Data for Children Collaborative

Collaborative

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Impact Collaborations
Challenge Question

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Data-Driven Innovation
Part of the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal

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Challenge Question Information

Reference Number	ICPOV03

Challenge Question

What data does Scotland collect and analyse that directly and indirectly impacts on the lives of children and their families, and how can we best map it?

Background & Detail

On 5 February 2020, the Care Review published seven reports, with 'The Promise' narrating a vision for Scotland, built on five foundations.

'The Promise' outlines an approach to family and to care that will mean that Scotland can truly be 'the best place in the world to grow up.' It makes clear the extent of the shift required, to reflect Scotland's existing commitment that all children 'grow up loved, safe and respected so they can fulfil their potential'. This must involve the whole landscape of systems and services that interact with children and families.

A key challenge facing Scotland in facilitating and supporting the necessary change lies in its data landscape, with the vast majority of organisations and bodies who engaged with the Care Review citing challenges with data collection, access and sharing as barriers to service delivery. In addition, the current data systems are not capable of supporting progressive transformational change.

This work aims to build a cohesive central picture of **all** data on the processes and systems that directly and indirectly impact on children and their families, including but not limited to data on housing, poverty, education, employment, social work, health etc. The resource it creates must be useable to inform the work required to reform Scotland's data collection and analysis in relation to children and their families both now and in the future.

Desired Outcome

A sustainable and accessible map of all data that impacts directly or indirectly on children and their families currently collected across Scotland. Granular detail on each data source will be required and this may differ depending on the source itself. The purpose of the map is to drive forward the work to reform the data landscape and align it to measuring and monitoring what matters to children and their families. This may include (but is not limited to):

- o Data purpose, strengths, weaknesses and gaps
- o Frequency of reporting

- o Data holders and data collection methodologies
- o Analytical approaches
- o Current outputs and usability of data
- o Data storage formats and locations and identification of unique identifiers
- o Data completeness assessment over time
- o Identification of any interface between data and policy

Challenge Sponsor(s)

The Promise

Stakeholder(s)

The Promise, local government, Scottish government, bodies and organisations who collect, analyse or use data on children and their families, bodies and organisations with a statutory responsibility to children and families.

Skill Sets

Below are the broad skill sets needed to meet this challenge. It is likely that there may be additional skills required. We encourage applicants to propose capabilities that may lie out with the work packages below, as these will also be considered when forming a collaboration.

SKILL SET 1 Those who know what matters to children and their families

Description: The team addressing this challenge question will need a strong understanding of the needs of children and their families and the different areas of their lives these present in. Understanding the challenges faced by children and their families is essential to determining the scope of data relevance as data is navigated.

Estimated proportion of project time:
Small – we have a lot of this knowledge already but it's important it's retained within the team as the project is steered through.

SKILL SET 2 Data organisation, collation and storage

Description: This challenge is primarily a data audit – what data does Scotland collect, what does that look like, how is it stored and how is it used - therefore skills in navigating and managing local and national datasets, including familiarity with the data and information landscape on children, families and all the things that impact on their lives, must be present within the team tasked with building the map. Quite often, these skills lie with the people who hold responsibility for collecting and storing (not necessarily analysing) the data.

Estimated proportion of project time:
50%

SKILL SET 3 Data Engineering, Data analytics and data science

Description: Data value is often benched against the current analytical use of that data, rather than the potential (but often not yet deployed) analysis that could be undertaken on the dataset. Strong skillsets in data engineering, analytics and data science will be required in the team to ensure this work is able to critically examine the analysis as well as the collection of Scotland's data, identifying value based on analytical potential as well as analytical use.

Estimated proportion of project time:
25%

SKILL SET 4 UX Design

Description:
A key aspect of this challenge is the accessibility of outputs, and the longevity of use beyond the project lifecycle. It is anticipated that the outputs will be used by an extensive audience of public, private and third sector organisations. As such, the accessibility of project outcomes is key to the usability, sustainability, and success of the challenge.

Estimated proportion of project time:
15%

SKILL SET 5 Child and family systems and data infrastructure

Description: The team addressing this challenge question will need a strong understanding of the existing systems and data that are in place to support children and their families and the different areas of their lives these present in. Providing background context and direction to the rest of the team is essential to determining the scope of data relevance as data is navigated.

Estimated proportion of project time:
10% - *The partnership already has a lot of this knowledge already but it's important it's retained within the team as the project is steered through*.

Additional Information

Funding Availability

For this challenge question, The Data for Children Collaborative can fund project partners a portion of up to £80,000. The funding available to individual organisations will be dependent on the agreed contribution to the project once the collaboration has been formed and delivery plan approved.

We welcome applications from all sectors (private / public / third / academia) and encourage submissions from any team looking to do any in kind Data for Good work to develop their expertise.
If possible, we encourage private sector partners to provide time pro-bono. Funding is available at 70% of total contribution with 30% match funded through in-kind contributions. *This is an experimental development project and VAT will not apply to any agreed funding.*

Academic partners will receive 80% FEC.

Timescales & Deliverability

We would aim for the collaboration to begin work on a project by 24th May 2021. We envisage that a project addressing this challenge question should take approximately 12 months.

The deadline for submissions is 5pm (GMT) on the 12th April 2021 with the first collaboration workshop taking place week commencing 19th April 2021.