



The Childhood Lottery

The Childhood Lottery

Evidence annex

OCTOBER 2026

 **CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER**

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Overview

This project brings together local area data collected and collated by the Children's Commissioner to understand the state of childhood in England. The **162** metrics cover all the Children's Commissioner's pillars of work:



Better world



Family



Health



**Schools,
jobs and skills**



Care



Community

The data tells a compelling, local story about childhood in England including children'.

Interactive maps and the full dataset are available at: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-childhood-lottery/>

Types of metrics

The 162 metrics cover children’s access to, quality, and outcomes of services that contribute to children’s experiences:

64 metrics cover children’s **access** to services

19 cover the **quality** of these services

78 cover children’s **outcomes**

 Scored

The 96 scored, mapped metrics are high quality, widely available data showing where it is harder or easier to be a child.
Example: the percent of children who do not feel safe in their local area.

 Context

The 32 context metrics are ranked but do not contribute to the scores.
Example: the number of young carers identified by a local authority.

 Narrative

The 34 narrative metrics are important to children’s experiences, but local data are mostly or completely unavailable.
Example: the number of youth workers.

The metrics cover all the Children’s Commissioner’s pillars of work:

Better world	Family	Health	Schools, jobs and skills	Care	Community
18 total metrics 16 mapped 13 scored	24 total metrics 20 mapped 17 scored	37 total metrics 26 mapped 17 scored	28 total metrics 27 mapped 20 scored	32 total metrics 26 mapped 14 scored	24 total metrics 21 mapped 15 scored

Worst data gaps

The Children’s Commissioner believes the following are the most egregious gaps in evidence on children’s lives.

Data gap	
1	Number of youth workers There is no mandatory registration of youth workers and youth workforce statistics are not routinely collected, so there is no national or local data on the scale of youth work.
2	Number of children with no recourse to public funds The Home Office does not record how many visas are issued with the NRPF condition.
3	Number of children who visit their GP NHS England has no plans to break down its monthly statistics on GP appointments by age group of patient.
4	Number of children on council housing waiting lists Only an MHCLG estimate is available of the percent of households including under 18 year olds, and no local data.
5	Number of children with a probable mental health condition NHS England discontinued the Mental Health of Children and Young People in England survey in 2023

Highest and lowest scoring areas on data availability

75 areas had data available on all 128 scored and context measures. Some other areas score poorly on data availability due to poor performance in responding to the Children’s Commissioner’s statutory data collections, which are the basis of 47 of the metrics, of which 33 are scored, of which 26 were newly gathered for the Childhood Lottery.

Best performing areas	Missing metrics out of 128
Bedford, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bolton, Bournemouth, Calderdale, Christchurch and Poole, Bradford, Central Bedfordshire, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Cornwall, County Durham, Coventry, Derbyshire, Devon, Doncaster, Dorset, Dudley, East Sussex, Enfield, Essex, Gateshead, Gloucestershire, Hackney, Halton, Hampshire, Harrow, Hartlepool, Havering, Hertfordshire, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kent, Kingston upon Hull, Kirklees, Knowsley, Leeds, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Liverpool, Luton, Manchester, Medway, Newham, North East Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Northumberland, Nottingham, Reading, Redcar and Cleveland, Rochdale, Rotherham, Salford, Sandwell, Sefton, Slough, Solihull, Somerset, St. Helens, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Suffolk, Sunderland, Tameside, Thurrock, Trafford, Walsall, Warrington, West Berkshire, West Northamptonshire, West Sussex, Wigan, Wolverhampton	0

The Isles and Scilly and City of London had more missing metrics due to statistical disclosure control of small numbers. Rutland with 13 missing metrics is also omitted from the table above due to small numbers of children.

Worst performing areas	Missing metrics out of 128
Bury	34
Nottinghamshire	33
South Tyneside	10
Southend-on-Sea	9
Barking and Dagenham, Shropshire	8
Cambridgeshire	6
Barnet, Bromley, Kensington and Chelsea, Norfolk, Sheffield, Westminster	4
Brent, Croydon, Isle of Wight, Kingston upon Thames, Middlesbrough, Oxfordshire, Plymouth, Southampton, Southwark, Sutton, Torbay, Wandsworth	3
Bath and North East Somerset, Brighton and Hove, Buckinghamshire, Camden, Cumberland, Haringey, Herefordshire, Leicester, Lewisham, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Northamptonshire, North Tyneside, Peterborough, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey, Telford and Wrekin, Tower Hamlets, Wakefield, Waltham Forest, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wirral, York	2
Barnsley, Bexley, Blackburn with Darwen, Bracknell Forest, Bristol, Darlington, Derby, Ealing, East Riding of Yorkshire, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, Lancashire, Merton, Milton Keynes, North Lincolnshire, North Somerset, Oldham, Portsmouth, Redbridge, South Gloucestershire, Stockport, Stockton-on-Tees, Swindon, Warwickshire, Westmorland and Furness, Wiltshire, Wokingham, Worcestershire	1

Most and least geographically variable metrics

The most variable measure, on children in temporary accommodation, varies from 1 in 10,000 in Hartlepool to over 1,000 per 10,000 (more than 1 in 10) in Westminster. The least variable, on children measured in Reception at school as having achieved a good level of development, varies from 77% in Wokingham to 60% in Manchester. Some metrics would be best measured at a different geographical level than the local authority; for example, from the point of view of a pupil, it matters whether or not your school has a service on-site, not what percent of schools have this in your local authority.

Most variable scored metrics (biggest differences between areas)

- 1 Children living in temporary accommodation (including B&Bs)
- 2 Recording of vulnerability of children who are stopped and searched
- 3 Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or Safer Schools Police Officer (SSO) in schools
- 4 Children missing from Education (CME)
- 5 Access to public transport
- 6 Rate of youth services spending
- 7 Number of children stopped and searched
- 8 Exclusion rate in mainstream schools
- 9 Use of unregulated alternative provision
- 10 Timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans issued

The most variable metrics in each pillar were: the rate of children living in temporary accommodation (Family), the extent of recording of vulnerability of children who are stopped and searched (Community), the rate of children missing from education (Schools, jobs and skills), levels of youth services spending (Better World), the percent of children who don't feel they have access to good healthcare (Health), and social worker instability (Care).

Least variable scored metrics (smallest differences between areas)

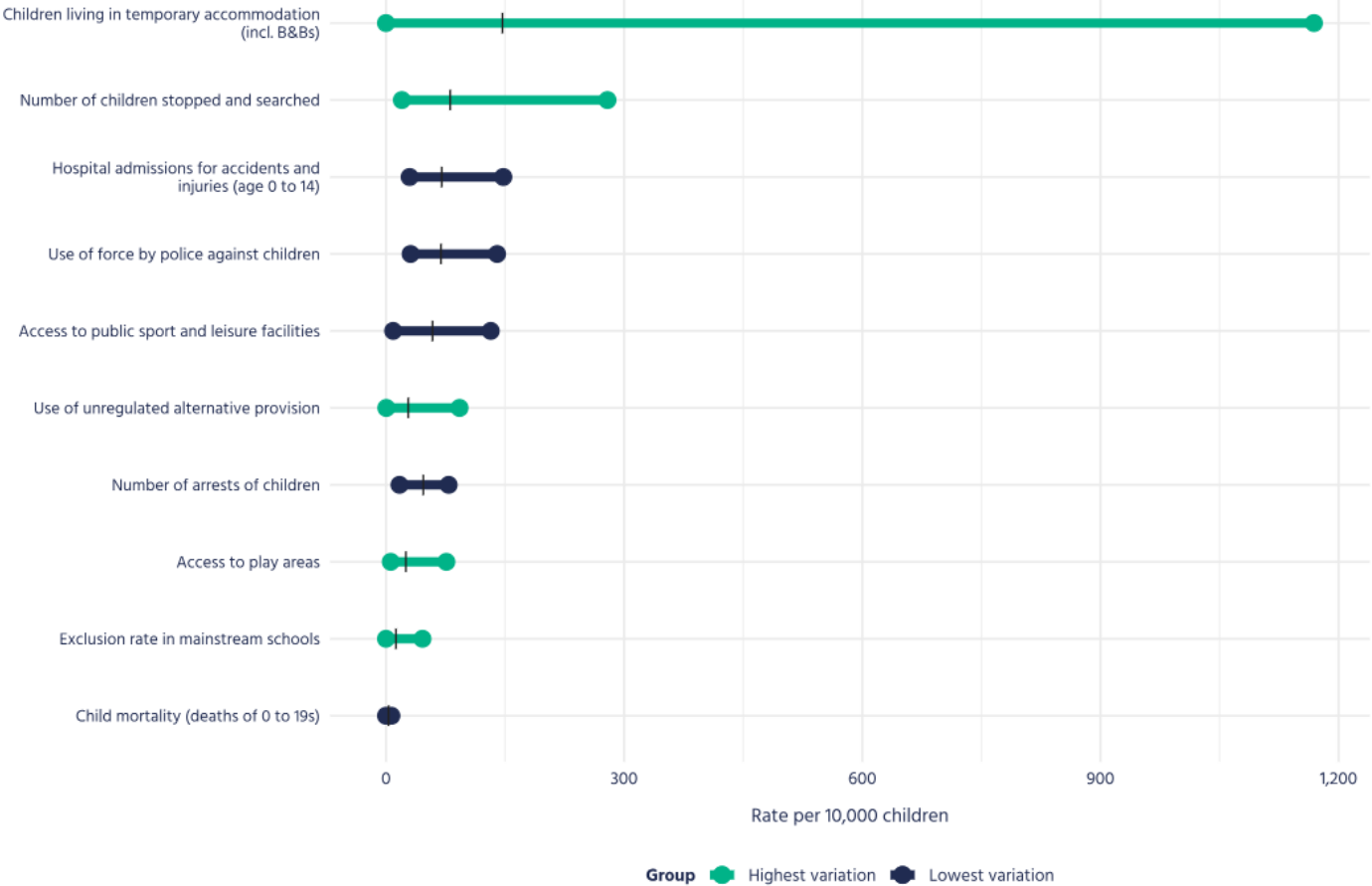
- 1 Children achieving a good level of development (EYFS)
- 2 Breakfast provision by schools
- 3 Percent of care leavers in touch with local authority
- 4 Percent of care leavers in suitable accommodation
- 5 A level average scores
- 6 Average Attainment 8 score of looked-after children
- 7 Children don't feel people who run the country listen to their views
- 8 Childhood vaccination coverage
- 9 Children who were overweight or obese in year 6
- 10 Attendance at NHS dental visits

Metrics have been ranked based on coefficients of variation (standard deviation divided by mean) to make fair comparisons between different metric types, such as percentages and rates. City of London and Isles of Scilly were excluded from this analysis, as were metrics which capture the presence or absence of a service (for example, access to youth hubs).



Most and least geographically variable metrics

Range of values across local authorities in metrics which are measured as rates



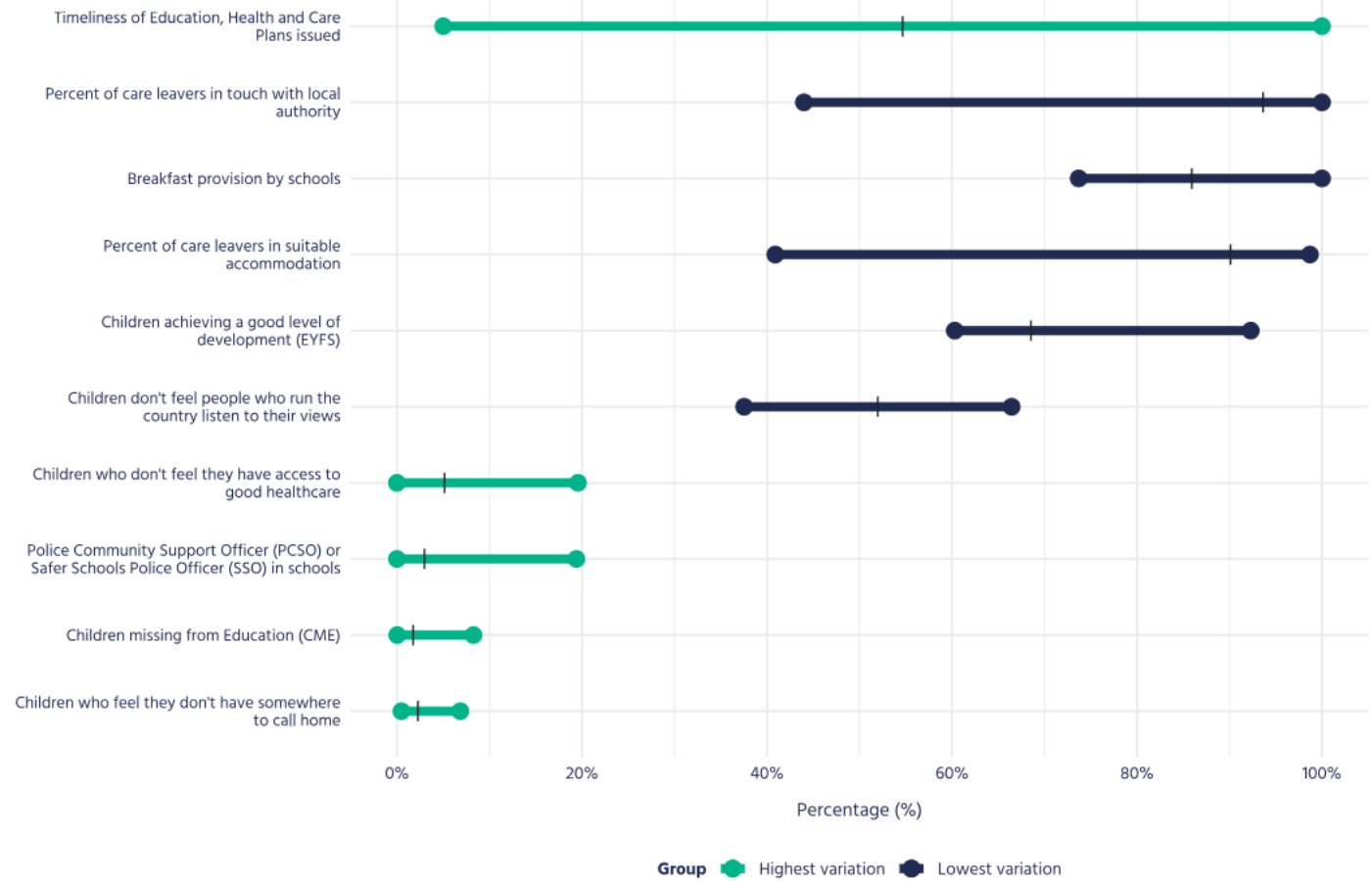
All 10 metrics that are measured as rates per 10,000 children are shown. They are ordered top to bottom from highest to lowest maximum value, and they are labelled based on whether they have high or low coefficients of variation within this set of 10 metrics. Vertical bars show mean values.

The rate of children living in temporary accommodation is the most variable metric.

Local authorities in England are the most spread out on this measure of any measure, as measured by coefficient of variation, that is, it has the highest standard deviation (231) relative to the mean value (149) of any metric.

Most and least geographically variable metrics

Range of values across local authorities in metrics which are measured as percentages



Children missing from education is the most variable of all the metrics measured as percentages.

This does not mean it has the widest range between its minimum and maximum values, but the biggest dispersion relative to the mean value (5.5% of children).

Metrics are shown in order of highest (top) to lowest (bottom) maximum value, and have been selected from among the metrics measured as percentages based on having the highest (green) or lowest (navy) coefficients of variation of any percentage-based metric. Vertical bars show mean values.

Better World

Better World metrics focus on children's engagement and participation in civil society, how they can get around their local area and the amenities and fun things available to them



Overview of Better World metrics

All 18 metrics

 Scored

 Context

 Narrative

Children don't feel people who run the country listen to their views	Children don't feel they can make a difference on issues that matter to them	Children don't feel they are treated fairly	Access to a Youth Council	Children don't feel they have fun activities near where they live	Access to parks and play areas
Access to play areas	Access to green space	Access to public sport and leisure facilities	Access to libraries	Access to public transport	Levels of youth services spending
Access to youth hubs	Access to youth clubs or centres		Access to targeted support or youth group for LGBTQ+	Targeted support or youth group for Gypsy, Roma or Traveller (GRT) children	Participation in arts, culture and entertainment
Number of youth workers					

Overview of Better World metrics

13 scored metrics only



Better World scorecard

Scored metrics (12)	Category	Measure type	Max score
Children don't feel people who run the country listen to their views	Outcome	Decile	10
Children don't feel they can make a difference on issues that matter to them	Outcome	Decile	10
Children don't feel they are treated fairly	Outcome	Decile	10
Access to a Youth Council	Access	Binary	10
Children don't feel they have fun activities near where they live	Outcome	Decile	10
Access to parks and play areas	Access	Decile	10
Access to public sport and leisure facilities	Access	Decile	10
Access to libraries	Access	Decile	10
Levels of youth services funding	Quality	Decile	10
Access to youth hubs	Access	Binary	10
Access to youth clubs or centres	Access	Binary	10
Access to targeted support or youth group for LGBTQ+ children	Access	Binary	10
Total score			120



Better World metric summaries



Children don't feel people who run the country listen to their views

Why is this important?

Children have limited agency or control over many aspects of their lives, including being able to engage in the democratic process. It is therefore important that their views are taken into consideration and listened to when decisions that impact them are being made.

"They should listen and take into account the things that we want, and have put forward for, as it would allow a lot of us to feel listened to and have somewhere that we can express our needs, as a whole community, and they can be listened to and taken into account, to allow change to fit our needs." – Girl, 15, The Big Ambition.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'People who run the country listen to your views' in The Big Ambition survey 2024. Data for the City of London and Isles of Scilly have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Responses were duplicated for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness (as Cumbria responded for both).

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

"The government should listen more to what children and the youth want, visit schools, be engaged and be proactive on our views." – Girl, 14, The Big Ambition

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **52% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that the people who run the country listen to their views**. The median was 52.1% (IQR 49.0% - 55.3%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was Hertfordshire (37.5%) the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Hackney (66.5%). This question had the largest proportion of children disagreeing with it of any question in The Big Ambition survey.

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing that people who run the country listen to your views, 2023-2024

1. Hertfordshire (37.5%)
2. Thurrock (38.9%)
3. North Tyneside (39.8%)
4. Kent (40.6%)
5. Merton (41.5%)
6. North Lincolnshire (42.9%)
7. Hartlepool (43.2%)
8. Slough (43.9%)
9. West Northamptonshire (44.1%)
10. Central Bedfordshire (44.1%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing that people who run the country listen to your views, 2023-2024

1. Hackney (66.5%)
2. Dudley (62.5%)
3. St. Helens (62.4%)
4. Brighton and Hove (62.3%)
5. Halton (62.2%)
6. North Somerset (60.9%)
7. Wakefield (60.6%)
8. Southampton (60.5%)
9. Rochdale (60.2%)
10. Peterborough (60.0%)

Outcome

Scored

Children don't feel they can make a difference on issues that matter to them

Why is this important?

While listening to children is vital for ensuring children's views, wishes and feelings are considered, it is equally important that those views are acted upon and that children feel that in sharing their voice they can affect real change on the issues they care about.

"We should be spoken to more, invited to the houses of parliament and not just listened to but told how our voice can make a difference. It should not be an activity we should be part of real change." – Boy, 10, The Big Ambition.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You feel like you can make a difference to things you care about' in the Big Ambition survey 2024. Secondary age (12-18 years) children were shown a different wording; 'You feel empowered to change issues that you care about'.

Data for the City of London and Isles of Scilly have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Responses were duplicated for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness (as Cumbria responded for both).

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

"We need youth summits, youth parliaments, chances to speak to MPs and councils. Young people should be allowed to pitch their ideas to councils". – Girl, 15, The Big Ambition.

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **22% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they can make a difference on issues that matter to them.** The median was 22.7% (IQR 20.0% - 24.7%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Thurrock (9.5%) the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Rutland (33.7%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they can make a difference on issues that matter to them, 2023-2024

1. Thurrock (9.5%)
2. South Tyneside (13.4%)
3. Sandwell (14.1%)
4. Coventry (14.2%)
5. Bedford (14.7%)
6. Havering (14.8%)
7. Slough (15.5%)
8. Haringey (15.5%)
9. Central Bedfordshire (15.6%)
10. Hounslow (15.8%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they can make a difference on issues that matter to them, 2023-2024

1. Rutland (33.7%)
2. Brighton and Hove (31.9%)
3. Medway (30.8%)
4. Cambridgeshire (30.7%)
5. Kensington and Chelsea (30.2%)
6. Peterborough (29.2%)
7. Southampton (28.4%)
8. Gloucestershire (28.4%)
9. Bath and North East Somerset (27.9%)
10. Rochdale (27.8%)

Outcome

Scored

Children don't feel they are treated fairly

Why is this important?

All children should be treated fairly, no matter their ethnic group, gender, religion or disability or health condition. The Children's Commissioner has [found](#) that some groups of children, including children with a social worker, are less likely than others to feel they are treated fairly.

"they should make situations more fair for children and not judge us or say our opinion is less important because we are younger" – Girl, 14, The Big Ambition.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You are treated fairly' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

Data for the City of London and Isles of Scilly have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Responses were duplicated for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness (as Cumbria responded for both).

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

"Make every child have equal opportunities" – Girl, 16, The Big Ambition.

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **14% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they are treated fairly**. The median was 14.4% (IQR 12.7%-15.8%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Coventry (7.7%) the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Hackney (27.3%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they are treated fairly, 2023-2024

1. Coventry (7.7%)
2. Merton (8.8%)
3. Torbay (9.0%)
4. West Northamptonshire (9.4%)
5. Blackburn with Darwen (9.8%)
6. Bedford (9.8%)
7. West Berkshire (10.0%)
8. Thurrock (10.1%)
9. Lambeth (10.4%)
10. Havering (10.7%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they are treated fairly, 2023-2024

1. Hackney (27.3%)
2. Knowsley (22.7%)
3. Southampton (19.0%)
4. Greenwich (18.8%)
5. Barnsley (18.6%)
6. Portsmouth (18.6%)
7. Hartlepool (18.5%)
8. Peterborough (18.5%)
9. Somerset (18.5%)
10. Leicester (18.4%)

Outcome

Scored

Access to a Youth Council

Why is this important?

Youth councils are an opportunity for children to engage with democracy at a local level. They are an avenue for children to have their voices heard and to influence local decision making on issues that impact on children and young people in their local area.

As youth councils are not a statutory service, areas that provide this provision are actively engaging and supporting young people in their local area to have their voices listened to.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides the opportunity for children and young people to participate in a youth council (or similar).

This binary measure based on self-report does not assess the quality or level of engagement that local youth councils have or the influence they have over local strategic decisions.

“Every school should have a student council, that feeds into the city’s youth council, that feeds into the county’s youth council and eventually into the government directly.” – Girl, 15, The Big Future.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

The majority of local authorities (90%) reported that they have a youth council available for the children and young people in their authority area. However, over 1 million children lived in areas with no youth council. 15 reported that they did not, and 2 did not answer this question.

There were, however, differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had a youth council.

Percentage of local authorities with a youth council, by region, 2025



136 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a youth council in their area, 2025

17 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a youth council in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Children don't have fun activities near where they live

Why is this important?

All children should be able to rest and take part in leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. Play and access to age-appropriate activities are important for children's wellbeing and support their development.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You have fun activities to do near where you live' in The Big Ambition survey 2024. Data for the City of London and Isles of Scilly have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Responses were duplicated for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness (as Cumbria responded for both).

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"Provide more opportunities to take part in locally run sports and activities which are free and safe to attend (football, swimming, tennis...). Provide more teenager run centres or youth clubs so you can socialise and meet different people instead of just being online." – Girl, 15, The Big Ambition.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition](#) survey data.

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **15% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they had fun activities to do near where they live.** The median was 14.7% (IQR 12.7%-17.6%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Richmond upon Thames (7.9%) the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Knowsley (27.5%).

This question showed one of the larger differences between regions and local authorities across all survey questions in The Big Ambition.

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they have fun activities near where they live, 2023-2024

1. Richmond upon Thames (7.9%)
2. Southwark (8.2%)
3. Kingston upon Thames (8.2%)
4. Merton (8.8%)
5. Wandsworth (8.8%)
6. Havering (9.1%)
7. Solihull (9.4%)
8. Camden (9.7%)
9. Brighton and Hove (9.9%)
10. Bedford (9.9%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they have fun activities near where they live, 2023-2024

1. Knowsley (27.5%)
2. North East Lincolnshire (27.3%)
3. Medway (25.2%)
4. Halton (25.1%)
5. Wigan (24.7%)
6. Kirklees (24.6%)
7. Wolverhampton (24.3%)
8. Rochdale (24.3%)
9. Dudley (24.1%)
10. Sunderland (24.0%)

Outcome

Scored

Access to parks and play areas

Why is this important?

Public parks and play areas give children and young people spaces to play, be active and engage with the natural environment.

This is particularly important for children in urban environments or others who may not have access to private green space in the form of gardens.

“they should add more parks and playgrounds so kids can play and enjoy their time at the park” – Boy, 13, The Big Ambition.

The Children’s Commissioner’s survey The Big Ambition [found](#) children called for more time and opportunities to play, and better facilities for playing in, including playgrounds and parks.

Description of metric

Overall count of parks and play areas (includes play areas, playing fields, public parks or garden and recreation grounds) and the number per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17.

Rate is derived from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates 2024 for each local authority population.

Why is it not mapped?

Access to play areas, more specifically relevant to children, is mapped.

Source: ONS. October 2024. [Number of parks and play areas in local areas, England and Wales](#)

In total **there are 48,496 parks and play areas in England**, according to the ONS based on Ordinance Survey Data.¹ These are categorised as; play area’s, playing fields, public parks or gardens and recreation grounds.

When looking at the overall numbers of parks and play areas, it is unsurprising that large counties and predominantly rural areas have the largest numbers relative to their respective populations.

Unsurprisingly, areas that are largely rural have the greatest number of parks and play areas. Five out of the ten areas with the fewest parks and play areas are in Greater London.

- Areas with the most access to parks and play areas (per 10,000 children), 2024
1.

North Yorkshire (81)
2.

Rutland (81 per 8,000)
3.

Westmorland and Furness (79)
4.

Devon (79)
5.

Cornwall (78)
6.

Wiltshire (77)
7.

Somerset (74)
8.

Dorset (74)
9.

Norfolk (74)
10.

Herefordshire, County of (71)

- Areas with the least access to parks and play areas (per 10,000 children), 2024
1.

Redbridge (10)
2.

City of London (12)
3.

Harrow (12)
4.

Birmingham (13)
5.

Barking and Dagenham (13)
6.

Barnet (13)
7.

Croydon (14)
8.

Coventry (14)
9.

Southend-on-Sea (14)
10.

Luton (14)

Access to play areas

Why is this important?

There are discrepancies in the data regarding the use and description of parks, but play areas are more easily quantified and a specifically child-focused asset, therefore they have been split out as a separate scored metric for this work.

Play areas enable children and young people safe outdoor spaces to play, learn and explore, and meet other children in their local area.

“they add more playgrounds so children that are far away from a playground they will have somewhere to go” – Boy, 9, The Big Ambition.

Description of metric

Overall count play areas and the number per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17. Rate is derived from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates 2024 for each local authority population.

This metric is based on ordinance survey usage of area data and so provides no insight into the quality of the facilities.

Isles of Scilly and City of London are not included in the data.

Source: ONS. October 2024. [Number of parks and play areas in local areas, England and Wales](#)

In total **there are 32,217 play areas in England**, according to the ONS based on Ordinance Survey Data.¹

Of the 151 upper tier local areas included the median number of play areas per 10,000 children was 21, while the mean was 25 (IQR 13 – 34).

The best access to play areas was in Rutland, while two London boroughs, Redbridge and Harrow, had the worst access.

- Areas with the most access to play areas (per 10,000 children), 2024**
- 1. Rutland (61 per 8,000)
 - 2. Milton Keynes (58)
 - 3. Wiltshire (56)
 - 4. Devon (53)
 - 5. North Yorkshire (53)
 - 6. Westmorland and Furness (51)
 - 7. Cornwall (50)
 - 8. Somerset (49)
 - 9. Norfolk (49)
 - 10. Oxfordshire (49)

- Areas with the least access to play areas (per 10,000 children), 2024**
- 1. Redbridge (6)
 - 2. Harrow (7)
 - 3. Liverpool (7)
 - 4. Coventry (8)
 - 5. Croydon (8)
 - 6. Birmingham (8)
 - 7. Sandwell (9)
 - 8. Barnet (9)
 - 9. Dudley (9)
 - 10. Manchester (9)

Access to green space

Why is this important?

Access to green space has been associated with better health and wellbeing outcomes.

"They should create more free space/green space to play" – Boy, 12, The Big Ambition.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs produced data on the distance to green space for every household in England via walkable streets and paths.

Description of metric

Rate is derived from the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates 2024 for children for each local authority, including City of London and Isles of Scilly.

This metric is based on Ordnance Survey usage of area data and so provides no insight into the quality of the facilities counted.

Why is it not mapped?

The data does not distinguish between different demographic characteristics of households so this analysis is of access in general, not for children specifically.

Source: Defra. March 2026. [Access to green and blue space in England](#)

The percentage of households in each local authority in England with access to green space varies between 0.2% and 92%, depending on the definition of 'green space' and 'accessible' used.

Under Natural England's doorstep standard, it is estimated that 16% of households have access to green space while a [previous estimate](#) published by Natural England was 33%.

Under Natural England's local standard, an estimated 15% of households have access to green space compared to a [previous estimate](#) of 25% published by Natural England.

Under Natural England's neighbourhood standard, shown below, **the average percent of households that have access to green space in the average local authority is 68%.**

Local authorities with the highest percentage access to green space under the 15-minute commitment, 2025

1. Stoke on Trent (92%)
2. Barnsley (91%)
3. Wiltshire (90%)
4. County Durham (89%)
5. Milton Keynes (88%)
6. Derbyshire (88%)
7. Herefordshire (88%)
8. Westmorland and Furness (88%)
9. West Berkshire (88%)
10. Dorset (87%)

Areas with the lowest percentage access to green space under the 15-minute commitment, 2025

1. North East Lincolnshire (32%)
2. Harrow (33%)
3. Islington (36%)
4. Hartlepool (36%)
5. Blackpool (37%)
6. North Tyneside (41%)
7. Portsmouth (41%)
8. Nottingham (43%)
9. Kingston upon Hull (44%)
10. Hammersmith and Fulham (44%)

Access to public sport and leisure facilities

Why is this important?

Children should be able to rest and take part in leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

This measure indicates whether there are facilities accessible to children and young people in their local area.

Access to swimming pools are particularly important as swimming and water safety are a mandatory part of the national curriculum for physical education in England.

Description of metric

The Children's Commissioner's office calculated a rate per 10,000 children based on the proportion of the overall count of sport and leisure facilities that are publicly accessible. Isles of Scilly scored 9 per 300.

Rates were derived from the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates 2024 for each local authority population. This metric does not capture the quality or affordability of these places for families.

"The government should offer more free sports clubs to give children a platform where they can be healthy and have fun" – Girl, 17, The Big Ambition.

Source: ONS. March 2024. [Number of sports facilities across Local Authority Districts \(LAD\) and Middle Layer Super Output Areas \(MSOA\) in England](https://www.activeplacespower.com/pages/spatialtools)
Data from: Sport England.
<https://www.activeplacespower.com/pages/spatialtools>

In total there **were 96,772 sport and leisure facilities available in England** (as of March 2024), of which 77% were categorised as public.

The publicly accessible category includes facilities that are free for public access, pay and play, Sports Club or Community Association, and Registered Membership use.

Westmorland and Furness had the highest number of public facilities per 10,000 children, and three others (North Yorkshire, Bath and North East Somerset, and Rutland) had more than 100 per 10,000 children. Seven out of the 10 areas with least access to public sport and leisure facilities are in London.

Areas with the best access to public sport and leisure facilities (per 10,000 children), 2023

1. Westmorland and Furness (132)
2. North Yorkshire (113)
3. Bath and North East Somerset (104)
4. Rutland (102 per 8,000)
5. Dorset (96)
6. Cumberland (95)
7. Northumberland (94)
8. Shropshire (94)
9. East Riding of Yorkshire (93)
10. York (92)

Areas with the least access to public sport and leisure facilities (per 10,000 children), 2023

1. Barking and Dagenham (19)
2. Newham (22)
3. Slough (23)
4. Hackney (24)
5. Tower Hamlets (26)
6. Sandwell (27)
7. Birmingham (28)
8. Brent (29)
9. Croydon (30)
10. Lewisham (31)

Access

Scored

Access to libraries

Why is this important?

All children should be able to rest and take part in leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Public library services are funded and either run or commissioned by local government. Library authorities (unitary, county or metropolitan borough councils) have a statutory duty under section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all who live, work or study in the area.

As a proxy measure for cultural engagement, libraries are a statutory universal service. They can provide access to resources and activities.

Description of metric

Overall count of active libraries, the proportion that are local authority run and the number per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17. This excludes prison libraries, archives, local history libraries, and temporarily closed libraries.

Rate is derived from the Office for National Statistics mid-year child population estimates 2024 for each local authority. Isles of Scilly is not included due to missing data.

“more libraries with children’s books in” – Child, 11, The Big Ambition.

Source: Arts Council, 2025. [English Public Libraries Location Dataset](#).

Based on the most recent database of libraries produced by the Arts Council **there are 2,314 libraries in England** (excluding prison libraries, archives, local history libraries, and temporarily closed libraries). These were recorded as being local authority run, community run, commissioned or independent libraries. The latter are not considered statutory.

Westmorland and Furness and Northumberland have the most public libraries with over 5 per 10,000 children. However, there are 12 local authorities in England with less than 1 public library per 10,000 children (10 listed below as well as Croydon and Harrow).

Areas with the most libraries (per 10,000 children), 2025

1. Westmorland and Furness (5.9)
2. Northumberland (5.3)
3. York (4.6)
4. Cumberland (4.4)
5. North Lincolnshire (4.3)
6. East Riding of Yorkshire (4.3)
7. Windsor and Maidenhead (4.0)
8. Westminster (4.0)
9. Redcar and Cleveland (4.0)
10. Rutland (4.0 per 8,000)

Areas with the fewest libraries (per 10,000 children), 2025

1. Sunderland (0.5)
2. Bradford (0.8)
3. Brent (0.8)
4. Luton (0.8)
5. Derby (0.8)
6. Slough (0.9)
7. Darlington (0.9)
8. Bury (0.9)
9. Barking and Dagenham (0.9)
10. Swindon (0.9)

Access to public transport

Why is this important?

Being able to get around their local area enables children, young people and their families to engage with services and activities. This is particularly important for those who do not have their own forms of transport. For older children this can also support independence, autonomy and social relationships.

"take more time to invest improving children's mental health and give access to activities and towns for children living in villages. In my village we have no bus transport apart from a small mini bus that runs irregularly and doesn't go far so I'm pretty much stuck in the village" – Girl, 17, The Big Ambition.

The cost of public transport was an important theme in the Children's Commissioner's [research](#) in 2025 to inform the government's child poverty strategy.

Description of metric

Local authorities were asked whether they offered six financial support options for four groups of children and young people (under 11, 11- to 15-year-olds, 16- to 17-year-olds and care leavers aged 18 to 25) for help with transport within their area. For local authorities that are part of a Combined Authority Region that had responsibility for travel, these were asked to respond based on what is available in the local authority area as if provided by the local authority. They were also asked not to include statutory requirements under free school transport or national schemes, provided for example by National Rail.

Why is it not mapped?

Data quality. The data received from local authorities by the Children's Commissioner was highly inconsistent.

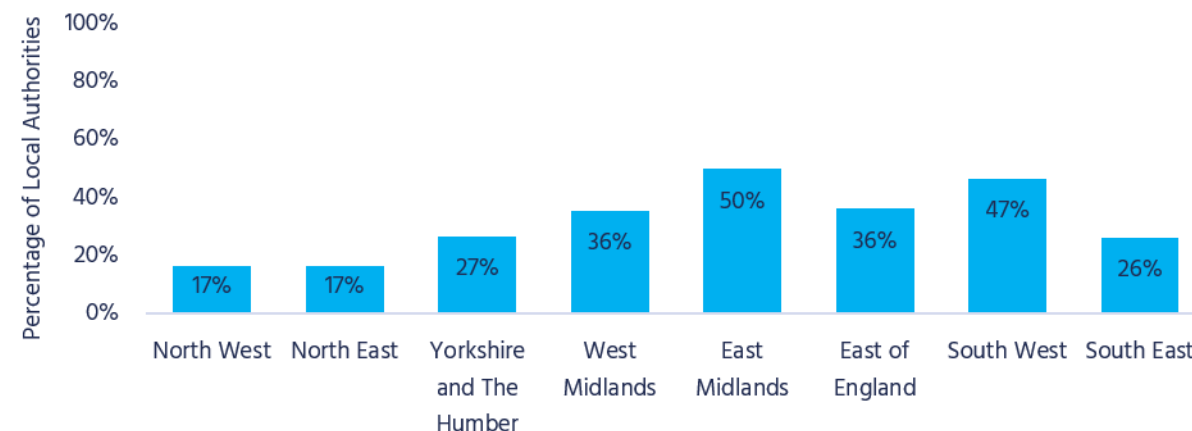
Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Discounted travel (without an adult) was the most common of the financial options available for all age groups.

Around 25% of local authorities reported that they did not offer any financial support options for children's use of public transport in their area. The data that the Children's Commissioner received from local authorities was highly inconsistent, but appeared to vary by region with half of local authorities in the East Midlands not offering any financial support with public transport.

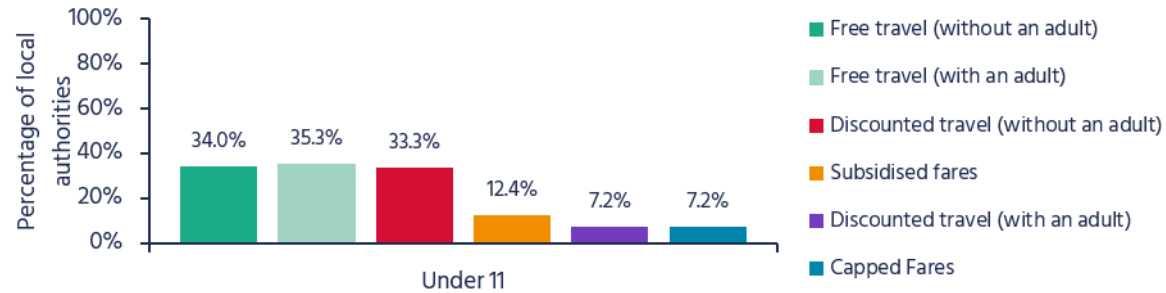
Greater London is excluded from analysis due to the universal programme offered across the city region by Transport for London.

Percentage of local authorities offering no form of financial help with public transport, by region, excluding Greater London, 2025

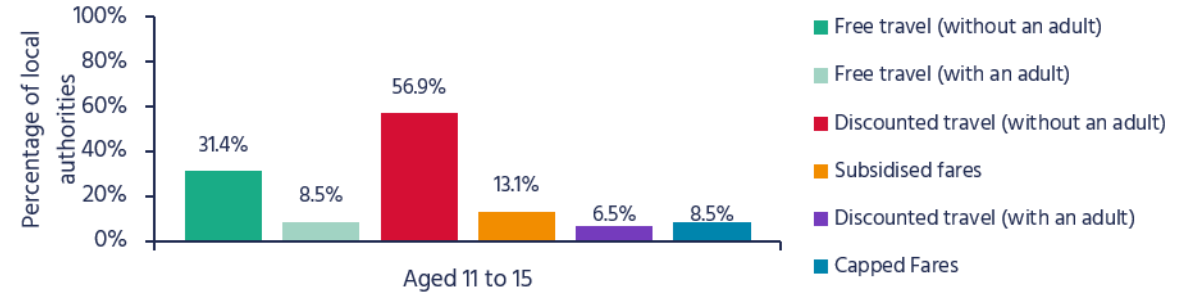

[Access](#)
[Context](#)

Transport availability across different age ranges (including London)

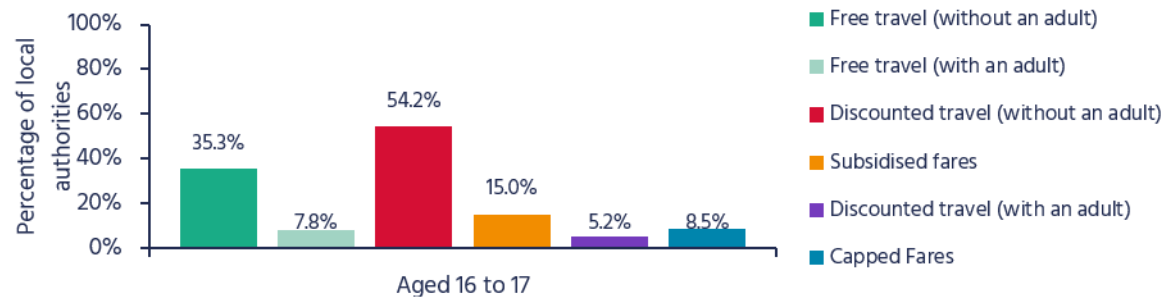
For **children under the age of 11** being able to travel around their local area will likely be under the supervision of a responsible adult, and so financial support offers will likely benefit families and make it easier to get around the local area.



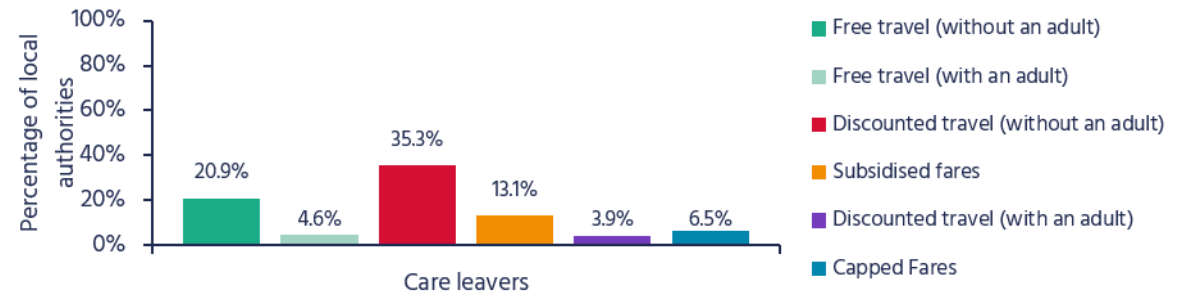
For **children aged 11 to 15**, access to public transport either free or with some form of financial support (discounts, subsidies or caps) enables them to move about the local area not only for educational purposes but to engage with social and cultural activities. For older children being able to do so without the requirement of an adult present can support independence and autonomy.



For **16- to 17-year-olds**, access to public transport either free or with some form of financial support (discounts, subsidies or caps) enables them to move about the local area not only for educational purposes but to engage with social and cultural activities. Benefits that involve conditions such as an adult chaperoning are less likely to be practical for this age group.



Care leavers are a financially vulnerable group for whom transport costs can impact on their ability to engage with education, employment or training as well as maintaining social connections.



"[We need] some form of free public transport for people under 18."

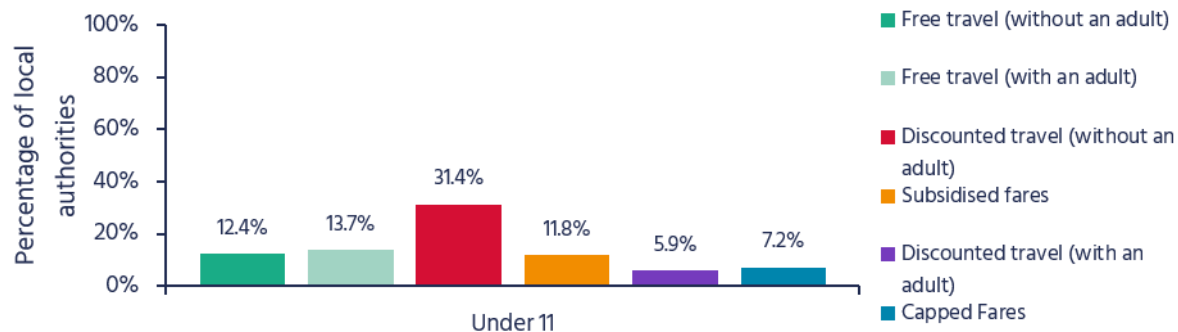
– Boy, 17, Children's Commissioner's research on child poverty.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

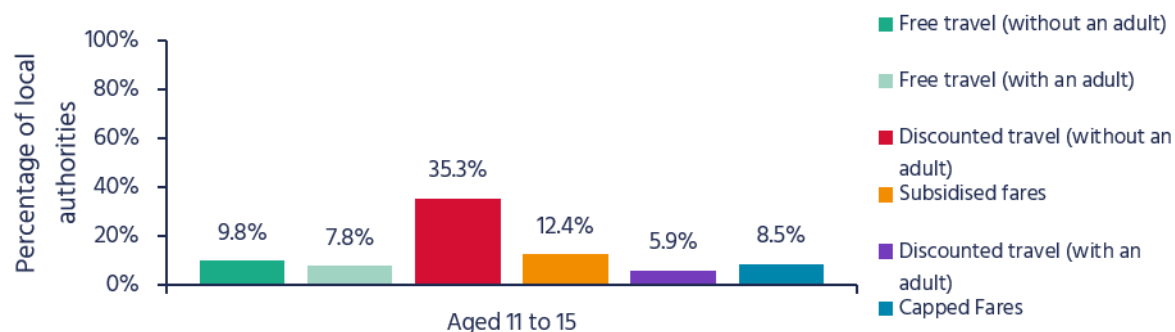
[Access](#)
[Context](#)

Transport availability across different age ranges (excluding London)

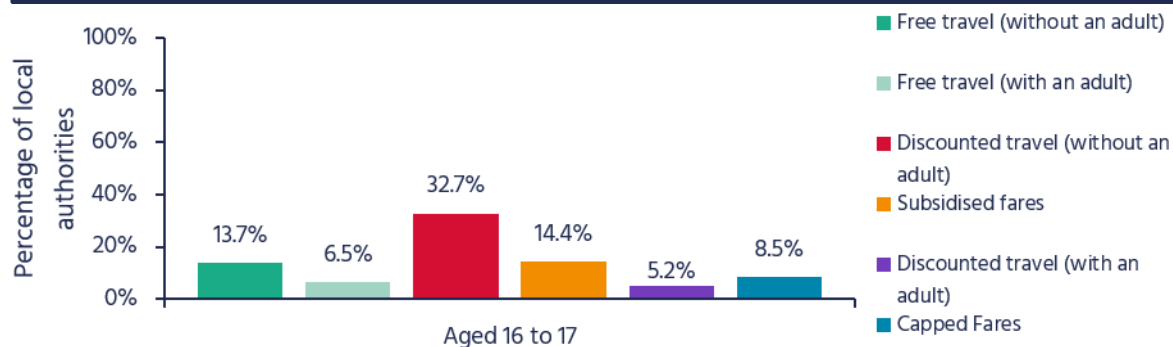
For **children under the age of 11** being able to travel around their local area will likely be under the supervision of a responsible adult, and so financial support offers will likely benefit families and make it easier to get around the local area.



