

LG Inform Plus

Data Standards



September 2020

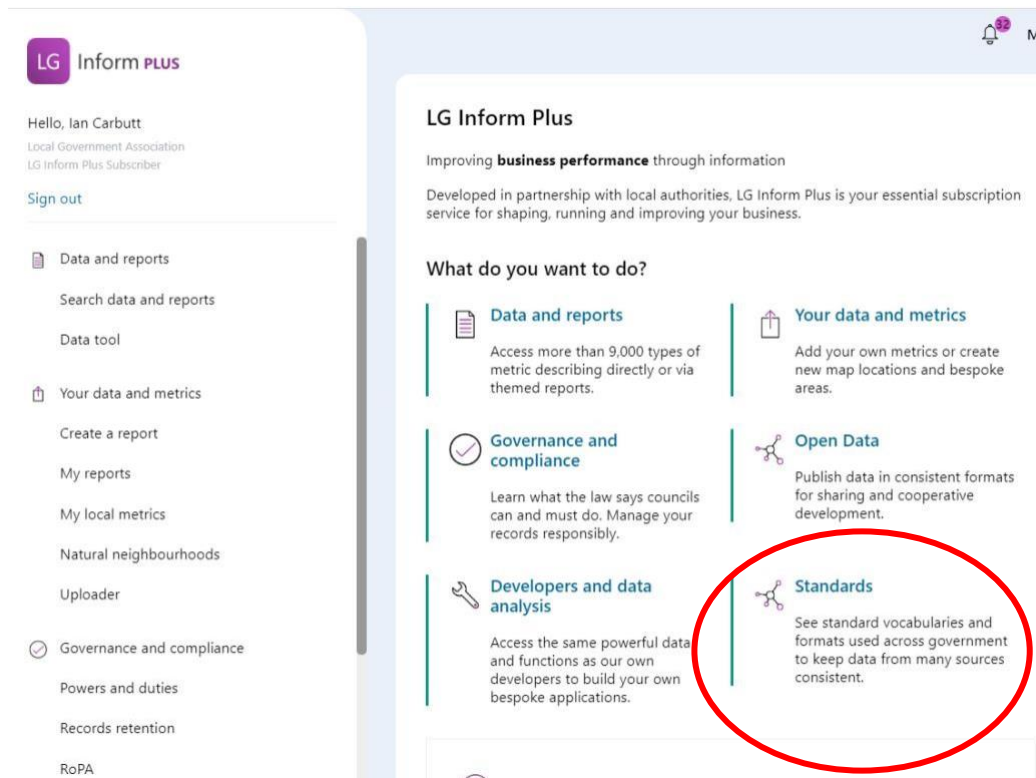
Information sharing standards

The local government sector in England alone is a collection of over 350 self-contained businesses undertaking similar activities but by different means and processes. There is substantial potential for savings, efficiencies and innovation if each of these businesses are encouraged to collect, organise and publish their data in a consistent way. This vision enables the ability for data to be compared, linked and aggregated for innovative re-use and better-informed decision making, both within the organisation and externally at regional and national level.

Since 2001, local government information specialists have developed standards and supporting tools that have encouraged better data classifications and use. The standards are known as the Local Government Business Model, which is a series of precise, uniquely referenced lists of definitions that are version controlled and kept up to date. Each list is interconnected with each other, giving a 360 degree view of council operations. It is possible to navigate and filter data held by councils by many different classifications such as each unique service, those performance metrics that are collected by service, the types of people that use the service, the legislation that underpins services, etc. This document shows a few of the resources available to help you navigate the information resources held by councils that use this framework.

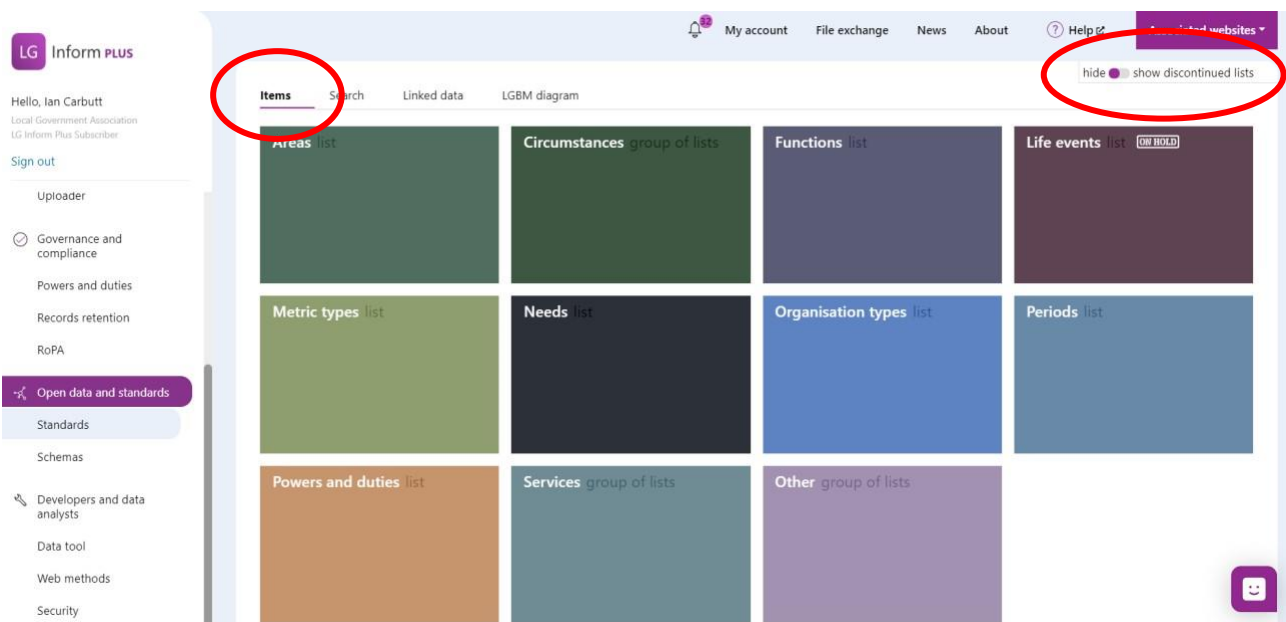
The standards are available via a series of pages available in PC, tablet or smartphone web browsers, or they can be downloaded locally into spreadsheets (in comma separated values – csv – form) or via the direct application programmable interface data feed (API) in LG Inform Plus.

You can access the standards pages with this link <http://standards.esd.org.uk/> or from the 'Standards' option circled below.



Semantic lists (definitions of council operations)

There are a range of lists of definitions in the standards as shown with colour codes in the standards 'home page'.

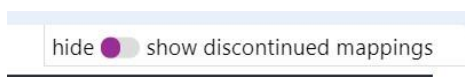


Here is a list of the key standards and what they contain

- An **Areas** listing of all area types covered by local authority operations.

- The **Circumstances** of an individual that might be helped by a service, determine eligibility for a service or define a statistical measure of performance (metric).
- The **Functional** areas of activity in local government.
- The **Life events** that an individual may experience, impacting their needs.
- **Performance** monitoring and **Metrics** that challenge local government.
- The **Needs** of a resident based on their lifestyle and circumstances.
- The **Organisation types** that define the different agencies of government or partners local authorities adopt to deliver services.
- The **Periods** available to view data i.e. Academic year, Financial year etc.
- The **legislative Powers and Duties** that underwrite council responsibilities.
- The **full list of Services** delivered by local government.
- The **Other** additional lists used to standardise the delivery of local government services.

