



Northern Ireland Care Leavers Aged 16-18

Statistical Bulletin 2011/12

This statistical bulletin presents findings from the latest survey of young people aged 16-18, who left care during the year ending 31 March 2012. Figures are based on the community information return OC1 collected from Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland. A range of analyses are reported including educational attainment and economic activity of care leavers by age, gender, religion, and placement type.

Summary Key Findings

- During 2011/12, 233 young people aged 16-18 left care in Northern Ireland, of which 58% (134) were girls and 43% (99) were boys;
- Almost three fifths (59%) of care leavers left care because they had reached 18 years of age;
- 13% of care leavers were disabled, of which two fifths had a learning disability;
- About one sixth (16%) of care leavers had been subject to a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) whilst attending school, compared with 4% of the general school population;
- In terms of educational attainment, the proportion of care leavers obtaining 5 GCSEs (grades A*-C) or higher, increased by 5 percentage points from 14% in 2010/11 to 19% in 2011/12, compared with 73% of general school leavers;
- The proportion of young people leaving care with no qualifications was 31% in 2011/12, compared with 2% of general school leavers;
- For care leavers for whom information was available, over half were in education or training (62%), an increase of 4 percentage points from 2010/11, 5% were working and 33% were unemployed or economically inactive;
- Care leavers in foster care prior to leaving care appeared to be at an economic advantage on leaving care, with over three quarters (77%) moving into education, training or employment, compared with 46% of care leavers from residential care placements.

Theme

Care Leavers aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland 2011/12

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Reader Information

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About Community Information Branch

The purpose of Community Information Branch (CIB) is to promote effective decision making in children and adult social services by providing quality information and analysis. We collect, analyse and disseminate a wide range of community information that is used to help monitor the delivery of personal social services policy. Information collected by CIB is used to assess Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, policy evaluation, and to respond to parliamentary / assembly questions. Information is widely disseminated through a number of regular key statistical publications and ad hoc reports, details of which are available by clicking on the link below.

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

Our Vision and Values

Community Information Branch aims to:

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

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Technical Notes

Data Collection

The information presented in this bulletin derives from the eighth 'OC1' survey of care leavers in Northern Ireland. Survey returns were provided by each of the five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland to Community Information Branch in the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety.

For inclusion in OC1, care leavers had to be aged 16-18 years and left care during the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. The information collected related to the last period in care.

The OC1 survey collects a range of information on care leavers aged 16-18 years including, educational achievement, economic activity, sex, age, religion, ethnicity, disability, length of time in care, and placement prior to leaving care.

OC1, together with its companion surveys OC2 (children in care for 12 months or longer at 30 September) and OC3 (care leavers at their 19th birthday), provide a comprehensive series of data on looked after children in Northern Ireland. It is a stated aim of the Department to improve outcomes for children in care, by improving the quality and stability of placements and improving educational opportunities for young people as they make the transition to adulthood. These publications help to measure the Department's progress in meeting these stated aims.

To help put some figures within their wider social context, comparative information with, for example, the general school population and looked after children in other countries in the United Kingdom have been included where possible. Users of these statistics find such comparisons interesting; though it should be stressed that they are not like-for-like comparisons and may merely reflect differences between different cohorts of children.

All references made to 'Year' refer to the financial year, 1st April to 31 March, i.e. for the 2012 the reference period was 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012.

The survey used to collect this information is longitudinal with one record for each young person fitting the parameters of the collection. The survey is completed online by nominated HSC Trust staff using a secure web-based survey returns application. All records are anonymised to protect the confidentiality of these young people.

Guidance notes and other documents associated with the completion of the OC1 survey are available to view or download from the DHSSPS website:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib-3/statistics_and_research-cib-survey/children_social_care_returns.htm

Rounding/Disclosure Conventions

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100.

It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item.

Data Quality

All information submitted by HSC Trusts was validated at the point of entry, where Trust staff correct or amend data as required, and provide appropriate explanations if information is missing. CIB perform further checks, using historical data to monitor annual variations and emerging trends.

Main Uses of Data

The main uses of these data are to monitor the delivery of social care services to children, to help assess Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, to inform and monitor related policy, and to respond to parliamentary / assembly questions.

Related Publications

Details of statistics on looked after children published by other countries in the UK (United Kingdom) can be found as detailed below.

Scotland

Children's Social Work Statistics 2011-12 will be published on 19th March 2013, further information can be found at the following link:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

Wales

Statistics on Children Looked After in Wales are produced annually by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government. Data for the period up to the end of March 2012 were released on 27 September 2012 and can be found at:
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2012/120927/?lang=en>

England

Statistics on Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers) are produced annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. Figures for the year ending 31 March 2012 were published on 25 September 2012, and are available at:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001084/>

Other statistics produced by the DHSSPS relating to looked after children and other areas of children's social care with relevant web links are detailed below:

Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2011/12

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

Northern Ireland Care Leavers aged 19 2010/11

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/stats_and_research_cib_care_leavers_aged19.htm

Children Order Child Protection and Referral Statistics for Northern Ireland

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

Children Adopted from Care in Northern Ireland

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

A further source of information on issues relating to children and young people in care and care leavers is the virtual library hosted by the Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) charity. This virtual library can be accessed via the following link:

www.libraryinthesky.org

A National Statistics Publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that statistics:

- meet identified users needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

If you have any comments on this publication, please complete our questionnaire at the following link:

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

or contact:

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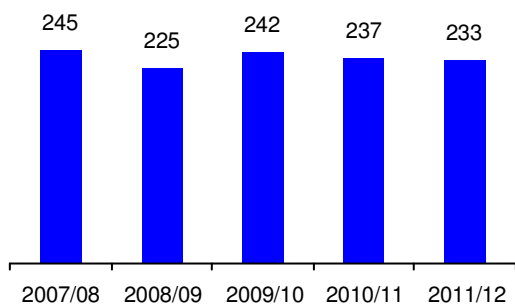
Tel: 028 9052 8446

Care Leavers Profile

Children are taken into care for a variety of reasons, the most common being to protect the child from abuse or neglect. In other cases their parents could be absent or may be unable to cope due to disability or illness.

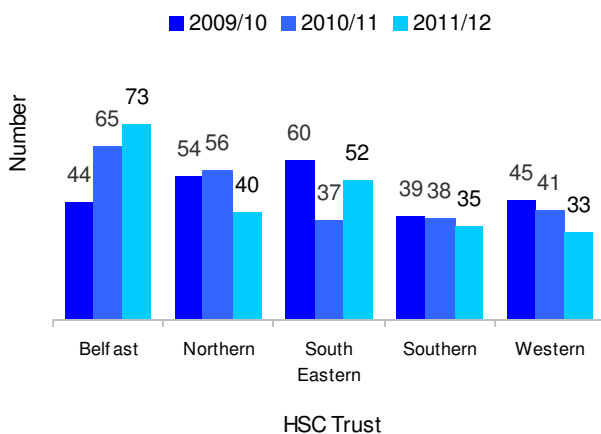
In 2011/12, 233 young people aged 16 – 18 left care in Northern Ireland^{1,2}. The number of care leavers in this age category has remained relatively stable over the previous five year (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Care Leavers 2008 - 2012



The distribution of care leavers across Health & Social Care Trusts in 2011/12 was similar in comparison with 2010/11. For example, the highest numbers in both years were care leavers from the Belfast Trust (Figure 2).

