



Children Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland (2008/09)

This bulletin presents Children Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland, for the year ending 31 March 2009. Areas covered include Child Protection, Children in Need, Looked After Children and Day Care provision for Children. The bulletin is based on annual Children Order statistical returns provided by Health and Social Care Trusts to the DHSSPS.

Summary Key Points

Child Protection

1. At 31st March 2009, there were 2,488 children on child protection registers in Northern Ireland (Table 1.1), an increase of 20% (417) from 2008 (2,071)
2. Of the 2,488 children on child protection registers:
 - 50% were boys and 50% were girls (Table 1.1);
 - 7% were aged under 1 year old, and 7% were aged 16 or older (Table 1.1);
 - Neglect was the most common category of abuse, with 50% assessed to be at risk of neglect (Table 1.2); and
3. There were 3,825 child protection referrals during 2008/09, 41% from within social services (Table 1.3)

Children in Need

1. During 2008/09, there were 28,440 referrals to children's social services; these referrals related to 22,532 children (Table 2.1)
2. By 31st March 2009, 80% of children referred to social services had been allocated for further action (service or assessment) (Table 2.3)

Children Looked After

1. At 31st March 2009, there were 2,463 looked after children in Northern Ireland (Table 3.1), an increase of 1% (30) from 2008 (2,433).
2. Of the 2,463 looked after children:
 - 53% were boys and 47% were girls (Table 3.1);
 - 3% were aged under 1 year old, and 20% were aged 16 years or older (Table 3.1);
 - 65% were in foster care, 18% were placed with family, 13% were in residential care and 3% were in 'other' placement types (Table 3.3);
 - 23% had been in care for less than 1 year; with 10% in care for 10 years or longer (Table 3.4)
3. During 2007/08, there were 1059 admissions into care (Table 3.6)
4. There were 921 discharges from care during 2008/09 (Table 3.8)

Theme

Children Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland 2008/09

Issued by

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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. Figures are for the year ending 31 March 2009, 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. Detailed descriptions of Children Order returns are 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 in Northern Ireland.

Data Quality

To ensure Children Order returns are accurate, HSC Trusts have six weeks to update 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.

For 2008/09, figures for children in foster care may exclude a small number of children mistakenly coded as 'placed with family' or 'Other'. 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

Data Changes

Day Care returns were re-introduced in 2008/09, to support the work of 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 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000878/index.shtml>

Referrals, assessment and children and young people who are the subject of a child protection plan, England - Year ending 31 March 2009

<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 2009

<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

National Statistics are produced to a high professional standard set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. As we want to engage with users of our statistics, we invite you to feedback your comments on this publication to:

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Key Points

Child Protection

- At 31st March 2009, there were 2,488 children on child protection registers in Northern Ireland, an increase of 20% (417) from 2008 (2,071)
- Of the 2,488 children on child protection registers:
 - 50% were boys and 50% were girls;
 - 7% were aged under 1 year old, and 7% were aged 16 or older;
 - Neglect was the most common category of abuse, with 50% 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
- There were 3,825 child protection referrals during 2008/09, 41% from within social services
- Of the 2,856 child protection investigations in 2008/09, 20% were Joint Protocol
- There were 1,829 child protection registrations and 1,401 de-registrations during 2008/09
- 84% of the initial case conferences led to registration on child protection registers
- From 2007/08 and 2008/09 the numbers of children on the child protection register in age bands 5-11 and 12-15 increased by 27% (200) and 23%(112) respectively. Within these bands the numbers of girls increased by 35% and 32% respectively, compared with increases of 20% and 15% for boys
- 76% (315) of the increase in numbers on the child protection register were related to Physical Abuse and/or Neglect
- The numbers of child protection referrals increased by almost 25%, from 3071 in 2007/08 to 3825 in 2008/09
- Of the 754 increase in child protection referrals, 278(37%) were from within social services, and a further 144 (19%) were from primary schools and/or Educational Welfare Officers
- The number of registrations onto the child protection register increased by 22%(332), from 1,497 in 2007/08 to 1,829 in 2008/09. For the same period de-registrations from the child protection register increased by 14% from 1,230 to 1,401
- Of the 332 increase in registrations, 86% (284) were related to Physical Abuse and/or Neglect
- Child protection investigations increased by 24%(550) from 2,306 in 2007/08 to 2,856 in 2008/09, with Joint Protocol investigations up by 58% in the same period from 362 to 575 respectively
- The number of child protection initial case conferences increased by 21%(377) from 1,782 in 2007/08 to 2,159 in 2008/09, with a rise of 24% (347) in child protection registrations following the outcomes of initial case conferences

