

Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children

**Year Ending 30 September 2006
Northern Ireland**

Statistical Bulletin

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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 HSC 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.

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Community Information Branch aims to:

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

Contents

	Page
Summary of Main Findings.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Trust & Board Profile.....	3
Background Information.....	4
General Education.....	6
Key Stage and GCSE or Equivalent Results.....	9
Cautions / Convictions.....	12
Pre – School Provision.....	12
Health.....	13
Current Activity.....	14
School History.....	15
Appendices.....	16
Coverage of OC2.....	20
Technical Notes.....	21
OC2 Sample Questionnaire.....	22

List of Figures

Figure	Page
1.1 Number of Children & Young People Looked After Continuously for at Least 12 months at 30 September 2005 and 2006 by HSS Trust and Board	3
2.1 Age Profile	4
2.2 Placement of Children	5
2.3 Placement of Children by Age (2006)	5
2.4 Placement Changes During the Year Ending 30 September	5
3.1 Statements of SEN by Gender (2006)	6
3.2 Statements of SEN by Age (2006)	6
3.3 Suspensions from School by Age (2005/06)	7
3.4 Suspensions from School (2005/06)	7
3.5 Suspensions from School by Gender (2005/06)	7
3.6 School Days Missed through Suspension.....	8
3.7 School Days Missed for any reason (2005/06)	8
3.8 Number of School Changes (2005/06)	8
4.1 Children Achieving Level 2 or Above in Key Stage 1, English and Maths Assessments (2005/06)	9
4.2 Children Achieving Level 4 or Above in Key Stage 2, English and Maths Assessments (2005/06)	9
4.3 Children Achieving Level 5 or Above in Key Stage 3, English, Maths, and Science Tests (2005/06)	10
4.4 Children Looked After Achieving GCSE or Equivalent Passes (2005/06)	11
5.1 Children Cautioned or Convicted (2005/06)	12
5.2 Looked After Children Cautioned or Convicted by Gender, Age, and Religion (2005/06)	12
5.3 Reasons for Cautions or Convictions (2005/06)	12
6.1 Looked After Children aged Under 5 who had a Funded Pre-School Place (2005/06)	13
7.1 Current Activity of Young People Looked After who had Completed Year 12 during 2005/06	14
7.2 Number of Primary Schools Attended by Looked After Children Reaching Year 12 in 2005/06 by Gender.....	15

List of Figures

Summary of Main Findings

- At 30 September 2006, there were 1,480 children looked after by HSS Trusts in Northern Ireland who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.
- 1,223 (83%) of these children were of school age, and of these 23% had a statement of SEN compared with 28% of the same group in England, and 4% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.
- 26 (2%) looked after children of school age were expelled in 2005/06, slightly higher than the figure for looked after children in England (1%), and much higher than the rate among the general school population in Northern Ireland (0.02%).
- 111 (11%) of the 1005 looked after children aged 10 & over were cautioned or convicted in 2005/06, compared with 10% of looked after children in England, and 1% of all children in Northern Ireland. Of those convicted, over two thirds were boys (68%).
- One in 12 (8%) looked after children of school age were suspended from school in 2005/06, compared with 2% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.
- 10% of children looked after for at least 12 months missed 29 or more days of schooling in 2005/06.
- Over half (55%) looked after children in Northern Ireland who sat Key Stage 1 English achieved Level 2 or above, compared with 95% of the equivalent school population. For Key Stage 1 Maths, 50% of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 2 or above, which was lower than the 65% of looked after children in England and 96% of the general school population.
- Almost one quarter (24%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English assessments, compared with 78% of the general school population and 43% of looked after children in England.
- Over one fifth (21%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths, compared with 80% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 41% of looked after children in England.
- Almost one quarter (24%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 English, five percentage points higher than 2001/02 (19%). This compared to 77% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 28% of looked after children in England
- In Key Stage 3 Maths, over one fifth (22%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above, six percentage points higher than the equivalent proportion in 2001/02 (16%). However, this compared to 73% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 33% of looked after children in England.
- For Key Stage 3 Science, almost one quarter (23%) looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above, compared with 15% in 2002/02. However, this compared to 75% of the general school population, and 29% of looked after children in England.
- Over half (56%) the children looked after in Northern Ireland attained at least 1 GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*-G, an increase of 14 percentage points from 2002/03. This compared with almost all (97%) of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 63% of looked after children in England.
- Almost one in six (16%) children looked after attained 5 or more GCSEs/GNVQs at grades A*-C, compared with 63% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 12% of looked after children in England. The figure for looked after children in Northern Ireland is eight percentage points higher than the 8% than the equivalent figure for 2002/03 (8%).
- At the end of school Year 12, 44% of looked after children remained in full-time education compared with 64% of looked after children in England, 14% were unemployed compared with 20% in England, and 14% of children were in full-time training compared with 7% in England.

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 results for the third OC2 survey covering the year ending 30 September 2006. The OC2 collection covers all children in Northern Ireland who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September 2006. The survey excluded children looked after under an agreed series of respite placements during the period specified.

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 third OC2 survey continues the collection of valuable information on the qualifications and educational attainment of looked after children in Northern Ireland in 2005/06.

The results of the latest survey indicate that children looked after in Northern Ireland continue to be 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 general school population.

As with previous surveys, some Health and Social Care Trusts continue to have difficulty providing some of the information requested. This led to very long delays in returning completed surveys and providing clarification of follow up ad-hoc queries, and possibly to some Trusts continuing to under-record 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

Trust & Board Profile

At 30 September 2006, 1,480 children and young people had been looked after continuously for 12 months or longer in Northern Ireland; a rate of 34.3 children per 10,000-population aged under 18¹.

Compared with the first OC2 survey, the numbers of children looked after for 12 months or longer fell by 12% (199), from 1,679 in 2002 to 1,480 in 2006.

Figure 1.1 details the number of children and young people looked after continuously for 12 months or longer by HSS Boards

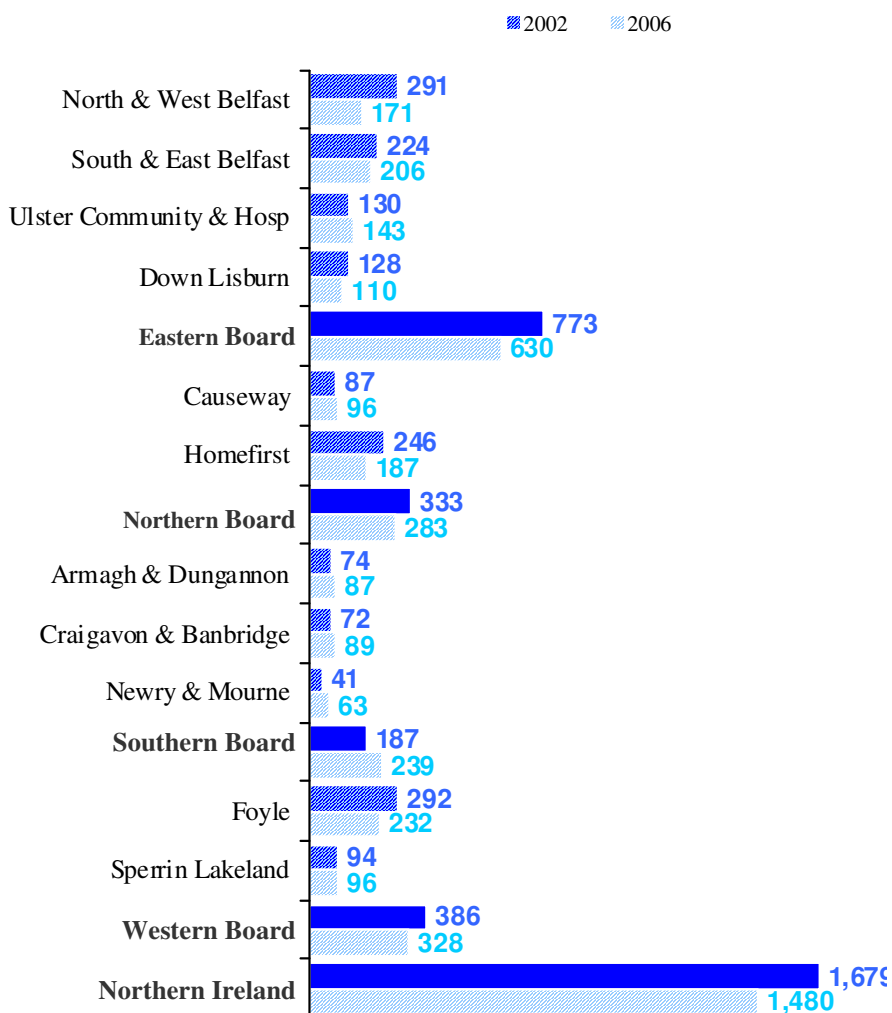
and legacy HSS Trust, at 30 September, 2002 and 2006

