

# Statistics Publication Notice

Health and Care Series

ISSN 1479-7569 (*online*)

An Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

## **EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR SCOTLAND'S LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN, 2009/10**

27 June 2011

This new publication contains statistics obtained from linking, for the first time, looked after children's data provided by local authority social work services departments with educational data provided by publicly funded schools, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and Skills Development Scotland (SDS).

This new publication presents key findings on a range of educational outcome statistics for children or young people who have been looked after continuously during the 12-month period, in different types of care placements, and for pupils with multiple placements within the school year. These differing outcomes will partly be dependent on the characteristics of which children are placed where. This should be taken into account when looking at these initial findings, but these results should inspire further analysis and discussion in order to gain a more detailed understanding of the underlying causes of these results.

Readers should also note that some local authorities social work departments were unable to fully provide Scottish Candidate Numbers (SCNs) for all of their looked after children in order for their data to be linked. Of the 9,566 children who had been looked after continuously during the entire 2009/10 academic year an SCN was provided for 8,235 (86 per cent) of them, of which 7,387 (90 per cent) matched to the September 2009 Pupil Census (see the section on 'Data Matching' in the Background Note for further details). While the data are therefore incomplete, we feel that key messages can still be taken from this information.

The main findings are:

- The overall school attendance rate for looked after children was 87.8 per cent in 2009/10 compared with 93.2 per cent for all school children. School attendance rates were lowest for children who are looked after at home (78.7 per cent). (Tables 1 & 2)

- The overall exclusion rate for looked after children was 365 per 1,000 looked after children, compared with 45 exclusions per 1,000 pupils for all school children. Exclusion rates were highest for children who were looked after in a local authority home (866 per 1,000 children) (Tables 4 & 5)
- The average tariff score for looked after children who left school during 2009/10 was 67, compared to 372 for all school leavers. However, this comparison is influenced by the fact that around 90 per cent of looked after children who left school during 2009/10 were aged 16 years or under when they left school, compared to only 37 per cent of all school leavers being of this age when leaving school. (Table 7)
- Fifty-nine per cent of looked after children who left school during 2009/10 were in a positive destination at the time of the initial destination survey, compared with 87 per cent of all 2009/10 school leavers. However, by the time of the follow-up destination survey, the percentage of looked after children who left school during 2009/10 who were in a positive destination had fallen to 44 per cent, compared with 85 per cent of all 2009/10 school leavers. (Table 10)

**The following tables are available:**

Table 1: Percentage attendance by all pupils, looked after children, stage and gender, 2009/10

Table 2: Percentage attendance for looked after children for children who spent the entire 2009/10 academic year in a single placement, by accommodation type and gender, 2009/10

Table 3: Percentage attendance for looked after children, by number of placements and gender, 2009/10

Table 4: Cases of Exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils by all pupils, looked after children and stage, 2009/10

Table 5: Cases of exclusions for looked after children for children who spent the entire 2009/10 academic year in a single placement, by accommodation type, 2009/10

Table 6: Cases of exclusions for looked after children for children, by number of placements, 2009/10

Table 7: Average tariff scores of all school leavers and those who were looked after children, by age, 2009/10.

Table 8: Average tariff scores of looked after children who spent the entire 2009/10 academic year in a single placement and who left school during 2009/10, by accommodation type

Table 9: Average tariff scores of looked after children, by number of placements, 2009/10

Table 10: Percentage of school leavers by initial and follow-up destination, for all school leavers and those who were looked after children, 2009/10

Table 11: Percentage of school leavers by sustained destination for all school leavers and those who are looked after children, 2009/10.

Table 1 shows that the overall school attendance rate for looked after children was 87.8 per cent in 2009/10 compared with 93.2 per cent for all school children. The difference in attendance rates between looked after children and others were greatest in secondary stages S1 to S4.

