

SFR 17/2007**26 April 2007****Coverage: England****Theme: Education and
Training**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

OUTCOME INDICATORS FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN: TWELVE MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2006, ENGLAND

National statistics providing figures on outcome indicators for looked after children in England were published today.

This release provides summary information that has been derived from statistical data supplied by the 150 local authorities in England. It covers all children and young people in England who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September.

KEY POINTS

Context

- At 30 September 2006 there were 44,200 children who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months by English local authorities. This compares to 44,700 at 30 September 2005.
- 34,400 of these children were of school age and of these 28% had SEN statements, 13% missed at least 25 days of school, and 1% received a permanent exclusion.

Attainment

- On average 58% of those looked after children in the appropriate age group achieved level 2 at Key Stage 1, 47% achieved level 4 at Key Stage 2 and 30% achieved level 5 at Key Stage 3. The comparable percentages for all children were 85%, 81% and 74% respectively.
- The proportion of children continuously looked after for at least 12 months aged 11 and achieving at least level 4 at KS2 English and Maths was 54% of the proportion of all children. This compares with 52% and 51% in 2005 and 2004 respectively.
- In school year 11, 63% of looked after children obtained at least one GCSE or GNVQ compared with 98% of all school children. These figures are an improvement on 2005 and 2004 when the corresponding figures for looked after children were 60% and 56% respectively. 34% did not sit an examination of this type in 2006, compared with 36% in 2005 and 41% in 2004.
- 12% obtained at least 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*- C compared with 59% of all children. These figures are slightly higher than last year when 11% obtained at least 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-C compared with 56% of all children. 26% of councils had at least 15% of their children achieving this level. This compares with 25% achieving this level in 2005.

Education and Employment at 16

- At the end of school year 11, 64% of looked after children remained in full-time education compared to 78% of all school-leavers. 20% were unemployed the September after leaving school compared to 5% of all school-leavers. In 2005, 61% of looked after children remained in full-time education compared to 75% for all school-leavers and 20% of children looked after were unemployed compared to 6% of all school-leavers.

Cautions and Convictions

- 9.6% of looked after children aged 10 or over, were cautioned or convicted for an offence during the year, almost 3 times the rate for all children of this age. This rate has been similar over the past 3 years.

Health Outcomes

- 80% of these looked after children's immunisations were up to date, 85% had a dental check, and 83% had an annual health assessment. This is an improvement on 2005, when the equivalent figures were 77%, 82% and 80% respectively.

Substance Misuse

- 5% of these looked after children were identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year, of which 63% received an intervention for their problem during the year.

TABLES

- A Number of children looked after at 30 September 2004 to 2006 who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months, and general information on education (numbers and percentages)
- B Eligibility and performance of looked after children in Key Stages 1-3, compared with all children, twelve months ending 30 September 2004 to 2006 (numbers and percentages)
- C GCSE or equivalents performance of looked after children in Year 11 compared with all children, twelve months ending 30 September 2004 to 2006 (numbers and percentages)
- D Education and employment status at 30 September of looked after children in Year 11 in 2005-06 school year, compared with all children (numbers and percentages)
- E Offending by looked after children, twelve months ending 30 September 2004 to 2006 (numbers and percentages)
- F Health care of looked after children, twelve months ending 30 September 2004 to 2006 (numbers and percentages)
- G Substance misuse of looked after children, twelve months ending 30 September 2006 (numbers and percentages)

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The 2006 figures on outcome indicators for looked after children in England are the latest in a regular series. Data are collected on the OC2 statistical return, which provides the Department of Education and Skills with aggregate data on the outcomes of all children and young people in England who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September.

2. The figures presented for the year ending 30 September 2006 are based on data provided by all 150 Local Authorities.

3. The following notification is depicted as follows.

- . Not applicable
- . . Not available

Queries and feedback

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Table A Number of children looked after at 30 September 2004 to 2006 who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months, and general information about education

England	numbers and percentages								
	looked after children						all children		
	number			percentages ¹			percentages ²		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Number of children looked after at 30 Sept. who had been looked after for at least twelve months	45,000	44,700	44,200	.	.	.	.	.	.
and of these:									
Number eligible for full-time schooling	35,300	34,800	34,400	.	.	.	.	.	.
and of these:									
Number with a statement of special educational needs	9,700	9,500	9,500	27.4	27.3	27.6	3.0	2.9	2.9
Number of permanent exclusions from school ³	320	310	280	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number who missed at least 25 days of school ^{4,5}	4,300	4,400	4,600	12.3	12.6	13.4	..	..	..

