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Northern Ireland Care Leavers 2017/18



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IAD comprises four statistical sections: Hospital Information, Community Information, Public Health Information & Research and Project Support Analysis.

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- *Provide up-to-date, quality information on children and adult social services and community health;*
- *to disseminate findings widely with a view to stimulating debate, promoting effective decision-making and improvement in service provision; and*
- *be an expert voice on social care information.*

About Community Information Branch

The purpose of Community Information Branch (CIB) is to promote effective decision making in children and adult social services by providing quality information and analysis.

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.

Information is widely disseminated through a number of regular key statistical publications and ad hoc reports, details of which are available online.

KEY FINDINGS

There were 313 care leavers **aged 16-18** in 2017/18

- Just over two thirds (69%) of care leavers aged 16-18 had GCSEs or other qualifications. The proportion of care leavers who had 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or higher at the time of leaving care was 27%.
- Care leavers continue to have a higher proportion of young people coping with disability (13%) than the general population (6%). In terms of education, higher proportions of care leavers had a Statement of Educational Need (23%) compared with the general school population (5%).
- Of care leavers aged 16-18 for whom information was available, half (50%) were in education or training, 12% were working and 38% were unemployed or economically inactive.

There were 236 care leavers **aged 19** in 2017/18

- Some 94% 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, 65% were in education, training or employment; a higher proportion than in 2016/17 (61%) and higher than 19 year old care leavers in England (60%).
- In terms of becoming a parent, 12% of all care leavers aged 19 were parents, with 18% 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 them 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 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* came into force 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 placed 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 individual's needs, provide Personal Advisers and develop pathway planning for young people up to the age of 21 (or beyond if they are 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 this scheme is to promote continuity and stability of living arrangements in post-care life for young people living with foster carers by ensuring that financial support is available to assist carers to continue to meet the care, accommodation and support needs of these young people until they reach the age of 21. Allied to this, the scheme also aims to promote better outcomes for young people leaving care in relation to training, employment and education.

The Department recognises the importance of giving young people the best start in life, helping those in need, and in particular improving outcomes for Looked After Children. A new indicator has been included in the Programme for Government 2016 – 2021 to Improve

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.

Support for Looked After Children, with a related measure (% of 19 year old care leavers in employment, training or education) which will be monitored and reported on annually.

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 2018.

1.3. CARE LEAVERS

Children admitted to care may be discharged, if appropriate, at any age. *Care Leavers* in this bulletin cover young people aged 16-18 who left care during the year ending 31st March 2018 as well as young people who turned 19 years of age during the year ending 31st March 2018 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).

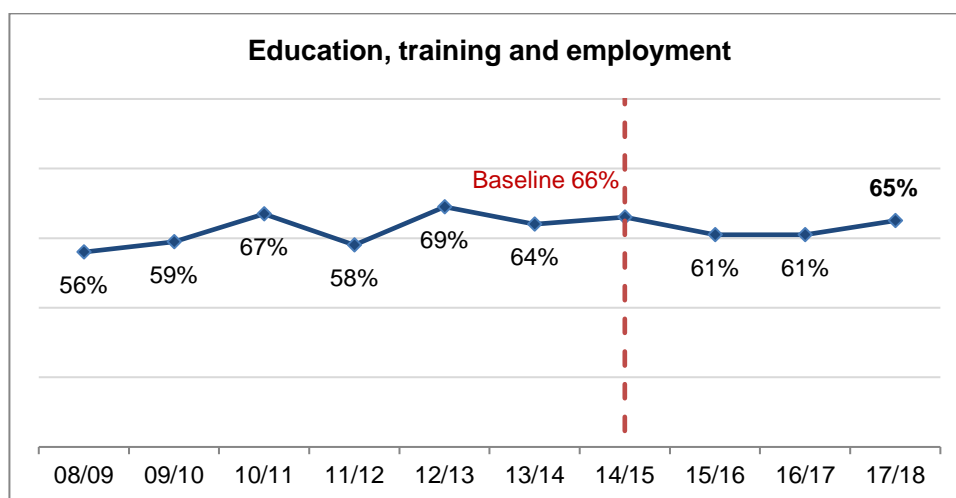
Due to the small number of care leavers in Northern Ireland, some caution should be taken when interpreting figures presented in this bulletin, especially when the figures are broken down into sub categories. It is also worth noting, when comparing yearly figures, that each year has an individual cohort of young people which may differ in characteristics to other years. For example, one year may include a higher number of young people 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.

1.4. NICS WORK PROGRAMME

Outcome 12 of the NICS Work Programme (also known as the Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021) states that “*We will give our children and young people the best start in life*”. Care leaver data informs a population indicator for this outcome:

“Care leavers who, aged 19, were in education training or employment.”

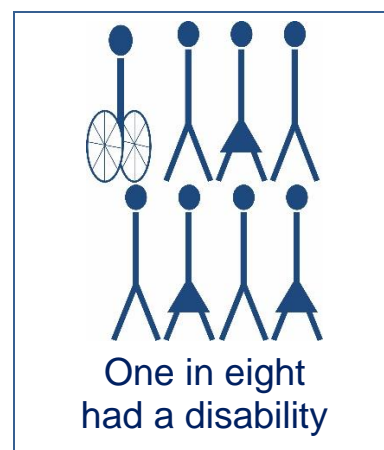
The baseline for the above indicator relates to year 2014/15, when 66% of care leavers aged 19 were in education training or employment. Since then, the percentage has reduced but in 2017/18 has moved up to close to the baseline position (65%). Further discussions on this can be found in section 3.3.4 of this publication.



The outcome indicator is supported by eight actions set out in the Outcomes Delivery Plan, all targeting children either in pre-care, in care or post care. The eight actions may however not be reflected in the indicator for some time, as they may relate to young children who will not be included in the cohort of 19 year old care leavers for many years to come.

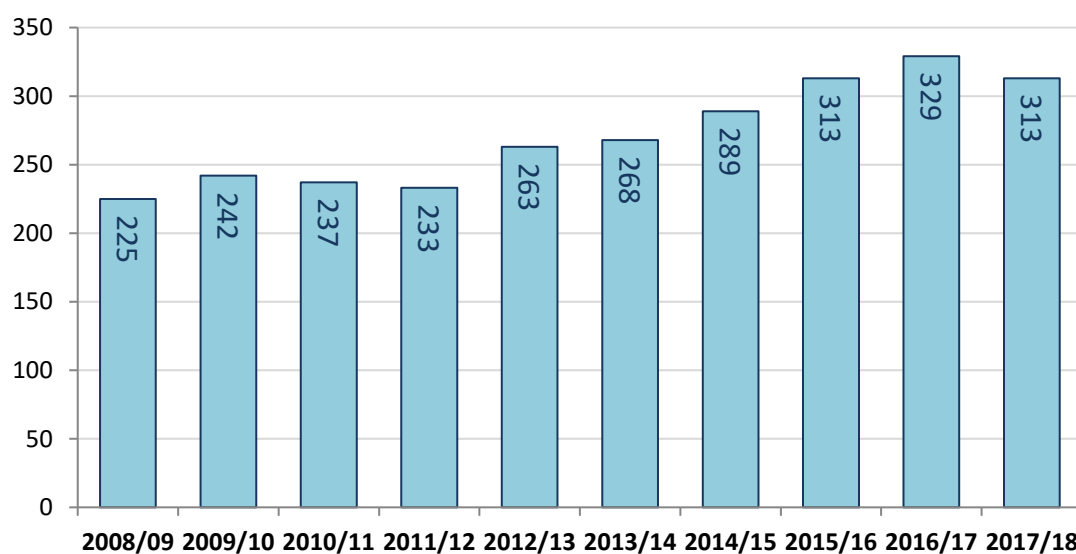
2. Care leavers aged 16-18

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



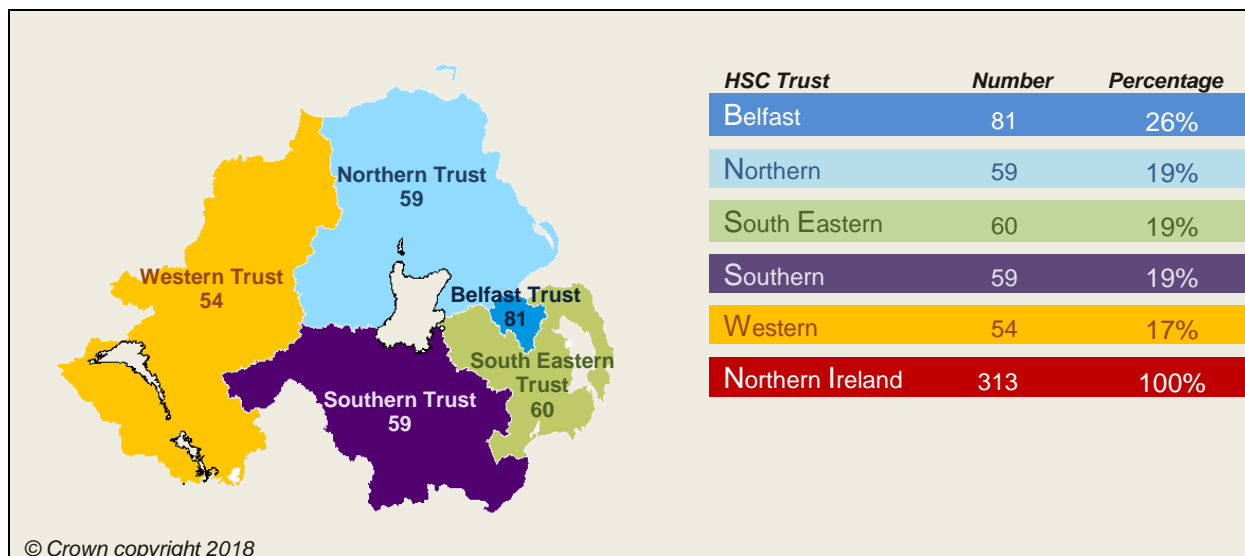
During the year ending 31 March 2018, 313 young people aged 16–18 left care in Northern Ireland. This was sixteen less than the previous year. The number of care leavers steadily increased between 2011/12 and 2016/17, after a period of relative stability in the preceding years. A rise in the number of care leavers has been expected following a continuing increase in the numbers of looked after children in recent years³. The 5% decline in figures in 2017/18 is the first since 2011/12.

Figure 1 Number of care leavers aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland (2008/09 – 2017/18)



³ Figures for Looked After Children can be found in 'Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2018'.

Figure 2 Number of care leavers aged 16-18 – HSC Trust profile (2017/18)



There were fewer female care leavers than male in 2017/18 (46% and 54% respectively). This breakdown was similar to the general population of that age group in Northern Ireland, where 48% were females and 52% males⁴.

As in previous years, the Belfast Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust had the highest number of care leavers aged 16-18. Between 2016/17 and 2017/18, the South Eastern HSC Trust saw the largest increase in care leavers from 45 to 60 (33%). The Northern HSC Trust had the largest reduction in the number of care leavers from 75 to 59 (-21%).

The care leavers' individual geographical location was linked with the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017⁵ 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, similar proportions had been living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland before the last entry into care (37%) as after leaving care (36%). Further analysis showed that 50% of the care leavers were living in an area of same deprivation rank when leaving care as before last entry into care. Furthermore, almost a quarter (23%) had moved into an area ranked of higher deprivation with just over a quarter (27%) had moved into areas ranked as less deprived.

⁴ 2017 Mid-Year Population Estimate (NISRA 2018).

⁵ Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2017 (<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017>).

