Children Accommodated in Secure Children's Homes 31 March 2014

Methodology Document

Contents

1. Background

In England and Wales there are three types of secure accommodation in which children and young people can be placed. These are secure training centres, young offender institutions and secure children's homes. This document refers to the statistical first release (SFR) which reports on children accommodated in secure children's homes.

Secure children's homes are children's homes which provide a locked environment and restrict a young person's liberty. They provide care and accommodation to children and young people who have been detained or sentenced by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and those who have been remanded to secure local authority (LA) accommodation. They also accommodate and care for children and young people who have been placed there on welfare grounds by LAs and the courts. Secure children's homes provide the young people with support tailored to their individual needs; to achieve this they have a high ratio of staff to young people and are generally small facilities. The secure children's homes website has further information on the 17 homes included in this SFR.

Information in the Children Accommodated in Secure Children's Homes SFR has been derived from statistical data reported to the Department for Education (DfE) by all secure children's homes in England and Wales that were open at 31 March 2014 along with historical data from previous years' collections.

2. Methodology

The secure homes return their data as at 31 March to DfE via a data collection form, a copy of which can be found at Annex A. This form collects information on eight areas:

1.   Number of approved places (Item 1)

2.   Number of places in use or available for use (Item 2)

3.   Number of approved places contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) (Item 3)

4.   Number of children accommodated (Item 4)

5.   Sex of children (Items 5a and 5b)

6.   Age of children (Items 6a-h)

7.   Length of stay (Items 7a-f)

8.   Type of placement (Items 8a-c)

2.1. Data cleaning

A number of validation checks are carried out on the data once it is returned to DfE:

- The number of places in use or available for use (Item 2) should be less than or equal to the number of approved places (Item 1)

- The number of approved places contracted to the YJB (Item 3) should be less than or equal to the number of approved places (Item 1)

- The number of children accommodated (Item 3) should be less than or equal to the number of approved places (Item 1) and the number of places in use or available for use (Item 2)

- The total number of males (Item 5a) and females (Item 5b) should be equal to the number of children accommodated (Item 4)

- The total number of children in each age group (Items 6a-h) should be equal to the number of children accommodated (Item 4)

- The total number of children by length of stay (Items 7a-f) should be equal to the number of children accommodated (Item 4)

- The total number of children in each type of placement (Items 8a-c) should be equal to the number of children accommodated (Item 4)

We also check where the number of places available is less than the number of places approved what the reason for this is. This can be for a number of reasons, for example, refurbishment, staff sickness, implementing new processes and procedures.

Data is also compared to previous years to ensure there are no unusual changes.

In addition to the above we also make checks against other related publications:

- *Ofsted's Official Statistics on Children's Social Care Providers and Places:* This includes data on the maximum number of places a provider may offer at any one time. Secure children's homes are one of a number of types of provider that they cover. We check the number of approved places (Item 1) in our collection against the maximum number of places for each of the 16 secure children's homes in England reported by Ofsted. Ofsted's data is published bi-annually in November and May. We check against the data published in May which covers data at 31 March at the link above.

- *Ministry of Justice Youth Custody Data:* The Ministry of Justice publishes monthly statistics on children and young people within secure children's homes (SCHs), secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs). We compare the total number of children detained or sentenced and placed by the Youth Justice Board (Item 8a) and those remanded (Item 8b) in our collection against the March monthly total for secure children's homes at the above link.

2.2. Data Processing

Once all secure children's homes have submitted their data and the validation checks listed above have been carried out, the data is collated into one spread sheet ready for analysis.

2.3. Production of Statistical First Release

The SFR contains 3 tables:

Table 1: Places approved and children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March by gender, age, length of stay and type of placement (numbers and percentages). Coverage: England and Wales.

