

Open Referral UK and Taxonomies

Presentation to ORUK Cross-Government Steering Group
2 December 2024



Types of standard

Data dictionaries - the structure and naming of data elements

E.g. Open Referral, SAVVO outputs

Semantic - Taxonomies - Concepts used to categorise and filter data

E.g. LGA standard lists, Snomed clinical terms

Registers - Lists of real things

E.g. UPRNs, NI numbers, NHS numbers

Why taxonomies

Flexible data structures

Rather than adding a new field for every attribute

Filter

E.g. All councils services ⇒ Family services

Categorise

E.g. by [Annex F: Family Hub Service Expectations of the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme guide](#)

Exploit mappings

E.g. Service types relevant to types of need

What do you need?

Accessible transport

Adult education

Better health

Care at home

Child care

Child protection

Dealing with chronic illness

Dealing with substance abuse

Digital skills

Disabilities and special needs support

Emotional wellbeing

Employment

Service: Adult Care Plan (1757)

Service: Assisted garden maintenance (147)

Service: Care at home (242)

Service: Community alarms and telecare(313)

Service: Home adaptations and aids (178)

Service

Service

Service

Service

Service

Service

Service

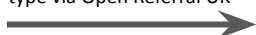
Service

Legend

Mapping from need to service type



Lookup of services of a given type via Open Referral UK



Relevant government guidance

Taxonomy Best Practice Framework

- Definition
- Purpose
- Complexity
- Balance
- Ownership and Governance
- Accessibility
- Interoperability
- Supported
- Well defined terms
- Revision and Maintenance
- Metadata
- Methodology
- Engagement Strategy
- Future proof

Persistent resolvable identifiers

E.g. LGA community services list <http://id.esd.org.uk/list/communityServices>

Service type 178 “Home adaptations and aids” <http://id.esd.org.uk/service/178>



Questions

What can we rely on for cross-government maintenance of taxonomies?

Do we need to use LGA taxonomies? - For now? Longer term?

What else exists within and between departments?