



Privacy Notice

Evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme: National Impact Study

Why are we sharing your information?

The 'Troubled Families' programme is a national initiative, funded by central government, that aims to help families in crisis and reduce their dependency on public services. Within Peterborough, the programme is known as Connecting Families. The support available to families as part of Connecting Families is coordinated by the city's Early Help team and the Multi-Agency Support Groups (MASGs).

To understand whether the Troubled Families programme has a positive impact on families and whether it is a good use of public money, the Government would like to compare the progress of families who have received support from the programme with those who have not.

This comparison will make it possible to tell how effective the delivery of the programme within each local authority has been in terms of reducing crime, poor school attendance, anti-social behaviour, unemployment and domestic violence and abuse. This knowledge will help both the Government and the local authority to further improve their services.

How does it work?

Peterborough City Council (PCC) will send personal details (such as names, dates of birth and address) of families who are eligible for the programme to a research institute called the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The ONS in turn will ask different government agencies to match these details with the datasets they hold (for example on school attendance, or benefits claimed). After the family data is combined with government datasets, the researchers at the different government agencies will remove all personal data (names, dates of birth and addresses) from their combined report before sending this back to the ONS. This means that it will be impossible for anyone to personally identify you or your family from this point onwards.

The ONS will pull together the information across these datasets to compare outcomes from families who have participated in the programme with information on those who have not. In doing so, the ONS will be able to provide useful information on the impact the programme has had across different local authorities, and whether local authorities are providing support to those families who most need it. By linking local data to national datasets, researchers can take into account information which the local authority itself may not know about, and are able to make comparisons between local authorities.

It is worth stressing that the combined data on the profile or progress of specific families is never shared back to PCC, so that it cannot be used to make decisions about the treatment individual families will receive – it will therefore in no way affect any benefits, services or treatment they may be entitled to.

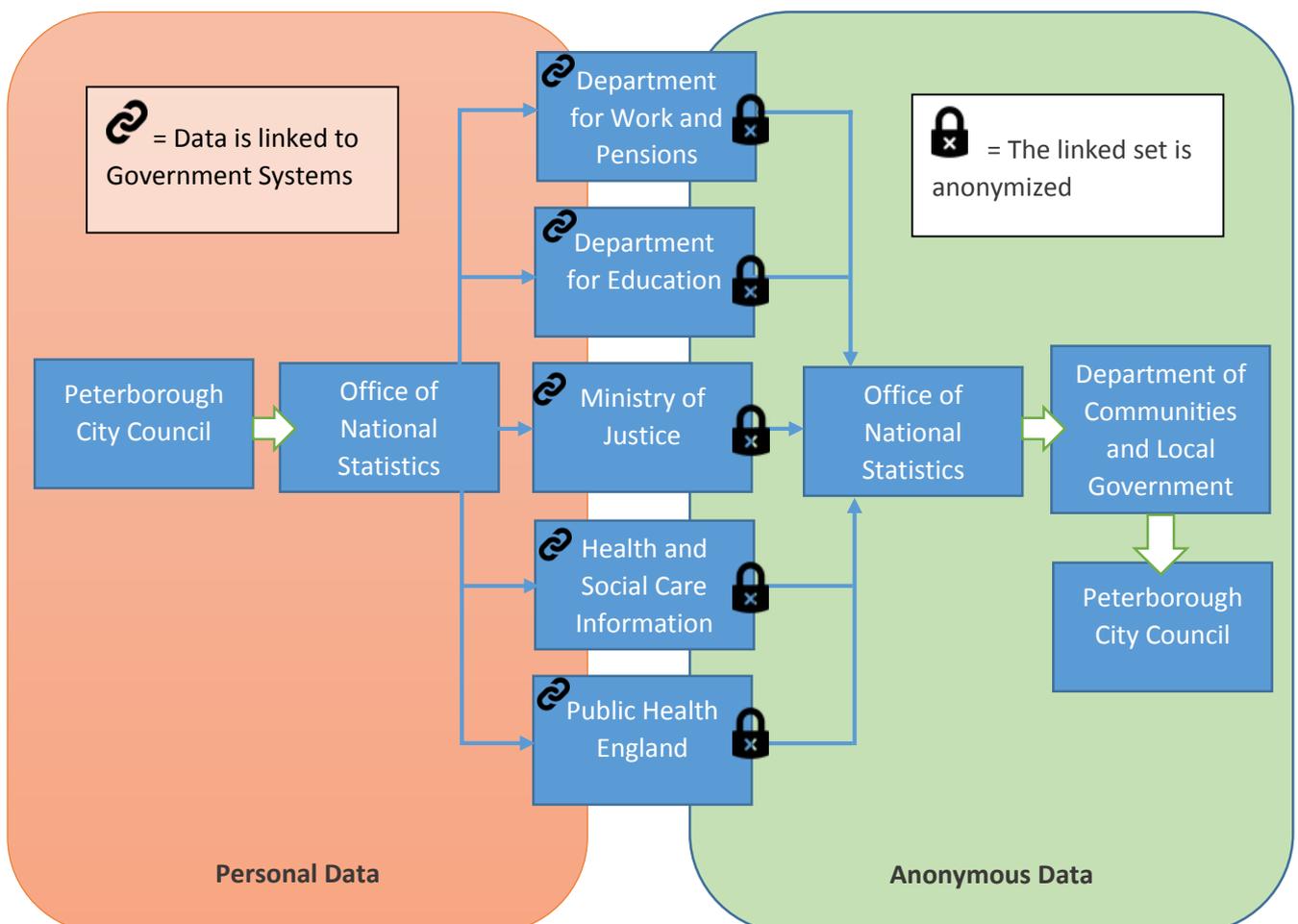
Who is my data being shared with?

