

## **6. Services for children and their families**

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## 6.1 Children's hospital costs

The reference costs<sup>1</sup> provide information on how the £48 billion of NHS expenditure was used in the 2008/09 financial year. In this schema, we have drawn on this information to provide the costs of services and treatments which are relevant to children. The information is for the NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts combined. Any data for which there are fewer than ten submissions have been omitted due to their potential unreliability or they have been combined to form a weighted average cost. All costs have been updated to 2009/2010 levels using the HCHS Pay & Prices inflator.

	Lower quartile	Upper quartile	National average
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	£	£	£
<b>Therapy services</b>			
Physiotherapy group (one-to-one)	50 (46)	89 (81)	90 (66) <sup>2</sup>
Occupational therapy group (one-to-one)	47 (82)	91 (138)	111 (119)
Speech therapy services group (one-to-one)	46 (63)	97 (94)	93 (81)
<b>Other community services (includes child public health, safeguarding, statutory work for education and social services and other services, but excludes TFC 291 and other vaccination programmes)</b>			
Weighted average of face-to-face contact	191	321	283
Weighted average of non-face-to-face contact	59	109	105
<b>Community and outreach nursing</b>			
School-based children's health services — group (one-to-one)	29 (25)	48 (45)	43 (37)
<b>Vaccination programmes</b>			
School-based children's health services	15	35	27
Community nursing services — general	40	120	93
<b>Palliative Care -</b>			
Community and outreach nursing — Band 2 palliative/respice care face-to-face	142	195	159
Outpatient — medical specialist palliative care	n/a	n/a	161
Outpatient — medical specialist non-palliative care	n/a	n/a	29
<b>CONSULTANT-LED SERVICES (outpatient follow-up attendances)</b>			
Weighted average for all paediatric services (excludes cystic fibrosis)	133	195	163
<b>Non consultant-led services (outpatient follow-up attendances)</b>			
Weighted average for all paediatric services (excludes cystic fibrosis)	108	153	134
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>			
Community mental health specialist teams (face to face)	221	301	265
Day care facilities — regular attendances	153	397	279
Specialist inpatient services (weighted average of eating disorder, and mother and baby units)	499	631	586
Consultant services — outpatient, weighted average of drugs and alcohol, and other services — follow-up face-to-face	185	289	250
Child and Adolescent Medium Secure Services	897	1336	1000

1 [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_111591](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111591)

2 Please refer to Question 4 of the FAQ document found on the website [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_111591](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111591) for information on why the average lies outside the range of the upper quartile.

## 6.2 Community home for children — local authority

The Costs and Effectiveness of Services for Children in Need study 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' (funded under the Department of Health's Costs and Effectiveness of Services for Children In Need initiative) estimated the costs for a sample of 30 Local Authority residential homes in England. Using a combination of this research and publicly available data, this schema presents the costs per resident week for a local authority community home for children. Establishment costs per week were £2,689 per resident week and costs including external services were £2,881. All costs have been updated using the PSS Pay & Prices index.

Based on Section 52 of the Department for Education's Financial Data collection for outturn 2008/09 and activity data<sup>1</sup>, the cost for a week in a residential home for children (own provision and independently provided) was £2,810 when updated using the PSS Pay and Prices Index.

