

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



Quarterly Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland

(January - March 2022)



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Mánnystrie O Poustie

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Statistics and research for the **Department of Health** is provided by the Information and Analysis Directorate (IAD). IAD is responsible for compiling, processing, analysing, interpreting and disseminating a wide range of statistics covering health and social care.



The statisticians within IAD are outposted from the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA) and the statistics are produced in accordance with the principles and protocols set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

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IAD comprises four statistical sections: Hospital Information, Community Information, Public Health Information & Research and Project Support Analysis.

This publication is produced by Community Information Branch.

Our Vision and Values

- *Provide up-to-date, quality information on children and adult social services and community health;*
- *to disseminate findings widely with a view to stimulating debate, promoting effective decision-making and improvement in service provision; and*
- *be an expert voice on social care information.*

About Community Information Branch

The purpose of Community Information Branch (CIB) is to promote effective decision making in children and adult social services by providing quality information and analysis.

We collect, analyse, and publish a wide range of community information that is used to help monitor the delivery of personal social services policy. Information collected by CIB is used to assess HSC Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, policy evaluation, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions.

Information is widely disseminated through a number of regular key statistical publications and ad hoc reports, details of which are available online.

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1. Key Findings

“Quarterly Carers’ Statistics for Northern Ireland” presents figures regionally and by Health and Social Care Trust in respect of carers’ assessments and reassessments that are offered, accepted / completed and declined; and are available by the client group of the person being cared for.

Quarter ending 31 March 2022:

Carers Assessments

- A carers' assessment was offered to 3,543 carers in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 31 March 2022. This represented a 4% increase on the number of assessments offered in the previous quarter, but a decrease of 16% when compared to the same quarter in 2021.



- Of the 3,543 carers' assessments offered, 61% (2,173) were accepted / completed and 39% (1,370) were declined.
- Those carers caring for someone in the Family and Childcare / Children with Disabilities client groups were the most likely to accept an offer of an assessment, whereas those caring for someone in the Older People client group were most likely to decline an offer of an assessment.

Carers Reassessments

- A carers' reassessment was offered to 1,255 carers in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 31 March 2022. This represents a 29% increase on the number of reassessments offered in the previous quarter and an increase of 8% when compared to the same quarter in 2021.



- Of the 1,255 carers' reassessments offered, 84% (1,058) were accepted / completed and 16% (197) were declined.

2. Introduction

Carers are people who, without payment, provide help and support to a family member or a friend who may not be able to manage without this help because of frailty, illness or disability. Carers can be adults caring for other adults, parents caring for ill or disabled children or young people who care for another family member and are a vital part of the DoH's vision of providing support for people to live more independent lives and helping people remain in their own homes and live independently for longer.

In recognition of the need to support carers in their caring role and their need to have access to a social life, educational, training and employment opportunities, a carers' strategy, "[Caring for Carers](#)", was developed. The strategy, published in January 2006, was inter-departmental and inter-agency, dealing with health and personal social services, employment, training, education, availability of information and support services.

Carers may need support to allow them to continue in their caring role and to ensure their own health and well-being does not suffer as a result. They have a right to a life outside caring. All carers are individuals and, as such, present varying needs. Proper **assessment** is the first step to accessing services and it is vitally important that carers are offered the opportunity to discuss their own needs and be considered for services in their own right.

The [Carers and Direct Payments Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002](#) imposed a statutory duty on Health and Social Care Trusts to inform carers of their right to an assessment and to be considered for services to meet their own needs. The Carers' Assessment looks at each carer as an individual with their own personal circumstances, and will identify any particular needs they may have as a result. It is important that the needs of individual carers are properly understood and that service providers are prepared to respond with flexibility, offering carers real choice as to how their needs will be met. The "Carers Support and Needs Assessment" component of the [Northern Ireland Single Assessment Tool \(NISAT\)](#) is used for assessing the needs of adult carers, thus ensuring a standardised approach to assessment regardless of the location of the carer in Northern Ireland. However, children with caring responsibilities, or in some circumstances adults caring for children with disabilities, will be assessed under the Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI) assessment framework.

This bulletin presents, for the **Quarter ending 31 March 2022**, statistics relating to the numbers of carers' assessments offered, completed and declined, the main reasons why carers declined offers to be assessed as well as carers' reassessments offered, completed and declined. Analyses are presented both regionally and across Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland.

Detailed definitions are available in [Appendix B](#) of this report.

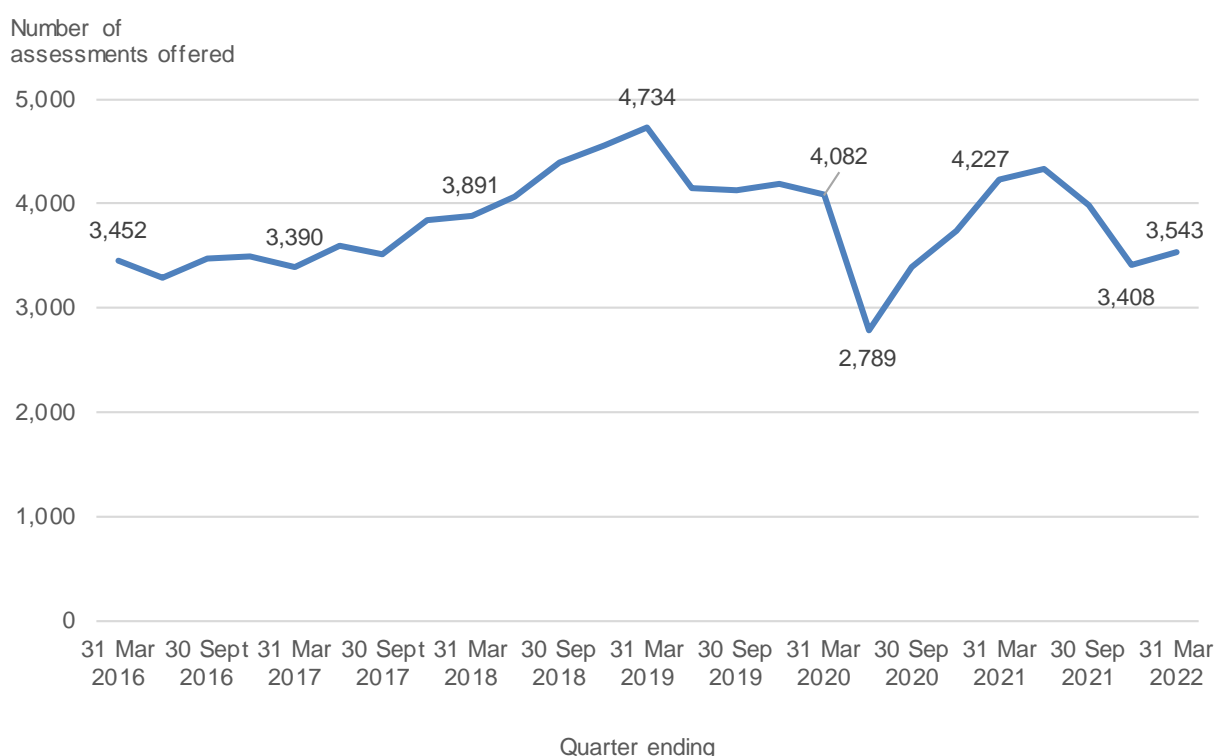
3. Carers Assessments

A **Carers Assessment** is carried out to determine the support needs of the person in commencing or sustaining their caring role; or in addressing the risks to the sustainability of that caring role; or the risks to the carers' own health and wellbeing.

Carers Assessments during Quarter ending 31 March 2022

A carers' assessment was offered to 3,543 carers in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 31 March 2022. This represented a 4% (135) increase on the number of assessments offered in the previous quarter (3,408), but a decrease of 16% (684) when compared to the same quarter in 2021 (4,227) (Figure 1) ¹.

