

**Appendix 1: Evaluation Evidence for Effectiveness of Troubled Families  
(Think Family)**

# Evaluating The Impact of The National Troubled Families Initiative (Think Family)

May 2018

Has Think Family had the impact expected on families, on local services and for tax payers?

What contribution has Think Family made on reducing demand for other services especially CSC?

What is the predicted impact of stopping if the MHCLG grant is no longer provided?

Who should continue to invest in Think Family should MHCLG stop doing so?

## For families

To support parents and children to overcome multiple disadvantage including worklessness, debt and family conflict, crime & ASB

## For local services

To transform the way that public services work with families with multiple problems to take an integrated whole family approach

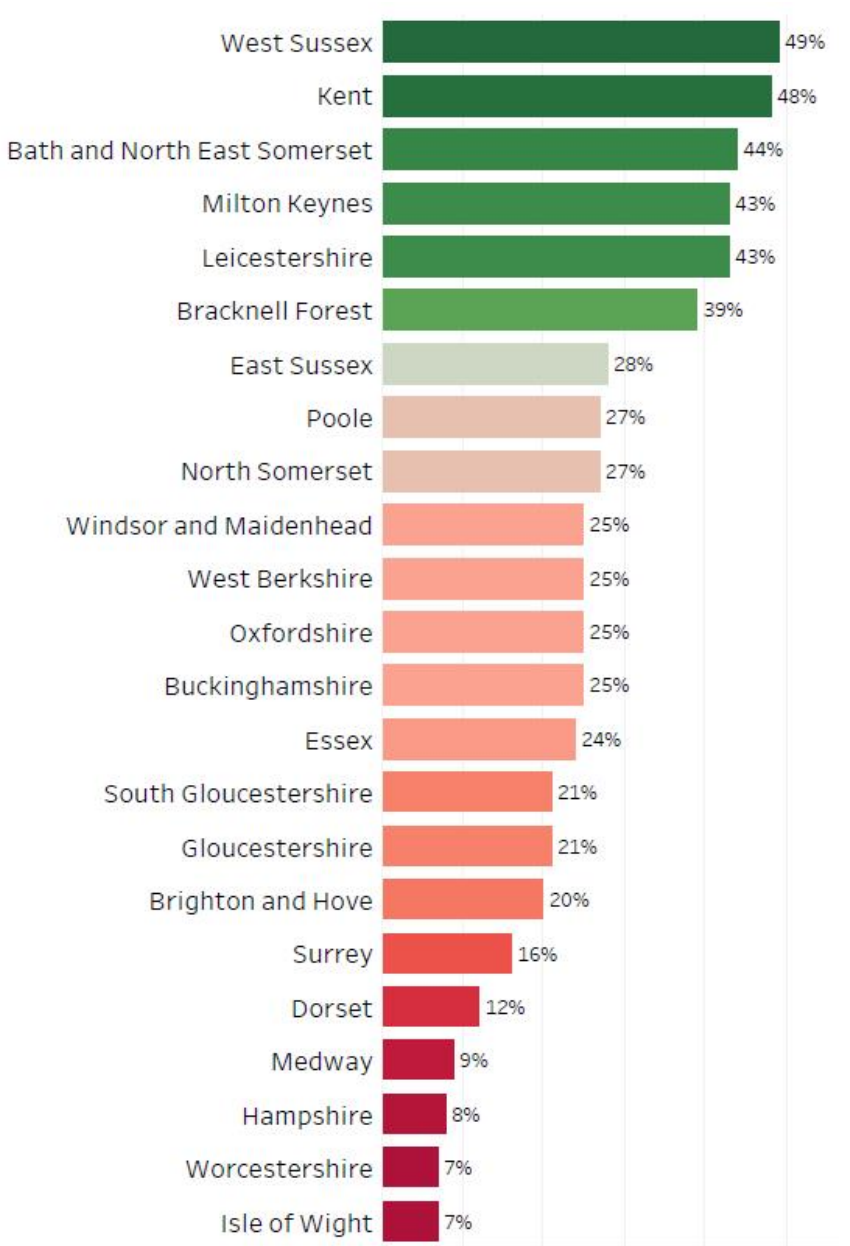
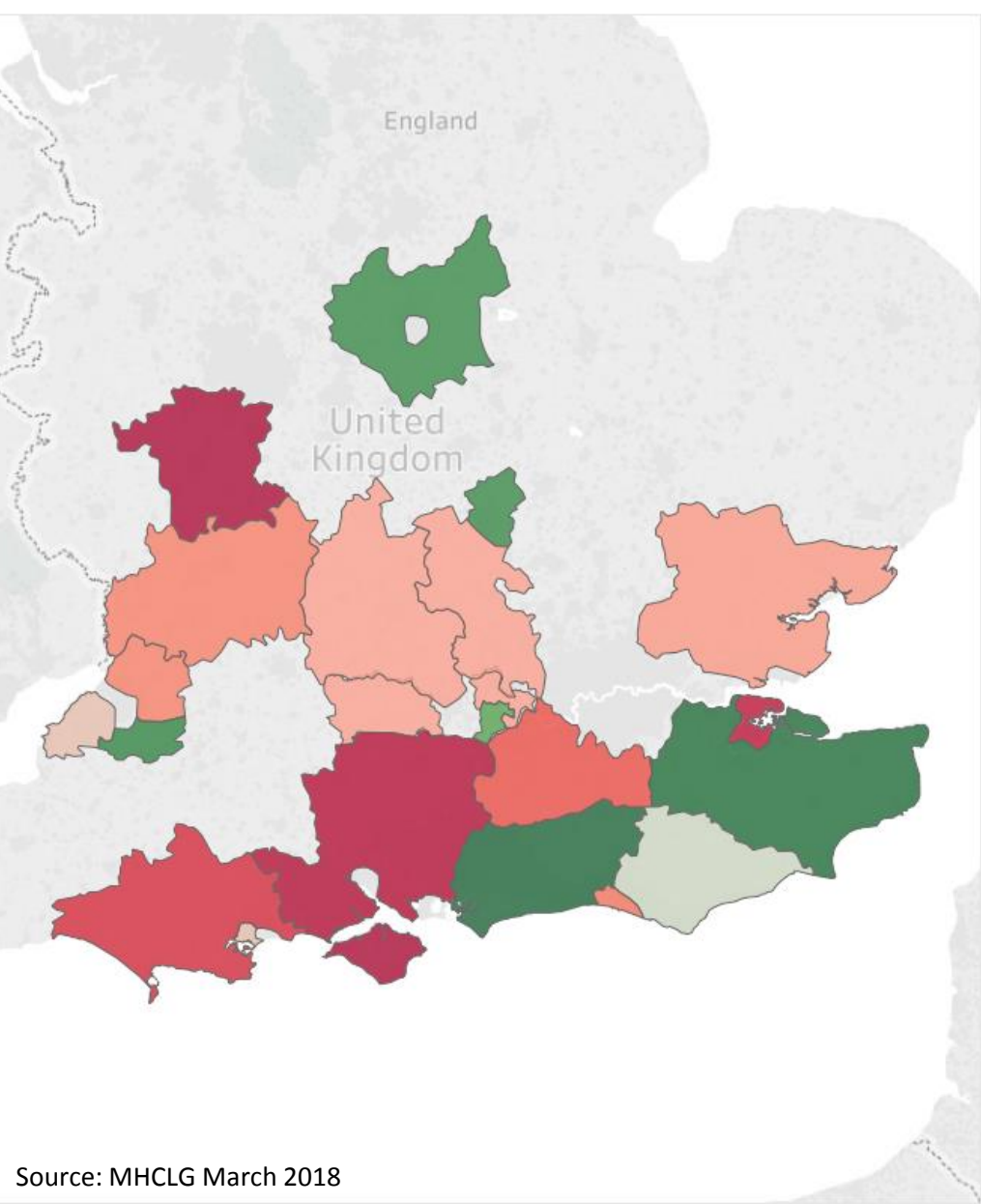
To help reduce demand for reactive services including Children's social care services

