How are Children and Young People doing in the Belfast Outcomes Area?

Local Government District Outcome Monitoring Report

with Trends 2007 – 2013/14

Information to Support Integrated Planning for Children and Young People in Belfast Outcomes Area

November 2014
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The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership’s main aim is improving the lives of all our children and young people. A Northern Ireland Children’s Services Plan 2011-2014 has drawn up our approach to improving outcomes for children and young people along with agreeing key themes – which are the most important issues that will be taken forward in the Children and Young People’s Plan. Detailed Action Plans have been drawn up by each Outcomes Group across Northern Ireland which will provide more detail on how we are improving outcomes for children and young people. (more details available at www.cypsp.org)

Healthy; Enjoying, learning and achieving; Living in safety and with stability; Experiencing economic and environmental well-being; Contributing positively to community and society; and Living in a society which respects their rights.

Everyone from Government to local communities has a role to play in helping to reach these goals. Children’s Services Planners and Information Officers have been working with staff from OFMDFM and the Department of Education to design and agree a set of core indicators which will measure the extent to which the collective efforts of everyone involved are achieving the six outcomes.
Introduction

This report, is built on the Northern Ireland Regional Outcome Monitoring Report and starts to show how children and young people in the Belfast area are doing in relation to the Government’s six outcomes. It can already be seen from the trends over time that some indicators show that our children are doing well but others are worrying. The report presents the information collected against agreed indicators for each outcome, providing trend analysis over time where available and comparison across local government districts in the Belfast Area.

The information is also available in greater detail (Ward areas) on request to Information Manager, Social Care and Children (contact details on page 91), who can also provide information on sources and how the information was collated.

In reviewing progress towards achieving the six outcomes it is essential to be able to measure that progress for our most vulnerable children. In order to do this, the data collected needs to be disaggregated by specific groups of children identified as priority by the Children’s Services Planning process as well as the Section 75 (NI Act 1998) categories. The Children’s Services Plan describes how the core indicators included in this report will be analysed for specific groups of children and complemented by additional indicators. Work is also continuing to ensure the indicators allow us to measure children’s rights and how they are being realised.
Information collated in this report is already being used by CYPSP groups, together with needs assessment material collected from agencies, children and young people and communities, in the planning of services. It is also useful for locality partnerships, who can use it to help them plan better for children in a particular locality.

We are publishing this information as we hope it will be useful for any agency or partnership, at local or Northern Ireland level, in the analysis of how well our Children and Young people are doing, against our agreed outcomes. This information is also available on our CYPSP Interactive mapping system which can be found on [www.cypsp.org](http://www.cypsp.org)

**NOTE:** This report will be kept as a live report under the publications page on our website with information being updated as it becomes available.
Demography

The following indicators are included in this chapter to provide information on Population:

- Demographic Profile of Northern Ireland
- Demographic Profile of Trusts within Northern Ireland (MYE 2013)
- Demographic Profiles of the Areas within Belfast Trust
- 15 Year Population Projections by Age Band by LGD
- % BME Population by Country of Birth
- Migration Statistics (WRS)
- Migration Statistics – net external migration as percentage change of population by local area
- Non UK Nationals allocated National Insurance Numbers
- Birthing Trends
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

DEMOGRAPHIC HEADLINES

Current population of under 18 year olds in Northern Ireland: 432,015 (MYE, 2013)

This is 23.6% of the total population in Northern Ireland in 2013.

The Southern and Western Areas have the highest percentage of their population aged under 18 years of age (25.6% and 24.9% respectively)

15 year population figures illustrate an overall 3.2% increase in the 0-17 year old population. Significantly there is a 3% decrease in the 15 to 17 population.
Demographic Profiles of Trusts within Northern Ireland

Data Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) (MYE, 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF TRUSTS WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-17 Year Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Population as a percentage of whole population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Demographic Profiles of the Areas within Belfast Trust

Data Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) (MYE, 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 years</td>
<td>19,456</td>
<td>4,190</td>
<td>126,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 years</td>
<td>16,001</td>
<td>3,918</td>
<td>118,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 years</td>
<td>14,987</td>
<td>3,896</td>
<td>113,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years</td>
<td>10,279</td>
<td>2,623</td>
<td>73,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-17 Year Population</td>
<td>60,723</td>
<td>14,627</td>
<td>432,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Population</td>
<td>281,735</td>
<td>67,883</td>
<td>1,829,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Population as a percentage of whole population</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) (MYE, 2013)
### 15 Year Population Projections by Age Band by LGD

#### Data Source: NISRA 2008 Population Projections

#### Demography

#### Percentage Population Change 2008-2023 by Area and Age Band

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Band</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4 yrs</td>
<td>-5.3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 yrs</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 yrs</td>
<td>-4.1</td>
<td>-8.2</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 17 yrs</td>
<td>-17.5</td>
<td>-13.5</td>
<td>-3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 17 yrs</td>
<td>-4.9</td>
<td>-3.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
% BME Population by Country of Birth
Data Source: Census 2011

(Eu Countries:- Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Portugal, Slovakia, Other)
(Non EU Countries:- Russia, Turkey, Other)
(Middle East & Asia:- Iran, Saudi Arabia, Middle East, China, Hong Kong, Eastern Asia, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan,
Southern Asia, South East Asia, Phillipines, Timor, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Central Asia)
(North America & Carribean:- Canada, USA, Carribean, Other)
(Antartica & Oceania:- Australia, New Zealand, Other)
Worker Registration System (WRS) is used to register migrant workers from the 8 Eastern European states or A8 countries that acceded to the EU on May 2004 (A8 Countries are: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). WRS data is recorded at the address of the employer rather than residential address (NINIS, 2010). Note – this information is no longer being collected routinely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast Area</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>1480</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Eastern Area</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Area</td>
<td>1,745</td>
<td>2,325</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>2,120</td>
<td>1,304</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Area</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>2,940</td>
<td>2,990</td>
<td>2,495</td>
<td>1,736</td>
<td>1,255</td>
<td>1,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Area</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>1,090</td>
<td>1,065</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>5,495</td>
<td>9,045</td>
<td>9,270</td>
<td>7,725</td>
<td>4,815</td>
<td>3,090</td>
<td>2,910</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph showing the number of WRS registrations in each area from 2004/05 to 2010/11.
Net External Migration as Percentage Change of Population Size between 2011 and 2012 by Local Area
Non UK Nationals- National Insurance Number Allocations
Source: NISRA

Non-UK Nationals Allocated National Insurance Numbers (NINo)
by Local Authority Rate/1000 Population

(Apr 2011 - Mar 2012)
Birthing Trends

Data Source: Child Health System

Date March 2010 to March 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Number of live births at March 2010</th>
<th>Number of live births at March 2014</th>
<th>Percentage Change in Live Child Births from March 2010 to March 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>3840</td>
<td>3887</td>
<td>+1.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castlereagh</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>838</td>
<td>+4.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Belfast and Castlereagh has seen a slight rise in births between 2010 and 2014.
Healthy

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Reduced inequalities in health and access to health services;
- Improved mental and emotional well-being by strengthening services and promoting positive attitudes;
- Improved physical and sexual health;
- Young people supported to make healthy lifestyle choices;
- Parents provided with assistance from an early stage to ensure children have a good start in life and are supported into adulthood.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure the health of all our children and young people:-

- Infant Mortality
- Low Birth Weight Rates
- % Mums Smoking During Pregnancy
- Immunisation Rates for MMR at 24 months
- Mothers Breastfeeding at Discharge
- Births to Teenage Mothers
- Life Expectancy
- % Dental Registrations Children Aged 0-2 yrs
- % Dental Registrations Children Aged 3-5 yrs
- Children with a Disability (in receipt of DLA)
- Sexually Transmitted Infections – Northern Ireland
- Sexual Experience and Knowledge
- Obesity and Children who are Overweight
- 0-17 year olds Admitted to HSC Hospitals with Self Harm Related Diagnoses
- 0-17 year olds Admitted to HSC Hospitals with Alcohol Related Diagnoses
- Child Deaths by Suicide
- Child Deaths by Accidents
- Cigarette Usage Amongst Young People
- Alcohol Usage Amongst Young People
Infant Mortality

Why is it important? Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is defined as the number of deaths of infants, one year of age and younger, per 1000 live births. The causes of infant mortality are “strongly correlated to those structural factors, like economic development, general living conditions, social well-being, and the quality of the environment, that affect the health of entire populations” (Reidpath, D.D, and Allotey, P, 2003).

