



Northern Ireland Care Leavers Aged 16-18 Statistical Bulletin 2010/11

This statistical bulletin presents findings from the latest survey of care leavers aged 16-18, who left care during the year ending 31 March 2011. Figures are based on 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 2010/11, 237 young people aged 16-18 left care in Northern Ireland, of which 52% (124) were girls and 48% (113) were boys;
- 16% of care leavers were disabled, compared with 6% of young people of similar age;
- Just under a fifth (18%) 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;
- Almost two thirds (65%) of care leavers left care because they had reached 18 years of age;
- In terms of educational attainment, the proportion of care leavers obtaining 5 GCSEs (grades A*-C) or higher, decreased by 3 percentage points from 17% in 2009/10 to 14% in 2010/11, compared with 72% of general school leavers;
- The proportion of care leavers leaving care with no qualifications fell from 43% to 30% in 2010/11, compared with 2% of general school leavers;
- Economically, of care leavers for whom information was available, over half were in education or training (58%), an increase of 7 percentage points from 2009/10, 7% were working, 26% were unemployed, and 9% were economically inactive; care leavers with no qualifications were twice as likely as those with qualifications to be unemployed or economically inactive;
- Care leavers in foster care prior to leaving care appeared to be at an economic advantage on leaving care, with four fifths (80%) moving into education, training or employment, compared with 67% of care leavers from residential care placements.

Theme

Care Leavers aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland 2010/11

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Reader Information

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About CIB

The purpose of Community Information Branch 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 seventh '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 2010 to 31 March 2011. 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.

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 2011 the reference period was 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

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 Changes

Additional placement codes were included in the OC1 survey from 2005/06 onward, i.e. secure accommodation, kinship and non-kinship foster care etc.

Since first publication

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 Looked After Statistics are produced annually by the Scottish Government. The most recent were published on 29 February 2012, and are available at:

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

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 2011 were released on 15 September 2011 and can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2011/110915/?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 2011 were published on 28 September 2011, and are available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001026/index.shtml>

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 Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland 2010/11

Children Order Statistical Trends for Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2010/11

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 16-18 2009/10

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/stats_research_cib_care_leavers_aged18.htm

Northern Ireland Care Leavers aged 19 2009/10

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-h-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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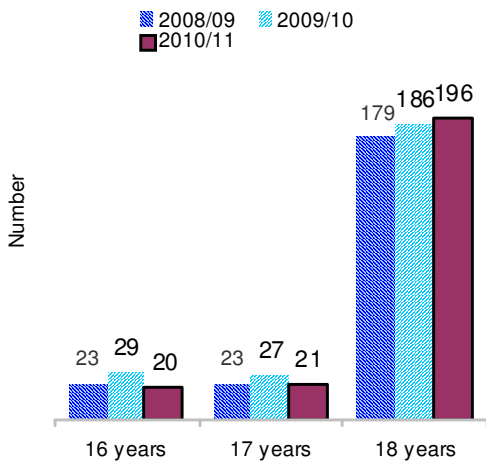
Tel: 028 905 20599

Care Leavers Profile

This report details information on 237 young people aged 16-18 who left care during the year ending 31 March 2011¹; This is a 2% (5) decrease in care leavers compared with 2009/10 (242);

Almost 83% (196) of care leavers in 2010/11 were aged 18 at the time of leaving care (Figure 1);

Figure 1: Age Profile

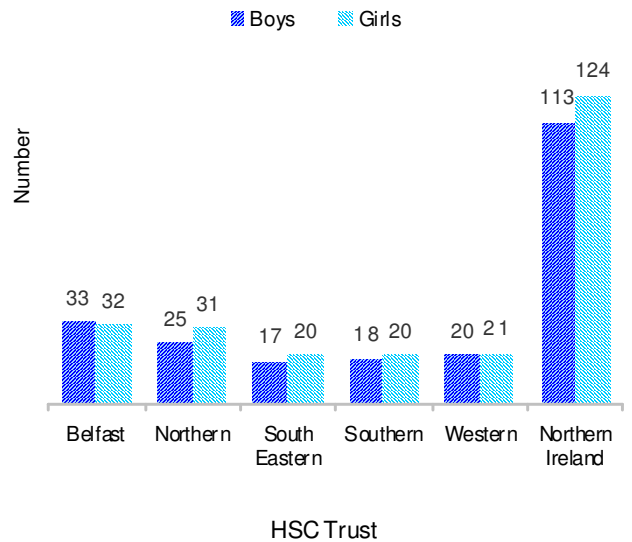


Gender Profile

Of care leavers in 2010/11 (237), 52% (124) were girls and 48% (113) were boys;

Across Trusts, Belfast had greater numbers of male than female care leavers, whilst the Northern, South Eastern, Southern and Western Trusts had more female than male care leavers (Figure 2);

