

SDR 99/2013(R)

10 September 2013

Flying Start, Summary Statistics 2012-13 - Revised

This Statistical Release provides some key national statistics from the Flying Start programme and for each of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales. This is the first of a new annual series in relation to this programme.

This is a revised version of the Release which was originally published on 18 June 2013. Following publication, it became clear that Local Authorities (LAs) were not all providing data on Flying Start developmental milestones in the same way and that the statistics might not therefore reflect real variations. As a result, a data quality exercise has been undertaken to develop a greater understanding of the assessment process and how the data was being understood and recorded by LAs. Several LAs have subsequently re-submitted their assessment data and issuing a revised Statistical Release allows for a more consistent analysis of the variation between LAs to be presented. The revision has also provided an opportunity to further clarify some of the definitions used in the release.

The following sections of the release are affected by these revisions:

Sections 1-3 – Table 1, Charts 1-3: since the first publication one LA has submitted revised Health Visitor caseload data (affecting Charts 1 and 2 and Table 1), and another has revised their childcare data (affecting Chart 3 and Table 1). Some changes have been made to the chart titles and to some text to improve clarity and a correction made to Table 1 and Chart 2. An additional column of figures has been added to Table 1 to show the number of childcare offers made. Mid year estimates for 2012, published since the first publication, have been used to update figures in Table 1 and Chart 1.

Section 4 – Table 2, Charts 4 and 5: developmental assessment data has been revised by most LAs together with associated text.

No changes have been made to Sections 5 and 6 (Charts 6 and 7, Tables 3 and 4).

[Flying Start](#) is the Welsh Government targeted Early Years programme for families with children under 4 years of age in some of the most deprived 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. This is the first year of data collection for Flying Start and improvements to the dataset are continuing. This should be recognised when interpreting the resulting statistics.

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](#). The release aims to provide the evidence needed to inform further policy development, as well as providing information to Local Authorities for monitoring, benchmarking and improvement and for the wider public.

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Key Facts:

- 23,579 children benefited from, that is, were in receipt of Flying Start services in Wales at any time in 2012-13.
- Flying Start children (on the Health Visitor caseload) of all ages up to age 4 were seen an average of 6.6 times during 2012-13 by Health Visitors and a further twice by members of the wider health team.
- 90 per cent of offers of childcare in a Flying Start childcare setting were taken up during 2012-13.
- 82 per cent of children in the Flying Start programme reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms¹ at age 2 years while 55 per cent met or exceeded their milestones at this age.
- 83 per cent of children in the Flying Start programme reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms¹ at age 3 years while 55 per cent met or exceeded their milestones at this age.
- 92 per cent of children aged 3 and living in Flying Start areas were on roll at a maintained school (2012).
- 76 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas were fully immunised at age 4 (2011-12).

For more on data quality, see notes at the end of this release.

¹ For further information on developmental assessment please see notes on page 20.

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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 Early Language Development support.

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://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/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. An [evaluation of Flying Start](#) describes the kinds of challenges families in these disadvantaged areas are likely to face in term of providing their children with the best start in life.

Map 1 shows the areas, based on postcodes, targeted as recipients of Flying Start funding, as at 31 March 2012. Note that the map does not reflect any expansion of the programme after 31 March 2012.

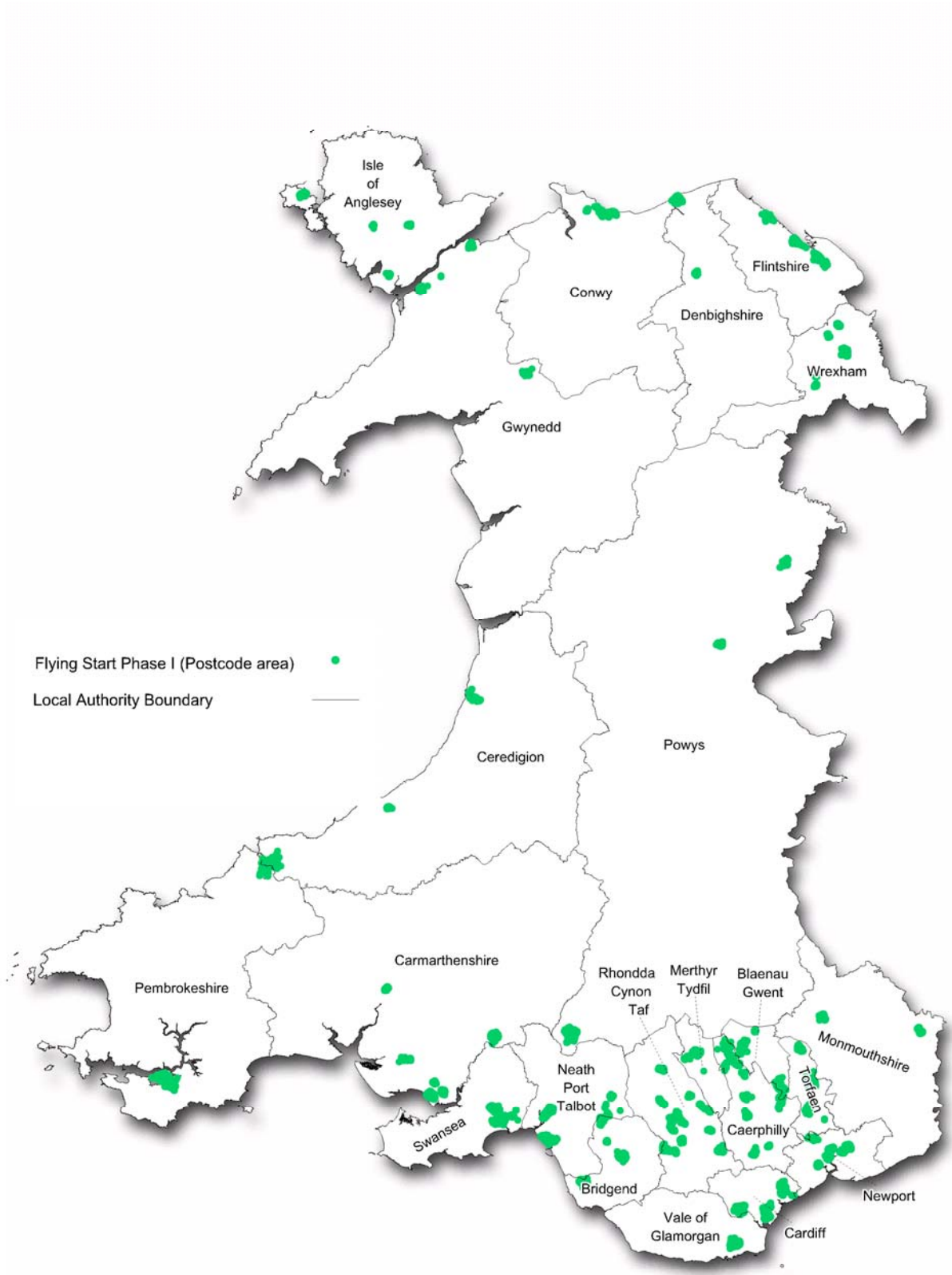
Please refer to Table 1 on page 14 for basic numbers. More information about how Flying Start areas are chosen is provided under Key Quality Information on page 18.

