

Children & Families

The following table provides a breakdown of the expenditure within Children & Families. The figures do not include any Education related expenditure on Children & Families such as Surestart or Child Care Strategy but do include support services and departmental administration.

Children & Families	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
Assessment Casework care management etc.	1,888	678	851
Residential Schools	2,147	4,002	3,456
Care Homes Non Respite	1,294	1,278	1,422
Homecare provided on a respite care basis	113	87	216
Other daycare (non Respite)	81	(11)	(12)
Other services to support carers	506	577	664
Non respite fostering family placements	465	672	666
Other services	638	536	887
TOTALS	7,132	7,819	8,150

The decrease in expenditure between 2004/2005 and future years, in relation to Assessment, Casework, Care Management etc is as a result of a change to the method of reallocating support services / departmental administration across sub-services.

The following trends have been identified as significant factors in creating budget pressures:

Child Protection

There were 90 referrals in 2003/04, 92 in 2004/05, and 87 in 2005/06. The number of children placed on the Child Protection Register as at 31 March was as follows:

Year	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
Children	44	39	57

There are currently 70 children placed on the Child Protection Register, of which 35 are affected by parental substance misuse. This represents an increase in children registered since March 2004 of 59%.

Home Supervision

The number of children and young people on home supervision orders (Section 70) has increased from 137 in March 2003, to 152 in 2006, which represents an increase of 11%

Panel Report Requests

There were 311 reports requested in 2004, dropping to 126 in 2005, before rising to 574 in 2006. Overall, an increase of 84% since 2004.

Looked After Children

The number of children looked after away from home has increased as follows, which represents an overall increase of almost 22%

Year	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	External Placements
Children	88	93	107	

Placements

There are currently 39 children in residential school placements, an increase of 39% since 2000.

Category	2000	2002	2004	2006
Residential School Placements	28	27	31	39
Children with EBD	23	18	18	20
Children affected by Disability	5	9	13	19

The number of children affected by disability requiring specialist residential school placements has increased 280% since 2000, with the associated costs rising from £196,000 in 2000, to the current level of £1,077,359.

The number of children with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD) has fallen by 13% over the same period.

The cost of placing a child with EBD in a residential school has risen from an average of £65,000 per annum in 2000, to the current rate of around £100,000 per annum.

The number of children with EBD who have complex needs requiring high levels of supervision that cannot be placed in local authority resources, and where there is no access to residential school placements has also increased from 1 in 2000, to 6 in 2006. The cost of these placements range from £87,000 per annum to £204,722.

The current agreement with Education for funding external placements is 62/38 split, with social work paying the 62%. This arrangement is terminated at the school leaving age, thereafter, the full cost of placements are carried by social work.

Respite care for children affected by disability has also been funded from the Residential Schools budget, rising from £110,000 in 2003/04 to £315,683 in 2005/06

The overall spend in Residential School budget (including all external placements) was as follows:

2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
£2,145,763	£2,373,156	£2,884,928	£2,658,333

The costs in the

initial table include an allocation of support services / departmental administration.

Foster Care

There are currently 28 Temporary Foster Carers, 20 Permanent Foster Carers, providing placements for 47 children. In addition, there are 17 Shared Carers providing placements for 6 children.

This represents an increase of 11 Temporary Foster Carers (50%), an increase of 10 Permanent Carers (50%), and an increase of 1 Shared Carer (6%), since 2001.

In 2003, there were 3 specialist foster placements outwith the authority, with an average cost of £70,000 per annum. This increased to 5 placements in 2006.

It has also been necessary to place two children in Independent Foster Care as no other resource was available in Scotland, at an average cost of £48,000 per annum.

The family placement team dealt with 86 referrals for placements in 2004/05 and 147 referrals in 2005/06, an increase of 71%.