

Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children

Year Ending 30 September 2008

This statistical bulletin presents information on children who had been looked after continuously for 12 months or more at 30 September 2008. It details information on their educational achievements at Key Stage assessments and GCSE/GNVQ, health assessments, current activity and cautions and convictions.

Summary

- At 30 September 2008, 1,626 children and young people had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months in Northern Ireland; of which 842 (52%) were boys and 784 (48%) were girls.
- Over three quarters (77%) of these children were of school age, and of these; 23% had a statement of SEN, 1% had a permanent exclusion, 8% had been suspended from school and 9% had missed at least 25 days of school within the academic year.
- In 2007/08, over half of looked after children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 1 achieved level 2 or above in English (51%) and in Maths (52%).
- Almost 3 in 10 children looked after eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 2 achieved level 4 or above in English (27%) and in Maths (30%) during 2007/08.
- One quarter (25%) of looked after children eligible to be tested at Key Stage 3 achieved level 5 or above in English and Science, whilst almost 3 in 10 (29%) achieved level 5 or above in Maths.
- Half (50%) of looked after children eligible to sit GCSE/GNVQ examinations in 2007/08 attained at least 1 GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*-G, compared with 98% of the general school population in Northern Ireland and 66% of looked after children in England.
- One in 10 (10%) children looked after aged 10 & over had been cautioned or convicted of an offence whilst in care during the year ending 30 September 2008.
- Half (50%) of those children who had completed Year 12 at school in 2007/08 were in full time education at 30 September 2008, 6 percentage points higher than in 2006.

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Reader Information

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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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Introduction

The OC2 collection is the second of three statistical collections designed to monitor and assess outcomes for looked after children. The other two collections are; OC1 which collects information on the educational qualifications of Care Leavers, and OC3 which looks at the circumstances of Care Leavers on their 19th birthday.

OC2 was introduced in Northern Ireland in 2002, and this bulletin presents a summary of the results for the fourth OC2 survey covering the year ending 30 September 2008. The OC2 collection covers all children in Northern Ireland who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2008. The survey excludes children looked after under an agreed series of respite placements during the period specified.

The results of the latest survey indicate that children looked after in Northern Ireland continue to be less likely than looked after children in England, and all school children in Northern Ireland, to have obtained educational qualifications. However, comparisons between looked after children and all school children should be interpreted with caution, as they are two different cohorts of children. Looked after children include some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in our society. They may, for example, include a higher proportion of disabled young people and young people who have received statements of special educational need, than would be found in the general school population.

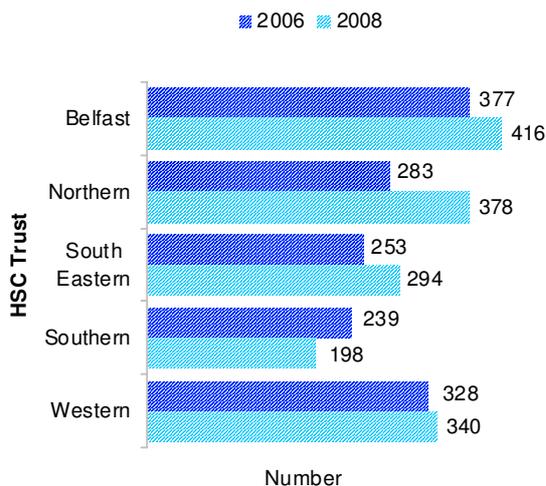
Background Information

Trust Profile

At 30 September 2008, 1,626 children and young people had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months in Northern Ireland; a rate of 37.6 children per 10,000-population aged under 18¹. Compared with the 2005/06 OC2 survey, the numbers of children looked after for at least 12 months increased by 10% (146), from 1,480 in 2006 to 1,626 in 2008.

Figure 1.1 details the number of children and young people looked after continuously for at least 12 by HSC Trust, at 30 September, 2006 and 2008.

Figure 1.1: Number of Children Looked After Continuously for at Least 12 Months at 30 September (2006 - 2008), by HSC Trust



The distribution of children by HSC Trust for 2008 indicated that 26% (416) were in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 23% (378) in the Northern HSC Trust, 21% (340) in the Western HSC Trust, 18% (294) in the South Eastern HSC Trust, and 12% (198) in the Southern HSC Trust.

¹ NISRA Estimated Population 30 June 2007.

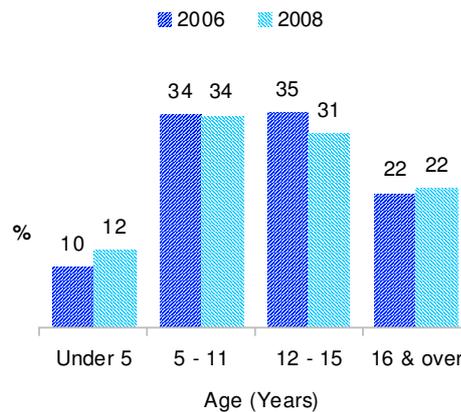
Gender

At 30 September 2008, 52% of children were male and 48% were female; there was little change in the relative proportions of males and females compared with 2006.

Age

In 2008, 34% of children were aged 5-11, 31% were aged 12-15, 22% were aged 16 & over, and 12% were under 5 years old (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Age Profile (2006 - 2008)



Religion

There was a slightly higher proportion of Protestant (50%) than Catholic (47%) children in 2008, with 52 (3%) 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 2006, where there was a slightly higher proportion of Catholic (49%) than Protestant (46%) children looked after.

Ethnicity

The ethnic grouping of children in 2008, indicated that 98% (1,592) were White, and of the remaining 2% (34): 19 were of Mixed ethnic background, 11 were Irish Traveller, and 4 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 2008, similar to 2006 where 12% of children were reported to be disabled.

As in 2006, a higher proportion of boys (15%) than girls (11%) were disabled.

Dependants

A question on dependants has always been included in the OC2 survey, as having dependants whilst in care may impact on educational outcomes for young people; in 2008, 7 young people had one or more dependants, 2 less than the equivalent figure in 2006.