The Story Behind the Trends – Infant deaths have increased in Northern Ireland in 2013. Belfast is recording a significant increase in the past year and Castlereagh has seen a decrease in 2013 with no infant deaths. Overall there were 27 infant deaths across the Belfast Area in 2013.

Data Source: NISRA
Low Birth Weight Rates

Data Source: Child Health System (CHS)

Why is it Important? Low birth weight has been defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as weight at birth of less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). Low birth weight is closely associated with foetal and neonatal mortality and morbidity, inhibited growth and cognitive development, and chronic diseases later in life. (UNICEF, 2004).

The Story Behind the Trends
– The possible causes of low birthweight in babies are multiple birth babies who are at increased risk of low birth due to prematurity, teen mums (especially those younger than 15 years old) also, babies of mothers who are exposed to illicit drugs, alcohol and cigarettes are more likely to have low birth weight babies. Belfast rates per 1000 have fluctuated over the past 8 years with Belfast higher than the NI rate of 62 and Castlereagh below in March 2014.
Why is it Important? In addition to increasing the mother’s risk of potentially serious complications, smoking during pregnancy is the largest preventable cause of ill health and death in young babies and infants. Smoking cuts down the amount of oxygen and nutrients that get to the baby through the placenta. A baby needs these to grow and develop, so babies of women who smoke tend to be smaller than they ought to be. It is linked to pregnancy complications, premature delivery, low birth weight babies – a leading cause of infant death, stillbirth, miscarriage, sudden infant death syndrome (SID), also known as cot death (PHA Want 2 Stop, 2010).

The Story Behind the Trends – The percentage of mums smoking during pregnancy has been static in Belfast and Castlereagh over the past seven years, with Belfast above the NI average and Castlereagh below.
Immunisation Rates for MMR at 24 Months

Data Source: Child Health System (CHS)

**Why is it Important?** Immunisation not only provides protection against infections for individual children, but, if enough people are immunised, the disease is controlled or even wiped out (Institute of Child Health, 2005). MMR vaccine protects children against measles mumps and rubella (German measles). Since MMR was introduced in Northern Ireland in 1998 the number of children catching these diseases has fallen to an all time low. MMR uptake rates in Northern Ireland are the highest in British Isles (DHSSPS, 2009).

The Story Behind the Trends - The Belfast Area has experienced a continual increase in the percentage uptake of MMR Immunisations since March 2007, with the exception of 2009, with Castlereagh above the NI average of 96.2 in March 2014.
Mothers Breastfeeding at Discharge

Data Source: Child Health System (CHS)

Why is it Important? There has been significant reliable evidence produced over recent years to show that breastfeeding has important advantages for both infant and mother (Unicef, Baby Friendly Initiative, 2010). Breastfeeding has been widely acknowledged as the best means of giving infants a healthy start to life. Breast milk is age specific and is produced at the correct temperature and without any need for preparation. It not only provides the correct amount and balance of nutrients for optimal growth and development; it also protects against illness. (Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland, 1999, reviewed in 2010.)

The Story Behind the Trends –
Trends show that there has been a steady increase in mothers breastfeeding at discharge from hospital from 2007 to 2014 in the Belfast Area with a slight drop in Belfast in 2013. Castlereagh is above the NI percentage and Belfast below.
Births to Teenage Mums

Data Source: Child Health System (CHS)

**Why is it Important?** There is growing recognition that teenage pregnancy and early parenthood can lead to poor educational achievement, poor physical and mental health, poverty, and social isolation. Socio-economic disadvantage can be both a cause and an effect of young parenthood. Increasing efforts have been made to identify factors influencing the rate of teenage pregnancy and effective interventions (Health Evidence Network, 2007).

The Story Behind the Trends – Belfast births to teenage mums remains above the Northern Ireland rate of 10.8 and Castlereagh below in March 2014.

**Births to Teenage Mums rate per 1000 13-19 year old girls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Life Expectancy**

Data Source: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

**Why is it Important?** - Life expectancy from birth is a frequently utilized and analyzed component of demographic data for the countries of the world. It represents the average life span of a newborn and is an indicator of the overall health of a country. Life expectancy can fall due to problems like famine, war, disease and poor health. Improvements in health and welfare increase life expectancy. The higher the life expectancy, the better shape a country is in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast Male</th>
<th>Castlereagh Male</th>
<th>NI Male</th>
<th>Belfast Female</th>
<th>Castlereagh Female</th>
<th>NI Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/09</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>81.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/10</td>
<td>73.9</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>77.1</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>81.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/11</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>79.7</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>82.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Story Behind the Trends** – Overall life expectancy has stayed quite static for females and males across the Belfast area. Trends show females living an average of 4 – 5 years longer than males. Belfast males and females have a lower life expectancy than Castlereagh and the NI average each year.
Percentage Dental Registrations Children Aged 0-2 years
Data Source: NINIS

**Why is it Important?** Dental decay (caries) in children is a significant public health problem in Northern Ireland. It is also completely preventable. Compared to the UK average, our 12-year old children have more than double the level of decay for this age group. A 2002 survey showed that by the time they begin primary school most children in Northern Ireland will have experienced dental decay. Many of these children will suffer pain, will miss days at school and will require costly dental treatment. Parents will have to take time off work so that their children can be treated and some children will require a general anaesthetic so that their decayed teeth can be removed. (Oral Health Strategy NI 2007).

**The Story Behind the Trends** – There has been an increase in dental registrations for 0 – 2 year olds in Belfast in the last year, with Castlereagh decreasing in 2014. Castlereagh has had considerably higher registrations than the NI average over the past five years.
Percentage Dental Registrations Children Aged 3-5 years

Data Source: NINIS

**Why is it Important?**

Dental decay (caries) in children is a significant public health problem in Northern Ireland. It is also completely preventable. Compared to the UK average, our 12-year old children have more than double the level of decay for this age group. A 2002 survey showed that by the time they begin primary school most children in Northern Ireland will have experienced dental decay. Many of these children will suffer pain, will miss days at school and will require costly dental treatment. Parents will have to take time off work so that their children can be treated and some children will require a general anaesthetic so that their decayed teeth can be removed. (Oral Health Strategy NI 2007).

**The Story Behind the Trends** – There has been a slight decrease in dental registrations for 3-5 year olds in Belfast in Castlereagh for 2014. Belfast has had consistently lower dental registrations than the NI average and Castlereagh consistently higher dental registrations.
Children with a Disability (in receipt of DLA aged 0-15 years)

Data Source: NINIS

**Why is it Important?** Children’s Disability Services work to provide services for children with disability and additional needs. They actively communicate and work with parents, involving and empowering them to cope with the demands of raising a disabled child, and provide a means for families to access a range of information, assessments and services.

**The Story Behind the Trends** – All areas have seen an increase in the number of Children with a Disability in receipt of DLA. Belfast LGD has continuously been higher than the NI average. Overall in the Belfast Outcomes Area at 2014 there were 3,850 Children aged 0-15 claiming DLA.
**Why is it Important?** Sexual health is an important part of physical and mental health, and contributes to emotional and social well-being. Many factors can adversely affect people’s sexual health including poverty, unemployment, poor education, substance misuse and social exclusion (DHSSPS, 2008). Young people are the group most at risk of being diagnosed with a Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). Interventions to promote sexual health among young people and the delivery of high quality, relationship and sexual health education is recommended by the Public Health Agency, Don’t Gamble with Your Sexual Health (2010).

**The Story behind the Trends** - The graph for the Under 16 population from 2007 to 2013 shows that Chlamydia had peaked at 17.4 per 100,000 in 2008 and decreased to 12.2 per 100,000 in 2011, with less than 4 in 2012 and 2013. Warts have increased significantly in 2009 and dropped again in 2013 to 8.4. STI rates for 16-19 year olds shows a steady increase in Chlamydia until 2010, with a slight decrease from then on. Warts had peaked in 2011 with a slight decrease in 2012 and 2013. Rates of Gonorrhoea, Syphilis and Herpes remain low in comparison. It is important to note firstly that these are rates of new episodes treated at the four Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics in Northern Ireland, and secondly while it is usual practice for GPs to refer patients to the GUM clinics, some may treat the patient directly and are therefore not accounted for here.

