

Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children Year Ending 30th September 2002

Northern Ireland

Information contained in this publication relates to children who have been in care continuously for 12 months or more at 30th September 2002.

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Main Findings

- At 30th September 2002, there were 1,679 children looked after by HSS Trusts in Northern Ireland who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.
- 1,355 (81%) of these children were of school age, and of these 22% had a statement of SEN compared with 27% of the same group in England, and 3% of the total school population in Northern Ireland.
- 26 (2%) looked after children of school age were expelled in 2001/02, slightly higher than the figure for looked after children in England (1.2%), and much higher than the rate among the total school population in Northern Ireland (0.02%).
- Over 1 in 10 (11%) looked after children of school age were suspended from school in 2001/02, compared with 1.5% of the total school population in Northern Ireland.
- 14% of children looked after for at least 12 months missed 29 or more days of schooling in 2001/02.
- Looked after children in Northern Ireland performed better at Key Stage 1 than the same group in England, but worse at Key Stage 2 and 3.
- The levels of achievement for looked after children compared very badly with those of all children in Northern Ireland, with the gap widening between Key Stage 1 and GCSE.

| Qualification ³ | Percentages | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| | Looked After Children in Northern Ireland | Looked After Children in England | Total School Population in Northern Ireland |
| Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 ¹ | 60 | 50 | 95 |
| Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 ¹ | 23 | 46 | 74 |
| Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 ² | 17 | 22 | 71 |
| At least 1 GCSE at grades A* - G ² | 52 | 53 | 94 |
| At least 5 GCSE at grades A* - C ² | 9 | 8 | 59 |

- 158 (15%) of the 1,076 looked after children aged 10 & over were cautioned or convicted in 2001/02, compared with 10% of looked after children in England, and 1% of all children in Northern Ireland. Of those convicted, almost two thirds were boys (63%).

- At the end of school year 12, 33% of looked after children remained in full-time education compared with 56% of looked after children in England, 25% were unemployed compared with 24% in England, and 17% of children were in full-time training compared with 8% in England.

¹ Figures for looked after children in Northern Ireland and total school population in Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability, whereas figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN.

² Figures for looked after children in Northern Ireland and total school population in Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a learning disability, whereas figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN

³ Information was missing for 10 children at KS1, 4 children at KS2, and 15 children at KS3.

Introduction

The OC2 collection is the second of three statistical collections designed to monitor and assess outcomes for looked after children. The other two collections are; OC1 which collects information on the educational qualifications of Care Leavers, and OC3 which looks at the circumstances of Care Leavers on their 19th Birthday.

OC2 was introduced in Northern Ireland in 2002, and this bulletin presents a summary of the first results of this collection for the year ending 30th September 2002. The OC2 collection covers all children in Northern Ireland who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002. These figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of respite placements during the period specified.

Where a child has 'slipped' a year or more (e.g. is taking key stage tests or GCSEs later than expected from their date of birth) their results have not been included.

The educational under-achievement of looked after children and young people in England and Scotland has been well documented, and studies¹ carried out in Northern Ireland indicate that children and young people in care here are also less likely, on average, than other school children, to succeed in school. A number of studies² carried out here have made recommendations regarding improvements in the education of looked after children.

This first OC2 bulletin provides valuable baseline information on the qualifications and educational attainment of looked after children in Northern Ireland in 2001/2002.

The results of this first year's survey indicate that children looked after in Northern Ireland are less likely than looked after children in England, and all school children in Northern Ireland, to have obtained educational qualifications. However, comparisons between looked after children and all school children should be interpreted with caution, as they are two different cohorts of children. Looked after children include some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in our society. They may, for example, include a higher proportion of disabled young people and young people who have received statements of special educational need, than would be found in the total school population.

As this was the first year of this collection, some Health and Social Services Trusts found it difficult to obtain some or all of the information requested. This led to long delays in returning the data, and possibly to some Trusts under-recording the educational achievement of children looked after. It is expected that data quality and timeliness of returns will improve significantly in future years.

¹ Northern Health and Social Services Board: Audit of the education experiences and attainments of children and young people in Foster Care in the NHSSB area, November 2001; Department of Education: Report of a survey of the Education Welfare Service in Northern Ireland, February 2003

² Southern Health and Social Services Board: The educational needs of looked after children in the Southern Health and Social Services Board Area (June 2000), The educational needs of looked after children residential care in the Southern Health and Social Services Board Area (March 2001); Northern Health and Social Services Board: Audit of the education experiences and attainments of children and young people in Foster Care in the NHSSB area, November 2001; Save the Children, First Key, VOYPIC: Branded a Problem? (2002); Department of Education: Report of a survey of the Education Welfare Service in Northern Ireland, February 2003

1. Trust & Board Profile

Figure 1.1 shows the number of children and young people looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002, in each HSS Board and Trust. It also presents this information in terms of the number per 10,000-population aged under 18 in each HSS Board and Trust¹.

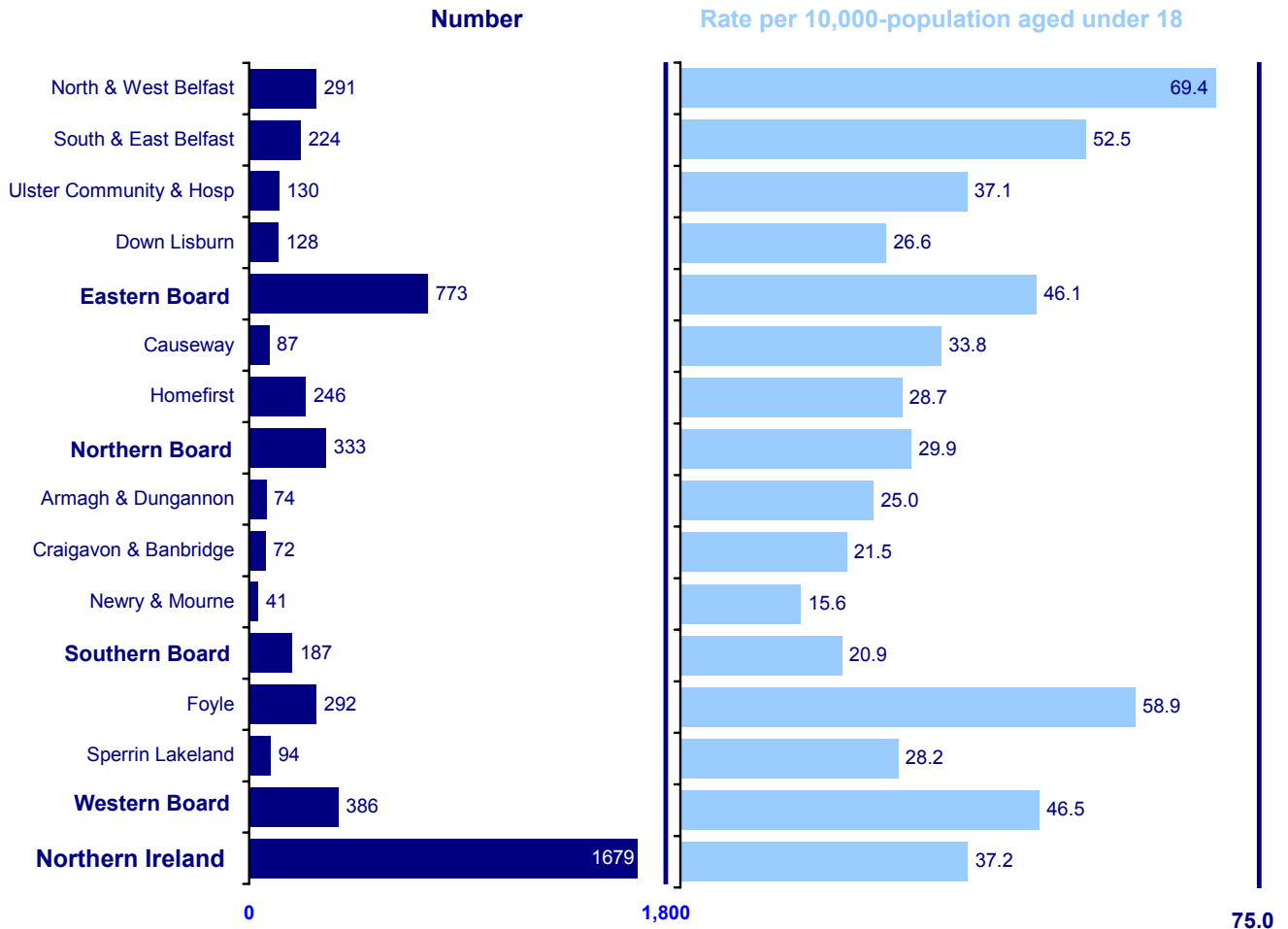
At 30th September 2002, 1,679 children and young people had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months in Northern Ireland, a rate of 37.2 children per 10,000-population aged under 18.

