



Children Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland

2009/10

This bulletin presents children's social care activity data by Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland, both at and for the year ending 31 March 2010; areas covered include Child Protection, Children in Need, Looked After Children, and Day Care provision for children aged under 12. Figures are based on annual Children Order statistical returns provided by HSC Trusts to the DHSSPS. The companion bulletin to this one is, 'Children Order Statistical Trends for Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2009/10'

Summary Key Points

Child Protection

1. At 31st March 2010, there were 2,357 children on child protection registers in Northern Ireland, a drop of 5% (131) from 2009 (2,488);
2. Of the 2,357 children on the register:
 - 51% were boys and 49% were girls;
 - 8% were aged under 1 year old, and 7% were aged 16 or older;
 - 50% were assessed to be at risk of neglect;
3. During 2009/10, there were 4,270 child protection referrals, 44% (1,861) from within social services;

Looked After Children (children in care)

4. At 31st March 2010, there were 2,606 looked after children in Northern Ireland, up by 6% (143) from 2009 (2,463);
5. Of the 2,606 looked after children:
 - 52% were boys and 48% were girls;
 - 3% were aged under 1 year old, and 19% were aged 16 years or older;
 - 65% were foster care placements, 19% were family placements, 11% were residential care and 6% were in 'Other' placement types;
 - 23% had been in care for less than 1 year; with 10% in care for 10 years or longer;
6. During 2009/10, there were 1,042 admissions into care, 908 discharges from care, and 739 respite placements;

Children in Need

7. During 2009/10, there were 31,693 referrals to children's social services, relating to 23,926 children of which 23,807 were assessed as children in need;
8. Compared to 2008/09 referrals increased by 11% (3,253) from 28,440 to 31,693, and children referred increased by 6% (1,394) during the same period;
9. By the year ending 31 March 2010, 79% of children referred to social services had been allocated for further action (service or assessment);

Theme

Children Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland 2009/10

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Reader Information

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About CIB

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 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.

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib-3/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics.htm

Our Vision and Values

Community Information Branch aims to:

- provide up-to-date, quality information on children and adult social services and community health;
- 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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Technical Notes

Data Collection

The information presented in this bulletin derives from Children Order statistical returns provided by each of the five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland to Community Information Branch in the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety.

Children Order returns are aggregated statistical counts relating to Child Protection, Children in Need, Looked After Children and Day Care provision for children aged under 12. Figures are at and for the year ending 31 March 2010, and breakdowns are available by age, gender and other key variables, such as length of time in care and duration on the child protection register. Children Order returns are described in detailed in Appendix 2.

The 'Children Order Statistical Tables' together with its companion publication the 'Children Order Statistical Trends' presents a comprehensive series of data on the Children Order (1995) in Northern Ireland.

Data Quality

To ensure Children Order returns are accurate, HSC Trusts have six weeks to update the main administrative system, SOS CARE, with relevant information. When returns are received by Community Information Branch, checks are carried out to verify that information is consistent both within and across returns. Trend analyses are used to monitor annual variations and emerging trends. Queries arising from validation checks are presented to HSC Trusts for clarification and if required returns may be amended and/or re-submitted.

Figures for children in foster care may exclude a small number of children mistakenly coded as 'placed with family' or 'Other'.

Children in Need figures; there is a difference between data for Tables 2.1 and 2.2; information for these tables is taken from Children Order returns N1 and N2, respectively. Table 2.1 gives a figure based on the date a child was referred to Social Services, while Table 2.2 gives a figure based on the date a child's needs have been assessed. The difference between these figures is due to the fact that a referred child may not have their needs assessed before 31 March of the given year. Counts of children in need for some Trusts exclude children whose details are not recorded on SOS CARE.

Planned changes to SOS CARE will facilitate the future accurate recording of placement types for looked after children.

A detailed quality report for children's community statistics is available on our website at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/quality_report_for_childrens_statistics-3.pdf

Statement of Administrative Sources

Children Order returns are derived from SOS CARE, which is the main administrative system used to support HSC Trusts in delivering social care services to children. A detailed 'Statement of Administrative Sources' is available on our website at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/cib_statement_of_administrative_sources.pdf

Disclosure Conventions

To prevent disclosure of the identity of individual children it has been necessary to suppress figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a cell with a low count by means of simple arithmetic. Our policy statement on disclosure and confidentiality is available on our website at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/cib_confidentiality_statement.pdf

Rounding Conventions

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100. 0% may reflect rounding down of values under 0.5%

Data Changes

Day Care returns were re-introduced in 2009/10, to support the work of the Office of Social Services within the DHSSPS in its oversight of HSC Trusts' compliance with legal obligations relating to the registration and inspection of day care facilities for children.

Revisions Policy

These data are revised by exception. If this occurs the circumstances of the revision are reported on our website and the dates figures are revised are noted both on the website and within the publication. The full revisions policy for these and other community statistics is published on our website at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/cib_revisions_policy.pdf

Main Uses of Data

Data from these publications meet the information needs of a wide range of internal and external users. Within DHSSPS figures from Children Order publications are used by policy officials to monitor the volume of activity, Inter Agency working and reasons for referrals and to compare characteristics of children in need, looked after children and children on the child protection register, monitor any increase in the children in need population and monitor the impact of policy and to report on achievement against targets.

Related Publications

Details of statistics on similar thymes to those detailed within this bulletin and published by other countries in the United Kingdom are outlined below.

England

Children Looked After in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml>

Referrals, assessment and children and young people who are the subject of a child protection plan, England - Year ending 31 March 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000873/index.shtml>

Children Assessed To Be In Need By Children's Social Care Services, England, 6 Months Ending 31 March 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000892/index.shtml>

Wales

Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After by Local Authorities: Year Ending 31 March 2009 - Wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2009/hdw200908262/?lang=en>

Referrals, Assessments and Social Services for Children, 2008-09

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2009/hdw200909232/?lang=en>

Scotland

Child Safety and Wellbeing - Children Looked After - Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/TrendLookedAfter>

Child Safety and Wellbeing - Child Protection – Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/TrendChildProtection>

A National Statistics Publication

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and easily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the code of practice shall continue to be observed.