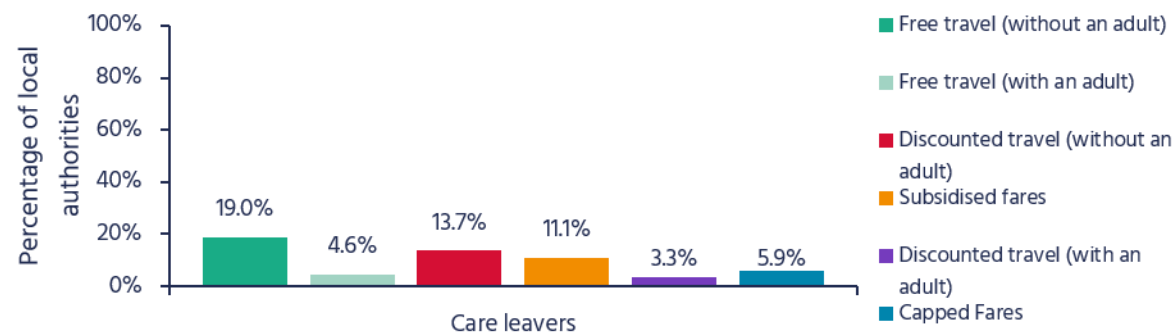
For **children aged 11 to 15**, access to public transport either free or with some form of financial support (discounts, subsidies or caps) enables them to move about the local area not only for educational purposes but to engage with social and cultural activities. For older children being able to do so without the requirement of an adult present can support independence and autonomy.



For **16 to 17 year olds**, access to public transport either free or with some form of financial support (discounts, subsidies or caps) enables them to move about the local area not only for educational purposes but to engage with social and cultural activities. Benefits that involve conditions such as an adult chaperoning are less likely to be practical for this age group.



Care leavers are a financially vulnerable group for whom transport costs can impact on their ability to engage with education, employment or training as well as maintaining social connections.



"It's so expensive to get on a bus now for no reason, even with my under 16 card." – Girl, 15, Children's Commissioner's research on child poverty.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

[Access](#)
[Context](#)

Levels of youth services spending

Why is this important?

Youth services spending enables services and activities that can improve young people's wellbeing.

This data provides context on the spend that local authorities are making on different service provision types captured in the [Section 251 budget](#) returns to the Department for Education.

Within the data return services for young people (aged 13 to 19) encompasses all local authority expenditure on provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities, universal and targeted, including youth work and delivery of their duties to support young people to participate in education or training.

Description of metric

The measure looks at the total local authority expenditure for the financial year 2024-25. Total expenditure was used over net to capture the amount spent on the services irrespective of how this is funded (included in the return are the income and grant contributions to the services).

As the guidance stipulates that the services are for 13 to 19 year olds (with additional support for those with SEND up to the age of 24) the spend per head metric is pro-rated against the mid-year population estimates 2024 for those aged 13 to 19 (as the number of eligible population with SEND is unknown – though information on their access to services is covered in other measures.)

Source: Department for Education. December 2025.
[Financial year 2024-25 - LA and school expenditure](#)

"There's not enough youth clubs. Even the ones that are there struggle to stay open because there's no funding" – child, 15, The Big Ambition

Within the section 251 budget return data, two local authorities (Middlesbrough and Wandsworth) did not have any budgetary information available due to data quality concerns.

Four local authorities reported no expenditure on youth services.

Of the remaining 147 areas, the total budget for 'Youth Services' in 2024-25 was around £456m.

The median annual spend per head for the local authorities that provided data was £92.

Local authorities with highest spend on youth services per person aged 13-19 (£) in 2024-25

1. Camden (£421)
2. City of London (£389)
3. Kingston upon Thames (£332)
4. Richmond upon Thames (£302)
5. Kingston upon Hull (£298)
6. Islington (£286)
7. Lincolnshire (£250)
8. Hackney (£249)
9. Newham (£248)
10. Doncaster (£246)

Local authorities with lowest spend on youth services per person aged 13-19 (£) in 2024-25

1. Halton (£0)
2. Herefordshire (£0)
3. Slough (£0)
4. Warrington (£0)
5. Somerset (£4)
6. Northumberland (£8)
7. Shropshire (£10)
8. Wokingham (£10)
9. Buckinghamshire (£10)
10. Thurrock (£11)

Quality

Scored

Access to youth hubs

Why is this important?

Every child should have access to play, fun things to do and places to spend time with their friends. This means a need for high-quality youth provision in every local area.

Youth hubs provide support and resources for young people aged 13 to 19 (or 25 if they have additional needs), often focusing on employment, skills development, and personal well-being.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides the opportunity for young people to access the support and resources on offer from a youth hub.

This binary measure does not assess the quality or level of engagement that the youth hubs receive or the number that are available in the local area – just that there is at least one active.

“The government should focus on opening more Youth Hubs. Their closure has been painful for many under-18s, including myself.” – boy, 17, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Most local authorities (54%) reported that they have a youth hub available for the children and young people in their authority area. 67 reported they did not, and 4 did not answer this question.

There were substantial differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had a youth hub.

Percentage of local authorities with a youth hub, by region, 2025



82 local authorities out of 151 reported that they have a youth hub in their area, 2025

71 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a youth hub in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to youth clubs or centres

Why is this important?

Youth clubs or centres are places that offer an opportunity for children to socialise, play and have fun together in a safe and supervised location.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides access to youth clubs or centres for children and young people to participate in activities together.

This binary measure does not assess the quality or level of engagement that the youth clubs receive or the number that are available in the local area – just that there is at least one active.

A number of children mentioned youth clubs among the things that would make their local area better, when asked as part of the Children's Commissioner's survey The Big Future:

"Having nice hangout spots for young children eg: youth clubs that are close. There is one but too far to walk." – girl, 12

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Most local authorities (78%) reported that they have a youth clubs or centres available for the children and young people in their authority area. 33 reported they did not, and two did not answer this question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had a youth clubs or centres.

Percentage of local authorities with a youth clubs or centres, by region, 2025



118 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a youth club or centres in their area, 2025

34 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had youth club or centres in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to targeted support or youth group for LGBTQ+

Why is this important?

According to the ONS, in 2023 younger people were more likely to identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual than older people with around 1 in 10 (10.4%) of those aged 16 to 24 years identified as LGB.

Children who identify as LGBTQ+ may face pressures including bullying and feelings of isolation.

By providing a targeted service or support group it can facilitate opportunities for children to socialise with other children and young people with shared experiences and interests.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides targeted support or youth group for children who are LGBTQ+. This binary measure does not assess the quality or level of engagement that the support/groups receive or the number that are available in the local area – just that there is at least one active.

"I think there should be more support towards targeted and bullied communities like LGBTQ+" – boy, 13, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Just over half of local authorities (59%) reported that they have a targeted support or youth group for LGBTQ+ children available for the children and young people in their authority area. 55 reported they did not, and 9 did not answer the question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had targeted support or youth group for LGBTQ+ children.

Percentage of local authorities with a targeted support or youth group for LGBTQ+ children, by region, 2025



89 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a targeted support or youth group for LGBTQ+ children, 2025

62 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a targeted support or youth group for LGBTQ+ children, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to targeted support or youth group for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children

Why is this important?

The Children’s Commissioner has found Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children [report](#) lower levels of happiness than their peers. In the 2021 census around 0.12% of the usual resident population of England and Wales identified as Gypsy or Irish Traveller, nearly a quarter of whom lived in the South East.

Children in these communities often face barriers to services and racism. They may experience bullying and isolation. Providing a targeted service or support group can facilitate opportunities for children to socialise with other children and young people with shared experiences and interests.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides the opportunity for young people who are from the GRT community to access targeted services.

“Make sure people feel more included no matter who they are” – girl, 14, The Big Ambition

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Under half - **45%** - of local authorities reported that they have access to targeted support or youth group for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children in their authority area. 73 reported they did not, and 11 did not answer the question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had a targeted support or youth group for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children.

Percentage of local authorities with targeted support or a youth group for GRT children, by region, 2025



69 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a targeted support or youth group for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children, 2025

84 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a targeted support or youth group for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children, 2025

Number of youth workers

Why is this important?

Without a dedicated workforce of youth workers, support services that are designed to offer support would not be able to function.

Why is it not mapped?

While this is a valuable workforce that supports children and young people, **youth workforce statistics are not collected** so there is no representative data on the scale of work that is being done across the country.

The 2025 Youth Work Workforce survey run by the National Youth Agency reports that youth work is increasingly being delivered by the voluntary sector. There is also no mandatory registration of youth workers in England as there is in Wales.

The Children's Commissioner's survey of mainstream schools in England found that in summer term 2024 most lacked a youth worker (36% of secondary schools and 39% of alternative provision settings had any provision) but most who lacked this wanted it (65% and 69% respectively).

"promote youth work and programs such as clubs, sports and after school programs to provide teens with a safe place to socialise" – girl, 15, The Big Future

Source: [Children's Commissioner's School and College Survey, 2024](#)

[Access](#)
[Narrative](#)

Participation in arts and culture

Why is this important?

Children should be able to rest and take part in leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Why is it not mapped?

There are no robust sources of data on children's access to arts and culture at a local level. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) commissioned a pilot survey in 2023 which found that 66% of young people had participated in any of five activities over the past year and 33% had not: sports clubs or fitness classes; art or music groups, courses or clubs; youth clubs or centres; uniformed groups; or any other group or club.

Some data is available from other sources, such as BeeWell on participation in arts, culture, and entertainment (PACE) activities (e.g. creative hobbies, playing videogames, reading for pleasure).

"more money into sports and clubs. Promote clubs like Brownies, Scouts and Guides" – girl, 10, The Big Future

"increase budget in public schools for small, local trips for experience (eg. setting up a music concert, going to an art studio, visiting a museum)."
– boy, 14, The Big Future

Source: DCMS. November 2024. [Youth Survey Pilot report](#)

[Access](#)
[Narrative](#)

Family and early years

These metrics cover both the relational and physical environments that children live in. The concept of home can cover the physical space and the people that children live with. Other interactions between family life and the state relate to social security and other support for low-income families, and services that are provided to families including housing and homelessness support and childcare.



Overview of Family and early years metrics

All 24 metrics



Scored



Context



Narrative

Children who don't live with people who make them feel loved and cared for

Children who don't feel that their family has everything they need to support them

Relative child poverty (0 to 15)

Foodbank use and household food insecurity

Household financial insecurity and low financial resilience

Breakfast provision by schools

Free food provided in schools

Access to targeted support or youth group: children from low-income families

Children who don't feel they have somewhere to call home

Children living in temporary accommodation (incl. B&Bs)

Households left homeless after prevention duties ended

Households left homeless after relief duties ended

Access to childcare (age 0 to 7)

Wrap-around childcare provided in school

Children achieving a good level of development (EYFS)

Access to child development reviews at 2 to 2 and a half years

Level of family support services funding

Access to family hubs and children's centres

Identification of young carers

Access to a specialist or targeted support group for young carers

Schools with a dedicated staff member supporting young carers

Number of children with a parent in prison

Number of children on council housing waiting lists

Number of children with no recourse to public funds



Overview of Family and early years metrics

17 scored metrics only



Scored

Children who don't live with people who make them feel loved and cared for

Children who don't feel that their family has everything they need to support them

Relative child poverty (0 to 15)

Breakfast provision by schools [Scored]

Free food provided in schools

Access to targeted support or youth group: children from low-income families

Children who don't feel they have somewhere to call home

Children living in temporary accommodation (incl. B&Bs)

Households left homeless after prevention duties ended

Households left homeless after relief duties ended

Access to childcare (age 0 to 7)

Wrap-around childcare provided in school

Children achieving a good level of development (EYFS)

Access to child development reviews at 2 to 2 and a half years

Access to family hubs and children's centres

Access to a specialist or targeted support group for young carers

Schools with a dedicated staff member supporting young carers



Family and early years scorecard

Scored metrics (17)	Category	Measure type	Max score
Children who don't live with people who make them feel loved and cared for	Outcome	Decile	10
Children who don't feel that their family has everything they need to support them	Outcome	Decile	10
Relative child poverty (0 to 15)	Outcome	Decile	10
Breakfast provision by schools	Access	Decile	10
Free food provision in schools	Access	Decile	10
Access to targeted support or youth group: children from low-income families	Access	Binary	10
Children who don't feel they have somewhere to call home	Outcome	Decile	10
Children living in temporary accommodation (incl. B&Bs)	Outcome	Decile	10
Households left homeless after prevention duties ended	Outcome	Decile	10
Households left homeless after relief duties ended	Outcome	Decile	10
Access to childcare (age 0 to 7)	Access	Decile	10
Children achieving a good level of development (EYFS)	Outcome	Decile	10
Access to child development reviews at 2 to 2 and a half years	Access	Decile	10
Access to family hubs or children's centres	Access	Binary	10
Access to specialist or targeted support for young carers	Access	Binary	10
Schools with a dedicated staff member supporting young carers	Access	Decile	10
Total score			170

Family metrics summaries



Children who don't live with people who make them feel loved and cared for

Why is this important?

All children deserve to live and grow up in a home that makes them feel loved, cared for and safe. A child's home life can be affected by many factors that influence what services and support they need throughout childhood. The relationships they have with their caregivers are an important foundation for the whole of childhood and adulthood.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You live with people who make you feel loved and cared for' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

It was asked of all children, whether they lived with their parents or not. Data for the City of London and Isles of Scilly have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Responses were duplicated for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness (as Cumbria responded for both).

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"Make sure all children have a roof over their head and a loving, supportive family around them" – Girl, 11, The Big Ambition.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Overall, 95% of children who responded to the Big Ambition survey agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, indicating that they feel loved and cared for by the people that they live with. Only 2% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed and 3% chose the neither option.

Of the responses that had an identified local authority the median was 2.0% (IQR 1.6%-2.3%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was Thurrock (0.0%), the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Hartlepool (5.7%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they lived with people who made them feel loved and care for, 2023-2024

1. Thurrock (0.0%)
2. Tameside (0.5%)
3. Haringey (0.5%)
4. Cheshire East (0.7%)
5. Knowsley (0.9%)
6. North Northamptonshire (0.9%)
7. Sutton (0.9%)
8. Redcar and Cleveland (1.0%)
9. Sefton (1.1%)
10. Wandsworth (1.1%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they lived with people who made them feel loved and cared for, 2023-2024

1. Hartlepool (5.7%)
2. Darlington (4.8%)
3. Greenwich (3.7%)
4. Hillingdon (3.7%)
5. Somerset (3.5%)
6. Westminster (3.4%)
7. Salford (3.4%)
8. Tower Hamlets (3.4%)
9. South Tyneside (3.2%)
10. Halton (3.1%)

Outcome

Scored

Children who don't feel that their family has everything they need to support them

Why is this important?

Every child should grow up with a standard of living good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development.

Growing up in a household that struggles to provide for them has wide reaching effects on children's lives – from the impacts on their health, educational attainment and their future aspirations.

"The government need to fund parents who can't look after their children better. They should help support families which are suffering" – Girl, 16, The Big Ambition.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'Your family has everything they need to support you' in The Big Ambition survey 2024. Data for the City of London and Isles of Scilly have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Responses were duplicated for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness (as Cumbria responded for both).

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **5% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that their family has everything they need to support them**. The median was 4.6% (IQR 3.9%-5.3%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Havering (1.7%) the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Southampton (7.8%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing their family has everything they need to support them, 2023-2024

1. St. Helens (1.4%)
2. Havering (1.7%)
3. North Tyneside (2.2%)
4. Cheshire East (2.4%)
5. Merton (2.4%)
6. Waltham Forest (2.6%)
7. Sutton (2.8%)
8. Richmond upon Thames (2.8%)
9. Solihull (3.0%)
10. Blackburn with Darwen (3.0%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing their family has everything they need to support them, 2023-2024

1. Southampton (7.8%)
2. Tower Hamlets (7.7%)
3. Hillingdon (7.2%)
4. Darlington (7.0%)
5. Somerset (6.6%)
6. Salford (6.4%)
7. Dorset (6.4%)
8. Bury (6.3%)
9. Cornwall (6.3%)
10. Dudley (6.2%)

Outcome

Scored

Relative child poverty (0 to 15)

Why is this important?

Every child should grow up with a standard of living good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial support and other benefits, to families in need of assistance.

Understanding the rate of child poverty across the country and the differences in local authority areas helps to contextualise the level of need and establish whether there is sufficient financial support being provided to lower income families, to reduce the likelihood of a child growing up in poverty.

Description of metric

The figures come from the government's own measures of child poverty: children living in families where the annual net disposable household income, equivalised to take account of family composition, is below a threshold set at 60% of median income. Data at district level – missing from 17 district councils - has been aggregated to upper tier local authority level.

Data for 0- to 15-year-olds is available from the Department for Work and Pensions' Stat-Xplore. Proportions for local areas were calculated by dividing by the Office for National Statistics mid year population estimates for 2024 for the specified age range. This is in line with the methodology used in the DWP Children in low-income families output that presented data for 0- to 15-year-olds.

Source: Department for Work and Pensions. March 2026. [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2022 to 2025](https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk) available at: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk>

There were 2.92 million children (aged 0 to 15) in relative low income families in England in 2024-25. The median percentage of children in relative poverty across the local authorities is 27.2% (IQR 21.6% - 32.2%)

There are significant differences in the proportions of children living in relative poverty between local authority areas. The lowest proportion of children living in poverty were in Richmond upon Thames while the highest proportion was in Tower Hamlets.

"Give people that are living on benefits more money to help pay their bills and support their children" – Boy, 15, The Big Ambition.

Local authorities with the lowest levels of children (0 to 15) in relative poverty, 2024-25

1. Richmond upon Thames (10.6%)
2. Wokingham (10.7%)
3. Isles of Scilly (12.5%)
4. Windsor and Maidenhead (13%)
5. Surrey (14.7%)
6. Rutland (15.2%)
7. Bracknell Forest (15.3%)
8. Bromley (15.3%)
9. City of London (15.3%)
10. Trafford (15.8%)

Local authorities with the highest levels of children (0 to 15) in relative poverty, 2024-25

1. Tower Hamlets (50.3%)
2. Hackney (50.1%)
3. Newham (44.9%)
4. Birmingham (44.4%)
5. Brent (42.3%)
6. Manchester (42.3%)
7. Oldham (41.8%)
8. Bradford (41.8%)
9. Luton (40.5%)
10. Nottingham (40.2%)

Foodbank use and household food insecurity

Why is this important?

Low food security for children can impact their development, their mental and physical health, and can have longer term outcomes. Compared to household income and social security, local areas have more power to improve local food environments.

Description of metric

The Department for Work and Pensions have been reporting on household food insecurity and foodbank use in their Family Resource Survey (FRS) statistics since 2019. Questions are asked of the person in the household who knows the most about buying and preparing food. In common with the rest of the FRS, the focus is on the year and period of 30 days leading up to interview.

Households with high or marginal food security are “food secure”. Food secure households are considered to have sufficient, varied food to facilitate an active and healthy lifestyle. Households with low or very low food security are “food insecure”. Food insecure households have a risk of, or lack of access to, sufficient, varied food.

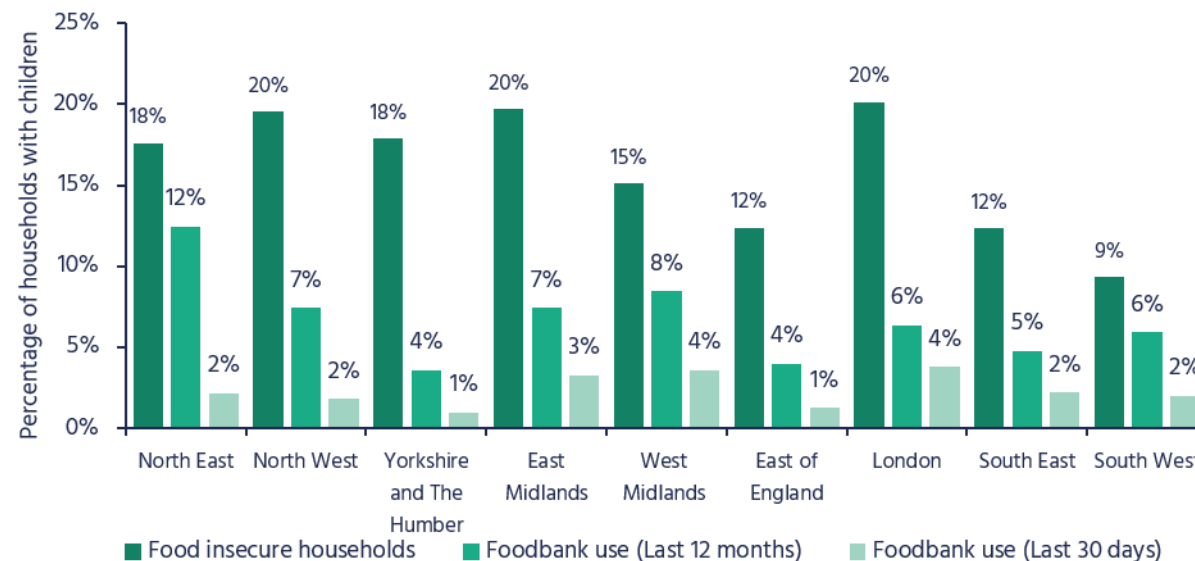
Why is it not mapped?

As a survey-based measure, data are available at region but not local authority level.

“There’s a lot of children who don’t get to eat, there needs to be more done to make sure families can feed their kids” – Girl, 10, The Big Ambition.

Source: Department for Work and Pensions. March 2025. [Family Resources Survey](#).

Proportion of households with children in food insecurity and foodbank use, by region.



Note: Data is only available down to region in DWP stat-Xplore.

In 2023-24 there were an estimated 1,075,595 UK households with children who reported food insecurity within the last 30 days. This is double the proportion for households without children (16% compared to 8%).

Three times as many households with children had used a foodbank in the past 12 months compared to households with children (6% compared to 2%). And twice as many had used a foodbank in the past 30 days (2% compared to 1%).

Regional differences are observed in food insecure households with children with London, the North West and the East Midlands reporting the highest proportions of food insecurity. Households in the South West were the least likely to be food insecure.

Household financial insecurity and low financial resilience

Why is this important?

Low financial resilience or financial insecurity is a lens through which household socioeconomic situations for children can be understood.

In light of recent cost of living pressures there has been a focus on the impact that low financial resilience can have on families, in particular the impact that financial strain has on the mental health and wellbeing of parents and carers and the children in low-income households.

"Sometimes we struggle to pay the bills. Right now it's OK...before mum would cry every time she was going to pay the bills." – Boy, 16, Children's Commissioner's research on child poverty.

Description of metric

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) conducted a large-scale survey (17,950) into people in the UK's financial lives, including questions about financial resilience.

Household are considered to have low financial resilience if they meet one or more of the following criteria: they are in financial difficulty due to payments on domestic bills and/or credit commitments in three or more of the past six months; they are heavily burdened by their existing commitments; or because they have very limited savings.

Source: Financial Conduct Authority. 2024. [Financial Lives survey](#)

Overview

Within the FCA's Financial Lives 2024 report, children are only mentioned in relation to household financial resilience and lack of assets. The report states;

- **Over two-thirds (69%) of lone parents (single adults with dependent children) had no investible assets or assets of less than £1,000**, while just one in ten (11%) had £10,000+.
- In comparison, among couples with children, 32% had no or low investible assets, while 34% had £10,000+. This disparity is likely explained by employment status and income levels.
- Lone parents were three times more likely to be unemployed (12% vs. 4%), four times more likely to be long-term sick or disabled (8% vs. 2%), and one and a half times more likely to not be working due to caring responsibilities (7% vs. 5%) than adults in couples with children.
- Additionally, 31% of lone parents had an annual household income of below £15,000, compared to just 5% of adults in couples with children.

Within the demographic table breakdowns produced by the FCA, households with children are not included and no further analysis is produced for the cohort.

Why is it not mapped?

While the data itself is made available through the UK Data Service, as it is a sampled population survey it on its own is not a suitable data source to disaggregate down to a local authority level.

Breakfast provision in schools

Why is this important?

Being able to access breakfast at school not only supplements children's diets but it can also reduce financial burden on families. Universal provisions have the additional benefit of reducing stigma.

From conversations with children from low-income families, they report the benefits of being able to access breakfast provisions within school.

Description of metric

The percentage of schools who reported to the Children's Commissioner's School and College survey that they had breakfast provision in the school. Schools and colleges were asked whether the provision was provided by the school or an external provider.

"The government should run more breakfast clubs for kids to have breakfast before school" – Girl, 12, The Big Ambition.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. [School and College Survey](#).

Overall, 94% of schools and colleges who responded to the survey reported that they had breakfast provision provided either by the school itself or by an external provider.

The median level of provision within local authorities was 86% (IQR 82% - 90%). The highest percentage was reported in Hartlepool (100%) while the lowest was 74% in Windsor and Maidenhead.

Due to small sample sizes both the City of London and the Isles of Scilly were excluded from the ranks.

Local authorities with the highest percentage of schools with breakfast provision, Summer term 2024

1. Hartlepool (100%)
2. Rochdale (97.2%)
3. City of Kingston upon Hull (96.5%)
4. Haringey (95.5%)
5. Hackney (94.5%)
6. Merton (94.1%)
7. Rotherham (93.8%)
8. Knowsley (93.3%)
9. Kensington and Chelsea (93.3%)
10. Liverpool (92.8%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of schools with breakfast provision, Summer term 2024

1. Windsor and Maidenhead (73.7%)
2. Wiltshire (75.5%)
3. Cambridgeshire (76.1%)
4. Salford (76.2%)
5. West Sussex (76.3%)
6. North Northamptonshire (77.5%)
7. Dorset (77.7%)
8. Warwickshire (78%)
9. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (78.2%)
10. Bexley (78.4%)

[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

Free food provided in schools

Why is this important?

As with food banks, schools are having to fill the gap in providing food to families to supplement the social security system. Schools play an important role in coordinating support for low income families, including access to food to eat in school or take home.

Description of metric

The percentage of schools who reported to the Children's Commissioner's School and College survey that they had free food provision in the school.

Schools and colleges were asked whether the provision was provided by the school or an external provider.

"[The school] supports the families that are in need. It does a good job. Food, supplies, clothes." – Girl, 13, Children's Commissioner's research on child poverty.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. [School and College Survey](#).

Overall, 41% of schools and colleges who responded to the survey reported that they had free food provision, provided either by the school itself or by an external provider.

The median level of provision within local authorities was 42% (IQR 37% - 50%). Blackpool had the highest level of provision with 78% of schools reporting they provide free food to their families. Kensington and Chelsea reported the lowest provision at 21%.

Due to small sample sizes both the City of London and the Isles of Scilly were excluded from the ranks.

Local authorities with the highest percentage of schools with free food provision, Summer term 2024

1. Blackpool (77.8%)
2. Torbay (75.7%)
3. Enfield (66.7%)
4. Walsall (65.9%)
5. Blackburn with Darwen (63.5%)
6. South Tyneside (63.2%)
7. North Somerset (61.6%)
8. Lewisham (60.6%)
9. Luton (60.4%)
10. Haringey (58.5%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of schools with free food provision, Summer term 2024

1. Kensington and Chelsea (20.7%)
2. Northumberland (23.5%)
3. Harrow (25.5%)
4. Nottinghamshire (26.5%)
5. Buckinghamshire (27.5%)
6. Westmorland and Furness (27.6%)
7. East Riding of Yorkshire (28.5%)
8. Darlington (29%)
9. North Yorkshire (29.2%)
10. Kingston upon Thames (31.1%)

[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

Access to targeted support or youth group: children from low-income families

Why is this important?

Children from low-income families may have financial barriers to accessing support or activities. Local authorities can provide targeted support or youth groups to enable children in these families' spaces to socialise or additional financial support.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides a targeted support offer or youth group to children identified as living in a low-income family in need of additional support.

This binary measure of whether or not there is a dedicated service for children in low-income families is not an assessment of quality or how well children and families engage with these services.

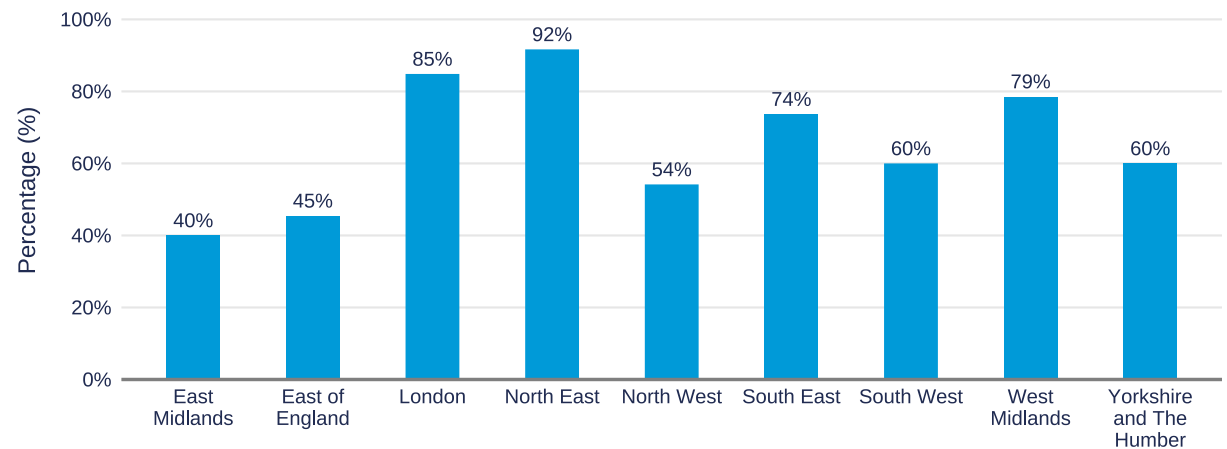
"There's a community centre in my area but... it's mainly for kids or old people." – Girl, 16, Children's Commissioner's research on child poverty.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

The majority of local authorities (68%) reported that they provide targeted support or youth group to children identified as living in a low-income family. 44 reported they did not, and 5 did not answer this question: Shropshire, Croydon, Southend-on-Sea, Bury and Nottinghamshire.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had this.

Percentage of local authorities that provide targeted support or youth group for children in low-income families, by region, 2025



104 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have targeted support or youth group for children from low-income families, 2025

47 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had targeted support or youth group for children from low-income families, 2025

Access

Scored

Children who feel they don't have somewhere to call home

Why is this important?

Having somewhere to call home is a basic need for all children. A home is more than a physical space to sleep and is important for children's sense of stability. The Big Ambition survey question could be interpreted by children as the relationships as well as the physical space that the concept home can represent.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You have somewhere to call home' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

It was asked of all children whether they lived with their parents or not. Data for the City of London and Isles of Scilly have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. Responses were duplicated for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness (as Cumbria responded for both).

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"All children should have a nice home!" – Girl, 12, living with foster family, The Big Ambition.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **2% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they had somewhere to call home**. The median was 2% (IQR 1.5%-2.8%) and the average of local authorities was 3.3%.

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from South Gloucestershire (0.5%) the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Hartlepool (6.8%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing, 2023-2024

1. South Gloucestershire (0.5%)
2. Tameside (0.5%)
3. Telford and Wrekin (0.6%)
4. Merton (0.8%)
5. Bracknell Forest (0.8%)
6. West Berkshire (0.9%)
7. Brighton and Hove (0.9%)
8. St. Helens (0.9%)
9. Richmond upon Thames (1.0%)
10. Bristol (1.0%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing, 2023-2024

1. Hartlepool (6.8%)
2. Sandwell (5.9%)
3. North Tyneside (5.9%)
4. Luton (5.7%)
5. Newham (5.6%)
6. Hounslow (5.5%)
7. Barking and Dagenham (5.5%)
8. Darlington (5.4%)
9. Slough (5.1%)
10. Coventry (5.0%)

Outcome

Scored

Children living in temporary accommodation (including B&Bs)

Why is this important?

All children deserve to live and grow up in a safe and secure home. Becoming homeless and the precarity of not having a stable living situation can have devastating impacts on children. The Children's Commissioner has [found](#) a negative association between repeated house moves and GCSE scores. Temporary Accommodation is the term used to describe short-term accommodation secured by a local housing authority for those facing homelessness.

Description of metric

Local authorities are required provide data to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on statutory homelessness for those approaching them for help, in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA). Data cover the scale of need – the number of households with children applying for support – and these families.

This MHCLG data covers the number of children in temporary accommodation in October to December 2025. This is presented as the rate per 10,000 children in the local authority based on the ONS 2024 mid year child population estimates. The data, at district level, has been aggregated to upper tier local authority level. Brent, Brighton and Hove, Bristol, Ealing and Leicester had missing data and two districts had missing data.

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. April 2026. [Statutory homelessness in England: October to December 2025](#)

In December 2025 there were 85,800 households with children living in temporary accommodation, containing 176,130 dependent children.

The number of children living in temporary accommodation per 10,000 of the population by local authority area ranged widely, from 1 children per 10,000 in Hartlepool up to over 1,000 in Westminster – more than one in ten.

The 10 areas with the largest numbers of children living in temporary accommodation were all in Greater London. Five of the 12 areas that did not provide data were also London Boroughs: Brent, Camden, Croydon, Kensington and Chelsea, and Lambeth.

"Find homes for homeless children." - Girl, 8, The Big Ambition.

Local authorities with the fewest children per 10,000 living in temporary accommodation, October to December 2025

1. Isles of Scilly (0)
2. Hartlepool (1)
3. Stockton-on-Tees (3)
4. Rutland (4)
5. Dudley (4)
6. Northumberland (4)
7. North Lincolnshire (5)
8. Cumberland (5)
9. Derbyshire (5)
10. Cheshire East (5)

Local authorities with the most children per 10,000 living in temporary accommodation, October to December 2025

1. Westminster (1,169)
2. Newham (1,136)
3. Lambeth (1,021)
4. Southwark (921)
5. Kensington and Chelsea (921)
6. Hackney (724)
7. Tower Hamlets (716)
8. Wandsworth (667)
9. Haringey (620)
10. Hammersmith and Fulham (533)

Outcome

Scored

Households left homeless after prevention and relief duties ended

Section 195 of the 1996 Act – the ‘prevention duty’ – places a duty on housing authorities to work with people who are threatened with homelessness within 56 days to help prevent them from becoming homeless. Households that do not have accommodation secured within 56 days are considered homeless (including those deemed intentionally homeless).

Overall an average of **34.5% of households with children whose prevention duty ended in 2024-25, their duty ended because the household became homeless** and were therefore owed a relief duty.

Section 189B of the 1996 Act – the ‘relief duty’ – requires housing authorities to help people who are homeless to secure accommodation.

Government data for 2024-25 shows that **the majority of households with children (57.3%) had their relief duty end because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days** and at this point the local authority would need to assess whether a main duty is owed to them.

For both the prevention and relief duties, data were missing from 10 or more local authorities and dozens of underlying district councils in two tier areas.

Local authorities with the smallest proportion unaccommodated after prevention duty ended, 2024-25

1. Isles of Scilly (0%)
2. North Lincolnshire (4.6%)
3. Stockton-on-Tees (5.1%)
4. Cheshire East (5.6%)
5. South Tyneside (6.4%)
6. Blackburn with Darwen (6.5%)
7. Stoke-on-Trent (10.7%)
8. Hartlepool (14.1%)
9. Middlesbrough (14.7%)
10. North East Lincolnshire (15.8%)
11. North Somerset (16.3%)

Local authorities with the largest proportion unaccommodated after prevention duty ended, 2024-25

1. City of London (1 out of 1, 100%)
2. Croydon (83.1%)
3. East Riding of Yorkshire (82.7%)
4. Rutland (66.7%)
5. Portsmouth (64.6%)
6. Reading (62.1%)
7. County Durham (61.7%)
8. Waltham Forest (61.1%)
9. Sunderland (60.2%)
10. Kensington and Chelsea (58.3%)
11. Knowsley (58.2%)

Local authorities with the smallest proportion unaccommodated after relief duty ended, 2024-25

1. Blackburn with Darwen (0%)
2. North Lincolnshire (1.9%)
3. Dudley (2.3%)
4. Stoke-on-Trent (3.7%)
5. Hartlepool (8.2%)
6. Barnsley (9.7%)
7. Wokingham (11%)
8. Middlesbrough (11.3%)
9. Gateshead (11.7%)
10. Redcar and Cleveland (12.1%)

Local authorities with the largest proportion unaccommodated after relief duty ended, 2024-25

1. City of London (100%)
2. Croydon (95.6%)
3. Lambeth (90.5%)
4. Wandsworth (88.2%)
5. Hackney (88.1%)
6. Westminster (87.5%)
7. Reading (87.3%)
8. Portsmouth (85.8%)
9. Islington (85.6%)
10. Slough (84.8%)
11. Birmingham (84.5%)

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. November 2025. [Statutory homelessness in England: financial year 2024-25](#)

“They should help homeless families get somewhere to stay” – girl, 9, The Big Future

Outcome

Scored

Outcome

Scored

Access to childcare (ages 0 to 7)

Why is this important?

Quality early education improves child outcomes. Access to childcare is important for families as it enables parents or carers flexibility when re-entering employment or increasing working hours. Accessible childcare ensures that children have appropriate care and supervision.

Description of metric

Data produced by the Office for National Statistics with Ofsted provides childcare provision accessibility down to Lower Super Output Areas level. Childcare accessibility is calculated as a ratio of childcare places to the number of children aged 7 and under in each administrative boundary, presented as number of places available per 100 children.

As data includes providers registered on the Childcare Register as well as the Early Years Register, the age range of children included is 0 to 7.

A higher number of places per 100 children indicates better access. However, not all children will need care from registered providers, and some providers in the same local authority as a family will not be practically accessible due to distance. The figures also do not assess affordability.

Source: ONS. June 2024. [Childcare accessibility in England data as of 31st December 2023.](#)

Across England there were 25 places per 100 children aged 0 to 7. Richmond upon Thames had the highest number of places at 39 per 100 children, while Walsall had the fewest places at 12 per 100 children.

According to ONS analysis, areas with highest number of places had higher than average gross disposable household income, while areas with the lowest levels of childcare access had lower than average gross disposable income.

“more nurseries and schools are needed” – Girl, 11, The Big Future.

Local authorities with the highest number of places per 100 children, 2023

1. Richmond upon Thames (39)
2. Wokingham (38)
3. Wandsworth (38)
4. City of London (35)
5. Bromley (35)
6. Brighton and Hove (34)
7. Hertfordshire (34)
8. Lewisham (34)
9. Windsor and Maidenhead (34)
10. Bracknell Forest (33)

Local authorities with the lowest number of places per 100 children, 2023

1. Walsall (12)
2. Sunderland (14)
3. Hartlepool (15)
4. Kingston upon Hull (16)
5. Torbay (16)
6. Wolverhampton (16)
7. Sandwell (16)
8. Cumberland (16)
9. Newham (16)
10. Rotherham (17)

Access

Scored

Wrap-around childcare provided in school

Why is this important?

Research has shown that access to childcare can support families economically by supporting parent and carer employment, which has wider economic and wellbeing impacts on households.

Wrap-around childcare is important as many conventional employment opportunities do not align with the school hours. For younger children who need supervision a parent or carer may have to reduce their hours to accommodate this, which limits their options within the workforce.

Description of metric

The percentage of schools who reported to the Children's Commissioner's School and College survey that they had wrap-around childcare provision provided within the school. Schools and colleges were asked whether the provision was provided by the school or an external provider.

"Parents working full-time need wraparound support that is reliable, affordable, and designed for real life" – The Big Future.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. [School and College Survey](#).

Overall, 63% of schools and colleges that responded to the survey reported that they had wrap-around childcare provided either by the school itself or by an external provider. By local authority, the average was 62%.

The median level of provision within local authorities was 64% (IQR 55% - 69%). Rutland was the area with the highest level of provision at 89%, while South Tyneside had the lowest level at 36%.

Due to small sample size both the City of London and the Isles of Scilly were excluded from the ranks.

Local authorities with the highest percentage of wrap-around childcare provision in schools, Summer term 2024

1. Rutland (88.9%)
2. Westmorland and Furness (83.7%)
3. West Berkshire (82%)
4. Telford and Wrekin (80.4%)
5. Somerset (78.8%)
6. Wokingham (77.4%)
7. Central Bedfordshire (77.3%)
8. Merton (76.9%)
9. Lewisham (76.7%)
10. Stockport (76.7%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of wrap-around childcare provision in schools, Summer term 2024

1. South Tyneside (35.7%)
2. Kingston upon Hull (37.6%)
3. North Lincolnshire (37.7%)
4. Leicester (40.8%)
5. Manchester (42.5%)
6. Halton (42.6%)
7. Blackburn with Darwen (42.9%)
8. Doncaster (43%)
9. Barnsley (44.9%)
10. Redcar and Cleveland (46.4%)

[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

Children achieving a good level of development (EYFS)

Why is this important?

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, a "Good Level of Development" (GLD) indicates that a child has achieved at least the expected level of development in the key areas of learning by the end of their reception year in school (aged 4 or 5).

Specifically, this means a child has met the expected early learning goals in the prime areas of communication and language, personal, social and emotional development, and physical development, as well as the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

Description of metric

Data come from the national reporting programme and cover the proportion of children who were assessed as reaching a good level of development against the total number of children assessed per local authority area in 2024-25.

Children are defined as having a good level of development if they are at the expected level for the 12 early learning goals within the 5 areas of learning relating to: communication and language; personal, social and emotional development; physical development; literacy; and mathematics.

Source: DfE. November 2025. [Early years foundation stage profile results; Academic Year 2024/25](#)

Overall, 68.3% of children assessed in 2024/25 achieved a good level of development as measured under the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

At a local authority level, the average was 67.8%.

The lowest percentage achieving a good level of development was Manchester (60.3%) the largest percentage achieving a good level of development was Isles of Scilly (92.3%) followed by City of London (78.8%) and Wokingham (77.3%).

Spend it on us & our future going forward. Invest in us & the things that we need to thrive. – boy, 8, The Big Future.

Local authorities with the highest percentages of children achieving GLD, 2024/25

1. Isles of Scilly (92.3%)
2. City of London (78.8%)
3. Wokingham (77.3%)
4. Richmond upon Thames (77%)
5. Waltham Forest (75%)
6. South Gloucestershire (74.5%)
7. North Somerset (74.4%)
8. Surrey (74.1%)
9. Trafford (74%)
10. Haringey (73.5%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentages of children achieving GLD, 2024/25

1. Manchester (60.3%)
2. Rochdale (61%)
3. Tameside (61.6%)
4. Middlesbrough (61.6%)
5. Sandwell (61.8%)
6. Bradford (61.9%)
7. Halton (62.2%)
8. Oldham (63.1%)
9. Salford (63.4%)
10. Blackpool (63.5%)

Outcome

Scored

Access to child development reviews at 2 to 2 and a half years

Why is this important?

The 2 to 2.5-year health visitor check, also known as the 2-year integrated review or progress check, is a crucial developmental assessment for children. It is a mandatory part of the Healthy Child Programme in England, typically conducted by a health visitor or other designated professional. This check assesses various aspects of a child's development, including communication, gross and fine motor skills, problem-solving, personal-social skills, and overall wellbeing.

Description of metric

Data collected and published by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Presented here are the percentages of 2 to 2½ year reviews completed annually.

Only local authority areas that had fully validated data are included in the rankings. City of London is included under Hackney, and the Isles of Scilly are included under Cornwall. Three local authorities had insufficient or invalid quarterly data, Lancashire, Bexley and Southwark, and six had some form of validation failure of the percentage and thus were not included: South Tyneside, Bromley, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth and Westminster.

Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. January 2025.
[Health visitor service delivery: data for 2024 to 2025](#)

Overall, **80.8% of eligible children received a 2 to 2½ year review in financial year 2024-25**. Data was not submitted, or failed validation checks, from six local authorities: Bexley, Bury, Lancashire, Medway, Southend-on-Sea, and Southwark

Across the local authority areas that were able to provide data, the average percentage of completed reviews was 81%. The lowest completion rate reported was for Central Bedfordshire at 5.9% and the highest was Darlington at 98.9%.

"look more into kids/teens learning and life at home and find out what they need help with and how they can help." – boy, 13, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest percentages of children receiving a review, 2024-25

1. Darlington (98.9%)
2. Gateshead (97%)
3. North Yorkshire (96.7%)
4. Sefton (96.6%)
5. Warrington (96.1%)
6. Sunderland (96%)
7. Stockton-on-Tees (95.9%)
8. North East Lincolnshire (95.3%)
9. Redcar and Cleveland (95.1%)
10. Sandwell (95%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentages of children receiving a review, 2024-25

1. Walsall (27%)
2. Redbridge (27.9%)
3. Barnet (27.9%)
4. Cumberland (48.4%)
5. Peterborough (59.9%)
6. Waltham Forest (61.3%)
7. Enfield (62.8%)
8. Portsmouth (63.1%)
9. Tower Hamlets (63.4%)
10. Kingston upon Thames (64.2%)

Access

Scored

Level of family support services funding

Why is this important?

Children and families can benefit greatly from direct payments and short breaks for disabled children, other support for disabled children, targeted family support and universal family support. The Children's Commissioner's Family Services Survey [found](#) large regional variation in take-up of family services.

This data provides context on the spend that local authorities are making on different service provision types captured in the [Section 251 budget](#) returns to the Department for Education.

Description of metric

The measure looks at the total local authority expenditure – targeted and universal - for the financial year 2024-25. Total expenditure was used over net to show the amount spent on services irrespective of how this is funded (included in the return are the income and grant contributions to the services). As the services are directed at families, the amount of expenditure is presented as a proportion of overall spend on children and young people services by the local authority. This is due to the lack of benchmark for number of families per local authority.

Why is it not mapped?

The percentages show the proportion of combined targeted and universal spend as a proportion of overall local authority expenditure of children and young people's services, not the absolute amount spent on these services.

Source: Department for Education. December 2025.
[Planned LA and school expenditure, financial year 2024-25](#)

Within the 251 budget return data, two local authorities did not have any budgetary information available due to data quality concerns (Middlesbrough and Wandsworth). Three local authorities reported spending £0 on targeted or universal family support services a further 62 local authorities reported spending £0 on universal family support services.

The total expenditure for targeted and universal family support services in 2024-25 was £1,318,056,825, of which 89% went to targeted family services and 11% on universal.

Across the local authorities that provided data **the average spent on family support as a proportion of overall expenditure was 7.6%.**

"Support families who need extra help" – girl 7, The Big Future

Local authorities with highest spend on targeted and universal family support as a proportion of overall children and young people's expenditure in 2024-25

1. Dorset (21.2%)
2. Norfolk (20.6%)
3. Lincolnshire (20.5%)
4. Wolverhampton (18.9%)
5. Essex (18.7%)
6. Redbridge (16.9%)
7. Lancashire (16.2%)
8. Sheffield (15.6%)
9. North Lincolnshire (15.4%)
10. North East Lincolnshire (14.9%)

Local authorities with lowest spend on targeted and universal family support as a proportion of overall children and young people's expenditure in 2024-25

1. Nottingham (0%)
2. Slough (0%)
3. Warrington (0%)
4. Isles of Scilly (0.2%)
5. Bexley (0.3%)
6. Luton (1.0%)
7. City of London (1.2%)
8. Salford (1.2%)
9. Islington (1.9%)
10. Stockton-on-Tees (1.9%)

Access to family hubs and children's centres

Why is this important?

Family hubs and children's centres provide support for children, young people aged 0 to 19 (or 25 if they have additional needs) and their families, helping to improve child outcomes and reduce inequalities.

Not all areas will have a service labelled as a family hub, some may still use the term children's centres or the previous name of sure start centres.

These are universal services available for those in need without requiring referrals. Increasingly children's centres are being transformed into family hubs.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides the opportunity for families to access these universal services.

"Children's centres were a great resource" – adult responding on behalf of 3-year-old girl, The Big Future.

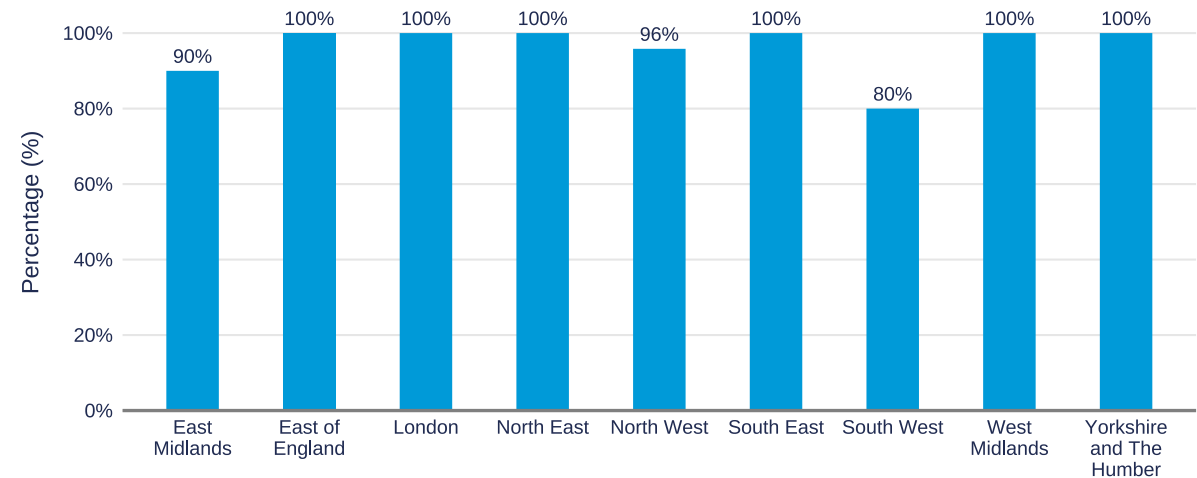
"Open a Family Hub in walking distance - there used to be one" – adult on behalf of 4-year-old girl, The Big Future.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Most local authorities (90%, 137 out of 151) reported that they have family hubs available for the families in their authority area (14 did not). Only 59% of local authorities (90 out of 151) reported that they have children's centres available for the children and young people in their authority area (61 did not).

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities.

Percentage of local authorities with family hubs or children's centres, by region, 2025


[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

Identification of young carers

Why is this important?

The Children and Families Act 2014, Section 96, defines a young carer as ‘a person under 18 (5–17) who provides or intends to provide care for another person. A person is not a young carer if the person provides or intends to provide care under or by virtue of a contract, or as voluntary work.’

The caring role can significantly impact a young person's life, and the Children's Commissioner has [found](#) they report lower levels of happiness than their peers. Young carers may need additional support to balance their caring responsibilities with their own needs and development. Understanding how many children in a local area have caring responsibilities enables local authorities to provide support to this group of vulnerable children.

Description of metric

There are three sources that can be used to estimate the number of children who are young carers. Here we report Department for Education data, which has been collected as part of the school census since 2022/23 – this covers state-funded nursery, primary, secondary, alternative provision (AP) schools and special schools, but not independent schools. It measures the number of young carers identified by the school (including where the pupil self declares) or by the parent. Secondly, the Children's Commissioner also gathered data from schools on the number in Summer term 2024 as part of her School and College Survey. The final source is the Department's Children in Need data release, which includes young carers in the 'Factors identified at the end of assessment'.

Why is it not mapped?

The number of young carers is an important fact about a local authority but does not reflect good or bad performance.

Source: Department for Education, [Schools, pupils and their characteristics](#)

The three data sources show very different numbers of children identified as young carers. The fewest are in the Children in Need Census data for 2025, with 18,960, whereas in **the Department's School census there were 89,800 children reported as being young carers in 2025/26**. In the Commissioner's own school and college survey, schools reported that there were 83,756 children identified as young carers in 2024.

High percentages indicate high identified levels of need, while low percentages may indicate low levels of need or limited understanding of pupil characteristics.

"Make sure that everybody is looked after and get to know the child" – girl, 13, The Big Future

Local authorities with the smallest percentages of young carers reported by schools, 2025/26

1. Camden (0.1%)
2. Islington (0.1%)
3. Bolton (0.1%)
4. Redbridge (0.2%)
5. Slough (0.2%)
6. Derby (0.2%)
7. East Riding of Yorkshire (0.2%)
8. Leeds (0.2%)
9. Liverpool (0.2%)
10. Bradford (0.2%)

Local authorities with the highest percentages of young carers reported by schools, 2025/26

1. City of London (7.4%)
2. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (4.3%)
3. Surrey (3.2%)
4. Plymouth (2.8%)
5. Norfolk (2.7%)
6. Halton (2.6%)
7. Peterborough (2.6%)
8. Kent (2.6%)
9. North Tyneside (2.52%)
10. Suffolk (2.5%)

[Access](#)
[Context](#)

Access to specialist or targeted support for young carers

Why is this important?

Specialist and targeted support services work with specific cohorts of children through providing tailored interventions or in the case of youth groups, opportunities for children to spend time with peers who have similar experiences.

For young carers this can also be a respite from their responsibilities within the home and allow them to be children.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides a targeted support offer or youth group to children identified as a young carer.

This binary measure of whether or not there is a dedicated service for young carers does not capture quality of service or how well children engage with these services.

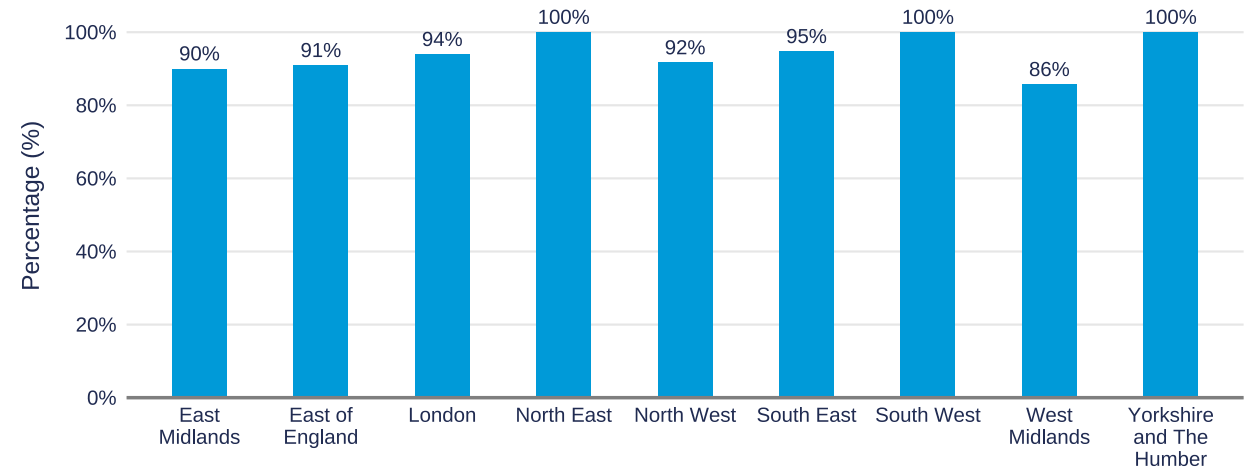
"Give more support to young carers" – Girl, 14, The Big Future.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Most local authorities (94%, 144 of 153) reported that they provide targeted support or youth group to children identified as young carers in their authority area. 6 reported they did not, and 3 did not answer the question (Bury, Nottinghamshire and Shropshire).

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had this.

Percentage of local authorities who provide targeted support or youth group for young carers, by region, 2025



144 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have access to targeted support or youth group for young carers, 2025

9 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had access to targeted support or youth group for young carers, 2025

Access

Scored

Schools with a dedicated staff member supporting young carers

Why is this important?

Schools and educational staff are likely to be the first professionals who identify children as being young carers. Identification is crucial as it can enable professionals to assess the child's needs, make appropriate referrals and offer relevant in-school support.

Description of metric

The Children's Commissioner's School and College Survey asked schools whether they or their Multi Academy Trust (MAT) employed a dedicated staff member for supporting young carers (e.g. a young carers champion).

The percentage is the proportion of schools that responded that they did have a dedicated member of staff, divided by the total number of schools that responded to the question.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. [School and College Survey](#).

Overall, **27% of schools reported that they had a dedicated member of staff supporting young carers**. Areas with higher numbers of identified young carers may be more likely to employ staff to support them. It is also possible that areas with fewer identified young carers lack the resources to dedicate staff. It may also be that areas with dedicated resource are better at identifying need.

Across the local areas the median proportion of schools with a dedicated members of staff was 27% (IQR 17.4% - 34.8%) with the highest proportion being 71% in North Tyneside. The lowest proportion was 5.6% in Cumberland, excluding both City of London and the Isles of Scilly which had 0%.

"make a better experience for young carers especially when they're having a hard time at home
– Girl, 9, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest percentage of schools with a dedicated member of staff, Summer term 2024

1. North Tyneside (71.0%)
2. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (68.6%)
3. Swindon (65.3%)
4. Peterborough (54.1%)
5. Cambridgeshire (53.7%)
6. Surrey (52.6%)
7. Bristol (52.5%)
8. Richmond upon Thames (51.0%)
9. Plymouth (50.0%)
10. St. Helens (48.4%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of schools with a dedicated member of staff, Summer term 2024

1. Cumberland (5.6%)
2. Kensington and Chelsea (6.9%)
3. Westmorland and Furness (7.0%)
4. Barnsley (7.6%)
5. Haringey (9.0%)
6. North Yorkshire (9.2%)
7. East Riding of Yorkshire (9.8%)
8. Hammersmith and Fulham (10%)
9. Bury (11.1%)
10. Sunderland (11.2%)

[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

Number of children with a parent in prison

Why is this important?

Children with a parent or carer in prison are more likely to experience poor outcomes. Services must identify them to enable appropriate support to be put in place, and to overcome barriers preventing the maintenance of meaningful relationships.

The Children's Commissioner's [research](#) has demonstrated shortcomings in how family contact is enabled in the context of the youth secure estate. Almost half of all children in custody (44%) did not receive an in-person visit between October-November 2022, and 83% did not receive a video call.

Why is it not mapped?

Available data are estimates, and data are not available at local authority level. The MoJ estimate (right) draws on administrative data but still partly suffers from the self-report limitations as the Commissioner's survey: a prisoner may not share that they are a parent, a school may not be sufficiently curious about a child's circumstances, or a child or family member may choose not to reveal this information.

Source: Ministry of Justice. July 2024. [Official Statistics in Development: Estimates of children with a parent in prison](#)

Overview

The Children's Commissioner's survey of [schools](#) and [colleges](#) found that in Summer term 2024, 30,903 mainstream school pupils of all ages, and 1,204 college students aged 16 and 17, had a parent or carer in prison. This equated to 0.5% of pupils and 0.2% of children at college. This was [higher](#) at 1.5% of pupils in special and AP settings, or 2,039 pupils: a total of **34,146 children in England known to their school or college**. Many had to estimate this number; 43% of mainstream and special schools, and 61% of AP settings, could not report exactly how many of their children had a parent/carer in prison.

Official statistics in development from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) cover all children, not just those of school age. They show that there were around **193,000 children in England and Wales in total** with a parent in prison between October 2021 and 2022. This may be higher or lower: the MoJ expect the true value sits within the range 176,000 to 229,000. The MoJ estimated that 74,275 parents were in prison, or more than half of the prison population. Of these parents, around 70,000 were male and around 4,000 female.

More recent [estimates](#) from the MoJ find **the percent of school-aged children with a parent or carer in prison in 2023-2024 was 2%**.

"look more into kids/teens learning and life at home and find out what they need help with and how they can help." – Boy, 13, The Big Future.

Number of children on council housing waiting lists

Why is this important?

1.28m households with children in 2024-25 in England lived in social housing, which is affordable rented housing provided by a local authority or housing association.

In 2025, there were 1.3m households and an unknown number of children waiting on council housing lists, with some waiting for years even if in a priority group, MHCLG [statistics](#) show. Average waiting times vary between local authorities.

Children are not automatically prioritised, but some households containing children may be, for example, if a foster carer needs a larger home.

Why is it not mapped?

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government publishes annual [data](#) broken down by local authority on the number of households, but not children, on local authority housing registers. A voluntary data return covering less than half of waiting households [found](#) that 44% of households on a housing register included under 18s on 31 March 2025.

Source: [Annex tables for English Housing Survey 2024 to 2025 headline findings on demographics and household resilience - GOV.UK](#)

Overview

Housing, including instability and the cost of housing, has been an important theme in the Children's Commissioner's surveys The Big Ask (2021) and The Big Ambition (2024). Most children agreed with the statement 'You have somewhere to call home' in The Big Ambition, but 2% disagreed, and 3% of children with SEND.

When asked in The Big Ask what they would change, and what stops children from achieving what they want to achieve, 5,000 responses mentioned the word 'house', including:

"council homes. the chances of getting a new house when you live in an overcrowded one that is affecting your mental health, is low." – Girl, 13, The Big Ask.

"a lack of fairness in our society, people can buy into areas that are more expensive therefore giving their children a better education." - Girl, 14, The Big Ask.

Everyone should have a clean house with enough space for everyone to do their homework and sleep. No one should live in a mouldy house or have 3 or 4 people sharing a bedroom. No one should have to choose between food or their bills. That also is not fair" – Girl, 16, The Big Ask.

Number of children with no recourse to public funds

Why is this important?

Migrants in the UK on visas are usually ineligible for welfare benefits and social housing. This is referred to as having 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF). Local authorities have other duties towards children in need in their areas under the Children Act, and some children in families with NRPF are eligible for free school meals.

There is no central record of how many visas are issued with the NRPF condition, so **the Home Office does not know how many children have no recourse to public funds.**

Why is it not mapped?

As of 2025, the Home Office was transitioning its casework operations to a new system. Until the transition process is complete, it [said](#) that data on the number of families and children affected would not be available.

Source: [Children's Commissioner, 2025. Growing up in a low-income family: Children's experiences.](#)

Overview

The Children's Commissioner's [research](#) on child poverty found a striking level of awareness among children on the accessing of social security benefits, including the need for benefit rates to be increased, as well as making the system easier to navigate.

Some children reflected on the restrictions some families face around accessing benefits. One child spoke about her concern around families with no recourse to public funds: *"I would cancel NRPF because it might help the government with their money, but it wouldn't help the people who are going to the UK."* – Girl, 11.

Some children, and adults responding on their behalf, to the Children's Commissioner's surveys have commented on issues relating to NRPF:

"The government should reduce the amount of years that we should get our papers so that that we can be entitled to public funds and save our parents paying a lot of bills cause it is quite hard on us" – Girl, 16, The Big Future.

"Government should help immigrant kids. My baby sister and I will be homeless in few weeks. I am sad because I will be changing school for the third time. We are not entitled to public funds and to get private landlords to rent accommodation is hard. Government should help immigrant families to thrive." – Boy, 8, The Big Ambition.

Health

Health metrics include not only measures of physical health but also mental health and the wider determinants that can impact them.



Overview of health metrics

All 37 metrics

 Scored  Context  Narrative				Quality of health services	
Child mortality rate	Exposure to poor air quality	Low birthweight	Children who don't feel they have access to good healthcare	Health Visitor (age 0 to 5) workforce	School nurse (age 5 to 19) workforce
Childhood vaccination coverage	Adolescent vaccination coverage (Td/IPV)	Adolescent vaccination coverage (HPV)	Attendance at NHS Dental Visits	Dental decay in 5-year-old children	Children who feel they don't have a healthy diet
Children who were underweight in year 6	Children who were overweight or obese in year 6	Levels of physical activity	Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children	Health behaviours: Smoking and vaping, alcohol consumption and drug use	Access to substance misuse services
Children in substance misuse treatment	Sexually transmitted infections (STI) rates	Conception rate in under 18s	Access to sexual health services	Children who don't feel they have someone supportive to talk to	Access to Early Support Hubs (Mental Health Drop in)
Access to bereavement service	Access to Mental Health Support Teams	Children with active mental health referrals	Average waiting times for mental health treatment	Average spend on mental health support per child	Children who had their mental health referrals closed before treatment
Inpatient hospitalisations for mental health	Children with disabilities and health needs: DLA statistics	Children with disabilities and health needs: Children's Disability Register	Children with disabilities and health needs: LA spending	Access to targeted support or youth group: children with SEND or health needs	Number of children who visit their GP

Overview of health metrics

17 scored metrics only



Child mortality rate

Children who don't feel they have access to good healthcare

Childhood vaccination coverage

Adolescent vaccination coverage (Td/IPV)

Adolescent vaccination coverage (HPV)

Attendance at NHS Dental Visits

Children who feel they don't have a healthy diet

Children who were underweight in year 6

Children who were overweight or obese in year 6

Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children

Access to substance misuse services

Children who don't feel they have someone supportive to talk to

Access to Early Support Hubs (Mental Health Drop in)

Access to bereavement service

Access to Mental Health Support Teams

Inpatient hospitalisations for mental health

Access to targeted support or youth group: children with SEND or health needs



Health scorecard

Scored metrics (16)	Category	Measure type	Max score
Child mortality rate	Outcome	Decile	10
Children who don't feel they have access to good healthcare	Outcome	Decile	10
Childhood vaccination coverage	Outcome	Decile	10
Adolescent vaccination coverage (Td/IPV)	Outcome	Decile	10
Adolescent vaccination coverage (HPV)	Outcome	Decile	10
Attendance at NHS dental visits	Access	Decile	10
Children who feel they don't have a healthy diet	Outcome	Decile	10
Children who were overweight/obese in year 6	Outcome	Decile	10
Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children	Outcome	Decile	10
Access to substance misuse services	Access	Binary	10
Children who don't feel they have someone supportive to talk to	Outcome	Decile	10
Access to Early Support Hubs (Mental Health Drop in)	Access	Binary	10
Access to bereavement service	Access	Binary	10
Access to Mental Health Support Teams	Access	Decile	10
Inpatient hospitalisations for mental health	Outcome	Decile	10
Access to targeted support or youth group: children with SEND or health needs	Access	Binary	10
Total score			160



Mapping Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Across the country, children and young people's mental health services (CYPMH, often referred to as CAMHS) are commissioned and delivered by (as of 2026) 36 Integrated Care Boards (ICBs).

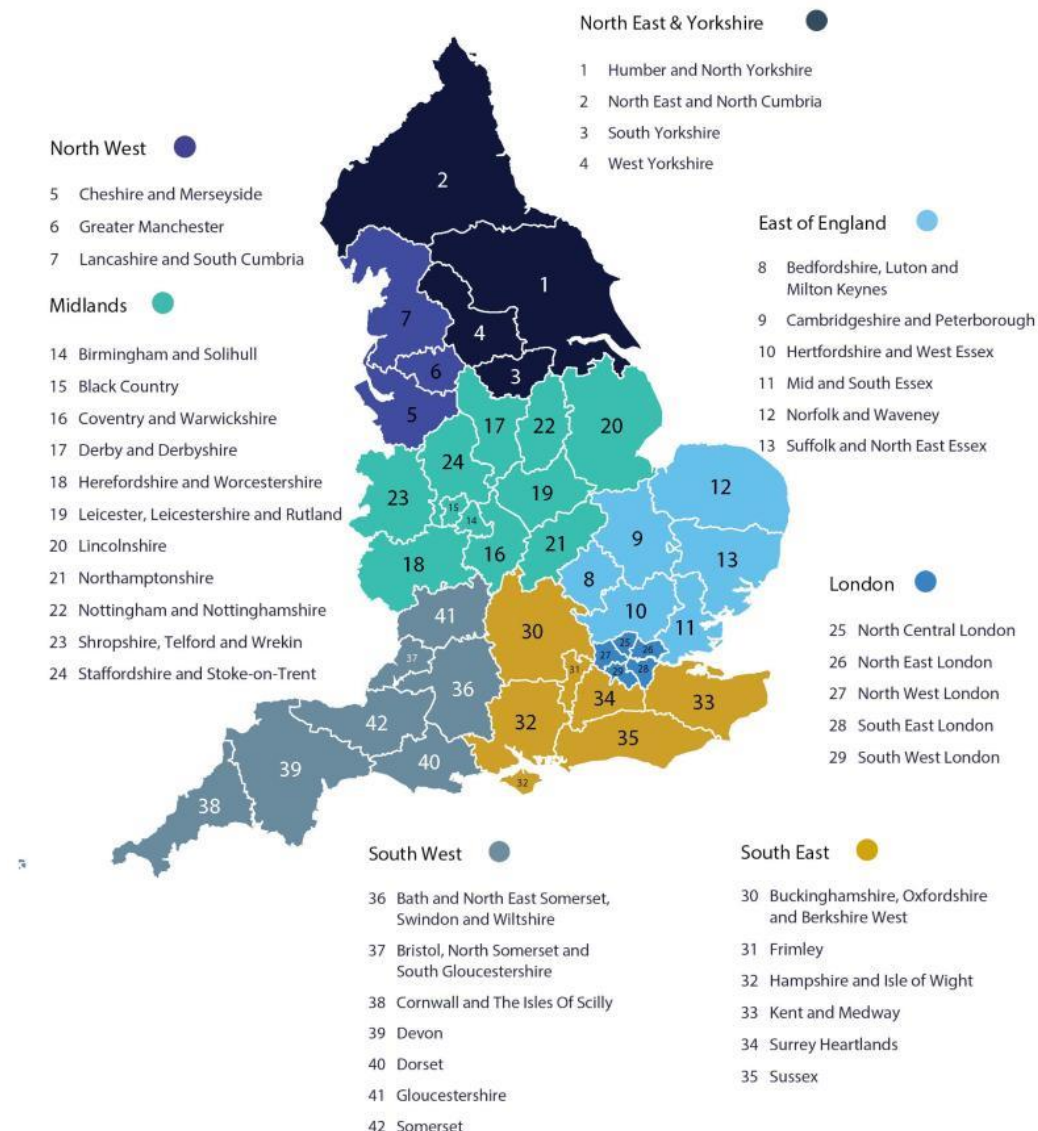
Their geographic boundaries do not align with those of local authorities. Based on the 2023 boundaries (displayed in the map), 143 local authorities fit within a single ICB boundary while 10 local authorities span 2 to 3 different ICB areas. 28 out of 42 ICBs cover complete local authority areas. Due to this complexity of coverage areas, it is not possible to realistically compare based on population size.

Further complicating the data mapping is that increasingly areas are commissioning out delivery to other ICBs/NHS Trusts and community interest companies.

The Children's Commissioner's office has collected and published data from ICBs on the:

- Number of children with active referrals to CYPMH
- Average spend on mental health support per child
- Average waiting time between referral and treatment
- Percentage of children who had their referrals closed before treatment.

Due to the complexity this data is presented per ICB rather than disaggregating down to local authority area.



Source: NHS Confederation. 2022. Available at: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/publications/integrated-care-systems-ics>





Mapped ICB areas

North East and Yorkshire

Humber and North Yorkshire*: East Riding of Yorkshire, York, Hull, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire.
North East and North Cumbria*: County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, South Tyneside, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland.
South Yorkshire: Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield, Barnsley.
West Yorkshire*: Bradford, Kirklees, Leeds, Calderdale, Wakefield.

North West

Cheshire and Merseyside: Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens, Warrington, Wirral.
Greater Manchester: Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan.
Lancashire and South Cumbria*: Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire.

East of England

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes*: Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Milton, Keynes, Luton.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*: Cambridgeshire, Peterborough.
Herefordshire and West Essex*:
Mid and South Essex: Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock.
Norfolk and Waveney*: Norfolk.
Suffolk and North East Essex*

Midlands

Birmingham and Solihull: Birmingham, Solihull.
Black Country: Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton.
Coventry and Warwickshire: Coventry, Warwickshire.
Derby and Derbyshire: Derby, Derbyshire.
Herefordshire and Worcestershire: Herefordshire, Worcestershire.
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland: Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland.
Lincolnshire: Lincolnshire
Northamptonshire: North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire.
Nottinghamshire: Nottingham, Nottinghamshire.
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin: Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

London

North Central London: Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Islington.
North East London: Barking and Dagenham, City of London, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest.
North West London: Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster.
South East London: Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark.
South West London: Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton, Wandsworth.

South East

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West*: Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham.
Frimley*: Bracknell Forest, Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead.
Hampshire and Isle of Wight*: Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton.
Kent and Medway: Kent, Medway.
Surrey Heartlands*
Sussex: Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex.

South West

Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire*: Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon, Wiltshire.
Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire: Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire
Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly: Cornwall, Isles of Scilly.
Devon : Devon, Plymouth, Torbay.
Dorset: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Dorset.
Gloucestershire: Gloucestershire
Somerset: Somerset

Local authorities with multiple ICB boundaries

Buckinghamshire (2)
Oxfordshire(2)
Hertfordshire (2)
Hampshire (2)
Surrey (2)
Essex (3)
North Yorkshire (3)
Suffolk (2)
Cumberland (2)
Westmoreland and Furness (2)



Health metrics



Child mortality

Why is this important?

Every child has the right to life, and governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential. How well the government does in this can be assessed by monitoring trends in infant and child mortality, internationally recognised as key measures of children outcomes.

The Children's Commissioner has [found](#) that children in need make up a disproportionately large percentage of all child deaths, a proportion that may be growing.

Description of metric

Death registrations of 0 to 19 year olds are reported by the Office for National Statistics (data on under 18s only are not published). The Children's Commissioner's office converted this to a rate per 10,000 local children using the mid-year population estimate for the same year.

More detailed data on child deaths including regional patterns are also available from the National Child Mortality Database.

"make a more safe country for our future." – boy, 11, The Big Future

Source: ONS [Mortality Statistics](#).

In the year to March 2025, 3,492 children aged 0-17 sadly died in England, as reported by the NCMD. More than half were aged under 1 year.

The overall mortality rate of 0-19s in England in 2024 was 3.3 child deaths per 10,000 children, though six local authorities had no child deaths, and the highest rate was 6.8 in Leicester, where 62 children and young people aged 0 to 19 died in 2024.

England's child mortality rate has declined substantially over the past 40 years. Recent increases in rates observed in 2021-22 reflect the period impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local authorities with the lowest child mortality rate per 10,000, 2024

- 1.-6. City of London, Isle of Wight, Isles of Scilly, Kensington and Chelsea, Rutland, Wokingham (0.0)
7. Trafford (1.1)
8. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (1.1)
9. Richmond upon Thames (1.1)
10. Bromley (1.2)

Local authorities with the highest child mortality rate, 2024

1. Leicester (6.8)
2. Bradford (6.3)
3. Birmingham (6.2)
4. Sandwell (6.1)
5. Hounslow (6.1)
6. Wolverhampton (5.9)
7. Bolton (5.8)
8. Walsall (5.6)
9. Telford and Wrekin (5.4)
10. Blackpool (5.2)

Outcome

Scored

Exposure to poor air quality

Why is this important?

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy.

Exposure to air pollution has well-documented detrimental effects on children's current and future health outcomes.

Why is it not mapped?

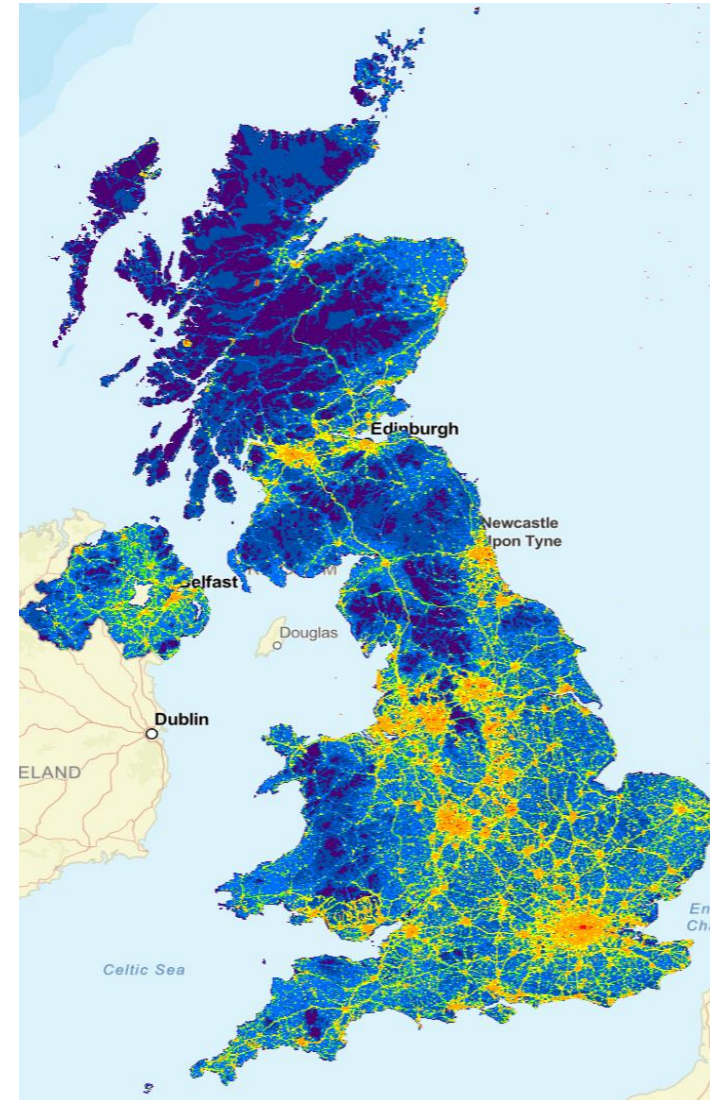
The UK Health Security Agency has developed a PILOT indicator to represent population-level vulnerability to air pollution at Lower Super Output Area level. This ranks vulnerability from low (1-2) to high (9-10). This is not publicly available but is provided to local authorities and ICBs to help plan public health responses to poor air quality. Data is provided for a range of pollutants and across different levels of data. The National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory presented data on levels of pollution across the UK in interactive and colour coded maps.

The figure to the right displays the levels of PM_{2.5} (particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres (μm)).

Areas of **high population density have higher exposure to PM_{2.5} and other pollutants.**

"on the high street, due to over congestion the air quality is bad" – Boy, 11, The Big Future.

Source: Defra. March 2025. [Emissions of air pollutants in the UK](#)



Source: National Atmospheric Emission Inventory Interactive Map. 2025.
Available at: <https://naei.energysecurity.gov.uk/emissionsapp/>

Low birthweight

Why is this important?

Low birthweight is linked to potential [future health complications](#) for children. It is tracked as part of public health measures and acts as an indicator for maternal and child health and for potential health issues in the future.

Areas with a higher rate of infants with low birth weights may need specific intervention or additional service support.

Description of metric

Official figures as reported from birth records by the Office for National Statistics provide the number and proportion of live births recorded as below 2.5kg, which is defined as being a low birth weight.

Why is it not mapped?

Low birthweight is linked to antenatal factors including antenatal care rather than providing a performance assessment of services for children.

“The government should let poorly people and pregnant people get an extra bit of support” – girl, 10, The Big Future

Source: ONS. May 2026. [Births in England and Wales: linked births 2025](#)

Overall, **7% of babies born in England were recorded as weighing less than 2.5kg at birth** and so were considered to have a low birth weight in 2025. The median percentage of babies born across the 152 local authorities (Isles of Scilly was included with Cornwall) was 6.8% in 2025.

The London Borough of Newham had the highest proportion of babies born with a low birth weight at over 10% in both 2024 and 2025, while Cornwall and Rutland had the lowest proportions at around 4%.

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of babies with a low birth weight, 2025

1. Rutland (4.1%)
2. Cornwall (4.2%)
3. Richmond upon Thames (4.8%)
4. Northumberland (4.8%)
5. Dorset (4.9%)
6. Wokingham (4.9%)
7. Plymouth (5.0%)
8. Kent (5.0%)
9. Bath and North East Somerset (5.0%)
10. Calderdale (5.1%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of babies with a low birth weight, 2025

1. Newham (10.7%)
2. Walsall (9.8%)
3. Harrow (9.8%)
4. Birmingham (9.5%)
5. Slough (9.3%)
6. Derby (9.3%)
7. Wolverhampton (9.3%)
8. Enfield (9.2%)
9. Leicester (9.2%)
10. Oldham (9.1%)

Children who don't feel they have access to good healthcare

Why is this important?

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy.

Understanding children's perception of accessibility of good healthcare when they need it is a child-led assessment of the availability of healthcare.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You can access good healthcare when you need it' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

This question was asked only of secondary aged (12- to 18-year-old) children and so sample sizes were small, with only 40% of 151 local authority areas having a sample size that met a 95% confidence level. This question includes all local authorities except the City of London and the Isles of Scilly.

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **5% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they can access good healthcare**. The median was 4.8% (IQR 3.7%-6.1%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Tameside and Thurrock with 0%, while the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Hartlepool (19.6%). All three of these areas however did not have response rates that met the 95% confidence level.

Local areas are shown with a * where the response rate did not meet the 95% confidence level and so should be treated with caution.

"All children need access to free healthcare, not just mental health, and I think this is the biggest thing the government can work on to help us." – Girl, 17, The Big Ambition

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they could access good healthcare when they needed it, 2023-2024

1. Tameside & Thurrock (0%)*
2. Merton (0.7%)
3. Solihull (1.0%)
4. Westminster (1.1%)*
5. Wandsworth (1.9%)
6. Haringey (2.0%)*
7. St. Helens (2.1%)*
8. Walsall (2.2%)
9. Southwark (2.3%)
10. Bexley (2.3%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they could access good healthcare when they needed it, 2023-2024

1. Hartlepool (19.6%)*
2. Kent (18.9%)
3. Hackney (13.5%)*
4. Darlington (11.2%)
5. Newham (10.6%)
6. Hounslow (10.3%)
7. Redcar and Cleveland (10.3%)*
8. Shropshire (9.0%)
9. Barking and Dagenham (8.8%)
10. Cornwall (8.8%)

Outcome

Scored

Health Visitor (age 0 to 5) workforce

Why is this important?

Health Visitors are an important part of the child health workforce that provide direct health interventions as well as advice and guidance to new parents and are responsible for identifying whether children are developing well. Organisations including the Royal College of Nursing and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have raised concerns about the size of the child health workforce and its ability to meet the needs of the population.

Description of metric

As part of her local authority data request, the Children's Commissioner requested the number of commissioned roles, staffed posts and vacant roles for four categories of staff:

1. Specialist public health nurses (SCPHNs) (Bands 8 to 6)
2. Community public health nurse (Band 5)
3. Senior public health assistant (Band 4)
4. Public health assistant (Band 2 and 3)

Most local authorities could provide the number of staff roles as full time equivalent (FTE). Rates were calculated for overall workforce FTE per 1,000 population aged 0 to 5 and for clinical staff (Bands 5 to 8). In total 150 local authorities responded to the data request.

Why is it not mapped?

Data quality. 11 local authorities were excluded from the rankings, two for data suppression due to small populations, five were excluded as they provide an integrated service for 0 to 19 so were unable to provide disaggregated figures for the 0 to 5 workforce, and four did not provide data to this question.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Of the 139 local authorities that were able to provide data for this question 14% reported 100% clinical staff delivering the programme. The lowest was 17% clinical staff. **The median rate across the local authority's total workforce was 3.1 full-time roles per 1,000 children aged 0 to 5** (IQR 2.4 – 3.8). Halton had the highest rate at 6.5 FTE roles per 1,000 children while North Somerset had only 0.5 FTE roles. The area with the highest rate of clinical roles was Plymouth at 5.8 FTE roles (with 100% clinical staffing), while North Somerset was also the lowest FTE rate though they also had 100% clinical staffing.

"Health visitors are a life line for support and guidance and can pick up on concerns very early. Parents have nowhere to go now and you don't even get to see a health visitor face to face."
– Parent of girl, 9, The Big Ambition

In September 2026, the Department for Health and Social Care published new [statistics](#) showing **6,649 whole-time equivalent health visitors in 2025**.

Local authorities with the highest FTE health visitor workforce per 1,000 children aged 0 to 5, 2025

1. Halton (6.5 FTE)
2. Barnsley (6.0 FTE)
3. Plymouth (5.8 FTE)
4. North Tyneside (5.4 FTE)
5. Manchester (5.4 FTE)
6. Redcar and Cleveland (5.4 FTE)
7. Liverpool (5.1 FTE)
8. Southwark (5.0 FTE)
9. Rotherham (4.9 FTE)
10. Nottingham (4.9 FTE)

Local authorities with the lowest FTE health visitor workforce per 1,000 children aged 0 to 5, 2025

1. North Somerset (0.5 FTE)
2. Wiltshire (1.2 FTE)
3. Bexley (1.2 FTE)
4. Hammersmith and Fulham (1.4 FTE)
5. South Gloucestershire (1.4 FTE)
6. Croydon (1.5 FTE)
7. Sutton (1.6 FTE)
8. Surrey (1.6 FTE)
9. Richmond upon Thames (1.7 FTE)
10. Bromley (1.7 FTE)

School Nurse (5 to 19) workforce

Why is this important?

The School Nurse services includes child health surveillance, health promotion, protection, improvement and support outlined in the healthy child programme for 5 to 19 year olds. Organisations including the Royal Collage of Nurses and Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have raised concerns about the size of the child health workforce and the impact on other health outcomes including hospitalisations and mental health referrals.

Description of metric

The Children's Commissioner's local authority data request asked for the number of commissioned roles, staffed posts and vacant roles for four categories of staff:

1. Specialist public health nurses (SCPHNs) (Bands 8 to 6)
2. School staff nurse (Band 5)
3. Senior public health assistant (Band 4)
4. Public health assistant (Band 2 and 3)

Most local authorities could provide the number of staff roles as full time equivalent (FTE), so this measure is shown. Rates were calculated for overall workforce FTE per 10,000 population aged 5 to 19, for clinical staff (Bands 5 to 8).

Why is it not mapped?

Data quality. In total 150 local authorities responded to the data request. Of these nine were excluded from the rankings, due to small populations, missing data for this question, or because they provide an integrated service for 0 to 19 so were could not disaggregate figures for the 0 to 5 workforce.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Of the 141 local authorities that provided data, 17% reported that all staff delivering the programme were clinical, while the lowest percent of clinical staff reported was 39%.

The median rate across the local authority's total workforce was 3.2 full time roles per 1,000 children and young people aged 5 to 19 (IQR 2.3 – 4.8).

Halton had the highest rate at 6.5 FTE roles per 1,000 children while North Somerset had 0.5 FTE roles. The area with the highest rate of clinical roles was Plymouth at 5.8 FTE (with 100% clinical staffing), while North Somerset was also the lowest FTE rate though also had 100% clinical staffing.

"A school nurse could come and ask if you want to talk about home life school life or if you just want to talk." – Girl, 11, The Big Ambition

Local authorities with the highest FTE School Nurse workforce per 10,000 children and young people aged 5 to 19, 2025

1. Greenwich (11.9 FTE)
2. Halton (11.1 FTE)
3. Torbay (10.0 FTE)
4. Suffolk (8.9 FTE)
5. St. Helens (8.5 FTE)
6. Wakefield (8.5 FTE)
7. Barnsley (8.4 FTE)
8. Sefton (8.4 FTE)
9. Liverpool (7.7 FTE)
10. Westminster (7.5 FTE)

Local authorities with the lowest FTE School Nurse workforce per 10,000 children and young people aged 5 to 19, 2025

1. North Somerset (0.4 FTE)
2. Cambridgeshire (0.7 FTE)
3. Norfolk (0.7 FTE)
4. Dorset (1.0 FTE)
5. Wokingham (1.1 FTE)
6. Barking and Dagenham (1.1 FTE)
7. Barnet (1.1 FTE)
8. Lincolnshire (1.1 FTE)
9. Leicestershire (1.3 FTE)
10. North Tyneside (1.4 FTE)

Childhood vaccination coverage

Why is this important?

Childhood vaccination rates reflect access to and uptake of a vital preventative public health measure. The World Health Organisation has set 95% coverage as the target.

Description of metric

These figures are provided by the NHS and UK Health Security Agency covering the rates of childhood vaccination. Figures are presented as percentage of the eligible population receiving vaccination.

Some local authorities were combined, including Hackney and the City of London, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and Rutland combined with Leicestershire. The data includes the former local authority of Cumbria, that has since divided into Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness – for these authorities, the data is duplicated.

Source: UKHSA. [Cover of vaccination evaluated rapidly \(COVER\) programme: April 2024 to March 2025](#)

No childhood vaccinations reached the 95% national coverage target. Continuing downward trends, in 2024-25, national coverage for routine childhood vaccines in England ranged from 92.9% at best for the DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB vaccine given at 5 years old, down to 81.9% for the dTaP/IPV booster, also given at 5 year years. This project focuses on one vaccine, MMRV (previously MMR), where coverage was below 95% in every single local authority in 2024-25, though was not far off in the best performing local authority, the two unitaries previously making up Cumbria, at 94%. Kensington and Chelsea (56%), alongside other London boroughs, performed worst.

“Spend money on vaccines and keeping people healthy” – girl, 13, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest MMRV vaccine coverage, 2024-25

1. Cumberland (94.3%)
2. Westmorland and Furness (94.3%)
3. South Tyneside (94.2%)
4. County Durham (94.2%)
5. East Riding of Yorkshire (93.7%)
6. Northumberland (93.5%)
7. Barnsley (93.4%)
8. West Berkshire (93.2%)
9. Sunderland (92.7%)
10. North Tyneside (92.6%)

Local authorities with the lowest MMRV vaccine coverage, 2024-25

1. Kensington and Chelsea (56.3%)
2. Hackney (58.3%)
3. Hammersmith and Fulham (59.2%)
4. Westminster (59.9%)
5. Enfield (64.3%)
6. Islington (64.3%)
7. Brent (64.6%)
8. Camden (64.6%)
9. Haringey (65.0%)
10. Greenwich (66.2%)

Outcome

Scored

Adolescent vaccination coverage (Td/IPV and HPV)

The Td/IPV is offered to children aged around 13 to 15 in year 9 and/or 10. It is the fifth dose of a tetanus, diphtheria and polio containing vaccine in the routine immunisation schedule. The metric shows how many received a dose of the Td/IPV vaccine by 31 August 2025 divided by the total number of eligible adolescents in each cohort, regardless of programme delivery (in school or otherwise).

The average coverage across local authorities for the Td/IPV vaccine was 71.7% in 2024/25.

The national school-based HPV vaccination programme was introduced for children aged around 12 and 13 in 2008, with the aim of protecting adolescents from HPV-related cancers. The vaccine is routinely offered in year 8 in all local authorities, with some local authorities offering catch-up vaccination activity in years 9 and 10.

HPV vaccine coverage was calculated as the number of students vaccinated divided by the number of students eligible for the vaccine. **The average coverage across local authorities for the HPV vaccine was 69.6% in 2024/25.**

"Invest more taxes on public health" – girl, 17, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest coverage of Td/IPV vaccine, 2024/25

1. West Berkshire (91.2%)
2. Herefordshire (89.9%)
3. Wokingham (89.2%)
4. Kingston upon Thames (88.9%)
5. Richmond upon Thames (88.3%)
6. Bracknell Forest (88.1%)
7. North Northamptonshire (87.7%)
8. Buckinghamshire (87.4%)
9. East Riding of Yorkshire (87.4%)
10. Sutton (86.9%)

Local authorities with the lowest coverage of Td/IPV vaccine, 2024/25

1. Brent (36.8%)
2. Bolton (38.0%)
3. Westminster (39.2%)
4. Bradford (39.3%)
5. Kensington and Chelsea (39.3%)
6. Wigan (40.9%)
7. Hammersmith and Fulham (41.8%)
8. Camden (46.1%)
9. Ealing (47.4%)
10. Hillingdon (50.3%)

Local authorities with highest coverage of HPV vaccine, 2024/25

1. Warwickshire (87.2%)
2. Cumberland (86.4%)
3. Norfolk (86.4%)
4. West Berkshire (86.3%)
5. Herefordshire (86.0%)
6. Stockport (85.8%)
7. Suffolk (85.7%)
8. Kingston upon Thames (85.0%)
9. Doncaster (84.7%)
10. Buckinghamshire (84.6%)

Local authorities with lowest coverage of HPV vaccine, 2024/25

1. Brent (36.7%)
2. Kensington and Chelsea (38.4%)
3. Westminster (39.3%)
4. Hillingdon (40.8%)
5. Ealing (41.8%)
6. Bradford (43.0%)
7. Camden (44.8%)
8. Harrow (48.8%)
9. Tower Hamlets (50.0%)
10. Leicester (50.3%)

Sources: UKHSA. [Td/IPV vaccine coverage for the NHS adolescent vaccination programme in England, academic year 2024 to 2025](#)
UKHSA. [Human papillomavirus \(HPV\) vaccine coverage in England: 2024 to 2025](#)

Access

Scored

Access

Scored

Attendance at NHS dental visits

Why is this important?

Being able to visit a dentist is vital as it can promote positive dental health, and provide intervention and treatment when dental health concerns arise. Under NHS guidance, children should visit the dentist at least once every 12 months.

