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Flying Start, summary statistics 2017-18

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



36,869

children

**benefited from
Flying Start services
in Wales at any time
in 2017-18**

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

Some analysis has been removed in 2018. Data about childhood developmental assessments is no longer collected on the Welsh Government Flying Start data monitoring form. Instead, from April 2017 Flying Start will align its child development assessments with the new [Healthy Child Wales Programme](#) (HCWP). Developmental assessments will be used in a targeted rather than universal manner. It is hoped that statistics about developmental assessments will become available from HCWP data collection as the data completeness improves.

About this release

This statistical release provides key statistics from the Flying Start programme for each of the 22 local authorities in Wales.

The release draws upon management data and covers both the number of children using Flying Start Services and the children's outcomes.

It aims to provide the evidence needed to inform policy development, as well as providing data to local authorities for monitoring, benchmarking and improvement and information for the wider public.

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Key points

- 36,869 children benefited from, that is, were in receipt of Flying Start services in Wales at any time in 2017-18, exceeding the expected numbers by 2 per cent, but a 2 per cent fall on the number of children in receipt of services in 2016-17 (37,628).
- Flying Start children (on the health visitor caseload) of all ages up to age 4 were seen an average of 6.9 times during 2017-18 by health visitors and members of the wider health team, slightly less than in 2016-17 (7.0 contacts per child).
- 87 per cent of offers of childcare in a Flying Start childcare setting were taken up during 2017-18, a slight fall since 2016-17 (88 per cent).
- 93 per cent of children aged 3 and living in Flying Start areas were on roll at a maintained school (2017), a small decrease from 94 per cent in 2016.
- 34 per cent of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start areas were fed any breast milk at 10 days old, compared to 50 per cent of those in non-Flying Start areas (2016).
- 82 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas were fully immunised by their 4th birthday (2017-18), no percentage change since 2016-17.
- Flying Start areas have a lower prevalence (71 per cent) of healthy weight¹ children than non-Flying Start areas (74 per cent) (2015/16 and 2016/17).

¹ Includes a very small number of underweight children: see [notes](#).

The Flying Start programme

Flying Start is one of the Welsh Government's top priorities. The Welsh Government was 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; and
- access to Speech, Language and Communication support (previously described as Early Language Development).

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

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

Since 2014, a series of reports from the [National Evaluation of Flying Start](#) have been published. A research report 'Qualitative Research with Flying Start Families: Wave 3 Report' was published on 18 July 2018. It reports on a longitudinal research project which involved three waves of in depth interviews with 72 families between 2015 and 2017, and aims to provide an insight into families' engagement with and experience of family support services for those without access to the programme.

More information about how Flying Start areas are chosen is provided under [Key quality information](#).

Expansion of the programme

The area covered by the programme expanded into additional areas between 2012-13 and 2015-16 with small expansions of the programme occurring in 2012-13 and 2015-16 and major expansions during 2013-14 and 2014-15. No further expansion took place in 2016-17 or 2017-18. The expectation was that the number of children benefitting from the programme by the end of 2015-16 would be 36,000, but this figure was in fact met by the end of 2014-15. [Map 1](#) shows the areas, based on postcodes, targeted as recipients of Flying Start funding, as at 31 March 2016, that is, at the end of the period of expansion. The [baseline map](#) of pre-expansion postcodes shows the location of Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2012.

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 to manage the programme. The first data was provided to Welsh Government for 2012-13.

Selected basic counts from the data monitoring dataset are presented in [Tables 1 to 3](#) and key analyses shown in [Sections 1 to 3](#). The data monitoring dataset is also the source of statistics presented in [Section 4](#) on parenting and speech, language and communication and in [Sections 5 to 8](#) on child development.

It should be noted that figures for local authorities can fluctuate substantially from year to year. There may be a number of reasons for this, including families moving between local authority areas, which may be more of an issue in some areas than others.

Pre-expansion and expansion

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

In some local authorities, statistics are likely to have been affected by delays in recruitment and retention of health visitors, and in creating in childcare settings. Recruitment continues to be challenging in some areas.

Local authority programme sizes

Note that, although every local authority in Wales has a Flying Start programme, they vary substantially in terms of the absolute numbers of children in receipt of services. Users should note the effect of this distribution on the statistics. Where a large absolute number and proportion of Flying Start children are concentrated in specific local authorities (such as Cardiff which has 13 per cent of the Wales caseload) trends in these areas can have a disproportionate impact on the all-Wales figures.

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

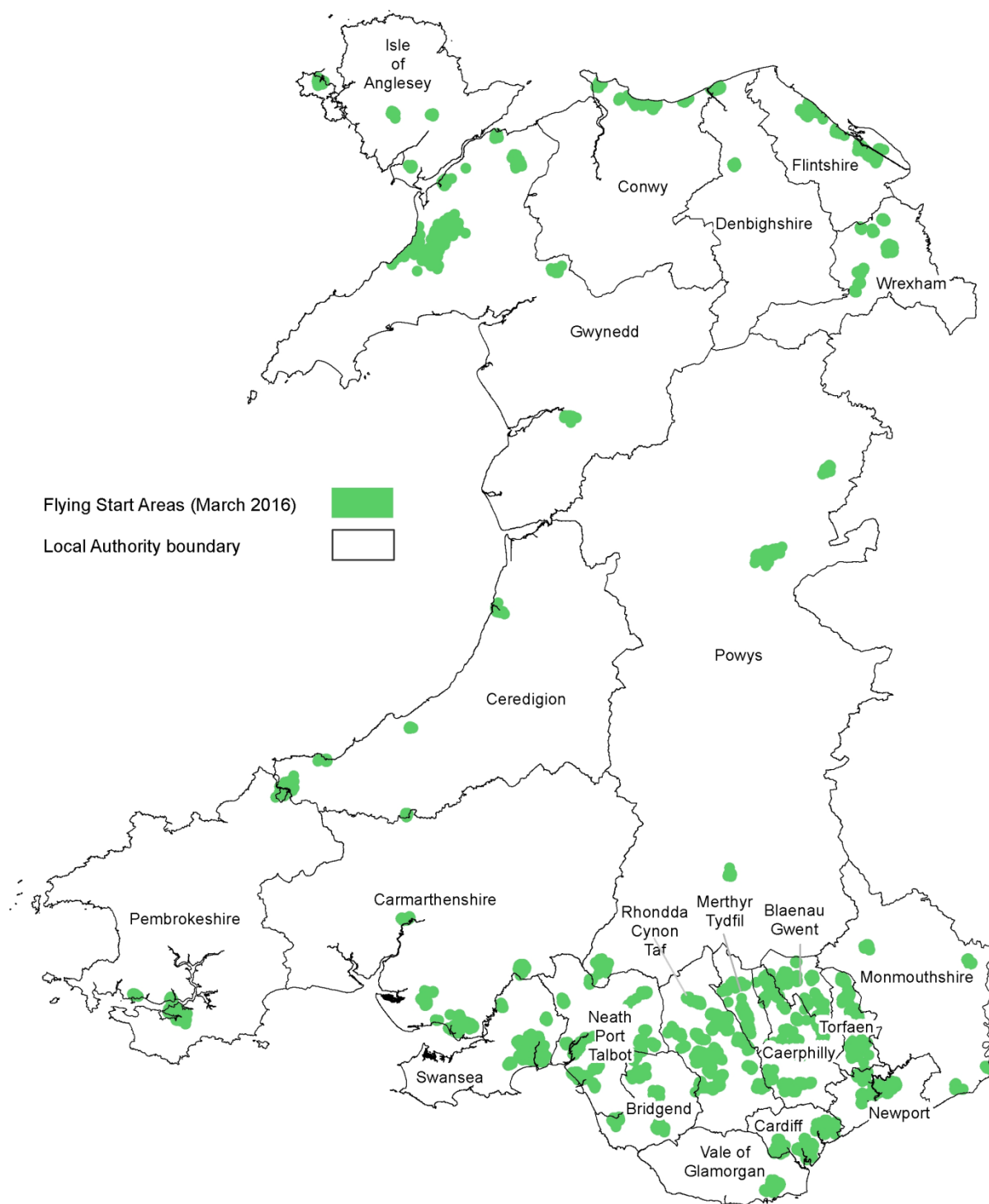
National databases

Statistics showing additional health and education outcomes for children living in Flying Start areas have been derived from national databases and are shown in [Sections 5 to 8](#). These analyses are area-based. Not every child in Flying Start areas may take up all or even any of the services offered. For further information on these national databases please see the [notes](#).

Statistics are presented in a series of charts throughout the release and detailed data tables are provided in [Tables 1 to 9](#). Note that percentages in the tables are rounded to the nearest whole number, but unrounded data is used in the charts.

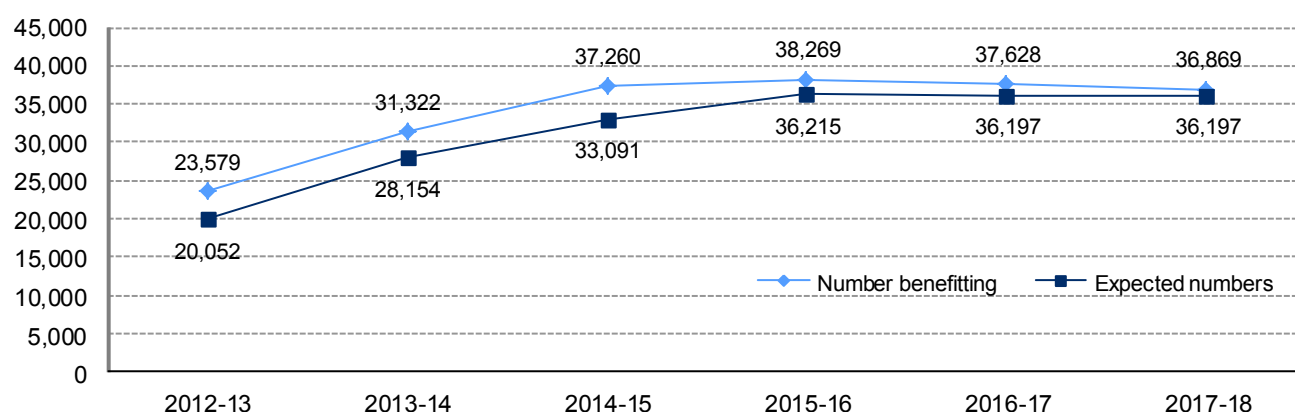
A [baseline table](#) of data from both these sources has been included for 2012-13.

