015/16)



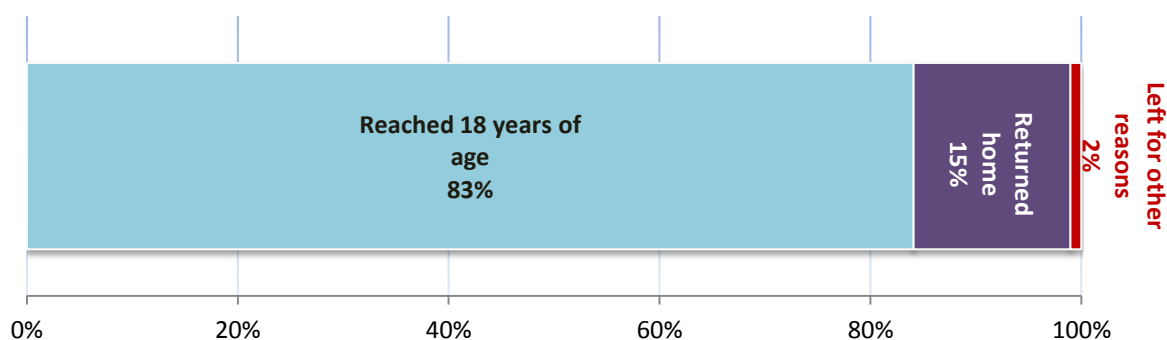
¹⁵ Please see appendix B for placement definitions.

¹⁶ Note: 'Independent Living' has in previous publications been included in the 'Other' placement category

2.2.4. Reasons for Leaving Care

Of the 313 care leavers aged 16-18 years in 2015/16, the majority (83%) left care because they had reached 18 years of age¹⁷, with a further 15% left to return home to live with their birth parents.

Figure 7 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Reason care ceased



Note: "Left for other reasons" includes "Moved into supported accommodation", "Transferred to adult social services" and "Other".

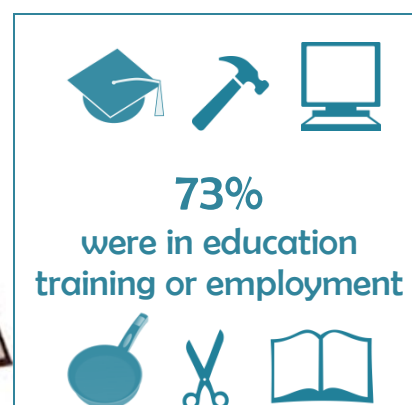
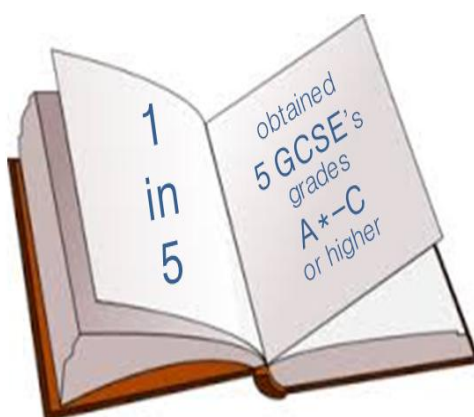
Note: "Reached 18 years of age" includes a small number of care leavers aged 17 whose 18th birthday was within one week of leaving care.

Those who left care to return to their birth parents were more likely to be aged 16 or 17 years. Furthermore, this age groups last period of care was typically shorter, with an average duration of around half a year. Those who left care due to reaching the age of 18 years had on average a last period of care lasting almost six years. This may indicate that those who leave care prior to turning 18 may be a cohort of children with different care needs to those who stay in care until they reach adulthood.

¹⁷ This includes a small number of care leavers aged 17 whose 18th birthday was within one week of leaving care.

2.3. HOW ARE THEY DOING NOW?

Two thirds
of the care leavers
(16-18) had **GCSE** or
other **qualification**



2.3.1. Current Accommodation

After having left care, a third (31%) of the care leavers aged 16-18 were still living with their former foster carers (kinship and non-kinship). A quarter (24%) were living with their parents, with a further fifth (17%) living independently. Some 15% of care leavers were living in supported accommodation and the remaining 13% of care leavers were divided between residential accommodation, living with friends, custody and other accommodation.

2.3.2. Personal Education Plans

A Personal Education Plan (PEP) should be completed for every looked after child. It is a continuous running record of a child's educational history, identifying actions needed to enable the individual to fulfil his or her potential by establishing targets for the child relating to learning achievements. A third (34%) of care leavers aged 16-18 in 2015/16 had a completed Personal Education Plan. Of those with a PEP, 34% had a review of their education plan during the previous 12 months.

1 in 3
care leavers
aged 16-18
had a Personal
Educational Plan

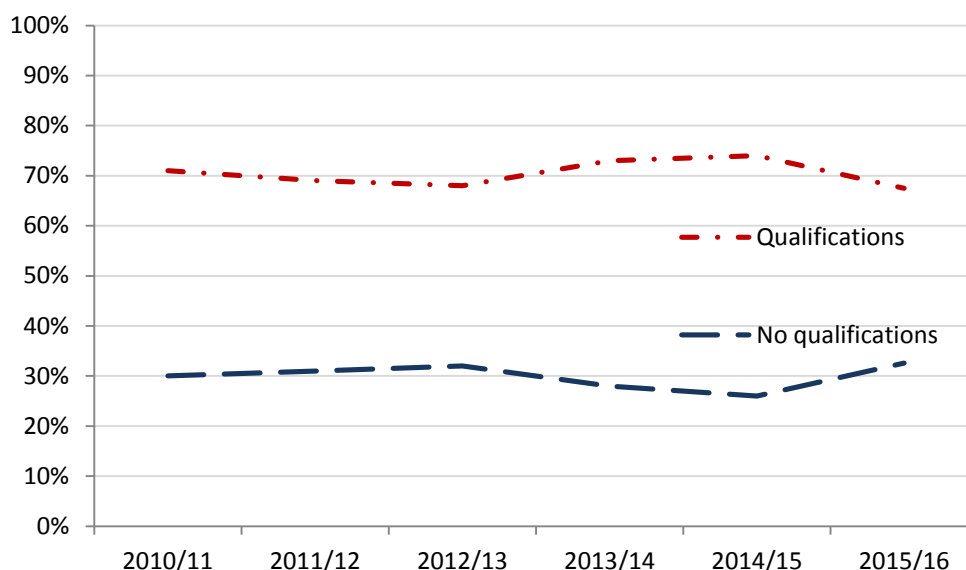
2.3.3. Educational Attainment

Educational attainment can be an important predictor of success in later life. Looked after children have often suffered many disadvantages in their lives and many of them have low educational achievements which may impact on their future lives and chances for employment.

In 2015/16, 67% of the care leavers aged 16-18 achieved GCSEs or other qualifications whereas 33% had no qualifications¹⁸. The Figure below sets out the yearly trend of young people with and without educational qualifications at the time of leaving care.

¹⁸ Figures exclude 3 care leaver with severe learning difficulties.

Figure 8 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Care leavers’ educational qualifications (2010/11 - 2015/16)

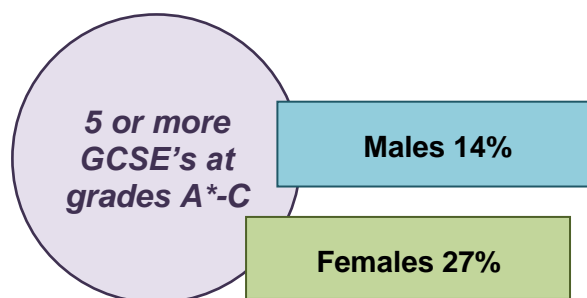


Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

As the characteristics of the cohort of care leavers can vary year on year, the outcomes may also vary. The proportion of young people leaving care with qualifications in 2015/16 was slightly lower than in 2014/15 (67% compared with 74%). This was accompanied by an increase in the proportion of those with no qualifications (33% compared to 26%)¹⁹.

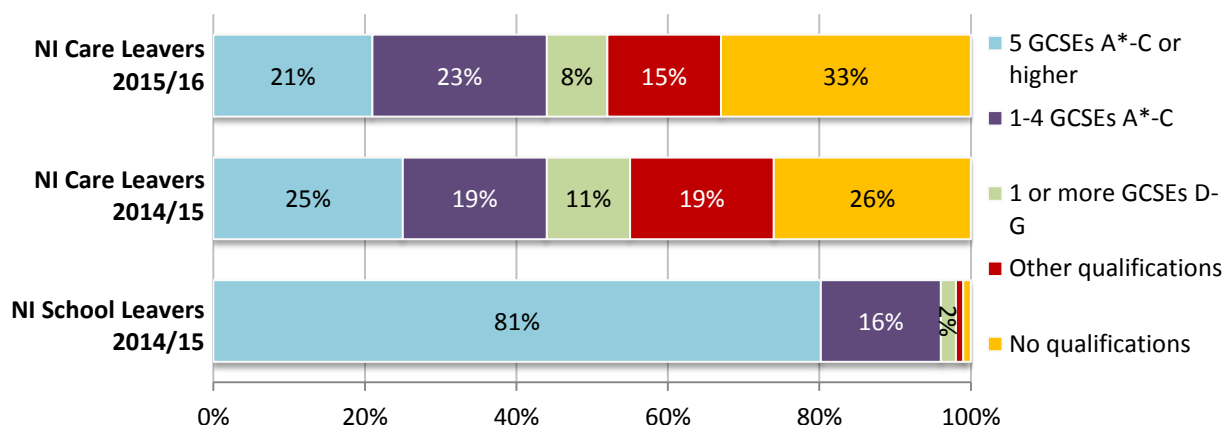
Of those with qualifications, one fifth (21%) achieved 5 GCSEs A*-C or above. A further 23% achieved 1-4 GCSEs A*-C and 8% 1 or more GCSEs D-G. Fifteen percent had other qualifications.

As in 2014/15, a higher proportion of females (27%) than males (14%) obtained 5 GCSE’s grades A*-C or higher. Of all male care leavers, some two fifths (39%) left care with no qualifications compared to just over a quarter (27%) of females (see Tables in Appendix C for details).



¹⁹ See Figure 10 for details of reasons for having no qualifications

Figure 9 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Highest qualification of care leavers & Northern Ireland school leavers²⁰



Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

Although the groups are not directly comparable, the above Figure details educational qualifications obtained by care leavers in 2015/16, compared with Northern Ireland school leavers as a whole (latest figures relate to 2014/15²¹). Care leavers for 2014/15 have also been included for comparison.

The figure shows that there are important differences in educational attainment between care leavers and school leavers generally. For example, 21% of care leavers left care with 5 GCSE's (grades A*-C) or higher, compared with four fifths (81%) of general school leavers. A third of all care leavers (33%) left care with no qualifications, compared with 1% of general school leavers. In this context it is worth noting the before mentioned higher proportion of care leavers with special educational needs (20% compared with 5% of the general school population). It is expected that this would influence and inflate the difference in the level of qualifications between the two groups, although it would only to some degree explain the attainment gap.

²⁰ Excludes 3 care leaver with severe learning difficulties

²¹ Annual enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2015/16, DENI.

Figure 10 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Reasons for having no qualifications (2015/16)



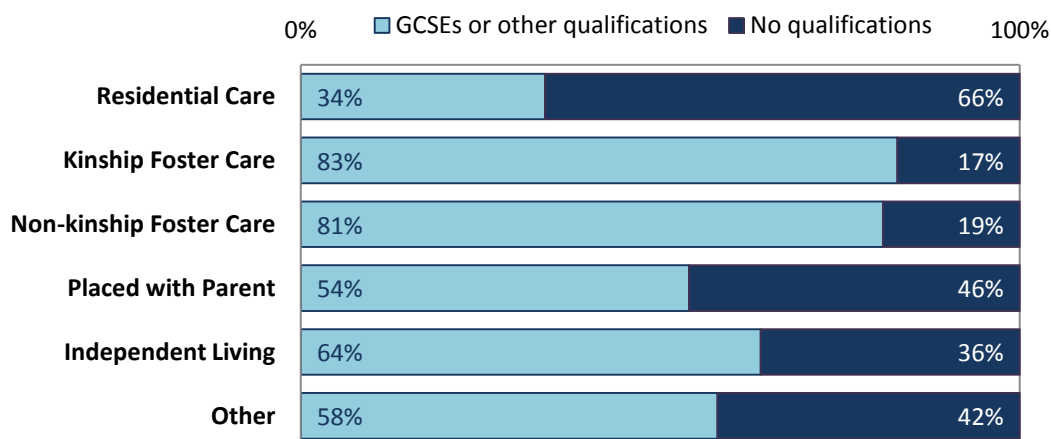
Of the 101 care leavers aged 16-18 with no qualifications, 70 did not sit any examinations, even though they had reached an appropriate age to do so; 14 sat examinations but did not obtain any qualifications, and 10 were too young to take examinations.

The following analyses compare those care leavers aged 16–18 with GCSE’s or other qualifications (209, 67%) and those with no qualifications (101, 33%).

Educational achievement was similar for care leavers from Catholic and Protestant community backgrounds, with 68% of Protestants and Catholics, respectively, leaving care with GCSEs or other qualifications.