Placement¹

At 30 September 2008, 74% of children were placed in foster care², 14% were placed with family, 8% were in residential care, and 4% were in other³ placement types.

¹ Information on placement was not provided for 1 young person.

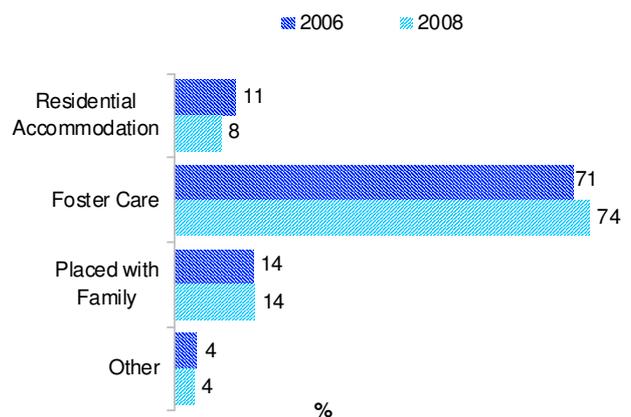
² Foster Care includes children placed for adoption.

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

Of the 1,147 children and young people who were placed in foster care, 71% (810) were in non-kinship foster placements and 29% (337) were in kinship foster placements.

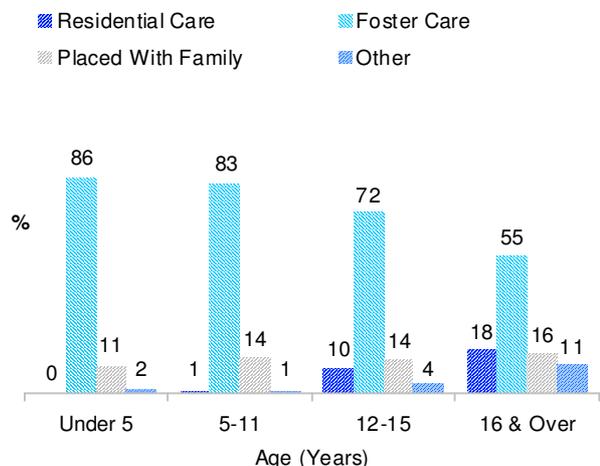
Since 2005/06, the proportion of children in residential placements has decreased by three percentage points, from 11% in 2006 to 8% in 2008, whilst the proportion of children in foster care increased by three percentage points, from 71% in 2006 to 74% in 2008 (Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2: Placement of Children (2006 - 2008)



As in 2006, 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 other⁴ types of placement (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Placement of Children by Age (2007/08)



⁴ Other placement types include; supported accommodation, hospital, friends/family, shared care, assessment centres, and other.

Over half (54%) of children in other placement types were male, and of all children in other placement types:

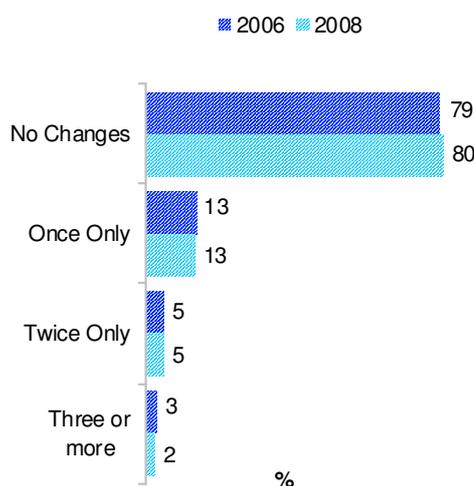
- 27% were in assessment centres, community placements or boarding school;
- 26% were placed with friends or relatives;
- 20% were in supported accommodation;
- 13% were in hospital;
- 11% were in shared care; and,
- 4% were fostered or placed for adoption.

Placement Changes

One in 5 (20%) children had changed placements at least once during the year ending 30 September 2008; 13% once only, 5% twice only, and 2% had changed placement three times or more.

When compared with 2006, there was little change in the proportions of children moving placements whilst in care during 2008 (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4: Placement Changes during the Year ending 30 September (2006 - 2008)



General Education

Compulsory School Age

For the 2008 survey, compulsory school age refers to all children whose date of birth fell on or between 2/7/1991 and 1/7/2003, 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 2008, 73% (1,267) were of compulsory school age, compared with 83% in 2006. Similar proportions of girls (73%) and boys (72%) were of compulsory school age in 2008.

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 2008 (23%)², had been covered by a statement of SEN, compared with 28% in England³, and 4% of the general school population in Northern Ireland⁴.

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

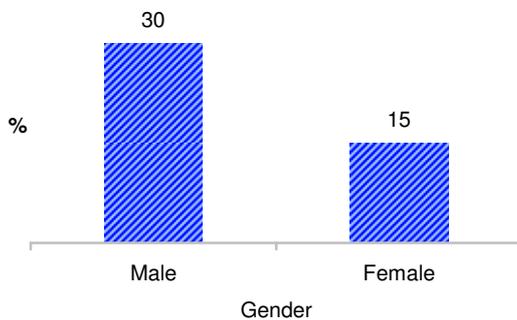
² 19 responses did not indicate if the child was covered by a statement of SEN. These have been included in the analysis.

³ Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After: Twelve Months to 30 September 2008, England.