Access to NHS services are important for children whose families are unable to seek alternative options such as private dental care.

Description of metric

Publicly available data covers the proportion of 0- to 17-year-olds who saw an NHS dentist by ICB and local authority in the last 12 months.

Percentage are presented as a proportion of the Office for National Statistics mid year population estimates for children for 2023. Data excludes the Isles of Scilly.

NHS Business Services Authority. [Dental statistics - England 2024/25](#)

In 2024-25, **57% children aged 0 to 17 had attended an NHS dental appointment in the previous 12 months.** This was 6.9 million child patients, meaning around 5 million children did not visit the dentist in 2024-25 as guidance says they should.

At a local authority level, the average percentage of children seen was 56.5% in 2024-25.

The local area that had the highest proportion was Redcar and Cleveland at 78% in 2023-24 and 86% in 2024-25. The area with the lowest proportion in both 2023-24 and 2024-25 was Hackney at around 38%-39%.

“make dentists more accessible” – girl, 14, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest percentage of children who saw an NHS dentist, 2024-25

1. Redcar and Cleveland (85.8%)
2. York (76.8%)
3. Trafford (75.6%)
4. Leicester (73.0%)
5. City of London (71.4%)
6. Sheffield (70.0%)
7. Blackburn with Darwen (69.7%)
8. Cheshire West and Chester (69.0%)
9. Derby (68.6%)
10. Cheshire East (68.4%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of children who saw an NHS dentist, 2024-25

1. Hackney (38.7%)
2. Merton (40.5%)
3. Somerset (40.7%)
4. Thurrock (41.2%)
5. Barnet (41.6%)
6. Plymouth (43.6%)
7. Kensington and Chelsea (44.9%)
8. Devon (45.1%)
9. Barking and Dagenham (45.6%)
10. Richmond upon Thames (45.8%)

Access

Scored

Dental decay in 5-year-old children

Why is this important?

[Poor dental health](#) impacts not just on children's health but also their wellbeing and that of their family. Children who have toothache or who need treatment may have pain, infections and difficulties with eating, sleeping, learning and socialising. [Dental extractions remain a top reason children in the UK require hospital admission.](#)

Description of metric

Data comes from a national programme and is published by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, for the 128 out of 153 upper tier local authorities which commissioned the survey. Reasons for not commissioning the survey included a lack of providers to undertake the fieldwork. The City of London and the Isles of Scilly were excluded due to small sample sizes

Percentages are presented as a proportion of the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates of the number of 5-year-olds per local authority.

Local authorities without any data scored as 0.

Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. March 2025. [National Dental Epidemiology Programme \(NDEP\) for England: oral health survey of 5-year-old schoolchildren 2024](#)

In England, **just over a quarter (26.9%) of children were found to have experienced any visually obvious decay** (enamel or dentinal decay) in 2024.

Of the 128 local authorities that commissioned the survey, the median percentage of 5-year-olds with dental decay was 28.3% (IQR 22.3%-34.8%).

The local area with the lowest percentage of children with any dental decay was Wiltshire with 12%, while Manchester had the largest proportion at 61%.

"childhood obesity levels and tooth decay is awful yet children are given deserts with lunch" – adult responding on behalf of 5 year old boy, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of children with any dental decay, 2024

1. Wiltshire (12.1%)
2. Brighton and Hove (12.5%)
3. South Gloucestershire (13.1%)
4. Northumberland (15.9%)
5. Central Bedfordshire (16.0%)
6. North Tyneside (16.0%)
7. Essex (16.3%)
8. Lambeth (17.3%)
9. Southwark (17.5%)
10. Bath and North East Somerset (17.5%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of children with any dental decay, 2024

1. Manchester (60.8%)
2. Salford (48.2%)
3. Torbay (46.5%)
4. Brent (46.3%)
5. Ealing (46.2%)
6. Middlesbrough (45.4%)
7. Blackpool (44.8%)
8. Blackburn with Darwen (44.7%)
9. Peterborough (44.0%)
10. Enfield (44.0%)

Outcome

Scored

Children who feel they don't have a healthy diet

Why is this important?

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy.

Access to a healthy diet is a fundamental part of promotional and preventative health.

Description of metric

The metric covers the percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You have a healthy diet' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

Ranks are presented for the 129 local authority areas where the sample size met the 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error.

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **11% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they have a healthy diet**. The median was 10.3% (IQR 9.2% - 11.8%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Merton (4.6%) and the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Dudley (18.1%).

"Help us make better choices or help us to get a healthy lifestyle." – Girl, 9, The Big Ambition

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they had a healthy diet, 2023-2024

1. Merton (4.6%)
2. Havering (5.4%)
3. Central Bedfordshire (6.2%)
4. Solihull (6.6%)
5. Richmond upon Thames (6.7%)
6. Southwark (6.8%)
7. Wandsworth (7.0%)
8. Kingston upon Thames (7.3%)
9. Shropshire (7.7%)
10. North Somerset (7.8%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they had a healthy diet, 2023-2024

1. Dudley (18.1%)
2. Gateshead (16.4%)
3. Middlesbrough (16.3%)
4. Wakefield (15.6%)
5. Wirral (15.1%)
6. Rochdale (15.0%)
7. Wolverhampton (14.7%)
8. Barnsley (14.7%)
9. Kirklees (14.5%)
10. North East Lincolnshire (14.4%)

Outcome

Scored

Children who were underweight in year 6

Why is this important?

Children having a healthy weight supports healthy growth and development. While the prevalence of childhood obesity is an established problem, recent analysis indicates that prevalence of underweight children at both reception and year 6 has increased.

Description of metric

The data is produced by the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and is a key element of the government’s approach to tackling childhood obesity.

Children are categorised into 4 groups based on BMI measurements; underweight, healthy weight, overweight, and obesity (including severe obesity).

The prevalence of children who were underweight was calculated by dividing the number of children in those BMI classifications by the total number of children and multiplying the result by 100.

Numbers follow [NHS data suppression guidelines](#) and are rounded to the nearest 5. Due to small populations the City of London was combined with Hackney, and the Isles of Scilly were combined with Cornwall. Data is presented based on postcode of the child (Table 3b_6_ULTA). Data for Rutland was also suppressed.

Source: OHID. [National Child Measurement Programme \(NCMP\) annual report, academic year 2024 to 2025](#)

Only 1.6% of children measured in year 6 in England were categorised as being underweight in 2024/25.

Across local authorities the average percentage was 1.6% in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

The area with the lowest prevalence in 2024/25 was North Yorkshire at 0.7%, while the area with the highest prevalence was Leicester at 3.8%.

“Focus a lot more on preventative measures in relation to healthcare this will take strain off NHS and be much cheaper.” – Boy, 15, The Big Ambition

Local authorities with the lowest prevalence of children who were underweight, 2024/25

- 1. North Yorkshire (0.7%)
- 2. Halton (0.7%)
- 3. Isle of Wight (0.7%)
- 4. Sefton (0.8%)
- 5. Wirral (0.9%)
- 6. Cornwall (0.9%)
- 7. Herefordshire (0.9%)
- 8. Cheshire West and Chester (0.9%)
- 9. South Tyneside (0.9%)
- 10. Hartlepool (0.9%)

Local authorities with the highest prevalence of children who were underweight, 2024/25

- 1. Leicester (3.8%)
- 2. Brent (3.4%)
- 3. Hillingdon (3.2%)
- 4. Luton (3.1%)
- 5. Harrow (3.1%)
- 6. Tower Hamlets (3.0%)
- 7. Blackburn with Darwen (2.9%)
- 8. Newham (2.9%)
- 9. Redbridge (2.9%)
- 10. Slough (2.8%)

Children who were overweight or obese in year 6

Why is this important?

According to the [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](#), childhood obesity is one of the biggest public health issues facing the UK. Childhood obesity is [associated with higher chances of developing significant health conditions later in life](#).

Description of metric

The data is produced by the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and is a key element of the government's approach to tackling childhood obesity.

Children are categorised into 4 groups based on BMI measurements; underweight, healthy weight, overweight, and obesity (including severe obesity).

The prevalence of children who were overweight or obese was calculated by dividing the number of children in those BMI classifications by the total number of children and multiplying the result by 100.

Numbers follow [NHS data suppression guidelines](#) and are rounded to the nearest 5. Due to small populations the City of London was combined with Hackney, and the Isles of Scilly were combined with Cornwall. Data is presented based on postcode of the child (Table 3b_6_ULTA).

Source: OHID. [National Child Measurement Programme \(NCMP\) annual report, academic year 2024 to 2025](#)

Over one third (36.1%) of children measured in year 6 in England were categorised as being overweight or obese in 2024/25, of which 5.5% were recorded as living with severe obesity.

Across local authorities the average percentage 36% in 2024/25. The area with the lowest prevalence was Richmond upon Thames at 23.6%, while the area with the highest prevalence was Sandwell at 46%.

The data shows that children living in the most deprived areas, obesity prevalence was over twice as high compared with those living in the least deprived areas.

"We should have better health diet recommendations at school on how to eat healthily and how to eat healthily at homes well" – Girl, 11, The Big Ambition

Local authorities with the lowest percentages of children who were overweight or obese, 2024/25

1. Richmond upon Thames (23.6%)
2. Kingston upon Thames (26.8%)
3. Surrey (27.3%)
4. Windsor and Maidenhead (28.2%)
5. Bath and North East Somerset (28.7v)
6. West Berkshire (29.7%)
7. Buckinghamshire (30%)
8. Brighton and Hove (30.3%)
9. Cambridgeshire (30.4%)
10. Oxfordshire (30.5%)

Local authorities with the highest percentages of children who were overweight or obese, 2024/25

1. Sandwell (45.6%)
2. Wolverhampton (44.7%)
3. Southwark (44.3)
4. Newham 43.7%)
5. Blackpool (43.5%)
6. Liverpool (43.4%)
7. Knowsley (43.3%)
8. Tower Hamlets (42.8%)
9. Kingston upon Hull (42.6%)
10. Walsall (42.4%)

Outcome

Scored

Levels of physical activity

Why is this important?

Levels of physical activity have been linked to both physical and mental health outcomes.

Description of metric

Self-reported by children, the data is provided by Sport England and is available to the local authority level. Data are collected and presented on activity levels and types of participation in sport and physical activity, categorised into under 30 minutes a day, 30 to 59 minutes, and 60 minutes or more.

Data presents the proportion of children per local authority reporting they do less than 30 minutes a day of physical activity.

Why is it not mapped?

Data was unavailable for 19 local authority areas due to missing information, and 28 had missing information/no information about physical activity.

Source: Sport England. [Active Lives Survey: Children and young people, Academic year 2024/25](#).

As reported by [Sport England](#), **29.6% of children reported doing less than 30 minutes of exercise a day**. This figure has remained unchanged for the past few years.

Not all areas had sufficient data to provide percentages. Of the areas that did the median percentage was 29% in 2024/25.

“exercise makes you feel more happy, so parks are a good place to do exercise”
– boy, 11, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of children with low activity, 2024/25

1. Stockton-on-Tees (15.4%)
2. Leeds (20.0%)
3. Warwickshire (20.3%)
4. Richmond upon Thames (20.3%)
5. Northumberland (21.3%)
6. Windsor and Maidenhead (21.9%)
7. Lincolnshire (22.1%)
8. Sandwell (22.5%)
9. East Riding of Yorkshire (22.5%)
10. Bury (22.6%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of children with low activity, 2024/25

1. Brent (41.8%)
2. Slough (39.7%)
3. Westmorland and Furness (39.3%)
4. Manchester (38.6%)
5. Oldham (37.6%)
6. Bristol (37.1%)
7. West Berkshire (37.1%)
8. Staffordshire (35.8%)
9. Newcastle upon Tyne (35.6%)
10. Medway (35%)

Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children

Why is this important?

Accidents and injuries are the primary cause of premature mortality in children under the age of 15 and can result in long term implications for their physical and mental health.

Description of metric

Data is produced as part of the NHS Hospital Episode Statistics and has been reproduced in both the UK Health Security Agency Health Profiles (Fingertips) and the Local Authority Interactive Toolkit (LAIT) produced by the Department for Education.

The data covers a wide range of diagnostic criteria based on ICD 10 codes and is presented as a crude rate per 10,000 local child population, using the Office for National Statistics mid year population estimates for 2024. The City of London and Isles of Scilly were included in Hackney and Cornwall respectively.

Data are also available on the same basis for 15 to 24 year olds. This shows that in 2023-24 there were 60,817 hospital admissions in England for unintentional and deliberate injuries in young people, a rate of about 89 per 10,000 young people aged 15 to 24 years old. Newham was the area with the fewest hospital admissions at 32 per 10,000 young people in 2024-25, while Wolverhampton had the highest rate at 223 per 10,000.

Source: OHID and NHS England. [Child and Maternal Health - Data | Fingertips](#)

In 2024-25 there were 68,929 hospital admissions in England for unintentional and deliberate injuries, a rate of about 68.5 per 10,000 children aged under 15.

Across local authority areas the average was 69.5 children per 10,000 children in 2024-25.

Stoke-on-Trent was the area with the fewest hospital admissions at 30 per 10,000 children, while Northumberland had the highest rate at 148 per 10,000 children admitted to hospital for unintentional or deliberate injuries.

"Make more crossing roads because people can get injured badly by a car." – girl, 9, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest rates of children hospitalised per 10,000 children, 2024-25

1. Stoke-on-Trent (29.8)
2. Slough (33.4)
3. Thurrock (33.8)
4. Windsor and Maidenhead (34.2)
5. Bromley (37.7)
6. Sutton (39.2)
7. Merton (39.4)
8. Lambeth (40.3)
9. Croydon (43.1)
10. Newham (43.2)

Local authorities with the highest rates of children hospitalised per 10,000 children, 2024-25

1. Northumberland (147.8)
2. North Tyneside (131.9)
3. Newcastle upon Tyne (121.2)
4. Darlington (120.8)
5. Isle of Wight (115.9)
6. Sunderland (109.4)
7. Westmorland and Furness (107.9)
8. North Lincolnshire (107.5)
9. Torbay (106.6)
10. North East Lincolnshire (104.7)

Outcome

Scored

Quality of health services

Why is this important?

The Care Quality Commission is the healthcare regulator, and inspects and rates health services in England, some of which are child-specific, including hospitals, GPs, dentists, mental health services, and community health services, which includes professionals such as health visitors and school nurses. It judges services based on whether they are responsive, safe, well-led, caring, and effective – these ratings are not always or often disaggregated for adults and children.

Why is it not mapped?

The CQC publish data on their overall inspection findings at setting level that can be mapped to local authority boundaries, but this is not possible in respect of child patients.

“Invest more money into improving the healthcare system to make it a welcoming environment with doctors who care about the patients’ physical mental and emotional health” – girl, 16, The Big Future

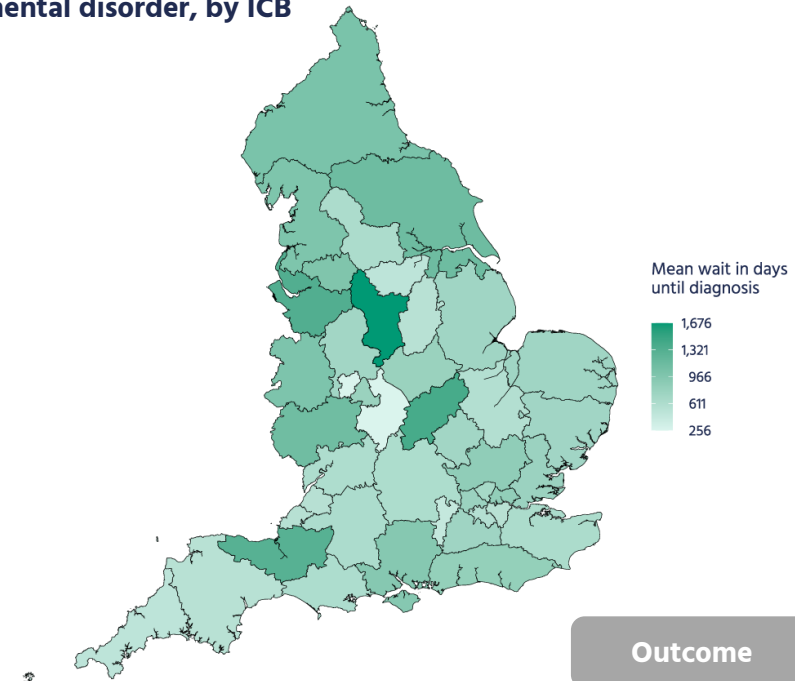
“Drastically improve and listen to people about the dire state of nhs mental health services” – girl, 17, The Big Future

Source: Care Quality Commission. [Annual Report and Accounts 2024-2025](#)

The Children’s Commissioner’s [research](#) has found many children face delays in being discharged from hospital due to a lack of investment in community services and bottlenecks in the wider system – an estimated 50,000 to 100,000 bed days lost per year.

Other [research](#) by the Children’s Commissioner’s has found children waiting years for assessment, diagnosis, and therapeutic support in community health services, with particular groups of children less likely to have their needs identified and met. Current NHS data limitations made it impossible to calculate how long children are waiting to be diagnosed with autism or ADHD, but many waits are lengthy, with huge regional disparities.

Mean wait from referral in or before 2022-23 to diagnosis in 2022-23 or 2023-24 with a neurodevelopmental disorder, by ICB



Health behaviours: smoking and vaping

Why is this important?

Smoking has serious negative health implications and can adversely affect adolescent development, and the long-term health effects of vaping are still under investigation. The Children's Commissioner has [found](#) that children with existing vulnerabilities, including having a social worker or a disabled parent, are more likely to vape than those who do not, and that vaping negatively affects some children's experiences at school.

Why is it not mapped?

Health behaviours are measured in two large surveys of children and young people – the NHS Smoking, Drinking and Drug use survey and the World Health Organisation Health Behaviours in School aged children survey.

While the NHS Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use survey data itself is made available through the UK Data Service, it is based on a sampled population survey, and so on its own is not a suitable data source to disaggregate down to a local authority level.

Regional comparisons of smoking and use of vapes or e-cigarettes in adolescences are provided as indicative of differences across the country.

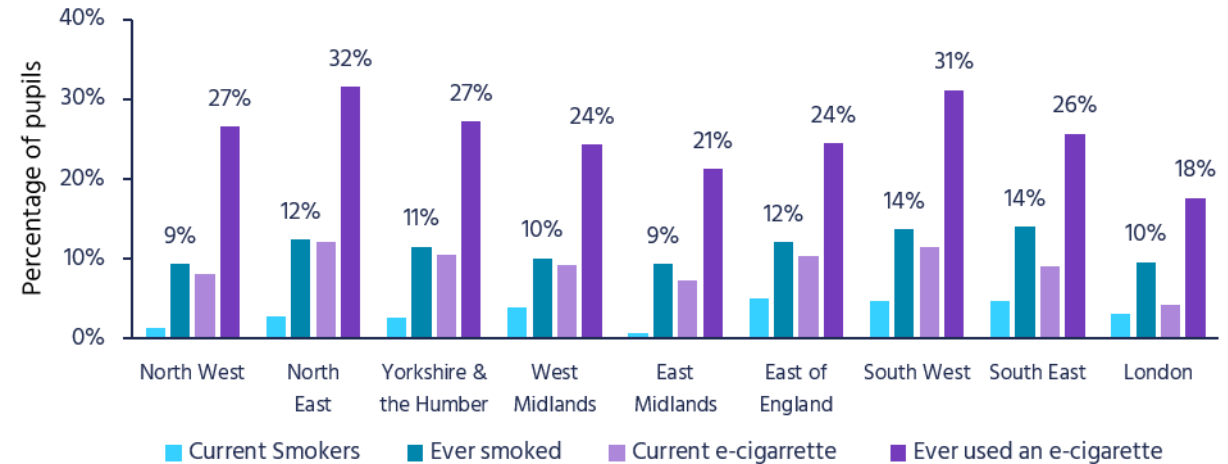
Summary

Data shows that **while adolescent smoking has reduced over time, this may have been supplanted by the use of electronic devices such as vapes**. There are variations in the proportions by region, with a larger proportion of children in the South West and North East reporting to have ever used an e-cigarette.

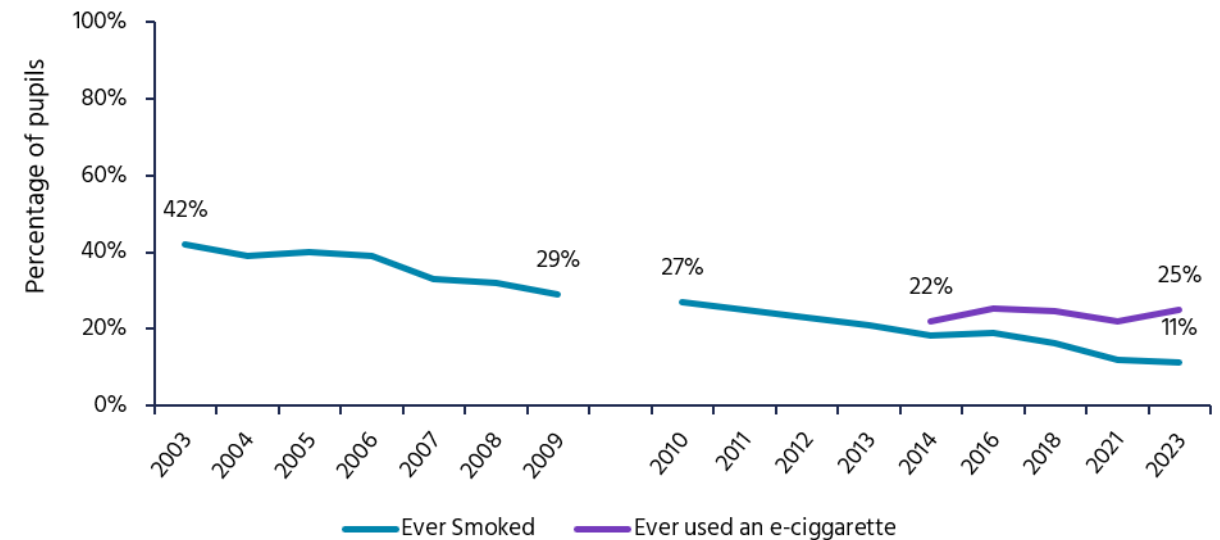
"People under the age of 18 should not be vaping." – girl, 17, The Big Future

Source: NHS England. October 2024. [Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England, 2023](#)

Percentage of pupils who had ever smoked or used an e-cigarette, by region, 2023



Proportion of pupils who had ever smoked or used an e-cigarette, 2003 - 2023



Note: Breaks in the chart reflect changes in methodology and indicate that preceding responses are not directly comparable. Data started being collected on e-cigarettes and vaping in 2014.

Health behaviours: alcohol consumption

Why is this important?

Drinking alcohol, particularly in large volumes and or consistently, is proven to have serious health implications and can adversely affect adolescent development. The Children's Commissioner has [found](#) 33% to 81% of pupils – the percentage increasing with the child's age – had learned about drugs and alcohol in school.

Why is it not mapped?

Health behaviours are measured in two large surveys of children and young people – the NHS Smoking, Drinking and Drug use survey, and the WHO Health Behaviours in School-aged Children study.

While the NHS Smoking, Drinking and Drug use survey data itself is made available through the UK Data Service, as it is based on a sampled population survey, on its own it is not a suitable data source to disaggregate down to a local authority level. Regional comparisons of alcohol consumption in adolescences are provided as indicative of differences across the country.

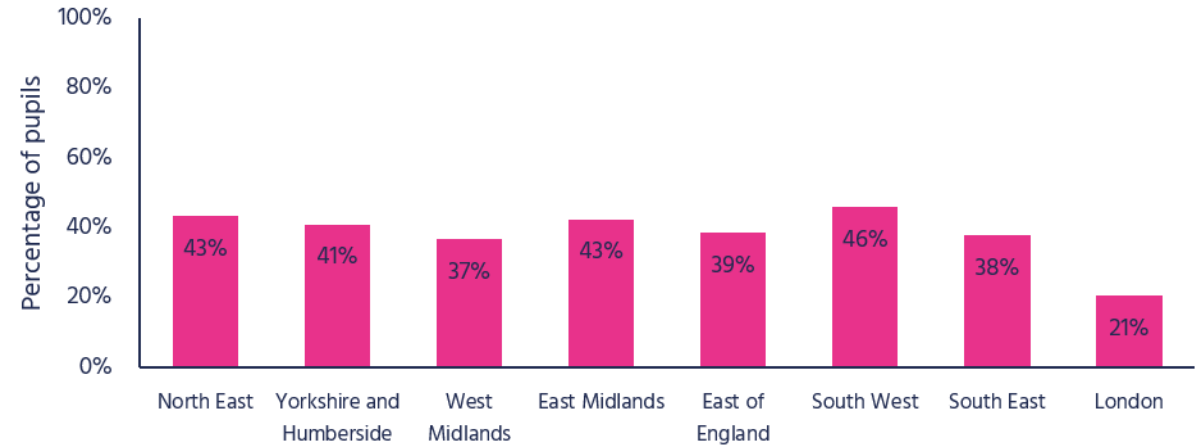
Summary

Data indicates that **adolescent drinking has fallen over time**. There are, however, variations in the proportions by region with a larger proportion of children in the South West reporting to have ever drunk alcohol.

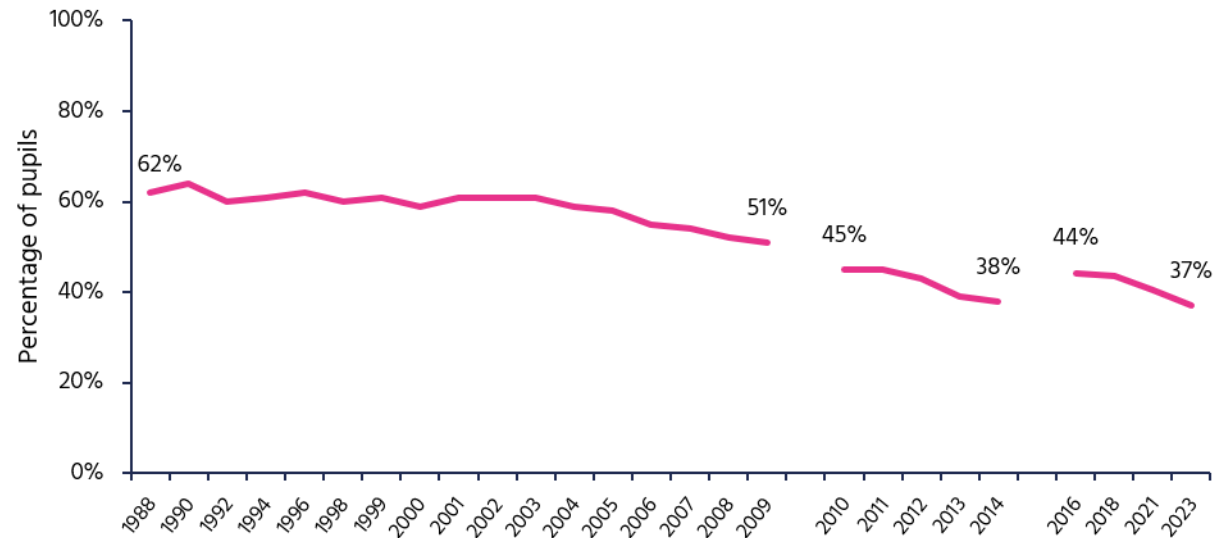
"Actually sort things out that matter like making sure kids don't drink alcohol, vape or smoke" – girl, 15, The Big Future

Source: NHS England. October 2024. [Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England, 2023](#)

Percentage of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol, by region, 2023



Proportion of pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink, 1988 - 2023



Note: Breaks in the chart reflect changes in methodology and indicate that preceding responses are not directly comparable. Data from 2010 used a weighted methodology while data from 2016 used different question wording.

Health behaviours: drug use

Why is this important?

Evidence has demonstrated immediate and long-term risks to young people's health and wellbeing associated with the use of legal and illegal drugs. These risks vary by type of drug. The Children's Commissioner has [found](#) 33% to 81% of pupils – the percentage increasing with the child's age – had learned about drugs and alcohol in school.

Why is it not mapped?

Health behaviours are measured in two large surveys of children and young people – the NHS Smoking, Drinking and Drug use survey, and the WHO Health Behaviours in School-aged Children study. While the NHS survey data itself is available through the UK Data Service, as it is based on a sampled population survey, it is not suitable to disaggregate down to a local authority.

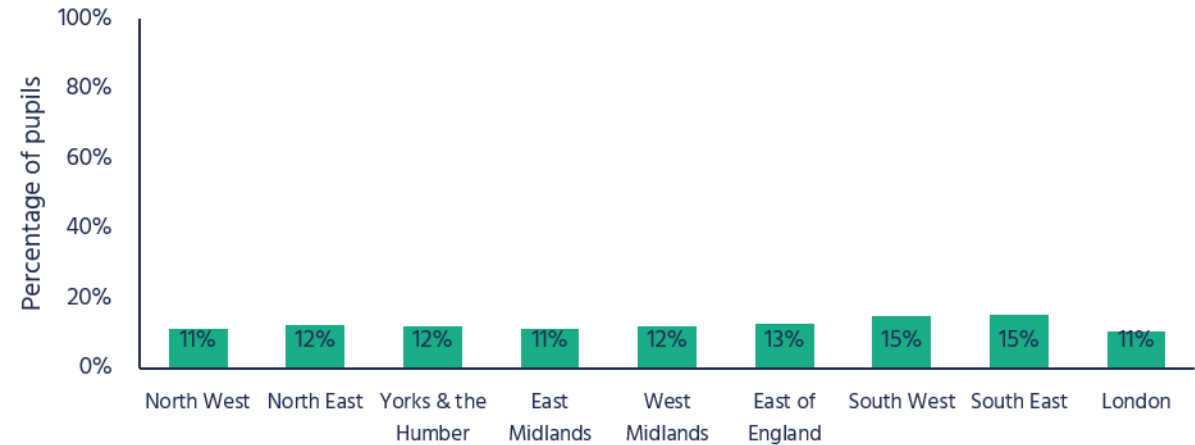
Summary

Data shows that **substance use has reduced over time**, largely after the pandemic. There was little variation in the proportions by region, with slightly more children in the south of England having ever taken drugs.

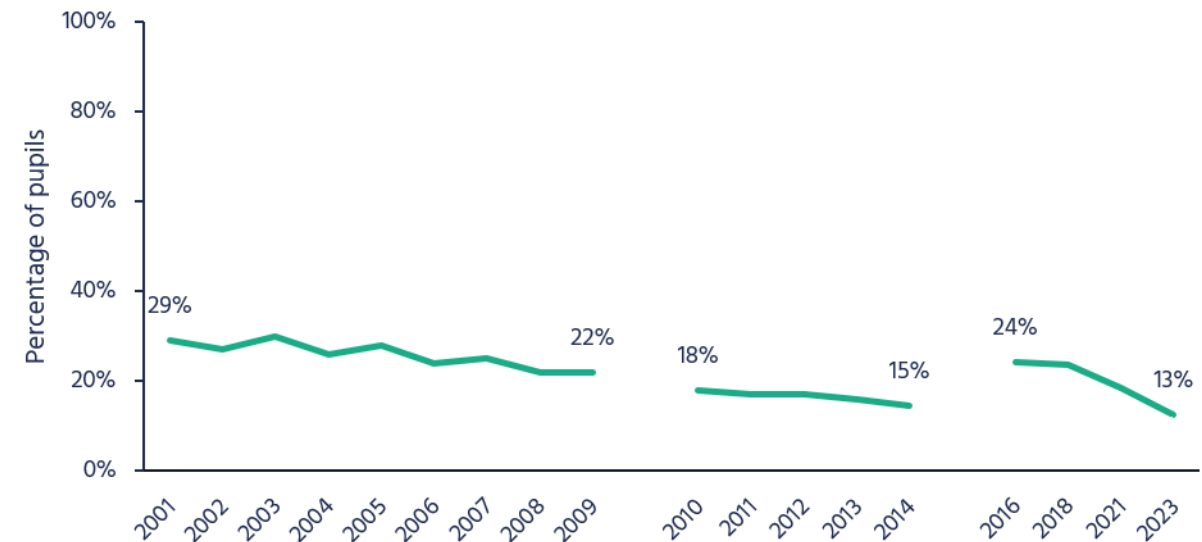
"laws on doing the drugs because people my age are doing these things"
- boy, 15, The Big Future

Source: NHS England. October 2024. [Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England, 2023](#)

Percentage of young people who have ever taken drugs, by region, 2023



Proportion of pupils who had ever had any substance, 2001 - 2023



Note: Breaks in the chart reflect changes in methodology and indicate that preceding responses are not directly comparable. From 2016 data included the use of novel psychoactive substances for the first time.

Access to substance misuse services (drug and alcohol)

Why is this important?

Good access to substance abuse services helps young people recover from periods of alcohol or drug abuse. When children and young people develop problematic or harmful use of alcohol or illicit substances, it is important that they have access to specialist services to help them recover and reduce the risk of dependence.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority has stated that they have access to substance abuse services in their local area.

This binary measure does not assess the quality or level of engagement that substance abuse services are receiving or their effectiveness.

"focus harder on the misuse of alcohol and drugs and the rehabilitation of the people affected." – Boy, 16, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

97% of local authorities reported that they have substance abuse services available for children and young people in their local area. 2 reported they did not – Leicestershire and Isle of Wight - and 2 did not respond.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had substance abuse services.

Percentage of local authorities who provide substance abuse services, by region



149 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have substance abuse services, 2025

4 local authorities out of 153 reported that they do not have substance abuse services, 2025

Access

Scored

Children in substance misuse treatment

Why is this important?

While it is difficult to estimate the actual prevalence of substance use by young people, there are proxy measures that can indicate where there is particularly high local usage. This includes the numbers of children who are receiving treatment for their problematic use of substances.

However, high treatment numbers may indicate investment in this service area rather than higher levels of need.

Description of metric

Data for children aged under 14 were excluded from the rate but assessed as a proportion of the overall number in treatment.

To find a crude rate per 1,000 the number of 14- to 17-year-olds in treatment was divided by the relevant population estimate for this age group, and multiplied by 1,000. Data for Isles of Scilly was included in Cornwall.

Large discrepancies were noted between the overall England summary file that the published statistics refer to and the local authority data file. There were also discrepancies within the local authority data between the summarised counts and the presented total figures.

Why is it not mapped?

Interpretation challenge; for example, higher figures may represent higher usage of substances, higher service capacity, better treatment options, or other factors.

Source: OHID. [Substance misuse treatment for children: 2024 to 2025](#)

There were 16,212 children in alcohol and drug treatment in 2024-25, mostly aged 14 to 17, though most report starting to use substances before age 15. This number compares to 14,352 in 2023-24.

Most often, they are treated for cannabis use, followed by alcohol, followed by nicotine.

Across local authorities, the average rate was 5.8 young people aged 14- to 17 per 10,000.

Westmorland and Furness and the City of London had the fewest in treatment for substance misuse while Bath and North East Somerset had the highest rate per 1,000 children in 2024-25.

“fix drug addiction problems” – boy, 16, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest rate of children (per 1,000 14-17 year olds) in substance misuse treatment, 2024-25

1. Westmorland and Furness (0)
2. City of London (0)
3. Cumberland (0.4)
4. West Sussex (1.7)
5. Rutland (1.7)
6. Bradford (1.9)
7. Worcestershire (1.9)
8. Islington (1.9)
9. Buckinghamshire (2)
10. Bracknell Forest (2)

Local authorities with the highest rate of children (per 1,000 14-17 year olds) in substance misuse treatment, 2024-25

1. Bath and North East Somerset (20.3)
2. Halton (16.5)
3. St. Helens (16.4)
4. Liverpool (15.3)
5. Blackpool (13.4)
6. Redcar and Cleveland (12.3)
7. Gateshead (12)
8. Kingston upon Hull (11.8)
9. Darlington (11.7)
10. Rochdale (11.6)

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) rates

Why is this important?

Left untreated, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can lead to severe, irreversible health problems for children and young people.

For older adolescents, sexual health screening is vital as preventative health care, and treatment when infections are detected is equally vital.

Why is it not mapped?

While data is available across several diagnoses including for syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia from the Department for Health and Social Care's Public health profiles, the data are not disaggregated for under 18s at local authority level.

Data is available for diagnosis numbers at a national and regional level for children aged 13 to 14 and for children and young people aged 15 to 19.

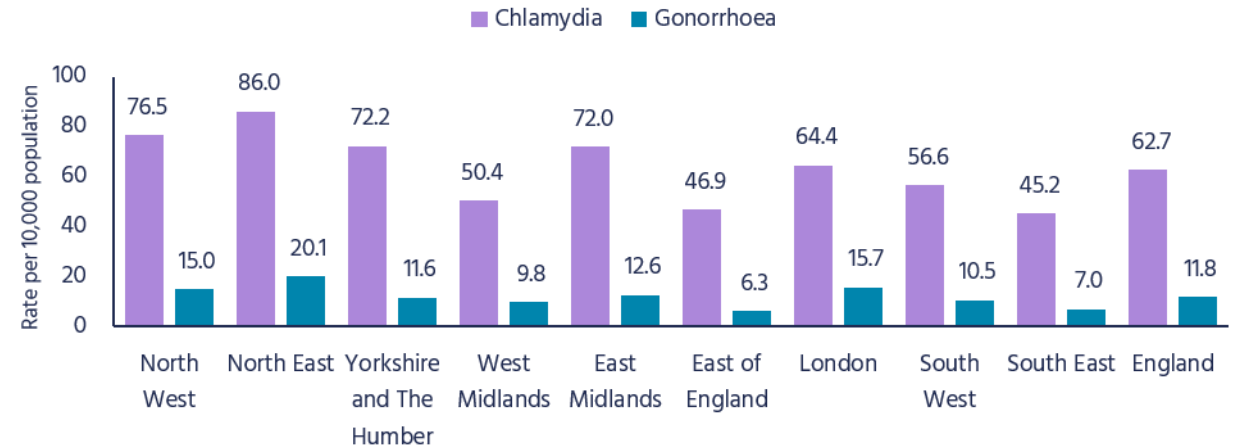
Summary

Rates of STI infections show a downward trend for children and young people in recent years. The 2024 statistics for 13 to 19 year olds showed 43,607 total new infections.

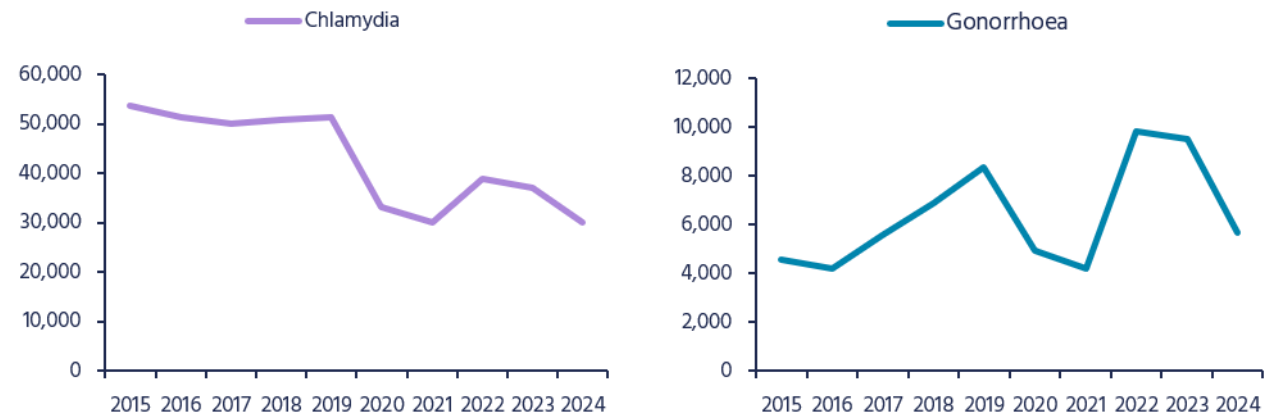
"free period products and free condoms and pregnancy tests"
– girl, 17, The Big Future

Source: UK Health Security Agency. June 2025. [Sexually transmitted infections and screening for chlamydia in England: 2024 report](#)

Rates of sexually transmitted infections (13- to 19-year-olds), by region, 2024



Number of sexually transmitted infections among 13- to 19-year-olds, 2015 to 2024



Conception rate among under 18s

Why is this important?

While for some young women having a child when they are young is very positive, for other teenagers bringing up a child is extremely difficult and may negatively impact the baby's health, the mother's emotional health and wellbeing and the likelihood of living in long-term poverty.

Evidence has found that teenage pregnancy is associated with poorer outcomes for both young parents and their children. Teenage mothers are less likely to finish their education, are more likely to bring up their child alone and in poverty, and have a higher risk of poor mental health than older mothers.

Why is it not mapped?

The most recent data available is for 2022, published as part of the Fingertips health profiles at ICB and local authority level. Rates are defined per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17 and data is drawn from the Office for National Statistics reference tables on Conceptions in England and Wales.

Rates of conception in under 18s have been in decline since 1998, when the rate was 46.6 per 1,000 girls, down to 13.9 per 1,000 in 2022 – though there has been a recent small increase as the lowest rate was in 2020 at 12.8.

“our schools need more lessons on sex and rape and what to do if anything like accidental pregnancies ever happen to us or our friends. We (especially the teenage girls, but also the boys) need verbal support.”
– child, 12, The Big Future

Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. October 2025. [Under 18s conception rate.](#)

Outcome

Narrative

Access to sexual health services

Why is this important?

The 2024 Children's Commissioner's School and College Survey asked schools whether they had a sexual health clinic in their school.

Of primary schools that responded, 98% said that they did not have this type of provision in their schools, with 98% of them also stating that they did not want this.

85% of secondary schools said that they did not have this provision within their schools, of which 84% said that they did not want one either.

The schools that said that they did have a sexual health clinic in their school reported these were predominantly offered by external providers. By region, provision of these external services in schools ranged from a low of 1.3% of schools in the East of England to 4.1% in the North East.

As part of the public health grant award to local authorities, sexual health services including STI testing and treatment and contraception are functions that local authorities are mandated to fund.

In response to the Children's Commissioner's office's 2025 local authority data request on service provision, 11 local authorities specifically mentioned sexual health services as additional services they provide for children and young people in the open text option about any additional services not otherwise captured.

Source: The Children's Commissioner. September 2025. [The Children's Plan: The Children's Commissioner's School Census](#)

Access

Narrative

Children who don't feel they have someone supportive to talk to

Why is this important?

Having someone supportive to talk to is key protective factor for addressing emotional wellbeing and by extension potential mental health problems.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You have someone supportive to talk about how you feel' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

Ranks are presented for the 129 local authority areas where the sample size met the 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error.

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"someone to talk to if you really need it and are scared and you don't have family or friends that you can trust that will keep a secret" – girl, 12, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, the median by local authority was **8.3% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they had someone supportive to talk to** (IQR 7.3% - 9.2%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Havering at 4.7%, while the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Gateshead (11.5%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing that they had someone supportive to talk to, 2023-2024

1. Havering (4.7%)
2. Merton (5.1%)
3. Bedford (5.2%)
4. Sutton (5.3%)
5. West Northamptonshire (5.4%)
6. Cheshire East (5.4%)
7. Central Bedfordshire (5.9%)
8. Walsall (6.1%)
9. Stockport (6.2%)
10. Southwark (6.2%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing that they had someone supportive to talk to, 2023-2024

1. Gateshead (11.5%)
2. Peterborough (11.3%)
3. Somerset (11.0%)
4. Waltham Forest (11.0%)
5. Wakefield (11.0%)
6. Middlesbrough (10.9%)
7. North Somerset (10.8%)
8. Brighton and Hove (10.8%)
9. Newham (10.7%)
10. Tower Hamlets (10.7%)

Outcome

Scored

Access to Early Support Hubs (Mental Health Drop in)

Why is this important?

Early support hubs provide support in the form of drop-in centres offering mental health support and advice to young people aged 0 to 19 (or 25 if they have additional needs) without a referral by a doctor or school.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority told the Children's Commissioner that they have early support hubs available in their local area.

This binary measure does not assess the quality or level of engagement that early support hubs are receiving or their effectiveness. It also does not reflect the number that are available in the local area – just that there is at least one active.

"Every child and teenager should have direct access to mental health support at all times, not just through referrals, waiting lists, or when problems become severe." – girl, 13, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Only 43% of local authorities reported that they have an early support hub or a mental health drop-in available for children and young people in their local area. 80 areas reported they did not, and 8 did not respond to this question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had an early support hub.

Percentage of local authorities that have access to early support hubs, by region, 2025



65 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have an early support hub, 2025

88 local authorities out of 153 did not report they have an early support hub, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to bereavement service (age 0 to 19)

Why is this important?

Bereavement services offer specialist support to children, young people, and their families who are grieving the death of someone close to them or when facing the death of someone they care about.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides a specialist support offer to children and young people who have experienced a bereavement.

This binary measure is not an assessment of quality or how many or how well children engage with these services.

"Help us feel better about people who have died" – girl, 7, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

53% of local authorities reported that they provide a specialist bereavement service for children and young people in their authority area. 65 said they did not, and 6 did not answer this question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had this.

Percentage of local authorities that provide a bereavement service, by region, 2025



82 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a bereavement service in their area, 2025

71 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a bereavement service in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to Mental Health Support Teams

Why is this important?

Mental health support teams (MHST) are a service designed to provide low level and early intervention support to children and young people in mainstream education. They combine mental health literacy with targeted support facilitated in schools.

Description of metric

Data are published provided by the Department for Education on the numbers of children reached by MHSTs in a local area. Data are presented as a percentage of pupils or learners reached within the 2024/25 academic year based on self-reported settings lists provided by MHSTs linked to school census data and Individualised Learner Record data.

“Make it easier to get mental health support and diagnosis as I am suspected to have severe dyslexia and struggle with suspected anxiety and no one takes it seriously or gives you support because you don’t have a diagnosis especially in school” – girl, 14, The Big Future

Source: Department for Education. [Transforming children and young people’s mental health provision](#)

Overall, **52% of pupils or learners in eligible provisions in England were in the MHST programme in 2024-25, up from 44% in 2023-24.** Coverage varied by provision type with 47% for primary, 70% for secondary, 36% for special, 42% for alternative provision and 41% for colleges (Post 16).

Across local authorities, the average percentage of pupils covered was 55% in 2024-25.

Reach should be considered in relation to the roll-out of the MHST programme. Some areas have well-established teams as part of original pilot areas, while others will be newly formed in the most recent wave of the programme roll out. The Isles of Scilly reported 100% coverage of pupils in their area, though the Isles of Scilly only has one recorded school.

