



Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2008/09

Statistical Bulletin

This bulletin presents findings from the latest survey of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more at 30 September 2009. It details analyses relating to educational attainment at Key Stage assessments and GCSE/GNVQ, health, current activity, cautions and convictions.

Key Findings

- At 30 September 2009, 1653 children and young people had been looked after continuously for 12 months or longer in Northern Ireland; of which, 52% were boys and 48% were girls; 97% were White, and 13% were Disabled.
- Over three quarters (77%) of children were of school age; 24% had a statement of Special Educational Need, 1% had a permanent exclusion, 8% had been suspended from school, and 10% had missed at least 25 school days within the relevant academic year.
- During 2008/09, approximately two thirds of children eligible for assessment at Key Stage 1, attained Level 2 or above. In English (63%) and in Maths (70%); equivalent figures for the general school population were 95% for both English and Maths.
- For Key Stage 2 assessments, 34% and 37% of eligible children attained Level 4 or above, in English and Maths respectively. General school population figures were 80% and 81% respectively.
- At Key Stage 3, over one quarter of children eligible to be tested achieved Level 5 or above, in English (27%) and in Maths (27%). For the general school population the equivalent figures were 83% and 81% respectively.
- In 2008/09, 61% of looked after children attained at least one GCSE/GNVQ at grades A* to G, an increase of 11 percentage points from 2007/08. This compared with 99% of the general school population and 68% of looked after children in England.
- Just under one in ten (9%) children aged 10 & over had been cautioned or convicted of an offence whilst in care during the year ending 30 September 2009.

Theme

Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2008/09

Issued by

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Reader Information

Document Purpose	For information
Authors	Manny Fitzpatrick, Nicola Fisher, Iain Waugh
Publication Date	30 September 2010
Target Audience	Directors of Children's services, Chief Executives of Boards and HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland, health care professionals, academics and social care stakeholders.
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Internet address	http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/stats-cib_pubs.htm
Price	FREE

About CIB

The purpose of Community Information Branch is to promote effective decision making in children and adult social services by providing quality information and analysis. We collect, analyse, and disseminate a wide range of community information that is used to help monitor the delivery of personal social services policy. Information collected by CIB is used to assess HSC Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, policy evaluation, and to respond to parliamentary / assembly questions. Information is widely disseminated through a number of regular key statistical publications and ad hoc reports details of which are available by clicking on the link below.

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/stats-cib_pubs.htm

Our Vision and Values

Community Information Branch aims to:

- Provide up-to-date, quality information on children and adult social services and community health;
- to disseminate findings widely with a view to stimulating debate, promoting effective decision-making and improvement in service provision; and
- be an expert voice on social care information

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Technical Notes

Data Collection

The information presented in this bulletin derives from the fifth 'OC2' survey of looked after children in Northern Ireland. Survey returns were provided by each of the five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland to Community Information Branch in the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety.

For inclusion in OC2, children had to be looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2009. Children looked after under an agreed series of respite placements were excluded from the survey,

OC2 collects a range of information on looked after children including, educational attainment, economic activity, criminal convictions, sex, age, religion, ethnicity, disability, placement and health assessments.

OC2, together with its companion surveys OC1 (care leavers aged 16 - 18) and OC3 (care leavers at their 19th birthday), provides a comprehensive series of data on looked after children in Northern Ireland.

To put some figures within their wider social context, comparative information with, for example, the general school population and looked after children in other countries in the United Kingdom are included where possible.

Users of these statistics find such comparisons interesting; though it should be stressed these are not like-for-like comparisons and may simply reflect variations between different cohorts of children.

The reference period for the present survey was 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009. This is distinctly different from other statistical collections by the DHSSPS, which are based on the year ending 31st March. The period chosen for OC2 is designed to cover the academic school year.

OC2 in part is longitudinal with one record for each looked after child eligible for inclusion in the survey. Information is entered online by nominated HSC Trust staff using a secure web-based application. Records are anonymised to ensure confidentiality and to protect the identities of individual children.

Guidance notes and other documents associated with the OC2 survey are available to view or download from the DHSSPS website:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-work_areas/statistics_and_research-cib-childsurveys.htm

Rounding/Disclosure Conventions

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100.

It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item.

Data Changes

Additional placement codes were included in the OC2 survey from 2005/06 onward, i.e. secure accommodation, kinship and non-kinship foster care etc.

Data Quality

All information submitted by HSC Trusts was validated at the point of entry, where Trust staff correct or amend data as required, and provide appropriate explanations if information is missing. CIB perform further checks, using historical data to monitor annual variations and emerging trends.

A detailed quality report for children's community statistics is available on our website at:
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/quality_report_for_childrens_statistics-3.pdf

Main Uses of Data

The main uses of these data are to monitor the delivery of social care services to children, to help assess Trust performance, corporate monitoring, to inform and monitor related policy, and to respond to parliamentary / assembly questions.

Related Publications

Details of statistics on looked after children published by other countries in the UK (United Kingdom) can be found as detailed below.

Scotland

Children Looked After Statistics are produced annually by the Scottish Government. The most recent were published on 24 February 2010, and are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/22133946/0>

Wales

Statistics on Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in Wales are produced annually by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government. Data for the period up to the end of March 2009 are due to be released in September 2010:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2009/hdw200908262/?lang=en>

England

Statistics on Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2009 in England are produced annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. Figures for the year were published on 21 April 2010, and are available at:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000930/index.shtml>

Please note: comparisons with Key Stage 3 Assessments in England are no longer possible as the Department of Education no longer collects information on these assessments.

A National Statistics Publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

If you have any comments on this publication, please complete our questionnaire at the following link:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib-3/statistics_and_research-user_engagement.htm

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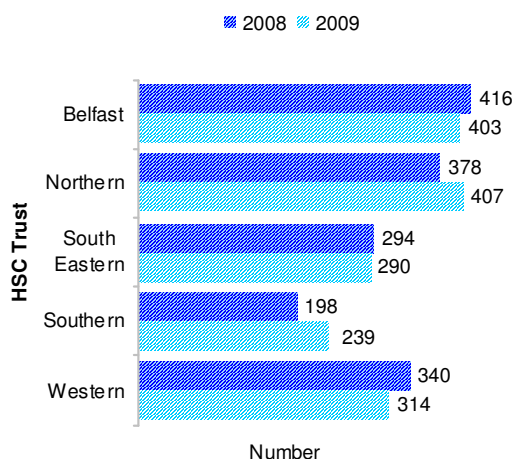
Background Information

Trust Profile

At 30 September 2009, 1,653 children and young people had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months in Northern Ireland; a rate of 39 children per 10,000-population aged under 18¹. Compared with 2008, the numbers of children looked after for at least 12 months increased by 2% (27), from 1,626 in 2008 to 1,653 in 2009.

