



Decision-making and outcomes for  
children & young people looked after  
at home – new SCRA research

SCRA & CHIP  
Research Seminar

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# Introduction

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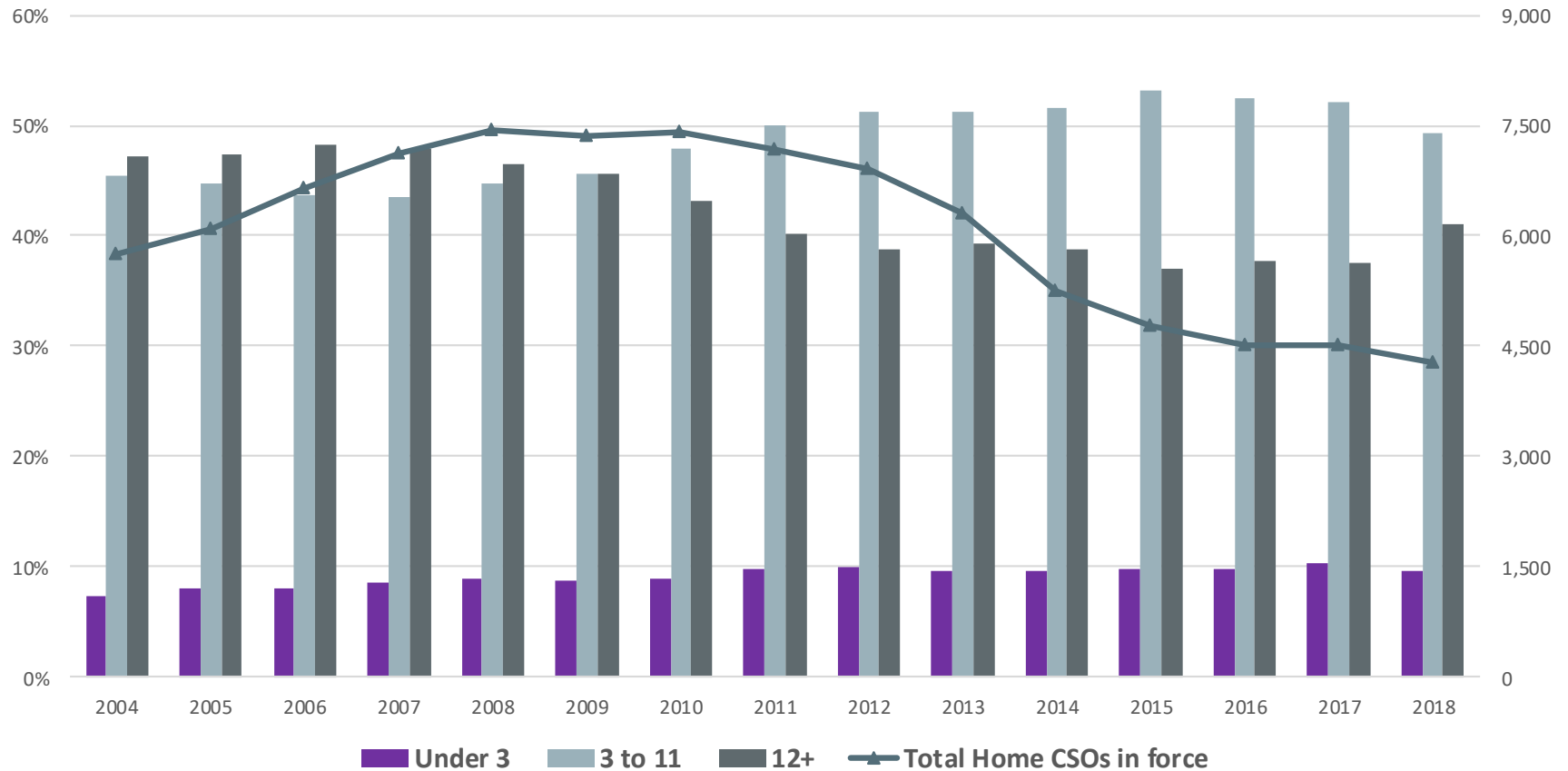
**Home CSOs – Compulsory Supervision Orders where child resides at home with their parent(s)/ those who have parental responsibility**

**Most common type of CSO made by Children’s Hearings – 45% of all CSOs in place in 2018 = 4,270 children & young people**

**Same legal status as CSOs where child looked after away from home – unique to Scotland**

# Trends

## Home CSOs by age at 31st March each year



# Questions – outcomes from home CSOs

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## Scottish Parliament Education and Culture Committee (2013). Report on Decision Making on Whether to Take Children into Care.

