Contents

	PREFACE	11
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	13
1	Introduction	15
2	Who is Looked After? The Children's Characteristics	29
3	Who is Looked After? The Children's Families, Wishes and Behaviour	43
4	Groups of Children and Their Chance of Permanence	65
5	Admissions and Discharges	85
6	The Children and Their Different Paths in Care	103
7	Going Home and Leaving Care: The Case Studies	115
8	Placements: How They are Used	133
9	Placements: How One Leads to Another	159
10	Children Based in Care	181
11	Children and Outcomes	197
12	Placements and Outcomes	207
13	Carers, Homes and Outcomes	221
14	Teams and Outcomes	235
15	Councils and Outcomes	251
16	An Overview	261
	APPENDIX I: REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE STUDY SAMPLES	277
	APPENDIX II: ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL DATA	283
	APPENDIX III: MONITORING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE	305
	REFERENCES	309
	SUBJECT INDEX	313
	AUTHOR INDEX	319

List of Figures, Tables, Boxes and Case Studies

Figure 3.1	Family difficulty score by whether child aged 11 or more	
· ·	at first entry	45
Figure 3.2	Challenging behaviour score by age and age at entry	46
Figure 3.3	School performance scores by age and age at entry	46
Figure 3.4	Family difficulties score by need code and age at entry	47
Figure 3.5	Challenging behaviour score by need code and age at entry	48
Figure 3.6	School performance score by need code and age at entry	49
Figure 3.7	Challenging behaviour by asylum status and whether 11 or over	50
Figure 3.8	School performance by asylum status and whether 11 or over	51
Figure 3.9	Care acceptance score by age and age at entry	54
Figure 3.10	Average length of period since last admission by social	
	worker's view of whether child accepts care	57
Figure 4.1	Policy groups	67
Figure 4.2	Average family difficulty score by policy groups	68
Figure 4.3	Average challenging behaviour by policy groups	69
Figure 4.4	Average care acceptance score by policy groups	70
Figure 4.5	Average length of current/latest stay by policy groups	70
Figure 4.6	Average length of current/latest placement by policy groups	71
Figure 5.1	Estimated 'survival curve' for children admitted during the	
	census year	89
Figure 5.2	Length of care careers for children still looked after at the end	
	of the census year	91
Figure 5.3	Length of care career for children who left care during the	
	census year	91
Figure 8.1	Placement days in the year by category of placement	139
Figure 9.1	Average length of latest placement by type of purpose	161
Figure 9.2	Length of latest placement by time since arrival	163
Figure 9.3	Average number of days in non-initial placements by number	
	of these placements	164
Figure 9.4	Length of last or latest placement by number of non-initial	
	placements	165

Figure 9.5	Mean challenging behaviour score by placement success	170
Figure 13.1	Relationship between fostering quality and placement quality	223
Figure 13.2	Distribution of fostering quality score	223
Figure 13.3	Multi-level model for length of placement and fostering score	225
Figure 13.4	Rating of residential units	229
Figure 14.1 Figure 14.2	•	
1.8	per team	238
Figure 14.3	Vacancy rates in teams	238
Figure 14.4	Adjusted cases to social workers' ratio	240
Figure 15.1	Adjusted three placements score and type of council	255
Table 2.1	Age group of the sample at the census date	31
Table 2.2	Age of the sample when first looked after	31
Table 2.3	Age group at census by age group at first admission	33
Table 2.4	Ethnic origin of the total sample	34
Table 2.5	Ethnic origin by whether seeking asylum	36
Table 2.6	Need codes by age at entry	38
Table 3.1	Age group by need code of disability	53
Table 3.2	Child accepts need to be looked after by whether voluntarily accommodated	55
Table 3.3	Correlations: acceptance of care, behaviour and school	
	performance	56
Table 3.4	Logistic regression predicting rejection of care	59
Table 5.1	Time since last admission by plan at earliest recorded	
Table 5.2	placement Plan at first previous placement by plan at last/latest	86
Table 3.2	placement	87
Table 5.3	Age distribution and length of time since last admission at	
Table 5 4	census date	92
Table 5.4	Age distribution and length of time since last admission at census date	93
Table 5.5		93 94
Table 5.5 Table 5.6	Destinations by time since last admission Average age at census by reason for ceasing to be looked after	9 4 95
Table 5.7	Destination on leaving the care system by time since entry	95 96
Table 5.8	Destination on leaving the care system by time since entry	90 97
Table 5.9	Destination on leaving the care system by time since entry	98
	6	