⁴ DENI Special Educational Needs (SEN) Pupils 2007/08

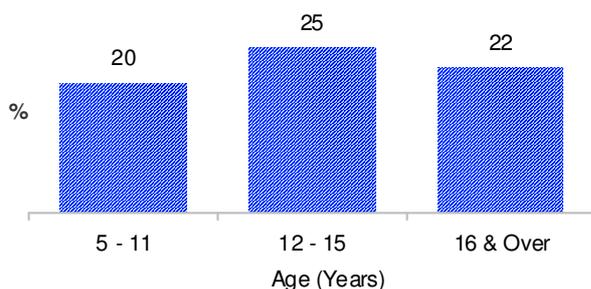
A higher proportion of boys (30%) than girls (15%) were covered by a statement of SEN (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: Statements of SEN by Gender (2007/08)



One quarter (25%) of looked after children aged 12-15 were covered by a statement of SEN in 2008, compared with 22% of those aged 16 & over and 20% of looked after children aged 5-11 (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2: Statements of SEN by Age (2007/08)



Of those children covered by a statement of SEN, 46% were covered because of learning disability or severe learning disability, 10% for behavioural problems, and 44% for other¹ reasons.

Exclusions from School

Findings from the 2008 survey indicate that looked after children are more likely to be expelled from school than children in the general school population; 1% (11) of looked after children of school age had been excluded from school in 2007/08², compared with 0.01% of the

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

² 20 responses did not indicate if the child had been expelled during the last school year. These have been included in the analysis.

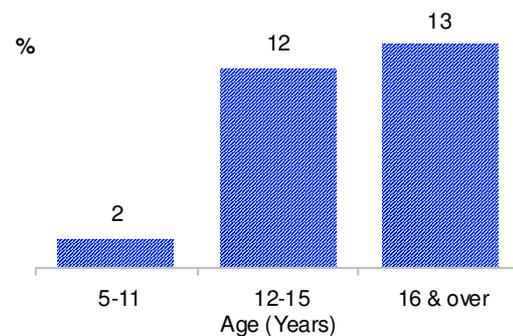
general school population in Northern Ireland³, but similar to the proportion of looked after children expelled in England⁴ (1%).

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 after⁵ had been suspended in 2007/08, compared with 2% of the general school population in Northern Ireland⁶.

A higher proportion of boys (10%) than girls (5%) looked after were suspended from school in 2007/08.

Figure 3.3: Suspensions from School by Age (2007/08)



Similar proportions of children suspended from school were aged 16 & over (13%) and aged 12-15 (12%), whilst 2% were aged 5-11 (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.4 details the frequency with which children looked after were suspended from school in 2007/08.

The majority (91%) of children looked after were not suspended in 2007/08, 4% had been suspended once, 2% twice, 2% three times or more. Information on suspensions was not known for a further 2% of children looked after (Figure 3.4).

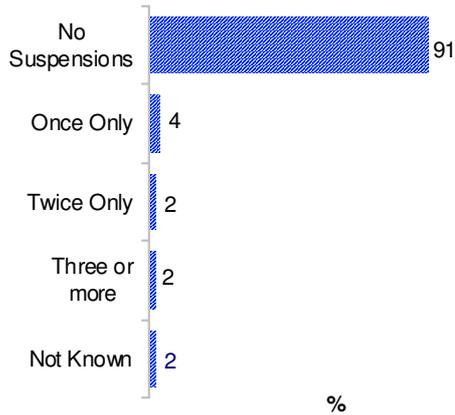
³ Suspensions and Expulsions, DENI 2007/08

⁴ Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After: Twelve Months to 30 September 2008, England

⁵ 21 responses did not indicate if the child had been suspended from school in 2007/08. These have been included in the analysis.

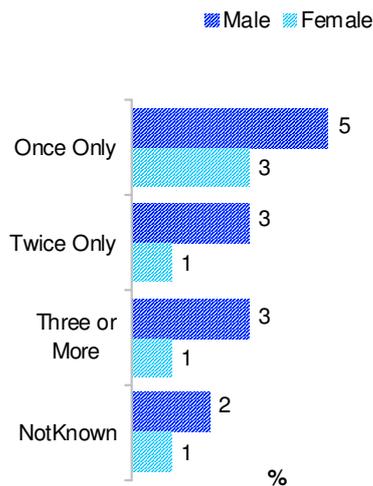
⁶ Suspensions and Expulsions, DENI 2007/08

Figure 3.4: Suspensions from School (2007/08)



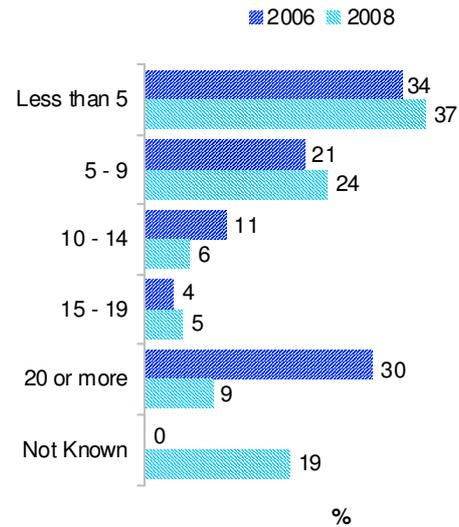
As in 2006, greater proportions of boys than girls had been suspended from school during the academic year; 10% of boys and 5% of girls looked after had been suspended from school at least once during 2007/08 (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: Suspensions from School by Gender (2007/08)



During 2007/08, almost 4 in 10 (37%) children looked after who had been suspended had been suspended for less than 5 days, whilst almost 1 in 10 (9%) had been suspended for 20 days or more (Figure 3.6).

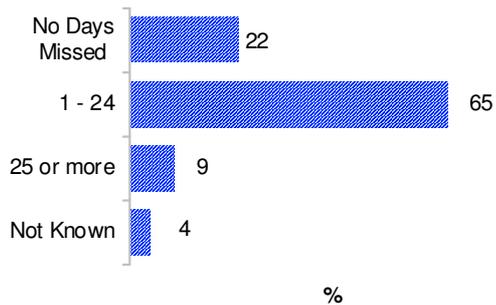
Figure 3.6: School Days missed through Suspension (2006 - 2008)



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

For 2007/08, 9% of children looked after had missed 25 or more school days, which was similar to the corresponding figure for England (12%); 65% had missed between 1 and 24 school days, and full attendance at school was reported for 22% of children¹ (Figure 3.7).

