

Children's Services

SECTION 5: Child Protection

Child Protection Investigations

CPI1 *Total number of child protection investigations during year ended 31st March*

CPI5 *Child protection investigations per 10,000-population aged under 18*

Table 5.1 : Child Protection Investigations Completed during year (1999/00 – 2001/02)

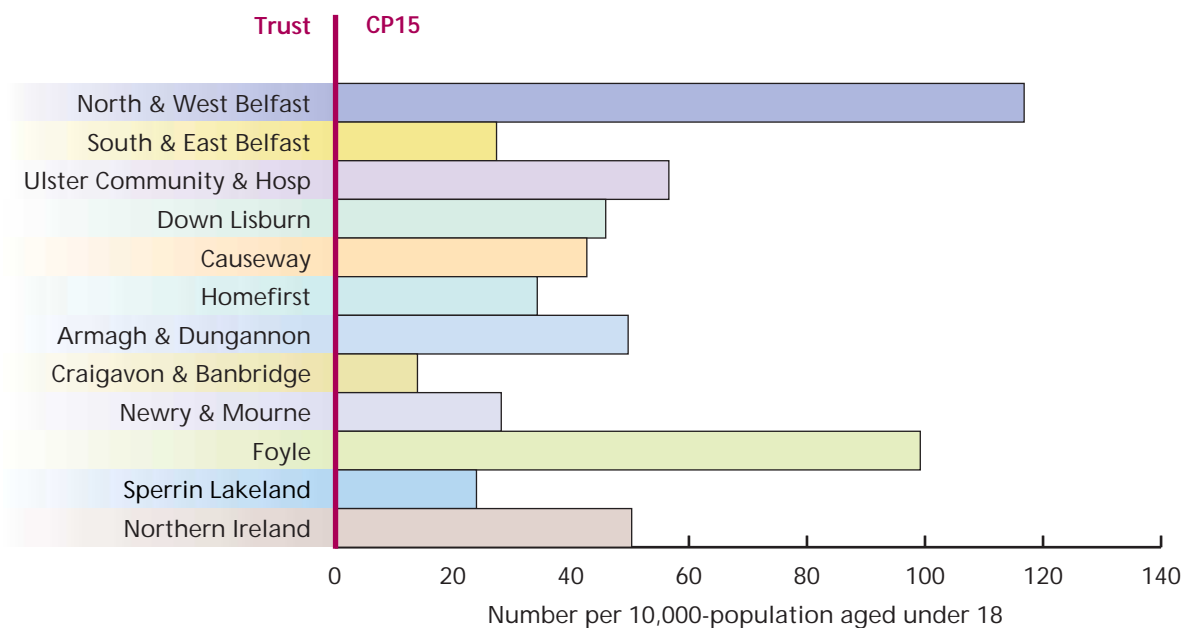
Trust	CPI1			CPI5		
	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
North & West Belfast	537	502	490	128.0	119.7	116.8
South & East Belfast	196	171	117	46.0	40.1	27.4
Ulster Community & Hosp.	138	247	198	39.4	70.6	56.6
Down Lisburn	258	265	221	53.6	55.1	45.9
Eastern	1,129	1,185	1,026	67.3	70.7	61.2
Causeway	146	110	110	56.7	42.7	42.7
Homefirst	240	301	294	28.0	35.1	34.3
Northern	386	411	404	34.6	36.9	36.2
Armagh & Dungannon	106	128	147	35.9	43.3	49.7
Craigavon & Banbridge	135	38	47	40.2	11.3	14.0
Newry & Mourne	130	92	74	49.6	35.1	28.2
Southern	371	258	268	41.5	28.9	30.0
Foyle	486	433	492	98.0	87.3	99.2
Sperrin Lakeland	139	73	80	41.6	21.9	24.0
Western	625	506	572	75.3	61.0	68.9
Northern Ireland	2,511	2,360	2,270	55.6	52.3	50.3

Between 1st April 2001 and 31st March 2002, 2,270 child protection investigations were carried out in Northern Ireland, 50.3 investigations per 10,000-population aged under 18. Most (45.2%) investigations carried out were in the Eastern Board. Across Trusts, the number of investigations per 10,000-population aged under 18 ranged from 116.8 in North & West Belfast to 14.0 in Craigavon & Banbridge. Foyle also had a relatively high number of investigations per 10,000-population aged under 18 (99.2).

Since 1999/00, the number of child protection investigations carried out has decreased by almost 11%, from 2,511 in 1999/00 to 2,270 in 2001/02. During the same period, the number of child protection investigations increased in 4 of the 11 HSS Trusts, the highest increase in Ulster Community & Hospitals, increasing from 39.4 in 1999/00 to 56.6 in 2001/02 (Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1).