Foyle (292) and North & West Belfast (291) had the highest number of children being looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002, whilst Newry & Mourne had the lowest (41).

Similarly, North & West Belfast (69.4) had the highest rate of children looked after for at least 12 months per 10,000-population aged under 18, and Newry & Mourne (15.6) had the lowest.

The Eastern Board had the highest number of children looked after for at least 12 months (773). This compares with 386 in the Western Board, 333 in the Northern Board, and 187 in the Southern Board.

Figure 1.1:- Number of Young People who had been looked after continuously for at least Twelve months at 30th September 2002 per 10,000-population aged under 18 by HSS Board and Trust



¹ Source: 2001 Population Census

2. Background Information

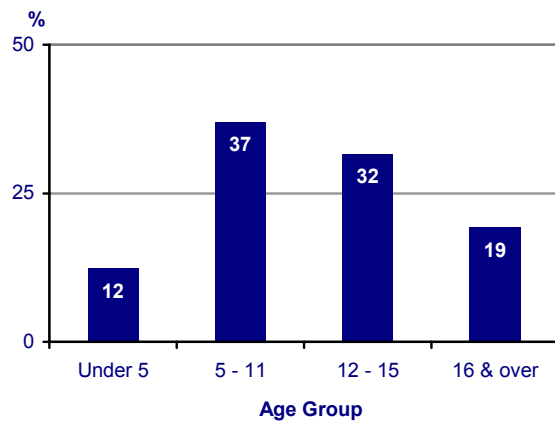
Gender

At 30th September 2002, 52% of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months were boys.

Age at 30th September 2002

Figure 1.2 shows that over one third (37%) of these children were aged 5-11 at 30th September 2002, 32% aged 12-15, 19% aged 16 & over, and 12% aged under 5.

Figure 2.1:- Age Profile of Children looked after for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002



Religion

There were similar proportions of Protestants (49%) and Catholics (48%) in care for at least 12 months. The remaining 38 children were of No Denomination, Not known, or Other Religious groups.

Ethnic Background

1,608 of the 1,679 children looked after continuously for at least 12 months were of a white ethnic background. Of the remaining 71 children, 40 were listed as not known, 24 were of mixed ethnic background, and 7 listed as other.

Disability

Trusts were asked to indicate if children had a disability in accordance with the definition below:

"The child has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities".

According to the definition, over 1 in 10 (11%) children looked after continuously for at least 12 months were disabled. A higher proportion of boys (13%) than girls (9%) looked after at 30th September 2002 were disabled.

Dependents

A question on dependants was included in OC2 as it was thought that some young people could have had a child or children while being looked after, and that this could have affected their educational outcomes. 19 young people indicated that they had a dependant or dependants at 30th September 2002; although, information on the number of dependants has only been provided for 15 young people¹.

13 of the 15 young people, for whom information was submitted, had 1 dependant at 30th September 2002, whilst two young people had 2 dependants.

A higher number of girls (14) than boys (5) looked after had a dependant at 30th September 2002.

¹ Information referring to the number of dependants of 4 young people was missing; 1 from North & West Belfast, 1 from South & East Belfast, 1 from Ulster Community & Hospitals, and 1 from Foyle.

2. Background Information

Placement

At 30th September 2002, over 6 in 10 (62%) children were placed in foster care¹, 23% with family, 11% in residential care, and 5% were in other² forms of accommodation

Figure 2.2:- Placement of Children Looked After continuously for 12 months or more at 30th September 2002

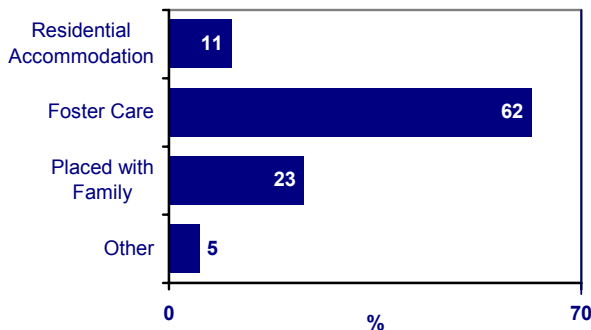
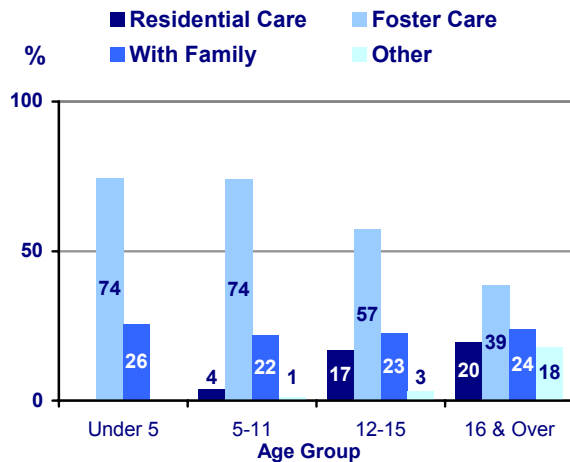


Figure 2.3:- Placement of Children Looked After for at Least 12 months at 30th September 2002 by Age Group



¹ Foster Care includes children placed for adoption.

² Other forms of accommodation include; independent living, supported accommodation, secure accommodation, hospitals, hostels, aftercare facilities, Simon community, respite care, and other.

Figure 2.3 shows that children aged under 12 were more likely to be placed in foster care than older children, whereas children aged 12 & over were more likely than younger children to be placed in residential care. Older children (16 & over) were more likely than younger children to be placed in other forms of accommodation.

Over half (58%) of children placed in other forms of accommodation were female. Of those placed in other accommodation³:

- 26% were in independent living;
- 14% in supported accommodation;
- 10% in secure accommodation;
- 8% in hospital;
- 7% in hostels;
- 6% in aftercare facilities;
- 6% in Simon community;
- 5% in respite care;
- 3% in Bed & Breakfasts; and,
- 4% in other types of accommodation.

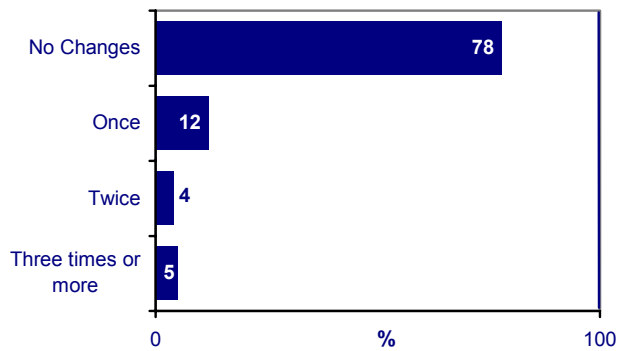
³ Information on the type of Other accommodation was not provided for 8 children: 1 from North & West Belfast, 1 from South & East Belfast, 5 from Ulster Community & Hospitals, and 1 from Homefirst.

2. Background Information

Placement Changes

368¹ (22%) children looked after had changed placements during the year ending 30th September 2002.

Figure 2.4:- Placement Changes during year ending 30th September 2002



Of all children looked after for at least 12 months, 12% had changed placement once, 4% had changed placement twice, and 5% had changed placement three times or more.

¹ Information on placement changes was not provided for 6 children: 1 from North & West Belfast, 2 from Down Lisburn, 1 from Homefirst, 1 from Armagh & Dungannon, and 1 from Newry & Mourne.

3. General Education

Compulsory School Age

This refers to all children whose date of birth falls on or between 2/7/1985 and 1/7/1997, whether or not the child was in a position to attend school, i.e. any child who received or should have received full-time schooling during the school year.

Of those children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002, 81% (1,355) were of compulsory school age.

More boys (82%) than girls (80%) looked after were of compulsory school age in 2001/02.

Children who have statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty, which calls for them to have special educational provision made for them. Learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of his/her age, and/or has a disability which hinders his or her use of everyday educational facilities (or, where the child is below school age, would hinder such use if the child were of school age). Special educational provision means educational provision which is different from, or additional to, the provision made generally for children of comparable age. Further information is provided in the *Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs* published by DENI.

At 30th September 2002, 22% of children looked after were covered by a statement of SEN¹, compared with 27% of looked after children in England, and 3% of the total school population in Northern Ireland.

