



Foreword

I am pleased to present the fourth Key Indicators of Personal Social Services for Northern Ireland. The publication presents a comprehensive and detailed picture of social services expenditure and provision across the four Boards and eleven Trusts in Northern Ireland and across all major Programmes of Care. Last year's publication was well received by Boards and Trusts, who found it a useful source of comparative information in both children's and adult services.

The vast majority of the indicators were derived from information provided by the eleven Trusts as part of their annual statistical returns (Children Order & Korner). I am grateful to Trusts for their continued co-operation in providing this important information. Without their assistance the Key Indicators could not be produced.

This publication provides detailed comparative information, which affords Boards and Trusts the opportunity to view their Board/Trust in relation to others. This will raise questions in relation to expenditure, the level and complexity of service provision and the variations that exist across Trusts. That is the main purpose of this publication.

Each Trust, however, operates within a distinct area, with varying degrees of social and economic circumstances that affect the demand for social services. This context must be considered when making comparisons. For this reason, some socio-economic indicators have been included in the publication and although this list is not definitive, it does go some way to setting service provision and expenditure in context.

Key Indicators is now a National Statistics publication. Information included in National Statistics publications are required to be produced to high professional standards, and undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. As providers of information, I am sure Trusts will continue to play their part in ensuring that information returned to the Department meets the highest standards.

This year we have changed the look of the publication, I hope you find it useful and informative and I welcome any comments you may have on the current format and content or ways in which we can improve further publications.

Mr Paul Martin
Chief Inspector
Social Services Inspectorate



Summary

Family & childcare

- In 1999/00, children's services accounted for £73.0 million, 16.9 per cent of Personal Social Services (PSS) expenditure.
- Per capita expenditure on children's services increased over the last three years and in 1999/00 was £158.6, £25 per child more than in 1997/98.
- There were 23,590 referrals and 16,254 children referred to social services in NI in 1999/00. The main reasons for social services involvement were:
 - child protection (35.8%)
 - childcare issues (40.1%)
 - children with a disability requiring social care services (8.5%)
 - children likely to experience emotional, physical or development impairment as a result of family breakdown (3.1%)
 - children whose wellbeing is prejudiced as a result of their disturbance (6.8%)
- In Causeway the main reason for social services involvement was child protection issues (90.2%), whereas in Craigavon & Banbridge, childcare issues (62.4%) was the main reason for social services involvement.
- Causeway had the highest rate of children referred per 10,000 of the under 18-population (467.8) and Armagh & Dungannon the lowest (266.6).
- Over 60% of children referred during 1999/00 had received or were receiving a service at 31 March 2000. Almost a quarter (24.6%) of children referred during 1999/00 had been dealt with at the referral stage and required no further action, and around 14% were recorded as other which included still pending cases.
- 2,422 children were looked after in NI in 1999/00, a 4% increase from 1997/98.
- Sixty six per cent of children looked after at 31 March 2000 were placed in foster placements, 12% accommodated in residential homes, 19% placed with parents and the remaining 2% placed in other accommodation. The percentage of looked after children in foster placements ranged from 53.9% in Ulster Community & Hospitals to 77.9% in Craigavon & Banbridge.
- The level of foster placements between 1997/98 and 1999/00 was similar in NI and England. Over the same period, a higher proportion of children in England than in NI were placed in residential accommodation and a similar proportion were placed in other accommodation.
- Over half (51%) of looked after children who were discharged during 1999/00 had been looked after for less than 3 months, 6.5% between 3 and 6 months, 8% between 6 months and 1 year, 8% between 1 and 3 years and 26% for more than 3 years.



Summary

- There were 2,511 child protection investigations in 1999/00, a rate of 54.5 per 10,000 children aged under 18. The rate of investigations was highest in North & West Belfast (120.4) and lowest in Homefirst (27.5). Social workers carried out two thirds of investigations alone, with almost a third conducted jointly by social workers and police.
- 1,483 children were on the Child Protection Register at 31 March 2000, a rate of 32.2 children per 10,000 aged under 18. Rates varied considerably across Trusts. A registration can be made under a number of categories of abuse e.g. physical abuse and neglect. Forty-seven percent of registrations on the Child Protection Register during 1999/00 were categorised as 'neglect', 34% registered under 'physical abuse', 18% registered under 'sexual abuse' and 14% under 'emotional abuse'.