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Figure 5.1 : Child Protection Investigations per 10,000-population aged under 18 (2001/02)



CP12 *Percentage of child protection investigations conducted under joint protocol*

CP13 *Percentage of child protection investigations conducted by social workers*

CP14 *Percentage of child protection investigations conducted by police*

Table 5.2 : Child Protection Investigations Completed during year (1999/00 – 2001/02)

Trust	CP12			CP13			CP14		
	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
North & West Belfast	60.1	29.5	24.5	38.7	70.3	75.5	1.1	0.2	0.0
South & East Belfast	18.9	17.5	16.2	78.1	78.9	78.6	3.1	3.5	5.1
Ulster Community & Hosp.	13.8	9.3	18.2	85.5	90.3	80.8	0.7	0.4	1.0
Down Lisburn	14.3	14.0	13.6	83.7	81.5	84.2	1.9	4.5	2.3
Eastern	36.8	20.1	20.0	61.6	78.2	78.8	1.6	1.7	1.3
Causeway	69.2	40.9	15.5	30.1	58.2	78.2	0.7	0.9	6.4
Homefirst	24.6	19.3	15.6	74.2	78.1	83.0	1.3	2.7	1.4
Northern	41.5	25.1	15.6	57.5	72.7	81.7	1.0	2.2	2.7
Armagh & Dungannon	24.5	18.0	30.6	67.0	78.1	66.0	8.5	3.9	3.4
Craigavon & Banbridge	21.5	63.2	66.0	72.6	28.9	21.3	5.9	7.9	12.8
Newry & Mourne	20.8	26.1	55.4	74.6	65.2	44.6	4.6	8.7	0.0
Southern	22.1	27.5	43.7	71.7	66.3	52.2	6.2	6.2	4.1
Foyle	11.5	9.0	6.1	87.0	90.5	93.3	1.4	0.5	0.6
Sperrin Lakeland	30.9	26.0	32.5	69.1	69.9	61.3	0.0	4.1	6.3
Western	15.8	11.5	9.8	83.0	87.5	88.8	1.1	1.0	1.4
Northern Ireland	30.1	19.9	19.4	67.8	78.0	78.7	2.1	2.1	1.9

In 2001/02, over three quarters (78.7%) of all child protection investigations were carried out by social workers, 19.4% under joint protocol, and 1.9% by the police. In Craigavon & Banbridge and Newry & Mourne, the majority of child protection investigations were conducted under joint protocol, 66.0% and 55.4% respectively.

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Over the last three years, Craigavon & Banbridge and Newry & Mourne have shown an increase in the proportion of child protection investigations carried out under joint protocol, from 21.5% and 20.8% respectively in 1999/00 to 66.0% and 55.4% respectively in 2001/02. During this period, North & West Belfast and Causeway showed a decrease in the number of investigations being carried out under joint protocol, from 60.1% and 69.2% in 1999/00 to 24.5% and 15.5% respectively in 2001/02.

In the Northern, Western, and Eastern Boards, the Police were less likely to be involved in child protection investigations than in the Southern Board (Table 5.2).

Children on the Child Protection Register

CH01 *Children on the child protection register at 31st March per 10,000-population aged under 18*

Table 5.3 : Children on the Child Protection Register at 31st March (2000 - 2002)

Trust	CH01		
	2000	2001	2002
North & West Belfast	65.6	60.8	63.9
South & East Belfast	42.7	50.2	45.3
Ulster Community & Hosp.	52.0	36.3	38.9
Down Lisburn	35.1	33.9	31.0
Eastern	48.2	45.3	44.5
Causeway	26.8	19.8	29.5
Homefirst	24.0	25.3	23.9
Northern	24.7	24.0	25.2
Armagh & Dungannon	25.4	20.6	20.6
Craigavon & Banbridge	5.7	3.3	13.1
Newry & Mourne	15.3	19.8	27.8
Southern	15.0	13.9	19.9
Foyle	35.9	37.5	50.0
Sperrin Lakeland	26.4	23.1	23.4
Western	32.1	31.7	39.3
Northern Ireland	32.8	31.3	33.9
England	27.1	24.1	23.1

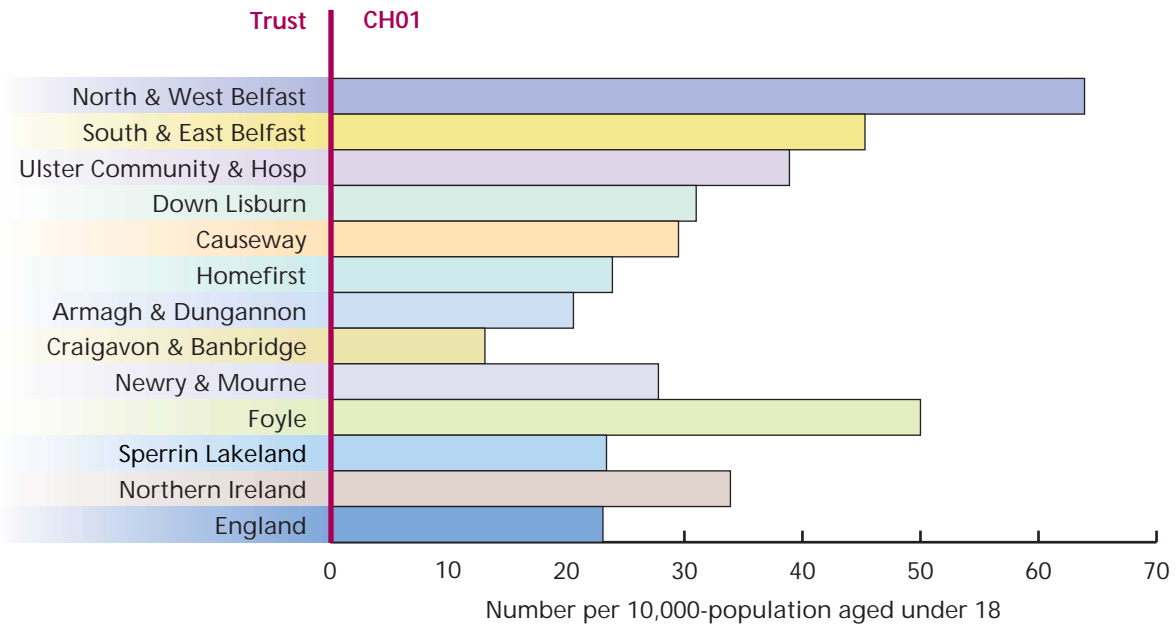
At 31st March 2002, there were 1,531 children on the child protection register in Northern Ireland, 33.9 children per 10,000-population aged under 18, which is higher than the corresponding number in England (23.1). Over the last three years, the number of children on the child protection register per 10,000-population aged under 18 increased in Northern Ireland from 32.8 in 2000 to 33.9 in 2002, whilst the corresponding figure in England decreased from 27.1 in 2000 to 23.1 in 2002.

