How are Children & Young People in NI doing?

Northern Ireland Outcome Monitoring Report with Trends 10 – 15/16

Improving Outcomes

Multi-agency Information to Support Integrated Planning for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland Date: April 2017
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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.

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 2014-2017 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.

This Seventh Outcome Monitoring Report shows how children and young people in Northern Ireland are doing in relation to the Government’s six outcomes and covers the period 2010 up to 2016 (where available). The report presents the information collected against agreed indicators for each outcome, providing trend analysis over time and comparison across geographical sectors.

The information is also available in greater detail (Trust, District Council, New LGDs and Electoral Ward areas) on request to the CSP Information Manager, Social Care and Children (contact details on page 111), who can also provide information on sources and how the information was collated. Visit www.cypsp.org to view the indicators visually mapped. (Training on the mapping system is available from the CSP Information Manager).
In reviewing progress towards achieving the six outcomes it is essential to be able to measure the 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.

The Information collated in this report is already being used by Children’s Services Planning Working 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.
The following indicators are included in this chapter to provide information on Population:-

- Demographic Profile of Northern Ireland
- Demographic Profiles of Trusts within Northern Ireland (MYE 2015)
- 25 Year Population Projections by Age Band
- % BME Population by Country of Birth
- % Northern Ireland BME Population by Ethnicity
- Migration Statistics – net external migration as percentage change of population by local area
- Non UK Nationals allocated National Insurance Numbers
- Birthing Trends
- Key Messages
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

DEMOGRAPHIC HEADLINES

Current population of under 18 year olds in Northern Ireland: 434,033 (MYE, 2015)

This is 23.4% of the total population in Northern Ireland in 2015.

The Southern and Western Areas have the highest percentage of their population aged under 18 years of age (25.5% and 24.6% respectively).

25 year population figures for 2014-2039 illustrate a slight drop (-2.5%) in the 0-17 year old population. Significantly there is a 5.8% increase predicted in the 10-14 year old population by 2039.
Demographic Profiles of Trusts within Northern Ireland

Data Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) (MYE, 2015)

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<thead>
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</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>
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<tr>
<td>0-17 Year Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole Population</td>
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<td>Child Population as a percentage of whole population</td>
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25 Year Population Projections by Trust and Age Band

Data Source: NISRA 2016 Population Projections

Percentage Population Change 2014-2039 by Trust and Age Band

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Age Band</th>
<th>Belfast Trust</th>
<th>Northern Trust</th>
<th>South Eastern Trust</th>
<th>Southern Trust</th>
<th>Western Trust</th>
<th>NI</th>
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<tr>
<td>0 to 4 Years</td>
<td>-10.7</td>
<td>-13.3</td>
<td>-9.3</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>-15.1</td>
<td>-8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 Years</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
<td>-12.5</td>
<td>-8.8</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>-11.7</td>
<td>-5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 Years</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>-1.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>-4.3</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 17 Years</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-5.1</td>
<td>-3.4</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>-10.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 17 Years</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>-8.6</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>-10.5</td>
<td>-2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
% BME Population by Country of Birth

Data Source: Census 2011

% BME Population by Country of Birth (Census 2011)

EU countries: Total | Non EU countries: Total | Africa: Total | Middle East & Asia: Total | North America & Caribbean: Total | Antarctica & Oceania: Total
---|---|---|---|---|---
Belfast | 2.6 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.2
Northern | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.1
South Eastern | 1.5 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.2
Southern | 4.5 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.1
Western | 1.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.1
Northern Ireland | 2.5 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.1

(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, Philippines, Timor, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Central Asia)
(North America & Caribbean:- Canada, USA, Caribbean, Other)
(Antarctica & Oceania:- Australia, New Zealand, Other)
% Northern Ireland BME Population by Ethnicity
Data Source: Census 2011

Percentage BME Population (Census 2011)

<table>
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<th>Ethnicity</th>
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<td>Chinese (%)</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Traveller (%)</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
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<td>Indian (%)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistani (%)</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladeshi (%)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian (%)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Caribbean (%)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black African (%)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black other (%)</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed (%)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (%)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
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Figure 6: Estimated International inflows, outflows and net migration by Local Government District (year ending mid-2015)

Migration Flows

- International Inflows
- International Outflows
- Net International Migration

Local Government District (ordered by net migration)
Birthing Trends
Data Source: CHS Registered Births

The graph and table shows there has been a downward trend in the numbers of live births in all areas, over the six year period. The Northern area has the largest percentage drop in births between 2010 and 2016.
The size of the Northern Ireland resident population rose in the year to 30 June 2015 by 11,100 to exceed 1.85 million (1,851,621) for the first time.

There were 24,215 births registered in 2015, a decrease of nearly 200 on the 2014 figure (24,394).

In 2015 the percentage of maternities resulting in a multiple birth was 1.5 per cent. There were 343 sets of twins and seven sets of triplets registered in 2015.

In 2015, 44 per cent of births were to unmarried parents. A trend that has been gradually increasing over the years.

Teenage births reached a new record low of 760, down from 1,395 a decade ago.

Over recent years, the number of births to mothers born outside the UK and Ireland has increased significantly. In 2016 10% of births were to mothers who were born outside the UK and Ireland, compared to 5% 10 years ago.

There were 2,360 divorces granted in 2015, this is a decrease than in the previous year (2,455) and 19 per cent lower than the peak number of 2,913 in 2007.

In 2015, over 4,200 children/stepchildren were affected by divorces that were granted, of which almost 1,800 were under the age of 16 at the time of divorce.

The number of children recorded in the Adopted Children Register during 2015 was 113, an increase of 9 from the 2014 figure of 104. The number of adoptions had been falling steadily since 1970 when over 550 children were adopted; the 2008 figure (97 adoptions) was the lowest recorded figure since the early 1930s.
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 Rates
- Low Birth Weight Rates
- % Mums Smoking During Pregnancy
- Immunisation Rates for MMR at 24 months
- Mothers Breastfeeding at Discharge
- % Births to Mothers Under 20 Years of Age
- Rate of Births to Mothers Under 20 Years of Age
- Births to Mothers aged 13 to 17 Years
- Life Expectancy
- % Dental Registrations Children Aged 0-2 yrs. and 3-5 yrs.
- % Children with a Disability in receipt of DLA
- Sexually Transmitted Infections Under 16 in NI
- Sexually Transmitted Infections 16-19 in NI
- Sexual Experience and Knowledge
- Children who are Overweight or Obese
- 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 by HSC Area
- Child Deaths by Suicide in NI by Gender
- Suicide in the 15-34 Age Group by HSC Area
- Suicide in the 15-34 Age Group in NI by Gender
- Child Deaths by Accidents
- Cigarette Usage Amongst Young People
- Alcohol Usage Amongst Young People
Infant Mortality Rates

Data Source: NISRA

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 infant mortality rate is an important measure of the well-being of infants, children, and pregnant women because it is associated with a variety of factors, such as maternal health, quality and access to medical care, socioeconomic conditions, and public health practices. (Reidpath, Allotey) (1)

The Story behind the Trends – All Areas have seen an increase in the rates of infant mortality in the last year, except for the Northern and Western areas which had a decrease. In 2015 the District Council areas with the highest Infant Mortality Rates were: Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon with 7.4 and Belfast with a rate of 6.8.
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 a major determinant of mortality, morbidity and disability in infancy and childhood and also has a long-term impact on health outcomes in adult life. Low birth weight also results in substantial costs to the health sector and imposes a significant burden on society as a whole. (WHO, 2010)(a).

