



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

# **The Troubled Families Programme**

## **Troubled Families Transnational Event**

### **Jamila Mensah, Troubled Families Team**



- Our objective is to turn around the lives of 120,000 families

*“... I will make sure that we clear away the red tape and the bureaucratic wrangling, and put rocket boosters under this programme...with a clear ambition that within the lifetime of this Parliament we will turn around the lives of the 120,000 most troubled families in the country”.*

Prime Minister, 2011

- £448million and three years to achieve this.

Payment by results scheme +

National Network of 152 Troubled Families Coordinators +

150 Jobcentre Plus Secondees +

Independent Evaluation



# The Problem: Failing Families and the Tax Payer

From  
2003



...to  
2012

**A post-it = a contact or intervention**

**Police/  
Community  
Safety**

**Health**

**Social Care**

**Housing**

**Community  
Outreach**

**CAF  
Coordination**

**Barnados**

**Attendance  
Service**

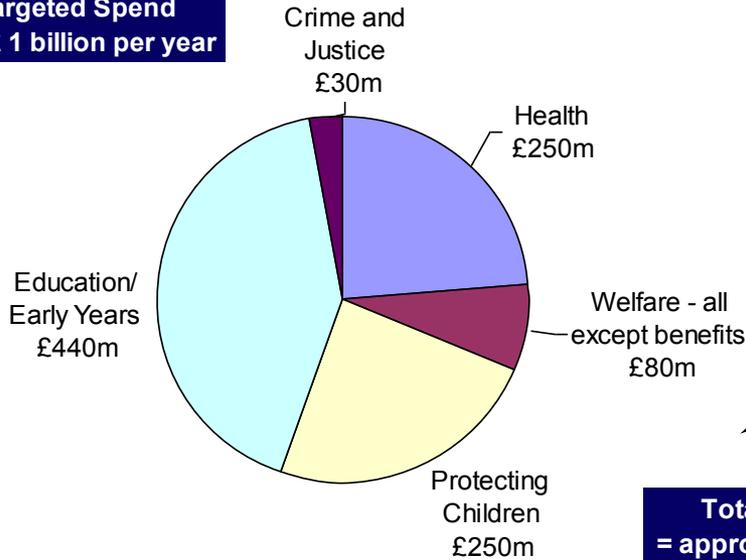
**Housing  
Benefit**

**Family  
Intervention  
Project**



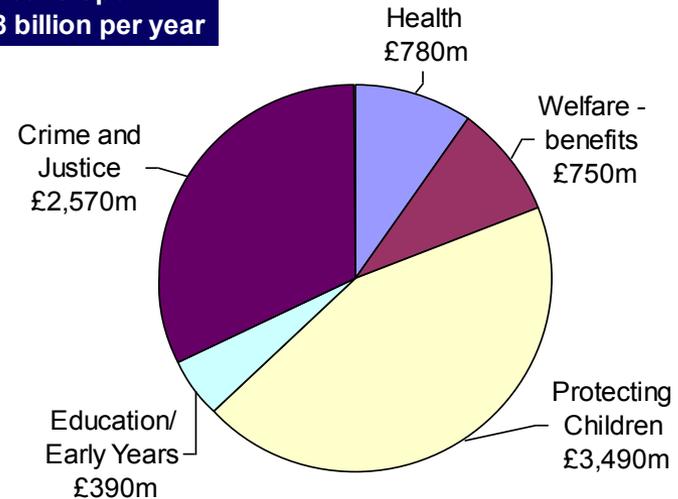
## A problem we cannot afford

**Total Targeted Spend  
= approx. £ 1 billion per year**



The estimated average fiscal cost of a troubled family is around £75,000 per year.