Data Source: Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre NI
Sexual Experience and Knowledge

Data Source: Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitude Survey, 2013 (YPBAS)

**Why is it Important?** Young people’s sexual experience and knowledge is important as it relates to teenage pregnancy and STI rates. With proper information and knowledge people are more likely to avoid risky behaviour, use contraception, know what local services are available and be more likely to use them. (DHSSPS, 2008).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Findings From the Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2013</th>
<th>Sample: 7076 pupils aged 11-17 (Form 1/Year 8 to Form 5/Year 12 were selected at random across Northern Ireland – 2937 pupils answered questions on Sexual Experience and Knowledge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 2013, 67% of the young people surveyed have been in a relationship.</td>
<td>In 2010, the same % of young people surveyed had been in a relationship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2013, 10% of pupils have had sexual intercourse. Of these 78% had sexual intercourse for the first time at less than 13 years.</td>
<td>In 2010, 8% of sample have had sexual intercourse. Of these 80% had sexual intercourse for the first time between the ages of 13 and 15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2013, 35% of the sample had no sexual experience at all.</td>
<td>In 2010, 41% of the sample had no sexual experience at all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2013 74% of those who have had sexual intercourse used something to prevent pregnancy, 66% used a condom, and 19% used both a condom and the pill.</td>
<td>In 2010, 79% of those who have had sexual intercourse used something to prevent pregnancy, 73% used a condom, and 21% used both a condom and the pill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2013, 59% said that they would find it easy to get contraception.</td>
<td>In 2010, 53% said that they would find it easy to get contraception.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2013, 79% of the year 11 and 12 pupils in the survey (14-16 years of age) knew that HIV was a sexually transmitted infection, while 76% knew AIDS was. 26%, 27% and 20% respectively knew that Genital Warts, Syphilis and Hepatitis B are sexually transmitted infections.</td>
<td>In 2010, 91% of the year 11 and 12 pupils in the survey (14-16 years of age) knew that HIV was a sexually transmitted infection, while 88% knew AIDS was. 39%, 40% and 29% respectively knew that Genital Warts, Syphilis and Hepatitis B are sexually transmitted infections.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Obesity
Data Source: DHSSPS

**Why is it Important?** The prevalence of overweight and obesity is assessed by using Body Mass Index (BMI). Currently one in four girls and one in six boys in Primary One are overweight or obese. Many of these children are not as physically active as they should be, nor do they have a healthy, balanced diet, both these issues contribute to levels of obesity. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy stated “Physiotherapists are very concerned that as a society we are unknowingly putting children at risk of obesity and the development of life-threatening illnesses because people are unaware of the role and importance of physical activity in preserving good health. The growth of sedentary leisure activities, the ‘car culture’, time and financial constraints on busy working parents and our increasing fears about letting young children run around outdoors without adult supervision, have all contributed to the problem.”

**The Story Behind the Trends** – In NI 5.3% of P1 children are obese with Belfast Trust above the NI percentage at 5.5% and Belfast (Most Deprived) area the overall highest at 7.9%.
Children who are Overweight
Data Source: DHSSPS

Why is it Important?
“Obesity can impact upon the health of children and young people in a number of levels. It can lead to physical health problems such as high blood pressure, raised blood cholesterol levels and an increased risk of heart disease and diabetes. Overweight children can also suffer from psychological problems such as depression and a lack of self-confidence and self-esteem.” (Health Promotion Agency, 2003).(12)

The Story Behind the Trends - In Northern Ireland 16.5 % of P1 Children are overweight with Belfast Trust and Belfast Most Deprived below the NI percentage at 15.6% and 16.3% respectively.
**Why is it Important?** It is important to recognise that self-harm is not usually triggered by one isolated event but rather a set of circumstances that leave young people overwhelmed and unable to manage their feelings: it is not the core problem but a sign and symptom of underlying emotional difficulties, used as a way of coping. Deliberate self-harm has emerged as a major public health issue, affecting at least one in 15 young people in the UK. It was the subject of a national inquiry carried out by the Mental Health Foundation and Camelot Foundation (MHF/CF) in 2006, which reviewed evidence from research, personal testimonies and expert opinions. “Truth Hurts, Report of the National Inquiry into Self-harm among Young People, 2006”

**The Story Behind the Trends** – Since 2007 to 2010 there has been a steady increase in Belfast, with a decrease from 2011 onwards. Rates have fluctuated in Castlereagh in respect of children and young people admitted to hospital with a self harm diagnoses. Overall in the last year a total of 109 children & young people were admitted with both areas higher than the NI average.
Why is it Important?
Alcohol consumption during any stage of childhood can have a harmful effect on a child’s development. Alcohol use during the teenage years is related to a wide range of health and social problems, and young people who begin drinking before the age of 15 are more likely to experience problems related to their alcohol use, including alcohol-related injuries, involvement in violence, suicidal thoughts and attempts, having more sexual partners, pregnancy, using drugs, employment problems, adverse effects on brain function, on liver, bone, growth and endocrine development. “Guidance on consumption of alcohol by children & young people. (Department of Health, UK)

The Story Behind the Trends – Over the last year there were a total of 55 children and young people from the Belfast outcomes area admitted to hospital with an alcohol related diagnoses. Belfast and Castlereagh are higher than the NI average.
Child Deaths By Suicide
Data Source: NISRA

**Why is it Important?** In all developed countries (except the USA), suicide is the second highest leading cause of death among young people (Maughan, B et al, 2004). Risk factors for suicide include depression, personality disorder, hopelessness, low self-esteem, bereavement, break-up of a relationship, social isolation, alcohol and drug misuse (DHSSPS, 2005). As a result of concerns about the increase in the number of suicides, particularly among young people, this was included in the DHSSPS Priorities for Action, that by March 2011 there should be a reduction by 15% in the number of suicides in NI (DHSSPS, 2008).

The Story behind the Trends – Firstly it is important to note that the Coroner’s Office indicates that the number of suicides recorded is likely to be inaccurate, as in some cases coroners are unwilling to register “death by suicide”, primarily due to respect for the wishes of the family. Belfast Trust has seen a significant drop in the numbers of suicides in 2012 and 2013.

*Please Note: All deaths data supplied by Demography and Methodology Branch is based on the year of registration rather than the year of occurrence unless otherwise stated. Events such as suicide are likely to be referred to the coroner. This can take some time therefore deaths recorded each year may have occurred prior to the registration year.*
Child Deaths By Accidents

Why is it Important? The Northern Ireland Executive, in the Programme for Government under the theme “Working for a Healthier People”, gave a commitment to promoting public safety by reducing the number of injuries and deaths caused by accidents at home, at work and on the roads (Investing for Health, 2004). Research carried out by the Department of Trade and Industry (2001) highlighted that residential areas with higher proportions of lower social class and lower income households have higher accident rates.

The Story Behind the Trends – It is important to note that not all child deaths caused by accidents are recorded as such, and also that if there is an investigation into the cause of death that this is recorded at the end of the enquiry resulting in limitations to this data. Belfast Trust has one of the lowest number of child deaths by accidents in 2013.

*Please Note: All deaths data supplied by Demography and Methodology Branch is based on the year of registration rather than the year of occurrence unless otherwise stated. Events such as suicide are likely to be referred to the coroner. This can take some time therefore deaths recorded each year may have occurred prior to the registration year.
Cigarette Usage Amongst Young People

Why is it Important? One of the most common risk taking behaviours among young people is smoking. Every young person who takes up smoking is a potential cancer patient, (Action Cancer 2009). Reducing smoking in young people is a priority in the whole of the UK. The DHSSPS Minister has stated, “My goal is to protect children from smoking...smoking is a life threatening habit and we should do everything we can to reduce its prevalence” (Michael McGimpsey, 2009).

