

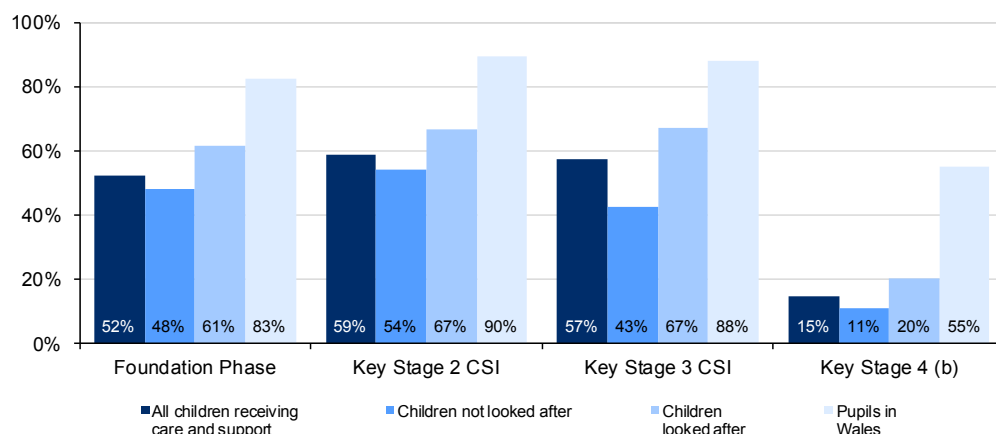
## Wales Children Receiving Care and Support Census, 2018 (Experimental Statistics)

27 February 2019  
SFR 14/2019

This annual statistical first release has been de-designated from National Statistics to Experimental Statistics to reflect the scale of the changes made to the social services and related systems.

This release is based on the second year of data collected from the [Children Receiving Care and Support Census](#) following the introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. See the [Key quality information](#) section for more information about the data.

**Chart 1: The educational achievement of children receiving care and support, children looked after, and all pupils at Foundation Phase and Key Stages, at 31 March 2018 <sup>(a)</sup>**



Source: 2018 Census and National pupil database

(a) Due to rounding, the differences between some columns may not add to the total figure given.

(b) L2 inclusive threshold: 5 A\*-C GCSEs or equivalents including English or Welsh First Language and Mathematics.

### Key Points

- There were 16,080 children receiving care and support included in the CRCS Census at 31 March 2018. Of these, 8,870 (55 per cent) were boys and 7,210 (45 per cent) were girls.
- One-fifth (21 per cent) of children receiving care and support had a disability.
- There is a wide educational attainment gap between children receiving care and support and all pupils in Wales. At the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 the difference in the proportion achieving the expected outcome was 30 and 31 percentage points respectively. The gap then increases to 36 percentage points for Key Stage 3 and 45 percentage points for Key Stage 4.

### About this release

This release presents the data collected from the Children Receiving Care and Support (CRCS) Census submitted by local authorities and processed by the Welsh Government.

The purpose of the CRCS Census is to collect data that measures the characteristics and attributes of children receiving care and support (i.e. children under the age of 18) who have a care and support plan and their parents.

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## Summary

- There were 16,080 children receiving care and support included in the CRCS Census at 31 March 2018, which was a rate of 256 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years. ([Section 1, Table 1](#))
- 8,485 children receiving care and support (53 per cent) were either on the Child Protection Register (CPR) (15 per cent) or looked after by a local authority (38 per cent). ([Section 1, Table 1](#))
- Over half of all children receiving care and support (8,640 or 54 per cent) had a need for care and support due primarily to the risk of, or actual, abuse or neglect. ([Section 2, Table 2](#))
- Parental mental ill health capacity factor was recorded for almost a third of children receiving care and support. ([Section 3, Table 3](#))
- 82 per cent of children receiving care and support had up to date immunisations. ([Section 4, Table 6](#))
- One-fifth (21 per cent) of children receiving care and support had a disability. ([Section 5, Table 7](#))
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders were reported for 11 per cent (1,715) of the children receiving care and support. ([Section 5, Chart 6](#))
- Overall 46 per cent of children receiving care and support were eligible for free school meals. 32 per cent of children who were receiving care and support and were looked after were eligible for free school meals and 54 per cent of children receiving care and support who were not looked after were also eligible for free school meals. ([Section 6, Table 8](#))
- The average proportion of children receiving care and support with a Statement of Special Educational Needs was 27 per cent (for all children aged 17 or under) compared to 3 per cent for pupils in Wales (for all ages). ([Section 6, Table 9](#))
- There is a wide educational attainment gap between children receiving care and support and all pupils in Wales. At the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 the difference in the proportion achieving the expected outcome was 30 and 31 percentage points respectively. The gap then increases to 36 percentage points for Key Stage 3 and 45 percentage points for Key Stage 4. ([Section 6, Table 10, Table 11](#))

## Section 1 – Numbers of children receiving care and support included in the CRCS Census

The numbers of children receiving care and support include only those children whose case had been open for 3 months or more at the census date of 31 March, i.e. the care and support plan was in place on or before 1 January 2018 and remained at 31 March 2018. For information on the total numbers of children looked after and on the Child Protection Register, see the publications accessible from the [social services statistics topic pages](#).

**Table 1: Number and proportion of children receiving care and support, on the Child Protection Register (CPR) or looked after, at 31 March 2018 <sup>(a)</sup>**

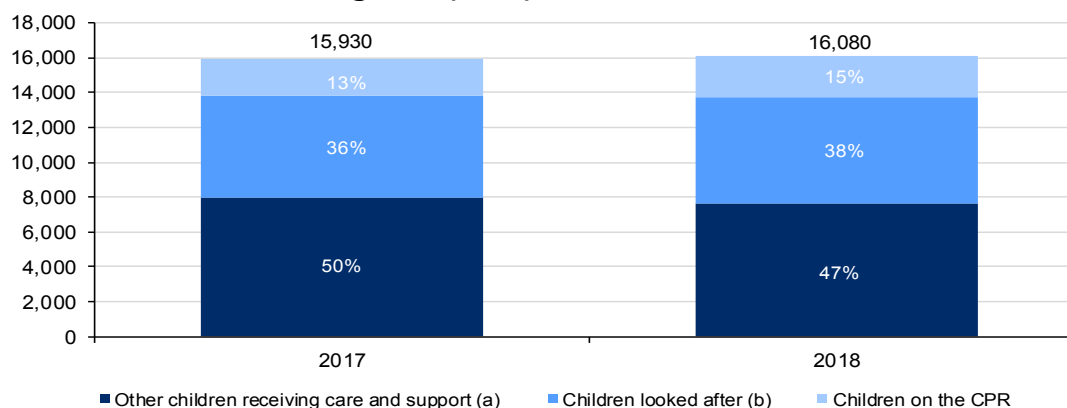
<i>Children receiving care and support</i>	2017 (r)		2018	
	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
<b>All children receiving care and support</b>	<b>15,930</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16,080</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	8,715	55	8,870	55
Female	7,220	45	7,210	45
<b>Children on the Child Protection Register</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,385</b>	<b>15</b>
Male	1,070	7	1,230	8
Female	1,065	7	1,150	7
<b>Children Looked After (b)</b>	<b>5,780</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>38</b>
Male	3,130	20	3,300	21
Female	2,655	17	2,800	17
<b>Other children receiving care and support (c)</b>	<b>8,015</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>47</b>
Male	4,515	28	4,340	27
Female	3,500	22	3,260	20

Source: 2018 CRCS Census

- (a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.  
 (b) Includes 140 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR at 31 March 2018 and 235 children at 31 March 2017.  
 (c) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

In 2018 there were 16,080 children receiving care and support, of which 6,100 (38 per cent) were looked after and 2,385 (15 per cent) were on the Child Protection Register. Data for unborn children is no longer collected.

