

REPORT TO: Children, Young People & Families
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 13th September 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Supporting Families Update

WARD(S) All

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an update of the Supporting Families Programme and current performance levels.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

i) **The report be noted.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **MHCLG Update**

3.1.1 The Troubled Families Programme was due to end in March 2020, however the ongoing evaluation evidence demonstrates the benefits of the programme so it has continued into 2020-22.

3.1.2 The Spending Review committed £165 million for local authorities through the Troubled Families programme, providing intensive support to families facing multiple problems. The programme will still utilise the Troubled Family Outcomes Plan which provides a partnership-wide framework that states the significant and sustainable outcome measures applicable to families identified for support.

3.1.3 The MHCLG on 26th March 2021 announced 'In 2021-22, we want to take the Troubled Families Programme into a new phase, with a refreshed vision, strengthened objectives and an even stronger momentum to tackle barriers and create lasting change. We are launching the next phase of the programme – **Supporting Families** – which will focus on building the resilience of vulnerable families, and on enabling system change locally and nationally. This means ensuring that every area has joined up, efficient local services, able to identify families in need and provide the right support at the right time.'

3.1.4 It has acknowledged that local authorities are still responding to the additional needs created by the COVID- 19 pandemic, so assist with stability the MHCLG are using 2021-22 as a transition year to co-design, test, and iterate future improvements to the programme.

3.1.5 The MHCLG are committed to improving the programme to achieve this. Supporting Families programme will:

- Raise the ambition for vulnerable families, driving local services to work better together to build their resilience and help them to thrive.
- Drive improvements to local partnership working and data use so that vulnerable families receive the right support, at the right time. This means investing more in good practice, overcoming barriers to data-sharing and involving the voice of families in service design and commissioning.
- Update our eligibility and outcomes framework to ensure it continues to reflect the needs of families and provides flexibility for authorities to respond.
- Help local areas to work towards stronger multi-agency, data-driven local partnerships by co-designing a road map to achieving a mature local system of family support services and considering new incentives to help drive progress.
- Using our national voice, alongside local and national networks to champion the case for early help, ensuring families get the support they need as early as possible before their problems escalate into crises and they need statutory support. Because we know that this is the key to making services more sustainable for the future

3.2 **Halton Update**

3.2.1 For Halton the commitment is still the same supporting vulnerable families via whole family support from a lead professional where families are experiencing multiple complex problems. The partnership will continue to identify families in need of extra help, target services more effectively and track family level outcomes over the long term.

3.2.2 The model will continue to be linked to our local Supporting Families Outcome Plan with the 6 key themes. The funding model will still be a payment by results (PBR) which will look for individual and family led outcomes.

3.2.3 Halton will be taking steps forward to ensure we integrate and transform local public services to embed whole family working using the Early Help System Guide to inform the development, refinement and implementation of a new Early Help strategy. Work around the strategy will start in the coming months. This will enable Halton to fully embed preventative approaches into our support systems for

families, creating more resilient communities for the long term.

