

Signs of Safety Evaluation Extension Privacy Notice

Summary

This project is being undertaken to better understand what works to improve outcomes for children who have undergone a statutory intervention and to increase the knowledge base in this area. In particular, for scientific purposes, we are using data to analyse whether Signs of Safety reduces the duration of assessments and the likelihood of an initial child protection conference, reduces the likelihood of cases that received an NFA to be re-referred, the likelihood of cases to be re-referred and result in a CPP or CLA, increases in kinship care vs non-kinship care.

We will not collect new data on children and young persons for this project but we are using data previously collected by local authorities that has been collected/created in the course of day to day children's social work. The data that we will receive will be pseudoanonymised and the Centre will not be able to tell who a particular child is in the data. All data will be securely stored on the ONS' systems.

What Works for Children's Social Care is unable to personally inform the children and families included in the relevant local authorities' data about their data being processed for this research as the Centre does not have access to the names and contact information of the individuals. For that reason, this privacy notice acts as notification of this research.

Your data will be included in the analysis if you have been assessed by children's social services in one of the local authorities analysed. If you would like to ask for information held, for your data to be rectified or deleted or for restriction of processing, please fill in this [form](#). We will then confirm the receipt of the request. In order to process your request, the data will be shared with the Department for Education who manages the data. This is necessary because the Centre does not have access to your identifying information. The information requested is needed to match you to your information in the dataset to fulfil your request. Once the Department for Education has provided us with the necessary information to fulfil your request (either which rows of data to delete or rectify, a new data extract or the information held about you depending on the type of request), we will complete the request and inform you once it has been completed.

What Works for Children's Social Care (WWCSC) is the data controller. WWCSC decided to process the data and decided the purpose of the processing, what data should be collected and which individuals to collect data about. Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the lawful basis we rely on for processing child and young person's information is legitimate interests for the purposes of improving the evidence base in children's social care. We are committed to upholding your rights under the GDPR, which are further explained [here](#):



<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/>

How we use child and young person's information

The categories of child and young person's information that we process include:

- Individual characteristics (gender, age, ethnicity, academic year, and free school meal eligibility)
- Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) status
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker status
- The date when the referral was made
- How many previous plans a child has had
- Main need which the episode of need is taking care of for children in need

Please note that the researchers will not have access to any information which could directly identify the children involved. The data received from the local authorities will be pseudo-anonymised and the data variables used to track individuals over time will have no meaning beyond the dataset's boundaries.

To access the current list of categories of information we process for this project please see the trial protocols "Signs of Safety evaluation extension" via <https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/research-project/signs-of-safety/>

Why we use child and young person's information

We use child and young person's data for scientific purposes to test whether SoS improves outcomes for children who have undergone a statutory intervention, in order to increase the knowledge base in this area. This will help decision-makers in local authorities make decisions on whether or not to invest in SoS.

Collecting child and young person's information

We will not collect children and young person's information as an organisation for this project but are using administrative data previously collected by local authorities.

Storing child and young person's information

The pseudo-anonymised data is stored on ONS systems and will be accessed via the ONS' Secure Research Service (SRS). The project will be completed by July 2020 and data will be securely deleted within 6 months of project completion.

Requesting access to your personal data



What Works for Children's Social Care

Under data protection legislation, parents and children have the right to request access to information about them that we hold.

You also have the right to:

- To ask us for access to information about you that we hold
- To have your personal data rectified, if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- To request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing
- To restrict our processing of your personal data (i.e. Permitting its storage but no further processing)
- To object to direct marketing (including profiling) (not relevant for this project) and processing for the purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics
- Not to be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect on you (not relevant for this project)

This privacy notice serves as informing children and young people and their parents as the What Works for Children's Social Care does not have access to the names and contact information of individuals in the datasets.

If you would like to ask for information held, for your data to be rectified or deleted or for restriction of processing, please fill in this [form](#). We will confirm receipt of the request. In order to process your request, the data will be shared with the Department for Education who manages the data. This is necessary because the Centre does not have access to your identifying information. The information requested is needed to match you to your information in the dataset to fulfil your request. Once the Department for Education has provided us with the necessary information to fulfil your request (either which rows of data to delete or rectify, a new data extract or the information held), we will complete the request and inform you once it has been completed.

Upon response of the DfE the information in this form will only be used for the purpose of fulfilling your request and will be deleted within 3 months from What Works for Children's Social Care. We will not be processing the data for the purposes of direct marketing and you will not be subject to decisions based on automated processing.

If you have a concern or complaint about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioner's office at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

Last updated

We may need to update this privacy notice periodically so we recommend that you revisit this information from time to time. This version was last updated on 17th February 2020.

Contact



What Works for Children's Social Care

If you would like to discuss anything in this privacy notice, please contact: Vicky Clayton, Senior Researcher, What Works for Children's Social Care who is the Lead Contact for the project, on vicky.clayton@whatworks-csc.org.uk.

GDPR Legal Basis

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the lawful basis we rely on for processing child and young person's information is legitimate interests for the purposes of improving the evidence base in children's social care.

The legal basis of legitimate interest is a three part test:

Purpose test: are you pursuing a legitimate interest?

We are a research group within an innovation charity, whose purpose is to improve the evidence base in children's social care. We consider the processing of the data to be in our legitimate interests because it will enable us to produce research in this area, which will benefit local authorities, in particular senior leaders who make decisions about practice models.

Necessity test: is the processing necessary for that purpose?

The processing is necessary for the purpose because processing individual level data allows us to conduct analysis which is better powered to detect the impact of Signs of Safety, and which allows us to better control for the circumstances of the individual which may affect the outcome. Both of these factors mean that we are more likely to be able to provide meaningful research which can be used to inform practice, with downstream effects for children involved in statutory social care.

Balancing test: do the individual's interests override the legitimate interest

We believe this processing falls within generally socially acceptable uses of this kind of data - it is scientific research in the public interest by a charity and for the benefit of a vulnerable group.

We therefore believe that the individuals' interests do not override our legitimate interest in this processing.

In addition, special category data is processed under GDPR Article 9(2)(j). The processing is considered necessary for archiving, scientific, historical research or statistical purposes.

This processing constitutes "scientific research" as it will be used to create evidence on pre-defined, specific hypotheses around what works to improve outcomes for children who have undergone a statutory intervention, in order to increase the knowledge base in this area. Please see the published protocols for more information on the scientific research



What Works *for*
**Children's
Social Care**

(Signs of Safety evaluation extension, available here:

<https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/research/research-projects/>)

The special category data we are using is data concerning gender, ethnicity and health, specifically disability. Not being able to assign gender or disability status to our data limits the scientific value of this research because they are likely moderators of social care outcomes. Previous research has found that the likelihood of children to enter care also varies by ethnic group and is thus important to control for when trying to gauge the impact of Signs of Safety on children's services.