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PRECARITY AND POLICY CLIFF EDGES

How rapid withdrawals
of support and services
for unaccompanied young
people are built into
children's social care

There were 6,540 ‘unaccompanied asylum-seeking children’ (UASC) in care in England as of 31st March 2025.¹ A burgeoning body of research about unaccompanied children has identified that social care services are patchy and uneven,² and often deeply racialised.³ Yet, values enshrined in the *Children Act 1989* emphasize that all children – regardless of their immigration status – are entitled to the same support, services, and rights. For this reason, advocates stress the importance of children availing of support to regularise their immigration status before reaching legal adulthood at 18-years-old. They stress that if children are unable to obtain ‘leave to remain’ in the UK with ‘recourse to public funds’, they may end up being denied access to mainstream social support due to their immigration status when they become care leavers.⁴ At the same time, Local Authorities (LAs) have increasingly been raising alarm bells about their rising costs for supporting former-UASC care leavers who have insecure immigration status, often highlighting deeply inadequate Home Office funding.⁵

Despite these warnings, far less is known about the specific policy mechanisms and social care practices which produce and result from the intersections of care leaving policy and immigration control or the impacts this has on former-UASC care leavers. This is the focus of the current briefing which draws on a 4-year research project conducted at University College London (UCL) exploring the experiences of unaccompanied young people in making and sustaining their lives in the absence of social support. Research methods include participant observation with unaccompanied young people in Greater London, Kent, and the West Midlands for between 4 and 18 months each as well as narrative interviews; semi-structured interviews with education, advocacy and social care professionals; Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to 41 local authorities; and policy analysis.⁶

Our research findings indicate that former UASC who have been in care are exposed to ‘cliff edges’ of support – a rapid and often unexpected withdrawal of services and termination of support – resulting from their precarious position at the intersection of Local Authority (LA) social care and Home Office migration systems. The brief demonstrates that unaccompanied care leavers with precarious migration status receive negative and unequal treatment compared to their peers with citizenship or ‘leave to remain’, and that these distinctions are built into the care system in England.

The briefing sets out with background information about former-UASC care leavers, explaining how their support by Local Authorities is organised and funded. It then goes on to identify key policy mechanisms which enable the differential termination of support: age-based transitions, length of time in care, and Human Rights Assessments. Throughout, we argue that rather than simply technical questions as to when social support starts and stops, these policy mechanisms can best be understood as cliff edges that appear suddenly and often unexpectedly for former-UASC care leavers rendering them ever more precarious, and that the negative and discriminatory effects of these policy mechanisms are compounded by limited support provided for navigating Home Office systems.

1. Background

1.1. Who are former-UASC Care Leavers?

Each year, amongst those people who migrate to the UK are children who have made the journey from their home countries without their parents or carers. Many of these children seek support and asylum. Within government policy, this group of young people is referred to as Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Their legal status as lone children means they become Children in Care (CIC), an important legally protected identity that entitles them to support from LA children's social care teams under the Children Act 1989. LA-based children's social care teams are responsible for providing housing (e.g., with foster families or supported accommodation), education, access to health services, and support to access legal services.⁷

In general, when children in care turn 18 years old, the support they receive from the LA continues, but reduces significantly. They are considered 'care leavers', and under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, the LA may continue to be legally responsible for their housing (until aged 21), access to education (until 25), and supporting their transition to being 'fully independent'.

The type of support someone receives as a care leaver is quite complicated.⁸ Key factors affecting the entitlements of former-UASC care leavers are their immigration status and length of time in care before their 18th birthday, points we discuss further below.⁹

In 2025, 11,410 care leavers in England between 19-21-years-old were former-UASC. They made up 30% of all care leavers.¹⁰ While some of these young people had gained British citizenship, a study by Coram Children's Legal Centre (CCLC) in 2022 found that more than 10,000 care leavers were without citizenship with others known to have unresolved or temporary immigration status.¹¹

