



Children in Need in England:

**First results of a survey of activity and expenditure
as reported by Local Authority Social Services'
Children and Families Teams for a survey week in
February 2000**

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Acknowledgement to Local Authority Children and Families Teams and Data management staff

Collation of the data for the exercise involved significant additional workload for staff in Local Authority Children and Families teams during a busy time in February.

Department of Health would like to place on record its appreciation to LA staff, both front line staff and data managers, in the work of collating the data and their efforts to ensure that the data reported was a true picture of services actually delivered.

CHILDREN IN NEED data collection: a summary of the results of a census of Local Authority Social Services in a week in February 2000

Introduction

- 1 This report summarizes the results of a survey of Children in Need and the activity and expenditure reported by Social Services in respect of provision for Children in Need in a “typical” week in February 2000. This survey, undertaken under the Quality Protects initiative, is the first comprehensive national survey covering all children in need: that is, children who are known to their Local Authority Social Services as requiring the provision of services. This information is important for both Local Authorities and Central Government to measure progress towards the achievement of a number of the Government’s sub-objectives for children’s services.
- 2 Prior to the Children in Need survey, centrally held information only covered Children Looked After and children on the child protection register; other Children in Need were not included, and there was little information on expenditure, which meant that a significant but unknown proportion of Social Services activity and expenditure on children was omitted from the central returns.
- 3 The background to the survey, and comments on the quality and completeness of the data and their presentation, are given in technical annex A. The main results of the survey are given below.

Coverage of survey

- 4 The survey covered all Children in Need and all activity recorded in the census week in February 2000. This included all children in need who received services from Social Services in England, or had money spent on them by Social Services (further information on coverage is given in the technical annex).
- 5 All activity was costed and all expenditures made to or on behalf of the child in the census week were included. This was to ensure that the Children in Need census accounted for as much as possible of the total expenditure by the authority on children’s services as reported by finance officers in their annual financial returns (notably the annual RO3 Social Services expenditure return made by Local Authority Finance Officers to DETR).
- 6 The survey covered ALL provision paid for by Local Authority Social Services on behalf of children in need, whoever provided the service - whether directly by the Local Authority or by the private or voluntary sector under commissioning arrangements.

Grossing up of results

- 7 The 137 authorities that made complete returns between them account for 89% of the 0-18 age group in England, as at the latest date. The figures for England therefore have been derived by uprating by 11% the figures for the responding authorities. This grossing up factor has been used to allow for all authorities not making a complete return.

MAIN RESULTS: key findings

Numbers of Children in Need

- There were just under 400,000 Children in Need in England in February 2000;
- 64,000 of them were Children Looked After and the remaining 317,000 were other Children in Need;
- Social Services are providing services for nearly a quarter of a million Children in Need in a typical week;
- 92% of Children Looked After and 54% of other Children in Need receive a service or have money spent on their behalf in a typical week (either in terms of staff/centre time or in terms of cost of the Local Authority paying for provision needed – e.g. residential costs).

Characteristics of Children in Need

- The main need for social service intervention for children is cases of “abuse and neglect” which account for just over half (56%) of all Children Looked After and 28% of other Children in Need;
- About 12% of the Children in Need population are disabled, and they received 14% of gross expenditure on Children in Need;
- At least 16% of Children in Need are from ethnic minorities (which is about one and a half times the figure for the under 18 population as a whole from the census).

Costs and resources

- Services for Children in Need cost Social Services on average about £41m per week, £26m per week on Children Looked After, and £15m per week on other Children in Need;
- About half of these Children’s costs are accounted for by regular payments (on residential/fostering/adoption costs) for Children Looked After;
- The average Child Looked After costs Social services £435 per week; and other Children in Need cost £85 per week;

Activity

- The average Child Looked After receives 4.3 hours per week of service from Social Work staff either in teams or centres;
- Other Children in Need receive on average about 2.9 hours per week of staff or centre time.

Detailed findings

Numbers of children in need

- 8 The main findings are summarized in Tables 1-3. The first table, Table 1, gives the numbers of children in need “on the books” of Local Authority Social Services. This approximates to the number of open “Children in Need” cases at any one time. The table shows that, in the census week, there were 381,500 Children in Need known to Local Authorities as requiring some form of Social Services provision, about 2,500 per local authority. 17% of these Children in Need were Children Looked After (64,000), and the remaining 83%, nearly 320,000 children, were Children Supported in Families or Independently (CSF/I).
- 9 It should be noted that the figure of 381,500 Children in Need is subject to a number of caveats which are spelt out in technical annex A. These largely centre on LA practice on the recording of open cases, and the coverage of Children in Need databases in a few authorities.