Figure 3.7: School Days missed for any Reason (2007/08)



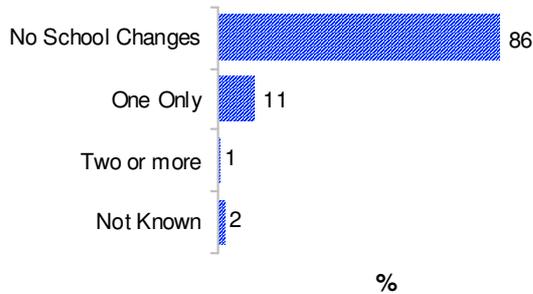
For the 2007/08 school year, a higher proportion of boys (55%) than girls (45%) looked after had missed 25 days or more.

¹ Information on the number of school days missed was not provided for 48 young people in 2007/08.

School changes in 2007/08

During school year 2007/08, 86% of looked after children had not changed school at any time, compared with 12% that had changed school at least once during this period (Figure 3.8).

Figure 3.8: Number of School Changes (2007/08)



Boys (13%) were more likely than girls (11%) to change schools during the year.

Key Stage and GCSE or Equivalent Results

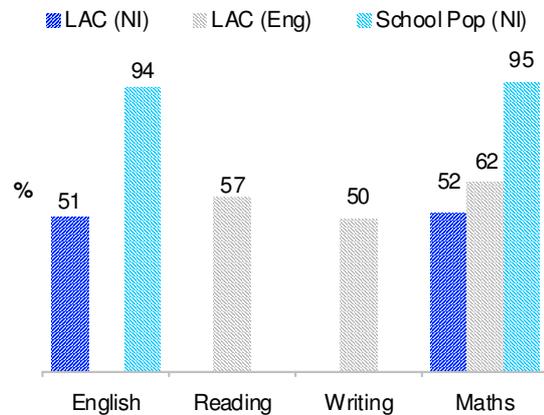
Key Stage 1

Of the 1,267 looked after children of school age in 2008, 69¹ (5%) were eligible for assessment at Key Stage 1 in 2007/08; of these 69 children, 13% 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 (2007/08)⁵



¹ This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 1 in 2007/08 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 2008, 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.

Over half (51%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland who sat Key Stage 1 English assessments achieved Level 2 or above, compared with 94% of the equivalent school population. For Key Stage 1 Maths, 52% 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.

A higher proportion of girls (54%) than boys (49%) looked after in Northern Ireland achieved Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 English; however in Key Stage 1 Maths, the proportion of boys achieving Level 2 or above (54%) was greater than that for girls (50%).

One in 8 (12%) looked after children of appropriate age in Northern Ireland had not been assessed in Key Stage 1 English or Key Stage 1 Maths.

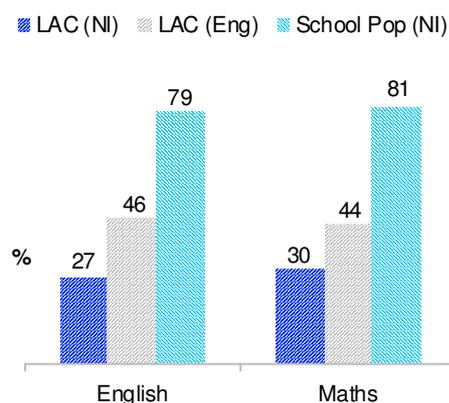
Between 2005/06 and 2007/08, the percentage of looked after children achieving level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 English decreased by 4 percentage points, whilst the proportion achieving level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 Maths decreased by six percentage points.

Key Stage 2

For Key Stage 2 assessments, 119² (9%) of the 1,267 children of school age were eligible for assessment in 2007/08. One quarter (25%) of these 119 children had been covered by a statement of 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 (2007/08)



Over one quarter (27%) of children looked after in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English assessments, compared with 79% of the general school population and 46% of looked after children in England^{3,4}.

Three in 10 (30%) 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 44% of looked after children in England.

One in 6 (17%) looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 2 assessments in English and Maths were not assessed in 2007/08.

A higher proportion of girls (32%) than boys (21%) looked after achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English. In Key Stage 2 Maths, similar proportions of girls (30%) and boys (29%) achieved level 4 or above.

¹ DENI, 2007/08

² This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 2 in 2007/08 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

³ Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After Twelve Months to 30 September 2008, 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 2005/06 and 2007/08, the percentage of looked after children achieving level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English has increased by 3 percentage points, whilst the proportion achieving level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths increased by 9 percentage points.

Key Stage 3

In respect of Key Stage 3, 127¹ (10%) of the 1,267 children looked after were eligible to sit these tests in 2007/08; almost one quarter (24%) of these had been covered by a statement of 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^{3,4} attaining Level 5 or above for Key Stage 3 assessment.

Over one quarter (26%) of looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 3 tests were not tested in 2007/08, 10 percentage points less than in 2005/06 (36%).

One quarter (25%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 English tests, 1 percentage point higher than 2005/06 (24%). This compared to 79% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 30% of looked after children in England

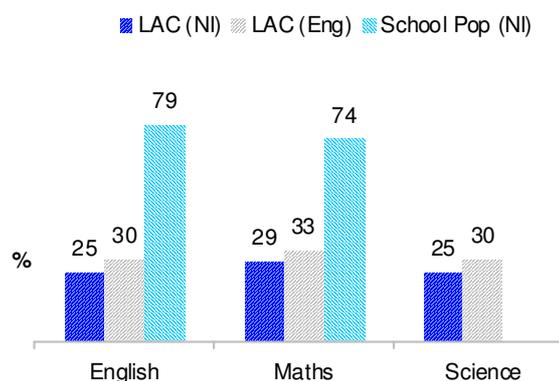
¹ This includes all children eligible to be tested at Key Stage 3 in 2007/08 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

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 Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After Twelve Months to 30 September 2008, 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.

