

Looked After Children: trends in numbers, rates & spend

Including the Cordis Bright Stress-Test

June 2017

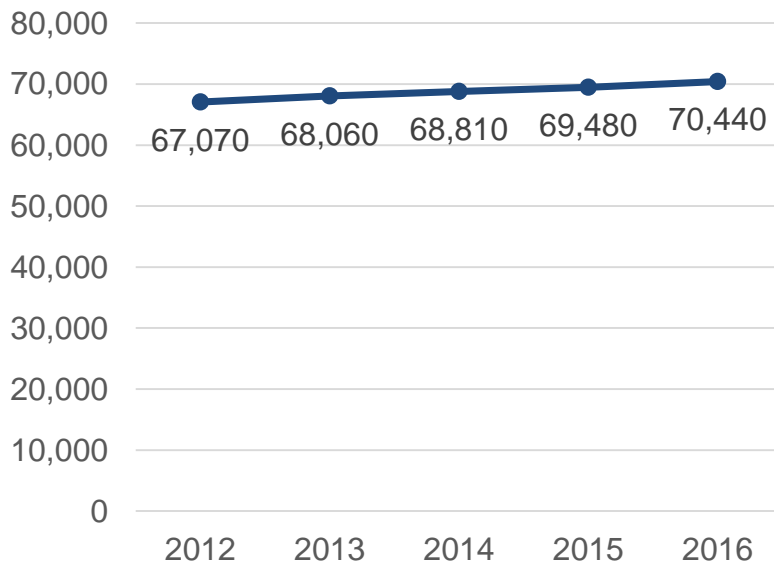


Introduction

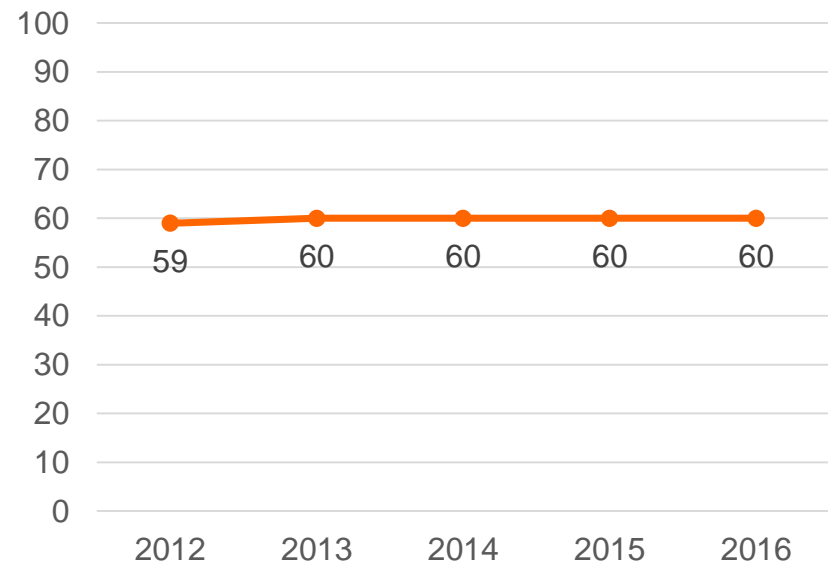
- This document uses publicly available data to examine recent trends in the numbers, rates and spend on Looked After Children (LAC) in England.
- The first section presents national trends from 2012 to 2016.
- The second section examines trends across local authorities.
- As part of this, it highlights those local authorities that we think, from the data, may be experiencing the most pressures in catering for LAC.

Number & rate of looked after children

Number of children looked after at March 31



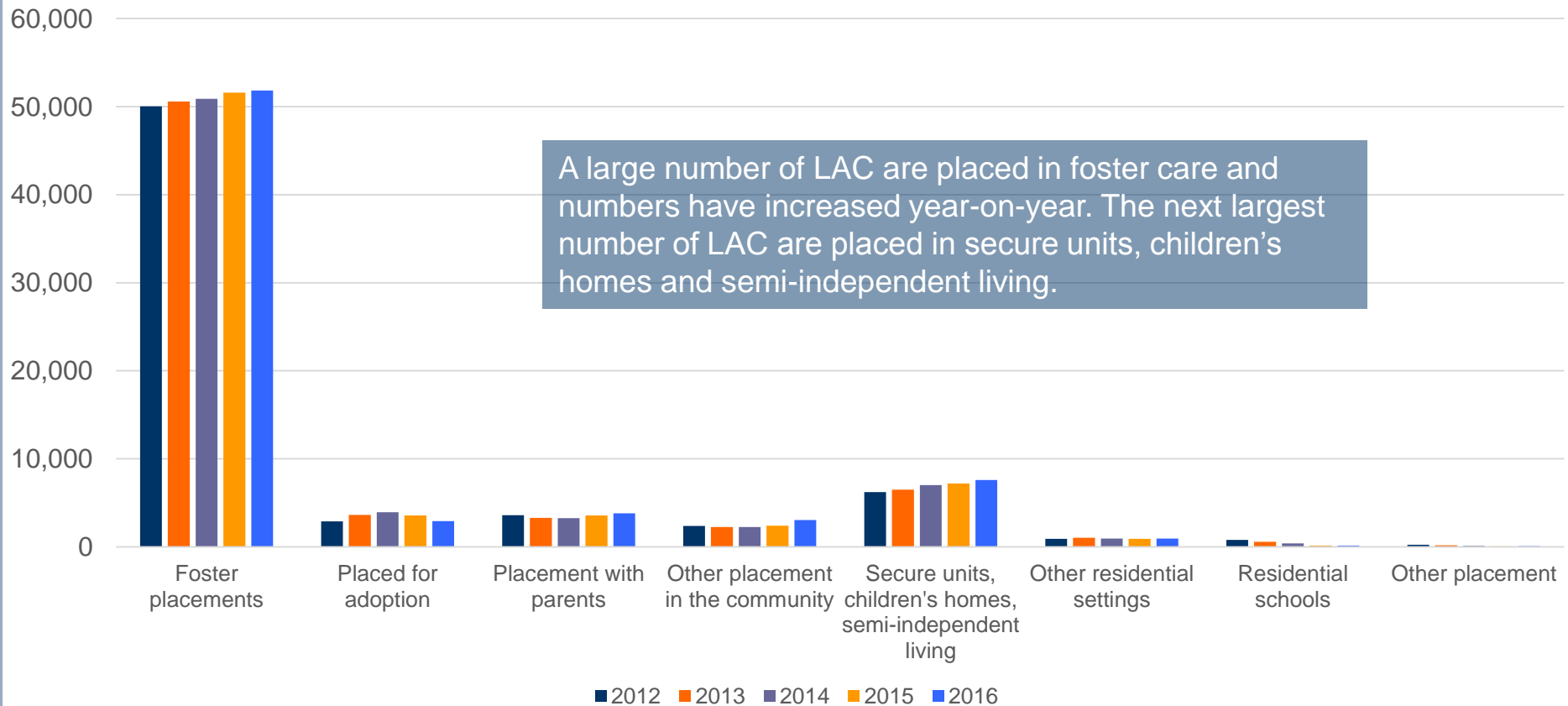
Rate of children looked after at March 31 (per 10,000 children)



Between 2012 and 2016, the number of Looked After Children at 31 March increased from 67,070 to 70,440. This represents an increase of 5.0%. Over the same period, the rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 children has remained relatively static. This suggests that the numbers of LAC have increased in line with overall increases in the child population.