Figure 1.1 details the number of children and young people looked after continuously for at least 12 months by HSC Trust, at 30 September, 2008 and 2009.

Figure 1.1: Number of Children Looked After Continuously for at Least 12 Months at 30 September (2008 - 2009), by HSC Trust



The distribution of children by HSC Trust for 2009 indicated that 24% (403) were in Belfast HSC Trust, with 25% (407) in the Northern HSC Trust, 19% (314) in the Western HSC Trust, 18% (290) in the South Eastern HSC Trust, and 15% (239) in the Southern HSC Trust.

¹ NISRA Estimated Population 30 June 2009.

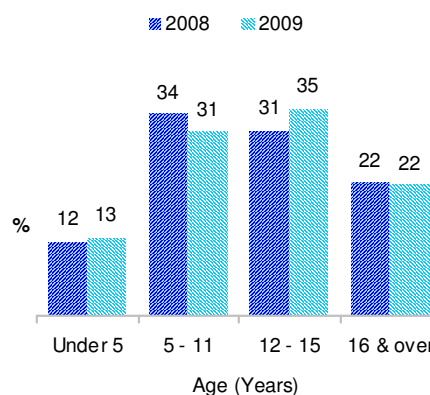
Gender

At 30 September 2009, 52% of looked after children were male and 48% were female; the same proportion as in 2008.

Age

In 2009, 31% of children were aged 5-11, 35% were aged 12-15, 22% were aged 16 & over, and 13% were under 5 years old (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Age Profile (2008 - 2009)



Religion

There was a slightly higher proportion of Catholic (49%) than Protestant (47%) children in 2009, with 72 (4%) reported as having either 'No', 'Unknown' or 'Other' religious denomination.

The relative proportion of children in terms of religious background has changed slightly compared with 2008, when there was a slightly higher proportion of Protestant (50%) than Catholic (47%) children looked after.

Ethnicity

The ethnic grouping of children in 2009 indicated that 97% (1,598) were White, and of the remaining 3% (55): 18 were of Mixed ethnic background, 14 were Irish Traveller, and 23 were of Other Ethnic backgrounds.

Disability

Trusts were asked to indicate if children were disabled in accordance with the definition below:

“The child has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”.

Using this definition, over 1 in 8 (13%) children were reported as disabled in 2009, the same as in 2008.

As in 2008, a higher proportion of boys (15%) than girls (11%) were disabled.

Dependants

A question on dependants has always been included in the OC2 survey. Having dependants whilst in care may impact on educational outcomes for young people; in 2009, 7 young people had one or more dependants, the same as in 2008.

Placement

At 30 September 2009, 71% of children were placed in foster care¹, 14% were placed with family, 9% were in residential care, and 5% were in other² placement types.

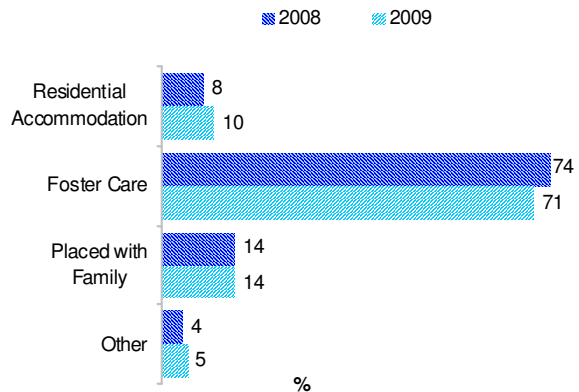
Of the 1,180 children and young people placed in foster care, 64% (755) were non-kinship foster placements, 32% (377) were kinship foster placements, with 4% (48) placed for adoption.

¹ Foster Care includes children placed for adoption.

² Other placement types include; supported accommodation, hospital, friends/family, shared care, assessment centres, and other.

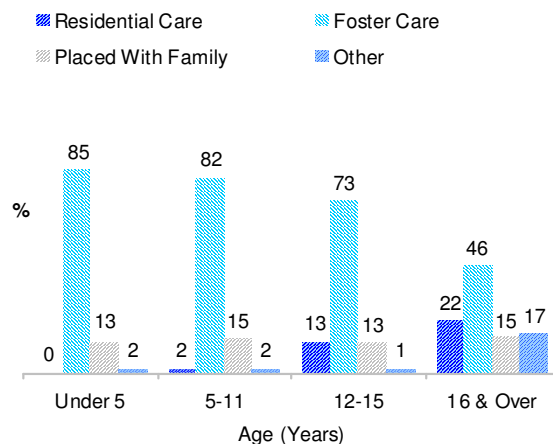
Since 2007/08, the proportion of children in residential accommodation increased by two percentage points, to 10% in 2009, whilst the proportion of children in foster care decreased by three percentage points, from 74% in 2008 to 71% in 2009 (Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2: Placement of Children (2008 - 2009)



As in 2008, children aged under 12 were more likely to be in foster care than older children, whereas children aged 12 & over were more likely than younger children to be in residential care. Older children (16 & over) were more likely than younger children to be in Other³ placement types (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Placement of Children by Age (2008/09)



³ Other placement types include; supported accommodation, hospital, friends/family, shared care, assessment centres, and other.

Over half (53%) those children in 'Other' placement types were male, and of all children in Other placement types:

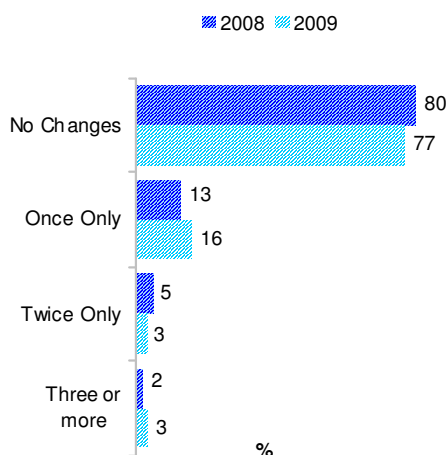
- 47% were in supported accommodation;
- 19% were in Assessment centres, community placements or boarding schools;
- 6% were in hospital; and
- 5% were in shared care;
- 23% various 'Other' placements

Placement Changes

Almost one quarter (23%) of all children had changed placements at least once during the year ending 30 September 2009; 16% once only, 3% twice only, and 3% had changed placement three times or more.

When compared with 2008, there was a 3 percentage point decrease in the proportion of children who had no placement change during 2009 (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4: Placement Changes during the Year ending 30 September (2008 - 2009)



General Education

Compulsory School Age

For the 2009 survey, compulsory school age refers to all children whose date of birth fell on or between 2/7/1992 and 1/7/2004, whether or not the child was in a position to attend school, i.e. any child who received or should have received full-time schooling during the school year.

Of those children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2009, 78% (1,282) were of compulsory school age, compared with 73% in 2008. Similar proportions of girls (77%) and boys (78%) were of compulsory school age in 2009.