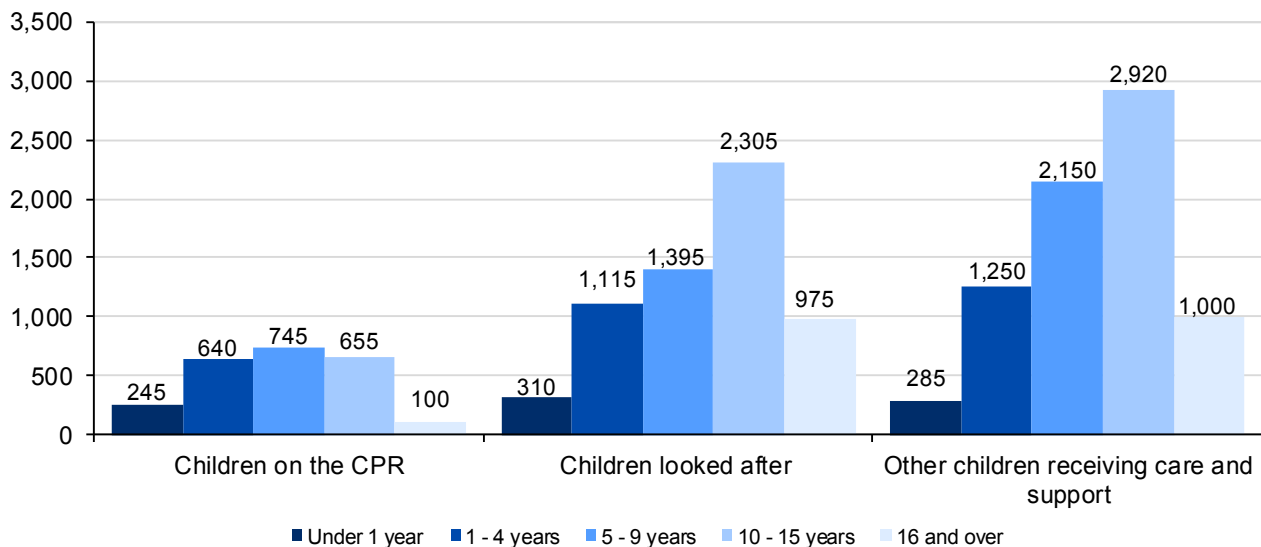
**Chart 2: Number of children receiving care and support and whether they were on the Child Protection Register (CPR) or looked after, at 31 March**



Source: 2018 CRCS Census

- (a) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.  
 (b) Includes 140 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR at 31 March 2018 and 235 children at 31 March 2017.

**Chart 3: Number of children receiving care and support and whether they were on the Child Protection Register (CPR) or looked after by age, at 31 March 2018 <sup>(a)</sup>**



Source: 2018 CRCS Census

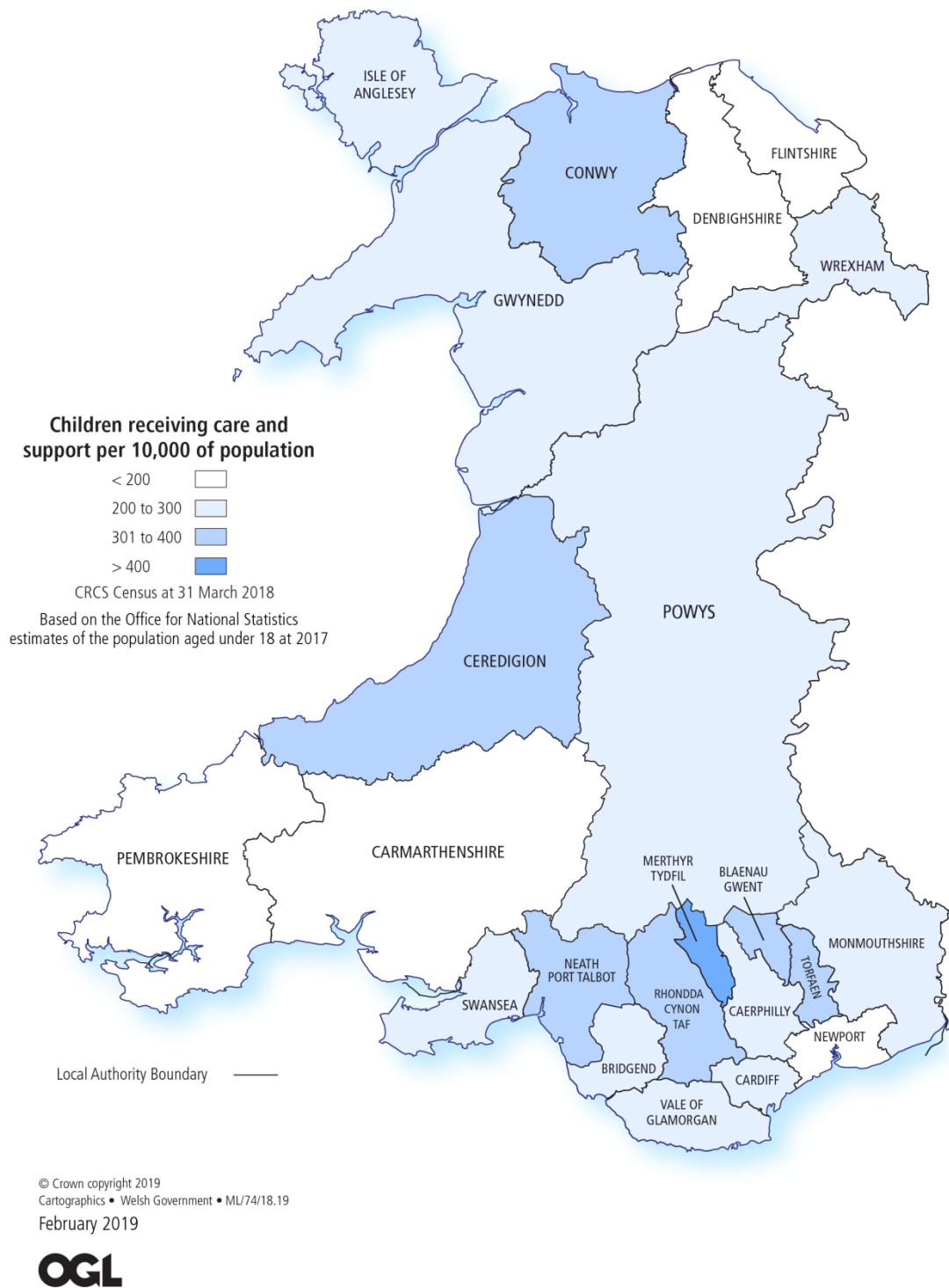
- (a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.  
(b) Includes 140 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR at 31 March 2018 and 235 children at 31 March 2017.  
(c) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

Nearly a quarter of all children receiving care and support (24 per cent), were aged under 5 years old, just over a quarter (27 per cent) were aged 5-9 years old and over a third (37 per cent) were aged 10-15 years. The remaining 13 per cent of children receiving care and support were aged 16 years or older.

Children receiving care and support who were on the CPR were generally younger than other children receiving care and support, with 37 per cent aged under 5, 31 per cent aged 5-9, 28 per cent aged 10-15 and 4 per cent were aged 16 and over. There were 140 children receiving care and support who were on both classed as children looked after and on the Child Protection Register.

Figures for each local authority can be found on StatsWales: [Children receiving care and support by local authority and age group](#).

**Map 1: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census per 10,000 population, aged 0–17, at 31 March 2018**



There were 16,080 children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census at 31 March 2018, equating to 256 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years. At local authority level, the rate per 10,000 children varied from 140 children receiving care and support per 10,000 in Pembrokeshire to 445 in Merthyr Tydfil.

Figures for each local authority can be found on StatsWales: [Children receiving care and support per 10,000 population by local authority and year](#).

## Section 2 – Need for care and support

As part of a child's assessment, their needs for care and support are identified. If a child's assessment leads to the provision of a care and support plan, the main reason why a child started to receive care and support from local authority social services is recorded. A full description of the need categories can be found in the [Guidance notes for the completion of Children Receiving Care and Support Census, 2017-18](#).

**Table 2: Primary need of children by whether they were on the Child Protection Register or looked after, at 31 March 2018<sup>(a)</sup>**

Children receiving care and support	All children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census	Children on the CPR	Children looked after (b)	Other children receiving care and support (c)
<b>Number</b>	<b>16,080</b>	<b>2,385</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>7,600</b>
Abuse or neglect	8,640	1,620	4,165	2,855
Child's disability or illness	2,730	35	165	2,530
Parental disability or illness	425	70	145	210
Family in acute stress	1,515	230	480	805
Family dysfunction	2,220	385	880	955
Socially unacceptable	285	30	105	150
Absent parenting	230	15	140	75
Adoption disruption	35	*	15	15
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Abuse or neglect</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Child's disability or illness</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Parental disability or illness</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Family in acute stress</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Family dysfunction</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Socially unacceptable</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Absent parenting</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Adoption disruption</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

Source: 2018 CRCS Census

(a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

(b) Includes 140 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR.

(c) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

\* The data item is disclosive for publication.

‘-’ The data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half of the final digit shown.

More than half (54 per cent) of all children were receiving care and support because of the risk of, or actual, abuse or neglect. The proportion was higher for children who were on the Child Protection Register or looked after (both 68 per cent).

93 per cent of children that are receiving care and support due to the child's disability or illness, were neither looked after nor on the Child Protection Register.

