

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012-13

Statistical Bulletin



Reader Information

Theme	Children in care in Northern Ireland
Document purpose	For information
Reporting period	1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013
Authors / statisticians	Heidi Rodgers and Iain Waugh
Publication Date	31 July 2014
Issued by	Community Information Branch Information & Analysis Directorate Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SQ, Northern Ireland Tel (028) 90522580 Email cib@dhsspsni.gov.uk http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib.htm (from August 2014: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/lookedafterchildren.htm)
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.
Main uses of document	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. The bulletin is also used by academics/researchers, the voluntary sector and those with an interest in children in care.
Copyright	This publication is Crown copyright and may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium. Any material used must be acknowledged, and the title of the publication specified.
Price	FREE

Key Findings

This bulletin presents findings from the annual survey of children in care continuously for twelve months or longer at 30 September. It details analyses relating to the child's placement and health, schooling and educational attainment. It also covers cautions and convictions and current activity for those that finished compulsory schooling.

- At 30 September 2013, 2,071 children and young people had been looked after continuously for 12 months or longer. Of these, almost a quarter (23%) had experienced a placement change during the previous 12 months;
- Having a statement of Special Educational Needs continues to be more prevalent among the looked after children of school age (25%) compared with the general school population (5%);
- A Personal Education Plan (PEP) sets out a strategy and milestones relating to a looked after child's learning progression. Of the school aged children, 77% had a PEP;
- In general, looked after children did not perform as well as their peers on the Key Stage Assessments:

Level of Progression	Subject	Looked after children	General school population
Key Stage 1 Level 2 or above	Communication	73%	90%
	Using Maths	76%	91%
Key Stage 2 Level 4 or above	Communication	36%	77%
	Using Maths	36%	79%
Key Stage 3 Level 5 or above	Communication	28%	72%
	Using Maths	27%	74%

- Almost three quarters (73%) of looked after children attained at least one GCSE/GNVQ at grades A* to G; this compared with close to 100% of the general school population.

About Community Information Branch

The purpose of Community Information Branch (CIB) 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 from the link below.

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib.htm
(from August 2014: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/socialcare.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.

Content

1. Introduction	7
1.1. OC2 Community Information Return	8
1.2. Health and Social Care (Commissioning Plan) Direction (Northern Ireland)	8
1.3. Children in Care 2012-13	9
1.4. Trust Profile	11
1.5. Deprivation	11
2. The Looked After Children	12
2.1. Age & Gender	12
2.2. Religion & Ethnicity	12
2.3. Disability	13
2.4. Dependants	13
3. Health	14
3.1. Development & Health Assessments	14
3.2. Immunisation	14
3.3. Dental Checks	15
4. Placement	15
4.1. Placement changes	17
5. Pre-School Provision	21
6. School Aged Children	22
6.1. Compulsory School Age	22
6.2. Personal Education Plan (PEP)	22
6.3. Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN)	23
6.4. Exclusions from School	23
6.5. Suspensions	24
6.6. Children who missed at least 25 days of school for any reason	26
6.7. School Changes	28
7. Educational Attainment	29
7.1. Children Eligible to Sit Exams	29
7.2. Level of Progression – Level 2 or above	31
7.3. Level of Progression – Level 4 or above	32
7.4. Level of Progression – Level 5 or above	33
7.5. GCSEs and GNVQs	33
8. Cautions / Convictions	35
8.1. Children Cautioned or Convicted	35
8.2. Substance Abuse	36
9. Children who Finished Compulsory Schooling	37
9.1. School Changes	37
9.2. Gaps in schooling	37
9.3. Current activity	38

Appendix	
A. Technical Notes	39
B. Coverage of the OC2 2012-13	42
C. Placement Definitions	43
D. Tables	44
Table 1a	Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2013
Table 1b	Demographic Trends of Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 – 2013)
Table 2	Health Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 – 2013)
Table 3	Funded Pre-School Provision Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 – 2013)
Table 4	General Educational Information for Children Looked After Continuously for at least 12 months for the year ending 30 September 2013
Table 5	Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2012, for each of the Key Educational Stages 2012/13
Table 6	Special Educational Needs Trend Data for Children of Compulsory School Age Continuously Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)
Table 7	Permanent School Exclusions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)
Table 8	School Suspensions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)
Table 9	Days Missed Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 – 2013)
Table 10	School Changes Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)
Table 11	Children Looked After for at least 12 months sitting Exams (2012/13)
Table 12	Key Stage 1 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)
Table 13	Key Stage 2 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)
Table 14	Key Stage 3 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)
Table 15	GCSE Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)
Table 16a	Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2013 by placement type
Table 16b	Educational Attainment for Children Looked After Continuously for 12 Months or Longer at 30 September 2013 by Placement Type
Table 17	Cautions/Convictions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months aged 10 and over (2010 - 2013)
Table 18	Current Activity Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12 at 30 September (2010 – 2013)
Table 19	Current Activity Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12 at 30 September 2013 by gender
E. Form OC2 2012/13	59

CHILDREN IN CARE IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2012–13

1. Introduction

[The Children \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1995](#) is the principal statute governing the care, upbringing and protection of children in Northern Ireland. It affects all those who work and care for children, whether parents, paid carers or volunteers. The Order emphasises the unique advantages to a child being brought up within his or her own family. In practice, this means that the Order sees families as a major way of supporting and helping children. Health and Social Care Trusts have the power and in some circumstances the duty, under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (the Children Order), to help children by providing services to their families.

A child can be referred to social services for a variety of reasons. When a child is referred, social services undertake an initial assessment to determine if that child is a 'child in need' as defined by the Children Order. If a child is considered to be a child in need, services should be offered to assist the child's parents/carers to meet that identified need. Should there be concerns that a child may be suffering or at risk of suffering 'significant harm' Social Services will conduct an investigation under Article 66 of the Children Order and respond appropriately. A Child Protection Case Conference may be convened and the child's name included on the Child Protection Register and a Child Protection Plan drawn up to safeguard the child. If there are significant concerns that indicate authoritative intervention is required Social Services may make application to the Court for a Legal Order to enable them to afford an appropriate level of safeguarding to the child. This may include removing a child from its family and into the care of the HSC Trust.

Children are taken into care for a variety of reasons, the most common being to protect the child from abuse or neglect. In other cases their parents could be absent or may be unable to cope due to disability or illness.

1.1. The OC2 Community Information Return

This bulletin presents the latest figures on looked after children in Northern Ireland. The OC2 community information return is specifically designed to collect information on children while they are in care, expressly for children who have been in care continuously for 12 months or longer. Two additional returns, OC1 and OC3, collect information on educational attainment of care leavers aged 16 to 18 and the circumstances of care leavers at the time of their 19th birthday¹.

OC2, first published in 2004, collects information relating to the educational qualifications, health and other key areas of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more at 30 September each year. Comparisons are included where possible with the general Northern Ireland population and with looked after children in other UK countries. These comparisons should however be treated with caution as they relate at times to very different cohorts of children or slightly different time periods.

1.2. Health and Social Care (Commissioning Plan) Direction (Northern Ireland)

Special focus has been given to looked after children within the Health and Social Care (Commissioning Plan) Direction (Northern Ireland) and the Health and Social Care (Indicators of Performance) Direction (Northern Ireland)². For 2014/15, the findings from the OC2 survey collection is used to monitor two targets relating to placement stability for a child in care and the uptake of Personal Education Plans. In addition, it is recognised through an Indicator of Performance, that school attendance is of importance to ensure educational achievement. This indicator as well as the targets will be discussed in more detail through the report.



¹ Please see the Appendix A: Technical Notes for further details on the OC-publications.

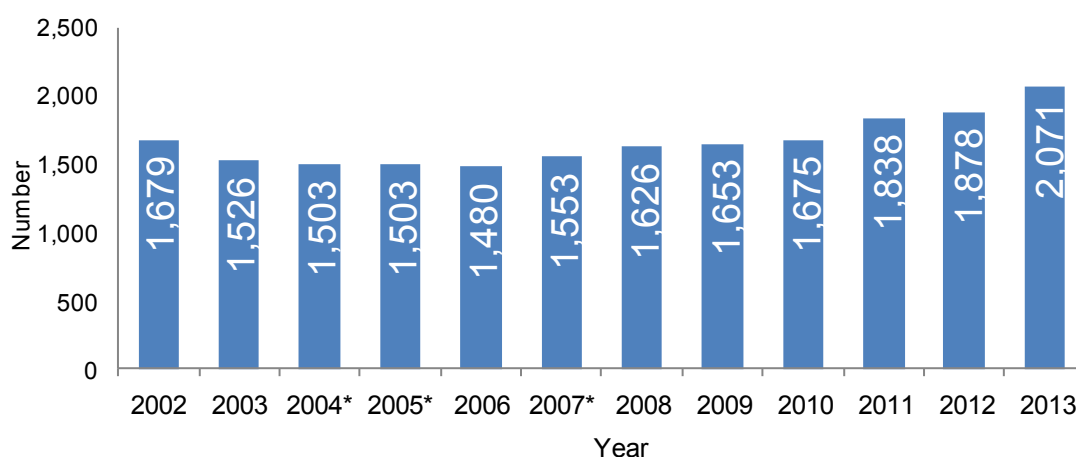
² http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/ministerial_priorities.htm

1.3. Children in care 2012-13

At 30 September 2013, 2,071 children who were looked after in Northern Ireland had been continuously looked after for more than a year³. Figure 1.1 outlines how the number of children looked after for at least 12 months has risen year on year since 2006. Compared with 2012, the numbers of children looked after increased by 10% (193), from 1,878 in 2012 to 2,071 in 2013. Furthermore, the 2013 figure represents a 23% increase from 2002 (1,679).

The rise in numbers of looked after children – as well as referrals to children's services and being registered for child protection in Northern Ireland, is similar to the trend across the UK⁴. The increase may be explained by a number of factors including an increased level of awareness of child protection issues; greater willingness to take action to protect children who are potentially at risk; more adolescents becoming looked after due to family breakdown and improved collection and processing of information.

Figure 1.1 Number of children looked after continuously for 12 months or longer at 30 September (2002 to 2013)



*Number estimated for these years

The 2,071 children and young people that had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months represented a rate of 48 children per 10,000 population aged under 18⁵; a somewhat higher proportion to that in England, where 41 children per 10,000 child population had been looked after for 12 months or more⁶.

The rate was also an increase on the previous year when 44 children per 10,000 population had been looked after for 12 months or longer. Of recent years the lowest rate occurred in 2006 when 34 children per 10,000 population had been looked after for 12 months or longer.

³ This figure may differ slightly from other sources due to categorisation and exclusions. Please see the technical annex for more details.

⁴ Links to other UK publications can be found in the technical annex.

⁵ 2013 Mid Year Population Estimates, NISRA 2014

⁶ Source: 'Outcomes for Children Looked after by local authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013', Department of Education and Mid Year Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics.

Figure 1.2 Number of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2013 by HSC Trust



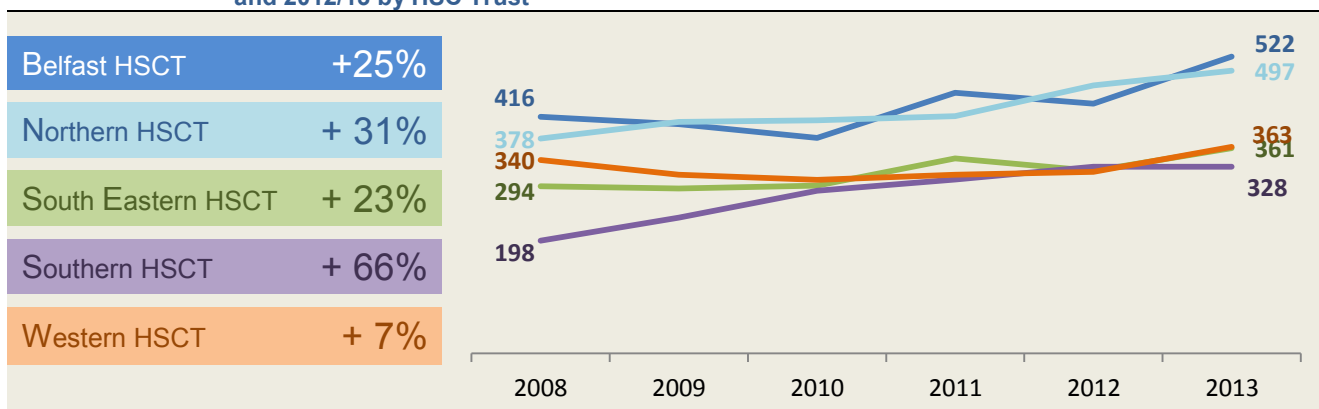
1.4. Trust Profile

Figure 1.2 sets out the number of children looked after for 12 months or longer at 30 September 2013 by Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts. The Belfast and the Northern HSC Trusts had the largest proportions of the children, covering about a quarter of the children in each trust (25% and 24% respectively).

Figure 1.3 sets out the trend figures of looked after children for 12 months or longer over the last six years. It shows that all HSC Trusts have had an increase in the cohort of these children, from the relatively moderate increase of 7% in the Western HSC Trust to the more substantial increase of 66% in the Southern HSC Trust between 2007/08 to 2012/13. The variance in the figures will to some extent relate to the different population structures and geographies within the individual Trust.

Looking specifically at the last year's change in the cohort of children (change between 2011/12 and 2012/13), the Belfast HSC Trust witnessed the largest increase in the number of children looked after (19%), followed by the Western HSC Trust (14%) and the South Eastern HSC Trust (12%). The Northern HSC Trust saw an increase of 6% and the Southern HSC Trust had the same number of children looked after for 12 months or longer in both 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Figure 1.3 Change in the number of children looked after for 12 months or more between 2007/08 and 2012/13 by HSC Trust



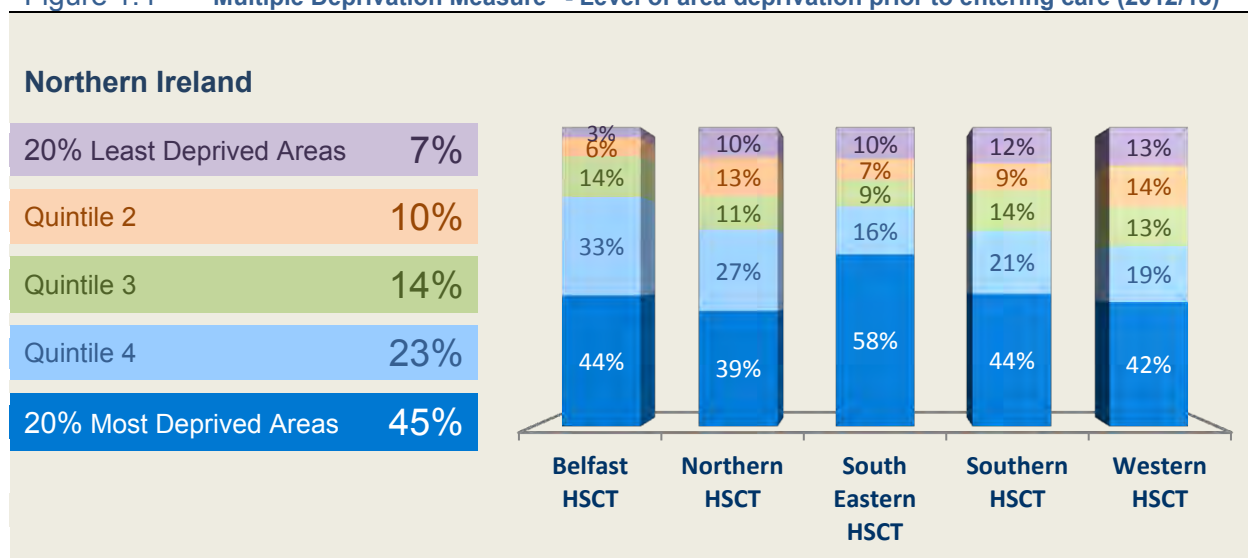
1.5. Multiple Deprivation Measure and Rurality

Questions regarding geographical location were introduced for the first time in the OC2 survey in 2012/13. This information was linked with the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010⁷ (MDM) and the Urban-Rural Classification 2005⁸ to identify the deprivation quintile rank and rurality of home location before entry into care.

