

Flying Start, summary statistics 2016-17

19 July 2017
SFR 75/2017

[Flying Start](#) is the Welsh Government targeted Early Years programme for families with children under 4 years of age in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Wales. The Welsh Government began collecting routine management data from the Flying Start programme during 2012-13. During 2013-14 and 2014-15 there was an expansion of the programme into additional areas.



37,628

children

benefited from
Flying Start services
in Wales at any time
in 2016-17

Since the last annual statistical release was issued, a termly update, providing unvalidated key management information for Wales only, has been published. The purpose of these termly updates is to enable in-year high level monitoring of the programme. The data published is felt to be of sufficient value at a Wales level to be presented, but local authority data continue to be validated throughout the year and are only included in this annual statistical release.

Some additional analysis has been added in 2017 showing the number of babies born to mothers resident in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas along with what proportion of those babies were receiving breast milk at 10 days old.

About this release

This statistical release provides key statistics from the Flying Start programme for each of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales. This annual series presents statistics from the management information set, for example, the numbers of children using Flying Start services, together with statistics about outcomes for Flying Start children. It aims to provide the evidence needed to inform policy development, as well as providing data to Local Authorities for monitoring, benchmarking and improvement and information for the wider public.

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Key points

- 37,628 children benefited from, that is, were in receipt of Flying Start services in Wales at any time in 2016-17, exceeding the expected numbers by 4 per cent, but showing a 2 per cent fall on the number of children in receipt of services in 2015-16 (38,269).
- Flying Start children (on the health visitor caseload) of all ages up to age 4 were seen an average of 7.0 times during 2016-17 by health visitors and members of the wider health team, slightly less than in 2015-16 (7.4 contacts per child).
- 88 per cent of offers of childcare in a Flying Start childcare setting were taken up during 2016-17, a small rise since 2015-16 (86 per cent).
- 83 per cent of children in all Flying Start areas (i.e. pre-expansion areas *and* expansion areas) reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms¹ at age 2 years while 55 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age, a small increase since 2015-16 (82 per cent and 53 per cent respectively).
- 81 per cent of children in all Flying Start areas (i.e. pre-expansion areas *and* expansion areas) reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms¹ at age 3 years while 51 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age, a slight decrease since 2015-16 (82 per cent and 51 per cent respectively).
- There was a small decrease in the percentage of children assessed in the recommended age window, i.e. within a window of one month of their 2nd or 3rd birthdays.
- 94 per cent of children aged 3 and living in Flying Start areas were on roll at a maintained school (2016), a small increase from 93 per cent in 2015.
- 34 per cent of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start areas were fed any breast milk at 10 days old, compared to 49 per cent of those in non-Flying Start areas (2015)
- 82 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas were fully immunised by their 4th birthday (2016-17), a slight decrease from 83 per cent in 2015-16.
- Flying Start areas have a lower prevalence (71 per cent) of healthy weight² children than non-Flying Start areas (75 per cent) (2014/15 and 2015/16).

¹ For further information on developmental assessment please see notes on page 55.

² Includes a very small number of underweight children: see notes on page 59.

The Flying Start programme

Flying Start is one of the Welsh Government's top priorities. The Welsh Government is committed to doubling the number of children and their families benefiting from the Flying Start programme from 18,000 to 36,000 by 2016.

Key aspects of [Flying Start](#) are:

- free part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds
- an enhanced Health Visiting service (where the Health Visitor caseload is capped at 110 children)
- access to Parenting support
- access to Speech, Language and Communication support (previously described as Early Language Development).

These services are universally available to all children aged under 4 years and their families in the areas in which the programme runs. More details of the services provided can be found on the [Welsh Government website](#).

Flying Start targets the most disadvantaged areas in Wales. The programme has been targeted to areas according to measures of relative disadvantage including the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), free school meals and the proportions of children aged under 4 years living in households in receipt of income related benefits. The programme is managed by a team in each local authority with monitoring and support provided by Welsh Government Account Managers allocated to a number of local authorities. Further information about the role of Account Managers is given in the [Data Quality](#) section of the Key Quality Information on page 62.

A series of reports from the [National Evaluation of Flying Start](#) were published at the start of 2014.

More information about how Flying Start areas are chosen is provided under [Key Quality Information](#) on page 52.

Expansion of the programme

The area covered by the programme expanded into additional areas between 2012-13 and 2015-16 with small expansions of the programme occurring in 2012-13 and 2015-16 and major expansions during 2013-14 and 2014-15. No further expansion took place in 2016-17. The expectation was that the number of children benefitting from the programme by the end of 2015-16 would be 36,000, but this figure was in fact met by the end of 2014-15. Map 1 on page 9 shows the areas, based on postcodes, targeted as recipients of Flying Start funding, as at 31 March 2016, that is, at the end of the period of expansion. A map of pre-expansion postcodes (as at 31 March 2012) is included on page 51.

Sources of data for Flying Start

Management information:

A number of key statistics for the programme have been derived from the Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return. This data collection was established during 2012 and early 2013 in collaboration with Flying Start coordinators for the purpose of providing information with which to manage the programme. The first data was provided to Welsh Government for 2012-13.

Selected basic counts from the data monitoring dataset are presented in Tables 1-3 starting on page 36 and key analyses shown in sections 1 to 3 below. The data monitoring dataset is also the source of statistics presented in section 4 on parenting and speech, language and communication and in section 5 on child development.

It should be noted that figures for local authorities can fluctuate substantially from year to year. There may be a number of reasons for this, including the transient nature of the programme population which may be more of an issue in some areas than others.

Pre-expansion and expansion

Since 2013-14 management data has been collected for some aspects of the programme separately for pre-expansion areas and for expansion areas. Where a split is not available the addition of the expansion areas into the statistics should be considered when interpreting the data. The release takes account of expansion in the following way:

1. It has not been possible to split the number of children benefiting, the caseload counts, contacts or take-up of childcare places between pre-expansion and expansion areas. This should be noted when making comparisons between statistics for the current and previous years. However information on the numbers of children who have been offered childcare places in the pre-expansion and expansion areas was collected.
2. Assessment data has been collected separately for pre-expansion areas and expansion areas and these are presented separately with the pre-expansion areas being compared with statistics from previous years.

In some local authorities, during the expansion period, delays in recruitment and retention of health visitors and in establishing new childcare settings were an issue and it is likely that the statistics for these years were impacted by this. Recruitment continues to be challenging in some areas.

Local authority programme sizes

Note that, although every local authority in Wales has a Flying Start programme, they vary substantially in terms of the absolute numbers of children in receipt of services. Users should note the effect of this distribution on the statistics. Where a large absolute number and proportion of Flying Start children are concentrated in specific local authorities (such as Cardiff which has 14 per cent of the Wales caseload) trends in these areas can have a disproportionate impact on the all-Wales figures.

Local authorities where the programme size, in terms of caseload, is small can see greater fluctuations from year to year. Many of the areas with small caseloads are rural areas where there may be additional challenges relating to access and distribution of services which may impact on patterns and trends.

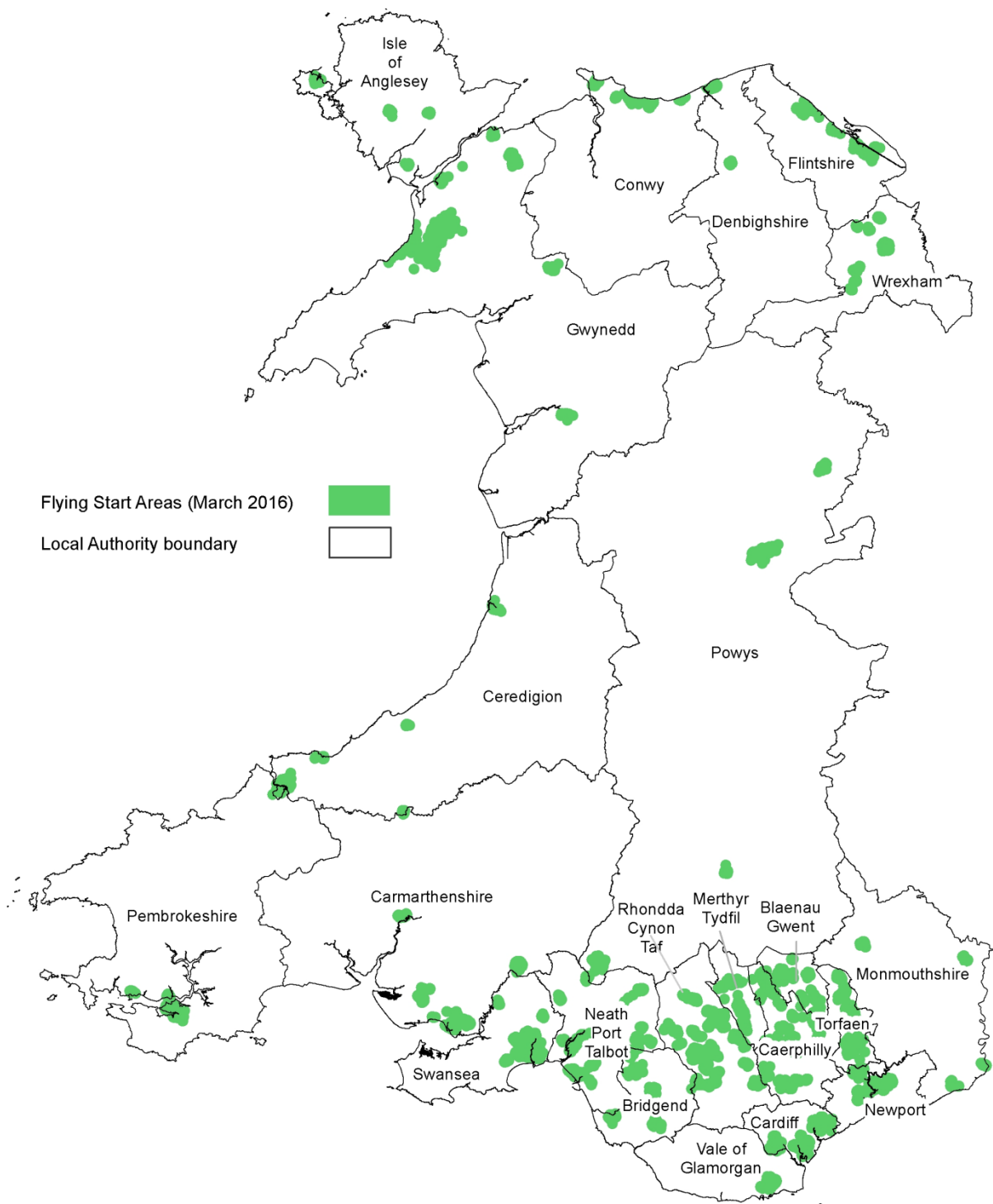
National databases

Statistics showing additional health and education outcomes for children living in Flying Start areas have been derived from national databases and are shown in sections 6,7 and 8. These analyses are area-based. Not every child in Flying Start areas may take up all or even any of the services offered. For further information on these national databases please see the [notes](#) on page 57.

Statistics are presented in a series of charts throughout the release and detailed data tables are provided in Tables 1-14 beginning on page 36. Note that percentages in the tables are rounded to the nearest whole number, but unrounded data is used in the charts.

A baseline table of data from both these sources has been included for 2012-13, on page 50.

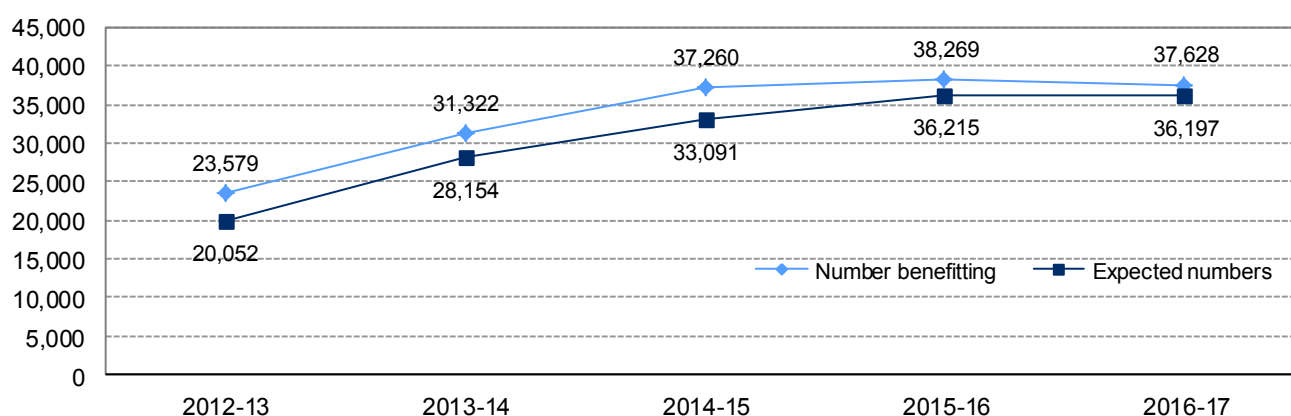
Map 1: Location of Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2016



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1. Children receiving Flying Start services

Chart 1: Number of children in Wales in receipt of Flying start services (children benefitting), 2012-13 to 2016-17

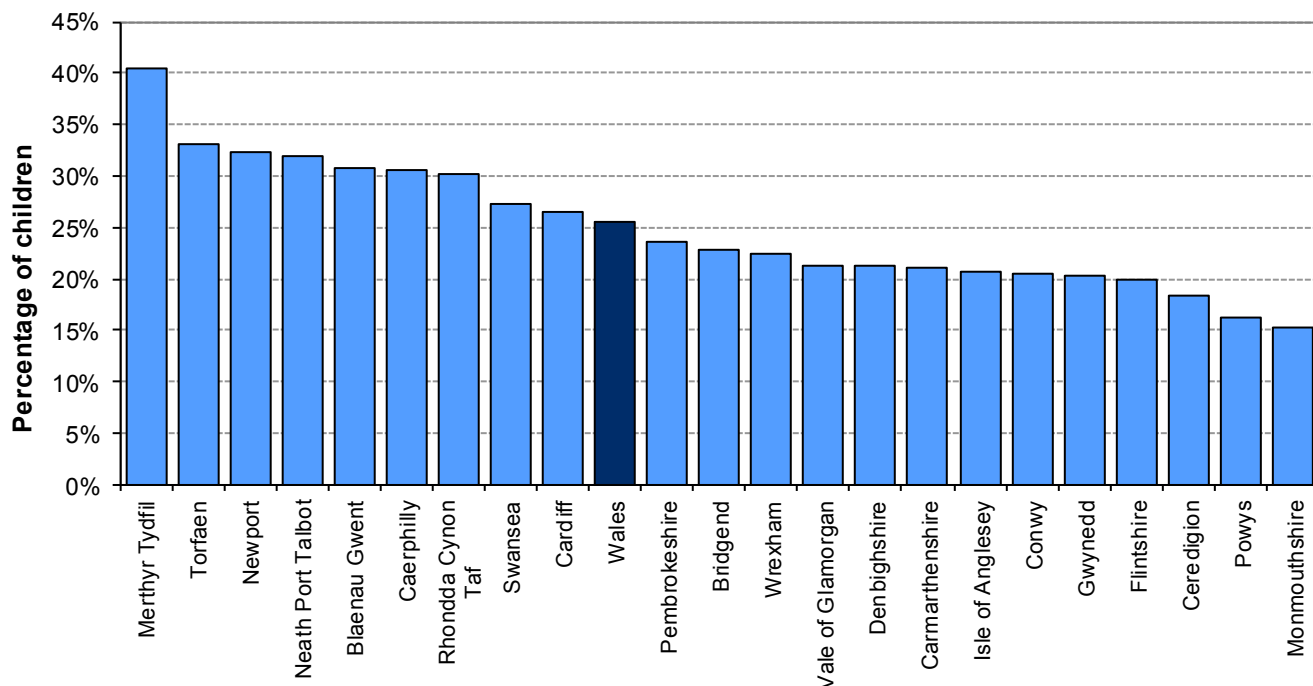


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17

- Chart 1 shows that during 2016-17 37,628 children benefited from Flying Start, that is, they were in receipt of Flying Start services in Wales (Table 1). This number was a 2 per cent fall on the number of children in receipt of services in 2015-16 (38,269) but exceeded the expected number by 4 per cent. It should be noted that the numbers of children aged under 4 years in the general population have fallen in nearly all local authorities in recent years.

The number of children benefiting from the programme is counted as the total number of children who have had a contact with a Flying Start health visitor during the year. It should be noted that children may move in or out of Flying Start areas during the year and therefore this total does not equate to the number of children who receive Flying Start services continuously from the start to the end of the year. [Table 1](#) also shows the health visitor caseload which is an average of the caseload at three points during the year. This number, 34,834 for 2016-17, is lower than the total in receipt of services at any time during the year because of movements in and out of Flying Start areas. However, it represents a better indication of the capacity of the service at any snapshot in time in 2016-17. The caseload is also used in [Chart 2](#) below.

Chart 2: Children aged under 4 on Flying Start health visitor caseloads as a percentage of all resident children aged under 4 (a) by local authority, 2016-17



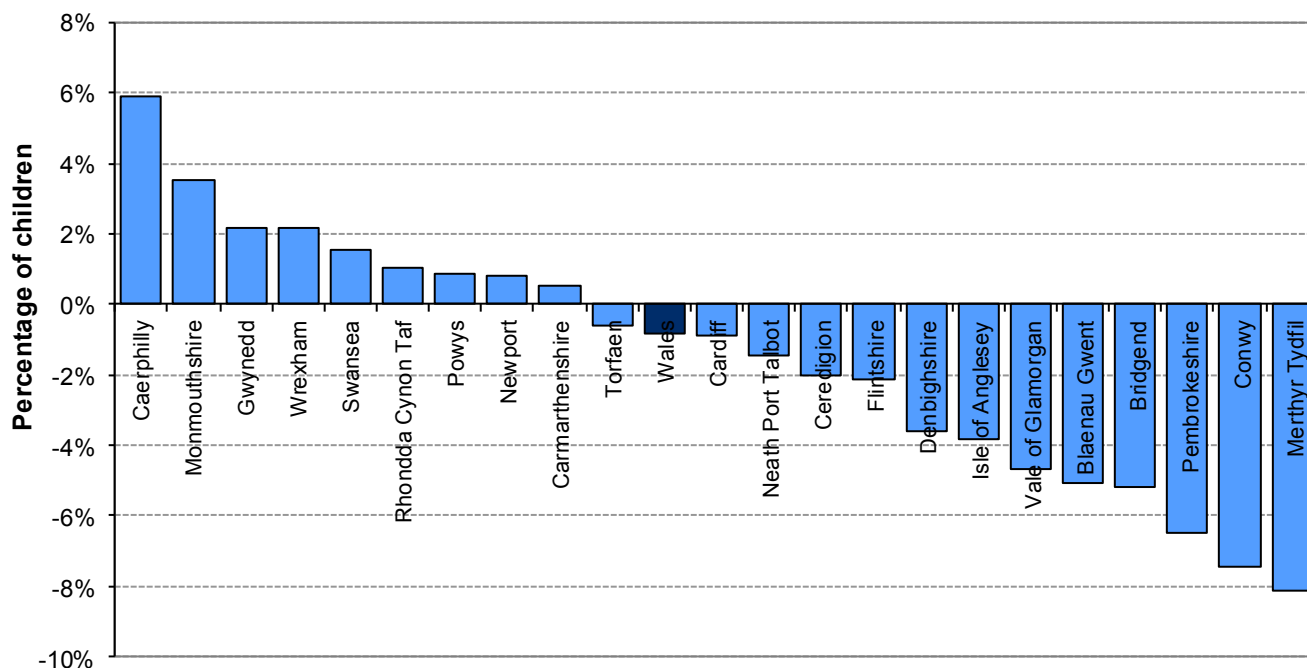
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17 (health visitor caseload)

(a) 2016 Mid Year Population Estimates, published by Office for National Statistics.

