

Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children

**Year Ending 30 September 2003
Northern Ireland**

Statistical Bulletin

Published by Community Information Branch

Reader Information

Document Purpose	For information
Authors	Dr E. Mooney, Manny Fitzpatrick, Ruth Hewitt
Publication Date	December 2006
Target Audience	Social Services Directors, Directors of Children's services, Chief Executives of HSS Boards and Trusts in Northern Ireland, health care professionals, academics and social care stakeholders.
Further copies from	nichola.kane@dhsspsni.gov.uk
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Internet address	http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/stats-cib_pubs.htm
Price	FREE

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

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Our Vision and Values

Community Information Branch aims to:

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

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Summary of Main Findings

- At 30 September 2003, there were 1,526 children looked after by HSS Trusts in Northern Ireland who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.
- 1,263 (83%) of these children were of school age, and of these 22% had a statement of SEN compared with 27% of the same group in England, and 4% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.
- 21 (1.7%) looked after children of school age were expelled in 2002/03, slightly higher than the figure for looked after children in England (1.1%), and much higher than the rate among the general school population in Northern Ireland (0.02%).
- 96 (10%) of the 986 looked after children aged 10 & over were cautioned or convicted in 2002/03, compared with 10% of looked after children in England, and 1% of all children in Northern Ireland. Of those convicted, almost two thirds were boys (66%).
- Over 1 in 12 (9%) looked after children of school age were suspended from school in 2002/03, compared with 1.7% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.
- 10% of children looked after for at least 12 months missed 29 or more days of schooling in 2002/03.
- Looked after children in Northern Ireland performed better at Key Stage 1 than the same group in England, but worse at Key Stage 2. There was little difference between looked after children in Northern Ireland and England in the proportions of children attaining Level 5 in Key Stage 3.
- At the end of school Year 12, 26% of looked after children remained in full-time education compared with 57% of looked after children in England, 18% were unemployed compared with 23% in England, and 18% of children were in full-time training compared with 8% in England.
- The levels of achievement for looked after children compared very badly with those of all children in Northern Ireland, with the gap widening between Key Stage 1 and GCSE.

Introduction

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

OC2 was introduced in Northern Ireland in 2002, and this bulletin presents a summary of the results for the second OC2 survey covering the year ending 30 September 2003. The OC2 collection covers all children in Northern Ireland who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2003. The survey excluded children looked after under an agreed series of respite placements during the period specified.

Where a child has 'slipped' a year or more (e.g. is taking key stage tests or GCSEs later than expected from their date of birth) their results have not been included.

The educational under-achievement of looked after children and young people in England and Scotland has been well documented, and studies¹ carried out in Northern Ireland indicate that children and young people in care here are also less likely, on average, than other school children, to succeed in school. A number of studies² carried out here have made recommendations regarding improvements in the education of looked after children. This second OC2 survey continues the collection of valuable information on the qualifications and educational attainment of looked after children in Northern Ireland in 2002/03.

¹ Northern Health and Social Services Board: Audit of the education experiences and attainments of children and young people in Foster Care in the NHSSB area, November 2001; Department of Education: Report of a survey of the Education Welfare Service in Northern Ireland, February 2003

² Southern Health and Social Services Board: The educational needs of looked after children in the Southern Health and Social Services Board Area (June 2000), The educational needs of looked after children residential care in the Southern Health and Social Services Board Area (March 2001); Northern Health and Social Services Board: Audit of the education experiences and attainments of children and young people in Foster Care in the NHSSB area, November 2001; Save the Children, First Key, VOYPIC: Branded a Problem? (2002); Department of Education: Report of a survey of the Education Welfare Service in Northern Ireland, February 2003

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

As with the first year of this collection, some Health and Social Services Trusts continue to have difficulty providing some or all of the information requested. This led to very long delays both in returning survey data and providing clarification in respect of ad-hoc queries, and possibly to some Trusts continuing to under-record the educational achievement of children looked after. It is expected that data quality and timeliness of returns will improve significantly in future years.

Trust & Board Profile

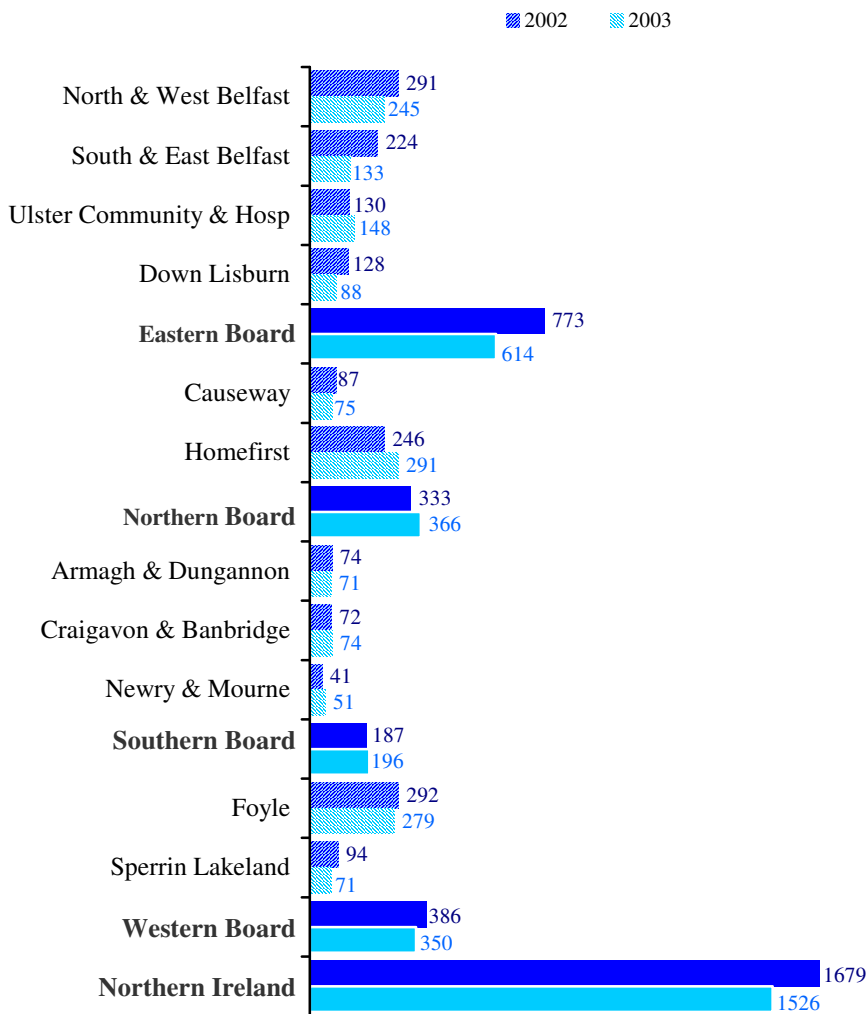
Figure 1.1 details the number of children and young people looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September, for both 2002 and 2003, in each HSS Board and Trust. At 30 September 2003, 1,526 children and young people had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months in Northern Ireland, a rate of 34.5 children per 10,000-population aged under 18¹.

In 2003, Homefirst (291) and Foyle (279) had the highest number of children looked after, whilst Newry & Mourne had the lowest (51). Across Boards, the Eastern Board had the highest number of children looked after (614). This compares with 366 in the Northern Board, 350 in the Western Board, and 196 in the Southern Board.

Compared with 2002, the numbers of children in care for 12 months or more fell by 153 (9%), from 1679 to 1,526.

