

# Families First

Frequent asked  
questions July 2013



**BRADFORD**  
working in partnership

## Appendix 2

### Why was this programme established?

The government decided more need to be done to make a difference in the most complex families who put a large cost on services and who despite the number of agencies and interventions they have received haven't made much improvements in their lives therefore the government announced extra funding in 2011 to turn around the lives of 120,000 families in England by 2015. The criteria set by the national programme are strict because this is a 3 year payment by results programme. In Bradford the programme is called Families First.

### What is different about this programme?

1. It's a risk based approach based on criteria of: education, crime, anti social behaviour and being on benefits.
2. It's a whole family approach –all the members of the household are in scope
3. It's using intensive support and contracts but will use sanctions and ensure families don't walk away from the help that's on offer
4. It's cross cutting bridging children's services and adult services
5. it's build on existing good practice about sharing information and partnership working

### How are families selected?

The chart below outlines the 3 national criteria and the 4<sup>th</sup> local criteria.

#### National Definition 'Troubled Families'

**1. Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour** – Identify young people involved in crime and families involved in anti-social behaviour, defined as:

- 1 or more under 18-year-old with a proven offence in the last 12 months AND/OR
- 1 or more members has an anti-social behaviour order, anti-social behaviour injunction, anti-social behaviour contract, or where the family has been subject to a housing-related anti-social behaviour intervention in the last 12-months.

**2. Education** – Identify households affected by truancy or exclusion from school, where a child:

- Has been subject to permanent exclusion; three or more fixed school exclusions across the last 3 consecutive terms; OR
- Is in a Pupil Referral Unit or alternative provision because they have previously been excluded; OR is not on a school roll; AND/OR
- A child has had 15% unauthorised absences or more from school across the last 3 consecutive terms.

**3. Worklessness** – Meets one of the criteria above and an adult member of the household is claiming an out-of-work benefit

**4. Local Discretion** – Meets two of the criteria above and are a local cause for concern

### What's Bradford's local criteria?

The fourth criteria is used to ensure the most complex families are in the cohort.

- Referrals and open cases to social care/edge of care
- Domestic violence referrals
- Multi call outs police
- Families who need assessment
- Not in education training and employment (NEET)
- Y/P of concern to schools and BACS
- Families affected by reduction in housing benefit
- Homeless families
- Families of concern to social housing providers

### How does this work?

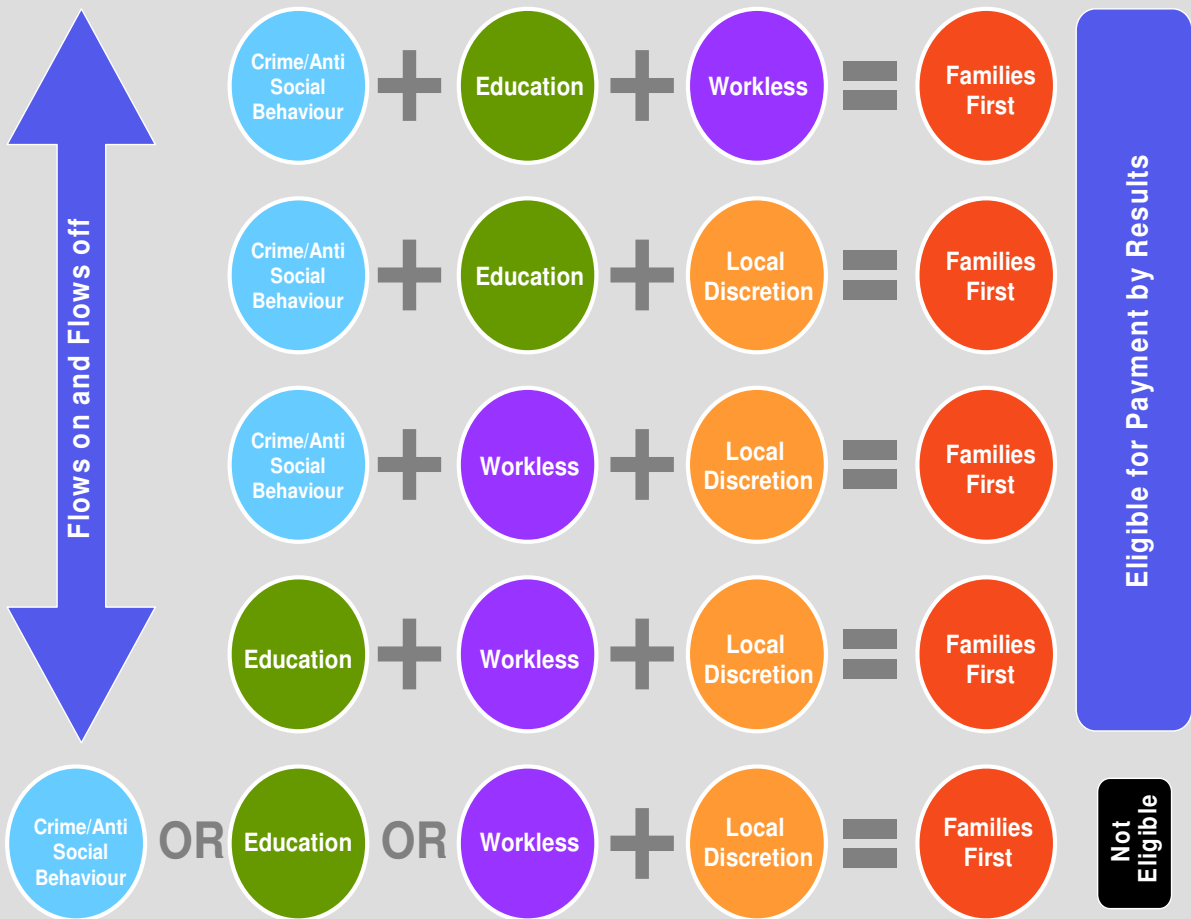
Families have to meet three of the national criteria

