

IDTF implementation progress and annual review

Purpose

1. This paper and accompanying annexes provide an overview of progress towards delivery of the first updated Inclusive Data Taskforce (IDTF) Implementation Plan, as well as a proposed approach to annual reviews of the Plan in future.

Recommendations

2. Members of NSIDAC are invited to:
 - i. Review the IDTF Implementation Roadmap (**Annex A**) and comment on the current progress being made;
 - ii. Review the plans outlined for the annual review of the 2022 Implementation Plan (paras. 9-20 below, and **Annex D**);
 - iii. Give feedback on the planned review, including areas of work which should be a priority for 2023/24, as well as advice on how we can maximise awareness and dissemination of the review.

Background

3. As presented to the NSIDAC at the inaugural meeting in October 2022 (see NSIDAC(22)02), the ONS Inclusive Data Strategy and Engagement (IDSE) team have been convening work to improve the inclusivity of UK data and evidence and have established a monitoring framework to assess progress against the IDTF Implementation Plan, published in January 2022.
4. As part of the commitments made within the 2022 Plan to ensure open, transparent, and effective governance, work is underway to complete an annual review and publish an update of progress. Details of the plans for this review are outlined below, and we welcome views from Members on how we can ensure this review is informative, accessible, and shared widely with all communities.

Discussion

5. In the past quarter (Oct-Dec 2022) positive progress has been made against a number of the commitments in the IDTF Implementation Plan, including:
 - Work has now commenced relating to the recommendation to develop a new 'social contract' with those asked to share their data (IDP 1). A small task and finish group has been established with colleagues from the Devolved Nations as well as members of this committee and authors of the social contract recommendation from the IDTF to advise and inform progress. ONS will lead the initial work engaging with 18-25 year olds whom internal research has shown to have lowest levels of trust in ONS across age groups. The work will

explore what would enhance trust and perceived trustworthiness of ONS and government in relation to data sharing among this group.

- The Welsh Government published their [Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units Strategy and priorities](#) in October. The priorities document sets out what they will do to achieve their aims in the short, medium and longer term. The priorities are not intended to be a fixed list of commitments and are likely to change as stakeholder and accountability groups develop their thinking and provide further direction (IDP 3).
 - In work being led by ONS and Home Office, Census 2021 data has been linked with the Refugee Integration Outcomes (RIO) study. This is following the RIO data linkage pilot for which a [report was published in June 2022](#) (IDP 5).
 - The GSS Harmonisation Team published [a review of the gender identity data harmonised standard](#) (IDP 5).
 - Qualitative research has been undertaken and findings were published on [children with special educational needs and disabilities](#) in November and [Gypsy and Traveller communities](#) in December (IDP 6).
 - An updated [coherence work plan](#) has been published, developed in collaboration across all four nations, outlining priorities to improve the coherence of UK statistics (IDP 7).
6. As set out in the IDTF Implementation Roadmap (**Annex A**), the majority of key commitments are on track or have already been delivered, although there has been revision to some, providing clarification of the scope and extent of the work, aligning with updated priorities and resourcing. Of note:
- Following discussion with this Committee at the last meeting, plans to publish the adult care home review have been paused, with work focusing on an initial high-level review of data availability for different communal establishments and special population groups, such as Gypsies and Travellers, and those experiencing homelessness. This will highlight where the biggest data gaps are and enable us to focus strategically on a few population groups to better understand how these can be captured in UK data and evidence (IDP 3).
 - HM Revenue and Customs have clarified their commitment, outlining plans to develop a protected characteristics strategy, currently being drafted, with initial recommendations expected by mid-2023 (IDP 3).
 - Work to produce the Equality Data Asset prototype is progressing well but has been delayed to early 2023 (IDP 4).
 - Resourcing constraints have also delayed work on development of intersectional analysis methods, with work planned to re-commence in early 2023 (IDP 4).
 - Research by the Welsh Government to understand how to capture data related to the social model of disability is still being procured, with delivery of

