

# **Children's Services Statutory Returns Suppliers' / LA Focus Group Meeting**

**DfE, Sanctuary Buildings, London  
12 July 2013**

**DfE, St Paul's Place, Sheffield  
19 July 2013**



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# SSDA903 CLA data collection

**Louise Feebrey / Julie Glendenning**  
**Children and Early Years Data Unit**



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# Feedback from 2013 SSDA903 collection

- **Thank you!**
- **Some issues in relation to children missing from care**



# 2013 CLA publication plans

- **Children looked after (including adoption and care leavers) SFR main tables – end September**
- **Outcomes for children looked after SFR and additional tables for CLA SFR – mid December**
- **Content to be finalised but no major changes proposed**



# Changes to 2013-14 collection

- **New look/feel to system**
- **Removal of NI and PAF figures from system – replaced with Children in Care Adoption and Performance Tables and Adoption Scorecards**
- **Deadline for sign-off changing – views?**



# Changes to SSDA903 collection from April 2014

**Andy Brook**



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# Long term foster care

- Proposed definition: “Long term fostering placement” means arrangements made by the responsible authority for the child to be placed with the foster carer where:
  - The long term plan for the child’s upbringing is fostering
  - The foster carer has agreed to accommodate the child until the child ceases to be looked after
  - The arrangements have been agreed by the nominated officer



# Fostering for adoption

- Defined as placements where the child is placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters and the local authority is considering adoption. The child will be adopted by those carers if no other permanence option is agreed.
- This does not include foster placements with no current parental consent to adopt, even if the child goes on to be adopted by those foster carers.
- Potential to reduce placement moves and delay to improve wellbeing for the child and improve timeliness performance.





# Long term foster care and fostering for adoption

- Proposing to split Q1 and Q2 to capture if fostering placements are long term or fostering for adoption.
  - U1: Foster placement with relative or friend – long term fostering
  - U2: Foster placement with relative or friend who is also an approved adopter – fostering for adoption
  - U3: Foster placement with relative or friend – not long term or fostering for adoption



# Long term foster care and fostering for adoption (cont.)

- Proposing to split Q1 and Q2 to capture if fostering placements are long term or fostering for adoption.
  - U4: Foster placement with other foster carer – long term fostering
  - U5: Foster placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter – fostering for adoption
  - U6: Foster placement with other foster carer – not long term or fostering for adoption



# Reason episode ceased

## E8 – Other

- Proposing extending dataset to include additional common reasons following feedback from Star Chamber:
  - Accommodation on remand ended
  - Child moves abroad
  - Left care to live with one or more adults, none of whom has caring responsibilities
  - Age assessment and codes E5, E6 and E7 do not apply
  - Young person reaches age 18 and no other codes apply



# Reason episode ceased

## E4 – Returns home

- Proposing expanding code E4 to planned or unplanned returns:
  - E4A: return home to live with parents, relatives or other person with parental responsibility as planned in the child's care plan
  - E4B: return home to live with parents, relatives or other person with parental responsibility not planned as part of the current care planning process



# Reason for placement moves

- Research shows too many placement moves are experienced by children which lead to poor outcomes.
- Department intends to publish further breakdowns of placement moves data and for this we need to understand reasons. Numbers of placement moves do not provide the full picture.
- Feedback shows that mere flags to show whether a move is planned or unplanned is not sufficient.
- Focus group of 10 local authorities met in April to discuss these changes. Feedback showed that many already saw placement stability as a key issue.
- Collection of reasons for placement moves from 2014-15.



# Reason for placement moves

- May be either voluntary or mandatory return from April 2014.

## **Moves that are part of the child's care plan**

- Change to care plan
- Foster carer resignation
- Short term to long term foster care – new placement
- Short term to long term foster care – existing placement
- Fostering for adoption placement which does not lead to adoption
- Any other planned move



# Reason for placement moves

## Moves that were not part of the child's care plan

- Allegation under S47
- Standards of care concern
- Approval termination
- Carer requests end of placement
- Child requests end of placement
- Local authority requests end of placement
- Any other unplanned move



# Reason for placement moves

## Temporary moves

When moving to temporary placements a reason is not required. However when a temporary placement ends we would like to know if the child is returning to the previous placement:

- Ending temporary placements and returning to previous placement
- Ending temporary placement and beginning new placement

## Missing

Missing will no longer be a placement move. Likely to be a new missing module.