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 2011-12 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. The data published here therefore reflects a period (2012-13) during which there was a small amount of expansion in the numbers of children included in the programme. Additional target areas are being added to the programme throughout the period of expansion. Selected basic counts from this Data Monitoring dataset are presented in Table 1 on page 14 and key analyses shown in sections 1 to 3 below. The Data Monitoring dataset is also the source of outcome statistics presented in section 4 on child development. It should be noted that this data collection is relatively new and is still being developed and improved with Local Authorities. Please see further details in the notes on page 18.

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 and 6. For further information on these national databases please see the notes on page 20.

Map 1: Location of Flying Start areas as at 31 March 2012



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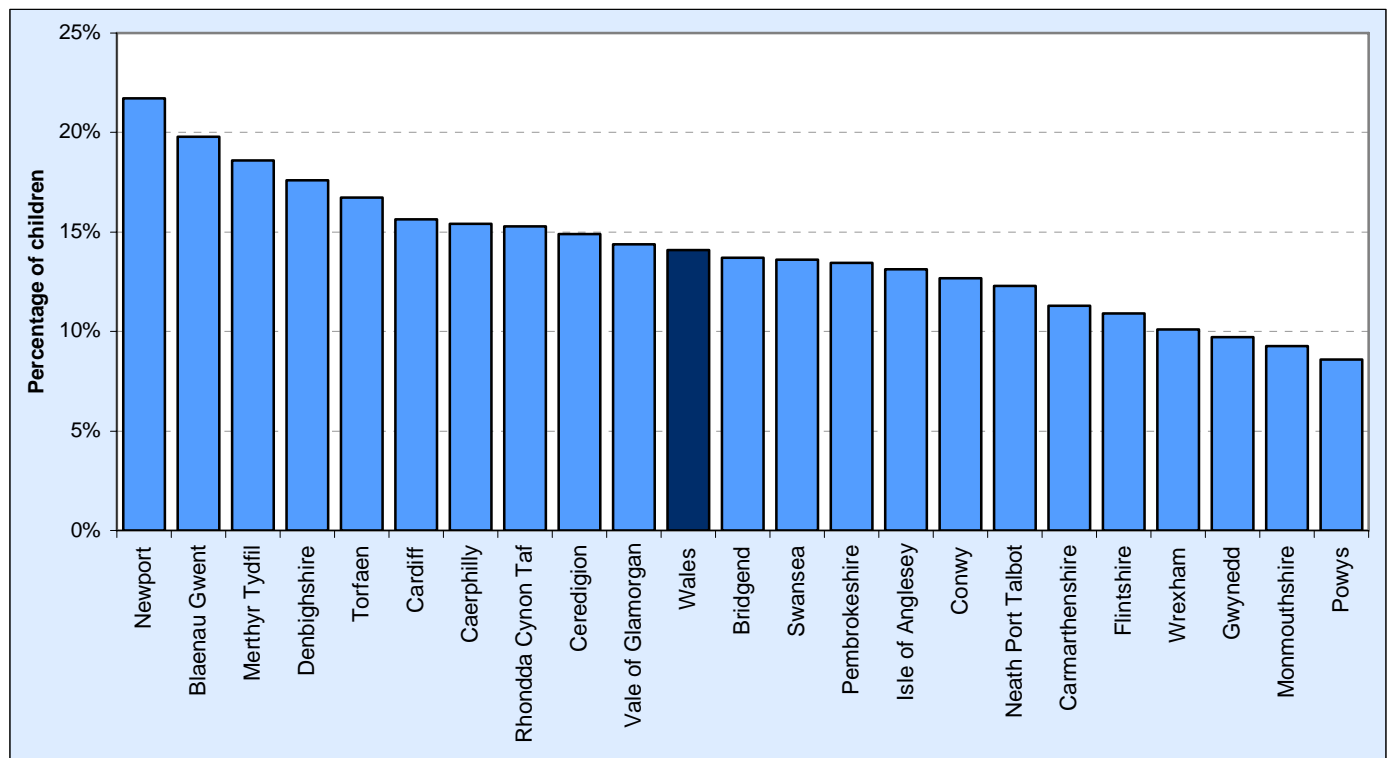
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1. Children receiving Flying Start Services

- During 2012-13 23,579 children benefited from Flying Start, that is, they were in receipt of Flying Start services in Wales (Table 1).

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 from the start to the end of the year. An estimate of the average number of children receiving services is also provided in Table 1 as the Health Visitor caseload. This number, 20,209 for 2012-13, is lower than the total in receipt of services over 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 2012-13. The caseload is also used in Chart 1 below.

