

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-03-299

29th March 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-03-299

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 23rd March 2023. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board does hold the information that you have requested. Please see our responses in blue below:

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I would like to submit a freedom of information request regarding your ICB's data linkage practices.

Data linkage (also known as matching, entity resolution or record linkage) is the process of joining data sets through deciding whether two records, in the same or different data sets, belong to the same entity ([Harron et al., 2016](#)).

Data linkage provides insight, informs policy change and helps answer society's most important questions through increasing the utility of administrative data. However, linkage presents challenges, as discussed in the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) [2018 report on joining up data](#), and more work needs to be done to realise its full benefit.

My colleagues and I are leading commissioned research that involves the linking of education (school census), social care (child in need census) and health data sets within NHS digital. I am interested to find out how many ICBs are linking data on children and young people and the barriers and enablers to the process.

1. Do you link health data sets for children and young people accessing health services?

Y/N in development

[In development.](#)

[General Disclaimer Protection Regulation \(GDPR\): Barring a few lawful exemptions in line with our Policy notice: \[Privacy notice - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB\]\(#\) the vast majority of ICB processed \(linked\) data is either fully anonymised or "anonymised in context" at the individual record level. As NHS Commissioners are](#)

not generally permitted to process Person-Identifiable Data (PID) for commissioning / “indirect care” purposes without a clear legal basis supporting that.

2. Which health datasets are you linking, please state all the apply:

Primary care (GP data)
Community Services Data Set (CSDS)
Children and Young Persons Service (CYPS)
Accident and Emergency data
Secondary care (CAMHS)
Secondary Uses Services (SUS) and HES
Community Services Datasets (CSDS)
Child Health Records
Deaths
Births
Other (please specify)

Primary Care (GP data)

3. Which groups of children and young people do you link data on? Select all that apply:

Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Children in Need
Children looked after (care experienced)
All children and young people
Other (please specify)

All children and young people where applicable to SUS and the limited Primary Care data.

4. How are you using the linked data?

Strategic planning
Data dashboard
Joint commissioning
Service review
Targeted interventions (individuals)
Other (please specify)
We are not using linked data

The ICB is currently undertaking a building of its resource to link data to allow specific targeted interventions that will be included within strategic planning.

5. Do you currently link local health data sets with any Local Authority data sets?

No.

6. Which LA datasets are you linking to health dataset? please state all the apply:

School census

Children in Need (CiN) census

Children looked after return SSDA903 data collection

Other (please specify)

None.

Right of Appeal

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

To request an internal review

You can request an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board FOI team by emailing the team at StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance