



STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE GROUP

Statutory Functions

Data Return 10

In order to ensure that there is no duplication in submitting data to SPPG the key below indicates which data should be completed in this return. Data which is sourced from the SF spreadsheets or DoH is indicated by colour coding.

Key to Data Items:-

	This data item is completed in the SF spreadsheet
	This data item should be completed in this Data return 10
	Other - there is no need to complete this data item and it is sourced from DoH

DATA RETURN 10
Children's Community Services

10 Children (NI) Order 1995

Article 18 (2) Schedule 2 Para 1, Article 18 (2) Schedule 2 Para 5 (2), Article 18 (2) Schedule 2 Para 9, Article 27 (1)(2), Article 27 (1)(2), Article 27 (8), Article 35, Article 36 (1) Article 44, Article 45 (1)(2), Article 45 (3)(5)(6)(7)(8), Article 108 (1), Article 118, Article 130, Article 174, Article 175, Article 177

10.1 CHILDREN IN NEED

<p>10.1.1</p>	<p>How many Children in Need are there in your area as at 30th September? (exclude children on the caseloads of statutory mental health services)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 817 1236 1025"> <thead> <tr> <th>Children in need</th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>2024</th> <th>2025</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>As at: 31 March</td> <td>4088</td> <td>3546</td> <td>3681</td> <td>3888</td> <td>4192</td> <td>4033</td> <td>4056</td> </tr> <tr> <td>As at: 30 Sept</td> <td>3844</td> <td>3528</td> <td>3619</td> <td>3963</td> <td>4310</td> <td>3691</td> <td>3980</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Children in need	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	As at: 31 March	4088	3546	3681	3888	4192	4033	4056	As at: 30 Sept	3844	3528	3619	3963	4310	3691	3980	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>
Children in need	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025																			
As at: 31 March	4088	3546	3681	3888	4192	4033	4056																			
As at: 30 Sept	3844	3528	3619	3963	4310	3691	3980																			
	<p><i>Trend analysis and commentary (Trusts must clarify how they arrive at this total figure, and reference any likelihood of double or under representation)</i></p> <p>In this reporting period the Trust has seen a decline (76) in the numbers of children in need of support across Children's Community Services. The Trust notes that whilst the rate of referral has continued to remain relatively consistent during this period, as outlined in 10.1.14, the Trust has a total of 621 unallocated child in need cases at the end of the period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Child protection, across 3 families • 296 Looked After Children - 262 of which are held by the rotational LAC team (see 10.3.15 & 10.3.16 for details of statutory function compliance for all these cases managed by this team) • 274 family support cases (unallocated over 20 days) • 67 Children with Disability cases <p>The directorate has recently introduced 28 newly qualified social workers into the workforce with a further 28 to join within the next reporting period. The directorate will be supporting these newly qualified staff to be inducted and supported within the service. It is anticipated this will reduce the level of unallocated cases with Child protection and Looked after Children being the priority.</p>	<p>Data Return 10</p>																								

<p>10.1.2</p>	<p>Ethnic Origin of Children in Need</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnicity</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>2706</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chinese</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irish Traveller</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roma Traveller</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indian</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pakistani</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bangladeshi</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black Caribbean</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black African</td> <td>86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black Other</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Ethnic Group</td> <td>116</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Any Other Ethnic Group</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Stated</td> <td>922</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>3980</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnicity	Total	White	2706	Chinese	13	Irish Traveller	29	Roma Traveller	6	Indian	12	Pakistani	3	Bangladeshi	16	Black Caribbean	1	Black African	86	Black Other	12	Mixed Ethnic Group	116	Any Other Ethnic Group	58	Not Stated	922	TOTAL	3980	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>
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<p>10.1.3</p>	<p>Religion of Children in Need</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Roman Catholic</td> <td>1099</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presbyterian</td> <td>382</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Church of Ireland</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Church of England</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Methodist</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Christian</td> <td>279</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewish</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>104</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>125</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Known</td> <td>909</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Completed</td> <td>902</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refused</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>3980</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Religion	Total	Roman Catholic	1099	Presbyterian	382	Church of Ireland	76	Church of England	9	Methodist	13	Other Christian	279	Jewish	0	Muslim	104	Other	125	Not Known	909	Not Completed	902	None	81	Refused	1	TOTAL	3980	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>
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TOTAL	3980																															
<p>10.1.4</p>	<p>(a) How many children have been referred for an Assessment of Need during the reporting period i.e. 1st April – 30th September</p> <p>3513 children have been referred for an assessment of need within this reporting period. This is a decrease of 17 from the previous reporting period</p> <p>(b) What was the source of referral for children referred for assessment of need during the reporting period i.e. 1st October – 31st March</p> <p>See CIN spreadsheet 10.1.4 for referral details</p>	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>																														

<p>10.1.5</p>	<p>How many children are currently awaiting an Assessment of Need at period end by length of wait (unallocated cases including disability as at 30th September). Source PMSI data on Unallocated cases – comes with child protection data.</p>	<p>SPPG (PMSI)</p>														
<p>10.1.6</p>	<p>How many of these Children in Need are Disabled and known to Trust Social Workers (by major category) at 30th September?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and Looked After Children (LAC) to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for information to be provided.</p>	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>														
<p>10.1.7</p>	<p>Disabled children known to the Trust who left school during the reporting period and the transition plans that are in place.</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for information to be provided.</p>	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>														
<p>10.1.8</p>	<p>How many Children in Need are currently awaiting assessment or treatment with child and adolescent mental health services as at 30th September?</p>	<p>SPPG (PMSI)</p>														
	<p><i>Trend analysis and commentary (Refers to ALL i.e. tiers 2-4 children awaiting CAMHS regardless of the pathway to the waiting list)</i></p>															
<p>10.1.9</p>	<p>This is intentionally blank</p>															
<p>10.1.10</p>	<p>How many of the Children in Need are Young Carers</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="319 1489 1173 1982"> <thead> <tr> <th>Teams</th> <th>Number of Young Carers</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Children with Disabilities Team</td> <td>101</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mental Health Services</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Learning Disability Services</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical & Sensory Services</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Older Peoples Services</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>158</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Teams	Number of Young Carers	Children with Disabilities Team	101	Mental Health Services	16	Learning Disability Services	32	Physical & Sensory Services	9	Older Peoples Services	0	Total	158	<p>Data Return 10</p>
Teams	Number of Young Carers															
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Physical & Sensory Services	9															
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Total	158															

	<p>The Trust notes an increase of 50 young carers receiving support in this reporting period. This is due to an increase in support in Children with Disabilities service and Learning Disability services.</p> <p>Within this reporting period the Trust has identified 38 young carers requiring support through the provision of young carer grants. This is a reduction in the number of young carers receiving young carers grant; from 163 in the last reporting period; This is indicative of the ongoing development of creative support options for young carers reflected in the increase of young carers receiving support noted above.</p> <p>The Trust continues to work in partnership with Action for Children to support young carers and the activity for this reporting period is as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 referrals from 1st April 2025 – 30th September 2025 • 85 young carers received a service 1st April 2025 – 30th September 2025 (including those who ceased using this service during the reporting period) • 69 young carers were receiving a service at 30th September 	
<p>10.1.11</p>	<p>How many young people aged 16 and 17 years presented to the Trust as homeless ?</p> <p><i>This is sourced from Homeless Social Work Services within Trust. The detailed quarterly homeless young people's data collection template has been stood down.</i></p> <p><i>The excel data return should be completed to provide the number of young people who presented as homeless</i></p> <p>A total of 2 young people presented to the Trust as homeless during the reporting period.</p> <p>This is a decrease of 1 young person who presented as homeless in the last reporting period. For the purposes of this report the Trust has counted referrals where the source was the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, including number of young people who availed of NIHE young homeless accommodation aged 16/17 who presented to the Trust as homeless. This information has been manually verified via PARIS.</p> <p>This data does not include the number of separated unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people accommodated by the Trust, which is included in the Looked After Children 10.3 return.</p>	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>
<p>10.1.12</p>	<p>(a) How many Trust sponsored Day Care Places provided through any means including Article 18, Fostering or others are there for Children in Need at period end</p> <p>(b) How many of these children have a disability</p>	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>

	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="316 203 699 271">(A) Day care</th> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="700 203 1235 271">Number of Purchased Places by Age</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 273 699 306"></td> <td data-bbox="700 273 810 306">0-4</td> <td data-bbox="812 273 1235 306">5-12</td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 309 699 342">Day Nursery</td> <td data-bbox="700 309 810 342">186</td> <td data-bbox="812 309 1235 342">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 344 699 378">Playgroup</td> <td data-bbox="700 344 810 378">0</td> <td data-bbox="812 344 1235 378">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 380 699 414">Childminder</td> <td data-bbox="700 380 810 414">0</td> <td data-bbox="812 380 1235 414">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 416 699 450">Out of School hours club</td> <td data-bbox="700 416 810 450">0</td> <td data-bbox="812 416 1235 450">151</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 452 699 486">Total</td> <td data-bbox="700 452 810 486">186</td> <td data-bbox="812 452 1235 486">151</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 488 699 555">(B) No of these children who have a disability?</td> <td data-bbox="700 488 810 555">13</td> <td data-bbox="812 488 1235 555">45</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(A) Day care	Number of Purchased Places by Age			0-4	5-12	Day Nursery	186	0	Playgroup	0	0	Childminder	0	0	Out of School hours club	0	151	Total	186	151	(B) No of these children who have a disability?	13	45	
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(B) No of these children who have a disability?	13	45																								
<p>10.1.13</p>	<p>Trust usage of Family Centre Places for interventions</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.3.13 for details</p> <p>A total of 32 referrals have been made to Family Centre Places during the reporting period. This is a reduction of 39 referrals from the previous reporting period. This reduced referral rate has supported a decline in the number of families on the waiting list with 18 at the end of the period. This is a reduction of 28 on the waiting list since the previous report.</p>	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>																								
<p>10.1.14</p>	<p>This is intentionally blank</p>																									
<p>10.1.15</p>	<p>Please provide the number of children (if any) subject to a Supervision / Interim Supervision Order at period end (moved from Child Protection section)</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.1.15 for details</p> <p>A total of 54 children are subject to a Supervision Order Art. 50 (1) (b) and Interim Supervision Order Art. 57 (1) as per reporting requirements, this is an increase of 19 since the previous reporting period. However, the Trust also notes that a further 1 child was subject to a Supervision order by virtue of Art. 58 (4) Supervision Order replacing Care Order. This brings the total to 55 children subject to Supervision Orders. The Trust notes there is no requirement to report on this legislative provision as part of this statutory function return.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="316 1668 762 1702">Legislative provision</th> <th data-bbox="764 1668 1235 1702">Number of Children</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 1704 762 1771">Art. 58 (4) Supervision Order replacing Care Oder</td> <td data-bbox="764 1704 1235 1771" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Legislative provision	Number of Children	Art. 58 (4) Supervision Order replacing Care Oder	1	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>																				
Legislative provision	Number of Children																									
Art. 58 (4) Supervision Order replacing Care Oder	1																									
<p>10.1.16</p>	<p>During the period, please provide the number of children (if any) that became subject of a Supervision / Interim Supervision Order (moved from Child Protection section)</p>	<p>SF - Children In Need Spreadsheet</p>																								

	<p>See spreadsheet 10.1.16 for details</p> <p>24 children became subject of a Supervision/ Interim Supervision Order within this reporting period. This is an increase of 12.</p> <p>As noted above a further 1 child became subject to a Supervision order by virtue of Art. 58 (4) Supervision Order replacing Care Order during the reporting period. Of the 25 children their respective care pathways prior to supervision/interim supervision order being granted included Child protection (9), dual LAC and child protection process (11) and Looked After Children (5).</p>	
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10.2 Children (NI) Order 1995

Article 18 (2) Schedule 2 Para 1, Article 18 (2)Schedule 2 Para 5(2), Article 18 (2) Schedule 2 Para 9, Article 27 (1)(2), Article 27 (1)(2), Article 27 (8), Article 35, Article 36 (1) Article 44, Article 45 (1)(2), Article 45 (3)(5)(6)(7)(8), Article 108 (1), Article 118, Article 130, Article 174, Article 175, Article 177

CHILD PROTECTION

No data is required for items (10.2.1-10.2.8)– data sourced from SPPG quarterly Child protection Report.