If you have any comments on this publication, please complete our questionnaire at the following link:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib-3/statistics_and_research-user_engagement/cib-questionnaire.htm

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Key Points

Child Protection

- At 31st March 2010, 2,357 children were listed on child protection registers in Northern Ireland, a drop of 5% (131) from 2009 (2,488);
- Of the 2,357 children on the register at 31 March 2010:
 - 51% were boys and 49% were girls;
 - 8% were aged under 1 year old, and 7% were 16 years or older;
 - 50% of children were assessed to be at risk of neglect; and
 - 60% had been registered for less than one year, with 7% registered for 3 years or longer;
- From 2008/09 to 2009/10, numbers on the register in age bands '5-11' and '12-15' decreased by 10% (93) and 15%(89) respectively; within these bands, numbers of girls decreased by 11% and 16% respectively, compared with decreases of 9% and 14% for boys;
- During 2009/10, there were 4,270 child protection referrals, of which 44% were from within social services;
- Referrals increased by 12% (445), from 3,825 in 2008/09 to 4,270 in 2009/10; of the 445 increase in referrals, 68% (301) were from within social services, and a further 14% (64) came from the PSNI;
- Of 3,387 child protection investigations in 2009/10, 21% were Joint Protocol (Police and Social Services);
- During 2009/10, there were 1,846 registrations (children joining the register) and 1,947 de-registrations (children leaving the register) from the register;
- Registrations increased by 1% (17), from 1,829 in 2008/09 to 1,846 in 2009/10; for the same period de-registrations increased by 39% (543) from 1,404 to 1,947;
- Child protection investigations increased by 19% (531) from 2,856 in 2008/09 to 3,387 in 2009/10, joint protocol investigations up by 26% in the same period, from 572 to 723 respectively;
- Child protection initial case conferences decreased by 1% (23) from 2,159 in 2008/09 to 2,136 in 2009/10, with a rise of 1% (10) in registrations following initial case conferences; 85% of initial case conferences in 2009/10 led to registration;

Children Looked After

- At 31st March 2010, 2,606 children were looked after in Northern Ireland, an increase of 6% (143) from 2009 (2,463); much of the increase can be attributed to higher numbers of respite placements, particularly in the South Eastern and to a lesser extent in the Southern Trusts; excluding respite, the numbers of looked after children at 31 March 2010, would be 2,473;
- Annual changes to the numbers of looked after children across HSC Trusts, ranged from a rise of 13% in the South Eastern Trust, to less than a 1% drop in the Western Trust;
- Of 2,606 looked after children in 2010:
 - 52% were boys and 48% were girls;
 - 3% were aged under 1 year old, and 19% were 16 years or older;
 - 65% were foster care placements, 19% family placements, 11% residential care, and 6% were 'Other' placement types;
 - 44% were subject to a Care Order (Article 50 or 59), and
 - 23% had been in care for less than 1 year; with 10% in care continuously for 10 years or longer
- Residential care placements fell 7% (21) from 308 in 2008/09 to 287 in 2009/10, compared with an increases of 3% (16) and 5% (80) in Family placements and Foster Care respectively ;
- During 2009/10 there were 1,042 admissions into care, 908 discharges from care, and 739 respite placements;

- Looked after children subject to Deemed Care Orders fell by 38% (40) between 2008/09 and 2009/10, whilst children Accommodated (Article 21) or subject to Interim Care Orders increased by 9% (83) and 18% (59) respectively

Children in Need

- During 2009/10, there were 31,693 referrals to children's social services; these related to 23,926 children of which 23,807 were assessed as children in need;
- Compared to the previous year, referrals increased by 11% (3,253), from 28,440 in 2008/09 to 31,693 in 2009/10 respectively; for the same period, children referred increased by 6% (1,394) to 23,926 from 22,532;
- Annual changes to children referred ranged from an increase of 24% for the South Eastern Trust to a drop of 10% for Belfast Trust
- There were 6% (417), 7% (577) and 11% (267) increases in children in need in age bands 0-4, 5-11 and 16 & over, respectively;
- By year ending 31st March 2010, 79% of children in need had been allocated for further action (service or assessment);
- Children in need allocated for further action increased by 13% (2,095), compared with a drop of 18% (555) where no further action was deemed necessary;
- Children in need for whom no further action was possible due to unmet need increased by 54% (311) from 580 in 2008/09 to 891 in 2009/10;

Day Care Provision for Children under 12 years

- At 31 March 2010, 301 day nurseries were registered with HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland, providing 11,831 places, with an average of 39 places per nursery;
- Of 301 day nurseries, 220 (73%) were private, 22 (7%) were voluntary and 59 (20%) were registered by 'Other' types of organisation;
- During 2009/10, 432 children had day nursery places paid for by HSC Trusts
- 3,719 child minders were registered with HSC Trusts at 31 March 2010, providing 18,724 places, and an average of 5 places per child minder
- Of 18,724 child minding places, 10,028 (54%) were designated for children under 5 years, and 545 (3%) were sponsored;
- At 31 March 2010, 512 play groups providing 12,000 places were registered with HSC Trusts at 31 March 2010, averaging 23 places per play group;
- The majority (88%) of play groups were registered by Community/Local groups, providing 10,640 (89%) of available places;
- A total of 254 out of school clubs were registered with HSC Trusts at 31 March 2010, providing 6,068 places, an average of 23 places per club;

Section 1 Child Protection

Table 1.1: Children on the Child Protection Register by Age and Gender (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Age (years)										Total		
	Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 11		12 - 15		16 +				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	26	24	113	84	97	86	56	52	21	27	313	273	586
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	46	53	68	65	40	43	-	-	180	192	372
South Eastern HSC Trust	27	29	79	93	147	130	69	81	23	31	345	364	709
Southern HSC Trust	22	19	59	42	92	84	56	53	13	21	242	219	461
Western HSC Trust	-	-	28	28	48	41	25	32	-	-	115	114	229
Northern Ireland	107	89	325	300	452	406	246	261	65	106	1,195	1,162	2,357

Source: Children Order Return CPR1

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 1.2: Children on the Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Category of Abuse								Total
	Neglect, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse	Neglect and Physical Abuse	Neglect and Sexual Abuse	Physical and Sexual Abuse	Neglect Only	Physical Abuse Only	Sexual Abuse Only	Emotional Abuse Only	
Belfast HSC Trust	21	88	15	15	233	152	31	31	586
Northern HSC Trust	-	49	19	-	109	105	38	34	372
South Eastern HSC Trust	22	143	21	22	164	190	50	97	709
Southern HSC Trust	7	45	9	13	125	140	48	74	461
Western HSC Trust	-	43	14	-	51	40	41	28	229
Northern Ireland	60	368	78	70	682	627	208	264	2,357

