

## Appendix 1

### **Background**

Aberdeen City Council, in partnership with the University of Aberdeen was successful in a bid to the UK Technology Strategy Board to develop a data observatory. The data observatory aims to incorporate a range of data from across the council services and other partners such as health and the voluntary sector at a later stage. The project stems from the understanding of the need to provide easy access to a wide range of information collected from local and national data sources which can assist with the analysis for enhanced evidence based decision-making. The project is due to end at the end of May 2016. The project work to date includes:

### **Progress to date**

#### **Datasets:**

- School Profile (School census)
  - Ethnic Background
  - Nationality
  - SIMD
  - Student Stage
  - Level of English
  - Curriculum for Excellence
- Wider Achievement datasets by school
  - DofE
  - Youth Achievement Awards
  - ASDAN etc
- DataHub Data (Skill Development Scotland) – To be used for a national case study
  - Opportunities for All Clients
  - Current Positive Destination
  - Non Positive Destination
- Insight Profile (Insight)
  - Leaver Initial Destination
  - Leaver Initial Destination breakdown by Destination
- Pupils (0-5) Population (Community health index (chi), NHS)

#### **Features:**

- Query data based on request to provide more comprehensive and more responsive requests for data
- Represent immediate statistic data on Table and Charts to enable team/individual quickly format data
- Export data into Excel spreadsheet to provide easy and robust transfer dataset
- Data visualisation and interactive map based on location, datazone and neighbourhood areas which provide visual data presentation tools

enabling immediate and detailed discussion and analysis of data such as in a presentation or in strategic discussions

- For DataHub Data, individual data level can be accessed by restricted users. This tool enables both management and operational service teams to plan at a strategic development, or on an individual case by case basis. The concept developed for this tool could be further utilised for other groups/services such as looked after children.

At present the Data Observatory delivers the functionality to load, store, analyse and present statistical data. It also provides the ability to present this data using data visualization tools like charts and maps, which can also be exported for use in reports.

### **DataHub Data Case Study**

The potential use of DataHub data available on data observatory

- A select group of individuals, to be determined in late January, will have full access rights to the DataHub dataset.
- All lead partners will have access to the summary data that does not contain individual's information, but may be granted this information on request subject to relevant permissions and data sharing protocols.
- The data will be updated on the first of every month via the Data Observatory and will be a snapshot of the available data on that day, further snapshots may be provided on request and subject to agreement from other partners.
- At a strategic planning level the information is intended to assist lead partners to plan and assess service provision and need in key geographical and themed areas, using the interactive tools provided on the Data Observatory.
- At an operational level data can be used to provide staff with additional details about the individuals they are (or are going to be) working with.
- The DataHub data on the Data Observatory will allow research and data teams across the partnership a resource to create much more detailed and frequent analysis. This might include for instance: Seasonal trend tracking, or looking at the impact of changes to the local economy on the availability and choice of post school destinations among school leavers.
- Efficiency saving in saving time creating and analysing spreadsheets etc, which can then be used for other tasks.

## **Proposed developments**

The future development of the project offers the possibility of transforming the way the Council processes and uses data and contributes efficiencies in the process. It will make a significant contribution to issues identified in the Education and Children's Services business plan 2016/17.

The Data Observatory will

- provide a platform for the efficient and effective use of performance data to drive improvement and improve outcomes
- provide access to shared systems across the services to enhance and support multi-agency working, and provide robust data.

## **Short term development**

The potential of the project to provide access and analysis of data for the Integrated Children's Services Performance group includes:

- School roll forecasts scenario planning tools
- Pupils 0-5 and school pupils population projection analysis
- Adult learning provision analysis tools
- Linking with social work team to provide LAC tracking
- Linking ICS thematic group to incorporate data into data observatory

Partnership working with Skills Development Scotland

Development of business case with SEEMis and the development performance dash boards with a specific focus on 1) raising attainment/closing the gap, 2) the Integrated children's services agenda.

## **Long term development**

Contribution to the development of the Regional Data Observatory outlined in the Regional Economic Strategy 'Aberdeen City Council will accommodate a 'regional observatory' that will act as a resource for the North East of Scotland to provide up-to-date evidence to inform both delivery and decision making.'

<http://councilcommittees/documents/s52770/Regional%20Economic%20Strategy.pdf>

## **In conclusion**

The data observatory and in particular the case study demonstrates that the data observatory impact in the following areas:

- In the capacity for the data observatory to provide robust evidence based policy and service decisions that contribute to improved services to its citizens.
- Contributes to joined up services.
- Forms the basis for developing existing and new partnerships across internal ACC departments, with other Las, Skills Development Scotland, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and with the voluntary sector.
- Savings in relation to standardisation of data collection and analysis avoiding duplication. The data observatory provides a robust evidence base on which to take future policy decisions about service and service delivery.
- The partnership allows the council to draw on academic and technological solutions in order to development and apply tools to extract data and appropriate user-interface.
- The project to date has provided saving to the service by reducing reporting time and maximise analyst's time.
- Reduced the need to engage external consults to collect, collate analyse and report data from a range of sources.
- There are potentially significant savings with the roll out to other Aberdeen City Council Departments and other councils across the north east region These savings would be reflected by more effective use of staff time and the avoidance of duplication within Departments; and across the Council and between Councils.