

Equality and Diversity Council Meeting Paper

28th July 2015

Data Measurement Subgroup Update

Purpose and context

An agreed priority of the EDC is to focus upon ensuring the availability of, and access to, the data and tools required to measure our progress in advancing equality and tackling health inequalities. In taking forward this priority, a data measurement subgroup was established with members drawn from key partner organisations.

Actions taken to date

- NHS England has committed resource to progress work on taking forward the development of an Information Standard on sexual orientation data monitoring. The LGBT Foundation was successful in its bid for taking forward this work and has completed the first two stages of taking that characteristic through the standards process.
- NHS England has worked with the DH to further develop the NHS Outcomes Framework so that in 2015/16 a range of the indicators will be health inequality assessed.

Current position

Building upon the momentum of the sexual orientation data collection Information Standard, work to develop further Information Standards across the equality characteristics is in progress.

An options appraisal for the batching of the equality characteristics to be taken forward was discussed at the Subgroup meeting on 8 July. The options included:

- a. Do nothing;
- b. Do all in one go;
- c. Easiest first;
- d. Needed ones first;
- e. Do all but Ethnicity (as ethnicity is likely to be the most costly and longest to develop).

It was agreed for all characteristics to be batched and taken through the standards process in one go (option b); subject to a robust appraisal of financial implications of updating the current data standards for ethnicity in NHS and social care data sets.

This is possibly the most efficient option from a development stand-point, and from the Equality Act compliance stand-point, it is the most desired option. However, it will take time and resources to undertake the batching of the eight characteristics in one go.

An appraisal of the financial implications regarding the ethnicity element will therefore be of much benefit in understanding exactly what that cost burden is likely to be.

Working with DH, we will continue to develop the reporting of health inequalities and sub-national breakdowns of some of the health inequalities indicators in the NHS Outcomes Framework.

Key risks

Consequential risks of not taking this work forward include:

- a lack of direction for NHS organisations re: data collections to help support the meeting of legal duties with regard to equality and health inequalities;
- a failure to improve our understanding of how people's differences can affect their access to services, experiences and health outcomes;
- a lack of evidence to help plan equitable services for diverse populations and organise workplaces that are accessible and free from discrimination

Next steps

- Continue work on developing an Information Standard for sexual orientation data collections.
- Work with the HSCIC to undertake the appraisal of financial implications for the batching of equality characteristics, as indicated above.
- Develop a work programme for taking a data collection Information Standard for the other equality characteristics through the standards process.
- NHS England to continue to work with partner organisations on the alignment and breakdown of national health inequalities indicators.

Recommendation and action requested

For the EDC to note the above next steps.

John Holden

On behalf of the Data Measurement Subgroup of the EDC

July 2015