



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

# **Adult Social Care Client Level Data Dashboard**

Methodology document

Version 6

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# Introduction

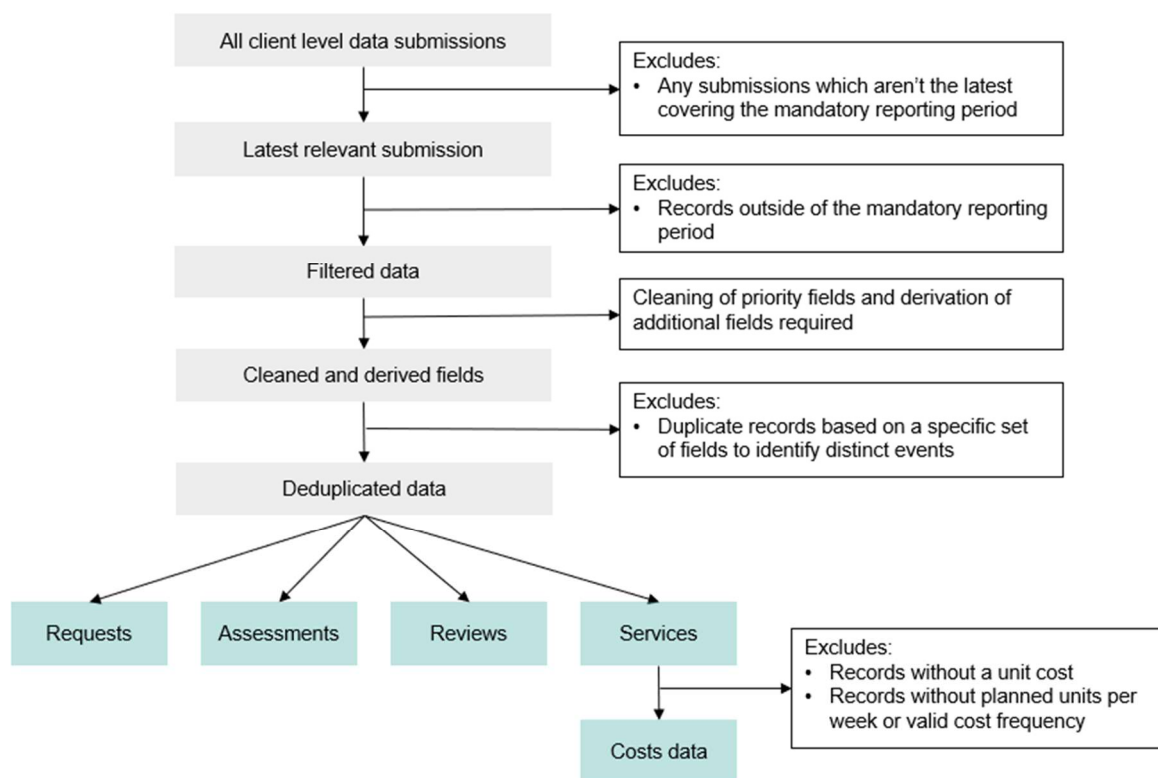
This document outlines the methodologies (logic and data processing) used to produce the data and metrics contained within the Adult Social Care Client Level Data dashboard for local authorities. It is split into 3 sections:

1. **Data processing** to generate SQL data tables that feed the dashboard
2. **Fields derived in SQL** using single records of data in the SQL data tables
3. **Metrics calculated within power BI** by performing calculations across a combination of fields and records from the data tables.

## Data processing

### Overview

This is an overview of the steps taken when processing Client Level Data to create the data tables which underpin the Power BI dashboard.



### 1. Filter to the relevant submission for each local authority

Data included in the dashboard is the latest CLD submission from each Local Authority covering the whole of the latest mandatory reporting period. The submission for each Local Authority is identified by selecting:

1. files which cover the whole of the mandatory reporting period based on the Reporting Period Start and End Dates stated in the submission. For example, for the first quarter's submission, files are selected with a minimum Reporting Period Start Date on or before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and a maximum Reporting Period End Date on or after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
2. if multiple files are returned in step one then the file with the latest import date is selected.