North & West Belfast (63.9) had the highest number of children on the child protection register per 10,000-population aged under 18, whilst Craigavon & Banbridge (13.1) had the lowest. Since 31st March 2000, the number of children on the child protection register has increased in 5 of the 11 HSS Trusts, the highest in Newry & Mourne, which increased from 15.3 in 2000 to 27.8 in 2002.

Across Boards, the Eastern Board had the highest number of children per 10,000-population on the child protection register (44.5), whilst the Southern Board had the lowest (19.9) (Table 5.3 and Figure 5.2).

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Figure 5.2 : Children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000-population aged under 18 (2002)



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Age of Children on the Child Protection Register

- CH11** *Children on the child protection register aged under 5 as a percentage of all children under 18 on the child protection register*
- CH12** *Children on the child protection register aged 5-11 as a percentage of all children under 18 on the child protection register*
- CH13** *Children on the child protection register aged 12-15 as a percentage of all children under 18 on the child protection register*
- CH14** *Children on the child protection register aged 16 & over as a percentage of all children under 18 on the child protection register*

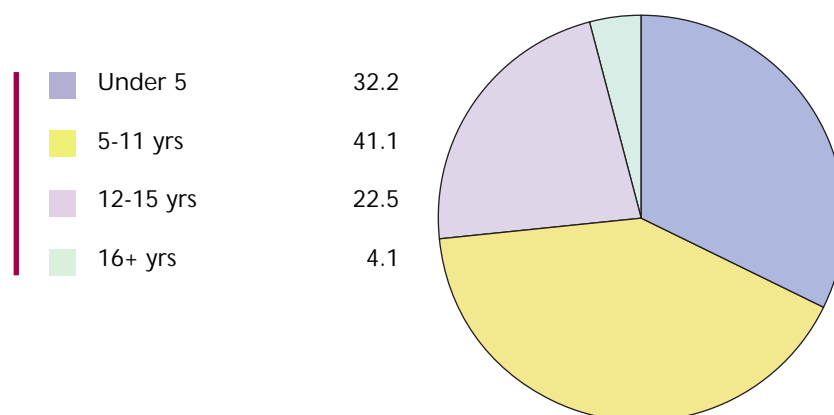
Table 5.4 : Children on the Child Protection Register by Age Group at 31st March 2002

Trust	CH11	CH12	CH13	CH14
North & West Belfast	31.3	42.5	25.0	1.1
South & East Belfast	25.4	39.9	26.9	7.8
Ulster Community & Hosp.	44.1	41.9	12.5	1.5
Down Lisburn	36.2	43.0	18.8	2.0
Eastern	33.1	41.8	22.0	3.1
Causeway	25.0	44.7	26.3	3.9
Homefirst	37.1	35.1	21.0	6.8
Northern	33.8	37.7	22.4	6.0
Armagh & Dungannon	32.8	39.3	23.0	4.9
Craigavon & Banbridge	31.8	45.5	20.5	2.3
Newry & Mourne	42.5	37.0	13.7	6.8
Southern	36.5	39.9	18.5	5.1
Foyle	26.6	40.7	27.8	4.8
Sperrin Lakeland	25.6	51.3	20.5	2.6
Western	26.4	43.3	26.1	4.3
Northern Ireland	32.2	41.1	22.5	4.1

At 31st March 2002, most (41.1%) children on the child protection register were aged 5-11, 32.2% aged under 5, 22.5% aged 12-15, and 4.1% aged 16 & over. In three Trusts, Ulster Community & Hospitals, Homefirst and Newry & Mourne, most children on the child protection register were aged under 5 (44.1%, 37.1%, and 42.5% respectively) (Table 5.4 and Figure 5.3).

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Figure 5.3 : Children on the Child Protection Register by Age Group (2002)



CH03 Registrations on the child protection register during year ended 31st March per 10,000-population aged under 18

CH10 De-registrations from the child protection register during year ended 31st March per 10,000-population aged under 18

CH11a Re-registrations on the child protection register during year ended 31st March per 10,000-population aged under 18

Table 5.5 : Registrations, De-registrations¹ and Re-registrations during year ended 31st March (1999/00 – 2001/02)