¹ Expressed as a percentage of the number eligible for full-time schooling.

² Source: DfES Statistical First Releases: 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2006', and 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England 2004/05'.

³ If a child was permanently excluded more than once in the previous school year, each occasion has been counted.

⁴ Performance Assessment Framework Indicator C24: The percentage of children who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months and were of school age, who missed a total of at least 25 days during the previous school year of schooling for any reason.

⁵ Figures on this basis are not collected by DfES for all children.

Table B Eligibility and performance of looked after children in Key Stages 1-3, compared with all children, twelve months ending 30 September 2004 to 2006

England	numbers and percentages								
	looked after children						all children ¹		
	number			percentages			percentages		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
YEAR 2									
Number eligible to sit Key Stage 1 tasks and tests ¹	1,900	1,700	1,700	.	.	.	.	.	.
Numbers achieving at least Level 2 ² in the following:									
Reading	1,100	980	980	54.4	57.2	57.3	85	85	84
Writing	940	890	890	48.3	51.8	51.6	82	82	81
Mathematics	1,200	1,100	1,100	63.5	64.4	64.6	90	91	90
YEAR 6									
Number eligible to sit Key Stage 2 tasks and tests	2,900	2,900	2,800	.	.	.	.	.	.
Number who attained at least Level 4 ² in the following:									
English	1,200	1,200	1,200	39.9	42.1	42.8	77	79	79
Mathematics	1,100	1,100	1,200	37.2	37.6	40.9	74	75	76
Science	1,600	1,600	1,600	53.0	53.4	57.2	86	86	87
YEAR 9									
Number eligible to sit Key Stage 3 tasks and tests	4,000	4,000	4,000	.	.	.	.	.	.
Level 5 ² in the following:									
English	900	1,100	1,100	22.5	26.7	28.1	71	74	72
Mathematics	1,000	1,100	1,300	25.8	28.3	32.5	73	74	77
Science	830	1,000	1,200	20.8	25.9	29.4	66	70	72

¹ Source: DfES Statistical First Releases 'National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 1 in England, 2006 (Provisional)', 'National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2006 (Provisional)', and 'National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 3 in England, 2006 (Provisional)'. Includes all schools.

In 2004, KS1 figures are a result of combining task/test for non trial schools and teacher assessment for trial schools.

In 2005 and 2006 all KS1 figures are based on teacher assessments.

² Target level for age group.

Table C GCSE performance or equivalents of looked after children in Year 11 compared with all children, twelve months ending 30 September 2004 to 2006

England	numbers and percentages								
	looked after children						all children ¹		
	number			percentages ²			percentages		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005 ³	2006 ³
Number in Year 11	4,800	4,700	5,100	.	.	.	.	.	.
Number who sat at least one GCSE or GNVQ	2,900	3,000	3,300	59.1	64.0	65.6	97	98	98
Number who obtained at least:									
1 GCSE at grade A* to G or a GNVQ	2,700	2,900	3,200	56.1	60.2	63.2	96	96	98
5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A* to G	1,900	1,900	2,100	39.4	40.7	41.4	89	89	91
5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade A* to C	450	510	600	9.4	10.8	11.8	54	56	59

¹ Source: DfES Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2005/06 (Revised)'. Includes all schools.

² Expressed as a percentage of all looked after children in Year 11.

³ For 2005 and 2006, "all children" results include level 1 and level 2 equivalencies.

