

Children's services

Performance Indicators 2002/03

Comparing the performance of Scottish councils

Prepared for the Accounts Commission

January 2004



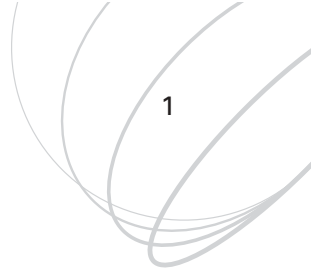
The Accounts Commission

The Accounts Commission is a statutory, independent body, which through, the audit process, assists local authorities in Scotland to achieve the highest standards of financial stewardship and the economic, efficient and effective use of their resources. The Commission has five main responsibilities:

- securing the external audit
- following up issues of concern identified through the audit, to ensure satisfactory resolutions
- reviewing the management arrangements which audited bodies have in place to achieve value for money
- carrying out national value for money studies to improve economy, efficiency and effectiveness in local government
- issuing an annual direction to local authorities which sets out the range of performance information which they are required to publish.

The Commission secures the audit of 32 councils and 35 joint boards (including police and fire services). Local authorities spend over £9 billion of public funds a year.

Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000 under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. It provides services to the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland. Together they ensure that the Scottish Executive and public sector bodies in Scotland are held to account for the proper, efficient and effective use of public funds.



Main findings

Children's services

Indicator 1 Page 4

In 2002/03, just over 98% of four-year-olds had a grant-aided place in pre-school education compared to just over 94% of eligible three-year-olds. The proportion of three-year-olds in grant-aided pre-schooling has risen by over 20% since 1999/2000.

Indicator 2 Page 8

Across Scotland in 2002/03 there were nearly 412,800 pupils and 17,074 primary school classes. This is a reduction of over 22,000 pupils and 314 classes since 1999/2000. Overall, councils met the class size targets for 99.8% of single-year classes and 99.2% of composite classes.

Indicator 3 Page 10

One-third of primary schools had occupancy rates of 60% or less, a slight increase on recent years. Five councils (Argyll & Bute, Eilean Siar, Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Shetland Islands) reported that at least half of their primary schools were only 60% occupied or less. However, problems of under-occupancy are also evident in Dundee City, East Ayrshire, Highland, Orkney Islands, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire where this level of under-occupancy was reported in at least 40% of schools.

Indicator 4 Page 13

Just over one in every nine secondary schools (ie 45 schools or 11.7%) had occupancy rates of 60% or less, a considerable reduction on the 59 schools (15.2%) last year and the even higher numbers in previous years. Overall, 14.3% of secondary schools (ie 55 schools) were also reported as having some level of over-occupation. Nine councils reported that at least 20% of their secondary schools were over-occupied. Both Aberdeenshire and Perth & Kinross reported that half of their secondary schools were over-occupied (ie, 101% occupied or more).

Indicator 5 Page 16

Across Scotland, the average time taken for an assessment of special educational needs reported by councils was 25 weeks, a considerable reduction on the 28 weeks in the previous two years. Councils completed an average of just over 58% of their assessments within six months (26 weeks). Clackmannanshire, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands each reported that they completed all assessments in six months or less.

Indicator 6 Page 20

In 2002/03, 561 young people left care away from home, compared to less than 500 in the previous year. Of these young people, just 204 (36.4%), achieved Standard Grades in both English and Maths.

Children's services continued

Indicator 7 Page 22

In 2002/03 the proportion of staff with some form of appropriate qualification in council managed homes for children rose again from 50.7% to 53.3%. The overall number of staff employed (1,892) is similar to that in previous years. Twenty-one councils reported increases in levels of qualified staff and in six councils (Angus, East Ayrshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Perth & Kinross and West Lothian) at least 70% of care staff were qualified.

Introduction

>>> If you want to know more
access our website at:
www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/performance

Each year councils publish a range of information to show people how well they are providing their services and how they compare with other councils.

This pamphlet contains information on seven indicators relating to the councils' management of children's services. The indicators are:

- pre-school provision
- primary school class size
- primary school occupancy
- secondary school occupancy
- special educational needs
- the academic achievement of young people leaving care
- the qualifications of care staff in residential homes for children

Other pamphlets published by the Commission cover:

Corporate management
Cultural and community services
Environmental and regulatory services
Housing and social work services
Police and Fire services

The Commission will also be providing on its website:

- a comprehensive compendium of the information for all the services for which there are performance indicators
- council profiles analysing indicators on a council-by-council basis.

Using the information

For each activity we have set out why some of the differences in performance may have arisen. We also highlight particular features of the information - for example, the range in performance achieved by different councils' performance over time.

Several factors affect the way a council performs its activities. You need to be aware of these in order to understand why results may vary. Some of these factors are outwith the control of a council - for example, population size and density, geographical area, and the mix between urban and rural settlements. Others may be specific to the service or the groups of people it serves. These local factors may mean that a council with a performance which, at first sight, appears to be worse than that of another has, in fact, done better given the circumstances it faces.

In this pamphlet we have shown information for councils for 2002/03 and where appropriate made comparison with previous years. However, for some indicators, councils have submitted data that their auditors have identified as unreliable because of doubts about the reliability of the arrangements for producing the information (see below).

In such cases we have shown the information separately and have not included it in the calculation of any overall Scottish averages, although such information was included prior to 2001/02.

Key

Auditors appointed by the Accounts Commission have reviewed authorities' arrangements for producing the performance information. In the tables shown in this pamphlet, an asterisk (*) against the data for a council indicates that the auditor expressed doubts about the reliability of its arrangements for producing the information.

Children's services

Indicator 1: Pre-school provision

- The percentage of four-year old children and three-year-old children who received grant-aided pre-school education.
- Of these children, the proportion who received fewer than five education sessions per week.

