

15 October 2025

Dear

ATISN 25174 – Information about Care Leavers

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 22 September 2025. You asked for:

1. The total amount of people in care in Wales. In numerical format every year for the last 5 years e.g. 2600 in 2023, 1000 in 2025, 3000 in 2024, etc.
2. Numerical figure of how many Care Leavers went on to higher education when leaving care? (Over the last five years)
3. Any data on how satisfied young people are with their care and support after leaving foster care.
4. Is occupational therapy routinely considered as an option when a young person leaves Care?
5. Has the Welsh Government developed any strategies to improve outcomes for Care leavers in Wales?
6. Where did Care leavers sit as an Underrepresented group in Wales, in terms of outcomes.
7. Any other relevant data that could help you with your study.

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

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- 1. The total amount of people in care in Wales. In numerical format every year for the last 5 years e.g. 2600 in 2023, 1000 in 2025, 3000 in 2024, etc.**

This data is published on a yearly basis, please visit [Children looked after by local authorities | GOV.WALES](#). You can also find further data about children looked after in [StatsWales Children looked after](#).

- 2. Numerical figure of how many Care Leavers went on to higher education when leaving care? (Over the last five years)**

We do not collect the data specifically requested but do have something related that might be of interest:

1. The [number of care leavers, as of 31st March, in Categories 2, 3, and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months in employment, education, or training in the collection year](#). This is available for 2023-24 financial year only, at present.
2. [The total number of care leavers in categories 2,3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education or training in the:](#)
 - a. 12 months since leaving care – available for financial years 2020-21 to 2022-23.
 - b. 13-24 months since leaving care – available for financial year 2022-23 only.

Young persons categories are detailed in the [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014 Explanatory Notes](#) para. 292 to 298.

NB: While extensive efforts have been made to gather reliable and accurate information from local authorities, data remains imperfect.

- 3. Any data on how satisfied young people are with their care and support after leaving foster care.**

The Welsh Government does not hold the information requested. You may approach local authorities as they may have some data locally that is not being published or collated.

- 4. Is occupational therapy routinely considered as an option when a young person leaves Care?**

The Welsh Government does not hold the information requested. You may approach local authorities as they may have some data locally that is not being published or collated.

- 5. Has the Welsh Government developed any strategies to improve outcomes for Care leavers in Wales?**

Young people who are care-experienced often have additional challenges when leaving care including the expectation to enter 'instant adulthood' and have financial and residential independence, where other young people may have parental support to help navigate these challenges.

Supporting care-experienced children and young people through their childhoods and as they leave care should be the responsibility of all public sector bodies. We want these bodies to understand and develop their responsibilities towards care-experienced children and young people, and to ensure they have the same life chances as all children and young people in Wales.

The [Corporate Parenting Charter](#) is a set of promises that can be adopted by any organisation when engaging with care-experienced children and young people. It also sets out shared principles that all bodies and their leaders should follow when providing services to care-experienced children and young people.

Additionally, the [Part 6 Code of Practice](#) sets out that once a young person ceases to be Looked After and becomes a care leaver, the local authority must appoint a Personal Adviser (PA) up until the care leaver reaches 21 or up to 25 if they are in full time education. Since 2017/18, we have provided local authorities with £1m of additional funding to recruit more PAs for all care leavers aged 21-25.

Finally, we established the £1m St David's Day Fund that is administered by local authorities to go directly to care leavers who can request support to enable them to undertake an activity that will improve their wellbeing, maintain their independence or contribute to their development.

6. Where did Care leavers sit as an Underrepresented group in Wales, in terms of outcomes.

Care-experienced young people often feel unprepared, experiencing a cliff-edge in support. This means that care leavers and care-experienced young people continue to experience inequalities in outcomes compared to their peers.

We don't routinely collect outcome data for care leavers but you can find information on care leaver outcomes in the [Care Leavers Toolkit v4](#) created by Bangor University.

7. Any other relevant data that could help you with your study.

Please have a look at the information provided and come back to me if you have further questions.