Chart 1: Children aged under 4 on Flying Start Health Visitor caseloads as a percentage of all resident children aged under 4 (a) by Local Authority, 2012-13



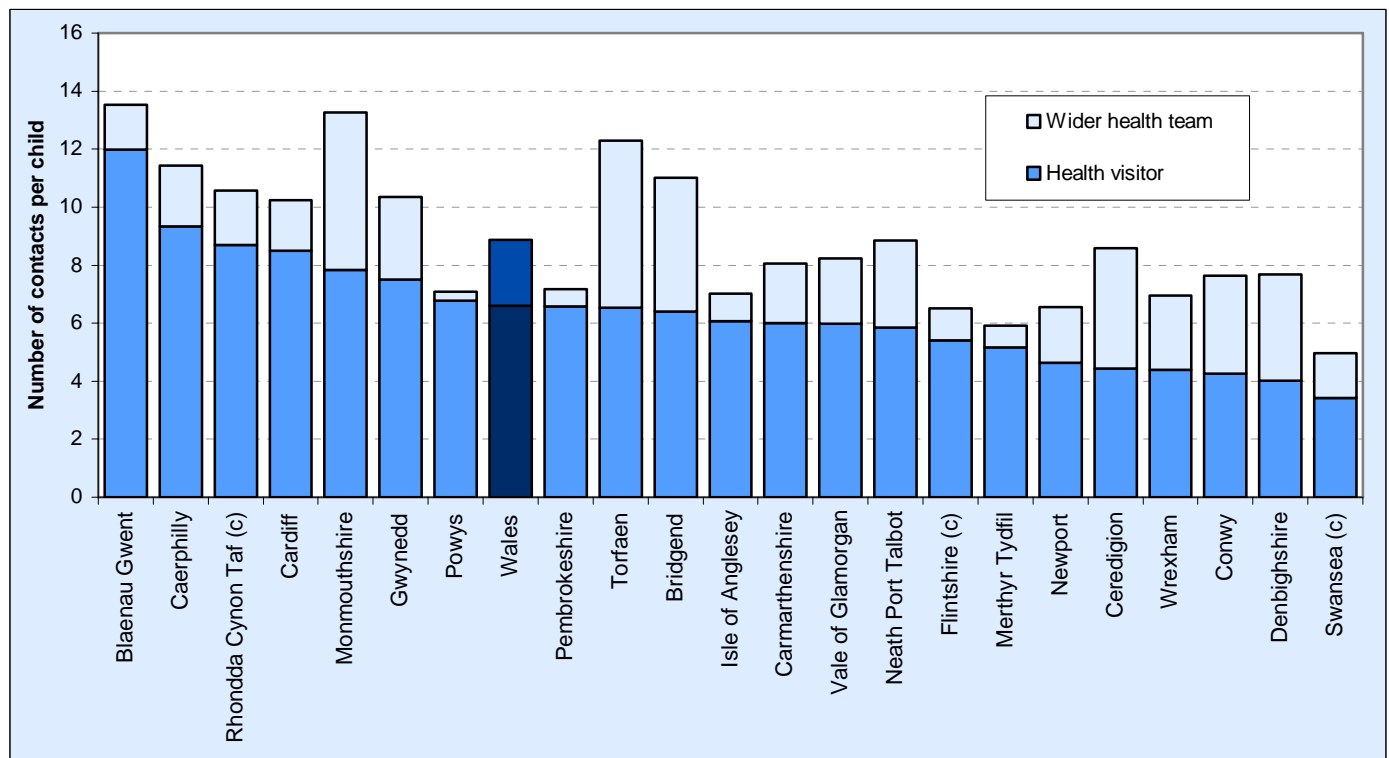
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13 (health visitor caseload)
 (a) 2012 Mid Year Population Estimates, published by Office for National Statistics.

- Overall 14 per cent of children aged under 4 in Wales were on Health Visitor caseloads and received Flying Start services during 2012-13 (Chart 1).
- This figure varied from 22 per cent of children under 4 in Newport to 9 per cent in Powys.

2. Flying Start health visiting service

An enhanced health visiting service is one of the four key elements of the Flying Start programme, with Health Visitors having a significantly reduced caseload compared to the generic service. There is 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 2: Number of contacts (a) per child during the year by Flying Start Health Visitor and wider health team (b), by Local Authority, 2012-13



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

- (a) Face-to-face contact by a health visitor or wider health team member in the financial year.
- (b) "Wider health team" may include a mix of any the following professionals - dieticians, midwives, clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, community nursery nurses, social workers and others.
- (c) Rhondda Cynon Taf, Flintshire and Swansea did not provide contact data in the first term of collection and therefore data from terms 2 and 3 has been grossed up to 12 months for comparison purposes. The grossed up numbers contribute to the Welsh total.

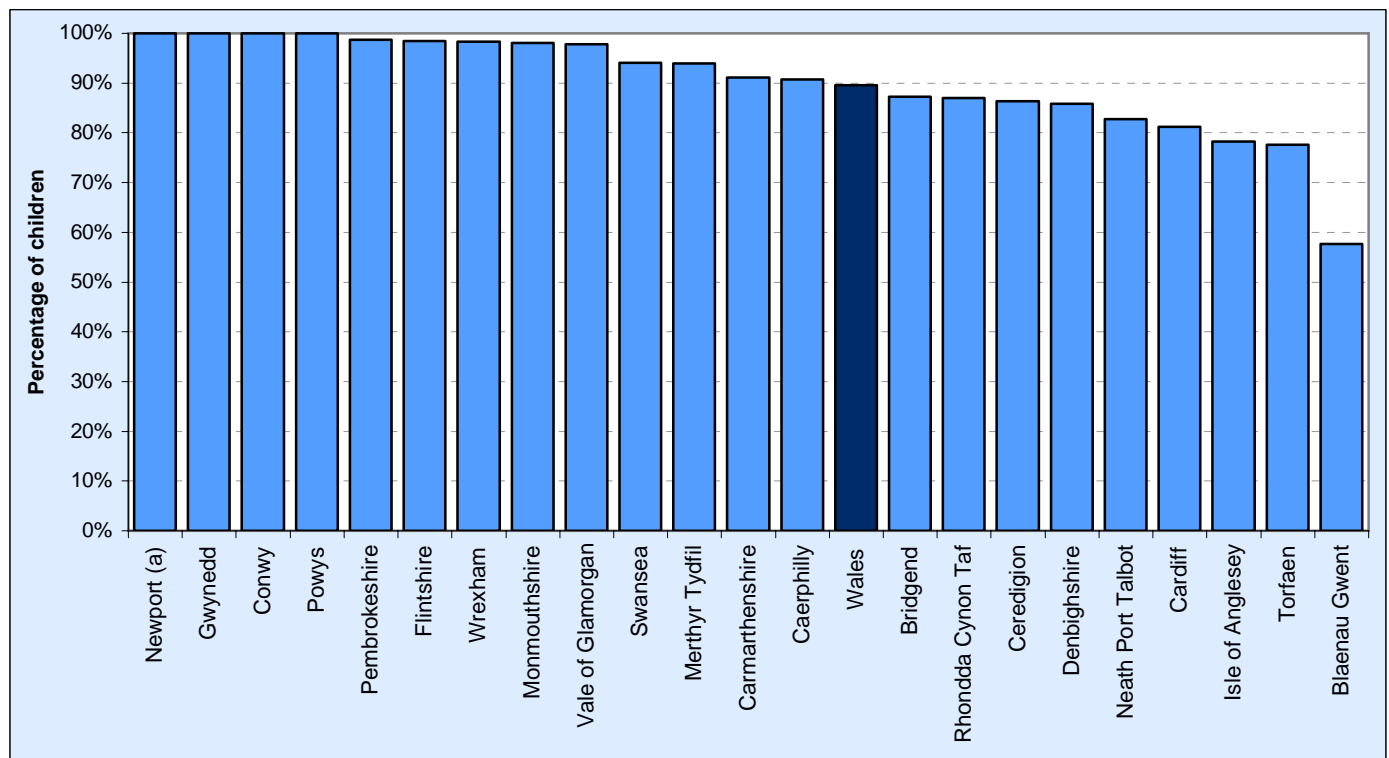
- Flying Start children of all ages up to age 4 on the Health Visitor caseload were seen an average of 6.6 times during 2012-13 by Health Visitors and a further twice by members of the wider health team (Chart 2). Flying Start Health Visitor caseloads are capped at 110 children whereas Health Visitors working outside Flying Start may have up to 350 children on their caseloads.
- Chart 2 shows substantial variation between Local Authorities. Some of this may reflect relative need, the age profile of the children in specific areas, variation in length or type of contacts or differential decisions regarding the balance between Health Visitor and other professional contact. However this information is not known.