Source: Children Order Return CPR2

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 1.3: Child Protection Referrals by Source of Referral (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Source of Referral											Total	
	Police	School / EWO ¹	Voluntary Org.	GP	Social Services	Comm. Nursing	Relative	Neighbour / Friend	Hospital	Self	Anon		Other
Belfast HSC Trust	51	70	13	17	361	12	27	0	21	10	13	52	647
Northern HSC Trust	19	15	0	-	330	7	9	-	10	-	18	48	462
South Eastern HSC Trust	240	143	25	31	496	47	119	11	72	17	81	229	1,511
Southern HSC Trust	128	93	24	24	469	16	72	11	40	12	57	93	1,039
Western HSC Trust	67	74	18	-	205	10	47	-	14	-	76	71	611
Northern Ireland	505	395	80	90	1,861	92	274	32	157	46	245	493	4,270

Source: Children Order Return CPR3

¹EWO - Education Welfare Officer

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 1.4: Child Protection Register by Legal Status (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Legal Status							Total	
	Emergency Protection Order (Article 63 & 64)	Accommodated (Article 21)	Interim Care Order (Article 57)	Care Order (Article 50 or 59)	Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 & 30 of Sch 8)	Interim Supervision Order (Article 57)	Other		None
Belfast HSC Trust	6	89	42	23	-	-	5	417	586
Northern HSC Trust	0	20	15	-	-	0	-	334	372
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	101	30	14	-	8	0	552	709
Southern HSC Trust	0	32	14	-	-	-	-	407	461
Western HSC Trust	-	18	10	7	-	0	-	189	229
Northern Ireland	11	260	111	49	1	13	13	1,899	2,357

Source: Children Order Return CPR4

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 1.5: Children on the Child Protection Register by Duration on Register (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Duration						Total
	< 3 Months	3 Months < 6 Months	6 Months < 1 Year	1 Year < 2 Years	2 Years < 3 Years	3 + Years	
Belfast HSC Trust	59	89	128	157	87	66	586
Northern HSC Trust	103	75	90	78	18	8	372
South Eastern HSC Trust	113	156	191	166	38	45	709
Southern HSC Trust	109	88	134	98	21	11	461
Western HSC Trust	31	17	36	71	28	46	229
Northern Ireland	415	425	579	570	192	176	2,357

Source: Children Order Return CPR5

Table 1.6: Child Protection Investigations (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Child Protection Investigations			Total
	Joint Protocol	Social Work	Police	
Belfast HSC Trust	115	418	9	542
Northern HSC Trust	-	406	-	460
South Eastern HSC Trust	327	1,056	19	1,402
Southern HSC Trust	178	407	8	593
Western HSC Trust	-	333	-	390
Northern Ireland	723	2,620	44	3,387

Source: Children Order Return CPR6

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 1.7: Child Protection Registrations by Age (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 11		12 - 15		16 +		Boys	Girls	Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
Belfast HSC Trust	39	41	47	38	48	49	-	-	-	-	165	166	331
Northern HSC Trust	35	33	43	40	70	52	30	41	-	-	179	177	356
South Eastern HSC Trust	38	47	73	69	100	96	42	72	12	11	265	295	560
Southern HSC Trust	41	30	65	47	88	81	50	40	7	19	251	217	468
Western HSC Trust	15	18	15	12	29	14	-	-	-	-	71	60	131
Northern Ireland	168	169	243	206	335	292	161	199	24	49	931	915	1,846

Source: Children Order Return CPR7

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 1.8: Child Protections Registrations by Category of Abuse (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Category of Abuse								Total
	Neglect, Physical Abuse & Sexual Abuse	Neglect & Physical Abuse	Neglect & Sexual Abuse	Physical & Sexual Abuse	Neglect Only	Physical Abuse Only	Sexual Abuse Only	Emotional Abuse Only	
Belfast HSC Trust	12	57	6	9	118	99	14	16	331
Northern HSC Trust	-	44	-	-	103	113	33	24	356
South Eastern HSC Trust	10	115	18	17	123	181	29	67	560
Southern HSC Trust	8	52	10	10	128	154	35	71	468
Western HSC Trust	-	30	-	-	25	38	16	11	131
Northern Ireland	38	298	58	54	497	585	127	189	1,846

Source: Children Order Return CPR8

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 1.9 Child Protection Re-Registrations (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Re-Registrations
Belfast HSC Trust	48
Northern HSC Trust	40
South Eastern HSC Trust	84
Southern HSC Trust	75
Western HSC Trust	28
Northern Ireland	275

Source: Children Order Return CPR9

Table 1.10: Child Protection De-Registrations by Duration on Register (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Duration on Register							Total
	< 3 Months	3 Months < 6 Months	6 Months < 1 Year	1 Year < 2 Years	2 Years < 3 Years	3 Years < 5 Years	5 + Years	
Belfast HSC Trust	6	45	91	168	48	29	7	394
Northern HSC Trust	32	62	125	96	24	-	-	360
South Eastern HSC Trust	48	43	130	120	40	-	-	407
Southern HSC Trust	53	70	135	109	53	5	0	425
Western HSC Trust	10	33	94	113	74	29	8	361
Northern Ireland	149	253	575	606	239	106	19	1,947

Source: Children Order Return CPR10

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 1.11: Child Protection Initial Case Conferences by Outcome (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Outcome of Initial Case Conference		Total
	Registered	Not Registered	
Belfast HSC Trust	329	39	368
Northern HSC Trust	354	108	462
South Eastern HSC Trust	556	55	611
Southern HSC Trust	452	60	512
Western HSC Trust	129	54	183
Northern Ireland	1,820	316	2,136

Source: Children Order Return CPR11

Section 2 Children in Need

Table 2.1: Referrals, Episodes and Children Referred (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Referrals	Episodes	Children Referred
Belfast HSC Trust	6,416	5,847	4,434
Northern HSC Trust	7,851	6,332	5,841
South Eastern HSC Trust	6,596	4,859	4,909
Southern HSC Trust	6,021	4,760	4,936
Western HSC Trust	4,809	3,559	3,806
Northern Ireland	31,693	25,357	23,926

Source: Children Order Return N1

Table 2.2: Children Referred by Gender and Age (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Age (years)								Total		
	0 - 4		5 - 11		12 - 15		16 +				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	724	768	822	739	420	477	273	211	2,239	2,195	4,434
Northern HSC Trust	810	763	1,163	902	760	715	396	318	3,129	2,698	5,827
South Eastern HSC Trust	729	654	880	735	615	622	340	292	2,564	2,303	4,867
Southern HSC Trust	812	699	953	811	560	565	248	264	2,573	2,339	4,912
Western HSC Trust	557	537	695	620	443	498	214	203	1,909	1,858	3,767
Northern Ireland	3,632	3,421	4,513	3,807	2,798	2,877	1,471	1,288	12,414	11,393	23,807

Source: Children Order Return N2

Notes: N1 & N2 present figures for children referred. These figures may differ as N1 is based on the date of referral while N2 is based on the date of assessment.

