

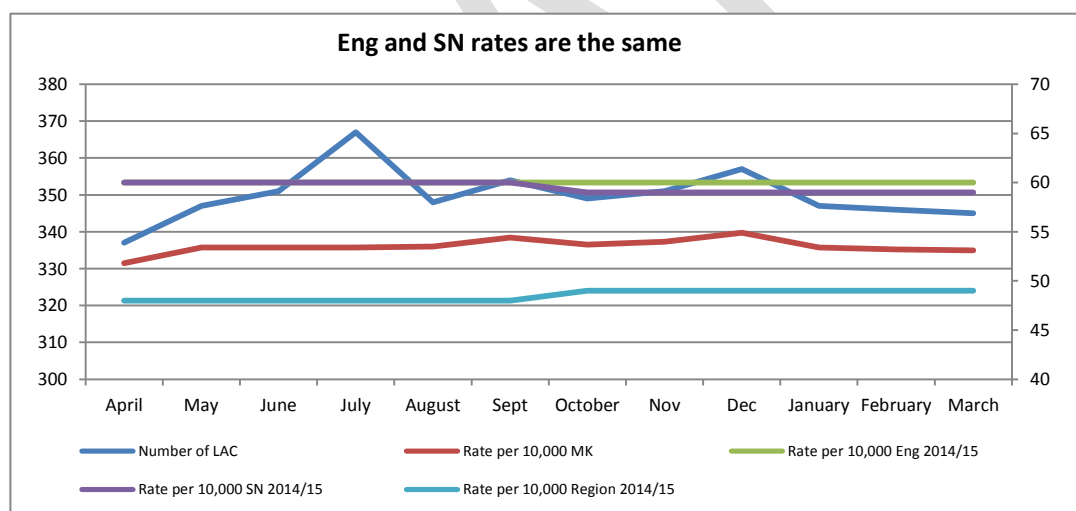
## Milton Keynes' Children in Care (Looked After Children) and Care Leavers - Key Data 2015/16

### 1. Who is in our care?

	Mar 2015	Mar 2016
Number of Milton Keynes LAC	339	345
Rate per 10,000 Milton Keynes	53	53
Rate per 10,000 England 2014/15	60	60
Rate per 10,000 Statistical Neighbours 2014/15	60	60
Rate per 10,000 Region 2014/15	48	49

As the comparative data above shows, there has continued to be an increase in the numbers of children looked after by Milton Keynes Council at the end of the reporting year. However, the rates per 10,000 have not substantially increased and they also remain low in comparison to Milton Keynes statistical neighbours and England.

During the last 12 months, the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seekers have continued to be a significant factor with an impact upon the overall care numbers.



There continues to be more males than females represented within the care system in Milton Keynes. However, there has been an increase in the numbers of females who are part of the population.

	England March 2014 %	MK Mar 2015	England March 2015%	MK Mar 2016
Male	55	204 (60%)	55	202 (59%)
Female	45	135 (40%)	45	143 (41%)

The greatest age group within Milton Keynes care population continues to be 10-15 years. Younger age groups have seen a decrease in both numbers and percentage whilst the over 16 age group has increased. The latter could be attributable to the impact of unaccompanied asylum seekers amongst the demographics as they are, in the main, from this age group.

	<b>England March 2014%</b>	<b>MK Mar 2015 No (%)</b>	<b>England March 2015%</b>	<b>MK Mar 2016 No (%)</b>
Under 1	6	18 (5%)	5	14 (4%)
Aged 1 - 4	17	40 (12%)	15	35 (10%)
Aged 5 - 9	20	82 (24%)	21	67 (19%)
Aged 10 - 15	37	115 (34%)	38	139 (40%)
Aged 16 and over	21	84 (25%)	22	90 (26%)

When considering cultural demographics, the data regarding ethnicity is similar to the previous year with White British remaining the main heritage group. The second highest ethnic heritage group is African which would reflect the pertinent safeguarding issues that have continued to present themselves during the last year, namely inappropriate physical chastisement led by cultural beliefs. This has led to specific work being undertaken within affected cultural communities with the aim of reducing risk.