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



1. Children receiving Flying Start services

Chart 1: Number of children in Wales in receipt of Flying start services (children benefitting), 2012-13 to 2017-18

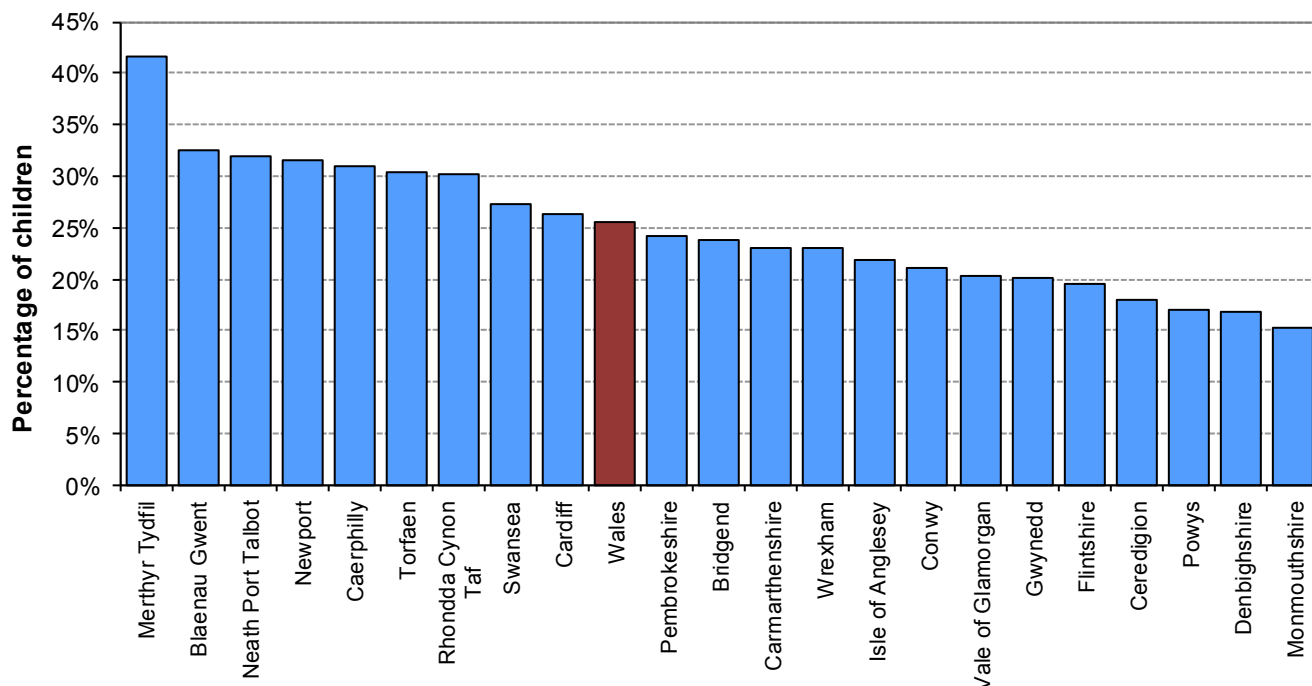


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Returns

- Chart 1 shows that during 2017-18, 36,869 children benefited from Flying Start, that is, they were in receipt of Flying Start services in Wales ([Table 1](#)). This number was a 2 per cent fall on the number of children in receipt of services in 2016-17 (37,628) but exceeded the expected number by 2 per cent. It should be noted that the numbers of children aged under 4 years in the general population have fallen in nearly all local authorities in recent years.

The number of children benefiting from the programme is counted as the total number of children who have had a contact with a Flying Start health visitor during the year. It should be noted that children may move in or out of Flying Start areas during the year and therefore this total does not equate to the number of children who receive Flying Start services continuously from the start to the end of the year. [Table 1](#) also shows the health visitor caseload which is an average of the caseload at three points during the year. This number, 34,485 for 2017-18, 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 2017-18. The caseload is also used in [Chart 2](#).

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, 2017-18



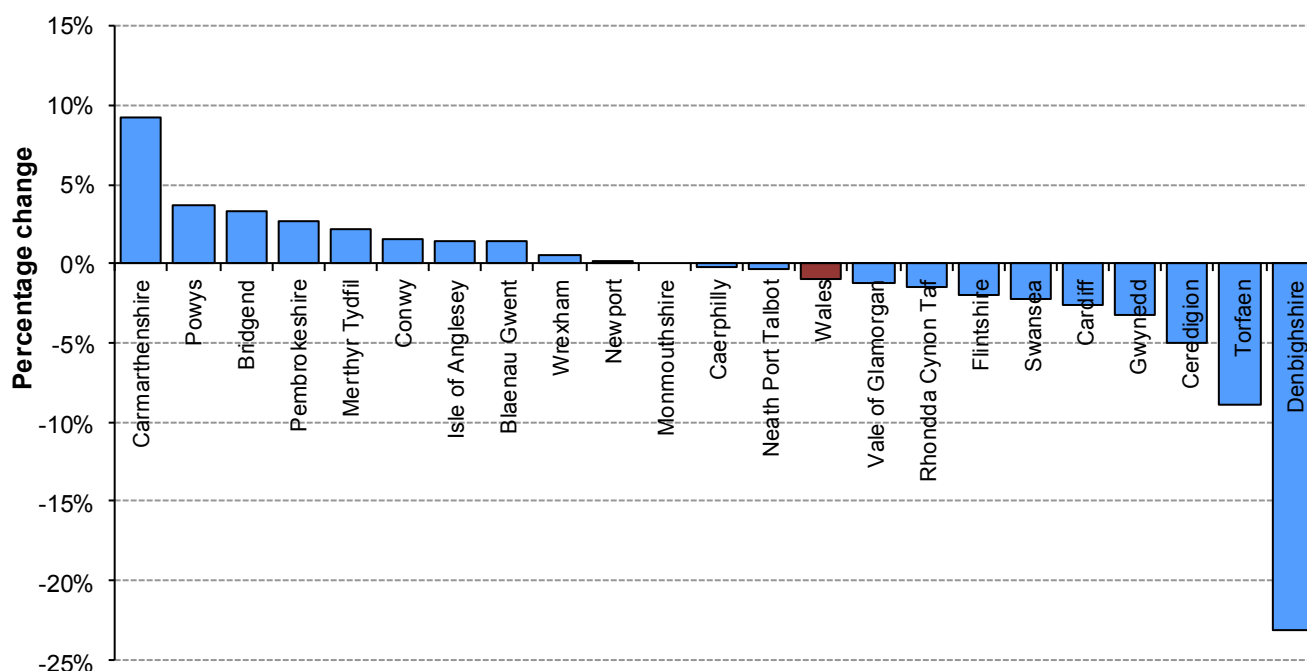
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2017-18 (health visitor caseload)

(a) 2017 Mid Year Population Estimates, published by Office for National Statistics.

- Overall 26 per cent of children aged under 4 in Wales were on health visitor caseloads and received Flying Start services during 2017-18 (Chart 2), just over 1 in 4 Welsh children. This is a small increase since in 2016-17 (25 per cent).
- This statistic is influenced by the targeting of areas in relative need, and varied from 42 per cent of children under 4 in Merthyr Tydfil to 15 per cent in Monmouthshire.

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

Chart 3: Percentage change in the number of children on Flying Start health visitor caseloads between 2016-17 and 2017-18, by local authority



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17 and 2017-18 (health visitor caseload)

Chart 3 shows considerable variation between local authorities in the change of the number of children on Flying Start health visitor caseloads between 2016-17 and 2017-18. The difference ranged between a decrease in caseload of 23 per cent in Denbighshire to an increase of 9 per cent in Carmarthenshire. Overall in Wales, there was a 1 per cent decrease in the number of children on Flying Start health visitor caseloads.

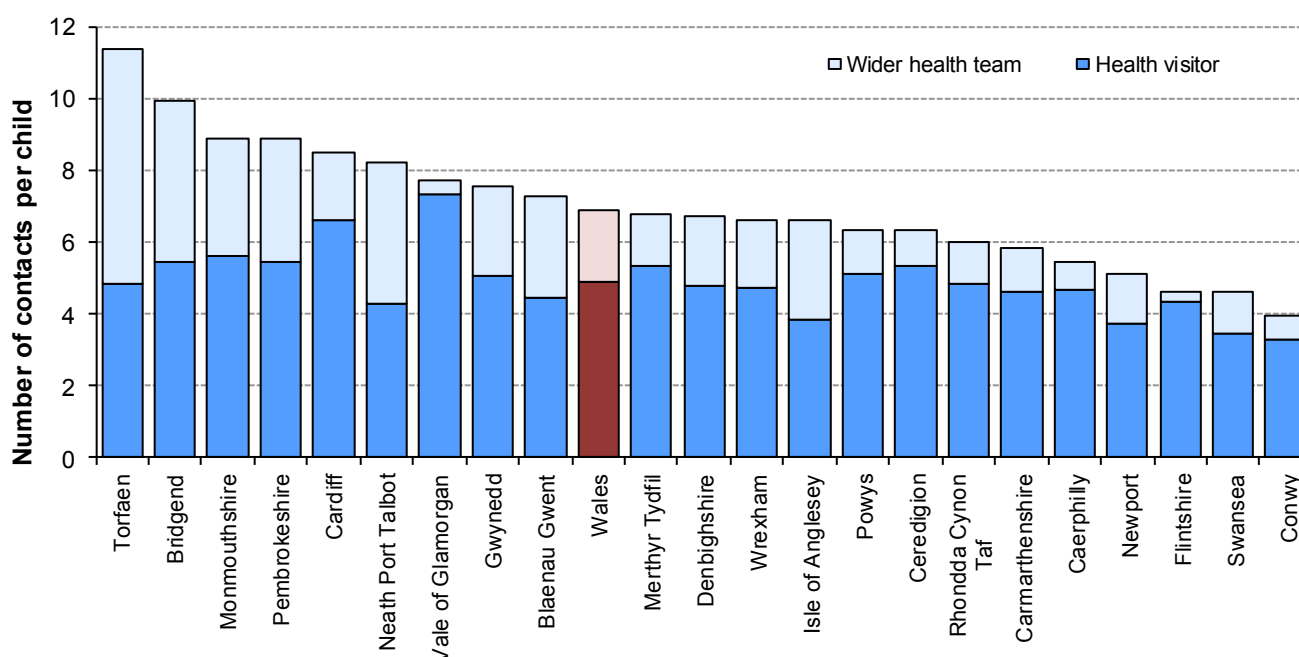
Note: During 2016-17 and 2017-18 there were a few issues with recruiting and retaining health visitors within the Flying Start programme across some local authority areas. These issues were mainly due to the programme significantly increasing the number of health visitors needed in recent years. Welsh Government continues to work closely with local authorities and Local Health Boards to manage health visitor vacancies, and to ensure that an enhanced health programme of support can continue to be offered to all families living in Flying Start areas. Welsh Government are also working closely with local authorities and Local Health Boards to ensure there is appropriate recruitment and training for the health visiting workforce, to meet the needs of both the generic and Flying Start health visiting services. Also some areas have a high level of transiency, making it likely that some children would have transferred out of Flying Start areas at some point during the year, and potentially before the first contact by a health visitor. Falling numbers of young children in some authorities may have also affected caseloads.