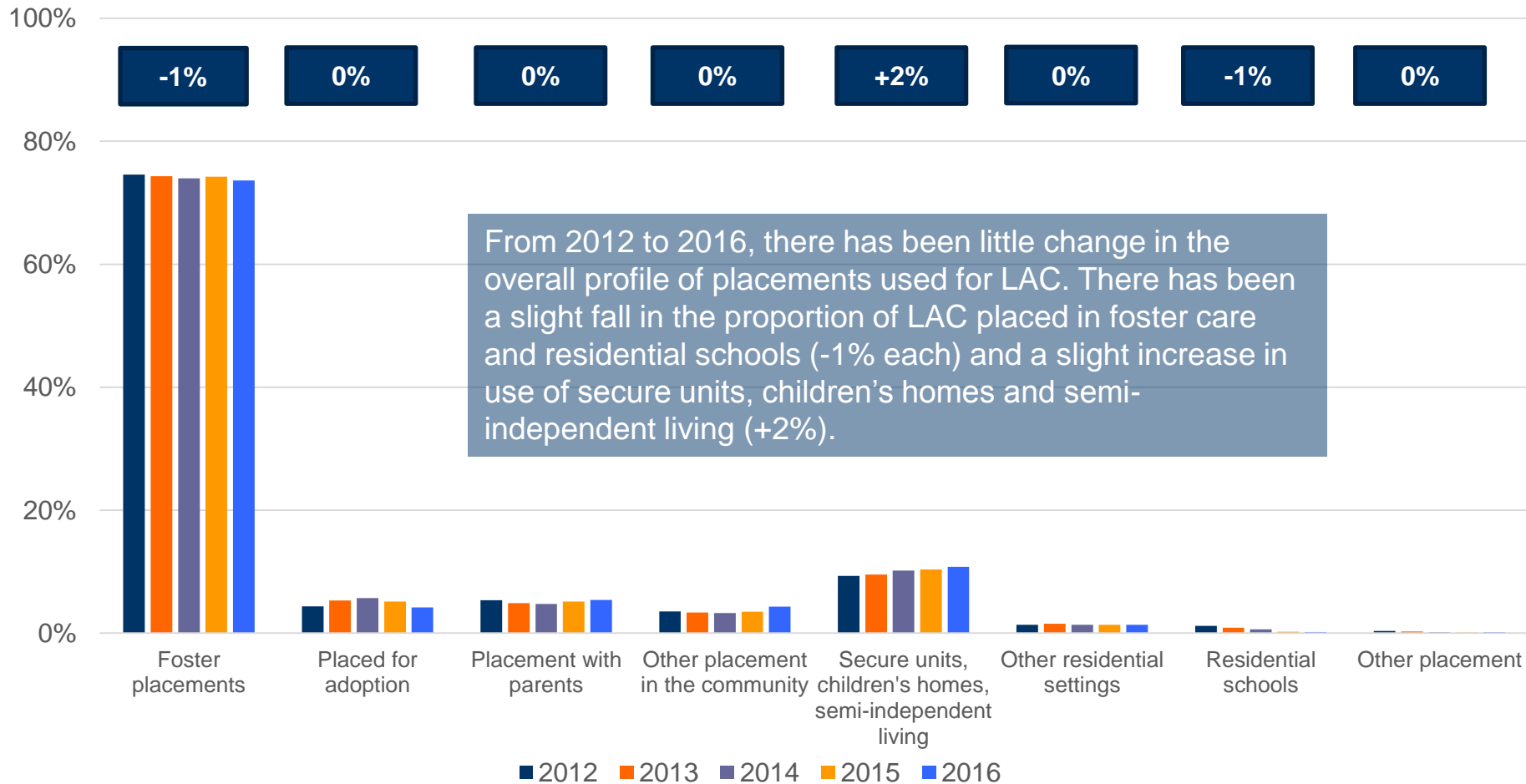
Placement of looked after children (count)

Placement type of all looked after children at March 31



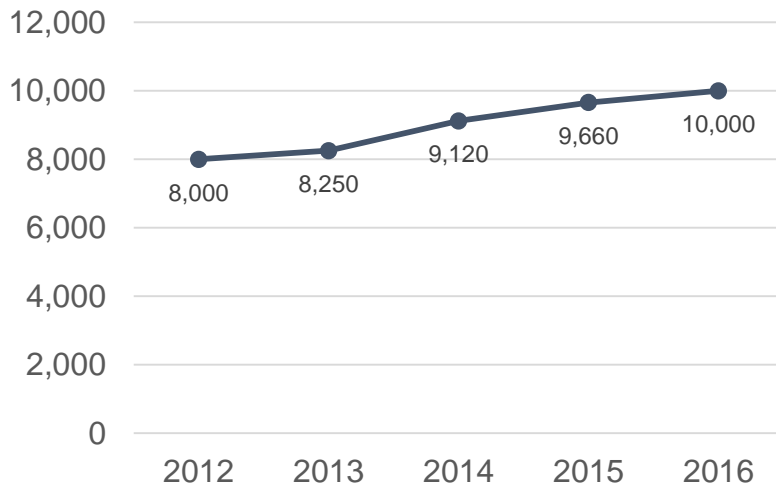
Placement of looked after children (percentage)

Placement type as a proportion of all looked after children at March 31



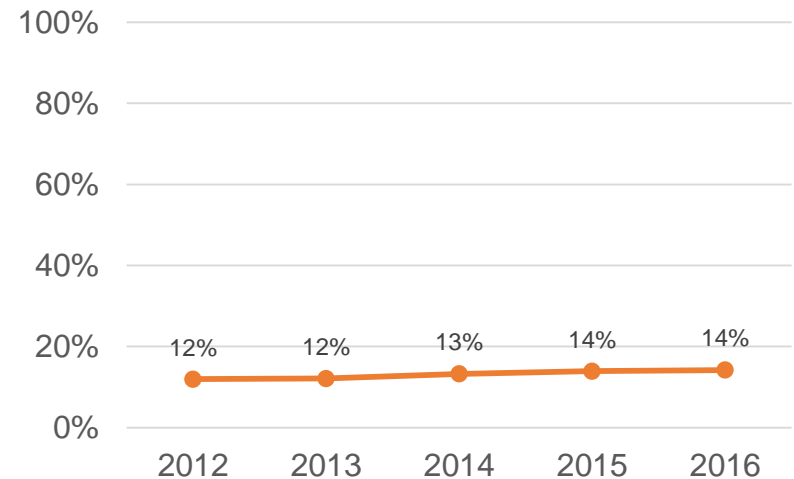
Placement of LAC 20+ miles away & outside of local authority boundary

Number of LAC placed out of LA boundary and over 20 miles from home at March 31



The number of LAC being placed more than 20 miles away and outside the local authority boundary has increased from 8,000 in 2012 to 10,000 in 2016, i.e. +25%.

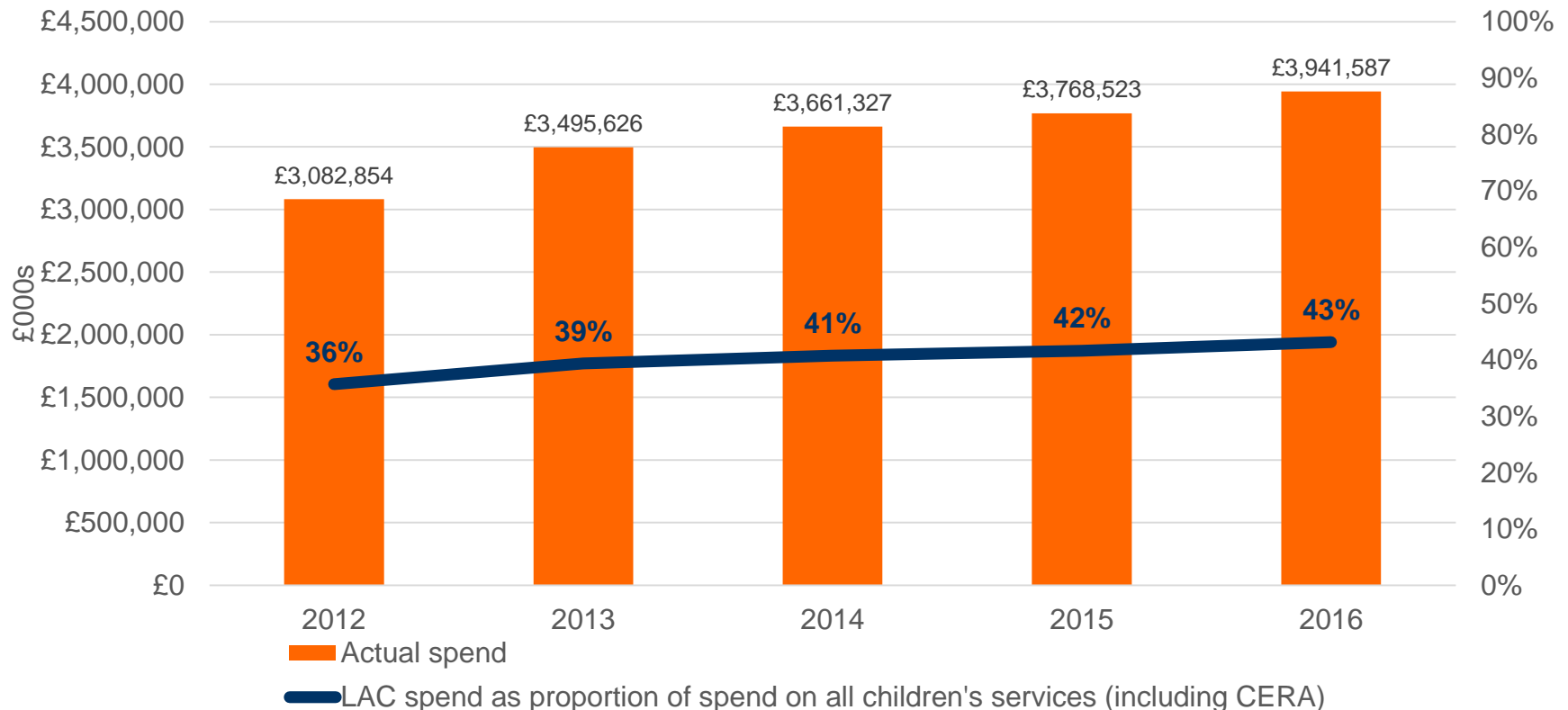
Percentage of LAC placed outside LA boundary and over 20 miles from home at March 31



However, the overall proportion of LAC placed far from home has increased only slightly, i.e. from 12% in 2012 to 14% in 2016.