	<b>Mar 2015 No (%)</b>	<b>Mar 2016 No (%)</b>	<b>England March 2015 from DfE (not directly comparable)</b>
A1 White British	223 (66%)	228 (66%)	White 77
A2 White Irish	2	1	
A3 Any Other White Background	8 (2.5%)	11 (3%)	
A4 Traveller of Irish Heritage			
A5 Gipsy/Roma		1	
B1 White and Black Caribbean	11 (3%)	9 (3%)	Mixed 9
B2 White and Black African	2	2 (1%)	
B3 White and Asian	5	6 (2%)	
B4 Any Other Mixed Background	8 (2.5%)	6 (2%)	
C1 Indian		2 (1%)	Asian or Asian British 4
C2 Pakistani	6	7 (2%)	
C3 Bangladeshi	4	2 (1%)	
C4 Any Other Asian Background	9 (2.5%)	15 (4%)	
D1 Caribbean	1	4 (1%)	Black or Black British 7
D2 African	39 (11.5%)	30 (9%)	
D3 Any Other Black Background	7 (2%)	8 (2%)	

	Mar 2015 No (%)	Mar 2016 No (%)	England March 2015 from DfE (not directly comparable)
E1 Chinese			Other ethnic groups 2
E2 Any Other Ethnic Group	12 (3.5%)	13 (4%)	
Not obtained / not recorded / Unborn	2		
Total	339	345	1

## 2. Who are our children and young people living with?

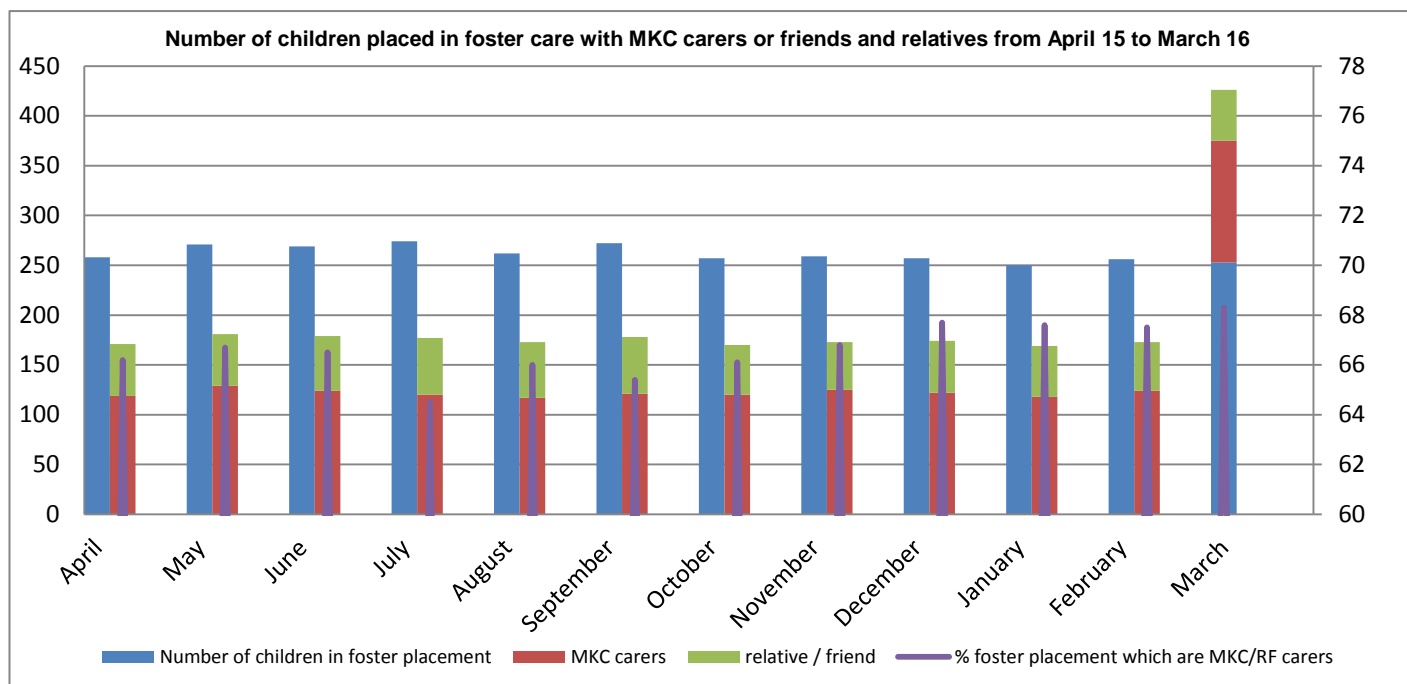
The data for this year shows that the highest proportions of children are in foster placements. This continues to be roughly in line with the England comparative data. However, only 68.3% of these are placed with Milton Keynes Council foster carers which is lower than the percentage provided for the England comparative. Intensive work is underway as part of the Placement Sufficiency Project to increase the number of Milton Keynes foster carers especially for adolescents which, as identified earlier, comprise the main age group of the population.