Key elements of the Flying Start Programme

2. Flying Start health visiting service

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

Chart 4: Number of contacts (a) per child during the year by Flying Start health visitor and wider health team (b), by local authority, 2017-18



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2017-18

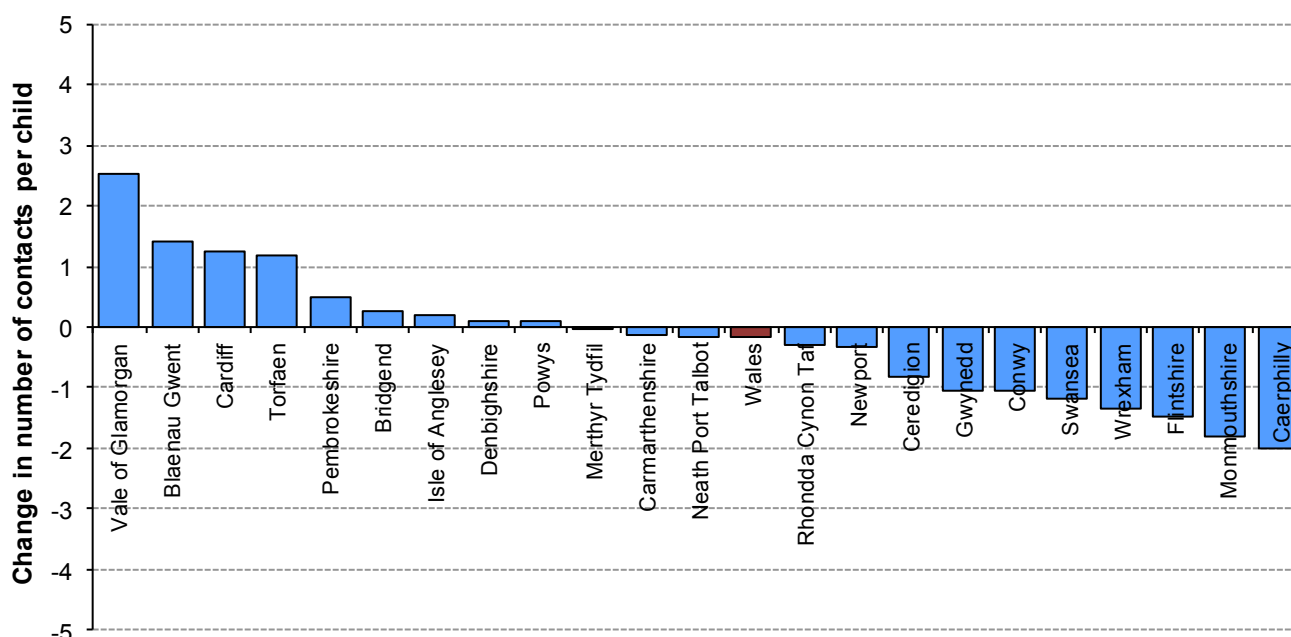
- (a) Face-to-face contact by a health visitor or wider health team member in the financial year.
 (b) "Wider health team" may include a mix of any the following professionals - dietitians, midwives, clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, community nursery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

- Flying Start children of all ages up to age 4 on the health visitor caseload were seen an average of 4.9 times during 2017-18 by health visitors and a further 2.0 times by members of the wider health team, a slight decrease on 2016-17 (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 2016-17 and 2017-18 by Flying Start health visitor and wider health team (b), by local authority



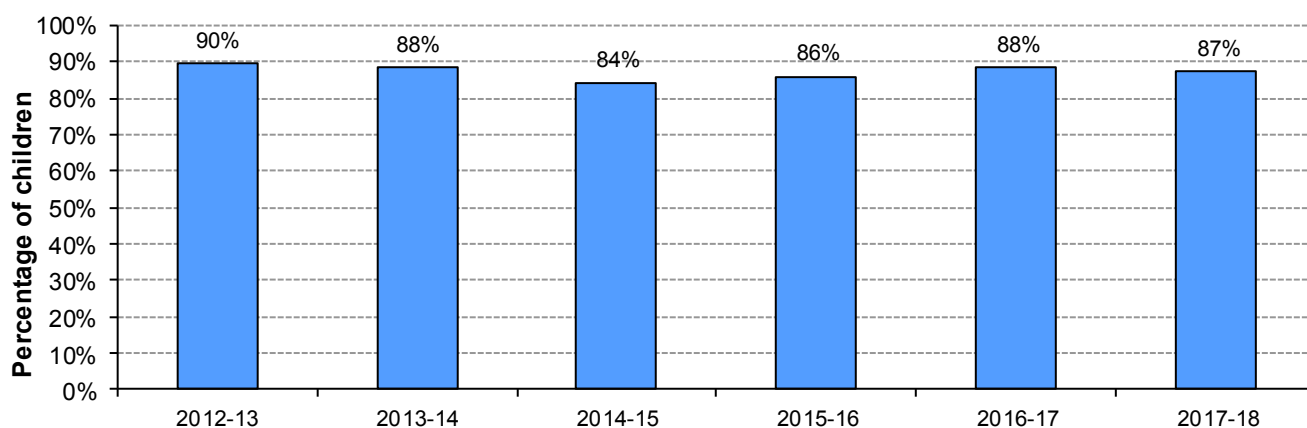
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17 and 2017-18

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

- Chart 5 shows the net change in the number of contacts per child (whether with the health visitor or the wider health team) between 2016-17 and 2017-18. 13 of the 22 local authorities showed a decline in the total number of contacts made with 9 local authorities increasing. Caerphilly had the greatest decrease over the period (2 fewer contacts per child) compared to the previous year. Vale of Glamorgan saw the greatest change with an increase of 2.5 contacts per child. However it is worth noting that these local authority level statistics fluctuate greatly from year to year. ([Table 2](#))
- The balance of health visitor and wider health contacts has also changed in some cases.

3. Childcare

Chart 6: Percentage of children taking up (a) Flying Start-provided childcare, Wales, 2012-13 to 2017-18

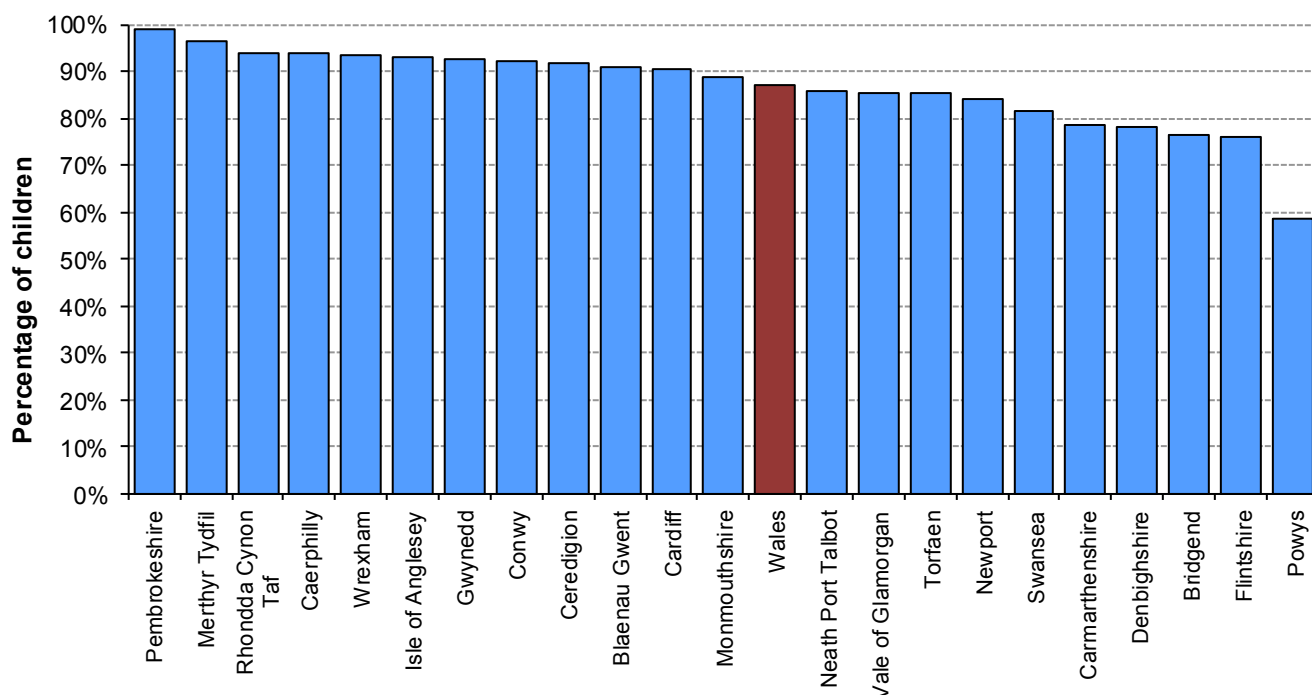


Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Returns

- (a) 'Take up' refers to whether the offer of childcare is accepted regardless of whether or not the child subsequently attends childcare.
- The percentage of children taking up Flying Start-provided childcare has remained fairly steady in the last 3 years, slightly below the high of 90per cent in the first year 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 (a) as a percentage of offers made to newly eligible children, by local authority, 2017-18



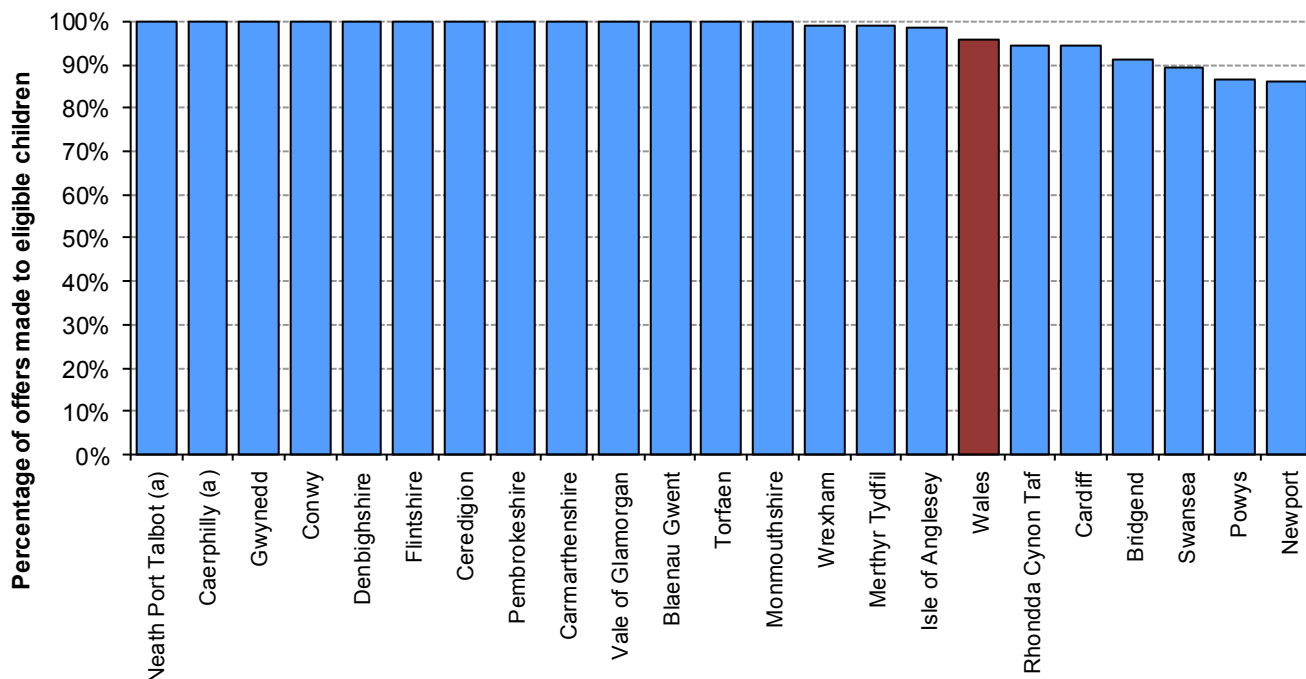
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2017-18

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

Chart 7 illustrates childcare take-up for 2017-18. 2012-13 data is shown in the [Baseline table](#).