Figure 1.1

Number of Children & Young People Looked After Continuously for at Least 12 Months at 30 September, 2002 and 2003 by HSS Trust & Board



¹ Source: NISRA 2003 Mid Year Estimates of Population

Background Information

Gender

At 30 September 2003, 51% of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months were boys and 49% were girls. There was little change to the relative proportions of boys and girls looked after compared with 2002.

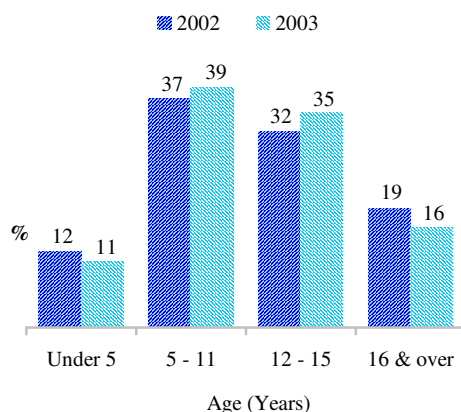
Age

Figure 2.1 details the age profile of children looked after, for both 2002 and 2003.

For children looked after in 2003, almost 4 in 10 (39%) were aged 5-11, with 35% aged 12-15, 16% aged 16 & over, and 11% aged under 5.

The age profile for children in 2003 was similar to that for children in 2002.

Figure 2.1
Age Profile



Religion

There was a higher proportion of Catholic (51%) than Protestant (47%) children looked after in 2003, with 31 (2%) children reported as having either 'No', 'Unknown' or 'Other' religious denomination.

Since 2002, the proportion of Protestant children has fallen by 2 percentage points from 49% to 47%, with a corresponding increase in the proportion of Catholic children, which has increased from 48% to 51%.

Ethnicity

1,502 (98%) of the 1,526 children looked after in 2003 had a white ethnic background, 2 percentage points higher than in 2002. Of the remaining 24 children, 14 had a mixed ethnic background, and 10 were reported as having 'Other' ethnic background.

Disability

Trusts were asked to indicate if children had a disability 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".

According to the definition, over 1 in 8 (13%) children looked after in 2003 were disabled, compared with just over 1 in 10 (11%) in 2002.

As in 2002, a higher proportion of boys (16%) than girls (10%) were disabled in 2003.

Dependants

A question on dependants was included in OC2 survey as it was thought that some young people may have had a child or children while being looked after, and that this may affect their educational outcomes; 24 young people indicated that they had a dependant or dependants, 5 more than in 2002.

In 2003, three quarters (18) of young people with dependants, had 1 dependant, 4 had 2 dependants, and 2 young people had more than 2 dependants. A higher number of girls (14) than boys (10) had dependants.

Placement¹

At 30 September 2003, over 6 in 10 (61%) children were placed in foster care²; 22% with family, 10% in residential care, and 7% were in other³ forms of accommodation.

The relative placement of children in care was similar for both 2002 and 2003 (Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2
Placement of Children

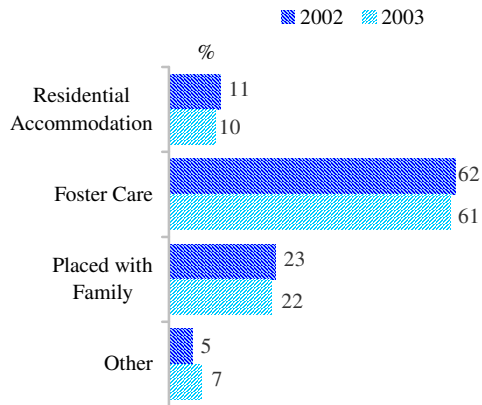
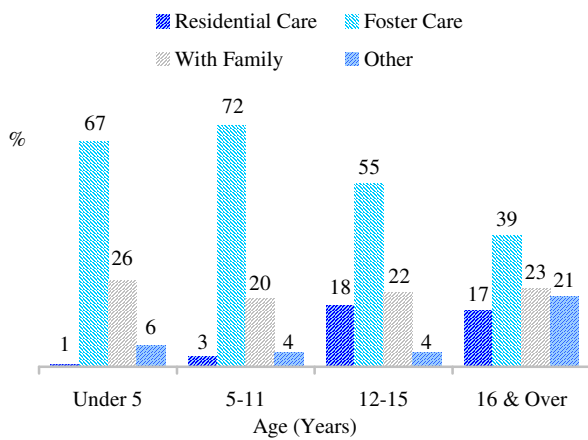


Figure 2.3 details the placement of children by age for 2003. Children aged under 12 were more likely to be placed in foster care than older children, whereas children aged 12 & over were more likely than younger children to be placed in residential care. Older children (16 & over) were more likely than younger children to be placed in other forms of accommodation.

Figure 2.3
Placement of Children by Age (2003)



¹ Information on placement was missing for 2 children from South & East Belfast.
² Foster Care includes children placed for adoption.
³ Other forms of accommodation include; independent living, supported accommodation, secure accommodation, hospitals, hostels, aftercare facilities, Simon community, respite care, and other.

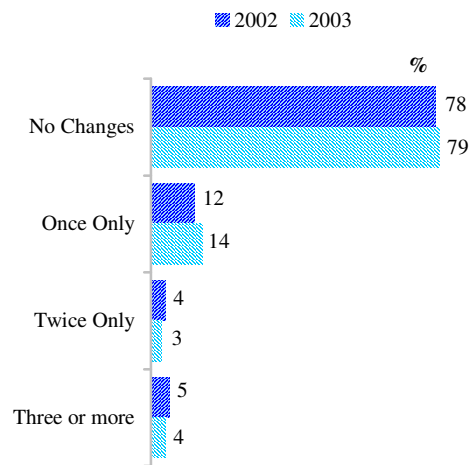
Three fifths (60%) of children placed in other forms of accommodation were male. Of those placed in other accommodation:

- 17% were with friends or relatives;
- 17% in supported accommodation;
- 10% adopted or fostered;
- 10% in independent living;
- 8% back with parents;
- 7% in hostels;
- 6% in offending centres or prison;
- 5% in hospital;
- 5% in shared care;
- 4% in secure accommodation; and,
- 11% in other types of accommodation.

Placement Changes

Over 20% (318⁴) of children looked after had changed placements during the year ending 30 September 2003, slightly lower than for 2002, when 22% of children had changed placements during the year.

Figure 2.4
Placement Changes during the Year ending 30 September



For 2002/03, 14% had changed placement once, 3% had changed placement twice, and 4% had changed placement three times or more.

⁴ Information on placement changes was not provided for 1 child from South & East Belfast.

General Education

Compulsory School Age

For the current survey, compulsory school age refers to all children whose date of birth falls on or between 2/7/1986 and 1/7/1998, 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 2003, 83% (1,263) were of compulsory school age, compared with 81% in 2002. Similar proportions of boys (83%) and girls (82%) were of compulsory school age in 2003.

Children who have statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for them to have special educational provision made for them. Learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of his/her age, and/or has a disability which hinders his or her use of 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 means educational provision which is different from, or additional to, the provision made generally for children of comparable age. Further information is provided in the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs published by DENI.