Trust	CH03			CH10			CH11a		
	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
North & West Belfast	36.5	39.8	39.1	40.1	43.9	36.0	15.7	21.0	20.7
South & East Belfast	30.7	34.0	23.5	26.7	25.6	28.1	20.6	17.9	17.0
Ulster Community & Hosp.	26.6	23.7	30.6	24.0	41.4	29.1	26.9	26.5	27.1
Down Lisburn	27.9	20.4	23.3	31.2	23.3	24.9	30.6	17.3	19.6
Eastern	30.5	29.4	28.8	30.8	32.8	29.4	22.9	20.3	21.1
Causeway	29.1	16.3	30.3	17.9	23.3	20.2	13.3	11.9	24.4
Homefirst	17.7	19.8	20.8	22.7	18.4	21.8	8.6	15.3	9.0
Northern	20.4	19.0	23.0	21.6	19.6	21.4	10.1	14.6	13.7
Armagh & Dungannon	22.3	16.9	15.9	9.5	17.9	15.9	22.7	26.0	14.9
Craigavon & Banbridge	11.9	8.0	15.8	16.4	10.1	6.0	22.5	0.0	5.7
Newry & Mourne	14.9	16.8	19.4	14.1	12.2	11.8	15.4	13.6	11.8
Southern	16.2	13.5	16.9	13.4	13.3	11.0	20.7	15.7	10.6
Foyle	24.2	19.3	28.2	26.6	17.7	15.7	18.3	10.4	12.9
Sperrin Lakeland	19.2	14.4	15.0	14.1	17.7	14.7	18.8	22.9	18.0
Western	22.2	17.4	22.9	21.6	17.7	15.3	18.5	14.6	14.2
Northern Ireland	23.6	21.5	23.9	23.4	22.9	21.2	19.1	17.6	16.7
England	26.2	24.1	25.0	27.3	27.0	25.9	n/a	n/a	n/a

¹ A de-registration occurs when a child is removed from the child protection register because the threat/need for protection is perceived to have gone.

Information on registrations, re-registrations, and de-registrations gives an indication of the activity and throughput on the child protection register during the year. In 2001/02, there were 1,080 registrations, 957 de-registrations and 180 re-registrations.

Since 1999/00, the number of registrations onto the child protection register increased slightly, from 1,067 registrations in 1999/00 to

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1,080 in 2001/02. During this period, the number of children removed from the child protection register decreased, from 1,056 in 1999/00 to 957 in 2001/02, and the number of children re-registered on the register decreased from 204 in 1999/00 to 180 in 2001/02.

North & West Belfast (39.1) had the highest number of registrations per 10,000-population aged under 18, whilst Sperrin Lakeland (15.0) had the lowest. Since 1999/00, the number of registrations decreased in 4 of the 11 HSS Trusts, most noticeably in South & East Belfast, from 30.7 in 1999/00 to 23.5 in 2001/02.

During 2001/02, the number of children de-registrations per 10,000-population aged under 18, ranged from 36.0 in North & West Belfast to 6.0 in Craigavon & Banbridge.

In 2001/02, 1 in 6 (180) registrations were re-registrations, i.e. children who had been on the child protection register previously. Across Trusts, the number of re-registrations per 10,000-population aged under 18 ranged from 27.1 in Ulster Community & Hospitals to 5.7 in Craigavon & Banbridge (Table 5.5 and Figure 5.4).

Figure 5.4 : Registrations and De-registrations on the Child Protection Register during year ended 31st March 2002

Trust	CH03	CH10
North & West Belfast	39.1	36.0
South & East Belfast	23.5	28.1
Ulster Community & Hosp.	30.6	29.1
Down Lisburn	23.3	24.9
Causeway	30.3	20.2
Homefirst	20.8	21.8
Armagh & Dungannon	15.9	15.9
Craigavon & Banbridge	15.8	6.0
Newry & Mourne	19.4	11.8
Foyle	28.2	15.7
Sperrin Lakeland	15.0	14.7
Northern Ireland	23.9	21.2



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Registrations on the Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse

The category of abuse under which each child is registered is decided at the Child Protection Conference. When agreement is reached that protection is necessary each child is recorded under the abuse category that most accurately reflects their situation.

The four main categories used are; neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse, as well as a number of mixed categories for more complex cases, e.g. 'neglect and physical abuse' and 'physical and sexual abuse'. For the purpose of this analysis, registrations recorded under 'mixed categories' have been included in each of the relevant categories.

ABUSE CATEGORIES:

- Neglect:-** The actual or likely persistent or severe neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold and starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.
- Physical Abuse:-** Actual or likely deliberate physical injury to a child, or wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering to a child including deliberate poisoning, suffocation or Munchausen syndrome by proxy.
- Sexual Abuse:-** Actual or likely exploitation of a child or adolescent. The child may be dependent and/or developmentally immature.
- Emotional Abuse:-** Actual or likely persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behaviour development of a child. All abuse involves some emotional ill-treatment. This category should be used where it is the main or only form of abuse.

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- CH05** Registrations under 'neglect' category as a percentage of all registrations during year ended 31st March
- CH06** Registrations under 'physical abuse' category as a percentage of all registrations during year ended 31st March
- CH07** Registrations under 'sexual abuse' category as a percentage of all registrations during year ended 31st March
- CH08** Registrations under 'emotional abuse' category as a percentage of all registrations during year ended 31st March

Table 5.6 : Registrations on the Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse (1999/00-2001/02) ¹