**Total Reactive Spend  
= approx. £ 8 billion per year**



*The Fiscal Case for Working with Troubled Families:  
Analysis and Evidence on the Costs of Troubled  
Families to Government, DCLG (Jan 2013)*

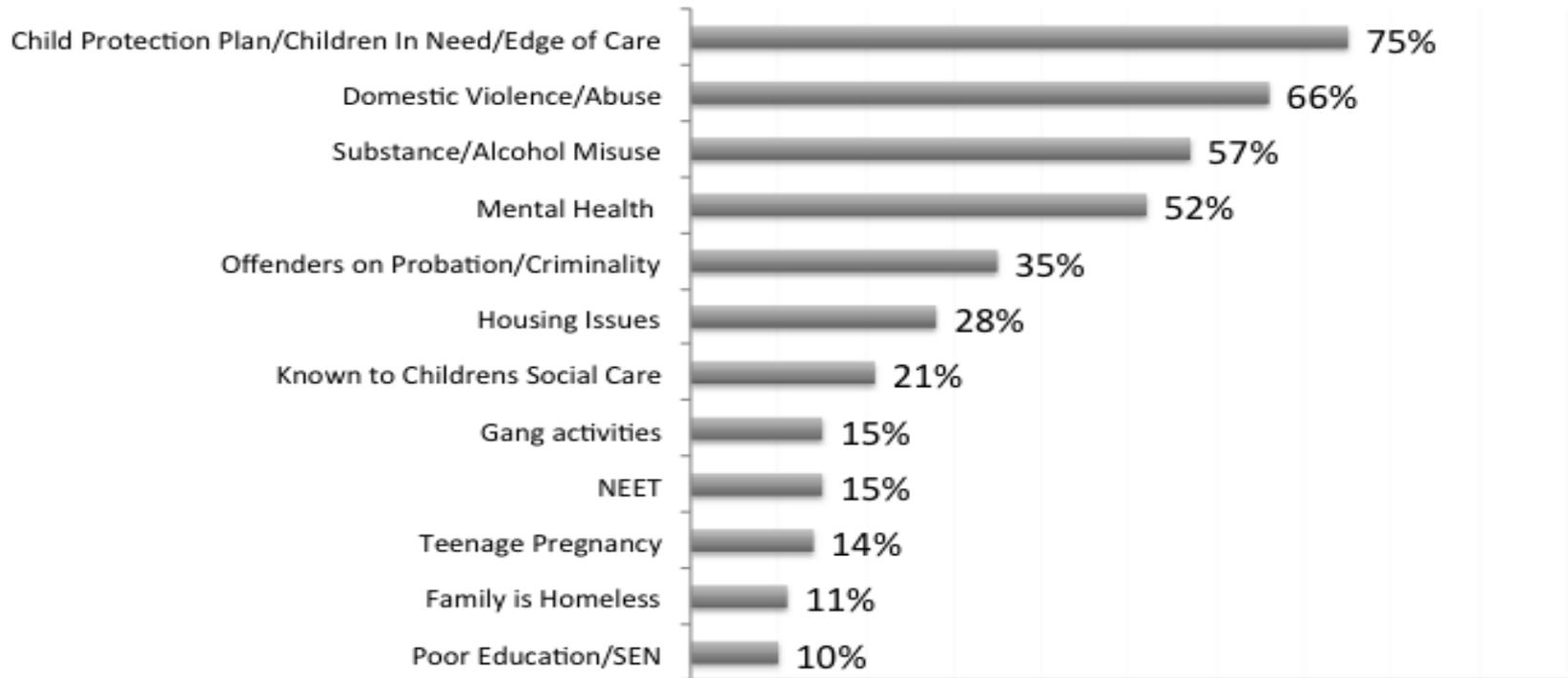


## Who are troubled families?

To be part of the Troubled Families programme a household must meet three of the following criteria :

- have someone involved in youth crime or ASB
- have children who are regularly truanting or not in school
- have an adult on out of work benefits
- cause high cost to the public purse

A family is deemed to be turned around once the children are back in school, adults are on the path to work and crime and ASB levels have reduced significantly.





