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14 November 2013  
Your reference:  
Our reference: FOI 2013-0739

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 05 November 2013.

The council holds information within the definition of your request.

### **Question 1**

How many of the families in the Troubled Families programme had a family member involved in the riots in 2011?

#### **Answer 1**

None

### **Question 2**

From where has the council provided the match funding for the Troubled Families programme?

#### **Answer 2**

There is no requirement for the council to match fund the attachment fees or payment by results received through the Department for Communities and Local Government.

### **Question 3**

What funding for what purposes has come for the Troubled Families programme from public, voluntary and statutory organisations?

#### **Answer 3**

Cumbria County Council has not required any public, voluntary or statutory organisations to commit funding to this programme. The aim of the Focus Family work is to improve partnership working by enabling a joint approach to all the different needs that are faced by a family as a whole. The long term expectations of this work are that through changes in practice and a more co-ordinated and holistic approach to working with families there will be improved outcomes for families with some of the most entrenched difficulties. Therefore, the public, voluntary and statutory organisations engaged with have made a commitment to use their staff to support with work.

### **Question 4**

How many "turned around" families have subsequently been involved in crime and/or anti social behaviour?

#### **Answer 4**

According to the terms of the Department for Communities and Local Government publication 'The Troubled Families Programme: Financial Framework' a claim for payment by results can only be made when a family has demonstrated a sustained reduction in their offending alongside a sustained improvement in their school attendance. The ethos of the work is that although families may have improved their circumstances enough to meet criteria for the payment by results, this does not mean

that work with them stops. To date there is no evidence that families who had progressed enough for claims to be made have reoffended or reduced their school attendance.

### Question 5

How many “turned around” families have a family member subsequently regularly skipping school or have been excluded?

### Answer 5

To date there is no evidence that families who had progressed enough for claims to be made have reoffended or reduced their school attendance.

### Question 6

How many of the “turned around” families have adults remaining on workless benefits and how many “tuned around” families retain a family member with an alcohol or drug addiction?

### Answer 6

To date, Cumbria County Council has not made any claims for the worklessness element of the criteria. We expect to make these claims in January. Families who have a member with a substance misuse issue are supported to use their substance more safely and with a less negative impact on the family.

### Question 7

What evaluation has been undertaken of the Troubled Families Programme locally. Please provide a copy of the evaluation?

### Answer 7

Cumbria County Council is part of the national evaluation of the Troubled Families work and details will be released nationally.

### Question 8

What analysis has been done locally of the numbers of Troubled Families meeting the criteria for intervention in the Troubled Families programme?

### Answer 8

Local analysis includes the number of families in each local district, the levels of need of the families and a breakdown of the local discretionary criterion.

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Yours sincerely,

Claire Park

Team Leader – Corporate Complaints and Information Compliance

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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  
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E-mail: [foi-dp@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:foi-dp@cumbria.gov.uk) Fax: 01228 226706

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