The Story Behind the Trends
Possible causes of low birth weight in babies are multiple births who are at increased risk of low birth weight due to prematurity, teen mums (especially those younger than 15 yrs old) also, babies of mums who are exposed to illicit drugs, alcohol and cigarettes are more likely to have low birth weight babies. Since 2010/11 all areas have fluctuated in the rate per 1000 low birth weights with Belfast, Southern and the Western Trust above the NI average in 2015/16.
**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) (22).

**The Story Behind the Trends** – Overall most areas have been static in the percentage of mums smoking during pregnancy in the past six years. The Belfast Trust continues to see the highest percentage of mums smoking during pregnancy, with the other areas similar to the NI percentage. *Note: (Information monitoring changed to financial year from 2015/16 due to boundary changes and standardisation)*
Why is it Important? It is important for children to have this immunisation - when ‘herd immunity’, or the overall number of children immunised, drops there is a real risk of these diseases circulating again as has already been seen in some areas of the UK with potentially serious consequences. (Children First NHS 2010) (3). 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 the British Isles.

The Story Behind the Trends – Over the period the Belfast Area has consistently had the lowest percentage uptake of the MMR at 24 months. All other areas have similar figures to the NI uptake of 96.0 in 2015/16, with the Western Area the highest. (World Health Organisation (WHO) target = 95%)
Mothers Breastfeeding at Discharge
Data Source: Child Health System

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). (4) 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.) (5)

The Story Behind the Trends – In 2015/16 all areas have been mainly static in the percentage of mothers breastfeeding at discharge, along with the NI percentage of 45.3%, except the South Eastern and the Western Trust, which had an increase. Since 2010/11 the Western area has had the lowest percentage of mothers breastfeeding at discharge.
Why is it Important?
Northern Ireland rates of teenage pregnancy are among the highest in Europe. Rates are highest in areas of greatest social and economic deprivation. While some older teenagers may choose to become pregnant, the majority do not. Unplanned pregnancy represents a traumatic interruption to the lifestyles of young parents – they are suddenly forced into the realities and decisions of adulthood, with which they are ill-equipped to cope. (Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy and Action Plan 2002-2007)(6).

The Story Behind the Trends – Overall in Northern Ireland the percentage of births to mothers younger than 20 has decreased from 4.7% in 2010/11 to 3.0% in 2015/16. Notable the percentage of births to mothers under 20 years of age in the Belfast Trust has been consistently higher than that for all of Northern Ireland. All other areas are below the NI percentage in 2015/16.
Why is it Important? Many young people are successful in adapting to the role of parenthood and have happy healthy children. For too many, however, unplanned teenage pregnancy and early parenthood is associated with poor educational achievement, poor physical and mental health, social isolate and poverty. Efforts to reduce rates of teenage pregnancy must focus on raising the expectations among young people and on equipping them with the confidence and skills to manage relationships. The teenage pregnancy and parenthood strategy and action plan highlights a target of a reduction of 20% in the rate of births to teenage mothers by 2007 (Rate per 1000 women aged 19 years and under.) (The Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy and Action Plan 2002-2007) (6).

The Story Behind the Trends – The above graph shows that the Belfast Area has had the highest rate of births to mothers under 20 over the six year period and above the NI rate. The majority of areas have seen a decrease in births measured against the female population aged 13-19 in 2015/16, in line with the NI rate, except the Belfast Trust.
**Births to Mothers 13 to 17 Years of Age**

Data Source: Child Health System

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**Why is it Important?** There is growing concern among Statutory, Voluntary and Community organisations about the impact of teenage parenthood on the life chances of the young mother and her baby and agreement that concerted action is needed to address the issues around the problem. It is increasingly clear that socio-economic disadvantage can be both a cause and a consequence of teenage parenthood. Socio-economic disadvantaged young people are those most likely to become teenage parents. They then face limited prospects in the areas of education, training and eventually employment. (Myths and Reality: Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood, DHSSPS, 2000.)

The Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy, by DHSSPS(6), stated a target of a reduction of 40% in the rate of births to teenage mothers under 17. (March 2010)

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**The Story Behind the Trends** - The above graph shows that the majority of areas have fluctuated in births to 13 to 17 year old teenage mothers over the six year period in line with the NI percentage, with Belfast Area the highest.
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.

The Story Behind the Trends – Overall life expectancy has increased slightly for both males and females across all areas in 2011/13 with females living an average of 4 – 5 years longer than males. Belfast area has the lowest life expectancy for both males and females, with the Northern and South Eastern areas having the highest.
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) (21)

The Story Behind the Trends – Dental registrations for 0 – 2 year olds across all areas in the last year have increased slightly along with the NI average to 29.0 in 2016, except for the Western HSCT which has decreased and has the lowest dental registrations.
### 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) (21)

### The Story Behind the Trends
There has been little change in dental registrations for 3-5 year olds across all areas in 2016. Belfast and the Western HSCT are below the NI average of 73.9%, with the Northern, South Eastern and the Southern HSCT above the NI average.

#### Percentage Dental Registrations Children Aged 3-5 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Belfast HSCT</th>
<th>Northern HSCT</th>
<th>South Eastern HSCT</th>
<th>Southern HSCT</th>
<th>Western HSCT</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
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<td>Mar-10</td>
<td>56.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>74.6</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Rate per 1000 of Children with a Disability in receipt of DLA. Belfast and the South Eastern Area are both higher than the NI average. Overall at February 2016 there were 19,980 Children aged 0-15 claiming DLA.
Sexually Transmitted Infections Under 16

Data Source: Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre NI

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. Young people are the group most at risk of being diagnosed with a Sexually Transmitted Infection (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) (8) and the Health Protection Agency (2008) (9).

