

1 Context

The WY-FI Research and Evaluation Team were asked to review the data for beneficiaries of WY-FI in Bradford in respect of their housing need and outcomes related to housing.

The reader is expected to be broadly familiar with the main aspects of WY-FI – more information can be found at www.wy-fi.org.uk. Some aspects, particularly in relation to beneficiary assessment will be covered in more detail in this paper. One important thing to note is that WY-FI does not purport to be a randomised controlled trial of an “intervention”. WY-FI beneficiaries present with differing circumstances and varying combinations of needs and exclusion. The principle is to approach each person in the same way but each beneficiary receives a personalised support experience. At the same time WY-FI collects around 120 items of data about each person, a significant number of these are collected quarterly. With over 700 beneficiaries this constitutes a significant body of data in which definite patterns can be observed. These patterns of experience are the evidence provided in this paper.

2 General

There have been 171 WY-FI beneficiaries on the programme to date, 84% of whom were identified as having a housing need on referral into the programme. Identification of being in housing need in WY-FI goes beyond the statutory definition of homelessness to include a wide range of housing vulnerabilities, such as sofa surfing or living in time-limited temporary accommodation.

3 Housing Outcome Star Scores

Housing Outcome Star (HOS) scores are recorded 6 monthly and are a subjective assessment by the beneficiary of their situation at the time. The Star operates on a ten point scale covering ten different points (i.e. points of the star) representing areas of a beneficiary’s life. One of the points is Managing a Tenancy and Accommodation.

The table below shows the outcomes for the number of beneficiaries on four different bands of journey length.

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need/ Journey Length	Average improvement on the Managing Tenancy Scale	Negative	No Change	Positive	Total number
less than 12 months	0.77	17	15	24	56
12-24 months	1.61	12	7	32	51
24-36 months	2.05	2	1	18	21
more than 36 months	1.31	1	4	5	10

Expressed in Percentage Terms of each journey length group the table looks like this:

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need/ Journey Length	Negative	No Change	Positive
less than 12 months	30%	27%	43%
12-24 months	24%	14%	63%
24-36 months	10%	5%	86%
more than 36 months	10%	40%	50%

4 New Directions Team Assessment

The New Directions Team Assessment (NDTA or Chaos Index) is completed by the Navigator six monthly. It is a Professional assessment of where the beneficiary is at, at the time of assessment. Like the star it operates on a scale of one to four in six domains of an individual's life (and on a scale of two – eight in a further two domains). One of the domains is "accommodation" and the table below reflects the changes in scores of Bradford beneficiaries with a housing need.

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need/ Journey Length	Average improvement on the Accommodation Scale	Negative	No Change	Positive	Total number
less than 12 months	0.38	1	42	18	61
12-24 months	0.94	2	16	33	51
24-36 months	1.29	1	5	15	21
more than 36 months	0.74	0	3	7	10

Expressed in percentage terms of each journey length group the table looks like this:

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need/ Journey Length	Negative	No Change	Positive
less than 12 months	2%	69%	30%
12-24 months	4%	31%	65%
24-36 months	5%	24%	71%
more than 36 months	0%	30%	70%

5 Exits

To date 61 beneficiaries have exited WY-FI in Bradford. The exits are categorised as Unplanned, Not known and Planned. Although Unplanned Exits imply a lack of "success" often beneficiaries have made substantial improvements prior to unplanned exit. The high proportion of unknown outcomes relates to early beneficiaries for whom data may not have adequately been collected.