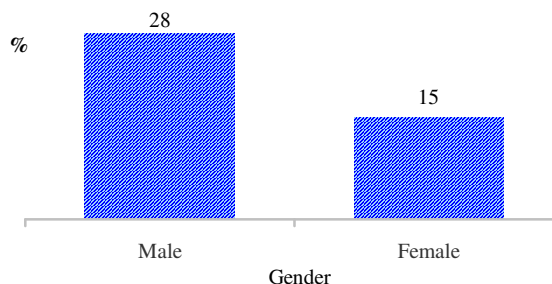
At 30 September 2003, 22% of children looked after were covered by a statement of SEN¹, compared with 27% of looked after children in England, and 4% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.

A higher proportion of boys (28%) than girls (15%) looked after were covered by a

¹ Information on whether 3 children were covered by a statement of SEN was not provided by South & East Belfast.

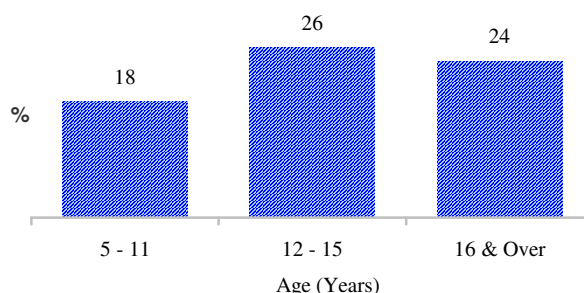
statement of SEN at 30 September 2003 (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1
Statements of SEN by Gender (2003)



Over one quarter (26%) of looked after children aged 12-15 were covered by a statement of SEN in 2003, compared with 24% of looked after children aged 16 & over, and 18% aged 5-11 (Figure 3.2)

Figure 3.2
Statements of SEN by Age (2003)



Over half (60%) of children covered by statements of SEN² were covered because of a learning disability, 22% because of behavioural problems, and 19% for other³ reasons⁴.

² Some children have a number of different reasons for being covered by a statement of SEN, therefore the total reasons for being covered by statements of SEN is more than the number of children looked after with a statement of SEN (324).

³ Other reasons include autistic spectrum disorder, emotional problems, and physical disability.

⁴ Information on the reason why one child from South & East Belfast was covered by a statement of SEN was not provided.

Exclusions from School

The survey indicates that looked after children appear more likely to be expelled from school than their peers. 21 (1.7%) of the 1,263 looked after children of school age were expelled¹ from school in 2002/03, compared with 1.1% of looked after children in England, and 0.02% of the general school population in Northern Ireland. Of the 21 children expelled in 2002/03, 18 were boys and 3 were girls.

Suspensions

Compared to figures for all children in Northern Ireland, looked after children are five times more likely to be suspended from school. Over 1 in 12 (9%) children looked after had been suspended² in 2002/03, compared with 1.7% of the general school population in Northern Ireland. A higher proportion of boys (13%) than girls (5%) looked after were suspended in 2002/03.

Figure 3.3
Suspensions from School by Age (2002/03)

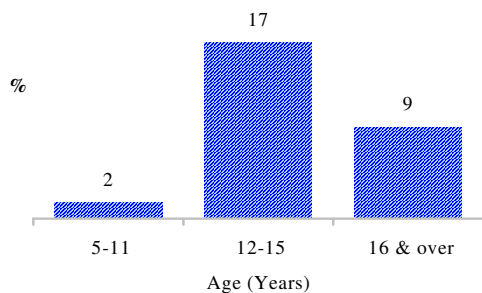
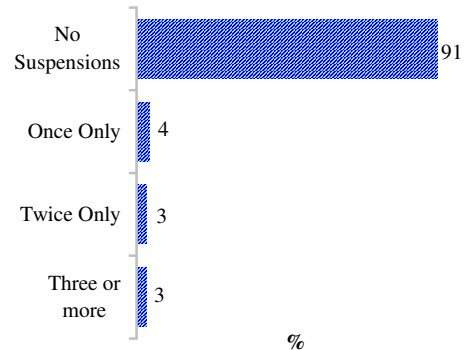


Figure 3.4 details the frequency with which children looked after had been suspended from school in 2002/03³.

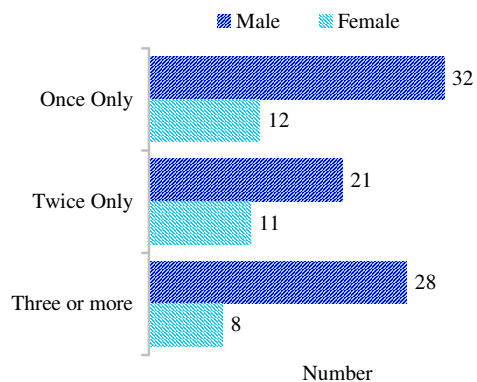
The majority (91%) of children looked after had not been suspended in 2002/03, 4% had been suspended once, 3% twice, and 3% three times or more.

Figure 3.4
Suspensions from School (2002/03)



The largest proportion of children suspended from school were aged 12-15 year (17%), with 9% aged 16 & over and 2% aged 5-11 (Figure 3.5)

Figure 3.5
Suspensions from School by Gender (2002/03)



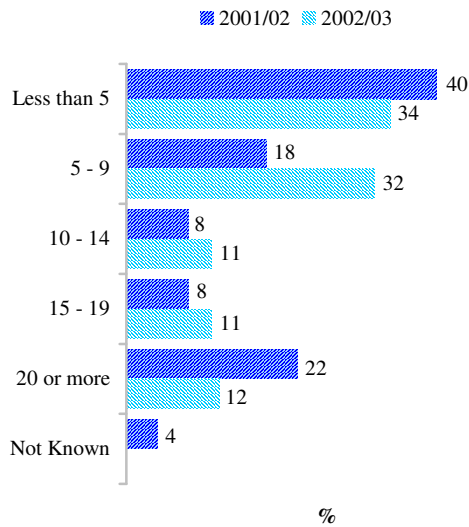
Almost twice as many boys (21) as girls (11) had been suspended twice, and more than three times as many boys (28) than girls (8) had been suspended three times or more in 2002/03.

¹ Information on whether 2 children were expelled was not provided: 1 from Down Lisburn and 1 from South & East Belfast.

² Information on whether one child from Down Lisburn had been suspended was not provided.

³ Information on the number of times three children were suspended was not provided: 2 from Homefirst and 1 from South & East Belfast.

Figure 3.6
School Days missed through Suspension¹



Almost 1 in 8 (12%) children looked after suspended from school in 2002/03 were suspended for 20 days or more, and over a third (34%) had been suspended for less than 5 days.

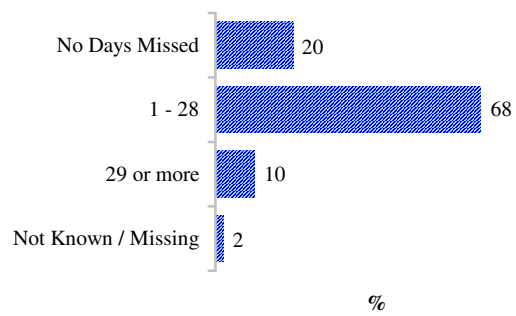
A higher number of boys (9) than girls (4) looked after were suspended for 20 days or more in 2002/03.

Children who missed at least 28 days of school for any reason²

For the 2002/03 school year, 10% of children looked after missed 29 days or more of school for any reason throughout the year, slightly lower than the corresponding figure for England³ (12%).