The child's disability was the primary reason for receiving care and support in just under a fifth (2,730) of children included in the CRCS Census. Family dysfunction and family in acute stress accounted for 14 per cent (2,220) and 9 per cent (1,515) respectively.

## Section 3 – Parenting capacity

For each child, information was recorded on five factors related to the parents that might affect their ability to parent. These factors may have been present at the referral stage or may have arisen since referral. For each child, one or more factors may have been recorded and so children may be counted more than once in Table 3 and Chart 5. A full description of the five factors can be found in [the Guidance notes for the completion of Children Receiving Care and Support Census, 2017-18](#).

For more than half of all children receiving care and support (55 per cent), at least one parenting capacity factor was recorded.

**Table 3: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census, by parental factor recorded at 31 March 2018 and whether they were on the Child Protection Register or looked after<sup>(a)</sup>**

Parental Factor	Number of children for whom information was provided	Number of children for whom the factor was present	of which:		
			Children on the CPR	Children looked after (b)	Other children receiving care and support (c)
Parental substance or alcohol misuse	16,080	4,450	885	2,215	1,350
Parental learning disabilities	16,080	1,100	120	675	305
Parental mental ill health	16,080	5,185	990	2,270	1,920
Parental physical ill health	16,080	1,785	245	760	780
Domestic abuse	16,080	4,235	995	1,795	1,445

Source: 2018 CRCS Census

(a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

(b) Includes 140 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR.

(c) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

Parental mental ill health, parental substance or alcohol misuse and domestic abuse were the most frequently recorded parenting capacity factors. Parental mental ill health had been recorded for 32 per cent of children for whom information was provided.

For 7 per cent (1,100) of children receiving care and support, parental learning disabilities was recorded. This group had the highest proportion (62 per cent) of children looked after when comparing to other parental capacity factors.

Of the 4,235 children receiving care and support who recorded domestic abuse as a parental factor, 24 per cent were on the Child Protection Register.

Further information can be found on StatsWales: [Parental factors of children receiving care and support by measure and year](#).



## Section 4 – Health of children receiving care and support

For each child, information was collected on mental health and substance misuse problems and also on how up to date children in the relevant age groups were with health surveillance checks, dental checks and immunisations.

Further descriptions of these child health indicators can be found in the [Guidance notes for the completion of Children Receiving Care and Support Census 2017-18](#).

**Table 4: Children aged 10 and over receiving care and support in the CRCS Census with mental health problems, by age, whether they were on the Child Protection Register or looked after and parenting issues, at 31 March 2018<sup>(a)</sup>**

	All children receiving care and support in the CRCS census	Children on the CPR	Children looked after	Other children receiving care and support (b)
<b>Number of children aged 10 and over in the Census where information was available</b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>3,275</b>	<b>3,915</b>
<b>Number of children aged 10 and over in the Census where information was not available</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>Numbers with mental health problems aged 10 and over</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>535</b>
Aged 10	65	5	25	30
Aged 11	85	15	35	40
Aged 12	95	15	30	45
Aged 13	115	15	45	55
Aged 14	160	25	65	70
Aged 15	210	20	105	85
Aged 16 and over	400	25	170	210
<b>Percentage (%) aged 10 and over with mental health problems</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
Number of children aged 10 and over with mental health problems and the following parenting issues:				
Parent Substance/Alcohol Misuse	285	35	165	80
Parent Learning Disabilities	60	*	40	15
Parent Mental ill health	440	60	205	180
Parent Physical ill health	185	20	70	95
Parent Domestic Abuse	265	55	125	85

Source: 2018 CRCS Census

(a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

\*\*\* The data item is disclosive for publication

For the 7,950 children aged 10 and over in the CRCS Census where information was available, 14 per cent (1,130) were recorded as having a mental health problem.

For 440 (39 per cent) of children aged 10 and over receiving care and support with mental health problems, a parental mental health problem was also recorded. This was greater than the 32 per cent average for all children in the CRCS Census, found in [Table 3](#).

For 285 (25 per cent) of the children aged 10 and over receiving care and support with mental health problems, parental substance or alcohol misuse was recorded; and for 265 (23 per cent) parental domestic abuse was recorded.



**Table 5: Children aged 10 and over receiving care and support in the CRCS Census with substance misuse problems, by age, whether they were on the Child Protection Register or looked after and parenting issues, at 31 March 2018<sup>(a)</sup>**

	All children receiving care and support in the CRCS census	Children on the CPR	Children looked after	Other children receiving care and support (b)
<b>Number of children aged 10 and over in the Census where information was available</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>3,920</b>
<b>Numbers with substance misuse problems aged 10 and over</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>220</b>
Aged 10	10	*	*	*
Aged 11	15	5	5	5
Aged 12	25	*	10	10
Aged 13	45	15	15	15
Aged 14	85	20	35	30
Aged 15	120	15	60	45
Aged 16 and over	305	25	165	115
<b>Percentage (%) aged 10 and over with Substance misuse problems</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
Number of children aged 10 and over with mental health problems and the following parenting issues:				
Parent Substance/Alcohol Misuse	230	35	130	65
Parent Learning Disabilities	30	*	15	10
Parent Mental ill health	220	35	110	75
Parent Physical ill health	100	15	55	35
Parent Domestic Abuse	195	45	95	55

Source: 2018 CRCS Census

(a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

\*\*\* The data item is disclosive for publication

For the 7,955 children aged 10 and over in the CRCS Census where information was available, 8 per cent (600) were recorded as having a substance misuse problem.

For 230 (38 per cent) of children receiving care and support with substance misuse problems, a parental substance or alcohol misuse problem was recorded. This was greater than the 28 per cent average for all children in the CRCS Census, found in [Table 3](#).

For 220 (37 per cent) of the children receiving care and support with substance misuse problems, parental mental ill health was recorded; and for 195 (32 per cent) parental domestic abuse was recorded.

Table 6 shows the numbers of children who were up to date with checks and immunisation and those for whom information was not provided.

**Table 6: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census whose health surveillance checks were up to date; had recent dental checks; and whose immunisations were up to date, at 31 March 2018**

Category	Total in age group	Children looked after	Other children receiving care and support who were not looked after (b)
<b>Health Surveillance Checks, aged 5 or younger</b>			
Checks up to date	3,755	1,410	2,340
Checks not up to date	870	265	610
Information not provided	10	0	5
<b>Total children receiving care and support aged 5 or younger</b>	<b>4,635</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>2,955</b>
<i>Percentage (%) of children with checks up to date</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>79</i>
<b>Dental Checks, aged 5 and over</b>			
Checks up to date	9,150	3,810	5,335
Checks not up to date	2,955	835	2,120
Information not provided	140	25	115
<b>Total children receiving care and support aged 5 and over</b>	<b>12,245</b>	<b>4,675</b>	<b>7,570</b>
<i>Percentage (%) of children with dental checks up to date</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>72</i>
<b>Immunisations, aged 17 or under</b>			
Up to date	13,240	5,220	8,020
Not up to date	2,840	880	1,960
Information not provided	0	0	0
<b>Total children receiving care and support</b>	<b>16,080</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>9,985</b>
<i>Percentage (%) of children with immunisations up to date</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>80</i>

Source: 2018 CRCS Census

- (a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.
- (b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

Information on health surveillance checks was provided for 4,625 (99.8 per cent) children aged 5 or younger. The proportion of children looked after who were up to date with health checks was higher (84 per cent) than for other children receiving care and support who were not looked after (79 per cent).

Information on dental checks was provided for 12,105 (99 per cent) children aged 5 and over. The proportion of children looked after who were up to date with dental checks was higher (82 per cent) than for other children receiving care and support who were not looked after (72 per cent).

Information on immunisations was provided for all 16,080 of the children aged 17 or under receiving care and support. 82 per cent of children receiving care and support had up to date immunisations, suggesting somewhat lower rates than for the general child population – see the statistical release, [NHS Immunisation](#), for information about immunisation for all children.

## Section 5 – Disabilities of children receiving care and support

**Table 7: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by category of need and whether the child had a disability, at 31 March 2018<sup>(a)</sup>**

Data item	All children receiving care and support in the CRCS census	Children with a disability	Children without a disability
<b>All children receiving care and support</b>	<b>16,080</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>12,645</b>
On the Child Protection Register	2,385	100	2,285
Looked After	6,100	595	5,505
Not on the CPR or looked after (b)	7,600	2,740	4,855
<b>Number</b>			
Abuse or neglect	8,640	565	8,075
Child's disability or illness	2,730	2,445	285
Parental disability or illness	425	50	375
Family in acute stress	1,515	165	1,350
Family dysfunction	2,220	175	2,045
Socially unacceptable behaviour	285	20	270
Absent parenting	230	10	220
Adoption disruption	35	5	30
<b>Percentage</b>			
<i>Abuse or neglect</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Child's disability or illness</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Parental disability or illness</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Family in acute stress</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Family dysfunction</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Socially unacceptable behaviour</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Absent parenting</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Adoption disruption</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

Source: 2018 CRCS Census

(a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

\* The data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication

'-' The data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half of the final digit shown.

