

Health Justice Partnerships:

Using social welfare legal services to tackle the social determinants of health

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A young boy in a black vest and grey pants is kicking a soccer ball on a paved surface. In the background, there is a stone building with graffiti on its walls and windows. A white shopping cart is tipped over on the grass to the left. The scene is somewhat gritty and urban.

**Social
determinants
of health**

**Income security
Early life
Education
Employment
Housing
Crime
Social inclusion**

Health harming unmet legal need



BENEFITS



HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



FAMILY



IMMIGRATION



DISCRIMINATION



DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



COMMUNITY
CARE



**GP surgery often first
place people seek help**



**Does the patient need anti-
depressants or to sort out
problem with housing,
benefits, family breakdown**



Health Justice Partnerships

Practitioner-led collaborations between health and free legal services for vulnerable groups

International development including UK, USA, Australia, Canada

Address health-harming legal needs and social determinants of health

What can HJPs do?

Take service to those who need it

Build on trust in health professionals

Combine health and legal tools for better outcomes

Train doctors to identify health harming unmet legal needs

Reach people early, improve material, mental and physical wellbeing

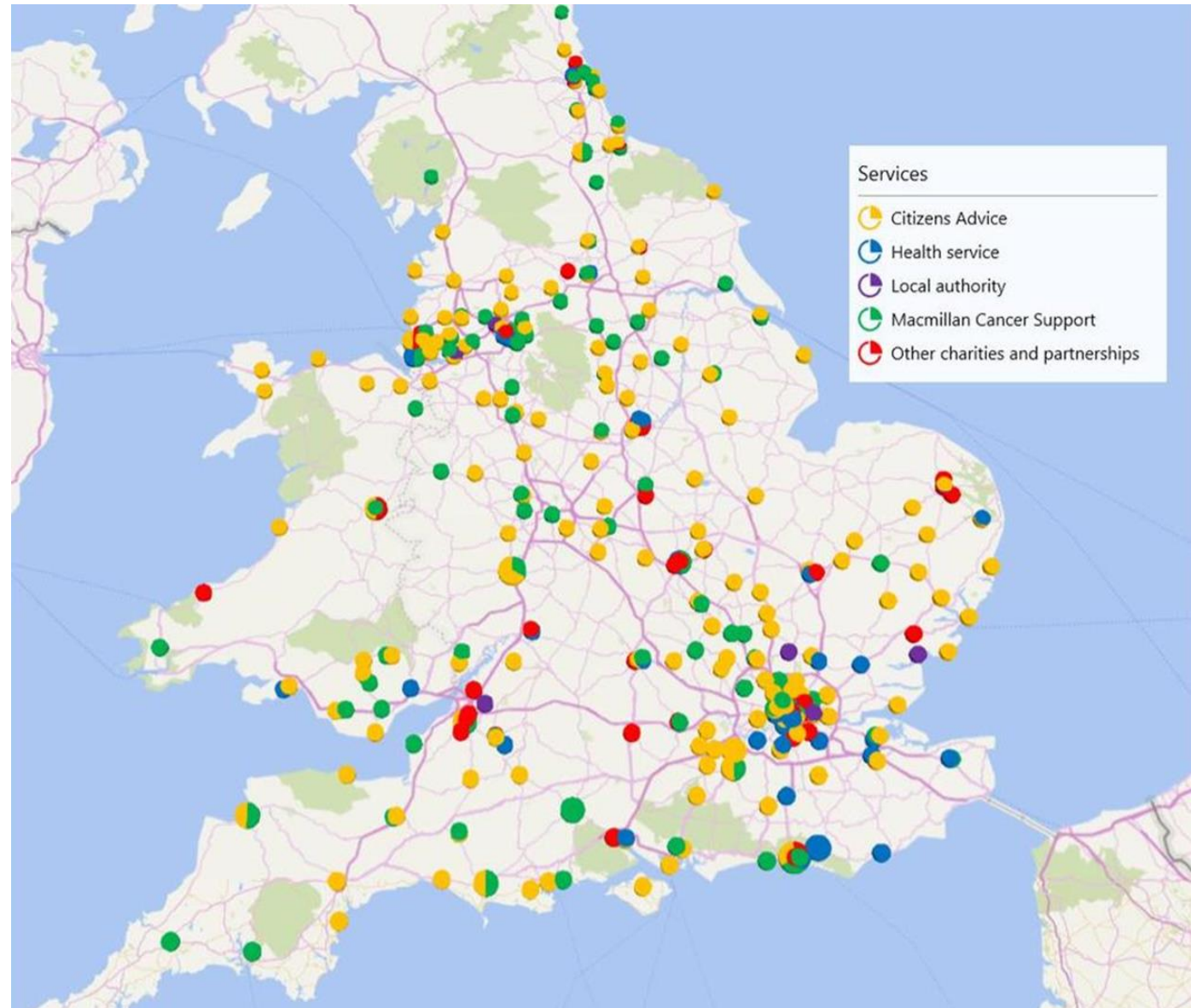
Support and **transform** community health services



