

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY

National Statistician's Inclusive Data Advisory Committee

NSIDAC(22)02

Inclusive Data Taskforce Implementation Plan, Priorities and Progress

Purpose

1. This paper provides context to, and advance sight of, the presentation to be delivered to the Committee on the Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF) Implementation Plan, priorities and current progress. The purpose of this item is to provide Members with contextual information and support meaningful discussion of priorities and direction, to ensure we achieve a step-change in data inclusivity across the UK statistical system.

Recommendations

2. Members of NSIDAC are invited to:
 - i. Review the slides (**Annex A**) which will be presented at the meeting;
 - ii. Review the 'Roadmap' (**Annex B**) which provides a strategic view of the key activities planned over the period 2022/3-2024/5, comment on progress and the comprehensiveness, priority and sustainability of the key commitments;
 - iii. Propose any additional or new priorities;
 - iv. Confirm if **Annex B** is a useful format for the Committee to receive quarterly high level progress reports; and
 - v. Note that **Annex C** contains a summary of the work being undertaken under the key activities, for information.

Background

3. The National Statistician created the independent IDTF in Autumn 2020 to consider how to make a real step change in the inclusivity of UK data and evidence. It was chaired by Dame Moira Gibb and comprised a diverse group of senior academics and civil society leaders who collectively have wide ranging equalities expertise. It published its [report and recommendations](#) in September 2021 and presents us with a great opportunity to make a real improvement in data in this space.
4. Following this, the ONS crowd sourced initiatives from across the Government Statistical System (GSS) and wider UK statistical system, to understand progress, plans and ambitions for new work which would address these recommendations. These initiatives were published in January 2022 (the [IDTF Implementation Plan](#)). The Plan is very ambitious and covers approximately 200 activities across 20 organisations including the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, UK government departments, and organisations external to government including the Equality and Human Rights Commission.
5. In addition to driving progress against these commitments, we continue to engage with stakeholders in order to identify new opportunities and ensure inclusivity is being built in to all new activities from the start, delivering a sustainable change across the statistical system.

Discussion

6. The presentation (**Annex A**) gives an overview of the aims of the IDTF, the resulting 8 'Inclusive Data Principles' and the Key Objectives and Key Commitments within them over the period 2022/23 to 2024/25. This period was chosen as it aligns with the latest Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2021 period; CSR is the exercise where government funding is allocated to departments. It generally (but not always) covers a three-year period. We have also included some of the most interesting achievements made so far.
7. We have created a '**Roadmap**' showing the most strategic or 'cornerstone' activities that will lead to the step change in UK data inclusivity that the IDTF envisaged. This is shown in its entirety at **Annex B**. Note that in many cases there is feasibility or exploratory work being undertaken in 2022/3, and future plans will be developed depending upon the results of this, and future funding availability. We welcome views on the roadmap's comprehensiveness, priorities and whether they will engender sustainability in data inclusivity.
8. Current progress is also shown on the roadmap using a 'RAG status' (Red/Amber/Green) approach. As part of NSIDAC's role is to provide external scrutiny of progress, we propose to provide a progress update of this nature at each quarterly meeting of the Committee. We are keen to ensure that the level of detail and format is appropriate and useful.

Conclusion

9. This paper provides contextual background to the ambitious and exciting plans for making a significant difference in the inclusivity of UK evidence and data through implementing the recommendations of the IDTF. We welcome Members' views on progress to date and whether the key commitments and priorities over 2022/23-2024/5 are the right ones, and will lead to sustained improvement.

**Debra Prestwood, Louise Vesely-Shore, Centre for Equalities and Inclusion,
Statistical Coherence and Inclusion Division, ONS
7 October 2022**

List of Annexes

- Annex A** **Presentation to be made at 17 October Meeting**
- Annex B** **IDTF Implementation Roadmap**
- Annex C** **Summary of Key Commitments**