

Performance of Payment by Results pilot areas: April 2012 to February 2013

Introduction

This report provides a picture of the performance to date of the drugs and alcohol recovery Payment by Results (PbR) pilots. It covers 11 months from the start of the pilots in April 2012 to the latest data available at the end of February 2013. All the data has been produced from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).

Many of the treatment systems taking part in the pilot have significantly reconfigured and these changes will take time to embed. With 11 months of data it is too early to judge how well the pilots are performing. Instead the figures provide an indication of the direction of travel so far.

This report will now be updated with the latest information every three months.

The methodology used

Because the eight PbR pilot areas use different approaches, we have had to create a performance framework that not only mirrors as closely as possible the outcomes that decide PbR payments but also universally applies to all PbR areas and, for comparison, the other partnerships in England.

Comparative performance of PbR areas before and after the start of the pilot

To see the effect PbR has had on local performance before and after the introduction of PbR, we have used the following five outcomes:

- Abstinent from all presenting substances
- Successfully completed treatment, free of dependency
- Resolved housing problems
- Stopped injecting
- Improved quality of life.

For each outcome we have measured the performance since the start of the pilots (April 2012 to February 2013) and compared it to the same period 12 months ago. We have also used this period to take into account any seasonal differences that affect performance.

These outcomes are then reported by five complexity groups. This enables a fair comparison to this time last year, taking into account any changes in the profile of people in treatment since then. Clients are sorted into the five complexity groups according to their likelihood of achieving each of the outcomes – those most likely are in the very low group and those least likely are in the very high group. These groups also adjust for areas that have selected the people taken onto their schemes. For similar reasons alcohol clients are reported separately.

Comparative performance of PbR areas to the rest of England

We use the same five outcomes to see how the performance of PbR areas compares to the rest of the country.

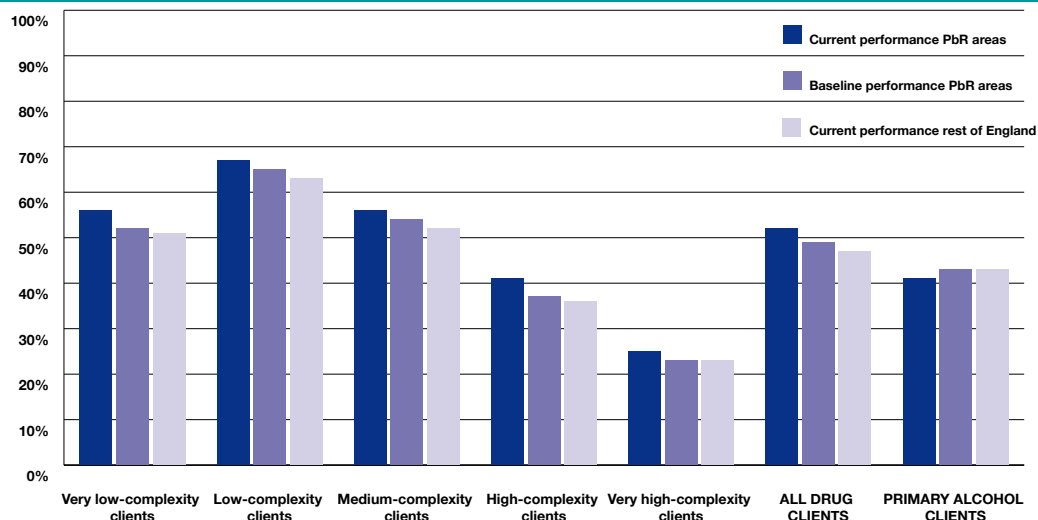
For each outcome we have measured the performance over the last 11 months (April 2012 to February 2013) across all of the pilot areas, which we then compare to the aggregated performance for the rest of the country over the same period.

Again the data is broken down by the five complexity groups. Alcohol is reported separately to ensure as far as possible that we compare like-for-like clients.

Combined performance of all PbR areas against the five outcomes

The data over the page is for 9,663 clients engaged in PbR since April; this breaks down to 6,582 primary drug clients and 3,081 alcohol clients.

