

# Adult Social Care Client Level Data Set Release 1

## Requirements Specification

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## Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB)

The Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB), which holds delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, has approved a new information standard for publication under [section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012](#).

Assurance that this information standard meets the requirements of the Act and is appropriate for the use specified in the specification document has been provided by the Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB), a sub-group of the Digital Delivery Board.

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Implementation Guidance
- Requirements Specification
- Technical Output Specification

An Information Standards Notice (DAPB4081 Amd 19/2022) has been issued as a notification of use and implementation timescales. Please read this alongside the documents for the standard.

The controlled versions of these documents can be found on the [NHS Digital website](#). Any copies held outside of that area, in whatever format (e.g. paper, email attachment), are considered to have passed out of control and should be checked for currency and validity.

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## Glossary of Terms

<b>Term / Abbreviation</b>	<b>Description</b>
ASC	Adult Social Care
ASCCLD	Adult Social Care Client Level Data
CASSR	Council(s) with Adult Social Services Responsibilities
DAPB	Data Alliance Partnership Board
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
DLP	Data Landing Portal
DSCRO	Data Services for Commissioners Regional Offices
LA	Local Authority
SALT	Short and Long Term return
TOS	Technical Output Specification

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# Overview

This document precisely defines the Adult Social Care Client Level Dataset (ASCCLD). The summary below describes the standard; the requirements and conformance criteria sections explain what is required of local authorities and systems to conform to the standard, and how conformance is tested.

This document is the formal definition of the standard.

The key words MUST, SHOULD and MAY are defined in [RFC-2119](#).

## Summary

<b>Standard</b>	
Standard Number	DAPB4081 Amd 19/2022
Standard Title	Adult Social Care Client Level Dataset (ASCCLD)
Standard Description	<p>The ASCCLD is a client-level, secondary uses dataset to be submitted by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities<sup>1</sup> (CASSRs) on a quarterly basis (further details provided in Conformance Criteria section) that will support better planning and monitoring of service users and the services they receive in a robust, comprehensive, nationally consistent and comparable client-based manner.</p> <p>This data set supports collection of Adult Social Care client level data as instructed by the <a href="#">Client-Level Adult Social Care Data Direction</a>.</p> <p>The collected data will provide information which supports the Secretary of State's strategic requirements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitoring and developing support strategies, interventions and outcomes</li> <li>• designing and implementing new payment models</li> <li>• supporting local strategic planning and commissioning.</li> </ul> <p>The data set covers adult social care services supported by local authorities in England.</p> <p>As a secondary uses dataset it re-uses operational data for purposes other than direct care. It defines the data items, definitions and associated value sets extracted or derived from local information systems.</p>
Release Number	Amd 19/2022
Release Title	Adult Social Care Client Level Dataset (ASCCLD)
Release Description	Initial release
Full Conformance Date	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023

<sup>1</sup> All data will be collected from Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) in England, however for ease of reading CASSRs will be referred to as local authorities (LAs) throughout this guidance

## Supporting Documents

Documents issued by DAPB are listed below. Additional guidance on the collection itself is available on the [Arden & GEM website](#).

Reference	Title
DAPB4081	ASCCLD Information Standards Notice (ISN)
DAPB4081	ASCCLD Requirement specification (this document)
DAPB4081	ASCCLD Implementation Guide
DAPB4081	ASCCLD Technical Output Specification

## Background and context

The collection of client-level adult social care data has evolved iteratively from an initial pilot involving three Local Authorities (LAs), extending to voluntary collection across England. Client level data flows are built on data recorded in case management systems to reduce the gap between LA records, and national records of social care data. The development of client level data returns will also relieve the pressure of compiling and transforming complex data for the current aggregate Short and Long Term Support (SALT) return; [DAPB2161](#). With routine validation of the data including tracing of missing NHS numbers, LAs will have a robust and consistent minimum core dataset that can be used to meet the majority of their local reporting demands, with the ability to request, subject to appropriate approvals, linked health data for greater commissioning insight into the local health and care system.

The concept behind the Client Level Data collection is to evolve the annual aggregated SALT collection by asking Councils to submit the underlying client level data instead. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and its partners can then aggregate the data centrally, based on agreed transformation rules, and share the outputs with the system. This is expected to reduce some of the burden going forwards on LAs, by collecting the data at a more granular level, rather than asking them to calculate the derivations and outcomes themselves, but more importantly will deliver substantial benefits. The benefits include greater flexibility, due to the greater insight available, and frequency of social care monitoring, with the ability for LAs to create predictive tools for demand management and risk stratification models for identifying differences in outcomes, costs and interventions between groups in our societies. Moreover, linking with local health data at a client/patient level will significantly improve understanding of the local health and care systems for better holistic commissioning decisions; clients will benefit if LA monitoring and planning is improved because of this collection. Further benefits are outlined in the Implementation Guidance.

This collection is being undertaken by NHS Arden & GEM CSU. Further information about their role is available on the [ASCCLD web page](#).

