

Evidence for Think Family

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1. This guidance note summarises and provides research evidence and cost analysis for service managers and commissioners who are seeking to develop evidence-based provision and secure cross-partnership support for *Think Family* provision within their area.
2. The sustainability of *Think Family* system reform and targeted parent and family interventions depends upon the development and dissemination of evidence-based practice and the development of a detailed understanding of the cost-benefit and cost-effective impact of co-ordinated support to families at risk of poor outcomes. This evidence base exists and is growing.

Impact of intergenerational disadvantage

3. There is a strong body of evidence to show the extent to which family problems are passed on to future generations. *Reaching Out: Think Family*¹ – the first report from the Families at Risk Review – highlighted the crucial influence of the home environment and of parents in determining outcomes for children.
4. Children in families that experience multiple disadvantages are much more likely to have poor outcomes. Research commissioned for Treasury and the Department for Education and Schools policy review of children and young people showed that children aged 13–14 years who live in families with five or more problems are 36 times more likely to be excluded from school than children in families with no problems, and six times more likely to have been in care or to have contact with the police².

It is estimated that there are 140,000 or 2 per cent of families with children experiencing five or more disadvantages³.

1 www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/families_at_risk.aspx

2 Social Exclusion Taskforce, *Families at Risk: Background on families with multiple disadvantages*, Cabinet Office, 2007

3 Ibid

Table 1: Estimates of the costs of exposure to parent risk factors⁴

Costs to child	Costs to society
<p>Exposure to parent-based risk factors can be devastating for children’s life chances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children from the 5 per cent most disadvantaged households are more than 50 times more likely to have multiple problems at age 30 than those from the top 50 per cent of households ● 60 per cent of children in the lowest reading attainment group at age 10 had parents with low literacy scores ● 63 per cent of boys whose fathers go to prison are eventually convicted themselves ● 61 per cent of children in workless couple households live in poverty ● Children who experience parental conflict and domestic violence are more likely to be delinquent and to commit violence and property offences 	<p>The negative consequences of social exclusion inflict huge costs on the economy and society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The annual cost of school exclusion is estimated at £406 million ● The additional costs of young people not being in education, employment or training at age 16–18 have been estimated at around £8.1 billion in terms of public finance costs ● Children with conduct disorders cost society ten times more than those without it⁵ ● Anti-social behaviour costs the public £3.4 billion a year ● The costs of crime are enormous, estimated at £60 billion a year ● It costs about £110,000 a year to keep a child in residential care

Impact of poor parenting

5. Mothers and fathers are the most significant influence on their children’s lives, achievements and prospects. Effective warm authoritative parenting gives children confidence, a sense of well-being and self worth. It also stimulates brain development and the capacity to learn, and is a hugely protective factor for children’s outcomes. Parental problems which can prevent positive parenting, such as mental and long-term physical ill health, offending, substance misuse and domestic violence cast long shadows in children’s lives⁶. Harsh, negative or inconsistent discipline, lack of emotional

4 Ibid

5 Scott, S., Knapp, M., Henderson, J., and Maughan, B., *Financial cost of Social Exclusion; Follow-up study of anti-social children into adulthood*, British Medical Journal 323, 2001

6 Ghate, D. and Hazel, N., *Parenting in poor environments: stress, support and coping*, Policy Research Bureau: London, 2004

warmth or supervision and parental conflict all increase the risk that children will develop emotional and behavioural problems that can lead to anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and crime. Children of teenage mothers have a 60 per cent higher risk of infant mortality, a 63 per cent increased risk of living in poverty and are particularly vulnerable to experiencing lower educational attainment⁷. The Social Exclusion Task Force report *Reaching Out: Think Family* further examines the wide range of individual parent-based risk factors that contribute to the nature of multiple disadvantages faced by families⁸.

