

SDR 107/2015

14 July 2015

Flying Start, summary statistics 2014-15

This statistical release provides some key official statistics from the Flying Start programme and for each of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales. This is the third statistical release of an annual series in relation to this programme and aims to provide the evidence needed to inform further policy development, as well as providing data to Local Authorities for monitoring, benchmarking and improvement and information for the wider public.

[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.

This release aims to provide a statistical overview of how the programme is working by presenting statistics from the management information set, for example, the numbers of children using Flying Start services, together with developing statistics about outcomes for Flying Start children.

Improvements in collection processes, methodology and validation continue to be made but this is still relatively new data and this should be recognised when interpreting the resulting statistics.

During 2013-14 an expansion of the programme into additional areas began, continuing in 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 potential impact of the expansion process should be considered when interpreting the statistics. For more on improvements in data collection and data quality, see [notes](#) on page 40.

Flying Start is one of the Welsh Government's top priorities and many of the statistics presented here are also used as indicators for the programme within the Welsh Government's [Programme for Government](#).

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.

Statistics on the weight of Reception age children living in Flying Start areas is presented for the first time in this release.

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Key Facts for 2014-15:

- 37,260 children benefited from, that is, were in receipt of Flying Start services in Wales at any time in 2014-15, exceeding the expected numbers (the children seen in the year exceed expectations for the year by 13 per cent).
- Flying Start children (on the health visitor caseload) of all ages up to age 4 were seen an average of 5.7 times during 2014-15 by health visitors and a further 2.4 times by members of the wider health team (a total of 8.2 contacts per child).
- 84 per cent of offers of childcare in a Flying Start childcare setting were taken up during 2014-15.
- 84 per cent of children in the pre-expansion Flying Start programme areas reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms¹ at age 2 years while 56 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age.
- 83 per cent of children in the pre-expansion Flying Start programme areas reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms¹ at age 3 years while 52 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age.
- 93 per cent of children aged 3 and living in Flying Start areas were on roll at a maintained school (2014).
- 83 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas were fully immunised by their 4th birthday (2013-14).
- The data shows that at the Wales level Flying Start areas have a lower prevalence (70 per cent) of healthy weight² children than non-Flying Start areas (73 per cent).

Changes since 2013-14:

- There was expansion from 31,322 children in receipt of Flying Start services in 2013-14 to 37,260 children in 2014-15, an increase of around a fifth (19 per cent).
- Nearly a fifth (18 per cent) more children were seen in 2014-15, that is, were allocated to a Flying Start health visitor's caseload.
- In total (health visitor and the wider health team) there were slightly more contacts per child in 2014-15, 8.2 compared to 7.8 in 2013-14.
- There has been a further fall in childcare take-up at the all Wales level, from 86 per cent in 2013-14 to 84 per cent in 2014-15.
- Developmental assessments in pre-expansion areas:
 - There was a slight fall in the percentage of children assessed at age 2 that either reached or exceeded their developmental milestones.
 - There was also a slight fall in the percentage of children assessed at age 3 that either reached or exceeded their developmental milestones.
 - There was an improvement 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.
- There was a slight increase, to 93 per cent, in children aged 3 and living in Flying Start areas that were on roll at a maintained school.
- There was an increase, from 78 per cent in 2012-13 to 83 per cent in 2013-14 of children living in Flying Start areas that were fully immunised by their 4th birthday.

¹ For further information on developmental assessment please see [notes](#) on page 40.

² Includes a very small number of underweight children: see notes on page 45.

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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 at:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/parenting-support-guidance/help/flyingstart/?lang=en>

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 [Key Quality Information](#) on page 40.

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 40.

Expansion of the programme

A small expansion of the programme into additional areas occurred in 2012-13 but the major expansion to date has been during 2013-14 and 2014-15. The expectation is that the number of children benefitting from the programme by the end of 2014-15 would be 33,091 and 36,000 by the end of 2015-16. Map 1 on page 7 shows the areas, based on postcodes, targeted as recipients of Flying Start funding, as at 31 March 2014, that is, after the first year of major expansion. A map of pre-expansion postcodes (as at 31 March 2012) is included on page 39.

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. During 2013-14 the numbers of children benefitting from the programme increased by around a third to 31,300. The data published here for 2014-15 reflects a second expansion period of around 19 per cent in terms of children seen from 2013-14.

Selected basic counts from the data monitoring dataset are presented in Tables 1-3 starting on page 27 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. Further validation exercises have been conducted this year with local authorities and these have resulted in some revisions to the previously published 2013-14 data. These revisions only relate to

developmental assessment data (for further information see notes on page 42). Please see further details in the [notes](#) on page 40.

Pre-expansion and expansion

As in 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 revised statistics from 2013-14.

It should be noted that in some local authorities delays in recruiting health visitors and in establishing new childcare settings in some expansion areas have still been an issue in 2014-15 and it is likely that the statistics are impacted by this.

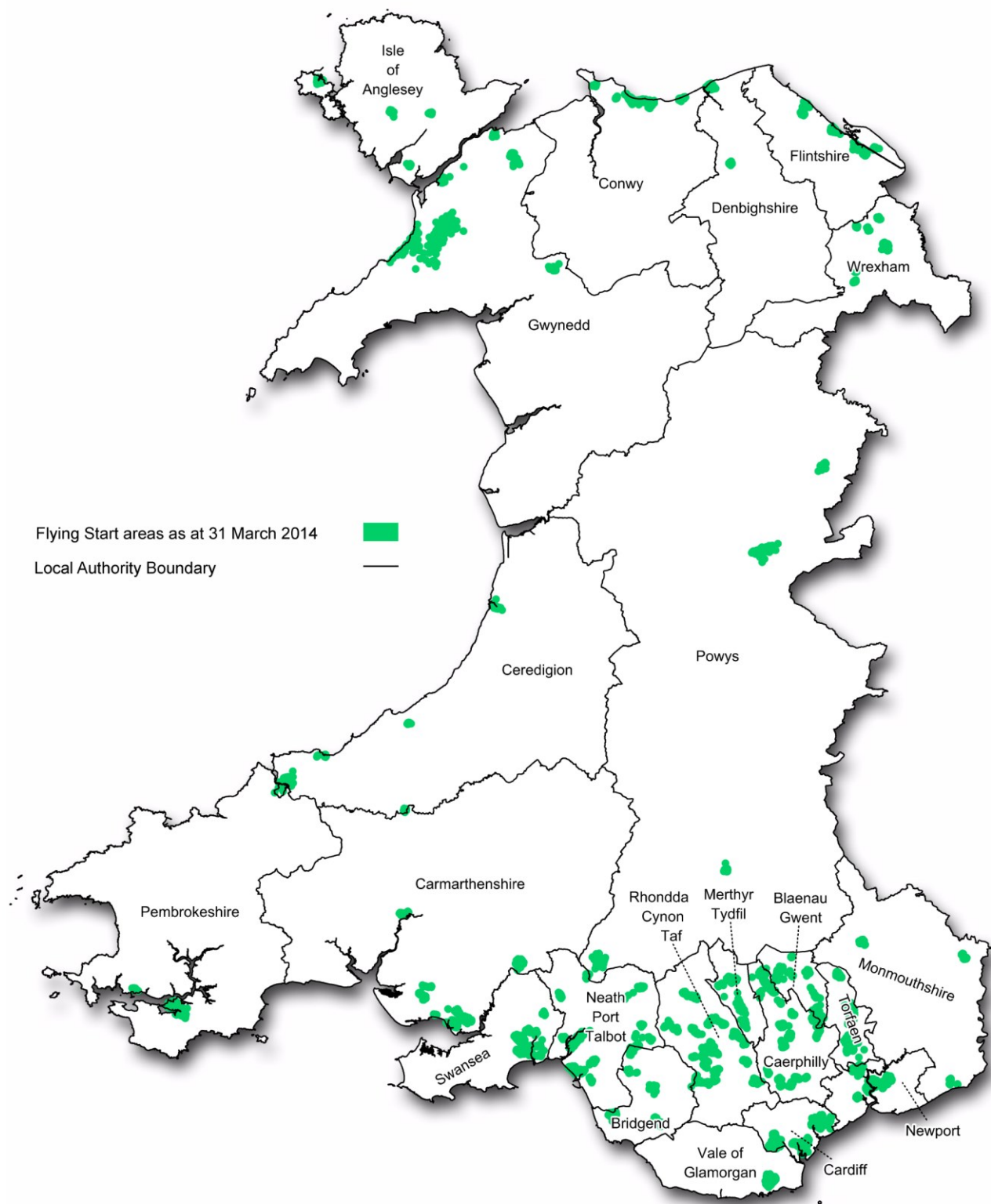
Additional target areas will be added to the programme throughout the remaining period of expansion i.e. during 2015-16.

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 and 7. 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 44.

Statistics are presented in a series of charts throughout the release and detailed data tables are provided in Tables 1-9 beginning on page 27. Note that percentages in the tables are rounded to the nearest whole number, but unrounded data is used in the charts.

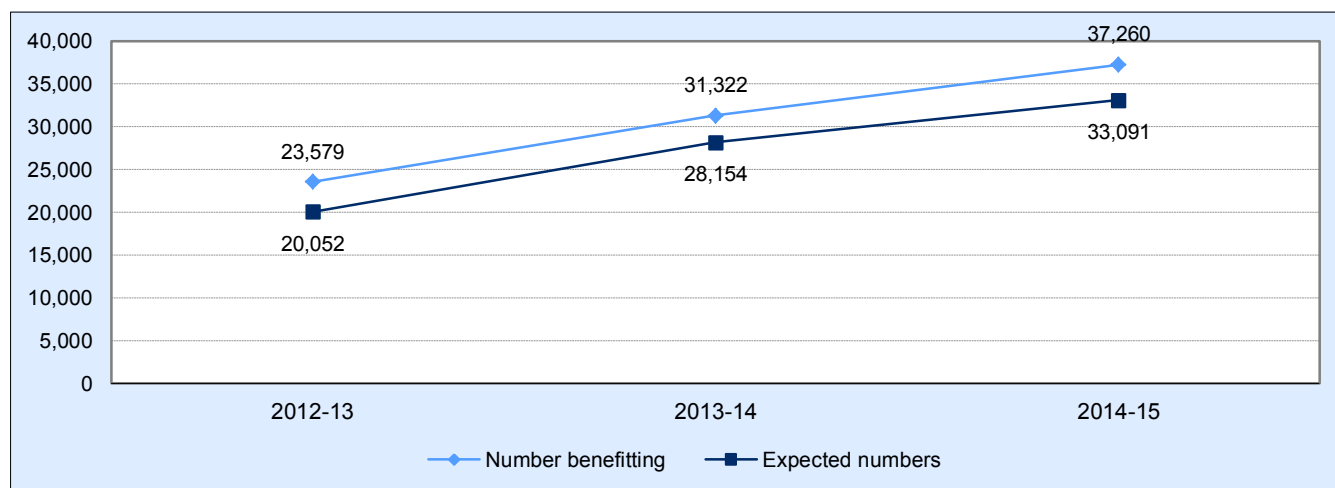
A baseline table of data from both these sources has been included for 2012-13, on page 38.

Map 1: Location of Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2014



1. Children receiving Flying Start Services

Chart 1: Number of children in Wales in receipt of Flying start services (children benefitting), 2012-13 to 2014-15

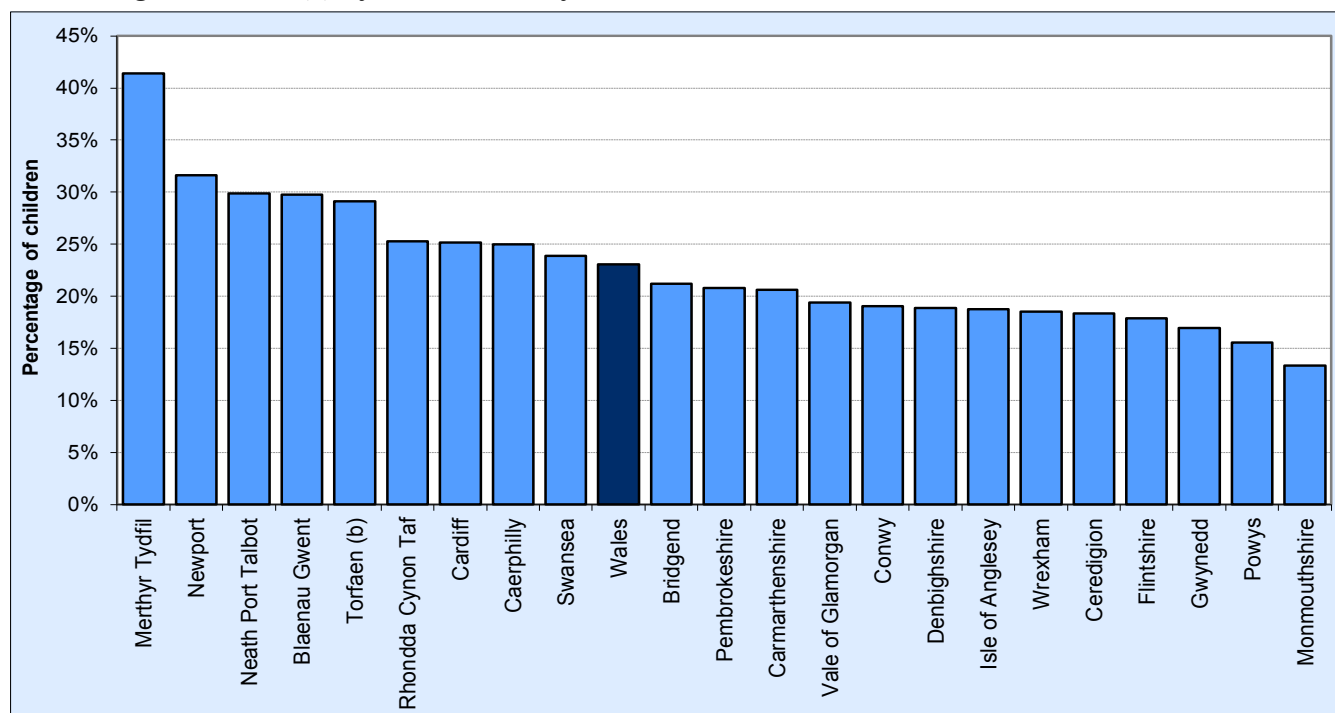


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15

- Chart 1 shows that during 2014-15 37,260 children benefited from Flying Start, that is, they were in receipt of Flying Start services in Wales (Table 1). The expected numbers for each year are also shown.