Figure 4.3: Children Achieving Level 5 or Above in Key Stage 3, English, Maths, and Science Tests⁵ (2007/08)



In Key Stage 3 Maths tests, almost 3 in 10 (29%) looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above, 7 percentage points higher than the equivalent proportion in 2005/06 (22%). However, this compared to 74% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 33% of looked after children in England^{3,4}.

For Key Stage 3 Science tests, one quarter (25%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above, compared with 23% in 2005/06 and 30% of looked after children in England^{3,4}.

Comparison of performance in Key Stage 3 English tests by gender indicated a higher proportion of girls (27%) than boys (23%) looked after achieved Level 5 or above. In Key Stage 3 Science tests, 26% of girls achieved this level compared to 23% of boys. However, a higher proportion of boys (30%) than girls (27%) achieved Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 Maths tests.

⁵ From 2006/07 onwards science was not compulsory at Key Stage 3 and information for Northern Ireland is no longer published.

GCSEs and GNVQs

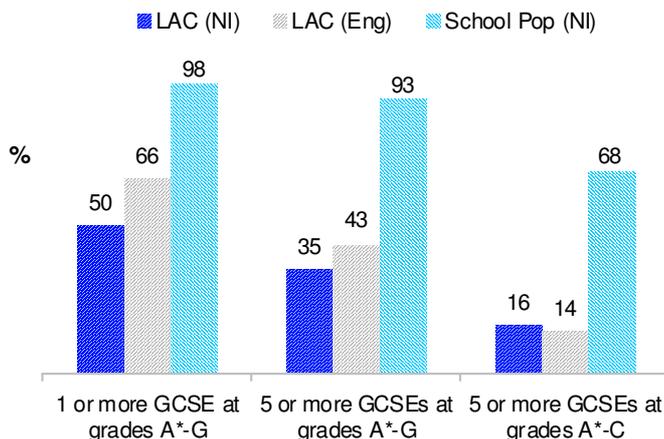
Of the 1,267 children looked after at 30 September 2008, 182¹ (14%) were eligible to sit GCSEs or GNVQs in 2007/08, similar to the equivalent percentage in 2005/06 (14%). Over 1 in 5 (22%) of those eligible to sit these exams, had been covered by a statement of SEN.

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 one third (32%) of looked after children eligible to sit GCSE/GNVQ examinations in 2007/08 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 2007/08.

Figure 4.4: Children Looked After Achieving GCSE or Equivalent Passes (2007/08)



¹ This includes all children eligible to sit GCSE/GNVQ in 2007/08 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 2007/08, half (50%) of children looked after in Northern Ireland attained at least 1 GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*-G, a decrease of 6 percentage points from 2005/06. This compared with almost all (98%) of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 66% of looked after children in England³.

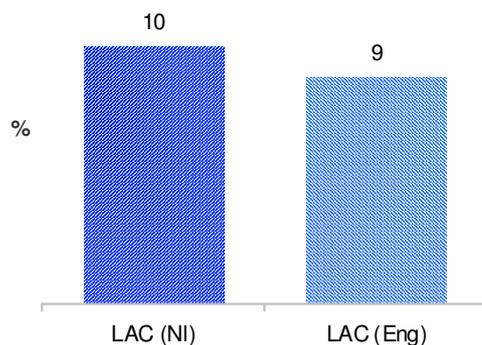
Almost 1 in 6 (16%) children looked after attained 5 or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A*-C, compared with 68% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 14% of looked after children in England³. Similar proportions of looked after children achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C in 2007/08 (16%) and 2005/06 (16%).

A higher proportion of girls (44%) than boys (25%) looked after achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-G; and similarly for 5 or more GCSE's, a higher proportion of girls (23%) than boys (9%) achieved grades A*-C.

Cautions / Convictions ^{1,2}

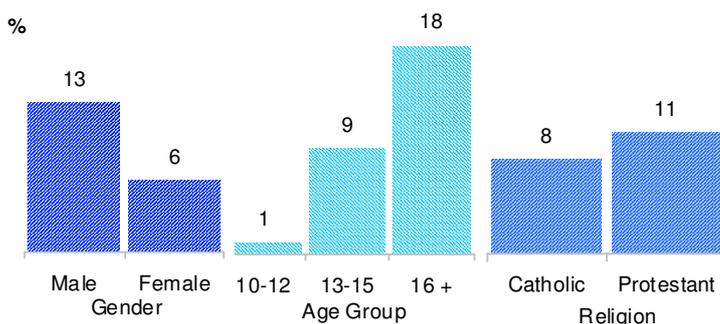
Of children looked after aged 10 & over at the time of the survey, 9% (104) had been cautioned or convicted of an offence whilst in care during the year ending 30 September 2008; this is similar to the findings in the 2005/06 survey where 10% of looked after children had been cautioned or convicted.

Figure 5.1: Children Cautioned or Convicted (2007/08)



Similar 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 2008.

Figure 5.2: Percentage of Looked After Children Cautioned or Convicted by Gender, Age, and Religion (2007/08)



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

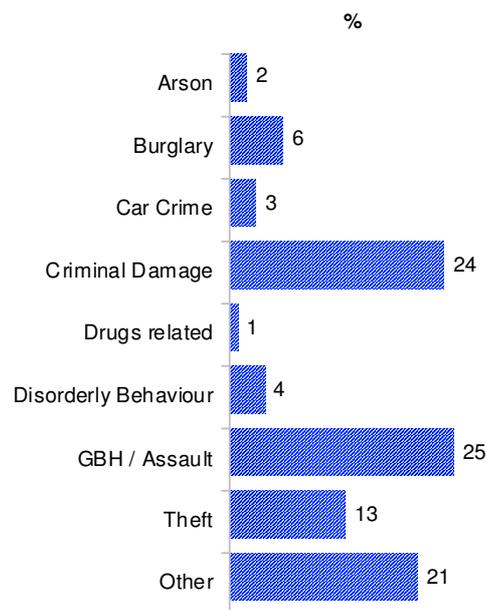
² Information on Cautions and Convictions was not provided for 23 young people. These have been included in the analysis.