Children who have statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which requires special educational provision. Learning difficulty means the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of similar age, and/or has a disability which hinders using everyday educational facilities (or, where the child is below school age, would hinder such use if the child were of school age). Special educational provision is different from, or additional to, that made for children of comparable age. Further information is provided in the Code of Practice¹ on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs (SEN) published by DENI.

Almost a quarter of children looked after in 2009 (24%), had been covered by a statement of SEN, compared with 27% in England², and 4% of the general school population in Northern Ireland³.

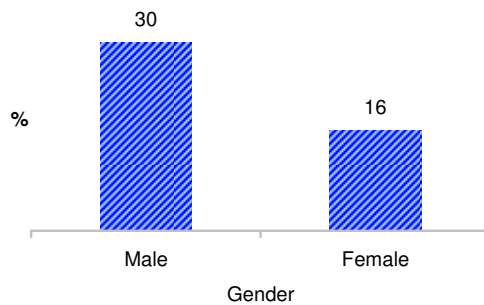
¹ Code of Practice, DENI
http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/7-special_educational_needs_pg/special_needs_codes_of_practice_pg.htm

² Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After: Twelve Months to 30 September 2009, England.

³ DENI Enrolments at Schools and in Funded Pre-School Education in Northern Ireland 2008/09

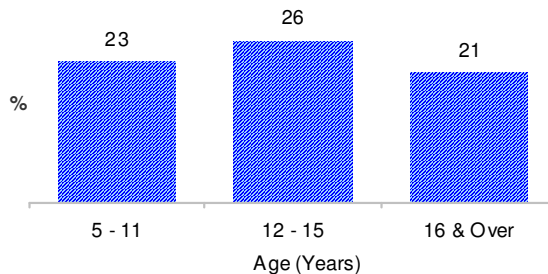
A higher proportion of boys (30%) than girls (16%) were covered by a statement of SEN (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: Statements of SEN by Gender (2008/09)



Just over a quarter (26%) of looked after children aged 12-15 were covered by a statement of SEN in 2009, compared with 21% of those aged 16 & over and 23% of looked after children aged 5-11 (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: Statements of SEN by Age (2008/09)



Of children covered by a SEN, 48% were related to learning or severe learning disability, 12% to behavioural problems, and 42% to Other¹ reasons.

Exclusions from School

Findings from the 2009 survey indicate that looked after children are more likely to be expelled from school than children in the general school population; 1% (13) of looked after children of school age had been excluded from school in 2008/09, compared with 0.01% of the general school population in Northern Ireland², but similar to the proportion of

¹ Other reasons include; autistic spectrum disorder, emotional problems, physical disability and not known.

² Suspensions and Expulsions, DENI 2008/09

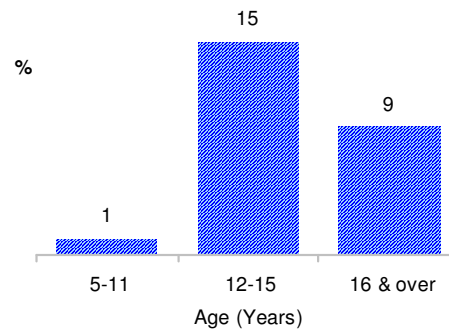
looked after children expelled in England³ (0.4%).

Suspensions

Looked after children were four times more likely to be suspended from school than children in the general school population; 8% of children looked after⁴ had been suspended in 2008/09, compared with 2% of the general school population in Northern Ireland⁵.

A higher proportion of boys (12%) than girls (5%) looked after were suspended from school in 2008/09.

Figure 3.3: Suspensions from School by Age (2008/09)



The largest proportion of children suspended from school was aged 12-15 (15%) with 9% aged 16 or over and 1% were aged 5-11 (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.4 details the frequency with which children looked after were suspended from school in 2008/09.

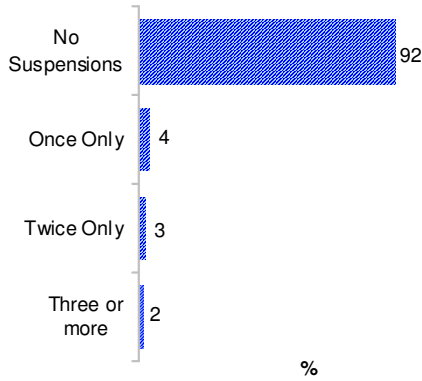
The majority (92%) of children looked after were not suspended in 2008/09, 4% had been suspended once, 3% twice, 2% three times or more (Figure 3.4).

³ Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After: Twelve Months to 30 September 2009 England

⁴ 1 response did not indicate if the child had been suspended from school in 2008/09. This has been included in the analysis.

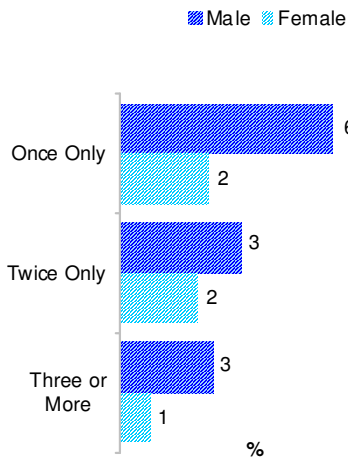
⁵ Suspensions and Expulsions, DENI 2008/09

Figure 3.4: Suspensions from School (2008/09)



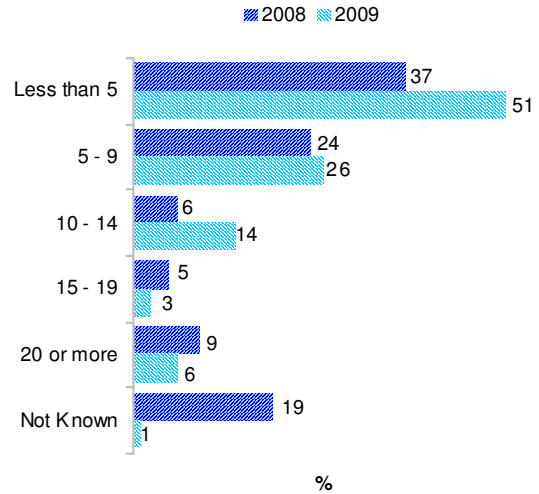
As in 2008, greater proportions of boys than girls had been suspended from school during the academic year; 6% of boys and 2% of girls looked after had been suspended from school at least once during 2008/09 (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: Suspensions from School by Gender (2008/09)



During 2008/09, over half (51%) of children looked after who had been suspended had been suspended for less than 5 days, whilst 7 children (6%) had been suspended for 20 days or more (Figure 3.6).