In general, a higher proportion of young people whose placement prior to leaving care had been foster care achieved qualifications than care leavers in all other placement types, irrespective if the foster care placement was kinship or non-kinship. Some 82% of care leavers previously in foster care placements achieved GCSEs or other qualifications, compared with between 34% and 64% in any other placement type. A third (34%) of those in residential care had no qualifications when leaving care.

Figure 11 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Qualifications achieved by latest placement type (2015/16)

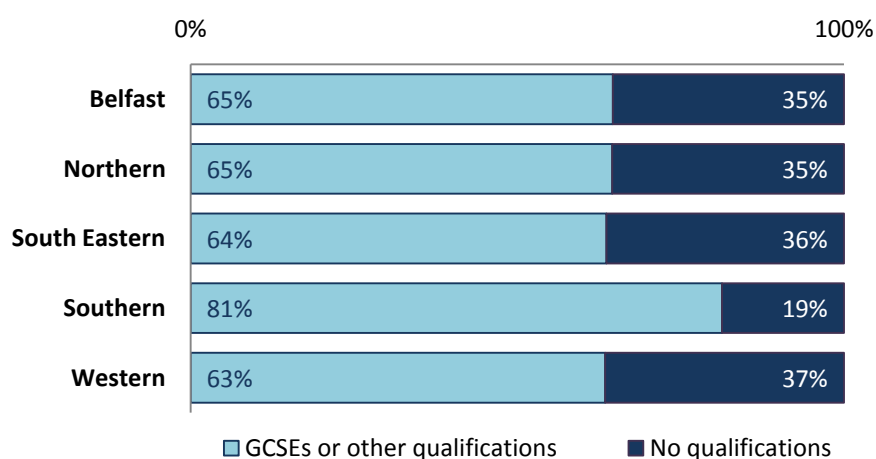


Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

Length of time of the last period of care also appeared to be important in terms of educational attainment. Children in care for ten years or more tended to do better academically than those in care for less than ten years; over four fifths (85%) of care leavers in care for 10 years or more had obtained GCSE's or Other Qualifications, compared with almost two thirds (63%) of those in care for less than 10 years. However, this difference may also be related to different placement types experienced by these two groups of care leavers.

Around two thirds of care leavers in the Belfast, Northern, South Eastern and Western HSC Trusts gained at least one GCSE or other qualification in 2015/16. Care leavers from the Southern HSC Trust performed better academically, with four fifths leaving care with educational qualifications. Please note that due to the small numbers involved these figures may be subject to high volatility.

Figure 12 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Qualification achieved by HSC Trust (2015/16)



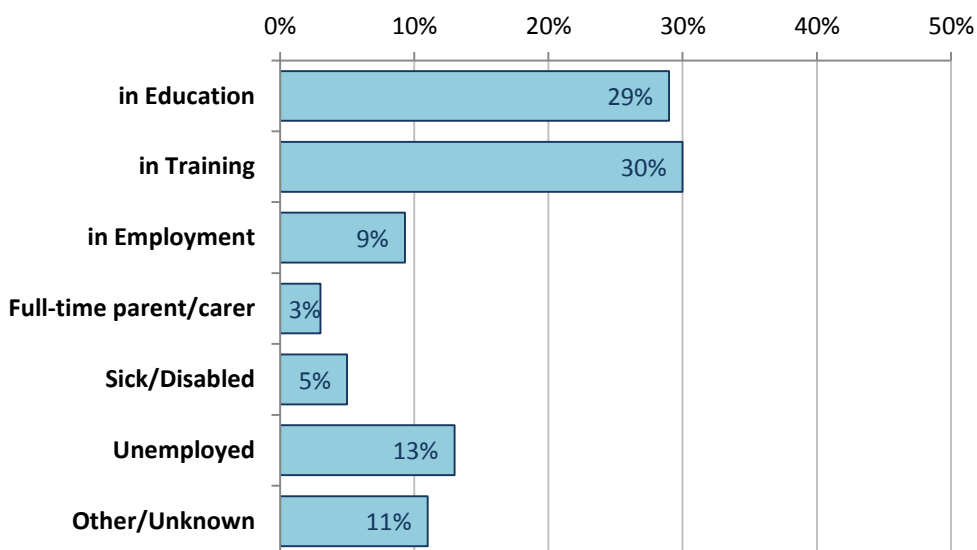
Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

2.3.4. Economic Activity

Figure 13 below details economic activity for care leavers aged 16-18 for 2015/16. Most of the young people were in training or education at the time of leaving care (30% and 29% respectively). Some five percent were economically inactive due to sickness or disability and a further three percent were economically inactive due to caring responsibilities. Most of the 13% who were unemployed when leaving care, were either actively seeking employment or were lacking motivation to engage in education, training or employment.

Economic activity amongst care leavers compared less favourably with that for young people of similar age; for example, 19% of young people in the general population aged 16-18 years were employed, compared with 10% of young care leavers²².

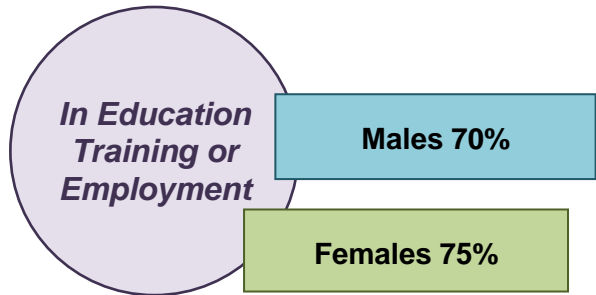
Figure 13 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity (2015/16)



²² Information provided by DETI from the Labour Force Survey April-June 2016. Reliable estimates were not available on numbers unemployed.

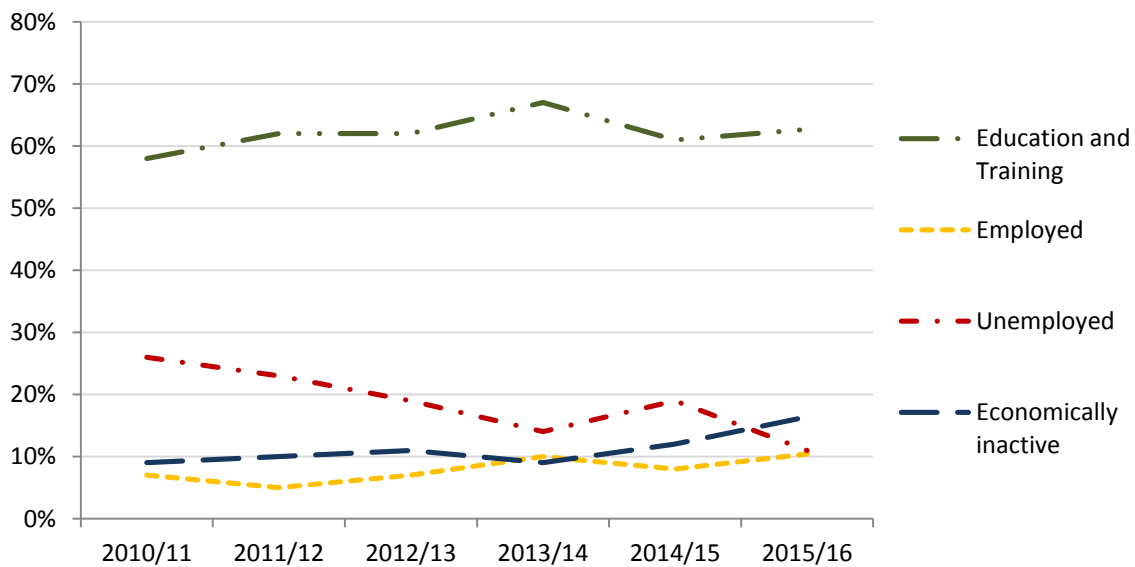
The findings of this section relate only to those for whom economic activity was reported²³

Of the 299 care leavers in 2015/16, whose economic activity was reported, 73% were in education, training or employment. Males leaving care were more likely than females to be unemployed or economically inactive. This was combined with a higher proportion of females in education, training or employment.



In 2015/16, two thirds of the care leavers were in education or training (63%), 11% were unemployed, 10% were in employment, and 16% were economically inactive through caring responsibilities or sickness/disabilities. This has been the general trend the last years, however, as can be seen in the Figure below, the proportion of young care leavers who were unemployed has reduced somewhat since 2010/11 whilst there has been an increase in the proportion of economically inactive care leavers the last couple of years.

Figure 14 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity on leaving care (2015/16)



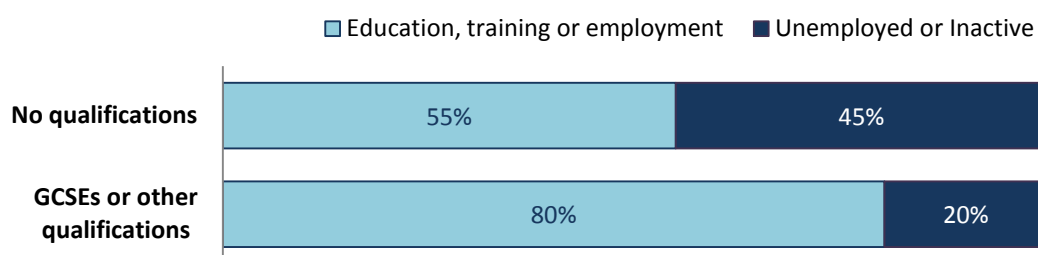
Note: Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

There was a continuing decrease in the proportion of care leavers from Catholic community background in education or training, from 66% in 2014/15 to 60% in 2015/16. There was a reversal of the slow decrease previously observed amongst those from a Protestant community background, as the proportion of those in education or training rose from 56% to 63%.

²³ Economic activity was not known for 14 of the care leavers aged 16 – 18 in 2015/16 (4%)

Having qualifications correlated highly with economic activity as 80% of those with GCSEs or other qualifications were in education, training or employment compared with 55% of those without qualifications. Furthermore, care leavers with no qualifications were more than twice as likely as care leavers with qualifications to be unemployed or economically inactive.

Figure 15 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity and educational achievement

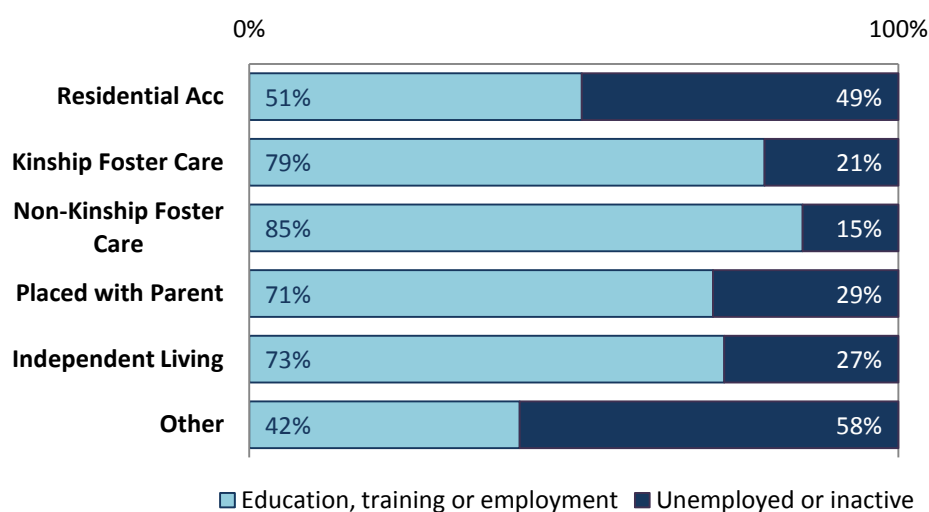


Note: Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

Young care leavers whose last placement was foster care (both kinship and non-kinship) fared better in terms of economic activity on leaving care, with 79% and 85% respectively, in education, training or employment.

Those who had been placed in residential accommodation fared less well, with a relatively high proportion unemployed or economically inactive (49%). Almost three fifths (58%) of those whose last placement was “other” placement types were unemployed or economically inactive. “Other” placement types include placements like supported accommodation projects, bed & breakfast, hospital and friends.

Figure 16 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity by latest placement type (2015/16)

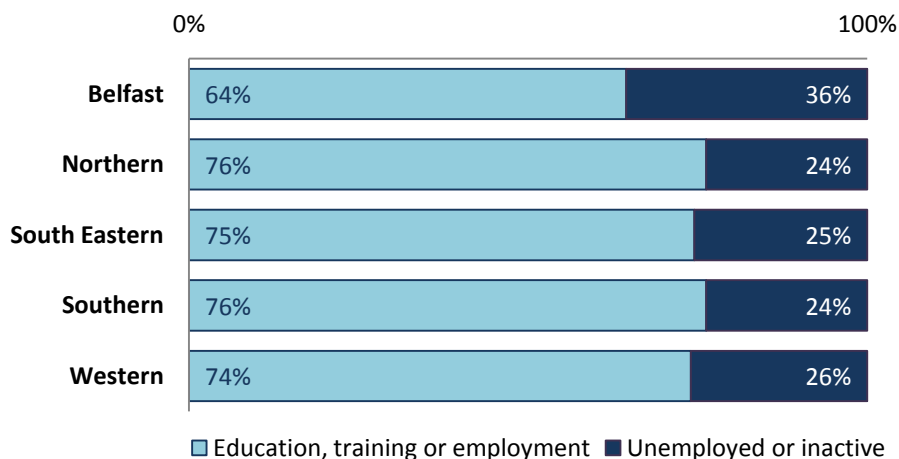


Note: Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

Those in care for less than 10 years were more likely than those in care for more than ten years to be unemployed or economically inactive (29% compared to 22%). Those in care for more than ten years were more likely to be in education or employment.