6. Poor parenting is a significant causal factor for youth crime. Youth crime is believed to be linked to a small number of highly prolific offenders and a larger group of less frequent and less serious offenders. Children who go on to become prolific young offenders typically suffer from harsh or neglectful parenting from either parents⁹ and develop behaviour difficulties at an early age. Unsurprisingly, family problems such as substance dependency or poor mental health can mean that consistent and effective parenting is hard to achieve.
7. Lack of effective relationships at home can lead to the development of aggression and behavioural problems in children. In turn, this leads to poor attainment in school, peer exclusion and socialisation with other delinquent young people, with whom young people often start to offend. Having a persistent conduct disorder as a child increases the risk of a police recorded violent act a hundredfold¹⁰. Research indicates that children who have witnessed domestic violence are 2.5 times more likely to develop serious social and behavioural problems than other children¹¹, and they are also more likely to be perpetrators or victims of domestic violence as adults¹².

7 *Teenage Parents Next Steps: Guidance for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts*, July 2007, www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/search/IG00250/

Berthoud, R., et al, *Long-term Consequences of Teenage Births for Parents and their Children*, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 2004

8 www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/social_exclusion_task_force/assets/think_families/think_families.pdf

9 Chang, J. J., Halpern, C.T., and Kaufman, J.S., *Maternal Depressive Symptoms, Father's Involvement, and the Trajectories of Child Problem Behaviours in a US National Sample*, Archives of Paediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, 161, 697–703, 2007

10 Odgers, Candice L., PhD; Caspi, Avshalom, PhD; Broadbent, Jonathan M., BDS; Dickson, Nigel, MD; Hancox, Robert J., MD; Harrington, HonaLee, BS; Poulton, Richie, PhD; Sears, Malcolm R., MD; Murray Thomson, W., PhD; Moffitt, Terrie E., PhD., *Prediction of Differential Adult Health Burden by Conduct Problem Subtypes in Males*, Arch Gen Psychiatry 64:476–48, 2007b

11 Wolfe, D., Zak, L., Wilson, S., and Jaffe, P., *Child Witnesses to Violence between Parents: Critical Issues in Behavioural and Social Adjustment*, Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology 14 (1), 95–104, 1986

12 Whitfield, C., Anda, R., Dube, S., and Felitti V., *Violent Childhood Experiences and the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence as Adults*, Journal of Interpersonal Violence 18 (2), 166–185, 2003

Table 2: Key risk factors linked to offending

Family	Child
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental ill health ● Domestic violence ● Offending/having a parent in prison ● Substance misuse ● Child abuse and neglect ● Poor parenting (harsh, inconsistent parenting, lack of supervision, etc) ● Family conflict/breakdown ● Deprivation and unemployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Behaviour problems, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorder, anti-social behaviour ● Truancy and exclusion ● Low achievement at school ● Teenage pregnancy ● Taken into care of local authority

Effectiveness of parenting and family interventions

8. Family-focused interventions, such as Parenting Programmes and intensive interventions such as Family Intervention Projects (FIPs), can reduce risk factors in families, improve outcomes for children and young people, and reduce the burden of cost these families place on local services and wider society.
9. Parenting and family support programmes have been shown to have lasting effects in improving behaviour even in cases where parents are initially reluctant to accept help. Help with parenting impacts on a range of outcomes for children and young people, including educational attainment and prevention of anti-social behaviour, offending and risky behaviours. Parenting interventions tend to work best when both parents are included in the intervention (or separate partner-support is provided). The ability of workers to engage parents effectively and consistently and to achieve their commitment to what can be a demanding programme of personal behaviour change, is crucial to the success of any intervention. Skill, tenacity, determination and tolerance are needed to identify the drivers for change and understand the underlying reasons for the behaviours displayed by families. Solution-focused approaches drawing on a wide range of available support can also help workers and families to agree, achieve and sustain realistic goals.