5.1 **HOS Outcomes and Exits** 47 Bradford beneficiaries with HOS assessments have exited from WY-FI, 31 unplanned and 16 planned. The numbers of beneficiaries with outcomes for unplanned are exits are as follows:

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need/ Journey Length	Average improvement	Negative	No Change	Positive	Total
less than 12 months	0.08	6	3	4	13
12-24 months	0.15	6	2	5	13
24-36 months	4.00	0	0	2	2
more than 36 months	0.39	1	2	0	3

Expressed in percentage terms of each journey length group the table looks like this:

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need/ Journey Length	Negative	No Change	Positive
less than 12 months	46%	23%	31%
12-24 months	46%	15%	38%
24-36 months	0%	0%	100%
more than 36 months	33%	67%	0%

The numbers of beneficiaries with outcomes for planned are exits are as follows:

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need and Unplanned Exit/ Journey Length	Average improvement	Neg	0	Pos	Total
less than 12 months	2.20	1	0	4	5
12-24 months	2.63	0	0	6	6
24-36 months	4.00	0	0	5	5
more than 36 months	2.89	0	0	0	0

Expressed in percentage terms of each journey length group the table looks like this:

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need/ Journey Length	Negative	No Change	Positive
less than 12 months	20%	0%	80%
12-24 months	0%	0%	100%
24-36 months	0%	0%	100%

more than 36 months	0%	0%	0%
---------------------	----	----	----

5.2 NDTA Outcomes and Exits 40 Beneficiaries have had “unplanned exits” from Bradford WY-FI and the NDTA outcomes for those with a housing need (33) are shown in the table below.

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need and Unplanned Exit/ Journey Length	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Total
less than 12 months	0	11	4	15
12-24 months	1	10	2	13
24-36 months	0	0	2	2
more than 36 months	0	1	2	3

Expressed in terms of each journey length group percentages the table looks like this:

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need and Unplanned Exit/ Journey Length	Negative	Neutral	Positive
less than 12 months	0%	73%	27%
12-24 months	8%	77%	15%
24-36 months	0%	0%	100%
more than 36 months	0%	33%	67%

21 Bradford beneficiaries have had “planned” exits and the NDTA outcomes for those with a housing need (19) are shown in the table below.

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need and Planned Exit/ Journey Length	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Total
less than 12 months	0	4	2	6
12-24 months	0	2	6	8
24-36 months	0	0	5	5
more than 36 months	0	0	0	0

Expressed in terms of each journey length group percentages the table looks like this:

Beneficiaries Having Housing Need and	Negative	Neutral	Positive

Planned Exit/ Journey Length			
less than 12 months	0%	67%	33%
12-24 months	0%	25%	75%
24-36 months	0%	0%	100%
more than 36 months	0%	0%	0%

6 Raw Data Conclusion

From this kind of headline data it is clear that an optimum journey length is between 12 and 36 months. There is also a strong correlation between the results from the Housing Outcome Star and the NDTA scores. This is corroborated by other analysis undertaken by the Research and Evaluation Team. It shows that almost half the beneficiaries have an outright improvement and a similar proportion have a neutral improvement. This is skewed somewhat by a high proportion of beneficiaries having been on WY-FI for less than 12 months. As the project progresses more of these will filter into the 12-24 month and ultimately the 24-36 month bands in which a greater proportion will show improvement in their assessment scores.

7 Individual Journey Analysis

The headline journey analysis masks various subtleties in the data. By exploring the individual scores taken at each assessment point for individual beneficiaries it can be seen that even if the eventual outcome is positive or negative there are peaks and troughs within individual journeys. In terms of the housing element of Bradford beneficiary journeys, roughly 20% to date demonstrate some kind of setback in either the HOS or the NDTA scores. What is notable is that of the 34 individuals that have “non-linear” journeys in either list, only 9 (5%) are shown to have non-linear journeys in *both* HOS and NDTA assessment scores.

8 Conclusions

Analysis of the data shows that it is reasonable to expect positive housing outcomes for WY-FI beneficiaries to become evident when they have been in support services for 12-36 months. The data shows that it is unrealistic to have recordable positive outcomes for all beneficiaries in housing need, although the number of people registering a “negative improvement” score is actually very low (3%), the overall proportion of registering a final neutral difference in their assessment scores is relatively high, even accounting for the high numbers overall who are still in their first 12 months of WY-FI.

The most important thing is that there are average improvements across the WY-FI beneficiary population in terms of housing and accommodation, as well as for those with an identified housing need.