10.2.1	How many children are on the Child Protection Register as at 30th September?	Quarterly CP return to SPPG
10.2.2	How many of these children have a learning disability?	Quarterly CP return to SPPG
10.2.3	How many of these children have a physical disability?	Quarterly CP return to SPPG
10.2.4	Religion of children on the Child Protection Register	Quarterly CP return to SPPG
10.2.5	Ethnic origin of children on the Child Protection Register (Note new categories now used in quarterly child protection template)	Quarterly CP return to SPPG
10.2.6	How many registrations have there been during the period?	Quarterly CP return to SPPG/Sosc are Reports
10.2.7	How many de-registrations have there been during the period?	Quarterly CP return to SPPG
10.2.8	What percentage of registrations are re-registrations?	Quarterly CP return to SPPG
10.2.9	This is intentionally blank	
10.2.10	For children on the register, how long have they spent on the Register (as at 10.2.1)?	Quarterly CP return to SPPG
10.2.11	This is intentionally blank	
10.2.12	This is intentionally blank	
10.2.13	This in intentionally blank	
10.2.14	This is intentionally blank	

10.3 Children (NI) Order 1995**Children Looked After**

10.3.1	<p>Provide the current legal status for all Children Looked After at 30th September (excluding any who are CLA on that day only by virtue of a short break arrangement)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="311 528 1289 909"> <thead> <tr> <th>Looked After Children</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>2024</th> <th>2025</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>As at: 31 March</td> <td>743</td> <td>766</td> <td>824</td> <td>866</td> <td>875</td> <td>945</td> <td>1029</td> <td>1095</td> <td>1172</td> </tr> <tr> <td>As at: 30 Sept</td> <td>757</td> <td>765</td> <td>826</td> <td>881</td> <td>905</td> <td>991</td> <td>1060</td> <td>1158</td> <td>1229</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Looked After Children	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	As at: 31 March	743	766	824	866	875	945	1029	1095	1172	As at: 30 Sept	757	765	826	881	905	991	1060	1158	1229	SF – CLA Spreadsheet																		
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10.3.2	<p>Religion and Ethnic origin of Children Looked After (please provide by new list of ethnic minorities)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="311 1122 1228 1646"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnicity</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>White</td><td>1026</td></tr> <tr><td>Chinese</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Irish Traveller</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Roma Traveller</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Indian</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Pakistani</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Bangladeshi</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Black Caribbean</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Black African</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>Black Other</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed Ethnic Group</td><td>47</td></tr> <tr><td>Any Other Ethnic Group</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Not Stated</td><td>71</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>1229</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="311 1720 1228 2033"> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Roman Catholic</td><td>515</td></tr> <tr><td>Presbyterian</td><td>197</td></tr> <tr><td>Church of Ireland</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>Church of England</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Methodist</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Christian</td><td>129</td></tr> <tr><td>Jewish</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Muslim</td><td>44</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnicity	Total	White	1026	Chinese	3	Irish Traveller	18	Roma Traveller	1	Indian	0	Pakistani	0	Bangladeshi	0	Black Caribbean	0	Black African	32	Black Other	6	Mixed Ethnic Group	47	Any Other Ethnic Group	25	Not Stated	71	TOTAL	1229	Religion	Total	Roman Catholic	515	Presbyterian	197	Church of Ireland	28	Church of England	3	Methodist	7	Other Christian	129	Jewish	0	Muslim	44	SF – CLA Spreadsheet
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10.3.3	<p>Number of Children Looked After (as at 10.3.1) by type of placement at 30th September</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of placement</th> <th>Totals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Residential</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fostering – (stranger)</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fostering (Kinship)</td> <td>690</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fostering (Independent)</td> <td>151</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Placed at home with parents</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Placed for adoption</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jointly Supported Accommodation Projects</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Juvenile Justice Centre</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supported Lodgings</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tenancy Arrangement</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unregulated Be-Spoke Arrangement</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1229</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Trust continues to see the majority of Looked After Children (1041) 85% placed with foster families (kinship and non-kinship). Children in Foster care have increased by a further 41 with the continued rise in the LAC population during the reporting period. Children placed at home with parents has increased by 14 during the period and this population of LAC is currently subject to review by the Trust. The Trust notes a continued increased trajectory in the number of kinship placement not yet approved (182) which is an increase of 41, of which 133 are unregulated placements.</p>	Type of placement	Totals	Residential	65	Fostering – (stranger)	200	Fostering (Kinship)	690	Fostering (Independent)	151	Placed at home with parents	82	Placed for adoption	4	Jointly Supported Accommodation Projects	5	Juvenile Justice Centre	0	Supported Lodgings	7	Tenancy Arrangement	22	Unregulated Be-Spoke Arrangement	0	Other	3	Total	1229	SF – CLA Spreadsheet
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10.3.4	<p>Age bands and length of time looked after for all Children Looked After at period end</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.3.4 for details</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet																												
10.3.5	<p>Number of children provided with a short break during the period who become Looked After by virtue of the short break arrangement</p> <p>The number of young people provided with overnight support through short break arrangement is 29.</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.3.5 for details</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet																												

	<p>The Trust notes an increase of 8 young people receiving short break within this reporting period. A total of 719 overnights were provided which is an increase of 350 within the reporting period. In addition to short break overnight provision, 4 children/young people availed of transition visits to short break provisions (day, evening and teatime visits) as they transition towards overnight short breaks.</p> <p>Willow Lodge is no longer registered as a short break provision, with the home being registered as a medium-to-longer-term children’s home during this period.</p> <p>Whistle Stop service has maintained a short break service provision to families over the reporting period at reduced capacity. This service has the capacity to offer 60 nights’ short break per 4-week period. Since 28.2.25 the RQIA registration has been reviewed and updated with the service registered to provide short breaks from 2 to 3 children at any one time. The number of short breaks is not to exceed 30 short breaks across a 4- week period. This has enabled the provider to offer a maximum of 50% of the commissioned service. The provider makes considerable effort to recruit staff to progress towards the provision of the service commissioned by the Trust.</p> <p>Lindsay House (Southeastern Trust (SET) provision) remains unavailable for short break provision, due to current reconfiguration of the Statement of Purpose to support children in the longer term. This reduces the Trust capacity to provide short breaks for families by a total of 120 nights per month. In the absence of this provision during the reporting period the Trust has progressed a plan to utilise a section of Forest Lodge as a temporary children’s home for short breaks. Dual registration for the use of Forest Lodge was achieved with RQIA (9th June 2025) enabling short break provision of 1 bed for 2 nights per week (when the home is not in use for children with complex medical needs). In July 2025 the Trust were informed by SET that they were not in position to reopen Lindsay House as anticipated by September 2025.</p> <p>The children with disability has explored further short break options within community/voluntary/independent sector. This exploration did not identify a necessary provider. The service is currently exploring other options in collaboration with SPPG.</p> <p>The Trust also continues to offer a range of alternative supports to children and families who are unable to avail themselves of overnight short breaks. Children’s In-reach Support Service (CISS) have been registered as a domiciliary care provider with RQIA since 18th November 2024. From the 1st December 2024 the service commenced support to families 7 days per week. The service continues to progress plans, through a co-production approach, to expand this service further by exploring with families the activities needed to support them. This will enhance service delivery and</p>	
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	<p>provide more support to families to prevent family breakdown and children needing foster placement/residential care/short break outside the home.</p> <p>The Trust also continues to offer alternative supports to children and families who are unable to avail of overnight short breaks through the provision of Direct Payments, working in partnership with community and voluntary organisations and through services offered by the community teams. Within the reporting period the service has increased by three, the community and voluntary sector contracts, day short breaks and family support services. Reflecting the expansion of day and family support services offered by CISS, community & voluntary sector and provision offered during term time by the community social work teams, this reporting period has seen a notable increase service provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 young people availed of an addition 2,200 hours of daytime short breaks • 191 families availed of an additional 1038 hours of family support 	
10.3.6	<p>Number of children accommodated for 3 months or more in a hospital</p> <p>There were 5 children accommodated for 3 months or more in a hospital during this reporting period.</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.3.6 for further detail</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet
10.3.7	<p>Number of children accommodated for 3 months or more in an adult facility. For example, Residential Care Home, Nursing Home, Private Hospital</p> <p>There were no children accommodated for three months or more in an adult facility.</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet

