



Ministry of Housing,
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Clive Betts MP
House of Commons
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0 4 APR 2019

Dear Clive,

Following my recent appearance at the HCLG Committee's hearing on funding of local authorities' children's services, I wanted to let you know that last Thursday the Secretary of State published and laid in Parliament *Building Resilient Families: Third annual report of the Troubled Families Programme 2018-19*.

The Troubled Families Programme supports families with tackling complex, interconnected problems such as anti-social behaviour, mental health problems or domestic abuse. The core principles of the programme are: early intervention, a focus on outcomes and data, working with the whole family, and multi-agency working. This is delivered through a keyworker model, who builds an understanding of all the challenges facing the family and agrees a single plan with the family and across local services. The programme also has a focus on helping local services to transform, through improving shared data systems and the bringing together of services.

This annual report draws on the latest national evaluation findings. It also details how the programme is spreading whole family working across local services so more families get access to the early, practical and coordinated support they need.

I am pleased to be able to report that significant progress has been achieved:

- Local authorities have been funded by the programme to work in a whole family way with 380,426 families in most need of help, and we know many authorities have invested extra funding in order to work with many more families.
- 171,890 families have achieved significant and sustained progress against the problems that were identified when they entered the programme.
- In 20,366 families one or more adults have succeeded in moving into continuous employment.
- In the 19-24 months after families joined the programme, compared to families in a comparison group:
 - 32% fewer children were going into care;
 - 25% less adults going to prison; and

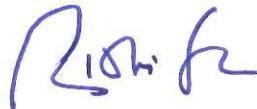
- 15% reduction in juvenile convictions.

Supporting people back into work, reducing convictions, strengthening families. The programme by no means represents the last word for these families in terms of how the state supports them, but for many it has been a step towards greater control and responsibility in their own lives.

After all, before beginning the programme, over half of the families were on benefits. More than two fifths had at least one person with a mental health issue. In one in six families, one person was dependent on non-prescription drugs or alcohol. And in over a fifth, at least one person had been affected by domestic abuse. When multiplied, the effects are devastating – for the families concerned, but also for their neighbours, their classmates and the wider community; who can find themselves on the receiving end of disruptive and distressing behaviour as a result.

The Troubled Families Programme is winning the confidence of councils and their partners alike with its proven ability to give people hope and a brighter future. That's why I believe in the programme and want to see it go from strength to strength.

I am very keen to hear views on how the programme has worked so far, and how it could be improved in future, so please do let me know if you have any thoughts to share.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rishi Sunak'.

RISHI SUNAK MP