Around three quarters of care leavers in the Northern, Southern, South Eastern and Western HSC Trusts were in education, training or employment. In the Belfast HSC Trust the equivalent figure was 64%.

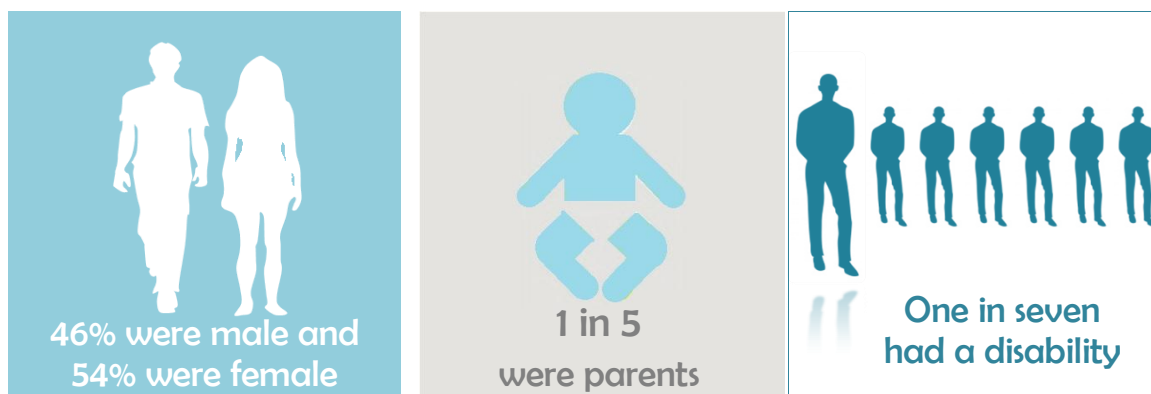
Figure 17 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity by HSC Trust (2015/16)



Note: Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

3. Care Leavers Aged 19

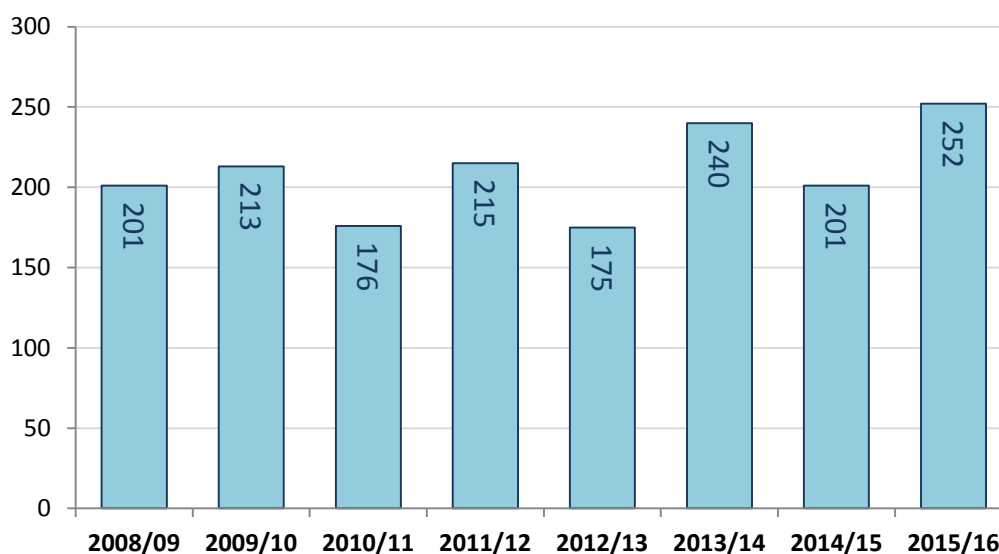
3.1. WHO ARE THE CARE LEAVERS AGED 19?



During the year ending 31 March 2016, there were 252 young people in Northern Ireland, who had been in care on 1 April 2013, and who reached their 19th birthday during the year ending 31 March 2016. This was an increase of 25% on the previous year.

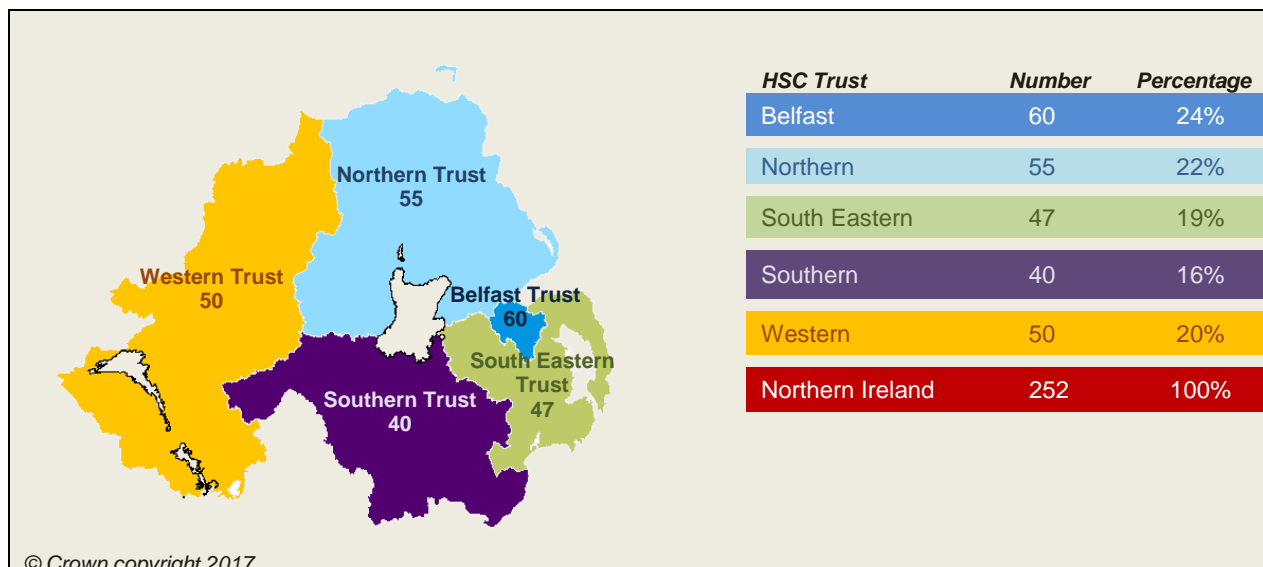
Of the 252 care leavers aged 19, 115 (46%) were male and 137 (54%) were female. This gender split differed from that in the general population of that age group in Northern Ireland, where 51% were males and 49% females²⁴.

Figure 18 Number of care leavers aged 19 in Northern Ireland (2008/09 – 2015/16)



²⁴ 2015 Mid Year Population Estimate (NISRA 2016)

Figure 19 Number of care leavers aged 19 by HSC Trust (2015/16)



The highest proportion of care leavers aged 19 were in the Belfast Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust (24%) compared to 16% in the Southern HSC Trust.

The care leavers' geographical location was linked with the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010²⁵ to identify the deprivation quintile rank of home location before last entry into care and after leaving care²⁶. For the children where geographical information was available²⁷, a slightly higher proportion had been living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland before the last entry into care (45%) than after leaving care (41%). Further analysis showed that almost half the care leavers (48%) were living in an area of same deprivation rank when leaving care as before last entry into care. Furthermore, a fifth (21%) had moved into an area ranked of higher deprivation whereas a third (31%) had moved into areas ranked with less deprivation.

3.1.1. Religion and Ethnicity

Information on religion and ethnicity of care leavers is collected for equality monitoring purposes. In terms of religion, there was an even split between the proportion of care leavers at 19 that had a Catholic community background (44%) and those from a Protestant community background (46%). Some 10% were of 'Unknown', 'None' or 'Other' religious backgrounds, which was a higher proportion than in the previous year.

Almost all (95%) of the care leavers aged 19 had a white ethnic background.

²⁵Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2010 (http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/nimdm_2010.htm)

²⁶ These analyses were only carried out for care leavers residing in Northern Ireland.

²⁷ Northern Ireland geographical information prior to entering care was available for 97% of the care leavers and information was available for 90% upon leaving care. Information was supplied for 88% of the care leavers for both prior to entering care and after leaving care.

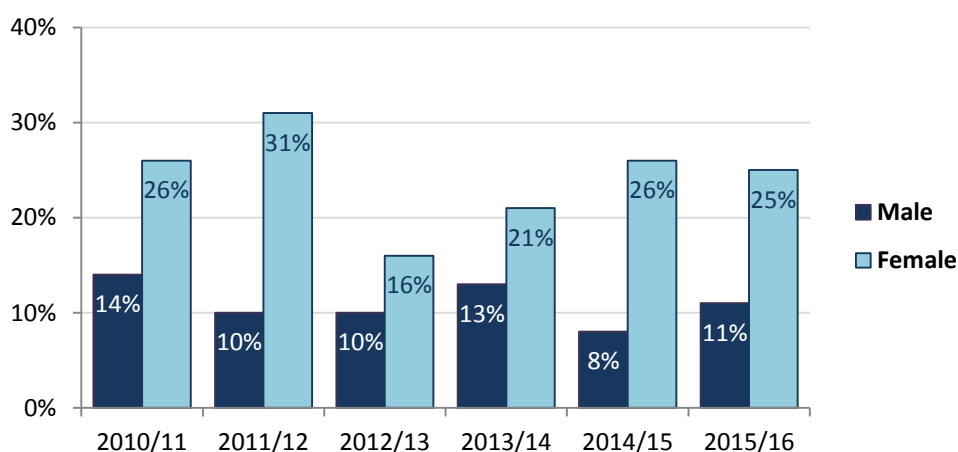
3.1.2. Disability

One in seven (14%) of the care leavers aged 19 had a disability (36 care leavers). Of the care leavers with a disability, almost three fifths had a learning disability²⁸ (58%). Although not directly comparable, figures from the 2011 Census indicated that 7% of 18-19 year olds in Northern Ireland had a disability²⁹. This suggests that a disproportionate number of care leavers have a disability.

3.1.3. Dependants

Findings from the 2015/16 OC3 survey indicated that 19% of care leavers aged 19 were parents, 34 young women and 13 young men. The proportion of care leavers with dependent children can fluctuate extensively year on year. This can be seen in the Figure below which sets out the proportion of care leavers who had dependants by gender.

Figure 20 Care leavers aged 19 with dependants by gender (2010/11 – 2015/16)



One in four (25%) of female care leavers aged 19 in 2015/16 became mothers on or before their 19th birthday. During 2015, 3% of all births in the general population in Northern Ireland were to teenage mothers and furthermore, 3% of the 19 year old female population became mothers the same year³⁰. Although these figures are not directly comparable, it does indicate a higher prevalence of teenage mothers in the cohort of care leavers.

²⁸ Please note that the care leavers may have had multiple disabilities with other disabilities alongside learning disability.

²⁹ Census 2011 – 18 to 19 year olds with long term health problem limiting day to day activities

³⁰ Source: Births in Northern Ireland (2015), Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency 2016.

3.2. WHAT WAS THEIR LAST PERIOD IN CARE?



3.2.1. Age when leaving care

The majority of care leavers aged 19 left care on reaching 18 years of age (88%)³¹ with 12% leaving at 16 or 17 years. This is similar to previous years.

3.2.2. Legal Status

The former legal status³² of care leavers aged 19 showed that almost three quarters (72%) had been looked after under a Care Order, with 25% voluntarily accommodated (Article 21) and a further 6% of young people were in care under 'Other'^{33,34} arrangements.

In terms of the length of time spent in the last period of care, 52% of those who had been looked after for less than 5 years had been looked after under a Care Order, in comparison, 98% of those looked after for 10 years or more had been looked after under a Care Order.

3.2.3. Last period in care

Prior to leaving care, the average length of time in care was 5 years and 8 months; seven months shorter than in 2014/15 (6 years and 3 months). The average last period in care was slightly longer for males compared with females (5 years 9 months and 5 years and 7 months respectively). For over half of the care leavers, the duration of the last period in care was less than five years whereas for a quarter of the care leavers it lasted for ten years or longer.

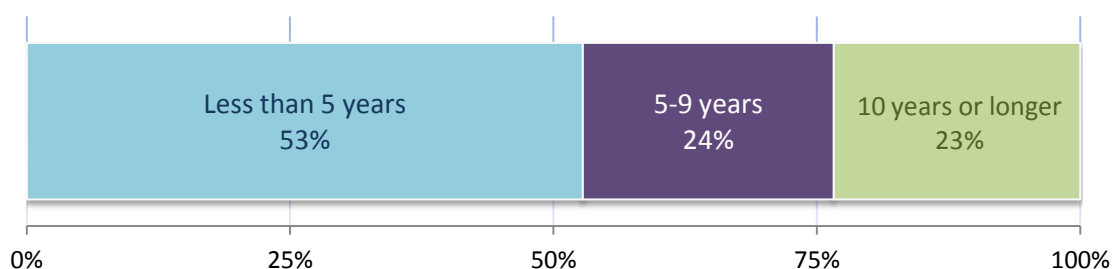
³¹ This figure includes three care leavers aged 19 when leaving care.