Children in Need

- During 2008/09, there were 28,440 referrals to children's social services; these referrals related to 22,532 children
- By 31st March 2009, 80% of children referred to social services had been allocated for further action (service or assessment)
- Children in need referrals to social services increased by 1% (352), during 2007/08 to 2008/09, from 28,088 to 28,440 respectively
- For the same period, the numbers of children referred increased by 7% (1,423) to 22,532 from 21,109
- There were 19% (1,036) and 9% (616) increases in the numbers of children referred in age bands 0-4 and 5-11 respectively, with a fall of 6% (168) in children referred aged 16 years or older

- The number of children referred who were allocated for further action in terms of service provision or assessment increased by 21 % (2,859), compared with a drop of 41% (2,146) in children referred where no further action was required
- Children referred for whom no further action was possible due to unmet need increased by 522, from 58 in 2007/08 to 580 in 2008/09

Children Looked After

- At 31st March 2009, there were 2,463 looked after children in Northern Ireland (Table 3.1), an increase of 1% (30) from 2008 (2,433).
- Of the 2,463 looked after children:
 - 53% were boys and 47% were girls;
 - 3% were aged under 1 year old, and 20% were aged 16 years or older;
 - 65% were in foster care, 18% were placed with family, 13% were in residential care and 3% were in 'other' placement types;
 - 46% were subject of a Care Order (Article 50 or 59), and
 - 23% had been in care for less than 1 year; with 10% in care for 10 years or longer
- During 2007/08, there were 1059 admissions into care
- There were 921 discharges from care during 2008/09
- In 2008/09, there were 689 respite care placements. The numbers of children in care Accommodated under Article 21 fell by 2% (22) between 2007/08 and 2008/09, whilst children subject to an Interim Care Orders and Care Orders (Article 50 or 59) increased by 19%(53) and 4% (41) respectively, during the same period
- The numbers of children placed in foster care increased by 17% (231) from 1,376 in 2007/08 to 1,607 in 2008/09. This compared with a drop of 25% (155) in children 'placed with family' during the same period

Section 1 Child Protection

Table 1.1: Children on the Child Protection Register by Age and Gender (31 March 2009)

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	32	23	98	104	124	103	69	70	26	22	349	322	671
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	37	51	74	82	43	38	-	-	172	204	376
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	-	68	62	116	105	63	72	-	-	283	276	559
Southern HSC Trust	11	15	40	45	91	72	42	65	16	23	200	220	420
Western HSC Trust	11	15	48	37	91	93	68	66	17	16	235	227	462
Northern Ireland	88	88	291	299	496	455	285	311	79	96	1,239	1,249	2,488

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 2009)

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	20	93	15	22	242	176	46	57	671
Northern HSC Trust	-	41	-	-	90	117	33	64	376
South Eastern HSC Trust	20	99	10	18	126	152	42	92	559
Southern HSC Trust	-	54	-	-	144	64	59	81	420
Western HSC Trust	19	80	41	21	104	109	62	26	462
Northern Ireland	72	367	89	74	706	618	242	320	2,488

Source: Children Order Return CPR2

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

Table 1.3: Child Protection Referrals by Source of Referral (2008/09)

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	71	54	-	26	304	19	36	-	33	11	8	75	645
Northern HSC Trust	53	15	-	9	361	7	8	-	13	0	12	26	505
South Eastern HSC Trust	147	138	-	18	297	59	85	-	39	11	80	126	1,022
Southern HSC Trust	96	119	-	27	345	25	80	-	35	9	39	99	897
Western HSC Trust	74	124	-	16	253	17	57	-	18	5	60	120	756
Northern Ireland	441	450	41	96	1,560	127	266	25	138	36	199	446	3,825

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 2009)

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	-	54	45	29	-	-	-	538	671
Northern HSC Trust	-	39	19	-	-	-	-	305	376
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	80	19	29	-	-	-	420	559
Southern HSC Trust	-	33	40	-	-	-	-	343	420
Western HSC Trust	-	34	43	9	-	-	-	371	462
Northern Ireland	-	240	166	75	-	15	12	1,977	2,488

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 2009)

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	81	106	154	192	72	66	671
Northern HSC Trust	94	73	101	71	-	-	376
South Eastern HSC Trust	128	122	124	98	58	29	559
Southern HSC Trust	107	57	127	97	-	-	420
Western HSC Trust	80	52	93	127	55	55	462
Northern Ireland	490	410	599	585	240	164	2,488