Figure 2 HSC Trust Profile



¹ The statistics presented in this bulletin covers young people aged 16-18 who left care during the year ending 31st March 2012. It excludes those young people looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements (respite care).

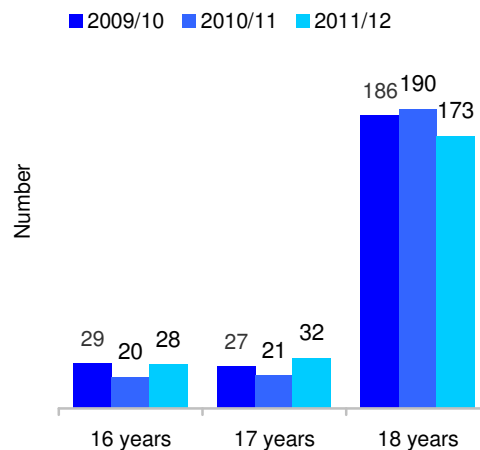
² Due to the small numbers involved, care should be taken when interpreting figures presented in this bulletin.

Between 2010/11 and 2011/12, care leavers in the South Eastern Trust rose from 37 to 52. Other Trusts showed less variability during the same period.

Age and Gender Profile

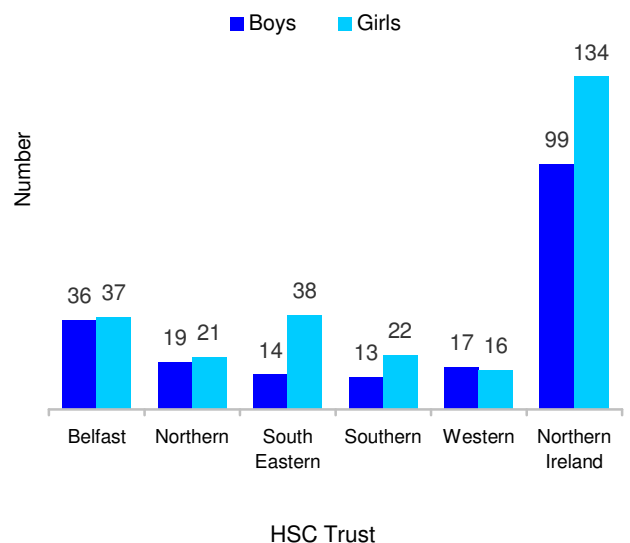
Around three quarters (74%) of care leavers in 2011/12 were aged 18 at the time of leaving care (Figure 3). Furthermore, there were more female care leavers than males (Figure 4 - 58% and 43% respectively).

Figure 3 Age Profile



Across Trusts, the South Eastern and Southern Trusts had greater numbers of female than male care leavers, whilst the remaining Trusts had similar levels of male and female care leavers (Figure 4).

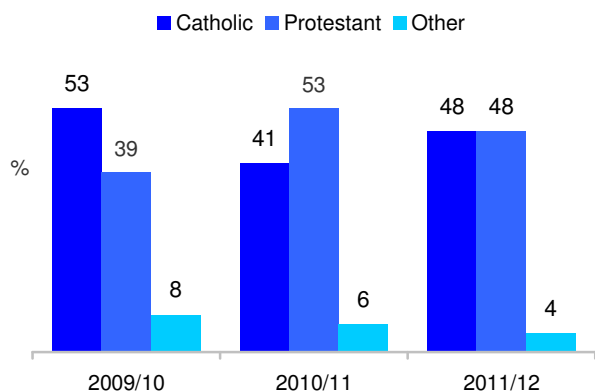
Figure 4 Gender Profile by HSC Trust



Religion and Ethnicity

Information on religion and ethnicity of care leavers is collected for equality monitoring purposes.

Figure 5 Religion Profile



There were equal proportions of Protestant and Catholic care leavers in 2011/12 (48%), with 4% from 'Other' denominations, including those with no religion, or whose religion was unknown or not recorded (Figure 5).

Between 2010/11 and 2011/12, the proportion of Protestant care leavers fell by 5 percentage points, with a corresponding 7 percentage point increase in Catholic care leavers.

Almost all care leavers in 2011/12 had a White ethnic background (98%), a slight increase on the equivalent figure for 2010/11 (96%).

Disability

13% (31) of care leavers in 2011/12 were disabled; of these, 42% had a learning disability and 32% had 'Other' disabilities³.

There are no directly comparable disability figures for Northern Ireland. However, less than 6% of all young people of this age (16-18) in Northern Ireland have a long-term limiting illness⁴, and 5% receive Disability Living Allowance⁵; these comparisons continue to suggest a disproportionate

number of young care leavers are coping with disabilities.

Special Educational Need

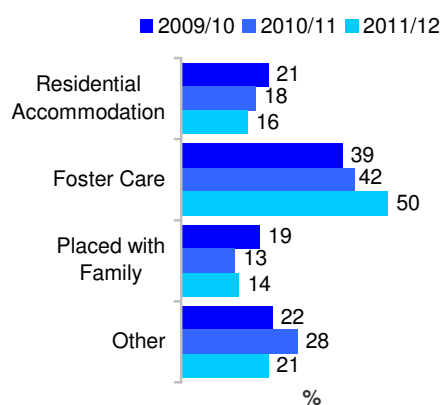
Children have special educational needs if they have a difficulty which calls for specific educational provision to be made for them. Further definitional and background information on this is detailed in the 'Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs', which is available from the Department of Education for Northern Ireland⁶.

Around 16% of care leavers in 2011/12 had received a statement of special educational need, 2 percentage points lower than the proportion in 2010/11 (18%). This compares to 4% of the general school population in Northern Ireland⁷.

Last Placement Type

Figure 6 sets out the last placement types for young care leavers for 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Figure 6 Latest Placement Type



In 2011/12, half the care leavers had been in 'Foster Care' prior to leaving care, 16% were in Residential Care, 14% were 'With Family', and over one fifth (21%) had been in 'Other' placement types⁸.

'Other' placement types fell by 7 percentage points, from 23% to 21% between 2010/11 and 2011/12 whereas Foster Care placements

³ Other disabilities include Aspergers syndrome, aggressive behaviour and children with more than one type of disability.

