

Janet Daby MP Minister for Children and Families

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Helen Hayes MP Chair of the Education Select Committee

By email: educom@parliament.uk

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Dear Helen

Following 13 years of delivery, the Supporting Families Programme came to an end on 31 March 2025. Each year, as required by Section (3) 6 of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016, officials prepare an Annual Report regarding the progress made by families who have received support through the Supporting Families programme. As a published report, opportunity is also usually taken to provide wider information on the achievements of the programme in the previous year.

This year, my officials plan to publish this report by 31 May 2025, two months after the usual deadline, to allow for the final data submissions from local authority areas to be taken into account in the publication. (Data submissions will be provided by early April, however sufficient time is required for clearances and publication.) We apologise for the delay to the usual timeframe but believe this will allow for a full and complete reflection of the impact of the programme.

Through the Troubled Families (previous programme name) evaluation which was published in 2019, the programme has shown that whole family working through a single lead practitioner for families with multiple or complex needs is effective and reduces demand on more acute, higher cost services. This evidence is providing the basis for the Families First Partnership Programme which is being rolled out in all areas from 1 April 2025, supported by over £500m for 25/26.

I will deposit a copy of this letter in the House libraries.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Daby MP Minister for Children and Families