

Early Help and Priority families

Study Title: National Evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme

The Troubled Families programme is a Government funded scheme operated by local authorities with support from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Troubled Families programme seeks to improve outcomes for members of families with multiple problems in relation to worklessness, crime and anti-social behaviour, engagement with the education system and other factors which have an impact on public expenditure. In Hull the Troubled Families programme is called the Early Help/Priority Families programme.

What is the purpose of this evaluation?

The purpose of the evaluation is to establish whether the Troubled Families programme has been successful in achieving its aims and to identify ways in which its effectiveness could be improved. By carrying out this evaluation, MHCLG aims to determine -

- How well services for families with multiple problems are working nationally
- Identify which public services are being accessed by these families and what type of out of work benefits are being claimed
- The costs of providing services to families with multiple problems

To do this, MHCLG wants to link information about your family with past and future information on your use of public services and out of work benefits.

Use of personal information

MHCLG will use your personal information -

- name
- date of birth
- gender
- last known address
- National Insurance number

Please note that any information you provide will not be used to make any decisions about your out of work benefits entitlement, or services you use, now, or in the future.

Why do you want to use my data?

Your family meet the criteria for the Troubled Families programme as you have been identified as requiring support, from local services, with two or more of the following reasons -

- Adults out of work, or at risk of financial exclusion, and young people at risk of worklessness
- Children who have not been attending school regularly
- Children who need early help or social care support
- Parents and young people involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- Families affected by Domestic Abuse
- Parents or children with a range of health problems

What will happen to the information provided?

In order to assess how well services for families with multiple problems are working, what public services families use, and what benefits they receive, MHCLG would like to use your personal information to crossmatch with information held by other government agencies. This information will only be used for research and will be anonymised so the researchers will not know whose data they have. This information will be provided by your local authority to our partner for the evaluation, Office for National Statistics (ONS). They will keep your data secure.

The following government agencies will provide data -

- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) – to identify type of benefits you may have been receiving, or if you have moved in to employment.
- Ministry of Justice (MOJ) – to see what contact you or your children may have had with the criminal justice system.
- Department for Education (DfE) – to identify whether your child has been attending school, how well they are doing at each Key Stage and whether your child has been identified as requiring support.

MoJ, DWP and DfE will not keep your name on file for longer than a month and will not keep records showing you were part of this research.

All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. Your name, date of birth, gender, address, and National Insurance number will be kept separately from all the other information in a secure, password-protected document on a computer system. You will be assigned a unique reference number, so that even though a researcher will see all your information, they will not be able to identify you.

For how long will my information be kept?

All personal information held by ONS for this research will be securely destroyed by December 2022. The personal information held by DWP, MoJ and DfE for this research will be securely destroyed after a month and they will not keep records showing you were part of this research. All data use is strictly within the terms of data protection legislation.

Legislation

The authority to legally share data for this research is provided by the Digital Economy Act 2017 (DPA).

The collection of personal information by MHCLG for this project is compliant with data protection legislation. In addition The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provides the appropriate legislation which allows MHCLG to process personal data and additional special category data, as shown below -

A. Lawful basis for processing personal data under Article 6 GDPR

(e) Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.

B. Additional condition for processing special category data under Article 9(2) GDPR

(g) Processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest, on the basis of Union or Member State law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and the interests of the data subject.

C. The DPA 2017 provides a lawful basis to process criminal offence data under Article 10 GDPR

Processing of personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences, or related security measures based on Article 6(1) shall be carried out only under the control of official authority or when the processing is authorized by Union or Member State law providing for appropriate safeguards for the rights and freedoms of data subjects.

Any comprehensive register of criminal convictions shall be kept only under the control of official authority.

The Local Authority will collect the personal data under the public task basis (to fulfil their functions, in this case deliver services to troubled families) and agree to share this data with MHCLG under the public task basis (to fulfil our functions as a Government Department, in this case to improve services for troubled families).

What happens if I change my mind and what are my rights?

You can talk to your Local Authority about whether your data is being used for this project without it affecting your legal rights or routine care. You can also see copies of all the data MHCLG hold about you and ask for it to be corrected or deleted.

You can speak to your lead practitioner from the Local Authorities Early Help team. You can also contact MHCLG's Knowledge and Information Team about seeing your data or withdrawing from the research by emailing MHCLG's Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@communities.gsi.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the way your personal information is being handled you can contact the independent Information Commissioner at: <https://ico.org.uk/>

What will happen to the results of this research?

The final results of this research will be published on the main government website. You will not be identified in any research report.