Costs and unit estimation	2009/2010 value	Notes
<b>Capital costs (A,B &amp; C)</b>		
A. Buildings	£98 per resident week	Based on the new build and land requirements for local authority children's homes. These allow for 59.95 square metres per person. <sup>2</sup> Capital costs are discounted at 3.5 per cent over 60 years.
B. Land	£13 per resident week	Based on statistics provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government. <sup>3</sup> Land costs have been annuitised at 3.5 per cent over 60 years.
C. Equipment		No information available.
<b>Revenue costs</b>		
D. Salary and other revenue costs	£2,578 per resident week	Mean costs for children looked after in own provision children's homes are based on PSS EX1 returns for 2007/2008 updated using the PSS Pay & Prices Index. <sup>4</sup> Data has been adjusted to include respite and short term placements. Capital charges based on the above estimate (£98) have been deducted. The mean cost in the 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' study staff costs accounted for 65 per cent of the total cost of homes on average.
E. Agency overheads		Agency overheads are excluded from this schema. However the 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' study imputed these costs at 10.6 per cent of total annual revenue costs.
F. Other costs		Service use data taken from the 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' study and likely to be an underestimate as information on key services only was requested.
<i>External services:</i>		Costs of hospital services were taken from Trust Financial returns (CIPFA, 2001) and updated to 2009/2010 prices using the HCCHS Pay & Prices Index. <sup>5</sup>
Health services	£5	Support provided by field social workers, leaving care workers and family support workers. Unit costs were taken from Netten et al, (2001) and updated to 2009/2010 prices using the PSS Pay & Prices Index. <sup>6</sup>
Social services	£15	
Youth justice sector	£2	Costs for police contacts and youth custody were estimated using information contained in Finn et al. (2000) and updated to 2009/2010 prices using the PSS Pay & Prices Index. <sup>7</sup>
Education sector (excluding in-house education)	£170	Costs estimated according to the location of the home using information contained in CIPFA (2001). <sup>5</sup> Home tuition costs were estimated using methodology reported by Berridge et al. (2002). <sup>8</sup> The mid-point of the pay scale for qualified teachers was used, including employers' National Insurance and Superannuation contributions. A percentage (65 per cent) was added to cover 'other institutional' expenditure and LEA overheads.
Use of facility by client	52.18 weeks per annum	
Occupancy	84%	Taken from the 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' study. Based on the occupancy rate for all Community Children's Homes.
London multiplier	1.06 x A; 2.52 x B; 1.01 x (D)	Relative London costs are drawn from the same source as the base data for each cost element.
<b>Unit costs available 2009/2010</b>		
£2,689 establishment costs per resident week (includes A to E); £2,881 care package costs per resident week (includes A to D and F).		

1 Department for Children, Schools and Families (2009) *Benchmarking Tables of LA Planned Expenditure 2008-09*, Every Child Matters, Department for Children, Schools and Families, London.

2 Building Cost Information Service (2010) *Surveys of Tender Prices*, BCIS, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Kingston-upon-Thames.

3 Based on personal communication with the Department for Communities and Local Government (2010), [http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/152/Table563\\_id1156152.xls](http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/152/Table563_id1156152.xls)

4 Department of Health (2008) *PSS EX1 2008/09*, Department of Health, London.

5 Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) (2001) *Personal Social Services Statistics 1999-2000 Actuals*, Statistical Information Service, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, London.

6 Netten, A., Rees, T. & Harrison, G. (2001) *Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 2001*, Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent, Canterbury.

7 Finn, W., Hyslop, J. & Truman, C. (2000) *Mental Health, Multiple Needs and the Police*, Revolving Doors Agency, London.

8 Berridge, D., Beecham, J., Brodie, I. et al (2002) *Costs and Consequences of Services for Troubled Adolescents: An Exploratory, Analytic Study*, Report to the Department of Health, University of Luton.

### 6.3 Community home for children — non-statutory sector

The Costs and Effectiveness of Services for Children in Need study 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' (funded under the Department of Health's Costs and Effectiveness of Services for Children In Need initiative) estimated the average costs of a sample of community homes in the non-statutory sector in England. Using a combination of this research and publicly available data, as detailed in this schema, establishment costs per week were £2,408 per resident week and costs including external services were £2,494.

Based on Section 52 of the Department for Education's Financial Data collection for outturn 2008/09 and activity data<sup>1</sup>, the cost for a week in a residential home for children (own provision and independently provided) was £2,810 when uprated using the PSS Pay and Prices Index.