# Children missing from care

**Sarah Wolstenholme / Louise Feebrey**



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# Children missing from care

- **Proposed change to how we collect data on children who are missing from care via the SSDA903 from 2014/15:**
  - New module to collect information on children who are missing or absent from their placement, and start/end date and time.
  - Remove 24-hour trigger
  - Remove missing as ‘placement type’
  - Encourage better exchange and sharing of data and information between LAs and police.



# Pilot collection

- **Part-way through a pilot with 9 LAs and police forces to identify issues and practice. Feedback so far:**
  - Not difficult to supply data on start and end dates and times of missing/absent episodes
  - Good data exchange exists between police and LAs
  - Some difficulty identifying looked after children in police data, especially for out of area children placed in LA
  - Some confusion over definitions



# Next steps

- **Completing pilot and evaluating**
- **Seeking agreement through Star Chamber**
- **Consulting on guidance on the document, Children Missing from Home and Care, with a view to finalise this in the Autumn**



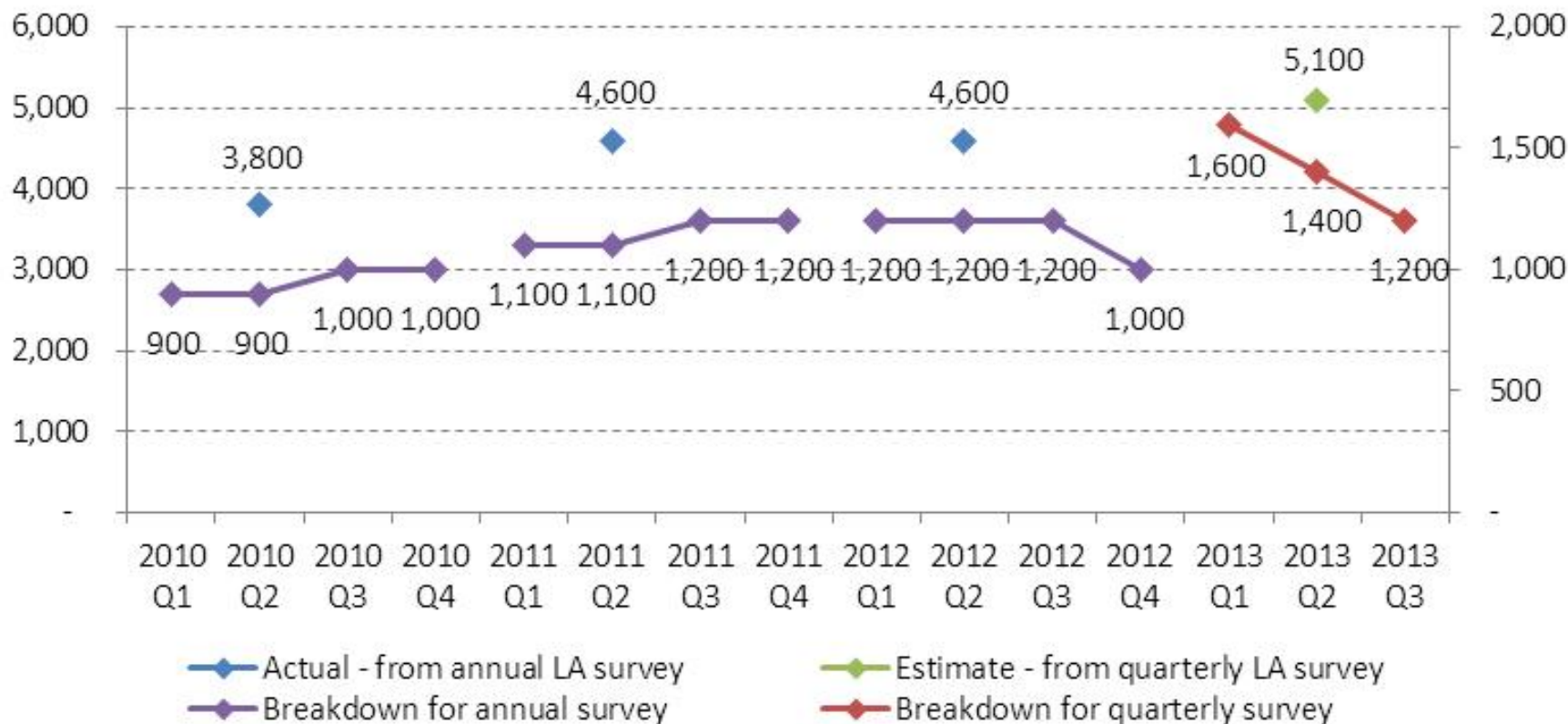
# Quarterly adoption survey

**Sarah French**

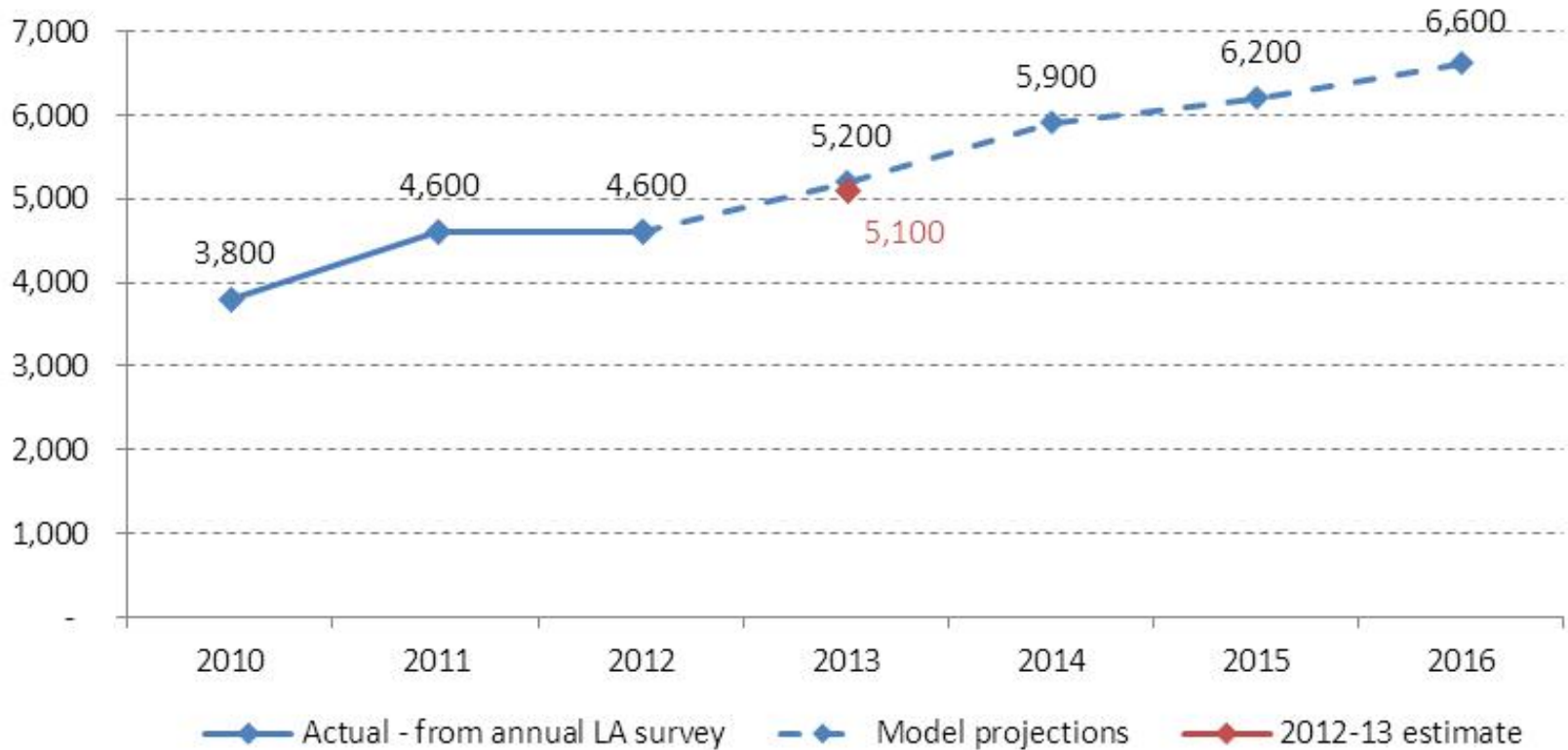


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# The number of new decisions annually have increased over time, despite the declining in-year figures shown for 2012-13



# The annual estimate for 2012-13 new decisions from the three quarters returned shows that the expected level is roughly in line with the projection



# What about LAs who haven't returned all quarters?

- Analysing grossing factors for individual quarters to assess whether trends can be drawn from all data rather than just those from LAs who've returned data each quarter