Local authorities with the highest percentage of pupils in the MHST programme in 2024-25

1. Isles of Scilly (100%)
2. South Tyneside (99%)
3. North East Lincolnshire (97%)
4. Barnsley (93%)
5. Islington (89%)
6. Isle of Wight (89%)
7. Southampton (88%)
8. Ealing (88%)
9. North Tyneside (87%)
10. Enfield (87%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of pupils in the MHST programme in 2024-25

1. City of London (8%)
2. Leicestershire (24%)
3. Surrey (27%)
4. Windsor and Maidenhead (28%)
5. East Riding of Yorkshire (31%)
6. York (31%)
7. Stockport (32%)
8. Birmingham (34%)
9. Croydon (36%)
10. Plymouth (36%)

Access

Scored

Children with active mental health referrals

Why is this important?

The number of active referrals to Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) indicate the scale of children and young people with mental health needs and so provide an assessment of the scale of provision needed to provide adequate care.

Summary

As reported in the Children's Commissioner's report on Children's mental health services 2024-25, the number of children with active referrals to Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS, sometimes referred to as 'CAMHS') increased from 958,200 in 2023-24 to over 1 million children (1,048,965) in 2024-25. This means that **around 8% of the 12 million children in England had an active referral in 2024-25.**

Data was provided by NHS England and includes cases of referrals where ICB was missing, so total referrals and numbers by ICB may differ. The figures shown in the table (right) are taken from the Commissioner's previous [annual briefing](#) because it included ICB-level referral numbers.

Throughout, 'active referrals' is used to refer to children who had any period of waiting in 2024-25. This includes: children who entered treatment during the year; children whose referral was closed during the year; and children who were still waiting to enter treatment at the end of the year. It does not include children who entered treatment before the start of the year, and who remained in treatment during the year.

"I think they should make the mental health stuff better because the waiting lists are very long" – Girl, 12, The Big Future.

Source: The Children's Commissioner's office. [Children's mental health services 2024-25 data](#)

Region	Integrated Care Board	Number of children with active referrals	Region	Integrated Care Board	Number of children with active referrals
NE&Y	North East and North Cumbria	61,570	L	North West London	19,150
NW	Greater Manchester	53,880	EE	Norfolk and Waveney	18,960
NW	Cheshire and Merseyside	50,970	L	North Central London	18,605
SE	Kent and Medway	48,225	EE	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	18,490
NE&Y	West Yorkshire	45,285	M	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	17,960
SE	Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West	37,230	M	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	17,235
SE	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	34,715	M	Derby and Derbyshire	16,615
M	Coventry and Warwickshire	29,395	SE	Frimley	14,960
NE&Y	Humber and North Yorkshire	28,225	EE	Suffolk and North East Essex	14,695
SE	Sussex	27,470	EE	Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes	13,355
NW	Lancashire and South Cumbria	27,015	M	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	13,060
M	Nottingham and Nottinghamshire	26,195	EE	Mid and South Essex	12,600
L	South East London	25,500	SW	Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire	10,465
L	South West London	23,430	SW	Somerset	9,820
EE	Hertfordshire and West Essex	22,905	SW	Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire	9,575
M	Black Country	22,625	SW	Gloucestershire	9,495
NE&Y	South Yorkshire	22,025	M	Lincolnshire	8,990
L	North East London	20,010	SW	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	8,975
SE	Surrey Heartlands	19,700	M	Northamptonshire	8,685
SW	Devon	19,510	M	Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	7,775
M	Birmingham and Solihull	19,220	SW	Dorset	7,595

Outcome

Narrative

Average waiting times for mental health treatment

Why is this important?

The length of time children wait to receive treatment can negatively impact on their mental health. All children should be seen within the waiting time standards, which differ based on urgency and type of need.

NHS England currently publishes waiting times based on how long children wait for a single contact with CYPMHS, which may include 'indirect activity' where the child is not present. NHS England advises providers that this activity can be recorded where it "directly benefits the patient", such as a mental health professional attending a multi-disciplinary meeting to discuss a child, or talking to a parent or teacher.

Description of metric

As reported in the Children's Commissioner's report 'Children and young people's mental health services 2024-25'; data was provided by NHS England on the average waiting time (in days) between referral and *second* contact with children's and young people's mental health services.

Why is it not mapped?

ICB footprints cannot be mapped to local authority areas. Details and judgements on ICB performance are presented in the Children's Commissioner's published series of annual mental health briefings.

Source: The Children's Commissioner. [Children's and Young People's Mental Health Services: 2024-25](#)

Children who received at least two contacts with CYPMHS within the year waited an average of 35 days (unchanged from 2022-23 and 2023-24). However, the weighted median, taking into account both children who received treatment and children who were still waiting for treatment at the end of the year, was 128 days. The number still waiting for treatment to begin rose again in 2024-25 to 365,731, up from 173,399 in 2018-19.

Of children who were still waiting to receive treatment at the end of 2024-25, 16% (60,041 children) had been waiting longer than two years, an increase from 14% (44,881 children) the previous year. Waits of over a year were common.

"Listen to local people, and look at waiting lists for children and young people who are waiting for referrals" – boy, 12, The Big Future

ICBs with the shortest median wait (in days) between referral and second contact, 2024-25

1. Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (6)
2. Mid and South Essex (9)
3. Greater Manchester (13)
4. Suffolk and North East Essex (19)
5. Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (22)
6. South Yorkshire (27)
7. Humber and North Yorkshire (31)
8. South East London (31)
9. West Yorkshire (33)
10. Kent and Medway (34)

ICBs with the longest median wait (in days) between referral and second contact, 2024-25

1. Hampshire and Isle of Wight (118)
2. Herefordshire and Worcestershire (77)
3. North Central London (72)
4. Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (71)
5. Gloucestershire (70)
6. Sussex (69)
7. Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (68)
8. Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (58)
9. Birmingham and Solihull (56)
10. Black Country (55)

Average spend on mental health support per child

Why is this important?

Across children and young people's mental health services there are known discrepancies in access to services and a lack of parity of funding. This is evident in amount that NHS trusts spend on these services.

Description of metric

Taken from data reported in the Children's Commissioner's report 'Children and young people's mental health services 2024-25'.

Mental health spend per child referred was calculated using NHS Mental Health Dashboard spending figures and referrals data provided in the data collection (where higher spend per child referred means a higher score).

Why is it not mapped?

ICB footprints cannot be mapped to local authority areas. Details and judgements on ICB performance are presented in the Children's Commissioner's published series of annual mental health briefings.

"They should invest more in mental health support" – boy, 12, The Big Future

Source: The Children's Commissioner. [Children's and Young People's Mental Health Services: 2024-25](#)

Real spend on children's mental health services reached £1,106 million in 2024-25, following the pattern of increased spend over time.

Over one million children had active referrals to children and young people's mental health services in 2024-25 (1,048,965 children), so this £1.1 billion averages out to £1,054 per child with an active referral.

Adjusted for inflation, this represented a 2% real increase on the previous financial year. However, this compares to the 9.5% increase on the previous year in the number of referrals.

Some ICBs like Kent and Medway spend under £600 per child while others like North West London spend as much as £2,400.

ICBs with the highest spend per child with an active referral to mental health services, 2024-25

1. North West London (£2,410)
2. South East London (£2,013)
3. North East London (£1,934)
4. Dorset (£1,920)
5. North Central London (£1,885)
6. Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (£1,687)
7. Staffordshire and Stoke on-Trent (£1,623)
8. Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (£1,578)
9. Derby and Derbyshire (£1,491)
10. Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (£1,451)

ICBs with the lowest spend per child with an active referral to mental health services, 2024-25

1. Kent and Medway (£569)
2. Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (£582)
3. Coventry and Warwickshire (£599)
4. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (£614)
5. Herefordshire and Worcestershire (£767)
6. Somerset (£800)
7. Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (£823)
8. Cheshire and Merseyside (£899)
9. Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (£928)
10. Hampshire and Isle of Wight (£966)

Children who had their mental health referrals closed before treatment

Why is this important?

Children may have their referrals closed before receiving mental health treatment for a range of reasons. However if a large proportion of children's cases are closed, this may indicate that their needs are not being met, shortcomings in processes, or that there is not sufficient provision to provide adequate support.

Description of metric

As reported in the Children's Commissioner's report 'Children and young people's mental health services 2024-25'; data was provided by NHS England on the number of referrals that were closed before treatment.

Why is it not mapped?

ICB footprints cannot be mapped to local authority areas. Details and judgements on ICB performance are presented in the Children's Commissioner's published series of annual mental health briefings.

"The government seriously need to improve mental health services for children because i have watched too many good people fade away because they did not get the help they deserved" – girl, 13, The Big Future

Source: The Children's Commissioner's office. [Children's mental health services 2023-24 data](#)

The trend of fewer children having their referrals closed continued in 2024-25: **29% of children with referrals in 2024-25 had their referrals closed before treatment** – down from 31% in 2023-24. This could indicate a move away from children being referred elsewhere or having their case closed by CYPMHS, although how this affects outcomes for children is unclear.

The Children's Commissioner's annual mental health briefing for 2023-24 found that almost half of those referred for being 'in crisis' have their referrals closed or were still waiting for their second contact at the end of the year.

ICBs with the lowest percentage of referrals closed before second contact, 2024-25

1. Coventry and Warwickshire (16%)
2. Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (17%)
3. Northamptonshire (19%)
4. Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (21%)
5. West Yorkshire (23%)
6. Sussex (23%)
7. South West London (24%)
8. Norfolk and Waveney (24%)
9. Devon (24%)
10. North East London (25%)

ICBs with the highest percentage of referrals closed before second contact, 2024-25

1. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (57%)
2. Staffordshire and Stoke on-Trent (49%)
3. Hampshire and Isle of Wight (40%)
4. Black Country (39%)
5. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (39%)
6. Dorset (38%)
7. Surrey Heartlands (35%)
8. Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (34%)
9. Cheshire and Merseyside (34%)
10. Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire; and Suffolk (both 33%)

Inpatient hospitalisations for mental health

Why is this important?

While there will be cases when inpatient care is the best option for children and young people who are in a mental health crisis, high rates of inpatient admissions may indicate a lack of wider support for mental health or earlier intervention.

Description of metric

Data are taken from NHS Hospital Episodes Statistics using first finished episodes for all persons aged 0 to 17 years with primary diagnosis codes F00 to F99 (Mental and behavioural disorders). These are produced as part of Population Health Analysis by the Office for Health Improvement.

The rate is presented as a crude rate per 10,000 population using the Office for National Statistics Mid Year Population Estimates for children, this differs to the other published data that uses a rate per 100,000. Rate per 10,000 was chosen for consistency with other metrics. City of London is included in Hackney, Isles of Scilly is included in Cornwall, Rutland was suppressed due to small count.

Why is it not mapped?

This is only a proxy for the level of need (the actual number of children with acute mental health disorders) and may reflect local capacity or threshold differences.

Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2025
[Inpatient admission rate for mental health disorders per 100,000 population aged 0 to 17 years.](#)

In 2023-24 there were 9,623 inpatient hospital admissions of children for mental health disorders in England, a rate of about 8 per 10,000 children under 18 years old.

Across local authority areas the median was 8 (IQR 6 - 10) children per 10,000 of the resident population.

The South West region performs worst. Among local authorities Thurrock was the area with the fewest hospital admissions for mental health disorders at 2 per 10,000 young people. North Somerset had the highest rate at 38 per 10,000.

"help children that are sick in hospital" – girl, 7, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest rates per 10,000 young people hospitalised for mental health disorders, 2023-24

1. Thurrock (2)
2. Slough (2)
3. Oldham (2)
4. Southwark (3)
5. Croydon (3)
6. Bromley (3)
7. Hounslow (3)
8. Leeds (4)
9. Greenwich (4)
10. Manchester (4)

Local authorities with the highest rates per 10,000 young people hospitalised for mental health disorders, 2023-24

1. North Somerset (38)
2. Herefordshire (22)
3. Cornwall (20)
4. Darlington (20)
5. Wirral (17)
6. Central Bedfordshire (16)
7. Devon (16)
8. Hartlepool (15)
9. Torbay (14)
10. Bristol (13)

Children with disabilities and health needs: Disability Living Allowance

Why is this important?

One mechanism for estimating the numbers of children with disabilities living in a local area is to assess the numbers claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA). DLA is important as it provides financial support to help cover the costs of looking after a child under 16 with disabilities, illness or health conditions.

Unlike the disability registers the data comes from administrative data, however there may be instances where families do not apply for DLA payments. Some children with disabilities may also receive Personal Independent Payment or Universal Credit in their own right or through their family.

Description of metric

Data on numbers of children who received DLA payments is available from the Department for Work and Pensions. The rate per 10,000 was calculated using the Office for National Statistics Mid Year Population estimates of the number of children by local authority, except for Rutland, City of London and Isles of Scilly which were kept as total count

Why is it not mapped?

This measure reflects an important fact about a local authority but does not reflect good or bad performance. Higher numbers may reflect higher levels of need, better recognition of need, or other factors.

Source: Department for Work & Pensions. **Dataset:** [Disability Living Allowance \(Cases in Payment\)](#) available at Stat-Xplore

There were 889,980 children under 18 who were in receipt of Disability Living Allowance payments in November 2025. This equates to around 1 in 14 children in the population.

Across local authority areas the average rate was 721 per 10,000 children. Rutland's rate is reported as its absolute count as there are fewer than 10,000 children resident in the local authority.

High numbers reflect high numbers of families receiving financial support, while low numbers may reflect low take-up.

"They should see if they could help with DLA disability living allowance and help me as well" – girl, 9, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest rate of children claiming DLA per 10,000 children in 2025

1. Wirral (1,219)
2. Liverpool (1,175)
3. Knowsley (1,156)
4. Sunderland (1,119)
5. Isle of Wight (1,088)
6. Sefton (1,063)
7. Rotherham (1,048)
8. South Tyneside (1,044)
9. Torbay (1,039)
10. County Durham (1,030)

Local authorities with the lowest rate of children claiming DLA per 10,000 children in 2025

1. Isles of Scilly (7)
2. City of London (34)
3. Kensington and Chelsea (369)
4. Richmond upon Thames (387)
5. Redbridge (400)
6. Harrow (405)
7. Rutland (424)
8. Ealing (448)
9. Windsor and Maidenhead (457)
10. Barnet (459)

Children with disabilities and health needs: Children's Disability Register

Why is this important?

As the Children's Commissioner has [reported](#), the number of children in England who are disabled, or consider themselves disabled, is not known. The Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to keep a register of children with disabilities to aid in their service planning. Disability registers may also capture children who may not be eligible for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The register is however voluntary for families, and so may not capture the exact number of children.

Description of metric

Local authorities were asked to provide 'How many children there were, as of 31st March 2025, on the local authority's children with disabilities register'. They were asked how many of those also had an EHCP, were child in need, or on a child protection plan, or were a child looked after.

A percentage of the population was calculated using the total figure with any disability provided divided by the Office for National Statistics 2024 Mid year Population Estimates for 0-17 year olds. They were also asked whether they could provide figures based on 15 categories of need. The ability to provide this data was more mixed.

Why is it not mapped?

Data quality concerns. Where gathered effectively and consistently, this measure reflects important facts about local authorities, but does not reflect good or bad performance.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

In total 93% of local authorities were able to provide a figure for the number of children on their register, 3% were unable to provide a number and 4% did not respond to this question or to the data request.

Of the 139 local authorities that were able to provide a number of children on their disabilities register, the median percentage of the population was 1.2% (IQR 0.5% to 2.7%). The maximum was 19.9%.

"More thought for disabled users" – adult on behalf of boy, 15, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest percent of local children on their children's disability register, 2025

1. Wirral (20%)
2. Southwark (17%)
3. Bradford (16%)
4. Halton (16%)
5. Wiltshire (16%)
6. Gateshead (15%)
7. Cheshire West and Chester (14%)
8. East Sussex (7%)
9. Tameside (6%)
10. Hackney (6%)

Local authorities with the lowest percent of local children on their children's disability register, 2025

1. Swindon and Isles of Scilly (0%)
2. Central Bedfordshire (0.02%)
3. Stockton-on-Tees (0.04%)
4. York (0.05%)
5. Walsall (0.07%)
6. Peterborough (0.08%)
7. Salford (0.1%)
8. Warrington (0.11%)
9. West Berkshire (0.12%)
10. Westmoreland and Furness (0.14%)

[Access](#)
[Context](#)

Children with disabilities and health needs: local authority spending

Why is this important?

Short breaks and other local authority support for disabled children can provide essential support to many families, including disabled children themselves and their siblings.

This data provides context on the spend that local authorities are making on two different service provision types captured in the [Section 251 budget](#) returns to the Department for Education: 3.4.2. and 3.4.3.

Description of metric

The measure looks at the total local authority expenditure for the financial year 2024-25. Total expenditure was used, not net, to show the total amount spent on the services irrespective of how this is funded (included in the return are the income and grant contributions to the services).

Why is it not mapped?

The data are presented as a proportion of overall spend on children and young people's services by the local authority, so do not reflect absolute levels of investment in services for children – which would also need to include any investment by ICBs.

"Make everything accessible even to disabled children" – girl, 11, The Big Future

Source: Department for Education. September 2024.
[Planned LA and school expenditure, financial year 2024-25](#)

Within the 251 budget return data, two local authorities did not have any budgetary information available in 2024-25.

The total expenditure for services for children with disabilities in 2024-25 was £376m, compared to £366m in 2023-24.

Across the local authorities that provided data the average spent on services for children with disabilities as a proportion of overall expenditure on children and young people's services was 2.6% in 2024-25.

Percentages present the proportion of combined short break (respite) for disabled children and other support services for disabled children.

Local authorities with highest spending on children with disabilities as a proportion of overall children and young people's expenditure in 2024-25

1. North Yorkshire (8.5%)
2. Enfield (7.6%)
3. Bath and North East Somerset (7.4%)
4. York (7.1%)
5. Westminster (6.9%)
6. Kensington and Chelsea (6.5%)
7. Slough (6.2%)
8. Harrow (6.0%)
9. Cambridgeshire (5.9%)
10. Westmorland and Furness (5.5%)

Local authorities with lowest spending on children with disabilities as a proportion of overall children and young people's expenditure in 2024-25

1. Southwark (0.1%)
2. Dudley (0.2%)
3. Manchester (0.2%)
4. Lambeth (0.3%)
5. Greenwich (0.4%)
6. Hounslow (0.5%)
7. Bradford (0.5%)
8. Wigan (0.6%)
9. Calderdale (0.6%)
10. Hartlepool (0.6%)

Access to targeted support or youth group: children with special educational needs (SEN), disabilities or additional health need

Why is this important?

Children with SEN and additional health needs benefit from spending time with other children in similar circumstances. Specialist and targeted support services work with specific cohorts of children through providing tailored interventions or in the case of youth groups, opportunities for children to spend time with peers who have similar experiences.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides targeted support or youth group to children with special educational needs (SEN), disabilities or additional health needs.

This binary measure is not an assessment of quality or how well children engage with these services.

“A local youth club for young children with SEND needs or struggle with mental health to get them out the house and they will have fun there.” – girl, 12, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

There were **93% of local authorities** that reported that they provide targeted support or youth group for children with special educational needs (SEN), disabilities or additional health need in their authority area. 6 said they did not, and 4 did not answer this question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had a targeted support or youth group for children with special educational needs (SEN), disabilities or additional health need.

Percentage of local authorities who provide targeted support or youth group for children with SEND or health needs, by region, 2025



143 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have access to targeted support or youth group for Children with special educational needs (SEN), disabilities or additional health need, 2025

10 local authorities out of 151 did not report that they provided access to targeted support or youth group for Children with special educational needs (SEN), disabilities or additional health need, 2025

Access

Scored

Number of children who visit their GP

Why is this important?

All children should be registered with a local GP so they can access vital health services including universal vaccinations. Local areas should be able to understand local patterns of health service use, but **NHS England does not publish data on child use of GPs**, nor plan to introduce this.

[Analysis](#) by the Children's Commissioner has shown that primary health care is a top source of referrals of children to mental health services, and her latest annual [report](#) on mental health found that over one million children had active referrals to children and young people's mental health services in 2024-25.

The Commissioner's [report](#) on waiting times for assessment and support for neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) showed that data on GP referrals of children with suspected NDDs are poor, but 18% of children who went on to receive a diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental disorder in 2022-23 or 2023-24 were referred by a GP, one of the most common referral sources.

Why is it not mapped?

NHS England published monthly [statistics](#) on GP appointments in England, including whether they are booked and happen on the same day, and whether they are face-to-face. However, whether the patient was an adult or child is not included in the breakdowns.

Overview

NHS England publishes monthly [statistics](#) on the number of patients registered at GP practices, which for children in June 2026 was 12.3m, compared to the latest Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates for 0 to 17s in England, which are 12.8m.

The Children's Commissioner's survey The Big Ambition received responses from 253,000 children in England aged 0 to 18. Children aged 12 to 18 and adults responding on their behalf were shown the statement 'You can access good healthcare when you need it' and overall 80% agreed, with 9% disagreeing and 10% neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

[Research](#) using a representative sample of unpublished GP practice data found 1,864 GP consultations per 1,000 child-years in 2017 among 1 to 14 year olds, with a higher rate (6,722) for babies under 1.

"Children who need treatment can sometimes find themselves waiting a long time for it" – Girl, 17, The Big Ambition

"Improve the NHS, it is very slow" – Boy, 15, The Big Ambition

Source: [Appointments in General Practice - NHS England 2026](#).

Schools, jobs & skills

Children's experiences of the education system are one of the most widely documented and measured aspects of childhood. Children in England are required to be in full-time education between the ages of five and 16, though parents and carers can opt to educate children through alternative means. Post 16, young people can stay in formal education, start an apprenticeship, or work or volunteer while in education part time.



Overview of schools, jobs and skills metrics

All 28 metrics



Scored



Context



Narrative

Children who do not enjoy school

Children who do not feel they have supportive teachers

Child who do not know about money or life skills

Children missing from Education (CME)

Electively home educated children

Targeted support or youth group for home educated children

Unauthorised absence rate in mainstream schools

Exclusion rate in mainstream schools

Unauthorised absence rate in state-funded alternative provisions

Use of unregulated alternative provision

Level of SEN support in mainstream schools

Percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in mainstream education

Timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans issued

Access to a local authority Educational Psychology Team

Unauthorised absence rate in special schools

Children who do not feel they have the same opportunities as other children

Children who do not know about good jobs for when they are older (primary)

Children who do not know about apprenticeships, university options or career paths (secondary)

Diversity of subjects available at Key Stage 4

Average Attainment 8 Score

Percentage getting a good grade in English and Maths (Pass 5)

Availability of post 16 provision

A level participation

A level average scores

Participation in Applied General courses

Participation in T level courses

Participation in Apprenticeship (under 19s)

Young people not in education, employment or training



Overview of schools, jobs and skills metrics

19 scored metrics only



Scored

Children who do not
enjoy school

Children who do not
feel they have
supportive teachers

Child who do not
know about money or
life skills

Children missing from
Education (CME)

Targeted support or
youth group for home
educated children

Unauthorised absence
rate in mainstream
schools

Exclusion rate in
mainstream schools

Unauthorised absence
rate in state-funded
alternative provisions

Use of unregulated
alternative provision

Timeliness of
Education, Health and
Care Plans issued

Access to a local
authority Educational
Psychology Team

Unauthorised absence
rate in special schools

Children who do not
feel they have the
same opportunities as
other children

Children who do not
know about good jobs
for when they are
older (primary)

Average Attainment 8
Score

Percentage getting a
good grade in English
and Maths
(Pass 5)

Availability of post 16
provision

A level average scores

Young people not in
education,
employment or
training



Schools, jobs & skills scorecard

Scored metrics (19)	Category	Measure type	Max score
Children who do not enjoy school	Outcome	Decile	10
Children who do not feel they have supportive teachers	Outcome	Decile	10
Children who do not know about money or life skills	Outcome	Decile	10
Children missing from Education (CME)	Outcome	Decile	10
Unauthorised absence rate in mainstream schools	Outcome	Decile	10
Exclusion rate in mainstream schools	Outcome	Decile	10
Unauthorised absence rate in state-funded alternative provisions	Outcome	Decile	10
Use of unregulated alternative provisions	Outcome	Decile	10
Timeliness of Education, Health and Care plans issued	Quality	Decile	10
Access to a local authority Educational Psychology Team	Outcome	Binary	10
Unauthorised absence rate in special schools	Outcome	Decile	10
Children who do not feel they have the same opportunities as other children	Outcome	Decile	10
Children who do not know about good jobs for when they are older (primary)	Outcome	Decile	10
Children who do not know about apprenticeships, university options or career paths (secondary)	Outcome	Decile	10
Average Attainment 8 Score	Outcome	Decile	10
Percentage getting a good grade in English and Maths (Pass 5)	Outcome	Decile	10
Availability of post 16 provision	Access	Decile	10
A level average scores	Outcome	Decile	10
Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Outcome	Decile	10
Total score			190



Schools, jobs and skills metrics



Children who do not enjoy school

Why is this important?

Every child should have the opportunity to attend a great school which they enjoy attending. If children enjoy school, they are likely to be more engaged and perform better academically.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You enjoy school' (primary age) or 'You enjoy school or college' (secondary age) in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

Ranks are presented for the 129 local authority areas whose sample size met the 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error.

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"Provide more experiences and trips to make learning fun at school" – girl, 11, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **25% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they enjoyed school**. The median was 24.2% (IQR 20.9%-28.2%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Havering (11.4%) and the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Barnsley (46.2%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they enjoyed school or college, 2023-2024

1. Havering (11.4%)
2. Hounslow (12.4%)
3. Southwark (12.6%)
4. Sandwell (13.3%)
5. Slough (13.4%)
6. Lambeth (14.2%)
7. Warrington (14.3%)
8. Bromley (14.7%)
9. Croydon (16.1%)
10. Harrow (16.4%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they enjoyed school or college, 2023-2024

1. Barnsley (46.2%)
2. Bexley (38.1%)
3. Portsmouth (37.5%)
4. Peterborough (36.9%)
5. Northumberland (35.6%)
6. Rotherham (34.9%)
7. Middlesbrough (34.8%)
8. Liverpool (34.4%)
9. Bolton (34.2%)
10. Sunderland (34.2%)

Outcome

Scored

Children who do not feel they have supportive teachers

Why is this important?

Teachers are often the first people to identify additional challenges that children might be facing, and children who feel supported by teachers are more likely to enjoy school.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You have great teachers who support you' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

Ranks are presented for the 129 local authority areas whose sample size met the 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error.

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"make more schools have kind teachers." – boy, 9, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **10% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they had great teachers who supported them**. The median was 10% (IQR 8.3%-12.0%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Warrington (2.6%) the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Sandwell (4.3%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they had great teachers who support you, 2023-2024

1. Warrington (2.6%)
2. Sandwell (4.3%)
3. Havering (4.6%)
4. Hounslow (5.0%)
5. Merton (5.8%)
6. Southwark (5.9%)
7. Shropshire (5.9%)
8. Croydon (6.0%)
9. Cheshire West and Chester (6.0%)
10. North Somerset (6.2%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they had great teachers who support you, 2023-2024

1. Barnsley (21.2%)
2. Peterborough (18.0%)
3. Brighton and Hove (18.0%)
4. North Northamptonshire (17.8%)
5. Bexley (17.6%)
6. Liverpool (15.8%)
7. Leicester (15.8%)
8. Portsmouth (15.7%)
9. Bracknell Forest (15.1%)
10. Wakefield (15.0%)

Outcome

Scored

Children who do not know about money and life skills

Why is this important?

Lack of money and life skills may impact children's abilities in the future. It is an area of education that children frequently mention to the Children's Commissioner, including having better financial education and knowledge of taxation.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You know about money and life skills' in The Big Ambition survey 2024. This question was asked only of secondary aged (12- to 18-year-old) children and so sample sizes were smaller, with only 40% of 151 local authority areas having a sample size that met a 95% confidence level. The rankings for this data includes all local authorities except the City of London and the Isles of Scilly.

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"Teach us useful life skills" – girl, 12, The Big Future

"I think we should learn more about life after school like jobs, what are good jobs and bills and taxes" – girl, 14, The Big Ambition

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **12% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they feel they knew about money and life skills**. The median was 11.7% (IQR 10.1%-13.9%).

The lowest percentages disagreeing were children from Tameside and Thurrock, both with 0%, while the largest percentage disagreeing were children from Hartlepool (19.6%). All three of these areas however did not have response rates that met the 95% confidence level.

Local areas are marked with an * when the overall response rate did not meet the 95% confidence level and so should be treated with caution due to the small numbers.

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they know about money and life skills, 2023-2024

1. Thurrock (0.0%)*
2. Knowsley (2.5%)*
3. Sutton (3.3%)
4. Isle of Wight (4.8%)
5. Tameside (5.2%)*
6. Walsall (5.3%)
7. Stockton-on-Tees (6.8%)
8. Central Bedfordshire (6.9%)
9. Doncaster (7.1%)
10. Hull (7.4%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they know about money and life skills, 2023-2024

1. Redcar and Cleveland (27.5%)*
2. South Tyneside (23.5%)*
3. Newham (19.2%)
4. Sunderland (18.8%)
5. Kingston upon Thames (18.4%)
6. Hartlepool (18.0%)*
7. Solihull (18.0%)
8. Gateshead (17.9%)
9. Bromley (17.7%)
10. Southend-on-Sea (17.6%)

Outcome

Scored

Children missing from Education (CME)

Why is this important?

All children have a right to education. CME are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. This includes children who are awaiting a school place and children in receipt of unsuitable education.

Children missing education are at higher risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life. Local authorities have a legal duty to make arrangements to identify, as far as possible, the identities of children in their area who are missing out on education.

The Children's Commissioner [found](#) significant inconsistencies in the use of the term CME between local authorities, hampering attempts to collect reliable data and making it more difficult to work cross-border to identify and support these children.

Description of metric

Local authorities reported the total number of CME over academic year 2024/25; where a child was missing education more than once during the year, they should only be recorded once. These counts were rounded to the nearest 10.

Rate of CME at any time over the last year is the count of missing children divided by the population of comparable ages (based on the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates for children aged 5 to 16 years) presented as percentages.

Southampton did not provide data. The data for the City of London and Isles of Scilly were suppressed.

Source: Department for Education. [Children missing education](#)

There were an estimated 143,500 CME at any point during 2024/25, compared to the previous year's 149,900. This is around 1.6% of the 9.03m pupils in 2024/25.

Of the responding local authorities, the median percentage of children missing education was 1.8% in autumn term 2024/25. Lambeth reported less than 0.1%, and Blackpool had the highest percentage of children missing from education at over 8%.

"Help me to find education" – girl not taking part in education, 17, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of children missing education, 2024/25

1. Lambeth (0.03%)
2. Swindon (0.1%)
3. Hammersmith and Fulham (0.2%)
4. Cheshire West and Chester (0.2%)
5. Peterborough (0.2%)
6. Northumberland (0.2%)
7. Surrey (0.2%)
8. Manchester (0.2%)
9. Luton (0.2%)
10. Richmond upon Thames (0.3%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of children missing education, 2024/25

1. Blackpool (8.3%)
2. Sheffield (8.0%)
3. Nottingham (7.4%)
4. Reading (6.1%)
5. Leicester (5.3%)
6. Merton (5.1%)
7. Rochdale (5.1%)
8. Newham (5.0%)
9. Redbridge (4.9%)
10. West Northamptonshire (4.8%)

Outcome

Scored

Electively home educated children (EHE)

Why is this important?

EHE is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to full-time school. Parents of EHE children interviewed by the Children's Commissioner [said](#) this was often a forced choice influenced by shortcomings in support for children with SEND.

EHE is different to Education provided by a local authority Otherwise Than At a School (i.e. EOTAS) - for example, tuition for children who are too ill to attend school. Such children are not included by the Department for Education in the figures presented here.

Description of metric

Local authorities reported the number of EHE on one day in Autumn term of academic year 2024/25. These counts were rounded to the nearest 10. Rate of EHE is the count of EHE children divided by the population of comparable ages (based on the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates for children aged 5 to 16 years presented as percentages. The data for the City of London was suppressed due to providing a figure less than 10.

Why is it not mapped?

This measure reflects an important fact about a local authority but does not necessarily reflect good or bad performance.

Source: Department for Education. [Elective home education](#)

There were an estimated 111,700 EHE in Autumn 2024, this is 2.0% of the population eligible for compulsory education in England, up from 1.9% in 2023/24.

Barnet had the lowest percentage of elective home educated children, while Blackpool had the highest at around 1 in 20 children.

"Make schools a better place to be" – home educated girl, 14, The Big Future

"Have more opportunities for chronically ill kids and home schooled kids" – home educated girl, 16, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of electively home educated children, 2024/25

1. Barnet (0.7%)
2. Knowsley (0.7%)
3. Peterborough (0.8%)
4. Wandsworth (0.8%)
5. Richmond upon Thames (0.9%)
6. Swindon (1.0%)
7. North Tyneside (1.0%)
8. Trafford (1.0%)
9. Hackney (1.0%)
10. Lambeth (1.1%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of electively home educated children, 2024/25

1. Blackpool (4.8%)
2. Cornwall (4.2%)
3. East Sussex (4.1%)
4. Devon (3.8%)
5. Doncaster (3.7%)
6. Isle of Wight (3.6%)
7. Southend-on-Sea (3.6%)
8. Darlington (3.5%)
9. Medway (3.3%)
10. Barnsley (3.2%)

Targeted support or youth group for home educated children

Why is this important?

Children who are home educated may have more limited opportunities to socialise with children their own age compared to their peers in formal education. Local authorities may provide a targeted service or youth group to facilitate a space to support this group of children.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides a targeted support service or youth group focused on children who are home educated.

This binary measure does not quality or how well children engage with these services.

"More social opportunities to meet young people." - home educated boy, 12, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

There were **53% of local authorities that reported that they provide a targeted support or youth group for home educated children** in their authority area. 61 said they did not, 9 did not answer this question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had this service.

Percentage of local authorities who provide targeted support or youth group for home educated children, by region, 2025.



83 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a targeted support or youth group for home educated children, 2025

70 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a targeted support or youth group for home educated children, 2025

[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

Unauthorised absence rate in mainstream schools

Why is this important?

When children are absent from school they miss out on vital elements of their education which impacts on their future life chances. The Children's Commissioner has [found](#) associations between absence rates and pupil attainment.

It is parents' responsibility to ensure that children attend education. Local authorities and schools have legal responsibilities regarding accurate recording of a pupil's attendance.

Description of metric

The data used to publish absence statistics is collected via the school census by the Department for Education (DfE). The school census is collected and published three times a year. The data for this metric uses the full year data.

The DfE monitors pupil absence levels using two key measures - overall absence rate, and persistent absence (PA) rate. These key measures are calculated for pupils who are of compulsory school age – aged between 5 and 15 as at the start of the academic year, on 31 August. Absence information is reported as totals or rates across a period, usually by school term or academic year.

Overall absence is the aggregated total of all authorised and unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absence is absence without permission from the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences and arrivals after registration has closed. This metric use the percentage of unauthorised absences.

Source: Department for Education. [Pupil absence in schools in England](#)

In 2024/25 the unauthorised absences rate was 2.3% for England, down from 2.5% in 2023/24. The average absence rate across the local authorities was 2.4%.

The lowest rate was in Wokingham where 1.2% of the sessions recorded for the year were unauthorised absences.

Knowsley had the highest rate of unauthorised absences at 4.5%.

"a lot of children go through mental health struggles and don't get the help they need, affecting their school attendance and grades which in the long run affects their future"
– girl, 14, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of unauthorised absences in mainstream schools, 2024/25

1. Wokingham (1.2%)
2. Trafford (1.2%)
3. Herefordshire (1.3%)
4. Harrow (1.3%)
5. Cheshire East (1.4%)
6. Bracknell Forest (1.5%)
7. Cambridgeshire (1.5%)
8. Rutland (1.5%)
9. Buckinghamshire (1.5%)
10. Gloucestershire (1.6%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of unauthorised absences in mainstream schools, 2024/25

1. Knowsley (4.5%)
2. Blackpool (3.9%)
3. Liverpool (3.9%)
4. Newcastle upon Tyne (3.9%)
5. Middlesbrough (3.7%)
6. Bradford (3.7%)
7. Sheffield (3.6%)
8. Walsall (3.5%)
9. Hartlepool (3.5%)
10. Islington (3.5%)

Exclusions rate in mainstream schools

Why is this important?

Exclusions are a necessary but regrettable part of education. When exclusion does need to happen, it is generally a sign that something has gone wrong – after all, no child is ineducable. Exclusion can also be associated with a wide variety of social factors – like the fact that poorer pupils are excluded at a much higher rate than their more affluent peers.

Description of metric

The Department for Education monitors pupil exclusion levels using key measures based on suspensions and permanent exclusions.

Permanent exclusion refers to a pupil who is excluded and who will not come back to that school (unless the exclusion is overturned).

The number of permanent exclusions include both primary and secondary but exclude special schools (these are presented elsewhere). The rate is calculated by dividing the number of exclusions by the headcount and multiplying by 10,000 to obtain a rate.

Source: [Suspensions and permanent exclusions in England](#)

There were 9,906 permanent exclusions of pupils from state funded primary and secondary schools across England in 2023/24, down from 10,760 in 2022/23.

The average number of children permanently excluded (per 10,000) across the local authorities was 12.5.

In 2024/25 City of London, Wiltshire, Milton Keynes and Leeds had among the lowest rates of permanent exclusion at 1 child per 10,000 or less. Blackpool had the highest rate of exclusion at 46 children per 10,000.

"Make people feel safe and comfortable, include everyone in society." – girl, 14, The Big Ambition

Local authorities with the lowest permanent exclusions per 10,000, 2024/25

1. City of London (0)
2. Wiltshire (1)
3. Milton Keynes (1)
4. Leeds (1)
5. Tower Hamlets (2)
6. Kent (2)
7. Haringey (2)
8. Enfield (2)
9. Bracknell Forest (3)
10. Kingston upon Thames (3)

Local authorities with the highest permanent exclusions per 10,000, 2024/25

1. Blackpool (46)
2. North Tyneside (35)
3. Sunderland (32)
4. South Tyneside (31)
5. Nottingham (29)
6. Hartlepool (29)
7. Middlesbrough (29)
8. Lancashire (26)
9. Stockton-on-Tees (26)
10. Redcar and Cleveland (26)

Outcome

Scored

Unauthorised absence rate in state-funded alternative provision

Why is this important?

When children are absent from school they miss out on vital elements of their education which impacts on their future life chances. Children who are placed in alternative provision have already had disrupted schooling as they have been removed from mainstream schooling.

Description of metric

The data used to publish absence statistics is collected via the school census by the Department for Education (DfE). The school census is collected and published three times a year. The data for this metric uses the full year data.

DfE monitors pupil absence levels using two key measures - overall absence rate and persistent absence (PA) rate. Unauthorised absence is absence without permission. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences and arrivals after registration has closed. This metric use the percentage of unauthorised absences.

Source: Department for Education. [Pupil absence in schools in England](#)

In 2024/25 the unauthorised absence rate in alternative provision was 19.1% in England, compared to the much lower 2.5% for mainstream schools.

Some local authorities do not have state funded Alternative Provisions recorded within their locality and so have no absence data. The median absence rate across the 141 local authorities with state funded AP was 19.2%. Of the local authorities that had absence data for the AP cohort, Leicestershire had the lowest percentage of unauthorised absences at 2%, while Tameside had the highest at 43%.

"encourage children to come to school" – girl, 11, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of unauthorised absences in alternative provision, 2024/25

1. Leicestershire (1.9%)
2. North Somerset (5.2%)
3. Dudley (6.0%)
4. Ealing (7.3%)
5. Wokingham (8.3%)
6. Bedford (8.6%)
7. North Lincolnshire (8.8%)
8. Kirklees (9.3%)
9. Bristol (9.3%)
10. South Gloucestershire (9.4%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of unauthorised absences in alternative provision, 2024/25

1. Tameside (41.9%)
2. Halton (38.9%)
3. Stockton-on-Tees (38.1%)
4. Stockport (37.8%)
5. Wigan (36.5%)
6. Knowsley (35.6%)
7. Barnsley (35.1%)
8. Rochdale (33.8%)
9. Southwark (33.5%)
10. Milton Keynes (33.3%)

Use of unregulated alternative provision

Why is this important?

Settings which offer alternative provision (AP) and are not a school are normally known as “unregistered alternative provision”. As these settings are not registered with the Department for Education, they are not subject to any national educational requirements or regulation.

Use of these facilities could indicate a lack of alternative options for children, which can have significant risks to children’s safety and to the quality of their learning.

Description of metric

As per the methodology in [Register, Regulate and Raise standards: The Children’s Commissioner’s view on unregistered alternative provision](#).

The School Census contains information on school-commissioned unregistered AP, and the AP Census contains information on local-authority-commissioned unregistered AP. Both censuses collect similar child characteristic information in similar formats and so can be combined into a single dataset.

The measure uses the number of placements in unregistered provisions divided by the total number pupils within the local authority multiplied by 10,000 to obtain a rate.

Source: Department for Education. June 2025. [Schools, pupils and their characteristics: Academic Year 2024/25](#) [official statistics]

In 2024/25 there were 24,323 children in unregistered alternative provision placements commissioned by either schools or local authorities. This is the equivalent of 29 children per 10,000 of the population.

Across 151 local authorities the average rate was 26.1 children in an unregistered per 10,000 school aged population. Both the City of London and the Isles of Scilly were excluded. Blackburn and Darwen had the lowest rate at less than 1 child per 10,000 being placed in an unregistered alternative provision. Northumberland had the highest rate at 93 children per 10,000 placed in an unregistered setting.

“There should be more alternative provision [...] where children are at the centre and the learning is developed around their needs” – parent, The Big Ambition

Local authorities with the lowest rate per 10,000 pupil population in unregistered alternative provision, 2024/25

1. Blackburn with Darwen (0.4)
2. Haringey (1.1)
3. Harrow (1.3)
4. Barnet (2.2)
5. Kirklees (5.2)
6. Portsmouth (5.4)
7. Westminster (6.1)
8. South Tyneside (6.9)
9. Kingston upon Thames (7.0)
10. Hackney (7.2)

Local authorities with the highest rate per 10,000 pupil population in unregistered alternative provision, 2024/25

1. Northumberland (92.7)
2. Knowsley (85.1)
3. Wiltshire (81.9)
4. Nottinghamshire (66.6)
5. Rotherham (63.1)
6. Bedford (61.3)
7. Somerset (60.4)
8. Torbay (59.6)
9. Reading (58.6)
10. Norfolk (57.7)

Outcome

Scored

Level of SEN Support in mainstream schools

Why is this important?

Children who receive support for their Special Educational Needs have been identified as requiring additional levels of support to engage with education but have not met the threshold for statutory support through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Description of metric

The Department for Education publish the numbers of pupils receiving SEN Support (excluding EHCPs) by local authorities and by school phase and type of institution.

This metric presents the number of children with SEN Support in state-funded primary and secondary schools divided by the pupil headcount. These figures are presented as percentages due to the large proportions relative to the population.

Why is it not mapped?

This metric is only a proxy for the inclusiveness of a local authority's schools, and may reflect differences in underlying need, demand, or how well-resourced schools are.

Source: Department for Education. [Special educational needs in England](#)

Overall, around 1.2m pupils - 13.6% of children in mainstream state-funded primary and secondary schools in England were receiving additional SEN support in 2025/26.

There was almost an equal proportion of primary children (15%) to secondary (14%). The large majority (92%) of children (aged 5 or older) receiving SEN Support are in state funded schools.

The average percentage across local authorities was 14.9%, up from 13.7% in 2023/24. In 2025/26, Harrow had the lowest percentage of children in mainstream receiving SEN Support at around 10% while Brighton and Hove had the highest at around 20%.

"Invest in my school for more Sen support" – adult on behalf of boy, 5, The Big Future

Local authority area with the lowest percentage of children with SEN Support, 2025/26

1. Harrow (10.2%)
2. Wokingham (10.9%)
3. Ealing (11.1%)
4. Newham (11.2%)
5. Redbridge (11.3%)
6. Slough (11.4%)
7. Sutton (11.7%)
8. Central Bedfordshire (11.7%)
9. York (11.8%)
10. Nottinghamshire (11.8%)

Local authority area with the highest percentage of children with SEN Support, 2025/26

1. Brighton and Hove (19.9%)
2. Salford (19.4%)
3. South Tyneside (19.3%)
4. Liverpool (19.3%)
5. Halton (19.0%)
6. Hartlepool (18.8%)
7. Sunderland (18.6%)
8. Coventry (18.5%)
9. Knowsley (18.4%)
10. Islington (18.2%)

Percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in mainstream education

Why is this important?

While special schools enabling children to thrive should be praised, the default should be a mainstream school for children. The Children's Commissioner [believes](#) all children have the right to enjoy a mainstream education and the integration that confers.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) have legally identified needs that require additional support to enable them to overcome barriers in education. The plan should reflect the specific adjustments each child needs.

Description of metric

The Department for Education publish the numbers of pupils receiving EHCPs by local authorities and by school phase and type of institution. This metric presents the number of children EHCPs in state-funded primary and secondary schools divided by the total count of plans (excluding nursery places as these children are under the compulsory school age). These figures are presented as percentage due to the large proportions relative to the population.

Why is it not mapped?

This metric is only a proxy for the inclusiveness of a local authority's schools, and may reflect differences in underlying need, demand, or how well-resourced schools are.

Source: Department for Education. [Special educational needs in England](#)

Overall, 58% of children with an EHC were in mainstream primary or secondary schools, 32% were in state-funded special schools, 9% were in a non-maintained or independent school and 1% in a state-funded alternative provision, in 2025/26.

The average percentage of children with a plan in mainstream education across local authorities was 58.5%. The City of London and the Isles of Scilly had 100% of their children with EHC plans in state-funded mainstream schools, however they both have small populations and are excluded from the table below.

In 2025/26 Newham has the highest proportion of children with EHC plans in mainstream education at 86% while East Sussex has the lowest proportion at 40%.

"Have more help out there for children who have EHCPs" – girl, 11, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest proportion of children with EHC plans in state-funded mainstream education, 2025/26

1. Newham (85.9%)
2. Havering (80.9%)
3. Bracknell Forest (78.2%)
4. East Riding of Yorkshire (75.8%)
5. Richmond upon Thames (74.8%)
6. Tower Hamlets (72.2%)
7. Thurrock (72.2%)
8. Cumberland (72.1%)
9. Waltham Forest (71.8%)
10. Barnet (71.7%)

Local authorities with the lowest proportion of children with EHC plans in state-funded mainstream education, 2025/26

1. East Sussex (39.6%)
2. Birmingham (41.6%)
3. Sunderland (42.9%)
4. South Tyneside (43.2%)
5. Staffordshire (43.4%)
6. Redcar and Cleveland (44.5%)
7. Gateshead (44.9%)
8. Darlington (45.5%)
9. North Tyneside (45.6%)
10. Kent (45.6%)

Timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans issued

Why is this important?