For looked after children aged 10 and over, a higher proportion of boys (13%) than girls (6%) had been cautioned or convicted during 2007/08; by age, almost one-fifth of children aged 16 & over (18%) had been convicted or cautioned; and by religion, 11% of Protestant and 8% of Catholic children looked after had been cautioned or convicted in 2007/08.

Of the 104 looked after children for whom information was provided, 204 separate offences were recorded.

One quarter (25%) of recorded offences were for GBH/Assault, 24% were for criminal damage, 13% for theft, 6% for burglary, 4% for disorderly behaviour, 3% for car crime, 2% for arson, 1% for drug related offences, and 21% were for 'other' reasons (Figure 5.3).

Figure 5.3: Reasons for Cautions or Convictions (2007/08)

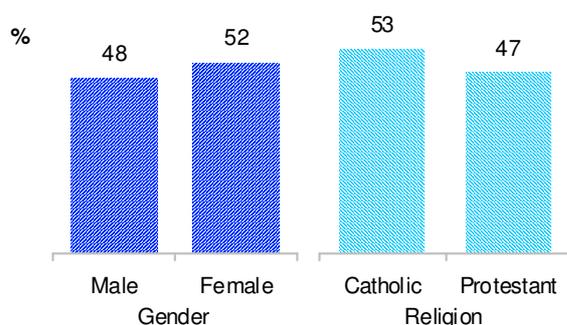


Pre-School Provision

Information for pre-school provision relates to children whose date of birth fell between 2nd July 2003 and 1st July 2004.

Half (26) of the 52¹ looked after children eligible for funded pre-school provision had been allocated a free place during 2007/08.

Figure 6.1: Looked After Children aged Under 5 who had a Funded Pre-School Place (2007/08)



A slightly higher proportion of girls (52%) than boys (48%) looked after aged under 5 had a funded pre-school place in 2007/08, which were markedly lower than the equivalent proportions in 2005/06 (58% and 65% respectively) (Figure 6.1).

¹ Information on pre-school provision was not provided for 9 young people.

Health

Information available on Development Assessments and Six Monthly Assessments relates to 201 (12%) children aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2008².

Development Assessments

All (98%) but four children aged under 5 had their development assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2008; this was higher than the corresponding figure for England³ (88%).

Six Month Assessments

The majority (94%) of children aged under 5 had their six monthly assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2008, a slight increase compared with 89% in 2006.

Health Assessments

Of the 1,425 children aged 5 & over⁴, 91% had their annual health assessment up-to-date, compared with 87% in England³.

Immunisations

Information on immunisations relates to all looked after children, and not just to those that were due immunisations in 2007/08. 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 2008.

² Information on Development Assessments and Six Monthly Assessments was not provided for 1 young person.

³ Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After: Twelve Months to 30 September 2008: England.

⁴ Information on health assessments was not provided for 22 young people.

From the information provided, 99% of children looked after had their immunisations up-to-date at 30 September 2008; this compared with 82% 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 2008. For very young children, dental or oral checks may be undertaken by a dentist, a paediatrician or other health care professional and these would count as dental checks.

Of the 1,626 children looked after at 30 September 2008, 95% had their teeth checked the previous year; 8 percentage points higher than the corresponding figure for England¹ (87%).

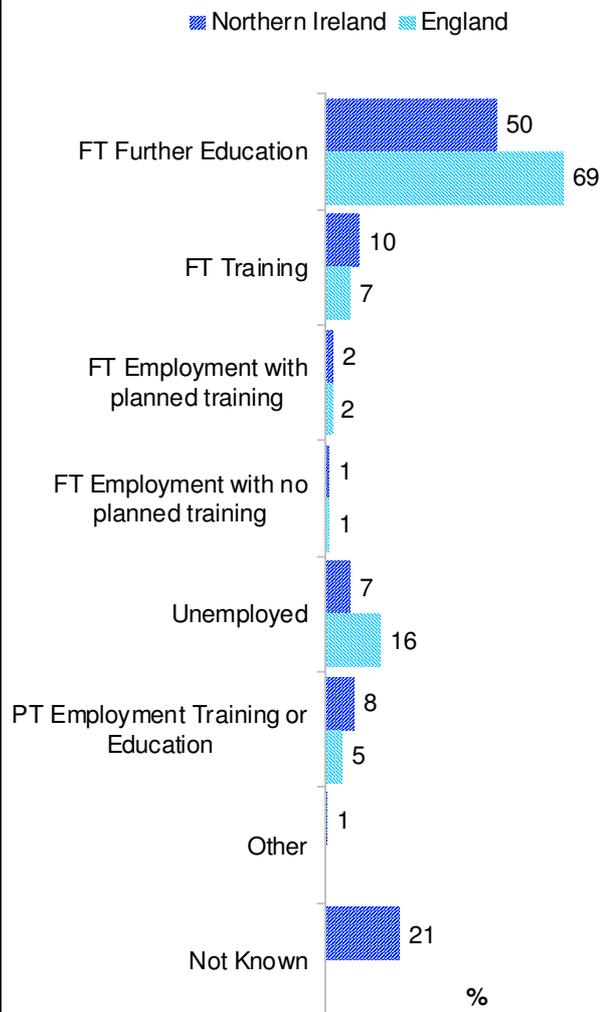
¹ Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After: Twelve Months to 30 September 2008: England

Current Activity

The OC2 survey collects information on children looked after who finished compulsory schooling in 2007/08, having completed Year 12. For the current survey, 182 young people aged 16 had completed Year 12 at school in 2007/08.

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 2007/08



At 30 September 2008, half (50%) of young people looked after in Northern Ireland that had completed Year 12 at school in 2007/08, were in or about to start full-time education, some 19 percentage points less than the corresponding proportion in England (69%). A higher proportion of young people looked after in England (16%) than in Northern Ireland (7%) were unemployed at 30 September 2008.

