

Children and Young People's Strategic Indicators

October 2014



# Contents

<b>KEY FINDINGS</b> .....	i
<b>BACKGROUND</b> .....	1
<i>HEALTHY</i> .....	2
<i>ECONOMIC &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING</i> .....	3
<i>ENJOYING LEARNING &amp; ACHIEVING</i> .....	4
<i>POSITIVE &amp; VALUED CONTRIBUTION</i> .....	5
<i>SAFETY &amp; STABILITY</i> .....	6
<b>INDICATOR TABLES</b> .....	7

## KEY FINDINGS

- NI uptake for **MMR at 24 months** now meets the World Health Organisation target and is at the very high level of 96.1%, this is the highest level reached over the 10 years reported in the Children and Young People's Indicator data.
- The percentage of Primary 1 pupils considered obese has averaged at 5.1% over the 5 years monitoring data since the updated Child Health System methodology was introduced in 2008/09. In 2012/13, 4.8% of Primary 1 pupils were recorded as being **obese**.
- **Absolute child poverty** for 2012/13, at 22%, is three percentage points lower than in 2011/12 (25%).
- During 2012/13 2,367 families were provided with **temporary accommodation**, this latest figure is the highest it has been over the 8 years of available monitoring data since 2005/06.
- More school leavers are tending to choose **Further and Higher Education courses** rather than enter employment or training. Over the ten year period examined there has been an increase in the proportion of school leavers entering Further and Higher Education from 62.7% in 2003/04 to more than 3 out of 4 school leavers opting for this choice in 2012/13 (77.1%).
- If **5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A\*-G** are considered, levels of attainment have improved with 98% achieving this in 2012/13. The corresponding figure for pupils attending Secondary/non Grammar schools is 96% The attainment gap has reduced from the 2004/05 level of 7 percentage points to 2 percentage points
- The **average waiting time for youth defendants** going through our youth courts from date of summons to date of disposal was 13.9 weeks in 2013; this is down on the previous year's figure of 15.0 weeks.
- Over the 10 years of monitoring data there has generally been a downward trend in the **number of children killed or seriously injured on our roads**. In 2013 there were 78 fewer children killed or seriously injured than that recorded at baseline in 2004; 73 compared to 151.
- There were 336 re-registrations to the **Child Protection Register** during 2012/13. Re-registrations decreased by 6% (21) from the previous year, yet they have more than doubled (up 107%) since baseline in 2004/05.
- 17% of Year 8-12 pupils said in 2013 that they had been **bullied within the previous 12 months**; this has increased since 2010 when the figure was 15%.

# **Children and Young People's Strategic Indicators**

**Update October 2014**

## **BACKGROUND**

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 highlights some of the findings from the indicators and provides an indication of the trend identified from analysing the data. More detailed information on the indicators can be found in the accompanying tables.

- Infant death rates (deaths of children aged under one) have improved significantly over the years,<sup>1</sup> falling from 13.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1981 to 3.5 in 2012 (the lowest infant death rate on record). In 2013 there were 112 infant deaths, a rate of 4.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
- From 2003 to 2013, the proportion of **babies born weighing less than 2.5kg** has tended to fluctuate slightly. Of live births in 2013, 7.4% were below 2.5kg, this compares to 6.2% in 2011 and 5.4% in 2012.
- 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 World Health Organisation (WHO) target of 95% coverage. NI uptake for MMR at 24 months now meets the WHO target and is at the **very high level** of 96.1%, this is the highest level reached over the 10 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.
- The number of **dental extractions** performed on children under 18 years in high street general dental practices decreased in 2013/14; 22,164 extractions were carried out compared to 23,261 in 2012/13 (-5%).
- At baseline in 2004 there were 6.4 child deaths due to accidents or suicide per 100,000 persons aged Under 18 years. In 2012 this figure dropped to 5.8 per 100,000 and in 2013 it has dropped again to 4.6 per 100,000 making it the second consecutive year that the figure is below the baseline. However, it should be noted that 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. Figures provided will subsequently include deaths that occurred before the period of interest, and exclude those that occurred within the period but have yet to be registered. On average it is up to two years after the suicide has occurred that it is registered.
- On the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2013, there were 709 **young people waiting for a first CAMHS outpatient appointment**. This is a decrease of 15% compared to 2012 when 833 young people were waiting for this. 28% of these were waiting longer than 6 weeks (201 young people).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- Over the ten years of monitoring data, rates of **sexually transmitted infections**<sup>2</sup> (STIs) for those aged Under 16 and 16-19 year olds have tended to fluctuate. The rate amongst Under 16s has ranged from 21 new episodes of STIs per 100,000 in 2005 to 46 per 100,000 the following year. In 2013, the rate was 24 per 100,000 aged Under 16 years. For 16-19 year olds the diagnostic rate of new STIs for those seen at genitourinary clinics was at its lowest at baseline in 2004 with 635 per 100,000 and at its highest in 2008 at 756 per 100,000. In 2013 the rate was 669 per 100,000.
- In 2012/13, 4.8% of Primary 1 pupils were recorded as being **obese**, a similar proportion to that observed at baseline for the updated Child Health System methodology in 2008/09 (4.9%). The percentage of Primary 1 pupils considered obese has averaged at 5.1% over the 5 years monitoring data for the revised methodology.

