

The Work and Health Programme was launched in England and Wales between November 2017 and April 2018. It predominantly helps disabled people, as well as the long-term unemployed, and certain priority groups (known as early access groups) to enter into and stay in work. People are referred by Jobcentres to work with organisations known as providers, from the public, private and voluntary sectors. The providers are paid a service delivery fee as well as outcome-related payments when a person reaches a specified level of earnings once in employment, or reaches six months of being in self-employment.

Main stories

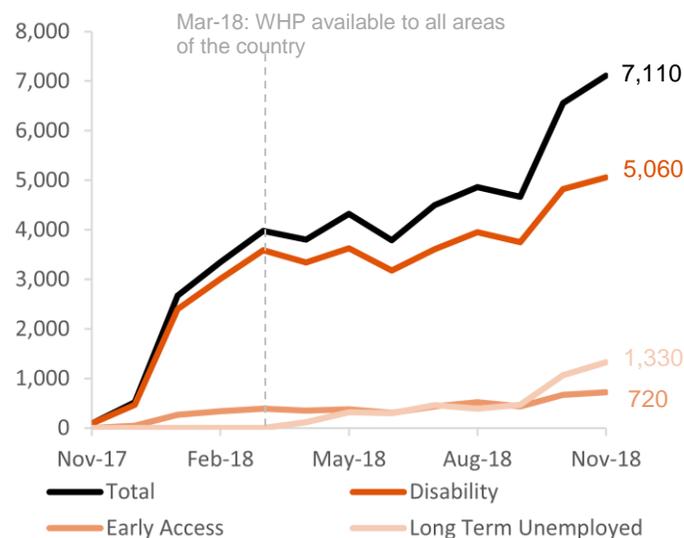
- By November 2018, **75%** of all individuals referred have started on the Work and Health Programme.
- **82%** of all people starting the Work and Health Programme have a disability. **9%** are from early access groups and **9%** are long-term unemployed.
- **63%** of all people starting the Work and Health Programme are male.

Referrals and starts to the Programme

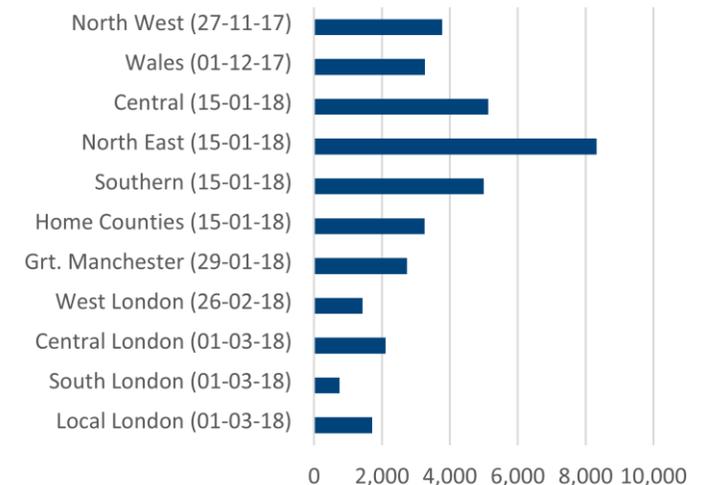
Since the Work and Health Programme began there have been:

58,780 referrals for
50,220 individuals and
37,480 starts

The majority of referred individuals are from the disability group



Total numbers of starts differ across areas*



*The areas shown above are ordered from top to bottom by [roll-out date](#) (shown in brackets).

At a glance

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What you need to know

Groups on the Work and Health Programme

The Work and Health Programme (WHP) aims to provide support to help people find and keep a job. It is available to the following groups:

Disability group

Early Access group

Long-term unemployed

The **Disability group** is voluntary for disabled people as defined in the Equality Act 2010. This is the main group that the WHP is aimed at.

The **Early access group** is voluntary and aimed at people who may need additional support to move into employment and are in one of a number of priority groups (e.g. homeless, ex-armed forces, care leavers, refugees).

