

London Borough of Barnet
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale,
London, NW9 4EW
23 February 2023
Our ref: 9199568

Thank you for your request received on 15 February 2023, for the following information:

I would like to submit a freedom of information request regarding your council'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 other local authority areas are linking data on children and young people and the barriers and enablers to the process.

1. Do you currently link your education and social care data for children and young people?

Y/N/in development

2. Which of your datasets are you linking? please state all the apply

School census

Children in Need (CiN) census

Children looked after return SSDA903 data collection

Other (please specify)

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)

Children and young people on Free School Meals

All children and young people

Other (please specify)

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

6. Do you currently link local authority data sets for children and young people with health data sets? Y/N/in development

7. Which health data sets are you linking with education and or social care?

Select all that apply

Primary care (GP data)

Community Services Data Set (CSDS)

Secondary care (CAMHS)

Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS)

Accident and Emergency data

Secondary Uses Services (SUS) also known as HES (Hospital Episode Statistics)

Community Services Datasets (CSDS)

Child Health Records

Deaths

Births

Other (please specify)

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below.

1. Do you currently link your education and social care data for children and young people?

Yes, on an ad-hoc basis - i.e. an Ofsted inspection

2. Which of your datasets are you linking? please state all the apply

We usually link our school census data with social care 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 - Yes

Children in Need - Yes

Children looked after (care experienced) - Yes

4. How are you using the linked data?

Data dashboard - We link those known to children social care i.e. CIN, CP on our SEN dashboard. This information is provided to Barnet Education Learning Service by the Family Services team.

Other (please specify) - on an ad-hoc basis.

6. Do you currently link local authority data sets for children and young people with health data sets?

No, we do not link this data.

7. Which health data sets are you linking with education and or social care?

Select all that apply

Primary care (GP data)

Community Services Data Set (CSDS)

Secondary care (CAMHS)

Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS)

Accident and Emergency data

Secondary Uses Services (SUS) also known as HES (Hospital Episode Statistics)

Community Services Datasets (CSDS)

Child Health Records

Deaths

Births

Other (please specify)

Barnet Education Learning Service provides school census data to the Public Health team.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Records & Information Management Service, Assurance Group, London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.