

Work Choice is an employment programme tailored to meet individual need. It focuses on helping individuals to achieve their full potential and move towards being more independent. Work Choice also ensures employers get the support they need to employ more disabled people.

Work Choice helps people with disabilities whose needs cannot be met through other work programmes, Access to Work or workplace adjustments. This might be because they need more specialised support to find employment or keep a job once they have started work.

Main stories

Referrals and starts to Work Choice

In the last year there have been:

17,510 referrals

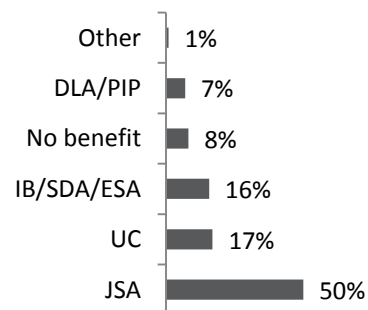
and

11,670 starts

to Work Choice.

From 1st April 2017, referrals were only made in England and Wales

More than half of people starting Work Choice are claiming JSA or UC



Benefit claimed at point of referral, for those who started in the last year.

Sustained job outcome rates have seen steady improvement

28%

of the latest year of starts have achieved an unsupported job outcome (lasting at least 26 weeks) within 24 months.

At a glance

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Referrals, Starts, and Job Outcomes on Work Choice:

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There have been a total of 147,530 referrals and 111,990 starts to the programme.

Job outcome rates on Work Choice:

4

28% of those who started in the latest year available have achieved an unsupported job outcome (lasting at least 26 weeks) within 24 months.

Analysis by benefit type:

5

50% / 17% of those who started Work Choice in the latest year were claiming JSA / UC.

Analysis by disability type:

6

Mild to moderate mental health condition and Conditions restricting mobility/ dexterity are the most prevalent disability types for those starting Work Choice.

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Feedback is welcome, in particular we are inviting users to provide comments on the proposed change of frequency of the Work Choice Official Statistics publication, please see this [consultation](#) for further details.

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What you need to know

What is Work Choice?

Work Choice is a voluntary programme that can help you get and keep a job if you're disabled and find it hard to work. The type of support you get depends on the help you need. This is different for everyone but can include: training and developing your skill; building your confidence; and interview coaching.

Work Choice is delivered by providers funded by the government. New Work Choice participants receive two levels of help*:

Level of help	What you get	How long it lasts
Work Entry Support	Advice on work and personal skills to help you find a job	Usually 6 months
In-Work Support	Help to start work and stay in your job	Usually 12 months

- Work Entry Support can be extended by 3 or 6 months in exceptional circumstances and when there is a clear prospect of a job.
- In-Work Support is normally expected to last for up to 12 months. However, and exceptionally, disabled participants may be permitted to remain in Module Two for up to two years.

What do these statistics show?

This is the official statistical publication on Work Choice. It contains figures on referrals, starts, and job outcomes for all Work Choice providers **excluding Remploy**, from 25th October 2010 up to and including **24th June 2017**. Job outcomes include:

- Supported or unsupported jobs which last at least 13 weeks: short job outcomes**.
- Movements from supported to unsupported work: unsupported job progressions.
- Unsupported jobs maintained for at least 26 weeks: sustained unsupported job outcomes.

From 1 April 2017, referrals to Work Choice were only made in England and Wales as responsibility for employment programmes in Scotland became a devolved matter for the Scottish Government. This has introduced a discontinuity to the time series.

* The Work Choice delivery model changed for new participants from April 1st 2017, for further information see the [background information note](#) section 2.