The Story Behind the Trends - The graph for the under 16 population from 2010 to 2015 shows that the rate of under 16s with Chlamydia had peaked at 14.9 per 100,000 in 2010 and decreased to 7.4 per 100,000 in 2015. The figures for Gonorrhoea, Syphilis and Herpes have been zero or less than 4 over the past 6 years except for herpes in 2011 at 8.1 per 100,000 and 6.8 in 2012. Over the same time the rates of warts have decreased since 2010 from 14.9 per 100,000 to less than 4 per 100,000 in 2015. It is important to note firstly that these are rates of new episodes treated at the Trusts Genito-urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics in Northern Ireland, and secondly while it is usual practise for GPs to refer patients to the GUM clinics, some may treat the patient directly and are therefore not accounted for here.
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. Young people are the group most at risk of being diagnosed with a Sexually Transmitted Infection (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) and the Health Protection Agency (2008).

The Story Behind the Trends - The graph shows that the rate of 16-19 year olds with Chlamydia has decreased from 293.6 per 100,000 in 2011 to 246.4 per 100,000 in 2015. The rates for Gonorrhoea and Herpes while much lower than the rates of Chlamydia and Warts has fluctuated over the period. Rates of Warts in 16-19 year old population had peaked in 2011 and have decreased year by year since. It is important to note firstly that these are rates of new episodes treated at the Trust GUM clinics in Northern Ireland, and secondly while it is usual practise for GPs to refer patients to the GUM clinics, some may treat the patient directly and are therefore not accounted for here.
### Sexual Experience and Knowledge

**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).

**Key Findings From the Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2016** Sample: 6831 pupils aged 11-16 (Year 8 to Year 12) were selected at random across Northern Ireland – 3041 pupils answered questions on Sexual Health

- In 2016, 49% of the young people surveyed had a boyfriend or girlfriend, compared to 67% in 2013.
- In 2016, 4% of pupils have had sexual intercourse. Of these, 69% had sexual intercourse for the first time were aged 15 years and under.
- In 2013, 10% of pupils have had sexual intercourse. Of these, 78% had sexual intercourse for the first time were aged 15 years and under.
- In 2010, 8% of sample have had sexual intercourse. Of these 94% had sexual intercourse for the first time were aged 15 years and under.
- In 2016, 56% of the sample had no sexual experience at all, compared to 35% in 2013 and 41% in 2010.
- In 2016, 83% of those who have had sexual intercourse used something to prevent pregnancy, 61% used a condom, and 30% used both a condom and the pill.
- 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.
- 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.
- In 2016, 66% said that they would find it easy to get contraceptives, compared to 58% in 2013 and 53% in 2010.
- In 2016, 77% of the year 11 and 12 pupils (14-16 years of age) knew that HIV was a sexually transmitted infection. 55%, 52% and 48% respectively knew that Chlamydia, Herpes and Genital Warts are sexually transmitted infections.
- In 2013, 79% of the year 11 and 12 pupils (14-16 years of age) knew that HIV was a sexually transmitted infection, while 76% knew AIDS was. 55%, 62% and 26% respectively knew that Chlamydia, Herpes and Genital Warts are sexually transmitted infections.
- In 2010, 88% of the year 11 and 12 pupils in the survey (14-16 years of age) knew that HIV was a sexually transmitted infection, while 86% knew AIDS was. 71%, 73% and 38% respectively knew that Chlamydia, Herpes and Genital Warts are sexually transmitted infections.
Why is it Important? The prevalence of overweight and obesity is assessed by using Body Mass Index (BMI). Many young 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.” (11, 12)

The Story Behind the Trends – At March 2016 in NI 16.09% of P1 children were overweight - this is an increase from March 2015. In NI 5.81% of P1 children were obese, the highest rate over the past 7 years.
0 – 17 year olds Admitted to HSC Hospitals with Self Harm Related Diagnoses

Data Source: DHSSPS

**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** – Overall in the last year a total of 362 children and young people in Northern Ireland were admitted to HSC hospitals with self harm diagnoses. All areas saw a decrease in 2015, except the South Eastern area which has an increase. The highest rate of admissions are in the Belfast area.
0 – 17 year olds Admitted to HSC Hospitals with Alcohol Related Diagnoses

Data Source: DHSSPS

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.


The Story Behind the Trends – Over the last year there was a total of 221 children and young people from Northern Ireland admitted to hospital with an alcohol related diagnoses. All areas have decreased in 2015, except the South Eastern Area. The Belfast and the Western Area are above the NI rate of 5.1.
In all developed countries (except the USA), suicide is the second highest leading cause of death among young people (Maughan, B et al, 2004) (13). There is little evidence as to why people take their own lives. 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, 2012). (14) Due to concerns about the increase in the number of suicides, 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, 2010). (15)

Why is it Important?

The Story Behind the Trends — There were a total of 15 registered deaths by suicide for young people across Northern Ireland in 2015. The graph shows that over the last 6 years the highest number of suicides in the 0-18 year old age group were registered in 2011. It is important to note that the coroners 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.
**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) (13). There is little evidence as to why people take their own lives. 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, 2012). (14) Due to concerns about the increase in the number of suicides, 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, 2010). (15)

*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.

**The Story Behind the Trends** – The graph demonstrates that suicides have been consistently more common among males of this age group and consequentially over all the ages, with a total of 245 males in NI in 2015 compared to 73 females deaths from suicide. **It is important to note that the coroners 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.**
Suicide in the 15-34 Age Group by HSC Area

**Data Source:** NISRA

### Why is it Important?
As previously mentioned “risk factors include depression, alcohol and drug misuse, personality disorder, hopelessness, low self-esteem, bereavement, break-up of a relationship and social isolation. While no specific intervention has been found to be universally effective, it is important that interventions address these risk factors as part of a broader approach to promote mental health and well-being”. (DHSSPS, 2012) (14)

### Number of 15-34 year old deaths by Suicide*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Northern</th>
<th>South Eastern</th>
<th>Southern</th>
<th>Western</th>
</tr>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*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.

**The Story Behind the Trends** – The graph shows the number of suicides within the 15 to 34 year old age group. These figures are important to note as there may be connotations for early intervention with the under 18 age group. The Belfast Area experienced the highest number of suicides in this age group in 2015 (increased from 24 in 2014 to 51 in 2015). It is important to note that the coroners 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.
Suicide in the 15-34 Age Group by Gender
Data Source: NISRA

Why is it Important?
As previously mentioned “risk factors include depression, alcohol and drug misuse, personality disorder, hopelessness, low self-esteem, bereavement, break-up of a relationship and social isolation. While no specific intervention has been found to be universally effective, it is important that interventions address these risk factors as part of a broader approach to promote mental health and well-being”. (DHSSPS, 2012) (14)

*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.

