

Work-Focused Services in Children's Centres Pilot

Administrative Data Release

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Background

The 'Work-Focused Services in Children's Centres' (WFSCC) pilot is one of a suite of Child Poverty Pilots that were announced in 2008. The aim of these pilots is to test and explore new approaches at a local level, to build up the evidence base of what works in tackling child poverty.

The WFSCC pilot is operating in three children's centres within ten local authority areas (30 children's centres in total), running from January 2009 – March 2011, and provides work-focused services through a dedicated Jobcentre Plus Personal Adviser in each children's centre as well as activities and provision designed to support local parents into the labour market. The aim of the pilot is to test whether children's centres can offer an effective means of engaging parents in labour market activity, moving them closer to work and ultimately into employment.

A comprehensive evaluation strategy has been put in place for the pilot. It consists of a mixed methods impact¹ and implementation study, including surveys of centre users, interviews with parents, staff and stakeholders and analysis of DWP administrative data and data collected specifically for the evaluation.

Baseline and interim reports have previously been published², and a final report is due for publication in summer 2011. The final report will combine management information from the full length of the pilot with wider evaluation findings. The management information provided in the final report will be more comprehensive than provided here, with analysis of pilot-specific provision also included. This one-off report has been produced to help local areas feed pilot management information into business cases for future work.

¹ The assessment of impact relies on comparison areas rather than control areas. It will not be possible to provide a quantitative measure of impact but instead an assessment of added value in terms of types of customers seen and support provided.

² Marangozov, R. (2009). *Work-focused services in children's centres pilot: evaluation baseline report*. DWP Research Report No. 602: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep602.pdf>;

Marangozov, R. and Stevens, H. (2010) *Work-focused services in children's centres pilot: evaluation interim report*. DWP Research Report No. 677: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep677.pdf>

The Data

This report uses DWP Administrative data taken from LMS and the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) to enable us to monitor the number of parents accessing these services and examine their characteristics. This data is accurate up to end October 2010. All figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Please note that local authorities' figures should not be compared. A wide variety of local authorities and children's centres were chosen, in order to reflect the differences in children's centres nationally (such as build phase, footfall, location and facilities available) and these figures do not reflect this difference. These factors will be taken into account in the final evaluation report.

Results

Starts

As part of the data collection procedures for this pilot, Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers were required to add a WFSCC-specific marker to the customer record of any parent interested in joining the pilot. If the customer then decided to take part in the pilot, the Adviser was then required to record the referral as a 'Start'.

The ability for parents to express an interest in the pilot but then not actually go on to participate explains the difference in numbers between the second and third columns of Table 1. The final column - 'Pilot Starts' - is the volume we are assuming to be true pilot participants.

To date, around **5,435 customers** are recorded as starting the pilot and **1,485** of those starting the pilot have a pilot exit recorded. Pilot exits cover those parents who are no longer on the pilot (as of end October 2010). This may be because they have moved into work, or equally because they no longer wanted / required the services of the pilot.

Table 1: Pilot recording on LMS

STARTS TO THE END OF JULY 2010		
Local Authority	PILOT REFERRALS - (Pilot Marker has been set)	PILOT STARTS- (Result of referral isn't 'Did Not Start')
Westminster	260	240
Lambeth	530	475
Nottingham City	565	540
Southampton	1,060	670
Sandwell	1,080	930
Redcar & Cleveland	610	575
Somerset	450	295
Blackpool	370	330
Kingston upon Hull	585	490
Ealing	945	885
All	6,455	5,435

