



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# Delivery agreement: putting troubled families on the path to work

## Introduction

The government is committed to turning around the lives of 120,000 troubled families in England by 2015: getting children back into school; reducing youth crime and anti-social behaviour; putting adults on a path back to work; and bringing down the estimated £9 billion annual costs these families put on the public sector.

The employment goals of the Troubled Families Programme are ambitious, and rightly so. We know that employability and - ultimately - employment is critical to tackling the often intergenerational cycle of benefit dependency and low aspiration for families with particularly complex needs.

Problems such as poor school attainment, crime, mental illness, substance misuse and domestic violence can make it incredibly hard for troubled families to secure and retain employment. The Troubled Families Programme aims to address these long-standing barriers to work and **make employment an ambition for all**.

Building upon the good work already underway in many local areas, this agreement sets out a series of commitments to which the government hopes all upper-tier local authorities in England and Jobcentre Plus will sign up to.

This is a **national approach** that aims to boost the employment and employability objectives of the Troubled Families Programme. This approach will be supplemented, at a local level, with a similarly joined-up approach to engagement between local authority and Jobcentre Plus partners with skills and welfare to work providers, as well as local employers.

The commitments laid out in this agreement will be supported by a significant new resource. The Department for Work and Pensions is offering the top 94 upper-tier local authorities with the highest numbers of troubled families fully-funded and dedicated Jobcentre Plus secondees - **Troubled Families Employment Advisers**.

They will be in place for the remainder of the programme (until May 2015) and will support the delivery of these ambitious employment and employability goals. The 94 local authorities are working with over 80% of England's troubled families. The remaining local authorities will continue to benefit from support via their local Jobcentre Plus partnership manager.

## Commitments<sup>1</sup>

**Local Authorities** will commit to:

1. ensuring employment is seen as a **realistic ambition** for **all** troubled families as part of the local authority's whole family approach.
2. shaping a **culture of work and employability** as a key part of how they design and deliver family interventions now and in the future.
3. **sharing information** about troubled families to ensure Jobcentre Plus know which family members are being actively worked with.
4. supporting Jobcentre Plus in the adoption of a **coordinated local approach** to work with each troubled family

**Jobcentre Plus** will commit to:

1. supporting the local delivery of both the **employment** and the **employability** outcomes of the Troubled Families Programme.
2. ensuring that the delivery of welfare to work support is **more effectively dovetailed** with the support being offered within the wider Troubled Families Programme.
3. supporting Troubled Families Coordinators to **better understand the context of both welfare reform and welfare to work regime delivery** and thereby support progress of individual troubled family members towards work.
4. actively contributing to the **strategic direction** of the local Troubled Families Programme in order to embed employability into its design.
5. contributing (as appropriate) to family assessments and family plans in order to agree **common employment and employability goals** with the local authority for troubled family members.
6. adopt a **coordinated local approach to working with each troubled family**.
7. **tracking the progress of troubled families** on the DWP Labour Market System and sharing this information with the local authority on a regular basis.

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<sup>1</sup> **Tracking Progress:** The Local Authority Troubled Families Coordinator and Jobcentre Plus will review their status against their main commitments and any locally agreed supplementary commitments before beginning work under the new arrangements. This review will then be refreshed on a six-monthly basis in order to reflect on progress, consider where further work may be required and target the secondees' work to best effect

# Supporting delivery of the agreement: Troubled Families Employment Advisers

To boost the capacity of local authorities' and Jobcentre Plus to deliver this agreement and the employment objectives of the Troubled Families Programme, DWP is offering 94 upper-tier local authorities additional funded resource in the form of at least one Jobcentre Plus secondee (Troubled Families Employment Adviser) until May 2015.

The amount and grading of this additional resource will be dependent on (i) the number of troubled families the local authority's Chief Executive has committed to turn around within this timeframe and (ii) what the Jobcentre Plus and local authority agree is needed locally.

The table below sets out an indicative guide to how the new DWP resource offer is split between the 94 local authorities:

Category	Number of troubled families	Number of Jobcentre Plus staff on offer
1	3000+	6
2	2-3000	4
3	1500-2000	3
4	985 - 1500	2
5	545 - 985	1

Local authorities who have fewer than 545 troubled families will continue to benefit from support via their local Jobcentre Plus partnership manager. DWP will identify and share best practice across the JCP partnership network in relation to working with troubled families. The LA Troubled Families Coordinator will support this relationship in these areas.

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Department for Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU  
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

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