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# Families with Multiple Problems: *a new approach*

Department for  
**Education**

# The 'new approach' - national context . . .

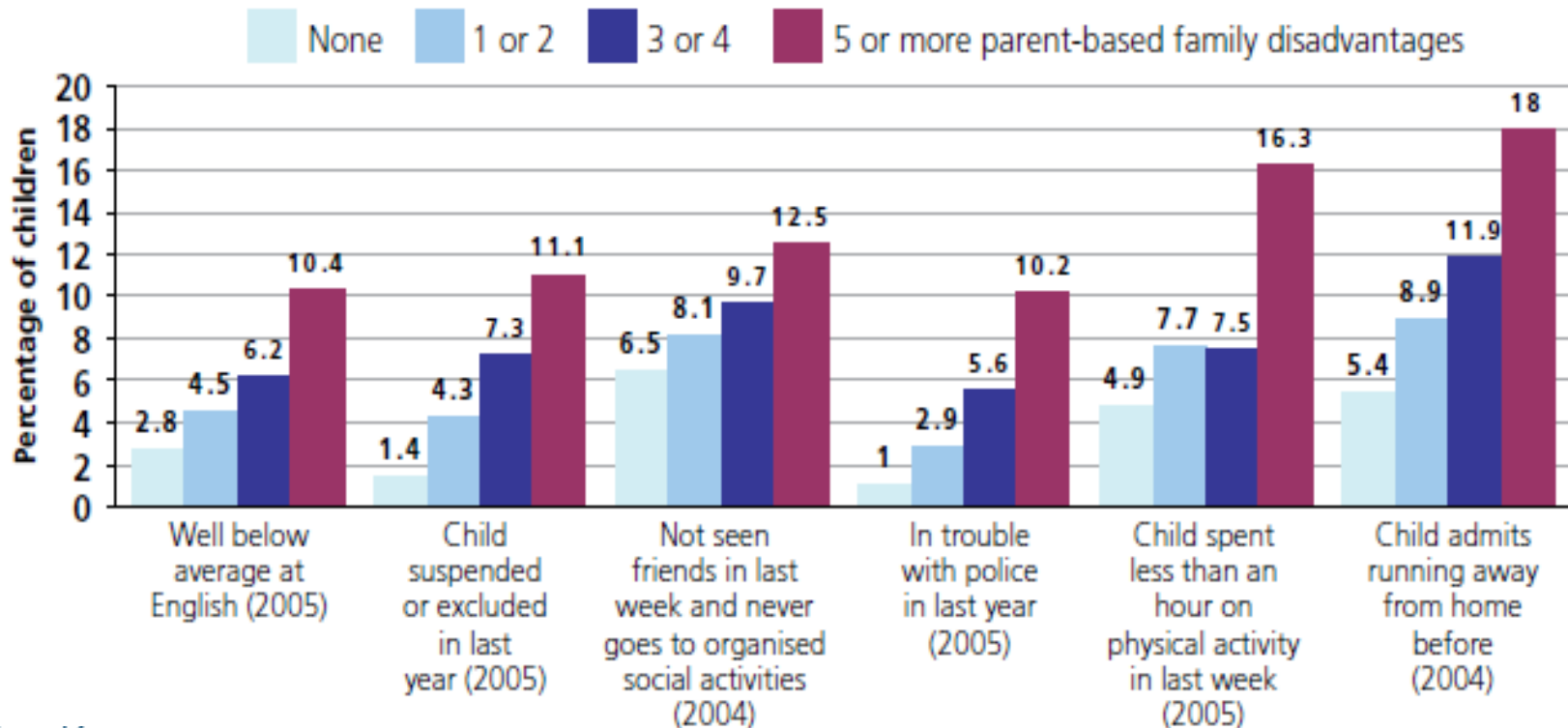
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- **Government Commitment:**
- **Government Priorities:**
- **Key Challenges:**
- **Approaches:**
- **Policy Links:**

# The Case: parental disadvantage severely limits a child's opportunities to succeed . . .

Poverty, unemployment, parenting alone, having a large family, poor or overcrowded housing, having a difficult child, parental illness and substance misuse, can have a negative impact on parenting - the factors are linked and mutually reinforcing (*Ghate & Hazel, 2002*).