The **Long-term unemployed group** is mandatory and is for Jobseeker's Allowance or Universal Credit claimants who have reached 24 months of unemployment.

WHP participants may be in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Income Support (IS) or Universal Credit (UC), but it is possible to join WHP even if not receiving benefits, as people can be signposted to WHP by approved organisations.

WHP is delivered across England and Wales by five providers across six areas (known as Contract Package Areas (CPA)). In London and Manchester, where devolution deals are in place, the responsibility for the delivery of the WHP has been devolved to the Local Authorities, known as Local Government Partners (LGP) who are match-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF). In some areas, the Government is designing WHP with the help of Local Enterprise Partnerships and City regions. These are known as Devolution Deal Areas (DDA). ([See Table 2.2](#))

Definitions

Referrals – Work Coaches in Jobcentre Plus offices will send details of a person wanting to join WHP to a provider. When a provider acknowledges the referral and contact has been established with the participant, this is called a referral. WHP participants can be referred more than once. Figures presented in this publication do not include cancelled or rejected referrals.

Individuals referred – As referrals can include multiple referrals for one individual, individuals referred is the number of individual people referred i.e. only counts the latest referral per person.

Starts – A start on the programme is recorded when a WHP participant attends the initial face-to-face meeting with the provider. The vast majority of starts should take place within 15 working days, although starts outside of the 15 days may occur if the customer is unable to attend the initial meeting within this timeframe.

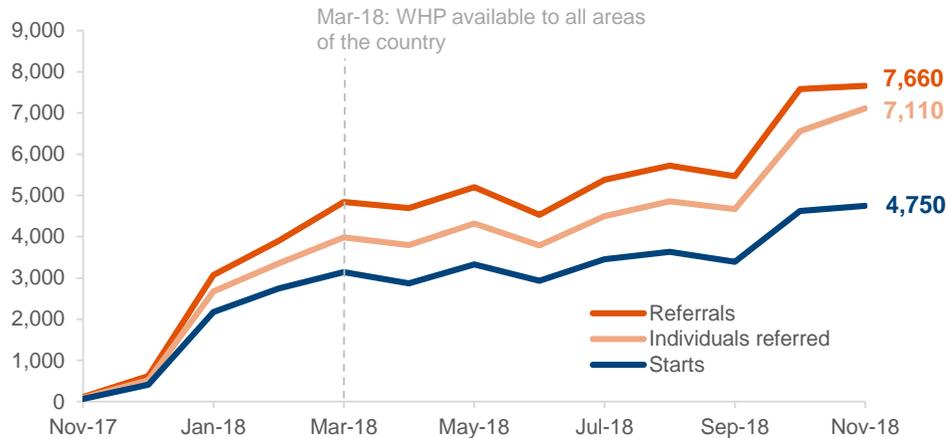
Sustained job outcome payments – statistics will be added in future publications, in line with our [release strategy](#).

Further information on WHP policy and definitions can be found in the Background Information note [here](#).

Joining the Work and Health Programme

The number of monthly starts to WHP is gradually rising

Monthly number of referrals and starts from November 2017 to November 2018



During the first few months of WHP, monthly referrals and starts built up as WHP rolled out across all areas.

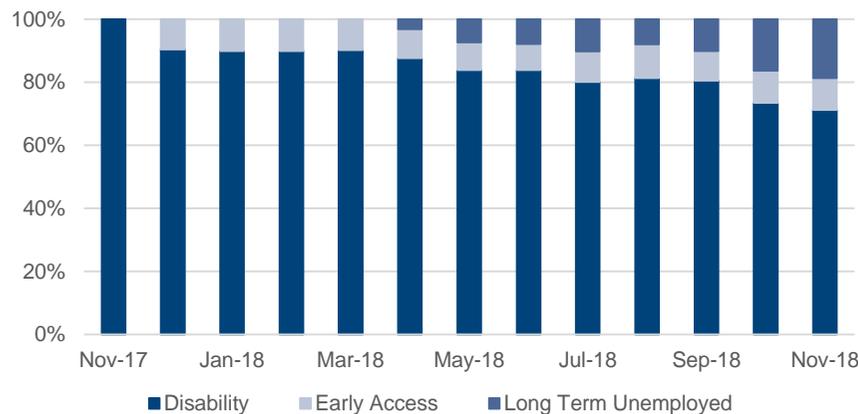
From April 2018 (when the programme was available to all areas of the country and all groups of participants), the total number of monthly starts has been gradually rising.

