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Measuring government output: issues for Children's Social Care Services

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Presents research commissioned by the former DfES into finding direct output indicators for the above for the National Accounts.

In the case of Children's Social Care Services (CSCS), there are particular challenges in finding direct output indicators for use in the National Accounts. Since services for vulnerable children are often delivered by multi-agency teams and are intended to have a continuing benefit throughout the children's lives, it is difficult to measure the specific outcomes of CSCS interventions. Methodological and practical issues arise because the decision to supply services is made by local authorities, there is no suitable comparator group who do not receive services, there is no infrastructure for collecting outcomes information, and even collecting activity information for some services is difficult. This article presents research commissioned by the former Department for Education and Skills. It analyses the issues and suggests possible ways forward.

Misc

The Full Text of this article can be found on the National Statistics website
(http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/08_07/downloads/ELMR08_07Soper.pdf)