Loughborough University

Loughborough University
Institutional Repository

Costs and outcomes for children's services in Scotland: a tool to analyse routinely collected data

This item was submitted to Loughborough University's Institutional Repository by the/an author.

Citation: TRIVEDI, H., 2015. Costs and outcomes for children's services in Scotland: a tool to analyse routinely collected data. Presented at: New directions in child protection and wellbeing: making a real difference to children's lives (BASPCAN Congress 2015), Edinburgh, 12-15 April 2015.

Additional Information:

- This is a powerpoint presentation.

Metadata Record: https://dspace.lboro.ac.uk/2134/18314

Version: Accepted for publication

Publisher: BASPCAN

Rights: This work is made available according to the conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) licence. Full details of this licence are available at: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/

Please cite the published version.

Costs and outcomes for children's services in Scotland: a tool to analyse routinely collected data

Helen Trivedi

Research Associate

Centre for Child and Family Research

Loughborough University

Centre for Child and Family Research

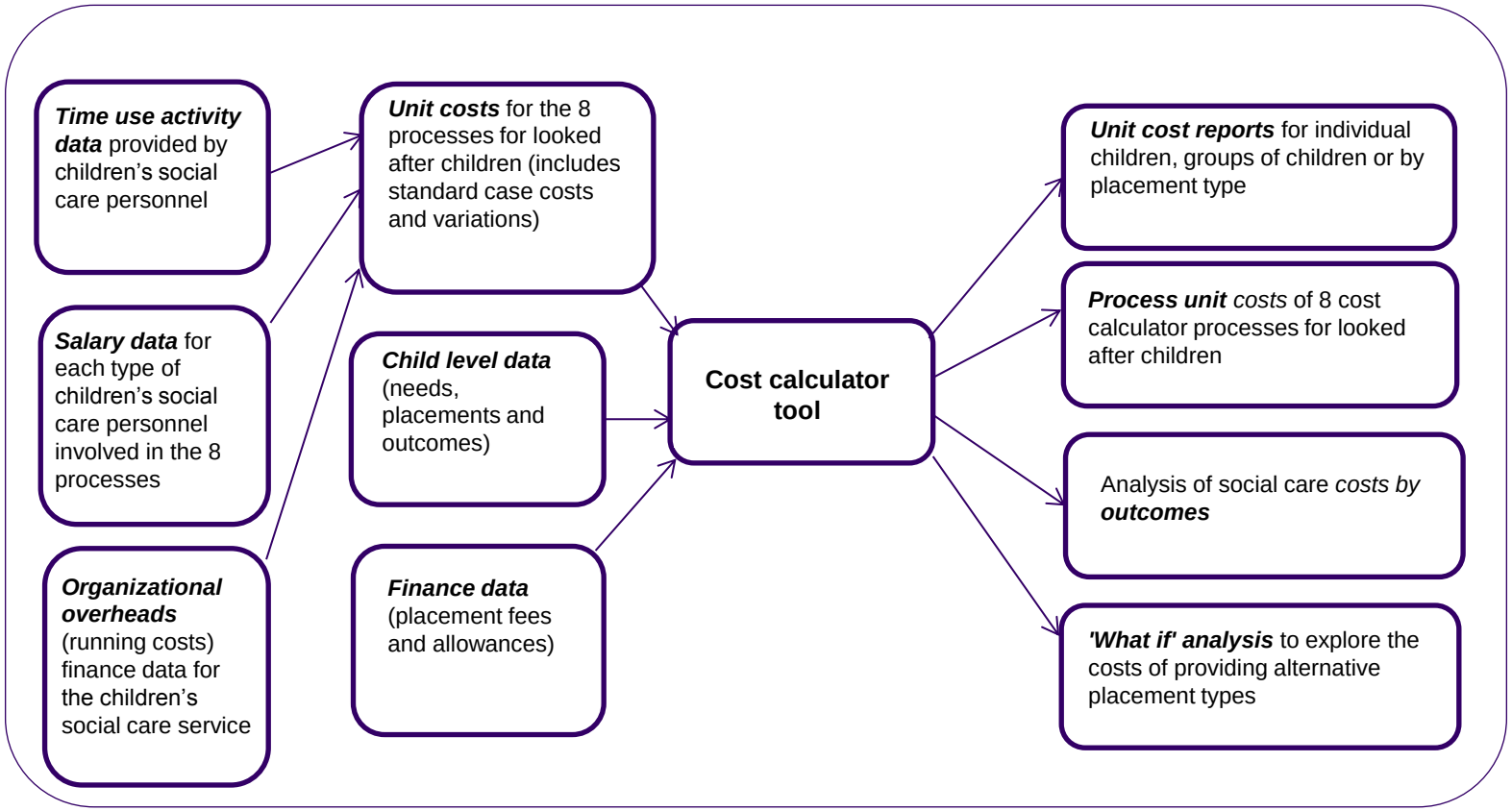
Methodology overview

- Costs from ‘bottom up’
- The child or family is the starting point
- Uses child level data on children’s characteristics and experiences
- Links to unit costs of case management activity organised into ‘processes’, with service provision
- To calculate costs of support overtime
- Child, placement and service pathway variations
- Relates costs to outcomes

http://www.lboro.ac.uk/media/wwwlboroacuk/content/ccfr/publications/CCfCS%20Summary%20March%202014.pdf

