

11 February 2013**Agenda Item: 7**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

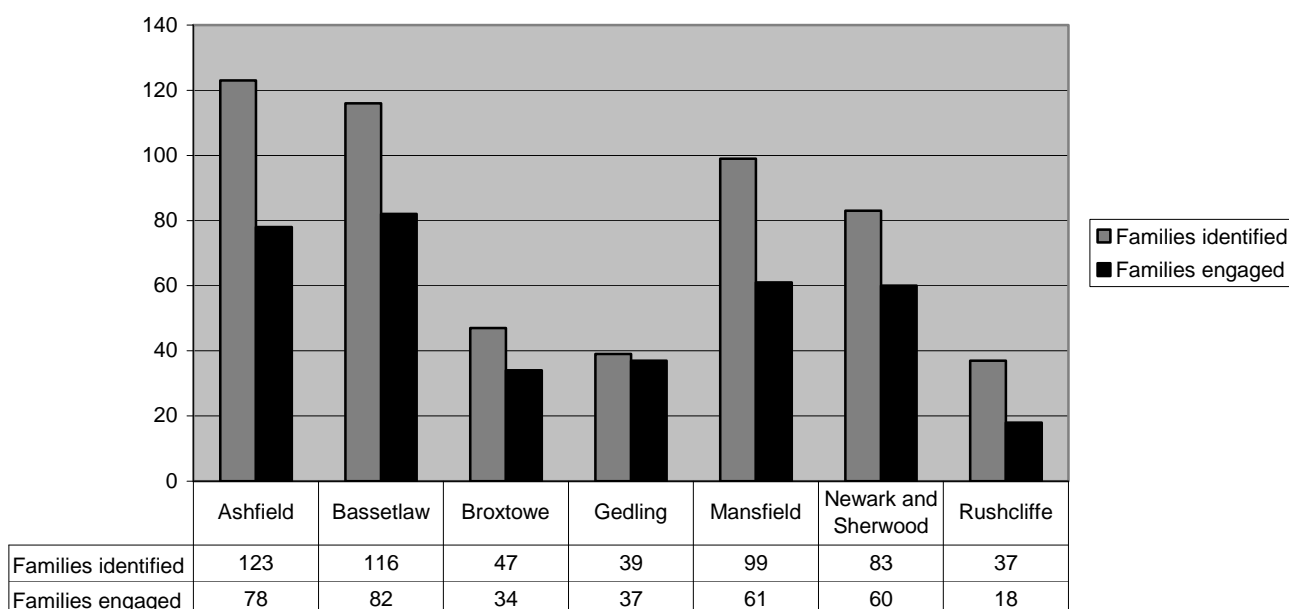
1. The purpose of this report is to update the Children and Young People's Committee on the progress of the Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire.

