



News

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Number of children in care in Reading increases



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The most recent figures available for Reading show that 74 children per/10,000 population were in care in 2019

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THE number of children looked after in care in [Reading](#) has increased since 2015, reflecting a national growth in demand for services.

The Local Government Association (LGA) is warning that the huge national increase in demand is combining with funding shortages to put immense pressure on the ability of councils to support vulnerable children and young people, and provide the early help that can stop children and families reaching crisis point in the first place.

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Figures revealed from the Department of Education and Newsquest Data Investigations Unit show that, in Reading, there were 209 looked after children in 2015, and 273 in 2019.

Spending by Reading children's service Brighter Futures for Children reflects the increased demand, with £162,66,000 spent on looked after children in 2015, and £229,36,000 in 2019.

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