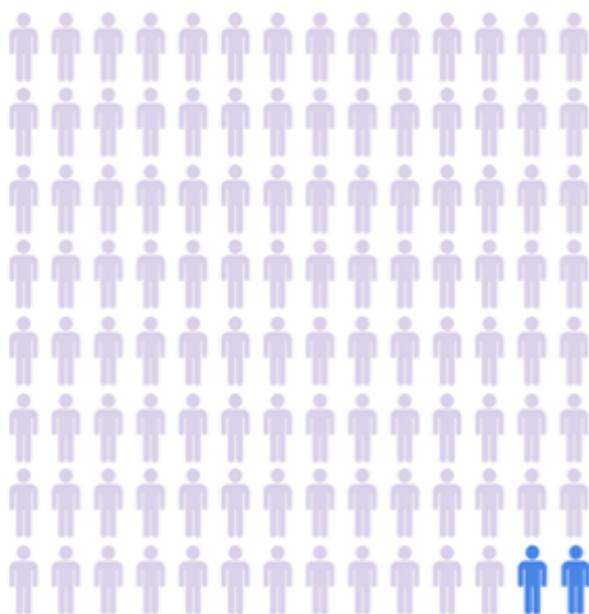


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Education outcomes for Scotland's looked after children, 2012/13



This publication, the fourth annual edition in the series, presents information on the educational outcomes of the 935 young people who were looked after at any point during 2012/13 and who left school during that academic year. These looked after children represent less than two per cent of the 52,441 young people who left school during 2012/13. They also represent six per cent of all children looked after at 31 July 2013. Each figure in the illustration below represents 468 young people.

In the academic year 2012/13:

Looked after school leavers

- 85%** aged 16 or under
- 86** average tariff score (a 19 point increase since 2009/10)
- 62%** in positive destinations nine months after leaving school (a 17 percentage point increase on 2009/10)
- 90%** attendance
- 209** exclusions per 1,000 (a 43% fall since 2009/10)

All school leavers

- 30%** aged 16 or under
- 407** average tariff score (a 35 point increase on 2009/10)
- 90%** in positive destinations nine months after leaving school (a five percentage point increase on 2009/10)
- 94%** attendance
- 33** exclusions per 1,000 (a 27% fall since 2009/10)

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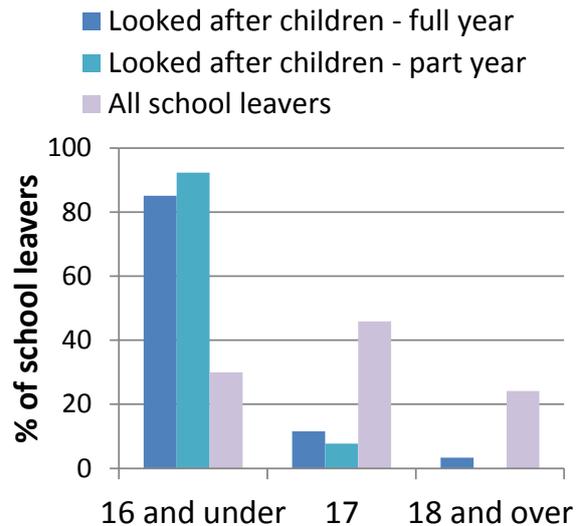
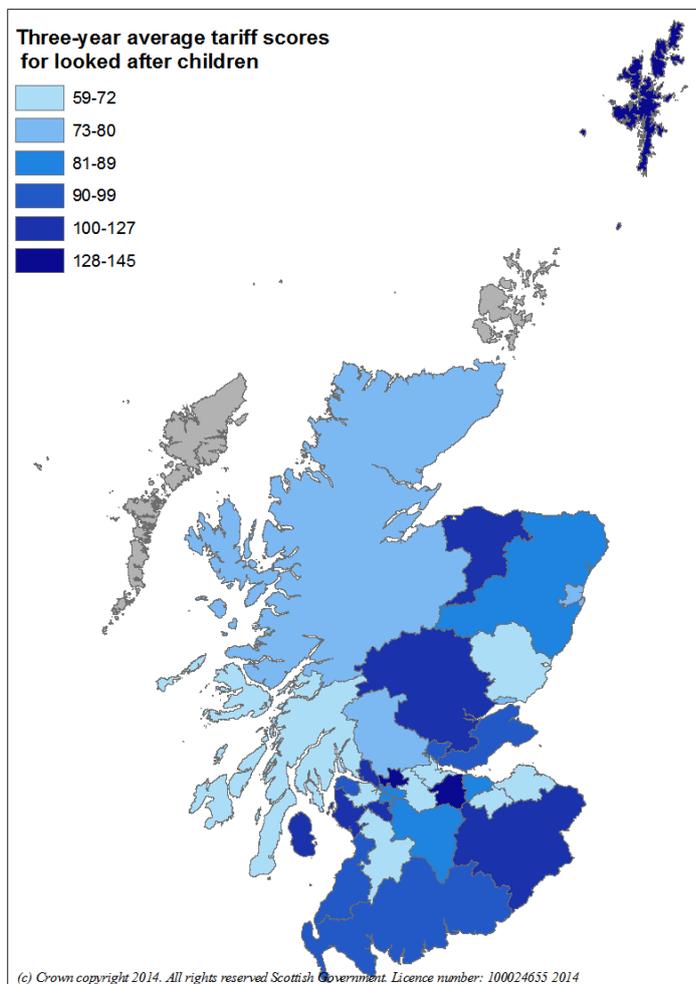
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Further information

The information in this publication plus **additional tables** are available at:
<http://scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/01106>

Young people who are looked after by local authorities tend to leave school at younger ages than other young people. Partly because of this, looked after young people tend to have lower levels of educational qualification and are less likely to go on to positive destinations after school than young people who are not looked after, although there have been improvements over the last four years.

The numbers of looked after children leaving school each year at a local authority level are small (on average around 15 children per local authority). Map 1, which combines three years of data, shows generally higher levels of attainment in the south and east of Scotland,



although this pattern is not uniform – numbers of school leavers in each authority from year to year are very variable, and it is therefore difficult to draw strong conclusions. Data for Orkney and Eilean Siar have not been included as the number of children is too small to be robust.

A new category has been introduced for 2012/13. In addition to focusing on young people who were looked after for the whole of the academic year in which they left school, this publication also looks at young people who were looked after at any time during 2012/13 and also left school. This enables an investigation of whether looked after young people with more stable recent circumstances have different outcomes to those who have undergone more change.

All figures refer to those young people with a robust match to the pupil census.

Educational attainment

	Looked after children continue to have lower attainment. Their average tariff score has fluctuated over time but is improving overall
	Looked after young people experiencing only one placement have higher average attainment than those with more placements

This section presents data on the educational attainment of young people who were looked after at some point between August 2012 and July 2013 and who left school during the academic year 2012/13.