<p>10.3.8</p>	<p>(a) What facilities – statutory, voluntary and private are available to care for these Children Looked After i.e. how many places in residential homes, foster care placements</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.3.8 for details</p> <p>During the previous reporting period the Trust re-purposed Willow Lodge into a 2 bedded, medium-to long-term, residential children’s home for children with disability. The home achieved RQIA registration for 1 child initially with a placement successfully achieved.</p> <p>On 9th June 2025, the Children with Disability Service successfully achieved dual registration with RQIA for the use of Forest Lodge, enabling the provision of one short break bed for two nights per week (when not in use for children with complex medical needs). During the reporting period, this short break service was accessed by 7 children: three participated in overnight stays, while four engaged in transitional visits to support their progression toward overnight provision. As a result, the service operated at 100% capacity, delivering a total of 24 overnight stays, with the remaining availability utilised for transitional visits.</p> <p>(b) Provide your number of foster carers (should agree with 10.5.1)</p> <p>Provide the number of approved places offered (should agree with 10.5.2)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="311 1120 989 1254"> <tr> <td>Number of Foster Carers</td> <td>684</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of Approved Places Offered</td> <td>1003</td> </tr> </table>	Number of Foster Carers	684	Number of Approved Places Offered	1003	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>																																
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<p>10.3.9</p>	<p>How many Children Looked After have had placement moves throughout the period?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="311 1411 1284 1960"> <thead> <tr> <th>Placement Changes</th> <th>0-4</th> <th>5-11</th> <th>12-15</th> <th>16+</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number who moved once</td> <td>31</td> <td>33</td> <td>25</td> <td>29</td> <td>118</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number who moved twice</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number who moved 3 times</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number who moved 4 times or more</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>37</td> <td>42</td> <td>35</td> <td>39</td> <td>153</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Placement Changes	0-4	5-11	12-15	16+	Total	Number who moved once	31	33	25	29	118	Number who moved twice	5	4	8	8	25	Number who moved 3 times	1	0	1	2	4	Number who moved 4 times or more	0	5	1	0	6	Total	37	42	35	39	153	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>
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	<p>Trust must provide an explanation of actions taken to reduce placement moves during the period.</p> <p>The number of children who moved placements has reduced by a further 19 over the reporting period and the number of children who have moved 3 or more times has reduced by 8, during the reporting period. The reasons for moves (3 or more times) have been identified as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One child experienced 3 moves due to historical allegation against foster carer, and short stay with family prior to transfer to longer term placement where this child has presented as settled 2. One child experienced 3 moves between Beechcroft and residential care arrangements, which was the substantive placement retained during the move to hospital. 3. One young person had 3 moves which relates to moves between residential care and secure accommodation. 4. One child experienced 2 short bridging placements before being placed in a further bridging placement with no current end date. 5. One child with a disability moved 4 times due to a number of placement breakdowns where they were unable to meet needs. This child was subsequently placed in high-cost placement where needs are being met. 6. A sibling group of two children experienced 4 moves between a number of kinship arrangements, prior to settling in their current kinship placement 7. One child moved 4 times between bridging placements and is now placed in a current short term foster placement. 8. One 6-year-old child unfortunately experienced 7 moves with two breakdowns in placement due to trauma related dysregulated behavior. A number of bridge placements occurred prior to move to an independent agency placement where the child is currently beginning to settle. 9. One 10-year-old child unfortunately experienced a total of 9 moves, presenting with significant trauma related dysregulated behaviors and was moved between bridging placements. This child is now placed in a private residential placement (from May 2025) and is responding well. <p>The service continues to take proactive and collaborative actions across our placements and field social work services, aimed at reducing the need for placement moves.</p> <p>Actions to mitigate against moves include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fostering leadership group convenes twice weekly (minimum) placement meetings, monthly duty meetings and long-term match reviews to ensure appropriate placements are made to meet the individual needs of Looked after Children; matched with the skill base of foster carers, to avoid and minimise placement moves. Review meetings also take cognisance of Looked after Children placed within independent fostering agencies to avoid “drift” in care planning for children placed outside of Trust placements. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering and Adoption Principal Social Work staff meet regularly to review children aged 0-5 years in foster care. This ensures timely planning, reduces drift, and supports timely progression to permanence for children who should not remain in foster placements long term. • Bi-monthly review meetings are convened with independent fostering agencies to ensure children's needs are fully met within placements. These meetings strengthen contingency planning, ensure timely support responses and reduce unnecessary placement moves. Fostering services also offer targeted support to promote placement stability and avoid placement breakdowns. • 'Placement under Pressure' and Placement Support meetings bring together fostering and field social work teams to identify risks early and support carers to maintain placements. A clear escalation pathway to Children's Services managers is in place via a monthly placement oversight group, which monitors unstable placements and identifies supports to reduce disruption. Emergency escalation meetings are convened as needed outside these forums. • The Fostering service has expanded evening and weekend child minding provisions helping to strengthen placement stability and provide flexible respite support. • The Fostering service has also made use of vacancy funding to temporarily recruit band 4 social work assistants, to provide support to placements where a dedicated social worker is not available improving continuity of support and placement stability. 	
<p>10.3.10</p>	<p>(a) How many Children Looked After are awaiting assessment or treatment with child and adolescent mental health services at 30th September? 31</p> <p>(b) How many Looked After Children have been referred for therapeutic services and their waiting time.</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.3.10(b) for details</p> <p>There have been 67 referrals for looked after children to TSS within this reporting period, which is an increase of 3 referrals in the past six months. There has been a decrease of 22 children engaged with the service at period end. (368).</p> <p>The average wait time in this reporting period is 13 weeks, an increase of 3 weeks from the previous reporting period.</p>	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>
	<p>(c) Please provide actions taken to reduce waiting time.</p>	<p>Data Return 10</p>

	<p>TSS aims to provide an Initial Professional Network Meeting (IPNM), within 13 weeks of receipt of referral. At the end of the reporting period, all IPNM were able to taking place within the 13 weeks from receipt of referral.</p> <p>TSS facilitate individual therapy with children and young people where this is clinically indicated and the system around the child is robust enough to support this. This work varies in intensity, and children and young people can be seen monthly for sessions, or where there is an assessed need, more intensively up to three sessions per week with a therapist. In some cases, a young person or child is seen with their carer(s) for sessions. This work is not captured elsewhere in return.</p> <p>There are currently 3 young people on the waiting list for individual therapy – a reduction of 2 since the previous reporting period. These cases will be allocated shortly, supported by the commencement of a new staff member. Waiting times continue to be impacted by staffing capacity and the requirement for each child to have an allocated social worker before being seen by the service. The service is working closely with the rotational LAC team to provide a consultation approach, offering guidance and support to the social work staff within this team. Two practitioner psychologist posts remain vacant. One has now been successfully appointed and is expected to commence within the next reporting period. Recruitment for the second post has been unsuccessful in this reporting period and further efforts will continue. Successful recruitment to both posts will support a reduction in waiting times and enhance service capacity.</p>	
10.3.11	How many Children Looked After are also on Child Protection Register at 30th September?	Quarterly CP return to SPPG
10.3.12	<p>How many Children Looked After are Disabled by major category at period end?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for information to be provided.</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet
10.3.13	<p>How many Children Looked After have a Statement of Educational Needs (SEN) by school status at period end?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for information to be provided.</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet

<p>10.3.14</p>	<p>(a) Has each child looked after an allocated a named Social Worker at period end? Yes/No</p> <p>No</p> <p>(b) If no, give number of children and provide an update in the service summary on current position and actions taken</p> <p>At period end the Trust confirms that 296 Looked After Children do not have an allocated social worker.</p> <p>The increase of 219 from the previous reporting period reflects the agreement with SPPG in June 2025 to report as unallocated the number of LAC managed through the rotational social work team. This accounts for 262 of the unallocated cases. The remaining 34 children without a named social worker are held by other social work teams within the directorate. The directorate has recently welcomed 28 newly qualified social workers into the workforce, with a further 28 expected within the next reporting period. These staff will be supported through induction and mentoring arrangements, and it is anticipated that their integration into the workforce will reduce unallocated cases across teams.</p> <p>However, despite this positive workforce growth the directorate notes the current funded staffing establishment remains insufficient to meet the increasing demand associated with the LAC population. The service therefore anticipates that the introduction of 5 senior support workers within the next reporting period will assist in the management of this increased demand and in reducing the number of unallocated cases.</p>	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>
<p>10.3.15</p>	<p>(a) Did each child looked after receive a statutory visit by their allocated and named social worker at least once a month during the period? Yes/No</p> <p>No</p> <p>(b) If no, give number of children and provide an update in the service summary on current position and actions taken.</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action.</p> <p>Prior to industrial action commencing in April 2024 social work teams across the directorate provided a monthly return on the number of LAC statutory visits/reviews completed, which included the statutory compliance for visits and reviews for unallocated LAC cases.</p> <p>Since April 2024 NIPSA Social Work members across Gateway, Family and LAC were instructed not to complete any statistical returns. This has impacted on senior leadership oversight and reporting on the Trust statutory requirements for both allocated and unallocated cases.</p>	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>

	<p>To strengthen statutory compliance and respond to the increasing number of LAC – the Trust has reconfigured 2 LAC Teams and continued to operate an out of hours LAC team. The revised structure is outlined below:</p> <p>Specialist/Complex cases LAC team: comprises of senior practitioner and experienced social work staff who assume case responsibility for higher level need cases. Statutory visits and reviews continue to be completed within required timescales.</p> <p>Rotational LAC team – Lower-level cases: Operational since October 2024 – this team undertake statutory visits and reviews. SPPG requested in June 2025 that these cases be reported as ‘unallocated’ as there is not one designated SW per case. However, the ‘team round the child model’ ensures care planning continues to progress. At the end of the reporting period this team hold 262 LAC cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stat visits are completed on a rotational basis • Although visits fall outside monthly statutory time scale they take place on average every six weeks. • LAC Reviews are completed within statutory time scales <p>Out of Hours LAC Team: Hold 92 LAC cases ensuring statutory functions are met.</p> <p>Unallocated cases: At the end of reporting period 32 LAC cases remain unallocated across other teams</p> <p>During this period additional hours were offered to social workers across directorates to support statutory visits for unallocated cases. However, in the absence of the monthly team return, the Trust cannot provide assured oversight of how many LAC may not have received a statutory visit within the required time frame.</p> <p>The trust continues to await the release from the DoH of the Band 5 posts to support the reduction of unallocated cases.</p>	
<p>10.3.16</p>	<p>No. of Children Looked After Reviews held during the period</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Gateway, Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for information to be provided.</p>	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>
<p>10.3.17</p>	<p>Was the case of each child looked after reviewed in line with Statutory requirements? Yes/No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>Data Return 10</p>

	<p>If No, please provide number (<i>in the CLA spreadsheet</i>) and explain actions taken to address this issue.</p> <p>As noted in 10.3.15 The Trust is unable to provide data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action.</p> <p>Prior to industrial action commencing in April 2024 social work teams across the directorate provided a monthly return on the number of LAC statutory visits/reviews completed, which included the statutory compliance for visits and reviews for unallocated LAC cases.</p> <p>Since April 2024 NIPSA Social Work members across Gateway, Family Support and LAC were instructed not to complete any statistical returns, these monthly returns have not been completed. This has impacted on senior leadership oversight and reporting on the Trust statutory requirements for both allocated and unallocated cases.</p> <p>To strengthen statutory compliance and respond to the increasing number of LAC – the Trust has reconfigured 2 LAC Teams and continued to operate an out of hours LAC team. The revised structure is outlined below:</p> <p>Specialist/Complex cases LAC team: comprises of senior practitioner and experienced social work staff who assume case responsibility for higher level need cases. Statutory visits and reviews continue to be completed within required timescales.</p> <p>Rotational LAC team – Lower-level cases: Operational since October 2024 – this team undertake statutory visits and reviews. SPPG requested in June 2025 that these cases be reported as ‘unallocated’ as there is not one designated SW per case. However, the ‘team round the child model’ ensures care planning continues to progress. At the end of the reporting period this team hold 262 LAC cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stat visits are completed on a rotational basis • Although visits fall outside monthly statutory time scale they take place on average every six weeks. • LAC Reviews are completed within statutory time scales <p>Out of Hours LAC Team: Hold 92 LAC cases ensuring statutory functions are met.</p> <p>Unallocated cases: At the end of reporting period 32 LAC cases remain unallocated across other teams</p> <p>During this period additional hours were offered to social workers across directorates to support statutory visits for unallocated cases. However, in the absence of the monthly team return, the Trust cannot provide assured oversight of how many LAC may not have received a statutory visit within the required time frame.</p>	
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10.3.18	This is intentionally blank	
10.3.19	This is intentionally blank	
10.3.20	<p>Is there an adequate supply of placements for children to enable placement choice? Yes/No</p> <p>No <i>(If no, please explain)</i></p> <p>The Trust continues to experience growth in the number of children in care. During this reporting period, the LAC population increased by 57 children, averaging 9.5 admissions per month, compared to 2.3 per month in the previous period.</p> <p>This increase is reflective of 185 admissions to care (+28 from previous period) alongside a decline in number of discharges from care (125 -which is 15 less than in previous period).</p> <p>The Trust continues to prioritise permanence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Residence Orders were granted • 15 children exited care under Supervision Orders • Adoption Orders have also increased over the past six months <p>Despite this progress, the overall number of children in care remains high, creating significant pressure on placement capacity. The Fostering Service continues to face the most pressure for placement availability. Although there has been an increase of 33 foster carers, this remains insufficient to meet current demand.</p> <p>There has been continued growth in kinship placements not yet approved, (182) with children placed in 133 unregulated household (an increase of 35 since the last reporting period).</p> <p>The Trust continues to utilise 151 independent placements, a slight reduction of one since the previous period. Use of independent fostering agencies remains subject to the Support and Intervention Framework (Level 2).</p> <p>To strengthen oversight and planning, the Trust operates three senior management oversight panels per month, rotating focus areas. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAC admissions and discharges — reviewing all new admissions, progress towards permanence, and work to support discharge planning (including permanence panel, residence order, and Care Orders at homework streams). • Unstable placements – review children for whom placements are unstable to identify supports to mitigate placement breakdown were possible. 	Data Return 10