Children with additional needs should have them met in a timely manner. The Education, Health and Care needs assessment and plan process should be completed within 20 weeks from the date of the initial request, unless certain conditions occur. The degree to which this is achieved is an indication of the quality of the service that children and their families receive.

Description of metric

The Department for Education publish the numbers of EHCPs that are assessed in the year within specific time frames. Data includes the number that were assessed within 20 weeks, those assessed between 20 and 52 weeks and those that take longer than 52 weeks.

This metric presents the proportion of EHCPs assessed by each local authority within the 20-week guidelines. Local authorities can also report cases that have exceptions.

Source: Department for Education. June 2025. [Education, health and care plans: Reporting year 2025](#)

In 2025 there were 154,489 requests for an EHC assessment, compared to 90,392 in 2024, of which a small minority are exempted from the 20-week statutory time frame. Of the assessments that were not exempted **46.4% were completed within the 20-week time frame.**

Across local authority areas the average percentage of completed EHC plans within 20 weeks was 54.7%. Four local authority areas reported 100% completion rate. Derbyshire had the lowest rate of completion within 20 weeks at 5%.

“Change their policies and stop preventing SEND children from being marginalised, waiting too long for referrals and therapy, and make the process of applying for EHCP quicker” – adult on behalf of girl, 8, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest percent of EHCPs completed within 20 weeks, 2025

1. Barnet (100%)
2. Bracknell Forest (100%)
3. Wandsworth (100%)
4. Windsor and Maidenhead (100%)
5. Barnsley (98.6%)
6. North East Lincolnshire (98.6%)
7. York (98.5%)
8. Bury (98.1%)
9. Kensington and Chelsea (97.9%)
10. Telford and Wrekin (97.3%)

Local authorities with the lowest percent of EHCPs completed within 20 weeks, 2025

1. Derbyshire (5.0%)
2. Devon (5.1%)
3. Somerset (6.4%)
4. Cumberland (6.7%)
5. Bristol (6.8%)
6. Leeds (7.3%)
7. Cambridgeshire (7.3%)
8. Buckinghamshire (7.8%)
9. West Northamptonshire (7.9%)
10. Wirral (8.2%)

Access to a local authority Educational Psychology Team

Why is this important?

Educational psychologists provide essential support to children. They assess emotional, social, and learning needs, design interventions for learning difficulties and behavioural issues, and consult with teachers, parents, and multi-agency teams to develop strategies that improve children's well-being and academic outcomes.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides a dedicated Educational Psychology Team to aid in the assessment of children's educational needs including for SEN support and EHC plans.

This is a binary measure of whether or not there is a dedicated educational psychology service, not an assessment of quality or how well children engage with these services.

"improve mental health help on people who struggle by decreasing waiting times, advocates for jobs and specialities like psychiatrist, therapist, psychologists." – girl, 15, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Overall, **94% of local authorities reported that they provide a local authority educational psychology service** in their area. 4 said they did not, and 3 did not answer this question.

There were differences in this percentage by region.

Percentage of local authorities who provide educational psychology services, by region, 2025



146 local authorities out of 151 reported that they have an educational psychology service, 2025

7 local authorities out of 151 did not report that they have an educational psychology service in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Unauthorised absence rate in special schools

Why is this important?

When children are absent from school they miss out on vital elements of their education which impacts on their future life chances. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that children attend education.

Local authorities and schools have legal responsibilities regarding accurate recording of a pupil's attendance.

Description of metric

The data used to publish absence statistics is collected via the school census by the Department for Education (DfE). The school census is collected and published three times a year. The data for this metric uses the full year data.

The DfE monitors pupil absence levels using two key measures - overall absence rate and persistent absence (PA) rate. These key measures are calculated for pupils who are of compulsory school age – i.e. aged between 5 and 15 as at the start of the academic year (31 August). Absence information is reported as totals or rates across a period, usually by school term or academic year.

Overall absence is the aggregated total of all authorised and unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absence is absence without permission from the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences and arrivals after registration has closed. This metric use the percentage of unauthorised absences.

Source: Department for Education. [Pupil absence in schools in England](#)

In 2024/25 the unauthorised absence rate from special educational provisions was 3.4%, compared to 3.3% the previous year and 2.3% for mainstream schools.

The average absence rate across the local authorities was 3.4%.

The lowest rate was North East Lincolnshire with 0.8% of the sessions recorded for the year being unauthorised absences in 2024/25. Barnsley had the highest rate of unauthorised absences at over 10%.

"bus times change to much- we miss school and education for this" – girl ,12, The Big Future

"Awareness and understanding for people who have to miss school or work for medical or mental health reasons" – girl, 15, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of unauthorised absences from special schools, 2024/25

1. North East Lincolnshire (0.8%)
2. Bracknell Forest (0.8%)
3. Harrow (1.0%)
4. Cornwall (1.0%)
5. Thurrock (1.2%)
6. Calderdale (1.4%)
7. Bedford (1.5%)
8. Brighton and Hove (1.5%)
9. North Lincolnshire (1.6%)
10. West Sussex (1.7%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of unauthorised absences from special schools, 2024/25

1. Barnsley (10.5%)
2. Newcastle upon Tyne (8.7%)
3. Portsmouth 7.6%)
4. Sunderland 7.2%)
5. Reading 6.3%)
6. St. Helens 6.2%)
7. Bristol (6.1%)
8. Islington (6.0%)
9. Knowsley (5.9%)
10. Leeds (5.9%)

Children who do not feel they have the same opportunities as other children

Why is this important?

Children saying they do not feel that have the same opportunities as other children may indicate a lack of support or provision around them.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You have the same opportunities as other children' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

Ranks are presented for the 129 local authority areas whose sample size met the 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"have more opportunities for young people to explore different type of careers." – girl, 15, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **14% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they have the same opportunities as other children.**

The median was 13.6% (IQR 15.3%-12.4%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Richmond upon Thames (9.3%) and the largest percentage disagreeing was children from Dudley (19.3%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they have the same opportunities as other children, 2023-2024

1. Richmond upon Thames (9.3%)
2. Reading (9.5%)
3. North Somerset (9.5%)
4. Brighton and Hove (9.7%)
5. Cheshire East (10.0%)
6. West Berkshire (10.0%)
7. East Sussex (10.7%)
8. Sutton (10.7%)
9. Merton (10.8%)
10. Hertfordshire (11.1%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they have the same opportunities as other children, 2023-2024

1. Dudley (19.3%)
2. Salford (19.1%)
3. Milton Keynes (18.6%)
4. Greenwich (18.3%)
5. Sunderland (18.2%)
6. Somerset (18.1%)
7. Enfield (18.1%)
8. Wakefield (17.8%)
9. Leicester (17.3%)
10. Southwark (17.1%)

Outcome

Scored

Children who do not feel they know about good jobs for when they are older

Why is this important?

Awareness of potential career options is important for children's aspirations and future outcomes.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You know about good jobs for when you are older' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

This question was asked only of primary aged (6- to 11-year-old) children and so sample sizes were small, with only 22% of 151 local authority areas having a sample size that met a 95% confidence level. This question includes all local authorities except the City of London and the Isles of Scilly.

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"I don't know what I want to do for work but I want to be shown what can be done for a job." – girl, 8, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **6% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they feel they know about good jobs for when they are older**. The median was 5.8% (IQR 4.6%-6.7%).

Three areas had 0% of children disagreeing or strongly disagreeing, these were Rutland, Telford and Wrekin and Wokingham. Kensington and Chelsea had the highest at 22.2%

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they know about good jobs for when they are older, 2023-2024

1. Knowsley (0%)
2. Warrington (0%)
3. Barking and Dagenham (0%)
4. Thurrock (1%)
5. Merton (1%)
6. North Lincolnshire (1%)
7. Haringey (2%)
8. Telford and Wrekin (2%)
9. Hammersmith and Fulham (3%)
10. Blackburn with Darwen (3%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they know about good jobs for when they are older, 2023-2024

1. South Tyneside (22%)
2. Newham (13%)
3. Central Bedfordshire (12%)
4. Havering (12%)
5. St. Helens (11%)
6. Brighton and Hove (11%)
7. Northumberland (9%)
8. Solihull (9%)
9. Redcar and Cleveland (9%)
10. Torbay (9%)

Outcome

Scored

Children who do not feel they know about apprenticeships, university options and career paths

Why is this important?

Children who do not know about the different options that are available to them may not be able to make an informed choice that would best support their aspirations and their own talents and skills. It could limit their potential.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You know about apprenticeships, university options and career paths' in The Big Ambition survey 2024.

This question was asked only of secondary aged (12- to 18-year-old) children and so sample sizes were significantly smaller, with only 40% of 151 local authority areas having a sample size that met a 95% confidence level. Due to these small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"Promote more pathways to different careers - eg, not only focusing on going to uni but also providing more information about apprenticeships"
– girl, 17, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **13% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they feel know about their future options**. The median was 13% (IQR 11.2% - 14.4%).

The lowest percentage disagreeing was children from Knowsley with 5%, while the worst performing area, with the largest percentage of children disagreeing, was Hartlepool (27.1%).

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they know about apprenticeships, university options and career paths, 2023-2024

1. Knowsley (5%)
2. Warrington (6.4%)
3. Barking and Dagenham (7.1%)
4. Thurrock (7.7%)
5. Merton (8.0%)
6. North Lincolnshire (8.2%)
7. Haringey (8.3%)
8. Telford and Wrekin (8.3%)
9. Hammersmith and Fulham (8.6%)
10. Blackburn and Darwen (8.9%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they know about apprenticeships, university options and career paths, 2023-2024

1. Hartlepool (27.1%)
2. South Tyneside (26.3%)
3. Newham (19.5%)
4. Central Bedfordshire (18.9%)
5. Havering (18.8%)
6. St. Helens (18.8%)
7. Brighton and Hove (18.4%)
8. Northumberland (18.1%)
9. Solihull (17.5%)
10. Redcar and Cleveland (17.5%)

Diversity of subjects available at KS4

Why is this important?

A diverse range of educational options supports children to pursue their interests and ambitions, and to become well rounded individuals. Children have [told](#) the Children's Commissioner they want to balance vital 'core' subjects with those that instil joy and curiosity.

The goal of education should be to develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. This can only be achieved if children are offered a broad curriculum.

Concerns have been raised about the narrowing of the curriculum, recently culminating the recent Curriculum and Assessment Review.

The table presents **the percentage of schools in England that had at least one student sit each subject at Key Stage four in 2024, from near universal (99%) to rare (0.2%)**. It is indicative of the availability of the courses. Data can be analysed by local authority.

Why is it not mapped?

The availability of a particular subject may not reflect pupils' aspirations or be practical to study if it is only on offer a large travel distance within the child's local authority area.

"Give more opportunities in schools (more subjects and resources)" – girl, 15, The Big Future

Department for Education. April 2025. [Key stage 4 performance: Academic year 2023/24](#)

Subject	Percent of schools	Subject	Percent of schools	Subject	Percent of schools
English language	99.0%	D&T Food Technology	53.7%	Modern Greek	9.9%
Mathematics	99.0%	Art & Design	48.4%	Persian	8.8%
English literature	98.9%	Art & Design (Photography)	41.5%	Latin	8.5%
Geography	97.7%	German	37.2%	Film Studies	8.1%
History	97.5%	Italian	32.9%	Japanese	7.0%
Science: double award	96.6%	Chinese	32.8%	Punjabi	7.0%
Biology	93.6%	Russian	30.2%	Economics	6.3%
Physics	91.1%	Arabic	29.3%	Astronomy	4.0%
Chemistry	90.7%	Portuguese	27.0%	Classical Civilisation	3.0%
French	84.9%	Statistics	25.9%	Bengali	2.9%
Computer Studies/Computing	82.1%	Media/Film/Tv Studies	25.0%	Gujarati	2.9%
Spanish	80.7%	Art & Design (Textiles)	22.3%	Applied Engineering	2.5%
Religious Studies	77.7%	Sociology	21.5%	Ancient History	1.9%
Design & Technology	64.1%	Turkish	20.0%	Electronics	0.9%
Drama & Theatre Studies	62.4%	Social Science: Citizenship	18.2%	Modern Hebrew	0.9%
Music	62.2%	Dance	17.0%	Classical Greek	0.8%
Physical Education/Sports Studies	60.5%	Psychology	15.2%	Geology	0.5%
Art & Design (Fine Art)	59.1%	Urdu	14.0%	Art & Design (Critical Studies)	0.2%
Business Studies: Single	58.0%	Art & Design (3d Studies)	12.6%	Other Classical Languages	0.2%
Polish	54.2%	Art & Design (Graphics)	12.0%		

Quality

Narrative

Average Attainment 8 Score

Why is this important?

Educational attainment at the end of Key stage 4, summarised in the Attainment 8 score, is a major indicator of achievement, both for children themselves and the schools they attend. Minimum standards ensure that all children should achieve a level of knowledge and skill that will support them into adulthood.

Description of metric

The Department for Education produce annual statistics for the average attainment scores for children completing their Key Stage 4 education. Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications. This includes English language; English literature (double weighted providing both English language and English literature are taken); maths (double weighted); three further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc); and three further qualifications that can be GCSE qualifications (including EBacc subjects) or any other non-GCSE qualifications on the approved list. Attainment 8 has had a maximum point score of 90.

The average is the total score divided by the number of pupils registered as completing the qualifications.

Source: Department for Education. [Key stage 4 performance](#)

The overall average Attainment 8 Score for children in England in 2024/25 was 46.0, out of a maximum possible score of 90, similar to 2023/24.

The average score across the 153 local authorities was 46.5.

The City of London, Richmond upon Thames and Kingston upon Thames had the highest average scores, all over 56, while Knowsley had the lowest score at 38.1.

“encourage people to pass exams” – girl, 12, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest average attainment 8 scores, 2024/25

1. City of London (63.7)
2. Richmond upon Thames (59.1)
3. Kingston upon Thames (56.9)
4. Trafford (55.8)
5. Sutton (55.8)
6. Barnet (55.8)
7. Wokingham (55.6)
8. Redbridge (53.7)
9. Merton (53.7)
10. Harrow (53.7)

Local authorities with the lowest average attainment 8 scores, 2024/25

1. Knowsley (38.1)
2. Blackpool (38.4)
3. Portsmouth (39.5)
4. Stoke-on-Trent (40.0)
5. Kingston upon Hull (40.4)
6. Liverpool (41.5)
7. Isle of Wight (41.5)
8. Rochdale (41.7)
9. North East Lincolnshire (41.7)
10. St. Helens (41.8)

Outcome

Scored

Percentage getting a good grade in English and Maths (Pass 5)

Why is this Important?

More work needs to be done to ensure that every child in England is engaged in Maths and receiving high quality teaching.

English and Mathematics are important subjects for all school pupils. While the average attainment 8 score is a core measure on academic attainment, averages (means) can be skewed by uneven distributions particularly in smaller populations. An alternative measure is to look at the proportion who have achieved the necessary qualifications to a good standard (grade 4 is a pass, grade 5 is a good pass).

Description of metric

The proportion of pupils that achieved a grade 5 or higher in both English and Maths, with local authority based on where pupils live, rather than where their school is.

Percentage is calculated as number of pupils achieving grades 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs divided by the number of pupils at the end of KS4. While this is provided by the Department for Education it is a rounded figure, using the raw numbers provides an unrounded figure to calculate rankings.

Source: Department for Education. [Key stage 4 performance](#)

The percentage of pupils in state-funded schools that achieved a grade 5 or better in both English and Maths in England was 45.4% in 2024/25, down from 46.2% in 2023/24.

The average percentage across local authorities was 46.2%. Richmond upon Thames and the City of London had the highest percentage of pupils in state-funded schools passing both English and Maths with at least a Grade 5, at around 70% or better. Knowsley had the lowest percentage at 30.5%, up from 22.9% in 2023/24.

“failing your gcse’s from things like school, means you have a less chance at life by not getting into the college you need or jobs not accepting you, its so difficult we need to support teens more” – child, 15, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest percentage with a good pass in English and Maths, 2024/25

1. City of London (75.0%)
2. Richmond upon Thames (69.6%)
3. Kingston upon Thames (66.2%)
4. Wokingham (64.3%)
5. Sutton (62.6%)
6. Barnet (62.0%)
7. Trafford (60.4%)
8. Redbridge (59.6%)
9. Merton (59.5%)
10. Hammersmith and Fulham (58.5%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentage with a good pass in English and Maths, 2024/25

1. Knowsley (30.5%)
2. Blackpool (31.3%)
3. Stoke-on-Trent (33.4%)
4. Portsmouth (34.6%)
5. Telford and Wrekin (35.1%)
6. Kingston upon Hull (36.0%)
7. St. Helens (36.0%)
8. Oldham (36.2%)
9. Rochdale (37.0%)
10. Isle of Wight (37.3%)

Outcome

Scored

Availability of post 16 provision

Why is this important?

While it is compulsory for young people to be in education or training until the age of 18, there are different options available including staying in full-time education, starting an apprenticeship or working/volunteering while in part-time education.

Children who decide to stay in full-time education may choose to attend a sixth form that can be an extension of a Secondary School or an independent college, or attend a Further Educational College. The availability of these provisions locally will impact on young people's choices.

Description of metric

Data was extracted from the Department for Education's Get Information about Schools; provisions were counted if coded as a post 16 provision or a secondary/all through with a sixth form attached.

A rate was estimated based on the mid year estimates for the population of 17- to 19-year-olds. This was used in preference to the school population, as while young people may choose alternate options this provides a benchmark for availability if all young people in the local area chose to continue on in full time education.

Source: Department for Education. Accessed June 2026. [Get Information about Schools](#)

Overall, there were **2,326 mainstream post 16 provisions** recorded in the Get Information about Schools data set, this includes state-funded schools and colleges, and excludes private or independent schools, special educational, alternative and secure provisions.

Based on population estimates there were 1.2 provisions per 1,000 population of 17- to 19-year-olds in England in 2025. Across the local authorities the median was also 1.2 (IQR 0.8 to 1.6) in 2025.

In 2026 Sutton had the highest rate of provision with over two per 1,000 young people.

"more universities and colleges" – boy, 16, The Big Future

Local authorities with highest rate of post 16 provisions per 1,000 young people, 2026

1. Sutton (2.2)
2. Hounslow (2.0)
3. Slough (2.0)
4. Hertfordshire (2.0)
5. Barnet (1.9)
6. Medway (1.9)
7. Hammersmith and Fulham (1.9)
8. Cumberland (1.9)
9. Buckinghamshire (1.9)
10. Hillingdon (1.8)

Local authorities with lowest rate of post 16 provisions per 1,000 young people, 2026

1. Tameside (0.1)
2. Barnsley (0.1)
3. Bury (0.1)
4. Portsmouth (0.1)
5. Halton (0.2)
6. Stockport (0.2)
7. Knowsley (0.2)
8. Rochdale (0.2)
9. Southampton (0.2)
10. Redcar and Cleveland (0.2)

[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

A level participation

Why is this important?

While it is compulsory for young people to be in education or training until the age of 18, there are different options available including staying in full-time education, starting an apprenticeship or working/volunteering while in part-time education. A levels are the academic pathway.

Variations in the proportions of young people choosing to complete A levels at a local level may be impacted by factors including individual preference and academic ability but also the availability of post 16 institutions.

Description of metric

Data published by the Department for Education on the number of A Level students is counted based on where each student is assigned to, or where they are recorded as being on roll for the purpose of school or college funding each year. The exam results data show which institution a student took exams at, not whether they was also recorded on roll. To assign students, the school census and ILR establishes where students were enrolled. The local authority data is based on school rather than student locations. The percentage is the count of students taking A levels divided by the total number of students at the end of 16-18 study.

Why is it not mapped?

The Children's Commissioner's maps include students' performance in A levels, not whether they complete A levels.

Source: Department for Education. [A level and other 16 to 18 results](#)

Overall, **the percentage of students completing A levels in 2024/25 was 48%.**

Across 152 local authorities in 2024/25 the average percentage was 45.6%, excluding both the City of London and the Isles of Scilly (which had 0 potential students).

In 2024/25 Rutland had the highest proportion of its potential students studying A levels, though it is the third smallest local authority. Knowsley had no students registered to complete A levels in 2023/24, in part due to having no provisions available, and just 3.7% in 2024/25.

"make education be an enjoyable experience for all young people so they're not tempted to try to drop out or quit" – girl, 11, The Big Future

"Having a closer college instead of having to get a train to [town] centre or [town] to do A levels" – boy, 16, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest proportion of A level students, 2024/25

1. Rutland (96%)
2. Sutton (90%)
3. Wokingham (88%)
4. Havering (87%)
5. Cheshire West and Chester (86%)
6. Redbridge (84%)
7. North Northamptonshire (82%)
8. North Tyneside (81%)
9. Southwark (80%)
10. Reading (80%)

Local authorities with the lowest proportion of A level students, 2024/25

1. Knowsley (3.7%)
2. Hartlepool (8.6%)
3. Middlesbrough (13.7%)
4. Newcastle upon Tyne (17.8%)
5. Barnsley (18.6%)
6. North East Lincolnshire (19.3%)
7. Blackburn with Darwen (21.0%)
8. Bedford (21.2%)
9. Salford (22.4%)
10. Sunderland (24.5%)

A levels average scores

Why is this important?

The outcome of A level results provide an indication of the quality of education to support young people into higher education.

Description of metric

The Department for Education publish an aggregated attainment measure for A levels at a local authority level. The attainment measure shows the average point score per entry.

The average point score per entry is assigned an average grade based on the average point score band with the max score of 60 (equivalent to an A*).

This metric presents the average point score of students in state-funded education by local authority.

Source: Department for Education. [A level and other 16 to 18 results](#)

The average point score for A levels in England in 2024/25 was 36.1, this was the equivalent of a B-.

Across the 152 local authorities that had students registered to complete A level examinations the median point score was 34.3.

Sutton had the highest average point score while Southampton had the lowest in both 2023/24 and 2024/25.

“More jobs and more opportunities that don’t need really high grades in GCSE”
– boy, 15, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest average point score per A level, 2024/25

1. Sutton (42.3)
2. Trafford (41.1)
3. Newham (40.6)
4. Buckinghamshire (40.4)
5. Kingston upon Thames (40.1)
6. Barnet (39.6)
7. Richmond upon Thames (39.1)
8. Brighton and Hove (38.8)
9. Southwark (38.8)
10. Stockport (38.4)

Local authorities with the lowest average point score per A level, 2024/25

1. Southampton (27.3)
2. Sandwell (27.5)
3. Sunderland (28.2)
4. Swindon (29.3)
5. North East Lincolnshire (29.6)
6. Sefton (29.9)
7. Bedford (30.1)
8. Isle of Wight (30.2)
9. Milton Keynes (30.4)
10. Luton (30.4)

Outcome

Scored

Participation in Applied General courses

Applied general qualifications are an alternative qualification to the A-level, taken by **22% of 16-18s** in 2024/25. They are advanced Level 3 qualifications designed for 16–19-year-olds who want to continue their education through applied learning in vocational subjects, also called BTEC courses. BTEC qualifications are being phased out and replaced by other qualifications such as T Levels.

Why is it not mapped? Applied General courses are not widely offered.

“give children another option instead of gcse/a levels and t levels to “get a career” in the future” – girl, 15, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest proportion of Applied General students, 2024/25

1. Luton (45.5%)
2. Lewisham (45.5%)
3. Redcar and Cleveland (41.9%)
4. North Lincolnshire (41.8%)
5. North Northamptonshire (38.1%)
6. Stockport (37.9%)
7. Northumberland (33.6%)
8. Wolverhampton (32.8%)
9. Sandwell (32.3%)
10. Worcestershire (32.1%)

Local authorities with the lowest proportion of Applied General students, 2024/25

1. Rutland (0%)
2. Hartlepool (7.4%)
3. Islington (7.5%)
4. Southend-on-Sea (9.6%)
5. Trafford (11.5%)
6. Richmond upon Thames (11.8%)
7. Isle of Wight (11.9%)
8. Torbay (12.4%)
9. Harrow (12.4%)
10. Cheshire East (12.7%)

Participation in T level courses

T-Levels are two-year technical courses for 16–19-year-olds in England, developed in collaboration with employers, which are equivalent in size to three A-Levels. They combine classroom-based learning with a practical industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days) and prepare students for skilled employment, apprenticeships, or further education. In 2024/25, **4% of 16-18s** studied T levels.

Why is it not mapped? T levels are still being established and not offered as widely as other options.

“Increase the most courses available on T-Levels” – boy, 16, The Big Future

“T-Levels seem like the future and I wish I had the opportunity to do them.” – young man, 18, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest proportion of T Level students, 2024/25

1. East Riding of Yorkshire (14.5%)
2. Doncaster (10.3%)
3. West Northamptonshire (10.2%)
4. York (10.1%)
5. Hartlepool (10.0%)
6. Tameside (9.7%)
7. Middlesbrough (8.8%)
8. Telford and Wrekin (8.1%)
9. Blackburn with Darwen (8.1%)
10. Cheshire East (8.0%)

Local authorities with the lowest proportion of T Level students, 2024/25

1. Havering (0%)
2. Knowsley (0%)
3. Rutland (0%)
4. Stockport (0%)
5. Wokingham (0%)
6. Ealing (0.1%)
7. Islington (0.1%)
8. Sutton (0.3%)
9. Hackney (0.6%)
10. Brent (0.7%)

Source: Department for Education. [A level and other 16 to 18 results](#)

Access

Context

Access

Narrative

Participation in Apprenticeships (under 19s)

Why is this important?

As an alternative to the further and higher educational pathway, the take-up of apprenticeships can support young people to develop core skills that provide them with career options.

Description of metric

The Department for Education publishes statistics on the number of people starting and participating in an apprenticeship each year. Apprenticeships are not limited to young people so includes data for adult learners. The principal data source is the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The ILR is an on-going data collection of data about learners from training providers in the further education and skills sector in England.

The measure uses the apprenticeship participation in under 19s as a percentage of all participation in apprenticeships. Participation is counted as the number of learners who participated in an apprenticeship at any point in the year. Figures cover the first three quarters of academic year 2025/26 (August to April).

Why is it not mapped?

This measure captures the age balance among those participating in apprenticeships, and does not reflect whether young people who would like to pursue an apprenticeship have the opportunity to do so.

Source: Department for Education. [Apprenticeships](#)

In 2025/26 there were 735,500 apprenticeships participated in, of which 21% or around 63,530 were recorded as under 19s, down from 133,000 in 2023/24.

Across 152 local authorities the average proportion of apprenticeships participated in by under 19s was 14.9%.

The area with the highest proportion of apprenticeships participated by under 19s was Cumberland at 27%.

All ten of the lowest percentages were for London boroughs.

"Put more money into jobs and apprenticeships for young people."
– boy, 16, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest proportion of under 19s apprenticeship participation, 2025/26

1. Cumberland (27.3%)
2. Westmorland and Furness (25.2%)
3. Kingston upon Hull (24.1%)
4. North East Lincolnshire (24.0%)
5. South Tyneside (23.8%)
6. East Riding of Yorkshire (22.6%)
7. North Yorkshire (22.2%)
8. Plymouth (22.2%)
9. Sunderland (21.8%)
10. Somerset (21.4%)

Local authorities with the lowest proportion of under 19s apprenticeship participation, 2025/26

1. Wandsworth (4.4%)
2. Lambeth (4.4%)
3. Westminster (4.5%)
4. Haringey (4.7%)
5. Camden (5.0%)
6. Hackney (5.2%)
7. Kensington and Chelsea (5.4%)
8. Hammersmith and Fulham (5.4%)
9. Southwark (6.3%)
10. Brent (6.5%)

Young people not in education, employment or training

Why is this important?

As it is mandatory for all 16 and 17 year olds to be in some form of education, employment or training, understanding where there may be areas with higher levels of young people classified as mid-yea may indicate lack of provision or support in the local area.

The Office for National Statistics [find](#) there were almost 1 million young people aged 16 to 24 years in the UK who were NEET in April to June 2026 – 981,000.

Description of metric

At a local authority level data is produced from management information, and provided to the Department for Education. The measure is the number of young people recorded as not participating in education, employment or training as a proportion of the estimated population of 16- and 17-year-olds.

Caution should be applied when using these figures due to the estimates being based on management information. There is considerable variation in how well 16- and 17-year-olds are tracked at local authority level including those whose status is unknown.

“give us more ways to express how we feel and what we want instead of just the adults, give us better and more job opportunities, and make travel cheaper” – girl, 17, not taking part in any education or employment, The Big Future

Source: Department for Education. [Participation in education, training and NEET age 16 to 17 by local authority](#)

In 2026, 46,520 young people aged 16 and 17 were known to local authorities as NEET, as reported by the Department for Education. An additional 32,100 young people aged 16 and 17 had unknown activity.

The estimated percentage of 16 and 17 year olds who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) was around 3%.

There was also around 2% for whom their activity was unknown. The average percentage of NEET across local authorities was 3.4%.

The reported level of young people whose participation was unknown ranged widely in 2026 from less than 1% in five local authorities up to 7% for Derby.

Local authorities with the lowest reported percentage of NEET 16 and 17 year olds, 2026

1. City of London (0%)
2. Enfield (0.3%)
3. Barnet (0.7%)
4. Rutland (0.8%)
5. Somerset (0.9%)
6. Hammersmith and Fulham (1.0%)
7. North Lincolnshire (1.1%)
8. Ealing (1.1%)
9. Leicestershire (1.2%)
10. Southwark (1.2%)

Local authorities with the highest reported percentage of NEET 16 and 17 year olds, 2026

1. Derby (7.1%)
2. Stockton-on-Tees (7.0%)
3. Blackpool (6.7%)
4. North East Lincolnshire (6.5%)
5. South Tyneside (6.5%)
6. Hartlepool (6.4%)
7. Halton (6.4%)
8. Newcastle upon Tyne (6.3%)
9. Kingston upon Hull (6.0%)
10. Medway (5.9%)

Care

All children and young people are entitled to grow up in a caring and supportive home environment. However, when parents and carers do not or cannot provide a safe home, responsibility falls to the state to intervene when it is in the best interests of the child. Children's interactions with the social care system are routinely monitored and documented. The Department for Education and responsible local authorities publish a broad range of information on this cohort of children and young people, though this is mostly administrative data and does not always reflect how children themselves feel about the system or how it intervenes in their lives.



Overview of Care metrics



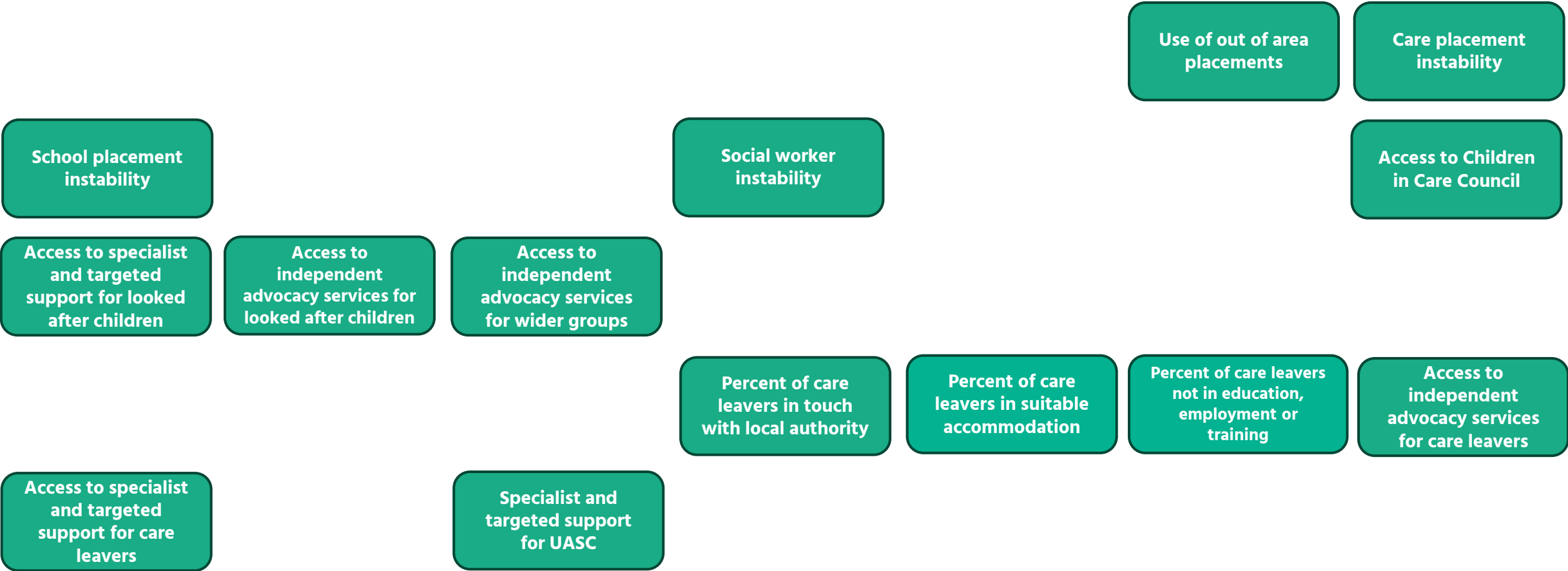
All 32 metrics

Children in Need	Children on Child Protection Plans	Looked After children	Primary categories of need for entering care	Unknown or unreported distance of placement from home	Use of out of area placements	Care placement instability
School placement instability	Social worker caseload	Social worker turnover	Social worker instability	Looked after children's average Attainment 8 score	Access to a child contact centre	Access to Children in Care Council
Access to specialist and targeted support for looked after children	Access to independent advocacy services for looked after children	Access to independent advocacy services for wider groups	Reasons for ceasing to be a child in need	Accommodation in secure children's homes	Children deprived of their liberty	Homeless 16- and 17-year-olds
Deaths of children in need	Number of care leavers aged 17 to 21	Number of care leavers aged 22 to 25	Percent of care leavers in touch with local authority	Percent of care leavers in suitable accommodation	Percent of care leavers not in education, employment or training	Access to independent advocacy services for care leavers
Access to specialist and targeted support for care leavers	Number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	Specialist and targeted support for UASC	Support workers in school for UASC			



Overview of Care metrics

14 scored metrics only



Care scorecard

Scored metrics (14)	Category	Measure type	Max score
Use of out of area placements	Quality	Decile	10
Care placement instability	Quality	Decile	10
School placement instability	Quality	Decile	10
Social worker instability	Quality	Decile	10
Access to Children in Care Council	Access	Binary	10
Targeted support or youth group for looked after children	Access	Binary	10
Access to independent advocacy services for looked after children	Access	Binary	10
Access to independent advocacy services: wider groups	Access	Indexed	10
Percent of care leavers in touch with their local authority	Outcome	Decile	10
Percent of care leavers in suitable accommodation	Outcome	Decile	10
Percent of care leavers not in education, employment or training	Outcome	Decile	10
Access to independent advocacy services for care leavers	Access	Binary	10
Access to specialist and targeted support for care leavers	Access	Binary	10
Targeted support or youth group: Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children	Access	Binary	10
Total score			140



Care metrics



Rate of Children in Need

Why is this important?

A Child in Need (CiN) plan is a multi-agency support plan produced after a child is assessed as requiring support to meet their health or development needs, or to prevent significant harm.

The level of need for CiN plans will vary across local authorities and so it is important to benchmark any potential responses based on the size of the cohort.

The rate of children in need to the population of children and young people across the local area may also be indicative of wider societal issues.

Description of metric

The Department for Education (DfE) collects information from all local authorities on the numbers of children in need and numbers are reported as of the 31st March 2025.

This metric uses the number of these children reported by each local authority presented as a rate per 10,000 children using the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates 2023 for 0- to 17-year-olds. This is the same method used by the DfE in its own rate calculations. Rutland, Isles of Scilly and City of London were kept as total number of children in need instead of dividing by 10,000 to reflect their population sizes under 10,000.

Why is it not mapped?

Figures are presented not to imply higher or lower rates are objectively better or worse but to provide context to the level of need in each area.

Source: Department for Education. 2025. [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

In England there were **402,400 Children in Need on the 31st March 2025**, which was equal to around 1 in every 30 children.

Across local authorities the average rate of children looked after was 353 per 10,000.

Hartlepool had the greatest rate of children in need relative to their population with 636 children per 10,000 on the 31st March 2025, down from 728 in 2024. Other than Rutland, the Isles of Scilly and the City of London, Essex had the fewest children in Need in 2024 and 2025, with 178 per 10,000 in 2025.

"Have more social workers for more children and offer more free lunches" – boy, 8, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest rate of Children in Need per 10,000, 2025

1. Isles of Scilly (16)
2. City of London (69)
3. Rutland (177)
4. Essex (178)
5. Cambridgeshire (206)
6. Barnet (211)
7. Hertfordshire (211)
8. Central Bedfordshire (213)
9. Richmond upon Thames (219)
10. Kirklees (222)

Local authorities with the highest rate of Children in Need per 10,000, 2025

1. Hartlepool (636)
2. Blackpool (606)
3. Redcar and Cleveland (582)
4. Middlesbrough (563)
5. Tameside (553)
6. Torbay (549)
7. Isle of Wight (530)
8. North East Lincolnshire (524)
9. Islington (521)
10. Stockton-on-Tees (520)

Rate of children on Child Protection Plans

Why is this important?

A child becomes the subject of a child protection plan (CPP) if they are assessed as suffering or being at risk of significant harm at an initial child protection conference (ICPC). The number of children on child protection will vary across local authorities and so it is important to benchmark based on the local child population.

The rate of children on child protection plans relative to the population of children and young people across the local area may also be indicative of wider societal issues. The Children's Commissioner has explored the relationship between the number of CPPs, LAC and CIN in [research](#) published in 2024.

Description of metric

The Department for Education (DfE) collects information from all local authorities on the numbers of children with child protection plans and figures are shown as of the 31st March 2024.

This metric uses the number of CPP plans reported by each local authority presented as a rate per 10,000 using the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates 2023 for 0- to 17-year-olds. This is the same method used by the DfE in its own rate calculations.

The Isles of Scilly and City of London are not included in this analysis. Rutland was kept as total number of children instead of dividing by 10,000 to reflect the population size less than 10,000.

Why is it not mapped?

Figures are presented not to imply higher or lower rates are objectively better or worse but to provide context to the level of need in each area.

Source: Department for Education. 2025. [Children in need](#)

In England there were **49,400 children on child protection plans on the 31st March 2025**, which was equal to around 40 children per 10,000.

Across local authorities the average rate of children on child protection plans was 44 per 10,000 in 2025. Middlesbrough had the highest rate of children on child protection plans relative to child population with 99 children per 10,000 on the 31st March 2025. Wandsworth had the fewest with 14 children per 10,000.

"I want to be a social worker so I can see if kids are okay and if they are safe" – girl, 9, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest rate of Child Protection Plans per 10,000, 2025

1. Wandsworth (14)
2. Essex (21)
3. Hertfordshire (22)
4. Barnet (24)
5. Surrey (24)
6. Windsor and Maidenhead (24)
7. Southend-on-Sea (24)
8. Redbridge (24)
9. Central Bedfordshire (25)
10. Norfolk (26)

Local authorities with the highest rate of Child Protection Plans per 10,000, 2025

1. Middlesbrough (99)
2. Isle of Wight (87)
3. Tameside (87)
4. Blackpool (86)
5. Hartlepool (82)
6. Kingston upon Hull (80)
7. Blackburn with Darwen (79)
8. Wakefield (73)
9. Liverpool (73)
10. Knowsley (72)

Rate of Looked After Children

Why is this important?

Some children will always need to be looked after by local authorities rather than their own parents, and the Children Act sets out the circumstances in which this might happen.

The level of need varies across local authorities and so it is important to based on the size of the local child population. The rate of looked after children relative to the local population of children and young people may be indicative of wider societal issues.

Description of metric

The Department for Education (DfE) collects information from all local authorities on the numbers of children entering, in and leaving care within financial years, and figures are shown as of the 31st March 2024. This metric uses the number of children looked after (CLA) reported by each local authority presented as a rate per 10,000 children using the Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates 2023 for 0- to 17-year-olds. This is the same method used by the DfE in its own rate calculations.

Data was excluded from the Isles of Scilly (which has zero looked after children) and the City of London and manually adjusted for Rutland due to the child population being below 10,000.

Why is it not mapped?

Figures are presented not to suggest higher or lower rates are objectively better or worse but to provide context to the level of need in each area.

Source: Department for Education. 2025. [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

In England **there were 81,770 looked after children on the 31st March 2025**, which is around 70 children per 10,000.

Across local authorities the average rate of children looked after was 73 per 10,000. Blackpool had the highest rate relative to child population with 184 children looked after per 10,000 on the 31st March 2025. Similar to 2024, Richmond upon Thames had the fewest looked after children at 27 per 10,000 child population.

"Listen to people's views especially people in care because we all have are opinions on things and just because we're in care doesn't mean we shouldn't be heard" – young woman, 18, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest rate of children looked after per 10,000, 2025

1. Richmond upon Thames (27)
2. Harrow (29)
3. Kingston upon Thames (30)
4. Merton (31)
5. Rutland (32)
6. South Gloucestershire (33)
7. Ealing (33)
8. Wokingham (34)
9. Surrey (35)
10. Essex (35)

Local authorities with the highest rate of children looked after per 10,000, 2025

1. Blackpool (184)
2. Stoke-on-Trent (170)
3. Hartlepool (157)
4. Liverpool (145)
5. Redcar and Cleveland (144)
6. Middlesbrough (138)
7. Halton (132)
8. North East Lincolnshire (131)
9. Stockton-on-Tees (125)
10. Gateshead (124)
11. Tameside (123)

Primary category of need for children entering care

Why is this important?

It is important to understand why children need help from children's services, and the patterns in this over time and between local areas, to help plan service improvements.

The primary category for need of children entering care in 2024 across England was mostly abuse or neglect (66%), the second most common reason was family dysfunction (12%), followed by absent parenting (9%) and the family being in acute distress (7%). The remaining four categories (child's disability, parental illness, socially unacceptable behaviour and low income) are less common.

The presenting needs varied across local authority areas, while the majority (147 local authorities) reported abuse or neglect as the most prominent category of need, while four local authority areas had family disfunction as the most prevalent presenting need.

75 local authority areas reported cases where low income was a category of need, though due to data suppression the figures are not reportable.

Why is it not mapped?

The range of reasons children need this help means limited insight can be gained from showing this data as a binary variable on a map.

Source: Department for Education. November 2024. [Children looked after in England including adoptions, Reporting year 2024.](#)

Percentage of reasons for entering care, by region, 2024



"they should check for people who try to abuse children and see if children are safe" – girl, 12, The Big Future

Unknown or unreported distance of placement from home

Why is this important?

It is worrying that local authorities cannot report where they have placed so many children relative to their home. The Department for Education states that “in most cases this will be because the child was UASC, but it could also be because the home address was not known or for reasons of confidentiality.”

Description of metric

This metric is the proportion of looked after children for whom the local authority has been unable to state the distance of their placement from their home.

Within the Children Looked After data from the Department for Education, local authorities are asked to provide figures for the number of children they placed by the distance from their home, with the options being: placed less than 20 miles, placed more than 20 miles, and distance not know or not recorded. The City of London and the Isles of Scilly have been suppressed due to low numbers.

Why is it not mapped?

It is important that local authorities hold complete, accurate and timely data on their looked after children, but this metric does not reflect whether children’s experiences of their placements are good or bad.

Source: Department for Education. 2025. [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

In 2025 across England, for 9% of children the distance from home of their care placement was not known or not recorded, the same as in 2024. **Most children - 69% - were placed within 20 miles of their home, while 22% were placed 20 or more miles away.**

For placements across the 150 local authorities, the average level of missing distance data was 8.9% (IQR 6.2% - 12.6%) in 2024.

In 2025 Rochdale had the lowest level of unknown or not reported distances for their children looked after at 1.5%, while London boroughs performing poorly and Redbridge worst with 27%.

“More rights for children in care.” – girl, 17, The Big Future

Local authority area with the lowest percentage of missing data on area placements, 2025

1. Rochdale (1.5%)
2. Blackpool (1.5%)
3. Stoke-on-Trent (1.7%)
4. Wirral (2.5%)
5. Knowsley (2.5%)
6. Tameside (2.8%)
7. Dudley (2.8%)
8. Walsall (2.8%)
9. North East Lincolnshire (3%)
10. Lancashire (3.1%)

Local authority area with the highest percentage of missing data on area placements, 2025

1. Redbridge (26.8%)
2. Hillingdon (26.3%)
3. Westminster (26.3%)
4. Wokingham (24.8%)
5. Kent (24.2%)
6. Kensington and Chelsea (23.6%)
7. Bracknell Forest (23.4%)
8. Hounslow (21.7%)
9. Rutland (18.8%)
10. Croydon (18.1%)

Use of out of area placements

Why is this important?

Local authorities have a duty to provide looked after children with accommodation within the local area, that meets the child's and allows them to live near their home.

The number of children accommodated outside or far from their home is a key indicator of quality and connection to their home area. The overuse of out of area placements was recently highlighted as an issue by the [Education Select Committee](#).

Description of metric

Within the Children Looked After data from the Department for Education, local authorities are asked to provide figures for the number of children they place inside and outside their local authority boundary.

This metric is the proportion of children placed outside their home local authority as a percentage of the total number of children looked after. There are further data fields based on distance to home, whether this is more or less than 20 miles from the child's home. This can be within or outside their home local authorities. It is possible that an out of area placement may be closer to the child's home than an in-area placement – however being placed in a different local authority goes against the general duty.

Data for the City of London, the Isles of Scilly, Derby and Rutland were suppressed due to low numbers.

Source: Department for Education. 2025. [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

In 2025 across England most placements - 56% - were inside the local authority boundary, with 44% of looked after children placed in an out of area placement, a similar picture to 2024.

For out of area placements across the 150 local authorities who had data, the average percentage of placements that were outside the boundary was 49.2%. North Lincolnshire had the lowest percentage of placements outside of their boundary at 15.1% in 2024 and 17.2% in 2025.

All the areas with the highest percentages in 2024 and 2025 were London Boroughs.