⁴ Census 2001

⁵ DSD, November 2012

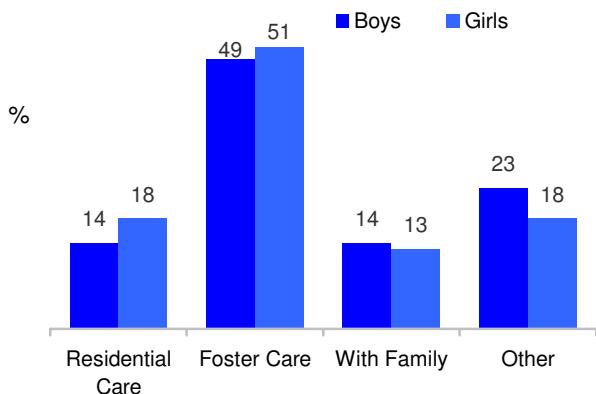
⁶ DENI, http://www.deni.gov.uk/the_code_of_practice.pdf

⁷ DENI Enrolments at Schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2011/12

⁸ Other placement types include, hospital, friends / family, shared care, assessment centres etc.

increased by 8 percentage points to 50% in 2011/12. Of the foster care placements in 2011/12, 43% were approved kinship foster care, 3% were emergency kinship foster care and 55% were other approved foster care.

Figure 7 Last Placement Type by Gender

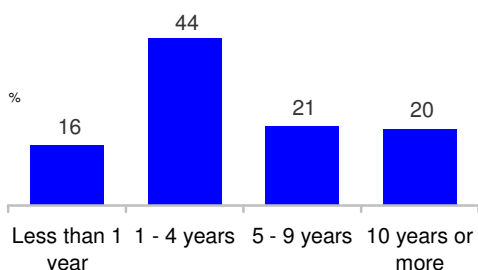


Generally there were no major differences between boys and girls when it came to the last placement type. However a slightly higher proportion of girls (18%) than boys (14%) had Residential Care as the last placement type whereas a higher proportion of boys (23%) than girls (18%) left care from 'Other' placement types.

Most Recent Period in Care⁹

Over two fifths (44%) of young care leavers had been looked after for between 1 to 4 years in their latest period of care with a further two-fifths having been looked after for 5 years or longer. For 16% of the care leavers, the last placement period had lasted less than 1 year (Figure 8).

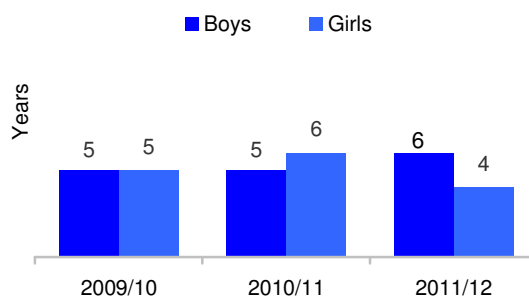
Figure 8 Length of Most Recent Period in Care



⁹ The OC1 collection covers only the latest period in care and does not take account of any previous instances where a child was looked after.

In 2011/12, on average, boy's last period of care was longer (5 years 9 months) than girl's (4 years 3 months). The opposite was the trend in 2010/11 (Figure 9).

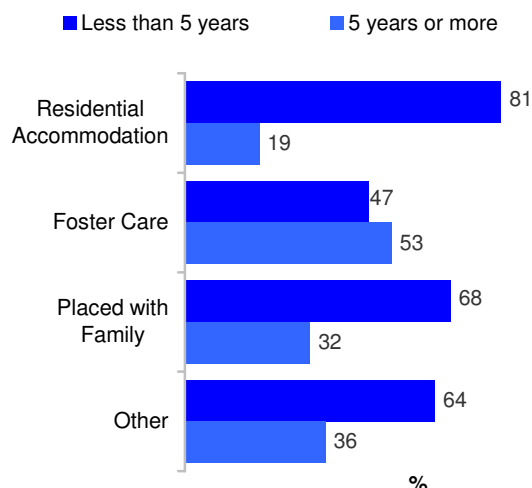
Figure 9 Average Length of Most Recent Period in Care by Gender



Young people, whose last placement was in Residential Care, were more likely to have been in care for less than five years (81%) than five years or longer (19%). A similar trend is observed when looking at young people last Placed with Family or in 'Other'¹⁰ placements (Figure 10).

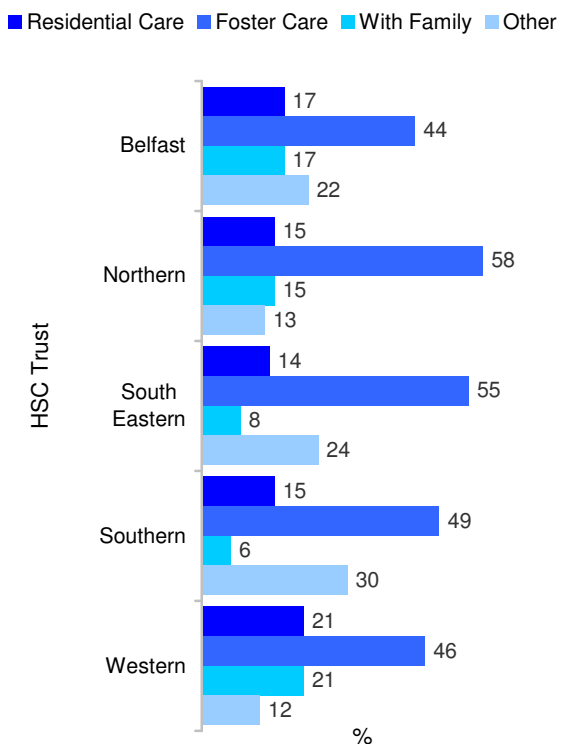
Care Leavers last placed in Foster Care, were more likely to have been in care for five years or longer.

Figure 10 Placement Type and Length of Most Recent Period in Care



¹⁰ Other placement types include: hospital, friends/family, shared care, assessment centres etc.

Figure 11 Placement Type and HSC Trust Area

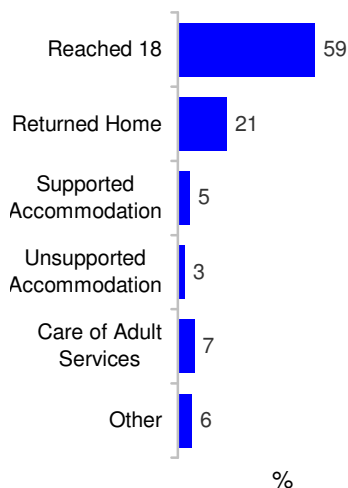


Across all Trusts, Foster care was the main last placement type (Figure 11). In the Southern Trust, 30% of care leavers had been in Other¹¹ placements, compared with 12% in the Western Trust. A higher proportion had been placed with family in the Western Trust (21%), compared with the other Trusts.

Reasons for Leaving Care

Of the 233 care leavers aged 16-18 years in 2011/12, the majority (59%) left care because they had Reached 18 years of age. A further 21% left to return home, 5% moved to Supported Accommodation, 3% moved to Unsupported Accommodation, 7% to the Care of Adult services and 6% for Other reasons¹² (Figure 12).

