

Children and Young People's Strategic
Indicators

September 2013



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A set of strategic indicators was developed under the high level outcomes of the Ten Year Children and Young People's Strategy 2006-2016 'Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge'. The high level outcomes are:

- Healthy
- Economic and environmental well-being
- Enjoying, learning and achieving
- Positive and valued contribution
- Safety and stability

The indicators were first published in the Strategy document in 2006. The purpose of the indicators is to measure the success of the strategy. The commentary below provides an indication of the trend since the baseline (generally 2004 or 2005). More detailed information on the indicators can be found in the accompanying tables.

HEALTHY

- There were 90 infant deaths (deaths of children aged under one) in 2012. Infant death rates have improved significantly over the years,¹ falling from 13.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1981 to 3.5 in 2012; the **lowest infant death rates** on record.
- From 2003 to 2011, there has only been a small fluctuation in the proportion of **babies born weighing less than 2.5kg**. Of live births in 2011, 6.2% were below 2.5kg.
- A measles outbreak in September 2010 prompted the Public Health Agency to undertake considerable work to promote **MMR immunisation** among children and continue in its overall aim of trying to meet the WHO target of 95% coverage. NI uptake for MMR at 24 months remains at a **very high level** (93.1%) and is at its highest level over the 8 years reported in the Children and Young people's Indicator data. A simplification of the routine childhood immunisation schedule may have contributed to this continued improvement in uptake rates for MMR; a change was introduced in November 2010 allowing 3 vaccines (Hib/MenC, PCV booster vaccine and the first dose of MMR) to be offered at the same visit for children aged 13 months.
- Over the past two years there has been an increase in the number of **dental extractions** performed on children under 18 years in high street general dental practices; around 23,500 extractions were carried out in 2011/12 compared to 22,200 in 2009/10 (+6%). However, this increase must be considered against an increase in the number of children registered with a

¹ When infant death rates are low a relatively small fluctuation in the actual number of deaths can alter the death rate considerably. It is therefore the longer term trend which is of importance.

dentist, up from 273,500 in 2009/10 to 317,000 in 2011/12 (+16%). With more children registered there is likely to be more extractions performed on this larger cohort.

- In 2004 there were 6.4 child deaths due to accidents or suicide per 100,000 persons aged under 18 years. This has dropped to 5.8 per 100,000 in 2012 and is the first time that figures have dropped below the baseline. All suicides are referred to the coroner and take time to be fully investigated. Therefore there is a period of time between when a suicide occurs and when the death is registered.
- On the 3rd April 2012, there were 833 young **people waiting for a first CAMHS outpatient appointment**. This is an increase of 14.5% compared to 2011 (727). 38% of these were waiting longer than 6 weeks (318).
- The eight years of monitoring data would suggest that **sexually transmitted infections²** (STIs) are **on the rise** amongst the 16-19 year old group. The diagnostic rate of new STIs for those seen at genitourinary clinics was at its lowest at baseline in 2004 being 640 per 100,000 16-19 year olds and the latest figures from 2011 show it at its highest at 779 per 100,000; an increase of 22%. The rate amongst the under 16s has tended to fluctuate, ranging from 20 new episodes of STIs per 100,000 in 2005 to 45 per 100,000 the following year. In 2011, the rate was 38 per 100,000 aged 13 to 15 years.
- In 2010/11, 5.8% of Primary 1 pupils were recorded as being **obese**, a similar proportion to that observed at baseline in 2003/04 (5.7%). The percentage of Primary 1 pupils considered obese has averaged at 5.3% over the 8 years monitoring data.

ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

Poverty

- In 2011/12, the percentage of children in **relative poverty** (before housing costs) increased by one percentage point from 2010/11 to 22%. This is 5 percentage points lower than the high of 27% reached in 2009/10.
- **Absolute child poverty** for 2011/12, at 25%, is four percentage points higher than in 2010/11. *Please note that in order to measure income in line with the Child Poverty Act 2010, absolute low incomes are now measured against the median in 2010/11 adjusted for inflation. These figures are not comparable with previously published absolute low income figures which are based on the median in 1998/99 adjusted for inflation.

Housing

- There were 332 more families finding themselves **homeless** in 2010/11 compared to the previous year; a 5% increase from 6,122 to 6,454. These latest figures indicate that the previous downward trend for number of families presenting as homeless appears to have reversed.
- Over the past 7 years, the number of families living in **temporary accommodation** has tended to fluctuate a little, but on average around 2,000 families find themselves in such a situation.

² selected STIs – chlamydia - uncomplicated genital chlamydial infection; gonorrhoea - uncomplicated gonorrhoea; syphilis - primary and secondary infectious syphilis; herpes -anogenital herpes simplex (first attack); warts - anogenital warts (first attack).

2,092 families were provided with temporary accommodation during 2011/12 showing little difference to the figure of 2,113 seven years ago in 2005/06.

ENJOYING LEARNING & ACHIEVING

School Leavers

- Generally speaking there has been a decline in the proportion of **school leavers** entering employment as well as training. In 2003/04 12.5% of those leaving school chose to enter employment compared to 6.2% in 2011/12, the equivalent figures for those going on to training were 18.5% and 11.1%.
- Instead more school leavers are tending to choose Further and Higher Education courses. Over the seven year period examined there has been a 14 percentage point rise (62.7% to 76.9%) in the proportion of school leavers entering Further and Higher Education with more than 3 out of 4 school leavers opting for this choice in 2011/12.