For the children where geographical information was available⁹, 83% were living in an urban area before entering care, with 17% originating from rural areas. In comparison, it is estimated that 64% of the Northern Ireland population were living in urban areas and 36% in rural areas¹⁰.

An analysis of the MDM quintiles showed that 45% of the children had been taken into care from the 20% most deprived areas within Northern Ireland. Around seven per cent of the children originated from the least deprived areas. The same trend was evident for the HSC Trusts when taking the individual Trusts deprivation structure into account. It was most evident however in the South Eastern HSC Trust where 58% of the looked after children originated from within the trust's 20% most deprived areas.

Figure 1.4 Multiple Deprivation Measure^A - Level of area deprivation prior to entering care (2012/13)



^A The multiple deprivation rank for the HSC Trusts are based on the trust's individual deprivation structure.

Please note that the above statistics must be treated with some care as there are no historical data that can confirm the trends or robustness of the results.

⁷ Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2010 (http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/nimdm_2010.htm)

⁸ "Report on the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group" NISRA 2005.

⁹ Geographical information prior to entering care was available for 96% of the children.

¹⁰ 'Rural and urban areas: comparing lives using urban/rural classifications', Pateman, T, ONS, 2010/11

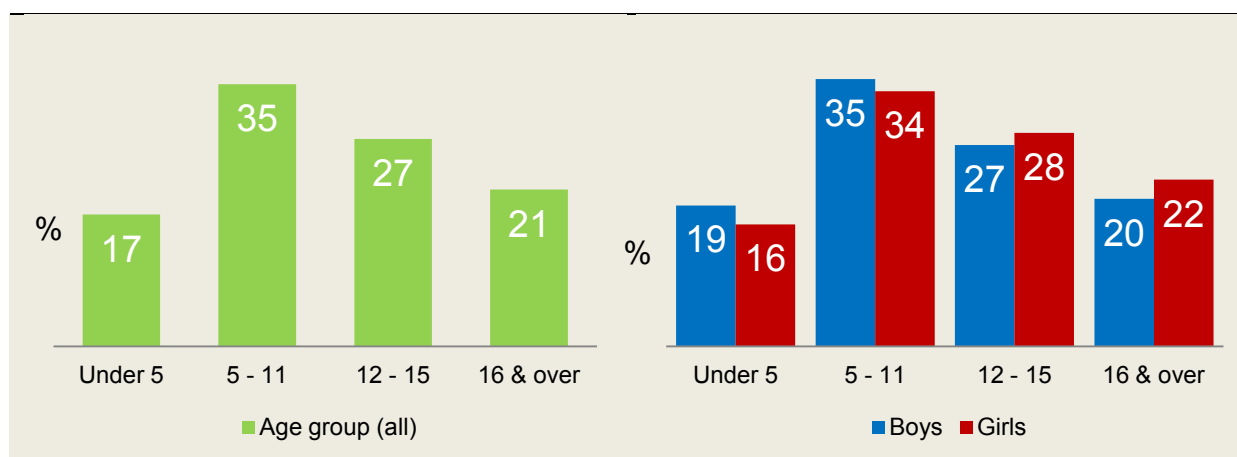
2. The Looked After Children

2.1. Age and Gender

At 30 September 2013, 52% of the children who had been in care for 12 months or longer were male (1,082) and 48% were female (989) which was similar to the proportions in 2012.

As in 2011/12, the highest proportion of children looked after in 2012/13 were in the 5-11 and 12-15 age groups, whereas some 17% of the children were under 5 years of age (Figure 2.1). There were only minor differences in the age breakdown between boys and girls.

Figure 2.1 Age Profile (%) – All and by gender (2012/13)



2.2. Religion and Ethnicity

There was a higher proportion of Catholic (52%) than Protestant (39%) looked after children in 2012/13, with 194 (9%) reported as having either 'No', 'Unknown' or 'Other' religious denomination. This difference would be expected as the 2011 Census results showed that the Catholic population has a younger age distribution than Protestants¹¹. Compared with the previous year, a similar proportion of children came from a Catholic background whereas there were 6 percentage points less from a Protestant background in 2012/13 (39%) compared with 2011/12 (45%). Furthermore, the number of children having 'No', 'Unknown' or 'Other' religious denomination rose from 3% to 9%.

The ethnic grouping of the children in 2012/13 indicated that 96% (1,977) were White, and of the remaining 4% (94), 24 were Irish Travellers, 15 were Black, 8 were Chinese and 47 were of Other Ethnic backgrounds.

¹¹ http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/detailedcharacteristics_stats_bulletin_2011.pdf

2.3. Disability

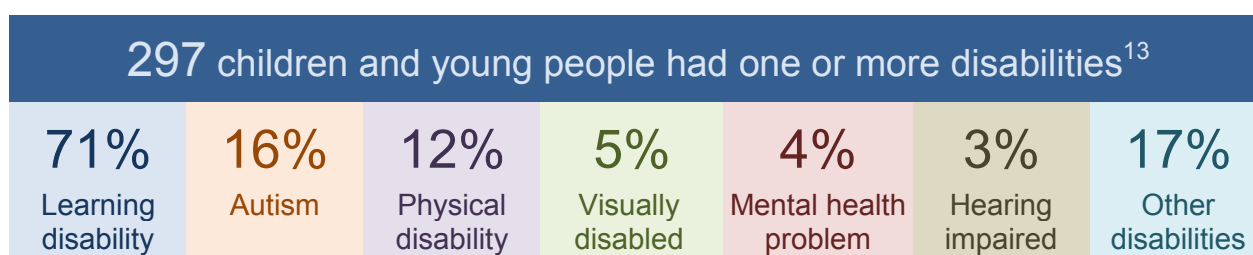
Trusts were asked to indicate if children were disabled in accordance with the definition below:

“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, 14% (297) of the children looked after for more than 12 months were reported as disabled in 2012/13, the same proportion as that for 2011/12. Furthermore, a higher proportion of boys (17%) than girls (12%) were disabled. Although not directly comparable, the NI Census found that 5% of children in Northern Ireland had a limiting long term illness or disability that limited their day to day activity¹². It would therefore suggest that having a disability is more prevalent among looked after children than the general population.

Figure 2.2 below sets out the frequency of different disability types. The majority of the disabled looked after children had a learning disability (71%) either on its own or in combination with another disability. This was followed by autism (16%) and physically disabled (12%). 17% of the disabled children fell into ‘Other’ categories. Of the children with a disability, 22% (66) were recorded as having multiple disabilities.

Figure 2.2 Looked after children with a disability and type of disability (2012/13)



The largest number of disabled children could be found in the Belfast HSC Trust (29%), 26% were in the Northern HSC Trust, 18% in the Western HSC Trust, 17% in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 11% in the Southern HSC Trusts. As a proportion of it's looked after children populations the Belfast HSC Trust was looking after the largest proportion of disabled children (16%); in comparison, 10% of the looked after children population in the Southern HSC Trust were disabled.

Three quarters of the disabled children were placed in foster care (non-kinship or kinship). This represented 14% of all children in this placement type. In comparison, 26% of children in residential placements and 18% in ‘other’ placements were considered to have a disability.

2.4. Dependants

Becoming a parent may impact on educational outcomes for young people. In 2012/13, 13 young people in care had one or more dependent children, 3 more than in 2011/12. The majority of the young people with dependants were female and aged 16 years or older at the time of the survey.

¹² Findings from the Northern Ireland Census 2011

¹³ 66 of the children (22%) were recorded as having multiple disabilities and are therefore included in more than one category.

3. Health

3.1. Development & Health Assessments

Figure 3.1 sets out the uptake of development and health assessments by children looked after for 12 months or longer. Development Assessments and Six Monthly Assessments relates to the children who were aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2013 (16% or 360 of the children). Annual Health Assessments relates to children aged 5 and over (83% or 1,711 of the children).

Figure 3.1 Development and Health Assessments for children looked after for 12 months or longer in Northern Ireland and England¹⁴ (2012/13)

Development Assessments (children aged under 5)	Six Monthly Assessments (children aged under 5)	Annual Health Assessment (children aged 5 & over)
99%	97%	87%
Nearly all (99%, 358) of the children aged under five, had their development assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2013. This was an improvement on 2012 when 95% had their assessments up-to-date. Furthermore, the 2013 figure was higher than the corresponding figure for looked after children in England (84%).	Of the children aged under 5, 97% (350) had their six monthly assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2013, a slight decrease compared with 96% in 2012.	Of the 1,711 children aged 5 & over, 87% (1,494) had their annual health assessment up-to-date at 30 September 2013, slightly below that of 2012 when 89% had their health assessment up-to-date. In comparison, 88% of looked after children in England aged 5 and over had their health assessment up-to-date.

3.2. Immunisations

Information on immunisations relates to all looked after children covered in this bulletin, and not just to those that were due immunisations in 2012/13. It includes immunisations due before admittance into care and during time spent in care. For the purpose of this survey, children who did not receive immunisations for health reasons or because parents refused consent, were counted as children whose immunisations were not up-to-date.

A child's immunisation record was considered up-to-date if the HSC Trust indicated that all relevant immunisations had been administered by 30 September 2013. From the information provided, 99% (2,045) of children looked after had their immunisations up-to-date at 30 September 2013. This was considerably higher than looked after children in England¹⁵, where 83% had their immunisation up to date.

¹⁴ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013.

¹⁵ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013.

Immunisation rates for Northern Ireland generally are not published on a client basis but rather by type of immunisation¹⁶ and are therefore not comparable with the way the immunisation rates are collected for looked after children in this survey.

3.3. Dental Checks

This relates to all children and young people looked after who had their teeth checked during the year ending 30 September 2013. 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 2,071 children looked after for 12 months or longer at 30 September 2013, 96% (1,992) had their teeth checked the previous year; 14 percentage points higher than the corresponding figure for England¹⁷ (82%).

¹⁶ Public Health Agency Core Tables <http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>

¹⁷ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013.

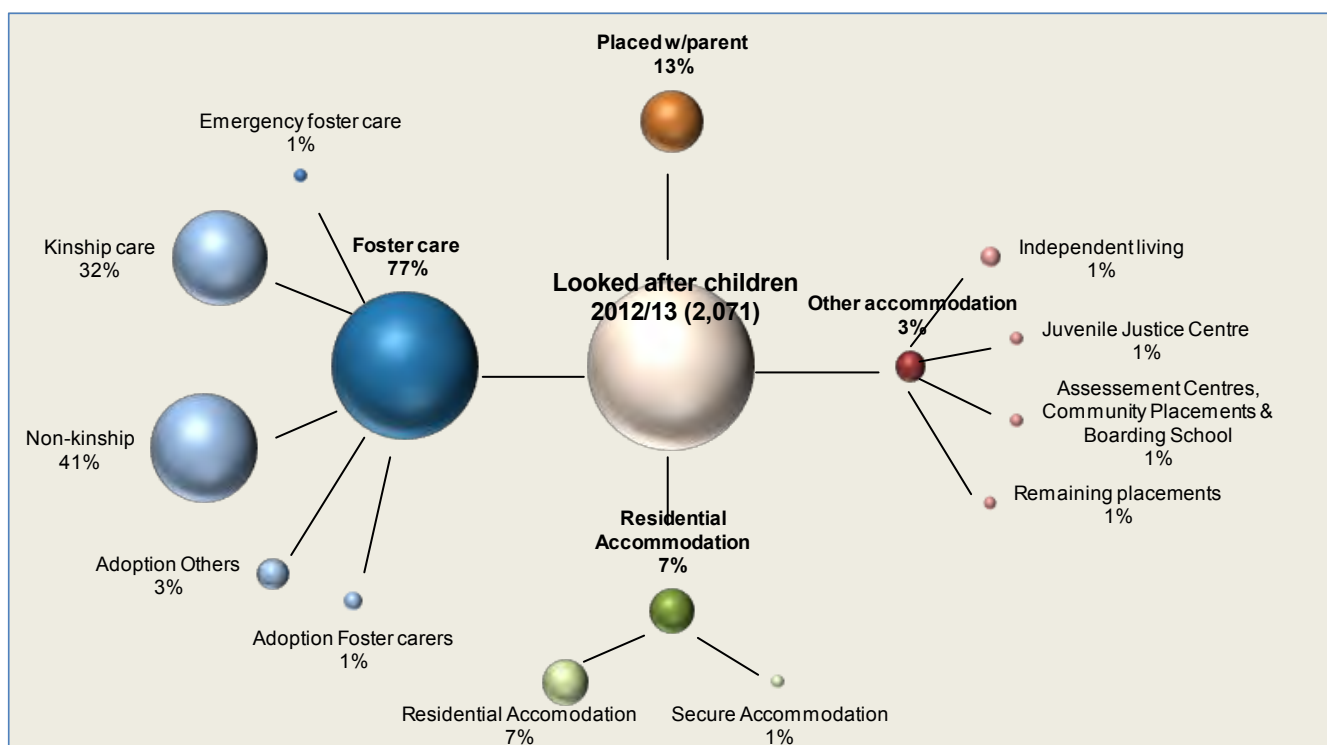
4. Placement

Children in care can be cared for in a variety of placement types depending on the individual child's situation and needs¹⁸. For the purpose of this report, five main placement categories will be used; non-kinship foster care (including children placed for adoption), kinship foster care¹⁹ (including emergency foster care), residential care, placed with parent and 'other' placement types.

At 30 September 2013, 45% (929) of the children in care for 12 months or longer were placed in non-kinship foster care, 32% (665) were placed in kinship foster care, 13% (269) were placed with parent, 7% (146) were in residential care, and 3% (62) were in 'other' placement types. This was similar proportions to that in 2012.

Figure 4.1 sets out the main placement categories and sub categories for children who had been looked after for 12 months or longer at 30 September 2013. Of the children in foster care, the majority were in non-kinship placements. Of the 88 placed for adoption, more children were placed for adoption with 'others' (60 children) than with their former foster carers (28 children).

Figure 4.1 Placement of children looked after continuously for 12 months or longer at 30 September 2013



Note: Numbers may not sum due to rounding.