Costs and unit estimation	2009/2010 value	Notes
<b>Capital costs (A,B &amp; C)</b>		
A. Buildings	£98 per resident week	Based on the new build and land requirements for local authority children's homes. These allow for 59.95 square metres per person. <sup>2</sup> Capital costs are discounted at 3.5 per cent over 60 years.
B. Land	£13 per resident week	Based on Department for Communities and Local Government statistics. <sup>3</sup> Land costs have been annuitised at 3.5 per cent over 60 years.
C. Equipment		No information available.
<b>Revenue costs</b>		
D. Salary and other revenue costs	£2,298 per resident week	Mean costs for children looked after in own provision children's homes are based on PSS EX1 returns for 2007/2008 uprated using the PSS Pay & Prices Index. <sup>4</sup> Data has been adjusted to include respite and short term placements. Capital charges based on the above estimate (£98) have been deducted. In the 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' study, staff costs accounted for 64 per cent of the total cost of homes on average.
E. Agency overheads		Agency overheads have been excluded from this schema. However the 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' study imputed these costs at 6.4 per cent of total annual revenue costs.
F. Other costs		Taken from the 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' study and likely to be an underestimate as information on key services only was requested.
<i>External services:</i>		Unit costs of hospital services were taken from Trust Financial returns (CIPFA, 2001) and uprated to 2009/2010 prices using the HCHS Pay & Prices Index. <sup>5</sup>
Health services	£37	Support provided by field social workers, leaving care workers and family support workers.
Social services	£8	Unit costs were taken from Netten et al. (2001) and uprated to 2009/2010 using the PSS Pay & Prices Index. <sup>6</sup>
Youth justice sector	£5	Costs for police contacts and youth custody were estimated using information contained in Finn et al. (2000) and uprated to 2009/2010 prices using the PSS Pay & Prices Index. <sup>7</sup>
Education sector (excluding in-house education)	£33	Costs estimated according to the location of the home using information contained in CIPFA (2000) and uprated to 2009/2010 prices using the PSS Pay & Prices Index. <sup>5</sup> Home tuition costs were estimated using methodology reported by Berridge et al. (2002). <sup>8</sup> The mid-point of the pay scale for qualified teachers was used, including employers' National Insurance and Superannuation contributions. A percentage (65 per cent) was added to cover 'other institutional' expenditure and LEA overheads.
Private sector costs	£2	
Use of facility by client	52.18 weeks per annum	
Occupancy	84%	Taken from the 'Leadership and Resources in Children's Homes' study. Based on the occupancy rate for all Community Children's Homes.
London multiplier	1.06 x A; 2.52 x B; 0.84 x (D)	Relative London costs are drawn from the same source as the base data for each cost element.
<b>Unit costs available 2009/2010</b>		
£2,408 establishment costs per resident week (includes A to E); £2,494 care package costs per resident week (includes A to D and F).		

1 Department for Children, Schools and Families (2009) *Benchmarking Tables of LA Planned Expenditure 2008-09*, Every Child Matters, Department for Children, Schools and Families, London.

2 Building Cost Information Service (2010) *Surveys of Tender Prices*, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Kingston-upon-Thames.

3 Based on personal communication with the Department for Communities and Local Government (2010).

4 Department of Health (2008) *PSS EX1 2007/08*, Department of Health, London.

5 Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) (2001) *Personal Social Services Statistics 1999-2000 Actuals*, Statistical Information Service, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, London.

6 Netten, A., Rees, T. & Harrison, G. (2001) *Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 2001*, Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent, Canterbury.

7 Finn, W., Hyslop, J. & Truman, C. (2000) *Mental health, Multiple Needs and the Police*, Revolving Doors Agency, London.

8 Provisional cost based on the cost of mainstream schooling taken from Berridge, D. et al (2002) *Costs and Consequences of Services for Troubled Adolescents: An Exploratory, Analytic Study*, University of Luton, Luton.

