

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014 -15



Statistical Bulletin

Reader Information

Theme	Children in care in Northern Ireland
Document purpose	For information
Reporting period	1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015
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Publication Date	28 July 2016
Issued by	Community Information Branch Information & Analysis Directorate Department of Health Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SQ, Northern Ireland Tel (028) 90522580 Email cib@health-ni.gov.uk www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/looked-after-children
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.
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Price	FREE

Key Findings

This bulletin presents findings from the annual survey of children who have been in care continuously for twelve months or longer. 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 2015, 2,169 children and young people had been looked after continuously for 12 months or longer;
- Of these, one fifth (20%) had experienced a placement change during the previous 12 months, which is the lowest number in recent years. When excluding those children whose placement move was placement for adoption, the proportion of children with a placement change was 18%;
- Having a statement of Special Educational Needs continues to be more prevalent among the looked after children of school age (27%) compared with the general school population (5%);
- In general, looked after children did not perform as well as their peers on the Key Stage Assessments. Figures for looked after children are based on the proportion of children that were, according to their age, eligible for the Level of Progression, who achieved the Key Stage levels.

Level of Progression	Subject	Looked after children	General school population ¹
Key Stage 1 Level 2 or above	Communication	70%	89%
	Using Maths	73%	90%
Key Stage 2 Level 4 or above	Communication	36%	77%
	Using Maths	36%	77%
Key Stage 3 Level 5 or above	Communication	21%	74%
	Using Maths	24%	77%

- Two thirds (66%) of looked after children attained at least one GCSE/GNVQ at grades A* to G; this compared with almost 100% of the general school population. The looked after figure is based on the proportion of young people that were, according to their age, eligible for GCSE/GNVQ.

¹ Please note that due to industrial action 2014/15 key stage data for the general population have been weighted to account for non response bias. Figures reported are the best estimate of the mean figure drawn from the sample.

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Our Vision and Values

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

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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 publish 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 online.

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CHILDREN IN CARE IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2014–15

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.

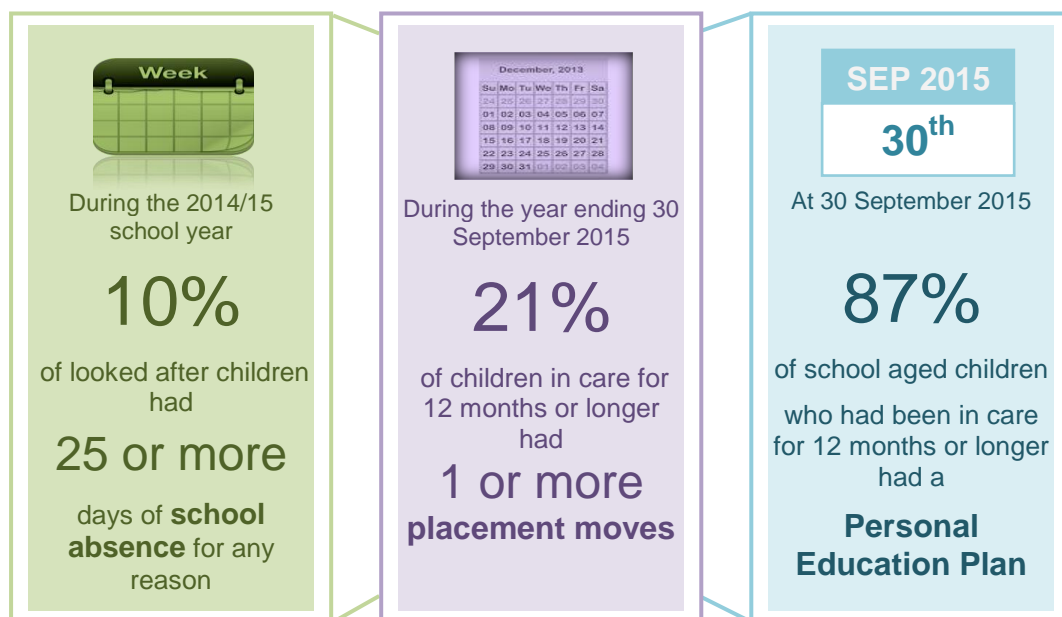
1.1. The OC2 Community Information Return

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 birthday².

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)³. For 2014/15, the findings from the OC2 survey collection is used to monitor a target relating to placement stability for a child in care. In addition, there are two Indicators of Performance relating to school attendance and educational progression and planning. These indicators as well as the target will be discussed in more detail through the report.



² Please see the Appendix A: Technical Notes for further details on the OC-publications.

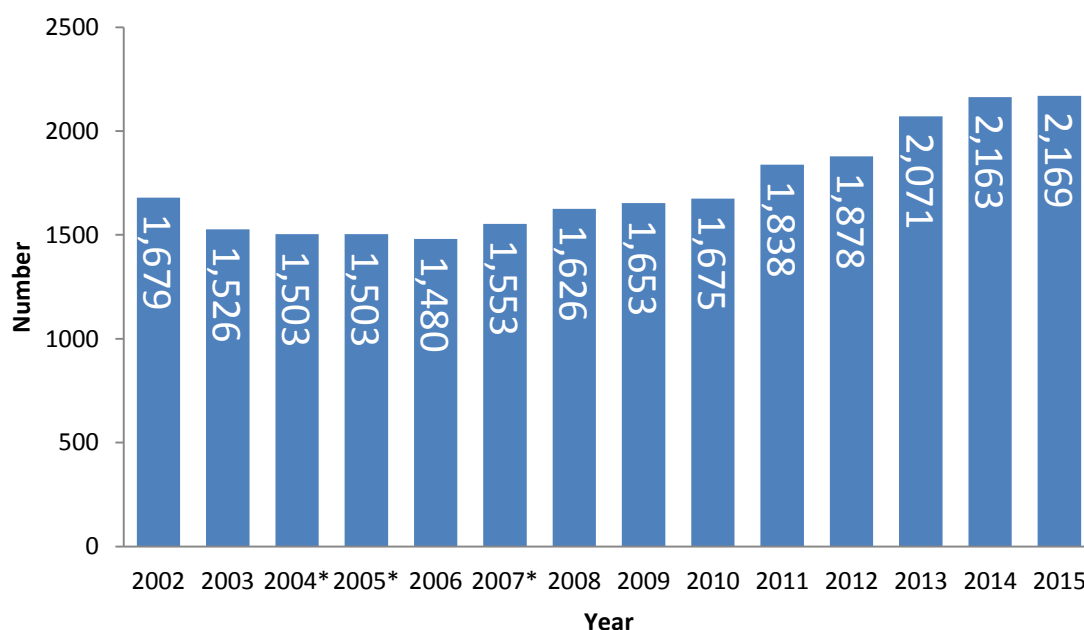
³ <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-priorities>

1.3. Children in care 2014-15

At 30 September 2015, 2,169 children who were looked after in Northern Ireland had been continuously looked after for more than a year⁴. Figure 1.1 outlines how the number of children looked after for at least 12 months has risen year on year since 2006. The number of children looked after in 2015 was similar to those the year before (increase of 6 children only), however it represented a 29% 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 UK⁵. 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 2015)



*Number estimated for these years

The 2,169 children and young people that had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months represented a rate of 50 children per 10,000 population aged under 18⁶; a somewhat higher proportion to that in England, where 41 children per 10,000 child population had been looked after for 12 months or more at 31 March 2015⁷.

The rate of looked after children in 2015 was the same as in 2014. 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.

⁴ This figure may differ slightly from other sources due to categorisation and exclusions. Please see the technical annex for more details.

⁵ Links to other UK publications can be found in the technical annex.

⁶ 2015 Mid Year Population Estimates, NISRA 2016

⁷ Source: 'Children Looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers), year ending 31 March 2015', Department for Education (DfE) 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 2015 by HSC Trust



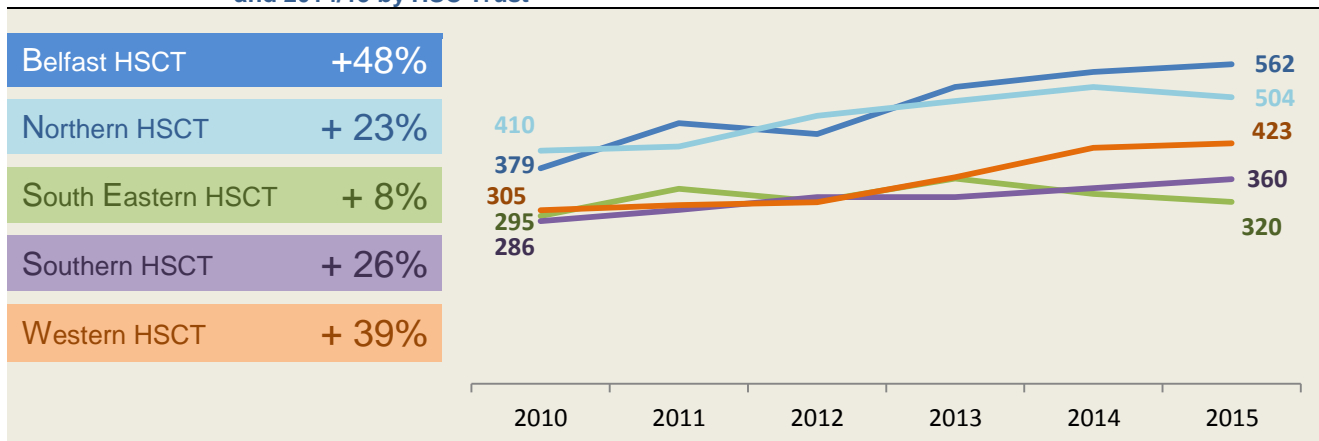
1.4. Trust Profile

Figure 1.2 sets out the number of children looked after for 12 months or longer at 30 September 2015 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 (26% and 23% 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 between 2009/10 to 2014/15, all HSC Trusts have had an increase in the cohort of these children, from the relatively moderate increase of 8% in the South Eastern HSC Trust to the more substantial increase of 48% in the Belfast HSC Trust. The variance in these 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 2013/14 and 2014/15), the changes were relatively moderate. They ranged from a 5% increase of number of children looked after for 12 months or longer in the Southern HSC Trust to a 4% decrease in the South Eastern HSC Trust.

Figure 1.3 Change in the number of children looked after for 12 months or longer between 2009/10 and 2014/15 by HSC Trust



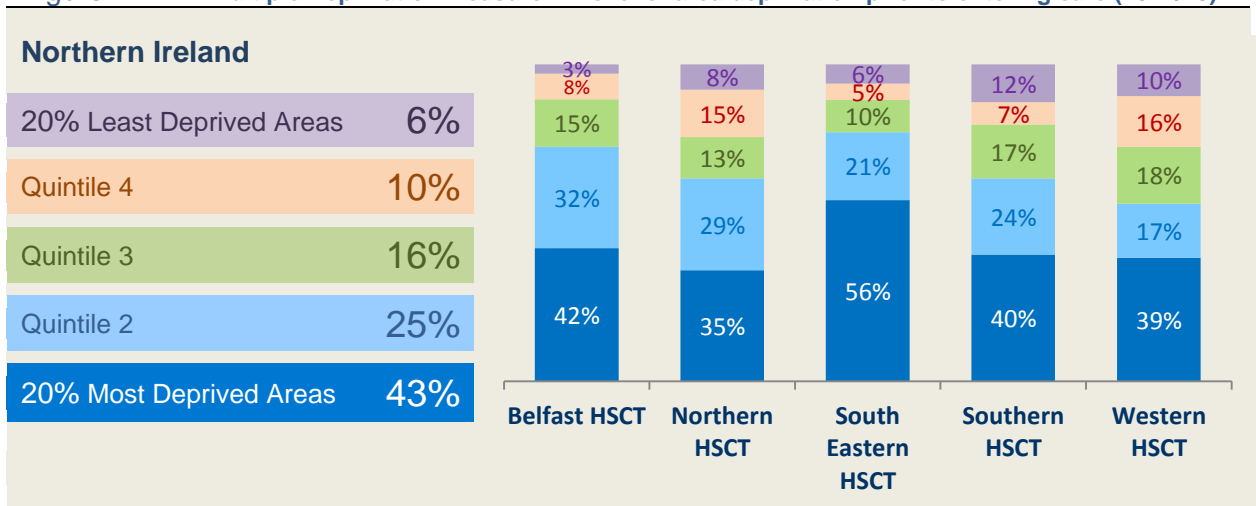
1.5. Multiple Deprivation Measure and Rurality

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 2010⁸ (MDM) and the Urban-Rural Classification 2015⁹ to identify the deprivation quintile rank and rurality of home location before entry into care.