Total spend on LAC

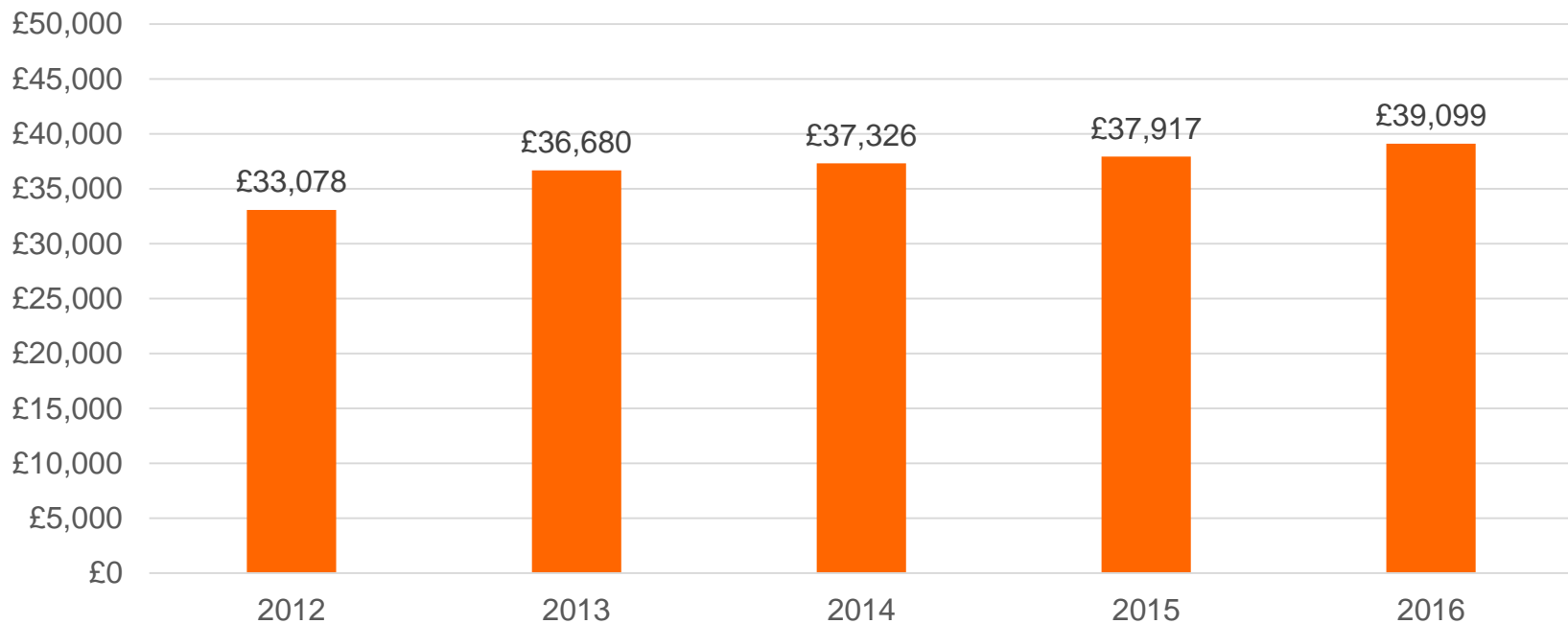
Total spend on LAC by local authorities (£000s)



Total spending by local authorities on LAC has increased year-on-year, from £3.08bn in 2012 to £3.94bn in 2016. This is an increase of +28% since 2012. CPI inflation over this period was 8%. Over this period, spending on LAC absorbed an increasing proportion of total spend on children's services, i.e. from 36% in 2012 to 43% in 2016.

Spend per looked after child

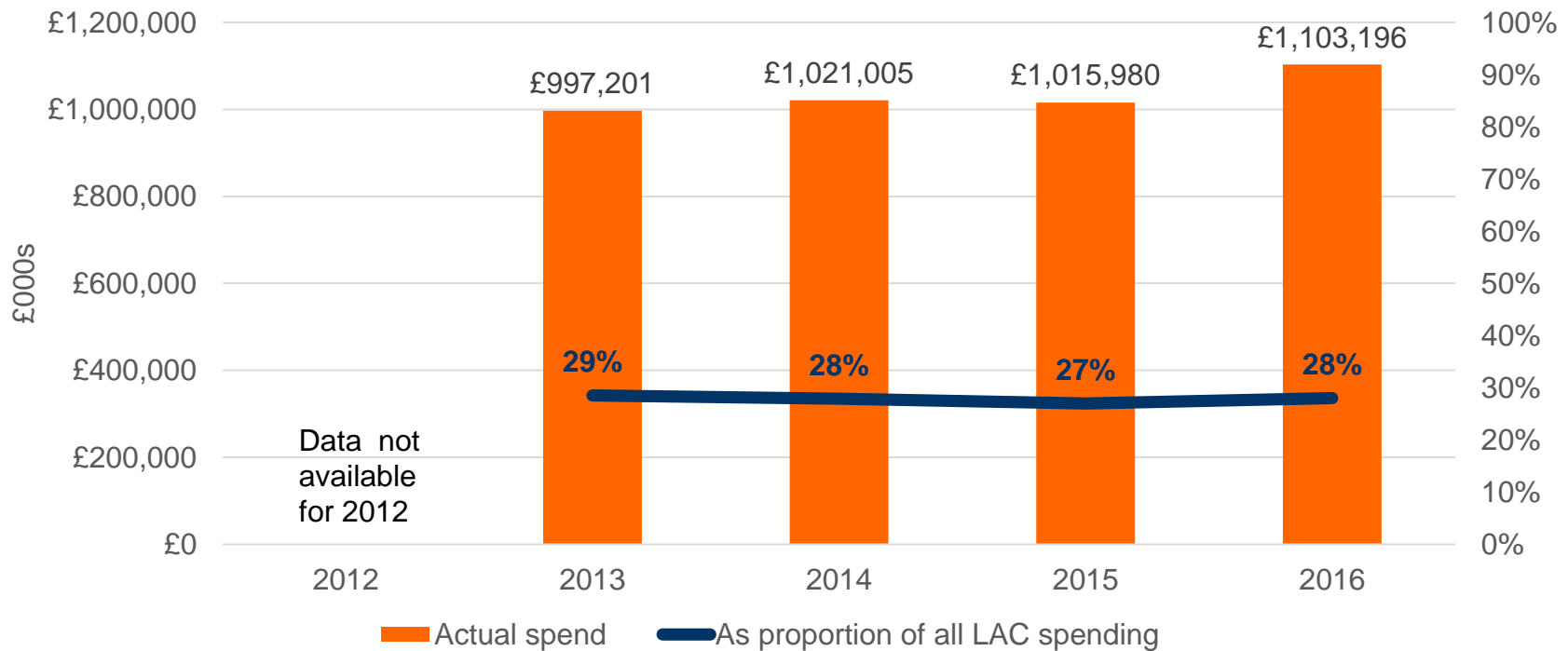
Average spend by local authorities per child looked after during the year to March 31



The average spend per looked after child has also been increasing year-on-year. The above averages are based on the total number of children looked after over the course of the year. The average has increased from £33,078 to £39,099. This represents an increase in real terms as CPI inflation over the same period was 8%.

Spend on residential care for LAC

Total spend on residential care by local authorities (£000s)



Total spend on residential care has increased from £0.99bn in 2013 to £1.10bn in 2016, i.e. +11%. CPI inflation over this period was 5%. This increase mirrors the overall increase in total LAC spend over the same period.

Summary

- The numbers of LAC are increasing in line with overall increases in the child population.
- The profile of placements is relatively static, though there has been a small increase in the proportion of LAC placed in secure units, children's homes, and semi-independent living.
- Total spend on LAC is increasing year-on-year and more than would be expected by the increase in numbers and inflation. LAC spending is also absorbing a higher percentage of the total children's services budget.
- Average spend per child looked after is also increasing year-on-year.