The Story Behind the Trends - The above graph shows the number of suicides within the 15 to 34 year old age group across Northern Ireland broken down by gender. The graph highlights that death by suicide is more common in males of this age group and figures show there has been an increase in the number of suicides for both male and females between 2014 and 2015. It is important to note that the coroners 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.
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) (16). Research carried out by the Department of Trade and Industry (2001) (17) 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. The majority of areas have seen decreases since 2010 with the South Eastern and Western Trust have the highest number of child deaths in 2015.
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).(18) 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). (19)

Key Findings from the Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2016
Sample: 6831 pupils aged 11-17 (Year 8 to Year 12) were selected at random across Northern Ireland – 3041 pupils answered questions on Smoking

- In 2016, Approximately 12% of the surveyed pupils have smoked tobacco.
- In 2013, Approximately 13% of the surveyed pupils have smoked tobacco.
- In 2010, Approximately 19% of the surveyed pupils have smoked tobacco.
- In 2016, 56% of those who have smoked, first tried it when they were aged 13 or under.
- 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 2016, 19% of those surveyed pupils who smoke do so everyday, with 20% in 2013 and 25% in 2010.
- In 2016, 36% of pupils live in a household with adults who smoke, and of these 33% smoke inside the home and 20% smoke in the family car.
- 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.
- In 2016, 18% of pupils surveyed had used e-cigarettes, with 8% using them every day. The main reason for using e-cigarettes is ‘Because I enjoy it’.

Data Source: Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitude Survey, 2016 (10)
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 2016
Sample: 6831 pupils aged 11-17 (Year 8 to Year 12) were selected at random across Northern Ireland – 3041 pupils answered questions on Alcohol

- Comparisons between the 2010, 2013 and 2016 YPBAS show that the proportion of pupils who reported that they have consumed alcohol at some point in their lives has decreased from 46% (2010), 38% (2013) to 31% (2016).

- In 2016, of those pupils who have ever had an alcoholic drink, under half 47% were aged 13 or under.
- In 2013, of those pupils who have ever had an alcoholic drink, over 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 2016, of the pupils who have ever drank alcohol, 19% drink a few times a month, with 5% drinking a few times a week and 1% daily.
- In 2013, of the pupils who have ever drank alcohol, 18% drink a few times a month, with 3% drinking a few times a week and less than 1% daily.

- In 2016, almost half of the respondents who drank (45%) reported drinking so much that they were drunk on at least one occasion.
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:

- Geographical view of Northern Ireland Education Authority Regions
- Primary and Post-Primary School Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need
- Children Aged 4-16 years Suspended and Expelled from School
- Primary and Post - Primary School Children with Less than 85% Attendance
- Primary and Post - Primary School Children with English as Additional Language (Newcomers)
- 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
- Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or above
- Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or above including English & Maths
- Percentage of Young People Leaving School with No GCSEs
- Percentage of Young People Aged 16-24 years on NEETS
- Percentage Uptake of Children in Nursery and Reception Classes in Primary Schools, Nursery Schools and PEAGs
Geographical view of Northern Ireland Education Authority Regions
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)

% of Primary School Children with a Statement by HSCT Area

The Story Behind the Trends
The percentage of primary school children with a full Statement of Special Educational Need has increased over the seven years. At June 2016, the Northern and the Western Trust are below the Northern Ireland percentage and all other areas are above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</table>
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 or stayed static over the past year. Belfast Trust, Southern Trust & Western Trust are higher than the Northern Ireland percentage of 4.3% in June 2016.
**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). (1)

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The percentage of pupils suspended in Northern Ireland have fallen from 1.39% in June 2011 to 1.13% in June 2016. The total number of pupils suspended in Northern Ireland in the year ending June 2016 was 3,551, with breakdown by gender showing that Males have a higher percentage of suspensions (0.87%) than Females (0.25).

**Please note:** Figures by ELBs are not available, due to the changes which came into operation in March 2015.
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 education region. The overall Northern Ireland totals have decreased slightly from 25 pupils in 2014/15 school year to 19 pupils in 2015/16.

The majority of pupils expelled were male. Over half of all pupils expelled, 52.6% were expelled from Key Stage 3. (Year 8 – 10)

The two most common reasons for expulsion were: ‘Persistent infringement of Relatively Minor Schools rules’ (26% of incidences), ‘Verbal Abuse of a Pupil’ also accounting for 26% of all expulsions.

(Source: Department of Education)
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 by HSCT

The Story Behind the Trends – All areas have seen a decrease over the last year in the percentage of primary school children with less than 85% attendance. Belfast Area has consistently had the highest pupils absent from school.

(Please Note: Pupils residence has been used for this analysis; therefore the Area refers to where the pupil lives rather than to where the school is located.)
**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.

---

**Post Primary School Pupils with less than 85% attendance by HSCT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast Area</th>
<th>Northern Area</th>
<th>South Eastern Area</th>
<th>Southern Area</th>
<th>Western Area</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Story Behind the Trends.** All areas have fluctuated over the last year in the percentage of post-primary school children with less than 85% attendance, with the exception of the NI percentage which has stayed the same. Belfast has consistently had the highest pupils absent from school since 2010/11. *(Please Note: Pupils residence has been used for this analysis; therefore the Area refers to where the pupil lives rather than to where the school is located.)*
Primary School Pupils with English as Additional Language (Newcomers) 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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### Primary School Pupils (Year 1-7) with English as Additional Language (Newcomers) by HSCT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast Area</th>
<th>Northern Area</th>
<th>South Eastern Area</th>
<th>Southern Area</th>
<th>Western Area</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Story Behind the Trends** – All areas have seen an increase on the percentage of primary school children with English as an additional language, with Belfast and the Southern HSCT above the NI average. Overall in Northern Ireland for 2015/16 there were 8855 primary pupils with English as an additional language (Newcomers).
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 – All areas have seen an increase in the percentage of post-primary pupils with English as an additional language, with Southern HSCT well above the NI average. Overall in Northern Ireland for 2015/16 there were 2550 post primary pupils with English as an additional language (Newcomers).
Key Stage One - ENGLISH

Percentage of Children Achieving Level 2 or above

Data Source: Department of Education

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). (2)

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average for June 13 is 90.1%. Belfast Region, South Eastern Region and Southern Region are lower than the NI average and North Eastern Region and Western Region is above.

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

KEY STAGE ONE English – Percentage Achieving Level 2 or above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belfast Region</th>
<th>North Eastern Region</th>
<th>South Eastern Region</th>
<th>Southern Region</th>
<th>Western Region</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun-10</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>94.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-11</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>94.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-12</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>94.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-13</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>89.7</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>90.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Note: Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage One data is not available from the academic year 2012/13.

Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
**Key Stage One - MATHS**

*Percentage of Children Achieving Level 2 or above*

Data Source: Department of Education

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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). (2)

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The NI average for Jun 13 is 90.8%. Belfast Region and Southern Region are slightly lower than the NI average. **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**

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

---

**Please Note:** Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage One data is not available from the academic year 2012/13. Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
**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).

**The Story Behind the Trends**

**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 57).

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**Key Stage ONE**

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

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**Please Note:** Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage One data is not available from the academic year 2011/12.

*Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.*
**Key Stage One - MATHS**

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

Data Source: Department of Education

**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). (2)

**The Story Behind the Trends**

**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 58).

**Key Stage ONE**

Years 3-4  Ages 7 to 8

Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

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**KEY STAGE ONE Maths – Percentage Achieving Level 3 or above**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belfast Region</th>
<th>North Eastern Region</th>
<th>South Eastern Region</th>
<th>Southern Region</th>
<th>Western Region</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun-10</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>55.2</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>47.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-11</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>48.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-12</td>
<td>44.3</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>46.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please Note:** Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage One data is not available from the academic year 2011/12.

Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
Key Stage Two - ENGLISH
Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above
Data Source: Department of Education

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). [2]

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average for June 13 is 77.1%. Belfast Region and South Eastern Region is below the NI average and North Eastern Region, Southern Region and Western Region are 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 from June 2013.

Key Stage TWO
Years 5-7 Ages 9 to 11
Expected Average Ability Level – 4 or above. Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

Please Note: Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Two data is not available from the academic year 2012/13.
Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
Key Stage Two – MATHS
Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above
Data Source: Department of Education

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).

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average is 78.5% in June 2013. Belfast Region and South Eastern Region are below the NI average and North Eastern Region, Southern Region and Western Region are all 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 from June 2013.

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

KEY STAGE TWO Maths – Percentage Achieving Level 4 or above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Jun-10</th>
<th>Jun-11</th>
<th>Jun-12</th>
<th>Jun-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast Region</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>74.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern Region</td>
<td>82.3</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>79.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Eastern Region</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>86.7</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Region</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>85.1</td>
<td>84.2</td>
<td>80.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Region</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>79.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NI</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>85.1</td>
<td>83.7</td>
<td>78.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Note: Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Two data is not available from the academic year 2012/13.
Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
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).

The Story Behind the Trends –
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 61).

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

Please Note: Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Two data is not available from the academic year 2011/12. Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
### 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). (2)

### The Story Behind the Trends –
**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 62).

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

### KEY STAGE TWO Maths – Percentage Achieving Level 5 or above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Jun-10</th>
<th>Jun-11</th>
<th>Jun-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast Region</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>36.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern Region</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>41.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Eastern Region</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>49.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Region</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Region</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>42.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NI</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please Note:** Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Two data is not available from the academic year 2011/12.  
*Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.*
**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). (2)

**The Story Behind the Trends** The NI average is 72.2% in June 13. North Eastern Region, South Eastern Region and Southern Region are below the NI average and Belfast Region and Western Region are above. **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**

Years 8-10 Ages 12 to 14

Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

KS3 tests were made non-compulsory in 2005/06, therefore results from then onwards refer to Assessments.

**Please Note:** Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Three data is not available from the academic year 2012/13.

**Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.**
Key Stage Three - MATHS
Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above
Data Source: Department of Education

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).

The Story Behind the Trends - The NI average is 72.2 in June 13. Belfast Region and Western Region are above the NI average and North Eastern Region and South Eastern Region 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
Years 8-10 Ages 12 to 14
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.
KS3 tests were made non-compulsory in 2005/06, therefore results from then onwards refer to Assessments.

Please Note: Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Three data is not available from the academic year 2012/13.
Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
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). (2)

The Story Behind the Trends – Please Note: 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
Years 8-10 Ages 12 to 14
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

Please Note: Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Three data is not available from the academic year 2010/11.
Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
**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). (2)

**The Story Behind the Trends** – **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. (See Page 65).

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**Key Stage THREE**

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

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belfast Region</th>
<th>North Eastern Region</th>
<th>South Eastern Region</th>
<th>Southern Region</th>
<th>Western Region</th>
<th>NI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun-10</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>52.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-11</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-12</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td>50.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please Note:** Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Three data is not available from the academic year 2011/12.

Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
Key Stage Three - MATHS

Percentage of Children Achieving Level 6 or above

Data Source: Department of Education

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). (2)

The Story Behind the Trends –
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 66).

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

Please Note: Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Three data is not available from the academic year 2011/12.
Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
Key Stage Three - SCIENCE
Percentage of Children Achieving Level 6 or above
Data Source: Department of Education

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). (2)

The Story Behind the Trends – Please Note: 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
Years 8-10 Ages 12 to 14
Excludes Special & Independent Schools.

Please Note: Due to industrial action and subsequent low response rates Key Stage Three data is not available from the academic year 2010/11.
Statistics & Research Team, Department of Education.
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). (3)

The Story Behind the Trends
The percentage of young people gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) has risen from 71.9% in June 10 to 83.3% in June 16 in Northern Ireland. All Areas have followed this trend, with the Northern and Western Area above the NI average with 82.7% and 81.6% respectively in June 15.
**Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) or Above (including English and Maths)**  
Data Source: Department of Education

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The percentage of young people gaining 5 GCSEs (A*-C) including English and Maths has risen from 59.0% in June 2010 to 67.9% in June 16 in Northern Ireland. All Area have followed this trend.

### 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). (3)

### Enjoying, Learning and Achieving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Jun-10</th>
<th>Jun-11</th>
<th>Jun-12</th>
<th>Jun-13</th>
<th>Jun-14</th>
<th>Jun-15</th>
<th>Jun-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belfast Area</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>58.4</td>
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<td>61.1</td>
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<td>62.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern Area</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>(Figures by HSCT not available at present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Eastern Area</td>
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<td>62.3</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>64.1</td>
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<td>67.9</td>
<td>67.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Area</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>67.7</td>
<td>67.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Area</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>65.1</td>
<td>63.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NI</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>59.5</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>62.2</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>67.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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). (3)

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of young people leaving school with no GCSEs in NI has fallen from 2.1% in June 10 to 0.5% in June 15.