For the children where geographical information was available¹⁰ in 2015, 75% were living in a predominantly urban area before entering care, with 20% originating from rural areas and 6% from mixed urban/rural areas. In comparison, it is estimated that 58% of the Northern Ireland population were living in predominantly urban areas, 33% in rural areas and 9% in mixed urban/rural areas¹¹.

An analysis of the MDM quintiles showed that 43% of the children had been taken into care from the 20% most deprived areas within Northern Ireland, similar to the 2013/14 figure (42%). Around six per cent of the children originated from the least deprived quintile. The same picture was observed when examining the distribution of deprivation areas within an individual HSC Trust.

Figure 1.4 Multiple Deprivation Measure^A - Level of area deprivation prior to entering care (2014/15)



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

⁸ Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2010 (http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/nimdm_2010.htm)

⁹ "Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements", NISRA 2015.

¹⁰ Geographical information prior to entering care was available for 95% of the children.

¹¹ Calculations using Super Output Area to urban-rural classification. Annex B of "Technical Guidance on production of official statistics for Settlements and Urban-Rural Classification". NISRA 2015

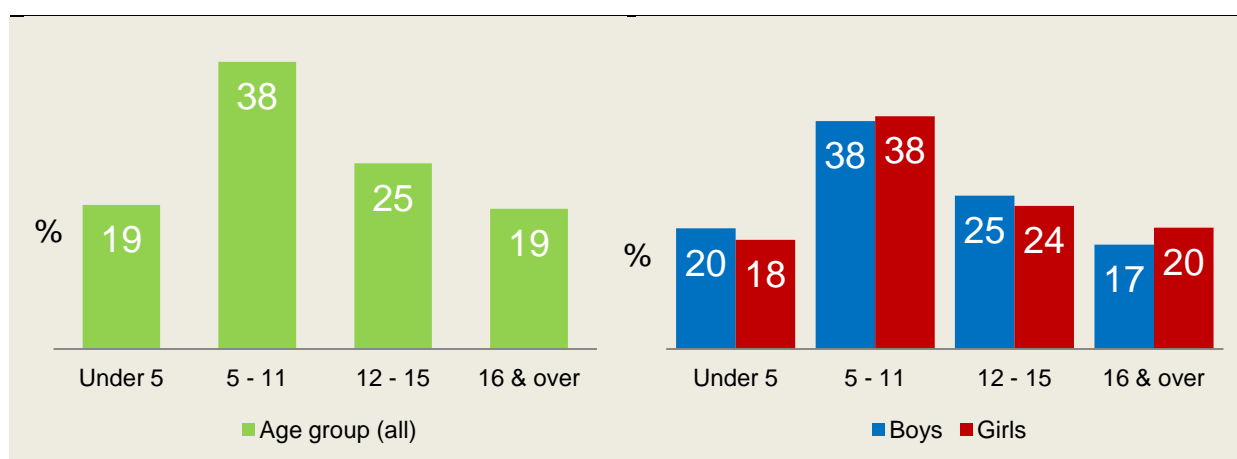
2. The Looked After Children

2.1. Age and Gender

At 30 September 2015, 53% of the children who had been in care for 12 months or longer were male (1,160) and 47% were female (1,009) which was similar to the proportions in 2014.

As in 2013/14, just over a third of children looked after in 2014/15 were in the 5-11 age group (38%), whereas some 19% 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 (2014/15)



2.2. Religion and Ethnicity

There was a higher proportion of Catholic (52%) than Protestant (41%) looked after children in 2014/15, with 147 (7%) 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 Protestants¹². These figures are similar to the previous year.

The ethnic grouping of the children in 2014/15 indicated that 94% (2,038) were White, and of the remaining 6% (131), 34 were Irish or Roma Travellers, 15 were Black, 5 were Chinese and 77 were of mixed, 'other' or not known ethnic backgrounds.

¹² http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/detailedcharacteristics_stats_bulletin_2011.pdf

2.3. Disability

HSC 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, 12% (265) of the children looked after for more than 12 months were reported as disabled in 2014/15, the same proportion as in 2013/14. Furthermore, a higher proportion of boys (15%) than girls (9%) 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 activity¹³. 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 (74%) either on its own or in combination with another disability. This was followed by autism (20%) and physically disabled (16%). Some 8% of the disabled children fell into ‘Other’ categories. Of the children with a disability, 20% (54) were recorded as having multiple disabilities.

Figure 2.2 Looked after children with a disability and type of disability (2014/15)



The largest number of disabled children could be found in the Belfast HSC Trust (31%), 24% were in the Northern HSC Trust, 18% in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 16% in the Western HSC Trust and 11% in the Southern HSC Trust. As a proportion of their looked after children populations the Belfast and South Eastern HSC Trusts were looking after the largest proportion of disabled children (15%); in comparison, 8% of the looked after children population in the Southern HSC Trust were disabled.

Four fifths of disabled children were placed in foster care (non-kinship or kinship). This represented 12% of all children in this placement type. In comparison, 25% of children in residential placements and 34% in ‘other’ placements were considered to have a disability.

2.4. Dependants

Becoming a parent may impact on educational and other outcomes for young people. In 2014/15, 10 young people in care had one or more dependent children, 8 less than in 2013/14. The majority of the young people with dependants were female and all were aged 16 years or older at the time of the survey.

¹³ Findings from the Northern Ireland Census 2011

¹⁴ 54 of the children (20%) 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 2015 (19% or 414 of the children). Annual Health Assessments relates to children aged 5 and over (81% or 1,755 of the children).

Figure 3.1 Development and Health Assessments for children looked after for 12 months or longer in Northern Ireland and England¹⁵ (2014/15)

Development Assessments (children aged under 5)	Six Monthly Assessments (children aged under 5)	Annual Health Assessment (children aged 5 & over)
98%	97%	88%
Nearly all of the children aged under five (407 of 414), had their development assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2015. This was slightly lower than in 2014 (99%). The 2015 figure was higher than the corresponding figure for looked after children in England (89%).	Of the children aged under 5, 97% (403) had their six monthly assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2015, a slight decrease compared with 99% in 2014.	Of the 1,755 children aged 5 & over, 88% (1,547) had their annual health assessment up-to-date at 30 September 2015, slightly below that of 2014 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 2014/15. 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 2015. From the information provided, 98% (2,117) of children looked after had their immunisations up-to-date at 30 September 2015. This was considerably higher than looked after children in England¹⁶, where 88% had their immunisation up to date.

¹⁵ Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015, DfE.

¹⁶ Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015, DfE.

Immunisation rates for Northern Ireland generally are not published on a client basis but rather by type of immunisation¹⁷ 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 2015. 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 2,169 children looked after for 12 months or longer at 30 September 2015, 96% (2,082) had their teeth checked the previous year; 12 percentage points higher than the corresponding figure for England¹⁸ (86%).

¹⁷ Public Health Agency Core Tables <http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>

¹⁸ Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015, DfE.

4. Placement

Children in care can be cared for in a variety of placement types depending on the individual child's situation and needs¹⁹. For the purpose of this report, five main placement categories will be used; non-kinship foster care (including children placed for adoption), kinship foster care²⁰ (including emergency foster care), residential care, placed with parent and 'other' placement types.

At 30 September 2015, 47% (1,018) of the children in care for 12 months or longer were placed in non-kinship foster care, 33% (713) were placed in kinship foster care, 13% (273) were placed with a parent, 6% (126) were in residential care, and 2% (39) were in 'other' placement types. These are similar proportions to those in 2014.

Of the 1,018 children in non-kinship foster care, 75 were placed for adoption. More children were placed for adoption with 'others' (51 children) compared to those placed with their former foster carers (24 children).

Of the 39 children in 'Other' placement types, 18 (46%) were living independently, with the remaining 21 placed in assessment centres, community placements, boarding schools, supported accommodation, hospitals, placed with friends or relatives (not covered by definition of kinship foster care) and other 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 Belfast and Northern HSC Trusts had higher proportions of children placed with parents. Similar proportions of children were in residential care across all Trusts (between 4%-7%).

Table 4.1 Placement type by HSC Trust year ending 30 September 2015

	Northern Ireland	Belfast Trust	Northern Trust	South Eastern Trust	Southern Trust	Western Trust
Non-kinship foster care*	47%	41%	47%	52%	52%	46%
Kinship foster care	33%	34%	32%	31%	30%	37%
Placed with parent	13%	16%	16%	10%	11%	6%
Residential care	6%	7%	4%	5%	5%	7%
Other	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	3%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

¹⁹ Appendix C sets out descriptions of different placement types.

²⁰ 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.

Figure 4.1 Placement of children looked after continuously for 12 months or longer at 30 September 2015

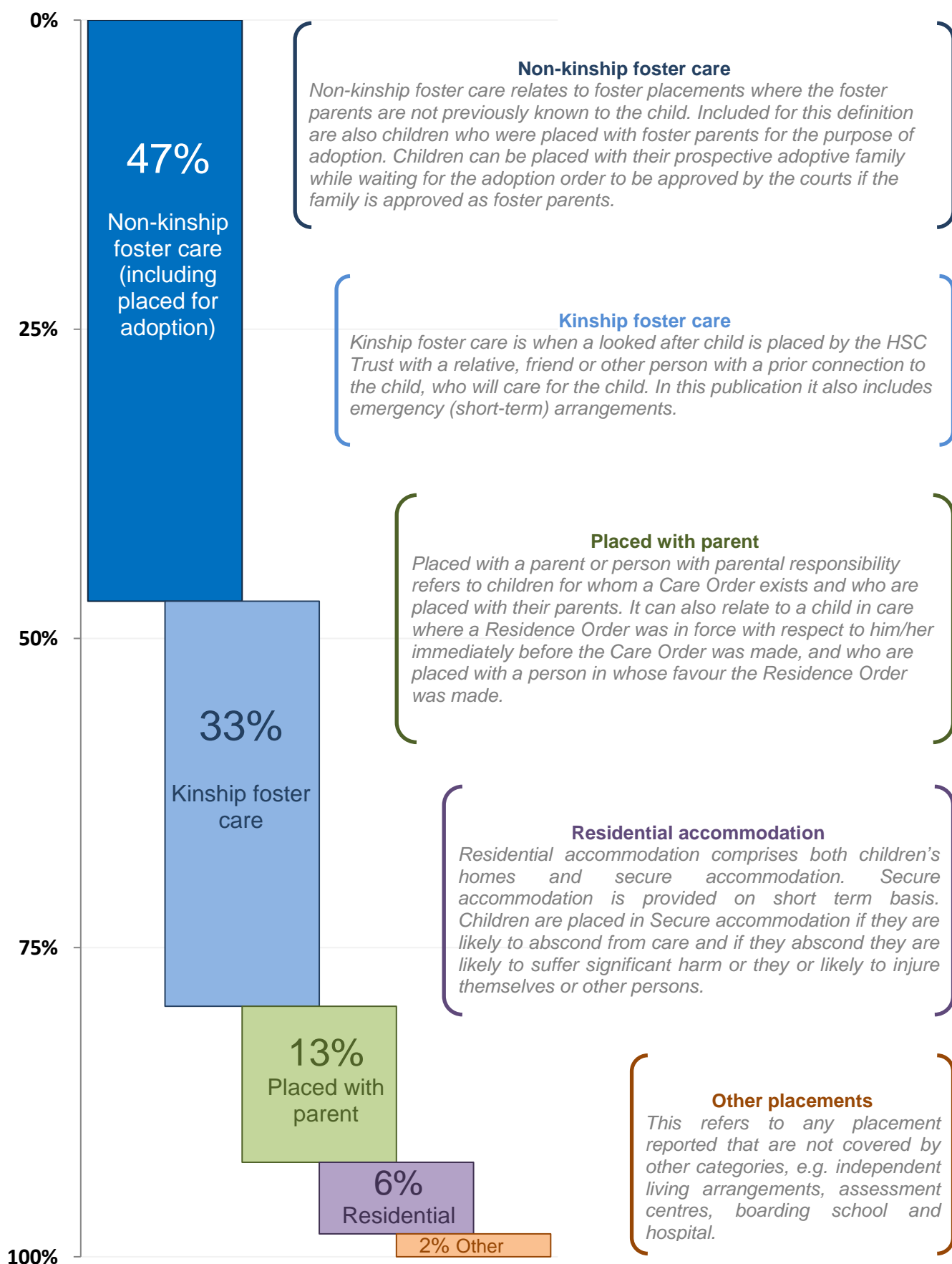
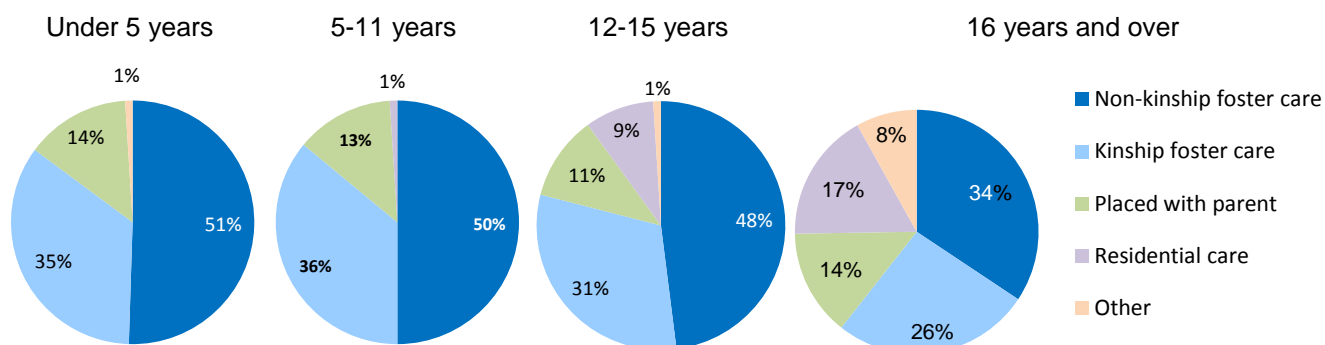


Figure 4.2 Placement type at 30 September 2014 by Age



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. Children aged 12 and over were more likely than younger children to be in residential care. A small number of the children in residential care at 30 September 2015 were aged under 12 years (10 children). All of those in secure care were 14 years or older. In general, 17% of the children aged 16 and over were in residential care (Figure 4.2).