Table 2.3: Children Referred by Current Status (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Status					
	Inappropriate Referral	No further action required - work completed / dealt with at source	No further action taken - unmet need	Allocation for further action - service / assessment	Other	
Belfast HSC Trust	-	-	0	4,362	60	4,434
Northern HSC Trust	29	1,003	788	3,760	247	5,827
South Eastern HSC Trust	107	1,250	6	2,921	583	4,867
Southern HSC Trust	123	291	20	4,148	330	4,912
Western HSC Trust	-	-	77	3,663	18	3,764
Northern Ireland	262	2,562	891	18,854	1,238	23,807

Source: Children Order Return N2

"-" cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 2.4: Children Referred with a Disability (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Disability								Total		
	Visual Disability		Hearing Disability		Physical Disability		Learning Disability		Boys	Girls	Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
Belfast HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	20	14	26	10	61	37	98
Northern HSC Trust	11	12	11	9	30	19	85	60	137	100	237
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	11	-	8	22	18	65	28	102	65	167
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	7	7	20	7	33	30	63
Western HSC Trust	5	12	10	12	60	37	47	48	122	109	231
Northern Ireland	37	54	36	39	139	95	243	153	455	341	796

Source: Children Order Return N3

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Data for children with a Mental Health problem has been excluded to avoid personal disclosure

Table 2.5: Episodes by Presenting Category and Gender (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Presenting Category						Total		
	Awaiting Assessment		Child Subject to Child Protection Investigation		Other				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	2,759	2,574	178	201	-	-	2,937	2,775	5,712
Northern HSC Trust	3,249	2,773	61	46	-	-	3,310	2,819	6,129
South Eastern HSC Trust	1,997	1,739	-	-	-	-	2,438	2,190	4,628
Southern HSC Trust	2,223	1,942	235	-	-	-	2,458	2,208	4,666
Western HSC Trust	1,610	1,548	-	-	-	-	1,807	1,771	3,578
Northern Ireland	10,838	10,576	1,103	1,183	-	-	12,950	11,763	24,713

Source: Children Order Return N4

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Note: The Southern Trust figure records 79 Episodes for Children with a Disability which are not included in the N5a & N5b returns as their religion and ethnicity were not recorded

Table 2.6: Episodes by Presenting Category and Religion (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Religion														Total		
	Roman Catholic		Presbyterian		Church of Ireland		Methodist		Other		None		Refused / Unknown		Boys	Girls	Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
Belfast HSC Trust	393	321	127	93	-	-	-	-	490	457	112	99	1,720	1,729	2,937	2,775	5,712
Northern HSC Trust	105	78	39	41	-	-	-	-	180	157	69	75	2,897	2,450	3,310	2,819	6,129
South Eastern HSC Trust	170	156	25	24	-	-	-	-	33	37	175	144	2,003	1,806	2,438	2,190	4,628
Southern HSC Trust	453	435	17	21	31	58	5	0	22	22	110	65	1,757	1,591	2,395	2,192	4,587
Western HSC Trust	583	586	33	31	172	144	10	9	38	37	21	16	950	948	1,807	1,771	3,578
Northern Ireland	1,704	1,576	241	210	341	309	24	19	763	710	487	399	9,327	8,524	12,887	11,747	24,634

Source: Children Order Return N5a

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 2.7: Episodes by Presenting Category and Ethnic Group (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Ethnic Group														Total		
	White		Chinese		Traveller		Indian Sub-Continent		Black		Other		Refused / Unknown				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	1,153	969	-	-	50	50	-	-	17	8	1,110	1,059	599	679	2,937	2,775	5,712
Northern HSC Trust	814	694	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	10	2,476	2,105	3,310	2,819	6,129
South Eastern HSC Trust	569	534	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	8	8	1,851	1,639	2,438	2,190	4,628
Southern HSC Trust	1,316	1,189	-	-	42	54	-	-	-	-	99	54	933	889	2,395	2,192	4,587
Western HSC Trust	928	909	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	14	13	852	839	1,807	1,771	3,578
Northern Ireland	4,780	4,295	13	12	108	116	7	9	24	20	1,244	1,144	6,711	6,151	12,887	11,747	24,634

Source: Children Order Return N5b

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 2.8: Episodes by Category After Initial Assessment (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Category after Initial Assessment								Total		
	Child Protection Investigation		Child with a Disability who may require Social Services		A Child whose carers require support and assistance in order that they might provide a reasonable standard of care		Other				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	178	201	0	0	2,151	1,887	9	8	2,338	2,096	4,434
Northern HSC Trust	67	59	43	37	1,240	1,185	15	8	1,365	1,289	2,654
South Eastern HSC Trust	461	481	47	22	760	717	13	15	1,281	1,235	2,516
Southern HSC Trust	242	267	63	32	1,542	1,372	8	16	1,855	1,687	3,542
Western HSC Trust	196	228	44	30	1,416	1,423	5	6	1,661	1,687	3,348
Northern Ireland	1,144	1,236	197	121	7,109	6,584	50	53	8,500	7,994	16,494

Source: Children Order Return N6

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 2.9: Episodes by Category After Initial Assessment and Religion (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Religion														Total		
	Roman Catholic		Presbyterian		Church of Ireland		Methodist		Other		None		Refused / Unknown				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	170	158	60	35	34	31	-	-	7	16	-	-	2,063	1,854	2,338	2,096	4,434
Northern HSC Trust	101	76	35	38	-	-	-	-	165	146	61	61	2,645	2,213	3,027	2,552	5,579
South Eastern HSC Trust	159	148	24	22	-	-	-	-	32	35	169	138	1,827	1,648	2,241	2,014	4,255
Southern HSC Trust	282	263	9	7	29	55	5	0	11	14	78	33	1,794	1,674	2,208	2,046	4,254
Western HSC Trust	566	574	32	31	167	142	10	9	38	37	20	15	911	907	1,744	1,715	3,459
Northern Ireland	1,278	1,219	160	133	275	262	20	16	253	248	332	249	8,682	7,746	11,558	10,423	21,981