In 2006, legacy HSS Trusts, Foyle (232) and South & East Belfast (206) had the highest numbers of children, whilst Newry & Mourne had the fewest (63).

The distribution of children by Board for 2006, indicated that 43% (630) were in the Eastern Board, with 22% (328) in the Western Board, 19% (283) in the Northern Board, and 16% (239) in the Southern Board.

Figure 1.1

Number of Children & Young People Looked After Continuously for at Least 12 Months at 30 September, 2002 and 2006 by HSS Trust & Board



Source: NISRA 2006 Mid-Year Estimates of Population

Background Information

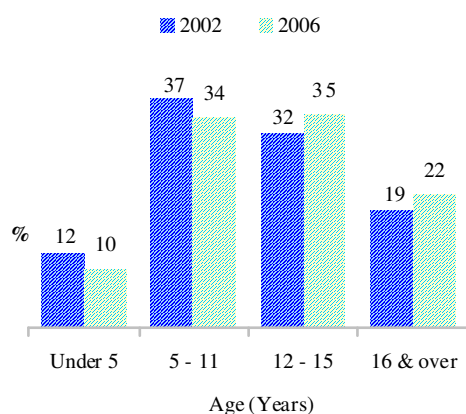
Gender

At 30 September 2006, 53% of children were boys and 47% were girls; there was little change in the relative proportions of boys and girls compared with 2002.

Age

In 2006, 35% of children were aged 12-15, 34% were aged 5-11, 22% were aged 16 & over, and 10% were under 5 years old. The age profile for children in 2006 was similar to that in 2002. (Figure 2.1)

Figure 2.1
Age Profile



Religion

There was a slightly higher proportion of Catholic (49%) than Protestant (46%) children in 2006, with 67 (5%) reported as having either 'No', 'Unknown' or 'Other' religious denomination. Compared with 2002, there was little change in the relative proportions of children in terms of religious background.

Ethnicity

The ethnic grouping of children in 2006, indicated that 98% (1,449) were White, and of the remaining 2% (31): 13 were Black Caribbean, Black African or Black Other, 10 were Irish Traveller, and 8 were Indian, or had Mixed or Other ethnic backgrounds. Figure X, details the composition of children by ethnic group for 2002 and 2006. [insert chart]

Disability

Trusts were asked to indicate if children were disabled 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”.

Using this definition, almost 1 in 8 (12%) children were reported as disabled in 2006, compared with just over 1 in 10 (11%) in 2002.

As in 2002, a higher proportion of boys (15%) than girls (9%) were disabled.

Dependants

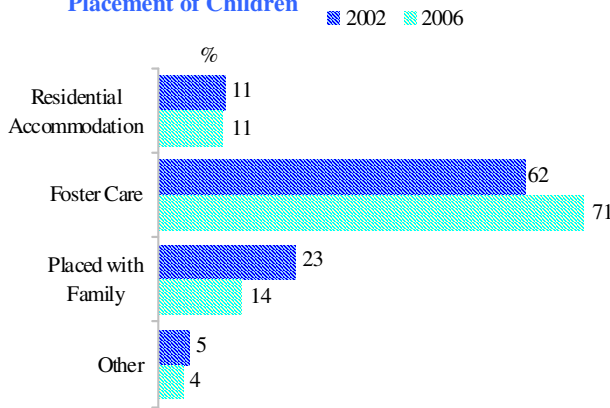
A question on dependants has always been included in the OC2 survey, as having dependants whilst in care may impact on educational outcomes for young people; in 2006, 9 young people had one or more dependants, 10 less compared with children in 2002.

Placement

At 30 September 2006, 71% of children were placed in foster care¹, 14% were placed with family, 11% were in residential care, and 4% were in Other² placement types.

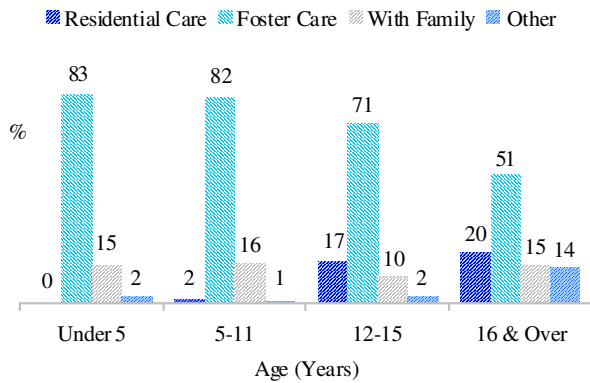
The proportion of children in foster care placements increased by nine percentage points, from 62% in 2002, to 71% in 2006, with a corresponding decrease in the proportion of children placed with family (Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2
Placement of Children



Children aged under 12 were more likely to be in foster care than older children, whereas children aged 12 & over were more likely than younger children to be in residential care. Older children (16 & over) were more likely than younger children to be in Other types of placement. (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3
Placement of Children by Age (2006)



¹ Foster Care includes children placed for adoption.
² Other forms of accommodation include; adopted/fostered, supported accommodation, hospital, friends/family, shared care, assessment centres, and other.

Over half (56%) those children in Other placement types were male, and of all children in Other placement types:

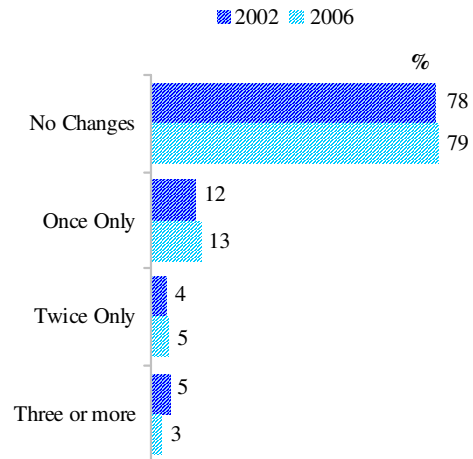
- 20% were fostered or placed for adoption;
- 17% were placed with friends or relatives;
- 14% were in supported accommodation;
- 11% were in assessment centres, community placements or boarding school
- 11% were in hospital, and;
- 6% in shared care

Placement Changes

Just over 1 in 10 (21%) children had changed placements at least once during the year ending 30 September 2006; 13% once only, 5% twice only, and 3% had changed placement three times or more.