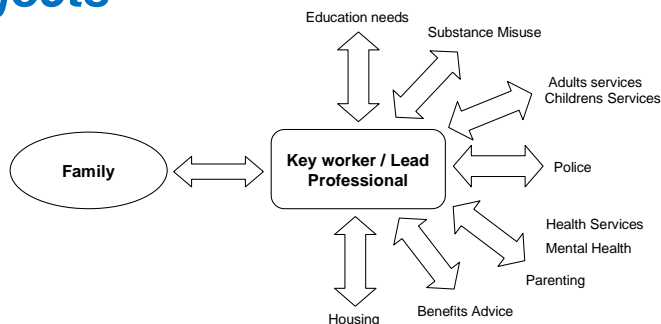
142,000 families experience multiple and intergenerational deprivation and the children in 56,000 of these families also display serious 'problem' behaviours (*Analysis of FACS - SETF 2008*).



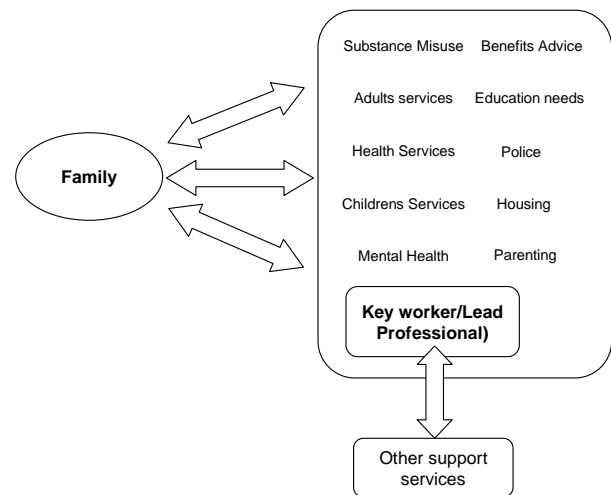
# What have local areas found to be effective?

- High quality key-workers with low caseloads (e.g. 4-6 families per worker)
- Whole family working.
- Respectful/ persistent working styles using incentives/rewards/consequences and flexibility to use resources creatively.
- No time-limited for support (average 12-18 months) and available 'out of hours'.
- Ways of working that are empowering and build on family strengths.
- Effective multi-agency relationships (co-ordination, clear arrangements for joint working e.g. with CSC).
- Multi-systemic Therapy, Evidence-based parenting programmes, Family Group Conferencing, Family Nurse Partnerships.

## The co-ordinated multi-agency approach eg *Family Intervention Projects*



## Co-located multi-agency team eg *Westminster Family Recovery Project*



# GROUPS WHERE MEMBERS OF FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE PROBLEMS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY OVER-REPRESENTED

