



Department of Health & Social Care

Department of Health and Social
Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

Amanda Pritchard
Chief Executive Officer
NHS England

11th March 2024

Dear Amanda,

1. The Community Services Data Set (Amendment) Directions 2024

1.1 I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (the **Secretary of State**) to give directions amending the [Community Services Data Set Directions 2020](#)¹ (the **Original Directions**).

1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and 304(9) to (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the **2012 Act**)² and sections 13ZC and 272(7) and (8) of the National Health Service Act 2006 (the **2006 Act**)³.

1.3 These Directions are to be known as the **Community Services Data Set (Amendment) Directions 2024** and come into force on the date after the day on which they are signed.

2. Purpose of these Directions

¹ [Community Services Data Set Directions 2020](#) - the Original Directions were given to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (NHS Digital) by the Secretary of State on 25 January 2021. NHS Digital was abolished, and its functions transferred to NHS England, on 1 February 2023 by virtue of the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I.2023/98). By virtue of regulation 6, the Original Directions have effect as if references to NHS Digital were references to NHS England and, accordingly, those Original Directions have effect as if given to NHS England. These Directions amending the Original Directions are therefore given to NHS England.

² 2012 c.7. Relevant amendments were made by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (Transfer of Functions, Abolition and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/98).

³ 2006 c.41. Section 13ZC was inserted by section 45 of the Health and Care Act 2022 (c.31).

2.1 The purpose of these Directions is to amend paragraph 3 of the Original Directions to require an additional requirements specification (Community Services Data Set Pilot Data Collection (the **Pilot**)) to be complied with in relation to the form and manner in which the Community Services Data Set Directions Information System is established and operated. The Pilot will test the collection of a core community services data set in a new granular daily flow, in order to inform and improve the current national collection.

3. Requirement for these Directions

3.1 In accordance with section 254(2)(b) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State considers that it is in the interests of the health service in England or of the recipients or providers of adult social care in England for the direction to be given.

3.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State has consulted NHS England before giving these Directions.

3.3 In accordance with section 13ZC(5) of the 2006 Act, the Secretary of State considers these Directions to be in the public interest.

4. Amendment to the Original Directions

4.1 The Original Directions are amended as follows.

4.1.1.1 Substitute the following paragraph 3.1

“In accordance with section 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State directs NHS Digital to establish and operate a system for the collection or analysis of information from the Community Services providers in England described in the Community Services Data Set (CSDS) v1.5 Requirements Specification and in the form and manner described in the Community Services Data Set Technical Output Specification, which are published as part of the Information Standard. Such system is to be known as the Community Services Data Set Directions Information System.”,

With

“In accordance with sections 254(1) of the 2012 Act and section 13ZC of the 2006 Act, the Secretary of State directs NHS England to establish and operate a system for the collection or analysis of information from the Community Services providers in England described in the Community Services Data Set (CSDS) Requirements Specification and in the form and manner described in the Community Services Data Set Technical Output Specification, which are published as part of the Information Standard⁴ (as the same may be updated

⁴[DAPB1069: Community Services Data Set](#)

from time to time) and the Community Services Data Set - Community Pilot Collection Requirements Specification v1.0 (as the same may be updated from time to time), published alongside these Directions (the **Community Services Data Set - Community Pilot Collection Requirements Specification**). The system is to be known as the Community Services Data Set Directions Information System.”.

4.1.2 Substitute the following paragraph 3.2

“NHS Digital is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Information Standard or any subsequent published version of the Information Standard that covers the same topic and generally in such a way as to enable and facilitate the Purpose.”,

With

“NHS England is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Information Standard or any subsequent published version of the Information Standard that covers the same topic and the Community Services Data Set – Community Pilot Collection Requirements Specification, and generally in such a way as to enable and facilitate the Purpose.”.

5. **Continuing effect of the Original Directions**

These Directions amend the Original Directions, which will continue to be in force, as amended by these Directions in accordance with their original provisions.

Yours sincerely



Louise Greenrod

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State