Figure 1 Carers Assessments Offered (Quarters ending 31 March 2016 - 31 March 2022)²



¹ All figures presented can be found in table format in [Appendix C](#) of this report and/or in excel and CSV format on the Department of Health website [Department of Health \(Carers' assessments and reassessments\)](#)

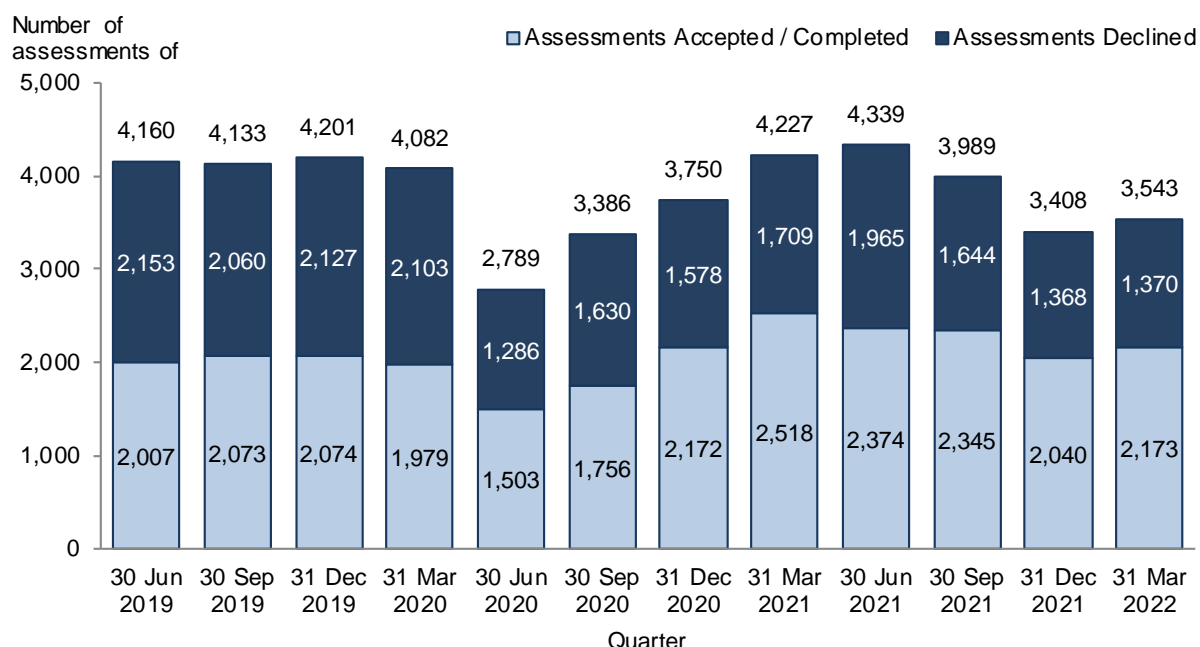
² Decreases reported in quarter ending June 2020 were contributed to restrictions on the Carer's assessment service due to COVID-19. Please see June 2020 publication for an overview of COVID-19 impact on Carers Assessments: [Quarterly Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland \(June 2020\)](#)

Of the 3,543 carers' assessments offered, 61% (2,173) were accepted / completed and 39% (1,370) were declined.

The 2,173 carers' assessments which were accepted / completed represented a 7% increase (133) from the previous quarter (2,040), but a 14% decrease (345) from the same quarter in 2021 (2,518).

The 1,370 carers' assessments which were declined represented a <1% increase (2) from the previous quarter (1,368), and a 20% decrease (339) from the same quarter in 2021 (1,709). (Figure 2) ([Table 1](#))

Figure 2 Carers Assessments Offered, Accepted / Completed and Declined (Quarters ending 30 June 2019 - 31 March 2022)³



³ Decreases reported in quarter ending June 2020 were contributed to restrictions on the Carer's assessment service due to COVID-19. Please see June 2020 publication for an overview of COVID-19 impact on Carers Assessments: [Quarterly Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/quarterly-carers-statistics-for-northern-ireland)

Carers Assessments by HSC Trust

The number of carers' assessments offered varies across Trusts. The Western HSC Trust had the lowest proportion of all assessments offered (448, 13%) whereas the Northern HSC Trust had the highest proportion (1,063, 30%) (Figure 3) (Table 2). Taking into account the population structure of the HSC Trusts, the Southern HSC Trust had the lowest rate of assessments offered (129 offers per 100,000 population), compared to 238 assessments per 100,000 of the population in the Belfast HSC Trust, which had the highest rate of assessments offered .⁴

Figure 3 Number of Carers Assessments Offered by HSC Trust (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

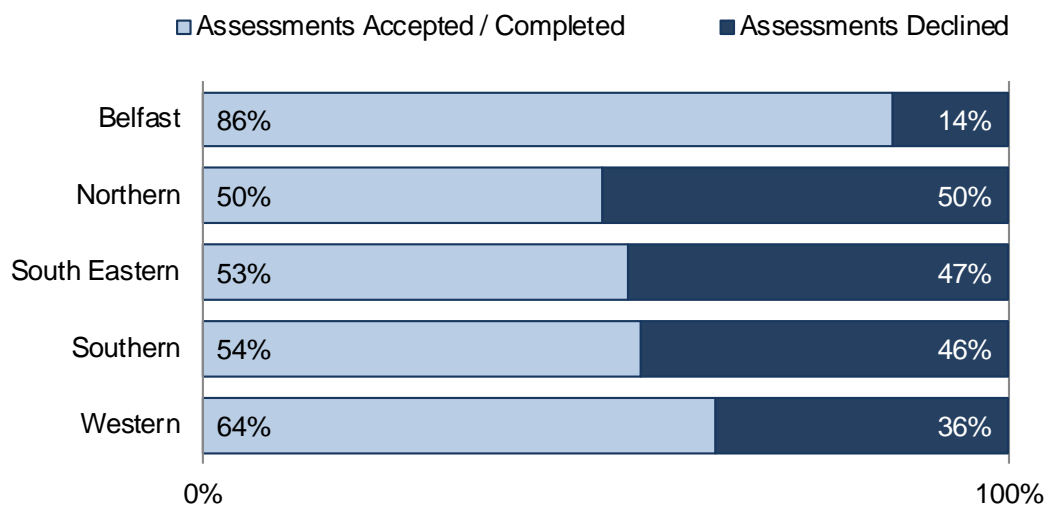
Number of Carers Assessments Offered by HSC Trust				
Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western
856	1,063	673	503	448

HSC Trust figures can vary considerably between quarters. During Quarter ending 31 March 2022, Belfast, Western, and Southern HSC Trusts had more offers of carers' assessments compared with the previous quarter, with 34%, 12% and 5% increases respectively. There were 12% decrease of offers in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 5% decrease in the Western HSC Trust.

⁴ 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates, NISRA 2021

During the Quarter ending 31 March 2022, 86% of the carers' assessments offered in the Belfast HSC Trust were accepted/completed. For all other Trusts the proportion of carers' assessments accepted/completed ranged between and 50% in the Northern Trust 64% in the Western Trust (Figure 4) ([Table 2](#) and [Table 3](#)).

Figure 4 Proportion of Carers Assessments Accepted / Completed and Declined by HSC Trust (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)



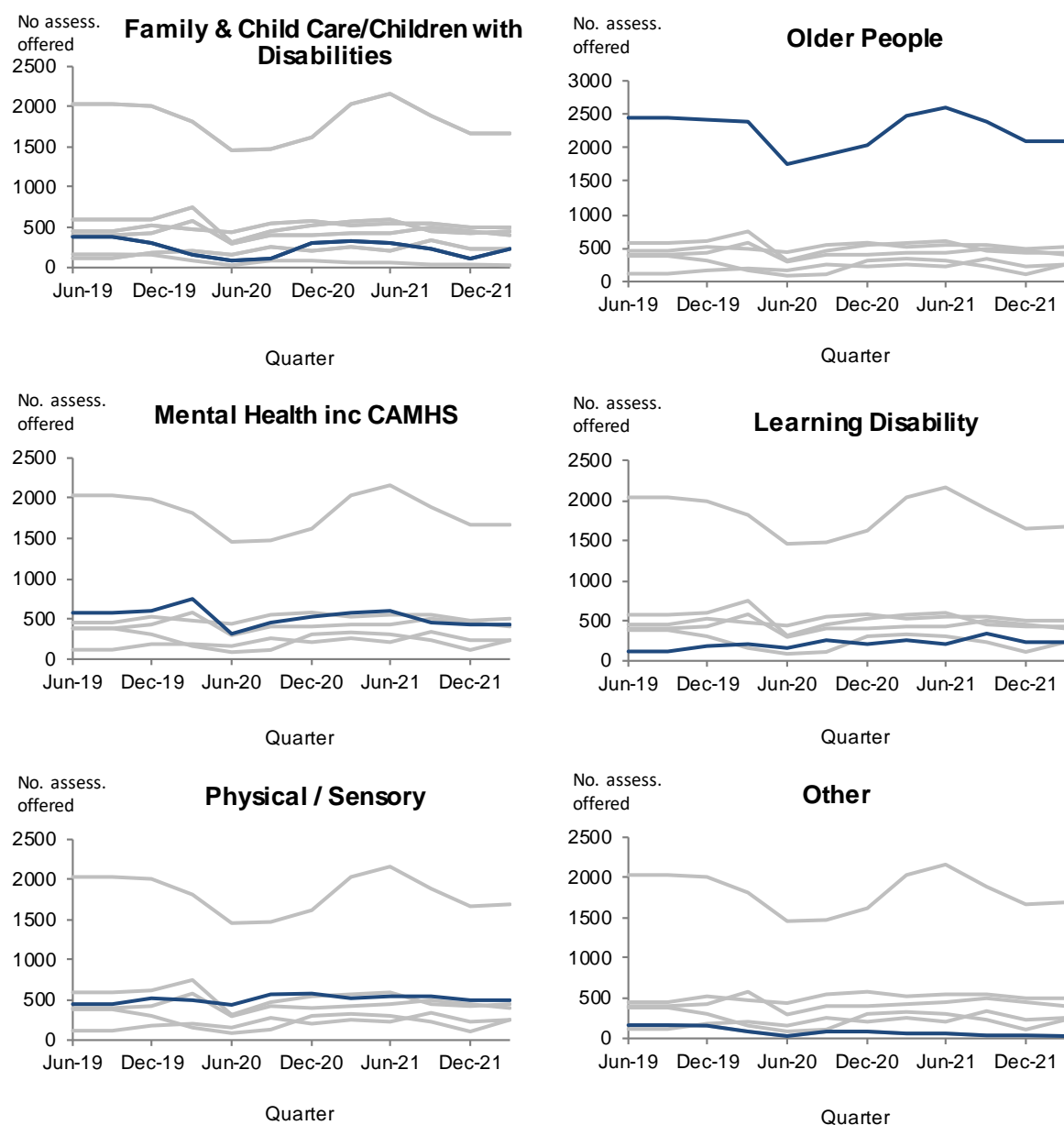
Client Group

Across Northern Ireland, the majority of all carers' assessments have consistently been offered to carers of people in the Older People client group⁵ (Figure 5). However, this client group has seen a decrease of 1% (23 offers) when compared to the previous quarter, and a decrease of 16% (385 offers) in the number of offers from the same quarter last year.