This indicator identifies the extent to which satisfactory provision is made and utilised for children eligible to receive government grant-funded pre-schooling in the two years before entering Primary 1. For each council area, it shows:

- the proportion of children with a pre-school education place
- the extent to which children with a place receive five sessions per week (eg, five mornings or five afternoons).

Points to bear in mind

Government guidance on the planning of pre-school education and childcare and the establishment of childcare partnerships, issued in October 1998, identifies a government policy goal to: "secure a quality part-time pre-school education place for (a) every pre-school year child whose parents want one by the winter of 1998/99; and (b) for every three-year-old whose parents want a place by 2002".

Factors affecting the number of sessions received by children will include:

- parents' preferences – they may prefer that their children, particularly three-year-olds, attend for less than five sessions per week.
- councils' policies – particularly where capacity is tight, councils may offer children, again particularly three-year-olds, a place with fewer than five sessions per week.

All providers of government grant-funded places are registered and inspected against quality standards and are required to follow the curriculum framework for three to five-year-olds.

In this indicator, the term 'four-year-olds' refers to children in their pre-school year. However, 'eligible three-year-olds' relates only to those ante-pre-school-year children who were three years old before the beginning of the 2001/02 school year and eligible for a place in the first term.

Several councils have estimated the number of eligible three-year-old children based on information from the General Register Office for Scotland (GRO). However, where migration has been significant and the population is higher than that estimated by the GRO, the proportion of children with a place may be over-reported.

A full report on the provision of pre-school education across Scotland '*A good start – commissioning pre-school education*' was published by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission in March 2001. The report is available from Audit Scotland or from our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications

Commentary

General provision

In 2002/03, just over 98% of four-year-olds had a grant-aided place in pre-school education compared to just over 94% of eligible three-year-olds (Table 1a). The proportion of three-year olds in grant-aided pre-schooling has risen by over 20% since 1999/2000.

The number of councils reporting that 100% of four-year-olds were in a grant-aided place rose to 15 in 2002/3. Shetland Islands was the only council to report that less than 90% of four-year-olds were in a place.

The proportion of eligible three-year-olds with a place varied more widely, from 100% in 13 councils to 80.9% in East Dunbartonshire. Perth & Kinross was the only other council to report that fewer than 85% of the eligible three-year-olds took up a grant-aided place.

Provision of five sessions per week

For Scotland as a whole, the proportion of four-year-olds who were in pre-school education and who received fewer than five sessions per week remained at just over 4%. The proportion ranged from less than 1% in six councils (Aberdeen City, East Ayrshire, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, Perth & Kinross and South Ayrshire) to over 30% in Orkney Islands. The only other council to report that more than 10% of four-year-olds received fewer than five sessions per week was Shetland Islands.

The overall proportion of eligible three-year-olds receiving fewer than five sessions per week fell to 17.4%, a reduction of over 12% since 1999/2000. The proportion ranged from 2.1% in West Lothian to 81.8% in Orkney Islands. Six councils (Aberdeenshire, Dumfries & Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, Orkney Islands, Scottish Borders and Shetland Islands) reported over 40% of eligible three-year-olds receiving fewer than five sessions per week.

In all council areas, a larger proportion of eligible three-year-olds than four-year-olds received fewer than five sessions per week.

Table 1a

The percentage of children in a grant-aided pre-school place

	Four-year-olds (%)			Three-year-olds (%)		
	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01
Aberdeen City	98.7	95.1	95.2	95.3	84.3	83.8
Aberdeenshire	90.2	91.1	94.0	92.7	92.0	85.6
Angus	99.8	95.4	97.9	94.7	89.4	83.3
Argyll & Bute	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0	100.0	93.7
Clackmannanshire	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dumfries & Galloway	100.0	90.6	96.5	88.2	89.1	89.6
Dundee City	99.4	100.0	98.1	99.9	90.2	96.2
East Ayrshire	100.0	93.4	94.2	100.0	91.7	82.0
East Dunbartonshire	100.0	100.0	100.0	80.9	100.0	100.0
East Lothian	99.8	98.1	96.7	86.5	89.7	85.9
East Renfrewshire	97.6	98.3	100.0	94.6	100.0	100.0
Edinburgh, City of	99.9	93.0	94.7	93.2	82.8	92.7
Eilean Siar	100.0	98.8	90.7	100.0	90.5	76.6
Falkirk	96.6	97.1	97.7	92.1	86.6	83.9
Fife	98.9	94.1	98.7	95.5	91.5	82.5
Glasgow City	98.0	90.7	88.4	89.6	84.1	87.5
Highland	100.0	99.4	98.2	98.6	94.6	80.5
Inverclyde	100.0	90.8	94.7	100.0	84.1	86.3
Midlothian	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.4
Moray	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
North Ayrshire	98.7	98.6	99.2	91.2	89.7	85.9
North Lanarkshire	99.2	96.3	93.9	92.9	89.0	85.8
Orkney Islands	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	96.6
Perth & Kinross	100.0	100.0	100.0	84.0	81.0	74.1
Renfrewshire	99.2	99.1	94.4	99.5	93.9	92.7
Scottish Borders	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Shetland Islands	83.3	87.1	90.3	87.1	72.3	79.7
South Ayrshire	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Lanarkshire	94.7	96.1	99.3	100.0	87.2	73.3
Stirling	100.0	100.0	99.7	100.0	100.0	97.5
West Dunbartonshire	99.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
West Lothian	95.3	99.3	88.5	86.2	87.6	71.6
Scotland	98.3	95.8	95.8	94.3	90.0	87.2

Table 1b

The proportion of children in a grant-aided place who received fewer than five sessions per week.

