**ASC CLD Q&A Session 1- Answers**

**On behalf of the CLD team, we wanted to thank you for your time and input in the first Q&A session. We have been working through the feedback and additional questions from this session.**

**Please see the subject area and corresponding answers below:**

**Mental Health Assessments:** It was decided that DOLS, safeguarding, mental capacity and MH act assessments should not be included in CLD. The guidance will be updated to clarify this in the next refresh.

**Eligible Needs Identified:** As discussed there are many varying practices for this field between LA systems and we are aware that some of the options for this field may not fit your practice. Where information is not held for the identification of non-eligible needs, use the option “No needs identified” for all cases in which no eligible needs were identified. Please submit the information you have available to the guidance below:

‘Identifies when a ‘long term’ assessment of need has been completed for the service user or carer, and the person’s eligibility under the Care Act is determined. In the event of an assessment that begins but is terminated prior to its conclusion, the “Eligible Needs Identified” field should be left blank. The “Event Outcome” should reflect the reason for the assessment termination.’

**Carers:** Where a carer is involved in an assessment but is not being assessed themselves, we would not expect to see a joint assessment as their needs are not assessed. Therefore the carer has to consent and agree to joint assessment for their information to be included. This guidance will be updated in the next refresh.

**Care Act Assessments:** As care act assessments are an assessment of needs, this falls under long-term assessments and should be categorised as this.

**Assessment or review:** In general, an unplanned review is where needs have changed or new needs have arisen and in this case, should be recorded as a review. An exception to this is where there is a two-stage process involving a light-touch review and a separate reassessment of needs as a result. In this case, the two events can be recorded separately as a review followed by an assessment. This guidance will be updated in the next refresh.

**Connection/ Conversation 1**: In general, an initial conversation that form part of a multi-stage approach do not involve an assessment of eligible needs and should therefore be recorded as requests, not assessments.

**Submission of event:** The event start date should be the date recorded when an assessment begins. This could be during the first contact with the SW if the assessment takes place there and then. The end date should be the date where the completed assessment has managerial sign off, with a clear indication of what the event outcome should be.

**Additional questions:**

**Concerns around SALT, ASCOF and how they interact with CLD**: There will be a session on this soon with clarity on how CLD will be used to extract this information.

**What analysis will be done and how will the information will be used?** Our analysts are currently working on how the data provided by CLD can be used and disseminated back to LAs to support monitoring of social care. A future session will also be provided on how we plan to use the information.

**Have social workers been involved in developing the guidance?** Within DHSC, the specification and guidance have been constructed with LA input through the Reference Group which has worked through the specification in its early stages and implemented the guidance accordingly. As time has passed and additional items have been added to produce the final Release 1 specification, the guidance has been refreshed with LA, stakeholder, and IT supplier input to ensure it is clear on how we expect the information to be submitted. We will continue to work on this document as we approach mandation to ensure the message is up-to-date and as prescriptive as possible.

**Would be useful to have questions in advance:** Where possible, we will aim to send out questions in advance.

**Is there any update on the validation tool for Release 1**? As communicated, this is currently being worked on by AGEM and will aim to publish this by the end of the month.