Your data will be shared with a research institute called the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The ONS will ask government departments to match identifiers provided by the local authority (such as names and dates of birth) to the data these departments routinely collect.

The departments whose information your details may be matched against are the Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Education, Ministry of Justice, the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), and Public Health England. The national datasets which may be used for this purpose are:

- The Police National Computer and Prisons Database (held by the Ministry of Justice)
- The National Pupil Database and Individualised Learner Record (held by the Department for Education)
- The Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (held by the Department for Work and Pensions)
- Hospital Episodes Statistics, Mental Health Minimum Dataset, Improving Access to Psychological Therapies and Maternity and Children's Data Set (held by the Health and Social Care Information Centre)
- National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (held by Public Health England)
- Crime Mapping Database (held by National Crime Agency)

The exact method used to link the data and which datasets are used may vary during the course of the project.



How will this affect me?

It won't affect you personally. The data used for the research will be anonymised so no one will be able to identify you and results about the success of the programme will be reported at group level. For example any reports would include statements such as: "Over 50% of families on the programme were successful in reducing their offending behaviour for 6 months after receiving treatment as part of the programme."

The results will not be used to make any decisions about the service you currently receive and will not affect any benefits, services or treatment you may be entitled to.

Can I get into trouble?

No, the information sharing agreement between PCC and the DCLG stipulates explicitly that the data is being used for research and analytical purposes only and cannot be used for any other purpose, such as making decisions in relation to specific individuals.

Moreover, PCC will not be able to identify you or your family from any of the reports we receive from the ONS.

Will my data be secure?

All data will be transferred, handled and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Legally binding agreements are in place between Peterborough City Council and the research organisation and agreements are in place between Government Departments to ensure that all parties comply with the strict rules on handling, transferring, storing and destroying the data under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Moreover, data agreements are in place to ensure that:

- the data can only be used for carrying out research;
- the linked data cannot be used to make decisions about individuals;
- the linked information is anonymised to reduce the risk of individuals being identified;
- it will be impossible for any person or family to be identified from any published reports;
- the linked personal data will not be shared with or made available to the local authority or any other public agency;
- all data is transferred, handled and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act;
- appropriate measures are in place to prevent unauthorised use of the data;
- the data is destroyed after the research is complete.

Where can I find out more?

Further information is available from the [Troubled Families Programme National Impact Study](#).

Detailed information on the national Troubled Families programme is available from the [Financial Framework for the Expanded Troubled Families Programme](#).

Should you have any remaining queries, you can contact the Connecting Families data team at ConnectingFamilies@Peterborough.gov.uk or 01733 452291