London Office of Technology & Innovation

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A Caveat on Data

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Biases in data collection

Consider the following factors that may impact the quality and reliability or data collected:

- Trust
- Consent
- Power
- Transparency
- Inclusivity

Data is not a silver bullet

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OUTCOME
What's our desired outcome?
What would we like to be different in the world?
"What specific person is better off in what specific ways because we acted?"
ACTION
WHO could do WHAT differently if they had better information?
"What's the intervention?"
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INSIGHT
What would someone need to see on a screen (the data product) to enable the action?
What data would be needed, can we access it and use it legally and ethically?
ENABLERS
Beyond the data product, what else is needed to achieve our desired outcome?

High level outcome: Tackling Racial Inequality

To understand where data might support this outcome we need to be more specific

“What specific person (or cohort) is better off in what specific ways because we acted?”

- Identify outcomes for specific BAME ethnic groups
- Insights from the Tackling Race Inequality – CELC Lead survey can support this activity

What are the **outcomes** you wish to achieve?

Examine the targeted action from CELC Tackling Inequality Survey

Informing Strategy - who needs better information, why?

Specific Projects*:

- Working with professional networks to influence the youth justice system
- Working through the London Crime Reduction Board to tackle disproportionality in the CJS, including a London local government deep dive examining disproportionality and potential remedial actions
- ASC - working with PHE to action recommendations in Kevin Fenton's C19 report, including work to improve preventative measures for most vulnerable care home residents
- Thrive LDN - providing tailored messaging and support for different racial groups and developing a mental health support plan for BAME people
- Employment – tailored initiatives for those ethnic minorities impacted by Covid 19
- Housing – work underway to capture learning around tackling racial inequality e.g. disproportionality with rough sleeping

ACTION

WHO could do **WHAT** differently if they had better information?

*Taken from Tackling Race Inequality – CELC Lead survey slides

This enables us to begin to identify specific data sets required

- New data sets
- Combined data sets
- Required data sharing
- Required data analysis

Are we sure these data sets will meet our needs:

- How can we ensure the data is used in a way which does not reproduce existing societal biases?

INSIGHT

What would someone need to see on a screen (the data product) to enable the action?

What data would be needed, can we access it and use it legally and ethically?

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What else needs to change?

- Policy
- Processes
- Organisational culture
- Funding

Taking a holistic / systems view

- Understanding broader societal disparities that need addressing to tackle inequality

- Need to develop more inclusive organisations, institutions and practices – creating cultures that actively challenge racism and discrimination

ENABLERS

Beyond the data product, what else is needed to achieve our desired outcome?

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To summerise

1. Data is an enabler
2. Start with outcomes
3. Understand the actions that need to be taken to understand where data has a role
4. Remember that data is not inherently neutral and data sets can have biases or be used in biased ways

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