DDSF Project 1A Develop a new Standard Safeguarding Dataset

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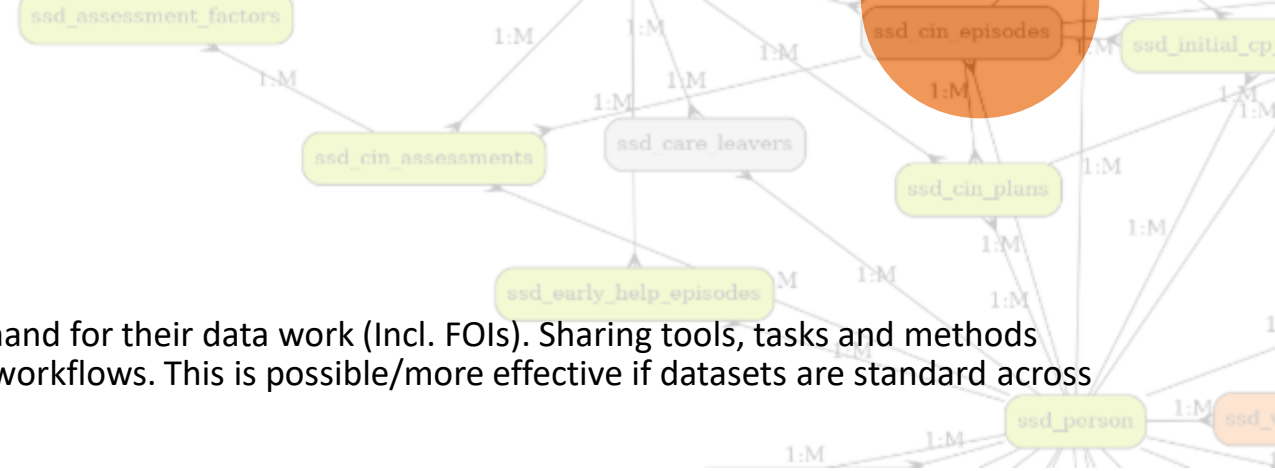

SSD Benefits Summary

- LA data teams have to balance limited capacity with high demand for their data work (Incl. FOIs). Sharing tools, tasks and methods across professional networks is one way to manage/improve workflows. This is possible/more effective if datasets are standard across LAs and tools can be developed once for all.

- Data collaboration currently limited to standard ‘core’ datasets – notably CIN Census, SSDA903, Annex A. These are typically in the format and timeframe(s) dictated by the DfE, providing more limited scope for increased local/wider analysis and insights.

- Collaborative development efforts can be achieved, aswell as instant/plug-and-play re-use of other LA’s reporting tools because the underlying structure is now the same between LA’s who have deployed the SSD.

- Core datasets lack much of the depth and granularity that individual LAs look to incorporate in bespoke local analysis, including to understand quality of practice. The SSD expands core datasets into an LA-centric standard field-set

- SSD structure/included data is standardised across different CMS systems (where data exists). Establishing an SSD would enable LA colleagues to have common data structure knowledge and shared understanding. Enabling consistent inter-LA discussions on inconsistent reporting, benchmarking, colleagues can draw on collaborative efforts towards improved data insights (this without data sharing).

- SSD is extensible/flexible. The project has established a workflow for continuous change integration and re-deployment. The SSD could also be appended to locally or within sub-groups of LAs where advantageous, providing the core tables remain standardised. For example, adding an involvements types history summary to the ssd_person is one that we can demonstrate.

- The SSD is a long-term project with major implications for the children’s services data landscape. It introduces a new locally hosted dataset and reporting mechanisms, led by the expertise and effort of local partners, for the benefit of the whole sector. Towards a framework of ‘develop once/collaboratively, use 153 times’.