When compared with 2002, there was little change in the proportions of children moving placements whilst in care during 2006. (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4
Placement Changes during the Year ending 30 September



General Education

Compulsory School Age

For the 2006 survey, compulsory school age refers to all children whose date of birth fell on or between 2/7/1989 and 1/7/2001, 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 30 September 2006, 83% (1,223) were of compulsory school age, compared with 81% in 2002. Similar proportions of boys (83%) and girls (82%) were of compulsory school age in 2006.

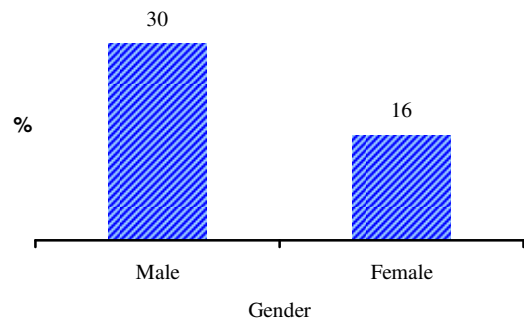
Children who have statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which requires special educational provision. Learning difficulty means the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of similar age, and/or has a disability which hinders using 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 is different from, or additional to, that made 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.

Just below one quarter of children in 2006 (23%) had been covered by a statement of SEN, compared with 28% in England, and 4% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.

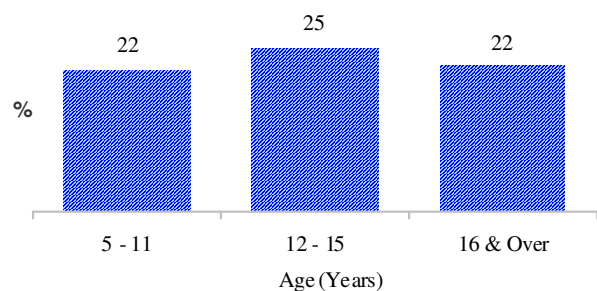
A higher proportion of boys (30%) than girls (16%) were covered by a statement of SEN. (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1
Statements of SEN by Gender (2006)



One quarter (25%) of looked after children aged 12-15 were covered by a statement of SEN in 2006, compared with 22% of those aged 5-11 and 22% of looked after children aged 16 & over (Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2
Statements of SEN by Age (2006)



Of those children covered by a statement of SEN, 41% were because of learning disability, 12% were due to behavioural problems, and 47% were for Other¹ reasons.

¹ Other reasons include autistic spectrum disorder, emotional problems, physical disability and not known.

Exclusions from School

Findings from the 2006 survey indicate that looked after children are more likely to be expelled from school than children in the general school population; 2% (23) of looked after children of school age had been expelled from school in 2005/06, compared with 1% of looked after children in England, and 0.02% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.

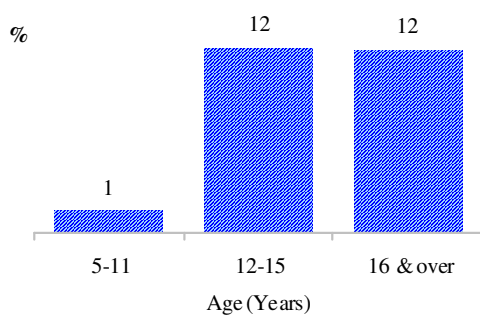
Of 26 children expelled from school in 2005/06, 15 were boys and 11 were girls.

Suspensions

Looked after children were four times more likely to be suspended from school than children in the general school population; 8% of children looked after had been suspended in 2005/06, compared with 2% of the general school population in Northern Ireland.

A higher proportion of boys (11%) than girls (4%) looked after were suspended from school in 2005/06.

Figure 3.3
Suspensions from School by Age (2005/06)



Similar proportions of children suspended from school were aged 12-15 years (12%), and aged 16 & over (12%), whilst 1% were aged 5-11 (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.4 details the frequency with which children looked after were suspended from school in 2005/06.

The majority (92%) of children looked after were not suspended in 2005/06, 3% had been suspended once, 1% twice, and 4% three times or more.

Figure 3.4
Suspensions from School (2005/06)

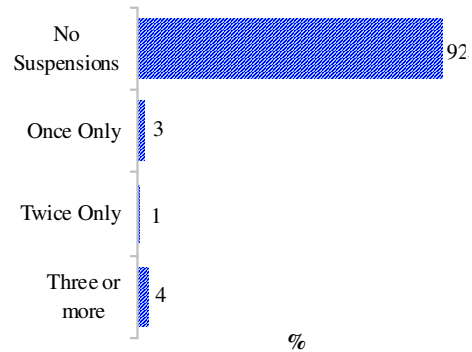
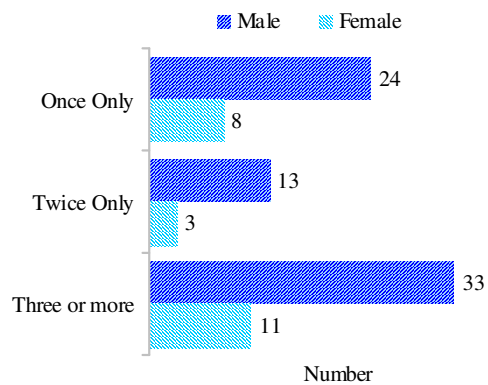
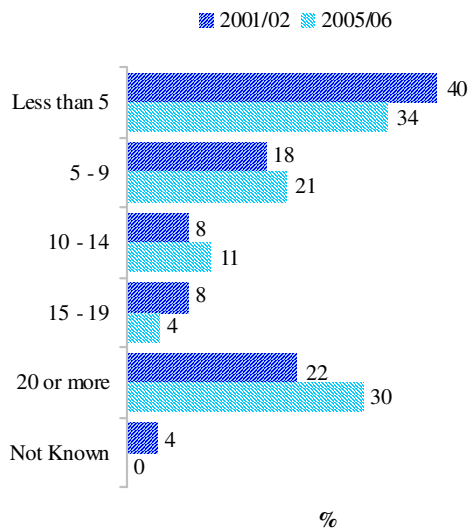


Figure 3.5
Suspensions from School by Gender (2005/06)



More than four times as many boys (13) than girls (3) had been suspended twice, and three times as many boys (33) than girls (11) had been suspended three times or more in 2005/06 (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.6
School Days missed through Suspension



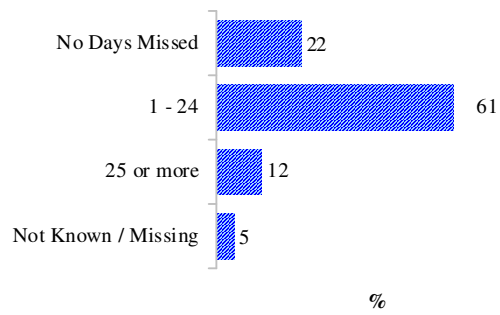
During 2005/06, almost one third (34%) of children looked after had been suspended for less than 5 days, whilst 3 in 10 (30%) had been suspended for 20 days or more.

More boys (21) than girls (7) were suspended for 20 days or more in 2005/06.

Children who missed at least 25 days of school for any reason

For 2005/06, 12% of children looked after had missed 25 or more school days, which was similar to the corresponding figure for England (13%); 61% had missed between 1 and 24 school days, and full attendance at school was reported for 22% of children¹ (Figure 3.7).

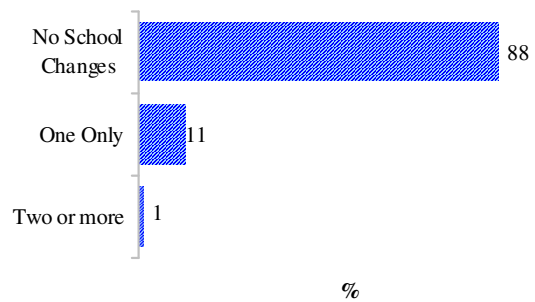
Figure 3.7
School Days missed for any Reason (2005/06)



For the 2005/06 school year, 12% of boys and 11% of girls looked after had missed 25 days or more.