Age when leaving school

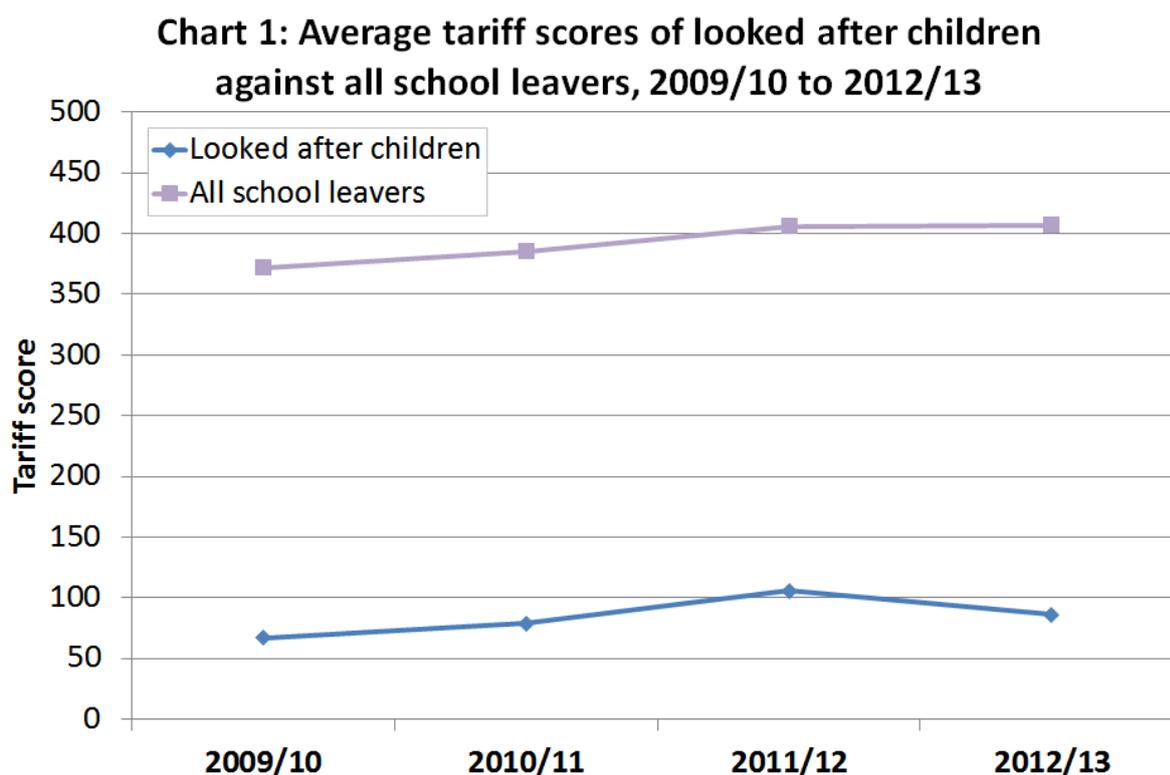
Looked after children tend to have lower levels of educational attainment than non-looked after children. These differences are, in part, linked to the fact that looked after children tend to leave school at younger ages than non-looked after children. As Table 1.1 shows, in 2012/13 more than eight in ten (85 per cent) of looked after school leavers were aged 16 and under (i.e. they left school at the earliest point they could) compared to three in ten (30 per cent) of school leavers more generally. The number of looked after children staying on at school over the age of 16 has decreased, (from 21 per cent in 2011/12 to 15 per cent in 2012/13), although this is higher than the 2010/11 figure of 12 per cent.

Table 1.1: Age of all school leavers and those who were looked after children, 2010/11 to 2012/13

Age at 30 June	Looked after children (full year)			All school leavers		
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Percentage						
16 and under	88	79	85	34	30	30
17	11	17	12	44	45	46
18 and over	1	4	3	22	25	24
Number						
16 and under	415	306	663	18,345	15,405	15,733
17	51	67	90	23,591	22,806	24,044
18 and over	6	15	26	11,910	12,454	12,664
Scotland	472	388	779	53,846	50,665	52,441

Average tariff scores

As schools and colleges in Scotland offer different types of qualifications which are not directly comparable, a system of Tariff Scores is used to measure attainment. Each grade in each type of qualification is assigned a number of points – from 120 points for a grade A at an Advanced Higher, to 1 point for an Access 2 unit. The tariff score for a young person is the sum of points for each of the qualifications they hold. The higher the tariff score, the higher the overall level of qualification.



As can be seen in Chart 1, looked after children obtain lower levels of qualification on average than school leavers. In 2012/13 the average tariff score among looked after children was 86 compared to 407 among all school leavers.

Table 1.2: Average tariff scores of all school leavers and those who were looked after children, by age at 30 June, 2009/10 to 2012/13

Age	Looked after children				All school leavers			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
16 & under	51	57	63	59	141	145	149	154
17	198	226	255	239	489	491	498	498
18 & over	316	359	310	242	547	544	556	549
Scotland	67	79	106	86	372	385	406	407

Educational outcomes among looked after children have overall improved slightly over the last four years, but have fallen between 2011/12 and 2012/13. Since 2009/10 the average tariff score for looked after children has increased by 19 tariff score points, although overall school leavers have been improving more quickly, by 35 tariff points in the period.

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

Table 1.3: Average tariff scores of looked after children who spent the whole of the academic year in a single placement and who left school during that year, by the accommodation type of that placement 2009/10 to 2012/13 ^{(1),(2),(3)}

	Average tariff score			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
In the community:				
At home with parents	*	35	40	49
With friends/relatives	87	*	164	111
With foster carers provided by LA	160	176	199	178
With foster carers purchased by LA	103	145	147	171
In other community ⁽⁴⁾	*	-	*	*
Residential accommodation:				
In local authority home	66	49	82	74
In voluntary home	100	*	90	137
In other residential ⁽⁵⁾	53	79	*	53
More than one placement ⁽⁶⁾	-	-	-	*
Average tariff score	68	86	116	86
	Number of young people			
Total number	395	370	310	779

(1) Cells containing * represent small numbers that have been suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

(2) Before 2012/13, only children looked after for the full year were considered.

(3) Average tariff score for children looked after only for part of 2012/13 was 72.

(4) Includes 'with prospective adopters'.

(5) Includes 'in residential school', 'in secure care accommodation', and 'crisis care'.

(6) These children spent all of 2012/13 in one placement, but had other placements in previous years.

Educational attainment varies across the types of accommodation in which looked after children are placed. Of young people who were looked after for the whole year and left school during 2012/13, average tariff scores were highest for young people who were looked after by foster carers provided by the local authority (with an average score of 178) and lowest, for young people who were looked after at home (with an average score of 49) for the entire school year. For children looked after for only part

of the year, overall attainment appears worse, with an average score of 72. Within the overall decrease in attainment compared to 2011/12, there have been improvements in attainment from some types of placements.

Over the last four years, the overall attainment of looked after young people has increased, although in the last year, attainment has decreased. The average tariff scores for young people with more than one placement are similar in 2012/13 to where they were in 2009/10. Since 2009/10 the average tariff score for young people who had one placement during the year has increased by 20 tariff points (to an average of 88). Children whose second placement covered the whole of 2012/13 have decreased attainment (to 52 points), but children with two placements looked after for only part of the year fared better at an average of 70 points. For children who have had three or more placements, attainment has increased this year, but numbers are too low to draw strong conclusions (Table 1.4a).