³² Description of legal statuses is included in the appendix.

³³ Figures include one young person with no recorded legal status

³⁴ This includes Deemed Care Orders and Interim Care Orders

Figure 21 Care leavers aged 19 – Length of latest period of care (2015/16)

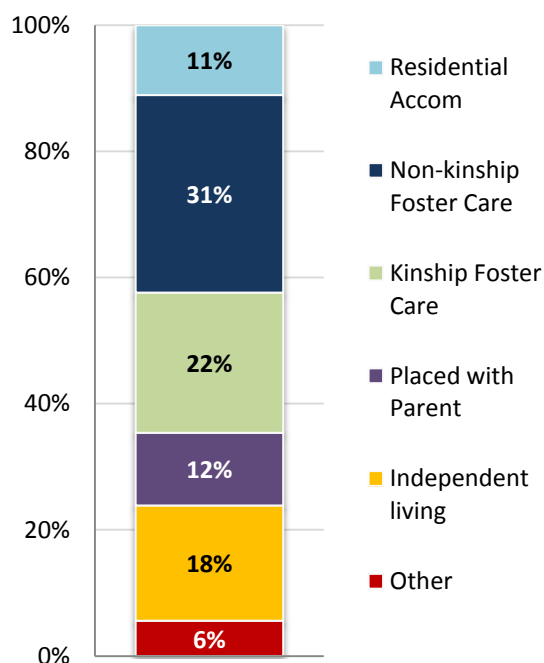


Appendix B sets out definitions of the different types of placements of care that are covered below. Before leaving care, over half (53%) of care leavers aged 19 had been in foster care (31% non-kinship and 22% kinship foster placements), with 12% placed with parents, 11% in residential care, 18% had been living independently³⁵ and 6% had been in Other³⁶ placement types.

Foster care (in particular non-kinship foster care) had been the most common placement for both males and females prior to leaving care. A larger proportion of males were in independent accommodation as their latest placement compared with females (21% and 16% respectively).

Non-kinship foster care was the most common placement for care leavers prior to leaving care for those looked after for five years or longer. The most common placement for those young people looked after for less than five years was independent living³⁷.

Figure 22 Care leavers aged 19 – Latest placement prior to leaving care (2015/16)

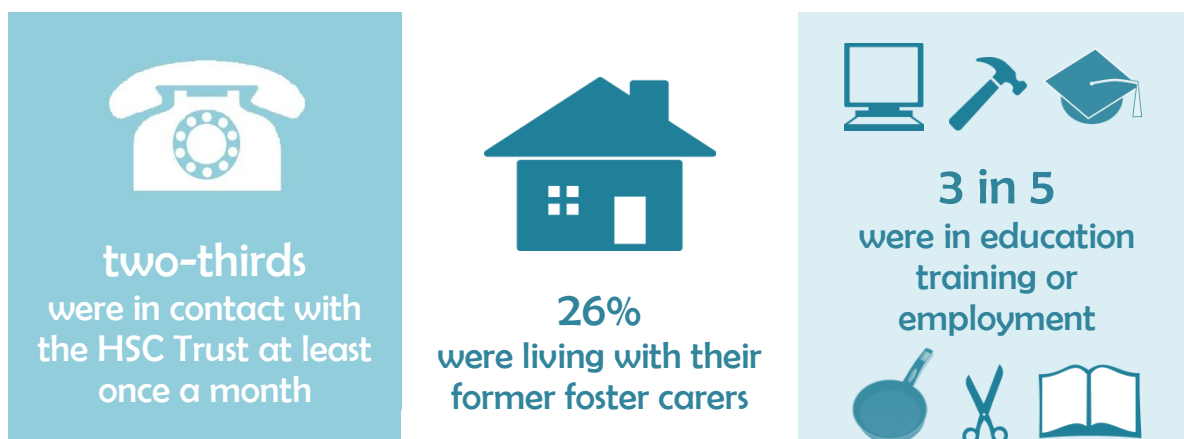


³⁵ Independent Living includes living with and without formal support.

³⁶ Other placement types include; supported accommodation, hospital and living with relatives.

³⁷ See Tables for further details

3.3. HOW ARE THEY DOING NOW?

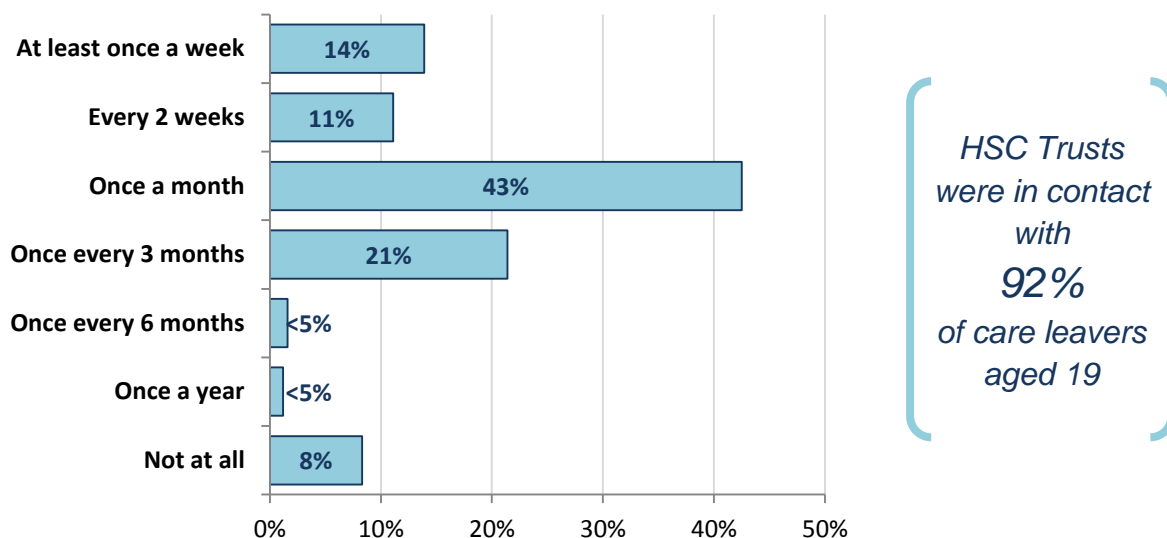


3.3.1. Contact with Social Services

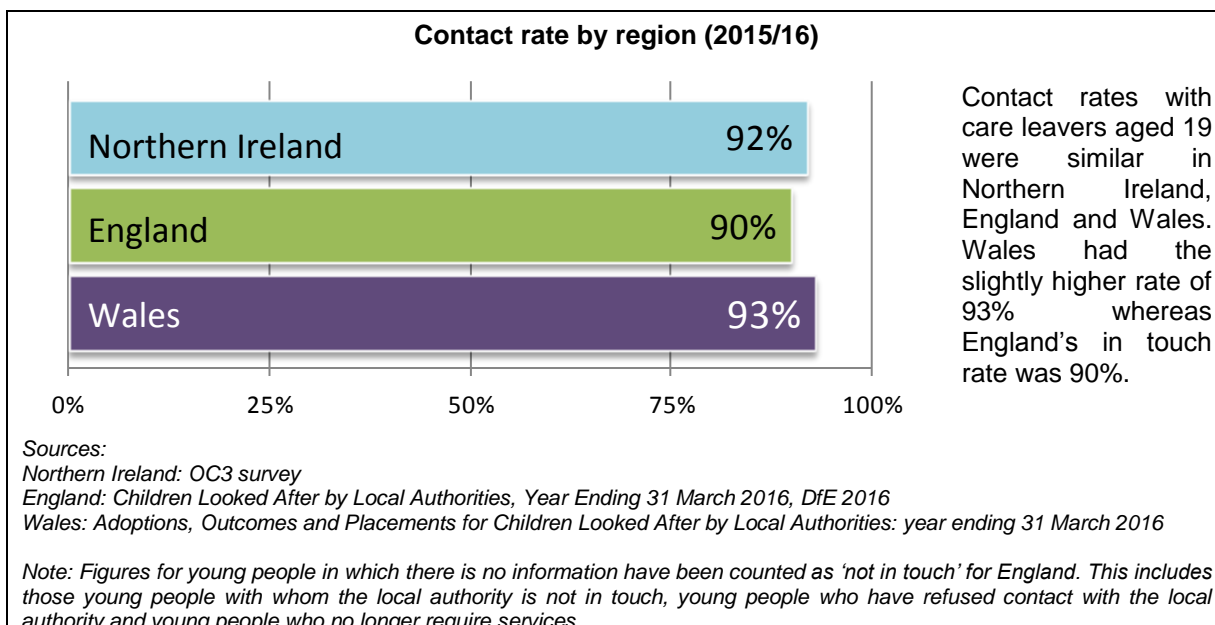
The 'Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002' requires HSC Trusts to take reasonable steps to maintain contact with care leavers. For 2015/16, HSC Trusts reported contacts with 231 (92%) of the 252 care leavers aged 19. This was an increase of 20 percentage points since 2003/04³⁸ when the contact rate was 72%, however a decrease of three percentage points from 2014/15. In 2015/16 Social Services were in contact with 67% of the care leavers at least once a month.

In regards to the last placement of the care leavers, contact rates ranged between 97% for those previously placed in non-kinship foster care to 71% for those who had been in Other placements.

Figure 23 Care Leavers aged 19 – Contact Rates by Frequency of Contact (2015/16)



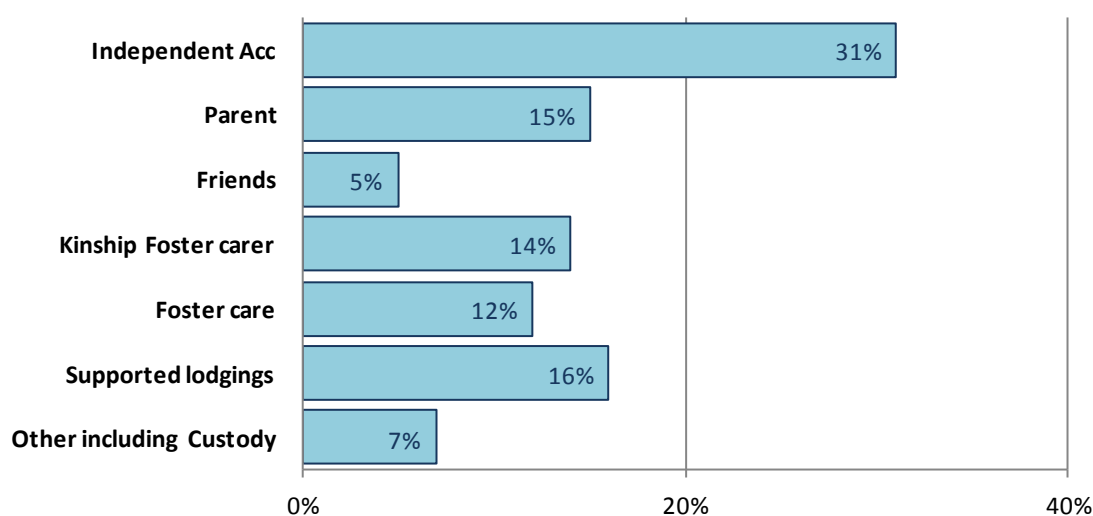
³⁸ Former Care Leavers in Northern Ireland 2003/04, DHSSPS 2006



3.3.2. Accommodation

Care leaver's were living in a variety of types of accommodation on their 19th birthday. Almost a third were living in independent accommodation (31%), with a quarter living with their former foster cares (14% with kinship foster carers and 12% with non-kinship foster carers). Just under a fifth (15%) were living with their parents and 16% were in supported lodgings³⁹.

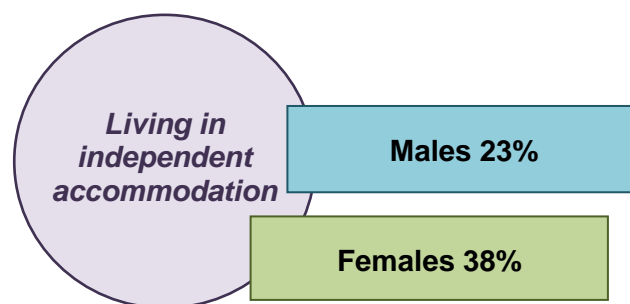
Figure 24 Care leavers aged 19 – Type of accommodation



Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

³⁹ Figures relate to those care leavers in contact with their HSC Trust.