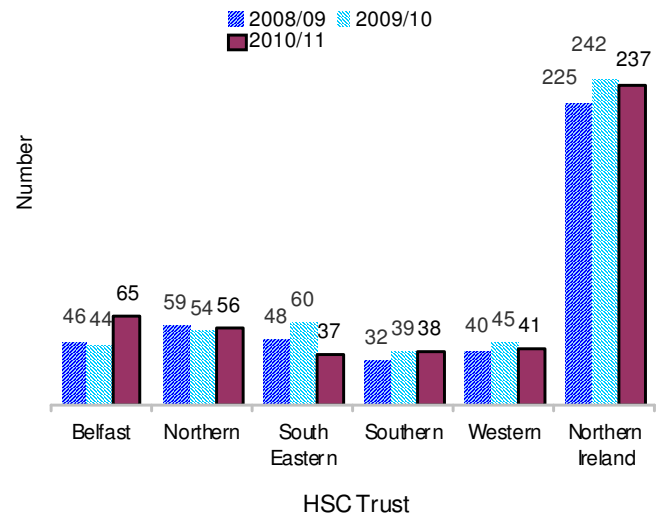
Figure 2: Gender Profile by HSC Trust



The distribution of care leavers across Trusts in 2010/11, varied slightly compared with 2009/10; for example, the highest numbers in 2010/11 were care leavers from the Belfast Trust (65), but from the South Eastern Trust (60) in 2009/10 (Figure 3);

Between 2009/10 and 2010/11, care leavers in the Belfast Trust rose by 47% (21), from 44 to 65; other Trusts, showed less variability during the same period.

Figure 3: HSC Trust Profile

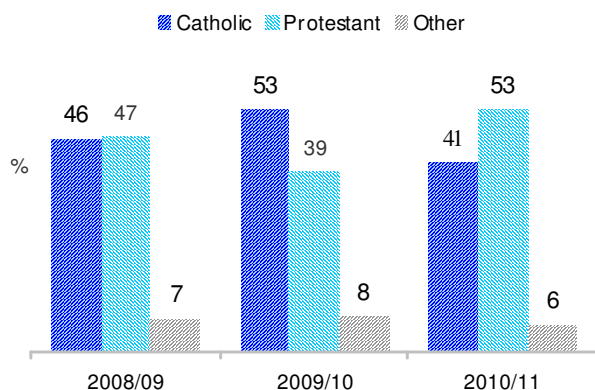


¹ The OC1 collection covers young people aged 16-18 who left care in Northern Ireland during the year ended 31st March 2011. It excludes those young people looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements (respite care)

Religion

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

Figure 4: Religion Profile



There were more Protestant (53%) than Catholic (41%) care leavers in 2010/11, with 6% from 'Other' denominations, including those with no religion, or whose religion was unknown or not recorded;

Between 2009/10 and 2010/11, the proportion of Protestant care leavers rose by 14 percentage points, with a corresponding 12 percentage point decrease in Catholic care leavers (Figure 4);

Ethnicity

Almost all care leavers in 2010/11 had a White ethnic background (96%), a slight decrease on the equivalent figure for 2009/10 (98%);

Disability

16% (38) of care leavers in 2010/11 were disabled; of these, the majority (61%) had a learning disability, 21% had mental health needs and 11% had a physical disability and 8% had 'Other' disabilities¹;

There are no directly comparable disability figures for Northern Ireland. However, less than 6% of all young

¹ Other disabilities include aspergers syndrome, aggressive behaviour and children with more than one type of disability.

people of this age (16-18) in Northern Ireland have a long-term limiting illness², and only 4% receive Disability Living Allowance³; these comparisons continue to suggest a disproportionate number of young care leavers are coping with disabilities;

Special Educational Need

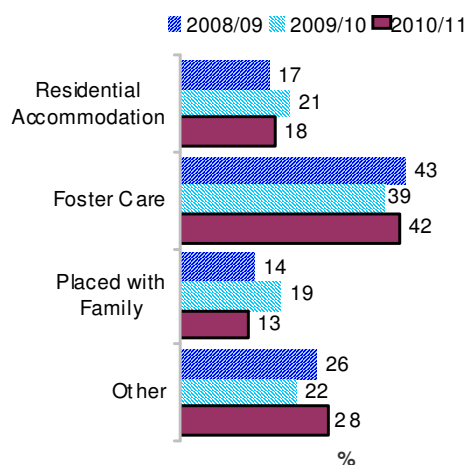
Children have special educational needs if they have a difficulty which calls for specific educational provision to be made for them; Further definitional and background information on this is detailed in the 'Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs', which is available from the Department of Education for Northern Ireland⁴;

Just under one fifth (18%) of care leavers in 2010/11, had received a statement of special educational need, 2 percentage points lower than the proportion in 2009/10 (20%). This compares to 4% of the general school population in Northern Ireland⁵;

Last Placement Type

Figure 5, shows last placement types for young care leavers, for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Figure 5: Latest Placement Type