10. A meta-analysis of over 40 studies conducted in 2003 showed family-based interventions had substantial desirable effects¹³. A review by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence highlighted the value of parenting programmes in improving the behaviour of children with conduct disorder¹⁴. Eleven out of fifteen studies showed statistical long-term effects (between one and ten years). Conduct disorder is one of the main reasons for referrals to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the estimated cost of a one-year cohort of children with conduct disorders in the UK is £5.2 billion¹⁵.
11. There is also increasing evidence that intensive support of the kind provided by FIPs and Family Nurse Partnerships (FNPs) that work with whole families, can significantly improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable and challenging families.
12. The FNP is an intensive home visiting programme for vulnerable first-time young parents. This has been shown to reduce intergenerational patterns of behaviour and negative parenting. Extensive US evidence points to significantly improved outcomes for children and families. Benefits include:
- reductions in children's injuries, neglect and abuse;
 - fewer subsequent pregnancies and greater intervals between births;
 - improvements in women's antenatal health;
 - improved school readiness;
 - increases in fathers' economic involvement; and
 - economic benefits.
13. Intensive intervention programmes such as FIPs provide a cost-effective way of tackling the problems of the most challenging families. Average costs per family, per year, range from around £8,000 to £20,000. This expenditure is nominal when compared with other costs that can be incurred by these families. One study estimated the costs to the taxpayer as being between £250,000 and £350,000¹⁶ per family per year. The Annex provides a ready reckoner using this information to set out projected reductions in service demand costs through investment in FIPs.
14. The impact of the FIPs on reducing a wide range of risk factors including those known to be linked to youth offending are particularly strong.

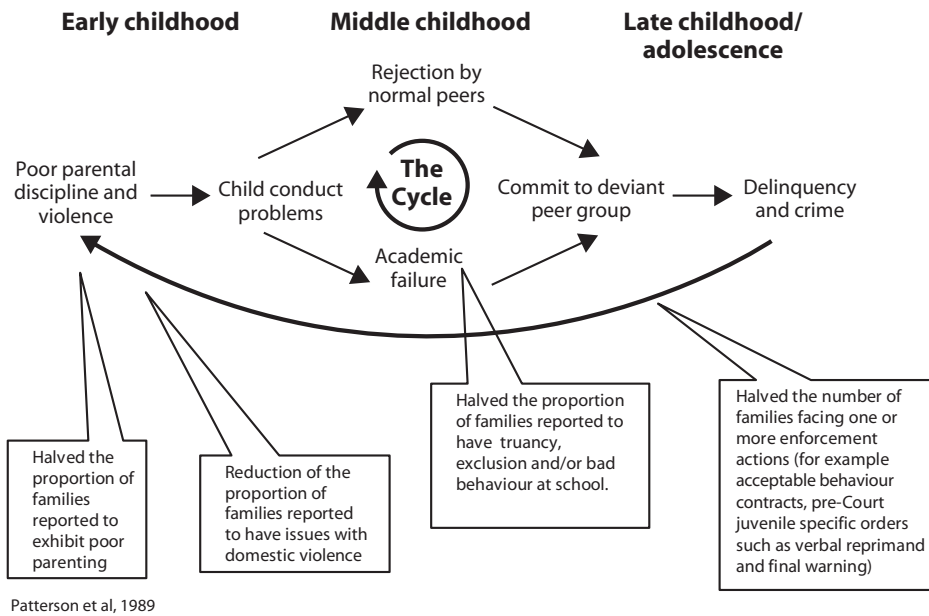
13 Farrington and Welsh, *Saving children from a life of crime*, 2007; Farrington and Welsh, meta analysis in ANZJC, 2003

14 NICE, *Parent-Training/education programmes in the management of children with conduct disorders*, in NICE Technology appraisal guidance 102, 2006

15 Friedli, 2007

16 Communities and Local Government (2006) 'Anti-social Behaviour Intensive Family Support Projects: An evaluation of six pioneering projects'. *Department for Communities and Local Government*: London