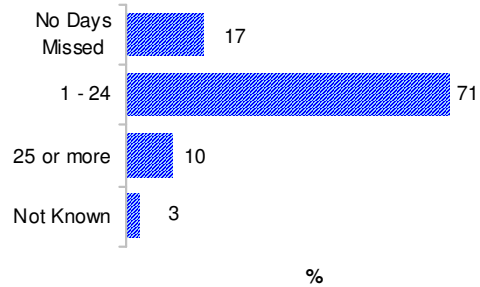
Figure 3.6: School Days missed through Suspension (2008 - 2009)



Children who missed at least 25 days of school for any reason

For 2008/09, 10% of children looked after had missed 25 or more school days, which was similar to the corresponding figure for England (12%); 71% had missed between 1 and 24 school days, and full attendance at school was reported for 17% of children¹ (Figure 3.7).

Figure 3.7: School Days missed for any Reason (2008/09)



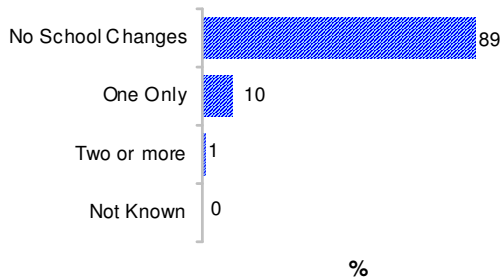
For the 2008/09 school year, a similar proportion of girls (10%) and boys (9%) looked after had missed 25 days or more.

¹ Information on the number of school days missed was not provided for 38 young people in 2008/09.

School changes in 2008/09

During school year 2008/09, 89% of looked after children had not changed school at any time, compared with 11% that had changed school at least once during this period (Figure 3.8).

Figure 3.8: Number of School Changes (2008/09)



Boys (9%) were as likely as girls (10%) to change schools during the year.

Key Stage and GCSE or Equivalent Results

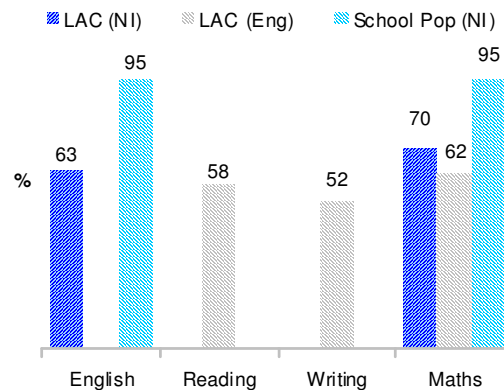
Key Stage 1

Of the 1,282 looked after children of school age in 2009, 72¹ (6%) were eligible for assessment at Key Stage 1 in 2008/09; of which 18 children, 25% had been covered by a statement of SEN.

To allow comparisons with Key Stage 1 results for all children in Northern Ireland², children with a statement of SEN because of severe learning disability were excluded from the analysis presented below.

Figure 4.1 details the percentage of looked after children, the general school population in Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England^{3,4} achieving Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 English and Maths.

Figure 4.1: Children Achieving Level 2 or Above in Key Stage 1, English and Maths Assessments (2008/09)⁵



¹ This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 1 in 2008/09 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

² Figures for the general school population in Northern Ireland cover only mainstream schools, whereas figures for looked after children in Northern Ireland include all schools.

³ Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After Twelve Months to 30 September 2009, England.

⁴ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability

⁵ Children in England were assessed at KS1 in Reading, Writing and Maths; the figures for NI relate to English and Maths assessments at KS1.

Nearly two thirds (63%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland who sat Key Stage 1 English assessments achieved Level 2 or above, compared with 95% of the equivalent school population. For Key Stage 1 Maths, 70% of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 2 or above, compared with 95% of the general school population¹, and 62% of looked after children in England.

Of those that achieved Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 English, 51% were girls and 49% were boys. In Key Stage 1 Maths, the equivalent proportions were 54% and 46% respectively.

Just over 1% of looked after children of appropriate age had not been assessed in Key Stage 1 English or Maths.

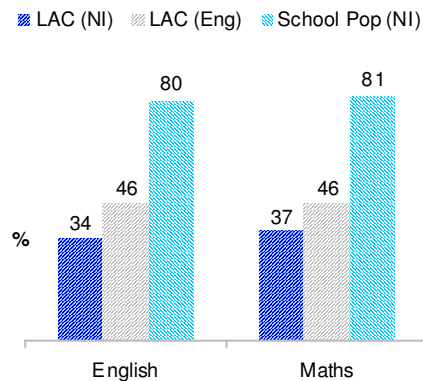
Between 2007/08 and 2008/09, the percentage of looked after children achieving Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 English increased by 12 percentage points, whilst the proportion achieving Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 Maths increased by 18 percentage points.

Key Stage 2

For Key Stage 2 assessments, 117² (9%) of the 1,282 children of school age were eligible for assessment in 2008/09. Just under a quarter (29%) of those had been covered by a SEN.

Figure 4.2 details the performance of children attaining the target level for Key Stage 2 assessments in respect of looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland, and for looked after children in England³.

Figure 4.2: Children Achieving Level 4 or Above in Key Stage 2, English and Maths Assessments (2008/09)



Over one third (34%) of children looked after in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English assessments, compared with 80% of the general school population and 46% of looked after children in England^{3,4}.

Just below two fifths (37%) looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths, compared with 81% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 46% of looked after children in England.

Five percent (6) of those eligible to sit Key Stage 2 assessments in English and Maths were not assessed in 2008/09.

A higher proportion of girls (40%) than boys (28%) achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English. The same pattern emerged in Maths, where girls generally performed better than boys, with 42% of girls achieving Level 4 or above, compared with 32% of boys.

¹ DENI, 2008/09

² This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 2 in 2008/09 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

³ Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After Twelve Months to 30 September 2009, England.

⁴ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09, the percentages of looked after children achieving Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English and Maths both increased by 7 percentage points.

Key Stage 3

In respect of Key Stage 3, 149¹ (12%) of the 1,282 children looked after were eligible to sit these tests in 2008/09; just over one quarter (26%) of these had been covered by a SEN.

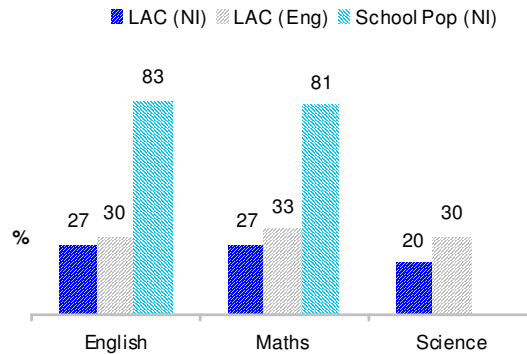
To allow comparison with the general school population in Northern Ireland² children with a statement of SEN because of severe learning disability were excluded from the analysis presented below.

Figure 4.3 details the percentage of looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England attaining Level 5 or above for Key Stage 3 assessment.

Just over 6% of looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 3 tests were not tested in 2008/09.

Over a quarter (27%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 English tests, 2 percentage point higher than 2007/08 (25%). This compared to 83% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.

