



# Department of Health & Social Care

Department of Health and Social  
Care  
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Sarah Wilkinson  
Chief Executive  
NHS Digital  
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25 January 2021

Dear Sarah

## 1. Community Services Data Set Directions 2020

- 1.1 I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (**the Secretary of State**) to provide Directions to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, known as and hereafter referred to in these Directions as **NHS Digital**.
- 1.2 These Directions are given in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 254(1) and (6), section 260(4)(a), and section 304(9), (10) and (12) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012<sup>1</sup> (**the 2012 Act**).
- 1.3 In exercising the activities and functions described in these Directions, NHS Digital must have regard to such priorities, policies, advice or guidance of the Secretary of State as the Secretary of State may notify in writing from time to time to NHS Digital.
- 1.4 These Directions are to be known as the **Community Services Data Set Directions 2020** and come into force on the date signed.

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of these Directions (**Purpose**) is to obtain national, comparable, standardised data about Community Services from Community

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<sup>1</sup> 2012 c.7

Services providers, as such terms are used and construed in Information Standard DCB1069: Community Services Data Set (**the Information Standard**)<sup>2</sup> that will support Community Services providers to share good practice, identify improvements and implement the NHS Long-Term Plan to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and adults.

- 2.2 The collection will assist the provision of more personalised and better organised care for patients by understanding what care is needed nationally, by supporting the commissioning of services in new ways to improve health and reduce inequalities, and by supporting service improvement and clinical quality.

### 3. **Establishing and operating information systems for the Community Services Data Set Directions 2020 data collection**

- 3.1 In accordance with sections 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State directs NHS Digital to establish and operate a system for the collection or analysis of information from the Community Services providers in England described in the Community Services Data Set (CSDS) v1.5 Requirements Specification and in the form and manner described in the Community Services Data Set Technical Output Specification, which are published as part of the Information Standard. Such system is to be known as the **Community Services Data Set Directions Information System**.
- 3.2 NHS Digital is directed to carry out the activities above in accordance with the Information Standard or any subsequent published version of the Information Standard that covers the same topic and generally in such a way as to enable and facilitate the Purpose.

### 4. **Analysis and linkage**

- 4.1 Pursuant to the Secretary of State's powers under 254(1) and 254(6) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital is further directed to analyse the information collected pursuant to these Directions, including by such reference or linkage to other data held by NHS Digital as NHS Digital determines is necessary to achieve the Purpose.
- 4.2 The information to be collected for these **Community Services Data Set Directions 2020** may also be analysed by NHS Digital in the manner described and provided for in the **Life Sciences Directions 2019** issued to NHS Digital by the Secretary of State on 21 October 2019 (as the same may be amended from time to time), for as long as those Directions remain in force.

### 5. **Requirement for these Directions**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/information-standards/information-standards-and-data-collections-including-extractions/publications-and-notifications/standards-and-collections/dcb1069-community-services-data-set>

- 5.1 In accordance with section 254(2)(a) of the 2012 Act, the Secretary of State considers that the information which could be obtained by complying with these Directions is information which it is necessary or expedient for the Secretary of State to have in relation to the exercise by the Secretary of State of his functions in connection with the provision of health services or of adult social care in England.
- 5.2 In accordance with section 254(5) of the 2012 Act, NHS Digital has been consulted before these Directions have been given.

## 6. **Publication**

Where, pursuant to section 260(1) of the Act, NHS Digital publishes information obtained by complying with these Directions, in accordance with section 260(4)(a) of the Act it must do so by way of monthly reports published on the NHS Digital website.

## 7. **Fees and Accounts**

NHS Digital must keep proper accounts, and proper records in relation to the accounts, in connection with the Community Services Data Set Directions 2020.

## 8. **Duration**

NHS Digital is directed to operate Community Services Data Set Directions Information System (**the Directed Function**) unless and until revoked by a further direction or instructed in writing by an authorised officer of the Department of Health and Social Care on behalf of the Secretary of State on reasonable notice to suspend and/or permanently cease the Directed Function. Where a Directed Function is to cease, such written request will also contain a direction to revoke these Directions in accordance with the timescales and arrangements to be agreed with NHS Digital.

## 9. **Review of these Directions**

These Directions will be reviewed when the Information Standard is amended. This review will include consultation with NHS Digital as required by section 254(5) of the 2012 Act.

## 10. **Revocation**

The NHS Digital (Community Services Data Set) Directions 2017 issued on 31 August 2017 by the Secretary of State are revoked.

Yours sincerely

Alistair Rose  
Interim Deputy Director (T/P), NHS Quality & Safety and Investigations Analytical Team