

Children's services statutory returns suppliers' / LA focus group meeting

**DfE, Sanctuary Buildings, London
3 September 2015**

**DfE, St Paul's Place, Sheffield
4 September 2015**



Department
for Education

Introduction

Alan Brooks



Department
for Education

Action Points from previous meeting (December 2014)

Alan Brooks



Department
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Children Looked After (SSDA903)

Louise Feebrey



Department
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Children Looked After SSDA903 2014-15 Collection

- Any feedback?



2014-15 Statistical Publications

- The Statistical First Release *Children looked after in England, year ending 31 March 2015*, will be published on 1 October, with additional tables in December.
- In July we sought views on some changes to this publication, with responses from 12 LAs, and 6 other users from across the sector.
- Outcome: Some national tables will no longer be published, but all LA tables will remain.
- New tables on children missing from care



Children Missing from Care

- We plan to publish the following information (at both national and LA level) in the SFR
 - Children who had a missing incident during the year
 - Children looked after during the year
 - Percentage of whom had a missing incident during the year
 - Children who went missing during the year
 - Missing incidents during the year
 - Average number of missing incidents per looked after child
 - Children who went missing more than once during the year
 - Children missing at 31 March 2015
- Same for children 'Away from placement without authorisation'
- Breakdown of missing incidents by duration, placement, age and gender in national SFR



Care Leavers

- Those with an accommodation category of gone abroad, deported or residence not known will not be included in the suitability calculations
- Those who have died since leaving care or returned home for a period of at least 6 months will not be included



Number of placements in latest year

- National table A2 will show the number of placements in the year (1, 2, 3 or more) for the last 5 years.
- Missing is no longer counted as a placement type in 2014-15 so it will be clearly noted that the data for 2014-15 aren't comparable with earlier years.
- Where a placement move to a FfA or concurrent planning placement has been recorded this will not be counted as a separate placement.



Outcomes for looked after children Statistical First Release

- Seeking your feedback on possible changes at national level:
 - To include more contextual information for attainment (e.g. breakdowns of attainment by SEN)
 - To present alongside other groups e.g. CiN, adopted children, not just non looked after children
 - To use revised attainment data
 - To release in one single publication in February (rather than additional tables in March)



Children Looked After (SSDA903)

2015-16 collection



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Reminder of changes

- New data item: Placement Unique Reference number (URN)
- New data item: Reason for placement change
- Extension of codeset: Reason for new episode
- Extension of care leavers cohort: includes 17 and 18 yr olds (there will be no separate care leavers spreadsheet).



Proposed revisions to LA return guide

- Home Postcode: The postcode of the address where the child was living when they became looked after at the start of their most recent period of care.
- Care leavers in custody: currently the guidance states they should be recorded as NEET, but in future they can be recorded against the relevant activity code that reflects their status.
- Care leavers not in touch but where accommodation/activity is available – this information should be returned.
- Care leavers cohort clarification
- SDQ scores clarification



Proposed revisions to LA return guide (continued)

Long-term foster placements:

- Definition of a long-term foster placement came into effect from 1 April 2015 in [The Care Planning and Fostering \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(England\) Regulations 2015.](#)
- Therefore, placement codes U1 and U4 (long-term fostering) should only be used for episodes with a start date of 1 April 2015 onwards.



Children Looked After (SSDA903)

2016-17 collection



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Children Looked After (SSDA903) 2016-17 collection

- No changes planned



Children in need census

Adam Whitaker

Anneka Nelson-Girtchen



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CP visits

“Number of child protection plans throughout the year where the child was seen in accordance with the timescales specified within their plan by the lead social worker”

- Measure introduced two years ago following the Munro review.
- Currently are in conversations with our policy colleagues reviewing the current collection of CP visits following issues and concerns surrounding the measure being raised.
- Published in table D9 last year and the same again expected for the October 2015 publication but with additional footnotes further emphasising that if a local authority can not visit a child due to circumstances beyond their control then this will still count as a missed visit.



- Following the 2014 to 2015 collection, one local authority suggested the following alternatives:
 - **Number of CP plans throughout the year where the child was seen by a qualified social worker within timescales specified in the plan, or beyond timescale on no more than 2 occasions in the year**
 - **Number of CP plans throughout the year where the child was seen by a qualified social worker within timescales specified in the plan, or no more than 1 calendar day beyond timescale.**
- Open to discussion on the main concerns with the measure and any other alternatives that we can feedback in our conversations?