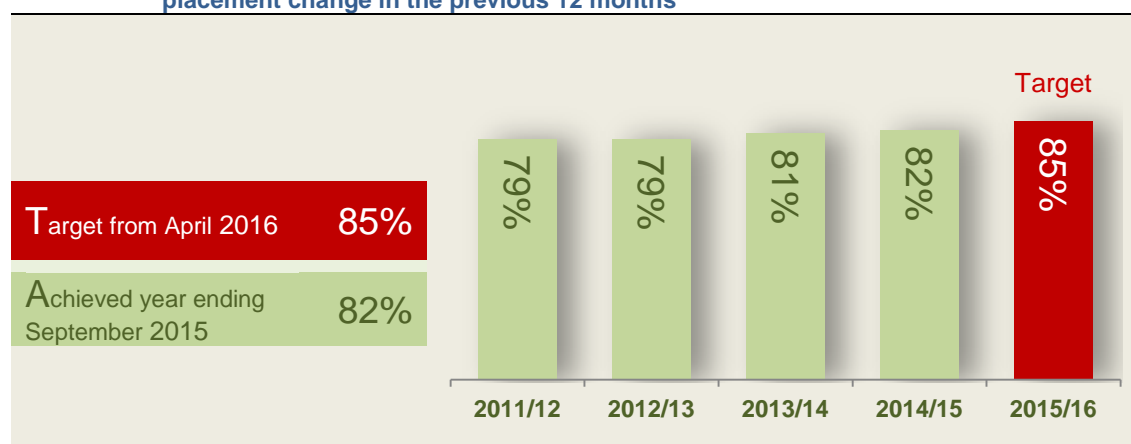
4.1. Placement Changes

‘..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 place²¹. The target for both 2014/15 and 2015/16 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). This excludes placement moves where the child was placed for adoption as this is seen as a step towards stability for the child.

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



Please note that these figures exclude those placed for adoption during the year.

The above target information excludes placement moves that related to being placed for adoption. The remainder of this section includes all placement moves, regardless of reason.

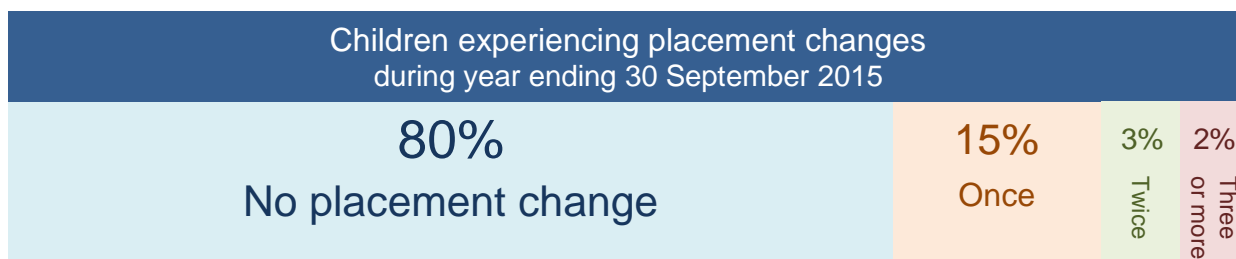
A fifth²² (20% or 438 children) of all children in care for 12 months or longer changed placement at least once during the year ending 30 September 2015; 15% once only, 3% twice only, and 2% had changed placement three times or more (Figure 4.4). This was similar to the proportions in 2013/14.

A higher proportion of females experienced placement changes than males (21% and 19% respectively); the difference was seen in those with one placement change only, with 14% of the boys compared with 16% of the girls having had one placement change only.

²¹ Health and Social Care (Commissioning Plan) Direction (Northern Ireland)
<http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-priorities>

²² Including those placed for adoption

Figure 4.4 Placement changes during the year ending 30 September 2015

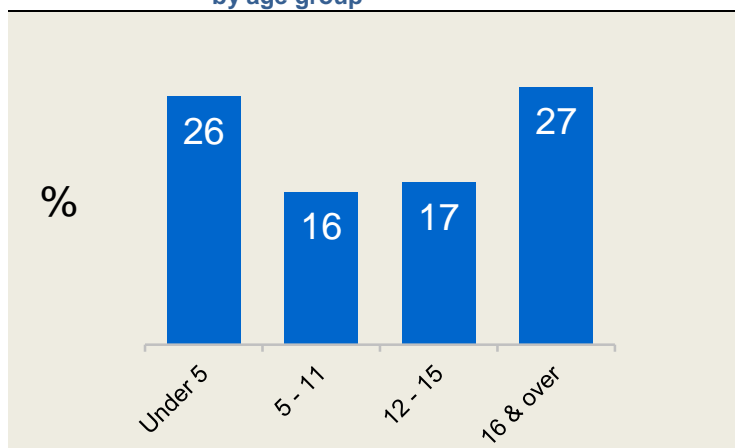


Please note that these figures include those placed for adoption during 2014/15.

Children under 5 years old together with the children aged 16 and over saw the highest proportion of placement changes during 2014/15 (26% and 27% respectively) (Figure 4.5). Compared with 2013/14, there was a decrease in the proportion of placement changes within the 12 to 15 age group (2 percentage points).

Of the children under 5 years of age, 29% (23 children) had a move which represented being placed for adoption. In total, 44 children’s moves represented placements of adoption²³.

Figure 4.5 Percentage of looked after children who experienced a placement change during 2014/15 by age group

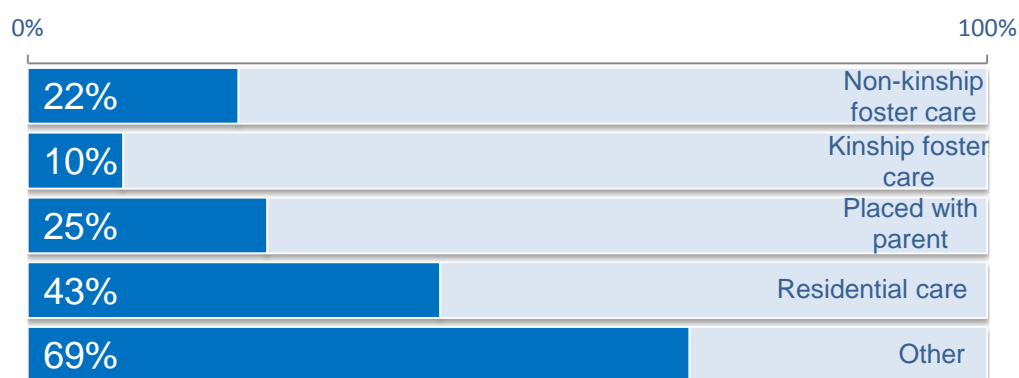


*One in ten
of the placement moves
were children
placed for adoption*

Figure 4.6 sets out the proportion of placement changes by the child’s current placement type at 30 September 2015. Of the children looked after for more than 12 months, children who were in kinship foster care at 30 September 2015 had the highest stability during the previous year (10% with a placement change). Some 70% of the children in ‘Other accommodation’ had a placement change, which may be due to the nature of the placements included in this category (see appendix C for details).

²³ 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 2014/15 by their current placement type at 30 September 2015

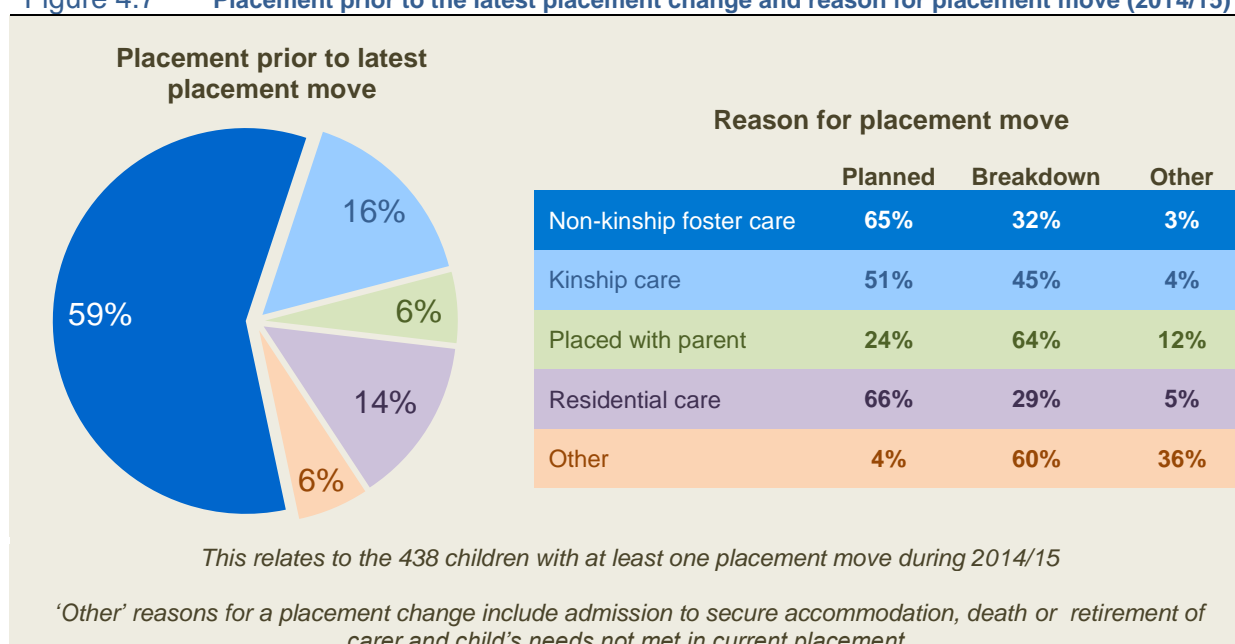


The reason for the latest placement change was collected whether the move was planned or due to a placement breakdown. The HSC Trusts reported that for 57% of the 438 children with a placement move during 2014/15, the latest placement change was planned whereas 37% were due to a breakdown and 6% for other reasons. These figures are similar to the previous year.

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 be of relevance. Over half of all placement moves for both the 12–15 year age group and those 16 years and over related to a placement breakdown (51% and 54% respectively). In comparison, 19% and 29% of the placement changes for the under 5 year olds and 5–11 year olds respectively related to a placement breakdown.

Of the 438 children who experienced one or more placement change during 2014/15, over 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 either in other placements or placed with parents, where three fifths of the moves related to a placement breakdown. A fifth (17%) of the planned moves from non-kinship foster care were placed for adoption.