Demographics of customers starting WFSCC

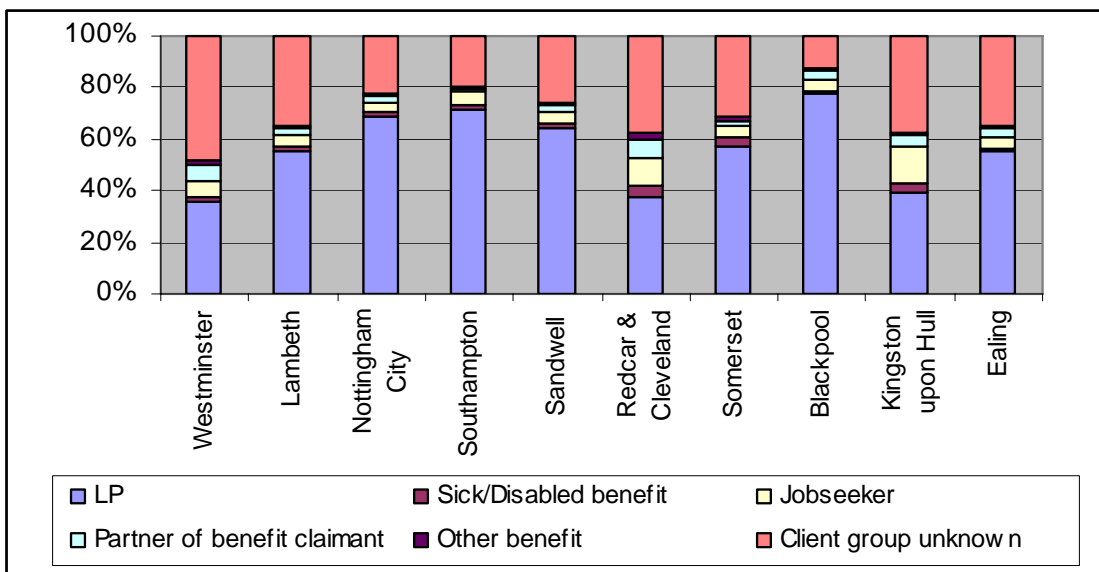
Customer Type

- Across the pilot as a whole, almost **60%** of those we estimate as starting the pilot are known to be **Lone Parents**.
- Across the pilot, **around 30% are not in receipt of benefit** (either as a main claimant or a partner) at the time they start the pilot. Many of these parents will be not working due to childcare commitments; it is thought many of this group are 'potential 2nd earners' (coupled parents where their partner is employed).
- There is a lot of district variation in the client group of pilot participants. Most notably, a **higher proportion of pilot starts in Westminster, Redcar & Cleveland and Hull from potential 2nd earners** (partners/unknown) compared to other districts. Also in Hull/Redcar & Cleveland the proportion of Jobseekers is higher than other areas. Chart 1 illustrates the proportions shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Customer type by LA

Customer Type								
Local Authority	LP	Sick/ Disabled benefit	Jobseeker	Partner of benefit claimant	Other benefit	Client group unknown	Number of WFSCC starts in district	
Westminster	36%	3%	5%	6%	2%	48%	240	
Lambeth	56%	2%	4%	3%	1%	35%	475	
Nottingham City	69%	2%	4%	3%	1%	22%	540	
Southampton	72%	2%	5%	1%	1%	19%	670	
Sandwell	65%	2%	4%	3%	1%	26%	930	
Redcar & Cleveland	38%	4%	11%	7%	3%	38%	575	
Somerset	57%	4%	5%	2%	1%	31%	295	
Blackpool	78%	1%	5%	3%	1%	12%	330	
Kingston upon Hull	39%	3%	15%	4%	1%	38%	490	
Ealing	55%	1%	5%	3%	1%	35%	885	
Total	58%	2%	6%	3%	1%	30%	5,435	

Chart 1: Customer type by LA



Gender

- 10% of parents starting the pilot were male, though in certain areas this proportion is much higher, such as in Hull where one in five pilot participants are male.

Table 3: Pilot starts by Gender

Gender		
Local Authority	Female	Male
Westminster	91%	9%
Lambeth	92%	8%
Nottingham City	93%	7%
Southampton	92%	8%
Sandwell	92%	8%
Redcar & Cleveland	86%	14%
Somerset	87%	13%
Blackpool	89%	11%
Kingston upon Hull	80%	20%
Ealing	94%	6%
Total	90%	10%

Age of Youngest Child

- We do not have the age of youngest child for 7% of cases overall, but this proportion varies significantly by district.
- Children information is missing mainly for customers not in receipt of a DWP benefit when they started on the pilot hence we have no benefit record for the customer and as yet their LMS record has not had this information added.
- For those pilot participants for whom we know the age of their youngest child, **73% had a child under 5** at the time they agreed to participate.

Table 4: Pilot starts by Age of Youngest Child

Age of Youngest child at the start of the pilot		% of known Youngest Child Date Of Births				
Local Authority	<i>Missing</i>	YC Under 1	YC 1-2	YC 3-4	YC 5-10	YC 11+
Westminster	6%	12%	43%	29%	14%	1%
Lambeth	7%	19%	34%	23%	18%	7%
Nottingham City	11%	12%	27%	20%	34%	7%
Southampton	3%	18%	48%	25%	8%	0%
Sandwell	2%	15%	29%	23%	26%	7%
Redcar & Cleveland	12%	21%	37%	16%	22%	4%
Somerset	11%	18%	27%	18%	29%	8%
Blackpool	3%	21%	34%	20%	22%	3%
Kingston upon Hull	11%	16%	37%	23%	21%	3%
Ealing	8%	13%	36%	25%	23%	3%
Total	7%	16%	35%	22%	22%	4%

Ethnicity

- For those customers whom we know their ethnicity, **30% of all parents starting the pilot were from an ethnic minority group.**
- This proportion obviously varies considerably by district with **Lambeth, Ealing and Westminster having over 70% of participants from an ethnic minority group** and Somerset, Redcar & Cleveland and Blackpool having a very low proportion of starts from ethnic minority groups.