Numbers of children seen in the week

- 10 During the census week 231,500 children had active work undertaken on their behalf by Social Services or received some payment from their authority, for example in connection with residential, fostering or adoption placement. Of these 231,500 children, 59,000 children were Children Looked after and the remaining 172,500 were children supported in their families or independently (Tables 1 and 2).
- 11 The figure of 59,000 is close to the figure of 58,100 (excluding respite care) for 31 March 2000 quoted in recent Statistical Bulletin: *Children Looked After in England 1999/2000*, which is based on the “CLA100” returns. This Bulletin is available on the DH Internet site at www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats1.htm . For a further discussion on the possible effect of respite care on these data see the technical annex A.
- 12 The proportion of children receiving a service in the week was much higher for Children Looked After (92%) than children supported in their families or independently (54%) – Table 1. These figures need to be interpreted with caution in view of the caveats on reporting referred to above. It is reasonable to assume that the figure of 92% for Children Looked After is a much firmer figure than the 54% for other Children in Need.
- 13 The figures suggest that each of the 150 Local Authority Social Services Children and families teams expend resources on an average of about 1,500 children per week. **From this point on, the report refers only to the 231,500 children in need in receipt of services in the census week.**

Resources

- 14 Table 2 shows that Children Looked After accounted for about 25% of all Children in Need upon whom Local Authorities expended resources, either in terms of costed staff or centre time, or in terms of payments for placements or other services received by the child, including one-off payments. Another way of looking at this is that during the census week, for every child looked after who received a service, three children supported in their families or independently were actively supported in some way.
- 15 The position with respect to expenditure is rather different. As Table 3 shows, Local Authority expenditure on children looked after was 62% of the total children's budget, mainly as a result of the high proportion of ongoing expenditures (principally residential or fostering payments) Social Services are incurring on behalf of Children Looked After.
- 16 By contrast, other Children in Need actively supported during the week accounted for 75% by number of all children in need (Table 2) but only 38% of Social Services expenditure on children (Table 3).

Costed Local Authority staff time

- 17 Table 4 gives an analysis of the total number of hours of service received by Children in Need, either from Social Work teams or at centres. The analysis shows that Children Looked After account for 34% of all Social Work staff and centre time. On average, Children Looked After receive, either directly or indirectly, 4.3 hours of social services staff or centre time per week – the corresponding figure for children supported in their families or independently was 2.9 hours per week.

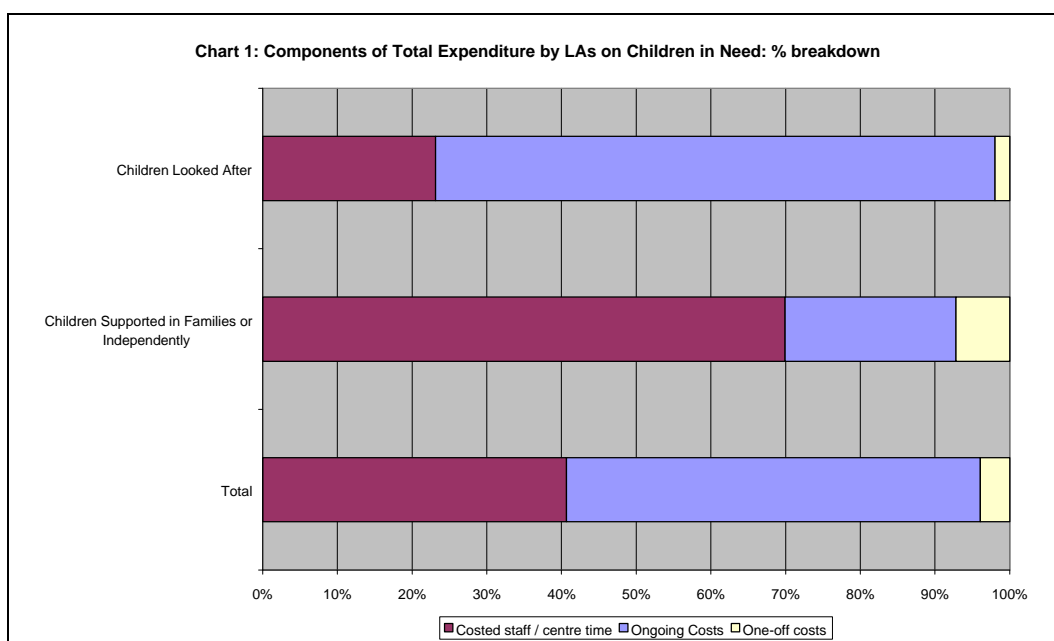
Expenditure accounted for by the survey

- 18 The CiN survey estimated that Social Service spent £40.9m on Children in Need in the week, equivalent to an annual spend of £2.13bn (Table 3). Of the total weekly expenditure of £40.9m, £17m per week (41%) was spent on costed staff and centre time, £23m per week (55%) on ongoing costs (mainly care and accommodation) and just under £2m (4%) per week on one-off (miscellaneous) expenditure.
- 19 The implied annual gross expenditure figure of £2.13bn is about 85% of the figure of £2.47bn reported by Local Authorities finance officers on their 1998-99 Social Services expenditure returns (form RO3). The difference may be explained by the exclusion from the CiN survey of expenditure that could not be allocated to individual children – for example expenditure on drop-in centres. It is possible also that some weeks have greater or lesser expenditure but overall have greater expenditures than in the census week

Average cost to Local Authorities of a Child in Need

20 Table 5 and Chart 1 show the average cost of Children in Need to a Local Authority. These averages have been calculated by taking total costs and averaging them out over all children in need receiving a service in the week. The details are given below:

- (a) *Children supported in their families or independently*: children in this category cost Local Authority Social Services an average of £85 per week, of which two thirds is costed staff and centre time;
- (b) *Children Looked After*: these cost their Social Services an average of £435 per week, about five times more than children supported in their families or independently. Three quarters of the cost of Children Looked After goes on ongoing expenditure (residential, fostering and adoption costs);
- (c) *All Children in Need*: the average cost of a Child in Need is £175 per week, of which £70 is costed staff and centre time, £100 is ongoing expenditure, and £5 miscellaneous expenditure.