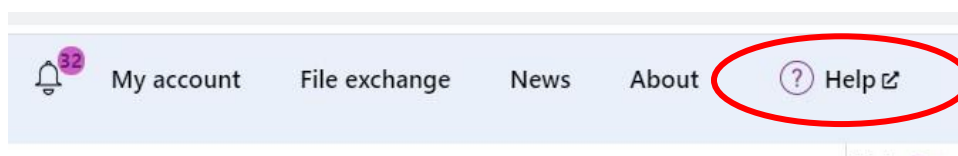
During 2019, we reviewed the standards and assessed their use and fitness for purpose. Some lists (over ten years old and no longer used widely were discontinued). They are no longer being updated regularly but continue to be available for those users that continue to see their value. Using this control (top right) can hide or expose entries that have been discontinued:



List interconnections to support search and selection

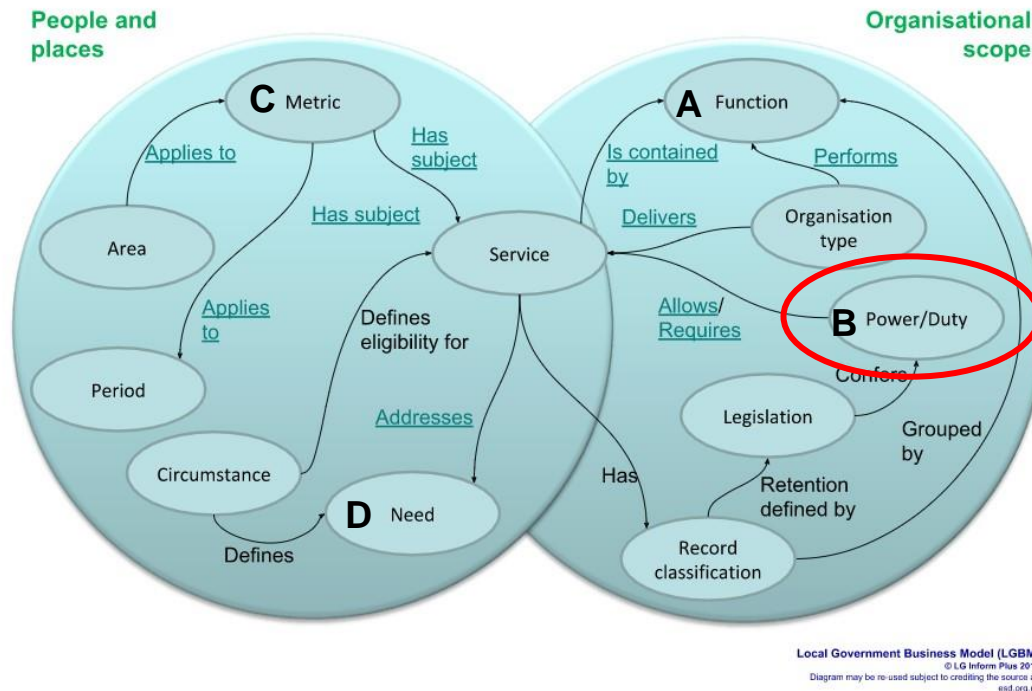
Each of these lists contain a comprehensive record of definitions or *semantics* – as the Local government business model (LGBM) is acknowledged as the official source for local government data semantics. As well as providing an excellent checklist of everything that a local authority does, the real power comes from the interconnections between the lists that allow information managers to dice and slice their information by many different combinations and collections.

You can best see the interconnections by looking at the standards in diagrammatic form. These can be viewed via the help pages in LG Inform Plus.



If you go to the help pages and search for the term 'LGBM' it will tell you about the standards and if you select the 'title' link from the help search result you can see the standards in diagrammatic form. Expanding this diagram gives the following image – each oval object is a standard and clicking the oval drills back to the detail.

Local Government Business Model



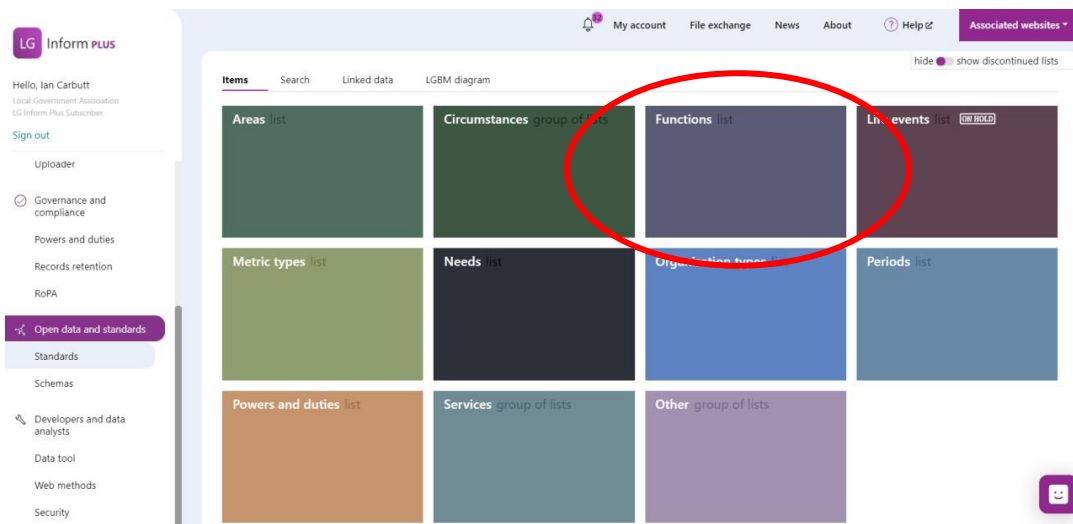
From this diagram you can see examples like:

1. The possibility to see which services are provided by each council functional area (A).
2. Services that councils deliver to address statutory duties (B).
3. What performance measures are available nationally for a local functional area? (C)
4. What services might be available to respond to a citizen's express 'need'? (D)

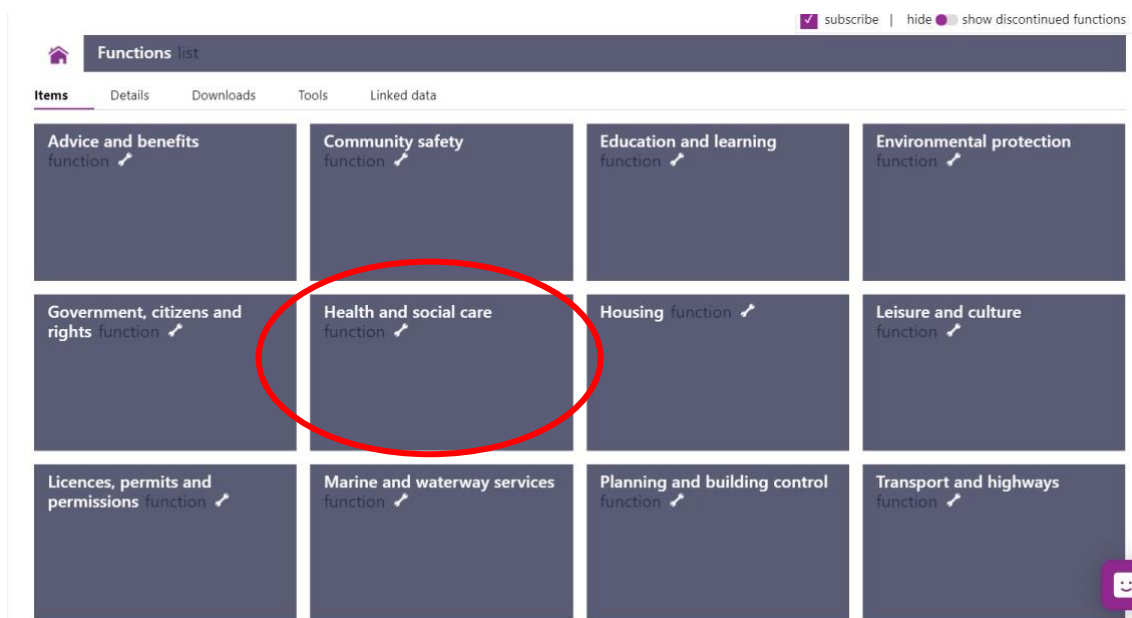
Let us examine some of these using the LG Inform Plus standards pages.