Note: Children placed for adoption is included in non-kinship foster care for the analysis in this bulletin.

¹⁸ Appendix C sets out descriptions of different placement types.

¹⁹ In this publication "kinship foster care" covers formal kinship care arrangements as opposed to informal kinship care which are private arrangement. Please see appendix C for further details.

Of the 62 children in 'Other' placement types:

- ◆ 44% were living independently;
- ◆ 16% were in assessment centres, community placements or boarding schools;
- ◆ 15% were in Juvenile Justice Centres;
- ◆ <10% were placed with friends or relatives (not covered by definition of kinship foster care);
- ◆ <10% were in supported accommodation;
- ◆ <10% were in hospital and
- ◆ 11% in placements not elsewhere described.

Table 4.1 below shows the main placement categories, broken down by HSC Trusts. For all Trusts the most prevalent placement was non-kinship foster care followed by kinship foster care. There were however some variations in the distribution of placements between the Trusts, the South Eastern and Western HSC Trusts had lower proportions of children placed with parent. Similar proportions of children were in residential care across all Trusts (between 6%-10%).

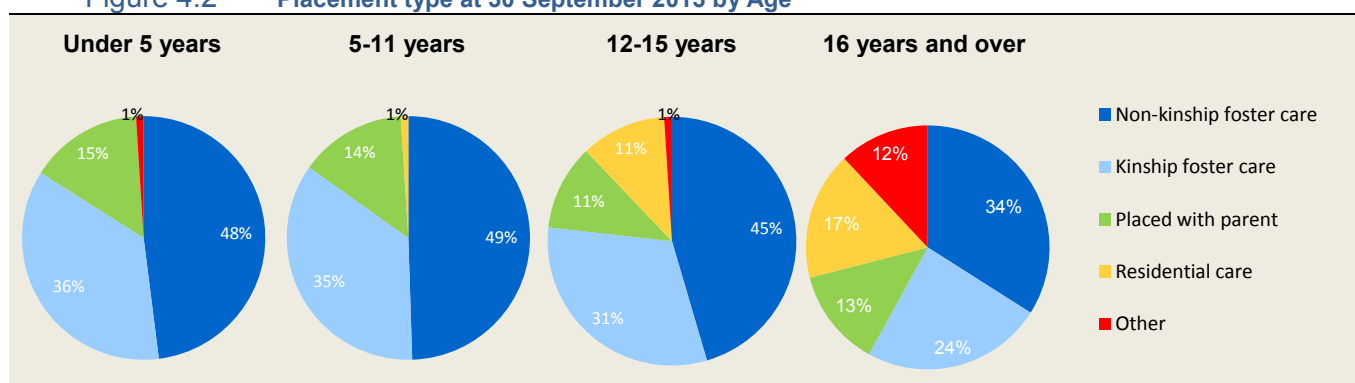
Table 4.1 Placement type by HSC Trust year ending 30 September 2013

	Northern Ireland	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust
Non-kinship foster care*	45%	42%	40%	47%	53%	46%
Kinship foster care	32%	33%	34%	33%	26%	33%
Placed with parent	13%	15%	17%	9%	13%	8%
Residential care	7%	8%	6%	6%	6%	10%
Other	3%	3%	3%	5%	2%	3%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

* Non-kinship foster care includes children placed for adoption.

The age of the child looked after may influence the suitability of placement types. For all age groups, non-kinship foster care followed by kinship foster care were the main placement types at 30 September 2013. Children aged 12 and over were more likely than younger children to be in residential care, with 17% of the children aged 16 and over being in residential care (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2 Placement type at 30 September 2013 by Age



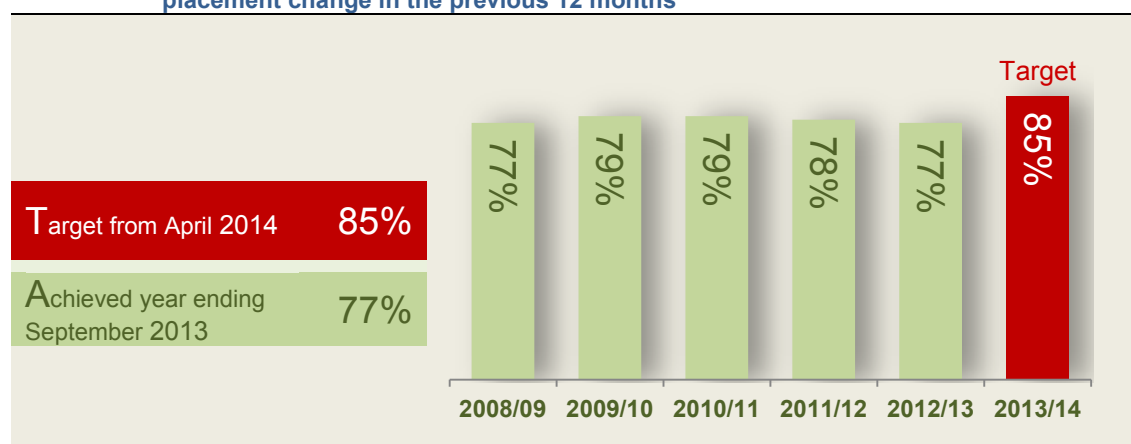
4.1. Placement Changes

'..the lack of permanence and stability in the lives of children and young people who are in care can contribute to poor educational attainment, low self esteem, disruptive and challenging behaviours leading to a number of them coming into conflict with the law'

Care Matters in Northern Ireland – a Bridge to a Better Future - 2007

Placement stability is associated with better outcomes for children in care and an indication of how important stability is to those that are in care, a Ministerial Target relating to placement changes is in place²⁰. The target for both 2013/14 and 2014/15 sets out that 85% of children in care for 12 months or longer should have no placement changes during the last year (see Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3 Children in care continuously for 12 months or longer at 30 September with no placement change in the previous 12 months

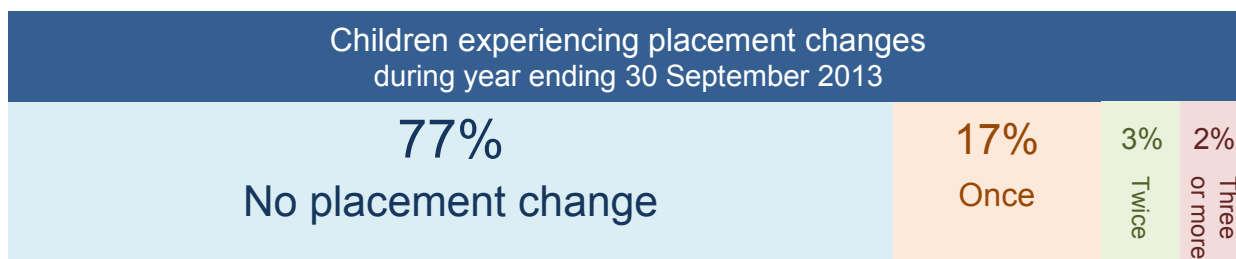


Almost a quarter (23% or 471 children) of all children in care for 12 months or longer changed placement at least once during the year ending 30 September 2013; 17% once only, 3% twice only, and 2% had changed placement three times or more (Figure 4.4). This was in general similar to the proportions in 2011/12, however there was a small increase from 15% to 17% of those that experienced one placement move only.

A higher proportion of males experienced placement changes than females (24% and 22% respectively); the difference was seen in those with one placement change only, with 19% of the boys compared with 16% of the girls having had one placement change only.

²⁰ Health and Social Care (Commissioning Plan) Direction (Northern Ireland)
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/ministerial_priorities.htm

Figure 4.4 Placement changes during the year ending 30 September 2013



Children under 5 years old together with the children aged 16 and over saw the highest proportion of placement changes in 2012/13 (28% and 29% respectively) (Figure 4.5). Compared with 2011/12, there was an increase in the proportion of placement changes within the 12 to 15 age group (4 percentage points).

Of the children under 5 years of age, 34% (35 children) had a move which represented being placed for adoption. In total, 48 children’s moves represented placements of adoption²¹.

Figure 4.5 Percentage of looked after children who experienced a placement change during 2012/13 by age group

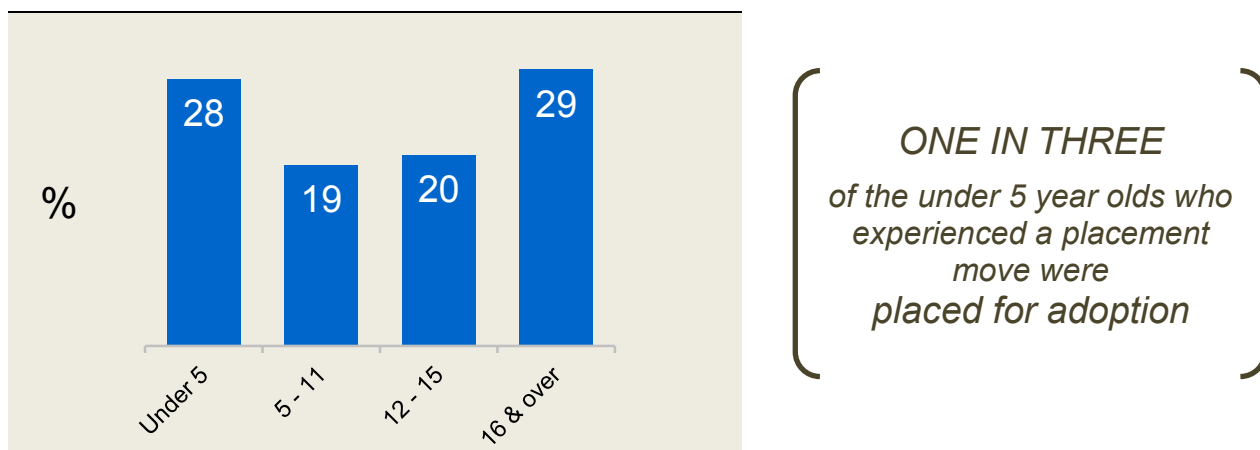
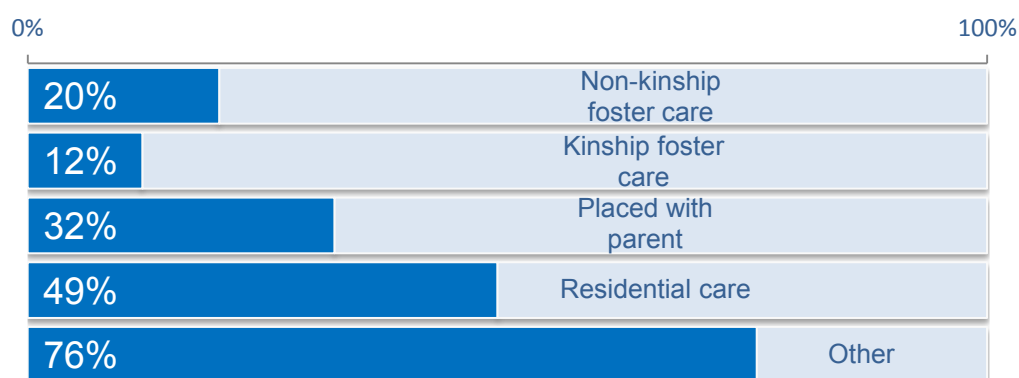


Figure 4.6 sets out the proportion of placement changes by the child’s current placement type at 30 September 2013. Of the children looked after for more than 12 months, children who were in kinship foster care at 30 September 2013 had the highest stability during the previous year (12% with a placement change). Three quarters of the children in ‘Other accommodation’ had had a placement change, which may be due to the nature of the placements included in this category (see appendix C for details).

²¹ Being placed for adoption is a stage in the adoption process and a child will still be considered as looked after until the granting of an Adoption Order.

Figure 4.6 Percentage of looked after children who had experienced a placement change during 2012/13 by their current placement type at 30 September 2013

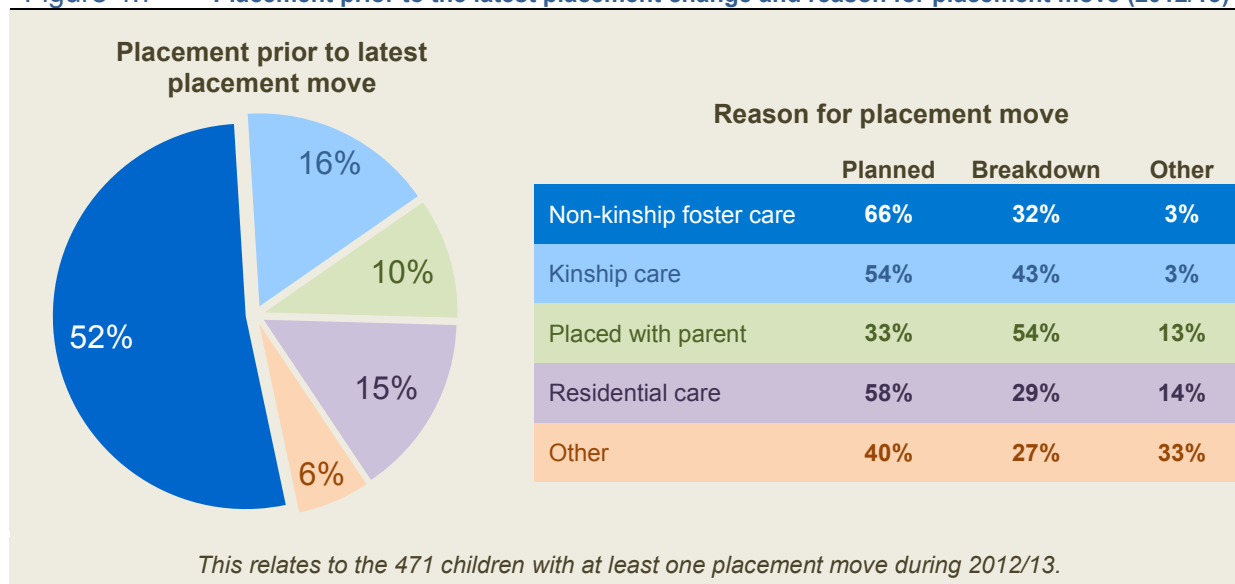


For the first time the reason for the latest placement change was collected in this survey; whether the move was planned or due to a placement breakdown. The HSC Trusts reported that for 58% of the 471 children with a placement move during 2012/13, the latest placement change was planned whereas 35% were due to a breakdown and 7% for other reasons.

There were only minor gender differences in relation to whether the placement move was planned or not, however the age of the child appeared to have an impact. Almost half of all placement moves for both the 12-15 year age group and those 16 years and over related to a placement breakdown (both 48%). In comparison, 17% and 26% of the placement changes for the under 5 year olds and 5 – 11 year olds respectively related to a placement breakdown.

Of the 471 children who experienced one or more placement change during 2012/13, half originated from non-kinship foster care prior to the latest move. For all placement types the majority of the latest placement move was planned, with the exception of those placed with a parent, where just over half of the moves related to a placement breakdown. Two-thirds of the moves from non-kinship foster care were planned moves which included 48 children who were placed for adoption.