Table 1.4a: Average tariff scores of looked after young people by number of placements during the academic year, 2009/10 to 2012/13

No. of placements	Average Tariff Score			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
1	68	86	116	88
2	67	60	82	52
3	57	48	39	*
4 or more	41	42	33	*
Scotland	67	79	106	86

Table 1.4b: Average tariff scores of looked after young people looked after for the whole or part of 2012/13 by number of placements during the academic year

No. of placements	Average Tariff Score		No. of young people	
	Full year	Part year	Full year	Part year
1	88	82	741	56
2	52	70	29	64
3	*	51	*	18
4 or more	*	69	*	18
Scotland	86	72	779	156

Cross-UK comparisons

The improvements seen in the proportion of looked after children in Scotland achieving qualifications over the last four years mirrors the general trend across the UK. Because of differences in the education systems between Scotland and the rest of the UK (and in the ages at which looked after children's qualifications are measured) it is not possible to directly compare qualification levels of looked after children. See background note 5.4 for further information.

Post-school destinations of looked after children

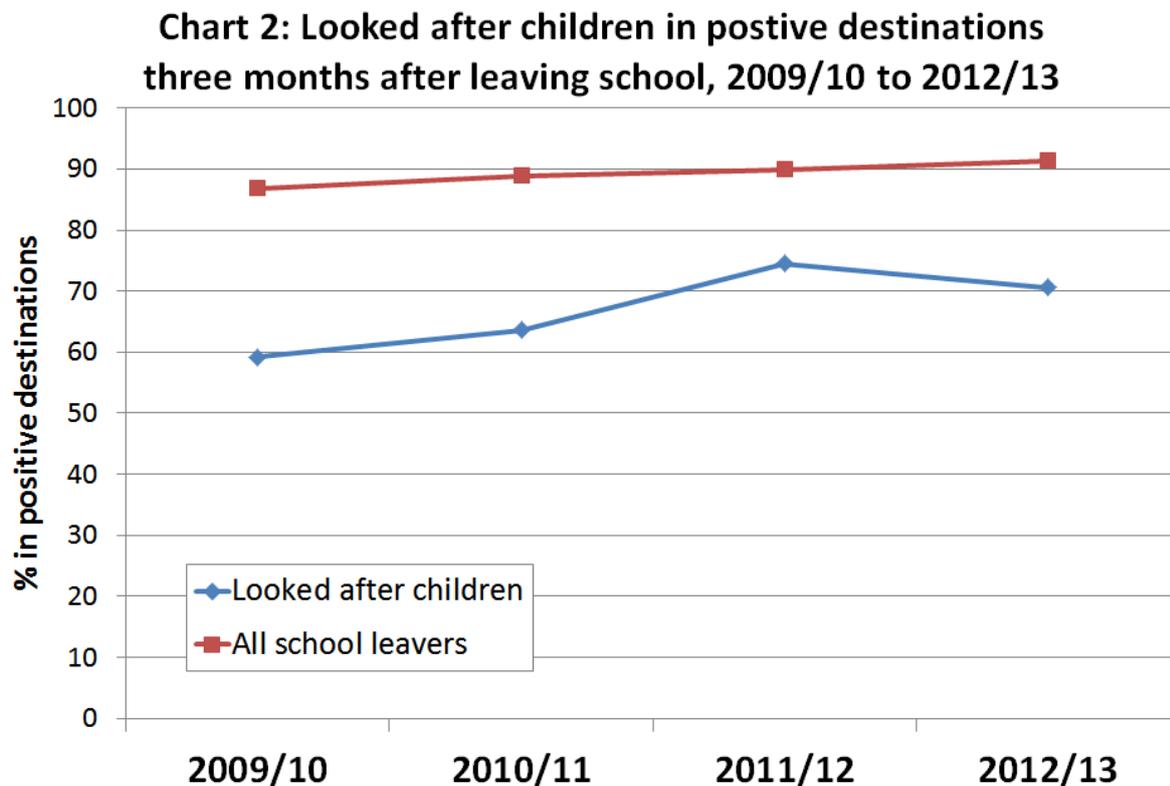
 Looked after children still less likely to go into **positive destinations** after they leave school

 Looked after children are less likely than non-looked after children to maintain initially positive destinations

This section presents data on the initial and follow up destinations of looked after young people who left school during the academic year 2012/13.

Initial and follow-up destinations

Young people are followed up twice after leaving school to assess their initial destination (three months after they leave school) and their follow up destination (nine months after leaving school). A young person is said to be in a positive destination if they are in education, employment, training, voluntary work or an activity agreement. For more information on school leaver destination categories, see background note 4.11.



The lower proportion of looked after children going into positive destinations is likely to be related to looked after young people leaving school at younger ages. Between

2009/10 and 2011/12 the proportion of looked after young people going into a positive destination post-school improved more quickly than for all school leavers, meaning that the gap narrowed. Between 2011/12 and 2012/13, however, the proportion of looked after young people entering positive destinations just after leaving school fell slightly, meaning that the gap has widened slightly in the last year (Chart 2).

Table 2.1: Percentage of school leavers by *initial* destination, for all school leavers and those who were looked after children for the full academic year, 2009/10-2012/13 ⁽¹⁾

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	Looked after children			
Higher Education	1	*	5	2
Further Education	33	31	36	33
Training	18	15	15	12
Employment	6	9	*	11
Voluntary work	1	*	*	1
Activity Agreement ⁽²⁾	-	6	10	11
Unemployed seeking work	36	32	19	23
Unemployed not seeking work	5	*	6	*
Unknown	0	*	1	*
<i>% in a positive destination</i> ^{(3),(4),(5)}	59	64	75	71
	All school leavers			
Higher Education	36	36	37	36
Further Education	27	27	27	28
Training	5	6	5	5
Employment	19	19	20	20
Voluntary Work	0	1	0	1
Activity Agreement ⁽²⁾	-	1	1	1
Unemployed Seeking	11	10	8	7
Unemployed Not Seeking	1	1	1	1
Unknown	1	0	0	0
<i>% in a positive destination</i> ^{(3),(4),(5)}	87	89	90	91

(1) Cells containing * represent small numbers that have been suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

(2) Activity Agreements were introduced in 2010/11 and therefore are not included in 2009/10 figures.

(3) Positive destination includes higher education, further education, training, voluntary work, employment. From 2010/11 it also includes activity agreements, which affects the per cent in a positive destination between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

(4) Due to rounding some totals will not equal the sum of their parts.

(5) See publication tables for part year data <http://scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/01106>.

Seven in ten (71 per cent) of children looked after for a full year who left school during 2012/13 were in a positive destination at the time of the September initial destination survey, compared with nine in ten (91 per cent) of all 2012/13 school leavers (Table 2.1). This is an 12 percentage point increase for looked after children since 2009/10 compared to a four percentage point increase for all school leavers, although the

proportion has fallen slightly since 2011/12. Among looked after young people 35 per cent were either in Higher or Further Education. Only two-thirds (66 per cent) of children looked after for part of the year were in positive destinations initially (See publication tables for part year data).

