

Indicator specification:

PLDR collection of population health indicators

Finance Indicators: Local Authority Finance
(FIN_07_52U)



Version: 1.02

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Overview

Indicator title

Local Authority Finance: Children's and Young People's Services (s251) - Children Looked After Services (FIN_07_52U)

Indicator family name

Local Authority Finance

Summary

The Children's and Young People's services indicators are derived from the Section 251 (s251) revenue outturn expenditure. This indicator describes how much Local Authorities in England spent in Children Looked After Services annually since 2008.

Technical description

The Children's and Young People's Services expenditure indicators are derived from the Section 251 (s251) Table A1 revenue outturn expenditure. Total values regarding Children Looked After Services have been identified and aggregated from the relevant datasets. Spending amounts are categorised in Own Provision, Private, Other Public and Voluntary Provision. Total values presented in this indicator report the Total (Gross) Expenditure, i.e. the sum of the above, and the Total Net Expenditure, i.e. the gross total minus the income generated through services. Values are presented on the basis of financial years, i.e. from April 1st to March 31st. Spending figures regard Upper Tier Local Authorities. Figures from historic LA geography have been referenced to the 2018 LA geography. This includes changes in name/codes, merges, or splits of old LAs to new LAs based on population ratios for that year. Note that values were not adjusted for inflation.

Unique Identifier

FIN_07_52U

Construction

Data sources

Education and Children's Social Care Expenditure are published annually by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (previously Education Funding Agency). The collection of datasets provides annual outturn information about types and sources of spending regarding Education and Children's Social Care for every Local Authority in England under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act, 2009. Recent datasets can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/section-251-materials>. For this indicator, Table A1 "Children's and Young People's Services" was used.

Construction of LA-level data

Figures from historic LA geography have been referenced to the 2018 LA geography. This includes changes in name/codes, merges, or splits of old LAs to new LAs based on population ratios for that year. For instance, after 2009 the (upper tier) Cheshire County Council and the (lower tier) 6 Cheshire Local Authority Districts were abolished and replaced by two new Unitary Authorities, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. In order to calculate the “would-be” Cheshire East’s s251 spending figures in 2008, values for the 3 of the 6 historic districts that formed Cheshire East as well as 47.28% of the historical Cheshire County spending were aggregated.

Construction of Spending Categories

Spending categories of s251 datasets follow the most recent 2018/2019 “Report Group” spending type. The 7 spending groups are as follows:

- Sure Start Children's Centres and Early Years Services
- Children Looked After Services
- Other Children and Families Services
- Safeguarding Children and Young People's Services
- Family Support Services
- Services for Young People
- Youth Justice

Earlier years’ (2008-2010) expenditures were categorized based on a “best fit” scenario, where each sub-category of spending (“line codes”) were assigned to the above group spending types. Values from each sub-category were then aggregated in order to obtain total values for the above spending groups. Some years do not provide “Income” figures, so the Total Net current Expenditure is also NA (use Total Gross instead). Note that the year 2008/2009 does not provide a spending category for “Other Public” and as such observations were assigned a NA value.

Presentation

Breakdowns

Time period

Financial year (April 1st to March 31st) data: 2008/2009 to 2018/2019.

Geography

Upper Tier Local Authorities (2018 reference).

Coverage

England.

Disclosure control

This indicator has been produced using only publicly available datasets.

Output FIN_07_52U.csv

Column name	Description
Year	Start of financial year, i.e. "2015" refers to the financial year "2015/16".
UTLA18CD	Upper Tier Local Authority Code.
UTLA18NM	Upper Tier Local Authority Name.
OwnProvision	Amount of LA spending (£) regarding in-house provision of services.
PrivateProvision	Amount of LA spending (£) regarding private sector provision of services.
OtherPublic	Amount of LA spending (£) regarding other public sector provision of services.
Voluntary	Amount of LA spending (£) regarding voluntary provision of services.
TotalExpenditure	The total (gross) annual expenditure (£) made by an LA for the provision of Children Looked After Services (i.e. the sum of Own, Private, Other Public and Voluntary sector service provision expenditures).
Income	Total income generated through delivering services, such as sales, fees or charges.
NetCurrentExpenditure	The total (net) annual expenditure (£) made by an LA for the provision of Children Looked After Services (i.e. the Total Gross Expenditure minus the Income).

Revision history

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1.02	October 2020	Updated data to 2018-2019
1.01	May 2020	Minor adjustments to presentation
1.00	Aug 2019	First release