Since the start of the programme, there have been a total of 58,780 referrals, 50,220 individuals referred and 37,480 starts nationally. Overall, the proportion of individuals referred that go on to start is 75%.

See [Table 1.1](#) for full data.

The majority of starts are made by people in the disability group

Starts by eligibility group from November 2017 to November 2018



Mar-18: WHP available to all areas of the country
 Apr-18: Long-term unemployed referrals began
 Oct-18: More long-term unemployed and disability referrals accepted.

In line with the nature of the programme, large numbers of people with disabilities or health conditions (the Disabled group) are joining WHP.

People are also eligible for WHP if they are long-term unemployed, or belong to certain priority groups (known as the early access group).

Since the start of the programme, the majority of individuals referred (81%) and starts (82%) come from the disability group. The first referrals from the Long-term Unemployed group were made in April 2018.

In the latest month (November 2018), 71% of starts were from the Disability group, 9% from the Early Access group, and 20% from the Long-term Unemployed group.

In order to offer support to as many individuals as possible, DWP has undertaken activity to increase the number of LTUs and disabled people referred to the programme.

See [Table 1.1](#) for full data.

Work and Health Programme referrals and starts by Area

Since March 2018, all areas are contributing to WHP, delivering referrals and starts

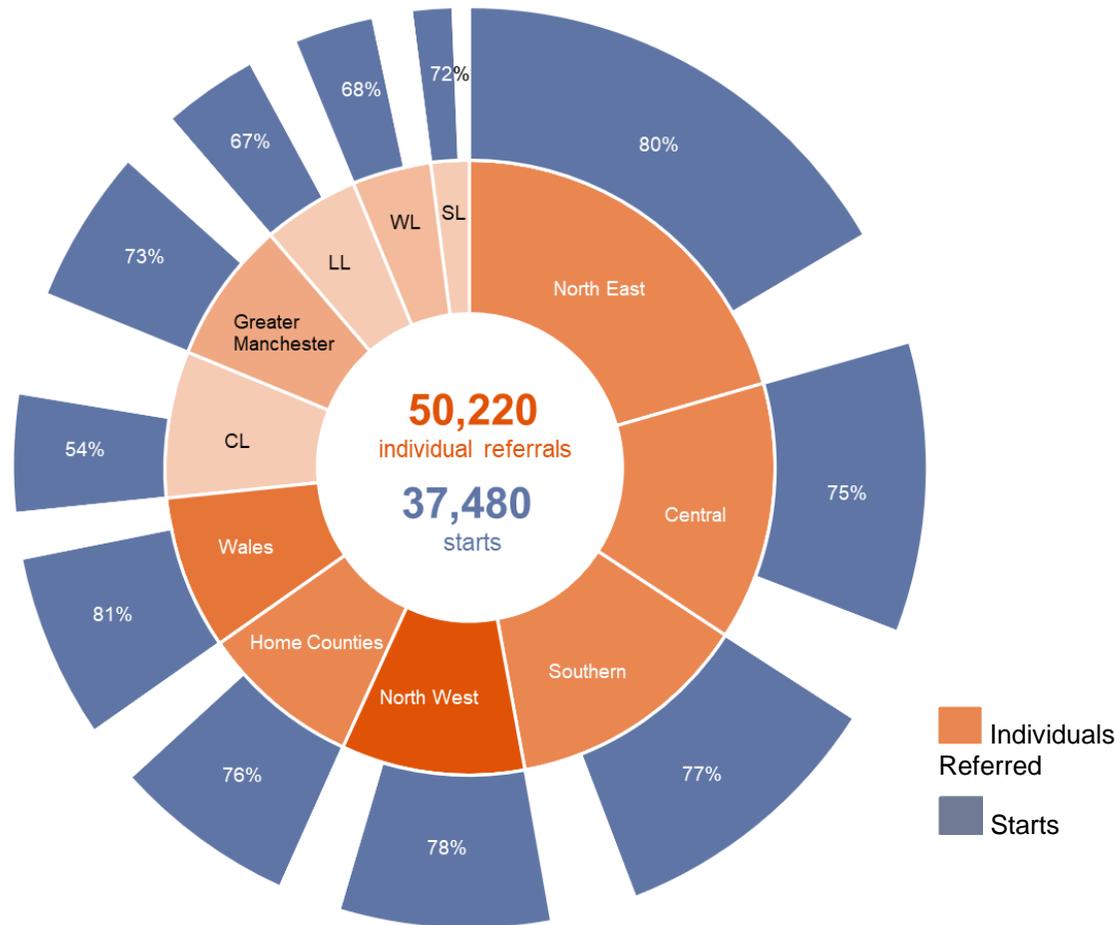
Distribution of all WHP individuals referred and starts across areas: to November 2018

