

Tackling troubled families



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Working for you



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**
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Troubled Families Programme

National background

Who are the families?

Why turning them around matters

Payments by results

Oxfordshire's Response & Progress



National Background

December 2010

PM speech

‘ I really believe we can make a difference this way. Indeed, I set this ambition: by the end of this Parliament, I want us to try and turn around every troubled family in the country.’

August 2011

PM Speech (post ‘disturbances’)

October 2011

PM announces DCLG lead and Louise Casey appointment

November 2011

Louise and Troubled Families Team start work

December 2011

PM announces £448m funding

January 2012

DWP announce ESF funding £200m+



How are the 120,000 families identified?

Cabinet Office analysed 3 key data returns

- Family & Children's survey, 2005 (identified 7 risk factors)
- Index of Multiple Deprivation (Office of National Statistics)
- Child Well Being Index (as above)

810 families identified as living in Oxfordshire



Definition

A troubled family is one who suffers from at least five of the following characteristics:

- No one in the family is in work
- Living in poor or overcrowded housing
- No parent has any qualifications
- Mother has mental health problems
- At least one parent has a longstanding illness, disability or infirmity
- Family has a low income
- Family unable to afford a number of food, clothing items



For these families

turning lives around means:

- Adults into work
- Children at school
- Cutting crime and ASB
- Cutting costs, saving money



Why turning lives around matters

The cost to the taxpayer

- New figures show that troubled families cost the tax payer and estimated **£9billion per year**, or an average of £75,000 per family.
- An estimated **£8bn** of this is reactive spend – not spent on addressing root problems.
- This means only **£1bn p.a.** is being spent on **targeted** interventions which could be considered to ‘turn around a life’.
- Potential **savings** of ‘turning around the lives’ of these families are considerable and estimated at **£2.9bn.**



Why turning lives around matters:

The cost to lives

- these families:
 - **have** lots of difficulties and as a consequence also create further difficulties
 - are already known to us and our partner agencies
 - are known to their long suffering neighbours
 - are draining budgets of hard pressed services
- **And we can't leave children to lead the same lives disruptive and harmful lives as their parents**



The Government Offer

A cross- departmental programme with contributions totalling £448m from:

- Dept.
- Dept. For Education
- Home Office
- Ministry of Justice
- Department of Health

2011/12

- £20k per LA preparation funding

2012/13 – 2014/15

- £370 m via PbR (40% of cost of intervention)
- £228 ESF/DWP programme (helping families into work)



The Government Offer

Payment by results (PbR)

- The programme will run primarily on a **payment by results** basis to incentivise local authorities and others to take action to turn around the lives of troubled families in their area by 2015.
- Govt will offer up to 40% of the cost of dealing with these families to local authorities.
- **Payable only on success** with families; children in school, crime and ASB reduced, and adults on the path to work.



The Offer Cont.

- The Government will also fund a national network of Troubled Family co-ordinators in each (upper-tier) local council.
- Operating at a **senior strategic level**
- Getting a grip on the numbers, bringing together police, job centre plus, health organisations, schools and leveraging in resources locally.
- Putting a robust plan of action in place to deal with families – right action at the right time for each family.



How we'll do it

Implications for delivering services

- Menu of interventions covering continuum of need
- Evidence based
- Key worker led whole family working
- Integrated multi-agency teams (virtual and physical)
- Family Assessment/Family Action Plan



The Challenge: what will be different?

“Insanity is endlessly repeating the same process, hoping for a different response” (Einstein)

- Families at the centre: learn from & involve them.
- Build on the ‘Think Family’/FIP Programme
- Bring expertise & services together around the outcomes
- Add capacity to existing services and organisations.
- Ensure practical assistance to families is provided.
- With partners, build in sustainability by switching from reactive (high cost) services to earlier intervention
- Join up spending: avoid one agency saving & other sp



Challenges Cont.

Turning around the lives of 120,000 by 2015 will require:

- all public services in a local area and government departments working closely together
- Overcoming centrally & locally, the hurdles to delivering more coordinated and effective services.
- Ensuring savings made by agencies are shared with agencies paying the costs of interventions.



Progress

- Task and Finish Group established and work is progressing to identify:
 - The troubled families in Oxfordshire and current levels of engagement
 - Develop key performance indicators as measures of successful outcomes
 - Identify working practices
 - Establish co-ordinator position
 - Create, confirm partnership arrangements
 - Develop launch.



Progress

INFORMATION AVAILABLE/RECEIVED

- Numbers of children and young people excluded from school (fixed term and permanent)
- Looked After Children, Children with Child Protection Plans
- Not in Education Employment and Training
- Persistent absentees from school
- Teenage Mothers
- Known to Youth Offending Services
- Known to DAAT
- Referred to Early Intervention Service
- Some information regarding anti social behaviour

INFORMATION YET TO BE RECEIVED

- Crime and some anti social behaviour information
- Some Housing Information
- Benefits Information
- Some Health Information



QUESTIONS

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