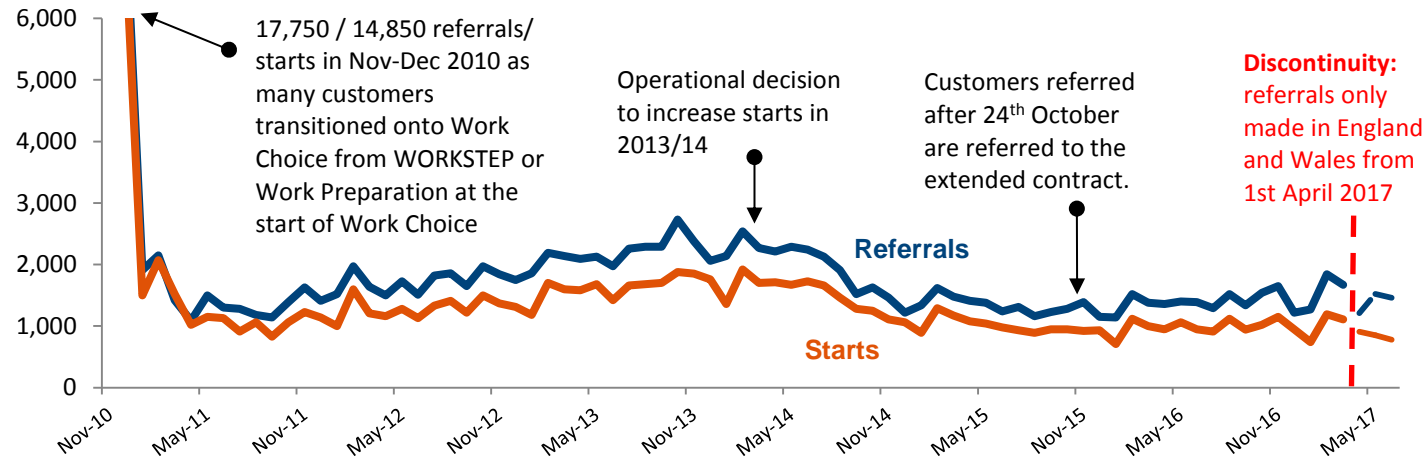
** The definition of short job outcomes changed with the introduction of the extended contract for those people referred on or after 25th October 2015, this has impacted on the numbers that achieve a short job outcomes within 12 months and introduced a discontinuity to the short job outcome time series. See the [background information note](#) (section 4.3) for more details.

For more information see the [background information note](#)

Referrals, starts, and job outcomes

70% of those referred to Work Choice subsequently start on the programme

Referrals and starts to Work Choice



Main Findings

Referrals and Starts from April 2017 are not comparable with previous periods since referrals are only made in England and Wales from this point.

The number of starts to Work Choice has been fairly constant over the last two years at around three thousand each quarter.

In the last year there have been:

- **17,510** referrals for **15,970** individuals*; and
- **11,670** starts for **11,270** individuals*.

For full data see Table 1.

Main Findings

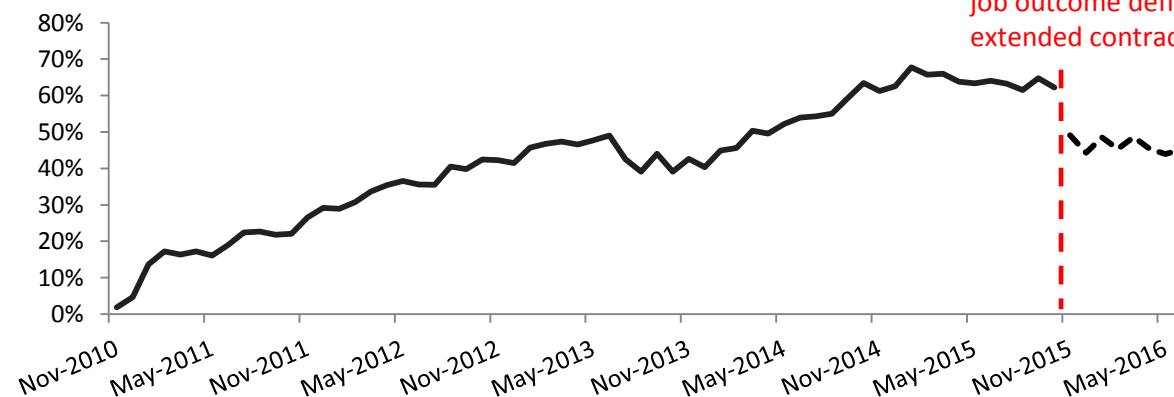
For short job outcomes there was a steady improvement over the programme up to October 2015 (the final month before the contract extension). For the final four months of starts under the old contract terms, **63%** achieved a short job outcome within 12 months (starts from Jul-15 to Oct-15).

Under the extended contract, **46%** of starts (between Nov-15 and Jun-16) have achieved a short job outcome in 12 months. The drop is almost certainly due to the new definition of a short job outcome.

For full data see Tables 1 and 2.