**Table 1: Percentage attendance by all pupils, looked after children, stage and gender, 2009/10**

Stage	All Pupils			Looked After Children		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
P1	94.7	94.6	94.7	93.1	94.4	93.7
P2	94.7	94.7	94.7	93.5	93.6	93.5
P3	94.9	95.0	95.0	93.6	93.9	93.7
P4	95.0	95.1	95.1	93.0	93.1	93.1
P5	95.0	95.0	95.0	94.1	93.6	93.8
P6	95.0	94.8	94.9	94.0	92.9	93.4
P7	95.1	94.8	95.0	94.5	92.7	93.5
S1	93.2	92.9	93.1	86.2	83.0	84.5
S2	91.4	91.4	91.4	81.1	80.1	80.6
S3	89.4	90.1	89.8	73.5	76.0	74.9
S4	89.6	90.5	90.0	78.8	82.9	80.9
S5	90.8	91.8	91.3	87.9	88.7	88.3
S6	91.7	92.9	92.3	92.9	97.4	94.6
Primary	94.9	94.9	94.9	93.7	93.4	93.5
Secondary	91.0	91.4	91.2	80.2	80.8	80.5
Special	90.6	90.6	90.6	84.9	84.7	84.8
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>87.8</b>

Table 2 shows that the attendance rate for children who were looked after at home for the entire school year was only 78.7 per cent, and 84.9 per cent for children being looked after in local authority homes. However, attendance rates for children who were being looked after in foster care provided by the local authority for the entire school year was 96.3 per cent and with foster carers purchased by the local authority was 95.9 per cent. Attendance rates for children in foster care were consistently over 90 per cent across all school stages, and generally higher than the national average attendance rate for all pupils across each stage.

**Table 2: Percentage attendance for looked after children for children who spent the entire 2009/10 academic year in a single placement, by accommodation type and gender, 2009/10**

Single Type of Accommodation throughout 2009/10	Looked After Children		
	Girls	Boys	Total
<b>In the community:-</b>			
At home with parents	78.2	79.2	78.7
With friends/relatives	92.3	91.8	92.1
With foster carers provided by LA	96.6	96.0	96.3
With foster carers purchased by LA	95.8	96.0	95.9
In other community <sup>(1)</sup>	96.8	97.8	97.4
<b>Residential Accommodation:-</b>			
In local authority home	85.6	84.4	84.9
In voluntary home	95.7	93.0	93.9
In residential school	94.0	94.8	94.5
In other residential <sup>(2)</sup>	77.5	95.1	86.7
<b>Total looked after children</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>87.8</b>

Notes:

(1) includes 'with prospective adopters'

(2) includes 'in secure care accommodation' and 'crisis care'

Table 3 shows that attendance rates were generally lower for looked after children who had more placement moves during the school year, from 87.7 per cent attendance for children who only had one placement to 78.8 per cent for children who had six or more placements during the school year.

**Table 3: Percentage attendance for looked after children, by number of placements and gender, 2009/10**

Number of placements	Looked After Children		
	Girls	Boys	Total
1	87.9	87.5	87.7
2	89.4	89.5	89.5
3	86.3	85.8	86.0
4	82.2	84.6	83.5
5	75.4	93.5	84.5
6 or more	76.5	80.8	78.8
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>87.8</b>

Table 4 shows that the overall exclusion rate for looked after children was 365 per 1,000 looked after children, compared with 45 exclusions per 1,000 pupils for all school children.

Please note that exclusion rates are based on the number of exclusions, not the number of children excluded (i.e. a child who is excluded more than once during the school year will be multiple counted).

**Table 4: Cases of Exclusion rate per 1,000 pupils by all pupils, looked after children and stage, 2009/10**

Stage	All Pupils	Looked After Children
	Total	Total
P1	3	32
P2	5	56
P3	7	82
P4	11	108
P5	15	131
P6	18	190
P7	25	238
S1	72	757
S2	118	881
S3	144	793
S4	88	368
S5	15	59*
S6	5	
Primary	12	123
Secondary	82	642
Special	174	591
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>365</b>

Notes:

\* Exclusion rate for looked after children in S5 & S6 has been combined due to small numbers

Table 5 shows that exclusion rates were highest for children who were looked after in local authority homes for the entire school year, at 866 exclusions per 1,000 children, and children looked after in voluntary homes, at 697 exclusion per 1,000 children. However, exclusion rates were lowest for children who were looked after in other residential settings (which includes residential schools, secure care accommodation and crisis care), at 152 exclusions per 1,000 children.