Loughborough University
Centre for Child and Family Research

The Cost Calculator for Children's Services: Inputs and Outputs



Social Care Processes for Looked After Children

1. Decide child needs to be looked after (including activity for finding initial placement)
2. Care planning
3. Maintaining the placement
4. Leaving care/return home
5. Find a subsequent placement
6. Review
7. Legal processes
8. Transition to leaving care/ after care services

Loughborough University
Centre for Child and Family Research

Social care activity: worked example

Process 6 Review: Staff Salary costs

	Pay scale midpoint (includes on costs)	£39,944.87
+	45% for overheads	£17,975.19
+	Capital overheads	£1943
		£59,863.06
	42 working weeks per year	1425.31
	37 hours per week	**38.52**

Hourly rate for Social Worker = £38.52

Loughborough University
Centre for Child and Family Research

Social care activity: worked example

Process 6 Review: social worker

- Consultation with child or young person prior to review
- Consultation with parents prior to review
- Consultation with carer prior to review
- Organising room booking
- Completion of social worker report
- Duration of review
- Fact finding/liaising within and outside of social services
- Visits or discussions with carers/potential placement
- After review – distribution of review form
- Actions resulting from review
- Case files and LAC/ICS paperwork

Loughborough University
Centre for Child and Family Research

Social care activity: worked example

Process 6 Review: Standard case (ENGLAND)

Activity	Time	Hourly rate	Unit cost per worker
Social Worker	5 ¼ hours	38.52	202.23
Admin	1 hour	21.21	21.21
Team Manager	1 ½ hours	48.36	72.54
Fostering Team social worker	2 hours	38.52	77.04
Independent reviewing officer	5 ¾ hours	44.00	253.89

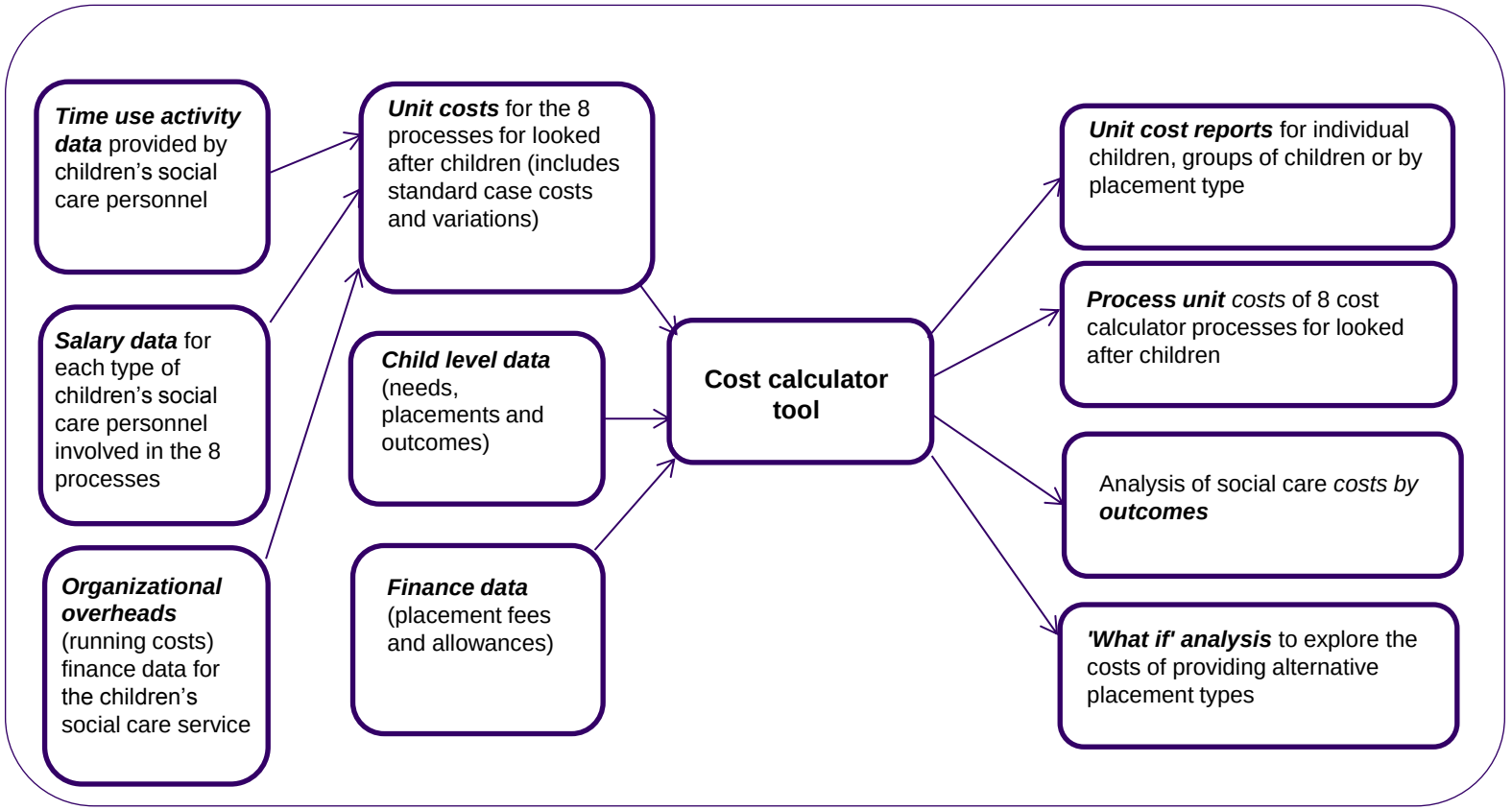
Unit cost Review (standard case) = **£626.91**