The proportion of Work Choice starts achieving a short job outcome (lasting at least 13 weeks) over time

Proportion of starts that achieve a short job outcome within 12 months



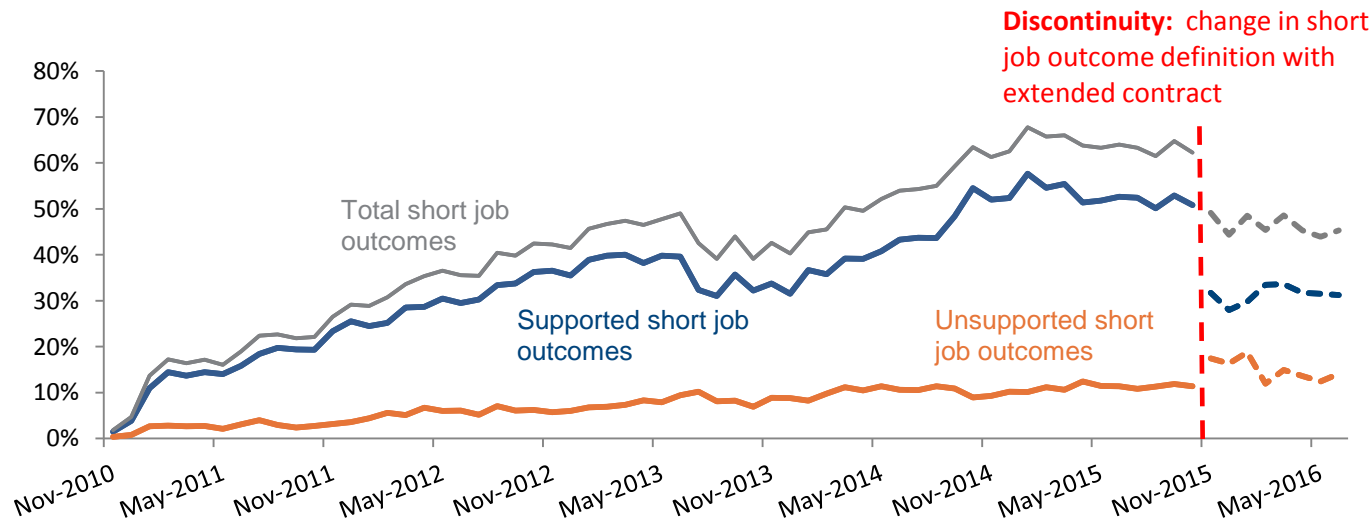
Customers who started from 25th June 2016 have not yet had 12 months to achieve a short job outcome and so are excluded.

*individuals can be referred to / start Work Choice more than once in the period and as a result can obtain more than one job outcome in the period.

Short and sustained job outcomes

The majority of short job outcomes achieved are supported

Proportion of starts that achieve a supported or unsupported short job outcome within 12 months



Main Findings

Short job outcomes can be supported or unsupported.

Participants on Work Choice are much more likely to obtain a supported short job outcome than an unsupported one, with 68% being supported for the latest starts over Nov-15 to Jun-16 (referred under the extended contract).

For starts between Nov-15 and Jun-16, **46%** have achieved a short job outcome within 12 months with:

- **32%** of starts having achieved a supported job outcome and;
- **15%** of starts having achieved an unsupported short job outcome.

For full data see Table 2.

Main Findings

The proportion of Work Choice starts achieving a sustained job outcome within 24 months has seen a steady rise over the lifetime of the programme.