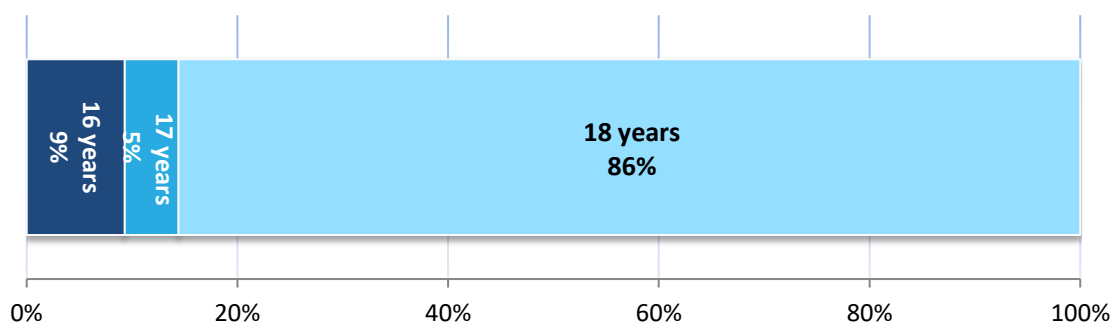
⁶ These analyses were only carried out for care leavers with Northern Ireland geographical location.

⁷ Northern Ireland geographical information prior to entering care was available for 96% of the care leavers and information was available for 95% upon leaving care. Information was supplied for 92% of the care leavers for both prior to entering care and after leaving care.

2.1.1. Age Profile

Of the care leavers in 2017/18, most had stayed in care until they reached the age of 18 years (86%). Some 14% left care at the age of 16 or 17 years. This was similar to 2016/17. At HSC Trust level, there was some variation in the age profile of the care leavers, with the proportion of young people leaving care at 18, ranging from 75% in the Southern HSC Trust to 94% in the Western HSC Trust.

Figure 3 Age of care leavers (2017/18)



2.1.2. Religion and Ethnicity

Information on religion and ethnicity of care leavers is collected for equality monitoring purposes. There were lower numbers of care leavers from a Protestant community background (41%) than a Catholic community background (47%) in 2017/18, with 12% from 'Other' denominations, including those with no religion, or whose religion was unknown or not recorded. The proportions of Protestant and Catholic care leavers was similar to that recorded during 2016/17.

The vast majority of care leavers in 2017/18 had a White ethnic background (97%). This was similar to the figures recorded in 2016/17.

2.1.3. Disability

Having a disability can have an impact upon a person's life chances. People with disabilities can suffer from multiple disadvantages, 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 2017/18, 13% (42) were disabled. Of these, just over half (55%) had a learning disability, one-third (33%) were on the autistic spectrum and 7% had a mental health condition⁸.

There are no directly comparable disability figures for this age group for all of 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, 3% of 16-17 year

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>.

olds received a Personal Independence Payment in May 2018¹⁰. These comparisons continue to suggest that a disproportionate number of young care leavers are coping with disabilities.

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.

Almost one in four care leavers in 2017/18 (23%) had a statement of special educational need, two percentage points lower than the proportion in 2016/17 (25%). Although not directly comparable, 5% of the general school population in Northern Ireland¹² had a statement of Special Educational Needs. Furthermore, 5% of school leavers in Northern Ireland had a statement of Special Educational Needs (2016/17)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.

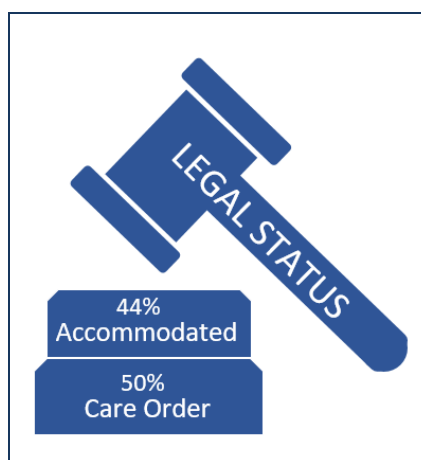
¹⁰ Figures supplied by the Department for Communities – Personal Independence Payment is a new benefit replacing Disability Living Allowance.

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

¹² DENI, 'Annual enrolments at schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2017/18', <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-enrolments-201718-statistical-bulletins>

¹³ DENI, 'Qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers 2016/17', <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-201617-statistical-bulletin>

2.2. WHAT WAS THEIR LAST PERIOD OF CARE?



2018			
J	F	M	A
M	J	J	A
S	O	N	D

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



2.2.1. Legal Status

In regards to the legal status¹⁴ of the care leavers aged 16-18, half had been placed in care under a Care Order (50%), with two fifths (44%) Accommodated (Article 21). The remaining 6% of care leavers had other legal statuses including Interim Care Orders while in care.

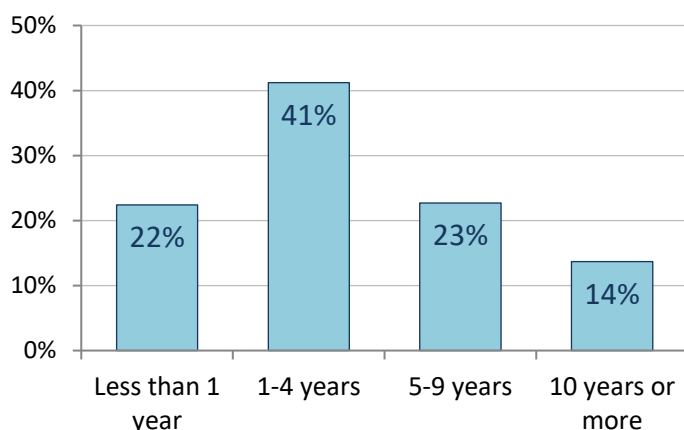
2.2.2. Length of Most Recent Period in Care

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 (41%) of the young care leavers had been looked after for between 1 to 4 years in their latest period of care, with just over a tenth (14%) looked after for more than ten years. On average, a girl's last period of care was shorter (4 years 4 months) than a boy's (4 years 7 months).

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

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

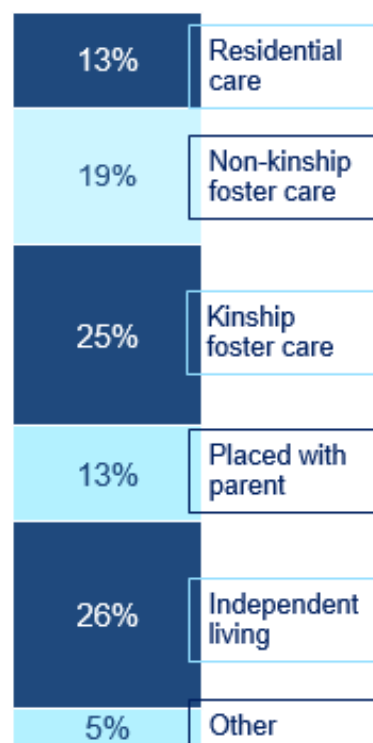


The last period of care for the largest proportion of care leavers in each HSC Trust area was 1-4 years. This ranged from 34% of care leavers in the Northern HSC Trust to 48% in the Belfast HSC Trust.

2.2.3. Last Placement

As in previous years, the majority of care leavers in 2017/18 had been in foster care prior to leaving care (43%); 19% in kinship foster care (placed with relatives or a person known to the child) and 25% in non-kinship foster care¹⁵. Furthermore, 26% had been in independent living arrangements, this was divided between those with formal support (22%) and those without (4%). Some 5% had been in 'other'¹⁶ placement types which included placements such as bed & breakfast, hospital and friends.

Figure 5 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Last placement type (2017/18)



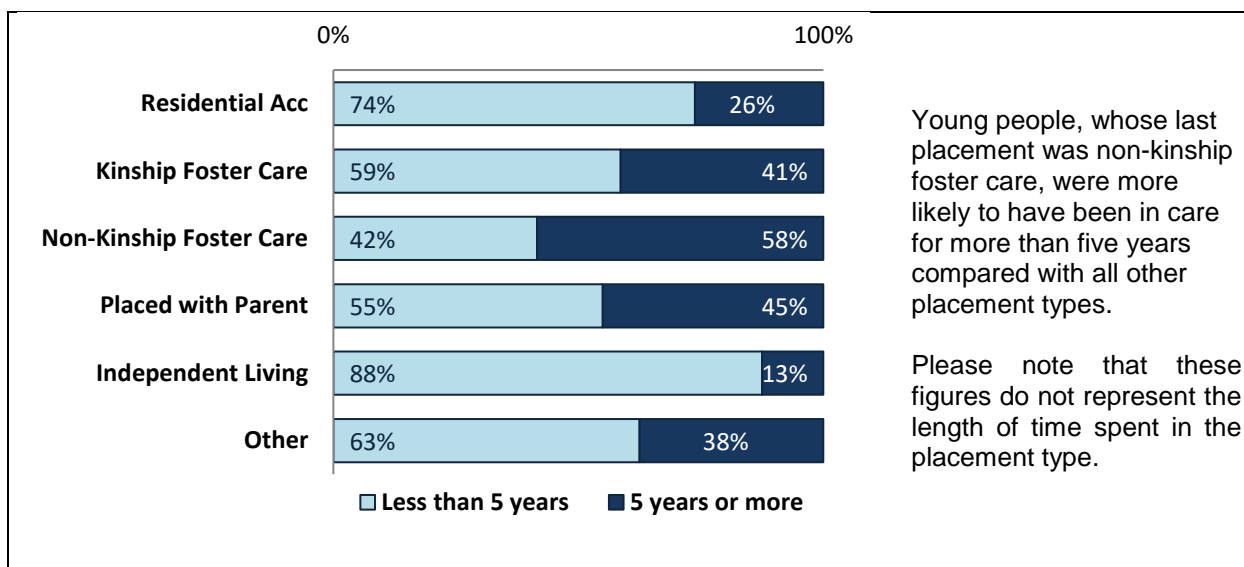
*54 care leavers aged 16-18 had been in **kinship care** prior to leaving care:*

*18 had been living with grandparents
8 with siblings
23 with other related person
5 with non-related connected person*

¹⁵ Please see appendix B for placement definitions.

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

Figure 6 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Last placement by time in care (2017/18)

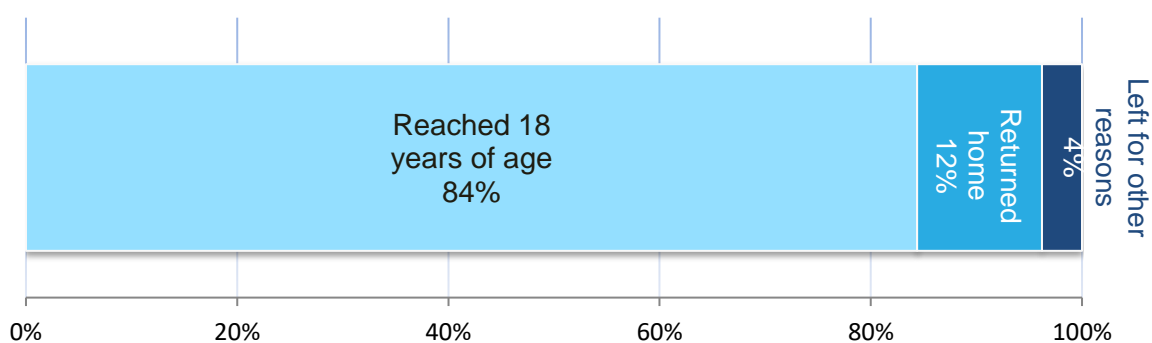


2.2.4. Reasons for Leaving Care

Of the 313 care leavers aged 16-18 years in 2017/18, the majority (84%) left care because they had reached 18 years of age¹⁷, with a further 12% leaving to return home to live with their birth parents.