Health Justice Landscape in England & Wales

Over 350 Collaborations

UCL Centre for Access
to Justice 2018



Continuum of collaboration

Fully integrated services -> referral systems

Lawyer part of healthcare team

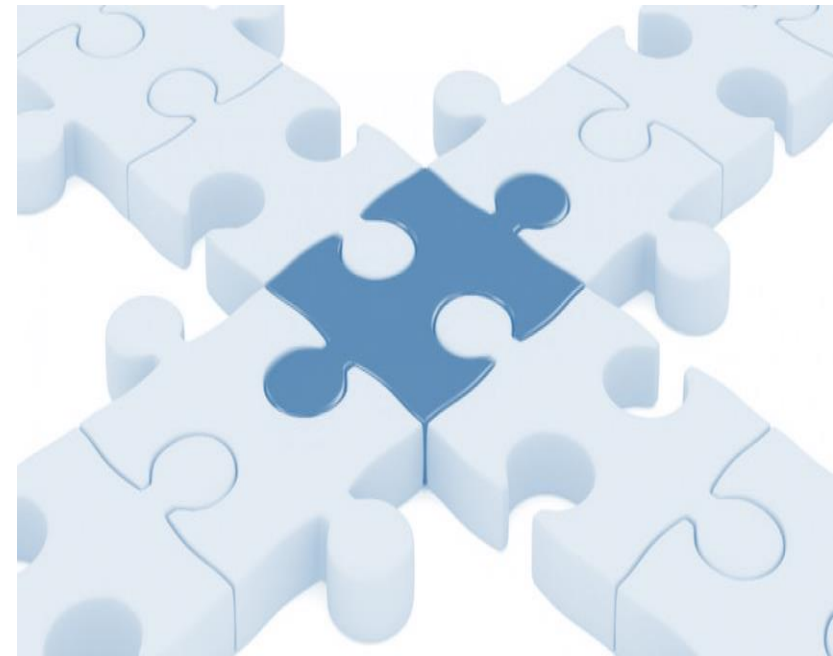
Co-located service

Pop-up services

Co-located link worker

Referral service