*‘We believe that support for children looked after at home is an important aspect of improving outcomes and invite the Government to provide an update on the specific actions it has and is taking to ensure the provision of greater social work support to looked after children at home’*

# Questions – outcomes from home CSOs

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## Barnardo's Scotland and CELCIS (2015) - Overseen but Often Overlooked:

*'while these young people may well be overseen by the state, their needs are often overlooked.*

*This suggests that our system of children being 'looked after at home' is failing some of the most vulnerable children in Scotland.'*

# Questions – outcomes from home CSOs

## Scottish Government (2015) Strategy for Looked After Children & Young People:

*‘We expect local authorities to “presume against” looked after at home status when planning interventions and when making recommendations to managers, Children’s Hearings and courts, except where “at home” status is an essential part of a clear plan to remedy a short-term issue or towards permanence.’*

# SCRA research – home CSOs

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**Commissioned by Scottish Government in 2017**

**Research Advisory Group: Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice, Children's Hearings Scotland, Barnardo's Scotland, Social Work Scotland, Includem and Scottish Government**

**Research on-going**

**Preliminary findings presented today**



# SCRA research – 8 aspects of home CSOs

1. Use of home CSOs to secure residence and/or regulate contact
2. Wellbeing outcomes for children & young people
3. Offending outcomes – volume and severity
4. Educational outcomes – attendance and engagement
5. Professional trust and relationships
6. Care planning and interventions
7. Children’s Hearings’ decision making
8. Views and experiences of young people, parents and practitioners

# SCRA research – methods

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**Mixed methods approach:**

**SCRA case files – 343 children & young people**

**Followed from when CSO made in 2014 to two years after or when terminated (if sooner) – three time points**

**14 focus groups with social workers, Panel Members and Reporters (78 participants)**

**Interviews – 8 young people and 10 parents**

# Methods - 5 groups of children & young people

- 1. Education** – accepted/established grounds – school non-attendance; CSO at home – 90 young people
- 2. Offending** – accepted/established grounds - committed an offence; CSO at home – 51 young people.
- 3. Control: young people** – accepted/established grounds - not offence or non-attendance; CSO at home – 31 young people.
- 4. Under 3 years** - CSO at home – 84 children.
- 5. Control: under 3 years** - CSO away from home – 87 children.  
Permanence sub-group – CSO terminated when Adoption or Permanence Order was made - 29 children

# Residence and contact conditions

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## Residence – 2 types of home CSO

1. A Hearing makes a CSO with a requirement that specifies that a child must reside with one (or both) of their parents.
2. The CSO has no measure specifying residence, and therefore the child or young person is most likely to be living at home with one or both of their parents.

## Contact

Every Hearing that makes, varies and continues a CSO must consider whether to include conditions regulating contact between the child and a specified person or class of person – this includes home CSOs.

# Residence and contact conditions

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## Research questions:

- 1. To what extent are home CSOs being used to restrict contact with a parent or associate who presents a risk to the child?**
- 2. To what extent are home CSOs being used to secure residence with fathers?**

# Residence conditions

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## Young people:

14% - education group

20% - offending group

29% - control group

Home CSOs had residence conditions (47% with fathers)

## Young children:

30% - home CSOs (40% with mothers)

100% - accommodated CSOs (68% foster care, 32% kinship)

# Contact conditions

## Young people:

Control group: 35% home CSOs had contact conditions

Offending and education groups: 1% of home CSOs with contact conditions

## Young children:

Home CSOs: 45% (38 children) – 37% no contact, 58% supervised contact (both usually fathers)

Accommodated CSOs: 87% (77 children) – 26% no contact (usually fathers), 96% supervised contact (both parents or mothers)

# Wellbeing outcomes

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## Research questions:

