



Family Support Hubs and Unmet Need Qtr 4 2025/26 – Northern Hubs

Unmet Need

A key role of the Family Support Hubs (Hubs) is to identify and report unmet need through the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) structures, i.e. Locality Planning to Outcomes Group.

The following report reflects the unmet need captured and reported in 2024/25 and Quarters 1-4 of 2025/26 through monitoring returns from Hubs to the Children's Planning Team in the Department of Health's Strategic planning and Performance Group (SPPG).

This report does not claim to identify all unmet need across Northern Ireland or in individual Hub areas. We can only record the unmet need reported in the quarterly monitoring returns.

There are a number of reasons why unmet need may not be captured, these include where a service has not been available in an area for an extended period of time and referrers know this so do not refer to Hubs. Other reasons may include variation in how Hubs capture unmet need although regional work will be undertaken with the intent to achieve a regionally consistent approach and reinforce the importance of capturing and reporting unmet need information.

Unmet need includes where a service was not available or where the waiting list for a service was over 8 weeks.

Unmet need is recorded by category. Where there was unmet need reported during 2024/25 the chart on the left hand side will show a blue mark. Unmet need in 2025/26 is recorded on the map and the chart with colour coding to indicate how many Quarters it has been reported during this current year.

Northern Hubs

Northern Trust commission their Hubs as four lots across the Northern area. For operational reasons Action for Children, who host all of the Hubs in the area, have split the Newtownabbey, Larne and Carrick in to two separate Hubs. While they are smaller geographical areas, the decision to split them is for operational reasons. They function as two separate Hubs but monitoring and reporting is provided as the four lots and for the purpose of this report we will consider unmet need as the four lots. Rather than looking at the number of referrals where unmet need is reported we will focus on which Hubs are seeing the categories of unmet need.

The four Hub lots are:

- Magherafelt & Cookstown
- Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle
- Antrim & Ballmena
- Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick



In Quarter 4 of 2025/26 there were 3 categories of unmet need reported across the Northern region, a decrease of 3 categories from Quarter 3. Unmet need was reported by 3 out of 4 Hubs this Quarter. Antrim Ballymena Hub reported no unmet need.

Although the numbers of unmet needs are relatively small, it is important to recognise the potential impact on future referral patterns. Referrers learn that services are not available and may consider that when deciding if to make a referral in the future, anticipating appropriate support is not available.

Qtr4 2025/26	Antrim & Ballymena		Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle		Magherafelt & Cookstown		Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick	
	Refs	Unmet	Refs	Unmet	Refs	Unmet	Refs	Unmet
Reason for referral to Hub								
Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for primary school children			36	1				
Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for parents					9	1		
School attendance							9	3

Counselling Services for Children/Young People

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Counselling Services for Parent/s

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Education and Employment Support

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

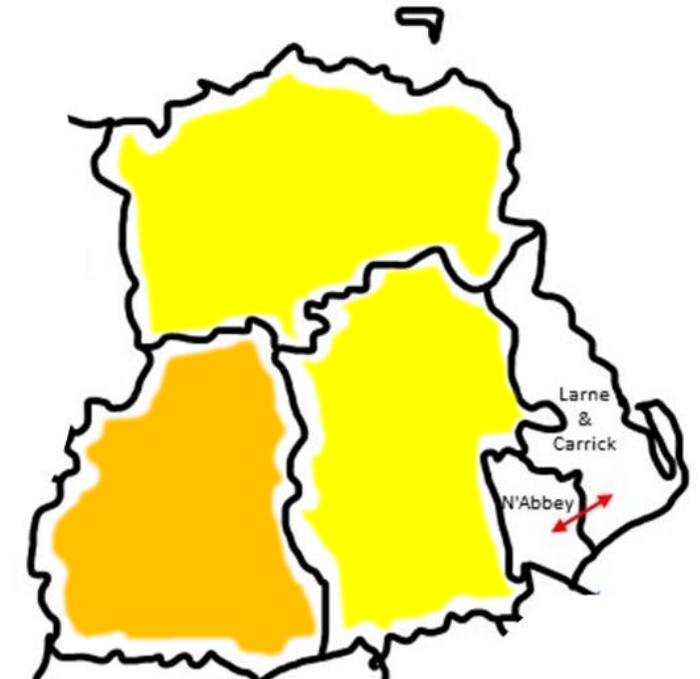
No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty Support for Pre-School Children

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

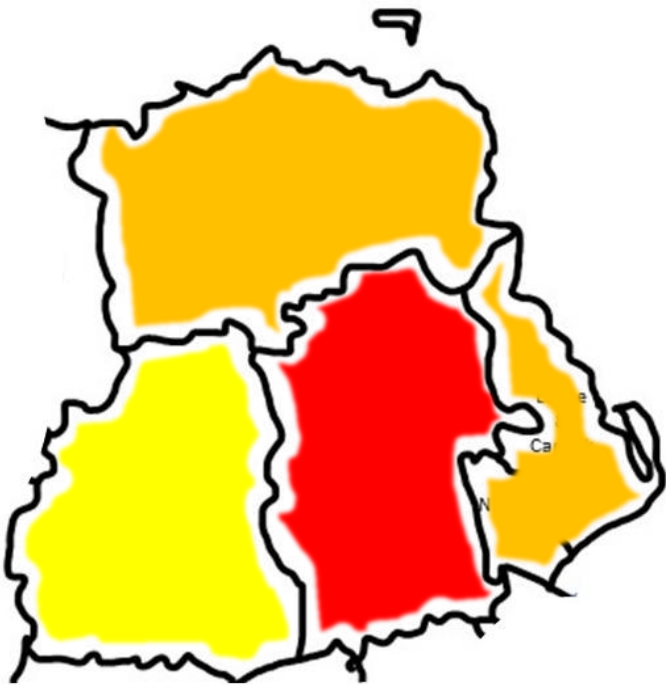
No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty Support for Primary School Children