	Four-year-olds (%)			Three-year-olds (%)		
	2002/02	2001/02	2000/01	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01
Aberdeen City	0.8	0.1	0.0	13.2	11.1	14.7
Aberdeenshire	6.9	3.3	3.9	49.1	40.9	58.7
Angus	3.9	3.9	4.9	27.3	28.5	28.3
Argyll & Bute	7.2	4.9	10.4	15.8	17.1	100.0
Clackmannanshire	5.4	3.4	3.7	17.7	17.6	17.5
Dumfries & Galloway	9.1	15.6	15.5	41.1	59.7	100.0
Dundee City	1.1	1.5	1.3	6.4	12.6	6.1
East Ayrshire	0.8	1.5	0.8	15.6	29.1	21.6
East Dunbartonshire	4.9	24.0	18.5	43.0	40.6	44.3
East Lothian	3.2	2.4	3.0	9.5	8.6	11.9
East Renfrewshire	3.2	2.1	1.1	16.1	10.4	20.0
Edinburgh, City of	6.1	4.2	3.3	14.7	11.4	10.3
Eilean Siar	8.4	8.8	16.3	20.8	23.4	30.6
Falkirk	2.9	3.5	2.9	15.9	11.2	16.1
Fife	5.8	6.1	3.6	11.8	16.2	16.4
Glasgow City	3.5	2.6	2.3	8.0	6.3	5.8
Highland	8.8	8.7	8.7	38.4	49.6	53.2
Inverclyde	0.8	2.1	1.4	5.8	4.1	5.3
Midlothian	2.0	2.0	0.6	4.7	4.3	5.5
Moray	5.7	3.7	3.6	16.9	11.8	14.3
North Ayrshire	0.8	0.8	0.7	16.7	20.1	22.6
North Lanarkshire	3.4	4.5	2.5	5.3	11.5	46.3
Orkney Islands	30.1	1.4	0.0	81.8	72.1	79.6
Perth & Kinross	0.9	0.0	0.0	17.9	16.1	0.0
Renfrewshire	3.8	2.5	2.2	6.0	6.3	4.1
Scottish Borders	5.5	5.0	5.5	58.6	61.4	58.5
Shetland Islands	12.4	13.3	16.5	54.5	35.5	48.3
South Ayrshire	0.9	2.1	1.5	9.7	15.2	30.4
South Lanarkshire	4.5	4.9	4.9	9.0	13.2	14.0
Stirling	7.1	13.1	7.9	33.3	39.4	40.5
West Dunbartonshire	3.7	2.7	1.7	5.6	8.4	5.7
West Lothian	1.1	2.7	1.3	2.1	5.2	3.4
Scotland	4.3	4.5	3.9	17.4	19.1	24.9

Indicator 2: Primary school class size

- The average number of children per primary school class.
- The number of primary school classes of these types: single-year, composite, and classes containing P1 to P3 pupils.
- The proportion of classes that meet national class size standards.

This indicator reflects the typical class size in which primary school pupils are taught. It shows the proportions of classes of different sizes and the extent to which each council uses composite classes – ie, classes where at least two year groups are taught in the same teaching area or class at the same time.

Points to bear in mind

Maximum class sizes for single-year and composite classes are subject to national agreement in Scotland. The maximum size is 33 pupils for single-year classes and 25 pupils for composite classes. The government is encouraging councils to reduce the class size for classes containing P1 to P3 pupils to no more than 30 pupils.

Schools use composite classes when there are few pupils or to adjust class sizes to meet the number of available teachers. Class sizes tend to be smaller in small schools. Therefore, councils with a higher proportion of small primary schools might also report smaller class sizes and a higher proportion of composite classes.

Changes in the number of children starting school each year will result in some variation between years in the total number of classes and the balance between composite and single-year classes.

Commentary

Across Scotland in 2002/03 there were nearly 412,800 pupils and 17,074 primary school classes (Table 2). This is a reduction of over 22,000 pupils and 314 classes since 1999/2000.

Overall, councils met the class size targets for 99.8% of single-year classes and 99.2% of composite classes.

The average number of pupils per class ranged from 15.3 in Eilean Siar to 26.9 in East Renfrewshire. Only the three Islands councils had an average class size of less than 20 pupils, while nine councils had an average class size of more than 25.

In 2002/03 there were 7,750 primary school classes in Scotland with P1 to P3 pupils, of which less than 1% contained more than 30 pupils, a considerable reduction from 7.2% in 1999/2000. Sixteen councils reported that none of their classes with P1 to P3 pupils had 31 or more pupils.

Table 2
Class sizes 2002/03

	Number of pupils		Total number of classes	Percentage of single year classes with 33 pupils or less	Percentage of composite classes with 25 pupils or less	Percentage of P1 - P3 classes with 30 pupils or less
	Total	Average per class				
Aberdeen City	14,092	24.9	567	99.8	99.1	100.0
Aberdeenshire	20,394	22.9	891	99.8	99.5	99.5
Angus	9,301	24.2	384	100.0	100.0	99.4
Argyll & Bute	7,293	20.8	350	99.3	99.5	99.4
Clackmannanshire	4,317	25.7	168	100.0	97.4	97.3
Dumfries & Galloway	12,136	23.2	522	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dundee City	10,990	25.9	424	99.5	100.0	95.2
East Ayrshire	10,346	24.8	418	100.0	99.0	100.0
East Dunbartonshire	10,009	25.8	388	98.8	100.0	98.9
East Lothian	8,021	25.4	316	100.0	98.4	100.0
East Renfrewshire	8,756	26.9	326	100.0	100.0	100.0
Edinburgh, City of	27,834	25.1	1,111	99.8	97.2	98.2
Eilean Siar	2,178	15.3	142	100.0	100.0	98.8
Falkirk	12,231	25.5	479	100.0	100.0	100.0
Fife	28,865	24	1,201	100.0	99.7	99.8
Glasgow City	43,085	24.3	1,774	99.8	99.7	99.3
Highland	18,157	21.5	843	99.7	98.5	99.5
Inverclyde	6,940	24.1	288	100.0	100.0	98.4
Midlothian	6,985	24.2	289	100.0	100.0	100.0
Moray	7,826	23.9	327	100.0	100.0	100.0
North Ayrshire	11,975	25.3	473	100.0	100.0	100.0
North Lanarkshire	28,660	24.5	1,171	100.0	99.0	100.0
Orkney Islands	1,690	19.4	87	100.0	100.0	100.0
Perth & Kinross	10,666	23.4	456	98.7	96.7	96.2
Renfrewshire	14,604	26	562	100.0	100.0	100.0
Scottish Borders	8,891	22.1	402	97.9	96.9	96.8
Shetland Islands	2,046	17.2	119	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Ayrshire	8,731	24.4	358	100.0	100.0	100.0
South Lanarkshire	25,744	24.9	1,033	100.0	100.0	100.0
Stirling	6,943	23.3	298	100.0	97.8	100.0
West Dunbartonshire	8,114	25.2	322	100.0	98.5	97.2
West Lothian	14,949	25.6	585	99.8	100.0	99.3
Scotland	412,769	24.2	17,074	99.8	99.2	99.3