² Census 2001

³ DSD, May 2011

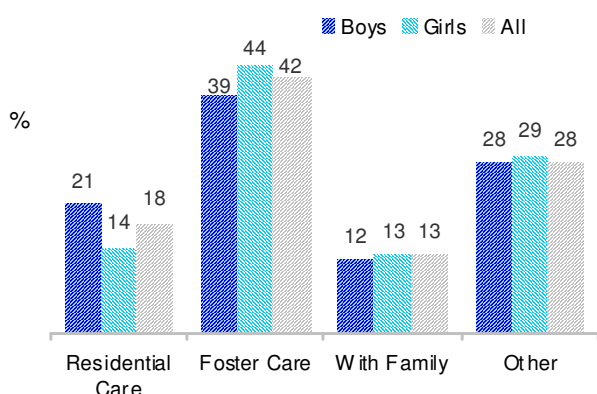
⁴ DENI, http://www.deni.gov.uk/the_code_of_practice.pdf

⁵ DENI Enrolments at Schools and in funded pre-school education in Northern Ireland 2010/11

In 2010/11, 42% of care leavers had been in 'Foster Care' prior to leaving care, 18% were in Residential Care, 13% were 'With Family', and over one quarter (28%) had been in 'Other' placement types¹;

Foster Care placements increased from 39% in 2009/10 to 42% in 2010/11, a rise of 3 percentage points; 'With Family' placements fell by 6 percentage points, to 13% in 2010/11;

Figure 6: Placement Type by Gender

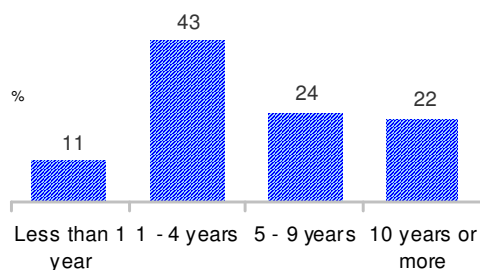


A notably higher proportion of girls (44%) than boys (39%) had been in Foster Care, with a higher proportion of boys (21%) than girls (14%) in Residential Care;

Most Recent Period in Care²

Over two fifths (43%) of young care leavers had been looked after for between 1 and 4 years in their latest period of care, 24% for between 5 and 9 years, 22% for 10 years or more and 11% for less than 1 year (Figure 7);

Figure 7: Length of Most Recent Period in Care

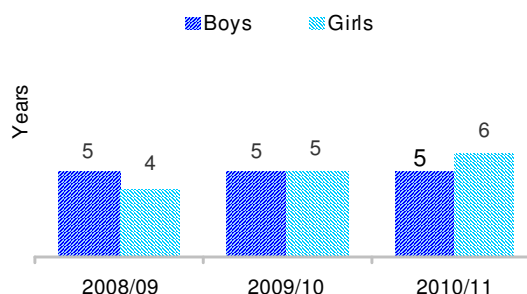


¹ Other placement types include, hospital, friends / family, shared care, assessment centres etc.

² 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.

At 5 and 6 years, respectively, on average boys and girls spent slightly longer periods of time, in care, during 2010/11, compared with care leavers in 2009/10, 5 years for both boys and girls respectively (Figure 8);

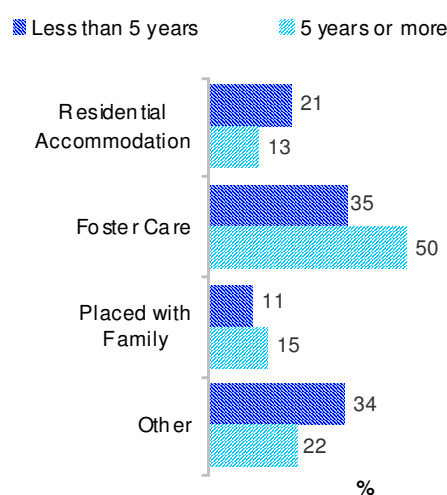
Figure 8: Average Length of Most Recent Period in Care



Young people, whose latest period in care lasted less than 5 years, were more likely to have been in Foster Care, or Residential Accommodation than in 'Other'³ placements or Placed with Family (Figure 9);

Of care leavers whose last period in care was 5 years or more, almost half (50%) had been in Foster Care prior to leaving care, with 15% Placed With Family, and 13% in Residential Accommodation;

Figure 9: Placement Type and Length of Most Recent Period in Care

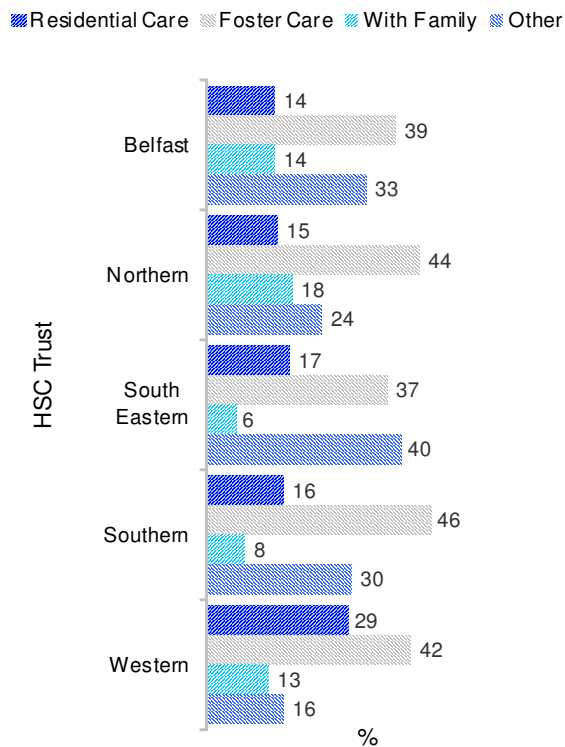


³ Other placement types include: hospital, friends/family, shared care, assessment centres etc.