Information and Advice

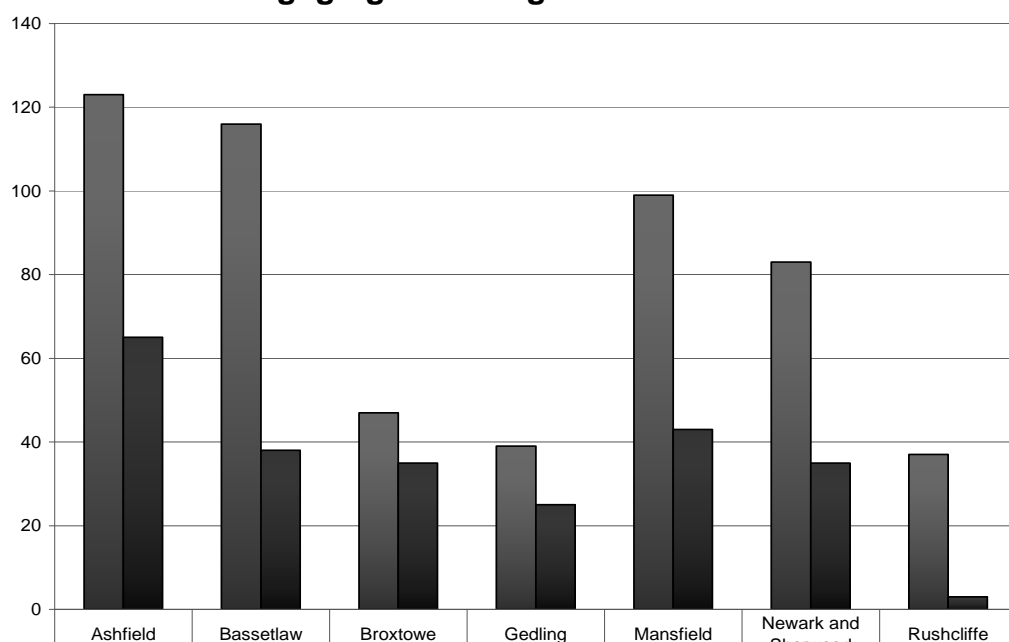
2. The Troubled Families Programme is a national three year programme which is targeted at the most difficult to engage children, young people and their families. The Programme is funded by central government on a payment by results basis which is focussed on three outcomes:
 - reducing criminal activity and anti-social behaviour in children and young people
 - improving school attendance in children and young people
 - encouraging parents into work.
3. On an individual level these concerns can manifest themselves in issues such as struggling to find work and worries about benefits, risk of losing your home, neighbour complaints and struggling to get children to school. These can be exacerbated by having numerous professionals/agencies making contact with individual families which adds to the pressure experienced.
4. The indicative figure for Nottinghamshire provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is 1,580 troubled families.
5. On 16 July 2012, the Children and Young People's Committee approved the delivery structure for the Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire. All posts have been recruited to and the new teams are now operational.
6. Nottinghamshire has identified 544 families to work with in Year 1 of the Programme. Recognising the demands of this task, and the need for identification of families to become successfully mainstreamed across a two-tier Council system, we have appointed a Programme Officer who is responsible for leading on data management and performance and who will be developing district models for identifying Troubled Families which will enable us to identify the 790 families with whom we will work in Year 2 of the Programme.

7. We are delivering the Troubled Families Programme through local Supporting Families Teams which comprise our expanded Family Intervention Project and new District Co-ordinator posts. All 544 families have an allocated keyworker and over 75% thus far have successfully engaged with the Programme. Of the remaining families, these have either refused a service or have moved out of area.
8. Data collection and analysis is being co-ordinated by the County Council Research and Analytical Unit. Data sets indicate that within Nottinghamshire Troubled Families are distributed as follows:

Number of Families Engaged in Nottinghamshire

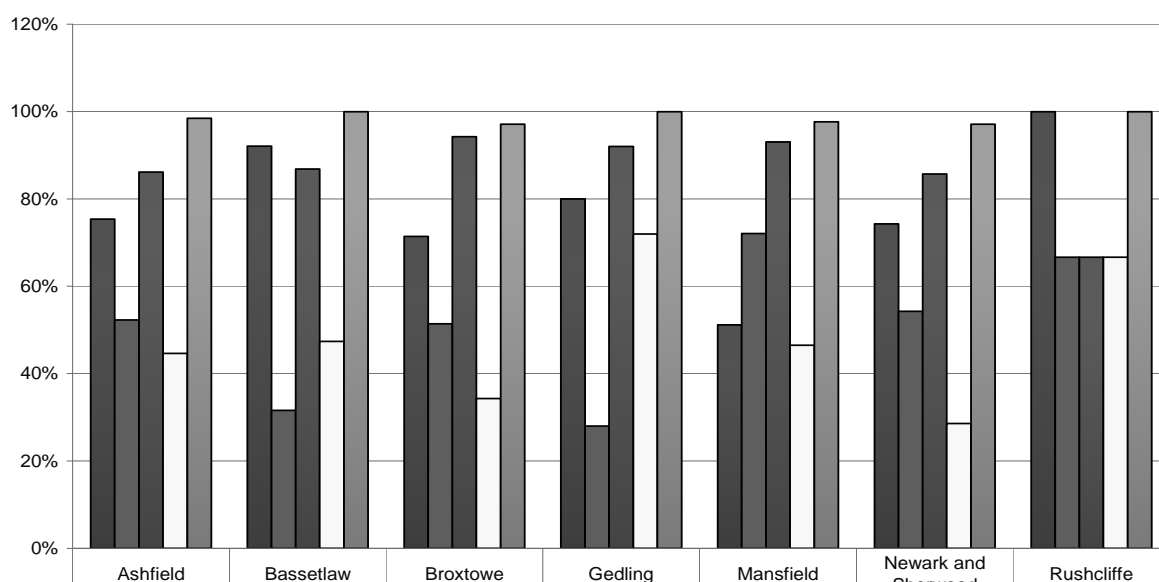


Families Engaging with Programme



Families identified	123	116	47	39	99	83	37
Monitoring Forms Completed (PbR)	65	38	35	25	43	35	3

