

Support for Families

In June 2013, the Government announced plans to expand the Troubled Families Programme for a further five years from 2015/16 and to reach up to an additional 400,000 families across England. This means **3170 families in Lewisham**.

To be eligible for the expanded programme, each family must have at least two of the following six problems:

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.

AND there is an expectation from DCLG that to be eligible for the programme each family will meet the following criteria:

- 1) There will have been an assessment that takes into account the needs of the whole family;
- 2) There is an action plan that takes account of all (relevant) family members;
- 3) There is a lead worker for the family that is recognised by the family and other professionals involved with the family; and
- 4) The objectives in the family action plan are aligned to those in the area's Troubled Families Outcomes plan.

Locally this programme is upheld by the Troubled Families steering group, which helps us identify and work with families who need support in the borough. Our strategy has been to integrate this programme with our Early Intervention approach as the aims of the programme align closely with the working culture outlined in our own Children and Young People's Plan:

- work as a team around Lewisham's children and we take individual responsibility for delivering outcomes
- work with whole families because strong and stable families are the foundation for achieving the outcomes we want for children and young people
- identify and target children at risk of poor outcomes and intervene early to make a difference
- involve and listen to children, young people and their families and work hard to ensure that our services are accessible to all our communities
- use our funding collaboratively to make every penny work as hard as it possibly can for children and young people in Lewisham

And the four priority outcome areas we have identified in this document:

- Build child and family resilience
- Be healthy and active
- Raise achievement and attainment
- Stay safe

For the purposes of the expanded programme we can identify (and therefore claim results for) any family that we have worked with since January 1st 2015.

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Results

Lewisham can claim a PbR payment from DCLG for any identified family who meet either of the following conditions:

- We can demonstrate “significant and sustained progress” for each family against ALL the outcomes identified in the original Family Plan. This will be evidenced against the TFOP and the outcomes defined in the Plan.

OR

- An identified family moves into continuous employment (i.e 13 weeks of paid work for those on ESA or 26 out of 30 weeks for those on JSA)

Results are verified by Lewisham’s internal auditors and there will be at least one DCLG spot check through the life of the programme.

Please note that supporting information and definitions can be found in the TF Financial Framework produced by DCLG:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-framework-for-the-expanded-troubled-families-programme>