Strengthening Social Care Analytics

Ellen Coughlan, Programme Manager

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The
Health
Foundation

How did we get here?

In the wake of the pandemic, it became devastatingly clear that social care sector was under profound pressure and the lack of actionable data hampered efforts to respond to the crisis in a concerted way.

In May, alongside Future Care Capital, we ran a consultation exercise to explore key data challenges that the social care sector faces.

The interviews and workshops painted a complex picture of structural, technical and cultural challenges facing better social care analytics.

From this, we designed this funding programme which centres around funding projects that demonstrate how good data analytics can improve social care by addressing key challenges:

i. Improving the quality of social care for cohorts of people that experience the worst outcomes.

ii. Building a safe, resilient workforce.

iii. Understanding the lived experience of people needing social care.

Strengthening Social Care Analytics

Our aim

To fund exemplar projects that can demonstrate how good data analytics can be used to improve social care and help to catalyse further change in the social care data analytics system by sharing their findings and methods with our community of practice.

What does this mean in practice?

- Good data analytics. We think good social care analytics looks like this:

  Good public sector and service user engagement.

  The adoption of open analytics practice.

  Strong analytics teams.

  A digital and data infrastructure that allows researchers, analysts and developers to access the data they need

- Improve social care. We want to understand how each project will improve social care by addressing key challenges in the sector, and what lessons others could learn to effect change elsewhere.

- Help catalyse further change. We want these projects to be exemplars for the rest of the sector, so each successful project will be willing to share their experience and learning.

- Sharing. The successful projects will share their methods, findings, learnings, and where appropriate, code, with their peers and the wider system. Openness is key in this funding programme.

- Community of practice: We are working with Future Care Capital to launch a Community of Practice, which is where award holders will primarily share their progress and learning with anyone who takes an interest in social care analytics. All applicants, successful or otherwise, are invited to join.

Where are we now?

Projects will be selected next week and will begin in March 2021.

The projects will run for 12 months, during which time they'll contribute to the Community of Practice by sharing their progress and learning.

Please consider joining the Community of Practice if you'd like to keep abreast of the five projects and their work to strengthen social care analytics.

Thank you