

Press release: More families in need making significant progress

The Troubled Families programme which is supporting almost 400,000 families with multiple, high-cost problems is making significant and sustained progress, Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP confirmed today (28 March 2019).

[Building resilient families](#), the third Troubled Families annual report, details how the programme is spreading whole family working across local services. This means more families in need getting access to the early, practical and coordinated support they need to overcome their complex interconnected problems such as anti-social behaviour, mental health issues or domestic violence.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said:

The real strength of the Troubled Families Programme is that it's not just trying to manage the challenges families in need face. It's changing lives in the long term.

Troubled Families keyworkers are successfully engaging with the whole family to address not just the symptoms, but the underlying issues that have held families in need back, often for generations.

Almost 400,000 families have been helped by the programme's whole family approach, winning the confidence of councils and their partners alike with its proven ability to give people hope and a brighter future.

That's why I believe in the programme and want to see it go from strength to strength.

Rather than responding to each problem, or single family member separately, assigned Troubled Families keyworkers engage with the whole family. Through this approach they coordinate support from a range of services to identify and address family issues as early as possible rather than merely reacting to crises.

The programme of whole family working has achieved significant progress over the past 12 months:

- Local authorities have been funded to work in a whole family way with 380,426 families in most need of help as part of the programme. However, we know that local authorities are working in a whole family way with a far greater number of families.
- 171,890 families have achieved significant and sustained progress against the problems that were identified when they entered the

programme. This is up 79,645 on the previous year.

- Of all families worked with since the beginning of the programme, in 20,366 families one or more adults have succeeded in moving into continuous employment. An increase of 6,459 since last year.

When compared to a similar control group, the programme of targeted intervention was found to have:

- reduced the proportion of children on the programme going into care by a third
- reduced the proportion of adults on the programme going to prison by a quarter and juvenile convictions by 15%
- supported more people on the programme back in work with 10% fewer people claiming Jobseekers Allowance

The Troubled Families Programme is geared toward reducing demand and dependency of families with complex needs on costly, reactive public services and delivering better value for the taxpayer.

Since the current programme began in 2015, local authorities and their partners have worked with almost 400,000 eligible families. This compares with only 5,000 families who had received whole family support in England between January 2006 and March 2010.

Local Government Minister Rishi Sunak MP said:

The success of the Troubled Families Programme is down to the tremendous efforts and tireless work of all those involved including the families themselves.

I have seen first-hand how the programme has made a real difference for families up and down the country, with fewer children going into care, fewer adults going to prison and more adults back in work.

When we strengthen our families, we strengthen society; because when families thrive, we all thrive.

This government will continue to champion families at every turn, helping them play their part in a society where no one is left behind.

The Troubled Families Programme with its emphasis on early intervention and its track record of tackling complex challenges also has a valuable role to play in addressing serious youth crime.

In February 2019 a new £9.5 million fund was launched to help focus attention on preventing young people getting drawn into serious youth crime.

A further £300,000 has also been made available to train frontline staff on how to tackle childhood trauma. The money has been allocated to community-

backed projects in 21 areas across England.

Read the annual report [Building resilient families: third annual report of the Troubled Families Programme 2018 to 2019](#).

This is the third annual report of the current Troubled Families Programme and meets the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government's statutory duty to report annually on performance.

View the [National Evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020 report](#).

Find more information on the £9.8 million [Supporting Families Against Youth Crime fund](#).

The current Troubled Families Programme was rolled out in England in April 2015 and replaced the first programme which had been in place since 2012. The programme will continue support for disadvantaged families with complex problems and will work with almost 400,000 families by 2020.