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, 32,581 for 2014-15, 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 2014-15. 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, 2014-15



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15 (health visitor caseload)

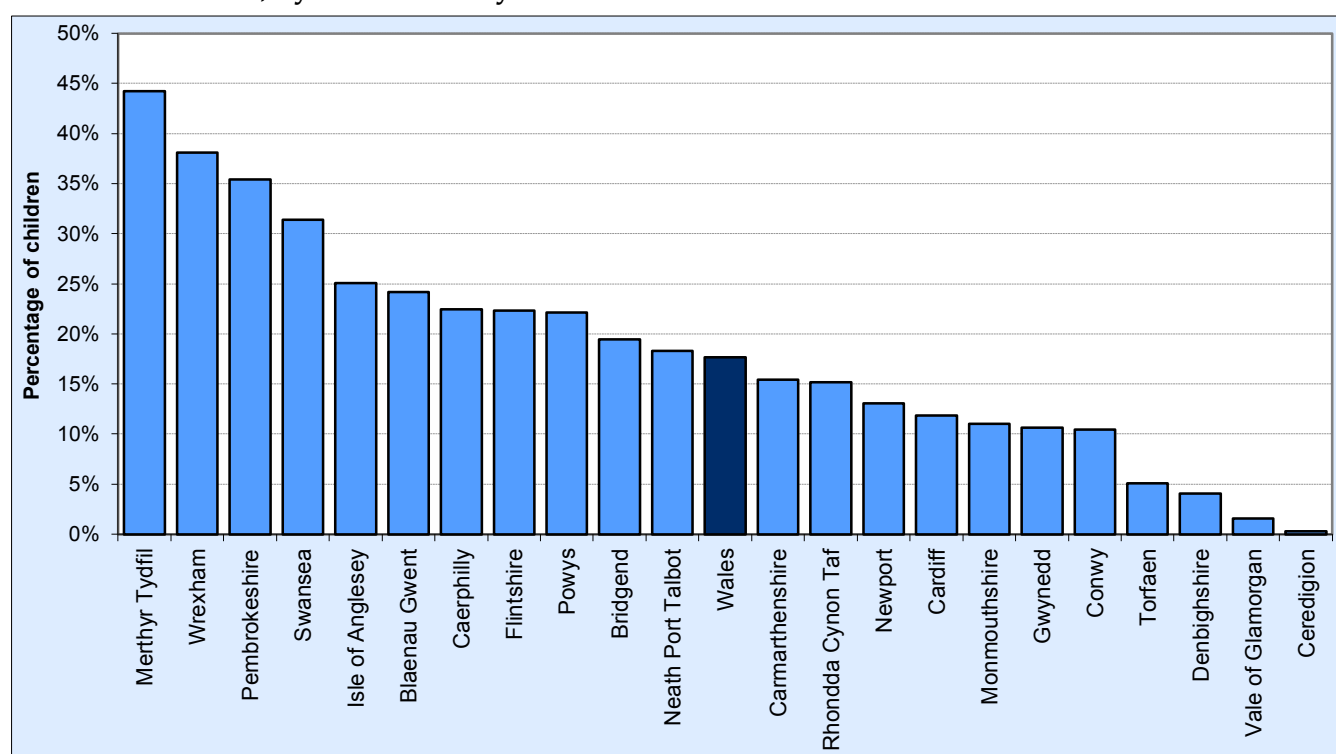
(a) 2014 Mid Year Population Estimates, published by Office for National Statistics.

(b) Torfaen have reported that they may have double counted some children within the caseload figure. If subsequent data is received this will be revised in next year's release.

- Overall 23 per cent of children aged under 4 in Wales were on health visitor caseloads and received Flying Start services during 2014-15 (Chart 2), nearly 1 in 4 Welsh children. This is an increase from 19 per cent in 2013-14.
- This figure, influenced by the targeting of areas in relative need, varied from 41 per cent of children under 4 in Merthyr Tydfil to 13 per cent in Monmouth.

In one local authority the caseload was greater than the number of children benefitting from Flying Start services. This is likely to 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.

Chart 3: Percentage change in the number of children on Flying Start health visitor caseloads between 2013-14 and 2014-15, by local authority



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2013-14 and 2014-15 (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 2013-14 and 2014-15, ranging between 0 per cent in Ceredigion and 44 per cent in Merthyr Tydfil. Overall in Wales, there was an 18 per cent increase in the number of children on Flying Start health visitor caseloads.

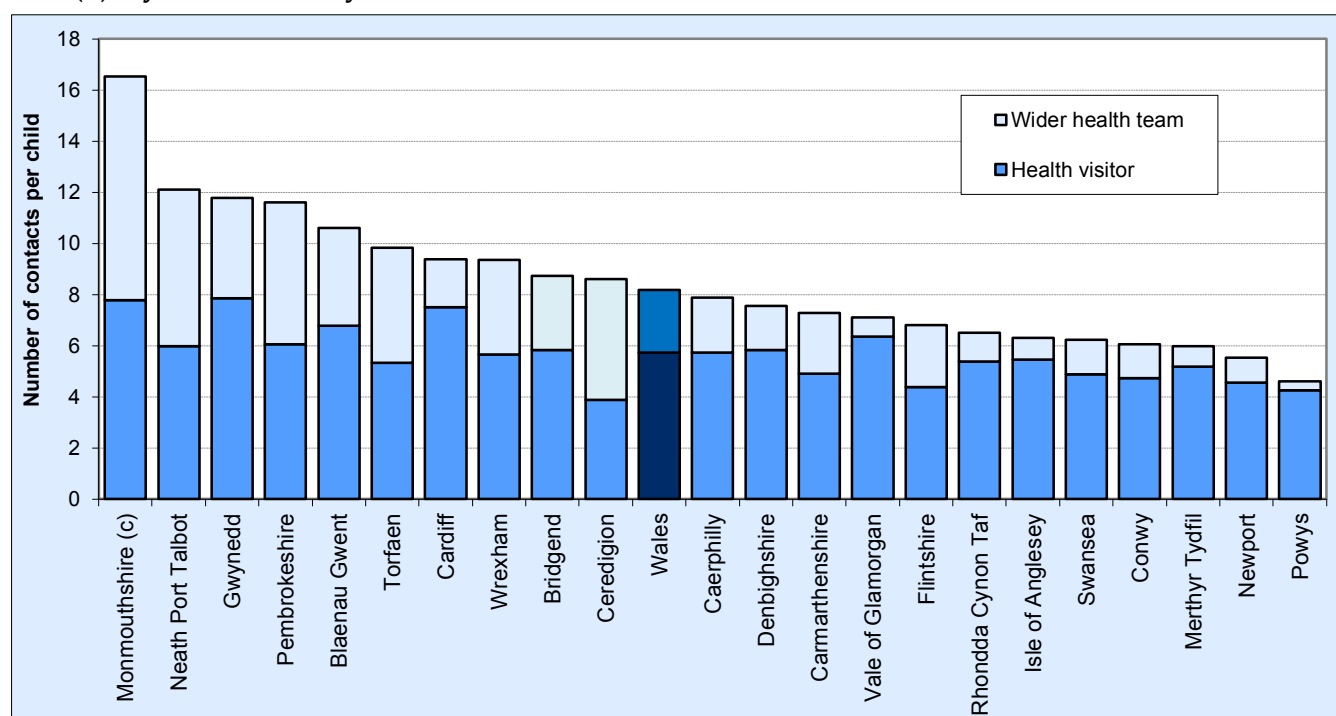
Note: Some local authorities reported continued problems with staffing levels during 2014-15, having an effect on the number of children on caseloads and the speed of expansion during the year. Also some areas have a high level of transiency, making it likely that some children would have transferred out of Flying Start areas at some point during the year, and potentially before the first contact by a health visitor.

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, 2014-15



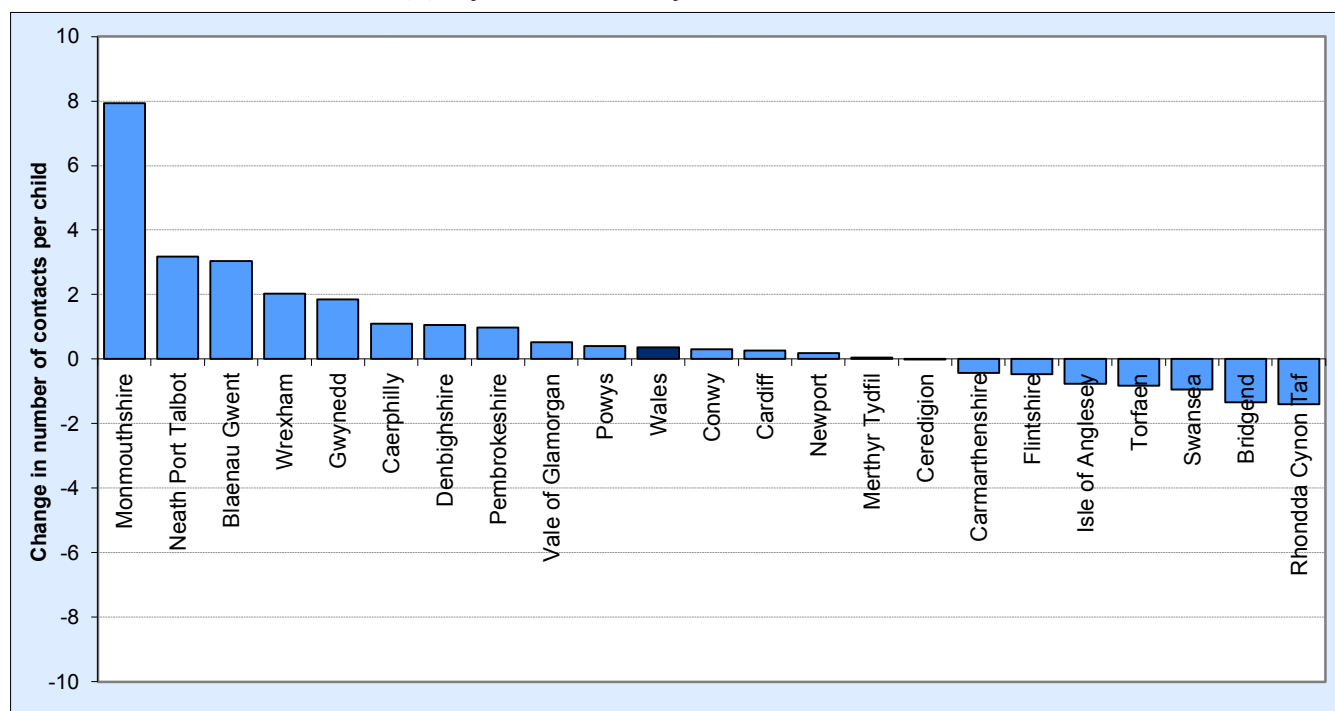
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

- (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.
- (c) In Monmouthshire contacts have increased during 2014-15 due to the increased Health Visitor availability in this local authority.