The Looked After Children Stress-Test

The national averages disguise substantial differences between local authorities

April 2017



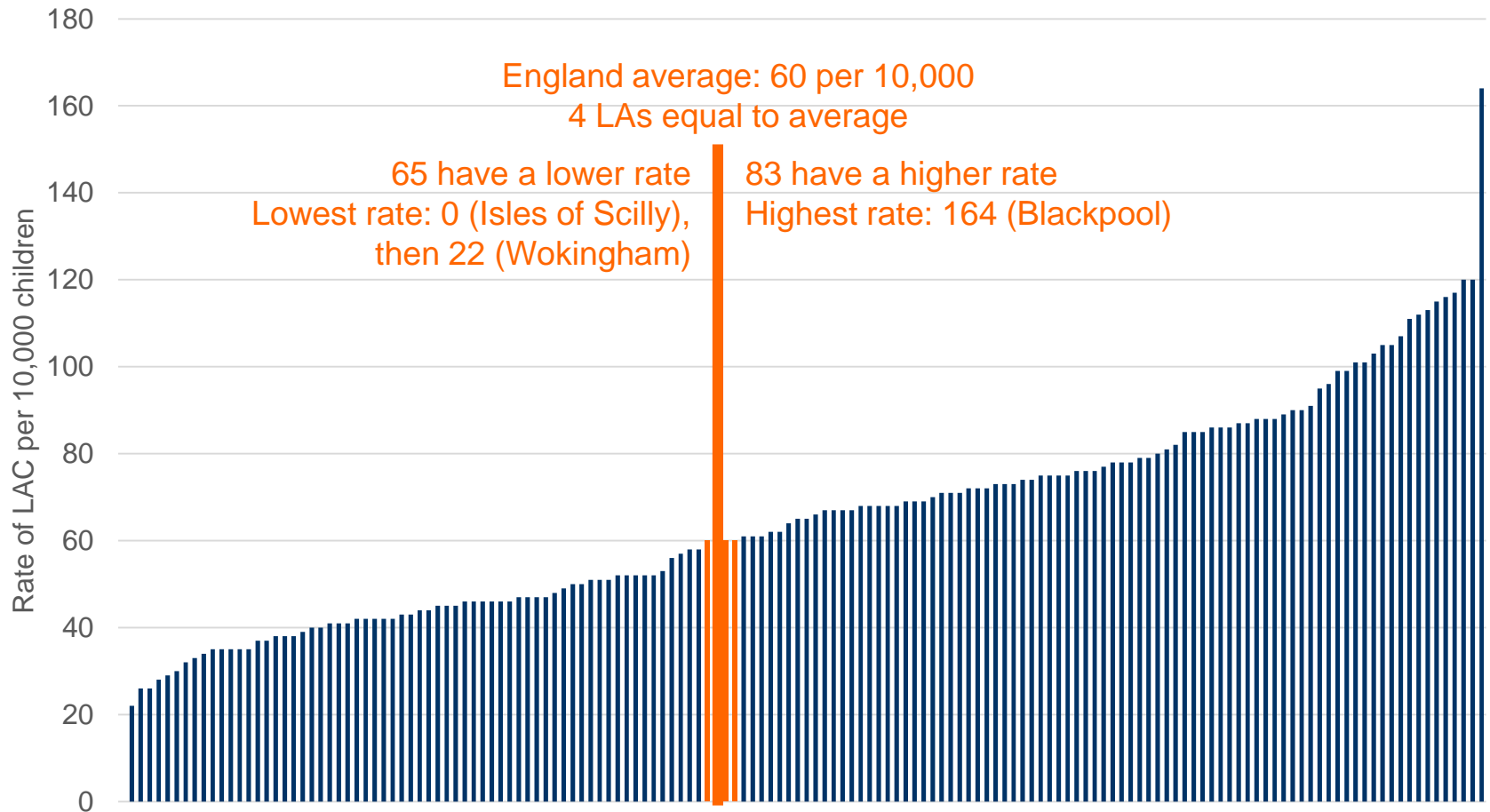
Introduction to the stress test

- The national averages presented above disguise substantial differences between local authorities in numbers, rates and spend on looked after children.
- This section examines these differences and highlights those local authorities that the data suggests might be experiencing the most challenges in catering for looked after children.
- The indicators included in the analysis are shown here.

Indicators in the stress test

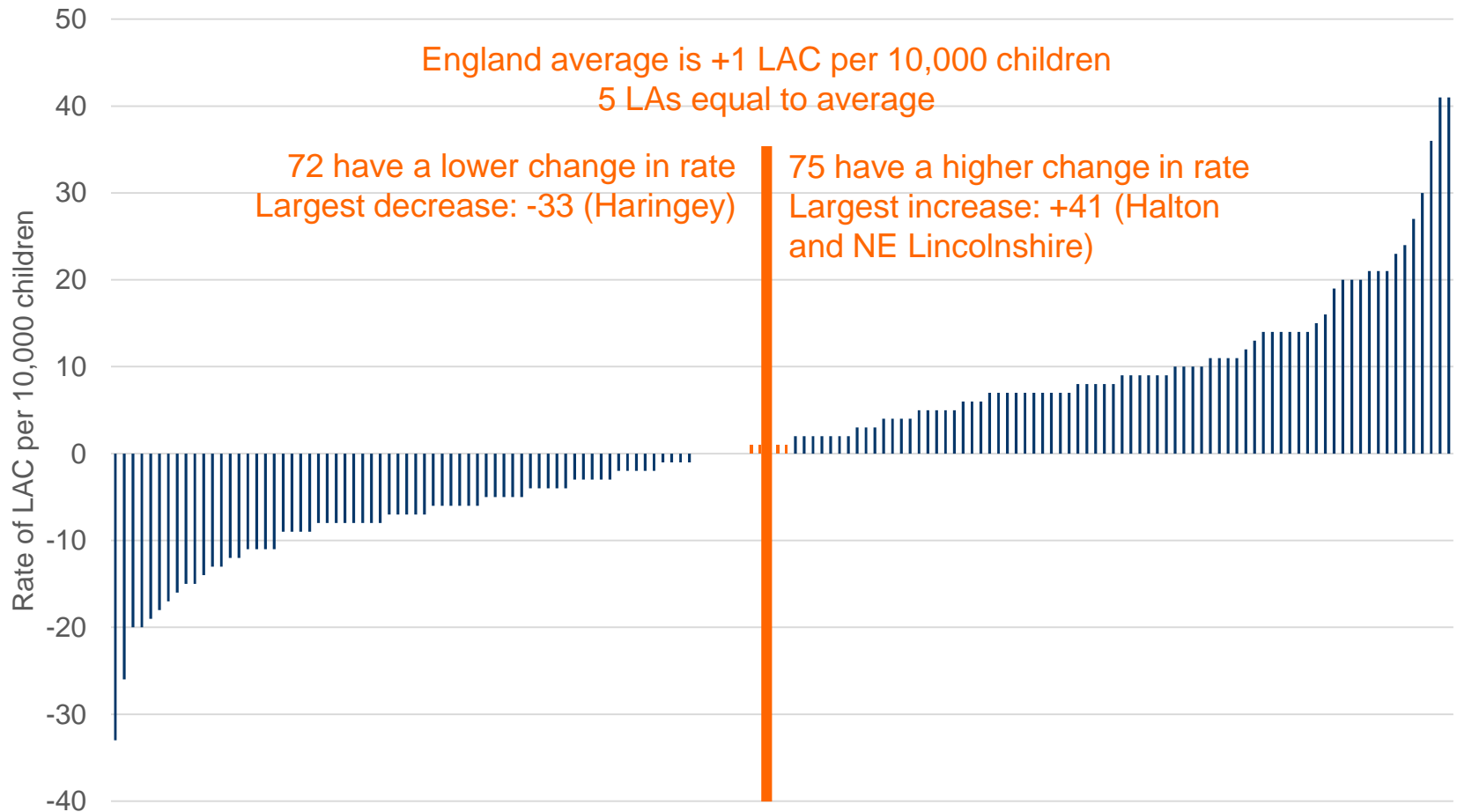
- Rate of LAC (2016)
- Change in rate of LAC (2012 – 2016)
- Percentage of LAC in residential care (2016)
- Change in percentage of LAC in residential care (2012 – 2016)
- Percentage of LAC 20 miles or more from home and outside of local authority boundary (2016)
- Change in percentage of LAC placed in residential care (2012 – 2016)
- Percentage of children's services budget spent on LAC (2016)
- Change in percentage of children's services budget spent on LAC (2012 – 2016)
- Percentage of LAC budget spent on residential care (2016)
- Change in percentage of LAC budget spent on residential care (2013 – 2016).