Figure 4.7 Placement prior to the latest placement change and reason for placement move (2014/15)



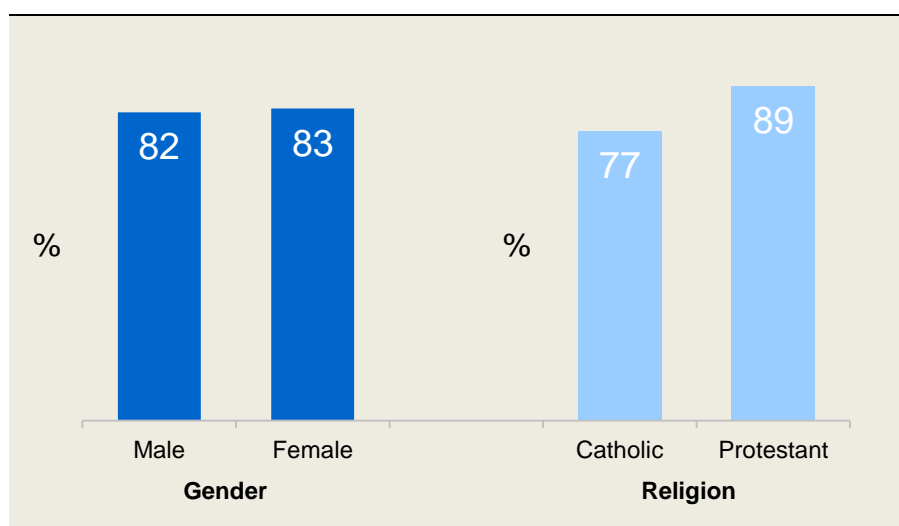
5. Pre-School Provision

Information on pre-school provision relates to children under 5 years of age. In 2014/15 it related to those children whose date of birth fell between 2 July 2010 and 1 July 2011.

Four fifths (82%) of the 95 looked after children eligible for funded pre-school provision had been allocated a free place during 2014/15.

Similar proportions of girls (83%) and boys (82%) looked after aged under 5 had a funded pre-school place in 2014/15 (Figure 5.1). In terms of religion, a lower proportion of Catholics than Protestants under 5 years had a funded pre-school place (77% and 89% respectively). In 2013/14, 86% of Protestants and 90% of Catholics had a funded pre-school place.

Figure 5.1 Looked after children aged under 5 who had a funded pre-school place (2014/15)



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
Department of Health*

6.1. Compulsory School Age

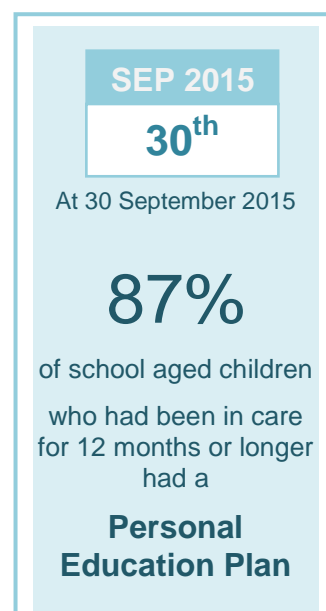
For the 2014/15 survey, compulsory school age refers to all children whose date of birth fell on or between 2 July 1998 and 1 July 2010, whether or not the child was in a position to attend school, i.e. any child who received or should have received full-time schooling during the school year.

Of those children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2015, 73% (1,590) were of compulsory school age, with similar proportions amongst the girls and the boys (74% and 73% respectively).

6.2. Personal Educational Plans

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. The importance of educational outcomes for adult life was highlighted when PEP was included in the Health and Social Care Indicators of Performance Direction²⁴ for 2015/16.

Of the school aged children in care for 12 months or longer at 30 September 2015, 87% had a PEP. Of those with a PEP, 90% had had it reviewed within the previous six months. The Northern HSC Trust had the lowest proportion of children with a PEP (80%). In comparison, PEP uptake within the other Trusts ranged from 86% in the Western and Southern HSC Trusts to 91% and 92% respectively in the South Eastern and Belfast HSC Trusts.



²⁴ <http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-priorities>

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 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 NI²⁵.

Just over a quarter of children who had been in care for twelve months or longer and were of compulsory school age in 2014/15, were covered by a statement of SEN (27%), which was substantially higher than the general school population in Northern Ireland²⁶ (5%). This proportion was similar to that for looked after children in England²⁷ (28%).

Of the looked after children covered by a SEN in Northern Ireland, the majority (58%) were related to learning or severe learning disability (Figure 6.1).

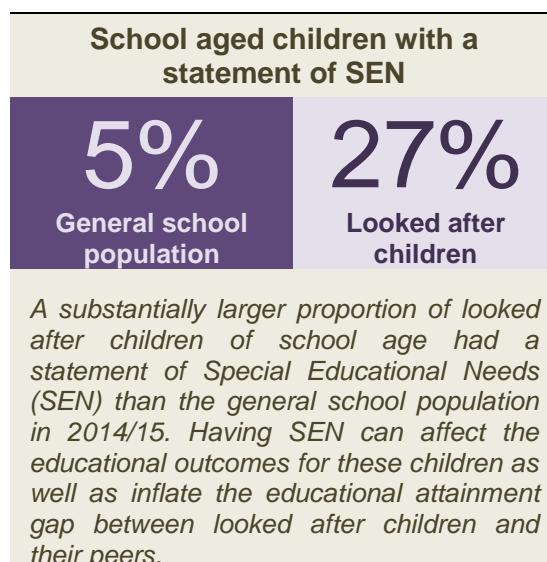
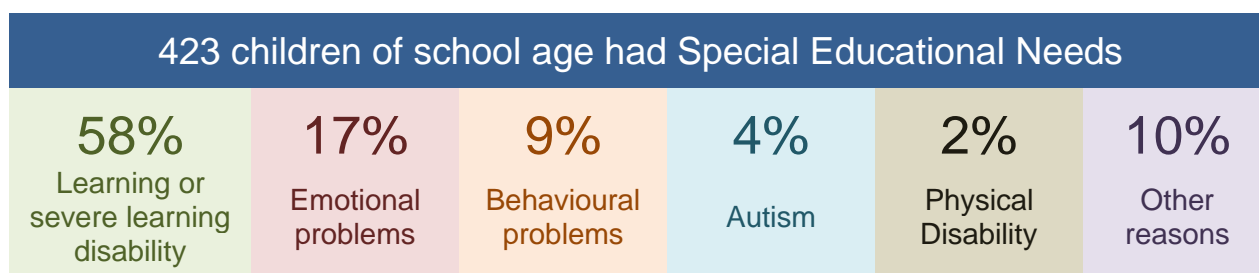


Figure 6.1 Looked after children with Special Educational Needs (2014/15)

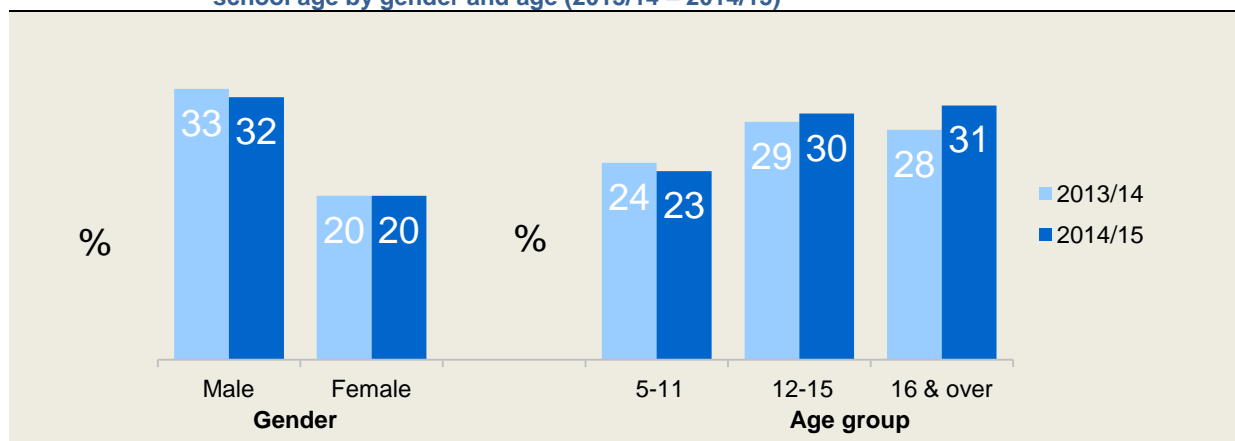


²⁵ Code of Practice, Department of Education NI www.deni.gov.uk/index/7-special_educational_needs_pg/special_needs_codes_of_practice_pg.htm

²⁶ Department of Education NI, Enrolments at Schools and in Funded Pre-School Education in Northern Ireland 2014/15

²⁷ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2015 – DfE

Figure 6.2 Statements of SEN for children looked after for 12 months or longer of compulsory school age by gender and age (2013/14 – 2014/15)



A higher proportion of boys (32%) than girls (20%) were covered by a statement of SEN, similar to the proportions in 2013/14 (Figure 6.2). Figure 6.2 also shows 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 higher proportion of children had SEN in 2014/15 compared with 2013/14.

6.4. Exclusions from School

The number of exclusions from school is generally very low. Of the looked after children of compulsory school age, 9 were expelled during 2014/15 (0.6%). This compared with 25 permanent exclusions in the general school population in Northern Ireland²⁸, and 0.13% in England²⁹ for looked after children.

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% (98) of children looked after had been suspended in 2014/15, compared with 1.3% of the general school population in Northern Ireland³⁰. The proportion of children looked after that had been suspended did increase by one percentage point, from 5% to 6% between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Table 6.1 details the frequency with which children looked after were suspended from school in 2014/15. While the vast majority of children looked after were not suspended (94%), 3% had been suspended once, 1% twice and a further 2% three times or more. As in 2013/14, slightly higher proportions of boys than girls looked after had been suspended from school during the academic year; 8% of boys compared with 4% of girls had been suspended at least once during 2014/15.

²⁸ Pupil suspension and expulsion, Department of Education NI 2014/15

²⁹ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2015 – Additional Tables - DfE

³⁰ Pupil suspensions and expulsion, Department of Education NI 2014/15

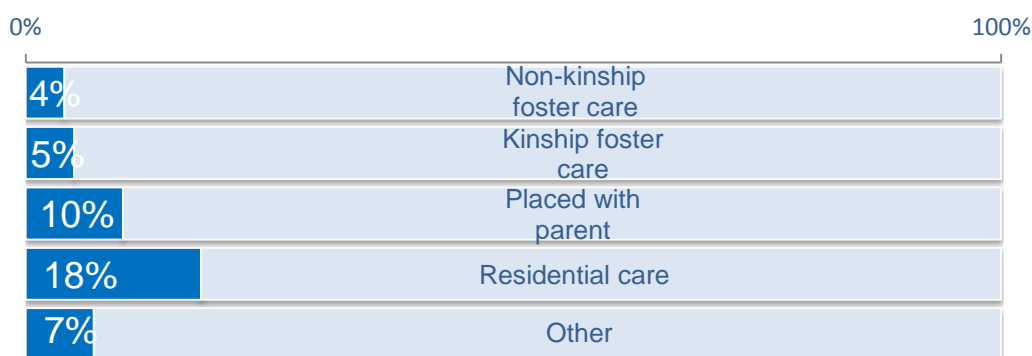
Table 6.1 Looked after children (LAC) suspended from school (2014/15) all and by gender

	Number of suspensions from school			
	None	Once only	Twice only	Three or more
LAC Northern Ireland	94%	3%	1%	2%
LAC Boys	92%	4%	2%	3%
LAC Girls	96%	2%	1%	1%

A slightly higher proportion of the 12-15 year olds had been suspended from school during 2014/15 compared with the 16 years and older age group (12% and 11% respectively). 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 2013/14; however, a larger proportion of the children aged 16 and over had been suspended in 2014/15 than in 2013/14 (11% and 7% respectively – see Appendix D for details).

Children in residential care were more likely to be suspended than children in any other placement types (Figure 6.3). 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.

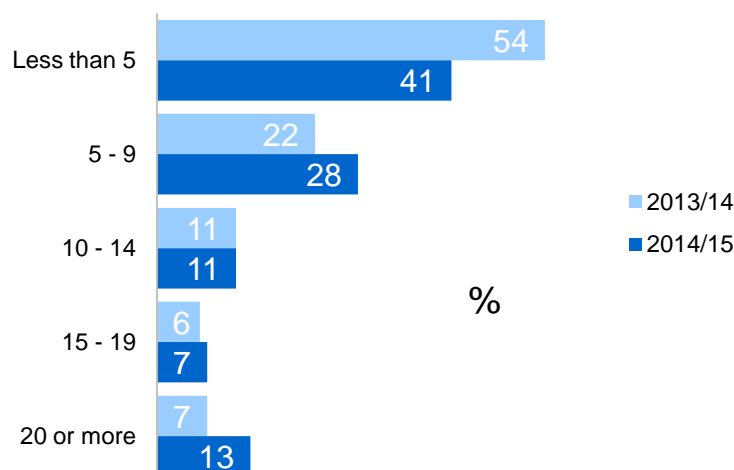
Figure 6.3 Proportion of school age children in each placement that were suspended from school (2014/15)



During 2014/15, 41% of the 98³¹ children looked after who had been suspended, had been suspended for less than 5 days, whilst 12 children (13%) had been suspended for 20 days or more (Figure 6.3). Although the general trend was the same in 2012/13, a smaller proportion of the children suspended had been suspended for less than 5 days in 2014/15 compared with 2013/14 (40% and 54% respectively).

