

Appendix 2c: Other Audits and Grant Claims

Troubled Families Programme, Payments by Results Scheme Grant

Objective

To assess compliance with the terms and conditions of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) Financial Framework for making Payment by Result (PBR) claims under the Expanded Troubled Families Programme (Phase 2).

Background

The Financial Framework requires that Internal Audit verifies a 10% representative sample of PBR claims before they are made to ensure there is supporting evidence to confirm families:

- met the required criteria to be considered for entry to the expanded Troubled Families Programme
- have achieved either continuous employment or significant and sustained progress as defined by the Council's agreed Outcomes Plan.

Larger sample sizes may be required for smaller claims in order to ensure the audit is meaningful.

Conclusion

Between October 2019 and April 2020, 376 PBR claims were presented for audit prior to submission to the MHCLG.

The Team Manager reviews a minimum of 10% of claims to confirm appropriate evidence has been provided. Due to a number of claims coming from different teams within the Council and partners for the first time, the Team Manager extended these checks and reviewed 99 cases of the cases submitted.

Internal Audit randomly selected 39 claims for review, which included 12 checked by the Team Manager. For all but one claim, suitable evidence was available to support:

- entry into the programme
- a claim for either significant and sustained progress, or continuous / subsequent employment.

The one claim that was withdrawn was for continued employment, but due to the mother already being employed for three hours a week at the start of the programme, it did not meet the entry criteria. Having only one claim withdrawn from the numbers reviewed demonstrates that the Team Managers quality assurance checks are working effectively.

One of the cases submitted had previously been withdrawn as evidence was not available to demonstrate the mother's engagement with substance misuse agencies or a reduction in her cannabis use as required by the Council's Outcome Plan. This was reported in the Audit Committee update in October 2019. Further evidence has now been provided during this claim to demonstrate this outcome has been met and the case has therefore been included in this claim.

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Troubled Families Programme Extension 2020/21

Early in 2020 the MHCLG announced that they would be extending the Troubled Families programme for a further 12 months, up until March 2021.

As a result of the extension, the Financial Framework issued by MHCLG has been updated and the Troubled Families Team Manager has consulted with Internal Audit and updated the Outcome Plan to reflect the changes required. This is currently with MHCLG for review and agreement.