

The background features a dark blue gradient with faint, light blue circular patterns and numbers. The numbers include 40, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 210, 220, 250, and 260, arranged in a circular fashion. There are also dashed lines and arrows forming circular paths.

LINKING ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLANS WITH SUPPORTING GENDER EQUALITY BODIES AND SERVICES

Session 2:
Ensuring that recovery
measures reinforce gender
equality- related bodies and
services

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wbg WOMEN'S BUDGET GROUP

The Women's Budget Group is an independent network of leading academic researchers, policy experts and campaigners. Our vision is of a caring economy that promotes equality between genders. For over 30 years we have examined economic policy and asked 'who benefits?'. We produce robust analysis and aim to influence the people making policy. We also work to build the knowledge and confidence of others to talk about feminist economics by offering training and creating accessible resources.

- Network of over 1000 academics, NGOs, trade unions, public.
- analysis of the UK budget each year
- We put forward economic policies for a more gender equal future
- We scrutinise government economic policy from a gender perspective
- We build capacity of women and women's groups to participate in economic debate

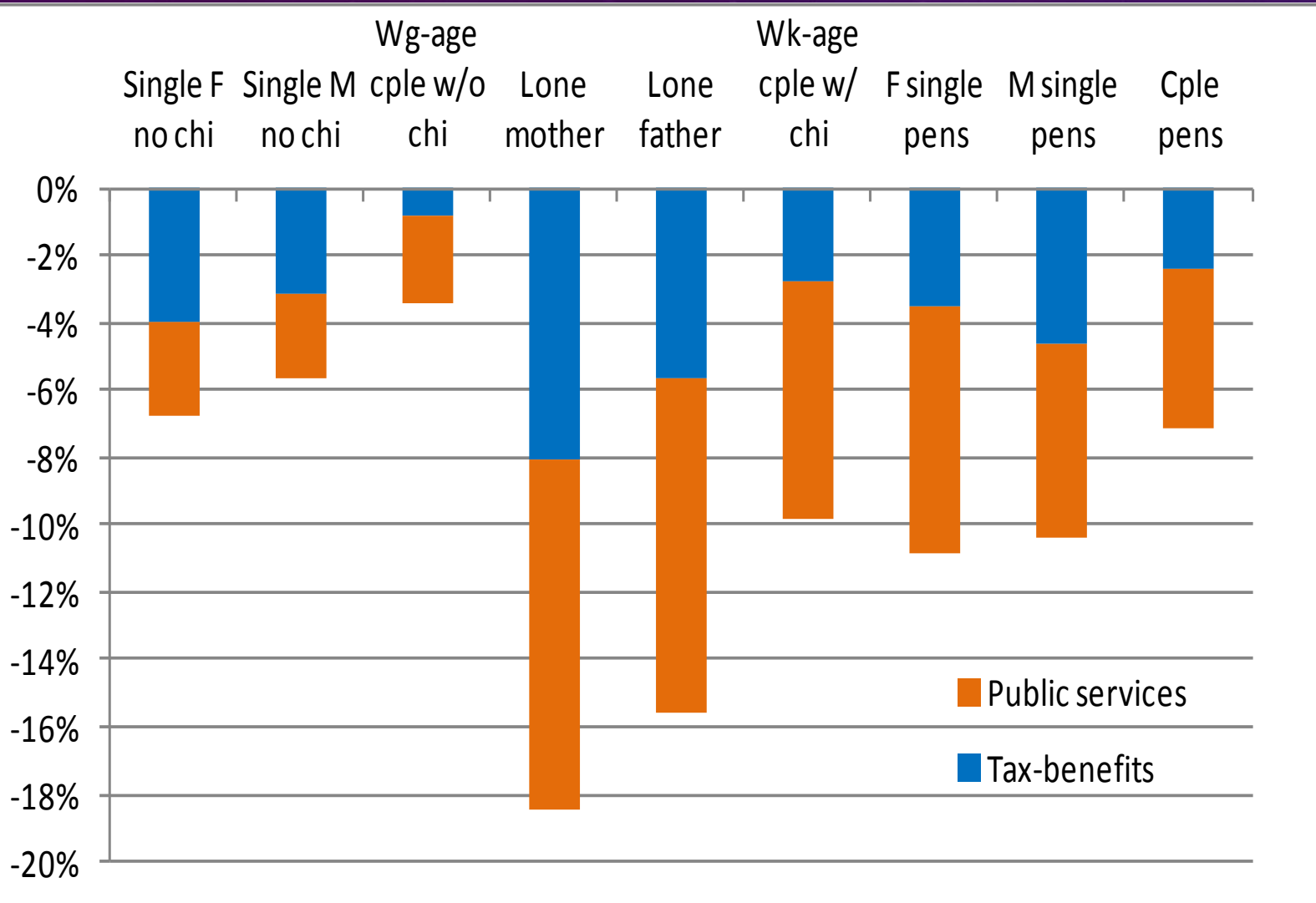
A GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGET

- is a budget that works for everyone (women and men, girls and boys)
- ensures gender-equitable distribution of resources contributing to equal opportunities for all
- is essential both for gender justice and for fiscal justice.
- It means analysing government budgets for their effect on women and men and the gender norms and roles associated with them.
- It means transforming these budgets to ensure that gender equality commitments are realized.

LINKING PLANS TO GENDER EQUALITY BODIES

- **Global/Regional bodies – UN Women, Council of Europe**
- **Category A national human rights institutions**
- **Government Ministries - Finance and Gender**
- **Parliamentary committees**
- **Women’s organisations – Women’s Budget Groups**
- **State and charity services for women**

CUMULATIVE REAL-TERM CHANGE IN TAXES, CASH BENEFITS AND THE VALUE OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY GENDERED HOUSEHOLD TYPE (% OF LIVING STANDARDS, 2010-20)



- **Service cuts more drastic than tax-benefit changes**
- **Single female-headed households hit harder**
- **Lone mothers lose 20% of living standards (disposable income + value of service)**
- **63% of the cuts borne by single female pensioners are from social care**

THE VALUE OF KEY WORKERS IN THE UK

- **Coronavirus has shown that how we value work needs to change.**
- **Those who have kept society going are ‘key workers’ - bus drivers, supermarket and care workers.**
- **Women are twice as likely to be key workers as men**
- **39% of working mothers are key workers compared with just 27% of the working population as a whole**
- **BAME and migrant women are overrepresented**
- **low paid, insecure, often zero hours contracts**

Case study 5

Public investment in social infrastructure

Social infrastructure includes all the services that provide health care, education, longterm care and childcare. The economy is dependent on both social and physical infrastructure.



Free universal childcare in the UK would cost about 3% of GDP and would create nearly

2 million full time jobs



75% would go to women

Childcare investment would reduce unemployment

Much of the investment would be **recouped** through tax revenue

+
reduced social security **spending** on out-of-work **benefits** as employment is created

+
earnings are increased

Investment in the care economy creates jobs in the care industry and releases women back into the labour market to undertake skilled work

Walby: costs of domestic violence in England & Wales 2001, 2008



	Costs 2001 £m	Costs 2008 £m
Services	3111	3856
Economic Output	2672	1920
Human and emotional costs	17,086	9954
Total	22,869	15,730

EIGHT STEPS TO A CARING ECONOMY

1. Re- envision what we mean by 'the economy'



2. Invest in social and physical infrastructure



3. Transform the worlds of paid and unpaid work



4. Invest in a caring social security system based on dignity and autonomy



5. Transform the tax systems across the UK



6. Refocus fiscal & monetary policy on building a caring economy



7. Work to develop a trade system that is socially and environmentally sustainable



8. Work to transform the international economic system