Source: Children Order Return N7a

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 2.10: Episodes by Category After Initial Assessment, Ethnic Group and Gender (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Ethnic Group														Total		
	White		Chinese		Traveller		Indian Sub-Continent		Black		Other		Refused / Unknown				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	675	585	9	14	-	-	-	-	9	-	40	44	1,600	1,449	2,338	2,096	4,434
Northern HSC Trust	760	636	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	2,251	1,897	3,027	2,552	5,579
South Eastern HSC Trust	530	501	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	7	8	1,695	1,497	2,241	2,014	4,255
Southern HSC Trust	1,250	1,118	-	-	40	51	-	-	-	-	73	42	840	829	2,208	2,046	4,254
Western HSC Trust	901	890	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	14	11	816	805	1,744	1,715	3,459
Northern Ireland	4,116	3,730	17	19	59	64	5	6	16	13	143	114	7,202	6,477	11,558	10,423	21,981

Source: Children Order Return N7b

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Section 3 Children Looked After

Table 3.1: Children Looked After by Age and Gender (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Age (years)										Total		
	Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 11		12 - 15		16 +				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	All
Belfast HSC Trust	7	10	65	43	96	81	108	94	60	63	336	291	627
Northern HSC Trust	7	10	50	41	90	84	81	67	44	45	272	247	519
South Eastern HSC Trust	9	7	59	34	93	98	100	92	59	84	320	315	635
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	47	36	74	51	67	54	-	-	221	182	403
Western HSC Trust	-	-	31	35	58	66	66	82	-	-	195	227	422
Northern Ireland	32	46	252	189	411	380	422	389	227	258	1,344	1,262	2,606

Source: Children Order Return LA1

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 3.2: Children Looked After by Legal Status (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Legal Status										Total		
	Accommodated Article 21		Interim Care Order (Article 57)		Care Order (Article 50 or 59)		Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 & 12)		Other		Boys	Girls	Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
Belfast HSC Trust	103	122	51	23	173	129	-	-	-	-	336	291	627
Northern HSC Trust	93	73	30	37	141	128	-	-	-	-	272	247	519
South Eastern HSC Trust	178	166	20	56	114	80	8	8	0	5	320	315	635
Southern HSC Trust	63	44	60	44	97	90	-	-	-	-	221	182	403
Western HSC Trust	56	65	27	40	102	105	-	-	-	-	195	227	422
Northern Ireland	493	470	188	200	627	532	25	39	11	21	1,344	1,262	2,606

Source: Children Order Return LA1

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 3.3: Children Looked After by Placement Type (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Placement Type				Total
	Residential Care	Foster Care	Placed With Family	Other	
Belfast HSC Trust	74	463	58	32	627
Northern HSC Trust	52	321	102	44	519
South Eastern HSC Trust	68	333	195	39	635
Southern HSC Trust	42	280	52	29	403
Western HSC Trust	51	290	76	5	422
Northern Ireland	287	1,687	483	149	2,606

Source: Children Order Return LA2

Table 3.4: Children Looked After by Duration in Care and Gender (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Duration in Care												Total		
	< 3 Months		3 Months < 1 Year		1 Year < 3 Years		3 Years < 5 Years		5 Years < 10 Years		10 + Years				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	17	20	52	51	85	77	53	44	88	61	41	38	336	291	627
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	39	41	84	75	35	33	83	58	-	-	272	247	519
South Eastern HSC Trust	18	21	50	66	115	98	50	47	54	60	33	23	320	315	635
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	51	34	85	72	21	29	36	26	-	-	221	182	403
Western HSC Trust	9	18	17	22	57	65	33	23	44	57	35	42	195	227	422
Northern Ireland	77	92	209	214	426	387	192	176	305	262	135	131	1,344	1,262	2,606

Source: Children Order Return LA3

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 3.5: Children Accommodated for Respite Care by Placement and Gender (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Placement								Total		
	Residential Care		Foster Care		Placed with Family		Other ¹				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	-	-	5	9	-	-	-	-	8	11	19
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	79	65	6	8	-	-	89	76	164
South Eastern HSC Trust	60	38	85	67	6	7	0	0	151	112	263
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	78	69	10	6	-	-	97	81	178
Western HSC Trust	-	-	50	61	-	-	0	0	52	64	115
Northern Ireland	66	42	297	271	26	25	7	5	396	343	739

Source: Children Order Return LA5

¹Other Accommodation may include: independent living, supported accommodation, secure accommodation, hospital, hostels, aftercare facilities, Simon Community, respite care facilities, bed & breakfast accommodation, bed-sits, dependent living etc.

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 3.6: Admissions by Legal Status and Gender (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Legal Status								Total		
	Emergency Protection Order (Article 63 & 64)		Accommodated Under Article 21		Interim Care Order (Article 57)		Other				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	-	-	88	84	20	11	-	-	114	101	215
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	158	170	9	14	-	-	174	194	368
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	-	82	94	13	12	-	-	102	112	214
Southern HSC Trust	5	-	52	76	13	15	5	-	75	102	177
Western HSC Trust	7	10	16	24	-	-	-	-	28	40	68
Northern Ireland	23	29	396	448	57	56	17	16	493	549	1,042

Source: Children Order Return LA6

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 3.7: Admissions by Placement Type and Gender (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Placement Type								Total		
	Residential Care		Foster Care		Placed With Family		Other ¹				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	14	19	48	33	42	38	0	0	114	101	215
Northern HSC Trust	11	10	138	148	20	29	5	7	174	194	368
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	19	45	57	32	-	-	-	102	112	214
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	42	57	26	34	-	-	75	102	177
Western HSC Trust	-	-	17	31	10	-	-	0	28	40	68
Northern Ireland	51	62	290	326	130	139	12	11	493	549	1,042

Source: Children Order Return LA7

¹Other Accommodation may include: independent living, supported accommodation, secure accommodation, hospital, hostels, aftercare facilities, Simon Community, respite care facilities, bed & breakfast accommodation, bed-sits, dependent living etc.