Indicator 3: Primary school occupancy

The total number of primary schools, and the percentage of schools where the ratio of pupils to places is:

- 60% or less
- 61% to 100%
- 101% or more.

The occupancy level is a measure of how many school places have been taken up. For example, if a school has 150 places and pupils fill 120, the occupancy level is 80%.

Points to bear in mind

Councils have some discretion in the way that they measure occupancy levels, so there may be minor differences in approach among them. Some of the factors which may be important are:

- whether or not gymnasiums are counted as teaching rooms.
- how non-teaching rooms are treated
- how rooms used for only part of the curriculum are treated
- whether surplus accommodation is given over to community or other use and is no longer treated as available for school use

In 1995, the Accounts Commission published a report '*Room for learning*' on the management of surplus capacity in schools. It highlighted the need for action to be taken to reduce surplus capacity, while recognising that the restructuring of education provision was a difficult task. The report is available from Audit Scotland or from our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications

Many councils are using Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts to provide new and refurbished schools. The Accounts Commission assessed the PFI procurement approach in detail in its report '*Taking the initiative – Using PFI contracts to renew council schools*' (2002). The report is available from Audit Scotland or from our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications

Commentary

The number of primary schools in Scotland continued to fall in 2002/03 to 2,246, 13 fewer than in 2001/02 and a reduction of 36 over the last five years (Table 3a).

One third of primary schools had occupancy rates of 60% or less, a slight increase on recent years.

Five councils (Argyll & Bute, Eilean Siar, Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Shetland Islands) reported that at least half of their primary schools were only 60% occupied or less (Table 3b). However, problems of under-occupancy are also evident in Dundee City, East Ayrshire, Highland, Orkney Islands, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire where this level of under-occupancy was reported in at least 40% of schools.

Overall, 5% of primary schools were reported as having some level of over-occupation in 2002/03 (ie, 101% occupied or more). However, the extent to which schools were over-occupied varied widely with Aberdeenshire and West Lothian reporting that more than one in five of their primary schools was over-occupied while 16 councils reported that none of their primary schools were over-occupied.

Table 3a

The proportion of primary schools that are less than 61% occupied.

	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01	1999/2000	1998/99
Number of schools	2,246	2,259	2,264	2,280	2,282
Percentage with occupancy level of 0-60%	33.3	32.6	31.6	31.6	30.9

Table 3b

Primary school occupancy 2002/03

	Number of schools	Percentage occupancy		
		0-60%	61-100%	101% or more
Aberdeen City	57	26.3	73.7	0.0
Aberdeenshire	156	23.7	53.2	23.1
Angus	60	31.7	66.7	1.7
Argyll & Bute	82	54.9	45.1	0.0
Clackmannanshire	19	5.3	89.5	5.3
Dumfries & Galloway	111	25.2	74.8	0.0
Dundee City	41	48.8	51.2	0.0
East Ayrshire	46	45.7	54.3	0.0
East Dunbartonshire	36	11.1	88.9	0.0
East Lothian	35	0.0	97.1	2.9
East Renfrewshire	24	4.2	83.3	12.5
Edinburgh, City of	101	31.7	56.4	11.9
Eilean Siar	39	74.4	25.6	0.0
Falkirk	48	29.2	70.8	0.0
Fife	146	21.9	74.7	3.4
Glasgow City	197	57.9	40.6	1.5
Highland	184	40.8	54.3	4.9
Inverclyde	32	56.3	43.8	0.0
Midlothian	36	5.6	94.4	0.0
Moray	46	39.1	60.9	0.0
North Ayrshire	53	18.9	81.1	0.0
North Lanarkshire	130	25.4	72.3	2.3
Orkney Islands	21	42.9	57.1	0.0
Perth & Kinross	77	29.9	51.9	18.2
Renfrewshire	52	17.3	82.7	0.0
Scottish Borders	71	12.7	74.6	12.7
Shetland Islands	34	64.7	29.4	5.9
South Ayrshire	45	37.8	60.0	2.2
South Lanarkshire	124	40.3	58.9	0.8
Stirling	42	35.7	64.3	0.0
West Dunbartonshire	35	40.0	60.0	0.0
West Lothian	66	16.7	62.1	21.2
Scotland	2,246	33.3	61.6	5.1

Indicator 4: Secondary school occupancy

The total number of secondary schools, and the percentage of schools where the ratio of pupils to places is:

- 60% or less
- 61% to 100%
- 101% or more.