³¹ Please note that figures were not reported for two children

Figure 6.4 School days missed through suspension (2013/14 – 2014/15)



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 been included in the Health and Social Care (Indicator of Performance) Direction since 2014³².

The OC2 survey does not identify reasons for children missing school. Of looked after children of school age in 2014/15, 67% had missed between 1 and 24 school days, and full attendance at school was reported for 23% of school aged children³³ (Figure 6.5).

In 2014/15, 10% of children looked after had missed 25 or more school days for any reason, a higher proportion than in 2013/14. The same proportion of girls (10%) and boys (10%) looked after had missed 25 days or more.

Week

During the 2014/15 school year

10%

of looked after children had

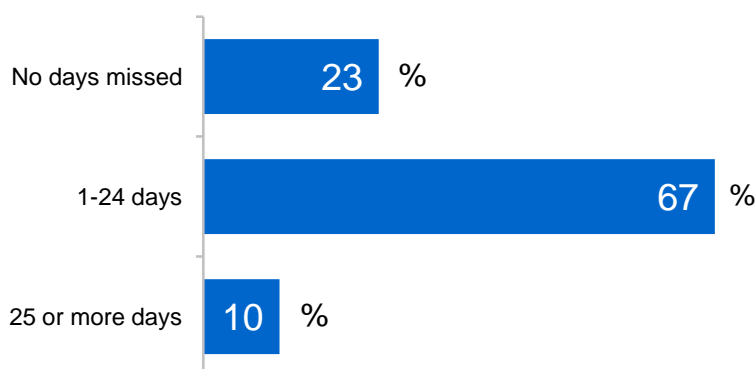
25 or more

days of **school absence** for any reason

³² <http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-priorities>

³³ Information on the number of school days missed was not provided for 19 young people in 2014/15, mainly because they did not attend school or were educated outside of school setting.

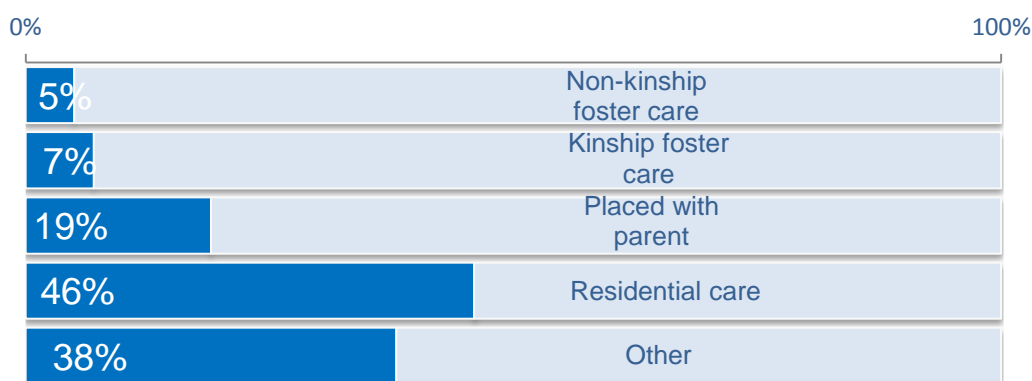
Figure 6.5 Percentage of looked after children of compulsory school age who missed school days for any reason (2014/15)



Note: Excludes 19 young people whose days missed were not recorded.

A substantially larger proportion of the school aged children in residential care and ‘other placements’ missed 25 or more school days in 2014/15 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 low numbers involved.

Figure 6.6 25 school days or more missed for any reason by placement type (2014/15)



Note: Excludes 19 young people whose days missed were not recorded.

Placement stability may influence school attendance. Of the school aged children with no placement moves during 2014/15, 8% had missed 25 or more school days for any reason. The corresponding figure for children who had experienced a placement move was 20%. This survey however cannot confirm if the placement moves caused the school absence, only that there is a correlation between the two.

6.7. School changes

During the school year 2014/15, 91% of looked after children had not changed school at any time, compared with 9% 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 a small difference in the proportion of school changes between girls (9%) and boys (8%).

7. Educational Attainment

7.1. Children eligible to sit exams

Of the children who had been looked after for 12 months or more in 2014/15, 1,590 were of school age. Set out in Appendix D is 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.

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 2014/15 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 population³⁴ (2014/15)

			Looked after children in Northern Ireland eligible to sit exam	General school population in Northern Ireland ³⁵
Level of Progression	Key Stage 1 Level 2 or above	Communication	70%	89%
		Using Maths	73%	90%
	Key Stage 2 Level 4 or above	Communication	36%	77%
		Using Maths	36%	77%
	Key Stage 3 Level 5 or above	Communication	21%	74%
		Using Maths	24%	77%
Year 12	GCSE or Equivalent Passes	1 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	66%	100% ³⁶
		5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - G	46%	98%
		5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C	27%	83%

³⁴ Source: Department of Education NI.

³⁵ Please note that due to industrial action 2014/15 data for the general population have been weighted to account for non response bias. Figures reports are the best estimate of the mean figure drawn from the sample.

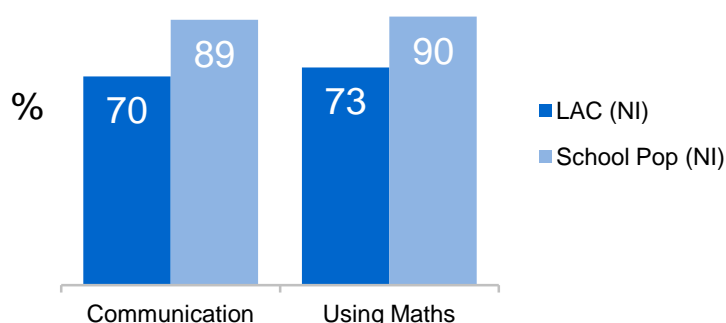
³⁶ Please note that this figure has been rounded, with 0.1% of all pupils achieving no GCSEs at grades A* - G

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 just under three quarters of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 2 or above in Communication or Using Maths (70% and 73% respectively), compared with 89% in Communication and 90% 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 population³⁷ (2014/15)



Of the looked after children in Northern Ireland, similar proportions of boys (71%) and girls (70%) achieved Level 2 or above in Communication. However, a smaller proportion of girls (70%) than boys (77%) achieved Level 2 in Using Maths.

A higher proportion of those children in non-kinship foster care achieved Level 2 or above in Using Maths compared with children placed in kinship foster care (see Appendix D for details). The number of children in each placement type eligible for these tests were however small (58 and 47 children respectively) and the trend therefore may be subject to volatility due to low numbers.

In England^{38,39,40} a similar proportion of children looked after for 12 months or longer achieved Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 assessments in English reading and writing (71% and 63% respectively) compared with the proportion of looked after children in Northern Ireland who achieved the equivalent level in Communication (70%). In regards to Maths, 73% of looked after children in England achieved level two compared with 73% of looked after children in Northern Ireland.

³⁷ Source: Department of Education NI.

³⁸ Children in England were assessed at KS1 in Reading, Writing and Maths, the figures for NI relate to Communication and Using Maths assessments.

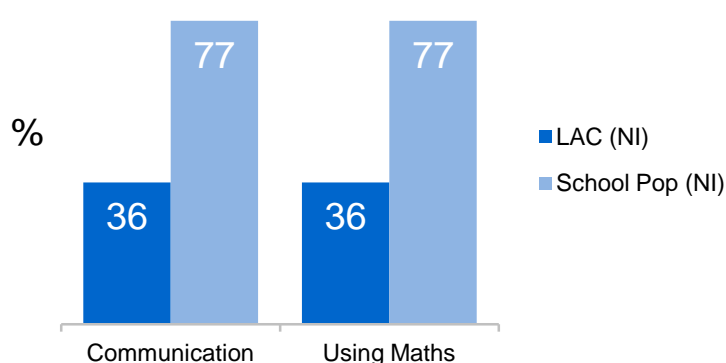
³⁹ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2015 - DfE.

⁴⁰ Some data collection differences exist between Northern Ireland and England. Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of the particular school year whereas NI figures include children eligible to sit exam according to their age. Furthermore, England include all 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.

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 around one-third of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level of Progression Level 4 or above in both Communication (36%) and Using Maths (36%) compared with just over three quarters of the equivalent general school population in Communication and in Using Maths.

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 population⁴¹ (2014/15)



Some 52% of looked after children in England who were assessed at Key Stage 2 achieved Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics^{42,43}. The higher proportion achieving this target in England compared with Northern Ireland (36% achieving Level 4 or above in Communication and Using Maths) may relate to the difference of assessments.

Of the looked after children in Northern Ireland, a lower proportion of boys (22%) than girls (46%) achieved Level 4 or above in Communication. The same was evident for Using Maths (28% and 42% respectively). Furthermore, a higher proportion of children placed in kinship foster care achieved Level 4 or above in Communication and Using Maths compared with children 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 (47 and 62 children respectively) and the trend therefore may be subject to volatility due to small numbers.

⁴¹ Source: Department of Education NI.

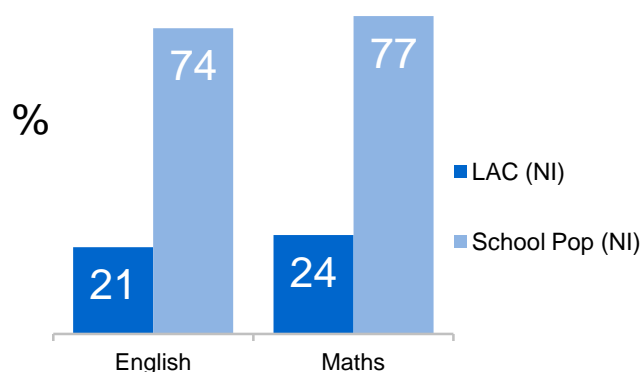
⁴² Some data collection differences exist between Northern Ireland and England. Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of the particular school year whereas NI figures include children eligible to sit exam according to their age. Furthermore, England include all children 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.

⁴³ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2015 - DfE.

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 2014/15. While around three quarters of the general school population achieved Level of Progression Level 5 or above for both Communication and Using Maths, less than 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 population⁴⁴ (2014/15)



Comparison of performance in Communication tests by gender indicated a slightly higher proportion of girls (22%) than boys (20%) looked after achieved Level 5 or above. Conversely for Using Maths, 20% of girls and 28% of boys achieved Level 5 or above.

For the Key Stage 3 assessments, similar proportions of young people in kinship and non-kinship foster care achieved level 5 or above for both Communication and Using Maths (see Appendix D for details). Please note that the number of children in each placement type eligible for these tests were small (48 and 67 respectively).

There are a number of schemes in place to help looked after children achieve their full educational potential. For example, since 2006 the Fostering Achievement initiative provides a wide range of educational support, including tuition and equipment, such as laptops, to support the educational and personal development of children in care.

The programme also recognises the important role that foster carers play in encouraging fostered children to achieve their potential. Tailored support is therefore offered to foster carers to help improve the educational outcomes for the children in their care.

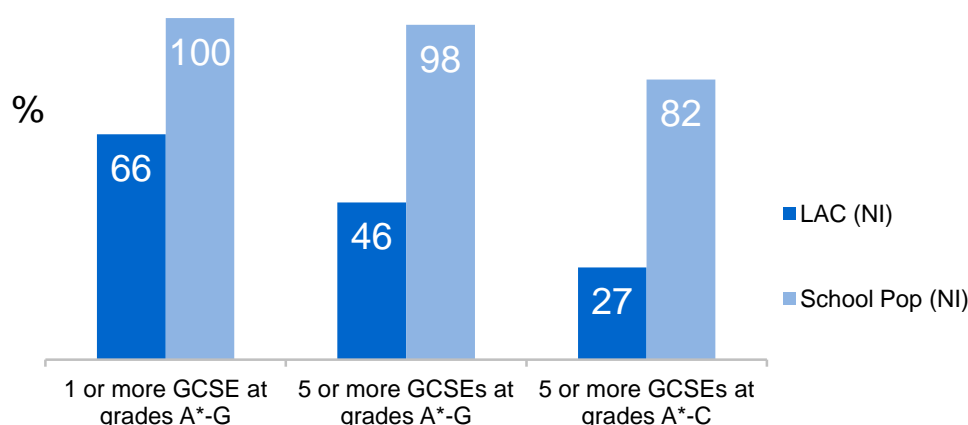
<http://www.fosteringachievement.net/>

⁴⁴ Source: Department of Education NI.

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 2014/15. It shows that two thirds (66%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland attained at least one GCSE/GNVQ at grades A* - G. This compares with close to 100% of the general school population in Northern Ireland⁴⁵.

