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Children and Young People's Strategic Indicators

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The purpose of these indicators is to measure the success of the Ten Year Children and Young People's Strategy 2006-2016 'Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge'.

These strategic indicators were developed under the five high level outcomes of the strategy. Below is a key point from each outcome:

- **Healthy:** The proportion of **babies born weighing less than 2.5kg** has tended to only fluctuate slightly from the baseline of 6.1% in 2004. However, of live births in 2015, 6.5% were below 2.5kg, this figure is the highest recorded over the 12 years of monitoring data.
- **Economic & Environmental Wellbeing: Absolute child poverty** (before housing costs) for 2014/15, at 23%, is one percentage point lower than in 2013/14 (24%).

In 2014/15, the percentage of children in **relative poverty** (before housing costs) increased by two percentage points from the previous year to 25%.
- **Enjoying, Learning & Achieving:** Over four-fifths (83%) of Year 12 pupils achieved **5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-C** in 2014/15. Over the eleven years of data there has been a considerable increase in this level of attainment, going from 61% at baseline (2004/05) to the latest figure of 83%.
- **Positive & Valued Contribution:** The **number of young people aged 17-20 entering custody**, including prison/young offenders' centre and the Juvenile Justice Centre, peaked in 2011 with 327 admissions. Since then this number has declined each year, in the most recent year, 2015, the number of admissions totalled 178, this is a 46% decrease compared to 2011.
- **Living in Safety and with Stability:** Over the 12 years of monitoring data there has generally been a downward trend in the **number of children killed or seriously injured on our roads**. In 2015 there were 72 children killed or seriously injured, this was 79 fewer than that the 151 recorded at baseline in 2004.

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Children and Young People's Strategic Indicators

November 2016 Update

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 mortality rates (deaths of children aged under one) have improved significantly over the years¹, 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 2015 there were 124 **infant deaths**, a rate of 5.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, this compares to the 2004 baseline figure of 5.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. In 2015, almost three-quarters (74%) of infant deaths occurred in the first week of life.
- The proportion of **babies born weighing less than 2.5kg** has tended to only fluctuate slightly from the baseline of 6.1% in 2004. However, of live births in 2015, 6.5% were below 2.5kg, this figure is the highest recorded over the 12 years of monitoring data.
- 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. Since 2012/13 the NI uptake for MMR at 24 months has met the WHO target. In 2015/16 the uptake rate was 95.8%, this is slightly less than the uptake rate of 96.1% recorded in 2013/14 which was the highest rate since the baseline in 2004/05. 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 aged under 18 is used as a proxy indicator of children's dental health in this set of indicators. During 2015/16, 19,960 dental extractions were performed on children under 18 years in high street general dental practices; a decrease of 6% compared to the previous year when 21,303 extractions were performed. The 2015/16 figure is the lowest number of extractions since the 2008/09 baseline.
- At baseline in 2004 there were 6.4 **child deaths due to accidents or suicide** per 100,000 persons aged Under 18 years. In 2015 this figure was 4.1 per 100,000; this is the fourth 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 31st March 2015, there were 899 **young people waiting for a first mental health outpatient appointment**. This is a decrease of 4% compared to 2014 when 934 young people were waiting for this. Of these 899 young people, 28% were waiting longer than 6 weeks for their appointment (251 young people).

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.

- **Births to mothers aged under 17** reached a new record low in 2015 with 66 births recorded, a rate of 1.9 per 1,000 females aged under 17. This compares to the 2004 rate of 4.4 per 1,000 females aged under 17 (172 births).
- Over the twelve years of monitoring data since 2004, rates of **sexually transmitted infections**² (STIs) for those aged Under 16 and 16-19 year olds have tended to fluctuate. The rates recorded in 2015 for both age groups were the lowest on record. The rate of new episodes per 100,00 amongst Under 16s was 18.7, this compares to the highest recorded rate of 45.8 new episodes of STIs per 100,000 in 2006. For 16-19 year olds the diagnostic rate of new STIs for those seen at genitourinary clinics was 589 per 100,000 in 2015, this rate was at its highest in 2008 at 756 per 100,000.
- The percentage of Primary 1 pupils considered obese has averaged at 5.1% over the 7 years monitoring data for the updated Child Health System methodology. In 2014/15, 5.2% of Primary 1 pupils were recorded as being **obese**, a slight increase compared to the previous year when 5.0% were recorded as being obese.

ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

Poverty

- **Absolute child poverty** for 2014/15, at 23%, is one percentage point lower than in 2013/14 (24%) and five percentage points lower than the 2002/03 baseline figure of 28%.
- In 2014/15, the percentage of children in **relative poverty** (before housing costs) increased by two percentage points from the previous year to 25%. This is also two percentage points higher than the 2002/03 baseline figure of 23%.
- 15% of children were living in materially deprived and low income households³ in 2014/15; this is a 3 percentage point increase compared to the 2013/14 figure and the 2010/11 comparable data baseline when the figure was 12%.

Housing

- The number of families declaring themselves as being **homeless** in 2015/16 decreased by 549 families compared to the previous year; a 9% decrease from 6,194 to 5,645 families.
- The number of families placed in **temporary accommodation** increased by 23% compared to the previous year, in 2015/16 1,693 families were placed in temporary accommodation compared to 1,378 in 2014/15.

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).

³ A family is in low income and material deprivation if they have a material deprivation score of 25 or more and a household income below 70percent of contemporary median income, Before Housing Costs.