Social care activity: worked example

Process 6 Review: Variations

Variation	Additional activity	Additional cost	New unit cost
Standard case			£626.91
First leaving Care Review	PLUS 5 ¼ hours	404.46	£1031.37
Unaccompanied Asylum seeking Children	PLUS 10 ½ for Translator	327.82	£954.73
Children in placements other than foster care	MINUS 2 hours for foster team	- 77.04	£549.87

The Cost Calculator for Children's Services: Inputs and Outputs



Loughborough University
Centre for Child and Family Research

The development for Scotland

- Funded by the Scottish Government
  - Working with two local authorities
  - Development of underpinning information:
    - Scoping exercise
    - Development of the processes for Scotland
    - Calculate unit costs
  - Adapt software:
    - Initial programming
    - Testing

The development for Scotland

- Time use activity data
  - Mapped social care processes for Scotland
  - Time use activity data from frontline workers
- Focus groups
- Verification scenarios
- Online surveys

The project so far

- Focus group data collection in LA1
- Verification focus group data collection LA2
- Local authority salary and finance data collection

- Future actions
  - Survey verification
  - Software programming

Emerging findings

- Eight social care processes map across to Scotland
  - Standardised universally applicable framework
  - Replicable across different contexts
- Fewer practice differences than initially anticipated
- Structurally the CCfCS largely remains the same

Different types of cases

England		Scotland	
Section 20	**Section 31**	**Section 25**	**Section 86**
Voluntary	Legal	Voluntary	Legal orders
Out of home care	Placed with parents (**5% of total LAC, 2014**)	Out of home care	Looked-after at home (**26.6% of total LAC, 2014**)
	Out of home care		Out of home care
An Independent Reviewing Officer assigned to ALL cases		A Reviewing Officer NOT assigned to LAC at home	

Social care activity: worked example
Process 6: Review (social worker)

- Consultation with child or young person prior to review
- Consultation with parents prior to review
- Consultation with carer prior to review
- Organising room booking
- Completion of social worker report
- Duration of review
- Fact finding/liaising within and outside of social services
- Visits or discussions with carers/potential placement
- After review – distribution of review form
- Actions resulting from review
- Case files and LAC/ICS paperwork
- **Collation of paper work to Children's reporter**
- **Children's Hearing**

Loughborough University
Centre for Child and Family Research

Difference in time use

- Legal process 7
  - Less waiting time for practice social workers, Children's Hearing and working with Sheriff reduces court time

Loughborough University
Centre for Child and Family Research

Outputs: Analysis

- Analysis of time use activity data
  - Direct and indirect activities
  - Reconfiguration of processes
    - Use of panels
- Understanding process costs can inform decision making
  - placement change for children in care
  - “What if” analysis

Contact details

- www.lboro.ac.uk/research/ccfr

Costs and Outcomes Programme: overview paper

http://www.lboro.ac.uk/media/wwwlboroacuk/content/ccfr/publications/CCfCS%20Summary%20March%202014.pdf

- H.L.Trivedi@lboro.ac.uk
- www.lboro.ac.uk/research/ccfr

Loughborough University
Centre for Child and Family Research