

Subject: FW: Important information from the Department for Education – Changes to children’s social care service returns for 2022 to 2023

From: Data Operations Service Desk No Reply <data.operations.service.desk.no.reply@notifications.service.gov.uk>

Sent: 30 September 2021 09:23

To:
Subject: Important information from the Department for Education – Changes to children’s social care service returns for 2022 to 2023



Department for Education

Enquiries to be directed to the Data Collections Helpdesk via a [data collections service request form](#)

Date: 30 September 2021

To information contacts in England

Changes to children’s social care service returns for 2022 to 2023

Dear colleague,

This letter relates to children’s social care service returns which are the responsibility of the Department for Education (DfE). It provides six months’ advance notice of changes to existing data collections that local authorities will need to action from April 2022.

This letter provides the following information:

1. Overview of changes and additions to data collections for April 2022 to March 2023

2. Reminder of changes to the April 2021 to March 2022 data collections
3. Matched data
4. Annex 1: Summary of children's social care data returns.

1. Overview of changes and additions to data collections for April 2022 to March 2023

1.1. Children looked after (CLA)

The care leaver cohort for 2022 to 2023 has been extended to include young people who are aged 22- to 25-years-old during the year, who have been in touch with your authority. For these care leavers aged 22- to 25-years-old, where the young person has been in touch with your local authority for support during the year then please report their activity and accommodation at that point in time.

Note the timing of this information is slightly different to that already collected for care leavers aged 17- to 21-years-old, for whom contact, activity and accommodation information should relate to on or around their birthday.

You only need to provide information for 22- to 25-year-olds who have been in touch with you, we do not, for reporting purposes, expect you to contact all 22- to 25-year-old care leavers to obtain this information.

A new duty was placed on local authorities in 2018, which required the extension of the offer of Personal Adviser (PA) support to all care leavers to age 25 (previously, PA support ended at age 21 for most care leavers). Currently data is only collected for care leavers aged between 17- to 21-years-old so extending the collection in this way will allow the department to monitor the number of care leavers aged 22- to 25-years-old who

have taken up the offer of support or to collect data on their economic activity or accommodation status.

The 2022 to 2023 data collection guide, technical specification and validation rules will be published in October, on the [children looked after data collection website](#).

1.2. Children in Need (CIN)

The code sets for existing data items source of referral and reason for closure have been extended to include codes for early help for the 2022 to 2023 children in need census.

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early help can also prevent further problems arising.

Collecting information about early help will help the department understand more about the contact that children in need have with the early help services that local authorities provide.

The data collected by the department in the children in need census will capture early help in relation to children in need, but it will not give a complete picture of early help within a local authority. The code set for source of referral has been extended as follows:

- 5D – 'LA SERVICES' – early help.

Collecting this information will allow the department to understand more about the step up between early help and children's social services.

The descriptions of source of referral codes 5B and 5C have also been updated to improve clarity as follows:

- 5B – 'LA SERVICES' – other internal services, not including social care or early help.

- 5C – ‘LA SERVICES’ – external, from another local authority’s services, for example social care or early help.

The current (i.e. not including these updates) source of referral codes and their descriptions can be found in section 4.4 of the 2021 to 2022 census collection guide.

The code set for reason for closure has been extended as follows:

- RC9 – Case closed after assessment, referred to early help.

Collecting this information will allow the department to understand more about the step down between children’s social services and early help.

The current (i.e. not including this update) reason for closure codes and their descriptions can be found in section 4.7 of the 2021 to 2022 census collection guide.

The 2022 to 2023 data collection guide (sections 4.4 and 4.7 will contain the updates for source of referral and reason for closure), COLLECT report specification and business and technical specification will be published in October, on the [children in need data collection website](#).

