

Meeting: Adult Review Group (ARG) cont.

RAP will be collected via the IDC site again, and the SR1 and KS2 using Omnibus. It is hoped the RAP Guidance will be on the website by early 2009, once they have got the go-ahead from the Dept. of Health. A second letter will be sent to LAs in mid-December to clarify what is required in terms of the returns for 2008/09.

In response to a query about why the deadline for the 2008/09 statutory returns had been brought forward since the last ARG and SIGASC meetings, the IC said that a deadline of four days earlier had been agreed as a compromise due to CSCI having to complete the assessment for the CAA earlier, so LAs, the IC and CSCI all have slightly less time for their respective parts of it, rather than there being a larger impact on any one of those organisations.

The SAS for 2008/09 is yet to be signed off by the Dept of Health but it is likely to be very different from last year, with all the IC items taken directly from the returns, rather than collecting them twice. CSCI will feedback to LAs in December about the consultation. The guidance should be available by late December, and the MS Excel template by January.

Concern was expressed by the Group that separating the figures from the text would make the document harder to write.

Timeliness Survey

(John Mordue, Walsall)

The purpose of this survey is to look at

the relationship between timeliness and good practice in order to identify any patterns that emerge. This will hopefully help us to improve best practice, and also enable LAs to approach others to maybe learn from them in particular areas.

It is now due to go out to Authorities around 8th December, with a deadline of 7th January 2009. It will be electronically input and should only take about 20 minutes to complete so all Authorities are encouraged to complete it as best they can.

The responses will then be discussed at a future ARG meeting and will be published to all Authorities.

NASCIS IView Tool

(Paul Niblett, IC)

The Group was given a demonstration of a tool the IC have developed which enables Authorities to compare their statutory return data with others in their comparator group or region, etc. Only published data is in the system; the intention is just to make it more interactive.

Various tables from the HH1, PSSEX1, SR1 and RAP can be viewed, each with the ability to drill down by region and then Authority as required. This will enable comparisons to be made between Authorities on expenditure per head of population, for example. Breakdowns by service user type and service are also possible.

Any combination of Authorities can be selected, and data will be available

for a number of years to enable trends over time to be seen. Graphs can also be plotted, and the data exported to MS Excel. There is also a dashboard to compare regions, LAs, etc, and standard reports that each Authority can populate with their data.

The Group felt that it looked like a versatile and useful tool. The IC is yet to decide how they will use this and when. They plan to work with a few Authorities at first over the next couple of months, as it is still in the prototype stage at the moment. It will be free to Authorities.

Any other business

An LA rep requested the possibility of having a joint meeting with SIGASC in the near future, so that ARG members feel there is a definite link between the two groups. The IC are in the middle of an Informatics Review at the current time (led by Linda Whalley), part of which will consider the role of SIGASC. This was therefore put off for the time being.

LA reps also requested that the papers for the ARG meetings be circulated earlier to enable them to liaise with their regional colleagues in advance of the meetings, and thereby get a wider cross-section of views and comments to raise. Members would like them two weeks before the ARG meetings in future, but due to IC workload and deadlines this may not always be possible.