Source: Children Order Return CPR5

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

Table 1.6: Child Protection Investigations (2008/09)

HSC Trust	Child Protection Investigations			Total
	Joint Protocol	Social Work	Police	
Belfast HSC Trust	91	430	10	531
Northern HSC Trust	98	394	13	505
South Eastern HSC Trust	182	730	9	921
Southern HSC Trust	180	287	16	483
Western HSC Trust	21	390	5	416
Northern Ireland	572	2,231	53	2,856

Source: Children Order Return CPR6

Table 1.7: Child Protection Registrations by Age (2008/09)

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	-	-	53	51	70	54	25	39	-	-	192	180	372
Northern HSC Trust	31	30	28	52	66	63	30	38	5	13	160	196	356
South Eastern HSC Trust	31	24	49	57	86	74	50	62	7	11	223	228	451
Southern HSC Trust	23	25	38	37	77	76	39	57	12	11	189	206	395
Western HSC Trust	-	-	25	22	48	41	30	40	-	-	126	129	255
Northern Ireland	144	132	193	219	347	308	174	236	32	44	890	939	1,829

Source: Children Order Return CPR7

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

Table 1.8: Child Protections Registrations by Category of Abuse (2008/09)

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	64	9	12	106	122	18	29	372
Northern HSC Trust	-	33	-	-	87	125	31	50	356
South Eastern HSC Trust	13	91	11	14	106	135	17	64	451
Southern HSC Trust	-	52	-	-	130	78	35	88	395
Western HSC Trust	8	52	15	12	54	65	38	11	255
Northern Ireland	44	292	57	47	483	525	139	242	1,829

Source: Children Order Return CPR8

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

Table 1.9 Child Protection Re-Registrations (2008/09)

HSC Trust	Re-Registrations
Belfast HSC Trust	60
Northern HSC Trust	62
South Eastern HSC Trust	64
Southern HSC Trust	72
Western HSC Trust	32
Northern Ireland	290

Source: Children Order Return CPR9

Table 1.10: Child Protection De-Registrations by Duration on Register (2008/09)

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	-	24	93	121	22	26	-	305
Northern HSC Trust	22	59	99	102	22	8	0	312
South Eastern HSC Trust	26	43	79	98	42	13	8	309
Southern HSC Trust	30	43	94	89	21	6	0	286
Western HSC Trust	-	24	42	62	31	23	-	192
Northern Ireland	87	193	411	471	138	76	28	1,404

Source: Children Order Return CPR10

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

Table 1.11: Child Protection Initial Case Conferences by Outcome (2008/09)

HSC Trust	Outcome of Initial Case Conference		Total
	Registered	Not Registered	
Belfast HSC Trust	365	92	457
Northern HSC Trust	351	125	476
South Eastern HSC Trust	449	37	486
Southern HSC Trust	391	53	444
Western HSC Trust	254	42	296
Northern Ireland	1,810	349	2,159

Source: Children Order Return CPR11

Section 2 Children in Need

Table 2.1: Referrals, Episodes and Children Referred (2008/09)

HSC Trust	Referrals	Episodes	Children Referred
Belfast HSC Trust	6,119	5,185	4,944
Northern HSC Trust	6,562	5,381	5,112
South Eastern HSC Trust	4,981	3,842	3,960
Southern HSC Trust	5,858	4,311	4,569
Western HSC Trust	4,920	3,725	3,947
Northern Ireland	28,440	22,444	22,532

Source: Children Order Return N1

Table 2.2: Children Referred by Gender and Age (31 March 2009)

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	803	776	925	791	552	556	260	254	2,540	2,377	4,917
Northern HSC Trust	740	686	990	785	633	615	353	294	2,716	2,380	5,096
South Eastern HSC Trust	588	561	656	626	513	524	233	223	1,990	1,934	3,924
Southern HSC Trust	714	653	828	764	573	544	213	254	2,328	2,215	4,543
Western HSC Trust	577	538	755	623	493	506	207	201	2,032	1,868	3,900
Northern Ireland	3,422	3,214	4,154	3,589	2,764	2,745	1,266	1,226	11,606	10,774	22,380

Source: Children Order Return N2

Table 2.3: Children Referred by Current Status (31 March 2009)

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	1,115	0	3,602	200	4,917
Northern HSC Trust	110	757	435	3,506	288	5,096
South Eastern HSC Trust	20	873	0	2,625	406	3,924
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	74	3,234	709	4,543
Western HSC Trust	-	-	71	3,792	29	3,900
Northern Ireland	292	3,117	580	16,759	1,632	22,380