## For the tax payer

To demonstrate that this way of working results in lower costs and savings for the tax payer

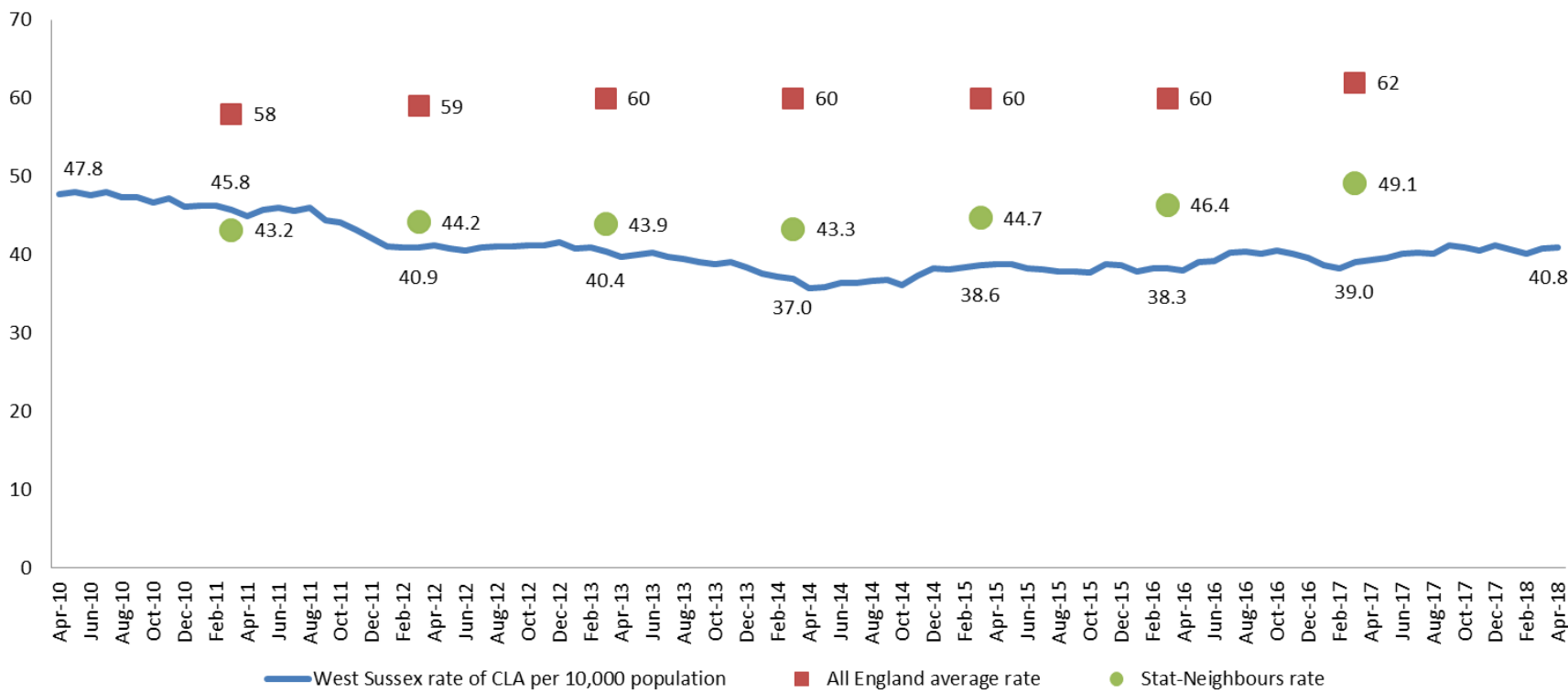
# West Sussex is a high performing council

% of 2020 TFI target achieved by West Sussex, its stat-neighbours and south-east authorities



# National evaluation applied to West Sussex

From April 2010 to March 2014 the rate of Children Looked After per 10,000 of population in West Sussex fell from a high of 47.8 to 37.0. Our statistical neighbours saw the rate remain at around 43 to 44.