Full attendance at school for 2002/03, was reported for 20% of children, and 68% missed between 1 and 28 school days during this period (Figure 3.7)

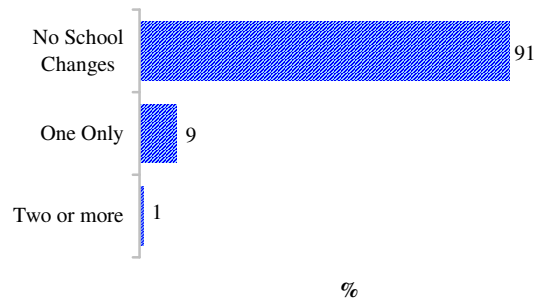
Figure 3.7
School Days missed for any Reason (2002/03)



A slightly higher proportion of boys (11%) than girls (10%) looked after missed 29 days or more of schooling in 2002/03.

School changes in 2002/03⁴

Figure 3.8
Number of School Changes (2002/03)



Over 9% (116) of children looked after had changed schools in 2002/03 (excluding changes from primary to secondary school), which is slightly lower than the 10% in 2001/02 (Figure 3.8).

More boys (10%) than girls (8%) looked after changed schools in 2002/03.

The majority (91%) did not change schools in 2002/03, 9% changed schools once, and nine children (1%) changed school two times or more in 2002/03.

¹ Information on the number of days lost through suspension was not provided for 3 children who had been suspended in 2002/03: 1 from Homefirst, 1 from South & East Belfast and 1 from Sperrin Lakeland.

² Information on the number of school days missed by 25 children was not provided: 7 from Down Lisburn, 5 from South & East Belfast, 4 from Homefirst, 4 from Sperrin Lakeland, 2 from Ulster Community & Hospitals, 1 from Causeway, 1 from Craigavon & Banbridge, and 1 from Foyle.

³ Figures for the number of school days missed for looked after children in England refer to 25 days or more.

⁴ Information on the number of school changes was not provided for 3 children: 2 from Down Lisburn and 1 from South & East Belfast.

Key Stage and GCSE or Equivalent Results

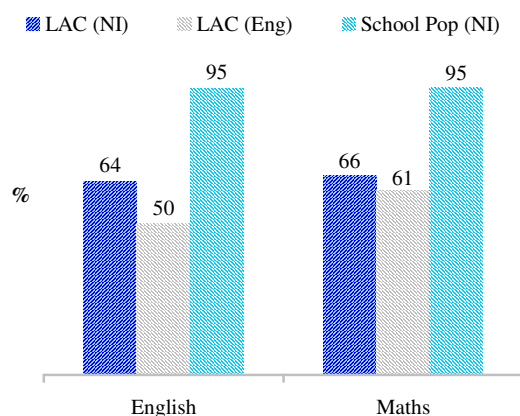
Key Stage 1

Of the 1,263 children looked after in 2003, 77¹ (6%) were eligible for assessment at Key Stage 1 in 2002/03, the same as that for 2002/03. Of these 77 children, 12% were covered by a statement of SEN.

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

Figure 4.1 details the performance of looked after children in Northern Ireland compared with the general school population in Northern Ireland, and the similar looked after group in England³.

Figure 4.1
Children Achieving Level 2 or Above in Key Stage 1, English and Maths Assessments (2002/03)



Nearly two thirds of looked after children in the Northern Ireland survey who sat Key Stage 1 English (64%) and Key Stage 1 Maths (66%) assessments achieved Level 2 or above. Almost all children in the Northern Ireland (95%) general school population achieved Level 2 or above in

¹ This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 1 in 2002/03 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

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

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

English and Maths. In England, 50% of looked after children achieved Level 2 in Key Stage 1 English and 61% achieved Level 2 in Key Stage 1 Maths.

A higher proportion of girls (86%) than boys (71%) looked after in Northern Ireland achieved Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 assessments during 2002/03.

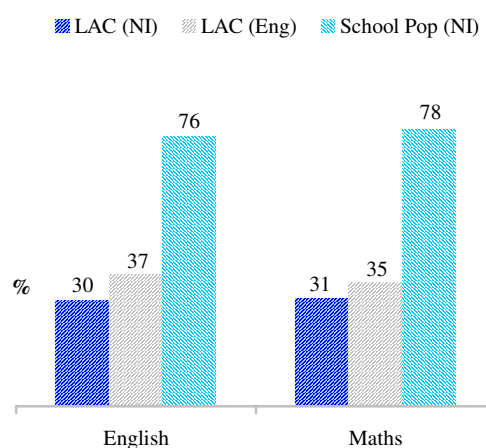
Almost one fifth (17%) of looked after children of the appropriate age in Northern Ireland had not been assessed in Key Stage 1 English or Key Stage 1 Maths⁴.

Key Stage 2

For Key Stage 2 assessments, 117⁵ (9%) of the 1,263 children of school age were eligible for assessment in 2002/03, 1 percentage point higher than the 8% in 2002. One quarter (25%) of these 117 children were covered by a statement of SEN in 2002/03.

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

Figure 4.2
Children Achieving Level 4 or Above in Key Stage 2, English and Maths Assessments (2002/03)



⁴ Information was not provided on 1 child from Down Lisburn, although these were children were included in the relevant totals.

⁵ This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 2 in 2002/03 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

Almost one third (30%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English assessments, compared with 76% of the general school population and 37% of looked after children in England¹.

Similarly, 31% of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths, compared with 78% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 35% of looked after children in England.

Almost one fifth (17%) of looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 2 assessments in English and Maths were not assessed in 2002/03².

A higher proportion of girls (33%) than boys (26%) looked after achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English. In Key Stage 2 Maths, similar proportions of girls (30%) and boys (31%) achieved Level 4 or above.

Key Stage 3

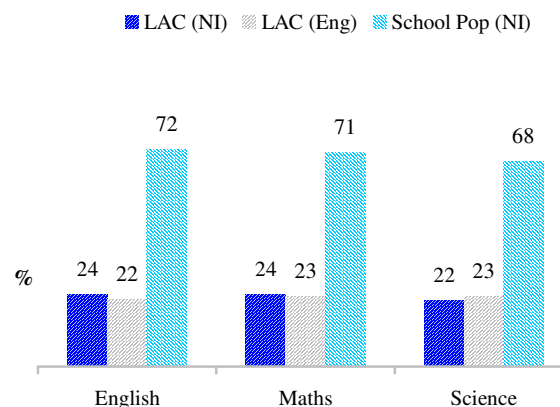
In respect of Key Stage 3, 139³ (11%) of the 1,263 children looked after were eligible to sit these tests in 2002/03, just over 1 percentage point higher than the 10% in 2001/02. Over one quarter (27%) of these children were covered by a statement of SEN.

To allow comparison with the general school population in Northern Ireland⁴ children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability or difficulty have been excluded from the analysis below.

Figure 4.3 details the percentage of looked after children, general school population in

Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England⁵ attaining the target level (level 5 or above) for Key Stage 3 tests.

Figure 4.3
Children Achieving Level 5 or Above in Key Stage 3, English, Maths, and Science Tests (2002/03)



Over one quarter (24%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 English tests, compared with 72% of the general school population, and 22% of looked after children in England⁵.

In Key Stage 3 Maths, 24% of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above, compared with 71% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 23% of looked after children in England⁵.

For Key Stage 3 Science tests, 22% of looked after children achieved Level 5 or above, compared with 68% of the general school population, and 23% of looked after children in England⁵.

¹ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

² Information was not provided on 5 children: 3 from Homefirst and 2 from South & East Belfast, though these are included in the relevant totals.