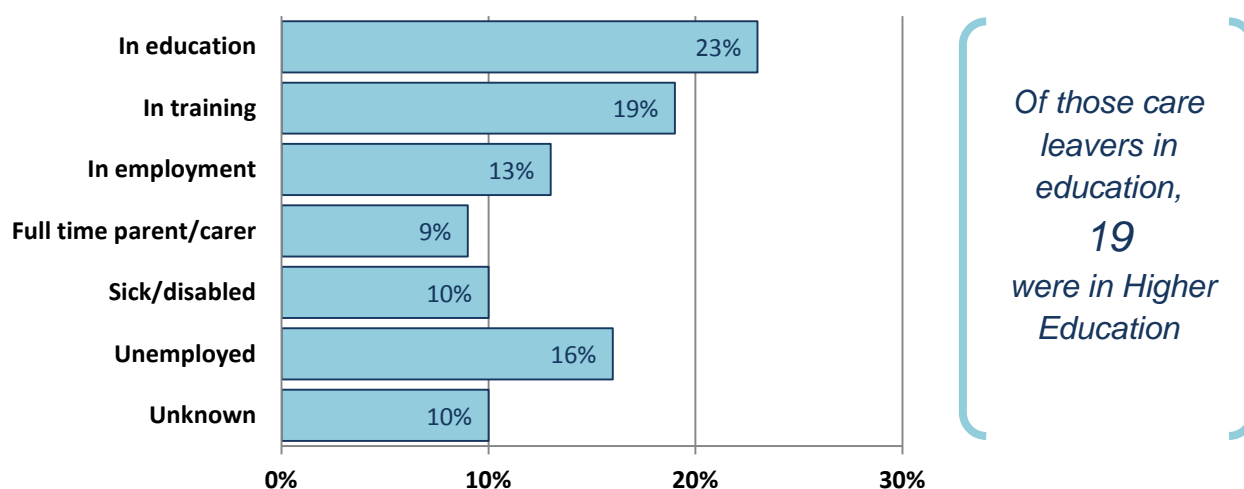
Young men and young women differed in the types of accommodation in which they were most likely to be living: a higher proportion (38%) of young women than young men (23%) were living in independent accommodation. In contrast, 22% of young men were living in supported lodgings, compared with 11% of young women.



3.3.3. Economic Activity

Of all care leavers aged 19 in 2015/16, a quarter were in education (23%) with a fifth attending training (19%). Some 16% were unemployed, and 48 care leavers were economically inactive due to either being a full time carer or due to illness/disability. The economic activity was not known for 10% of the care leavers.

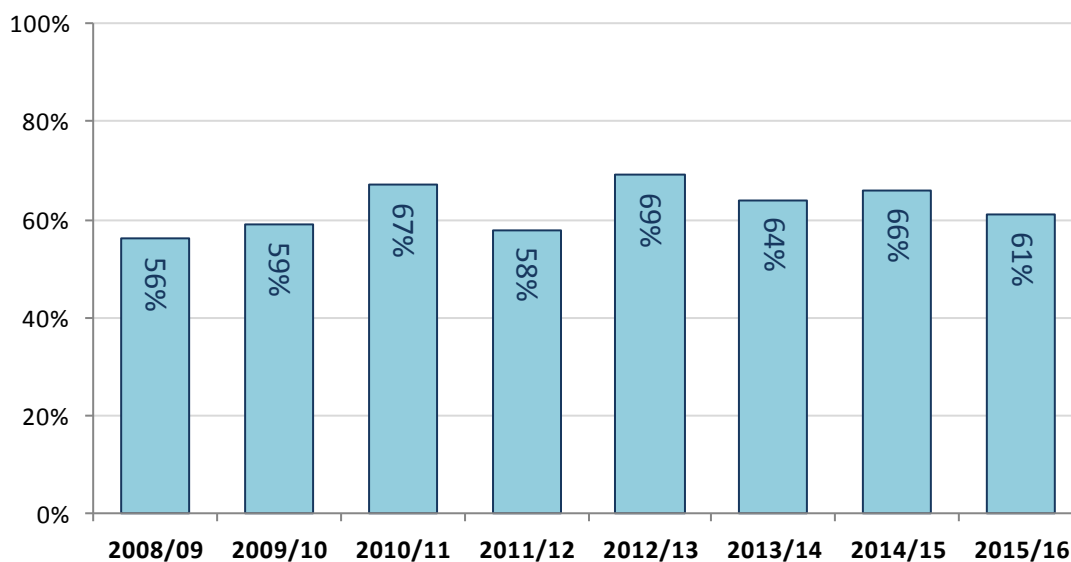
Figure 25 Care leavers aged 19 – Proportion of care leavers by current activity⁴⁰



⁴⁰ Higher education is defined as studies beyond A Level, leading to a degree or higher qualification. This includes diplomas in higher education, teaching and nursing qualifications, HNDs, ONDs and BTEC. This includes full-time and part-time study if it is considered the main activity

All information below, referring to the economic activity of care leavers aged 19, relates to care leavers who had been in contact with social services during the 12 months up to 31 March 2016, and whose economic activity was known.

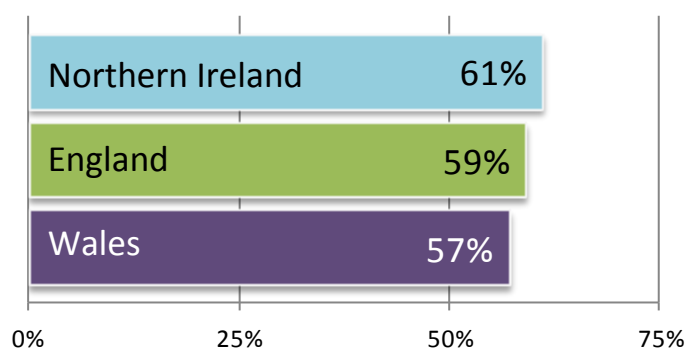
Figure 26 Care leavers aged 19 – Proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment (2008/09 – 2015/16)



Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

In 2015/16, 61% of all care leavers in contact with HSC Trusts, and whose economic activity was known, were in education, training or employment. This was a decrease from 2014/15 (66%). Just under two fifths (39%) were unemployed or economically inactive.

Proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment by region (2015/16)



The proportion of 19 year old care leavers in touch with local authorities who were in education, training or employment in Northern Ireland was slightly higher than in England (59%) and in Wales (57%).

Sources:

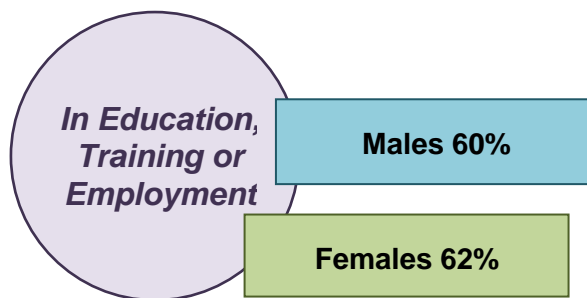
Northern Ireland: OC3 survey 2015/16

England: Children Looked After by Local Authorities, Year Ending 31 March 2016, DfE 2016

Wales: Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After by Local Authorities: year ending 31 March 2016

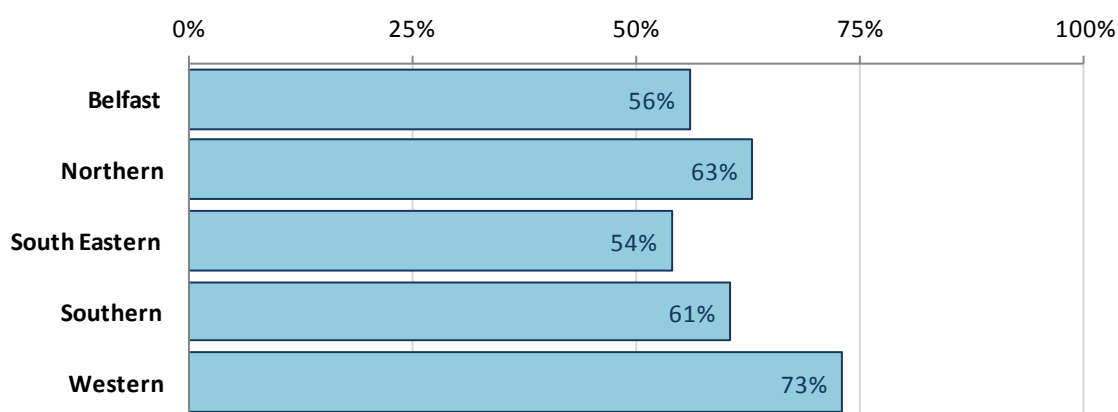
Note: Care leavers aged 19 who were in contact with HSC Trusts/Local Authorities.

Unlike the previous years, a smaller proportion of male (60%) than female (62%) care leavers aged 19 were in education, training or employment (see tables in appendix for details).



Almost three quarters of care leavers in the Western HSC Trust were in education, training or employment compared to 54% in the South Eastern HSC Trust. There were decreases in the proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment in the Belfast and Southern HSC Trusts from the previous year (see Tables for details).

Figure 27 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by HSC Trust

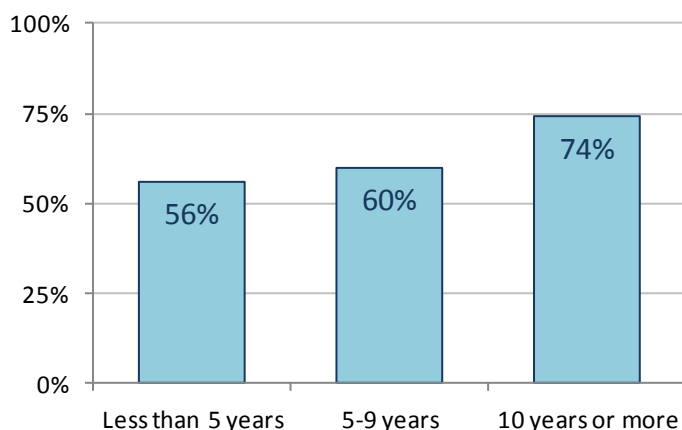


Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

A third (33%) of the care leavers aged 19 who had dependent children, were in education, training or employment; 6 percentage points more than in 2014/15 (27%). It is however worth noting that due to small numbers of care leavers with dependants, the figures may be subject to high year on year volatility.

In 2015/16, those with a disability were more likely to be in education, training or employment than those without a disability (79% and 59% respectively). This may reflect that support can be in place that will affect the relationship between economic activity and disability. It must also be considered that each relatively small cohort of young people who have passed through this study is different. There may be more people with severe learning disabilities in one year compared with the next or greater/lesser numbers of able bodied care leavers who will not engage in education. These factors will all impact upon the outcomes.

Figure 28 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by length of time in care (2015/16)

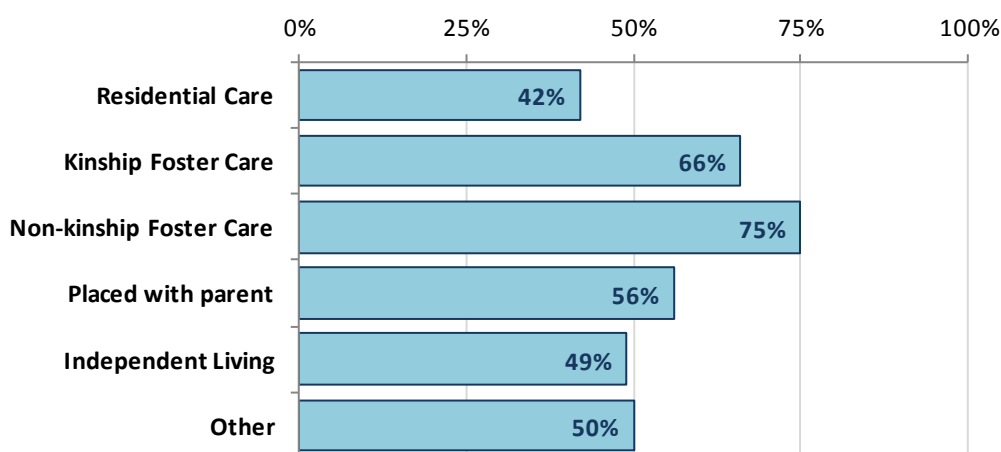


Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

As highlighted previously, time in care and placement type seem to be linked. In relation to this, education, training and employment rates were higher for those in care for longer and for those whose last placement was foster care.

Three quarters (74%) of those who had been looked after for more than 10 years were in education, training or employment, compared with 56% for those in care for less than 5 years. This trend is similar to previous years.

Figure 29 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by latest placement (2015/16)



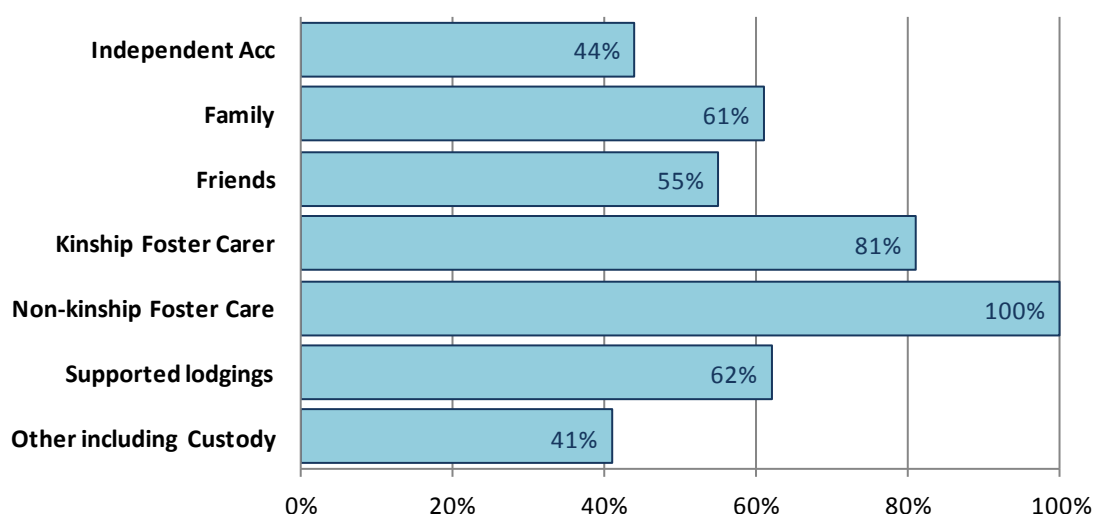
Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

Around 7 in 10 of those whose final placement had been in foster care were in education, training or employment (74% in non-kinship and 66% in kinship care), compared with between 42% and 56% in all other placement types. Due to small numbers of care leavers in each placement group, trend figures have been somewhat variable; however those with foster care as last placement have consistently shown better outcomes. Although each person’s journey through the care system is unique, it appears that longer time in care may

be linked to placement stability which again may impact on the life outcomes such as economic activity.

