Appendix:

Figures:

Figure A1 - Rise in the number of for-profit children's homes.

Number of active children's homes
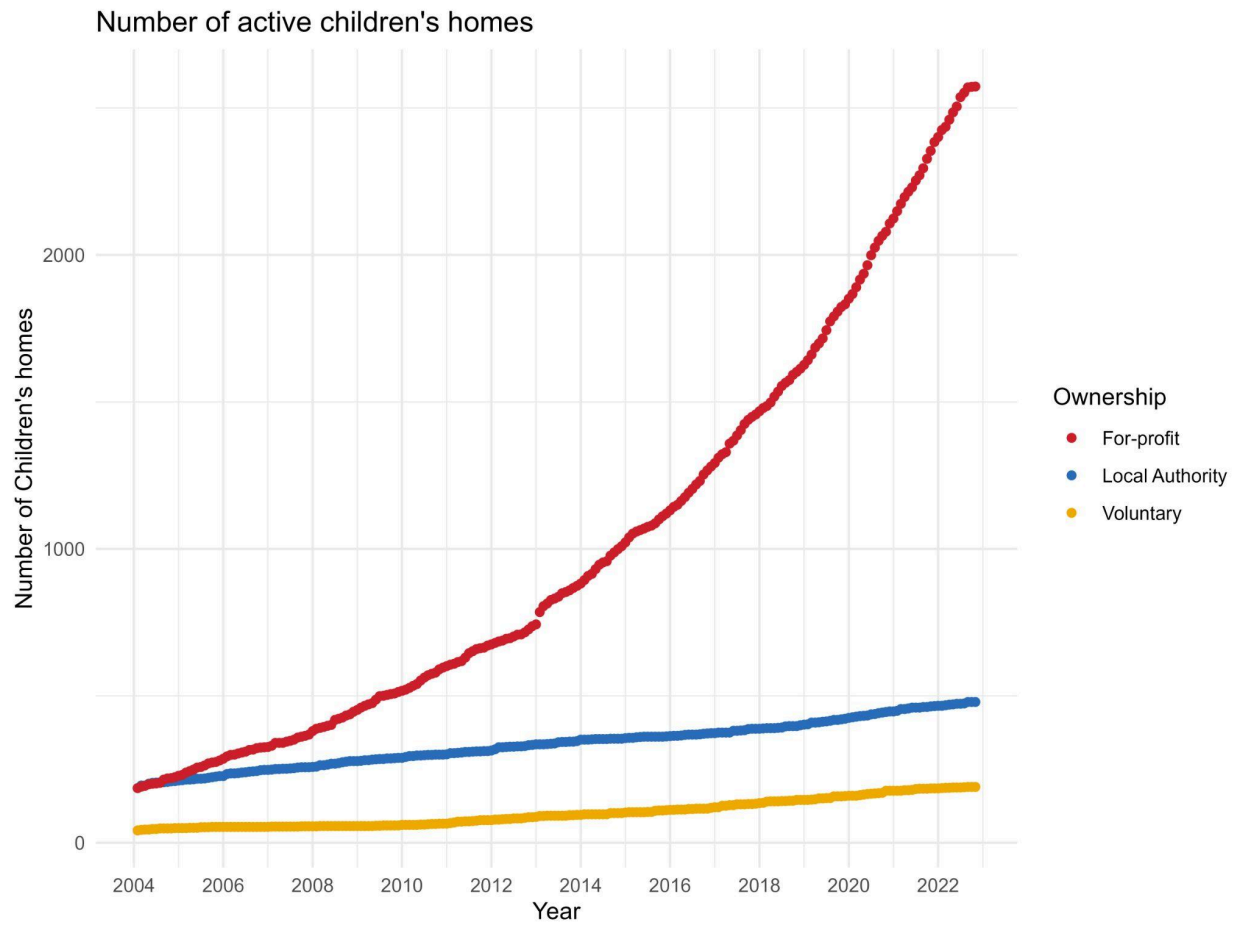
