

TFU UPDATE FOR LANCASHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP BOARD – FEBRUARY 2017

Number of Families Attached

Lancashire's target for 2016/17 is to attach 2,833 new families to the programme, in addition to the 1,470 attached 2015/16, a cumulative 4,303 to be attached by 31st March 2017.

In order to attach a family to the programme, a number of conditions must be met:

- 1) there must be clear evidence that a family has needs against 2 or more of the 6 criteria;
- 2) a full family assessment has taken place that considers the needs of all family members
- 3) a plan is put in place to address the needs identified, linked to the outcomes in the troubled families outcomes plan
- 4) there is an identified lead professional who coordinates the support delivered to the family.

As at 31st December 2016, a total of 3,420 families had been attached (80%) of the agreed target for the year.

	LP Agency		Total Attached
	WPEHS	CSC	
Burnley	212	155	367
Hyndburn	185	150	335
Pendle	164	161	325
Ribble Valley	28	25	53
Rossendale	129	106	235
Chorley	153	145	298
Preston	260	250	510
South Ribble	110	111	221
West Lancashire	143	113	256
Fylde	102	50	152
Lancaster	242	179	421
Wyre	151	96	247
Lancashire	1,879	1,541	3,420

Eligible but Not Attached

Current position

In addition to the 3,420 attached as outlined above, a further 2,632 families have been identified through data matching as being eligible for attachment under the programme as they meet 2 or more criteria, but have not been attached as they do not meet one or more of the attachment principles, i.e. there is no assessment or lead professional in place.

This number has seen a sharp increase as children identified as having low school attendance have been data matched with adults on out of work benefits. 2,582 of the families in this cohort (98%) meet both the worklessness and missing education (i.e. low attendance or exclusions) criteria.

Many of these cases may not have any agencies currently working with them so consideration is needed as to how these families who have identified needs, but are not currently receiving any support and be allocated to a LP.

Breakdown by district (with CAF)

Of this cohort of 2,632 families, 419 have a record on the CAF database (16%).

A significant number of these cases however have been open for a number of years (there is an issue with agencies not notifying of closures) or have been closed for a significant period of time.

	Total Identified	Number Identified with a CAF Record	% with CAF Record	Number with an OPEN CAF Record (open after 1st April 2016)
Burnley	314	52	17%	10
Hyndburn	236	25	11%	5
Pendle	197	38	19%	2
Ribble Valley	45	9	20%	0
Rossendale	164	15	9%	0
Chorley	202	39	19%	3
Preston	424	72	17%	6
South Ribble	186	24	13%	3
West Lancashire	233	36	15%	8
Fylde	105	19	18%	2
Lancaster	313	41	13%	6
Wyre	213	49	23%	8
Total	2,632	419	16%	53

Whilst 16% of the cases have a CAF record on the database, only 2% have an open record that has been opened since 1st April 2016 (i.e. recent activity). There are a large number of historic records relating to these families, suggesting that these families have been known to services in the past, but outstanding issues remain.

Of the 2,632 families that have been identified as being eligible 2213 have never had a CAF record created on the CAF database. This could be due to the families never coming to the attention of services, the family's needs never reaching a level that raised concerns or the agencies working with the family not being engaged with the CAF process.

TFU Criteria

As previously outlined above, a total of 2,582 families in the 'eligible but not attached cohort' are eligible due to there being a dependent child within the family with either school exclusions or poor attendance and an adult in the household on an out of work benefit.

	Crime/ASB	Missing education	Worklessness	Domestic abuse	Health
Crime/ASB		8	11	-	-
Missing education	8		2,582	31	3
Worklessness	11	2,582		35	2
Domestic abuse	-	31	35		1
Health	-	3	2	1	

Given the low number of these cases that have an open CAF assessment in place, consideration is required as to how to progress supporting these families that evidently have unmet needs. Given the high number of families with educational issues identified it will be vital moving forwards that schools are engaged more in the TF work across Lancashire as well as engaging the CAF process.

Challenges

There are a number of challenges that currently impact on Lancashire's ability to attach non-LCC cases to the TFU programme:

CAFs not in place

There is an ongoing challenge from some agencies to complete CAF assessments and to ensure a thorough assessment of the whole family's needs.

Whilst this is an issue in relation to attaching families to the TFU programme, there is a wider issue in that not undertaking a thorough assessment of family's needs means that interventions delivered may not be the most appropriate, or may not address the root causes of issues.

There is clear evidence that good assessment of need and effective planning delivers better outcomes for families.

CAFs not compliant with TFU principles (i.e. not family CAFs or missing consideration of all TFU criteria)

A further issue evident through CAF quality assurance exercises that have taken place is that not all agencies are undertaking 'whole family' assessments and are instead focussed simply on the needs of the individual they have come into contact with, e.g. a school focussed purely on the needs of the pupil and not the whole family needs.

Additionally, assessments are focussed on the presenting issues with little consideration of wider, potentially hidden, issues; e.g. a health visitor focussing purely on the needs evident around home conditions or health, but not considering whether other children in the household are attending school regularly.

Multi agency partner's understanding and knowledge of the TFU programme/principles

A key objective of the national Troubled Families Programme is to embed the 'Troubled Families' way of working across multi agency partnerships,

- ensuring that a lead professional coordinates the work
- that a thorough 'whole family' assessment that considers the needs of all family members is completed
- assessment considers the six overarching troubled families headline criteria/issues

During Phase 1 of the programme, Working Together With Families in Lancashire, began to embed the lead professional and assessment principles, Phase 2 of the programme requires the embedding of the additional principles linked to whole family assessment and effective planning.

Payment by Results claims

Lancashire's target to make payment by results claims by 31st March 2017 was 1,320 families.

As of 31st December 2016 a total of 46 claims had been submitted.

The target set was an extremely challenging target given Lancashire's late entry into the programme. The methodology applied to generating the target was the same despite Lancashire being 6 to 12 months behind other areas in implementing and rolling out the expanded programme. In particular 71% of the families attached to the programme in Lancashire require 12 months of sustained progress to generate a claim due to the issues against which they have been attached to the programme (i.e. educational issues or subject to a child protection plan).

There is ongoing regular communication with the DCLG to update them on progress locally and the DCLG is fully briefed on the local position. Current projections are that Lancashire will make approximately 320 payment by results claims in the current financial year.

Actions for the Trust Board

The DCLG's expectations are that local areas embed the TFU principles across multi agency partnerships and are keen to support the partnership in working in the 'Troubled Families' way.

Our DCLG link officer is keen to support the Trust partners and arrangements are being made for the DCLG to facilitate a session with partners from across Lancashire in the near future.

In order to drive some of the work required to start 'attaching' non-LCC cases to the TFU programme the Trust Partnership Board is asked to:

- Identify 3 district councils to pilot work around anti-social behaviour data sharing and building these families into the Troubled Families cohort (one from each locality area);
- Identify a number of schools who are working with families, undertaking CAF assessments and who wish to engage with the Troubled Families way of working;
- Consider whether the submission of multi-agency CAFs to the CAF database should be included underneath the 'children who need help' criteria in the 2017/18 version of the Lancashire Troubled Families Outcomes Plan. This would mean that cases would be attached to the programme if a CAF was completed and submitted by partner agencies where there was evidence additional TFU criteria were met.
- Note the challenges regarding payment by results claims in the current financial year.