- It shows that overall 87 per cent of full or reduced offers of childcare in a Flying Start childcare setting were taken up, a 2 percentage point decrease since 2016-17 a 3 percentage point decrease since 2012-13. ([Chart 6](#), [Table 3](#) and [Baseline table](#)).
- Half (11 out of 22) of all authorities had take up rates of 90 per cent or over in 2017-18, which is fewer than in 2016-17, and the majority (13 local authorities) of take up rates had either stayed the same or fallen in this period. Take up was as low as 58 per cent in Powys a decrease of 23 percentage points since 2016-17, though this was in part due to delays in finalising contracts with childcare providers, which has now been completed.

Chart 8: Number of full or reduced offers of Flying Start-provided childcare made as a percentage of newly eligible children, by local authority, 2017-18



Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2017-18

(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 100per cent which has been adjusted to 100per cent. See [notes](#).

Chart 8 shows the extent to which local authorities made offers of childcare to eligible children in 2017-18.

- Offers were made to more than 95 per cent of eligible children in 17 local authorities.
- Although [Chart 7](#) showed that take-up was low in some authorities, Chart 8 shows that offers were made to all or nearly all eligible children in some of these areas, for example in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Carmarthenshire take up was less than 80 per cent, but offers were made to 100 per cent of eligible children.

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 because of the way the data is collected. Also note that expanding childcare provision in new programme areas has continued to be problematic in several local authorities and rates have been affected by delays in registration of some settings. Continuing delays in the availability of new childcare settings have affected the offer rate in other local authorities. Note that not all childcare places taken up may be fully attended. For further detail of take-up and attendance please see the [notes](#).

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
- 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 2017-18 across all local authorities:

- 70 per cent of places on formal structured parenting courses which were offered to families with Flying Start children were taken up¹.

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 heading of informal structured courses, but no longer collects data on enhanced packages of support and drop-in sessions. Data for SLC courses are summarised for Wales below.

In 2017-18 across all local authorities:

- 54 per cent of places on informal structured parenting / SLC courses which were offered to families with Flying Start children were taken up¹.

¹ Note: attendance is deemed complete when 75 per cent or more of sessions have been attended.

Local authority data for formal structured courses is presented in [Table 9](#).

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. See the [notes](#) for more detail of parenting courses and a list of accredited formal structured courses.

Outcomes for children in the Flying Start programme

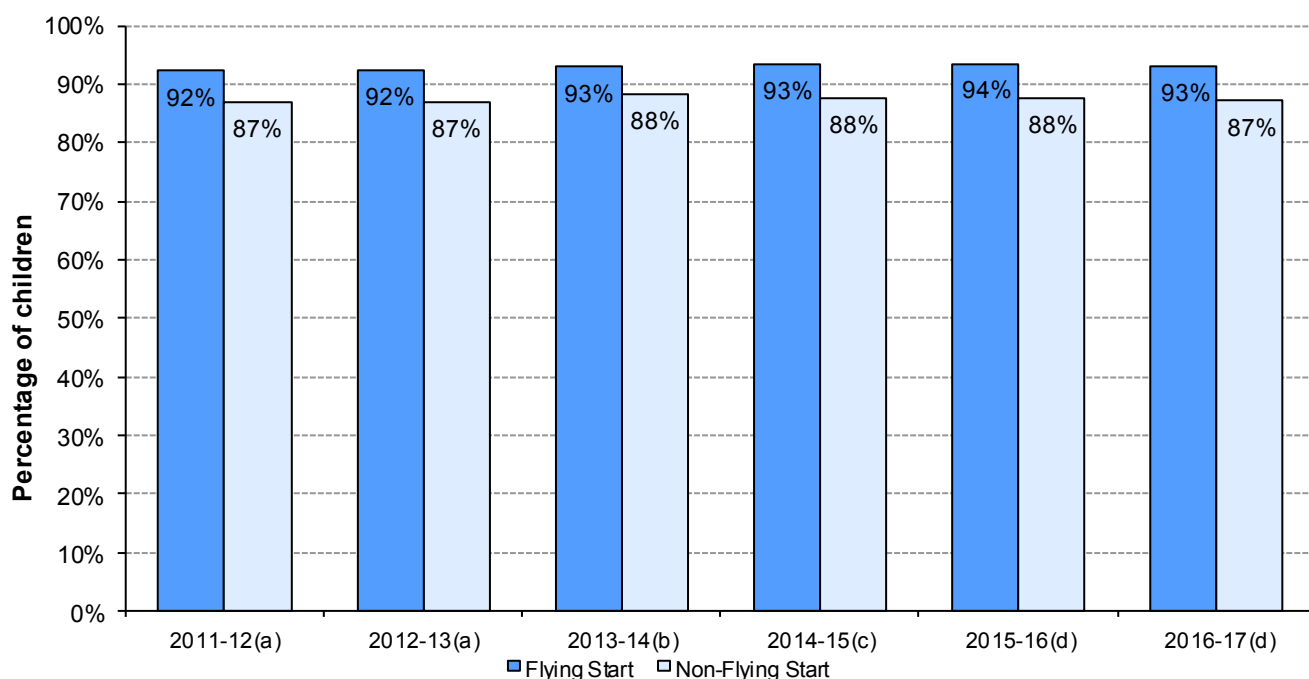
5. Education outcomes: Children recorded on roll at a maintained school

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

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

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

Chart 9: 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 2017 (age as at previous 31 August)



Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) ; National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) (denominator)

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

- Chart 9 shows that in 2016-17, 93 per cent of children at age 3 living in Flying Start programme areas were recorded on school rolls, a slight decrease since 2015-16.
- For children living in non-Flying Start areas the percentage has also decreased slightly between 2015-16 and 2016-17, to 87 per cent. The percentage in most Flying Start areas continues to be higher than in non-Flying Start areas.
- [Table 4](#) compares children living in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas for the last two years. Just 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 decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

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 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.

6: Health outcomes: Births and infant feeding

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

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

Following a mandate in August 2012, data on infant feeding at 10 days, 6 weeks and 6 months has been recorded on the Child Health System, in addition to infant feeding data at birth. Completeness has improved and a summary of information about infant feeding at 10 days is presented below. Note that the data relates to births occurring in 2015. 2016 births data will be published in August 2017 and will be included in the next Flying Start Summary Statistics with a provisional publication date of July 2019.

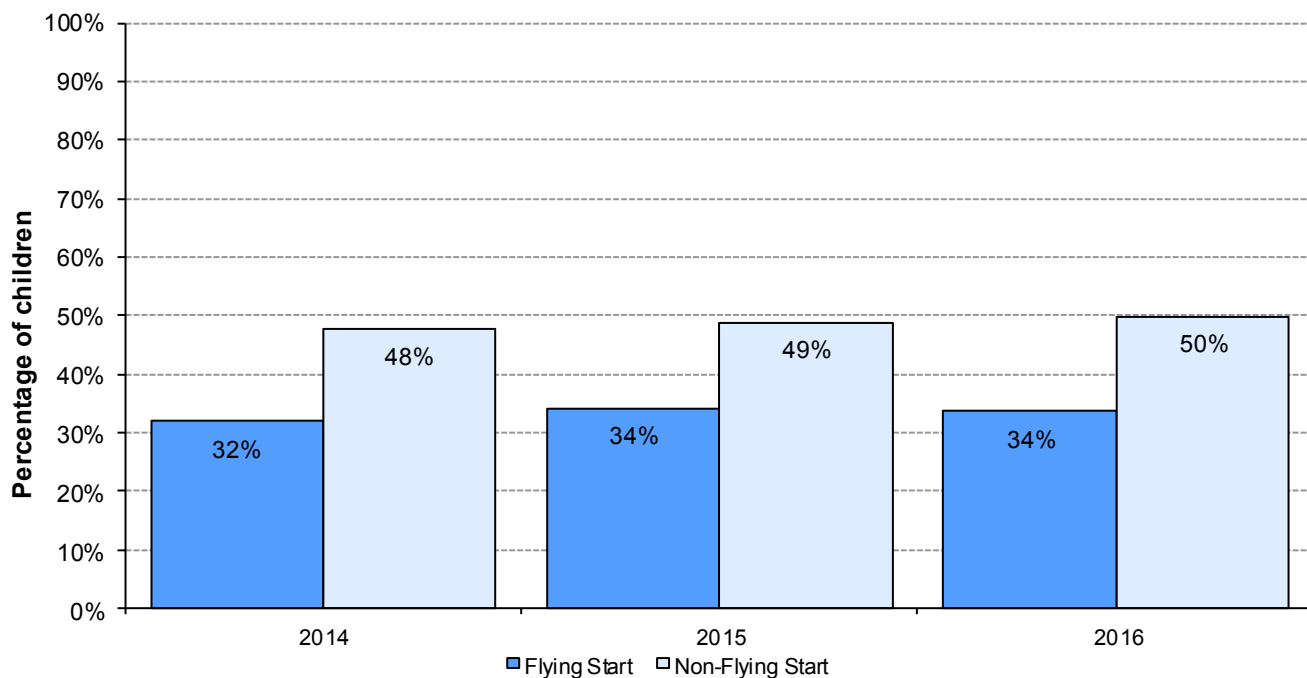
- In 2016, 25 per cent of live births in Wales were born to mothers resident in Flying Start areas, an increase from 24 per cent in 2015 ([Table 5](#)).
- The proportion of live births born to mothers resident in Flying Start areas ranged between 16 per cent (Ceredigion) and 41 per cent (Merthyr Tydfil). In general, the pattern reflects the coverage of the programme in each local authority ([Table 1](#)).
- The proportion of live births to mothers resident in Flying Start areas increased in around two thirds (15) local authorities between 2015 and 2016. The largest increase was in Caerphilly, which increased from 28 per cent in 2015 to 33 per cent in 2016 ([Table 5](#)).

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

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

[Chart 10](#) and [Chart 11](#) illustrate the proportions of babies in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas who, at 10 days, are recorded as receiving *any* breast milk, e.g. combined milk feeding (that is, breast milk plus artificial milk).

