

Halton Borough Council Troubled Families Privacy Notice Troubled Families - National Impact Study

Halton Borough Council supports the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) national programme to help troubled families turn their lives around. The MHCLG programme is designed to encourage organisations to work in partnership together to recognise families earlier and ensure an effective offer of support is provided.

Halton Borough Council Troubled Families programme aims to support families struggling to cope and will encourage them to play a stable role in their own communities. The Council will be identifying those families with the most pressing and complex needs. This will involve sharing of information between council departments and with other organisations. Any sharing will be undertaken proportionately and lawfully for the purpose of identifying those families who most need this support. This will be carried out to ensure that services are better coordinated and focused for those families.

THE MHCLG is responsible for supporting families and improving services they receive from local authorities. By carrying out research the MHCLG aims to find out:

1. How well services for families with multiple problems are working across England
2. How those families use public services and what benefits they get
3. The costs of providing services to families with multiple problems

To do this, MHCLG wants to link information about your family with past and future information on your use of public services and your benefits.

MHCLG will use your personal information - name, date of birth, gender, last known address, National Insurance number (if known).

Please note that any information you provide will not be used to make any decisions about what benefits you get, or services you use, now, or in future.

Why do you want to use my data?

Your data has been identified as suitable because your family has two or more of the following problems that the local services hope to help families with:

1. Worklessness or at risk of financial exclusion (experience problem debt, have young adults who are NEET)
2. School absence problems
3. Children in need (those at risk, on child protection plans, looked after children)
4. Offending and anti-social behaviour
5. Domestic abuse
6. Mental or physical health problems

You may or may not currently be receiving a service to help you deal with your problems.

What will happen to the information provided?

In order to assess how well services for families with multiple problems are working, what public services families use, and what benefits they receive, MHCLG would like to use your personal information to gather information held by other government agencies. This information will only be used for research and will be anonymised so the researchers will not know whose data they have.

This information will be provided by your local authority to our partner for the evaluation, Office for National Statistics (ONS). They will keep your data secure.

Your personal information (name, date of birth, gender, last known address) and some information provided by the local authority will be linked to information held by other government departments:

- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) – to see what benefits you have received and whether you have been employed
- Ministry of Justice (MOJ) – to see what contact you may have had with the criminal justice system
- Department for Education (DfE) – to see when your child has been in school, how well they are doing at each Key Stage and whether they are a Child in Need.

MoJ, DWP and DfE will not keep your name on file for longer than a month and will not keep records showing you were part of this research.

The information gathered from the local authority will be linked with the information on your benefits, your child's information and any contact you or your children have had with the criminal justice system.

All information collected about you will be kept **strictly confidential**. Your name, date of birth, gender, address and National Insurance number will be kept separately from all the other information in a secure, password-protected document on a computer system. You will be assigned a unique reference number, so that even though a researcher will see all your information, they will not be able to identify you.

For how long will my information be kept?

All personal information held by ONS **for this research** will be securely destroyed by December 2022. The personal information held by DWP, MoJ and DfE for this research will be securely destroyed after a month and they will not keep records showing you were part of this research. All data use is strictly within the terms of data protection legislation.

To legally share data for this research, local authorities and MHCLG will rely on the Digital Economy Act 2017.

The collection of personal information by MHCLG for this project is compliant with data protection legislation and processing of personal data is for the following reasons. MHCLG will rely on the following reasons for processing personal data and additional special category data below:

A. Lawful basis for processing personal data under Article 6 GDPR

The processing is necessary for this reason:

(E) Public task: *the processing is necessary for you to perform a task in the public interest or for your official functions, and the task or function has a clear basis in law.*

B. Additional condition for processing special category data under Article 9(2) GDPR

Special category personal data may be processed if:

(g) *processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest, on the basis of Union or Member State law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and the interests of the data subject;*

C. The DPA 2017 will provide a lawful basis to process criminal offence data (as required by Article 10 GDPR).

Halton Borough Council will collect the personal data under the public task basis (to fulfil its functions, in this case deliver services to troubled families) and agree to share this data with MHCLG under the public task basis (to fulfil our functions as a Government Department, in this case to improve services for troubled families).

What happens if I change my mind and what are my rights?

You can talk to Halton Borough Council about whether your data is being used for this project without it affecting your legal rights or routine care. You can also see copies of all the data MHCLG hold about you and ask for it to be corrected or deleted.

You can speak to the professional who is supporting you or contact Halton Borough Council on **0303 333 4300**. You can also contact MHCLG's Knowledge and Information Team about seeing your data or withdrawing from the research by emailing MHCLG's Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Who can I complain to if I am unhappy about how my data is used?

You can complain directly to the Council's Data Protection Officer by writing to:
Data Protection Officer, Information Governance Service, Halton Borough Council,
Municipal Building, Widnes WA8 7QF'.

If you are unhappy with the way your personal information is being handled you can contact the independent Information Commissioner at: <https://ico.org.uk>

What will happen to the results of this research?

The final results of this research will be published on the main government website. You will not be identified in any research report.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like further information about the research, what will happen to your information, and your rights please speak to the professional who is supporting you or contact Halton Borough Council on **0303 333 4300**.