Key Findings from the Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2013
Sample: 7076 pupils aged 11-16 (Form 1/Year 8 to Form 5/Year 12 were selected at random across Northern Ireland

- In 2013, Approximately 13% of the surveyed pupils have smoked tobacco.
- In 2010, Approximately 19% of the surveyed pupils have smoked tobacco.
- In 2013, 62% of those who have smoked, first tried it when they were aged 13 or under.
- In 2010, 62% of those who have smoked, first tried it when they were aged 13 or under.
- In 2013, 20% of those surveyed pupils who smoke do so everyday.
- In 2010, 25% of those surveyed pupils who smoke do so everyday.
- In 2013, 38% of pupils live in a household with adults who smoke, and of these 42% smoke inside the home and 30% smoke in the family car.
- In 2010, 42% of pupils live in a household with adults who smoke, and of these 50% smoke inside the home.
Alcohol Usage Amongst Young People

Data Source: Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitude Survey, 2013

**Why is it Important?** Young people are more vulnerable to suffering physical, emotional and social harm from their own and other people’s consumption of alcohol. There are strong connections between high risk drinking and unsafe sexual behaviour, traffic and other accidents, unintended pregnancy, failure at school and mental health problems (Health Promotion Agency, 2004). The World Health Organisation also highlighted that many young people today have greater opportunities and more disposable income than in the past, and are more vulnerable to increasingly aggressive sales and marketing techniques.

**Key Findings from the Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2013**

**Sample:** 7076 pupils aged 11-16 (Form 1/Year 8 to Form 5/Year 12 were selected at random across Northern Ireland

- In 2013, 38% of the surveyed pupils said they had drank alcohol.

- In 2013, of those pupils who have ever had an alcoholic drink, under half 56% were aged 13 or under.
  - In 2010, of those pupils who have ever had an alcoholic drink, under half 49% were aged 13 or under.

- In 2013, of the pupils who have ever drank alcohol, 18% drink a few times a month and 3% drink a few times a week.

- Comparisons between the 2007, 2010 and 2013 YPBAS show that the proportion of pupils who reported that they have consumed alcohol at some point in their lives has decreased from 54% to 46% to 38%.
Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Increased access to quality early years services particularly in rural areas;
- Improved outcomes for children who are not at school or are not reaching target attendance rates;
- Strengthened services at transition stages from home/preschool/primary/post primary/employment;
- Access to quality play and leisure facilities;
- Parents and carers supported to encourage children to enjoy, learn and achieve.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure enjoying, learning and achieving of all our children and young people:-

- Primary and Post-Primary School Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need
- Children Aged 4-16 years Suspended from School
- Children Aged 4-16 years Expelled from School
- Primary and Post-Primary School Pupils with less than 85% attendance
- Primary and Post-Primary School Pupils with English as Additional Language
- Key Stage One English - Percentage of Children Achieving Level 2 or above
- Key Stage One Maths - Percentage of Children Achieving Level 2 or above
- Key Stage One English – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 3 or above
- Key Stage One Maths – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 3 or above
- Key Stage Two English – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above
- Key Stage Two Maths – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above
- Key Stage Two English – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above
- Key Stage Two Maths – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above
- Key Stage Three English – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above
- Key Stage Three Maths – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above
- Key Stage Three Science – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above
- Key Stage Three English – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 6 or above
- Key Stage Three Maths – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 6 or above
- Key Stage Three Science – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 6 or above
- Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or above
- Percentage of Young People Leaving School with No GCSEs
- Percentage Uptake of Children in Nursery and Reception Classes in Primary Schools, Nursery Schools and PEAGs
Primary School Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need

Why is it Important? A Statement of Special Educational Need is a legal term. It describes the needs of a child who has a difficulty or disability which makes learning harder for them than for other children their age. (DE)

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of primary school children with a full Statement of Special Educational Need has risen steadily in the Belfast area and stayed static in the Castlereagh area in the past three years. Belfast and Castlereagh are above the NI percentage of 2.9 in June 2014.
Post - Primary School Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need

Data Source: NINIS

Why is it Important? A Statement of Special Educational Need is a legal term. It describes the needs of a child who has a difficulty or disability which makes learning harder for them than for other children their age. (DE)

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of post primary school children with a full Statement of Special Educational Need has risen steadily since June 2008. Belfast is below the NI percentage and Castlereagh is above the NI percentage in June 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun-08</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-09</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-10</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-11</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-12</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-13</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-14</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children Aged 4-16 years **Suspended** from School

Data Source: Department of Education

**Why is it Important?** Reducing truancy and exclusions levels are an important part of Government social inclusion policy. Young people who attend school regularly are more likely to get the most they can out of their time at school, and therefore more likely to achieve their potential, and less likely to take part in anti-social or criminal behaviour (www.literacytrust.org.uk, 2009).

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**The Story Behind the Trends** – Since 2008 Belfast and Castlereagh has fluctuated over the past years with the % of children suspended from school. Belfast is above the NI average in June 2014. Castlereagh has decreased significantly as at June 2014.
Why is it Important? Reducing truancy and exclusions levels are an important part of Government social inclusion policy. Young people who attend school regularly are more likely to get the most they can out of their time at school, and therefore more likely to achieve their potential, and less likely to take part in anti-social or criminal behaviour (www.literacytrust.org.uk, 2009).

The Story Behind the Trends - Numbers of pupils expelled from schools are very low across each board area, with the highest expulsions from the North Eastern and the Western board areas in 2013/14. The overall Northern Ireland totals have reduced from 45 pupils in the 2006/07 school year to 29 pupils in 2013/14.

The majority of pupils expelled were male and of post-primary age, with 69% of the total of pupils expelled from Key Stage 4.

The three most common reasons for expulsion were: verbal abuse of staff (24.1%) of expulsions, physical attack on staff (20.7%) and persistent infringement of school rules (17.2)
(Source: Department of Education Statistics)
Primary School Pupils with less than 85% Attendance
Data Source: Department of Education

**Why is it Important?** Attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in learning and achieving when they attend school consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent. In addition to falling behind in academics, students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get into trouble with the law and cause problems in their communities.

**Primary School Pupils with less than 85% attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Story Behind the Trends** – All areas have seen a slight decrease over the last year in the percentage of primary school children with less than 85% attendance. Belfast has consistently had the highest pupils missing school.
Why is it Important? Attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in learning and achieving when they attend school consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent. In addition to falling behind in academics, students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get into trouble with the law and cause problems in their communities.

The Story Behind the Trends - All areas have seen a decrease over the last year in the percentage of post-primary school children with less than 85% attendance. Belfast is consistently above the NI average and Castlereagh is consistently below the NI average over the six years.
Primary School Pupils with English as Additional Language
Data Source: Department of Education

**Why is it Important?** All children and young people, whatever their ethnic or cultural background, are entitled to succeed. Providing an effective education for children and young people who have English as an additional language not only contributes to the educational achievement of pupils, it also contributes to their personal development and that of the economy and society. (DENI – Policy on supporting ethnic minority children and young people who have English as an additional language 2007).

The Story Behind the Trends – Belfast and Castlereagh has seen an increase in the percentage of primary school pupils who have English as an additional language over the past years with Belfast above the NI average in 2013/14 and Castlereagh below. Overall in the Belfast area for 2013/14 there were 1520 primary school pupils with English as an additional language.
**Post-Primary School Pupils with English as Additional Language**

*Data Source: Department of Education*

**Why is it Important?** All children and young people, whatever their ethnic or cultural background, are entitled to succeed. Providing an effective education for children and young people who have English as an additional language not only contributes to the educational achievement of pupils, it also contributes to their personal development and that of the economy and society. (DENI – Policy on supporting ethnic minority children and young people who have English as an additional language 2007).

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**The Story Behind the Trends** – Belfast and Castlereagh have seen an increase of post-primary school pupils who have English as an additional language over the past years with Belfast above the NI average and Castlereagh the same as the NI average in 2013/14. Overall in the Belfast area for 2013/14 there were 465 post primary pupils with English as an additional language.
Why is it Important? English has 3 attainment targets: Talking & Listening; Reading and Writing. At Level 2, pupils engage in conversation and show a willingness to talk and to listen. Pupils read both silently and aloud a range of simple texts with some independence and understanding. In their writing, they show a sense of simple structure and organisation, on occasion using complete sentences (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

Key Stage ONE
Years 3-4
Ages 7 to 8
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average has decreased in June 2013 to 90.1%, with Castlereagh above the NI average and Belfast below.

