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The Courts ◦ Carlisle ◦ CA3 8NA
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11 April 2014

Your reference:

Our reference: FOI 2014-0233

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 12 March 2014.

The council holds information within the definition of your request.

Question 1

How many "Troubled Families" has the authority identified in your area?

Answer 1

By the end of March 2014 Cumbria had identified 1060 families.

Question 2

How many of them have been "turned around"?

Answer 2

There have been 291 claims for families whose circumstances have improved to the level set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government publication "The Troubled Families Programme: Financial Framework".

Question 3

How many "turned around" families have subsequently been involved in at least one crime and/or incidence of anti-social behaviour?

Question 4

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

Answer 3 and 4

According to the terms of the above mentioned 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 work will continue as long as necessary to ensure the family is able to embed their new behaviours and skills. Therefore, families who may still have very low levels of offending or truancy are still in receipt of services.

Question 5

How many of the "turned around" families have adults remaining on workless benefits?

Answer 5

The number of families still in receipt of out of work benefits is 230. Of these, 98 receive Employment Support Allowance. The work of the Focus Family team and partners has been able to support 40 families into work.

Question 6

How many “turned around” families still have a family member with an alcohol or drug addiction?

Answer 6

The nature of alcohol and drug addiction means that it does not “go away” but needs to be well managed to within safe limits and to reduce the negative impact on the family. Accurate numbers of families with a substance misuse issue are not held by the Focus Family team.

Question 7

How many “turned around” families have subsequently been placed back on the Troubled Families programme?

Answer 7

To date there have been no re-referrals into the Focus Family programme.

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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
Resources Directorate
Cumbria County Council, The Lonsdale Building, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8NA
E-mail: foi-dp@cumbria.gov.uk Fax: 01228 226706

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