As can be seen in Figure 3.1, a higher proportion of boys (28%) than girls (16%) looked after were covered by a statement of SEN at 30th September 2003.

¹ Information on whether 2 children were covered by a statement of SEN was not provided: 2 from Causeway.

Figure 3.1:- Proportion of Boys and Girls with Statements of SEN

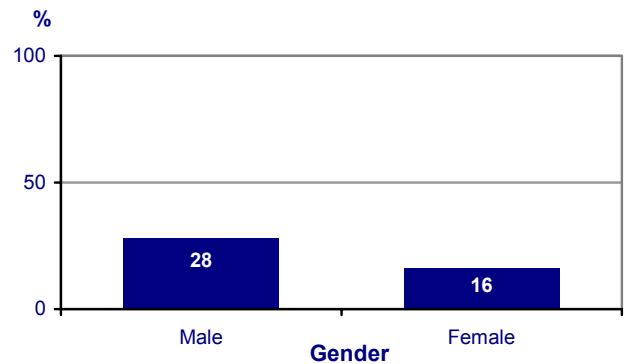
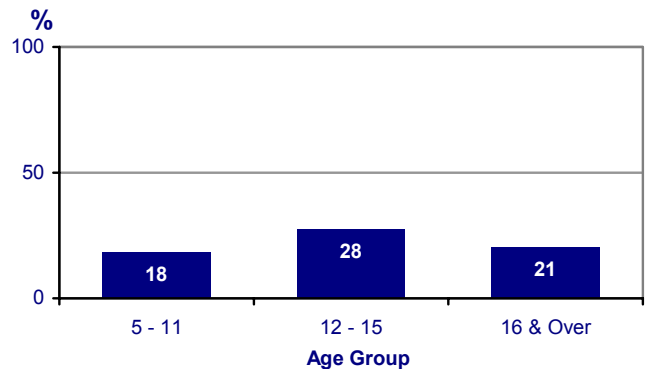


Figure 3.2:- Proportions in each Age Group with Statements of SEN



Over one quarter (28%) of looked after children aged 12-15 were covered by a statement of SEN at 30th September 2002, compared with 21% of looked after children aged 16 & over, and 18% aged 5-11.

Over one third (37%) of children covered by statements of SEN² were covered because of a learning disability, 14% because of behavioural problems, 4% because of a physical disability, and 14% for other reasons³. For over 30% of children covered by a statement of SEN the reason why they were covered was not specified.

² Some children have a number of different reasons for being covered by a statement of SEN, therefore the total reasons for being covered by statements of SEN is more than the number of children looked after with a statement of SEN (301).

³ Other reasons include autistic spectrum disorder, emotional problems, and attention deficit disorder.

3. General Education

Exclusions from School

Looked after children appear more likely to be expelled from school than their peers. 26 (1.9%) of the 1,355 looked after children of school age were expelled from school in 2001/02, compared with 1.2% of looked after children in England, and 0.02% of the total school population in Northern Ireland. Of the 26 children expelled in 2001/02, 21 were boys and 5 were girls.

Suspensions

Compared to figures for all children in Northern Ireland, looked after children are seven times more likely to be suspended from school. Over 1 in 10 (11%) children looked after continuously for at least 12 months had been suspended in 2001/02, compared with 1.5% of the total school population in Northern Ireland.

A higher proportion of boys (14%) than girls (8%) looked after were suspended in 2001/02.

Figure 3.3:- Percentage of Looked After Children who were Suspended in 2001/02 by Age Group

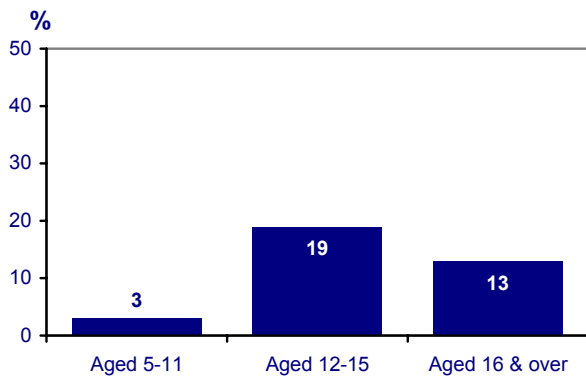
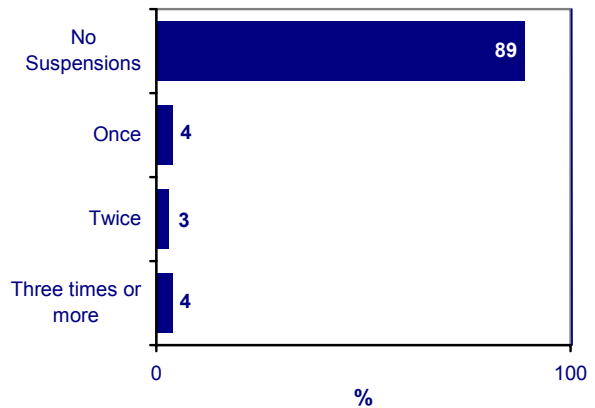


Figure 3.4 shows the number of times children looked after for at least 12 months had been suspended from school in 2001/02¹.

¹ Information on the number of times one child from South & East Belfast was not provided.

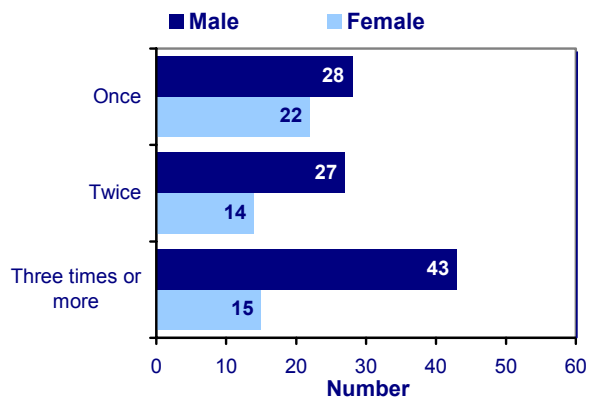
Figure 3.4:- Percentage of Looked After Children Suspended in 2001/02



The majority (89%) of children looked after for at least 12 months had not been suspended in 2001/02, 4% had been suspended once, 3% suspended twice, and 4% suspended three times or more.

A higher proportion (19%) of looked after children suspended were aged 12-15. This compares with 12% of looked after children aged 16 & over and 3% aged 5-11.

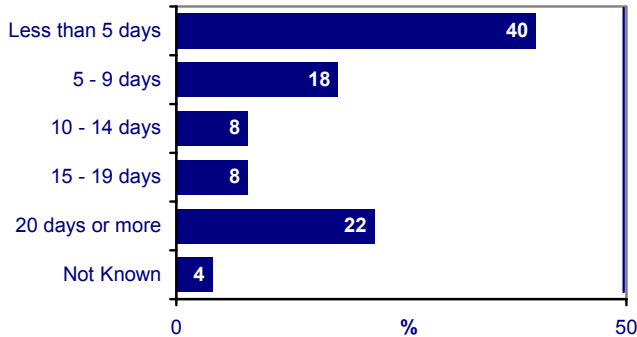
Figure 3.5:- Looked After Children who were Suspended in 2001/02 by Gender



Twice as many boys (27) as girls (14) had been suspended twice, and nearly three times as many boys (43) than girls (15) had been suspended three times or more in 2001/02.

3. General Education

Figure 3.6:- Looked After Children Suspended in 2001/02 by the Number of Days Missed through Suspension¹



Over one-fifth (22%) of children suspended from school in 2001/02 were suspended for 20 days or more. However, over two-fifths (40%) of children were suspended for less than 5 days.

A higher number of boys (26) than girls (7) looked after were suspended for 20 days or more in 2001/02.

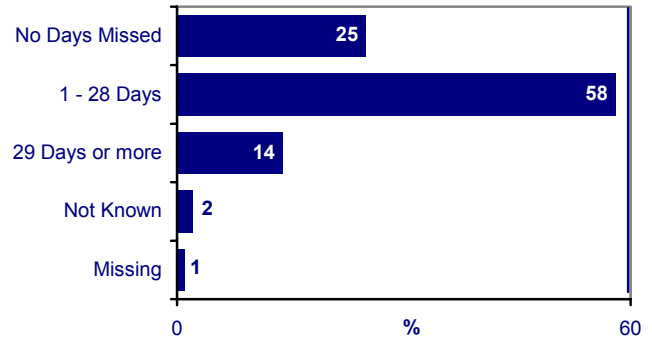
Children who missed at least 28 days of school for any reason²

For the 2001/02 school year, 14% of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months missed 29 days or more of school for any reason throughout the year, slightly higher than the corresponding figure for England (12%). However, 25% of children looked after had a full attendance record at school in 2001/02, and 58% missed between 1-28 days. Information on the attendance of 33 children was not known.