Intake/referral, initial and ongoing work

21 The Children in Need census asked for the activity on children to be allocated according to three main categories which approximate to categories in the “Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (Department of Health et al, 2000)” :

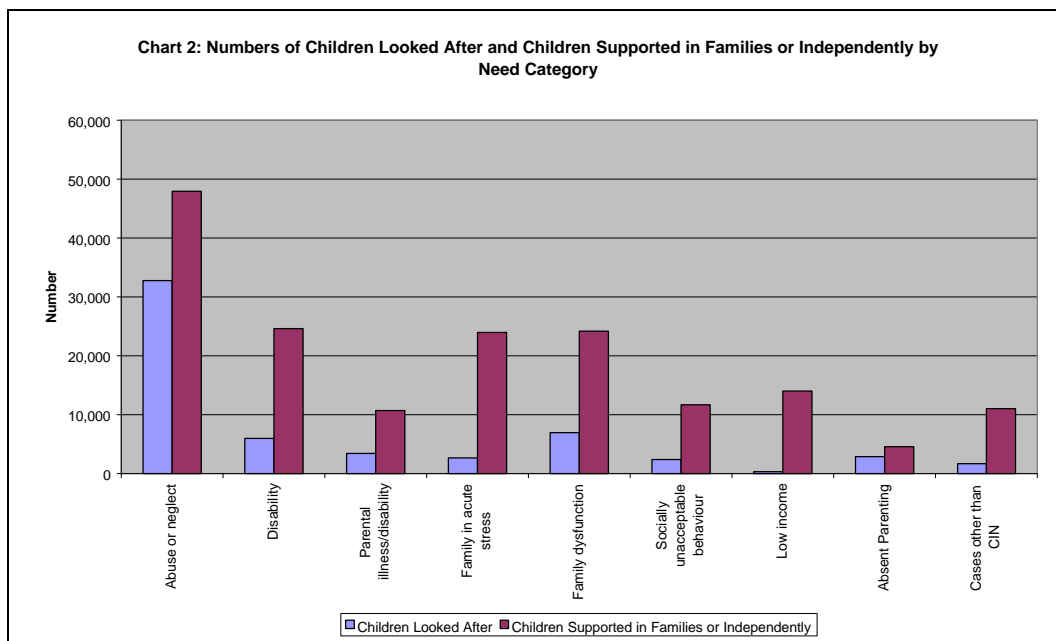
- (i) intake/referral – broadly speaking activity in the first 24 hours of the case being referred;
- (ii) initial work – undertaken within seven working days of the case being referred;
- (iii) ongoing work – undertaken after seven working days of referral.

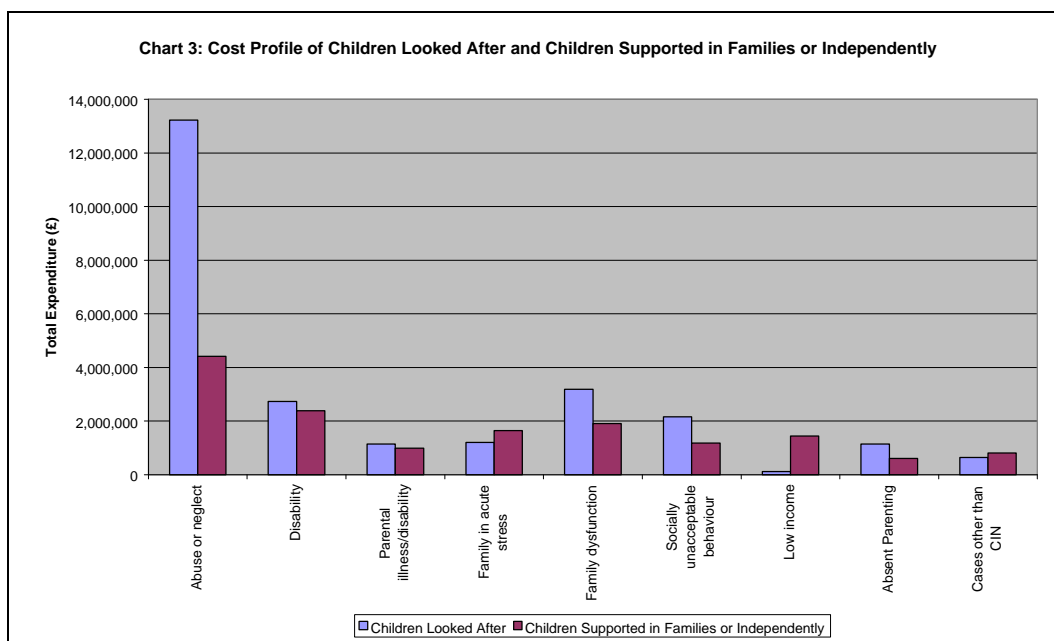
22 The analysis is given in Table 6. This shows that the vast majority of work is in the “ongoing” category. Averaged out over the children in question, intake/referral activity amounts to about 1 hour per week per child, rising to 1.9 hours per week for initial work and 3.8 hours per week for ongoing work. The averages for Children Looked After are consistently higher than for children supported in their families or independently.

Analysis of numbers of children by need category

23 The Children in Need survey introduced a set of categories which could be used by Local Authorities to indicate the main reason for expenditure on children in need. These are defined in Annex C. The distribution of children by “Need” Code is shown in Table 7 and Chart 2. Table 7 shows clearly that the distribution of “Need” Codes is significantly different for Children Looked After than for children supported in their families or independently.