The people involved in the 'wider health team' will vary between Local Authorities according to decisions on allocating resources.

3. Childcare

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 3: Number of full or reduced offers of Flying Start-provided childcare taken up as a percentage of offers made to newly eligible children, 2012-13



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

(a) 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% which has been adjusted to 100%. See notes.

- Overall 90 per cent full or reduced offers of childcare in a Flying Start childcare setting were taken up (Chart 3).
- The majority of Local Authorities have take up rates of over 90 per cent, but take up was as low as 58 per cent in Blaenau Gwent.

This statistic is based on the numbers of children who are newly eligible during the year (and were made offers of childcare) who take up offers of childcare. 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 20.

Outcomes for children in the Flying Start Programme

4. 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 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 the 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 or two 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.

As part of the data quality exercise referred to earlier, it was recognised that in aggregating the results for the individual children, local authorities had applied different practices. For example differences existed in the boundaries used to assess developmental norms for those children aged just less than 2 or 3, with some using the nearest age boundary and some using the age boundary below.

In order to minimise the impact of these different reporting practices, LAs in future will be asked to aggregate their data based on a standardised approach and as a result of the data quality exercise, we now believe all local authorities have supplied their 2012-13 data in this way. All assessments are now compared to the same boundary for age 2 and 3, regardless of whether those assessments took place before or after the birthday. As was the case in the initial publication, to avoid bias being introduced by tests carried much earlier or later, only those assessments which took place within one month of the 2nd or 3rd birthdays are included in the calculation of aggregate statistics.

The results are based on counting children as follows:

- Met 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 met or exceeded milestones in the others
- More than one age band below milestones: children who, in at least one of the skill areas, were below one age band below milestones.

Outside Flying Start areas, a range of assessment tools are used according to the preference of individual health boards. 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.

- 82 per cent of children in the Flying Start programme reached, exceeded or were within 1 age band of their developmental norms at age 2 years while 55 per cent met or exceeded their milestones at this age (Table 2).
- 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 55 per cent met or exceeded their milestones at this age (Table 2).

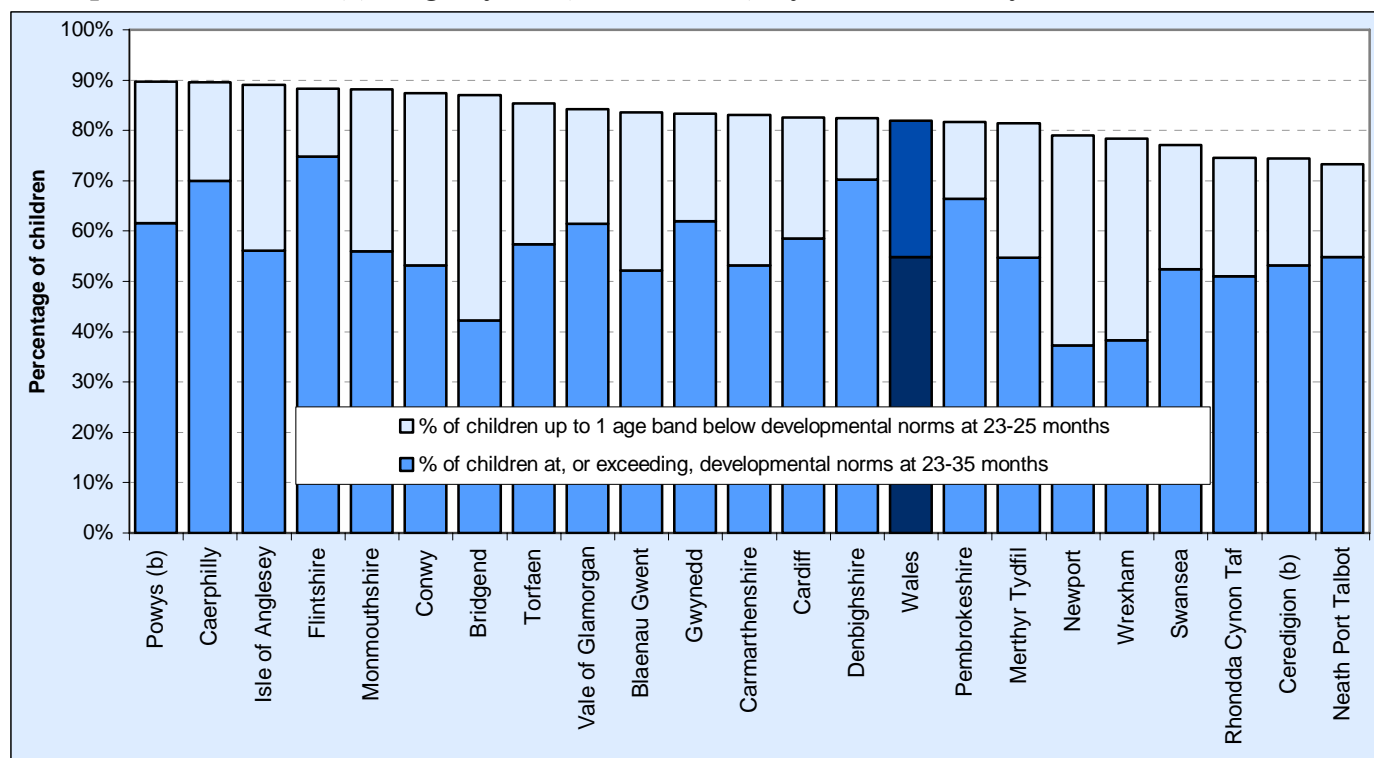
Note that these children are different cohorts i.e. the children presented in Chart 4 were aged 2 in 2012-13, and those presented in Chart 5 were age 3 in the same year. Note also that the level of transfers in and out of Flying Start areas means that not all children will have been resident in Flying 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 this age; 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 was taken from the first publication of this release and has been revised from 64 per cent to 55 per cent at age 3.