Figure 12 Reason Care Ceased



¹¹ Other placement types include hospital, friends / family, shared care, assessment centres etc.

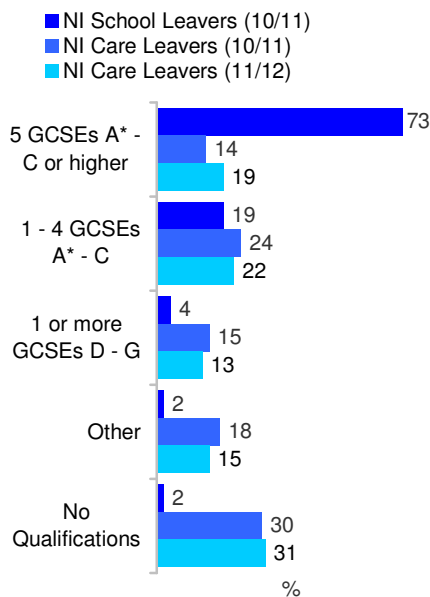
¹² Other reasons include: order discharged/revoked; care taken over by other trust; got married and refused service.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment can be an important predictor of success in later life. Figure 13 below, details educational qualifications obtained by care leavers in 2011/12, compared with Northern Ireland school leavers as a whole (latest figures relate to 2010/11¹³). Care leavers for 2010/11 has also been included for comparison.

There are important differences in educational attainment between care leavers and school leavers generally. For example, 19% of care leavers left care with 5 GCSE's (grades A*-C) or higher, compared with over two thirds (73%) of general school leavers. Just below a third of all care leavers (31%) left care with no qualifications, compared with 2% of general school leavers.

Figure 13 Highest Qualification of Care Leavers & Northern Ireland School Leavers

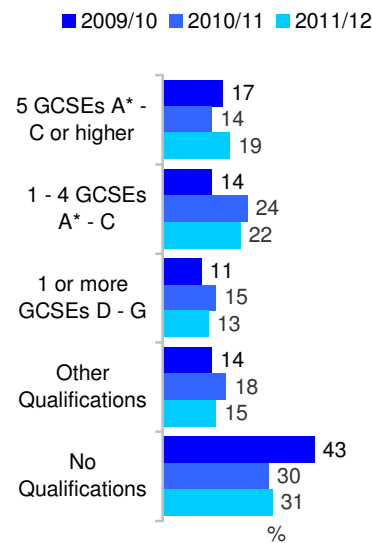


Note: Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

The proportion of young people leaving care with 5 GCSE's A*-C or higher in 2011/12 (19%) was 5 percentage points higher than in 2010/11 (14%), whilst a lower proportion achieved 1 to 4 GCSE's A*-C in 2011/12 (22%) than in 2010/11 (24%) (Figure 14). The proportion of young care leavers with no

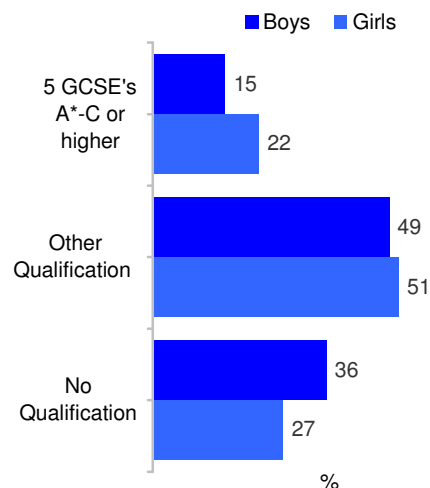
qualifications was similar in 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Figure 14 Care Leavers' Qualifications 2009/10, 2010/11 & 2011/12



As in 2010/11, a higher proportion of girls (22%) than boys (15%) obtained 5 GCSE's grades A*-C or higher in 2011/12; just over a third (36%) of all boys left care with no qualifications compared to 27% of girls (Figure 15).

Figure 15 Highest Qualification Achieved by Gender

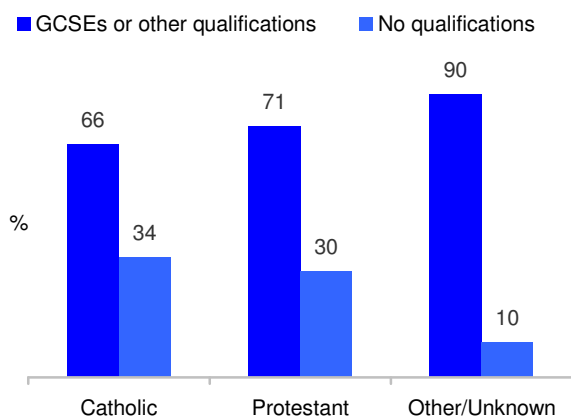


¹³ Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2010/11.

There was a 5 percentage points difference in educational achievement between Catholic and Protestant care leavers, with a higher proportion of Protestants (71%) than Catholics (66%) leaving care with GCSEs or Other Qualifications.

In addition, the proportion of Protestants (30%) leaving care with no qualifications was lower than for Catholics (34%) (Figure 16).

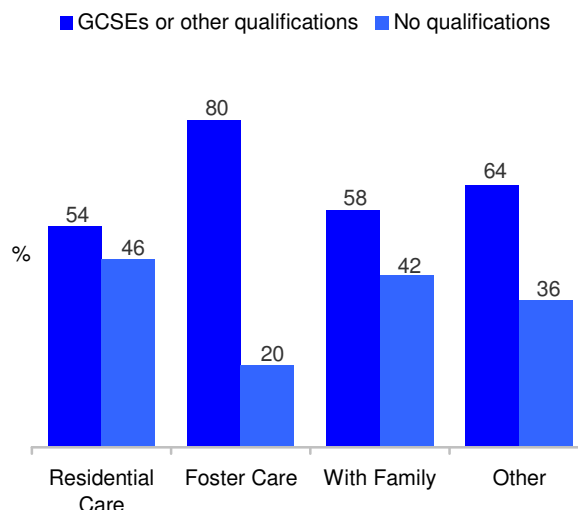
Figure 16 Qualifications Achieved by Religion



Young people whose placement prior to leaving care had been Foster Care achieved more or higher qualifications than care leavers in all other placement types, for example, 80% of care leavers in Foster Care placements achieved GCSEs or Other Qualifications, compared with 54% of those in Residential Care, and 58% placed With Family (Figure 17).

Over two fifths (46%) of care leavers whose last placement was Residential Care left care with no qualifications.

Figure 17 Qualifications Achieved by Latest Placement Type



Length of time in the last placement of care also appears to be important in terms of educational attainment. Children in care for ten years or more tended to do better academically than those in care for less than ten years. For example, almost four fifths (78%) of care leavers in care for 10 years or more had obtained GCSE's or Other Qualifications, compared with just over two thirds (67%) of those in care for less than 10 years, however, this difference may have been due to different placement types experienced by these two groups of care leavers (Figure 18).