**Table 5: Cases of exclusions for looked after children for children who spent the entire 2009/10 academic year in a single placement, by accommodation type, 2009/10**

Type of accommodation	Total exclusions for looked after children	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils who were looked after
<b>In the community:-</b>		
At home with parents	1,016	427
With friends/relatives	332	239
With foster carers provided by LA	212	158
With foster carers purchased by LA	86	227
In other community <sup>(1)</sup>	0	0
<b>Residential Accommodation:-</b>		
In local authority home	162	866
In voluntary home	23	697
In other residential <sup>(2)</sup>	14	152

Notes:

(1) includes 'with prospective adopters'

(2) includes 'in residential school', 'in secure care accommodation' and 'crisis care'

Table 6 shows that exclusion rates were generally higher for looked after children who had more placement moves during the school year, from 316 exclusions per 1,000 children for those who only had one placement to 1,308 exclusions per 1,000 children for children who had six or more placements during the school year.

**Table 6: Cases of exclusions for looked after children for children, by number of placements, 2009/10**

	Total exclusions for looked after children	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils who were looked after
<b>Number of placements</b>		
1	1,845	316
2	470	445
3	248	758
4	69	663
5	32	1,032
6 or more	34	1,308
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>365</b>

Table 7 shows that the average tariff score for looked after children who left school during 2009/10 was 67, compared to 372 for all school leavers. However, this comparison is influenced by the fact that around 90 per cent of looked after children who left school during 2009/10 were aged 16 years or under when they left school, compared to only 37 per cent of all school leavers being of this age when leaving school.

Looking at the average tariff score of looked after children leaving school, compared with all school leavers, by age at leaving school shows that looked after children had, on average, lower tariff scores when leaving school compared with children of the same age who leave school.

**Table 7: Average tariff scores of all school leavers and those who were looked after children, by age, 2009/10**

Age at 30th June	All school leavers	Looked After Children
16 & under	141	51
17	489	198
18 & over	547	316
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>67</b>

Table 8 shows that the average tariff scores for looked after children who left school during 2009/10 were highest (160) for children who were looked after by foster carers provided by the local authority during the entire school year, and lowest (32) for children who were looked after at home for the entire school year.

**Table 8: Average tariff scores of looked after children who spent the entire 2009/10 academic year in a single placement and who left school during 2009/10, by accommodation type**

Single Type of Accommodation throughout 2009/10	Number of looked after children who left school during 2009/10	Average tariff score
<b>In the community:-</b>		
At home with parents	194	32
With friends/relatives	55	87
With foster carers provided by LA	59	160
With foster carers purchased by LA	16	103
In other community <sup>(1)</sup>	1	*
<b>Residential Accommodation:-</b>		
In local authority home	55	66
In voluntary home	5	100
In other residential <sup>(2)</sup>	10	53
Single placement during 2009/10	395	68
More than one placement during 2009/10	118	62
<b>All School Leavers who were looked after</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>67</b>

Notes:

(1) includes 'with prospective adopters'

(2) includes 'in residential school', 'in secure care accommodation', and 'crisis care'



Table 9 shows that the average tariff scores for looked after children who left school during 2009/10 were generally lower for children who had more placement moves during the school year, from an average tariff score of 68 for those children who only had one placement to 41 for children who had four or more placements during the school year.

**Table 9: Average tariff scores of looked after children, by number of placements, 2009/10**

Number of placements	Number of looked after	Average tariff score
1	395	68
2	82	67
3	24	57
4 or more	12	41
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>67</b>

Table 10 shows that 59 per cent of looked after children who left school during 2009/10 were in a positive destination at the time of the September initial destination survey, compared with 87 per cent of all 2009/10 school leavers.

However, by the time of the March follow-up destination survey, the percentage of looked after children who left school during 2009/10 who were in a positive destination had fallen to 44 per cent, compared with 85 per cent of all 2009/10 school leavers.

