

A New Deal for Children in your area:

Source and methodology note

Each year The Children's Society produces a report on children's lives in each Local Authority across England and Wales. The report compiles localized data from a combination of official and public sources, as well as from our extensive policy and research work, along with recommendations that we believe would improve the lives of children in each area.

This year's report also builds on our manifesto for local government. The manifesto was published in April 2021 and made recommendations for policy change – locally and nationally – to support children and young people's well-being. The manifesto documents for local and devolved government, and the Welsh Senedd, can be accessed [here](#).

Population

- All population figures are sourced from the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates, incorporating the estimated population of children aged 0 to 17 years.

Child poverty

- The percentage of children growing up in poverty in each local authority area is sourced from the End Child Poverty coalition's local statistics, calculated for 2019-20, and is the figure after housing costs have been factored in.
 - For county councils, a further estimation was required, as all data was calculated at the lower tier council level.
- The number of families with child dependents on Universal Credit between February 2020 and February 2021 is collected and published by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Mental health and Well-being

- Data on the number of children and young people who have a diagnosable mental health condition (across England) is sourced from NHS Digital's 2017 prevalence study. Local population figures are then used to estimate the number of young people in each area who will experience a mental health issue.
- Data on the average waiting times from referral to first treatment (in England) was obtained and published by the Children's Commissioner.

- Data on the number of young people who will experience a mental health issue (across Wales) is sourced from Time to Change Wales, Myths and Facts, July 2019. Local population figures are then used to estimate the number of young people in each area who will experience a mental health issue.
- The percentage of patients of Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (sCAMHS in Wales) waiting more than 4 weeks for first appointment are collected and published by Statistics for Wales

Child exploitation and adolescent risk

- Data on the number of children referred to children's services who are at risk of being trafficked, at risk of gang involvement, or are at risk of child sexual exploitation in each local authority is collected and published by the Department for Education as part of its 'Characteristics of children in need' statistics.
- Data on the number of referrals made to the National Referral Mechanism by each police force and local authority is collected and published by the National Crime Agency.

Children's Social Care

- Data on children's services funding and spending is sourced from joint analysis undertaken by The Children's Society, Action for Children, Barnardo's, NSPCC, and the National Children's Bureau.
- Data on spending on each service area by local authorities is based on analysis of section 251 reporting.
- Data on the number of looked after children in each area, missing episodes, and location of placements for looked after children is collected and published by the Department for Education (for England) and the Welsh Government (for Wales)