Almost all of those who left care to return to their birth parents (92%) were 16 or 17 years of age. Furthermore, this age group’s last period of care was typically shorter, with an average duration of around a year. Those who left care due to reaching the age of 18 years had on average a last period of care lasting five 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

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

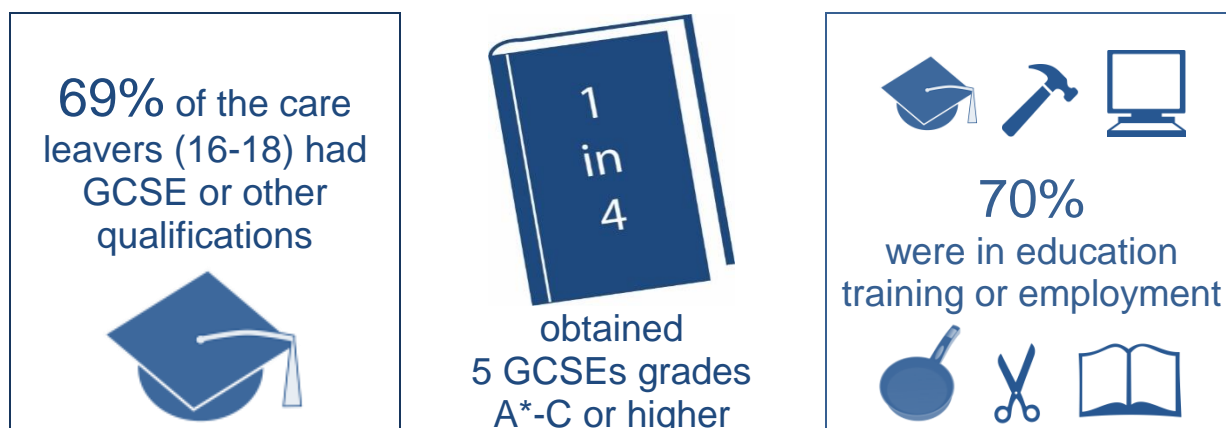


Note: “Left for other reasons” includes “Moved into supported accommodation”, “Transferred to adult social services” and “Other”.

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.

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?



2.3.1. Current Accommodation

After having left care, a quarter (25%) of the care leavers aged 16-18 were still living with their former foster carers (kinship and non-kinship). Most of these (68 out of 79) were in GEM placements¹⁸. A quarter (26%) were living with their parents, with a further tenth (13%) living independently. Some 20% of care leavers were living in supported accommodation and the remaining 16% of care leavers were divided between residential accommodation, living with friends, living with family, 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. Almost three fifths (57%) of care leavers aged 16-18 in 2017/18 had a completed Personal Education Plan. Of those with a PEP, 64% had a review of their education plan during the previous 12 months.

3 in 5
care leavers
aged 16-18
had a Personal
Educational Plan

¹⁸ The *Going the Extra Mile* scheme was launched in 2006 and aims to promote continuity and stability in post care life for young people living with foster carers

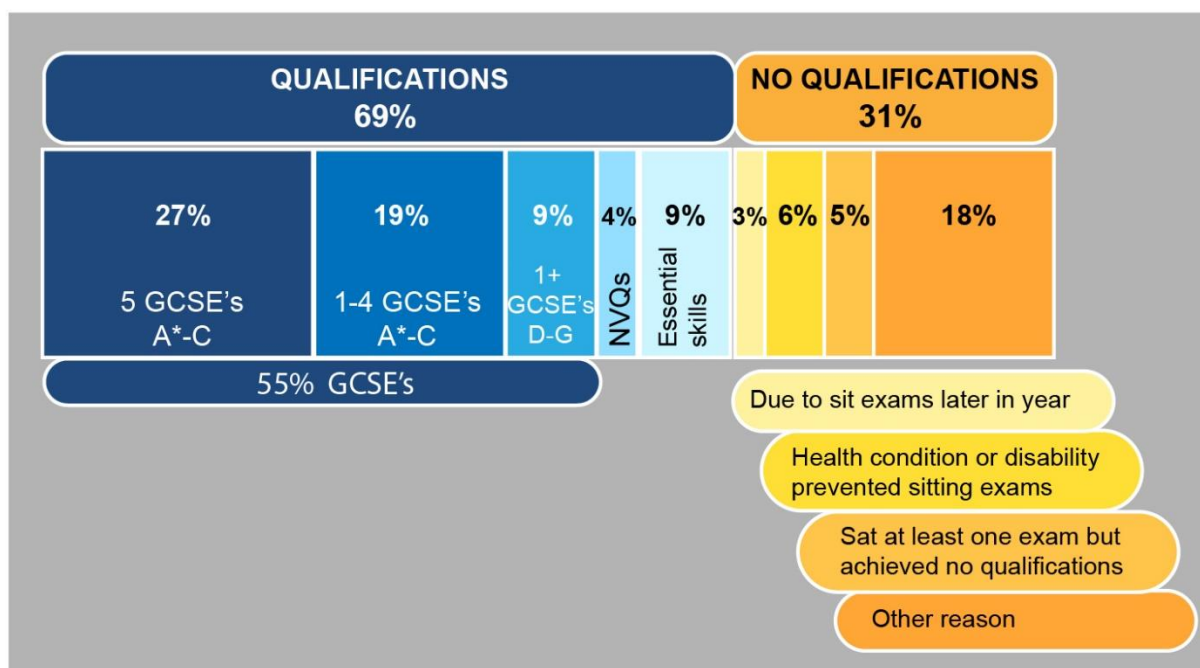
2.3.3. Educational Attainment

Educational attainment can be an important predictor of success in later life; low educational achievements may impact on future lives and chances for employment.

At the time of leaving care, 69% of the care leavers aged 16-18 had educational qualifications¹⁹; 55% had one or more GCSEs or higher qualifications and 14% had non-GCSE qualifications. Some 31% of the care leavers did not have any qualifications at the time of leaving care.

The 31% with no qualifications represented 96 care leavers aged 16-18. Some 54 of these did not sit any examinations, even though they had reached an appropriate age to do so; 16 sat examinations but did not obtain any qualifications and 9 were due to take examinations after leaving care. A further 17 had health conditions or disabilities preventing them from sitting exams.

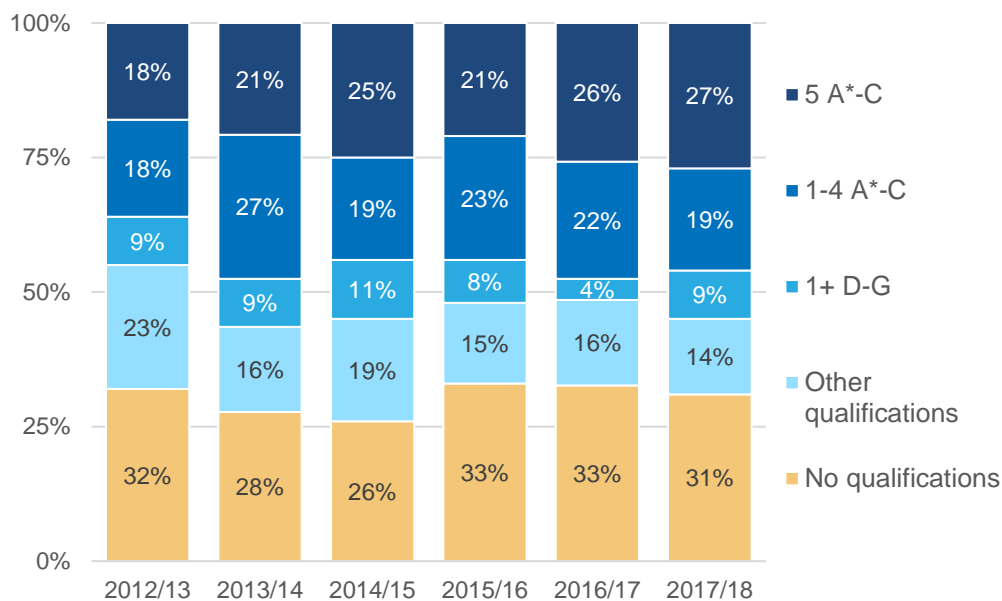
Figure 8 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Care leavers’ educational qualifications at time of leaving care (2017/18)



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

¹⁹ Figures exclude 6 care leavers with severe learning difficulties.

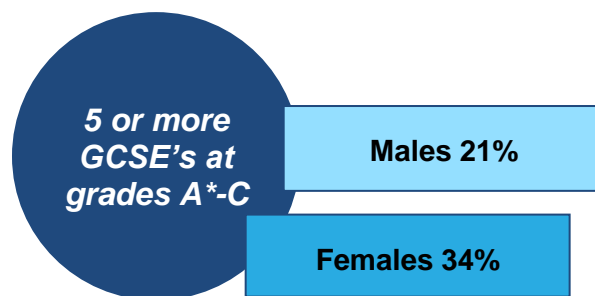
Figure 9 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Care leavers’ educational qualifications at time of leaving care (2010/11 - 2017/18)



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 educational outcomes may also vary. However the proportion of young people leaving care with qualifications in 2017/18 was similar to that of the last four years.

As in 2016/17, a higher proportion of females (34%) than males (21%) obtained 5 GCSE’s grades A*-C or higher. Similar proportions of male (32%) and female (31%) care leavers, left care with no qualifications (see Tables in Appendix C for details).



Care leavers and Northern Ireland school leavers

The Department of Education publish annual statistics on qualifications for the general school leaver population in Northern Ireland. These figures are not directly comparable to the care leaver qualifications, as the care leavers information includes all care leavers (whether in education or not) and is captured at the time of leaving care, not when leaving school.

To best match the school leaver population, a sub-cohort of care leavers was created, covering those who had GCSE qualifications or who sat exams but did not achieve any qualifications (total of 185 young people). The qualifications of the sub-cohort has been compared to the school leaver population in the table below.

As can be seen, some 97% of school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs A*-G compared to 64% of care leavers who sat exams. Furthermore, 45% of care leavers achieved 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C compared to almost 84% of the school leaver population.

In this context it is worth noting that 12% of the care leavers in this cohort had a statement of special educational needs (SEN). Some 5% of the general school population had a SEN statement. It is expected that this would influence and inflate the difference in the level of qualifications between the two groups.

	Care leavers aged 16-18 who sat exams*	School leavers 2016/17**
At least 5 GCSEs A*-G	64.3%	96.6%
At least 5 GCSE A*-C	45.4%	83.8%
No formal qualifications	8.7%	0.3%

**Excludes care leavers aged 16-18 with non-GCSE qualifications (eg NVQs or essential skills); those who did not sit exams due to health conditions, disability or learning disability; those who were due to sit exams after leaving care and those who did not engage in school/education.*

***Year 12, 13 or 14 pupils leaving mainstream, grant aided post-primary schools.*

Please note that this way of comparing the two cohorts (care leavers and NI school leavers) has changed from previous publications. The methodology behind capturing the information has not changed, only the way it is presented. Please note that the above will still not allow like-for-like comparison, however is the best possible match based on the data available.