1.2. Organisation and funding for care-leaving support

LAs currently receive £143 per night for UASC in their care from the Home Office.¹² When these young people turn 18 and become 'eligible' care leavers, the amount reduces to around £38 a night (£270 per week).¹³ For the LA to continue receiving financial support from the Home Office for care leavers aged 21-25, the young person needs to be in education or employment. However, Home Office funding for care leavers ceases three months after a person becomes Appeal Rights Exhausted (ARE) – meaning a person's asylum application has been refused by the Home Office, and they have no further bureaucratic or legal options to appeal the refusal. Yet, LAs remain responsible for accommodation and financial support until care leaving duties end, for example following a Human Rights Assessment (see below) even if this is longer than Home Office funding is available.¹⁴

The funding model means that the support UASC and former-UASC rely on from LAs is entangled with Home Office asylum decisions. A negative asylum decision has knock-on effects for their LA-based support, unlike other children in care. Further, LA decision-making remains heavily influenced by the political context of austerity, with decision-making routinely influenced by budgetary constraints that impact the quality of service provision.¹⁵

2. Policy cliff edges

Former-UASC care leavers with precarious migration status may have services and support terminated in a manner not faced by their peers. These withdrawals of support are built into children's social care, despite their often unexpected, negative, and unequal consequences.

2.1. Age-based transition points enabling termination of support

Turning 18-years-old represents a 'cliff edge of support' for UASC because their LA support becomes dependent *solely* on Home Office decision makers. When an unaccompanied young person turns 18-years-old, they are no longer considered a 'child in need of support or services' from the LA, a category that may temporarily supersede complications caused by negative Home Office decisions.¹⁶ After turning 18, former-UASC may continue to receive LA support until their 21st birthday provided they are either waiting for the Home Office to decide on either their asylum claim or appeal, or if they have been granted leave to remain.

If they are aged between 18 and 21, and they become ARE or have no immigration permission to stay, Schedule 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 overrides legislation for children in care. While other care leavers are entitled to apply for universal credit and take up paid work, these former-UASC are prohibited access to most welfare benefits and social housing (e.g., the 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) condition applies to them). In this case, they will only continue to receive LA support if they can demonstrate through a Human Rights Assessment process (see below) that they will face a violation of their human rights were they to be 'returned' to their home country as a way to address their impending destitution.

Turning 21-years-old represents a further policy cliff edge for former-UASC care leavers who are continuing to await the outcome of their asylum claims with the Home Office.¹⁷ This is because leaving care legislation *does not require* LAs to continue to provide housing support for care leavers beyond their 21st birthday. This is a serious vulnerability for former-UASC care leavers who have NRPF and therefore no access to social housing or other mainstream welfare support which enable other care leavers to access housing.

Former-UASC care leavers feel this keenly, with one young person commenting:



**It seemed that once I turned 21,
they didn't care about me.**

Yet LAs are not prohibited from providing housing and other supports – making it a political decision whether to continue doing so. Our research found evidence that in some LAs recognition of the negative consequences of cutting off support at 21 for this group of young people led to them to continue providing support, even though it was not mandatory.

Our FOI data gives some indication of the numbers of former-UASC care leavers who wind up being ARE and therefore lose care support and services. While many of our FOI requests were denied or incorrect information was provided (22/41 requests), the responses we were able to gain (19 in total) indicate that 16/19 LAs have care leavers who become ARE on their records, including some LAs which have between 6-10 young people who are ARE (6/19 LAs) or over 20 (1/19 LAs).

Numbers of ARE care leavers on LA records in 2023	London (33 LAs)	West Midlands (7 LAs)	Kent (1 LA)	Total (41 LAs)
Incorrect info provided (e.g., data for under 18s)	1	0	0	1
FOI request denied*	17	4	0	21
0 young people	3	0	0	3
1-5 young people	8	1	0	9
6-10 young people	4	1	1	6
20 young people	0	1	0	1
* Immigration data not recorded or kept centrally, so time to review files manually would be beyond legal requirement for provision of information.				

However, these numbers represent a substantial underestimation of the scale of the problem:

- ➔ Data on immigration status is not collected and recorded on a mandatory basis. LAs often rely on individual social workers to understand and record the immigration status of children in care and care leavers. This means that LAs often have limited overall understanding of the scale of the issue.
- ➔ Immigration status, where recorded, is only kept in individual files, limiting LAs ability to monitor and evaluate provision for these young people centrally.

- ➔ Local authorities may not keep track of or follow up with young people who go missing or 'disengage' after 18, so it is probable, even likely, that these young people wind up being ARE as they do not have access to adequate legal support.

