



Haringey Council

Report for:	Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel	Item Number:	
Title:	Haringey Families First (Troubled Families) Update		
Report Authorised by:	Lisa Redfern, Interim Director, Children and Young People's Service		
Lead Officer:	Katherine Manchester, Head of Service - Haringey Families First		
Ward(s) affected:	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:		
All			

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 Haringey Families First (HFF) is our local response to the Government's Troubled Families initiative. In Haringey, we have been tasked with identifying and working with 850 Families over a 3 year period (2012-15). This report provides an update on progress with this.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Panel are invited to comment, as appropriate, on progress made to date with the scheme.

3. Background information

National Context

- 3.1 The DCLG's Troubled Families Unit launched a new Payment by Results scheme for local areas, Councils and their partners, to work together to identify and support "troubled families" in their borough.
- 3.2 The DCLG have made available £4,000 for every five out of six families identified in the local area, with a proportion of money up front each year and a proportion conditional on meeting the success criteria set. The DCLG recognise that this



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£4,000 represents around 40% of the full costs of an intensive intervention and expects Councils and their partners to fund the rest.

- 3.3 To be eligible for the programme, families must meet two of the following criteria:
- Youth Offending and/or anti social behaviour in the family;
 - Children not in school – either 3 fixed term exclusions or less than 85% attendance; or
 - Adults claiming out of work benefits.
- 3.4 The Government expects all local authorities and their partners to collaborate in providing a whole family approach with an identified lead worker for each family.

Local Context

- 3.5 The DCLG has estimated that there are 850 'troubled' families in Haringey. It is recognised that 850 will not all present the same level support needs. We are required to work with 283 in year one, 425 in year two, 142 in year three.
- 3.6 We are tasked with identifying and working with these families as a partnership. HFF is therefore not a stand alone service but part of a network providing interventions to families, ensuring that they receive well co-ordinated, whole family approaches to their work thereby preventing and avoiding duplication of services, reducing costs and improving outcomes for families.
- 3.7 This will also reduce the number of times a family has to tell its story to professionals and identifying a lead worker for the family who they will build a relationship with and ensure the team around the family is working effectively towards its objectives.
- 3.8 If families meet two or more of the national criteria above, they are also eligible if they meet at least one of our local criteria as listed below:
- Mental health issues;
 - Substance misuse;
 - Domestic violence;
 - Households impacted by Benefit Cap (Universal Benefit);
 - Low Income households (entitlement to Working Tax Credit);
 - Households living in Temporary Accommodation (TA);
 - Young person with known gang membership (known to GAG);
 - Vulnerable two year olds;
 - three and four year olds not accessing their nursery provision; and
 - Adult offender in the household.
- 3.9 A quick analysis shows we have now identified 800 families in Haringey over two years. Our target for this year is an additional 425, i.e. in addition to the 288 identified last year, so we have achieved this already. We are in the process of



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checking the accuracy of these and to clarify that they are still eligible, for example, that they have not moved out of borough.

- 3.10 We are also trying to establish, where we can, which families are already receiving a family intervention and where there may be gaps in a Team around the Family approach. The Haringey Families First Team will proactively try to engage families that are not receiving a service and will also encourage referrals from agencies where there are gaps in provision.

Payment by Results

- 3.11 In July 2013 Haringey submitted a payment by results claim for “turning around” 114 households. £66,500 has been claimed as Payment by Results for these families. This was about a third of the 337 families identified in year one and about 40% of the 288 we committed to working with in the first year.

Further claims for Year 1 Families

- 3.12 We will claim for more families when the academies submit their pupil absence records to us (we do not have a year’s worth of absence data from academies). There are 40 families with at least one child at a Haringey academy school. Those who qualify will be claimed for in January 2014.
- 3.13 We have just received back a list from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to see which of our year one Troubled Family members have come off out of work benefits. There were 35 individuals who appear on this. Their details will be checked against the Benefits and Local Taxation’s Comino database to verify they are now in employment.
- 3.14 Our seconded Job Centre Plus worker has just started with us and will also be able to do these checks. Those who qualify will be claimed in October 2013. (the subsequent window for claims).

Case Studies

- 3.15 We are currently undertaking an analysis of the interventions that successfully achieved these outcomes and building up a portfolio of case studies.
- 3.16 It is important to remember that we are taking a partnership approach across Haringey. This means that all services working with families will be supported and encouraged to take a “Think Family” approach to their interventions. While there is a small core team of staff who are modelling this, we are also keen to hear of examples of other services who are also promoting the benefits of a Lead Professional for families and the case studies reflect this.
- 3.17 In summary, the main features of successful interventions are co-ordinated teams around the whole family with an identified lead worker who has



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developed a sound, trusting relationship with the family based on support and challenge.

Next Steps

- 3.18 Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) are asking Local Authorities to consider how they would further embed the programme should there be an extension from 2015 and what we would suggest in relation to broadening of the criteria to ensure services are supported to engage families at an earlier stage.
- 3.19 In Haringey, we are very well placed to ensure that Families First is fully integrated into the Haringey Families First Strategic development and that of the Early Help Offer. The Lead Officer is actively involved in the Front Door work stream and also a member of the Early Help Framework Steering Group to ensure that the family intervention approach is firmly embedded in service delivery across the board.

4. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 4.1 Families First is a 3 year programme, starting on 1 April 2012, designed to turn round Troubled Families. Government funding has been made available to support the programme, comprising 3 elements. Firstly, guaranteed coordinator funding (£100k per annum), secondly attachment funding and thirdly payment by results. The maximum funding available over the 3 year period for the final two elements is £4k for 5/6ths of the 850 cases (£2.267m).
- 4.2 A successful Payment by Results (PBR) claim has been submitted, increasing available funding by £66.5k. It is anticipated that this and any future PBR funding will be allocated to support extension of the Families First model.
- 4.3 The Families First approach is one of the possible future operating models for Children's Services to transform service delivery and realign resources to early intervention and prevention. Successful transformation of the service will contribute to managing demand and delivering future savings to meet challenging targets.

5. Head of Legal Services and legal implications

- 5.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on this Report. There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation.

6. Head of Procurement Comments

N/A

7. Use of Appendices



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8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985