³ This includes all children eligible to be tested at Key Stage 3 in 2002/03 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

⁴ Figures for the general school population in Northern Ireland cover only mainstream schools, whereas figures for looked after children in Northern Ireland include all schools.

⁵ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

Just over one quarter (26%) of looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 3 tests were not tested in 2002/03.

Comparison of performance in Key Stage 3 English tests by gender indicated that a substantially higher proportion of girls (40%) than boys (12%) looked after achieved Level 5 or above. For Key Stage 3 tests in Maths and Science, as in English, higher proportions of girls (33% in Maths and 32% in Science) than boys (16% in Maths and 13% in Science) looked after achieved Level 5 or above.

GCSEs and GNVQs

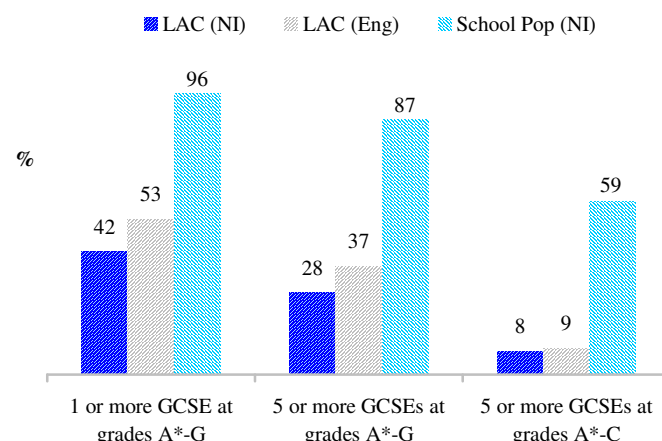
Of the 1,263 children looked after at 30 September 2003, 144 (11%) were eligible to sit GCSEs or GNVQs in 2002/03, which is the same as the equivalent percentage in 2001/02. Over one fifth (21%) of these 144 children were covered by a statement of SEN.

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

Over half (53%) children looked after due to sit GCSE/GNVQ examinations in 2002/03, did not sit any of these examinations.

Figure 4.4 details the percentage of looked after children, general school population in Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England¹ attaining GCSEs.

Figure 4.4
Children Looked After achieving GCSE or Equivalent Passes (2002/03)



Over two fifths (42%) of children looked after in Northern Ireland attained at least 1 GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*-G, compared with almost all (96%) of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 53% of looked after children in England¹.

Eight percent of children looked after attained 5 or more GCSEs/GNVQs at grades A*-C, compared with 59% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, but similar to the corresponding figure in England¹ (9%).

A higher proportion of girls (35%) than boys (21%) looked after achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - G.

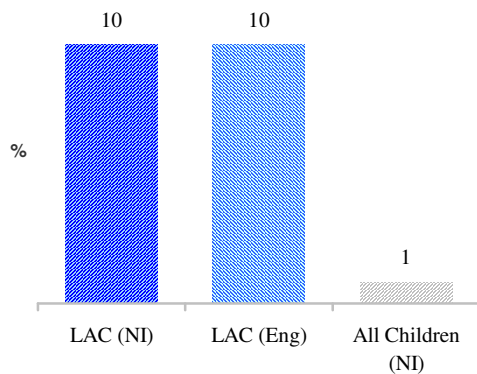
In relation to 5 or more GCSE's at grades A* - C, a higher proportion of girls (12%) than boys (5%) looked after achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C.

¹ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

Cautions / Convictions

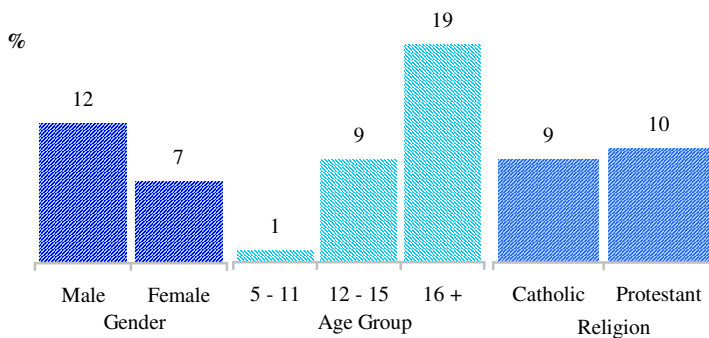
Of the looked after children aged 10 & over, 96 (10%) had been cautioned or convicted for an offence committed whilst they were in care during the year ending 30 September 2003, compared with 15% in 2001/02. Offences committed while the child **was not** looked after are not included.

Figure 5.1
Children Cautioned or Convicted (2002/03)



Looked after children aged 10 & over were 15 times more likely than all children aged 10 & over in Northern Ireland to have been cautioned or convicted (see Technical Notes on page 34). A similar proportion of looked after children in Northern Ireland aged 10 & over had been cautioned or convicted, as in England (10%).

Figure 5.2
Percentage of Looked After Children Cautioned or Convicted by Gender, Age, and Religion (2002/03)

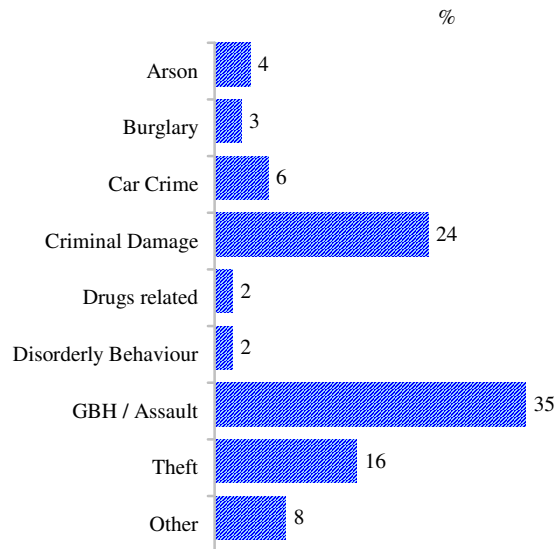


For looked after children aged 10 and over a higher proportion of boys (12%) than girls (7%) were cautioned or convicted at 30 September 2003. Almost one-fifth of children aged 16 & over (19%) had been convicted or cautioned and a similar proportion of Protestant (10%) and Catholic (9%) children looked after had been cautioned or convicted.

Of the 96 looked after children for whom information was provided, 186 separate offences were recorded.

Over one third (35%) of offences were for GBH / Assault, 24% were for criminal damage, 16% for theft, 6% for car crime, 4% for arson, 3% for burglary, 2% for drug related offences and disorderly behaviour, and 8% for other reasons (Figure 5.3)

Figure 5.3
Reasons for Cautions or Convictions (2002/03)



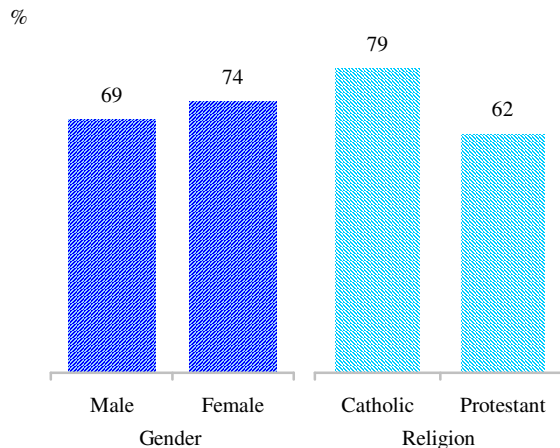
Pre-School Provision

Information refers to all children whose date of birth is on or between 2nd July 1998 and 1st July 1999.