Figure A2 - Changes in for-profit, public, and third sector care homes and beds over time
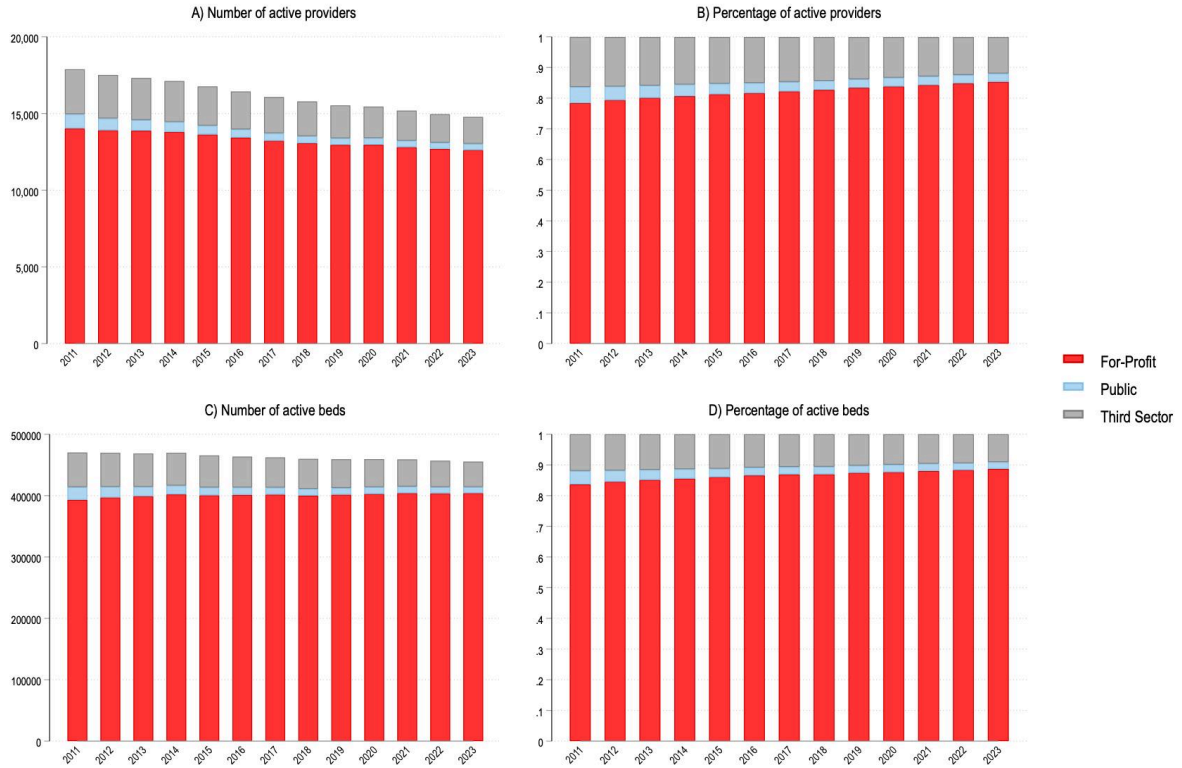
Figure A3 - Involuntary care home closures by the CQC