Rate of LAC (2016)*



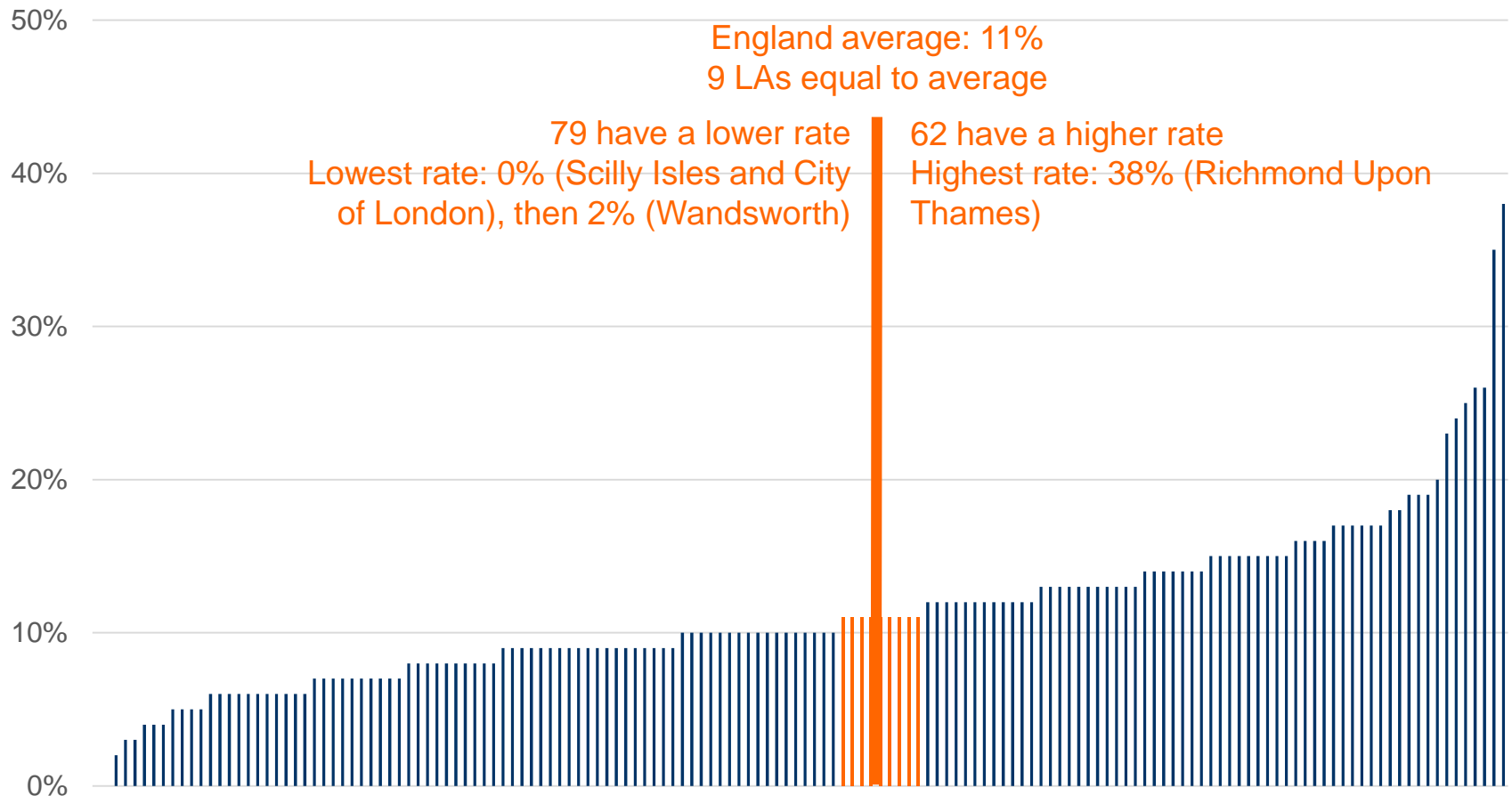
* At 31 March 2016

Change in rate of LAC (2012 – 2016)*



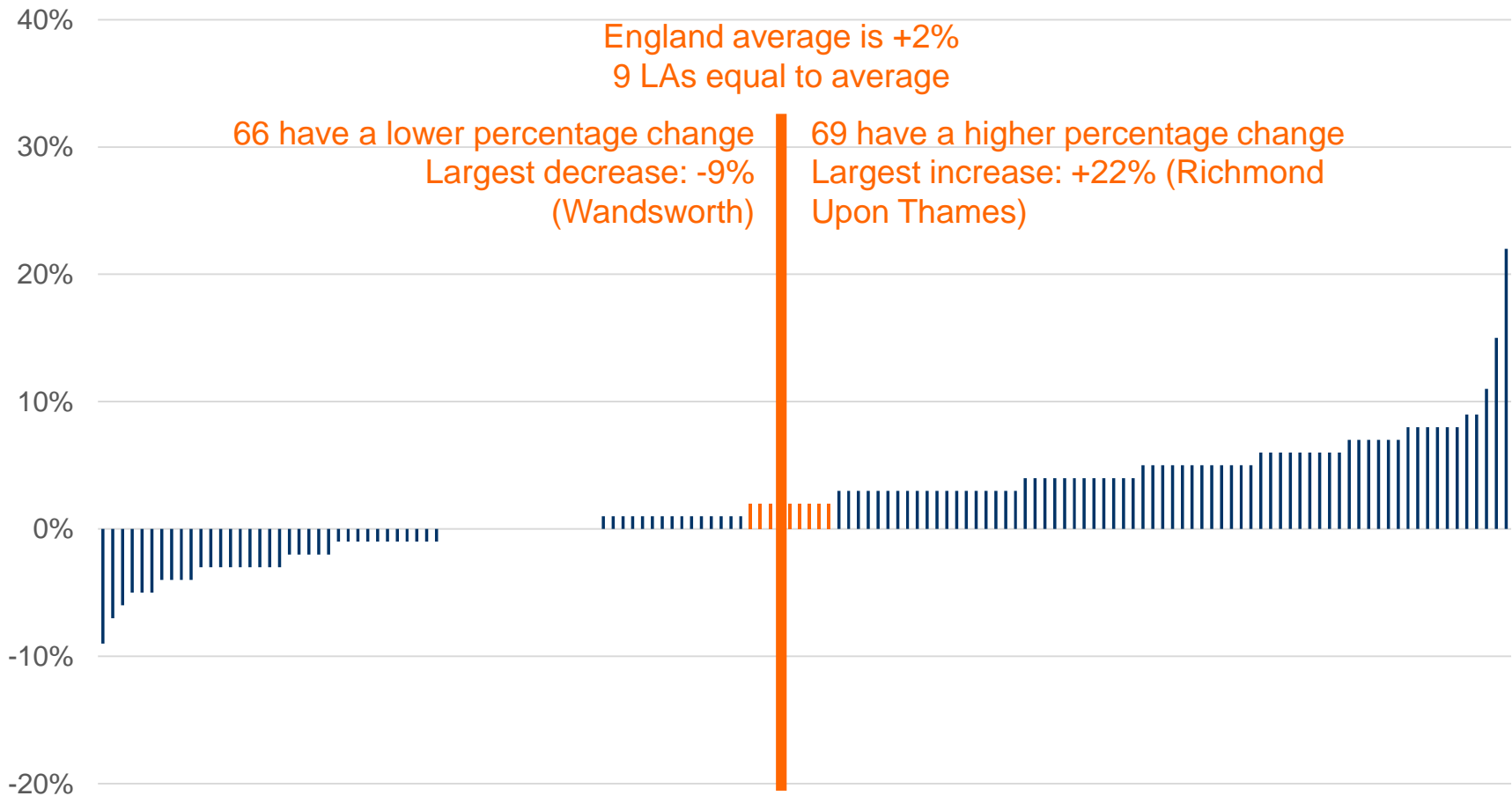
* Based on snapshot at 31 March each year

Percentage of LAC in residential care (2016)*



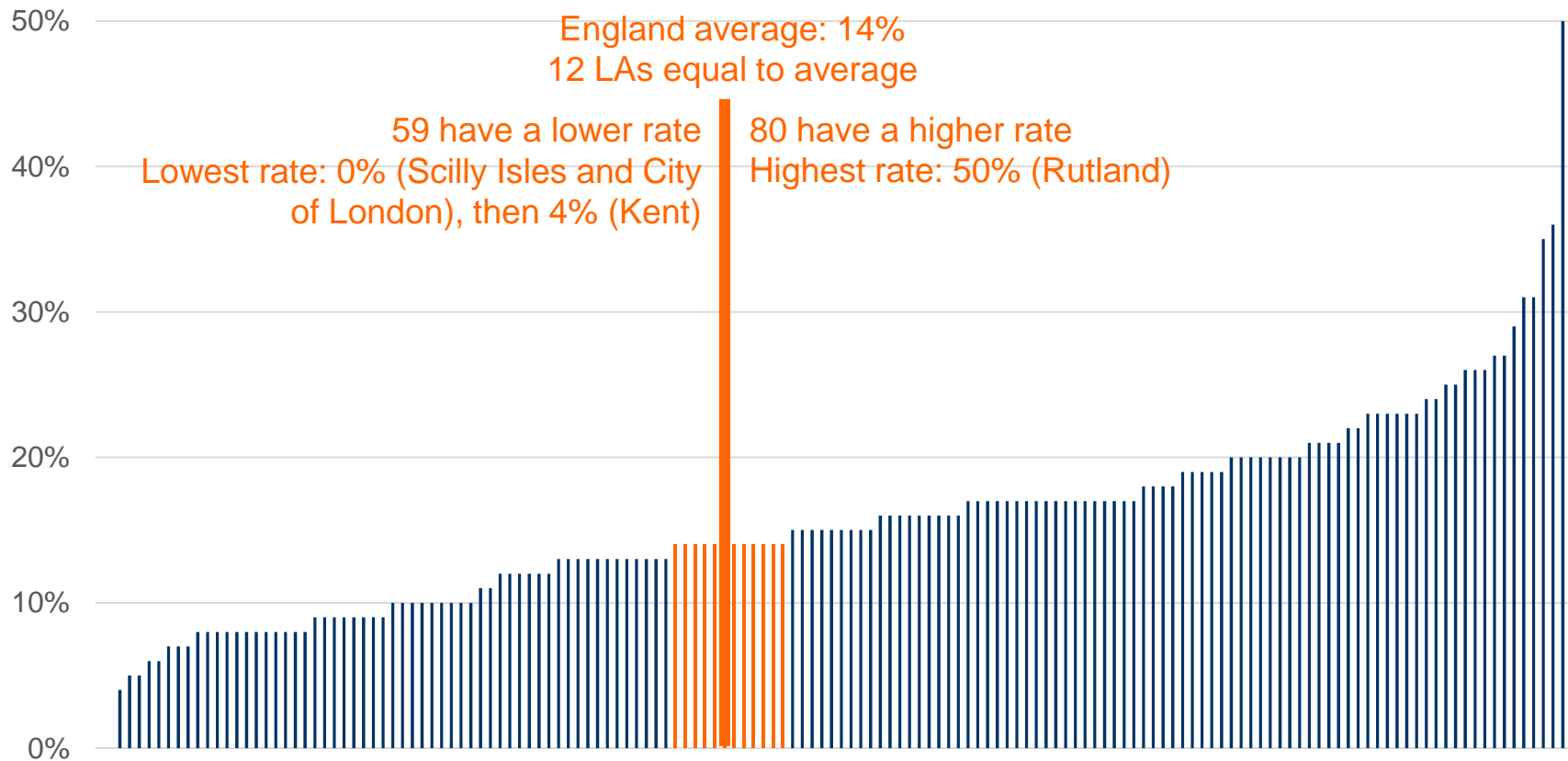
* Based on snapshot at 31 March 2016. Data missing for Rutland and West Berkshire for reasons of confidentiality.

