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Introduction

This official statistics release reports on children’s homes inspections that occurred between 1 April and 30 June 2012 under the Care Standards Act 2000. These statistics are based on provisional data and are subject to change.

**Key findings**

**Inspections and outcomes of children’s homes** **full inspections**

* The period 1 April to 30 June 2012 is the first quarter since the introduction of the revised Ofsted framework for inspection of children’s homes.[[1]](#footnote-1) Provisional statistics indicate there were 546 full inspections of children’s homes during this period. (Table 1)
* Of the 546 homes inspected, 47 (9%) were outstanding for their *Overall effectiveness*. 284 (52%) were good, 172 (32%) were adequate and 43 (8%) were inadequate. (Table 2)
* The percentage of homes receiving an outstanding *Overall effectiveness* grade has decreased from 18% in the equivalent quarter last year, while the percentage of homes receiving an inadequate *Overall effectiveness* grade has increased from 3% in the equivalent quarter last year. Ofsted use a proportional risk approach when scheduling children’s homes inspections, which makes a comparison between the first quarters of 2011 and 2012 the best comparator.[[2]](#footnote-2) (Table 2 + Chart 2)

* The former Government Office Regions with the highest percentage of good or better *Overall effectiveness* grades, were the South East (73%) and West Midlands (70%). In contrast, fewer than half the homes in London (46%) received an *Overall effectiveness* grade of good or better (Map 1).
* There are marked variations at a local level in inspection outcomes. In areas, for example, where at least 10 children’s homes have been inspected during the quarter 92% of the homes located in Durham and 82% in Shropshire received a good or better *Overall effectiveness* grade, compared to 30% of the homes in Leeds and 48% in Somerset. These are inspections of all homes. not just those run by a local authority. (Table 4)

**Sector data**

* Of local authority-run homes, 58% (69), received a good or better *Overall effectiveness* grade, compared to 62% (262 homes) run by private or voluntary providers.[[3]](#footnote-3) (Maps 3 + 4)
* Seven percent of local authority run homes were judged outstanding for *Overall effectiveness*, compared to 19% in the equivalent quarter in 2011; and 8% were judged inadequate, compared to 3% previously. A similar change occurred for the other sectors: 9% were judged outstanding, compared to 18% in the equivalent quarter in 2011; and 8% judged inadequate, compared to 3%. (Charts 3 + 4)
* The sectoral picture, when grouped by former Government Office Regions, varies widely across the country. In the three regions in the North, as well as the South West and East of England, the percentage of homes receiving a good or better *Overall effectiveness* grade is higher among health authority, private and voluntary sector homes than local authority run homes. This is particularly evident in Yorkshire and the Humber, where 40% of the homes run by the local authorities were judged good or better, compared to 59% of other homes. In contrast, in the South East and London, local authority-run homes received a higher proportion of good or better grades. (Maps 3 + 4)

**Interim inspections**

* During the quarter there were far fewer interim inspections carried out on all types of children’s homes – 45 compared to 1,727 in the previous quarter. This is because under the new inspection framework which was introduced on 1 April 2011 children’s homes receive two inspections a year, of which the full inspection usually happens first.[[4]](#footnote-4) Of these 45 interim inspections, 11 (24%) made good progress and 28 (62%) made satisfactory progress. However, three (7%) made inadequate progress. Three (7%) did not receive an inspection outcome as children were not accommodated in the children’s home at the time of inspection. (Table 3d)

**Impact of revisions on key findings of previous release**

* Final data covering the period 1 January to 31 March 2012 have been released and can be found on the Ofsted website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-children%E2%80%99s-social-care-inspections-and-outcomes](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-children%E2%80%99s-social-care-inspections-and-outcomes).
* The revision of statistics relating to the 1 January to 31 March 2012 quarter from ‘provisional’ to ‘final’ status includes outcomes relating to a further 355 inspections. These consist of an additional: 15 full and 340 interim inspections of children’s homes, including residential special schools registered as children’s homes, which took place in this period and have been published since 30 April 2012.

* The main changes to the key findings of the previous release are listed below.
* An additional six children’s homes received good or better *Overall effectiveness* grade at their full inspection and an additional nine received satisfactory or lower. These additional inspections mean only very small changes to the grade profile presented in the previous provisional data.
* An additional 216 children’s homes were making good progress, 102 satisfactory progress and seven inadequate progress at their interim inspection. These additional inspections mean only very small changes to the grade profile presented in the previous provisional data.