Chart 4: Percentage of children in 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, 2012-13



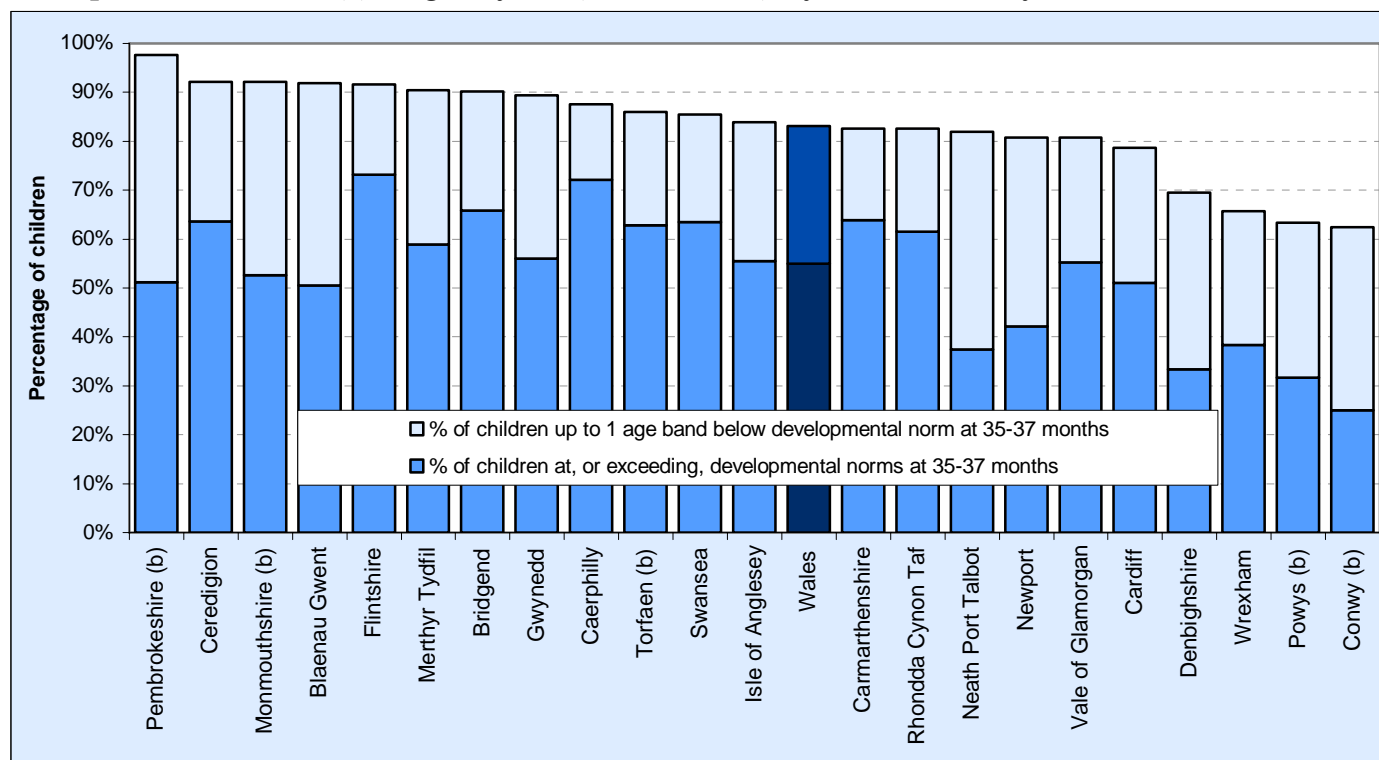
Source: Welsh Government Flying Start Data Monitoring Return 2012-13

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

(b) Fewer than 50 children were assessed in these Local Authorities and the data should therefore be treated cautiously as these may not necessarily be representative of the whole caseload had they all been tested "in-age".

Chart 4 shows that 55 per cent of the 3,343 Flying Start children assessed in 2012-13, reached or exceeded their developmental milestones at the age of 2 years. 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 27 per cent of children overall were reported to be within 1 age band of developmental norms, meaning that 82 per cent of children aged 2 that were assessed had met or nearly met the milestones for this age. The remaining 18 per cent of the children assessed at this age were identified as being more than one age band below the norm by Flying Start and therefore may have required additional support, although this would be according to the professional judgement of the Health Visitors.

Chart 5: Percentage of children in 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, 2012-13



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

- (a) See notes for further details of developmental milestones.
- (b) Fewer than 50 children were assessed in these Local Authorities and the data should therefore be treated cautiously as these may not necessarily be representative of the whole caseload had they all been tested "in-age".

Chart 5 shows that 55 per cent of the 2,914 Flying Start children assessed in 2012-13, reached or exceeded their developmental milestones at the age of 3 years. 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 were within 1 age band of developmental norms, meaning that 83 per cent of children aged 3 that were assessed had met or nearly met 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.

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 different levels of deprivation within Flying Start areas. Comments received during the data quality exercise point to some differences in the way the assessments are carried out in different local authorities. Further improvements to data collection processes and the associated guidance are being made to increase consistency in this respect which should also have a beneficial effect on the reporting of these statistics in future.