Adult services

- In 1999/00 the total expenditure on PSS was £432 million.
- Of this, services for adults accounted for £359 million, 83.1 per cent of PSS spending.
- Per capita expenditure on adult services increased over the last three years and in 1999/00 was £321.20, almost £50 per adult more than in 1997/98. Per capita spend at £397.80 per person aged 18 or over was highest in North & West Belfast and lowest in Homefirst (£267.00).
- The number of care packages in effect at 31 March 2000 was 15,485, an increase of 11.1% on the number in effect in 1997/98. Domiciliary care accounted for around 43% of packages in effect in 1999/00, nursing 35% and home care 23%.
- In 1999/00, seventy four per cent of all residential and nursing care packages in effect were delivered by the private sector, 14% by the statutory sector and 12% by the voluntary sector. Seventy four per cent of all care packages in effect in 1999/00 were in the elderly programme of care, 9% in learning disability, and around 8 per cent in the physical disability and mental health programmes of care. Less than 1 per cent were in the adult health programme of care.
- Some 6,532 places were available in residential homes in NI in 1999/00. Thirty one per cent were in private homes and 25% in voluntary homes; the remainder were in statutory homes. The proportion of residential places in private and voluntary homes varied across Trusts. Six per cent of places were in the private sector in North & West Belfast compared with 51% in Causeway.
- 4,635 adults were admitted to statutory residential homes during 1999/00, 435 fewer than 1998/99.



Summary

- Eighty five per cent of people receiving a home help service in NI in 1999/00 were older people. The proportion of people receiving home help has declined over the last three years in most Trusts, except in Causeway, Armagh & Dungannon and Foyle where there have been slight increases.
- Over half (55%) of PSS expenditure in 1999/00 was spent on older people, i.e. those aged 65 and over.
- Per capita expenditure on older people in NI has increased significantly over the last three years and in 1999/00 was £1,201.20, an increase of £183.30 per adult aged 65 and over from 1997/98. Foyle spent the lowest proportion of PSS expenditure on older people. In per capita terms Newry & Mourne spent higher than any other Trust (£1,426.80).
- The rate of residential places for older people (per 1,000 aged 75 and over) was highest in Down Lisburn (87.1) and lowest in Newry & Mourne (26.9) in 1999/00.
- Respite admissions to residential homes for older people per 1,000 people aged 75 and over have remained relatively stable in NI over the last three years.
- The rate of adults aged 65 or more registered at day centres per 1,000 population has increased very slightly and the number provided with home help has declined.
- Per capita expenditure on physical disability increased over the last three years and in 1999/00 was £31.40, an increase of £5.40. Per capita expenditure increased in all of the Trusts over the last three years.
- In 1999/00, there were 14.3 people per 10,000 aged 18-64 with a physical disability registered at day care.
- The proportion of expenditure on people with learning disabilities was 13.4% in 1999/00. Per capita expenditure on learning disability increased from £53.70 in 1997/98 to £63.20 in 1999/00, an increase of £9.50.
- At 31 March 2000, there were 12.4 residential care places available in homes for people with a learning disability per 10,000 population aged between 18 and 64.
- The mental health programme of care accounted for 6.9% of the total PSS expenditure. Per capita expenditure on mental health increased over the last three years from £30.00 in 1997/98 to £32.60 in 1999/00. The largest increase in per capita expenditure over the last three years was in Newry & Mourne, from £19.40 to £38.10.



Introduction

This is the fourth annual report on Key Indicators of Personal Social Services in Northern Ireland. It covers the period from 1st April 1997 to 31st March 2000.

A small number of Key indicators of Personal Social Services were first included in the 1996 edition of the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector, Social Services Inspectorate. Some demographic, socio-economic and children's service indicators were also included. A separate publication 'Key Indicators of Personal Social Services' was first published in 1998. It contained a fairly extensive range of indicators for children's services and a more limited range of indicators for adult services. The publication presented service provision indicators at Trust level and demographic and socio-economic indicators at Board level.

Last year a number of changes were made to the structure of the Key Indicators publication. The Department introduced a new set of returns in 1997/98, which changed the information collected from Trusts. For the first time, information was collected on 'episodes of involvement' and 'children with a disability referred to social services'. The section on children's services included additional information on referrals, respite care, children on the child protection register, children's homes and secure accommodation. The adults section was also extended considerably to include information on the whole care management process, admissions & discharges to statutory residential homes for each programme of care and day care by type and programme of care.

