

Criteria for identifying Troubled Families

To identify troubled families, the Department for Communities & Local Government has asked councils to look for the following:

1. **Crime/anti-social behaviour**

Identify young people involved in crime and families involved in anti-social behaviour, defined as ‘households with one or more under 18-year-old with a proven offence in the last 12 months’

AND/ OR

“Households where one or more member has an anti-social behaviour order, anti-social behaviour injunction, anti-social behaviour contract, or where the family has been subject to a housing-related anti-social behaviour intervention in the last 12 months (such as a notice of seeking possession on anti-social behaviour grounds, a housing-related injunction, a demotion order, eviction from social housing on anti-social behaviour grounds)”

2. **Education**

Identify households affected by truancy or exclusion from school, where a child “has been subject to permanent exclusion; three or more fixed school exclusions across the last three consecutive terms”

OR

“Is in a pupil referral unit or alternative provision because they have previously been excluded; OR is not on a school roll”

AND/OR

“A child has had 15% unauthorised absences or more from school across the last three consecutive terms”

3. **Work**

Once every family that meets criteria one and two has been identified, households which also have an adult on Department for Work and Pensions out of work benefits (Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Carer’s Allowance, Income Support and/or Jobseekers Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance) are identified

4. **Local discretion**

To make sure the government’s target is met, councils can then use their discretion to identify other ‘high cost’ families as long as two of the measures above. Such local criteria could include:

- Families containing a child who is on a Child Protection Plan or where the local authority is considering accommodating them as a looked after child
- Families subject to frequent police call-outs or arrests or containing adults with proven offences in the last 12 months, such as those who have been in prison, prolific and priority offenders, or families involved in gang-related crime
- Families with health problems such as emotional and mental health problems, drug and alcohol misuse, long-term health conditions, health problems caused by domestic abuse, under-18 conceptions