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edge of care – to identify support to prevent care admissions. <p>The service aims to ensure through the provision of these panels a clearer oversight of the LAC population, which supports the development and sharing of practice learning within the directorate to support placement stability.</p>	
10.3.21	<p>How many exceptions to the normal fostering limit were made to foster care approvals in order for a child to be placed in an emergency in the reporting period?</p> <p>There were 3 exceptions to the normal fostering limit made within the reporting period. This is an increase of 2 from the previous reporting period.</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet
10.3.22	This is intentionally blank	
10.3.23	<p>How many children are deemed to be in an inappropriate placement given their assessed needs? <i>(Please explain)</i></p> <p>There are 62 children deemed to be in inappropriate placements, this is a decrease of 6 of since the previous reporting period. The overview of LAC in inappropriate placements and actions taken to progress alternative placements is broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Children in kin-ship placements which are deemed not viable and require alternative placements • 8 Children placed in a short-term placement but require a long-term placement. • 5 Children in placement where the carer's have given notice to end the placement, 2 of which are in independent agency placements. • 4 Children in Kinship arrangements requiring longer term non kinship foster placements. • 2 Children placed in Bridge/emergency foster placement/ moving between emergency placements. • 1 Child remains at home due to no appropriate placement availability. • 1 young person in residential with a care plan for fostering. Residential and fostering services continue to collaborate to consider potential placement matches. • Total 33 <p>The above 33/62 of children inappropriately placed are considered by the foster services during twice weekly duty huddles which takes account of carers availability and any change in circumstances or approvals progressing to panel presentation. The service is also currently progressing arrangements in November 2025 to participate in a child specific information session as part of the regional strategy for fostering services. Additionally, child specific profiles are also available on the HSCNI website. The service reviews and updates these profiles on a</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet

	<p>regular basis to reflect the changing population of children and young people requiring placements as detailed above. As detailed in section 10.5.5, fostering services continue to progress recruitment plans to increase placement availability for children in care.</p> <p>Actions taken to progress arrangements for the remaining 29 children considered inappropriately placed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Children in a non-kin placement with a care plan of kinship, due to ongoing investigation of allegations against kinship carers. Placement needs will be reviewed within the next reporting period upon completion of the investigation • 18 Children with a care plan of adoption, who are not in a dual approved placement, (all are in independent agency placements). These children are to be progressed for presentation to the Trust adoption panel for consideration of the care plan of Adoption being in their best interests. Following adoption panel presentation will be made to adoption services to scope available placements. Within the next reporting period the Trust will be reviewing the progression of these 18 children's care plans to consider any areas of drift. • 1 Child in hospital with significant medical needs, assessed as medically fit for discharge. The fostering service is scoping all available placements across all Trust areas and the independent agency placements. • 1 Child in a regulated kinship care placement, requiring a specialist placement, which is being reviewed via the Trust specialist panel, with the field social work team currently progressing a potential placement option. • 1 Child known to children with disability services currently placed at home requiring residential placement. The Trust is currently considering a potential Trust placement • 6 young people placed in residential care who continue to require alternative placements, as the Trust current residential provision is unable to progress their long-term therapeutic care plans. Three of young people's placements are outside the Statement of Purpose of the Trust residential homes and short-term variation have been agreed with RQIA for the placements. <p>Plans to progress appropriate placement for these 6 young people include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. An independent provider was identified to provide a placement for one young person -which will be progressed as a high cost out of jurisdiction placement within the next reporting period. ii. A potential supported living option has been identified for one young person who is at the age of transition. The service is currently collaborating with adults' services and ongoing 	
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	<p>engagement with RQIA regarding regulatory compliance of this proposed placement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. During the last reporting period, a third young person experienced a breakdown in a high-cost placement. The service, in collaboration with psychology, is currently exploring alternative options. Any future placement must be carefully considered in view of the young person's previous trauma to ensure it aligns with their needs and the appropriate timing for another transition. iv. There continues to be no alternative placement options identified for the fourth child. SPPG had previously provided non-recurrent funding for a Trust one bedded placement, which the Trust continues to fund at a cost risk. This provision is temporarily registered for this child with RQIA. This placement is currently meeting this young person's complex needs v. Extensive efforts to identify suitable high-cost placements for two additional young people have been unsuccessful. Both are approaching transition to adult services over the next 12 – 18 months. Children's services will initiate engagement with adult services in the next reporting period. Due to their neurodivergence, mental health needs, and learning needs, these transitions will require significant planning and multi-agency collaboration. <p>Children home decant</p> <p>In addition to the above 63 inappropriately placed children, a total of 13 children are currently placed across three residential homes which require decanting by December 2025. Of these, 11 young people are appropriately placed in line with the Statement of Purpose (SOP) for each of their respective homes. The remaining 2 children are considered inappropriately placed and are noted above.</p> <p>It is important to highlight that all three homes are scheduled for decanting by the end of December to facilitate renovations and the transition to new accommodation as current accommodation does not meet needs. Specifically:</p> <p>Aran House (3 young people) and Slemish House (6 young people), both located on the Glenmona site, must be vacated following notice from the contractors undertaking redevelopment work on the site. The Trust's new buildings intended to replace these homes are still under development.</p> <p>Osborne House (4 young people) requires significant remedial work and will also need to be vacated.</p> <p>The service continues to work closely with Estates and the Capital Redevelopment Team to identify and progress suitable alternative arrangements for all affected young people.</p>	
<p>10.3.24</p>	<p>Please provide the number of restraints carried out by staff on young people within each Home during the period.</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.3.24 for details.</p> <p>Over the reporting period there has been a reduction in the number of restraints required across the residential estate. Whilst Osborne House</p>	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>

	<p>use of restraints remains consistently high it has reduced by 6 restraints to 14. These relate to one child and have been required to support dysregulation of this child to ensure safety and prevent injury to themselves or others.</p> <p>It is positive to note that both Glandore and 444 have seen reduction in the number of restraints required.</p> <p>Residential services have continued to make significant progress during the reporting period with the implementation of the NIFITC. The service has utilised reflective governance to review significant events, review trends and interventions with children and young people to inform planning and mitigate harm.</p> <p>Willow Lodge (home for children with disabilities) has re-opened as a medium-to-the-middle children home. The one young person placed during the period has needed to be supported by the team via restraint on 12 occasions to support dysregulation and ensure safety and prevent injury to themselves or others.</p>	
10.3.25	<p>Do all Children Looked After have a concurrent plan by the time of their first 3 month statutory CLA Review? Yes/No</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for information to be provided.</p>	Data Return 10
10.3.26	<p>Permanency Planning for Children Looked After at period end</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for information to be provided.</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet
10.3.27	This is intentionally blank	
10.3.28	This is intentionally blank	
10.3.29	<p>(a) How many Children Looked After are involved in offending behaviour (are formally cautioned or convicted)</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for information to be provided.</p>	SF – CLA Spreadsheet

	and (b) How many Children looked After are suspected to use drugs and/or alcohol? NO LONGER RERQUIRED	
10.3.30	This is intentionally blank	
10.3.31	This is intentionally blank	
10.3.32	What progress are children making at school and what are their examination results – School Year Ended 30 th June 2022 (this will be collected in September Data Return only)	DOH
10.3.33	Children looked After, School Attendance – School Year Ended 30 th June 2022	DOH
10.3.34	(a) Number of children notified to the police as having gone missing from residential or foster care for 24 hours or more? (This data will be sourced directly from the Untoward Event Report)	Untoward Events database, SPPG
	(b) How many Children Looked After have been reported to the Police for reasons other than having gone missing for 24 hours or more during the period? (This table should be completed for each Residential Facility, it is not required for Foster Carers) See spreadsheet 10.3.34 (b) for details.	SF – CLA Spreadsheet
10.3.35	Number of children accommodated by ELB for 3 months or more by category There are no children accommodated by ELB for 3 or more months.	SF – CLA Spreadsheet
10.3.36	(a) Number of Sibling groups accommodated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together 137 • Not accommodation together at period end 105 The Trust notes an increase of 21 sibling groups not accommodated together.	Data Return 10

<p>10.3.37</p>	<p>Number of young people admitted to Secure Accommodation and the reasons for admission during the period</p> <p><i>This data is sourced directly from Lakewood (it will be forwarded by South Eastern Trust) – after this reporting period the data will be sourced from the Regional Secure panel which is located within SPPG</i></p>	<p>Lakewood/ Regional Panel</p>
<p>10.3.38</p>	<p>Please provide report into the operation of the Trusts Restriction of Liberty Panel</p> <p><i>This data is collected annually and sourced from a Restriction of Liberty report (it comes in with SF). The data will be sources from the Regional Secure Panel going forward – panel began on 1.9.19.</i></p>	<p>Lakewood/ Regional Panel</p>
<p>10.3.39</p>	<p>(a) During the period how many children or young people became a Child looked after by age, gender and first placement</p> <p>184 Children were admitted to Care during the reporting period – this is an increase of 27 from the last reporting period.</p> <p>(b) To your knowledge have any of the children admitted during the period been subject to a full Adoption Order</p> <p>No children admitted to care during the period have been reported as being subject to a full Adoption Order</p> <p>(c) Of those children at 10.3.39(a) admitted to care during the period how many have previously been on the Child Protection Register in the last 2 years from the period end date</p> <p>98 children admitted to care were on the Child Protection register within the last 2 years</p> <p>(d) Number of Children and Young People who became Looked After during the period had a CLA1 form completed and forwarded to School?</p> <p>64 children and young people who became looked after during the period had a CLA 1 form completed.</p> <p>(e) Can you confirm that all the above admissions to care are properly recorded and do not include what should rightly be reported as a placement move (e.g. a fostering breakdown where the RESWS moves the child to a children’s home) Yes/No</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>