Figure 18 Qualifications Achieved by Length of Time in Care

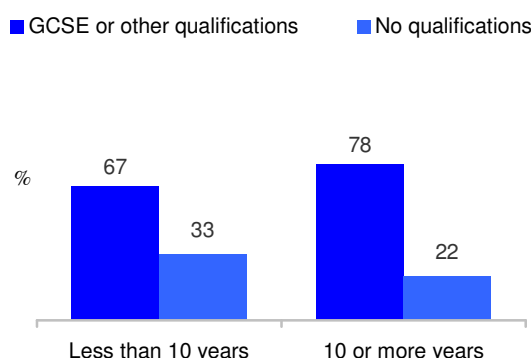
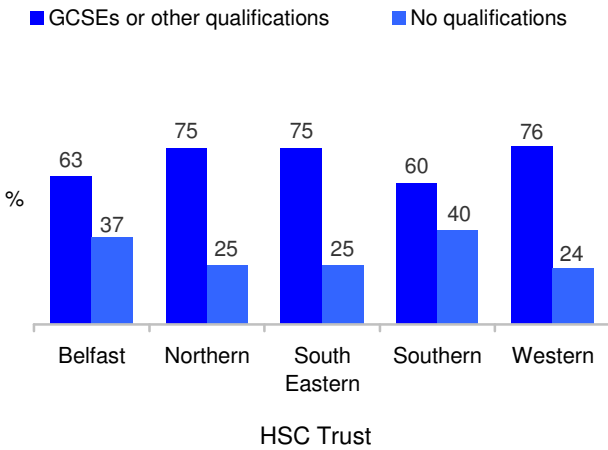


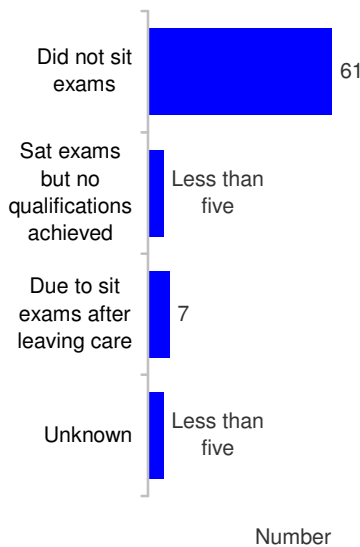
Figure 19 Highest Qualification Achieved by HSC Trust Area



Around three quarters of care leavers in the Northern, South Eastern, and Western Trusts achieved at least one GCSE or other qualification in 2011/12. Care leavers from the Belfast and Southern Trusts performed less well academically, with 37% and 40% respectively leaving care with no educational qualifications (Figure 19).

Most care leavers (61) with no qualifications did not sit any examinations, even though they had reached an appropriate age to do so; a small number sat examinations but did not obtain any qualifications, and 7 were too young to take examinations (Figure 20).

Figure 20 Reasons for having No Qualifications



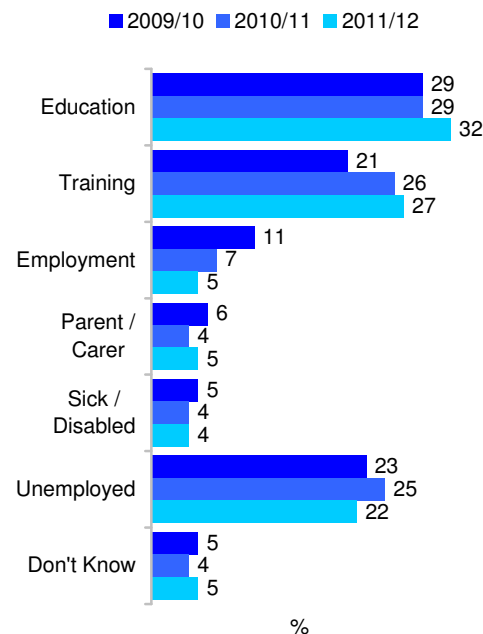
Economic Activity

Figure 21 details economic activity for care leavers aged 16-18 for each year from 2009/10 to 2011/12.

Between 2010/11 and 2011/12, the proportion of care leavers Unemployed after leaving care fell by 3 percentage points from 25% to 22%, whilst those in Employment decreased from 7% to 5%.

Care leavers in Education, Training or Employment increased by 2 percentage points from 62% in 2010/11 to 64% in 2011/12, with a 3 percentage point increase for those in Education, up to 32% in 2011/12.

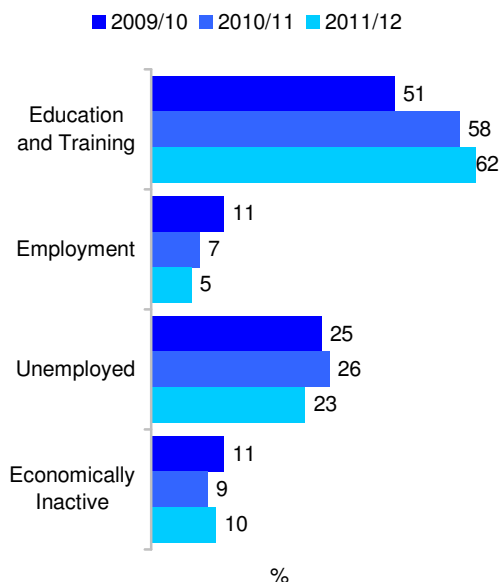
Figure 21 Economic Activity 2009/10 to 2011/12



The findings in the remainder of this section relate only to those for whom economic activity was reported.

Of care leavers for whom information was available in 2011/12, over half were in Education or Training (62%), 23% were Unemployed, 5% were in Employment, and 10% were Economically Inactive through caring responsibilities or sickness (Figure 22).

Figure 22 Economic Activity on Leaving Care



Note: Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN due to severe learning disability and those where economic activity was not known.

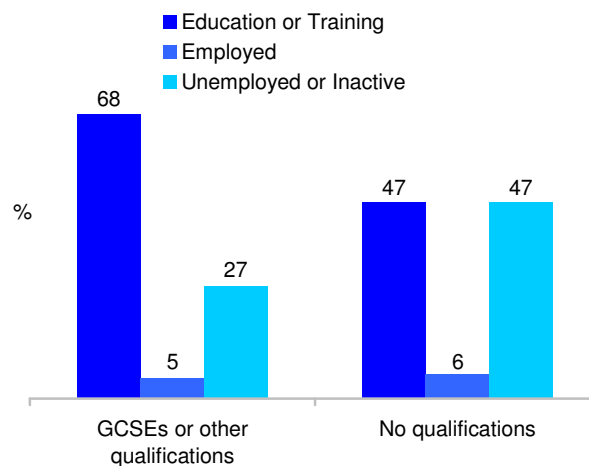
In general, the proportion of care leavers in Education and Training has increased over the last number of years and stood at 62% in 2011/12.