Table 2.2: Percentage of school leavers by *follow-up* destination, for all school leavers and those who were looked after children for the full academic year, 2009/10-2012/13⁽¹⁾

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	Looked after children			
Higher Education	1	2	3	3
Further Education	25	22	29	24
Training	12	14	13	10
Employment	7	10	11	14
Voluntary work	3	0	0	1
Activity Agreement ⁽²⁾	-	7	9	11
Unemployed seeking work	47	36	24	28
Unemployed not seeking work	7	7	8	8
Unknown	2	2	1	2
<i>% in a positive destination</i> ^{(3),(4),(5)}	44	55	67	62
	All school leavers			
Higher Education	34	34	36	36
Further Education	25	25	25	25
Training	3	4	4	3
Employment	23	24	24	25
Voluntary Work	1	1	1	0
Activity Agreement ⁽²⁾	-	1	1	1
Unemployed Seeking	12	11	8	8
Unemployed Not Seeking	2	2	2	2
Unknown	1	1	1	0
<i>% in a positive destination</i> ^{(3),(4),(5)}	85	87	89	90

(1) Cells containing * represent small numbers that have been suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

(2) Activity Agreements were introduced in 2010/11 and therefore are not included in 2009/10 figures.

(3) Positive destination includes higher education, further education, training, voluntary work, employment. From 2010/11 it also includes activity agreements, which affects the per cent in a positive destination between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

(4) Due to rounding some totals will not equal the sum of their parts.

(5) See publication tables for part year data <http://scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/01106>.

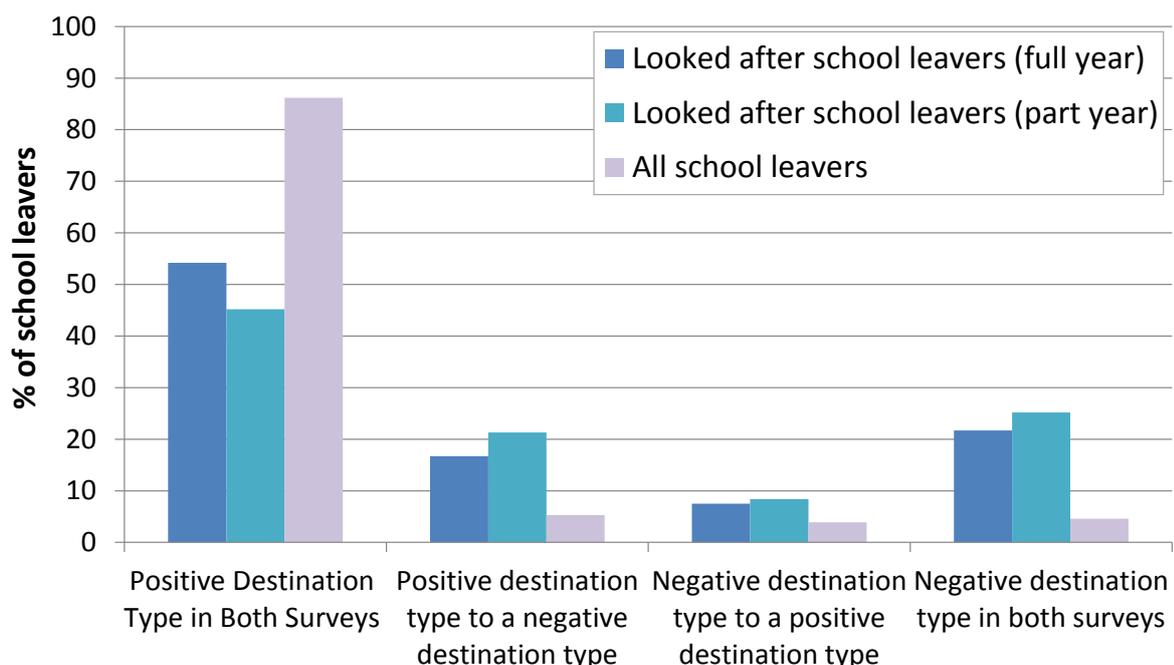
Non-looked after children are more likely to maintain a positive destination nine months after leaving school than looked after children. By the time of the March follow-up destination survey, six in ten (62 per cent) of whole-year looked after children who left school during 2012/13 were in a positive destination, compared with 90 per cent of all 2012/13 school leavers. The rate of positive destinations among looked after children at follow up survey has overall improved over the last four years – from 44

per cent in 2009/10 to 62 per cent in 2012/13 (Table 2.2), although it has declined since 2011/12. Of leavers looked after for part of 2012/13, only 54 per cent were in a positive destination at this stage.

Sustained destinations

As well as looking at what proportion of young people were in positive destinations three and nine months after leaving school, we also consider what proportion maintain positive destinations at both points. Looked after children are more likely to be in negative destinations (such as unemployment) in both the surveys than non-looked after children. One in five (22 per cent) of school leavers looked after for the full year (and one in four of those looked after for part of the year) were in a negative destination in both surveys in 2012/13 compared to less than one in twenty (five per cent) of all school leavers. Looked after children are also less likely to be in a positive destination in both surveys. Only 54 per cent of full-year looked after children (and 45 per cent of part-year) who left school during 2012/13 were in a positive destination in both surveys, compared with 86 per cent for all school leavers (Chart 3, Table 2.3). The proportion of looked after children being in positive destinations in both surveys has overall increased by 18 percentage points since 2009/10, although fell compared to 2011/12. The gap in the proportion of all school leavers maintaining positive destinations compared to looked after children has overall narrowed over the last four years, but has increased (from 25 percentage points in 2011/12 to 32 percentage points in 2012/13) between 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Chart 3: Initial and follow-up destinations of looked after children and all school leavers, 2012/13



The main difference in outcomes between looked after and non- looked after young people is in the proportion who start in a positive destination and move to a negative one. Around one in five looked after children (17 per cent looked after full-year, 21 per cent looked after part-year) moved from a positive initial destination to a negative follow up one, compared to one in twenty (five per cent) of all 2012/13 school leavers. Looked after children also had a much higher proportion in a negative destination in both surveys than all school leavers. However the proportion of looked after children moving from a positive destination at the initial survey to a negative one at the follow up survey has overall decreased over the last four years, but increased slightly over the last year (from 15 per cent in 2011/12 to 17 per cent in 2012/13).