School changes in 2005/06

Figure 3.8
Number of School Changes (2005/06)



During school year 2005/06, 88% of looked after children had not changed school at any time, compared with 12% that had changed school at least once during this period, (Figure 3.8).

Boys (13%) were more likely than girls (10%) to change schools during the year.

¹ Information on the number of school days missed was not provided for 61 young people in 2005/06.

Key Stage and GCSE or Equivalent Results

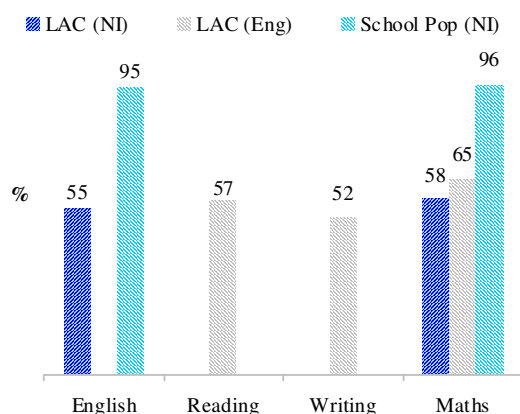
Key Stage 1

Of the 1,223 looked after children of school age in 2006, 70¹ (6%) were eligible for assessment at Key Stage 1 in 2005/06; of these 70 children, 24% had been covered by a statement of SEN.

To allow comparisons with Key Stage 1 results for all children in Northern Ireland², children with a statement of SEN because of severe learning disability were excluded from the analysis presented below.

Figure 4.1 details performance in Key Stage 1 assessments, for looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England³.

Figure 4.1
Children Achieving Level 2 or Above in Key Stage 1, English and Maths Assessments (2005/06)⁴



Over half (55%) looked after children in Northern Ireland who sat Key Stage 1 English assessments achieved Level 2 or above, compared with 95% of the equivalent school population. For Key Stage 1 Maths, 50% of

¹ This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 1 in 2005/06 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

² Figures for the general 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.

⁴ Children in England were assessed at KS1 in Reading, Writing and Maths; the figures for NI relate to English and Maths assessments at KS1.

looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved level 2 or above, which was lower than the 65% of looked after children in England (65%) and 96% of the general school population.

A higher proportion of girls (71%) than boys (40%) looked after in Northern Ireland achieved Level 2 or above in Key Stage 1 English; in Key Stage 1 Maths, the proportion of girls achieving Level 2 or above (71%) was again higher than that for boys (46%).

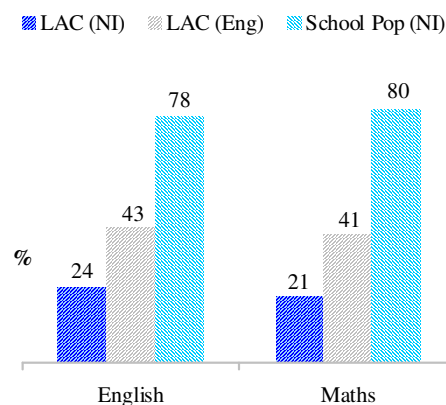
Almost one quarter (24%) of looked after children of appropriate age in Northern Ireland had not been assessed in Key Stage 1 English or Key Stage 1 Maths.

Key Stage 2

For Key Stage 2 assessments, 91⁵ (7%) of the 1,223 children of school age were eligible for assessment in 2005/06. One fifth (20%) of these 91 children had been covered by a statement of SEN.

Figure 4.2 details the performance of children attaining the target level for Key Stage 2 assessments in respect of looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland, and for looked after children in England³.

Figure 4.2
Children Achieving Level 4 or Above in Key Stage 2, English and Maths Assessments (2005/06)



⁵ This includes all children eligible to be assessed at Key Stage 2 in 2005/06 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

Almost one quarter (24%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English assessments, compared with 78% of the general school population and 43% of looked after children in England¹.

Over one fifth (21%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths, compared with 80% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 41% of looked after children in England.

Over one quarter (27%) of looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 2 assessments in English and Maths were not assessed in 2005/06.

A higher proportion of girls (27%) than boys (22%) looked after achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English. In Key Stage 2 Maths however, a slightly higher proportion of boys (22%) than girls (20%) looked after achieved level 4 or above.

Similar proportions of looked after children achieved Level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English and Key Stage 2 Maths for 2005/06 and 2001/02.

Key Stage 3

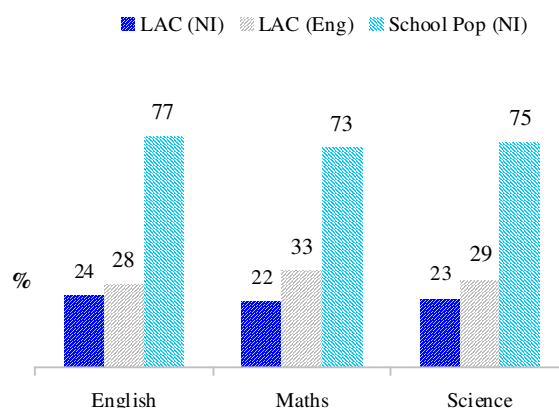
In respect of Key Stage 3, 137² (11%) of the 1,223 children looked after were eligible to sit these tests in 2005/06; over one quarter (26%) of these had been covered by a statement of SEN.

To allow comparison with the general school population in Northern Ireland³ children with a statement of SEN because of severe learning disability were excluded from the analysis presented below.

Figure 4.3 details the percentage of looked after children and general school population in Northern Ireland, and looked

after children in England⁴ attaining Level 5 or above for Key Stage 3 assessment.

Figure 4.3
Children Achieving Level 5 or Above in Key Stage 3, English, Maths, and Science Tests (2005/06)



Almost one quarter (24%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 English, five percentage points higher than 2001/02 (19%). This compared to 77% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 28% of looked after children in England⁴.

In Key Stage 3 Maths, over one fifth (22%) of looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above, six percentage points higher than the equivalent proportion in 2001/02 (16%). However, this compared to 73% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 33% of looked after children in England⁴.

For Key Stage 3 Science, almost one quarter (23%) looked after children in Northern Ireland achieved Level 5 or above, compared with 15% in 2002/02. However, this compared to 75% of the general school population, and 29% of looked after children in England⁴.

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 This includes all children eligible to be tested at Key Stage 3 in 2005/06 who were not assessed, and for whom information was not provided.

³ Figures for the general school population in Northern Ireland cover only mainstream schools, whereas figures for looked after children in NI include all schools.

⁴ 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.

Over one third (36%) of looked after children eligible to sit Key Stage 3 tests were not tested in 2005/06, which was similar to that in 2001/02.

Comparison of performance in Key Stage 3 English by gender indicated a substantially higher proportion of girls (32%) than boys (16%) looked after achieved Level 5 or above.

A higher proportion of girls (26%) than boys (18%) achieved Level 5 or above in Maths, and in Key Stage 3 Science, 28% of girls achieved this level compared to 19% of boys.