Across Trusts, the proportion of care leavers in Foster Care in their last placement, ranged from 46% in the Southern to 37% in the South Eastern Trusts (Figure 10);

In the South Eastern and Belfast Trusts, 40% and 33% of care leavers had been in Other¹ placements, compared with 16% in the Western Trust;

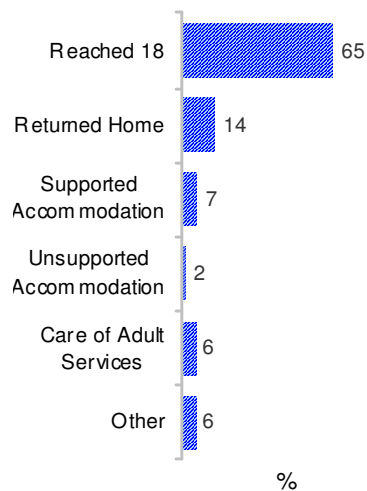
Figure 10: Placement Type and HSC Trust Area



Reasons for Leaving Care

Of the 237 care leavers in 2010/11, the majority (65%) left care because they had Reached 18 years of age, 14% Returned Home, 7% moved to Supported Accommodation, 2% moved to Unsupported Accommodation, 6% to the Care of Adult services and 6% for Other reasons² (Figure 11);

Figure 11: Reason Care Ceased²



¹ Other placement types include hospital, friends / family, shared care, assessment centres etc.

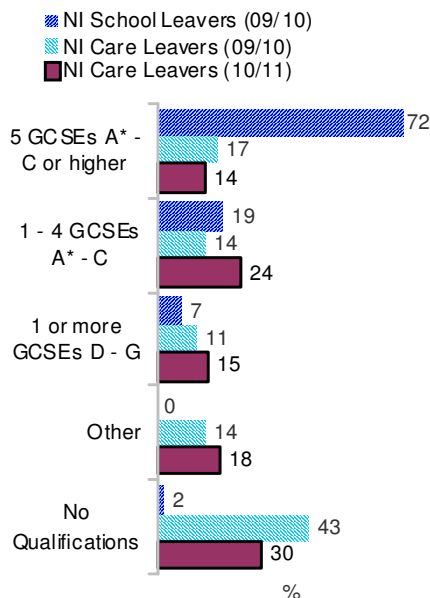
² Other reasons include: order discharged/revoked, care taken over by another Trust, transferred to adult services, got married, and refused service

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is an important predictor of success in later life; figure 12 below, details educational qualifications obtained by care leavers in 2010/11, compared with Northern Ireland school leavers as a whole (2009/10);

There are important distinctions between these two groups of young people; as in 2009/10, educational attainment by care leavers remains poor compared with general school leavers; for example, 14% of care leavers left care with 5 GCSE's (grades A*-C) or higher, compared with over two thirds (72%) of general school leavers, and below a third of all care leavers (30%) left care with no qualifications, compared with 2% of general school leavers; the proportion of young care leavers with no qualifications fell by 13 percentage points from 43% in 2009/10 to 30% in 2010/11 and by 18 percentage points since 2008/09;

Figure 12: Highest Qualification of Care Leavers & Northern Ireland School Leavers^{1,2}

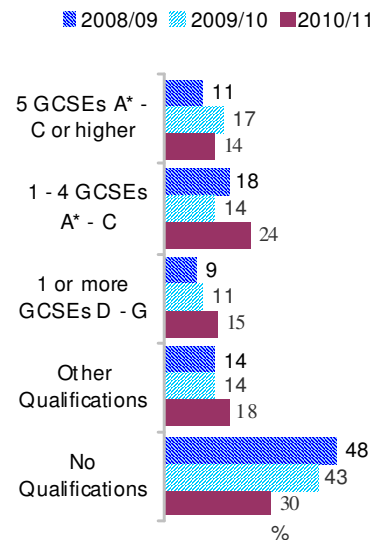


¹ Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

² Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2009/10.

