

Can you evidence if your services are making a difference? Do you know what you don't know?

"We frequently fail to make effective use of the data we already gather, let alone gather and use systematically what would help us to make real progress. Existing data, well used and interrogated, would often highlight needs earlier. And asking the right questions would often lead to more effective forms of intervention."

C4EO offers an independent review of data and systems relating to Children's Services in local authorities

- Strategic leaders must be able to understand the nature and needs of their communities, as well as performance information about services being provided. Knowledge is power - the evidence that data provides should be used as an integral part of the commissioning, monitoring and improvement process but also as an aid to innovation.
- Data can be defined as information that anybody can interpret to provide intelligence about people or services – in terms of quantity, characteristics and outcomes. We know that service delivery is more successful when it is targeted effectively and reflects the needs of the people using services. Good, accurate and meaningful local data is essential in ensuring this personalisation in service delivery, as well as successful commissioning of services, which is critical when examining the case for early intervention.
- As resources become increasingly scarce, it is essential that the data collected, analysed and measured has a purpose; namely for the services that are provided to make a difference and improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Too often performance measures concentrate on outputs rather than outcomes. For example, the timeliness of Initial and Core Assessments is an indicator which measures a process; whilst a more outcomes-focused approach would examine if the child was better off following the assessment – did it make a difference?

C4EO can provide an independent review of data and systems relating to Children's Services in local authorities. It can make suggestions for improving the collection and analysis of local datasets, as well as providing a rapid review of the information and data available. This can be complimented by the provision of Outcomes Based Accountability training, to ensure commissioners and practitioners are able to effectively use data in understanding how well their services are performing.

- C4EO draws on the experience of its data specialists from local authority or health backgrounds.
- Data underpins all of C4EO's bespoke work and is a key component in understanding any service delivery.

For more information and to find out how we can help you with your specific requirements please email us at contactus@c4eo.org.uk or call 020 7833 6825.

C4EO draws on specialists from different professional backgrounds across all areas of children's services depending on the need identified, using the best available evidence, research and practice.

C4EO is a not-for-profit organisation and operates on a cost-recovery basis. This allows us to keep all of our costs at an affordable level, whilst providing the highest quality service. .