3,435 (21 per cent) children receiving care and support were recorded as having a disability. Almost three-quarters (71 per cent) of children receiving care and support with a disability had a primary need for care and support due to the child's disability or illness. Whilst 16 per cent of children receiving care and support with a disability had a primary need recorded as the risk of, or actual abuse or neglect, this compares to 64 per cent in this category for children without a disability.

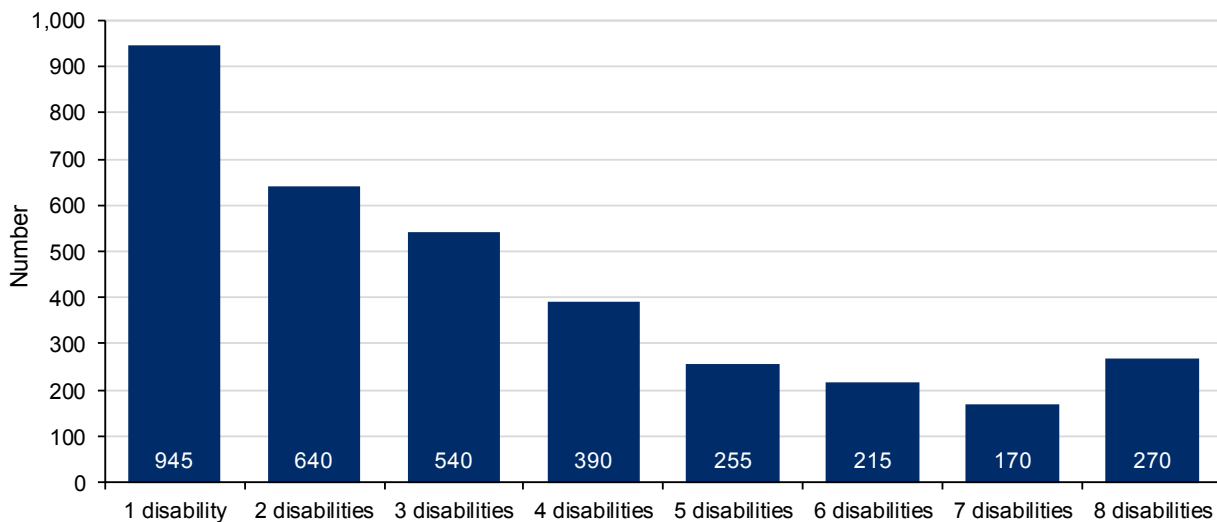
Disability information was recorded using categories corresponding to Disability Discrimination Act guidance (although the DDA has been replaced by the Equality Act 2010, the guidance has not been changed). These categories of disability are:

- Mobility
- Manual dexterity
- Physical co-ordination
- Continence
- Ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects
- Speech, hearing and eye sight
- Memory or ability to concentrate, learn or understand
- Perception of the risk of physical danger

Each child was recorded under each applicable category and so children may be counted more than once in the charts.

Chart 4 shows the number of children with multiple disabilities and Chart 5 shows the numbers for each disability separately.

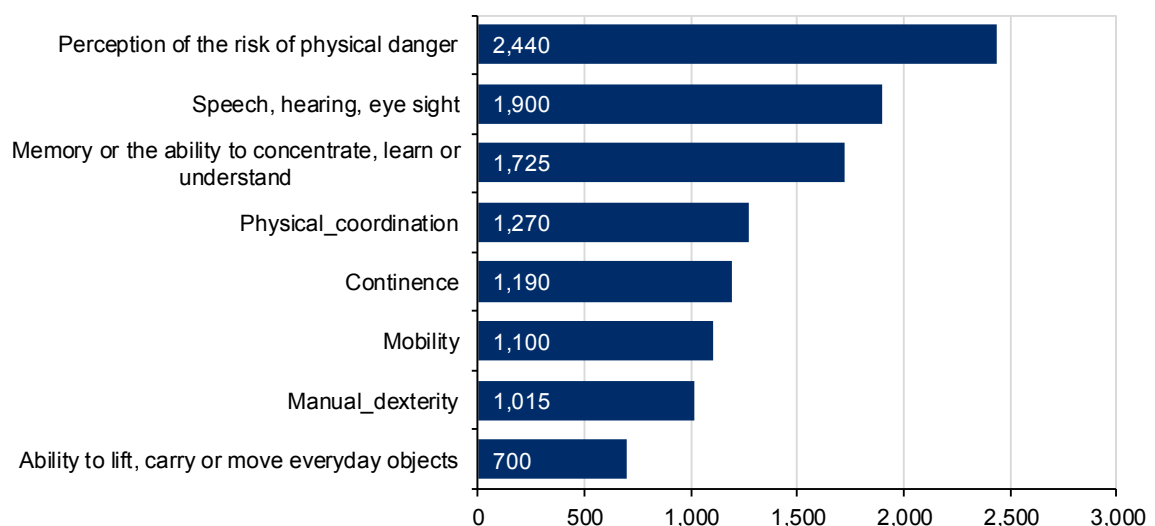
**Chart 4: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by number of disabilities recorded, at 31 March 2018**



Source: 2018 CRCS Census

For 945 (28 per cent) of children receiving care and support with a disability, only one disability category was recorded whilst for 270 (8 per cent) children receiving care and support with a disability, a disability was recorded in all eight categories.

**Chart 5: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by disability category, at 31 March 2018**



Source: 2018 CRCS Census

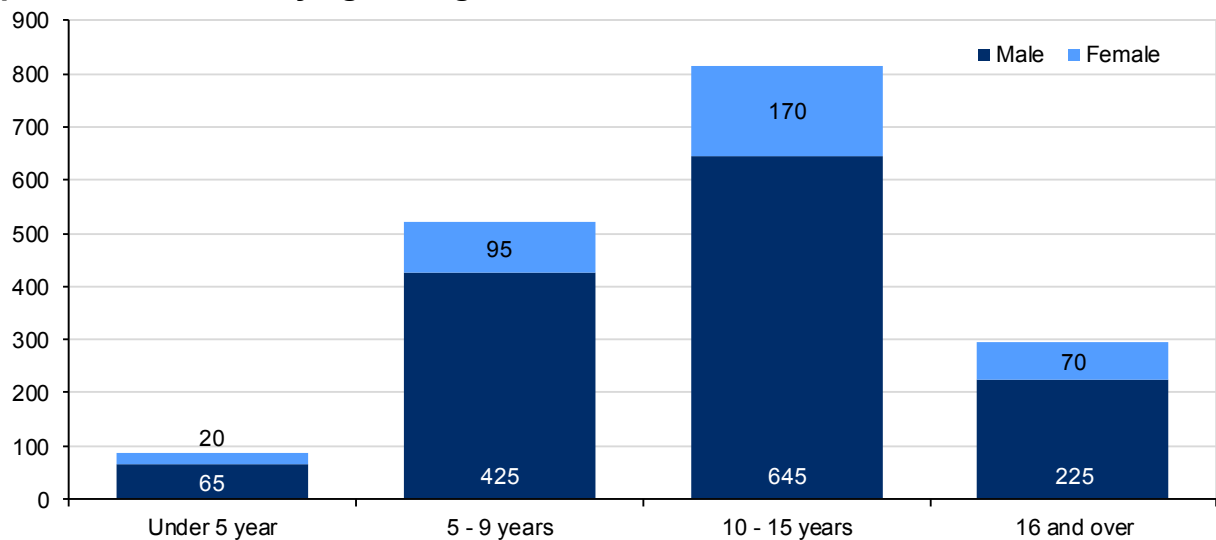
Lack of perception of the risk of physical danger was recorded for almost three-quarters (71 per cent) of the 3,435 children receiving care and support with a specified disability category whilst a disability with speech, hearing or eye sight was recorded for 55 per cent of children with a

disability. The lowest percentage was for ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects, which was recorded for 20 per cent of children receiving care and support with a disability.

### Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Information on whether children receiving care and support in the census had an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (see [Glossary](#)) was collected in the CRCS Census. Autistic Spectrum Disorders were reported for 11 per cent (1,715) of the 16,080 children receiving care and support. Four-fifths (79 per cent) of the children recorded as having an ASD were boys, and 48 per cent of children recorded with an ASD were aged 10 to 15 years.

