

How Sentinel enables Children's Services departments to see the full picture

Sentinel's pioneering data software enables our local authority clients to offer enhanced help and protection to children – as well as improving their Ofsted ratings.



By taking data from all available sources, our Hub technology presents front-line teams with a comprehensive, single view of vulnerable young people.

Our clients regularly have data feeds from 30 to 40 of their systems and partner agency files. Our largest client currently has more than 100 data feeds. This flexibility to bring any number of data sources together into one place is transforming the way our clients are able to use their data.

And with frequent, automated updates, teams always have access to the most complete and accurate information.

Sentinel Partners director, Graham McCusker, said: “Not only are our clients able to bring together information about each child, but they can also build up a full chronology of reported incidents, events and the types of support services that have been provided.

“We have clients who are also using our technology to collect new on-line sources of information via our online Portal platform. This online data collection provides real time updates and alerts to be acted on immediately. In many cases, this information was previously collected and shared on manual paper forms or via ad-hoc emails.”

The Hub's powerful features also enable departments to implement the robust processes and procedures expected by Ofsted.

Multiple benefits experienced by our clients' teams include:

Quickly identifying those at risk and making early interventions

Accurate, holistic data leads to a better understanding of a child's activities, development and needs through the timelier processing and consolidation of assessments and referrals. Additional information provided by the Hub includes views of all known relationships, including gang membership or other known offenders.

Enhanced multi-agency working and data sharing

The Hub improves collaboration by integrating shared data from any number of internal teams and external partners including the police, schools and NHS. Our clients are able to bring any data they have available into the Data Hub, and then choose exactly what they want to share with their partners.

Sentinel also has clients who have started to use their new data-sharing capability to help their neighbouring authorities, by passing on valuable information about people who live across their borders.

"The Hub is also proving crucial when it comes to Ofsted, with clients using it to underpin new and collaborative ways of working that result in the best ratings."

More effective case management and performance oversight

Teams' ongoing activities and children's performance progress are easily monitored and managed through integrated management dashboards that provide full visibility.

Our Portal screens can include any information that is passed into the Data Hub. Our clients are becoming ever more creative about the information that they wish to see on their performance management dashboards. They are using more graphical charts to group and summarise key data, and are making more use of the heat maps we can provide to see physically where their bigger problem areas are.

One of our clients has progressed to the point where they can see and download all of their Ofsted integrated performance reports via our dashboard portals.

Applying thresholds consistently

Processes are triggered by automated real-time alerts every time risk thresholds are crossed. These help to ensure thresholds are applied consistently and appropriately.

Alerts can be set up to monitor all kinds of scenarios depending on how our clients are using our data integration solutions. Examples include Troubled Family eligibility alert, potential NEET alerts for school leavers and child at risk alerts.

Graham McCusker added: "The Hub is making a big difference to our clients, with busy teams spending less time finding out what's already known because the information is all there in front of them.

"As a result, action is being taken more quickly and based on a better understanding of the risks and the child's best interests. The Hub is also proving crucial when it comes to Ofsted, with clients using it to underpin new and collaborative ways of working that result in the best ratings."

**To learn more, please contact us on 0800 612 2116
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