

The National Lottery Community Fund Privacy Notice for the ABS national evaluation of the 'A Better Start' Programme

Our contact details

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This privacy notice was completed on: 24.01.2022

Background to our A Better Start national evaluation

We are the National Lottery Community Fund (the "Fund", "we", "our"). We are registered with the Information Commissioner's Office under registration number Z968750X.

[A Better Start](#) (ABS) is our ten-year (2015-2025), £215 million programme where we funded five partnerships:

1. Blackpool Better Start
2. Better Start Bradford
3. Lambeth Early Action Partnership
4. Small Steps Big Changes in Nottingham
5. A Better Start Southend

[\(ABS grant holders\)](#) support families to give their babies and very young children the best possible start in life. In addition to funding these five partnerships, we also commissioned The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) to evaluate the impact of our programme. We refer to this evaluation as 'the ABS national evaluation'.

NatCen will deliver the ABS national evaluation together with their five subcontractors: The University of Sussex; Research in Practice; the National Children's Bureau; RSM; and McGowan Transcriptions.

Only NatCen, the University of Sussex and McGowan Transcriptions will handle your personal data, and your data will be used by them for research purposes only.

Why are we collecting and processing your personal data?

We process information, or data, about ABS service users for the purpose of evaluating the impact of our investment of public funds on early childhood development. By 'service users' we mean pregnant individuals, parents, carers, and children from birth up to their fourth birthday that have accessed ABS services.

What type of personal information will we collect?

To enable us to evaluate our ABS programme, we will seek consent to collect and process the personal information of service users. We collect and process the following types of personal data:

(1) Data relating to quantity of services accessed (Quantitative Data):

Our five funded partnerships (also known as the [ABS grant holders](#)), will seek your consent to share the following data with our evaluator NatCen:

- *a list of ABS services accessed by individuals which includes: service user names, dates of birth, postcode, and where possible, NHS IDs.*

This information is required to enable us to identify the children and families who have accessed ABS services, and in turn, will enable us to evaluate how ABS services have contributed to improving life chances of babies and young children.

(2) Data relating to the quality of services and user experiences (Qualitative Data):

We require our five funded partnerships (also known as the ABS grant holders) to use their existing relationships and networks to share with local families details of the ABS national evaluation. Families can voluntarily apply to participate in the ABS national evaluation via a short application form. If selected, engagement will involve interviews with families at multiple time points conducted by the University of Sussex who are a sub-contractor to NatCen. This qualitative evidence is important because it will provide insight about the lived experiences of those receiving ABS services. The University of Sussex will aim to engage a pool 25 families who represent the mix of ABS service users within the ABS area, including but not limited to families that:

- Represent black and minoritized ethnicities;
- Contain variations in family/household structure (e.g. lone parents, couple families, kinship care);
- Contain fathers involved with ABS activities;
- Comprise of young parents;
- Comprise of disabled parents;
- Comprise of children with SEND; and any other group.

NatCen and the University of Sussex may also invite health and early years professionals working in early years services in each ABS area, and comparison areas outside of ABS, to participate in the ABS national evaluation via the same consent process. Involvement of these professionals is required to help address the factors that affect outcomes for babies and very young children and will identify how ABS areas have taken different approaches to the delivery of 'off the shelf' evidence-based interventions.

Who controls your personal data for the ABS national evaluation?

We do. We are the controller of the data for the ABS national evaluation and shall at all times comply with Data Protection Legislation. For the ABS national evaluation, we are responsible for the proper handling of your personal data once you have provided your consent for your local ABS service provider to share this information with NatCen, in partnership with the University of Sussex, and McGowan Transcription. Together they will collect and process the personal data from ABS grant holders on our behalf with your consent. Please note that you are not required to consent to your personal data being shared as a condition of accessing ABS services and you can withdraw your consent at any time.

Why can we process you and your child's personal data?

We will seek your consent before we collect or process any information about you to ensure your rights are protected. As the research for the ABS national evaluation contains some special category data then our legal basis for conducting this research is consent. [Special category data](#) is defined by UK General Data Protection Regulations. For A Better Start this refers to: racial or ethnic origin; and data concerning health information. We will never use the information to identify specific individuals for any reason.

How long will you or your child's data be kept?

As soon as data processing is complete data required for the ABS national evaluation will be destroyed. Only aggregated or anonymised data will be retained by the named parties which does not contain any identifiable information.

The University of Sussex will hold data about individuals who participated in qualitative research for 12-months after the end of the study (held securely and separately from research data) to allow feedback to study participants to be distributed, and study participants to respond with questions or requests for further information. We will never hold your personal information directly and will ensure that data processed by NatCen, The University of Sussex and McGowan Transcription is used solely for the purpose of evaluating the ABS programme and retained for the minimum period required.

Data will not be returned to the source organisation. The following data retention will be applicable:

- Anonymised processed data (data that cannot identify individuals) will be held for a period of five years by NatCen. Data will then be securely destroyed in line with NatCen's data management policy.

- Personal data collected for quantitative research (as described above) will be destroyed as soon it is processed by NatCen. Personal data collected for qualitative research (as described above) will be stored securely for 12 months after the end of the study and then destroyed securely. This process will be compliant with GDPR Article 28 and will include details of research participants including contact information.

The Fund, as data controller, will not move or share information that identifies you or your child outside the UK and we will make sure that it is held securely at all times.

The Fund may consider archiving some interviews conducted with parents and carers so that evidence can be used in future research studies. Any interviews that are archived would be redacted so that they were truly anonymous and the participant could not be identified.

Data rights

Under data protection law, you have rights including:

- Your right of access - You have the right to ask us for copies of your personal information.
- Your right to rectification - You have the right to ask us to rectify personal information you think is inaccurate. You also have the right to ask us to complete information you think is incomplete.
- Your right to restriction of processing - You have the right to ask us to restrict the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.
- Your right to object to processing - You have the right to object to the processing of your personal information in certain circumstances.

You are not required to pay any charge for exercising your rights. If you make a request, we have one month to respond to you. Please contact us at data.protection@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk if you wish to make a request.

Changes to this privacy notice

We may change this notice by updating this page to reflect changes in the law or our data protection practices. We will also inform you of significant changes to this policy and ask for your consent should this be required by law.

How to raise concerns or complain

If you have any concerns or complaints about our use of your personal information, please contact us. We would appreciate the opportunity to address any concerns or queries you may have about our project.

The A Better Start Team

abetterstart@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

The National Lottery Community Fund

1 Plough Place, London, EC4A 1DE

Data Protection Officer: data.protection@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

You can also complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how we have used your data. The ICO's address:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

ICO website: <https://www.ico.org.uk>