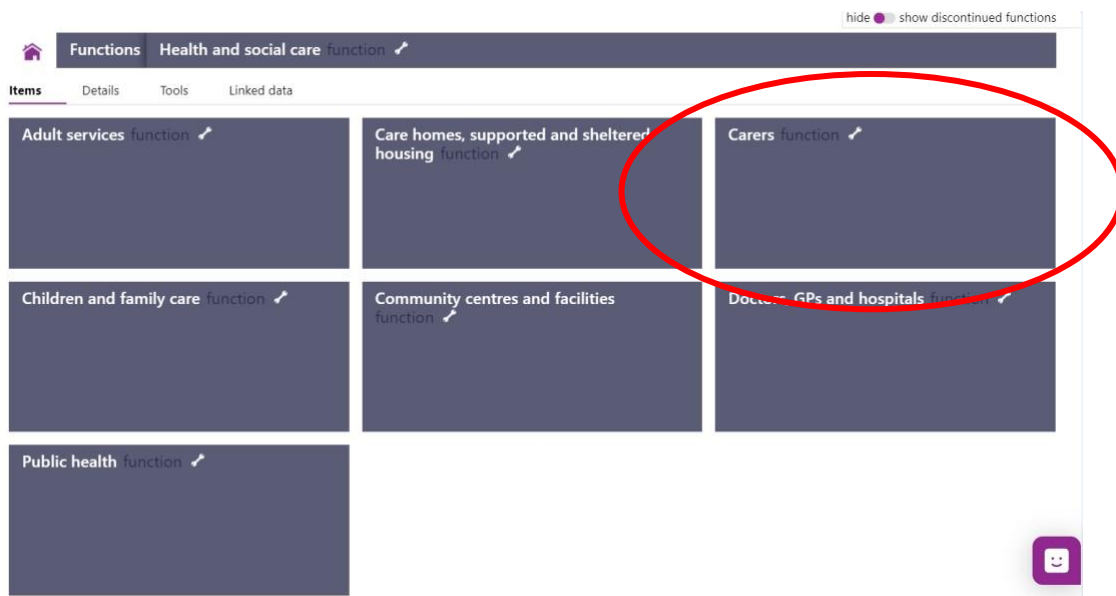
1. Find which services are provided by each council functional area

For example, tell me more above provision of carers, what they might do and how this responsibility is monitored and compared from area to area.

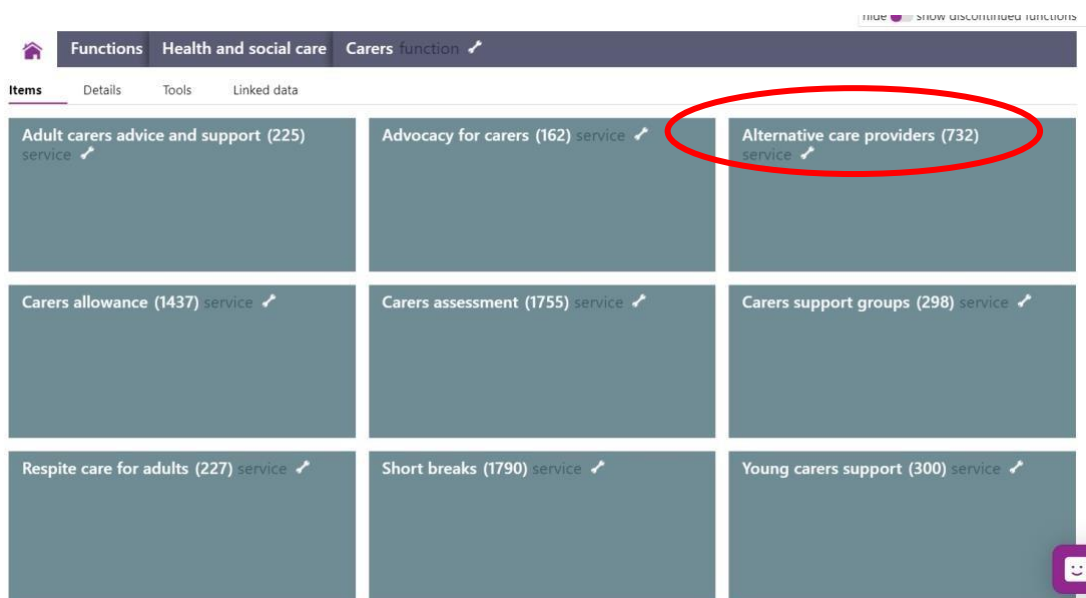


From the 'standards' home page, select the 'functions' list. Then select the 'health and social care' function:





then select the 'carers' sub function. All the services that support carer provision can then be seen:



Let us look in more detail at local government service no 732 – 'Alternative care providers'.

Click this and the 'Details' page opens:

hide show discontinued mappings

Functions Health and social care Carers Alternative care providers (732) SERVICE ↗

Details Tools Linked data

URI <http://beta.id.esd.org.uk/service/732>

Description Independent agencies who provide care for adults and children within the local area. Care agencies may provide any from the range of care services such as residential care, care at home, sheltered housing and day care. The council may use these agencies to provide care services.

Modified 03 Apr 2013 Status Live

Alternative care providers is found in the following lists

- All services
- Local government services
- Scottish services **DISCONTINUED**

Alternative care providers addresses DOWNLOAD MAPPINGS

Help with care

Alternative care providers is contained by

- Care - alternative providers website navigation
- Carers function ↗

Alternative care providers is delivered by

- County council organisation type
- London borough council organisation type
- Metropolitan borough council organisation type
- Unitary authority organisation type

You can see from the above screen that alternative care provision is provided by County Councils, London Boroughs, Unitary Councils and Metropolitan Boroughs.

2. Services that councils deliver to address statutory duties

If you are a subscribing organisation, by clicking on the 'Tools' link you can go through to the 'Powers and Duties' module to find out if this service is mandatory or discretionary.