Change in percentage of LAC in residential care (2012 – 2016)*



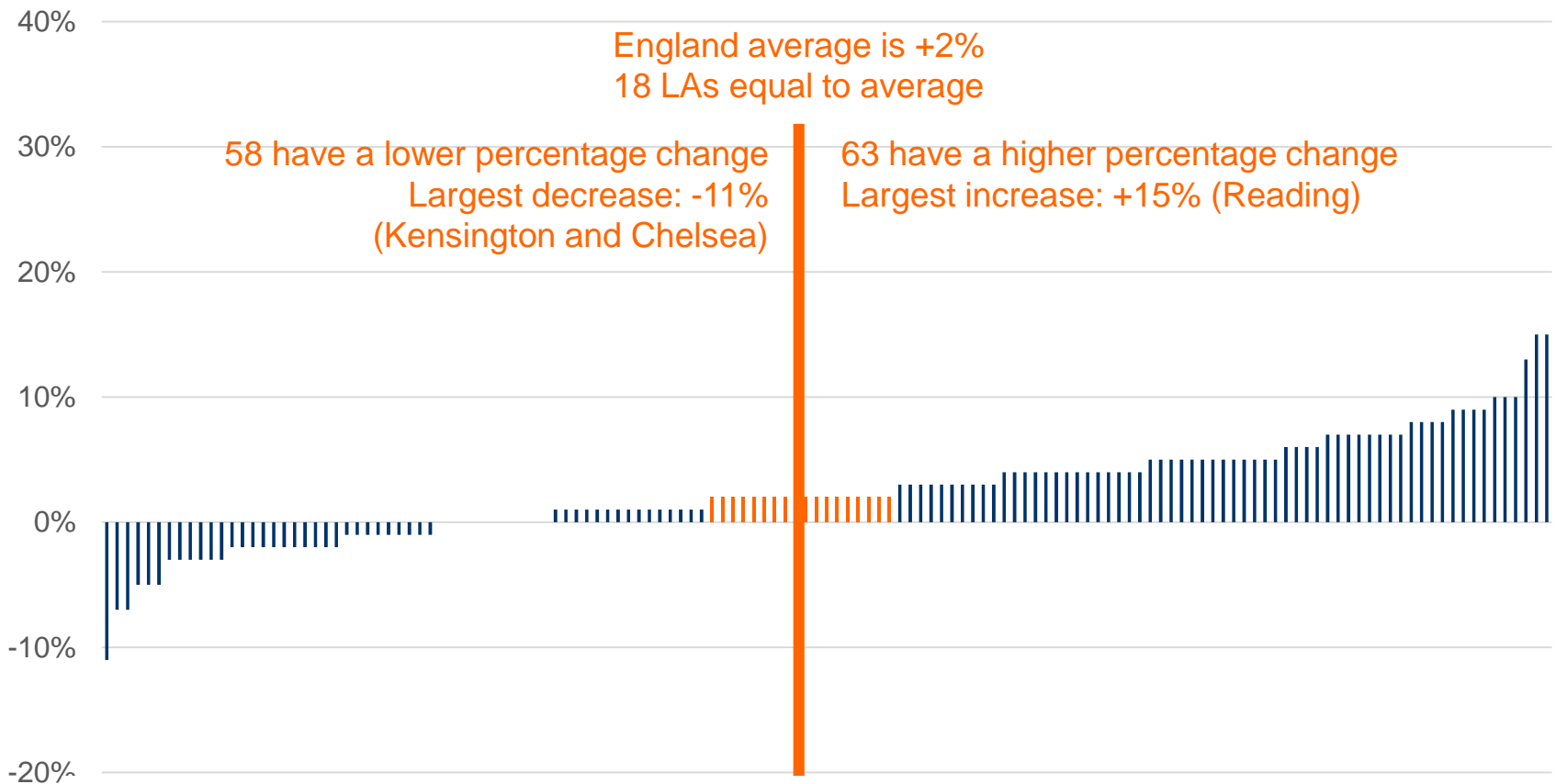
* Based on snapshot at 31 March each year. Data missing from Bath and North East Somerset, Hackney, Peterborough, Rutland, South Gloucestershire, Thurrock, West Berkshire, Wokingham.

Percentage of LAC placed 20+ miles away & outside of LA boundary (2016)*



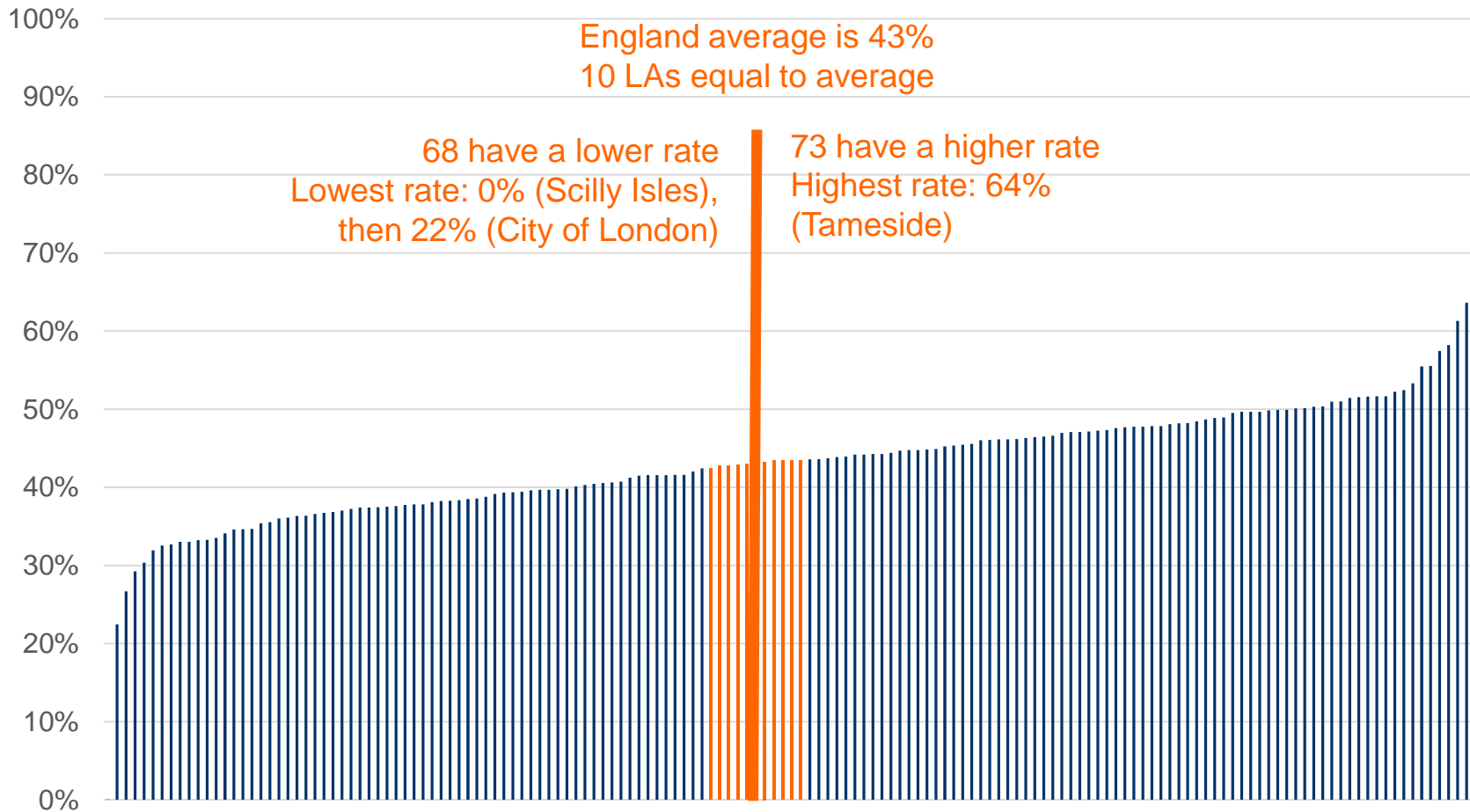
* Based on snapshot at 31 March 2016. Data missing for Bath and NE Somerset for reasons of confidentiality.

