

Statement of Intent - Better use of health and care data for safe, effective care and efficient services

<http://gov.wales/topics/health/publications/health/guidance/digitalsoi/?lang=en>

“We want health and care workers to have the digital tools and access to information they need to coordinate and deliver care”.

*“Comprehensive, good quality data is essential to provide safe, effective health and care services. NHS Wales and social services routinely collect vast amounts of data on a daily basis, both relating to individuals and relating to the administration and running of the health and care system. **We have a responsibility** to ensure that there are robust systems in place to manage data securely and protect confidentiality, but also to ensure that data can be shared and used appropriately for the benefit of health and wellbeing in Wales”.*

“Our intention is to ensure that the health and care system in Wales is able to take full advantage of the value that data offers. Those responsible for managing data in NHS Wales and social services need to be supported to share and use data appropriately without undermining individual privacy. We will work to remove unnecessary barriers and clarify governance arrangements across the health and care system in Wales to ensure that data can be shared and used whilst maintaining confidentiality, and we will engage with the public to support understanding of the benefits of data sharing and develop an ongoing dialogue to build and maintain trust in the use of data.

1. **Developing a more transparent framework for how we manage, use and share health and care data.**

The use and sharing of personal information is a complex and sensitive issue. NHS Wales and Local Authorities are committed to data security and respecting the privacy of individuals, with robust systems and processes in place to protect the integrity of data.

Recent responses to the Welsh Government Green Paper – Our Health, Our Health Services – **suggest that we need to be clearer about how we manage, use and share data.** Health and care services **need to explain how data may be shared between NHS and social care organisations,** and have a responsibility to do more to **inform individuals how data is used in the delivery of care and other core functions** that are necessary for the provision of health and care services.

We also need to be **clear on the value of sharing data with others, and the systems in place to manage and control this.** It is vital that everyone involved, most importantly the public and patients, **understands the way we use and share data, and how we manage consent and protect privacy.**

For example, health and social care research provides an important component to supporting and developing high quality care and services, and is often undertaken in partnership with universities, charities and pharmaceutical companies. There are clear rules for consent when using identifiable data for research, and where de-identified data

is being used, we have the means to link and share data whilst retaining control and protecting against re-identification.

We want to continue to develop the way in which we share data with partners, for applied research and for delivery of services, and we will find ways to do so that protect confidentiality and ensure there is clear public benefit.