A) Percent of homes rated inadequate in each sector

B) Percent of homes involuntarily closed in each sector

C) Inspection rating of involuntarily closed homes

Figure A4 - Relationship between increased outsourcing and placement location/ stability

Note: This figure also features in the published version of our placement analysis: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145213423002260

Figure A5 - Relationship between children's homes changes and local house prices

Tables:

Table A1: Care home characteristics of closed (involuntary/voluntary) and active care homes.

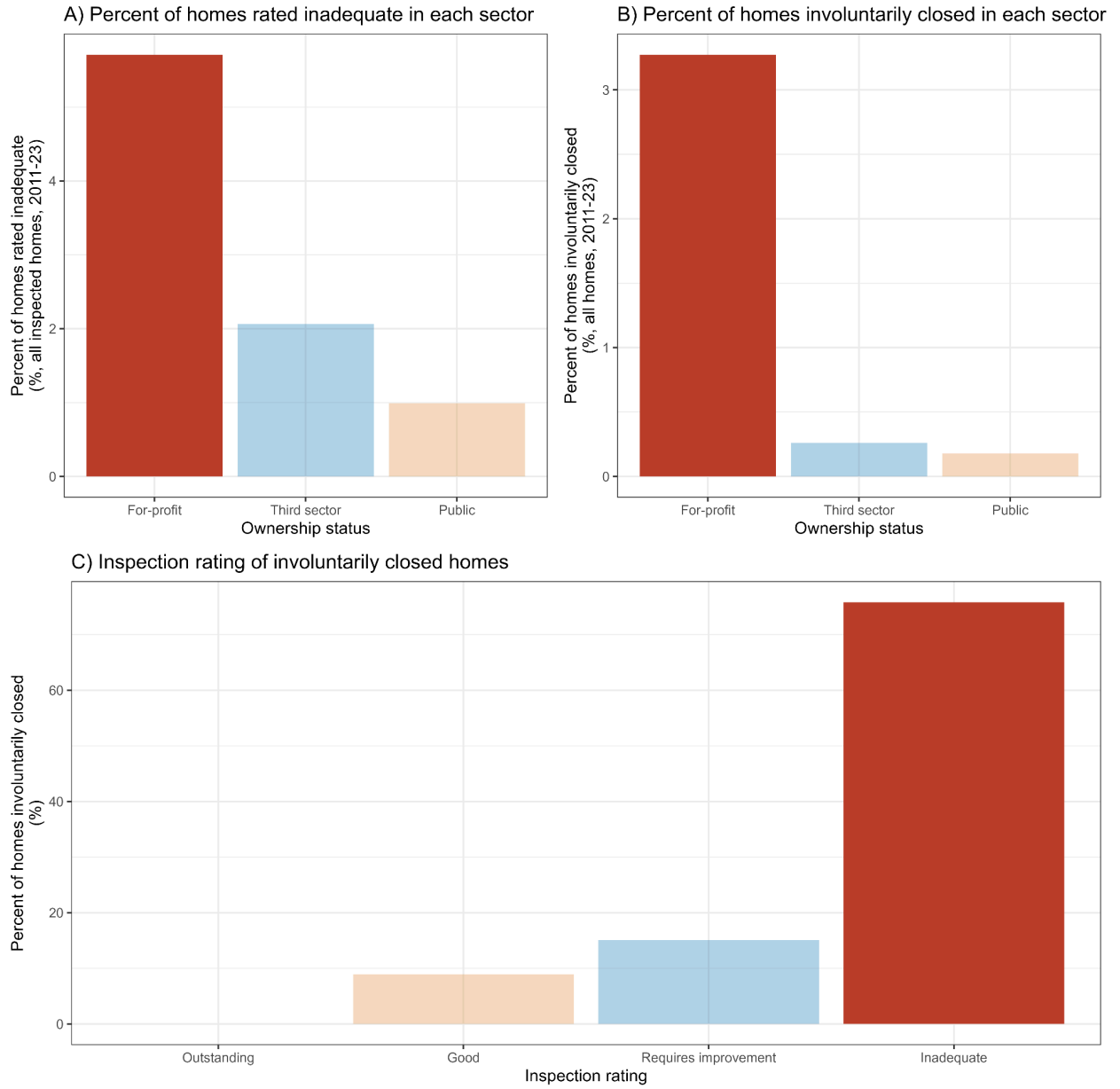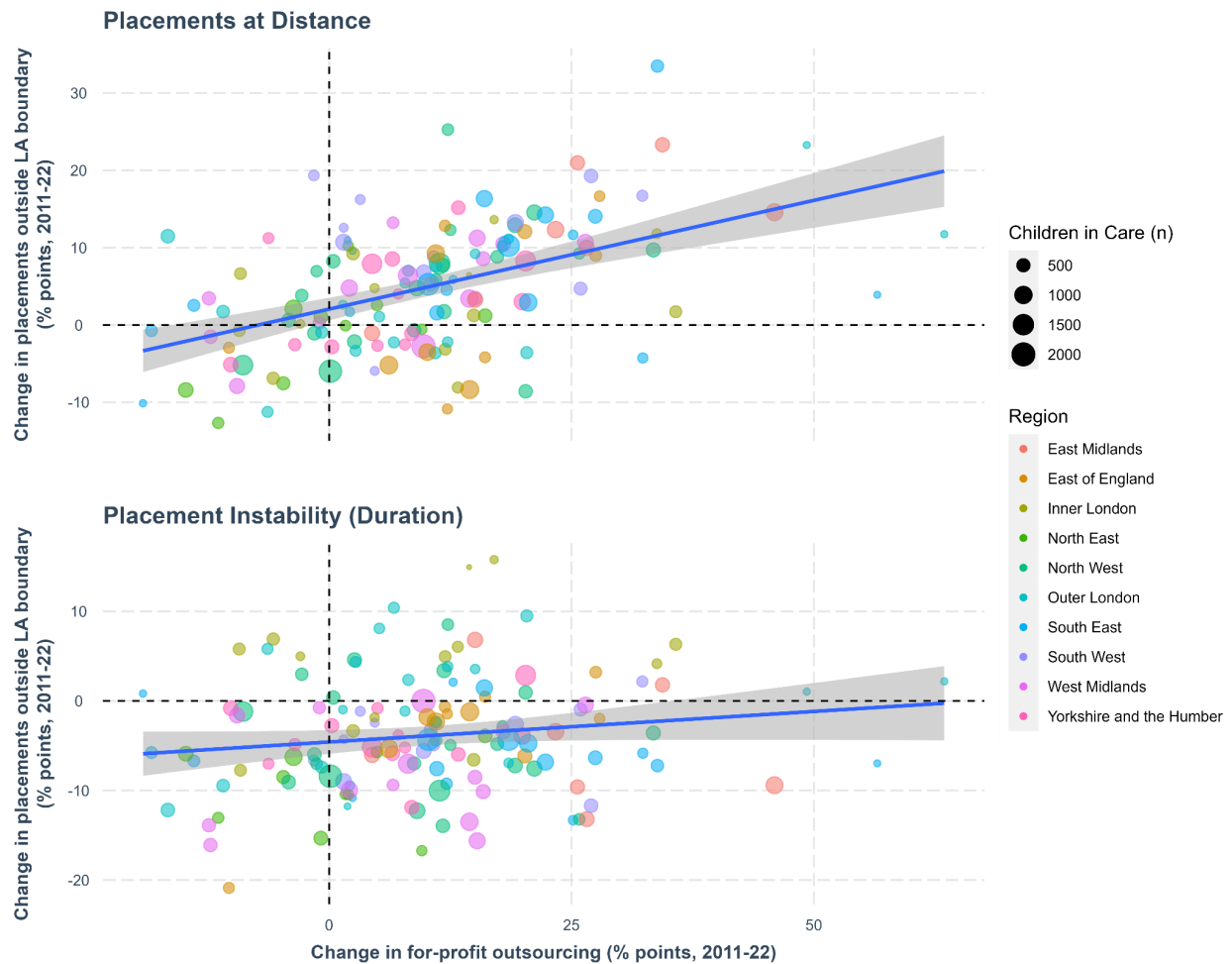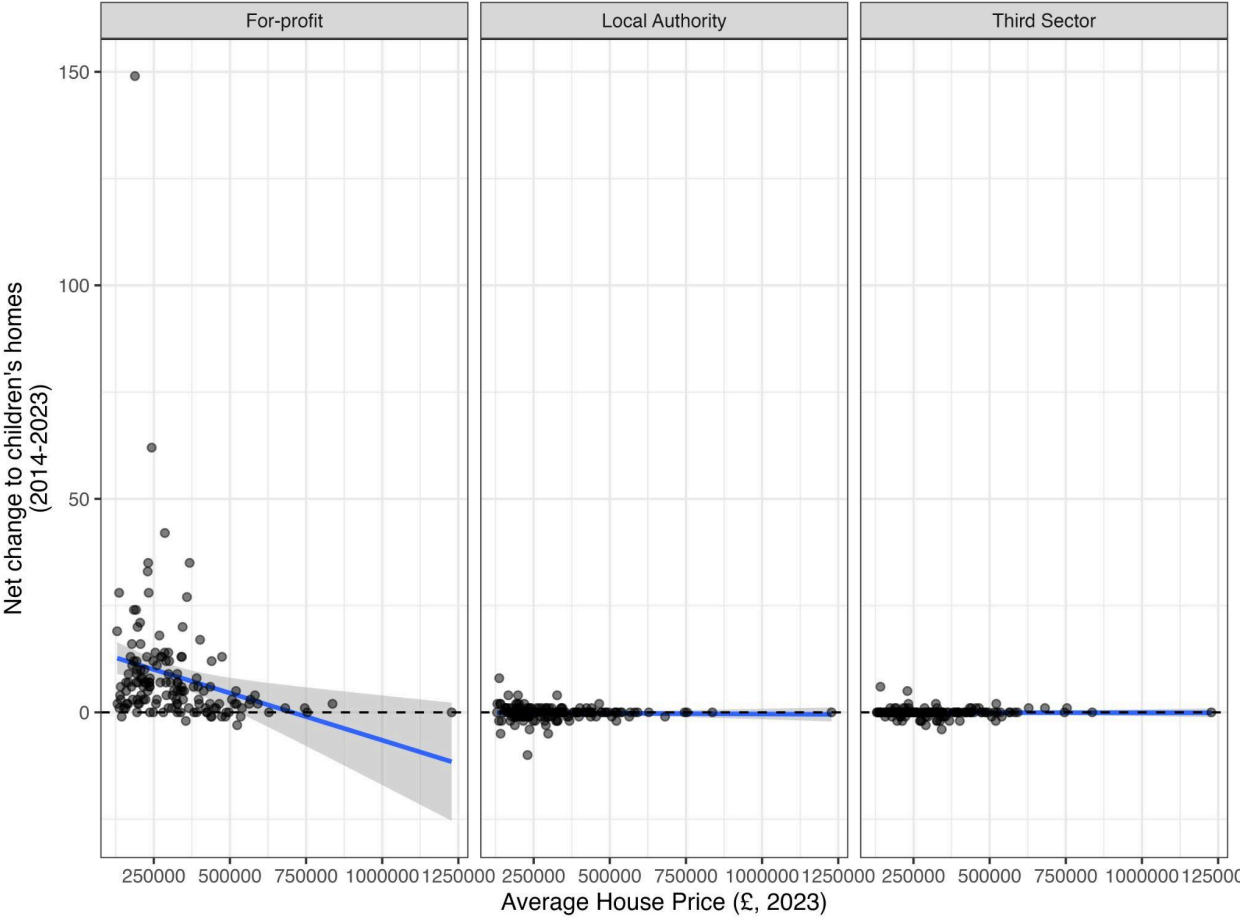|	Involuntary closures, 2011-2023	Voluntary closures, 2011-2023	Active care homes*, September 2023
Ownership			
For-profit	98.53%	73.33%	85.42% [12,581/14729]
	[804/816]	[6086/8299]	
Public	0.25%	8.07%	2.73%
	[2/816]	[670/8299	[402/14729]
Third sector	1.23%	18.59%	11.85%
	[10/816]	[1543/8299]	[1746/14729]
Organisation type			
For-profit company (%)	62.1%	52.8%	78.1%
	[507/816]	[4384/8299]	[11520 /14742]
Individual/partnership (%)	36.4%	20.5%	7.2%
	[297/816]	[1701/8299]	[1069/14742]
Client characteristics			
Disabled (%)	29.8%	26.5%	39.8%
	[243/816]	[2200/8299]	[5862 /14742]
Mental health needs (%)	26.8%	22.4%	27.6%
	[219//816]	[1862/8299]	[4064 /14742]
Detained under MH Act (%)	1.3%	1.3%	0.9%
	[11/816]	[109/8299]	[135/14742]
Dementia (%)	52%	33.9%	52%
	[424//816]	[2813/8299]	[7662 /14742]
Care home characteristics			
Includes nursing (%)	24.5%	17.9%	27.6%
	[200/816]	[1489/8299]	[4068 /14729]
Months of registration (mean [sd])	72.47	56.48	116.22
	[36.49]	[40.58]	[49.84]
Care home beds (mean [sd])	24.41	19.42	30.81
	[17.68]	[20.16]	[25.29]
Latest overall rating			
Inadequate (%)	75.8%	20.5%	1.2%
	[442/583]	[814/3967]	[174/14291]
Requires improvement (%)	15.1%	25.0%	17.2%
	[88/583]	[992/3967]	[2456 /14291]
Good (%)	8.9%	54.1%	77.3%
	[52/583]	[2144/3967]	[11051 /14291]