- Compare trends for those who've returned data for all quarters with those who've returned subsets (e.g. for Q1-Q4/Q2-Q4). If consistent then trends can be backfilled
- Analyses on timeliness to incorporate all returns (not needing grossing factors)





**Next steps...**

**Any questions?**



# New data packs

**Andy Brook**



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# Placement stability data pack

- New data pack showing variations in the number of placements experienced by looked after children and comparisons by age, local authority, length of time in care, placement type, reason for entering care etc.
  - Nearly half of the children who ceased to be looked after in 2011-12 were looked after for less than 1 year
  - The average length of a placement ceasing in 2011-12 was 312 days
  - Over one half of children ceasing to be looked after in 2011-12 had at least three placements
- New breakdowns of children who returned home from care by characteristics and percentages who go on to return to care.



# Children's homes data pack

- Updates to children's homes data pack, last published in March 2012 data pack showing locations and number of places in children's homes, location of children accommodated in children's homes and their characteristics.

- 4,890 children were accommodated in children's homes at 31 March 2012

- A third of children in homes, securely accommodated or hostels were placed more than 20 miles from their parental home.

- Nearly a third of children in children's homes had voluntary or private provision.

- Last year's pack at

- <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/childrenincare/childrenshomes/a00192000/childrens-homes-data-pack>



# Children in Need Census

**Jessica Vickerstaff**



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# CIN 2012-13

## Assessment Timescales

- **Publishing initial and core assessment timescales**
- **Plan to publish ‘actual’ duration of assessment**
- **Time between actual start date and authorisation date**
- **Same format as 2011-12 i.e. bands of working days**



# CIN 2012-13

## Publication Tables

- **Propose to remove LA level tables split by (i) age and gender and (ii) ethnicity due to high level of suppression but keep national level tables covering these breakdowns**
- **Propose to publish new table covering continuous assessments carried out by 8 pilot LAs during 2012-13**



# CIN 2013-14

## New Data Items

- **Feedback from LAs on collection of new data items:**
  - Source of referral
  - Factors identified at assessment
  - Seen by social worker





# CIN 2013-14

## Recording of assessments

- **2013-14 specification details how to record assessments**
- **3 assessment modules:**
  1. Initial assessment
  2. Core assessment
  3. Assessment (i.e. continuous assessments)
- **Allows LAs to record all 3 types of assessments during transition**



# CIN 2014-15

- **Propose to continue to collect actual assessment start dates**
- **Propose to develop COLLECT blade with one assessment module containing:**
  - Assessment actual start date
  - Review date (optional)
  - Assessment authorisation date



# Update Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT), Children's Services Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking Tool (CSSNBT) and Data Matrix