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

It was not possible to record the placement of 21 children within the Belfast Trust

Table 3.8: Discharges by Duration in Care and Gender (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Duration in Care												Total		
	< 3 Months		3 Months < 1 Year		1 Year < 3 Years		3 Years < 5 Years		5 Years < 10 Years		10 + Years				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	43	20	10	12	16	14	19	13	17	7	13	10	118	76	194
Northern HSC Trust	122	126	13	16	17	15	6	7	17	6	8	14	183	184	367
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	15	12	16	11	15	6	6	-	-	-	-	45	57	102
Southern HSC Trust	26	20	26	19	14	16	9	-	-	-	-	-	89	72	161
Western HSC Trust	-	7	6	8	7	10	6	-	-	-	9	9	37	47	84
Northern Ireland	205	188	67	71	65	70	46	35	54	32	35	40	472	436	908

Source: Children Order Return LA8

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 3.9: Discharges by Age (16+) 2009/10

HSC Trust	Age (years)						Total		
	16		17		18		Boys	Girls	Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
Belfast HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	42	27	49	34	83
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	27	19	32	33	65
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	19	19	29	26	55
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	17	13	21	20	41
Western HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	20	22	24	25	49
Northern Ireland	15	23	15	15	124	100	154	138	292

Source: Children Order Return LA9

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 3.10: Young Persons (16-21) that received Services by Service Type and Gender (2009/10)

HSC Trust	Service Type						Total		
	Financial Assistance		Ongoing Social Work		Other Agency Involvement				
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
Belfast HSC Trust	16	46	109	206	0	0	125	252	377
Northern HSC Trust	56	58	78	79	0	0	134	137	271
South Eastern HSC Trust	44	62	86	109	0	0	130	171	301
Southern HSC Trust	10	10	59	59	0	0	69	69	138
Western HSC Trust	11	11	59	62	0	0	70	73	143
Northern Ireland	137	187	391	515	0	0	528	702	1,230

Source: Children Order Return LA11

Section 4

Day Care Provision for Children

Table 4.1: Day Nursery Services (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Voluntary Agencies		Private Organisations		Other Organisations		Total		Total No. of Children Placed and Paid for by the Trust in Day Nurseries During Year
	No. of Day Nurseries	No. of Registered Places	No. of Day Nurseries	No. of Registered Places	No. of Day Nurseries	No. of Registered Places	No. of Day Nurseries	No. of Registered Places	
Belfast HSC Trust	2	48	42	1,667	38	1,218	82	2,933	147
Northern HSC Trust	1	49	68	2,664	2	82	71	2,795	15
South Eastern HSC Trust	2	20	46	1,880	8	185	56	2,085	118
Southern HSC Trust	8	255	44	2,184	3	159	55	2,598	123
Western HSC Trust	9	410	20	710	8	300	37	1,420	29
Northern Ireland	22	782	220	9,105	59	1,944	301	11,831	432

Source: DC1 and DC1a

Table 4.2: Day Care Services for Children Under 12: Childminders (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Registered Childminders			Sponsored Childminders			Total No. of Children Placed and Paid for by the Trust by Childminders	
	No. of Persons	No. of Places	No. of Designated Places for Under 5 Year Olds	No. of Persons	No. of Places	No. of Designated Places for Under 5 Year Olds	< 5 Years	5 - 12 Years
Belfast HSC Trust	483	2,462	1,310	10	14	14	0	14
Northern HSC Trust	1,269	6,655	3,556	47	182	104	87	30
South Eastern HSC Trust	902	4,938	2,518	56	224	168	44	20
Southern HSC Trust	531	2,367	1,298	9	30	10	9	-
Western HSC Trust	534	2,302	1,346	25	95	65	22	-
Northern Ireland	3,719	18,724	10,028	147	545	361	162	72

Source: DC2 and DC2a

Table 4.3: Day Care Services for Children Under 12: Playgroups (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Trust		Voluntary Agencies		Community / Local		Private Provision		Total		Total No. of Children Placed and Paid for by the Trust in Playgroups
	No. of Playgroups	No. of Places	No. of Playgroups	No. of Places	No. of Playgroups	No. of Places	No. of Playgroups	No. of Places	No. of Playgroups	No. of Places	
Belfast HSC Trust	0	0	2	48	71	1,487	13	312	86	1,847	28
Northern HSC Trust	0	0	0	0	120	2,825	5	116	125	2,941	-
South Eastern HSC Trust	0	0	5	99	88	1,970	12	253	105	2,322	-
Southern HSC Trust	0	0	1	26	90	2,309	7	140	98	2,475	-
Western HSC Trust	3	82	8	176	82	2,049	5	108	98	2,415	34
Northern Ireland	3	82	16	349	451	10,640	42	929	512	12,000	71

Source: DC3 and DC3a

“-” cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure.

Table 4.4: Day Care Services for Children Under 12: Out of School Clubs (31 March 2010)

HSC Trust	Trust		Education & Library Board		District Councils		Voluntary Agencies		Other Organisations		Total	
	No. of Clubs	No. of Places	No. of Clubs	No. of Places	No. of Clubs	No. of Places	No. of Clubs	No. of Places	No. of Clubs	No. of Places	No. of Clubs	No. of Places
Belfast HSC Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	48	79	2,033	81	2,081
Northern HSC Trust	0	0	4	96	0	0	30	649	30	732	64	1,477
South Eastern HSC Trust	18	420	9	189	0	0	0	0	5	95	32	704
Southern HSC Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	68	29	661	33	729
Western HSC Trust	3	90	0	0	1	28	27	664	13	295	44	1,077
Northern Ireland	21	510	13	285	1	28	63	1,429	156	3,816	254	6,068

Source: DC4

Appendices

Appendix 1: HSC Trusts Providing in Northern Ireland

HSC Trust	Operational From
Belfast	1 April 2007
Northern	1 April 2007
South Eastern	1 April 2007
Southern	1 April 2007
Western	1 April 2007

Appendix 2: Data Definitions

Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order was made on 15 March 1995. The Order deals with the care, upbringing and protection of children, including disabled children. It reforms, consolidates and harmonises most of the public and private law relating to children in a single coherent statutory framework along the lines of the Children Act 1989 in England and Wales.