## Scope

The scope of this standard is to specify the data collection to support greater flexibility and frequency of social care monitoring.

Activity, as per the Technical Output Specification (TOS), relating to clients who receive support from LAs in England is in scope.

Data items include but are not limited to unique service user identifier, support reason, assessment type and service type.

## Contacts

<b>Contact</b>	
Help Desk	enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk (quote Adult Social Care Client Level Data in subject line)

## Requirements

This section describes the requirements that this specification places upon those in scope (see above) of the ASCCLD. It also describes the tests that indicate that the Information Standard is being used correctly by an organisation (see Conformance Criteria).

Conformance criteria are provided on the understanding that NHS Digital do not have direct control of the whole system. The principles of this standard are:

- the Standard is reviewed with systems suppliers and users/stakeholders
- the Standard is implemented correctly in the relevant case management systems
- guidance is provided and that it is followed
- data quality issues are fed back to individual organisations in a timely fashion and that these messages are acted upon. Further information is available in the [collection guidance](#)
- best practice is shared within and between organisations regarding processes for data capture/update

## Local Authorities

1. From 1 April 2023 LAs MUST be able to collect the data locally to allow submission of the ASCCLD, as defined in the TOS.
2. LAs MAY sign up to submit the ASCCLD on a voluntary basis before 1 April 2023. This will enable Local Authorities (LAs) to get support from NHS Arden & GEM CSU with implementing the Standard, including feedback on data quality of any submitted data, before the ASCCLD is mandated. Further details on the data submission framework (i.e., how data is submitted by LAs to Data Services for Commissioners Regional Offices (DSCROs) is available on the [ASCCLD web page](#).
3. Social work practitioners MUST capture data locally that will be used to produce the ASCCLD submission in an accurate and timely manner.
4. LAs MAY use the data validation tool (available on the [ASCCLD web page](#)) to check the quality of their submission prior to submitting data.
5. LAs SHOULD check data validation and data quality messages generated during submission. Data items highlighted in these messages/reports SHOULD be investigated and any errors corrected. Validation rules not adhered to may result in the entire submission being rejected, so these MUST be rectified.
6. LAs SHOULD check any additional validation and data quality reports provided by NHS Digital after each submission, correct errors and where appropriate make re-

submissions. Further details on error correction and re-submissions are explained within the Implementation Guidance.

7. LAs MUST submit the ASCCLD as defined by this standard within the timescales published in the Implementation Guidance.
8. LAs MUST NOT attempt to submit data items not defined in the TOS.
9. LAs SHOULD always seek to understand the context of published national reports and be aware that the information presented depends greatly upon the quality of information submitted.

## IT Systems

There are a range of IT systems and services used by LAs to record their local activity; this document does not prescribe use of a particular system.

1. LAs MUST liaise with their suppliers and stakeholders to ensure that their systems and processes are updated correctly to ensure that the requirements defined in the TOS are captured at source by 1 April 2023, as outlined in the Conformance Criteria section.
2. LAs MUST ensure their systems and processes include the requirements defined in the TOS by 1 April 2023, as outlined in the Conformance Criteria section.
3. IT system suppliers SHOULD review all related documents to fully understand the background, objectives and scope of this information standard.
4. IT system suppliers SHOULD raise any potential issues with implementing the information standard by 1 April 2023 with LAs and NHS Digital as soon as possible.

## Conformance Criteria

### Local Authorities

1. LAs submit ASCCLD data, in the manner defined by the TOS, via the approved submission tool within the timescales outlined in the Implementation Guidance, also listed here for ease of reading

#### Key Dates

1 April 2023: All LAs to be ready to collect data for the ASCCLD as defined in this standard

1 July 2023: All LAs to be ready to submit data for the ASCCLD

31 July 2023: All LAs to have submitted Q1 2023-24 ASCCLD data

Reporting of the quarterly data will take place within the month following each collection period. For example, the return taking place in July will include data covering the period ending in June. Further details are available in the collection guidance.

2. LAs make ASCCLD submissions that show improvement in data quality, where applicable, throughout the period that the ASCCLD mandated standard remains current via additional submissions and/or via use of the data validation tool.
3. LAs make comprehensive, good quality ASCCLD submissions, reflective of the activity undertaken.

4. LA submissions conform to applicable information governance principles.

## IT Systems

1. System suppliers implement any necessary changes to comply with this standard within six months of the publication of this ISN, in this case by 1 April 2023.
2. LAs must liaise with system suppliers and stakeholders to ensure that systems and processes are updated to enable capture of the required data at source by no more than six months after the publication of the ISN, in this case by 1 April 2023.
3. That LAs ensure their systems and processes include the values as defined by the TOS per the standard, with any local additions being discussed and agreed between individual organisations or their collective representatives (e.g. User Groups) and their system suppliers. That this should be done by no more than six months after the publication of the ISN, in this case by 1 April 2023.