Table 2.3: Percentage of school leavers by *sustained* destination for all school leavers and those who are looked after children, 2012/13

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	Looked after children			
Positive destination in both surveys	35.8	45.9	60.2	54.2
Positive to negative destination	23.5	17.8	14.5	16.7
Negative to positive destination	8.6	9.1	6.5	7.5
Negative destination in both surveys	32.1	27.1	18.7	21.7
	All school leavers			
Positive destination in both surveys	80.0	82.6	84.9	86.2
Positive to negative destination	6.9	6.3	5.1	5.3
Negative to positive destination	5.2	4.6	4.6	3.9
Negative destination in both surveys	7.9	6.4	5.4	4.6

Cross-UK comparisons

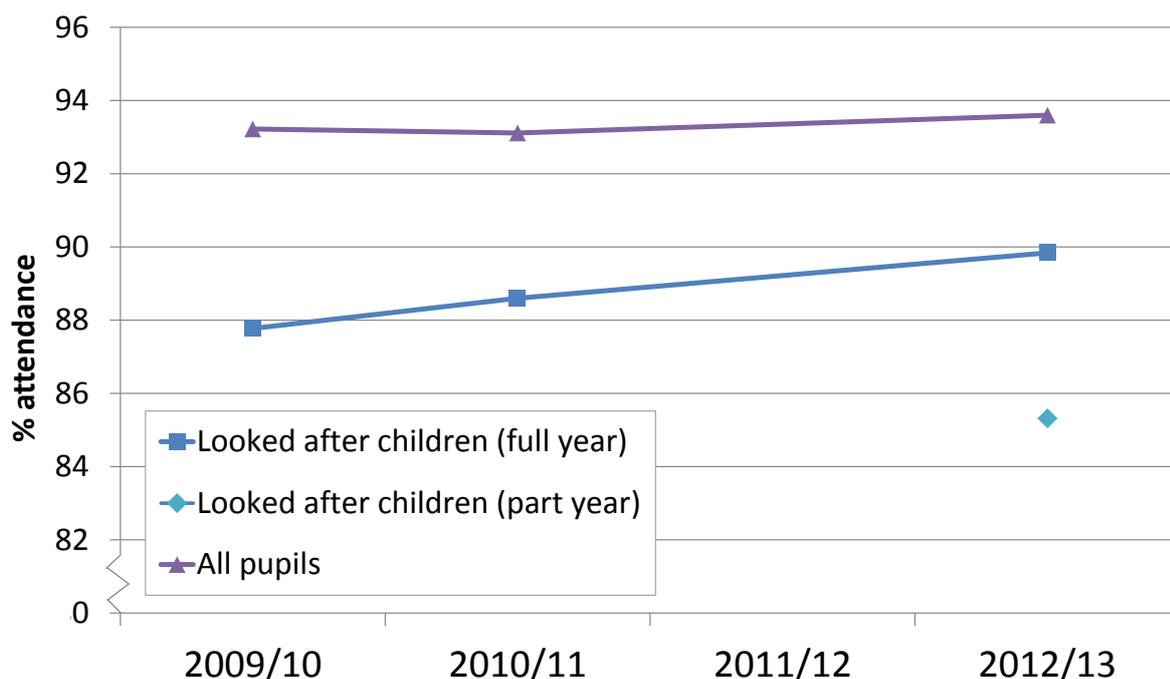
The improvements seen in the proportion of looked after children in Scotland moving into positive destinations after leaving school over the last four years mirrors the general trend across the UK overall, although this may change if the slight decreases between 2011/12 and 2012/13 continue. Because of differences in the education systems between Scotland and the rest of the UK (and in the ages at which looked after children's qualifications are measured) it is not possible to directly compare qualification levels of looked after children. See background note 5.4 for further information.

School attendance of looked after children

- ↑ Looked after children still have poorer school attendance, but percentage attendance is improving
- ★ Children looked after at home have the poorest attendance records of all looked after children

This section presents data on the school attendance of looked after young people, comparing overall attendees with looked after children. Attendance data is now only collected every two years, so the information for 2012/13 is the first available since the 2010/11 publication and data is not available for 2011/12.

Chart 4: Percentage attendance of all pupils and looked after young people, 2009/10 to 2012/13



The school attendance of all pupils is recorded individually. Overall attendance is over 90 per cent for all pupils, although this is higher in primary schools than it is for secondary and special schools. Looked after young people consistently have lower school attendance than average, but this has improved by approximately two percentage points since 2009/10, which is a faster improvement than that seen for all pupils (of less than one percentage point).

Stage

Table 3.1: Percentage attendance of all pupils and looked after young people by stage, 2009/10 to 2012/13

Stage	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13
Looked after full year			
Primary	93.5	93.6	94.1
Secondary	80.5	82.8	85.4
Special	84.8	82.9	83.9
Scotland	87.8	88.6	89.8
Looked after part year⁽²⁾			
Primary	N/A	N/A	92.9
Secondary	N/A	N/A	76.7
Special	N/A	N/A	82.0
Scotland	N/A	N/A	85.3
All pupils			
Primary	94.9	94.8	94.9
Secondary	91.2	91.1	91.9
Special	90.6	90.0	90.5
Scotland	93.2	93.1	93.6

(1) From 2010/11, data only collected biennially

(2) Data on children looked after for part of the year only available from 2012/13

Children looked after for all of 2012/13 have an attendance rate which is four percentage points higher (89.8 per cent) than children looked after for part of the year (85.3 per cent). Among pupils looked after for the whole year, primary school pupils have higher rates of attendance than secondary and special school pupils, constantly above 93 per cent. Among secondary pupils looked after for the whole year attendance rates have increased by over two per cent since 2010/11.

Accommodation type

For children looked after for a full year before leaving school there is little gender difference in rates of attendance. The highest rates of attendance are seen in children in residential schools and the lowest rates among children looked after at home. The average attendance rate of children looked after for only part of 2012/13 is four per cent below those looked after for the full year.

Table 3.2: Percentage attendance for looked after children by accommodation type and gender, 2012/13

Single type of accommodation during 2012/13	Girls	Boys	Total
Looked after full year			
In the community			
At home with parents	83.1	82.8	83.0
With friends/relatives	92.7	92.6	92.7
With foster carers provided by LA	95.8	96.3	96.1
With foster carers purchased by LA	96.5	96.4	96.5
In other community ⁽¹⁾	96.4	96.1	96.3
Residential Accommodation			
In local authority home	85.3	84.6	84.9
In voluntary home	91.1	88.2	89.3
In residential school	92.3	98.6	97.1
In other residential ⁽²⁾	90.8	92.6	91.8
Unknown/Multiple placements	85.4	89.3	87.5
Total full year	90.0	89.7	89.8
Looked after part year			
In the community			
At home with parents	77.0	76.7	76.8
With friends/relatives	87.8	88.0	87.9
With foster carers provided by LA	87.9	91.8	89.7
With foster carers purchased by LA	84.0	91.3	88.5
In other community ⁽¹⁾	*	*	*
Residential Accommodation			
In local authority home	76.7	82.6	79.9
In voluntary home	*	*	*
In residential school	79.5	92.7	91.7
In other residential ⁽²⁾	*	*	*
Unknown/Multiple placements	88.3	89.0	88.7
Total part year	85.1	85.5	85.3

Number of looked after placements

The overall number of placements experienced by looked after children gives a mixed message. In general research suggests that children who experience more placements have lower attendance rates, however this is not clearly shown in these data. Attendance rates are highest (90 per cent) among pupils who have been looked after for all of 2012/13 in one placement, and for children looked after for part of 2012/13 who have had two placements.