# Methodology

The data in the release are from inspections undertaken between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012.

Statistics relating to inspections in the most recent quarter are provisional and include inspections in the period where the inspection report was published within one month of the end of the quarter. If an inspection report is published later than one month, and less than four months, after the end of the quarter in which the inspection took place, that inspection will be included in the final release of the statistics.

Inspections and outcomes of provider settings that are not currently active are included in this statistical release and are reflected in the underlying data within the comma separated values (csv) and Excel files as ‘resigned’. Revisions are published in line with Ofsted’s revisions policy for official statistics. For more information about the policy, please visit the Ofsted website or access the policy via the following link: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics>.

For more information on how Ofsted regulates and inspects children’s social care, please go to the Ofsted website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Children-s-social-care](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Children-s-social-care). In its inspection of social care services, Ofsted must take account of national minimum standards published by government.

For the first time this release includes sector data. Sector data are the ownership type for each home (local authority, private, voluntary and health authority). Ofsted’s data are currently grouped into a private and voluntary category for reporting purposes.  Ofsted’s database is currently undergoing a data cleanse to aid future reporting and enable us to identify a more nuanced sectoral split in future releases.

In previous releases of the data, Ofsted have separated out residential special schools that care for pupils for more than 295 days a year, from the other types of children’s homes in charts 1 and 2. From this release onwards all three types of children’s homes will be included in charts 1 and 2. We have also revised the data for 1 April 2011 onwards to include all three types of homes. This means that the data relating to the period 1 April 2011 onwards, in charts 1 and 2, will not match the data shown in charts 1 and 2 in previous releases.

The revised inspection framework for children’s homes which began on 1 April 2012 includes a change of name of one of the grades. The word adequate has replaced the previous judgement of satisfactory. Where previously a home could receive either outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate grades, they can now receive outstanding, good, adequate or inadequate.

**Additional information**

All the tables and charts shown in this release, along with additional analysis by month and at regional and local authority level, are available in Excel format on the Ofsted website in the same location as this document. Underlying data are also available in Excel and csv formats.

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# Chart 1: Overall effectiveness of children’s homes inspected from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2012, by financial year (provisional)1,2



*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100.

2. Inspections since the inspection framework change on 1 April 2011 include only full inspections, inspections prior to 1 April 2011 include both interim and full inspection.

# Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of children’s homes inspected between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2012 by quarter (provisional)1,2



 *Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100.

2. Inspections since the inspection framework change on 1 April 2011 include only full inspections, inspections prior to 1 April 2011 include both interim and full inspection.**Chart 3: Overall effectiveness of local authority run children's homes inspected between 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2012, by quarter (provisional)1**

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 *Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100.

**Chart 4: Overall effectiveness of private, voluntary and health authority run children's homes inspected between 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2012, by quarter (provisional)1**



 *Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100.

Table 1: Number of children’s homes inspections carried out between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012, by inspection type (provisional)1



1. These figures include those children’s homes run by the local authority, and those that are run by health authorities, private or voluntary organisations located in the local authority area.

2. Residential special schools that care for pupils for more than 295 days per year must register as children’s homes.

Table 2: Overall effectiveness of children’s homes at full inspections between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 (provisional)1



1. These figures include those children’s homes run by the local authority, and those that are run by health authorities, private or voluntary organisations located in the local authority area.

2. Residential special schools that care for pupils for more than 295 days per year must register as children’s homes.

Table 3a: Full inspection outcomes of children's homes (excluding secure children’s homes and residential special schools caring for pupils for more than 295 days per year) inspected between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 (provisional)**1,2**



1. These figures include those children’s homes run by the local authority, and those that are run by health authorities, private or voluntary organisations located in the local authority area.

2. Not all full children's homes inspected were judged for all sub-judgements.

# Table 3b: Full inspection outcomes of secure children’s homes inspected between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 (provisional)1



1. These figures include those children’s homes run by the local authority, and those that are run by health authorities, private or voluntary organisations located in the local authority area.

