

Freedom of Information Request

We are a team of researchers based at the Institute for Fiscal Studies and University College London. Our research focuses on evaluating the impact of Sure Start children's centres on families and children. We are looking to identify local authorities who have management information records about children's services usage during the 2000s so that we can better understand patterns of Sure Start provision and take up.

Thank you for your time!

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About you

1. Which local authority or authorities are you responding on behalf of?

Nottinghamshire County Council

2. Please provide a named contact in case we need to follow up to better understand some of the information you provide

Name: Irene Kakoullis

3. Please provide the contact details for this named contact.

Email: irene.kakoullis@nottscc.gov.uk

Number: 0115 7443321

Your children's services management information system

During the 2000s, all local authorities delivered a range of early years services through Sure Start Children's Centres. Most LAs are still delivering services to this age group, though the name of the programme has often changed.

We are interested in children's centres as defined in Section 5A of the Childcare Act 2006: a place, or places,

(a) which is managed by or on behalf of, or under arrangements made with, an English local authority, with a view to securing that early childhood services in their area are made available in an integrated manner,

(b) through which each of the early childhood services is made available, and

(c) at which activities for young children are provided, whether by way of early years provision or otherwise.

We are interested in these services whether they are delivered from designated buildings, co-located with other services, or delivered through other models.

4. Does your council, either in-house or through a commissioned partner, operate a management information system or other records system recording information about children's centres (or their predecessors) within your local authority?

Yes

5. What is the name of this management information system? [For example, eStart]

Mosaic (the Service previously used the NHS SystemOne 2013-2020). This is a social care system so not all data regarding families who use the centres are included in this MIS.

6. Is this system electronic? [Yes/No]

Yes

7. Are there staff members at your local authority who are able to access and analyse the records stored in this information system? [Yes/No]

yes

8. Does the information system cover all of the children's centres in your local authority? [Yes/No]

Yes

If yes to question 8, Skip to question 11

Coverage of MIS

[If you answered 'No' to question 8, please complete]

9. What proportion of the children centres does it cover? [0 to 100%]

The system is used throughout Nottinghamshire council for children and adults services. there is no specific charge for the children's centre service to use this system

10. Is there an alternative way to access any information of the centres that are not covered by the system? [Yes/No]

NA – all centres covered in this system, but not all data is on there.

Dates covered by MIS

11. Which period does the information in this information system start from? [Please use the 15th of the month if you don't know the precise date.]

The Children's Centre service has been using this system since 1.6.20 as the service was brought into the council on this date. When the Children's Centre Service was commissioned to an external provider (in the NHS), they used System 1. The contract was in place 2013-2020. Prior to this date, we used eStart.

12. When does this information system cover until? [Please fill in today's date if the system is still in place.]

1.10.20

13. Is there information available through a different system for previous years? [Yes/No]

Yes

If yes to question 13, go to question 14
If no to question 13, go to question 17

Years on previous system

[If you responded yes in q.13]

14. If yes, what system is this on?

System One

15. If yes, when does this system record from? [Please provide as much information as you can about the month and year.]

1.6.2013

16. If yes, when does this system record until? [Please provide as much information as you can about the month and year.]

31.5.20

Details from MIS

We are looking to use MIS data to understand more about the types of services that different centres offered in the 2000s and the take-up of these services among different groups. To help us understand how much of this information exists, we will now ask for which years your local authority would be able to access records for each type of request.

17. Is it easier for you to answer in calendar, financial or academic years?
[Financial: Apr to Apr, Calender: Jan to Dec, Academic: Sep to Aug]

Data held on System One is owned by the NHS provider who previously delivered the service. Only some data from that system was transferred to the council ready for the service to be delivered by the council from 1.6.20 which was in line with GDPR procedures, this data was added to Mosaic.

The council does hold performance data from 1.6.2013-31.5.20 which provides details of activities, numbers accessing etc. This however is in pdf and word format and not on an MIS. This data is available by quarters (financial years).

The contract for the externally commissioned service was based on financial years so data reports are based on these years (the contract started on the 1.6.2013).

18. For which years would you be able to access records on the number of children using Sure Start services in your local authority over time? [If you are answering in financial or academic years, the year given refers to the start of each period. For example, 1999 refers to the financial year starting in April 1999 and the academic year starting in September 1999.]

[Please give years from 1999 to 2020.]

a. For the whole local authority:

From: 1.6.13	To: 32.5.20
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b. For every centre individually:

From: 1.6.13	To: 32.5.20
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c. For the centres the MIS covers, as a whole:

From: 1.6.13	To: 32.5.20
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d. For the centres the MIS covers, individually:

From: 1.6.13	To: 32.5.20
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19. For what years would you be able to access records on the characteristics of the children and families using Sure start services [such as age, gender]

Please give years from 1999 to 2020.

- a. For the whole local authority:

From: 1.6.20	To: 1.10.20
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NA – data re age and gender was not required as part of the performance monitoring arrangements so we do not have data prior to June 2020.

- b. For every centre individually: (not provided by centre, but by cluster which may include more than one centre. We have 18 clusters)

From: NA	To:
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- c. For the centres the MIS covers, as a whole:

From: NA	To:
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- d. For the centres the MIS covers, individually:

From: NA	To:
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20. For what years would you be able to access records on the types of programmes the Sure Start centres in your LA offered each year [e.g. stay and play, employment assistance]

Please give years from 1999 to 2020.

a. For the whole local authority:

From: 1.6.13	To: 1.20.20
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b. For every centre individually:

From: 1.6.20	To: 1.10.20
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c. For the centres the MIS covers, as a whole:

From: 1.6.20	To: 1.10.20
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d. For the centres the MIS covers, individually:

From: 1.6.20	To: 1.10.20
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21. We would like to approach some of the LAs who hold these records to ask whether they are willing to collaborate with us by sharing some statistics. Based on the areas we have asked about on this form, who is the best contact or team to contact to get this information? (Please provide an email address if you can.)

Diane.tinklin@nottsc.gov.uk

22. Do you have any additional comments on the possibility of access to data on the usage of Sure Start centres from 1999 until now? Any extra information will be very useful.