Figure 4.7 Placement prior to the latest placement change and reason for placement move (2012/13)



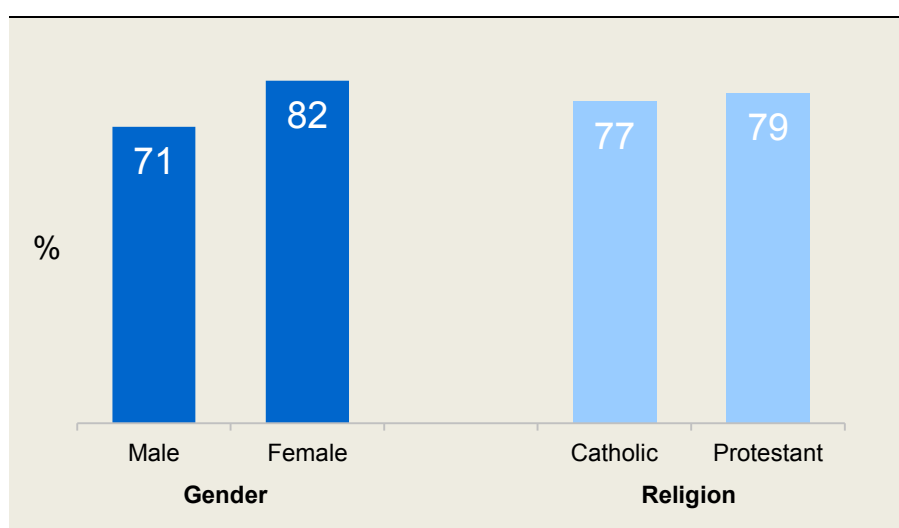
5. Pre-School Provision

Information on pre-school provision relates to children under 5 years of age. In 2012/13 it related to those children whose date of birth fell between 2 July 2008 and 1 July 2009.

Three quarters (76%) of the 100 looked after children eligible for funded pre-school provision had been allocated a free place during 2012/13.

A higher proportion of girls (82%) than boys (71%) looked after aged under 5 had a funded pre-school place in 2012/13 (Figure 5.1). In terms of religion, a higher proportion of Protestants than Catholics under 5 years had a funded pre-school place (79% and 77% respectively). In 2011/12, 81% of Protestants and 56% of Catholics had a funded pre-school place.

Figure 5.1 Looked after children aged under 5 who had a funded pre-school place (2012/13)



6. School Age Children

Education is a vital component of all children's lives and can impact on their chances for future employment and their general well being. This applies particularly to looked after children who continue to have lower educational achievements than their peers in the general school population. There are a number of initiatives in place to maximise the benefit of education and make real improvements in outcomes for these children and young people.

*Family & Children's Policy Directorate
DHSSPS*

6.1. Compulsory School Age

For the 2012/13 survey, compulsory school age refers to all children whose date of birth fell on or between 2 July 1996 and 1 July 2008, 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 2013, 73% (1,516) were of compulsory school age, with similar proportions amongst the girls and the boys (74% and 72% respectively).

6.2. Personal Educational Plans

The Care Matters in Northern Ireland strategy²², which aims to improve support for children in care, was endorsed by the Executive in 2009. One of the recommended actions from the strategy was the introduction of a Personal Education Plan for looked after children or young persons for the expressed purpose of improving educational outcomes. Implementation of the Personal Education Plan and its associated materials took effect from 1 December 2011.

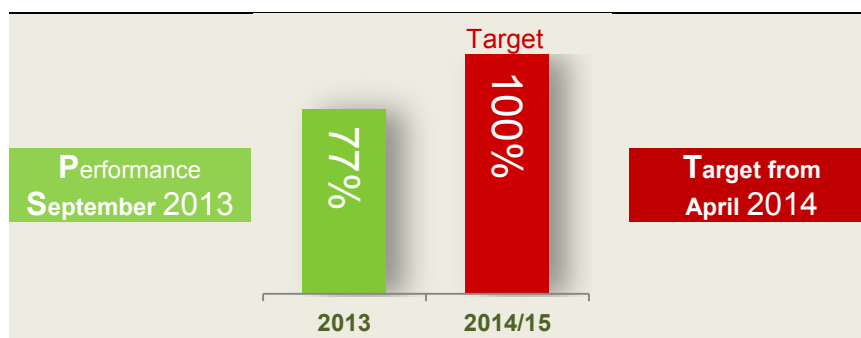
A Personal Education Plan (PEP) is a continuous record of the child/young person's school history and identifies what needs to happen for looked after children/young people to fulfil their potential by planning and establishing clear targets for the child/young person relating to learning achievements. A PEP should be completed for all looked after children/young people of statutory school age, including children/young people in secure accommodation and in custody, at the 3 month LAC Review, 6 month LAC Review, and at 6 monthly intervals thereafter to coincide with LAC Reviews.

Questions regarding PEP were introduced in the OC2 survey for the first time in the 2012/13 collection. Results indicated that of the children in care for 12 months or longer at 30 September 2013, 77% had a PEP and that of those with a PEP, 74% had had it reviewed within the previous six months. The Northern HSC Trust had the lowest proportion of children with a PEP (59%). In comparison, PEP uptake within the other trusts ranged from 79% in the South Eastern HSC Trust to 86% in the Western HSC Trust.

²² http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/child_care/looked-after-children/care-matters.htm

The importance of educational outcomes for adult life was highlighted when a target was included in the Health and Social Care (Commissioning Plan) Direction²³ for 2014/15, stating that all looked after children of school age must have a PEP (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1 School age children in care continuously for 12 months or longer at 30 September with a Personal Education Plan

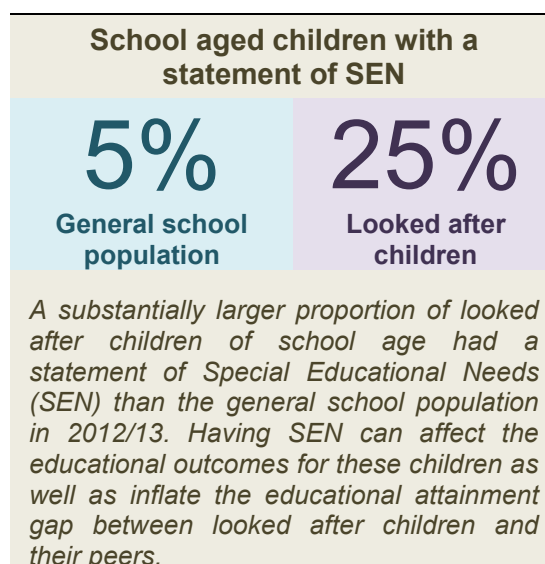


6.3. Children with statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN)

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 Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs (SEN) published by the Department of Education NI²⁴.

A quarter of children looked after of compulsory school age in 2012/13 (25%), were covered by a statement of SEN, which was substantially higher than the general school population in Northern Ireland²⁵ (5%). However, the proportion was slightly lower than for looked after children in England²⁶ (29%).

Of the looked after children covered by a SEN in Northern Ireland, the majority (54%) were related to a learning or severe learning disability (Figure 6.1). Some 31% related to 'other reasons' included mixed reasons and not known.



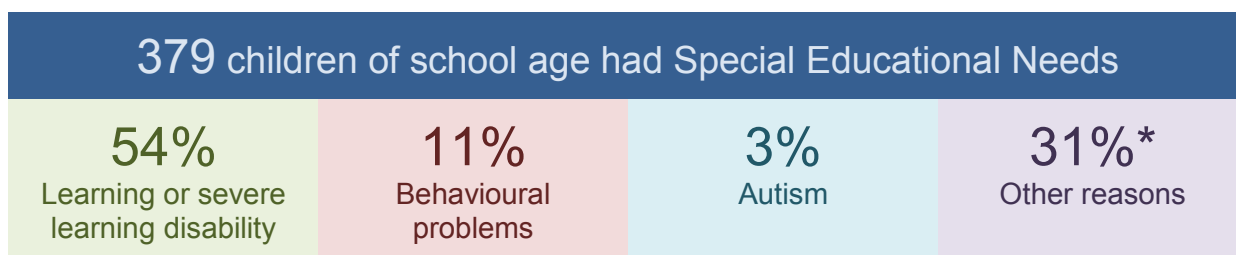
²³ http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/ministerial_priorities.htm

²⁴ Code of Practice, Department of Education NI www.deni.gov.uk/index/7-special_educational_needs_pg/special_needs_codes_of_practice_pg.htm

²⁵ Department of Education NI, Enrolments at Schools and in Funded Pre-School Education in Northern Ireland 2012/13

²⁶ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013

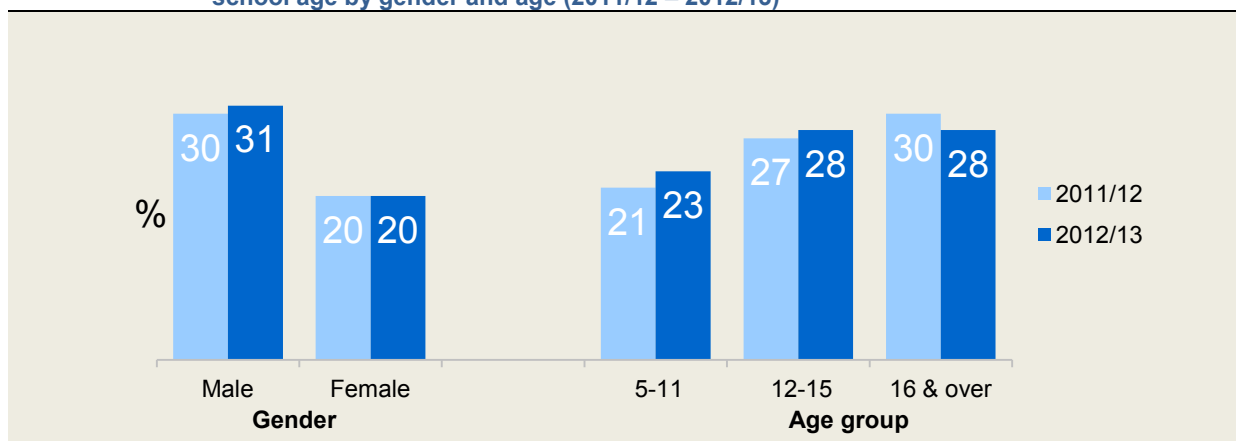
Figure 6.2 Looked after children with Special Educational Needs (2012/13)



*Other reasons includes mixed reasons and unknown

A higher proportion of boys (31%) than girls (20%) were covered by a statement of SEN, similar to the proportions in 2011/12 (Figure 6.3). Figure 6.3 also sets out that the age group 5-11 years had the lowest proportion of children with a statement of SEN (23%). This may reflect that for some of these children their special needs may not yet have been detected or that the statement process may not yet have been completed. Of the children 16 years and over, a slightly smaller proportion of children had SEN in 2012/13 compared with 2011/12 (28% and 30% respectively).

Figure 6.3 Statements of SEN for children looked after for 12 months or longer of compulsory school age by gender and age (2011/12 – 2012/13)



6.4. Exclusions from School

The number of exclusions from school is generally very low. Of the looked after children of compulsory school age, 8 were expelled during 2012/13 (0.5%). This compared with 19 permanent exclusions in the general school population in Northern Ireland²⁷, and 0.15% in England²⁸.

²⁷ Suspensions and Expulsions, Department of Education NI 2012/13

²⁸ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013 – Additional Tables

6.5. Suspensions

Looked after children were almost five times more likely to be suspended from school than children in the general school population; 6% (97) of children looked after had been suspended in 2012/13, compared with 1.3% of the general school population in Northern Ireland¹³. The proportion of children looked after that had been suspended did however reduce by two percentage points, from 8% to 6% between 2011/12 and 2012/13 continuing the trend of the previous year.

Table 6.1 details the frequency with which children looked after were suspended from school in 2012/13. While the vast majority of children looked after were not suspended (94%), 4% had been suspended once, 1% twice and a further 1% three times or more. As in 2011/12, slightly higher proportions of boys than girls looked after had been suspended from school during the academic year; 9% of boys compared with 4% of girls had been suspended at least once during 2012/13.

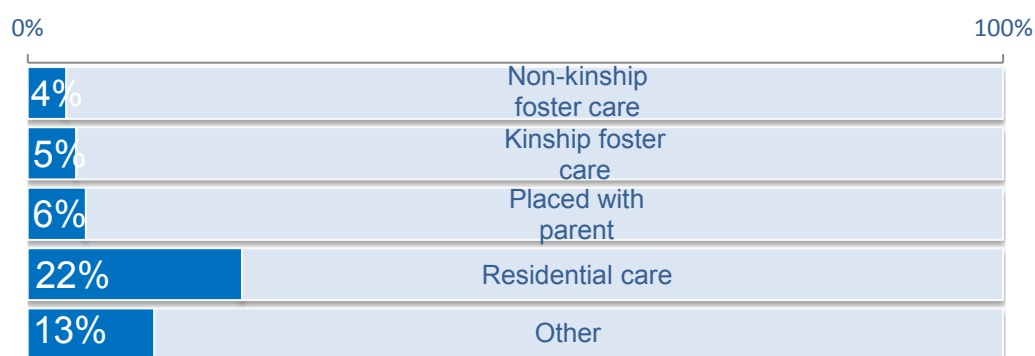
Table 6.1 Looked after children (LAC) suspended from school (2012/13) all and by gender

	Number of suspensions from school			
	None	Once only	Twice only	Three or more
LAC Northern Ireland	94%	4%	1%	1%
LAC Boys	91%	4%	1%	3%
LAC Girls	96%	3%	< 1%	< 1%

A slightly higher proportion of the 12-15 year olds had been suspended from school during 2012/13 compared with the 16 years and older age group (11% and 9% respectively) (Figure 5.2). Only 1% of the 5-11 year olds were suspended during the same time period. A comparison showed similar relationships between the age groups in 2011/12; however, a slightly smaller proportion of the children aged 16 and over had been suspended in 2012/13 than in 2011/12 (9% and 11% respectively).

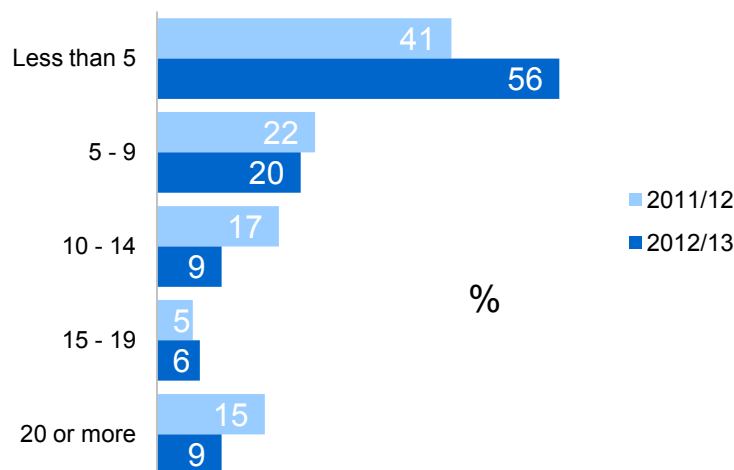
Children in residential care were more likely to be suspended than children in any other placement types (Figure 6.4). This must however be viewed in conjunction with the fact that most children suspended were in the older age groups at the same time as the majority of children in residential care were also in the older age groups.