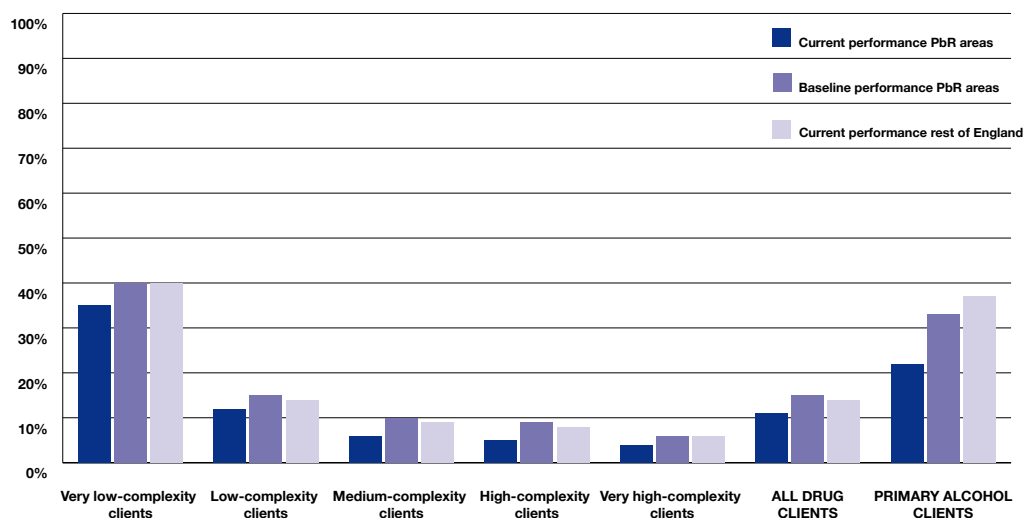
Outcome 1 **ABSTINENT FROM ALL PRESENTING SUBSTANCES**



This shows the proportion of clients who have stopped using all their presenting substances in PbR areas since April, the rates for the rest of country, and the performance of PbR areas compared to the baseline period (April 2011 to February 2012).

Overall the performance for drug clients has increased by 3% since last year and is 5% higher than the current national performance. All complexity groups have increased since the baseline period, with the very low group showing significant increases. All groups are performing above the baseline period and the national average, with the very low and high groups increasing most. Performance for alcohol clients has dropped by 2% since last year and is also 2% lower than the national rate.

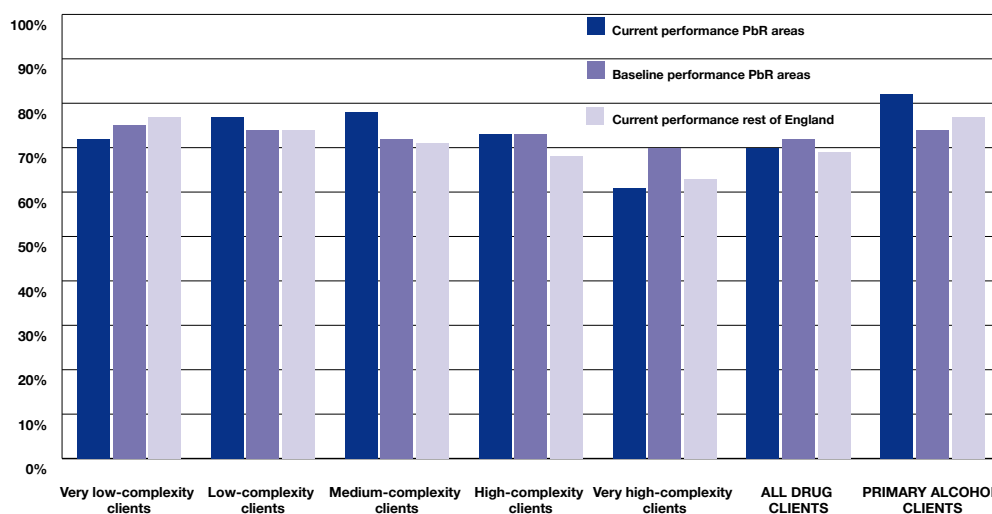
Outcome 2 **SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED TREATMENT, FREE OF DEPENDENCY**



This shows the proportion of clients who have successfully completed drug treatment free of dependency, April 2012 to February 2013, and how this compares to the two benchmark groups.

The overall performance for these clients is significantly below the rest of the country and down on the same period last year. The fall is consistent across all the complexity groups. The performance for alcohol clients has dropped further and is now 15% lower than the current national performance and 11% lower for PbR areas this time last year.