47 (71%) of the 66 looked after children eligible for a funded pre-school place in 2002/03, had a free place during the year¹, and 29% did not have a funded place.

¹ Information on whether one child from Down Lisburn had a funded pre-school place was not provided.

Figure 6.1
Looked After Children aged Under 5 who had a Funded Pre-School Place (2002/03)



A slightly higher proportion of girls (74%) than boys (69%) looked after aged under 5 had a funded pre-school place in 2002/03 (Figure 6.1).

Health

Information on Development Assessments and Six Monthly Assessments refers to 162 (11%) children who were aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2003, compared with 8% in 2002.

Development Assessments

Almost all (98%) of the 162 children aged under 5 had their development assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2003, higher than the corresponding figure for looked after children in England (81%).

Six Monthly Assessments

Over 9 in 10¹ (93%) children aged under 5 had their 6 monthly assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2003.

Health Assessments

Of the 1,364² children aged 5 & over who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2003,

¹ Information on six monthly assessments was not provided for one child from South & East Belfast.

² Information on annual health assessments was not provided for 33 children: 11 from South & East Belfast, 7 from Foyle, 4 from Homefirst, 3 from Down Lisburn, 2 from Craigavon & Banbridge, 2 from North & West Belfast, 1 from Armagh & Dungannon, 1 from Newry & Mourne, 1 from Sperrin Lakeland and 1 from Ulster Community & Hospitals.

86% had their annual health assessment up-to-date, compared with 75% of looked after children in England.

Immunisations

This relates to all children, not just those with immunisations due during the year. It is not restricted to immunisations due while the child was looked after, and includes immunisations, which should have been given before the child became looked after. In cases where children have not received their immunisations because of parental refusal or for health reasons, they are treated as not being up-to-date.

A child is considered up-to-date if the immunisations have been given by 30 September 2003, even if they were given late according to the immunisations timetable. However, for the purpose of OC2, the opinion of a doctor or practice nurse that a child's immunisations are up-to-date is sufficient (a timetable for childhood immunisations is attached at Appendix 1).

At 30 September 2003, 95% of children had their routine immunisations up-to-date³, compared with 72% of looked after children in England.

Dental Checks

This relates to all children and young people looked after who had their teeth checked during the year ending 30 September 2003. For very young children, the examination does not have to be undertaken by a dentist, and an examination by a paediatrician or other healthcare professional which included an oral examination may be counted as a dental check.

92% of the 1,526 children looked after for at least 12 months at 30 September 2003 had their teeth checked by a dentist⁴ in 2002/03, higher than the corresponding figure for England (75%).

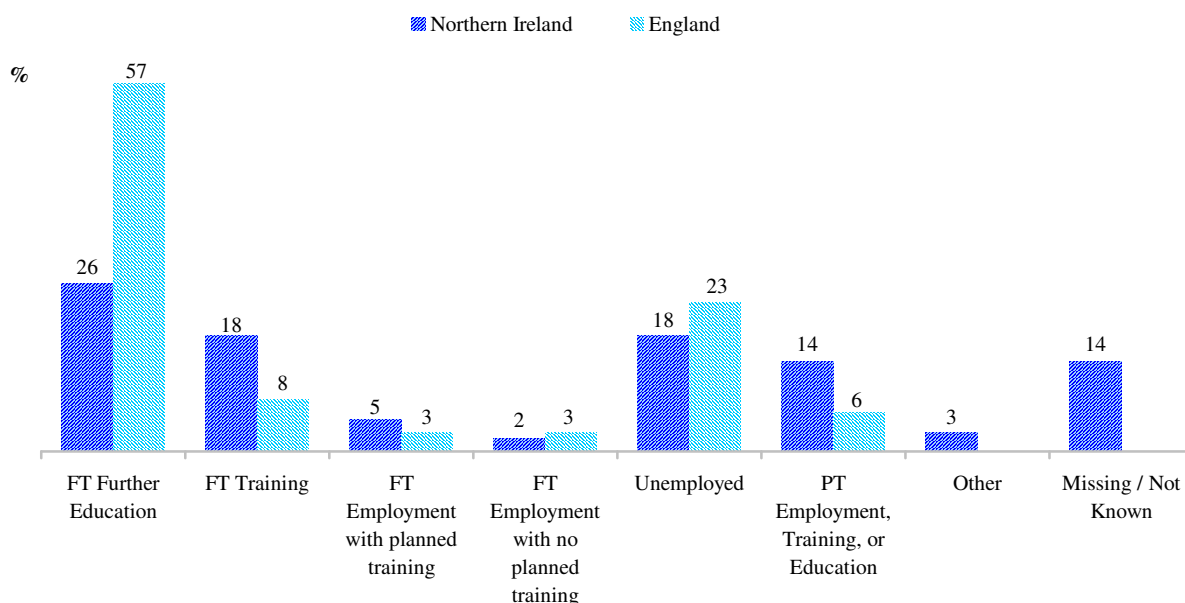
³ Information on immunisations was not provided for 17 children: 16 from South & East Belfast and 1 from Homefirst.

⁴ Information on dental checks was not provided for 15 children from South & East Belfast.

Current Activity

The OC2 survey collects information on children looked after who finished compulsory schooling in 2002/03, having completed Year 12. This does not represent outcomes for care leavers, as all of these young people were looked after at 30 September 2003. At this date, 225¹ young people had completed Year 12 at school. Figure 7.1 below details the current activity of these young people for both Northern Ireland and England.

Figure 7.1
Current Activity of Young People Looked After who had Completed Year 12 during 2002/03



At 30 September 2003, 26% of young people looked after in Northern Ireland were in or about to start full-time education after Year 12, less than half the corresponding proportion in England (57%). A smaller proportion of young people looked after in Northern Ireland (18%) than England (23%) were unemployed at 30 September 2003.

The proportion of looked after children in Northern Ireland and England in full-time employment were similar at 7% and 6% respectively.

A much higher proportion of young people looked after in Northern Ireland (18%) were in or about to start full-time training compared with England (8%).

Proportionately, more than twice as many girls (36%) than boys (17%) looked after were in or about to start full-time education, with a higher proportion of boys (22%) than girls (14%) unemployed. (Appendices, Figure 1)

¹ Total includes 19 young people for whom information on their current activity was not provided: 14 from South & East Belfast and 5 from Ulster Community & Hospitals.

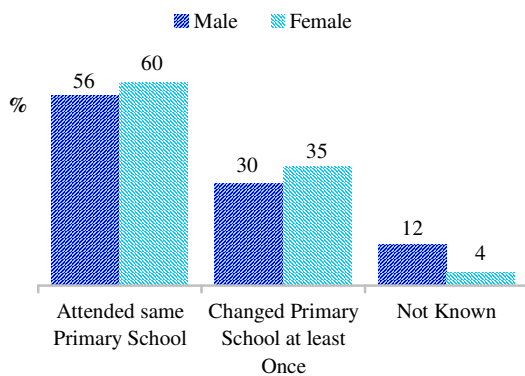
School History

Primary Schools Attended

Of the 225 young people looked after who were in Year 12 in 2002/03, 58% had attended the same primary school until transfer age, and 32% had changed primary schools at least once. Information on the number of primary schools attended by 17 (8%) children was not provided, and 2% had not attended primary school.

Figure 7.2 details the proportion of each gender type by the number of primary schools attended until reaching transfer age.