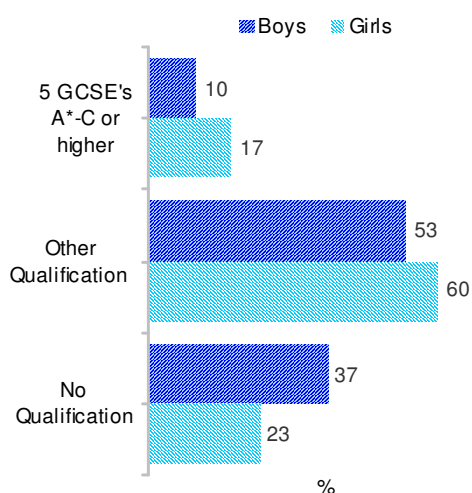
The proportion of young people leaving care with 5 GCSE's A*-C or higher in 2010/11 (14%) was 3 percentage points lower than in 2009/10 (17%), whilst a higher proportion achieved 1 to 4 GCSE's A*-C in 2010/11 (24%) than in 2009/10 (14%) (Figure 13);

Figure 13: Care Leavers' Qualifications 2008/09, 2009/10 & 2010/11



As in 2009/10, a higher proportion of girls (17%) than boys (10%) obtained 5 GCSE's grades A*-C or higher in 2010/11; just over a third (37%) of all boys left care with no qualifications compared to 23% of girls (Figure 14);

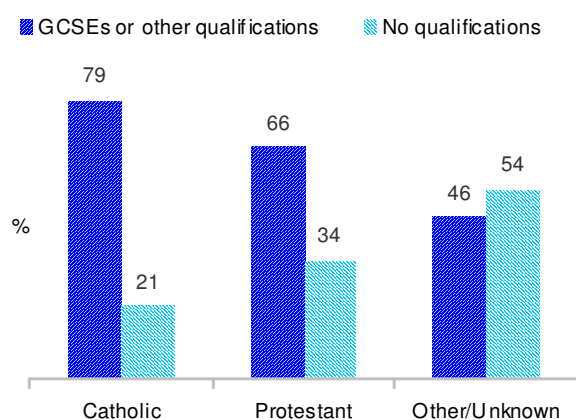
Figure 14: Highest Qualification Achieved by Gender



There was a 13 percentage points difference in educational achievement between Catholic and Protestant care leavers, with a higher proportion of Catholics (79%) than Protestants (66%) leaving care with GCSEs or Other Qualifications;

Conversely, the proportion of Catholics (21%) leaving care with no qualifications was lower than for Protestants (34%) (Figure 15);

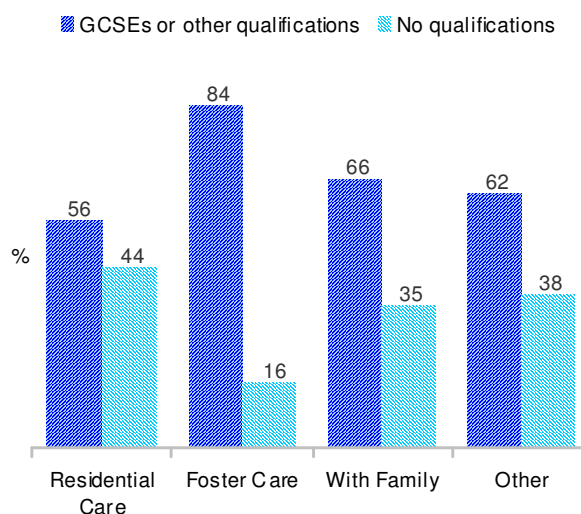
Figure 15: Qualifications Achieved by Religion



Young people whose placement prior to leaving care had been Foster Care achieved more or higher qualifications than care leavers in Other placement types; for example, 84% of care leavers in Foster Care placements achieved GCSEs or Other Qualifications, compared with 56% of those in Residential Care, and 66% placed With Family (Figure 16);

Over two fifths (44%) of care leavers whose last placement was Residential Care left care with no qualifications;

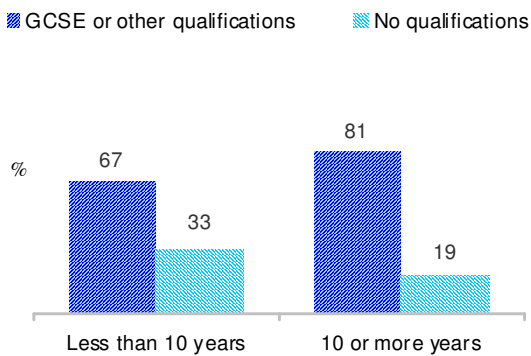
Figure 16: Qualifications Achieved by Latest Placement Type



Length of time in 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, four fifths (81%) 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 17);

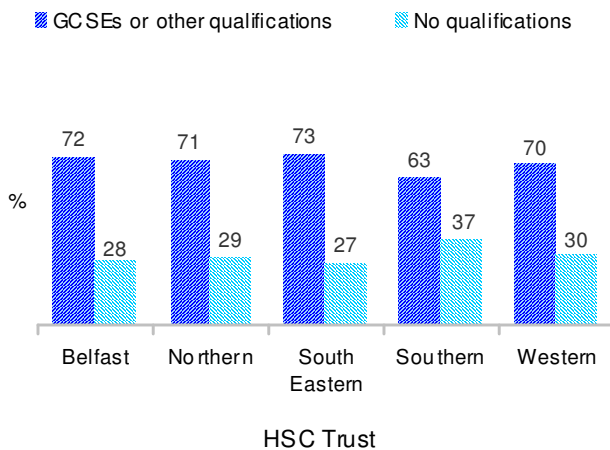
Figure 17: Qualifications Achieved by Length of Time in Care