School Leavers

- Generally speaking there has been a decline in the proportion of **school leavers** entering employment or training since the baseline. In 2003/04 12.5% of those leaving school chose to enter employment compared to 8.4% in 2014/15. However, this most recent figure was an increase on the previous year's figure of 6.9% (in 2013/14). The equivalent figures for those going on to training were 18.5% at baseline in 2003/04 and 9.8% in 2014/15, the lowest percentage recorded over the 12 years of data.
- More school leavers are tending to choose Further and Higher Education courses. Over the twelve 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 2014/15 (77.3%).

Educational Attainment

- Since 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. Given this, in 2014/15 76.8% of pupils achieved level 4 or above in **Key Stage 2 English** and 77.4% achieved level 4 or above in **Key Stage 2 Maths**.
- Over four-fifths (83%) of Year 12 pupils achieved **5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-C** in 2014/15. Over the eleven years of data there has been a considerable increase in this level of attainment, going from 61% at baseline (2004/05) to the latest figure of 83%.
- 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 the four most recent years (2011/12 to 2014/15). The corresponding figure for pupils attending Secondary/non Grammar schools is 97% in 2014/15. The attainment gap⁴ of 1 percentage point remained the same as the previous year compared to the 2004/05 level of 7 percentage points.
- 65% of Year 14 pupils have achieved **3 or more A levels** (or equivalent) at grades A*-C each year since 2009/10. The percentage of pupils obtaining such grades has changed little since 2004/05 when 62% achieved this.

⁴ When results for NI pupils are compared with the results for Secondary/Non-Grammar pupils

Engagement

- The percentage of qualifying⁵, eligible⁶, relevant⁷ and former relevant⁸ **looked after young people being in education, employment or training** have all tended to fluctuate since the baseline; however, overall there has generally been an upward trend.

POSITIVE & VALUED CONTRIBUTION

- **Attendance rates** of post-primary pupils have remained stable over the twelve year reporting period (2003/04 to 2014/15) with on average, 93% of half day sessions being attended (attendance is measured for every pupil in half day sessions; am and pm). In 2014/15, 93.4% of half day sessions were recorded as being attended.
- Taking into account the correction in the data collection for this indicator⁹, there has been limited change in the proportion of young people aged 4-18 years **participating in youth activities** over the period from 2005/06 to 2014/15. However, the lowest recorded rate of 38.3% came in the most recent year (2014/15), this compares to the highest recorded rate of 43.7% in 2007/08
- The average **waiting time for youth defendants** going through our youth courts from date of summons to date of disposal was at the lowest recorded rate of 13.0 weeks in 2014, however, this increased to 14.3 weeks in the most recent year (2015). 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 15.2 weeks.
- Following the Youth Justice Review, from November 2012, it was agreed that offenders under 18 could only be held at the Juvenile Justice Centre (JJC) meaning that the number entering prison or the young offenders centre has been 0 since 2012. Overall, since the baseline in 2004 numbers have fluctuated, but there has generally been a downward trend in the number of **young people aged under 17 entering custody**. In 2015, 34 young people were admitted to the JJC, which compares to 57 at the baseline in 2004.
- The **number of young people aged 17-20 entering custody**, including prison/young offenders' centre and the Juvenile Justice Centre, peaked in 2011 with 327 admissions. Since then this number has declined each year, in the most recent year, 2015, the number of admissions totalled 178, this is a 46% decrease compared to 2011.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Relevant young people are those aged 16 or 17 who were previously eligible young people and are no longer looked after.

⁸ Former relevant young people are those aged 18-21 years who were previously relevant or eligible young people.

⁹ Prior to 2010/11, non-unit based provision (such as Duke of Edinburgh, Youth Intervention schemes etc) had been included in Belfast Education and Library Board and in the South Eastern Education and Library Board. These projects are no longer included in the figures.

SAFETY & STABILITY

- In 2015, recorded traffic collisions resulting in injury to a child (under 16) accounted for 925 casualties, of whom 5 were killed, 67 were seriously injured and 853 were slightly injured. Over the 12 years of monitoring data there has generally been a downward trend in the number of **children killed or seriously injured on our roads**. In 2014 there were 79 fewer children killed or seriously injured than that recorded at baseline in 2004; 72 compared to 151.
- There were 349 re-registrations to the Child Protection Register during 2014/15, a decrease of 9.6% (37) compared to the previous year. However, when the most recent year is compared to the baseline figure of 162 in 2004/05, there has been a 115% increase in re-registrations.
- In 2014/15, 66% of **care leavers aged 19** in contact with Trusts and whose **economic activity** was known, were in education, training or employment; an increase of 2 percentage points compared to the 2013/14 figure of 64%. The proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment has tended to fluctuate over recent years, with a low of 47% recorded in 2007/08 and a high of 69% recorded in 2012/13. Trusts reported contact with 95% of care leavers in 2014/15.
- In 2015, 22% of Year 7 pupils said they had been **physically bullied within the previous 2 months** of being asked, this is equivalent to the 2008 baseline figure and 2014 figure, however, it is 6 percentage points higher than the 2012 figure of 16%.
- 32 per cent of Year 7 pupils in 2015 stated that they had been **bullied in other ways** such as being called names, being left out of games, or having nasty stories spread about them. The 2015 figure was a 1 percentage point increase compared to the previous year.
- The 2015 figure for Year 7 pupils reporting being **bullied by someone via mobile phone or internet** of 12% was 1 percentage point lower than the 2014 figure. This figure has tended to fluctuate between 10 and 13 since the 2008 baseline.

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 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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