Figure 5 Number of Carers Assessments Offered by Client Group (of cared for person) (Quarters ending 30 June 2019 - 31 March 2022)⁶

Note: 'Mental Health' includes CAMHS

'Children' covers 'Children with Disabilities' and 'Family and Child Care'



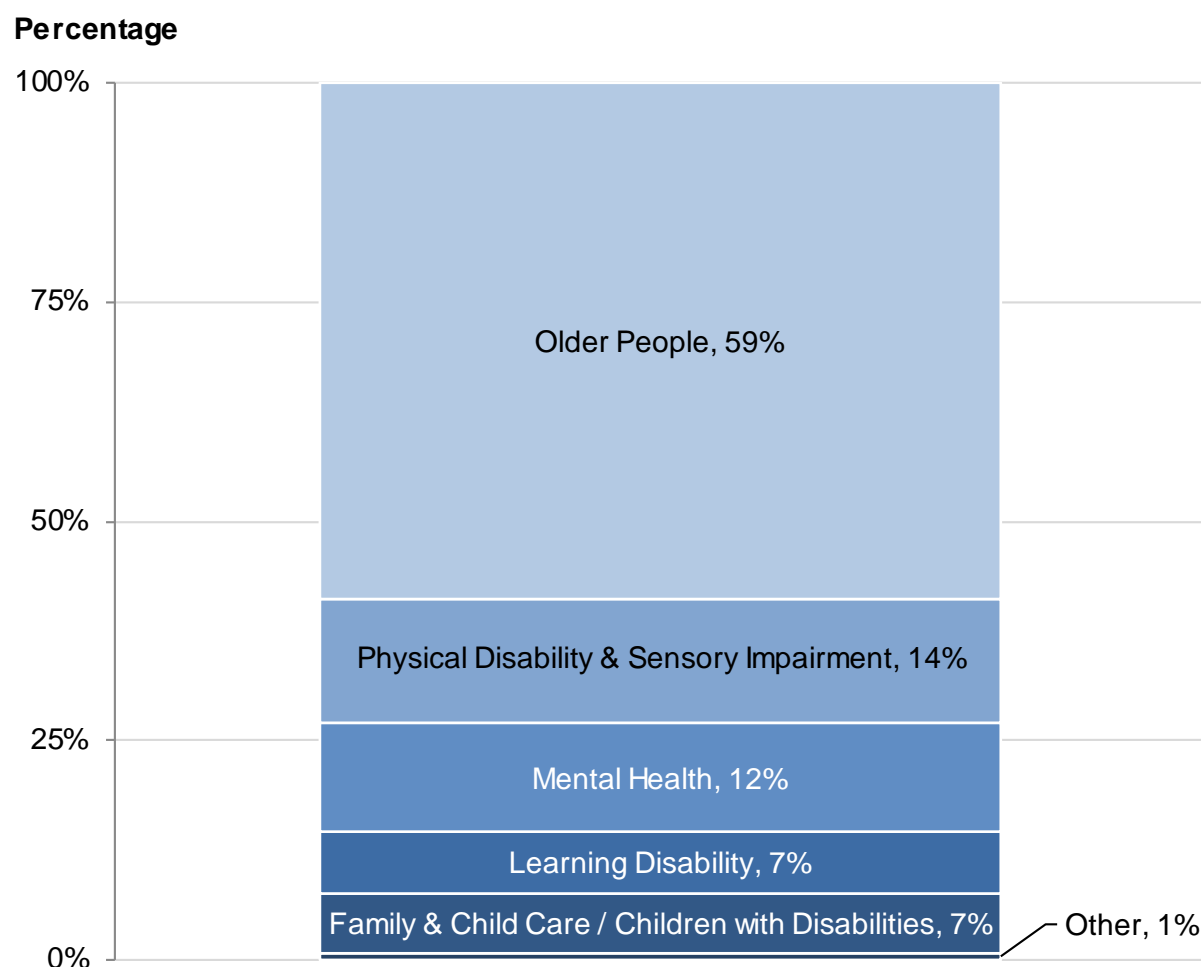
⁵A list of client groups and associated definitions can be found in [Appendix B](#) of this report.

⁶Decreases reported in quarter ending June 2020 were contributed to restrictions on the Carer's assessment service due to COVID-19.

During the Quarter ending 31 March 2022, almost three fifths (59%) of carers who had been offered an assessment were caring for someone in the Older People client group. Carers caring for someone in the Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment and the Mental Health client groups accounted for 14% and 12% respectively. The proportions of the remaining client groups can be found in Figure 6 ([Table 2](#)).

Figure 6 Proportion of Carers Assessments Offered by Client Group (of cared for person) (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Note: Mental Health includes CAMHS

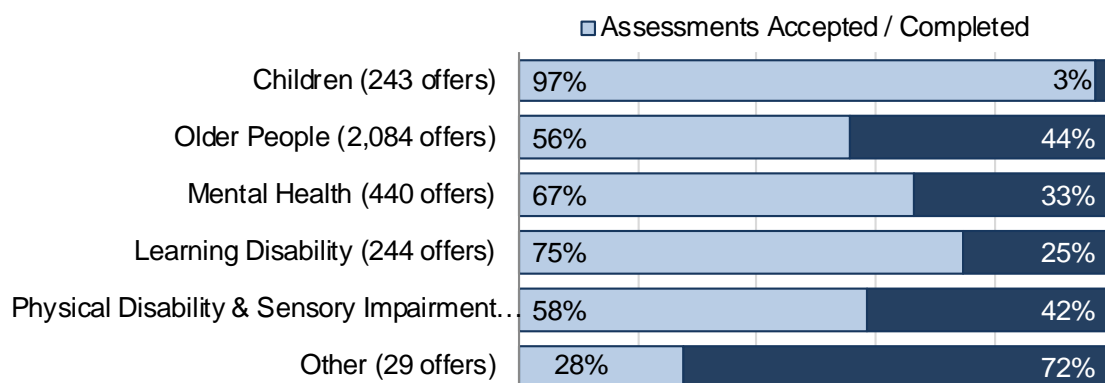


Across Northern Ireland, over 97% of those carers caring for someone in the Family & Child Care and Children with Disabilities client groups accepted or completed an offer of a carer's assessment. Other client groups with a higher proportion of carers accepting or completing an offer of assessment than declining were Learning Disability (75% accepted / completed), Mental Health (57% accepted / completed), Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment (58% accepted / completed) and Older People (56% accepted / completed) groups.

Those carers caring for someone in the 'Other' client group were more likely to decline an offer of assessment (72% declined). (Figure 7) ([Table 3 and Table 4](#)).

Figure 7 Proportion of Carers Assessments Accepted / Completed and Declined by Client group (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Note: Mental Health includes CAMHS. 'Children' covers 'Children with Disabilities' and 'Family and Child Care'.



Reasons for Declining a Carers Assessment

Many carers will be caring for someone who is already in receipt of community care services and are supported by existing care packages that are in place. An offer of a carers' assessment is to help identify those carers who require more support and to recognise carers as an individual with needs in their own right.

29%
Of carers who declined an offer of an assessment felt that they do not need any support / additional support.

During the Quarter ending 31 March 2022, figures show that the most frequent reason for declining an offer of a carers' assessment was that the carer felt that they did not need any support or additional support. This was the reason stated by just under a third of carers (29%, 404).

Almost a quarter of carers (23%, 314) who declined an offer of an assessment felt that the time / place / environment offered was unsuitable but would like the opportunity to consider an assessment at a later date.

14% (195) of people who declined the assessment did not give a reason/no reason was recorded.

The least frequent reason (<5%) for declining a carers' assessment during the Quarter ending 31 March 2022 was that the carer was concerned about the impact on their benefits / income (Figure 8) [\(Table 5\)](#).

