



## Foreword

I am pleased to present the fifth 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 future publications.

**MR PAUL MARTIN  
CHIEF INSPECTOR  
SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE**



## Introduction

This is the fifth annual report on 'Key Indicators of Personal Social Services in Northern Ireland'. It covers the period from 1st April to 31st March. The Key Indicators of Personal Social Services publication presents service provision indicators, demographic and socio-economic indicators at Trust level and mid-year population estimates at Board level. Detailed commentary is provided to draw out the major changes over the last three years and significant differences across Trusts.

'Key Indicators of Personal Social Services in Northern Ireland' was first published as an annual publication in 1998. It contained a fairly extensive range of indicators for children's services and a more limited range of indicators for adult services.

Last year a number of changes were made to the content of the publication. Additional information was provided for length of time children were being looked after and the reasons for episodes of social services involvement. Information on the number of screenings started and finished during the year was omitted from the adults section as it was no longer collected.

This year's publication includes a number of structure changes, to allow the information to be more easily interpreted. Additional information on expenditure by the HSS Boards has been included to illustrate the total amount spent on personal social services during the year. The children's services section contains additional information on foster carers and adoptions.

The analysis of socio-economic indicators from 1991 Census information has been included in the appendices of the publication as it will not have changed over the last few years. The appendices, contains details of all indicators within the publication and baseline figures 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 line figure from which the 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.



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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 chart. Where possible indicators are calculated on the same basis as in England, in order to facilitate comparison.

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 '-'.

There are a few cases, i.e. meals on wheels within the adults services section, where an overall figure for a service is available but where breakdown by client group is not available for some Trusts. In these instances the client breakdown for the Trust is estimated on a pro-rata basis on the available information. Where this occurs details are provided in a footnote.

All service provision indicators within this publication have been calculated using information submitted by Trusts to the Department in their central returns. Personal Social Services expenditure information is derived from FR22 and FR24 forms returned by the Trusts and Boards respectively to the Department. Information of benefits is derived from Social Security Statistics Branch of DHSSPS, and 1991 Census information was calculated from the Small Area Statistics produced by the Census Office. Analysis and production of information in this publication was conducted by Social Services Analysis Branch, to which any enquiries regarding this publication should be directed.

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 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.

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Whilst the Key Indicators publication describes the pattern of service provision across Boards and Trusts in Northern Ireland, it 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; although, 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)

