

Confirmation of changes for 2004-05

1. NEW DATA ITEMS

New Data item	Definitions	Comment
<p>1. The distance between home and placement, for children looked after at 31 March, calculated using the following postcodes:</p> <p>a. Home: The postcode of the address that children looked after are living in when they are first taken into care</p> <p>1b. Placement:: The postcode of the location where children are placed at 31 March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculation of distance between home and placement at 31 March 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data will be used to count the number of children who are placed beyond a certain distance from their home. • The Department is exploring tools to enable authorities to calculate the distance between two postcodes. • This will be collected for children looked after at 31 March via the SSDA903 excluding children under an agreed series of short term breaks. The first year will be 2005.
<p>2. Girls looked after at 31 March who are teenage mothers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicate whether the looked after girl is a mother (Yes/No). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only data on live births will be required – data on pregnancies that do not result in a live birth will not be collected. Live births exclude miscarriages and still births, but will include neo-natal deaths. • A child should be classified as a teenage mother even if they do not care for their child themselves (for example, if the child was given up for adoption) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information will only cover girls looked after at 31 March. It will exclude children under an agreed series of short term breaks. • It will be collected via the SSDA903. The first year will be 2005.
<p>3. Participation of children looked after in statutory reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the date of <i>each</i> review held during the year • Provide the method of participation for the <i>last</i> review held in the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that the <u>method</u> of participation will only be collected for children aged 4 and over. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be collected for children recorded on the SSDA903 excluding children under an agreed series of short-term breaks. • The first year will be the year ending 31 March 2005.

2. ADDITIONAL PLACEMENT CODE

An additional placement code has been added to the 2004-05 SSDA903 collection and, as a consequence, placement code A1 has been amended:

A1 – Placed for adoption (not with former foster carers)

A2 – Placed for adoption with former foster carers

Placement code A2 will be excluded from PAF Indicator A1 from 2005.

If authorities are unable to take on board this change in 2004-05, they should continue to use code A1 for all children placed for adoption for 1 year only.

3. NEW RETURN ON PRIVATE FOSTERING

There will be a new return on private fostering as detailed in Ann Custance's letter of 11th November. The return and guidance notes are attached in the email for ease of reference. They will be added to the DH website www.dh.gov.uk/stats/forms.htm within the next week.