The care leavers current accommodation at age 19 also seems to be liked to economic activity. All (100%) of the 19 year olds who were living with their former non-kinship foster carers were in education, training or employment. This was considerably higher than all other accommodation types.

Figure 30 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by current accommodation (2015/16)



Note: Excludes care leavers who were not in contact with their HSC Trust.

NEET

The term NEET refers to young people not in education, employment or training. The term was first used in the 1990s and is now in common usage.

Calculating NEET depends on the information sources available. As such, there may be some difference, for example, between NEET figures for Northern Ireland in general and that of care leavers in this survey. In this survey, care leavers who are NEET refers to those who were not in part- or full time education, training^A or employment. Those care leavers whose activity was not known were excluded from the calculations.

In general, care leavers defined as NEET were either economically inactive, due to illness/disability or full time caring responsibilities, or they were unemployed.

^A Includes a small number of non-Government supported training programmes.

*In 2015/16,
39%
of care leavers
aged 19
were NEET.*

Appendix A Technical Notes

Care Leaver Statistics for Northern Ireland

Statistics on care leavers have previously been published in two separate publications; “Care leavers Aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland” and “Care Leavers Aged 19 in Northern Ireland”. Due to the similarities of topic and to allow for better use of resources producing the publications, these two publications were merged to the bulletin “Northern Ireland Care Leavers”. This is the third publication of “Northern Ireland Care Leavers”. Historic publications on care leavers in Northern Ireland can be downloaded from the Department of Health’s (DoH) website:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research>

OC1 and OC3 Surveys

The information presented in this bulletin derives from the ninth ‘OC1’ survey of care leavers aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland and the eighth OC3 survey of care leavers at the age of 19. These survey returns were provided by each of the five Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts in Northern Ireland to Community Information Branch (CIB) in the DoH.

OC1 and OC3, together with its companion survey OC2 (children in care for 12 months or longer at 30 September), provide a comprehensive series of data on looked after children in Northern Ireland. It is a stated aim of DoH to improve outcomes for children in care, by improving the quality and stability of placements and improving educational opportunities for young people as they make the transition to adulthood. These publications help to measure the Department’s progress in meeting these stated aims.

The OC1 survey, introduced in 2002, reports the circumstances of young people at 31 March aged 16-18 who had left care during the previous financial year. It collects a range of information, including educational achievement, economic activity, disability, duration in care and placement prior to leaving care.

The OC3 survey, introduced in 2004, reports the circumstances of care leavers at the time of their 19th birthday. It collects information on frequency of contacts with social services, economic activity and accommodation.

To help put some figures within their wider social context, comparative information with, for example, the general school population and looked after children in other countries in the United Kingdom have been included where possible. Users of these statistics find such comparisons interesting; though it should be stressed that they are not like-for-like comparisons and may merely reflect differences between different cohorts of children.

Data Collection

The survey used to collect this information has one record for each young person fitting the parameters of the collection. The survey is completed online by nominated HSC Trust staff using a secure web-based survey returns application. All records are anonymised to protect the confidentiality of these young people.

For inclusion in OC1, care leavers had to be aged 16-18 years when leaving care and left care during the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. The information collected related to the last period in care.

The OC3 return relates to care leavers at the time of their 19th birthday. It provides data on all care leavers at age 19, who had been looked after on 1st April, 3 years previously.

All references made to 'Year' refer to the financial year, 1st April to 31 March, i.e. for the 2015/16 collection the reference period was 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

Guidance notes and other documents associated with the completion of the OC surveys are available to view or download from the DoH website:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/care-leavers-returns-and-quality-reports>

Rounding/Disclosure Conventions

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100. It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item.

Data Quality

All information submitted by HSC Trusts was validated at the point of entry, where Trust staff correct or amend data as required, and provide appropriate explanations if information is missing. CIB perform further checks, using historical data to monitor annual variations and emerging trends.

Main Uses of Data

The main uses of these data are to monitor the delivery of social care services to children, to help assess Trust performance, corporate monitoring, to inform and monitor related policy, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions. The bulletin is also used by academics/researchers, the voluntary sector and those with an interest in children in care.

Related Publications

Details of statistics on looked after children published by other countries in the UK (United Kingdom) can be found as detailed below.

Scotland

Children's Social Work Statistics 2014/15 published in March 2016, further information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/5133>

Wales

Adoptions, outcomes and placements for children looked after by local authorities are produced annually by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government. Data for the period up to the end of March 2016 were released in October 2016 and can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/adoptions-outcomes-placements-children-looked-after/?lang=en>

England

Statistics on Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers) are produced annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. Figures for the year ending 31 March 2016 were published in September 2016, and are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2015-to-2016>

Other statistics produced by the DoH relating to looked after children and other areas of children's social care with relevant web links are detailed below:

Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/childrens-social-care-statistics-northern-ireland>

Children in Care in Northern Ireland

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/looked-after-children>

Child Protection Register

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/child-protection-register>

Children Adopted from Care in Northern Ireland

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/children-adopted-care>

A further source of information on issues relating to children and young people in care and care leavers is the virtual library hosted by the Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) charity. This virtual library can be accessed via the following link:

www.libraryinthesky.org

A National Statistics Publication

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is the Department of Health's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

If you have any comments on this publication, please contact Community Information Branch on Email: cib@health-ni.gov.uk or Tel: 028 90522580.

Appendix B Definitions

Placement

Foster care is when a child is placed by a Trust, or by its parents (or those with parental responsibility), with other persons who will care for, and rear the child. Foster Carers are approved by a Health and Social Care Trust and receive an allowance for their caring responsibilities from the approving Trust.

Kinship foster care (approved) is when a looked after child is placed by a Trust with a relative, friend or other person with a prior connection to the child, who will care for and rear the child. A person with a prior connection could be someone who knows the child in a professional capacity such as a childminder, a teacher or a youth worker although these are not exclusive categories. Kinship Foster Carers are approved by a Health and Social Care Trust and receive an allowance for their caring responsibilities from the approving Trust.

Placed for adoption refers to a child that has been approved to be adopted and is placed with his/her prospective adoptive parents pending affirmation from the courts. It can be distinguished between children who are placed for adoption with their former foster carers and those who are placed for adoption with 'others' (not former foster carers).

Residential care is when a looked after child is placed by a Trust in a Children's Home. Residential care for children/Children's Homes are there to ensure that the needs of children are met when they cannot live with their own family. They are a place for children to develop and grow, as well as providing food, shelter, and space for play and leisure in a caring environment. Children's Homes look after children with many different needs.

Secure accommodation is provided for children on a short term basis when it is likely that the child, in any other setting, will injure him/her self or abscond and is likely to suffer significant harm when absconding.

Placed with parent (in previous publications called "Placed with Family") refers to children for whom a Care Order exists and who are placed with their parents, a person who is not a parent but who has parental responsibility for the child or where a child is in care and there was a residence order in force with respect to him/her immediately before the care order was made, and who are placed with a person in whose favour the residence order was made.

Emergency foster care is when a looked after child is placed by a social worker in an emergency (short term) arrangement, for example emergency kinship foster care. Emergency kinship foster carers would normally not have been previously approved by a Health and Social Care Trust as foster carers.

Independent living arrangements refers to children placed in independent accommodation. This would refer to young people between 16-18 years old. Independent living arrangements can further be categorised into with or without formal support from Trust.

Other placements refers to any placement reported that are not covered by other categories given. This may include children in assessment centres, boarding schools etc, and also special arrangements relating to one Trust. The categories included may change from year to year.

Legal Status

The legal framework for compulsory intervention in the care and upbringing of children. If more than one legal status is indicated or in force for the child at 31 March, the latest one only is recorded.

Emergency Protection Order (Article 63 & 64): An Emergency Protection Order (EPO) is intended for use in urgent cases to protect a child in the short-term. Almost anyone with a concern can apply for an EPO, although in most circumstances a Trust will seek one. Where the applicant is a Trust or the NSPCC they must show that in the course of fulfilling their duty to investigate they are being unreasonably frustrated in gaining access to the child. Anyone else applying for an EPO they must show that the child is likely to suffer significant harm unless removed to, or allowed to remain, in a safe place.

An EPO last for eight days but can be extended on one occasion for a further seven days. An application to discharge the order cannot be made within the first 72 hours giving a Trust sometime to decide what actions to take in respect of the child. The person to whom the order is addressed also gains parental responsibility for the child for the duration of the order.

Accommodated (Article 21): Children with this legal status have been accommodated by a HSC Trust if there is no one who has parental responsibility for them, they have been lost or abandoned or of the person who has been caring for them has been prevented, for whatever reason, from providing them with suitable accommodation or care. Children are often accommodated with the permission of their parents.

Care Order (Article 50 or 59): A Care Order accords the HSC Trust parental responsibility and allows for the child to be removed from the parental home. This does not extinguish the parental responsibility of the child's parents but means that they cannot exercise this responsibility while the Care Order is in place. For a Court to make a Care Order it must be satisfied that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and that the harm or likelihood of harm is attributable to, the care given to the child, or likely to be given to the child, not being what it would be reasonable to expect a parent to give or the child being beyond parental control.

Interim Care Orders (Article 57): An Interim Care Order is put in place following an adjournment of proceedings for a Care Order or in any family proceedings in which a Court orders a Trust to investigate the circumstances of a child. An Interim Care Order can be in place for up to eight weeks initially and for a further four weeks upon renewal and subsequent occasions that Court deems an Interim Order necessary.

Supervision Order: This order requires the Trust to advise, assist and befriend the supervised child and can only be granted if the same threshold conditions that apply for Care Orders are met. This Order does not give the Trust parental responsibility. It does allow a social worker to issue directions about the child's upbringing including place of residence and involvement in certain programmes. Schedule 3 of the Children Order sets out the full range of matters that may be addressed in a Supervision Order.

Interim Supervision Orders (Article 57): An Interim Supervision can be put in place following an adjournment of proceedings for a Supervision Order or in any family proceedings in which a question arises with respect to the welfare of any child, it appears to the court that it may be appropriate for a supervision order to be made with respect to him, the court may direct the appropriate authority to undertake an investigation of the child's circumstances.

Appendix C Tables

The tables below are also available in excel format on the DoH website
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/care-leavers>

Table 1 Care Leavers Aged 16–18 (2012 – 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of care leavers aged 16-18	233	263	268	289	313
Gender					
No. of Male Care Leavers	99	138	143	135	150
No. of Female Care Leavers	134	125	125	154	163
Age					
No. of Care Leavers Aged 16	28	24	26	28	27
No. of Care Leavers Aged 17	32	27	24	20	30
No. of Care Leavers Aged 18	173	212	218	241	256
Religion					
% of Care Leavers Catholic	48%	51%	49%	43%	42%
% of Care Leavers Protestant	48%	37%	41%	49%	46%
% of Care Leavers No/Unknown/Other	4%	12%	10%	8%	12%
Ethnicity					
% of Care Leavers White (excluding Traveller)	98%	96%	93%	96%	95%
% of Care Leavers Other	2%	4%	7%	4%	5%
Disabled					
% of Care Leavers with a Disability	13%	14%	12%	15%	15%
Special Educational Needs (SEN)					
% of Care Leavers with a statement of SEN	16%	22%	19%	14%	20%

Table 2 Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Last Placement Type (2012 – 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	233	263	268	289	313
Last Placement Type					
% of males in Residential Care	14%	20%	12%	17%	18%
% of females in Residential Care	18%	14%	14%	9%	11%
% in Residential Care	16%	17%	13%	13%	14%
% of males in Foster Care	49%	42%	55%	43%	43%
% of females in Foster Care	51%	49%	49%	60%	60%
% in Foster Care	50%	45%	52%	52%	52%
% of males placed with Parent	14%	15%	10%	13%	15%
% of females placed with Parent	13%	8%	14%	8%	9%
% Placed with Parent	14%	12%	12%	10%	12%
% of males in Other Care	23%	23%	23%	27%	24%
% of females in Other Care	18%	30%	24%	23%	20%
% in Other Care	21%	26%	24%	25%	22%

Table 3 Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Length of Time in Care (2012 – 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	233	263	268	289	313
Length of Time of Last Period in Care					
% in care for less than one year	16%	22%	19%	12%	22%
% in care for 1 - 4 years	44%	38%	41%	46%	39%
% in care for 5 - 9 years	21%	22%	21%	18%	20%
% in care for ten years or more	20%	17%	18%	23%	19%
Average Length of Most Recent Period in Care					
Males (Years)	6	5	5	5	5
Females (Years)	4	4	4	5	5

Table 4 **Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Reasons for Leaving Care (2012 – 2016)**

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	233	263	268	289	313
Reason for Leaving Care					
% Reached 18 years of age	59%	82%	82% ¹	86% ¹	83%
% Returned home	21%	14%	12%	11%	15%
% entered Supported Accommodation	5%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%
% entered Unsupported Accommodation	3%	0%	<1%	0%	0%
% transferred to care in Adult Services	7%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%
% left for other reasons	6%	3%	4%*	2%	1%

* Other reasons includes Death

¹ This includes a small number of care leavers aged 17 whose 18th birthday was within one week of leaving care.