¹ Information on the number of days lost through suspension was not provided for 6 children who had been suspended in 2001/02: 4 from South & East Belfast, 1 from Craigavon & Banbridge, and 1 from Foyle.

² Information on the number of school days missed by 9 children was not provided: 2 from South & East Belfast, 1 from Ulster Community & Hospitals, 2 from Down Lisburn, 1 from Homefirst, 1 from Newry & Mourne, and 2 from Foyle.

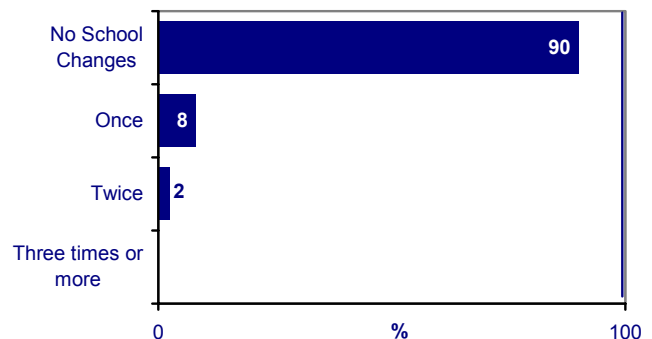
Figure 3.7:- Number of Days Missed for any reason by Looked After Children in 2001/02



A higher proportion of boys (15%) than girls (12%) looked after missed 29 days or more of schooling in 2001/02.

School changes in 2001/02

Figure 3.7:- Number of School Changes by Looked After Children in 2001/02



Almost 10% (137) of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months had changed schools in 2001/02 (excluding changes from primary to secondary school). More boys (11%) than girls (9%) looked after changed schools in 2001/02.

The majority (90%) of children looked after for at least 12 months did not change schools in 2001/02, 8% changed schools once, and 2% changed twice. Three children changed school three times or more in 2001/02.

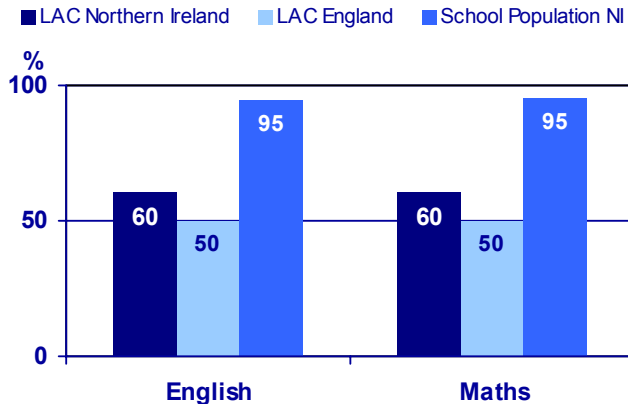
4.Key Stage and GCSE or Equivalent Results

Key Stage 1

78¹ of the 1,355 children of school age were eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 1 in 2001/02. Almost one fifth (19%) of these children were covered by a statement of SEN in 2001/02. To allow comparisons with Key Stage 1 results for all children in Northern Ireland², children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability are excluded from the analysis.

Figure 4.1 shows the performance of looked after children in Northern Ireland compared with the total school population in Northern Ireland, and the similar looked after group in England³.

Figure 4.1:- Percentage of Children Achieving Level 2 or Above in Key Stage 1 English and Maths Assessments



Six in ten (60%) children looked after in Northern Ireland who sat key stage 1 English and Maths assessments in 2001/02 achieved level 2 or above, compared with almost all (95%) Northern Ireland school children, and 50% of looked after children in England (*However, please see Note 3*).

¹ This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 1 in 2001/02 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

² Figures for the total school population in Northern Ireland cover only mainstream schools, whereas figures for looked after children in Northern Ireland include all schools.

³ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

Similar proportions of boys (60%) and girls (61%) looked after achieved level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 assessments.

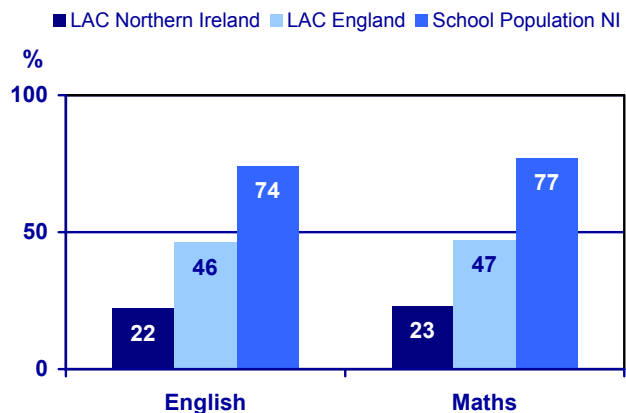
Over one fifth (22%) of looked after children of the appropriate age in Northern Ireland had not been assessed in Key Stage 1 English and Maths, and a further 13% of information was not provided⁴; although, these have been included in the totals.

Key Stage 2

115⁵ of the 1,355 children of school age were eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 2 in 2001/02. Over one quarter (26%) of these 115 children were covered by a statement of SEN in 2001/02. A small number of these children were covered by a statement of SEN because of a severe learning difficulty and have been excluded from the analysis below.

Figure 4.2 shows the percentage of looked after children, total school population in Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England³ attaining the target level for Key Stage 2 assessments.

Figure 4.2:- Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or Above in Key Stage 2 English and Maths Assessments



⁴ Missing information refers to 10 children (7 from Homefirst, 2 from South & East Belfast, and 1 from Down Lisburn).

⁵ This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 2 in 2001/02 who were not assessed, and whom information was not provided.

4. Key Stage and GCSE or Equivalent Results

Figure 4.2 shows that just over one fifth (22%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English assessments, compared with 74% of the total school population in Northern Ireland, and 46% of looked after children in England¹.

Similarly, 23% of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths, compared with 77% of the total school population in Northern Ireland, and 47% of looked after children in England.

Almost one third (32%) of looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 2 assessments in English and Maths were not assessed in 2001/02, and a further 5% of information was missing²; although, these have been included in the totals.

A higher proportion of girls (28%) than boys (17%) looked after achieved level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English. In Key Stage 2 Maths, 25% of girls looked after achieved level 4 or above compared with 22% of boys.

Key Stage 3

132³ of the 1,355 children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002 were eligible to sit Key Stage 3 Tests in 2001/02. Over one quarter (27%) of these children were covered by a statement of SEN. To allow comparison with the total school population in Northern Ireland⁴ children with a statement of SEN because of a learning disability or difficulty (13 of the 132 children) have been excluded from the analysis below.

¹ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a severe learning disability.

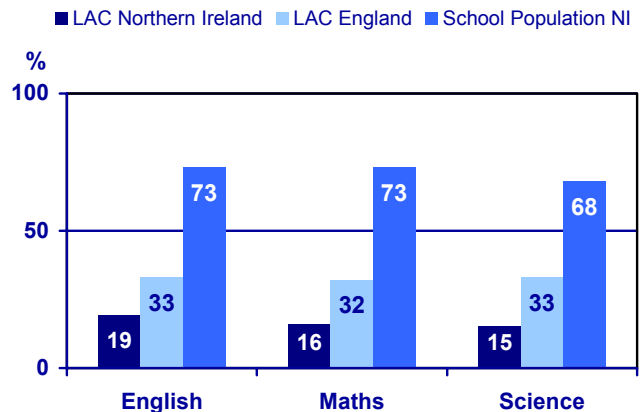
² Information was missing for 4 children in Homefirst, 1 from Foyle, and 1 from Down Lisburn.

³ This includes all children eligible to be tested at Key Stage 3 in 2001/02 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

⁴ Figures for the total school population in Northern Ireland cover only mainstream schools, whereas figures for looked after children in Northern Ireland include all schools.

Figure 4.3 shows the percentage of looked after children, total school population in Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England⁵ attaining the target level (level 5 or above) for Key Stage 3 tests.

Figure 4.3:- Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or Above in Key Stage 3 English, Maths, and Science Tests



Almost one fifth (19%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 English tests, compared with 73% of the total school population, and 33% of looked after children in England⁵.

16% of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 Maths tests, compared with 73% of the total school population in Northern Ireland, and 32% of looked after children in England⁵.

