



## Factsheet: Developing a public health outcome measure for children aged 2 – 2½ using ASQ-3™

### 1. A public health outcome measure for children at age 2 – 2½

The Department of Health is developing an outcome measure of child development at age 2 – 2½ years, the data for which will be published in the Public Health Outcomes Framework from 2015.

### 2. Why an outcome measure of child development at age 2 – 2½?

The measure will help monitor child development across England so that we can observe changes in population health from year to year, and potentially also use the data to track children's outcomes as they grow up. The data will also help to assess the effectiveness and impact of services for 0-2 year olds and support future planning.

In addition to providing national and local population level data, the assessment tool used for the measure, Ages & Stages Questionnaires®, Third Edition, (ASQ-3™): A Parent-Completed Child Monitoring System, Squires & Bricker (Brookes Publishing Co.), will help health visitors identify any early problems in individual children's development leading to effective early intervention, help to support children to be ready for school and learning, and feed into the child's two year review.

### 3. Will the data for the measure be collected as part of a routine assessment?

Data for the measure will be collected during the Healthy Child Programme two year review or integrated review, where in place (see Q10).

### 4. Which tool will be used to generate data?

Data will be collected using the evidence-based ASQ-3. ASQ-3 questionnaires are completed by parents and cover five domains of child development: communication, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, problem solving and personal-social development. Health visiting teams will need to be using ASQ-3 as part of HCP two year reviews from 2015, as set out in the NHS England health visiting service specification <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/qual-clin-lead/hlth-vistg-prog/res/#serv-spec>. Further information on using ASQ-3 is available through an e-learning package (see Q8).

### 5. Why was ASQ-3 chosen?

ASQ-3 was one of two assessment tools identified through research as suitable for use as part of Healthy Child Programme two year reviews and to generate data for a population measure of child development at age 2-2½. The research, which reviewed a range of measures of child development, can be found on the UCL website:

[https://www.ucl.ac.uk/cpru/documents/review\\_of\\_measures\\_of\\_child\\_development](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/cpru/documents/review_of_measures_of_child_development).

Further research, exploring the acceptability and understanding of ASQ-3 among parents and health professionals, is also available:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cpru/documents/evaluating-the-use-of-a-population-measure-of-child-development-in-the-healthy-child-two-year-review>

### 6. What is the timing for collecting data for the outcome measure?

From April 2015: services will be asked to collect data on the number of eligible children receiving two year reviews which include ASQ-3, as part of the NHS England health visiting service delivery metrics. This is set out in the NHS England 2015-16 National Health Visiting Core Service Specification. After September 2015, responsibility for commissioning for 0-5s will move from NHS England to local authorities, and data

collection will continue to be required, as this is a statutory commitment in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Information about the transfer of commissioning is available at the following factsheet:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/347047/Commissioning\\_factsheet\\_final\\_22-8-14.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/347047/Commissioning_factsheet_final_22-8-14.pdf)

From September 2015: it is expected that data will be collected via the Children and Young People's Health Services (CYPHS) dataset (see <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/maternityandchildren/CYPHS>). The first submissions will take place in October 2015 for September data.

Providers and Area Teams should therefore be making plans to ensure that the mechanisms for data collection of the indicator from September 2015 are in place. This data will **not** be required to be backdated to 1 April 2015.

It is expected that the data items required will include:

- child's date of birth
- child's gestational age at birth
- child's gender
- child's ethnicity
- date of birth of mother
- postcode
- date of completion of the ASQ-3 questionnaire by parent or professional
- whether the ASQ-3 questionnaire was completed as part of a HCP two year review/integrated review
- which ASQ-3 questionnaire was used (24/27/30 month)
- ASQ-3 domain scores (Communication/Gross Motor/Fine Motor/Problem Solving/Personal-Social)

As part of the development process for the CYPHS dataset, system suppliers will be required by the CYPHS data set Information Standards Notice to make changes to their systems to enable health visiting teams to record ASQ scores.

Where organisations experience delayed compliance with the CYPHS dataset then it is expected that the above data will be collected locally in order to support an ad-hoc national reporting process on an interim basis. Specific guidance and detailed data specifications to support this data collection and reporting will be issued separately as part of the transfer of commissioning responsibilities to local authorities.

## 7. How will health visiting teams access ASQ-3?

ASQ-3 has been adapted from US English to British English in cooperation with the publisher and will be made available by DH direct to health visiting teams. Health visiting providers should send their postal address to [childrenfamiliesmaternity@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:childrenfamiliesmaternity@dh.gsi.gov.uk) to request a CD-ROM. DH is funding one CD-ROM per health visiting provider and materials can be copied for health visitors as required under the guidelines of the accompanying Photocopying Release. The CD-ROM will include a full set of the 21 ASQ-3 questionnaires, the ASQ-3™ Quick Start Guide, the Child Monitoring Sheet and the Parent Review Sheet. Health visiting teams will need to make sure they use the correct ASQ-3 questionnaire for each child, depending on the child's age at the time of their two year review. ASQ-3 questionnaires are available for children in age ranges around 24, 27 and 30 months. We expect that the ASQ-3 British English materials will be distributed to health visiting providers in early 2015.

The CD-ROM does **not** include Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE) and these are not required for the outcome measure at this stage.

### **8. What training is available for health visiting teams?**

E-learning materials have been developed to support health professionals using ASQ-3 as part of the two year review. These are accessible to all practitioners working with young children via the *e-Learning for Healthcare* website:

<http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/asq-3-and-the-two-year-review>.

The e-learning comprises two 30 minute sessions and is an interactive tool that includes video clips from real-life two year reviews and covers the practicalities of using ASQ-3.

### **9. Will Family Nurses need to report ASQ data?**

Data need to be collected for all children aged 2 – 2 ½, so where Family Nurses are undertaking two year reviews they should report data as per Q6 above. The FNP programme now includes the use of ASQ-3 at 24 months with capacity for recording this data on the FNP Information System.

As Family Nurse Partnership teams already use the ASQ-3 tool, they are not currently included in the licensing agreement for the British English version of ASQ-3 so will not receive a CD-ROM. The British English version of ASQ-3 differs only slightly from the US English version which FNP teams currently use. After the initial data collection has been analysed we will work with the FNP National Unit to consider whether the British English version of ASQ-3 should be used in FNP.

### **10. How does this fit with the development of an integrated review?**

From September 2015, services are asked to offer integrated reviews at age 2, bringing together the EYFS progress check and the HCP health review. Data for the outcome measure will be collected during the Healthy Child Programme two year review, which is the health element of an integrated review.

### **11. Is ASQ-3 available in other languages?**

The US English version of ASQ-3 is available in Spanish and in French. Translations of the US English version into other languages may be available, but no translations of the British English version are available or underway. Enquiries should be made via [rights@brookespublishing.com](mailto:rights@brookespublishing.com)

### **12. Further queries**

Any further queries can be addressed to [childrenfamiliesmaternity@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:childrenfamiliesmaternity@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

### **13. Useful resources**

#### **The Healthy Child Programme Two Year Review:**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/377800/dh\\_108329.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/377800/dh_108329.pdf)

#### **Early Years High Impact Areas – Area 6 – Two Year Review:**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/326895/Early\\_Years\\_Impact\\_6.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/326895/Early_Years_Impact_6.pdf)