As one advocate we interviewed explained:

“A lot of local authorities just don't give any support around regularising immigration status. There's just a complete lack of awareness or support, or a sort of washing hands of any involvement in young people's immigration situations and challenges.”

2.2. Length of time in care

A further issue is that to be eligible to receive the full support available to care leavers, a child needs to be in care for a minimum of 13 weeks following their 14th birthday. UASC usually arrive in the UK between the ages of 14 and 17, so their eligibility depends on whether the date that LAs record them as having come into care is at least 13 weeks before the date the LA has recorded as their 18th birthday. Both dates are often contested, and even arbitrary, in a way that is markedly different to citizen or 'local' children in care:

- ➔ British children usually have records which clearly record their date of birth, whereas UASC may not have documentation and even with documentation they may be subjected to age contestations – a harmful and flawed process that draws on problematic racialised and particularist developmental assumptions about childhood.¹⁸
- ➔ The date when a UASC is recorded as entering care is complicated in a way that it is not for other children. For example, some UASC spend time on adult refugee pathways before being registered as children, meaning the date they enter care is delayed through no fault of their own. The care of UASC can also be transferred between LAs through the Home Office National Transfer Scheme. Our research suggests that, in practice, some LA authorities record the date of entry into care as the date young people are transferred to the *receiving* LA, as opposed to the earlier date they entered the care of the *transferring* LA.

This means former-UASC care leavers may lose access to support because of contested or incorrectly recorded age or date of entry, particularly if no one is advocating for the importance of the recorded dates providing them with the 13-week minimum period in care.

Further, the 13-week minimum reflects assumptions based on British national children e.g., that during the time when a child is not in care, they have been with family and that they can, therefore, reasonably be assumed to have familial support networks to avail of. This is not a possibility for former-UASC care leavers. Our research shows that prior to arriving in the UK and going into care, many UASC have been on the move without parents or carers for months or even years. One young person explained:

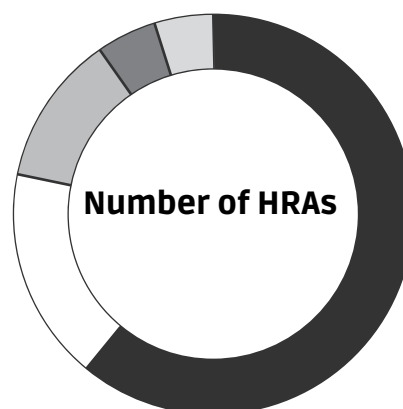
I was counting the days when they're going to kick me out, where am I going? I don't have no family

Although the Children's Act 1989 follows the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and applies to all children regardless of immigration status, in the case of former-UASC only their time as children in the UK is considered relevant and meaningful.

2.3. Human Rights Assessments as a means of withdrawing support

If a former-UASC care leaver is either ARE or does not have a route to appeal a negative immigration decision, then the LA can withdraw support for the young person when they turn 18 by producing a negative decision on a Human Rights Assessment (HRA). This is legislated through Schedule 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. While LAs are typically required to support people who would otherwise be destitute to avoid breaching the European Convention on Human Rights, LAs are entitled to use HRAs to consider whether the person is able to return to their country of origin. If the assessment finds that the person can be reasonably expected to return, then the LA can withdraw support.

It is difficult to ascertain how many HRAs are being conducted by LAs as many do not keep this data in a reportable format. For instance, the majority of LAs surveyed (25/41) did not have any central record of HRAs conducted; at best, they record this information on individual care leaver's files. This includes LAs which have HRA guidance for their staff and some of the larger numbers of UASC in their care. For those who did keep HRA data in their central records, 0 HRAs were conducted by 7/16 LAs and the remaining 9 LAs consulted conducted 1-5 HRAs each in 2023.



● FOI request denied * ○ 0 ● 1 ● 2 ● 1-5

One LA, however, highlighted that the decision to conduct HRAs is a choice, commenting:



We don't undertake Human Rights Assessment. Our approach as a local authority has always been that when leaving care duties are engaged then we carry on providing support irrespective of the young person's immigration status as we don't believe that the immigration status trumps leaving care legislation.