Factors identified at the end of assessment

- Data item also introduced two years ago following the Munro review.
- Published at a national level last year due to data quality concerns – will be publishing at local authority level this year in the October 2015 publication.
- Open discussion – any concerns or issues with the collection of factors identified at the end of assessment?



Private fostering consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/private-fostering-arrangement-notifications-planned-revisions>

We are proposing to close the annual private fostering PF1 data collection and instead gather information through the CIN census.

The requirements in the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 remain, with local authority private fostering arrangements continuing to be inspected by Ofsted.

Our intention is to continue to ensure that privately fostered children are given the protection and support they are entitled to through a better understanding of such children in harmful arrangements.

- Consultation closes 15 September 2015



The department is most concerned with those private fostering arrangements where the child is deemed at risk of harm. We do not propose to merge the existing PF1 collection into the CIN census but to expand the list of additional factors identified at the end of assessment collected as part of the children in need census:

- Current **private fostering factor (factor 8A)** to be sub-divided into the following groups:
 - **Privately fostered: Overseas children who intend to return**
 - **Privately fostered: Overseas children who intend to stay**
 - **Privately fostered: UK children in educational placements**
 - **Privately fostered: UK children making alternative family arrangements**
 - **Privately fostered: Other**



Other additional factors to be added to the 2016 to 2017 children in need census (currently under approval and guidance subject to change):

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

FGM has been classified by the World Health Organisation into four types:

- Type 1 – Clitoridectomy
- Type 2 – Excision:
- Type 3 – Infibulation
- Type 4 – Other



- This should be identified as a factor when it is known or suspected that a girl has been subjected to FGM, or is perceived to be at risk of FGM. It should only be recorded if the girl herself is perceived to be at risk, not if the only 'risk factor' is that her family are from a 'practising community'.

Further details on the definitions for the four types of FGM are available as a handout.

ABUSE LINKED TO FAITH OR BELIEF

- The abuse concerned may be of any form: physical (including excessive physical discipline), sexual emotional, neglect (including the denial of necessary medical treatment), domestic slavery, sexual exploitation.



- This factor should be recorded when a child is perceived to be subject to, or at risk of abuse because of his or her parents' belief system. This includes, but is not limited to, belief in witchcraft, spirit possession, demons or the devil, the evil eye or djinns, dakini, kindoki, ritual or muti murders and use of fear of the supernatural.
- The beliefs involved are not confined to one faith, nationality or ethnic community.
- The following should be seen as out of scope for the recording of this factor:
 - child abuse within culture or faith contexts in general, for example female genital mutilation or forced marriage;
 - child abuse in faith settings which are incidental to the abuse, for example, sexual abuse by paedophiles in a religious community.

- Any immediate concerns or feedback on these new additional factors?



For more information

Anything you wish to discuss further or raise after today's meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

- cin.stats@education.gsi.gov.uk

Children in need collection website

- <https://www.gov.uk/children-in-need-census>



Introductions

- Liz Stanbridge, Surrey County Council
- Demographics – 0-17 population
- Performance Officer
 - CIN Census
 - Data integration

Children's Services

- 850 Looked After Children
- Responsibilities as the Corporate Parent
- The Virtual School
- Different systems
- Key is to have consistent data



Historically...

- Manual process
- Transcription Errors (Typos!)
- Weekly / monthly updates
- Delay in recording



Search for solution

- Searching for a solution for 5 years
- Couldn't use APIs
- IMT had already purchased software
- Identified this as appropriate project



Integration Toolkit

- Report from Social Care system
- Captures LAC changes
- Updates Education database
- Runs at 6am – in my sleep 😊



Results

- Sends e-mails to report progress
- Check the results
- Pickup any issues and process any exceptions
- Now sends emails to create new records



Data Extraction

- CIN Census
- Missing UPNs
- Data integration becomes data extraction
- Nicknamed “The Skunk”
- Ran for 36 hours

Achievements

- Extracted 6000 UPNs !!
- Helped achieve high Data Confidence
- Re-used for Ofsted Inspection
- LAC data integration



Ongoing Work

- Virtual School Involvements
- Caseworker and Department
- CP integration
- UPNs from Education to Social Care



Summary

- Struggled for years to find a solution
- Thwarted by read only APIs
- Solution was robotic
- Therefore can work on any system



AOB

Next Meeting

Further Information

Any Other Business

