

Families First



National Picture

The Government has pledged to 'turn around' the lives of 120,000 troubled families by 2015. As part of the 2013 spending review this has been extended to 2016. These are families with multiple and complex problems including worklessness, crime, anti-social behaviour and truancy or exclusion from school. They are likely to be long-standing and in some instances multi-generational challenges. The Government estimates that £9 billion per year is spent on these families and that the vast majority is spent on reacting to their problems but not necessarily providing lasting results and changing lives. Buckinghamshire have chosen to call this initiative 'Families First'.

Families First is:

- A more co-ordinated way of working with families who are experiencing difficulties or challenges in their lives.
- A partnership approach that focuses on the whole family, addressing all of their needs together.
- Working together with families to make positive changes to their lives & move away from dependency on public services.
- Taking a preventative approach by working with families before their problems become too difficult to manage, as well as supporting families out of crisis.

Families First supports:

- A whole systems approach
- Family focused interventions
- Effective information sharing and co-ordination of resources
- Co-operative collaboration between professionals and agencies to meet the needs of the family
- A single planning and joint assessment process

Identification and support:

- Families First is an approach delivered through and by all partner agencies

Criteria are based on families who:

- Are involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Have children not attending education
- Have an adult on work related benefits
- Are experiencing
 - mental health issues
 - violence in the home or the community
 - substance misuse
 - bereavement or loss

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