

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday 29 November 2023

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Subject:

Supporting Families Programme 2022 - 2025

Summary statement:

This report has been requested by a member.

Supporting Families is the new name for the Governments 'Troubled Families programme'. In Bradford this programme was originally named Families First – this report is an overview of the progress made on Supporting Families Programme since the last report that was tabled and discussed on 20th November 2022.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Equality Impact assessments were completed 2022 as part of the re-tendering process and can be supplied if necessary.

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Portfolio:

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

Bradford's Supporting Families Programme was launched in March 2021, this programme built on the previously Government named 'Troubled Families' programme that began 12 years ago. In Bradford this programme was previously called 'Families First'.

The paper presented to Overview and Scrutiny on 20th November 2022 outlined the details of the new criteria for the 10 outcomes and progress against the Early Help System Guide, which is submitted annually in July to demonstrate progress against set outcomes to the National Team.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Education (DfE) have determined that to have better oversight of the programme the DfE will now become the lead agency for the Supporting Families Programme.

The regional lead for Yorkshire and Humber is now Jason Henderson and he will be supported by Leanne Scales.

This paper presents the continued positive progress and challenges of the Supporting Families Programme.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Supporting Families is committed to strong multi-agency local partnerships in every area and expects Local Authorities to have mature local data systems and links to national data systems, so that workers can prove what a difference they are making to families and their children as part of Whole Family Working.

2.2 The Supporting Families programme has investment money attached to it and then income is generated by evidencing work done with families and children. Bradford has invested all its income generated funding back into services.

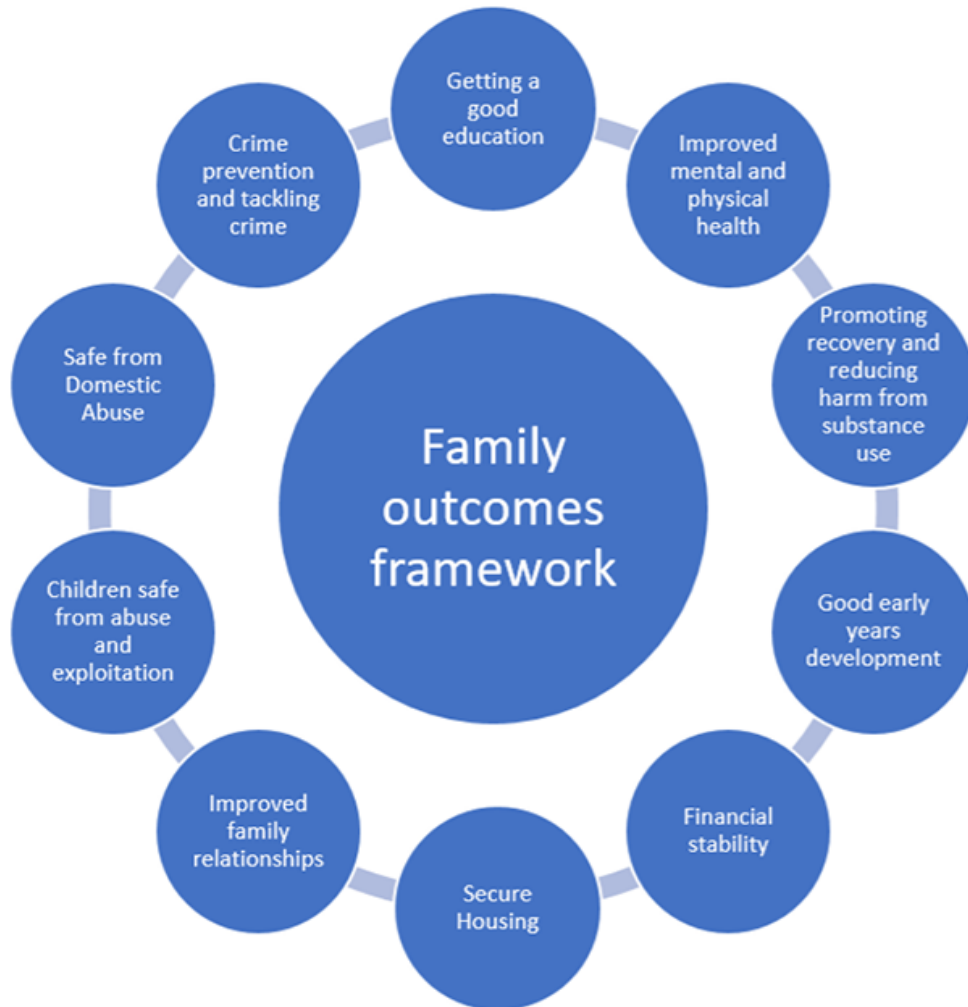
2.3 The Supporting Families programme supports:

- Workers who are called keyworkers and work with complex situations that are not safeguarding to the extent of requiring a social worker but require a Team Around the Family approach.
- We have funded attendance workers in schools, to aid the huge number of children who are finding it hard to return to the classroom.
- Youth workers who are supporting more than a young person but are looking at how the family can be supported to be more resilient and help themselves as young people grow and become independent.
- Family aid workers that go into families' homes and do 'hands on' work.
- Substance Misuse navigators who are working with a handful of very complicated families in need of child protection but also hope and change to do things differently to keep their children at home.
- Family navigators who are guiding and taking families into services with some exceptional results.