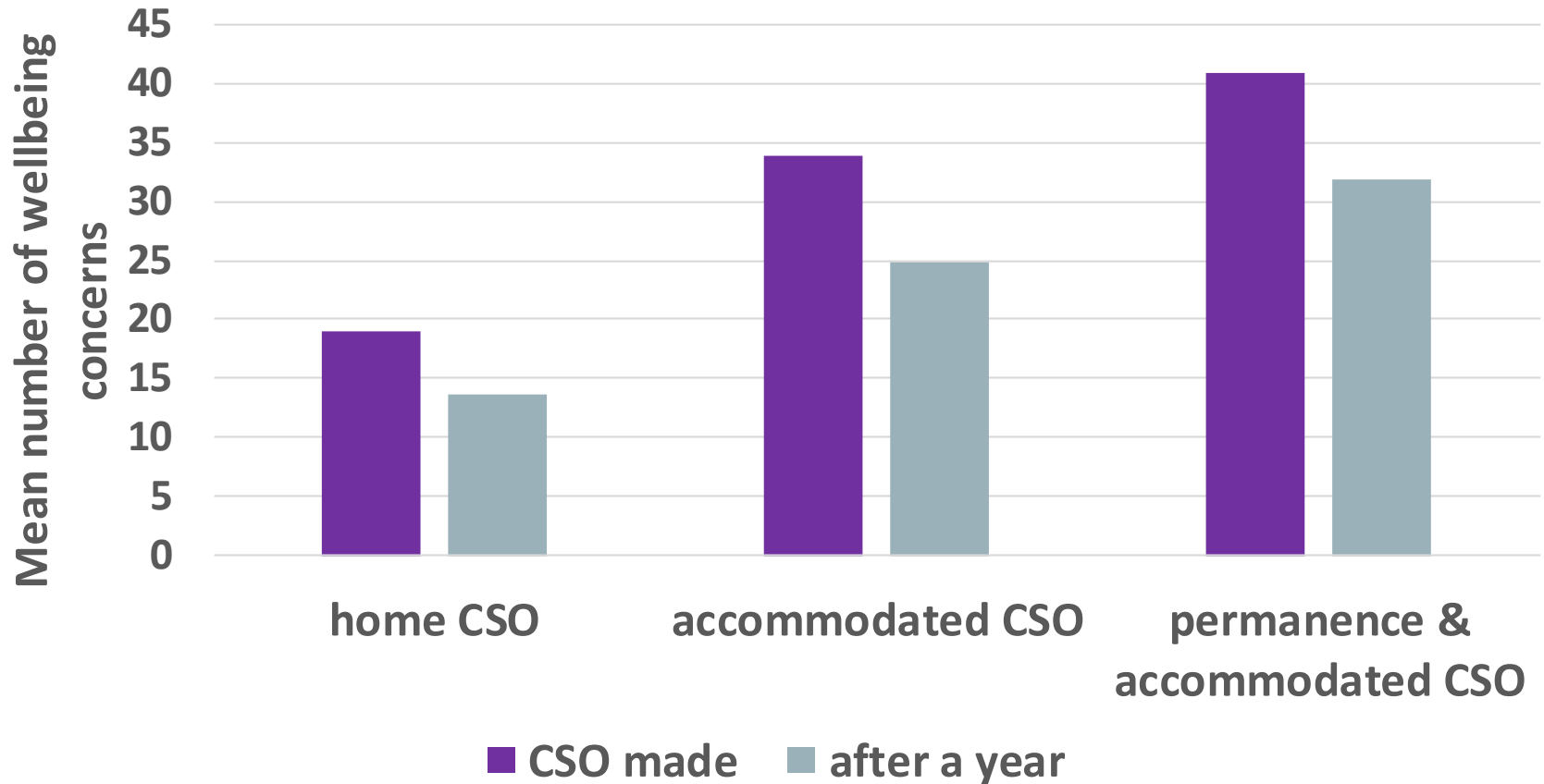
- 1. Does the intervention of a home CSO improve children & young people's wellbeing outcomes?**
- 2. Are there differences in young children's wellbeing outcomes between those first placed on home CSOs and those first placed on CSOs away from home.**