For most care leavers, housing costs are met through the housing element of Universal Credit. For former-UASC care leavers, the housing cost falls on the LA until a positive asylum decision provides them access to public funds. LAs are not reimbursed by central government funding for supporting people with NRPF, so they may seek mechanisms that enable them to withdraw support and save on the costs of delivering this support. The Human Rights Assessment provides this mechanism.

One social worker we interviewed explained:



Our human rights remit is reduced to two articles [in the European Convention on Human Rights]: Article 3 and Article 8. But human rights is broad. So, it's politicized, it's not comprehensive, it's just, you know, tick boxing. Right to Life is one of them. It's a very broad one you have to save people from torture, you have to save people from degrading treatment, and right to, you know, accessing service. They are right holders. We are duty bearers, and becoming ARE does not really end our responsibility, although that's what they're projecting, you know, that your duty finishes. It does not.

3. Limited support for navigating Home Office applications and negative decisions

As we have demonstrated above, a series of policy and funding mechanisms that lie at the interface of children's services and immigration legislation enable the withdrawal of support for former-UASC care leavers in ways that do not exist for other care leavers. The possibility that support will be withdrawn is compounded in practice by the limited support available to former-UASC care leavers to navigate Home Office applications and negative decisions.

Former-UASC care leavers are entitled to support while they appeal negative decisions made by the Home Office or submit a fresh asylum claim. However, lodging an appeal depends on receiving prompt and sound legal advice that is not necessarily available. Our research highlights that the crisis in legal aid support and the difficulties in securing immigration lawyers with expertise in issues facing former-UASC care leavers are significant factors.

Former-UASC care leavers also require consistency and signposting to legal advice from LA-based support systems, which they cannot necessarily rely upon.¹⁹ As one young person explained:



It wasn't until almost a year later that I learned my application had been rejected. My social worker only informed me then, that it had been rejected for over a year. My new lawyer called me on a Friday night, after midnight, and told me I had a court appearance on Monday! With no preparation and no idea why my application failed, I was expected to appear in court just two days later. We met in court, and I explained I didn't understand the rejection. He told me to just answer their questions. That was it. No explanation, nothing. I felt completely lost.

Advocates also highlighted that even when former-UASC care leavers have legal avenues to move forward with appeals, this can be challenging given the 'silences' in social services. As one advocate commented:

“ Potential pathways are not really explored with young people. And so I think there's really high levels of anxiety about the future. And not just related to immigration status, just, like, what's going to happen next, where will I live next, what do things look like? What are my education choices, and there's just a lot of uncertainty, and let's wait and see. And, even the 'let's wait and see' is not communicated. So there's a lot of silence young people experience.

Moreover, awaiting decisions from the Home Office is emotionally distressing, and embarking on a lengthy appeals process is likely to cause considerable turmoil and distress for care leavers. One young person explained:

“ I'm stuck in a holding pattern, waiting for something to change. That's the most frustrating part.

This can make it hard to pursue a fresh claim or appeal, particularly without sufficient support.

In short, while legal options may be available to former-UASC care leavers when they face the policy cliff edges we have been describing, these options are little more than ink on paper without adequate infrastructures and support to enable them.

4. Impacts

For former-UASC care leavers, the policy mechanisms that enable LAs to withdraw their support are often abrupt and unexpected – leading us to call these ‘policy cliff edges’. Many young people involved in our research spoke about being “*surprised*”, “*disappointed*”, and offered “*no explanation*” nor “*response to inquiries*” when their support was terminated. For example, one young person described finding out that his support was being terminated when the LA said to him:

“ You don't have no case going on,
so try to found somewhere to stay.
We're going to stop helping you.
We're going to stop everything.”

Our research shows that in some of the most extreme cases, former-UASC care leavers are unceremoniously dropped off in front of third sector organisations following negative decisions on HRAs – ejected from being a ‘care leaver’ to an ‘illegal’ in a matter of hours, with little time to prepare emotionally or plan practically for survival.

In some cases, the withdrawal of support is sudden and unexpected because young people have not been provided with sufficient information and advice – the ‘silences’ referred to above. Social workers themselves may be surprised given the limited knowledge of, and attention to, the immigration status of children in care and care leavers required by LAs.

