

Data Provision Notice

Adult Social Care Collections

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Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (**the 2012 Act**) gives [NHS England](#) statutory powers, under section 259(1)(a), to require data from health or social care bodies, or organisations that provide publicly funded health or adult social care in England, where it has been directed to establish an information system by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

The data, as specified by NHS England in this published Data Provision Notice, is required to support a direction from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to NHS England. Therefore, organisations that are in scope of the Data Provision Notice are legally required, under section 259(5) of the 2012 Act, to provide the data in the form and manner specified below.

Purpose

The purpose of the data collected is to enable key aspects of the provision of adult social care services across England to be assessed at a national, regional and local level. Data collected covers several themes such as: activity, finance, safeguarding and user experience.

[Adult social care data](#) is either collected by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (**CASSRs**) through their case management and administration systems, which is then submitted annually/biennially/triennially to NHS England for secondary uses, or via nationally defined surveys which are administered by CASSRs and then submitted to NHS England.

The current Adult Social Care data collections cover:

- (A) Adult Social Care Finance Return (**ASC-FR**)
- (A) Deferred Payment Agreements (**DPA**)
- (A) Registered Blind and Partially Sighted collection
- (A) Safeguarding Adults Collection (**SAC**)
- (I) Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983
- (I) Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (**DoLS**)
- (S) Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey, England (**ASCS**)
- (S) Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England (**SACE**)

These national adult social care data collections are either:

- aggregated (**A**) counts of service users, carers, and events
- individual client level (**I**)
- surveys (**S**)

The collection of Short and Long Term (**SALT**) activity return data ceased on 31 March 2024. CASSRs in England are therefore no longer required by NHS England to provide data

for the purposes of SALT under this Data Provision Notice. SALT data will continue to be held by NHS England for analytics purposes and reporting.

Some of the adult social care data NHS England collects also populates the [Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework \(ASCOF\)](#). This measures how well the care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people.

Every collection is collected annually except SACE and Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983 (both collected biennially) and Registered Blind and Partially Sighted (collected triennially).

Benefits

Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey, England (ASCS) and Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England (SACE)

The surveys are the most significant pool of personal outcome information for those receiving Council with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (**CASSR**)-funded or managed adult social care, and for carers of people receiving adult social care. They are an important resource for reporting what has been achieved for local people, supporting development and improvement of local services and enabling people to make better choices about their care. They feature heavily in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (**ASCOF**), providing data for the outcome measures it contains. As well as providing an overall quality of life index, the surveys will provide information relating to whether specific groups experience better outcomes, whether services and support are meeting all outcome needs, and the value added by social care services.

The surveys provide assured, benchmarked local data to support local services in thinking about ways of improving outcomes for carers and users.

Adult Social Care Finance Return (ASC-FR) and Deferred Payment Agreements (DPA)

The ASC-FR data collection provides central government and local authorities with financial information to assess their performance in relation to their peers. It is used by researchers looking at CASSRs' performance and by service users and the public to hold CASSRs and the Government to account. It supports the production of the [Adult Social Care Activity and Finance Assured Official Statistics publication](#), along with metrics from the [Client-Level Adult Social Care Data collection](#).

The collection of data on DPA allows for measurement of the uptake of DPA and how well councils are complying with [The Care and Support \(Deferred Payment\) Regulations 2014](#). DPA are intended to reduce the stress and anxiety placed on individuals and their families when the need for social care support arises and full cost or contributions are required to secure that support. The data was also included in the [2015-16 Personal Social Services: Expenditure and Unit Costs National Statistics publication](#) as experimental statistics.

Registered Blind and Partially Sighted

The Registered Blind and Partially Sighted collection allows:

- government departments to monitor the impact of social care policy on blind and partially sighted people, ensuring they have access to the right services and are not negatively impacted by the introduction of social care policy

- policy makers and commissioners to understand the needs of local and national populations
- service providers and charities to effectively plan the service needs for registered blind and partially sighted people
- CASSRs to benchmark against peers.

Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983 and Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC)

The information is used nationally by the Government to monitor the use of safeguards, to inform mental capacity policies, to assess the impact of on-going mental health policy, and is intended to provide CASSRs with the information needed to make informed decisions and improvements within this area.

Benefits associated with all adult social care collections:

Research Projects

The Personal Social Services Research Unit (**PSSRU**) and the associated Quality and Outcomes of person – centred Care Policy Research Unit (**QORU**), Economics of Social and Health Care Research Unit (**ESHCRU**), Ipsos MORI and Policy Innovation Research Unit (**PIRU**) have all utilised adult social care data. Several studies have used the data to understand the effects of contextual CASSR level factors on CASSR performance, equity and efficiency of services, local needs, local supply constraints, local preferences and to project future demand and expenditure for long-term care.

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

CQC is planning on using some of the information captured in the returns to help measure the contextual risk of care homes. Contextual risk is an independent suite of circumstances that describe or contextualise the environment within which health or social care is provided.

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

- inform policy monitoring
- speeches and briefings for ministers and senior officials
- parliamentary questions and prime minister's questions
- media enquiries and other correspondence

CASSRs use activity data in different ways but there are some similarities in use.

These include:

- monitoring their own provision and costs
- benchmarking against other councils
- measuring/monitoring local performance
- policy development
- service development, planning and improvement
- management information, local reporting and accountability

- informing business cases
- identifying any immediate priorities/areas for concern.

