**Item RIIA datasets**

**Recommendations -** as we consider how best to build resilience into RIIAs and create a focus on best practice in RIIAs, members of ADCS Council of Reference are asked to:

1. **Comment on what their respective RIIAs do with the quarterly data – how useful is it?**
2. **Consider re-affirming their commitment to each RIIA collecting a common basic core set of indicators, on a quarterly basis.**
3. **Consider whether cumulative reporting of quarterly data is desirable.**
4. **Consider whether the originally agreed common core basic 18 indicators remain pertinent, particularly given where we are on adoption data being reported into RAAs, or whether some of the indicator set should be refreshed, and if so, how (see ‘next steps’ for possible suggested additions)?**

# Introduction

# As members are aware, ADCS Safeguarding Pressures research Phase 7 is in two parts. An interim report was published in early December 2020 and for the first time, included quarterly data from RIIAs (Q1 2020/21). The full research report is due to be published in late February 2021. In addition to using annual data (to 31 March 2020), the full report also utilises quarterly data from RIIAs (Q1 and Q2 2020/21) to give a flavour of the early impact of the pandemic on children’s services.

During the data collection and analysis for the interim Safeguarding Pressures research phase 7 report, a number of issues came to light in relation to RIIAs’ datasets, partly as a result of this unique overview of all of the datasets together. These issues have been aired with the National Performance and Information Managers Group (NPIMG) and are shared here with ADCS Council of Reference for information and consideration.

# We thank each region for provision of Q1 & Q2 data for the interim report. This paper provides what we hope are some helpful comments about the regional datasets following receipt of these for the interim report. The purpose of sharing these comments is to support regions in identifying examples of what works well and suggestions for areas for improvement in the development of both the core indicator set[[1]](#footnote-1) and regional reporting.

# Receipt of RIIA datasets

Despite the agreement of ADCS Council of Reference to request RIIA datasets be shared with ADCS for the purposes of ADCS Safeguarding Pressures research, and discussions with regional data colleagues reaching an agreement to share in June, there were delays in receiving quarterly data from many regions as the regional leads sought permission late in the process from all of their respective DCSs to share data with ADCS, which impacted on resources and the amount of analysis possible for the interim report. We acknowledge that RIIAs are governed by a triumvirate of a lead DCS, a lead LM and a lead Chief Executive, and their permission might reasonably have been sought to share datasets. We recognise that these are difficult times for local authorities but we were disappointed that regional data colleagues felt the need to elicit permission to share, given the early endorsement of the project from ADCS Council of Reference, which includes representatives from all nine regions.

# Data provided

It was helpful to have the measure with the numerator/denominator and result. Not all regions report/provided the same data, with some providing more/less than the agreed basic core 18 measures. For example, adoption data was not provided by several regions. We presume this is due to regional adoption agency data being presented elsewhere. Any changes to the initially agreed core basic 18 indicators should ideally be endorsed by RIIAs’ governance triumvirate.

There are different approaches to reporting numbers/rates, where some regions report both, some report only rates or only numbers, which means that analysis across all nine regions was not possible. Approaches to reporting in-year figures also varied. Some regions report each quarter’s data individually (thereby making it possible to compare for example Q1 data one year with Q1 data the previous year, and so on). Two regions report cumulative quarterly figures as the year progresses; and one region reports on a rolling 12 months average. The latter therefore was not able to be included in some of the analysis in the final report.

We have committed this year to provide nine regional views of a selection of relevant information as soon possible after publication of ADSC Safeguarding Pressures research Phase 7 full report. This provides a further opportunity to explore and exploit the rich evidence within Safeguarding Pressures, including this year’s Q1 and Q2 data.

**Next steps**

As we consider how best to build resilience into RIIAs and create a focus on best practice in RIIAs, members of ADCS Council of Reference are asked to:

1. **Comment on what their respective RIIAs do with the quarterly data – how useful is it?**
2. **Consider re-affirming their commitment to each RIIA collecting a common basic core set of indicators, on a quarterly basis**
3. **Consider whether cumulative reporting of quarterly data is desirable**
4. **Consider whether the originally agreed common core basic 18 indicators remain pertinent, particularly given where we are on adoption data being reported into RAAs, or whether some of the indicator set should be refreshed, and if so, how?**
5. **If ADCS Council of Reference wishes to recommend any changes to the basic 18 indicators, those recommendations should also be considered within RIIA governance arrangements before changes are implemented by regional data colleagues.**
6. **ADCS Council may wish to consider adding indicators to the core dataset around for example:**
* **Permanence Orders other than for adoption**
* **Ethnicity of children subjects of Child Protection Plans, and of children in care**
* **UASC**
* **Care Leavers**
* **Placement type (in-house or independent; regulated/unregulated)**
* **Child Protection Plans open for 2+years**

**Annex 1**

**Initial basic quarterly dataset, commonly collected by regions as part of their sector-led improvement activities**

The following data items form the initial basic common core quarterly dataset for each RIA during 2018/19. This does not preclude RIAs collecting a much broader range and greater number of data items in 2018/19, rather ADCS asks that these are collected by each RIA as a minimum for comparator purposes.

The ambition is that RIA datasets become more sophisticated and wider in scope, from 2019/2020, though it is acknowledged that for some regions, additional capacity will be required in order to undertake quarterly collection, analysis and reporting.

1. Referrals to social care in the period (number and rate per 10,000)
2. Referrals that are re-referrals within 12 months (number and percent of referrals)
3. Assessments completed in the period (number and rate per 10,000)
4. Assessments completed in 45 days in the period (number and percent of assessments)
5. Children in Need at the end of the period (number and rate per 10,000)
6. Section 47 enquiries in the period (number and rate per 10,000), enquiries or children?
7. ICPCs completed within 15 days of S47 (number and percent of S47s)
8. Children on Child Protection Plans at the end of the period (number and rate per 10,000)
9. Children with a CPP starting in the period (number and rate per 10,000)
10. Children with a CPP ceasing in the period (number and rate per 10,000)
11. Children becoming subject of a child protection plan in the period for second or subsequent time (number and percentage of plans starting in period), both ever and within 2 years
12. Children who are Looked After at the end of the period (number and rate per 10,000)
13. Children who are Looked After starting in the period (number and rate per 10,000)
14. Children who are Looked After ceasing in the period (number and rate per 10,000)
15. Children Adopted as a Proportion of Looked After Children (number and percentage)
16. Average time in Days between a Child entering Care and moving in with their Adoptive Family [A1]
17. Avg. time (in days) between LA receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family [A2]
18. Children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (A3)

*As agreed by ADCS Council of Reference in 2018/19*

1. A basic core indicator set of 18 data items was agreed by ADCS Council of Reference in 2018/19. The agreed indicators are at annex 1 of this paper [↑](#footnote-ref-1)