**Table 10: Percentage of school leavers by initial and follow-up destination, for all school leavers and those who were looked after children, 2009/10**

	Initial destination		Follow Up Destination	
	Looked After Children School Leavers	All School Leavers	Looked After Children School Leavers	All School Leavers
Higher Education	1	36	1	34
Further Education	33	27	25	25
Training	18	5	12	3
Employment	6	19	7	23
Voluntary Work	1	0	1	1
Unemployed Seeking	36	11	47	12
Unemployed Not Seeking	5	1	7	2
Unknown	0	1	2	1
<i>% in a positive destination</i>	<b>59</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>85</b>

Table 11 shows that when comparing the destination types at the initial and follow-up destination surveys it was found that only 36 per cent of looked after children who left school during 2009/10 were in a positive destination in both surveys, compared with 80 per cent for all school leavers.

Twenty-four per cent of looked after children who left school in 2009/10 and who were initially in a positive destination were reported as being in a negative destination at the time of the follow up survey, compared to this only being the case for 7 per cent of all 2009/10 school leavers.

Thirty-two per cent of looked after children who left school in 2009/10 were in a negative destination at the time of both destination surveys, compared to only 8 per cent for all 2009/10 school leavers.

**Table 11: Percentage of school leavers by sustained destination for all school leavers and those who are looked after children, 2009/10**

Sustained Destination	Looked After Children	
	School Leavers	All School Leavers
Same positive destination type in both surveys	28.8	72.5
Positive destination type to another positive destination type	7	7.5
Positive destination type to a negative destination type	23.5	6.9
Negative destination type to a positive destination type	8.6	5.2
Negative destination type in both surveys	32.1	7.9

## **BACKGROUND NOTES**

### **1. Sources and Methodology**

#### **Sources**

The information in this publication is derived from a number of sources: the pupil census, the children looked after survey, the attendance, absence and exclusion collections, SQA attainment data, and school leaver destination surveys.

#### **Data Matching**

Using the looked after children data provided by local authority social work departments for the period 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010, there were 9,566 records that showed the looked after child had been looked after continuously throughout the entire 12-month period, and was also old enough to have started primary school (i.e. the child was born before 1 March 2005).

Of these 9,566 children, a Scottish Candidate Number was provided for 8,235 of them. Please note that although some of these children were technically old enough to have started primary school, a number of them will not have done so (e.g. because they have deferred entry to primary school). In these cases, it is expected that these children will not yet have a Scottish Candidate Number. However, in addition to these cases, some local authorities were unable to provide Scottish Candidate Numbers for all of their looked after children as part of their Children Looked After Return in 2009/10.

Of the 8,235 looked after children records with a Scottish Candidate Number, 7,387 matched to the September 2009 Pupil Census. Please note that some Scottish Candidate Numbers provided for looked after children may not match to the Pupil Census because the looked after child may not have been attending a publicly funded school at the time of the Pupil Census. Also, there were a number of older looked after children (e.g. 18 year olds) who had a Scottish Candidate Number according to the children looked after data, but the young person had already left school and therefore did not appear in the Pupil Census.

For school leavers in 2009/10, just over 500 pupil records matched with the school leavers cohort provided by Skills Development Scotland, suggesting that looked after children represented just under one per cent of the entire school leaver cohort.

#### **Attendance and Absence**

Information on the attendance and absence of pupils is provided to the Scottish Government by the local authorities and managers of mainstream grant-aided schools. The information shown for attendance, absence and exclusions is for the academic year 2009/10. Schools which closed during the academic session 2009/10, and for which data was available, were included.

The data for attendance and absence is affected by ongoing differences in recording procedures across local authorities and over time. Therefore caution should be taken when comparing local authorities and when considering year on year national level figures, particularly for sickness, other authorised absence and truancy.

Percentages for authorised and unauthorised absence relate to the total number of possible attendances. For many schools this is 380 half-day sessions during the school year.

However, all but two schools in the Lothians and Edinburgh and three schools in Highland operate 342 (longer) half-day sessions in the school year.

Pupils arriving late are marked as such, with a distinction made for those arriving in the second half of a morning or the second half of the afternoon. Where summary data is necessary, if a pupil has attended most of an opening it is counted as attendance, but if they have been absent for most of a session it is included as authorised absence. They are of course still separately identified as being late but present for some of the time in the schools' systems for management purposes. Schools were also given the possibility of including all late marks on a pupil's record as attendance, if it is deemed beneficial for encouraging attendance. The distinction is also used in judging attendance records of those receiving bursaries and allowances.