Change in percentage of LAC placed 20+ miles & outside LA boundary (2012-16)*

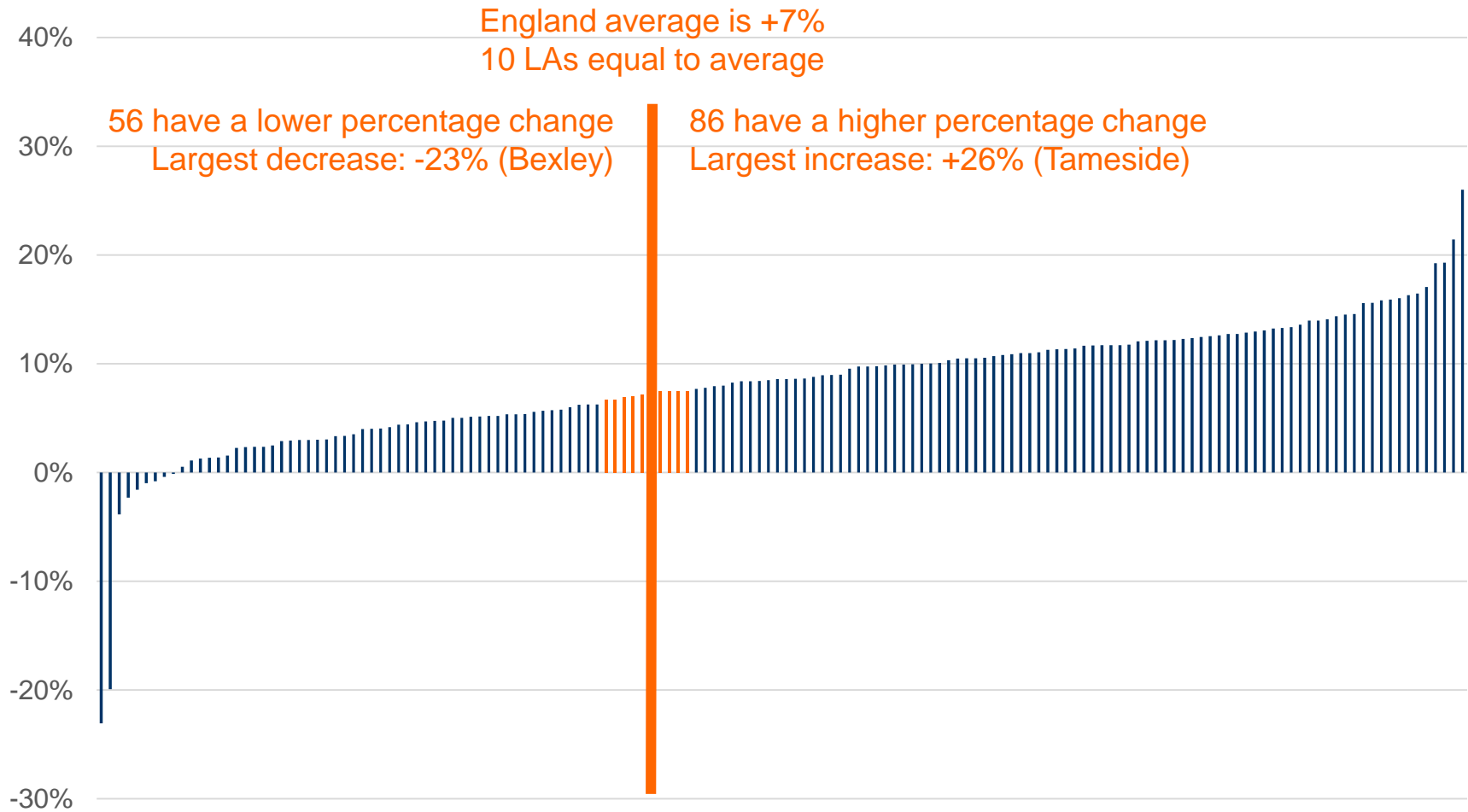


* Based on snapshot at 31 March each year. Data missing from Bolton, Bury, Darlington, Halton, Hartlepool, Merton, North Tyneside, Oldham, Richmond Upon Thames, Rutland, Stockport and Sutton for confidentiality reasons.

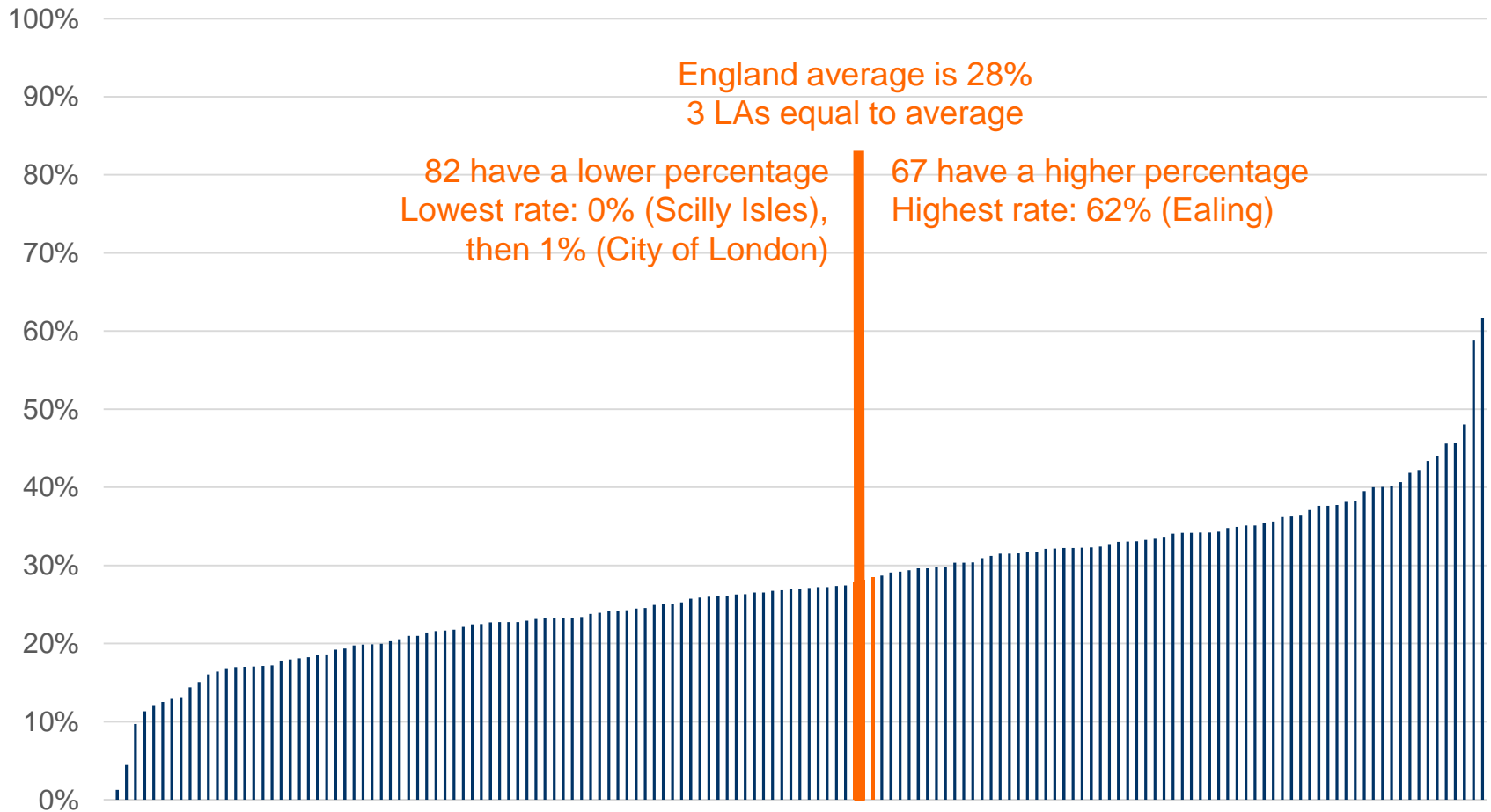
Percentage of children's services budget spent on LAC (2016)



