

Troubled Families (TF)

Background

- ∇ The Department of Communities and Local Government launched the Troubled Families initiative in December 2011 to improve the outcomes for an estimated 120,000 families identified as having the greatest need. Louise Casey leads this work nationally and has worked across two Governments, known for a “tough love” approach to families.
- ∇ The Troubled Families programme is built on the Family Intervention Programme in deprived areas and two Early Intervention Reports from Graham Allen MP, working with Iain Duncan Smith MP.
- ∇ Troubled Families are defined by the DCLG as:
“households who are involved in crime and anti social behaviour; have children not in school, at least one adult on ‘out of work’ benefits and cause a high cost to the public purse” (it is open to local partnerships to add an additional criteria at this stage. Central Bedfordshire have not done so).
- ∇ It is estimated that each troubled family cost an average of £75,000 per year. Intervention will vary from the families known to all agencies to those who can be picked up early and where a relatively small intervention will save public money and family trauma later on. Based on the DCLG calculation it is suggested that Central Bedfordshire has approximately 254 troubled families eligible for the ‘payment by result’ programme but the criteria is expected to identify over 300.

Central Bedfordshire – activity to date

- ∇ Received £340,600 for the financial year 2012/13.
- ∇ We have submitted monthly returns to the Troubled Families Unit in the DCLG , work is judged to be on track.
- ∇ The Launch Conference in Central Bedfordshire on 9 October was addressed by the Leader and others – well received.
- ∇ First families have been identified, from data provided by council departments and the police, and have been mapped across the authority. The second data trawl is currently in progress and will be matched by the end of December. It should be noted that the DWP data was not made available for the first match but will be in the second. It is expected that 85 families will be identified in this first year.

Governance

- ∇ Each Council needs a Programme Board which is usually chaired by the Chief Executive or Director of Children's Service and occasionally by a joint Director of Community Services. (In Central Bedfordshire, the DCS is the Chair, as in 80% of other Councils).
- ∇ There will be a Troubled Families Coordinator appointed (Clare Dan) who will take up post working in Children's Services Operations with effect from 10 January 2013. She will work to support the Assistant Director Children's Services Operations who take the professional lead and be the accountable officer for this project. Until the new Assistant Director Children's Services Operations arrives, Sue Gregory will undertake this work as Senior Social Worker.
- ∇ The Operational Programme Board includes representatives from key partner agencies and should facilitate the bringing together of activity to support the Council across the geographical area. Below this, it is proposed to have operational groups coordinating activity in the North and South of Central Bedfordshire.

Central Bedfordshire Governance

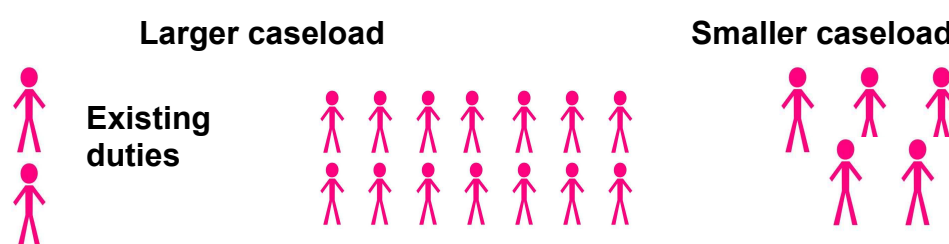
- ∇ This is through the Chief Executive and politically, Cllr Richard Stay, Executive Member for External Affairs, to Central Bedfordshire Together (CBT). This is not a Children's Services activity, it is a partnership activity

Financial Implications

- ∇ DCLG estimate each family will need an average £10k to fund tailored, effective services and interventions. However, the payback is estimated nationally to be between £75k and £250k per family per annum, mostly in reactive costs.
- ∇ 60% of costs are to be borne by local authority and partners.
- ∇ 40% of costs are available from DCLS as part of a payment by results scheme.

Degrees of the Family Intervention Service – there is a sliding scale

Extent of family problems/family causing problems



FAMILY INTERVENTION <i>'super light'</i>	FAMILY INTERVENTION <i>'light'</i>	FAMILY INTERVENTION <i>'intensive'</i>
Named lead for family with dedicated time from home agency	Less intensive work with larger caseloads. 15 at any one time.	Intensive work with small caseloads of families, e.g. <5

What is family intervention?

- ▽ Style of working with very troubled families
- ▽ Original model well evidenced, consistently strong outcome data since 2006/7.
- ▽ It is highly interventionist and gives families a clear set of contracts and a focused plan towards outcomes.
- ▽ Data from the National Centre for Social Research on families (5,500) to have left the programme shows:
 - ASB: 59 % reduction
 - Child abuse issues (neglect, emotional, physical and sexual) 36 % reduction
 - Education: 52 % reduction (truancy, exclusion or bad behaviour at school)
- ▽ It is expected that significant interventions be made to families by 2015.