To be included in the dashboard, the data must have been submitted as a single file covering the whole of the reporting period. Individual submissions covering consecutive months will therefore be excluded from this version of the dashboard. The data validation reports provided by AGEM contain a check for whether the submission meets the criteria for inclusion in the CLD dashboard, and this is fed back to Local Authorities.

#### **SQL scripts**

Submissions are selected using the following procedures:

- REF\_Submission\_Reporting\_Periods\_table.sql – creates a reference table of one row per submission and their stated reporting period start and end dates.
- GetSubmissions – this procedure returns the most recent submission from each Local Authority that fully covers the period of interest (according to the stated reporting period start and end dates in the table above) and was submitted after the end of the reporting period and before the 'as of' date, if wanting to use a cut-off point for submissions.

## **2. Filter to the analysis period of interest**

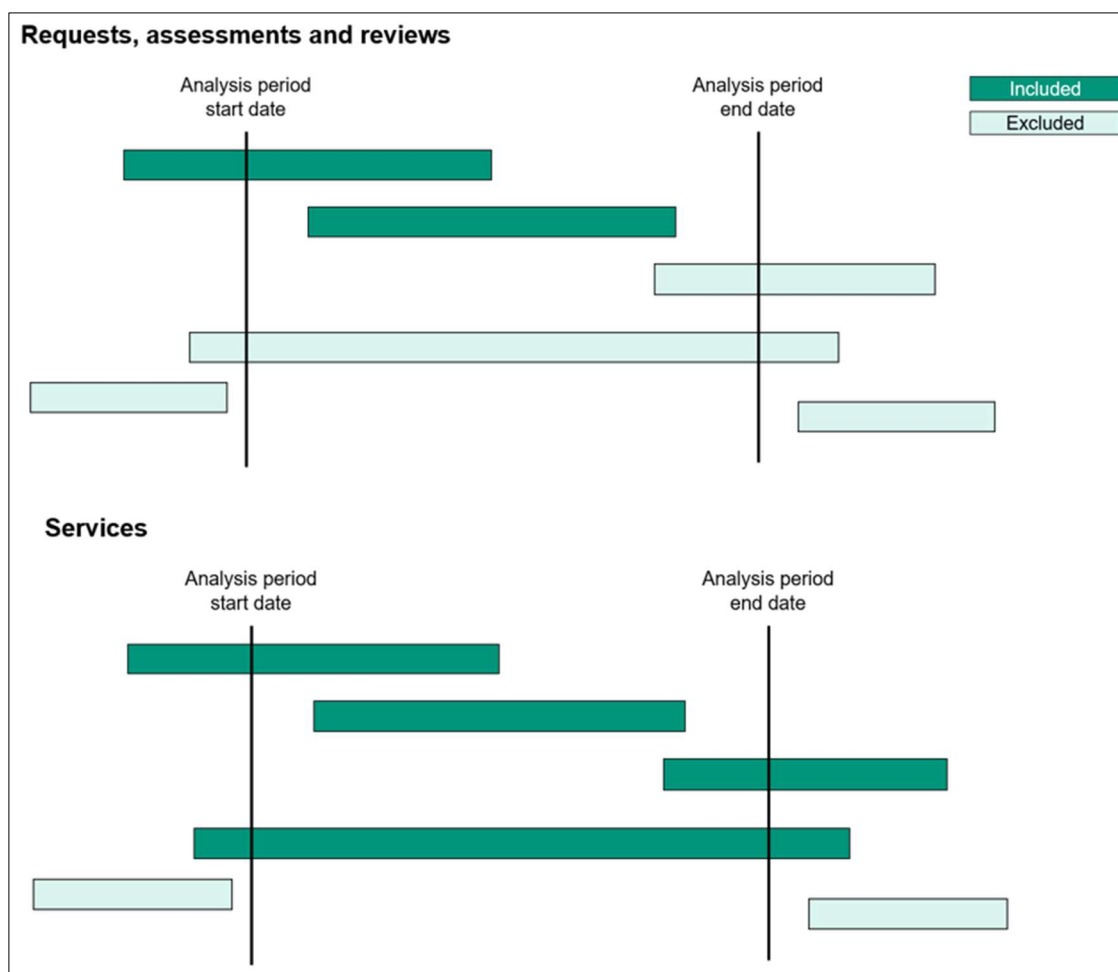
The dashboard shows events for the latest reporting period only. Inclusion criteria vary for the different event types, in line with the CLD guidance:

- Requests, Assessments and Reviews – include records where the Event Start Date is before or within the analysis period and Event End Date is within the analysis period.
- Services – Event Start Date must be before or within the analysis period and Event End Date must be within the analysis period or blank (open services).

Records with missing Event Type or Event Start Date are excluded at this stage and any requests, assessments and reviews with missing Event End Date are also excluded.

#### **SQL scripts**

Submissions are filtered to events within the period of interest using the FilterToEventsInPeriod procedure.



### ***Accounting for date of death***

Where a Date of Death is provided and it lies between the Event Start Date and Event End Date, or after the Event Start Date and where the Event End Date is missing, then the Date of Death is used as the Event End Date. This affects around 2% of records in the first quarter submissions. If the Date of Death is before the Reporting Period Start Date or before the Event Start Date then this record is excluded. This affects less than 1% of records within the mandatory reporting period.

### **3. Cleaning and deriving new fields**

For some priority fields, and fields impacted by the change from the release 1 to release 2 CLD specifications, data cleaning and/or mapping is carried out. For 2024/25 onwards, where local authorities have started using the Release 2 specification, the data is mapped back to Release 1 where possible. This interim approach is necessary until all methods and scripts are fully updated to support the Release 2 specification. No additional data rows are created, instead individual fields are amended as needed. Reference tables are manually updated which map invalid entries and release 2 entries to valid entries from the release 1 defined lists, where it is apparent what the entry should be.

At this stage derived fields are created, see the section on fields derived in SQL for more information.

**SQL scripts**

Some fields are cleaned and/or mapped, and additional fields are derived using the GetDerivedFields procedure.

**4. Deduplicate to retain unique records only**

We investigated ways of de-duplicating records to identify distinct records from multiple records. Following discussion with the local authority analytical working group and investigation of data quality across the first set of CLD submissions, we have used the fields listed in the table below to distinguish unique records within a single submission. More information on the methods for each event type is outlined below.

	Requests	Assessments	Services	Reviews
LA Code	✓	✓	✓	✓
Derived Person ID (NHS number unless missing then LA_ID)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Event Start Date	✓	✓	✓	✓
Event End Date	✓	✓		✓
Client Type	✓	✓	✓	✓
Request: Route of Access	✓			
Assessment Type		✓		
Service Type			✓	
Service Component			✓	
Delivery Mechanism			✓	
Unit Cost			✓	
Cost Frequency (Unit Type)			✓	
Planned units per week			✓	

**SQL scripts**

The Der\_Unique\_Event\_Ref field is created in as part of the GetDerivedFields procedure. For requests, assessments and reviews this is derived using the fields listed above. For services, this field is based on distinct client type, event start date, service type and service component. It excludes fields expected to change between submissions (delivery mechanism, unit cost, planned units per week and cost frequency), however when using single submissions these are accounted for in the GetUniqueEvents script.

The GetUniqueEvents procedure deduplicates records using the Der\_Unique\_Event\_Ref field. For requests, assessments and reviews this field alone is used. For services, this field is used in combination with delivery mechanism, unit cost, planned units per week and cost frequency when deduplicating to distinct events.