- Early Help Coordinators who are supporting and guiding all agencies to become lead practitioners and trusted adults for families when they need someone, they trust to do a little bit more for them. **(see Table 3)**

2.4 Supporting Families' focus continues to be on building the resilience of vulnerable families, and the 10 criteria outcomes noted last November became part of our reporting mechanisms in July this year.

Table 1 Ten Outcomes



2.5 The Supporting Families Team work closely with our National Team and regional leads to inform practice, share skills and experience.

2.6 Bradford's refreshed Early Help System Guide has been completed and was submitted to the National Team in July 2023. The refreshed version improves on the content and clarity of the self-assessments and works to encourage local transformation in line with descriptors. The progress against these descriptors will continue to be reported annually to the DfE. The outcomes are embedded into the work streams within Start for Life and Family Hubs Programmes.

2.7 Clear links between Supporting Families and the Start for life and Family Hub Programmes have been drawn with expectations that:

- Family Hubs are a way of delivering the Supporting Families vision of an effective early help system.
- Family Hubs provide a single access point to a range of services for families – a ‘front door’ to universal and early help services - and involve co-location of services and professionals.
- Where needed, family hubs will ensure seamless access to a Whole-Family Lead Practitioner.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Progress

3.1 Data Maturity

As part of writing our Early Help System Guide, we are asked to self-assess our data maturity. To improve this outcome, we have invested in a new system for the next phase of the Supporting Families Programme, which is still being implemented. We have also been given time with Somerset Local Authority who are a leading authority on data and information to support the way we evidence our claim data to maximise our income and work more productively with our partner data.

3.2 Support for Families

The outcome data that determines progress is the claim data and targets (Table 2) and the number of assessments and plans (Table 3) we are able to complete clearly show a change and a difference is being made to Whole Families by a range of partners.

Table 2 - Claim Data – successful claims in years 2020 - 2023

Financial Year	Number of families who have achieved 'Significant & Sustained progress':	Number of families that have achieved the 'Continuous Employment' result:	Total PBR Claimed	Maximum PBR Available	Amount PBR Claimed
2020-21	1013	4	1017	1017	£813,600
2021-22	1056	4	1060	1060	£848,000
2022-23 –	1089	1	1090	1090	£872,000

Table 3 - Lead Practitioner assessments – annual increase

Month	Total 12 months to	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Total 12 months to

		30th Sept 22													30th Sept 23
Tier 2	Total	795	139	61	72	66	107	106	45	87	97	90	23	31	924
	College	3	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
	Health (other e.g. Midwifery , Community Nursery Nurses)	6	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
	Health Visitors (0-19s Service) (Commissioned)	71	4	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	14
	LA Education Services	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nurseries/Pre-school	75	11	7	7	7	3	6	2	4	11	12	2	0	72
	Primary Schools	524	105	39	43	40	77	78	32	54	63	56	9	18	614
	Secondary Schools	94	18	12	19	14	20	20	11	28	18	21	3	7	191
	Special Schools	18	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	9
	VCS Commissioned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	9
	West Yorkshire Police	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Tier 3 - Commissioned	Total	467	44	16	21	33	30	36	21	56	46	45	21	55	424
	VCS Commissioned	360	39	13	13	29	29	31	18	52	37	35	16	46	358
	West Yorkshire Police	107	5	3	8	4	1	5	3	4	9	10	5	9	66
Tier 3 - LA	Total	600	37	70	56	53	43	59	47	54	62	48	62	39	630
	LA	600	37	70	56	53	43	59	47	54	62	48	62	39	630
Total		1862	220	147	149	152	180	201	113	197	205	183	106	125	1978

3.3 Challenges

- 3.3.1 Bradford acknowledges that achieving the accelerated targets will be a challenge. Extra support, monitoring and resources have been sourced to ensure we deliver to time and plan.
- 3.3.2 The Service purchased a new module to support this reporting but due to pressures in IT and in the Service the installation has been delayed. We expect the module to be up and running by the end of the year.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Due to the increase in PBR target this year from 1090 to 1763 and alongside the change to the 10 inclusion criteria in April 2023, there is a risk that Bradford will not achieve the maximum available PBR income this financial year. We have a target tracker to keep pace with this and this is regularly monitored. Additional resources will be allocated if required.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Any monies not achieved in 2023/24 may impact on projects and staff teams currently funded through PBR.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

None.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

7.2 TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS

N/A.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

N/A.

7.5 TRADE UNION

None.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Supporting Families is District Wide and an integral part of our Family Hubs. The work done in the family hubs and the partnerships that are being formed with our neighbourhood colleagues, policing teams, youth services, schools, health partners and VCS partners is starting to make a real difference and we are now being able to capture more and more to evidence what we are doing.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE LOCALITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The Family Hubs are part of the locality plans.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Whole Family ethos of Supporting Families is at the core of the work we do. Children and Young people have their own voice as part of that family.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

N/A.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview and Scrutiny to receive this paper for information, note the progress and support our Supporting Families Programme.

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Overview and Scrutiny Report - 20th November 2022.