DENI, "Qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers 2016/17"
<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/school-leavers-201617-statistical-bulletin>

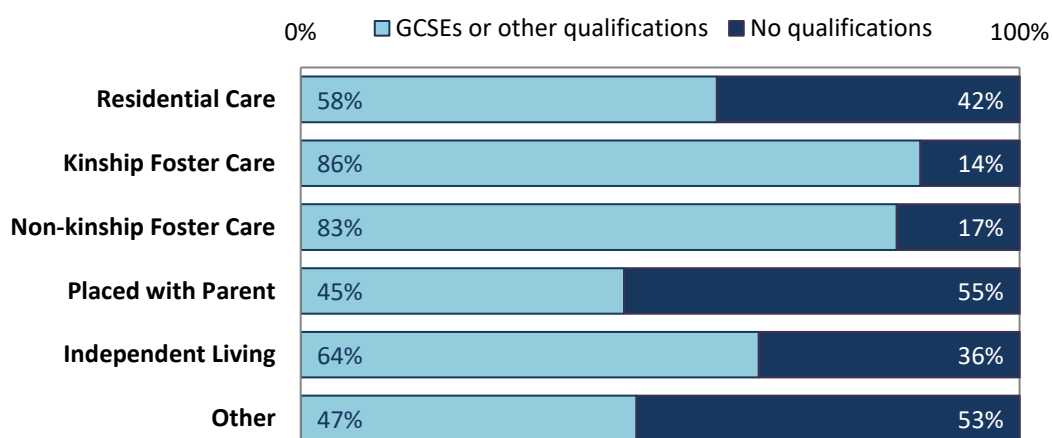
Note: 25% of all care leavers had a SEN statement but only 12% of the sub-cohort

The following analyses compare those care leavers aged 16–18 with GCSE's or other qualifications (211, 69%) and those with no qualifications (96, 31%)²⁰.

Educational achievement for care leavers from Catholic and Protestant community backgrounds differed, with 71% of Protestants compared to 67% of Catholics leaving care with GCSEs or other qualifications.

Some 84% of care leavers previously in foster care placements (86% in kinship and 83% in non-kinship) achieved GCSEs or other qualifications, followed by 64% of those living independently. Over half (55%) of those placed with parents had no qualifications when leaving care.

Figure 10 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Qualifications achieved by latest placement type (2017/18)



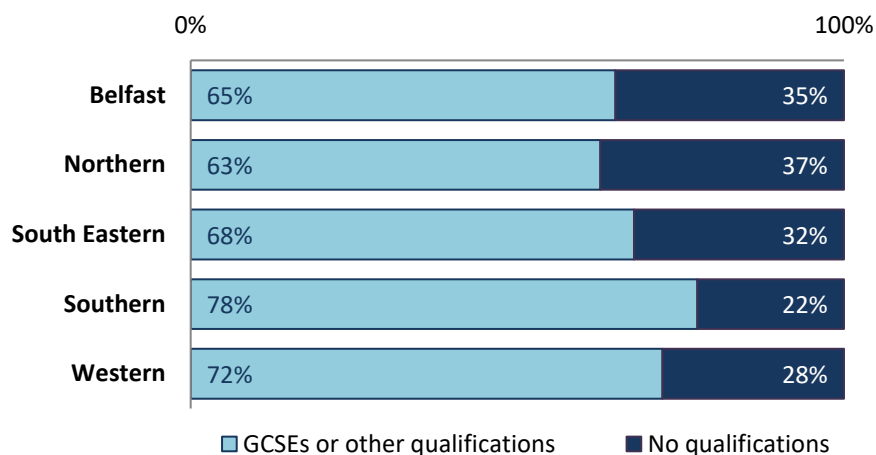
Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

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; almost four fifths (78%) of care leavers in care for 10 years or more had obtained GCSE's or other qualifications, compared with two thirds (67%) 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.

Care leavers from the Southern HSC Trust performed best academically, with 78% leaving care with educational qualifications compared to 72% in the Western HSC Trust, 68% in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 65% in the Belfast HSC Trust and 63% in the Northern HSC Trust. Please note that due to the small numbers involved, these figures may be subject to high volatility.

²⁰ Excludes care leavers with statement if SEN due to severe learning disability.

Figure 11 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Qualification achieved by HSC Trust (2017/18)



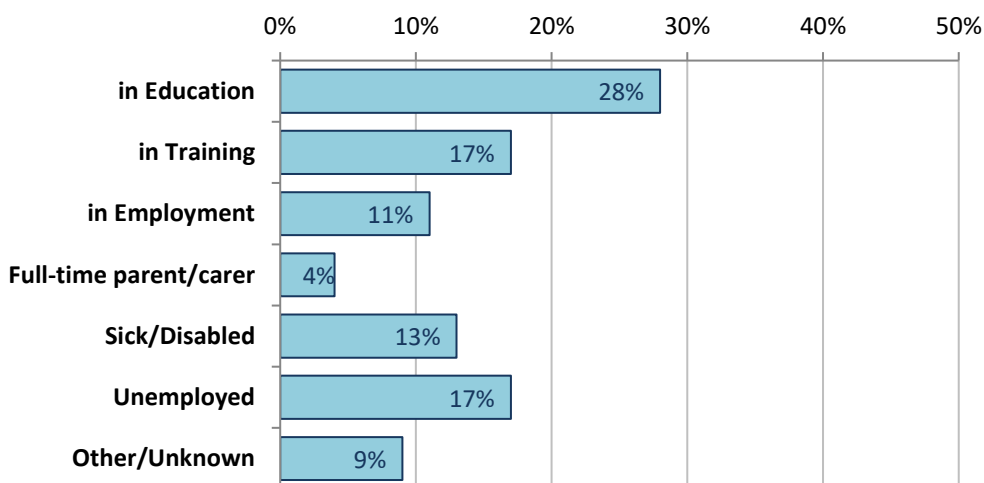
Note: Excludes a small number of care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

2.3.4. Economic Activity

Figure 12 below details economic activity for care leavers aged 16-18 for 2017/18. Most of the young people were in education or training at the time of leaving care (28% and 17% respectively). Some 13% were economically inactive due to sickness or disability and a further 4% were economically inactive due to caring/parental responsibilities. Most of the 17% who were unemployed when leaving care, were either lacking motivation to engage in education, training or employment or actively seeking employment.

Economic activity amongst care leavers compared less favourably with that for young people of similar age; for example, 24% of young people in the general population aged 16-18 years were employed, compared with 11% of young care leavers²¹.

Figure 12 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity (2017/18)



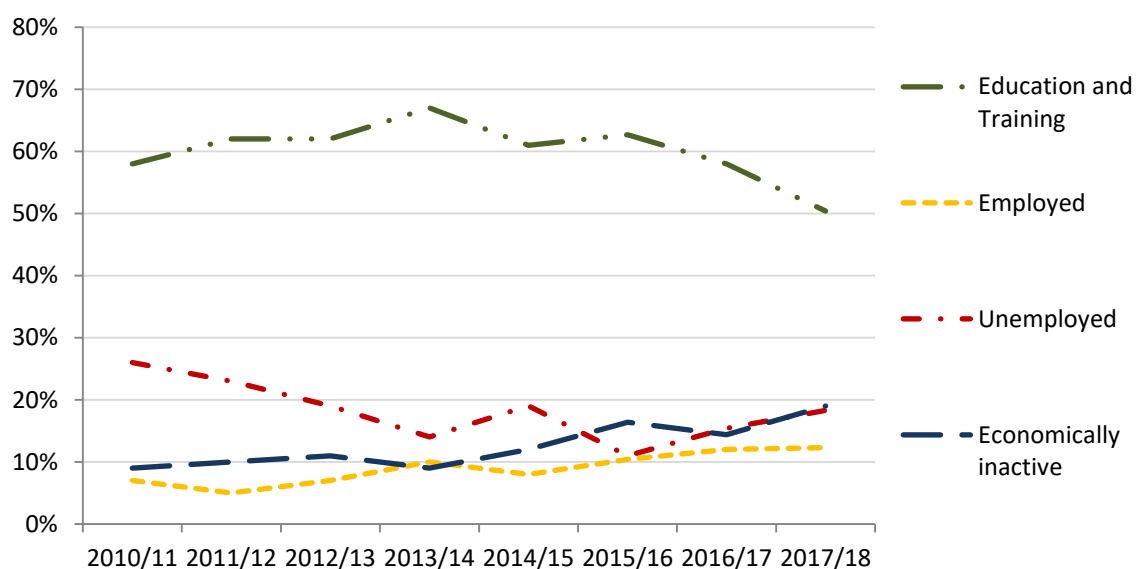
²¹ Information provided by NISRA from the Labour Force Survey April – June 2018. Reliable estimates were not available on numbers unemployed.

The findings of this section relate only to those for whom economic activity was reported²²

Of the 284 care leavers aged 16-18 in 2017/18, whose economic activity was reported, 63% were in education, training or employment. Half of the care leavers were in education or training (50%), 18% were unemployed, 12% were in employment, and 19% were economically inactive through caring responsibilities or sickness/disabilities.

Although the proportion of care leavers in education or training is still substantially larger than the other categories, the gap has narrowed the last few years (see figure below).

Figure 13 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity on leaving care (2017/18)

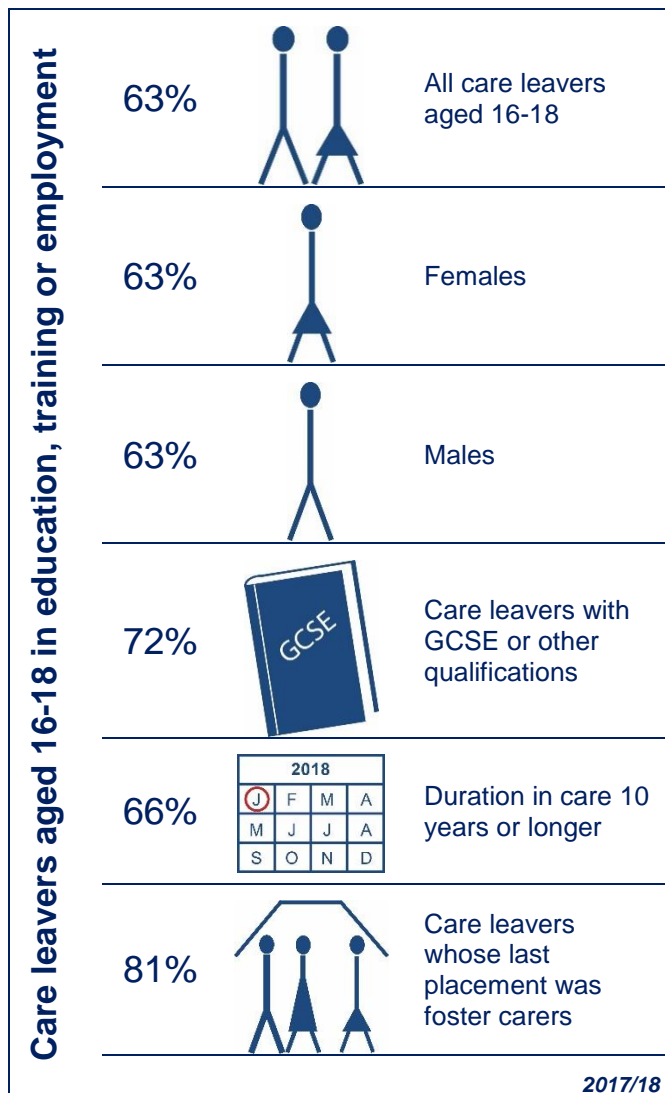


Note: Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

In 2017/18, between 78% and 66% of care leavers in the Southern, Western and Belfast HSC Trusts were in education, training or employment at the time of leaving care. In the Northern and South Eastern HSC Trusts the equivalent figures were 48% and 51%.

The proportion of care leavers from a Catholic community background in education, training or employment fell from 73% in 2016/17 to 61% in 2017/18. Amongst those from a Protestant community background, the proportion of those in education, training or employment dropped from 72% in 2016/17 to 65% in 2017/18.

²² Economic activity was not known for 29 of the care leavers aged 16 – 18 in 2017/18 (9%)



Excludes care leavers where economic activity was not known.