Table 5: Ethnicity of pilot participants

Ethnicity of those starting the pilot					
Local Authority	White	%	Non-white	%	Unknown
Westminster	50	29%	125	71%	60
Lambeth	110	25%	325	75%	45
Nottingham City	385	77%	120	23%	40
Southampton	470	77%	140	23%	60
Sandwell	730	87%	110	13%	85
Redcar & Cleveland	525	98%	10	2%	40
Somerset	255	98%	5	2%	35
Blackpool	290	98%	5	2%	35
Kingston upon Hull	400	90%	45	10%	50
Ealing	230	29%	580	71%	75
Total	3,450	70%	1,460	30%	525

Benefit Type

- Administrative records tell us that **nearly 70% of parents were in receipt of a DWP benefit as the main claimant** at the time of starting on the pilot across the pilot as a whole.
- Of those on benefit, across the pilot **85% were in receipt of Income Support (IS)**, 10% Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) and 2% Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Employment Support Allowance (ESA).
- Around **7% of those parents in receipt of benefit were claiming more than one benefit type**. Around 65% of those in receipt of a second benefit were claiming Carers Allowance in addition to Income Support and over a third were claiming IB in addition to Income Support.

Table 6: Benefit type

Primary Benefit	IS	JSA	IB/ESA	Other	<i>No open claim matched from admin data</i>
Westminster	74%	16%	5%	4%	125
Lambeth	88%	8%	3%	2%	175
Nottingham City	92%	6%	1%	0%	135
Southampton	91%	7%	1%	1%	135
Sandwell	89%	8%	2%	1%	265
Redcar & Cleveland	68%	22%	6%	4%	255
Somerset	86%	8%	4%	2%	95
Blackpool	91%	7%	1%	2%	45
Kingston upon Hull	67%	28%	4%	1%	205
Ealing	89%	8%	1%	2%	330
Total	85%	10%	2%	2%	1,765

Benefit Duration

- Of those in receipt of benefit, **around 50% had been on that benefit for over 2 years** but duration varies considerably by benefit type. IS claims by Lone Parents are typically greater than 2 years hence these figures need to be looked at in conjunction with those in table 6.
- There is also district variation, the proportion in Hull with claims of over 2 years is lower than other districts at 34% and those starting the pilot in Redcar & Cleveland and Hull are more likely to have a claim of less than 6 months, 27% and 26% respectively compared to 17% overall.

Table 7: Benefit duration

Local Authority	Claim duration at pilot start			
	0-6 months	6-12 months	1-2 years	Over 2 years
Westminster	22%	11%	21%	46%
Lambeth	17%	10%	16%	57%
Nottingham City	11%	10%	21%	59%
Southampton	20%	10%	21%	50%
Sandwell	13%	12%	17%	58%
Redcar & Cleveland	27%	12%	17%	43%
Somerset	24%	18%	16%	41%
Blackpool	17%	15%	21%	48%
Kingston upon Hull	26%	21%	19%	34%
Ealing	10%	10%	18%	61%
Total	17%	12%	19%	52%

Note – Where pilot participants were claiming more than one benefit when they started the pilot, the earliest claim has been considered when calculating benefit durations

Pilot Outcomes

Job entry and benefit off-flows are not explicit aims of the pilot. The purpose of the pilot is centred more around improving engagement with work-focused activities among parents with younger children. Therefore overall success of the pilot cannot be judged according to job entry rates alone.

We are unable to include job outcomes in this report but have been able to provide information concerning take-up rates for New Deal for Lone Parents and New Deal for Partners (voluntary employment programmes provided by Jobcentre Plus) by pilot customers.

New Deal Take-Up

- Nearly **275 (5%)** of parents in the pilot were already on NDLP at their WFSCC start date.
- Of the remainder of participants who were eligible for NDLP (i.e. lone parents), **27% joined NDLP within 6 months of joining the pilot**. This proportion varies considerably by district, with a conversion rate of around 54% in Lambeth and 50% in Nottingham compared to only 12% in Redcar and 13% in Westminster.
- Up to 100 WFSCC pilot participants have participated on the New Deal for Partners.

Further Information

The final evaluation report is due for publication in summer 2011, and will incorporate findings from the externally commissioned evaluation with final pilot management information.

For any queries, or for further information about the pilot and evaluation, please contact Ailsa Redhouse (Evaluation Lead) at Ailsa.Redhouse@dwp.gsi.gov.uk