Table 3.3: Percentage attendance for looked after children, by number of placements and gender, 2012/13

Number of placements	Girls	Boys	Total
	Looked after full year		
1	90.0	89.7	89.9
2	84.7	89.6	87.3
3 (or more)	88.8	88.0	88.8
Total looked after full year	90.0	89.7	89.8
	Looked after part year		
1	80.8	81.5	81.2
2	89.4	90.3	89.9
3	87.4	86.6	87.1
4	81.9	84.5	83.3
5 (or more)	77.7	84.0	80.9
Total looked after part year	85.1	85.5	85.3

School exclusions of looked after children

	Rates of exclusions among looked after children continue to fall
	Looked after children are much more likely to be excluded from school than the average pupil

This section presents data on the numbers and rates of exclusions of looked after children in comparison with the general school population. Exclusions data is now only collected every two years, so the information for 2012/13 is the first available since the 2010/11 publication and data is not available for 2011/12.

Table 4.1 shows the total number and rate of exclusions. As children can be excluded more than once per year they will be counted more than once in these figures. The rate of exclusions among looked after children is much higher than in the general school population (209 cases per 1,000 looked after pupils, compared to 33 per 1,000 in the general school population), but is falling by a much faster rate. There has been a 43 per cent fall in the rate of exclusions among looked after children since 2009/10 (from 365 per 1,000 in 2009/10 to 209 in 2012/13), compared to a 27 per cent fall in exclusions among all pupils in the same period (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils by all pupils, looked after children and stage, 2009/10 to 2012/13

Stage	Cases of exclusion per 1,000 pupils		
	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13
	Looked after full year		
Primary	123	96	64
Secondary	642	588	335
Special	591	516	477
Scotland	365	326	209
	Looked after part year⁽¹⁾		
Primary	N/A	N/A	144
Secondary	N/A	N/A	832
Special	N/A	N/A	944
Scotland	N/A	N/A	495
	All pupils		
Primary	12	11	10
Secondary	82	72	58
Special	174	148	148
Scotland	45	40	33

(1) Data on children looked after for part of the year only available from 2012/13

Rates among children looked after for all of 2012/13 compared to those only in care for part of the period again show a large disparity, with a rate more than twice as high from the part year group. These figures are shown on Chart 5 as individual points as they are only available for 2012/13.

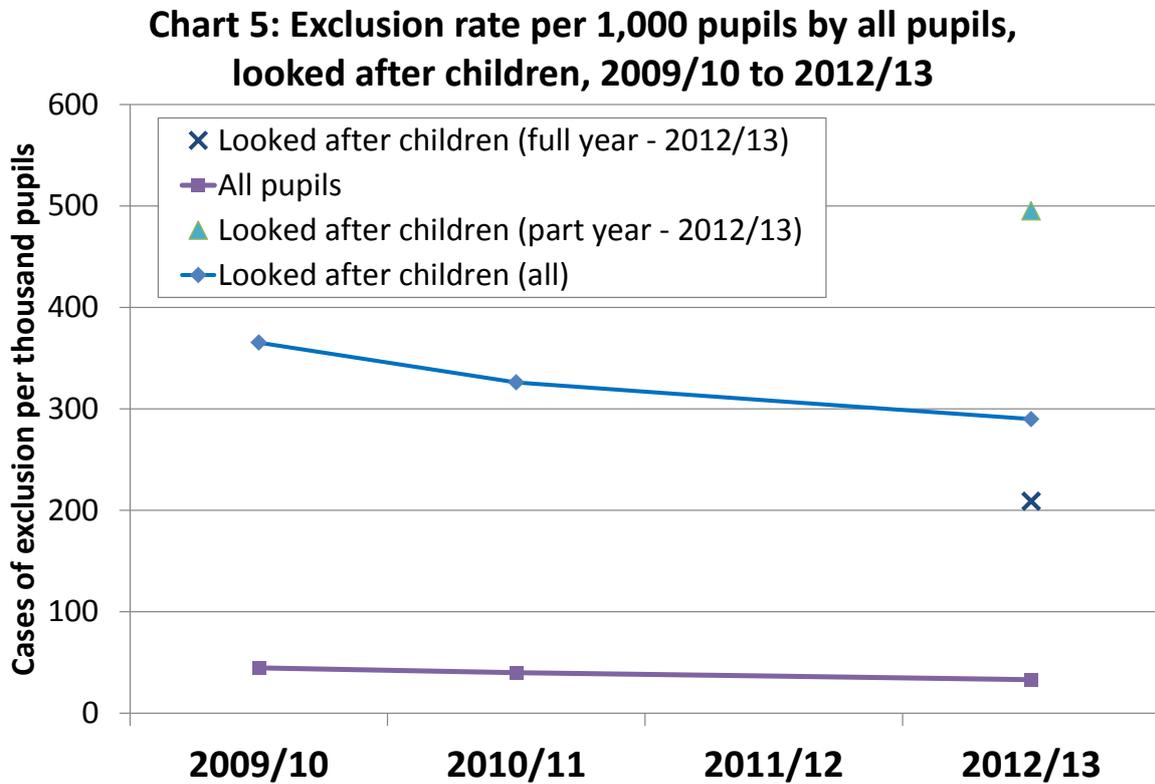


Table 4.2: Number of different pupils excluded and exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils by all pupils, looked after children and sector, 2012/13

Stage	No. of pupils excluded	Rate per 1,000 pupils
Looked after full year		
Primary	124	34
Secondary	484	149
Special	89	201
Looked after part year		
Primary	89	61
Secondary	419	318
Special	48	381
All pupils		
Primary	2,069	6
Secondary	9,783	33
Special	451	67

Where Table 4.1 presents data on the total number of exclusions, including potential multiple counts of the same child, Table 4.2 presents data on the total number of children excluded, resulting in lower figures. Among children looked after for a full year the rate of exclusion is around five times higher in secondary schools than in primary schools. The rate is highest in special schools but numbers of children in this group are relatively small.

Accommodation type

Table 4.3: Cases of exclusions for looked after children, by accommodation type, 2012/13

Single Type of Accommodation during 2012/13	Total exclusions for looked after children	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils who were looked after
Looked after full year		
In the community		
At home with parents	729	261
With friends/relatives	250	133
With foster carers provided by LA	210	140
With foster carers purchased by LA	94	155
In other community ⁽¹⁾	*	*
Residential accommodation		
In local authority home	153	746
In voluntary home	45	1,000
In residential school	*	*
In other residential ⁽²⁾	15	224
Unknown/Multiple placements	33	260
Total	1,534	209
Looked after part year		
In the community		
At home with parents	349	467
With friends/relatives	63	250
With foster carers provided by LA	31	205
With foster carers purchased by LA	10	227
In other community ⁽¹⁾	0	-
Residential accommodation		
In local authority home	103	1,807
In voluntary home	5	1,250
In residential school	6	545
In other residential ⁽²⁾	20	1,053
Unknown/Multiple placements	839	517
Total	1,426	490

(1) includes 'with prospective adopters'.

(2) includes 'in secure care accommodation' and 'crisis care'.

