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OUTCOME INDICATORS FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER: TWELVE MONTHS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008, ENGLAND

Introduction

This Statistical First 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 as at 30 September 2008.

KEY POINTS

Context

- At 30 September 2008 there were 43,700 children who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months by English local authorities. This is a decrease of 1 per cent from 30 September 2007.
- 33,000 of these children were of school age and of these 28 per cent had a statement of Special Educational Needs, 12 per cent missed at least 25 days of school, and 1 per cent received a permanent exclusion.

Attainment

- 57 per cent of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months aged 7 in 2008 achieved at least level 2 at KS1 Reading. This an increase compared to the 2007 figure of 55 per cent.
- 46 per cent of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months aged 11 in 2008 achieved at least level 4 at KS2 English. This is the same percentage as in 2007.
- 44 per cent of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months who were aged 11 in 2008 achieved at least level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2. The corresponding percentage for 2007 was 43 per cent.
- 33 per cent of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months who were aged 14 in 2008 achieved at least level 5 in mathematics at Key Stage 3. The corresponding percentage for 2007 was 31 per cent.
- In school year 11, 66 per cent of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months obtained at least one GCSE or GNVQ compared with 99 per cent of all school children who gained any qualification.
- 14 per cent of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months obtained at least 5 GCSEs or GNVQs at grades A* to C. This compares with 65 per cent of all school children in year 11 who gained 5 or more grades A*-C at GCSE or equivalent.

The current Public Service Agreement Target 11 aims to narrow the gap in

educational achievement between children from lower income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers. This is underpinned by two indicators. Indicator 4 aims to increase the proportion of looked after children achieving Level 4 in English to 60% by 2011 and to increase the proportion achieving Level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2 to 55% by 2011. Chart 1 illustrates the gap in educational achievement at Key Stage 2 in English between looked after children and all children; chart 2 illustrates this for mathematics.

Chart 1: Percentage of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2005 to 2008 achieving level 4 or above in English, compared with all children.