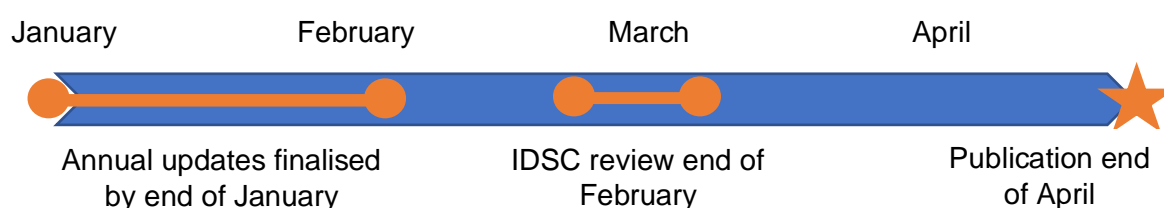
the research now anticipated in summer 2024 rather than summer 2023 (IDP 5)

- The roadmap has been updated to reflect the progress of work to review and update harmonised standards. Publication of work reviewing the ethnicity and disability related standards, along with the new socio-economic background standard, have been delayed and are now planned for early 2023 (IDP 5).
7. The first meeting of the cross-GSS Analysis and Evaluation Sub-Committee on Inclusive Data (IDSC), expected to convene for the first time in January was postponed due to staff illness. The IDSC is part of the new governance structures being established to drive forwards system-wide work (IDP 2, see **Annex C** for an overview), and is intended to complement the advice and guidance provided by members of this Committee. We anticipate that the postponed sub-committee meeting will take place shortly and a summary of discussions from this first meeting will be shared at the next NSIDAC meeting.
 8. We welcome members' views and advice on the progress to date.

Annual review

9. The IDSE team has also begun an annual review of progress against the commitments published in the first IDTF Implementation Plan, engaging with stakeholders across the UK statistical system to clarify progress and identify any new initiatives underway or due to commence in 2023/34.
10. We want to ensure that the publication itself is accessible to diverse audiences, in keeping with the priority on inclusiveness. As such, it's important to strike a balance between comprehensive coverage of all commitments, and brevity in reporting essential information.
11. To showcase that inclusivity is a priority across the whole UK statistical system, we propose a joint foreword to the publication with contributions from the National Statistician and the Chief Statisticians of each Devolved Nation.
12. There will be a high-level summary of the progress made during 2022 towards implementation of the recommendations, followed by more specific updates on the commitments to deliver against each of the 8 Inclusive Data Principles (see **Annex D**)
13. Specifically, each section will include:
 - i. A summary of progress towards 'key commitments' identified in the IDTF Roadmap
 - ii. A case study to showcase the breadth, creativity or innovative nature of work being undertaken
 - iii. Key commitments going forward including updates or revisions to key commitments, and any new commitments.
14. An overview table will also provide a summary of progress for each commitment made in the 2022 Plan, along with a nominated point of contact to obtain further details. This should enable interested individuals to engage with work being progressed across the statistical system.

15. This update is intended both to review progress towards the 2022 Plan, and to provide a forward look of new initiatives expected to contribute to further inclusivity. Information on new initiatives is currently being gathered, and we invite members to share their views on priorities for the year ahead.
16. To enhance accessibility, we are working and exploring how to make the update easy to read and navigate in both web page and PDF formats.
17. The update will be translated into Welsh, with other translations available on request. This decision has been based on experience of publishing the 2022 Plan and is deemed to be a prudent approach in the current fiscal climate.
18. A draft of the Annual Review will be shared with Members for comments in late February, with a view to publication in late April.



19. We would welcome suggestions on how to effectively disseminate and raise awareness of the review.
20. After publication, a survey will be included on the UKSA website to gather feedback on how we can improve the update. This will inform the approach to the 2023 annual review.

Conclusion

21. This paper has provided an overview of the latest progress against the commitments made in the IDTF implementation plan along with plans to publish the first annual review. Members are asked to provide feedback on progress made, and areas deemed to be a priority for 2023/24. We also welcome any suggestions to make the review as informative and accessible as possible, to meet the needs of diverse communities, and to maximise awareness of the work.

Louise Vesely-Shore MBE, Centre for Equalities and Inclusion, Statistical Coherence and Inclusion Division, ONS
23 January 2023

List of Annexes

- Annex A** IDTF Implementation Roadmap 2023.01.16
- Annex B** IDTF Summary of key commitments (for reference)
- Annex C** Overview of governance structures
- Annex D** Proposed structure of annual review