As with attendance, there is a similar disparity between types of accommodation in the rates of exclusions for both full year and part year looked after children. Those children in residential accommodation tend to have higher rates of exclusions than looked after in the community. Children looked after at home have a noticeably higher exclusion rate than others looked after in the community (Table 4.3).

There is a tendency for looked after children with a greater number of placements to have a higher rate of exclusions. For both children looked after for part of the year and the whole year, rates of exclusion are similar among children with one or two placements but seem to increase with three or more placements.

Table 4.4: Cases of exclusions for looked after children, by number of placements, 2012/13

Number of placements	Total exclusions	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils who were looked after
		Looked after full year
1	1,501	208
2	26	257
3 (or more)	7	350
Scotland	1,534	209
		Looked after part year
1	587	456
2	508	440
3	199	636
4	94	940
5 (or more)	38	704
Scotland	1,426	490

Background notes

1. Sources

1.1 This document is the fourth annual summary of the educational outcomes of Scotland's looked after children. It links information from the Children Looked After statistics 2012-13 with the School Leaver Initial and Follow-up Destination Surveys September 2013 and March 2014, SQA attainment data and the attendance, absence and exclusion collections. Education outcome figures for all children in Scotland are available here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/01103>

1.2 The **looked after children** statistics were collected by Children and Families statistics team in the Scottish Government from local authorities. Demographic information on all children looked after (including the most recent data covering children who were looked after between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013) <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenLookedAfter>

1.3 The **qualifications** data were collected by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). The grade boundaries and publication schedules of this information is available here: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48269.html>

1.4 The **leaver destinations** data were collected by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). Destinations data were published in Summary Statistics for Attainment, Leaver Destinations and Healthy Living in Scotland No.4, 2014: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/06/7503/0>

1.5 Information on **attendance and absence** from school and **exclusions** from school is only available every two years by the School statistics team in the Scottish Government from local authorities. No data was available for 2011/12, so figures are only available for 2010/11 and 2012/13.

2. Coverage and Timing

2.1 The **looked after children** data were collected on all children/young people who were looked after continuously from 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013 and every placement that took place during these episodes.

2.2 The survey forms, data specifications and guidance notes for the data presented in this publication (and previous years' publications) can be seen at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildrenLookedAfter>

2.3 The **qualifications** data were collected by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). Annex C gives information on how the tariff scores are calculated.

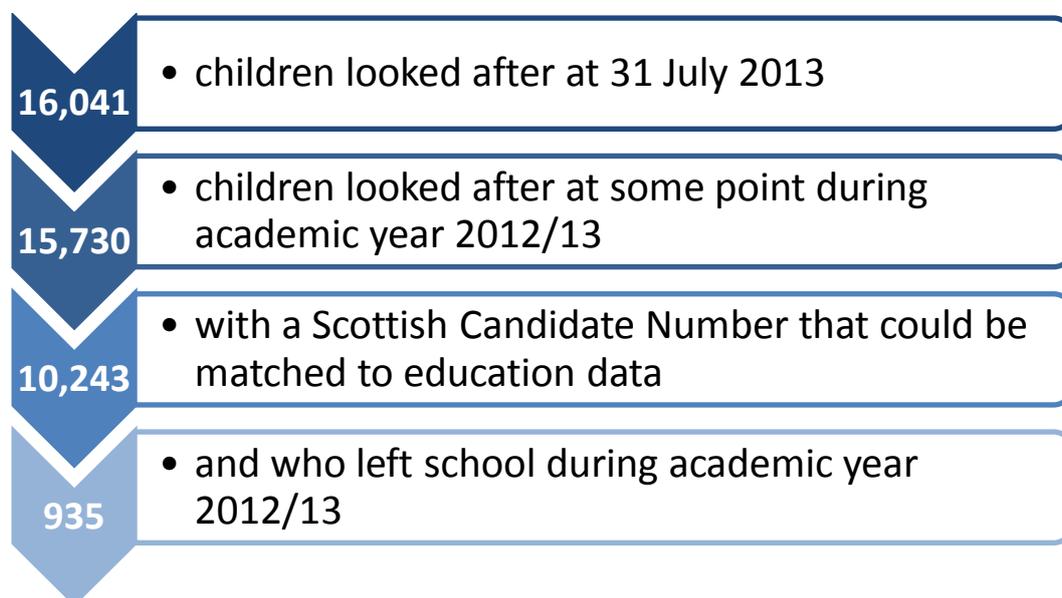
2.4 The **leaver destinations** data were collected on each young person identified by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) as being a school leaver in the September 2013 survey (initial destination, approximately three months after leaving school) and the March 2014 survey (follow-up destination, approximately nine months after leaving school). The time of year that a young person leaves school can affect their destinations in these surveys, as a young person leaving school in December who starts a course in the following September could be counted as being in a negative destination in the initial survey, but a positive destination in the follow-up survey.

3. Methodology

Matching looked after children data to school outcomes

3.1 As reported in Children’s Social Work Statistics 2012-13¹, there were 16,041 children looked after on 31 July 2013. The population used in this publication was established through the following process:

Illustration 3: Children included in this publication, 2012/13



3.2 Children are assigned a Scottish Candidate Number when they start primary school. Children might not have a Scottish Candidate Number if they are not old enough to start primary school, have deferred entry to primary school, or have been educated at home, in an independent school or outside Scotland. The looked after

¹ Children’s Social Work Statistics 2012-13, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/03/8922>

children collection also holds information on young people who are beyond minimum school leaving age and who may have already left school at the time of the pupil census.

3.3 For school leavers in 2012/13, 935 pupil records matched with the school leavers cohort provided by Skills Development Scotland, suggesting that looked after children represented under two per cent of the entire school leaver cohort.

Follow up destination

3.4 Due to the very high follow-up rate (99 per cent of all leavers), as in previous years we have not imputed destinations for those leavers not contacted in March 2013.

4. Definitions and notation

Children Looked After

4.1 Local Authorities have a responsibility to provide support to certain vulnerable young people, known as looked after children. A young person may become looked after for a number of reasons, including neglect, mental, physical or emotional abuse, parental substance misuse or poor parenting skills, complex disabilities which require specialist care, or involvement in the youth justice system.

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

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

- (e) subject to a permanence order made after an application by the local authority under section 80 of the 2007 Act.

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

4.4 *Types of placement*

- At home with parent(s): at home with parent(s) or 'relevant person(s)' as defined in Section 93(2)(b) of the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995
- With friends/relatives: placed with friends or relatives who are not approved foster carers. Also referred to as 'kinship care'.
- With foster carers provided by the local authority
- With foster carers purchased by the local authority
- With prospective adopters
- Other community: such as supported accommodation, hospital (e.g. at birth)
- Local authority home: in local authority children's home/hostel, local authority home/hostel for children with learning disabilities, local authority home/hostel for physically disabled children
- Voluntary home: in voluntary children's home/hostel, in voluntary home/hostel for children with learning disabilities, in voluntary home/hostel for physically disabled children
- Residential school: in local authority residential school (home/hostel), in voluntary residential school (home/hostel), in private school, in independent school
- Secure accommodation
- Crisis care: for example: in women's refuge, in local authority hostel for offenders, in voluntary hostel for offenders, in local authority hostel for drug/alcohol abusers, in voluntary hostel for drug/alcohol abusers
- Other residential: a known residential setting but does not fit with one of the above

4.5 There is information on the process by which children come to be looked after and legislation governing this on the Scottish Government website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/lac>

School information

4.6 *Scottish Candidate Number* – A unique number created by the Scottish Qualifications Authority and assigned to each child by their school when they enter the Scottish School Education System (usually in Primary 1).