Figure 8 Reasons given for declining a Carers Assessment (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

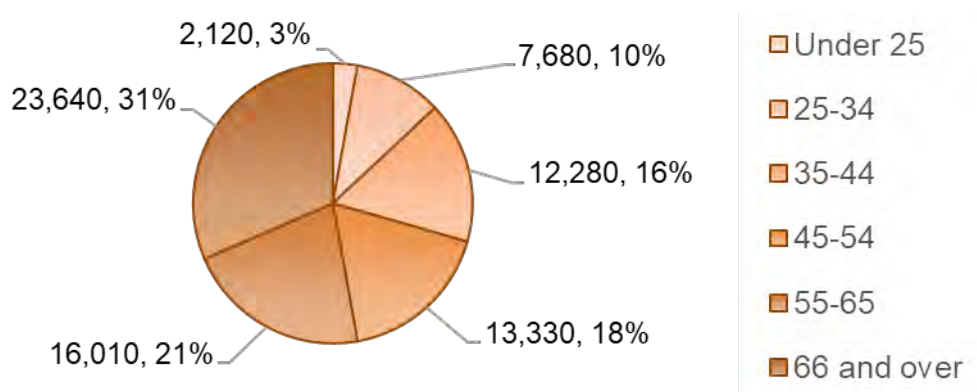
Reason Given	%
<i>The carer feels that they do not need any support / additional support</i>	29%
<i>The carer felt that the time / place / environment offered was unsuitable but would like the opportunity to consider an assessment at a later date</i>	23%
<i>The carer would not give a reason / No reason recorded</i>	14%
<i>The carer does not see themselves as a carer and therefore does not see assessment as relevant</i>	13%
<i>The carer sees their caring duties as a private matter which they prefer not to discuss</i>	11%
<i>The carer feels that an assessment would not result in additional support / service</i>	6%
<i>The carer feels that assessment would be too complicated or time consuming</i>	<5%
<i>The carer was concerned about the impact on their benefits / income</i>	<5%

Carers statistics from other sources

Carer's Allowance

In February 2022, there were 75,050 claimants of Carer's Allowance (CA) in Northern Ireland. Some half of these (52%) were aged 55 and over, with almost a third aged 65 and over (31%) (Figure 9). Please note that not all carers claim CA and furthermore, not all carers are eligible to claim CA.

Figure 9 Age of Carer's Allowance Claimants

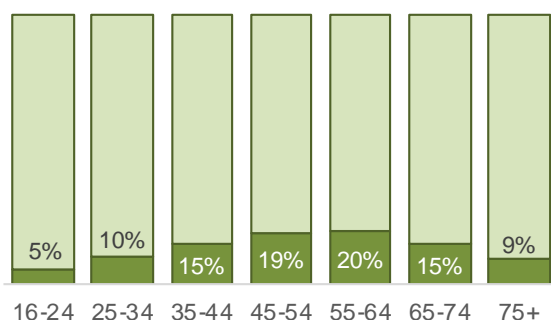


Department for Communities publish quarterly information on Carer's Allowance and other benefits. [Benefits Statistics Summary Publication \(National Statistics\) - February 2022 | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#).

NI Health Survey - Carers

The NI Health Survey 2018/19 found that 14% of the people surveyed had caring responsibilities for someone sick, disabled or elderly. More females (17%) than males (10%) had caring responsibilities. Of all those aged 75 or older in the survey, 9% had caring responsibilities. [Department of Health \(Health survey Northern Ireland: first results 2019/20\)](#) (Figure 10).

Figure 10 Proportion of carers for each age group



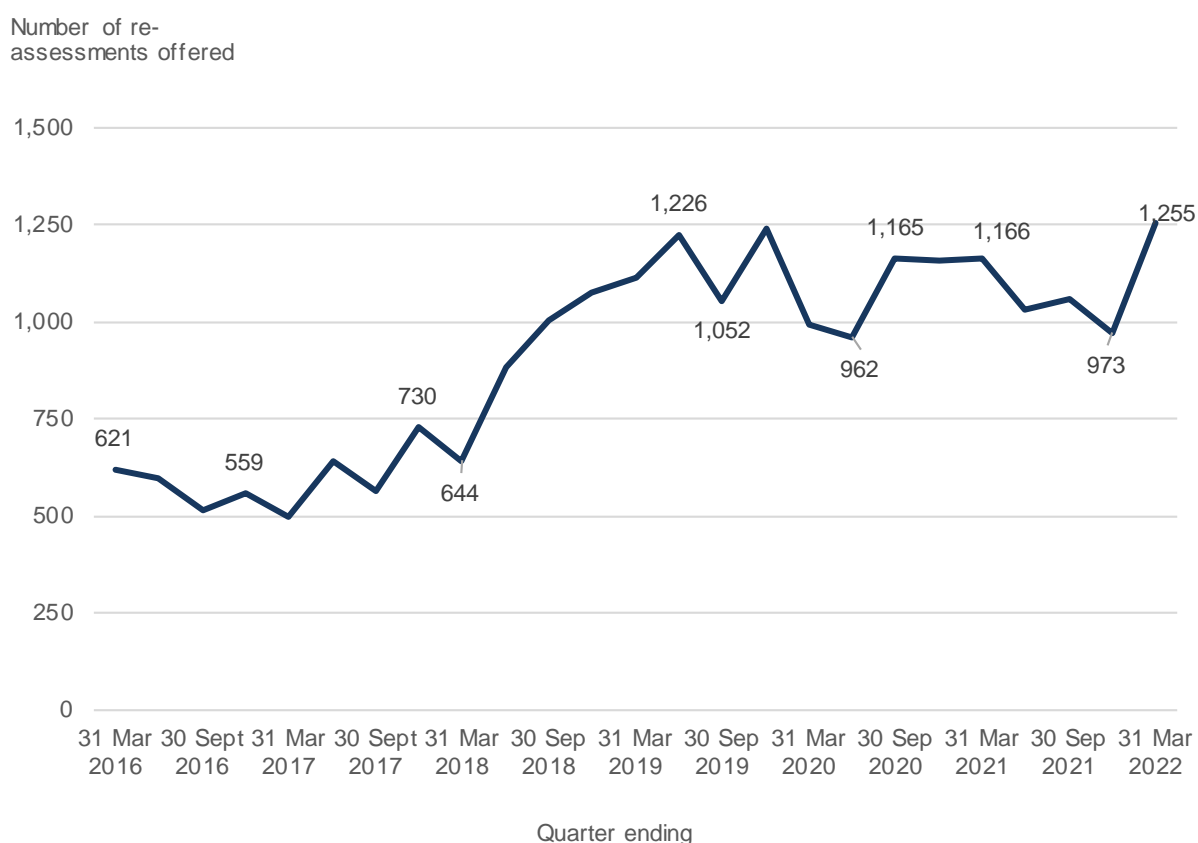
Department for Health publish the NI Health Survey annually at [Department of Health \(Health survey Northern Ireland\)](#).

4. Carers Reassessments

*A **Carers Reassessment** is required when a carers' circumstances change resulting in a change in their level of need. For example, this could be additional family commitments, changes in their work pattern, or varying physical or mental health. The Reassessment can be either a complete rework of the original Carers Assessment or an amendment to aspects of it.*

A carers' reassessment was offered to 1,255 carers in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 31 March 2022. This represents a 29% (282) increase on the number of reassessments offered in the previous quarter (973), and an increase of 8% (89) when compared to the same quarter in 2021 (1,166)⁷ (Figure 11).

Figure 11 Carers Reassessments Offered (Quarters ending 31 March 2016 - 31 March 2022)⁸



Of the 1,255 carers' reassessments offered, 84% (1,058) were accepted / completed and 16% (197) were declined.. (Figure 12) ([Table 6](#))

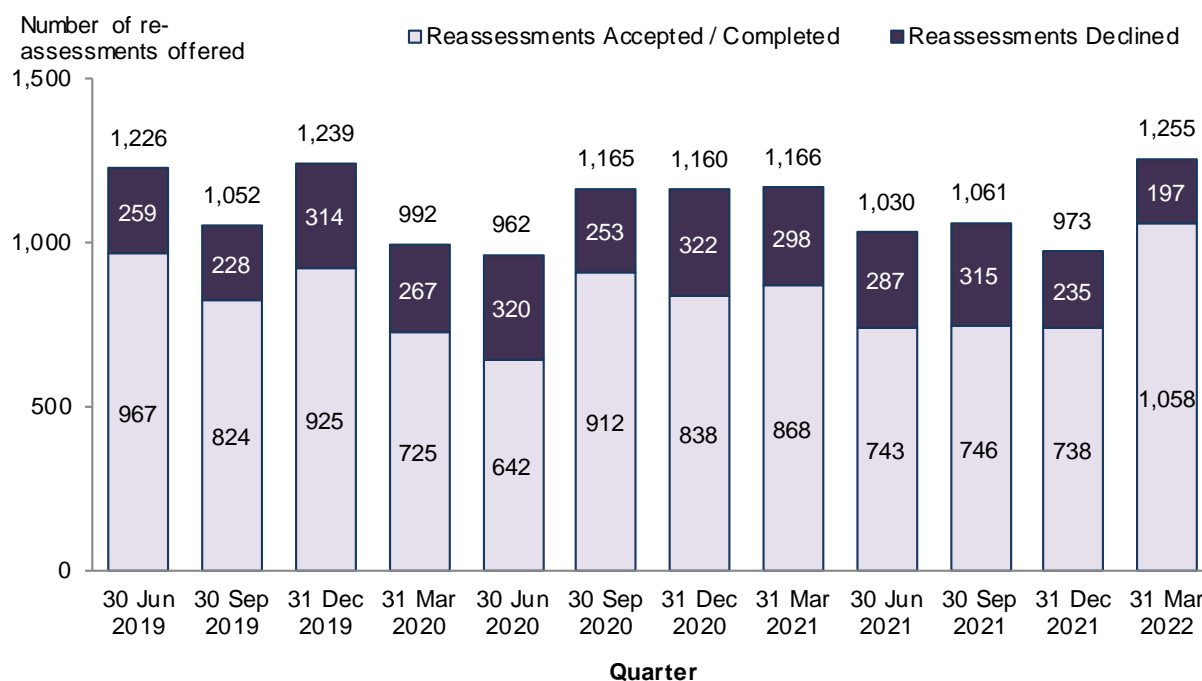
⁷ All figures presented can be found in table format in [Appendix C](#) of this report or in excel and CSV format on the Department of Health Northern Ireland website Department of Health (Carers' assessments and reassessments).