GCSEs and GNVQs

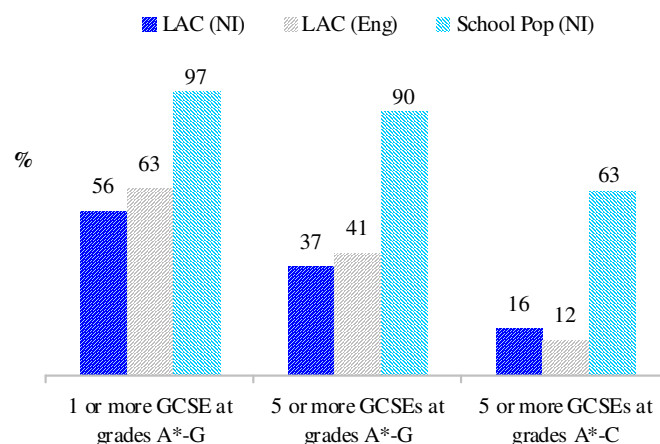
Of the 1,223 children looked after at 30 September 2006, 168¹ (14%) were eligible to sit GCSEs or GNVQs in 2005/06, which is three percentage points higher than the equivalent percentage in 2001/02 (17%). Almost one quarter (23%) of those eligible to sit these exams, had been covered by a statement of SEN.

To allow comparisons with the general school population in Northern Ireland², children with a statement of SEN because of severe learning difficulty have been excluded from the analysis presented below.

Over two fifths (42 %) of children looked after due to sit GCSE/GNVQ did not take these exams in 2005/06.

Figure 4.4 details the percentage of looked after children and the general school population in Northern Ireland, and looked after children in England³ that attained GCSEs or equivalent qualifications in 2005/06.

Figure 4.4
Children Looked After Achieving GCSE or Equivalent Passes (2005/06)



Over half (56%) the children looked after in Northern Ireland attained at least 1 GCSE/GNVQ at grades A*-G, an increase of 14 percentage points from 2002/03. This compared with almost all (97%) of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 63% of looked after children in England¹.

Almost one in six (16%) children looked after attained 5 or more GCSEs/GNVQs at grades A*-C, compared with 63% of the general school population in Northern Ireland, and 12% of looked after children in England¹. The figure for looked after children in Northern Ireland is eight percentage points higher than the 8% than the equivalent figure for 2002/03 (8%).

A higher proportion of girls (43%) than boys (31%) looked after achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - G; and similarly for 5 or more GCSE's, a higher proportion of girls (25%) than boys (8%) achieved grades A* - C.

¹ This includes all children eligible to sit GCSE/GNVQ in 2005/06 who were not tested, and for whom test information was not provided.

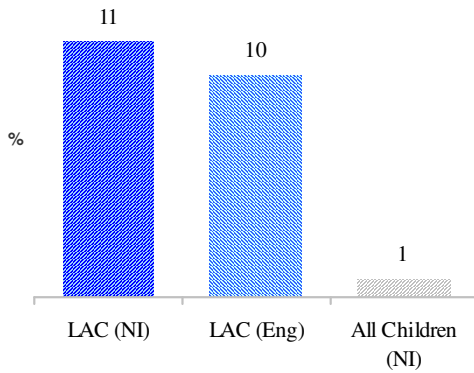
² Figures for the general school population in NI exclude special and independent schools.

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.

Cautions / Convictions

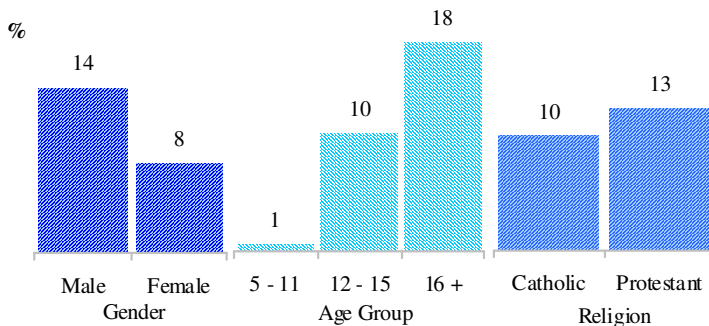
Of looked after children aged 10 & over 11% (111) had been cautioned or convicted of an offence whilst in care during the year ending 30 September 2006; this compared with 15% in 2001/02. (Offences committed while the child **was not** looked after are excluded).

Figure 5.1
Children Cautioned or Convicted (2005/06)



Looked after children aged 10 & over were eight times more likely than all children of similar age in Northern Ireland to be cautioned or convicted (see Technical Notes on page 34). A similar proportion of looked after children aged 10 & over had been cautioned or convicted in England (10%).

Figure 5.2
Percentage of Looked After Children Cautioned or Convicted by Gender, Age, and Religion (2005/06)



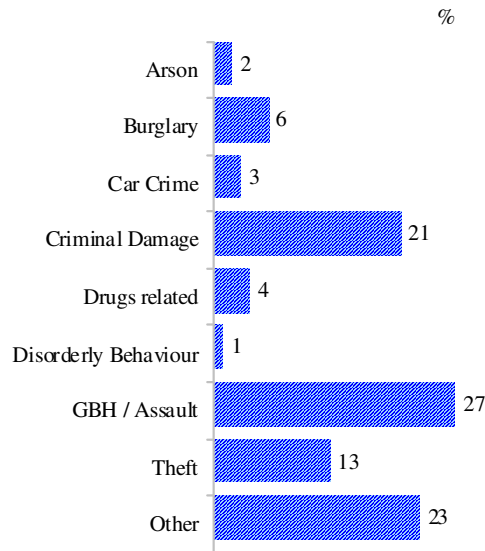
For looked after children aged 10 and over a higher proportion of boys (14%) than girls (8%) had been cautioned or convicted during 2005/06; by age, almost one-fifth of children aged 16 & over (18%) had

been convicted or cautioned; and by religion, 13% of Protestant and 10% of Catholic looked after children had been cautioned or convicted in 2005/06.

Of the 106 looked after children for whom information was provided, 213 separate offences were recorded.

Over one quarter (27%) of recorded offences were for GBH/Assault, 21% were for criminal damage, 13% for theft, 6% for burglary, 4% for drug related offences, 3% for car crime, 2% for arson, 1% for disorderly behaviour, and 23% were for 'other' reasons (Figure 5.3).

Figure 5.3
Reasons for Cautions or Convictions (2005/06)

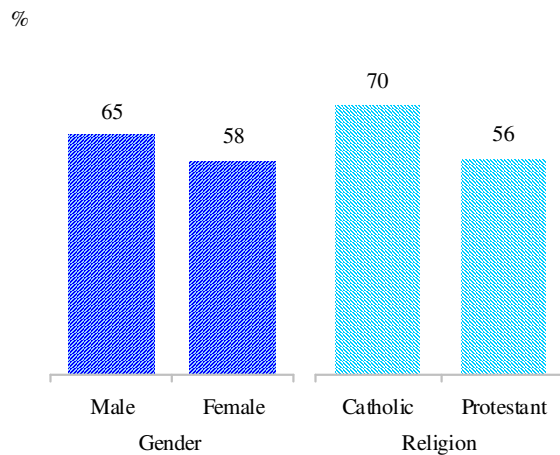


Pre-School Provision

Information for pre-school provision relates to children whose date of birth fell between 2nd July 2001 and 1st July 2002.

Twenty four (63%) of 38 looked after children eligible for funded pre-school provision had been allocated a free place during 2005/06.

Figure 6.1
Looked After Children aged Under 5 who had a Funded Pre-School Place (2005/06)



A lower proportion of girls (58%) than boys (65%) looked after aged under 5 had a funded pre-school place in 2005/06, which were markedly lower than the equivalent proportions in 2001/02 (88% and 84% respectively) (Figure 6.1).

Health

Information on Development Assessments and Six Monthly Assessments relates to 147 (10%) children aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2006.

Development Assessments

All (97%) but three children aged under 5 had their development assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2006; this was higher than the corresponding figure for England (86%).

Six Month Assessments

The majority (89%) of children aged under 5 had their six monthly assessments up-to-date at 30 September 2006, a slight increase compared with 85% in 2002.