<p>10.3.40</p>	<p>(a) During the period how many children or young people became a child looked after by age, gender and legal status on admission;</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.3.40 (a) for details.</p> <p>(b) (i) Were these admissions planned, unplanned or emergency.</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p> <p>(ii) Of those that were unplanned or emergency how many were admitted to kinship foster care?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p> <p>(iii) Of those unplanned or emergency admissions how many were admitted by RESWS?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide this data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p>	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>								
<p>10.3.41</p>	<p>During the period how many children or young people ceased to be Looked After by age, gender and length of time looked after at discharge</p> <p>125 Children or young people ceased to be Looked After during the reporting period which is a reduction of 15 since the previous report. See spreadsheet 10.3.41 for details</p>	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>								
<p>10.3.42</p>	<p>(a) Of all the children and young people reported at 10.3.41 what was their destination at discharge by age and gender</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="311 1825 1268 1962"> <thead> <tr> <th>Destination</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Returned to Parents/Siblings</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Returned to Relatives/friends</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adopted</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Destination	Total	Returned to Parents/Siblings	45	Returned to Relatives/friends	20	Adopted	14	<p>SF – CLA Spreadsheet</p>
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	<p>(b) Of those 16+ year olds who ceased to be Looked After during the period what was their entitlement to Leaving Care Services by age and gender</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Category</th> <th colspan="2">16</th> <th colspan="2">17</th> <th colspan="2">Count</th> <th rowspan="2">Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th>M</th> <th>F</th> <th>M</th> <th>F</th> <th>M</th> <th>F</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number entitled to access Leaving Care Services</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>30</td> <td>23</td> <td>30</td> <td>24</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number not entitled to access Leaving Care Services</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>31</td> <td>25</td> <td>32</td> <td>27</td> <td>59</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	16		17		Count		Total	M	F	M	F	M	F	Number entitled to access Leaving Care Services	0	1	30	23	30	24	54	Number not entitled to access Leaving Care Services	1	1	1	2	2	3	5	Total	1	2	31	25	32	27	59	
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Total	1	2	31	25	32	27	59																																	
10.3.43	This is intentionally blank																																							
10.3.44	<p>(a) Please provide the total number of children that became subject of a Residence Order during the period.</p> <p>15 children became subject of a Residence Order during the period. This is a reduction of 6 residence orders achieved from the previous reporting period</p> <p>For (a) above please give the number of children that were formerly placed with Stranger (Foster Carers), Kinship (Foster Carers), Residential Care or other placement.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Placement</th> <th>No. of Children</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Stranger (Foster Carers)</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Placement	No. of Children	Stranger (Foster Carers)	1	SF – CLA Spreadsheet																																		
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	Kinship (Foster Carers)	14	
	Residential Care	0	
	Other Placement	0	
	Total	15	
	(b) How many Residence Orders are in place at period end?		
	230		
10.3.45	Number of Children or Young People who died during the current reporting period and were Looked After by the Trust by cause/age		SF – CLA Spreadsheet
	Nil		

Note: Sections 10.3.41 to 10.3.43 should include all discharges including those reported in section 10.4

10.4 CHILDREN (LEAVING CARE) ACT (NI) 2002**Article 34E, Article 34F**

10.4.1	<p>Number of young people subject to Leaving Care Act by category, age and gender</p> <p>510</p> <p>This is an increase of 53 from the previous reporting period. The increase is attributed to the increase in males moving over 18 years becoming former relevant, which from review of service user data is predominantly unaccompanied and separated young people.</p> <p>See spreadsheet 10.4.1 for details</p>	SF - 16+ Spreadsheet																																																																						
10.4.2	<p>Of those eligible young people reported at 10.4.1 give the Children Order Legal Status at period end.</p> <p>Age reference table will automatically update as spreadsheets completed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 987 1254 1480"> <thead> <tr> <th>Legal Status</th> <th>16</th> <th>17</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Accommodated (Article 21)</td> <td>8</td> <td>19</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Care order (Art 50 or 59)</td> <td>62</td> <td>72</td> <td>134</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interim Care Order (Art 57)</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deemed Care Order</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>73</td> <td>93</td> <td>166</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 1525 1107 1984"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>16</th> <th>17</th> <th>18</th> <th>19</th> <th>20</th> <th>21+</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Eligible</td> <td>73</td> <td>93</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relevant</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fmr Relevant</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>109</td> <td>83</td> <td>82</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qualifying</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>75</td> <td>97</td> <td>110</td> <td>83</td> <td>82</td> <td>63</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Legal Status	16	17	Total	Accommodated (Article 21)	8	19	27	Care order (Art 50 or 59)	62	72	134	Interim Care Order (Art 57)	3	1	4	Deemed Care Order	0	0	0	Other	0	1	1	Total	73	93	166	Category	16	17	18	19	20	21+	Eligible	73	93	0	0	0	0	Relevant	2	4	0	0	0	0	Fmr Relevant	0	0	109	83	82	62	Qualifying	0	0	1	0	0	1	Total	75	97	110	83	82	63	SF - 16+ Spreadsheet
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10.4.3	This is intentionally blank																															
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10.4.6	<p>Of the young people reported at 10.4.1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Named Social Worker only</th> <th>Named Personal Adviser only</th> <th>Named Social Worker and Personal Adviser</th> <th>Awaiting allocation of a social worker</th> <th>Awaiting allocation of a personal adviser</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Eligible</td> <td>73</td> <td>3</td> <td>57</td> <td>36</td> <td>106</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relevant</td> <td>6</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Former Relevant</td> <td>Unavailable</td> <td>Unavailable</td> <td>Unavailable</td> <td>Unavailable</td> <td>Unavailable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qualifying</td> <td>Unavailable</td> <td>Unavailable</td> <td>Unavailable</td> <td>Unavailable</td> <td>Unavailable</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trust notes there are 33 young people who are awaiting the allocation of both a social worker and a personal advisor, the 33 are therefore included in both columns above, in the absence of a column for ‘Awaiting both a social worker and a personal advisor.’ There is a total of 36 unallocated LAC included in the above figures (3 who have a PA only, and 33 who do not have either). Of these 35/36 are with the rotational LAC team which the Trust has agreed with SPPG to record as ‘unallocated cases.’ Further to SPPG enquiry from previous return regarding the number of Eligible Young People not matching the number of 16 & 17 year old Looked After Children on the LAC return. The Service can confirm via quality assurance processes that not all 16 & 17 year old LAC (175) have been looked after for more than 13 weeks at the reporting period end, so the number of eligible (166) children will be lower than the total number of 16 & 17 year olds currently in care. The remaining 9 do not align with qualifying status as they remain Looked After. <p>(a) What are the social worker and personal adviser arrangements in place for each category of young people?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide the following data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and</p>	Category	Named Social Worker only	Named Personal Adviser only	Named Social Worker and Personal Adviser	Awaiting allocation of a social worker	Awaiting allocation of a personal adviser	Eligible	73	3	57	36	106	Relevant	6	0	0	0	6	Former Relevant	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Qualifying	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable	SF - 16+ Spreadsheet
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	<p>LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p> <p>(b) Of the young people with a named personal adviser, how many have a Person Specific Personal Adviser?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide the following data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p> <p>(c) How many do not have an up to date Pathway Plan at period end?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide the following data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p>	
10.4.7	<p>Of the young people reported at 10.4.1 how many do not have a completed needs assessment and how long have they been waiting at period end?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide the following data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p>	SF - 16+ Spreadsheet
10.4.8	<p>Summary of failure to comply as detailed in 10.4.6, 10.4.7 at period end.</p> <p>There are currently 106 young people awaiting allocation of a personal advisor (PA) at the end of the reporting period. This is an increase of 14 from the previous reporting period. Overall, within this reporting period there has been an increase of 53 young people entitled to be allocated a Personal advisor.</p> <p>The Trust continues to progress initiatives to manage the increase number of young people entitled to a PA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An unaccompanied asylum seeking children (sUASC) team with one SSW, 1 social worker and 4 PA's in post at the end of the period. Two PA's are currently appointed via agency, with recruitment processes ongoing for these posts. A further social worker is due to take up post and recruitment processes are in progress for a band 8a Principal social work post. The Trust currently holds responsibility for a total of 103 sUASC (37 under 18 year olds and 66 over 18 years). 	Data Return 10

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A monthly dedicated PA allocation meeting to address the waiting list. • A system for administrative review of young people who are not using the PA service thus reducing the need for PA allocations. <p>Whilst it was anticipated that the implementation of these measures would significantly reduce the PA waiting list, the leaving and aftercare service has continued to face challenges with the allocation of PA because of workforce vacancies and absence. At the end of the reporting period the PA workforce has a reduced capacity of 5.0 WTE, 1.5 resulting from recent vacancies and the remaining 3.5 due to workforce absence, which have been unable to be backfilled. The service is progressing further permanent recruitment for vacancies.</p> <p>The Trust acknowledged that should the service be fully staffed, with the additionally of the sUASC team, there would be sufficient capacity to manage the demand. However, the service has continually experienced pressure with staff turnover in addition to workforce absence resulting from staff sickness/maternity.</p>																																																																									
<p>10.4.9</p>	<p>Of the young people reported at 10.4.1 what are their living arrangements at period end? Please complete for</p> <p>(a) Eligible;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="319 1120 1276 1675"> <thead> <tr> <th>Placement Type</th> <th>16</th> <th>17</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Foster Placement (Stranger)</td> <td>23</td> <td>18</td> <td>41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster Placement (Kinship)</td> <td>23</td> <td>23</td> <td>46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Home In Care</td> <td>10</td> <td>15</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Residential Children's Home</td> <td>13</td> <td>7</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secure Care</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Specialist Residential Placement (NI/UK)</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supported Lodgings/STAY</td> <td>1</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospital</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jointly Commissioned Supported Accommodation Projects</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unregulated Placement</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>1</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>73</td> <td>93</td> <td>166</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(b) Relevant;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="319 1747 1276 1984"> <thead> <tr> <th>Living Arrangements</th> <th>16</th> <th>17</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tenancy (NIHE/H Assoc./Private)</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Home with Parents/Siblings</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jointly Commissioned Supported Accommodation Projects</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relatives/friends</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Placement Type	16	17	Total	Foster Placement (Stranger)	23	18	41	Foster Placement (Kinship)	23	23	46	At Home In Care	10	15	25	Residential Children's Home	13	7	20	Secure Care	1	0	1	Specialist Residential Placement (NI/UK)	0	0	0	Supported Lodgings/STAY	1	5	6	Hospital	0	0	0	Jointly Commissioned Supported Accommodation Projects	1	2	3	Unregulated Placement	0	0	0	Other	1	23	24	Total	73	93	166	Living Arrangements	16	17	Total	Tenancy (NIHE/H Assoc./Private)	0	0	0	At Home with Parents/Siblings	2	4	6	Jointly Commissioned Supported Accommodation Projects	0	0	0	Relatives/friends	0	0	0	<p>SF - 16+ Spreadsheet</p>
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10.4.10	<p>Of the young people reported at 10.4.1 what is their current education, training and employment status, and how many are being supported financially at period end?' 10.4.10</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide the following data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p> <p>(a) Eligible; (b) Relevant; (c) Former Relevant; and (d) Qualifying young people</p>		SF - 16+ Spreadsheet																								
10.4.11	<p>Of the young people reported at 10.4.1 how many were convicted during this reporting period?</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide the following data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p>		SF - 16+ Spreadsheet																								