Male care leavers aged 16-18 were just as likely as females to be unemployed or economically inactive in 2017/18.

As can be expected, having qualifications correlated highly with economic activity, with 72% of those with GCSEs or other qualifications were in education, training or employment compared with 42% of those without qualifications.

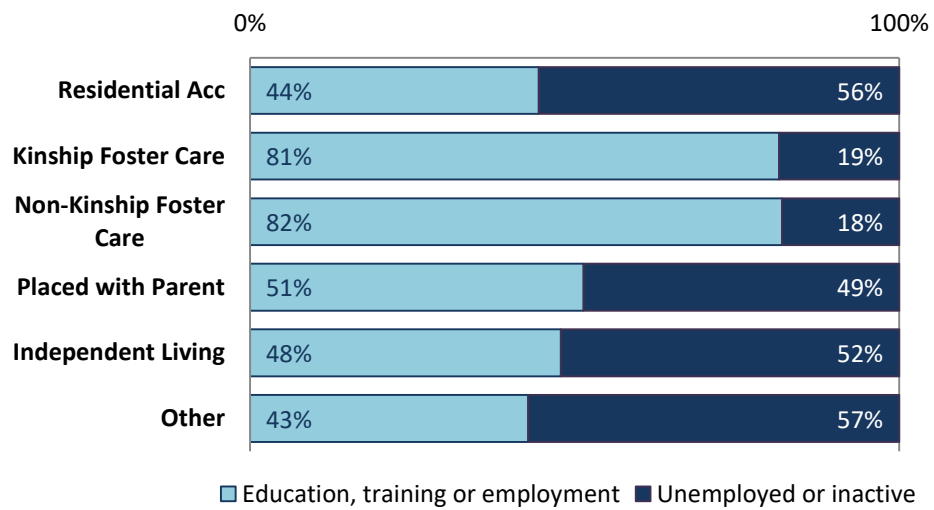
Those in care for less than 10 years were more likely than those in care for more than ten years to be unemployed or economically inactive (38% compared to 33%), however this gap was smaller than in recent years²³.

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 81% and 82% respectively, in education, training or employment.

Those who had been placed in residential care, had been living independently or in “other” placements, fared less well, with over half unemployed or economically inactive (56%, 52% and 57% respectively – see figure below). “Other” placement types include placements like supported accommodation projects, bed & breakfast, hospital and friends.

²³ See Tables for details.

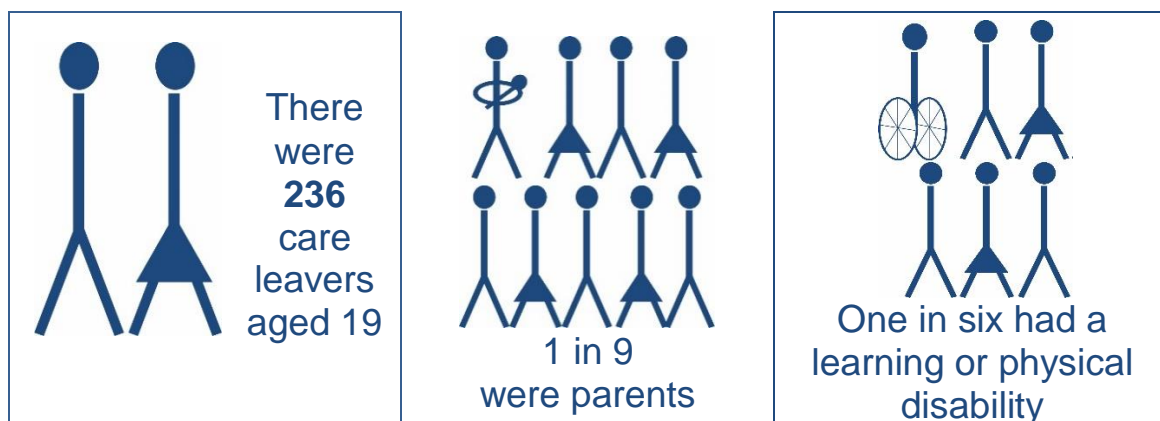
Figure 14 Care leavers aged 16-18 – Economic activity by latest placement type (2017/18)



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

3. Care Leavers Aged 19

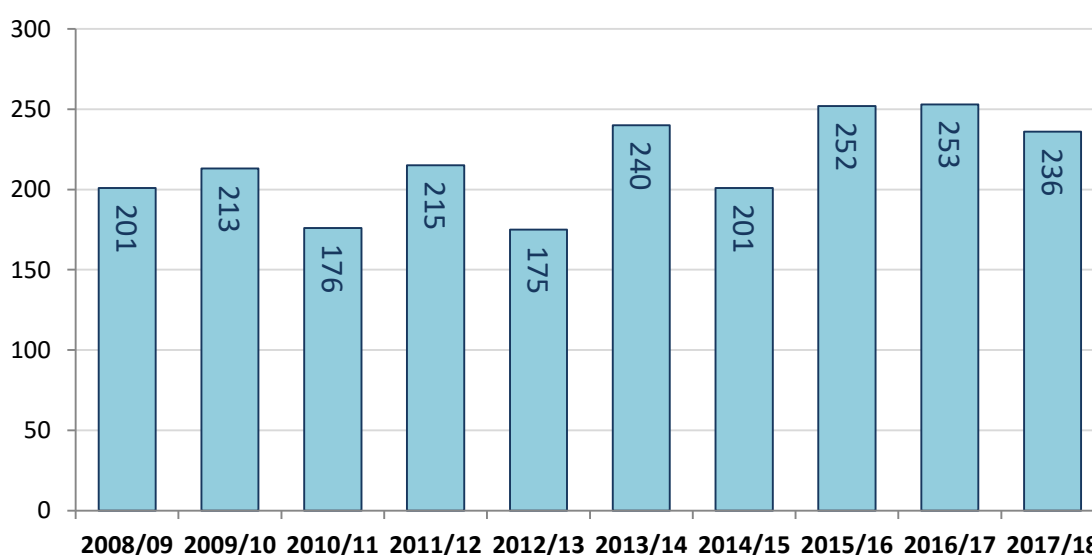
3.1. WHO ARE THE CARE LEAVERS AGED 19?



During the year ending 31 March 2018, there were 236 young people in Northern Ireland, who had been in care on 1 April 2015, and who reached their 19th birthday during the year ending 31 March 2018. This was 7% less than the previous year.

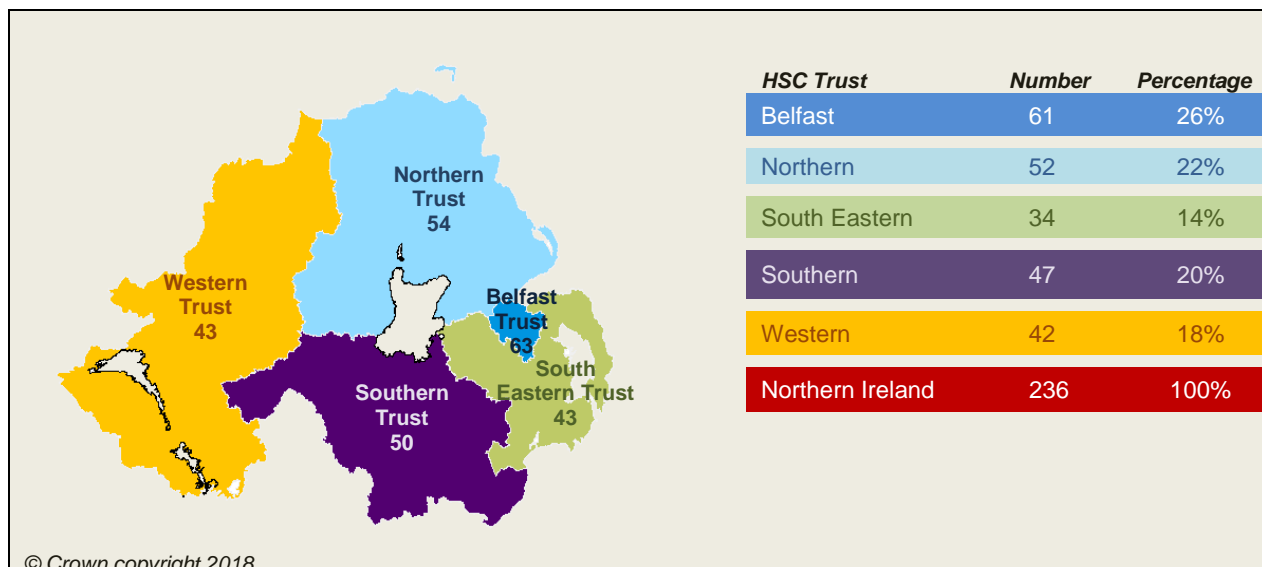
Of the 236 care leavers aged 19, 106 (45%) were male and 130 (55%) were female. This gender split was similar to the general population of that age group in Northern Ireland, where 52% were males and 48% females²⁴.

Figure 15 Number of care leavers aged 19 in Northern Ireland (2008/09 – 2017/18)



²⁴ 2017 Mid-Year Population Estimate (NISRA 2018).

Figure 16 Number of care leavers aged 19 by HSC Trust (2017/18)



The highest proportion of care leavers aged 19 were in the Belfast Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust (26%) compared to 14% in the South Eastern HSC Trusts.

The care leavers' geographical location was linked with the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017²⁵ 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 higher proportion had been living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland before the last entry into care (37%) than after leaving care (31%). Further analysis showed that almost half of the care leavers (47%) were living in an area of same deprivation rank when leaving care as before last entry into care. Some 21% were living in a more deprived area after leaving care while 32% of care leavers were now living in area of lower 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 (47%) and those from a Protestant community background (44%). Some 9% were of 'Unknown', 'None' or 'Other' religious backgrounds, which was similar to the previous year.

Almost all of the care leavers aged 19 had a white ethnic background (96%).

²⁵Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2017 (<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017>).

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 96% of the care leavers and information was available for 92% upon leaving care. Information was supplied for 90% of the care leavers for both prior to entering care and after leaving care.

3.1.2. Disability

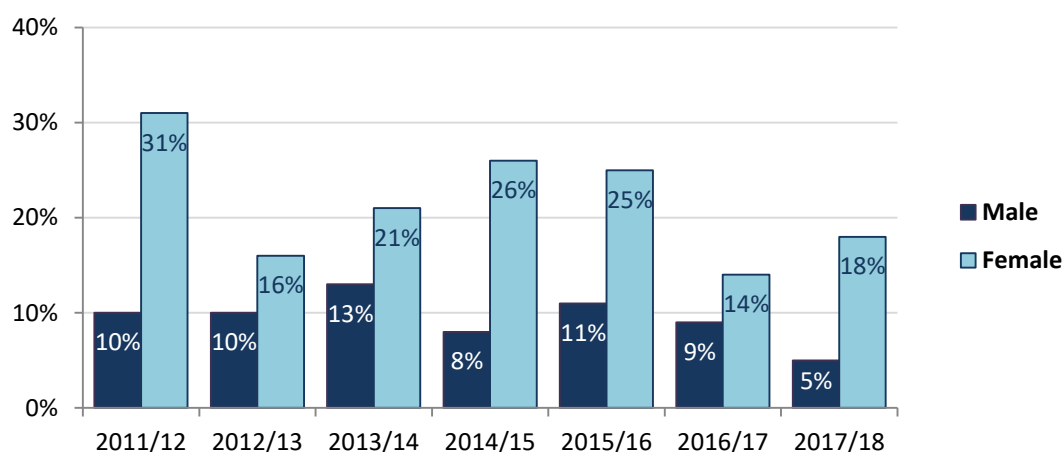
One in six (18%) of the care leavers aged 19 had a disability (42 care leavers). Of the care leavers with a disability, two fifths had a learning disability²⁸ (40%). Although not directly comparable, figures from the 2011 Census indicated that 7% of 18-19 year olds in Northern Ireland had a disability²⁹. This suggests that a disproportionately high number of care leavers have a disability.