"improve the foster care system" – girl, 15, The Big Future

Local authority area with the lowest percentage of out of area placements, 2025

1. North Lincolnshire (17.2%)
2. Lancashire (17.7%)
3. Wirral (20.1%)
4. North Yorkshire (20.7%)
5. Kent (21.5%)
6. Suffolk (22.5%)
7. Norfolk (23.1%)
8. Essex (23.2%)
9. East Sussex (25.9%)
10. Gloucestershire (26.4%)

Local authority area with the highest percentage of out of area placements, 2025

1. Westminster (89.2%)
2. Richmond upon Thames (88.4%)
3. Wandsworth (82.5%)
4. Kensington and Chelsea (82.1%)
5. Tower Hamlets (79.6%)
6. Southwark (79.1%)
7. Haringey (77.5%)
8. Kingston upon Thames (75.2%)
9. Hammersmith and Fulham (75.1%)
10. Islington (73%)

Quality

Scored

Care placement instability

Why is this important?

Being taken into care can be a highly unsettling and distressing situation for children, which can be made worse when children are moved repeatedly between placements.

The disruption that placement instability has on children who are in care, to their lives and their education, can impact both on the emotional wellbeing of children and their outcomes.

“help more with entitlements of a child in care and help stop kids in care being labelled as ‘care kids’ and instantly labelled as bad by police etc because no1 knows what we been through and why we are here” – boy, 16, The Big Future

Description of metric

High placement instability is classified as the percentage of Children Looked After on 31 March with 3 or more placements during the year.

Based on the stability index developed by the Children’s Commissioner’s office, the methodology and data publication now forms part of the official statistics published by the Department for Education.

Data excludes the Isles of Scilly, Rutland and the City of London.

Source: Department for Education. 2026. [Stability measures for children looked after in England](#)

In 2025 across England **10% of looked-after children experienced high placement instability**, the same as in 2024.

For placements across the 151 local authorities, the average level of placement instability was 10.4%.

There were two local authorities where less than 5% of looked-after children experienced high levels of care placement instability in 2025, and three areas where this was around 18% of looked after children.

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of children who experienced placement instability, 2025

1. Wokingham (4.7%)
2. Nottinghamshire (4.8%)
3. Leicester (5.2%)
4. Trafford (5.7%)
5. Bury (6%)
6. Croydon (6%)
7. Shropshire (6%)
8. Westmorland and Furness (6.1%)
9. South Tyneside (6.4%)
10. Tameside (6.4%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of children who experienced placement instability, 2025

1. Milton Keynes (17.9%)
2. Kensington and Chelsea (17.9%)
3. Somerset (17.6%)
4. Kingston upon Hull (15.9%)
5. Warwickshire (15.7%)
6. Torbay (15.6%)
7. Oxfordshire (15.5%)
8. East Riding of Yorkshire (14.6%)
9. Hampshire (14.6%)
10. Barking and Dagenham (14.4%)

Quality

Scored

School placement instability

Why is this important?

Being taken into care can be a highly unsettling and distressing situation for children, which can be further compounded when children are repeatedly moved between placements that then lead to changes in school.

The disruption that placement instability has on children who are in care, to their education, can impact both on the emotional wellbeing of children and on their educational outcomes.

Description of metric

Based on the stability index developed by the Children's Commissioner's office, the methodology and data publication now forms part of the official statistics published by the Department for Education.

One of the measures looks at the number of looked after children who are moved schools one or more time during the school year (mid-year). The figures are presented as a percentage of the recorded number of looked after children in school.

Six local authorities are excluded due to data suppression: Peterborough, South Gloucestershire, Merton, City of London, Isles of Scilly, and Kensington and Chelsea.

Source: Department for Education. 2026. [Stability measures for children looked after in England](#)

In 2025 across England **8% of looked after children experienced high school placement instability**, the same as in 2024.

Of the 148 local authorities for whom data on school instability is reported, the average percentage was 8.1%.

Small underlying numbers of children mean performance is likely to vary from year to year, but in 2025 there were 33 local authorities where 10% or more of their looked after school had an in-year school move, while only two local authorities had zero in-year moves.

"Making an individual's future better begins with stability" – boy, 16, The Big Future

Local authority area with the lowest percentage of looked after children who experienced school placement instability, 2025

1. Bracknell Forest (0%)
2. Rutland (0%)
3. Knowsley (3.1%)
4. South Tyneside (3.1%)
5. Trafford (3.1%)
6. Isle of Wight (3.3%)
7. Telford and Wrekin (3.6%)
8. Stockton-on-Tees (3.6%)
9. Wirral (3.8%)
10. Solihull (3.8%)

Local authority area with the highest percentage of looked after children who experienced school placement instability, 2025

1. Milton Keynes (15.8%)
2. Cambridgeshire (15.6%)
3. Westminster (14.9%)
4. Swindon (14.8%)
5. Windsor and Maidenhead (14.6%)
6. Oxfordshire (14.4%)
7. Cumberland (13.8%)
8. Thurrock (13.6%)
9. Buckinghamshire (13.5%)
10. Torbay (13.4%)

Quality

Scored

Social worker caseload

Why is this important?

Children need their social workers to have enough time to develop trusting relationships and so they can help and support them and their family. High caseloads can lead to overworking, burnout and unsafe working conditions which can detrimentally impact on children.

Description of metric

The Department for Education publish the caseloads of child and family social workers. A case is defined as any person allocated to a named social worker, where the work involves child and family social work. Cases may be held by social workers regardless of their role in the organisation and not just by those specifically in a 'case holder' role.

Average caseload on the 30th of September is calculated as the total number of cases held by full-time equivalent (FTE) child and family social workers, including agency workers, divided by the number of FTE child and family social workers, including agency workers.

Data was duplicated for Richmond upon Thames and Kingston upon Thames, and for West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire, as each pair submitted joint returns.

Why is it not mapped?

The Children's Commissioner's maps include social worker instability, a more child-focused measure of performance in social worker workforce management.

Source: Department for Education. 2026. [Children's social work workforce](#)

There were 36,200 full-time equivalent (FTE) children and family social workers in post on 30th September 2025, of whom 21,100 were holding 321,700 cases. The resulted in an **average caseload of 15.2 cases per FTE**.

Across the 152 local authorities that provided data the average caseload was 15.3 (IQR 13.8 - 16.9) in 2025. In 2025 there were two local authorities with an average caseload over 20, while Islington and Liverpool achieved an average caseload around 10.

"social workers are needed in certain homes as parents shout and argue a lot in the neighbourhood." – boy, 16, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest average caseload per FTE social worker, 2025

1. Isles of Scilly (6)
2. Islington (10.1)
3. Liverpool (10.1)
4. City of London (11.2)
5. Lambeth (11.2)
6. Camden (11.2)
7. Brighton and Hove (11.4)
8. Southend-on-Sea (11.4)
9. Rutland (11.8)
10. Walsall (11.9)

Local authorities with the highest average caseload per FTE social worker, 2025

1. North East Lincolnshire (20.9)
2. Bolton (20.8)
3. Swindon (19.6)
4. Bedford (19.5)
5. Wakefield (19.5)
6. Dudley (19.5)
7. Bracknell Forest (19.4)
8. Stockport (19.2)
9. Croydon (19.1)
10. Tameside (18.9)

Social worker turnover

Why is this important?

A high turnover in social workers can leave children disaffected and can put them at risk. It can also be unsettling for children who have to deal with multiple professionals and breakdown relationships. Social workers leave the profession for many reasons, but high caseloads leading to overworking, burnout and unsafe working conditions can be a factor.

Description of metric

Within the Department for Education's annual data collection on the children's social worker workforce, information is collected on the number of full time (FTE) social workers in post as of 30th September and the number of starters and leavers within the year to 30 September.

The turnover rate is calculated as the number of FTE child and family social worker leavers in the year to 30 September divided by FTE child and family social workers in post on 30 September. The turnover rate is a measure of churn in the workforce (although it does not capture the movement of social workers to different child and family social work positions within the same local authority). No data was available for the Isles of Scilly, City of London, Westminster or Kensington and Chelsea. For areas submitting a joint census, data was duplicated.

Why is it not mapped?

The Children's Commissioner's maps include social worker instability, a more child-focused measure of performance in social worker workforce management.

Source: Department for Education. 2026. [Children's social work workforce](#)

Across England **the social worker turnover rate (FTE) was 11.8% in 2025**, down from 13.8% in 2024, continuing a recent trend.

Across 152 local authorities, the average turnover was 21.7%. In 2025 Bedford had the lowest turnover at under 5% while Dudley performed worst with turnover above 80%.

"we need better education especially, and more social workers and therapists" – boy, 16, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest turnover percentage of FTE social workers, 2025

1. Bedford (4.7%)
2. Westmorland and Furness (4.7%)
3. Lincolnshire (9.5%)
4. Islington (10%)
5. Cheshire West and Chester (10.6%)
6. Cumberland (11.2%)
7. County Durham (11.7%)
8. Liverpool (11.8%)
9. Bristol (11.9%)
10. Wirral (11.9%)

Local authorities with the highest turnover percentage of FTE social workers, 2025

1. Dudley (83%)
2. Sutton (54.8%)
3. Bracknell Forest (49.9%)
4. Warwickshire (46.5%)
5. Camden (41.4%)
6. Merton (40.7%)
7. Slough (39.2%)
8. North Lincolnshire (38%)
9. Redbridge (37.2%)
10. Reading (36.7%)

Social worker instability

Why is this important?

A high turnover in social workers can leave children disaffected and can put them at risk. Statistics on the social worker stability of looked after children are published by the Department for Education.

Description of metric

High social worker instability is defined as a looked after child experiencing 3 or more social workers during the year.

Social worker data for looked after children on 31 March was collected from local authorities by the Department for Education. The figures track the number of social workers assigned to a child over the one-year period between the 1 April and 31 March. If a child is assigned to a social worker more than once during the year, the social worker will only be counted once.

The number of social workers assigned to a child during the year is defined as the number of unique social workers assigned to a child between 1 April and 31 March. The count of social workers includes any social workers assigned to a child within the relevant timescale when the child was not looked after.

The Isles of Scilly and City of London are not included in this analysis.

Source: Department for Education. 2026. [Stability measures for children looked after in England](#)

In 2025, **24% of children had three or more social workers within the year** indicating high social worker instability. This was 27% in 2024.

Across the 152 local authorities that provided social worker data the average percentage of children looked after who had high social worker instability was also 24%.

"Improve Social Workers so children and young people feel safe" – boy, 17, The Big Future

Local authority area with the lowest percentage of looked after children with high social worker instability, 2025

1. Hartlepool (3%)
2. Brighton and Hove (5.7%)
3. Kensington and Chelsea (6.6%)
4. Gateshead (7.4%)
5. Stockport (7.8%)
6. Bracknell Forest (10.5%)
7. Walsall (10.7%)
8. Essex (10.8%)
9. South Tyneside (11.2%)
10. East Sussex (11.3%)

Local authority area with the highest percentage of looked after children with high social worker instability, 2025

1. Tameside (50%)
2. Slough (48%)
3. Milton Keynes (45.8%)
4. Halton (45.2%)
5. Stoke-on-Trent (45.2%)
6. Havering (44.8%)
7. Medway (44.8%)
8. Torbay (44.3%)
9. Lambeth (43.8%)
10. Knowsley (42.8%)

Quality

Scored

Looked after children's average Attainment 8 score

Why is this important?

There are known disparities between the educational outcomes for children who are looked after and their peers. Educational attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 is a major indicator of achievement, both for children themselves and the schools they attend. Minimum standards ensure that all children should achieve a level of knowledge and skill that will support them into adulthood.

Description of metric

The Department for Education produce annual statistics for the average attainment scores for children completing their Key Stage 4 education. Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications. Attainment 8 has had a maximum possible point score of 90.

The average is the total score divided by the number of pupils identified as being children looked after registered as completing the qualifications.

Five local authorities were excluded due to low numbers being suppressed in the data: City of London, Camden, North Northamptonshire, Isles of Scilly and Rutland.

Why is it not mapped?

These data are based on small numbers of children. Longer-term trends would be a fairer reflection of local authority performance in supporting the education of looked after children.

Source: Department for Education. 2025 [Outcomes for children in need, including children looked after by local authorities in England](#)

The average Attainment 8 Score for children looked after in England in 2024/25 was 17.3, lower than the 18.2 in 2023/24, and much lower than the average for England overall of 46.0.

Only 7.9% of looked after children passed English and Math GCSEs with Grade 5 or better in 2024/25, compared to 45% of pupils overall.

The average score across the 150 local authorities was 17.7 in 2024/25, compared to 19.1 in 2023/24 (IQR 16.6 – 22.1); Harrow had the highest average score at 32 out of 90, while Richmond upon Thames had the lowest at 5.5 out of 90.

"more support for children in care and children in schools who need it" – girl, 15, The Big Future

Local authorities with the highest average attainment 8 scores, 2024/25

1. Harrow (31.9 out of 90)
2. Westmorland and Furness (29)
3. Wandsworth (27.8)
4. Windsor and Maidenhead (27.3)
5. Enfield (27.1)
6. Sandwell (26)
7. Herefordshire (25.5)
8. Warrington (25.1)
9. Waltham Forest (24.8)
10. Haringey (24.2)

Local authorities with the lowest average attainment 8 scores, 2024/25

1. Richmond upon Thames (5.5 out of 90)
2. Kensington and Chelsea (5.8)
3. North Yorkshire (9.1)
4. North East Lincolnshire (9.4)
5. Kingston upon Thames (9.7)
6. Camden (10.2)
7. North Lincolnshire (10.8)
8. St. Helens (11.1)
9. Brighton and Hove (11.5)
10. Slough (11.7)

Access to a child contact centre

Why is this important?

Staying in touch with parents after separation is very important to many children. A child or family contact centre provides a safe, neutral, and child-centred space where children of separated families can spend time with a parent or other family member they do not live with. A lack of access to a safe facility may lead to an inability to enable family contact for children who are looked after or can result in contact being maintained in unsafe locations.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides “a safe, neutral, and child-centred space where children of separated families can spend time with a parent or other family member they don't live with.”

Why is it not mapped?

Local authorities may have high quality models of care for separated families which do not focus on providing a physical contact centre.

“They should focus on the well being and safety of children, making sure that systems are being run properly” – girl, 15, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Most local authorities reported that they provide a child contact centre in their authority area. Two local authorities, Bury and Nottinghamshire, did not respond to the data collection.

Percentage of local authorities who provide a child contact centre, 2025



151 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a child or family contact centre, 2025

2 local authorities did not report that they had a child or family contact centre, 2025

[Access](#)
[Context](#)

Access to a Children in Care Council

Why is this important?

Children in care councils provide a mechanism for local authorities to hear from the children and young people placed in their care. Provision of the council could indicate a local authority taking into consideration the views of the children in their care and providing them a way to engage with the system and provide feedback collectively.

Description of metric

Local authorities were asked whether they provide a children in care council that was defined as ‘a group where young people in care or those who have recently left care can voice their opinions and experiences to help improve the services they receive.’

This measures whether the local authority provides the opportunity for children and young people in care to participate in a council (or similar) to feedback on their experiences. This binary measure based on self-report does not assess the quality or level of engagement that children in care councils have or the influence they have over local strategic decisions.

“Listen to children who have been brought up in care. Listen to what we want not what they think is best.” – boy, 17, The Big Future

“

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

The majority of local authorities (83%) reported that they have a children in care council available for the children and young people in their area. 24 areas said they did not, and 4 did not answer this question. There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had a children in care council.

Percentage of local authorities with a children in care council, by region, 2025



125 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a children in council in their area, 2025

28 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a children in care council in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to targeted support or youth group for looked after children

Why is this important?

Looked after children may benefit from tailored support and spending time with other children and young people like them. Targeted services are specific, tailored interventions aimed at young people who need extra provision on top of universally provided services, while youth groups allow spaces for children and young people with shared lived experiences to socialise in safe environments.

“treat kids in care like actual human beings” – child, 16, The Big Future

Description of metric

Local authorities were asked whether they provide targeted support or youth group for looked after children in their area.

This is a binary measure of whether the local authority provides the opportunity for children and young people in care to access targeted support or youth groups.

This measure does not assess the quality or level of engagement that children in care councils have or the influence they have over local strategic decisions.

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

The majority of local authorities (92%) reported that they provide targeted support or youth group for looked after children in their authority area. 10 said they did not, and 3 did not answer this question.

Percentage of local authorities who provide targeted support or youth group for looked after children, by region



140 local authorities out of 151 reported that they provide targeted support or youth group for Children Looked After in their area, 2025

13 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they provided targeted support or youth group for Children Looked After in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to independent advocacy service for looked after children

Why is this important?

Children who are in the care of the local authority are entitled to receive independent advocacy and advice, when they have an issue or are making a complaint about aspects of their care. Independent advocates are not employed by the local authority. They may offer instructed or non-instructed advocacy. The former is where the child is able to state their wishes, and the actions they would like the advocate for take, for example, write a letter on their behalf, represent them in meetings or contact professionals. Non-instructed advocacy involves the advocate taking affirmative action with or on behalf of a person who is unable to give a clear indication of their views or wishes in a specific situation.

Description of metric

Local authorities were asked whether or not they provide access to an independent advocate service. There were asked to include all types of advocacy, instructed, uninstructed or combined. This binary measure does not assess the quality of the service, or level of engagement with it.

"Better help for those in need/unable to fund for themselves or their family/ young adults struggling to find jobs. More activities and options for children in care/hospital or struggling with inner problems." – girl, 16, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

All local authorities that responded reported that they have independent advocacy for children looked after available for the children and young people in their authority area. This was the only measure of access to services which every local authority that responded reported they provided. Isles of Scilly have been excluded from this analysis.

Percentage of local authorities with an independent advocacy service for children looked after, by region, 2025



150 local authorities reported that they offer independent advocacy for children looked after, 2025

2 local authorities did not respond to the data collection, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to independent advocacy service for wider groups (non-statutory)

Why is this important?

While there is a statutory right to advocacy for looked after children and eligible care leavers, other children have specific statutory entitlements to advocacy support in certain interactions with the children's care system, such as if they are making a complaint. The Children's Commissioner has [found](#) that, even when children get a referral to an advocate, and most do not, many referrals do not result in support from an advocate.

Description of metric

Whether local authorities provide an independent advocate service for:

- children being assessed by children's social care,
- children on child in need plans,
- children on child protection plans,
- children with special educational needs and disabilities (0-17 years),
- 16-17-year-olds who have presented to the local authority as homeless,
- young carers (0-17 years).

This includes all types of advocacy, instructed, uninstructed or combined. This measure captures whether the service is provided, not its quality or levels of engagement with it.

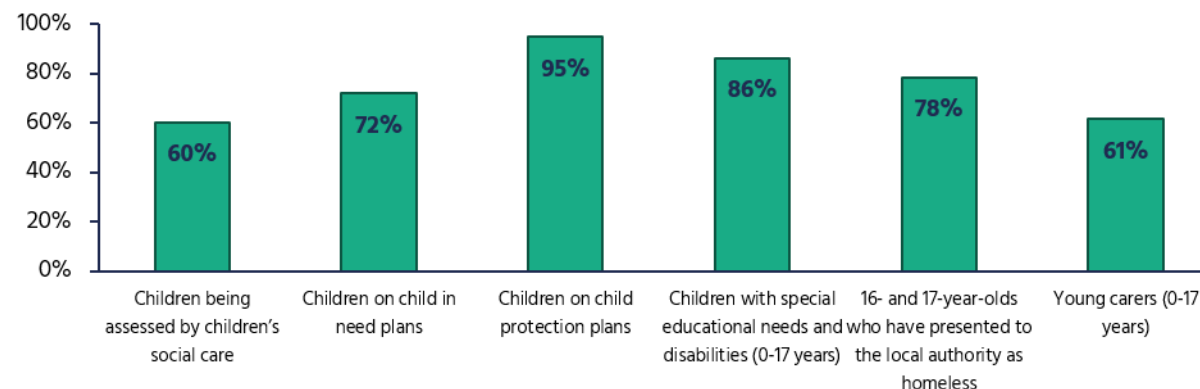
"Actually listen and take kids views into consideration. Not just children in care, all children." – girl, 15, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Just under half of local authorities (48%) reported that they offered independent advocacy to all six of the groups asked about, while 11% reported offering it to only one or two other groups. Three local authorities offered this to none of the groups.

Children on child protection plans were the group with the highest access at 95% of local authorities stating this group had access to independent advocacy, while children being assessed by social care had the lowest access at 60%.

Percentage of local authorities with an independent advocacy for non-statutory groups, 2025



73 local authorities out of 151 reported that they offer independent advocacy to all six groups, 2025

3 local authorities out of 151 reported that they do not offer any advocacy, 2025

Access

Scored

Reasons for ceasing to be a child in need

Why is this important?

Around 1 child in 30 in England is a child in need (CIN) at any one time, an umbrella term including three main groups of children: looked after children, children on a child in need plan, and children on a child protection plan. They are known to children's social care, and have safeguarding and welfare needs. As well as ordinarily having a social worker assigned to them, other services may be involved.

The Department for Education publishes annual official statistics, based on information gathered from local authorities, on children in need, including why a child stopped being considered in need. In the year to March 2025, around 354,000 episodes of being a child in need ceased for any reason.

Why is it not mapped?

92% of the reasons given for case closure were given as 'other'.

While there are six categories provided, none of them capture whether the support was successful or no longer needed, for example because the child's problem got better. This hinders evaluation of how effectively local authorities are working with families.

Source: Department for Education, [Children in need 2024-25](#). Official Statistics, published 2025

Overview

Where known, children ceased to be a CIN most often because they had moved to another local authority (3.9%, or 2,550 children), for unknown reasons (1.8%), due to a Special Guardianship Order (0.8%, or 2,840 children), because they were adopted (0.7%, or 2,630 children), because they had aged out and transferred to adult social services (0.7%, or 2,550 children), because they had been granted a Residence Order i.e. Child Arrangements Order (0.2%, or 630 children).

A further 0.3%, or 1,040 children in need, had died. The Children's Commissioner's [research](#) found the mortality rate of children in need may be rising over time, because there was a 51% increase (from 670 to 1,010) between 2014 and 2023 in the number of deaths of children in need, compared to an increase in the number of children in need on 31 March of only 1%.

That these six reasons for closure together make up less than 10% - the remaining 92% being captured only as 'other' - shows that data are not sufficient to understand why support is being ended or to understand the outcomes for the children closed to social services.

"there should be more services and social workers to avoid young people from falling into crime." – child, 16, The Big Future

Children accommodated in secure children's homes

Why is this important?

Children aged 10 to 17 can be placed in one of the 14 secure children's homes in England and Wales by a court order, because they have been remanded or sentenced by a criminal court, or because a family court has decided it is necessary for their welfare.

The Children's Commissioner has a special responsibility for children like these, living away from home, and advocates for improvements to the quality of their care.

On 31 March 2026 there were 139 children in secure children's homes, out of a maximum possible of 218 (approved places). Of these, 63 were placed by the Youth Custody Service.

Why is it not mapped?

To keep them safe, children often need to be placed in a secure home away from their home local authority. The small number of secure children's homes and the small number of children living in them would make it unfair to draw conclusions on performance in terms of these children's outcomes at local authority level.

"Make things more available to us like support, resources" – child, 16, in a secure setting, The Big Future

Source: Department for Education. May 2026. [Children accommodated in secure children's homes, Reporting year 2026.](#)

Outcome

Narrative

Children deprived of their liberty (DOLs)

Why is this important?

Restricting liberty is one of the most significant interventions the state can make into a child's life. The Children's Commissioner's qualitative [research](#) captured the experiences of some of these children, however the relative number of these children and the reasons that they are deprived of their liberty are not at a scale that it would be reasonable to map.

1,440 children were subject of deprivation of liberty applications to the High Court in 2025, in official [statistics](#) published by the Ministry of Justice. Others are detained under the Mental Capacity Act. As the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory note, current data do not cover why an application was made, children's ethnicities and additional needs, or how many children are subject to repeated DoL orders.

Why is it not mapped?

Future collections from local authorities by the Department for Education are planned to lead to improved data publications from 2028.

"I think the government should give children more freedom, we are all human" – girl, 15, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioners office. November 2024. [Children with complex needs who are deprived of liberty: Interviews with children to understand their experiences of being deprived of their liberty.](#)

Outcome

Narrative

Homeless 16- & 17-year-olds

Why is this important?

Every child deserves a safe and loving home, but every year thousands of children aged 16- and 17-years old are presenting to their local authority as homeless. Many more will not come to the authorities' attention due to informal arrangements like sofa-surfing or staying at friends, and others may present as homeless as part of a family group.

The Children's Commissioner's research based on collecting data from local authorities found around **6,500 children aged 16 and 17 presented as homeless in 2022-23**, among whom around 1,000 were unaccompanied asylum seeking children. All these children should be taken into care as a looked after child, but the Commissioner found that 41% (1,978 children) were not accommodated.

Why is it not mapped?

Data on these children and where they are placed does not form part of the Department for Education's annual Child in Need and Looked After Child censuses, which are published at local authority level; the Commissioner has recommended this be added. Statutory homelessness figures produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for England report at local authority level the number of main applicants aged 16-17 assessed as being homeless (i.e. owed a prevention or relief duty).

"Make it so people can afford houses and actually help the homeless who have nowhere to go." – girl, 16, The Big Future

Source: [Statutory homelessness in England](#). Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. April 2026.

Outcome

Narrative

Deaths of children in need

Why is this important?

The death of any child is a tragedy. The death of a child known to social services from abuse or neglect is a failure to keep them safe from harm. Local authorities that become aware of the death of a looked after child, or any death of a child due to abuse or neglect, must [notify](#) the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. All child deaths are notified to the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) who separately report annually, including on social care status.

Why is it not mapped?

The latest NCMD [data](#) shows **32% of deaths were of children known to social care at their time of death or previously**. This data is not available at local authority level. Local authority level data is available from the DfE on episodes of being a child in need ceasing due to the child's death.

The Children's Commissioner [estimated](#) that deaths of children in need in 2018-19 to 2022-23 were four times more likely to be due to deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect than the deaths of children without any social care involvement, the findings indicating that children with intensive types of social care involvement may be being effectively safeguarded from the most lethal abuse and neglect, with the risk instead falling on children with lesser or previous involvement.

"keep children safe" – girl, 7, The Big Future

Source: National Child Mortality Database, [Child Death Review Data Release: Year ending 31 March 2025](#).

Outcome

Narrative

Number of care leavers (aged 17 to 21)

Why is this important?

Local authorities have statutory responsibilities to care leavers under the Children Act 1989 and Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, for those up to age 21 (or 25 if in education/training).

The level of need varies across local authorities and so it is important to benchmark any potential responses based on the size of the cohort. The rate of care leavers relative to the population of young people across the local area may also be indicative of wider societal issues.

Description of metric

The Department for Education collects information from all local authorities on the numbers care leavers aged 17 to 21. Local authorities provide information about young people who were previously looked after, who turned 17 to 21 in the year. These young people were looked after for at least 13 weeks after their 14th birthday, including some time after their 16th birthday. The information provided relates to contact around their birthday in the year.

Figures are presented not to imply higher or lower rates are objectively better or worse but to provide context to the level of need in each area. Data was excluded from the Isles of Scilly and City of London and for Rutland due to data suppression of low population numbers.

Why is it not mapped?

The number of carer leavers is an important fact about a local authority but does not reflect good or bad performance.

Source: Department for Education. 2025 [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

In England **there were 53,240 care leavers aged 17 to 21 in 2025**, up from 50,670 in 2024 which is equal to around 150 care leavers per 10,000 population.

Across 153 local authorities the average rate of care leavers aged 17 to 21 was 17 per 1,000 young people. As in 2024, in 2025 Blackpool had the greatest rate of care leavers (17 to 21) relative to their population, and York had the lowest.

"I would give all young people a voice. I would ensure all young people have a safe adult and a place to go" – young woman with a leaving care worker, The Big Conversation

Local authorities with the lowest rate of care leavers per 1,000, 2025

1. York (4)
2. Bath and North East Somerset (6)
3. Newcastle upon Tyne (8)
4. Nottingham (9)
5. Leicester (9)
6. Sheffield (9)
7. Brighton and Hove (10)
8. Devon (10)
9. Lincolnshire (10)
10. North Yorkshire (10)

Local authorities with the highest rate of care leavers per 1,000, 2025

1. Blackpool (33)
2. Redcar and Cleveland (28)
3. Croydon (27)
4. Torbay (27)
5. Solihull (27)
6. Middlesbrough (27)
7. Halton (27)
8. Tameside (26)
9. Isle of Wight (26)
10. North East Lincolnshire (26)

Number of care leavers (aged 22 to 25)

Why is this important?

Continuing contact between local authorities and care leavers after age 21 can be important to many vulnerable young people. Local authorities are not expected to be in touch and initiate contact with young people over age 21 who have not requested or received support during the reporting period. Information reported is at their last contact with the local authority. This data is collected and reported to record the numbers of older care leavers who are accessing their entitlement to support and to better understand their activity and accommodation status.

Description of metric

Since 2023 the Department for Education has asked local authorities to provide data for young people who turned 22, 23, 24 or 25 during the year. Data is only reported if the young person requested and received support from the local authority. Local authorities are not expected to be in touch and initiate contact with young people over age 21 who have not requested or received support during the reporting period. This data may be an undercount of the full cohort, particularly for the older care leavers, so caution is advised.

Figures are presented not to imply higher or lower rates are objectively better or worse but to provide context to the level of need in each area. Data was excluded from the Isles of Scilly and the City of London and for Rutland due to data suppression of low population numbers.

Why is it not mapped?

The number of carer leavers is an important fact about a local authority but does not reflect good or bad performance.

Source: Department for Education. 2025 [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

In 2025, **local authorities reported 44,430 care leavers aged 22 to 25, of which they were in contact with 17,600**, which equates to approximately 150 per 10,000 population of the same age. Other young people may consider themselves care experienced beyond this group.

Across local authorities the average rate of care leavers aged 22 to 25 was 16 per 1,000 (8 to 39) in 2025. As in 2024, in 2025 Croydon had the greatest rate of care leavers aged 22 to 25 in contact relative to their population, while York had the fewest.

“Growing up, it can feel as though support exists in theory but is difficult to access in reality. Ensuring that children can receive timely help without stigma would make a meaningful difference to young people’s lives.” – care experienced young man, The Big Conversation

Local authorities with the lowest rate of care leavers 22 to 25 per 1,000 population, 2025

1. York (8)
2. Bath and North East Somerset (8)
3. Bristol (9)
4. Sheffield (9)
5. Barnsley (9)
6. Tower Hamlets (9)
7. Southampton (9)
8. Leicester (10)
9. Wandsworth (10)
10. Leicestershire (10)

Local authorities with the highest rate of care leavers 22 to 25 per 1,000 population, 2025

1. Croydon (39)
2. Torbay (30)
3. Blackpool (29)
4. Thurrock (29)
5. Tameside (25)
6. Solihull (25)
7. Peterborough (25)
8. Kent (25)
9. Barking and Dagenham (24)
10. Portsmouth (24)

Percent of care leavers in touch with their local authority (age 17 to 21)

Why is this important?

As corporate parents it is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that the young people who have left their care are supported into adulthood. Local authorities are expected to stay in touch with care leavers and provide statutory support to help the care leaver transition to living independently.

Description of metric

Data is collected from local authorities on the total number of eligible care leavers aged 17 to 18 and those 19 to 21. For the purpose of this measure these have been aggregated into a single group. Local authorities can indicate whether they are in touch with the care leaver, if they are not in touch, if the young person no longer requires services and when the young person refuses contact.

Due to suppression of the later three categories at a local authority level the percentage covers those in touch with their local authority. Three local authorities are excluded: Darlington, the City of London, the Isles of Scilly and Rutland, due to small populations leading to data suppression across all categories.

"I would make big changes to the care system. So that no one is failed by the system any longer. So that we can thrive and have the best life possible. I would be looking at every fault and making sure that there would be a solution no matter how big or small the problem may be." – girl, 16, The Big Conversation

Source: Department for Education. 2025 [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

Overall local authorities reported that they are in touch with 93% of the young people who have been in their care and are eligible for support in 2025. There were 4% who were identified as not being in touch with their local authority, 3% recorded as 'young person no longer requires services', and less than 1% who refused contact.

Across the 150 local authorities the average percentage of care leavers in touch with the local authority was 94%. Seven areas reported that they were in contact with 100% of their eligible care leavers, up from three the previous year.

Data for 22- to 25-year-old care leavers is also available, however small numbers mean data are not suitable to map. Across England as a whole in 2025, only 40% of care leavers aged 22 to 25 were in touch with their local authority. This also decreased with age, with more 22 year olds in touch compared to 25 year olds.

Local authorities with the highest proportion in touch with their care leavers (age 17 to 21), 2025

1. South Tyneside (100%)
2. Sefton (100%)
3. Salford (100%)
4. Oldham (100%)
5. Stockport (100%)
6. Blackpool (100%)
7. Southwark (100%)
8. Wirral (99%)
9. Cornwall (99%)
10. Wokingham (99%)
11. York (99%)

Local authorities with the lowest proportion in touch with their care leavers (age 17 to 21), 2025

1. Hampshire (44%)
2. Cumberland (68%)
3. Havering (79%)
4. Slough (84%)
5. Middlesbrough (85%)
6. Hillingdon (85%)
7. Stockton-on-Tees (86%)
8. West Northamptonshire (87%)
9. Leeds (87%)
10. Redbridge (87%)

[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

Percent of care leavers in suitable accommodation (aged 17 to 21)

Why is this important?

As corporate parents it is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that the young people who have left their care are supported to find or be provided with suitable accommodation as they transition into adulthood. This metric is based on local authority reports of suitability; there is evidence from Coram Voice surveys that many care leavers report less positively on their living arrangements.

Description of metric

Due to data suppression the figures for those not in suitable accommodation or for whom information is unknown is comparatively low. This measure instead focuses of the percentage reported as having suitable accommodation as a percentage of known care leavers aged 17 to 21.

For 14 local authority data suppression was applied across all categories in the data and so these areas were excluded from the scoring. These included Rutland, the City of London and the Isles of Scilly, which have small populations. Hampshire reported some data quality issues with their care leaver data due to a new record management system in 2024 and so were excluded.

"If I were the Prime Minister, I would [make] sure that turning 18 isn't the end of support; providing help with housing, finances, jobs, and life skills." – care experienced young man, The Big Conversation

Source: Department for Education. 2025 [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

The percentage of care leavers (age 17 to 21) in suitable accommodation in 2025 was **89%**, with 5% reported to be in unsuitable accommodation and 6% for whom information was unknown.

Across the 136 local authorities for whom data was available the average percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation was 90% (41% to 99%).

Data for 22- to 25-year-old care leavers is also available, but data are less complete. Across England as a whole, only 37% of care leavers of this age in touch with their local authority were in suitable accommodation.

Local authorities with the highest percentage of care leavers (aged 17 to 21) in suitable accommodation, 2025

1. South Tyneside (98.7%)
2. Sefton (98.4%)
3. Central Bedfordshire (97.7%)
4. Northumberland (97.6%)
5. York (97.2%)
6. St. Helens (97.2%)
7. Derbyshire (97.1%)
8. Cornwall (96.4%)
9. Southwark (96%)
10. Dorset (95.9%)

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of care leavers (aged 17 to 21) in suitable accommodation, 2025

1. Hampshire (40.9%)
2. North Northamptonshire (79.1%)
3. Stockton-on-Tees (79.3%)
4. Havering (79.9%)
5. Isle of Wight (80.1%)
6. Croydon (80.8%)
7. Walsall (81 %)
8. Southampton (81.2%)
9. Middlesbrough (82.4%)
10. West Northamptonshire (82.8%)

Percent of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET)

Why is this important?

Children transitioning into adulthood without being in education, training, or employment (NEET) represent a significant failure in how the system supports young people. Monitoring whether a care leaver is in education, employment or training helps to assess what additional support this cohort may need as they transition into adulthood as the group is [overrepresented](#) among NEET young people.

Description of metric

As part of the Children Looked After data, local authorities provide data on the activity of their care leavers aged 17 to 21 to the Department for Education. Two measures are included: the number that are not in education, employment or training, and the number where this information is not known.

Percentages are calculated against the total number of 17- to 21-year-old care leavers.

Data was suppressed for four local authorities: the City of London, Kingston upon Thames, the Isles of Scilly, and Rutland.

Source: Department for Education. 2025 [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

In 2025, the estimated percentage of care leavers (17 to 21) who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) was 40%. There was also 6% for whom their activity was unknown.

There were 29,550 (3,270 aged 17 to 21, and 26,280 aged 22 to 25) young people whose activity was unknown. The reported level of young people whose participation was unknown ranged widely between local authorities from zero to around one in four. The average percentage of NEET across local authorities was 37%.

“Ensure that there are far more opportunities for young people with SEND to have work experience opportunities made available by employers.” – care experienced young person, The Big Conversation

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of care leavers NEET, 2025

1. Hampshire (18.8%)
2. Merton (20.1%)
3. Tower Hamlets (20.3%)
4. Leicester (21.8%)
5. Central Bedfordshire (23%)
6. Southwark (23.7%)
7. Kensington and Chelsea (23.8%)
8. Staffordshire (26.2%)
9. South Tyneside (26.8%)
10. Camden (27.2%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of care leavers NEET, 2025

1. Stoke-on-Trent (52.1%)
2. Sheffield (49.1%)
3. Blackpool (48.6%)
4. Bury (47.8%)
5. Oldham (47%)
6. Bolton (47%)
7. North Tyneside (46.7%)
8. Blackburn with Darwen (46.7%)
9. Knowsley (46.7%)
10. Devon (46.5%)

Outcome

Scored

Access to independent advocacy service for care leavers

Why is this important?

Children and young people who have left the care of the local authority (care leavers) are entitled to receive independent advocacy and advice, when they have an issue or are making a complaint about aspects of their care. Independent advocates are independent of the local authority and can offer instructed or uninstructed advocacy. The former is where the person is able to state their wishes as well as the actions they would like the advocate for take, for example write a letter on their behalf, represent them in meetings or contact professionals in their lives. Non-instructed advocacy involves the advocate taking affirmative action with or on behalf of a person who is unable to give a clear indication of their views or wishes in a specific situation.

Description of metric

Local authorities were asked whether or not they provide access to an independent advocate service. There were asked to include all types of advocacy, instructed, uninstructed or combined. As a binary measure this does not assess the quality of the service or level of engagement that children have with it.

“act on our words and stop saying we know how you feel because in fact we don’t know how they feel” – care experienced young woman, The Big Conversation

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

All local authorities reported that they have access to independent advocacy service for care leavers in their area, or did not provide data in response to this question.

Percentage of local authorities with an independent advocacy for care leavers, by region, 2025



151 local authorities out of 151 reported that they offer independent advocacy for care leavers, 2025

2 local authorities out of 151 did not tell the Commissioner whether they offer independent advocacy for care leavers, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to targeted support or youth group for care leavers

Why is this important?

Care leavers may benefit from help designed for young people in their specific circumstances, or contact with other young people like them. Targeted services are specific, tailored interventions aimed at young people who need extra provision on top of universally provided services, while youth groups allow spaces for children and young people with shared lived experiences to socialise in safe environments.

Description of metric

Local authorities were asked whether they provide targeted support or youth group for care leavers in their area.

This is a binary measure of whether the local authority provides the opportunity for children and young people who are care experienced to access targeted support or youth groups. It does not assess the quality of the service or level of engagement it receives.

“more free activities for young people. affordable prices.” – care experienced young woman, The Big Conversation

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

The majority of local authorities (92%) reported that they provide targeted support or youth group for care leavers in their authority area. 11 reported they did not, and 3 did not answer this question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had targeted support or a youth group for care leavers.

Percentage of local authorities who provide targeted support or youth group for care leavers, by region, 2025.



139 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a targeted support or youth group for care leavers, 2025

14 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a targeted support or youth group for care leavers, 2025

Access

Scored

Number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

Why is this important?

The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, who are entitled to be taken into care as looked after children, is growing. The Children's Commissioner's [research](#) has shone light on how vulnerable this group of children is. Every unaccompanied child in need of care and protection should be supported from the day they arrive.

Description of metric

The Department for Education collects information from all local authorities on the numbers of children looked after, and a range of their characteristics, including whether they are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

The metric presents the number of UASC as a proportion of the total number of looked after children for the area. Due to small numbers, data was excluded from the Isles of Scilly, the City of London, and Rutland.

Why is it not mapped?

Figures are presented not to suggest higher or lower rates are better or worse but to provide context to the level of need in each area.

"The government should provide more support for education, job opportunities, affordable housing, and mental health services. It should also help young people and refugees access training, English classes, and opportunities to build a better future." – boy, 17, The Big Future

Source: Department for Education. 2025 [Children looked after in England including adoptions](#)

In England there were **6,540 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in the care of local authorities on the 31st March 2025**, which was 8% of all children looked after.

Across local authorities the average percentage of UASC among looked after children was 8% (IQR 5.5% - 12.2%) in 2023-24.

Stoke-on-Trent had the greatest rate of children looked after relative to their population, with 191 children looked after per 10,000 on the 31st March 2024. Richmond upon Thames had the fewest children looked after at 25 per 10,000 population of looked after children.

Local authorities with the lowest percentage of unaccompanied children among their looked after children, 2025

1. Rochdale (1.5%)
2. Blackpool (1.5%)
3. Wirral (1.5%)
4. Stoke-on-Trent (1.7%)
5. Lancashire (2.2%)
6. Knowsley (2.5%)
7. Bolton (2.5%)
8. Dudley (2.6%)
9. Tameside (2.8%)
10. Walsall (2.8%)

Local authorities with the highest percentage of UASC among their looked after children, 2025

1. Redbridge (26.8%)
2. Wokingham (24.8%)
3. Kent (23.8%)
4. Kensington and Chelsea (23.6%)
5. Hillingdon (21.8%)
6. Hounslow (20.9%)
7. Rutland (18.8%)
8. Croydon (18.1%)
9. Camden (17.1%)
10. Bracknell Forest (16.9%)

[Access](#)
[Context](#)

Access to specialist or targeted support service for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

Why is this important?

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children need extra help from the day of their arrival to meet their needs and help them thrive in the UK. Targeted services are specific, tailored interventions aimed at young people who need extra provision on top of universally provided services, while youth groups allow spaces for children and young people with shared lived experiences to socialise in safe environments.

Description of metric

Local authorities were asked whether they provide targeted support or youth group for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in their area.

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides the opportunity for children and young people to access targeted support or youth groups. This measure does not assess the quality or level of engagement with the service.

“more help to the people like me (Asylum seekers) in every field of life. school, college, community.” – boy, 17, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

The majority of local authorities (77%) reported that they provide targeted support or youth group for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in their authority area. 29 reported they did not, and 7 did not answer this question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had this.

Percentage of local authorities who provide targeted support or youth group for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, by region, 2025.



117 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a targeted support or youth group for unaccompanied children, 2025

36 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a targeted support or youth group for unaccompanied children, 2025

Access

Scored

Support workers in school for UASC

Why is this important?

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children need extra help from the day of their arrival to meet their needs and help them thrive in their school or college.

Description of metric

The Children's Commissioner asked schools and colleges 'Did your school, college or MAT employ the following full-time equivalent (FTE) roles or staff members in Summer Term 2024?'

The role was described as 'A staff member for supporting UASC', with 'UASC' defined as 'a person who is under 18 years of age when the asylum application is submitted, is applying for asylum in their own right; and is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so.'

Why isn't it mapped?

Many schools will not have any pupils who are UASC.

"Try to make it more welcoming to refugees." – Girl, 12, The Big Ambition

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. [School and College Survey](#) (mainstream) and [college sector report](#) 2026.

As the Commissioner reported, **89% of mainstream primary schools did not have this role, and of these, most (74%) did not want one, compared to 83% of mainstream secondary schools, most of which (62%) also did not want the role.** Where this role was in place, it was more often 'external provision' rather than a role in the school (9% versus 1.1% for primaries, 13% versus 8.5% for secondaries). External provision can be a cost-effective way of securing provision, however, the Commissioner warned that, system wide, there is a lack of understanding of what good external provision looks like and often a lack of support for schools on how to commission and quality assure external provision.

In contrast to schools, **41% of further education colleges reported having this role.**

Percentage of schools in local authority that have a staff member for supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, by region, 2024



Community

Community relates to children's experiences outside the home and in interactions with the criminal justice system. Children's sense of safety can be influenced by their experiences, and by perceptions of how safe they view their local area. Some children interact with the criminal justice system as victims or as perpetrators of crimes, or both.



Overview of Community metrics



Scored



Context



Narrative

All 24 metrics

Children who feel unsafe in their local area	Children who feel unsafe online	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or Safer Schools Police Officer (SSO) in schools	Number of child victims of crime	Number of victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation	Number of children who went missing
Access to Return Home Interview Services	Access to Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CIDVA)	Access to Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (CISVA)	Access to targeted support or youth group for children at risk of sexual exploitation	Access to targeted support or youth group for children at risk of criminal exploitation	Victims of exploitation referred to the National Referral Mechanism
Time taken for an outcome in cases involving child victims	Number of children stopped and searched	Number of children strip searched	Recording of vulnerability of children who are stopped and searched	Number of arrests of children	Vulnerability of children recorded in custody
Use of force by police against children	Children offered legal advice in custody as a default	Number of children in the secure estate	Inspection results of police performance in child protection	Joint Targeted Area Inspections	Criminal justice outcomes



Overview of Community metrics

 Scored

15 scored metrics only

Children who feel unsafe in their local area	Children who feel unsafe online	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or Safer Schools Police Officer (SSO) in schools			Number of children who went missing
Access to Return Home Interview Services	Access to Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CIDVA)	Access to Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (CISVA)	Access to targeted support or youth group for children at risk of sexual exploitation	Access to targeted support or youth group for children at risk of criminal exploitation	Victims of exploitation referred to the National Referral Mechanism
	Number of children stopped and searched		Recording of vulnerability of children who are stopped and searched	Number of arrests of children	Vulnerability of children recorded in custody
Use of force by police against children	Children offered legal advice in custody as a default				



Police Force areas

North West

Cumbria: Cumberland, Westmoreland and Furness.

Lancashire: Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire.

Merseyside: Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens, Wirral.

Greater Manchester: Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan.

Cheshire: Cheshire East, Chester West and Chester, Halton and Warrington.

West Midlands

West Mercia: Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire.

Staffordshire: Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent.

West Midlands: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton.

Warwickshire: Warwickshire.

North East

Northumbria: Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland.

Durham: County Durham, Darlington.

Cleveland: Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees.

East Midlands

Derbyshire: Derby, Derbyshire.

Nottinghamshire: Nottingham, Nottinghamshire.

Lincolnshire: Lincolnshire

Leicester: Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland.

Northamptonshire: North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire.

South West

Gloucestershire: Gloucestershire.

Avon and Somerset: Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire.

Wiltshire: Swindon, Wiltshire.

Devon and Cornwall: Cornwall, Devon, Isles of Scilly, Plymouth, Torbay.

Dorset: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Dorset.

Yorkshire and the Humber

North Yorkshire: North Yorkshire, York.