Figure 7.2
Number of Primary Schools Attended by Looked After Children Reaching Year 12 in 2002/03 by Gender



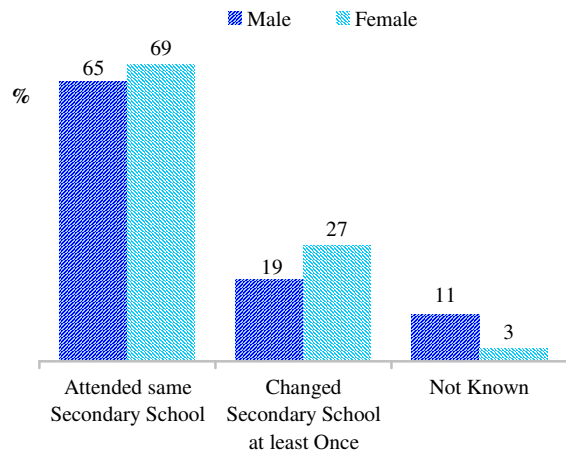
A higher proportion of girls (35%) than boys (30%) looked after had changed primary schools at least once before reaching transfer age (Figure 7.2).

Secondary Schools Attended

Of the 225 young people in Year 12 in 2002/03, over two thirds (67%) had attended the same secondary school during their post primary years, almost one fifth (17%) had changed secondary schools once, and 6% had changed secondary schools at least twice.

The number of secondary schools attended was not provided for 7% of children¹ and 3% had not attended secondary school.

Figure 7.3
Number of Secondary Schools Attended by Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2002/03 by Gender



A higher proportion of girls (27%) than boys (19%) looked after changed secondary schools at least once during their post primary years (Figure 7.3).

Gaps in Mainstream Education

Almost 13% (29) of the young people who were in Year 12 in 2002/03, had been out of mainstream education and continuing to be educated in other ways².

Over 1 in 8 (14%) of boys who were in Year 12 in 2002/03, had been out of mainstream education at some time during their school years, compared with 12% of girls.

¹ Information on the number of secondary schools attended was not provided for 15 children; 14 from South & East Belfast and 1 from Ulster Community & Hospitals.

² Information was not provided on 106 children aged 16 at 1st July 2003.

Appendices

- Table 1** **Numbers of Children Looked After Continuously for at least 12 months, and General Information about their education; 12 Months Ending 30 September 2003**
- Table 2** **Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2003, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2002/03**
- Figure 1** **Education and Employment Status of Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2002/03 at 30 September 2003 by Gender**

Table 1

Numbers of Children Looked After Continuously for at least 12 months, and General Information about their Education; 12 Months Ending 30 September 2003

	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 29 days of school	
			Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Northern Ireland	1,526	1,263	284	22.5	23	1.8	133	10.5
England¹	44,900	35,100	9,400	26.8	380	1.1	4,400	12.4
North & West Belfast	245	215	42	19.5	6	2.8	25	11.6
South & East Belfast	133	103	22	21.4	<5	-	<5	-
Ulster Community & Hospitals	148	119	31	26.1	<5	-	15	12.6
Down Lisburn	88	75	15	20.0	<5	-	11	14.7
Eastern Board	614	512	110	21.5	9	1.8	55	10.7
Causeway	75	69	24	34.8	<5	-	<5	-
Homefirst	291	234	49	20.9	6	2.6	20	8.5
Northern Board	366	303	73	24.1	7	2.3	22	7.3
Armagh & Dungannon	71	51	10	19.6	<5	-	<5	-
Craigavon & Banbridge	74	56	16	28.6	<5	-	5	8.9
Newry & Mourne	51	42	9	21.4	<5	-	<5	-
Southern Board	196	149	35	23.5	<5	-	8	5.4
Foyle	279	239	55	23.0	<5	-	42	17.6
Sperrin Lakeland	71	60	11	18.3	<5	-	6	10.0
Western Board	350	299	66	22.1	5	1.7	48	16.1

¹ Figures for the number of school days missed for looked after children in England refer to 25 days or more.

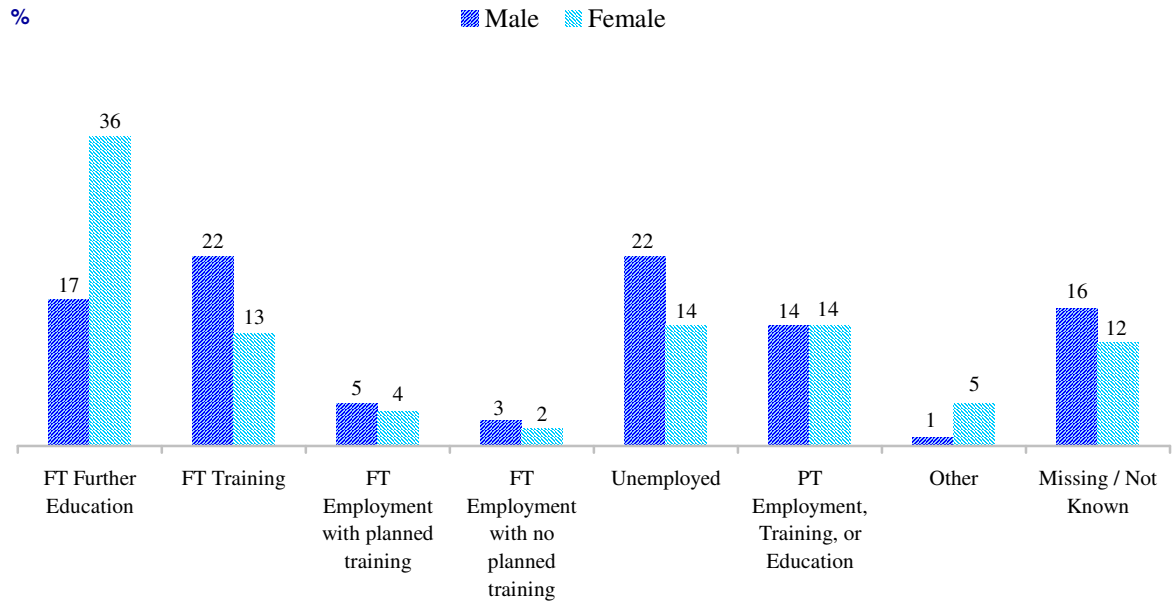
Table 2

Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2003, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2002/03

Trust / Board	Number of Looked After Children eligible to sit:			
	Key Stage 1 Assessments	Key Stage 2 Assessments	Key Stage 3 Tests	GCSE's or GNVQ's
Northern Ireland	77	117	139	144
England	1,900	3,000	3,800	4,600
North & West Belfast	19	17	29	26
South & East Belfast	<5	12	10	7
Ulster Community & Hospitals	<5	12	12	18
Down Lisburn	6	8	7	8
Eastern Board	27	49	58	59
Causeway	<5	<5	6	<5
Homefirst	13	25	24	27
Northern Board	15	28	30	30
Armagh & Dungannon	12	6	15	6
Craigavon & Banbridge	<5	5	<5	9
Newry & Mourne	<5	6	8	<5
Southern Board	15	17	27	18
Foyle	17	19	17	27
Sperrin Lakeland	<5	<5	7	10
Western Board	20	23	24	37

Figure 1

Education and Employment Status of Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2002/03 at 30 September 2003 by Gender



Coverage of OC2

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

Definition	Which Children were included?
Scope of OC2	All children who were looked after on 30 September 2003, 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 2/7/1986 to 1/7/1998.
Key Stage 1	Children eligible for school year 4 i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1994 to 1/7/1995.
Key Stage 2	Children eligible for school year 7, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1991 to 1/7/1992.
Key Stage 3	Children eligible for school year 10, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1988 to 1/7/1989.
GCSEs and GNVQs	Children eligible for school Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1986 to 1/7/1987.
Offending	Children aged 10 & over at 30 September 2003, i.e. whose date of birth is 30/9/1993 or earlier.
Pre-School Provision	Children in their pre-school year in 2002/03, i.e. whose date of birth is 2/7/1998 to 1/7/1999.
Development Assessments	Children aged under 5 at 30 September 2003, i.e. whose date of birth is 1/10/1998 or later.
Immunisations	All children covered by the OC2 collection, i.e. all children who were looked after on 30 September 2003, and who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.
Dental Checks	
Health Assessments	
Current Activity / Past Schooling Experiences	Children eligible for Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1986 to 1/7/1987.