The occupancy level is a measure of how many school places have been taken up. For example, if a school has 1,000 places and pupils fill 800, the occupancy level is 80%.

Points to bear in mind

Councils have some discretion in the way that they measure occupancy levels, so there may be minor differences in approach among them. Some of the factors which may be important are:

- whether or not gymnasiums are counted as teaching rooms
- how non-teaching rooms are treated
- how rooms used for only part of the curriculum are treated
- whether surplus accommodation is given over to community or other use and is no longer treated as available for school use.

In 1995, the Accounts Commission published a report '*Room for learning*' on the management of surplus capacity in schools. It highlighted the need for action to be taken to reduce surplus capacity, while recognising that the restructuring of education provision was a difficult task. The report is available from Audit Scotland or from our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications

Many councils are using Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts to provide new and refurbished schools. The Accounts Commission assessed the PFI procurement approach in detail in its report '*Taking the initiative – Using PFI contracts to renew council schools*' (2002). The report is available from Audit Scotland or from our website: www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications

Commentary

In 2002/03, there were 385 secondary schools in Scotland, a reduction of 15 over the last five years.

Just over one in every nine secondary schools (ie 45 schools or 11.7%) had occupancy rates of 60% or less, a considerable reduction on the 59 schools (15.2%) last year and the even higher numbers in previous years (Table 4a). Fourteen councils reported having no schools that were less than 61% occupied.

Overall, 14.3% of secondary schools (ie 55 schools) were also reported as having some level of over-occupation. Nine councils reported that at least 20% of their secondary schools were over-occupied. Both Aberdeenshire and Perth & Kinross reported that half of their secondary schools were over-occupied. (ie, 101% occupied or more).

Table 4a

The proportion of secondary schools that are less than 61% occupied.

	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01	1999/2000	1998/99
Number of schools	385	387	388	388	390
Percentage with occupancy level of 0-60%	11.7	15.2	15.7	17.5	16.9

Table 4b

Secondary school occupancy 2002/03

	Number of schools	Percentage occupancy		
		0-60%	61-100%	101% or more
Aberdeen City	12	0.0	83.3	16.7
Aberdeenshire	17	5.9	41.2	52.9
Angus	8	25.0	62.5	12.5
Argyll & Bute	10	10.0	90.0	0.0
Clackmannanshire	3	0.0	100.0	0.0
Dumfries & Galloway	16	6.3	93.8	0.0
Dundee City	10	20.0	80.0	0.0
East Ayrshire	9	0.0	88.9	11.1
East Dunbartonshire	9	0.0	66.7	33.3
East Lothian	6	0.0	66.7	33.3
East Renfrewshire	7	0.0	71.4	28.6
Edinburgh, City of	23	8.7	47.8	43.5
Eilean Siar	11	45.5	54.5	0.0
Falkirk	8	0.0	100.0	0.0
Fife	19	10.5	89.5	0.0
Glasgow City	29	0.0	93.1	6.9
Highland	29	24.1	65.5	10.3
Inverclyde	8	37.5	25.0	37.5
Midlothian	6	0.0	66.7	33.3
Moray	8	0.0	87.5	12.5
North Ayrshire	10	10.0	90.0	0.0
North Lanarkshire	26	30.8	65.4	3.8
Orkney Islands	6	50.0	50.0	0.0
Perth & Kinross	10	0.0	50.0	50.0
Renfrewshire	12	8.3	58.3	33.3
Scottish Borders	9	0.0	88.9	11.1
Shetland Islands	9	33.3	55.6	11.1
South Ayrshire	9	11.1	77.8	11.1
South Lanarkshire	21	4.8	95.2	0.0
Stirling	7	0.0	100.0	0.0
West Dunbartonshire	7	14.3	85.7	0.0
West Lothian	11	0.0	90.9	9.1
Scotland	385	11.7	74.0	14.3

Indicator 5: Special educational needs

The average time taken to complete an assessment of special educational needs, and the percentage of assessments:

- completed within 26 weeks
- taking longer than a year.

This indicator reports the average time that it takes each council to carry out an assessment of a child over the age of two, who may have special educational needs. It also shows the proportion of assessments undertaken within six months and those taking longer than a year.

Points to bear in mind

It may be necessary to assess a child's special educational needs if the child has a learning difficulty, physical disability, psychological problem, or any combination of these. These needs cannot normally be met from the resources typically available in schools. Following an assessment, the council must notify the child's parent or guardian as to whether or not it intends to record the child as having special educational needs, and the reasons for its decision. The council must provide for the special educational needs of a child for whom it creates a record of need.

The key factors that influence this indicator are:

- the number and complexity of the referrals received by the council
- the time taken by the staff of other organisations to respond to requests for information.

In some cases, an assessment is delayed to allow for a change in a child's circumstances or personal development. In other cases, a longer time to complete an assessment is agreed with the parents or guardian of a child, or stems from a request from them for a delay.

Commentary

In 2002/03, councils carried out 1,789 special educational needs assessments. [Across Scotland, the average time taken for an assessment reported by councils was 25 weeks, a considerable reduction on the 28 weeks in the previous two years \(Table 5a\).](#)

The average time taken varied among councils from 13 weeks in Angus and Clackmannanshire, to 49 weeks in Moray. Nine councils had an average time for an assessment of less than 20 weeks, while three councils (Eilean Siar, Moray and South Lanarkshire) reported an average time of longer than 40 weeks.

The average time to complete an assessment conceals wide variations among councils in the proportions of assessments completed within different time bands.

Councils completed an average of just over 58% of their assessments within six months (26 weeks) (Table 5b). Clackmannanshire, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands each reported that they completed all assessments in six months or less.

Nearly 8% of assessments took at least a year to complete. Eilean Siar reported that two of its four assessments took longer than a year to complete. Moray was the only other council to report that more than 20% of its assessments took more than a year to complete.