Or they can meet any two of the national criteria and one of the local criteria

**Nb** the local criteria only counts once

If they meet the criteria they are in the cohort and will be assessed for their level of need

### Defining Families First



Bradford

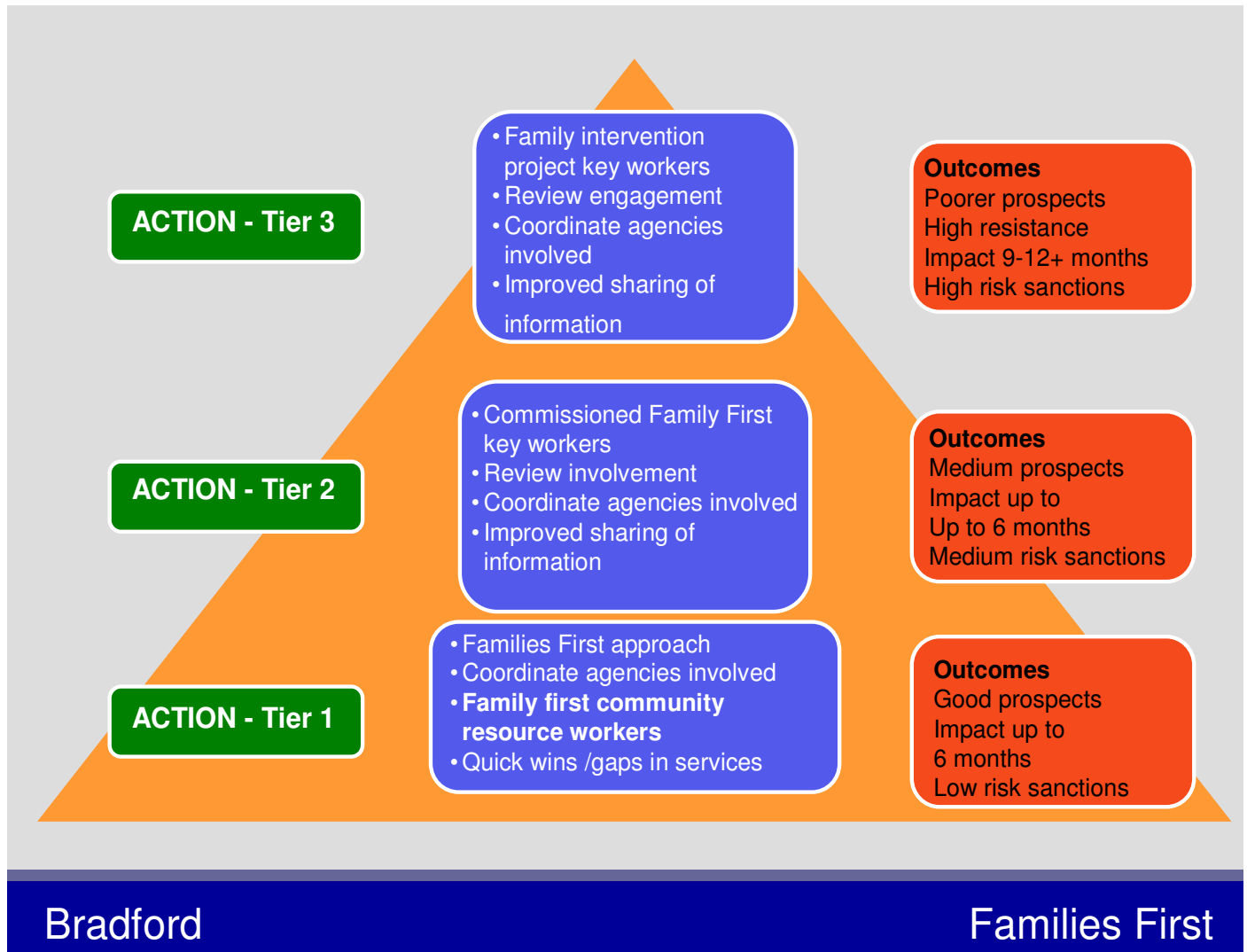
Families First

## How are the families assessed for risk?

This is done through an allocation and sanction meeting which is held weekly focusing on a 13 clusters of wards.

The families who meet the criteria present a range of issues from low risk to very high risk families often with many agencies involved.

Families First tiers of risk



## What interventions will be delivered?

The keyworkers will undertake an assessment of the whole family using a family intervention assessment or a C.A.F. They will identify the barriers that impact of the family and listen to their needs

This may range from practical support, advocacy, housing advice, brokering between the agencies working with the family, parenting and offering support to the parents to get job ready and enter training and employment and activity to support the y/p attend school and improve behaviour.

## Why focus on the adults in the family?

We won't be able to improve the lives of children in the families unless we help families out of poverty and most parents parent their children in the way they themselves were raised as children. Most parents want the best for their children and themselves but are often overwhelmed by the problems they face

### **Case examples**

**Family A** with 5 children, history of involvement from agencies- Families first involved since Sept 2012 and has provided keyworker support and assistance in pulling agencies together to work in a Team around the family.

Education - 2 of the 5 children's attendance at school below 85% - now creeping to above 85%,  
Crime – one of the children supervised by the YOT for committing offences of assault, knife crime, criminal damage and has successfully completed Final Warning and not reoffended.

Asbo –no concerns since intervention