4.7 The results contained in this publication are deemed fit for purpose, but should be treated as provisional whilst the quality and completeness of the Scottish Candidate Number for Scotland's looked after children being submitted by local authority social work services departments improves over time. In 2012/13 the proportion of Scottish Candidate Numbers provided was 81 per cent (compared to 84 per cent in 2011/12).

Educational attainment

4.8 *Tariff Scores* – The Unified Points Score Scale is based on an extended version of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) Scottish Tariff points system. The tariff scores assigned to each qualification are currently being assessed and may be revised in future years. A full list of courses, awards and corresponding tariff points is listed in Annex C. The tariff score of a pupil is calculated by adding together all the tariff points accumulated from all the different course levels and awards that they attain.

4.9 Under the current scoring system a pupil getting five Standard Grades would collect between 40 and 190 points, based on lowest to highest possible results. Five Standard Grades with the highest result along with three Highers and one Advanced Higher at A, would amount to 526 points.

School leaver destinations

4.10 *School leaver* – A school leaver is classed as a young person of school leaving age who left a publically funded secondary school during or at the end of the school year, where the school year is taken to run from 1 August to 31 July. Age of school leavers was calculated as of 30 June 2013. Young people of school leaving age who left a publically funded special school are not counted in this publication.

4.11 *Post-school destinations* – All destinations self-reported by school leavers. The categories for leaver destinations are:

- *Higher Education* – includes leavers following HND (Higher National Diploma) or HNC (Higher National Certificate) courses, degree courses, courses for the education and training of teachers and higher level courses for professional qualifications. It also includes programmes at a level higher than the standard of the National Qualifications, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher, Advanced Higher and the National Certificate of Education of England, Wales or Northern

Ireland at Advanced Level. Leavers with a deferred, unconditional place in higher education have also been included in this category.

- *Further Education* – includes leavers undertaking full-time education which is not higher education and who are no longer on a school roll.
- *Training* – includes leavers who are on a training course and in receipt of an allowance or grant, such as *Get Ready for Work* and *Skillseekers* (non-employed). Prior to 2009/10 only leavers on a national training programme were included. In 2009/10 leavers who were on a local authority funded training programme in receipt of a training allowance were included.
- *Employment* – includes those who are employed and in receipt of payment from their employers. It includes young people undertaking training in employment through *Skillseekers* and Modern Apprenticeships.
- *Voluntary Work* – includes those undertaking voluntary work, with or without financial allowance, who are not ‘unemployed and actively seeking’, as per the unemployed definition and those participating in Project Scotland/CSV or other voluntary programmes.
- *Unemployed and seeking employment or training* – includes those who are registered with Skills Development Scotland and are known by them to be seeking employment or training. This is based on regular contact between Skills Development Scotland and the client. This does not refer to the definition of ‘unemployed’ used by the Benefits Agency to calculate published unemployment rates. Young people participating in *Personal Skills Development* (see below) are counted in this category.
- *Personal Skills Development* – Leavers who participate in learning opportunities / personal and social development activities with the aim of improving their confidence and employability. These programmes can be viewed as a stepping stone towards a positive destination. They are often delivered by a community learning and development or third sector organisation. Prior to 2002/03 this category and *Unemployed and not seeking employment or training* were combined under a single *Other known destination category*.
- *Unemployed and not seeking employment or training* – includes all those individuals who are not seeking employment or training for a range of reasons. The reasons may involve sickness, prison, pregnancy, caring for children or other dependents or taking time out. Prior to 2002/03 this category and *Personal skills development* were combined under a single *Other known destination category*.
- *Activity Agreement* – An agreement between a school leaver and an advisor. The school leaver takes part in a programme of learning and activity which helps them to become ready for formal learning or employment. Activity agreements are designed to assist young people who face barriers to achieving positive destinations once they leave school. Activity agreements were only included as a destination from 2010/11 onwards. Full guidance on activity agreements can be found at the following link.
<http://www.emascotland.com/documents/2013/ActivityAgreementGuidance.doc>

- *Unknown* – includes all leavers whose destination is not known either to Skills Development Scotland or to the school attended.
- *Destination unknown (both surveys)* – includes individuals who were not able to be contacted at either the September or the March/April survey point.

4.12 *Positive destinations* – includes higher education, further education, training, voluntary work, employment and activity agreements. This is in line with the definition of positive destinations set out in Indicator 10 of the Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/30090722/18>

5. Data Quality

5.1 This is an Official Statistics Publication. Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. These statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. This publication has not yet been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority.

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

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

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

Cross-UK comparisons

5.4 Differences in the education systems of Scotland and the rest of the UK make cross-UK comparisons invalid. The equivalent figures from across the UK are published here:

England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/outcomes-for-children-looked-after-by-las-in-england>

Wales

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

Northern Ireland

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib-3/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/stats_and_research_cib_children_in_care.htm

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

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

6. Enquiries

Please send any **media enquiries** to Russell Fallis on 0131 244 2087 or Lesley Brown on 0131 244 4001.

The information in this publication plus **additional tables** are available at:

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

Email any requests for **further analysis** to children.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

If you would like to receive notification of forthcoming statistical publications, please register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/scotstat .

Children and Families Statistics

17 June 2014

Education outcomes of looked after children, 2012/13

Publication tables

Excel versions of these tables are available here:
<http://scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/01106>

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Education outcomes of looked after children, 2012/13

Additional tables

Excel versions of these tables are available here:

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

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Future requests for data

Where we receive regular requests for specific breakdowns of this information (and the data can be published) then we will add this information to the additional tables link above.

Tariff Scores: Unified Points Score Scale

The tariff scores assigned to each qualification are currently being assessed and may be revised in future years, but the points allocated to each qualification for this publication are shown below.

Grade	Tariff points				
	Advanced Higher	CSYS	Higher	Intermediate 2	Intermediate 1
A	120	120	72	42	24
B	100	100	60	35	20
C	80	80	48	28	16
D	72	-	42	24	12
Unit	20	-	12	7	4

Grade	Tariff points	
	Standard Grade	Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary project
1	38	60
2	28	50
3	22	40
4	16	-
5	11	-
6	8	-
7	3	-

Grade	Tariff points
Access 3	
Cluster	8
Unit	2

Grade	Tariff points
Access 2	
Unit	1

Grade	Tariff points
Unallocated unit	
NC Module	6
Short Course	6

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e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this publication:

- are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
- are available via an alternative route
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact childrens.statistics@scotland.gov.uk for further information
- cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

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