**Chart 6: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder by age and gender, at 31 March 2018**



Source: 2018 CRCS Census

## Section 6 – Education of children receiving care and support

For each child, the Unique Pupil Number (UPN) was collected to allow anonymous matching of children in the relevant age groups with the National Pupil Database (NPD), so that records about free school meals eligibility, attainment and special educational needs could be summarised for children receiving care and support without having to collect this information from local authorities.

This analysis on schools is based upon children who were already five or over at the time of the CRCS Census, but had not yet reached their 16th birthday at the end of the 2017/18 school year and were therefore of statutory school age. This removes the effect of differing local provision for the under fives and sixth forms. Using this statutory school age (i.e. 5 to 15 years old) there were 9,140 children receiving care and support whose UPN matched with the education databases.

Further details of education terminologies can be found in the Glossary.

Throughout this section of the release pupils' ages are quoted as at 31 August 2017. This refers to the start of the academic year and is a useful reference in that pupils normally transfer from maintained primary to secondary school, and move thereafter through the secondary school system, according to their age at 31 August.

### Free School Meals (FSM)

Pupils are eligible for [Free School Meals](#) if their families are in receipt of certain benefits/support payments.

32 per cent of children who were receiving care and support and were looked after were eligible for free school meals whilst 54 per cent of children who were receiving care and support but were not looked after were eligible for free school meals.

**Table 8: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by entitlement to Free School Meals and whether or not they were looked after 2017/18 <sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

Children receiving care and support	All children receiving care and support in the CRCS census	Pupils entitled to Free School Meals	
		Number	Percentage (%)
<b>Children in the Census matched to NPD (aged 5 to 15)</b>	9,140	4,225	46
Children not looked after	5,880	3,195	54
Children looked after	3,260	1,030	32
All pupils of statutory school age	372,445	64,880	17

Source: 2018 CRCS Census and 2018 School Census

- (a) This refers to the pupils' ages as at 31 August 2017 and includes local authority maintained schools (i.e. nursery, primary, secondary and special) only. Pupils from Independent schools are not included as they are not required to provide the necessary data at pupil level to match to the CRCS Census.
- (b) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

Further information and statistics on pupils in Wales entitled to free school meals can be found on [StatsWales](#) and [Academic Achievement and Entitlement to Free School Meals](#) statistical releases.

## Special Educational Needs (SEN)

A child has special needs (SEN) if he or she has learning difficulties which require special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children. Pupils with SEN may have statements issued by the local authority or may have their needs identified by the school. In the latter case they come under one of two further categories: School Action or School Action Plus.

In the [School Census](#) statistical release the numbers of children with special education needs are published for all ages at the Wales level for all pupils. However, at the local authority level, published in [StatsWales](#), the numbers of children with special education needs are published for statutory school age only (5 to 15) to improve comparability between local authorities that may have different levels of provision for non-statutory ages.

Table 9 presents the results for children receiving care and support for all children aged 17 or under and at the compulsory school age, 5 to 15.

**Table 9: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by educational provision and whether or not they were looked after, 2017/18<sup>(a)</sup>**

Children receiving care and support	All children receiving care and support	Children who were not looked after	Children who were looked after	Pupils on school roll in Wales
<b>Children in the Census matched to NPD (aged 17 or under)</b>	<b>10,735</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>3,755</b>	<b>467,110</b>
Numbers:				
No special educational needs	3,805	2,335	1,470	361,485
School Action or School Action Plus	4,070	2,360	1,710	92,730
Statement of Special Educational Needs	2,860	2,290	570	12,895
Percentage (%):				
<i>No special educational needs</i>	35	33	39	77
<i>School Action or School Action Plus</i>	38	34	46	20
<i>Pupils with SEN statements</i>	27	33	15	3
<b>Children in the Census matched to NPD (aged 5 to 15)</b>	<b>9,140</b>	<b>5,880</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>372,445</b>
Numbers:				
No special educational needs	2,945	1,770	1,175	277,745
School Action or School Action Plus	3,725	2,140	1,585	83,800
Statement of Special Educational Needs	2,470	1,970	500	10,900
Percentage (%):				
<i>No special educational needs</i>	32	30	36	75
<i>School Action or School Action Plus</i>	41	36	49	23
<i>Pupils with SEN statements</i>	27	33	15	3

Source: 2018 CRCS Census and National Pupil Database

(a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.



There were 10,735 children receiving care and support in total whose UPN matched with the National Pupil Database, an addition of 1,595 children receiving care and support who fell outside the statutory school age compared to the 9,140 matched records for children of statutory school age.

The proportion of children included in the CRCS Census with a Statement of Special Educational Needs was 27 per cent (for all ages) compared to 3 per cent for all pupils in Wales (for all ages).

Almost two thirds (61 per cent) of children receiving care and support of all ages who were looked after had either a statement of SEN, School Action or School Action Plus, lower than the 67 per cent of children receiving care and support who were not looked after but much higher than the 23 per cent for all pupils in Wales.

Further information on special education needs for all pupils can be found in [Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales](#).

## Education attainment

The National Curriculum is applied to the Foundation Phase and three [Key Stages](#) of pupil development. See [Key Stages](#) section in the notes for definitions.

### Attainment at Foundation Phase, Key Stages 2 and 3

Overall attainment levels are shown in Table 10. These show the numbers of children who were eligible for assessment at the end of Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 and who achieved the Foundation Phase or core subject indicator. It also compares the performance of boys and girls at Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, and Key Stage 3.

**Table 10: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census achieving the foundation phase or core subject indicator and whether they were looked after, 2017/18<sup>(a)</sup>**

<i>Children receiving care and support</i>	Foundation Phase			Key Stage 2			Key Stage 3		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Eligible children in the CRCS census	420	320	<b>745</b>	475	310	<b>785</b>	435	420	<b>855</b>
Achieved level: number	190	200	<b>390</b>	245	220	<b>460</b>	185	260	<b>445</b>
Achieved level: percentage(%)	45	63	<b>52</b>	51	70	<b>59</b>	43	62	<b>52</b>
Children who were not looked after	280	230	<b>510</b>	310	185	<b>495</b>	295	225	<b>520</b>
Achieved level: number	110	135	<b>245</b>	145	125	<b>270</b>	100	120	<b>225</b>
Achieved level: percentage(%)	39	59	<b>48</b>	46	67	<b>54</b>	35	54	<b>43</b>
Children who were looked after	145	95	<b>235</b>	165	125	<b>290</b>	140	195	<b>335</b>
Achieved level: number	80	65	<b>145</b>	100	95	<b>195</b>	85	140	<b>225</b>
Achieved level: percentage(%)	55	72	<b>61</b>	60	76	<b>67</b>	60	72	<b>67</b>
All pupils in Wales	18,500	17,760	<b>36,260</b>	17,540	16,765	<b>34,305</b>	16,435	15,605	<b>32,035</b>
Achieved level: number	14,505	15,435	<b>29,950</b>	15,260	15,440	<b>30,705</b>	13,920	14,310	<b>28,225</b>
Achieved level: percentage(%)	78	87	<b>83</b>	87	92	<b>90</b>	85	92	<b>88</b>

Source: 2018 CRCS Census and National Pupil Database

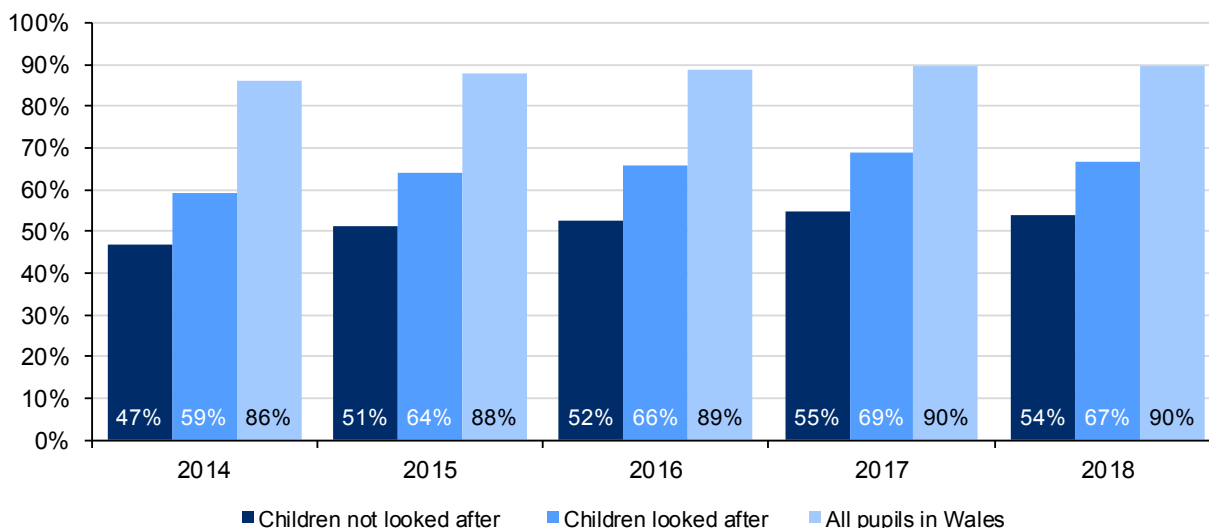
(a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

Children receiving care and support had lower attainment levels than the average for all pupils at the Foundation Phase, as well as at Key Stage 2 and at Key Stage 3. Children receiving care and support that were looked after achieved higher levels than children receiving care and support who were not looked after.