- Overall 25 per cent of children aged under 4 in Wales were on health visitor caseloads and received Flying Start services during 2016-17 (Chart 2), 1 in 4 Welsh children. This is no change since in 2015-16.
- This figure, influenced by the targeting of areas in relative need, varied from 40 per cent of children under 4 in Merthyr Tydfil to 15 per cent in Monmouthshire.

In three local authorities the caseload was greater than the number of children benefitting from Flying Start services. This may be due to the fact that some children may have been transferred in to Flying Start areas and allocated to a caseload at the end of the term when numbers were counted, but before any first health visitor contact or because of a number of Health Visitor vacancies. In some areas temporary staffing problems may also have contributed.

Chart 3: Percentage change in the number of children on Flying Start health visitor caseloads between 2015-16 and 2016-17, by local authority



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2015-16 and 2016-17 (health visitor caseload)

Chart 3 shows substantial variation between local authorities in the change in the number of children on Flying Start health visitor caseloads between 2015-16 and 2016-17, ranging between a decrease in caseload of 8 per cent in Merthyr Tydfil to an increase of 6 per cent in Caerphilly. Overall in Wales, there was a 1 per cent decrease in the number of children on Flying Start health visitor caseloads.

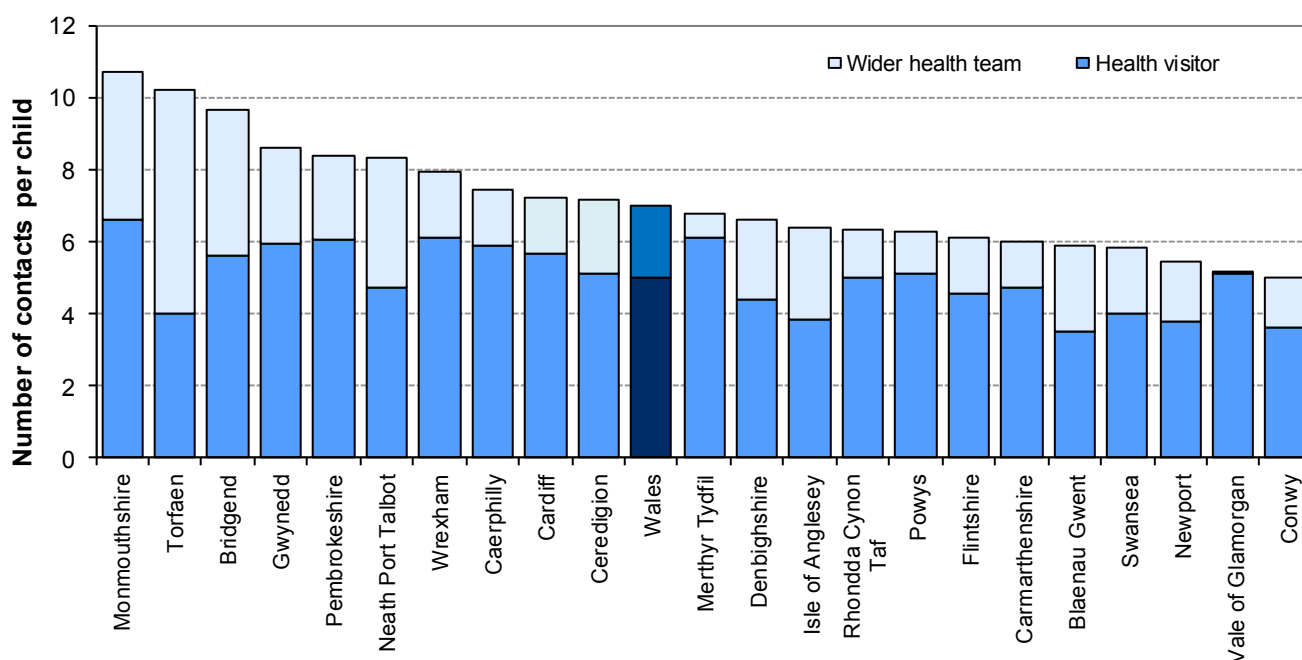
Note: During 2016-17 there were a few issues with recruiting and retaining health visitors within the Flying Start programme across some Local Authority areas. These issues are mainly due to the programme significantly increasing the number of health visitors needed in Wales over recent years. Welsh Government continues to work closely with Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to manage health visitor vacancies, and to ensure that an enhanced health programme of support can continue to be offered to all families living in Flying Start areas. Welsh Government are also working closely with Local Authorities and Local Health Board to ensure there is appropriate recruitment to, and training of, the health visiting workforce to meet the needs of both the generic and Flying Start health visiting services. Also some areas have a high level of transiency, making it likely that some children would have transferred out of Flying Start areas at some point during the year, and potentially before the first contact by a health visitor. Falling numbers of young children in some authorities may have also affected caseloads.

Key elements of the Flying Start Programme

2. Flying Start health visiting service

An enhanced health visiting service is one of the four key elements of the programme, with Flying Start health visitors having a significantly reduced caseload compared to the generic service. The programme requires a ratio of one full-time equivalent health visitor per 110 children aged under 4 in Flying Start areas and this is designed to enable them to ensure more regular contact with, and delivery of intensive support to Flying Start children and their families. The primary function of the Flying Start health visitor is to support the family in the home, assessing both the child (using an appropriate Welsh Government approved developmental assessment tool), and the family (in terms of high, medium and low risk). Particular emphasis is placed on working with the most vulnerable groups including teenage parents, those who are victims of, or may be at risk of domestic abuse and pre/post natal depression. The health team works in partnership with parents and other professionals to ensure that there is a planned and co-ordinated approach to service delivery prior to a child's birth through to their fourth birthday.

Chart 4: Number of contacts (a) per child during the year by Flying Start health visitor and wider health team (b), by local authority, 2016-17



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2015-16

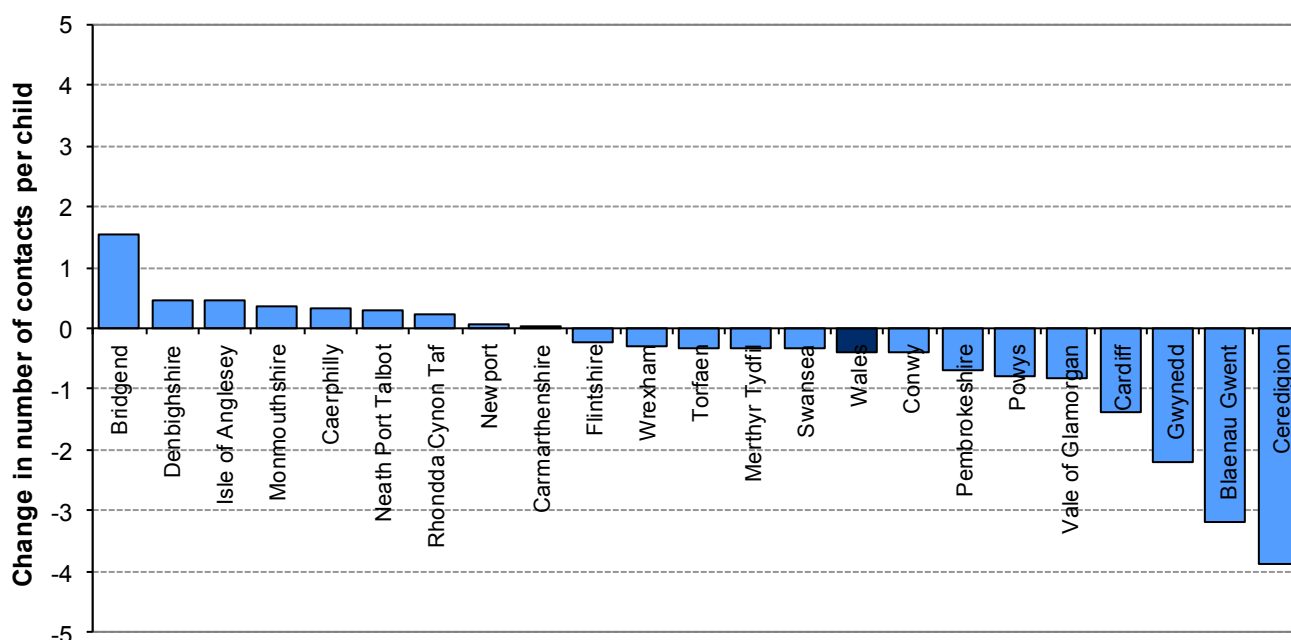
- (a) Face-to-face contact by a health visitor or wider health team member in the financial year.
 (b) "Wider health team" may include a mix of any the following professionals - dieticians, midwives, clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, community nursery nurses, social workers and others.

- Flying Start children of all ages up to age 4 on the health visitor caseload were seen an average of 5.0 times during 2016-17 by health visitors and a further 2.0 times by members of the wider health team, a slight decrease on 2015-16 (Chart 4 and [Table 2](#)). Flying Start health visitor caseloads are capped at 110 children whereas health visitors working outside Flying Start may have up to 350 children on their caseloads.

- Chart 4 shows substantial variation between local authorities. Some of this may reflect relative need, variation in length or type of contacts or the age profile of the children in specific areas.
- The balance of health visitor and wider team contacts also varies. This is likely to be related to variations in need; the availability of health and care professionals and differences in the delivery models applied in each area.

The people involved in the 'wider health team' will vary between local authorities according to local management decisions.

Chart 5: Change in number of contacts (a) per child between 2015-16 and 2016-17 by Flying Start health visitor and wider health team (b), by local authority



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2015-16 and 2016-17

- (a) Face-to-face contact by a health visitor or wider health team member in the financial year.
 (b) "Wider health team" may include a mix of any the following professionals - dietitians, midwives, clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, community nursery nurses, social workers and others.

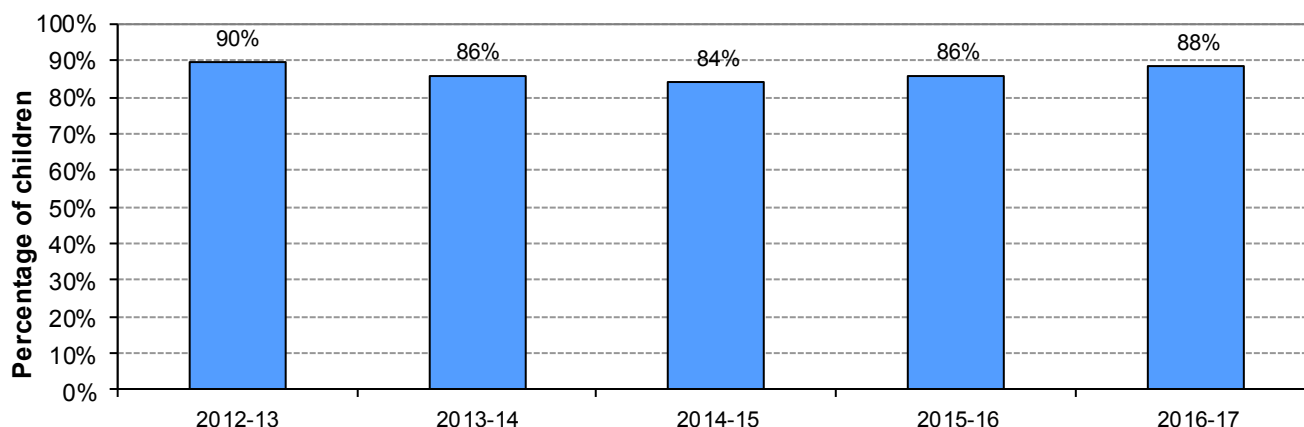
- Chart 5 shows the net change in the number of contacts per child (whether with the health visitor or the wider health team) between 2015-16 and 2016-17. Nearly three-fifths (13) of all local authorities showed a decline in the total number of contacts made by either a health visitor or by a member of the wider team (compared to more than three-quarters last year), with 9 local authorities increasing. Ceredigion had the greatest decrease over the period (4 fewer contacts per child) compared to the previous year in which it had seen one of the greatest increases. Bridgend saw the greatest increase (2 contacts per child). However it is worth noting that these local authority level statistics fluctuate greatly from year to year.

([Table 2](#))

- The balance of health visitor and wider health contacts has also changed in some cases.

3. Childcare

Chart 6: Percentage of children taking up (a) Flying Start-provided childcare, Wales, 2012-13 to 2016-17

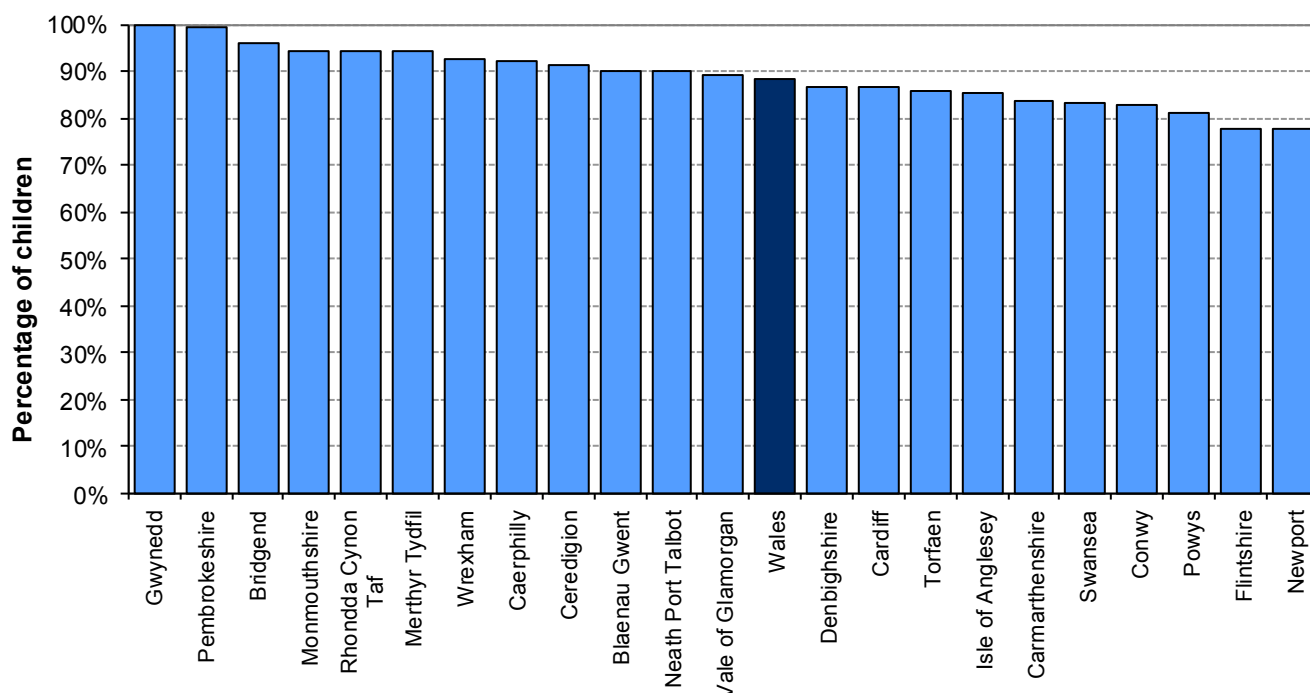


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17

- (a) 'Take up' refers to whether the offer of childcare is accepted regardless of whether or not the child subsequently attends childcare.
- The percentage of children taking up Flying Start-provided childcare fell for the first 3 years of the programme but has improved in the most recent years (Chart 6).

The provision of high quality, part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds is integral to the Flying Start programme. Children are able to access the entitlement from the beginning of the term following their second birthday to the end of the term in which they have their third birthday. The core Flying Start childcare offer is that quality childcare is offered to parents of all eligible 2-3 year olds for 2 ½ hours a day, 5 days a week for 39 weeks. In addition, there should be at least 15 sessions of provision for the family during the school holidays. A family can choose to take up either the full offer or a reduced offer, if only some of the sessions are needed. Flying Start childcare focuses on improving the outcomes for young children in preparation for school and so the childcare offer should be linked to Foundation Phase entry into schools to ensure a seamless transition between the two offers with no gaps in provision. The programme guidance states that flexibility may be required for working parents when allocating childcare.