There were a total of 122 young people leaving school with no GCSEs in 2014/15 – 66 boys and 56 girls.
The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of young people in Northern Ireland aged 16 – 24 years who are not in employment, full time education, or government supported training has risen higher than the UK. A ‘Pathways to Success’ strategy, which is designed to address comprehensively the issue of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) was launched by DEL in May 2012 with additional funding in October 2012.
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 – All areas have remained mainly static in the uptake of pre-school places, with the Belfast Area consistently higher uptake of pre-school places than the NI percentage. (Please Note: The above percentages are based on mid year estimates of the averages of 3 and 4 year olds.)
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 in Need Key Findings
- 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 Motivation
- Young People’s Attitude to Domestic Violence
- Offences Recorded with a Racist Motivation
- Offences Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation
- Children Killed on the Roads
- Children Seriously or Slightly Injured on the Roads
- Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety and Travelling to School
Key Findings

• At 31 March 2016, **24,698** children in Northern Ireland were known to Social Services as a Child in Need, of which 17% were recorded as having a disability. Almost half of these had a learning disability.

• A Child is in Need if: (a) he or she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by an authority; (b) his or her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired without the provision of such services: or (c) he or she is disabled. Source: Children (NI) Order 1995.

• During 2015/16 – **34,124** children were referred to HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland, the largest proportion of these children were referred by the police.

• The number of children referred has decreased by nearly **13%** from 2014/15 to 2015/16.

• The Northern HSC Trust had received the largest amount of referrals accounting for **25%** of the overall total whereas the South Eastern HSC Trust received the fewest number of referrals amounting to **16%** of the overall total.

• During the year ending 31 March 2016, there were **9,196** family support referrals to Gateway that were considered to require a UNOCINI (Understanding the Needs of children in Northern Ireland) assessment.

• The largest proportion of these referrals were received in the South Eastern HSC Trust (**26%**), with 22% in the Belfast HSC Trust, 21% in the Southern HSC Trust, 19% in the Northern HSC Trust and 13% in the Western HSC Trust.
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). (1) Not all children who are subjected to abuse are known to Social Services.

The Story Behind the Trends

There were a total of 2,146 children on the child protection register in Northern Ireland at 31 March 2016, representing an increase of 177 (9%) since March 2015 (1,969). 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. Three Trusts have seen an increase in the rate of children registered in 2015/16, with Belfast Trust staying the same and the Western Trust seeing a decrease.
**Children Re-registered to the Child Protection Register**

Data Source: DoH Children’s Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2015/16

**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). (1) Not all children who are subjected to abuse are known to Social Services.

**Percentage of Children Re-registered to the Child Protection Register**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Belfast Trust</th>
<th>Northern Trust</th>
<th>South Eastern Trust</th>
<th>Southern Trust</th>
<th>Western Trust</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Story Behind the Trends**

Overall during 2015/16 there were 448 children re-registered on the Child Protection Register.

*Figures based on percentage of Total Registrations.*
**Looked After Children**

Data Source: DoH Children’s Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2015/16

### 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 2016,** there were 2,890 LAC in Northern Ireland, up by 1% (15) from 2015. Of the 2,890 looked after children, 77% were in foster care, 13% were placed with family, 6% were in residential care and 4% were in other placement types. The majority of LAC in NI (52%) had been in care for less than three years.
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).

The Story Behind the Trends - There was a significant increase in the NI rate of children & young people Aged 0-17 who are victims of domestic violence from 2014/15. Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing district and figures are not available by Trust level.

Please note: Crimes are geographically recorded on the location in which the crime occurred.
Why is it Important? Although most incidents of Domestic Violence (DV) are reported by an adult, it is important to note that violence in the family cannot be kept hidden from the children. Children will often witness the violence, be aware of the tense atmosphere, suffer as a victim themselves or suffer in the aftermath of the violence (Women’s Aid, 2009). Exposure to DV can have very damaging long-term effects on a child’s mental health, sense of identity and ability to form relationships. Research highlights that the effects of DV are amplified for pre-schoolers, who are completely dependent on parents for all aspects of their care and may therefore witness greater amounts of violence than older children (Holt, Buckley & Whelan, 2008).

The Story Behind the Trends - The number of crimes recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation has increased in all areas except the Southern Area in 2015/16. Please note: Crimes are geographically recorded by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.
Young People’s Attitude to Domestic Violence

The Story Behind the Trends: When Year 11 and 12 pupils were asked which would they consider an example of domestic violence/abuse the following were recorded, with Physical Violence against a partner recorded at the highest at 79.3% and the lowest Being unfaithful in a relationship at 14.4%
**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 on-going 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** - Since 2010/11, there has been a significant increase in the number of offences recorded with a racist motivation from 530 to 918 in 2014/15, with a slight drop in 2015/16 figures.
Why is it Important?

A homophobic incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person. Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics. Sexual orientation can be defined as an individual’s preference for a particular sex (be it the opposite or the same), or an individual’s view of their own sexuality. The long-term emotional effects of homophobia and negativity have been proved to impact on mental and often physical well-being. This can develop into drug and/or alcohol problems, feelings of low self-esteem, engagement in self-harm and, most worryingly, may lead to suicide contemplation.

The Story Behind the Trends - Since 2010/11, there has been a significant increase in the total number of offences recorded with a homophobic motivation. NI has seen a 53% (73) increase in the number of recorded crimes between 2010/11 and 2015/16.
**Children Killed 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). (9) 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). (10)

**The Story Behind the Trends** - Figures show fluctuation from across all areas. In 2014/15 there were 3 children killed on the roads within Northern Ireland and 6 in 2015/16. Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing district and figures are not available by Trust level.

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**Number of 0 - 16 year olds Killed on the Roads**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast Area</th>
<th>Northern Area</th>
<th>South Eastern Area</th>
<th>Southern Area</th>
<th>Western Area</th>
<th>NI</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td><strong>Figures for the Trust Areas are not available due to the new Policing Districts.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Figures for the Trust Areas are not available due to the new Policing Districts.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Figures for the Trust Areas are not available due to the new Policing Districts.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Figures for the Trust Areas are not available due to the new Policing Districts.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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(9) 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). (10)
Children Seriously or Slightly 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** - Figures have shown fluctuation year to year across all areas. Overall in Northern Ireland in 2015/16 there were 913 children seriously or slightly injured on the roads within Northern Ireland, 26 more than in 2014/15. Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing district and figures are not available by Trust level.
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. (11)

The Story Behind the Trends – NI rates have decreased in anti-social behaviour since 2010/11 from 42.6 to 32.1 in 2015/16. Due to Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing district and figures are not available by Trust level.
Why is it Important? Qualitative surveys give us more in-depth information on the views children and young people hold.

- In 2016, 63% feel very safe in the area in which they live and 31% feel quite safe, which was exactly the same in 2013.

- In 2013, in relation to their own personal safety, almost a quarter of pupils 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.

- In 2010, in relation to their own personal safety, almost a quarter of pupils 23% are worried about being bullied, 22% are worried about being physically abused and 20% are worried about being sexually abused.