The attainment gap between children receiving care and support and all pupils in Wales varies as they progress from the Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. At the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 the difference in the proportion was 30 and 31 percentage points respectively. The gap then increases to 36 percentage points for Key Stage 3. Girls performed better than boys at all key stages.

Chart 7 and 8 present the proportions of children that achieved the core subject indicator at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, for the last five years. There has been a steady improvement in attainment for all pupils. Children receiving care and support that are looked after have maintained a higher level compared to other children receiving care and support that are not looked after.

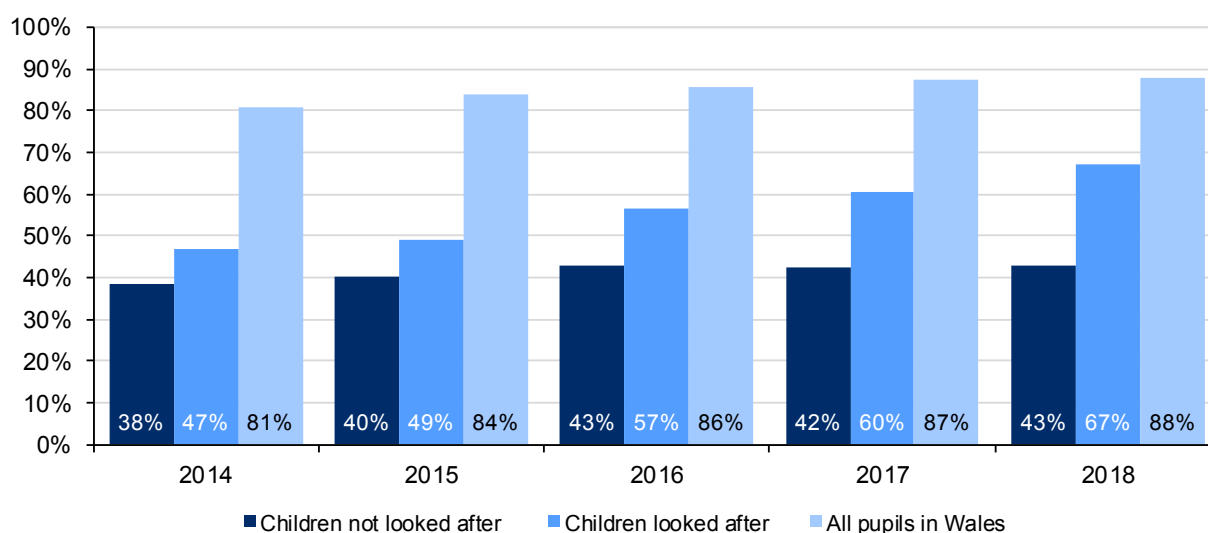
**Chart 7: Percentage of children achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 2**



Source: 2018 CRCS Census and National Pupil Database

For Key Stage 2, the attainment gap for children receiving care and support who are looked after and all pupils in Wales has narrowed, decreasing from 27 percentage points in 2014 to 23 percentage points in 2018.

**Chart 8: Percentage of children achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 3**



Source: 2018 CRCS Census and National Pupil database

For Key Stage 3, the difference between all pupils and children who are looked after and receiving care and support on the CRCS Census has also narrowed, decreasing from 34 percentage points in 2014 to 21 percentage points in 2018.

Further information and statistics on Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 for all pupils can be found in [End of Foundation Phase Outcomes and National Curriculum Teacher Assessment of Core Subjects at Key Stages 2 and 3](#) statistical release.

### **Attainment at Key Stage 4**

Following recommendations from independent reviews and policy changes announced by Welsh Government, several key changes have been made to the Key Stage 4 performance measures data in this 2017/18 release which impacts on comparisons with previous years.

Comparisons between 2018 and earlier years should be made with caution due to changes in the definitions of this indicator. More information on these changes in the public [Examination Results](#) release.

From 2017, only the new specifications for GCSE English Language, GCSE Welsh Language and GCSE Mathematics/Mathematics-Numeracy will count towards the literacy and maths elements of the Level 2 Inclusive threshold measure. The legacy GCSE Mathematics specification will not count towards the maths element of the level 2 Inclusive measure. Literature qualifications do not count towards the literacy elements.

At Key Stage 4 attainment is shown using the percentage of pupils aged 15 who achieve the level 2 threshold, and the level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A\* to C in English or Welsh first language and Maths.

**Table 11: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by Key Stage 4 attainment and whether they were looked after, 2017/18**

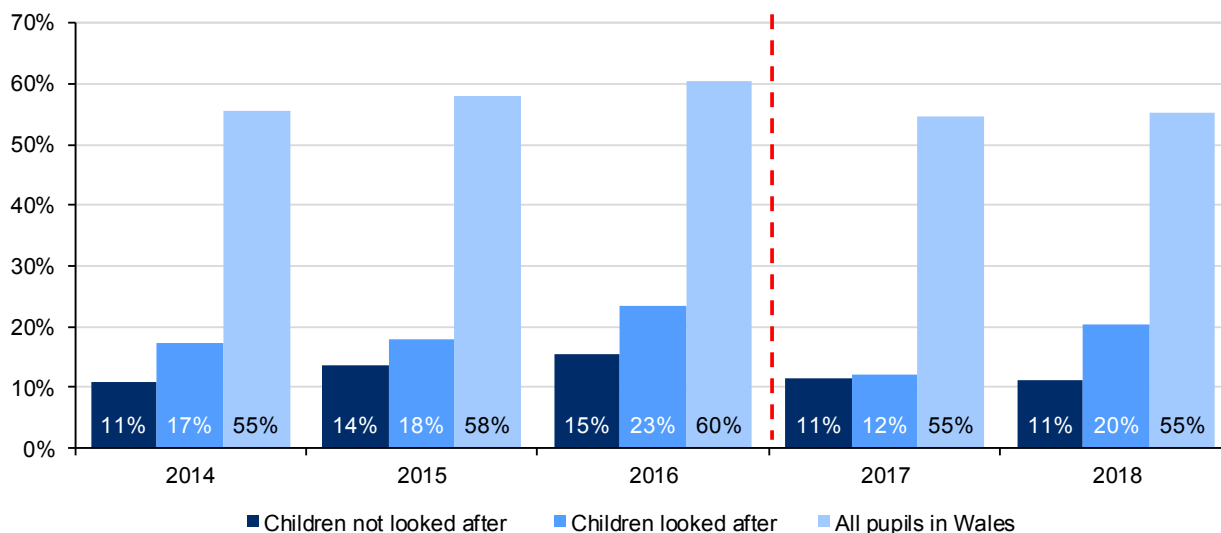
	Level 2 threshold (a)	Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A* - C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics		
		Total	Boys	Girls
<b>Eligible children in the CRCS Census</b>	750	750	355	390
Achieved level: number	165	110	45	65
Achieved level: percentage (%)	22	15	13	17
<b>Children not looked after</b>	440	440	215	230
Achieved level: number	71	50	25	25
Achieved level: percentage (%)	18	11	11	11
<b>Children looked after</b>	305	305	145	165
Achieved level: number	85	60	20	40
Achieved level: percentage (%)	27	20	15	25
<b>All pupils in Wales</b>	31,380	30,375	15,680	14,690
Achieved level: number	20,995	16,740	7,850	8,890
Achieved level: percentage (%)	67	55	50	61

Source: 2018 CRCS Census and National Pupil Database

- (a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.  
(b) A volume of qualifications at Level 2 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A\*-C

Chart 9 shows the proportion of children achieving the Key stage 4 level 2 threshold, including a GCSE grade A\* - C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics respectively, for the last five years.