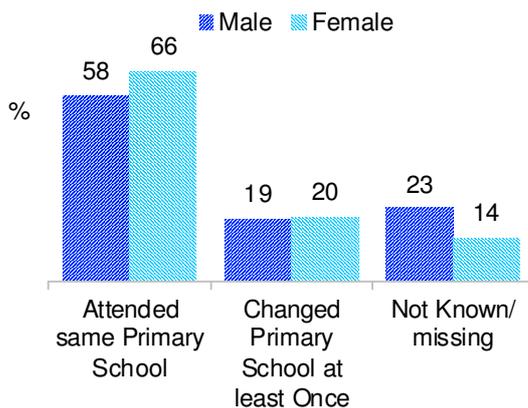
A slightly higher proportion of boys (8%) than girls (6%) were unemployed, with girls (54%) more likely than boys (44%) to have started or about to start full-time education (Appendices, Figure 1).

School History

Primary Schools Attended¹

Of the 182 young people looked after in school Year 12, 62% had attended the same primary school until transfer age, and 20% had changed primary schools at least once. Information on the number of primary schools attended by 33 (18%) young people was not provided.

Figure 7.2: Number of Primary Schools Attended by Children Looked After who had Completed Year 12 in 2007/08, by Gender



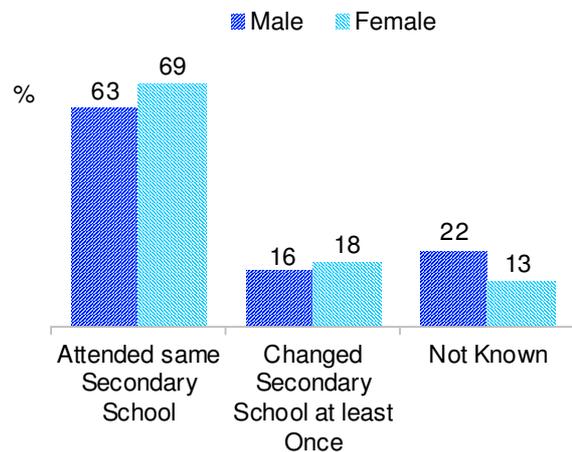
Similar proportions of boys (19%) and girls (20%) looked after had changed primary schools at least once before reaching transfer age (Figure 7.2).

¹ Information on the number of primary schools attended was not provided for 33 young people.

Secondary Schools Attended²

Of the 182 young people in Year 12, almost two thirds (66%) attended the same secondary school, whilst one fifth (17%) had changed secondary schools once.

Figure 7.3: Number of Secondary Schools Attended by Children Looked After who had Completed Year 12 in 2007/08, by Gender



A slightly higher proportion of girls (18%) than boys (16%) looked after changed secondary schools at least once during their post primary years (Figure 7.3).

Gaps in Mainstream Education

One in seven (14%) young people, who had completed Year 12 in 2007/08, 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 31 young people.

³ Information was not provided for 31 young people aged 16 on 1st July 2008

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 2008**
- Table 2** **Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2008, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2007/08**
- Table 3** **Missing Information from the 2007/08 Survey by Trust**
- Figure 1** **Education and Employment Status of Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2007/08 at 30 September 2008 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 2008¹

	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	1,626	1,267	287	22.7	11	0.9	111	8.8
England²	43,700	33,000	9,200	27.9	170	0.5	3,900	11.9
Belfast HSC Trust	416	334	77	23.1	<5	-	29	8.7
Northern HSC Trust	378	284	64	22.5	4	1.4	20	7.0
South Eastern HSC Trust	294	218	37	17.0	<5	-	16	7.3
Southern HSC Trust	198	159	37	23.3	<5	-	8	5.0
Western HSC Trust	340	272	72	26.5	<5	-	38	14.0

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 2008, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2007/08 ¹

Trust / Board	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	69	119	127	182
England	1,600	2,700	3,900	5,100
Belfast HSC Trust	19	32	34	47
Northern HSC Trust	21	26	26	41
South Eastern HSC Trust	17	16	26	32
Southern HSC Trust	<=10	10	15	26
Western HSC Trust	<=10	35	26	36

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 "-".

