

## **The National Child Measurement Programme**

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is a public health programme that records the height and weight of school children in Foundation/Reception year (children aged 4-5) and Year 6 (children aged 10-11) across schools in England. The programme is delivered by local authorities and provides data for the child excess weight indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. The data collected is used to monitor the growth of children in primary schools, produce National Statistics reports, support local planning and delivery of services, and engage with children and families about healthy lifestyles. The NCMP is part of the government's approach to tackling child obesity. The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities provides strategic leadership and support for this programme.

The NCMP is a mandated public health programme led by the Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities. All Local Authorities in England are required to participate. The statutory authority for the NCMP means that the lawful basis for processing this data is considered to be provided by the GDPR Articles covering 'compliance with a legal obligation' and 'the provision of health care or treatment'.

For personal data the legal basis is UK GDPR article 6(1)(e) public task.

For special category data it is article 9(2) (i) Public health (with a basis in law) the Data Protection Act 2018 Schedule 1 Part 1 condition being para 3 Public Health.

### **What information is collected and why?**

- *Date of measurement, sex and date of birth* are used to calculate an individual's weight category
- *Name, date of birth and NHS Number* are used to link each child's measurement in Reception with their measurement in Year 6. Other data sets held by NHS Digital and Department of Health and Social Care may also be linked as this would let us add to the information from health and education records, where lawful to do so, to understand how and why the weight of children is changing, and how this affects children's health and education and how we can improve the care children receive.
- *Ethnicity, school and address* are used to help understand some of the reasons for the difference and changes in child weight across England
- *Address* is required to send an individual feedback letter to each parent or carer. This will include their child's measurements together with information about healthy eating, being active and related activities available in the local area.
- *Email address and telephone number* of the parent/ carer are required as professionals may offer further support following each child's height and weight measurement.

### **How will the data be used?**

All the information collected will be sent by London Borough of Camden to NHS England. NHS England is responsible for collecting data and information about health and care so that this can be used to monitor and improve the care provided to people across England.

The information collected will also be shared by NHS England with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) which is part of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), but **in a de-personalised form only**. This means that OHID will not be able to identify individual children.

Both NHS England and the OHID will use the information to better understand numbers and trends in child weight and body mass index (BMI). This helps with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles locally. **No information will ever be published by NHS England or OHID that identifies children.**

After the collection year has closed, a local Enhanced NCMP dataset is made available to Camden Public Health team to download through the NCMP IT system, containing all the record-level data that was originally input by data collectors, as well as calculated fields such as BMI scores and centiles. Download access is restricted to the named 'NCMP Lead' and the data is stored securely in electronic format by the local authority. This data is used for further understanding of local trends and patterns, with a view to improving local health and leisure services. Individuals are not identified within any of this analysis. Data on individuals will only ever be shared for the purposes expressly outlined within the NCMP regulations, ie 'compliance with a legal obligation' or 'provision of health care or treatment'.

De-personalised information from the National Child Measurement Programme may also be shared by NHS England with other organisations, such as universities. This is to help improve health, care and services through research and planning. This information cannot be used to identify individual children, and NHS England only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts.

For further detailed information on data sharing and analysis please refer to [NCMP: Guidance for data sharing and analysis \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance/ncmp-data-sharing)

### **Retention of NCMP data**

The NCMP Enhanced Dataset provided by NHS Digital constitutes a Health Record, and in compliance with retention guidelines it will therefore be retained securely by the Local Authority until the year in which the children to whom it relates are 25 years old.