Source: Children Order Return N2

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

Table 2.4: Children Referred with a Disability (2008/09)

HSC Trust	Disability										Total		
	Visual Disability		Hearing Disability		Physical Disability		Learning Disability		Mental Health		Boys	Girls	Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
Belfast HSC Trust	12	11	-	-	36	23	32	14	90	52	178	104	282
Northern HSC Trust	13	6	-	-	22	22	66	30	0	0	110	68	178
South Eastern HSC Trust	5	6	13	9	25	13	41	17	0	0	84	45	129
Southern HSC Trust	9	7	12	14	16	9	27	14	0	0	64	44	108
Western HSC Trust	14	9	16	10	72	35	74	40	0	0	176	94	270
Northern Ireland	53	39	58	47	171	102	240	115	90	52	612	355	967

Source: Children Order Return N3

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

Table 2.5: Episodes by Presenting Category and Gender (2008/09)

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	2,423	2,256	-	175	-	-	2,603	2,431	5,034
Northern HSC Trust	2,653	2,331	-	85	-	-	2,727	2,416	5,143
South Eastern HSC Trust	1,554	1,449	-	325	-	-	1,843	1,774	3,617
Southern HSC Trust	1,974	1,765	190	285	-	-	2,164	2,050	4,214
Western HSC Trust	1,632	1,543	222	218	-	-	1,854	1,761	3,615
Northern Ireland	10,236	9,344	950	1,088	-	-	11,191	10,432	21,623

Source: Children Order Return N4

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

Table 2.6: Episodes by Presenting Category and Religion (2008/09)

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	161	166	-	-	43	27	-	-	520	516	205	158	1,618	1506	2,603	2,431	5,034
Northern HSC Trust	100	68	-	-	26	17	-	-	168	157	76	71	2,307	2045	2,727	2,416	5,143
South Eastern HSC Trust	193	149	-	-	29	44	-	-	31	34	133	134	1,410	1373	1,843	1,774	3,617
Southern HSC Trust	359	328	-	-	34	45	-	-	18	25	99	88	1,629	1541	2,164	2,050	4,214
Western HSC Trust	605	604	35	31	104	113	14	12	40	26	30	13	1,026	962	1,854	1,761	3,615
Northern Ireland	1,418	1,315	203	202	236	246	24	20	777	758	543	464	7,990	7,427	11,191	10,432	21,623

Source: Children Order Return N5a

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

Table 2.7: Episodes by Presenting Category and Ethnic Group (2008/09)

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	996	934	-	-	14	14	-	-	22	20	57	59	1,502	1,385	2,603	2,431	5,034
Northern HSC Trust	569	559	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	23	2,121	1,828	2,727	2,416	5,143
South Eastern HSC Trust	745	747	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	7	1,077	1,016	1,843	1,774	3,617
Southern HSC Trust	913	865	-	-	15	36	-	-	-	-	83	64	1,141	1,074	2,164	2,050	4,214
Western HSC Trust	952	918	-	-	16	14	-	-	-	-	30	25	851	795	1,854	1,761	3,615
Northern Ireland	4,175	4,023	19	17	54	69	13	17	27	30	211	178	6,692	6,098	11,191	10,432	21,623

Source: Children Order Return N5b

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

Table 2.8: Episodes by Category After Initial Assessment (2008/09)

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	191	178	24	20	1,399	1,360	18	18	1,632	1,576	3,208
Northern HSC Trust	85	89	35	28	1,039	1,020	23	22	1,182	1,159	2,341
South Eastern HSC Trust	298	345	-	-	594	605	-	-	941	997	1,938
Southern HSC Trust	185	272	55	31	1,009	946	14	18	1,263	1,267	2,530
Western HSC Trust	223	223	-	-	1,427	1,436	-	-	1,751	1,701	3,452
Northern Ireland	982	1,107	243	143	5,468	5,367	76	83	6,769	6,700	13,469

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 (2008/09)

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					
Belfast HSC Trust	144	152	-	-	41	23	-	-	506	504	201	156	1,482	1,390	2,427	2,280	4,707
Northern HSC Trust	88	57	40	49	21	11	-	-	158	144	60	60	2,053	1,817	2,424	2,139	4,563
South Eastern HSC Trust	178	135	38	38	22	37	-	-	22	27	79	93	1,105	1,100	1,449	1,431	2,880
Southern HSC Trust	249	236	-	18	26	32	-	-	-	-	86	71	1,179	1,187	1,579	1,564	3,143
Western HSC Trust	935	903	-	-	16	14	-	-	-	-	29	25	822	779	1,807	1,730	3,537
Northern Ireland	1,594	1,483	155	158	126	117	13	12	702	696	455	405	6,641	6,273	9,686	9,144	18,830

