Data Provision Notice

Enhanced Community Care (ECC) Aggregate Data Collection

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DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

Version History

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0.1	04/06/2026	DPN Created

Reviewers

This document must be reviewed by the following people/groups:

Reviewer Title	Responsibility	Date	Version
Demand and Capacity Improvement Manager / Project Manager	Performance and Improvement	17.07.2026	0.1
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Welsh Information Development Group (WIDG)	5th August 2026	0.1
Welsh Information Standards Board (WISB)	27th August 2026	0.1

BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION

PURPOSE OF COLLECTION

The purpose of this collection is to establish a consistent national approach to reporting ECC activity across Wales.

This Data Provision Notice (DPN) sets out the national requirements for the collection, submission and reporting of Enhanced Community Care (ECC) aggregate activity data across NHS Wales. It establishes a consistent national reporting approach, providing a robust evidence base to support service planning, operational management, performance monitoring and national oversight.

The collection will provide visibility of an important area of community-based care that is not currently captured through a national patient-level dataset, supporting service planning, performance monitoring, operational management and service improvement.

The collection will standardise definitions and reporting arrangements to improve consistency, reduce variation and strengthen understanding of ECC activity across Health Boards.

The collection will remain aggregate in nature as an interim national reporting solution whilst Community Data Standards, digital maturity and future patient-level reporting capabilities continue to develop across NHS Wales.

Simple Definition:

An integrated health and social care approach with an identified population group, delivering a multi-professional response, avoiding crisis and acute interventions where feasible.

Expanded Definition:

An integrated health and social care approach with an identified population group, delivering a multi-professional and/or cross sector response avoiding crisis and escalation of health and care needs where feasible. This may include step up support to prevent hospital admission or step-down support to enable people to leave hospital early, while still receiving the treatment, care and support the person requires.

Enhanced Community Care (ECC) is a model of care rather than a discrete service, involving Health Boards, Local Authorities and third-sector partners.

Source document: ECC Visual V1.1 English 26 01 24.pdf

BENEFITS OF COLLECTION

Standardised ECC reporting will improve the consistency, completeness and comparability of aggregate data across NHS Wales. The collection will provide greater visibility of community-based care, support operational management, service planning, performance monitoring and national oversight, and strengthen the evidence base for future Community Data Standards, digital transformation and service improvement.

ECC is a core element of community-based alternative to hospital admission by enabling people to receive timely, coordinated support in their own home or usual place of residence, wherever clinically appropriate. All seven Health Boards now provide ECC through integrated health and social care models, delivering a multi-professional team response focused on what matters to the individual and those important to them.

ECC is central to managing winter pressures. As demand increases across urgent and emergency care, frailty, respiratory illness and discharge pathways, ECC provides the capability to intervene earlier, prevent avoidable escalation, and support people to remain safely at home. It directly contributes to system resilience by reducing avoidable hospital admissions, improving patient flow, and strengthening safe discharge from hospital.

There are currently 61 services identified as delivering ECC across Wales, including multi-professional community resource teams, acute frailty response and mental health crisis teams. These services are already supporting people with chronic conditions to remain well at home for longer, providing rapid response where needs escalate, and enabling people to return home following hospital care.

Current reporting demonstrates the scale and impact of this approach. Referrals to ECC have increased nationally by 20% and 74% of all discharges were able to remain at home as a result of the ECC they received. This evidence reinforces the importance of ECC as an essential part of NHS Wales's whole system response to meeting population needs.

PERSONS CONSULTED

The development of this collection was supported through an Impact Assessment and subsequent follow-up meetings with individual Health Boards to clarify responses and discuss key themes arising from the assessment.

Stakeholders consulted included:

- Information, Business Intelligence and Data Leads across all Health Boards in Wales.
- Lead Allied Health Professionals across all Health Board Regions in Wales.
- Lead Community Nurses across all Health Board Regions in Wales.
- Community Service Managers and Operational Leads across all Health Board Regions in Wales.
- NHS Wales Performance and Improvement (Strategic Programme for Primary Care [SPPC]).
- Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) Data Standards Team.

Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) Data Quality Team

This is an aggregated data set; patient level data cannot be used as it is often not collated in a way that supports secondary reporting due to the identified lack of available data systems within community settings.

REQUIREMENTS

Scope of collection

This Data Provision Notice (DPN) defines the requirements for the national monthly collection of aggregate Enhanced Community Care (ECC) activity data from NHS Wales Health Boards.

The collection covers Level 4 Enhanced Community Care services and integrated Level 3/4 service provision where Enhanced Community Care activity can be separately identified. Aggregate data will be collected and submitted by NHS Wales Health Boards to support national performance monitoring, service planning and reporting. The DPN sets out the requirements for the collection of the following aggregate data items:

1. Total number of referrals to ECC received.
2. Total number of discharges from ECC.
3. Average (mean) length of stay (days) in ECC.
    - Sum of the length of stay of people discharged within the reporting month, in days.
4. Total number of referrals to ECC, split by referral source.
5. Total number of referrals to ECC, split by referral outcome.
6. Total number of people who have received an ECC service within the reporting period.
7. Total number of discharges from ECC, split by discharge destination.

Inclusion Criteria

The collection includes:

- Level 4 Enhanced Community Care services.
- Integrated Level 3/4 service provision where Enhanced Community Care activity can be identified.

Exclusion Criteria

The collection excludes:

- Level 1–3 multi-professional services that do not deliver Enhanced Community Care activity.
- Activity captured through other national data collections.
- Patient-level data, as this collection is limited to aggregate reporting.

FORM AND MANNER OF COLLECTION

All NHS Wales Health Boards are required to submit Enhanced Community Care (ECC) aggregate data as part of this national collection.

Data will be submitted to NHS Wales Performance and Improvement using the approved Microsoft Excel data collection template. Completed returns must be submitted by email to: nhspi_data.analytics@wales.nhs.uk.

Any queries can also be directed to: NHSPI_Data.Analytics@wales.nhs.uk

The data items to be submitted, together with their definitions and validation requirements, are provided in the Form Specification section of this Data Provision Notice.

PERIOD OF COLLECTION

Data will be collected monthly. NHS Wales Health Boards must submit their returns by the close of business on the second Wednesday of each month, in accordance with the current reporting schedule issued by the information requester.

The first submission for this collection will be Wednesday 9th September 2026.

The collection will be reviewed within 12 months of implementation to assess whether the aggregate collection continues to meet reporting requirements and to consider future development in line with improvements in digital capability and national data standards for community services.

DATA QUALITY

The data collection form includes clear definitions and guidance wherever possible to support consistent interpretation and accurate data entry. In the longer term, the introduction of a patient or record level dataset, developed through ongoing reviews, will further enhance data quality.

The Data Quality team will conduct regular reviews of DPNs and produce SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) reports. These reviews will assess whether Health Boards are able to collect patient or record level data. Understanding how close each Health Board is to achieving this will support the transition to a more detailed and reliable patient or record level dataset.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The main roles and responsibilities within this process are as follows.

Sponsor:

- Overseeing the collection
- Actively participating in the review process

- Ensuring that any issues are escalated to DHCW in a timely manner and alerting DHCW if a review is required ahead of the scheduled review noted in the DPN.

Data Submitters**:**

- Providing data as required in a timely manner
- Actively participating in the review process by providing input as required.

DHCW Data Standards team:

- Managing the development of the data collection engaging with relevant stakeholders and supporting the Sponsor.

DHCW Data Quality team:

- Completing Data Provision Notice (DPN) reviews in a timely manner.
- Assist with the development of the data collection proposal, providing an additional quality perspective.

FORM SPECIFICATION

The form is available to access and download via the Data Standards website Data Provision Notices - Digital Health and Care Wales.

The form has also been attached below for reference:

20260827-DPN 2026 04-Enhanced Community Care-ECC-Reporting Template-LOCKED VERSION.xlsm