

University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2016

Ref: #44 UoMQStep 2016 Department for Education Pathways

For enquiries contact Dr Jackie Carter, jackie.carter@manchester.ac.uk or Dr Mark Brown, mark.brown@manchester.ac.uk, Q-Step Co-directors

Organisation Name: Department for Education

Team / Department: Children's Services Analysis and Research

Address: Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

Provisional title for project: Pathways and destinations of children in need

100 word abstract of what the project would probably undertake, and any data to be used:

The Department conducts an annual census of children in need of local authority social care services. In 2015 around 635,000 children were referred for support. The annual datasets have recently been matched to produce a longitudinal dataset.

The aim of this project is to undertake an analysis of the trajectories and destinations of children that have engaged with the service. This will include looking at: movements in, out and back into the service; from less to more intensive levels of support; and the impact of support received. A presentation and report of the analysis will be provided for DfE policy colleagues.

Key words (up to 12):

Child safeguarding, children in need, children looked after, child protection, data analysis, civil service.

Essential and desirable skills that the student would need to have:

Essential:

Good quantitative and software skills (SQL plus one of SPSS or R) gained from analysis of administrative data. Strong problem solving skills. Good communication skills (oral and written).

Desirable:

Experience in presenting complex data visually

Where the work would be carried out:

London, Sheffield, Darlington, Nottingham or Manchester. The team managing this work is located in London and Sheffield.

Preferred selection method (interview or other meeting):

Interview

Support and training offered by the organisation:

Familiarisation with how central government works using data and analytical tools to provide robust evidence-driven policy considerations.

Opportunity to gain experience of what it is like to work in the Civil Service in an analytical role.

Any issues of data confidentiality and/or IPR that would need to be resolved:

Yes. The student would have access to child level information for children in need and children looked after.

Supporting information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2014-to-2015>

Financial assistance offered by the organisation:

None.