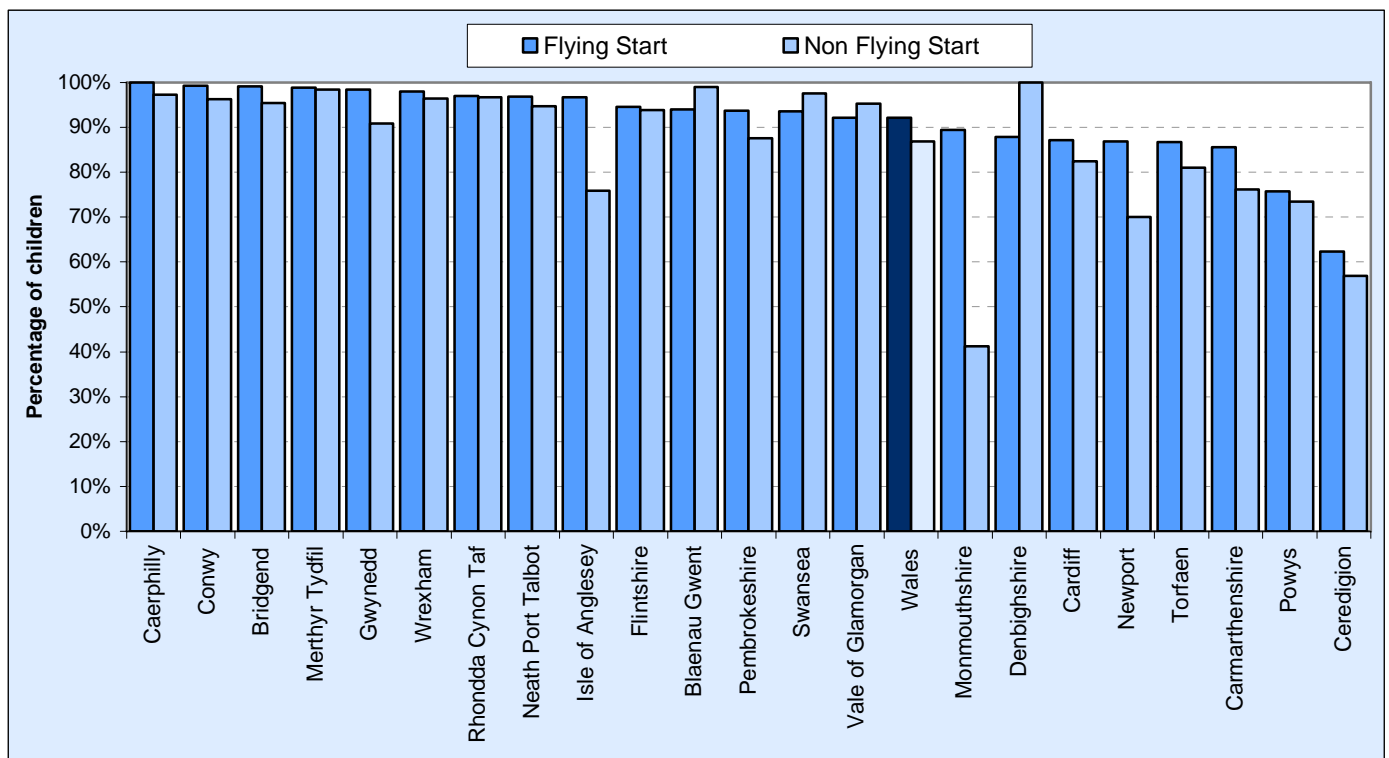
5. Education outcomes: Children recorded on roll at a maintained school

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 and of those living in non Flying Start areas who are recorded on roll at a maintained school according to the annual school census and the postcodes provided by Flying Start coordinators.

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 3 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 6: Percentage of children aged 3 as at 31 August 2011 recorded on roll at a maintained school in January 2012



- 92 per cent of children at age 3 living in Flying Start programme areas were recorded on school rolls, compared with 87 per cent of children at age 3 living in non-Flying Start programme areas.
- The variation seen between Local Authorities may be partially explained by some of the following factors: differences in the size 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.

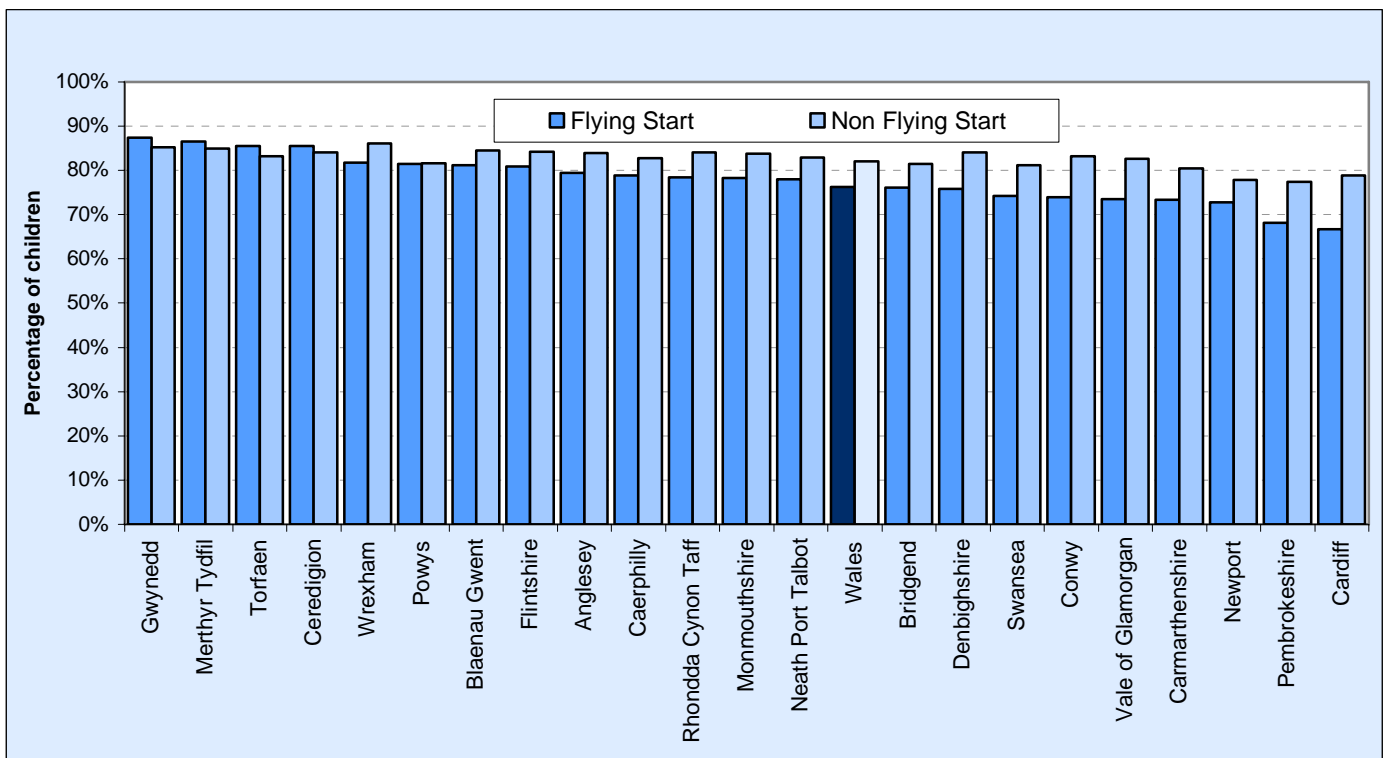
6. Health outcomes: Uptake of routine childhood immunisation

