



**Entry Criteria
Matrix for inclusion
in Cumbria's
Focus Family
Programme**

In Cumbria, we have an expectation to identify and help 3380 families from April 2015 to Spring 2020. Entry onto the programme requires at least 2 criteria to be met in a household (even if directly attributable to one person). If a family member is absent from the household e.g. in prison, then they can only be counted for one criteria, and at least one other criteria must be met by members of the family residing in the said household at point of entry.

The formula for identifying families allows for a level of discretion which should be exercised reasonably. We intend to identify families across all six problems to ensure the programme's resources are being used to best effect. Families should be prioritised for inclusion in the programme on the basis of the following:

- They are families with multiple problems who are most likely to benefit from an integrated, whole family approach; and
- They are families who are the highest cost to the public purse.

Based on this, in Cumbria we aim to prioritise families using a scoring matrix, detailed below.

It is important to refer any person who meets criteria, even if the scores are low, as this is only used to prioritise additional service delivery. It is recognised that families with complex challenges may present as meeting a low score with the possibility of these issues quickly escalating into statutory services, therefore the Focus Family team can be consulted for further advice and support.

Weighting	Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour	School Attendance	Children requiring help and support	Worklessness	Domestic Violence and Abuse	Children and Adults with a Range of Health Problems
4	A member of household has received a custodial sentence in the last 12 months and, if prison, due for release within 3 months	Permanently Excluded	Children Looked After who are on the "Edge of Care" and the current plan is for them to return home	Adult is claiming long term income based benefits	A family member has perpetrated or experienced domestic abuse that has resulted in a referral to MARAC	Indications of self harm or suicide risk
3	Subject of a Court ordered intervention in the last 12 months	3 Part-time exclusions in the last 12 months or at risk of permanent exclusion	Children deemed on the "Edge of Care" who are at risk of becoming Looked After	Young person is not in education, employment or training. Adult is claiming Job seekers allowance or universal credit.	A young person or adult who is known to local services as having perpetrated or experienced an incident of domestic abuse in the last 12 months	Currently receiving treatment for mental ill health or substance misuse
2	Formal Police response to crime or ASB in the last 12 months (i.e. Out of Court Disposal or Diversion)	Less than 90% attendance or, currently no school placement	Children who are subject to a Child Protection or Child in Need Plan	Young person is at risk of not being in education, employment or training	A police call out, or disclosure of, at least one domestic incident in the last 12 months	Concerns raised by family member or professionals in relation to emotional wellbeing of children/ young people
1	There is a potential crime problem or offending behaviour	A child is at risk of not receiving a suitable full time education	Children receiving support at the Early Help level/ or with an EHCP	Families at significant risk of financial exclusion	Behaviours by family members indicate domestic abuse is a feature in the household	Adults with parenting responsibilities, or children, who have unhealthy behaviours, resulting in problems like obesity, malnutrition or diabetes

*Additional weighting on 1 point if there are concerns relating to Child Sexual Exploitation, at any of the Child Requiring Help and Support categories

How to use the “Scoring”

It is important to note that, the score is for the family e.g. if two family members are engaged in criminal activity/ASB, it is the highest presenting need, not a score for each family member:

Example Family;

Parent A is unemployed, and has not held a job in the last 5 years. Similarly for Parent B= score of 4

Child 1 is in prison, due for release in 2 months. One parent is subject to a Court Order i.e “on Probation”= score 4

(not score 4 for child + score 3 for parent)

Child 2 has disclosed to school that they are very worried about their sibling in prison = score 2

Total family score = 10

The Process for allocation

Upon receipt of a referral we would ask for an indication from your knowledge of the family, what “score” they met. We will then cross reference with our information sources to establish the initial referral score.

We will prioritise additional support dependent upon the level of need presented by the family.

The added value “offer” that this way of working will provide for families at different levels of need can be summarised as:

Less Intensive (score 2-17): The Focus Family Area Officer will support the referrer to establish, or where one may already be in place, extend, a Team around the Family meeting with the aim of ensuring all unmet needs are identified and supported by the range of services present/available in that area.

For some families this may include direct initial support from a Focus Family Employment Advisor to address issues of financial exclusion. At this level of support the employment advice would move to a work coach in job centre plus.

Intensive (score 18-25): Alongside the approach for Less Intensive support, these families would be prioritised for longer term 1:1 support from the Focus Family Employment Advisor and, where appropriate, additional provision from services that are commissioned directly through the Focus Family resources.

On-going assessment

Once a referral has been received, the checks are made and a baseline score attributed to a family within the first week. This would then be reviewed every 3 months to establish progress, or identify additional needs. It will also provide a high level record for enabling us to audit the success the family has been supported to achieve.