

## One Minute Guides - Troubled Families Programme June 2018

### What is the Troubled Families programme?

The national Troubled Families programme is a government initiative aimed at helping families with a number of complex problems by helping them to turn their lives around, improving outcomes for the whole family and thereby reducing the need for more intensive and costly interventions.

The Troubled Families programme is focused on early help and requires agencies to work together to support families. The programme uses a payment-by-results model where local authorities receive £1,000 for attaching families to the programme and a further £800 is earned when evidence of sustained progress against the agreed outcome measures in their local outcomes plan is submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). In Portsmouth the Troubled Families programme is referred to under the Stronger Futures umbrella.

### Which families are we talking about?

There are **6 headline criteria** for families to be considered as part of the Troubled Families programme:

1. **Parents or young people involved in offending or anti-social behaviour**
2. **Children or young people where attendance in an education setting needs to improve**
3. **Children and families who need effective help and protection**
4. **Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion, or young people at risk of worklessness or NEET**
5. **Women and girls affected by domestic violence and abuse**
6. **Parents or children with a range of health and wellbeing problems.**

Any families which meet **two or more** of these criteria can be attached to the programme. Progress would have to be demonstrated through Early Help reviews or similar documents to show what progress has been made against those headline criteria for a **minimum of 6 months**

### How does a family get attached to the Troubled Families programme?

The Portsmouth approach to Troubled Families is based on national research about how to achieve better outcomes for families, which recommends: having a single dedicated worker (e.g. lead professional/ practitioner) for each family; addressing the needs of the whole family; setting a common purpose and having agreed outcomes; providing practical, hands-on support; and practitioners adopting an assertive and persistent approach. There are **three** elements to attach families to the Troubled Families programme:

1. **Whole family plan, eg: early help assessment or similar family plan**
2. **Lead professional working with the family**
3. **Consent to share information with Government departments (this is needed to claim the funding), which is part of the early help assessment**

If your service completes whole family plans, but it is not an early help assessment this can be considered for attachment to the programme as long as the consent form from the early help assessment is completed and there is a lead professional

### Payment by Results

A Troubled Families Quick Guide for professionals has been produced to show what and how progress needs to be evidenced. This is supported by hard data which is provided by the Troubled Families data team.

The data has to be supported with documentation by the lead professional and when we are clear that enough progress has been made, the team will submit a payment by results claim through the Portsmouth City Council internal audit team. Spot checks on claims take place on a regular basis by the DCLG, so we need to make sure our claims are accurate to prevent fraudulent claims.

The Portsmouth Troubled Families programme is coordinated at a strategic level by an Integrated Head of Early Help who has a dedicated performance team overseeing the attachments and who monitor the progress of the families attached against the outcomes framework

### Why is progress against the outcomes so important?

Portsmouth is committed to providing the right support to children and families, so that they are able to secure a **stronger future** for themselves. We are ambitious to drive sustained improvements on key outcomes including improving school attendance, reducing anti-social and criminal behaviour, reducing incidents of domestic violence, and supporting people into employment. The funding provided through the Troubled Families Programme supports our 0-19 Early Help and Prevention teams.

### For more information:

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The documents that support the Troubled Families programme are all available on the [PSCB website](#) and the Portsmouth City Council website by searching for [Early Help](#)