



Department
for Education

Characteristics of Children in Need in England: 2012-13

Data Quality and Uses

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Purpose

The purpose of this publication is to provide the latest information on children referred to local authority social care services, children assessed to be in need, and children who were the subject of a child protection plan. This document details the key users and uses of the publication statistics, and highlights any known data quality issues and concerns.

1. Key users and uses of the data

1.1 Key users

There are three key users of the children in need data:

- the Department for Education uses the data to provide advice to Ministers for policy monitoring and setting future policies
- local authorities themselves (who submit the data) use the information to compare their own performance with regional and national averages and to benchmark themselves against other authorities
- Ofsted who use the information as part of their inspection activities

Other known users of the data are:

- the Ministry of Justice who use the data, particularly on the number of children on child protection plans, to forecast the number of public law cases likely to enter the courts
- the NSPCC Consultancy Service to understand numbers of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan
- the NSPCC Information Service do a lot of analysis of these statistics over the year, looking for different things at different times, sometimes overviews and sometimes very specific bits of information, but are always interested in breakdowns by age, gender, category of abuse, ethnicity and disability
- the Metropolitan Police Service (Child Abuse Investigation Command) for research into child abuse
- Action for Children group looking into the number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan, by local authority and by category of abuse
- other UK government departments for comparison purposes

1.2 User consultation

A data usage focus group was set up to consult on the format and content of the publication of statistics on children in need. The first user consultation was carried out in Autumn 2011 and requested feedback on the tables in the 2009-10 publication and the feedback was incorporated into the 2010-11 final publication. In addition a general consultation on the publication was placed on the former [DfE Research and Statistics gateway](#) and ran through January and early February 2012. No responses were received.

The Local Authority Focus Group, which meets 3-4 times a year, was consulted in early summer 2013 and feedback was obtained for this publication. A decision was reached to

remove local authority level tables covering gender, age and ethnicity due to high levels of suppression.

1.3 Information for users on planned further use of CIN data

Being a child-level data collection we intend to link the census to the Children Looked After data collection and the National Pupil Database (NPD). This will allow us to track and analyse the journeys of individual children and explore how these vary according to their characteristics and needs, for example:

- linking to the Children Looked After data will allow the analysis of the proportion of looked after children who are disabled and analysis of the original reasons for the child being identified as being in need.
- linking to the NPD will allow the analysis of pupil outcomes for children in need, for example, identifying the attainment of Children in Need and the progression between Key Stages following the receipt of services. It will also let us explore other relationships with absence, exclusions and characteristics (such as Free School Meal eligibility, Looked After and Special Educational Need status) and build a more complete local and national picture of the Children in Need population.

Analysis of the matching rates between the 2011-12 CIN census and i) the 2010-11 CIN census; and ii) the 2012 Children Looked After (CLA) data, were passed back to local authorities in February 2013 to help identify where there are inconsistencies in the data and where improvements can be made. A similar exercise will be carried out on the 2012-13 data.

2. 2012-13 CIN census data quality

2.1 General comments on the quality of the returns

151 out of 152 local authorities provided a CIN census return in summer 2013. Norfolk local authority was unable to make a CIN census return in the required timescales. In earlier years of the census we allowed local authorities with missing or incorrect CIN data to provide supplementary aggregate figures to supplement their return. However, for 2012-13 as in 2011-12, given the data quality as a whole is improving we did not allow any local authority to supplement their CIN data with aggregate figures. Where specific issues were raised by a local authority about key figures, the data has not been used.

Figures in this Statistical First Release represent the final position of the 2012-13 CIN census. In order to provide maximum use to users of the statistics we have published local authority level data wherever possible. To supplement this, a data confidence indicator (see section 4) has been included in all tables to highlight to users of the statistics if any issues have been identified in the data quality or completeness.

2.2 Data flows

The number of children who were the subject of a plan at 31 March 2013 does not equate to:

- the number at 31 March 2012, plus
- the number started in the year, minus
- those ceased in the year.

The same applies for the numbers of Children in Need.

It is likely this is largely due to:

- continuing quality issues with the data returned. We are intending to look in more detail at matching rates between the 2012-13 and 2011-12 censuses to identify where these discrepancies are greatest and feed the results back to local authorities
- the census being a snapshot each year. For example, a case which is recorded late in the year may not be included in the 2011-12 census but would be included in 2012-13 data as an ongoing case (and may subsequently be closed)

Evidence to support this theory has been provided by LAs at our focus groups and a longer time series of data from the CIN census is required to fully identify these issues.