The darker the shading, the earlier WHP provision was introduced. Programme areas differ in size.

Numbers of referrals and starts by Area:

November 2017 to November 2018 by order of rollout (earliest listed first)

Area	Date of rollout	Referrals	Individuals referred	Starts	% of starts to individuals
North West	27/11/17	5,930	4,860	3,770	78%
Wales	01/12/17	4,500	4,050	3,270	81%
Central	15/01/18	8,070	6,810	5,130	75%
North East	15/01/18	11,510	10,340	8,320	80%
Southern	15/01/18	7,540	6,520	5,000	77%
Home Counties	15/01/18	4,900	4,280	3,260	76%
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	29/01/18	4,700	3,770	2,740	73%
West London Alliance (WL)	26/02/18	2,430	2,100	1,430	68%
Central London Forward (CL)	01/03/18	4,940	3,890	2,110	54%
South London Partnership (SL)	01/03/18	1,220	1,040	750	72%
Local London (LL)	01/03/18	3,040	2,560	1,710	67%



Each section within the inner ring shows how the total number of individuals referred (50,220) is distributed across each area. The outer ring shows the percentage of starts there have been for the individuals referred in each area (37,480 in total).

The darker the inner segment, the earlier the area rolled out the Programme. The table shows the areas in order of date rollout from top to bottom.

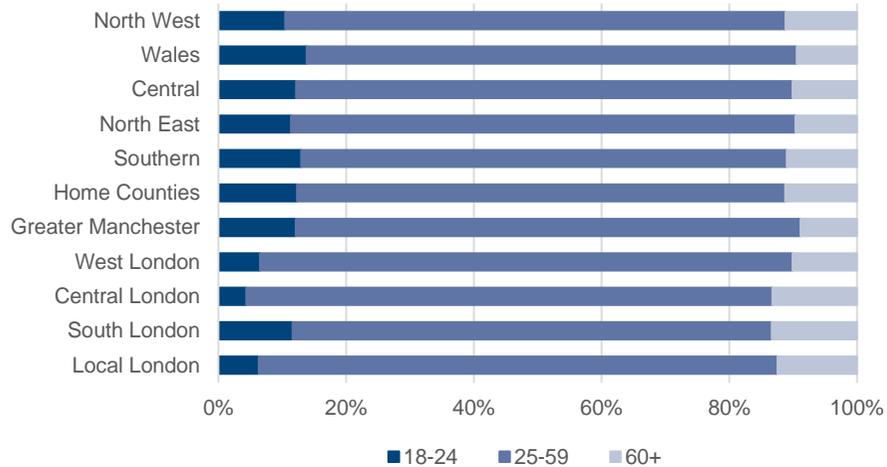
Clearly there have been proportionally more referrals and starts in the North East as this is the largest area. By the same token, the smaller proportions of referrals and starts are seen in London areas, and these were also some of the final areas to roll out the Programme, as well as being some of the smallest areas.