⁸ Decreases reported in quarter ending June 2020 were contributed to restrictions on the Carer's assessment service due to COVID-19. Please see June publication for an overview of COVID-19 impact on Carers Assessments at [Quarterly Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland](#)

The 1,058 carers' reassessments which were accepted / completed represents a 43% increase (320) from the previous quarter (738), and a 22% increase (190) from the same quarter in 2021 (868).

The 197 carers' reassessments which were declined represents a 16% decrease (38) from the previous quarter (235), and a 34% decrease (101) from the same quarter in 2021 (298).

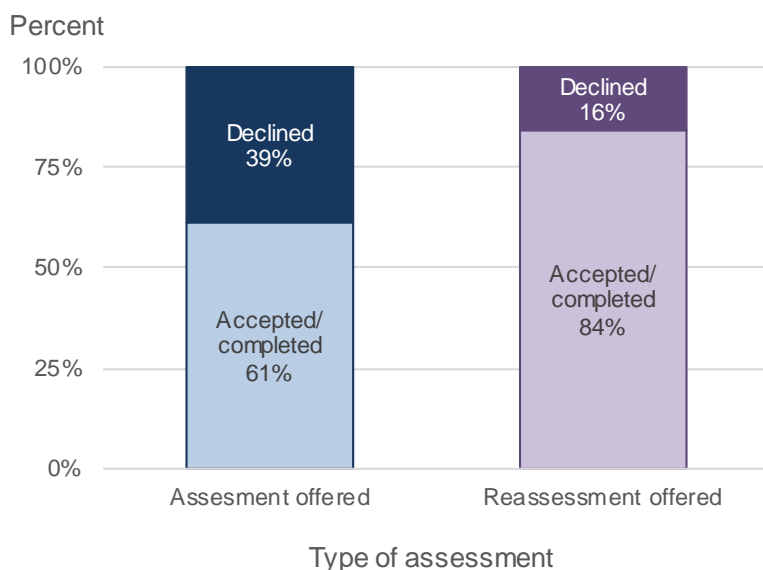
Figure 12 Carers Reassessments Offered, Accepted / Completed and Declined (Quarters ending 30 June 2019 - 31 March 2022)⁹



⁹ Decreases reported in quarter ending June 2020 were contributed to restrictions on the Carer's assessment service due to COVID-19. Please see June 2020 publication for an overview of COVID-19 impact on Carers Assessments: [Quarterly Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/quarterly-carers-statistics-for-northern-ireland)

A comparison between initial carers' assessments and carers' reassessments shows that a higher proportion of initial carers' assessments offered were declined (39%) compared to the carers' reassessments that were declined 16%) (Figure 13).

Figure 13 Proportion of Carers Assessments and Carers Reassessments Accepted / Completed and Declined (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)



Carers Reassessments by HSC Trust

Of all carers' reassessments offered in Northern Ireland, the Southern HSC Trust offered the most at 367 (29% of the total number), followed by the Northern HSC Trust (350; 28%); while the South Eastern HSC Trust offered the least at 64 (5% of the total number) (Figure 14) ([Table 7](#)).

Figure 14 Number of Carers Reassessments Offered by HSC Trust (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Number of Carers Reassessments Offered by HSC Trust				
Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western
144	350	64	367	330

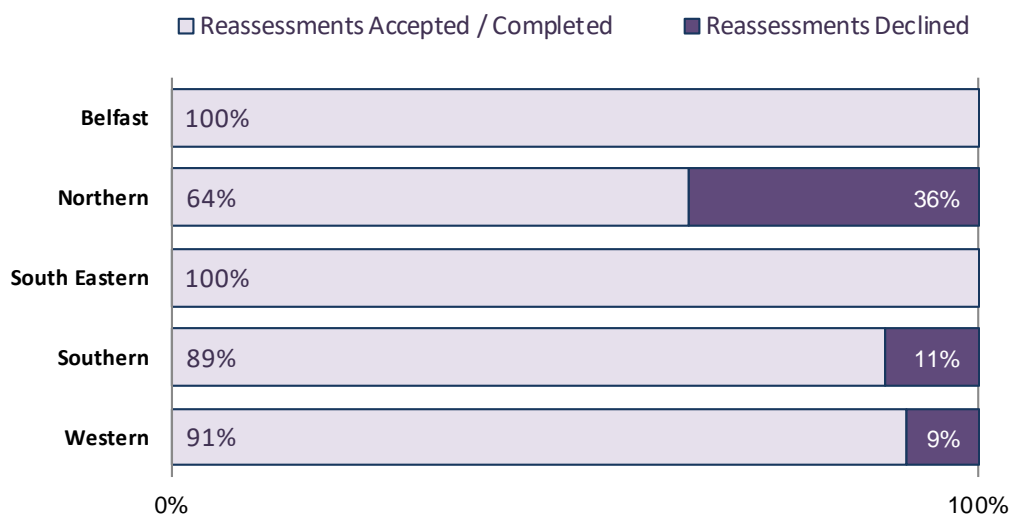
During Quarter ending 31 March 2022, all of the HSC Trusts, except for the South Eastern Trust, increased the number of carers' reassessments offered, with increases of 297%, 35%, 18% and 16% in the Belfast, Western, Northern and Southern HSC Trusts respectively.

The South Eastern Trusts decreased the number of carers' reassessments offered when compared to the previous quarter by 18%.

It is worth noting however, that carers' reassessment figures may be relatively small and quarter on quarter comparisons can be somewhat volatile.

During Quarter ending 31 March 2022, all HSC Trusts had a higher proportion of reassessments accepted / completed compared with those that were declined. This ranged from 100% accepted / completed for the Belfast and the South Eastern HSC Trust to 64% accepted / completed in the Northern HSC Trust. (Figure 15) ([Table 7](#)).

Figure 15 Proportion of Carers Reassessments Completed and Declined by HSC Trust (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)