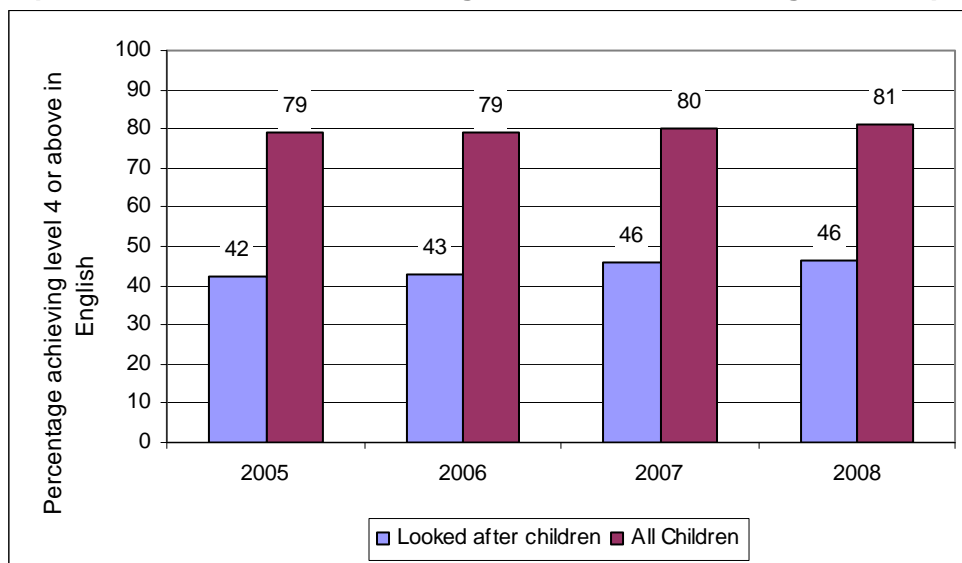
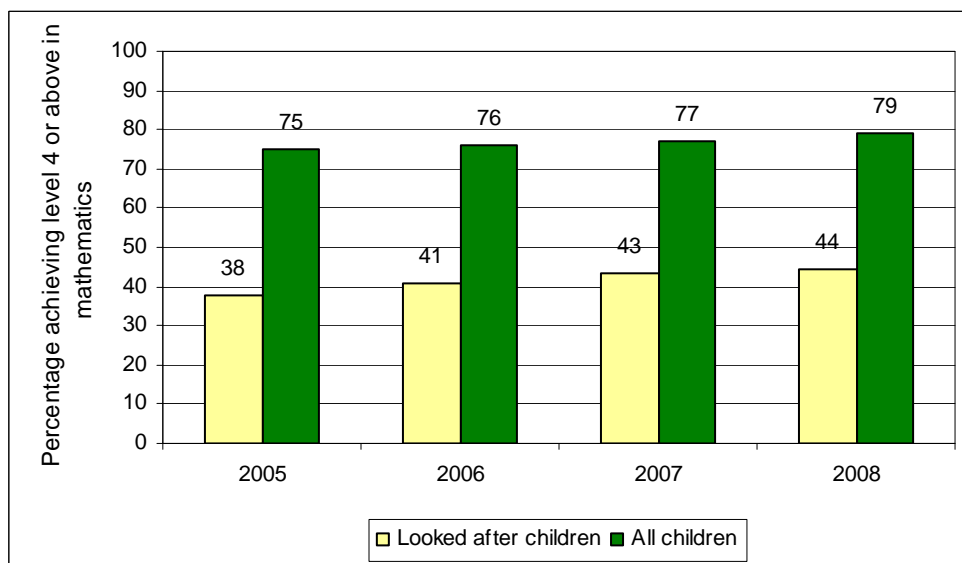
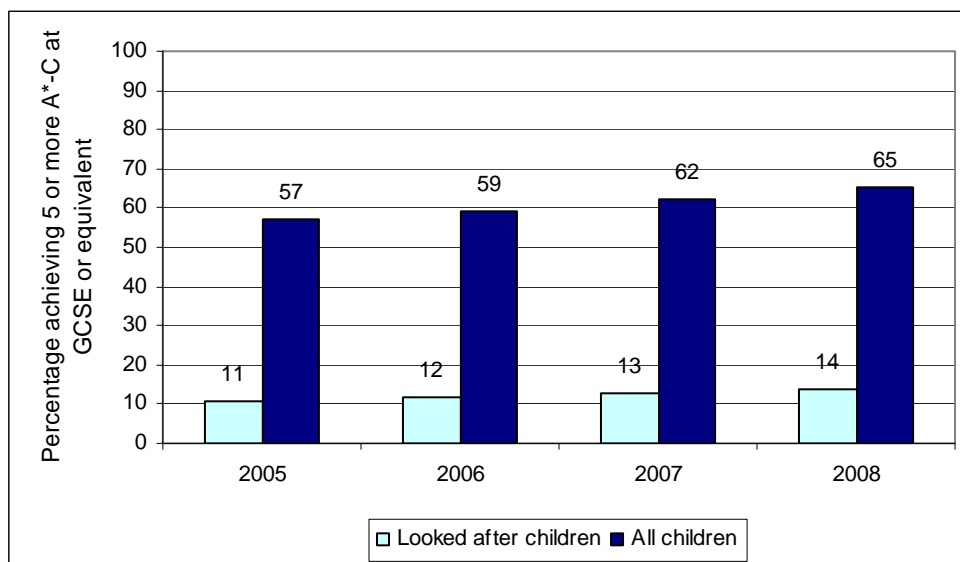


Chart 2: Percentage of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2005 to 2008 achieving level 4 or above in mathematics, compared with all children.



Indicator 5 aims to increase the proportion of looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs to 20% by 2011. Chart 3 illustrates the gap in attainment at GCSE level.

Chart 3: Percentage of children looked after for at least 12 months at 30 September 2005 to 2008 obtaining 5 A*-C GCSEs compared with all children¹.



1. The figures for children looked after relate to GCSE and GNVQ qualifications, figures for all children relate to GCSE and all equivalent qualifications. See Technical Note 4.

Education and Employment at 16

- At the end of school year 11, 69 per cent of looked after children remained in full-time education and 16 per cent of looked after children were unemployed the September after leaving school. This compares to 2007 when 66 per cent remained in full-time education and 17 per cent of children looked after were unemployed.

Cautions and Convictions

- 9 per cent of those children looked after aged 10 or over, were cautioned or convicted for an offence during the year, just over twice the rate for all children of this age. This rate has decreased since 2007.