Table 5a

The average time taken to complete special educational needs assessments

	Number of assessments carried out	Average time taken to complete an assessment of special educational needs (weeks)		
	2002/03	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01
Aberdeen City	78	24	26	24
Aberdeenshire	120	36	33	30
Angus	39	13	15	18
Argyll & Bute	45	17	24	29
Clackmannanshire	13	13	14	17
Dumfries & Galloway	26	29	29	38
Dundee City	33	19	22	33
East Ayrshire	21	32	35	33
East Dunbartonshire	21	26	30	23
East Lothian	25	20	36	33
East Renfrewshire	15	18	28	26
Edinburgh, City of	162	21	20	20
Eilean Siar	4	46	44	26
Falkirk	27	29	27	32
Fife	85	22	23	23
Glasgow City	236	37	35	40
Highland	59	23	26	18
Inverclyde	75	23	28	29
Midlothian	14	22	26	27
Moray	44	49	42	44
North Ayrshire	20	16	24	27
North Lanarkshire	120	26	25	25
Orkney Islands	3	15	12	11
Perth & Kinross	42	20	17	18
Renfrewshire	107	24	25	26
Scottish Borders	50	37	41	46
Shetland Islands	11	15	53	47
South Ayrshire	36	33	31	24
South Lanarkshire	172	42	32	38
Stirling	21	16	17	15
West Dunbartonshire	14	24	32	23
West Lothian	51	25	28	35
Scotland	1,789	25	28	28

Table 5b

The proportion of special educational needs assessments completed in different time bands

	Proportion of assessments carried out					
	Up to 26 weeks (%)			More than a year (%)		
	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01
Aberdeen City	67.9	57.4	63.4	2.6	3.3	9.8
Aberdeenshire	30.8	37.8	47.3	15.0	14.4	7.5
Angus	97.4	96.6	88.2	0.0	3.4	2.9
Argyll & Bute	91.1	64.1	53.7	0.0	0.0	2.4
Clackmannanshire	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dumfries & Galloway	53.8	51.7	29.5	0.0	10.3	14.8
Dundee City	78.8	71.7	45.6	3.0	4.3	19.1
East Ayrshire	61.9	54.5	40.7	4.8	18.2	14.8
East Dunbartonshire	52.4	48.0	73.5	0.0	8.0	0.0
East Lothian	84.0	37.5	29.4	0.0	12.5	11.8
East Renfrewshire	86.7	52.8	51.9	0.0	2.8	0.0
Edinburgh, City of	75.9	70.4	74.6	6.8	2.8	6.2
Eilean Siar	25.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	30.0	0.0
Falkirk	48.1	61.2	41.7	7.4	9.0	8.7
Fife	78.8	75.7	78.2	4.7	1.7	4.0
Glasgow City	36.4	37.5	22.2	14.0	11.9	18.6
Highland	71.2	57.3	84.5	0.0	5.5	0.0
Inverclyde	69.3	51.3	52.9	2.7	2.6	3.9
Midlothian	71.4	40.0	41.7	7.1	0.0	0.0
Moray	27.3	33.8	17.6	27.3	18.5	27.5
North Ayrshire	95.0	87.5	53.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
North Lanarkshire	68.3	74.5	69.8	2.5	5.7	4.2
Orkney Islands	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Perth & Kinross	73.8	82.1	81.5	4.8	1.8	0.0
Renfrewshire	62.6	58.3	52.8	0.9	0.9	0.0
Scottish Borders	16.0	24.6	20.6	8.0	24.6	26.5
Shetland Islands	100.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	50.0
South Ayrshire	44.4	50.9	65.9	16.7	10.9	2.3
South Lanarkshire	36.6	32.8	33.7	19.2	3.0	14.0
Stirling	85.7	94.7	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
West Dunbartonshire	57.1	47.8	63.0	0.0	13.0	0.0
West Lothian	56.9	56.5	43.5	3.9	10.9	21.7
Scotland	58.2	55.3	50.8	7.8	7.3	9.6

Indicator 6: Academic attainment of looked after children

The number and percentage of young people aged 16 or 17, who finished being looked after away from home, who achieved Standard Grades in English and Maths or other subjects.

The indicator reflects how well councils provided for the educational needs of young people in their care who are looked after away from home. It also shows the extent to which they met the Scottish Executive's target for young people leaving care to achieve Standard Grades in English and Maths.

Points to bear in mind

In several councils the number of young people leaving care is very small. Therefore, very minor differences in the number achieving academic qualifications may have a major impact on the percentage shown as achieving passes.

Information available from the Scottish Qualifications Agency and Scottish Executive indicates that across Scotland approximately 93% of pupils attain Standard Grade English and Maths by the time they leave school.

Commentary

In 2002/03, 561 young people left care away from home, compared to less than 500 in the previous year. Of these young people, just 204 (36.4%), achieved Standard Grades in both English and Maths (Table 6).

A total of 282 achieved at least one pass at Standard Grade across a range of subjects.

Of the eight councils with at least 20 young people ceasing to be looked after away from home, Fife had more than 60% achieving both English and Maths Standard Grades while in Glasgow City less than 20% achieved this level of qualification.

Table 6

The number and proportion of looked after children achieving Standard Grades.