Chart 7: Number of full or reduced offers of Flying Start-provided childcare taken up (a) as a percentage of offers made to newly eligible children, by local authority, 2016-17



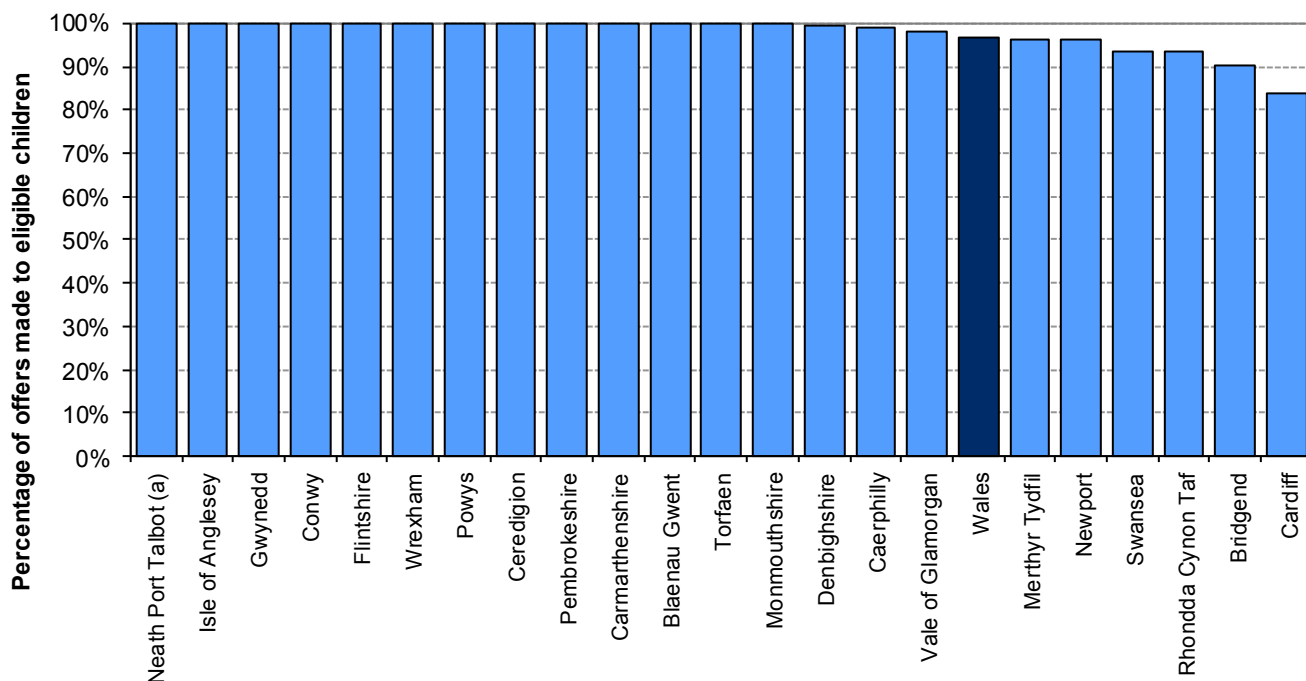
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17

(a) 'Take up' refers to whether the offer of childcare is accepted regardless of whether or not the child subsequently attends childcare.

Chart 7 illustrates childcare take-up for 2016-17. 2012-13 data is shown in Baseline Table: Key data for 2012-13 on page 50.

- It shows that overall 88 per cent of full or reduced offers of childcare in a Flying Start childcare setting were taken up, a 2 percentage point increase on the 2015-16 figure (86 per cent) and a 2 percentage point decrease on the 2012-13 figure (90 per cent). ([Chart 6](#), [Table 3](#) and [Baseline Table](#)).
- Half (11 out of 22) of all authorities had take up rates of 90 per cent or over in 2016-17, an increase since 2015-16, and the majority (17 local authorities) of take up rates had either stayed the same or risen in this period. Take up was as low as 78 per cent in Newport although this was an increase of 5 percentage points from 73 per cent in 2015-16.

Chart 8: Number of full or reduced offers of Flying Start-provided childcare made as a percentage of newly eligible children, by local authority, 2016-17



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17

(a) The number of children made full or reduced offers of childcare was greater than the total number of eligible, resulting in percentage of greater than 100% which have been adjusted to 100%. See notes on page 54.

Chart 8 shows the extent to which local authorities made offers of childcare to eligible children in 2016-17.

- In 18 local authorities offers were made to more than 95 per cent of eligible children.
- Although [Chart 7](#) showed that take-up was low in some authorities, Chart 8 shows that offers were made to all or nearly all eligible children in some of these areas e.g. Powys, Flintshire and Newport.

These statistics are based on the numbers of children, living in both pre-expansion Flying Start areas and in expansion areas, who are newly eligible during the year (and were made offers of childcare) and who take up offers of childcare. It has not been possible to split the take-up data between pre-expansion Flying Start areas and expansion areas. Also note that expanding childcare provision in new programme areas has continued to be problematic in several local authorities and rates have been affected by delays in registration of some settings. Continuing delays in the availability of new childcare settings have affected the offer rate in other local authorities. Note that not all childcare places taken up may be fully attended. For further detail of take-up and attendance please see [notes](#) on page 54.

4. Parenting and speech, language & communication

The quality of parenting and care a child receives in their early years and parental involvement in a child's development is a significant factor in ensuring positive outcomes for children.

The parenting offer is based on the following three themes:

- Perinatal and support in the early years;
- Early intervention approaches to supporting vulnerable parents; and
- Programmes to support parents in positive parenting.

Every family with a Flying Start child must be offered formal parenting support at least on an annual basis. In addition to the formal parenting offer, other parenting support may be delivered. This may include informal parenting support, bespoke enhanced one-to-one sessions and informal drop-in sessions, depending on need. Formal and informal structured courses are defined as those with a structured curriculum and a set start and end date. Bespoke enhanced distinct packages of support are defined as planned, time bound series of sessions, delivered on a one-to-one basis, that have been identified as a requirement via a specific referral from within the Flying Start programme in respect of parenting or speech, language and communication.

In 2016-17 across all Local Authorities:

- 4,146 places on formal structured parenting courses were offered to families with Flying Start children, 13 per cent less than in 2015-16; 84 per cent of these places were taken up.

Local authority data for formal structured courses is presented in [Table 13](#) on page 48.

As part of the Flying Start support for Speech, Language & Communication (SLC) (formerly called Early Language Development), every family in a Flying Start area should have ongoing access to an appropriate 'Language and Play' group. This aims to encourage parents to interact with their children to improve early language development. From this, a more targeted approach based on assessment and referral can be taken where there is evidence of additional need.

The SLC entitlement of Flying Start is embedded across the whole of the Flying Start programme. It is delivered specifically through language and play groups as well as through the various parenting programmes. Language and Play groups also promote parental confidence and subsequent willingness to engage with parenting and specialist support programmes. Current management information captures data for SLC alongside data for parenting under the headings of informal structured courses, enhanced packages of support and drop-in sessions. These are summarised for Wales below.

In 2016-17 across all Local Authorities:

- A further 9,358 places on informal structured parenting / SLC courses were offered, and two-thirds (67 per cent) of these places were taken up.

- 5,654 packages of enhanced one-to-one parenting / SLC or health support¹ were offered, and 37,947 parenting / SLC sessions were delivered on an informal drop-in basis.

The number of courses and sessions offered varies substantially by local authority as does the balance between formal, informal, drop-in and one-to one sessions. It is likely that the differential provision reflects local need and availability. [Table 14](#) on page 49 shows numbers of places and packages in each local authority and demonstrates the variety of local choices being made in the types of support offered. It also shows rates per 1,000 children on the health visitor caseload in order to put the numbers in the context of the local programme size; for example, Swansea offered one of the highest number of places on formal and informal structured parenting courses but the rate per 1,000 children was similar to the average for Wales. See the [notes](#) section on page 56 for more detail of parenting courses and a list of accredited formal structured courses.

¹ Some authorities deliver this service within their health workstream.

Outcomes for children in the Flying Start programme

5. Child development

The Flying Start health visitor assesses each child in receipt of Flying Start services using an appropriate Welsh Government approved developmental assessment tool. This tool assesses a child's development across seven key areas relating to movement, manipulation, visual, hearing, speech and language, and social interaction, comparing the child's progress with a norm derived from a standard reference group of children of a similar age.

Flying Start children are assessed by health visitors at age 2 and age 3 against developmental norms in seven skill areas. Ideally, children are assessed as close to the date of their 2nd and 3rd birthdays as possible, although in practice (due for example to staff absence, delays in recruitment or failure to make contact with the family at an appointed time) this is not always possible and assessments will generally take place within a month either side of the actual date of the birthday. When determining whether the child is progressing normally, the health visitors will compare the child's performance against an age banded scale and will usually consider the child to be progressing normally if they are assessed as being within one age band below the developmental norm relevant to the child's actual age at the time of assessment in all seven skill areas. There is a wide scope for professional judgement to be applied in this process, for example in interpreting the results for each of the seven skill areas in relation to the actual age of the child at the time of assessment, and the health visitor will apply this professional judgement in determining whether the child is progressing normally or whether additional support is required.

The results presented here are based on counting children as follows:

- Reached or exceeded milestones: children who were at or exceeded the developmental milestones in **all** of the seven skill areas
- Within one age band of milestones: children who were within one age band of developmental milestones in one or more (or all) of the skill areas but have reached or exceeded milestones in the others
- More than one age band below milestones: children who, in at least one of the skill areas, were more than one age band below milestones.

Outside Flying Start areas Local Health Boards carry out assessments as clinically indicated using a common tool and according to pathways determined by the Healthy Child Wales Programme. Therefore whilst statistics can be presented relative to the norm in the Flying Start areas, it is not currently possible to draw comparisons with children living in non-Flying Start areas.

In order to compare like areas over the years of the programme's expansion, the first section below compares assessments of children living in the pre-expansion areas between 2012-13 and 2016-17. Assessments for children living in the expansion areas are reported on separately in the second section below. During the phase of expansion in these new programme areas there may have been reasons why the children assessed were different from the children already in the programme e.g.

more children may have been assessed late, or maybe younger children or children with greater needs were assessed first. For completeness, [Table 7](#) on page 42 presents developmental assessment data across all areas (pre-expansion and expansion).

Pre-expansion areas

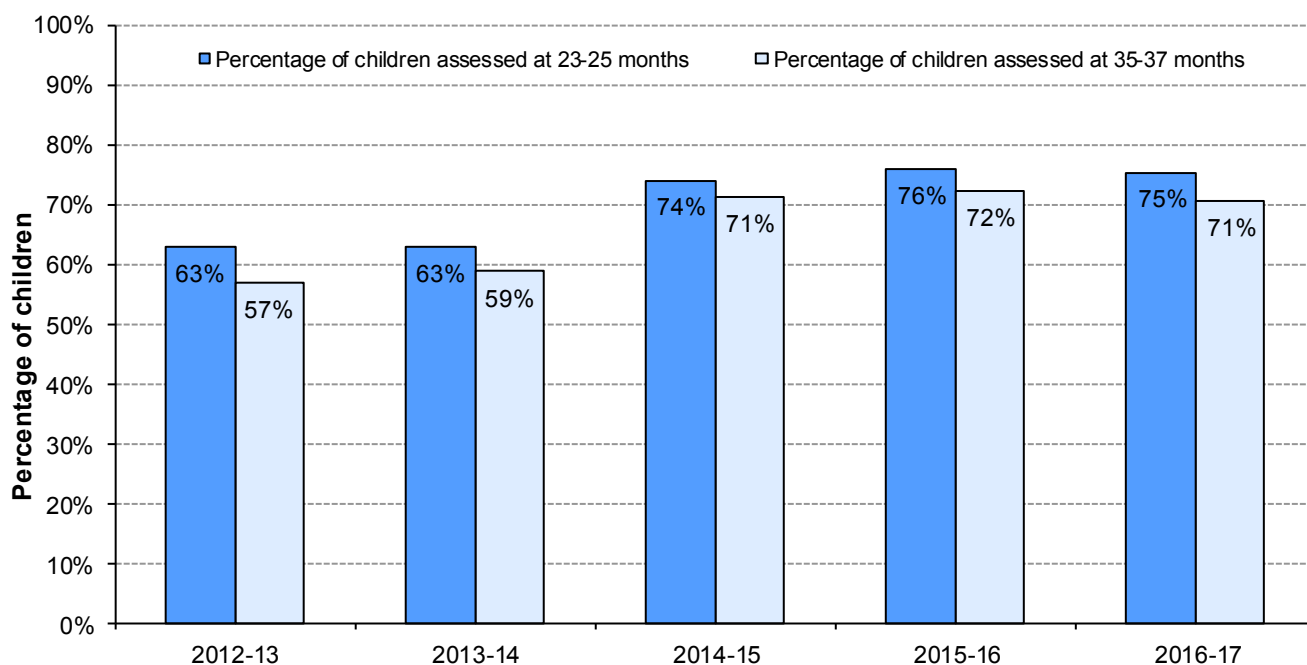
Children assessed within the recommended age window

For the analysis in this Statistical Release, only children who are assessed in the recommended age window, i.e. within a month of the 2nd or 3rd birthdays, are considered, because the norms against which the assessment is made will not be appropriate for children who are assessed late or early. Children who are assessed when they are aged between 23 and 25 months inclusive (i.e. between 23 months and 0 days and 25 months and 0 days) are considered to be assessed 'in the recommended age window', children who are assessed before they turn 23 months are considered as being assessed early, and children assessed age 25 months and 1 day or over are considered as being assessed late. For assessments made at age three, the similar boundaries are at 35 and 37 months respectively.

In 2016-17 for the pre expansion areas:

- Chart 9 shows that 75 per cent of 2 year olds and 71 per cent of 3 year olds in the Flying Start programme were assessed within the window of a month of their birthdays, a small decrease since 2015-16.

Chart 9: Percentage of children in pre-expansion Flying Start areas assessed in the recommended age window, Wales, 2012-13 to 2016-17



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17

- The same data for each local authority is shown in Table 4 and shows some significant changes over this time period within individual local authorities, with more than half of all

local authorities showing a decrease since 2015-16, for both age windows. Bridgend showed the most improvement since 2015-16 for both 2 and 3 year olds being assessed within the recommended window.

- Most (14) local authorities assessed proportionately more 2 year old children in the recommended window than 3 year old children.

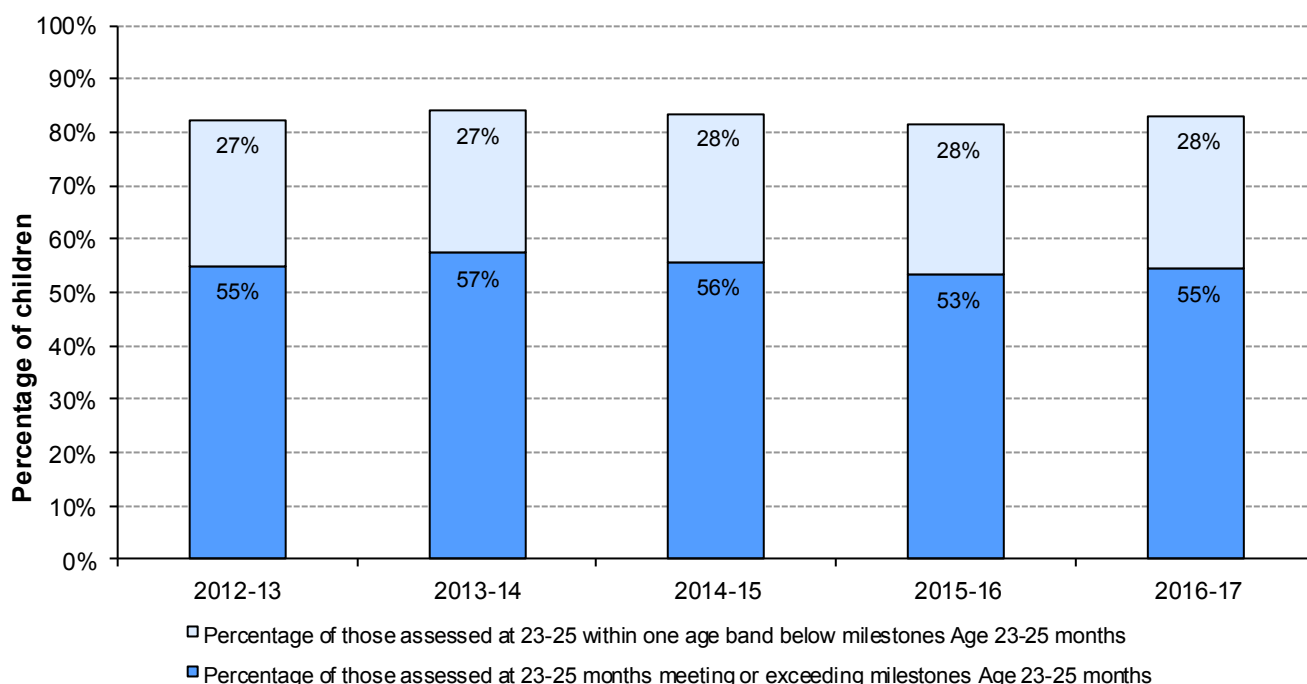
Developmental milestones

Charts 10-13 below show the percentages of children reaching, exceeding or within one age band of their developmental milestones as ages 2 and 3. These statistics again relate to the pre-expansion areas.

- 83 per cent of children in the Flying Start programme reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms at age 2 years while 55 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age ([Table 5](#)).
- 82 per cent of children in the Flying Start programme reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental milestones at age 3 years while 51 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age ([Table 6](#)).

Note that these children are different cohorts i.e. the children presented in Chart 11 were aged 2 in 2016-17, and those presented in Chart 13 were age 3 in the same year. Note also that the level of transfers in and out of Flying Start areas means that not all children will have been resident in Flying Start areas for the assessments at both ages 2 and 3. It also means that, for the children assessed, the length of time that they had had contact with Flying Start services will vary.

Chart 10: Percentage of children in pre-expansion Flying Start areas reaching, exceeding or within one age band of their development milestones (a) at age 2 years (23-25 months), Wales, 2012-13 to 2016-17

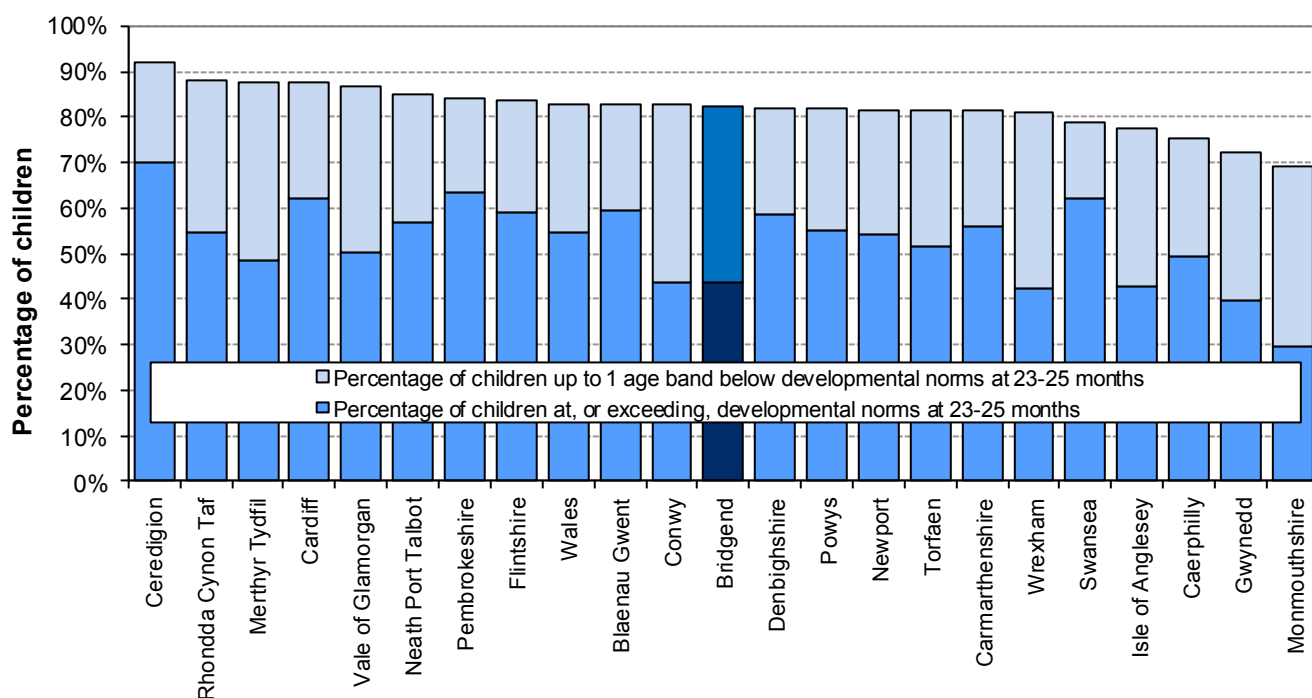


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17

(a) See notes on page 55 for further details of developmental milestones.

