

Guidance for agencies working with the Stronger Families Programme 2015-2020

Purpose

This guide is intended for managers and practitioners working with families in Kirklees who may meet the eligibility criteria for the Stronger Families Programme, so that they understand the strategic context of the programme as well as how this will impact on their work and how families can benefit from the stronger families programme.

What is the Stronger Families programme?

The programme is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and aims to turn around the lives of families with multiple problems, specifically crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), poor school attendance, unemployment, children who need help, domestic violence/abuse and poor health. In Kirklees we have been set the challenge of working with 3810 families over 5 years to address these priorities. In 201/17 our target is to identify and make a difference in the lives of 960 more families over the 838 identified previously.

Our vision for the programme is:

Strong and resilient communities, where families are encouraged and supported in bringing up their children responsibly, so that all members of the family realise their full capabilities and strengths to contribute positively to society and the economy.

The vision will be delivered through

- improving collaboration across sectors and agencies to use resources effectively by:
 - assessing and planning interventions which address the needs of the whole family
 - improved information sharing between agencies
 - increased co location and improved pathways
- increased understanding and use of evidence based approaches
- providing early help to prevent problems from escalating and strengthen resilience
- interventions which encourage families to find their own solutions and to become self-reliant
- promoting and developing community based and informal channels of support for families
- enabling individuals and families to participate fully in society and economic activity
- smarter commissioning

Which families are eligible?

Within the broad national criteria, we have developed a Local Outcome Plan to reflect our priorities. Families (households) who meet 2 or more of the following 6 criteria will be considered for inclusion:

1. a member is subject of recorded antisocial behaviour or an under 18-year-old with a proven offence in the last 12 months or an offending parent returning to parental responsibility
2. a child with less than 90% school attendance, or 3 exclusions, or permanent exclusion over the last 3 terms or attending a PRU or Alternative Provision , or equivalent concern by an education professional.
3. a child with a Child Protection Plan, Child in Need or Looked After (with relatives under legal orders), a repeat Missing Person or repeated Request for Service
4. an adult on an out of work benefit or at risk of financial exclusion, or a young person NEET or risk of NEET
5. 2 or more police call outs (or 1 if a child present) for incidents of Domestic Abuse or adult being referred to MARAC or family referred to sanctuary scheme
6. an adult with unmet mental health needs or diagnosed mental health condition or a child with poor mental health/emotional wellbeing or a member of the household who regularly misuses drugs or alcohol

(Full details available in the Local Outcome Plan – available on request)

How do I know if I am working with a family from the stronger families' cohort?

You can send us the name, date of birth, postcode and house number of your service user and we can advise if they are already on our list. In some cases your manager may already know this if your service works with a high proportion of the stronger families' cohort e.g. Family Intervention Project. If you have a Stronger Families Practitioner in your service, they can also check the Stronger Families cohort.

How do I communicate personal information to/from stronger families?

- If you work for Kirklees you can send this information via email to stronger.families@kirklees.gov.uk .
- If you already have a government secure email address (*.gcsx.gov.uk *.gse.gov.uk *.gsi.gov.uk *.gsisup.co.uk *.gsx.gov.uk *.nhs.net *.pnn.gov.uk *.pnn.police.uk, please use your secure email to send the same information to Richard Baines using his secure email: richard.baines@kirklees.gcsx.gov.uk.
- If neither of the above applies and you will be communicating regularly, you need to have an Anycomms account for sending personal/sensitive information to us (and receiving from us). Please contact Paul about setting up an Anycomms account. Paul can be contacted on 01484 221000 or richard.baines@kirklees.gov.uk

What should I do if I believe that a family I work with meets the criteria?

As above, check first to see if we already have the family on the list. If they are not known to us, we will provide you with a template to nominate the family for inclusion. Complete as much of the template as you can for all members of the household and send it to stronger.families@kirklees.gov.uk or securely to Richard Baines. When we receive this we will check if it is eligible and let you know the outcome. This is not a request for service. You should commence normal appropriate procedures e.g. Single Assessment in parallel with your nomination to Stronger Families.

How can I find out who else is working with one of my service users?

Some of this information should be available to you at the time of referral. The Stronger Families team will collect information on all agencies working with the family and share this appropriately. You can enquire of the Stronger Families team or a Stronger Families Practitioner in your service.

How will I know if a member of a family I work with has been involved with the police or antisocial behaviour?

Information can be shared under section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act. This provision allows the police, local authorities, health authorities, probation trusts to share information about any person for the purposes of preventing future crime and disorder.

Appropriate levels of information about crime and antisocial behaviour will be given at the time of referral and updated as necessary.

How can I refer a family to one of the Stronger Families commissioned services?

All of the services, commissioned through the stronger families programme, can be accessed through the usual Early Help process. Consent from the parent and a current assessment are required to enable us to process your request for service promptly.

Am I allowed to share information about families without consent?

Yes; as long as it is not sensitive personal data. Names and addresses can be shared for the purposes of providing support and delivering the governments' Troubled Families programme. An information sharing agreement specifically to support the Stronger Families Programme is available, which provides more detailed information about how information about families is used. The [stronger families privacy notice](#) is available to all on web page www.kirklees.gov.uk/strongerfamilies

Last updated: May 2018