- Flying Start children of all ages up to age 4 on the health visitor caseload were seen an average of 5.7 times during 2014-15 by health visitors and a further 2.4 times by members of the wider health team, a slight increase on 2013-14 (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 2013-14 and 2014-15 by Flying Start health visitor and wider health team (b), by local authority



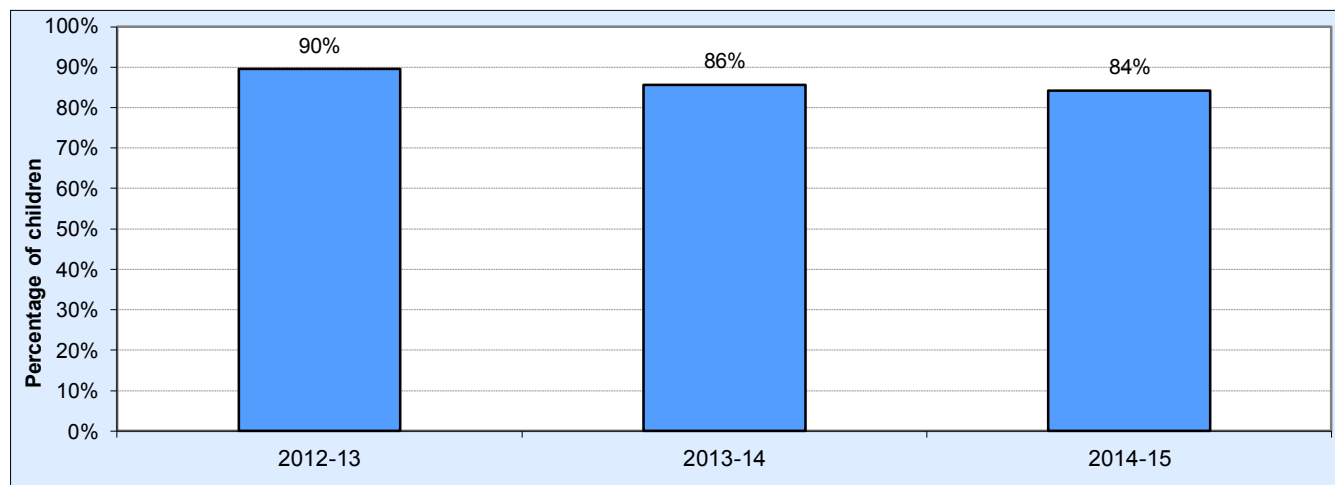
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2013-14 and 2014-15

- (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.
- (c) In Monmouthshire contacts have increased during 2014-15 due to the increased Health Visitor availability in this local authority.

- Chart 5 shows the net change in the number of contacts per child (whether with the health visitor or the wider health team) between 2013-14 and 2014-15. There has been less of a change since 2013-14 in the number of times Flying Start children were seen by either a health visitor or a member of the wider health team (compared to the substantial change seen between 2012-13 and 2013-14) implying that data issues are stabilising. Just over a third (8) 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 (compares to two-thirds last year), with 14 local authorities increasing. Monmouthshire had the greatest increase over the period (8 contacts per child) while Rhondda Cynon Taf saw the greatest decrease. (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 Flying Start-provided childcare, Wales, 2012-13 to 2014-15

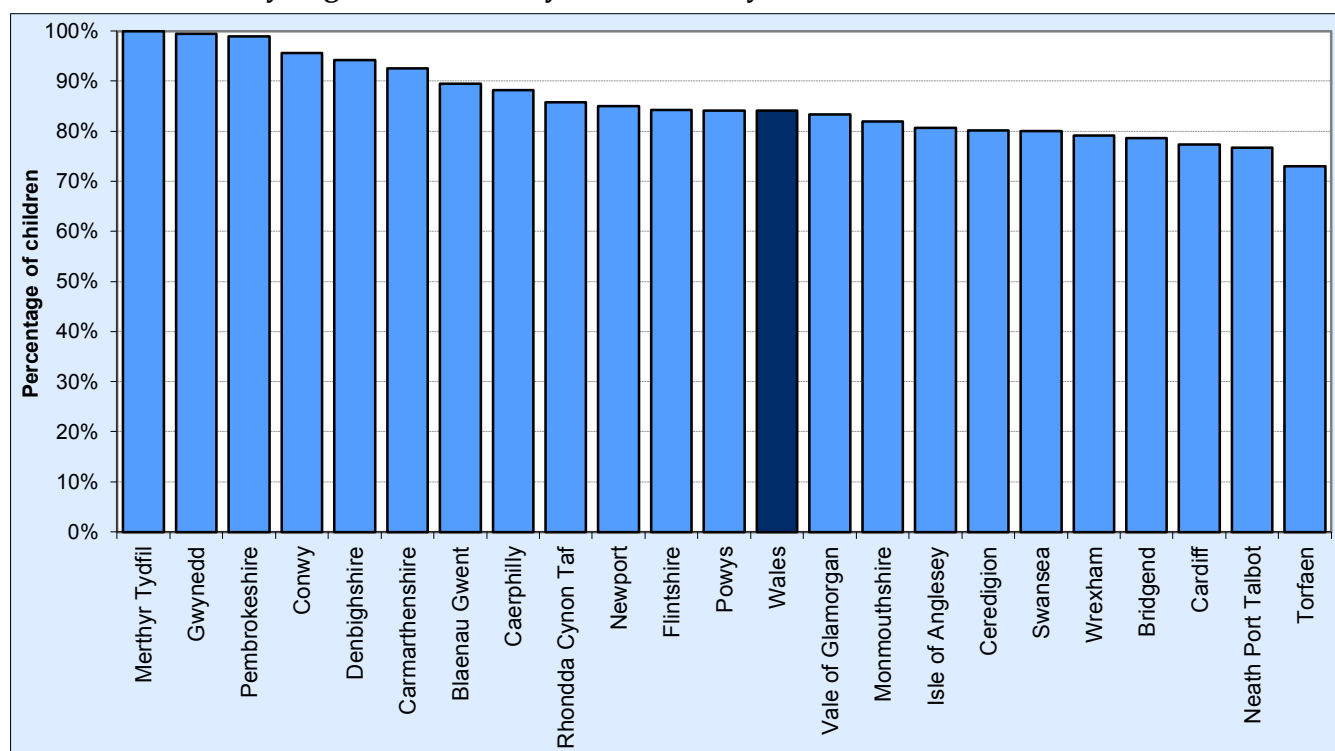


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15

- The percentage of children taking up Flying Start-provided childcare has fallen each year since the start of the programme (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 as a percentage of offers made to newly eligible children, by local authority, 2014-15

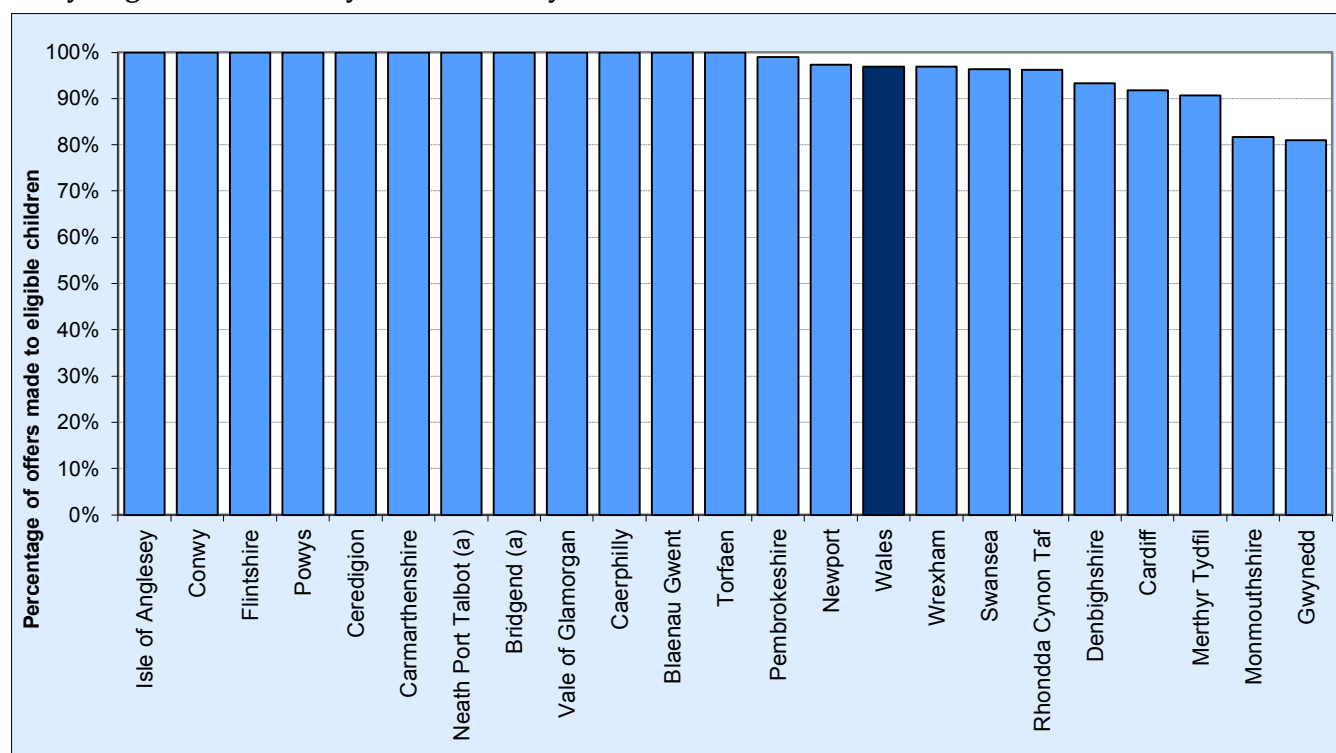


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

Chart 7 illustrates childcare take-up for 2014-15. 2012-13 data is shown in Baseline Table: Key data for 2012-13 on page 38.

- It shows that overall 84 per cent of full or reduced offers of childcare in a Flying Start childcare setting were taken up, a 2 percentage point decrease on the 2013-14 figure (86 per cent) and a 6 percentage point decrease on the 2012-13 figure (90 per cent). (Chart 6, Table 3 and Baseline Table).
- Fewer local authorities had take up rates of over 90 per cent in 2014-15 than in 2013-14, and the majority of take up rates had fallen in this period, with take up as low as 73 per cent in Torfaen (despite Torfaen being one of the best 'improvers', increasing 8 percentage points from 65 per cent in 2013-14).
- A fall in take-up was seen in most local authorities with only eight authorities having seen an increase in take-up.

Chart 8: Number of full or reduced offers of Flying Start-provided childcare made as a percentage of newly eligible children, by local authority, 2014-15



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

(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.

Chart 8 shows the extent to which local authorities made offers of childcare to eligible children in 2014-15.

- In 17 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 eligible children in some of these areas e.g. Torfaen and Neath Port Talbot.

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 continues to be problematic in several local authorities and rates have been affected by delays in registration of some settings e.g. in Monmouthshire. Continuing delays in the availability of new childcare settings have affected the offer rate in Cardiff, Merthyr and Gwynedd. 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 42.

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 2014-15 across all Local Authorities:

- 3,571 places on formal structured parenting courses were offered to families with Flying Start children, 25 percent more than in 2013-14; over three-quarters (76 per cent) of these places were taken up.

Local authority data for formal structured courses is presented in Table 9 on page 37.

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 2014-15 across all Local Authorities:

- A further 10,267 places on informal structured parenting / SLC courses were offered, and more than two-thirds (72 per cent) of these places were taken up.
- 4,993 packages of enhanced one-to-one parenting / SLC or health support¹ were offered, and 43,959 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 as well as the local distribution of courses offered by related programmes such as Families First.

See the [notes](#) section on page 44 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 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.

The first section below compares assessments of children living in the pre-expansion areas between 2013-14 and 2014-15 in order to compare like areas. The expansion areas (as at the end of 2014-15) are reported on separately in the second section below. In new programme areas there may be reasons why the children assessed so far are different from the children already in the programme e.g. more children have been assessed late, or maybe younger children or children with greater needs have been assessed first.

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.