Details Tools Linked data

Details Tools Linked data

Powers and duties

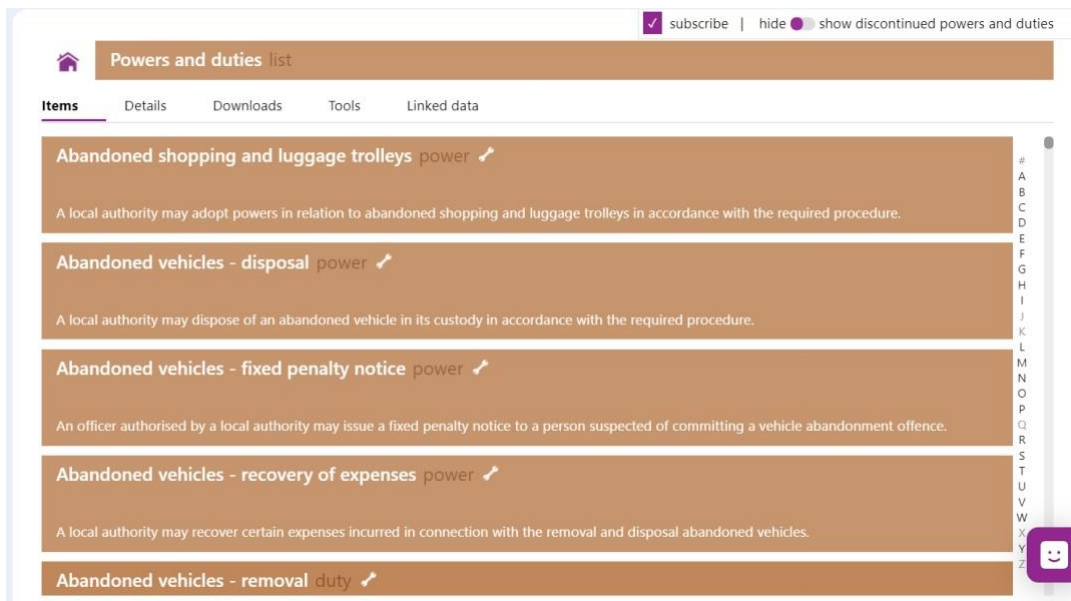
Records retention

Additionally, any record retention schedules associated with this service can be obtained.

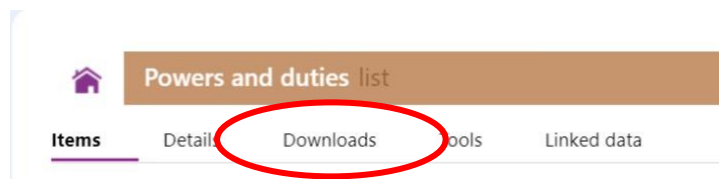
Alternatively, if you are not a subscribing authority, return to the Home page' by clicking on this icon:



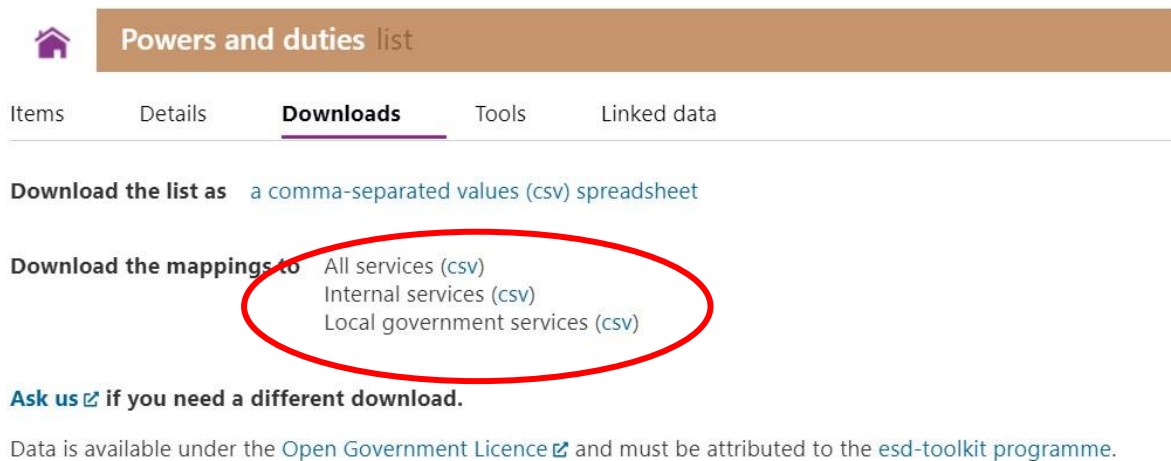
Click on the 'Powers and Duties' section. The following page will appear:



Now select the 'download' option below.



On this page you can and select a csv download of all powers and duties mapped to local government services.



Once the file is downloaded, you can use the features in spreadsheet software like MS Excel.

To filter just the duties and not the powers and search for those duties that relate to care provision. - see below. Subscribing organisations to LG Inform Plus benefit through gaining substantially more capability to do these sorts of analyses and can even link right through to underlying Acts of Parliament that oversee local government rights and obligations.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Identifier	Label	Description	Created	Modified	History	Type	Mapping	Mapped	Mapped label	Mapped
354	459	Care - informing carers of d	A local authority must i	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	209	Care needs assessment	Service
355	457	Care - vouchers for tempor	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	227	Respite care for adults	Service
356	457	Care - vouchers for tempor	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	260	Respite care for children	Service
357	458	Care assessments - persor	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	209	Care needs assessment	Service
358	456	Care assessments - right of	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	209	Care needs assessment	Service
359	455	Care standards - annual reti	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty				
360	454	Care standards - national m	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	292	Adult residential care	Service
361	454	Care standards - national m	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	263	Residential care for childr	Service
362	454	Care standards - national m	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	107	Sheltered housing	Service
363	746	Carers - assessment of abil	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	225	Adult carers	Service
364	746	Carers - assessment of abil	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	162	Advocacy for carers	Service
365	156	Carers - co-operation betwe	Local authorities must	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	225	Adult carers	Service
366	156	Carers - co-operation betwe	Local authorities must	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	162	Advocacy for carers	Service
367	156	Carers - co-operation betwe	Local authorities must	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	298	Carers support groups	Service
368	156	Carers - co-operation betwe	Local authorities must	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	313	Community alarms and Ti	Service
369	156	Carers - co-operation betwe	Local authorities must	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	1579	Family information service	Service
370	156	Carers - co-operation betwe	Local authorities must	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	227	Respite care for adults	Service
371	156	Carers - co-operation betwe	Local authorities must	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	229	Shared care for adults	Service
372	156	Carers - co-operation betwe	Local authorities must	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	261	Shared care for children a	Service
373	156	Carers - co-operation betwe	Local authorities must	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	300	Young carers support	Service
381	101	Child protection - duty of car	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	266	Child protection	Service
382	101	Child protection - duty of car	A local authority must c	24/02/2014	24/02/2014		Duty	requires	310	Child protection orders	Service

Duty

Service

What performance measures and metrics might be available to monitor care provision in an area?

3. Performance metrics that exist for local government functions & services

Let us look at it from the care function perspective because you can see from the earlier LGBM diagram that we have a direct link between the **functions list** and the **metrics type list**.


Go back and from the **health and social care** function, select the sub function **'carers'**

The screenshot shows a web interface for the 'Carers function'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Functions', 'Health and social care', and 'Carers function' (which is highlighted). Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Items', 'Details', 'Tools', and 'Linked data'. The 'Details' tab is selected and highlighted with a red circle. The main content area displays a grid of nine service cards, each with a title, a count in parentheses, and the word 'service' followed by a link icon. The services are: 'Adult carers advice and support (225)', 'Advocacy for carers (162)', 'Alternative care providers (732)', 'Carers allowance (1437)', 'Carers assessment (1755)', 'Carers support groups (298)', 'Respite care for adults (227)', 'Short breaks (1790)', and 'Young carers support (300)'. In the top right corner, there is a toggle switch labeled 'hide' and 'show discontinued functions'. In the bottom right corner, there is a small purple square icon with a white smiley face.

