

Family Pathfinder Projects

The successful bids for the Family Pathfinder Projects- the next phase in the implementation of the 'think family' approach have been announced. The areas that will deliver Family Pathfinders are: Blackpool, Bolton, Brighton and Hove, Durham, Gateshead, Islington, Leeds, Salford, Somerset, Southampton, Southend, Sunderland, Walsall, Warrington and Westminster.

In addition six areas will receive additional funds for young carers are: Bolton, Gateshead, Islington, Leeds, Somerset and Sunderland.

The projects will build on learning from innovative, family-based services such as Family Intervention Projects, and will be at the heart of driving sustained and improved outcomes for disadvantaged families.

Outlining the need for joined up services at a speech to the National Association of Head Teachers, Children and Families Minister Beverley Hughes said: "We need to give disadvantaged children and families the extra support they need.

"This is especially important for children from the most vulnerable families where children are five times more likely to struggle with reading and writing, eight times more likely to be suspended, and ten times more likely to get into trouble with the law.

"When parents face multiple problems in their own lives the impact can be severe and enduring for both themselves and for their children. Families at risk need good children's services, but adult services also have a vital role to play. Our Family Pathfinder programme is designed to develop our understanding of how we can best offer the integrated provision these children and families need."

We will carry further details on local schemes as they are developed.