Outstanding (%)	0%	0.3%	4.3%
	[0/583]	[13/3967]	[609/14291
Missing inspection data (%)	28.6%	52.2%	3.1%
	[233/816]	[4332/8299]	[459/14750]

Data sources: CQC data on voluntary and involuntary closures and publicly available registration data. This table does not count the voluntary closures that are due to a provider takeover. *The denominator for active care homes varies slightly due to missing data on some variables.

Table A2 - Ofsted domains

Adapted from
(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-care-common-inspection-framework-sccif-childrens-homes/social-care-common-inspection-framework-sccif-childrens-homes)

Evaluation Criteria	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
Overall Experiences and Progress of Children	Consistently exceeds good standards, exceptional progress, innovative practices, and significant improvements in children's lives.	Evidence of positive experiences and progress, trusted relationships, participation in decisions, access to education, and good health support.	Not yet delivering good help and care, but no serious failures.	Serious and widespread failures, poor care and experiences, lack of progress.
How well children are helped and protected	Sustained improvement, highly effective planning, creative safeguarding practices, and strong sense of safety.	Children feel protected, proactive responses to risks, effective behaviour management, and safe internet use.	Not yet good help and protection, but no serious failures.	Serious and widespread failures, children are harmed or at risk.
Effectiveness of Leaders and Managers	Inspirational leadership, high aspirations, innovative practices, and strong partnerships.	Effective management, regular monitoring, proactive relationships with other agencies, and child-centred decisions.	Identified weaknesses with plans to address them.	Inadequate experiences, progress, or protection, ineffective prioritisation and improvements.

Table A3: CQC Inspection domains

Adapted from:
https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/adult-social-care/key-lines-enquiry-adult-social-care-services and
https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/adult-social-care/how-we-monitor-inspect-regulate-adult-social-care-services

Domain	
Safe	"By safe, we mean people are protected from abuse and avoidable harm. Abuse can be physical, sexual, mental or psychological, financial, neglect, institutional or discriminatory abuse"
Effective	"By effective, we mean that people's care, treatment and support achieves good outcomes, promotes a good quality of life and is based on the best available evidence" (1)
Caring	"By caring, we mean that the service involves and treats people with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect." (1)
Responsive	"By responsive, we mean that services meet people's needs." (1)
Well-led	"By well-led, we mean that the leadership, management and governance of the organisation assures the delivery of high-quality and person-centred care, supports learning and innovation, and promotes an open and fair culture." (1)
Overall	Overall location ratings refer to an aggerate measure which are determined by the following principles: First, if there is a breach of regulations, the highest overall rating possible is 'requires improvement'. Second, all five key questions hold equal weight. Third, to achieve an 'outstanding' rating, at least two questions must be rated as 'outstanding,' while three should be rated as 'good'. Fourth, various combinations can lead to a 'good' rating; typically, this involves no more than one question rated as 'requires improvement' and none as 'inadequate'. Fifth, if two or more questions 'require improvement,' the overall rating usually becomes 'requires improvement.' Sixth, if two or more questions are rated as 'inadequate,' the overall rating typically becomes 'inadequate'. (3)

More details about how the CQC inspects each domain can be found here (1).

Table A4: CQC rating characteristics.