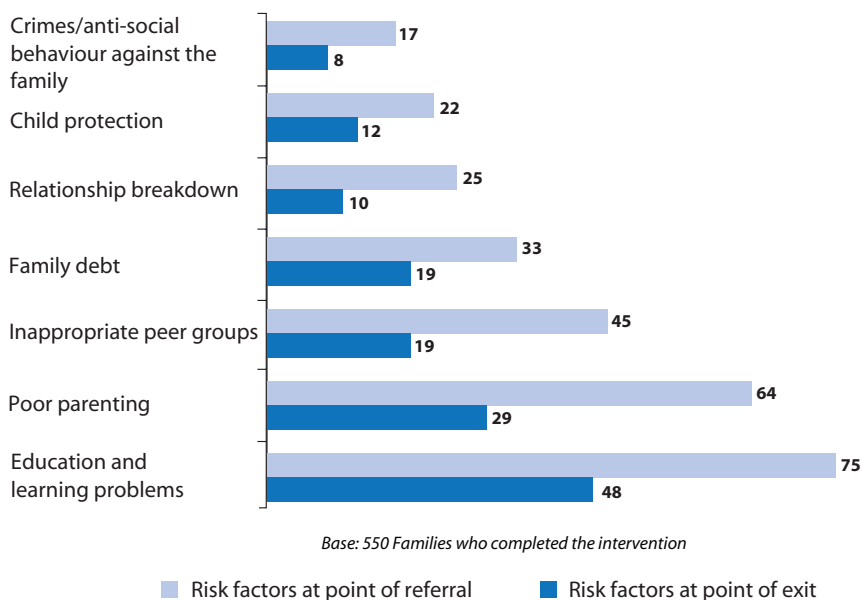
Diagram 1: Impact of FIPs on pathways into offending



15. There are persuasive economic arguments for effective early intervention. It is estimated that every £1 spent on a prevention programme for those at risk of offending saves £5. If one in ten young offenders received effective early intervention, it would save in excess of £100 million a year. The recent Youth Crime Action Plan announced the commitment to develop FIPs specifically targeted at families where children and young people are at risk of offending and associated poor behavioural and educational outcomes.

Diagram 2: Impact of FIPs on pathways into offending

Risk factors defined by key workers based on their own assessments and information shared by relevant agencies



16. FIPs are subject to national evaluation and monitoring carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)¹⁷. Their study found evidence of significant reductions in key risk factors for families.

Table 3: Reductions in risk factors – recorded on exiting FIPs

- Halved the proportion of families reported to have education and learning problems (that is truancy, exclusion and/or bad behaviour at school) (37 per cent to 21 per cent)
- Halved the proportion of families exhibiting poor parenting (60 per cent to 32 per cent)
- The number of family members involved in four or more types of anti-social behaviour reduced (from 61 per cent to 7 per cent)
- Halved the number of families with members subject to police or court action (45 per cent to 23 per cent)
- Reduced the number of families subject to one or more housing enforcement action(s) (from 60 per cent to 18 per cent)
- Reduced the proportion of families considered to be at risk of domestic violence (from 26 per cent to 8 per cent)
- Reduced the proportion of families reported to be at risk of parent relationship breakdown (from 32 per cent to 10 per cent)
- Reduced the number of families with children reported to be at risk of child protection issues, including neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

17 National Centre for Social Research, 2008
www.dfes.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15499&type=5&resultspage=1

Annex: Estimating Family Intervention Projects' value for money

Comparing family risk and the cost of negative outcomes (applies where the negative outcome in question is expected to occur in the near future to one or more family member). There are strong cost effectiveness arguments for investment in Family Intervention Projects (FIPs).

The following information can be used to estimate the savings associated with providing a FIP. The annual savings to local agencies (in reduced demand for local services) can be estimated as a factor of reduced family risk and the cost of negative outcomes minus the cost of the services provided.

National data (2006/07 financial year) for each of these are provided although local NatCen data and service costs could also be used.

Reduction in risk

This table sets out the average reduction in risk of negative outcomes amongst families on a FIP programme and, the reduction which could be expected for individual families already experiencing those problems (for example, offending, child protection issues, etc). This gives an indication of the impact of a FIP which could legitimately be used by local commissioners to provide broad estimates of the impact of FIPs in their area.

Table 4: Reduction in risk of negative outcomes recorded amongst the first 550 families leaving an FIP

Negative outcome	Reduction in level of risk
Crimes/anti-social behaviour	36%
Child protection	55%
Relationship breakdown	58%
Family debt	42%
Inappropriate peer groups	60%
Poor parenting	45%
Truancy, exclusion and bad behaviour at school	36%
Lack of basic numeracy and literacy	57%
Low educational attainment	39%
Proportion of workless households	82%
Proportion of adults in training/education	10%

Negative outcome	Reduction in level of risk
Unemployed	47%
Families in debt	33%
Families with one or more enforcement actions	58%
Juvenile specific orders	12%
Warnings	10%
Contracts or agreements	20%
Pre-court juvenile specific actions	6%

Source: NatCen first 550 Families who completed the intervention. Risk factors defined by key workers on the basis of their own assessment and information held by other agencies working with families.

