

Notes for all tables

- Figures for England prior to 2010 include figures for Cheshire and Bedfordshire, however performance in these former LAs are not shown in the tables. In 2009, Cheshire Local Authority split into Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. Similarly, Bedfordshire LA split into Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire. Figures for Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire only include data for 2010 onwards for all indicators.
- Percentages have been derived from unrounded numerator and denominator figures.
- Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or less or the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x). You should not infer a suppressed number as a calculation from non-suppressed data.
- Symbols used:
 - x Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.
 - .. Not applicable, i.e. no children in the cohort.
 - Percentages less than 0.5% but greater than 0%
- All tables include a rank to show the local authorities in order of performance (local areas with the best performance are ranked as number one). If a local authority has the same percentage then they will receive the same rank.

Notes for individual tables

		Latest data	Data included in average	When will the next data be available?	Where can I find the numerators and denominators for percentages	Notes
Placements	The percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year ending 31 March					
	Indicator 1	2013	2011 2012 2013	Data for 2014 will be available in September 2014	2011 data can be found in table LAA10 http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml	1. Data for all years are based on the snapshot taken in August 2013. 2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements. 3. A child being placed for adoption with their existing foster carer is not included as a change of placement for the purposes of these figures. 4. Looked after children who go missing from their placement for a period of 24 hours or more have their missing period included as a placement in this analysis. If a child goes missing from care and then returns within the year, this will be included as three separate placements as the placements before and after the missing period are included separately. From 2014-15, each episode of a child being missing or absent from care will be recorded in a separate module in the SSDA 903 collection, and the Department will be able to exclude missing children from the placement analysis accordingly.
	The percentage of looked after children aged under 16 at 31 March who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption and their adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement, last for at least 2 years					
Placements	Indicator 2	2013	2011 2012 2013	Data for 2014 will be available in September 2014	2011 data can be found in table LAA11 http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml	1. Data for all 5 years are based on the snapshot taken in August 2013. 2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements. 3. The percentage is obtained from $X/Y \times 100$ where X = All who have been living in the same placement for at least two years, i.e. at 31 March they have been in the same placement continuously for more than 729 days inclusive of 31 March. Children who are placed for adoption at 31 March are now only to be included in the numerator if their previous care placement, plus the adoptive placement have together lasted more than 729 days. Y = All children aged under 16 on 31 March of the year of measurement who had been looked after for 2.5 years or more (i.e. for more than 912 days inclusive of 31 March) on 31 March of the year of measurement. Exclude children who had been looked after at any time during the 2.5 year period under an agreed series of short term-placements.
	Indicator 3	2013	2011 2012 2013	Data for 2014 will be available in September 2014	2012 data can be found in table LAA6 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england-including-adoption	1. Placement locality denotes whether or not the placement at 31 March is within the geographical boundary of the responsible local authority.
Adoption	The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after who were adopted					
	Indicator 1	2013	2011 2012 2013	Data for 2014 will be available in September 2014	Data can be found in table LAE1	1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted in the denominator. 2. Figures in the denominator exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements. 3. High percentages represent high performance, but percentages should not reach 100%.

Adoption Scorecard	The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after because of a special guardianship order							
	Indicator 2	2013	2011	2012	2013	Data for 2014 will be available in September 2014	Denominators can be found in table LAE1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted in the denominator. 2. Figures in the denominator exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements. 3. High percentages represent high performance, but percentages should not reach 100%.
	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)							
	Indicator A1	2013	2011	2012	2013	Data for 2014 will be available from Autumn 2014	The number of children who were adopted can be found in table LAE1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013 that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption. 2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move with their adoptive family. Only children with valid data are included. 3. The average number of days have been derived from unrounded numerator and denominator figures and are presented rounded to the nearest day. 4. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
	Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)							
Leaving Care	Indicator A2	2013	2011	2012	2013	Data for 2014 will be available from Autumn 2014	Underlying figures are not currently published	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013 that were placed for adoption and on a placement order or freeing order immediately prior to their adoption. 2. Time is calculated between receiving court authority to adopt (granting of placement order/freeing order) and matching with adopters. A time of zero is assigned to children who were matched before court authority was received. 3. The average number of days have been derived from unrounded numerator and denominator figures and are presented rounded to the nearest day. 4. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
	The number and percentage of children who wait less than XX months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family							
	Indicator A3	2013	2011	2012	2013	Data for 2014 will be available from Autumn 2014	Underlying figures are not currently published	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This indicator includes all children adopted in the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013 that were placed for adoption immediately prior to their adoption and all children with a current adoption plan at 31 March 2012 (excluding those where the decision to adopt has been reversed). When adoption is the preferred option for permanence this is referred to as the adoption plan. 2. Time is calculated between a child starting to be looked after and their placement for adoption, i.e. the date they move in with their adoptive family. Only children with valid data are included. Children are flagged if they waited less than XX months (measured at XXX days) between starting to be looked after and being placed for adoption or had not yet been looked after for XX months at 31 March 2013. 3. The numerator is therefore all adopted children who were placed for adoption first who were placed less than XX months after becoming looked after and all children looked after at 31 March 2013 with a current adoption decision who were placed less than XX months after becoming looked after or who had not yet been looked after for XX months. 4. The denominator is therefore all adopted children who were placed for adoption first and all looked after at 31 March with a current adoption decision. 5. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
	The proportion of children leaving care over the age of 16 who remained looked after until their 18th birthday							
	Indicator 1	2013	2011	2012	2013	Data for 2014 will be available in September 2014	These data are not currently published	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted. 2. The numerator used in this calculation is all children who ceased to be looked after in the year ending 31 March who were aged 18 or over when they ceased to be looked after. 3. The denominator used in this calculation is all children who ceased to be looked after in the year ending 31 March who were aged 16 and over when they ceased to be looked after.
Leaving Care	The proportion of young people aged 19 who were looked after aged 16 who were not in employment, education or training							
	Indicator 2	2013	2011	2012	2013	Data for 2014 will be available in September 2014	2012 data can be found in table LAF1 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england-including-adoption	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Figures exclude children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2009 then aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short-term placements. 2. Includes children who are not in employment, education or training due to illness or disability.
	The proportion of young people aged 19 who were looked after aged 16 who were in suitable accommodation							
	Indicator 3	2013	2011	2012	2013	Data for 2014 will be available in September 2014	2012 data can be found in table LAF2 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england-including-adoption	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Figures exclude children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2009 then aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short-term placements.
	The percentage of young people aged 19 who were looked after aged 16 who were in higher education							
	Indicator 4	2013	2011	2012	2013	Data for 2014 will be available in September 2014	2012 data can be found in Table LAF1 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-looked-after-by-local-authorities-in-england-including-adoption	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Figures exclude children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2009 then aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short-term placements. 2. Higher education includes all education levels above A level. 3. 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 with data from other publications.