Adapted from:

Safe			
Outstanding	*Good*	*Requires improvement*	*Inadequate*
"People are protected by a strong, empowering and distinctive approach to safety and a focus on openness, transparency and learning when things go wrong."	"People are protected from avoidable harm and abuse. Legal requirements are met. The service will always support people to keep themselves and their belongings safe and secure. "	"The service has an inconsistent approach that sometimes puts people's safety, health or wellbeing at risk. There is an increased risk that people are harmed or there is limited assurance about safety. Regulations may or may not be met. "	"A service may have some areas of safe practice, but in general people are not safe. Normally some regulations are not met. "
Effective			
Outstanding	*Good*	*Requires improvement*	*Inadequate*
"Outcomes for people who use services are consistently better than expected when compared with other similar services. People's feedback about the effectiveness of the service describes it as exceptional and distinctive. "	"People's outcomes and feedback about the effectiveness of the service describes it as consistently good. "	"There is a lack of consistency in the effectiveness of the care and support that people receive. Regulations may or may not be met. "	"There are widespread and significant shortfalls in the care, support and outcomes that people experience. Normally some regulations are not met. "
Caring			
Outstanding	*Good*	*Requires improvement*	*Inadequate*
"People are truly respected and valued as individuals and are empowered as partners in their care by an exceptional and distinctive service. "	"People are supported and treated with dignity and respect, and are involved as partners in their care. "	"There are times when people do not feel well-supported or cared for, or their dignity is not maintained. The service is not always caring. Regulations may or may not be met. "	"People are not treated with compassion. There are breaches of dignity and significant shortfalls in the caring attitude of staff. Normally some regulations are not met. "
Responsive			
Outstanding	*Good*	*Requires improvement*	*Inadequate*
"Services are tailored to meet the needs of individual people and are delivered in a way to	"People's needs are met through the way services are organised and delivered. "	"Services do not always meet people's needs. Regulations may or may not be met. "	"Services are not planned or delivered in a way that meets people's needs. Normally some regulations are not met. "

ensure flexibility, choice and continuity of care. "			
Well-led			
Outstanding	*Good*	*Requires improvement*	*Inadequate*
"There are key characteristics that make leadership of the service exceptional and distinctive. The leadership, governance and culture are used to drive and improve high quality, person-centre care. "	"The service is consistently well-managed and led. The leadership, governance and culture promote the delivery of high-quality, person-centred care. "	"There is a lack of consistency in how well the service is managed and led. The leadership, governance and culture do not always support the delivery of high-quality, person-centred care. Regulations may or may not be met. "	"There are widespread and significant shortfalls in the way the service is led. Normally some regulations are not met. The delivery of high quality care is not assured by the leadership, governance or culture in place. "

Table A5: Full list of data sources

Dataset	Source (availability)	Year	Example of key variables	Geographical level
Local authority and children's homes in England inspections and outcomes	Ofsted (publicly available)	2014 - ongoing (yearly)	Ofsted inspection ratings (provider and local authorities); Provider ownership and characteristics; Inspection dates	Provider and local authority
Violated regulations and recommendations among children's homes	Ofsted (received via data request)	2014-2022 (at data manager discretion)	Number and type of violated recommendations and requirements	Provider
All children's home closures	Ofsted (received via data request)	2014 - March 2023 (at data manager discretion)	URN, resignation status, and closed date	Provider
Children looked after in England including adoptions (SSDA903)	Department for Education (publicly available)	2011 - ongoing (yearly)	Children placed in private provision (%); Children placed in third sector provision (%); Placement stability and locality	Local Authority
S251 return - Children and Young People's Services (National, Regional, LA levels)' from 'LA and school expenditure	Department for Education (publicly available)	2008 - ongoing (yearly)	Spend on private provision (total CLA, residential services, fostering services, adoption services) · Spend on LA provision · Spend	Local Authority

			on voluntary provision	
CQC-registered care providers	Care Quality Commission (publicly available)	2011 - ongoing (daily)	CQC inspection ratings; Provider ownership and characteristics; Inspection dates	Provider
Enforcement-related closures of CQC providers	Care Quality Commission (publicly available but received via data request)	2011-2023 (at data manager discretion)	Enforcement-related closures	Provider
Provider information return	Care Quality Commission (received via data request)	2020-2023 (at data manager discretion)	Funding status of residents; use of agency staff; staff qualifications; number of complaints; notifiable safety incidents; turnover rates	Provider - but anonymised
Adult Social Care Finance Return	NHS digital (publicly available)	2015-2023 (yearly)	Expenditure on social care, by service type, user need, sector	Local authority
Short and Long Term Care Collection	NHS Digital (publicly available)	2015-2023 (yearly)	Number of claims, and users of care, by service type, user need and sector	Local Authority
Personal Social Services:	NHS Digital (publicly available)	2001-2014 (yearly)	Expenditure and number of users of adult social care, by	Local Authority