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.

Table 4 shows data on children fully immunised in both Flying Start and non-Flying Start areas for each Local Authority.

Chart 7: Percentage of children in Flying Start areas that are fully immunised at 4th birthday by Local Authority, 2011-12



- 76 per cent of children living in Flying Start areas were fully immunised at age 4 years, compared to 82 per cent of children living in non-Flying Start areas.
- Uptake of immunisations of children living in Flying Start programme areas ranged between 87 per cent (Gwynedd) and 67 per cent (Cardiff). The majority of Local Authorities had higher uptake rates for children living in non-Flying Start areas. 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.

Table 1: Selected Flying Start programme indicators by Local Authority, 2012-13

Local Authority	Number of children benefiting (in receipt of services)(a)	Number of children under 4 allocated to Flying Start (caseload) (b)	Population 0-3 year olds (c)	Face-to-face contacts			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
				Number of face-to-face contacts	Percentage of face-to-face contacts with health visitor	Percentage of face-to-face contacts with wider health team			
Isle of Anglesey	459	421	3,204	2,952	87%	13%	83	83	65
Gwynedd	640	528	5,436	5,464	72%	28%	144	154	154
Conwy	752	593	4,683	4,530	56%	44%	146	130	130
Denbighshire	887	757	4,302	5,811	52%	48%	242	204	175
Flintshire (d)	954	791	7,251	5,157	83%	17%	195	135	133
Wrexham	887	726	7,187	5,046	63%	37%	184	184	181
Powys	525	444	5,168	3,142	96%	4%	96	96	96
Ceredigion	414	400	2,686	3,433	52%	48%	115	103	89
Pembrokeshire	649	726	5,402	5,205	92%	8%	236	236	233
Carmarthenshire	1,112	927	8,202	7,456	75%	25%	249	249	227
Swansea (d)	1,492	1,434	10,550	7,128	69%	31%	396	390	367
Neath Port Talbot	1,042	759	6,173	6,712	66%	34%	318	429	355
Bridgend	956	882	6,441	9,718	58%	42%	249	236	206
Vale of Glamorgan	866	839	5,835	6,903	73%	27%	248	231	226
Cardiff	3,368	2,904	18,573	29,770	83%	17%	722	639	519
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff (d)	2,542	1,796	11,761	18,981	82%	18%	407	425	370
Merthyr Tydfil	792	542	2,914	3,202	87%	13%	132	132	124
Caerphilly	1,219	1,356	8,805	15,499	82%	18%	326	325	295
Blaenau Gwent	655	638	3,224	8,628	89%	11%	170	170	98
Torfaen	1,187	730	4,359	8,971	53%	47%	183	183	142
Monmouthshire	346	334	3,607	4,426	59%	41%	82	101	99
Newport (e)	1,835	1,684	7,758	11,041	71%	29%	351	374	382
Wales	23,579	20,209	143,521	179,174	74%	26%	5,274	5,209	4,666

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

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

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

(c) 2012 Mid Year Population Estimates, published by Office for National Statistics.

(d) Rhondda Cynon Taf, Flintshire and Swansea did not provide contact data in the first term of collection therefore data from terms 2 and 3 has been grossed up to 12 months for comparison purposes.

(e) 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% 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.

Table 2: Percentage of Flying Start children reaching, exceeding or within one age band of developmental milestones (a) at ages 2 and 3 years by Local Authority, 2012-13

Local Authority	Age 2 (23-25 months)			Age 3 (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 reaching, exceeding or within one age band below developmental norm	Percentage reaching or exceeding milestones	Percentage within one age band below developmental norm
Isle of Anglesey	89%	56%	33%	84%	56%	28%
Gwynedd	83%	62%	21%	89%	56%	33%
Conwy (b)	87%	53%	34%	63%	25%	38%
Denbighshire	82%	70%	12%	69%	33%	36%
Flintshire	88%	75%	14%	92%	73%	18%
Wrexham	78%	38%	40%	66%	38%	27%
Powys (b)	90%	62%	28%	63%	32%	32%
Ceredigion (b)	74%	53%	21%	92%	64%	29%
Pembrokeshire (b)	82%	66%	15%	98%	51%	47%
Carmarthenshire	83%	53%	30%	83%	64%	19%
Swansea	77%	52%	25%	86%	64%	22%
Neath Port Talbot	73%	55%	18%	82%	38%	44%
Bridgend	87%	42%	45%	90%	66%	24%
Vale of Glamorgan	84%	61%	23%	81%	55%	25%
Cardiff	83%	58%	24%	79%	51%	28%
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	74%	51%	23%	83%	62%	21%
Merthyr Tydfil	81%	55%	27%	90%	59%	32%
Caerphilly	90%	70%	19%	88%	72%	15%
Blaenau Gwent	84%	52%	32%	92%	51%	41%
Torfaen (b)	85%	57%	28%	86%	63%	23%
Monmouthshire (b)	88%	56%	32%	92%	53%	39%
Newport	79%	37%	42%	81%	42%	39%
Wales	82%	55%	27%	83%	55%	28%

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

a) For information on developmental milestones, please see notes on page 18. assessed in these Local

Table 3: Number and percentage of children aged 3 as at 31 August 2011, living in Flying Start areas and recorded on roll at a maintained school in PLASC in January 2012, by Local Authority

