

CAPITAL CITY PARTNERSHIP



LONE PARENTS SUMMARY (2008)

Compiled by Stephen McMurray

Introduction

This summary updates information presented in 'The Position of Joined up for Jobs Target Groups' report in 2005. This report considered each target group and in addition to the categories below included; overlaps between the different target groups, perceived gaps in service provision, information gaps, and conclusions and recommendations. This report is available from CCP.

Scope

In terms of lone parent households with dependent children in Edinburgh, the census in 2001 found that there were **11,134** households, made up of **10,204** female and **930** male. Not surprisingly, the Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs) are three times more likely to be headed by a lone parent.

<u>TARGET GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER IN EDINBURGH</u>	<u>NOT WORKING</u>	<u>SOURCES</u>
Lone Parents	Likely to be around 12,000	5,520	Census 2001, Not working figure comes from national figure of 46% in 2004

Definition

Generally defined as - a mother or father living without a spouse (and not cohabiting) with his or her never-married dependent child or children aged either under 16 or from 16 to 19 and undertaking full-time education.

Employment

The employment rate in the UK for lone parents was 54% (Casebourne and Britton 2004). The figure in 2001 in Edinburgh of all lone parents aged 16-74 was slightly lower:

Employed Part Time	3,112 (24.3%)
Employed Full Time	3,313 (25.9%)
Unemployed	632 (4.9%)
Economically Inactive	5,725 (44.9%)

Benefits

As of May 2007, there were **4,910** Lone Parent Income Support claimants in Edinburgh.

Barriers to Employment

- More likely to have fewer qualifications.
- Availability and affordability of childcare.
- Social issues around lack of confidence and work skills.
- Managing the transition period between benefits and work.
- Issues around complexity of benefits system, lack of knowledge and delays in payment.
- Employer prejudice.
- Lone parents out of work are more likely to have health problems.
- Issues to do with legal aid and losing entitlement if earning money.

Employability Services

- **Edinburgh Childcare Information Service** – Provide childcare service details, prices, vacancies and how to get a place.
- **Gingerbread** – Provide childcare services and local information.
- **Jobcentre Plus** – operate the New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP)
In-work calculations, Job Search, help find training opportunities, several NDLP providers in City. Help find and organise registered childcare, Benefits advice.
- **Nisus Scotland** – Run a Women’s only integrated computer, communication and employability course.
- **One Parent Families Scotland** – Provide helpline, web site and online directory of local services.
- **PCT Partnership** – Run courses designed to help women return to the workplace.
- **Wester Hailes Representative Council** – Run computer classes for different groups; lone parents and carers are one group.
- **Women onto Work** – Though not targeted at lone parents, they offer 12 week prevocational courses for women wanting to return to work.

Further Reading

Casebourne, J. and Britton, L. (2004) Lone Parents, Health and Work, at www.cesi.org.uk

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