	Number of 16 and 17 year olds ceasing to be looked after		Number attaining Standard Grade English and Maths		Number attaining at least one Standard Grade		Percentage attaining Standard Grade English and Maths	
	2002/03	2001/02	2002/03	2001/02	2002/03	2001/02	2002/03	2001/02
Aberdeen City	31	14	17	7	23	9	54.8	50
Aberdeenshire	25	26	14	14	19	18	56	53.8
Angus	18	#	5	#	9	#	27.8	#
Argyll & Bute	7	11	1	4	4	5	14.3	36.4
Clackmannanshire	#	10	#	8	#	9	#	80
Dumfries & Galloway	17	20	8	11	8	13	47.1	55
Dundee City	22	28	5	7	9	14	22.7	25
East Ayrshire	7	16	2	3	4	6	28.6	18.8
East Dunbartonshire	8	8	3	4	3	5	37.5	50
East Lothian	15	13	10	6	10	7	66.7	46.2
East Renfrewshire	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Edinburgh, City of	67	39	15	11	23	17	22.4	28.2
Eilean Siar	#	6	#	3	#	3	#	50
Falkirk	11	12	3	4	5	7	27.3	33.3
Fife	36	29	22	11	25	14	61.1	37.9
Glasgow City	100	69	18	15	35	16	18	21.7
Highland	21	21	9	15	11	16	42.9	71.4
Inverclyde	9	13	1	5	1	7	11.1	38.5
Midlothian	9	9	6	3	6	4	66.7	33.3
Moray	9	*5	4	*2	5	*2	44.4	40
North Ayrshire	19	7	10	3	13	4	52.6	42.9
North Lanarkshire	19	24	2	4	4	4	10.5	16.7
Orkney Islands	5	#	5	#	5	#	100	#
Perth & Kinross	#	5	#	2	#	2	#	40
Renfrewshire	14	9	6	2	10	4	42.9	22.2
Scottish Borders	14	19	6	8	9	11	42.9	42.1
Shetland Islands	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
South Ayrshire	8	12	4	5	5	7	50	41.7
South Lanarkshire	15	18	10	5	10	7	66.7	27.8
Stirling	7	16	3	10	3	11	42.9	62.5
West Dunbartonshire	22	18	8	7	12	9	36.4	38.9
West Lothian	11	9	1	1	1	2	9.1	11.1
Scotland	561	491	204	184	282	237	36.4	37.5

has been inserted instead of figures for some councils because figures based on fewer than five candidates could lead to the identification of individuals.

* Moray's unreliable information has been excluded from the Scotland figures for 2001/02

Indicator 7: The use of qualified staff in care homes

The percentage of care staff in care homes for children, who have appropriate qualifications.

The extent to which care staff are qualified is only one of a range of factors that contribute to the quality of residential care, but it is significant. The indicator relates only to staff in care homes managed by councils. Voluntary and private sector homes are not included.

Points to bear in mind

The reported performance of councils will be affected by:

- their policies on recruiting staff that are suitably qualified, and on training existing staff
- the availability of suitably qualified staff.

Commentary

In 2002/03 the proportion of staff with some form of appropriate qualification in council managed homes for children rose again from 50.7% to 53.3% (Table 7). The overall number of staff employed (1,892) is similar to that in previous years.

There were wide variations in the proportion of qualified staff among councils, ranging from 28% in Orkney Islands to 100% in Falkirk where there are only two staff in a small unit. Twenty-one councils reported increases in levels of qualified staff and in six councils (Angus, East Ayrshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Perth & Kinross and West Lothian) at least 70% of care staff were qualified.

Table 7

The proportion of qualified staff in residential accommodation for children

	Number of staff employed	% of qualified staff		
	2002/03	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01
Aberdeen City	45	60	55	61
Aberdeenshire	34	68	66	70
Angus	10	70	70	70
Argyll & Bute	32	50	50	33
Clackmannanshire	7	57	57	57
Dumfries & Galloway	42	60	50	34
Dundee City	91	57	67	58
East Ayrshire	25	72	67	56
East Dunbartonshire	30	47	33	29
East Lothian	30	93	87	77
Edinburgh, City of	276	59	57	53
Falkirk	2	100	77	56
Fife	90	36	41	33
Glasgow City	467	48	43	40
Highland	69	45	35	32
Inverclyde	35	63	54	58
Midlothian	26	62	46	41
North Ayrshire	64	48	46	46
North Lanarkshire	92	58	45	44
Orkney Islands	29	28	14	17
Perth & Kinross	19	79	71	75
Renfrewshire	85	42	48	43
Scottish Borders	17	53	*50	33
Shetland Islands	26	46	19	18
South Ayrshire	11	55	45	45
South Lanarkshire	130	56	61	68
Stirling	11	45	29	33
West Dunbartonshire	55	49	58	56
West Lothian	42	79	73	76
Scotland	1,892	53.3	50.7	47.4

East Renfrewshire, Eilean Siar and Moray do not provide this service.

* Scottish Borders' unreliable information has been excluded from the Scotland figures for 2001/02

Contacts

If you have any specific queries about the performance information, you may wish to contact your council. A contact person for each council is given below. If you have general queries about this pamphlet, you may wish to contact Alec Taylor or Jim Lachie at Audit Scotland (see back cover)

Aberdeen City, Martin Murchie, Strategic Support Manager, Aberdeen City Council, Office of Chief Executive, Town House, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1FY, T 01224 522008, email mmurchie@ceo.aberdeen.net.uk

Aberdeenshire, David Hughes, Chief Internal Auditor, Aberdeenshire Council, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen AB16 5GB, T 01224 664184, email david.hughes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Angus, Jan Adam, Performance Co-ordinator, Angus Council, Chief Executive's Department, The Cross, Forfar DD8 1BX, T 01307 473788, email adamj@angus.gov.uk

Argyll and Bute, Ms Kirsty Jackson-Stark, Corporate Policy Officer, Chief Executive's Dept., Argyll and Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT, T 01546 604396, email kirsty.jackson-stark@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Clackmannanshire, Alexa Brown, Information Officer, Performance and Strategy, Clackmannanshire Council, Greenfield, Alloa FK10 2AD, T 01259 452105, email abrown@clacks.gov.uk

