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**TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on the progress made on the Troubled Families Programme.

**Summary**

2. The Government introduced a three year Troubled Families Programme in April 2012 with a commitment that nationally 120,000 Troubled Families would be "turned around" by the end of Parliament (2015). The cohort of families to be identified and worked with would be characterised by certain factors and therefore causing a 'high financial risk to the public purse:
  - (a) no adults in the family working;
  - (b) children not being in school;
  - (c) family members being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
3. Darlington have a 'dedicated team' model which builds on the already existing Family Intervention Team. This team is multi-disciplinary and works intensively with families to make positive and sustainable change. The additional finance available via the Troubled Family Programme has expanded this team and the number of families it is able to work with.
4. To date, the team have identified 320 households who meet the troubled families criteria and 171 who have met the outcomes and are eligible for Payment by Results.

**Recommendation**

5. It is recommended that the report and progress made is noted.

**Murray Rose  
Director Services for People**

## Background

6. The Government introduced a three year Troubled Families Programme in April 2012 with a commitment that nationally 120,000 Troubled Families would be “turned around” by the end of Parliament (2015). The cohort of families to be identified and worked with would be characterised by certain factors and therefore causing a ‘high financial risk to the public purse:
  - (a) no adults in the family working;
  - (b) children not being in school;
  - (c) family members being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
7. The families often have other entrenched and complex problems, such as domestic abuse, relationship breakdown, mental and physical health needs and deprivation which may span generations.
8. Within Darlington the requirement was to identify and “turn around” 275 families. To achieve success, the Council has to demonstrate:
  - (a) a reduction in the unauthorised school absences for the children in the household;
  - (b) a reduction in youth crime;
  - (c) a reduction in anti-social behaviour across the whole family;
  - (d) an adult in the family moving into continuous employment or accessing a work programme.

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| S17 Crime and Disorder           | Yes  |
| Health and Well Being            | Yes  |
| Carbon Impact                    | No   |
| Diversity                        | Yes  |
| Wards Affected                   | All  |
| Groups Affected                  | Those identified within the cohort                   |
| Budget and Policy Framework      | No   |
| Key Decision                     | No   |
| Urgent Decision                  | No   |
| One Darlington: Perfectly Placed | Programme meets aim of One Darlington                |
| Efficiency                       | Early intervention reducing costs of specialist work |

## MAIN REPORT

### Delivery Model in Darlington

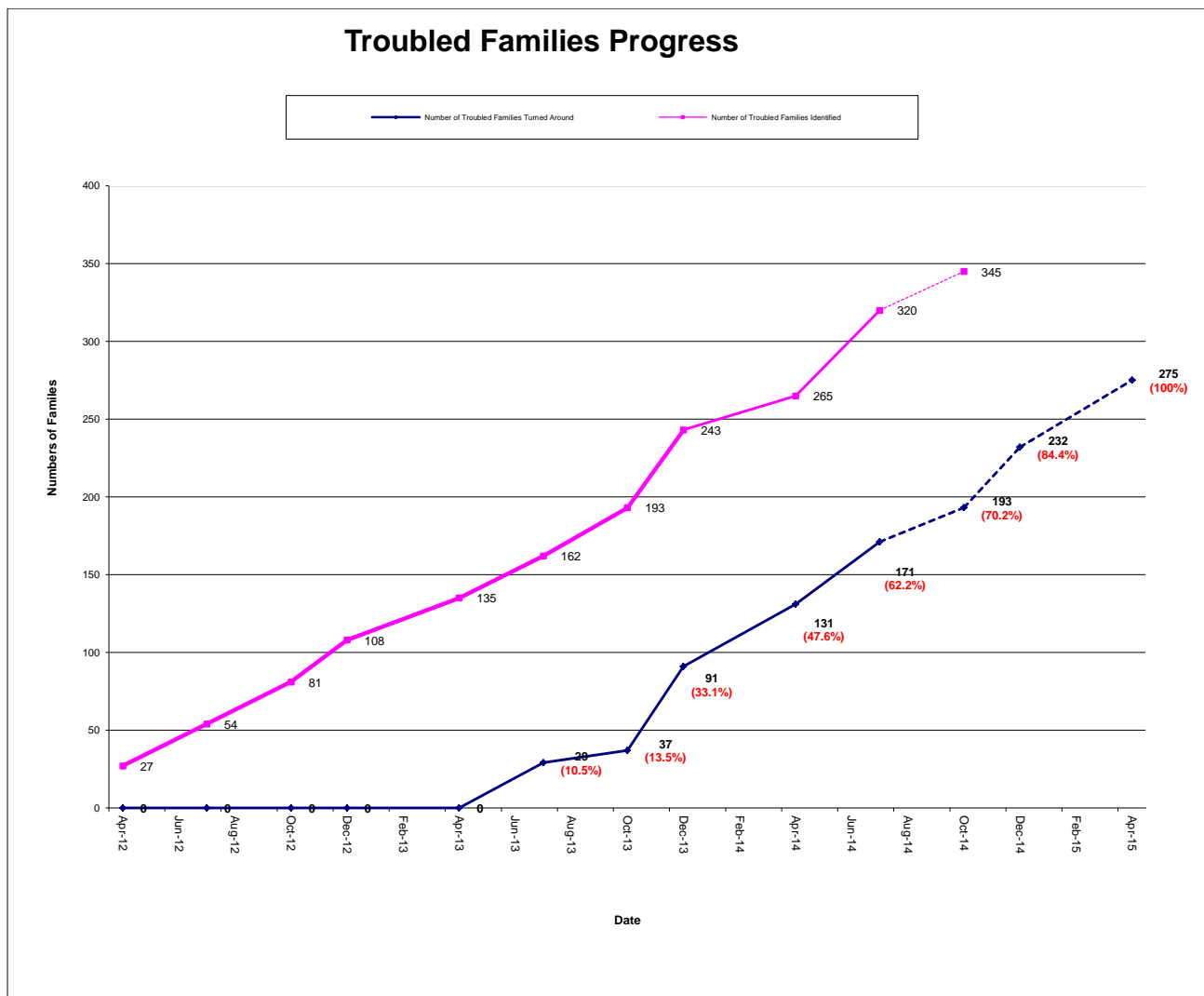
9. Darlington have a 'dedicated team' model which builds on the already existing Family Intervention Team. This team is multi-disciplinary and works intensively with families to make positive and sustainable change. The additional finance available via the Troubled Family Programme has expanded this team and the number of families it is able to work with.
10. The five features of family intervention approach have been embedded within the team i.e. named key workers; a 'whole family' approach; a clear agreed family action plan that is outcome focussed; and workers who take a persistent, assertive and challenging approach.