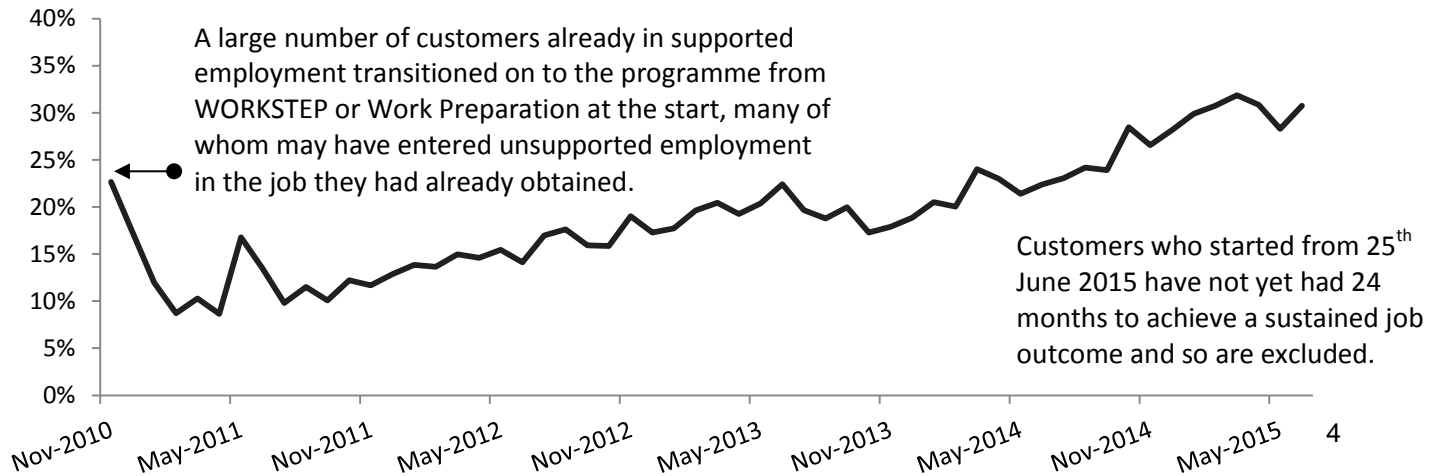
The level has increased from **13%** in 2011/12 to **28%** for the latest year of starts available.

In the last 12 months there have been **3,910** sustained job outcomes for **3,610** individuals*.

For full data see Tables 1 and 2.

The proportion of Work Choice starts achieving a sustained job outcome has been improving

Proportion of starts that achieve a sustained job outcome within 24 months



Benefit claimed at point of referral

Main Findings

Half of people who started Work Choice in the latest year were claiming JSA with a further 17% claiming UC.

For the different benefit types, the proportion of Work Choice starts that achieve a job outcome varies between:

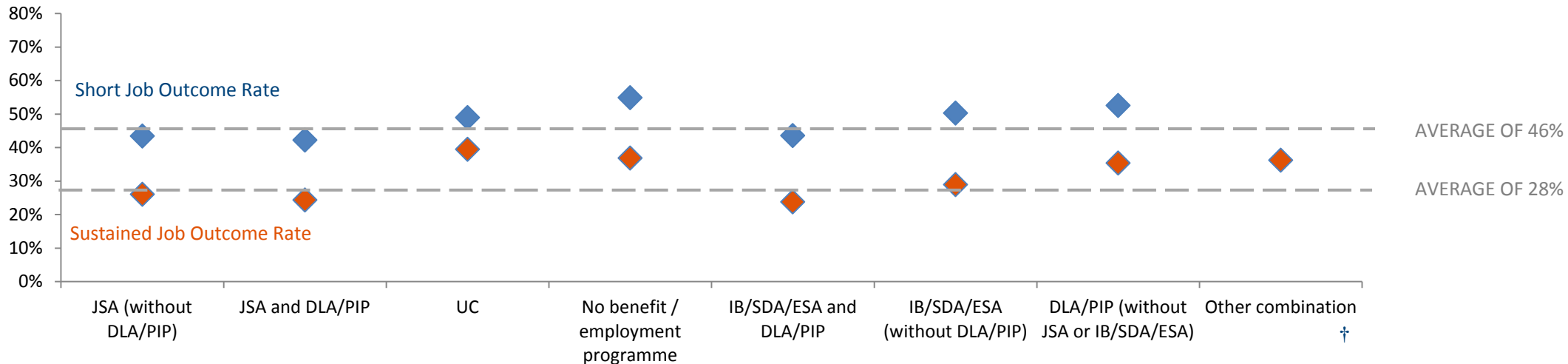
- 42% and 55% for short job outcomes (within 12 months);
- 24% and 39% for sustained job outcomes (within 24 months).

Short job outcome figures are based on starts over Nov-15 to Jun-16 under the extended contract, sustained job outcome figures are based on the latest year of starts available.

For full data see Table 4.