### ***Reason for not using Event Reference Number***

In the CLD guidance document, local authorities are asked to provide the Event Reference as a unique reference number for each event to help deduplicate records. Although intended for this purpose, in practice there are several issues that mean it does not work as intended:

- Event Reference is a voluntary field and around one in seven local authorities have not submitted it for all records.
- Some local authorities use the same Event Reference numbers by coincidence.
- In around 6% of records in the first quarter submissions, the Event Reference is identical, but values submitted for any of the other fields differ (e.g. Event Type, Event Start Date).
- In around 3% of records, the Event Reference differs, but values entered for all other fields are identical.
- Overall, use of the Event Reference number alongside the other variables appears to result in overcounting. It appears that some local authorities generate the Event Reference at the point of extracting the data from their case management system to create the CLD submission: it differs between each upload and does not correspond to a unique event.

### ***Person identifiers***

The anonymised person identifier used throughout the dashboard is based on the anonymised traced NHS number in the first instance, if this is missing then the local authority provided NHS number. If both NHS number fields are missing, the local authority person identifier is used. Please note, as of May 2024 this method was simplified and no longer includes an additional check for whether the local authority person identifier was previously associated with an NHS number elsewhere in the data since this step affected less than 0.01% of records.

### ***Requests***

The following fields are used to produce a distinct count of requests.

1. LA Code
2. NHS Number traced where populated otherwise LA Person ID
3. Event Start Date
4. Event End Date
5. Client Type
6. Request: Route of Access

If values submitted for all the above fields are identical, the data is ordered using the fields below and the first (top) record is retained:

- Reporting Period End Date – descending (most recent at the top)
- Reporting Period Start Date – descending (most recent at the top)
- Event Outcome – as per the hierarchy in the CLD guidance
- Derived unique record id – descending (most recent at the top)

Limitations:

- As with the SALT STS001, numbers of requests captured will be shaped by the local authority's arrangements for handling client contacts such as centralised call centres, outsourced arrangements etc. The method of recording client contacts locally will also influence what is shown on the dashboard.
- Where local authorities operate strengths-based approaches or offer drop-in assessments, initial contacts that are submitted solely as a record with Event Type = Assessment will not be counted as requests. To avoid this problem, we have suggested two approaches for local authorities when submitting data. We have recommended that these events should be submitted in the CLD return using Event Type = Request and that the Event Description field is used to indicate that these are initial conversations or assessments (Annex C of CLD guidance). Alternatively, some local authorities have submitted additional records for these events, one with the Event Type = Request and one with the Event Type = Assessment to ensure full information is submitted across all relevant fields. Either approach should ensure that initial contacts are counted as requests.

### **Assessments**

The following fields are used to produce a distinct count of assessments.

1. LA Code
2. NHS Number traced where populated otherwise LA Person ID
3. Event Start Date
4. Event End Date
5. Client Type
6. Assessment Type

If values submitted for all the above fields are identical, the data is ordered using the fields below and the first (top) record is retained:

Reporting Period End Date – descending (most recent at the top)  
 Reporting Period Start Date – descending (most recent at the top)  
 Event Outcome – as per the hierarchy in the CLD guidance  
 Derived unique record id – descending (most recent at the top)

Because we have received different views from local authorities, the current page does not currently count initial conversations as short-term assessments. The CLD guidance advises that these events are submitted as requests under Event Type, but notes that the Event Description field can be used to indicate that these are conversation records. We will review how to best reflect this data in future iterations of the dashboard following further conversations with local authorities operating strengths-based approaches.

## **Services**

The following fields are used to produce a distinct count of services.

1. LA Code
2. NHS Number traced where populated otherwise LA Person ID
3. Event Start Date
4. Client Type
5. Service Type
6. Service Component
7. Delivery Mechanism
8. Unit Cost
9. Cost Frequency (Unit Type)
10. Planned Units per week

Event End Date is not included since open and ongoing services are submitted with this field left blank, and the field is only populated once the service is closed.

If values submitted for all the above fields are identical, the data is ordered using the fields below and the first (top) record is retained:

- Reporting Period End Date – descending (most recent at the top)
- Reporting Period Start Date – descending (most recent at the top)
- Event Outcome – use the hierarchy in the CLD guidance
- Derived unique record id – descending (most recent at the top)

## **Reviews**

The following fields are used to produce a distinct count of reviews.