Estimated costs of negative outcomes/risks (2006/07 costs)

The next section lists the unit cost of a wide range of negative outcomes which FIPs could set out to prevent. The actual savings to local agencies meeting these costs are most likely to be identifiable as reductions in demand for services made by, or arising from, the families being supported by the FIP. These demands are likely to continue over many years (and in practice generations) in the absence of effective intervention.

Table 5: Estimated costs of negative outcomes

	Organisation bearing the cost	Cost	Source
Crime/anti-social behaviour			
Vehicle theft	Police	£5,376	Brand and Price (2000)
Abandoned vehicle (collect and dispose)	Local authority	£226	Reading Borough Council (2003)
Disposal	Local authority	£83.91	Jill Dando Institute (2003)
Hoax fire call	Local authority	£236.94	Gateshead Council (2003)
Incident against commercial sector	Commercial sector	£1,031	Brand and Price (2000)
Cost of local authority house vandalism; assume 5% of local authority dwellings vandalised per annum	Local authority	£734.21	BTP (2003)
Demolition of property	Local authority	£6,462	Dignan (1996)
Replacing bus shelter	Private sector	£2,585	Dignan (1996)

	Organisation bearing the cost	Cost	Source
Graffiti (low)	Various	£6,462	Dignan (1996)
Graffiti (high)	Various	£81,427	Dignan (1996)
Warning letter	Various	£66	NAO
Acceptable behaviour contracts	YOT	£230	NAO
Parenting Order	Various	£781	Hansard 28 Apr 2004
Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (six-month programme cost)	YOT	£9,537–£31,865	Hansard 28 Apr 2004 Green (2005) www.civitas.org.uk/pdf/issp.pdf
Referral Order	YOT	£1,102	Hansard 28 Apr 2004
Reparation Order	YOT	£1,139	Hansard 28 Apr 2004
Supervision Order	YOT	£3,098	Hansard 28 Apr 2004
ASBOs	Police	£5,768	Campbell (2002)
ASBOs (range)		£29,001	Williams et al (2003)
Arrest	Police	£1,930.09	Field, S., <i>Flows and Costs in the Criminal Process</i> , unpublished document, Home Office, 1997 HM Treasury, <i>Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis, 2000–01</i> , CM 4601, 2000. Home Office, <i>Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System, 1998</i> , 1999
Magistrates' court	Criminal Justice	£746.20	Harries, R., <i>The cost of criminal justice</i> , Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Research Findings No. 103: Home Office, 1999
Crown court	Criminal Justice	£10,858	<i>Prison Statistics England and Wales 2002</i> , Cm 5996. London: The Stationary Office
Prison day	Criminal Justice	£113.44	<i>Prison Statistics England and Wales 2002</i> , Cm 5996. London: The Stationary Office
Education/Employment			
Truancy (discounted at 3% per annum)	Society	£44,468/lifetime	Misspent Youth (2007)

	Organisation bearing the cost	Cost	Source
No qualifications at 16/17. Earnings gap experienced for 21 months for 16/17-year-old	Society	£45.76	Godfrey (2002)
No qualifications at 18. Earnings gap experienced for 9 months for 18-year-old	Society	£51.47	Godfrey (2002)
No qualifications at 18. Earnings gap experienced for 9 months for 18-year-old	Society	£68.63	Godfrey (2002)
Lost days of work	Society	£10.91/hour	Labour Market Trends www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D7938.xls
Housing			
Noise – including staff time and prosecution	Local authority	£624.69	Dignan et al (1996)
Noise – housing department informal intervention	Local authority	£62.47	Dignan et al (1996)
Noise – transfer of tenancy	Local authority	£1,041	Dignan et al (1996)
Noise – legal action	Local authority	£2,664	Dignan et al (1996)
Nuisance behaviour – legal action to local authority	Local authority	£12,994	Social Exclusion Unit (2000)
Nuisance behaviour – possession action	Local authority	£3,748	Hunter et al (2000)
Nuisance behaviour – eviction	Local authority	£6,872	
Neighbourhood disputes – costs including staff time	Local authority	£778	Dignan et al (1996)
Neighbourhood disputes – possession order	Local authority	£4,060	Dignan et al (1996)
Eviction for anti-social behaviour	Landlord/local authority	£6,500– £9,500	Pawson et al (2005)
Neighbourhood disputes – injunction	Landlord/local authority	£1,249.39	Dignan et al (1996)