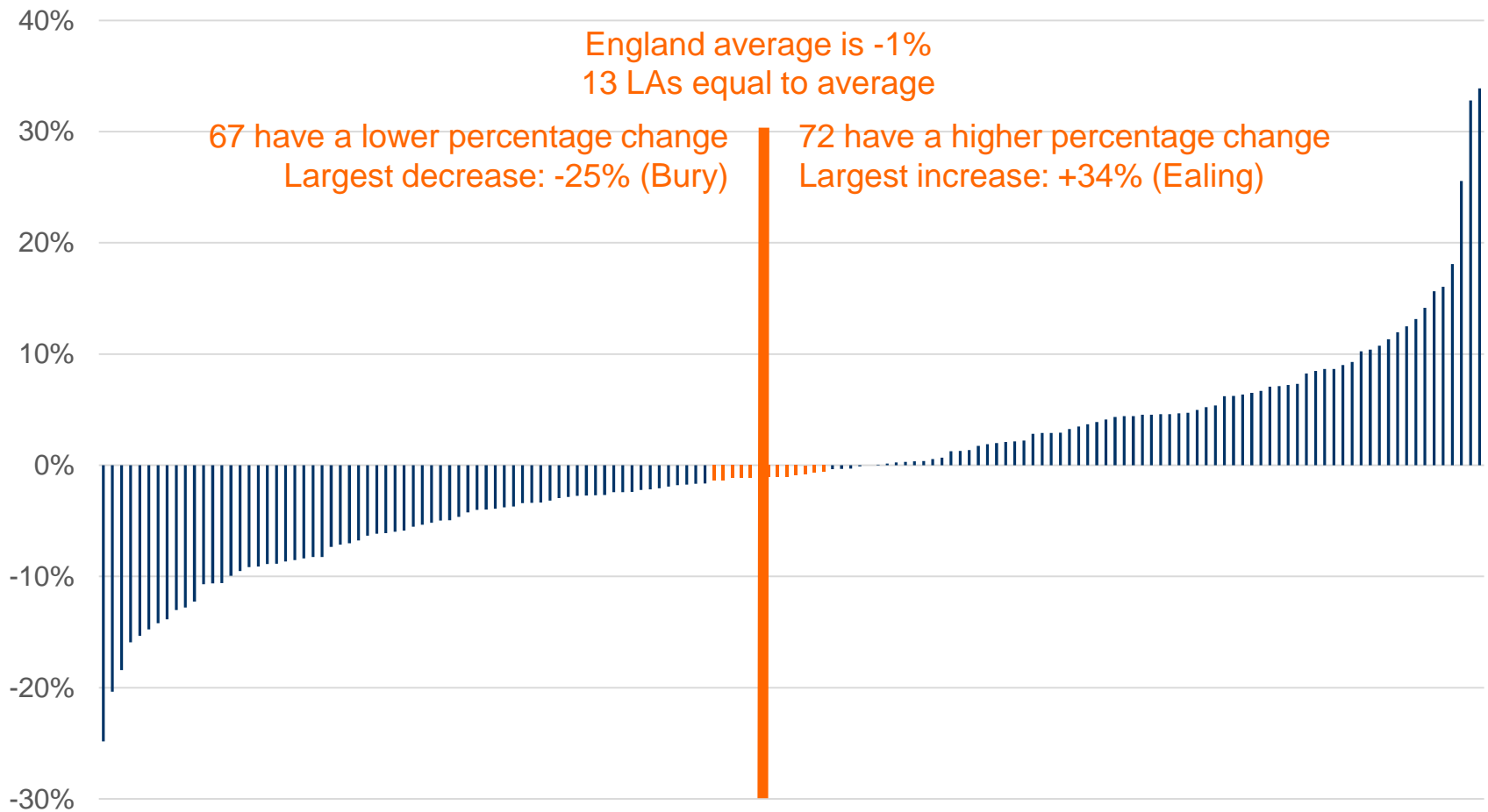
Change in percentage of children's services budget spent on LAC (2012-16)



Percentage of LAC budget spent on residential care (2016)



Change in percentage of LAC budget spent on residential care (2013 - 2016)



Top 20 'most stressed' local authorities

- The tables overleaf show the 20 'most stressed' local authorities for each indicator.
- The final slide consolidates all of this information to show those local authorities which feature in at least three 'top 20' indicators. This may indicate those local authorities are feeling 'most stressed' in relation to looked after children.

20 most “stressed” local authorities

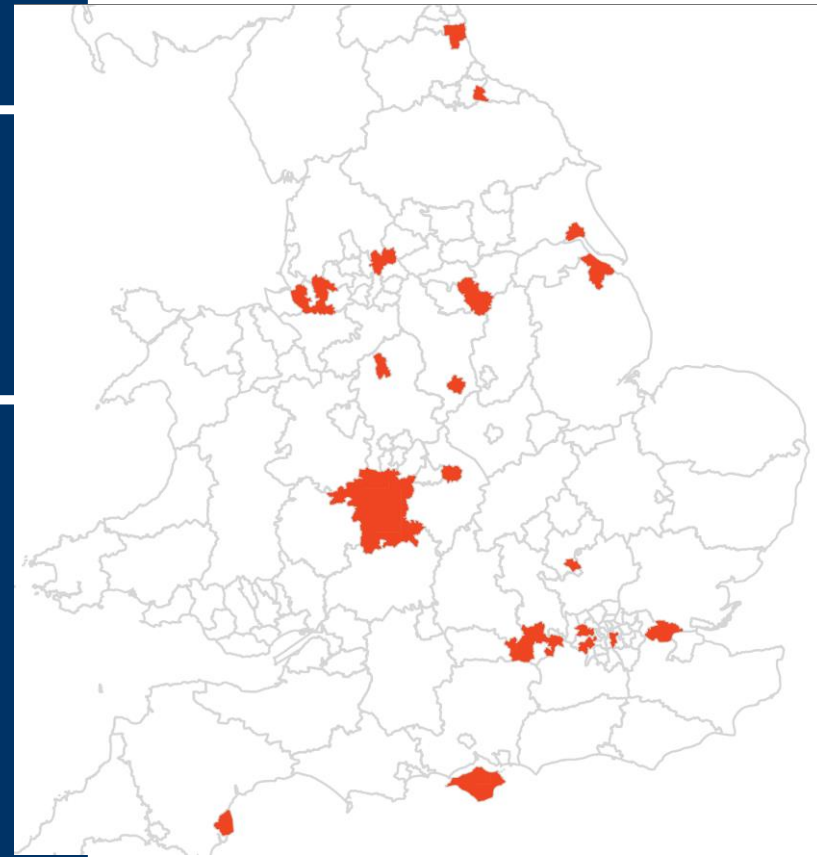
Rate of LAC		Residential care		20 miles out of LA	
Rate	Change in rate	%	Change in %	%	Change in %
Blackpool	Halton	Richmond Upon	Richmond Upon	Rutland	Cumbria
Middlesbrough	North East	Thames	Thames	Wokingham	Reading
Southampton	Lincolnshire	Camden	Camden	Reading	Greenwich
Stoke-On-Trent	Stoke-On-Trent	Barnet	Windsor and	Buckinghamshire	Bracknell Forest
Kingston Upon Hull,	Sunderland	Merton	Maidenhead	Greenwich	Luton
City of	Southampton	Brent	Barnet	Bracknell Forest	North East
Liverpool	Warrington	Kensington and	North Tyneside	Slough	Lincolnshire
St Helens	Dorset	Chelsea	Bury	Windsor and	Blackpool
Wolverhampton	Herefordshire	West Sussex	Islington	Maidenhead	Coventry
Torbay	Isle Of Wight	Havering	Kingston Upon	Cambridgeshire	Somerset
Dudley	St Helens	Cambridgeshire	Thames	Luton	Warwickshire
Hartlepool	Hartlepool	Haringey	Lewisham	West Berkshire	Bournemouth
Manchester	Northumberland	Waltham Forest	Luton	Derby	Nottinghamshire
Salford	Thurrock	Ealing	Poole	Torbay	Wakefield
City Of London	Walsall	Windsor and	Bexley	Southwark	Wokingham
Sunderland	Rutland	Maidenhead	Derbyshire	Wandsworth	Derby
South Tyneside	Cheshire West and	Coventry	Kent	Coventry	Medway Towns
Wirral	Chester	Hackney	Merton	Cumbria	Rotherham
Walsall	Lancashire	Harrow	Torbay	North Somerset	Southwark
Rochdale	Oldham	Islington	West Sussex	Richmond Upon	Wandsworth
Blackburn	Sefton	North East	Oxfordshire	Thames	West Berkshire
	Sutton	Lincolnshire	South Tyneside	Surrey	
		Worcestershire	Southwark		
		Oxfordshire			

20 most “stressed” local authorities

% of children’s services budget spent on LAC		% of LAC budget spent on residential care	
%	Change in %	%	Change in %
Tameside	Tameside	Ealing	Ealing
Peterborough	Nottingham	Worcestershire	Halton
Middlesbrough	Thurrock	Shropshire	Worcestershire
Dudley	Halton	Halton	Central Bedfordshire
St Helens	North East	Middlesbrough	Barking and
Nottingham	Lincolnshire	Leicester	Dagenham
Derby	Rochdale	Stockton-On-Tees	Medway Towns
Stockton-On-Tees	Hampshire	Wokingham	Bexley
Stoke-On-Trent	Plymouth	Kingston Upon Hull,	Darlington
Hampshire	Peterborough	City of	Rotherham
Shropshire	Portsmouth	Darlington	Poole
Reading	Cheshire West and	Bournemouth	Leicestershire
Liverpool	Chester	Sefton	Sutton
Wolverhampton	Liverpool	Rotherham	Warwickshire
Thurrock	St Helens	Warrington	Richmond Upon
Kingston Upon	Slough	North Tyneside	Thames
Hull, City of	Sunderland	North East	Buckinghamshire
Lewisham	Milton Keynes	Lincolnshire	St Helens
Hillingdon	Ealing	Dorset	Luton
Ealing	Isle Of Wight	Derby	Southwark
Rochdale	Wirral	Isle Of Wight	Torbay
	Wigan	Coventry	Gloucestershire

20 most “stressed” local authorities: overview

- Five indicators
 - Ealing
 - North East Lincolnshire
 - St Helens
- Four indicators
 - Coventry
 - Derby
 - Halton
 - Luton
 - Richmond Upon Thames
 - Southwark
 - Torbay
- Three indicators
 - Hull
 - Isle Of Wight
 - Liverpool
 - Middlesbrough
 - Reading
 - Rochdale
 - Rotherham
 - Stoke-On-Trent
 - Sunderland
 - Thurrock
 - Windsor and Maidenhead
 - Wokingham
 - Worcestershire





CordisBright Limited

23/24 Smithfield Street, London EC1A 9LF

Telephone	020 7330 9170
Email	info@cordisbright.co.uk
Internet	www.cordisbright.co.uk