Figure 4.3: Children Achieving Level 5 or Above in Key Stage 3, English, Maths, and Science Tests³ (2008/09)



In Key Stage 3 Maths, just over a quarter (27%) looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above, 2 percentage points lower than the equivalent proportion in 2007/08 (29%). However, this compared to 81% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.

For Key Stage 3 Science tests, one fifth (20%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above, compared with 25% in 2007/08.

Comparison of performance in Key Stage 3 English tests by gender indicated a higher proportion of girls (30%) than boys (24%) looked after achieved Level 5 or above. In Key Stage 3 Science tests, 15% of girls achieved this level compared to 24% of boys. Similarly, a higher proportion of boys (31%) than girls (22%) achieved Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 Maths tests.

¹ This includes all children eligible to be tested at Key Stage 3 in 2008/09 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

² Figures for the general school population in Northern Ireland cover only mainstream schools, whereas figures for looked after children in NI include all schools.

³ From 2006/07 onwards science was not compulsory at Key Stage 3 and information for Northern Ireland is no longer published.

GCSEs and GNVQs

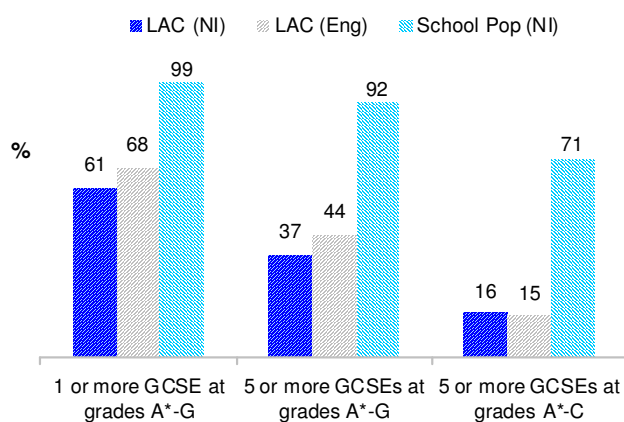
Of the 1,282 children looked after at 30 September 2009, 174¹ (14%) were eligible to sit GCSEs or GNVQs in 2008/09, the same as that in 2008. Just over 22% (39) of those eligible to sit these exams, had been covered by a SEN.

To allow comparisons with the general school population in Northern Ireland², children with a statement of SEN because of severe learning difficulty have been excluded from the analysis presented below.

Almost two-fifths (39%) of looked after children eligible for GCSE/GNVQ examinations in 2008/09 did not take these exams.

Figure 4.4 details the percentage of looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England³ that attained GCSE/GNVQs or equivalent qualifications in 2008/09.

Figure 4.4: Children Looked After Achieving GCSE or Equivalent Passes (2008/09)



¹ This includes all children eligible to sit GCSE/GNVQ in 2008/09 who were not tested, and for whom test information was not provided.

² Figures for the general school population in NI exclude special and independent schools.

³ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

In 2008/09, 61% of looked after children in Northern Ireland attained at least one GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*-G, an increase of 11 percentage points from 2007/08. This compared with 99% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 68% of looked after children in England³.

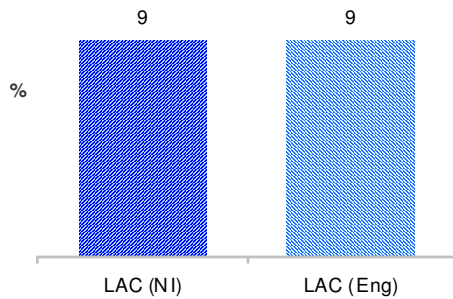
Almost 16% of children looked after attained 5 or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A*-C, compared with 71% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 15% of looked after children in England³. This represents no change since 2007/08.

A higher proportion of girls (41%) than boys (13%) looked after achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-G; and similarly for 5 or more GCSE's, a higher proportion of girls (22%) than boys (11%) achieved grades A*-C.

Cautions / Convictions^{1,2}

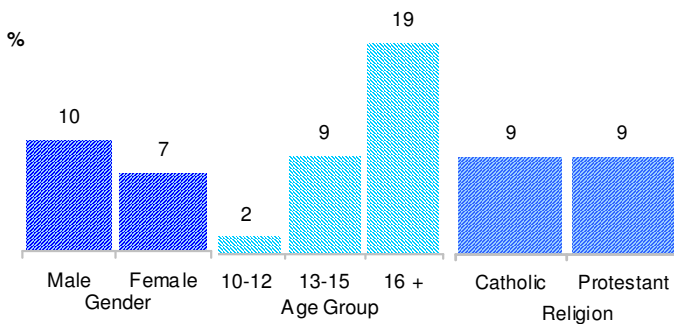
Of children looked after aged 10 & over at the time of the survey, 9% (85) had been cautioned or convicted of an offence whilst in care during the year ending 30 September 2009; this is similar to 2007/08 where 10% (104) of looked after children had been cautioned or convicted.

Figure 5.1: Children Cautioned or Convicted (2008/09)



The same proportions of looked after children aged 10 & over in Northern Ireland (9%) and England (9%) had been cautioned or convicted during the year ending 30 September 2009.

Figure 5.2: Percentage of Looked After Children Cautioned or Convicted by Gender, Age, and Religion (2008/09)



¹ Offences committed while the child was not looked after are excluded

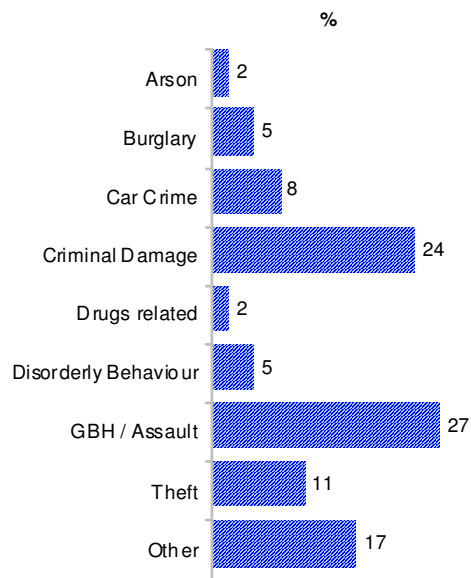
² Information on Cautions and Convictions was not provided for 1 young person. This has been included in the analysis.

For looked after children aged 10 and over, a higher proportion of boys (10%) than girls (7%) had been cautioned or convicted during 2008/09; by age, one-fifth of children aged 16 & over (20%) had been convicted or cautioned; and by religion, 9% of Protestant and 9% of Catholic children looked after had been cautioned or convicted in 2008/09.

Of the 85 looked after children for whom information was provided, 173 separate offences were recorded.