2.3 Referral resulting in no further action flag

A key data item for identifying a child assessed to be in need is the 'referral no further action' flag. This is used to identify a referral which does not result in any further action, i.e. an initial assessment is not carried out. The quality of the data returned this year was improved to the extent we could use it as originally intended to help identify children assessed to be in need.

2.4 Referrals within 12 months of a previous referral (Table C2)

Figures for the number and percentage of referrals in 2012-13 which occurred within 12 months of a previous referral are presented in the publication again this year. They are based on data returned by the local authority in both their 2011-12 and 2012-13 CIN census returns. Each 2012-13 referral is counted in the re-referral figure if there has been another referral for the child within the previous 12 months. A data confidence indicator has been calculated this year to sit alongside these figures. Further detail of the checks made to inform this indicator can be found in the annex.

2.5 Referrals resulting in no further action and children assessed not to be in need (Table C2)

Figures for children assessed not to be in need are identified as referrals which only resulted in an initial assessment, and which end with a case closure reason of 'RC8 – Case closed after initial assessment – no further action'. Supporting guidance for the collection explains that this closure code should only be used for cases where the child has been assessed not to be in need.

There appears to be a significant variation between local authorities in the number of referrals resulting in no further action and the numbers of children assessed not to be in need. This could be down to differing local practices on the thresholds of when certain assessments are carried out, or it could be a data issue. As such, users should be cautious in using these figures.

2.6 Local Authorities piloting new arrangements for assessments and timescales

Throughout the 2012-13 collection year 8 local authorities were given dispensation by the Secretary of State to trial new approaches to assessing children in need. The 8 local authorities involved in the trials were Cumbria, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Knowsley, Wandsworth and Westminster. The following table details the approaches trialled:

| Local authority | Removed distinction between initial and core assessment and associated timescales | Removed 15 working day timescale from section 47 to initial child protection conference |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Cumbria | Initial and core assessment still distinct but timescales removed | |
| Hackney | ✓ | |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | ✓ | |
| Islington | ✓ | |
| Kensington and Chelsea | ✓ | |
| Knowsley | ✓ | ✓ |
| Wandsworth | ✓ | |
| Westminster | ✓ | ✓ |

The publication of figures was discussed with each of the pilot local authorities. In most cases this meant the removal of initial and core assessment data including the duration of assessments. For the first time we have published information on the number of continuous assessments (removing the distinction between initial and core assessments) carried out by the pilot local authorities. These are shown in Table A6 of the Statistical First Release.

[Further information](#) on the trials and the emerging findings are available.

3. Comparability between CPR3 and the CIN census

There are a number of issues to consider if the user is trying to compare figures reported through the aggregate CPR3 return (data up to 2008-09) and the CIN census (2009-10 onwards). Whilst broad comparisons can be made between the two collections, users of the statistics should be cautious in doing so.

| Year | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Referrals | 545,000 | 538,500 | 547,000 | 603,700 | 615,000 | 605,100 | 593,500 |
| Initial Assessments | 305,000 | 319,900 | 349,000 | 395,300 | 439,800 | 451,500 | 441,500 |
| Core Assessments | 93,400 | 105,100 | 120,600 | 142,100 | 185,400 | 220,700 | 232,700 |
| Section 47 enquiries | 73,800 | 76,800 | 84,100 | 89,300 | 111,700 | 124,600 | 127,100 |
| Child protection plans (at 31 March) | 27,900 | 29,200 | 34,100 | 39,100 | 42,700 | 42,900 | 43,100 |
| Children in Need (at 31 March) | .. | .. | .. | 375,900 | 382,400 | 369,400 | 378,600 |

Source: CPR3 and CIN census

3.1 Referrals

Whilst the number of referrals often fluctuated year on year, there was a large increase when the reporting moved to the CIN census. In some cases this was due to multiple referrals being reported by the LA (for example, reporting new information on an already open case as a referral); this issue has now been resolved in most LAs. Although the number of referrals peaked in 2010-11 and is now declining, the number reported in CIN is still higher than those reported in CPR3. At the same time as the change in data sources, there was a lot of media interest in the 'Baby P' case which is likely to have had an impact on the numbers of referrals received by local authorities. However, it is not possible to determine for certain if the scale of the increase in referrals was solely down to this, or if it was down to the change in data collection method.

