

Birmingham's Think Family Characteristics

Summary

The National Troubled Families Unit (TFU) leads this national programme within the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and defines a 'Troubled Family' as one that causes high costs to the public purse and meets three of the four characteristics below;

Determined by the national Troubled Families Unit (DCLG):

- Under 18 yr. olds involved in crime or any family members involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Have children not in school 15% of the time due to truancy or exclusion or an 'equivalent'(NEW)
- Have an adult on out of work benefits.

Determined by Birmingham's 'Think Family' Board, based on our local priorities:

- Have low Parental Capacity

Three National TFU Criteria (Specific)

1. Crime/anti-social behaviour (ASB) -

Young people who are perpetrators of crime AND / OR family members perpetrating anti-social behaviour, are defined as:

- a. Households with 1 or more under 18-year-old with a proven offence in the last 12 months AND/ OR;
- b. Households where 1 or more member has an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO), ASB injunction, anti-social behaviour contract (ABC), or possibly where the family has been subject to a housing related ASB intervention in the last 12 months (such as a notice of seeking possession on ASB grounds, a housing related injunction, a demotion order, eviction from social housing on ASB grounds and other ASB criteria as defined by the Local Coordination Groups).

2. Children not in school 15% of the time or more -

Families affected by truancy or exclusion from school, and where a child or young person;

- a. Has been subject to permanent exclusion; three or more fixed school exclusions across the last 3 consecutive terms; OR
- b. Is in an Education Centre (Pupil Referral Unit) or alternative provision because they have previously been excluded; OR is not on a school roll; AND/OR
- c. A child has had 15% unauthorised absences or more from school across the last 3 consecutive terms.
- d. The Head Teacher or school reports give attendance as a prominent and developing concern, described by the TFU as 'equivalent' to the attendance rate or frequency and type of exclusion

3. Adults out of work -

Households which have one adult (aged 16+) claiming DWP out of work benefits

- a. These include; Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Income Support and/or Jobseekers Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance
- b. These include; only those not yet engaged in a workless programme (ESF)

Low Parental Capacity Local Indicator

The low parental capacity local indicator takes account of a number of risk factors known to negatively impact on parent's ability to provide a secure, supportive and healthy environment in which children can thrive. These factors have been identified through CAF/FCAF practice, research, and the professional judgement of staff.

The parental capacity local indicator is triggered when at least one of these risk indicators is present within the family. These risk indicators are:

- Child Protection Plan in place, open child social care case, or family with two or more episodes of child social care involvement in the last 3 years.
- Child or Young Person at risk of Entering Care
- Family includes a child at risk of sexual exploitation or engaging in sexually harmful behaviour
- Domestic abuse is taking place within the family
- Family is homeless
- Family member is affiliated to a gang or clearly under its influence
- Family member has substance misuse problems predominantly drug or alcohol problems
- Adult or child mental health issues are present
- Family has been identified as likely to be severely affected by welfare reform changes
- Family includes an adult classified as being at medium to high risk of re-offending
- Family member is believed to have been influenced by violent extremism
- Parents have indicated or demonstrated that they are struggling to parent and/or enforce rules and boundaries
- Family includes a child who has been statemented
- Family includes a child eligible for free school meals but where DWP have not identified an adult on out of work benefits.

In addition

For families where there is not yet sufficient data available to confirm whether or not any of the above risk factors are present, a proxy measure has been used of families living in one of the 5% most deprived areas in the country.