Over one quarter (27%) of recorded offences were for GBH/Assault, 24% were for Criminal Damage, 11% for theft, 8% for Car Crime, 5% for Disorderly Behaviour, 5% for Burglary, 2% for Drug Related Offences, 2% for Arson and 17% were for 'Other' reasons (Figure 5.3).

Figure 5.3: Reasons for Cautions or Convictions (2008/09)

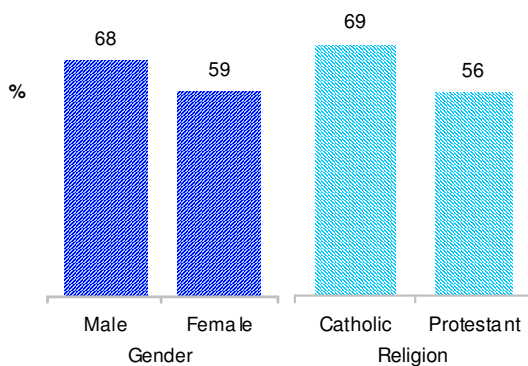


Pre-School Provision

Information for pre-school provision relates to children whose date of birth fell between 2nd July 2004 and 1st July 2005.

Over half (39) of the 62 looked after children eligible for funded pre-school provision had been allocated a free place during 2008/09.

Figure 6.1: Looked After Children aged Under 5 who had a Funded Pre-School Place (2008/09)



A higher proportion of boys (68%) than girls (59%) looked after aged under 5 had a funded pre-school place in 2008/09, and in terms of religion a higher proportion of Catholics (69%) than Protestants (56%) had a funded pre-school place. (Figure 6.1).

Health

Information available on Development Assessments and Six Monthly Assessments relates to 211 (13%) children aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2009¹.

Development Assessments

All (99%) but two children aged under 5 had their development assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2009; this was higher than the corresponding figure for England² (88%).

Six Month Assessments

The majority (96%) of children aged under 5 had their six monthly assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2009, a slight increase compared with 94% in 2008.

Health Assessments

Of the 1,486 children aged 5 & over, 90% had their annual health assessment up-to-date, compared with 85% in England.

Immunisations

Information on immunisations relates to all looked after children, and not just to those that were due immunisations in 2008/09. It includes immunisations due before admittance into care and during time spent in care. Where children did not receive immunisations for health reasons or because parents refused consent, these were counted as children whose immunisations were not up-to-date.

A child's immunisation record is considered up-to-date if the Trust indicated that all relevant immunisations had been administered by 30 September 2009.

¹ Information on Development Assessments and Six Monthly Assessments was not provided for 1 young person.

² Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After: Twelve Months to 30 September 2009: England.

From the information provided, 98% of children looked after had their immunisations up-to-date at 30 September 2009; this compared with 84% of looked after children in England¹.

Dental Checks

This relates to all children and young people looked after who had their teeth checked during the year ending 30 September 2009. For very young children, these checks may be undertaken by a dentist, a paediatrician or other health care professional and these would count as dental checks.

Of the 1,653 children looked after at 30 September 2009, 95% had their teeth checked the previous year; 9 percentage points higher than the corresponding figure for England¹ (86%).

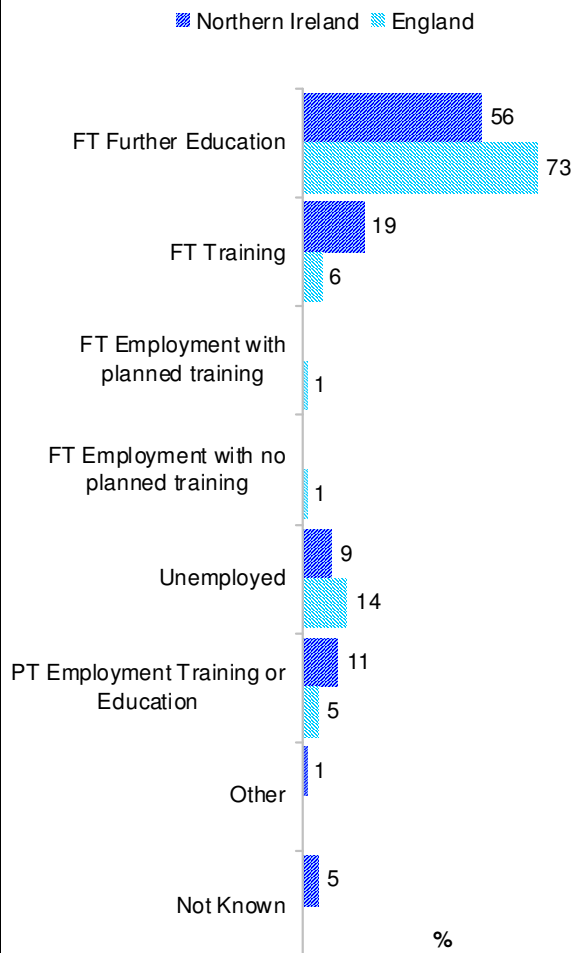
¹ Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After: Twelve Months to 30 September 2009: England

Current Activity

The OC2 survey collects information on children looked after who finished compulsory schooling in 2008/09, having completed Year 12. For the current survey, 174 young people aged 16 had completed Year 12 at school in 2008/09.

Figure 7.1 below details the activity of young people in care that had completed Year 12 at school, for both Northern Ireland and England.

Figure 7.1: Current Activity of Young People Looked After who had Completed Year 12 during 2008/09



At 30 September 2009, over half (56%) of young people looked after in Northern Ireland that had completed Year 12 at school in 2008/09, were in or about to start full-time education, some 17 percentage points less than the corresponding proportion in England (73%). A higher proportion of young people looked after in England (14%) than in Northern Ireland (9%) were unemployed at 30 September 2009.

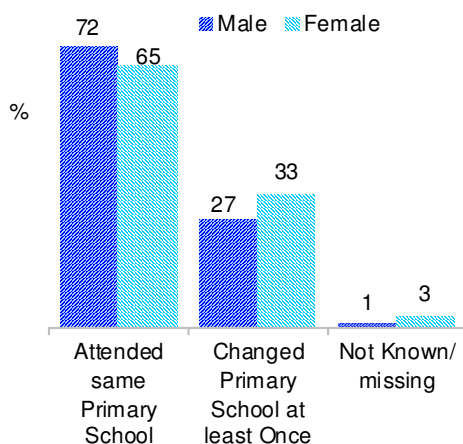
A higher proportion of girls (10%) than boys (7%) were unemployed, with girls (65%) more likely than boys (48%) to have started or about to start full-time education (Appendices, Figure 1).

School History

Primary Schools Attended¹

Of the 174 young people looked after in school Year 12, 68% had attended the same primary school until transfer age, and 30% had changed primary schools at least once. Information on the number of primary schools attended by 3 (2%) young people was not provided.