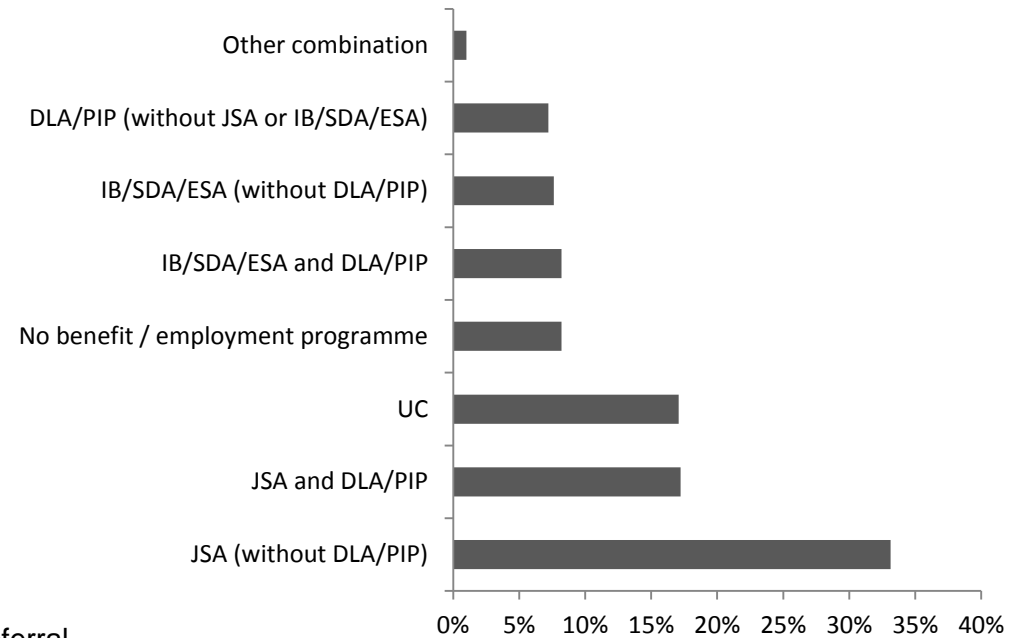
Variation in job outcome rate by benefit claimed

Proportion of starts that achieve a job outcome by benefit claimed at referral



More than half of people who volunteer for Work Choice are claiming JSA

Proportion of starts by benefit claimed at referral, for the latest year of starts available



† Exercise caution interpreting job outcome rates with these categories – data is based on a total of less than 500 starts. Job outcome rates are also suppressed where the volume of starts is less than 100. For more information see the [Work Choice: background information note](#) section 3.4.

Primary disability type

Main Findings

The most prevalent primary disabilities of those who started Work Choice in the latest year were mild to moderate mental health conditions and conditions restricting mobility/dexterity, with these disability types accounting for 20% and 16% of total starts respectively.

For the different primary disability types, the proportion of Work Choice starts that achieve a job outcome varies between:

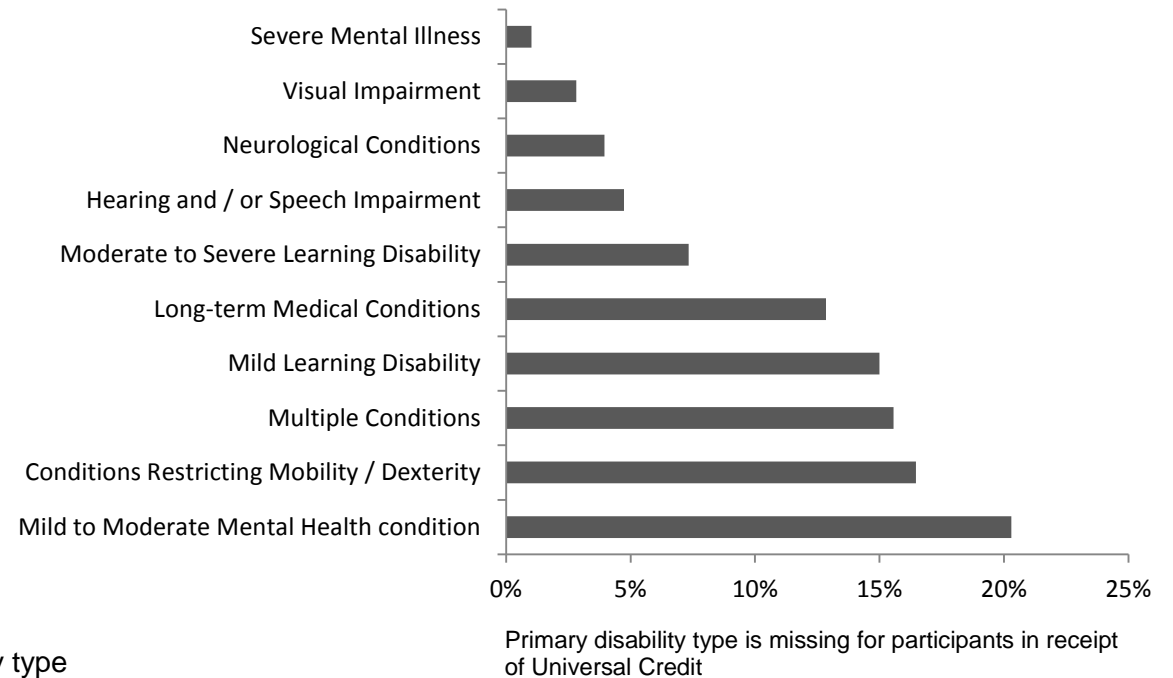
- 41% and 49% for short job outcomes (within 12 months);
- 24% and 34% for sustained job outcomes (within 24 months).