Fragile funding – local initiatives



Evidence on HJPs

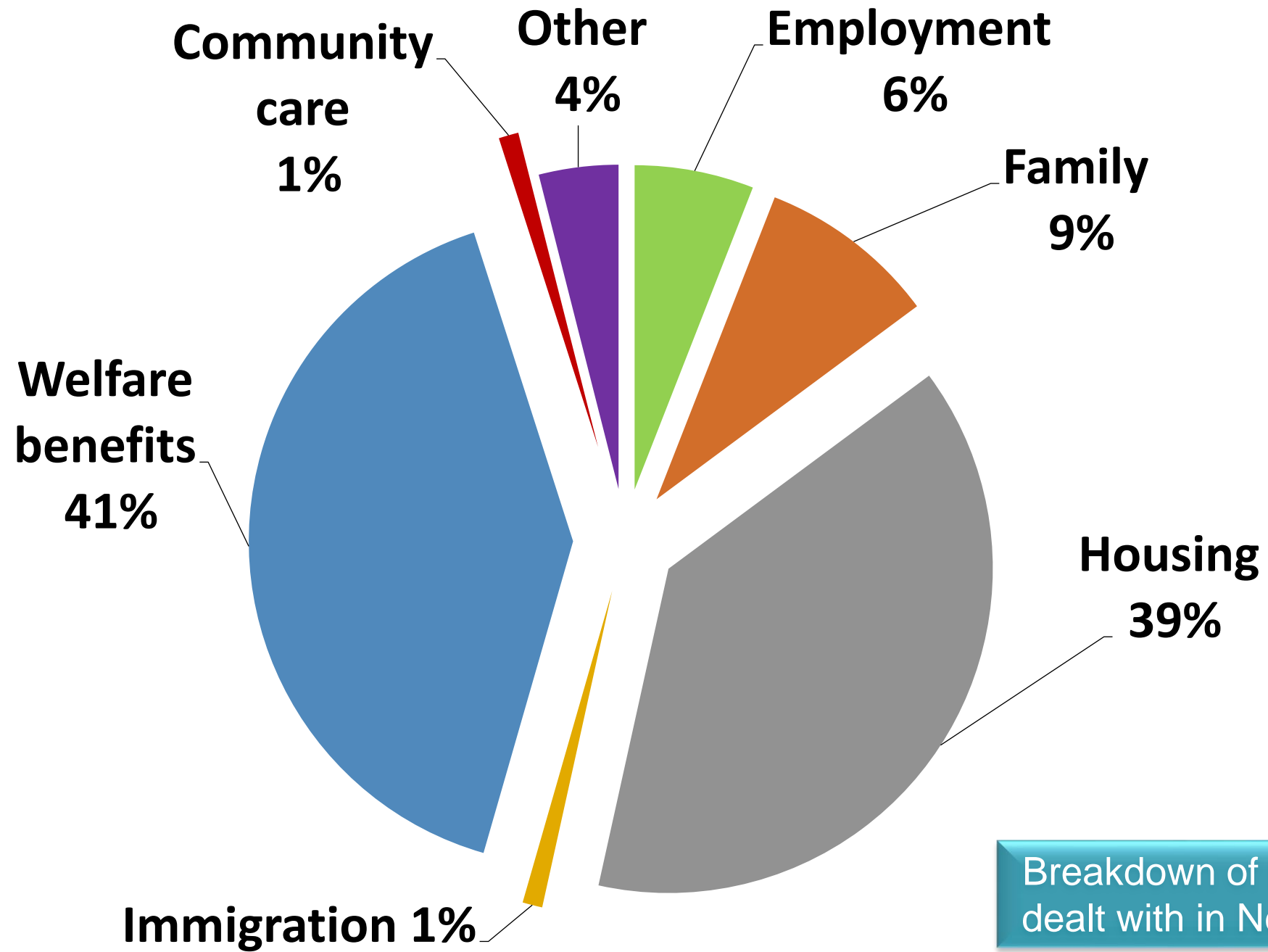
Improving	Improving access to legal assistance
Resolving	Resolving legal problems
Improving	Improving the social determinants of health
Reducing	Reducing health inequalities
Improving	Improving health and wellbeing
Supporting	Supporting healthcare services