## 6.4 Local authority foster care for children

Costs and unit estimation	2009/2010 value	Notes
A. Boarding out allowances and administration	£390 per child per week	Mean costs using PSS EX1 for 2007/08 (£383) <sup>1</sup> and uprated to 2009/10 using the inflator for all provision foster care in Section 52 of the Department for Education's Financial Data collection for outturn 2008/09 <sup>2</sup> and the PSS Pay and Prices Inflator.  In 2007/08 <sup>1</sup> , all provision foster care was £489 and £492 when inflated to 2008/09 prices. This was calculated by using Section 52 and dividing total net expenditure of £1,083,980,685 <sup>2</sup> by the total number of activity days (15,437,480). <sup>3</sup> The cost per day for all provision foster care for 2008/09 was therefore £70.2 per day (£492 per week).  Using the same inflators, local authority foster care was estimated at £385 in 2008/09 and £390 when inflated to current values using the PSS Pay and Prices Inflator.
B. Care		No information available.
C. Social services (including cost of social worker and support)	£224 per child per week	The majority of children looked after are in foster placements and the mean cost of support from fieldwork teams and centres (costed staff/centre time) has been estimated by using the Children in Need (CiN) Census 2005 <sup>4</sup> and uprated to current levels using the PSS Pay and Prices Inflators.
D. Other services, including education	£62 per child per week	The study by Beecham and Knapp found that other services including health, education and law and order (estimated on the same basis as services to those in community homes) added a further 16 per cent to the cost. <sup>5</sup>
Service use by client	52.18 weeks per year	
London multiplier	1.22	Based on PSS EX1 data for 2005/06. <sup>1</sup> Costs in London were considerably higher and this is likely to be partly as a result of having a larger market with Independent Fostering Agencies available.
<b>Unit costs available 2009/2010</b>		
£676 per child per week (includes A to D).		

1 Department of Health (2008) *PSS EX1 2007/08*, Department of Health, London.

2 Department for Children, Schools and Families (2009) *Benchmarking Tables of LA Planned Expenditure 2008-9*, Every Child Matters, Department for Children, Schools and Families, London.

3 <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/datastats1/guidelines/children/returns.shtml>

4 Department for Education and Skills (2005) *Children in Need in England: Results of a Survey of Activity and Expenditure as Reported by Local Authority Social Services' Children and Families Teams for a Survey Week in February 2005*, Department for Education and Skills, London., <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000647/index.shtml>

5 Beecham, J. & Knapp, M. (1995) The costs of child care assessment, in R. Sinclair, L. Garnett & D. Berridge (eds) *Social Work and Assessment with Adolescents*, National Children's Bureau, London.

## 6.5 Social services support for Children in Need

Until 2005, the Children in Need Census was a biennial survey which collected information on the numbers and characteristics of children in need, that is, children receiving social-services support. The unit costs of these services were also published for a survey week in February 2005 of 234,700 children.<sup>1</sup> Since 2008/09, the Children in Need Census has been annual, but has contained slightly different information. In 2008/09, although financial information was collected, rather than being for a sample week as in previous censuses, the collection covered six months. Further differences between these two surveys are discussed in Mahon (2008).<sup>2</sup>

In this schema therefore, we present information collected in 2005 which is based on services received by each child seen during a survey week in February. These costs have been uprated to 2009/2010 costs using the PSS Pay and Prices inflators. The costs are averages (the average cost per child) and are within the normal range. For children looked after, at 2009/2010 prices the average weekly cost for looked after children was £761 while for children supported in their families or independently it was £157 with an average cost per Child In Need of £324.

Three types of expenditure are captured.

- 1) The costs of field and centre staff time carrying out social services activities with, or on behalf of, identified children in need and their families.
- 2) The costs of providing care and accommodation for children looked after (and similar regular, ongoing expenditure that can be treated in the same way).
- 3) One off or ad hoc payments and purchases for children in need or their families.

**Table 1 Social services costs per child per week by region**

Location	Children supported in families or independently		Children looked after		Total	
	Total no. children	Average cost per child £	Total no. children	Average cost per child £	Total no. children	Average cost per child £
All shire counties	60,265	140	22,875	716	83,140	296
All unitary authorities	35,235	140	12,115	822	47,350	313
All metropolitan districts	40,760	151	18,685	682	59,445	319
All London authorities	32,490	218	12,230	917	44,720	408
England	168,750	157	65,900	761	234,700	324

1 For further information on this survey see <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOLv000647/vweb02-2006.pdf>

2 Mahon, J. (2008) *Towards the New Children in Need Census*, York Consulting, <http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DSCF-RW039.pdf>, date accessed 15 September 2010.