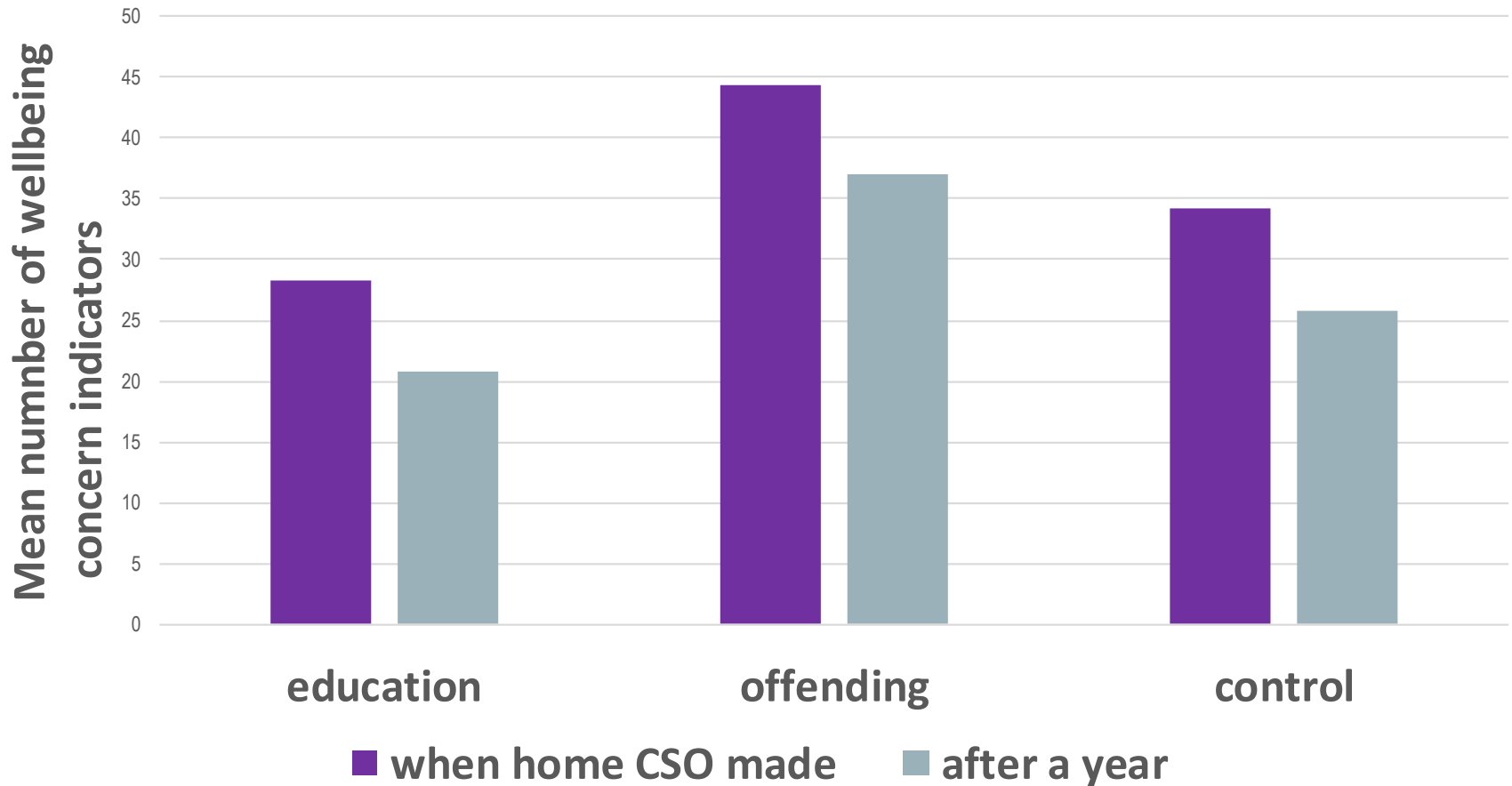
# Wellbeing concerns measurement tool

SHANARRI indicator	Number of wellbeing concern indicators	
	Children under 3 years	Young people
Safe	13	13
Healthy	12	13
Achieving	10	12
Nurtured	20	23
Active	4	5
Respected	13	12
Responsible	11	17
Included	8	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>104</b>

