



## MOVING ON UP:

Pathways of care leavers and care-experienced students into and through higher education

Neil Harrison  
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**NNECL**  
National Network for the  
Education of Care Leavers

## MOVING ON UP

PATHWAYS OF CARE LEAVERS AND CARE-EXPERIENCED  
STUDENTS INTO AND THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

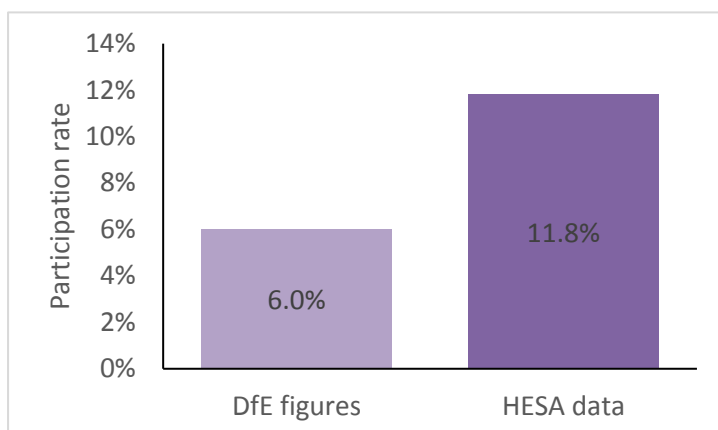
SUMMARY OF REPORT WRITTEN BY: DR NEIL HARRISON

*(FULL REPORT PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2017)*

## Introduction/Overview of the Research

- Research Commissioned by National Network for the Education of Care Leavers
- Two part project:
  - Statistical analysis of linked data from National Pupil Database and Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) – tracking cohort of young people from 2007/08 to 2014/15
  - Online survey of 212 care-experienced students currently in higher education
- Fieldwork undertaken November 2016 to March 2017
- Tracked 650,220 young people who were 16 in 2007/08
  - Of these, 6,470 were care leavers
  - Of these, 765 entered higher education
    - Of these, 385 completed a qualification – 320 gained degrees and 25 had progressed to postgraduate study
    - Of the other 380, 240 were still on course and/or dormant
    - The remaining 140 withdrew and had not returned as of 2015/16

## Main Findings



HESA data also includes those entering until age of 23 and those losing or severing contact with their local authority (e.g. those with a gap in their education)

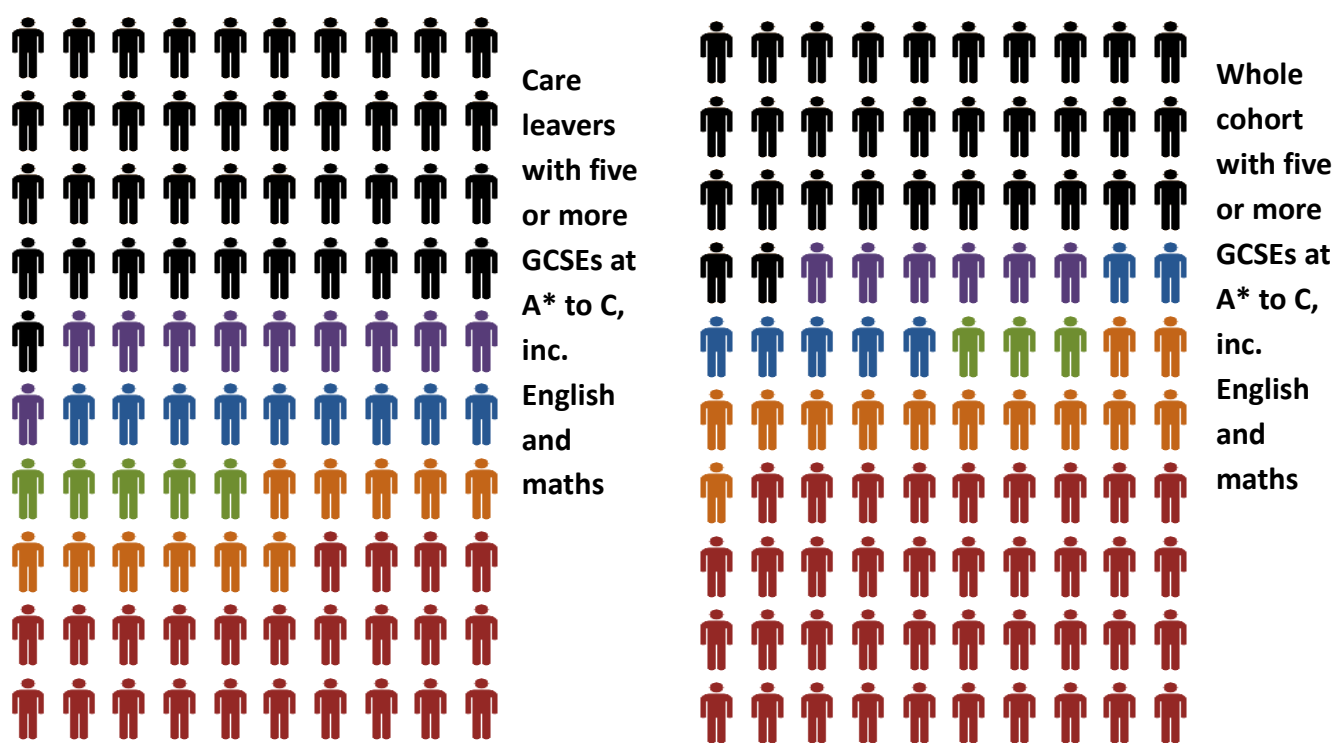
	Whole cohort	Care leavers	FSM eligible
Entered HE (all)	43.1	11.8	26.1
- 8+ GCSEs A* to C	76.2	71.3	72.3
- 5+ GCSEs A* to C inc. E+M	68.4	58.6	62.3
- 5+ GCSEs A* to C exc. E+M	38.9	26.8	31.6
- 5+ GCSEs A* to G	11.3	8.7	12.2
- 1+ GCSEs A* to G	8.1	4.5	3.4
- No passes	2.8	2.4	2.0

Participation rate by GCSE passes

## Other Findings

- 63% of care leavers had special educational needs – **three times** the average
- 31% of care leavers had a ‘statement’ – **nine times** the average
- 27% of care leavers achieved no GCSE passes (mostly as they were not entered) – **ten times** the average

## Two hundred young people



Black = No HE

Purple = Entered HE, but left

Blue = Still studying at 23

Green = Achieved sub-degree

Orange = Lower class degree

Red = Higher class degree

## Six Factors Supporting Success

1. Strong KS4 attainment
2. Managed transition from care to higher education
3. Membership of the higher education community
4. Resilience and determination
5. Strong disability and mental health support
6. Access to alternative pathways into higher education



**Full report available from the 'Resources' section at:**

<http://www.nnecl.org/>

**For more information contact:**

*vanessa.chapman@eastkent.ac.uk*