24 For example, the incidence of “abuse or neglect” for Children Looked After is nearly double that for children supported in families or independently (Table 7). But in absolute terms, there are significantly more children in the “abuse or neglect” category in the category of children supported in families or independently than there are in the Children Looked After group (Chart 2 below)

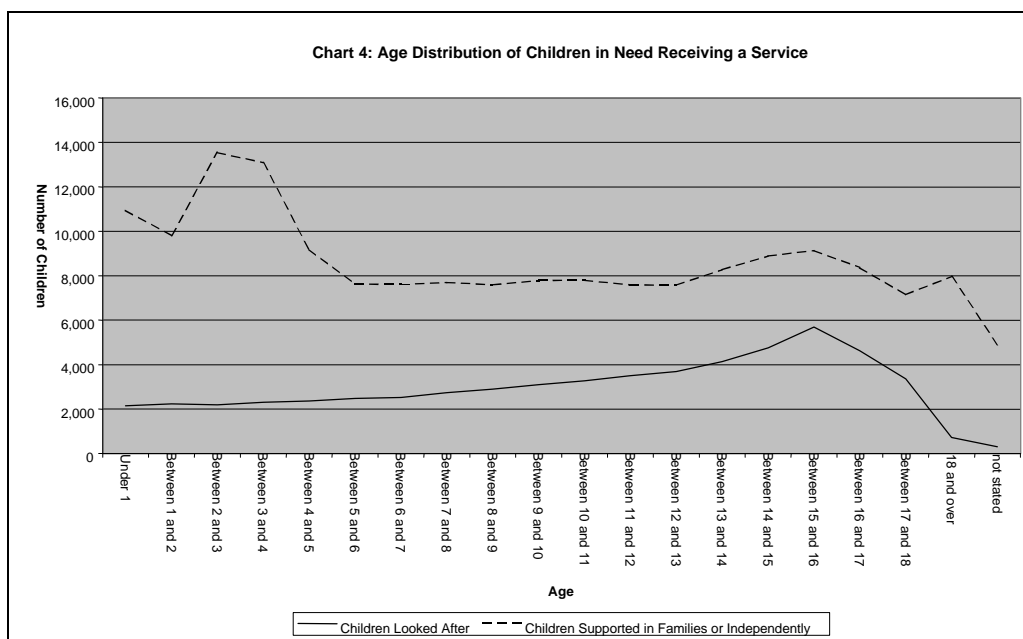




25 The expenditure profile (Table 8) shows a different pattern from that appearing in Table 7. The “abuse or neglect” category, accounted for 43% of expenditure (including care and accommodation: see Table 8), but in numbers terms this category accounted for 35% overall of the Children in Need population – Table 7. Chart 3 above shows the predominance in absolute terms of spending (£ per week) on the “abuse and neglect” category for Children Looked After.

Age distribution of children in need

26 Table 9 and Chart 4 show the proportion of children receiving a service by age. As Chart 4 shows, the figures are remarkably uniform for the major part of childhood. For Children Looked After, the peak age groups are 13-18, which include about 40% of this group; for children supported in their families or independently, there is a marked peak for children aged 2-4 years and about 30% are under five.



Ethnicity

- 27 In the Children in Need survey, Local Authorities were asked to classify their children in need according to ethnic categories to be used in the upcoming 2001 Census. This is the first collection to use these new ethnic categories, and Local Authorities were able to classify 90% of their children in need ethnically (Table 10).
- 28 Overall, at least 16% of the children in need are of ethnic identity other than white. This may be an understatement in view of the size of the “not stated” category (10%) [Table 10]. The figure of 16% compares with figures in the Census of the order of 10% of children whose ethnicity is other than white in the total 0-18 population. This means that, depending on the classification of the “not stated” category, the incidence of children in need in the category of “ethnicity other than white” is between 1.5 and 2.5 times the national average in the under 18 population as a whole. The “not stated” have not been apportioned between the other categories.
- 29 Table 11 gives the more detailed breakdown, for the individual ethnic categories. As can be seen from the table, 4% of Children Looked After have ethnic category “not stated”.

Disability

- 30 Data on children in need who are disabled are also available from the Children in Need census. In the Children in Need census, authorities were asked to identify those children who were disabled. This is a separate dimension of information describing the child, and quite distinct from disability as a “Need” Code. Overall, there were 29,000 disabled children receiving a service in the week, amounting to about 12% of all children in need (Table 12) and 14% of expenditure on children in need [Table 13].

- 31 Table 14 analyses disabled children by “Need” Code. It appears from the analysis that about 25% of disabled children require social services provision for some reason other than their disability.
- 32 It is noticeable from a comparison of Tables 7 and 14 that there are more children listed as having a “disability” “Need” Code than there are disabled children in total. Table 7 gives a total in the disability “Need” Code of 30,600, whereas Table 14 gives a total of disabled children of only 28,750, not all of whom are in need by virtue of their disability. This could suggest that there may have been :
- (i) some underreporting of disabled children; or
 - (ii) uncertainty about the definitions; or
 - (iii) instances of a child being counted by his/her authority as disabled because the child is in a family with a disabled sibling other than the child; or
 - (iv) some children whom authorities consider as in need as a consequence of a health condition but who would not otherwise be (formally) categorized as disabled.
- Further investigation is planned to shed more light on this.