Over 70% of care leavers in the Belfast, South Eastern, Northern and Western Trusts achieved at least one GCSE or other qualification in 2010/11;

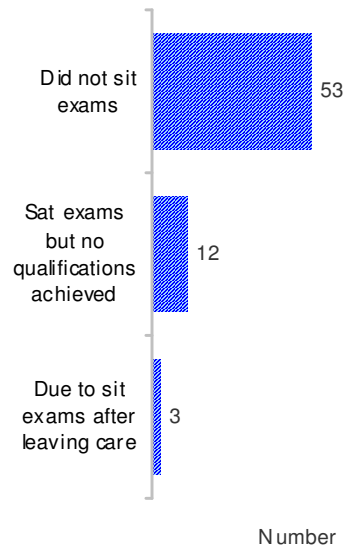
Care leavers from the Southern Trust performed less well academically, with 37% leaving care with no educational qualifications (Figure 18);

Figure 18: Highest Qualification Achieved by HSC Trust Area



Most care leavers (53) with no qualifications did not sit any examinations, even though they had reached an appropriate age to do so; a small number (12) sat examinations but did not obtain any qualifications, and 3 were too young to take examinations (Figure 19);

Figure 19: Reasons for having No Qualifications



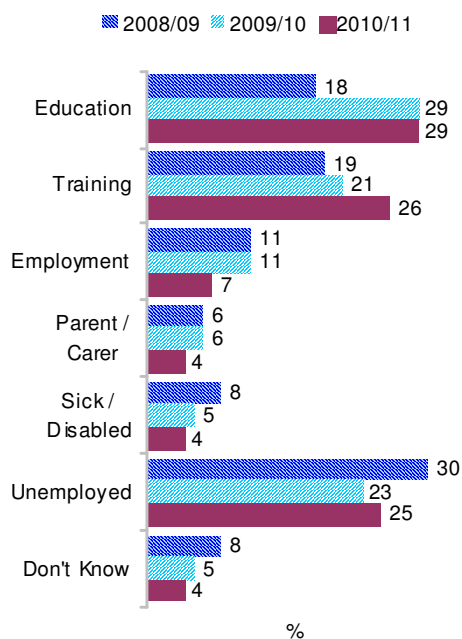
Economic Activity

Figure 20, details economic activity for care leavers aged 16-18 for each year from 2008/09 to 2010/11;

Between 2009/10 and 2010/11, the proportion of care leavers Unemployed after leaving care rose by 2 percentage points from 23% to 25%, respectively, whilst those in Employment decreased from 11% to 7%;

Care leavers in Education, Training or Employment increased by 1 percentage point from 61% in 2009/10 to 62% in 2010/11, with a 5 percentage point increase for those in Training, up to 26% in 2010/11;

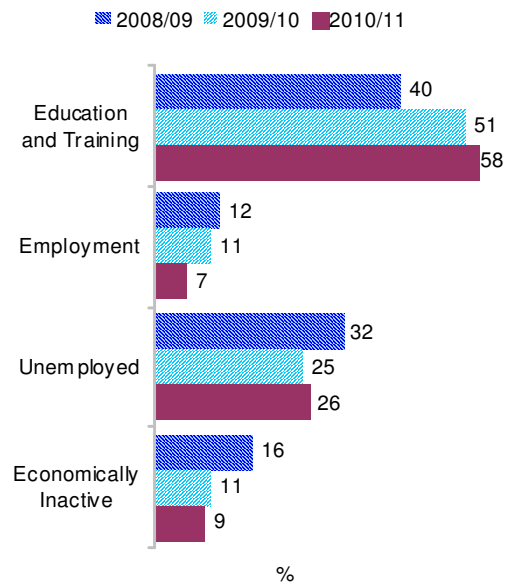
Figure 20: Economic Activity 2008/09, 2009/10 & 2010/11



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 2010/11, over half were in Education or Training (58%), 26% were Unemployed, 7% were in Employment, and 9% were Economically Inactive through caring responsibilities or sickness (Figure 21);

Figure 21: Economic Activity on Leaving Care¹



The proportion of care leavers in Employment dropped by 4 percentage point from 11% in 2009/10 to 7% in 2010/11; whilst those Economically Inactive, fell from 11% to 9% respectively;

Care leavers in Education or Training, rose 7 percentage points to 58% in 2010/11;

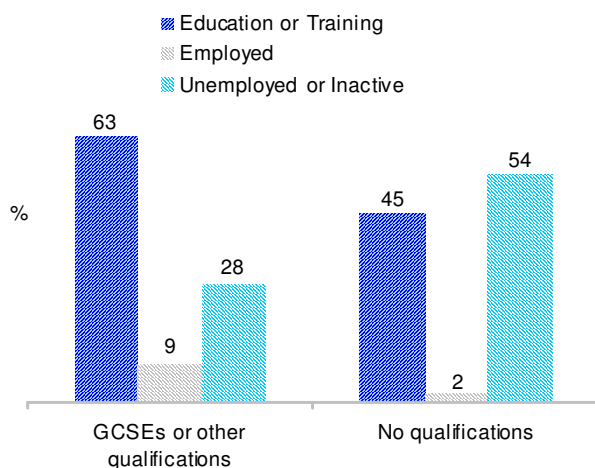
Economic activity amongst care leavers compared less favourably with that for young people of similar age; for example, almost one fifth (20%) of young people aged 16-18 years were employed, compared with 7% of young care leavers²;

¹ Excludes care leavers with a statement of SEN due to severe learning disability and those whose economic activity was not known.