Table 2: Places approved and available, and children accommodated at 31 March 2014 by individual secure children's homes (numbers and percentages). Coverage: England and Wales.
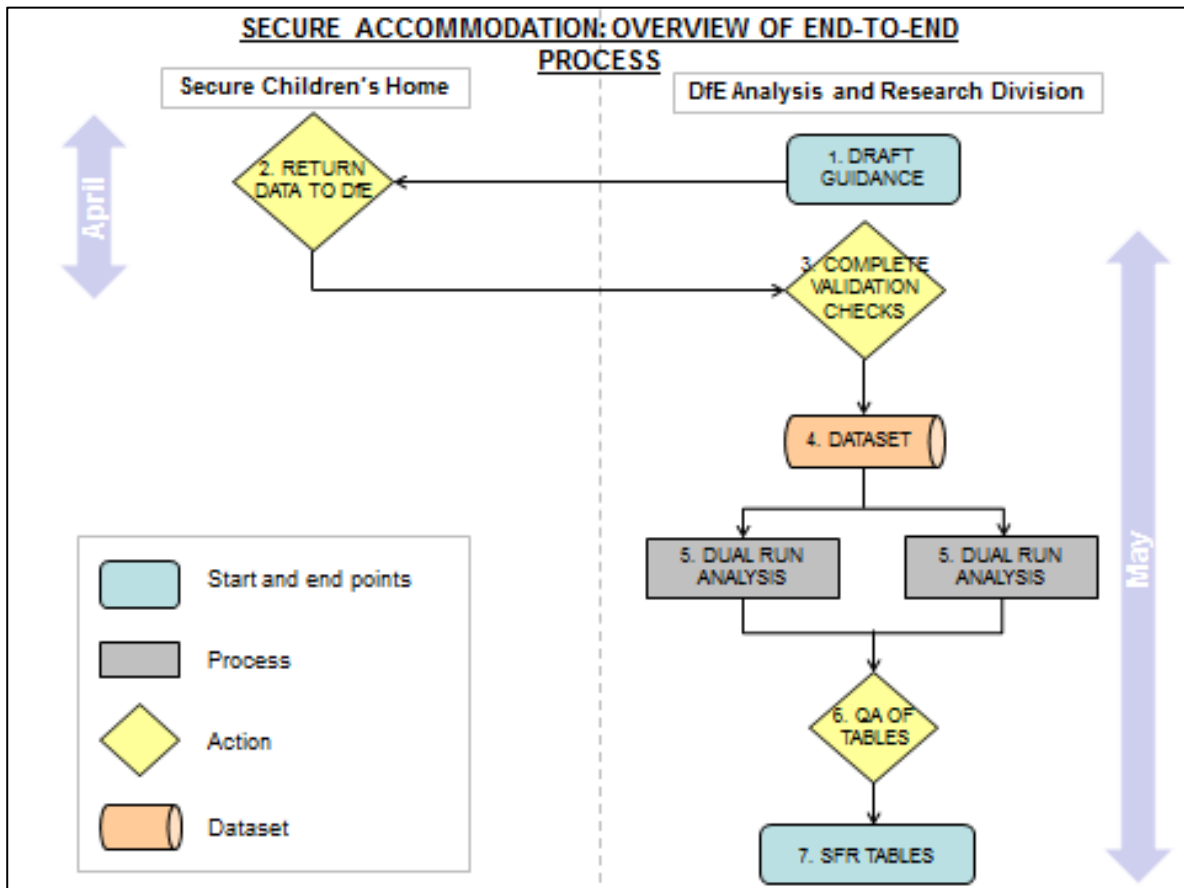
Table 3: Places approved and children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March by gender, age, length of stay and type of placement (numbers and percentages). Coverage: England

Data in Tables 1 and 2 cover secure children's homes in England and Wales. Table 3 covers secure children's homes in England only. Table 2 is the only table to contain home-level information. Data is taken directly from the data collection form. Additional calculations are made to form the percentages shown in the tables.

3. Process Map

The process map shown in Figure 1 covers the end to end process of the Secure Accommodation return, from data collection through to publication of the SFR.

Figure 1: Overview of end to end process of Secure Accommodation collection and publication

SECURE ACCOMMODATION: OVERVIEW OF END-TO-END PROCESS

Secure Children's Home

DfE Analysis and Research Division

April

May

2. RETURN DATA TO DfE

1. DRAFT GUIDANCE

3. COMPLETE VALIDATION CHECKS

4. DATASET

5. DUAL RUN ANALYSIS

5. DUAL RUN ANALYSIS

6. QA OF TABLES

7. SFR TABLES

Start and end points

Process

Action

Dataset

Annex A: Secure Accommodation Data Collection Form

Department for Education
Children Accommodated in Secure Children's Homes 31 March 2014
Secure Accommodation Return (SA1)

Each item of this return refers to the position at 31 March 2014

1. Number of places approved for use ☐ 1

2. Number of places in use or available for use ☐ 2

3. Number of approved places contracted to YJB ☐ 3

4. Number of children accommodated ☐ 4

5. Sex of children accommodated

    Number of males accommodated ☐ 5a

    Number of females accommodated ☐ 5b

6. Age of children accommodated

Number aged under 12	☐ 6a		15	☐ 6e	
12	☐ 6b		16	☐ 6f	
13	☐ 6c		17	☐ 6g	
14	☐ 6d		18 and over	☐ 6h	

7. Length of stay (as at 31 March) of children accomodated

    Number accommodated for less than 1 month ☐ 7a

    1 month or more but less than 3 months ☐ 7b

    3 months or more but less than 6 months ☐ 7c

    6 months or more but less than 12 months ☐ 7d

    12 months or more but less than 24 months ☐ 7e

    24 months or more ☐ 7f

8. Type of placement*

    Child detained or sentenced and placed by the
    Youth Justice Board ☐ 8a

    Child placed by local authority in a criminal justice context ☐ 8b

    Child placed by local authority on welfare grounds ☐ 8c

    *Please record the basis that applies at 31 March 2014, **not** on entry.