Local data

- 33 Data for individual Local Authorities will be published early in the New Year. Authorities are being given time to check that they are content that their figures are a true reflection of the position in their authority, following the October seminars.
- 34 Where discrepancies do exist, the figures will enable consistent comparisons of Local Authorities’ individual patterns of service delivery against those of other authorities.

Annex A: Background on the survey and technical commentary

Background

- 1 The work of setting up the Children in Need (CiN) survey in February 2000 began in November 1998, with a pilot exercise study involving the testing of a specifically designed database in about twenty “pilot” authorities whose participation is gratefully acknowledged.
- 2 The pilot itself was based on earlier pioneering work involving three authorities in the North West: Cheshire, Staffordshire and Tameside, who generously provided the Children in Need Working Group with a prototype database which could be (and was) adapted for the pilot. Without this initial work in these three authorities it is very unlikely that we would have been able to mount the CiN survey in early 2000.
- 3 As a direct result of the work of the pilot, it was clear that the collection of the data using a census was viable, the information was valuable both to the Department for national monitoring of the service and also to LA service managers, in the delivery of service.
- 4 It was clear from the pilot, though, that further work was needed on definitions and technical enhancements and much of 1999 was taken up with putting these in place. Staff in authorities were kept informed of developments by a series of newsletters. These and the final guidance were issued in the three months to November 1999 and were placed on the DH Home Page of Internet (www.doh.gov.uk/cin/cin.htm), together with other supporting material, notably a Frequently Asked Questions facility covering further technical questions and clarifications. The disks for the database were issued in late 1999.

Purpose of the 2000 collection

- 5 The Children Need data exercise collected information on how many children were known to be in need by Social Services, and the resources that were spent on such children in a “typical” week in February 2000. It was a basic requirement of the collection that the information should be of benefit both to DH for national monitoring and Local Authorities to help with the efficient management and planning of the service.
- 6 The database was designed to enable Local Authorities to collate information on all the children known to them (the “reference” data) and the activity and financial information collected from Children and Families teams and finance staff (the “census” data). However, we know that there was some variation in the way LAs approached the reference data so caution is needed in interpreting the meaning of the reference data numbers.
- 7 The survey covered ALL provision paid for on behalf of children in need, whoever provided the service - whether directly by the Local Authority or by the private or voluntary sector under commissioning arrangements. Returns therefore had to be made by these other agencies to the Social Services to ensure that all activity was accounted for.

- 8 In order to keep the amount of data to be collected to a manageable level, it was decided to collect information for a “typical/representative” week in February 2000. Local Authorities were free to choose which week this was, for example by excluding any half term week in the month. It must be said that a “typical” week is unlikely to be entirely typical in terms of coverage, since almost any week will have at least one “atypical” feature for some element of service.

Recording of open cases involving children in need

- 9 The figure of 381,500 children in need given in paragraph 8 of the main report includes all children “on the books” of Social Services, which in principle ought to include all children in need whether or not they received a service from the Local Authority in the week. In practice the position is more complicated than this, not least because Local Authority practices appear to vary in defining what constitutes an “open case”.
- 10 There were some practical issues as well in the recording of overall numbers of children in need in the survey. In many authorities there were a large number of files of cases which were inactive but had not formally been closed. Many authorities mounted a “spring clean” of their records to remove these cases, before the survey started. There may nevertheless be some dormant cases in the figures which ought to have been removed. This might have led to a slight overstatement of numbers.
- 11 In some authorities, the Children in Need figures only include those children in need who actually received a service in the week. Local Authorities who adopted this approach did so because of resource constraints in their data management teams. This will have led to an understatement of numbers in the authorities concerned.
- 12 Finally, there was some variation in the numbers reported of children on the database from LA to LA depending upon a number of other factors:
- (a) time between loading of data onto the Children in need database and the survey census week which resulted in a large number of new cases of children which had to be added at a late stage, but for which much of the reference data was missing;
 - (b) the inclusion of cases that had been closed between the dataload on the database prior to the survey and the survey itself.
- It is not known whether all these factors “cancel out” to any significant effect.

Reconciliation of Children Looked After numbers, and the effect of respite care

- 13 Numbers of Children Looked After as provided by the Children in Need survey is greater than the number recorded as Looked After at 31 March in the CLA100 returns because the Children in Need survey covers all children looked after at any time during the seven day period.

14 However, the figures from the two sources do appear to be broadly consistent at the national level. The problem centres around possible differences in reporting of respite care children in the two surveys. Respite care children are those children who are under an agreement for Social Services to arrange a series of short breaks or short term placements.

15 A scrutiny of the Children Looked After (SSDA903) database, and making the key assumption that Children Looked After under respite agreements (legal status 44 and 45) receive their care in the same pattern as those whose respite care is recorded episode-by-episode, yields the following estimates of children actually receiving respite care:

- on a given day: 1,100
- in any one week 2,400
- at some time during the year 11,700

16 The CLA100 returns give a figure of 58,100 Children Looked After as at end March 2000, excluding respite care cases. The foregoing analysis would imply that the number of Children Looked After *including* respite care (in the CLA100/SSDA903) analyses would be in the approximate range 58,100 to 60,500. The CiN census figure of 59,000 Children Looked After receiving a service, admittedly for a census week in the preceding month, lies within this range.

Coverage of activity

17 The activity recorded in the census week in February 2000 includes *all* time spent by the child in Social Services provision – this includes time spent by a member of a Children and Families team or by a centre working on behalf of a child. This included not only direct work with the child but also travelling, record keeping and so forth.

