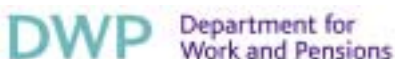


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NEW DEAL FOR LONE PARENTS AND PERSONAL ADVISER MEETINGS: statistics to December 2002

Introduction

The full national New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP) programme was implemented on 26 October 1998. It had already been operating in eight prototype areas from July 1997, and for new and repeat claimants from 6 May 1998.

Key points

All figures relate to the period from October 1998 when NDLP was fully implemented nationally, to the end of December 2002:

- 508,500 initial interviews had taken place to the end of December – 37,140 more than at the end of September;
- Agreements to start on the NDLP caseload reached 437,720 at the end of December, representing 86% of initial interviews;
- The number of leavers from NDLP reached 357,800 by end of December;
- 79,920 lone parents were participating on NDLP at the end of December;
- A total of 392,900 lone parents making new or repeat Income Support claims or already receiving Income Support have participated in the Personal Advisor process to December. This figure, for the first time, includes people who have had 6 or 12-month PA Review meetings. 82% of these lone parents had attended a PA meeting;

- Some 208,270 jobs have been gained to the end of December, an increase of 20,250 (10%) since September. The number of **individuals** finding employment reached 175,810 at end December;
- Around ten percent of lone parents finding employment remain on the programme receiving in-work support and around ninety percent left the programme into a job;
- 37,570 lone parents have taken up education or training opportunities whilst on NDLP;
- Of the 79,920 lone parents participating in NDLP at the end of December, 94% were female, 4% were people with disabilities, and 20% were aged under 25, and 48% had a youngest child under 5. Eleven percent were from minority ethnic groups although ethnic group is only recorded for 98% of clients at present;
- Leavers from the NDLP caseload reached 357,800 by the end of December. Of these leavers, 53% (189,170) left for employment, 1% (3,150) transferred to other benefits, 31% (112,490) withdrew for other reasons but remained on Income Support, 2% (5,230) were no longer eligible, and 13% (47,770) left for unknown destinations.