Figure 7.2: Number of Primary Schools Attended by Children Looked After who had Completed Year 12 in 2008/09, by Gender



A smaller proportion of boys (27%) than girls (33%) looked after had changed primary schools at least once

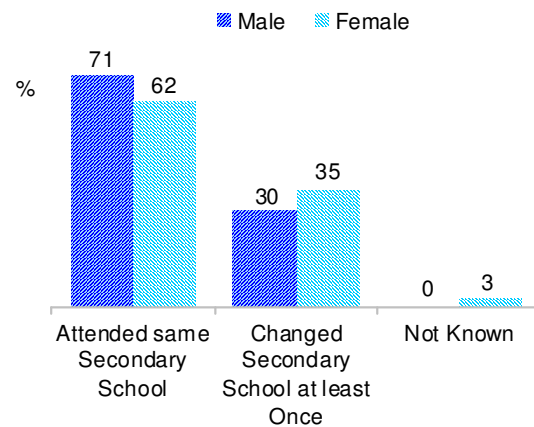
¹ Information on the number of primary schools attended was not provided for 4 young people.

before reaching transfer age (Figure 7.2).

Secondary Schools Attended²

Of the 174 young people in Year 12, over two thirds (67%) attended the same secondary school, whilst just under a third (32%) had changed secondary schools at least once.

Figure 7.3: Number of Secondary Schools Attended by Children Looked After who had Completed Year 12 in 2008/09, by Gender



A higher proportion of girls (35%) than boys (30%) looked after changed secondary schools at least once during their post primary school years (Figure 7.3).

Gaps in Mainstream Education

Just over one in four (26%) young people, who had completed Year 12 in 2008/09, had been out of mainstream education and continued to be educated in other ways³.

² Information on the number of secondary schools attended was not provided for 3 young people.

³ Information was not provided for 2 young people aged 16 on 1st July 2009

Appendices

- Table 1** **Numbers of Children Looked After Continuously for at least 12 months, and General Information about their education; 12 Months Ending 30 September 2009**
- Table 2** **Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2009, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2008/09**
- Figure 1** **Education and Employment Status of Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2008/09 at 30 September 2009 by Gender**

Table 1

Numbers of Children Looked After Continuously for at least 12 months, and General Information about their Education for the Year Ending 30 September 2009 ¹

HSC Trust	No. Looked After for at least 12 months	Of these, number of school age	Of these:					
			Children with a statement of SEN		Permanent exclusions from school		Children who missed at least 25 days of school	
			Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Northern Ireland	1,653	1,282	302	23.6	13	1.0	125	9.8
England ²	43,200	32,300	8,700	26.9	130	0.4	3,700	11.5
Belfast HSC Trust	403	315	70	22.2	<5	-	29	9.2
Northern HSC Trust	407	309	73	23.6	5	1.6	26	8.4
South Eastern HSC Trust	290	226	52	23.1	<5	-	19	8.4
Southern HSC Trust	239	175	37	21.1	<5	-	25	14.3
Western HSC Trust	314	258	70	27.1	<5	-	26	10.1

¹ To avoid personal disclosure, values less than 5 have been suppressed and replaced by "<5". To make sure these values cannot be derived by simple arithmetic, further values may have been suppressed and replaced by "<5", ">5" or ">10". Percentages which have been suppressed are replaced by "-".

Table 2

Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2009, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2008/09¹

Trust	Number of Looked After Children eligible to sit:			
	Key Stage 1 Assessments	Key Stage 2 Assessments	Key Stage 3 Tests	GCSE's or GNVQ's
Northern Ireland	72	117	149	174
England	1,400	2,500	-	5,300
Belfast HSC Trust	20	24	43	41
Northern HSC Trust	19	28	27	35
South Eastern HSC Trust	9	21	31	33
Southern HSC Trust	10	18	14	28
Western HSC Trust	14	26	34	37

¹ To avoid personal disclosure, values less than 5 have been suppressed and replaced by "<5". To make sure these values cannot be derived by simple arithmetic, further values may have been suppressed and replaced by "<5", ">5" or ">10". Percentages which have been suppressed are replaced by "-".

Coverage of OC2

The table below specifies the subset of children and young people covered by each category of the OC2 collection.

Definition	Which Children were included?
Scope of OC2	All children who were looked after on 30 September 2009, and who on that date had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.
<i>Remaining Items are subsets of the Scope.</i>	
Total Children of Compulsory School Age	Children whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1992 to 1/7/2004.
Key Stage 1	Children eligible for school year 4 i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/2000 to 1/7/2001.
Key Stage 2	Children eligible for school year 7, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1997 to 1/7/1998.
Key Stage 3	Children eligible for school year 10, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1994 to 1/7/1995.
GCSEs and GNVQs	Children eligible for school Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1992 to 1/7/1993.
Offending	Children aged 10 & over at 30 September 2009, i.e. whose date of birth is 30/9/1999 or earlier.
Pre-School Provision	Children in their pre-school year in 2008/09, i.e. whose date of birth is 2/7/2004 to 1/7/2005.
Development Assessments	Children aged under 5 at 30 September 2009, i.e. whose date of birth is 1/10/2004 or later.
Immunisations	All children covered by the OC2 collection, i.e. all children who were looked after on 30 September 2009, and who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.
Dental Checks	
Health Assessments	
Current Activity / Past Schooling Experiences	Children eligible for Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1992 to 1/7/1993.



Outcome indicators for looked after children

Complete this form for each child who was looked after by your Trust at 30 September 2009, and who, at that time, had been looked after continuously for 12 months or more

1. Trust name: _____

2. SOSCARE Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Sex

Male
Female

4. Date of birth

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y

5. Date of start of latest period of care

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y

6. What is the child's religion?

(see guidance notes, please tick as appropriate)

Catholic
Protestant
Other religion
No denomination
Not known

7. Has the child a disability according to the definition for the register of children with a disability, i.e. has an illness or difficulty and needs extra help to take part in activities around them in the way they would like and in the way other children of the same age do, respecting individual culture and circumstances?

(see guidance notes for fuller, formal definition)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'Yes', please state main disability type

- Visually disabled
- Hearing impaired
- Physically disabled
- Learning disabled
- Mental health disability
- Other (*please specify below*)
- Not known

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'other', please specify

.....

8. Did the child reside in another Trust area immediately before this period in care?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'Yes', please specify Trust in which child previously resided

.....

9. To which ethnic group does the child belong?

- White (excluding Traveller)
- Chinese
- Irish Traveller
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Black Caribbean
- Black African
- Black Other
- Mixed ethnic group
- Please specify*

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

.....

Other ethnic group
Please specify

<input type="checkbox"/>

.....

Don't know

<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Is the child an unaccompanied asylum seeker? Yes
No

11. Does the child have any dependants? Yes
No

If 'Yes', please enter the number of dependants

12. Where is the child placed?

Secure accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other residential accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placed for adoption with former foster carers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placed for adoption with others	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster care with relatives/friends (emergency)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster care with relatives/friends (approved)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster care with others	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placed with parents (or persons with parental responsibility)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent living with formal support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent living without formal support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'Other accommodation', please specify below

.....
.....