### Financial Resources

11. The Department of Communities and Local Government made available up to £4,000 for each troubled family that was eligible for the Payment by Results Scheme. A proportion of the funding was paid up front as an "attachment fee" and the rest has/will be paid once positive outcomes have been achieved. An additional £75,000 Co-ordinators Grant has been paid for each year of the programme.

### Current Progress – July 2014

12. Number of households identified who meet the troubled families criteria - 320.
13. Number of households who have met the outcomes and are eligible for Payment by Results - 171 (62%).
14. Prior to end of the programme there are three payment by results claims slots (October 2014, Jan 2015 and March 2015). Darlington are on track to meet the target of "turning around" 275 families by the end of the current programme (see graph overleaf).



(Darlington have estimated that they should identify 345 households over the 3 years to ensure that they succeed in “turning around” the target of 275 families)

## Expanded Programme

15. The expanded programme is due to commence on 1st April 2015, although there may be an opportunity for Darlington to be included in the second wave of ‘early adopters’ which commence in January 2015. The expanded programme has some significant differences to the current programme.
16. The language of ‘turnaround’ has disappeared to be replaced with ‘significant and sustained change’. Precise definitions are not yet available.
17. Eligible families (400K families nationally over its planned five year term) will still be identified via criteria. However, rather than focussing on a relatively small number of defined national criteria, the expanded programme will be based on a cluster of six headline problems, below which will sit a ‘basket of indicators’. The six headline problems are:
  - (a) parents and children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour;
  - (b) children who have not been attending school regularly;
  - (c) children who need help;

- (d) adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness;
  - (e) families affected by domestic violence and abuse;
  - (f) parents and children with a range of health problems.
18. The Government will pay an upfront attachment fee of £1,000 per family for all families each area commits to include within their local programme. A 'results payment' of £800 per family for positive outcomes (significant and sustained change) achieved with those families.
19. In addition, the Government will pay a 'Troubled Families Co-ordinator Grant' which, whilst not confirmed at this stage, is expected to be approximately double the amount currently received. This grant is to cover costs associated with:
- (a) the development and implementation of plans for local service transformation and delivery of this programme;
  - (b) the collection and provision of family progress data for a minimum 10% representative sample of families; and
  - (c) the completion of the troubled families 'cost savings calculator' (recently made available to all upper-tier councils) to an agreed national standard.
20. The programme has enabled the Family Intervention Team to change the way services are delivered to families and the whole family approach is embedded into service delivery. Bespoke packages to deal with multiple and interrelated problems, clear pathways to prevent duplication and services designed around the family, not the service, have been essential to ensure continued success.
21. The expanded programme will enable this practice to be adopted across the wider service in localities, and with a wider cohort of families. In essence, it will become the basis of multi-disciplinary practice across the authority.