Figure 7.5 Children achieving GCSE or Equivalent Passes for looked after children (LAC) and the NI general school population (2014/15)



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 2014/15 (83%). In England, 18% of children looked after for 12 months or longer achieved equivalent grades of 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C^{46,47}.

A larger proportion of girls (48%) than boys (45%) 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.

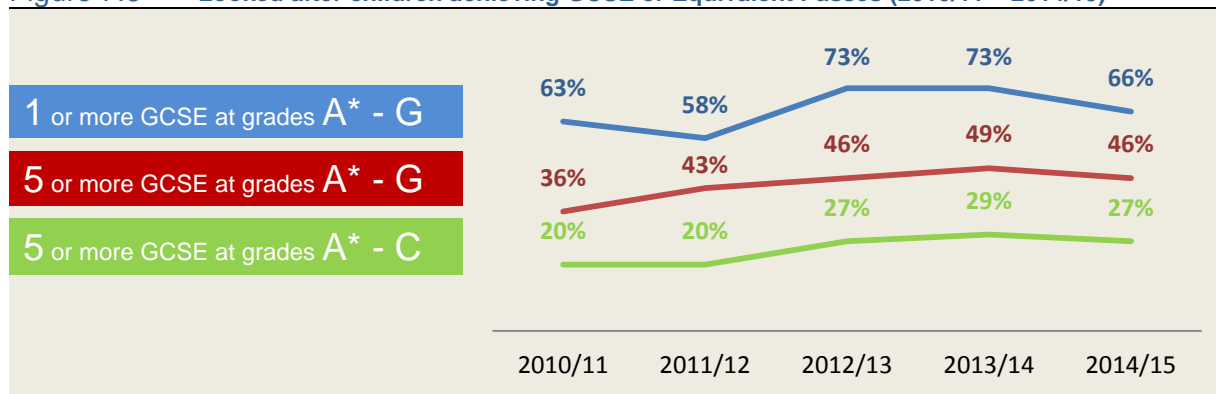
Similar proportions of children in non-kinship and kinship foster achieved at least one or more GCSEs at grades A* - G (85% and 84% respectively). This was also observed for those achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* - C (36% and 37% respectively – see Appendix D for details). Please note that the number of children in each placement type eligible for these tests were small (76 and 59 respectively).

⁴⁵ Please note that this figure has been rounded with 0.1% of all pupils achieving no GCSEs at grades A* - G.

⁴⁶ Please note that there have been methodological changes in how figures in England have been calculated further information can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/outcomes-for-children-looked-after-by-las-31-march-2015>

⁴⁷ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2015 – DfE.

Figure 7.6 Looked after children achieving GCSE or Equivalent Passes (2010/11 – 2014/15)



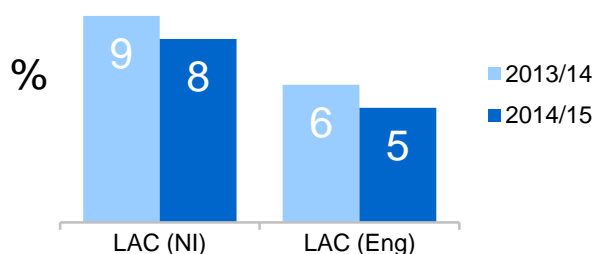
The grades achieved by looked after children in 2014/15 were lower than those achieved in 2013/14. There was a 2 percentage point decrease in children achieving 5 or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A* - C. Please note that the number of children assessed each year for these tests were small and the trend therefore may be subject to volatility due to small numbers.

8. Cautions / Convictions

8.1. Children Cautioned or Convicted

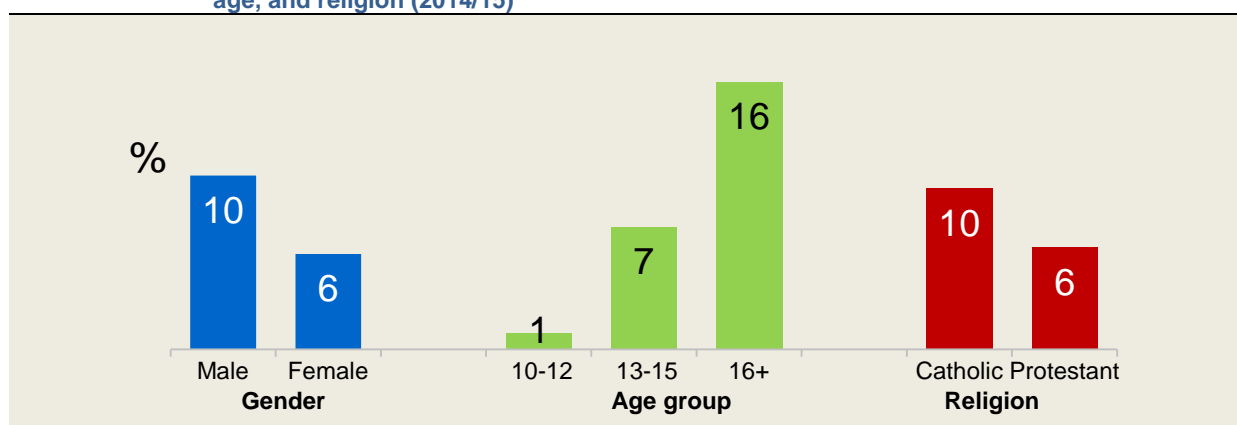
Of children looked after aged 10 and over at 30 September 2015, 8% (97) had been cautioned or convicted of an offence whilst in care during the year. The equivalent figure for England was three percentage points lower at 5% (Figure 8.1).

Figure 8.1 Looked after children (LAC) aged 10 and over cautioned or convicted in Northern Ireland and England⁴⁸ (2013/14 – 2014/15)



For looked after children aged 10 and over, a higher proportion of boys (10%) than girls (6%) had been cautioned or convicted during 2014/15. 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%). There was a drop in the proportion of Protestant children looked after had been cautioned or convicted during 2014/15, from 9% in both 2012/13 and 2013/14 to 6%. The proportion of Catholic looked after children cautioned or convicted remained constant at 10% (Figure 8.2).

Figure 8.2 Percentage of looked after children aged 10 or over cautioned or convicted by gender, age, and religion (2014/15)

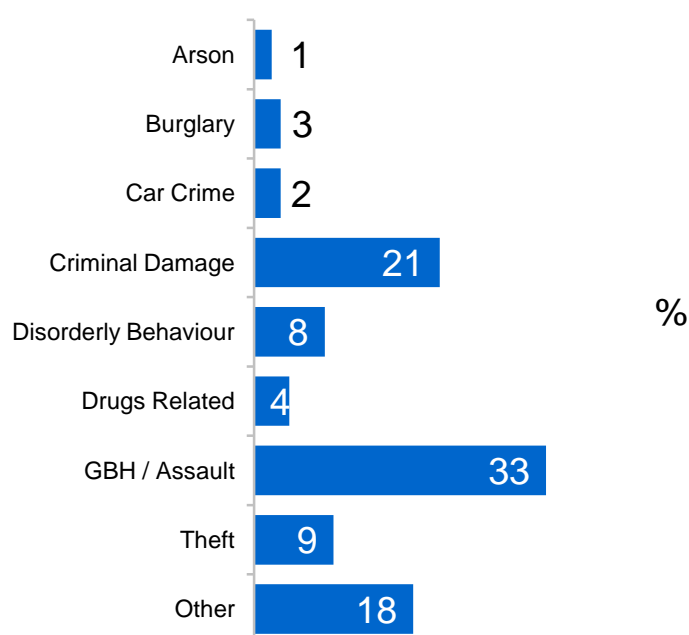


⁴⁸Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015 – DfE.

Children placed in foster care were the least likely to be cautioned or convicted in 2014/15 (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 97 looked after children cautioned or convicted, 209 separate offences were recorded. One third of recorded offences were for grievous bodily harm (GBH)/assault and a fifth were for criminal damage (Figure 8.3). A similar trend to that set out in Figure 8.3 was also witnessed in 2013/14.

Figure 8.3 Reasons for cautions or convictions (2014/15)



8.2. Substance Abuse⁴⁹

Of the 2,169 children looked after at 30 September 2015, 96 (4%) were identified as having a substance abuse problem; the same as the corresponding figure for England⁵⁰ (4%). A higher proportion of boys (6%) than girls (3%) had been identified as having a substance abuse problem.

Substance abuse was most common among older children with 15% 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 (97%), with just less than half (46%) having accepted this offer.

⁴⁹ Substance Abuse is defined as 'substance taking which harms health or social functioning'.

⁵⁰ Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2015 - DfE.

9. Children who finished compulsory schooling in 2014/15

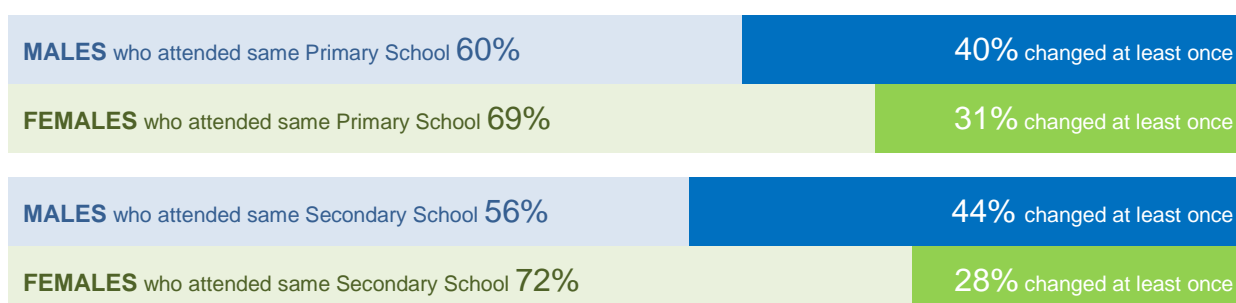
Standard school progression expects children to finish compulsory schooling at age 16 after having completed Year 12. For the current OC2 survey, 214 young people were aged 16 in 2014/15.

9.1. School changes

Of the 214 young people aged 16 in 2014/15, almost two-thirds (64%) had attended the same primary school and just over a third (36%) had changed primary schools at least once. A higher proportion of boys (40%) than girls (31%) looked after had changed primary schools at least once (Figure 9.1).

Two thirds (64%) of the young people attended the same secondary school, whilst over a third (36%) had changed secondary schools at least once. A higher proportion of boys (44%) than girls (28%) 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 2014/15, by gender



Note: figures exclude young people where data was not recorded

9.2. Gaps in Mainstream Education

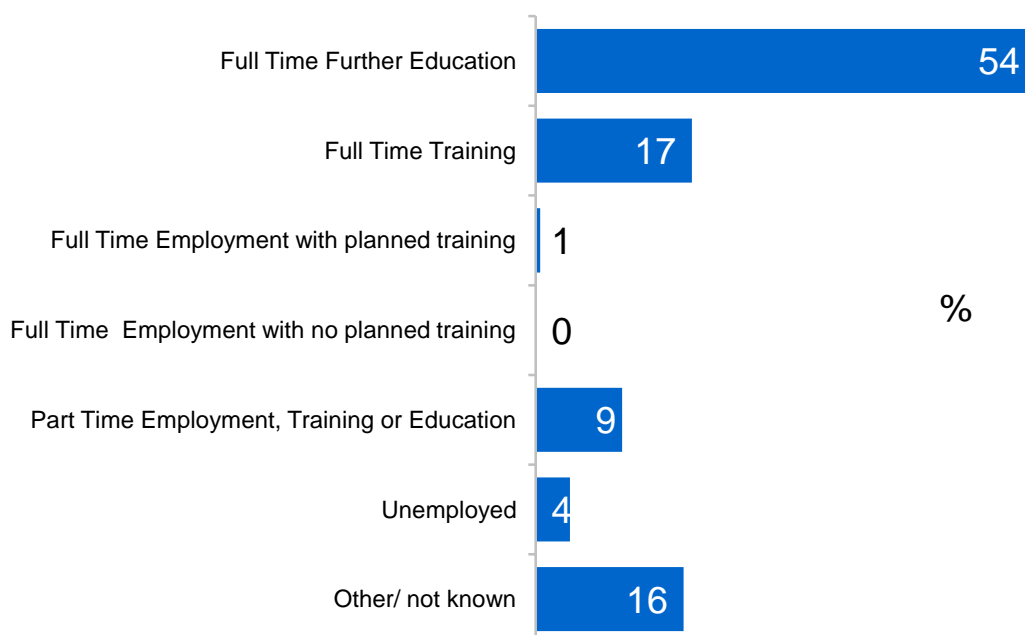
Just over a quarter (28%) of young people, aged 16 in 2014/15, had at some stage during their school years been out of mainstream education and continued to be educated in other ways.