Trust	CH05			CH06			CH07			CH08		
	99/00	00/01	01/02	99/00	00/01	01/02	99/00	00/01	01/02	99/00	00/01	01/02
North & West Belfast	59.5	53.9	56.7	34.6	30.5	26.2	9.8	6.6	7.3	4.6	13.8	9.8
South & East Belfast	50.4	46.9	39.0	48.1	52.4	55.0	10.7	9.0	4.0	9.9	9.0	2.0
Ulster Community & Hosp.	24.7	30.1	39.3	34.4	36.1	24.3	10.8	19.3	10.3	30.1	27.7	26.2
Down Lisburn	50.7	32.7	36.6	44.8	48.0	39.3	26.1	19.4	18.8	7.5	11.2	5.4
Eastern	48.5	43.6	44.5	40.7	41.4	34.8	14.5	12.0	9.9	11.4	14.2	10.8
Causeway	54.7	42.9	50.0	26.7	31.0	20.5	29.3	19.0	12.8	2.7	16.7	16.7
Homefirst	36.2	48.2	27.0	26.3	27.1	32.6	29.6	23.5	14.0	15.1	9.4	26.4
Northern	42.3	47.2	34.0	26.4	27.8	28.9	29.5	22.6	13.7	11.0	10.8	23.4
Armagh & Dungannon	48.5	46.0	25.5	47.0	44.0	44.7	28.8	12.0	19.1	6.1	18.0	10.6
Craigavon & Banbridge	45.0	48.1	52.8	37.5	40.7	43.4	22.5	11.1	1.9	7.5	0.0	1.9
Newry & Mourne	30.8	72.7	45.1	25.6	29.5	45.1	15.4	9.1	7.8	30.8	9.1	21.6
Southern	42.8	56.2	41.7	38.6	38.0	44.4	23.4	10.7	9.3	13.1	10.7	11.3
Foyle	62.5	47.9	37.9	25.0	31.3	30.7	7.5	28.1	13.6	12.5	17.7	17.9
Sperrin Lakeland	37.5	60.4	38.0	9.4	27.1	28.0	10.9	2.1	10.0	42.2	14.6	24.0
Western	53.8	52.1	37.9	19.6	29.9	30.0	8.7	19.4	12.6	22.8	16.7	19.5
Northern Ireland	47.3	47.2	40.5	33.7	36.3	33.9	17.9	15.3	11.2	13.5	13.4	15.4
England	44.0	46.0	39.0	32.5	29.6	19.1	17.4	16.0	10.2	16.5	16.9	16.9

¹ Registrations under 'mixed categories' of abuse have been included in each of the relevant categories. The values for CH05-CH08 therefore add to more than 100% in some Trusts.

The majority (40.5%) of registrations onto the child protection register during 2001/02 were categorised as 'neglect', 33.9% as 'physical abuse', 15.4% as 'emotional abuse', and 11.2% as 'sexual abuse'.

Between 1999/00 and 2001/02, the proportion of registrations categorised as 'neglect' and 'sexual abuse' has decreased, from 47.3% and 17.9% respectively in 1999/00, to 40.5% and 11.2% respectively in 2001/02.

Across Trusts, there were small variations. 'Neglect' was cited as the main reason for registration onto the child protection register in 6 of the 11 HSS Trusts, whilst 'physical abuse' was the main reason for registration in the remaining 5 Trusts (Table 5.6 and Figure 5.5).

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Figure 5.5 : Categories of Abuse on the Child Protection Register (2001/02)

Trust	CH05	CH06	CH07	CH08
North & West Belfast	56.7	26.2	7.3	9.8
South & East Belfast	39.0	55.0	4.0	2.0
Ulster Community & Hosp. Down Lisburn	39.3	24.3	10.3	26.2
Causeway	36.6	39.3	18.8	5.4
Homefirst	50.0	20.5	12.8	16.7
Homefirst	27.0	32.6	14.0	26.4
Armagh & Dungannon	25.5	44.7	19.1	10.6
Craigavon & Banbridge	52.8	43.4	1.9	1.9
Newry & Mourne	45.1	45.1	7.8	21.6
Foyle	37.9	30.7	13.6	17.9
Sperrin Lakeland	38.0	28.0	10.0	24.0
Northern Ireland	40.5	33.9	11.2	15.4

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SECTION 6: Day Care Facilities for Children

Day care facilities for children includes registered childminders, playgroups, day nurseries and out of school clubs.

The majority of day care services are provided through the independent sector, voluntary organisations, private companies or individuals as a business, community groups as co-operative enterprise or a combination of these bodies on a partnership basis.

CH15a *Day care places for children aged under 12 per 1,000-population aged under 12*

CH16 *Independent day care places for children aged under 5 per 1,000-population aged under 5*

Table 6.1 : Day Care Places for under 12's and Independent Day Care Places for under 5's at 31st March (2000 - 2002)

Trust	CH15a			CH16		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
North & West Belfast	157.0	158.2	204.7	281.8	280.4	342.5
South & East Belfast	247.3	266.7	256.7	419.8	441.7	473.3
Ulster Community & Hosp.	216.0	222.4	214.8	347.7	352.2	338.2
Down Lisburn	177.0	172.0	176.0	308.3	300.0	311.6
Eastern	198.5	203.7	212.0	340.0	344.0	367.2
Causeway	202.3	178.7	174.4	321.0	288.8	286.3
Homefirst	146.8	162.6	155.4	310.5	301.0	300.1
Northern	159.5	166.3	159.8	312.9	298.2	296.8
Armagh & Dungannon	128.6	109.9	113.9	181.7	196.6	200.9
Craigavon & Banbridge	124.1	123.6	126.5	229.9	197.3	234.2
Newry & Mourne	83.9	75.1	79.1	183.4	158.2	174.6
Southern	113.8	104.9	108.5	200.4	185.6	205.8
Foyle	110.1	108.6	109.8	222.5	209.3	203.3
Sperrin Lakeland	125.6	137.2	143.7	245.5	268.2	271.1
Western	116.3	120.0	123.3	231.7	232.7	230.3
Northern Ireland	157.1	159.7	162.4	285.4	280.4	292.2

At 31st March 2002, there were 47,170 day care places in Northern Ireland, 162.4 places per 1,000-population aged under 12, a slight increase from 157.1 in 2000.