Please Note: Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 2 or above. Level 3’s are contained within the Level 2 or above information from June 2013.
Key Stage One - MATHS

Percentage of Children Achieving **Level 2 or above**

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**Why is it Important?** Maths has 5 attainment targets: Processes in Mathematics; Number; Measures; Shape & Space and Handling Data. At Level 2, pupils read, write and order whole numbers up to at least 100 and begin to show some understanding of place value. They know the most commonly used units in length, weight, capacity and time. They can name common 2D shapes. They understand right and left turns. They collect information and record it in simple tables, block graphs and diagrams (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**Key Stage ONE**

Years 3-4
Ages 7 to 8
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

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**The Story Behind the Trends** - The NI average for June 2013 is 90.8%, with Castlereagh above the NI average and Belfast slightly below.

**Please Note:** Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 2 or above. Level 3’s are contained within the Level 2 or above information from June 2013.
Key Stage One - ENGLISH

Percentage of Children Achieving Level 3 or above

Why is it Important? English has 3 attainment targets: Talking & Listening; Reading and Writing. At Level 3, pupils listen with increasing concentration in a range of contexts. In discussion, they make contributions and ask questions and show understanding of the main points. Pupils read aloud with some fluency from familiar material. Familiar and important words are spelt correctly and sentences are punctuated independently with basic accuracy. Handwriting is accurately formed and consistent in size (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

Key Stage ONE
Years 3-4
Ages 7 to 8
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average at 2011/12 is 40.6%. Castlereagh has been constantly above the NI average, with Belfast below. Please Note: Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 2 or above. Level 3’s are contained within the Level 2 or above information for June 2013. (See Page 49).
Key Stage One - MATHS

Percentage of Children Achieving **Level 3** or above

**Why is it Important?** Maths has 5 attainment targets: Processes in Mathematics; Number; Measures; Shape & Space and Handling Data. At Level 3, pupils solve problems involving addition, subtraction and multiplication (involving numbers up to 1,000) and those that involve division in practical situations. They recognise and understand simple fractions. They read times on the analogue clock and the date from a calendar. They identify lines of symmetry in simple 2-D shapes. They extract and interpret information presented in simple tables and lists (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**Key Stage ONE**
Years 3-4
Ages 7 to 8
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The NI average has fallen in 2011/12 to 46.8%, in line with Belfast and Castlereagh. Castlereagh is still above the NI average and Belfast below.

**Please Note:** Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 2 or above. Level 3’s are contained within the Level 2 or above information for June 2013. (See Page 50).
Key Stage Two - ENGLISH

Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above

**Why is it Important?** English has 3 attainment targets: Talking & Listening; Reading and Writing. At Level 4, pupils talk with increasing confidence and listen attentively. They develop ideas, describe events and show the beginnings of an ability to explain their views and opinions. They read, independently, a range of texts and talk about interests and preferences. Pupils compose independently. The writing demonstrates an ability to use appropriate form and style and shows an awareness of audience. The pupils handwriting is swift and legible (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**Key Stage TWO**
Years 5-7  Ages 9 to 11
Excludes special & Independent Schools.

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The NI average has dropped from 84.6% in June 11 to 77.1% in June 13. Castlereagh has been consistently above the NI average and Belfast consistently below. Please Note: Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 4 or above. Level 5’s are contained within the Level 4 or above information from June 2013.
Key Stage Two – MATHS

Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above

Why is it Important? Maths has 5 attainment targets: Processes in Mathematics; Number; Measures; Shape & Space and Handling Data. At Level 4, pupils understand and use numbers with up to 2 decimal places. They find perimeters of simple shapes, find areas by counting squares and volumes by counting cubes. They know the 8 points of the compass and understand clockwise and anticlockwise. They represent and interpret data using a range of graphs, tables, and diagrams (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

Key Stage TWO
Years 5-7 Ages 9 to 11 Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

The Story Behind the Trends. The NI average has dropped to 78.5% in June 13. Castlereagh has been consistently above the NI average and Belfast below. Please Note: Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 4 or above. Level 5’s are contained within the Level 4 or above information from June 2013.
Key Stage Two - ENGLISH

Percentage of Children Achieving **Level 5 or above**

**Why is it Important?** English has 3 attainment targets: Talking & Listening; Reading and Writing. At Level 5, pupils talk with confidence and listen in a range of contexts. In discussion, they pay close attention to what others say, ask questions to develop ideas and structure their contributions to take account of others’ views. Pupils read a range of texts, talk and write about their interests and preferences, drawing on an increasing range of appropriate vocabulary. Pupils’ writing is varied and interesting (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**Key Stage TWO**
Years 5-7  Ages 9 to 11
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The NI average in June 12 is 32.7%. The Belfast Area has seen a steady increase across the years, but below the NI average and Castlereagh has been consistently above the NI average. **Please Note:** Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 4 or above. Level 5’s are contained within the Level 4 or above information for June 2013. (See Page 53)
Key Stage Two – MATHS

Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above

Why is it Important? Maths has 5 attainment targets: Processes in Mathematics; Number; Measures; Shape & Space and Handling Data. At Level 5, pupils understand the relationship between simple fractions and percentages. They understand and use terms such as square, cube and prime numbers. Pupils understand and use scale in the context of maps and drawings. They calculate areas of squares, rectangles and right angle triangles. They interpret graphs and diagrams, and draw conclusions (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

Key Stage TWO
Years 5-7 Ages 9 to 11
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average has dropped slightly in June 12 to 43.0%. Belfast has been consistently below the NI average and Castlereagh above. Please Note: Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 4 or above. Level 5’s are contained within the Level 4 or above information for June 2013. (See Page 54).
Key Stage Three - ENGLISH
Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above

**Why is it Important?** English has 3 attainment targets: Talking & Listening; Reading and Writing. At Level 5, pupils talk with confidence and listen in a range of contexts. They begin to develop the ability to justify and sustain argument and opinions. Pupils begin to talk about the perceived intentions of authors in texts and to give personal responses, supporting these with reference to the text. Pupils’ writing is varied and interesting. Vocabulary choices are imaginative and words are used precisely (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**Key Stage THREE**
Years 8-10  Ages  12 to 14
Excludes Special & Independent Schools. KS3 tests were made non-compulsory in 2005/06 therefore the results from then onwards refer to Assessments.

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The NI average has decreased to 72.2% in June 13. Belfast has consistently been above the NI average and Castlereagh has fallen below the NI average in the past four years. Please Note: Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 5 or above. Level 6’s are contained within the Level 5 or above information from June 2013.
**Why is it Important?** Maths has 5 attainment targets: Processes in Mathematics; Number; Algebra; Shape; Space and Measures and Handling Data. At Level 5, pupils extend their understanding of the relationships between place values, using this to multiply and divide numbers with up to 2 decimal places by 10, 100, and 1000. They follow sets of instructions to generate a sequence. Pupils understand congruence of 2-D shapes. They insert and interrogate data in a computer database (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**Key Stage THREE**
Years 8-10  Ages  12 to 14
Excludes Special & Independent Schools. KS3 tests were made non-compulsory in 2005/06, therefore the results from then onwards refer to Assessments.

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The NI average has decreased to 72.2% in June 13. Belfast is above the NI average in June 13 and Castlereagh below. **Please Note:** Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 5 or above. Level 6’s are contained within the Level 5 or above information from June 2013.
Key Stage Three - SCIENCE

Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above

**Why is it Important?** Science has 4 attainment targets: Experimental and Investigative Science; Living Organisms and Life Processes; Materials and their Uses; and Physical Processes.

At Level 5, pupils design fair tests to answer questions that arise from their work in science. Pupils assign organisms to their major groups and understand the main stages in a life cycle. Pupils understand the physical properties of gases and relate these to everyday uses. Pupils understand the meaning of temperature (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**Key Stage THREE**

Years 8-10 Ages 12 to 14

Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

**The Story Behind the Trends** – Belfast and Castlereagh are both below the NI average of 66.6 in June 11, with trends showing a decrease in the past two years.