In Key Stage 3 Science tests, 15% of looked after children achieved level 5 or above, compared with 68% of the total school population, and 33% of looked after children in England⁵.

⁵ Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a learning disability.

4. Key Stage and GCSE or Equivalent Results

Just over one third (36%) of looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 3 tests were not tested in 2001/02, and a further 11% of information was not provided¹; although, these have been included in the totals.

In Key Stage 3 English tests, a higher proportion of girls (25%) than boys (14%) looked after achieved level 5 or above.

In Key Stage 3 Maths tests, similar proportions of boys (17%) and girls (15%) looked after achieved level 5 or above.

In Key Stage 3 Science tests, a higher proportion of boys (19%) than girls (12%) looked after achieved level 5 or above.

GCSEs and GNVQs

151 of the 1,355 children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002 were eligible to sit GCSEs or GNVQs in 2001/02. Almost one fifth (18%) of these 151 children were covered by a statement of SEN, 13 because of a learning difficulty. To allow comparisons with the total school population in Northern Ireland² children with a statement because of a learning difficulty have been excluded from the analysis.

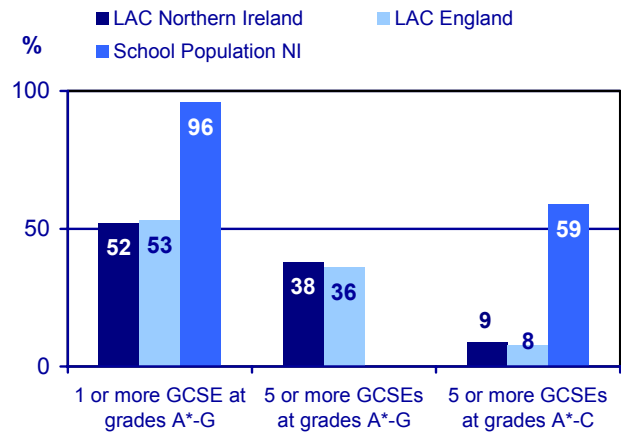
Over two fifths (41%) of children due to sit GCSE/GNVQ examinations in 2001/02, did not sit any of these examinations.

Figure 4.4 shows the percentage of looked after children, total school population in Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England² attaining GCSEs.

¹ Information was missing for 15 children; 8 from Homefirst, 2 from Sperrin Lakeland, 1 from South & East Belfast, 1 from Ulster Community & Hospitals, 1 from Craigavon & Banbridge, 1 from Down Lisburn, and 1 from Foyle.

² Figures for looked after children in England include all school children of appropriate age whether or not they had a statement of SEN, whereas figures for Northern Ireland exclude children with a statement of SEN because of a learning disability.

Figure 4.4:- Percentage of Children Looked After for at Least 12 months at 30th September Achieving GCSE or equivalent passes



Over half (52%) of children looked after in Northern Ireland attained at least 1 GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*-G, compared with almost all (96%) of the total school population in Northern Ireland, and 53% of looked after children in England².

Nine percent of children looked after attained 5 or more GCSEs/GNVQs at grades A*-C, compared with 59% of the total school population in Northern Ireland, but similar to the corresponding figure in England² (8%).

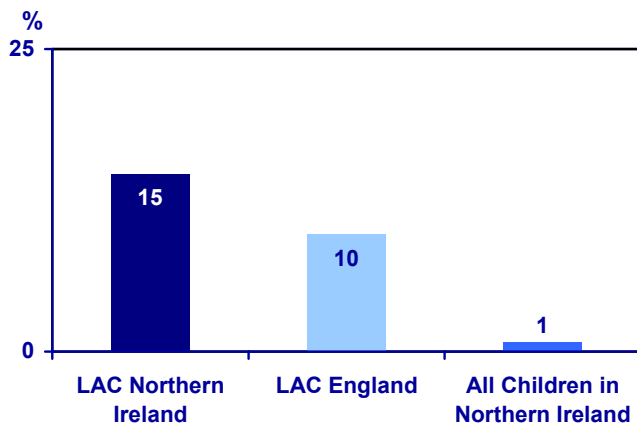
A higher proportion of girls (48%) than boys (28%) looked after achieved 5 or more GCSE's at grades A* - G.

In relation to 5 or more GCSE's at grades A* - C, a higher proportion of girls (13%) than boys (6%) looked after achieved 5 or more GCSE's at grades A* - C.

5. Cautions / Convictions

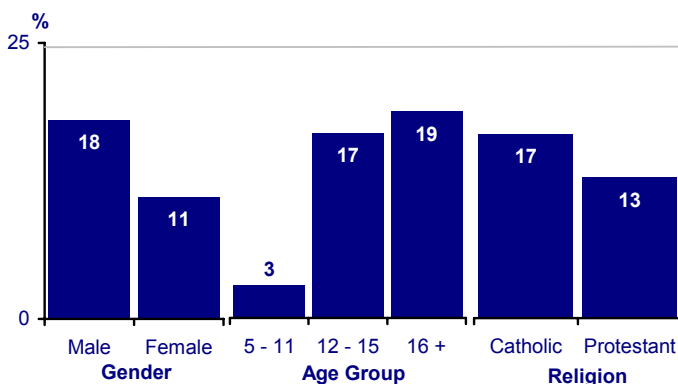
Information refers to looked after children aged 10 & over at 30th September 2002. 158 (15%) of these children had been cautioned or convicted for an offence committed whilst they were in care. Offences committed while the child **was not** looked after are not included.

Figure 5.1:- Percentage of Children Cautioned or Convicted at 30th September 2002



Looked after children aged 10 & over were 15 times more likely than all children aged 10 & over in Northern Ireland to have been cautioned or convicted (*Please see Technical Notes Page 34*). A higher proportion of looked after children in Northern Ireland aged 10 & over (15%) had been cautioned or convicted, compared with the same looked after grouping in England (10%).

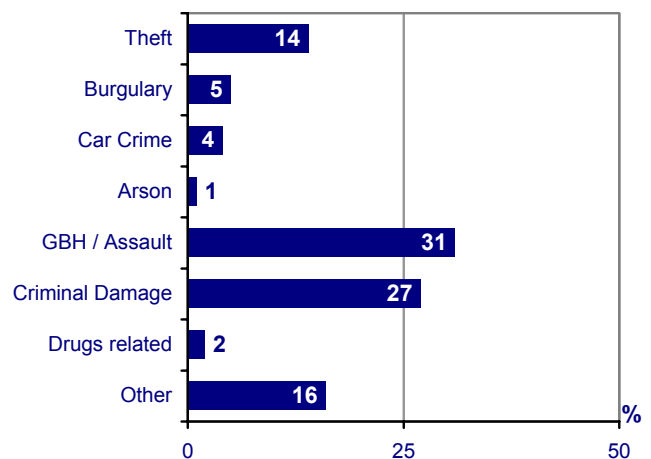
Figure 5.2:- Percentage of Looked After Children Cautioned or Convicted by Gender, Age, and Religion



From Figure 5.2 we can see that a higher proportion of boys (18%) than girls (11%) looked after aged 10 & over were cautioned or convicted at 30th September 2002. Almost one-fifth of looked after children aged 16 & over (19%) and aged 12-15 (17%) had been convicted or cautioned at this date. A higher proportion of Catholic (17%) than Protestant (13%) children looked after had been cautioned or convicted at 30th September 2002.

Of the 134¹ looked after children for whom information was provided, 229 separate offences were recorded as at 30th September 2002.

Figure 5.3:- Reasons for Cautions or Convictions²



As can be seen in figure 5.3, almost one third (31%) of offences were for GBH / Assault, 27% were for criminal damage, 14% for theft, 5% for burglary, 4% for car crime, 2% for drug related offences, 1% for arson, and 16% for other reasons.

¹ Information on the reason for being cautioned or convicted was missing not provided for 24 children: 1 child from North & West Belfast, 11 from Ulster Community & Hospitals, 1 from Causeway, 5 from Homefirst, 2 from Craigavon & Banbridge, 3 from Foyle, and 1 from Sperrin Lakeland.

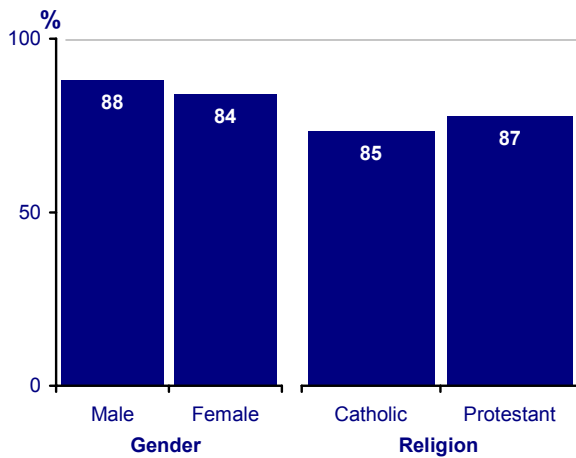
² Information refers to the 229 offences, as a number of children had been cautioned or convicted for more than one reason.