South & East Belfast (256.7) had the highest number of day care places available per 1,000-population aged under 12, whilst Newry & Mourne had the lowest (79.1). Since 2000, the number of day care places available per 1,000-population aged under 12 has decreased in 6 of the 11 HSS Trusts, the highest decrease in Causeway, which fell from 202.3 at 31st March 2000 to 174.4 at 31st March 2002.

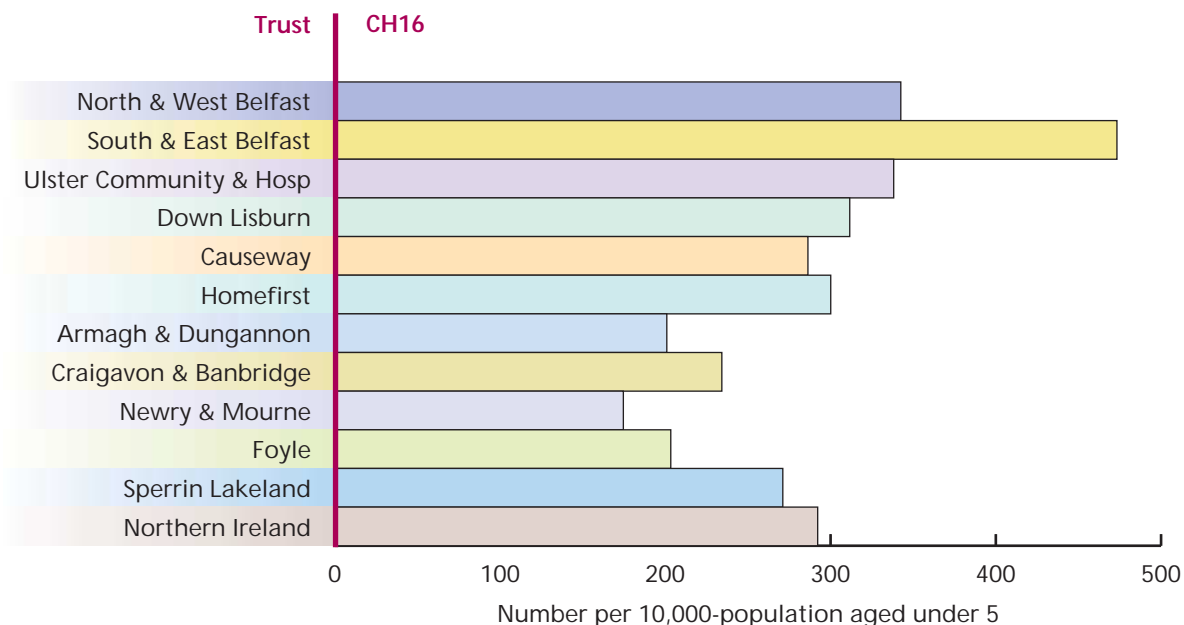
Playgroups and day nurseries mainly provide day care for children aged under 5. There are also a significant number of places with registered childminders, which are designated for children aged under 5. South & East Belfast (473.3) had the highest number of independent places available per 1,000-population aged under 5, whilst Newry & Mourne (174.6) had the lowest number.

Over the last three years, the number of independent day care places available increased from 285.4 places per 1,000-population aged

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under 5 in 2000 to 292.2 in 2002. An increase occurred in 6 of the 11 Trusts over the same period (Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1 : Independent Day Care Places for Children aged under 5 per 1,000-population aged under 5 (2002)



Day Care Facilities for under 5's by Type of Provision

CH17 *Places for children aged under 5 with registered childminders per 1,000-population aged under 5 at 31st March*

CH18 *Places in day nurseries for children aged under 5 per 1,000-population aged under 5 at 31st March*

CH19 *Places in playgroups for children aged under 5 per 1,000-population aged under 5 at 31st March*

Table 6.2 : Day Care Provision for under 5's at 31st March by Type of Provision (2000 – 2002)

Trust	CH17			CH18			CH19		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
North & West Belfast	72.6	71.1	143.4	38.6	38.6	49.0	170.7	170.7	150.1
South & East Belfast	152.3	181.7	200.4	123.2	128.8	140.6	144.2	131.2	132.3
Ulster Community & Hosp.	147.8	150.8	124.2	44.8	56.0	61.8	155.1	145.3	152.1
Down Lisburn	127.3	122.9	122.6	41.5	44.8	61.5	139.5	132.3	127.5
Eastern	125.5	132.3	148.4	63.2	68.0	79.6	151.3	143.7	139.2
Causeway	147.9	111.2	121.2	34.3	40.4	38.9	138.7	137.2	126.2
Homefirst	103.4	105.8	104.3	61.0	64.8	72.2	146.1	130.4	123.6
Northern	113.8	107.1	108.3	54.7	59.0	64.4	144.4	132.0	124.2
Armagh & Dungannon	36.3	41.3	42.7	16.5	28.3	28.5	128.9	127.0	129.7
Craigavon & Banbridge	70.3	38.5	62.5	53.5	63.7	76.7	106.1	95.1	95.1
Newry & Mourne	16.4	16.7	15.4	43.5	29.0	43.2	123.4	112.4	116.0
Southern	43.3	33.0	42.2	38.4	41.9	51.0	118.6	110.7	112.6
Foyle	34.0	43.6	46.9	22.8	24.8	29.3	165.7	141.0	127.1
Sperrin Lakeland	63.4	65.8	62.8	23.8	38.2	46.3	158.3	164.2	162.0
Western	45.7	52.4	53.2	23.2	30.1	36.1	162.8	150.2	141.0
Northern Ireland	91.5	91.5	99.7	48.8	53.6	62.1	145.1	135.4	130.4
England	n/a	n/a	n/a	87.0	94.8	n/a	116.2	105.2	n/a

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At 31st March 2002, playgroups were the main form of independent day care provision, providing 15,032 places for children aged under 5 in Northern Ireland (130.4 places per 1,000 children aged under 5). Registered childminders also provided 11,484 places for children, a significant proportion of the day care service for children aged under 5 (99.7 places per 1,000 children aged under 5).