1. LA Code
2. NHS Number traced where populated otherwise LA Person ID
3. Event Start Date
4. Event End Date
5. Client Type

If values submitted for all the above fields are identical, the data is ordered using the fields below and the first (top) record is retained:

- Reporting Period End Date – descending (most recent at the top)
- Reporting Period Start Date – descending (most recent at the top)
- Event Outcome – as per the hierarchy in the CLD guidance
- Derived unique record id – descending (most recent at the top)

## **5. Additional exclusions applied to costs data**

The costs dataset, which underpins the costs page on the dashboard, is derived from the services dataset with the following additional processing steps applied.

Only service events within the latest quarter are retained, and not the full mandatory reporting period. This is because we expect submissions to include the latest cost

information. For services spanning multiple quarters using the latest cost information may misrepresent services that have undergone uplifts. In longer time we intend to develop a methodology for using multiple submissions to analyse costs over time.

Planned units per week and Cost Frequency both provide information on the frequency of a service but there are instances where the two fields don't obviously align (e.g. Cost Frequency unit type = monthly but Planned units per week = 3). In general, Cost Frequency is trusted over the Planned units per week as Planned units per week is only required for services where the unit cost occurs more frequently than weekly e.g., hourly, daily, or per session.

To simplify calculation of metrics, average weekly units have been derived from Cost Frequency when the Cost Frequency is weekly or less frequent as follows:

Cost frequency (Unit Type)	Derived weekly units
Weekly	1
Fortnightly	1/2
4-weekly	1/4
Monthly	12/52
Quarterly	4/52
Annually	1/52

When the Cost Frequency is more frequent than weekly the absolute values are taken for Planned units per week. The absolute values are also taken for Unit Cost to deal with any negative values (~2% of service records). No further attempt is made to clean the data; therefore, any erroneous costs or outliers will be included in the dashboard.

Any records without a unit cost are removed. Any records without planned units per week (actual or derived) are also removed unless the cost frequency is 'one-off'. Because of higher rates of incompleteness of costs fields in the first set of submissions, these two exclusion steps result in the costs table containing approximately 25% fewer records than the services fact table.

## 6. Creating local authority level tables

Once a table of distinct records for each event type is created, this is aggregated up at local authority level. This is done by grouping by all the fields which are required to create the metrics and breakdowns in power BI. As this includes fields such as person ID and event start and end dates, the resulting aggregation is very minimal, and most of the data remains at record-level.

## 7. Data quality reporting

This page contains a completeness and validity check of each entry in each field, indicating whether each entry meets the expected data type and defined list of values. These checks align with the data quality reports provided by Arden & GEM back to local authorities (via MESH). The dashboard allows users to select whether the data field is applicable and mandatory for a given record, based on a number of

key fields (such as client type and event type). These filters are developed in line with the CLD guidance. For example, the data quality check of the Request: Route of Access field is only applicable and mandatory when a record is a request.

## **8. ASCOF Figures**

The methodology for the ASCOF measures on the dashboard is published as a separate document on Athena and available on [AGEM's website](#).

## **9. Publication statistics - assessments**

This statistic describes the number of people who have had their individual care or support needs assessed by local authorities, excluding people who received local authority arranged or provided long term support within the previous 12 months. It includes people that are recorded as having received any type of assessment in CLD, in addition to request events that are flagged as being proportional assessments ('conversations') as part of a '3 conversation model'.

This statistic excludes people that have received long-term support within the previous 12 months because, in many cases, reassessments following long-term support are part of a person's ongoing care.

This statistic is an indicator of the level of new demand for care and support facing local authority adult social care services, although it does not capture the outcomes of these assessments and assessed needs may be met in a range of different ways and not only through services arranged or provided by the local authority.

These statistics require data covering a long time period, to enable exclusion of people who received long term support in the previous 12 months. Since CLD submissions contain the latest 12 months of data, these statistics use a dataset created by joining sequential submissions to create a longer period. The following steps are taken to create the joined submissions dataset:

- Identify recent submissions covering full required period
- Join these submissions and filter to events in required period
- Clean and derive new fields
- De-duplicate records to create a dataset containing one record of each event

More information on the data processing steps taken to produce the joined submissions main table is available on [GitHub](#).