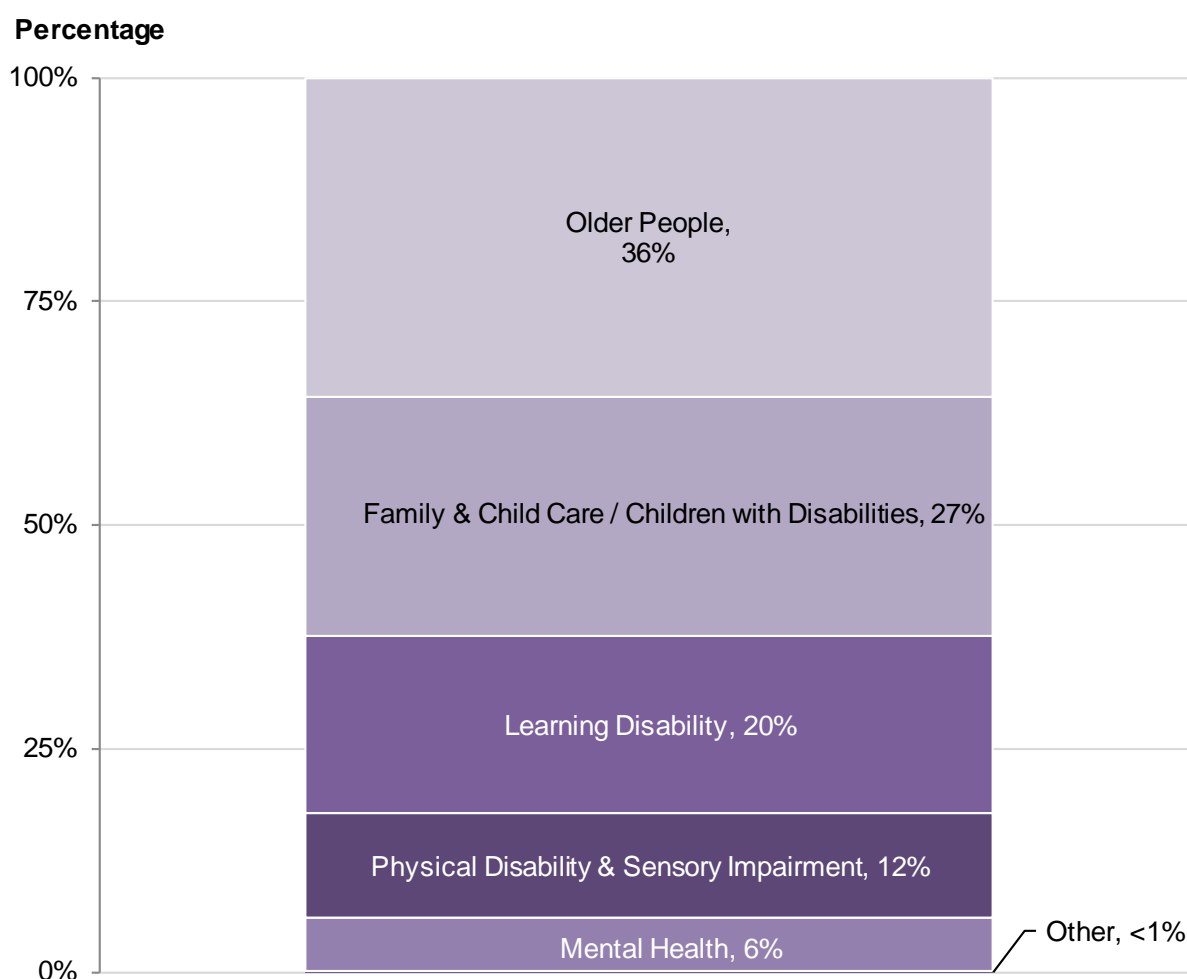
Client Group

Across Northern Ireland, figures show that during the Quarter ending 31 March 2022, over two thirds (36%) of carers who were offered a carers' reassessment were caring for someone in the Older People client group.

Reassessment offers to carers caring for someone in the Family and Child Care / Children with Disabilities client group accounted for 27%; the Learning Disability client group accounted for 20%; the Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment client group accounted for 12% and 6% were made to those caring for someone in the Mental Health client group (including CAMHS) (Figure 16).

Figure 16 Proportion of Carers Reassessments Offered by Client Group (of cared for person) (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Note: Mental Health includes CAMHS



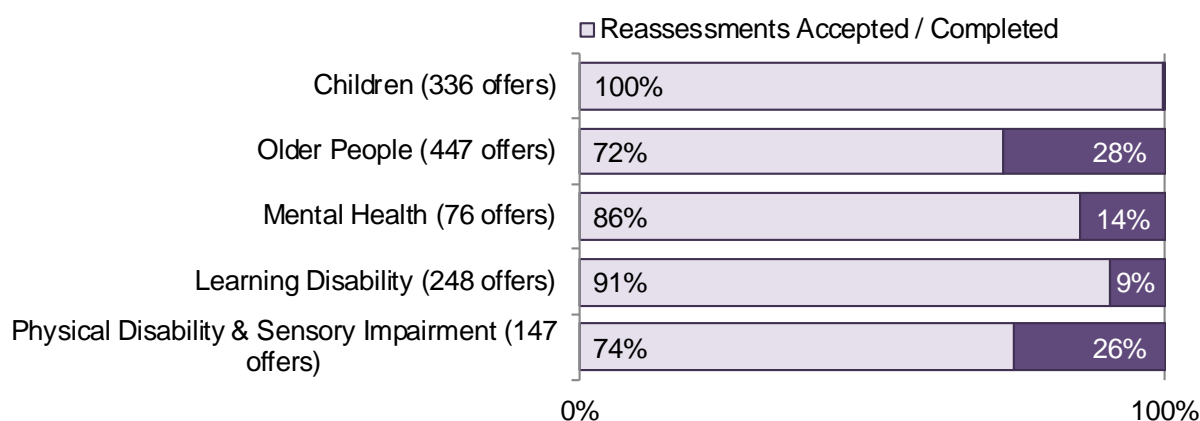
Across Northern Ireland, carers in all client groups were more likely to accept / complete an offer of a reassessment than decline (Figure 17) (Table 8). Of these groups, Family & Child Care / Children with Disabilities client groups were the most likely to accept an offer of reassessment, with all offers of reassessment being accepted.

Other client groups with a high proportion of reassessments accepted/completed include Learning Disability (91%) and Mental Health, including CAMHS (86%).

Carers caring for someone in the ‘Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment’ and ‘Older People’ client group both had almost three quarters of offers being completed/accepted (74% and 72% respectively).

Figure 17 Proportion of Carers Reassessments Accepted / Completed and Declined by Client Group (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)¹⁰

Note: Mental Health includes CAMHS. Children’ cover ‘Children with Disabilities’ and ‘Family and Child Care’.



Reasons for Declining a Carers Reassessment

During the Quarter ending 31 March 2022, the largest proportion of carers who declined an offer of a carers’ reassessment felt that they did not need any additional support (41%, 81) (Figure 18).

Just under a fifth (19%, 38) of people who declined the reassessment felt that time / place / environment offered was unsuitable but would like the opportunity to consider a reassessment at a later date

15% of Carers who declined an offer of a reassessment did not give a reason / no reason was recorded.

The least frequent reason for declining a carers’ reassessment during the Quarter ending 31 March 2022 was that the carer found previous assessments / reassessments too time consuming (< 5%) (Figure 18) [\(Table 9\)](#).

¹⁰ Please note there was a small number of offers of a carers’ reassessment declined by persons in an unspecified client group.

Figure 18 Reasons Given for Declining a Carers Reassessment (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Reason Given	%
<i>The carer feels that they do not need any additional support</i>	41%
<i>The carer felt that time / place / environment offered was unsuitable but would like the opportunity to consider a reassessment at a later date</i>	19%
<i>The carer would not give a reason / No reason recorded</i>	15%
<i>The carer feels that the reassessment would not result in additional support</i>	10%
<i>The carer sees their caring duties as a private matter which they prefer not to discuss</i>	9%
<i>The carer did not feel previous assessments / reassessments had been beneficial</i>	< 5%
<i>The carer found previous assessments / reassessments too time consuming</i>	< 5%

Appendix A: Technical Notes

Carers assessment publication

This statistical bulletin was first published 10 February 2012 under the name “Carers’ Statistics for Northern Ireland (Quarter Ending 30 June 2011)”. The name of the bulletin has since changed to “Quarterly Carers’ Statistics for Northern Ireland”.

Data Collection

A new adult Carers Assessment return has been introduced in quarter ending June 2019 to combine and streamline two separate data collections. This new return replaces the Carers return that was introduced in the quarter ending 31st March 2015, after the CA1 and CA1b community information returns covering data on carers’ assessments were discontinued.

The new Adult Carers Assessment return template is detailed in Appendix D and is also available on the [DoH website](#). Previous return templates are available on request.

The changes to the data collection following the change of source of data quarter ending June 2019 are set out below:

Figures on referrals are no longer collected.

The number of adult carers receiving a service is collected at year end.

The Older People client group figures are now separated out into ‘Older People’ and ‘Older People Mental Health’.

The age group of the carer is collected by age bands 16-17, 18-64 and 65+.

All information referring to quarter ending 30th June 2019 and subsequent quarters use the new carers return as source.

Experimental Statistics

As experimental statistics, going forward, the “Older People” client group figures will in the Tables be reported as “Older People” and “Older People Mental Health”.

Data Quality

The Adult Carers Assessment returns are validated and quality assured by HSC Trusts senior management before being submitted to the HSCB. Further validations and consistency checks are carried out by the HSCB before being shared with statisticians in DoH. Statisticians will use historical and/or other independent data to monitor emerging trends and variations within and between Trusts in order to query any discrepancies.

Statement of Administrative Sources

A detailed 'Statement of Administrative Sources' is available on the [DoH website](#).

Rounding Conventions

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100.

Disclosure Conventions

The information presented in this publication has been assessed for the risk of disclosure. To prevent disclosure of the identity of individual carers, it may be necessary to suppress the values of cells with low counts and those which could otherwise be derived by means of simple arithmetic.

In some instances low counts will not be suppressed as the risk of sensitive personal data being disclosed is considered low against the benefit of such figures being available. Further detail can be found in the Government Statistical Service's (GSS) guidance on [disclosure control](#) for tables produced from administrative sources and the [Anonymisation Standard for Publishing Health and Social Care Data](#).

Our policy statement on confidentiality and security is contained within the DoH Statistics Charter and is available on [DoH website](#).

Revisions Policy

These data are revised by exception. If revisions are required, background circumstances are reported and revision dates are noted in subsequent publications of these series of statistics.

Our policy statement on revisions and errors is contained within the DoH Statistics Charter and is available on our website.

Related Publications

This publication can be downloaded from the DoH website at:

[Department of Health \(Carers' assessments and reassessments\)](#)

Other statistical information relating to social care can be found at:

[Department of Health \(Social care statistics\)](#)

Health Survey Northern Ireland:

[Department of Health \(Health survey Northern Ireland\)](#)

Data for the UK

The statistics detailed in this report relate to Northern Ireland only. Similar information for England, Scotland and Wales may be found as detailed below.