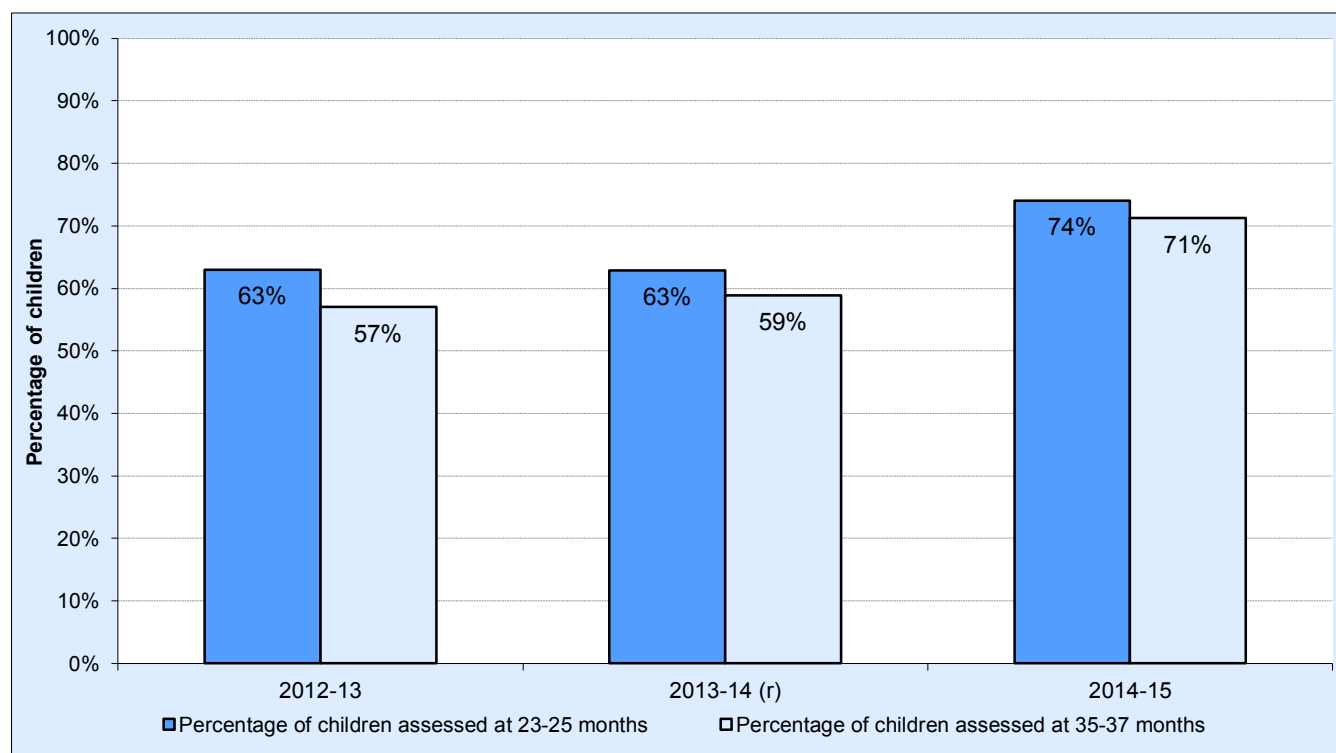
Revisions to 2013-14 developmental assessment data:

During the 2014-15 data collection it was found that in a small number of authorities some development assessments had been incorrectly recorded in 2014-15 when in fact they had occurred in 2013-14. This resulted in some corrections to the 2013-14 data being necessary. A small problem of some double counted records was also discovered. These were removed. Tables 5 and 6 from the 2013-14 release have been revised and are published in the 2014-15 release as Tables 5a and 6a respectively. At the Wales level the 2013-14 revised percentage of children aged 2 reaching or exceeding milestones and the percentage of children aged 2 reaching, exceeding or within one age band of norms were unchanged, but in several local authorities the percentages changed (9 with respect to those reaching or exceeding milestones, and 8 within one age band below). At age 3 the percentage reaching or exceeding milestones was revised from 55% to 53% and there was no change to the percentage within one age band below. The figures for 9 local authorities changed.

In 2014-15 for the pre expansion areas:

- Chart 9 shows that 74 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, an increase since 2013-14 (revised since first published).

Chart 9: Percentage of children in pre-expansion Flying Start areas assessed in the recommended age window, Wales, 2012-13 to 2014-15



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

(r) 2013-14 data was revised due to the addition of some assessments which had been mis-allocated to 2014-15 data

- The same data for each local authority is shown in Table 4 and shows some significant increases and decreases in percentage points over this time period within individual local authorities with Powys having the lowest for 2 year olds and Wrexham for 3 year olds; Blaenau Gwent had the highest percentages assessed in the recommended window for both age bands.
- Table 5 for 2013-14 has been revised and is re-published as Table 5a.
- 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.

- 84 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 56 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age (Table 5).
- 83 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 52 per cent reached or exceeded their milestones at this age (Table 6).

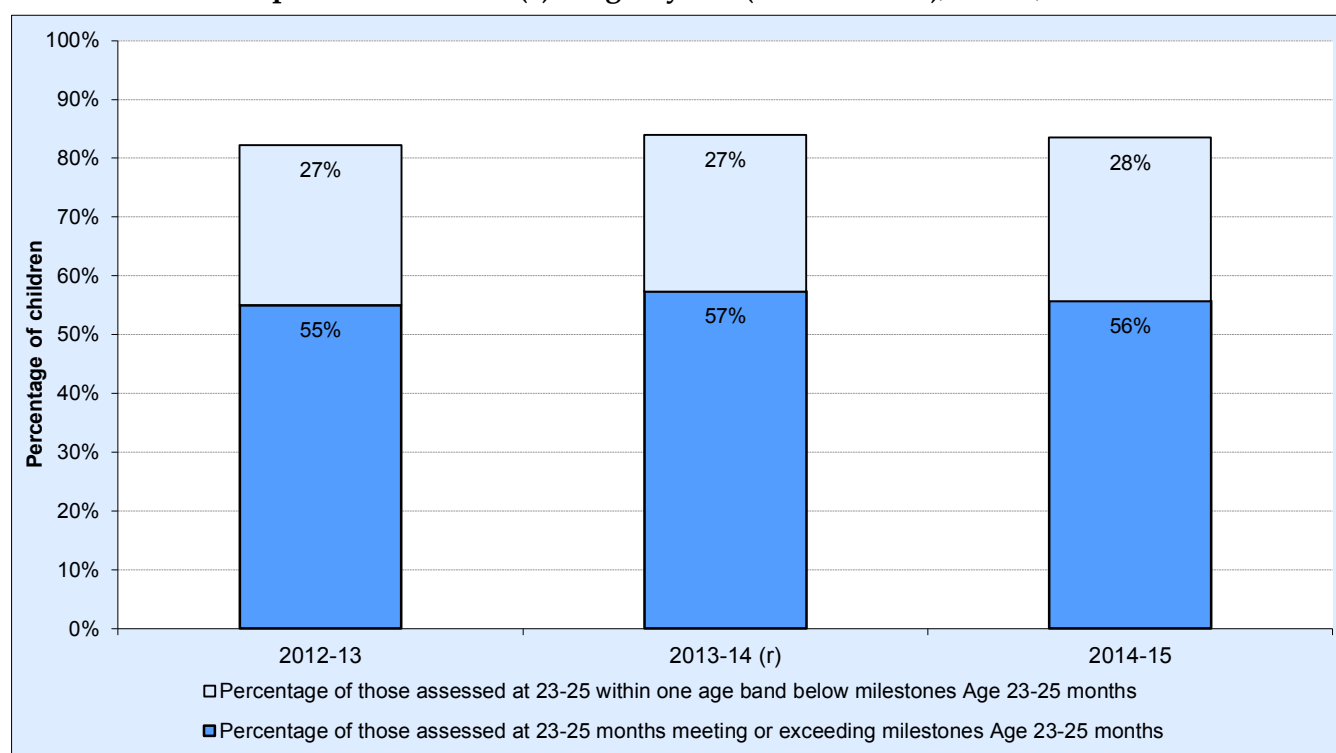
Note that these children are different cohorts i.e. the children presented in Chart 11 were aged 2 in 2014-15, and those presented in Chart 13 were age 3 in the same year. Note also that the level of transfers in and out of Flying Start areas means that not all children will have been resident in Flying 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.

The [Tackling Poverty Action Plan](#) has a stated aim of focusing on poverty from a young age and uses this assessment data in one of its targets with the aim of increasing the proportion who meet or exceed the norms at age 3; the target states that:

By 2016, increase the proportion of 3 year olds receiving Flying Start services that have achieved or exceeded their developmental milestones by 5 percentage points.

The baseline of 55 per cent at age 3 was established in 2012-13. Data for 2014-15 shows a decrease from the baseline year.

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 2014-15



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

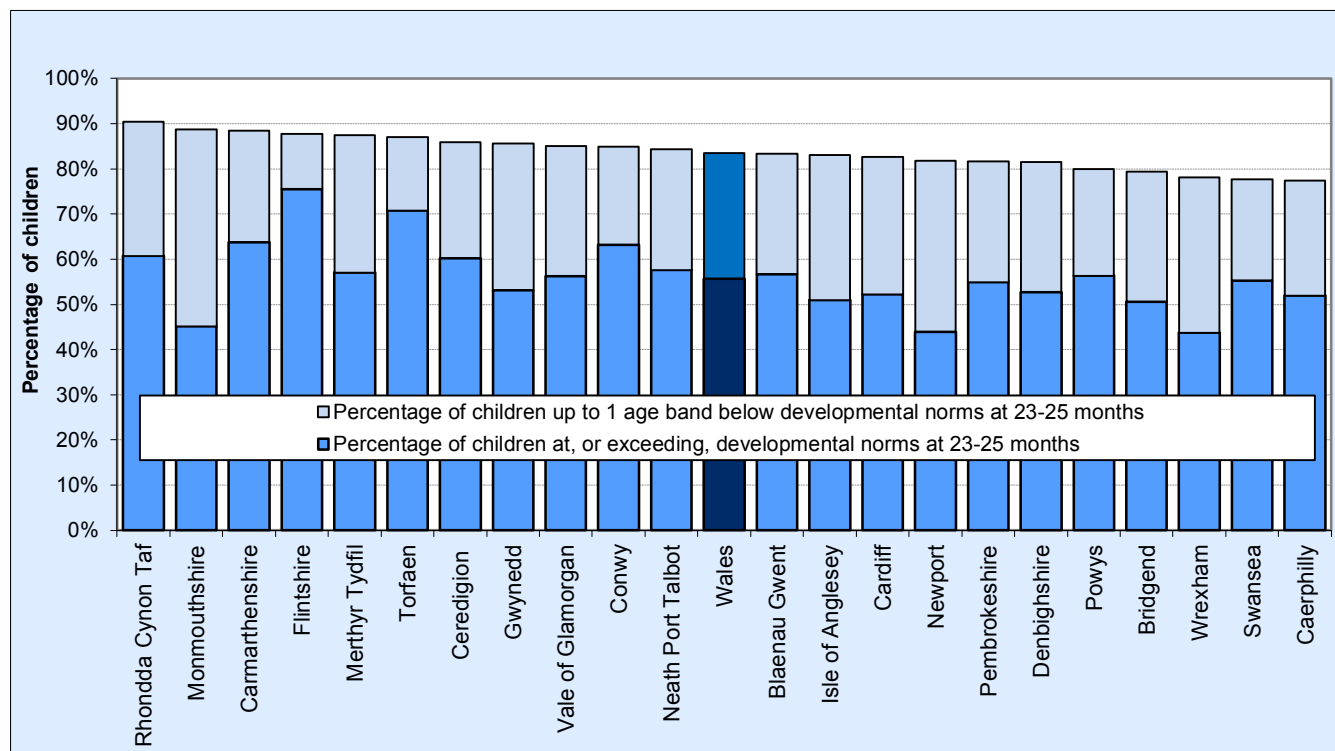
(a) See [notes](#) for further details of developmental milestones.

(r) 2013-14 data was revised due to the addition of some assessments which had been mis-allocated to 2014-15 data

Chart 10 shows that 56 per cent of the 3,823 Flying Start children assessed in the pre-expansion areas in 2014-15, reached or exceeded their developmental milestones at the age of 2 years (Table 5), a decrease from 57 per cent in 2013-14 (revised table 5a page 32). 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 84 per cent of children aged 2 that were assessed had reached or nearly reached the milestones for this age, no change since 2013-14. The remaining 16 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.

