Children's Social Services Data

SAIL User Forum

17th March 2022

Children's Censuses

- Children looked after census
  - All children who are looked after by local authorities
  - Reports details of every child, their episodes of being looked after, the reason for starting and how they end

- Children receiving care and support
  - All children who have a care and support plan at the census date
  - Includes children who are looked after
  - Provides details of the child and the reason they have a care and support plan

History and Background

- CLA started in 1991-92 as the SSDA903 data collection
- With Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, data is now collected through the LAC Census.

- CRCS started in 2009-10 as Children in Need Census
- With Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, data is now collected through the CRCS Census.

Children looked after census

What it collects

- Child's details
- Legal status
- Placement type
- Reason for care
- Reason for ending
- Adoptions
- Care leavers

How it is used

- National policy development
- Local authority analysis
- Care Inspectorate Wales
- Research

Plans for development of CLA

- Some minor changes to be introduced in 2022/23.
  - Children transferring in from other local authorities
  - Officially changing name from Looked After Children (LAC) census to Children looked after (CLA) census
  - Clearer definitions for foster care placements

- CLA census is working well and well established

Children receiving care and support census

What it collects

- Reason for care
- Disability
- Mental health
- Youth offending
- Health checks
- Substance use
- Reason for closure

How it is used

- National policy development
- Local authority analysis
- Care Inspectorate Wales
- Research

Plans for development of CRCS

- All year collection
  - No longer only children receiving care and support on the census day
  - Will include all children who have received care and support over the year

- CRCS also working well and people widely use the data, but there are opportunities for improvement.

Questions?

Any questions after the forum:
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