This year's publication includes a number of changes. The section on children's services contains additional information on the length of time children were looked after prior to discharge and the reasons for episodes of social services involvement. In the adult services section information on screenings has been omitted, as this information is no longer collected.

Detailed commentary has been provided in order to draw out the major changes of the last three years and any significant differences across Trusts.

The analysis of socio-economic indicators from 1991 census information has been excluded from the main body of the publication this year, since it will not have changed from last year. The indicators have, however, been included in the Appendix for reference purposes. The Appendix contains details of all indicators within the publication and this year baseline figures have also been added to aid interpretation.

Indicators reported in this publication are either expressed as a rate per 1,000 or 10,000, of the relevant population or in the form of percentages. Population figures are taken from the 1991 population census. In some cases the base figure from which percentages are calculated may be small. The observed differences between percentages needs to be interpreted with care and the reader is advised to consult the appendix where more detailed information is included. Some of the demographic and socio-economic figures were calculated using information from the Small Area Statistics derived from the 1991 population census. Small Area Statistics have been treated for disclosure to protect confidentiality and so may vary slightly from published census figures. The appendix includes details of the relevant populations that have been used to calculate



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indicators. All statistical information contained in this report, including that shown in the Appendix, is available in electronic form on request.

There are four Health and Social Services Boards and eleven Trusts providing Personal Social Services in Northern Ireland. The organisation of Boards and Trusts and the abbreviations used within this report are shown below.

A full description of the indicators used in the tables and charts and, where appropriate, the population used to calculate each indicator is provided at the head of each table or graph. Where possible indicators are calculated on the same basis as in England, in order to facilitate comparison. In a number of cases it has not been possible to produce a Northern Ireland equivalent indicator. This is denoted by the addition of an 'a' or 'b' to the indicator. There are also a number of indicators that do not have an English equivalent.

The general convention adopted throughout this report is to indicate where information is not available as 'n/a', and where a service is not provided by a Trust as '-'.

There are a few cases, for example, meals on wheels, within the adult section where an overall figure for a service is available but where the client breakdown is not available for some Trusts. In such instances the client breakdown for the Trust is estimated on a pro-rata basis based on the available information. Where this occurs details are provided in the form of a footnote.

All service provision indicators reported in this publication have been calculated using information submitted by Trusts to the Department in the form of central returns. Expenditure information is derived from FR22 forms returned by Trusts to the Department. Information on benefits was obtained from Social Security Statistics Branch of DHSS, and 1991 Census information was calculated from the Small Area Statistics produced by the Census Office. Analysis was conducted by Social Services Analysis Branch, to which any inquiries regarding this publication should be directed.

Key indicators on their own are descriptive, they are not explanatory. Trusts deliver a broad range of services to meet their clients needs. In some Trusts the emphasis may be on one type of service and in another the emphasis may be somewhat different. It is therefore important to consider the totality of services offered by each Trust.

Any analysis of PSS expenditure and provision should be sensitive to the demographic structure and the socio-economic conditions that exist within each Trust. No attempt is made in this publication to establish a causal link between social deprivation, the need for PSS and the provision of services. Nevertheless, to suggest that health and wellbeing is, to some degree affected by social deprivation is hardly contentious. Indeed 'Well into 2000' (DHSS) clearly acknowledges that factors such as poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing, lack of social support and low educational attainment are more common in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and groups and are factors that clearly affect health and wellbeing. It would not be unreasonable to suggest that the demand for PSS services and the expenditure incurred to meet that demand is, in part, influenced by the level of social deprivation that exists in Trusts across Northern Ireland.

Introduction

Whilst the Key Indicators publication describes the pattern of service provision across Boards and Trusts in Northern Ireland, points to the different levels of expenditure committed to various programmes of care and gives some idea of the demographic structure and socio-economic pattern within Board and Trust areas, it stops short of attempting to provide an explanation for this. Its purpose is to suggest questions, promote debate, stimulate research and influence decision-making.

Northern Ireland Health & Social Services Boards & Trusts

Eastern Board Trusts

North & West Belfast	(N&WB)
South & East Belfast	(S&EB)
Ulster Community & Hospitals	(Ulster)
Down Lisburn	(DL)

Northern Board Trusts

Causeway	(Cway)
Homefirst	(Hfirst)

Southern Board Trusts

Armagh & Dungannon	(A&D)
Craigavon & Banbridge	(C&B)
Newry & Mourne	(N&M)

Western Board Trusts

Foyle	(Foyle)
Sperrin Lakeland	(SpL)