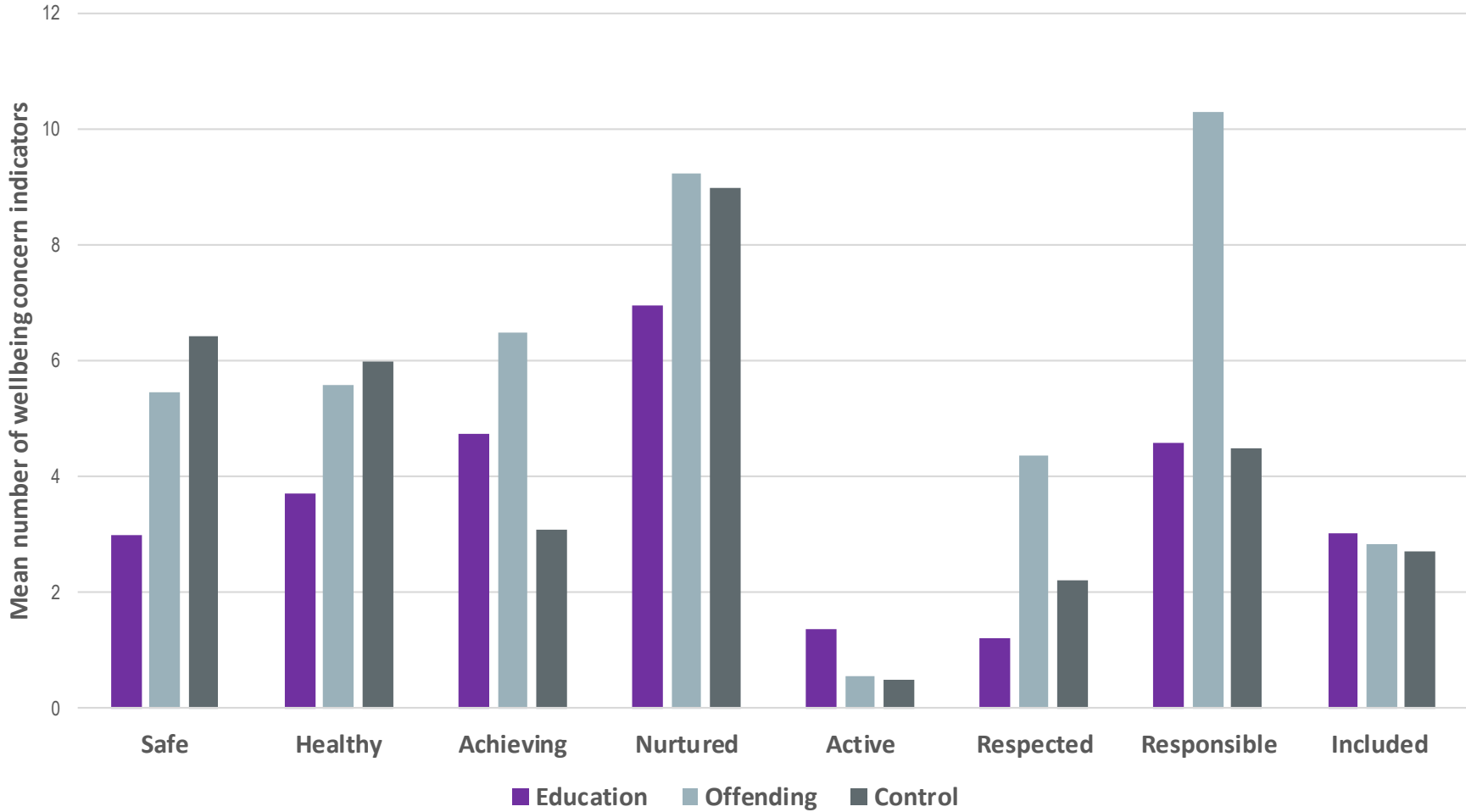
# Wellbeing concerns for young children - home CSOs, accommodated CSOs, CSOs terminated by Adoption or Permanence Orders



# Young people's wellbeing concerns when home CSOs made and after a year - education non-attendance, offending and control groups



# Young people's wellbeing concerns under each SHANARRI indicator when home CSO made - education, offending and control groups



## **This research – first time:**

**SHANARRI approach been used at an aggregated level to compare differences between groups of young people and the effect of interventions – new wellbeing concerns measurement tool**

**All aspects of children and young people’s wellbeing has been examined to assess impact of home CSOs**

**Use of home CSOs to secure children & young people’s residence and regulate contact has been examined.**

# Conclusions

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**Home CSOs as a single category that belies considerable diversity of children & young people, risks and needs**

**Important to understand all the different reasons for making of home CSOs**

**Need to understand outcomes for children & young people in the broadest sense, and not focus on single measures**

**More complex than current guidance and policy implies**