
Data Standards in Social Care

Programme Brief

Social Finance, the Open Data Institute and Coram are working in partnership over three years to develop data and interoperability standards for both children's and adult social care. The programme is jointly funded by the DfE and the DHSC.

Programme Vision

The Standards Programme will remove longstanding technological barriers across social care by developing and implementing open standards alongside building a shared and lasting infrastructure that is required to develop and maintain standards. This will put into motion a system-wide improvement in how the sector uses data, enabling individuals to receive earlier, better-informed, and more joined-up support.

Timescales and Initial Priorities

The programme will run for three years, by which time we will have implemented a first set of standards, and created the structures for the work to continue.

The first set of standards being developed are focused on two areas:

- Multiagency Information Sharing (MAIS)
- Placement Sufficiency Analysis

Governance and Openness

To ensure that everyone who may be able to benefit from data standardisation can contribute to the development of the standards we aim to work as openly as possible:

- We are establishing open working groups to advise on the scope and content of each standard and ensure they address the needs of all stakeholders.
- We will share our standards openly as they are developed, enabling the widest audience to input to their development.
- We will publish minutes of our working group meetings to enable stakeholders to understand how decisions have been made.

Overall project governance is through a steering group that brings together leaders from across the sector, as well as experts on standards and interoperability. It is represented in cross-government initiatives on standards governance, and in contact with related standards programmes in the NHS, criminal justice, and local government.

Getting Involved

For more information about the programme, visit the [programme website](#) and [sign up to the newsletter](#). To get in touch, please contact the programme team:

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