6. Pre-School Provision

Information refers to all children whose date of birth is on or between 2nd July 1997 and 1st July 1998.

60 (86%) of the 70 looked after children eligible for a funded pre-school place in 2001/02, had a free place during the year.

Figure 6.1:- Percentage of Looked After Children aged Under 5 who had a Funded Pre-School Place in 2001/02



As can be seen in figure 6.1, a slightly higher proportion of boys (88%) than girls (84%) looked after aged under 5 had a funded pre-school place in 2001/02.

7. Health

Information on Development Assessments and Six Monthly Assessments refers to 206 children who were aged 4 and younger at 30th September 2002.

Development Assessments

Almost all (98%) of the 206 children aged under 5 had their development assessments up-to-date at 30th September 2002, higher than the corresponding figure for looked after children in England (74%).

Six Monthly Assessments

Over 8 in 10 (85%) children aged under 5 had their 6 monthly assessments up-to-date at 30th September 2002.

Health Assessments

Of the 1,471¹ children aged 5 & over who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002, 86% had their annual health assessment up-to-date, compared with 71% of looked after children in England.

Immunisations

This relates to all children, not just those with immunisations due during the year. It is not restricted to immunisations due while the child was looked after, and includes immunisations, which should have been given before the child became looked after. In cases where children have not received their immunisations because of parental refusal or for health reasons, they should be treated as not being up-to-date.

A child is considered up-to-date if the immunisations have been given by 30th September 2003, even if they were given late according to the immunisations timetable.

¹ Information on annual health assessments was not provided for 2 children: 1 from Homefirst, and 1 from Foyle.

However, for the purpose of OC2, the opinion of a doctor or practice nurse that a child's immunisations are up-to-date is sufficient (a timetable for childhood immunisations is attached at Appendix 1).

At 30th September 2002, over 90% of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more had their routine immunisations up-to-date, compared with 73% of looked after children in England.

Dental Checks

This relates to all children and young people looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002, who have had their teeth checked by a dentist during the year 1 October 2002 – 30 September 2003. For very young children, the examination does not have to be undertaken by a dentist, and an examination by a paediatrician or other healthcare professional which included an oral examination may be counted.

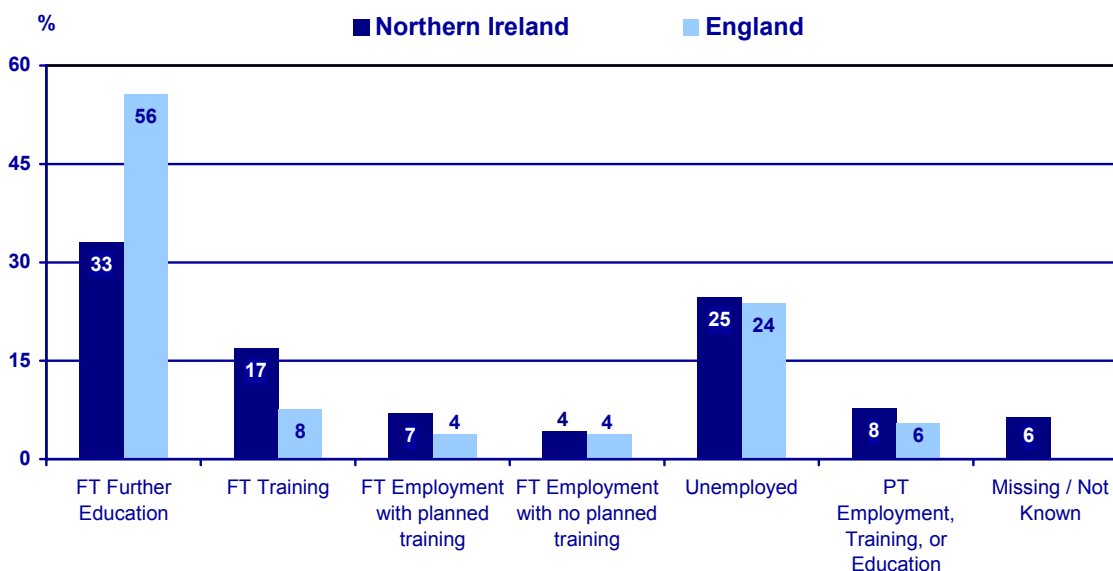
Almost 90% (89%) of the 1,679 children looked after for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002 had their teeth checked by a dentist in 2001/02, higher than the corresponding figure for England (72%).

8. Current Activity

The OC2 return collects information on the position of those children looked after who finished compulsory schooling in 2001/02, on completing Year 12. This data does not represent outcomes for care leavers, as all of these young people were still being looked after at 30th September 2002.

At 30th September 2002, 151¹ young people had completed Year 12 at school. Figure 8.1 below shows the activity of these young people, and their English counterparts at 30th September 2002.

Figure 8.1:- Current Activity of Young People Looked After who Completed Year 12 in 2001/02



At 30th September 2002, 33% of young people looked after in Northern Ireland were in or about to start full-time education after Year 12, lower than the corresponding figure in England (56%). Similar proportions of young people looked after in Northern Ireland (25%) and England (24%) were unemployed at 30th September 2002.

A slightly higher proportion of looked after children of this age in Northern Ireland were in full-time employment (7%), compared with 4% in England.

A higher proportion of young people looked after in Northern Ireland (17%) were in or about to start full-time training compared with England (8%).

Figure 1 (Appendix 1) shows the current activity of young people looked after in Northern Ireland by gender.

At 30th September 2002, more than twice as many girls (47%) than boys (20%) looked after were in or about to start full-time education. A higher proportion of boys (28%) than girls (21%) looked after were unemployed at 30th September 2002.

¹ Total includes 9 young people for whom information on their current activity was not provided: 3 from North & West Belfast, 1 from South & East Belfast, 1 from Ulster Community & Hospitals, 1 from Homefirst, 1 from Craigavon & Banbridge, 1 from Foyle, and 1 from Sperrin Lakeland.

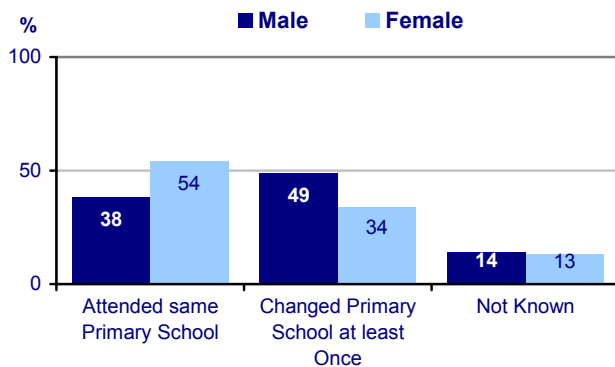
9. School History

Primary Schools Attended

Of the 151 young people looked after who were in Year 12 in 2001/02, 45% had attended the same primary school until transfer age, but almost the same proportion (42%) had changed primary schools at least once. Information on the number of primary schools attended by 12 (6%) children was not known, and a further 5% of information was not provided¹.

Figure 8.2 shows the proportion of each gender type by the number of primary schools attended until reaching transfer age.

Figure 8.2:- Number of Primary Schools Attended by Looked After Children Reaching Year 12 in 2001/02 by Gender



As can be seen in Figure 8.2, a higher proportion of boys (49%) than girls (34%) looked after had changed primary schools at least once before reaching transfer age.

Secondary Schools Attended

Of the 151 young people in Year 12 in 2001/02, over two thirds (67%) had attended the same secondary school during their post primary years, one fifth (21%) had changed secondary schools

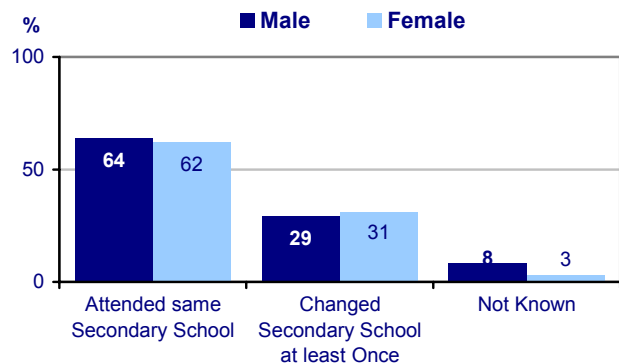
¹ Information on the number of primary schools attended was not provided for 8 children; 3 from North & West Belfast, 1 from South & East Belfast, 1 from Ulster Community & Hospitals, 1 from Down Lisburn, 1 from Craigavon & Banbridge, and 1 from Foyle.

once, and 10% had changed secondary schools at least twice.

