



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 031534
Date 11 March 2015

Troubled Families Programme

Request & Response:

In the period from the beginning of the first phase of the Troubled Families Programme to the most recent data available, and for those families selected for inclusion in the programme:

- 1 a) What local discretionary criteria did you use in addition to the three primary criteria for inclusion in the Programme?

In Phase 1 of the Troubled Families Programme, known as the Families in Focus programme in Wolverhampton, the following 8 local discretionary criteria were used to select families who met a minimum of 2 of the national criteria for the programme and were a cause for concern:

1. Child at risk of Entering Care
2. Domestic Violence
3. Substance Misuse
4. Mental Health Issues
5. Family live in a Police Priority Area
6. At risk of sexual exploitation
7. Involvement in or at the edge of involvement in gangs
8. Child or young person in the family over the age of 8 is involved in anti-social behaviour but has not been formally charged. (Criteria for a YISP referral)

- b) For each primary and each discretionary criterion, please provide the number of families which you recorded as meeting that selection criterion.

The information requested for those families selected for inclusion on the Troubled Families programme is not recorded on our database.

2. a) If a family met all three main criteria for inclusion in the programme, did you record whether it also met additional criteria?

For the purposes and requirements of the Troubled Families programme this information was not recorded on our database.

b) If a family met at least one discretionary criterion for inclusion, did you record whether it also met additional discretionary criteria?

Where it was identified that a family met more than one local discretionary criteria for the programme this was recorded by the appropriate agency on the Troubled Families identification form.

c) If domestic violence/abuse was a criterion for inclusion in the programme, did you record information on the types of domestic violence/abuse experienced by families who you recorded as fulfilling this criterion? If so, please list the subcategories used.

For the purposes and requirements of the Troubled Families programme this information was not recorded on our database.

3. What kinds of sanctions is it possible to apply to families under, or in relation to non-engagement with, the Troubled Families Programme? Please list all categories of sanction.

The Troubled Families programme in Wolverhampton was delivered as a voluntary supportive programme to achieve positive outcomes with families and as such the use of sanctions for non-engagement on the programme was not implemented.

4. How many sanctions have been applied to families under, or in relation to non-engagement with, the Troubled Families programme in your local authority for the entire period for which data is available? Please provide the numbers of sanctions within each category of sanction if available.

The Troubled Families programme in Wolverhampton was delivered as a voluntary supportive programme to achieve positive outcomes with families and as such the use of sanctions for non-engagement on the programme was not implemented.

5.a) How many times, if any, was a family with domestic violence identified as an inclusion criterion sanctioned under the Troubled Families programme?

Please see response provided to question 4 above.

b) Which categories of sanction were applied in these cases?

Please see response provided to question 4 above.