Health Outcomes

- 82 per cent of looked after children's immunisations were up to date, 87 per cent had a dental check, and 87 per cent had an annual health assessment. This is an improvement from 2007 when the figures were 80 per cent, 86 per cent and 84 per cent respectively.

Substance Misuse

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

Other indicators for looked after children

In addition to the Public Service Agreement target, there are three National Indicators (NIs) relating to the attainment of looked after children. National Indicators are a set of performance indicators for Local Authorities. The table below shows these three indicators, information showing progress against National Indicators 99 and 100 is shown in the additional tables. We cannot currently show progress against National Indicator 101 as this data is not collected as part of the OC2 return. Further details about this can be found in the Technical Notes.

NI 99	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2
NI 100	Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2
NI 101	Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)

Further information on the National Indicator Set is available on the Communications and Local Government website via the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nationalindicator>

These indicators are now monitored in place of Ofsted's Performance Assessment Framework (PAF), however we have continued to include figures for the previous PAF indicators within this publication for information.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Supplementary tables, including figures at Local Authority (LA) and Government Office Region (GOR) level are available on the DCSF statistics website:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000842/index.shtml>

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TECHNICAL NOTES

1. **Source:** The 2008 figures on outcome indicators for children looked after in England are the latest in a regular series. Data are collected on the OC2 statistical return, which provides the Department for Children, Schools and Families 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. The figures presented for the year ending 30 September 2008 are based on data provided by all 150 Local Authorities.

2. **Further analysis,** along with information on the rounding and suppression used in the tables, can be found in the commentary, also available on the website.

3. **Changes to National Curriculum tests:** Comparisons of 2008 data with earlier years are likely to be affected by various administrative changes to the 2008 National Curriculum tests. This includes the removal of borderlining. For further information on these changes and their impact, please see the following publications:

“National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England 2007/08 (Revised)”
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000836/index.shtml>

“National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 3 in England, 2008 (Provisional)”
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000805/index.shtml>

4. Key Stage 4 attainment: Information collected in OC2 on the attainment of looked after children includes achievements in GCSEs and GNVQs only. Information for all children, as collected from awarding bodies includes attainment in GCSEs and all other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre 16.

5. Alternative source for data on outcomes for looked after children: The Department collects individual level data on looked after children using the SSDA 903 system; from 2005-06 we started collecting Unique Pupil Number (UPN) through this collection which has enabled us to link this data with the National Pupil Database (NPD) which contains a range of data on attainment and pupil characteristics. This matched data source allows us to recreate the indicators currently collected in the aggregate OC2 collection and will also give us the opportunity to analyse the impact of different aspects of a child's experience of care on their educational attainment, which has not been possible before due to the aggregate nature of the collection.

We have completed an evaluation of this new source of data and are currently working through the recommendations made. We are expecting to make a decision by the end of 2009 about whether we can move to this alternative source and drop the current OC2 collection. This new source would ensure the data on the attainment for looked after children is consistent with that for all children and would also enable us to monitor progress towards NI 101, which is not currently collected in the OC2 return. In addition to this matched data source, we have also added a number of new indicators to the SSDA903 return for 2008-09 which will collect information currently collected in the OC2 return which not available through the National Pupil Database, such as health care and offending.

Queries and feedback

Enquiries about the figures contained in this publication should be addressed to:

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Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
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SW1P 3BT
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Table A: Number of children looked after at 30 September who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months, and general information about their education
Years: 2006-2008
Coverage: England

	numbers and percentages								
	children looked after						all children		
	number			percentages ¹			percentages ²		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Number of children looked after at 30 Sept. who had been looked after for at least twelve months	44,200	44,200	43,700	.	.	.	.	.	.
and of these:									
Number eligible for full-time schooling	34,400	33,600	33,000	.	.	.	.	.	.
and of these:									
Number with a statement of special educational needs	9,500	9,300	9,200	27.6	27.6	27.9	2.9	2.8	2.8
Number of permanent exclusions from school ³	280	220	170	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number who missed at least 25 days of school ^{4,5}	4,600	4,400	3,900	13.4	13.0	11.9	..	..	..

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

2. Source: DCSF Statistical First Releases: 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2008', and 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2006/07'.

