

JobsPlus interim evaluation

Webinar Q&A responses

November 2025

Has evidence from other programmes (e.g. Talent Match) aimed at supporting those furthest from the labour market informed delivery?

Evidence and evaluation from the US version of JobsPlus (which was also focused on supporting those furthest from the labour market) has been used to inform design and delivery. There was also an initial co-design process with housing associations, informed by what worked for other employment programmes ([Developing a Jobs-Plus model for the UK](#)). Alongside this, Learning and Work Institute has drawn on existing evidence of what works (such as [Evidence review: Employment support for people with disabilities and health conditions](#)) to provide technical assistance to pilot sites.

During the scoping of delivery and planning of KPIs, the team used performance indicators from previous programmes, i.e. ESF engagement of hard-to-reach client groups, to inform the targets and ambitions around engagement and job starts.

Is part of the analysis to work out the down-the-line savings for Treasury to make the case that investing a little now saves a lot for later?

No, looking at potential long-term savings for Treasury is out of scope of the current evaluation.

Did the pilot work include rural and island contexts to evaluate its suitability for regions with added challenges like depopulation?

Pilot sites are in a mix of urban and rural settings but there is no island context. A list of the pilot sites is available [here](#). The final report will aim to understand how different contexts, including rural/urban geographies affected implementation and outcomes.

Sites were shortlisted by housing association partners and selected for a range of factors including:

- The existence of a community of 600-1000 households in a defined geographic area
- High levels of unemployment or economic inactivity and other IMD indicators
- Lack of investment, and/or lack of engagement with services including employment support
- A prevailing culture of worklessness – often intergenerational

How does the JobsPlus pilot and evaluation fit in with Trailblazer and Accelerator areas that have received funding to support goals of the Get Britain Working White Paper? Does anyone have oversight of JobsPlus and trailblazer pilots/other activities to draw together learning?

Some JobsPlus pilot sites are based in Trailblazer areas, for example, six sites are located in areas that are part of Youth Guarantee Trailblazer delivery. Through interviews with housing associations and local partners in the next stage of the evaluation, we are seeking to understand how Trailblazer activity is influencing the JobsPlus pilot, and conversely how JobsPlus delivery may be shaping Trailblazer implementation. In some areas, Combined/Local Authorities are working in partnership with the pilot and may be involved in its governance. In these cases, they would have access to information on progress and learning. At a national level, senior DWP policy officials oversee the pilot and ensure lessons are shared across relevant teams, to draw together learnings and strengthen the evidence base for future policy.

Were challenges identified by the interim evaluation (e.g. employer engagement) also faced by providers in the US? Are there any learnings about how to deal with these?

Many of the same challenges identified were also experienced in the US context, particularly the time required to build trust in a community before engagement in the programme could occur. In terms of employer engagement, JobsPlus in the US had dedicated members of staff for employer engagement, which was a successful approach to raising the profile of JobsPlus among local employers and building links.

Where to site the community hubs for best impact?

Hubs work well when they are at the heart of the local community – i.e. centrally located in visible/well-known buildings. This had the benefits of hubs being easily accessible to all residents, building trust, and raising awareness of JobsPlus.

Will you use pre-intervention baseline figures and/or comparison groups to evaluate impact?

The implementation and process evaluation will measure distance travelled for JobsPlus participants using a baseline (pre-intervention) survey and a follow-up survey completed 6 months after enrolment. The survey captures information on mental wellbeing, job search self-efficacy, support needs and aspirations, financial inclusion, and recent work history.

We are also conducting an impact evaluation that uses DWP and HMRC pre-intervention data from the pilot sites and a set of comparison areas, along with information on outcomes, to estimate the impact of JobsPlus on employment, earnings, and benefit receipt.

Will you compare to similar previous programmes like New Deal for Communities which ended up with little evidence of long term impact?

No, this is not part of the proposed evaluation approach. We will triangulate evidence from the counterfactual impact evaluation and the implementation and process evaluation. Given differences between previous programmes and JobsPlus and potential contextual differences, a comparison is not straightforward and could lead to misleading interpretations. The current JobsPlus evaluation focuses on short- to medium-term outcomes; the evaluation design allows for the potential to extend analysis into the longer term through follow-up of administrative and survey data. This would enable us to assess the longer-term impacts of JobsPlus and provide valuable evidence on its lasting contribution to employment and progression.

Can you give a bit more detail about the delivery organisations for JobsPlus and the contracting arrangements for implementing partners. Are these social sector organisations? With a history of delivering employment support? Will you be preparing sub-group analysis for providers in the quant impact analysis?

JobsPlus is being delivered by housing associations and, in some cases, contracted partners. Many housing associations have experience of delivering employability support to their residents, including through in-house employability teams. Many housing associations have built on strong existing partner networks to implement JobsPlus. At the time of the interim research, key partners commonly included the local authority, further education and training providers, voluntary and community sector organisations and Jobcentre Plus. Partners supported outreach activities and publicised the JobsPlus pilot, delivered employment support, and provided more specialist support.

There were examples of more formal partnership arrangements underpinned by contracts and service level agreements, and informal collaborations more reliant on

sharing knowledge and resources. Delivery partners were wide-ranging and included training providers and local colleges, health and wellbeing charities, family support providers, debt advice and money management services. In some cases, where space allowed, delivery partners were co-located in community hubs. In other instances, referrals were made.

We are not currently planning to conduct any subgroup analyses at this stage to assess differences in impact between providers. At this stage, we can only examine short-term outcomes for an early cohort of participants, so it is not advisable to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of different providers based on the data available so far.

Is JobsPlus being rolled out on a franchise basis given it originated in the States?

No, JobsPlus in the US was not rolled out on a franchise or licensing basis. It is a grant-funded initiative administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. In the UK, currently, JobsPlus is being tested as a pilot on the ten sites across England. We are working with other areas, and housing associations are interested in applying the JobsPlus model in their communities. Interested parties can reach out to Learning and Work Institute via enquiries@learningandwork.org.uk to discuss introducing JobsPlus elsewhere in the UK.

I'm interested to hear more about the saturation / employer engagement element of the programme?

JobsPlus is available to all residents of a defined geographical area who wish to access employment support. This approach eliminates the avoidance of eligibility criteria associated with other employment schemes and reduces the stigma of being singled out for needing support. The aim is for residents to benefit directly by enrolling in the support or indirectly from peers, fostering a culture of work within the community. At the end of March 2025 (the period covered by the interim report), it was too early to comment on whether the pilots were on track to deliver the JobsPlus vision of saturation.

Jim Riccio, MDRC in the US (who has been involved in JobsPlus in the US since the 1990s), gave his views on the importance of the saturation approach as a key driver in reaching people from all backgrounds and groups within delivery areas.

Employer engagement was not a primary focus during the initial phase of pilot site activity, but there was evidence of some caseworkers proactively building employer connections.

For more detail on specific themes in the UK please see the [published interim evaluation](#).

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