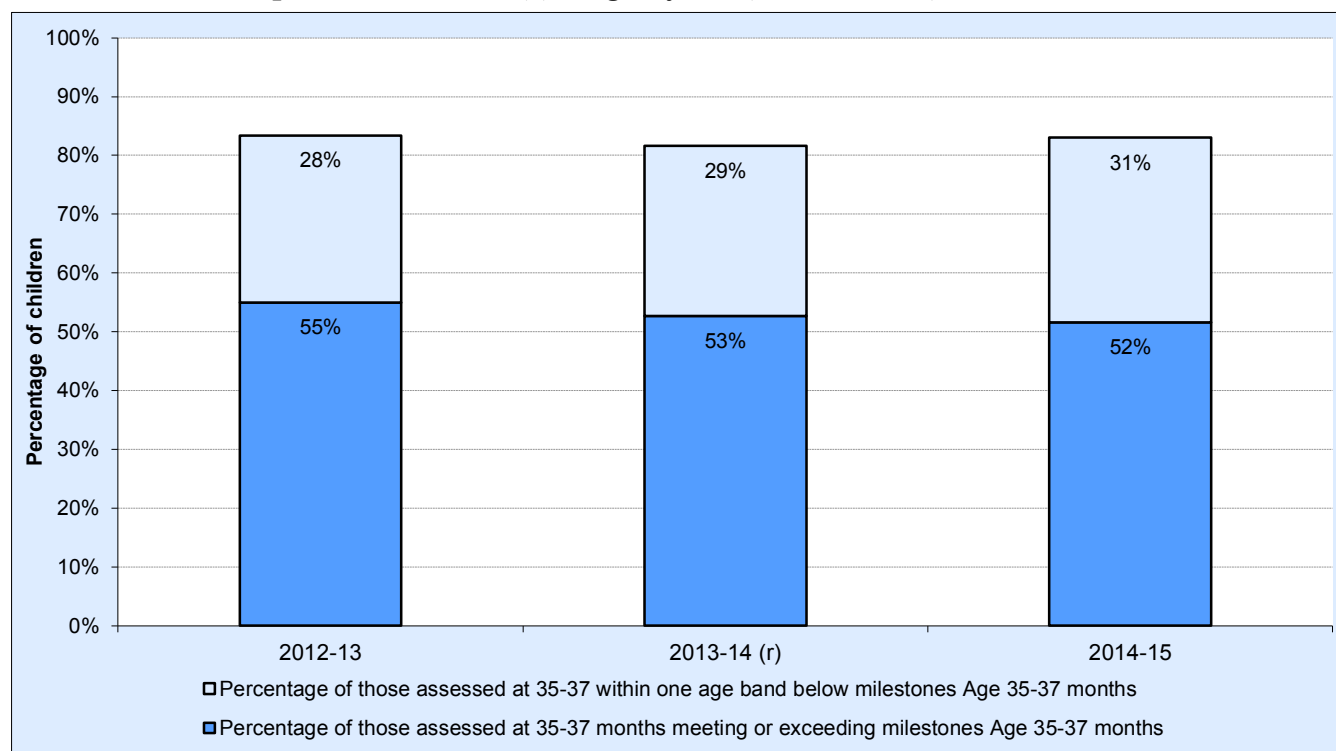
Chart 11: Percentage of children in pre-expansion Flying Start areas reaching, exceeding or within one age band of their development milestones (a) at age 2 years (23-25 months), by local authority, 2014-15



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15
(a) See [notes](#) 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 90 per cent to 77 per cent. Just over half of all local authorities (12 out of 22) saw an increase since 2013-14 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 1 and 7 percentage points. Those that had increased did so by up to 9 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 2014-15



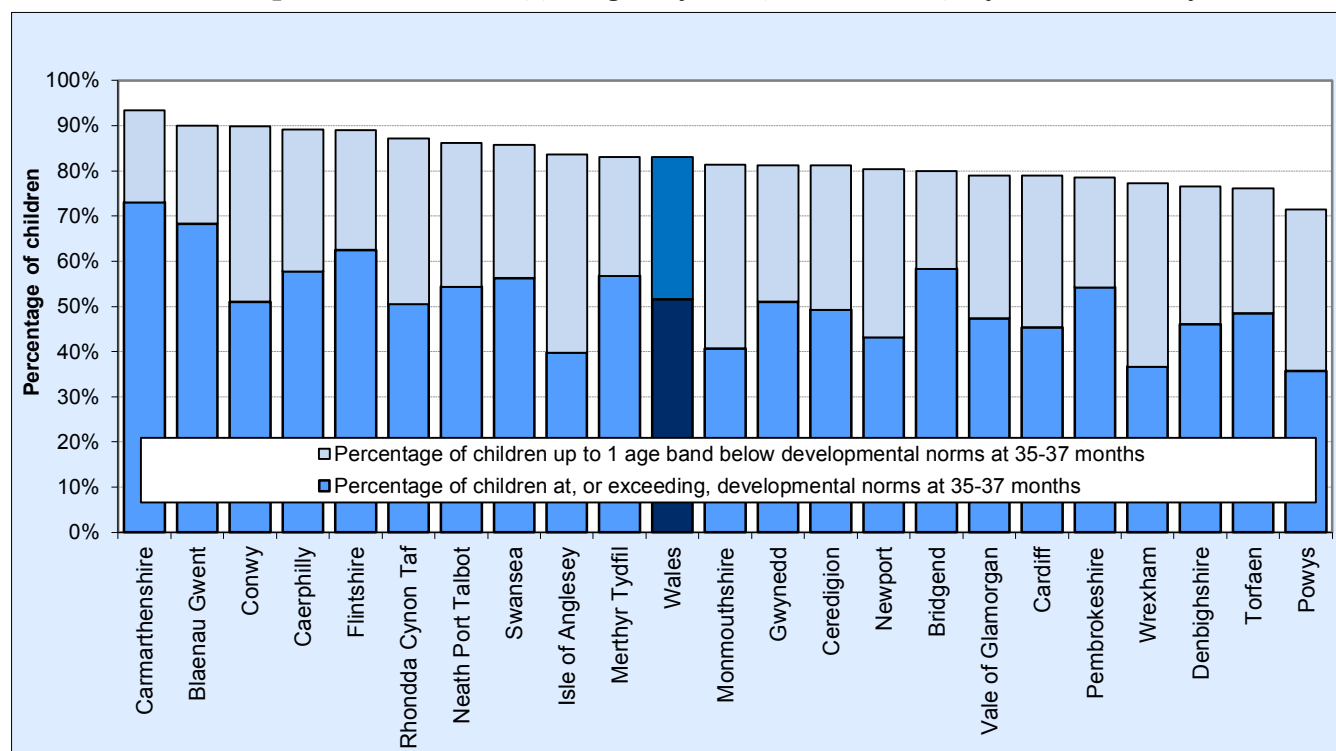
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

(a) See [notes](#) for further details of developmental milestones.

(r) 2013-14 data was revised due to the addition of some assessments which had been mis-allocated to 2014-15 data

Chart 12 shows that 52 per cent of the 3,702 Flying Start children assessed in 2014-15, reached or exceeded their developmental milestones at the age of 3 years (Table 6), a decrease from the revised 2013-14 figure (revised table 6a page 34). 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 83 per cent of children aged 3 that were assessed had reached or nearly reached the milestones for this age. 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 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, 2014-15



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15
(a) See [notes](#) 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 93 per cent to 71 per cent. Over half of all local authorities (14 out of 22) saw an increase since 2013-14 in the percentage of children that had reached or nearly reached the milestones for this age. The others had fallen by between 1 and 13 percentage points. Those that had increased did so by up to 10 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.

Developing analysis of records for individual children following them up from age 2 assessment to age 3 assessment shows that progress is being made in some skill areas but not all. The summary measure above does not reflect this degree of detail and it is hoped that more work can be done in this area in order to indicate where the programme is succeeding and where more focus is needed.

Expansion areas

The table below shows developmental assessment data for the expansion areas added to the programme in 2013-14 and in 2014-15 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 2014-15 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
- 81 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 but note that in 2014-15 in expansion areas in 4 local authorities fewer than 50 children were assessed at age 23-25 months and in 5 at age 35-37 months.

Assessments within Flying Start expansion areas, Wales

	2014-15 ^(a)		2013-14 ^(b) (r)	
	Age 2 (23-25 months)	Age 3 (35-37 months)	Age 2 (23-25 months)	Age 3 (35-37 months)
Numbers of children eligible	3,091	2,875	1,889	1,586
Numbers of eligible children assessed within one month of birthday	2,325	1,977	985	681
Percentage of eligible children assessed within one month of birthday	75%	69%	52%	43%
Percentage of children at or exceeding developmental milestones	55%	50%	57%	45%
Percentage of children within one age band below developmental norm	27%	31%	25%	35%

(a) Expansion areas included areas added to the programme during 2013-14 and 2014-15

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

(r) 2013-14 data was revised due to the addition of some assessments which had been mis-allocated to 2014-15 data.

Note that these children are different cohorts i.e. the children aged 2 in 2013-14 are not the same children aged 2 in 2014-15, and similar for 3 year olds. Also the 2,875 children aged 3 in 2014-15 would include *some but not all* of the 1,889 children who were 2 in 2013-14. 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.

Expansion is occurring at a variable rate across Wales and some local authorities report that development assessment data is still being adversely affected by recruitment delays.

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

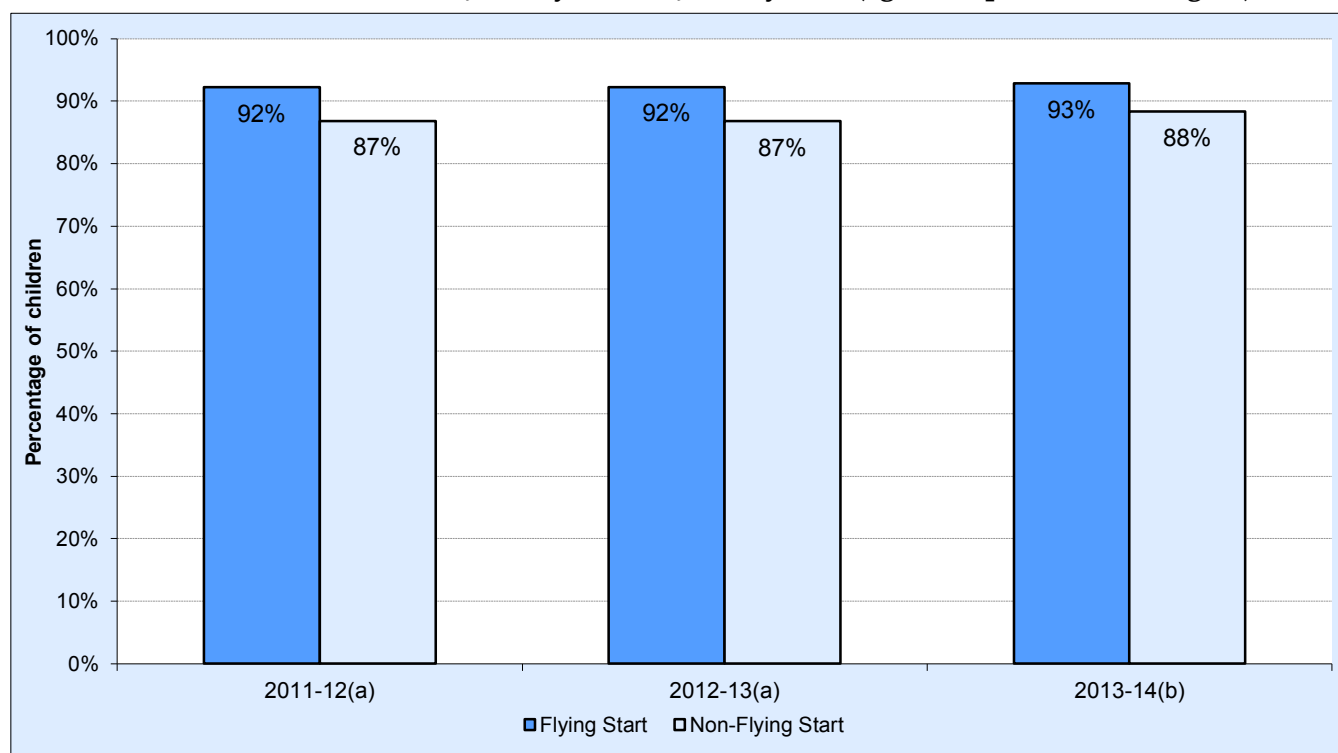
Looking at the numbers of Flying Start children starting Foundation Phase measures the degree to which Flying Start children are taking up early years education opportunities. The Foundation Phase is the statutory curriculum for all 3-7 years old children in Wales in both maintained and non-maintained 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 for 2013-14 relates to children living in the programme area as defined at 31 March 2014, that is, after a small expansion of the programme in 2012-13 and a large expansion in 2013-14. This means that technically we are not comparing like areas for 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 7 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 2014 (age as at previous 31 August)



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

(a) Pre-expansion areas as at 31 March 2012

(b) Programme areas as at 31 March 2014

- Chart 14 shows that in 2013-14 93 per cent of children at age 3 living in Flying Start programme areas were recorded on school rolls, a slight increase since 2012-13.
- For children living in non-Flying Start areas the percentage has also increased slightly between 2012-13 and 2013-14 (to 88 per cent). The percentage in Flying Start areas continues to be higher than in non-Flying Start areas.

- Table 7 compares children living in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas for the last two years. Over half of all Local Authorities (12 out of 22) saw the proportion of children at age 3 living in Flying Start programme areas and recorded on school rolls increase between 2012-13 and 2013-14.

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.

