



39 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0EU

12 June 2018

Sarah Wilkinson
Chief Executive
NHS Digital
1 Trevelyan Square
Boar Lane
Leeds LS1 6AE

Dear Sarah

Transitional Local Safeguarding Children's Board Data Collection on Child Death Reviews Direction 2018

I am writing to provide a Direction to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as and hereafter referred to in this Direction as "NHS Digital", to establish and operate a system to collect and analyse information on child death reviews from Local Safeguarding Children's Boards in England (LSCB1). The background to this Direction is provided at **Annex A**.

This Direction is given in exercise of the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by section 254(1) and (6), 260(1) and 304(9) to (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act).

This Direction is to be known as the **Transitional Local Safeguarding Children's Board Data Collection on Child Death Reviews Direction 2018** and comes into effect on 12 June 2018. In exercising the functions described in this Direction, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of the Secretary of State as he may notify in writing from time to time to NHS Digital.

In accordance with section 254(2)(a) of the Act, the Secretary of State considers that the information that could be obtained by complying with this Direction is information which is necessary or expedient for the Secretary of State to have in relation to the exercise by the Secretary of State of his functions in connection with the provision of health services in England and in accordance with section 260(4)(a), NHS Digital must publish anonymised information on its own website and through GOV.UK

In accordance with section 254(5) of the Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before this Direction has been given.

This Direction will enable NHS Digital to take over responsibility for the collection and publication of the LSCB1 data described in **Annex B** on child deaths, for the financial years 2018/19, and 2019/20, after which a National Child Mortality Database is expected to be operational. From 2020/21, Child Death Review Panels (CDOPs) will be required to submit data on child death reviews to the national Child Mortality Database.

The key objectives of the data collection and publication are to provide continuity of data on child deaths and for LSCBs to fulfil their statutory responsibility for reporting information for every child's death reviewed by Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs).

Please accept this letter as a Direction given under section 254(1) of the Act to NHS Digital to collect and analyse information from LSCBs and publish in an anonymised form for the purpose outlined above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Vineall", positioned above a horizontal line.

William Vineall
Director, Acute Care and Quality Policy

ANNEX A

Legislative changes through the Children and Social Work Act 2017, include removing the requirement for areas to have Local Safeguarding Children's Boards by July 2019 and instead introduce a duty for three safeguarding partners – local authorities, the police and clinical commissioning groups – to make joint arrangements for a multi-agency child protection arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. Transitional arrangements put in place by the Department for Education (DfE), requires that LSCBs must continue to carry out all of their statutory functions until the point at which safeguarding partners arrangements begin to operate in a local area. This includes continuing the collection of data from child death overview panels (CDOP) and submitting the LSCB1 data described in **Annex B**.

Parallel to the legislative changes, is the transfer of policy responsibility for child death reviews, from DfE to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). As part of DHSC's transitional arrangements for LSCB1 data collection, NHS Digital is to be responsible for collecting the data. NHS Digital's role is for a transitional period only.

LSCB1 data collection

Form LSCB1	Aggregate. <i>There are 17 aggregate tables which collect counts of areas such as age, gender, ethnicity, death category and length of time between death and review. (Any sections where DfE allowed free text will be removed)</i>
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