Paper 8 (updated November 2018)

Testing a Minimum Core Dataset (MCD) to Monitor and Evaluate Community Link Worker Programmes

Scottish Government (SG) asked NHS Health Scotland (HS) to develop plans to monitor and evaluate Community Link Worker programmes with the aim of capturing learning to inform ongoing delivery. HS has worked closely with local 'early adopter' Link Worker[1] teams and the Local Intelligence Support Team (LIST) in NHS National Services Scotland to:

- understand the evaluability of the programmes and evaluation priorities
- develop a simple minimum core dataset (MCD) that aligns with data already being collected locally
- begin testing the MCD to ensure quality and completion of data
- provide support to implement the MCD, and analysis and reporting of data for local and national learning

The MCD could be a valuable tool for HSCPs by:

- informing local Programme learning and national understanding of Link Worker services
- providing a useful tool for HSCPs to inform Primary Care Improvement Plans
- providing additional HSCP areas with a ready to use data tool and support – some areas already plan to use the MCD for local monitoring and evaluation
- ensuring findings are interpreted and shared in a way that maximises continuous learning across Scotland

The MCD will also enable further evaluation to understand the nature, development and impact of the programmes by carrying out data linkage to routine data (e.g. prescribing information, healthcare utilisation).[2]

The current data fields have been developed and agreed in partnership with local Programme teams, Scottish Government, the Local Intelligence Support Team

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[1] This term may vary locally and includes, for instance, Community Links Practitioners and Community Connectors.

[2] Subject to local agreement and permission from the Public Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care.

(LIST) in NHS National Services Scotland and NHS Health Scotland. The MCD will be tested across each site and reviewed to ensure data being collected adds to current understanding of the Programme and learning across Scotland.

Coding guidance for the MCD aligned with existing national data collection protocols is being developed to support completion of the MCD and ensure data quality and consistency. For more information about this and the evaluation please contact jane.ford3@nhs.net

Data item/field	Notes	Agreed for MCD
Programme info		
Consent to sharing information with NSS LIST	Code/or entry of date	Consent not required for non-identifiable information. Information provided in privacy statement. Explicit consent will be required for potential data linkage – GDPR compliant text to be agreed to ensure patients are provided with full information about use of data for public good.
Practice code	Prepopulate with existing practice code	
Patient unique programme identifier	Unique identifier applied (enables link to CHI for data linkage dependent on permission from Public Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care)	Unique programme identifier to be used **No identifiable information will be collected by LIST at this stage**
Demographics		
Age	Age	Requires entry of age (or local translation of DOB to age)
Gender	Definitions provided	
Ethnicity	Definitions provided	
SIMD	Local conversion of postcode to SIMD	
Referral data		
Referred to CLW	Date	For indication of waiting times. Not currently noted by all – potential barrier for test/review.
Referral route/source	Drop down can be provided	To capture if/how triage patients for CLW referral
Referral Reasons	Drop down menu with free text option	Defined list of categories for MCD provided.
Date first (seen) by CLW/1st programme participation	Date	First meaningful contact – defined for MCD as the first meeting with a CLW where they begin to discuss and understand the individuals presenting issues, challenges and needs.
Reason not seen by CLW (e.g. declined	Drop down menu	Requires testing and review – test with some areas

support from GP, declined support on CLW contact, DNA)	Read code	already collecting this and share with group for discussion
Repeat contacts/follow-up appointments with CLW	Attend/Record date seen Plus dates/number of repeat contacts	Dates recorded
Onward referral to other resources	Type of resource	Defined list of categories for MCD provided.
Availability of services/gaps in local service provision	Need to capture available/not available/waiting list	This data is needed to understand the availability and capacity of local services and longer-term sustainability of CLW programmes.