Local Authority	Number			Percentage		
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All
Isle of Anglesey	84	511	595	97%	76%	78%
Gwynedd	120	1,002	1,122	98%	91%	92%
Conwy	133	961	1,094	99%	96%	97%
Denbighshire	167	920	1,087	88%	100%	100%
Flintshire	191	1,518	1,709	95%	94%	94%
Wrexham	231	1,421	1,652	98%	96%	97%
Powys	103	865	968	76%	73%	74%
Ceredigion	53	316	369	62%	57%	58%
Pembrokeshire	178	977	1,155	94%	88%	89%
Carmarthenshire	195	1,433	1,628	86%	76%	77%
Swansea	318	2,376	2,694	94%	98%	97%
Neath Port Talbot	266	1,246	1,512	97%	95%	95%
Bridgend	162	1,366	1,528	99%	95%	96%
Vale of Glamorgan	165	1,311	1,476	92%	95%	95%
Cardiff	552	3,202	3,754	87%	82%	83%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	422	2,356	2,778	97%	97%	97%
Merthyr Tydfil	168	579	747	99%	98%	99%
Caerphilly	357	1,797	2,154	100%	97%	98%
Blaenau Gwent	136	647	783	94%	99%	98%
Torfaen	169	718	887	87%	81%	82%
Monmouthshire	68	341	409	89%	41%	45%
Newport	375	1,101	1,476	87%	70%	74%
Wales	4,613	26,964	31,577	92%	87%	88%

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

Table 4: Number and percentage of children living in Flying Start areas who are fully immunised (a) by their 4th birthday by Local Authority, 2011-12

Local Authority	Number			Percentage		
	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All	Flying Start	Non-Flying Start	All
Isle of Anglesey	74	561	635	79%	84%	83%
Gwynedd	104	936	1,040	87%	85%	85%
Conwy	108	797	905	74%	83%	82%
Denbighshire	138	720	858	76%	84%	83%
Flintshire	161	1,340	1,501	81%	84%	84%
Wrexham	175	1,215	1,390	82%	86%	86%
Powys	101	937	1,038	81%	82%	82%
Ceredigion	65	460	525	86%	84%	84%
Pembrokeshire	137	829	966	68%	77%	76%
Carmarthenshire	171	1,388	1,559	73%	80%	80%
Swansea	237	1,913	2,150	74%	81%	80%
Neath Port Talbot	198	1,044	1,242	78%	83%	82%
Bridgend	131	1,126	1,257	76%	82%	81%
Vale of Glamorgan	136	1,066	1,202	74%	83%	82%
Cardiff	415	2,924	3,339	67%	79%	77%
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	327	1,895	2,222	78%	84%	83%
Merthyr Tydfil	129	449	578	87%	85%	85%
Caerphilly	259	1,420	1,679	79%	83%	82%
Blaenau Gwent	100	528	628	81%	84%	84%
Torfaen	160	719	879	86%	83%	84%
Monmouthshire	54	657	711	78%	84%	83%
Newport	284	1,162	1,446	73%	78%	77%
Wales (b)	3,663	24,219	27,882	76%	82%	81%

Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) 2012, National Community Child Health Database (NCCHD) 2011-12 (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 132 children in non Flying Start /All areas.

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 Early Language Development support.

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 provision for the family during the school holidays.

Information about the Parenting and Early Language Development elements of the programme is still being developed and we hope to include relevant statistics in future releases.

Sources of data

Routine management information: Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical services (KAS) established routine data monitoring of the Flying Start programme in 2011-12 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://wales.gov.uk/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 will continue to be used for tracking indicators for the annual Programme for Government report.

Data which is incomplete or where comparability across Local Authorities is still being assessed has not been included in the publication.

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 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 1 and Table 1 of this release; for 2012-13 the 2012 mid year estimates have been used. This was updated in the revised version of the release (September 2013) as estimates for 2012 had become available whereas when the release was first published, in June 2013, 2011 mid year estimates had been used. These 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. 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 2012.

Management information

This data collection was established during 2011-12 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.

Submission of data was mandatory from the start of 2012-13 for most data items but was optional for the first term only for a small number. The only data item included in this release which was optional in the first term was the numbers of face to face contacts with Health Visitors and with the wider health team. Note that Rhondda Cynon Taf, Flintshire and Swansea did not provide contact data in the first term of collection and therefore data from terms 2 and 3 has been grossed up to 12 months for comparison purposes. The grossed up numbers contribute to the Wales total also.

The management information shows that Flying Start children are likely to move in and out of the areas. Children transferring into Flying Start areas accounted for around 16 per cent of all children in receipt of Health Visitor services at some time during the year.

Note that the data published here for 2012-13 reflects a period during which there was a small amount of expansion in the numbers of children included in the programme. Additional target areas are being added to the programme throughout the period of expansion.

The following statistics are derived from this management information:

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 2013. There were 2 Local Authorities in 2012-13 where the number of children allocated to Flying Start Health Visitors' caseloads was 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.

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 2013. 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 one Local Authority 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 number eligible reflect only those eligible at the start of each term, excluding any children moved into the Flying Start Areas during each term and who were subsequently offered a place. This has been addressed for future data collections, where the numbers eligible will also include those who move into the area during each term.

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).

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 2012 and 31 March 2013. 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.

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, a range of assessment tools are used according to the preference of individual health boards. 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 data quality exercise referred to above has emphasised the importance of considering not only the children who have met or exceeded their developmental milestones but also those who are within one age band below milestones. This is because one age band below a milestone is not usually considered to be of concern in a child's development and also because a high proportion of children who do not meet or exceed the milestones only do so by being below milestones in a minority of skill areas. In fact a single point on the scale in any one skill area can be the difference between a child meeting, or being just below the milestones. The scope for variation around the milestone itself is therefore much greater than it is around the point one age band below, and such variation is potentially misleading when looking at differences between local authorities, especially where data are based on a small number of cases (in for example the smaller Flying Start programmes).

Further information on child development can be found here:

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

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://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/schools2012/120711/?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 when analysing table 3 and chart 6.

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://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/post16education2010/100421/?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://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2012/120724/?skip=1&lang=en>

and

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

The following statistics are derived from national databases.

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 2011 and also recorded on school rolls as reported by the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) as at 31 January 2012. It is presented as a percentage of all children aged 3 as at 31 August 2011, 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 31 January 2012. In 2011-12, 106 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.

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 2011-12 (between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012) 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. In 2011-12, 116 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.

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>

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://wales.gov.uk/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://wales.gov.uk/topics/socialjustice/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-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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