	Organisation bearing the cost	Cost	Source
Health care			
Accident & Emergency (A&E)	Health Service	£110/visit	Netten & Curtis (2006) p107
A & E visit	Health Service	£274/stay	(2) DRG poisoning
Emergency ambulance	Health Service	£237/journey	Netten & Curtis (2006) p108
Inpatient	Health Service	£443/day	NHS Ref costs (weighted average of all inpatient (TELIP))
Outpatient	Health Service	£116/visit	NHS Ref costs average of first attendance (£142) and follow up (£89) TOPS FAA and TOPS FUA
Day care	Health Service	£549/case	NHS Ref costs (weighted average of all outpatient (TDC))
General Practitioner (GP)	Health Service	£20/visit	Netten & Curtis (2006) p133
Practice nurse (PN)	Health Service	£9/visit	Netten & Curtis (2006) p130
GP Home	Health Service	£59/visit	Netten & Curtis (2006) p133
PN Home	Health Service	£12/visit	Netten & Curtis (2006) p130
CPN Home	Health Service	£27/visit	Netten & Curtis (2006) p126
NHS Direct	Health Service	£17/visit	£15.11 uprated by inflation
Prescription	Health Service	£32/visit	Netten & Curtis (2006) p133
Alternative medical practitioner	Health Service	£11/visit	£10 uprated by inflation
Specialist/OP	Health Service	£101/ appointment	based on cardiovascular appointment low end of current OP DRG costs uprated by HCHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	Health Service	£ 38/hour; £65/hour per patient related activity; £81/ hour face-to-face contact; £2,740/case	Netten & Curtis (2006) p164
Drug and Alcohol Services			
Street agency visit	Various	£72	Coyle 1997
Residential rehabilitation	Various	£717/week, £102/day	Netten & Curtis (2006) p186

	Organisation bearing the cost	Cost	Source
Counsellor	Various	£38.50 per visit	Netten & Curtis (2006) p186
Keyworker	Various	£7	Based on 10-minute counsellor visit (Netten & Curtis [2006])
Methadone maintenance	Health Service	£48/week	Taken from RESULT costing project
Social Care			
Occupational Therapist	Social Services	£18	Based on 30 minutes contact (£36/hr)
Social worker	Social Services	£58	30 minutes contact
Benefits adviser	Social Services	£16	Based on social worker adult rate per hour of client-related work (£31 per hour) 30 minutes contact
Housing Benefit adviser	Social Services	£16	As above
Other social adviser	Social Services	£16	As above
Psychiatrist	Social Services	£108/half hour	Netten & Curtis (2006) p186
Psychologist	Social Services	£38.50/half hour	Netten & Curtis (2006) p121
Child being taken into care	Local authority	£36,653/year	Netten & Curtis (2006) p186
<i>Parenting programmes</i>			
• Group in clinic	Local authority	£500	DCSF Cost Benefit Analysis of Interventions with Parents
• Group in community	Local authority	£720	DCSF Cost Benefit Analysis of Interventions with Parents
• Individual in clinic	Local authority	£2,000	DCSF Cost Benefit Analysis of Interventions with Parents
• Individual in home	Local authority	£3,000	DCSF Cost Benefit Analysis of Interventions with Parents
<i>Voluntary Services</i>			
RELATE	Various	£8	0.5 professional and 0.5 volunteer labour
Citizens Advice Bureau	Various	£8	As above

Source: Steve Parrott and Christine Godfrey, Department of Health Sciences, University of York, April 2008¹⁸.

