









# Exception Report CYPS

# APPENDIX 2

NI 59	Percentage of initial assessments for children’s social care carried out within 7 working days of referral					
This process indicator is included as a proxy as robust data is not available for outcomes of improved child safety. Initial assessments are an important indicator of how quickly services can respond when a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm. As the assessments involve a range of local agencies, this indicator would also show how well multi-agency working arrangements are established in local authority areas.						
<b>YTD Value – 09/10</b>		<b>Target – 09/10</b>				<b>Red</b>
19%		53%				
The low percentage of initial assessments completed in timescale in April and May is a result of a number of issues including an increased focus on ensuring that the quality of assessments being completed is to a high standard and the completion of a number of out of timescale, outstanding assessments. We anticipate that performance for June will also be poor as we continue the work to deal with all outstanding work in the service. We expect that thereafter a more accurate measure of future performance will be arrived at.						
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NI 60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement		
<p>The indicator measures the percentage of core assessments which were completed within 35 working days. Core assessments are in-depth assessments of a child, or children, and their family, as defined in the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families. They are also the means by which section 47 (child protection) enquiries are undertaken following a strategy discussion. The Assessment Framework specifies that core assessments should be completed within 35 working days. It is important that local authorities should investigate and address concerns in a timely and efficient way, and that those in receipt of an assessment have a clear idea of how quickly this should be completed. Successful meeting of the timescales can also indicate effective joint working where multi-agency assessment is required.</p>			
<b>YTD Value - 09/10</b>		<b>Target - 09/10</b>	
29%		63%	
			
<b>Red</b>			
<p>The low percentage of core assessments completed in timescale in April and May is a result of a number of issues including an increased focus on ensuring that the quality of assessments being completed is to a high standard and the completion of a number of out of timescale, outstanding assessments. We anticipate that performance for June will also be poor as we continue the work to deal with all outstanding work in the service. We expect that thereafter a more accurate measure of future performance will be arrived at.</p>			
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NI 62 [BV49]	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves		
<p>This indicator is an important measure of the stability of care that a child has experienced. On the whole stability is associated with better outcomes – placement instability was highlighted by the Social Exclusion Unit as a key barrier to improving educational outcomes. Proper assessment of a child’s needs and an adequate choice of placements to meet the varied needs of different children are essential if appropriate stable placements are to be made. Inappropriate placements often break down and lead to frequent moves. The circumstances of some individual children will require 3 or more separate placements during a year if they and others are to be kept safe, but the variation between local authorities’ performance in this area suggests that more can be done in many areas to reduce the number of moves.</p>			
	<b>YTD Value – 09/10</b>	<b>Target – 09/10</b>	
	13.9%	11.0%	  <b>Red</b>
<p>The year to date position is based on the 12 months to the end of May 09.4 children have moved 3 or more times since April 09 (0.8%).</p>			
	