Educational Attainment

- In general over the 7 year monitoring period the proportions of pupils achieving level 4 or above in **Key Stage 2 English and Maths** has improved; up 5 percentage points from 77% in 2004/05 to 82% in 2010/11 for English and up 4 percentage points from 79% to 83% for Maths.
- A greater level of improvement was observed for pupils in the most disadvantaged primary schools in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2; up 9 (from 64% to 73%) and 8 (67% to 75%) percentage points respectively from 2004/05 to 2010/11. This has had the effect of **reducing the gap in level of attainment** at Key Stage 2 by 4 percentage points for both English and Maths when comparing all NI primary pupils with those in the most disadvantaged primary schools.
- Almost 8 out of 10 (78%) Year 12 pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-C in 2011/12. Over the years there has been a considerable **increase in this level of attainment**, going from 61% at baseline (2004/05) to the latest figure of 78%
- If you consider 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-G over the same period, levels of attainment have also shown an improvement from 89% to 98%. The corresponding figures for pupils attending Secondary/non Grammar schools are 82% and 96%, reducing the attainment gap from 7 to 2 percentage points.
- Sixty-five percent of Year 14 pupils achieved **3 or more A levels** (or equivalent) at grades A*-C in 2011/12, the percentage of pupils obtaining such grades has changed little since 2004/05.

Engagement

- Despite a slight drop off in the proportion of qualifying³ and eligible⁴ looked after young people **engaging in education, training and employment** from March 2011 to March 2012 generally speaking the trend has been an upward one for both groups since baseline in 2005; going from 49% to 66% for qualifying looked after young people and 70% to 90% for eligible looked after young people.
- The trends for relevant⁵ and former relevant⁶ looked after young people are less clear, both dipped in 2008 but since then have begun to see a rise in the proportions involved in some form of economic activity with 72% and 67% of the relevant and former relevant **looked after young people being in education, employment or training**, respectively.

POSITIVE & VALUED CONTRIBUTION

- **Attendance rates** of post-primary pupils have remained stable over the reporting period (2003/04 to 2010/11) with on average 93% of half day sessions being attended (attendance is measured for every pupil in half day sessions; am and pm).
- Taking into account the correction in the data collection for this indicator, there has been limited change in the proportion of young people aged 4-18 years **participating in youth activities** over the period of 2005/06 to 2011/12. The participation rate was 39.1% in 2011/12.
- The average **waiting time for youth defendants** going through our youth courts in 2011, from date of summons to date of disposal was 16.2 weeks; this is up marginally on the previous year's figure of 15.6 weeks. In 2008, the NI Courts and Tribunal Services introduced Case Progression Officers to work with other criminal justice agency officials and the judiciary to ensure that all procedural matters are effectively progressed by parties involved in a case in an attempt to minimise delay in the Criminal Courts. Prior to 2008, the processing time for a child from summons to disposal averaged 20.1 weeks and from 2009 it has averaged 16.6 weeks.

SAFETY & STABILITY

- In 2012, traffic collisions recorded resulting in injury to a child (under 16) accounted for 1048 casualties, of whom 5 were killed, 87 were seriously injured and 956 were slightly injured. Over the 8 years of monitoring data there has generally been a downward trend in the number of **children killed or seriously injured on our roads**. In 2012 there were 59 fewer children killed or seriously injured than that recorded at baseline in 2004; 92 compared to 151.
- There were 357 re-registrations to the **Child Protection Register** during 2011/12. Re-registrations increased by 10% (32) from the previous year and have more than doubled (up 120%) since baseline in 2004/05.

³ Young people looked after for any period less than 13 weeks since aged 14 which may include a period of being looked after whilst 16 or 17 years old.

⁴ Young people aged 16 or 17 years old, who have been looked after for more than 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who are still looked after.

⁵ Relevant young people are those aged 16 or 17 who were previously eligible young people and are no longer looked after.

⁶ Former relevant young people are those aged 18-21 years who were previously relevant or eligible young people.

- In 2010/11, two thirds (67%) of **care leavers** aged 19 in contact with Trusts and whose **economic activity** was known, were in education, training or employment; an increase of 8 percentage points on the previous year's figure (59%). In fact this is the third consecutive year in which the proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment has risen since the low of 47% was recorded in 2007/08. (Trusts reported contact with 97% of care leavers in 2010/11)

- In 2011, 5% of year 7 pupils admitted to physically **bullying** another pupil, 9% said they had used other ways⁷ and 2% had used texts or the internet to bully another pupil. These figures are only slightly below those recorded in 2008: 7%; 11% and 2% respectively.

- In 2000, 30% of year 9 pupils had recently been **bullied** (in the past couple of months) and a similar prevalence rate was recorded in 2006 and in 2011 (29%). In a 2010 survey of Year 8 to 12 pupils approximately a sixth (15%) said they had been bullied in the past 12 months.

- In 2011, twenty-one percent of year 9 pupils admitted to having recently **bullied** another pupil, compared to 28% in 2000.

- The vast majority (95%) of post-primary pupils said they **felt safe in the area** in which they lived in 2010. This is a significant increase from 2003 when 91% reported feeling safe.

⁷ called names, left out of games, or having nasty stories spread about them on purpose

INDICATOR TABLES

The accompanying tables provide a summary of the direction of movement of the data underlying the indicators. Overall progress is assessed by looking at the general trend since baseline and also by showing the direction of movement of the most recent data. It is important to note that several of the indicators draw on data from sample surveys and so small changes in data could be attributed to sampling variability rather than representing a true change – it is particularly important to bear this in mind when looking at the direction of the the latest data.

KEY

✓	data moving in right direction
✗	data moving in wrong direction
≈	data shows broadly constant trend or no significant movement
▲	insufficient data available to determine a trend / trend unclear