External residential placements also comprise a high number of placements and work also continues as part of the aforementioned Sufficiency project to consider alternative placement types, where appropriate for the child/young person's needs, and reduce the number in this type of provision.

The number of children placed with parents continues to be high and has increased from the same month in 2015 with the percentage being higher than the England comparator. This is reflective of the family support ethos of Milton Keynes Children Social Care and its positive outcomes.

Placement type	April 15	July 15	Oct 15	Mar 16	% Mar 16	England % March 2015
Placed for adoption	14	10	12	6	2	5
In foster placement	258	274	257	256	74	75
Internal Residential	8	8	12	10	3	
External Residential	20	25	26	30	9	
Internal Residential School	5	5	3	4	1	
External Residential School	5	4	2	5	1	
Secure	1	1		1		9
Nursing or Residential Assessment						
Young Offender Institution	1	2	2	2	1	
Placed with parents	14	19	15	19	6	5
Independent living	11	19	19	12	3	

	Mar 2015	Mar 2016	England March 2015
Number of children in foster placements	261	253	
Of which number of MKC carers	118	122	
% foster placement which are MKC carers	65.5	68.3	77%



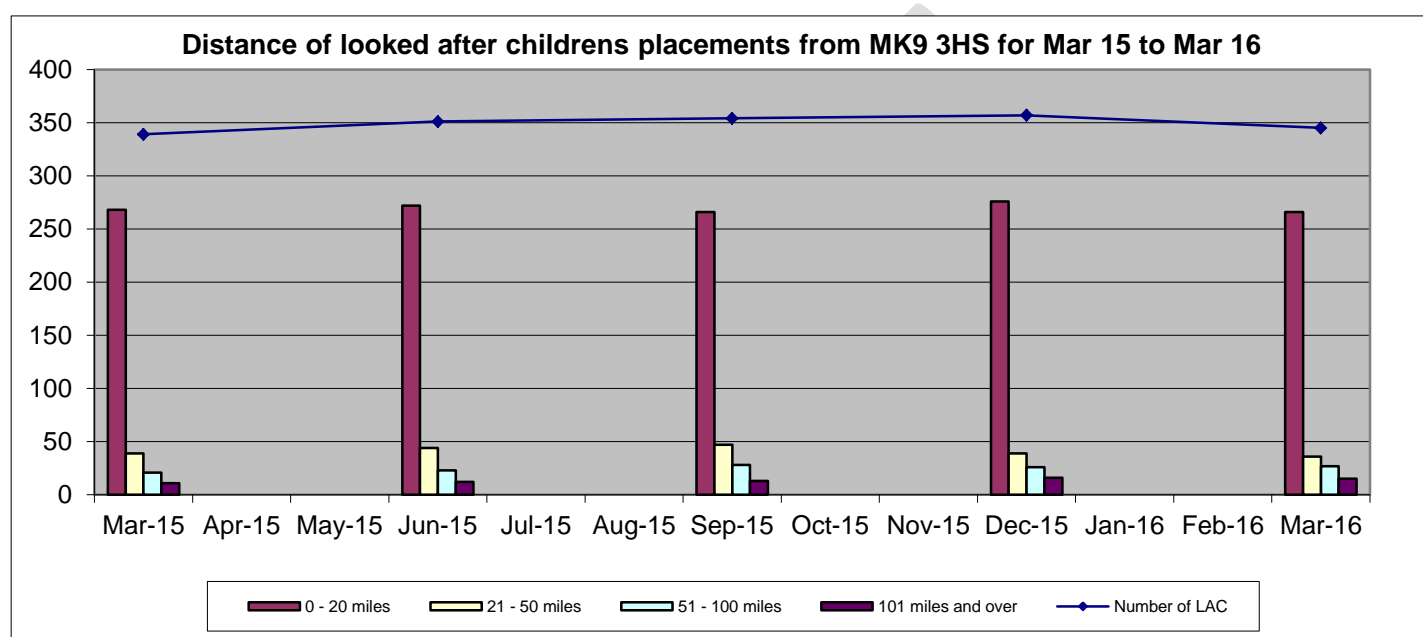
<b>Milton Keynes Council Registered Fostering Households, offering:</b>	<b>31.3.14</b>	<b>31.3.15</b>	<b>31.03.16</b>
Time limited/long term foster placements	123	131	131
Family & friends approved as carers	24	24	29
“Regulation 24” (temporary family & friends placements during their assessment as foster carers)	4	12	12
Short breaks carers (providing respite, not full time, care)	8	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>174</b>

### 3. Where are our children and young people living?

The majority of the Milton Keynes care population reside in a radius of 0-20 miles of Milton Keynes with the figure being slightly higher than the England comparator. It has also remained consistent in relation to previous years.