Chart 10 shows that 55 per cent of the 3,670 Flying Start children assessed in the pre-expansion areas in 2016-17, reached or exceeded their developmental milestones at the age of 2 years ([Table 5](#)), an increase from 53 per cent in 2015-16. However a developmental age of one age band below the age-appropriate band may not be important in terms of identifying developmental delay or abnormality in an individual child. A further 28 per cent of children overall were reported to be within 1 age band of developmental norms, meaning that 83 per cent of children aged 2 that were assessed had reached or nearly reached the milestones for this age, an increase since 2015-16. The remaining 17 per cent of the children assessed at this age were identified as being more than one age band below the norm by Flying Start and therefore may have required additional support, although this would be according to the professional judgement of the health visitors.

Chart 11: Percentage of children in pre-expansion Flying Start areas reaching, exceeding or within one age band of their development milestones (a) at age 2 years (23-25 months), by local authority, 2016-17

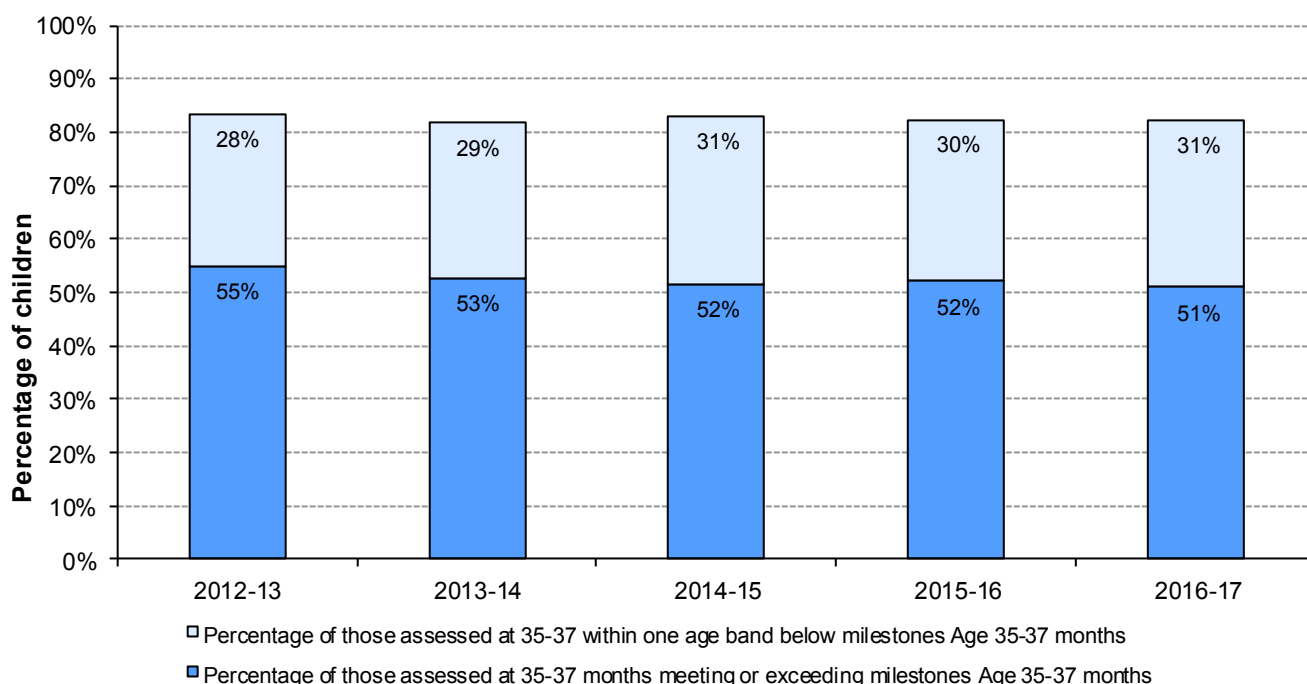


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17

(a) See notes on page 55 for further details of developmental milestones.

At the local authority level (Chart 11), the proportion of children who reached or were within 1 age band of their milestones ranged from 92 per cent to 69 per cent. Just over a half of all local authorities (12 out of 22) saw an increase since 2015-16 in the percentage of children who reached or were within 1 age band of their milestones for this age. Those that saw falls were of between 3 and 11 percentage points. Those that had increased did so by up to 10 percentage points.

Chart 12: Percentage of children in pre-expansion Flying Start areas reaching, exceeding or within one age band of their development milestones (a) at age 3 years (35-37 months), Wales, 2012-13 to 2016-17

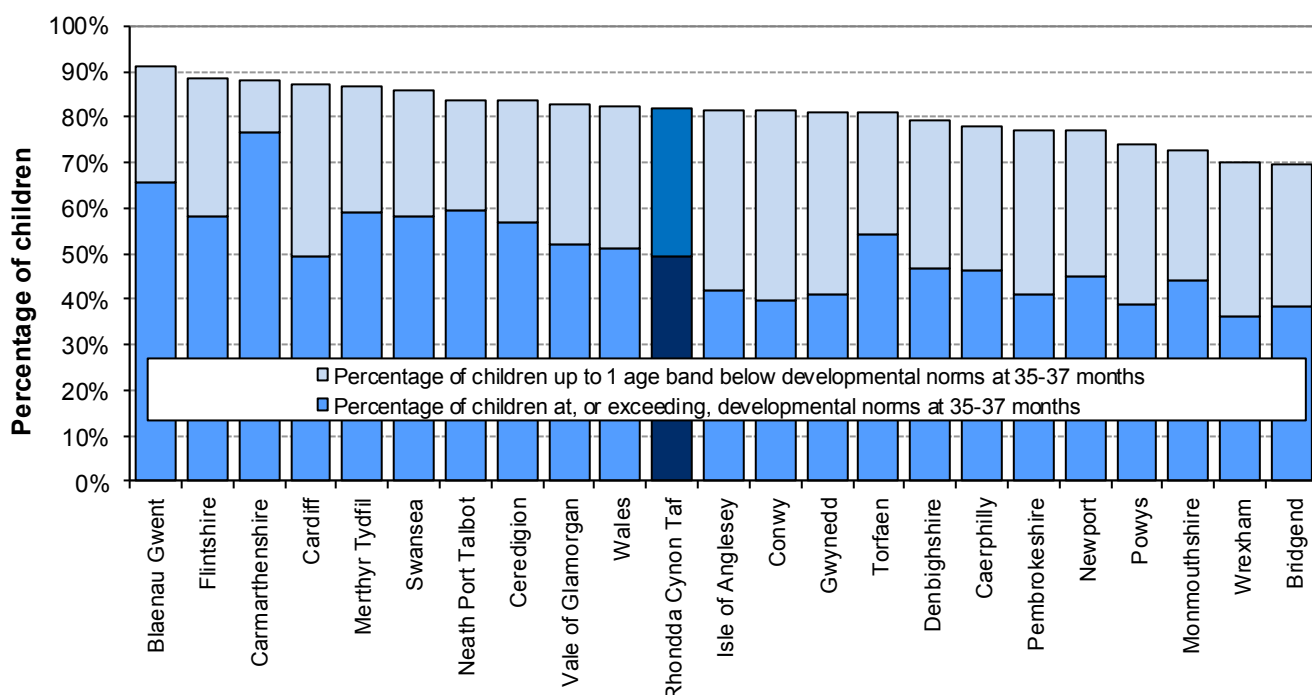


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17

(a) See notes on page 55 for further details of developmental milestones.

Chart 12 shows that 51 per cent of the 3,417 Flying Start children assessed in 2016-17, reached or exceeded their developmental milestones at the age of 3 years ([Table 6](#)), a decrease from the 2015-16 figure. However a developmental age of one age band below the age-appropriate band may not be important in terms of identifying developmental delay or abnormality in an individual child. A further 31 per cent of children were within 1 age band of developmental norms, meaning that 82 per cent of children aged 3 that were assessed had reached or nearly reached the milestones for this age. The remaining 18 per cent of the children assessed at this age were identified as being more than one age band below the norm by Flying Start and therefore may have required additional support, although this would be according to the professional judgement of the Health Visitors.

Chart 13: Percentage of children in pre-expansion Flying Start areas reaching, exceeding or within one age band of their development milestones (a) at ages 3 years (35-37 months), by local authority, 2016-17



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17

(a) See notes on page 55 for further details of developmental milestones.

At the Local Authority level (Chart 13), the proportion of children who reached or were within 1 age band of their milestones ranged from 91 per cent to 70 per cent. Just under half of all local authorities (9 out of 22) saw an increase since 2015-16 in the percentage of children that had reached or nearly reached the milestones for this age. The others had fallen by between 0 and 10 percentage points. Those that had increased did so by up to 12 percentage points.

Whilst efforts have been made to remove inconsistency between local authorities in aggregating results for individual children into the data presented here, the figures will still vary between local authorities due, for example, to differences in the professional interpretation at assessment as well as to local issues such as recruitment issues and to different levels of deprivation within Flying Start areas.

Expansion areas

The table below shows developmental assessment data for the expansion areas added to the programme in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and in 2016-17 at all-Wales level. It shows that there has been improvement at both ages in the proportion of children assessed at the recommended time despite further expansion.

For 2016-17 in all expansion areas:

- 83 per cent of children reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms at age 2 years

- 80 per cent of children reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms at age 3 years

[Tables 5](#) and [6](#) include the data for local authorities.

Assessments within Flying Start expansion areas, Wales

	2016-17 ^(a)		2015-16 ^(a)		2014-15 ^(b)		2013-14 ^(c)	
	Age 2 (23-25 months)	Age 3 (35-37 months)	Age 2 (23-25 months)	Age 3 (35-37 months)	Age 2 (23-25 months)	Age 3 (35-37 months)	Age 2 (23-25 months)	Age 3 (35-37 months)
Numbers of children eligible	3,694	3,819	3,629	3,737	3,091	2,875	1,889	1,586
Numbers of eligible children assessed within one month of birthday	2,730	2,568	2,722	2,697	2,331	1,987	985	681
Percentage of eligible children assessed within one month of birthday	74%	67%	75%	72%	75%	69%	52%	43%
Percentage of children at or exceeding developmental milestones	56%	50%	54%	49%	55%	50%	57%	45%
Percentage of children within one age band below developmental norm	26%	30%	28%	33%	27%	31%	25%	35%

(a) Includes all expansion areas added to the programme up to and including 2015-16

(b) Includes all expansion areas added to the programme up to and including 2014-15

(c) Expansion areas included areas added to the programme during 2013-14

Note that these children are different cohorts i.e. the children aged 2 in 2015-16 are not the same children aged 2 in 2016-17, and similar for 3 year olds. Also the 3,819 children aged 3 in 2016-17 would include *some but not all* of the 3,629 children who were 2 in 2015-16. This is due to the level of transfers in and out of Flying Start areas, which also means that not all children will have been resident in Flying Start areas for the assessments at both ages 2 and 3.

Table 7 presents developmental assessment data across all areas of the programme (pre-expansion and expansion).

- 83 per cent of children in all areas of the Flying Start programme reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms at age 2 years while 55 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age.
- 81 per cent of children in all areas of the Flying Start programme reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental milestones at age 3 years while 51 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age.

Although there are local authority variations, overall development outcomes for children in pre-expansion and expansion areas have converged over recent years.

6. Education outcomes: Children recorded on roll at a maintained school

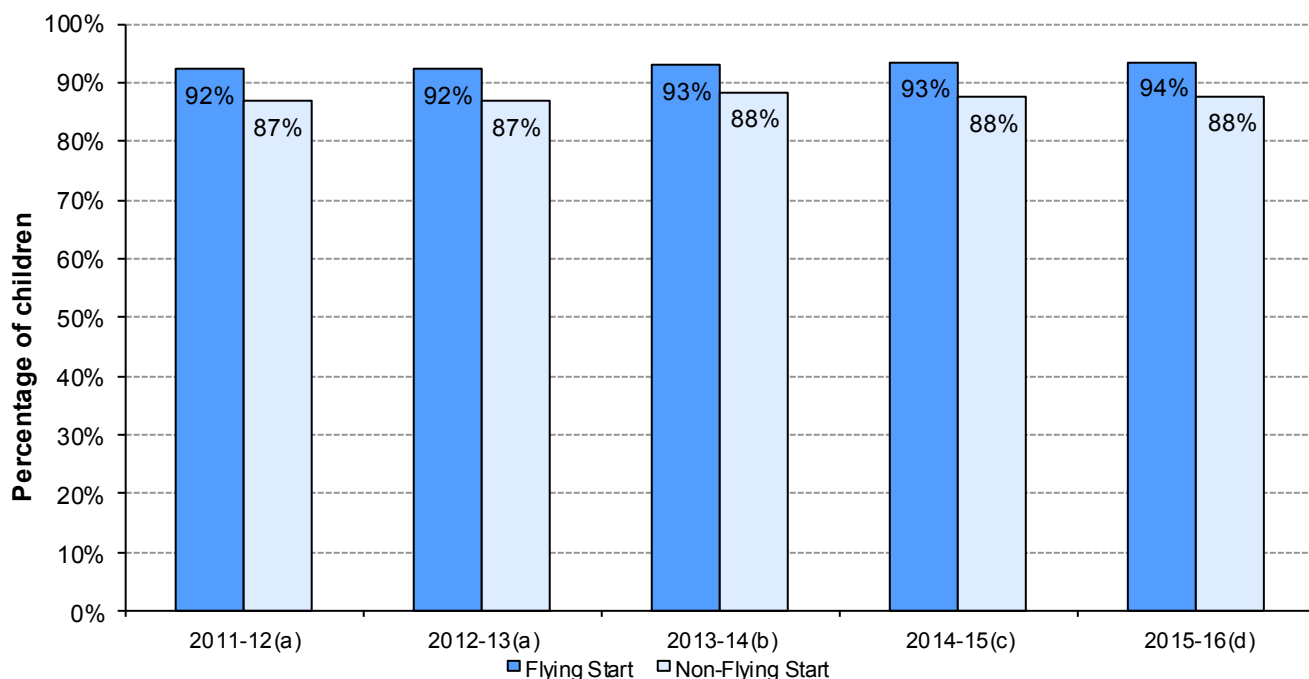
Looking at the numbers of Flying Start children starting Foundation Phase measures the degree to which Flying Start children are taking up early years education opportunities. The Foundation Phase is the statutory curriculum for all 3-7 years old children in Wales in both maintained and non-maintained settings. This section presents data on the proportions of children living in Flying Start areas who were recorded on roll at a maintained school according to the annual school census and the postcodes provided by Flying Start coordinators.

Data relating to 2011-12 and 2012-13 are based on the pre-expansion areas, that is, the area of the programme as it existed at 31 March 2012. Data from 2013-14 relates to children living in the programme area as defined at the end of each financial year. This means that technically we are not comparing like areas from 2013-14 and the previous years but it is important to reflect outcomes for children living in the relevant programme areas.

Data shown in this section are taken from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), which is an electronic collection of pupil and school level data provided by all maintained primary, secondary, nursery and special schools in January each year.

[Table 8](#) shows data on children recorded on roll at a maintained school in both Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas for each local authority.

Chart 14: Percentage of children in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas aged 3 recorded on a roll at a maintained school, Wales, January 2012 to January 2016 (age as at previous 31 August)



Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 (denominator)

- (a) Pre-expansion areas as at 31 March 2012
- (b) Programme areas as at 31 March 2014
- (c) Programme areas as at 31 March 2015
- (d) Programme areas as at 31 March 2016

- Chart 14 shows that in 2015-16 94 per cent of children at age 3 living in Flying Start programme areas were recorded on school rolls, an increase since 2014-15.
- For children living in non-Flying Start areas the percentage has also remained the same between 2014-15 and 2015-16 (88 per cent). The percentage in most Flying Start areas continues to be higher than in non-Flying Start areas.
- Table 8 compares children living in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas for the last two years. Over half of all Local Authorities (13 out of 22) saw the proportion of children at age 3 living in Flying Start programme areas and recorded on school rolls decrease between 2014-15 and 2015-16.

The variation seen between local authorities may be partially explained by some of the following factors: differences in the size and local utilisation of the independent school sector, cross border movements with England particularly affecting Wrexham, Flintshire, Powys and Monmouthshire, rurality and possible consequent travelling distances. Note also that the numbers of schools rolls are taken as a proportion of resident children and in some cases children may attend school in one local authority and live in another.

7: Health outcomes: Births and infant feeding

This section looks at the number of babies born in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas along with what proportion of those babies were receiving breast milk at 10 days old.

The data is taken from the National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) and is allocated to areas on the basis of postcode of residence. A list of postcodes falling within the Flying Start programme has been used to extract data for mothers living in Flying Start areas. Data for 2014 relates to mothers living in the programme area as defined at 31 March 2014 and data for 2015 relates to mothers living in the programme area as defined at 31 March 2015.

Following a new mandate in August 2012, data on infant feeding at 10 days, 6 weeks and 6 months has been recorded on the Child Health System, in addition to infant feeding data at birth.

Completeness has improved and a summary of information about infant feeding at 10 days is presented below. Note that the data relates to births occurring in 2015. 2016 births data will be published in August 2017 and will be included in the next Flying Start Summary Statistics in July 2018.

