

PRESS RELEASE

8th February 2008

'Children Order Statistical Bulletin 2007'

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety today published the 'Children Order Statistical Bulletin 2007' and accompanying tables.

The 'Children Order Statistical Bulletin 2007', provides statistical information covering a range of issues relating to children's social care; including child protection, looked after children, children's homes, and day care for children. The publication is based on annual children order statistical returns, introduced in December 1996, and returned to the Department by Health and Social Care Trusts. To facilitate trend analysis, data is presented for the five year period from 2002 to 2007, and where available equivalent figures for England, Scotland and Wales have been included to put Northern Ireland figures within a wider social care context.

The bulletin is available on-line at:

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

Summary

Some of the key findings included:

Child Protection

- At 31 March 2007, there were 1,805 children on the child protection register, an increase of 166 (10%) from the same date in 2006.
- For the year ending 31 March 2007, Northern Ireland had 42 children per 10-000 population aged under 18 on the child protection register; compared with 36 for Wales, and 25 for both England and Scotland.

Looked After Children

- During the year ending 31 March 2007, the number of looked after children in Northern Ireland fell by 3.2% (80), from 2,436 to 2,356.
- At 54.5 and 54.6 respectively, in 2007, Northern Ireland and England had almost identical numbers of looked after children per 10-000 population aged under 18. Equivalent figures were notably higher for Scotland (131.0) and Wales (72.4).

Day Care

- At 31 March 2007, there were 274 registered day care nurseries in Northern Ireland, providing 10,671 day care places for children aged under 5.
- Between 2002 and 2007, the number of day nurseries increased by one third (68), from 206 to 274 respectively; with a corresponding increase of 49% (3,515) in the numbers of day care places, which rose from 7,156 to 10,671.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Community Information Branch of the DHSSPS collected this information from Health and Social Services Community Trust personnel. The collection covers the information on children adopted from care in Northern Ireland during the year ending 31 March 2006.

Additional information

Further information and copies of the bulletin are available from:

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