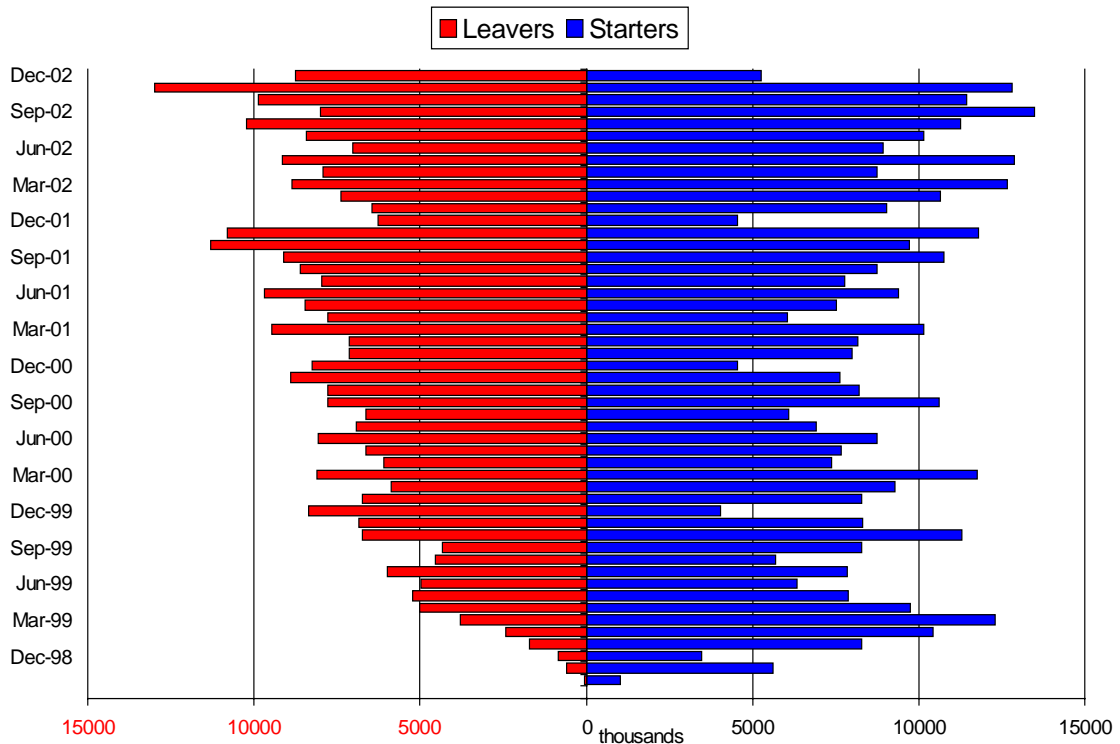
Notes on the Tables

Table 1a summarises the number of initial NDLP interviews, number of starts to caseload, and numbers leaving the NDLP caseload.

A total of 508,500 initial interviews had taken place to December, amongst a total of 381,830 individual lone parents. Overall, 86% of lone parents who have attended an initial interview agree to join the NDLP caseload – some 437,720 starts to the caseload. Lone parents entering NDLP through the Personal Adviser route have accounted for 63,550 starts to the caseload to December.

The number of leavers from NDLP reached 357,800 at end of December, an increase of 31,580 since end of September.

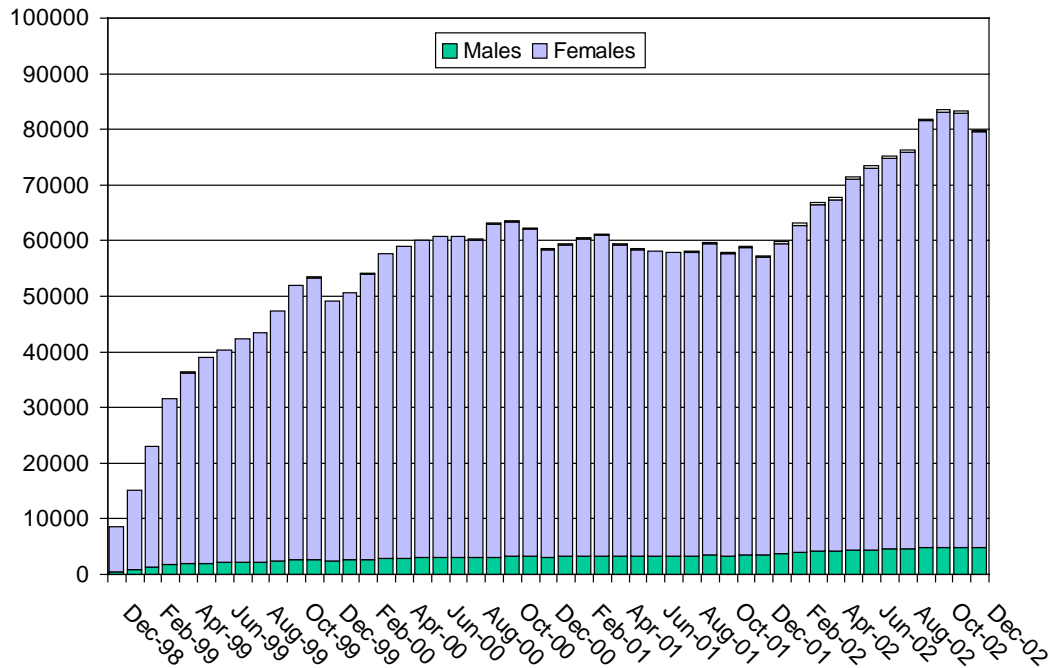
FIG 1: Numbers starting and leaving NDLP caseload



Women are more likely to have agreed to participate than men (86% against 82%). Younger lone parents are more likely to have agreed to participate - 90% of those aged under 25 agreed to join the caseload, compared to 84% of those aged 35-49, and 79% of those aged 50+.

Table 1b shows the number of lone parents participating on NDLP at the end of each month for the past year. Participants fluctuated between September and December, standing at 79,920. Of these participants, 23,490 (29%) had come through the Personal Adviser route.

FIG 2: Numbers participating on NDLP at month end



Over three-quarters of participants are aged 25 and over and just under a half have a youngest child aged 5 or under (age of youngest child is currently unknown for 7% of participants).

