How Al techniques can support improved outcomes for clients of a Yorkshire foodbank

Impact Aloud 2018

Tracey Gyateng, Data Science Manager, DataKind UK Andrew Tomlinson, Trustee, The Welcome Centre



What we do (most of which is **FREE!** for non profits)



Data Therapy

'Office hours'- light touch analytical support to non profitscome with any data question! **bit.ly/DKUKofficehrs**

Support to data scientists working in non profit organisations



DataDives

Working with non profits to provide insights into social problems: Two months of data scientists volunteering on data cleaning and defining questions, followed by two day analysis event

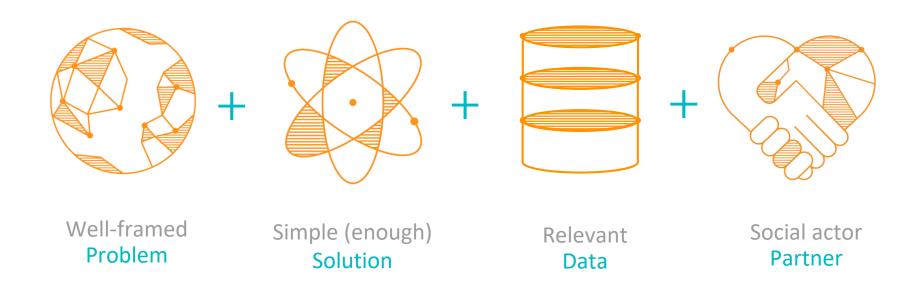


DataCorps projects

Six- nine month in depth projects embedded within a non profit organisation to develop data products



Ideal data for good projects have ...



The Welcome Centre

We are a food bank located in Huddersfield,
West Yorkshire, serving the South Kirklees area

 We offer practical support to local people in crisis by giving packs of basic essentials, and provide advice, support and guidance to clients with more complex issues





Headline Figures

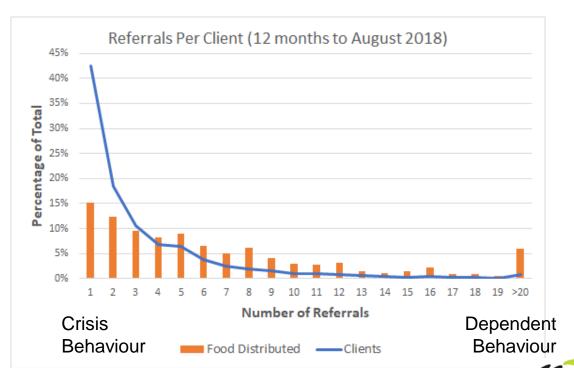








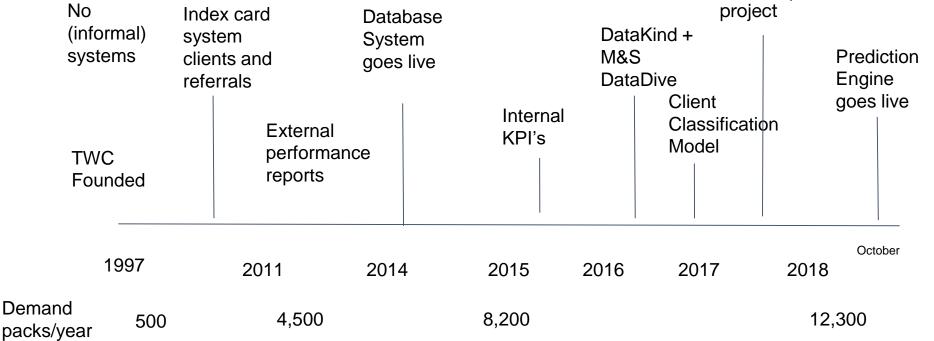
The Shape of our Demand



- Most clients visit relatively few times
- But the few clients who visit regularly consume a high proportion of resources and are at risk of becoming dependent
- Hence need for support



Our Data Journey





Esmée Fairbairn funded DataKind

DataCorps

Developing a Predictive Model of Likely Future Demand

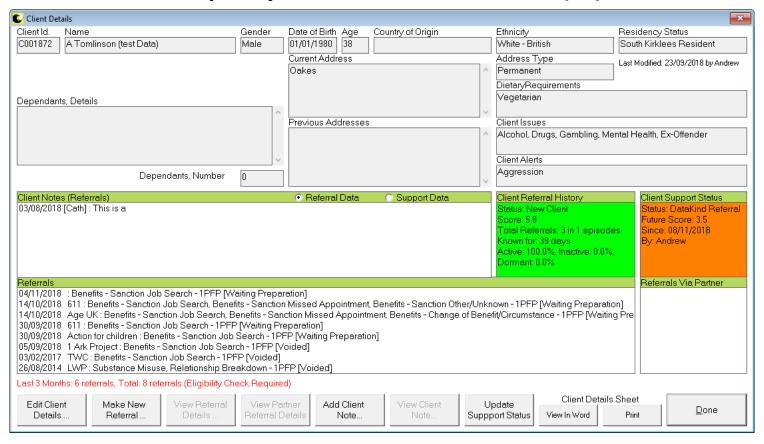
- Developed a measure of dependency (score based)
- Used existing client data:
 - 7,300 client records, 29,500 referral records
- Tested various statistical models, settling on random forest
- Trained model on past data to see how accurately it predicts historic cases
- Currently in pilot phase
- Not an automated process, humans decide who is and isn't treated







Deployment of model (1)

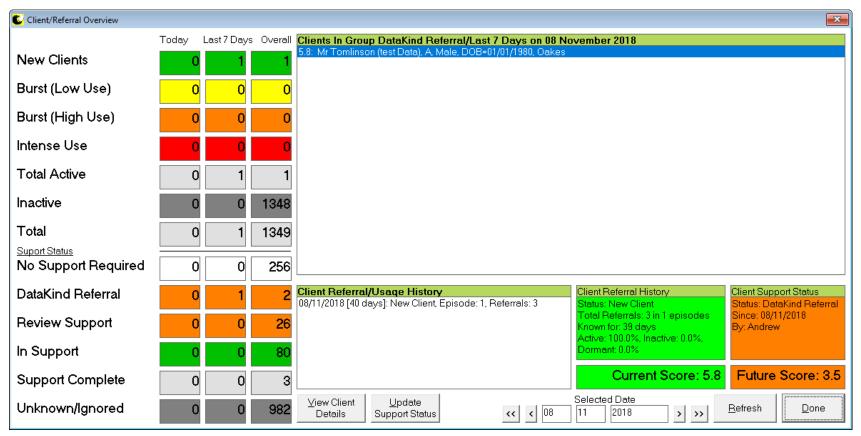


GDPR compliance, Fairness, Accountability and Transparency

- TWC is committed to GDPR compliance in collecting, storing, and processing data
- Client data is received from third party referral agencies, with informed client consent
- http://thewelcomecentre.org/wp/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/18-Privacy-Notice.pdf



Deployment of model (2)



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR TWC

As in any organisation good data is important and can improve business processes and support operational and strategic decision making

Our work with DataKind UK has encouraged us to think more critically on how we can best use data we have available

A small charity can use cutting edge AI techniques to enhance the service offered

Support worker involvement remains key to our process, the predictive model just allows client support interventions to occur earlier rather than later



WE DATA

Get in touch and get involved! tracey@datakind.org.uk www.datakind.org/chapters/datakind-uk



Get in Contact









http://thewelcomecentre.org/

We are always looking for projects to further develop our service



The Welcome Centre food bank and more...