3.2 Initial and Core Assessments

The number of both of these assessments completed in the year increased when they were reported through the CIN census which seems to confirm that the increase in referrals was a real one (as the increase in referrals has led to an increase in the number of assessments carried out). However we do know that the number of core assessments has historically been undercounted as not all section 47 enquiries had a corresponding core assessment recorded (Statutory guidance states that a section 47 enquiry is carried out through a core assessment). Child level validation on the CIN return is helping to ensure that these core assessments are consistently recorded.

3.3 Child protection plans

The number of children who were the subject of child protection plans has been rising over the recent years, a pattern that has continued through the collection of data from both sources. However, whilst it is likely there was an increase between 2008-09 and 2009-10, due to the differences in the data sources it is not possible to confirm if the increase was solely down to an increase in the number of children who were the subject of a plan, or if the increase is partially explained by the change in data source.

3.4 Numbers of children in need

Children in need were not collected in the CPR3 return. Whilst there was a periodic children in need collection, the latest covering a week in February 2005, it was carried out on a very different basis to the current CIN census and so the figures are not directly comparable.

3.5 Other general comments

Collecting data at child level has allowed us to work on getting the base child level data consistent between local authorities. In turn this has meant that on the whole, key indicators calculated from the data are more comparable than they were with CPR3 data as definitions have been applied consistently. For example, consistent definitions of 3 and 6 months have been applied when calculating the number of child protection plans that have been reviewed within the required 3 and 6 month timescales.

4. Data Quality and the Data Confidence Indicator

Data confidence indicators enable local authorities to make more robust comparisons with statistical neighbours and national averages. It also allows those local authorities who have invested time and effort in data quality to demonstrate the quality of their information and seek out similar high quality data for benchmarking.

In local authorities where issues were identified that affected a high proportion of records, the data confidence indicator was set to “1” (i.e. low confidence in the data). Where issues were identified which affected a small number of records they were classified as “2” and where no or few issues were identified they were classified as “3” (i.e. high confidence in the data).

We recommend that comparisons are not made between local authorities with the lowest confidence rating (“1”). Local authorities who have not provided us with usable CIN data information do not have a data confidence indicator for that section.

Data confidence indicators were calculated by analysing the child-level data to provide an indication of the quality of each 2012-13 CIN return. This involved analysing 3 components from the 2012-13 CIN census:

1. Data quality

This involved analysing the child-level data to provide an indication of the quality of each 2012-13 CIN return. For the majority of LAs this component determined the overall indicator. Each data quality indicator used a range of measures (for example, identifying the number of duplicate records and identifying overlapping assessments). Each LA received the minimum score for their overall “data quality” confidence level based on this range of measures.

2. Data confidence

This involved examining the notes that each local authority made alongside their 2012-13 CIN return. Local authorities that mentioned issues that had impacted on their data quality or confidence were classified as “2” and if there were no notes that explicitly indicated that there were known issues with the data then they were classified as “3”.

3. Year-on-year comparability

This involved comparing reported figures for 2012-13 with those reported in 2011-12. A large difference in figures does not necessarily mean that information provided for 2012-13 is not accurate. However, it means that we are most confident in figures from local authorities with the fewest fluctuations in their historic data. Local authorities with figures that are very different from previous years were classified as “2” and those with few differences as “3”.

All 3 components were combined to construct the overall indicator. As with the assessment of data quality, each local authority has received the minimum score out of the 3 parts of the data confidence indicator to indicate the overall confidence level for a specific measure (i.e. a low score in any one of 3 components above will lead to a low score for the overall data confidence indicator published for each measure).

The summary table below outlines how the data confidence indicator for each measure included in the Statistical First Release have been constructed. The full list of comparisons carried out when assessing the confidence in the data is given in annex A.

| Data Confidence Indicator | Definition |
|---------------------------|--|
| 3 (high confidence) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No major data quality issues ('3') and - No issues raised in the notes ('3') and - No large differences between 2011-12 and 2012-13 return ('3') |
| 2 (medium confidence) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some data quality issues ('2') or - Large differences between 2011-12 and 2012-13 return ('2') or - Issues raised in the notes ('2') |
| 1 (low confidence) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major data quality issues ('1') |
| P | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LAs who were part of the pilot exercise for removing timescales relating to initial assessments, core assessments and initial child protection conferences |
| .. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LAs who have not provided us with a 2012-13 CIN return, or useable data |