Chart 10: Percentage (a) of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, receiving any breast milk (b) at 10 days old, Wales, 2014-2016

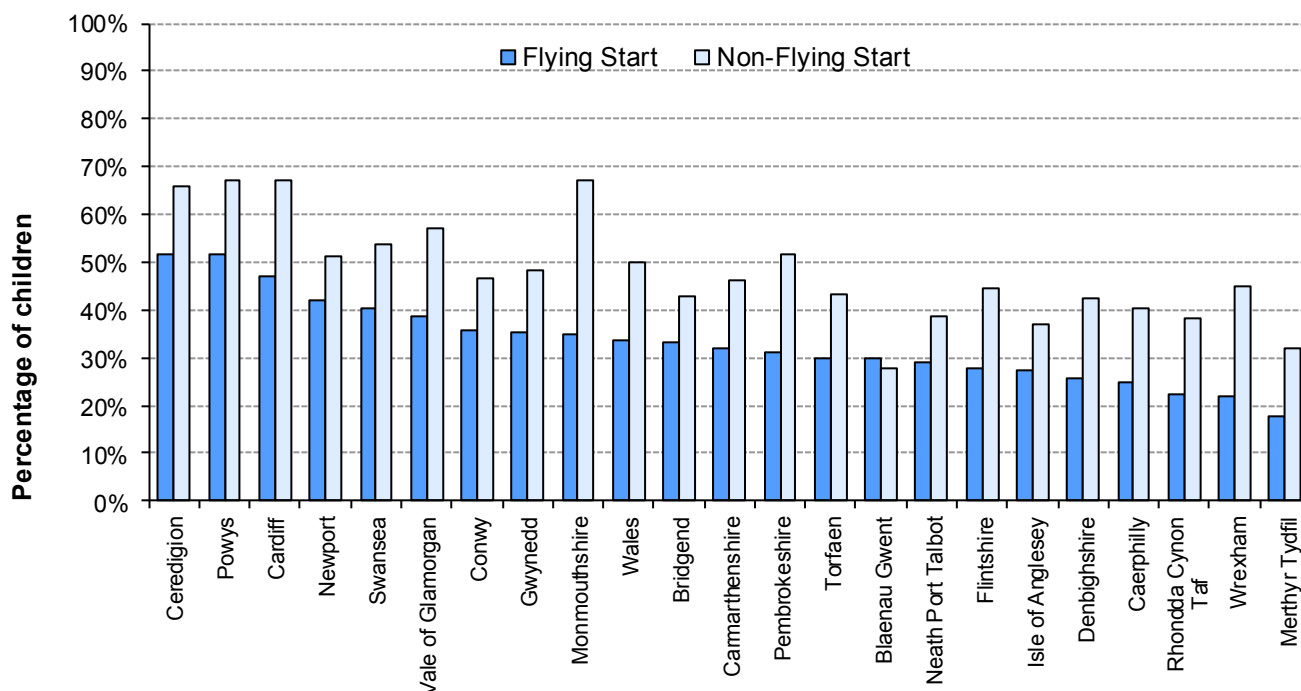


Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

- (a) The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated breastfeeding status: 14 per cent had no stated breastfeeding status at 10 days in 2014, 4 per cent in 2015 and 2016.
- (b) 'Any breast milk' consists of combined milk feeding (breast milk plus artificial milk) plus those who receive exclusively breast milk (nothing else except water).

- The proportion of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start areas who received any breast milk has increased slightly over the last 3 years, as has the proportion of babies born to mothers living in non-Flying Start areas.

Chart 11: Percentage (a) of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, receiving any breast milk (b) at 10 days old, by local authority, 2016



Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

(a) The percentages are of the total live births minus births with no stated breastfeeding status: 4 per cent had no stated breastfeeding status at 10 days in 2016.

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

- In 2016, a third (34 per cent) of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start areas were fed any breast milk at 10 days old, compared to half (50 per cent) of those in non-Flying Start areas.
- The proportion of babies born to mothers living in Flying Start areas in 2016 who received any breast milk ranged between 18 per cent (Merthyr Tydfil) and 52 per cent (Ceredigion). The rates were higher for children living in non Flying Start areas than in Flying Start areas in all bar one local authority (Blaenau Gwent) ([Table 6](#)).

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

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

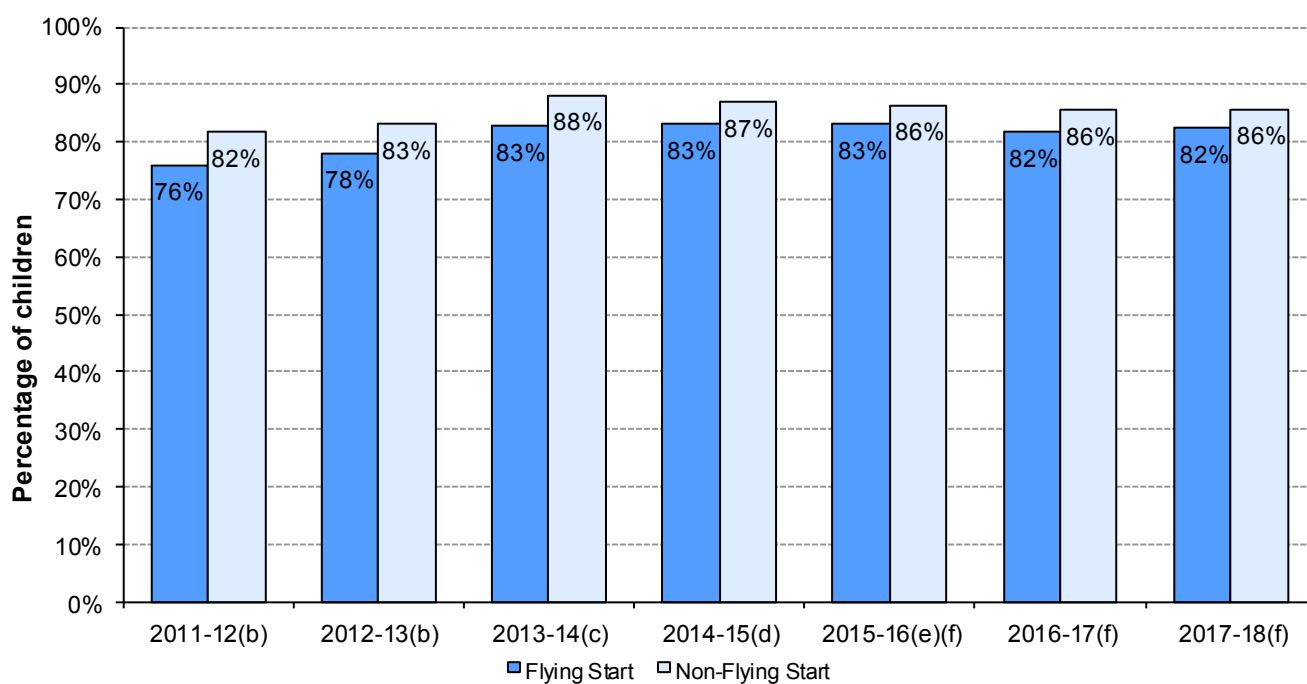
7: Health outcomes: Uptake of routine childhood immunisation

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 fourth birthday.

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

[Table 7](#) shows data on children fully immunised in both Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas for each local authority.

Chart 12: Percentage of children in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas that are fully immunised (a) at 4th birthday, Wales, 2011-12 to 2017-18



Source: Public Health Wales COVER report; National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) (denominator)

(a) Includes the following immunisations: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae (Hib), Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningitis C and Pneumococcal infection (PCV).

Analysis provided by Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre and Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme.

(b) Pre-expansion areas as at 31 March 2012.

(c) Programme areas as at 31 March 2014.

(d) Programme areas as at 31 March 2015.

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

(f) Programme areas as at 31 March 2016.

- In 2017-18, 82 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas were fully immunised at age 4 year areas (a marginal increase of 0.7 per cent since the previous year), compared to 86 per cent of children living in non-Flying Start areas (no change since 2015-16).
- Uptake of immunisations in 2017-18 of children living in Flying Start areas ranged between 94 per cent (Ceredigion) and 71 per cent (Newport). In most local authorities (14) the uptake rates were higher for children living in non Flying Start areas than in Flying Start areas ([Table 7](#)).
- Just over half of all local authorities (12) saw the uptake of immunisations of children living in Flying Start areas increase between 2016-17 and 2017-18 ([Table 7](#)).

For Wales as a whole, the figures are consistent with the relationship usually seen 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 the [notes](#) for further details.

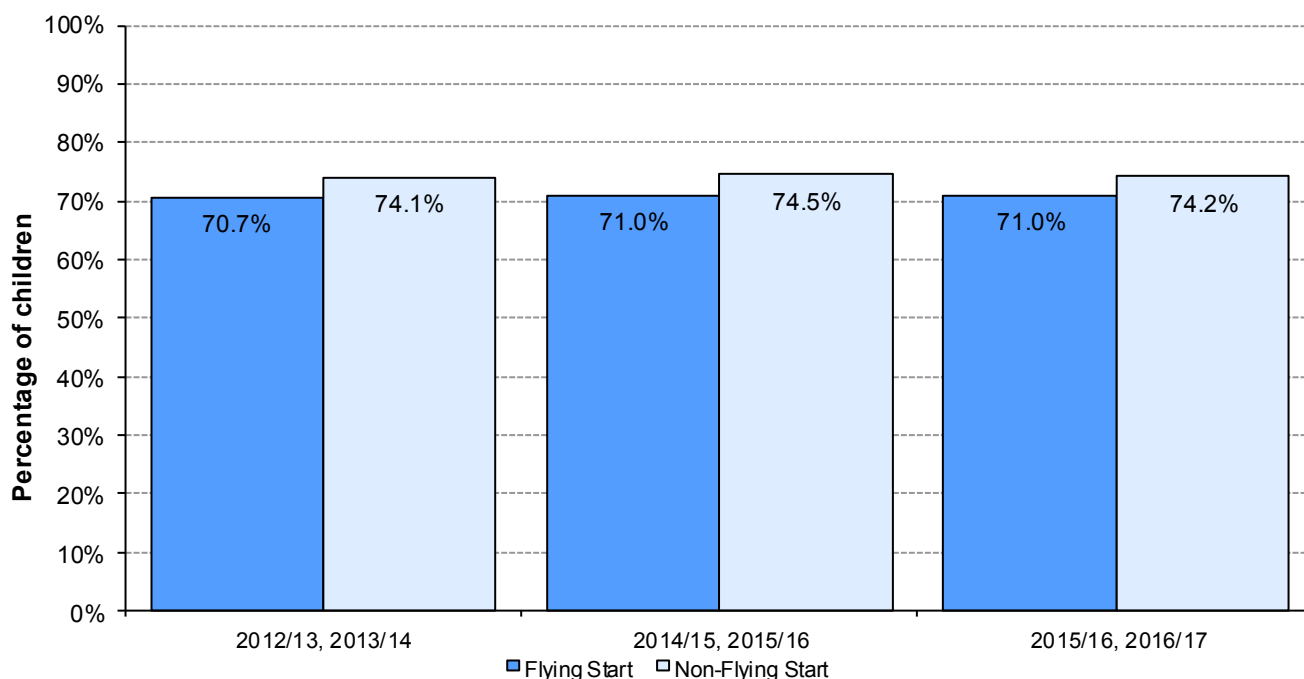
As with the education and immunisation outcomes, data from the Child Measurement Programme has been analysed according to Flying Start areas, based on the postcodes provided by Flying Start coordinators. In this case two years' data have been combined:

- school years 2011/12 with 2012/13 and 2012/13 with 2013/14 with the analysis carried out in relation to the areas as at 31 March 2012
- school years 2014/15 with 2015/16 with the analysis carried out in relation to the areas as at 31 March 2014
- school years 2015/16 with 2016/17 with the analysis carried out in relation to the areas as at 31 March 2016.

[Chart 13](#) and [Chart 14](#) shows the proportion of children resident in Flying Start and non Flying Start areas (and included in the Child Measurement Programme) who had a body mass index (BMI) classified as being of a healthy weight.

