

Privacy Notice

Reading Borough Council has committed to the Government to deliver the national Troubled Families Programme in our area.

In order to fulfil our obligations, it is essential to share information with critical partners. This is not only for the evaluation of the programme, but to ensure that services are better coordinated and focused on those families with multiple and complex needs. Any such sharing will be necessary, proportionate and lawful.

In order to identify families, understand the difference we are making, and focus on who can potentially access the additional support the programme offers, we will be sharing personal records that relate to you with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This might include records relating to your social care, involvement with the police, courts and probation, aspects relating to your employment, anti-social behaviour, violence in the home, alcohol and substance misuse, educational attendance and behaviour, vulnerable children and health issues.

The personal data of individuals and families will be linked with information from public agencies. This will include the NHS, DWP, Thames Valley Police, Ministry of Justice, the Probation Services, Schools and the Youth Offending Team. The data includes both those families eligible but yet to be worked with and those who have been worked with as part of the programme.

All data will be transferred, handled and stored securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Legally binding agreements are in place between Reading Borough Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 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. Further to this, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will be acting as an agent of the DCLG for data processing purposes.

Prior to sharing information for Government evaluation and research, data agreements will be in place to ensure that:

- The data can only be used for carrying out research
- Government Departments remove the personal identifiers and the information on use of public services for families will be transferred securely to, and stored by, ONS without names or dates of birth.
- It will be impossible for any person or family to be identified from any published reports
- The linked personal information will not be shared with or made available to the local authority or any other public agency
- All information is transferred, handled and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998
- Appropriate measures are in place to prevent unauthorised use of information
- The information is securely destroyed after seven years from the point it ceases to be active for Troubled Families purposes (e.g. seven years after the programme ends)

Further information on the process can be found by accessing the DCLG's Troubled Families Privacy Notice here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/455667/Privacy_notice_for_the_evaluation_of_the_Troubled_Families_programme.pdf

For more information on the Troubled Families Programme in Reading, please contact

TF@reading.gov.uk