Annex A: List of checks carried out on data to inform the data confidence indicator

| Methodology and thresholds for the calculation of Data Confidence Indicators included in the 'Characteristics of Children in Need' Statistical First Release | | Data Confidence Indicator | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | Numbers of children in need | | | |
| A | CIN episodes starting | | | |
| | <i>Data quality</i> | | | |
| | Proportion of duplicate records by LA, childID and CIN start date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Number of CIN episodes which begin each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases starting each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| | <i>Data confidence (Notes)</i> | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | <i>Data completeness (Comparisons)</i> | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CIN episodes starting in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average national change +/- 30 percentage points | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| B | CIN episodes ending | | | |
| | <i>Data quality</i> | | | |
| | Proportion of duplicate records by LA, childID, CIN start date and CIN end date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of end dates which are on the same day as the start dates | >10% | 6-10% | 0-6% |
| | Proportion of end dates which are the day after the start dates | >10% | 4-10% | 0-4% |
| | Number of CIN episodes which end each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases starting each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| | <i>Data confidence (Notes)</i> | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | <i>Data completeness (Comparisons)</i> | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CIN episodes ending in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average national change +/- 30 percentage points | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| C | Children in Need throughout 2012-13 and as at 31 March | | | |

| | | | | |
|----------|--|---------|--|--|
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CIN starting above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Same measures as CIN ending above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Proportion of duplicate records by LA and childID | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CIN throughout and at 31 March in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average national change +/- 30 percentage points | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 2 | Numbers of children in need at 31 March 2013, by disability | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CIN at 31 March above | | | |
| | Number of disabilities per child, highlighting LAs which have only used one disability per child or a small proportion of multiple disabilities per child (this measure does not apply to LAs who have chosen to record all disabilities as DDA) Have used the proportion of children with only one disability recorded | 100% | 70-100% | 0-70% |
| | Number of disability codes used per LA, highlighting LAs which have used a small number of disability codes (this measure does not apply to LAs who have chosen to record all disabilities as DDA) | 1-7 | 8-9 | 10+ |
| | Proportion of all children in need that have a disability, identifying LAs with proportions which are much lower than the national proportion | 0-1% | >20% | 1-20% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CIN at 31 March 2012 with the number of CIN at 31 March 2013 and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average national change +/- 30 percentage points | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 3 | Numbers of children in need at 31 March 2013, by primary need at initial assessment | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CIN at 31 March above | | | |
| | Proportion of cases with missing primary need code | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases which are outside of the code set | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases with primary need code N9 | >50% N9 | 10-50% N9 | <10% N9 |

| | | | | |
|----------|--|---------|--|--|
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CIN at 31 March 2012 with the number of CIN at 31 March 2013 and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average national change +/- 30 percentage points | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 4 | Number of children in need at 31 March 2013, by duration of episode of need | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CIN at 31 March above | | | |
| | Ratio of each duration, highlighting durations where the proportions are more than three times higher or lower than the national proportion | Various | | |
| | Proportion of cases where the referral date is an arbitrary date | >25% | 5-25% | 0-5% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CIN at 31 March 2012 with the number of CIN at 31 March 2013 and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average national change +/- 30 percentage points | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 5 | Numbers of children ceasing to be in need in the year ending 31 March 2013, by duration of episode of need | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CIN at 31 March above | | | |
| | Ratio of each duration, highlighting durations where the proportions more than 3 times higher or lower than the national proportion | N/A | More than 3 times higher or lower than national proportion | Between 3 times higher or lower than national proportion |
| | Proportion of cases where the referral date is an arbitrary date | >25% | 5-25% | 0-5% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |

| | | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|--|--|
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CIN episodes ending in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average national change +/- 30 percentage points | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 6 | Numbers of children ceasing to be in need in the year ending 31 March 2013, by reason for case closure | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CIN episodes ending above | | | |
| | Proportion of cases where the reason for closure is outside of the code set | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases with reason for closure code RC8 | 100% =RC8 | NA | <100% RC8 |
| | Proportion of cases with a CIN closure date but no reason for closure | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of open cases with a reason for closure | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CIN episodes ending in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average national change +/- 30 percentage points | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 7 | Numbers of referrals | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Proportion of referrals which are duplicates by the child ID and referral date and neither of the duplicate referrals is recorded as NFA | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of referrals which are made on open cases, which should not be described as a referral | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of children who are referred more than once in 2012-13 | 0% | NA | >0% |
| | Number of referrals received each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases starting each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| | Proportion of cases entered into CIN with missing referral dates | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of referrals provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 8 | Number and percentage of referrals in 2012-13 within 12 months of a previous referral | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as referrals above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Proportion of cases that were already open between 1 March 2012 and 1 April 2012 that were present in 2011-12 dataset. | <50% | 50 - 70% | 70-100% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of re-referrals provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 9 | Numbers of Initial assessments completed by children's social care services and timeliness | | | |
| A | Numbers of Initial assessments completed by children's social care services | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Proportion of cases which are duplicates by child ID, effective start date and effective end date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the effective end date is before the effective start date (build in flexibility of cases which end on the referral date and the start date is one day after to take into account systems which set up start dates one day after the referral) | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of start dates which are before a previous initial assessment has ended or start on the same day as a previous initial assessment ended | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of initial assessment start dates which are more than 1 week but less than 6 months after the referral date. {If the number of cases described above is more than 4 times the national figure (>28%) then the DCI will be 1, if the number of cases is 3 times the national figures, but less than 4 times the national figures (>21%) then the DCI will be 2.} | > 4 times national average | > 3 times national average but < 4 times | < 3 times national average |
| | Number of initial assessments which begin each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases starting each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| | Number of initial assessments which end each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases ending each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| | Proportion of cases with missing initial assessment start dates | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|---|-----|---|---|
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of initial assessments provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| B Initial assessments duration | | | | |
| Data quality | | | | |
| | Same measures as initial assessments above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Comparison to national mean duration highlighting cases which are more than 2 times higher or lower than national mean duration | N/A | More than 2 times higher or lower than national mean duration | Between 2 times higher or lower than national mean duration |
| Data confidence (Notes) | | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of initial assessments provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| C Initial assessment as a percentage of referrals | | | | |
| Data quality | | | | |
| | Same measures as initial assessments above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Same measures as referrals above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data confidence (Notes) | | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of referrals and the number of initial assessments provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|------|---|--|
| | | | | national change |
| 10 | Numbers of core assessments completed by children's social care services | | | |
| A | Numbers of Core assessments completed by children's social care services | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Proportion of cases which are duplicates by child ID, effective start date and effective end date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the effective end date is before the effective start date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases which start before a previous core assessment ended or starting on the same day as a previous core assessments ended | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Number of S47s with no corresponding core assessment Looking at up to 14 days (including non-working days) before the CA start date and up to 14 days after the CA end date | N/A | >50% | 0-50% |
| | Number of core assessments which start and end on the same day | >25% | 10-25% | 0-10% |
| | Number of core assessments which begin each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases starting each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| | Number of core assessments which end each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases ending each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| | Proportion of cases with missing core assessment start dates. | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of core assessments provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points | Within average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points |
| B | Core assessments duration | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as core assessments above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Comparison to national mean duration highlighting cases which are more than 2 times higher or lower than national mean duration | N/A | More than 2 times higher or lower than national mean duration | Between 2 times higher or lower than national mean duration |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|------|---|--|
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of core assessments provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points | Within average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points |
| 11 | Number of children who were subject to section 47 enquiries and initial child protection conferences and initial conferences completed within 15 days of section 47 enquiry | | | |
| A | Number of children who were subject to section 47 enquiries | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Duplicates by LA, ChildID and S47 start | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Number of S47 start dates which are before the referral date | >10% | 2-10% | 0-2% |
| | Number of s47s which start each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases starting each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of section 47 enquiries provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points | Within average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points |
| B | Number of initial child protection conferences | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Duplicates by LA, ChildID and ICPC date. | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Cases where same ICPC date is replicated in CIN details and s47 module | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of ICPC dates before the referral date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of ICPC dates before the S47 date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Number of ICPCs which start each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases starting each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| | Number of CPPs which do not start on the ICPC date | >50% | 25-50% | 0-25% |