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 (2008/09)

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	957	901	-	13	14	13	-	5	22	20	56	59	1,366	1,269	2,427	2,280	4,707
Northern HSC Trust	505	496	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	22	1,884	1,615	2,424	2,139	4,563
South Eastern HSC Trust	595	619	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7	834	802	1,449	1,431	2,880
Southern HSC Trust	660	640	-	-	11	29	-	5	-	-	68	46	832	838	1,579	1,564	3,143
Western HSC Trust	598	597	34	31	103	109	12	12	40	25	29	13	991	943	1,807	1,730	3,537
Northern Ireland	3,315	3,253	52	48	137	155	20	23	64	51	191	147	5,907	5,467	9,686	9,144	18,830

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 2009)

HSC Trust	Age (years)										Total		
	Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 11		12 - 15		16 +		Boys	Girls	All
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
Belfast HSC Trust	10	-	47	-	105	75	101	79	66	59	329	258	587
Northern HSC Trust	12	6	44	40	86	80	87	65	50	49	279	240	519
South Eastern HSC Trust	6	5	51	33	87	76	87	96	60	61	291	271	562
Southern HSC Trust	9	-	31	-	67	53	50	49	37	31	194	176	370
Western HSC Trust	7	8	25	27	61	63	65	81	44	44	202	223	425
Northern Ireland	44	28	198	179	406	347	390	370	257	244	1,295	1,168	2,463

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 2009)

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	96	93	40	22	179	126	-	-	-	-	329	258	587
Northern HSC Trust	93	67	28	30	146	126	-	-	-	-	279	240	519
South Eastern HSC Trust	167	130	22	21	94	110	-	-	-	-	291	271	562
Southern HSC Trust	58	54	51	48	84	72	-	-	-	-	194	176	370
Western HSC Trust	54	68	34	33	98	98	-	-	-	-	202	223	425
Northern Ireland	468	412	175	154	601	532	44	60	7	10	1,295	1,168	2,463

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 2009)

HSC Trust	Placement Type				Total
	Residential Care	Foster Care	Placed With Family	Other	
Belfast HSC Trust	84	430	60	13	587
Northern HSC Trust	67	323	117	12	519
South Eastern HSC Trust	66	331	143	22	562
Southern HSC Trust	33	228	84	25	370
Western HSC Trust	58	295	63	9	425
Northern Ireland	308	1,607	467	81	2,463

Source: Children Order Return LA2

Table 3.4: Children Looked After by Duration in Care and Gender (31 March 2009)

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	7	46	32	72	69	63	50	95	63	36	37	329	258	587
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	44	39	63	67	54	38	70	59	-	-	279	240	519
South Eastern HSC Trust	28	19	39	43	98	93	40	40	55	50	31	26	291	271	562
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	49	39	56	59	25	22	37	35	-	-	194	176	370
Western HSC Trust	13	14	27	42	46	35	27	29	58	65	31	38	202	223	425
Northern Ireland	104	68	205	195	335	323	209	179	315	272	127	131	1,295	1,168	2,463

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 (2008/09)

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	-	-	27	18	-	-	-	-	29	21	50
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	69	63	-	-	-	-	76	69	145
South Eastern HSC Trust	55	41	81	71	-	-	-	-	140	116	256
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	60	53	13	-	-	-	81	61	142
Western HSC Trust	-	-	44	46	-	-	-	-	47	49	96
Northern Ireland	63	45	281	251	25	17	4	3	373	316	689

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 (2008/09)

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	-	-	159	87	16	8	-	-	182	95	277
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	124	101	12	12	-	-	137	114	251
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	-	78	79	-	-	-	-	84	85	169
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	97	67	18	28	-	-	121	102	223
Western HSC Trust	-	-	29	61	-	-	-	-	50	71	121
Northern Ireland	15	7	487	395	66	59	6	6	574	467	1,041

Source: Children Order Return LA6

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

Table 3.7: Admissions by Placement Type and Gender (2008/09)

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	-	-	151	70	20	17	-	-	184	95	279
Northern HSC Trust	15	12	94	78	23	22	9	6	141	118	259
South Eastern HSC Trust	22	24	32	23	25	36	5	5	84	88	172
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	51	50	47	43	-	-	123	105	228
Western HSC Trust	-	-	30	54	12	10	-	-	50	71	121
Northern Ireland	75	58	358	275	127	128	22	16	582	477	1,059

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.