² Information provided by DETI from the Labour Force Survey July-September 2009. Reliable estimates were not available on numbers unemployed, inactive or in education or training

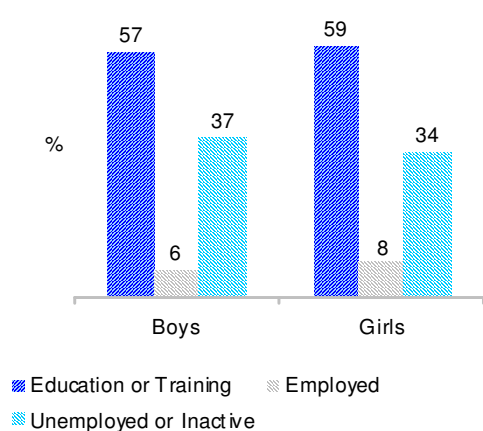
Care leavers with no qualifications were twice as likely as care leavers with qualifications to be unemployed or economically inactive; however, those with qualifications were almost one and a half times as likely as those with no qualifications to be in education or training (Figure 23);

Figure 22: Economic Activity and Educational Achievement



Boys (37%) who left care were more likely than girls (34%) to be Unemployed or Inactive (Figure 23); a higher proportion of girls (59%) than boys (57%) were in Education or Training, and similarly a higher proportion of girls (8%) than boys (6%) were Employed;

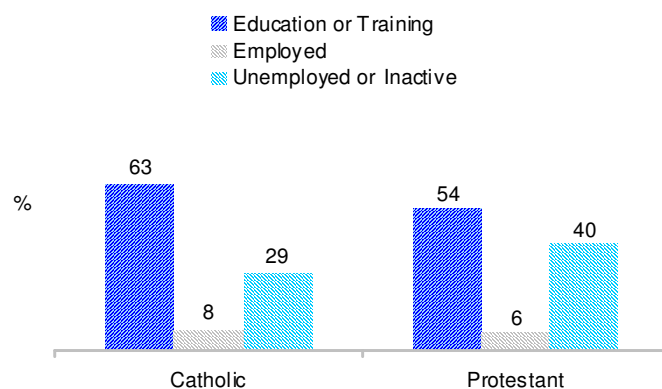
Figure 23: Economic Activity by Gender



A higher proportion of Protestant (40%) than Catholic care leavers (29%) were

Unemployed or Inactive (Figure 24); higher proportions of Catholics than Protestants were in Education or Training, and Employed.

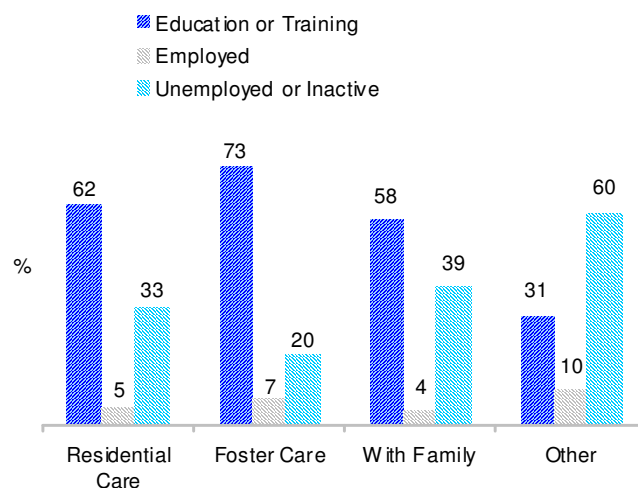
Figure 24: Economic Activity by Religion¹



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 four fifths (80%) in Education, Training or Employment (Figure 25);

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.

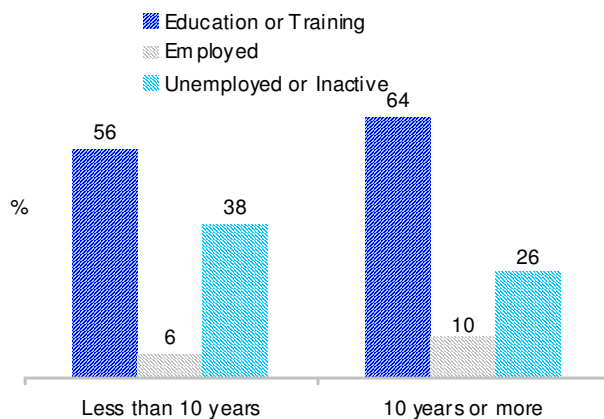
Figure 25: Economic Activity by Latest Placement Type



¹ Information on care leavers of other religious denominations or those whose religion was not known has been excluded to avoid personal disclosure.