Service	Count
Adult carers advice and support	225
Advocacy for carers	162
Alternative care providers	732
Carers allowance	1437
Carers assessment	1755
Carers support groups	298
Respite care for adults	227
Short breaks	1790
Young carers support	300

To see what performance metrics there might be for carers function click **'details'**. The following is revealed. Scroll down to see the metrics associated with this function:

hide ☒ show discontinued mapping

Functions Health and social care Carers function 


Items **Details** Tools Linked data









URI <http://beta.id.esd.org.uk/function/61>

Modified 03 Apr 2013 **Status** Live







Carers
is found in the following lists

Functions list

Carers contains  **DOWNLOAD MAPPINGS**

- Adult carers advice and support (225) service 
- Advocacy for carers (162) service 
- Alternative care providers (732) service 
- Carers allowance (1437) service 
- Carers assessment (1755) service 
- Carers support groups (298) service 
- Respite care for adults (227) service 
- Short breaks (1790) service 

Carers is a subject of

- % of initial child protection conferences held within 15 days of the start of the section 47 enquiries which led to a conference (902) metric type 
- % of people providing 1 or more hour of unpaid care per week (3327) metric type 
- Assessments completed by children's social care services (number) (8910) metric type 
- Children subject of an initial stage child protection conference which took place in the year (number) (8916) metric type 
- Children subject of an initial stage child protection conference which took place in the year, rate per 10,000 children and young people (3215) metric type 
- Children subject to section 47 enquiries which started during the year rate per 10,000 children (901) metric type 
- Children subject to section 47 enquiries which started in the year

Here you can see all those metrics that might be available to monitor the context or the performance of care provision in local government. It is a substantial list. Each green square (green is the colour associated with the metrics types list) is a hyperlink that allows you to drill down to more detail.

It is also possible to drill down further and look at the presentational capabilities that might be available for each metric. As an example let us choose the metric **titled ‘% of people providing 1 or more hour of unpaid care per week’** (marked above with a thin red ellipse)

Click this metric box to drill across to the entry in the metric types list. Here you will find details about the definition, source and other metadata about this metric - see below.

Metric types

% of people providing 1 or more hour of unpaid care per week (3327) metric type

Details

Tools

Linked data

URI

<http://beta.id.esd.org.uk/metricType/3327>

Help text

This is the number of people who reported in the 2011 Census that they provide 1 hour or more of unpaid care per week, expressed as a percentage of the total number of respondents to the question.

The provision of unpaid care is becoming increasingly common in England as the population ages. This makes it an important social policy issue because it makes a contribution to the supply of care, but also has implications in terms of employment opportunities, social and leisure activities, and health status of those providing care.

Modified

15 Oct 2018

Collection

[Census 2011](#)

Short label

Provision of 1 hour or more unpaid care per week - %

Source

Office for National Statistics

Status

Live

Output precision

1

Polarity

not applicable

Measure

Per cent

Moving further, click the **‘Tools’** link (marked above) to see what tools are available to display this metric.

We see that this is both a large area metric at local authority level because it can be viewed in LG Inform and also a small area metric because it can be viewed at other geographies in LG Inform Plus. Try clicking these tools to see what happens.

