



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# ESF Provision for Families with Multiple Problems

- Statistics to September 2013

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November 2013

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## Background

1. The European Social Fund Support for Families with Multiple Problems programme (ESF Families programme) was launched in December 2011 and is due to run until March 2015. It supports disadvantaged families, facing multiple barriers to work, to move closer towards and into sustainable employment. The programme is funded by the 2007–2013 European Social Fund (ESF) programme in England, under DWP’s arrangements to act as one of the Co-Financing Organisations.
2. The programme is voluntary and operates across England. There are twelve Contract Package Areas each with a single prime provider. There are eight prime providers as some cover multiple areas. See **table 1** for the list.
3. Provision is open to any member of a family where one member of that family (not necessarily the programme participant) is on a working age benefit. Participants must be over 16, able to work in this country, and either be out of work or working few enough hours to be on an out of work benefit. The family of which they are a member must also be regarded as facing multiple problems: the definition for which is determined locally, within guidelines set out by DWP. Eligibility criteria for this provision and for the Troubled Families Programme operated by the Department for Communities and Local Government overlap, but are not identical.
4. The primary referral route for the programme is via Local Authorities. Since September 2012 providers have also been able to identify and refer eligible participants themselves.
5. Once a participant is attached to the ESF Families programme, the relevant provider has twelve months to work with them and their family,

as appropriate, to help them move towards and find sustained employment.

6. The ESF Families with Multiple Problems programme operates on a Payment by Results basis. Payment triggers fall into two main categories<sup>1</sup>:
  - **Progress Measures:** these are triggered where a participant completes a prescribed activity designed to assist the family to resolve or overcome particular problems. The exact activity attracting a progress payment varies across Contract Package Area to reflect the different approaches taken and is contractually agreed between DWP and providers. Typically, these cover activities designed to address problems relating to housing, managing money and debt, family communications, community involvement, skills for working or work placements. Progress measures can be claimed from ten weeks after attachment and up to three may be claimed for each participant. In total, 70% of funding for ESF Families is allocated to Progress Measures.
  - **Job Outcomes:** these are paid when, in the case of a JSA claimant, they are recorded as having worked 26 weeks in a 30 week period. For other benefit claimants, a payment is triggered after 13 continuous weeks in work. Being in work is defined either by the benefit the participant is on, or for those not on benefits as 16 hours a week or more. Providers may claim only one job outcome payment per participant.
7. Further information about the programme, including the nature of local provision, exact eligibility criteria and all payment triggers can be found at:  
[European Social Fund \(ESF\) Support for Families with Multiple Problems](#)
8. Our expectation is that we will develop and expand the statistics published here further and publish on a six monthly basis, starting in March 2014.
9. DWP also published emerging data on job starts for individuals on the DCLG Troubled Families programme today (21st November 2013).

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<sup>1</sup> providers can also claim an interim progress measure payment on agreement of an action plan with the participant

## Data and Results

10. The data is taken from the Department's payment administrative system. Figures are subject to revision. They are rounded to the nearest 10, in line with standard DWP disclosure control policy.
11. Two tables are included that report performance against the programme's objective to support participants towards and into work. These cover attachments (i.e. the number of individual participants), Progress Measures and sustained job outcomes.
12. **Table 1** Covers the whole period of provision so far, from December 2011 to September 2013, for each of the twelve Contract Package Areas.
13. By September 2013 there had been 22,800 attachments. The Contract Package Area with the highest amount was Greater Manchester, with 3,420, whilst East of England had the fewest, with 750.
14. There have been 11,450 Progress Measures payments, attributable to 5,740 participants. Of the 5,740 participants achieving Progress Measures, 2,110 had been payments for a single Progress Measure. There have been 1,550 payments for two Progress Measures and 2,080 payments for three.
15. Greater Manchester (970) and Yorkshire and the Humber (940) have both the most individuals for whom Progress Measures have been paid and the most Progress Measures paid (2,050 and 1,940 respectively). The East of England has the fewest, at 110 individuals with Progress Measures and 170 Progress Measures in total.
16. By September 2013, there were 720 sustained job outcomes.
17. The Contract Package Areas that have achieved the most Job Outcomes are Cumbria, Merseyside and Lancashire, with 140, and Greater Manchester, with 100.

18. For many of those who joined the programme more recently there has been insufficient time to achieve outcomes (Progress Measures and/or Job Outcomes) and therefore these are expected to increase at a faster rate in the future than attachments.
19. **Table 2** shows the same attachment and outcomes information but this time the rows cover the month for which the claim was made rather than Contract Package Area.
20. In January 2013 changes were made to allow progress measures to be claimed individually rather than cumulatively. The transition to the new way of claiming introduced some uncertainty into the allocation up to and including March 2013 and therefore individual months are presented from April 2013 only.
21. Of the 22,800 attachments, 9,870 are from April to September 2013.
22. All figures are subject to revision. This is particularly the case for the latest month's attachment figures as this is usually revised upwards when reported in the subsequent month due to further claims being made.
23. The majority of payments for participants achieving Progress Measures have been in the latest six months, with 4,740 made between April and September 2013 out of a total of 5,740 since the provision began.
24. The total number of Progress Measures paid follows a similar pattern. The latest five months account for 9,310 out of 11,450, with each of the last four months being over 1,500.
25. As with Progress Measures, Job Outcomes are higher for recent months. Of the 720 so far, 490 are from April 2013.

## Tables

**Table 1: Attachments, progress measures and sustained job outcomes by Contract Package Area**

	Provider	Attachments	Participants completing progress measures				Total progress measures	Sustained job outcomes
			any	one	two	three		
East of England	Reed in Partnership	750	110	60	40	10	170	20
East Midlands	Working Links	2,360	700	160	160	380	1,620	30
East London	Reed in Partnership	1,730	200	100	50	50	350	80
West London	Reed in Partnership	1,190	200	100	60	50	360	70
North East	The Wise Group	1,450	110	60	30	20	190	30
Greater Manchester	G4S	3,420	970	310	220	430	2,050	100
Cumbria, Merseyside and Lancashire	Reed in Partnership	2,390	670	270	200	200	1,260	140
South East	Skills Training	1,780	430	160	140	130	840	80
South West	Twin Training	1,000	170	110	40	20	250	10
Cornwall	Paragon	1,100	410	100	160	150	870	10
West Midlands	EOS	2,910	830	340	250	240	1,550	60
Yorkshire and the Humber	EOS	2,710	940	330	210	400	1,940	90
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,800</b>	<b>5,740</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>11,450</b>	<b>720</b>

**Note:** Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Source:** DWP management information.

**Table 2: Attachments, progress measures and sustained job outcomes by month**

	Attachments	Participants completing progress measures				Total progress measures	Sustained job outcomes
		any	one	two	three		
<b>up to March 2013</b>	<b>12,930</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>220</b>
Apr-13	1,340	680	300	200	180	1,250	50
May-13	1,560	620	240	210	170	1,170	70
Jun-13	1,630	820	300	220	290	1,630	80
Jul-13	1,990	800	290	240	270	1,570	70
Aug-13	1,830	870	330	250	300	1,720	120
Sep-13*	1,530	940	300	260	380	1,960	110
<b>Apr to Sep 2013</b>	<b>9,870</b>	<b>4,740</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>9,310</b>	<b>490</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,800</b>	<b>5,740</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>11,450</b>	<b>720</b>

**Note:** Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; totals may not sum due to rounding.

\* all figures are subject to revision, in particular the latest month's attachments tend to get revised upwards.

**Source:** DWP management information.

## Contacts

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National Statistics publications, and general information about the official statistics system of the UK, are available from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)