Figure 6.4 Proportion of children in each placement that were suspended from school (2012/13)



During 2012/13, 56% of the 97 children looked after who had been suspended, had been suspended for less than 5 days, whilst 9 children (9%) had been suspended for 20 days or more (Figure 6.3). Although the general trend was the same in 2011/12, a larger proportion of the children suspended had been suspended for less than 5 days in 2012/13 compared with 2011/12 (56% and 41% respectively).

Figure 6.5 School days missed through suspension (2011/12 – 2012/13)



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

Absenteeism from school, whether authorised or unauthorised, can be detrimental to a child’s educational progress. Reducing the levels of school days missed will therefore aid in enhancing the educational attainment of children in care. To highlight the importance of school attendance, an Indicator of Performance on this issue has since last year been included in the Health and Social Care (Indicator of Performance) Direction. The focus on this area stays a Departmental priority as it has also been included in the 2014/15 Indicator of Performance Direction.

The OC2 survey does not differentiate between reasons for children missing school. Of the children missing school in 2012/13, 68% had missed between 1 and 24 school days, and full attendance at school was reported for 24% of school aged children²⁹ (Figure 6.6).

In 2012/13, 8% of children looked after had missed 25 or more school days of any reason, a slight reduction from 2011/12 when 9% of looked after school children missed 25 or more days. For the 2012/13 school year, similar proportions of girls (8%) and boys (8%) looked after had missed 25 days or more.

8%

2012/13

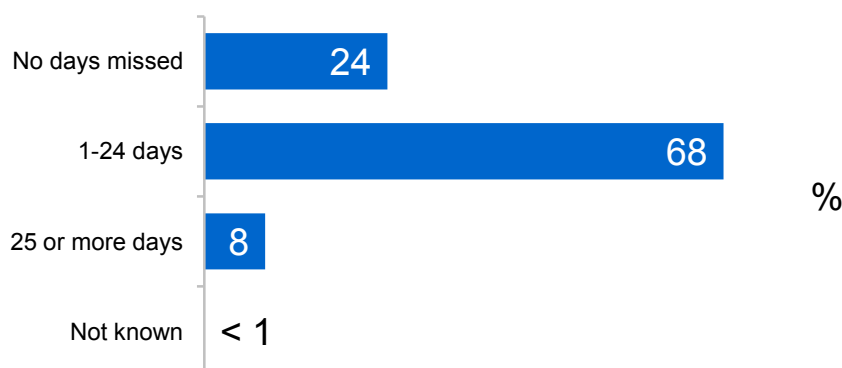
School aged children in care for 12 months or longer who missed 25 or more days of school

²⁹ Information on the number of school days missed was not provided for 4 young people in 2012/13.

“Exploring further about why participants [looked after children] dodged school the survey asked for comments. The majority felt school was ‘too boring’; that they don’t get on with their teachers; or that they don’t like school.”

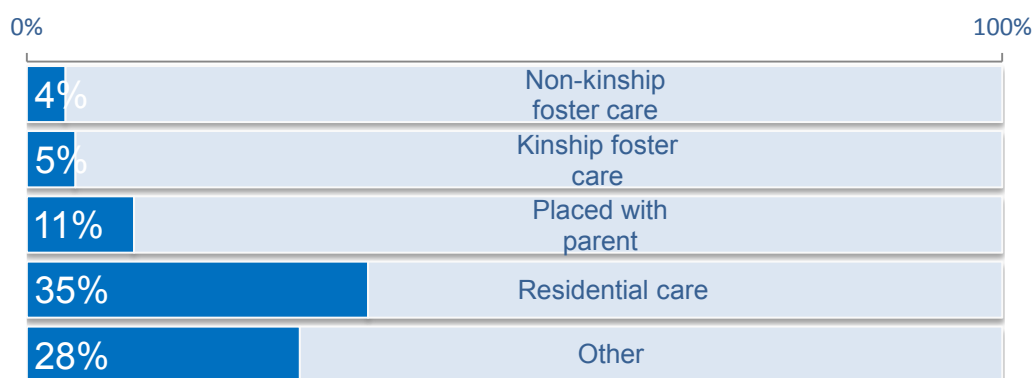
*CASI, 2011
Voice of young people in care*

Figure 6.6 Percentage of looked after children of compulsory school age who missed school days for any reason (2012/13)



A substantially larger proportion of the school aged children in residential care and ‘other placements’ missed 25 or more school days in 2012/13 compared with children in foster care (non-kinship and kinship) and those placed with parent. Children in non-kinship foster care were the least likely to miss 25 days or more (Figure 6.7). Caution must however be taken when interpreting these figures due to the low numbers involved.

Figure 6.7 25 school days or more missed for any reason by placement type (2012/13)



Placement stability may influence school attendance. Of the school aged children with no placement moves during 2012/13, 6% had missed 25 or more school days for any reason. The corresponding figure for children who had experienced one placement move was 12% whereas almost a third of the children who experienced more than one placement move had missed 25 days or more of school (27%). This survey can however not confirm if the placement moves caused the school absence only that there is a link between the two.

6.7. School changes

During the school year 2012/13, 90% of looked after children had not changed school at any time, compared with 10% that had changed school at least once during this period. These are the same or similar proportions as observed in the last four years. There was no difference in the proportion of school changes between girls and boys.

7. Educational Attainment

7.1. Children eligible to sit exams

Of the children who had been looked after for 12 months or more in 2012/13, 1,516 were of school age. A breakdown of the number of these children eligible to sit each Key Stage Level of Progression stage or GCSE exams, the proportion having a statement of educational need and the proportion of the eligible children who were not assessed for any reason is set out in Appendix D.

Assessment results for the Levels of Progression Key Stages and GCSE have in the following been compared with the results from the general school population in Northern Ireland and, where possible, looked after children in England. The figures for the general school population cover only mainstream schools, whereas figures for looked after children in Northern Ireland include all schools. Therefore, to allow comparisons with results for all children in Northern Ireland, looked after children with a SEN statement that was due to severe learning disability were excluded from the analysis presented below. An overview of the looked after children's educational attainment compared with that of the general school population is set out in Table 7.1 below.

The 2012/13 data is based on the new **LEVELS OF PROGRESSION**, that have replaced the Key Stage Assessments, where children are assessed in **COMMUNICATION** and **USING MATHS** as opposed to the previous English and Maths assessments.

These results are not directly comparable with Key Stage Assessment outcomes from previous years. Department of Education recognises that the new arrangements will need to embed and has recommended caution in analysing data and benchmarking performance from the first years implementation.

In line with the above, this section will refer to Level of Progression assessments – Key Stage 1 (year 4) Level 2 or above, Key Stage 2 (year 7) Level 4 or above and Key Stage 3 (year 10) Level 5 or above and no comparison with previous years will be made.

Table 7.1 Educational attainment for children looked after for 12 months or longer and the NI general school population³⁰ (2012/13)

			Looked after children in Northern Ireland	General school population in Northern Ireland
Level of Progression	Key Stage 1 Level 2 or above	Communication	73%	90%
		Using Maths	76%	91%
	Key Stage 2 Level 4 or above	Communication	36%	77%
		Using Maths	36%	79%
	Key Stage 3 Level 5 or above	Communication	28%	72%
		Using Maths	27%	74%
Year 12	GCSE or Equivalent Passes	1 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	73%	100% ³¹
		5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - G	46%	98%
		5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C	27%	80%

³⁰ Source: Department of Education NI.

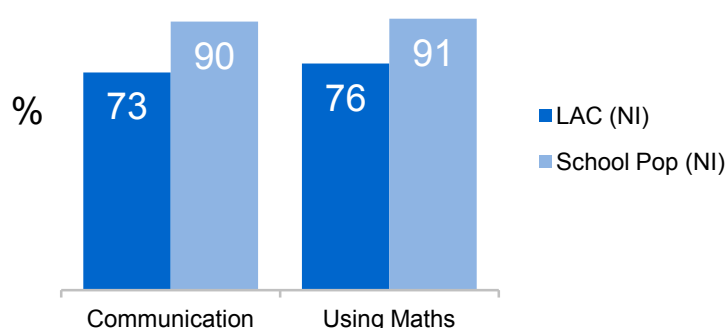
³¹ Please note that this figure has been rounded, with 0.2% of all pupils achieving no GCSEs at grades A* - G

7.2. Level of Progression – Level 2 or above

Figure 7.2 details the percentage of the looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland achieving Key Stage 1 Level of Progression Level 2 or above in Communication and Using Maths.

It shows that approximately three quarters of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 2 or above in Communication or Using Maths (73% and 76% respectively), compared with 90% in Communication and 91% in Using Maths for the equivalent general school population.

Figure 7.2 Children achieving Level 2 or above in Communication and Using Maths Assessments for looked after children (LAC) and NI general school population³² (2012/13)



Of the looked after children in Northern Ireland a higher proportion of girls (80%) than boys (67%) achieved Level 2 or above in Communication. A larger proportion of girls (78%) than boys also (75%) achieved Level 2 in Using Maths, however the difference was less marked than for Communication.

A higher proportion of those children in kinship foster care and those placed with parents achieved Level 2 or above in both Communication and Using Maths compared with children placed in non-kinship foster care (see Appendix D for details). The number of children in each placement type eligible for these tests were however small and the trend therefore may be subject to change year on year.

A smaller proportion of children looked after for 12 months or longer in England^{33,34,35} achieved Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 assessments in English reading and writing (69 and 61% respectively) compared with the proportion of looked after children in Northern Ireland who achieved the equivalent level in Communication (73%). In regards to Maths, 71% of looked after children in England achieved level two compared with 76% of looked after children in Northern Ireland.

³² Source: Department of Education NI.

³³ Children in England were assessed at KS1 in Reading, Writing and Maths, the figures for NI relate to Communication and Using Maths assessments.

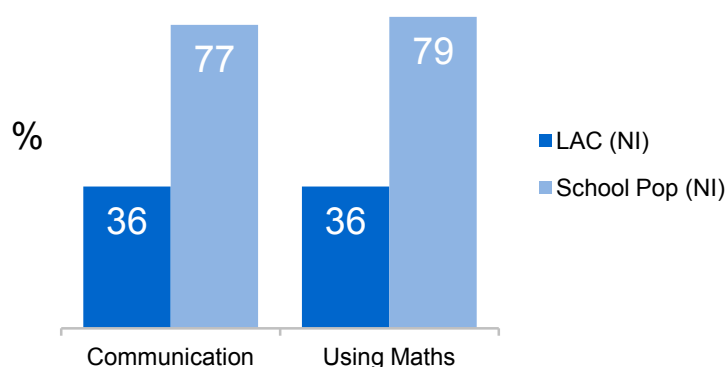
³⁴ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013.

³⁵ 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 SEN statement that is due to a severe learning disability.

7.3. Level of Progression – Level 4 or above

Figure 7.3 details the outcomes for children attaining the target level for Key Stage 2 assessments in respect of looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland. It shows that just over one-third of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level of Progression Level 4 or above in both Communication and Using Maths (36%) compared with almost four-fifths of the general school population (77% and 79% respectively).

Figure 7.3 Children achieving Level of Progression Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Communication and Using Maths assessments for looked after children (LAC) in NI and the NI general school population³⁶ (2012/13)



Children in England are assessed in Key Stage 2 English reading, writing and grammar. Of the children looked after for 12 months or longer in England, 63%, 55% and 45% achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 assessments in English reading, writing and grammar respectively^{37,38}. The higher proportion achieving this target in England compared with Northern Ireland (36% for Communication) may relate to the difference of assessments.

A similar trend was recorded for Key Stage 2 Maths, with 36% of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Using Maths compared with 59% of looked after children in England.

Of the looked after children in Northern Ireland, a lower proportion of boys (33%) than girls (39%) achieved Level 4 or above in both Communication and Using Maths. Furthermore, a higher proportion of children placed with parents achieved Level 4 or above in Communication and Using Maths compared with children in foster care (see appendix D for details). The number of children in each placement type eligible for these tests were however small and the trend therefore may be subject to changes year on year.

³⁶ Source: Department of Education NI.

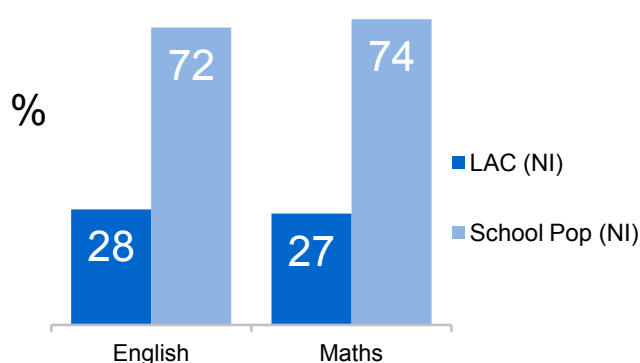
³⁷ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a SEN statement that is due to a severe learning disability.

³⁸ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013.

7.4. Level of Progression – Level 5 or above

Figure 7.4 details the percentage of looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland attaining Level of Progression Level 5 or above for Key Stage 3 assessments in 2012/13. While almost three quarters of the general school population achieved Level of Progression Level 5 or above for both Communication and Using Maths, just over a quarter of looked after children achieved the same.

Figure 7.4 Children achieving Level of Progression Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 Communication and Using Maths tests for looked after children (LAC) and the NI general school population³⁹ (2012/13)



Comparison of performance in Communication tests by gender indicated a higher proportion of girls (37%) than boys (18%) looked after achieved Level 5 or above. Similarly for Using Maths, 32% of girls and 20% of boys achieved Level 5 or above.

The proportion of children achieving Level 5 or above in both Communication and Using Maths was higher for those placed in non-kinship foster care compared with those in kinship foster care and those placed with parents. The number of children in each placement type eligible for these tests were however small and any trends may therefore be subject to changes year on year.

7.5. GCSEs and GNVQs

Figure 7.5 details the percentage of looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland that attained GCSE/GNVQs or equivalent qualifications in 2012/13. It shows that almost three-quarters (73%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland attained at least one GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*- G. This compares with 100% of the general school population in Northern Ireland⁴⁰.

Just over a quarter (27%) of children looked after attained 5 or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A*- C, substantially lower than in the general school population in 2012/13 (80%). In England, 37% of children looked after for 12 months or longer achieved equivalent grades of 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C^{41,42}.

