



Think Family

Stronger Families Programme

Making a difference for children, young people and families in County Durham



Stronger Families



The Stronger Families Programme aims to help families who would like support with issues such as:

- Children not attending school regularly or who have behaviour problems whilst at school
- A family member getting into trouble because of anti social behaviour or committing a crime
- Not being able to get a job

These issues may be made worse because of other problems within the family such as physical and mental health issues, difficult relationships within the family, housing concerns or domestic abuse.

Why do we work with your whole family?

If any member of your family has a problem it generally has an effect on the other people in the family. If the whole family is supported, it's more likely that things will improve for you. We call this a 'Think Family Approach'. Working in this way will ensure children, young people and families get the right help at the earliest opportunity.

How will we help you?

-  **The first step - talking with you**

With your consent, a named worker will ask about you and your family - what's going well, if there are any problems and what extra support you and your family think may help. We do this by completing a single family assessment, which means you don't have to repeat your story to lots of different professionals.
-  **The second step - the plan**

This will involve a meeting with your named worker and others who could help your family. This is called a Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting. At this meeting, the support you need is discussed and a plan for you and your family will be agreed. The plan will show you and the TAF what needs to be done.
-  **The third step - the review**

Everyone will come together, on a regular basis, to see how well the plan is working and if anything needs to change or what extra practical help you may need.

Who will work with my family?

The TAF will bring together the different people who will be able to offer support to all members of your family. Services may include Durham County Council services (such as the One Point Service and the Youth Offending Service), schools, GPs, health agencies, housing, Job Centre Plus, drug and alcohol services, domestic abuse services, probation and a whole range of other community and voluntary sector support services.



“I was close to eviction and in trouble with the school for not getting the kids in and things are good now.”

“I have always refused support in the past as I was scared about what would happen. I wish I had stopped burying my head in the sand earlier as the Stronger Families support has really helped my family.”

Will it be confusing having lots of services involved?

No, together you and the services involved will identify someone to be your ‘named worker’, who will be your main contact and will support you through the whole process. They will listen to your views and coordinate the support for you and your family.

Who will have information about me and my family?

Only people who need to will have information about you and your family. However there may be times when the people working with your family may need to share the information. This may include:

- When they need to find out urgently if a child or young person is at risk of serious harm
- To help a child or young person who is at risk of harm
- When the adult is at risk of harm
- To help prevent or detect a serious crime



How can I find out more?

- Speak to somebody who is currently working with you, for example a health professional, your child's school, a housing officer, **or**;
- Call the First Contact Service on 03000 26 79 79 or visit www.durham.gov.uk/firstcontact

For more information on the Stronger Families Programme visit:
www.durham.gov.uk/StrongerFamilies

Your named worker is



Braille



Audio



Large print

StrongerFamilies@durham.gov.uk
03000 266 916