**Table 2 Social services costs per child per week by need category**

Need Category <sup>1</sup>	Children supported in families or independently		Children looked after	
	Total no. children	Mean cost per child £	Total no. children	Mean cost per child £
Abuse/neglect	50,900	157	36,000	727
Disability	21,100	179	8,700	727
Parental illness or disability	8,400	157	3,200	682
Family in acute stress	20,000	134	4,100	951
Family dysfunction	23,400	145	6,400	861
Socially unacceptable behaviour	12,200	179	1,800	1,342
Low income	3,900	168	270	738
Absent parenting	5,500	224	4,400	671
Cases other than children in need	8,000	123	460	649
Cases not stated	15,400	145	660	526

**Table 3 Average cost (£ per week) per child receiving a service**

Type of placement	Children supported in families or independently	Children looked after	Total
	Mean cost per child £	Mean cost per child £	Mean cost per child £
Costed staff/centre time	129	224	157
Ongoing costs	22	531	162
One-off costs	6	11	5
Total costs	157	761	324

**Table 4 Average amounts spent on children receiving a service (£ per week)**

Type of placement	Children supported in families or independently		Children looked after		Total	
	Mean hours per child	Mean cost per child £	Mean hours per child	Mean cost per child £	Mean hours per child	Median cost per child £
Asylum seeking children	1.5	246	2.4	671	1.8	397
Disabled children	2.5	179	3.0	794	2.7	392
Autistic children	2.6	185	2.8	923	2.7	470
All children	2.3	157	3.5	761	2.7	324

<sup>1</sup> As specified in Department for Education and Skills (2005) *Children in Need in England: Results of a Survey of Activity and Expenditure as Reported by Local Authority Social Services' Children and Families Teams for a Survey Week in February 2005*, Department for Education and Skills, London.

## 6.6 Comparative costs of providing sexually abused children with individual and group psychotherapy

As part of the Children in Need research initiative, a study by Paul McCrone et al. published in *Child and Adolescent Mental Health* in 2005 compared the costs of individual and group psychotherapy for children who have been sexually abused.<sup>1</sup> Subjects were recruited to two clinics in London and randomly allocated to the two treatments. Girls between the ages of six and 14 who, within the previous two years, had disclosed sexual abuse and had symptoms of emotional or behavioural disturbance that warranted treatment, were eligible for inclusion. The girls who consented to participate in the study were randomly allocated either to individual (n=35) or group psychotherapy (n=36). The individual treatment comprised up to 30 sessions of focused psychoanalytical psychotherapy. Individual therapists received supervision from a senior child psychotherapist in pairs after every other session. The group treatment consisted of up to 18 sessions with about five girls of similar ages and incorporated psychotherapeutic and psycho-educational components. Various professionals provided therapy, including child psychiatrists, psychotherapists, nurse practitioners and specialist, occupational therapists and social workers. The girls were assessed at baseline and followed up at one and two years after treatment had commenced.

Research found that these therapies have similar outcomes and although this is a single small study and further work is required to strengthen the evidence-base before change in practice is readily undertaken, results of the study suggest that group therapy is more cost-effective than individual therapy. Total mean costs of group therapy uprated to 2009/2010 levels were found to be £2,845 and total mean costs of individual therapy uprated to 2009/2010 levels were found to be £4,649.

Service use data extracted from case notes and therapists' files were combined with unit costs representing the long-run marginal opportunity costs of the professionals involved in providing the service. Some of these were obtained from *Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 1999*<sup>2</sup> while others were estimated from (national) pay scales and any additional elements were based on similar services reported in that publication. These unit costs consist of salary, employer superannuation and national insurance contributions, overheads and capital costs. Costs shown in the tables have been up-rated to 2009/2010 levels using the appropriate indices.