Dumfries and Galloway, Charlie Proctor, Consultant, Policy and Performance Unit, Corporate Services, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Council Offices, English Street, Dumfries DG1 2DD, T 01387 260098, email charliep@dumgal.gov.uk

Dundee City, Rod McKay, Principal Accountant, Finance Department, Dundee City Council, Tayside House, Floor 4, 28 Crichton Street, Dundee DD1 3RF, T 01382 433522, email rod.mckay@dundeecity.gov.uk

City of Edinburgh, Steven Di Ponio, Policy Officer (Research & Information), City of Edinburgh Council, Corporate Services, 12 St Giles Street, Edinburgh EH1 1PT, T 0131 469 3858, email steven.diponio@edinburgh.gov.uk

East Ayrshire, Carol Foote, Principal Officer, Corporate Development, East Ayrshire Council, Chief Executive's Department, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU, T 01563 576159, email carol.foote@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

East Dunbartonshire, Tom Duncan, Acting Manager Policy and Public Affairs, East Dunbartonshire Council, Tom Johnston House, Civic Way, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow G66 4TJ, T 0141 578 8000, email tom.duncan@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

East Lothian, Adam Stewart, Policy Officer, Chief Executive's Department, East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington, East Lothian EH41 3HA, T 01620 827884, email astewart@eastlothian.gov.uk

East Renfrewshire, Tracy Butler, Corporate Policy Assistant, Chief Executive's Department, East Renfrewshire Council, Council Headquarters, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire G46 6UG, T 0141 577 3167, email tracy.butler@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Eilean Siar (Western Isles), Andrew Mackenzie, Head of Strategy, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Council Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2BW, T 01851 709201, email amackenzie@cne-siar.gov.uk

Falkirk, Barbara Knowles, Policy and Research Officer, Corporate and Commercial Services, Falkirk Council, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk FK1 5RS, T 01324 506016, email barbara.knowles@falkirk.gov.uk

Fife, Saul Hain, Policy Officer (Planning & Review), Policy & Organisational Development, Fife Council, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 5LT, T 01592 413986, email saul.hain@fife.gov.uk

Glasgow City, Jim Mearns, Senior Policy Development Officer, Corporate Policy, Chief Executive's Office, Glasgow City Council, City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow G2 1DU, T 0141 287 3625, email jim.mearns@ced.glasgow.gov.uk

Highland, Ruth Grant, Performance Analyst, Highland Council, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX, T 01463 702416, email ruth.grant@highland.gov.uk

Inverclyde, Brian Purdie, Head of Customer Services, Inverclyde Council, Chief Executive's Office, Municipal Buildings, Greenock PA15 1LY, T 01475 712748, email brian.purdie@inverclyde.gov.uk

Midlothian, Michael Callaghan, Executive Services, Corporate Policy, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith EH22 1LY, T 0131 271 3444, email michael.callaghan@midlothian.gov.uk

Moray, Sandi Pick, Project Officer, Corporate Services, Chief Executive's Office, The Moray Council, Council Office, High Street, Elgin IV30 1BX, T 01343 563040, email sandra.pick@moray.gov.uk

North Ayrshire, Jim Montgomery, Principal Performance Review Officer, North Ayrshire Council, Chief Executive's Office, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE, T 01294 324125, email jmontgomery@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

North Lanarkshire, Graham A Reid, Information & Research Manager, North Lanarkshire Council, Chief Executive's Office, Civic Centre, Motherwell ML1 1TW, T 01698 302266, email reidga@northlan.gov.uk

Orkney Islands, Jim Love, Performance Review Officer, Orkney Islands Council, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1NY, T 01856 888761, email jim.love@orkney.gov.uk

Perth & Kinross, Carol Calder, Strategic Planning Manager, Performance Planning & Management, Perth & Kinross Council, 2 High Street, Perth PH1 5PH, T 01738 475070, email ccalder@pkc.gov.uk

Renfrewshire, Andy Potter, Policy Planning Unit, Renfrewshire Council, Council Headquarters, North Building, Cotton Street, Paisley PA1 1WB, T 0141 840 3268, email andrew.potter@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Scottish Borders, David Wilson, Performance Management Officer, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Chief Executive's Office, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA, T 01835 824000, email dhwilson@scotborders.gov.uk

Shetland Islands, Emma Perring, Policy and Development Assistant, Chief Executive's Office, Shetland Islands Council, Town Hall, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0JN, T 01595 744537, email emma.perring@sic.shetland.gov.uk

South Ayrshire, Mike Buchanan, Performance Appraisal Officer, South Ayrshire Council, Town Buildings, High Street, Ayr KA7 1LX, T 01292 617651, email mike.buchanan@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

South Lanarkshire, Lynne Marshall/Cecilia McGhee, Research Supervisor, Finance Services, South Lanarkshire Council, 4th Floor, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AB, T 01698 455244, email lynne.marshall@southlanarkshire.gov.uk/cecilia.mcghee@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Stirling, Lesley J Graham, Corporate Performance Officer, Stirling Council, Corporate Services, Quality, Performance and Research Team, Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET, T 01786 442982, email grahaml@stirling.gov.uk

West Dunbartonshire, Amanda Watson, Policy Officer, West Dunbartonshire Council, Chief Executive's Department, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU, T 01389 737242, email amanda.watson@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

West Lothian, Jim McIvor, Best Value Manager, West Lothian Council, West Lothian House, Almondvale Boulevard, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 6QG, T 01506 777122, email jim.mcivor@westlothian.gov.uk

Children's services

Performance Indicators 2002/03

Comparing the performance of Scottish councils



Audit Scotland
110 George Street
Edinburgh EH2 4LH

Telephone
0131 477 1234
Fax
0131 477 4567

www.audit-scotland.gov.uk

ISBN 1 904651 26 7