

NPD User Group

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Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives for the session are to

1. Welcome you all to the workshop and introduce some new faces, and
2. Update you on some key developments since we last met, in particular
 - New data now in the NPD
 - Details of emerging work
 - Matched NPD / HE data, and
 - Opening up access to data from the NPD

New Faces

Lisa Gilson

- Approve Requests
- Working with Contractors
- Liaising with LAO / Data Protection Advisers
- Working with customers to make sure the NPD meets their requirements

Martin Johnson

- Project Plan
- Working with Contractors
- Service Level Agreements (18 in 2011, 10 external)
- Specifications / User Guides

Graham Devonshire

- Managing the Data Requests process
- Updating the NPD website
- New Indicator consultation

New Data

The NPD continues to develop in line with emerging priorities. New indicators implemented this year include:

Attainment

- KS1 average point scores across Reading ,Writing and Maths only (excluding Science)
- New KS4 English Baccalaureate and Value Added indicators
- New KS2-4 progression indicators
- New KS5 indicators - achievement of two or more A levels or equivalent and achievement of A*-E grades at A level or Double Award

Census

- Indicators of Pupil Disability, eligibility for pupil premium and Ever FSM-6.

New Data

Geographic

- New 9-digit Local Authority code
- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 indicators
- Converter Academy variables (their new URN and when they opened)

School Level Database

- Developed a central database of school level data, similar in principle to the NPD but pulling together all the statistical information the Department holds at school level.
- The SLD holds a history of changes to schools over time e.g. opening/closing, change of school type from maintained to academy, and predecessor and successor schools.

Other Developments

- Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) – Matched NPD / MCS data available on request from UKDA.
- NPD / Understanding Society – The DfE are funding data linkage between the NPD and the Understanding Society longitudinal household panel study.
- NPD / CCIS – The DfE are matching data from the Connexions CCIS (Client Caseload Information System) into the NPD to establish the feasibility of using the data as part of the next stage of the development of learner destinations measures.

Access to matched NPD / HE Data

We are working with colleagues in BIS and HESA to open up access to the matched NPD / HE data, specifically

- Developing a governance process to manage requests for access to the matched NPD / HESA, and
- Agreeing the specifics of data release

Opening up access to the NPD

- A Prime Ministerial Letter in July 2011 included 4 specific transparency commitments for the Department
- The publication of the new school performance tables in December 2011 and January 2012 has met many of the Department's transparency objectives
 - 3 out of 4 transparency commitments relating to the release of **more** information about schools have been achieved already
 - The secondary school tables published in January 2012 contained a **4 fold** increase in information about schools.

The 4th Commitment

Opening up access to the National Pupil Database

“Opening up access to anonymised data from the National Pupil Database to help parents and pupils to monitor the performance of their schools in depth, from June 2012. This will enable better comparisons of school performance and we will look to strengthen datasets in due course”

What do we want to achieve?

Our policy aim is to release as much information as possible from the NPD.

There are two challenges

- to make sure that our approach to releasing data from the NPD is compliant with the Data Protection Act (DPA) whilst also allowing us to release as much useful data as possible, and secondly,
- to satisfy the concerns of stakeholder groups concerned about privacy and safeguarding issues.

What have we done?

We have done a lot of work to

- Measure and assess how disclosive the data in the NPD
- Assess how to anonymise the data in the NPD
- Evaluate the risks and benefits associated with opening up access to data from the NPD.

Next Steps

- We are currently piloting several different approaches to releasing data from the NPD publicly to inform decisions about what we might release.
- In parallel we are exploring how we can build upon our existing processes for providing controlled access.
- We are also working on how we can make the data available.