<p>10.4.12</p>	<p>Of the young people reported at 10.4.1 how many have a disability by major disability – physical, sensory, learning, chronic illness, Autism (see definition) and other, type and gender at period end?’</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide the following data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p>	<p>SF - 16+ Spreadsheet</p>																																																
<p>10.4.13</p>	<p>Of the young people reported at 10.4.1 what is their parental status at period end?’</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide the following data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p>	<p>SF - 16+ Spreadsheet</p>																																																
<p>10.4.14</p>	<p>‘Of the young people reported at 10.4.1 how many are receiving treatment for mental health issues at period end? Of these, how many were new referrals to mental health services during the period?’</p> <p>The Trust is unable to provide the following data for this reporting period due to the impact of industrial action and Action Short of Strike instruction to social work staff across Family Support and LAC to no longer complete Corporate Parenting returns, a team return is required for following information to be provided.</p>	<p>SF - 16+ Spreadsheet</p>																																																
<p>10.4.15</p>	<p>Number of Young People who are no longer Looked After but who died during the current reporting period and were in receipt of aftercare services by cause/age.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 1447 1257 1912"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Cause</th> <th colspan="2">16-17</th> <th colspan="2">18+</th> <th colspan="2">Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th>M</th> <th>F</th> <th>M</th> <th>F</th> <th>M</th> <th>F</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Natural Causes</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accident</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suicide</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Cause	16-17		18+		Total		M	F	M	F	M	F	Natural Causes	0	0	0	0	0	0	Accident	0	0	0	0	0	0	Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	Other	0	0	1	0	1	0	Total	0	0	1	0	1	0	<p>SF - 16+ Spreadsheet</p>
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10.5 FOSTERING		
10.5.1	<p>(a) How many foster carers are registered with the Trust at period end? How many of the carers above also provide a GEM placement? Of the carers above how many are Prospective adopters dually approved as foster carers? Of the Prospective Adopters/Dually Approved carers above how many are Concurrent Foster/Adoptive Carers?</p> <p>684 - Inclusive of 182 kinship carers who are not yet approved i.e. who are on waiting list for assessment/being assessed/are unregulated.</p> <p>133 placements are unregulated, which is a further increase of 32 since the previous reporting period.</p> <p>How many of the carers above also provide a GEM placement?</p> <p>13</p> <p>Of the carers above how many are Prospective adopters dually approved as foster carers?</p> <p>10</p> <p>Of the Prospective Adopters/Dually Approved carers above how many are Concurrent Foster/Adoptive Carers?</p> <p>5</p> <p>Overall, there is an increase of 33 foster carers within the reporting period. The Trust continues to see an increase in the number of kinship carer by 19 (including unapproved carers) and during this period an increase in the number of non-kinship foster carers n=14.</p> <p>(b) Please give the number of other foster carers;</p> <p>104 Independent agency carer(s)</p> <p>(c) Please give a breakdown of the number of foster carers de-registered during the period and the reason;</p>	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet

Reason for Foster Carer De-registered		Number
Carer has adopted or been granted a residence order		11
No longer wishing to foster		18
Retired		0
Deregistered following concerns re: care of child/ren		0
Deregistered by Trust following complaints/allegations		8
Opted to be GEM Carer Only		5

(d) Please advise of the recruitment process activity during the period;

Recruitment Process Activity During the period*		No. Of Carers
Number receiving information packs. 0 as regional agreement is referral to HSCNI Foster Care website for information	Kinship	0
	Non-Kinship	0
Number of Initial Home Visits	Kinship	N/A
	Non-Kinship	30
Numbers of Households attending Skills to Foster course	Kinship	6
	Non-Kinship	22
Number of Completed Assessments during the period	Kinship	31
	Non-Kinship	20
Of the number of completed assessments (above), number approved at Fostering Panel	Kinship	30
	Non-Kinship	19
Number of these assessments that were	Kinship	0

	already approved as Adopters	Non-Kinship	10																																	
<p>(e) Please give the number of regional enquirers received by the Trust</p> <p>54</p>																																				
10.5.2	<p>For the foster carers return at 10.5.1 how many places are they registered for and the number of vacant places at period end. Please also provide the number of fostering households that have no child placed with them at period end.</p>			SF - Foster care Spreadsheet																																
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="343 741 627 869">Type of Approval</th> <th data-bbox="632 741 746 869">Total Places</th> <th data-bbox="751 741 900 869">Vacant at Period End</th> <th data-bbox="904 741 1155 869">Fostering Households with no Child placed at the period end</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="343 875 627 1010">Foster Care (Kinship) <12 weeks not yet approved by panel</td> <td data-bbox="632 875 746 1010">74</td> <td data-bbox="751 875 900 1010">0</td> <td data-bbox="904 875 1155 1010">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="343 1016 627 1173">Foster Care (Kinship) >12 wks but not panel approved by 16 wks</td> <td data-bbox="632 1016 746 1173">193</td> <td data-bbox="751 1016 900 1173">0</td> <td data-bbox="904 1016 1155 1173">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="343 1180 627 1382">Kinship Foster Carers not approved within 12 wks, but within 16 wks during the period</td> <td data-bbox="632 1180 746 1382">0</td> <td data-bbox="751 1180 900 1382">0</td> <td data-bbox="904 1180 1155 1382">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="343 1388 627 1449">Panel Approved Kinship carer</td> <td data-bbox="632 1388 746 1449">403</td> <td data-bbox="751 1388 900 1449">11</td> <td data-bbox="904 1388 1155 1449">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="343 1456 627 1552">Panel Approved Foster Carer (Non-Kinship)</td> <td data-bbox="632 1456 746 1552">94</td> <td data-bbox="751 1456 900 1552">55</td> <td data-bbox="904 1456 1155 1552">38</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="343 1559 627 1655">Specialist Foster Carers (Fee Paid Carers)</td> <td data-bbox="632 1559 746 1655">241</td> <td data-bbox="751 1559 900 1655">39</td> <td data-bbox="904 1559 1155 1655">17</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="343 1662 627 1688">Total</td> <td data-bbox="632 1662 746 1688">1003</td> <td data-bbox="751 1662 900 1688">105</td> <td data-bbox="904 1662 1155 1688">62</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Type of Approval	Total Places	Vacant at Period End	Fostering Households with no Child placed at the period end	Foster Care (Kinship) <12 weeks not yet approved by panel	74	0	0	Foster Care (Kinship) >12 wks but not panel approved by 16 wks	193	0	0	Kinship Foster Carers not approved within 12 wks, but within 16 wks during the period	0	0	0	Panel Approved Kinship carer	403	11	7	Panel Approved Foster Carer (Non-Kinship)	94	55	38	Specialist Foster Carers (Fee Paid Carers)	241	39	17	Total	1003	105	62
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10.5.3	<p>How many foster carers have annual reviews outstanding?</p> <p>Please provide the number of viability visits undertaken during the reporting period. (moved from 10.5.1f)</p>			Data return 10																																
				SF - Foster care Spreadsheet																																

	<p>At the end of this reporting period 87 foster carers have annual reviews outstanding. This is a further increase of 38 outstanding reviews from the previous reporting period.</p> <p>Please provide the number of viability visits undertaken during the reporting period. (moved from 10.5.1f)</p> <p>There have been 138 viability visits undertaken during this reporting period, all of these visits were joint, in line with kinship standards.</p>	
<p>10.5.4</p>	<p>Please provide specific actions being taken by the Trust to ensure outstanding reviews are completed</p> <p>The timely completion of annual reviews and reduction of outstanding annual reviews remains a priority for the service. At 87, the number of outstanding reviews has increased since the previous reporting period.</p> <p>There are a number of factors which have contributed to this increase within the period and actions will be progressed to address these during the next reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in Panel Chair: The fostering panel chair commenced partial retirement in June, resulting in a number of first and third annual reviews not being presented to panel as planned. A new part-time panel chair was appointed and is taking up post in the next reporting period. Postponed reviews have been rescheduled and are expected to be completed in the coming weeks and months. • Staffing Deficits. Historical staffing shortages within the fostering service resulted in high numbers of unallocated cases during the reporting period. Vacant posts during the reporting period further hindered the timely completion of annual reviews. Staff recruitment activity has been positive and the fostering service has been successful in recruiting 5 AYE social workers who commenced employment in September, with 5 more anticipated to join the service in November. Once inducted, these 10 supervising social workers will begin addressing the backlog. <p>The service aims to complete all outstanding reviews within the next four months.</p> <p>Whilst annual reviews are outstanding, support workers have been visiting foster carers who are without an allocated social worker and facilitating statutory checks i.e. medicals, Access NI and Trust checks to maintain as high a level of governance as possible despite workforce challenges.</p>	<p>Data return 10</p>

