Children and Young People and their Data

Summary of Pilot Project

"Be honest and upfront"

"Be transparent and respectful"

"It's important to remember these are not just numbers – these are real people"

Children in Scotland

SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DATA RESEARCH

About the project

Children in Scotland worked with a group of six children and young people (aged 12-17) to understand their views about data research and communicating research findings.

Key recommendations from the report:

The group felt that if researchers work in a children's rights-based way, research could have a very positive benefit. Children in Scotland has identified a number of recommendations from the pilot project including:

- SCADR staff should have a strong knowledge of UNCRC and work in a children's rights-based way

- Discussions with children and young people about their data must be ongoing and not just a one-off

- Children and young people's data must be captured and stored legally and ethically

- Make sure you tell the story of your findings in a way that is engaging for children and young people

- SCADR should create child-friendly documents explaining their work and explaining to children and young people how their data is used

- SCADR should consider how children and young people can be involved in their work moving forwards.

Data research and children's rights

The children and young people thought the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was very relevant to SCADR and other researchers working with children and young people's data. Key articles identified were:
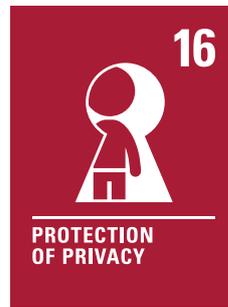
3 BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD Children's best interests should be in the front of data researchers' minds – whether that is collecting data, working with data or sharing the findings.

12 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS Children and young people's opinions about how their data is used matters. Organisations and companies need to remember that.

13 SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY

Researchers need to consider how to share information about children and young people's data so that children and young people can engage with it and express their views.

16 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Children and young people's data is important and should be kept safe and secure. Children and young people have digital rights and need to know how to access their own information.

42 EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

All adults, including data researchers, need to know about children's rights and how these impact their work.

The group also identified articles where data research could help to uphold children's rights and deliver improvements for children, young people and their families.

22 REFUGEE CHILDREN

23 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

24 HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT

25 REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT

26 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP

28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION

31 REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS

39 RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION

UNCRC icons: UNICEF's children's version of the UNCRC

! Some of the group's key messages for data researchers

The group identified some key messages for researchers working with children and young people's data.

On capturing children and young people's data:

- *"Be honest and upfront"*
- *"It should be done in compliance with law and in a moral way"*
- *"It shouldn't be done in a way that makes people feel uncomfortable"*
- *"Tell young people upfront who their data is shared with"*
- *"It should be done in a non-intrusive, non-personal way."*

On storing children and young people's data:

- *"It can only be accessed by certain trusted people and is kept safe"*
- *"Children and young people should have access to their own data, have a right to their own information and see what it is other people are accessing about them…so you know what data they have on you, and you can correct data or ask for things to be removed"*
- *"Children and young people should know how long their data is stored for"*
- *"It needs to be secure, accessible through GDPR."*

Using children and young people's data for research:

- *"You need to be respectful!"*
- *"It's important to remember that these are not just numbers – these are real people"*
- *"Be transparent"*
- *"Keep things anonymous unless you have permission to do otherwise"*
- *"They collected the data for one thing so they shouldn't use it for another without you knowing"*
- *"Can't use for everything, [you] have to have your permission"*
- *"Give you the opportunity to say you don't want your data included."*

On communicating/sharing data:

- *"Must be engaging and accessible whatever you do"*
- *"Simplicity is key"*
- *"Not big texts, as it can be hard to pull out information"*
- *"Bright colours … to catch your eye but also make the information more memorable"*
- *"Respect people – everyone has feelings – they come first"*
- *"You need to think about your audience when presenting information."*

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Click here to view the full report.

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