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Welcome to Our First Newsletter

Hello from the team!

*Social Finance, The Open Data Institute, and Coram are working alongside the Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care to implement a first set of data and interoperability standards for **children's and adult social care**. Over the next three years, we'll implement these and create structures to keep this work sustained.*

[Link to the Programme Website](#)



We're excited to launch the very first edition of the **Data Standards for Social Care** newsletter.

Our goal? To keep you updated on how the different strands of the programme develop over the next three years. So you can make informed decisions on if, when and how you'd want to contribute to the foundations for better social care delivery across the nation.

Important - Sign Up for Future Editions

👉 [Sign up HERE](#) for this newsletter – it only takes a minute!

Updates will **not** be sent to those who do not sign up to the newsletter.

We promise to bring you worthwhile stories, as well as opportunities to contribute to a future in which social care data flows seamlessly and meaningfully. You can unsubscribe at any point.

Programme Updates

1. From Clunky to Connected: Enabling Easier Multi-Agency Information Sharing (MAIS)

Single View systems bring information from multiple agencies onto one screen, helping frontline workers see who already knows an individual in receipt of care and what support is in place. But they are hard to build, often involving the negotiation of data sharing agreements, building, and managing large datasets and expensive technology.

We are building the [data standards](#) that make those systems quicker, cheaper, and easier to build and scale.

Here's where we are:

- ✓ **Person Specification:** Finalising and testing the minimum requirement to uniquely identify an individual.
- ✓ **Shared Language:** Developing standardised vocabularies and a taxonomy for machine-to-machine exchange—crucial for creating a common language across systems.
- ✓ **Smarter Exchange:** Specifying standards for an API with a *Request – Match – Response* approach to data exchange. Exploring how to link data requests directly to Data Processing Agreements, unlocking safer, more automated sharing.

The outcome? Less time chasing data. More time with children. Earlier identification of risk. Stronger safeguarding.

👥 Want to help shape an interoperable future?

- Review and comment on our emerging standards at: <https://socialcaredata.github.io/spec/>
- Join the next MAIS Working Group on 08th October. Email DataStandards-SocialCare@socialfinance.org.uk to join.

🔗 Useful links: [More on MAIS](#) | [Person Data Standard Specification](#) | [Data Exchange Standard](#)

2. On Our Way to a Shared Standard for Children's Care Placements

Our **South West pilot** is underway, aiming for **placement sufficiency** so that every child has access to the right placement at the right time. To ensure the standard is both practical and widely supported, we're combining Working Group discussions with focused Deep Dives – tackling complex design questions in detail.

Right now, we are working with the sector to answer:

- 👉 What provision is needed, where, at what cost, and at what notice, to meet unmet demand?
- 👉 What's the business case for creating this provision?

Alongside this, the group is beginning to surface ideas for **future use cases** – from understanding demand reduction drivers to provider pricing and placement outcomes. This foundation can potentially support commissioning and financial monitoring across both Adult and Children's Social Care.

Our goal is clear: to agree a minimum viable product (MVP) for the standard by November, laying the foundation for a consistent, useful, and future-ready approach to placement data.

👤 **Want to get involved?** Join the Working Group by emailing ivjyot.oberoi@socialfinance.org.uk or sign up for upcoming Deep Dives using the links below.

🔗 **Useful links:** [Deep Dive 3 Teams Link](#) | [Deep Dive 4 Teams Link](#) | [Placement Specification](#) | [Issues Raised](#)

3. Prioritising What Matters in Adult Social Care

As DHSC integrates into the programme, we're working with colleagues in Adult Social Care to identify the issues that matter most and where shared standards can deliver the biggest benefits.

Our current priorities are:

- **Multi-agency information sharing** – Aligning with children's social care to put in place the building blocks that ensure the right information reaches the right people, at the right time.
- **Reporting and analytics** – Helping Local Authorities get information in and out of case management systems with ease, supporting both statutory and local reporting.

👤 This prioritisation process is ongoing, and your perspective matters. If you'd like to share your views or discuss any of these areas, we'd love to hear from you at [DataStandards-SocialCare@socialfinance.org.uk](mailto>DataStandards-SocialCare@socialfinance.org.uk).

What would you like to hear next?

We want to make this newsletter useful to you. Please write back if there is anything specific that you'd want us to discuss in the next newsletter.

In the **next edition**, we aim to provide an update to you on the developments and decisions on Adult Social Care use cases and standards, the sector's latest thinking on the need for a national data infrastructure, *and more!*

Reminder: Don't miss out on future updates!

Sign up [here](#)



[Programme Website](#)
