

<b>11 December 2012</b>		<b>ITEM 9</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME</b>		
<b>Report of:</b> Teresa Goulding, Troubled Families Co-ordinator		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Barbara Foster, Head of Care & Targeted Outcomes		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Jo Olsson, Corporate Director of People Services		
<b>This report is</b> Public		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To update Members on the Troubled Families Programme		

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To give an overview and update of the Troubled Families Programme

### **1 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This report has been requested by the committee and is for information only

### **2 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

2.1 Thurrock Council, alongside 151 other authorities has signed up to the Troubled Families Agenda. The aim of the Troubled Families Programme is to change the lives of families who have many problems and indeed cause many problems, in their local area; these are families who, despite the best efforts of many of us over the years, in government, in local authorities, in the police, health and other public agencies, have not been able or willing to make positive changes in their lifestyles.

2.2 These families are characterised by there being no working adults in the family, children not being in school and family members being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

2.3 These families almost always have other often long-standing problems which can lead to their children repeating the cycle of disadvantage.

One estimate shows that in over a third of troubled families, there are child protection problems. Another estimate suggests that over half of all children

who are permanently excluded from school in England come from these families, as do one-in-five young offenders.

- 2.4 Other problems such as domestic violence, relationship breakdown, mental and physical health problems and isolation make it incredibly hard for families to start unravelling their problems.
- 2.5 The cost of these families to the public purse is very significant – approximately £9 billion a year of which the vast majority is spent on reacting to their problems. Most importantly, the money being spent is not providing lasting results or changing lives.
- 2.6 This waste of human potential is not sustainable and therefore the Government has committed to a renewed drive to deal with troubled families. As part of the Troubled Families programme, it has put in resources to incentivise and encourage local authorities and their partners to develop new ways of working with families which focus on lasting change, recognising that these approaches are likely to incur extra costs but that they will result in a shift in the way we work with these families in the future – reducing costs and improving outcomes
- 2.7 The new results-based funding scheme provides an important financial incentive to get to grips with and deal with troubled families. However, the ambition here is greater. Through this programme we want to learn not only about changing the trajectory for families but also to change the way services are delivered to them.
- 2.8 In December last year, all authorities were provided with figures on the indicative numbers of troubled families in their area. This figure represents the number of families that we are being asked to turn around.
- 2.9 For Thurrock this was 360 within the three year period which translates into 120 families in year one, 180 in year two and 60 in year three. This is to enable the team to ensure tracking is completed and that the last claim for payment by results (PBR) will be May 2015. It is also representative of the reduction of funding shifting from front loaded with small PBR to mainly PBR.
- 2.10 It is expected that the payment-by-results for Thurrock in the first year will be for 100 of the 120 families identified. This expectation is based on initial data analysis for Troubled Families.

### **3. STRUCTURE AND STAFFING**

- 3.1 The Troubled Families' team consists of one Troubled Families co-ordinator and two Programme Managers plus admin support.
- 3.2 The Troubled Families Co-ordinator, Teresa Goulding, was seconded from the Youth Offending Service and was in post on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012. She has been working within Thurrock for twelve years and consequently has a sound knowledge base of the Thurrock area. Her professional background is in

Youth and Community work and she has worked within the Youth Offending Service since November 2000, moving from Intensive Supervision and Surveillance co-ordinator to Operations Manager, including developing and managing the Triage service within Thurrock YOS.

- 3.3 The Programme Managers are also both seconded from the Youth Offending Service. One has been in post since the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and the second 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012. Both programme managers have extensive experience of working with families in their previous posts and at Thurrock working as Case Managers with the Youth Offending Service

#### **4. FUNDING**

- 4.1 Thurrock Council has received £320,000 from the government for the initial 100 families that currently meet the Payment-by-results (PBR) criteria. There is a further £75,000 for the Troubled Families Co-ordinator post. There is also a possible £80,000 for the first year in PBR for those 100 families.
- 4.2 Local Authorities are required to match fund Trouble Families and have done this not in terms of direct money, but in resources including all services and staff supporting Trouble Families. For example, families with children subject to Child Protection Plans are already in receipt of substantial resource.
- 4.3 At the time of writing this report we have commissioned a direct Troubled Families worker within Coram which ensures any family on the troubled families list gets priority and is not placed on a waiting list. We are also working with the voluntary sector to commission a consortium of voluntary services that will also give priority to any of the troubled families. This will include services such as SERICC, MIND and Open Door.

#### **5. DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY**

- 5.1 No immediate implications, the current list of Troubled Families does not have over or under representation of Thurrock's BME population.

#### **6. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:**

- 6.1 The Troubled Families team are currently working on setting up initial meetings with families and Lead professionals to explain the programme and the route onto the programme through the data already gathered.
- 6.2 The biggest challenge is that current data is not accurate so we are working through to ensure that the correct families are being worked with and will be following up any outstanding families that may not be on the current list. The process for this will slightly change for 2013 as we will be contacting services direct to see if families that are of concern fit the Troubled Families criteria. This should give us a much better process in indentifying the correct families rather than one that is entirely data led.

- 6.3 At the time of writing this report we were seeking clarity from the Troubled Families Team, which are part of the Department for Communities and Local Government, regarding transfers from other areas and transfers out of Thurrock. This is to clarify if there is also a transfer of funds if those families moving areas are on the Troubled Families programme.

**7. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

Not Applicable

**8. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Although not a statutory agency, the success of Troubled Families will impact on the work and resources of other services and agencies and potentially significantly improve the quality of life for families and neighbourhoods.

**9. IMPLICATIONS**

**9.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652772**  
**mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk**

The financial implications of this report as contained within Paragraph 4.

**9.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652054**  
**Lindsey.marks@bdtlegal.org.uk**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

**9.3 Diversity and Equality**

No immediate implications, the current list of Troubled Families does not have over or under representation of Thurrock's BME population.

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652472**  
**sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk**

There are no immediate implications as the current number of families in the programme does not have over or under representation of Thurrock's BME population.

9.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

The successful implementation of the Troubled Families Programme will have significant impact on all of the above as relevant families changing their behaviours and lifestyles will decrease the resource implications.

**10 CONCLUSION**

For information.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:**

Financial Framework for the Troubled Families Programme's payment-by-results scheme for local authorities

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

**N/A**

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