Health Assessments

Of the 1,333 children aged 5 & over, 90% had their annual health assessment up-to-date, compared with 83% in England.

Immunisations

Information on immunisations relates to all looked after children, and not just to those that were due immunisations in 2005/06. It includes immunisations due before admittance into care and during time spent in care. Where children did not receive immunisations for health reasons or because parents refused consent, these were counted as children whose immunisations were not up-to-date.

A child's immunisation record is considered up-to-date if the Trust indicated that all relevant immunisations had been administered by 30 September 2006.

From the information provided, 98% of children looked after had their immunisations up-to-date at 30 September 2006; this compared with 80% of looked after children in England.

Dental Checks

This relates to all children and young people looked after who had their teeth checked during the year ending 30 September 2006. For very young children, dental or oral checks may be undertaken by a dentist, a paediatrician or other health care professional and these would count as dental checks.

Of the 1,480 children looked after at 30 September 2006, 95% had their teeth checked the previous year; ten percentage points higher than the corresponding figure for England (85%).

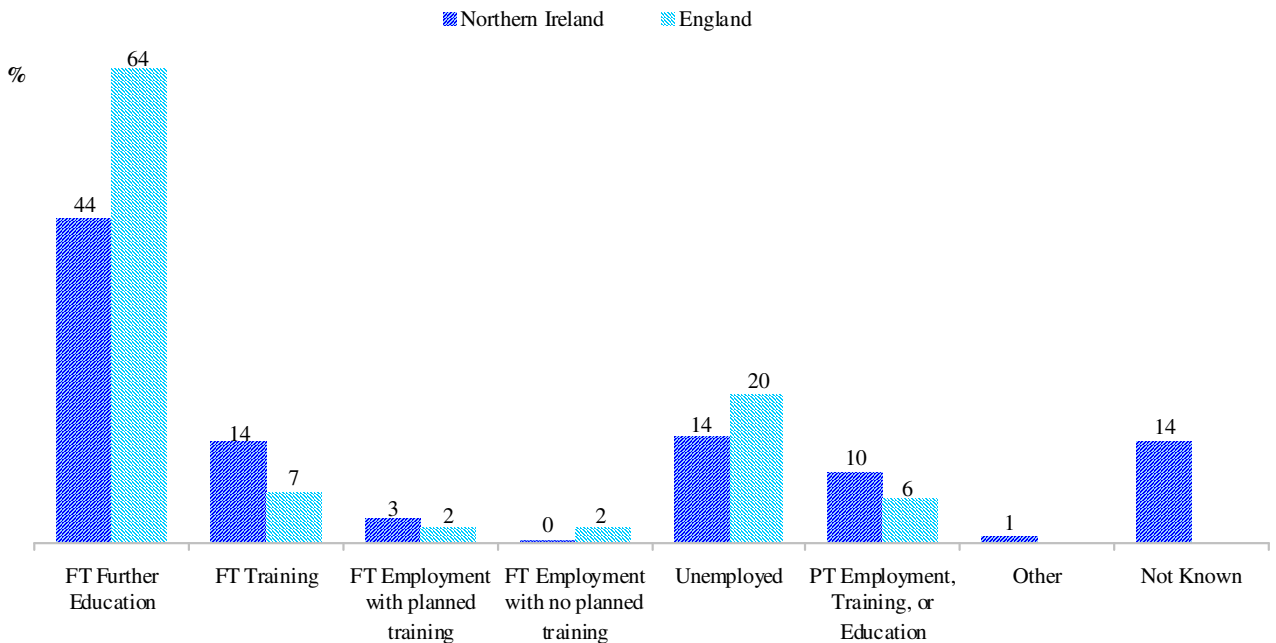
Current Activity

The OC2 survey collects information on children looked after who finished compulsory schooling in 2005/06, having completed Year 12. For the current survey, 273 young people aged 16 had completed Year 12 at school.

Figure 7.1 below details the activity of young people in care that had completed Year 12 at school, for both Northern Ireland and England.

Figure 7.1

Current Activity of Young People Looked After who had Completed Year 12 during 2005/06 ^{1,2,3}



At 30 September 2006, 44% of young people looked after in Northern Ireland that had completed Year 12 at school, were in or about to start full-time education, some twenty percentage points less than the corresponding proportion in England (64%); 14% were unemployed, compared with 20% in England.

Young people looked after in Northern Ireland (14%) were twice as likely as their English (7%) peers to be in full time training.

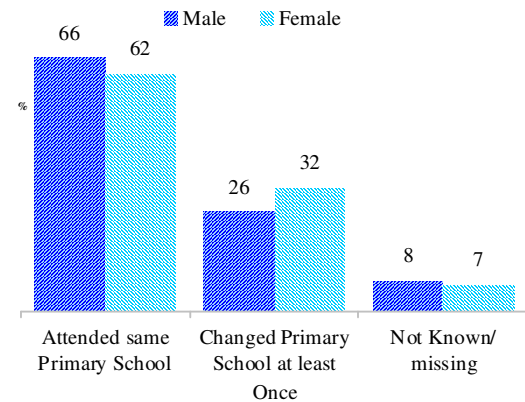
Proportionately, nearly twice as many boys (18%) than girls (10%) were unemployed, with girls (49%) more likely than boys (38%) to have started or about to start full-time education. (Appendices, Figure 1)

School History

Primary Schools Attended ¹

Of the 273 young people looked after in school Year 12, 64% had attended the same primary school until transfer age, and 29% had changed primary schools at least once. Information on the number of primary schools attended by 14 (5%) children was not provided, and 3% had not attended primary school.

Figure 7.2
Number of Primary Schools Attended by Looked After Children Reaching Year 12 in 2005/06 by Gender

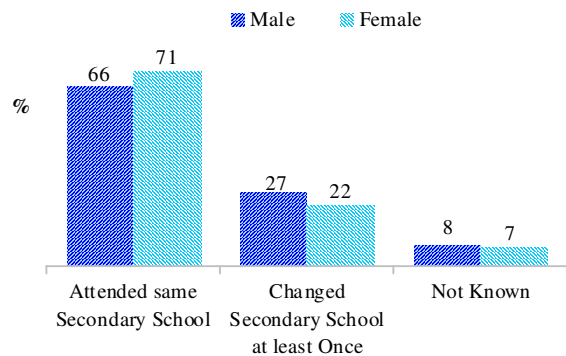


A higher proportion of girls (32%) than boys (26%) looked after had changed primary schools at least once before reaching transfer age (Figure 7.2).

Secondary Schools Attended ²

Of the 273 young people in Year 12 in, over two thirds (68%) attended the same secondary school, over one fifth (21%) had changed secondary schools once, and 4% had changed secondary schools at least twice.

Figure 7.3
Number of Secondary Schools Attended by Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2005/06 by Gender



A higher proportion of boys (27%) than girls (22%) looked after changed secondary schools at least once during their post primary years (Figure 7.3).

Gaps in Mainstream Education

Thirty percent (81) of the young people who were in Year 12 in 2005/06, had been out of mainstream education and continued to be educated in other ways.

Almost 2 in 5 (38%) of boys who were in Year 12 in 2005/06, had been out of mainstream education at some time during their school years, compared with 21% of girls.

¹ Information was not provided on the number of primary schools attended by 22 young people.

² Information was not provided on the number of secondary schools attended by 20 young people.