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----|---|--|
| | Proportion of cases with missing referral (for transfer in cases) or s47 start dates. | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of ICPCs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points | Within average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points |
| C | Duration between initial child protection conference and section 47 enquiry | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as ICPCs above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Comparison to national mean duration highlighting cases which are more than 2 times higher or lower than national mean duration | N/A | More than 2 times higher or lower than national mean duration | Between 2 times higher or lower than national mean duration |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of ICPCs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points | Within average change +30 percentage point or average change -50 percentage points |
| 12 | Number of children who became the subject of a child protection plan throughout the year, who ceased to be the subject of a plan during 2012-13 and who were the subject of a plan at 31 March 2013 | | | |
| A | BECAME | | | |
| | Data quality | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Proportion of cases which are duplicates by child ID and CPP start | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the start date is after the end date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the start date is on the same day as the end date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases with missing start dates | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases which began the day after a previous CPP ended | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-----|--|--|
| | Proportion of cases which began before a previous plan has ended | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Number of CPPs which begin each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases starting each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| Data confidence (Notes) | | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| B | CEASED | | | |
| Data quality | | | | |
| | Proportion of cases which are duplicates by child ID and CPP end date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the start date is after the end date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the start date is on the same day as the end date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the end date is 1 day after the start date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where another CPP begins one day after the end date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Number of CPPs which end each month in 2012-13 {If the number of cases ending each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| Data confidence (Notes) | | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| C | 31 MARCH | | | |
| Data quality | | | | |
| | Same measures as CPP began above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Proportion of cases which are duplicates by child ID and CPP start | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| Data confidence (Notes) | | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------|--|--|
| 13 | Number of children who became the subject of a child protection plan throughout the year ending 31 March 2013, by initial and latest category of abuse | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CPP began above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Proportion of cases where the category of abuse is outside of the code set (for both the initial and the latest category) | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the category of abuse is missing (for both the initial and the latest category) | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Ratio of each code used, highlighting cases where the ratios are greatly different to the national ratio | Various thresholds | | |
| | Proportion of cases where the initial category of abuse is the same as the latest category of abuse | - | 100% | <100% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 14 | Number of children who became the subject of a child protection plan throughout the year, who became the subject of a plan for the second or subsequent time | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CPP began above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Proportion of cases where the number of previous child protection plans is missing | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where details of a previous plan are recorded, but this is not included as a previous plan | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 15 | Number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March 2013, by initial & latest category of abuse | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CPP 31 March above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Proportion of cases where the category of abuse is outside of the code set (for both the initial and the latest category) | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the category of abuse is missing (for both the initial and the latest category) | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Ratio of each code used, highlighting cases where the ratios are greatly different to the national ratio | Various thresholds | | |
| | Proportion of cases where the initial category of abuse is the same as the latest category of abuse | - | 100% | <100% |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------|--|--|
| Data confidence (Notes) | | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 16 | Number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March 2013 by the length of time as subject of a plan | | | |
| Data quality | | | | |
| | Same measures as CPP at 31 March above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Ratio of each duration, highlighting cases where the ratios are greatly different to the national CIN ratios | Various thresholds | | |
| Data confidence (Notes) | | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 17 | Number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March 2013, who had been on a plan for at least 3 months and who had had reviews carried out within the required timescales | | | |
| Data quality | | | | |
| | Same measures as CPP began above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Proportion of review records with no review date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of review records with no CPP start date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases which are duplicate reviews (i.e. same child ID and same referral date and same review date) | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the reviews is on the same day as the CPP start date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Proportion of cases where the review is before the CPP start date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Number of CPPs which are reviewed each month in 2012-13. {If the number of cases ending each month is less than a third of the average monthly cases then the DCI will be 2} | N/A | < 1/3 national average | >= 1/3 national average |
| Data confidence (Notes) | | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------|--|--|
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 18 | Number of children who ceased to be the subject of a plan throughout the year, by length of time as the subject of a plan, year ending 31 March 2013 | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CPP ceased above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Ratio of each duration, highlighting cases where the ratios are greatly different to the national CIN ratios | Various thresholds | | |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |
| 19 | Number of children who ceased to be the subject of a plan during the first six months of 2012-13, by how long they remained in need after their plan ended | | | |
| | Data quality | | | |
| | Same measures as CPP ending above | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Ratio of each duration, highlighting cases where the ratios are greatly different to the national CIN ratios | Various thresholds | | |
| | Proportion of cases with a child protection plan end date after CIN closure date | >5% | 1-5% | 0-1% |
| | Data confidence (Notes) | | | |
| | This measure makes an assessment of each LA's confidence in their data using the notes provided through COLLECT | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Data completeness (Comparisons) | | | |
| | This measure calculates the differences between the number of CPPs provided by the LA in 2011-12 with the 2012-13 CIN data and identifies cases where the change is much larger than average. (Comparing changes with previous year's data where appropriate.) | N/A | Average change +/- 30 percentage point | Within 30 percentage points of the average national change |



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