For other former-UASC care leavers, watching their peers (whether citizens or other UASC) receive sustained support can exacerbate their feelings of surprise when their own support is withdrawn. Our research shows that young people often rely on each other for information and understanding of the care system, particularly in the face of social work silences. The reasonable expectation that they will receive equal or similar treatment to other care-leavers can leave those who have their support withdrawn feeling shocked and individually singled out for abandonment.

The consequences of these policy cliff edges are extreme: former-UASC care leavers’ precarious immigration status is exacerbated by the mechanisms that enable the withdrawal of support, rendering them even more precarious. For many, the withdrawal of leaving care support with no recourse to public funds means years of homelessness, destitution, and feelings of profound alienation and dehumanisation. It cuts short educational trajectories and pushes young people into cash-in-hand jobs just to survive, making them more vulnerable to extreme forms of abuse and exploitation.

(See our project website for further publications about the impacts of NRPF on former-UASC care leavers: <https://nrpfintheshadows.com/learn-more/>)

5. Conclusion

Conceptualising the support available to UASC and former-UASC care leavers as a series of 'policy cliff edges' highlights how care and support are made conditional, time-limited, and contingent on immigration outcomes and budgetary considerations rather than young people's welfare.

Age thresholds, eligibility rules based on time in care, and Human Rights Assessments interact to produce sudden withdrawals of support with limited to no other support available. This occurs via policy mechanisms and degrees of intensity that young people with citizenship or regularised immigration status do not face. The unequal treatment of former-UASC care leavers is baked into the system.

The abrupt and often unexpected termination of support can leave former-UASC care leavers destitute, unhoused, and dehumanised, through a process that is complicated and mystifying. Limited or non-existent support for addressing negative Home Office decisions, and the denial of recourse to public funds, further a sense of isolation and emotional abandonment that is keenly experienced by this group of young people.

6. Recommendations

- 1 End NRPF.** We recommend that the NRPF rule be abolished, enabling UASC and former-UASC to access the mainstream welfare system where needed, thereby ensuring the best interests and human rights of these children and young people.

While the NRPF condition remains in place, interim measures we recommend include:

- 2 Ensure the Children's Act 1989 and the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 are not overridden by immigration law** (e.g., by Schedule 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002) to ensure that UASC and former-UASC care leavers are not discriminated against because of their immigration status. This includes making sure they have safe accommodation, enough food to eat, and access to the same support and services as other care leavers. While this requires changes in national law, we note that not all LAs end or limit support – offering the gold standard in care under current legislation.
- 3 Provide funding for local authorities to enable them to support former-UASC care leavers akin to that of other care leavers, regardless of their immigration status.** LAs should be adequately funded to provide accommodation, education and financial support to former-UASC care

leavers regardless of their immigration status. Minimum standards should be introduced at a central government level to ensure that support is never below the support a care leaver would receive were they entitled to the mainstream welfare system, though discretion to provide additional or extra support should remain where needed e.g., guaranteed housing until age 25 or regularised immigration status is achieved.

4 Local authorities should be funded to ensure that proactive signposting and adequate support is provided for UASC and former-UASC to regularise their immigration status. This includes connecting these young people with good quality legal advice and providing ongoing support throughout immigration processes. LAs should develop guidance to ensure that age-based and other changes to support are not abrupt termination of support that exacerbate these young people's feelings of precarity. We further recommend that LAs take the pledge written by SLRA and Coram: 'How local authorities can best address immigration issues of children in care'.²⁰

5 Consistent data collection to allow for thorough review and revamping of service provision to ensure the needs and rights of UASC and former-UASC are met. This includes ongoing monitoring of their immigration status to ensure that applications and appeals are submitted in a timely and appropriate manner by legal teams and that young people are informed with sufficient time if they receive negative decisions and information on how to appeal. This also includes centrally tracking the use and impact of HRAs, and those cases where services 'drop off', to identify how to improve support prior to withdrawal or disengagement and to demonstrate the equalities impacts of such mechanisms.