The number of independent care places provided by registered childminders varied significantly across Trusts, from 200.4 places per 1,000-population aged under 5 in South & East Belfast to 15.4 in Newry & Mourne.

Day nurseries provided the least number of places (7,156) for children aged under 5 in Northern Ireland, 62.1 places per 1,000-population aged under 5. Across Trusts, the numbers ranged from 140.6 places per 1,000-population aged under 5 in South & East Belfast to 28.5 in Armagh & Dungannon.

Over the last three years, the number of places provided by registered childminders per 1,000-population aged under 5 increased significantly in both North & West Belfast and South & East Belfast, from 72.6 and 152.3 at 31st March 2000 to 143.4 and 200.4 respectively at 31st March 2002 (Table 6.2 and Figure 6.2).

Figure 6.2 : Day Care Places by Service Type for Children aged under 5 per 1,000-population aged under 5 at 31st March 2002

Trust	CH17	CH18	CH19
North & West Belfast	143.4	49.0	150.1
South & East Belfast	200.4	140.6	132.3
Ulster Community & Hosp.	124.2	61.8	152.1
Down Lisburn	122.6	61.5	127.5
Causeway	121.2	38.9	126.2
Homefirst	104.3	72.2	123.6
Armagh & Dungannon	42.7	28.5	129.7
Craigavon & Banbridge	62.5	76.7	95.1
Newry & Mourne	15.4	43.2	116.0
Foyle	46.9	29.3	127.1
Sperrin Lakeland	62.8	46.3	162.0
Northern Ireland	99.7	62.1	130.4
England	n/a	n/a	n/a

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Day Care Facilities for Children aged under 12

Whilst some provision for children aged under 12 is made within day nurseries, the majority of places are provided through childminders and out of school clubs.

CH17a *Places with registered childminders per 1,000-population aged under 12 at 31st March*

CH20a *Places in out of school clubs per 1,000-population aged 4-12 at 31st March*

Table 6.3 : Day Care Provision for under 12's at 31st March (2000 - 2002)

Trust	CH17a			CH20a		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
North & West Belfast	45.5	43.0	90.0	52.4	51.9	63.7
South & East Belfast	124.4	144.3	124.6	27.7	28.3	39.3
Ulster Community & Hosp.	136.4	138.7	125.1	n/a	5.9	7.6
Down Lisburn	98.9	95.5	95.3	12.6	12.6	11.9
Eastern	100.4	104.5	107.8	29.8	25.0	30.8
Causeway	121.6	87.0	95.0	16.4	15.9	19.6
Homefirst	55.6	70.9	67.8	14.3	14.8	15.9
Northern	70.8	74.6	74.1	14.8	15.0	16.7
Armagh & Dungannon	25.4	29.8	30.8	75.0	27.7	33.0
Craigavon & Banbridge	43.5	43.7	41.0	28.2	27.6	28.3
Newry & Mourne	7.4	8.5	8.2	16.4	16.8	12.2
Southern	27.0	28.8	28.0	40.0	24.5	25.1
Foyle	24.9	29.9	32.3	15.7	16.5	24.3
Sperrin Lakeland	40.3	43.0	39.5	20.5	21.9	34.5
Western	31.0	35.1	35.2	17.6	18.6	28.4
Northern Ireland	65.9	69.5	70.5	25.6	21.3	25.8

Registered childminders provided 20,464 places for children aged under 12 in Northern Ireland at 31st March 2002, 70.5 places per 1,000-population aged under 12. Over the last three years, this number has increased slightly, from 65.9 registered childminding places per 1,000-population aged under 12 at 31st March 2000 to 70.5 at 31st March 2002.

Across Trusts, this ranged from 125.1 registered childminding places per 1,000-population aged under 12 in Ulster Community & Hospitals to 8.2 in Newry & Mourne. South & East Belfast (124.6) also had a high number of registered childminding places per 1,000-population aged under 12.

Out of school clubs provide care to school age children at the end of the school day until the parent/carer collects the child. Out of school clubs may be provided by Trusts, voluntary organisations, community groups or privately.

At 31st March 2002, there were 4,518 places available in out of school clubs in Northern Ireland, 25.8 places per 1,000-population aged 4-12, similar to the position at 31st March 2000 (25.6). North & West Belfast (63.7) had the highest number of places available in out of school clubs per 1,000-population aged 4-12, whilst Ulster Community & Hospitals (7.6) had the lowest (Table 6.3).

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SECTION 7: Children's Homes

At 31st March 2002, there were 40 children's homes in Northern Ireland, providing a total of 357 places, an average of 9 places per children's home. Over 70% (258) of places available were in statutory homes, 25.5% (91) in voluntary homes, and 0.2% (8) in 1 private children's home in Sperrin Lakeland. (Tables 7.1 and 7.2, and Figure 7.1).