Metric types

% of people providing 1 or more hour o

Details

Tools

Linked data

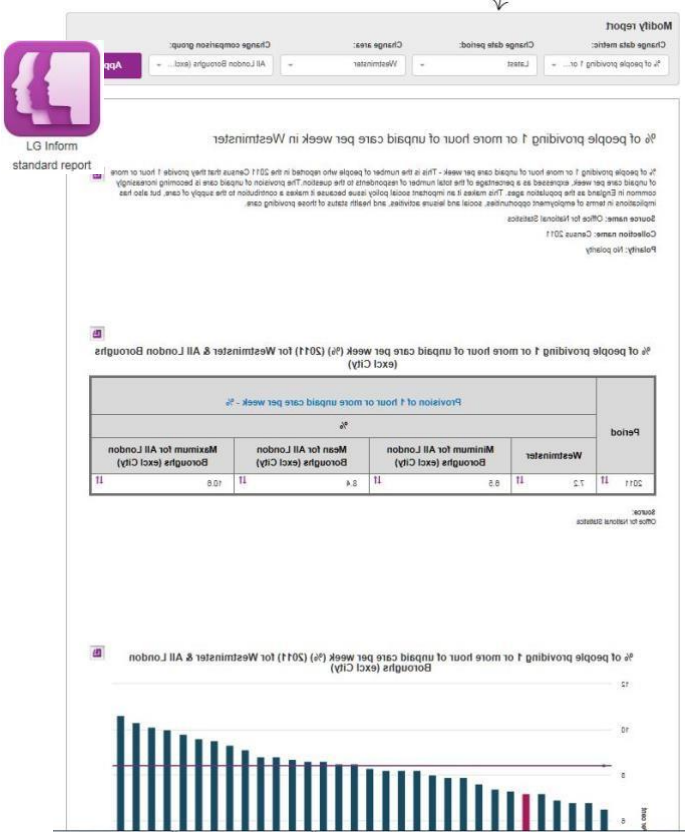
LG Inform
standard report

Small area bar
chart

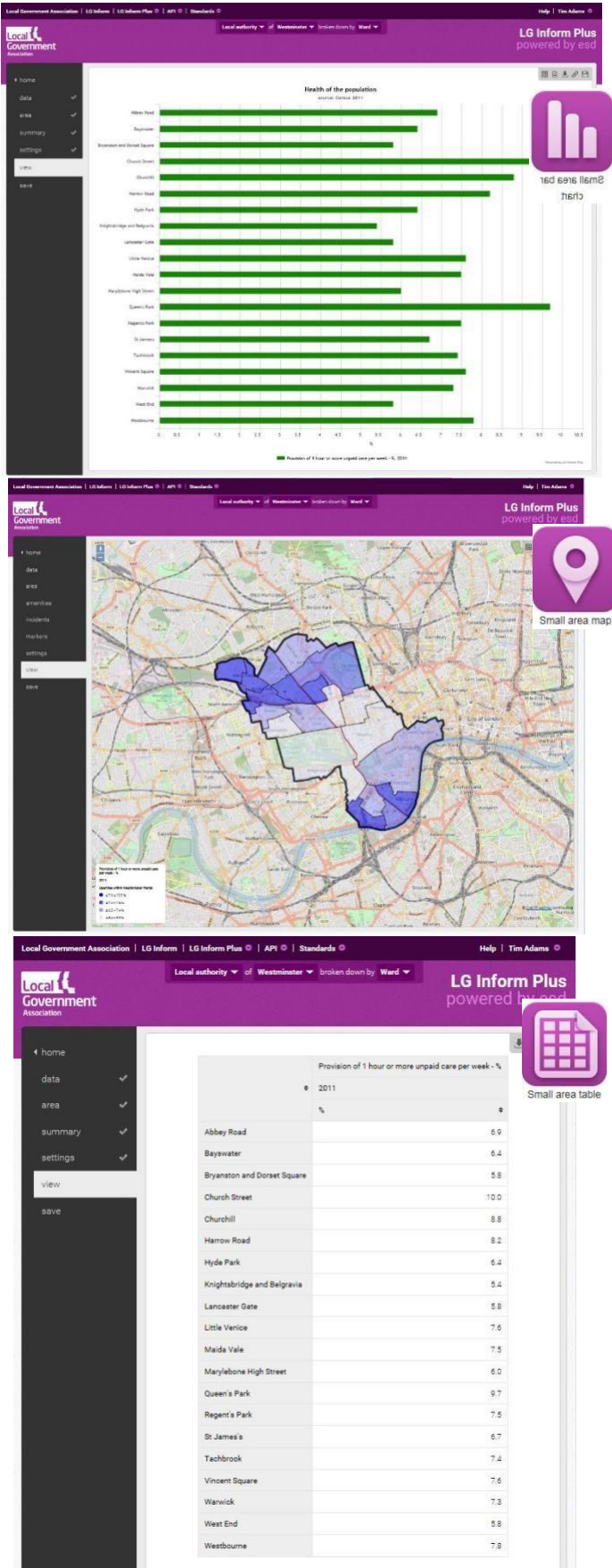
Small area map

Small area table

Large Area LG Inform standard report



Small Area LG Inform Plus components

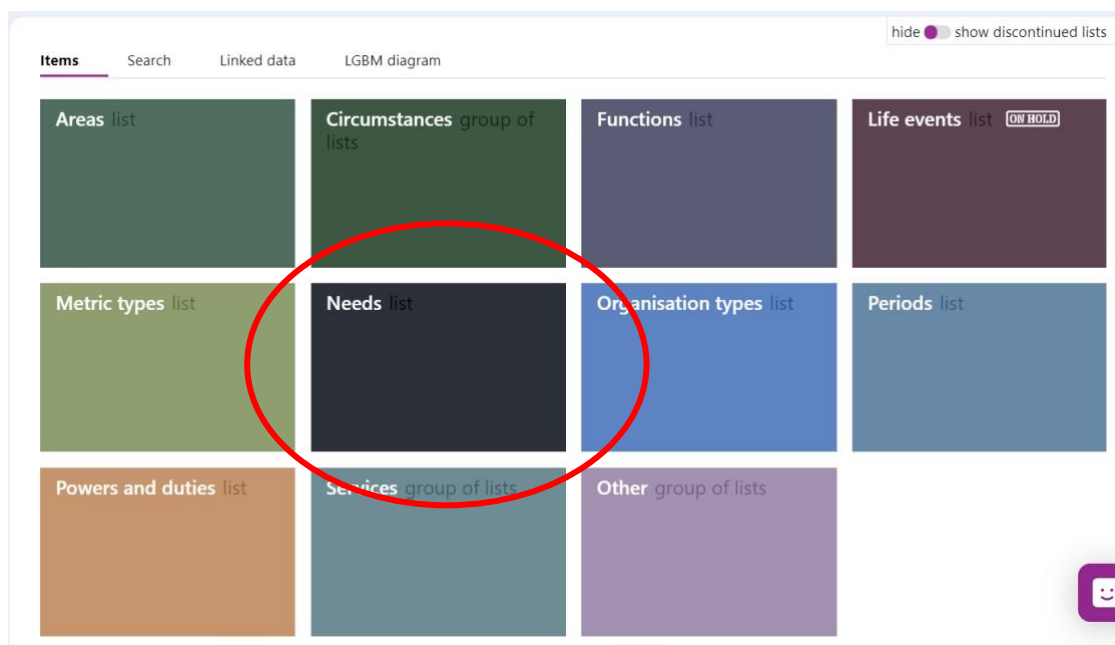


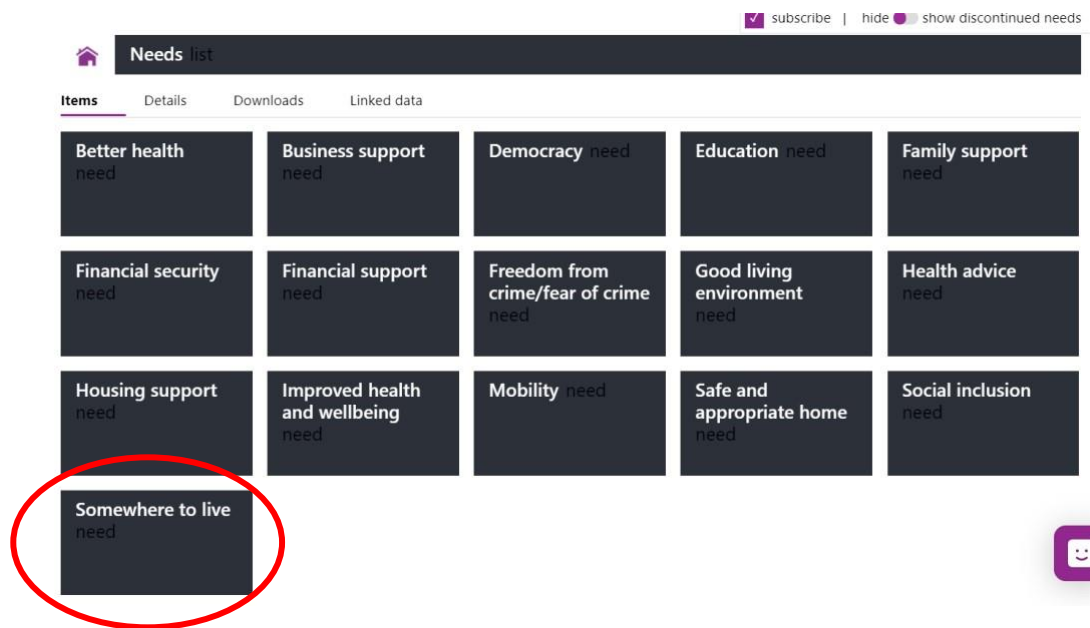
4 & 5 what local services are available to respond to a citizen's life event or need?

The information sharing standards provide a link between the life events list, the needs list and the local government services list. It is possible, therefore, to filter the 900 or more external local government services in the services list by specific life events or needs.

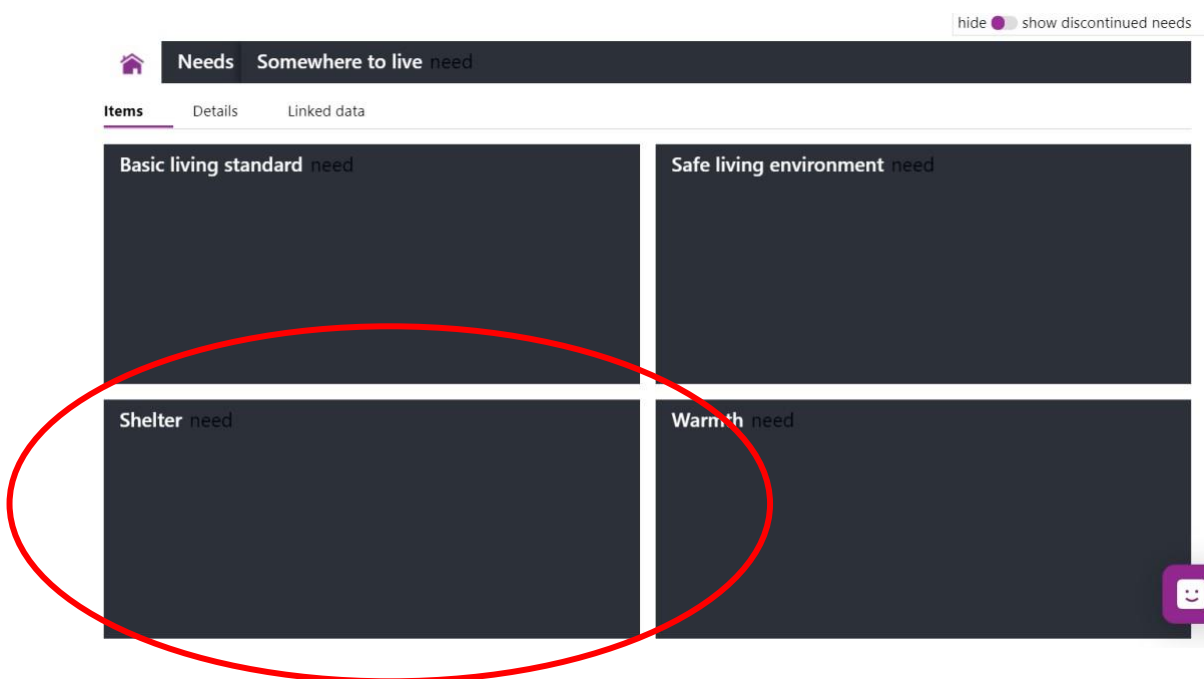
For example, let us research what powers and duties and specific services might be available to support citizens who are homeless or in need of shelter.