There remain a number of children who are placed ‘at a distance’. However, it should be noted that this is often for positive reasons such as being placed with a family member. For those who are not placed ‘at a distance’ for this reason, the sufficiency project is working towards increasing placement options to enable their return, where appropriate, to a placement in closer proximity to Milton Keynes.

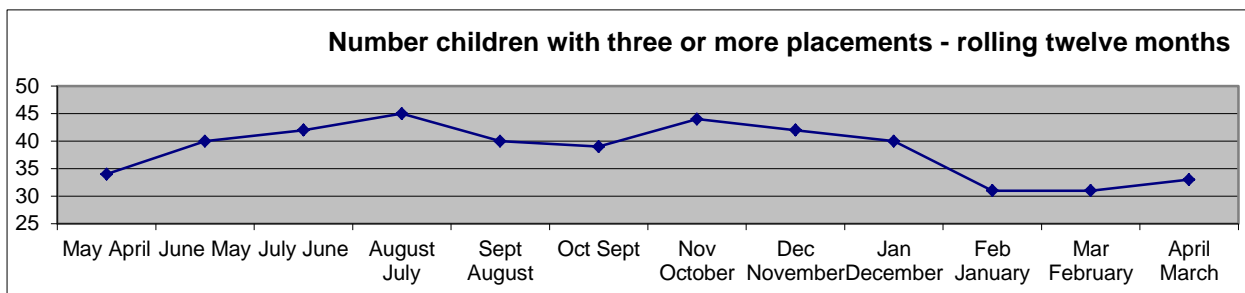
	Mar-15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	England March 2015
<b>0 - 20 miles</b>	268	272	266	276	266	
<b>21 - 50 miles</b>	39	44	47	39	36	
<b>51 - 100 miles</b>	21	23	28	26	27	
<b>101 miles and over</b>	11	12	13	16	15	
<b>% 0 - 20 miles</b>	79	77.5	75.1	77.3	77.1	76
<b>Number of LAC</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>345</b>	



#### 4. Providing stable homes for our children and young people

Children in Care can move placements for a number of reasons. Some of these can be positive such as a move to a family member or a court ordered placement with parents. However, it is recognised that frequent moves are disruptive for a child/young person and that this should be monitored and wherever possible, should be minimised.

Following a decline in the number of children/young people with 3 or more placements, there has in the last month of the year, been a slight increase. This has partly been due to a focus upon children moving to placements nearer Milton Keynes and, in some instances, returning home to the care of their parents, all of which count as a move of placement. However, it is important that this continues to be operationally monitored through the Service's Placement Stability and Permanence tracking group. This is an area that the Corporate Parenting panel may also wish to monitor and review progress of over the coming year along with the work of the Placement Sufficiency Project.



## 5. Leaving Care

The data indicates that there has been an increase in the number of care leavers in suitable accommodation but a decrease in those who are in education, training or employment (although still significantly higher than the comparative England data). This is an area of focus for the coming year. It is also an area that the Corporate Parenting Panel has previously had a keen interest in and may wish to revisit in the coming 12 months also.

<b>Milton Keynes Care Leavers</b>	Jul-15	Oct-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	England March 15
<b>NI147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation %</b>	100	88.2	88	90	83
<b>NI148 Care leavers in education, training or employment</b>	75	76.4	76	71.4	53

## 6. Listening to our children and young people

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel have continued to attend the Milton Keynes Children in Care Council, TCTF (Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future) and also follow up any issues raised. They have also continued to undertake member visits to the 3 residential units for children with disabilities. Participation is a priority for Milton Keynes council and we continue to develop ways of ensuring their active participation.

2015/16	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
Participation in Reviews	No.	Total	%	No.	Total	%	No.	Total	%	No.	Total	%
Children and young people	241	244	98.8	237	242	97.9	254	256	99.2	238	244	97.5