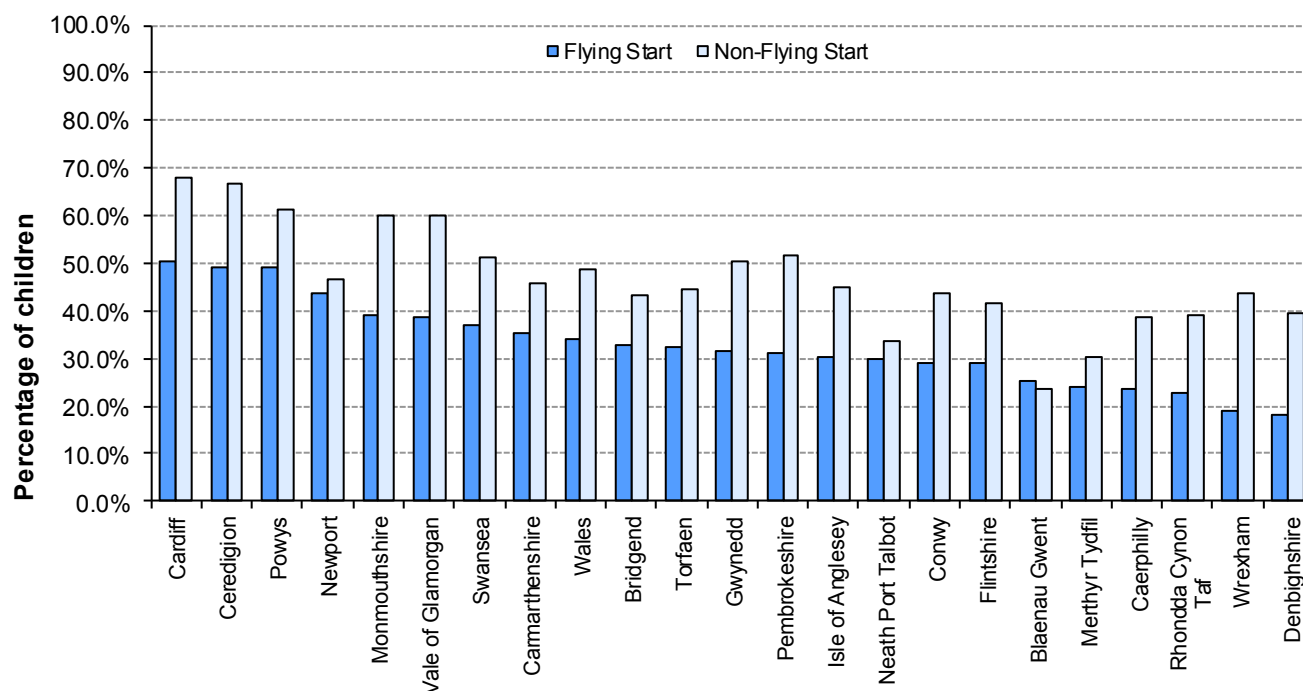
- In 2015, 24 per cent of live births in Wales were born to mothers resident in Flying Start areas, an increase from 20 per cent in 2014 and reflecting the expansion of the programme area over this period.
- The proportion of live births born to mothers resident in Flying Start areas ranged between 14 per cent (Monmouthshire) and 42 per cent (Merthyr Tydfil). ([Table 9](#)) In general, the pattern reflects the coverage of the programme in each local authority (see table 1).
- All local authorities showed an increase in the proportion of live births to mothers resident in Flying Start areas between 2014 and 2015. Merthyr Tydfil saw the largest increase from 30 per cent in 2014 to 42 per cent in 2015. ([Table 9](#))

The data recorded on the NCCHD includes the following categories of infant feeding:

- Artificial Milk Feeding
- Combined Milk Feeding - Partially Breast
- Combined Milk Feeding - Predominantly Breast
- Exclusive Milk

Chart 15 illustrates the proportions of babies in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas who, at 10 days, are recorded as receiving *any* breast milk, e.g. combined milk feeding (that is, breast milk plus artificial milk) plus those who receive exclusively breast milk (that is, nothing else except water).

Chart 15: Percentage (a) of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, receiving any breast milk (b) at 10 days old, by local authority, 2015



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

- (a) The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated breastfeeding status: 4% had no stated breastfeeding status at 10 days in 2015.
- (b) 'Any breast milk' consists of combined milk feeding (breast milk plus artificial milk) plus those who receive exclusively breast milk (nothing else except water).

- In 2015, a third (34 per cent) of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start areas were fed any breast milk at 10 days old, compared to almost half (49 per cent) of those in non-Flying Start areas.
- The proportion of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start areas in 2015 who received any breast milk ranged between 18 per cent (Denbighshire) and 50 per cent (Cardiff). In all except one of the local authorities the rates were higher for children living in non Flying Start areas than in Flying Start areas ([Table 10](#)).

For Wales as a whole the figures are consistent with the usually seen relationship between deprivation and breastfeeding; the explanation of the variation between local authorities may be more complex and requires an understanding of local pockets of deprivation as well as a consideration of age profiles of mothers.

The percentage of babies exclusively breastfed at 10 days of age is also one of a set of maternity indicators developed following the publication of the 'Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales' in 2011. The indicators are available (for financial years) from Public Health Wales' ['Pregnancy and childhood surveillance tool'](#).

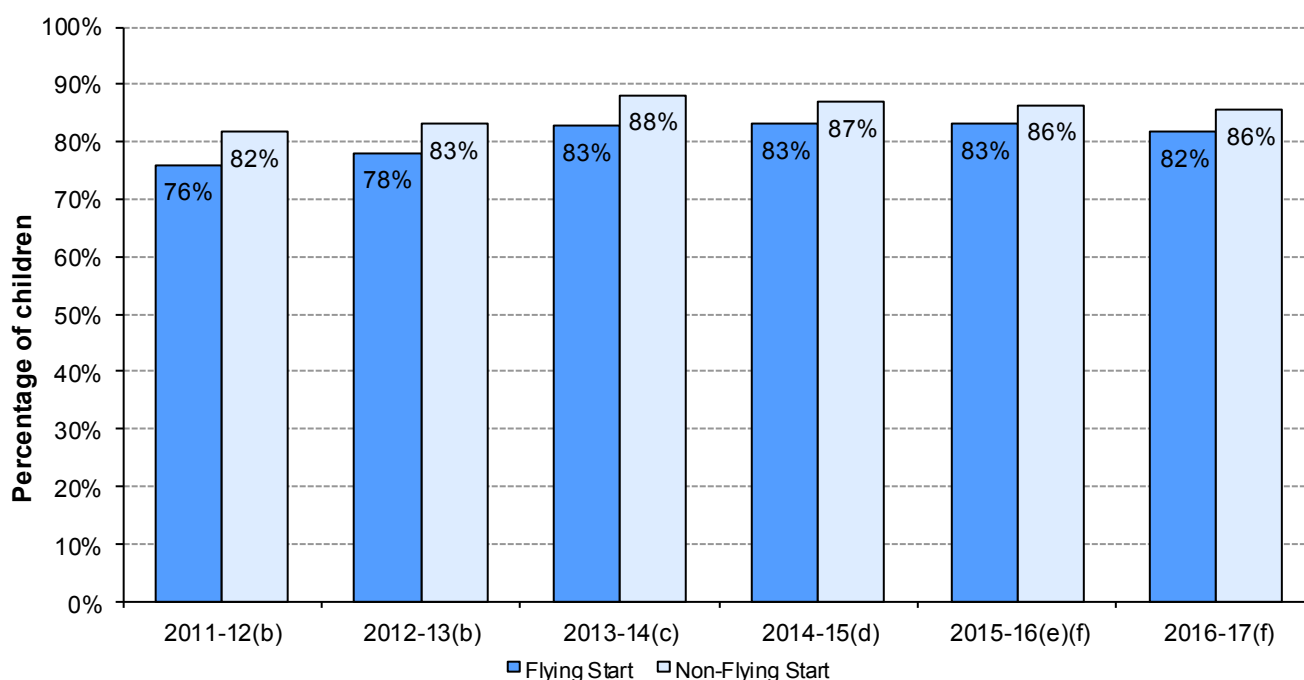
8: Health outcomes: Uptake of routine childhood immunisation

Vaccines are offered to all children, as part of the routine childhood immunisation schedule, to protect them against Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae (Hib), Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningitis C and Pneumococcal infection (PCV). Vaccinations are given according to a routine childhood immunisation schedule starting 8 weeks after birth, and the aim is for all children to be fully immunised by their 4th birthday.

The data is taken from COVER (Coverage of Vaccination Evaluation Rapidly) data published annually by Public Health Wales. It is derived directly from the National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) and is allocated to areas on the basis of postcode of residence. A list of postcodes falling within the Flying Start programme has been used to extract immunisation data for children living in Flying Start areas. As with the education outcomes data relating to 2011-12 and 2012-13 are based on the pre-expansion areas and data for 2016-17 relates to children living in the programme area as defined at 31 March 2016.

[Table 11](#) shows data on children fully immunised in both Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas for each local authority.

Chart 16: Percentage of children in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas that are fully immunised (a) at 4th birthday, Wales, 2011-12 to 2016-17



Source: Public Health Wales COVER report 2011-2012, 2012-13, 2013-4, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 (denominator)

- (a) Includes the following immunisations: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae (Hib), Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningitis C and Pneumococcal infection (PCV).
Analysis provided by Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre and Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme.
- (b) Pre-expansion areas as at 31 March 2012
- (c) Programme areas as at 31 March 2014
- (d) Programme areas as at 31 March 2015
- (e) The statistics for 2015-16 have been constructed using an extract taken from NCCHD in June 2017 and therefore totals will differ slightly from published COVER statistics.
- (f) Programme areas as at 31 March 2016

- In 2016-17, 82 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas were fully immunised at age 4 year areas (a slight decrease on the previous few years), compared to 86 per cent of children living in non-Flying Start areas (no change since 2015-16).
- Uptake of immunisations in 2016-17 of children living in Flying Start areas ranged between 93 per cent (Isle of Anglesey) and 74 per cent (Carmarthenshire). In most local authorities (14) the uptake rates were higher for children living in non Flying Start areas than in Flying Start areas ([Table 11](#)).
- Half of all local authorities (11) saw the uptake of immunisations of children living in Flying Start areas increase between 2015-16 and 2016-17, compared to just 4 local authorities seeing an increase in non-Flying Start areas ([Table 11](#)).

For Wales as a whole the figures are consistent with the usually seen relationship between deprivation and vaccination uptake; the explanation of the variation between local authorities may be more complex and requires an understanding of local pockets of deprivation. Note that in some local authorities there may be children who are omitted from immunisation coverage statistics either because they are new to the country and were immunised elsewhere or because they were privately immunised.

9: Health outcomes: Healthy weight

The Child Measurement Programme for Wales is a surveillance programme set up in 2011 when the Welsh Government asked Public Health Wales to undertake a national height and weight measuring programme for Wales, to give a better understanding about how children in Wales are growing. The programme standardises the way in which primary school children (aged 4 and 5) are measured across Wales. For further information on the measurement of healthy weight and other background information about the Child Measurement Programme for Wales, please see notes on page 59 for further details.

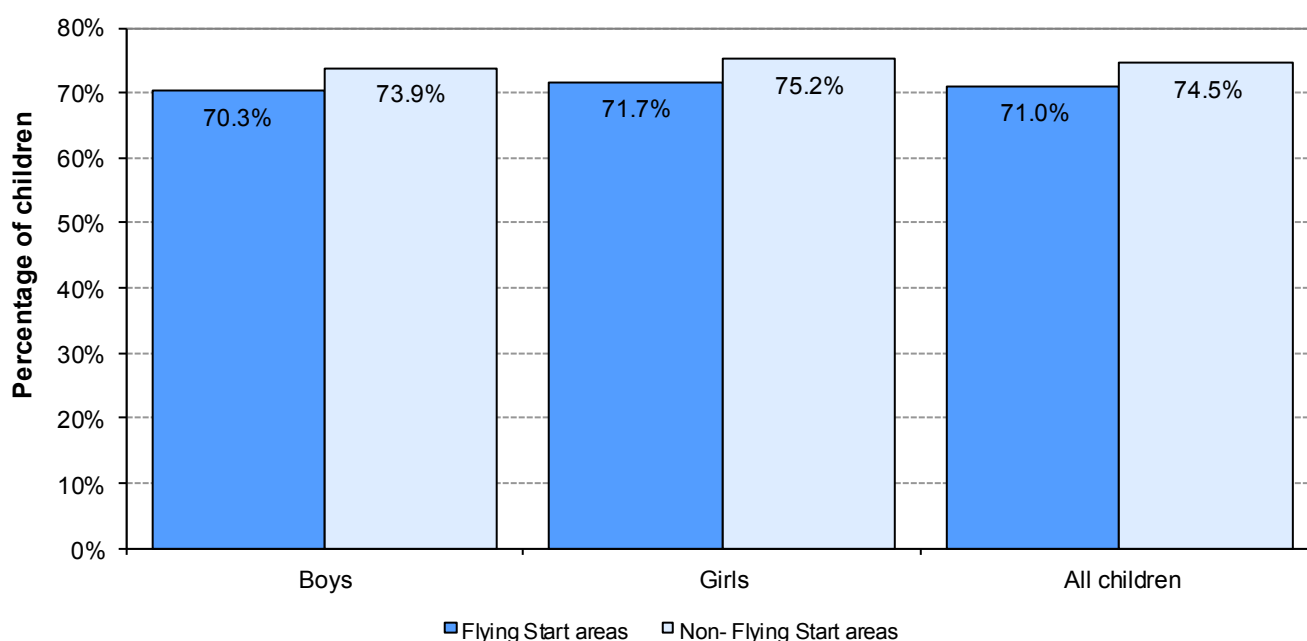
As with the education and immunisation outcomes, data from the Child Measurement Programme has been analysed according to Flying Start areas, based on the postcodes provided by Flying Start coordinators. In this case two years' data have been combined:

- School years 2011/12 with 2012/13 and 2012/13 with 2013/14 with the analysis carried out in relation to the areas as at 31 March 2012;
- School years 2014/15 with 2015/16 with the analysis carried out in relation to the areas as at 31 March 2014.

Chart 17 shows the proportion of children resident in Flying Start and non Flying Start areas (and included in the Child Measurement Programme) who had a body mass index (BMI) classified as being of a healthy weight.

For further information on the Child Measurement programme for Wales please see: [NHS Wales website: Child Measurement Programme for Wales](#)

Chart 17: Prevalence of children in 'healthy weight' (a) categories for children aged 4-5 years resident within Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, 2014/15 and 2015/16 (b)



Source: Child Measurement Programme (CMP) for Wales 2014/15 and 2015/16 produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using CMP data (NWIS).

(a) 'Healthy weight' includes healthy weight or underweight

(b) Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2014

- The data shows that at the Wales level Flying Start areas have a lower prevalence of healthy weight or underweight children than non-Flying Start areas: 71 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas in the two school years 2014/15 and 2015/16 were of a healthy weight or underweight (70 per cent of boys and 72 per cent of girls). This is less than in non-Flying Start areas, where 75 per cent of children were of healthy weight or underweight (74 per cent of boys and 75 per cent of girls).
- This pattern mirrors the Child Measurement Programme data where the most deprived fifth of areas has a lower prevalence of healthy weight or underweight children than each of the other deprivation fifths.

Local authority level data is available in [Table 12](#) on page 47.

Table 1: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by local authority – population and caseload, 2015-16 and 2016-17

Local Authority	2015-16				2016-17				Percentage change between 2015-16 and 2016-17 in children under 4 allocated to Flying Start health visitors (caseload)
	Number of children benefiting (in receipt of services)(a)	Number of children under 4 allocated to Flying Start health visitors (caseload) (b)	Population of children under 4 (c)	Percentage of population aged under 4 on Flying Start health visitors caseload	Number of children benefiting (in receipt of services)(a)	Number of children under 4 allocated to Flying Start health visitors (caseload) (b)	Population of children under 4 (d)	Percentage of population aged under 4 on Flying Start health visitors caseload	
Isle of Anglesey	747	642	3,074	21%	662	617	2,969	21%	-4%
Gwynedd	1,086	972	5,054	19%	1,066	993	4,916	20%	2%
Conwy	1,084	984	4,564	22%	924	910	4,463	20%	-7%
Denbighshire	910	933	4,266	22%	922	900	4,240	21%	-4%
Flintshire	1,479	1,351	6,718	20%	1,387	1,322	6,614	20%	-2%
Wrexham	1,742	1,405	6,694	21%	1,533	1,436	6,424	22%	2%
Powys	852	773	4,927	16%	838	780	4,832	16%	1%
Ceredigion	552	483	2,588	19%	541	473	2,575	18%	-2%
Pembrokeshire	1,295	1,217	5,049	24%	1,341	1,138	4,838	24%	-6%
Carmarthenshire	1,838	1,602	7,723	21%	1,821	1,611	7,664	21%	1%
Swansea	3,109	2,780	10,542	26%	3,101	2,823	10,371	27%	2%
Neath Port Talbot	2,408	1,980	6,149	32%	2,308	1,952	6,095	32%	-1%
Bridgend	1,478	1,536	6,436	24%	1,188	1,456	6,365	23%	-5%
Vale of Glamorgan	1,343	1,228	5,621	22%	1,337	1,171	5,503	21%	-5%
Cardiff	5,269	4,759	18,229	26%	5,055	4,717	17,853	26%	-1%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3,222	3,335	11,276	30%	3,305	3,369	11,128	30%	1%
Merthyr Tydfil	1,518	1,313	2,960	44%	1,592	1,206	2,980	40%	-8%
Caerphilly	2,690	2,422	8,403	29%	2,925	2,566	8,370	31%	6%
Blaenau Gwent	974	993	3,089	32%	749	943	3,068	31%	-5%
Torfaen	1,654	1,394	4,214	33%	1,739	1,385	4,184	33%	-1%
Monmouthshire	545	489	3,394	14%	714	506	3,333	15%	4%
Newport	2,474	2,541	7,775	33%	2,580	2,561	7,932	32%	1%
Wales	38,269	35,131	138,745	25%	37,628	34,834	136,717	25%	-1%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2015-16, 2016-17

(a) Cumulative count of individual children receiving health visitor Flying Start services

(b) Children on health visitor caseload averaged over the 3 terms.

(c) 2015 Mid Year Population Estimates, children aged 0,1,2,3 years, published by Office for National Statistics.

(d) 2016 Mid Year Population Estimates, children aged 0,1,2,3 years, published by Office for National Statistics.