Due to Science being made non-compulsory in 2005/06 and many schools not undertaking the assessment, DE took a decision not to report science in 2011/12 due to this under representation of the cohort.
Key Stage Three - ENGLISH
Percentage of Children Achieving Level 6 or above

**Why is it Important?** English has 3 attainment targets: Talking & Listening; Reading and Writing. At Level 6, pupils are beginning to adapt their talk to the demands of a range of different contexts and audiences with increasing confidence. In reading and discussing a range of texts, pupils identify different layers of meaning and comment on their significance. Pupils’ writing often engages and interests the audience. Ideas are sustained, developed and show some originality (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**Key Stage THREE**
Years 8-10 Ages 12 to 14
Excludes Special & Independent Schools. KS3 tests were made non-compulsory in 2005/06, therefore the results from then onwards refer to Assessments.

**The Story Behind the Trends** - Belfast has been consistently higher than the NI average and Castlereagh consistently below, until June 12. **Please Note:** Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 5 or above. Level 6’s are contained within the Level 5 or above information for June 2013. (See Page 57).

---

**ENJOYING, LEARNING AND ACHIEVING**

**Key Stage Three – English**
Percentage Achieving Level 6 or above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun-07</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>52.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-08</td>
<td>56.4</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>52.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-09</td>
<td>55.5</td>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>52.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-10</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>52.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-11</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-12</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>50.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Stage Three - MATHS

Percentage of Children Achieving Level 6 or above

Why is it Important? Maths has 5 attainment targets: Processes in Mathematics; Number; Algebra; Shape; Space and Measures and Handling Data. At Level 6, pupils understand and calculate with numbers up to 3 decimal places. They represent and use simple functions and interpret graphs from real situations. Pupils recognise and use rotational symmetry. They distinguish between, and are able to find, the mean, median and mode of discrete data (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

Key Stage THREE

Years 8-10 Ages 12 to 14
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.
KS3 tests were mad non-compulsory in 2005/06, therefore the results from then onwards refer to Assessments.

The Story Behind the Trends - Belfast has consistently been above the NI average and Castlereagh consistently below. Please Note: Due to a different assessment procedure information is only available at Level 5 or above. Level 6’s are contained within the Level 5 or above information for June 2013. (See Page 58).
Key Stage Three - SCIENCE

**Percentage of Children Achieving Level 6 or above**

**Why is it Important?** Science has 4 attainment targets: Experimental and Investigative Science; Living Organisms and Life Processes; Materials and their Uses and Physical Processes. At Level 6, pupils demonstrate a competence in practical skills, such as in the selection of appropriate apparatus and in the precision with which they make their observations and measurements. Pupils know and understand the differences between plant and animal cells. Pupils extend their knowledge of classification to explain the differences between elements, compounds and mixtures (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**Key Stage THREE**
Years 8-10 Ages 12 to 14
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

**The Story Behind the Trends** – Belfast is still above the NI average, with Castlereagh results half of the NI average.

Due to Science being made non-compulsory in 2005/06 and many schools not undertaking the assessment, DE took a decision not to report science in 2011/12 due to this under representation of the cohort.
Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or Above

Data Source: Department of Education

**Why is it Important?** GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSEs are the main qualification taken by 14-16 year olds. You can take GCSEs in a wide variety of academic and ‘applied’ (work related) subjects. GCSEs are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. Obtaining GCSEs lead to a number of routes, mainly work, further study or an Apprenticeship. Most Universities will ask for 5 GCSEs grades A-C, including English and Maths (as well as A Levels or equivalent qualifications) (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**The Story Behind the Trends**
- Young people gaining 5 GCSE’s from Castlereagh has been consistently higher than the Northern Ireland percentage until 2012/13 and Belfast has consistently been lower than the NI percentage.

*Note: based on pupil’s home address.*
Percentage of Young People Leaving School with **No GCSEs**

Data Source: Department of Education

**Why is it Important?** GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSEs are the main qualification taken by 14-16 year olds. You can take GCSEs in a wide variety of academic and ‘applied’ (work related) subjects. GCSEs are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. Obtaining GCSEs lead to a number of routes, mainly work, further study or an Apprenticeship. Most Universities will ask for 5 GCSEs grades A-C, including English and Maths (as well as A Levels or equivalent qualifications) ([www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk), 2009).

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The percentage of young people leaving school with no GCSEs has risen in the Belfast and Castlereagh area in 2012/13, with Castlereagh below the NI average. *Note: based on pupil’s home address.*
Percentage uptake of Children in Nursery and Reception Classes in Primary Schools, Nursery Schools and PEAGs

Data Source: Department of Education

**Why is it Important?** The Pre-School Education Expansion Programme (PEAG), which is an important element both of the Department of Education’s strategy for tackling low and under-achievement and of the Government’s Childcare Strategy, is designed as a partnership between the statutory and voluntary/private sectors. In order to utilise and build upon the learning that has taken place in the home and its immediate environment, pre-school education should provide children with a rich variety of play activities and other experiences in a stimulating and challenging environment. The focus should be to allow children to learn without experiencing a sense of failure (www.deni.gov.uk, 2009).

**The Story Behind the Trends**
– The uptake rate has remained static over the past years with Belfast seeing a slight drop in uptake over the past two years and Castlereagh above the NI percentage.

*(Please Note: The above percentages are based on mid year estimates of the averages of 3 and 4 year olds.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>98</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>108</td>
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</tr>
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<td>2010/11</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>93</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Living in Safety and with Stability

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

- Children and young people to feel and be safe and secure in their homes and in their communities;
- Improved outcomes for children at risk of abuse;
- Access to family support services appropriate to age and location;
- Support for families at risk of being homeless;
- To be free from bullying.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure all our children and young people living in safety and with stability:-

- Children on the Child Protection Register
- Children Re-registered to the Child Protection Register
- Looked After Children
- Children who are Victims of Domestic Violence
- Domestic Abuse Offences
- Young People’s Attitude to Domestic Violence
- Offences Recorded with a Racist Motivation
- Children Killed or Injured on the Roads
- Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents
- Personal Safety
**Children On the Child Protection Register**

Data Source: HSCB Corporate Parenting Report

**Why is it Important?** Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings; in a family, an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them (DHSSPS, Co-operating to Safeguard Children, 2003). Not all children who are subjected to abuse are known to Social Services.

**LIVING IN SAFETY AND WITH STABILITY**

**The Story Behind the Trends** - Figures on child protection registers record the child protection process not the number of children who are abused and are, therefore, likely to underestimate the extent of abuse. Belfast Trust peaked in 2008/09 in the rate per 1000 children placed on the register, but has decreased year by year since then, but has still higher rates than NI.
Children Re-registered to the Child Protection Register

Data Source: HSCB Corporate Parenting Report

Why is it Important? Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected, harmed or not provided with proper care. Children may be abused in many settings; in a family, an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. There are different types of abuse and a child may suffer more than one of them (DHSSPS, Co-operating to Safeguard Children, 2003). Not all children who are subjected to abuse are known to Social Services.

The Story Behind the Trends- Figures on child protection registers record the child protection process not the number of children who are abused and are, therefore, likely to underestimate the extent of abuse. Belfast Trust has seen a decrease in the number of children re-registered to Child Protection Register in 2013/14 and lower than the NI percentage.

Please note: Figures are based on the percentage of total registrations.
**Looked After Children**

Data Source: HSCB Corporate Parenting Report

**Why is it Important?** The DHSSPS (Care Matters, March 2007) states that Looked After Children (LAC) is one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society. In comparison to non Looked After Children their outcomes are poorer, including poorer educational attainment and much higher rates of unemployment. LAC are also more likely to have a statement of Special Education Needs and to experience school suspensions and/or expulsions. Girls are more likely than their peers to have a teenage pregnancy; boys are more likely to receive a caution or a conviction than their peers. Detailed work on recording indicators above has been carried out.

**The Story Behind the Trends** - At 31 March 2014 there were 721 LAC in the Belfast Trust, an increase of 7.8% (52) from 2012/13. Of the 721 children 74% were in Foster Care, 15% Placed with a Family, 9% are in Residential and 2% in other placement types. (DSF, Statistical Report 2013/14).