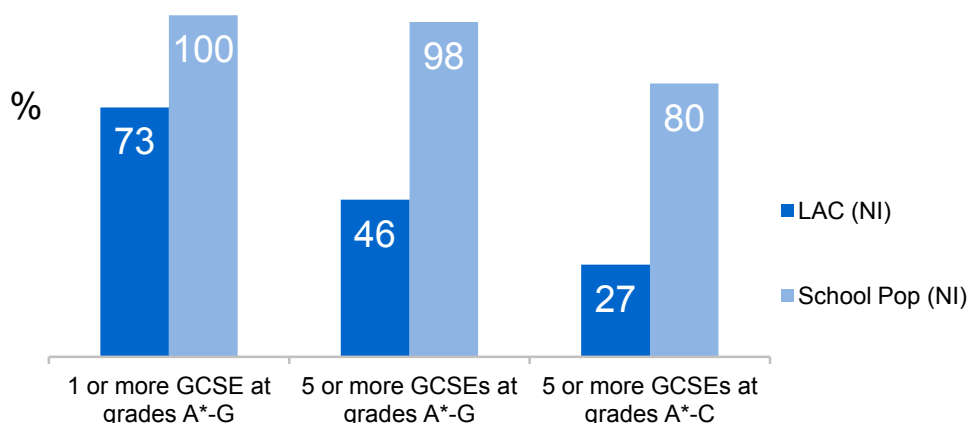
³⁹ Source: Department of Education NI.

⁴⁰ Please note that this figure has been rounded with 0.2% of all pupils achieving no GCSEs at grades A* - G.

⁴¹ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children 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.

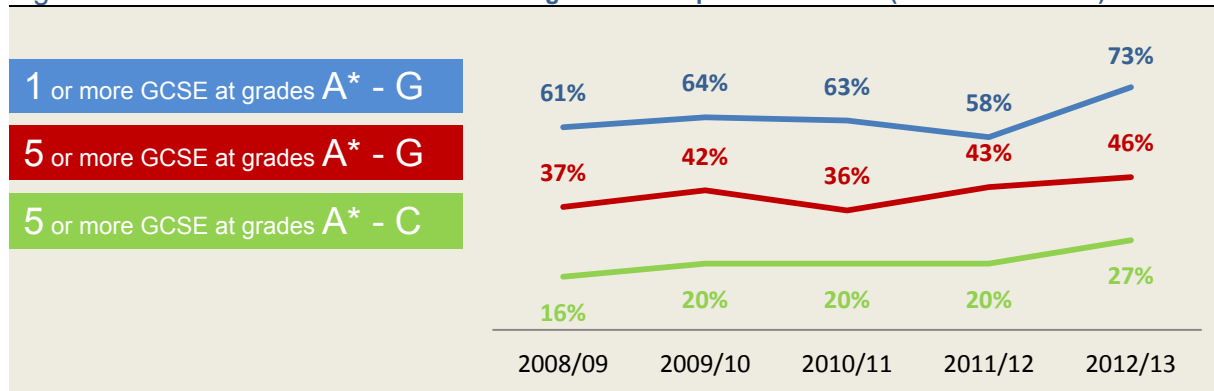
⁴² Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013.

Figure 7.5 Children achieving GCSE or Equivalent Passes for looked after children (LAC) and the NI general school population (2012/13)



The grades achieved by looked after children were lower than the overall school population, however the results achieved were higher in 2012/13 than in 2011/12. There was an increase of 15 percentage points of children achieving 1 or more GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*-G and a 7 percentage point increase in children achieving 5 or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A*-C.

Figure 7.6 Looked after children achieving GCSE or Equivalent Passes (2008/09 – 2012/13)



A larger proportion of girls (50%) than boys (42%) achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-G. This was also the case for the proportions achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, with 30% of girls compared to 24% of boys attaining these grades.

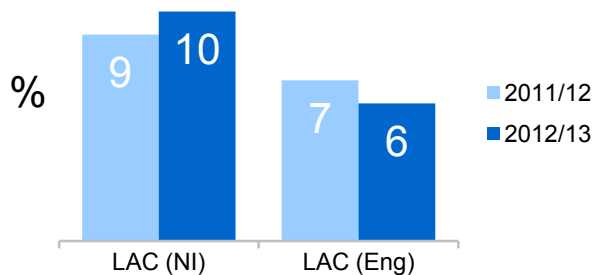
Children in non-kinship foster care performed slightly better than those in kinship foster care at GCSE level; 42% of children in non-kinship foster care achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grade A*-C compared with 33% of children in kinship foster care (see Appendix D for details).

8. Cautions / Convictions

8.1. Children Cautioned or Convicted

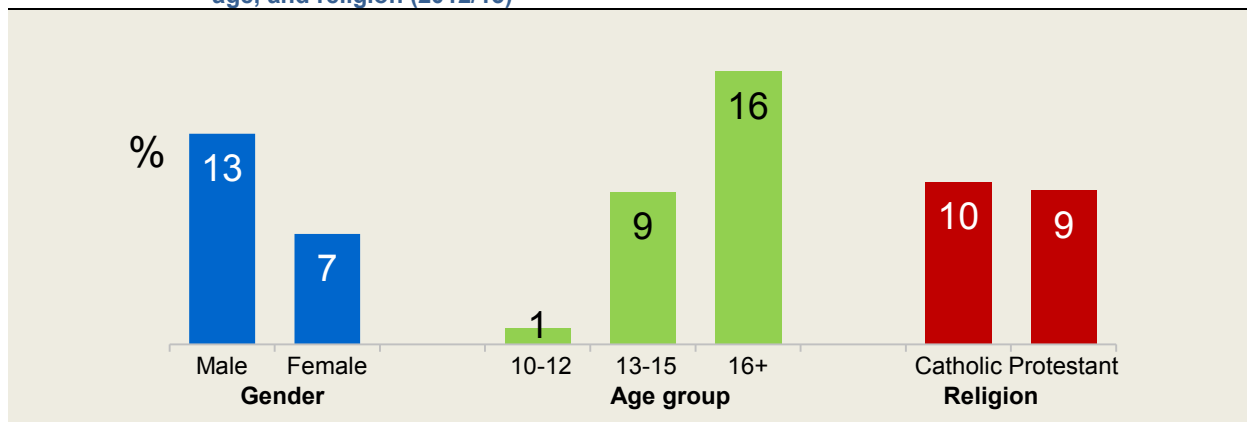
Of children looked after aged 10 and over at the time of the survey, 10% (116) had been cautioned or convicted of an offence whilst in care during the year ending 30 September 2013⁴³, slightly higher than the previous year (9%). The equivalent figure for England was four percentage points lower at 6% (Figure 8.1).

Figure 8.1 Looked after children (LAC) aged 10 and over cautioned or convicted in Northern Ireland and England⁴⁴ (2011/12 – 2012/13)



For looked after children aged 10 and over, a higher proportion of boys (13%) than girls (7%) had been cautioned or convicted during 2012/13. Furthermore, cautions and convictions were more prevalent in the older age groups with one-sixth of children aged 16 and over having been convicted or cautioned (16%). Similar proportions of Protestant (9%) and Catholic (10%) children looked after had been cautioned or convicted (Figure 8.2).

Figure 8.2 Percentage of looked after children aged 10 or over cautioned or convicted by gender, age, and religion (2012/13)



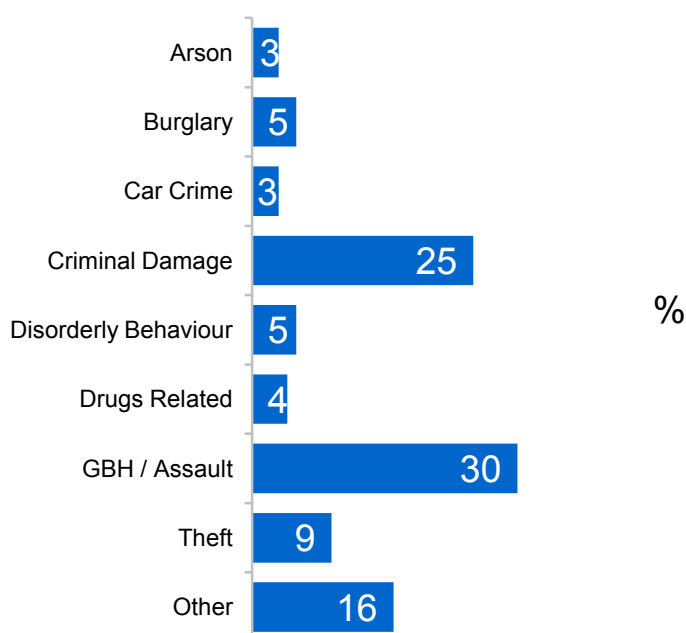
⁴³ Offences committed while the child was not looked after are excluded

⁴⁴ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013.

Children placed in foster care were the least likely to be cautioned or convicted in 2012/13 (2%). Compared with the other placement types, children in residential care were most likely to be cautioned or convicted. This must be seen in conjunction with the older age profile of those placed in residential care and the fact that higher proportions of the older children were cautioned or convicted.

Of the 116 looked after children cautioned or convicted, 220 separate offences were recorded. 30% of recorded offences were for grievous bodily harm (GBH)/assault and 25% were for criminal damage. Some 4% of the 220 separate offences were drug related offences (Figure 8.3). A similar trend to that set out in Figure 8.3 was also witnessed in 2011/12.

Figure 8.3 Reasons for cautions or convictions (2012/13)



8.2. Substance Abuse⁴⁵

Of the 2,071 children looked after at 30 September 2013, 105 (5%) were identified as having a substance abuse problem; slightly higher than the corresponding figure for England⁴⁶ (3.5%). A higher proportion of boys (7%) than girls (3%) had been identified as having a substance abuse problem.

Substance abuse was most common among older children with 17% of children looked after aged 16 and over identified as having a problem. The majority of children identified as suffering a substance abuse problem were offered intervention (96%), with less than half (46%) having accepted this offer.

⁴⁵ Substance Abuse is defined as 'substance taking which harms health or social functioning'.

⁴⁶ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013.

9. Children who finished compulsory schooling in 2012/13

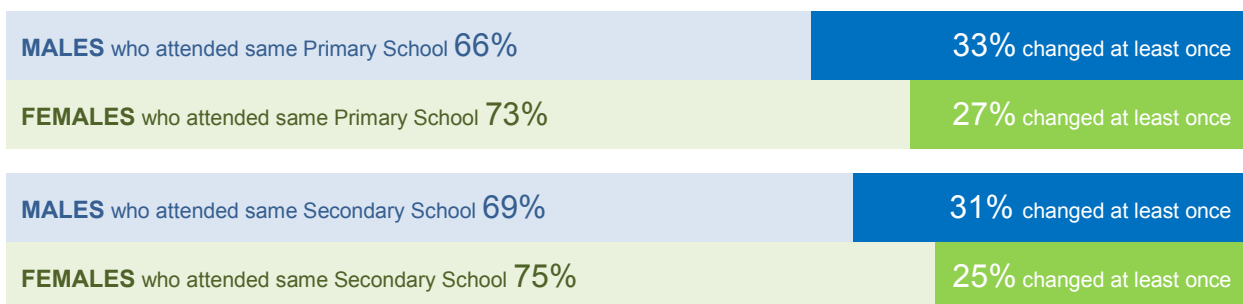
The OC2 survey collects information on children looked after who finished compulsory schooling in 2012/13 after having completed Year 12. For the current survey, 218 young people aged 16 had completed Year 12 at school in 2012/13.

9.1. School changes

Of the 218 young people that completed school Year 12 in 2013, the majority (70%) had attended the same primary school and almost a third (30%) had changed primary schools at least once. A larger proportion of boys (33%) than girls (27%) looked after had changed primary schools at least once (Figure 9.1).

Almost three quarters (72%) of the 218 young people in Year 12 attended the same secondary school, whilst just over a quarter (28%) had changed secondary schools at least once. A higher proportion of boys (31%) than girls (25%) looked after changed secondary schools at least once during their post primary school years (Figure 9.1).

Figure 9.1 Primary Schools and Secondary Schools changes by children looked after who had completed Year 12 in 2012/13, by gender



9.2. Gaps in Mainstream Education

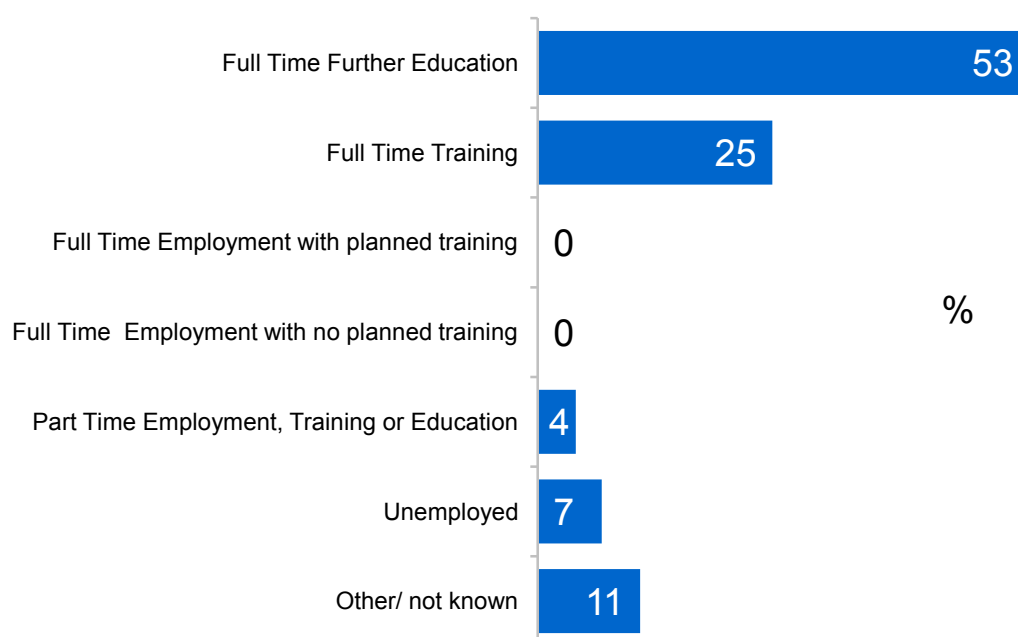
A quarter (25%) of young people, who had completed Year 12 in 2012/13, had at some stage during their school years been out of mainstream education and continued to be educated in other ways.

9.3. Current Activity

Figure 9.2 details the activity of young people in care that had completed Year 12 during 2012/13⁴⁷. Over half (53%) of these were in or about to start full-time education and a quarter were in full time training. Some 7% were regarded as unemployed.

Girls were more likely than boys to have started or about to start full-time education (55% and 50% respectively). A higher proportion of boys (9%) than girls (5%) were unemployed (see Appendix D for details).

Figure 9.2 Current activity of young people looked after who had completed Year 12 during 2012/13 in Northern Ireland



⁴⁷ This information has in previous publications been compared with that of England. However, this information was no longer collected for looked after children in England from 2012/13.

Appendix A – Technical Notes

Data Collection

The information presented in this bulletin derives from the ninth '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.

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.htm
(from August 2014: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/lookedafterchildren.htm)

For inclusion in OC2, children had to be looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2013. Children looked after under an agreed series of respite placements were excluded from the survey. As such, the reference period for the present survey was 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013. 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.

The main aim of the OC2 survey is to inform on educational attainment for looked after children, however it also collects information on a range of other areas such as religion, ethnicity, disability, placement, health assessments, economic activity and criminal convictions (see appendix E for the full questionnaire). Together with its companion surveys OC1 (care leavers aged 16 - 18) and OC3 (care leavers at their 19th birthday), it 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.

Data Quality

The data quality of the results presented in this bulletin is considered to be high. The online data collection system has built in validation checks, 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/index/stats_research/stats-cib.htm
(from August 2014: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/lookedafterchildren.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.

