



Responses to the Consultation on Adult Social Care Data Developments 2012

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. In 2012, the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) consulted on a range of potential changes to national data collections relating to adult social care.
- 1.2. This document provides information on:
 - The consultation
 - Next steps and changes to collections
 - Changes to publications
- 1.3. The first set of announcements about changes to collections was made on 28 September 2012, and can be found at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/socialcarecollections2013
- 1.4. In summary they will:
 - Remove some tables (S5, A7, A10) from the national activity collections which are used to produce the National Statistics publication 'Community Care Statistics: Social Services Activity, England';
 - Introduce new information to the collection on social care workforce;
 - Introduce a new set of Safeguarding Collections, the main changes being to the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults return which is currently published as an Experimental Statistic.
- 1.5. These announcements were approved by Department of Health (DH) Ministers and the Department of Communities and Local Government (in respect of New Burdens and the Single Data List). The National Statistician has been informed of the changes.

2. The Consultation

- 2.1. The Consultation on Adult Social Care Data Developments 2012 can be found at:
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/adultsocialcareconsultation12>
- 2.2. It asked for views on a wide range of potential changes to national adult social care data collections. Many of the changes had been developed through a programme of work known as the Zero Based Review. Some of the proposed changes would have an impact on National Statistics.
- 2.3. The changes proposed in the consultation document were agreed with members of the Outcomes and Information Development Board (OIDB). This Board is jointly chaired by DH and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and includes members from a range of stakeholder organisations such as DH, ADASS, HSCIC, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Local Government Association (LGA).
- 2.4. In 2011, the HSCIC undertook an eight week consultation on Response to the Consultation on National Adult Social Care Data Developments.
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/adultsocialcareconsultation11>
- 2.5. It was possible to draw upon this experience to aim for a higher response rate despite again needing to consult for just 8 weeks. This deadline was due to the complex work to develop the proposals, and the need to communicate the revisions to data collections to councils at the end of September 2012. A communications group was established in February 2012, which included representatives from councils and from national organisations such as DH.
- 2.6. This group was able to consider ways to publicise the consultation and encourage responses to it. For example, advance publicity, a slide set and workshops organised by regional groups. Colleagues from Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) facilitated the production of 'plain English' and 'Easy Read' versions of the consultation. They also facilitated some workshops to seek feedback from a wider range of stakeholders. The consultation was publicised by the HSCIC and by organisations such as ADASS.
- 2.7. Due to the volume of expected responses, respondents were encouraged to provide their response through an on-line survey. However other options were available, such as completing the pdf version of the on-line survey, or by letter.
- 2.8. The consultation opened on 8 June 2012 and closed on 2 August 2012. The number of responses received, and the number responding to each section are shown in Table 1 and Table 2. The majority of these were provided through the on-line survey, and others were received by e-mail, through an e-mailed version of the pdf version of the survey, or by letter. A list of organisations responding to the consultation (and identifying themselves) is provided in a separate document.

- 2.9. A series of Annexes show all the responses provided through the on-line survey, or its pdf version. It has not been possible to incorporate the responses received by e-mail or letter into these Annexes, so they are provided separately.

Table 1: Number of responses by method of response

Type of response	Number of responses
On-line survey or same format	308
Letters or e-mails in different format	25

Table 2: Number of responses to the consultation sections (excluding responses in a different format)

Section	Number of responses submitted on-line or supplied in same format
Items to drop in 2012/13	118
NMDS-SC	94
EQ-CL	117
SALT	111
Finance	101
Safeguarding	117
Surveys	108
ASCOF	98

3. Next steps and changes to collections

- 3.1. Since the consultation closed, the responses to some aspects of the consultation have been considered in more detail than others.

Changes for collection in respect of 2012/13

- 3.2. These changes have been considered in detail. The changes to Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care (RAP) and Adult Social Care Combined Activity Return (ASC-CAR) will affect the National Statistics publication 'Community Care Statistics: Social Services Activity, England'.
- 3.3. In terms of the deletions to tables in the ASC-CAR (S5) and RAP (A7, A10) collections, some reservations were expressed about the loss of these tables from the national collection, the Programme Board and OADB agreed that on balance these tables should be deleted, and information still collected locally if required. The greatest number of concerns was raised about the deletion of RAP A7, whereas other councils supported its deletion from the national collection now that it is not part of a National Indicator Set.
- 3.4. The response to proposals to make various changes to the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults collection for 2012/13 was more mixed. Given the proposals to move to a new safeguarding collection for 2013/14 met with a largely positive response, it made sense to leave the collection as it is for 2012/13, and make the larger changes the following year (2013/14).
- 3.5. Further information can be seen in the section of the consultation about changes for 2012/13.
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/adultsocialcareconsultation12>

Changes to NMDS-SC

- 3.6. Skills for Care have considered the responses to the consultation and in their paper they propose that on the basis that 75% of respondents considered that local authorities collecting data on qualifications would be valuable or very valuable it is recommended that this one data item be added to the list of NMDS-SC data items to be returned by local authorities in September 2014.