**Why is it Important?** Domestic Violence affects people of every class, age, race, disability and sexuality (NSPCC, 2009). Domestic violence is not restricted to physical violence but sometimes it is more subtle and also involves psychological, verbal, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. Children are very much the silent victims of domestic violence. They may witness it or be subject to it but often their voices are not heard (Tackling Violence at Home, 2005).

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**The Story Behind the Trends**

**Figures** show an increase in the number of child victims of domestic violence in Belfast in 2013/14. The statistics presented are based on incidents reported to and recorded by the PSNI and it is recognised that these statistics are an underestimation of the number of child victims. Please note: Crimes are geographically recorded on the location in which the crime occurred.
Why is it Important? Domestic Violence affects people of every class, age, race, disability and sexuality (NSPCC, 2009). Domestic violence is not restricted to physical violence but sometimes it is more subtle and also involves psychological, verbal, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. (Tackling Violence at Home, 2005). In 9 incidents out of 10, children are in the same or next door room during a domestic violence incident. (Refuge 2011)

The Story Behind the Trends - Belfast has the highest rate of Domestic Abuse Offences in comparison to Castlereagh and has been consistently above the Northern Ireland average. The statistics presented are based on incidents reported to and recorded by the PSNI and it is recognised that these statistics are an underestimation of the number of offences. Please note: Crimes are geographically recorded on the location in which the incident occurred.
Young People’s Attitude to Domestic Violence

Data Source: YPBAS 2013, DHSSPS Sample: 7606 pupils aged 11-16 (Form 1/Year 8 to Form 5/Year 12), from schools selected randomly throughout Northern Ireland.

The Story Behind the Trends

- 11% of pupils in years 11 and 12 think boyfriends who hit girlfriends once deserve a second chance in the relationship.
- 13% think that husbands who hit wives once deserve a second chance in the relationship.
- 10% of pupils in years 11 and 12 think it is okay for a man to hit his girlfriend/wife if she has slept with someone else.
- 22% of pupils in years 11 and 12 think girlfriends who hit boyfriends once deserve a second chance in the relationship.
- 22% of pupils in years 11 and 12 think wives who hit husbands once deserve a second chance in the relationship.
- 22% of pupils in years 11 and 12 think it is okay for a woman to hit her boyfriend/husband if he has slept with someone else.
Offences Recorded with a Racist Motivation

Data Source: NINIS

**Why is it Important?**

Both individual and systemic forms of racism and discrimination have far reaching social, economic and personal consequences. Long standing racism can result in profound trauma that can impact generations of a group or community:-

- Racism can prevent members of certain groups from feeling like equal and valued members of society. It can isolate and exclude people, creating resentment and mistrust of others.
- Racism can result in ongoing psychological stress and anxiety, which can have an impact on work, family life and overall health and well-being.
- Racism can prevent people from having equal opportunities to better their lives and is the primary reason for higher levels of unemployment and under employment among different racial groups. It can prevent groups and communities from interacting with each other and can increase discomfort, fear and resentment.
- Racism can also have negative effects on an individual's physical and mental health.

**The Story Behind the Trends** - Up until 2012/13 Belfast was seeing a drop in the number of offences recorded with a racist motivation. However, Belfast has seen a sharp rise in these offences in 2013/14 and Castlereagh has been dropping consistently.

**Number of Offences Recorded with a Racist Motivation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Offences Recorded with a Racist Motivation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Castlereagh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children Killed or Injured on the Roads
Data Source: PSNI

Why is it Important? Road traffic deaths make up 41% of all child deaths, the majority of these children are pedestrians and cyclists and not car occupants. By changing children’s exposure to risk as pedestrians these death rates decline, but may lower exercise and fitness levels and restrict the child’s independence (Unicef, 2001). Social and economic factors play a part in child road injuries. Research has shown that children from social class V are five times more likely to be killed as pedestrians than those from class I (Child Accident Prevention Trust, 2009).

The Story Behind the Trends – Belfast and Castlereagh have seen an increase in the number of children killed or injured on the roads in the past year. Overall since 2007/08 2 children have been killed on the roads across the Belfast area.
**Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents**

Data Source: PSNI

**Why is it Important?**
Anti-social behaviour can have a negative effect on the quality of life of individuals and communities. It is therefore important to report concerns about anti-social behaviour you are experiencing at an early stage. The term anti-social behaviour (ASB) is used to describe a wide range of inconsiderate and nuisance behaviour, such as: excessive noise, graffiti, littering and disputes with neighbours. The PSNI gather information on anti-social behaviour for both adults and young people who come to the attention of the police and decide on the course of action required. This can range from a warning letter, home visit, Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) right up to an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). Each course of action is looked on in an individual basis.

**The Story Behind the Trends** - Anti-social behaviour incidents in Belfast and Castlereagh have decreased in the last three years in line with the NI rate, with Belfast above the NI rate and Castlereagh below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>85.5</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>55.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>47.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>74.4</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>44.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>62.2</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>33.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Personal Safety**

Data Source: YPBAS 2013, DHSSPS Sample: 7606 pupils aged 11-16 (Form 1/Year 8 to Form 5/Year 12 were selected at random across Northern Ireland

| Why is it Important? | Qualitative surveys give us more in-depth information on the views children and young people hold. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Safety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- In relation to their own personal safety, 24% are worried about being bullied, 20% are worried about being physically abused, 18% are worried about being sexually abused and 17% are worried about social media bullying/harassment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In the 12 months prior to the survey:-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 17% of pupils have been bullied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 7% of pupils have been called names or been harassed because of their religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 8% of pupils have been harassed/bullied/abused via the internet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travelling to School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- 85% of pupils always wear a seatbelt in the front seat of a car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 79% in the back seat of a car</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road Safety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- On some occasions 54% of pupils use a mobile phone or mp3 player while crossing the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 28% run across the road without checking for traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 48% carry on with friends while crossing the road.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic and Environmental Well-being

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:

- Improved outcomes for children who live in poverty;
- Access to safe, quality play areas;
- To live in homes that do not fail decent standards;
- To achieve economic stability and independence.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure the economic and environmental well-being of all our children and young people:

- Children & Young People Living in Overcrowded Accommodation
- Number of Families with Children Presenting to NI Housing Executive as Homeless
- Number of Families with Children Awarded as Full Duty Applicants
- Dependent Children in Families and Young People Aged 16-18 Awarded as Full Duty Applicants
- Percentage of Children Living in Relative Low Income Poverty
- Percentage of Children Living in Absolute Low Income Poverty
- Percentage of Children who are Dependents of Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance
- Percentage of Children who are Dependents of Claimants of Income Support
- Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming Jobseeker’s Allowance
- Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming Income Support
Why is it Important? Living in overcrowded accommodation can have a devastating effect on families. If a home is overcrowded it can affect health and educational attainment and can impact negatively on life chances (Full House, Shelter 2005).

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of young people living in overcrowded accommodation has been quite static over the years with Belfast above the NI average and Castlereagh below.
Number of Families with Children Presenting to the NIHE as Homeless

Data Source: NIHE

Why is it Important? A number of different personal and social factors can contribute towards people becoming homeless. These may include any of the following:

**Individual Factors:** including drug and alcohol misuse; lack of qualifications; lack of social support; debts, especially mortgage or rent arrears; poor physical and mental health; relationship breakdown; and getting involved in crime at an early age.

**Family Background:** including family breakdown and disputes; sexual and physical abuse in childhood or adolescence; having parents with drug or alcohol problems; and previous experience of family homelessness.

**Institutional Background:** including having been in care; the armed forces; or in prison (Shelter 2009).

The Story Behind the Trends - Trends show the number of families with children presenting to NIHE as homeless has increased year by year until 2009/10 and fluctuated each year since.
Number of Families with Children Awarded as Full Duty Applicants

Data Source: NIHE

Why is it Important?
Homeless people suffer high levels of stress from their lack of control over their housing situation, combined with high levels of poverty and often poor living conditions. They often also feel very isolated, especially when temporary accommodation is provided at a distance from the household's local community and friends (Shelter 2009).