- In 2016, in the past 12 months, 17% of pupils have been bullied, 4% have been physically abused, 8% of pupils have been harassed/bullied/abused via the internet and 6% have been bullied/harassed via texts/videos/images or calls to your mobile.

- In 2013, in the past 12 months, 17% of pupils have been bullied, 7% have been called names or been harassed because of their religion and 8% of pupils have been harassed/bullied/abused via the internet.

- In 2010, in the past 12 months, 15% of pupils have been bullied, 7% have been called names or been harassed because of their religion and 6% of pupils have been harassed/bullied/abused via the internet.
Why is it Important? Qualitative surveys give us more in-depth information on the views children and young people hold.

- In 2016, 47% of pupils used a mobile phone/iPod/MP3 player while crossing the road, 26% run across the road without checking for traffic and 44% carry on with friends while crossing the road.
- In 2013, on at least some occasion, 54% of pupils use a mobile phone or MP3 player while crossing the road, 28% run across the road without checking for traffic and 48% carry on with friends while crossing the road.
- In 2010, on at least some occasions, 61% of pupils use a mobile phone or MP3 player while crossing the road, 30% run across the road without checking for traffic and 56% carry on with friends while crossing the road.
- In 2016, 89% of pupils always wear a seatbelt in the front seat and 79% in the back seat of a car. 37% of pupils never wear bright coloured clothes while cycling or walking at night and 38% never wear a cycle helmet.
- In 2013, 84% of pupils always wear a seatbelt in the front seat and 79% in the back seat of a car. 34% of pupils never wear bright coloured clothes while cycling or walking at night and 36% never wear a cycle helmet.
- In 2010, approximately four fifths of pupils always wear a seatbelt in the front seat 81% and three quarters in the back seat 74% of a car. More than four in ten 42% pupils never wear bright coloured clothes while cycling or walking at night and 51% never wear a cycle helmet.
- In 2016, under half 36% of pupils had some type of education on road safety in school, mostly provided by teachers 53% and 91% of these pupils found it useful.
- In 2013, over half 57% of pupils had some type of education on road safety in school, mostly provided by teachers 60% and 87% of these pupils found it useful.
- In 2010, half 51% of pupils had some type of education on road safety in school, mostly provided by teachers 56% and 77% of these pupils found it useful.
Economic and Environmental Well-Being

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

- Children and Young People living in overcrowded accommodation
- Number of Families with children presenting to NIHE as homeless
- Number of Families with Children Awarded as Full Duty Applicants
- Dependent Children in Families Awarded as Full Duty Applicants
- Number of Young People aged 16-18 awarded as Full Duty Applicants
- Families with Dependent Children living in temporary accommodation
- Number of Children living in temporary accommodation
- Percentage of Children living in Relative low Income Poverty (AHC)
- Percentage of Children living in Absolute low Income Poverty (AHC)
- 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 Jobseekers Allowance
- Percentage of Lone Parent Families claiming Income Support
- Key Points (Family Resources Survey)
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). (1)

The Story Behind the Trends - The percentage of young people living in overcrowded accommodation has been static across all areas in the past few years. The higher percentage of children and young people affected by overcrowding continues to be within the Belfast area, with a slight drop in 2015/16.
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).

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**Number of Families with Children Presenting to the NIHE as Homeless**

![Bar chart showing the number of families with children presenting to the NIHE as homeless by area and year.](chart.png)

- **Belfast Area:**
  - 2010/11: 1717
  - 2011/12: 2221
  - 2012/13: 2015
  - 2013/14: 1981
  - 2014/15: 2200
  - 2015/16: 1819

- **Northern Area:**
  - 2010/11: 1004
  - 2011/12: 1206
  - 2012/13: 1189
  - 2013/14: 1024
  - 2014/15: 1121
  - 2015/16: 1077

- **South East Area:**
  - 2010/11: 1069
  - 2011/12: 1220
  - 2012/13: 1115
  - 2013/14: 1111
  - 2014/15: 1254
  - 2015/16: 1177

- **Southern Area:**
  - 2010/11: 525
  - 2011/12: 663
  - 2012/13: 722
  - 2013/14: 744
  - 2014/15: 832
  - 2015/16: 855

- **Western Area:**
  - 2010/11: 717
  - 2011/12: 993
  - 2012/13: 1048
  - 2013/14: 972
  - 2014/15: 1115
  - 2015/16: 1140

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**The Story Behind the Trends** - Trends show the number of families with children presenting to NIHE as homeless has decreased slightly in the last year. Belfast Area has seen a large decrease in 2015/16.
Number of Families with Children Awarded as Full Duty Applicants
(passed all homelessness tests) 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). (2)

A Full Duty Applicant is a housing applicant that the Housing Executive has a legal responsibility towards. The responsibilities the Housing Executive has are to:
- provide temporary accommodation that is suitable if needed.
- provide 3 reasonable offers of permanent accommodation.
- Store belongings, advice and assistance with housing options.

The Story Behind the Trends - The number of families with children awarded as full duty applicants have fluctuated since 2010/11, with an increase in all areas in 2015/16. Overall there were 6,068 Families with Children awarded as Full Duty Applicants across NI.
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). (3)

The Story Behind the Trends – Overall Belfast District continues to have the most children in families awarded with full duty applicants, with all areas increasing in 2015/16. A total of 10,341 Children were living in Families awarded Full Duty Applicants.
Number of Young People Aged 16-18 Awarded as Full Duty Applicants
(passed all homelessness tests) Data Source: NIHE

Why is it important? Many people only associate homelessness with sleeping on the streets. The reality is that the vast majority of homeless people are families or single people who are not ‘sleeping rough’. Some may be staying with relatives and friends on a temporary basis. Others live in temporary accommodation, such as bed and breakfast, hotels, hostels, night shelters and refuges. For many, this means living in poor quality accommodation that is detrimental to their health and well-being (Shelter 2009). (2)

Number of Young People aged 16-18 Awarded as Full Duty Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast District</th>
<th>Northern District</th>
<th>South East District</th>
<th>Southern District</th>
<th>Western District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Story Behind the Trends - Overall Belfast District continues to have the most young people awarded with full duty applicants. All Districts have fluctuated in 2015/16, except the Western Area, which has stayed the same.
Why is it Important? When people are forced to move into temporary accommodation, their health suffers. The uncertainty of their situation, often combined with poor living conditions, impacts both physically and mentally on homeless individuals and families. (Sick and Tired; The impact of temporary accommodation on the health of homeless families, Shelter, 2004) (4)

