

Version 1

Announcement of Changes to the “Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey, England 2011-12”

We have made two changes to the methodology behind this survey although the results will still be comparable with previous years:

- 1) The sampling design now incorporates stratification with service users being placed into one of four strata; previously a simple random sample was used. The reasons for this are twofold:
 - To increase precision of the results as the stratification design ensures the sample is more representative of eligible users than might be achieved via a simple random sample.
 - To allow local authorities to over-sample for groups of service users which are of interest to them, and therefore achieve more robust results for these subgroups.

- 2) We have also changed the methodology for ensuring service users have the capacity to consent to take part, making it less burdensome to implement. It is now restricted to service users in residential care, nursing care or supported living and is carried out by the care home manager. Previously councils were asked to check capacity for all service users and there were concerns that the process was not being applied consistently. This change was approved by the Social Care Research Ethics Committee and it is not expected to affect comparability of results with 2010-11.

More information on the methodology for the survey can be found in the guidance issued to councils at:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/social-care/social-care-collections/user-surveys/user-survey-guidance-2011-12>