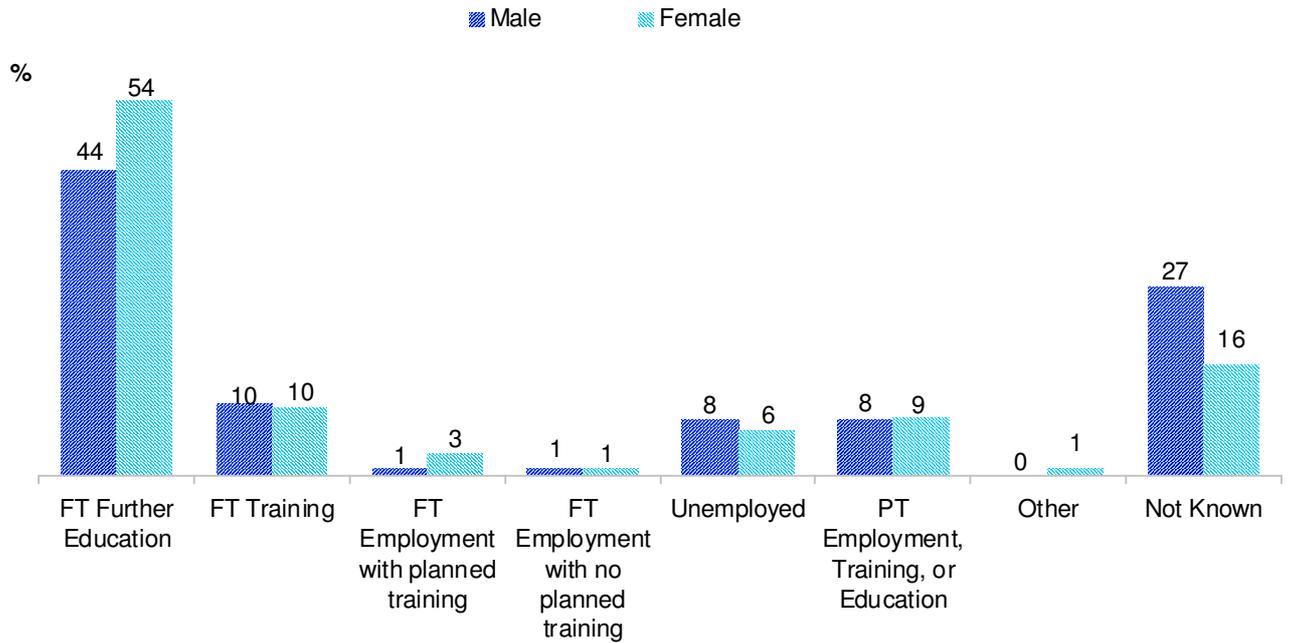
Table 3

Missing Information from the 2007/08 Survey by Trust.

Trust	Statement of Special Educational Needs	Exclusion from School	Suspension from School
Northern Ireland	19	20	21
Belfast HSC Trust	9	9	9
Northern HSC Trust	0	1	1
South Eastern HSC Trust	6	6	6
Southern HSC Trust	0	0	1
Western HSC Trust	4	4	4

Figure 1

Education and Employment Status of Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2007/08 at 30 September 2008 by Gender^{1, 2, 3}



¹ FT Further Education for NI includes FT Further Education and Higher Education; for England the figure refers to Full Time Education.

² Unemployed includes unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability and unemployed for other reason.

³ Other includes parent full-time carer and other full-time carer.

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 2008, 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 2/7/1991 to 1/7/2003.
Key Stage 1	Children eligible for school year 4 i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1999 to 1/7/2000.
Key Stage 2	Children eligible for school year 7, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1996 to 1/7/1997.
Key Stage 3	Children eligible for school year 10, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1993 to 1/7/1994.
GCSEs and GNVQs	Children eligible for school Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1991 to 1/7/1992.
Offending	Children aged 10 & over at 30 September 2008, i.e. whose date of birth is 30/9/1998 or earlier.
Pre-School Provision	Children in their pre-school year in 2007/08, i.e. whose date of birth is 2/7/2003 to 1/7/2004.
Development Assessments	Children aged under 5 at 30 September 2008, i.e. whose date of birth is 1/10/2003 or later.
Immunisations	 <p>All children covered by the OC2 collection, i.e. all children who were looked after on 30 September 2008, and who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.</p>
Dental Checks	
Health Assessments	
Current Activity / Past Schooling Experiences	Children eligible for Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1991 to 1/7/1992.

Technical Note

Twelve Month Data Period

The data collected covers children and young people looked after at 30 September 2008 in Northern Ireland, who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, therefore covering the period 1st October 2007 to the following 30 September 2008. This is distinctly different from other statistical collections by the DHSSPS, which use a year based on the period ending 31st March. The data period chosen for the OC2 collection is designed to coincide with the academic school year.

Cautions or Convictions

Note that statistics for all children in Northern Ireland refer to proceedings based as a person found guilty on two or more occasions during the year is counted more than one. The offences recorded are based on the principal offence rule, i.e. where proceedings involve more than one offence dealt with at the same time, only the principal offence is recorded. The basis for selection of the principal offence is laid down in rules issued by the Home Office. In summary these indicate that, where there is a finding of guilt the principal offence is usually that for which the greatest penalty was imposed.



Outcome indicators for looked after children

Complete this form for each child who was looked after by your Trust at 30 September 2008, 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing impaired	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physically disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please specify below</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not known	<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)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please specify</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

.....

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

If 'Other accommodation', please specify below

.....
.....

13. Did the child's placement change during the last year (i.e. between 1 October 2007 and 30 September 2008)? 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 2007/08 school year (i.e. the child's date of birth is between 2 July 1991 and 1 July 2003)?

Yes
No

If 'no',

For younger children (date of birth after 1 July 2003), please go to Q32

For older children (date of birth before 2 July 1991), 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 2008, please go to Q31

For younger children, please go to Q32

For children in P4 in 2007/08, 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 2007/08, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 2, please answer Qns 25 and 26

For children in Year 10 in 2007/08, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 3, please answer Q27

For children in Year 12 in 2007/08, 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 2007/08 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 2007/08 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 2007?

Yes
No

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

Now please go to Q30

27. For children who were in Year 10 in 2007/08 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
No

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?

Now please go to Q30

28. For children who were in Year 12 in 2007/08 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

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

Yes
No

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	<input type="text"/>
No	<input type="text"/>

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

Number obtained at level 1	<input type="text"/>
Number obtained at level 2	<input type="text"/>
Number obtained at level 3	<input type="text"/>

30. For children aged 10 and over at 30 September 2008

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

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

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 2008 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 2007 and June 2008)

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

32. For children aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2008

a) Were the child's development assessments up to date at 30 September 2008? Yes
No

b) Did the child have his/her 6-monthly health assessment completed between 1 April 2008 and 30 September 2008? Yes
No

33. For children aged 5 and over at 30 September 2008

Did the child have his/her annual health assessment completed during the year ending 30 September 2008? Yes
No

34. For all children

Were the child's immunisations up to date at 30 September 2008? Yes
No

35. Did the child have his/her teeth checked by a dentist during the year ending 30 September 2008? Yes
No

36. Was the child identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year ending 30 September 2008? 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 2008, 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 2007/08 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

Was the young person aged 16 at 1 July 2008?

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

If 'Yes', what was the young person's activity at 30 September 2008?

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 looked after continuously for 12 months or more in Northern Ireland, is available from:

Office Information Manager

Community Information Branch

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Annexe 2

Castle Buildings

Stormont

BT4 3SQ



028 9052 2804

Fax: 028 9052 3288

Email: cib@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Alternatively, this statistical bulletin and other statistical bulletins published by Community Information Branch (CIB) are available to download from the internet at:

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