13. Did the child's placement change during the last year (i.e. between 1 October 2008 and 30 September 2009)? Yes
No

If 'Yes', how many placement changes occurred during the year?

14. What is the child's legal status?

- Police protection in Board/Trust accommodation (Article 23)**
- Child assessment Order (Article 62)**
- Emergency Protection Order (Article 63)**
- Accommodated under Article 21**
- Interim Care Order (Article 57)**
- Care Order (Article 50 or 59)**
- Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 and 30 of Sch 8)**
- Freed for adoption and looked after by Board/Trust**
- Other (please specify below)**

.....
.....

15 Date of last statutory review:

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y

16. Method of participation of young person in last statutory review:

- Attended and spoke for him or herself**
- Attended and an advocate spoke on his or her behalf**
- Attended and conveyed views non-verbally**
- Attended and did not contribute**
- Did not attend but briefed advocate to speak**
- Did not attend but sent views (e.g. in writing, by phone)**
- Did not attend and views not conveyed to the review**
- Other (please specify below)**

.....
.....

17. Date of previous statutory review

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y

18. Method of participation of young person in previous statutory review:

- Attended and spoke for him or herself
- Attended and an advocate spoke on his or her behalf
- Attended and conveyed views non-verbally
- Attended and did not contribute
- Did not attend but briefed advocate to speak
- Did not attend but sent views (e.g. in writing, by phone)
- Did not attend and views not conveyed to the review
- Other (please specify below)

.....
.....

19. Was the child of compulsory school age during the 2008/09 school year (i.e. the child's date of birth is between 2 July 1992 and 1 July 2004)? Yes
No

If 'no',

For younger children (date of birth after 1 July 2004), please go to Q32

For older children (date of birth before 2 July 1992), please go to Q30

If 'yes', please state whether at any time during the school year ...

a) The child was referred for a statement of special educational needs? Yes
No

b) The child was covered by a statement of special educational needs? Yes
No

c) If covered (yes to question 19b), please state briefly the reasons(s) for the statement

.....
.....

20. Was the child expelled from school at any time during the school year? Yes
No

21. Was the child suspended from school at any time during the school year?

Yes
No

If 'Yes',

please enter the number of times the child was suspended during the school year

and the total number of school days in the last school year lost through suspension

22. How many days of school in total did the child miss (for any reason) during the school year?

23. Did the child change schools at any time during the school year?

Yes
No

If 'Yes', how many times did the child change schools during the year?

For children who began primary school in September 2009, please go to Q31

For younger children, please go to Q32

For children in P4 in 2008/09, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 1, please answer Q24

For all other children aged under 10, please go to Q33

For children in P7 in 2008/09, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 2, please answer Qns 25 and 26

For children in Year 10 in 2008/09, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 3, please answer Q27

For children in Year 12 in 2008/09, who should have sat GCSEs or GNVQs, please answer Qns 28 and 29

For all other children aged 10 and over, please go to Q30

24. For children who were in P4 in 2008/09 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage One Assessment

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 1?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'No', please state briefly why the child was not assessed

.....
.....

If 'Yes', what level did the child achieve in ...

	English?	<input type="checkbox"/>
or (for Irish medium schools)	Irish?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mathematics?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now please go to Q33

25. For children who were in P7 in 2008/09 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage 2 Assessment

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 2?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'No', please state briefly why the child was not assessed

.....
.....

If 'Yes', what level did the child achieve in ...

	English?	<input type="checkbox"/>
(for Irish medium schools)	Irish?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mathematics?	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. Did the child sit the Transfer Procedure tests in Autumn 2008?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'Yes', what grade did the child achieve?

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------

Now please go to Q30

27. For children who were in Year 10 in 2008/09 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage 3 assessments and tests

Did the child sit the end of Key Stage 3 tests?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'No', please state briefly why the child did not sit the tests

.....
.....

If 'Yes', what level did the child achieve in ...

(for Irish medium schools)

English?
Irish?
Mathematics?
Science?

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Now please go to Q30

28. For children who were in Year 12 in 2008/09 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

Did the child sit at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ examination?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'No', please state briefly why the child did not sit any of these examinations

.....
.....

If 'Yes', please enter the number of qualifications obtained at ...

GCSE (Grades A*-C)
GCSE (Grades D-G)
GNVQ

29. Did the child obtain any NVQs?

Yes
No

If 'Yes', please enter the number obtained at each level

Number obtained at level 1
Number obtained at level 2
Number obtained at level 3

30. For children aged 10 and over at 30 September 2009

Was the child convicted or cautioned during the year, for an offence committed while being looked after?

Yes
No

If 'Yes', please state below what the offence or offences were

.....
.....
.....
.....

Now please go to Q33

31. For children who began primary school in September 2009 ONLY

Did the child have a funded pre-school place (in a day nursery, nursery school, nursery class or playgroup) in their pre-school year? (i.e. between September 2008 and June 2009)

Yes
No

32. For children aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2009

a)Were the child's development assessments up to date at 30 September 2009? Yes
No

b)Did the child have his/her 6-monthly health assessment completed between 1 April 2009 and 30 September 2009? Yes
No

33. For children aged 5 and over at 30 September 2009

Did the child have his/her annual health assessment completed during the year ending 30 September 2009? Yes
No

34. For all children

Were the child's immunisations up to date at 30 September 2009? Yes
No

35. Did the child have his/her teeth checked by a dentist during the year ending 30 September 2009? Yes
No

36. Was the child identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year ending 30 September 2009? Yes
No

If 'Yes' was the child offered an intervention for this problem? Yes
No

If 'Yes' did the child accept or refuse this intervention?

Accepted the intervention and received treatment
Refused the intervention

For children aged 16 at 1 July 2009, please complete the questions overleaf. For all other children, this is the end of the questionnaire. Thank you for your co-operation.

37. For children who were in Year 12 in 2008/09 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

Was the young person aged 16 at 1 July 2009?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'Yes', what was the young person's activity at 30 September 2009?

Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time further education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time further education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Higher education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employment with planned training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employment with no planned training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent – full-time carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other full-time carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed for other reason	<input type="checkbox"/>

and

38. How many different schools has the child attended during his/her school years?

Total number of primary schools attended	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total number of secondary/grammar schools attended	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

39. Was the child ever out of mainstream school and continuing to receive education (e.g. a period or periods in EOTAS and/or at a Pupil Referral Unit)?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

**This is the end of the questionnaire.
Thank you for your cooperation.**

Additional Information

Further information on Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2008/09 Statistical Bulletin is available from:

Manny Fitzpatrick

Community Information Branch

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Annexe 2

Castle Buildings

Stormont

BT4 3SQ



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