Table 2: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by local authority - face to face contacts, 2015-16 and 2016-17

Local Authority	2015-16			2016-17		
	Number of face-to-face contacts	Number of health visitor face-to-face contacts per child on caseload	Number of wider health team face-to-face contacts per child on caseload	Number of face-to-face contacts	Number of health visitor face-to-face contacts per child on caseload	Number of wider health team face-to-face contacts per child on caseload
Isle of Anglesey	3,823	4.7	1.3	3,955	3.8	2.6
Gwynedd	10,500	6.4	4.4	8,542	6.0	2.6
Conwy	5,329	4.1	1.3	4,570	3.6	1.4
Denbighshire	5,734	4.2	2.0	5,949	4.4	2.2
Flintshire	8,594	4.4	2.0	8,094	4.6	1.5
Wrexham	11,631	6.1	2.2	11,438	6.1	1.9
Powys	5,456	5.6	1.5	4,876	5.1	1.1
Ceredigion	5,326	5.7	5.3	3,381	5.1	2.0
Pembrokeshire	11,012	5.9	3.1	9,517	6.1	2.3
Carmarthenshire	9,548	4.9	1.0	9,671	4.7	1.3
Swansea	17,089	4.7	1.5	16,410	4.0	1.8
Neath Port Talbot	15,960	5.0	3.1	16,293	4.7	3.6
Bridgend	12,500	5.0	3.1	14,086	5.6	4.0
Vale of Glamorgan	7,384	5.9	0.1	6,060	5.1	0.0
Cardiff	40,890	6.9	1.6	34,042	5.7	1.5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	20,315	5.1	1.0	21,268	5.0	1.3
Merthyr Tydfil	9,349	6.2	0.9	8,195	6.1	0.7
Caerphilly	17,284	5.5	1.7	19,176	5.9	1.6
Blaenau Gwent	8,999	6.0	3.1	5,547	3.5	2.4
Torfaen	14,705	4.9	5.6	14,164	4.0	6.2
Monmouthshire	5,068	7.1	3.3	5,430	6.6	4.1
Newport	13,634	4.1	1.2	13,939	3.8	1.6
Wales	260,130	5.4	2.0	244,603	5.0	2.0

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2015-16, 2016-17

Table 3: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by local authority – childcare, 2015-16 and 2016-17

Local Authority	2015-16				2016-17			
	Number of children newly eligible for childcare	Number of children newly eligible and offered childcare	Number of children taking up (a) full or reduced offer of childcare	Percentage of children taking up (a) full or reduced offer of childcare	Number of children newly eligible for childcare	Number of children newly eligible and offered childcare	Number of children taking up (a) full or reduced offer of childcare	Percentage of children taking up (a) full or reduced offer of childcare
Isle of Anglesey	144	143	126	88%	187	187	160	86%
Gwynedd	283	283	245	87%	267	267	267	100%
Conwy	241	241	234	97%	253	253	210	83%
Denbighshire	257	253	211	83%	246	245	213	87%
Flintshire	400	360	268	74%	348	348	271	78%
Wrexham	347	343	317	92%	350	350	325	93%
Powys	229	229	172	75%	213	213	173	81%
Ceredigion	126	126	100	79%	103	103	94	91%
Pembrokeshire	281	281	276	98%	307	307	305	99%
Carmarthenshire	442	442	360	81%	470	470	394	84%
Swansea	719	685	537	78%	745	696	581	83%
Neath Port Talbot	583	595	531	89%	533	608	547	90%
Bridgend	308	366	319	87%	437	394	378	96%
Vale of Glamorgan	334	338	294	87%	308	302	270	89%
Cardiff	1,232	1,269	1,050	83%	1,213	1,018	884	87%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,008	848	777	92%	925	864	815	94%
Merthyr Tydfil	342	279	279	100%	357	344	324	94%
Caerphilly	598	564	549	97%	575	570	526	92%
Blaenau Gwent	306	306	258	84%	260	260	234	90%
Torfaen	367	367	327	89%	339	339	291	86%
Monmouthshire	127	127	112	88%	126	126	119	94%
Newport	600	587	430	73%	691	664	517	78%
Wales	9,274	9,032	7,772	86%	9,253	8,928	7,898	88%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2015-16, 2016-17

(a) 'Take up' refers to whether the offer of childcare is accepted regardless of whether or not the child subsequently attends childcare.

Table 4: Percentage of eligible Flying Start children in pre-expansion areas assessed in the recommended age window (a), 2015-16 and 2016-17

Local Authority	Percentage of eligible children assessed at 23-25 months		Percentage of eligible children assessed at 35-37 months	
	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17
Isle of Anglesey	89%	84%	87%	87%
Gwynedd	80%	78%	75%	84%
Conwy	61%	60%	59%	64%
Denbighshire	78%	65%	63%	60%
Flintshire	87%	73%	79%	84%
Wrexham	70%	62%	60%	44%
Powys	82%	81%	83%	75%
Ceredigion	93%	85%	88%	77%
Pembrokeshire	86%	75%	79%	75%
Carmarthenshire	86%	76%	80%	77%
Swansea	79%	71%	68%	61%
Neath Port Talbot	69%	85%	72%	80%
Bridgend	64%	81%	77%	87%
Vale of Glamorgan	84%	87%	85%	78%
Cardiff	75%	79%	73%	82%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	69%	65%	60%	59%
Merthyr Tydfil	83%	68%	79%	69%
Caerphilly	62%	71%	64%	54%
Blaenau Gwent	88%	93%	79%	85%
Torfaen	76%	82%	76%	73%
Monmouthshire	78%	86%	87%	72%
Newport	74%	78%	66%	65%
Wales	76%	75%	72%	71%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2015-16, 2016-17

a) 'Recommended age window' means within a month of the 2nd or 3rd birthdays. For more information on this and further information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 55.

Table 5: Percentage of Flying Start children reaching, exceeding or within one age band of developmental milestones (a) at age 2 by local authority, 2016-17

Local Authority	Pre-expansion areas					Expansion areas				
	Number of children eligible	Number of children assessed	Number of children assessed at 23-25 months	Percentage reaching, exceeding or within one age band below developmental norm	Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones	Number of children eligible	Number of children assessed	Number of children assessed at 23-25 months	Percentage reaching, exceeding or within one age band below developmental norm	Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones
Isle of Anglesey	106	95	89	78%	43%	51	56	50	86%	36%
Gwynedd	120	112	93	72%	40%	124	119	100	86%	65%
Conwy	146	118	87	83%	44%	98	88	69	86%	57%
Denbighshire	215	183	140	82%	59%	41	36	26	96%	62%
Flintshire	186	156	135	84%	59%	157	126	107	77%	50%
Wrexham	208	175	128	81%	42%	148	111	92	84%	49%
Powys	83	71	67	82%	55%	87	68	66	77%	55%
Ceredigion	87	78	74	92%	70%	24	17	17	82%	53%
Pembrokeshire	183	155	137	84%	64%	116	112	88	88%	69%
Carmarthenshire	197	183	150	81%	56%	206	179	148	89%	70%
Swansea	357	332	255	79%	62%	343	283	211	79%	58%
Neath Port Talbot	304	290	257	85%	57%	175	175	160	84%	65%
Bridgend	153	153	124	82%	44%	153	153	135	78%	53%
Vale of Glamorgan	186	170	161	87%	50%	85	80	76	89%	62%
Cardiff	664	577	522	88%	62%	482	466	431	84%	57%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	410	324	268	88%	54%	423	314	250	84%	55%
Merthyr Tydfil	167	122	113	88%	49%	178	140	133	84%	59%
Caerphilly	311	275	220	75%	50%	325	279	204	75%	49%
Blaenau Gwent	138	137	128	83%	59%	104	89	86	87%	53%
Torfaen	176	160	145	81%	52%	125	110	99	79%	45%
Monmouthshire	79	72	68	69%	29%	47	42	38	84%	39%
Newport	397	354	309	82%	54%	202	185	144	78%	55%
Wales	4,873	4,292	3,670	83%	55%	3,694	3,228	2,730	83%	56%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17

(a) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 55.

Table 6: Percentage of Flying Start children reaching, exceeding or within one age band of developmental milestones (a) at age 3 by local authority, 2016-17

Local Authority	Pre-expansion areas					Expansion areas				
	Number of children eligible	Number of children assessed	Number of children assessed at 35-37 months	Percentage reaching, exceeding or within one age band below developmental norm	Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones	Number of children eligible	Number of children assessed	Number of children assessed at 35-37 months	Percentage reaching, exceeding or within one age band below developmental norm	Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones
Isle of Anglesey	93	89	81	81%	42%	52	48	42	76%	40%
Gwynedd	133	130	112	81%	41%	131	123	113	83%	59%
Conwy	143	114	91	81%	40%	99	82	67	82%	36%
Denbighshire	192	160	115	79%	47%	53	32	27	56%	22%
Flintshire	176	173	148	89%	58%	169	127	104	78%	44%
Wrexham	218	151	97	70%	36%	149	105	79	80%	35%
Powys	117	103	88	74%	39%	93	79	65	82%	54%
Ceredigion	103	83	79	84%	57%	24	19	18	100%	50%
Pembrokeshire	153	126	114	77%	41%	134	118	93	82%	53%
Carmarthenshire	194	188	150	88%	77%	198	177	153	86%	71%
Swansea	384	304	233	86%	58%	329	237	164	82%	67%
Neath Port Talbot	291	259	234	84%	59%	198	183	172	78%	52%
Bridgend	132	132	115	70%	38%	129	129	121	64%	31%
Vale of Glamorgan	209	178	163	83%	52%	93	86	82	87%	56%
Cardiff	600	541	492	87%	50%	472	415	381	81%	49%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	410	287	240	82%	49%	454	274	233	82%	48%
Merthyr Tydfil	153	114	105	87%	59%	160	111	98	76%	44%
Caerphilly	333	240	181	78%	46%	310	199	162	83%	49%
Blaenau Gwent	157	139	134	91%	66%	125	116	110	65%	56%
Torfaen	168	145	122	81%	54%	169	121	102	83%	43%
Monmouthshire	82	63	59	73%	44%	39	30	28	79%	39%
Newport	405	285	264	77%	45%	239	167	154	82%	51%
Wales	4,846	4,004	3,417	82%	51%	3,819	2,978	2,568	80%	50%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17

(a) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 55.

Table 7: Percentage of children living in ALL Flying Start areas (a) reaching, exceeding or within one age band of developmental milestones (b) at age 2 years (23-25 months) and at age 3 years (35-37 months) by Local Authority, 2016-17

Local Authority	Age 2 years (23-25 months)					Age 3 years (35-37 months)				
	Number of children eligible	Number of children assessed	Number of children assessed at 23-25 months	Percentage of those assessed at 23-25 months reaching, exceeding or within one age band below developmental norm	Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones	Number of children eligible	Number of children assessed	Number of children assessed at 35-37 months	Percentage of those assessed at 35-37 months reaching, exceeding or within one age band below developmental norm	Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones
Isle of Anglesey	157	151	139	81%	40%	145	137	123	80%	41%
Gwynedd	244	231	193	79%	53%	264	253	225	82%	50%
Conwy	244	206	156	84%	49%	242	196	158	82%	38%
Denbighshire	256	219	166	84%	59%	245	192	142	75%	42%
Flintshire	343	282	242	81%	55%	345	300	252	84%	52%
Wrexham	356	286	220	82%	45%	367	256	176	74%	36%
Powys	170	139	133	80%	55%	210	182	153	77%	45%
Ceredigion	111	95	91	90%	67%	127	102	97	87%	56%
Pembrokeshire	299	267	225	85%	66%	287	244	207	79%	46%
Carmarthenshire	403	362	298	85%	63%	392	365	303	87%	74%
Swansea	700	615	466	79%	60%	713	541	397	84%	62%
Neath Port Talbot	479	465	417	85%	60%	489	442	406	81%	56%
Bridgend	306	306	259	80%	49%	261	261	236	67%	35%
Vale of Glamorgan	271	250	237	88%	54%	302	264	245	84%	53%
Cardiff	1,146	1,043	953	86%	60%	1,072	956	873	84%	49%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	833	638	518	86%	55%	864	561	473	82%	49%
Merthyr Tydfil	345	262	246	86%	54%	313	225	203	81%	52%
Caerphilly	636	554	424	75%	49%	643	439	343	80%	48%
Blaenau Gwent	242	226	214	85%	57%	282	255	244	80%	61%
Torfaen	301	270	244	80%	49%	337	266	224	82%	49%
Monmouthshire	126	114	106	75%	33%	121	93	87	75%	43%
Newport	599	539	453	80%	54%	644	452	418	79%	47%
Wales	8,567	7,520	6,400	83%	55%	8,665	6,982	5,985	81%	51%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2015-16

(a) Includes children assessed in ALL areas, i.e pre-expansion areas AND expansion areas

(b) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 55.

Table 8: Number and percentage of children aged 3, living in Flying Start / non Flying Start areas and recorded on roll at a maintained school in PLASC in January 2015 and in January 2016 (age as at previous 31 August)

Local Authority	2014/15						2015/16					
	Number			Percentage			Number			Percentage		
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All
Isle of Anglesey	145	488	633	98%	74%	79%	157	523	680	94%	82%	85%
Gwynedd	220	931	1,151	101%	91%	92%	240	1,000	1,240	95%	92%	93%
Conwy	240	885	1,125	97%	97%	97%	265	855	1,120	97%	95%	95%
Denbighshire	195	932	1,127	90%	104%	101%	218	798	1,016	96%	101%	100%
Flintshire	289	1,375	1,664	98%	97%	97%	319	1,354	1,673	95%	95%	95%
Wrexham	306	1,343	1,649	94%	97%	97%	376	1,243	1,619	100%	96%	97%
Powys	160	760	920	70%	71%	71%	181	710	891	78%	72%	73%
Ceredigion	114	344	458	81%	62%	66%	94	361	455	74%	64%	66%
Pembrokeshire	239	952	1,191	98%	87%	89%	259	958	1,217	94%	89%	90%
Carmarthenshire	402	1,249	1,651	86%	78%	80%	396	1,244	1,640	89%	77%	79%
Swansea	698	2,029	2,727	98%	97%	97%	716	1,999	2,715	99%	97%	98%
Neath Port Talbot	536	1,039	1,575	99%	94%	96%	495	1,008	1,503	96%	94%	95%
Bridgend	309	1,368	1,677	98%	96%	97%	342	1,296	1,638	100%	97%	97%
Vale of Glamorgan	273	1,182	1,455	93%	96%	96%	323	1,120	1,443	96%	97%	97%
Cardiff	1,073	2,879	3,952	91%	84%	85%	1,045	2,956	4,001	89%	86%	87%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	806	2,085	2,891	100%	95%	96%	877	1,883	2,760	98%	94%	95%
Merthyr Tydfil	323	380	703	96%	97%	97%	316	411	727	96%	97%	96%
Caerphilly	588	1,569	2,157	100%	97%	98%	639	1,407	2,046	97%	97%	97%
Blaenau Gwent	197	547	744	100%	96%	97%	232	499	731	97%	98%	98%
Torfaen	294	573	867	88%	75%	79%	299	551	850	84%	74%	78%
Monmouthshire	97	261	358	74%	34%	40%	116	258	374	81%	33%	40%
Newport	589	926	1,515	85%	70%	75%	603	930	1,533	90%	71%	78%
Wales	8,093	24,097	32,190	93%	88%	89%	8,507	23,365	31,872	94%	88%	89%

Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) 2015, 2016, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2014-15, 2015-16 (denominator)

Table 9: Live births to Welsh residents in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, 2014 and 2015

Local Authority	2014 (a)					2015 (b)				
	Number			Per cent		Number			Per cent	
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All areas	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All areas	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start
Isle of Anglesey	121	620	741	16%	84%	151	542	693	22%	78%
Gwynedd	194	975	1,169	17%	83%	224	928	1,152	19%	81%
Conwy	210	886	1,096	19%	81%	233	873	1,106	21%	79%
Denbighshire	187	915	1,102	17%	83%	217	838	1,055	21%	79%
Flintshire	212	1,367	1,579	13%	87%	256	1,306	1,562	16%	84%
Wrexham	236	1,362	1,598	15%	85%	264	1,223	1,487	18%	82%
Powys	144	985	1,129	13%	87%	195	916	1,111	18%	82%
Ceredigion	111	492	603	18%	82%	125	508	633	20%	80%
Pembrokeshire	195	1,047	1,242	16%	84%	235	942	1,177	20%	80%
Carmarthenshire	349	1,474	1,823	19%	81%	400	1,450	1,850	22%	78%
Swansea	502	2,028	2,530	20%	80%	679	1,838	2,517	27%	73%
Neath Port Talbot	410	1,080	1,490	28%	72%	443	1,050	1,493	30%	70%
Bridgend	232	1,247	1,479	16%	84%	303	1,198	1,501	20%	80%
Vale of Glamorgan	246	1,010	1,256	20%	80%	266	1,077	1,343	20%	80%
Cardiff	898	3,619	4,517	20%	80%	1,138	3,435	4,573	25%	75%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	616	2,105	2,721	23%	77%	707	1,967	2,674	26%	74%
Merthyr Tydfil	221	528	749	30%	70%	310	433	743	42%	58%
Caerphilly	477	1,631	2,108	23%	77%	562	1,481	2,043	28%	72%
Blaenau Gwent	199	571	770	26%	74%	210	544	754	28%	72%
Torfaen	282	714	996	28%	72%	300	695	995	30%	70%
Monmouthshire	104	670	774	13%	87%	110	679	789	14%	86%
Newport	599	1,306	1,905	31%	69%	648	1,324	1,972	33%	67%
Wales	6,745	26,903	33,648	20%	80%	7,976	25,385	33,361	24%	76%

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2014, 2015

(a) Flying Start postcodes as at 31 March 2014

(b) Flying Start postcodes as at 31 March 2015

Table 10: Number and percentage (a) of babies living in Flying Start / non Flying Start areas who received any breast milk (b) at 10 days old by local authority, 2015

	<i>Number</i>			<i>Percentage</i>		
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All
Local Authority						
Isle of Anglesey	45	240	285	30%	45%	42%
Gwynedd	69	458	527	32%	50%	47%
Conwy	66	364	430	29%	44%	40%
Denbighshire	39	322	361	18%	39%	35%
Flintshire	69	511	580	29%	41%	39%
Wrexham	49	522	571	19%	44%	39%
Powys	93	544	637	49%	61%	59%
Ceredigion	56	315	371	49%	67%	63%
Pembrokeshire	65	432	497	31%	52%	48%
Carmarthenshire	127	605	732	35%	46%	44%
Swansea	245	922	1,167	37%	51%	48%
Neath Port Talbot	128	341	469	30%	34%	33%
Bridgend	96	509	605	33%	43%	41%
Vale of Glamorgan	102	638	740	38%	60%	56%
Cardiff	568	2,300	2,868	50%	68%	63%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	155	755	910	23%	39%	35%
Merthyr Tydfil	72	126	198	24%	30%	28%
Caerphilly	118	540	658	24%	38%	35%
Blaenau Gwent	51	119	170	25%	24%	24%
Torfaen	91	290	381	33%	44%	41%
Monmouthshire	42	382	424	39%	60%	57%
Newport	265	595	860	44%	47%	46%
Wales	2,611	11,904	14,515	34%	49%	45%

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015

(a) The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated breastfeeding status: 4% had no stated breastfeeding status at 10 days in 2015.