Table 7.1 : Statutory Children's Homes at 31st March 2002

Trust	Homes	Places	Places per 10,000-pop. aged under 18
North & West Belfast	3	26	6.2
South & East Belfast	3	27	6.3
Ulster Community & Hosp.	4	24	6.9
Down Lisburn	5	39	8.1
Eastern	15	116	6.9
Causeway	1	8	3.1
Homefirst	4	40	4.7
Northern	5	48	4.3
Armagh & Dungannon	1	8	2.7
Craigavon & Banbridge	2	13	3.9
Newry & Mourne	1	6	2.3
Southern	4	27	3.0
Foyle	4	48	9.7
Sperrin Lakeland	2	19	5.7
Western	6	67	8.1
Northern Ireland	30	258	5.7

There were 30 statutory children's homes, including the secure unit at Lakewood Centre, which has Shamrock House and Linden House, both of which are registered facilities and are counted as 2 established children's homes. The 30 homes provided 258 places at 31st March 2002, 5.7 places per 10,000-population aged under 18. Across Boards, most (45.0%) statutory children's homes were in the Eastern Board. Across Trusts, Foyle had the highest number of places per 10,000-population aged under 18 (9.7), whilst Newry & Mourne (2.3) had the lowest (Table 7.1 and Figure 7.2).

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Figure 7.1 : Places available in Statutory Children's Homes at 31st March 2002 per 10,000-population aged under 18

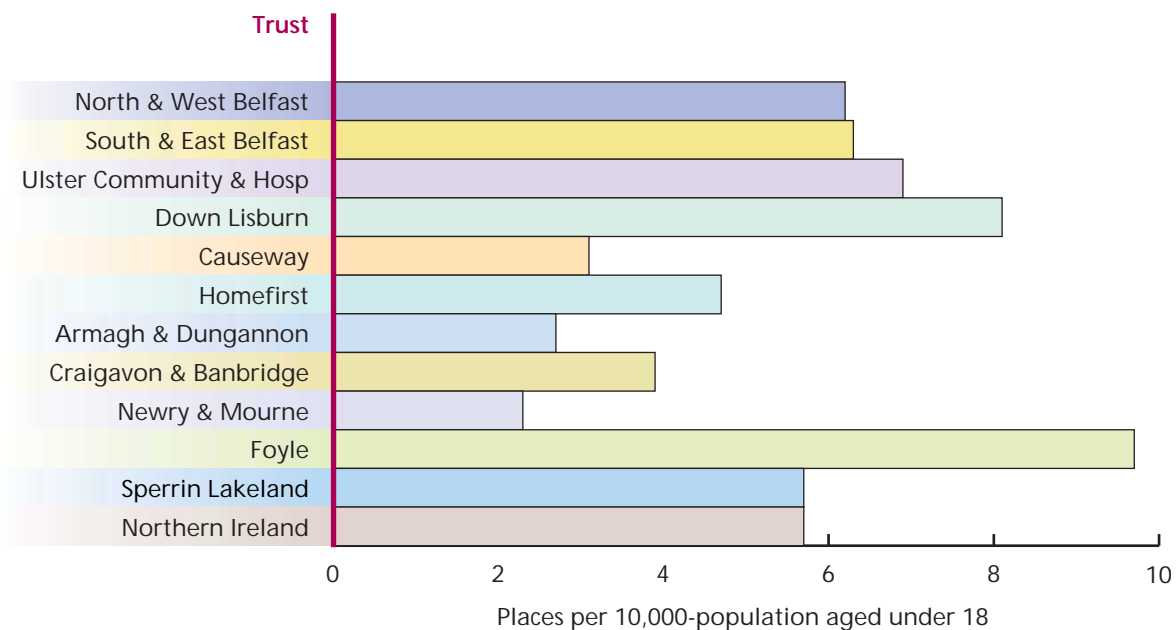


Table 7.2 : Voluntary Children's Homes at 31st March 2002

Trust	Homes	Places	Places per 10,000-pop. aged under 18
North & West Belfast	1	44	10.5
South & East Belfast	1	3	0.7
Ulster Community & Hosp.	3	25	7.1
Down Lisburn	0	0	0.0
Eastern	5	72	4.3
Causeway	0	0	0.0
Homefirst	2	10	1.2
Northern	2	10	0.9
Armagh & Dungannon	0	0	0.0
Craigavon & Banbridge	1	5	1.5
Newry & Mourne	1	4	1.5
Southern	2	9	1.0
Foyle	0	0	0.0
Sperrin Lakeland	0	0	0.0
Western	0	0	0.0
Northern Ireland	9	91	2.0

At 31st March 2002, there were 9 voluntary children's homes in Northern Ireland, providing 91 places. Five Trusts (Down Lisburn, Causeway, Armagh & Dungannon, Foyle, and Sperrin Lakeland) did not have any voluntary children's homes. At 31st March 2002, voluntary children's homes provided 2.0 places per 10,000-population aged under 18. North & West Belfast had the highest number of places per 10,000-population aged under 18 (10.5) (Table 7.2).

Secure Accommodation

Secure accommodation refers to accommodation provided for the purpose of 'restricting liberty'. In 2001/02, there was 1 secure unit (Lakewood House) in Northern Ireland, providing accommodation



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for 15 young people at any one time. This secure facility is located within Ulster Community & Hospitals Trust; although, admissions are drawn from across the eleven HSS Trusts.

During 2001/02, 56 young people were admitted to the secure unit, with 62 admissions (27 males and 29 females) resident in the unit at some point during 2001/02. Some children/young people were admitted to the unit on more than one occasion.

Almost two thirds (64.5%) of young people admitted to the unit in 2001/02 were aged 14-15 years old.