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

Chart 13: Prevalence of children in ‘healthy weight’ (a) categories for children aged 4-5 years resident within Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, Wales, 2012/13 to 2016/17 (b)

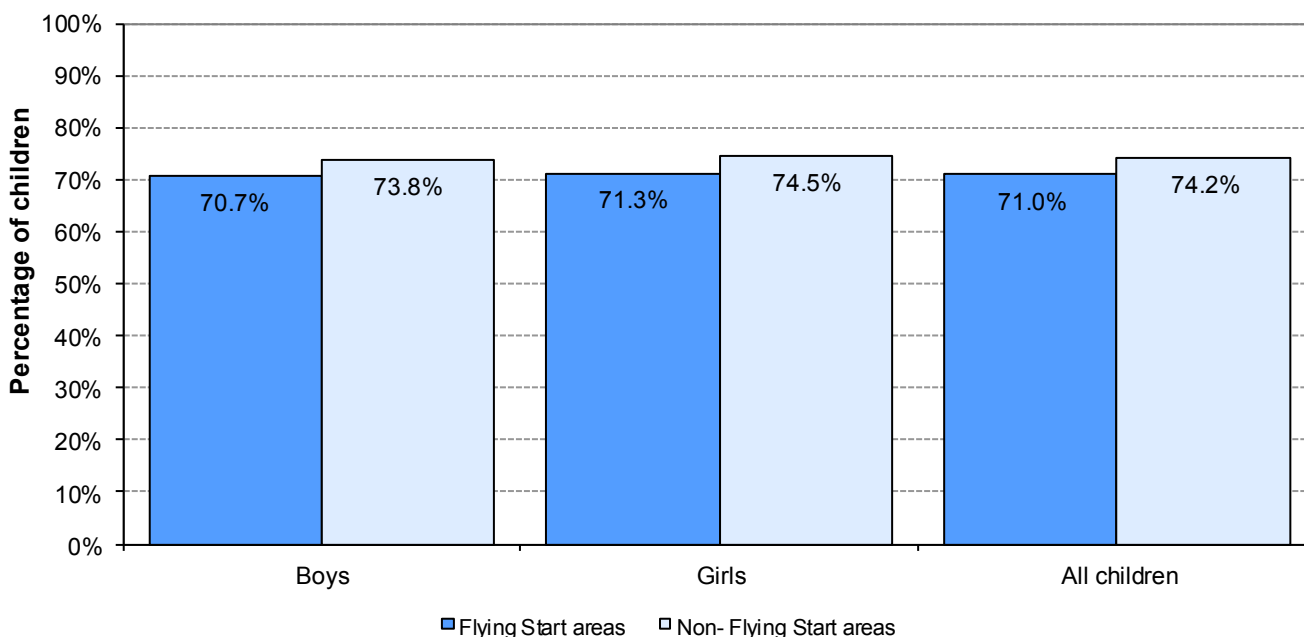


Source: Child Measurement Programme (CMP) for Wales 2012/13 to 2016/17 produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using CMP data (NWIS).

(a) ‘Healthy weight’ includes healthy weight or underweight.

(b) Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2012, 31 March 2015, 31 March 2016.

Chart 14: Prevalence of children in ‘healthy weight’ (a) categories for children aged 4-5 years resident within Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, 2015/16-2016/17 (b)



Source: Child Measurement Programme (CMP) for Wales 2015/16 and 2016/17 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 2016.

- The data in Charts 13 and 14 show that at the Wales level Flying Start areas have a lower prevalence of healthy weight or underweight children than non-Flying Start areas: 71 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas in the two school years 2015/16 and 2016/17 were of a healthy weight or underweight (the same percentage for boys and girls). This is lower than in non-Flying Start areas, where 74 per cent of children were of healthy weight or underweight (74 per cent of boys and 75 per cent of girls). The percentages have remained around these levels over the past 3 years.
- This pattern mirrors the Child Measurement Programme data where the most deprived fifth of areas has a lower prevalence of healthy weight or underweight children than each of the other deprivation fifths.

Local authority level data is available in [Table 8](#).

Table 1: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by local authority – population and caseload, 2016-17 and 2017-18

Local Authority	2016-17				2017-18				Percentage change between 2016-17 and 2017-18 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) (r)	Percentage of population aged under 4 on Flying Start health visitors caseload (r)	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	662	617	2,967	21%	593	626	2,868	22%	1%
Gwynedd	1,066	993	4,932	20%	1,043	961	4,775	20%	-3%
Conwy	924	910	4,464	20%	1,014	924	4,386	21%	2%
Denbighshire	922	900	4,225	21%	714	692	4,138	17%	-23%
Flintshire	1,387	1,322	6,632	20%	1,373	1,296	6,610	20%	-2%
Wrexham	1,533	1,436	6,392	22%	1,504	1,444	6,268	23%	1%
Powys	838	780	4,832	16%	876	809	4,776	17%	4%
Ceredigion	541	473	2,572	18%	520	449	2,507	18%	-5%
Pembrokeshire	1,341	1,138	4,835	24%	1,399	1,168	4,816	24%	3%
Carmarthenshire	1,821	1,611	7,666	21%	2,081	1,759	7,616	23%	9%
Swansea	3,101	2,823	10,374	27%	2,955	2,759	10,097	27%	-2%
Neath Port Talbot	2,308	1,952	6,091	32%	2,248	1,944	6,089	32%	0%
Bridgend	1,188	1,456	6,373	23%	1,548	1,504	6,344	24%	3%
Vale of Glamorgan	1,337	1,171	5,499	21%	1,272	1,156	5,671	20%	-1%
Cardiff	5,055	4,717	17,857	26%	5,022	4,594	17,478	26%	-3%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3,305	3,369	11,127	30%	3,315	3,320	11,001	30%	-1%
Merthyr Tydfil	1,592	1,206	2,972	41%	1,311	1,231	2,964	42%	2%
Caerphilly	2,925	2,566	8,372	31%	1,795	2,559	8,272	31%	0%
Blaenau Gwent	749	943	3,067	31%	1,077	956	2,944	32%	1%
Torfaen	1,739	1,385	4,190	33%	1,709	1,262	4,143	30%	-9%
Monmouthshire	714	506	3,342	15%	692	506	3,307	15%	0%
Newport	2,580	2,561	7,936	32%	2,808	2,564	8,113	32%	0%
Wales	37,628	34,834	136,717	25%	36,869	34,485	135,183	26%	-1%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17, 2017-18

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

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

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

(d) 2017 Mid Year Population Estimates, children aged 0,1,2,3 years, published by Office for National Statistics.

(r) 2016 Mid Year Population Estimates were revised in March 2018.

Table 2: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by local authority - face to face contacts, 2016-17 and 2017-18

Local Authority	2016-17			2017-18		
	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	3,955	3.8	2.6	4,127	3.8	2.8
Gwynedd	8,542	6.0	2.6	7,234	5.1	2.5
Conwy	4,570	3.6	1.4	3,652	3.3	0.7
Denbighshire	5,949	4.4	2.2	4,647	4.8	1.9
Flintshire	8,094	4.6	1.5	6,017	4.4	0.3
Wrexham	11,438	6.1	1.9	9,570	4.7	1.9
Powys	4,876	5.1	1.1	5,131	5.1	1.2
Ceredigion	3,381	5.1	2.0	2,846	5.3	1.0
Pembrokeshire	9,517	6.1	2.3	10,354	5.4	3.4
Carmarthenshire	9,671	4.7	1.3	10,306	4.6	1.2
Swansea	16,410	4.0	1.8	12,782	3.5	1.2
Neath Port Talbot	16,293	4.7	3.6	15,934	4.3	3.9
Bridgend	14,086	5.6	4.0	14,922	5.4	4.5
Vale of Glamorgan	6,060	5.1	0.0	8,918	7.3	0.4
Cardiff	34,042	5.7	1.5	38,961	6.6	1.9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	21,268	5.0	1.3	19,992	4.8	1.2
Merthyr Tydfil	8,195	6.1	0.7	8,350	5.3	1.5
Caerphilly	19,176	5.9	1.6	13,977	4.6	0.8
Blaenau Gwent	5,547	3.5	2.4	6,968	4.4	2.9
Torfaen	14,164	4.0	6.2	14,390	4.8	6.6
Monmouthshire	5,430	6.6	4.1	4,512	5.6	3.3
Newport	13,939	3.8	1.6	13,134	3.7	1.4
Wales	244,603	5.0	2.0	236,724	4.9	2.0

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17, 2017-18

Table 3: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by local authority – childcare, 2016-17 and 2017-18

Local Authority	2016-17				2017-18			
	Number of children newly eligible for childcare	Number of children newly eligible and offered childcare	Number of children taking up (a) full or reduced offer of childcare	Percentage of children taking up (a) full or reduced offer of childcare	Number of children newly eligible for childcare	Number of children newly eligible and offered childcare	Number of children taking up (a) full or reduced offer of childcare	Percentage of children taking up (a) full or reduced offer of childcare
Isle of Anglesey	187	187	160	86%	162	160	149	93%
Gwynedd	267	267	267	100%	265	265	246	93%
Conwy	253	253	210	83%	233	233	215	92%
Denbighshire	246	245	213	87%	227	227	178	78%
Flintshire	348	348	271	78%	335	335	255	76%
Wrexham	350	350	325	93%	337	333	255	77%
Powys	213	213	173	81%	245	212	124	58%
Ceredigion	103	103	94	91%	136	136	125	92%
Pembrokeshire	307	307	305	99%	263	263	261	99%
Carmarthenshire	470	470	394	84%	506	506	397	78%
Swansea	745	696	581	83%	735	655	535	82%
Neath Port Talbot	533	608	547	90%	636	640	551	86%
Bridgend	437	394	378	96%	387	352	270	77%
Vale of Glamorgan	308	302	270	89%	335	335	286	85%
Cardiff	1,213	1,018	884	87%	1,287	1,212	1,096	90%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	925	864	815	94%	914	861	810	94%
Merthyr Tydfil	357	344	324	94%	337	333	322	97%
Caerphilly	575	570	526	92%	657	661	620	94%
Blaenau Gwent	260	260	234	90%	269	269	245	91%
Torfaen	339	339	291	86%	347	347	296	85%
Monmouthshire	126	126	119	94%	117	117	104	89%
Newport	691	664	517	78%	749	646	544	84%
Wales	9,253	8,928	7,898	88%	9,479	9,098	7,884	87%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2016-17, 2017-18

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

Table 4: 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 2016 and in January 2017 (age as at previous 31 August)