3.1.3. Dependants

Some 12% of care leavers aged 19 were parents, 19 young women and 11 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 17 Care leavers aged 19 with dependants by gender (2011/12 – 2017/18)



Almost one in five (18%) of female care leavers aged 19 in 2017/18 became mothers on or before their 19th birthday. During 2017, 1% of 15-19 year old females in the general population in Northern Ireland became mothers³⁰. Although these figures are not directly comparable, it does indicate a higher prevalence of teenage mothers in the cohorts 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: Registrar General Annual Report 2017 Births, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency 2018; . 2017 Mid-Year Population Estimate (NISRA 2018).

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 (92%)³¹ with 8% 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 over two thirds (70%) had been looked after under a Care Order, with 28% voluntarily accommodated (Article 21) and a further 2% of young people were in care under 'Other'³³ arrangements.

In terms of the length of time spent in the last period of care, 53% of those who had been looked after for less than 5 years had a Care Order, this rose to 97% for those who had been in care 10 years or more.

3.2.3. Last period in care

Prior to leaving care, the average length of time in care was 6 years and 7 months; two months shorter than in 2016/17 (6 years and 9 months³⁴). The average last period in care was slightly shorter for males compared with females (6 years 2 months and 6 years and 10 months respectively). For half (50%) of the care leavers, the duration of the last period in care was less than five years whereas for a quarter (25%) of the care leavers it lasted for ten years or longer.

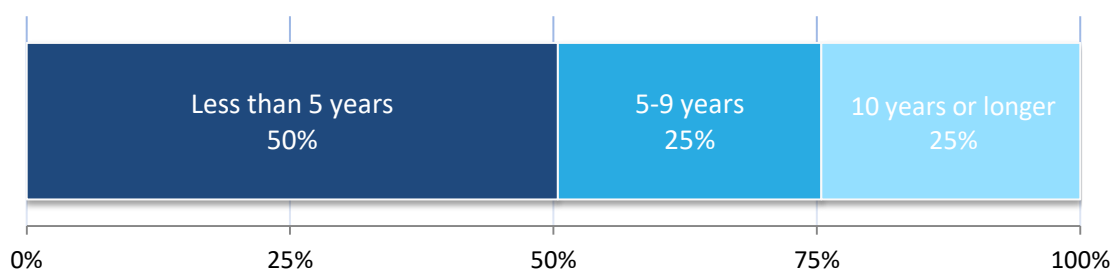
³¹ This figure includes four care leavers aged 19 when leaving care.

³² Description of legal statuses is included in the appendix.

³³ This includes Interim Care Orders.

³⁴ Figure revised from previous publication.

Figure 18 Care leavers aged 19 – Length of latest period of care (2017/18)

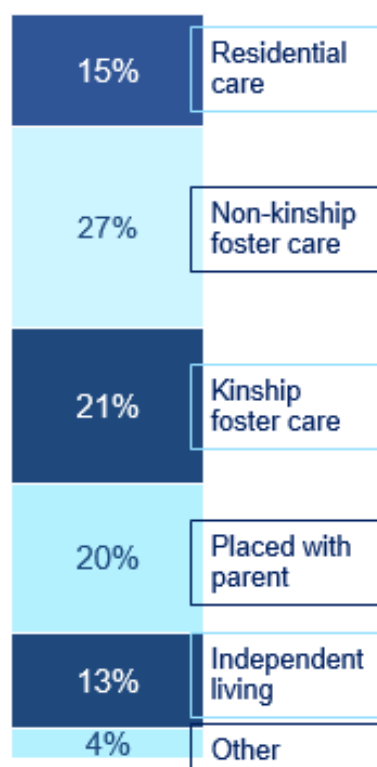


Appendix B sets out definitions of the different types of placements of care that are covered below. Before leaving care, almost half (48%) of care leavers aged 19 had been in foster care (27% non-kinship and 21% kinship foster placements), with 20% placed with parents, 15% in residential care, 13% had been living independently³⁵ and 4% 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 living independently as their latest placement compared with females (15% and 11% 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 placements for those young people looked after for less than five years were placed with parent or independent living³⁷.

Figure 19 Care leavers aged 19 – Latest placement prior to leaving care (2017/18)

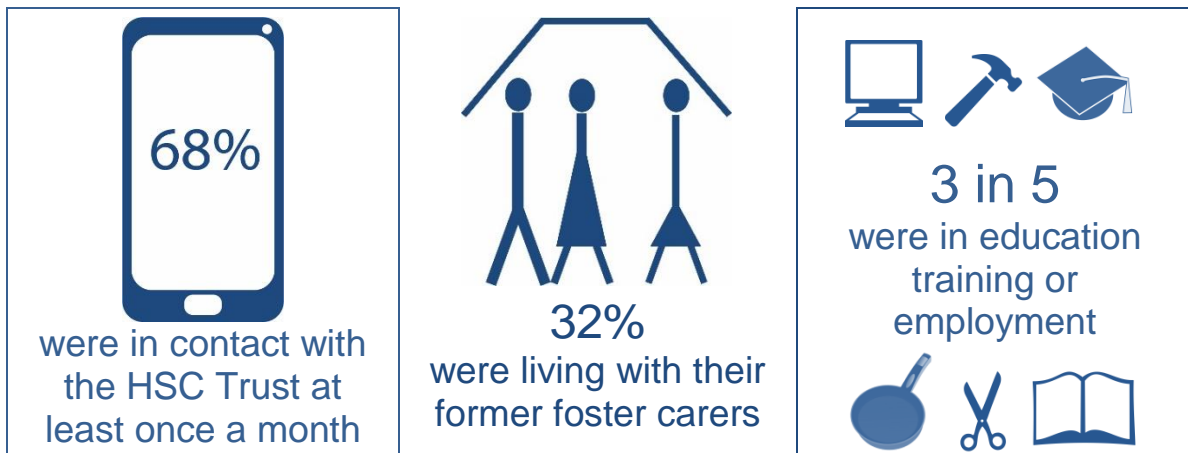


³⁵ Independent Living includes living with and without formal support.

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?

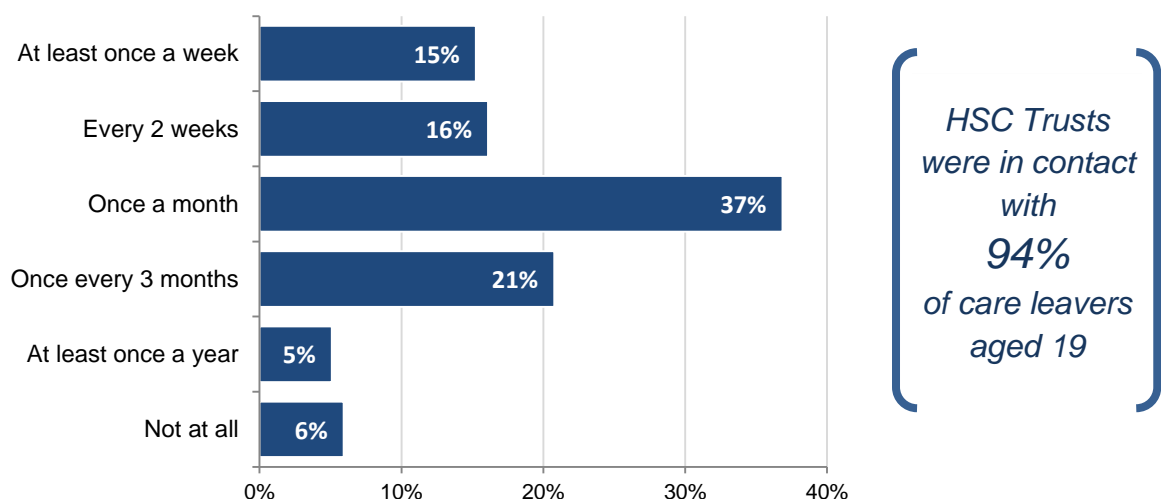


3.3.1. Contact with Social Services

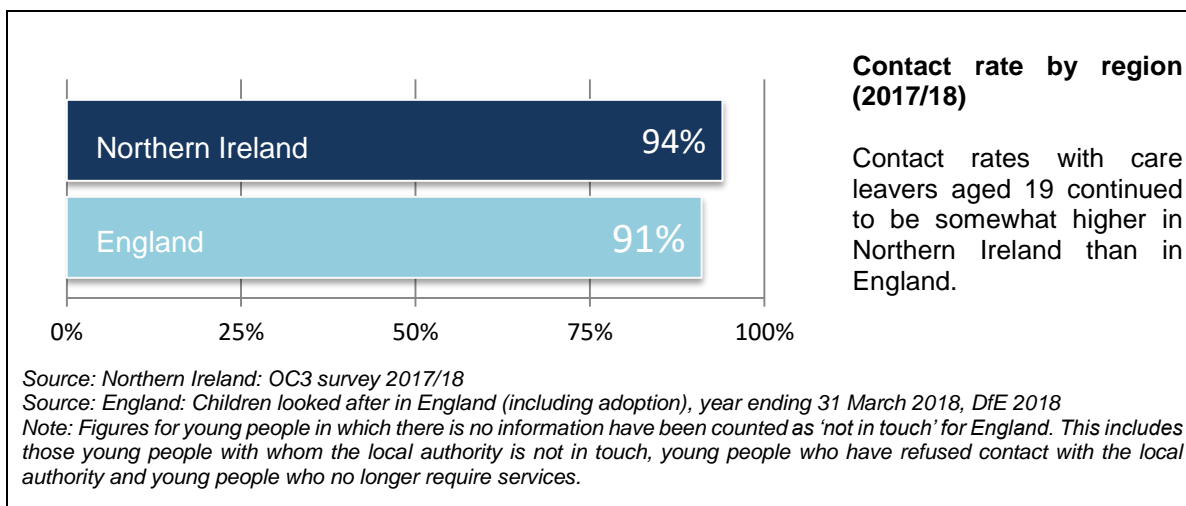
The 'Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002' requires HSC Trusts to take reasonable steps to maintain contact with care leavers. For 2017/18, HSC Trusts reported contacts with 222 (94%) of the 236 care leavers aged 19. This was an increase of 22 percentage points since 2003/04³⁸ when the contact rate was 72%. In 2017/18 Social Services were in contact with 68% of the care leavers at least once a month.

In regards to the last placement of the care leavers, contact rates ranged between 86% and 98% across all placement types.