## ***ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING***

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### **Poverty**

- **Absolute child poverty** for 2012/13, at 22%, is three percentage points lower than in 2011/12 (25%).
- In 2012/13, the percentage of children in **relative poverty** (before housing costs) decreased by one percentage point from 2011/12 to 20%. This is 6 percentage points lower than the recent high of 26% reached in 2009/10.

### **Housing**

- 149 less families declared themselves as being **homeless** in 2013/14 compared to the previous year; a 2.5% decrease from 6,019 to 5,870. These figures show a continuation of the downward trend for number of families presenting as homeless since 2010/11.
- In previous 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 each year. However, during 2012/13 2,367 families were provided with temporary accommodation, this latest figure is the highest it has been over the 8 years of available monitoring data since 2005/06.

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<sup>2</sup> 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).

### **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 6.4% in 2012/13, the equivalent figures for those going on to training were 18.5% and 11.3%. However, both of these figures were a slight increase on the 2011/12 figures of 6.2% for employment and 11.1% for training.
- Rather than enter employment or training, more school leavers are tending to choose Further and Higher Education courses. Over the ten year period examined there has been an increase in the proportion of school leavers entering Further and Higher Education from 62.7% in 2003/04 to more than 3 out of 4 school leavers opting for this choice in 2012/13 (77.1%).

### **Educational Attainment**

- 2012/13 Key Stage data are based on the new Levels of Progression meaning that these results are not directly comparable with Key Stage Assessment outcomes from previous years. The Department recognises that these new arrangements will need time to embed and has recommended caution in analysing data and benchmarking performance from the first years implementation. Given this, in 2012/13 77% of pupils achieved level 4 or above in **Key Stage 2 English** and 79% achieved level 4 or above in **Key Stage 2 Maths**.
- When the **most disadvantaged primary schools** are considered, 68% of pupils achieved level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English and 70% achieved level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths.
- Four-fifths (80%) of Year 12 pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A\*-C in 2012/13. 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 80%.
- 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% in 2004/05 to 98% in 2012/13. The corresponding figures for pupils attending Secondary/non Grammar schools are 82% and 96%, reducing the attainment gap from the 2004/05 level of 7 percentage points to 2 percentage points.
- Sixty-five percent of Year 14 pupils achieved **3 or more A levels** (or equivalent) at grades A\*-C in 2012/13, the percentage of pupils obtaining such grades has changed little since 2004/05 when 62% achieved this.

## Engagement

- The trend for qualifying<sup>3</sup> **looked after young people being in education, employment or training** had been increasing since the baseline in 2005 until 2011 when it began to fluctuate. Most recently a high of 83% was recorded in March 2013 which then dipped to 63% in September 2013 and increased slightly to 65% in March 2014.
- Generally speaking the trend had been upward for eligible<sup>4</sup> looked after young people **engaging in education, training and employment** since the baseline, rising from 70% in 2005 to a high of 94% in September 2013. However, most recently in March 2014 this figure has decreased to 84%.
- The trend for relevant<sup>5</sup> looked after young people is less clear, it dipped in 2008 but then began to see a rise in the proportions involved in some form of economic activity recording a high of 85% in September 2013. However, this figure reduced to 73% in March 2014.
- When former relevant<sup>6</sup> looked after young people are considered, the trend is again unclear, at the baseline in 2006 the number engaged in employment, education or training was 64%, and this then dipped to 51% in 2008. However, since then it began increasing but has remained stable in recent years at around 72%.

## POSITIVE & VALUED CONTRIBUTION

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- **Attendance rates** of post-primary pupils have remained stable over the reporting period (2003/04 to 2012/13) 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 2012/13. The participation rate was 39.3% in 2012/13.
- The average **waiting time for youth defendants** going through our youth courts from date of summons to date of disposal was 13.9 weeks in 2013; this is down on the previous year's figure of 15.0 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 16.2 weeks.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

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



## ***SAFETY & STABILITY***

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- In 2013, recorded traffic collisions resulting in injury to a child (under 16) accounted for 931 casualties, of whom 2 were killed, 71 were seriously injured and 858 were slightly injured. Over the 10 years of monitoring data there has generally been a downward trend in the number of **children killed or seriously injured on our roads**. In 2013 there were 78 fewer children killed or seriously injured than that recorded at baseline in 2004; 73 compared to 151.
- There were 336 re-registrations to the **Child Protection Register** during 2012/13. Re-registrations decreased by 6% (21) from the previous year, yet they have more than doubled (up 107%) since baseline in 2004/05.
- In 2012/13, over two thirds (69%) of **care leavers** aged 19 in contact with Trusts and whose **economic activity** was known, were in education, training or employment; an 11 percentage point change on the previous year's figure (58%). The proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment has tended to fluctuate over recent years, with this year being the highest since the low of 47% that was recorded in 2007/08. (Trusts reported contact with 98% of care leavers in 2012/13).
- In 2013, 13% of year 7 pupils had been **bullied** by someone via text messages or the internet. This figure has increased since 2012 when it was recorded as being 11% of pupils.
- 17% of Year 8-12 pupils said in 2013 that they had been bullied within the previous 12 months; this has increased since 2010 when the figure was 15%.
- The vast majority (94%) of post-primary pupils said they **felt safe in the area** in which they lived in 2013. This is an increase from 2003 when 91% reported feeling safe.

## INDICATOR TABLES

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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 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

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