9.3. Current Activity

Figure 9.2 details the activity of young people in care aged 16 during 2014/15⁵¹. Over half (54%) of these were in or about to start full-time education and almost a fifth were in full time training. Some 4% were regarded as unemployed.

Girls were more likely than boys to have started or about to start full-time education (57% and 50% respectively). A higher proportion of boys (5%) than girls (3%) were unemployed (see Appendix D for details).

Figure 9.2 Current activity of young people looked after who had completed Year 12 during 2014/15 in Northern Ireland



⁵¹ 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 (CIB) in the Department of Health.

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 DoH website:

<http://dhsspsextra.intranet.nigov.net/>

For inclusion in OC2, children had to be looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2015. 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 2014 to 30 September 2015. This is distinctly different from other statistical collections by the DoH, 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.

Data collection issues caused a delay in completing the 2014/15 OC2 survey. This may have caused some incompleteness in the recording of all variables for all children. Measures are being put in place to rectify these issues for future surveys.

A detailed quality report for children's community statistics is available on our website at:

www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/dhssps-statistics-and-research/official-statistics-and-user-engagement

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.

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-reports/index.html>

If you have any comments on this publication, please contact:

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Department of Health
Annexe 2, Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SQ

Email: cib@health-ni.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's Social Work Statistics are produced annually by the Scottish Government. The most recent publication was published on 22 March 2016, and is available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/5133>

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 22 June 2016, and is available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/06/7455>

Wales

Statistics on Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After, Year Ending 31 March 2015 by Local Authorities in Wales are produced annually by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government, and are available at:

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

England

Outcomes for Children looked after by local authorities in England, 31 March 2015 is produced annually by the Department for Education. Figures for the year were published on 24 March 2015, and are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/outcomes-for-children-looked-after-by-las-31-march-2015>

Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2015 is published annually by the Department for Education. The latest publication was published on 1 October 2015, and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2014-to-2015>

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 DoH relating to looked after children and other areas of children's social care as detailed below can be found on:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/dhssps-statistics-and-research/childrens-services-statistics>

Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland


Northern Ireland Care Leavers

Children Adopted from Care in Northern Ireland

Quarterly Child Protection Statistics for Northern Ireland

Appendix B – Coverage of OC2 2014-15

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 2015, 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 2/7/1998 to 1/7/2010.
Key Stage 1	Children eligible for school year 4 i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/2006 to 1/7/2007.
Key Stage 2	Children eligible for school year 7, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/2003 to 1/7/2004.
Key Stage 3	Children eligible for school year 10, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/2000 to 1/7/2001.
GCSEs and GNVQs	Children eligible for school Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1998 to 1/7/1999.
Offending	Children aged 10 & over at 30 September 2015, i.e. whose date of birth is 30/9/2005 or earlier.
Pre-School Provision	Children in their pre-school year in 2014/15, i.e. whose date of birth is 2/7/2010 to 1/7/2011.
Development Assessments	Children aged under 5 at 30 September 2015, i.e. whose date of birth is 1/10/2010 or later.
Immunisations Dental Checks Health Assessments	 <p>All children covered by the OC2 collection, i.e. all children who were looked after on 30 September 2015, and who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.</p>
Current Activity / Past Schooling Experiences	Children eligible for Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1998 to 1/7/1999.

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 2014/15 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 at:

www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/looked-after-children

Table 1a	Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2015
Table 1b	Demographic Trends of Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 – 2014)
Table 2	Health Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 – 2015)
Table 3	Funded Pre-School Provision Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 – 2015)
Table 4	General Educational Information for Children Looked After Continuously for at least 12 months for the year ending 30 September 2015
Table 5	Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2015, for each of the Key Educational Stages 2014/15
Table 6	Special Educational Needs Trend Data for Children of Compulsory School Age Continuously Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 - 2015)
Table 7	Permanent School Exclusions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 - 2015)
Table 8	School Suspensions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 - 2015)
Table 9	Days Missed Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 – 2015)
Table 10	School Changes Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 - 2015)
Table 11	Children Looked After for at least 12 months sitting Exams (2014/15)
Table 12	Key Stage 1 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 - 2015)
Table 13	Key Stage 2 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 - 2015)
Table 14	Key Stage 3 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 - 2015)
Table 15	GCSE Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2012 - 2015)
Table 16a	Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2015 by placement type
Table 16b	Educational Attainment for Children Looked After Continuously for 12 Months or longer at 30 September 2015 by Placement Type
Table 17	Cautions/Convictions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months aged 10 and over (2012 - 2015)
Table 18	Current Activity Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12 at 30 September (2012 – 2015)
Table 19	Current Activity Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12 at 30 September 2015 by gender
Table 20	Personal Education Plans for Children Looked After for at least 12 months of compulsory school age at 30 September (2013 – 2015)

Table 1a: Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2015

Year ending 30 September	Number of children	% of children
Total number of children looked after for at least 12 months	2,169	-
Gender		
Male	1,160	53%
Female	1,009	47%
Religion		
Catholic	1,122	52%
Protestant	900	41%
No/Unknown/Other	147	7%
Age		
Aged Under 5	413	19%
Aged 5 -11	823	38%
Aged 12 – 15	532	25%
Aged 16 & Over	401	18%
Ethnicity		
White (excluding Traveller)	2,038	94%
Other	131	6%
Disabled		
with a Disability	265	12%
Dependents		
No. with Dependent children	10	<1%
Placement		
Non-kinship Foster Care ¹	1,018	47%
Kinship Foster Care	713	33%
Placed with Parent	273	13%
Residential Care	126	6%
Other	39	2%
Placement Changes		
No Change	1,731	80%
Once Only	322	15%
Twice Only	67	3%
At least three times	49	2%

¹ Includes children placed for adoption

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 1b: Demographic Trends of Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of children looked after for at least 12 months	1,838	1,878	2,071	2,163	2,169
Rate per 10,000 children	43	44	48	50	50
Gender					
% Male	53%	52%	52%	52%	53%
% Female	47%	48%	48%	48%	47%
Religion					
% Catholic	50%	52%	52%	51%	52%
% Protestant	47%	45%	39%	40%	41%
% No/Unknown/Other	3%	3%	9%	8%	7%
Age					
% Aged Under 5	16%	16%	17%	18%	19%
% Aged 5 -11	32%	33%	35%	35%	38%
% Aged 12 – 15	32%	31%	27%	25%	25%
% Aged 16 & Over	21%	20%	21%	21%	18%
Ethnicity					
% White (excluding Traveller)	95%	95%	95%	94%	94%
% Other	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%
Disabled					
% with a Disability	14%	14%	14%	12%	12%
Dependents					
No. with Dependents	16	10	13	18	10
Placement					
% in Non-kinship Foster Care ¹	44%	47%	45%	46%	47%
% in Kinship Foster Care	27%	27%	32%	32%	33%
% Placed with Parent	13%	15%	13%	12%	13%
% in Residential Care	8%	8%	7%	6%	6%
% Other	7%	3%	3%	4%	2%
Placement Changes					
% No Change	79%	78%	77%	79%	80%
% Once Only	15%	15%	17%	15%	15%
% Twice Only	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
% At least three times	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%

¹ Includes children placed for adoption

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health (NI)

Table 2: Health Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of LAC aged under 5	287	308	360	393	414
% Completed Development Assessment	97%	95%	99%	99%	98%
% Completed Six Monthly Assessment	98%	96%	97%	99%	97%
Number of LAC aged 5 and over	1,551	1,570	1,711	1,769	1,755
% Completed Health Assessment	90%	89%	87%	89%	88%
% Immunisations Uptodate ¹	99%	98%	99%	99%	98%
% Dental Checks Complete ²	97%	96%	96%	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 2014/15, Department of Health (NI)

Table 3: Funded Pre-School Provision Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of LAC eligible for funded Pre-School Provision	85	81	100	101	95
Number of LAC receiving funded Pre-School Provision	66	54	76	90	78
Gender					
% of males receiving funded Pre-School Provision	81%	63%	71%	90%	82%
% of females receiving funded Pre-School Provision	74%	71%	82%	88%	83%
Religion					
% of Catholics receiving funded Pre-School Provision	79%	56%	77%	90%	77%
% of Protestants receiving funded Pre-School Provision	80%	81%	79%	86%	89%

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 4: General Educational Information for Children Looked After Continuously for at Least 12 Months for the Year Ending 30 September 2015

	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	2,169	1,590	423	27%	9	1%	157	10%
Belfast HSC Trust	562	413	127	31%	< 5	-	57	14%
Northern HSC Trust	504	371	90	24%	< 5	-	23	6%
South Eastern HSC Trust	320	255	79	31%	< 5	-	27	11%
Southern HSC Trust	360	236	44	19%	-	-	14	6%
Western HSC Trust	423	315	83	26%	< 5	-	36	11%

Note: To avoid personal disclosure, values less than 5 have been suppressed and replaced by "<5". Percentages which have been suppressed are replaced by "-".

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 5: Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2015, for each of the Key Educational Stages 2014/15

	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	115	128	148	214
England	1,910	2,640	-	4,940
Belfast HSC Trust	27	29	35	58
Northern HSC Trust	32	41	44	34
South Eastern HSC Trust	18	18	17	36
Southern HSC Trust	16	18	24	41
Western HSC Trust	22	22	28	45

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 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Source: Outcomes for Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, as at 31 March 2015, Department for Education

Table 6: Special Educational Needs Trend Data for Children of Compulsory School Age Continuously Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,377	1,398	1,516	1,551	1,590
% of males of school age	75%	74%	72%	72%	73%
% of females of school age	75%	75%	74%	72%	74%
Statement of SEN					
% with a statement of SEN	25%	25%	25%	26%	27%
Gender					
% of males with SEN	31%	30%	31%	33%	32%
% of females with SEN	19%	20%	20%	20%	20%
Age					
% aged 5 – 11 with SEN	23%	21%	23%	24%	23%
% aged 12 – 15 with SEN	28%	27%	28%	29%	30%
% aged 16 & over with SEN	23%	30%	28%	28%	31%
Reason for SEN					
% with Severe/Learning Difficulties	48%	54%	54%	58%	58%
% with Behavioural Problems	12%	14%	11%	12%	9%
% with Other Reasons	40%	32%	35%	30%	33%

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 7: Permanent School Exclusions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,377	1,398	1,516	1,551	1,590
Permanent Exclusions					
% of LAC ¹ expelled in NI	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%
% of LAC expelled in England	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
No. of general school population expelled in NI	38	24	19	29	25

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, 31 March 2015, Department for Education

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Source: Exclusion Statistics 2014/15, Department of Education Northern Ireland

Table 8: School Suspensions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2010 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,377	1,398	1,516	1,551	1,590
Suspensions					
% of LAC suspended in NI	8%	8%	6%	5%	6%
% of general school population suspended	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Gender					
% of males suspended	11%	10%	9%	8%	8%
% of females suspended	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%
Age					
% aged 5 – 11 suspended	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%
% aged 12 – 15 suspended	10%	12%	11%	11%	12%
% aged 16 & over suspended	13%	11%	9%	7%	11%
No. of Times Suspended					
% with no suspensions	92%	92%	94%	95%	94%
% suspended once only	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%
% suspended twice only	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
% suspended at least three times	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Days Missed Through Suspension					
% missed less than 5 days	43%	41%	56%	54%	40%
% missed 5 – 9 days	25%	22%	20%	22%	28%
% missed 10 – 14 days	20%	17%	9%	11%	11%
% missed 15 – 19 days	4%	5%	6%	6%	7%
% missed 20 or more days	7%	15%	9%	7%	12%
% missed Not Known	1%	-	-	-	2%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)*

Source: *Suspension Statistics 2014/15, Department of Education Northern Ireland*

Table 9: Days Missed Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,377	1,398	1,516	1,551	1,590
School Days Missed¹					
% missed no days	17%	20%	24%	27%	23%
% missed 1 - 24 days	72%	72%	68%	65%	67%
% missed 25 days or more	10%	9%	8%	8%	10%
Gender					
% of males who missed 25 or more days	11%	9%	8%	9%	10%
% of females who missed 25 or more days	10%	9%	8%	8%	10%

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

1 - missing figures excluded

Table 10: School Changes Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,377	1,398	1,516	1,551	1,590
School Changes					
% No School Changes	90%	89%	90%	92%	91%
% Changed School Once	9%	10%	9%	7%	8%
% Changed School Twice or more	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%
Gender					
% of males who changed school	10%	11%	10%	7%	8%
% of females who changed school	11%	11%	10%	9%	9%

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 11: Children Looked After for at least 12 months sitting Exams (2014/15)