The proportion of care leavers in Employment dropped by 2 percentage points from 7% in 2010/11 to 5% in 2011/12, whilst those Economically Inactive was similar to the previous year.

Economic activity amongst care leavers compared less favourably with that for young people of similar age; for example, almost one fifth (17%) of young people aged 16-18 years were employed, compared with 5% of young care leavers¹⁴.

Care leavers with no qualifications were almost one and a half times as likely as care leavers with qualifications to be unemployed or economically inactive. Furthermore, those with qualifications were almost one and a half times as likely as those with no qualifications to be in education or training (Figure 23).

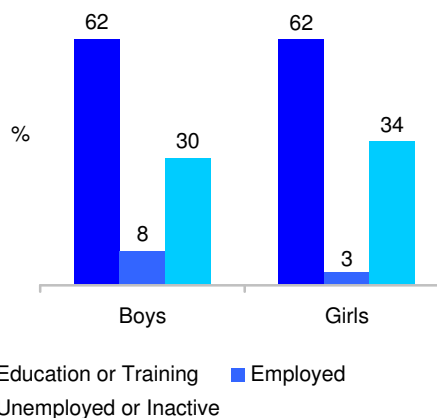
Figure 23 Economic Activity and Educational Achievement



Note: Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN due to severe learning disability and those where economic activity was not known.

Girls who left care were more likely than boys to be Unemployed or Inactive (Figure 24), whereas the same proportion of girls and boys (62%) were in Education or Training. A higher proportion of boys (8%) than girls (3%) were Employed.

Figure 24 Economic Activity by Gender

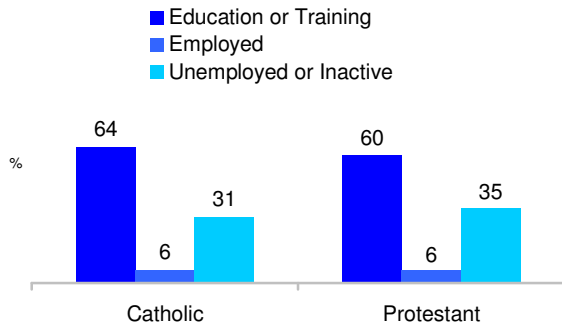


Note: Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN due to severe learning disability and those where economic activity was not known.

A slightly higher proportion of Protestant (35%) than Catholic care leavers (31%) were Unemployed or Inactive (Figure 25), and a higher proportions of Catholics than Protestants were in Education, Training or Employed.

¹⁴ Information provided by DETI from the Labour Force Survey July-September 2012. Reliable estimates were not available on numbers unemployed, inactive or in education or training.

Figure 25 Economic Activity by Religion

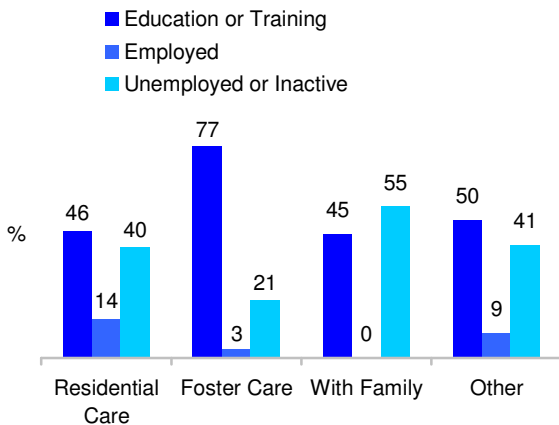


Note: Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN due to severe learning disability and those where economic activity was not known.

Young care leavers whose last placement was foster care again appeared to be at an advantage in terms of economic activity on leaving care, with more than three quarters (77%) in Education, Training or Employment (Figure 26).

Those who had been in Residential Care, With Family or in 'Other' types of placements fared less well, with relatively high proportions Unemployed or Inactive.

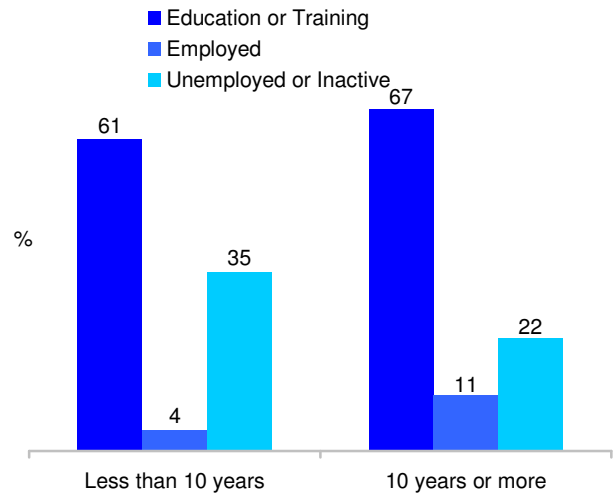
Figure 26 Economic Activity by Latest Placement Type



Note: Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN due to severe learning disability and those where economic activity was not known.

Care leavers that had been in care for 10 years and over were more likely than those in care for less than 10 years to be in Education, Training or Employment after leaving care (Figure 27).

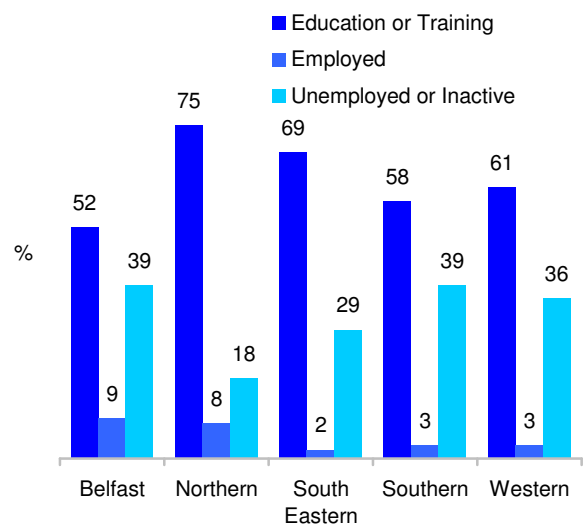
Figure 27 Economic Activity by Length of Time in Care



Note: Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN due to severe learning disability and those where economic activity was not known.

The highest proportions of care leavers in Education or Training were in the Northern (75%) and South Eastern (69%) Trusts, whilst higher proportions were Unemployed or Inactive in the Southern (39%) and Belfast (39%) Trusts. Just under a tenth of care leavers in the Belfast and Northern Trusts were Employed compared with less than 5% in the South Eastern, Southern and Western Trusts (Figure 28).

Figure 28 Economic Activity by HSC Trust



Note: Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN due to severe learning disability and those where economic activity was not known.