**Chart 9: Percentage of children achieving the Key Stage 4 level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A\* - C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics**



Source: 2018 CRCS Census and National Pupil database

Comparisons between data for prior to 2017 and for 2017 onwards should be made with caution due to changes in the definitions of this indicator.

Further information and statistics on Key Stage 4 for all pupils can be found in the [Examination Results](#) statistical release.

## Section 7 – Ethnicity, asylum status and child’s preferred language

**Table 12: Number and percentage of children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by ethnicity, gender and asylum status, at 31 March 2018<sup>(a)</sup>**

Children receiving care and support	All children receiving care and support in the CRCS census (b)	Male	Female
<b>Total children receiving care and support</b>	<b>16,080</b>	<b>8,870</b>	<b>7,210</b>
Number of unaccompanied asylum seekers	60	55	5
Number of accompanied asylum seekers	45	25	20
<b>Number of children of known ethnicity</b>	<b>15,790</b>	<b>8,715</b>	<b>7,075</b>
<i>Percentage (%)</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>98</i>
<b>Numbers</b>			
White	14,725	8,105	6,620
Mixed	455	235	220
Asian or Asian British	270	170	100
Black or Black British	200	120	80
Other Specific Ethnic Groups	140	85	50
Not available / refused / unknown	295	155	135
<b>Percentages (a)</b>			
<i>White</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>94</i>
<i>Mixed</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Asian</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Black</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

Source: 2018 CRCS Census

- (a) All the figures have been rounded to the nearest five and there may be discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.  
 (b) Percentages are based upon children of known asylum status.

\* The data item is disclosive for publication.

Ethnicity information was known and recorded for 98 per cent of children receiving care and support included in the CRCS Census. Of children for whom ethnicity was known, 93 per cent of children receiving care and support were White, 3 per cent were Mixed ethnicity, 2 per cent were of Asian ethnicity and 1 per cent were Black.

**Table 13: Number and percentage of children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census, aged 3 and over by child's preferred language, at 31 March 2018<sup>(a)</sup>**

<b>Language</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
English	12,784	93.4
Welsh	366	2.7
Other language(a)	347	2.5
Polish	58	0.4
Arabic	43	0.3
Kurdish	29	0.2
Bengali	24	0.2
Urdu	16	0.1
Sign Language (Other)	15	0.1
Portuguese	12	0.1

Source: 2018 CRCS Census

(a) Includes unknown language, those unable to communicate, and all other languages not included in the table.

There were 16,080 children included in the children receiving care and support Census, of which 13,694 (85 per cent) were aged 3 and over. Information on the child's preferred language was received for all children aged 3 and over. 93 per cent of children in the CRCS Census' preferred language was English, followed by Welsh (366 children) and 'other language' (347 children).

## Annex

### Annex 1: A list of tables and data items provided in StatsWales

1. [Children receiving care and support by local authority and age group](#)
2. [Children receiving care and support by local authority and gender](#)
3. [Children receiving care and support by local authority and looked after status](#)
4. [Children receiving care and support by local authority and disability](#)
5. [Children receiving care and support by age group and looked after status](#)
6. [Children receiving care and support by ethnicity and looked after status](#)
7. [Children receiving care and support by local authority and category of need](#)
8. [Children receiving care and support by looked after status and disability](#)
9. [Children receiving care and support by category of need and disability](#)
10. [Mental health status of children receiving care and support by local authority and measure](#)
11. [Substance misuse status of children receiving care and support by local authority and measure](#)
12. [Immunisation status of children receiving care and support by local authority and measure](#)
13. [Dental checks of children receiving care and support by local authority and measure](#)
14. [Dental checks of children receiving care and support by measure and looked after status](#)
15. [Child health surveillance checks by local authority and measure](#)
16. [Child health surveillance checks by measure and looked after status](#)
17. [Disabilities of children receiving care and support by measure and year](#)
18. [Health of children receiving care and support by measure and year](#)
19. [Parental factors of children receiving care and support by measure and year](#)
20. [Educational attainment of children receiving care and support by measure and year](#)
21. [Eligibility for free school meals and special educational needs of children receiving care and support by measure and year](#)
22. [Children receiving care and support per 10,000 population by local authority and year](#)
23. [School attendance of children receiving care and support by measure and year](#)
24. [Youth offending of children receiving care and support by measure and year](#)



## Glossary

### Social Services

**Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** - Autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) are a range of related developmental disorders that begin in childhood and persist throughout adulthood. ASD can cause a wide range of symptoms, which are grouped into three broad categories:

- **Problems and difficulties with social interaction**, such as a lack of understanding and awareness of other people's emotions and feelings.
- **Impaired language and communication skills**, such as delayed language development and an inability to start conversations or take part in them properly.
- **Unusual patterns of thought and physical behaviour**. This includes making repetitive physical movements, such as hand tapping or twisting. The child develops set routines of behaviour and may be upset if the routines are broken.

**Children Act 1989:** The [Children Act 1989](#) legislates for children in England and Wales – The intention of the legislation is that children's welfare and developmental needs are met, including the need to be protected from harm. Key principles of the Act reflect aspects of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC); protection from harm, respect for a child's race, culture and ethnicity, parents' responsibility for bringing up children and the duty to take account of a child's wishes and feelings in decisions taken that affect them.

**Children Looked After:** This term is used to describe any child who is in the care of the local authority or who is provided with accommodation by the local authority social services department for a continuous period of more than 24 hours. This covers children in respect of whom a compulsory care order or other court order has been made. It also refers to children accommodated voluntarily, including under an agreed series of short-term placements which may be called short breaks, family link placements or respite care.

**Children receiving care and support:** Children (under the age of 18) who have a care and support plan. Looked after children have a care and support plan and will be a subset of this population. For this data collection, children receiving care and support are defined as those who receive care and support from their local authorities, including children looked after by local authorities, and who had a case open for at least 3 months at the census date of 31 March 2017.

**Child Protection Register (CPR):** Each local authority maintains a Child Protection Register to provide a record of all children in the area for whom there are unresolved child protection issues and who are currently the subject of an inter-agency protection plan.

**Disability Discrimination Act 2005** – The [Disability Discrimination Act 2005](#) defines a disabled person as a person with a “physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.” The condition must have lasted or be likely to last at least 12 months in order to be counted as a disability.

**Equality Act 2010** - The [Equality Act 2010](#) has replaced much of the Disability Discrimination Acts (DDA) but the guidance is still applicable and covers categories of disability with examples.

**Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014:** The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act is the law for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support. The Act imposes duties on local authorities, health boards and Welsh Ministers that require them to work to promote the well-being of those who need care and support, or carers who need support.

## Education

**Foundation Phase:** The Foundation Phase has brought together what was previously known as the Early Years (from 3 to 5-year-olds) and Key Stage 1 (from 5 to 7-year-olds) of the National Curriculum to create one phase of education for children aged between three and seven which is set out in the [Foundation Phase: Framework for Children's Learning for 3 to 7 year-olds in Wales](#)

In the Foundation Phase, the mandatory Areas of Learning are “Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity” (PSD), “Language, literacy and communication skills” (in English (LCE) or Welsh (LCW)) and “Mathematical development” (MDT).

The general expectation is that the majority of 7 year olds will attain outcome 5 in each area of learning. At end of the Foundation Phase, the **Foundation Phase Indicator** (FPI) represents the percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected outcome in LCE or LCW, PSD and MDT in combination.

**Free School Meal Entitlement** - Pupils are entitled to [free school meals](#) if their families receive Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or the guarantee element of State Pension Credit. They are also eligible if their parents are in receipt of Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (IR). Children who receive Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals. Children whose families are in receipt of Child Tax Credit, providing they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual income as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs that does not exceed £16,190, are also eligible for free school meals.

**Key Stages** – The National Curriculum applies to Foundation Phase and three Key Stages of pupil development. Broadly these are:

	Pupils' ages <sup>1</sup>	Year groups
Foundation Phase	3-7	Reception, 1, 2
Key Stage 2	7-11	3-6
Key Stage 3	11-14	7-9
Key Stage 4	14-16	10-11

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the pupils' ages as at 31 August, start of the academic year.

In the Foundation Phase, the mandatory Areas of Learning are “Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity” (PSD), “Language, literacy and communication skills” (in English (LCE) or Welsh (LCW)) and “Mathematical development” (MDT). A pupil achieves the Foundation Phase Indicator if they reach the expected outcome in LCE or LCW, PSD and MDT in combination.

A pupil achieves the core subject indicator if they reach the expected level on the national curriculum scale in Maths, Science and either English or Welsh first language. The expected levels are Outcome 5 at Foundation Phase, level 4 at Key Stage 2 and level 5 at Key Stage 3.