Over one in ten participants are from an ethnic minority group and one in twenty-five has a disability. London region accounts for about 17% of participants.

Table 2 summarises the job outcomes and education/training provision of lone parents. By the end of December, a total of 208,270 jobs (48% of starts to caseload) had been gained through NDLP, amongst 175,810 individual lone parents.

Of the 208,270 job gains, 9% were still on NDLP receiving in-work support at the end of December, with 91% having left NDLP for employment. 26,060 of the total jobs gained were amongst lone parents coming through the Personal Adviser route. Some 37,570 lone parents had started education or training.

FIG 3: Jobs gained through NDLP

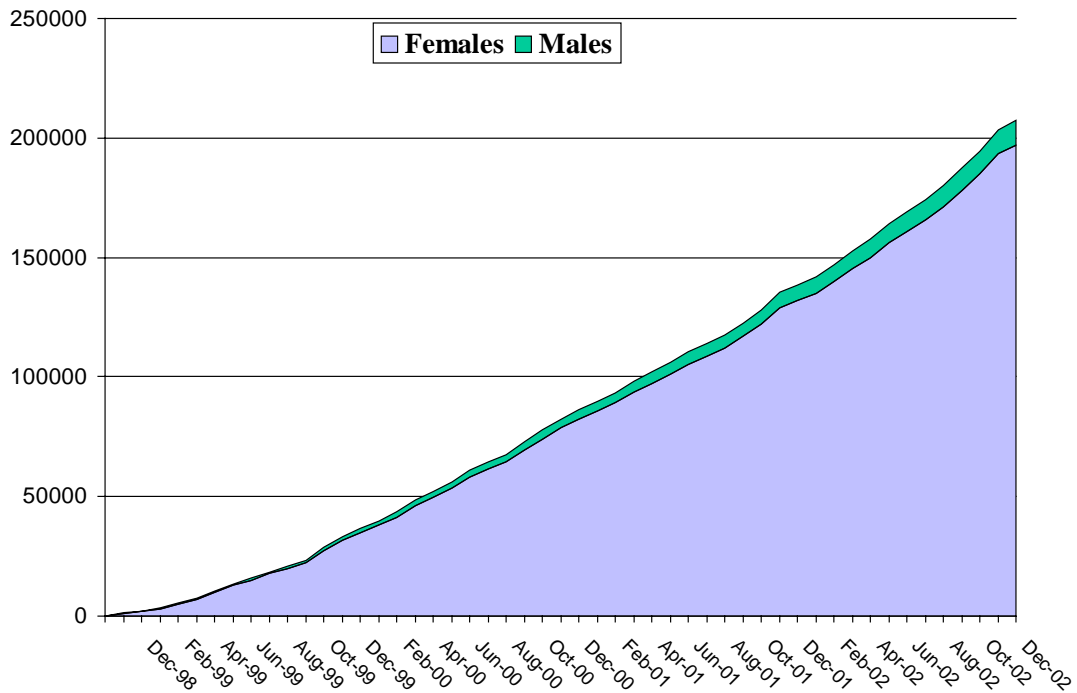


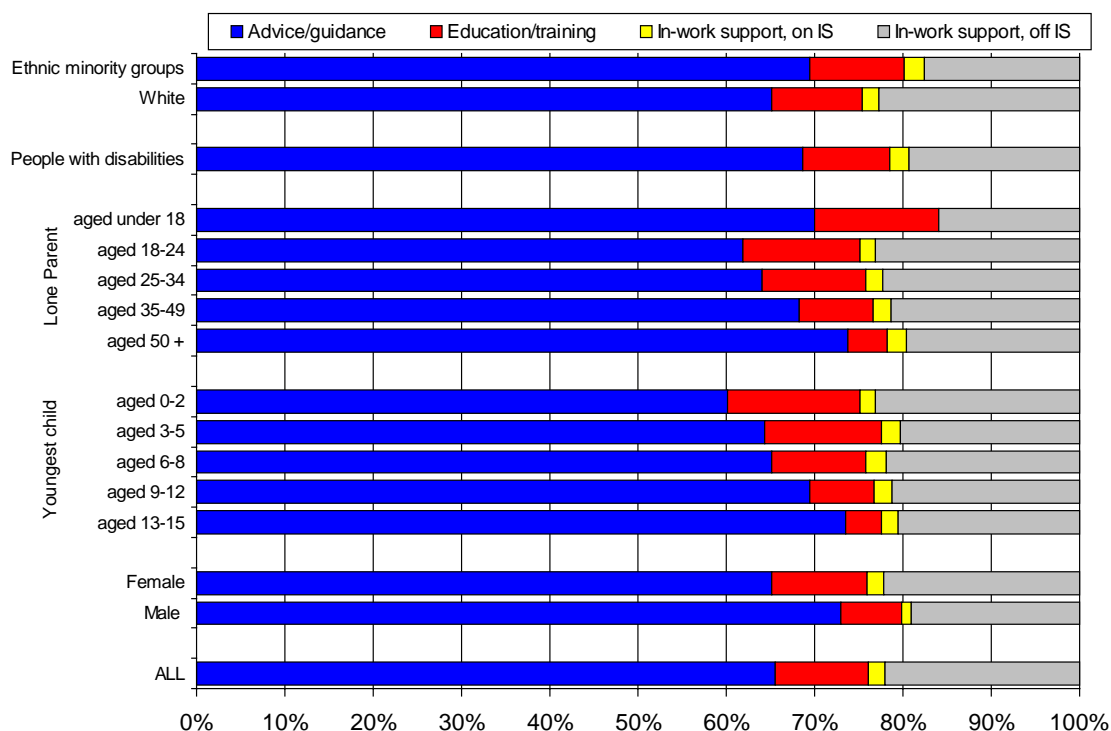
Table 3 shows where those participating at the end of December were in the NDLP process. Of the 79,920 participants, the majority (66%) were receiving advice and guidance from advisers. A further 8,410 (10%) were in education/training provision, and the remaining 19,100 (24%) were