Figure 20 Care Leavers aged 19 – Contact Rates by Frequency of Contact (2017/18)

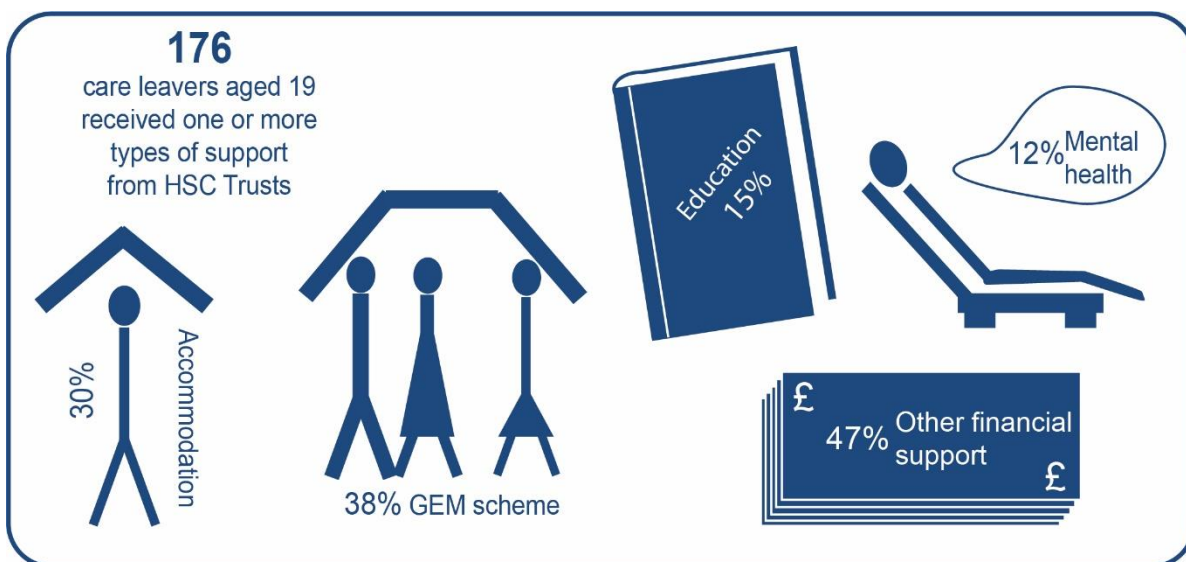


³⁸ Former Care Leavers in Northern Ireland 2003/04, DHSSPS 2006.



3.3.2. Support from Social Services

Some 176 (75%) of the 236 care leavers aged 19 were receiving some form of ongoing support from social services³⁹. Of those young people receiving support, 82 (47%) were receiving financial support⁴⁰, 66 (38%) were receiving support for a 'Going the Extra Mile' (GEM) placement⁴¹, 52 (30%) were receiving financial support towards accommodation, 21 (12%) had support for mental health issues, 26 (15%) were accepting financial support for their education and 11 (6%) were getting other forms of support.



Note: Care leavers may receive more than one service. Some 6% were getting other forms of support.

A slightly lower proportion of males (71%) than females (78%) were receiving support from social services having left care. Care leavers with a disability were just as likely to be receiving support (74%) than those without a disability (75%).

³⁹ Care leavers may be receiving more than one service.

⁴⁰ Financial support towards travel, groceries, leisure etc.

⁴¹ The Going the Extra Mile scheme was launched in 2006 and aims to promote continuity and stability in post care life for young people living with foster carers.

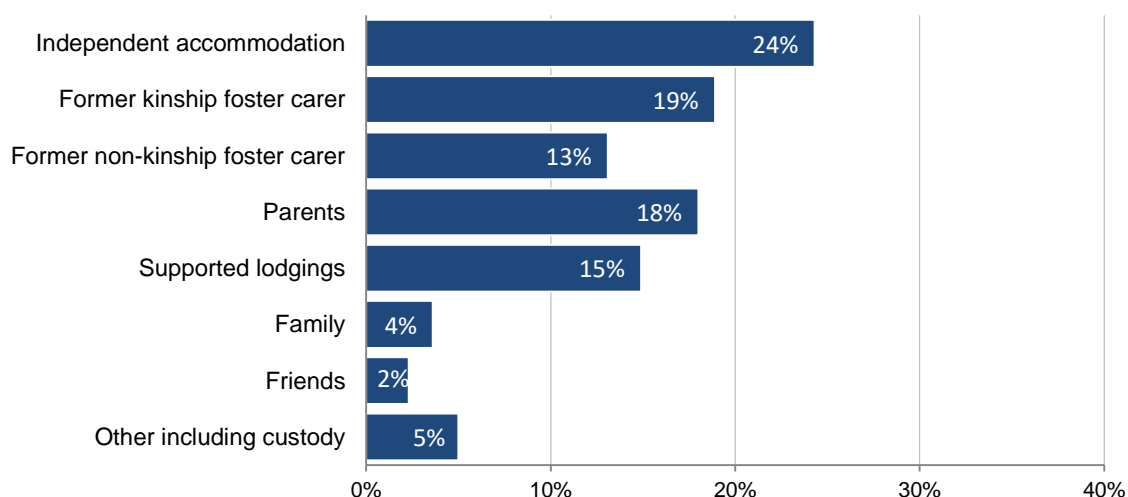
The length of the last care placement would appear to have an impact on whether or not a young person is in receipt of support. Some 83% of those who had been looked after for ten years or longer were being supported by social services compared to 67% of those who had been in care for less than five years.

The service given will depend on the young person's needs, and hence the needs of the cohort of 19-year-olds in 2017/18 may differ from 2016/17. Overall, the number of care leavers receiving support increased from 71% to 75%. Of those receiving support, there was a reduction in proportion getting mental health support from 19% in 2016/17 to 12% in 2017/18. Educational support increased from 11% to 15% of the care leavers who received support.

3.3.3. Accommodation

Care leaver's were living in a variety of types of accommodation on their 19th birthday. A quarter (54) were living in independent accommodation (24%), with almost a third living with their former foster cares (19% with kinship foster carers and 13% with non-kinship foster carers). Furthermore, 68 of these 71 former foster care placements were GEM arrangements. Almost one in five (18%) were living with their parents and 15% were in supported lodgings⁴².

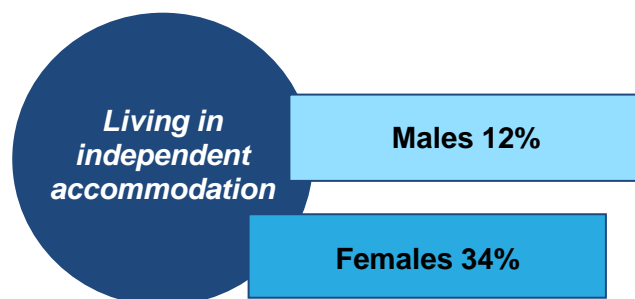
Figure 21 Care leavers aged 19 – Type of accommodation



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

⁴² Figures relate to those care leavers in contact with their HSC Trust.

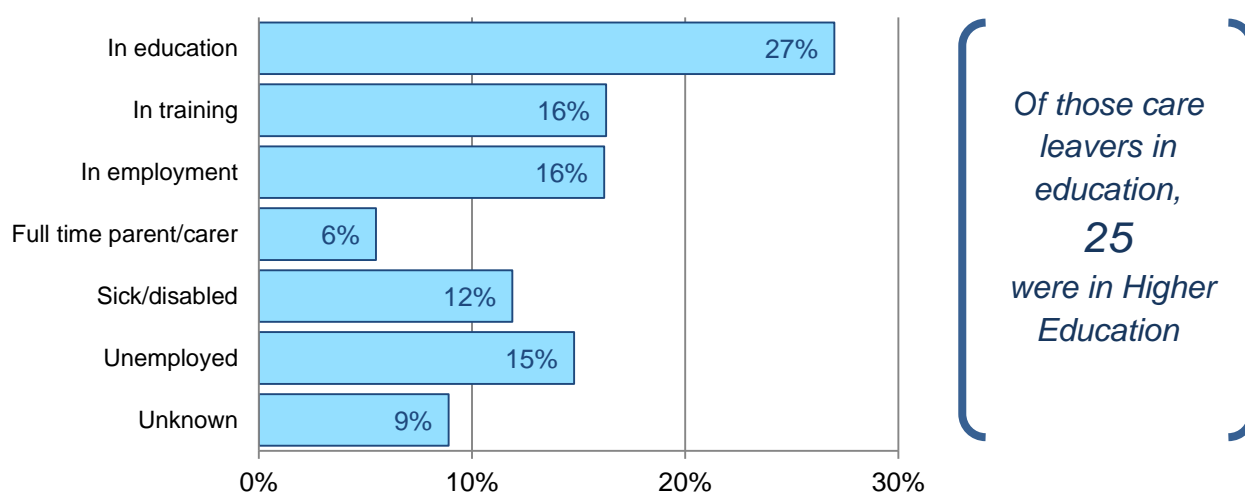
Young men and young women differed in the types of accommodation in which they were most likely to be living: a higher proportion (34%) of young women than young men (12%) were living in independent accommodation. In contrast, 23% of young men were living with their parents, compared with 14% of young women.



3.3.4. Economic Activity

Of all care leavers aged 19 in 2017/18, just over a quarter were in education (27%) with a sixth attending training (16%). Some 15% were unemployed, and 41 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 9% of the care leavers.

Figure 22 Care leavers aged 19 – Proportion of care leavers by current activity⁴³

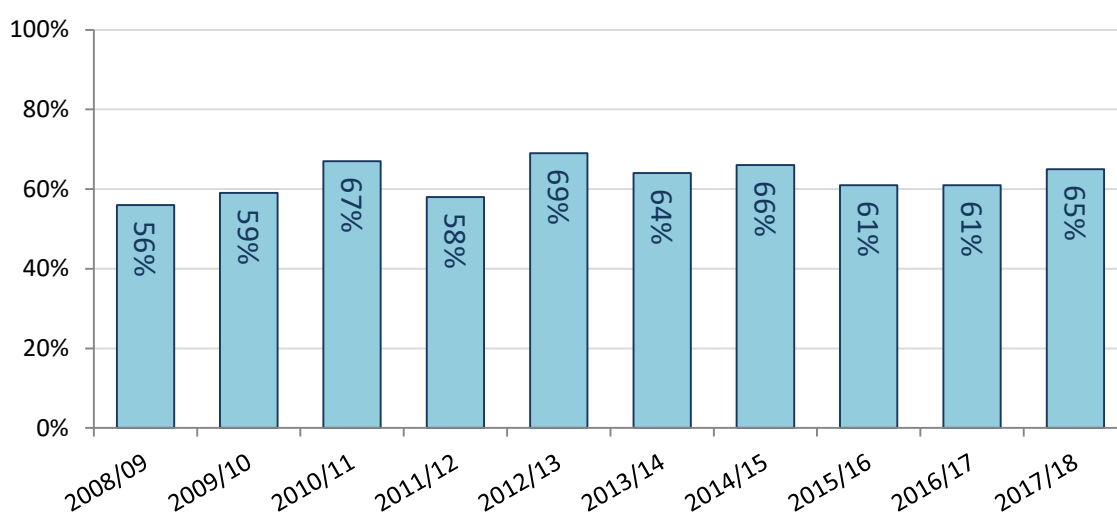


⁴³ Higher education is defined as studies beyond A Level, leading to a degree or higher qualification. This includes diplomas in higher education, teaching and nursing qualifications, HNDs, ONDs and BTEC. This includes full-time and part-time study if it is considered the main activity.

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 2018, and whose economic activity was known.

In 2017/18, 65% of all care leavers aged 19 in contact with HSC Trusts, and whose economic activity was known, were in education, training or employment. Just over a third (35%) were unemployed or economically inactive.