18 It should be noted that the survey measured the amount of time of service received by the child, rather than the amount of staff time involved. This distinction is important in the measurement of time spent in group work at centres, where children receiving, say, 1 hour in a group with other children would all count as having received one hour of service in that group in the survey week.

19 Activity was costed using guidelines set out by the department. Costings were needed for all staff and centre time involved in seeing the children. Local Authorities were asked to include all payments made to or on behalf of all children in need in the week, whether regular (ongoing) payments or not. This was to ensure that, so far as possible, the total expenditure by the authority on children in need in the week could be accounted for in terms of services to individual children.

Costings guidance

- 20 The costings guidance used in the Children in Need 2000 exercise has since been developed further in a document produced jointly by DH, Personal Social Services Research Unit at Kent University and Dartington Social Research Unit; “*Unit costs – not exactly child’s play; a guide to estimating unit costs for children’s social care*”, some copies of which are still available on application to the department.

Response rate and evaluation

- 21 Useable returns were received from 137 out of 150 authorities (see Annex B). Given the ambitious nature of the exercise this response was very gratifying - 5 authorities did not make a return and a further 8 supplied information which cannot be used at present in the current England analysis because the figures only covered part of the week or part of the authority; or the data were in the wrong format and could not be loaded. We are considering how to present the data for LAs which made a partial return in the LA analysis to follow in the New Year.
- 22 As this was the first time that national and comparative local data had been collected, a key feature of the survey was a set of regional evaluation exercises in October 2000, involving Local Authorities and Department of Health to assess the quality of the information and the implications for Children’s services. Over 300 delegates attended these sessions, from about 125 authorities.
- 23 The conclusion of the evaluation seminars was that much of the information was robust at a national level and provided a fair reflection of the workloads and resources expenditures of children and family social services staff. But that there were some variations in the data at the local level which needed further evaluation. Before data can be published at LA level a number of corrections are needed in the data from some authorities. The data underscored the scale of the work with children and families units in Local Authorities, which had been significantly understated in official figures hitherto.

Annex B: The response

Returns were received from the following LAs:

Barking & Dagenham	Kent	Stockport
Barnet	Kirklees	Stockton on Tees
Barnsley	Knowsley	Stoke on Trent
Bath & North East Somerset	Lambeth	Suffolk
Bedfordshire	Leeds	Sunderland
Bexley	Leicester City	Surrey
Blackburn	Leicestershire	Sutton
Blackpool	Lincolnshire	Swindon
Bolton	Liverpool	Tameside
Bournemouth	Luton	Telford & Wrekin
Bracknell Forest	Manchester	Thurrock
Bradford	Medway	Tower Hamlets
Brent	Merton	Trafford
Brighton & Hove	Middlesbrough	Wakefield
Bristol City	Milton Keynes	Walsall
Bromley	Newcastle	Waltham Forest
Buckinghamshire	Newham	Wandsworth
Bury	Norfolk	Warrington
Calderdale	North Lincolnshire	Warwickshire
Cambridgeshire	North Somerset	Westminster
Camden	North Tyneside	West Berkshire
Cheshire	North Yorkshire	Wigan
City of London	Northumberland	Wiltshire
Cornwall	North East Lincolnshire	Windsor & Maidenhead
Coventry	Nottingham City	Wirral
Croydon	Nottinghamshire	Wokingham
Cumbria	Oldham	Wolverhampton
Derbyshire	Oxfordshire	Worcestershire
Devon	Peterborough	York
Doncaster	Plymouth	
Dorset	Poole	
Dudley	Portsmouth	
Durham	Reading	
Ealing	Redbridge	
East Riding	Redcar & Cleveland	
East Sussex	Richmond	
Enfield	Rochdale	
Essex	Rotherham	
Gateshead	Rutland	
Greenwich	Salford	
Halton	Sandwell	
Hammersmith & Fulham	Sefton	
Hampshire	Sheffield	
Haringey	Shropshire	
Harrow	Slough	
Hartlepool	Solihull	
Havering	Somerset	
Herefordshire	South Gloucestershire	
Hertfordshire	South Tyneside	
Hounslow	Southampton	
Hull	Southend	
Isle of Wight	Southwark	
Islington	St Helens	
Kensington & Chelsea	Staffordshire	

Returns were also received from the following LAs whose returns cannot be used at present:

Birmingham*
Darlington
Gloucestershire
Isles of Scilly
Kingston upon Thames
Lancashire*
Lewisham*
Northamptonshire*

* = return does not cover all the authority, or does not include all teams (or both)

The following LAs did not submit returns from the survey. One authority declined to participate:

Derby City
Hackney
Hillingdon
Torbay
West Sussex (declined)

Note: in the proposed Local Authority analyses (to appear in the New Year), data will be included wherever possible for the authorities which made a partial return.

Annex C: “Need” Codes

The following list the “Need” Codes used in the Children in Need exercise. These are defined in terms of the need for Local Authority Social Services to spend money on these children. For the purposes of the survey, each child is assigned one and only one need category, indicating the main or principal reason for expenditures / resources being spent on the child. Further information on the “Need” Codes is given on the Children in Need website on DH Home Page of Internet www.doh.gov.uk/cin/cin.htm in Chapter 3 of the CIN Guidance.

Definitions

1 - Abuse or Neglect

Children in need as a result of, or at risk of, abuse or neglect

2 – Disability*

Children and their families whose main need for services arises out of the children’s disabilities or intrinsic condition.

