
TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

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

Summary

2. In August 2014 the government announced the expansion of the Troubled Families programme to support vulnerable families with multiple, complex and long standing problems. The current five year programme (2015 – 2020) includes a commitment that nationally 400,000 families and in Darlington 950 families would be identified. To claim payment by results the service has to evidence that these families have made significant and sustained progress.
3. Rather than focusing on a relatively small number of defined criteria the Expanded Programme is based upon a cluster of six headline problems which are: -
 - (a) Parents and children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
 - (b) Children who have not been attending school regularly
 - (c) Children who need help: children of all ages, who need help, are identified as in need or are subject to a Child Protection Plan.
 - (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.
4. The programme has enabled the Family Intervention Team to change the way services are delivered to families and the Whole Family Approach has been embedded into service delivery. Bespoke packages to deal with multiple problems and interrelated problems, clear pathways to prevent duplication and services designed around the family rather than services have been essential to ensure continued success.
5. In the first 6 months of the Extended Programme the team have made good progress identifying and working with 150 families and have met payment by results in respect of 14 families (including 3 back to work claims).

Recommendations

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

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S17 Crime and Disorder	Yes
Health and Wellbeing	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 and/or children becoming Looked After

MAIN REPORT

Background

7. The Government’s Troubled Families Programme in Darlington is known as “Families Together” which is designed to support families with multiple, complex and long-standing problems. The programme in Darlington is delivered from a dedicated team model which focuses on an integrated, whole family approach to ensure lasting change, reduce costs and improve outcomes.
8. The Troubled Families Programme began in April 2012 and is led by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and aims to work with all partner agencies to help families with multiple problems. It is based upon an 80/20 rule; that is 20% of families cause 80% of the challenges.
9. The Government’s three year programme (2012 – 2015) included a commitment that nationally 120,000 Troubled Families would be ‘turned around’ and within Darlington the commitment was to identify and turn around 275 families. To achieve success the focus was on getting children back into school, reducing youth crime and anti-social behaviour, getting adults back into work and off benefits and reducing the cost to the public purse. Darlington achieved its target to ‘turn around’ 275 families.

10. The Government's Extended Programme (2015 – 2020) commenced in April 2015 with a commitment nationally to make significant and sustained progress with 400,000 families and in Darlington with 950 families.

Delivery Model in Darlington

11. Darlington has a 'dedicated team' model which was built on the already existing Family Intervention Team. This Team is multi-disciplinary and works intensively with families to make positive and sustainable change.
12. 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 focused; and workers who take a persistent, assertive and challenging approach.

Financial Resources

13. For the extended programme the Government is paying an upfront attachment fee of £1,000 per family for all families each area commits to include within their local programme and a 'result payment' of £800 per family for positive outcomes (significant and sustained change) achieved with those families.
14. In addition, the Government pay a 'Troubled Families Co-ordinator Grant' of £150,000 per year. 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.

Current Progress

15. In the first 6 months of the extended programme the team have identified and are working with 150 families and have already met PbR on 14 families (including 3 back to work claims).
16. The Governance arrangement for the Troubled Families Programme is the Think Family Board. The aim is to increase awareness of 'Think Family' approaches with all practitioners in both adult and children's services across all services, increase practitioners understanding of the Programme and to ask individual board members to embed the Whole Family Approach within their own agencies.
17. 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.

18. The Team is multi agency including a Team Manager, Senior Practitioner, Child Care Social Workers, a Mental Health Social Worker, Child Sexual Exploitation Project workers (Barnardos), Therapeutic Social Workers, DWP Seconded, PCSO, Troubled Families Analyst and Family Support Workers.
19. The Expanded Programme will enable this practice to be adopted across the wider social care services and with a wider cohort of families. In essence, it will become the basis of multi-disciplinary practice across the authority.