West Yorkshire: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield.

Humberside: East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire.

South Yorkshire: Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield.

East of England

Bedfordshire: Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton.

Cambridgeshire: Cambridgeshire, Peterborough.

Norfolk: Norfolk.

Suffolk: Suffolk.

Essex: Essex, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock.

Hertfordshire: Hertfordshire.

South East

Thames Valley: Bracknell Forest, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham.

Hampshire: Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton.

Surrey: Surrey.

Sussex: Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex.

Kent: Kent, Medway.

London

Metropolitan police: Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Westminster.

City of London: City of London



Community scorecard

Scored metrics (15)	Category	Measure type	Max score
Children who feel unsafe in their local area	Outcome	Decile	10
Children who feel unsafe online	Outcome	Decile	10
Number of children who went missing	Outcome	Decile	10
Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or Safer Schools Police Officer (SSO) in schools	Access	Decile	10
Access to Return Home Interview Service	Access	Binary	10
Access to Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CIDVA)	Access	Binary	10
Access to Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (CISVA)	Access	Binary	10
Access to targeted support or youth group for children at risk of sexual exploitation	Access	Binary	10
Access to targeted support or youth group for children at risk of criminal exploitation	Access	Binary	10
Recording of vulnerability of children who are stopped and searched	Outcome	Indexed	10
Number of arrests of children	Outcome	Decile	10
Vulnerability of children recorded when in custody	Outcome	Indexed	10
Use of force by police against children	Outcome	Decile	10
Criminal justice outcome: percentage of youth cautions	Outcome	Decile	10
Criminal justice outcome: percentage of custodial sentences	Outcome	Decile	10
Total score			140



Community metrics

Children who feel unsafe in their local area

Why is this important?

How safe children feel in their local area will not only shape how positively they view their local area, but may impact on how they spend their time, their ability to get around and whether they are able to enjoy their childhoods.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You feel safe in your local area' in The Big Ambition survey 2024. Ranks are presented for the 129 local authority areas whose sample size met the 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. Due to these small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"more zebra crossings on roads as I don't feel safe crossing the road." – girl, 10, The Big Future

"In the local area where i live, i feel that muslim woman are unable to walk by themselves without feeling unsafe, and that needs to change." – boy, 15, The Big Future

"many of my Jewish friends do not feel safe and are regularly victims of anti social behaviour in places where they should feel safe (School, home, online)"

- boy, 17

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data.](#)

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **12.3% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they felt safe in their local area.**

The median was 12.3% (IQR 9.8% - 15.4%)

The lowest percentage disagreeing was Bedford (6.7%) while the largest percentage disagreeing were children from Croydon (24.9%)

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they felt safe in their local area, 2023-2024

1. Bedford (6.7%)
2. North Somerset (6.8%)
3. Solihull (7.0%)
4. Warrington (7.4%)
5. Blackburn with Darwen (7.4%)
6. West Berkshire (7.4%)
7. Oxfordshire (7.5%)
8. Central Bedfordshire (7.5%)
9. York (7.5%)
10. Shropshire (7.6%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they felt safe in their local area, 2023-2024

1. Croydon (24.9%)
2. Middlesbrough (22.3%)
3. Barking and Dagenham (22.1%)
4. Wolverhampton (21.5%)
5. Dudley (20.9*%)
6. Enfield (20.5%)
7. Newham (20.4%)
8. Salford (20.2%)
9. Sunderland (19.8%)
10. Barnsley (19.7%)

Outcome

Scored

Children who feel unsafe online

Why is this important?

Every child should be able to play and learn online safely, and all children should be protected from online harms. In the Children's Commissioner's survey The Big Ambition children were asked about how safe they feel online.

Description of metric

Percent of children who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement 'You feel safe when you go online' in The Big Ambition survey 2024. Ranks are presented for the 129 local authority areas whose sample size met the 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. Due to these small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists, right; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

"they should listen to everyone views. they should make sure children are safe online" – girl, 14, The Big Future

"make platforms for kids to be safe on and do anything they want" – girl, 10, The Big Future

"Make online safety where people can post or play games for their age rating" – girl, 12, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2024. [The Big Ambition survey data](#).

Of the responses that had an identified local authority, **8.8% of children disagreed or strongly disagreed that they felt safe online**. The median was 9% (IQR 7.5% - 10.2%). This was higher among respondents who attended schools where the minority of pupils were eligible for Free School Meals (11%) than where the majority of pupils were eligible (9%).

Due to small sample sizes in some areas, 24 local authorities are not included in the lists below; however, for completeness all 153 areas are included in the full dataset.

Local authorities with the lowest percent disagreeing they felt safe online, 2023-2024

1. Richmond upon Thames (4.1%)
2. Sutton (5.1%)
3. Bracknell Forest (5.1%)
4. Hammersmith and Fulham (5.3%)
5. North Northamptonshire (5.4%)
6. Warrington (5.6%)
7. Reading (5.6%)
8. Bath and North East Somerset (5.9%)
9. Central Bedfordshire (6.0%)
10. West Berkshire (6.1%)

Local authorities with the highest percent disagreeing they felt safe online, 2023-2024

1. Hartlepool (18.8%)
2. Sandwell (18.6%)
3. South Tyneside (18.6%)
4. Croydon (16.2%)
5. Gateshead (16.1%)
6. Brent (15.5%)
7. Thurrock (15.4%)
8. Enfield (14.6%)
9. Hounslow (14.6%)
10. Sunderland (13.5%)

Outcome

Scored

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or Safer Schools Police Officer (SSO) in schools

Why is this important?

There are mixed views on the benefits of police presence in schools - having this provision in school may promote a sense of safety for some pupils. Conversely there are risks that it can mean lead to a police response to issues that could otherwise be managed within school.

Description of metric

The percentage of schools who responded to the Children's Commissioner's School and College survey as Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or Safer Schools Police Officer (SSO) within the school.

Schools and colleges were asked whether the provision was provided by the school or an external provider and is presented as a percentage of schools that had any provision.

"make me feel safe in school" – boy, 13, The Big Future

"prioritise school safety" – girl, 14, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. [The school and college survey](#).

Overall, **3% of schools and colleges** who responded to the Children's Commissioner's survey reported that they had a PCSO or SSO in school, indicating this an uncommon role in schools.

39 local authority areas had zero schools with either a PCSO or SSO role working in their schools. Of the remaining 114 areas, the median level of provision was 2.7% (IQR 1.4% - 5.6%).

Six of the 10 areas with the highest percentage of PCSO or SSO roles were London Metropolitan Boroughs.

Local authorities with the highest percentage PCSO/SSO provision in schools, Summer term 2024

1. Waltham Forest (19.4%)
2. Barking and Dagenham (14%)
3. Leeds (12.9%)
4. Wakefield (12.6%)
5. Bradford (12.1%)
6. Greenwich (11.6%)
7. Knowsley (10.9%)
8. Bexley (10.8%)
9. Kensington and Chelsea (10.3%)
10. Croydon (9.6%)

39 local authorities had no Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) or Safer Schools Police Officer (SSO) in schools in Summer term 2024

[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

Number of child victims of crime

Why is this important?

Being the victim of a crime, irrespective of its nature, can have devastating impacts on children. The Children's Commissioner's interviews with child victims [found](#) children's age and vulnerability not being taken into account by police.

Understanding the scale of victimisation helps to assess whether the responses to and services available are adequate to support children who have been a victim of a crime.

Previous estimates of children's experiences of crime were reported from the annual child version of the Crime Survey for England and Wales. Data collections were impacted by the pandemic and are no longer accredited official statistics.

In year ending 2025, **11.9% of children (aged 10 to 15) reported experiences of any crime**, with 11.0% reporting crimes against the person.

Why is it not mapped?

As of Autumn 2025, the Children's Crime Survey for England and Wales has been discontinued, and a new young person's safety survey is in development. However, this will mean a gap in data about children's experiences of crime.

"more funding for preventing crime and support for victims. I have been a victim of an attack and have not had any support since to help with my mental health and well being since." – boy, 14, The Big Future

Source: Office for National Statistics. July 2025. Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2025: [Crime in England and Wales: Annual supplementary tables](#)

Outcome

Narrative

Number of victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Why is this important?

There has been a concerted effort in recent years to better understand the scale of child sexual abuse and exploitation, to help inform efforts to prevent and improve responses to it.

Police forces in England and Wales recorded 101,199 child sexual abuse offences during 2023-24. There was a 4% decrease in England and Wales in the number of police-recorded child sexual abuse offences between 2022-23 and 2023-24, but these offences are likely underreported.

Why is it not mapped?

While there are significant differences in how often sexual abuse is recorded in local authorities' child protection data, the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse reports that there is no evidence to suggest that the level of child sexual abuse taking place varies by geographical location.

"we should ALWAYS listen to the victim/s" – girl, 13, The Big Future

Source: Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse. June 2025. [Child sexual abuse in 2023/24: Trends in official data](#)

Outcome

Narrative

Number of children who went missing

Why is this important?

Children and young people may go missing for a range of reasons, for older adolescences in particular they may be testing boundaries and their own independence. They also may be seeking to escape situations or being coerced by others, as with the experiences of children who are trafficked for the purposes of county lines exploitation.

Going missing increases the risk that a child may come to harm and so it is important to measure how many children are going missing and to put in place strategies to reduce this.

Description of metric

The National Crime Agency's Missing Person Unit collates data from each police force across the four nations on the reported number of missing incidents and number of children who were missing during the financial year. Data includes number of children (under 18) who went missing per police force. Data is presented based on number of individual children who went missing as a rate for the population. City of London Police were excluded due to its small population.

National Crime Agency. 2025. [Missing Persons Unit Annual Data Report 2024-25](#)

In England in 2024-25 the majority of missing incidents reported were for children aged 12 to 17 (61%). **There were 169,569 incidents of children going missing in England in 2024-25**, which related to 63,450 individual children, compared to 62,098 in 2023-24.

In 2024-25, across local authorities the average rate of children per 10,000 was 55. Surrey reported the lowest numbers while Greater Manchester reported the highest rate per 10,000.

"I went missing once for 9 hours [...] and I ended up walking home because no police found me. That time I ran away but what if someone was kidnapped? Are we really safe around here?" – girl, 14, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest rate of children who went missing per 10,000, 2024-25

1. Surrey (17)
2. Hertfordshire (19)
3. City of London (20)
4. West Mercia: Worcestershire; Shropshire; Herefordshire; Telford and Wrekin (22)
5. Gloucestershire (28)
6. Avon and Somerset: Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire (30)

Local authorities with the highest rate of children who went missing per 10,000, 2024-25

1. Greater Manchester (137)
2. Cleveland (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees) (110)
3. Northumbria (Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland) (85)
4. Cumbria (84)
5. North Yorkshire and York (83)

Outcome

Scored

Access to Return Home Interview Services

Why is this important?

Return home interviews are provided to children and young people after they have run away or been missing to understand the reasons for the disappearance, identify any harm suffered, and explore support to prevent future incidents. They can also provide intelligence for suspected cases of child sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation. Government [guidance](#) requires them to be carried out within 72 hours of the child returning to their home or care setting.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides a return home interview service for children who went missing.

As this is binary measure based on self-report it does not assess the quality or level of engagement that return home interviews have.

“make it safer because people go missing” – boy, 14, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

All local authorities reported that they have access to return home interviews for the children and young people in their authority area, or did not supply data (three local authorities).

Percentage of local authorities with Return Home Interview Service, by region, 2025.



150 local authorities out of 151 reported that they have a return home interview service in their area, 2025

3 local authorities out of 151 did not supply data on whether they had a return home interview service in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CIDVA)

Why is this important?

Children who come into contact with police as the victim or perpetrator of a crime, or both, should be referred for help and support as needed. Data are not available on how often this happens. The Children's Commissioner has gathered data from police forces and local authorities on the availability of one form of support, Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CIDVA), who provide one to one support for young people experiencing domestic abuse.

When asked by the Children's Commissioner for her [report](#) on child victims of crime, only 4 police forces were able to say how many child victims of domestic abuse had been referred onto Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (Chldvas) in 2022-23, of which only 2 forces reported making one or more referrals.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides access to Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CIDVA). This binary measure does not assess the quality of the service or levels of engagement that CIDVA services receive.

"improve the justice system, safety for women and children facing assault, harassment, domestic violence" – girl, 15, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

Half of local authorities (50%) reported that they have access to Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CIDVA) available for the children and young people in their authority area. Many reported that they did not (n=71) and others did not answer this question (n=5).

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.

Percentage of local authorities with Child Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CIDVA), by region, 2025



77 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a CIDVA services in their area, 2025

76 local authorities out of 153 did not report that they had a CIDVA services in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Access to Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (CISVA)

Why is this important?

Introduced under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (CISVA) are independent workers who can provide practical and emotional support to children and young people who have experienced rape, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides CISVAs. This binary measure does not assess the quality or level of engagement that the service receives.

"[My Chlsva] was great. [...] She was meeting with me [regularly] because they couldn't get me into the therapy service yet...She was great. She was always pushing for updates and just checking if I'm OK overall" – Girl, 17, victim of sexual abuse in a relationship, Children's Commissioner's [research](#) on children's experiences as victims of crime

"Really look out for [...] children under domestic abuse too, because we think they lie when they say they feel unsafe, or we believe they 'moved on' just because trauma happened a while ago. Some probably try to forget it, but we shouldn't let the scar sit on their memory like that" – girl, 14, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

The minority of local authorities (33%) reported that they have access to Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (CISVA) available for the children and young people in their authority area. Most did not have one (n=93) or did not answer this question (n=9).

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had CISVAs.

Percentage of local authorities with Child Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (CISVA), by region, 2025.



51 local authorities out of 153 reported that they have a CISVA services in their area, 2025

102 local authorities out of 151 did not report that they have a CISVA services in their area, 2025

Access

Scored

Targeted support or youth group: children at risk of sexual exploitation

Why is this important?

Child sexual exploitation is when someone extorts sexual activity from a vulnerable person under 18 using gifts, coercion, intimidation or violence. Children who have experienced sexual exploitation need additional support.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides targeted support or youth group for children at risk of sexual exploitation in their authority area

This binary measure based on self-report does not assess the quality or level of engagement that the targeted support or youth group for children at risk of sexual exploitation service receives.

"information or guidance for those who have faced abuse, grooming or predation should be regulated instead of ran away from. I think what's most important is for those kind of victims to have someplace to go, someone to talk to, who would understand." – girl, 14, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

The majority of local authorities (86%) reported that they have a targeted support or youth group for children at risk of sexual exploitation in their authority area. 18 local authorities reported they did not, and 4 did not answer this question.

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had this.

Percentage of local authorities with targeted support or youth group for children at risk of sexual exploitation, by region, 2025.



131 local authorities out of 153 have a targeted support or youth group for Children at risk of sexual exploitation, 2025

22 local authorities out of 153 did not report they had a targeted support or youth group for children at risk of sexual exploitation, 2025

[Access](#)
[Scored](#)

Targeted support or youth group: children at risk of criminal exploitation

Why is this important?

Child criminal exploitation is when someone uses a child (under 18 years old) to commit crimes for them, using gifts, coercion, intimidation or violence. Children who have experienced criminal exploitation need additional support, as qualitative [research](#) on the views and experiences of children on criminal exploitation by the Children's Commissioner has found.

Description of metric

A binary measure of whether the local authority provides targeted support or youth group for children at risk of criminal exploitation in their authority area

This binary measure based on self-report does not assess the quality or level of engagement that the targeted support or youth group for children at risk of criminal exploitation service receives.

"Invest more into protecting children, such as county lines" – girl, 15, The Big Future

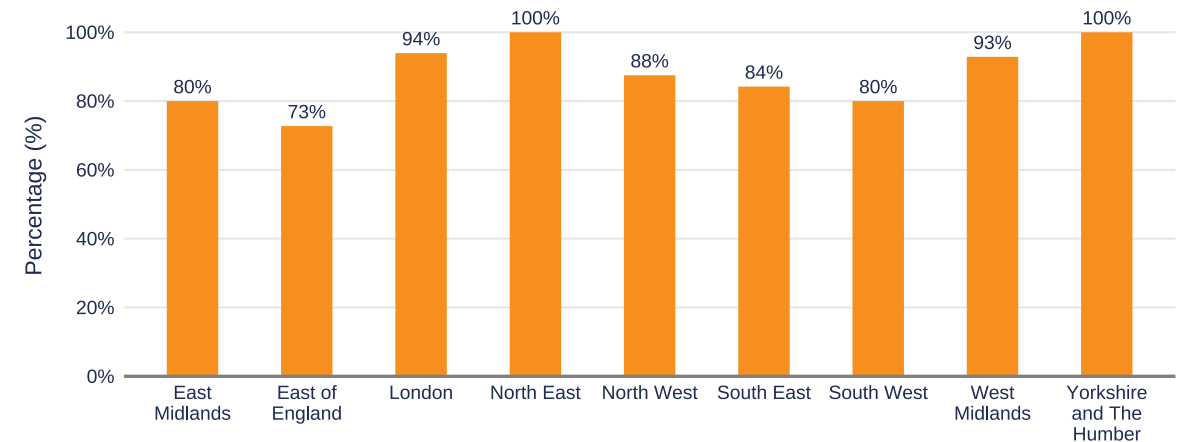
"Less gangs. Youth group." – boy, 14, The Big Future

Source: Children's Commissioner for England. 2025. Local Authority Data Request.

The majority of local authorities (89%, n=136) reported that they have a **targeted support or youth group for children at risk of criminal exploitation** in their authority area. Others reported they did not (n=12) or did not answer this question (n=5).

There were differences by region in the proportion of local authorities that had this.

Percentage of local authorities with a targeted support or youth group for children at risk of criminal exploitation, by region, 2025.



136 local authorities out of 151 have a targeted support or youth group for children at risk of criminal exploitation, 2025

17 local authorities reported they did not have a targeted support or youth group for children at risk of criminal exploitation, 2025

Access

Scored

Victims of exploitation referred to the National Referral Mechanism

Why is this important?

When a child is suspected having been a victim of a modern slavery offence under Modern Slavery Act 2015, they should be referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

Child victims do not have to consent to be referred into the NRM and must first be safeguarded and then referred into the NRM process. The NRM provides estimates of the number of children who are exploited and who should be receiving support.

Description of metric

Data is presented annually by the Home Office on the number of individuals referred to the NRM, including the number aged under 17. Data is presented at Police Force level and so joint rankings are applied to each local authority covered by the respective police force.

A crude rate per 10,000 population for the number of children referred to the NRM – populations aggregated from the mid-year estimates for each local authority area covered.

Source: Home Office. March 2025. [Modern slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2024](#)

In 2024 there were 5,376 children aged under 17 who were referred to the National Referral Mechanism. Of these the most prevalent exploitation type was criminal exploitation. Nearly four times more boys than girls were referred to the NRM (79:21).

Gloucestershire police force reported the lowest rate of children referred to the NRM per 10,000 child population, while Kent reported the highest. The mean rate for local authorities was 4.5 per 10,000.

“protect against exploitation and harm” – girl, 13, The Big Future

Police force areas with the lowest rate of children per 10,000 being referred to the NRM, 2024

1. Cumbria police (1.5) (Cumberland/Westmoreland and Furness)
2. Lancashire Police (1.6) (Lancashire/Blackburn with Darwen/Blackpool)
3. Hertfordshire police (1.6)
4. Staffordshire Police (1.6) (Staffordshire/Stoke-on-Trent)

Police force areas with the highest rate of children per 10,000 being referred to the NRM, 2024

1. Kent police (14.2) (Kent/Medway)
2. Northamptonshire police (7.1) (West Northamptonshire/North Northamptonshire)
3. Humberside police (7.0) (East Riding of Yorkshire/ Kingston upon Hull/ North Lincolnshire/ North East Lincolnshire)
4. Metropolitan police (7.0)

Time taken for an outcome in cases involving child victims

Why is this important

Successful police investigations of crimes against children provide not only an outcome from incidents that have already occurred but may also prevent future victimisation.

A successful outcome is a formal or informal police outcome. For example, a formal outcome may be a charge or caution and an informal outcome may be a cannabis warning. Any outcome is the case closing for any reason at all.

Description of metric

For 2024-25, Police Forces in England and Wales and British Transport Police were asked to provide the median number of days taken for police to record any outcome, and a successful outcome, in cases with a child victim. 38 out of 39 forces in England responded to the data request, four reported that this data was unavailable. Measures uses the median time to reach as successful outcome for children.

Why is it not mapped?

Data quality concerns about the data given to the Children’s Commissioner by police forces.

Source: Children’s Commissioner’s request to police forces. 2025

Not mapped

For 2024-25, the [Home Office](#) reported that for all victim-based offences (against adults and children) where the investigation resulted in a charge/summons, the average number (median) of days taken to reach this outcome 41 days. This data is separated by offence type but not by any victim characteristics.

From the 34 Police Forces that were able to provide **the median number of days to record an outcome for cases with a child victim the range in response were between 7 days and 539. The range was 6 to 449 days for a successful outcomes.**

“bring criminals to justice, make people feel able to report crimes to the police” – girl, 14, The Big Future

Police Force areas with the lowest median time in days to successful outcome in 2024-25

- 1. South Yorkshire Police (6) (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield)
- 2. Bedfordshire Police (21) (Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton)
- 3. Durham Constabulary (21) (County Durham, Darlington)
- 4. Humberside Police (21) (East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire)

Police Force areas with the highest median time in days to successful outcome in 2024-25

- 1. Devon and Cornwall Police (449) (Cornwall, Devon, Isles of Scilly, Plymouth, Torbay)
- 2. City of London Police (199)
- 3. Cleveland Police (154) (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees)
- 4. Warwickshire Police (152)

Quality

Context

Numbers of children stopped and searched

Why is this important?

Police have the powers to carry out a stop and search on a person if they suspect that they are carrying an unlawful item. While they are a necessary part of policing procedure, how frequently they are used may be indicative of a higher level of criminal behaviour in that area. Conversely it may indicate a disproportionate targeting of young people.

Description of metric

Data is presented annually by the Home Office on the number of individuals aged 0 to 9 and 10 to 17 stopped and searched by the police. Presented at Police Force level and so joint rankings are applied to each local authority covered by the respective police force. A rate per 10,000 population was calculated for the number of children stopped and searched based on the mid-year estimates for each local authority area covered per police force area.

Note: stop and search is recorded based on the location of the search rather than the area that the child is from so may not explicitly represent children from covered areas if a child is stopped and searched outside their own police force area.

Source: Home Office. 2025. [Stop and search, arrests, and mental health detentions, March 2025](#)

In 2024-25 police forces across England conducted 89,113 stop and searches on children aged under 18, down from 96,274 the year before.

Among the 89,113 were 196 stop and searches of children aged 9 or younger. Children made up around 19% of all stop and searches.

The police force area with the fewest stop and searches per 10,000 population was West Mercia with 20. Merseyside had the highest number per 10,000 in both 2023-24 and 2024-25 at 279 in 2024-25.

"More activities for teenagers my age and not being penalised for going outside and being stop and searched for nothing" – boy, 13, The Big Future

Police force areas with the lowest rate of children per 10,000 being stopped and searched in 2024-25

1. West Mercia Police (20)
(Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire)
2. Warwickshire police (21)
(Warwickshire)
3. Dorset police (22)
(Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Dorset)
4. Cambridgeshire police (22)
(Cambridgeshire, Peterborough)
5. Bedfordshire police (27)
(Luton, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire)

Police force areas with the highest rate of children per 10,000 being stopped and searched in 2024-25

1. Merseyside (279)
(Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens, Wirral)
2. City of London (201)
3. Greater Manchester (153)
(Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford)
4. Cumbria (152)
(Cumberland, Westmoreland and Furness)

Outcome

Scored

Numbers of children strip searched

Why is this important?

The Children’s Commissioner has looked closely at the police practice of strip searching children under stop and search powers since the traumatic experience of Child Q. These searches can be highly traumatising for children and are conducted in relatively uncontrolled environments by nonspecialist frontline officers, with varying levels of safeguards in place.

Why it is not mapped?

In 2024, the Children’s Commissioner’s office reported that **there were 457 strip searches conducted on children between July 2022 and June 2023** in England and Wales. These searches were not evenly distributed around the country.

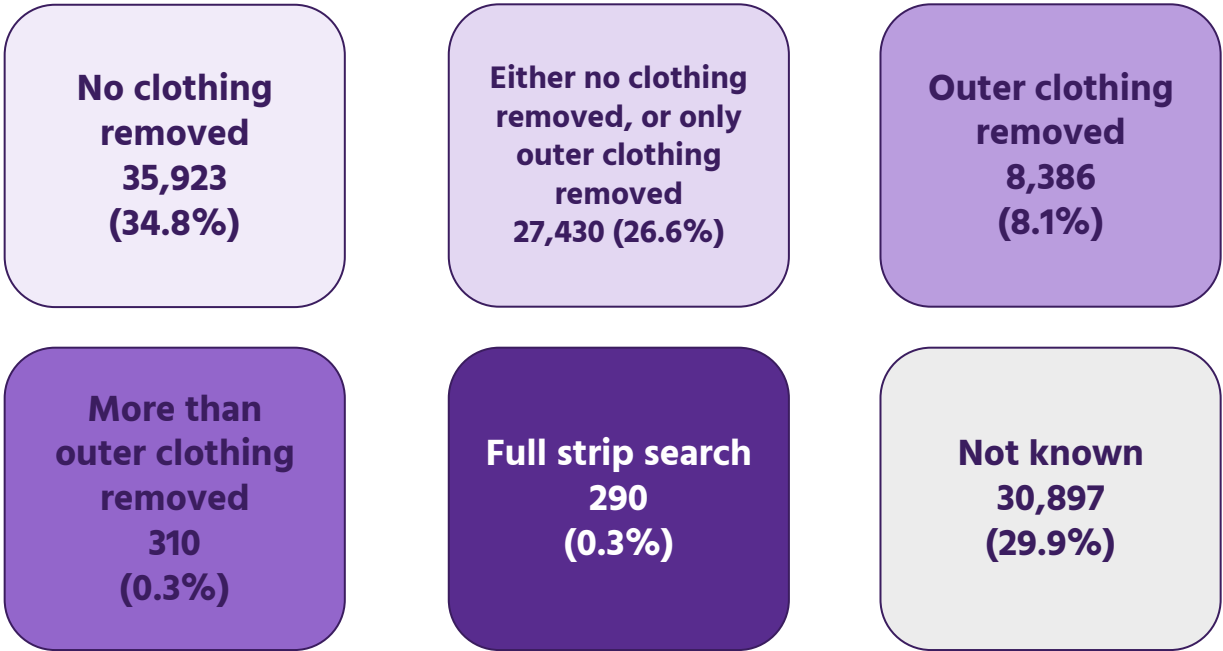
In 2025, the Home Office published stop and searches by age group, sex, strip search level and self-defined ethnicity or officer-defined ethnicity for 2023/24 [SS_47]. The data provides the reported number of searches and level of search conducted by age (0 to 9, 10 to 17), gender and ethnicity. This data is presented at the national level and due to small numbers is not be available at police force area due to data suppression rules.

Source: Home Office. July 2025. [Stop and search and arrests, year ending March 2024](#) [official statistics]

In total there were 102,236 searches of children aged under 18 reported in 2023-24 to the Home Office. Of which 101 were of under 10-year-olds (though none of these were recorded as full strip searches or more than outer clothing removed).

There were 600 children who were either fully stripped searched or had more than their outer clothing removed. There were over 30,000 searches of children for whom the level of search was not known or reported.

“make policing in the local area better.”– girl, 14, The Big Future



Recording of vulnerability of children who are stopped and searched

Why is this important?

When a child is stopped and searched by the police, their level of vulnerability needs to be considered. Additional vulnerabilities, such as social care involvement or special educational needs can influence whether children are targeted for exploitation or become involved in criminal activity. Awareness of these vulnerabilities by police may influence how children are treated during stop and searches.

Description of metric

For 2024-25, police forces were asked which if any of eight key characteristics of additional vulnerability are routinely recorded under stop and search. These were: whether the child is looked after, a child in need, has special education needs or disabilities, has neurodivergence or medical vulnerabilities, or is a potential victim of child criminal, or sexual exploitation. Data was also collected from Welsh police forces and the British Transport Police, though these were excluded from this analysis and so will differ from published analysis.

The responses were binary, either yes or no, and were summed if present to give a max score out of 7. These scores were converted to a 0 to 10 scale by dividing by 7 and multiplying by 10 – to provide a score that is comparable to the deciles of other metrics.

Source: Children's Commissioner's data request to Police forces 2025

Out of the 38 police forces in England that responded, 21 reported that they did not record any additional vulnerabilities of children who were stopped and searched.

In the Commissioner's earlier data request, 21 of 39 responding forces in England reported they did not report any additional vulnerabilities. Only 5 (13%) recorded all vulnerabilities types (Cheshire, Humberside, Kent, Nottinghamshire and Sussex). The most common additional vulnerabilities recorded during stop and search in 2023-24 were whether the child was a victim or sexual or criminal exploitation (38%), with children who are looked after being the least at 18%.

"Listen to us. Find out our needs" – girl, 15, The Big Future

Police forces that recorded all eight characteristics of stopped and searched children's vulnerabilities in 2024-25 (4 forces):

- City of London Police
- Metropolitan Police
- Norfolk Constabulary
- Wiltshire Police

Police forces that did not record any vulnerabilities of children stopped and searched in 2024-25 (22 forces):

Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cheshire Constabulary, Cleveland Police, Cumbria Constabulary, Durham Constabulary, Essex Police, Gloucestershire Constabulary, Greater Manchester Police, Hampshire Constabulary, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Lancashire Constabulary, Leicestershire Police, Lincolnshire Police, Merseyside Police, Northumbria Police, South Yorkshire Police, Staffordshire Police, Warwickshire Police, West Mercia Police, West Midlands Police, West Yorkshire Police

Outcome

Scored

Number of arrests of children

Why is this important?

How often children are arrested is a key performance measure for the youth justice system and can be an indicator of vulnerability.

Prevalence of arrests may indicate levels of criminal activity in an area, though may also be a result of targeted action. Areas with high level of arrests indicate issues for children and young people that should be addressed.

Description of metric

Data is published annually by the Home Office on the number of arrests of 10 to 17 year olds by the police (not the number of children) and for what offence. Arrest data starts at age 10 as this is the age of criminal responsibility, however younger children can be detained and searched.

This is presented at police force level and so joint rankings are applied to each local authority covered by the respective police force. The rate per 10,000 population was calculated for the number of children arrested compared to populations aggregated from the mid-year population estimates for children in each local authority covered per police force area. The rates differ from similar statistics presented by the Youth Justice Board due to the use of different population estimates. Arrests are recorded based on the reporting police force not the area that the child is from, so may not represent children if a child is arrested outside their home area.

"I live in [...] it is a very rough area. Someone my age got arrested for having a knife and I was scared" – girl, 14, The Big Future

Source: Home Office. March 2025. [Stop and search, arrests, and mental health detentions, March 2025](#)

In 2024-25 police forces across England and Wales made 58,299 arrests of children. Violence against a person was the most common reason (18,523) followed by theft (10,151), robbery and criminal damage. The mean number of arrests per 10,000

The police force area with the fewest arrests per 10,000 population in 2024-25 was Dorset with 17 per 10,000 child population, while Durham had the highest number per 10,000 at 79.

When the Children's Commissioner's asked forces in England for the number of children arrested (as opposed to the number of arrests of children) in 2024-25, not all forces were able to provide this. However, the total was 52,996 children. The Commissioner also asked if the children had previously been recorded as a victim of any crime, which only 30 were able to provide. Across these forces, on average 55% of children who were arrested had previously been recorded as a victim of crime, ranging from 20% in the City of London to 75% in Leicestershire.

Local authorities with the lowest rate of child arrests per 10,000 children in 2024-25

1. Dorset police (17)
(Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Dorset)
2. Warwickshire police (20)
(Warwickshire)
3. Avon and Somerset police (26)
(Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire)
4. West Mercia police (28)
(Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Worcestershire)

Local authorities with the highest rate of child arrests per 10,000 children in 2024-25

1. Durham police (79)
(County Durham, Darlington)
2. Cleveland police (78)
(Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees)
3. Cumbria police (75)
(Cumberland, Westmoreland and Furness)
4. City of London (74)
5. Thames Valley police (61)
(Bracknell Forest, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham)

Outcome

Scored

Vulnerability of children recorded in custody

Why is this important?

When a child is detained in custody this can be a highly stressful and distressing situation. As when being searched, additional vulnerabilities that the child may have can exacerbate this. Awareness of these vulnerabilities by police, when and how they are recorded, may influence how children are treated.

Description of metric

In 2024-25, police forces were asked which if any of eight key characteristics of additional vulnerability are routinely recorded when in custody, namely, whether the child is: looked after, a child in need, has special education needs or disabilities, has neurodivergence or medical vulnerabilities or is a potential victim of child criminal, or sexual exploitation.

Data was also collected from Welsh police forces and the British Transport Police, though these were excluded from this analysis and so will differ from published analysis.

The responses were binary, either yes or no, and were summed if present to give a maximum score out of 7. These scores were converted to a 0 to 10 scale by dividing by 7 and multiplying by 10 – to provide a score that is comparable to the deciles of other metrics.

Source: Children's Commissioner's data request to police forces 2025

In 2024-25, 16 out of 39 police forces in England reported that they recorded all eight characteristics of children's vulnerability, such as SEND status.

In 2023-24: out of the 39 police force areas in England that responded to the Commissioner's earlier data request, 11 reported that they did not record any additional vulnerabilities of children who were in custody. Only 9 (23%) recorded all vulnerabilities types. The most common additional vulnerabilities recorded in custody were medical vulnerabilities (67%) and special educational needs or disability (64%).

"focus more on our needs by asking us and tailoring to our needs" – girl, 14, The Big Future

Police forces that recorded all vulnerabilities of children in custody in 2024-25 (16 forces)

Gloucestershire Constabulary, Hampshire Constabulary, Cleveland Police, Suffolk Constabulary, North Yorkshire Police, Norfolk Constabulary, Leicestershire Police, South Yorkshire Police, Cheshire Constabulary, Lincolnshire Police, Essex Police, Metropolitan Police Service, Merseyside Police, Bedfordshire Police, City of London Police, West Midlands Police

Police forces that recorded the fewest vulnerabilities of children in custody in 2024-25

1. Durham Constabulary (0 out of 8)
2. Derbyshire Constabulary (1 out of 8)
3. Avon and Somerset Constabulary (2 out of 8)
4. Greater Manchester Police, Sussex Police, Warwickshire Police, Cumbria Constabulary, Staffordshire Police, Northumbria Police, Wiltshire Police, Humberside Police (3 out of 8)

Quality

Scored

Use of force by police against children

Why is this important?

The use of force should only ever be a last resort for any police interaction; this is especially the case when the interaction involves children, given how traumatising it can be

Description of metric

Data is presented annually by the Home Office on the use of force during arrest by police forces. Data is available for incidence used on under 11's and those aged 11 to 17. It also includes type of force tactic involved, however, for this metric, total tactic counts were used. Tactics include handcuffing, use of irritant spray and other weapons including firearms, and the deployment of dogs.

This metric is presented at police force level and so rankings are applied to each local authority covered by the respective police force.

The rate per 10,000 child population was calculated using the 2023 mid-year population estimates for each area.

Source: Home Office. 2025. [Police use of force statistics, April 2024 to March 2025](#)

In England and Wales in 2024-25 there were around 89,000 reported incidences of force being used against a child by police. This is about 25 uses of force per 1,000 boys aged 11 to 17. The most used tactic reported was restraint with non-compliant handcuffing also common. There were 567 reports of firearms being used against children, and 380 uses of dogs, including 82 instances of dog bites.

In 2024-25 the rate of use of tactics per 10,000 population varied greatly geographically. Staffordshire police reported the lowest rates of force against children (31), while Cumbria police reported the highest (150). The mean rate per local authority was 69.

"I don't want everyone to get arrested because some people are not ok but that's ok"
– boy, 12, The Big Future

Local authorities with the lowest use of force against children in 2024-25 (per 10,000 children)

1. Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire (31)
2. Warwickshire (35)
3. Suffolk (35)
4. Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire (39)
5. Lincolnshire (40)
6. Luton, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire (40)

Local authorities with the highest use of force against children in 2024-25 (per 10,000 children)

1. Westmoreland and Furness, and Cumberland (150)
2. Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees (135)
3. City of London (121)
4. Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire (107)
5. West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire (87)

Children routinely offered legal advocacy support

Why is this important?

Child who are accused of breaking the law must be treated with dignity and respect. They have the right to legal assistance and a fair trial.

When children encounter the criminal justice system it is important they are supported. This can be emotional support but also in the form of legal advice, guidance and advocacy to ensure that their rights are respected. The Children's Commissioner has [found](#) that most police forces do not collect data on whether child victims of crime are referred onto advocacy support services.

Description of metric

In 2024 the Children's Commissioner sent a data request to all police forces in England asking; 'Does your police force offer legal advice to all children in custody as a default (i.e., opt-out legal advice)?'

"If someone's got problem, give advice" – Boy, 12, The Big Future.

Source: Children's Commissioner's data request to Police forces. 2024

28 out of 39 police force areas in England reported that they routinely offered legal advice to all children in their custody as a default. However, as police force areas cover a varying proportion of local authority areas – and therefore children – the data was aggregated to local authority level. 76% of local authorities have police forces that routinely offer children legal advocacy support in their custody. However, 36 local authorities (24%), representing over 3 million children, were living in police force areas that did not routinely offer legal support to all children.

Percentage of local authorities that routinely offered legal advocacy to children in custody, 2024.



117 local authorities out of 153 are covered by police forces that routinely offer legal advocacy to children in custody, 2024

36 local authorities are covered by police forces that do not routinely offer legal advocacy to children in custody, 2024

Access

Scored

Numbers of children in the secure estate

Why is this important?

Children in custody are some of our most vulnerable children, with many having experienced the care system, child poverty, exclusion from school and special educational needs. Their stories are largely ones of being failed by services at every stage of their lives.

Even a short spell in custody, the Children's Commissioner's [research](#) shows, can be profoundly damaging to a child. From disrupting education, cutting them off from their family and community and sometimes entrenching the vulnerabilities that brought them into contact with the justice system in the first place.

Why is not mapped?

The small number of secure settings and the small number of children living in them would make it unfair to draw conclusions on performance in terms of these children's outcomes at local authority level. However, HM Inspectorate of Prisons publishes [reports](#) on its findings on each setting.

"I've got a little brother, he's five years old and I'll just miss him growing up, you know what I mean?" - child, 15, with experience of custodial remand, Children's Commissioner's [research](#) on custodial remand

The number of children living in the 4 Young Offender Institutes (3 in England – Feltham, Werrington and Wetherby; 1 in Wales - Parc), Oakhill Secure Training Centre, and 7 Secure Children's Homes has fallen over time, with an average monthly population under 1,000 children since 2015, and 333 in April 2026. One new Secure School is due to re-open.

Secure settings are violent places. Government [statistics](#) ironically titled 'Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate' show that **in the year to June 2025, there were 1,935 assaults, including 350 which led to an injury**. There were more than 100 victims of assaults per 100 children and young people, and more than 300 self-harm incidents per 100 children and young people.

Source: Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, 2026. [Youth justice statistics: 2024 to 2025](#).

Inspection results of police performance in child protection

Why is this important?

How children are protected and treated by their local police force will influence how safe they feel, and how fairly they feel they are treated.

Police forces are inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. The new assessment criteria has five key areas. One key element is that the force's initial response is [child](#)-centred: the [voice of the child](#) is heard, and their views are considered in decision-making.

Why is it not mapped?

[A new methodology](#) for assessing based on child protection has recently been introduced. **Only five English forces' assessments were published in 2025.**

As there is not sufficient data per police force it is not suitable to include at this stage but should be monitored to ensure that police forces are meeting the new criteria.

"some members of the police are just absolutely having no idea on what they are doing. If you want children to feel safe then get better trainings"
– Boy, 12, The Big Future.

Source: His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. 2025. [National child protection inspections](#)

Quality

Narrative

Joint Targeted Area Inspections

Why is this important?

Joint inspections are carried out by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), to assess how local authorities, police and health services in England work together to help and protect children. Joint targeted area inspections include a 'deep dive' investigation, which changes periodically to investigate different themes in detail.

The theme for September 2024 to May 2025 was the multi-agency response to children who are [victims](#) of [domestic abuse](#).

Why is it not mapped?

Between 10 and 11 areas are inspected per year. **As it is not a uniform set of inspections it is not possible to compare local areas.** But it is important to include how these services are assessed and held accountable.

"Make sure the police are actually helping people" – Girl, 13, The Big Future.

Source: HMICFRS, CQC and Ofsted. [Joint targeted child protection inspections](#) 2016-2026

Quality

Narrative

Criminal justice outcomes

Why is this important?

Children who interact with the criminal justice system may receive a caution, a custodial sentence (including time in a Young Offender Institution), or a referral order or community order, among other outcomes. These decisions affect their future chances including their risk of reoffending.

Why is it not mapped?

Local data are available on criminal justice outcomes for children but these will reflect factors including court decision making and the seriousness of the crimes committed.

“more crimes should be treated as mental health concerns, and instead of punishing criminals we should rehabilitate them” – Boy, 12, The Big Future

“more rehabilitation centres for people who may have gone through hard times with the law so that they will hopefully not reoffend and be able to improve themselves which leads to community improvement” – Girl, 14, The Big Future

Source: Youth Justice Board. January 2026. [Youth justice statistics: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

The Young Justice Board’s statistics show that some local authorities have no children sentenced to custody in a given year, while in others this reaches over 10% of all children cautioned or sentenced.

In 2024-25, there were 620 custodial sentences given to children in England and Wales, 12,661 cautions or sentences given to children in England, down from 19,965 the year before, and overall **around 5% of cases involving children resulted in a custodial sentence. 3,927 youth cautions were given to children**, continuing a downward trend.

Cornwall had the highest percentage of cautions awarded at over half of cases, while Liverpool had the lowest at 1.5% in 2024-25. YJB statistics show the use of referral orders varies widely by local authority from 66% to 10% of cases that proceeded to court (total cases less pre court cautions) in 2024-25. For community orders this was 0% in some areas up to 32%.

Methodology

Data come from a range of published and unpublished sources including the Children's Commissioner's own surveys, data requests and analysis (51 scored metrics), along with data from the Department for Education (22 scored metrics), with 10 other bodies providing the remaining 30 scored metrics. These are the Office for National Statistics, the Arts Council, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ofsted, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, the NHS, the UK Health Security Agency, the Home Office, and the National Crime Agency, and Sport England.

In some cases the Children's Commissioner's office has analysed published data, for example, to calculate rates per 10,000 in an area – details are provided in this evidence annex for each individual metric. Standard Competition Rankings and deciles were calculated using unrounded values. Generally, counts below 5 were suppressed to protect confidentiality. Overall analysis excluding City of London and Isles of Scilly included correlation coefficients and coefficients of variation, described in the report *The Childhood Lottery: The hardest places to grow up in England*. Each local authority receives a score of 0 to 10 for each scored metric. Each scored metric has equal weight.

Metrics based on the Children's Commissioner's survey The Big Ambition include data only from children, not from adults responding to the survey on behalf of children, and only include data from children who specified the local authority they lived in. For these reasons the overall England percentages differ from those previously published by the Children's Commissioner. 129 local authorities had 385 or more Big Ambition responses from children, enough to meet the 95% confidence level for the sample to be representative of the local population of children. These local authorities are shown in this evidence annex, but the full dataset ranks all 153 local authorities. The following 24 had smaller sample sizes and are not reported in this evidence annex: City of London, Hackney, Halton, Haringey, Hartlepool, Isles of Scilly, Kensington and Chelsea, Knowsley, Lewisham, Medway, North Tyneside, Redcar and Cleveland, Rutland, South Gloucestershire, South Tyneside, St. Helens, Tameside, Telford and Wrekin, Thurrock, Torbay, Trafford, Westminster, Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham.

Illustrative quotes are taken from the Children's Commissioner's research including early responses to the Children's Commissioner's survey of children in England, The Big Future. In some cases these written comments have been edited for length or clarity.

Highest scoring areas across all measures

No area scored consistently high or low across metrics.

The least challenging places to be a child	Score out of 960	Number of missing metrics	Number of missing scored metrics
1. Cheshire East	730	0	0
2. Merton	714	1	1
3. Surrey	708	2	2
4. Richmond upon Thames	707	2	2
5. Hertfordshire	703	0	0
6. Cheshire West and Chester	698	0	0
7. Haringey	689	2	0
8. Leicestershire	685	0	0
=9. Central Bedfordshire	677	0	0
=9. Wokingham	677	1	0
=11. Oxfordshire	676	3	1
=11. York	676	2	0
13. Bracknell Forest	674	1	1
14. North Tyneside	672	2	0
15. Trafford	670	0	0
16. Gloucestershire	668	0	0
17. Kingston upon Thames	667	3	3
18. Hammersmith and Fulham	666	1	1
19. Sutton	664	3	3
20. Hampshire	661	0	0

What would make your local area better?

"Nothing i'm fine my life is lovely with a nice local area lovely parents and amazing friends" - Girl living in Cheshire East, 11, The Big Future.

"If it was clean and if people are not mean to me" - Girl living in Cheshire East, 10, The Big Future.

"If the area was clean and tidy. Everything could be improved in Cheshire East." - Boy, 13, The Big Future.

Bury, Nottinghamshire and the City of London and Isles of Scilly had large amounts of missing data so have been excluded from the analysis above.

Lowest scoring areas across all measures

No area scored consistently high or low across metrics.

What would make your local area better?

"the community should work together to make Middlesbrough a better place"

- Boy, 12, The Big Future.

"My local area is a very nice place"

- Girl living in Middlesbrough, 11, The Big Future.

"Some parts of Middlesbrough aren't the best"

- Child, 11, The Big Future.

The most challenging places to be a child	Score out of 960	Number of missing metrics	Number of missing scored metrics
1. Middlesbrough	408	3	1
2. Hounslow	460	1	0
3. Bradford	471	0	0
4. Nottingham	472	0	0
5. Halton	475	0	0
6. Peterborough	477	2	2
7. Leicester	492	2	2
8. Liverpool	498	0	0
9. Sunderland	501	0	0
10. Medway	503	0	0
11. Somerset	504	0	0
12. Portsmouth	509	1	1
13. Salford	519	0	0
14. Knowsley	521	0	0
15. Blackpool	523	0	0
16. Oldham	525	1	1
=17. Southampton	526	3	3
=17. Tower Hamlets	526	2	2
19. Plymouth	529	3	0
20. Tameside	532	0	0

Bury, Nottinghamshire and the City of London and Isles of Scilly had large amounts of missing data so have been excluded from the analysis above.