Starting in the 'needs' list and drilling into a basic human right of needing somewhere to live.





This gives us specific sub-domains of what might be needed in a home (see below) so choose the need of ‘shelter’ and see what links are available to more details around a local authority’s obligations around providing shelter.



Selecting ‘shelter’ shows the link across to the local government services list – and particularly focusses on service no 112 – ‘homelessness support’.

hide

show discontinued mappings

Needs

Somewhere to live

Shelter need

Details

Linked data

URI

<http://beta.id.esd.org.uk/need/44>

Modified

03 Apr 2013

Shelter

is found in the following lists

Status

Live

Shelter

is addressed by

Homelessness support (112) service

Download mappings

Selecting the homelessness support service above shows more information about this service and its relationships with other lists. For example, what powers and duties in law does local government have to address for shelter provision for homeless people, see below.

[Home](#)
[Services](#)
[All services](#)
[Homelessness support \(112\) service](#)

[Details](#)
[Tools](#)
[Linked data](#)

URI <http://beta.id.esd.org.uk/service/112>

Description This service provides information and advice about housing to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. They may be offered temporary accommodation or permanent home.

Modified 03 Apr 2013 **Status** Live

Also known as Homelessness - advice and support
Sleeping rough - advice and support

Homelessness support
is found in the following lists

- All services list
- Local government services list
- Scottish services list [\[DISCONTINUED\]](#)

Homelessness support
addresses

[Housing support need](#)

[Shelter need](#)

Homelessness support
is contained by

[Homelessness and prevention function](#)

[Homelessness and prevention website navigation](#)

Homelessness support
is delivered by

[District council organisation type](#)

[London borough council organisation type](#)

[Metropolitan borough council organisation type](#)

[Unitary authority organisation type](#)

Homelessness support
maps to

[Administration sercop objective](#)

[Prevention sercop objective](#)

[Support sercop objective](#)

Homelessness support
Suitable for

[Homeless circumstance](#)

Homelessness support
is required by

[Homelessness strategy duty](#)

[Homelessness strategy - co-operation with housing authority duty](#)

[Homelessness advisory service duty](#)

[Homelessness - regards to guidance duty](#)

[Homelessness - inquiry into homelessness or threatened homelessness duty](#)

[Homelessness - interim duty to accommodate duty](#)

[Homelessness - intentional homelessness duty](#)

[Homelessness - persons not in priority need who are not homeless intentionally duty](#)

[Homelessness - threatened homelessness duty](#)

[Homelessness - applicant whose case is considered for referral or referred duty](#)

[Homelessness - review of decisions on request duty](#)

[Homelessness - discharge of functions by local housing authorities duty](#)

[Homelessness - out of area placement duty](#)

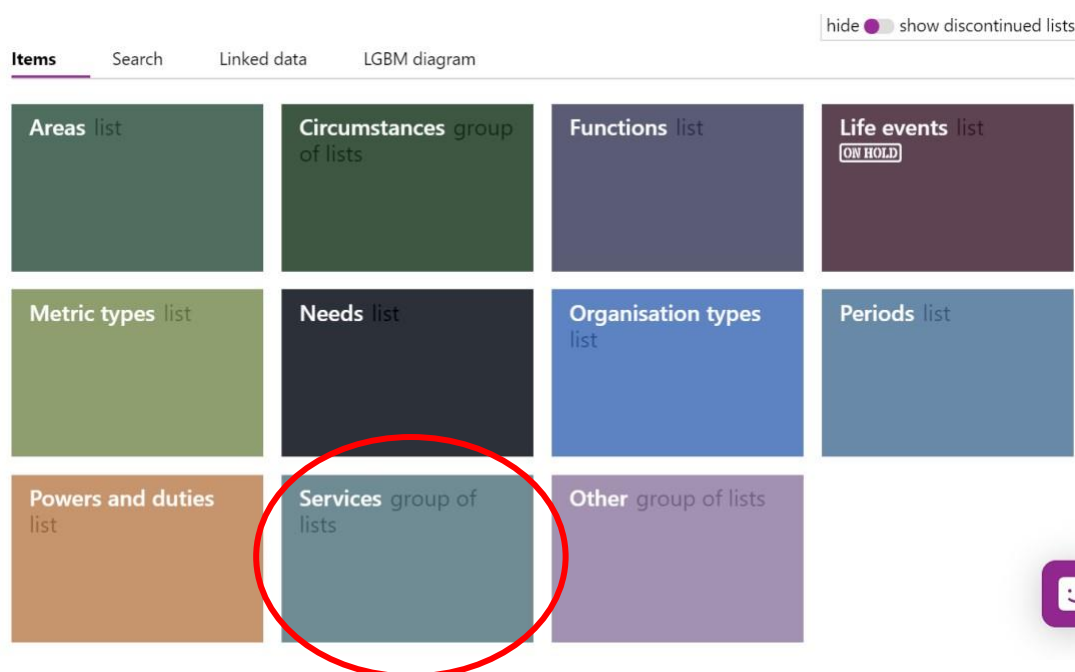
[DOWNLOAD MAPPINGS](#)

Standards downloads

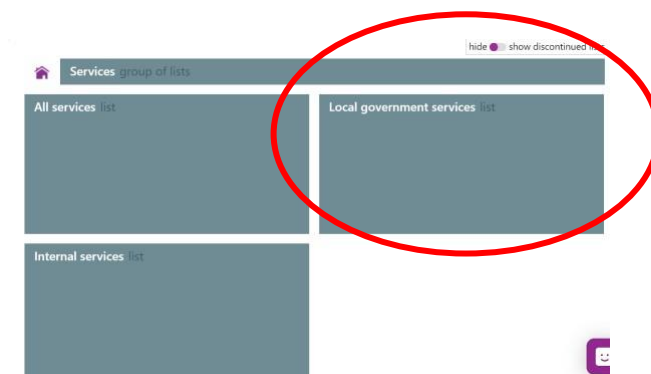
So far, all our examples of using the information standards have made use of the browser pages which can be viewed on a PC, laptop, tablet, and smartphone web browser. Some users prefer to download standards content and links between lists as either local spreadsheet files (in comma separated variable – csv) form, as extended mark-up language (xml) or as direct calls to the API.

For example, let us download into a local spreadsheet the full list of all local government services – perhaps mapped to the functions list.