Table D Education and employment status at 30 September 2006 of looked after children in Year 11 in 2005-06 school year, compared with all children

Government Office Region		total number of children in Year 11 in 2005-06 school year	position at 30 September 2006, shown as a percentage of the total						unemployed	
			full-time education	full-time training	full-time employment with planned training	full-time employment with no planned training	part-time employment, education, or training	a result of ill-health or disability	other reason	
ENGLAND	looked after	5,100	64	7	2	2	6	1	19	
	all children^{1,2}	629,100	78	6	4	2	1	5		
NORTH EAST	looked after	230	55	14	3	-	12	-	15	
	all children ^{1,2}	33,500	74	9	3	1	1	7		
NORTH WEST	looked after	810	59	8	2	2	6	1	21	
	all children ^{1,2}	94,800	76	8	4	2	1	6		
YORKS AND THE HUMBER	looked after	520	59	7	1	2	6	-	24	
	all children ^{1,2}	65,700	73	7	5	2	1	7		
EAST MIDLANDS	looked after	310	60	7	4	4	8	2	16	
	all children ^{1,2}	54,700	76	6	5	3	1	5		
WEST MIDLANDS	looked after	520	64	11	-	1	4	2	18	
	all children ^{1,2}	71,900	78	6	3	2	1	6		
EAST OF ENGLAND	looked after	460	65	6	2	2	5	-	18	
	all children ^{1,2}	68,500	79	4	5	2	1	5		
LONDON	looked after	1,140	71	5	1	1	4	1	17	
	all children ^{1,2}	81,200	83	3	1	1	1	5		
SOUTH EAST	looked after	640	69	5	2	1	4	-	19	
	all children ^{1,2}	96,300	81	4	3	2	1	5		
SOUTH WEST	looked after	440	61	7	2	-	11	2	17	
	all children ^{1,2}	62,600	77	6	4	3	1	4		

¹ Source: 'The Connexions/Careers Service Annual Activity Survey 2006'. Covers all young people who were in year 11 during the school year ending August 2006, and is based on a survey carried out during October 2006.

² Percentages for 'all children' do not sum to 100 because the Connexions/Career Service Survey included an additional category of 'moved away' 'no response' and 'refused to participate', which is not relevant to looked after children.

Table E Offending by looked after children, twelve months ending 30 September 2004 to 2006

England	numbers and percentages											
	looked after						all children ¹			PAF Indicator C18 ²		
	number			percentages			percentages					
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Number of children looked after at 30 Sept. who had been looked after for at least twelve months	45,000	44,700	44,200	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Number of children aged 10 or older at 30 September	29,800	30,400	30,300	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Number convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year	2,800	2,800	2,900	9.3	9.3	9.6	3.3	3.7	3.9	2.8	2.5	2.5

¹ Data for all children are from the Home Office, and are for calendar years ending 31 December 2003 to 2005, expressed as a percentage of all children aged 10-17.

² The proportion of children (aged 10 or over) who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, who were convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year for an offence committed whilst they were looked after, expressed as a ratio of the proportion of all children and young people convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand for an offence in the police force area.

Table F Health care of looked after children, twelve months ending 30 September 2004 to 2006

	England									numbers and percentages		
	number			percentages			PAF Indicator C19 ¹					
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006			
Number of children looked after at 30 Sept. who had been looked after for at least twelve months	45,000	44,700	44,200	.	.	.	.	.	.
of these:												
number whose immunisations were up to date	33,000	34,200	35,200	73.3	76.5	79.5						
number who had their teeth checked by a dentist	35,400	36,800	37,600	78.8	82.3	85.1	}	77.9	81.3	84.1		
number who had their annual health assessment	34,700	35,900	36,800	77.1	80.2	83.2						
number of children looked after for at least one year, and aged 5 or younger at 30 September:	7,000	6,700	6,600	.	.	.	.	.	.
of these:												
number whose development assessments were up to date	5,700	5,800	5,700	81.5	86.2	85.9	.	.	.			

¹ The average of the percentages of children looked after at 30 September who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, who had their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months, and had an annual health assessment during the previous 12 months. In previous years this indicator also included immunisations. The figures shown here reflect the revised definition.

Table G Substance misuse of looked after children, twelve months ending 30 September 2006

England

	looked after children	
	number	percentages
Number of children looked after at 30 Sept. who had been looked after for at least twelve months	44,200	.
and of these:		
Number identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year ¹	2,300	5.1
and of these:		
Number who received an intervention for their substance misuse problem during the year ²	1,400	63.2
Number who were offered an intervention but who refused it during the year ²	760	33.6

¹ Expressed as a percentage of the number of children looked after at 30 Sept. who had been looked after for at least twelve months.

² Expressed as a percentage of the number of children identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year.