Appendices

- Table 1 Profile Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)
- Table 2 Last Placement Type Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)
- Table 3 Length of Time in Care Trend Data for Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)
- Table 4 Reasons for Leaving Care Trend Data (2008 – 2012)
- Table 5 Educational Attainment Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)
- Table 6 Economic Activity Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)

Table 1**Profile Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)**

Year ending 31 March	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	245	225	242	237	233
Gender					
No. of Male Care Leavers	135	106	123	113	99
No. of Female Care Leavers	110	119	119	124	134
Age					
No. of Care Leavers Aged 16	36	23	29	20	28
No. of Care Leavers Aged 17	22	23	27	21	32
No. of Care Leavers Aged 18	187	179	186	196	173
Religion					
% of Care Leavers Catholic	54%	46%	53%	41%	48%
% of Care Leavers Protestant	41%	47%	39%	53%	48%
% of Care Leavers No/Unknown/Other	5%	7%	8%	6%	4%
Ethnicity					
% of Care Leavers White (excluding Traveller)	94%	97%	98%	96%	98%
% of Care Leavers Other	6%	3%	2%	4%	2%
Disabled					
% of Care Leavers with a Disability	21%	18%	13%	16%	13%
Special Educational Needs (SEN)					
% of Care Leavers with a statement of SEN	18%	24%	20%	18%	16%

Table 2**Last Placement Type Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)**

Year ending 31 March	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	245	225	242	237	233
Last Placement Type					
% of males in Residential Care	19%	13%	25%	21%	14%
% of females in Residential Care	18%	21%	17%	14%	18%
% in Residential Care	18%	17%	21%	18%	16%
% of males in Foster Care	37%	45%	28%	39%	49%
% of females in Foster Care	37%	40%	50%	44%	51%
% in Foster Care	37%	43%	39%	42%	50%
% of males Placed with Family	19%	15%	20%	12%	14%
% of females Placed with Family	17%	14%	17%	13%	13%
% Placed with Family	18%	14%	19%	13%	14%
% of males in Other Care	25%	27%	26%	28%	23%
% of females in Other Care	27%	25%	17%	29%	18%
% in Other Care	26%	26%	22%	28%	21%

Table 3
Length of Time in Care Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)

Year ending 31 March	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	245	225	242	237	233
Length of Time of Last Period in Care					
% in care for less than one year	18%	17%	16%	11%	16%
% in care for 1 - 4 years	38%	38%	39%	43%	44%
% in care for 5 - 9 years	18%	25%	22%	24%	21%
% in care for ten years or more	26%	20%	23%	22%	20%
Average Length of Most Recent Period in Care					
Males (Years)	6	5	5	5	6
Females (Years)	5	4	5	6	4

Table 4
Reasons for Leaving Care Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)

Year ending 31 March	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	245	225	242	237	233
Reason for Leaving Care					
% Reached 18 Years of Age	53%	67%	65%	65%	59%
% Returned Home	21%	14%	19%	14%	21%
% entered Supported Accommodation	8%	8%	5%	7%	5%
% entered Unsupported Accommodation	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%
% in Care of Adult Services	10%	5%	3%	6%	7%
% left for Other Reasons	6%	3%	5%	6%	6%

Table 5
Educational Attainment Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)

Year ending 31 March	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	245	225	242	237	233
Highest Qualification					
% achieving 5 GCSE grades A* - C or Higher	12%	11%	17%	14%	19%
% achieving 1 - 4 GCSE grades A* - C	16%	18%	14%	24%	22%
% achieving 1 or more GCSE grades D - G	10%	9%	11%	15%	13%
% achieving Other Qualifications	9%	14%	14%	18%	15%
% with No Qualifications	53%	48%	43%	30%	31%
Qualifications by Gender					
% of males with 5 GCSE grades A* - C or Higher	8%	8%	11%	10%	15%
% of females with 5 GCSE grades A* - C or Higher	18%	13%	23%	17%	22%
% of males with Other Qualifications	34%	37%	42%	53%	49%
% of females with Other Qualifications	36%	44%	39%	60%	51%
% of males with No Qualifications	58%	55%	47%	37%	36%
% of females with No Qualifications	46%	43%	39%	23%	27%
Qualifications by Religion					
% of Catholics with Qualifications	47%	56%	54%	79%	66%
% of Protestants with Qualifications	49%	52%	63%	66%	71%
Qualifications by Length of Time in Care					
% with Qualifications in Care for < 10 Years	42%	49%	52%	67%	67%
% with Qualifications in Care for > 10 Years	62%	64%	75%	81%	78%
Qualifications by Last Placement					
% placed in Residential Care with Qualifications	32%	24%	28%	56%	54%
% placed in Foster Care with Qualifications	67%	71%	73%	84%	80%
% Placed with Family with Qualifications	36%	38%	49%	66%	58%
% in Other Placements with Qualifications	38%	48%	63%	62%	64%

Table 6
Current Activity Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2012)

Year ending 31 March	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number of care leavers aged 16 - 18	245	225	242	237	233
Current Activity					
% in Education	18%	18%	29%	29%	32%
% in Training	16%	19%	21%	26%	27%
% in Employment	20%	11%	11%	7%	5%
% Full Time Parent/Carer	4%	6%	6%	4%	5%
% Sick/Disabled	7%	8%	5%	4%	4%
% Unemployed	27%	30%	23%	25%	22%
% Unknown	9%	8%	5%	4%	5%
Economic Activity by Educational Attainment					
% with Qualifications in Education/Training	49%	56%	63%	63%	68%
% with Qualifications in Employment	27%	16%	13%	9%	5%
% with Qualifications Unemployed/Inactive	24%	28%	25%	28%	27%
% with No Qualifications in Education/Training	26%	21%	39%	45%	47%
% with No Qualifications in Employment	17%	6%	9%	2%	6%
% with No Qualifications Unemployed/Inactive	58%	73%	53%	54%	47%
Economic Activity by Gender*					
% of males in Education/Training	36%	39%	49%	57%	62%
% of males in Employment	20%	15%	13%	6%	8%
% of males Unemployed/Inactive	43%	46%	39%	37%	30%
% of females in Education/Training	38%	41%	58%	59%	62%
% of females in Employment	24%	8%	10%	8%	3%
% of females Unemployed/Inactive	38%	51%	33%	34%	34%
Economic Activity by Religion*					
% of Catholics in Education/Training	36%	39%	51%	63%	64%
% of Catholics in Employment	25%	11%	9%	8%	6%
% of Catholics Unemployed/Inactive	39%	50%	40%	29%	31%
% of Protestants in Education/Training	35%	40%	55%	54%	60%
% of Protestants in Employment	20%	13%	15%	6%	6%
% of Protestants Unemployed/Inactive	45%	47%	31%	40%	35%
Economic Activity by Last Placement Type*					
% placed in Residential Care in Education/Training	39%	13%	49%	62%	46%
% placed in Residential Care in Employment	16%	10%	7%	5%	14%
% placed in Residential Care Unemployed/Inactive	45%	77%	44%	33%	40%
% placed in Foster Care in Education/Training	49%	61%	67%	73%	77%
% placed in Foster Care in Employment	29%	15%	8%	7%	3%
% placed in Foster Care Unemployed/Inactive	22%	24%	25%	20%	21%
% placed with Family in Education/Training	29%	33%	41%	58%	45%
% placed with Family in Employment	17%	3%	15%	4%	0%
% placed with Family Unemployed/Inactive	55%	64%	44%	39%	55%
% in Other Placements in Education/Training	26%	24%	41%	31%	50%
% in Other Placements in Employment	19%	10%	18%	10%	9%
% in Other Placements Unemployed/Inactive	55%	66%	41%	60%	41%
Economic Activity by Length of Time in Care*					
% in Education/Training in Care for < 10 years	34%	37%	52%	56%	61%
% in Employment in Care for < 10 years	24%	12%	12%	6%	4%
% Unemployed/Inactive in Care for < 10 years	43%	51%	37%	38%	35%
% in Education/Training in Care for > 10 years	48%	52%	58%	64%	67%
% in Employment in Care for > 10 years	17%	12%	9%	10%	11%
% Unemployed/Inactive in Care for > 10 years	36%	36%	33%	26%	22%