Short job outcome figures are based on starts over Nov-15 to Jun-16 under the extended contract, sustained job outcome figures are based on the latest year of starts available.

For full data see Table 3.

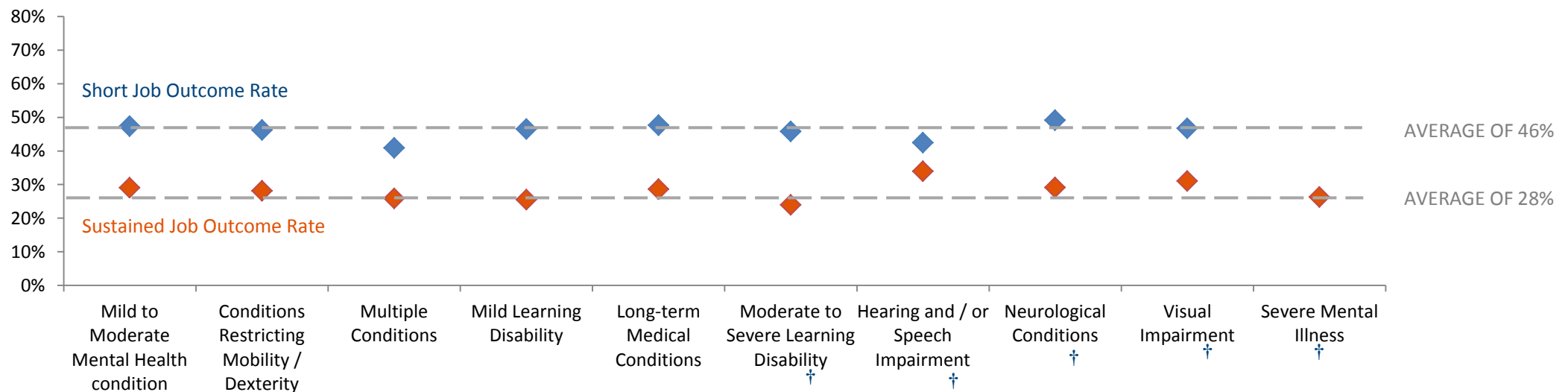
Mild to moderate mental health condition is the most prevalent primary disability of those starting on Work Choice

