Edge of Care Cost Calculator (EoC CC) tool – Research in Practice Change Project 2017

Questions following Meeting 1 (01/02/2017)

In order to maximise the benefit of our time together in the meetings, it is expected that you will complete tasks in between the project meetings. This will:

- Support participants to review and analyse key aspects of your organisation's current approaches to performance data, financial information and service activity. For instance: the use of data in your organisation; the connections (or lack of these) between performance and finance teams; the nature of 'edge of care' service activities in your organisation/locality.
- Help the Cost Calculator team identify definitive information from which we can work to develop the EoC CC.

We have outlined a series of **8 questions** which are based on the discussions from the first session on 1 February. Please think about the following questions and prepare answers for meeting 2. **We will be asking each authority to feedback on these questions in the first part of meeting 2.** There will be up to 10 minutes available for each local authority to talk through their answers to the questions.

Thank you for taking the time to complete these tasks – the additional context that it will bring to the meetings will greatly help us in developing something that works in practice. If you have any questions about the tasks, or would like anything clarified, please contact Oli Preston at Research in Practice in the first instance – Oli.Preston@RiP.org.uk

Questions

Identifying and defining the EoC population

Suggested criteria for the identification of EoC cohorts included the following:

a. Children in Need (CiN)
b. Children who cease being looked after (e.g. returning home from care or other similar arrangements)
c. Looked after children
d. Those on a Child Protection Plan

These groupings would then be further refined based on specific risk factors. Early discussions have highlighted several key factors, which are outlined in the appendix (table 1).

1) Would a cost calculator based on these data provide an approach that would work for your local authority?

2) Do you have any suggested alternatives/emerging ideas for identifying EoC populations? If so, please give details on your approach/the data you use.

Identifying and defining EoC services

3) Do you know what services are offered to children on the edge of care in your authority? Is it possible to map these out

For instance would you be able to find out service name, service description, referral criteria, referral source, service type (e.g. universal, targeted), whether it is child or family focussed?

You might wish to bring existing documents which map your authority's EoC services, if they are available.

4) Do you think it is preferable to maintain a focus on targeted and specialist edge of care services at this stage, or should universal services also be included?

5) At an individual child level, are you able to identify which children access which services? Can you track an individual child/family's engagement with a range of services? If so, could you bring an anonymised example of these data?

Child level data items

6) *What supplementary data items (i.e. those in addition to the CiN Census and SSDA 903 returns) do you think should be included at the individual child level? Populating the table below, please list the data items, the source and how they are linked with the national return data items.*

Data item	Source	Data linkage

Finance data

7) *What financial information does your local authority have for children on the edge of care, and the services provided to them?*

    a. *How is that information structured or organised?*

    b. *Can it be linked to individual children or is it service specific?*

    c. *If data cannot be linked to individual children. What alternative approaches do you suggest to assign costs to children? (i.e. top-down as opposed to bottom-up)?*

Reports and analysis

8) *In your response to the survey you completed before the first meeting of this Change Project, you outlined the top three analyses that you would like the EoC CC to provide.*

Having attended the first session and with an understanding of the complexity of the task, including potential data limitations, do these remain the same? If not, please can you outline your revised top three analyses (if you require a reminder of your answers, please email Oli.Preston@RiP.org.uk)

Appendix

Table 1: Suggested risk factors for classifying EoC cohorts

Risk factor	Possible thresholds	Data item/ source
Length of CP plan	>6 months, or >12 months, adjustable user defined threshold	CiN Census
Missing episodes		police reports, SSDA 903 LAC
YOT/ YJS	If yes	CiN Census
Child sexual exploitation	If yes	CiN Census"
Needs analysis code	Need to decided which codes would be considered an indication of EoC	CiN Census
Placement stability	Length of period of care (POC) and number of placements in that POC	SSDA 903 LAC
Return home from care	▪ Would there be a distinction on whether the return was planned or unplanned? ▪ SGO or PLO status	SSDA 903 LAC
Domestic Violence/Abuse in family		DVI reports at postcode/household level
Drug and alcohol use		returns to NDTMS
Health data: A&E visits	Need to consider what the threshold of concern might be i.e. 'x' number of visits in the last 12 months	SORO contacts and referral from health
Health data: record of live births		Universal partnership plus by LA
Health data: non-take up of new born services		? How is non-engagement with services captured?
DWP: Worklessness		DWP data
School data: Fixed Term Exclusions (FTEs)	Number of FTEs in last 6 months?	NB: Academy status now means schools aren't expected to return data to LAs, Local variation on the data available
School data: attendance/ absenteeism		School census
School data: Qualifications	None and/or NEET	NEET in SSDA 903 LAC
School data: SENID		School census