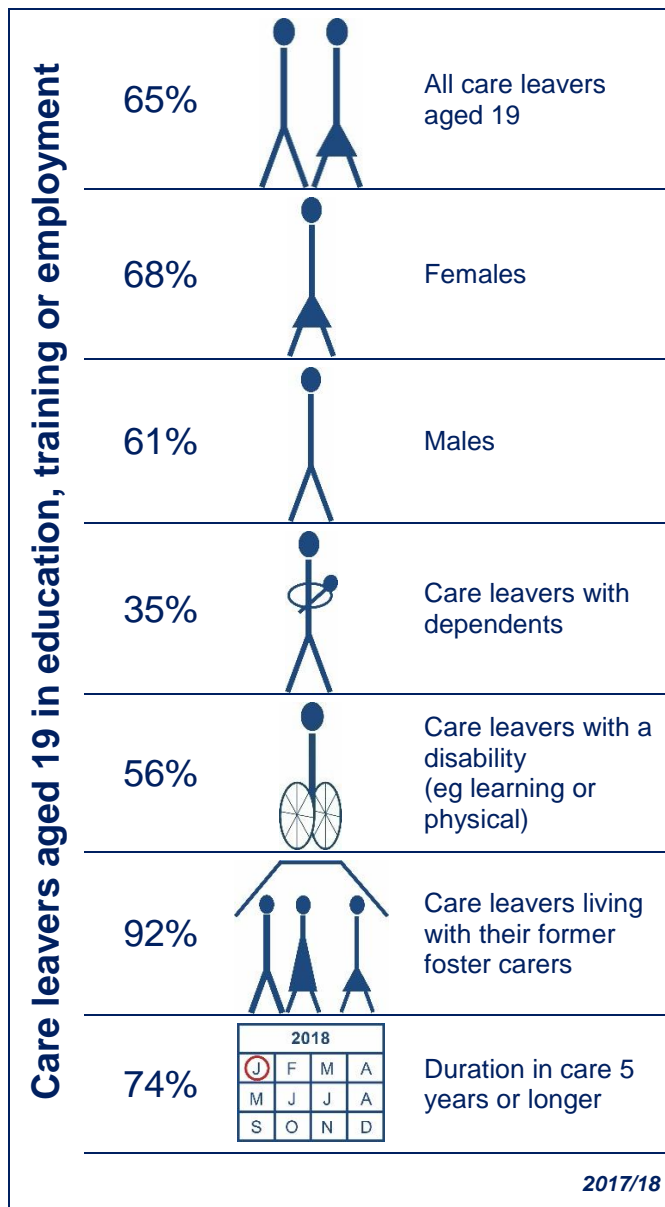
Figure 23 Care leavers aged 19 – Proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment (2008/09 – 2017/18)



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

The proportion of care leavers aged 19 in education, training or employment was higher in 2017/18 than the previous two years. Over the last ten years, the highest number occurred in 2012/13 when 69% were in education, training or employment and the lowest proportion occurred in 2008/09 (56%).

In 2017/18, the Southern HSC Trust had the highest proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment (70%) whereas the Northern HSC Trust had the lowest (57%). There were increases in the proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment in the Belfast, South Eastern, Southern and Western HSC Trusts from the previous year (see Tables for details).



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

A lower proportion of male (61%) than female (68%) care leavers aged 19 were in education, training or employment in 2017/18 (see tables for details).

A care leaver is categorised as economically inactive if they are not in employment, training or education due to caring responsibilities or disability. It can therefore be expected that a lower proportion of care leavers in those cohorts are economically active.

A third (35%) of the care leavers aged 19 who had dependent children, were in education, training or employment; the same proportion as in 2016/17.

Some 56% of those with a disability (e.g. learning or physical disability) were in education, training or employment.

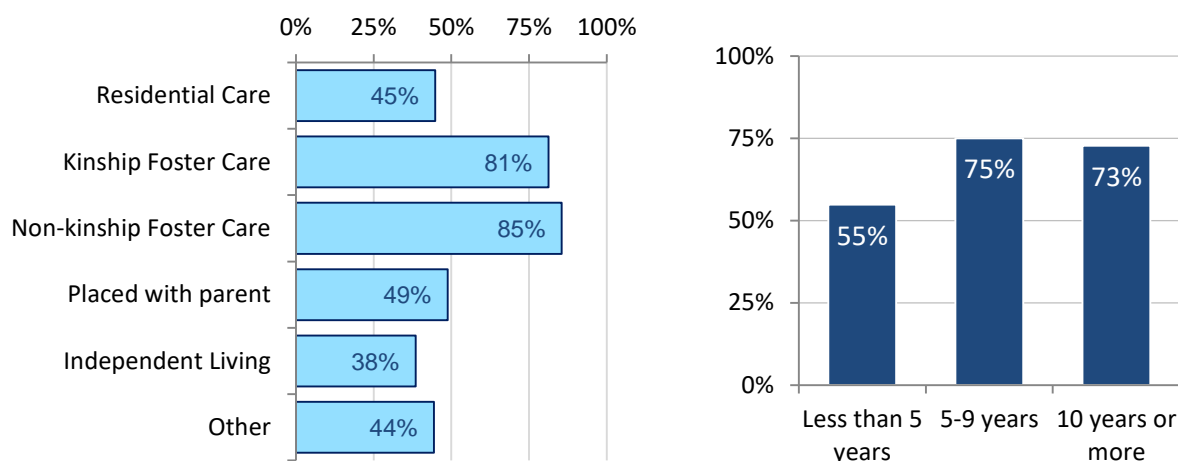
Please note that due to small numbers of care leavers with dependants and with disabilities, these figures may be subject to high year on year volatility.

As highlighted previously, time in care and placement type seem to be linked. The rate of education, training and employment were higher for those in care for longer and for those whose last placement was foster care.

Some 73% of young people who had been in care for more than 10 years were in education, training or employment, compared with 55% for those in care for less than 5 years. This trend is similar to previous years.

Just over four fifths of those whose final placement had been in foster care were in education, training or employment (85% in non-kinship and 81% in kinship care), compared with between 38% and 49% 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.

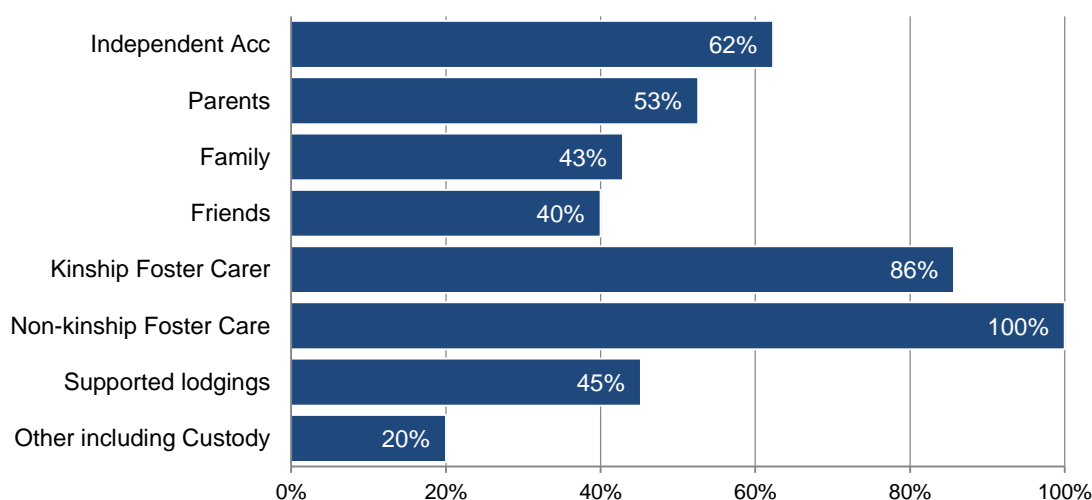
Figure 24 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by latest placement and time in care (2017/18)



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

The care leaver's current accommodation at age 19 also seems to be linked to economic activity. Some 92% of the 19 year olds who were living with their former foster carers (kinship and non-kinship) were in education, training or employment. This was considerably higher than all other accommodation types. Please note however, that the Going the Extra Mile (GEM scheme), which supports a young person to continue to live with their former foster carers, is only open where the young person is in education. Hence, there will naturally be a high rate of economically active care leavers in those accommodation types.

Figure 25 Care leavers aged 19 – Care leavers in education, training and employment by current accommodation (2017/18)



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.

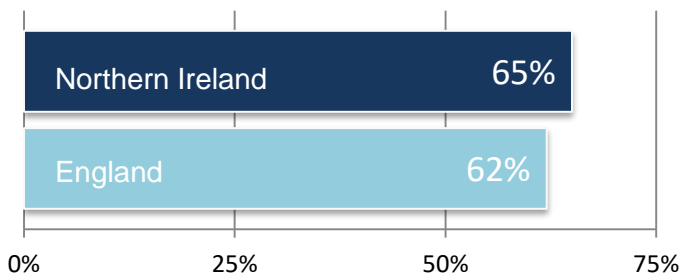
Calculating NEET depends on the information sources available. As such, there may be some difference, for example, between NEET figures for Northern Ireland in general and that of care leavers in this survey. In this survey, care leavers who are NEET refers to those who were not in part- or full time 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 2017/18,
35%
of care leavers
aged 19
were NEET.*

Proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment by region (2017/18)



The proportion of 19 year old care leavers in touch with local authorities who were in education, training or employment in Northern Ireland was higher than in England.

Sources:

Northern Ireland: OC3 survey 2017/18

England: Children looked after in England (including adoption), year ending 31 March 2018, DfE 2018

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

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” in 2013/14. 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 tenth OC1 information collection of care leavers aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland and the ninth OC3 information collection of care leavers at the age of 19. These information 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 return 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 return, 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 return, 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 returns used to collect this information has one record for each young person fitting the parameters of the collection. The returns are completed online by nominated HSC Trust staff using a secure web-based 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 2017 to 31 March 2018. 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 2017/18 collection the reference period was 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

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 2016/17 published in March 2018, further information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-2016-17/>

Wales

Children Looked After by Local Authorities 2017/18 are produced by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government. Data for the period up to the end of March 2018 were released in November 2018 and can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/children-looked-after-local-authorities/?lang=en>

England

Statistics on Children Looked After in England (including adoption) are produced annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. Figures for the year ending 31 March 2017 were published in September 2017, and are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2017-to-2018>

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.

A National Statistics Publication

Survey forms and guidance notes for the care leavers surveys can be found on the Department's website at the following link:

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

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/herself 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 lasts 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 if 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 are available in excel format on the DoH website

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

- Table 1: Care leavers aged 16 – 18 (2013 – 2018)
- Table 2: Care leavers aged 16 – 18: Last placement type (2013 – 2018)
- Table 3: Care leavers aged 16 – 18: Length of time in care (2013 – 2018)
- Table 4: Care leavers aged 16 – 18: Reasons for leaving care (2013 – 2018)
- Table 5: Care leavers aged 16 – 18: Educational attainment (2013 – 2018)
- Table 6: Care leavers aged 16 – 18: Current activity (2013 – 2018)
- Table 7: Care leavers aged 16 – 18: Economic activity for care leavers whose activity was known (2013 – 2018)
- Table 8: Care leavers aged 16 – 18: Health & Social Care Trust (2017/18)
- Table 9: Care leavers aged 19 (%) (2013 – 2018)
- Table 9a: Care leavers aged 19 (2013 – 2018)
- Table 10: Care leavers aged 19: Length of latest period of care (2017/18)
- Table 11: Care leavers aged 19: Latest placement prior to leaving care (2017/18)
- Table 12: Care leavers aged 19: Legal status prior to leaving care (2017/18)
- Table 13: Care leavers aged 19: Contact rates (2017/18)
- Table 14: Care leavers aged 19: Current activity (2013 – 2018)
- Table 15: Care leavers aged 19: Education, training or employment (2013 – 2018)
- Table 16: Care leavers aged 19: Type of accommodation (2014 – 2018)
- Table 17: Care leavers aged 19: Type of accommodation by gender (2017/18)
- Table 18: Care leavers aged 19: Support from Social Services (2017 – 2018)
- Table 19: Care leavers aged 19: Health and Social Care Trust (2017/18)

This statistical bulletin and other statistical bulletins published by
Community Information Branch are available to download from

[https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/dhssps-statistics-and-research-social-
services/social-care-statistics](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/dhssps-statistics-and-research-social-services/social-care-statistics)