For 1 young person the number of secondary schools attended was not known, and for a further 5% of children information was not provided².

Figure 8.3 shows the proportion of each gender type by the number of secondary schools attended during post primary school years.

Figure 8.3:- Number of Secondary Schools Attended by Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2001/02 by Gender



A slightly higher proportion of girls (31%) than boys (29%) looked after changed secondary schools at least once during their post primary years.

Were they ever out of Mainstream Education?

Almost 30% (45) of the 151 young people who were in Year 12 in 2001/02, had been out of mainstream education and continuing to be educated in other ways. Information on 7 children aged 16 at 1st July 2002 was not provided².

Over one third (37%) of boys who were in Year 12 in 2001/02, had been out of mainstream education at some time during their school years, compared with 25% of girls.

² Information on the number of secondary schools attended was not provided for 7 children; 3 from North & West Belfast, 1 from South & East Belfast, 1 from Ulster Community & Hospitals, 1 from Craigavon & Banbridge, and 1 from Foyle.

Appendices 1

Table 1 Numbers of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months, and general information about their education; twelve months ending 30th September 2002

Table 2 Eligibility of Children looked after for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2001/02

Figure 1: Education and Employment Status of looked after children in Year 12 in 2001/02 at 30th September 2002 by Gender

Table 1:- Numbers of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months, and general information about their education; twelve months ending 30th September 2002

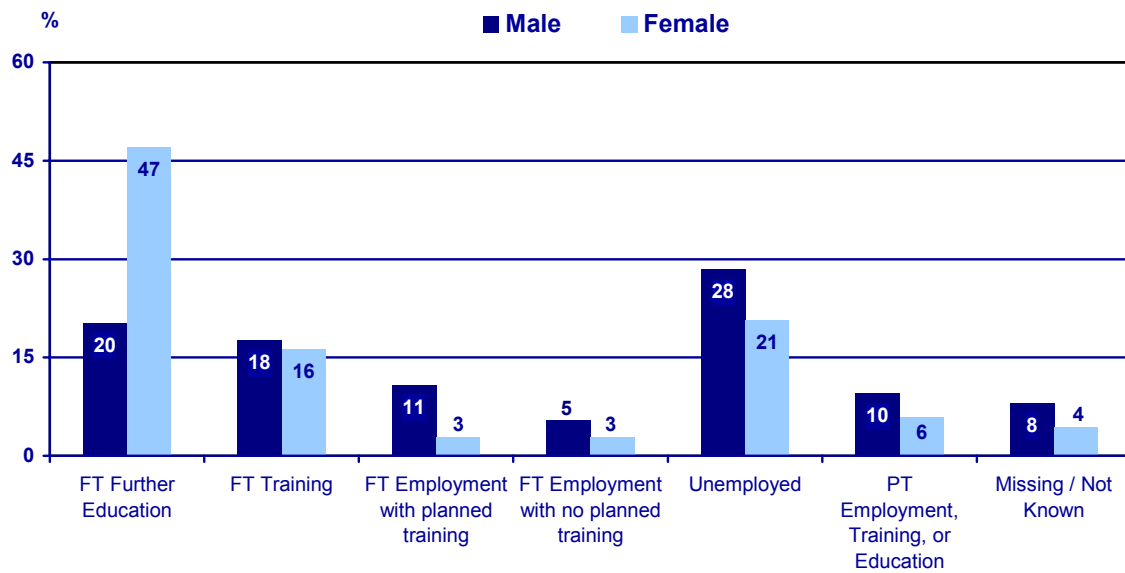
| | No. Looked After for at least 12 months | Of these, number of school age | Of these: | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|------------|--|-------------|
| | | | Children with a statement of SEN | | Permanent exclusions from school | | Children who missed at least 29 days of school | |
| | | | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Northern Ireland | 1,679 | 1,355 | 301 | 22.2 | 26 | 1.9 | 190 | 14.0 |
| England¹ | 44,100 | 34,500 | 9,200 | 26.8 | 420 | 1.2 | 4,100 | 12.0 |
| North & West Belfast | 291 | 233 | 44 | 18.9 | <5 | - | 41 | 17.6 |
| South & East Belfast | 224 | 175 | 41 | 23.4 | 9 | 5.1 | 19 | 10.9 |
| Ulster Community & Hospitals | 130 | 112 | 30 | 26.8 | <5 | - | 10 | 8.9 |
| Down Lisburn | 128 | 104 | 34 | 32.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 17 | 16.3 |
| Eastern Board | 773 | 624 | 149 | 23.9 | 15 | 2.4 | 87 | 13.9 |
| Causeway | 87 | 78 | 22 | 28.2 | <5 | - | <5 | - |
| Homefirst | 246 | 199 | 23 | 11.6 | <5 | - | 28 | 14.1 |
| Northern Board | 333 | 277 | 45 | 16.2 | 5 | 1.8 | - | - |
| Armagh & Dungannon | 74 | 55 | 17 | 30.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 15 | 27.3 |
| Craigavon & Banbridge | 72 | 54 | 16 | 29.6 | <5 | - | 13 | 24.1 |
| Newry & Mourne | 41 | 34 | 11 | 32.4 | <5 | - | <5 | - |
| Southern Board | 187 | 143 | 44 | 30.8 | <5 | - | - | - |
| Foyle | 292 | 232 | 45 | 19.4 | <5 | - | 32 | 13.8 |
| Sperrin Lakeland | 94 | 79 | 18 | 22.8 | <5 | - | 9 | 11.4 |
| Western Board | 386 | 311 | 63 | 20.3 | <5 | - | 41 | 13.2 |

¹ Figures for the number of school days missed for looked after children in England refer to 25 days or more.

Table 2:- Eligibility of Children looked after for at least 12 months at 30th September 2002, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2001/02

| Trust / Board | Number of Looked After Children eligible to: | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | sit Key Stage 1 Assessments | sit Key Stage 2 Assessments | sit Key Stage 3 Tests | sit GCSE's or GNVQ's |
| Northern Ireland | 78 | 112 | 119 | 138 |
| England | 2,000 | 2,900 | 3,800 | 4,300 |
| North & West Belfast | 17 | 15 | 16 | 21 |
| South & East Belfast | 11 | 12 | 15 | 23 |
| Ulster Community & Hospitals | 6 | 8 | 15 | 8 |
| Down Lisburn | 7 | 12 | 8 | 10 |
| Eastern Board | 41 | 47 | 54 | 62 |
| Causeway | <5 | 11 | 6 | <5 |
| Homefirst | 16 | 20 | 17 | 22 |
| Northern Board | 20 | 31 | 23 | n/a |
| Armagh & Dungannon | <5 | <5 | <5 | 6 |
| Craigavon & Banbridge | <5 | 5 | <5 | 7 |
| Newry & Mourne | 0 | <5 | <5 | 5 |
| Southern Board | <5 | 11 | 11 | 18 |
| Foyle | 8 | 19 | 19 | 21 |
| Sperrin Lakeland | 5 | <5 | 12 | 11 |
| Western Board | 13 | n/a | 31 | 32 |

Figure 1:- Education and Employment Status of looked after children in Year 12 in 2001/02 at 30th September 2002 by Gender



Coverage of OC2 Collection 2001/02

The table below specifies the subset of children and young people covered by each category of the OC2 collection.

| Definition | Which Children were included? | |
|---|--|---|
| Scope of OC2 | All children who were looked after on 30 th September 2002, and who on that date had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months. | |
| <i>Remaining Items are subsets of the Scope.</i> | | |
| Total Children of Compulsory School Age | Children whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1985 to 1/7/1997. | |
| Key Stage 1 | Children eligible for school year 4 i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1993 to 1/7/1994. | |
| Key Stage 2 | Children eligible for school year 7, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1990 to 1/7/1991. | |
| Key Stage 3 | Children eligible for school year 10, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1987 to 1/7/1988. | |
| GCSEs and GNVQs | Children eligible for school year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1985 to 1/7/1986. | |
| Offending | Children aged 10 & over at 30 th September 2002, i.e. whose date of birth is 30/9/1992 or earlier. | |
| Pre-School Provision | Children in their pre-school year in 2001/02, i.e. whose date of birth is 2/7/1997 to 1/7/1998. | |
| Development Assessments | Children aged under 5 at 30 th September 2002, i.e. whose date of birth is 1/10/1997 or later. | |
| Immunisations Dental Checks Health Assessments | All children covered by the OC2 collection, i.e. all children who were looked after on 30 th September 2002, and who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months. | |
| Current Activity / Past Schooling Experiences | | Children eligible for Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1985 to 1/7/1986. |

Outcome indicators for looked after children

Complete this form for each child who was looked after by your Trust at 30 September 2002, and who, at that time, had been looked after continuously for one year or more

Submit completed forms by 31st October 2002

1 **Trust name:**

Trust number:

SOSCARE number

2 **Sex**
Sex (Enter 1 for Male, 2 for Female)

3 **DOB**
What is the child's date of birth? ^d^d^m^m^y^y

4 **Religion**
What is the child's religion?
1 = Catholic
2 = Protestant
3 = Other Religion
4 = No denomination
9 = Not known
Enter appropriate number

5 Disability

Has the child a disability according to the following definition?