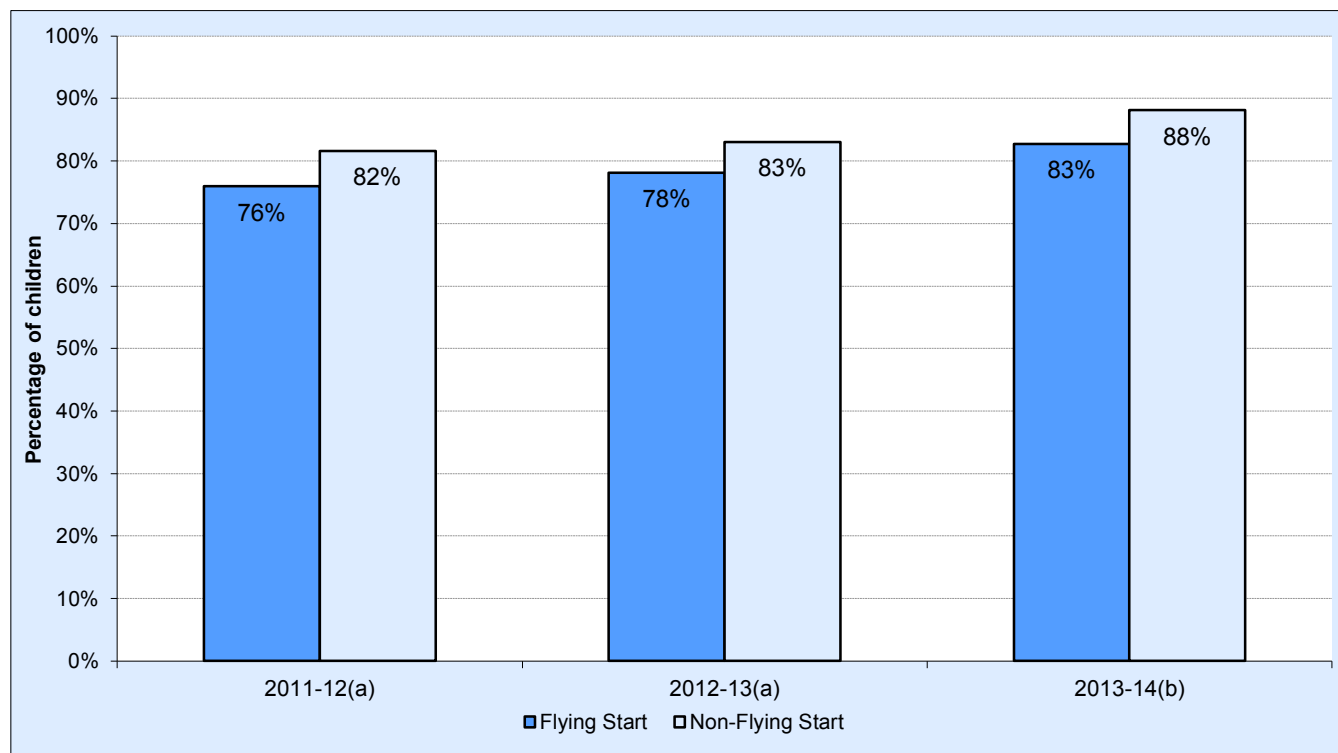
7: Health outcomes: Uptake of routine childhood immunisation

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 2013-14 relates to children living in the programme area as defined at 31 March 2014.

Table 8 shows data on children fully immunised in both Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas for each local authority.

Chart 15: Percentage of children in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas that are fully immunised at 4th birthday, Wales, 2011-12 to 2013-14



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

(a) Pre-expansion areas as at 31 March 2012

(b) Programme areas as at 31 March 2014

- In 2013-14, 83 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas were fully immunised at age 4 years, compared to 88 per cent of children living in non-Flying Start areas. Both of these figures have increased since 2012-13.
- Uptake of immunisations in 2013-14 of children living in Flying Start areas ranged between 91per cent (Ceredigion) and 76 per cent (Cardiff). All but three local authorities had higher uptake rates for children living in non-Flying Start areas (Powys, Ceredigion and Monmouthshire were the exceptions). All but one local authority (Newport) saw the uptake of immunisations of children living in Flying Start areas increase between 2012-13 and 2013-14 (Table 8). 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.

8: 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.

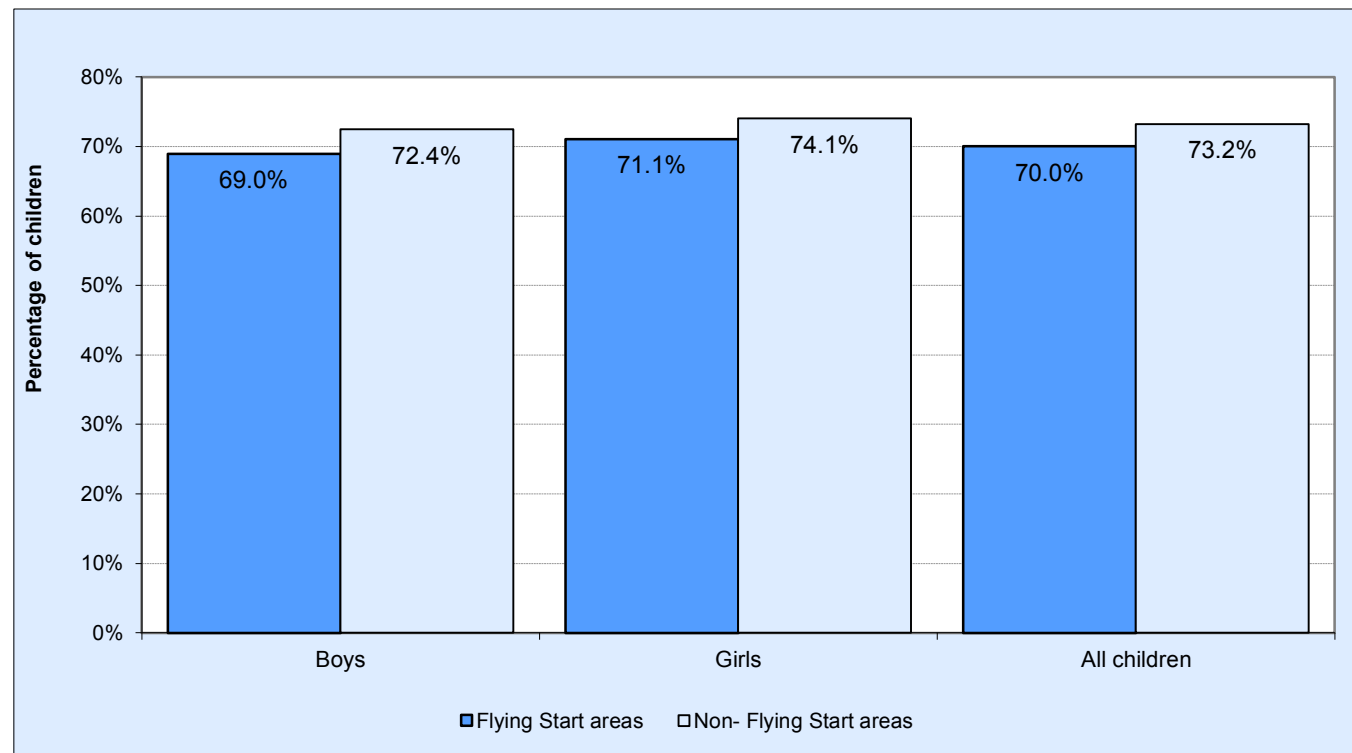
For further information on the measurement of healthy weight and other background information about the Child Measurement Programme for Wales, please see notes on page 45 for further details.

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 and 2012/13) and the analysis carried out in relation to the areas as at 31 March 2012.

Chart 16 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: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/67762>

Chart 16: Prevalence of children in ‘healthy weight’ (a) categories for children aged 4-5 years resident within Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, 2011/12 and 2012/13 (b)



Source: Child Measurement Programme (CMP) for Wales 2011/12 and 2012/13, 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 2012

- 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: 70 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas in the two school years 2011/12 and 2012/13 were of a healthy weight or underweight (69 per cent of boys and 71 per cent of girls). This is less than in non-Flying Start areas, where 73 per cent of children were of healthy weight or underweight (71 per cent of boys and 74 per cent of girls).
- This pattern mirrors the 2012-13 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.

Table 1: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by local authority – population and caseload

Local Authority	2013-14				2014-15				Percentage change between 2013-14 and 2014-15 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	567	483	3,228	15%	691	604	3,217	19%	25%
Gwynedd	914	798	5,314	15%	900	883	5,209	17%	11%
Conwy	908	801	4,685	17%	957	884	4,638	19%	10%
Denbighshire (e)	723	789	4,349	18%	1,045	821	4,354	19%	4%
Flintshire	1,238	1,017	7,171	14%	1,515	1,244	6,956	18%	22%
Wrexham	1,121	931	7,136	13%	1,468	1,286	6,946	19%	38%
Powys	634	642	5,101	13%	817	785	5,052	16%	22%
Ceredigion	541	486	2,725	18%	502	488	2,661	18%	0%
Pembrokeshire	1,028	800	5,348	15%	1,120	1,083	5,209	21%	35%
Carmarthenshire	1,637	1,426	8,159	17%	1,858	1,645	7,973	21%	15%
Swansea	2,149	1,923	10,677	18%	2,788	2,527	10,585	24%	31%
Neath Port Talbot	1,937	1,556	6,145	25%	2,375	1,841	6,160	30%	18%
Bridgend	1,354	1,171	6,530	18%	1,672	1,398	6,598	21%	19%
Vale of Glamorgan	1,182	1,084	5,753	19%	1,302	1,101	5,681	19%	2%
Cardiff	4,880	4,167	18,610	22%	5,288	4,661	18,534	25%	12%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2,740	2,539	11,672	22%	3,088	2,924	11,578	25%	15%
Merthyr Tydfil	934	833	2,925	28%	1,247	1,201	2,902	41%	44%
Caerphilly	2,121	1,726	8,645	20%	2,044	2,114	8,455	25%	22%
Blaenau Gwent	853	760	3,218	24%	951	943	3,168	30%	24%
Torfaen (f)	1,268	1,201	4,351	28%	1,499	1,263	4,338	29%	5%
Monmouthshire	489	418	3,560	12%	576	464	3,481	13%	11%
Newport	2,104	2,141	7,765	28%	3,557	2,422	7,664	32%	13%
Wales	31,322	27,692	143,067	19%	37,260	32,581	141,359	23%	18%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2013-14, 2014-15

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

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

(c) 2013 Mid Year Population Estimates, children aged 0,1,2,3 years, published by Office for National Statistics.

(d) 2014 Mid Year Population Estimates, children aged 0,1,2,3 years, published by Office for National Statistics.

(e) The percentage change for Denbighshire is affected by a reduction in cap (target) numbers of children carried out at the start of 2013-14 with the agreement of Welsh Government.

(f) Torfaen have reported that they may have double counted some children within the caseload figure. If subsequent data is received this will be revised in next year's release.

Table 2: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by local authority - face to face contacts

Local Authority	2013-14			2014-15		
	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	3,409	6.0	1.1	3,807	5.5	0.8
Gwynedd	7,923	7.0	3.0	10,407	7.9	3.9
Conwy	4,619	4.2	1.5	5,367	4.7	1.3
Denbighshire	5,128	4.6	1.9	6,200	5.8	1.7
Flintshire	7,409	5.6	1.7	8,477	4.4	2.4
Wrexham	6,813	5.0	2.3	12,019	5.6	3.7
Powys	2,689	3.8	0.4	3,606	4.3	0.3
Ceredigion	4,195	5.0	3.6	4,201	3.9	4.7
Pembrokeshire	8,487	6.2	4.4	12,564	6.0	5.6
Carmarthenshire	10,986	5.6	2.1	11,980	4.9	2.4
Swansea	13,809	5.4	1.7	15,751	4.9	1.3
Neath Port Talbot	13,920	5.8	3.2	22,302	6.0	6.1
Bridgend	11,800	7.1	3.0	12,223	5.8	2.9
Vale of Glamorgan	7,120	6.1	0.4	7,811	6.4	0.7
Cardiff	37,933	7.5	1.7	43,719	7.5	1.9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	20,106	7.1	0.9	19,041	5.4	1.1
Merthyr Tydfil	4,944	4.4	1.5	7,191	5.2	0.8
Caerphilly	11,693	4.9	1.9	16,640	5.7	2.1
Blaenau Gwent	5,751	5.9	1.7	10,002	6.8	3.8
Torfaen	12,805	6.0	4.7	12,416	5.3	4.5
Monmouthshire (a)	3,596	4.6	4.0	7,678	7.8	8.8
Newport	11,434	3.8	1.5	13,403	4.6	1.0
Wales	216,569	5.8	2.0	266,805	5.7	2.4

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2013-14, 2014-15

(a) In Monmouthshire contacts have increased during 2014-15 due to the increased Health Visitor availability in this local authority.