Outcome 3 RESOLVED HOUSING ISSUES

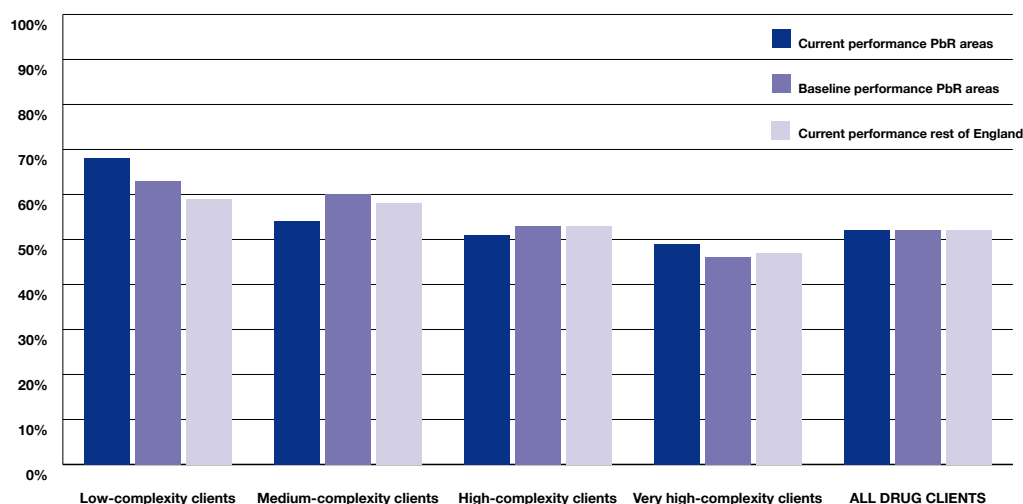


This shows the proportion of clients in the pilots who started with a housing issue (e.g. they were homeless) but no longer have a problem, and how this compares to the national performance and the baseline performance for the pilot areas.

The performance with alcohol clients has increased by 8% since the baseline period and by 5% against the rest of England. For all drug clients the proportion who no longer have a housing issue has fallen 2% from the baseline period but is 1% higher than the current national performance.

The low and medium complexity groups have increased, the high complexity group is unchanged, but the very low and very high complexity groups have decreased since this time last year.

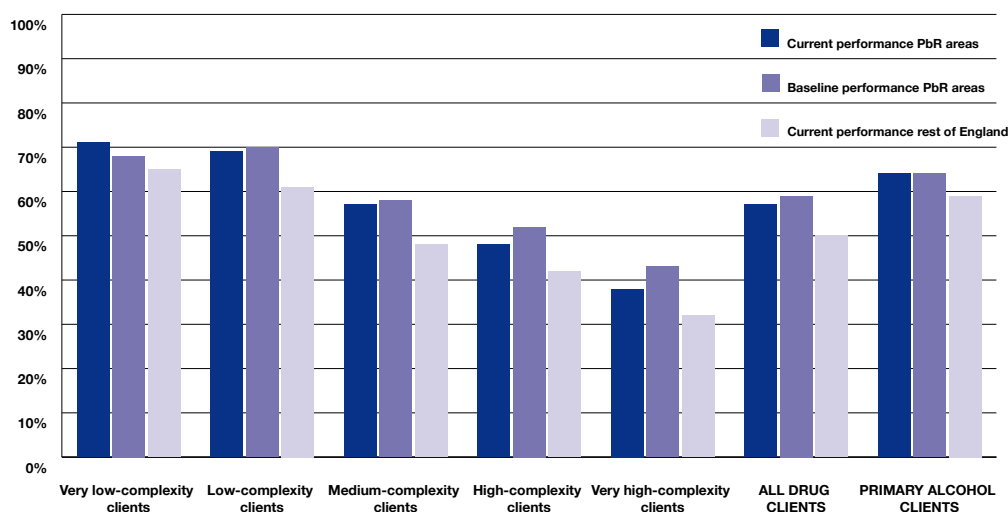
Outcome 4 STOPPED INJECTING



This shows the proportion of clients who were injecting at the start of the pilot but who have now stopped, and how this compares to the two benchmark groups. There is no data reported for alcohol clients or the very low complexity group because they are not normally opiate users or injectors.

Overall the performance in PbR areas is the same as last year at 52%, which also matches the current national performance. The picture across the different complexity groups is mixed, with the low and very high groups increasing in performance against the baseline but the medium and high groups decreasing by 6% and 2% respectively.

Outcome 5 IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE



This shows the proportion of clients who have met the quality of life outcome – they have achieved a score on the Treatment Outcome Profile (TOP) at or above the functional range of those clients who go on to leave treatment successfully and not return.

Apart from the very low complexity group, performance is down across the range on the same time period last year and has fallen overall though it is still above the national average. Performance for alcohol clients remains the same against the baseline period and is 5% higher than the rest of England.

Summary of combined performance of all PbR areas

While it is too early to judge the performance of the pilot areas, the overall performance so far is mixed.

The improvements in abstinence from illicit drug use are welcome as they lay the foundation for clients to leave treatment successfully and sustain their recovery. The improvement in housing for some groups is also positive, though it is unfortunate it is not across all the client complexity groups. While quality of life has fallen since the same period last year it is still above the level in other areas of the country.

However, the fall in the successful completion performance is not such a positive start to the pilots. It is particularly concerning as it is consistent across all the five complexity groups and includes a significant decrease for alcohol clients.