3 - Parental Illness/Disability

Children whose main need for services arises because the capacity of their parents or carers to care for them is impaired by disability, illness, mental

4 - Family in Acute Stress

Children whose needs arise from living in a family going through a crisis such that parenting capacity is diminished and some of the children’s needs are not being adequately met.

5 - Family Dysfunction

Children whose needs arise mainly out of their living in families where the parenting capacity is chronically inadequate.

6 - Socially Unacceptable Behaviour

Children and families whose need for services arise primarily out of their children’s behaviour impacting detrimentally on the community.

7 - Low Income

Children, living in families or independently, whose needs arise mainly from being dependant on an income below the standard state entitlements

8 - Absent Parenting

Children whose need for services arises mainly from having no parents available to provide for them.

9 – Cases Other than Children in Need

Casework which is required for legal and administrative reasons only and there is no child in the case who is in need.

* Note that not all disabled children in need have a “Need” Code of ‘disability’.

Table 1 Children reported on the CIN database based on a sample week in February 2000

	England						Numbers and Percentages	
	Children Looked After		Children Supported in Families or Independently		Total Children in Need			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
No activity in the census week	5,000	8	145,000	46	150,000	39		
Some activity in census week	59,000	92	172,500	54	231,500	61		
Total	64,000		317,500		381,500			

Table 2 Children reported on the CIN database: active and inactive cases based on a sample week in February 2000

	England						Numbers and Percentages	
	Activity in week		No activity in week		Total			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
Children Looked After	59,000	25	5,000	4	64,000	17		
Children Supported in Families or Independently	172,500	75	145,000	96	317,500	83		
Total	231,500		150,000		381,500			

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 3 Total weekly costs as reported on the CIN database based on a sample week in February 2000

England	£ millions					
	<u>Children Looked After</u>		<u>Children Supported in Families or Independently</u>		<u>Total Children in Need</u>	
	<u>Amount (£m)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amount (£m)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amount (£m)</u>	<u>%</u>
Costed staff / centre time	5.9	23	10.7	70	16.6	41
Ongoing costs	19.1	75	3.8	23	22.6	55
One-off costs	0.5	2	1.1	7	1.6	4
Total costs	25.5		15.3		40.9	

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Analysis of Total Costs:

Total costs £40.9m of which:

Children Looked After £25.5m (62%)

Other Children in Need £15.3m (38%)

Table 4 Children in Need: Time spent with teams or at centres

England	Numbers and Hours		
	<u>Children Looked After</u>	<u>Children Supported in Families or Independently</u>	<u>Total Children in Need</u>
Number of children receiving services in week	59,000	172,000	231,000
Number of hours provided in week by teams/centres	254,000	492,000	746,000
<i>Average hours seen per week</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>3.2</i>

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Analysis of total time (hours):

Children Looked After 254,000 (34%)

Other Children in Need 492,000 (66%)

Table 5 Average cost (£ per week) per child receiving a service based on a sample week in February 2000

England	£ per week		
	<u>Children Looked After</u>	<u>Children Supported in Families or Independently</u>	<u>Total Children in Need</u>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Costed staff / centre time	100	60	70
Ongoing costs	325	20	100
One-off costs	10	5	5
Total costs	435	85	175

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 6 Intake/referral, Initial and Ongoing work

England		Numbers; Hours; Percentages					
	<u>Intake / Referral</u>		<u>Initial Work</u>		<u>Ongoing Work</u>		
Children	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	
Children Looked After	2,100	10	3,200	15	45,500	25	
Children Supported in Families or Independently	18,500	90	19,000	85	133,300	75	
Total	20,500		22,200		178,800		
Staff / centre hours	<u>Intake / Referral</u>		<u>Initial Work</u>		<u>Ongoing Work</u>		
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	
Children Looked After	2,400	12	8,000	19	243,200	36	
Children Supported in Families or Independently	18,200	88	34,900	81	439,100	64	
Total	20,700		42,900		682,300		
<i>Average hours of work per child per week</i>	<u>Intake / Referral</u>		<u>Initial Work</u>		<u>Ongoing Work</u>		
Children Looked After		1.2		2.5		5.3	
Children Supported in Families or Independently		1.0		1.8		3.3	
Total		1.0		1.9		3.8	

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

A child may appear in more than one category during the week.

Table 7 Distribution of children by need code based on a sample week in February 2000

England		Numbers and Percentages					
Need code	<u>Children Looked After</u>		<u>Children Supported in Families or Independently</u>		<u>Total Children in Need</u>		
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	
Abuse or neglect	32,700	56	47,900	28	80,600	35	
Disability	6,000	10	24,600	14	30,600	13	
Parental illness or disability	3,400	6	10,700	6	14,100	6	
Family in acute stress	2,600	4	24,000	14	26,600	11	
Family dysfunction	7,000	12	24,200	14	31,100	13	
Socially unacceptable behaviour	2,400	4	11,700	7	14,000	6	
Low income	300	1	14,000	8	14,300	6	
Absent parenting	2,800	5	4,500	3	7,400	3	
Cases other than CIN	1,700	3	11,000	6	12,700	5	
Total	58,900		172,500		231,500		

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 8 Expenditure on children by need code based on a sample week in February 2000

