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

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

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.
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.
The Impact

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 (1st 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.
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