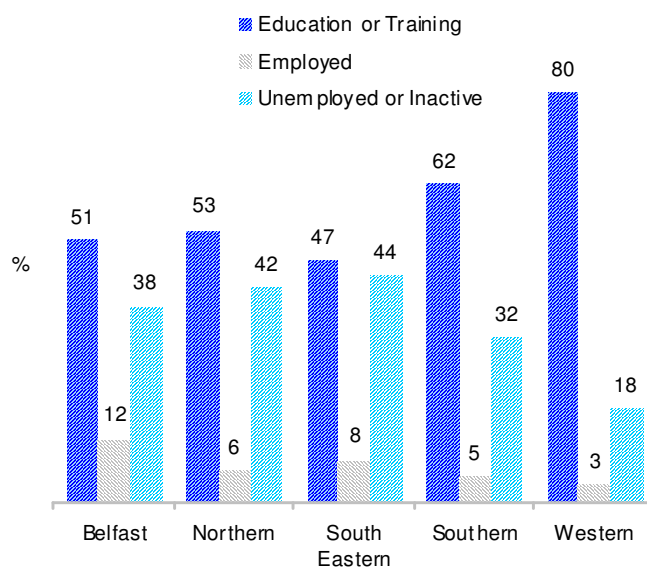
Care leavers that had been in care for 10 years or more (64%) were more likely than those in care for less than 10 years (56%) to be in Education or Training after leaving care (Figure 26);

Figure 26: Economic Activity by Length of Time in Care



The highest proportions of care leavers in Education or Training were in the Western (80%) and Southern (62%) Trusts, whilst higher proportions were Unemployed or Inactive in the South Eastern (44%) and Northern (42%) Trusts; just over a tenth (12%) of care leavers in the Belfast Trust were Employed (Figure 27);

Figure 27: Economic Activity by HSC Trust



Appendices

- Table 1 Profile Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)
- Table 2 Last Placement Type Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)
- Table 3 Length of Time in Care Trend Data for Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)
- Table 4 Reasons for Leaving Care Trend Data (2008 – 2011)
- Table 5 Educational Attainment Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)
- Table 6 Economic Activity Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)

Table 1**Profile Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)**

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

Table 2**Last Placement Type Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)**

| Year ending 31 March | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Number of Care Leavers Aged 16 - 18 | 245 | 225 | 242 | 237 |
| Last Placement Type | | | | |
| % of males in Residential Care | 19% | 13% | 25% | 21% |
| % of females in Residential Care | 18% | 21% | 17% | 14% |
| % in Residential Care | 18% | 17% | 21% | 18% |
| % of males in Foster Care | 37% | 45% | 28% | 39% |
| % of females in Foster Care | 37% | 40% | 50% | 44% |
| % in Foster Care | 37% | 43% | 39% | 42% |
| % of males Placed with Family | 19% | 15% | 20% | 12% |
| % of females Placed with Family | 17% | 14% | 17% | 13% |
| % Placed with Family | 18% | 14% | 19% | 13% |
| % of males in Other Placements | 25% | 27% | 26% | 28% |
| % of females in Other Placements | 27% | 25% | 17% | 29% |
| % in Other Placements | 26% | 26% | 22% | 28% |

Table 3
Length of Time in Care Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)

| Year ending 31 March | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Number of Care Leavers Aged 16 - 18 | 245 | 225 | 242 | 237 |
| Length of Time of Last Period in Care | | | | |
| % in care for less than 1 year | 18% | 17% | 16% | 11% |
| % in care for 1 – 4 years | 38% | 38% | 39% | 43% |
| % in care for 5 – 9 years | 18% | 25% | 22% | 24% |
| % in care for ten years or more | 26% | 20% | 23% | 22% |
| Average Length of Most Recent Period in Care | | | | |
| Males (Years) | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Females (Years) | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Length of Time in Care by Placement Type | | | | |
| % in care for < 5 Years in Residential Care | 29% | 23% | 28% | 21% |
| % in care for > 5 Years in Residential Care | 6% | 9% | 12% | 13% |
| % in care for < 5 Years in Foster Care | 21% | 29% | 32% | 35% |
| % in care for > 5 Years in Foster Care | 58% | 60% | 46% | 50% |
| % in care for < 5 Years Placed with Family | 20% | 18% | 14% | 11% |
| % in care for > 5 Years Placed with Family | 17% | 10% | 24% | 15% |
| % in care for < 5 Years in Other Placements | 31% | 30% | 25% | 34% |
| % in care for > 5 Years in Other Placements | 20% | 21% | 18% | 22% |

Table 4
Reasons for Leaving Care Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)

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

Table 5
Educational Attainment Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)

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

Table 6
Current Activity Trend Data of Care Leavers Aged 16 – 18 (2008 – 2011)

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

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

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