Table 3: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by local authority - childcare

Local Authority	2013-14				2014-15			
	Number of children newly eligible for childcare	Number of children newly eligible and offered childcare	Number of children taking up full or reduced offer of childcare	Percentage of children taking up 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 full or reduced offer of childcare	Percentage of children taking up full or reduced offer of childcare
Isle of Anglesey	146	142	139	98%	191	191	154	81%
Gwynedd	157	139	139	100%	216	175	174	99%
Conwy	253	253	249	98%	270	270	258	96%
Denbighshire	203	208	197	95%	223	208	196	94%
Flintshire	297	251	236	94%	331	331	279	84%
Wrexham	227	228	198	87%	416	403	319	79%
Powys	160	160	133	83%	227	227	191	84%
Ceredigion	143	142	126	89%	151	151	121	80%
Pembrokeshire	248	252	245	97%	297	294	291	99%
Carmarthenshire	456	431	371	86%	392	392	363	93%
Swansea	620	552	436	79%	722	696	557	80%
Neath Port Talbot (a)	696	648	537	83%	662	697	535	77%
Bridgend (a)	286	280	270	96%	356	361	284	79%
Vale of Glamorgan	326	320	276	86%	301	301	251	83%
Cardiff	1,540	915	720	79%	1,479	1,357	1,050	77%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	799	672	573	85%	877	844	724	86%
Merthyr Tydfil	292	292	261	89%	399	362	362	100%
Caerphilly	472	488	434	89%	554	554	489	88%
Blaenau Gwent	181	181	153	85%	277	277	248	90%
Torfaen	419	419	271	65%	363	363	265	73%
Monmouthshire	100	73	69	95%	142	116	95	82%
Newport	490	488	417	85%	547	532	452	85%
Wales	8,511	7,534	6,450	86%	9,393	9,102	7,658	84%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2013-14, 2014-15

(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.

Table 4: Percentage of eligible Flying Start children in pre-expansion areas assessed in the recommended age window (a)

Local Authority	Percentage of eligible children assessed at 23-25 months		Percentage of eligible children assessed at 35-37 months	
	2013-14 (r)	2014-15	2013-14 (r)	2014-15
Isle of Anglesey	75%	88%	67%	80%
Gwynedd	53%	64%	45%	64%
Conwy	41%	58%	31%	61%
Denbighshire	70%	76%	53%	63%
Flintshire	81%	79%	76%	72%
Wrexham	55%	55%	54%	52%
Powys	49%	42%	37%	56%
Ceredigion	89%	69%	82%	73%
Pembrokeshire	55%	85%	63%	65%
Carmarthenshire	71%	78%	64%	65%
Swansea	65%	78%	62%	76%
Neath Port Talbot	50%	68%	57%	65%
Bridgend	75%	75%	72%	74%
Vale of Glamorgan	78%	80%	69%	75%
Cardiff	59%	75%	58%	73%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	52%	83%	48%	81%
Merthyr Tydfil	81%	79%	54%	80%
Caerphilly	57%	76%	52%	76%
Blaenau Gwent	75%	89%	64%	91%
Torfaen	60%	76%	49%	66%
Monmouthshire	56%	70%	82%	74%
Newport	71%	70%	74%	72%
Wales	63%	74%	59%	71%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2013-14 (revised) and 2014-15

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 43.

(r) 2013-14 data was revised due to the addition of some assessments which had been mis-allocated to 2014-15 data.

Table 5: Percentage of Flying Start children (a) reaching, exceeding or within one age band of developmental milestones (b) at age 2 by local authority, 2014-15

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	121	118	106	83%	51%	51	47	43	77%	33%
Gwynedd	173	158	111	86%	53%	101	97	78	88%	71%
Conwy	183	151	106	85%	63%	80	88	66	83%	67%
Denbighshire	191	184	146	82%	53%	35	32	20	95%	70%
Flintshire	185	156	147	88%	76%	125	109	98	90%	61%
Wrexham	231	167	128	78%	44%	124	117	101	86%	40%
Powys	131	78	55	80%	56%	89	82	65	75%	42%
Ceredigion	113	90	78	86%	60%	20	18	14	100%	79%
Pembrokeshire	179	185	153	82%	55%	105	109	86	83%	62%
Carmarthenshire	223	217	174	89%	64%	172	154	125	83%	69%
Swansea	326	307	255	78%	55%	259	242	163	80%	53%
Neath Port Talbot	309	251	210	84%	58%	201	171	151	84%	59%
Bridgend	228	210	170	79%	51%	120	124	110	85%	58%
Vale of Glamorgan	210	190	167	85%	56%	67	62	54	89%	69%
Cardiff	736	649	555	83%	52%	484	418	351	77%	45%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	354	350	293	90%	61%	273	233	194	87%	65%
Merthyr Tydfil	162	138	128	88%	57%	117	98	92	87%	66%
Caerphilly	267	278	204	77%	52%	201	172	143	81%	54%
Blaenau Gwent	169	161	150	83%	57%	78	76	73	79%	53%
Torfaen	212	199	161	87%	71%	128	120	95	89%	55%
Monmouthshire	88	73	62	89%	45%	38	28	23	74%	52%
Newport	375	337	264	82%	44%	223	237	180	76%	44%
Wales	5,166	4,647	3,823	84%	56%	3,091	2,834	2,325	83%	55%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

(a) Does not include children assessed in 2014-15 expansion areas

(b) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 43.

Table 5a: REVISED - Percentage of Flying Start children (a) reaching, exceeding or within one age band of developmental milestones (b) at age 2 by local authority, 2013-14

Local Authority	Age 2 (23-25 months)							
	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	Percentage within one age band below developmental norm	Percentage of eligible children assessed	Percentage of eligible children assessed at 23-25 months
Isle of Anglesey	110	99	82	88%	51%	37%	90%	75%
Gwynedd	147	125	78	83%	63%	21%	85%	53%
Conwy	220	141	90	82%	48%	34%	64%	41%
Denbighshire	195	191	137	81%	45%	36%	98%	70%
Flintshire	183	179	148	87%	74%	14%	98%	81%
Wrexham	168	139	93	77%	48%	29%	83%	55%
Powys	142	95	69	80%	51%	29%	67%	49%
Ceredigion	89	92	79	86%	66%	20%	103%	89%
Pembrokeshire	161	150	88	81%	59%	22%	93%	55%
Carmarthenshire	237	211	169	85%	62%	24%	89%	71%
Swansea	427	404	278	83%	58%	25%	95%	65%
Neath Port Talbot	314	226	157	87%	61%	27%	72%	50%
Bridgend	245	205	183	86%	62%	24%	84%	75%
Vale of Glamorgan	228	214	177	92%	62%	31%	94%	78%
Cardiff	722	610	424	83%	59%	24%	84%	59%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	465	332	242	86%	55%	31%	71%	52%
Merthyr Tydfil	188	182	152	87%	56%	31%	97%	81%
Caerphilly	369	314	211	83%	60%	24%	85%	57%
Blaenau Gwent	147	118	110	80%	53%	27%	80%	75%
Torfaen	184	166	111	87%	66%	22%	90%	60%
Monmouthshire	125	99	70	80%	50%	30%	79%	56%
Newport	435	371	310	80%	49%	31%	85%	71%
Wales	5,501	4,663	3,458	84%	57%	27%	85%	63%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

(a) Does not include children assessed in 2013-14 expansion areas

(b) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 43.

(c) 2013-14 data was revised due to the addition of some assessments which had been mis-allocated to 2014-15 data.

Table 6: Percentage of Flying Start children (a) reaching, exceeding or within one age band of developmental milestones (b) at age 3 by local authority, 2014-15

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	122	114	98	84%	40%	36	32	32	88%	38%
Gwynedd	149	128	96	81%	51%	74	64	55	89%	71%
Conwy	160	136	98	90%	51%	61	68	56	79%	46%
Denbighshire	182	157	115	77%	46%	25	16	7	86%	57%
Flintshire	188	152	136	89%	63%	135	103	94	82%	53%
Wrexham	193	144	101	77%	37%	103	77	61	70%	30%
Powys	126	95	70	71%	36%	77	41	30	70%	50%
Ceredigion	95	78	69	81%	49%	23	15	14	86%	57%
Pembrokeshire	164	144	107	79%	54%	72	86	66	68%	45%
Carmarthenshire	256	224	167	93%	73%	188	150	116	85%	65%
Swansea	400	365	302	86%	56%	252	214	140	86%	63%
Neath Port Talbot	332	264	217	86%	54%	154	132	111	92%	63%
Bridgend	238	208	175	80%	58%	122	117	104	77%	47%
Vale of Glamorgan	228	190	171	79%	47%	83	77	67	84%	48%
Cardiff	738	623	536	79%	45%	534	435	364	71%	35%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	355	351	289	87%	51%	254	255	200	84%	51%
Merthyr Tydfil	185	155	148	83%	57%	114	102	97	86%	47%
Caerphilly	280	264	213	89%	58%	162	139	115	84%	57%
Blaenau Gwent	132	126	120	90%	68%	77	68	65	89%	60%
Torfaen	196	166	130	76%	48%	122	90	59	76%	46%
Monmouthshire	80	66	59	81%	41%	19	13	10	90%	50%
Newport	396	318	285	80%	43%	188	160	114	83%	47%
Wales	5,195	4,468	3,702	83%	52%	2,875	2,454	1,977	81%	50%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

(a) Does not include children assessed in 2014-15 expansion areas

(b) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 43.

Table 6a: REVISED - Percentage of Flying Start children (a) reaching, exceeding or within one age band of developmental milestones (b) at age 3 by local authority, 2013-14

Local Authority	Age 3 (35-37 months)							
	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	Percentage within one age band below developmental norm	Percentage of eligible children assessed	Percentage of eligible children assessed at 35-37 months
Isle of Anglesey	89	86	60	77%	52%	25%	97%	67%
Gwynedd	155	126	70	83%	53%	30%	81%	45%
Conwy	216	114	67	85%	42%	43%	53%	31%
Denbighshire	170	161	90	69%	33%	36%	95%	53%
Flintshire	183	167	139	91%	67%	24%	91%	76%
Wrexham	183	132	99	68%	25%	42%	72%	54%
Powys	127	73	47	74%	43%	32%	57%	37%
Ceredigion	111	102	91	77%	48%	29%	92%	82%
Pembrokeshire	148	144	93	75%	46%	29%	97%	63%
Carmarthenshire	234	202	150	87%	71%	15%	86%	64%
Swansea	441	379	272	84%	61%	23%	86%	62%
Neath Port Talbot	361	268	206	83%	41%	43%	74%	57%
Bridgend	244	214	176	82%	56%	27%	88%	72%
Vale of Glamorgan	220	201	152	83%	50%	33%	91%	69%
Cardiff	751	615	433	82%	59%	23%	82%	58%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	384	304	184	85%	52%	33%	79%	48%
Merthyr Tydfil	178	131	97	84%	57%	27%	74%	54%
Caerphilly	329	273	172	87%	60%	26%	83%	52%
Blaenau Gwent	164	118	105	83%	62%	21%	72%	64%
Torfaen	193	131	94	89%	68%	21%	68%	49%
Monmouthshire	49	60	40	80%	35%	45%	122%	82%
Newport	418	343	310	75%	40%	35%	82%	74%
Wales	5,348	4,344	3,147	82%	53%	29%	81%	59%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2014-15

(a) Does not include children assessed in 2013-14 expansion areas

(b) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 43.

(c) 2013-14 data was revised due to the addition of some assessments which had been mis-allocated to 2014-15 data.