Since April 2014, the number of Children Looked After in West Sussex has been increasing more slowly (from 37.0 per 10,000 of population, to 40.8 in March 2018) compared to our statistical neighbours (who have risen, on average, from that have risen from 43.3 per 10,000 population to 49.1 in March 2017).

We believe these results are due, at least in part, to the success of our Think Family approach.

**4,760** IPEH cases attached to the Troubled Families programme at the end of March 2017, with a total of **10,140** children in those families.

**6,949** cases attached at the end of March 2018, with a total of **14,855** children in those families – or an additional 4,715 children in the 12 months from March 2017.

If we take the research findings from the Government’s latest Troubled Families evaluation outcomes report and apply this to the families worked with in West Sussex, we can extrapolate the scale of impact of Think Family

About **61** children would not have required to be Looked After by West Sussex by the end of March 2018 rising to around **89** by the end of March 2019

WSCC has a **£74m** Children’s Social Care budget which funds support for around **700** Children Looked After and **5000** Children In Need. The cases we extrapolate above equates to **12%** of our current capacity, or around **£9m**. While this figure does not account for any economies of scale it provides an indication of the scale of financial benefits.

Table 2 Results of the Propensity Score Matching for the programme and comparison group

At 12 months after intervention:	Child In Need	Child Protection Plans	Looked After Children
Proportion on the programme	26.1%	7.1%	0.63%
Proportion in the comparison group	30.0%	6.8%	1.23%
Difference	-3.9*%	0.3%	-0.6*%

Note: \*statistically significant difference (P value <0.05)

Approximately **395** children would not have fallen into the Children-In-Need (CIN) status by the end of March 2018 with this potentially rising to **579** CIN by the end of March 2019.

## What has happened in West Sussex?

Crime – reduction  
in number of  
convictions

Health – reduction  
of number of A&E  
visits

Domestic Violence  
- Reduction in  
number of  
incidents of  
domestic violence  
incidents

School Absence –  
Reduction in  
persistent  
absenteeism

Work – increase  
the number of  
adults in work

Children in Need –  
change in the  
number of  
children placed in  
to care

Phase 1 November 2012 to March 2015: Target 1165 – Success claimed **1176**

Phase 2 April 2015 to March 2020: Target 3940 – Success claimed **1939** (at Mar-18)

National comparison: second only to Walsall in success proportion

Think Family phase one ran from 2012- August 2014

From the 1,656 children turned around during phase one:

Only **5** children (0.3%) have been recorded as having a Children Social Care intervention after the Early Help Plan was closed

**201** families we reattached to Phase 2 from Phase One

Of these, **173** (86%) had 1 or more needs as identified in Phase One and **28** (14%) had a new set of needs



## Think Family Phase Two began in September 2014

From the 4,056 **children** turned around during phase two to date (Sep-14 to Mar-18):

**446** (11%) have a Children Social Care intervention after being closed and claimed for through Early Help

of these:

**271** (7%) had a Children in Need Plan

**175** (4%) children had a Child Protection Plan

Think Family phase two began in September 2014

From the 1,939 **families** turned around during phase two to date (Sep-14 to Mar-18):  
Only **224** (11.6%) of cases claimed have been re-opened to Early Help. This encompasses 539 children.

**148** cases reopened contained one or more of the original identification of needs of which 42% relate to further Domestic Abuse

**76** cases reopened with different identification of needs to the original

## Youth Offending Service (YOS) and Youth Justice

**1095** young people in total recorded as having a YOS intervention in Phase One and Phase Two

**2** children who have gone on to receive a Youth Justice intervention and were turned around in Phase One

**33** children who have gone on to receive a Youth Justice intervention and were turned around in Phase Two

The Data supports our view that working to the 'Think Family' principles and practices improves sustainable outcomes.

This is clearly evidenced by the low numbers of Early Help Plans that, following closure, later opened to Children's Social Care or the Youth Offending Service (YOS).

**The system-wide change that the National Troubled Families Initiative brought about is delivering outcomes beyond the scope of the original programme. For example, the creation of IPEH which includes further innovation to reduce demand on Children's Social Care.**