The Story Behind the Trends - Similar to those presenting as homeless the numbers awarded as full duty applicants are increasing year by year until 2011/12 and has decreased slightly in the past 2 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>1253</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>1367</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>1008</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>1444</td>
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<td>2011/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>1565</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>1520</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Why is it Important?** Children are frightened, insecure, or worried about the future as a result of their homelessness. There is evidence among homeless children of mood swings, nervousness and bad tempers, bed-wetting and disturbed sleep patterns (Where's home? Children and homelessness in Bristol, Shelter, London, 2002).

**The Story Behind the Trends** - Analysis shows ongoing rises year on year across Belfast and Castlereagh areas with the exception of 2009/10 for dependent children and young people awarded as full duty applicants.
### Why is it Important?
Relative poverty lines are based on the view that poverty should be assessed in relation to (relative to) the standard of living in a country. The measure is specifically designed to show whether the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole. (NI Assembly 2008)

### The Story Behind the Trends:
The Belfast area has seen a drop in children living in relative low poverty AHC (After Household Costs) over the last number of years and was the same as the NI average in 2008/11 and 2009/12 and now below. Castlereagh is well below the NI average. Groups with the highest poverty risk are: Ethnic minorities and migrant workers; travellers; young people, especially aged 16-18, lone parent families; families of ex-prisoners; people with low or no educational qualifications; long term unemployed; people living in disadvantaged communities and people living in border areas. (Northern Ireland Anti Poverty Network)

#### Data Source:
Family Resource Survey

### Percentage of Children Living in Relative Low Income Poverty After Household Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Castlereagh</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005/08</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/09</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007/10</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008/11</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/13</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percentage of Children Living in Absolute Low Income Poverty

Data Source: Family Resource Survey

**Why is it Important?** - Absolute poverty is defined as a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services. In 2012/13 the absolute poverty threshold, 60% of the UK median, was £235 per week after housing costs, based on the 2010/11 inflation adjusted UK median. (Poverty in NI 2012/13)

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The trend within the Belfast area is similar to the NI average in respect of children living in absolute low income poverty with Castlereagh’s figures lower. *Please note: Figures have been updated in line with the UK Child Poverty Act 2010 legislation, the base year for absolute poverty has changed from 1998/99 to 2010/11.*
**Percentage of Children who are Dependents of Claimants of Job Seeker’s Allowance**

Data Source: Social Security Agency

**Why is it Important?** Jobseeker’s Allowance replaced Unemployment Benefit and Income Support for unemployed people. It is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week. Children who experience poverty, especially persistently, are at higher risk of encountering difficulties for example, health problems, developmental delays and behaviour disorders and they are also more likely to fall into low income themselves in adulthood (Kornberger et al. 2001, Finnie and Bernard 2004).

**The Story Behind the Trends** - Belfast and Castlereagh have seen an increase in the % of children who are dependent of claimants of JSA from 2007/08 to 2012/13, with a slight drop in Belfast in 2013/14 and Castlereagh staying static. This is in line with the present economic climate and the down turn of the local economy due to recession.
**Why is it Important?** An individual whose income, from all sources, is below the minimum level set by Government is entitled to Income Support. IS is normally claimed by people who are aged 16 or over, not working 16 hours or more (and/or with a partner working less than 24 hours) and not required to be available for full-time employment. Children growing up in low income families may be ‘learning to be poor’ from an early age as diminished expectations of what their parents can afford lead them to scale down their hopes and aspirations for the future. (Kornberger et al. 2001, Finnie and Bernard 2004).

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**THE STORY BEHIND THE TRENDS** - Trends have been decreasing steadily year on year across the Belfast Area and static in the Castlereagh area in the past two years.
Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming Job Seeker’s Allowance

Data Source: Social Security Agency

Why is it Important? According to the most recent figures for Northern Ireland, over one quarter (27%) of families with dependent children are now headed by lone parents (NISRA, 2006, Annual Abstract of Statistics), compared to just under one quarter (24.5%) in Great Britain. Most lone parents are women. While Northern Ireland’s overall unemployment rate (4.6%) compares favourably with Great Britain (5.5%), long-term unemployment is much worse in Northern Ireland where a quarter of claimants have been unemployed for at least 2 years (Department for Social Development, 2006).

The Story Behind the Trends - Trends show increases in Belfast and Castlereagh from 2009/10. This is in line with the present economic climate and the down turn of the local economy due to recession.
Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming Income Support

Data Source: Social Security Agency

**Why is it Important?** Children living in lone-parent families and families claiming Income Support have less experience of handling their own money than other children: they are less likely to receive regular pocket money and are less likely to get part-time jobs. Children in lone-parent or Income Support families have much lower expectations about their future careers than their peers. They are more likely than other youngsters to want jobs that require few qualifications and little training, and they are less likely to aspire to attaining professional qualifications or occupations. *(Small expectations: Learning to be poor? Jules Shropshire and Sue Middleton, 1999)*

**The Story Behind the Trends** - All areas have seen a significant increase on lone parent families claiming income support over the past two years in line with the NI average.

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<th>Belfast</th>
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<td>25.4</td>
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<td>2013/14</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>53.2</td>
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Making a Positive Contribution

What we want to achieve for all children and young people:-

• That children and young people are valued by society and their communities;

• Increased opportunities for volunteering in community and voluntary work;

• Access to leisure activities involving young people in their design and delivery;

• A preventative and early intervention approach to youth offending.

The following indicators are included in this chapter to measure if all our children and young people are making a positive Contribution:-

- Participation in Youth Activities
- Children & Young People coming to the attention of the Police for Offending Behaviour
- Children & Young People coming to the attention of the Police for Non-offending Behaviour
Participation in Youth Activities

Why is it important? Youth work is a vital non-formal educational process of personal and social development, through which young people can develop their knowledge, understanding, attitudes, confidence and personal and inter-personal skills. Young people have the right to expect that it will be accessible, affordable, high quality and flexible to meet changing needs and a changing environment (Youth Council NI Strategy 05-08).

The Story Behind the Trend - The proportion of young people who participate in Youth Activities, across the Belfast area, has remained relatively consistent over the last few years, with both areas slightly higher levels of involvement than the NI percentage.
**Children & Young People aged 10-17 coming to attention of the Police for Offending Behaviour**

**Data Source: PSNI**

**Why is it important?** One of the most effective ways to reduce crime is to prevent young people from getting into trouble in the first place. Reasons behind a young person's problem behaviour can be low achievement in school, family difficulties, substance misuse, etc. Early intervention can help young people by enhancing their knowledge, life-skills and experience, and contribute to better chances of leading a crime-free life.

**The Story Behind the Trends** – All areas have fluctuated in the number of Children and Young People coming to the attention of the Police over the last 2 years, with a significant drop from 2010. The most common highest recorded offences across all of the areas were common assault, criminal damage, theft and motoring.
Children & Young People aged 0-17 coming to attention of the Police for Non-Offending Behaviour

**Why is it important?** One of the most effective ways to reduce crime is to prevent young people from getting into trouble in the first place. Reasons behind a young person's problem behaviour can be low achievement in school, family difficulties, substance misuse, etc. Early intervention can help young people by enhancing their knowledge, life-skills and experience, and contribute to better chances of leading a crime-free life.

**The Story Behind the Trend** – Since 2007 all areas have seen an increase in the number of children and young people coming to the attention of the police with trends varying across each area. The most common recorded reasons are Concern for Safety, Missing Persons, Possession of Alcohol, Anti-Social Behaviour and Rowdy Nuisance.
**Contact Details**

For further information on indicators in your area please contact:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Valerie Maxwell</td>
<td>CSP Information Manager</td>
<td>CSP Information Manager <a href="mailto:Valerie.Maxwell@hscni.net">Valerie Maxwell@hscni.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Care and Children</td>
<td>CSP Information Officer <a href="mailto:Yvonne.Neill@hscni.net">Vonne Neill@hscni.net</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>HSCB</td>
<td>CSP Information Officer <a href="mailto:Shauneen.Mullan@hscni.net">Shauneen.Mullan@hscni.net</a></td>
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<td>028 37 414602</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yvonne Neill</td>
<td>CSP Information Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shauneen Mullan</td>
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