Table 3c: Full inspection outcomes of residential special schools caring for pupils for more than 295 days per year inspected between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 (provisional)1,2



1. These figures include those children’s homes run by the local authority, and those that are run by health authorities, private or voluntary organisations located in the local authority area.

2. Residential special schools that care for pupils for more than 295 days per year must register as children’s homes.

# Table 3d: Interim inspection outcomes of children’s homes inspected between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 (provisional)1,2,3



1. These figures include those children’s homes run by the local authority, and those that are run by health authorities, private or voluntary organisations located in the local authority area.

2. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100.

3. At an interim inspection, progress is judged based on requirements and recommendations made following the last full inspection.

4. Children’s homes not accommodating children at the time of their interim inspection received no judgement.

5. Residential special schools that care for pupils for more than 295 days per year must register as children’s homes.

# Map 1: Children's homes receiving a good or better overall effectiveness judgement at full inspection, by former Government Office Region, since 1 April 2012



# Map 2: Children's homes receiving an adequate or lower overall effectiveness judgement at full inspection, by former Government Office Region, since 1 April 2012



Map 3: Local authority run children's homes receiving a Map 4: Private, voluntary and health authority run children's good or better overall effectiveness judgement at full homes receiving a good or better overall effectiveness

inspection, by former Government Office Region, since judgement at full inspection, by former Government Office

1 April 2012 (provisional) Region, since 1 April 2012 (provisional)

 

**Map 5**: Local authority run children's homes receiving an Map 6: Private, voluntary and health authority run children's

adequate or lower overall effectiveness judgement at full homes receiving an adequate or lower overall effectiveness

inspection, by former Government Office Region, since 1 judgement at full inspection, by former Government Office

April 2012 (provisional) Region, since 1 April 2012 (provisional)

 

Glossary

**Children’s homes**

A children’s home is defined in section 1 of the Care Standards Act 2000, and is an establishment that provides care and accommodation wholly or mainly for children. Children’s homes vary in size and nature. They fulfil a range of purposes designed to meet the different needs of those children and young people who are assessed as needing a residential care placement. Some homes, for example, provide short breaks which are needed to help support children and their family. Some residential special schools are registered as children’s homes because boarders are resident for more than 295 days per year.

**Residential special schools**

Residential special schools are defined in section 59 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. They vary in size and nature. The sector includes large non-maintained special schools which make provision for very specific needs and take children as full boarders from all over the country, to smaller more local providers catering for children with a range of different special needs and disabilities who may be resident at the school only during the week. Some residential special schools are registered as children’s homes because boarders are resident for more than 295 days per year. There are also a small number of independent residential special schools who also tend to cater for children with very specialist needs.

**Sector**

Sector refers to the type of provider that owns the children’s home.

*Local Authority*

These are public bodies responsible for the children’s home.

*Private*

These are for-profit organisations mostly with limited company status. These can also though be individually owned children’s homes and run for profit.

*Voluntary*

These are mostly not-for-profit organisations, mainly with charitable status. These can also be individually owned children’s homes and run on a not-for-profit basis.

*Health Authority*

These are NHS Trust-run.

**Secure children’s homes**

Secure children’s homes are defined by section 25 of the 1989 children act. They accommodate children and young people who are remanded or have been sentenced for committing a criminal offence. They also accommodate children and young people who are placed there by a court because their behaviour is deemed to present a significant and immediate threat to their safety or the safety of others, unless they are placed in a secure environment. Ofsted inspections are conducted in accordance with the Care Standards Act 2000 and judgements in reports are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004. The criteria are the same as those used to inspect non-secure children’s homes.

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1. An amended inspection framework for children’s homes was introduced in April 2012. Details of the framework can be found at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-of-childrens-homes-for-inspections-1-april-2012>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See paragraph 5 in the following document ‘Conducting inspections of children’s homes from 1 April 2012’ which can be found at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/conducting-inspections-of-childrens-homes-for-inspections-1-april-2012>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Private and voluntary also includes those homes run by health authorities. Please refer to the glossary for more details on the different types of providers. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. A new inspection framework for children’s homes was introduced in April 2011. Previously children’s homes had two inspections during the year that assessed the same outcomes. Under the new framework they are subject to a full (which usually happens first) and interim inspection each year. These inspections report on different inspection outcomes and are not directly comparable <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-inspection-of-childrens-homes-for-inspections-31-march-2012>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)