Table 5 Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Educational Attainment (2012 – 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	233	263	268	289	313
Highest Qualification					
% achieving 5 GCSE grades A* - C or Higher	19%	18%	21%	27%	21%
% achieving 1 - 4 GCSE grades A* - C	22%	18%	27%	20%	23%
% achieving 1 or more GCSE grades D - G	13%	9%	9%	11%	8%
% achieving Other Qualifications	15%	23%	16%	17%	16%
% with No Qualifications	31%	32%	28%	24%	33%
Qualifications by Gender					
% of males with 5 GCSE grades A* - C or Higher	15%	16%	18%	18%	14%
% of females with 5 GCSE grades A* - C or Higher	22%	20%	23%	36%	27%
% of males with 1 - 4 GCSE grades A* - C	21%	19%	24%	20%	18%
% of females with 1 - 4 GCSE grades A* - C	23%	17%	30%	21%	27%
% of males with 1 or more GCSE grades D - G	10%	7%	13%	13%	11%
% of females with 1 or more GCSE grades D - G	15%	11%	6%	9%	6%
% of males with Other Qualifications	17%	23%	14%	19%	18%
% of females with Other Qualifications	13%	24%	18%	16%	13%
% of males with No Qualifications	36%	34%	31%	30%	39%
% of females with No Qualifications	27%	29%	23%	18%	27%
Qualifications by Religion					
% of Catholics with Qualifications	66%	69%	72%	75%	68%
% of Protestants with Qualifications	71%	69%	71%	78%	68%
Qualifications by Length of Time in Care					
% with Qualifications in Care for < 10 Years	67%	66%	69%	72%	63%
% with Qualifications in Care for > 10 Years	78%	80%	86%	90%	85%
Qualifications by Last Placement					
% placed in Residential Care with Qualifications	54%	62%	59%	67%	34%
% placed in Foster Care with Qualifications	80%	77%	81%	86%	82%
% Placed with Parent with Qualifications	58%	48%	66%	76%	54%
% in Other Placements with Qualifications	64%	62%	63%	59%	62%

*Figures exclude those with severe learning difficulties

Table 6 Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Current Activity (2012 – 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	233	263	268	289	313
Current Activity					
% in Education	32%	32%	29%	31%	30%
% in Training	27%	28%	30%	25%	29%
% in Employment	5%	7%	9%	7%	10%
% Full Time Parent/Carer	5%	5%	3%	7%	3%
% Sick/Disabled	4%	7%	5%	4%	12%
% Unemployed	22%	18%	13%	17%	11%
% Unknown /Other	5%	5%	11%	9%	4%

Table 7 Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Economic Activity for care leavers whose activity was known (2012 – 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Economic Activity by Educational Attainment¹					
% with Qualifications in Education/Training	68%	69%	71%	67%	69%
% with Qualifications in Employment	5%	8%	10%	9%	11%
% with Qualifications Unemployed/Inactive	27%	23%	19%	24%	20%
% with No Qualifications in Education/Training	47%	46%	54%	43%	47%
% with No Qualifications in Employment	6%	6%	7%	6%	8%
% with No Qualifications Unemployed/Inactive	47%	49%	38%	51%	45%
Economic Activity by Gender¹					
% of males in Education/Training	62%	58%	70%	57%	62%
% of males in Employment	8%	8%	12%	9%	7%
% of males Unemployed/Inactive	30%	34%	19%	35%	30%
% of females in Education/Training	62%	68%	63%	65%	63%
% of females in Employment	3%	7%	7%	8%	12%
% of females Unemployed/Inactive	34%	26%	29%	27%	25%
Economic Activity by Religion¹					
% of Catholics in Education/Training	64%	63%	74%	66%	60%
% of Catholics in Employment	6%	5%	5%	4%	9%
% of Catholics Unemployed/Inactive	31%	31%	21%	30%	32%
% of Protestants in Education/Training	60%	61%	57%	56%	63%
% of Protestants in Employment	6%	10%	16%	12%	13%
% of Protestants Unemployed/Inactive	35%	29%	27%	33%	24%
Economic Activity by Last Placement Type^{1,2}					
% placed in Residential Care in Education, Training or Employment	60%	71%	69%	61%	51%
% placed in Residential Care Unemployed or Inactive	40%	29%	31%	39%	49%
% placed in Foster care in Education, Training or Employment	80%	89%	80%	87%	83%
% placed in Foster Care Unemployed or Inactive	21%	10%	20%	13%	17%
% placed with Parents in Education, Training or Employment	45%	57%	74%	50%	71%
% placed with Parent Unemployed or Inactive	55%	43%	26%	50%	29%
% placed in Other placements in in Education, Training or Employment	59%	37%	72%	43%	62%
% in Other Placements Unemployed or Inactive	41%	63%	28%	57%	38%
Economic Activity by Length of Time in Care¹					
% in Education/Training in Care for < 10 years	61%	63%	65%	58%	62%
% in Employment in Care for < 10 years	4%	6%	8%	9%	10%
% Unemployed/Inactive in Care for < 10 years	35%	30%	26%	33%	29%
% in Education/Training in Care for > 10 years	67%	58%	72%	72%	66%
% in Employment in Care for > 10 years	11%	12%	15%	5%	12%
% Unemployed/Inactive in Care for > 10 years	22%	30%	13%	23%	22%

¹ Care Leavers for whom information was available

² Employment has been grouped with Education and Training to avoid personal disclosure

Table 8 Care Leavers Aged 16–18: Health & Social Care Trust (2015/16)

	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Northern Ireland
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	82	62	57	60	52	313
Gender						
No. of Male Care Leavers	41	34	25	24	26	150
No. of Female Care Leavers	41	28	32	36	26	163
Last Placement Type						
% in Residential Care	13%	10%	23%	5%	23%	14%
% in Kinship Foster Care	26%	27%	21%	18%	10%	21%
% in Non-kinship Foster Care	26%	29%	26%	50%	23%	31%
% Placed with Parent	17%	13%	5%	10%	12%	12%
% in Other Care inc Independent living	18%	21%	25%	17%	33%	22%
Highest Qualification						
% achieving 5 GCSE grades A*-C or Higher	18%	19%	27%	24%	17%	21%
% achieving 1 - 4 GCSE grades A* - C	15%	21%	20%	37%	23%	23%
% achieving 1 or more GCSE grades D-G	7%	8%	7%	14%	6%	8%
% achieving Other Qualifications	24%	16%	9%	7%	17%	16%
% with No Qualifications	35%	36%	36%	19%	37%	33%
Current Activity ¹						
% in Education, Training or Employment	64%	76%	75%	76%	74%	73%
% Economic Inactive or Unemployed	36%	24%	25%	24%	26%	27%

¹ Excludes care leavers whose economic activity was not known.

NOTE: Some of the percentages are based on very small numbers. Care must therefore be taken when interpreting the figures.

Table 9 Care Leavers Aged 19 (2012 – 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Number of Care Leavers	215	175	240	201	252
Gender (%)					
Male	48%	44%	53%	57%	46%
Female	52%	56%	47%	43%	54%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Religion (%)					
Catholic	45%	45%	48%	47%	44%
Protestant	52%	47%	40%	47%	46%
Other/Unknown	4%	8%	12%	6%	10%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Disability (%)					
Disabled	13%	10%	18%	11%	14%
Of those with a disability:					
Learning Disability ¹	60%	53%	53%	36%	58%
Age When Left Care (%)					
16 & 17 years old	11%	12%	17%	9%	12%
18 years old	89%	88%	83%	91%	88%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Care Leavers with Dependants (%)					
Male	10%	10%	13%	8%	11%
Female	31%	16%	21%	26%	25%

¹ Of those children with a disability

Table 10 Care Leavers Aged 19: Length of Latest Period of Care for Care (2015/16)

Length of Latest Period of Care	< 5 Years	5 - 9 Years	10+ Years	
by Gender (%)				Total
Male	50%	24%	25%	100%
Female	55%	23%	22%	100%
by Placement Type (%)				
Residential Care	18%	0%	7%	
Kinship Foster Care	20%	23%	25%	
Non-Kinship Foster Care	20%	38%	49%	
Placed with Parent/Family	11%	18%	5%	
Independent Living	24%	13%	10%	
Other	6%	7%	3%	
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	
by Legal Status Before Leaving Care (%)				
Accommodated Under Article 21	44%	7%	2%	
Care Order	52%	90%	98%	
Other	4%	3%	0%	
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%	

Table 11 Care Leavers Aged 19: Latest Placement Prior to Leaving Care (2015/16)

Latest Placement Type (%)	Male	Female	Total
Residential Care	14%	9%	11%
Kinship Foster Care	24%	21%	22%
Non-Kinship Foster Care	24%	37%	31%
Placed with Parent	11%	12%	12%
Independent Living	21%	16%	18%
Other	6%	5%	6%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%

Table 12 Care Leavers Aged 19: Legal Status Prior to Leaving Care (2015/16)

Legal Status Before Leaving Care (%)	Male	Female	Total
Accommodated Under Article 21	25%	26%	25%
Care Order	69%	74%	72%
Other	6%	0%	3%
<i>Total</i>	100%	100%	100%

Table 13 Care Leavers Aged 19: Contact Rates (2015/16)

Contact Rates	%
by Frequency of Contact (%)	
At Least Once a Week	14%
Every 2 Weeks	11%
Once a Month	43%
Once Every 3 Months	21%
At Least Every Six Months	< 5%
Once a Year	< 5%
Not At All	8%
Proportion in Contact by Latest Placement in Care (%)	
Residential Care	89%
Kinship Foster Care	88%
Non-Kinship Foster Care	97%
Placed with Parent	93%
Independent Living	93%
Other	71%
Proportion in Contact by Region (%)	
Northern Ireland	92%
England ^{1,2}	90%
Wales ³	93%

¹ Source: Children Looked After by Local Authorities, Year Ending 31 March 2016, DfE 2016

² Figures for young people in which there is no information has been counted as 'not in touch' for England. This includes those young people with whom the local authority is not in touch, young people who have refused contact with the local authority and young people who no longer require services.

³ Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After by Local Authorities: year ending 31 March 2016

Table 14 Care Leavers Aged 19: Current Activity (2012 – 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
All 19 year old care leavers	215	175	240	201	252
19 year old care leavers who were in contact with their Trust (%)	97%	98%	93%	95%	92%
Current Activity					
% in Education	30%	32%	26%	27%	26%
% in Training	16%	27%	29%	27%	21%
% in Employment	11%	10%	9%	12%	14%
% Full Time Parent/Carer	11%	8%	4%	10%	10%
% Sick/Disabled	7%	4%	9%	8%	11%
% Unemployed	24%	19% ²	23%	16%	18%

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all figures relate to care leavers aged 19 who were in contact with their Trust and whose activity was known.

Table 15 Care Leavers Aged 19: Education, Training or Employment (2012 – 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
All 19 year old care leavers (%)	56%	66%	60%	62%	55%
19 year old care leavers who were in contact with their Trust (%)	58%	69%	64%	66%	61%
by Gender (%)					
Male	59%	70%	65%	70%	60%
Female	57%	67%	63%	62%	62%
by Dependants (%)					
With Dependants	23%	33%	37%	27%	33%
Without Dependants	68%	74%	70%	74%	68%
by Length of Time in Care (%)					
Less than 5 years	49%	61%	49%	55%	56%
5 - 9 years	60%	76%	84%	74%	60%
10 years or more	72%	76%	75%	78%	74%
by Placement Type (%)					
Residential Care	46%	52%	29%	41%	42%
Kinship Foster Care	79%	79%	89%	84%	66%
Non-Kinship Foster Care	79%	88%	87%	84%	75%
Placed with Parent/Family	57%	54%	57%	57%	56%
Independent Living	-	63%	46%	48%	49%
Other	33%	50%	43%	30%	50%
by Trust (%)					
Belfast HSCT	62%	57%	52%	81%	56%
Northern HSCT	48%	85%	67%	53%	63%
South Eastern HSCT	49%	67%	54%	52%	54%
Southern HSCT	50%	78%	75%	71%	61%
Western HSCT	81%	63%	79%	74%	73%
by Legal Status (%)					
Accommodated Under Article 21	45%	65%	49%	61%	58%
Care Order	64%	69%	71%	67%	62%

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all figures relate to care leavers aged 19 who were in contact with their Trust.
 '-' this information was not collected

Table 16 Care Leavers Aged 19: Type of Accommodation (2012 - 2016)

Year ending 31 March	2014	2015	2016
Supported Lodgings	13%	15%	16%
Non-kinship Foster Carers	17%	15%	12%
Kinship Foster Carers	11%	18%	14%
Parents	19%	3%	15%
Friends	4%	3%	5%
Independent Accommodation	28%	31%	31%
Other including Custody	10%	5%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Note: Figures are for those care leavers 'in touch' with HSC Trusts

* Figures revised from the previous publication.