Table 6: Estimated cost of a Family Intervention Project (based on project plans) 2006/07

These figures are based on budget estimates for the 53 FIPs, together with some planned service descriptions and details about staffing and other activities from project bids. Local commissioners will have access to the real costs in their areas

FIP services	Number of families*		Cost per family*	
	Mean	Number of FIPs	Mean	Number of FIPs
Outreach only	18	27	£14,000	26
Outreach and dispersed	15	21	£13,000	21
Outreach, dispersed and core	18	5	£17,000	5
Total	17	53	£14,000	52

*Figures are rounded

Source: Parrott, S. and Godfrey, C., Department of Health Sciences, University of York, research carried out for the National Centre for Social Research report published in 2008.

Worked example: Potential costs and savings to local services of a family with complex needs (based on estimated costs and recorded reductions in negative outcomes provided above).

Tracy is the mother of four boys: Alfie (16), Daniel (15), Jack (8) and Josh (1). The family share a house with Josh's father who is currently not in work.

- Tracy has suffered repeated episodes of domestic violence in the past and has alcohol dependency problems, as has her boyfriend.
- Alfie is awaiting trial for vehicle theft and four counts of vandalism.
- Both Alfie and Daniel are facing anti-social behaviour orders for threatening behaviour and causing a nuisance. Tracy has also fallen out with her neighbour and the housing authority has received a series of nuisance complaints against her. Tracy has made a similar nuisance complaint against her neighbour. As a result the family is threatened with eviction.
- Daniel has been persistently truanting for a few years and Jack is already showing signs of following his brother's behaviour and has started regularly missing school.
- Children's services have become concerned about Jack's and Josh's welfare and believe that the mother is showing signs of neglect – they are considering child protection proceedings.

Actions currently carried out on the family	Organisation bearing cost	Potential saving arising from FIP and parenting intervention (Parenting Programme)	% reduction in risk following interventions	Predicted saving (based on predicted ongoing needs if interventions not made)	Agency incurring saving
Anti-social behaviour order	Police	£5,768	58%	£3,345	Criminal Justice
2 x arrests	Police	£3,860	58%	£2,239	Criminal Justice
3 Magistrates' Court appearances	Criminal Justice	£2,238	58%	£1,298	Criminal Justice
Neighbourhood disputes	Local authority	£778	81%	£630	Criminal Justice
Neighbourhood dispute – injunction	Landlord/ local authority	£1,249	81%	£1,012	Criminal Justice
Eviction for anti-social behaviour	Landlord/ local authority	£9,500	79%	£7,505	Housing provider
2 x children being taken into care per year	Local authority	£73,306	55%	£40,318	Local authority
Total cost (per annum)		£96,699		£56,347	

Cost of intervention	Organisation bearing cost	Cost of intervention
FIP intervention	Local authority	£14,000
20 x visits to a counsellor	Various	£770
Parenting Programme	Local authority	£720
Total cost		£15,490.00

The intervention involved Tracy being assigned a key worker from the FIP who visited 2–3 times per week for the first four months, twice per week for the next six months, and once a week during the last couple of months. This significant engagement work brought Tracy to the point where she was prepared to accept the support being offered and take responsibility as a parent. At the start of the support the key worker arrived early in the day to help Tracy put in place routines to get the children ready for school and organise her day. Tracy agreed a contract which included ensuring that Daniel and Jack attended school and attended a group parenting programme. This helped her to manage her children's

behaviour more effectively and support her children at school. Tracy also began attending a short training course run by the local Sure Start programme. The key worker worked closely with the social worker to help Tracy to comply with the conditions of the child protection order. Following regular counselling, Tracy and her boyfriend learnt to better manage their alcohol consumption which improved the relationship with her neighbours and this has resulted in her landlord discontinuing action for her eviction.

The additional investment in support for Tracy's family could save the Criminal Justice System, local authority and housing provider up to £96,700 in a single year based on the unit costs in Table 5. This excludes the lifetime cost to society of £44,000 per child which persistently truants. The actual saving needs to be balanced against risk of failure, but taking into account the reductions in risk reported for the first 550 families completing FIPs within Table 4 the expected annual saving is £56,347¹⁹.

19 This is an illustrative example of how local services can make savings. The example does not include real case study information.