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# A different approach: A family intervention

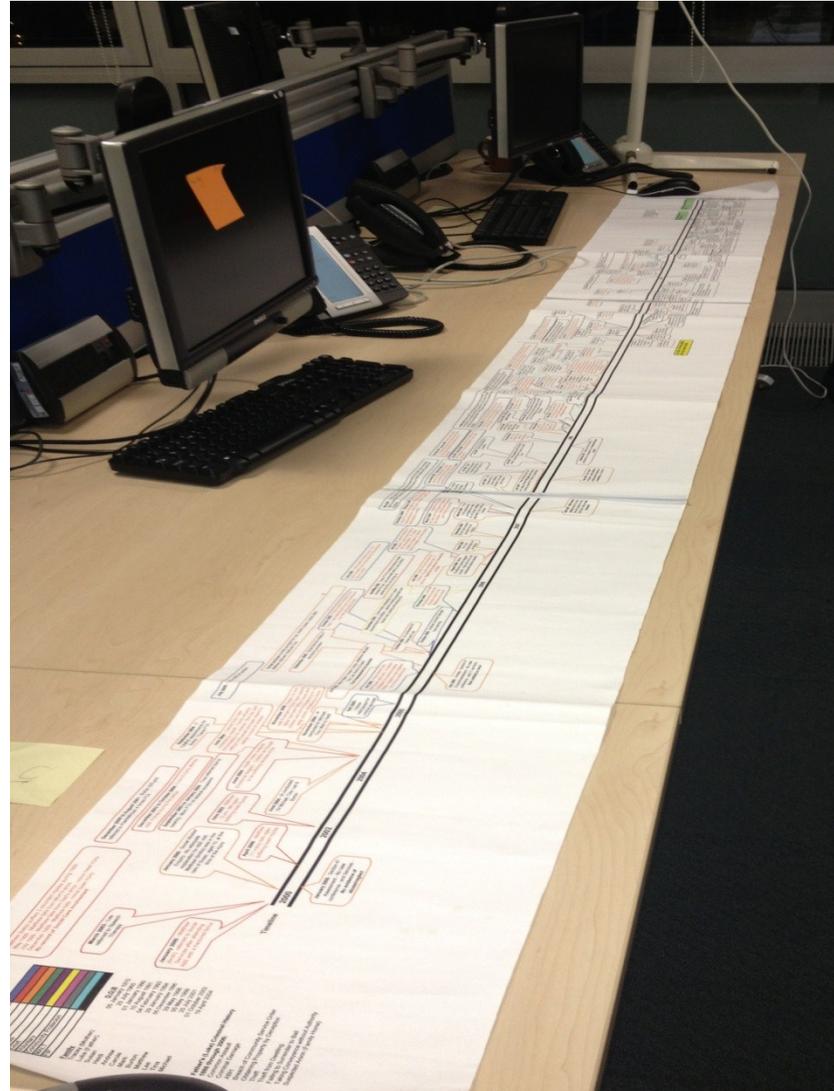
“long thin” versus “short fat”

**Family with 10 kids**

**10 years of public  
service interventions**

**8 of which were  
wasted**

**A family intervention,  
rather intervention  
for problems in siloes**





## The five Family Intervention Factors

1. A dedicated worker dedicated to the family
2. Who looks at what's really happening for the family as a whole
3. And gives practical hands-on support
4. With an assertive and challenging approach
5. Backed by an agreed plan and common purpose among the relevant services.



As of January 2013:

- 83% identified to date (100,000)
- Working with 65% (68,000)

As of December 2013:

- Already turned around 22,000 families.
- Latest results will be released shortly.



## Looking to the future – what more can we do?

### **In SR 2013, the Government announced:**

- 5 year extension of the Troubled Families Programme from 2015
- £200m in 2015/16 (1<sup>st</sup> of 5 years' intended investment)
- 400,000 families will benefit from the new PBR scheme
- Part of the radical reform agenda to be announced as part of 2015/16 SR

### **As part of the Budget, the Government announced:**

- Will bring forward by one year the next stage of the Programme, which means up to 40,000 families will be able to get support one year earlier than planned.
- First group of 'early starters' to begin in July 2014 – working with them over the coming months to design the detail.



## Designing the expanded programme

- The problems targeted by the current programme – youth crime, anti-social behaviour, poor school attendance and unemployment - remain relevant.
- However, as the expanded programme looks to work with a much larger group of families with a broader range of problems.
- These include families who are:
  - affected by family violence;
  - with vulnerable children;
  - with a range of family health problems;
  - in employment but with low/ no recognised skills or qualifications; and
  - involved in crime from generation to generation