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

4. This indicator was previously known as C24 within Ofsted's Performance Assessment Framework: 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 DCSF for all children. Although information on pupil absence is published by the Department it only relates to pupils aged between 5 and 15. The information on absence of looked after children shown here relates to all children attending school regardless of age.

. Not applicable.

.. Not available.

For information on rounding and data suppression please see the main commentary, paragraphs 69 to 78.

**Table B: Eligibility and performance of children who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months in Key Stages 1-3, compared with all children, twelve months ending 30 September
Years: 2006-2008
Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages								
	children looked after						all children ¹		
	number			percentages			percentages ²		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Key Stage 1									
Number eligible to sit Key Stage 1 tasks and tests	1,700	1,500	1,600	.	.	.	.	.	.
Numbers achieving at least Level 2 ³ in the following:									
Reading	980	850	900	57	55	57	84	84	84
Writing	890	780	790	52	51	50	81	80	80
Mathematics	1,100	980	990	65	64	62	90	90	90
Key Stage 2									
Number eligible to sit Key Stage 2 tasks and tests	2,800	2,700	2,700	.	.	.	.	.	.
Number achieving at least Level 4 ³ in the following:									
English	1,200	1,200	1,200	43	46	46	79	80	81
Mathematics	1,200	1,200	1,200	41	43	44	76	77	79
Science	1,600	1,600	1,600	57	59	60	87	88	88
Key Stage 3									
Number eligible to sit Key Stage 3 tasks and tests	4,000	4,100	3,900	.	.	.	.	.	.
Number achieving at least Level 5 ³ in the following:									
English	1,100	1,200	1,200	28	29	30	73	74	73
Mathematics	1,300	1,200	1,300	33	31	33	77	76	77
Science	1,200	1,200	1,100	29	29	29	72	73	71

1. Source: DCSF Statistical First Releases 'National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 1 in England, 2008 (Provisional)', 'National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2008 (Revised)', and 'National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 3 in England, 2008 (Provisional)'. Includes all schools. All KS1 figures are based on teacher assessments.

2. Due to the removal of borderlining in 2008 figures for this year are not directly comparable to previous years. It is estimated that this will have the impact of reducing the percentage of pupils achieving the expected levels. Further details on the impact of the removal of borderlining can be found in 'Technical Notes 3'.

3. Target level for age group.

. Not applicable.

For information on rounding and data suppression please see the main commentary, paragraphs 69 to 78.

Table C: GCSE performance of children¹ who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months, in Year 11, compared with all children, twelve months ending 30 September
Years: 2006-2008
Coverage: England

	numbers and percentages								
	children looked after						all children ²		
	number			percentages ³			percentages		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Number in Year 11	5,100	5,100	5,100	.	.	.	.	.	.
Number who sat at least one GCSE ¹	3,300	3,400	3,500	65.6	67.7	68.8	98.5	99.5	99.1
Number who obtained at least:									
1 GCSE at grade A* to G ¹	3,200	3,200	3,400	63.2	63.7	65.6	97.8	98.9	98.6
5 GCSEs at grade A* to G ¹	2,100	2,200	2,200	41.4	43.1	43.4	90.5	91.7	91.6
5 GCSEs at grade A* to C ¹	600	640	710	11.8	12.6	13.9	59.2	62.0	65.3

1. The figures for children looked after relate to GCSE and GNVQ qualifications, figures for all children relate to GCSE and all equivalent qualifications. See Technical Note 4.

2. Source: DCSF Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2007/08 (Revised)'. Includes all schools.

3. Expressed as a percentage of all children who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months in Year 11.

. Not applicable.

For information on rounding and data suppression please see the main commentary, paragraphs 69 to 78.

Table D: Education and employment status at 30 September 2008 of children who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months in Year 11 in 2007-08 school year, compared with all children