### Group therapy

Intervention	Sample size (n=36)	Provider	Duration (minutes)
Introductory meeting			
Mean (sd) no. of meetings	1 (0)	Consultant psychiatrist	16
Mean (sd) cost, £	£70 (£14)	Senior social worker	16
Initial assessment		Research psychologist	120
Mean (sd) no. of assessments	1 (0)	Consultant psychiatrist/senior registrar	90
Mean (sd) cost, £	£584 (£43)	Senior social worker	105
Therapy provided to girls			
Mean (sd) no. of sessions	13.3 (4)	Various professionals providing 18 sessions	75
Mean (sd) cost, £	£569 (£205)		
Carers' support			
Mean (sd) no. of sessions	10.1 (5.3)	Social worker providing 10 sessions	50
Mean (sd) cost, £	£528 (£376)		

1 McCrone, P., Weeramanthri, T., Knapp, M., Rushton, A., Trowell, J., Miles, G. & Kolvin I. (2005) Cost-effectiveness of individual versus group psychotherapy for sexually abused girls, *Child and Adolescent Mental Health*, 10, 26-31. For further information contact Dr Paul McCrone, Centre for the Economics of Mental Health, Box PO24, Health Services Research Department, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF (p.mccrone@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

2 Netten, A., Dennett, J. & Knight, J. (1999) *Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 1999*, Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent, Canterbury.

Intervention	Sample size (n=36)	Provider	Duration (minutes)
Supervision of girls' therapists Mean (sd) number of sessions Mean (sd) cost, £	13.3 (4.0) £447 (£151)	Senior social worker/cons. psychiatrist providing 18 sessions	75
Supervision of carers' workers Mean (sd) number of sessions Mean (sd) cost, £	3.4 (1.8) £216 (£153)	Senior Social worker providing monthly sessions	60
Follow-up assessments one year follow-up Mean (sd) number of assessments Mean (sd) cost £	1.5 (0.7) £431 (£233)	Research psychologist Consultant psychiatrist/senior registrar Senior social worker All providing 1 session each	30 45 45
Mean (sd) total cost, £	£2,845 (£1,176)		

### Individual therapy

Intervention	Sample size (n=35)	Provider	Duration (minutes)
Introductory meeting Mean (sd) no. of meetings Mean (sd) cost, £	1 (0) £68 (£16)	Consultant psychiatrist Senior social worker	16 16
Initial assessment Mean (sd) no. of assessments Mean (sd) cost, £	1 (0) £575 (£46)	Research psychologist Consultant psychiatrist/senior registrar Senior social worker	120 90 105
Therapy provided to girls Mean (sd) no. of sessions Mean (sd) cost, £	26 (8.1) £1,378 (£512)	Various professionals providing 30 sessions	75
Carers' support Mean (sd) no. of sessions Mean (sd) cost, £	14.2 (9.3) £1,344 (£916)	Social worker providing 15 sessions	50
Supervision of girls' therapists Mean (sd) number of sessions Mean (sd) cost, £	13.0 (4.1) £510 (£159)	Senior child psychotherapist providing 15 sessions	60
Supervision of carers' workers Mean (sd) number of sessions Mean (sd) cost, £	4.7 (3.1) £380 (£281)	Senior social worker providing monthly sessions	60
Follow-up assessments One year follow-up Mean (sd) number of assessments Mean (sd) cost £	1.4 (0.7) £395 (£243)	Research psychologist Consultant psychiatrist/senior registrar Senior social worker All providing 1 session each	30 45 45
Mean (sd) total cost, £	£4,649 (2,173)		

## 6.7 Key worker services for disabled children and their families

Key workers provide a single point of contact for disabled children and their families, supporting them and facilitating access to other services. Both key workers and the families supported see the key worker role as providing information and advice, identifying and addressing needs, accessing and co-ordinating services for the family, providing emotional support and acting as an advocate. The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (Department of Health & Department for Education and Skills, 2004)<sup>1</sup> recommends provision of key workers to help families obtain the services they require and research has shown that key worker services appear to generate good outcomes for families and provision is encouraged through central government policy.

In 2004/05 research was carried out using seven service sites providing key worker services in order to explore the effectiveness of different models and also to calculate the unit costs (Greco et al., 2005; Beecham et al., 2007).<sup>2,3</sup> In total 205 families returned questionnaires of which there were 189 valid responses. Predominately, key workers included in the sample came from four professional backgrounds: health visiting, nursing, teaching and social work. However, parents, paediatricians, dieticians, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and early years workers also acted as key workers. The children supported by these seven key workers services had a range of diagnoses of which autistic spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy and developmental delay were the most common in the sample. Most children had more than one condition.

