



Family Outcome Plan Guidance

Vision: This document is designed to support practitioners, organisations and audit teams to identify when a family meets Focus Family criteria and when they have met all outcomes. It is expected to be regularly reviewed and the updated document will be shared with partners in a timely manner and available at:
www.cumbria.gov.uk/focusfamily

This outcome plan has been devised to reflect the priorities of Cumbria County Council, Safer Cumbria, Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Health and Wellbeing Board, Children's Trust Board and the Troubled Families Financial Framework.

Focus Family is a way of working that reflects the JSNA and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to integrate services and improve partnership working. It aims to improve families' experience when they need additional help and support service reform through reduced duplication of services, reduced demand on and re-referrals to acute services. The work has been driven by the DCLG Troubled Family Programme, an initiative that was launched in December 2011 and been active in Cumbria since April 2012. However, although this has been an influencing factor the ethos and practice is in line with Cumbria LSCB Multi-Agency Thresholds Guidance.

Many of the families identified as meeting Focus Family criteria have intergenerational, complex issues with many agencies involved at an individual level. It is important for families to receive a holistic support package and to ensure this is the case it is expected this work will be joined up as a Team Around the Family (TAF).

The Focus Family ethos is:

- To listen to the voice of each child in the family.
- All agencies to be honest, persistent, assertive and challenging, so that families are clear about the difficulties they may be in, clear about what will be done to support them and clear about what they can do to address these problems.
- The team built around the family (TAF) will take a strength based approach to enable family members to work together to overcome their problems; for example by gaining employment skills, addressing housing needs, or dealing with addiction.
- The TAF will work to one plan with aims and outcomes agreed in partnership with the family and the aim of meeting the outcomes set out in the Focus Family Outcome Plan.

Focus Family Principles are:

- To enable families to live in a safe and healthy environment. For the purposes of this plan this is when a family can meet all the outcome measures; this shows an ability to either completely move out of challenging circumstances or manage their situation over a sustained period of time.
- To improve each family's circumstances and measure change rather than the amount of services a family receives.

- To continue to address needs as they become apparent and not just focus on the first issues identified e.g. once working with a family with an adult on out of work benefits and a young person with proven offences it may become clear that the adult is misusing substances and this would also need to be addressed
- All family members must meet all relevant outcomes e.g. on entry one child may have poor attendance and this improves, however, if another child in the family is not attending school or meets other criteria the family would not be deemed to be in a safe and healthy environment
- To address poverty and the root causes of poverty by supporting adults to manage their income and, when appropriate, help family members into training, volunteering and employment. For this purpose a Focus Family Employment Advisor should attend each initial TAF meeting.

For the purposes of this work a family is defined by the census definition of a household: ***‘a group of people who either share living accommodation, or share one meal a day and who have the address as their only or main residence’***. However, this does not exclude work with other family members where this reduces risk factors and increases protective factors for the family.

Professionals identifying families would be requested to gather the relevant information and work to the relevant outcomes identified in the Family Outcomes Plan.

For the measures to be accurately assessed there will be a need for both quantitative and qualitative information to be gathered. For the purpose of this plan ‘Child’ refers to any person under 18 years old at point of identification of need.

How to identify and evidence families meet entry and exit criteria

For a family to meet criteria more than one family member must meet at least 2 of the 6 themes below.

1. Parents and young people involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
2. Children who have not been attending school regularly
3. Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion AND young people at risk of worklessness
4. Children who need help
5. Families affected by domestic violence and / or abuse
6. Parents and children with a range of health problems