<p>10.5.5</p>	<p>What action is being taken to maintain and increase the range, diversity and supply of foster care places During this reporting period</p> <p>The Trust continues to lead on and manage the HSCNI Adoption and Fostering Central Service. The service manager for Fostering leads on the recruitment work stream and the Trust, along with the other 4 Trusts, participates in the 3-weekly meeting. The Central Service promotes collaboration across all Trusts to develop collectively beneficial recruitment activity. Each of the two marketing leads partners with individual Trusts to ensure that messaging, branding and recruitment activities are in line with the regional recruitment planner. This ensures improvement ideas can be shared regionally, and activity is cohesive.</p> <p>There has been a continuation of the use of marketing tools such as social media, online activity and articles that seek to communicate a call to action to those who may be thinking about finding out more about fostering or indeed of enquiring to be a foster carer.</p> <p>The Central Team has also led on activity such as the quarterly 'Keeping In Touch' Newsletter, which is sent to recruitment partners, those who had expressed an interest in fostering but who may not have been immediately ready to make an application and other relevant stakeholders to provide updates on HSC Fostering and keep fostering in their minds.</p> <p>The Central Team, with the support of all Trusts, has also launched the revised HSC Fostering Website with the objective of enhancing user experience and the accessibility of information. The ultimate aim is to make information about Fostering for HSC Foster Care more impactful and to hopefully lead to increased numbers of enquires to foster, fostering applications and approved foster carers.</p> <p>The Trust continues to collaborate with the regional colleagues to facilitate twice-monthly virtual information sessions for anyone who wishes to 'drop in' to find out more about fostering for HSCNI Fostering and the process involved. These are promoted via the regional website and via local recruitment activity.</p> <p>By virtue of the regional approach to recruitment, the Trust also progresses enquiries from other Trust areas and will forward these to the relevant social work teams in other Trusts – thus highlighting the benefits of the regional approach to recruitment and retention.</p> <p>In addition to participation at the three weekly regional recruitment work streams, the Trust operates a monthly internal recruitment meeting. The principal social worker</p>	<p>Data return 10</p>
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	<p>meets monthly with the Trust's Central marketing lead. With this oversight, the Trust continues to maximise opportunities to recruit throughout the year in local events. During the reporting period the Trust has promoted and led information sessions and ensured a presence in various locations across Belfast e.g. recruitment stands in shopping centres, community hubs, community centres, hospitals, schools, super markets, churches and other faith based and sporting groups, utilising the number of partners that HSC Fostering have within sports and church organisations.</p> <p>Trust fostering staff also had a substantial stand at the Balmoral show in partnership with the other locality teams. Locally, the Trust maintained a focused presence at significant such as the Mela, Belfast Pride and the West Belfast Festival.</p> <p>The Trust has in place an annual recruitment and retention activity calendar which considers both local and regional recruitment. This enables planned, targeted activity. Alongside this the Trust have organised several retention events such as monthly support groups (kin, non-kin and supported lodgings) and monthly carer and tots' groups. In June, the service hosted the annual spring 'picnic in the park' retention event, which was well attended. In addition, the Trust continues to maintain a hybrid model of face/face and online training and development opportunities to support carers to provide informed, therapeutic care to children and young people.</p> <p>Regular review of recruitment activity is undertaken to ensure that carers are recruited to meet the needs of children referred i.e. requirement for emergencies, short-breaks and short, medium and long-term carers, carers for sibling groups, children with learning or physical disabilities and carers who can provide permanent care.</p> <p>Activity to ensure diversity of foster placement supply also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to recruit intensive foster carers to foster children with significant and complex disabilities and young people who are on the higher threshold of risk presenting behaviours • Ongoing efforts to recruit foster carers and Supported Lodgings Hosts for young refugees. This has included continuing to develop links with the local Islamic Centre. • Trust fostering and children with disabilities teams have been taking a collaborative approach to utilise the knowledge and expertise of both services to develop a short break fostering scheme for children with disabilities. This service has become established in 	
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	<p>the reporting period with staff in post and recruitment activity and assessments in progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to recruit additional PACSS carers to support children who are on the edge of care and provide short-breaks for children and young people to aim to prevent admission to full-time foster care. • In May the Trust launched the regional Biker’s Event the ‘Fostering 400’ from 2 Royal Avenue with a pack of bikers from across the region supporting HSC Foster Care to spread the message about the need for foster homes for over 400 children and young people across the five locality Trust areas. • During this reporting period the fostering service has continued to progress a two-year city-wide recruitment campaign which launched in February 2025, “Fostering Comes to Belfast” aimed at promoting community-based fostering across all 60 wards in Belfast’s 10 districts. The campaign is being delivered through a community development approach, involving local networking, presence at community venues, and information sessions. Coproduction is central, with foster carer ambassadors actively involved in planning and outreach. To support delivery, a Band 7 post was temporarily realigned, alongside a part-time Band 6 Social Worker, and a Band 4 Support Worker. Oversight is provided by a steering group which meets fortnightly. Early results are positive, with a 69% increase in fostering enquiries between January and August 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. Ongoing data collection is in place to monitor progress and impact <p>At the end of the reporting period the fostering service are finalising plans to launch the Fostering Friendly Policy, in October via the Trust’s Loop site, to encourage fostering among Trust employees and reduce reliance on Independent Fostering Providers.</p>	
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10.5 PRIVATE FOSTERING The Children Order (NI) 1995 - Part X NB Advice from DLS is that the 28day period should be continuous.		
10.5.6	What steps has the Trust taken to encourage notifications? NIL Return	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
10.5.7	How many Private Fostering Arrangements under Article 106 are in place within the Trust as at the 30th September? NIL Return	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
10.5.8	How many Private Fostering notifications under Article 106 has the Trust received during the period? NIL Return	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
10.5.9	Please provide DOB and Date notification was received in respect of each child/young person reported at 10.5.8 NIL Return	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
10.5.10	Of the notifications received (10.5.8) how many has the Trust accepted? NIL Return	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
10.5.11	Of those notifications not accepted please summarise reasons and action taken by the Trust NIL Return	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
10.5.12	Number of appeals made during the year under Article 113 NIL Return	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
10.5.13	Are supervisory visits undertaken in accordance with Regulation 3(1)(a) and (b) as a minimum to children privately fostered? Please provide details of any circumstances where the Regulation has not been adhered to. NIL Return	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
	Notifications under Regulation 4 of the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations (NI) 1996	
10.5.14	How many notifications has the Trust received in respect of children being adopted from abroad i.e. Intercountry Adoption within the period. 0	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet

	Please specify the child's DOB and the date the Trust received each notification N/A	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
10.5.15 (a)	Please provide the number of Allegations made against Foster carers. 5	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet
10.5.15 (b)	Please provide the number of Complaints made against Foster carers 2	SF - Foster care Spreadsheet

10.6 Adoption (NI) Order 1987 Adoption (Intercountry Aspects) Act (NI) 2001

Article 3 (as amended by HPSS Order 1994), Article 11

10.6.1	<p>(a) Number of enquiries, by type, received by the Trust and what prompted their initial approach?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Central Regional Team (Website) • 0 Newspaper advertisement • 6 Enquiry prompted by Word of Mouth • 13 Enquiries prompted by Trust Web site • 1 Enquiry promoted by specific local campaign <p>The Trust had a total of 33 enquiries from the following sources:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Source of Enquires</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Domestic</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Inter-Country</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Central Regional Team (e.g. Website)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newspaper advertisement</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Radio advertisement</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Word of mouth</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trust Website</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Specific local campaign</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">33</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(b) Please provide the waiting time from initial inquiry to commencement of training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1 month less than 2 months 6 • More than 3 months less than 6 months 4 • More than 6 months less than 12 months 2 <p>The Trust notes that a total of 5 out of 6 couples (hence 12 prospective adopters) were invited to attend the preparation to adopt course in September (1 couple did not attend).</p>	Source of Enquires	Domestic	Inter-Country	Central Regional Team (e.g. Website)	13	0	Newspaper advertisement	0	0	Radio advertisement	0	0	Word of mouth	6	0	Trust Website	13	0	Specific local campaign	1	0	Total	33	0	SF - Adoption Spreadsheet
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Total	33	0																								
10.6.2	<p>Number of domestic applications for assessment received by the Trust by civil status of applicant</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Household type</th> <th style="text-align: center;">No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Single carer</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohabiting heterosexual couple (where this is a joint application)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Household type	No	Single carer	0	Cohabiting heterosexual couple (where this is a joint application)	1	SF - Adoption Spreadsheet																		
Household type	No																									
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	Cohabiting same sex couple (where this is a joint application)	0																
	Married	5																
	Total	6																
10.6.3	<p>Number of Prospective Domestic Adopters awaiting assessment at period end, length of time waiting, and reason waiting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 waiting more than 1 month, less than 3 (<i>no allocated SW</i>) • 1 waiting more than 3 months, less than 6 (<i>applicant not ready to proceed due to own personal circumstances</i>) • 2 waiting more than 1 year (<i>applicant not ready to proceed due to own personal circumstances</i>) <p>14 other couples undergoing stage 1 statutory checks and awaiting completion prior to proceeding to allocation of a social worker for assessment</p>			SF - Adoption Spreadsheet														
10.6.4	Number of inter-country applications for assessment received by the Trust by civil status of applicant (to be completed by NHSCOT on behalf of the region)			SF - Adoption Spreadsheet														
10.6.5	Number of Prospective Inter-country adopters awaiting assessment at period end (to be completed by NHSCOT on behalf of the region)			SF - Adoption Spreadsheet														
10.6.6	<p>Of all adoption assessments (both domestic and inter country) completed during the period please give details of the outcomes</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Outcome of assessment</th> <th>No. of Domestic Assessments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Counselled out in Assessment Process</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Went to Panel and Refused</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Households approved as Adoptive carers</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Households approved as Dual carers/Concurrent Carers</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Households where previous Foster Carers have been approved as Adoptive carers for their LAC</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>27</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Outcome of assessment	No. of Domestic Assessments	Counselled out in Assessment Process	1	Went to Panel and Refused	0	Households approved as Adoptive carers	13	Households approved as Dual carers/Concurrent Carers	7	Households where previous Foster Carers have been approved as Adoptive carers for their LAC	6	Total	27			SF - Adoption Spreadsheet
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Total	27																	
10.6.7	Number of Children Looked After freed for adoption and not yet placed with their prospective adopters as at 30th September; and duration of wait since freeing order as granted			SF - Adoption Spreadsheet														

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 male children are freed for adoption and not yet placed with prospective adopters. <p>Both of these children’s care plans have been changed to long term foster care and the Trust will apply to revoke the Freeing Order requesting Care Order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 female child waiting more than 3 months less than 6 months. 										
<p>10.6.8</p>	<p>(a) Activity under the Adoption (NI) Order 1987 during the period; Of the number above please give the number who were adopted in a Hague designated country and therefore not through the Courts in NI and have had their Article 23 reports completed in the time period; Please provide the number of Freeing Orders made during the reporting period;</p> <p>15 Adoption Orders under Article 12 (1) made during the period</p> <p>0 Adoption in a Hague designated country</p> <p>9 Freeing orders made during the period</p> <p>(b) Of those children who were adopted this period please give the length of time from becoming looked after (last episode) to going to live with the family who went on to adopt them.</p> <p>1 Step parent adoption 14 Children adopted during the reporting period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 child less than 6 months. • 6 children less than 1 year • 6 children less than 2 years • 1 child less than 3 years. 	<p>SF - Adoption Spreadsheet</p>									
<p>10.6.9</p>	<p>Please provide the number of children who, at period end, had received a best interest decision for adoption and had not been placed with approved adopters (either adopters, dual approved carers including concurrent carers) and the duration of that wait</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="309 1783 1331 1975"> <tr> <td data-bbox="309 1783 951 1917">Children who have received a best interest decision and have not been placed with approved adopter.</td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="951 1783 1331 1917"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="309 1917 951 1975"></td> <td data-bbox="951 1917 1152 1975" style="text-align: center;">M</td> <td data-bbox="1152 1917 1331 1975" style="text-align: center;">F</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="309 1975 951 1975">Less than 1 month</td> <td data-bbox="951 1975 1152 1975" style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td data-bbox="1152 1975 1331 1975" style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </table>	Children who have received a best interest decision and have not been placed with approved adopter.				M	F	Less than 1 month	0	0	<p>SF - Adoption Spreadsheet</p>
Children who have received a best interest decision and have not been placed with approved adopter.											
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Less than 1 month	0	0									

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>More than 1 month less than 3 months</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More than 3 months less than 6 months</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More than 6 month less than 12 months</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 year or more</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>12</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table>	More than 1 month less than 3 months	5	3	More than 3 months less than 6 months	2	0	More than 6 month less than 12 months	3	1	1 year or more	2	2	Total	12	6	
More than 1 month less than 3 months	5	3															
More than 3 months less than 6 months	2	0															
More than 6 month less than 12 months	3	1															
1 year or more	2	2															
Total	12	6															
10.6.10	<p>How many children are in receipt of an Adoption Allowance at 30th September and how many households is this?</p> <p>89 children are in receipt of an Adoption Allowance. This is 87 households</p>	SF - Adoption Spreadsheet															
10.6.11	<p>Of the number at 10.6.10 how many commenced during the period and how many households is this?</p> <p>1 child commenced Adoption Allowance in the reporting period. This relates to 1 household.</p>	SF - Adoption Spreadsheet															
10.6.12	<p>Details of recruitment, assessment, training, support for prospective adopters</p> <p>The adoption team have responded to all initial enquiries within 2 weeks of enquiry being made. All those enquiring about adoption receive a home visit to learn more about the adoption process and the type of children requiring permanency through adoption. During the reporting period, in addition to the preparation to adopt courses provided by the service in September, an additional 4 couples and a single prospective adopter attended preparation to adopt course delivered by a voluntary adoption agency.</p> <p>All approved prospective adopters have an allocated social worker for support and to encourage ongoing development of skills and knowledge. This is provided through opportunities to attend bespoke training delivered by the service for prospective and approved adopters. The adoption service has developed an annual training programme that is emailed to all prospective and approved adopters and is forwarded to service users on a 6 monthly basis with the service's newsletter.</p> <p>The annual training programme offered is influenced by patterns and trends emerging from an analysis of the support needs identified following an adoption order being granted. The Trust wishes to ensure that prospective and approved adopters are provided with opportunities at the earliest stage to develop their knowledge and skills to meet the demands of parenting through adoption. The Trust also takes cognisance of training provided by Adoption UK to ensure there is a wide selection of training available to adopters.</p> <p>Over the reporting period the adoption service has delivered</p>	Data Return 10															