**Local Authority Maintained Schools:** Schools maintained by the local authorities. The authorities meet their expenditure partly from council tax and partly from general grants made by the Welsh Government.

### **National Pupil Database**

Since 2005, the National Pupil Database has consolidated pupil level data from the annual school census, national curriculum assessments at Foundation phase, key stages 2 to 3, public examinations at key stage 4 and attendance records. Only pupils at LA maintained schools are included. Independent schools are not required to provide the data at pupil level.

**Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)** - A child has special needs if he or she has learning difficulties which requires special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children. Pupils with SEN may have statements issued by the LA or may have their needs identified by the school. In the latter case they come under one of two further categories: School Action or School Action Plus.

- i. Pupils with statements: Pupils for whom the LA maintains a statement of SEN under Part IV of the Education Act 1996. A statement may be issued by the LA after assessment of a child's needs.
- ii. School Action: When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has SEN they provide interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual curriculum.
- iii. School Action Plus: When the class or subject teacher and the SEN Co-ordinator are provided with advice or support from outside specialists, so that alternative interventions additional or different to those provided for the pupil through School Action can be put in place. The SEN Co-ordinator usually takes the lead although day-to-day provision continues to be the responsibility of the class or subject teacher.

**Statutory School Age:** The statutory school age means any age between 5 and 16 years. See Section 35 of the Education Act 1944, the Education (School Leaving Date) Act 1976 and the Education Act 1996.

**Unique Pupil Number (UPN)** – A Unique Pupil Number (UPN) is automatically allocated to each child in maintained schools in England and Wales. It is an identifier only for use in an educational context during a child's school career and it is subject to Data Protection restrictions that prevent its use outside the education context.

## Notes

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into effect on 6 April 2016. It is the new legal framework that brings together and modernises social services law in Wales. From 6 April 2016, Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, which defines 'Children in Need', was repealed. As a result, the Children in Need Census was changed to the 'Children Receiving Care and Support' Census. From 2016-17, local authorities are expected to collect and return data through the Children Receiving Care and Support Census

These statistics are published as experimental statistics reflecting the scale of change continuing to happen in social services and ongoing system changes. More information on the designation of these statistics can be found in the [correspondence between the Welsh Government and the Office for Statistical Regulation](#).

## Future developments

Data requirements in relation to measuring the impact that the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act is having on people who need care and support and carers who need support are currently being reviewed. It is intended that new data will be developed for the 2020-21 reporting year.

## Key quality information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and punctuality, Accessibility and clarity, and Comparability and coherence.

### Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor children's social services trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. More specifically they will provide a summary of activity in relation to new legal duties introduced in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. Some of the key users are:

- ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- the Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government;
- other areas of the Welsh Government;
- local authorities;
- the third sector (e.g. charities);
- the research community;
- students, academics and universities;
- individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments

- the Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- the Scottish Government, Analytical Services Division
- the Department for Education in England.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these uses include:

- advice to Ministers;
- to inform the social services policy decision-making process in Wales;
- local authority analysis;
- to inform the Care Inspectorate Wales;
- to model the financial consequences of changes in the population or the care system;
- to assist in research on children receiving care and support.

Local authorities will be able to use the CRCS Census data in conjunction with other information to analyse and plan their patterns of activity children's social services and compare their children receiving care and support populations with that of other local authorities. A focus on outcomes such as this census provides will enable local authorities to develop a clear picture of the effectiveness of their current social work practice and commissioned services. It may also help them to find the right balance between the services for children receiving care and support, and those more intensive services, such as for looked after children. The information on educational and health outcomes should provide further insight into patterns and outcomes of services. This information will be crucial to planning in partnership, to achieve the targets for children and young people set out in the Welsh Government's [Seven Core Aims for Children and Young People](#).

The CRCS Census has provided information that will enable users to compare outcomes for children looked after with outcomes for children receiving care and support, or on the threshold of being looked after who remain at home, or otherwise within their families and communities. In order to encourage continuous service improvement and to meet the objective of reducing the number of children looked after in Wales, all partners must have access to data about the outcomes for children who receive services.

## **Accuracy**

This is the second year of collecting the data from the Children Receiving Care and Support Census following the introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.

Statisticians within the Welsh Government review the data and query any anomalies with local authorities between submissions to ensure coherence of the data received, and before tables are published. Data adhere to the national standards and guidance, thus ensuring coherence within and across organisations. Local authorities are expected to comply with the guidance notes for completion that accompany the data collection form.

The CRCS Census is a requirement for all 22 local authorities. An individual return is required for each child receiving care and support and local authorities generally derive these data from local authority case recording systems. The definitions and guidance for the CRCS Census can be accessed at: [Children receiving care and support census 2017-18](#)

For this collection, local authorities were required to submit data for children whose cases were open on the census date of 31 March 2018 and had been open for the previous 3 months, i.e. the case was open on or before 1 January 2018 and remained open at 31 March 2018. This

requirement means that the total number of children receiving care and support included in the CRCS Census is less than the total number of children receiving care and support. The CRCS Census covers all children receiving support that is financed from Children's Social Services budgets, including those supported in their families or independently, children on the Child Protection Register and children looked after. Children receiving care and support will have had an assessment and a care and support plan.

The Equality Act 2010 has replaced much of the Disability Discrimination Acts (DDA) but the guidance is still applicable and covers categories of disability with examples.

Information about parenting capacity and other information about characteristics of the children, such as a mental health problem, was taken from the social services department records. Whether an issue was recorded or not thus depended on the assessment of the individual social worker completing the case records and was not derived from other data collections such as medical records.

Educational data in Section 6 was obtained from educational databases by record linkage using the Unique Pupil Number, age and gender.

The figures in this release reflect the final position of the 2017-18 data year, and are correct as at 31 March 2018.

Occasionally, revisions can occur due to errors in our statistical processes or when a data supplier notifies the Welsh Government that they have submitted incorrect information. In these cases, a judgement is made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release. Where changes are not deemed to be significant, figures will be corrected if they appear in future releases. However minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the [StatsWales](#) tables prior to the next release.

### **Symbols and rounding conventions**

All the figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for confidentiality. Where figures have been rounded there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

The following symbols are used in the tables:

- the data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half the final digit shown.
- . the data item is not applicable.
- .. the data item is not available.
- \* the data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication.

### **Timeliness and punctuality**

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected data, as at 31 March 2018. Data in this release refers to final 2017-18 data. Once submitted data has been validated, this release is drafted and published as soon as possible. This release was published in February 2018, meeting the planned date of publication.

## **Accessibility and clarity**

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics and Research section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

## **Comparability and coherence**

2017-18 is the second year of collecting and reporting on data derived from the Children Receiving Care and Support Census. Comparisons with years prior to 2016-17, when data was captured through the Children in Need Census, should be avoided in many cases. An example of this would be that data for unborn children are not collected in the CRCS Census.

The Children Receiving Care and Support Census is based on the definition of eligible children who receive care and support from their local authority, i.e. children (under the age of 18) who have a care and support plan. Children who are looked after have a care and support plan and will be a subset of this population. This return will also capture those children with a care and support plan who are in the secure estate, and children who have a support plan if they are providing care to someone else.

Further Information on the Children Receiving Care and Support Census can be found here:

[Local authority social services data collections](#)

Statistics collected in each United Kingdom country may differ and the detailed guidance available from each country's website should be consulted before using these statistics as comparative measures.

### **England:**

Children in Need statistics are produced by the Department for Education. The most recent data, published on 25 October 2018, can be found at the following link:

[Department for Education, Children in need and child protection](#)

### **Northern Ireland:**

Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland release is available on their website at:

[Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2017/18](#)

### **Scotland:**

Child Protection Statistics for Scotland are available at:

[Children's Social Work Statistics, Scottish Government](#)

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section



(10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

## Further details

This document is available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/wales-children-receiving-care-support-census/?lang=en>

Data at local authority level is available on [StatsWales](#).

[Codes of practice and statutory guidance](#) issued under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.

Further information is available in other Social Services statistical releases on the Welsh Government web site at the [social services theme page](#).

Information on the costs to local authorities of services provided for children are produced by the Welsh Government from local authority financial returns. Detailed figures are available on [StatsWales](#).

[Definitions and guidance for the Children receiving care and support census](#).

Sources of education information for Wales:

[End of Foundation Phase Outcomes and National Curriculum Teacher Assessment of Core Subjects at Key stages 2 and 3](#)

[Examination Results](#):

## Next update

February 2020 (Provisional)

## We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.pss@gov.wales](mailto:stats.pss@gov.wales)

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