* Care Leavers for whom information was available

2011/2012

Educational Qualifications of Care Leavers

Complete one of these forms for each young person aged 16 or over who ceased to be looked after by your Trust at any time between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012 inclusive.

1 Trust name:

2 SOSCARE number:

3 Sex: **Male**
 (Please tick as appropriate) **Female**

4 Date of birth: d d m m y y y y

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5 Date of start of latest period of care: d d m m y y y y

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6 Date ceased to be looked after: d d m m y y y y

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

7 Reason ceased being looked after:

(Please tick as appropriate for every young care leaver, including those who left care on their 18th birthday)

- Adopted
 - Died
 - Care taken over by another Trust
(including authorities outside Northern Ireland)
 - Returned home to live with parents/relatives
 - Moved into supportive accommodation
 - Moved into accommodation providing no formalised advice/support
 - Transferred to care of adult social services
 - Reason unknown
 - Episode ceased and new episode began on same day or next day
 - Other
- If 'Other', please specify below
-

**8 Young person's religion:
(Please tick as appropriate)**

- Catholic**
- Protestant**
- Other Religion**
- No denomination**
- Don't know**

9. Has the child a disability according to the definition for the register of children with a disability, i.e. has an illness or difficulty and needs extra help to take part in activities around them in the way they would like and in the way other children of the same age do, respecting individual culture and

circumstances?

(see guidance notes for fuller, formal definition)

- Yes
- No

If 'Yes', please state main disability type

- Visually disabled
- Hearing impaired
- Physically disabled
- Learning disabled
- Mental health disability
- Other (please specify below)
- Not known

If 'other', please specify

.....

10 Did the child reside in another Trust area immediately before this period in care? (Please tick as appropriate)

Yes

No

If 'Yes', please specify Trust in which child previously resided

.....

11 To which of the following ethnic groups does the young person belong?

(Please tick as appropriate)

White (excluding Traveller)

Chinese

Irish Traveller

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Black Caribbean

Black African

Black Other

Mixed Ethnic Group

Please specify

Other Ethnic Group

Please specify

Don't know

12 Does the young person have any dependants?

Yes

No

If 'Yes', please enter the number of dependants

13 What was the last placement arrangement for the young person prior to leaving care?

Secure accommodation

Residential accommodation

Placed for adoption with former foster carers

Placed for adoption with others

Foster care with relatives/friends (emergency)

Foster care with relatives/friends (approved)

Foster care with others

Placed with parents (or person with parental responsibility)

Independent living with formal support

Independent living without formal support

Other accommodation (please specify below)

.....

14. Did the child's placement change during the 12 months prior to leaving care (or if looked after for less than 12 months, during the total Time he or she was looked after)?

Yes
No

14 a) If 'Yes', how many placement changes Occurred during this time?

15 What was the young person's legal status immediately before leaving care?

- Police protection in Board/Trust accommodation (Article 23)
 - Child assessment Order (Article 62)
 - Emergency Protection Order (Article 63)
 - Accommodated (Article 21)
 - Interim Care Order (Article 57)
 - Care Order (Article 50 or 59)
 - Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 and 30 of Sch 8)
 - Freed for adoption and looked after by Board/Trust
 - Other (please specify below)
-

16 **Date of last statutory review:**

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y
<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>

16a Method of participation of young person in last statutory review:

- Attended and spoke for him or herself
- Attended and an advocate spoke on his or her behalf
- Attended and conveyed views non-verbally
- Attended and did not contribute
- Did not attend but briefed advocate to speak
- Did not attend but sent views (e.g. in writing, by phone)
- Did not attend and views not conveyed to the review
- Other

If 'Other', please specify below

.....

17 **Date of previous statutory review (if within year before leaving care):**

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y
<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 15px;" type="text"/>

17a Method of participation of young person in previous statutory review:

- Attended and spoke for him or herself
- Attended and an advocate spoke on his or her behalf
- Attended and conveyed views non-verbally
- Attended and did not contribute
- Did not attend but briefed advocate to speak
- Did not attend but sent views (e.g. in writing, by phone)
- Did not attend and views not conveyed to the review
- Other

If 'Other', please specify below

.....

18 At any time during the last school year (September 2010 - July 2011) was the young person covered by a statement of special educational need?
(Please tick as appropriate)

Yes
No

If 'Yes', please state briefly the reason(s) for the statement

.....
.....

If 'Yes' to question 18, go to question 20
--

19. At any time since beginning school, has the young person been covered by a statement of special educational needs?

(Please tick as appropriate)

Yes
No

If 'Yes', please state briefly the reason(s) for the statement:

.....
.....

20. Young person's qualifications on ceasing to be looked after:

- Number of GCSEs at grade A* to C:

--	--
- Number of GCSEs at grade D to G:

--	--
- Number of NVQs:

--
- Number of GNVQs:

--
- Number of 'A' levels:

--
- Number of other educational or vocational qualifications:

--	--

If 'Other qualifications', please specify below

.....

If no qualifications recorded.

21 Reason for having no qualifications on ceasing to be looked after:
(Please tick as appropriate)

- Not applicable (at least one qualification recorded above)
- Due to sit exams later in year
- Sat at least one exam but obtained no qualifications
- Health condition or disability prevented sitting exams
- Did not sit exams, other reason (please specify below)

.....
.....

22 What is the young person's activity at present?

(Please tick as appropriate)

- Not known
- Full time further education
- Part-time further education
- Higher education
- Full time training
- Part-time training
- Full time employment with planned training
- Full time employment with no planned training
- Part-time employment
- Parent - full-time carer
- Other full-time carer
- Unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability
- Unemployed for other reason

**This is the end of the questionnaire.
Thank you for your cooperation.**

Additional Information

Further information on Care Leavers Aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland, is available from:

Iain Waugh

Community Information Branch

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SQ



(028) 9052 8446

Fax: (028) 9052 3288

Email: cib@dhsspsni.gov.uk

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