England

Survey of Carers' in Households – 2009/10 England

[NHS Digital \(Survey of Carers in Households - England, 2009-10\)](#)

Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers' in England – 2020/21

[Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey - NHS Digital](#)

Adult Social Care Activity and Finance Report

[Adult Social Care Activity and Finance Report - NHS Digital](#)

Wales

Welsh Health Survey: Health of Carers

[National Survey for Wales](#)

Scotland

Information about Carers' Statistics in Scotland can be found at the following link:

[Scotland's Carers - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Scotland's carers update](#)

Carers Census, covering unpaid carers being supported by local services across Scotland in 2018 to 2019.

[Carers Census: results 2018 to 2019](#)

Official Statistics

These are 'Official Statistics' as defined in Section 6 of the [Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007](#). They were produced by Community Information Branch (CIB) within the DoH.

User Feedback

Any comments you have regarding this or any other publication produced by CIB are welcome. Your views help us to improve the service we provide to users of this information and to the wider public.

Future Statistical Release

Upcoming releases for all social care statistics produced by CIB can be found on the IAD Publications Calendar at [Department of Health \(Statistical releases calendar\)](#).

Appendix B: Definitions

Carers and Direct Payments (Northern Ireland) Act 2002

The [Carers and Direct Payments Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002](#) came into effect on 2 May 2002. This Act gives carers the right to a separate assessment of their needs and places an obligation on HSC Trusts to identify and provide information to carers. All carers providing or intending to provide care on a regular and substantial basis therefore have a legal right to have their needs assessed. The results of a carers' assessment should be recorded separately from that of the person cared for.

A Carer

A carer is someone who provides or intends to provide a **substantial** amount of care on a regular basis. The term 'carer' includes a person who may or may not be a relative and who may or may not be living with the person for whom they are caring. A carer provides help and support to someone, such as a family member, friend or neighbour, who may not be able to manage at home without this help because of frailty, illness or disability. A carer can be an adult caring for another adult, parents caring for ill or disabled children or young people of 16 or 17 years of age who care for someone.

It does not include someone who is providing care by virtue of a contract of employment, a volunteer working on behalf of a voluntary organisation, a foster carer or anyone who is providing personal assistance for payment either in cash or kind.

Substantial Care

The term 'substantial' is not defined in the [Carers and Direct Payments Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002](#) but is left to professional judgement. It should not be based simply on the number of hours spent caring, but also take into consideration the impact of the caring role on the carers own health and well-being, key factors relating to the sustainability of the role and the extent of risk to the sustainability of the role.

Carers Assessment

Carers have a right to an assessment of their needs even when the person cared for has refused an assessment for community care services, or the provision of services, provided the person cared for would be eligible for community based services.

A carers' assessment is the process of gathering data for the purpose of determining a carers' needs and eligibility for services to sustain their caring role. All services offered to a carer should be the outcome of an assessment of need. The assessment must be formally documented, placed on file and a copy given to the carer. The "Carers Support and Needs Assessment" component of the [Northern Ireland Single Assessment Tool \(NISAT\)](#) for assessing the health and social care needs of older

people is the “tool of choice” for use in assessing the needs of carers in all programmes of care, thus ensuring a standardised approach to assessment regardless of where they live in Northern Ireland. This component was issued to Trusts in June 2009 along with associated guidance.

The assessment focuses on the needs of the carer and the purpose of the assessment is to:

- give the carer an opportunity to talk about their caring role;
- determine the support needs of the carer;
- determine whether the carer is eligible for support;
- determine if the needs identified can be met by the Trust or other services and to make an appropriate referral.

The focus of the assessment is on the carers’ ability to care and the support they need to continue in their caring role. The assessment takes account of the carers’ circumstances, age, views and preferences, available support, family and other commitments. The assessment is not a test for the carer but is about recognising, valuing and supporting the carer. The process can be important in itself even where service provision does not flow from the assessment. The decision about services to be provided should be informed by the assessments of both the carer and the person being cared for.

Carers Reassessment

A reassessment is required when/if the carers’ circumstances change and hence the level of support required to enable the carer to continue caring. Changed circumstances could become known to the professional:

- through a planned event such as a review of existing support plan;
- unplanned changes in carers’ personal circumstances e.g. physical or mental health, additional other family commitments, changes in work pattern etc;
- a crisis which impacts on the health or wellbeing of the person cared for.

Carers Assessments / Reassessments Offered

The number of carers’ assessments / reassessments offered is the total of those accepted / completed plus those declined (see definitions below).

Carers Assessments Accepted / Completed

This refers to all assessments completed during the quarter, which were focused on a carers’ need for support to sustain their caring role, whether they took place on the

same day as the assessment of the person cared for or were conducted on a separate date.

Carers Reassessments Accepted / Completed

This refers to all reassessments completed during the quarter in response to the changing need of the carer.

Carers Declining a Carers Assessment / Reassessment

This refers to all assessments / reassessments that were offered to carers by HSC Trust staff, and the offer was declined during the quarter, for whatever reason. If a carer declined an assessment / reassessment more than once during the quarter, they should only be counted once.

Client Group

Client group refers to that of the cared for person.

Family and Child Care

This group is mainly concerned with activity and resources relating to the provision of social services support for families and/or children.

Children with Disabilities

This group is mainly concerned with children and young people who have a physical, sensory or learning disability or prolonged illness or condition which, in interaction with various barriers, and without the provision of adequate support services, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others and hinder their optimal potential for personal development and social inclusion.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

This group is mainly concerned with children and young people where the primary reason for contact was due to mental health.

Older People (including Older People Mental Health)

This programme includes all community contacts with those aged 65 or over except where the reason for contact was mental illness or learning disability. All community contacts where the reason for the contact was dementia are included regardless of age, as well as all work relating to homes for the elderly, including those for the Elderly Mentally Infirm.

Please note that as experimental statistics, "Older People" and "Older People Mental Health" will be separated in the published tables.

Adult Mental Health

This programme includes all community contact where the primary reason for contact was due to mental health.

Adult Learning Disability

This programme includes all community contacts where the primary reason for contact was due to learning disability. All community contacts with Down's Syndrome patients who develop dementia, for any dementia related care or treatment are included as are all contacts in learning disability homes and units.

Adult Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment

This programme includes all community contacts by any health professional where the primary reason for the contact is physical and/or sensory disability. All patients and clients aged 65 and over are excluded and allocated to the Elderly Care Programme.

Other

Any carer caring for someone who does not fall under one of the outlined client groups should be included in this group.

Adult Carers Assessment return

This return records the number of carers for whom a carers' assessment or reassessment has been accepted / completed, the number of carers declining a carers' assessment or reassessment and the main reason given by the carer for declining a carers' assessment or reassessment during the quarter. These figures are available by the client group of the person for whom the carer is caring for.

Reasons for declining an offer of a Carers Assessment

A1 - The carer sees their caring duties as a private matter which they prefer not to discuss.

A2 - The carer does not see themselves as a carer and therefore does not see assessment as relevant.

A3 - The carer felt that time/ place/ environment offered was unsuitable but would like the opportunity to consider an assessment at a later date.

A4 - The carer feels that they do not need any support/ additional support.

A5 - The carer feels that an assessment would not result in additional support/ service.

A6 - The carer was concerned about the impact on their benefits/ income.

A7 - The carer feels that assessment would be too complicated or time consuming.

A8 - The carer would not give a reason/ No reason recorded.

Reasons for declining an offer of a Carers Reassessment

R1 - The carer sees their caring duties as a private matter which they prefer not to discuss.

R2 - The carer did not feel previous assessments/ re-assessments had been beneficial.

R3 - The carer felt that time/ place/ environment offered was unsuitable but would like the opportunity to consider a re-assessment at a later date.

R4 - The carer feels that they do not need any additional support.

R5 - The carer feels that the re-assessment would not result in additional support.

R6 - The carer found previous assessments/ re-assessments too time consuming.

R7 - The carer would not give a reason/ No reason recorded.

The Adult Carers Assessment return template is detailed in [Appendix D](#).

Appendix C: Tables

Please note that all tables can be found in excel format at: [Carers' assessments and reassessments | Department of Health](#)

Table 1: Carers Assessments Offered, Accepted / Completed and Declined (Quarters ending 30 June 2019 - 31 March 2022)

Quarter	30 Jun 2019	30 Sep 2019	31 Dec 2019	31 Mar 2020	30 Jun 2020	30 Sep 2020	31 Dec 2020	31 Mar 2021	30 Jun 2021	30 Sep 2021	31 Dec 2021	31 Mar 2022
Assessments Offered	4,160	4,133	4,201	4,082	2,789	3,386	3,750	4,227	4,339	3,989	3,408	3,543
Assessments Accepted / Completed	2,007	2,073	2,074	1,979	1,503	1,756	2,172	2,518	2,374	2,345	2,040	2,173
Assessments Declined	2,153	2,060	2,127	2,103	1,286	1,630	1,578	1,709	1,965	1,644	1,368	1,370

Table 2: Carers Assessments Offered by Client Group and HSC Trust (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Note: Mental Health includes CAMHS.

Experimental statistics: The client group "Older People" has been split into "Older People" and "Older People Mental Health".