'the child has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'

(1=Yes, 2 = No)

6 Ethnicity

To which of the following groups does the child belong?

1= White

2 = Mixed

3 = Black

4 = Asian

5 = Chinese

6 = Traveller

7 = Other

9 = Don't know

Enter appropriate number

7 Dependents

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Does the child have any dependants?

If yes, enter number of dependants

8 What was the child's postcode immediately before the latest occasion of being looked after?

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

If postcode not known, please enter address immediately before the latest occasion of being looked after

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |
| |

9 Placement

Where is the child placed?

1 = Residential accommodation

2 = Foster care

3 = Family

4 = Other accommodation (please specify below)

9 = Not known

Enter appropriate number

.....
.....

10 Placement Change

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Did the child's placement change during the year?

(i.e between 1 October 2001 and 30 September 2002)

If yes, how many placement changes occurred during the year?

11 General Education

Was the child of compulsory school age during the 2001/02 school year?

(1 = Yes, 2 = No)

If no, please go to Q22

if yes, please state whether at any time during the school year

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

the child was referred for a statement of special educational needs?

and whether at any time during the school year

the child was covered by a statement special educational needs?

if covered, please state briefly the reason(s) for the statement

.....
.....

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

12 Was the child expelled from school at any time during the school year?

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

13 Was the child suspended from school at any time during the school year?

If yes, enter number of times the child was suspended during the school year, and

total number of school days in school year lost through suspension

14 How many days of school in total did the child miss (for any reason) during the school year?

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

15 Did the child change schools at any time during the school year?

If yes, how many times did the child change schools during the year?

For children in P4 in 2001/2002, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 1 please answer Q16

For children in P7 in 2001/2002, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 2 please answer Qs 17 and 18

For children in Year 10 in 2001/2002, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 3, please answer Q19

For children in Year 12 in 2001/2002, who should have sat GCSEs or GNVQs please answer Q20

For all other children, please go straight to Q21

16 Key Stage 1

For children who were in P4 in 2001/2002 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage One Assessment

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 1?

If yes, what level did the child achieve in ...

English?

or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?

Mathematics?

Now please go to Q24

17 Key Stage 2

For children who were in P7 in 2001/2002

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 2?

If yes, what level did the child achieve in ...

English?

or (for Irish medium schools) Irish?

Mathematics?

Now please go to Q24

18 Transfer Procedure (Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)
Did the child sit the Transfer Procedure
Tests in Autumn 2001?

(Enter Grade)
**If yes, what grade did the child
achieve?**

Now please go to Q21

19 Key Stage 3
**For children who were in Year 10 in 2001/2002 and who
were eligible for end of Key Stage 3 assessments and tests**
(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 3?

Did the child sit the end of Key Stage 3 tests?

If Yes, What level did the child achieve in ...

| | Assessments | Tests |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| English? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (For Irish medium schools) Irish? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mathematics? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Science? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Now please go to Q21

20 GCSEs and GNVQs

For children who were in Year 12 in 2001/2002 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Did the child sit at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ examination?

If yes, enter the number of qualifications obtained at ...

GCSE (grade A* to C)

GCSE (grade D to G)

GNVQ

21 Offending

For children aged 10 and over at 30 September 2002

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Was the child convicted or cautioned during the year, for an offence committed while being looked after?

If yes, please state below what the offence or offences were.

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

Now please go to Q24

22 Pre-school provision

For children beginning primary school in September 2002

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Did the child have a funded pre-school place (in a day nursery, nursery school, nursery class or playgroup) in their pre-school year ? (i.e. between September 2001 and June 2002)

Under 5's development and health assessment

23 For children aged 4 and younger

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Were the child's development assessments up to date at 30 September 2002?

Did the child have his/her 6-monthly health assessment completed between 1 April 2002 and 30 September 2002?

24 5 and over health assessments

For children aged 5 and over at 30 September 2002

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Did the child have his/her annual health assessment completed during the year ending 30 September 2002?

25 Immunisations

For all children

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Were the child's immunisations up to date at 30 September 2002?

26 Dental checks

For all children

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Did the child have his/her teeth checked by a dentist during the year ending 30 September 2002?

27 Position at age 16 or over

For children who were in Year 12 in 2001/2002 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Was the young person aged 16 at 1 July 2002?

If yes, what was the young person's activity at 30 September 2002?

(Select appropriate code from guidance notes)

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

and

How many different schools has the child attended during his/her school years?

Total number of primary schools attended

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

Total number of secondary/grammar schools attended

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

(Enter 1 for Yes, 2 for No)

Was the child ever out of mainstream school and continuing to receive education (e.g. a period or periods in EOTAS and/or at a Pupil Referral Unit)?

| |
|--|
| <p>This is the end of the questionnaire Thank you for your cooperation.</p> |
|--|

Timetable for Immunisations

| When is the Immunisation due? | Which Immunisations? | Type |
|--|--|--|
| At two months | Polio | By mouth |
| | HIB Diphtheria Tetanus Whooping Cough | One injection |
| | Meningitis C | One injection |
| | Polio | By mouth |
| At three months | HIB Diphtheria Tetanus Whooping Cough | One injection |
| | Meningitis C | One injection |
| | Polio | By mouth |
| | HIB Diphtheria Tetanus Whooping Cough | One injection |
| At four months | Meningitis C | One injection |
| | Polio | By mouth |
| | HIB Diphtheria Tetanus Whooping Cough | One injection |
| | Meningitis C | One injection |
| At 12 to 15 months | Measles Mumps Rubella | One injection |
| 3 to 5 years (usually before the child starts school) | Measles Mumps Rubella | One injection |
| | Diphtheria Tetanus | One injection |
| | Polio | By mouth |
| 10 to 14 years (sometimes shortly after birth) | BCG (against tuberculosis) | Skin test, followed by one injection if needed |
| School leavers: 13 to 18 years | Diphtheria Tetanus | One injection |
| | Polio | By mouth |

Twelve Month Data Period

The data collected covers children and young people looked after at 30th September 2002 in Northern Ireland, who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, therefore covering the period 1st October 2001 to the following 30th September 2002. This is distinctly different from other statistical collections by the DHSSPS, which use a year based on the period ending 31st March. The data period chosen for the OC2 collection is designed to coincide with the academic school year.

Cautions or Convictions

Note that statistics for all children in Northern Ireland refer to proceedings based as a person found guilty on two or more occasions during the year is counted more than one. The offences recorded are based on the principal offence rule, i.e. where proceedings involve more than one offence dealt with at the same time, only the principal offence is recorded. The basis for selection of the principal offence is laid down in rules issued by the Home Office. In summary these indicate that, where there is a finding of guilt the principal offence is usually that for which the greatest penalty was imposed.

Technical Notes

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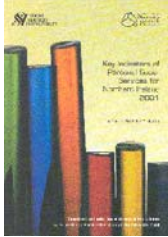


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Further Information

Recent Statistical Publications available from Social Services Analysis Branch:



- Key Indicators of Personal Social Services 2003

- Registration & Inspection Units in Northern Ireland – Summary of Statistical Results (2002/03)



- Determinants of Residential and Foster Care Placements

- Northern Ireland Care Leavers (2001/02)

Northern Ireland Care Leavers
(2001/02)



A more detailed list of publications produced by Social Services Analysis Branch can be viewed on the Branch's website: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hss/ssi/pubs.asp or by contacting SSAB (Tel: 02890522960).