Main Uses of Data

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

Data Changes

In co-operation with major stakeholders, some changes were made to the 2012/13 survey to reflect current policy agenda in relation to children in care. Some new topics were included and some new categories were added to already existing questions. Furthermore, some questions were removed where it was assessed that the information was no longer needed. Please see details in the table below.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| New questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did the child have a Personal Education Plan and had it been review the last six months• Did the child previously have an asylum seeker status• Breakdown of type of kinship care• Geographical pointer• Details of home schooling• Specification of previous placement type for placement moves and the reason for the last placement move. |
| Amended questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition of autism as a separate disability category• Inclusion of volunteering as economic activity |
| Removed questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did the child reside in another HSC Trust prior to the last period of care |

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. The most recent assessment of these statistics, Report 265, can be found at the following link:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>

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

or, contact:

Community Information Branch

Email: cib@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 90522580

Related Publications

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 publication was published on 25 March 2014, and is available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/03/8922>

Educational Outcomes for Scotland's Looked After Children is an annual summary of the educational outcomes of Scotland's looked after children. The most recent publication was published on 17 June 2014, and is available at:

<http://scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/06/6518>

Wales

Statistics on Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After, Year Ending 31 March 2013 by Local Authorities in Wales are produced annually by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government, and are available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/adoptions-outcomes-placements-children-looked-after/?lang=en>

England

Statistics on Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, as at 31 March 2013 in England are produced annually by the Department of Children, Schools and Families. Figures for the year were published on 11 December 2013, and are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/outcomes-for-children-looked-after-by-las-in-england>

Please note that comparisons with Key Stage 3 Assessments in England are no longer possible as the Department of Education no longer collects information on these assessments. Also, the denomination for the cohort of children in England has, from the 31 March 2012 publication, changed from age based (as in the OC2 bulletin) to pupils who are actually in the national curriculum year group.

Other statistics produced by the DHSSPS relating to looked after children and other areas of children's social care as detailed below can be found on http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib.htm (from August 2014: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/lookedafterchildren.htm).

Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Care Leavers aged 16-18


Northern Ireland Care Leavers aged 19

Children Adopted from Care in Northern Ireland

Children Order Child Protection and Referral Statistics for Northern Ireland

Appendix B – Coverage of OC2 2012-13

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 2013, 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 2/7/1996 to 1/7/2008.
Key Stage 1	Children eligible for school year 4 i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/2004 to 1/7/2005.
Key Stage 2	Children eligible for school year 7, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/2001 to 1/7/2002.
Key Stage 3	Children eligible for school year 10, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1998 to 1/7/1999.
GCSEs and GNVQs	Children eligible for school Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1996 to 1/7/1997.
Offending	Children aged 10 & over at 30 September 2013, i.e. whose date of birth is 30/9/2003 or earlier.
Pre-School Provision	Children in their pre-school year in 2012/13, i.e. whose date of birth is 2/7/2008 to 1/7/2009.
Development Assessments	Children aged under 5 at 30 September 2013, i.e. whose date of birth is 1/10/2008 or later.
Immunisations	 <p>All children covered by the OC2 collection, i.e. all children who were looked after on 30 September 2013, 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 2/7/1996 to 1/7/1997.

Appendix C – Placement definitions

Below are explanations of different types of care placements.

Foster care is when a child is placed by a Trust, or by its parents (or those with parental responsibility), with other persons who will care for, and rear the child. Foster Carers are approved by a Health and Social Care Trust and receive an allowance for their caring responsibilities from the approving Trust. In this publication it will be differentiated between those foster care placements that are *kinship foster care* arrangements and those that are *non-kinship foster care* arrangements.

Kinship care (formal) is when a looked after child is placed by a Trust with a relative, friend or other person with a prior connection to the child, who will care for and rear the child. A person with a prior connection could be someone who knows the child in a professional capacity such as a childminder, a teacher or a youth worker although these are not exclusive categories. Kinship carers are approved by a Health and Social Care Trust and receive an allowance for their caring responsibilities from the approving Trust. *Kinship care (informal)* is when a child who is not 'looked after' is placed with a relative or friend on a voluntary basis with no involvement of social services. This group of children is not covered in this publication.

Placed for adoption refers to a child that has been approved to be adopted and is placed with his/her prospective adoptive parents pending affirmation from the courts. It is distinguished between children who are placed for adoption with their former foster carers and those who are placed for adoption with 'others' (not former foster carers). Unless otherwise stated, children placed for adoption will be included in 'Non-kinship foster care' in the analysis in this report.

Residential care is when a looked after child is placed by a Trust in a children's home. Residential care for children / Children's Homes are there to ensure that the needs of children are met when they cannot live with their own family. They are a place for children to develop and grow, as well as providing food, shelter, and space for play and leisure in a caring environment. Children's Homes look after children with many different needs.

Secure accommodation is provided for children on a short term basis when it is likely that the child, in any other setting, will injure him/her self or abscond and is likely to suffer significant harm when absconding. Unless otherwise stated, children in secure accommodation will be included in 'Residential care' in the analysis of this report.

Placed with parent refers to children for whom a Care Order exists and who are placed with their parents, a person who is not a parent but who has parental responsibility for the child or where a child is in care and there was a residence order in force with respect to him/her immediately before the care order was made, and who are placed with a person in whose favour the residence order was made.

Emergency foster care is when a looked after child is placed by a social worker in an emergency (short term) arrangement. All emergency foster care placements covered in the 2012/13 OC2 survey collection related to kinship carers. Unless otherwise stated, children placed in emergency foster care will therefore be included under 'kinship foster care' in the analysis of this report.

Independent living arrangements refers to children placed in independent accommodation. This would refer to young people between 16-18 years old. Independent living arrangements can further be categorised into with or without formal support from Trust. Unless otherwise stated, children in independent living arrangements will be included in 'Other placements' in the analysis of this report due to the small number of children in these living arrangements within the cohort studied.

Other placements refers to any placement reported that are not covered by other categories given. This may include children in assessment centres, boarding schools etc, and also special arrangements relating to one Trust. The categories included may therefore change from year to year.

Appendix D – Tables

All tables can be found in excel format on http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib.htm
(from August 2014: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/lookedafterchildren.htm)

Table 1a: Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2013

Year ending 30 September	Number of children	% of children
Total number of children looked after for at least 12 months	2,071	-
Gender		
Male	1,082	52%
Female	989	48%
Religion		
Catholic	1,067	52%
Protestant	810	39%
No/Unknown/Other	194	9%
Age		
Aged Under 5	360	17%
Aged 5 -11	716	35%
Aged 12 – 15	567	27%
Aged 16 & Over	428	21%
Ethnicity		
White (excluding Traveller)	1,977	95%
Other	94	5%
Disabled		
with a Disability	297	14%
Dependents		
No. with Dependent children	13	1%
Placement		
Non-kinship Foster Care	929	45%
Kinship Foster Care	665	32%
Placed with Parent	269	13%
Residential Care	146	7%
Other	62	3%
Placement Changes		
No Change	1,600	77%
Once Only	361	17%
Twice Only	63	3%
At least three times	47	2%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 1b: Demographic Trends of Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total number of children looked after for at least 12 months	1,675	1,838	1,878	2,071
Rate per 10,000 children	39	43	44	48
Gender				
% Male	54%	53%	52%	52%
% Female	46%	47%	48%	48%
Religion				
% Catholic	51%	50%	52%	52%
% Protestant	45%	47%	45%	39%
% No/Unknown/Other	4%	3%	3%	9%
Age				
% Aged Under 5	16%	16%	16%	17%
% Aged 5 -11	31%	32%	33%	35%
% Aged 12 – 15	33%	32%	31%	27%
% Aged 16 & Over	21%	21%	20%	21%
Ethnicity				
% White (excluding Traveller)	96%	95%	95%	95%
% Other	4%	5%	5%	5%
Disabled				
% with a Disability	14%	14%	14%	14%
Dependents				
No. with Dependents	20	16	10	13
Placement				
% in Non-kinship Foster Care	47%	44%	47%	45%
% in Kinship Foster Care	25%	27%	27%	32%
% Placed with Parent	13%	13%	15%	13%
% in Residential Care	9%	8%	8%	7%
% Other	7%	7%	3%	3%
Placement Changes				
% No Change	79%	79%	78%	77%
% Once Only	16%	15%	15%	17%
% Twice Only	3%	3%	3%	3%
% At least three times	2%	3%	3%	2%

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 2: Health Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of LAC aged under 5	266	287	308	360
% Completed Development Assessment	100%	97%	95%	99%
% Completed Six Monthly Assessment	99%	98%	96%	97%
Number of LAC aged 5 and over	1,409	1,551	1,570	1,711
% Completed Health Assessment	91%	90%	89%	87%
% Immunisations Uptodate¹	99%	99%	98%	99%
% Dental Checks Complete²	97%	97%	96%	96%

^{1,2} Immunisations & Dental Check figures are for the entire population of children looked after for at least 12 months at 30 September.

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 3: Funded Pre-School Provision Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of LAC eligible for funded Pre-School Provision	68	85	81	100
Number of LAC receiving funded Pre-School Provision	55	66	54	76
Gender				
% of males receiving funded Pre-School Provision	84%	81%	63%	71%
% of females receiving funded Pre-School Provision	76%	74%	71%	82%
Religion				
% of Catholics receiving funded Pre-School Provision	73%	79%	56%	77%
% of Protestants receiving funded Pre-School Provision	88%	80%	81%	79%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 4: General Educational Information for Children Looked After Continuously for at Least 12 Months for the Year Ending 30 September 2013

	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	2,071	1,516	385	25	8	1	124	8
England	47,200	26,820	7,470	28	40	0.2	1,340	5
Belfast HSC Trust	522	372	118	32	< 5	-	29	8
Northern HSC Trust	497	370	76	21	< 5	-	11	3
South Eastern HSC Trust	361	284	64	23	< 5	-	31	11
Southern HSC Trust	328	225	54	24	< 5	-	16	7
Western HSC Trust	363	265	73	28	< 5	-	37	14

Note: To avoid personal disclosure, values less than 5 have been suppressed and replaced by "<5". Percentages which have been suppressed are replaced by "-". Figures for England have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Figures for England regarding at least 25 days absence from school refer to persistent absentees and to children of school age for whom absence data is available. England exclusion figures refer to 2012.

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Source: *Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013*, Department of Education

Table 5: Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2013, for each of the Key Educational Stages 2012/13

	Number of Looked After Children Eligible to sit:			
	Key Stage 1 Assessments	Key Stage 2 Assessments	Key Stage 3 Assessment	GCSE's or GNVQ's
Northern Ireland	111	102	163	218
England	1,720	2,290	-	4,870
Belfast HSC Trust	24	28	42	57
Northern HSC Trust	18	27	34	51
South Eastern HSC Trust	30	18	31	38
Southern HSC Trust	21	13	26	25
Western HSC Trust	18	16	30	47

Note: Figures for England have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. The Department of Education in England no longer collects information on Key Stage 3 assessments.

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Source: *Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013*, Department of Education

Table 6: Special Educational Needs Trend Data for Children of Compulsory School Age Continuously Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,297	1,377	1,398	1,516
% of males of school age	77%	75%	74%	72%
% of females of school age	78%	75%	75%	74%
Statement of SEN				
% with a statement of SEN	24%	25%	25%	25%
Gender				
% of males with SEN	30%	31%	30%	31%
% of females with SEN	18%	19%	20%	20%
Age				
% aged 5 – 11 with SEN	22%	23%	21%	23%
% aged 12 – 15 with SEN	26%	28%	27%	28%
% aged 16 & over with SEN	24%	23%	30%	28%
Reason for SEN				
% with Severe/Learning Difficulties	55%	48%	54%	54%
% with Behavioural Problems	13%	12%	14%	11%
% with Other Reasons	32%	40%	32%	35%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 7: Permanent School Exclusions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,297	1,377	1,398	1,516
Permanent Exclusions				
% of LAC ¹ expelled in NI	1%	1%	1%	1%
% of LAC expelled in England	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
No. of general school population expelled in NI	22	38	24	19

¹ LAC – Looked After Children who have been in care continuously for at least 12 months

Source: *Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2013*, Department of Education

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Source: *Exclusion Statistics 2012/13*, Department of Education Northern Ireland

Table 8: School Suspensions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,297	1,377	1,398	1,516
Suspensions				
% of LAC suspended in NI	10%	8%	8%	6%
% of general school population suspended	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%
Gender				
% of males suspended	14%	11%	10%	9%
% of females suspended	5%	4%	5%	4%
Age				
% aged 5 – 11 suspended	2%	3%	2%	1%
% aged 12 – 15 suspended	14%	10%	12%	11%
% aged 16 & over suspended	16%	13%	11%	9%
No. of Times Suspended				
% with no suspensions	90%	92%	92%	94%
% suspended once only	5%	4%	3%	4%
% suspended twice only	2%	2%	2%	1%
% suspended at least three times	3%	2%	2%	1%
Days Missed Through Suspension				
% missed less than 5 days	48%	43%	41%	56%
% missed 5 – 9 days	20%	25%	22%	20%
% missed 10 – 14 days	11%	20%	17%	9%
% missed 15 – 19 days	5%	4%	5%	6%
% missed 20 or more days	16%	7%	15%	9%
% missed Not Known	1%	1%	-	-

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Source: *Suspension Statistics 2012/13*, Department of Education Northern Ireland

Table 9: Days Missed Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,297	1,377	1,398	1,516
School Days Missed				
% missed no days	19%	17%	19%	24%
% missed 1 - 24 days	67%	71%	71%	68%
% missed 25 days or more	12%	10%	9%	8%
% Not Known/Missing	2%	2%	1%	< 1%
Gender				
% of males who missed 25 or more days	12%	11%	9%	8%
% of females who missed 25 or more days	12%	10%	8%	8%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety*

Table 10: School Changes Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,297	1,377	1,398	1,516
School Changes				
% No School Changes	90%	90%	89%	90%
% Changed School Once	9%	9%	10%	9%
% Changed School Twice or more	1%	1%	1%	1%
Gender				
% of males who changed school	12%	10%	11%	10%
% of females who changed school	9%	11%	11%	10%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety*

Table 11: Children Looked After for at least 12 months sitting Exams (2012/13)

Year ending 30 September	Number of Looked After Children Eligible to sit			
	Key Stage 1 Assessments	Key Stage 2 Assessments	Key Stage 3 Assessment ²	GCSE's or GNVQ's
Eligible to sit exam¹	111	102	163	218
-of these				
Statement of SEN	26%	33%	25%	27%
Total not assessed	10%	13%	26%	18%

¹ This includes all children eligible to be assessed in 2012/13 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

² A number of schools no longer sit these exams and some who did during 2012/13 were interrupted by industrial action

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 12: Key Stage 1 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013 ^A
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,297	1,377	1,398	1,516
% Eligible to sit Key Stage 1	5%	6%	6%	7%
% achieving level 2 or above in:				
English / Communication	60%	67%	71%	73%
Mathematics / Using Maths	63%	68%	74%	76%
Gender				
% of males achieving level 2 or above in English	47%	53%	71%	67%
% of females achieving level 2 or above in English	73%	82%	72%	80%
% of males achieving level 2 or above in Maths	57%	56%	74%	75%
% of females achieving level 2 or above in Maths	70%	82%	74%	78%

NOTE: To allow comparison with the general NI school population, looked after children with severe learning disability have been excluded from the analyses.