UCL Health Justice Partnership

Pilot 2016-2018



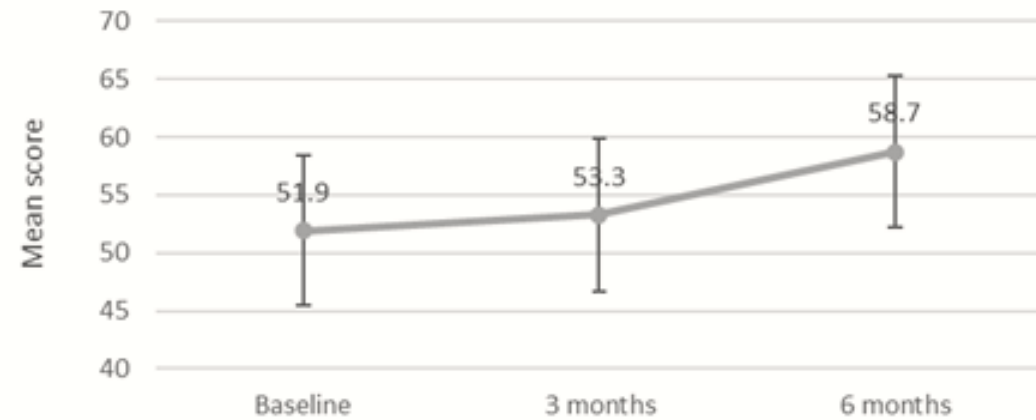
UCL CENTRE FOR
ACCESS TO JUSTICE



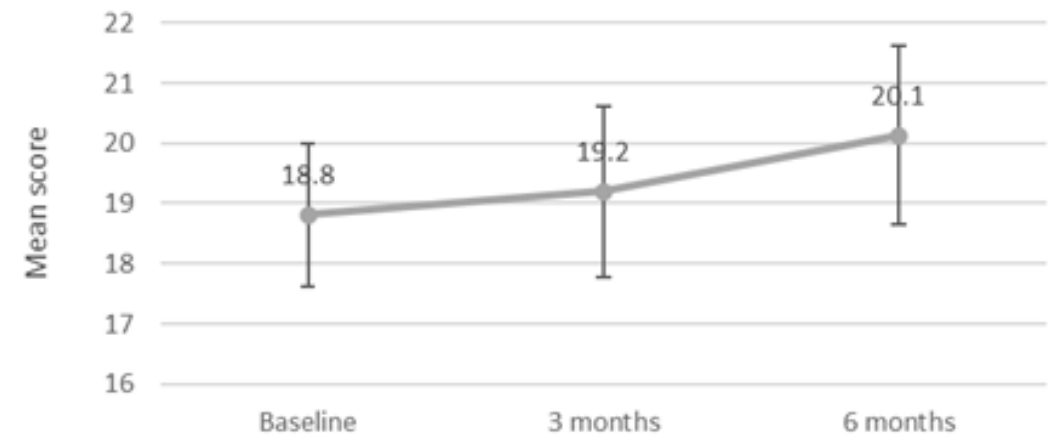
Breakdown of legal issues
dealt with in Newham HJP



Overall assessment of health (EQ5D VAS)



Assessment of mental wellbeing (SWEMWBS)



“We see a high proportion of social problems... I’d say there’s a social element to at least a third of the consultations that I deal with... It’s a lot easier to medicalise problems than to address social determinants... We have 10 minutes. We often have multiple problems to deal with... and sometimes it’s easier to ignore a problem than to try to take it on.

The co-location element is important... Patients are really delighted when you say ‘We’ve got this service and it’s in the next room or it’s one floor up’. Patients really like that.” **GP in practice.**



Ministry
of Justice

Legal Support: The Way Ahead

An action plan to deliver better support to
people experiencing legal problems



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all

Published 11 February 2021

The Department of Health and Social Care's legislative
proposals for a Health and Care Bill



NHS England Social prescribing

Now is the time for strategic development

What do we need?

Co-ordinated policy

Focus on benefit to the citizen

Integrate legal services in health settings

Embed legal advice in care pathways

Develop robust **evidence base**

Inter-professional education



<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/health-of-public/news-and-events/ucl-health-public-past-events/law-health-launch-event>

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/health-of-public/sites/health_of_public/files/law_for_health_hjp_final.pdf