Overall, up until November 2018, the National proportion of starts to individuals referred is around 75%. Due to differences when each area began offering services and respective sizes, these figures vary across area. However cumulatively, the highest rate of individuals referred to starts has been in Wales (81%) and the lowest in Central London (54%)₄

Demographics of the Work and Health Programme

Over three-quarters of all participants are aged 25-59 years old

Percentage of WHP starts by age group and area from November 2017 to November 2018



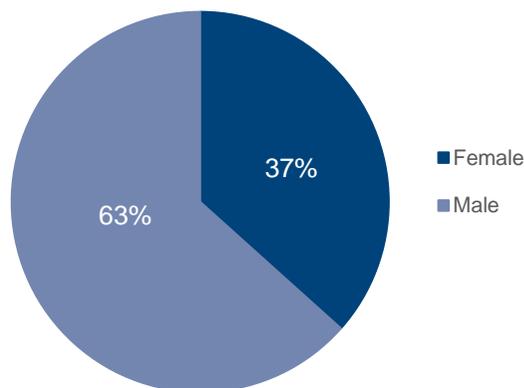
Variation across areas is more pronounced in the younger age category. Wales has the highest proportion of 18-24 year olds starting the programme (14%), while West London has the highest proportion of 25-59 year olds starting the programme (83%).

11% of all starts to WHP were from the 60+ age group. The majority (almost 4 out of 5) of all starts come from the 25-59 age group. This is to be expected as WHP is aimed at working age participants.

See [Table 3.2](#) for further age breakdowns.

Almost two thirds of all WHP participants are male

WHP starts by gender from November 2017 to November 2018



63% of all participants starting WHP are male.

Males consistently account for over 60% of all monthly participants since the start of the programme.

This differs slightly across groups. For example, in the early access group, 68% of participants are male, in the Long-term unemployed group 63% are male, and in the disability group 63% of participants are male.

See [Table 3.3](#) for full data.

About these statistics

Statistical products

This statistical summary gives an overview. Key points and trends are presented using charts and commentary. The information underlying the charts is available as supporting tables which can be found [here](#). In line with our publication [strategy](#), we aim to release additional breakdowns in our next publication. Details will be announced, in advance via [StatsUserNet](#) and the WHP statistics [homepage](#).

Experimental statistics

Experimental statistics are official statistics which are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage. All official statistics should comply with the UK Statistics Authority's [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) which promotes the production and dissemination of official statistics that inform decision making.

Where to find out more

Work and Health Programme Statistics

The background information note can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-and-health-programme-statistics-background-information-and-methodology>

Work and Health Programme Provider Guidance

The guidance given to the Programme Providers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-and-health-programme-provider-guidance>

Work Programme Statistics

Information on the Work Programme, a programme which aimed to get unemployed people into sustained employment, and Work Programme National Statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/work-programme-statistics--2>

Work Choice Statistics

Information on the Work Choice, a programme which aimed to help disabled people find, keep and progress in a job, and Work Choice Official Statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/work-choice-statistics-number-of-starts-and-referrals--2>

Specialist Employability Support

Information on Specialist Employability Support, a voluntary programme which is aimed at helping disabled people with complex barriers to work that other support is not suitable, find a job can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/specialist-employability-support-statistics>

Access to Work

Information on the Access to Work provision, which is aimed to support people who have a disability or long-term health condition start or stay in work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/access-to-work-statistics>

Contact information and feedback

For more information on WHP statistics, please contact Lee McGargill at lee.mcargill1@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

DWP would like to hear your views on our statistical publications. If you use any of our statistics publications, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements. Please email DWP at stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

Users can also join the "Welfare and Benefit Statistics" community at: <http://www.statsusernet.org.uk>. DWP announces items of interest to users via this forum, as well as replying to users' questions.