

ESF provision for families with complex needs – the role of local authorities

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ESF...DWP, providers, and local authorities

- Provision contracted nationally; delivered through prime providers and their supply chain
 - Local authorities are the sole referral route for families to this provision. They have no contractual obligation
 - Local authorities already deliver these services to families. Provision must be locally integrated and aligned with local authority support
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Ways to deliver better local outcomes

- Help effectively target provision locally, and fit with similar Community Budget provision
 - Require providers to engage with local authorities, and help develop smooth referral process
 - Regular reporting to inform local authorities and local partners of the provision and how to engage
 - Involvement in shaping specification, evaluating bids and performance monitoring
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Local authority involvement to date

DWP listened...but was it enough?

- Established Local Authority Advisory Group
 - Invited to Specification and Approved Bidder stages
 - Local engagement events
 - Data on provider progress
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Making sure it works for families

- Crucial stage of launching provision
- Challenging referral numbers and timescales
- Depends on local relationships and negotiations
- Maintaining a dialogue locally throughout provision

Next steps

- Local authority input to monitor delivery
 - Plans to evaluate programme?
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