Year: 2008

Coverage: England

Government Office Region		total number of children in year 11 in 2007-08 school year	position at 30 September 2008, 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 children	5,100	69	7	2	1	5	1	15
	all children ^{1,2,3}	629,100	82	6	2	2	1	4	
NORTH EAST	looked after children	240	63	11	-	-	5	-	15
	all children ^{1,2,3}	34,000	78	9	2	1	1	6	
NORTH WEST	looked after children	800	67	10	2	-	5	1	15
	all children ^{1,2,3}	93,600	80	8	3	2	1	5	
YORKS AND THE HUMBER	looked after children	570	66	9	3	-	5	1	16
	all children ^{1,2,3}	65,200	78	9	3	2	1	5	
EAST MIDLANDS	looked after children	340	65	9	3	2	4	-	16
	all children ^{1,2,3}	55,500	82	7	2	2	1	4	
WEST MIDLANDS	looked after children	590	68	8	2	1	4	1	15
	all children ^{1,2,3}	70,900	81	7	2	2	1	5	
EAST OF ENGLAND	looked after children	500	67	7	2	-	7	-	16
	all children ^{1,2,3}	68,900	83	4	4	1	1	4	
LONDON	looked after children	1,100	76	5	-	1	4	1	13
	all children ^{1,2,3}	82,000	88	3	1	1	1	3	
SOUTH EAST	looked after children	660	68	5	2	1	6	-	17
	all children ^{1,2,3}	97,700	84	4	3	2	1	4	
SOUTH WEST	looked after children	390	69	6	2	-	7	-	14
	all children ^{1,2,3}	61,300	82	5	2	3	1	4	

1. Source: 'The Connexions/Careers Service Annual Activity Survey 2008'. Covers all young people who were in year 11 during the school year ending August 2008, and is based on a survey carried out during October 2008.

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.

3. Information from Connexions/Careers Service Annual Activity Survey 2008 was not available at the time of publication, this table will be updated with figures for all children once information has been received.

- a percentage where either the numerator is between 1 and 5 or the denominator is between 1 and 10 inclusive.

For information on rounding and data suppression please see the main commentary, paragraphs 69 to 78.

Table E: Offending by children who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months, twelve months ending 30 September
Years: 2006-2008
Coverage: England

										numbers and percentages		
	children looked after						all children ¹ percentages			PAF Indicator C18 ²		
	number			percentages								
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Number of children looked after at 30 Sept. who had been looked after for at least twelve months	44,200	44,200	43,700	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Number of children aged 10 or older at 30 September	30,300	30,400	30,000	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Number convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year	2,900	2,900	2,600	9.6	9.5	8.8	3.9	4.1	4.3	2.5	2.3	2.1

1. Data for all children are from the Home Office, and are for calendar years ending 31 December 2005 to 2007, expressed as a percentage of all children aged 10-17.

2. This indicator was previously known as C18 within Ofsted's Performance Assessment Framework: 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.

. Not applicable.

For information on rounding and data suppression please see the main commentary, paragraphs 69 to 78.

**Table F: Health care of children who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months, twelve months ending 30 September
Years: 2006-2008
Coverage: England**

	number			percentages			numbers and percentages			
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	PAF Indicator C19 ¹			
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	
Number of children looked after at 30 Sept. who had been looked after for at least twelve months	44,200	44,200	43,700	.	.	.	.	.	.
of these:										
number whose immunisations were up to date	35,200	35,300	35,900	79.5	79.9	82.3	.	.	.	
number who had their teeth checked by a dentist	37,600	38,000	38,200	85.1	85.8	87.3	}	84.1	85.1	86.9
number who had their annual health assessment	36,800	37,300	37,800	83.2	84.4	86.5				
number of children looked after for at least one year, and aged 5 or younger at 30 September:	6,600	7,000	7,100	.	.	.	.	.	.
of these:										
number whose development assessments were up to date	5,700	6,100	6,200	85.9	88.3	87.5	.	.	.	

1. This indicator was previously known as C19 within Ofsted's Performance Assessment Framework: 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.

. Not applicable.

For information on rounding and data suppression please see the main commentary, paragraphs 69 to 78.

Table G: Substance misuse of children who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months, twelve months ending 30 September
Years: 2006-2008
Coverage: England

	number			percentages		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Number of children looked after at 30 Sept. who had been looked after for at least twelve months	44,200	44,200	43,700	.	.	.
and of these:						
Number identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year ¹	2,300	2,400	2,200	5.1	5.4	4.9
and of these:						
Number who received an intervention for their substance misuse problem during the year ²	1,400	1,500	1,400	63.2	61.7	63.0
Number who were offered an intervention but who refused it during the year ²	760	800	750	33.6	33.4	34.9

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.

. Not applicable.

For information on rounding and data suppression please see the main commentary, paragraphs 69 to 78.