Children

Under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, a child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

Children on the Child Protection Register

Child Protection Register

A register must be maintained by each Trust listing every child in the Trust area who has been abused or who is considered to be at risk of abuse, and who is currently the subject of a child protection plan.

Registration

Placement of a child on to the Child Protection Register. Where a child has moved on or off the Register several times during the year each registration is recorded.

Deregistration

Removal of a child from the Child Protection Register. Where a child has moved on or off the Register several times during the year each deregistration is recorded.

Re-registration

Placement on to the Child Protection Register of a child who has already been on the register, irrespective of the date of their first registration on the Register.

Child Protection Referrals

Child protection referrals are those referrals for which the initial assessment indicates that there may be child protection issues.

The threshold for action should be the allegation or suspicion of child abuse. However the balance needs to be struck between taking action designed to protect the child from abuse while at the same time avoiding unnecessary intervention. Except in emergency situations or urgent cases when immediate protective action is required, referrals will require preliminary discussion with other professionals from the child protection agencies and with the referrer. In some cases it will be necessary to seek specialist opinion.

In some cases action other than a formal investigation will be decided upon following the consultation process. This might include the provision of support for the family. Such a decision should be discussed and agreed with a social worker in consultation with the team leader or supervisor; and recorded and communicated to senior management.

The definition is not taken to mean all referrals, as some may require action such as advice or family support rather than child protection procedures.

Investigation

The purpose of an investigation is to establish whether a Trust should make an application for a court order or exercise any of its other powers, for example the provision of services under Part IV of the Children Order.

Category of Abuse for Registration

The category of abuse under which a child is registered will have been decided upon at the child protection conference, when agreement was reached that registration was necessary. If a child suffers multiple abuse, this should be recorded against the main category of abuse. The abuse may be potential, suspected or confirmed, although the terms 'actual' or 'likely' occur. Potential and suspected equate with 'likely' and confirmed with 'actual'. The categories are:

1. Neglect, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse

2. Main category - neglect

3. Main category - physical abuse

4. Main category - sexual abuse

5. Neglect and Physical Abuse

6. Main category - neglect

7. Main category - physical abuse

8. Neglect and Sexual Abuse

9. Main category - neglect

10. Main category - sexual abuse

11. Physical and Sexual Abuse

12. Main category - physical abuse

13. Main category - sexual abuse

14. Neglect (only)

15. Physical Abuse (only)

16. Sexual Abuse (only)

17. Emotional Abuse (only)

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 or 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 sexual 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 behavioural 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.

Legal Status

The legal framework for compulsory intervention in the care and upbringing of children. If more than one legal status is indicated or in force for the child at 31 March, the latest one only is recorded.

Children in Need

Referral

A referral of a child to Social Services, regardless of source of referral. A child may be referred several times over the course of a year.

Episode of Care

An episode of involvement of a child with Social Services. There may be several episodes of involvement over a year or, alternatively, an episode may span more than one year. Where an episode of involvement commences in one year and closes in another, it is counted in the year in which the case opened.

Current Status of Children Referred

The status at 31 March of children referred during the year.

Inappropriate Referral

An inappropriate childcare referral to Social Services, referred back to referral source.

No further action required

Not required to allocate for full assessment of need due to the query being dealt with at referral stage, e.g. advice on social security, health and social services etc.

No further action taken

Unable to meet needs of the client referred, perhaps due to lack of skilled resources to deal with the case. Unmet need may be recorded. Referred back to referral source with advice on outcome of initial assessment of referral.

Allocation for service/assessment

Upon initial assessment of referral, allocated to social services professional/team to carry out full assessment of need for client or for provision of a service.

Other

Cases which are not allocated to one of the above categories, including cases awaiting a decision (pending cases).

Initial Assessment

An assessment made soon after referral to determine the type of need, if any, and how best this need may be met.

Children in Need Categories

A child is considered to be in need if he/she falls into at least one of the following Children in Need categories.

Child subject to Child Protection investigation

Children will not normally be subject to a child protection investigation at the initial referral. However, this category should be recorded when the referral indicates child protection investigation is required and if/when this is confirmed by the initial assessment. Children will cease to be "in need" under this definition when the child protection investigation is complete. They may, however, continue to be "children in need" under any other of the definitional headings.

Child with a disability who may require social work service

Children with a disability are defined as those children who meet the definition agreed by the working group on children with a disability. To be accepted as a child in need the child must meet the disability definition and be likely to require social care services. Some children with disability will have their needs met by medical, educational, family and social networks not requiring social care services involvement. The need for social care services will be established only after a full assessment.

Child for whom no one is exercising parental responsibility

This definition applies to children abandoned, or "out of home" on what initially appears to be a long-term basis i.e. there is no obvious individual or family who can immediately provide

“parental” responsibility. After assessment the family may be able to offer appropriate care and the child would no longer be in need.

Child for whom the carer is temporarily unable to offer care for whatever reason

This definition applies to children who are normally well cared for by their carer(s) but the carer(s) is/are temporarily unable to exercise that care through illness, or unavoidable absence. In these cases there is no question over the carers normally discharging their responsibility.

A child whose carers require support and assistance in order that they might provide a reasonable standard of care

Many referrals illustrate a deficit in care but not sufficient to expose the child to risk of significant harm. In these circumstances the child’s needs for improved parenting can be achieved by offering the child and family support, for example, day care provision for a child under five whose carer is suffering mental health problems.

A child who is likely to experience significant emotional, physical or development impairment as a result of family breakdown without the provision of social care services

The level of breakdown of families is high but can be achieved in amicable separations without significant emotional, physical or development impairment to the child. If this is so the child is not in need. This category should only be used where:

- impairment can be predicted and
- is causally linked with the family breakdown and
- can be shown to be reduced by social care services

A child whose well-being is significantly prejudiced as a result of their behavioural, emotional, psychiatric or psychological disturbance, and may require social care services

This definition involves children whose well-being is damaged by their behavioural, emotional, psychiatric and psychological disturbance and could include drug and alcohol use, neurotic and psychotic conditions as well as emotional and behavioural problems such as “challenging behaviour” or “self harm”. However, these conditions are qualified by having to be of such severity as to “significantly prejudice the well-being of the child” thus recreational use of alcohol by older adolescents may be excluded. The need for social care services will have to be established by an assessment.