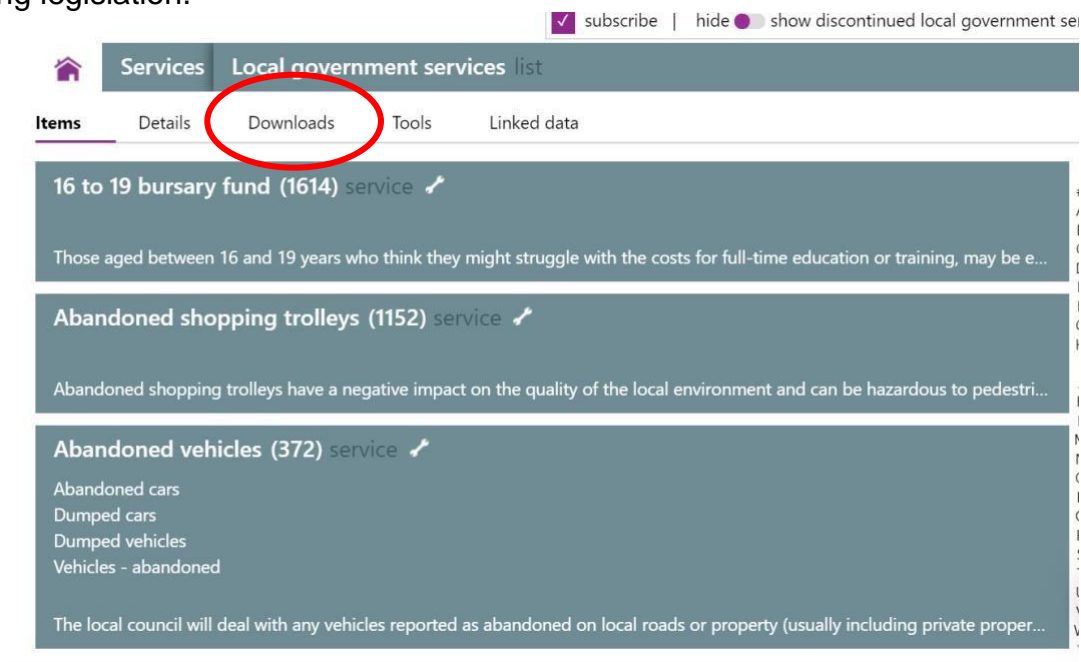
First, go back to the standards home page and chose the ‘services’ list then drill down to the ‘local government services’.



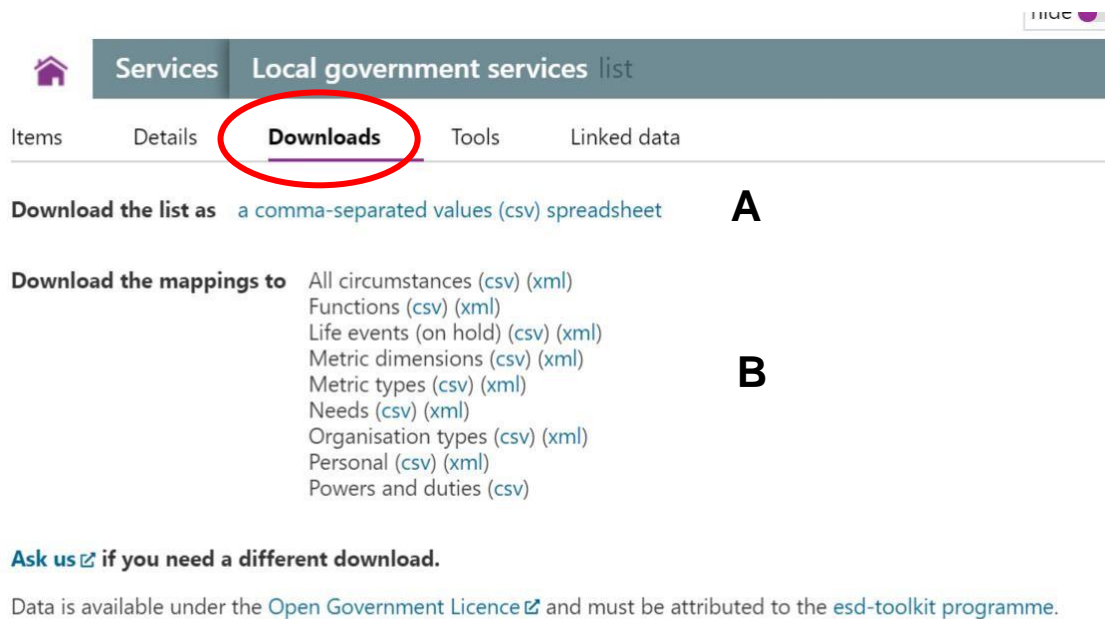
Drill down to the local government services list



At the time of preparing this fact sheet there are **988** different externally facing services delivered by various types of local authority. These alter regularly in response to constantly changing legislation.



The page opens out to:



Here you can select a link to download the list into a csv formatted spreadsheet that can be read by MS Excel using option A to the right.

Or, as we prepare ourselves, to create a csv spreadsheet with included columns that map to the functions list use option B to the right.

This download capability is available for each list in the LGBM standards framework.

Now download this list into an external spreadsheet.

Here is the downloaded csv file of all local government services mapped to local government functions.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Identifier	Label	Description	Created	Modified	History notes	Type	Mapping type	Mapped id	Mapped label	Mapped type
2	1614	16 to 19 bursary fund	Those aged between	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added in versi	Service	is contained by	27	Higher education	Function
3	1152	Abandoned shopping tr	Abandoned shopping	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added in versi	Service	is contained by	40	Street care and	Function
4	372	Abandoned vehicles	The local council will	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	40	Street care and	Function
5	785	Abnormal load notificati	A haulier who intend t	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	166	Roads and stree	Function
6	1466	Accessibility - local facil	Information on the	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added in versi	Service	is contained by	75	Leisure activities	Function
7	853	Accessibility of Web siti	The local authority is	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	46	Communications	Function
8	429	Accident reporting	Employers have a dut	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	12	Health and safet	Function
9	650	Accommodation certific	The aim of this servic	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	85	Building and con	Function
10	681	Acupuncturist registrati	All persons that carry	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	163	Businesses	Function
11	160	Adoption	The local authority att	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Term name of	Service	is contained by	153	Fostering and ac	Function
12	1757	Adult care plan	Following a social car	22/06/2015	22/06/2015		Service	is contained by	148	Adult social care	Function
13	225	Adult carers	Provision of advice ar	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	61	Carers	Function
14	27	Adult education courses	A broad range of adult	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Term name of	Service	is contained by	24	Adult education	Function
15	293	Adult hospice care	Provision of informati	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Term name of	Service	is contained by	151	Residential care	Function
16	1121	Adult placement	The Adult Placement	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Name change	Service	is contained by	151	Residential care	Function
17	292	Adult residential care	Residential or nursing	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	151	Residential care	Function
18	1082	Advertisement control	Planning permission i	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Name change	Service	is contained by	101	Development co	Function
19	700	Advice for young people	Integrated advice, gui	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	155	Support for child	Function
20	162	Advocacy for carers	Advocacy on behalf of	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	61	Carers	Function
21	728	Advocacy for social car	Providing access to s	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	150	Help and advice	Function
22	1123	Affordable housing	Housing provided at b	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Name change	Service	is contained by	158	Housing policy	Function
23	411	Air handling units	Ventilation and air-cor	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	37	Pollution control	Function
24	413	Air quality	Each council has res	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	Added scope	Service	is contained by	37	Pollution control	Function
25	1600	Alarm notification area	The council can decla	04/03/2013	03/04/2013	Update to nam	Service	is contained by	21	Neighbourhood s	Function

Column A is the unique local government **service ID** number.

Column B is the unique official **name (label)** for that service – local authorities can use their own local name providing they preserve the unique service ID number.

Column C is an official **description of the service**.

Column D is the **date** when this version of the list was **last created**.

Column E is the **date** when a particular service entry may have been **modified**.

Column F is a **history note of changes** made to this entry in the standard and why.

Column G confirms this is a **type “service”** in the LGBM.

Column H confirms that the **download** request asked for **mapping columns** be included to another list.

Column I is the unique entry **ID in the functions list** to which they mapping has been made.

Column J is the official **function name / label** to which each service is mapped.

Column K confirms that the **mapping** has been requested **to the Functions List**.

Need more help?

We hope you found the introduction to the Standards Lists useful, but if you have any further questions or would like to learn more, please get in touch.



Use the Help link in the navigation bar anywhere in LG Inform Plus to read through our [online help guides](#), or send an email to support@esd.org.uk and the support team will get back to you (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.).

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