

Ref: FOI/00309/CMICB  
11 April 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Data Linkage Practices**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

**Your Request:**

**1) Do you link health data sets for children and young people accessing health services? Y/N/in development**

**Our Response:**

1) Yes.

**Your Request:**

**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)

**Our Response:**

2) The main data sets that are linked across Cheshire & Merseyside ICB are:

- Primary Care (GP data)
- Secondary Care (SUS)
- Accident & Emergency
- Births
- Deaths

**Your Request:**

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)

**Our Response:**

3) There is the ability in data sets across Cheshire & Merseyside ICB to link all children and young people, but the ability to link those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Looked after children, or those in need is dependent on records being identified (or 'flagged') as such in the original data set. As a result, coverage of the use of such means of identification is limited.

**Your Request:**

4) How are you using the linked data?

- Strategic planning
- Data dashboard
- Joint commissioning
- Service review
- Targeted interventions (individuals)
- Other (please specify)
- We aren't using linked data

**Our Response:**

4) Utilisation of linked data tends to be at a more local geography rather than across the whole of Cheshire and Merseyside ICB, due to some historic projects and working arrangements. Linked data tends to be used for strategic planning, joint commissioning and targeted interventions.

**Your Request:**

5) Do you currently link local health data sets with any Local Authority data sets? Y/N/in development

**Our Response:**

5) This is currently in development. Linkage with Social Care data is in place in some geographic areas in Cheshire & Merseyside ICB, but not all currently.

**Your Request:**

**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)

**Our Response:**

6) Other – Social care records.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing [foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk) and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

*The Information Commissioner's Office*  
*Wycliffe House*  
*Water Lane*  
*Wilmslow*  
*Cheshire*  
*SK9 5AF*  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.