After the creation of the joined submission dataset, the following steps are taken to identify and count people that will be included in the statistics:

- Filter to only include events with the 'assessment' event type or with 'request' event type and mention of 'conversation' in the event description field.
- Exclude remaining events where the person was receiving long-term support within the 12 months before the event end date of the assessment.

- Only include assessments which are the first for the person in a 12 month period.

## **10. Publication statistics - long term support use**

To calculate these figures, there are several additional processing steps applied to data, following those outlined in sections 1-6. These are:

- excluding any service records where the 'service type' is not long term support
- excluding any records where the 'client type' is carer
- cleaning several fields required for the published tables ('service type', 'gender' and 'ethnicity')
- deriving age at the latest point in an event - either the age at the event end date or, if the event is open and ongoing, the age at the reporting period end date
- grouping the derived ages into their respective age bands

The number of people receiving long term support in the dashboard is reported as a snapshot at the end of each month and broken down by support setting and person characteristics recorded in CLD. Individuals can be under each breakdown - for example, if a client supported in residential care receives additional services in the community at the end of the month, they will be counted under both settings. The totals count people only once - as a result, summing across groups will not align with the overall totals.

To calculate the number of long-term support users per 100,000 people, the number of people receiving local authority commissioned long-term support is divided by the respective population then multiplied by 100,000. The populations split by age and gender are from the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) 2023 mid-year estimates](#). The populations split by ethnicity are from the [ONS 2021 Census](#) because the granular breakdown of ethnicity is not available in the mid-year estimates. This means that there will be slight differences in the aggregate populations and rates presented table 6 compared to tables 4 and 5.

# Fields derived in SQL

## **[Field\_name]\_Cleaned**

For some priority fields, or fields which are impacted back the change from the release 1 to release 2 CLD specifications, data cleaning and mapping is carried out. Reference tables are manually updated which map invalid entries and release 2 valid entries to their release 1 valid equivalent where it is apparent what this should be. If the entry cannot be mapped due to data quality issues then it is overwritten to 'invalid and not mapped'. These cleaned fields are used throughout the main dashboard pages, publication metrics and ASCOF metrics.

## **Der\_Latest\_Age**

This is a person's age at the latest point in an event. For all records where an end date is provided, this is the age at the Event End Date: for services where the Event End Date is blank, the Reporting Period End Date is used. As we do not have access to the date of birth, the Birth Year and Birth Month fields are used and the first day of the month is used as a proxy for the date of birth.

## **Der\_Age\_band and Der\_Working\_Age\_Band**

These fields assign age bands depending on the value of the Der\_Latest\_Age (derived above).

## **Der\_Person\_ID**

This field contains the Der\_NHS\_Number\_Traced\_Pseudo unless this is missing, then the Der\_NHS\_Number\_Pseudo is used unless this is also missing, in which case the local authority Person ID is used.

## **Review\_type**

This field assigns two high level categories of 'planned' or 'unplanned' based on the Review Reason field.

## **Service\_type\_grouped**

For purposes of filtering the data on the dashboard, this field assigns three high level categories based on the Service Type: 'Short Term', 'Long Term' and 'Carer Support'

## **Event\_outcome\_grouped**

This field groups together all Event Outcomes which relate to no further action (NFA), for the purposes of plotting this on a chart.

## **Event\_outcome\_raw\_stripped and Event\_outcome\_hierarchy**

The Event Outcome field has less good validity than other fields (i.e. a higher % of responses are not provided in line with the defined list in the CLD specification) and therefore directly joining this field to the defined event outcome hierarchy reference

table particularly limits matching. The event\_outcome\_raw\_stripped field takes the event outcome field but strips it of spaces and punctuation, so that it can then be joined onto the stripped version of event outcome in the hierarchy table with a higher match rate.