A child for whom their offending and its consequences are a significant feature of their life

Not all offenders will be “children in need” for the purposes of this definition. The nature of their offending (e.g. frequency, severity) and its consequences (e.g. response of the criminal justice system, impact upon the victim or community) should be a significant feature of their life.

A child whose welfare is, or is likely to be, significantly prejudiced as a result of homelessness

Families experiencing “homelessness” are the responsibility of the Housing Executive; however, a young person may be homeless and their welfare at risk. Such children will be in need.

A child ceasing to be looked after by a Trust

A child requiring Social Services support due to ceasing to be looked after by the Trust.

A child with caring duties which are significantly impairing or distorting their normal health, social or intellectual development

This category requires an assessment be made as to whether performing the duty “impairs or distorts the child’s normal development”. Thus the burden of daily care may involve activities appropriate to the age of the child but distort the child’s opportunity for normal age related education and leisure.

Request for financial assistance for a specific child in need

The request for financial assistance is relevant where such assistance assists, safeguards or promotes the well-being of a specific child who by definition without such assistance would be in need, e.g. financial assistance to a day care placement.

Request for financial assistance for children in a family

In many instances the financial assistance is to a family rather than a specific child, e.g. emergency payment to ensure food or warmth. In such circumstances the family should be counted as one referral, but a note made of how many children are in the family and receiving assistance, since all such children will be deemed as in need.

Initial Assessment

An assessment made soon after referral to determine the type of need, if any, and how best this need may be met.

Religion

Roman Catholic

Refers to all of the Roman Catholic faith.

Presbyterian

Refers to all stating their denomination to be Presbyterian. Include here also Church of Scotland but exclude all other groupings with ‘Presbyterian’ in their title, e.g. Free Presbyterian, Non-subscribing Presbyterian, etc. These groups are recorded under ‘Other denominations’.

Church of Ireland

Refers to all stating their denomination to be Church of Ireland.

Methodist

Refers to all stating their denomination to be Methodist.

Other Denominations

Refers to all other Christian and non-Christian denominations and faiths.

None

Refers to those with no religious persuasion.

Refused/Unknown

Refers to those who refuse to give details of their religious affiliation or whose religious affiliation cannot be established.

Ethnic Group

White

Refers to all white or olive skinned people from Europe, North Africa, Middle East, the Americas and Australasia.

Chinese

Refers to all those belonging to the Chinese ethnic group, originating from mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia.

Traveller

Refers to persons sometimes known as gypsies or itinerants but excluding New Age Travellers. The term applies to those who travel from place to place, are temporarily based on a traveller site or who are settled in permanent accommodation on a traveller site.

Indian

Refers to those from the Indian sub-continent, i.e. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Black

Refers to Black Africans, Afro-Caribbeans, and African Americans.

Others

Refers to those other ethnic groups. Included here are those from Malaysia (other than Chinese), Vietnam, Japan, etc.

Refused/Unknown

Refers to those who refuse to give details of their ethnic group or whose ethnic group cannot be established.

Children Looked After

Looked After

A child is looked after by an Authority if he or she is in their care or if he or she is provided with accommodation for a continuous period of more than 24 hours by the authority in the exercise of its Social Services function.

Residential Care

Residential care refers to care which takes place in statutory, voluntary or private children's homes.

Foster Care

Foster care includes children fostered either with relatives or with persons who are not related to the child.

Placed with family

This refers to children for whom a Care Order exists and who are placed with their parents, a person who is not a parent but who has parental responsibility for the child or where a child is in care and there was a Residence Order in force with respect to him/her immediately before the Care Order was made, a person in whose favour the Residence Order was made.

Respite Care

This term refers to either a series of short-term pre-planned, or ad hoc placements, where a child moves temporarily from his/her carer (i.e. foster care, residential care, family etc) in order to allow the child and/or the carer a period of respite. The move could, in ad-hoc situations, involve a change of placement (e.g. foster care to residential care) or the child could remain within the same placement type (e.g. foster care to foster care). Children could also move from a family placement to another placement type for respite care.

Where respite care is pre-planned, within the same placement (note: placement rather than placement type must remain constant), no single period of respite should be for a duration of more than four weeks and the total duration of the periods of respite should not exceed 90 days in any one year (to comply with Regulation 11 of the Review of Children's Cases Regulations (NI) 1996).

As a general rule of thumb, if a social worker regards the short-term placement of a child as being "for respite", either to benefit the child or the carer(s), then this should be recorded on the appropriate return.

Placement is recorded as first placement during the financial year.

Independent living

Refers to any young person being looked after by an authority, who moves from his/her placement to live independently within the community before he/she is 18 years of age. Do not count changes of placement or change of legal status within care as a re-admission, or children being looked after for respite care.

Readership Survey

1 What do you use the Children Order Statistical Tables for? (Please tick all that apply)

Briefing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy Formulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do Not Use	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Were the Children Order Statistical Tables of any value to you?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'No', please indicate why

.....

3 Please indicate how useful you found each section of the Children Order Statistical Tables: (Please tick one of the following)

	Very Useful	Useful	Little Use	No Use	Do Not Use
Children on Child Protection Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children in Need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children Looked After	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's Homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appendices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4 What did you find most useful?

.....

.....

.....

5 What did you find least useful?

.....

.....

6 Would you like to see other subject areas covered in the Children Order Statistical Tables?

No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

.....

.....

7 How would you judge the level of detail contained in the Children Order Statistical Tables?

Too Much	<input type="checkbox"/>
About Right	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not Enough	<input type="checkbox"/>

8 Would you like to see any improvements in the Children Order Statistical Tables?

No

Yes (please specify)

.....
.....

9 How satisfied are you with these tables?

Very Satisfied

Satisfied

Dissatisfied

Very Dissatisfied

If 'Dissatisfied' or 'Very Dissatisfied', please indicate why

.....

10 Any further comments on these tables?

.....
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.....
.....

11 To help us analyse the responses to this survey, please indicate:

a. Where you work:

DHSSPS

HSC Board

HSC Trust

Voluntary Organisation

Other Department

Research / Academic

Other (please specify)

.....

b. Your specific area(s) of interest:

e.g. finance, service planning, elderly, family & childcare, learning disability etc

.....
.....
.....
.....

All completed readership surveys should be returned to: Community Information Branch, DHSSPS, Annexe 2, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SQ

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey

Additional Information

Further information on Children Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland 2009/10 is available from:

Iain Waugh

Community Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
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