(b) 'Any breast milk' consists of combined milk feeding (breast milk plus artificial milk) plus those who receive exclusively breast milk (nothing else except water).

Table 11: Number and percentage of children living in Flying Start / non Flying Start areas who are fully immunised (a) by their 4th birthday by local authority (b), 2015-16 and 2016-17

Local Authority	2015-16 (c)						2016-17					
	Number			Percentage			Number			Percentage		
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All
Isle of Anglesey	142	589	731	90%	93%	92%	160	570	730	93%	90%	91%
Gwynedd	237	962	1,199	91%	88%	89%	217	930	1,147	83%	88%	87%
Conwy	210	817	1,027	84%	89%	88%	237	790	1,027	84%	89%	88%
Denbighshire	191	707	898	79%	88%	86%	230	688	918	86%	86%	86%
Flintshire	301	1,264	1,565	90%	91%	91%	304	1,208	1,512	90%	89%	89%
Wrexham	285	1,164	1,449	87%	90%	89%	355	1,144	1,499	90%	89%	89%
Powys	208	861	1,069	86%	85%	85%	199	876	1,075	88%	86%	86%
Ceredigion	100	438	538	90%	89%	89%	117	516	633	91%	88%	89%
Pembrokeshire	205	873	1,078	84%	84%	84%	213	868	1,081	79%	84%	83%
Carmarthenshire	367	1,353	1,720	85%	86%	86%	302	1,336	1,638	74%	83%	81%
Swansea	595	1,802	2,397	82%	88%	87%	576	1,726	2,302	80%	87%	86%
Neath Port Talbot	445	950	1,395	85%	86%	86%	369	948	1,317	80%	89%	86%
Bridgend	297	1,238	1,535	83%	89%	88%	274	1,172	1,446	84%	89%	88%
Vale of Glamorgan	286	1,089	1,375	84%	87%	87%	249	1,040	1,289	81%	87%	86%
Cardiff	907	2,817	3,724	78%	84%	82%	879	2,802	3,681	75%	82%	80%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	775	1,774	2,549	87%	90%	89%	693	1,800	2,493	84%	88%	87%
Merthyr Tydfil	311	393	704	91%	91%	91%	294	376	670	89%	90%	89%
Caerphilly	533	1,180	1,713	79%	83%	81%	512	1,255	1,767	80%	83%	82%
Blaenau Gwent	191	440	631	85%	85%	85%	235	428	663	85%	82%	83%
Torfaen	301	608	909	84%	81%	82%	315	595	910	81%	80%	80%
Monmouthshire	124	623	747	86%	82%	83%	132	647	779	86%	82%	83%
Newport	484	987	1,471	72%	76%	75%	526	1,032	1,558	75%	79%	78%
Wales	7,494	22,978	30,472	83%	86%	86%	7,388	22,815	30,203	82%	86%	85%

Source: Public Health Wales COVER report 2015-2016, 2016-17, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015-16, 2016-17 (denominator)

(a) Includes the following immunisations: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae (Hib), Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningitis C and Pneumococcal infection (PCV). Analysis provided by Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre and Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme.

(b) Local Authority was not known for 48 children in 2015-16 and 68 children in 2016-17 in non Flying Start / All areas.

(c) The statistics for 2015-16 have been constructed using an extract taken from NCCHD in June 2017 and therefore totals will differ slightly from published COVER statistics.

Table 12: Prevalence of children in 'healthy weight' (a) categories for children aged 4-5 years resident within Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, 2014/15 and 2015/16 combined (b)

Local Authority (c)	All Children		Boys		Girls	
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start
Isle of Anglesey	62.6%	72.7%	62.4%	70.4%	62.8%	75.2%
Gwynedd	67.0%	69.7%	68.6%	67.6%	65.3%	71.9%
Conwy	76.0%	73.9%	73.1%	73.0%	78.9%	74.9%
Denbighshire	68.4%	72.8%	70.1%	72.5%	66.9%	73.1%
Flintshire	71.9%	73.7%	74.1%	74.5%	69.7%	72.9%
Wrexham	69.2%	72.1%	65.6%	70.8%	72.9%	73.3%
Powys	72.9%	76.4%	73.3%	73.7%	72.6%	79.1%
Ceredigion	72.8%	74.3%	65.2%	76.1%	79.3%	72.4%
Pembrokeshire	68.2%	71.2%	69.8%	68.9%	66.5%	73.5%
Carmarthenshire	64.7%	71.0%	66.0%	69.3%	63.4%	72.9%
Swansea	69.6%	75.8%	69.5%	75.7%	69.8%	75.9%
Neath Port Talbot	71.0%	75.7%	69.1%	75.6%	73.0%	75.9%
Bridgend	70.1%	73.7%	69.1%	73.9%	71.1%	73.5%
Vale of Glamorgan	75.2%	83.3%	74.6%	82.2%	75.8%	84.5%
Cardiff	74.8%	78.5%	76.0%	77.9%	73.5%	79.1%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	71.7%	72.9%	71.8%	71.1%	71.6%	74.6%
Merthyr Tydfil	63.9%	68.7%	58.3%	67.5%	70.2%	70.1%
Caerphilly	72.1%	73.8%	70.2%	73.5%	73.8%	74.1%
Blaenau Gwent	70.4%	72.2%	69.3%	73.7%	71.6%	70.4%
Torfaen	71.1%	72.5%	72.4%	73.8%	69.7%	71.3%
Monmouthshire	77.4%	78.5%	75.4%	78.6%	79.6%	78.4%
Newport	71.6%	76.5%	68.8%	77.2%	74.4%	75.9%
Wales	71.0%	74.5%	70.3%	73.9%	71.7%	75.2%

Source: Child Measurement Programme (CMP) for Wales 2014/15 and 2015/16 combined, produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using CMP data (NWIS)

(a) 'Healthy weight' includes healthy weight or underweight

(b) Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2014

(c) Note that, in some local authorities, the numbers of children living in Flying Start areas may be relatively small and differences may not be statistically significant.

Table 13: Formal structured parenting courses offered by local authority, 2015-16 and 2016-17

Local Authority	2015-16		2016-17	
	Number of places on formal structured parenting courses ending in the year	Percentage of places on formal structured parenting courses ending in the year taken up (a)	Number of places on formal structured parenting courses ending in the year	Percentage of places on formal structured parenting courses ending in the year taken up (a)
Isle of Anglesey	91	62%	108	59%
Gwynedd	205	72%	212	83%
Conwy	262	63%	151	88%
Denbighshire	108	60%	67	63%
Flintshire	229	68%	173	60%
Wrexham	222	45%	100	65%
Powys	104	88%	131	100%
Ceredigion	174	72%	130	82%
Pembrokeshire	110	60%	87	100%
Carmarthenshire	184	94%	190	90%
Swansea	297	89%	238	88%
Neath Port Talbot	336	63%	241	76%
Bridgend	382	65%	158	68%
Vale of Glamorgan	120	73%	140	75%
Cardiff	237	90%	194	98%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	137	80%	158	80%
Merthyr Tydfil	130	65%	88	88%
Caerphilly	354	69%	295	100%
Blaenau Gwent	246	97%	318	96%
Torfaen	200	78%	232	78%
Monmouthshire	156	71%	121	74%
Newport	472	91%	614	84%
Wales	4,756	75%	4,146	84%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2015-16, 2016-17

a) This is measured by counting places where the first session was attended.

Table 14: Parenting places and packages offered by Local Authority, 2016-17

Local Authority	Number of places on formal and informal structured parenting courses ending in the year	Places on formal and informal structured parenting courses per 1,000 caseload	Number of packages of enhanced one-to-one parenting support ending in the year	Packages of enhanced one-to-one parenting support per 1,000 caseload
Isle of Anglesey	697	1,130	22	36
Gwynedd	614	618	65	65
Conwy	259	285	82	90
Denbighshire	256	285	149	166
Flintshire	360	272	134	101
Wrexham	271	189	125	87
Powys	318	408	52	67
Ceredigion	452	956	53	112
Pembrokeshire	218	192	29	25
Carmarthenshire	1,174	729	459	285
Swansea	1,207	428	216	77
Neath Port Talbot	991	508	65	33
Bridgend	450	309	208	143
Vale of Glamorgan	466	398	312	267
Cardiff	493	105	385	82
Rhondda Cynon Taf	238	71	234	69
Merthyr Tydfil	258	214	69	57
Caerphilly	382	149	219	85
Blaenau Gwent	366	388	5	5
Torfaen	956	690	26	19
Monmouthshire	573	1,132	178	352
Newport	2,505	978	99	39
Wales	13,504	388	3,186	91

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17

Baseline table: Key data for 2012-13

Local Authority	Flying Start children				Children living in Flying Start areas	
	Number of children benefiting (in receipt of services)(a)	Percentage of children taking up full or reduced offer of childcare	Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones (b) at age 2	Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones (b) at age 3	Percentage of children aged 3 recorded on roll at a maintained school	Percentage of children fully immunised (c) at 4th birthday
Isle of Anglesey	459	78%	56%	56%	97%	81%
Gwynedd	640	100%	62%	56%	98%	85%
Conwy	752	100%	53%	25%	100%	70%
Denbighshire	887	86%	70%	33%	84%	78%
Flintshire	954	99%	75%	73%	91%	84%
Wrexham	887	98%	38%	38%	96%	82%
Powys	525	100%	62%	32%	74%	85%
Ceredigion	414	86%	53%	64%	63%	82%
Pembrokeshire	649	99%	66%	51%	95%	75%
Carmarthenshire	1,112	91%	53%	64%	94%	73%
Swansea	1,492	94%	52%	64%	96%	81%
Neath Port Talbot	1,042	83%	55%	38%	94%	78%
Bridgend	956	87%	42%	66%	100%	72%
Vale of Glamorgan	866	98%	61%	55%	94%	84%
Cardiff	3,368	81%	61%	52%	85%	67%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2,542	87%	51%	62%	100%	85%
Merthyr Tydfil	792	94%	55%	59%	100%	79%
Caerphilly	1,219	91%	70%	72%	98%	78%
Blaenau Gwent	655	58%	52%	51%	91%	86%
Torfaen	1,187	78%	57%	63%	90%	81%
Monmouthshire	346	98%	56%	53%	76%	78%
Newport (d)	1,835	100%	37%	42%	88%	78%
Wales	23,579	90%	55%	55%	92%	78%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13

Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) 2013, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2012-13 (denominator)

Public Health Wales COVER report 2011-2012, 2012-13, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2012-13 (denominator)

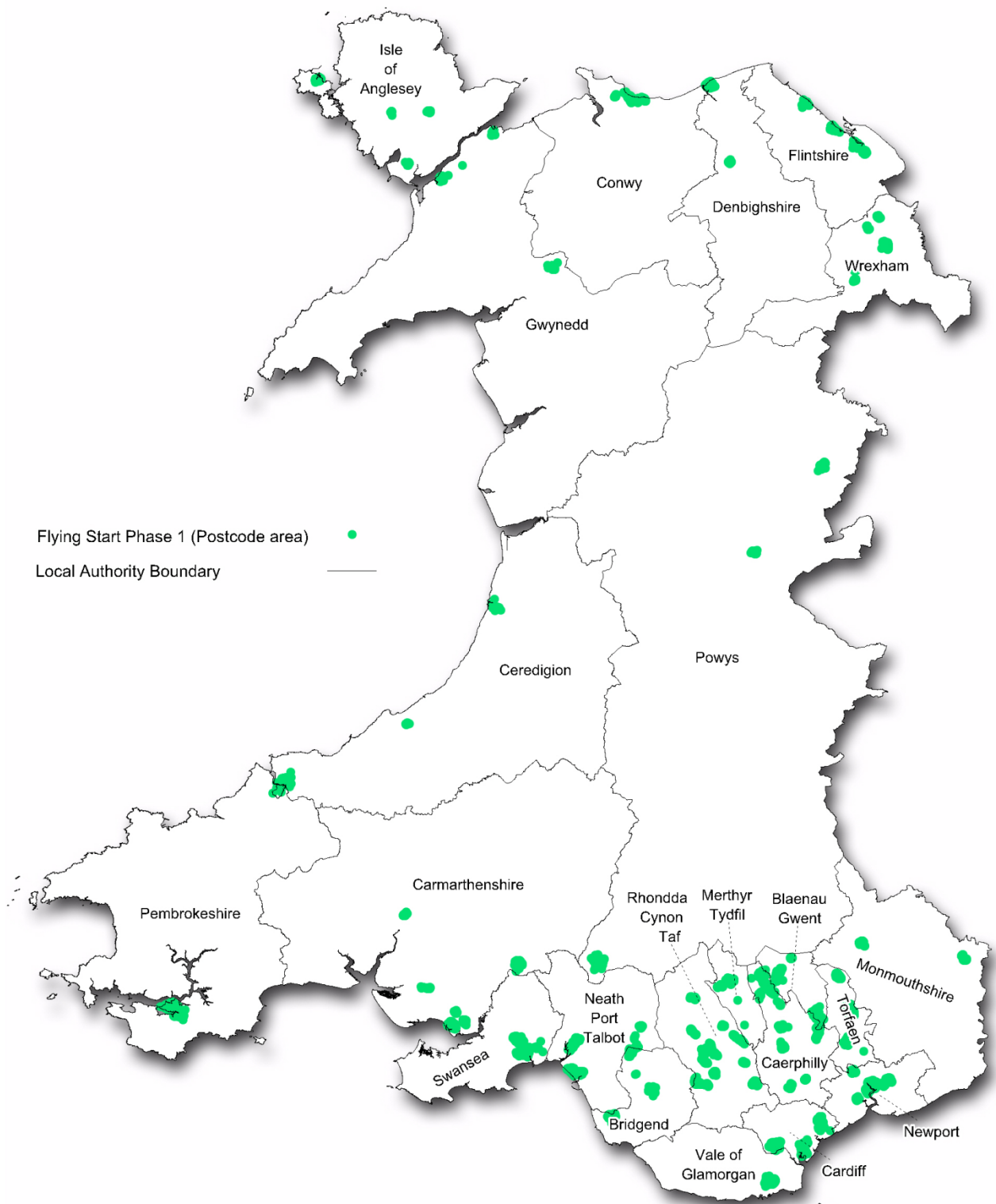
(a) Cumulative count of individual children receiving health visitor Flying Start services

(b) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 48.

(c) Includes the following immunisations: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae (Hib), Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningitis C and Pneumococcal infection (PCV). Analysis provided by Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre and Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme.

(d) The number of children taking up a full or reduced offer of childcare was greater than the total number of places offered, resulting in a percentage of 102% in Newport in 2012-13 which has been adjusted to 100%. In addition the numbers of offers exceeded the numbers of eligible children in several cases. See Notes for an explanation for these discrepancies.

Baseline Map: Location of Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2012



(r) Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2012 have been revised due to late changes in the postcodes received from Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Ceredigion, Neath Port Talbot, Newport and Pembrokeshire.

Key quality information

The Flying Start programme

Key aspects of Flying Start are:

- free part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds
- an enhanced Health Visiting service (where the Health Visitor caseload is capped at 110 children)
- access to Parenting support
- access to Speech, Language and Communication support (previously described as Early Language Development).

These services are universally available to all children aged under 4 years and their families in the areas in which the programme runs.

Health visiting and midwifery: A Flying Start requirement is that there must be one full time equivalent health visitor per 110 children aged under 4 in the target areas. This is to ensure delivery of intensive support to Flying Start children and their families. The primary function of the Flying Start health visitor is to support the family in the home, assessing both the child (using an appropriate Welsh Government approved developmental assessment tool), and the family (in terms of high, medium and low risk). In some local authorities, midwives are employed as part of the core Flying Start team. Whether or not this is the case locally, Flying Start health visitors work closely with generic midwives working with Flying Start parents. Particular emphasis is placed on working with the most vulnerable groups including teenage parents, those who are victims of, or may be at risk of domestic abuse and pre/post natal depression.

Childcare services: The core Flying Start childcare offer is that quality childcare is offered to parents of all eligible 2-3 year olds for 2 ½ hours a day, 5 days a week for 39 weeks. In addition, there should be at least 15 sessions of flexible provision for the family during the school holidays.

Source

~ Routine management information:

Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical services (KAS) established routine data monitoring of the Flying Start programme in 2012 and early 2013 with the first data being collected for 2012-13. The information is collected three times a year from local authorities and includes data used to manage the programme.

This release provides data for each complete financial year based on the final data collection of each year. Since the last statistical release was issued, two termly updates, providing unvalidated key management information for Wales only, have been published shortly after each data collection period. The purpose of these termly updates is to enable in-year high level monitoring of the programme. The data published is felt to be of sufficient value at a Wales level to be presented, but local authority data continue to be validated throughout the year and are only included in this annual statistical release.

~ Information on outcomes for children resident in Flying Start areas:

National databases such as the National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) and the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) have been used in conjunction with lists of the Flying Start postcode areas to provide outcome measures for the children in relevant age groups. The outcomes presented here are the proportion of children living within and outside Flying Start areas who are fully immunised by their 4th birthdays, the proportion of children aged 4-5 who are of healthy weight based on their BMI and the proportion who are recorded on school rolls at age 3. Note that there will be a number of children resident in these areas whose families have not taken up offers of Flying Start services and therefore are incorrectly counted as Flying Start children; this number is thought to be small however.

~ Population:

ONS mid year estimates of population are used in [Chart 2](#) and [Table 1](#) of this release; For 2015-16 the 2015 mid year estimates have been used. For 2016-17 the 2016 mid year estimates have been used. The estimates are published on our [StatsWales website](#).

Coverage

~ Flying Start areas

Flying Start targets the most disadvantaged areas in Wales. The programme has been targeted to areas according to measures of relative disadvantage including the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), free school meals and the proportions of children aged under 4 years living in households in receipt of income related benefits.

The areas included in [Map 1](#) are those areas defined according to postcodes provided to Welsh Government by Flying Start coordinators. In a small number of postcodes not all of the dwellings within the area are included in the programme. Note that the map does not reflect any expansion of the programme after 31 March 2016. 2016-17 expansion areas are not yet available for mapping.