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapy play workshop, • Training on the UEA Model for transitioning children from foster care to adoptive placements. • Life story training • Managing challenges of social media in adoption. 	
10.6.13	Details of Post Adoption Support - this section should include data in respect of the number of and action taken in respect of placement breakdowns both pre (i.e. where adoption is the Care Plan) and post Adoption Order	Data Return 10
	<p>The Trust Post Adoption Team provides a range of post adoption supports to ensure stability and positive wellbeing for adopted children and their families. This continuum of support extends to adult adoptees and their birth relatives.</p> <p>460 post adoption service users are currently availing of post adoption support services. This can be broken down to the following areas of support:</p> <p>Indirect contact -126 children are supported with indirect contact arrangements. These arrangements are managed by a social worker within the team and involves the administrative role of exchanging letters between adoptive parents, adopted children and birth relatives. The service also offers support to all persons involved in the arrangements to write letters and to manage the range of emotions that may be triggered when letters are exchanged. A high number of birth parents' avail of this support.</p> <p>Direct Contact -133 families are receiving support with direct contact arrangements. Contact whilst beneficial for children, can also be challenging for all those involved. A high level of support is required to ensure contact is a positive and purposeful experience for all those involved.</p> <p>Over half of the families receiving support with post adoption contact arrangements also availed of a family support service in addition to this.</p> <p>Family Support Service - A family support services has been provided to 68 families.</p> <p>The service provides a skill mix within the team to provide both practical and therapeutic support to families. Services vary in kind and intensity dependent upon the presenting need and fragility of the family situation at point of referral. Provisions provided during the reporting period range from one-to-one direct work to more specialised assessments and work with other partner agencies.</p> <p>Adult Work-The Post Adoption Team continues to complete Article 54 interviews with adult adoptees, providing support to 133 adults during the reporting period, who wished to learn more about their origin. This provides an intermediary service to those that wish to trace birth families after they have obtained information from their adoption records. The team offers support to adult adoptees and offers individuals a synopsis in the form of a narrative of their file (letter of information). Individual's copies of adoption files which are</p>	

	<p>minimally redacted can also be offered. These files are provided under Regulation 15 (2) (a) of the Adoption Agencies (Northern Ireland) 1989, and in line with Departmental guidance issued November 2023. During this reporting period 25 minimally redacted files were provided to adopted adults. The Post Adoption Team continue to offer a service to Birth Relatives regarding adoption related issues and make approaches and offer a trace service.</p> <p>In addition to the above support during the reporting period, the post adoption service offered the following training/support groups:</p> <p>Life Story Training-Life story training ran twice over the reporting period in April and September and 7 people availed of this training. This training assists adopters with advice around sharing their children's narrative/life story.</p> <p>Contact training-This training focuses on the importance of contact between adopted children and their birth families. This training took place in May and was attended by 6 adopters.</p> <p>Children's group- The service facilitates children's group twice a year in two six-week blocks. Within this we have 2 age groups of children. During this reporting period children's group ran May / June and September / October with approximately 27 children attending across each 6-week period.</p> <p>It has been a great success in meeting its objectives. Many of the relationships formed have been sustained outside of the group, which has continued to meet the Service objective to expand the connections within the adoption community so they can be great sources of support to one another.</p> <p>Mothers Group -The Service continues to offer a mother's group open to all mothers who are approved adopters. At present, we have 10 -12 mothers who regularly attend the group which meets six times a year during term time. The group affords the mothers the opportunity to meet informally and share their experiences of parenting an adopted child. It provides a safe, supportive and non-judgemental space to do so. It also provides an opportunity for the mothers to forge friendships and to build support networks among others who understand the issues that may arise within adoption.</p> <p>Father's Group -The father's group, is open to all fathers who are approved adopters. The group meets 5 times a year, during term time and at present, we have 8 - 10 fathers who attend consistently. This is based at a community venue and is informal, with discussion being led by the group.</p> <p>PATH (Parents of Adopted Teens Hub) -The aim of this group is for parents of adopted teens who wish to come together for networking, support and self-care. The sessions are running monthly with approximately 5 parents. The groups aim is to reflect on key issues/themes, get advice/guidance from SWs and other agencies, as well as availing of wellness and self-care activities. Activities during the reporting period have included dog walks, open water swims and learning sessions in community venues.</p>	
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	<p>Mindful Parenting -This group commenced in September and ran weekly for six weeks focusing on adopters’ wellbeing using mindfulness techniques. 9 adopters attended.</p> <p>Theraplay Awareness Evening -Information evening on learning the principles of Theraplay, with an emphasis parent and child games that strengthen attachment. This was a well-attended event.</p> <p>PHAROS session -Parents were invited to an information evening co facilitated by the post adoption team and PHAROS. The session focused on building parents confidence and understanding on how to talk to children about alcohol and drug addictions. One to one follow up support was offered by Pharos following this and it was received extremely well and will now be offered on an annual basis.</p> <p>Adoption Celebration Day June 2025 -Our annual adoption celebration day was held on 21st June 2025. This event focuses on celebrating adoption and growing our adoption community. This year we had approximately 80 families attend.</p> <p>Step-parent/family adoptions -During the review period the Trust has 3 stepparent adoption assessments, two that are ongoing and one that has been completed within this timeframe.</p> <p>Breakdown</p> <p>The Trust reports 0 adoption breakdown within this reporting period</p>	
10.6.14	This is intentionally blank	

10.7 EARLY YEARS

10.7.1	<p>Please provide the current early years provision / places, registrations and de-registrations Include Number of Approved Home Child Carers</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Sector</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total number of services</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total number of placements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Day Nursery</td> <td style="text-align: center;">99</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4293</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of School within Day Nursery</td> <td style="text-align: center;">57</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1494</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Day Nursery Places</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5787</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Creche</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playgroup</td> <td style="text-align: center;">37</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1147</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stand-Alone Out of School</td> <td style="text-align: center;">52</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1703</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Childminder</td> <td style="text-align: center;">195</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1174</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Approved Home Childcarers</td> <td style="text-align: center;">73</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holiday Scheme</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">258</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Two Year old Prog.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td style="text-align: center;">360</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">559</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10,679</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sector	Total number of services	Total number of placements	Day Nursery	99	4293	Out of School within Day Nursery	57	1494	Total Day Nursery Places	N/A	5787	Creche	13	250	Playgroup	37	1147	Stand-Alone Out of School	52	1703	Childminder	195	1174	Approved Home Childcarers	73	0	Holiday Scheme	8	258	Two Year old Prog.	25	360	Total	559	10,679	SF - Early Years Spreadsheet
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10.7.2	<p>Registration issues and commentary as at period end <i>(If any challenges or issues please provide a brief analysis)</i></p> <p><i>There are currently no registrations outstanding</i></p> <p>During this reporting period the Trust continued to prioritise registration to ensure there was no undue delay for business' service provision. There has been a reduction of 273 Day Nursery/Out of school within Day Nursery places and also an increase of 545 placement availability across other service providers.</p> <p>5 new registrations occurred during the period. This is a reduction of 7 new registrations since the previous report. There have been no services deregistered by the Trust, in comparison to voluntary deregistration (13).</p>	Data Return 10																																				
10.7.3	<p>Total number of annual Inspections required, number carried out, number outstanding and time outstanding as at 30th September</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Sector</th> <th style="text-align: center;">No Requiring Inspections</th> <th style="text-align: center;">No Inspections carried out</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Inspections still to be carried out</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Day Nursery</td> <td style="text-align: center;">53</td> <td style="text-align: center;">53</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crèche</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playgroup</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of School</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Childminder</td> <td style="text-align: center;">95</td> <td style="text-align: center;">95</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holiday Scheme</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sector	No Requiring Inspections	No Inspections carried out	Inspections still to be carried out	Day Nursery	53	53	0	Crèche	7	7	0	Playgroup	22	22	0	Out of School	20	20	0	Childminder	95	95	0	Holiday Scheme	4	4	0	SF - Early Years Spreadsheet								
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Total	213	213	0																																																								
10.7.4	Number of outstanding applications for each of the above categories as at 30th September?					SF - Early Years Spreadsheet																																																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sector</th> <th>0-3mths</th> <th>4-6mths</th> <th>7-9mths</th> <th>10-12mths</th> <th>12mths+</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Day Nursery</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crèche</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playgroup</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of School</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Childminder</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holiday Scheme</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Two year old Programme</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sector	0-3mths	4-6mths	7-9mths	10-12mths		12mths+	Day Nursery	0	0	0	0	0	Crèche	0	0	0	0	0	Playgroup	0	0	0	0	0	Out of School	0	0	0	0	0	Childminder	0	0	0	0	0	Holiday Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	Two year old Programme	0	0	0	0	0	Total	0	0	0	0	0				
Sector	0-3mths	4-6mths	7-9mths	10-12mths	12mths+																																																						
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Total	0	0	0	0	0																																																						
10.7.5	Number of current applications being assessed at period end and duration of assessment					SF - Early Years Spreadsheet																																																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sector</th> <th>0-3mths</th> <th>4-6mths</th> <th>7-9mths</th> <th>10-12mths</th> <th>12mths+</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Day Nursery</td> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crèche</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playgroup</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of School</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Childminder</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sector	0-3mths	4-6mths	7-9mths	10-12mths		12mths+	Day Nursery	5	0	0	0	0	Crèche	0	0	0	0	0	Playgroup	1	0	0	0	0	Out of School	0	0	0	0	0	Childminder	0	0	0	0	0																						
Sector	0-3mths	4-6mths	7-9mths	10-12mths	12mths+																																																						
Day Nursery	5	0	0	0	0																																																						
Crèche	0	0	0	0	0																																																						
Playgroup	1	0	0	0	0																																																						
Out of School	0	0	0	0	0																																																						
Childminder	0	0	0	0	0																																																						

	Holiday Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	
	Two year old Programme	0	0	0	0	0	
	Total	6	0	0	0	0	

10.8 Complaints & Representation		
10.8.1	Does the Trust have an appropriately authorised and experienced children’s complaints officer? Yes/No Yes	Data Return 10
10.8.2	Does the Trust have an independent advocacy service for children and their families? Yes/No Yes	Data Return 10
10.8.3	Please confirm arrangements are in place to ensure that all complaints – both formal and informal – from children and their families are recorded and dealt with? I can confirm that the Trust’s complaints department log and acknowledge all complaints and enquiries received and liaise with the service. The service also share any complaints/ enquiries they receive directly with the Complaints Department for appropriate action.	Data Return 10
10.8.4	Please confirm whistle-blowing arrangements are in place to ensure that concerns raised by staff working in children’s services are recorded and dealt with? The Trust has their own Whistle-blowing team.	Data Return 10
10.8.5	This is intentionally blank	
10.8.6	This is intentionally blank	
10.8.7	This is intentionally blank	
10.8.8	This is intentionally blank	
10.8.9	This is intentionally blank	

10.9 SEPARATED CHILDREN

10.9.1	Number of separated children referred to Gateway Teams by status of children for this period (self-reported age at presentation)	SPPG Separated Children Database
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