[Sup] cell value has been suppressed in order to avoid personal disclosure.

	Family & Child Care / Children with Disabilities	Older People	Older People Mental Health	Mental Health	Learning Disability	Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment	Other	Total Assessments Offered
HSC Trust								
Belfast	123	429	53	129	38	84	0	856
Northern	68	464	223	84	62	135	27	1,063
South Eastern	31	396	60	104	48	34	0	673
Southern	[Sup]	164	61	113	32	113	[Sup]	503
Western	[Sup]	227	7	10	64	137	[Sup]	448
Northern Ireland	243	1,680	404	440	244	503	29	3,543

Table 3: Carers Assessments Accepted / Completed by Client Group and HSC Trust (Quarter ending 31 March 2022) Error! Bookmark not defined.

Note: Mental Health includes CAMHS.

Experimental statistics: The client group “Older People” has been split into “Older People” and “Older People Mental Health”.

[Sup] cell value has been suppressed in order to avoid personal disclosure.

HSC Trust	Family & Child Care / Children with Disabilities	Older People	Older People Mental Health	Mental Health	Learning Disability	Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment	Other	Total Assessments Accepted / Completed
Belfast	123	345	[Sup]	102	[Sup]	73	0	732
Northern	[Sup]	194	118	[Sup]	41	42	[Sup]	528
South Eastern	26	162	24	95	22	26	0	355
Southern	17	100	37	32	[Sup]	59	[Sup]	273
Western	[Sup]	125	[Sup]	[Sup]	53	94	[Sup]	285
Northern Ireland	236	926	234	293	182	294	8	2,173

Table 4: Carers Assessments Declined by Client Group and HSC Trust (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Note: Mental Health includes CAMHS.

Experimental statistics: The client group “Older People” has been split into “Older People” and “Older People Mental Health”.

[Sup] cell value has been suppressed in order to avoid personal disclosure.

HSC Trust	Family & Child Care / Children with Disabilities	Older People	Older People Mental Health	Mental Health	Learning Disability	Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment	Other	Total Assessments Declined
Belfast	0	84	[Sup]	27	[Sup]	11	0	124
Northern	[Sup]	270	105	[Sup]	21	93	[Sup]	535
South Eastern	5	234	36	9	26	8	0	318
Southern	[Sup]	64	24	81	[Sup]	54	[Sup]	230
Western	[Sup]	102	[Sup]	[Sup]	11	43	[Sup]	163
Northern Ireland	7	754	170	147	62	209	21	1,370

Table 5: Reasons Given for Declining a Carers Assessment (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Main Reason a Carer Declined a Carers Assessment	Northern Ireland
The carer sees their caring duties as a private matter which they prefer not to discuss	153
The carer does not see themselves as a carer and therefore does not see assessment as relevant	177
The carer felt that time / place / environment offered was unsuitable but would like the opportunity to consider an assessment at a later date	314
The carer feels that they do not need any support / additional support	404
The carer feels that an assessment would not result in additional support / service	84
The carer was concerned about the impact on their benefits / income	10
The carer feels that assessment would be too complicated or time consuming	33
The carer would not give a reason / No reason recorded	195
Total	1,370

Table 6: Carers Reassessments Offered, Accepted / Completed and Declined (Quarters ending 30 June 2019 - 31 March 2022)

Quarter	30 Jun 2019	30 Sep 2019	31 Dec 2019	31 Mar 2020	30 Jun 2020	30 Sep 2020	31 Dec 2020	31 Mar 2021	30 Jun 2021	30 Sep 2021	31 Dec 2021	31 Mar 2022
Reassessments Offered	1,226	1,052	1,239	992	962	1,165	1,160	1,166	1,030	1,061	973	1,255
Reassessments Accepted / Completed	967	824	925	725	642	912	838	868	743	746	738	1,058
Reassessments Declined	259	228	314	267	320	253	322	298	287	315	235	197

Table 7: Carers Reassessments by HSC Trust (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

HSC Trust	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Northern Ireland
Total Reassessments Offered	144	350	64	367	330	1,255
Total Reassessments Accepted / Completed	144	224	64	325	301	1,058
Total Reassessments Declined	0	126	0	42	29	197

Table 8: Carers Reassessments by Client Group (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Note: Mental Health includes CAMHS.

Experimental statistics: The client group “Older People” has been split into “Older People” and “Older People Mental Health”. Note:

In some instances low counts will not be suppressed as the risk of sensitive personal data being disclosed is considered low.

[Sup] cell value has been suppressed in order to avoid personal disclosure.

Client group	Family & Child Care / Children with Disabilities	Older People	Older People Mental Health	Mental Health	Learning Disability	Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment	Other	Total
Total reassessments offered	336	210	237	76	248	147	1	1,255
Total reassessments accepted / completed	[Sup]	119	205	65	225	109	[Sup]	1,058
Total reassessments declined	[Sup]	91	32	11	23	38	[Sup]	197

Table 9: Reasons Given for Declining a Carers Reassessment (Quarter ending 31 March 2022)

Note: In some instances low counts will not be suppressed as the risk of sensitive personal data being disclosed is considered low.


Main Reason a Carer Declined a Carers Assessment	Northern Ireland
The carer sees their caring duties as a private matter which they prefer not to discuss	17
The carer did not feel previous assessments / reassessments had been beneficial	8
The carer felt that time / place / environment offered was unsuitable but would like the opportunity to consider a reassessment at a later date	38
The carer feels that they do not need any additional support	81
The carer feels that the reassessment would not result in additional support	20
The carer found previous assessments / reassessments too time consuming	4
The carer would not give a reason / No reason recorded	29
Total	197

Table 10: Annual Trend for Northern Ireland Carers Assessment and Reassessment Totals (2015/16 – 2020/21)

Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/16	2018/16	2019/16	2020/21
Assessments Offered	12,959	13,664	14,859	17,765	16,576	14,152
Assessments Accepted / Completed	5,028	6,064	7,171	8,836	8,133	7,949
Assessments Declined	7,931	7,600	7,688	8,929	8,443	6,203
Reassessments Offered	2,281	2,167	2,581	4,077	4,509	4,453
Reassessments Accepted / Completed	1,431	1,550	1,932	3,104	3,441	3,260
Reassessments Declined	850	617	649	973	1,068	1,193

Appendix D: Adult Carers Assessment Return

A copy of these returns can be made available upon request from Community Information Branch. [Contact Us](#)



Revised February 2019

CARERS ASSESSMENT MONITORING RETURN

Contact Name:
 Contact Number:
 HSC Unit:
 Quarter Ending:

TABLE 1: ASSESSMENTS (cell will self-populate)

Client Group	Number of Adult Carers Of/and Individual Carer's Assessments				Number of Adult Individual Carer's Assessments Completed				Number of Adult Individual Carer's Assessments Declined				Main Reason Adult Carer Declined Carer's Assessment								Control Column			
	16-17	18-64	65+	Total	16-17	18-64	65+	Total	16-17	18-64	65+	Total	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8				
Children	Family & Child Care				0				0															
	Children with Disabilities				0				0															
	Childminding				0				0															
	Childminding				0				0															
Other People				0				0				0												
Other People Mental Health				0				0				0												
Adult Mental Health				0				0				0												
Adult Learning Disability				0				0				0												
Adult Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment				0				0				0												
Other (please specify in heading column below)				0				0				0												
Total				0				0				0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

To be completed for Quarter Ending 31st March only

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF ADULT CARERS RECEIVING A SERVICE AT 31st MARCH

Client Group	Number of Adult Carers Receiving a Service as at 31st March			
Age Range of Carer	16-17	18-64	65+	Total
Children	Family & Child Care			
	Children with Disabilities			
	Childminding			
	Childminding			
Other People				
Other People Mental Health				
Adult Mental Health				
Adult Learning Disability				
Adult Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment				
Other (please specify in heading column below)				
Total				

TABLE 3: RE-ASSESSMENT (cell will self-populate)

Client Group	Number of Adult Carers Of/and Individual Carer's Re-Assessments				Number of Adult Individual Carer's Re-Assessments Completed				Number of Adult Individual Carer's Re-Assessments Declined				Main Reason Adult Carer Declined Carer's Re-Assessment							Control Column			
	16-17	18-64	65+	Total	16-17	18-64	65+	Total	16-17	18-64	65+	Total	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7				
Children	Family & Child Care				0				0														
	Children with Disabilities				0				0														
	Childminding				0				0														
	Childminding				0				0														
Other People				0				0				0											
Other People Mental Health				0				0				0											
Adult Mental Health				0				0				0											
Adult Learning Disability				0				0				0											
Adult Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment				0				0				0											
Other (please specify in heading column below)				0				0				0											
Total				0				0				0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NOTES:
 Completed Returns should be submitted to: HSC.Director@hsc.nhs.uk
 Please return no later than 4 weeks after the end of each quarter, see timetable for submission list.
 A Guidance sheet (available from included link) is available.

Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland

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This and other statistical bulletins published by Community Information Branch are available to download on the DoH website at:

[Department of Health \(Social care statistics\)](#).

This publication can be requested in large print or other formats.