## **Exclusions**

Local authorities are required each year to collect certain statistics from schools on exclusions. The statistics relate to half-days of temporary exclusions and number of pupils removed from the register (previously known as 'permanent' exclusions).

An exclusion is temporary when a pupil is excluded from a school but remains on the register of that school because they are expected to return when the exclusion period is completed. The term 'removed from the register' refers to a pupil who is excluded and their name removed from the school register. Such a pupil would then be educated at another school or via some other form of provision.

Local authorities may also reach agreements with parents to move a pupil to another school without the use of a formal 'removal from register', but where the pupil is unlikely to have the option of staying in the school.

This data covers local authority primary, secondary and special schools. The receipt of data at pupil level enables data linkage with other data sets to enable analysis of exclusion by pupil characteristics.

## **Attainment**

Information on National Qualifications are obtained from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is used as the basis for reporting attainment. The SCQF levels are shown below for information.

<b>Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels:</b>	
Level 7	Advanced Higher at A-C
Level 6	Higher at A-C
Level 5	Intermediate 2 at A-C; Standard Grade at 1-2
Level 4	Intermediate 1 at A-C; Standard Grade at 3-4
Level 3	Access 3 cluster; Standard Grade at 5-6
Level 2	Access 2 cluster

## **School Leavers**

Information on the destination of leavers from publicly funded schools was provided to the Scottish Government by Skills Development Scotland (SDS). SDS collected information on where each young person, they had identified as being a school leaver, was during September 2010 (initial destination) and the March 2011 (follow-up destination).

The initial destinations data provide information on the outcomes for young people approximately three months after leaving school while the follow up survey provides information on the outcomes of young people approximately nine months after leaving school. These collections should be seen as complementary to one another but it should be noted that various factors may affect the results at different time periods.

A school leaver is classed as a young person of school leaving age who left school during or at the end of the school year, where the school year is taken to run from 1 August to 31 July.

Age was calculated as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

The initial destinations data were published in "Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools: 2009/10" on 1st December 2010:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/PubDestinationLeavers>

## **Follow up destination**

Due to the very high follow-up rate, 98.4 per cent, we have decided not to impute destinations for those leavers not contacted in March 2011. Instead of imputing a destination for those who were not followed-up, we have agreed to use the most up to date information that SDS hold on these leavers.

In March 2011, SDS were unable to contact 862 leavers to confirm the current destination they held, some of which had requested not to be contacted. Of these 378 have an Unknown destination while for 484 SDS either received an updated destination outwith the March survey period or no information to say that they had changed destination. For these 484 the most up-to-date destination SDS held was used.

## **2. Definitions and Data Quality**

### **Leaver Destination**

All destinations are based on self-reporting by school leavers. The following categories for leaver destinations are included in the Statistics Publication Notice.

Positive: includes higher education, further education, training, voluntary work and employment. This is in line with the definition of positive destinations set out in Indicator 10 of the Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/30090722/18>

Higher Education: includes leavers following HND (Higher National Diploma) or HNC (Higher National Certificate) courses, degree courses, courses for the education and training of teachers and higher level courses for professional qualifications. It also includes programmes at a level higher than the standard of the National Qualifications, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher, Advanced Higher and the National Certificate of Education of England, Wales or Northern Ireland at Advanced Level. Leavers with a deferred, unconditional place in higher education have also been included in this category.

Further Education: includes leavers undertaking full-time education which is not higher education and who are no longer on a school roll.

Training: includes leavers who are on a training course and in receipt of an allowance or grant, such as *Get Ready for Work* and *Skillseekers* (non-employed). Prior to 2009/10 only leavers on a national training programme were included. In 2009/10 leavers who were on a local authority funded training programme in receipt of a training allowance were included.

Employment: includes those who are employed and in receipt of payment from their employers. It includes young people undertaking training in employment through *Skillseekers* and Modern Apprenticeships.

Voluntary Work: includes those undertaking voluntary work, with or without financial allowance, who are not 'unemployed and actively seeking', as per the unemployed definition and those participating in Project Scotland/CSV or other voluntary programmes.

Unemployed and seeking employment or training: includes those who are registered with Skills Development Scotland and are known by them to be seeking employment or training. This is based on regular contact between Skills Development Scotland and the client. This does not refer to the definition of 'unemployed' used by the Benefits Agency to calculate published unemployment rates. Young people participating in *Personal Skills Development* (see below) are counted in this category.