Timetable for Immunisations

When is the Immunisation due?	Which Immunisations?	Type
At two months	Polio	By mouth
	HIB	
	Diphtheria	One injection
	Tetanus	
	Whooping Cough	
Meningitis C	One injection	
At three months	Polio	By mouth
	HIB	
	Diphtheria	One injection
	Tetanus	
	Whooping Cough	
Meningitis C	One injection	
At four months	Polio	By mouth
	HIB	
	Diphtheria	One injection
	Tetanus	
	Whooping Cough	
Meningitis C	One injection	
At 12 to 15 months	Measles	
	Mumps	One injection
	Rubella	
3 to 5 years (usually before the child starts school)	Measles	
	Mumps	One injection
	Rubella	
	Diphtheria	One injection
	Tetanus	
Polio	By mouth	
10 to 14 years (sometimes shortly after birth)	BCG (against tuberculosis)	Skin test, followed by one injection if needed
School leavers: 13 to 18 years	Diphtheria	One injection
	Tetanus	
	Polio	By mouth

Technical Notes

Twelve Month Data Period

The data collected covers children and young people looked after at 30 September 2003 in Northern Ireland, who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, therefore covering the period 1st October 2002 to the following 30 September 2003. This is distinctly different from other statistical collections by the DHSSPS, which use a year based on the period ending 31st March. The data period chosen for the OC2 collection is designed to coincide with the academic school year.

Cautions or Convictions

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

OC2 Sample Questionnaire

Form OC2
2002/2003

Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
An Roinn Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

Outcome indicators for looked after children

Complete this form for each child who was looked after by your Trust at 30 September 2003, and who, at that time, had been looked after continuously for one year or more

1 **Trust name:**

SOSCARE number

2 **Sex**
Sex (Enter 1 for Male, 2 for Female)

3 **DOB**
What is the child's date of birth?

d	d	m	m	y	y
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

4 **Date of start of latest period in care**
What is the child's start date in latest period of care?

d	d	m	m	y	y
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

5 **Religion**
What is the child's religion?
1 = Catholic
2 = Protestant
3 = Other Religion
4 = No denomination
9 = Not known
Enter appropriate number

Disability
Has the child a disability according to the following definition?

'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'

(1=Yes, 2 = No)

If 'yes', please state disability type

- 1 = Visually disabled
- 2 = Hearing impaired
- 3 = Physically disabled
- 4 = Learning disabled
- 5 = Mental health disability
- 6 = Other
- 9 = Not known

Enter appropriate number

If 'other', please specify

.....

7 Another Trust Area (Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Did the child reside in another trust area immediately before this period in care?

8 Ethnicity

To which of the following groups does the child belong?

- 1= White
- 2 = Mixed
- 3 = Black
- 4 = Asian
- 5 = Chinese
- 6 = Traveller
- 7 = Other
- 9 = Don't know

Enter appropriate number

9 Dependents (Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Does the child have any dependants?

If yes, enter number of dependants

10 Placement

Where is the child placed?

- 1 = Residential accommodation
- 2 = Foster care
- 3 = Family
- 4 = Other accommodation (please specify below)
- 9 = Not known

Enter appropriate number

.....
.....

11 **Placement Change**

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Did the child's placement change during the year?
(i.e. between 1 October 2002 and 30 September 2003)

If yes, how many placement changes occurred during the year?

12 **General Education**

Was the child of compulsory school age during the 2002/03 school year?

(1 = Yes, 2 = No)

If no, please go to Q24

if yes, please state whether at any time during the school year

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

the child was referred for a statement of special educational needs?

and whether at any time during the school year

the child was covered by a statement special educational needs?

if covered, please state briefly the reason(s) for the statement

.....
.....

13 Was the child expelled from school at any time during the school year?

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

- 14 Was the child suspended from school at any time during the school year?
- If yes, enter number of times the child was suspended during the school year, and
- total number of school days in school year lost through suspension

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

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

- 16 Did the child change schools at any time during the school year?
- If yes, how many times did the child change schools during the year?

For children in P4 in 2002/2003, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 1 please answer Q17

For children in P7 in 2002/2003, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 2 please answer Qs 18 and 19

For children in Year 10 in 2002/2003, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 3, please answer Q20

For children in Year 12 in 2001/2002, who should have sat GCSEs or GNVQs please answer Q20

For all other children, please go straight to Q22

- 17 **Key Stage 1**
For children who were in P4 in 2002/2003 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage One Assessment

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 1?

If yes, what level did the child achieve in ...

English?

or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?

Mathematics?

Now please go to Q25

18 **Key Stage 2**
For children who were in P7 in 2002/2003

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 2?

If yes, what level did the child achieve in ...

English?

or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?

Mathematics?

Now please go to Q25

19 **Transfer Procedure**
 Did the child sit the Transfer Procedure
 Tests in Autumn 2002?

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

If yes, what grade did the child achieve?

(Enter Grade)

Now please go to Q22

20 **Key Stage 3**
For children who were in Year 10 in 2002/2003 and who
were eligible for end of Key Stage 3 assessments and tests

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 3?

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

If Yes, What level did the child achieve in ...

	Assessments	Tests
English?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
(For Irish medium schools) Irish?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mathematics?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Science?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Now please go to Q22

21 GCSEs and GNVQs

For children who were in Year 12 in 2002/2003 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

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

If yes, enter the number of qualifications obtained at ...

GCSE (grade A* to C)	
GCSE (grade D to G)	
GNVQ	

22 Offending

For children aged 10 and over at 30 September 2003

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

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

If yes, please state below what the offence or offences were.

Now please go to Q25

23 Pre-school provision

For children beginning primary school in September 2003

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

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 2002 and June 2003)

24 Under 5's development and health assessment

For children aged 4 and younger

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Were the child's development assessments up to date at 30 September 2003?

Did the child have his/her 6-monthly health assessment completed between 1 April 2003 and 30 September 2003?

25 5 and over health assessments
For children aged 5 and over at 30 September 2003
 (Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)
 Did the child have his/her annual health assessment completed during the year ending 30 September 2003?

26 Immunisations
For all children
 (Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)
 Were the child's immunisations up to date at 30 September 2003?

27 Dental checks
For all children
 (Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)
 Did the child have his/her teeth checked by a dentist during the year ending 30 September 2003?

28 Position at age 16 or over
For children who were in Year 12 in 2002/2003 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations
 (Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)
 Was the young person aged 16 at 1 July 2003?

If yes, what was the young person's activity at 30 September 2003?
 (Select appropriate code from guidance notes)

and
 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

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

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)?

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