

#GONETOOFAR

Keeping children in care close to the people and places they love

Each year, more and more children in care are being moved miles away from the community, people, and places that matter to them. Our new campaign #GoneTooFar is calling on the Government for urgent action and accountability at a local and national level to address this now.

What's the issue?

Children are being moved to places they don't know, often without warning, far away from family, friends, school, and community.

Our research found:

- On average, a child in care in England is moved **18+ miles** away from the area they know.
- The number and proportion of children in care moved 20+ miles away from home **increased each year** between 2012 and 2021.
- Some children are moved **500+** miles from home.
- **800+** children under the care of local authorities in England were moved to Wales or Scotland in 2022.
- Children moved 20+ miles away are more likely to have **lower well-being and experience emotional difficulties** than children who are placed closer to the people and places that matter to them.
- Children who experience **multiple** care placements are **more likely** to be placed 20+ miles from home.
- Some local authorities spend on average **more than double** on out-of-area placements than they do on in-area placements.



BECOME.

THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE
AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS

To read the full report and support the campaign:

www.becomecharity.org.uk/gone-too-far

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“I was thinking how will I see my mum, my sisters, keep in touch with my friends? All the emotions together made me burst out in tears.” - Jade was 15 when she was moved from London to Birmingham to Blackpool without warning

The impact on children

Being moved far away can disrupt a child’s education, life outcomes, and relationships including with brothers and sisters who might live tens of miles away. Young people we work with have told us it makes them feel lonely, isolated, and stigmatised, and that they have little or no choice in where they live.

Why is this happening?

There can be legitimate reasons why children in care are moved miles away. But too often, children are moved far away as there are simply not enough appropriate options closer. Children are being let down by a broken care system and this needs to change. Despite recent proposals to reform the care system, there remains a lack of accountability that is impacting on children’s lives and life chances now.

What needs to change

Our new campaign #GoneTooFar seeks to keep children in care close to the people and places that matter to them - ensuring they have the love, stability, and security we all need to thrive. We’re calling on the Government to:

1. Commit to stop children being placed miles from home when it is not in their best interests
2. Develop and publish national and local strategies to increase the supply of appropriate local options, so that children don’t have to be moved miles from their support networks.

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