receiving in-work support. Of those receiving in-work support, 8% were on Income Support (generally working less than 16 hours per week) but the vast majority (92%) were no longer in receipt of Income Support.

Lone parents aged under 18 were more likely to be receiving advice and guidance (70%) than lone parents who were aged between 18-24 (62%). This group were, in turn, more likely than older lone parents to be receiving advice and guidance.

People from ethnic minority groups are less likely to be receiving in-work support whilst on NDLP (20% against 25% for whites).

About 29% of lone parents participating at end of December came onto NDLP through the PA process.

FIG 4: Type of participation on NDLP by characteristics, December 2002



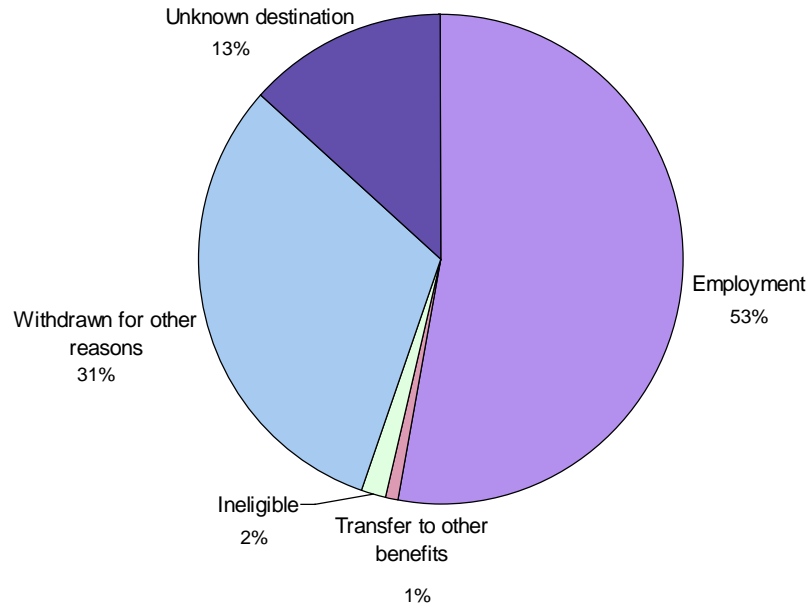
In terms of NDLP participation for Jobcentre Plus regions, London accounts for the largest proportion of participants (17%), North East region the smallest (5%). Wales accounts for 8% and Scotland for 11% of participants. There is some variation between regions in the proportion receiving in-work support.