The Story Behind the Trends - There are significantly higher numbers of families with children living in temporary accommodation in the Belfast District. All areas have shown slight increases in 2015/16, with the exception of the Northern District.
**Number of Children Living in Temporary Accommodation**

Data Source: NIHE

**Why is it Important?** Children living in poor, temporary or overcrowded conditions are more likely to have respiratory problems, to be at risk of infections, and have mental health problems. Housing that is in poor condition, temporary or overcrowded also threatens children’s safety. The impact on children’s development is both immediate and long term; growing up in poor housing has been found to have a lasting impact on a child’s health and well-being throughout their life. (Chance of a Lifetime: the impact of bad housing on children’s lives, Shelter, 2006) (5)

**Number of Children Living in Temporary Accommodation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belfast District</th>
<th>Northern District</th>
<th>South East District</th>
<th>Southern District</th>
<th>Western District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>246</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Story Behind the Trends** - Overall at 31 March 2016 there were 1341 children living in temporary accommodation across NI. There were significantly higher numbers of children living in temporary accommodation in the Belfast District, while all other areas fluctuated slightly in their numbers for 2015/16.
**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) (6)

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The Western area has been above the Northern Ireland average since 2005/08 in children living in relative low income poverty. Belfast and the Northern areas are below the NI average. The % of children in relative poverty after housing costs was 22% in 2012/13, which equates to 98 thousand children. (Poverty in NI 2012/13). (7) This is 5% points lower than the level of relative poverty recorded in 2011/12 and is the lowest level over the time series. The 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; people living in border areas. (Northern Ireland Anti Poverty Network). (8)
**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) (7)

**The Story Behind the Trends** – The Western Area has been constantly above the NI average in children living in absolute low income poverty over the years, with the Belfast and Northern areas below the NI average. In 2012/13 26% of children were in absolute poverty, after housing costs which represents 113 thousand children. (Poverty in NI 2012/13) (7)

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*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 Jobseeker’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) (8)

The Story Behind the Trends - All areas have seen a decrease in the last year in the percentage of children who are dependents of Claimants of JSA. The higher percentage of children are in the Western Trust Area.
Percentage of Children who are Dependents of Claimants of Income Support

Data Source: Social Security Agency

Why is it Important? An individual whose income, from all sources, is below the minimum level set by Government is entitled to Income Support. Income Support 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). (8)

The Story Behind the Trends - Trends overall have been decreasing steadily year on year across all areas. A possible reason for this decrease could be a result of lone parents moving from income support to Jobseeker’s Allowance due to entitlement ceasing. The Belfast area has the highest percentage of children who are dependents of claimants of income support.
**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 (28%) of families with dependent children are now headed by lone parents (NISRA, 08/09, 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, 2007). (10)

### The Story Behind the Trends
All areas have seen a decrease in the percentage of lone parents claiming JSA in the past year. The NI percentage of 8.2 has been at its lowest since 2010/11.
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) (11)

The Story Behind the Trends - All areas have seen a decrease in the last year of the % of lone parent families claiming Income Support, with the Belfast, Northern and the South Eastern area above the NI percentage of 61.5.
Key Points
Data Source: Family Resources Survey 2014/15

- 68% of household income in NI in 2014/15 is sourced from wages, salaries and self employment, compared to 72% in the UK as a whole.
- 21% of NI households had a weekly household income of less than £300 in 2014/15. This was similar to UK households at 20% in the same period.
- 73% of households, where there are two adults, with children in the household, were owner occupiers. For those households with children and only one adult present, 79% resided in either privately rented accommodation or the social rented sector.
- The proportion of disabled people differed by age group: in 2014/15, 5% of children were disabled compared to 18% of working age adults and 47% of adults over state pension age. The estimated % of the population who were disabled remained broadly stable over the 10 years period with 20% in 2014/15 compared to 17% in 2004/05.
- The average number of persons per household is 2.5 in NI compared to 2.3 in the UK. This has remained a similar level in the past 10 years.
- NI has a higher percentage of households with children (35%) compared to the UK (29%).
- In 2014/15 Northern Ireland had a higher percentage of single parent households (7%) compared to the UK (5%).
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

- Contributing Positively to Society (Young Life and Times Survey 2015)
**Participation in Youth Activities**

Data Source: Youth Council (Geomapping 2015 Statistical Report)

**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). (1)

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**% of Young People aged 4 – 18 who participate in Youth Activities**

**The Story Behind the Trends** - The proportion of young people who participate in Youth Activities, across each of the areas, has remained relatively consistent over the last few years, with slightly lower levels of involvement in the Western Area and higher in the Belfast Area.

*Note: There may be double counting as a young person can be a member of more than one Group.*
The YLT survey is undertaken annually and uses the Child Benefit Register as a random sample frame. In 2015 all young people living in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday in February and March 2015 were invited to take part in the survey. The survey was completed by 1,156 respondents.

How much to you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Participating in sport is a good way in bringing young people from different ethnic or religious backgrounds together?

Sport and physical activity helps me to improve my physical health?
The YLT survey is undertaken annually and uses the Child Benefit Register as a random sample frame. In 2015 all young people living in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday in February and March 2015 were invited to take part in the survey. The survey was completed by 1,156 respondents.

**Frequency Results**

INFLUNI: Do you feel you have any influence in decisions about what happens in Northern Ireland?

- Yes, definitely: 1%
- Yes, probably: 6%
- Probably not: 38%
- Definitely not: 49%
- I don't know: 6%

**Frequency Results**

BELONGNI: Do you feel a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland?

- Yes, definitely: 28%
- Yes, probably: 47%
- Probably not: 11%
- Definitely not: 5%
- I don't know: 8%
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5. Chance of a Lifetime; the impact of bad housing on children’s lives, Shelter 2006 –
11. Small Expectations; Learning to be poor? Jules Shropshire and Sue Middleton 1999 –

Bibliography – Making a Positive Contribution

**Contact Details**
For further information on indicators in your area please contact:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Maxwell</td>
<td>CSP Information Manager</td>
<td>Social Care and Children HSCB</td>
<td>Tower Hill, Armagh</td>
<td>028 9536 3168</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Valerie.Maxwell@hscni.net">Valerie.Maxwell@hscni.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Neill</td>
<td>CSP Information Officer</td>
<td>Social Care and Children HSCB</td>
<td>Tower Hill, Armagh</td>
<td>028 9536 2793</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Yvonne.Neill@hscni.net">Yvonne.Neill@hscni.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Clarke</td>
<td>CSP Information Officer</td>
<td>Social Care and Children HSCB</td>
<td>Tower Hill, Armagh</td>
<td>028 9536 3317</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Annie.Clarke@hscni.net">Annie.Clarke@hscni.net</a></td>
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