England					£ millions
Need code	Costed staff / centre time	Ongoing Costs	One-off costs	Total	%
Abuse or neglect	7.1	10.1	0.4	17.6	43
Disability	2.1	2.8	0.2	5.1	12
Parental illness or disability	1.1	0.9	0.1	2.1	5
Family in acute stress	1.6	1.1	0.1	2.8	7
Family dysfunction	2.2	2.8	0.1	5.1	12
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1.3	2.0	0.1	3.3	8
Low income	0.3	0.8	0.4	1.6	4
Absent parenting	0.4	1.3	0.1	1.7	4
Cases other than CIN	0.6	0.8	0.1	1.4	4
Total	16.6	22.6	1.6	40.9	

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 9 Age distribution of children served; based on a sample week in February 2000

	England						Numbers and Percentages					
	<u>Children Looked After</u>		<u>Children Supported in Families or Independently</u>				<u>Total Children in Need</u>					
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>				
Under 1	2,100	4	10,900	6	13,100	6						
Between 1 and 2	2,200	4	9,800	6	12,000	5						
Between 2 and 3	2,200	4	13,500	8	15,700	7						
Between 3 and 4	2,300	4	13,100	8	15,400	7						
Between 4 and 5	2,400	4	9,200	5	11,500	5						
Between 5 and 6	2,500	4	7,600	4	10,100	4						
Between 6 and 7	2,500	4	7,600	4	10,100	4						
Between 7 and 8	2,700	5	7,700	4	10,400	5						
Between 8 and 9	2,900	5	7,600	4	10,500	5						
Between 9 and 10	3,100	5	7,800	5	10,900	5						
Between 10 and 11	3,300	6	7,800	5	11,100	5						
Between 11 and 12	3,500	6	7,600	4	11,100	5						
Between 12 and 13	3,700	6	7,600	4	11,300	5						
Between 13 and 14	4,100	7	8,300	5	12,400	5						
Between 14 and 15	4,800	8	8,900	5	13,600	6						
Between 15 and 16	5,700	10	9,100	5	14,800	6						
Between 16 and 17	4,600	8	8,400	5	13,000	6						
Between 17 and 18	3,400	6	7,100	4	10,500	5						
18 and over	700	1	8,000	5	9,400	4						
Not stated	300	1	4,900	3	4,600	2						
Total	59,000		172,500		231,500							

*These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.
 Figures may not add due to rounding.*

Table 10 Summary distribution of children by ethnic category based on a sample week in February 2000

	England						Numbers and Percentages	
	<u>Children Looked After</u>		<u>Children Supported in Families or Independently</u>		<u>Total Children in Need</u>			
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>		
White	48,300	82	122,100	71	170,400	74		
Minority ethnic	8,300	14	29,100	17	37,500	16		
Not Stated	2,200	4	21,300	12	23,400	10		
Total	59,000		172,500		231,500			

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 11 Ethnic distribution of children served; based on a sample week in February 2000

	England						Numbers and Percentages	
	<u>Children Looked After</u>		<u>Children Supported in Families or Independently</u>		<u>Total Children in Need</u>			
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>		
White British	45,900	78	113,700	66	159,600	69		
White Irish	600	1	1,100	1	1,700	1		
Other White	1,800	3	7,400	4	9,200	4		
White and Black Caribbean	1,300	2	2,300	1	3,500	2		
White and Black African	200	.	600	.	800	.		
White and Asian	500	1	900	1	1,300	1		
Other Mixed	1,300	2	2,300	1	3,700	2		
Indian	300	.	1,500	1	1,800	1		
Pakistani	400	1	2,700	2	3,100	1		
Bangladeshi	200	.	1,000	1	1,100	.		
Other Asian	200	.	1,500	1	1,800	1		
Caribbean	1,400	2	3,100	2	4,500	2		
African	1,200	2	5,400	3	6,500	3		
Other Black	700	1	2,100	1	2,800	1		
Chinese	100	.	200	.	300	.		
Other Ethnic Group	700	1	5,600	3	6,300	3		
Not Stated	2,200	4	21,300	12	23,400	10		

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 12 Disabled children receiving a service based on a sample week in February 2000

England	Numbers and Percentages		
	<u>Children Looked After</u>	<u>Children Supported in Families or Independently</u>	<u>Total Children in Need</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
Total children in need receiving services in week	59,000	172,500	231,500
Of which disabled children in need	8,000	21,000	29,000
% of disabled children in need	13	12	12

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 13 Comparative spend on disabled children based on a sample week in February 2000

England	£ millions		
	<u>Total expenditure on children in need</u>	<u>Expenditure on disabled children</u>	<u>% spent on disabled children</u>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
Costed staff / centre time	16.6	2.3	14
Ongoing costs	22.6	3.6	16
One-off costs	1.6	.	.
Total costs	40.9	5.9	14

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 14 **Distribution of disabled children by need code based on a sample week in February 2000**

England		Numbers and Percentages					
Need code	Disabled Children Looked After		Disabled Children Supported in Families or Independently		Total Disabled Children in Need		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Abuse or neglect	2,000	25	1,450	7	3,450	12	
Disability	4,800	61	16,850	81	21,650	75	
Parental illness or disability	150	2	400	2	550	2	
Family in acute stress	200	2	650	3	850	3	
Family dysfunction	400	5	750	4	1,200	4	
Socially unacceptable behaviour	150	2	450	2	600	2	
Low income	.	0	100	0	100	0	
Absent parenting	50	1	50	0	100	0	
Cases other than CIN	50	1	200	1	250	1	
Total	7,800		20,900		28,750		

These figures are estimates based upon the actual figures received from 137 Local Authorities.

Figures may not add due to rounding.