If you have any questions about this briefing or require further information, please contact Rachel Rosen, UCL Social Research Institute:

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<https://nrpfintheshadows.com>

Endnotes

- 1 <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoptions/2025#section-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-uasc>
- 2 Wade, J. (2011). Preparation and transition planning for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee young people: A review of evidence in England. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33(12), 2424-2430. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2011.08.027>. O'Higgins, A., Ott, E. M., & Shea, M. W. (2018). What is the Impact of Placement Type on Educational and Health Outcomes of Unaccompanied Refugee Minors? A Systematic Review of the Evidence. *Clin Child Fam Psychol Rev*, 21(3), 354-365. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10567-018-0256-7>
- 3 Meetoo, V., & Rosen, R. (2024). The formative intersections of "race", nation, and generation: learning from "care" in the lives of unaccompanied child migrants in England. *American Behavioral Scientist* (ABS), online first. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/00027642241268541>
- 4 Pinter I, Compton S, Parhar R, et al. (2020) A Lifeline for All: Children and Families with No Recourse to Public Funds. London: The Children's Society; SLRA, & CCLC. (2022). Taking Care: How local authorities can best address immigration issues of children in care.
- 5 For example, <https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/leader-calls-on-ministers-for-urgent-action-on-out-of-area-looked-after-children-and-former-uasc-care-leavers> and https://eastmidlandscouncils.kinsta.cloud/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/LA_former_UASC_care_leaver_services_costs_and_pressures_in_the_East_Mids.pdf.
- 6 This briefing was written as part of the Shadows research project (<https://nrpfintheshadows.com/>) based at UCL. Thanks to S Khan and Malte Gembus for conducting participant observation and narrative interviews and to Cadence Tay and Xinyi Tian for undertaking FOI requests as part of their undergraduate internship module.
- 7 In comparison to others in care, unaccompanied children are disproportionately placed in semi-/independent accommodation run by primarily by private and for-profit entities commissioned by LAS – evidence that discrepancies in treatment already begin for those under 18-years. Rosen, R. (2025). The commodification of unaccompanied child migration: A double move of enclosure. *The Sociological Review*, 73(1), 43-62. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380261241239733>.
- 8 See <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/services-for-children-leaving-care/> for a breakdown of the differing types of eligibility and services.
- 9 To be eligible for full support they must have been in care for at least 13 weeks.
- 10 <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoptions/2025#556a-care-leavers-who-were-formerly-uasc>
- 11 https://www.coram.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/migrated/taking_care.pdf
- 12 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-uasc-grant-instructions/uasc-funding-instructions-to-local-authorities-2025-to-2026-accessible>
- 13 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-uasc-grant-instructions/leaving-care-funding-instructions-to-local-authorities-2025-to-2026-accessible>

- 14 <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2010/1101.html>
- 15 Webb, C.J.R., Bennett, D.L. and Bywaters, P. (2024) Austerity, poverty, and children's services quality in England: consequences for child welfare and public services. *Social Policy and Society*, 23 (2). pp. 278-299. ISSN: 1474-7464 <https://doi.org/10.1017/S147474642200001X>
- 16 Previous research suggests that whilst in policy UASC are entitled to full support and services, structural factors mean that in practice they may be placed in sub-standard accommodation (Rosen, 2025), receive differential and often racialised treatment (Meetoo&Rosen 2024), be subjected to harsh age assessment processes which can temporarily or permanently deny them support as children (Rosen&Khan 2024), and have limited support for regularising their immigration status (SLRA & CCLC, 2022). Rosen, R. (2025). The commodification of unaccompanied child migration: A double move of enclosure. *The Sociological Review*, 73(1), 43-62. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380261241239733> Meetoo, V., & Rosen, R. (2024). The formative intersections of "race", nation, and generation: learning from "care" in the lives of unaccompanied child migrants in England. *American Behavioral Scientist (ABS)*, online first. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/00027642241268541>. Rosen, R., & Khan, S. (2024). Racialising age in the UK's border regime: a case for abolishing age assessment. *Race & Class*, Online first. SLRA, & CCLC. (2022). *Taking Care: How local authorities can best address immigration issues of children in care*.
- 17 In 2025, at least 11,170 former-UASC care leavers between 22-25-years-old were seeking support from their LA. <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/fast-track/11db2bd6-a8c7-4dfa-5444-08de072d13df>
- 18 Rosen, R., & Khan, S. (2024). Racialising age in the UK's border regime: a case for abolishing age assessment. *Race & Class*, Online first.
- 19 See also https://www.coram.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/migrated/taking_care.pdf
- 20 SLRA, & CCLC. (2022). *Taking Care: How local authorities can best address immigration issues of children in care*.



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