

Supplementary Information Sheet (V1.0 20/10/2021)

Background information

In 2019, Bradford initiated an exciting new electronic birth cohort study known as Born in Bradford 4 All (BiB4All). It asks women during their pregnancy for permission to access and use information that is routinely collected about them and their child for research purposes. This allows for data such as health records, social care, and education to be linked for those individuals, building a clearer picture of families lives over time. Once linked, it is expected that the information will be used by researchers, in collaboration with local services and commissioners, to help improve health, care, and services through research and planning. The term linked data is used to describe the linking of individual information from more than one source for the purposes of research. Bradford is now supporting teams across the region to establish electronic birth cohorts in other local areas, including Doncaster, Wakefield, and Leeds, referred to as Born and Bred in (BaBi). This means they can be used locally as health intelligence tools to shape services and brought together as one to answer research questions of national relevance.

A series of two-hour online workshops have taken place across Bradford, Wakefield, and Doncaster to prioritise research questions to be answered using data from the electronic birth cohorts. Attendees of the workshops were from a variety of backgrounds including parents, midwives, health visitors, clinicians, service commissioners and researchers. Each workshop was split into two parts. The first part placed attendees into groups to discuss areas of child and maternal health they thought were important for linked data research. The second part placed attendees into new groups to prioritise the suggestions put forward by groups in the first part in order of urgency and importance.

Following the workshops, the prioritised research ideas were narrowed down into those that could be answered with the data currently available in the BiB4All study. An additional session then brought together relevant stakeholders to coproduce the final research question to be answered as part of this research project. The remaining research priorities fed into the work of the Early Life and Prevention Theme of the NIHR Yorkshire and Humber Applied Research Collaboration.

We are interested in how you can then make use of the linked data research in your decision-making and how you feel you can be supported to do so. We also want to know how you would like to be engaged in the BiB4All and BaBi research projects in the future that would allow you to make use of them as a resource. Your insights will be invaluable in helping to develop a toolkit that will support you to make use of linked data research to improve services for families locally.