District Profiles of Troubled Families



Education %	75%	92%	71%	80%	51%	74%	100%
Crime / ASB %	52%	32%	51%	28%	72%	54%	67%
Employment %	86%	87%	94%	92%	93%	86%	67%
Known to Social Care %	45%	47%	34%	72%	47%	29%	67%
Local Criteria %	98%	100%	97%	100%	98%	97%	100%

9. For the Payment by Results criteria the most prevalent issues by district are:
- Ashfield – Employment (86%)
 - Bassetlaw – Education (92%)
 - Broxtowe – Employment (94%)
 - Gedling – Employment (92%)
 - Mansfield – Employment (93%)
 - Newark & Sherwood – Employment (86%)
 - Rushcliffe – Education (100%)
10. The two factors which affect the majority of families are children whose school attendance is less than 85% and adults within the families receiving out of work benefits. Partnerships with Targeted Support and Working Links have been crucial in delivering support to these families. Ninety families are being referred to the Working Links Programme which delivers services to develop social, educational and work-related skills and assist in adults returning to employment. This is funded by the European Social Fund and is a separate Programme to the Troubled Families Programme. A case study is attached as **Appendix 1**, illustrating the work of the Troubled Families Programme and how it can achieve success with families.
11. The Supporting Families Programme contains two levels of worker - District Co-ordinators who are the lead professional for the identified families and who co-ordinate a Care Plan for each individual family, using existing County and District Resources; and Family Intervention Key Workers who undertake intensive programmes of work with Targeted Families. The Programme uses the same Family Assessments and Action Plans as Targeted Support to ensure consistency across the Children, Families and Cultural Services department. A detailed Process Chart, documenting the work undertaken with families is attached at **Appendix 2**. The Process document has been submitted to the National Troubled Families Team who gave positive feedback. The methodology is based on evidence from social research.
12. Within Nottinghamshire we have utilised the positive partnership relationships we have with our district councils and have based our teams within the seven district Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Hubs with the aim of improving communication and co-working with ASB Officers, Housing and Environmental Health; therefore affording us a range of sanctions should these be required.
13. Governance for the project is being provided by the Troubled Families Executive Group; chaired by an Executive Director from Gedling District Council and supported by a range of partners including District Council Chief Executives; Senior Police, Probation and Health Commissioners. The Executive Group report to the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Executive Board and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.
14. The Care Works system is being used for recording and performance reporting. This is being supported by Targeted Support and mirrors their recording system. Nottinghamshire County Council IT Services are working closely with district councils to ensure that systems are secure and where possible compatible.

15. A communications plan is in place and a web-page for the Troubled Families Programme is already set up on the Nottinghamshire County Council web-site. A leaflet has been developed to inform families about the service. We have recently undertaken a series of district conferences to develop district team plans and ensure all local partners are aware of the Programme and its criteria.
16. The Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire is committed to working closely with service users to understand their experience of the services they have been offered and to improve communications and outcomes for families. A Service User Consultation Group is being developed in each district and the pilot for this will be in Newark and Sherwood beginning in March 2013.
17. The first round of performance reporting to the Department for Communities and Local Government took place in January 2013 when we confirmed the numbers of families engaged on the Programme and an indicative figure for the payment by results claim. The inherent time lag in achieving results (e.g. showing improved school attendance over three consecutive terms) means there is a considerable delay before we can point to results, at both local and national level, that demonstrate the impact the Troubled Families Programme is having in turning families around. The first opportunity to claim for results achieved with our families will be in June 2013 when we anticipate we will be claiming for a maximum of 50 families. Claims can then be made six-monthly thereafter (January and July) until the final chance to make claims in May 2015.
18. A full performance report on the Troubled Families Programme will be brought to the Children and Young People's Committee in April 2013.

Other Options Considered

19. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

20. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the progress of the Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire be noted.

Steve Edwards
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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

22. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional comments are required.

Financial Comments (KLA 18/01/13)

23. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Troubled Families Programme: report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16 July 2013 (published)
Supporting Families Leaflet (published)

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0171