

Evaluation of Local Government Open Data Breakthrough Projects 2013/14

Local Government Open Data Breakthrough Projects Evaluation Report

Project title: Improving the West Yorkshire Observatory to meet Open Data standards

Lead organisation:

Leeds City Council
Geowise LTD

Submission date: August 2014

Type of project:

There is a requirement to develop the Observatory to make it more accessible and closely linked up with the Open Data agenda which is being driven via another web application, the Leeds Data Mill (<http://www.leedsdatamill.org/>).

Total grant:

£7,125

Summary of the project

Development will be undertaken by the suppliers (Geowise) to build a bridge between the Leeds Observatory and the Leeds Data Mill to allow for data to be shared and utilised across both platforms.

This work will be a first in developing the appropriate software to create an interactive bridge between the two systems, and should benefit other authorities that may wish to implement the same solution (for those authorities that use both InstantAtlas Server software and CKAN open source software).

Challenge/opportunity:

The opportunity in this project is to reduce the duplication of source data and to enforce the 'host once, use many times' goal for users of open data.

Data published and uses:

A selected range of data will be opened up from the Leeds Observatory to make it accessible on the Leeds Data Mill. The first tranche of data will concentrate on the public health data as supplied via the Public Health Intelligence Team and includes:

- Life Expectancy at Birth - Persons
- Life Expectancy at Birth - Male
- Life Expectancy at Birth - Female
- Mortality: All Ages - Persons
- Mortality: All Ages - Males
- Mortality: All Ages - Female
- Mortality: U75 - Persons
- Mortality: U75 - Males
- Mortality: U75 - Female
- Child Health
- Cancer Prevalence DSR
- CHD Prevalence DSR

- COPD Prevalence DSR
- Diabetes Prevalence DSR
- Obesity Prevalence DSR
- Smoking Prevalence DSR
- Inpatients by Specialty - All Age
- Inpatients by Specialty - Under 75
- Inpatients by Condition - All Ages
- Inpatients by Condition - Under 75

Other data sets will follow. It is envisaged that only locally sourced data will be released (and not data obtained through third parties). Other data due to be made available via the bridge includes children's services data, crime data, economy data, housing data.

Data use cannot be monitored at this time, but work is underway to enable tracking of downloaded data from the Leeds Data Mill.

Approach to publishing data

The data will become available in two locations for open data use; on the Leeds Observatory and also on the Leeds Data Mill. The Leeds Observatory is primarily focused on the presentation of data (but it does also host data) whilst the Leeds Data Mill is focused on providing data to a wide range of users for them to create innovative solutions.

The Leeds Data Mill has been heavily publicised over the last few months, and has seen a surge of activity. For users, it will become irrelevant whether the data is help on the Mill or the Observatory as it will all be visible in one place. Users will be able to access the data as downloadable CSV files using a very simple process to download the data. Any metadata created on the Observatory is carried over to the data opened up on the Leeds Data Mill. We are keen to ensure all our data meets the relevant metadata standards.

There are plans to record the number of times data is downloaded from the Mill which will provide useful information in understanding the data types of interest for our developer community.

Benefits and impact

Leeds City Council is strongly committed to opening up as much data as possible for re-use by the digital community. This information can be used to make a genuine difference to the services we rely on in Leeds. Open Data should give us the insight we've never had before – this makes it an incredibly powerful resource. When open data from different sectors is combined it becomes an amazingly rich resource because it helps us identify new connections. Our goal is to bring together in one location a wealth of open data, from which people can discover new information and explore what happens throughout the city.

The aim of Leeds Data Mill is to kick-start a new generation of data-empowered citizens and businesses who will share and explore information to bring value and benefit to everyone within the city. Our commitment is to provide high quality data within a strong ethical framework to facilitate this process. For instance, the data added won't include personal information and will be anonymised. We offer a range of licensing agreements for organisations to share their data on Leeds Data Mill.

Leeds already has a very strong group focussing on data innovation in Leeds and the <http://www.leedsdatathing.co.uk/> acts as the group to form strong partnerships between public and private sectors. The Leeds Data Mill (and Observatory) have both been promoted through this group and will continue to utilise the network.

Further information:

Leeds Data Mill: <http://www.leedsdatamill.org/>

Leeds Observatory: <http://observatory.leeds.gov.uk>

Leeds Data Thing: <http://www.leedsdatathing.co.uk/>

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