

## Intensive Family Intervention Programme Update

---

### 1.0 Background

In June 2013 the Government announced its intention to extend the Troubled Families programme for a further five years (2015-2020) and reach an estimated 400,000 families across England. £200m has already been secured for the first year of the programme. In the Budget 2014 the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced, due to strong local performance, that the highest performing areas would have the opportunity to get started on the Expanded Troubled Families Programme early, during 2014-15.

Due to our progress in delivering the current IFIP programme Wirral has been invited to join the Expanded Troubled Families Programme as an Early Starter. We will commence delivery within this financial year and have committed to working with 60 families before the end of March.

Over the five year contract term we will be expected to work with 3010 families. Both the eligibility and payment by results criteria will change for the new programme, and this is detailed below.

### 2.0 Principles of the Expanded Troubled Families Programme

DCLG have outlined the principles they expect to govern the new programme as follows:

**Trust:** flexibility to work with the families of greatest concern and to shape the outcomes achieved locally;

**Transformation:** ambitious service transformation goals to embed integrated, whole family approaches;

**Transparency:** introduction of a model of transparent local accountability for the success of the programme as a tool to drive greater service transformation, using streamlined data collection tools.

### 3.0 Identification of Families

The new programme increases the criteria for eligibility from 3 to 6 problem areas, which include:

1. Parents and children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
2. Children who have not been attending school regularly.
3. Children who are in need of help: children of all ages, who need help, are identified as children in need or are subject of a child protection plan.
4. Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness.
5. Families affected by domestic violence and abuse.
6. Parents and children with a range of health problems.

Families must be prioritised on the following basis:

- They are families with multiple problems who are most likely to benefit from an integrated, whole family approach, and,
- They are families who are high cost to the public purse

#### **4.0 Troubled Families Outcomes Plan**

Each Local Authority must determine how it will measure 'Significant and Sustained Progress' in order to claim payment by results successes. To do so we must produce a locally agreed Troubled Families Outcomes Plan. The purpose of the Outcomes Plan is:

1. To lay out what the local authority aims to achieve with each family with regard to the 6 problems the programme aims to tackle; and how this supports wider service transformation objectives.
2. To provide a basis against which the Local Authority can determine when 'significant and sustained progress' has been achieved, and, therefore, a results claim can be made for the family.
3. To provide a framework against which our Internal Auditors (and DCLG Spot Checks) may establish whether a result is valid.

A workshop with multi-agency partners is scheduled for January 2015 to agree the measures for the Outcomes Plan and arrangements for the collection of data. This will be presented to the IFIP Board for ratification.

Each family worked with carries a maximum financial payment of £1800 (the previous amount was £4000 per family). £1000 is available as an attachment fee, payable once the family are engaged on the programme. The further £800 is payable on achievement of the 'Significant and Sustained Progress' outcomes, or if an adult in the family moves into continuous employment.

#### **5.0 Evaluation**

In each Local Authority area the grant for co-ordination of the programme has increased. In Wirral this is set to double from £100,000 to £200,000. DCLG have made this available due to the significant increase in data collection requirements and programme administration. We are expected to use this financial resource to complete the following:

- Collection of family progress data (individual level data collected for every member of the family)
- Cost savings calculator (local cost benefit analysis of the costs of delivering the programme against the fiscal benefits of improving family outcomes)
- National Impact Survey (individual level data collected for every member of the family over a longer term period)

The goal of the above data collection is to build a richer picture of the complexity of families on entry to the programme and the progress achieved by individual family members.

#### **6.0 Partnership Working**

DWP Secondments will continue and Wirral is entitled to 2 advisor posts. Details of this will be agreed locally.

The working relationship between the Troubled Families programme and health services will be enhanced following the publication of Public Health England's Leadership Statement in November 2014. Guidance for health services and Troubled Families Co-ordinators has been published and outlines how the identification of families, information sharing, and approached to whole family working should be undertaken. This too will be considered by the Task and Finish Group. The changes outlined in the guidance will deliver significant service transformation.

In addition, Public Health is making training available to Troubled Families Key Workers which will enhance their skills in the following areas:

- confidence in having conversations with families about their health
- ability to identify health issues
- ability to provide basic advice on maintaining good health

- ability to get families to resolve low level health issues independently
- knowledge of how to access local health services for high level needs

### **7.0 Delivering the Expanded Troubled Families Programme**

We are currently evaluating and reviewing the existing programme in order to plan for phase 2. The new service and full details on the programme will be outlined at the IFIP Celebration Event on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 at Wallasey Town Hall.

### **8.0 Recommendations**

The Board notes the information provided in the report.

**Report Author:**

Elizabeth Hartley  
IFIP Programme Leader  
Wirral Council

**Contact:** 0151 637 6146

[elizabethhartley@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:elizabethhartley@wirral.gov.uk)

**Appendices:** N/A