Table 17 Care Leavers Aged 19: Type of Accommodation by Gender (2015/16)

Type of accommodation (%)	Male	Female	Total
Supported Lodgings	22%	11%	16%
Non-kinship Foster Carers	9%	14%	12%
Kinship Foster Carers	14%	14%	14%
Parents	17%	13%	15%
Friends	4%	6%	5%
Independent Accommodation	23%	38%	31%
Other including Custody	11%	5%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Note: Figures are for those care leavers 'in touch' with HSC Trusts

Table 18 Care Leavers Aged 19: Health & Social Care Trust (2015/16)

	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Northern Ireland
Total number of care leavers aged 19	60	55	47	40	50	252
Gender						
No. of Male Care Leavers	32	29	20	12	22	115
No. of Female Care Leavers	28	26	27	28	28	137
Last Placement Type						
% in Residential Care	15%	4%	23%	5%	8%	11%
% in Kinship Foster Care	20%	25%	26%	25%	16%	22%
% in Non-kinship Foster Care	38%	18%	19%	50%	34%	31%
% Placed with Parent	8%	22%	11%	8%	8%	12%
% in Independent Living Arrangements	12%	31%	11%	10%	26%	18%
% in Other Care	7%	0%	11%	3%	8%	6%
Current Accommodation						
% Supported Lodgings	25%	9%	9%	8%	20%	15%
% Non-Kinship Foster Carers	10%	7%	6%	13%	18%	11%
% Kinship Foster Carers	12%	13%	19%	10%	12%	13%
% Parents	7%	26%	13%	15%	8%	14%
% Friends	5%	4%	6%	5%	2%	4%
% Independent Accommodation	28%	31%	17%	40%	28%	29%
% Other including custody	7%	4%	11%	5%	8%	7%
% Unknown	7%	7%	19%	5%	4%	8%
Current Activity¹						
% in Education, Training or Employment	56%	63%	54%	61%	73%	61%
% Unemployed or Economically inactive	44%	37%	46%	39%	27%	39%

¹ Figures are for those care leavers 'in touch' with HSC Trusts

NOTE: Percentages are based on very small numbers and care must therefore be taken when interpreting the figures.

Appendix D OC1 and OC3 Survey Forms 2015/16

OC1 2015/16 – Care Leavers Aged 16 - 18



Form OC1 2015/16

Educational Qualifications of Care Leavers

Complete one of these forms for each young person aged 16 or over who ceased to be looked after by your Trust at any time between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016 inclusive.

1. Trust name: _____

2. SOSCARE number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Gender

Male

Female

4. Date of birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

5. Date of start of latest period of care:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

6. Date ceased to be looked after:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

7. Postcode of home address before the last entry into care

B	T				

OC1 2015/16 – Care Leavers Aged 16 - 18

8. Postcode of current address

B	T				

9. Reason ceased being looked after:

(Please tick as appropriate for every young care leaver, including those who left care on their 18th birthday)

- Turned 18
- Adopted
- Died
- Care Taken Over by Another Trust (including authorities outside Northern Ireland)
- Returned home to live with parents/relatives
- Moved into supportive accommodation
- Transferred to care of adult social services
- Reason Unknown
- Episode ceased and new episode began on same/next day
- Other

If 'Other', please specify below

.....

.....

.....

10. What is the young person's religion?

(see guidance notes, please tick as appropriate)

- Roman Catholic
- Presbyterian
- Church of Ireland
- Church of England
- Methodist
- Other Christian
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Other
- Not Known
- None

11. Is the young person disabled according to the definition for the register of children with a disability, i.e. has an illness or difficulty and needs extra help to take part in activities around them in the way they would like and in the way other children of the same age do, respecting individual culture and circumstances?

(see guidance notes for fuller, formal definition)

Yes
 No

12. If 'Yes', please state all disability types that apply to the child

Visually disabled
 Hearing impaired
 Physically disabled
 Learning disabled
 Autism spectrum
 Mental health disability
 Other (please specify below)
 Not known

If 'other', please specify

13. To which ethnic group does the young person belong?

White (excluding Traveller)
 Chinese
 Irish Traveller
 Roma Traveller
 Indian
 Pakistani
 Bangladeshi
 Black Caribbean
 Black African
 Black Other
 Mixed ethnic group (please specify below)

 Other ethnic group (please specify below)

 Don't know

14. Does the young person have any dependants?

Yes
 No

14a. If 'Yes', please enter the number of dependants

14b. If 'Yes', is the dependent child a Looked After Child?

Yes
 No

15. What was the last placement arrangement for the young person prior to him/her leaving care?

Secure accommodation
 Other residential accommodation
 Placed for adoption with former foster carers
 Placed for adoption with others
 Emergency foster care (kinship or non-kinship)
 Fieldwork approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)
 Panel approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)
 Foster Care (Non-kinship)
 Placed with parents (or persons with parental responsibility)
 Independent living with formal support
 Independent living without formal support
 Other accommodation (please specify below)

16. If the last placement arrangement was Kinship foster care, please specify if the kinship carer was:

Grandparents
 Sibling
 Other relative
 Non-related connected person

17. What is the current type of accommodation for the young person?

- With parents
 - With kinship foster carer or family
 - With foster carer (non-kinship foster carer)
 - With friends
 - Community home or other form of residential care, such as an NHS establishment
 - Semi-independent transitional accommodation (e.g. supportive hostel, training flats)
 - Supported lodgings (where the young person lives in a familial type environment with a host family in their home, while transitioning to independent living)
 - Young Adult Supported Accommodation Project (where supervisory staff or advice workers are available to provide advice or support to the young person who is transitioning to independent living)
 - Foyer (the Foyer Federation runs locally based projects that provide accommodation and access to training and employment for young people aged 16-25)
 - Independent tenancy (private rented flat, house or bedsit)
 - Independent NIHE/housing association tenancy
 - Accommodation provided by a college/university
 - Emergency accommodation (e.g. night shelter, direct access emergency hostel)
 - Bed and breakfast
 - In custody
 - Other accommodation (please specify below)
-
- Homeless

18. What was the young person's legal status immediately before leaving care?

- Police protection in Board/Trust accommodation (Article 23)
 - Child assessment Order (Article 62)
 - Emergency Protection Order (Article 63)
 - Accommodated under Article 21
 - Interim Care Order (Article 57)
 - Care Order (Article 50 or 59)
 - Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 and 30 of Sch 8)
 - Freed for adoption and looked after by Board/Trust
 - Other (please specify below)
-

19. At any time during the last school year (September 2014 - July 2015) was the young person covered by a statement of special educational need?

- Yes
- No

If 'Yes', please specify the main reason the young person was covered by a statement of special educational needs

- Learning Disability
- Severe Learning Disability
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Emotional Problems
- Behavioural Problems
- Physical Disability
- Sensory Impairment
- Mental Health Problems
- Other
- Not Known

If 'Other', please state briefly the reason(s) for the statement

.....

If 'Yes' to question 19, go to question 21

20. At any time since the beginning of school, has the young person been covered by a statement of special educational need?

- Yes
- No

If 'Yes', please specify the main reason the young person was covered by a statement of special educational needs

- Learning Disability
- Severe Learning Disability
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Emotional Problems
- Behavioural Problems
- Physical Disability
- Sensory Impairment
- Mental Health Problems
- Other
- Not Known

If 'Other', please state briefly the reason(s) for the statement

.....

21. Young person's qualifications on ceasing to be looked after:

- Number of GCSEs at grade A* to C:
- Number of GCSEs at grade D to G:
- Number of NVQs:
- Number of GNVQs:
- Number of 'A' levels:
- Number of other educational or vocational qualifications:

If 'Other qualifications', please specify below

.....

If no qualifications recorded:

22. Reason for having no qualifications on ceasing to be looked after:

- Not applicable (at least one qualification recorded above)
 - Due to sit exams later in year
 - Sat at least one exam but obtained no qualifications
 - Health condition or disability prevented sitting exams
 - Did not sit exams, other reason (please specify below)
-

23. What is the young person's activity at present?

- Not known
- Full-time further education (up to 'A' level or equivalent standard)
- Part-time further education (up to 'A' level or equivalent standard)
- Higher education
- Full-time training
- Part-time training
- Full-time employment with planned training
- Full-time employment without planned training
- Part-time employment
- Volunteering
- Parent – full-time carer
- Other full-time carer
- Unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability
- Unemployed for other reason (please specify below)

Other activity (please specify below)

.....

24. Has a LAC Personal Education Plan been completed for the young person?

- Yes
- No

25. Has the LAC Personal Education Plan been reviewed within the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No

26. Does the young person have a Personal Advisor?

- Yes
- No

26a. If 'yes' what is the profession of the Personal Advisor (e.g. Social Worker, Teacher)?

.....

**This is the end of the questionnaire.
Thank you for your cooperation.**

Care Leavers on their 19th birthday

Complete this form for each young care leaver who at 1/4/13 was looked after by your Trust and whose date of birth falls between 1/4/96 and 31/3/97 inclusive.

1. Trust name:

2. SOSCARE number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Gender

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Date of birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

5. Date of start of latest period of care

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

6. Date ceased to be looked after

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

7. Postcode of home address before the last entry into care

B	T						
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

8. Postcode of current address

B	T						
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

9. What is the young person's religion?

Roman Catholic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presbyterian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church of Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church of England	<input type="checkbox"/>
Methodist	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not Known	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Is the young person disabled according to the definition for the register of children with a disability, i.e. has an illness or difficulty and needs extra help to take part in activities around them in the way they would like and in the way other children of the same age do, respecting individual culture and circumstances?

(see guidance notes for fuller, formal definition) Yes
No

11. If 'Yes', please state all disability types that apply to the child

Visually disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing impaired	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physically disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Autism spectrum	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)
Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. To which ethnic group does the young person belong?

White (excluding Traveller)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roma Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed ethnic group (please specify)
Other ethnic group (please specify)
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Does the young person have any dependants?

Yes
No

13a. If 'Yes', please enter the number of dependants

13b. Is the dependent child a Looked After Child?

Yes
No

14. What was the last placement arrangement for the young person prior to him/her leaving care?

Secure accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other residential accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placed for adoption with former foster carers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placed for adoption with others	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency foster care (kinship or non-kinship)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fieldwork approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Panel approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster Care (Non-kinship)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placed with parents (or persons with parental responsibility)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent living with formal support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent living without formal support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other accommodation (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. If the last placement arrangement was Kinship foster care, please specify if the kinship carer was:

Grandparents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sibling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other relative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-related connected person	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. What was the young person's legal status immediately before leaving care?

Police protection in Board/Trust accommodation (Article 23)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child assessment Order (Article 62)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency Protection Order (Article 63)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accommodated under Article 21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interim Care Order (Article 57)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care Order (Article 50 or 59)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 and 30 of Sch 8)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freed for adoption and looked after by Board/Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. How often were you in touch with the young person around his/her 19th birthday?

(see guidance notes for definition)

More than once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a week	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once every two weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a month	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once every three months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once every six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once a year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not at all – young person still resident in UK	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not at all – young person gone abroad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young person died before 19 th birthday	<input type="checkbox"/>

If in touch with the young person at his/her 19th birthday, please answer the following questions:

18. What was the young person's activity at his/her 19th birthday?

- Not known
- Full-time further education
- Part-time further education
- Higher education
- Full-time training
- Part-time training
- Full-time employment with planned training
- Full-time employment without planned training
- Part-time employment
- Volunteering
- Parent – full-time carer
- Other full-time carer
- Unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability
- Unemployed for other reason (please specify below)

.....
Other activity (please specify below)

19. If the young person was in higher education, please specify:

- Metropolitan College
- Regional Colleges
- Universities
- Other (please specify)

20. Has a LAC Personal Education Plan been completed for the young person?

Yes
No

21. Has the LAC Personal Education Plan been reviewed within the last 12 months?

Yes
No

22. What type of accommodation was the young person living in on his/her 19th birthday?

- With parents
- With kinship foster carer or family
- With foster carer (non-kinship foster carer)
- With friends
- Community home or other form of residential care, such as an HSC establishment
- Semi-independent transitional accommodation (e.g. supportive hostel, training flats)
- Supported lodgings (where the young person lives in familial type environment with a host family in their home, while transitioning to independent living)
- Young Adult Supported Accommodation Project (where supervisory staff or advice workers are available at the young persons accommodation to provide advice or support to the young person who is transitioning to independent living)
- Foyer (the Foyer Federation runs locally based projects that provide accommodation and access to training and employment for young people aged 16-25)
- Independent tenancy (private rented flat, house or bedsit)
- Independent NIHE/housing association tenancy
- Accommodation provided by a college/university
- Emergency accommodation (e.g. night shelter, direct access, emergency hostel)
- Bed and breakfast
- In custody
- Other accommodation (please specify below)

.....
Homeless

23. Does the young person have a Personal Advisor?

Yes
No

If 'yes' what is the profession of the Personal Advisor (e.g. Social Worker/Teacher)?

**This is the end of the questionnaire
Thank you for your cooperation**

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