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The Courts ◦ Carlisle ◦ CA3 8NA
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18 April 2013
Your reference:
Our reference: FOI 2013-0199

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - DISCLOSURE

The council has completed its search relating to your request for information about troubled families, which we received on 20 March 2013.

The council holds information within the definition of your request.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has asked your local authority to work with a target number of 'troubled families' over three years. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you tell me as of 1st March 2013:

Question 1

The total number of 'troubled families' your local authority is to work with over the three years;

Answer 1

In Cumbria, the Troubled Families work is part of a wider approach to working with families called Focus Family. The Department for Communities and Local Government has advised the total number of families in Cumbria who meet Troubled Families criteria is 1050.

Question 2

How many families in your local authority have been identified to work with under the Troubled Families programme;

Answer 2

As of 1 March 2013 the number of families identified as meeting the Troubled Families criteria is 873.

Question 2a

Of these, how many families fit all three of the Government's criteria of youth crime or anti-social behaviour, truancy, and an adult on out-of-work benefits?

Answer 2a

Of the 873 identified, 176 meet all three of the government's criteria of youth crime or anti-social behaviour, truancy and an adult on out-of-work benefits. Families are being identified on an on-going basis and this will affect the overall numbers and ratio of the three national criteria to the total national criteria to the total number identified. These are not static figures.

Question 3

What 'local criteria' are you using to identify families beyond the Government's stipulated criteria?

Answer 3

In Cumbria the local discretionary criteria considered so far includes:

Child protection plan.

Child in need.

Domestic Violence that meets the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) threshold.

Further work is currently being undertaken on other criteria and this includes parental mental ill health.

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Question 4

How many families in your local authority have been 'attached', that is, have consented to engage in the programme;

Answer 4

The majority of the identified families are receiving services.

Question 5

How many families in your local authority have declined to consent to being involved in the programme;

Answer 5

So far, no families have declined the support offered.

Question 6

Whether you are contracting out to voluntary sector organisation(s) to deliver the Troubled Families programme;

Answer 6

Yes.

Question 6a

If yes, please state which, and whether it is all or some of the direct delivery.

Answer 6a

The contracts for some of the direct work have included Children's Centres. In Cumbria, these are contracted to the third sector.

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Yours sincerely,

Claire Park
Team Leader – Corporate Complaints and Information Compliance

Internal Reviews

If you are dissatisfied with the way we have responded to your request or wish us to reconsider our decision, please write to:

Corporate Complaints and Information Compliance
Chief Executive's Office
Cumbria County Council, The Lonsdale Building, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8NA
E-mail: foi-dp@cumbria.gov.uk Fax: 01228 226706

If your internal review is not resolved you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office.