Destination on leaving the care system by time since entry	100
Logistic regression predicting those with repeat admissions Logistic regression predicting remaining when admitted	105
in the year	106
	108
Need codes among 'early care leavers'	111
Placements over career histories	134
Distribution of placements on the census date	135
Completed placement lengths (in days) by type of placement	137
Average placement length in days by placement type	138
Need codes by fostered at end of year	141
Purposes of placements by fostered at end of the year	142
Need code by fostered with relatives at the census date	144
Age by type of residential unit	149
Asylum seeker status by type of residential unit	150
Need code of disability by type of residential unit	150
Purpose of placement by time since last admission	162
Purpose trajectory by placement success	168
Current age group by placement success	169
Voluntary accommodation by placement success	170
Purpose trajectory by asylum status	171
Three or more placements by placement success	173
D35 stability measure by placement success	174
Level of challenging behaviour by three or more placements	
by age	200
Logistic regression predicting D35 stability measure	202
Regression equation for 'doing-well' measure	204
Last completed placement by full success	209
Logistic regression predicting whether last placement	
a success	210
Average placement quality scores by type of placement	211
Three types of placement by quality of placement score	212
Quality of placement score by type of agency	212
Within and 'out of county' placements by quality in three	
types of placement	213
Quality of placement and three or more placements in a year	215
Quality of placement and D35 stability measure	215
Quality of placement by three placements by age	216
	Logistic regression predicting those with repeat admissions Logistic regression predicting remaining when admitted in the year Logistic regression predicting adoption over the course of census year Need codes among 'early care leavers' Placements over career histories Distribution of placements on the census date Completed placement lengths (in days) by type of placement Average placement length in days by placement type Need codes by fostered at end of year Purposes of placements by fostered at end of the year Need code by fostered with relatives at the census date Age by type of residential unit Asylum seeker status by type of residential unit Need code of disability by type of residential unit Purpose of placement by time since last admission Purpose trajectory by placement success Current age group by placement success Voluntary accommodation by placement success Voluntary accommodation by placement success Purpose trajectory by asylum status Three or more placements by placement success D35 stability measure by placement success Level of challenging behaviour by three or more placements by age Logistic regression predicting D35 stability measure Regression equation for 'doing-well' measure Last completed placement by full success Logistic regression predicting whether last placement a success Average placement quality scores by type of placement Three types of placement by quality of placement score Quality of placement score by type of agency Within and 'out of county' placements by quality in three types of placement Quality of placement and three or more placements in a year Quality of placement and D35 stability measure

Table 12.10 Table 12.11	'Doing-well' and quality of placement score Quality of placement and other predictors of 'doing-well'	217 218
Table 14.1 Table 14.2 Table 14.3 Table 14.4	Types of social work team Resources and expected delays by age of child Correlations between different measures of 'pressure' Factors associated with work pressure in teams	236 241 243 245
Table AI.1 Table AI.2 Table AI.3	Demographic characteristics of 13 participating councils Comparison of study sample with national statistics Comparison of the 6-month sub-sample with the sample based on the social worker questionnaire returns	278 280 282
m 11	·	202
Table AII.1 Table AII.2	Correlations between successive A1 indicators (2002–2004) Correlations between successive proportions of children	285
- 11 .v. a	fostered or adopted (Indicator B7)	286
Table AII.3	Correlations between successive proportions of children	
Table AII.4	fostered or adopted under the age of 10 (Indicator C22)	287
Table AII.5	Correlations between successive D35 indicators	287
Table AII.6	Correlations between successive years on new PSA indicator	288
Table All.0	Correlations between successive adoption performance measures (Indicator C23)	200
Table AII.7	Correlations on education measure for 2003 and 2004	289
Table MIL.	(Indicator A2)	200
Table AII.8	Education, employment and training: correlations between	289
14010 1111.0	successive measures (Indicator A4)	290
Table AII.9	Correlations between selected stability performance measures	290
	in 2004	291
Table AII.10	Correlations between selected performance measures	292
	Correlations between selected performance indicators	293
Table AII.12		
Table AII 13		294
Table All 14	Correlation between PAF domains and inspectors' ratings Regression equation predicting three placements measure	296
	Correlations between adoption rates (C23) and the	297
Table All.19	D35 indicator	20.0
Table AII.16	Correlations between the D35 measure and the measure	298
	of educational performance (A2)	299
Table AII.17	Further education, training and employment measure (A4)	477
	with D35	299

Box 3.1	Young people's reflections	54
Box 6.1	Managers' reflections	106
Box 6.2	Managers' reflections	109
Box 8.1	Social workers' reflections	143
Box 8.2	Manager and Team Leader reflections	148
Casa atudu	Colin	
Case study Case study	Alan	72
Case study	Ifan	73
Case study Case study	Nina	74 75
Case study	Ian	75 76
Case study	Neil	76 78
Case study	Joseph	78 79
Case study	Hannah	81
Case study	Adrienne	117
Case study	Mary	117
Case study	Connor	119
Case study	Daniel	121
Case study	Shaun	123
Case study	Eric	124
Case study	Keith	125
Case study	Angela	126
Case study	Brian	129
Case study	Hailey	183
Case study	Frances	185
Case study	Helen	187
Case study	Lewis	190
Case study	Graham	191
Case study	Sarah	192