Table 4 shows the immediate destination of the 357,800 lone parents who have left the NDLP caseload. Of these leavers, 53% (189,170) left for employment, 1% (3,150) transferred to other benefits, 31% (112,490) withdrew for other reasons but remained on Income Support, 2% (5,230) were no longer eligible, and 13% (47,770) left for unknown destinations. Of those who have withdrawn and whose destination is unknown, a proportion will have found work, but will not have been recorded as such on the systems which generate the data. Of the leavers with a known destination, 63% have left Income Support and 37% remained on Income Support.

Men are less likely to have left NDLP for employment than women (47% for men against 53% for women). Lone parents whose youngest child is aged 13-15 are more likely to leave Income Support for employment than lone parents whose youngest child is aged under 2.

Cumulative data to the end of December 2002 is shown for people with disabilities, and people from ethnic minority groups. People with disabilities are less likely to have left for employment, and people from ethnic minority groups are much less likely to have left for employment.

FIG 5: Leavers from the NDLP caseload by destination, to December 02



Wales has the highest proportion leaving for employment (60%) and London the lowest proportion (40%).

Table 5 shows the number of lone parents participating in the Personal Adviser (PA) process and for the first time includes the number of lone parents who have had 6 or 12-month PA Review meetings. Estimates to December 2002 show 392,900 lone parents had participated in the process – 222,940 of these were lone parents making new/repeat Income Support claims, 141,870 were already claiming Income Support and 28,100 were lone parents with Review meetings. Overall, 82% have attended a PA meeting. Around 2% of lone parents had the PA meeting deferred and a further 0.4% had the meeting waived. Of the remaining 16% of lone parents, the majority had been booked for a PA meeting but not yet attended.

Of the 321,630 lone parents attending a PA meeting, 95,290 (30%) agreed to attend an NDLP initial interview.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- 1 **Introduction:** The statistics in this First Release cover participants in Phase 3 of the New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP) in Great Britain, Phase 3 being the full national programme which was implemented on 26 October 1998. This programme is aimed at all lone parents on Income Support, but is open to all lone parents not in full-time employment (with a child under 16). Previously, Phase 1 began on 21 July 1997 in 8 prototype areas, and Phase 2, which ran from 6 May 1998, extended NDLP services to all lone parents nationally making new or repeat claims for Income Support (but excluded lone parents who were already benefit recipients.)
- 2 **Objectives of the NDLP Programme:** The objective of the NDLP programme is for lone parents to be offered advice by the Jobcentre Plus to develop a package of job search, training and after-school care to help them off benefit and into work. The service is delivered through Jobcentres, and Personal Advisers will deliver a tailored package of advice and support to meet the needs of individual lone parents. Participation in the NDLP is on a voluntary basis.
- 3 **Eligibility:** The programme is available to all lone parents (aged 16+ and with a child under 16) not in work or working less than 16 hours per week on a voluntary basis. Lone parents in receipt of Income Support, with a youngest child aged 3 years and over, are sent an invitation letter explaining what the service could offer.
- 4 **Personal Adviser Meetings:** From 30th April 2001 Personal Adviser Meetings were introduced for lone parents on Income Support. Initially, lone parents making a new/repeat claim had to attend a PA meeting if their youngest child was at least 5 years and 3 months old. Those who had ongoing ('stock') claims at 30th April 2001 had to attend a PA meeting if their youngest child was aged 13 to 15 years and 9 months. Since April 1st 2002 PA meetings have been extended to new/repeat claimants with youngest child of at least 3 years old and for stock claimants with youngest child of 9 years or over. All lone parents who continue to claim Income Support a year after attending their initial PA meeting have to attend an annual review meeting. The first of these took place in April 2002. Lone parents making a new/repeat claim since April 1st '02, and who continue to claim IS 6 months after attending their initial PA meeting, have to attend a 6-month Review meeting. The first of these took place in October 2002.
- 5 **Outline of NDLP process:** Following the initial adviser interview, lone parents may either agree or decline to join the NDLP caseload. Whilst on the caseload participants will receive a package of support and guidance to help them into jobs. The support is wide-ranging, from encouraging lone parents to identify their skills and develop confidence to seek work, to the more practical aspects of applying for jobs, finding childcare, identifying training opportunities, calculating how much better off they can be in work and sorting out in-work benefits. Personal advisers can also provide an in-work support service to help lone parents with any difficulties encountered while making the transition into employment.