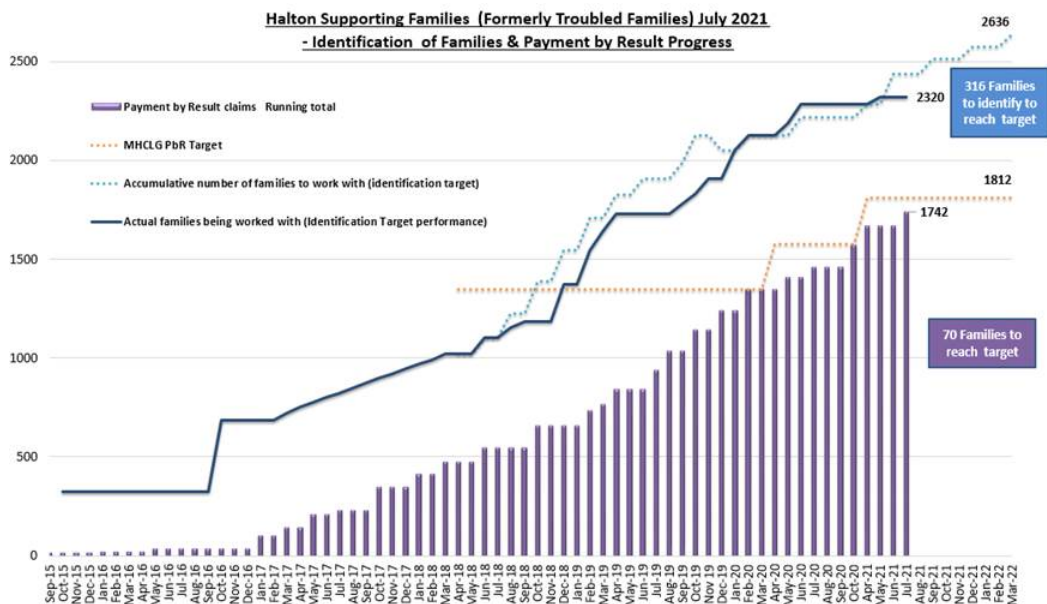
3.2.4 We have updated our documentation and circulated a redevised information sharing agreement and outcome plan to partners. For Halton during 2021/22 we can claim successful outcomes for 236 families.

3.3 Performance Update

3.3.1 In Spring 2021 the MHCLG updated information to show the number of successful outcomes achieved by local authorities. Of the 140 areas that recorded PBR only 19% (27 areas) achieved 100% PBR of which Halton was one.

3.3.2 Halton has achieved the target from the MHCLG for significant and sustained progress or continuous employment results during each previous phase which the below table highlights. It also show current progress for this year of 2021/22.

		Significant and Sustained Progress (SSP)	Continuous Employment (CE)	Total number of families	Total income	Target
Total phase 1	Families	338	37	375	£375,000	375 - 100%
Jan 2013- May 2015	% of claim	90.13%	9.87%			
Total phase 2	Families	1356	220	1576	£1,260,800	1576- 100%
Sept 2015 – Oct 2020	% of claim	86.04%	13.96%			
Total 1 & 2	Families	1694	257	1951	£1,635,800	1951- 100%
	% of claim	86.83%	13.17%			
Phase 3 (target 236)	Families	166			£132,800 (to date possible £188,800)	
	% of claim	70.34%				



3.4 **Next Steps**

3.4.1 In June 2021 the MHCLG updated local authorities on the work they have been doing to review how family outcomes are measured as part of the Supporting Families Programme. The focus was around should the programme be extended further following a spending review they want to ensure that they have time to consider any updates with all areas. The current family outcomes were set in 2014 and the MHCLG think now is the right time to ensure that the outcomes for the programme continue to align with the support needed by families.

3.4.2 The elements are still all in draft and further consultation will take place during the autumn time and if funding is approved there is a proposed soft launch of a new framework late in 2021 before it would be fully implemented across all local authorities. The proposed elements will look to continue to build on working with complex families and service transformation so that the programme will clear sit as part of a wider system but with some key possible key changes to identification of families, improving data, tracking and monitoring of families, as well as the potential change for funding distribution and performance requirements.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The future model for the Supporting Families could have policy implications for the future implementation and delivery of services. These implications will need to be evidenced within individual action plans.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Supporting Families' initiative is intended to address the crucial factors for children in disadvantaged settings not meeting their potential.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The programme will be integrated with other employment/learning based initiatives.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

A range of health partners are committed to contributing to the programme including case analysis and service delivery.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Troubled Families make a significant impact on public resources; a more targeted approach offers economic advantage.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Depending on the future remit of the programme there will be need to be adapt processes including HBC internal case management systems to identify, monitor and evidence outcomes.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The aim of the programme is to try and work with disadvantaged families supporting them to overcome many of the barriers they face.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.