Troubled Families in Oxfordshire

Troubled Families is a national government programme overseen by DCLG, with the dual aim of (a) delivering transformation within public services and (b) improving outcomes for families. The current programme runs until 2020.

Phase 1: Aiming to turn around families

At Phase 1, Oxfordshire’s target was to ‘turn around’ 810 families.
- Families were identified as eligible if they were affected by two or more of the following criteria: (a) crime / antisocial behaviour; (b) absence from school; (c) at least one adult on out-of-work benefits.
- Around 1,500 families across the county were targeted for intervention.

A family was deemed to have been ‘turned around’ if none of the criteria applied by the end of the intervention. For each such family the LA received a payment which could then be reinvested in local services.

For Oxfordshire, the programme reached the requisite 810 families by September 2014 and then moved on to Phase 2 (see next page). Phase 2 is conceived differently and has different measures of success.

CHART 1: Number of ‘Troubled Families’ turned around in each Oxfordshire district

Source: Oxfordshire County Council, Early Intervention & Troubled Families Team
Phase 2: Aiming to transform services

For Phase 2, there are two aims.
- For the LAs, the goal is to transform services by streamlining delivery, increasing partnership and joined-up working and embedding a whole family or ‘Think Family’ approach across services
- For families, the goal is to improve outcomes and achieve significant sustained progress in identified areas of concern, through the above whole family approach.

Families may be identified by six criteria (school attendance, crime /antisocial behaviour, domestic violence, risk of financial exclusion, health issues, children needing help).
- Families are deemed eligible if they meet at least two of these criteria.
- The County Council has identified around 3,000 families and is currently working with around 1,800 families across the county. These are distributed across the county as shown in the map.

However, the County Council works with all families identified as vulnerable, regardless of whether they meet Trouble Families criteria.
- Of the families supported by the County Council’s Children’s Social Care service, 72% are identified as meeting Troubled Families criteria.

MAP: Number of Phase 2 ‘Troubled Families’, by 2011 ward

(For maps of individual districts, see appendix).

Legend: number of ‘troubled families’ in each (2011) ward

Source: Oxfordshire County Council, Early Intervention & Troubled Families Team
The vast majority of wards (82%) have 20 or fewer troubled families. However, a few wards across the county have high numbers of troubled families. The following table shows all the wards with 40 or more troubled families. Banbury Ruscote has the highest, with 105 troubled families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Number of Troubled Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>Barton and Sandhills</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>Littlemore</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherwell</td>
<td>Banbury Neithrop</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Oxfordshire</td>
<td>Didcot All Saints</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>Churchill</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherwell</td>
<td>Banbury Grimsbury &amp; Castle</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>Blackbird Leys</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>Northfield Brook</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherwell</td>
<td>Banbury Ruscote</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

- Thanks to Russell Blakemore and James Carter from Oxford County Council (Early Intervention & Troubled Families Team) for consultation and data.

- Scroll down for Appendix.

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Data note prepared by: Bella Image (image@oxford.gov.uk or 07483-011-142) as part of the 2016-17 District Data Analysis Service

On behalf of: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council

Data notes and briefings from this service are available at www.oxford.gov.uk/districtdata
APPENDIX: MAPS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS

Legend: number of ‘troubled families’ in each (2011) ward

Wards with 21 or more Troubled Families have the number of families indicated – zoom in if necessary.