Safeguarding collection changes

- 3.7. The consultation responses were supportive of the move to a new collection for 2013/14. A range of comments have been taken into account.
- 3.8. The consultation responses highlighted some concerns about the logistics of moving to one safeguarding collection. The proposals have been changed to present the returns as a Safeguarding Adults Collection split into three distinct returns. In addition to this, the return on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards has been updated to take account of comments, such as those from CQC around inclusion of a provider code. More information is available through the link at para 1.3.

- 3.9. It is recognised that one of the safeguarding measures outlined in the consultation (SG005) requires further work and piloting before possible implementation.

Short and Long Term Support (SALT)

- 3.10. There was support for the proposals in this area, but concerns from councils about the feasibility of implementing the proposals for 2013/14. The technical group has started to resolve issues identified in the consultation as they look towards a 2014/15 implementation.

Finance

- 3.11. Concerns were also raised by councils about plans to implement the finance collection for 2013/14. Given its links with the SALT collection, it will be important to implement them at the same time, and the technical group will now look to focus on 2014/15 implementation. Some queries were raised about the links between this proposal and other returns (CLG's RA/RO returns) and processes (CIPFA's SeRCOP consultation), and the HSCIC continues to work with these organisations to ensure the processes are joined up. It will also be necessary to understand concerns from users about the removal of data items they value.

Equalities and Classifications Framework (EQ-CL) for collections

- 3.12. While the work in this area was broadly supported, there are some queries to address. We have noted concerns about the length of time it will take to implement the new classifications such as primary support reason and health condition and will be looking to prioritise the release of news and guidance on such areas.

Wider EQ-CL for use in councils

- 3.13. While it has not been possible to explore this area in detail, a wide range of queries have been raised, for example by groups with an interest in certain areas. It will not be possible to take this work forward during 2012/13, and any work after that will need to understand how it fits into the bigger picture.

Surveys

- 3.14. This area has not yet been considered in detail. High level results show that there was strong support for prioritising short-term (reablement) clients not captured by the existing survey. This will be taken into account in discussions over the next few months.

Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)

- 3.15. The feedback on proposed indicators for the ASCOF showed that some proposals were supported more than others. This feedback has been taken into account by the group of stakeholders who are working with the Department of Health to develop and finalise the content of the ASCOF for 2013/14. The Department of Health will publish the outcome of this later in the Autumn.

Initial questions on priorities and National Statistics

- 3.16. At the start of the consultation we asked questions about the priority areas for implementation, and any concerns about the discontinuation of data.

In terms of priorities for implementation, a variety of areas were mentioned by different stakeholders. Some of the comments raised concerns also mentioned elsewhere in the consultation about the pace of implementation. The feedback has been taken into account in the decision making process.

- 3.17. We also asked whether the proposals would mean that they would no longer have access to certain data items. Some respondents mentioned carer assessments and other unit cost data. Any issues raised will be considered during the further development of proposals for the new collections which may be implemented in 2014/15.

4. Changes to National and Official Statistics publications

- 4.1. The National Statistician has been informed about changes to collections announced in the September 2012 letter to councils which will have an impact on current publications.

National Statistics

- 4.2. The deletion of tables from RAP and ASC-CAR will mean that this information is no longer available for the Community Care Statistics: Social Services Activity, England report. Further information can be seen in the section of the consultation about changes for 2012/13.

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/adultsocialcareconsultation12>

- 4.3. The Personal Social Services: Staff of Social Services Departments, England report will be able to include additional data relating to qualifications.
- 4.4. The Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983 - England will remain unchanged when the return becomes part of the safeguarding collection.

Official Statistics

- 4.5. The Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards assessments – England will include all the current information. The addition of new data items may allow further information to be reported. A decision had already been made to report on this information on an annual, rather than quarterly basis.

Experimental Statistics

- 4.6. In 2013/14 a new collection will replace the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults collection. This will lead to changes to the available information, which has been published as the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults in England report based on data submitted on a voluntary basis in 2009/10 and on a mandatory basis from 2010/11. A number of time series will be maintained.

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