### **Long\_Term\_Service\_Flag**

The LTS Flag is a field added to the request, assessment and review tables. It determines whether the individual has a long term service event open at the time of the request, assessment or review start date.

### **Costs fields**

**Weeks\_of\_service** – the number of weeks the service was open for within the reporting period. This uses the start and end dates of the event unless these fall outside of the reporting period, in which case the reporting period start and end dates are used. This step occurs after date of death has already been accounted for, as described earlier.

**Cost\_per\_week** – unit cost\*planned\_units\_per\_week, except when the cost frequency is 'one-off'. For unit costs that are less frequent than weekly, the derived weekly units are used e.g. for monthly service costing £500 per month, the cost per week will be  $£500 * 12 / 52 = £115.40$  per week.

**Total\_cost\_period** – the total cost for the service within the reporting period. Where cost frequency is one-off then the unit cost is taken. For all other events this is Cost\_per\_week\*Weeks\_of\_service.

# Metrics calculated within Power BI

## Number of requests received, assessments completed and reviews completed over time

These measures are a count of the number of requests received, assessments completed or reviews completed on a given day. For the number of requests received, this is based on the Event Start Date. For the number of assessments completed and reviews completed this is based on the Event End Date. These are aggregated up to weekly and monthly counts and displayed in the line chart visuals. For weekly reporting, any weeks at the start or end of the period which do not contain a full 7 days are not shown, to prevent the data being misrepresented.

## 7 day rolling average of requests received

This is only provided for requests received, and it calculates the average number of requests completed in the past 7 days, reported daily.

## Number of active service users and carers

This measure counts the number of service users and carers with service events open and ongoing at a given point in time. This is determined by counting events with an Event Start Date on or before the given calendar date and an Event End Date which is either null, greater than or equal to the given calendar date. This is reported weekly by week ending.

## Counts of individuals

The following measures are created by taking a distinct count of the der\_person\_id field for each of the event tables. For more information see [Person Identifiers](#).

- Person\_count\_requests
- Person\_count\_assessments
- Person\_count\_services
- Person\_count\_reviews
- Person\_count\_costs

## Mean cost in period per person

This is the total reported cost in the period divided by the total number of service users. This measure is an average across all service users and costs, and therefore does not reflect the intensity of a service. For example, one user may receive 6 weeks of service whilst the majority receive a couple of days.

## SQL Code

The SQL scripts which produce the data tables underpinning the CLD dashboard are publicly available on GitHub here: [DataS-DHSC/ASC-CLD-LA-Dashboard: The code used to produce the data tables underpinning the Client Level Data Dashboard for Local Authorities. \(github.com\)](https://github.com/DataS-DHSC/ASC-CLD-LA-Dashboard).

## Version control

Version number	Summary of changes
1.0	Initial version
1.1	Revised deduplication methodology for service events to include Unit Cost, Planned units per week and Cost Frequency (unit type) in the fields which identify unique events. Cost analysis revised to only include the latest quarter and not the full reporting period.
2.0	Addition of waiting times metrics. Simplified person identifier methodology to take the NHS number (traced taken over the local authority provided number) however if missing then the local authority person identifier is used. Removed the methodology for counting requests with 'conversation' in the event description as assessments, due to an issue in the code and more work is required to better understand how these events should be analysed. Updated age bands to align with those in the published CLD statistics and they are compatible with aggregation into the '18-64' and '65+' age bands.
3.0	Addition of 5 CLD-derived ASCOF measures.
3.1	Updated the timeseries graphs for requests, assessments, and reviews pages to include person- and event- level aggregation.
4.0	Updated to include more detail on the processing of single submissions. Removal of waiting times methodology whilst the metrics are being developed in response to feedback. Removal of ASCOF methodology as this is available in a separate methodology document.
5.0	Update to include methodology information for the two publication metrics (assessments and long term support statistics) added to the dashboard.
6.0	Updated to include information on how release 2 values are dealt with in the interim prior to the new specification becoming mandatory, and more information has been added on how the cleaned fields are derived.