Local Authority	2015/16						2016/17					
	Number			Percentage			Number			Percentage		
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All
Isle of Anglesey	157	523	680	94%	82%	85%	144	525	669	95%	84%	86%
Gwynedd	240	1,000	1,240	95%	92%	93%	249	906	1,155	94%	93%	94%
Conwy	265	855	1,120	97%	95%	95%	239	854	1,093	95%	97%	96%
Denbighshire (a)	218	798	1,016	96%	100%	100%	255	837	1,092	93%	100%	100%
Flintshire	319	1,354	1,673	95%	95%	95%	298	1,310	1,608	95%	96%	96%
Wrexham	376	1,243	1,619	100%	96%	97%	374	1,201	1,575	96%	96%	96%
Powys	181	710	891	78%	72%	73%	162	697	859	74%	72%	72%
Ceredigion	94	361	455	74%	64%	66%	108	333	441	86%	61%	65%
Pembrokeshire	259	958	1,217	94%	89%	90%	227	828	1,055	95%	85%	87%
Carmarthenshire	396	1,244	1,640	89%	77%	79%	369	1,217	1,586	90%	77%	80%
Swansea	716	1,999	2,715	99%	97%	98%	664	1,859	2,523	94%	99%	98%
Neath Port Talbot	495	1,008	1,503	96%	94%	95%	452	972	1,424	98%	93%	95%
Bridgend (a)	342	1,296	1,638	100%	97%	97%	302	1,251	1,553	97%	96%	96%
Vale of Glamorgan	323	1,120	1,443	96%	97%	97%	308	1,142	1,450	98%	98%	98%
Cardiff	1,045	2,956	4,001	89%	86%	87%	1,050	2,792	3,842	90%	86%	87%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	877	1,883	2,760	98%	94%	95%	843	1,884	2,727	98%	94%	95%
Merthyr Tydfil	316	411	727	96%	97%	96%	322	394	716	100%	96%	98%
Caerphilly (a)	639	1,407	2,046	97%	97%	97%	651	1,421	2,072	100%	95%	97%
Blaenau Gwent	232	499	731	97%	98%	98%	252	514	766	92%	99%	97%
Torfaen	299	551	850	84%	74%	78%	341	545	886	88%	72%	78%
Monmouthshire	116	258	374	81%	33%	40%	115	291	406	81%	39%	45%
Newport	603	930	1,533	90%	71%	78%	575	1,044	1,619	82%	78%	79%
Wales	8,507	23,365	31,872	94%	88%	89%	8,298	22,819	31,117	93%	87%	89%

Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) 2016, 2017, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015-16, 2016-17 (denominator)

(a) The number of children recorded on PLASC was greater than the total number of children recorded on NCCHD, resulting in percentage of greater than 100per cent which has been adjusted to 100per cent.

Table 5: Live births to Welsh residents in Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, 2015 and 2016

Local Authority	2015 (a)					2016 (b)				
	Number			Per cent		Number			Per cent	
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All areas	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All areas	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start
Isle of Anglesey	151	542	693	22%	78%	155	551	706	22%	78%
Gwynedd	224	928	1,152	19%	81%	239	914	1,153	21%	79%
Conwy	233	873	1,106	21%	79%	209	840	1,049	20%	80%
Denbighshire	217	838	1,055	21%	79%	240	763	1,003	24%	76%
Flintshire	256	1,306	1,562	16%	84%	293	1,281	1,574	19%	81%
Wrexham	264	1,223	1,487	18%	82%	314	1,174	1,488	21%	79%
Powys	195	916	1,111	18%	82%	196	961	1,157	17%	83%
Ceredigion	125	508	633	20%	80%	97	514	611	16%	84%
Pembrokeshire	235	942	1,177	20%	80%	243	873	1,116	22%	78%
Carmarthenshire	400	1,450	1,850	22%	78%	395	1,466	1,861	21%	79%
Swansea	679	1,838	2,517	27%	73%	683	1,796	2,479	28%	72%
Neath Port Talbot	443	1,050	1,493	30%	70%	435	1,081	1,516	29%	71%
Bridgend	303	1,198	1,501	20%	80%	300	1,195	1,495	20%	80%
Vale of Glamorgan	266	1,077	1,343	20%	80%	280	1,022	1,302	22%	78%
Cardiff	1,138	3,435	4,573	25%	75%	1,126	3,333	4,459	25%	75%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	707	1,967	2,674	26%	74%	831	1,930	2,761	30%	70%
Merthyr Tydfil	310	433	743	42%	58%	288	423	711	41%	59%
Caerphilly	562	1,481	2,043	28%	72%	652	1,348	2,000	33%	67%
Blaenau Gwent	210	544	754	28%	72%	226	498	724	31%	69%
Torfaen	300	695	995	30%	70%	317	689	1,006	32%	68%
Monmouthshire	110	679	789	14%	86%	137	599	736	19%	81%
Newport	648	1,324	1,972	33%	67%	629	1,238	1,867	34%	66%
Wales	7,976	25,385	33,361	24%	76%	8,285	24,719	33,004	25%	75%

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2015, 2016

(a) Flying Start postcodes as at 31 March 2015.

(b) Flying Start postcodes as at 31 March 2016.

Table 6: Number and percentage (a) of babies living in Flying Start / non Flying Start areas who received any breast milk (b) at 10 days old by local authority, 2016

	<i>Number</i>			<i>Percentage</i>		
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All
Local Authority						
Isle of Anglesey	109	336	445	27%	37%	65%
Gwynedd	153	460	613	35%	48%	54%
Conwy	132	425	557	36%	47%	56%
Denbighshire	163	422	585	26%	42%	62%
Flintshire	205	671	876	28%	44%	59%
Wrexham	230	629	859	22%	45%	60%
Powys	92	309	401	52%	67%	36%
Ceredigion	44	165	209	52%	66%	36%
Pembrokeshire	156	392	548	31%	52%	53%
Carmarthenshire	241	719	960	32%	46%	57%
Swansea	375	764	1,139	40%	54%	50%
Neath Port Talbot	291	620	911	29%	39%	64%
Bridgend	188	650	838	33%	43%	59%
Vale of Glamorgan	168	435	603	39%	57%	47%
Cardiff	590	1,077	1,667	47%	67%	38%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	627	1,165	1,792	22%	38%	67%
Merthyr Tydfil	231	285	516	18%	32%	74%
Caerphilly	454	766	1,220	25%	40%	65%
Blaenau Gwent	142	329	471	30%	28%	72%
Torfaen	210	376	586	30%	43%	61%
Monmouthshire	87	184	271	35%	67%	39%
Newport	344	585	929	42%	51%	52%
Wales	2,652	11,808	14,460	34%	50%	46%

Source: National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016

(a) The percentages are of the total live births less births with no stated breastfeeding status: 5per cent had no stated breastfeeding status at 10 days in 2016.

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

Table 7: 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), 2016-17 and 2017-18

Local Authority	2016-17						2017-18					
	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	160	570	730	93%	90%	91%	126	555	681	91%	90%	90%
Gwynedd	217	930	1,147	83%	88%	87%	239	818	1,057	89%	87%	88%
Conwy	237	790	1,027	84%	89%	88%	204	719	923	81%	87%	85%
Denbighshire	230	688	918	86%	86%	86%	200	709	909	80%	86%	84%
Flintshire	304	1,208	1,512	90%	89%	89%	253	1,208	1,461	88%	89%	89%
Wrexham	355	1,144	1,499	90%	89%	89%	311	1,136	1,447	89%	90%	90%
Powys	199	876	1,075	88%	86%	86%	199	858	1,057	88%	86%	86%
Ceredigion	117	516	633	91%	88%	89%	122	451	573	94%	85%	86%
Pembrokeshire	213	868	1,081	79%	84%	83%	194	813	1,007	77%	84%	83%
Carmarthenshire	302	1,336	1,638	74%	83%	81%	336	1,308	1,644	83%	84%	84%
Swansea	576	1,726	2,302	80%	87%	86%	577	1,617	2,194	81%	87%	85%
Neath Port Talbot	369	948	1,317	80%	89%	86%	397	927	1,324	84%	88%	86%
Bridgend	274	1,172	1,446	84%	89%	88%	271	1,155	1,426	81%	90%	88%
Vale of Glamorgan	249	1,040	1,289	81%	87%	86%	249	1,004	1,253	85%	84%	84%
Cardiff	879	2,802	3,681	75%	82%	80%	837	2,797	3,634	76%	84%	82%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	693	1,800	2,493	84%	88%	87%	718	1,776	2,494	84%	89%	88%
Merthyr Tydfil	294	376	670	89%	90%	89%	271	344	615	92%	90%	91%
Caerphilly	512	1,255	1,767	80%	83%	82%	553	1,259	1,812	84%	87%	86%
Blaenau Gwent	235	428	663	85%	82%	83%	218	426	644	81%	79%	80%
Torfaen	315	595	910	81%	80%	80%	295	645	940	84%	85%	85%
Monmouthshire	132	647	779	86%	82%	83%	113	624	737	92%	83%	84%
Newport	526	1,032	1,558	75%	79%	78%	475	1,012	1,487	71%	74%	73%
Wales	7,388	22,815	30,203	82%	86%	85%	7,160	22,214	29,374	82%	86%	85%

Source: Public Health Wales COVER report 2015-2016, 2016-17, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2016-17, 2017-18 (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 68 children in 2016-17 and 55 children in 2017-18 in non Flying Start / All areas. The statistics for 2015-16 have been constructed using an extract taken from NCCHD in June 2017 and therefore totals will differ slightly from published COVER statistics.

Table 8: Prevalence of children in 'healthy weight' (a) categories for children aged 4-5 years resident within Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas, 2015/16 and 2016/17 combined (b)

Local Authority (c)	All Children		Boys		Girls	
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start
Isle of Anglesey	62.8%	71.4%	65.3%	70.6%	59.9%	72.2%
Gwynedd	67.7%	69.8%	69.6%	69.7%	66.1%	69.9%
Conwy	68.5%	72.0%	66.4%	70.6%	70.5%	73.5%
Denbighshire	69.8%	70.9%	70.0%	70.4%	69.7%	71.3%
Flintshire	72.7%	73.5%	75.0%	74.5%	70.6%	72.5%
Wrexham	67.6%	71.1%	65.3%	72.1%	69.8%	70.0%
Powys	73.1%	74.0%	72.7%	72.2%	73.4%	75.7%
Ceredigion	79.5%	76.6%	76.2%	76.0%	82.6%	77.2%
Pembrokeshire	69.3%	71.3%	73.2%	67.8%	65.5%	74.7%
Carmarthenshire	65.7%	71.6%	67.0%	70.4%	64.4%	73.0%
Swansea	70.2%	75.4%	68.8%	75.0%	71.7%	75.9%
Neath Port Talbot	73.6%	76.5%	72.1%	76.4%	75.3%	76.7%
Bridgend	70.9%	72.5%	71.9%	71.7%	69.9%	73.3%
Vale of Glamorgan	78.4%	82.7%	79.1%	82.0%	77.6%	83.3%
Cardiff	73.5%	78.0%	74.5%	77.6%	72.3%	78.4%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	69.9%	73.3%	69.1%	73.2%	70.7%	73.5%
Merthyr Tydfil	65.4%	67.8%	60.4%	65.7%	70.5%	69.9%
Caerphilly	70.7%	74.3%	69.7%	73.3%	71.6%	75.3%
Blaenau Gwent	72.2%	69.8%	73.0%	69.9%	71.4%	69.7%
Torfaen	69.7%	72.7%	72.2%	73.9%	66.8%	71.5%
Monmouthshire	76.9%	78.1%	74.3%	80.2%	79.3%	75.8%
Newport	73.5%	75.6%	71.1%	76.6%	75.9%	74.6%
Wales	71.0%	74.2%	70.7%	73.8%	71.3%	74.5%

Source: Child Measurement Programme (CMP) for Wales 2015/16 and 2016/17 combined, produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using CMP data (NWIS)

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

(b) Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2016.