Expenditure and Unit Costs			service type, user need and sector	
Adult Social Care - Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS)	Managed by Skills for Care (Data Purchased)	2010 - 2023 (yearly)	Characteristics and employment conditions of social workers by LA and Provider ownership status	Local Authority
Unregulated placements	Department for Education (received after FOI act request)	2019-2023 (yearly)	The number of children placed in unregulated social care provision	Local Authority

Table A6: Databases for ongoing/future harmonisation

Dataset	Source (availability)	Year	Example of key variables	Geographical level
Serious Incident Notifications	Department for Education (publicly available)	2019-2024 (yearly)	Number of serious incident notifications for children in care	Local Authority
Fostering in England	Ofsted (publicly available)	2011-2023 (yearly)	Missing incidents, training of foster carers, vacant foster care places.	Local Authority

Adult Social Care Survey	NHS Digital	2011-2023 (yearly)	Commissioning process, satisfaction of care services	Individual, Local Authority
FAME	FAME (available with institutional subscription)	2014-2024 (ongoing)	Accounts information for care companies, profits, turnover, expenditure, shareholder payments, company structure	Organisation

Data User Guide

Where to locate the data?

The most up to date versions of the data are published in two repositories on Github, one for adult's social care (https://github.com/BenGoodair/adults_social_care_data) and one for children's social care (https://github.com/BenGoodair/childrens_social_care_data). For the purposes of having minted and fixed versions, each is also given permanent versions with DOIs on Zenodo, which can also be formally cited (https://zenodo.org/records/12570897) and (https://zenodo.org/records/13460703).

What is made available?

The basic files available to use are:
- Final cleaned datasets
- Raw data downloaded from public sources
- Code to reproduce the harmonisation processes
- Metadata of variable definitions and links to data sources

We have shared all data used in this report, except a few variables which were shared with us on the condition we could not reshare - such as involuntary closures of adult care homes.

How to download the data?

To download the data follow three steps:
1. Navigate to the 'Final_data'/'Complete_resources' folder of either Github repository
2. Select either the provider or Local Authority level data - and click 'view raw'
3. Right click on the web page, and click 'save as'

How to use the data?

Once saved, the data can be used in excel, or any software used for data analysis. The data is structured in 'long format' where possible - meaning all years, all locations, and all variables are in a long list, and can be filtered to select a specific year, for a specific location, and a specific variable (eg. 2018, Barking and Dagenham, outsourced adult social care expenditure).

How to understand the data?

Variable names are labelled mostly as they are in the raw data (and harmonised across years), or created with an intention of them reading intuitively. However, for each, it is not expected that they can be understood by the variable names alone. Consequently, in each data repository, we have produced a metadata document, with variable definitions, so users can search for the information they are interested in and identify which variables are useful.

The data is reported in the units as per the raw data. Consequently, there are some values which may appear unclear such as 'c', 'z'. These usually refer to data which is suppressed in the raw for being a small value, and consequently, potentially risking identifying the individuals in the dataset. In theory, data should be suppressed with a random element which means it is impossible to impute or understand what that value is - and therefore it is likely best practice to exclude it from your own analyses.

How to check the data?

Because the data process involves merging millions of observations from hundreds of datasets, it is possible that the code has induced some errors in the values. Consequently, we advise that if you want to be sure of the precise values, that you double check the results against data from the raw data sources.

To do this you have several options - open the metadata, locate the variable you are using, click on the link to the raw data, and download the official datasets to check the values. Or you can download the raw datasets uploaded to the repository themselves. These will not have been edited in any way other than downloaded and saved in csv format - so any errors will also be in the official datasets.

How to reproduce the data?

The code is built with the intention of the harmonisation being replicable on local machines. Coded in R, any R user should be able to run the master code to produce the data themselves.

The master code pipes functions to clean and merge each dataset (stored in the 'code'/'functions' folder of the repository).

Many of the figures in this report are also created with an intention of reproducibility, and a separate repository is available for these purposes (https://github.com/BenGoodair/NF_report)