## Children/Young people

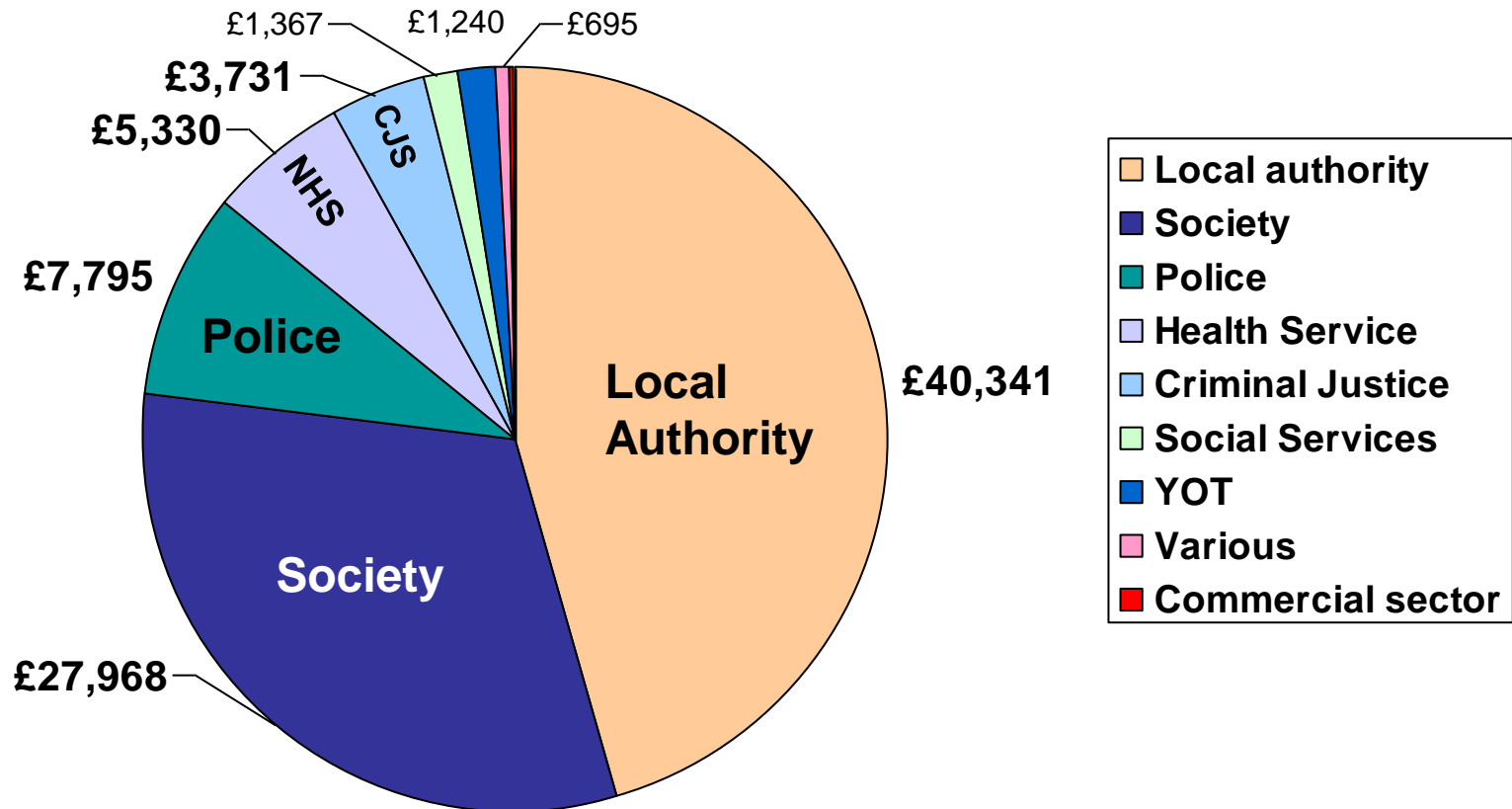
- Children in care (**DH**)
- First time entrants to the criminal justice system/diverted from custody upon sentencing (**HO/MoJ**)
- School excludees (**DFE**)
- Not in education, employment, training (**DFE**)
- Child Poverty (**DFE/DWP**)

## Parents

- Women first time entrants (**HO/MoJ**)
- Offenders on release/community sentence (**MoJ**)
- Long term unemployment, benefit dependency and poverty (**DWP**)
- Drug and alcohol dependence (**DH**)
- Mental health problems (**DH**)

# Cost estimates from 19 Authorities

- **£81,624 average saving per family per year.**
- each key worker generates £189,000 a year savings/cost avoidance in additional care places and £73,800 in Police handling of neighbourhood nuisance and minor crimes
- savings incurred **in the same and next financial year**



\* Based on a sample set of 40 families/cases from 19 Local Authorities

# The financial context

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**Decisions about investment (and achieving savings) will be made locally.... BUT there is a strong case for continued investment in family intervention.**

# DFE supporting for local action...

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- **Funding:**
- **Financial Sustainability:**
- **Training:**
- **Dissemination:**



# Next Steps

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- Agree with cross-government and national partners the *business case* for supporting families with multiple problems (*May - August 2010*).
- Support local authorities to share and adopt best practice (*from May 2010*).