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	115	128	148	214
-of these				
Statement of SEN	17%	27%	35%	29%
Total not assessed	29%	31%	36%	8%

¹ This includes all children eligible to be assessed in 2014/15 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 2014/15 were interrupted by industrial action

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 12: Key Stage 1 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013 ^A	2014 ^A	2015 ^A
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,377	1,398	1,516	1,551	1,590
% Eligible to sit Key Stage 1	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
% achieving level 2 or above in:					
English / Communication	67%	71%	73%	82%	70%
Mathematics / Using Maths	68%	74%	76%	83%	73%
Gender					
% of males achieving level 2 or above in English	53%	71%	67%	85%	71%
% of females achieving level 2 or above in English	82%	72%	80%	78%	70%
% of males achieving level 2 or above in Maths	56%	74%	75%	88%	77%
% of females achieving level 2 or above in Maths	82%	74%	78%	78%	70%

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 - 2014/15 data are 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 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 13: Key Stage 2 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013 ^A	2014 ^A	2015 ^A
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,377	1,398	1,516	1,551	1,590
% Eligible to sit Key Stage 2	8%	7%	7%	7%	8%
% achieving level 4 or above in:					
English / Communication	36%	45%	36%	37%	36%
Mathematics / Using Maths	45%	45%	36%	34%	36%
Gender					
% of males achieving level 4 or above in English	40%	40%	33%	28%	22%
% of females achieving level 4 or above in English	30%	49%	39%	47%	46%
% of males achieving level 4 or above in Maths	50%	45%	33%	28%	28%
% of females achieving level 4 or above in Maths	37%	45%	39%	41%	42%

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 - 2014/15 data are 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 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 14: Key Stage 3 Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013 ^A	2014 ^A	2015 ^A
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,377	1,398	1,516	1,551	1,590
% Eligible to sit Key Stage 3	12%	11%	11%	10%	9%
% achieving level 5 or above in:					
English / Communication	33%	34%	28%	27%	21%
Mathematics / Using Maths	31%	32%	27%	22%	24%
Gender					
% of males achieving level 5 or above in English	26%	29%	18%	26%	20%
% of females achieving level 5 or above in English	39%	38%	37%	29%	22%
% of males achieving level 5 or above in Maths	28%	27%	20%	30%	28%
% of females achieving level 5 or above in Maths	33%	36%	32%	12%	20%

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 - 2014/15 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 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 15: GCSE Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,377	1,398	1,516	1,551	1,590
% Eligible to sit GCSE's	14%	14%	14%	13%	13%
% achieving:					
1 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	63%	58%	73%	73%	66%
5 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	36%	43%	46%	49%	46%
5 or more GCSE at grades A* - C	20%	20%	27%	29%	27%
Gender					
% of males achieving 1 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	68%	55%	71%	65%	59%
% of females achieving 1 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	57%	63%	74%	80%	72%
% of males achieving 5 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	36%	35%	42%	41%	45%
% of females achieving 5 or more GCSE at grades A* - G	36%	52%	50%	57%	48%
% of males achieving 5 or more GCSE at grades A* - C	20%	18%	24%	21%	24%
% of females achieving 5 or more GCSE at grades A* - C	20%	23%	30%	37%	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 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 16a: Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2015 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	1,018	713	273	126	39	2,169
% LAC	47%	33%	13%	6%	2%	100%
Trust %						
Belfast	41%	34%	16%	7%	1%	100%
Northern	47%	32%	16%	4%	1%	100%
South Eastern	52%	31%	10%	5%	2%	100%
Southern	52%	30%	11%	5%	1%	100%
Western	46%	37%	6%	7%	3%	100%
Age %						
Under 5	51%	35%	14%	0%	< 1%	100%
5-11	50%	36%	13%	1%	0%	100%
12-15	48%	31%	11%	9%	1%	100%
16 and over	34%	26%	14%	17%	8%	100%
Gender %						
Boys	47%	33%	13%	6%	2%	100%
Girls	47%	33%	12%	6%	2%	100%
Number/Percentage with no placement change last 12 months	799 (78%)	643 (90%)	205 (75%)	72 (57%)	12 (31%)	1,731 (80%)
Number/Percentage with a Disability	147 (14%)	62 (9%)	11 (4%)	32 (25%)	13 (33%)	265 (12%)

Source: Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)

Table 16b: Educational Attainment for Children Looked After Continuously for 12 Months or Longer at 30 September 2015 by Placement Type

	Non-kinship foster care	Kinship foster care	Placed with parent	Residential care	Other	Total
Number of School Age Children	752	526	197	101	14	1,590
Number/Percentage with a Statement of Educational Need	228 (30%)	109 (21%)	28 (14%)	51 (50%)	7 (50%)	423 (27%)
No. of Children Suspended from School	31	28	20	<20	<5	98
No. of Children Missing 25 days or more from School	34	39	37	42	5	157
Eligible Key Stage 1	58	47	<10	<5	0	115
Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 English	78%	65%	50%	0%	-	70%
Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 Maths	81%	65%	67%	0%	-	73%
Eligible Key Stage 2	62	47	<20	<10	0	128
Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English	32%	56%	0%	33%	-	36%
Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths	32%	52%	20%	0%	-	36%
Eligible Key Stage 3	67	48	<20	<20	<5	148
Level 5 or above for Key Stage 3 English	24%	28%	10%	0%	0%	21%
Level 5 or above for Key Stage 3 Maths	25%	25%	40%	0%	0%	24%
Eligible GCSE's	76	59	33	38	8	214
At least one GCSE/GNVQ at grades A* - G	85%	84%	47%	21%	29%	66%
5 or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A* - G	61%	65%	31%	6%	14%	46%
5 or more GCSE/GNVQs at grades A* - C	36%	37%	19%	6%	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 2014/15, Department of Health (NI)

Table 17: Cautions/Convictions Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months aged 10 and over (2011 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of LAC aged 10 or older	1,162	1,129	1,202	1,230	1,189
% Cautioned/Convicted	9%	9%	10%	9%	8%
Gender					
% of males cautioned/convicted	12%	11%	13%	12%	10%
% of females cautioned/convicted	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%
Age					
% aged 10 - 12 cautioned/convicted	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
% aged 13 - 15 cautioned/convicted	7%	7%	9%	8%	7%
% aged 16 or over cautioned/convicted	17%	17%	16%	17%	16%
Religion					
% of Catholics cautioned/convicted	9%	8%	10%	10%	10%
% of Protestants cautioned/convicted	9%	11%	9%	9%	6%
Total Number of Offences Recorded	232	210	220	250	209

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)*

Table 18: Current Activity Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12 at 30 September 2011 - 2015

Year ending 30 September	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of LAC Completed Year 12	192	190	218	206	214
% in Full-Time Further Education	52%	58%	53%	50%	54%
% in Full-Time Training	23%	22%	25%	24%	17%
% in Full-Time Employment with Planned Training	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
% in Full-Time Employment with no Planned Training	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
% Unemployed	10%	8%	7%	5%	4%
% in Part-Time Employment, Training or Education	12%	8%	4%	9%	9%
% Other	2%	1%	10%	10%	15%
% Not Known	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15, Department of Health(NI)*

Table 19: Current Activity Trend Data for Children Looked After for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12 at 30 September 2015 by gender

Year ending 30 September 2015	Boys	Girls	All
Number of children continuously looked after for at least 12 months who had completed Year 12	104	110	214
% in Full Time Education	50%	57%	54%
% in Full Time Training	15%	18%	17%
% in Full Time Employment with Planned Training	1%	0%	1%
% in Full Time Employment with no Planned Training	0%	0%	0%
% Unemployed	5%	3%	4%
% in Part Time Employment, Training or Education	12%	7%	9%
% Other	15%	15%	15%
% unknown	2%	0%	1%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15*, Department of Health(NI)

Table 20: Personal Education Plans for Children Looked After for at least 12 months of compulsory school age at 30 September (2013 - 2015)

Year ending 30 September	2013	2014	2015
Number of children of compulsory school age	1,516	1,551	1,590
Personal Education Plans (PEP)			
% with a PEP	77%	84%	87%
% without a PEP	23%	16%	13%
Personal Education Plan Reviewed¹			
% with a PEP Review	74%	85%	90%
% PEP not reviewed	26%	15%	10%

Source: *Children in Care in Northern Ireland 2014/15*, Department of Health(NI)

1 - % of those with a Personal Education Plan

Appendix E – OC2 Survey form 2014/15



Form OC2

2014/15

Outcome indicators for looked after children

Complete this form for each child who was looked after by your Trust at 30 September 2015, and who, at that time, had been looked after continuously for 12 months or more

1. Trust name: _____

2. SOSCARE number

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

3. The School's Reference Number (DENI number)

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

4. The child's school Admission Number

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

5. Gender
 Male
 Female

6. Date of birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

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

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

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

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

9. Postcode of current address

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

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

11. 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

12. What is the child's religion?

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

13. Is the child an unaccompanied asylum seeker?

Yes
 No

14. 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

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

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

If 'other', please specify

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

Yes
No

If 'Yes', please enter the number of dependants

17. 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)
- Kinship Care – less than 12 weeks
- Kinship Care – Approved Stage 1/Approved Stage 2
- Unregulated – in placement >12 weeks and not approved
- 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)

17b. At what date did the current placement begin?

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

18. If the current placement arrangement is Kinship foster care, please specify if the kinship carer is:

- Grandparent
- Sibling
- Other relative
- Non-related connected person

19. Did the child's placement change during the last year (i.e. between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015)?

Yes
No

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

21. 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)
- Kinship Care – less than 12 weeks
- Kinship Care – Approved Stage 1/Approved Stage 2
- Unregulated – in placement >12 weeks and not approved
- 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)

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

- Planned
- Breakdown
- Other (please specify below)

23. What was the child's legal status at 30 September 2015?

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

24. Date of the last statutory review:

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

25. 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)

26. Was the child of compulsory school age during the 2014/15 school year (i.e. the child's date of birth is between 2 July 1998 and 1 July 2010)?

- Yes
- No

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

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

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

29. If covered (yes to question above), please choose the reason that best describes the statement of educational needs

- Learning Disability (mild/moderate)
- Severe Learning Disability
- Autism
- Emotional Problems
- Physical Disability
- Behavioural Problems
- Learning Difficulty (eg dyslexia)
- Other
- Unknown

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

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

If 'Yes', please enter

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

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

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

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

If 'Yes', please enter

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

37. Was the child at any time during the school year 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

If yes:

38. What was the reason for the child being educated outside of mainstream school?

For children who were in P4 in 2014/15 and who were eligible for end of Level of Progression/Key Stage One Assessment

39 Was the child assessed at Key Stage 1?

Yes
No

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

.....

.....

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

Communication?
or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?
Using Maths?

For children who were in P7 in 2014/15 and who were eligible for end of Level of Progression/Key Stage 2 Assessment

42 Was the child assessed at Key Stage 2?

Yes
No

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

.....

.....

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

Communication?
or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?
Using Maths?

For children who were in Year 10 in 2014/15 and who were eligible for end of Level of Progression/Key Stage 3 Assessment

45 Was the child assessed at Key Stage 3?

Yes
No

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

.....

.....

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

Communication?
or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?
Using Maths?

For children who were in Year 12 in 2014/15 and who were eligible for end of GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

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

Yes
No

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

.....

.....

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

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

51 Did the child obtain any NVQs?

Yes
No

52 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 2015 ONLY

- 53 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 2013 and June 2014)
- Yes
- No

For children aged 5 and over at 30 September 2015

- 54 Has a LAC Personal Education Plan been completed for the young person?
- Yes
- No

If yes...

- 55 ...has the LAC Personal Education Plan been reviewed within the last 12 months?
- Yes
- No

For children aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2015

- 56 Were the child's development assessments up to date at 30 September 2015?
- Yes
- No
- 57 Did the child have his/her 6-monthly health assessment completed between 1 April 2014 and 30 September 2015?
- Yes
- No

For children aged 5 and over at 30 September 2015

- 58 Did the child have his/her annual health assessment completed during the year ending 30 September 2015?
- Yes
- No

For all children

- 59 Were the child's immunisations up to date at 30 September 2015?
- Yes
- No
- 60 Did the child have his/her teeth checked by a dentist during the year ending 30 September 2015?
- Yes
- No
- 61 Was the child identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year ending 30 September 2015?
- Yes
- No
- 62 If 'Yes' was the child offered an intervention for this problem?
- Yes
- No
- 63 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 2015

- 64 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 2015, 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 2014/15 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

65. Was the young person aged 16 at 1 July 2015?

Yes
No

If 'Yes':

66. What was the young person's activity at 30 September 2015?

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)

67. 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

68. 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.

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www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/dhssps-statistics-and-research-social-services/social-care-statistics

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

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