2. Reminder of changes to the April 2021 to March 2022 data collections

2.1. Children looked after (CLA)

The code set for ‘main activity’ of care leavers has been expanded to allow local authorities to capture care leavers who are undertaking an apprenticeship. The description of the current codes can be found in section 2.10.5 of the data collection guide. Within the existing code set we have removed the current F3/P3 codes:

- F3 – Young person engaged full-time in training or employment
- P3 – Young person engaged part-time in training or employment

And have replaced them with the following codes:

- F4 – Young person engaged full-time in an apprenticeship
- P4 – Young person engaged part-time in an apprenticeship
- F5 – Young person engaged full-time in training or employment (not including an apprenticeship)
- P5 – Young person engaged part-time in training or employment (not including an apprenticeship)

An update to the 2021 to 2022 data collection guide, technical specification and validation rules will be published in October 2021 on the [children looked after data collection website](#).

2.2. Children in need (CIN)

Child in need plan

CIN plan dates were introduced as new data items for the 2021 to 2022 collection. The CIN plan start date and CIN plan end date should be recorded. This is a temporary change for 2 years (the 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023 collections). Collecting CIN plan dates will help the department understand the journey of the child following a referral to local authority children's social care. The value of collecting and publishing this data will be reviewed with a view to it becoming a permanent part of the collection. The new data items are listed below and will be part of the CINDetails module:

- CINPlanStartDate – The start date for any CIN plan opened for the child within the CIN episode.

- CINPlanEndDate – The end date for any CIN plan opened for the child within the CIN episode.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

The code set for factors identified at the end of assessment has been extended to include Child Criminal Exploitation (24A). Collecting and publishing this data will support policy development, associated issues around gangs and trafficking and support a wider review of CCE data. The new factor is shown below:

- 24A – Child criminal exploitation: concerns that services may be required or the child may be at risk of harm due to child criminal exploitation.

The 2021 to 2022 data collection guide, COLLECT report specification and business and technical specification were published in October 2020 on the [children in need data collection website](#). An [updated guide on the factors identified at the end of assessment](#) was published in April 2021, and this includes further information on CCE (refer to pages 14 and 15).

3. Matched data

In March 2021 we published the new [Outcomes for children in need, including children looked after by local authorities in England](#) statistical release which involves matching data from the CLA SSSDA903 collection with the CIN collection and the national pupil database (NPD). Combined CIN-CLA data is matched to school census, alternative provision census and educational attainment data using the UPN as the primary matching key, so it is of vital importance that UPN data across the CIN and CLA data collections are of good quality and that they are consistent across the collections. Therefore, we encourage you to include checks both across the collections as well as checks within your LA, for example, checking the same UPN is not given to multiple children. For the matching of CIN and CLA data it is also important that the LACHildID (on the CIN collection) is consistent

with the CHILDLACODE (on the CLA collection) and we encourage you to include checks across the collections on this too. The 2021 version of the outcomes publication is due to be published in March 2022.

Yours faithfully,

Jill Bodey and Jiten Champaneri

Data Collection Managers
Data Insight and Statistics Division (DISD)

Annex 1: Summary of children’s social care data returns

Children looked after (CLA)

Summary of changes for 2021 to 2022

Removal of 2 codes from ‘main activity’:

- F3 – Young person engaged full time in training or employment
- P3 – Young person engaged part-time in training or employment

Addition of 4 replacement codes:

- F4 – Young person engaged full-time in an apprenticeship
- P4 – Young person engaged part-time in an apprenticeship
- F5 – Young person engaged full-time in training or employment (not including an apprenticeship)
- P5 – Young person engaged part-time in training or employment (not including an apprenticeship)

Summary of changes for 2022 to 2023

Extension of the care leaver cohort to include young people aged 22- to 25-years-old who have been in touch for support.

We do not expect you to actively contact all care leavers aged 22- to 25-years-old, but you should report activity and accommodation information for those that contact you for support.

Children in need (CIN)

Summary of changes for 2021 to 2022

CIN plan start and end date data items added to the CINDetails module. The new data items are:

- CINPlanStartDate
- CINPlanEndDate

A new factor identified at the end of assessment has been added:

- 24A – Child Criminal Exploitation: concerns that services may be required, or the child may be at risk of harm due to child criminal exploitation.

Summary of changes for 2022 to 2023

The code set for source of referral has been:

- extended to include '5D – LA SERVICES – early help'.
- the descriptions for codes 5B and 5C have been updated to improve clarity.

The code set for reason for closure has been extended to include 'RC9 – case closed after assessment, referred to early help'