Parenting support - mum and step dad on Family Links (structured parenting programme) and are getting a lot out of the programme and have high hopes this will improve their parenting skills.

Support into training work - 17 yr old supported into attending college, 14 y/o on CSE work, Mum and stepdad attending works programme.

**Overall positive improvements in family functioning.**

**Family B** Families First has provided keyworker support and assistance in multi agency working through supporting a Team around the family meeting and producing an action plan.

Education –attendance was 63% this did improve alternative education arrangements in place. The y/p is now focused on attending college to study sports science.

Crime –no reported offences since intervention.

Asbo-no reports of asbo concerns since intervention.

Parenting support - mum and dad have completed Triple p programme (structured parenting programme). Father reports this has helped him learn new skills to deal with his sons challenging behaviour.

Support into training work – father unable to work due to ill health but has been supported into volunteering.

Home conditions improved with a focus on budgeting, cooking, and cleanliness of the home.

**Overall positive improvements in family functioning.**

**Family C** Focus of intervention on the 3 young people's attendance at school and college –all 3 have improved with attendance at 90%. Mum caring for young child and is keen to seek help to return to work when this child is of school age.

**Family D** y/p in family history of poor attendance at school and asbo incidents.

He has now left home and being supported into finding accommodation and has been accepted on a course at college.

**Family E** History of non attendance at alternative school provision. Families First has helped support the young person to attend alternative school provision and mother has worked with staff to redecorate her flat and she has developed enough confidence to start a college course.

### **Families First Programme - Contact details**

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