Appendices

Table 1 **Numbers of Children Looked After Continuously for at least 12 months, and General Information about their education; 12 Months Ending 30 September 2006**

Table 2 **Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2006, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2005/06**

Figure 1 **Education and Employment Status of Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2005/06 at 30 September 2006 by Gender**

Coverage of OC2

Technical Notes

OC2 Sample Questionnaire

Table 1

Numbers of Children Looked After Continuously for at least 12 months, and General Information about their Education; 12 Months Ending 30 September 2006¹

	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	1,480	1,223	300	24.5	26	2.1	100	8.2
England²	44,200	34,400	9,500	27.6	280	0.8	4,600	13.4
North & West Belfast	171	144	36	25.0	<5	-	17	11.8
South & East Belfast	206	167	51	30.5	<5	-	10	6.0
Ulster Community & Hospitals	143	114	19	16.7	<5	-	14	12.3
Down Lisburn	110	90	27	30.0	<5	-	7	7.8
Eastern Board	630	515	133	25.8	12	2.3	48	9.3
Causeway	96	88	26	29.5	<5	-	6	6.8
Homefirst	187	145	22	15.2	<5	-	15	10.3
Northern Board	283	233	48	20.6	<5	-	21	9.0
Armagh & Dungannon	87	70	8	11.4	<5	-	<5	-
Craigavon & Banbridge	89	72	22	30.6	<5	-	6	8.3
Newry & Mourne	63	46	8	17.4	<5	-	<5	-
Southern Board	239	188	38	20.2	<5	-	9	4.8
Foyle	232	204	60	29.4	<5	-	12	5.9
Sperrin Lakeland	96	83	21	25.3	<5	-	10	12.0
Western Board	328	287	81	28.2	7	2.4	22	7.7

¹ To avoid personal disclosure, values less than 5 have been suppressed and replaced by "<5". To make sure these values cannot be derived by simple arithmetic, further values may have been suppressed and replaced by "<5", ">5" or ">10"., including percentages have also been suppressed and replaced by "-".

² Figures for the number of school days missed for looked after children in England refer to 25 days or more.

Table 2

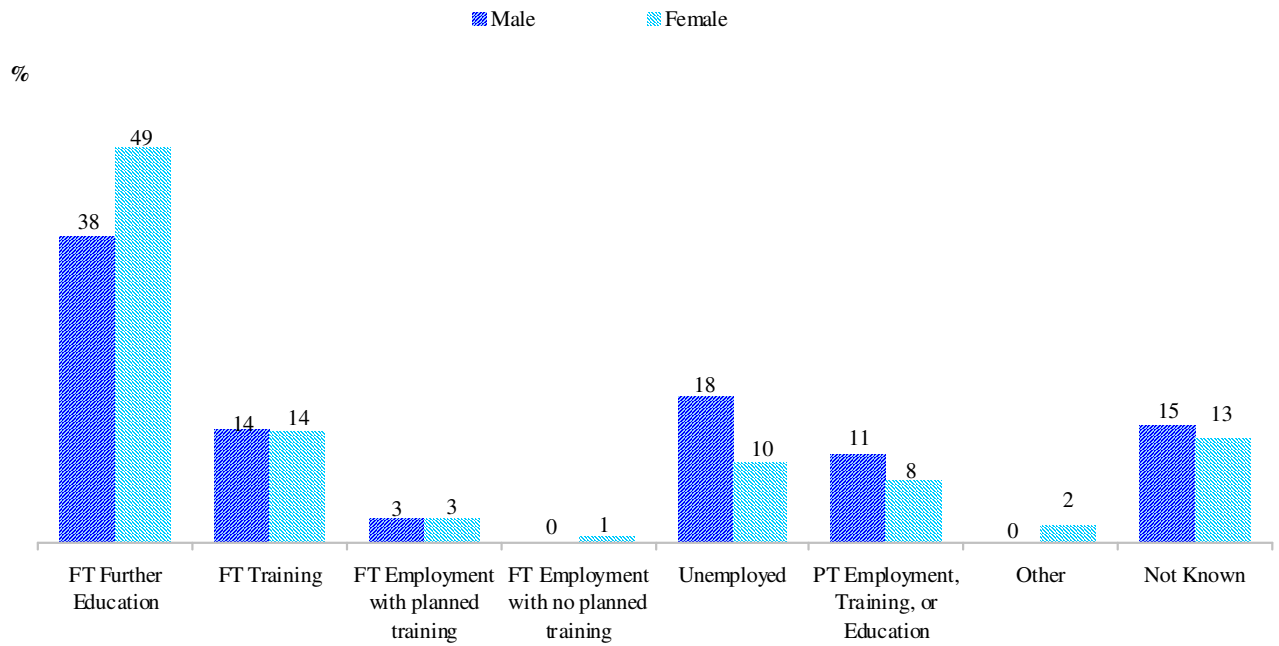
Eligibility of Children Looked After for at least 12 months at 30 September 2006, for each of the Key Educational Stages in 2005/06¹

Trust / Board	Number of Looked After Children eligible to sit:			
	Key Stage 1 Assessments	Key Stage 2 Assessments	Key Stage 3 Tests	GCSE's or GNVQ's
Northern Ireland	70	91	137	168
England	1,700	2,800	4,000	5,100
North & West Belfast	12	18	11	22
South & East Belfast	12	11	26	21
Ulster Community & Hospitals	5	8	17	20
Down Lisburn	4	5	9	17
Eastern Board	33	42	63	80
Causeway	4	6	8	12
Homefirst	7	8	19	18
Northern Board	11	14	27	30
Armagh & Dungannon	<5	8	8	16
Craigavon & Banbridge	<5	<5	6	5
Newry & Mourne	<5	<5	5	10
Southern Board	10	12	19	31
Foyle	12	18	20	20
Sperrin Lakeland	4	5	8	7
Western Board	16	23	28	27

¹ To avoid personal disclosure, values less than 5 have been suppressed and replaced by "<5". To make sure these values cannot be derived by simple arithmetic, further values may have been suppressed and replaced by "<5", ">5" or ">10"., including percentages have also been suppressed and replaced by "-".

Figure 1

Education and Employment Status of Looked After Children in Year 12 in 2005/06 at 30 September 2006 by Gender^{1, 2, 3}



¹ FT Further Education for NI includes FT Further Education and Higher Education; for England the figure refers to Full Time Education.

² Unemployed includes unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability and unemployed for other reason.

³ Other includes parent full-time carer and other full-time carer.

Coverage of OC2

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 September 2006, 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 2/7/1989 to 1/7/2001.
Key Stage 1	Children eligible for school year 4 i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1997 to 1/7/1998.
Key Stage 2	Children eligible for school year 7, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1994 to 1/7/1995.
Key Stage 3	Children eligible for school year 10, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1991 to 1/7/1992.
GCSEs and GNVQs	Children eligible for school Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1989 to 1/7/1990.
Offending	Children aged 10 & over at 30 September 2006, i.e. whose date of birth is 30/9/1996 or earlier.
Pre-School Provision	Children in their pre-school year in 2005/06, i.e. whose date of birth is 2/7/2001 to 1/7/2002.
Development Assessments	Children aged under 5 at 30 September 2006, i.e. whose date of birth is 1/10/2001 or later.
Immunisations	All children covered by the OC2 collection, i.e. all children who were looked after on 30 September 2006, and who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months.
Dental Checks	
Health Assessments	
Current Activity / Past Schooling Experiences	Children eligible for Year 12, i.e. whose date of birth is in range 2/7/1989 to 1/7/1990.

Technical Notes

Twelve Month Data Period

The data collected covers children and young people looked after at 30 September 2006 in Northern Ireland, who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months, therefore covering the period 1st October 2005 to the following 30 September 2006. 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.

