

Dear

ATISN 26765 – Care Leavers

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 03 March 2026 relating to care leavers.

You requested the following:

- 1. What percentage of eligible young people had a completed and up-to-date Pathway Plan prior to leaving care in each of the last five years?*
- 2. What proportion of care leavers had an identified physical or mental health need at the point of leaving care, and what proportion were receiving ongoing support?*
- 3. What support is provided to care leavers to develop independent living skills (e.g., budgeting, cooking, tenancy management), and is there any evaluation data on the effectiveness of this support?*
- 4. Does the Welsh Government track care leaver outcomes beyond age 21 (or 25 where applicable), and if so, what long-term outcome data is available?*
- 5. Is there any available data on care leavers' awareness of the support services available to them, and the uptake rates of those services?*

Our Response

- The only relevant data we currently hold is contained in the Social Services Performance and Improvement Framework (Metrics) which collects:
 - CH/049 – The total number of initial Pathway Plans due to be completed during the year.
 - CH/050 – The total number of initial Pathway Plans due during the year that were completed within timescales.

This data is published in https://stats.gov.wales/en-GB/5f7e8421-4c31-4c8e-bd96-8ac2df260508/filtered/6dlxq7kfdnh2?page_size=100.

Please note this does not capture plans completed outside of timescales or how many young people have up-to-date plans. In addition, the data does not include plans due and completed outside of each reporting year.

- The Children Looked After Census captures children looked after and data on disability which is collected as per the Equality Act 2010: "A person (P) has a disability if— (a) P has a physical or mental impairment, and (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on P's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities."

Data on children looked after by disability is collected but it has not yet been verified and published. However we intend to publish this alongside the 2024-25 update, which is currently planned for June. Typically we will publish characteristics data for

all children looked after on 31 March, but this will not include disability data for those who left care during the year.

We do not hold information about ongoing support other than the number of young people during the year where a personal adviser was allocated – all young people who become category 1 and category 4 from 1 January to 31 December, who were allocated a personal adviser within 3 months of becoming either of those categories. You can find this data by visiting [Children looked after in social services | StatsWales](#). We would only know if they had been allocated an adviser but not if they were in contact, and we would not be able to determine whether these young people had an identified physical or mental health need.

3. Every young person leaving care in Wales can access a Personal Advisor (PA). The PA has a mentoring role to support the young person in gaining independence skills, for example to find employment, secure a tenancy, etc. The 16+ teams also run activities for young people such as cooking, budgeting, etc. and some areas have developed a training flat where a young person can practice independence skills before moving into their own tenancy.

In addition, for care leavers with additional needs local authorities offer supported accommodation. In certain areas there are also third sector organisations that have been commissioned to deliver this service. The level of support on offer may vary from one provision to another, and each provision will aim to meet different needs. We have no data about these services or evaluation data on the effectiveness of this support.

4. As stated in our previous response dated 15 October, (ATISN 25124) Welsh Government holds no long-term outcome data for care leavers. The Social Services Performance and Improvement Framework (Metrics) data records:
CH/054 - The total number of care leavers, as of 31 March, in categories 2, 3 and 4 who have completed at least 3 consecutive months of employment, education, or training in the collection year.
5. We hold no specific data on care leavers' awareness or use of support services in Wales.

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,