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty Support for Post Primary School Children

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty Support for Parents

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Emotional Support for Child (eg Bullying, Separation etc)

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Family Breakdown

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

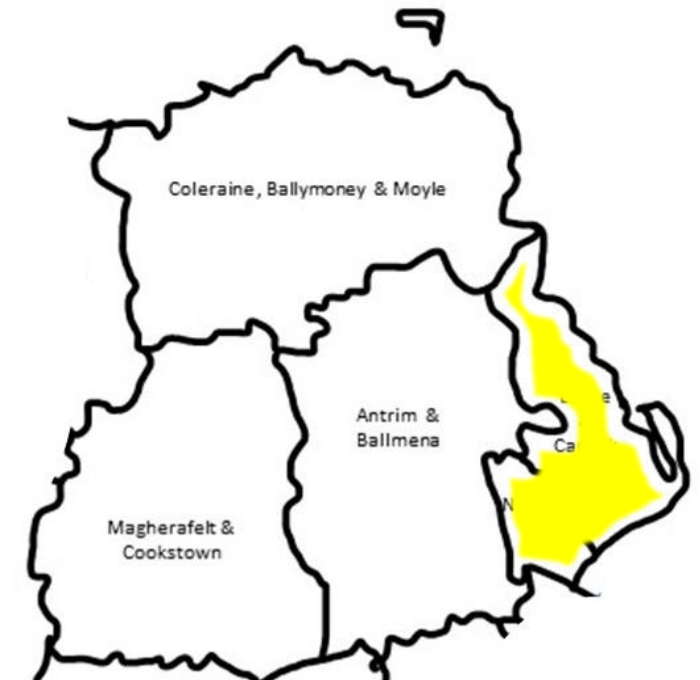
No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



One to One Support for Young People

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

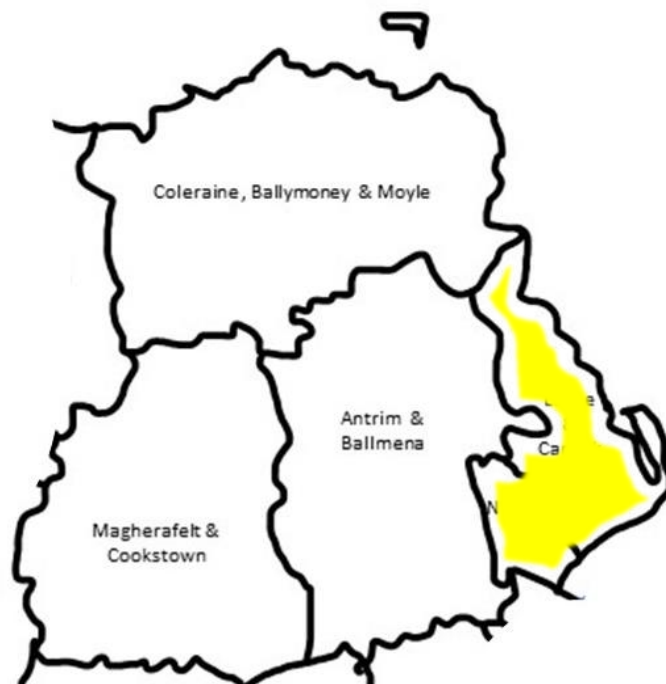
No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Practical Support (eg Furniture, Appliances)

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



School Attendance

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Youth Activities/After School Service/Support

Family Support Hub	No. of Qtrs unmet need was reported in 25/26	Unmet need reported in 24/25
Magherafelt & Cookstown FSH		
Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle FSH		
Antrim & Ballymena FSH		
Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick FSH		

No of Quarters unmet need was reported in 2025/26	
1Q	
2Qs	
3Qs	
4Qs	



Level of unmet need by area Quarters 1-4, 2025/26

Coleraine, Ballymoney & Moyle

3 categories of unmet need

- Education & Employment Support
- Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for pre-school children
- Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for primary school children

Magherafelt & Cookstown

5 categories of unmet need

- Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for pre-school children
- Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for primary school children
- Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for parents
- Emotional Support for child
- Youth activities/afterschool services/support

Newtownabbey, Larne & Carrick

6 categories of unmet need

- Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for primary school children
- Emotional and behavioural difficulty support for post primary school children
- Family breakdown
- One to one support for young people
- Practical support (eg furniture, appliances)
- School attendance

Antrim & Ballymena

6 categories of unmet need

- Counselling services for children/young people
- Counselling services for parent/s
- Emotional behavioural difficulty support for pre-school children
- Emotional behavioural difficulty support for primary school children
- Emotional support for child (eg bullying, separation etc)
- School attendance