A: The 2012/13 data is based on the new **LEVELS OF PROGRESSION**, that have replaced the Key Stage Assessments, where children are assessed in **COMMUNICATION** and **USING MATHS** as opposed to the previous English and Maths assessments.

These results are not directly comparable with Key Stage Assessment outcomes from previous years. Department of Education recognises that the new arrangements will need to embed and has recommended caution in analysing data and benchmarking performance from the first years implementation.

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 13: Key Stage 2 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013 ^A
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,297	1,377	1,398	1,516
% Eligible to sit Key Stage 2	8%	8%	7%	7%
% achieving level 4 or above in:				
English / Communication	38%	36%	45%	36%
Mathematics / Using Maths	31%	45%	45%	36%
Gender				
% of males achieving level 4 or above in English	35%	40%	40%	33%
% of females achieving level 4 or above in English	42%	30%	49%	39%
% of males achieving level 4 or above in Maths	24%	50%	45%	33%
% of females achieving level 4 or above in Maths	38%	37%	45%	39%

NOTE: To allow comparison with the general NI school population, looked after children with severe learning disability have been excluded from the analyses.

*A: The 2012/13 data is based on the new **LEVELS OF PROGRESSION**, that have replaced the Key Stage Assessments, where children are assessed in **COMMUNICATION** and **USING MATHS** as opposed to the previous English and Maths assessments.*

These results are not directly comparable with Key Stage Assessment outcomes from previous years. Department of Education recognises that the new arrangements will need to embed and has recommended caution in analysing data and benchmarking performance from the first years implementation.

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 14: Key Stage 3 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013 ^A
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,294	1,377	1,398	1,516
% Eligible to sit Key Stage 3	11%	12%	11%	11%
% achieving level 5 or above in:				
English / Communication	25%	33%	34%	28%
Mathematics / Using Maths	25%	31%	32%	27%
Gender				
% of males achieving level 5 or above in English	21%	26%	29%	18%
% of females achieving level 5 or above in English	29%	39%	38%	37%
% of males achieving level 5 or above in Maths	25%	28%	27%	20%
% of females achieving level 5 or above in Maths	25%	33%	36%	32%

NOTE: To allow comparison with the general NI school population, looked after children with severe learning disability have been excluded from the analyses.

*A: The 2012/13 data is based on the new **LEVELS OF PROGRESSION**, that have replaced the Key Stage Assessments, where children are assessed in **COMMUNICATION** and **USING MATHS** as opposed to the previous English and Maths assessments.*

These results are not directly comparable with Key Stage Assessment outcomes from previous years.

Department of Education recognises that the new arrangements will need to embed and has recommended caution in analysing data and benchmarking performance from the first years implementation.

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 15: GCSE Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,294	1,377	1,398	1,516
% Eligible to sit GCSE's	15%	14%	14%	14%
% achieving:				
1 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	64%	63%	58%	73%
5 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	42%	36%	43%	46%
5 or more GCSE at grades A* - C	20%	20%	20%	27%
Gender				
% of males achieving 1 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	58%	68%	55%	71%
% of females achieving 1 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	69%	57%	63%	74%
% of males achieving 5 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	35%	36%	35%	42%
% of females achieving 5 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	47%	36%	52%	50%
% of males achieving 5 or more GCSE at grades A* - C	17%	20%	18%	24%
% of females achieving 5 or more GCSE at grades A* - C	23%	20%	23%	30%

NOTE: To allow comparison with the general NI school population, looked after children with severe learning disability have been excluded from the analyses.

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 16a: Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2013 by placement type

	Non-kinship foster care	Kinship foster care	Placed with parent	Residential care	Other	Total
Total number of children looked after for at least 12 months	929	665	269	146	62	2,071
% Lac	45%	32%	13%	7%	3%	100%
Trust %						
Belfast	42%	33%	15%	8%	3%	100%
Northern	40%	34%	17%	6%	3%	100%
South Eastern	47%	33%	9%	6%	5%	100%
Southern	53%	26%	13%	6%	2%	100%
Western	46%	33%	8%	10%	3%	100%
Age %						
Under 5	48%	36%	15%	0%	1%	100%
5-11	49%	35%	14%	1%	0%	100%
12-15	45%	31%	11%	11%	1%	100%
16 and over	34%	24%	13%	17%	12%	100%
Gender %						
Boys	53%	49%	52%	57%	60%	52%
Girls	47%	51%	48%	43%	40%	48%
Number/Percentage with no placement change last 12 months	740 (80%)	587 (88%)	184 (68%)	74 (51%)	15 (24%)	1600 (77%)
Number/Percentage with a Disability	157 (17%)	68 (10%)	23 (9%)	38 (26%)	11 (18%)	297 (14%)

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 16b: Educational Attainment for Children Looked After Continuously for 12 Months or Longer at 30 September 2013 by Placement Type

	Non-kinship foster care	Kinship foster care	Placed with parent	Residential care	Other	Total
Number of School Age Children	693	486	183	119	35	1,516
Number/Percentage with a Statement of Educational Need	202 (29%)	81 (17%)	25 (14%)	63 (53%)	14 (40%)	385 (25%)
No. of Children Suspended from School	31 (4%)	24 (5%)	11 (6%)	26 (22%)	5 (14%)	97 (6%)
No. of Children Missing 25 days or more from School	28 (4%)	25 (5%)	20 (11%)	42 (35%)	10 (29%)	124 (8%)
Eligible Key Stage 1	53	38	-	-	-	111
Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 English	65%	80%	83%	0%	n/a	73%
Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 Maths	70%	83%	83%	0%	n/a	76%
Eligible Key Stage 2	53	32	-	-	-	102
Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English	22%	50%	64%	0%	n/a	36%
Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths	26%	43%	64%	0%	n/a	36%
Eligible Key Stage 3	76	53	16	-	-	163
Level 5 or above for Key Stage 3 English	38%	26%	25%	0%	0%	28%
Level 5 or above for Key Stage 3 Maths	36%	26%	8%	9%	0%	27%
Eligible GCSE's	75	58	26	35	24	218
At least one GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*- G	92%	80%	67%	50%	32%	73%
5 or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A*- G	68%	57%	38%	15%	5%	46%
5 or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A*- C	42%	33%	21%	4%	0%	27%

" - " figures have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure

NOTE: To allow comparison with the general NI school population, looked after children with severe learning disability have been excluded from the Key Stage and GCSE analyses.

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 17: Cautions/Convictions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months aged 10 and over (2010 - 2013)

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of LAC aged 10 or older	972	1,162	1,129	1,202
% Cautioned/Convicted	9%	9%	9%	10%
Gender				
% of males cautioned/convicted	12%	12%	11%	13%
% of females cautioned/convicted	6%	6%	7%	7%
Age				
% aged 10 - 12 cautioned/convicted	0%	1%	1%	1%
% aged 13 - 15 cautioned/convicted	8%	7%	7%	9%
% aged 16 or over cautioned/convicted	22%	17%	17%	16%
Religion				
% of Catholics cautioned/convicted	9%	9%	8%	10%
% of Protestants cautioned/convicted	9%	9%	11%	9%
Total Number of Offences Recorded	169	232	210	220

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 18: Current Activity Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12 at 30 September 2010 - 2013

Year ending 30 September	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of LAC Completed Year 12	191	192	190	218
% in Full-Time Further Education	61%	52%	58%	53%
% in Full-Time Training	17%	23%	22%	25%
% in Full-Time Employment with Planned Training	1%	0%	1%	0%
% in Full-Time Employment with no Planned Training	0%	1%	1%	0%
% Unemployed	9%	10%	8%	7%
% in Part-Time Employment, Training or Education	8%	12%	8%	4%
% Other	0%	2%	1%	10%
% Not Known	3%	1%	0%	1%

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Table 19: Current Activity Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12 at 30 September 2013 by gender

Year ending 30 September 2013	Boys	Girls	All
Number of children continuously looked after for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12	104	114	218
% in Full Time Education	50%	55%	53%
% in Full Time Training	27%	24%	25%
% in Full Time Employment with Planned Training	0%	0%	0%
% in Full Time Employment with no Planned Training	0%	0%	0%
% Unemployed	9%	5%	7%
% in Part Time Employment, Training or Education	2%	6%	4%
% Other	13%	10%	11%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2012/13*, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Outcome indicators for looked after children

Complete this form for each child who was looked after by your Trust at 30 September 2013, and who, at that time, had been looked after continuously for 12 months or more

1. Trust name: _____

2. SOSCARE number

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

3. Gender
 Male
 Female

4. Date of birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

5. Date of start of latest/current period of care:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

6. Postcode of home address **before** the last/current entry into care

B	T						
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

7. Postcode of current address

B	T						
---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

8. What is the child's country of origin? _____

9. To which ethnic group does the young person belong?

- White (excluding Traveller)
- Chinese
- Irish Traveller
- Roma Traveller
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Black Caribbean
- Black African
- Black Other
- Mixed ethnic group *(please specify)*
- Other ethnic group *(please specify)*
- Don't know

10. What is the child's religion?

- Roman Catholic
- Presbyterian
- Church of Ireland
- Church of England
- Methodist
- Other Christian
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Other
- Not Known
- None

11. Is the child an unaccompanied asylum seeker?

Yes
 No

12. Is the young person disabled 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
 No

13. If 'Yes', please state all disability types that apply to the child

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

If 'other', please specify

14. Does the young person have any dependants/children?

Yes
 No

If 'Yes', please enter the number of dependants

15. Where is the child currently placed (at 30th September)?

Secure accommodation
 Other residential accommodation
 Placed for adoption with former foster carers
 Placed for adoption with others
 Emergency foster care (kinship or non-kinship)
 Fieldwork approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)
 Panel approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)
 Foster Care (Non-kinship)
 Placed with parents (or persons with parental responsibility)
 Independent living with formal support
 Independent living without formal support
 Other accommodation (please specify below)

16. If the last placement arrangement was Kinship foster care, please specify if the kinship carer was:

Grandparent
 Sibling
 Other relative
 Non-related connected person

17. Did the child's placement change during the last year (i.e. between 1 October 2012 and 30 September 2013)?

Yes
 No

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

19. If there was a placement change during the last 12 months; what was the placement prior to the current placement?

Secure accommodation
 Other residential accommodation
 Placed for adoption with former foster carers
 Placed for adoption with others
 Emergency foster care (kinship or non-kinship)
 Fieldwork approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)
 Panel approved Kinship foster care (relatives/friends)
 Foster Care (Non-kinship)
 Placed with parents (or persons with parental responsibility)
 Independent living with formal support
 Independent living without formal support
 Other accommodation (please specify below)

20. What was the reason for the last placement change?

Planned
 Breakdown
 Other (please specify below)

21. What was the child's legal status at 30 September 2013?

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)

Freely for adoption and looked after by Board/Trust

Other (please specify below)

<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"/>

22. Date of the last statutory review:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

23. 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)

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

24. Was the child of compulsory school age during the 2012/13 school year (i.e. the child's date of birth is between 2 July 1996 and 1 July 2008)?

Yes

No

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

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

25. ...was the child referred for a statement of special educational needs? Yes
No

26. ...was the child covered by a statement of special educational needs? Yes
No

27. If covered (yes to question above), please state briefly the reasons(s) for the statement

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

29. Was the child suspended from school at any time during the school year? Yes
No

If 'Yes', please enter

30. ...the number of times the child was suspended during the school year

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

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

33. Did the child change schools at any time during the school year? Yes
No

If 'Yes', please enter

34. ...how many times did the child change schools during the year?

35. Was the child at any time during the school year educated at home? Yes
No

If yes:

36. How long was the child educated at home?

Years	Months
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

37. What was the reason for the child being educated at home?

For children who were in P4 in 2012/13 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage One Assessment

38 Was the child assessed at Key Stage 1?

Yes
No

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

.....

.....

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

English?
or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?
Mathematics?

For children who were in P7 in 2012/13 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage 2 Assessment

41 Was the child assessed at Key Stage 2?

Yes
No

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

.....

.....

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

English?
or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?
Mathematics?

For children who were in Year 10 in 2012/13 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage 3 Assessment

44 Was the child assessed at Key Stage 3?

Yes
No

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

.....

.....

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

English?
or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?
Mathematics?

For children who were in Year 12 in 2012/13 and who were eligible for end of GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

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

Yes
No

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

.....

.....

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

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

50 Did the child obtain any NVQs?

Yes
No

51 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

For children who began primary school in September 2013 ONLY

- 52 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 2011 and June 2012)
- Yes
- No

For children aged 5 and over at 30 September 2013

- 53 Has a LAC Personal Education Plan been completed for the young person?
- Yes
- No
- If yes...*
- 54 ...has the LAC Personal Education Plan been reviewed within the last 12 months?
- Yes
- No

For children aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2013

- 55 Were the child's development assessments up to date at 30 September 2013?
- Yes
- No
- 56 Did the child have his/her 6-monthly health assessment completed between 1 April 2012 and 30 September 2013?
- Yes
- No

For children aged 5 and over at 30 September 2013

- 57 Did the child have his/her annual health assessment completed during the year ending 30 September 2013?
- Yes
- No

For all children

- 58 Were the child's immunisations up to date at 30 September 2013?
- Yes
- No
- 59 Did the child have his/her teeth checked by a dentist during the year ending 30 September 2013?
- Yes
- No
- 60 Was the child identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year ending 30 September 2013?
- Yes
- No
- 61 If 'Yes' was the child offered an intervention for this problem?
- Yes
- No
- 62 If 'Yes' did the child accept or refuse this intervention?
- Accepted the intervention and received treatment
- Refused the intervention

For children aged 10 and over at 30 September 2013

- 63 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

.....

.....

.....

For children aged 16 at 1 July 2013, please complete the questions overleaf.

For all other children, this is the end of the questionnaire.
Thank you for your co-operation.

For children who were in Year 12 in 2012/13 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

64 Was the young person aged 16 at 1 July 2013?

Yes
No

If 'Yes':

65 What was the young person's activity at 30 September 2013?

Not known
Full-time further education (up to 'A' level or equivalent standard)
Part-time further education (up to 'A' level or equivalent standard)
Higher education
Full-time training
Part-time training
Full-time employment with planned training
Full-time employment with no planned training
Part-time employment
Part or full-time volunteering
Parent – full-time carer
Other full-time carer
Unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability
Unemployed for other reason
Other activity (please specify below)

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

Total number of primary schools attended
Total number of secondary/grammar schools attended

67 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
No

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

This and other **statistical bulletins** published by Community Information Branch are available to download from the DHSSPS website at:

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/socialcare.htm

Further Information on **Children in Care in Northern Ireland** is available from:

Community Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2, Castle Buildings
Stormont, BT4 3SQ

Phone: (028) 90522580

Fax: (028) 90523288

E-mail: cib@dhsspsni.gov.uk