

CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD TFU UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2016

Background

Lancashire was admitted to phase 2 of the national Troubled Families Unit programme in September 2015. The programme was formerly known as Working Together With Families (WTF) in Lancashire but the approach for phase 2 was to embed the principles of the programme into operating practice with the lead being taken by the Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help Service (WPEHS) within Lancashire County Council.

In order to be eligible for the programme families must have identified needs against 2 of 6 nationally agreed criteria:

1. Parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
2. Children who have not been attending school regularly
3. Children who need help: children of all ages, who need help, are identified as in need or are subject to a child protection plan
4. Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion or young people at risk of worklessness
5. Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
6. Parents or children with a range of health problems

As well as meeting 2 or more of the criteria, in order for a family to be eligible a number of principles must be adhered to in the work that is undertaken with the family:

1. a full family assessment has taken place that considers the needs of all family members
2. a plan is put in place to address the needs identified, linked to the outcomes in the troubled families outcomes plan
3. there is an identified lead professional who coordinates the support delivered to the family.

Lancashire receives funding for each family attached and an additional results based payment upon completion of the support offered where significant and sustained progress can be evidenced.

Current Progress

Lancashire has been set a target of attaching 2,833 families during 2016/17, in addition to the target of 1,472 achieved during 2015/16, a cumulative total of 4,305.

Currently only families that have involvement with the WPEHS or Children's Social Care (CSC) have been attached to the programme as we are able to establish a clear Lead Professional who is leading on coordinating the support offered to families.

Districts will soon have targets attached to them based on current understanding of demand/issues in the local area.

Currently 3,058 families have been attached to the programme and the district breakdown is as outlined below:

	LP Agency			Total
	WPEHS - CC	CSC	WPEHS - YPS	
Burnley	138	161	29	328
Chorley	69	154	9	232
Fylde	52	50	35	137
Hyndburn	123	158	18	299
Lancaster	173	181	40	394
Pendle	114	164	16	294
Preston	159	253	56	468
Ribble Valley	19	24	4	47
Rosendale	86	111	22	219
South Ribble	59	111	24	194
West Lancashire	65	119	42	226
Wyre	91	96	33	220
Total	1,148	1,582	328	3,058

Additionally 713 families have been identified as TFU eligible through data matching but have not yet been attached to the programme due to them as neither WPEHS or CSC are currently involved. Discussions have been taking place at the Lancashire Children and Young People's Trust Partnership Board (LCYPTPB) on how to progress this multi-agency work and how these cases could be included in the attached numbers.

Claims

Lancashire has been set a challenging target of making 1,320 payment by results claims by the end of March 2016. The target is particularly challenging due to the nature of the payments by results claim requirement to evidence both significant and sustained progress. In order to achieve sustained progress against a number of the TFU criteria (exclusions, school absence and subject to a CP plan), 12 months positive progress is required. 69% of attached families were attached with one of these criteria live. This means that the cases can only be claimed for payment by results 12 months after these issues have been resolved. As Lancashire has only been in the programme for 14 months, this is currently a significant barrier to claiming.

At the end of November, Lancashire had identified 30 successful and compliant payment by results claims that would be submitted to the DCLG. This number will increase steadily over the coming months as more cases meet the 'sustained progress' element of the TFU principles.

Key Activities for Next Period

Engaging Partners in Embedding TFU Principles across Lancashire

A delivery plan was shared with partner agencies via the LCYPTPB with some key activities for partners that could support WPEHS in delivering the TFU agenda. This plan was shared with partners for feedback and comment.

TFU Resources for Practitioners

Examples of good compliant CAF assessments have been developed to support practitioners in ensuring assessments completed meet the TFU criteria. "Crib sheets" have also been developed that provide examples of phrases and sentences that can be used within assessments that demonstrates that the TFU criteria have been considered as part of the assessment process. These can be shared with partners to support their work in embedding the principles of the TFU programme across the county.

Tracking Report

The TFU data function have developed a report to support monitoring towards PBR claims. The report looks at families who no longer meet criteria and projects when claims are likely to be possible, should the positive outcomes be sustained. This report is in the testing phase and will be rolled out in early December.

A monthly update will be presented to WPEHS senior management outlining the current position in relation to progress to claims, the number of potential claims, cases attached by number of outstanding criteria etc. These reports will then be cascaded to CPBs via the LCYPTPB.