Proportion of starts by primary disability type, for the latest year of starts

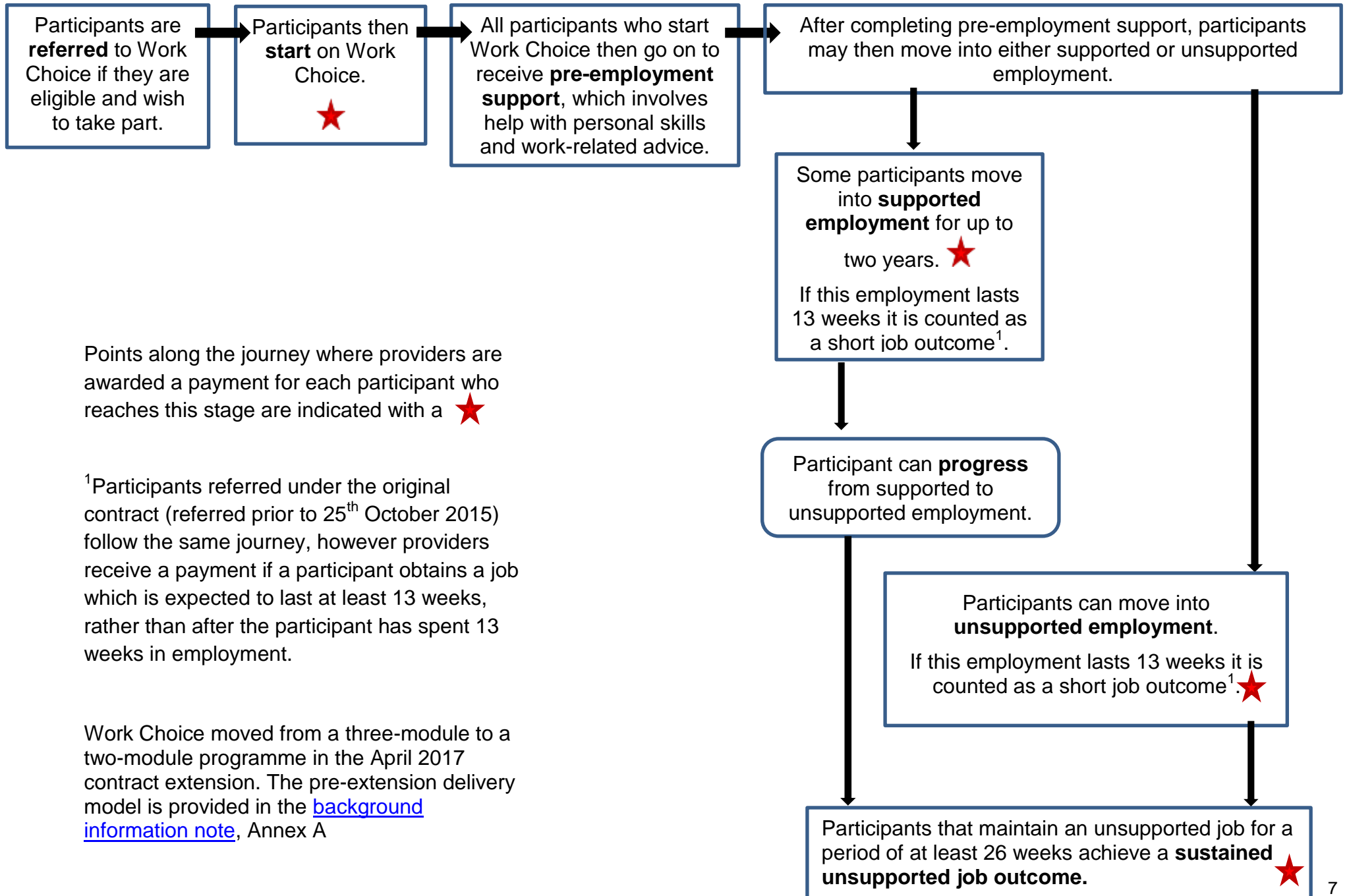


Variation in job outcome rate by primary disability type

Proportion of starts that achieve a job outcome by primary disability type



Typical participant journey on Work Choice



Points along the journey where providers are awarded a payment for each participant who reaches this stage are indicated with a ★

¹Participants referred under the original contract (referred prior to 25th October 2015) follow the same journey, however providers receive a payment if a participant obtains a job which is expected to last at least 13 weeks, rather than after the participant has spent 13 weeks in employment.

Work Choice moved from a three-module to a two-module programme in the April 2017 contract extension. The pre-extension delivery model is provided in the [background information note](#), Annex A

About these statistics

This is the official government statistical release on the Work Choice programme for August 2017. It contains data on referrals, starts, and job outcomes to Work Choice up to 24th June 2017.

Data for these statistics is derived from the Labour Market System (LMS) Opportunity Type database, the Provider Referrals and Payments System (PRaP), and the DWP National Benefit Database (NBD).

Some data within this publication may be subject to revisions. For more information on revisions see the [Work Choice: background information note](#).

The latest year / months of starts available is used for many figures throughout the publication and relates to the latest year / months of starts for which data is complete, as follows.

- Jul-16 to Jun-17 for all in-month figures.
- Jul-14 to Jun-15 for the proportion of starts achieving a sustained job outcome in 24 months.
- For short job outcomes, the latest year of starts includes both starts referred before and after the introduction of the extended contract; these groups are not comparable and so are considered separately:
 - For starts under the old contract, the latest complete data therefore relates to the four months of starts from **Jul-15 to Oct-15**.
 - For starts under the new contract, the latest complete data relates to the eight months of starts from **Nov-15 to Jun-16**.

Where to find out more

More information about Work Choice and these statistics can be found in [Work Choice: background information note](#) or at <https://www.gov.uk/work-choice>.

For information on the different benefits participants on Work Choice may be claiming see <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits>.