



Users' Newsletter

Issue 1, 16 October 2007

New and improved Cost Calculator version 6.5 released

Cost Calculator 6.5 was released to all licensed users on 12th October 2007. More detailed analysis of placement costs and patterns is now available for authorities that import placement names and providers in addition to the SSDA 903 placement information.

For example, the Separate Placements report now includes pivot controls that allow you to select by

placement name or provider name.

The screen shot shows a particular placement, Green Roofs, and lists the total costs for the two children placed there during the user-selected calculation period. Child 12527 spent her second placement at Green Roofs, while for child 16594 it was her first placement in the calculation period.

There is also a new

report titled 'Costs by Provider and Placement Names' that allows you to look at the total cost or placement days for all named providers and placements.

Your Data Administrator can define separate unit costs for each of the custom placement types specified in your authority.

Other improvements in version 6.5 are that information on area

office and social work team can now be imported for every child, and disability team information can be used by the Cost Calculator to identify children who have disabilities.

Detailed information on how to use all the new facilities is included in the new version of the User Guide.

Summary of Total Costs

From 01/04/2006 to 31/03/2007 London

Click on one or more arrows to the left and select the categories to be shown in the table

Gender	(All)	▼
Ethnicity Group	(All)	▼
Time Looked After	(All)	▼
Age at start of Calc period	(All)	▼
EBD?	(All)	▼
Disabilities?	(All)	▼
Offender?	(All)	▼
UASC?	(All)	▼
Area Office	(All)	▼
Social Care Team	(All)	▼
Placement Type	(All)	▼
Placement Name (Actual)	Green Roofs	▼
Provider Type	(All)	▼
Provider Name (Actual)	(All)	▼
Local Authority Area?	(All)	▼
Support Placement?	(All)	▼
Three plus Placements in Yr?	(All)	▼
Excluded from School?	(All)	▼
SEN Statement?	(All)	▼
Sat GCSE?	(All)	▼
GCSEs A to G	(All)	▼
GCSEs A to C	(All)	▼
Activity Post 16	(All)	▼

2 Children in the table

Total Costs		PINo		Grand Total
Child	1	2		
12527			£64,291	£64,291
16594	£14,716			£14,716

“The study aims to calculate unit costs for the various services received by young people and their families during Multi-Treatment Foster Care placements”

Calculating the costs of treatment foster care

After successful use in the US, a number of local authorities (LAs) in England and Wales have implemented Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC), a model of foster care designed for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Following positive feedback from initial trials in these LAs, we are undertaking work to

assess the cost effectiveness of MTFC as part of the wider Costs and Outcomes research programme.

The study aims to use a range of data, from finance and Management Information Systems, to calculate unit costs for the various services received by young people and their families during MTFC placements.

The project sits alongside our related work on extending the Cost Calculator for Children's Services (CCfCS) for all children in need, and MTFC will be incorporated as a new variable into future editions of the CCfCS.

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David Westlake
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Education, education, education

How much does it cost to educate a child? How does this differ between different children and different types of schools? How does this relate to children's actual attainment?

CCFR is working with a metropolitan local authority to extend the Cost Calculator to look at the costs of

education, in particular, providing for special educational needs and the costs of excluding a child from school.

This work has led to a robust set of unit costs for various activities undertaken for education, currently being integrated with

the Cost Calculator for Children's Services.

Upon completion, this will enable users to analyse the existing data held on data systems such as One (formerly EMS) from Capita Children's Services to generate powerful reports - for example, to chart the educational career of a

child through different stages of special educational needs and different education provision, and identifying how costs accrue over time.

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Visit the Costs website for more information on current research and development projects and up to date news on the Cost Calculator

www.ccfcs.org.uk

New team members

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to the CCfCS Research and Development team.

David Westlake joined us as a Research Associate in September to work on the Multi-dimensional

Treatment Foster Care project (see above for details).

Our second new team member is Anna Jones who has recently graduated from Liverpool University and joins us as a Research Associate working on the health and mental

health project (overleaf).

She is currently spending four weeks working with the team at Loughborough before moving to the research authority.

Health and mental health costs

As part of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with a local authority, CCFR are embarking on a project which will extend the Cost Calculator further, to include the unit costs for health and mental health services provided to children in need.

A research associate has been appointed in order to implement the Cost Calculator in the authority,

calculate the unit costs, and to use these to introduce effective joint commissioning strategies between health care, social care and education providers.

CCFR will provide support for staff utilising the software via training, workshops, consultations and presentations.

The partnership will provide the County

Council with a clearer understanding on whether services are providing value for money, thus forming a basis for making comparisons and deciding where changes could be made.

Contact:
Anna Jones
A.E.Jones@lboro.ac.uk.

User Group Meeting

Tuesday 6 November 2007

Morton Park Business Training Centre,
Darlington
10.30am to 3pm

Two representatives from each authority are invited to attend.

Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Cost calculations for all Children in Need

The CCfCS currently allows local authorities to calculate social care costs for looked after children and relate these to outcomes information, but work is now in progress to include cost calculations for all children in need.

Work has begun in four research sites where the

team will be developing a methodology for calculating unit costs for Children in Need and piloting the extended version of the software.

The pilot will assess the availability of data items, calculate the costs incurred to education and social care by the sample children and explore how these might

relate to outcomes. We will also work with senior managers who will advise on the types of reports to be generated and consider their potential use within the agencies.

Contact:
Sam Culley
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“Work has begun in four research sites where the team will be developing a methodology for calculating unit costs for Children in Need”

Send us your news!

This newsletter is designed for you, so please send us news and information you would like to share with other local authorities currently using the CCfCS.

We would also welcome your comments, suggestions and views

on the content and design, so please do let us know what you think.

Contact:
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Cost Calculator website forums

Representatives from authorities that are using the CCfCS are entitled to join the ‘Licensed User’ forum on the CCfCS website. The aims of the forum are to encourage communication between users so that queries, problems, solutions and

suggestions can be shared.

You can register for general access online, but to gain access to the ‘Licensed User’ group you should contact the website administrator: E.J.Batchelor@lboro.ac.uk

Visit the forum at:
www.ccfcs.org.uk/forums

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