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

Table 9: Parenting courses offered by local authority, 2017-18

Local Authority	Formal structured parenting courses			Informal structured parenting courses		
	Number of places on courses taken up (a)	Number of places taken up with 75% or more of sessions attended (deemed complete)	Percentage of places on formal structured parenting courses ending in the year taken up	Number of places on courses taken up (a)	Number of places taken up with 75% or more of sessions attended (deemed complete)	Percentage of places on informal structured parenting courses ending in the year taken up
Isle of Anglesey	45	31	69%	188	144	77%
Gwynedd	140	74	53%	335	108	32%
Conwy	98	79	81%	39	37	95%
Denbighshire	50	41	82%	243	142	58%
Flintshire	148	107	72%	51	50	98%
Wrexham	21	12	57%	116	66	57%
Powys	50	20	40%	319	142	45%
Ceredigion	55	45	82%	162	101	62%
Pembrokeshire	12	7	58%	26	16	62%
Carmarthenshire	142	92	65%	676	301	45%
Swansea	324	167	52%	170	67	39%
Neath Port Talbot	185	105	57%	343	263	77%
Bridgend	262	214	82%	319	269	84%
Vale of Glamorgan	110	87	79%	182	135	74%
Cardiff	257	209	81%	372	266	72%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	194	166	86%	6	6	100%
Merthyr Tydfil	202	130	64%	202	83	41%
Caerphilly	229	153	67%	80	58	73%
Blaenau Gwent	368	320	87%	265	236	89%
Torfaen	108	90	83%	266	47	18%
Monmouthshire	121	101	83%	208	196	94%
Newport	382	205	54%	946	224	24%
Wales	3,503	2,455	70%	5,514	2,957	54%

Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2017-18

a) This is measured by counting places where the first or second 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)

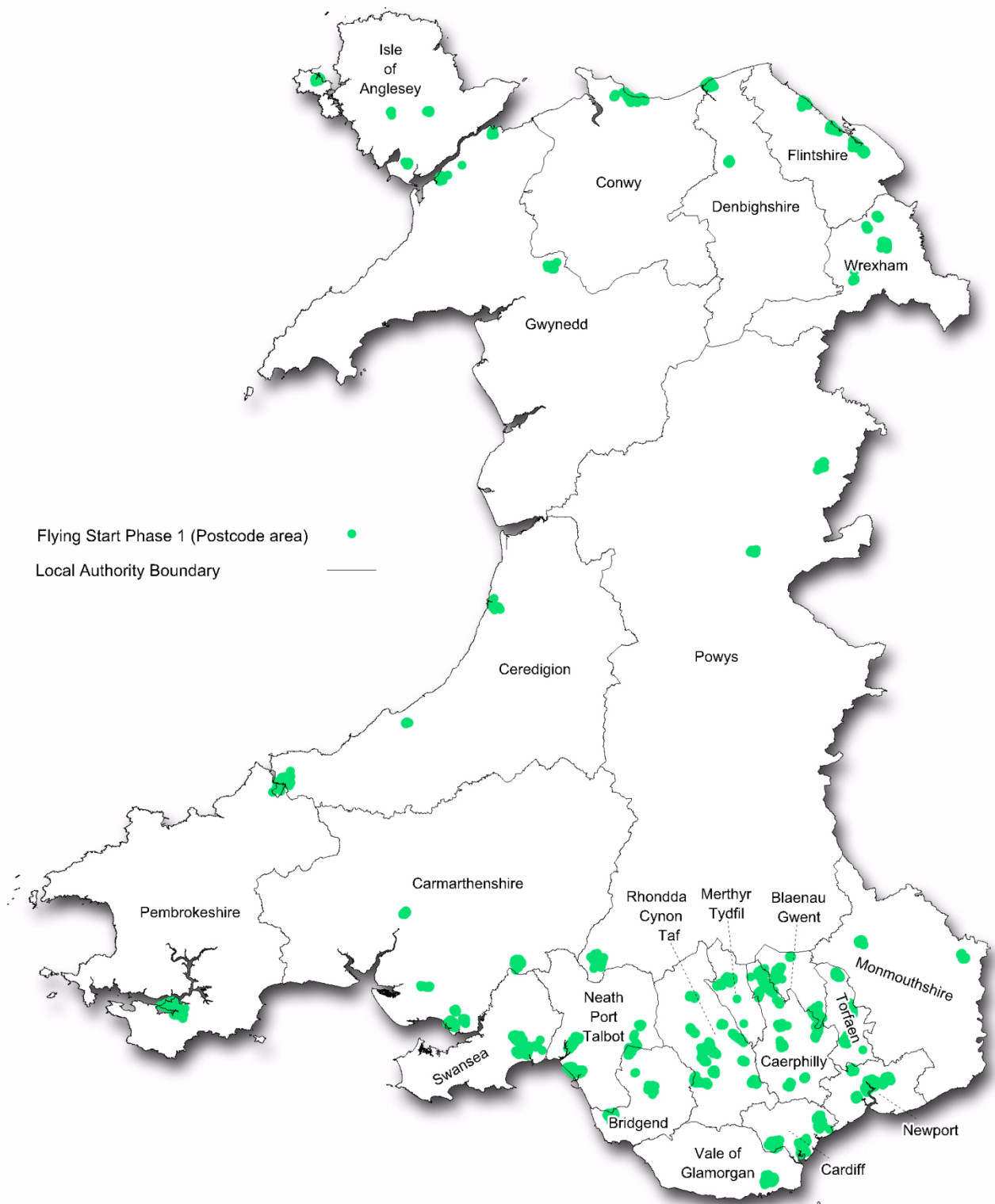
(a) Cumulative count of individual children receiving health visitor Flying Start services

(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.

Key quality information

The Flying Start programme

Key aspects of Flying Start are:

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

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

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

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

Source

~ Routine management information

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

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

~ Information on outcomes for children resident in Flying Start areas

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

~ Population

ONS mid year estimates of population are used in [Chart 2](#) and [Table 1](#) of this release. For 2016-17 the revised 2016 mid year estimates have been used. For 2017-18 the 2017 mid year estimates have been used. The estimates are published on [StatsWales](#).

Coverage

~ Flying Start areas

Flying Start targets the most disadvantaged areas in Wales. The programme has been targeted to areas according to measures of relative deprivation 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 by postcodes provided to Welsh Government by Flying Start coordinators. In a small number of postcodes not all of the dwellings within the area are included in the programme. Note that the map does not reflect any expansion of the programme after 31 March 2016.

~ Expansion areas

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

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

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

Management information

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

It should be noted that the information has been collected for management rather than statistical reasons and validation of the data is focussed as much on the operation of the programme as it is on developing robust statistics.

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

The following statistics are derived from this management information:

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

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

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

2. **Children newly eligible and in receipt of Flying Start nursery provision:** the figure is the number of Flying Start children, aged 2 or 3 years, who are newly eligible for and have taken up full or reduced offers of childcare between 1 April and 31 March. The percentage shown is the number of children taking up childcare as a percentage of the number of offers made to newly eligible children. The majority of offers taken up are full (more than 90 per cent). Note that in each year in a small number of authorities the count of childcare offers taken up was higher than the number of offers made to newly eligible children, and in addition the numbers of offers exceeded the numbers of eligible children in several cases. These apparent discrepancies are because the numbers eligible reflect only those eligible at the start of each term, excluding any children that moved into the Flying Start areas during each term and who were subsequently offered a place. From 2013-14 the collection has been improved so that numbers of offers will only exceed eligible children in cases

where there is a catch up on offers not made in a previous year, which is likely to have a minimal impact on the data.

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

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

Parenting and Speech, Language & Communication

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

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

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

- Incredible Years: Parent and Babies Programme
- Incredible Years: Parents and Toddlers Programme
- Triple P: Standard
- Triple P: Stepping Stones
- Parents Plus Early Years Programme (PPEY)
- Parenting Positively
- Incredible Years: School Readiness Programme
- Family Links Nurturing Programme (FLNP)
- Incredible Years: Pre-school BASIC Parent Programme
- Solihull Approach Parenting Group
- Handling Children's Behaviour.

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

In both cases, a 'place' on a course is defined as one allocated to an individual parental figure. If two (or more) parental figures are allocated a place on a course, this 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 course places is defined as the number of people who attended at the first session.

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

National databases

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

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

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

In 2017, just over 1,500 pupils attended a local authority maintained school in Wales but lived in England, who will be counted in PLASC; and just over 2,000 pupils attended primary or secondary schools in England but lived in Wales, (DoE: Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2017) who will not appear in PLASC.

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

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

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

[NHS Wales Informatics Service Information Services](#)

The following statistics are derived from national databases:

1. **Children living in areas in receipt of Flying Start services, aged 3, who were recorded on school rolls:** this statistic relates to children living in Flying Start areas who were aged 3 as at 31 August and also recorded on school rolls as reported by the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) as at the following January. It is presented as a percentage of all children aged 3 as at 31 August, who were living in areas in receipt of Flying Start services

identified by postcodes included in the programme and recorded on the National Community Child Health Database as at the following 31 January. Each year a small number of children resident in postcodes which were partially included in the programme have been apportioned according to the proportions of dwellings included in Flying Start. Note that not all children in a Flying Start area may take up the services offered.

2. **Live births to mothers living in Flying Start areas and those who were fed any breast milk at 10 days old:** These statistics relate to babies born to mothers resident in Flying Start areas in 2016, and of those, what proportion of them were fed *any* breast milk. The data is taken from the NCCHD and is allocated to areas on the basis of postcode of residence. A list of postcodes falling within the Flying Start programme has been used to extract data for mothers living in Flying Start areas. Data for 2015 relates to mothers living in the programme area as defined at 31 March 2015 and data for 2016 relates to mothers living in the programme area as defined at 31 March 2016. Following a new mandate in August 2012, data on infant feeding at 10 days, 6 weeks and 6 months has been recorded on the Child Health System, in addition to infant feeding data at birth. The data recorded on the NCCHD includes the following categories of infant feeding

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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 0.6per cent of the total sample were underweight.

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

- location of residence can be determined
- residence in Wales
- school located in Wales
- born in the period September 2007 to August 2008 for 2012/13 data

- born in the period September 2008 to August 2009 for 2013/14 data
- sex is recorded.

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

- height measurement recorded and is not an implausible measurement
- weight measurement recorded and is not an implausible measurement
- consent not withdrawn
- measurement collected during the academic years 2015/16 and 2016/17.

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

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

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

Data access, confidentiality and disclosure control

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

Revisions

Historical data is not revised unless errors are discovered.

What are the potential uses of these statistics?

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

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

Who are the key potential users of this data?

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

Relevance

The statistics provide an overview of Flying Start in Wales.

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

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

Accuracy

1. Data quality

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

2. Completeness

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

3. Introduction of new breastfeeding definitions

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

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

Where there is missing data we provide full information for users to allow them to make informed judgements on the quality of the statistics, particularly if there are limitations of the data.

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

Timeliness and punctuality

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

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

Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. An RSS feed alerts registered users to this publication. Simultaneously the releases are also published on the National Statistics Publication Hub. We also publicise our outputs on [Twitter](#). All releases are available to download for free.

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

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

Comparability and coherence

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

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

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

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

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

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

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

Further details

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

Next update

July 2019 (provisional)

We want your feedback

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

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