OC2 Sample Questionnaire

Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
 An Roinn Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

Form OC2

2005/2006

Outcome indicators for looked after children

Complete this form for each child who was looked after by your Trust at 30 September 2006, and who, at that time, had been looked after continuously for one year or more

1. Trust name: _____

2. SOS CARE Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Sex

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Date of birth

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y

5. Date of start of latest period of care

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y

6. What is the child's religion?

(see guidance notes, please tick as appropriate)

Catholic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protestant	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
No denomination	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Has the child a disability according to the definition for

the register of children with a disability, i.e. has an illness or difficulty and needs extra help to take part in activities around them in the way they would like and in the way other children of the same age do, respecting individual culture and circumstances?

(see guidance notes for fuller, formal definition)

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

If 'Yes', please state main disability type

Visually disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing impaired	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physically disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning disabled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please specify below</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'other', please specify

.....

8. Did the child reside in another Trust area immediately before this period in care?

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

If 'Yes', please specify Trust in which child previously resided

.....

9. To which ethnic group does the child belong?

White (excluding Traveller)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please specify</i>	

.....

Other ethnic group <i>Please specify</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
---	--------------------------

.....

Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
------------	--------------------------

10. Is the child an unaccompanied asylum seeker? Yes
 No

11. Does the child have any dependants? Yes
 No

If 'Yes', please enter the number of dependants

12. Where is the child placed?

- Secure accommodation
- Other residential accommodation
- Placed for adoption with former foster carers
- Placed for adoption with others
- Foster care with relatives/friends (emergency)
- Foster care with relatives/friends (approved)
- Foster care with others
- Placed with parents (or persons with parental responsibility)
- Independent living with formal support
- Independent living without formal support
- Other accommodation

If 'Other accommodation', please specify below

13. Did the child's placement change during the last year (i.e. between 1 October 2005 and 30 September 2006)? Yes
 No

If 'Yes', how many placement changes occurred during the year?

14. What is the child's legal status?

- Police protection in Board/Trust accommodation (Article 23)**
- Child assessment Order (Article 62)**
- Emergency Protection Order (Article 63)**
- Accommodated under Article 21**
- Interim Care Order (Article 57)**
- Care Order (Article 50 or 59)**
- Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 and 30 of Sch 8)**
- Freed for adoption and looked after by Board/Trust**
- Other (please specify below)**

.....

15 Date of last statutory review:

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y

16. Method of participation of young person in last statutory review:

- Attended and spoke for him or herself**
- Attended and an advocate spoke on his or her behalf**
- Attended and conveyed views non-verbally**
- Attended and did not contribute**
- Did not attend but briefed advocate to speak**
- Did not attend but sent views (e.g. in writing, by phone)**
- Did not attend and views not conveyed to the review**
- Other (please specify below)**

.....

17. Date of previous statutory review

d	d	m	m	y	y	y	y

18. Method of participation of young person in previous statutory review:

- Attended and spoke for him or herself
- Attended and an advocate spoke on his or her behalf
- Attended and conveyed views non-verbally
- Attended and did not contribute
- Did not attend but briefed advocate to speak
- Did not attend but sent views (e.g. in writing, by phone)
- Did not attend and views not conveyed to the review
- Other (please specify below)

.....

19. Was the child of compulsory school age during the 2005/06 school year (i.e. the child's date of birth is between 2 July 1989 and 1 July 2001)? Yes
No

If 'no',

For younger children (date of birth after 1 July 2001), please go to Q32

For older children (date of birth before 2 July 1989), please go to Q30

If 'yes', please state whether at any time during the school year ...

a) The child was referred for a statement of special educational needs? Yes
No

b) The child was covered by a statement of special educational needs? Yes
No

c) If covered (yes to question 19b), please state briefly the reasons(s) for the statement

.....

20. Was the child expelled from school at any time during the school year? Yes
No

21. Was the child suspended from school at any time during the school year? Yes
No

If 'Yes',

please enter the number of times the child was suspended during the school year

and the total number of school days in the last school year lost through suspension

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

23. Did the child change schools at any time during the school year? Yes
No

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

For children who began primary school in September 2006, please go to Q31

For younger children, please go to Q32

For children in P4 in 2005/06, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 1, please answer Q24

For all other children aged under 10, please go to Q33

For children in P7 in 2005/06, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 2, please answer Qns 25 and 26

For children in Year 10 in 2005/06, who should have been assessed at Key Stage 3, please answer Q27

For children in Year 12 in 2005/06, who should have sat GCSEs or GNVQs, please answer Qns 28 and 29

For all other children aged 10 and over, please go to Q30

24. For children who were in P4 in 2005/06 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage One Assessment

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 1?

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

If 'No', please state briefly why the child was not assessed

.....
.....

If 'Yes', what level did the child achieve in ...

English?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irish?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mathematics?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now please go to Q33

25. For children who were in P7 in 2005/06 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage 2 Assessment

Was the child assessed at Key Stage 2?

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

If 'No', please state briefly why the child was not assessed

.....
.....

If 'Yes', what level did the child achieve in ...

(for Irish medium schools)	English?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Irish?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mathematics?	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. Did the child sit the Transfer Procedure tests in Autumn 2005?

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

If 'Yes', what grade did the child achieve?

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------

Now please go to Q30

27. For children who were in Year 10 in 2005/06 and who were eligible for end of Key Stage 3 assessments and tests

Did the child sit the end of Key Stage 3 tests? Yes
 No

If 'No', please state briefly why the child did not sit the tests

.....

If 'Yes', what level did the child achieve in ...

(for Irish medium schools)	English?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Irish?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mathematics?	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Science?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now please go to Q30

28. For children who were in Year 12 in 2005/06 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

Did the child sit at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ examination? Yes
 No

If 'No', please state briefly why the child did not sit any of these examinations

.....

If 'Yes', please enter the number of qualifications obtained at ...	GCSE (Grades A*-C)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	GCSE (Grades D-G)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	GNVQ	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

29. Did the child obtain any NVQs? Yes
No

If 'Yes', please enter the number obtained at each level

Number obtained at level 1
Number obtained at level 2
Number obtained at level 3

30. For children aged 10 and over at 30 September 2006

Was the child convicted or cautioned during the year, for an offence committed while being looked after? Yes
No

If 'Yes', please state below what the offence or offences were

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

Now please go to Q33

31. For children who began primary school in September 2006 ONLY

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 2005 and June 2006) Yes
No

32. For children aged 4 and younger at 30 September 2006

a) Were the child's development assessments up to date at 30 September 2006? Yes
No

b) Did the child have his/her 6-monthly health assessment completed between 1 April 2006 and 30 September 2006? Yes
No

33. For children aged 5 and over at 30 September 2006

Did the child have his/her annual health assessment completed during the year ending 30 September 2006? Yes
No

34. For all children

Were the child's immunisations up to date at 30 September 2006? Yes
No

35. Did the child have his/her teeth checked by a dentist during the year ending 30 September 2006? Yes
No

36. Was the child identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year ending 30 September 2006? Yes
No

If 'Yes' was the child offered an intervention for this problem? Yes
No

If 'Yes' did the child accept or refuse this intervention?

Accepted the intervention and received treatment
Refused the intervention

For children aged 16 at 1 July 2006, please complete the questions overleaf. For all other children, this is the end of the questionnaire. Thank you for your co-operation.

37. For children who were in Year 12 in 2005/06 and who were eligible for GCSE (or equivalent) examinations

Was the young person aged 16 at 1 July 2006?

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

If 'Yes', what was the young person's activity at 30 September 2006?

Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time further education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time further education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Higher education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employment with planned training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employment with no planned training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent – full-time carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other full-time carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed as a result of ill-health or disability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployed for other reason	<input type="checkbox"/>

and

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

Total number of primary schools attended	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total number of secondary/grammar schools attended	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

39. 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)?

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

**This is the end of the questionnaire.
Thank you for your cooperation.**