The table below shows that the average cost per working hour for the seven services was £34 ranging This has been calculated by dividing the total cost by the total number of hours for which staff members undertook key-working activities. The unit cost is therefore, weighted for the staff-mix on each service. Over a three month period, the average and mean cost of contact, taking into account telephone calls and the costs of visits, was £151 and £87 respectively. All costs have been uprated to reflect 2009/2010 prices.

Assuming this level of contact to be constant over 12 months, annual average contact costs would be £700. Using information provided by 11 key workers reporting time use, the contact to other activity ratio is 1:2.6 (for each hour spent in contact with the family, two and a half hours are spent on activities such as travel, liaison, meetings etc). At 2009/2010 prices, the total cost of all schemes was £2,250,270 and the total caseload was 1,237 giving an average annual cost per family across the schemes of £1,820.

Use and costs of key worker services in three months prior to survey					
Service	Cost per working hour (£)	Mean number of visits (range)	Mean number of telephone calls (range)	Mean cost of visits and telephone calls (£)	Median cost of visits and telephone calls (£)
A	26	2.9 (0-8)	6.7 (1-16)	143	125
B	42	2.7 (0-24)	5.0 (0-60)	185	90
C	36	3.6 (0-10)	5.4 (1-80)	189	141
D	38	1.9 (0-12)	2.5 (0-12)	108	60
E	38	2.8 (0-20)	4.6 (0-50)	184	114
F	32	4.4 (0-12)	2.5 (0-12)	111	75
G	24	1.4 (0-6)	2.1 (0-6)	39	24
Total/average	34	2.8 (0-24)	4.4 (0-60)	151	87

1 Department of Health & Department for Education and Skills (2004) *National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services*, Department of Health & Department for Education and Skills, London.

2 Greco, V., Sloper, P., Webb, R. & Beecham, J. (2005) *An Exploration of Different Models of Multi-Agency Partnerships in Key Worker Services for Disabled Children: Effectiveness and Costs*, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York.

3 Beecham, J., Sloper, P., Greco, V. & Webb, R. (2007) The costs of key worker support for disabled children and their families, *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 3, 5, 611-618.

## 6.8 Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care

Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) is a programme of intervention designed for young people who display emotional and behavioural difficulties. It is based upon social learning and attachment theories and provides intensive support in a family setting. A multidisciplinary team of professionals work with MTFC foster carers to change behaviour through the promotion of positive role models. Placements are intensive and tailored to the child's specific needs, with 24-hour support to carers. The specialised team of professionals is responsible for the planning and delivery of the programme and each practitioner has a clearly defined role. The core team consists of a programme supervisor, individual therapist, birth family therapist, skills worker, administrator, foster carer recruiter and education worker, additional staff may be appointed in some local authorities.

Research was carried out by the Centre for Child and Family Research, Loughborough University to calculate the costs of Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care<sup>1</sup> and to analyse how these costs compare with those of other types of provision for young people with similar needs. This research built on a previous study to explore the costs and outcomes of services provided to looked after children and the calculation of unit costs of eight social care processes.<sup>2</sup> The process costs shown below align with those in the schema for children in care (8.8.1 - 8.8.4), in particular the high cost children. Costs per hour have been calculated using Curtis (2007)<sup>3</sup> and include overheads and capital costs. For each process the salary and overhead costs have been multiplied by the time spent by the practitioners involved to calculate the unit costs. The costs provided below for providing and maintaining the placement account for over 90 per cent of the costs of a care episode, but exclude the set-up costs.

Cost have been updated from 2006/2007 to 2009/2010 prices using the PSS Pay and Prices Inflatoms.

