



The Work Programme Evaluation 2020



Department for Work & Pensions

The Work Programme:

- The Work Programme (2011-2017) provided support to nearly 2-million unemployed people between 2011 to 2017 to find sustained work.
- It had an overall cost of £2.9-billion
- 630,000 employment opportunities lasting 13 or 26 weeks.
- When individuals joined the programme, they received support for two years from a designated provider, regardless of changes in employment.
- These designated providers came from public, private and third sector organisations.



Methodology



An impact evaluation and cost-benefit analysis were used to analyse this programme.



The gap between the end of the Work Programme (March 2017) and the start of the Work and Health Programme (April 2018) was used for comparison.



Two groups formed from individuals eligible for the Work Programme before its end and those who would have been eligible after the programme closed.



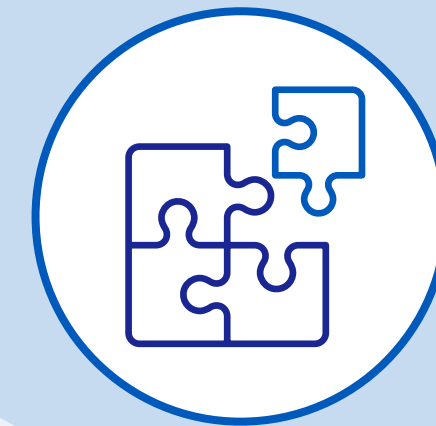
Propensity Score Matching (PSM) was used to compare small individual differences between these two groups.



For two years, employment and benefit status were tracked of these two groups.



Cost Benefit Analysis was used to estimate the social cost of the programme.



Findings



Those who took part in the Work Programme had **46** additional days in employment where they didn't receive benefits over the two years.



They also received out of work benefits for **70** fewer days than those not on the programme.



Considering this, the Cost Benefit Analysis found a return of **£3.21** for each **£1** spent on the Work Programme.

Cost Benefit ratio estimates using in employment and not in receipt of an Out of work benefit

		Participant	DWP	Exchequer	Society
Impact of participation	2 year observed	£1.25	£0.83	£1.50	£1.75
	3 year extrapolated	£1.26	£1.31	£2.38	£2.68
	4 year extrapolated	£1.26	£1.76	£3.21	£3.51
Range of impact	2 year observed	£1.22 to £1.27	£0.56 to £1.10	£1.00 to £2.01	£1.16 to £2.31
	3 year extrapolated	£1.23 to £1.27	£0.89 to £1.72	£1.60 to £3.15	£1.82 to £3.48
	4 year extrapolated	£1.23 to £1.27	£1.21 to £2.32	£2.17 to £4.25	£2.42 to £4.51



Impacts



The evaluation contributed to DWP's understanding of contracted provision effectiveness for addressing unemployment. It demonstrated that contracted provision could deliver value for money.



The learning from the programme, alongside other evaluation evidence, informed a substantial part of the evidence base for Restart.



Links



Read the main evaluation report