- 6 The NDLP can also help arrange places on Jobcentre Plus programmes and Work Based Learning for Adults, or advise and support lone parents who need to undertake other training that will lead into work. Where, in discussion, advisers agree that a particular course is needed, they may award financial assistance, (where the course is not provided free of charge, and within agreed limits), to cover necessary fees and fares, and childcare costs to support periods of training.
- 7 **Source of the data:** The original source of most of the data in this Statistical First Release is the Labour Market System (LMS) installed in the Jobcentre Plus local offices. This is an IT system that is used to record the Jobcentre Plus contacts with clients. It maintains a basic client record; allows the preferred occupations stated by clients to be matched against suitable vacancies; records actions such as interviews, referrals to training opportunities, placings in jobs etc. In particular, it has been significantly enhanced to record New Deal-specific actions.
- 8 The relevant data are extracted from the main system each month and added to a New Deal Evaluation Database maintained by DWP's Information and Analysis Directorate. This Evaluation Database also incorporates data from other sources: data on claimant unemployment extracted from the Joint Unemployment and Vacancies Operating System (JUVOS) maintained by the Office for National Statistics, which is the primary source of published statistics on claimant unemployment; data from the Work Based Learning for Adults (WBLA) Database maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions, and data on age of youngest child of lone parents from the ISCS system again maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 9 **Definitions:** the following notes explain the definitions underlying the data presented here, except where these are self-explanatory - e.g. gender, age on entry.
- 10 **Date of entry:** an individual is generally deemed as starting NDLP from the date they join the caseload.
- 11 **Leaving the New Deal for Lone Parents:** when an individual leaves NDLP they are recorded according to their destination on leaving, as follows:-
- to employment* (either on or off Income Support);
- transferred to other benefits.* Refers to lone parents making a claim for a more appropriate benefit e.g. Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA);
- no longer eligible* due to a change in circumstances. For example, lone parents who re-partner;
- withdrawn for other reasons.* Lone parents who remain on Income Support but withdraw from the caseload for reasons other than 'found employment'.
- unknown destinations.* Lone parents who leave for reasons other than those listed above or with a leaving code of 'not known'. It should be noted that these cases are 'not known' as far as the statistical reporting systems are concerned - in some cases, staff in Jobcentres may know the reason for the individual ceasing to claim, but this is not captured systematically by LMS.

- 12 **People with a disability:** this entry is based on the individual's own assessment and signed confirmation given to Jobcentre Plus staff, that the person believes themselves to be disabled in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act definition. That is, they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. (Note that this will not necessarily be consistent with sources such as the Labour Force Survey, which rely entirely on self-assessment, without further discussion or endorsement.)
- 13 **Ethnic origin:** The basis of the data is self-assessment by the individual client. The categories are consistent with those used by the Office for National Statistics for the 2002 Census.
- 14 **Region:** This Statistical First Release includes a summary breakdown for Scotland, Wales and the regions of England. The regions are Jobcentre Plus regions, rather than Government Office regions. The Jobcentre Plus regions are: Scotland; Wales; London; South East; East; East Midlands; West Midlands; South West; Yorkshire and the Humber; North East; North West.

Further Information

- 1 More detailed information on NDLP can be found on the Internet at: www.newdeal.gov.uk

Enquiries

- 2 Public enquiries about the information in this Statistical First Release should be addressed to: Deborah Pritchard, Information Centre, Analytical Services Division, DWP on 0114-259 5399.
- 3 Press enquiries should be addressed to Press Office 0207-238-0866.