**Table 1 Costs of eight social care processes for MTFC**

Process number	MTFC cost (2009/2010 prices) £
Process one: decision to place and finding first MTFC placement	6,562
Process two: care planning	128
Process three: maintaining the placement (per month)	6,017
Process four: leaving care/accommodation	280
Process five: finding subsequent MTFC placement	6,254
Process six: review	428
Process seven: legal process	2,947
Process eight: transition to leaving care services	1,241

**Table 2 Costs of other types of provision for young people with similar needs**

Process number	LA foster care in LA area (2009/2010 prices) £	Agency/foster care in LA area (2009/2010 prices) £	Agency residential in LA area (2009/2010 prices) £
Process one	1,139	1,483	1,435
Process two	128	128	128
Process three	2,909	5,351	10,464
Process four	280	280	280
Process five	677	1,019	1,104
Process six	610	610	610
Process seven	2,947	2,947	2,947
Process eight	1,241	1,241	1,241

1 Holmes, L., Westlake, D. & Ward, H. (2008) *Calculating and Comparing the Costs of Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care*, Report to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Loughborough Centre for Child and Family Research, Loughborough University.

2 Ward, H., Holmes, L. & Soper, J. (2008) *Costs and Consequences of Placing Children in Care*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London.

3 Curtis, L. (2007) *Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 2007*, Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent, Canterbury.

## 6.9 Incredible Years Parenting Programme

The Incredible Years Series is part of a series of 3 interlocking training programmes for parents, children and teachers.<sup>1</sup> The parenting programs span the age range of 0-12 years. The child and teacher programs span the age range of 3-8 years. The schema below provides the resulting costs of the Webster-Stratton Incredible Years basic parenting programme which were collected in 2003/04 and have been updated using the hospital and community health services inflators (HCHS). The costs have been calculated by using the weekly cost diaries completed by leaders of four groups and the cost information supplied by the Incredible Years Welsh Office over a 12 session programme. These figures included costs of weekly attendance at supervision for group leaders. this was required because these leaders were participating in a randomised controlled trial and were relatively inexperienced and were not certified leaders. Generally, supervision for inexperienced leaders would be recommended on a termly basis, with encouragement to work for leader certification. Further details of the study are available from Edwards et al. (2007).<sup>2</sup>

Although set up costs are not included in the table below, the unit costs have been calculated with and without these activities. Set up costs include producing the programme kit and also the training of two leaders including travel and supervision time. The total cost for these activities was £4,544 and the total time taken was 53 hours. Without these costs, the total cost per child over a 12 week programme based on 8 and 12 parents per group would be £1,771 and £1,181 respectively. Including these activities, the total cost per child based on 8 and 12 parents per group would be £2,339 and £1,559 respectively.

Costs and unit estimation	2009/2010 value	Notes
A. Capital costs - premises	£3,416	Total costs were 25 per cent of total costs.
B. Revenue costs - salaries and oncosts	£7,286	Direct salary and oncosts for running the group included the recruitment costs (£1,038), supervision costs (£4,403) and group running costs (£1,845). The activities included: - 2 group leaders to recruit parents including travel time - 2 leaders to run the group - salary in group session preparation time for 2 leaders - supervision time for 2 leaders including travel - trainer costs to deliver supervision
C. Overheads	£2,149	Telephone costs (£46), mileage costs (£749), clerical support costs (£98) and transport and creche costs (£1,256) were included in this cost.
Venue costs and refreshments	£1,318	Venue costs and refreshments.
Working time Length of programme	379.25 hours	375.25 hours spent for 2 leaders to run the programme.
<b>Unit costs available 2009/2010</b>		
Based on 8 parents per group: total costs per child (including start up costs) £1,771 (£2,339); Based on 12 parents per group: total cost per child (including start up costs) £1,181 (£1,559).		

1 Webster-Stratton, C. & Hancock, L. (1998) Training for parents of young children with conduct problems: content, methods and therapeutic processes, in C.E Schaefer & J.M. Briesmeister (eds) *Handbook of Parent Training*, John Wiley, New York.

2 Edwards, R.T., C elleachair, A., Bywater, T., Hughes, D.A. & Hutchings, J. (2007) Parenting programme for parents of children at risk of developing conduct disorder: cost and effectiveness analysis, *British Medical Journal*, 334, 682-688.