Table 3.8: Discharges by Duration in Care and Gender (2008/09)

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	121	53	-	-	16	23	-	-	5	7	13	6	171	100	271
Northern HSC Trust	65	56	-	-	18	14	-	-	12	9	-	-	124	118	242
South Eastern HSC Trust	13	22	16	20	19	16	11	8	6	6	11	7	76	79	155
Southern HSC Trust	25	24	18	25	-	-	-	-	13	10	-	-	75	83	158
Western HSC Trust	8	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	9	11	6	44	51	95
Northern Ireland	232	172	72	80	66	72	37	35	43	41	40	31	490	431	921

Source: Children Order Return LA8

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

Table 3.9: Discharges by Age (16+) 2008/09

HSC Trust	Age (years)						Total		
	16		17		18		Boys	Girls	Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
Belfast HSC Trust	14	-	6	-	26	21	46	32	78
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	21	21	27	43	70
South Eastern HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	29	16	32	33	65
Southern HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	11	15	18	25	43
Western HSC Trust	-	-	-	-	19	19	20	23	43
Northern Ireland	24	43	13	21	106	92	143	156	299

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 (2008/09)

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	43	40	104	87	0	0	147	127	274
Northern HSC Trust	59	72	78	86	0	0	137	158	295
South Eastern HSC Trust	47	50	90	92	0	0	137	142	279
Southern HSC Trust	89	103	147	150	181	162	417	415	832
Western HSC Trust	31	33	66	65	0	0	97	98	195
Northern Ireland	269	298	485	480	181	162	935	940	1,875

Source: Children Order Return LA11

Section 4

Day Care Provision for Children

Table 4.1: Day Nursery Services (31 March 2009)

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	3	76	41	2,061	33	756	77	2,893	131
Northern HSC Trust	4	103	74	2,933	1	10	79	3,046	76
South Eastern HSC Trust	3	118	32	1,475	0	0	35	1,593	9
Southern HSC Trust	8	248	30	1,554	5	345	43	2,147	58
Western HSC Trust	12	600	18	698	7	238	37	1,536	22
Northern Ireland	30	1,145	195	8,721	46	1,349	271	11,215	296

Source: DC1 and DC1a

Table 4.2: Day Care Services for Children Under 12: Childminders (31 March 2009)

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	478	2,252	349	33	74	8	62	12
Northern HSC Trust	1,178	5,983	1,540	35	143	113	67	28
South Eastern HSC Trust	954	3,836	1,979	61	280	140	49	20
Southern HSC Trust	459	2,015	1,052	20	41	5	0	32
Western HSC Trust	535	2,214	1,335	19	80	55	13	5
Northern Ireland	3,604	16,300	6,255	168	618	321	191	97

Source: DC2 and DC2a

Notes: Southern Trust figures for 'Designated Places for Under 5 Year Only' were not available for legacy Health and Social Services Trust Newry & Mourne.

Table 4.3: Day Care Services for Children Under 12: Playgroups (31 March 2009)

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	4	152	10	208	61	983	14	244	89	1,587	37
Northern HSC Trust	0	0	0	0	121	2,850	4	98	125	2,948	-
South Eastern HSC Trust	0	0	0	0	58	1,530	17	353	75	1,883	-
Southern HSC Trust	0	0	2	52	93	2,470	4	52	99	2,574	-
Western HSC Trust	3	82	7	135	82	2,118	4	73	96	2,408	8
Northern Ireland	7	234	19	395	415	9,951	43	820	484	11,400	53

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 2009)

HSC Trust	Trust		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
Belfast HSC Trust	0	0	1	16	2	48	76	1,878	79	1,942
Northern HSC Trust	0	0	0	0	23	563	40	873	63	1,436
South Eastern HSC Trust	1	16	0	0	0	0	29	588	30	604
Southern HSC Trust	1	29	0	0	11	291	9	157	21	477
Western HSC Trust	3	90	0	0	24	567	10	225	37	882
Northern Ireland	5	135	1	16	60	1,469	164	3,721	230	5,341

Source: DC4

Note: The figures for the Northern Trust have been revised since publication on 16th April 2010

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 2008/09 is available from:

Office Information Manager

Community Information Branch

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Annexe 2

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Stormont

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