~ Expansion areas

A small expansion of the programme into additional areas occurred in 2012-13 but the major expansion to date was during 2013-14 and 2014-15. The expectation was that the number of children benefitting from the programme by the end of 2015-16 would be 36,000, but this figure was in fact met by the end of 2014-15. Management data has been collected for some aspects of the programme separately for pre-expansion areas and for expansion areas. Where a split is not available the addition of the developing areas into the statistics should be considered when interpreting the data. The release presents statistics for expansion areas in the following way:

- It has not been possible to split the number of children benefitting, the caseload counts, contacts or take-up of childcare places between pre-expansion and expansion areas. This should be noted when making comparisons of statistics between years. However some background information on the numbers of children who have been offered childcare places in the two areas was collected.

- Assessment data has been collected separately for pre-expansion areas and expansion areas and these are presented separately with the areas being compared with statistics from earlier years.

It should be noted that in some local authorities there was relatively slow development into the expansion areas in some cases because of delays recruiting health visitors and in establishing new childcare settings. It is likely that the statistics are impacted by this.

Management information

This data collection was established during 2012 and early 2013 in collaboration with Flying Start coordinators for the purpose of providing information with which to manage the programme. The first data was provided to Welsh Government for 2012-13 and is submitted for three “terms” during the year: 1 April - 31 August, 1 September – 31 December and 1 January – 31 March.

It should be noted that the information has been collected for management rather than statistical reasons and validation of the data is focussed as much on the operation of the programme as it is on developing robust statistics. As such the data presented has not been subject to the usual statistical processes that occur.

Further the data collection is new and is still being developed and improved with local authorities. As requirements are identified, and the data are published, local authorities are refining their data collection methodologies and it is expected that data quality will improve over time.

The management information shows that Flying Start children are likely to move in and out of the areas. In most local authorities children transferring into Flying Start areas accounted for around 15-25 per cent of all children in receipt of Health Visitor services at some time during 2015-16.

The following statistics are derived from this management information:

1. **Children benefiting from, that is, in receipt of Flying Start services:** the data shows the number of individual Flying Start children, aged under 4 years, who are recorded as having received health visitor Flying Start services at some point between 1 April and 31 March. In each year there is a small number of local authorities where the number of children allocated to Flying Start Health Visitors’ caseloads is greater than the number of children in receipt of Flying Start services. This is likely to be due to transfers in to Flying Start areas at the end of the term but before any first health visitor contact.

Note that from 2013-14 caseload was counted at the end of each term rather than the start of the term.

Flying Start staff also provide ante-natal services as well as services to some children aged 4 if there are younger Flying Start children in the family but these contacts are not presented in these statistics.

2. **Children newly eligible and in receipt of Flying Start nursery provision:** the figure is the number of Flying Start children, aged 2 or 3 years, who are newly eligible for and have taken up full or reduced offers of childcare between 1 April and 31 March. The percentage shown is the number of children taking up childcare as a percentage of the number of offers

made to newly eligible children. The majority of offers taken up are full (more than 90 per cent). Note that in each year in a small number of authorities the count of childcare offers taken up was higher than the number of offers made to newly eligible children, and in addition the numbers of offers exceeded the numbers of eligible children in several cases. These apparent discrepancies are because the numbers eligible reflect only those eligible at the start of each term, excluding any children that moved into the Flying Start areas during each term and who were subsequently offered a place. From 2013-14 the collection has been improved so that numbers of offers will only exceed eligible children in cases where there is a catch up on offers not made in a previous year, which is likely to have a minimal impact on the data.

An offer is made in the term of the child's 2nd birthday and is taken up or otherwise. The provision will only start in the following term and attendance will not necessarily reflect take-up as a place may not be attended even if taken up (accepted).

Note that in expansion areas children who were very close to their 3rd birthdays may not have been made childcare offers.

3. Flying Start children within one age band / meeting or exceeding their development milestones at age two / three years, as measured by a standard development

assessment tool: the figure is the number of Flying Start children, aged between 23 and 25 months / 35 and 37 months, who have been assessed by health visitors and either within one age band/meeting or exceeding the developmental norms for this age. The figure relates to children of this age who were assessed between 1 April and 31 March of each year.

4. Children assessed "in the recommended age window"

For the analysis in this Statistical Release, only children who are assessed in the recommended age window, i.e. within a month of the 2nd or 3rd birthdays, are considered, because the norms against which the assessment is made will not be appropriate for children who are assessed late or early. Children that are assessed when they are aged between 23 and 25 months inclusive (i.e. between 23 months and 0 days and 25 months and 0 days) are considered to be assessed 'in the recommended age window', children who are assessed before they turn 23 months are considered as being assessed early, and children assessed age 25 months and 1 day or over are considered as being assessed late. Similarly for 35-37 months.

The Flying Start Health Visitor assesses each child in receipt of Flying Start services using an appropriate Welsh Government approved developmental assessment tool. This tool assesses a child's development across key areas relating to movement, manipulation, visual, hearing, speech and language, and social interaction, comparing the child's progress with a norm derived from a standard reference group of children of a similar age.

Assessments may be carried out at home or in a childcare setting.

The Data Monitoring return captures the numbers of children within one age band or meeting or exceeding norms for their age in relation to seven skill areas. For example if a child scores at or

above the norms for their age for all seven skill areas, they are counted as meeting or exceeding developmental norms. However, if that child scores below norms but within one age band in one or more skill areas, then they will be counted overall as within one age band of norms for their age. The children who are more than one age band below in any of the seven skill areas are counted as being outside one age band as a whole and are also shown in this release.

A developmental age of one age band below the age-appropriate band is not generally considered to be important in terms of identifying developmental delay or abnormality in an individual child and whilst health visitors will often determine that children who are assessed to be more than one age band below developmental norms require additional support, such a decision will be based on their professional judgement in respect of that child alone. Therefore the numbers of children shown here as more than one age band below is only an approximation of the number children requiring additional support.

Outside Flying Start areas Local Health Boards carry out assessments as clinically indicated using a common tool and according to local pathways. Therefore whilst statistics can be presented relative to the norm in the Flying Start areas, it is not currently possible to draw comparisons with children living in non-Flying Start areas.

Further information on child development can be found here:

[The Child Surveillance Handbook - Health For All Children](#)

Parenting and Speech, Language & Communication

The core purpose of the parenting strand is about working with parents of children under 4 years old to strengthen parenting capacity and reduce risks, covering issues such as basic care, ensuring safety, emotional warmth, stimulation, guidance and boundaries and stability.

Every family with a Flying Start child must be offered formal parenting support at least on an annual basis. This can be in groups or one to one in the home with a mix of formal and informal support depending on need. In addition to the formal parenting offer, other parenting programmes may be delivered, such as informal parenting support, bespoke enhanced one-to-one sessions and informal drop-in sessions.

Structured formal parenting and Speech, Language & Communication (SLC) courses are defined as those with a structured curriculum and a set start and end date, as listed below (but note that decisions as to which courses to offer are made locally):

- Incredible Years: Parent and Babies Programme
- Incredible Years: Parents and Toddlers Programme
- Triple P: Standard
- Triple P: Stepping Stones
- Parents Plus Early Years Programme (PPEY)
- Parenting Positively

- Incredible Years: School Readiness Programme
- Family Links Nurturing Programme (FLNP)
- Incredible Years: Pre-school BASIC Parent Programme
- Solihull Approach Parenting Group
- Handling Children's Behaviour

Structured informal parenting and SLC courses also have a structured curriculum and a set start and end date, such as Language and Play or Number and Play (LAP/NAP), and other structured early language development.

In both cases, a 'place' on a course is defined as one allocated to an individual parental figure. If two (or more) parental figures are allocated a place on a course, would be recorded as two (or more) places. Any children attending with a parent for any reason would **not** be counted as a place.

The measure of 'take up' of a place on a course refers to the number of places made available on courses that were eventually taken up, and is defined as the number for which the place was attended at the first session.

Bespoke enhanced distinct packages of support are defined as planned, time bound series of sessions, delivered on a one-to-one basis, that have been identified as a requirement via a specific referral from within the Flying Start programme in respect of parenting or SLC. Usually such a package will last for a minimum of four dedicated sessions to a relevant family unit, delivered in the home or elsewhere.

National databases

The list of postcodes provided by the Flying Start programme has been used to identify children of the relevant age on both the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) and the National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD). It should be noted that biases may be created where children who have received Flying Start services had moved at some stage and were counted on national databases outside the Flying Start postcodes areas or where not all children took up Flying Start services.

[Further information about the annual School Census, PLASC.](#)

The PLASC covers all maintained schools in Wales. Pupils are included in PLASC if they are on roll at any maintained school in Wales. This will include pupils who live in England. Pupils who live in Wales but go to school in England are not included (they will be counted in the annual school census in England). Pupils in independent schools are not counted. The NCCHD counts children where they are resident, and these small definitional differences should be noted.

We published a bulletin in 2010 that analysed [cross border flows](#) of pupils. It showed that annually some 1,700 pupils live in England but go to school in Wales (these will be counted in PLASC), and almost 2,000 live in Wales but go to school in England (these will not be counted in PLASC). The majority of these live in four authorities – Flintshire, Wrexham, Powys and Monmouthshire.

The National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) is Wales' national community child health database and consists of anonymised records for all children born, resident or treated in Wales and born after 1987. It brings together data from local Child Health System databases which are held by Local Health Boards.

For further information about the National Community Child Health Database see:

[Statistics and Research website: Births: Data from the National Community Child Health Database](#)

[NHS Wales Informatics Service Information Services](#)

The following statistics are derived from national databases:

1. **Children living in areas in receipt of Flying Start services, aged 3, who were recorded on school rolls:** this statistic relates to children living in Flying Start areas who were aged 3 as at 31 August and also recorded on school rolls as reported by the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) as at the following January. It is presented as a percentage of all children aged 3 as at 31 August, who were living in areas in receipt of Flying Start services identified according to postcodes included in the programme and recorded on the National Community Child Health Database as at the following 31 January. Each year a small number of children resident in postcodes which were partially included in the programme have been apportioned according to the proportions of dwellings included in Flying Start. Note that not all children in a Flying Start area may take up the services offered.
2. **Live births to mothers living in Flying Start areas and those who were fed any breast milk at 10 days old:** These statistics relate to babies born to mothers resident in Flying Start areas in 2015, and of those, what proportion of them were fed *any* breast milk. The data is taken from the NCCHD and is allocated to areas on the basis of postcode of residence. A list of postcodes falling within the Flying Start programme has been used to extract data for mothers living in Flying Start areas. Data for 2014 relates to mothers living in the programme area as defined at 31 March 2014 and data for 2015 relates to mothers living in the programme area as defined at 31 March 2015. Following a new mandate in August 2012, data on infant feeding at 10 days, 6 weeks and 6 months has been recorded on the Child Health System, in addition to infant feeding data at birth. The data recorded on the NCCHD includes the following categories of infant feeding
 - Artificial Milk Feeding
 - Combined Milk Feeding - Partially Breast
 - Combined Milk Feeding - Predominantly Breast
 - Exclusive Milk

The statistic presented is the proportion of babies in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas who, at 10 days, are recorded as receiving *any* breast milk, e.g. combined milk feeding (that is, breast milk plus artificial milk) plus those who receive exclusively breast milk (that is, nothing else except water).

Further information and data on infant feeding can be found in the statistical release '[Births: Data from the National Community Child Health Database](#)'.

3. **Children living in areas in receipt of Flying Start services who are fully immunised by age 4:** this statistic relates to children reaching their 4th birthday during each financial year (between 1 April and 31 March) and measures the percentage of children living in areas in receipt of Flying Start services who were fully up to date with their immunisations by their 4th birthday. Children living in areas in receipt of Flying Start services are identified according to postcodes included in the programme and recorded on the National Community Child Health Database. Each year a small number of children resident in postcodes which were partially included in the programme have been apportioned according to the proportions of dwellings included in Flying Start. Note that not all children in a Flying Start area may take up the services offered. Note that in some local authorities there may be children who are omitted from immunisation coverage statistics either because they are new to the country and were immunised elsewhere or because they were privately immunised.

The composite measure of fully immunised by 4 years of age uses the following immunisations as proxy: the 5 in 1 primary immunisation (dose 3), the Hib/MenC booster, the pneumococcal conjugate booster, MMR dose 2 and the 4 in 1 preschool booster.

The analysis of immunisation data was done by Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre and Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme.

For further information on immunisation coverage see [Public Health Wales COVER reports](#).

4. **Reception aged children living in areas in receipt of Flying Start services who were assessed as having a healthy weight:** The Child Measurement Programme for Wales is a surveillance programme set up in 2011 when the Welsh Government asked Public Health Wales to undertake a national height and weight measuring programme for Wales, to give a better understanding about how children in Wales are growing. The programme standardises the way in which primary school children are measured across Wales.

The information collected will help people working in health services and other public sector services understand patterns of child growth so they can plan services accordingly.

Prevalence rates (healthy (including a small number of under-weight children), overweight or obese) were calculated using the age and sex-specific body mass index (BMI) centiles calculated using the British 1990 growth reference (UK90) (from a method proposed by Cole et al (1995)). The body mass index (BMI) was calculated using a method proposed by Keys et al (1972). The following weight categories have been assigned:

- underweight: less than but not including 2nd centile;
- healthy weight: 2nd centile up to but not including 85th centile;
- overweight: 85th centile up to and not including 95th centile;
- obese: 95th centile and above.

Keys, A. et al (1972) Indices of relative weight and obesity. Journal of Chronic Diseases, 25:329-343.

Cole, T.J. et al (1995) Body mass index reference curves for the UK. Archives of Disease in Childhood, 73: 25-9. Cited in Dinsdale H, Ridler C, Ells L J. A simple guide to classifying body mass index in children. Oxford: National Obesity Observatory, 2011.

Public Health Wales combine weight categories for healthy and underweight so that there is access to counts and proportions of overweight and obesity together and separately. For the data presented under 0.6% of the total sample were underweight.

Records are included in the Child Measurement Programme for Wales if they meet all of the following criteria:

- location of residence can be determined;
- residence in Wales;
- school located in Wales;
- born in the period September 2007 to August 2008 for 2012/13 data;
- born in the period September 2008 to August 2009 for 2013/14 data;
- sex is recorded.

Eligible records are determined to be valid, and will be counted in the number measured, if they meet all of the following criteria:

- height measurement recorded and is not an implausible measurement;
- weight measurement recorded and is not an implausible measurement;
- consent not withdrawn;
- measurement collected during the academic years 2012/13 and 2013/14.

The Child Measurement Programme was implemented in reception year across Wales for the first time during the 2011/12 academic year. As the programme was under development during this period, this first year is regarded as a transitional year.

For further information on the Child Measurement programme for Wales please see:

[NHS Wales website: Child Measurement Programme for Wales](#)

Data access, confidentiality and disclosure control

Our statistics take into account our disclosure control guidance and follow ONS confidentiality guidelines for Health statistics available from: [ONS best-practice guidelines](#).

Revisions

Historical data is not revised unless errors are discovered.

What are the potential uses of these statistics?

The statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of the uses include:

- advice to Ministers;
- to inform debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond;
- to make publicly available data on the Flying Start programme for monitoring, benchmarking and improvement;
- to provide additional contextual information for Programme for Government indicators;
- to help further develop policy in the area of tackling poverty in Wales.

Who are the key potential users of this data?

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Flying Start Programme and local teams
- local authorities;
- the research community;
- students, academics and universities;
- individual citizens;
- NHS organisations.

Relevance

The statistics provide an overview of Flying Start in Wales.

In our statistical outputs we provide background to our statistics and information for users. We encourage users of the statistics to contact us to let us know how they use the data.

We consult with key users prior to making changes, and where possible publicise changes on the internet, at committees and other networks to consult with users more widely. We aim to respond quickly to policy changes to ensure our statistics remain relevant.

Accuracy

1. Data quality

Improvements in data collection methodology and validation continue to be made as the Welsh Government's Health Statistics team works closely with Flying Start teams in each local authority, with monitoring and support provided by Welsh Government account managers allocated to all the local authorities. The account managers meet with each of their Flying Start co-ordinators on a regular basis to discuss progress in the implementation of the programme.

2. Completeness

Data for births and infant feeding from NCCHD: Completeness and data quality of the items held on NCCHD vary depending on the extent to which Health Boards use the items for administrative purposes. Improving data quality with the help of Health Boards is an ongoing process. Note that the accompanying charts and tables may include categories for not stated data. Calculated percentages exclude not stated values from the denominator unless otherwise stated.

3. Introduction of new breastfeeding definitions

From September 2012 Health Boards started to record infant feeding data on to the Child Health System according to revised definitions, which, as time progresses, is providing more detailed breastfeeding data.

Following each quarterly refresh of the database, completeness tables for key variables are posted on the NHS Wales Intranet for LHBs to review.

Non-sampling error is reduced by standards and guidance is provided about the data collections (see above). Where non-sampling error affects the data, we provide full information for users to allow them to make informed judgements on the quality of the statistics, particularly if there are limitations of the data.

NCCHD is a live database and is refreshed quarterly. If reports are run from subsequent versions of the database counts will differ from published figures. Historical data is not revised unless errors are discovered. In the case of incorrect data being published, revisions would be made and users informed. This happens infrequently but occasionally does happen.

Timeliness and punctuality

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice by pre-announcing the date of publication through the [Upcoming calendar](#) web pages. Furthermore, should the need arise to postpone an output this would follow our standard arrangements on [Revisions, errors and postponements](#).

We publish releases as soon as practical after the relevant time period. Flying Start: Summary Statistics is published annually in July. Births in Wales: Data from the National Community Child Health Database is published annually in July/August.

Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. An RSS feed alerts registered users to this publication. Simultaneously the releases are also published on the National Statistics

Publication Hub. We also publicise our outputs on [Twitter](#). All releases are available to download for free.

We aim to use Plain English in our outputs and all outputs adhere to the Welsh Government's [accessibility policy](#). Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English.

Further information regarding the statistics can be obtained by contacting the relevant staff detailed on the release or via stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Comparability and coherence

Where there are changes to the data provided, this is shown clearly in the outputs. Where advance warning is known of future changes these will be pre-announced in accordance with Welsh Government arrangements.

Every year the data are all collected from the same source and adhere to the national standard.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016. This release does not include any of the national indicators.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

As a national indicator under the Act they must be referred to in the analyses of local well-being produced by public services boards when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/flying-start/?lang=en>

Next update

July 2018 (provisional)

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.healthinfo@gov.wales

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