Table 7: 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 2013 and in January 2014 (age as at previous 31 August)

Local Authority	2012-13						2013-14					
	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	98	502	600	97%	76%	79%	114	506	620	100%	74%	77%
Gwynedd	123	1,029	1,152	98%	92%	93%	244	978	1,222	97%	94%	95%
Conwy	145	928	1,073	100%	96%	98%	198	948	1,146	96%	96%	96%
Denbighshire	146	883	1,029	84%	100%	99%	178	901	1,079	99%	100%	100%
Flintshire	185	1,495	1,680	91%	98%	97%	219	1,461	1,680	97%	97%	97%
Wrexham	214	1,376	1,590	96%	94%	94%	307	1,330	1,637	100%	98%	98%
Powys	86	815	901	74%	74%	74%	132	843	975	81%	80%	80%
Ceredigion	63	310	373	63%	62%	62%	108	365	473	79%	60%	64%
Pembrokeshire	167	972	1,139	95%	87%	88%	195	989	1,184	99%	90%	91%
Carmarthenshire	202	1,295	1,497	94%	74%	76%	322	1,270	1,592	91%	78%	81%
Swansea	345	2,159	2,504	96%	97%	97%	481	2,122	2,603	95%	99%	98%
Neath Port Talbot	262	1,271	1,533	94%	96%	96%	416	1,089	1,505	95%	96%	95%
Bridgend	174	1,336	1,510	100%	96%	97%	255	1,347	1,602	96%	96%	96%
Vale of Glamorgan	170	1,252	1,422	94%	94%	94%	284	1,208	1,492	95%	96%	96%
Cardiff	605	3,189	3,794	85%	83%	83%	853	3,011	3,864	89%	84%	85%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	411	2,393	2,804	100%	97%	97%	647	2,154	2,801	99%	96%	96%
Merthyr Tydfil	149	526	675	100%	94%	95%	200	449	649	100%	98%	99%
Caerphilly	284	1,800	2,084	98%	97%	97%	467	1,619	2,086	99%	98%	98%
Blaenau Gwent	127	635	762	91%	100%	98%	207	566	773	98%	96%	97%
Torfaen	171	709	880	90%	79%	81%	268	602	870	88%	75%	79%
Monmouthshire	65	322	387	76%	39%	42%	80	296	376	72%	38%	42%
Newport	389	981	1,370	88%	68%	72%	507	904	1,411	80%	67%	71%
Wales	4,581	26,178	30,759	92%	87%	88%	6,682	24,958	31,640	93%	88%	89%

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

Table 8: 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)

Local Authority	2012-13						2013-14					
	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	86	562	648	81%	84%	84%	106	563	669	86%	88%	87%
Gwynedd	106	986	1,092	85%	87%	87%	217	907	1,124	88%	92%	91%
Conwy	102	856	958	70%	84%	82%	165	855	1,020	83%	89%	88%
Denbighshire	145	741	886	78%	85%	84%	152	771	923	80%	90%	88%
Flintshire	151	1,324	1,475	84%	86%	86%	227	1,300	1,527	89%	90%	90%
Wrexham	176	1,306	1,482	82%	87%	87%	239	1,234	1,473	83%	91%	89%
Powys	105	973	1,078	85%	85%	85%	143	931	1,074	90%	86%	87%
Ceredigion	69	448	517	82%	84%	84%	104	491	595	91%	91%	91%
Pembrokeshire	130	864	994	75%	79%	78%	146	942	1,088	81%	87%	86%
Carmarthenshire	163	1,414	1,577	73%	82%	81%	274	1,362	1,636	82%	88%	87%
Swansea	292	1,920	2,212	81%	83%	83%	397	1,840	2,237	83%	87%	87%
Neath Port Talbot	203	1,038	1,241	78%	83%	82%	324	1,003	1,327	82%	88%	86%
Bridgend	115	1,170	1,285	72%	84%	83%	192	1,189	1,381	77%	88%	86%
Vale of Glamorgan	147	1,147	1,294	84%	84%	84%	225	1,136	1,361	89%	89%	89%
Cardiff	464	2,972	3,436	67%	79%	77%	708	2,926	3,634	76%	85%	83%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	355	2,040	2,395	85%	85%	85%	510	1,946	2,456	87%	91%	90%
Merthyr Tydfil	127	469	596	79%	85%	83%	169	430	599	88%	92%	91%
Caerphilly	234	1,466	1,700	78%	81%	80%	363	1,517	1,880	85%	89%	88%
Blaenau Gwent	133	536	669	86%	82%	82%	169	508	677	88%	88%	88%
Torfaen	158	747	905	81%	82%	82%	242	687	929	81%	89%	87%
Monmouthshire	70	722	792	78%	85%	84%	98	654	752	90%	87%	87%
Newport	371	1,194	1,565	78%	79%	78%	483	1,115	1,598	77%	84%	82%
Wales	3,902	25,018	28,920	78%	83%	82%	5,653	24,393	30,046	83%	88%	87%

Source: Public Health Wales COVER report 2012-2013, 2013-14, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2012-13, 2013-14 (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 123 children in 2012-13 and 86 children in 2013-14 in non Flying Start / All areas.

Table 9: Parenting courses offered by local authority

Local Authority	2013-14		2014-15	
	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	53	74%	57	74%
Gwynedd	125	69%	199	60%
Conwy	69	78%	164	70%
Denbighshire	74	46%	117	73%
Flintshire	223	78%	252	82%
Wrexham	106	82%	96	65%
Powys	78	100%	103	96%
Ceredigion	116	69%	138	66%
Pembrokeshire	29	62%	66	44%
Carmarthenshire	150	80%	131	89%
Swansea	154	90%	413	91%
Neath Port Talbot	92	82%	167	90%
Bridgend	30	73%	64	91%
Vale of Glamorgan	110	76%	70	104%
Cardiff	150	93%	163	86%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	151	84%	131	74%
Merthyr Tydfil	90	76%	75	77%
Caerphilly	181	80%	228	72%
Blaenau Gwent	103	51%	172	65%
Torfaen	293	61%	169	63%
Monmouthshire	206	63%	174	61%
Newport	281	82%	422	76%
Wales	2,864	75%	3,571	76%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2013-14, 2014-15

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

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)

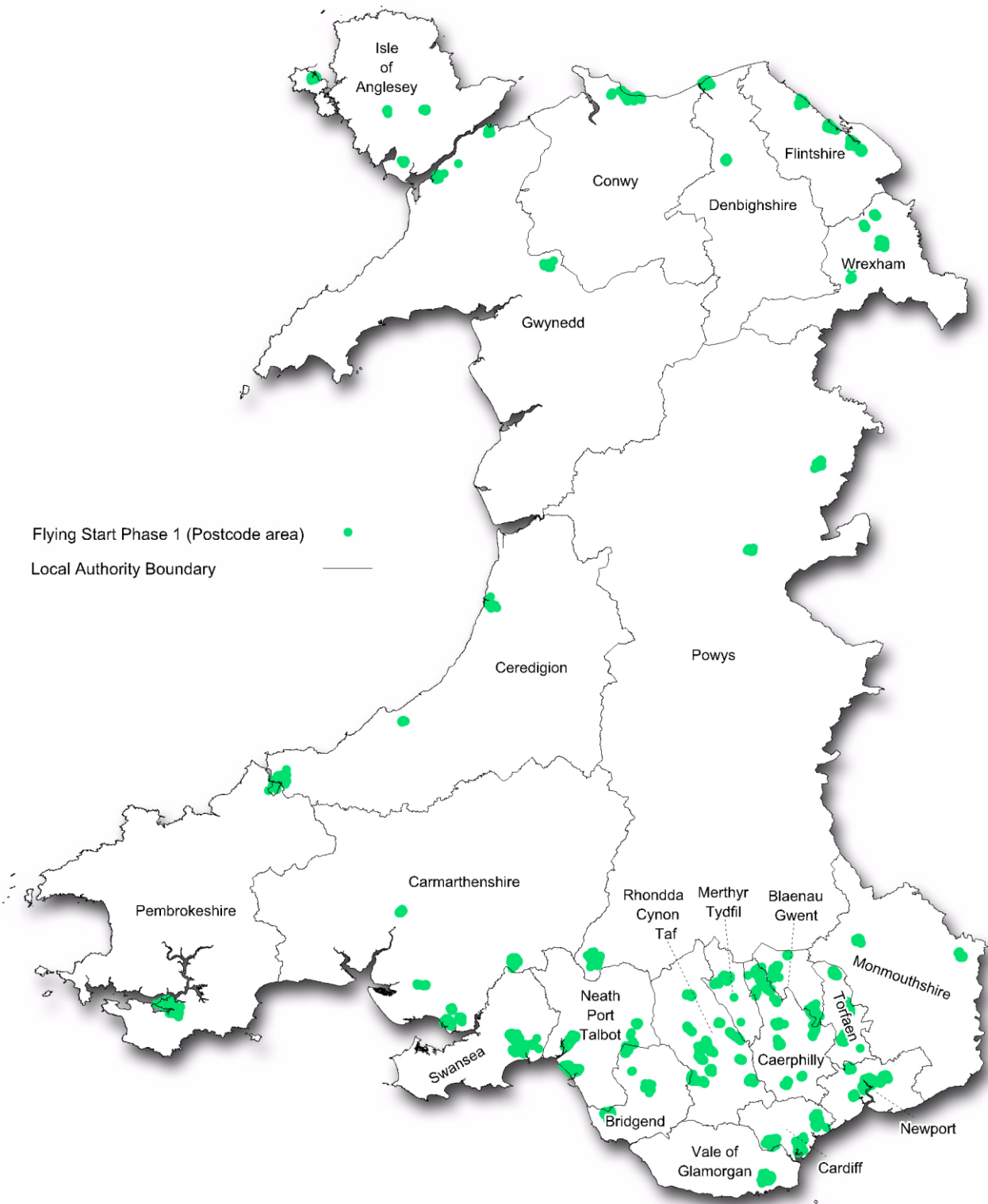
(a) Cumulative count of individual children receiving health visitor Flying Start services

(b) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 43.

(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.

Background and 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.

Sources of data

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. The dataset also provides key monitoring statistics for the programme used as Programme for Government (PfG) tracking indicators, such as the numbers of beneficiaries of the programme as a whole, the numbers of children starting nursery care and children reaching or exceeding their developmental milestones. Further information about Programme for Government can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/about/programmeforgov/?lang=en>

This release provides data for each complete financial year based on the final data collection of each year. Because of the timing issues involved, monitoring data collected from earlier collections within each year has so far been used for tracking indicators for the annual Programme for Government report.

However 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. This means it may be possible to use some data from the first two terms of the current year in reporting for the future annual Programme for Government reports.

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 2012-13 the 2012 mid year estimates have been used. For 2013-14 the 2013 mid year estimates have been used. For 2014-15 the 2014 mid year estimates have been used. The estimates are published on our StatsWales website here: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates>

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 2014. 2014-15 expansion areas are not yet available for mapping.

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 15-20 per cent of all children in receipt of Health Visitor services at some time during 2014-15.

Expansion areas

A small expansion of the programme into additional areas occurred in 2012-13 but the major expansion of the programme to date has been during 2013-14 and 2014-15. The expectation is that the number of children benefitting from the programme by the end of 2014-15 will be 33,091 and 36,000 by the end of 2015-16. 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 benefiting, 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 has been 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.

Additional target areas will be added to the programme throughout the remaining period of expansion i.e. during 2015-16.

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. Since October 2013, account managers have agreed a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) with each local authority Flying Start co-ordinator. These QIPs are used to identify areas of concern and outline the activities needed to improve performance. This is still a relatively new data collection and so improvements to the dataset are continuing. This should be recognised when interpreting the statistics.

Revisions to 2013-14 developmental assessment data:

During the 2014-15 data collection it was found that in a small number of authorities some development assessments had been incorrectly recorded in 2014-15 when in fact they had occurred in 2013-14. This resulted in some corrections to the 2013-14 data being necessary. A small problem of some double counted records was also discovered. These were removed. Tables 5 and 6 from the 2013-14 release have been revised and are published in the 2014-15 release as Tables 5a and 6a respectively. At the Wales level the 2013-14 revised percentage of children aged 2 reaching or exceeding milestones and the percentage of children aged 2 reaching, exceeding or within one age band of norms was revised were unchanged but in 8 local authorities the percentages changed. At age 3 the percentage reaching or exceeding milestones was revised from 55% to 53% and there was no change to the percentage within one age band below. The figures for 9 local authorities changed.

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:

- 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.

For further information about the annual School Census, PLASC, see:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/schools-census/?lang=en>

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 bulletin can be found here:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/cross-border-flows-education/?lang=en>

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:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/births-national-community-child-health-database/?lang=en>

and

<http://www.infoandstats.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?orgid=869&pid=40968>

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. 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 at:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=457&pid=54144>

- 3. 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 2006 to August 2007 for 2011/12 data;
- born in the period September 2007 to August 2008 for 2012/13 data;
- sex is recorded.

Eligible records are determined to be valid, and are 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 2011/12 and 2012/13, with the exception of Powys schools (see below).

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.

Not in place for this transitional year, but now established for subsequent years, are:

- finalised versions of standards and guidelines;
- training of all staff;
- a dedicated data collection system (Child Measurement Programme module within the CCH2000).

There were two notable data collection issues during this transitional year.

- Due to staff recruitment issues, it was agreed that some children in the Powys Teaching Health Board area would be measured and their data recorded at the beginning of the following academic year (2012/13).
- Not all data from Flintshire are included. Due to a local issue, some data were not entered into systems in time. This has had an impact on the reported participation for Flintshire.

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

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/67762>

Users and uses:

The aim of these statistics is to present data which is available from a routine administrative source together with national databases in an accessible format providing a statistical summary for the Flying Start programme.

We believe the key users of these statistics are:

- 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.

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.

Programme for Government Indicators

TR038: Number of children benefiting from Flying Start coverage

Number of children benefiting from Flying Start nursery provision

Percentage of children living in areas benefiting from Flying Start who are fully immunised by age 4

Percentage of Flying Start children reaching their developmental milestones at age three years, as measured by a standard developmental assessment tool.

Further information on the Programme for Government can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/about/programmeforgov/?lang=en>

Tackling Poverty indicator

By 2016, increase the proportion of 3 year olds receiving Flying Start services that have achieved or exceeded their developmental milestones by 5 percentage points.

Further information about the Welsh Government Tackling Poverty Action Plan can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/tackling-poverty/taking-forward-tackling-poverty-action-plan/?lang=en>

We welcome comments from users of our publications on content and presentation. If you have any comments or require further information, please contact:

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