## DfE, CSDSD, Children's Services Strategy, Information Management Team

- ▶ The team maintains standard “fit for purpose” presentations of statistical data and information sourced from official Government statistical publications and data releases. These tools provide access to a wide range of hard data, which can be used to review LA performance to that of its peers, make comparisons to Statistical Neighbours, Regional and England averages and/or overlay local intelligence. The tools are regularly updated and available to Local Authorities via Government internet sites (as below).
- ▶ LA data managers who are interested in using all available evidence to develop an initial overview of the local authority's performance in preparation for Ofsted inspections, should contact us to join the on-line Data Matrix user group.
- ▶ Whilst new statistical neighbour groupings based on 2011 census data will be made available later this year, the Department for Education's current Children's Services Statistical Benchmarking Tool (CSSNBT) is still accessible from the LAIT internet page – CSSNBT provides a view of an authority's neighbours and lists all LAs and their neighbours by name and number.

The **LAIT** and **CSSNBT** are currently available from the DfE website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/research/lait/a0070240/lait>

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/xls/c/childrensServicesStatisticalNeighbourBenchmarkingTool.xls>

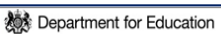


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A screenshot of the Department for Education website. The page title is "Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT)". The breadcrumb trail is "Home &gt; Children and young people &gt; Strategy and working practice &gt; Research &gt; LAIT". The page content includes a "General article" section with the text: "The Department has developed the Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT) to provide easy access to a wide range of data related to children and young people sourced from various departments across government. It acts as a single central evidence base that helps support the Accountability Framework and Transparency Agenda." The page was updated on 31 January 2012. There are "Share" and "Print" icons next to the article title.

# Update Local Area Interactive Tool (LAIT), Children's Services Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking Tool (CSSNBT) and Data Matrix

DfE, CSDSD, Children's Services Strategy, Information Management Team

	
<h2 style="color: #008080;">LOCAL AUTHORITY DATA MATRIX</h2>	
Last updated: <b>1st July 2013</b>	
LA Name <b>Barking and Dagenham</b>	LA Number <b>301</b>
Address <small>London Borough of Barking &amp; Dagenham, Civic Centre, DAGENHAM, RM10 2EH</small>	
Local MPs <small>Barking - Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MBE MP (LAB)                  Dagenham and Rainham - Jan Crocker MP (LAB)</small>	
DCS <small>Mt Helen Jossier</small>	
Lead Member <small>Cllr. John R White</small>	
<h3 style="background-color: #cccccc;">CONTEXTUAL DATA AND INSPECTION RESULTS</h3>	
<small>Children's Services Ofsted</small>	
<small>Nottingham (Ofsted), Sandwell (Ofsted), Greenwich (Ofsted), Southampton (Ofsted), Kingston Upon Hull, City of (Ofsted), Midlothian (Ofsted), Birmingham (Ofsted), Walsall (Ofsted), Coventry (Ofsted), Peterborough (Ofsted)</small>	
DfE Intervention Status	Children's Sces Assessment (Ofsted)
<small>No. of Inspections</small> Not Applicable	<small>2011</small> 2
<small>2012</small> 3	<small>Date of Inspection</small> 23/07/2012
Safeguarding & Children Looked After (CLA) Ofsted Inspection - Overall Effectiveness Assessments	
<small>Date of Inspection</small> 2	<small>Date of Publication</small> 3
<small>Safeguarding</small> -	<small>CLA</small> -
<small>Overall Effectiveness</small> -	<small>Overall Effectiveness</small> -

The **Data Matrix** is available via the Knowledge Hub (currently under review) and directly from Children's Services Strategy, Information Management Team by contacting: [Bridge.Darlington@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Bridge.Darlington@education.gsi.gov.uk)

**Contact details:** If you have feedback and/or comments or would like to find out more about the teams data products, please e-mail: [Bridge.Darlington@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Bridge.Darlington@education.gsi.gov.uk) or the team: [Vicky.Turnbull@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Vicky.Turnbull@education.gsi.gov.uk); [Andrea.Stoker@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.Stoker@education.gsi.gov.uk); [Freya.Davison@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Freya.Davison@education.gsi.gov.uk).

# AOB

**Next Meeting**

**Any Other Business**