Personal Skills Development: Leavers who participate in learning opportunities / personal and social development activities with the aim of improving their confidence and employability. These programmes can be viewed as a stepping stone towards a positive destination. They are often delivered by a community learning and development or third sector organisation. Included are those individuals engaging in the 16+ Activity Agreement pilots and these are recognised as an offer within 16+ Learning Choices.

Unemployed and not seeking employment or training: includes all those individuals who are not seeking employment or training for a range of reasons. The reasons may involve sickness, prison, pregnancy, caring for children or other dependents or taking time out.

NOTE: the above two categories are comparable to the single 'other known destination' category from publications prior to 2002/03.

Unknown: includes all leavers whose destination is not known either to Skills Development Scotland or to the school attended.

Destination unknown (both surveys): includes individuals who were not able to be contacted at either the September or the March/April survey point.

## Unified Points Score Scale

The Unified Points Score Scale is an extended version of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) Scottish Tariff points system. A full list of courses, awards and corresponding tariff points is listed below. The tariff score of a pupil is calculated by simply adding together all the tariff points accumulated from all the different course levels and awards he/she attains.

The relativities between types of certification are taken from the principle that the value of an A award at one level is as close as possible to, but lower than, the value of a C award at the next level above. For example, a pupil getting five Standard Grades would collect between 40 and 190 points, based on lowest to highest possible results. Five Standard Grades with the highest result along with three Highers and one Advanced Higher at A, would amount to 526 points.

Course Level	Award	Tariff Points
Advanced Higher	A	120
CSYS	A	120
Advanced Higher	B	100
CSYS	B	100
Advanced Higher	C	80
CSYS	C	80
Advanced Higher	D	72
Higher	A	72
Higher	B	60
Higher	C	48
Higher	D	42
Intermediate 2	A	42
Standard Grade	1	38
Intermediate 2	B	35
Intermediate 2	C	28
Standard Grade	2	28
Intermediate 2	D	24
Intermediate 1	A	24
Standard Grade	3	22
Intermediate 1	B	20
Advanced Higher	Unit	20
Intermediate 1	C	16
Standard Grade	4	16
Higher	Unit	12
Intermediate 1	D	12
Standard Grade	5	11
Standard Grade	6	8
Access 3	Cluster	8
Intermediate 2	Unit	7
Unallocated Unit	(NC Module)	6
Unallocated Unit	(Short Course)	6
Intermediate 1	Unit	4
Standard Grade	7	3
Access 3	Unit	2
Access 2	Unit	1
Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary project	1	60
Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary project	2	50
Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary project	3	40

### 3 Additional Tables and Analyses

A set of more detailed tables that accompany this statistics publication can be found [here](#). Additional analyses are available on request.

### 4. Resources

For historical statistics and background information on Children Looked After, please see the previous publications:

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

For historical statistics and background information on the wide range of School Education statistical products, please see the previous publications:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Publications>

### 5. General

This is an Official Statistics Publication. Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. These statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

This publication is a new publication and has not been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority.

This is the first time the educational outcomes for looked after children has been produced by using a child's Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) to link individual looked after children data obtained from local authority social work services departments with individual level educational data obtained from local authority education departments (Attendance and Exclusions), the Scottish Qualifications Authority (Attainment) and Skills Development Scotland (School Leaver Destinations),

The results contained in this publication are deemed fit for purpose, but should be treated as provisional whilst the quality and completeness of the Scottish Candidate Number for Scotland's looked after children being submitted by local authority social work services departments improves over time.

Public enquiries (**non-media**) about the information contained in this News Release should be addressed to Gary Sutton, Children and Families Analysis, Scottish Government Education Directorate, Area 2-B(Bridge), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ (telephone 0131 244 1690 or e-mail [children.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:children.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)).

**Media** enquiries about the information in this Statistics Publication Notice should be addressed to John Robertson on 0131 244 4001.

### 6. Consultations

If you would like to be consulted about new or existing statistical collections or receive notification of forthcoming statistical publications, please register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website at: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/scotstat](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/scotstat) .

ISBN 978-1-78045-236-4 (web only)