Legal basis for collection, analysis, publication and dissemination

Collection and Analysis

NHS England has been directed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under section 254 of the 2012 Act to establish and operate a system for the collection and analysis of the information specified for this service. The [Adult Social Care Collections Directions 2019 and accompanying requirements specification](#) are published on the NHS England website.

This information is required by NHS England under section 259(1)(a) of the 2012 Act.

In line with section 259(5) of the 2012 Act, all organisations in scope, in England, must comply with the requirement and provide information to NHS England in the form, manner and period specified in this Data Provision Notice.

This Data Provision Notice is issued in accordance with the procedure published as part of an NHS England duty under section 259(8) of the 2012 Act.

Publication and Dissemination

NHS England has been directed to disseminate the reports to Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (**CASSRs**) and make them available for publication as set out in the [Adult Social Care Collections Specification](#). [Adult social care publications](#) are published on the NHS England website.

All information that is published is published in accordance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

Only published data is used by customers of the data. The only exception to this being survey data, which can be shared if an active and valid Data Sharing Agreement is in place with the requesting organisation. The process for requesting survey data from NHS England is managed via the [Data Access Request Service \(DARS\)](#). NHS England will disclose in its [Data Uses Register](#) the organisations to whom it disseminates the survey data obtained under this Data Provision Notice and the purposes for which the data has been disseminated.

Persons consulted

Following receipt of a direction to establish a system to collect adult social care data, NHS England has, as required under section 258 of the 2012 Act, consulted with the following persons:

- Department of Health and Social Care (**DHSC**), as the directing organisation
- Adult Social Care Data Outcomes Board (**DOB**) – contains members from DHSC, NHS England, Care Quality Commission (**CQC**), Local Government Association

(**LGA**), the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (**ADASS**), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (**DLUHC**), Skills for Care (**SfC**), Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (**CASSRs**) and Care Providers

- Adult Social Care Data Delivery Action Group (**DDAG**) – contains members from DHSC, NHS England, CQC, LGA, Office for National Statistics (**ONS**) and ADASS
- [Data Alliance Partnership Board \(DAPB\)](#) – the DAPB has been established as part of a system-wide information and technology governance model. The DAPB acts with delegated authority from the Secretary of State as the main governance route through which all data collections and standards requirements are agreed and priorities assigned
- Individual collection working groups.

Scope of the collection

Under section 259(1)(a) of the 2012 Act, this Data Provision Notice is served in accordance with the procedure published as part of the NHS England duty under section 259(8) of the 2012 Act on the following persons:

- All CASSRs in England

Under section 259(5) of the 2012 Act the organisation types specified above must comply with the Form, Manner and Period requirements below.

Form of the collection

The collections are carried out by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (**CASSRs**), either extracting data from their local systems or by identifying a sample group of service users/carers and conducting a survey of those included in the sample.

Each collection has an [associated guidance document, templates and other materials](#), which are published on the NHS England website.

Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (**DoLS**) and Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983 are collected at client-level. DoLS contains date of birth and both contain a person reference number. However, this is not an individual's NHS number and NHS England does not have access to the source identifiers. All other data is collected at aggregate level.

Any changes to the collections will first be subject to a burden assessment. Once this has been completed and approved, the finalised changes will be published on the [social care collection materials webpage](#).

The finalised changes will also be communicated in the annual September Letter.

Manner of the collection

Returns are made through NHS England's [Strategic Data Collection Service \(SDCS\)](#). Every year each Council with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (**CASSR**) provides the names of two individuals per collection who will submit data to NHS England via SDCS. The Data Collections team within NHS England adds these names to SDCS to enable users to login

and submit the data. The returns specified under ‘Form of the collection’ will be provided via an Excel template on which the required data can be entered in the specified format. Data submitted by any other means will not be accepted.

Period of the collection

The adult social care collections timetable provides further details of when data collections will take place. Please note that this timetable is a live document and is frequently edited to reflect changes to the adult social care collection schedule. Users are advised to check this regularly for updates by visiting the [adult social care collections webpage](#) and selecting the September letter of the relevant data year.

Data quality

Data quality reports are published alongside each [adult social care publication](#).

Burden of the collection

Steps taken by NHS England to minimise the burden of collection

NHS England has a statutory duty under section 253(2) of the 2012 Act to seek to minimise the burden it imposes on others. In seeking to meet these obligations in relation to this collection, NHS England has sought to:

- maintain collection-specific working groups, consisting of stakeholders from interested parties, to scrutinise the collections and consider improvements and developments
- provide tools to help suppliers validate their data before submission to enable them to identify any errors and inconsistencies offline.

In addition, in support of its obligation under 265(3) of the 2012 Act, NHS England has an assessment process to validate and challenge the level of burden incurred through introducing new information standards, collections and extractions.

This process is carried out by the [Data Standards Assurance Service \(DSAS\)](#) which assures burden assessment evidence as part of the overarching DAPB approval process. The DAPB, acting under authority of the Secretary of State, oversees the assurance, approval and publication of information standards and data collections for the health and social care system in England.

Assessed costs

The associated burden of the data collections is:

Collection	Ongoing annual costs
Adult Social Care Finance Return (ASC-FR)	£479,408

Collection	Ongoing annual costs
Deferred Payment Agreements (DPA)	£379,352
Registered Blind and Partially Sighted collection	£175,238
Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC)	£1,041,421
Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983	£29,150
Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)	£1,556,921
Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey, England (ASCS)	£2,072,079
Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England (SACE)	£1,585,770