

Problem Families

Dealing with the Simpsons



**Lancashire
Constabulary**

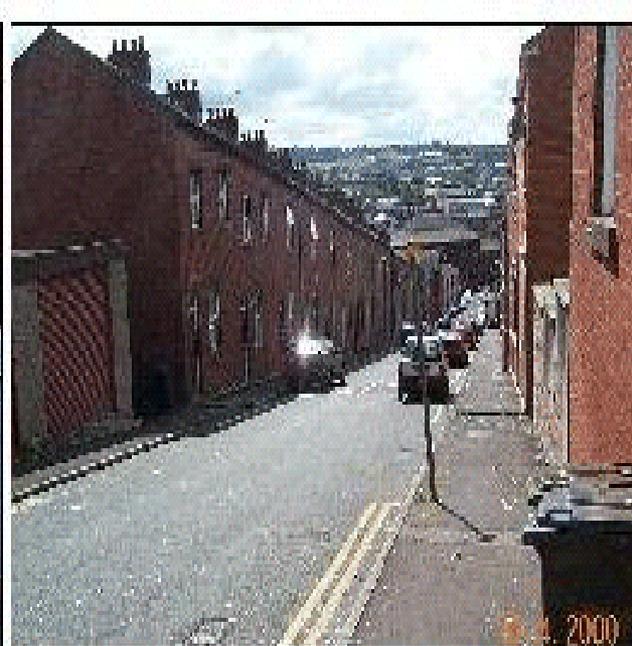
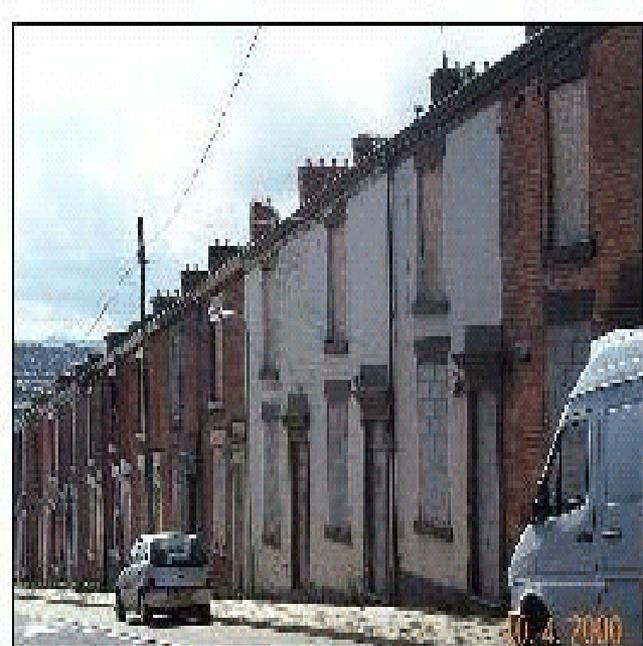
police and communities together



Blackburn with Darwen



- Industrial heritage
- Diverse population, including 22 % of Pakistani/Indian heritage, many also from Eastern Europe
- 60,000 households, 17% owned by social landlords
- 17/354 most deprived Borough in England
- 31% under 19 years old



WHAT IS ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR?

YOUTHS

TRASH

Mini Motos



NOISE

DAMAGE



swearing

DRUGS



graffiti

Gangs

Why bother working with anti- social families?

Improve the quality of life of:

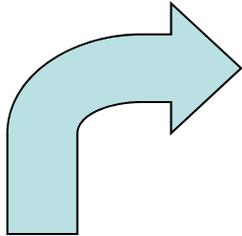
- The Family (children and adults)
- The Community (sense of safety, house prices, creation of 'no go' zones)
- Reducing costs to other agencies e.g. Police, Environmental, Welfare, Landlords, Churches
- Prevent moving the problem on to the next community!

Previous Response

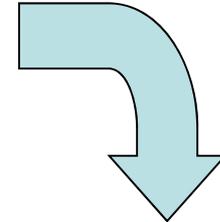
DISPLACEMENT

ENFORCEMENT

Mistrust of Agencies



Complaints to agencies



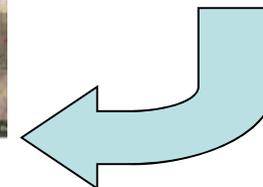
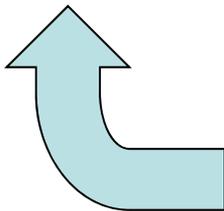
Social Exclusion & family Breakdown



ASBO/Injunction



Eviction



Time for a different solution.....

- Political Landscape 1997 Election;
'tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime'
- Crime & Disorder Act 1998 - 3 pronged approach:
 - Prevention and Early Identification
 - Enforcement
 - Resettlement
- Research: 1. Dundee (Scotland)
Evaluation by Dillane et al 2001 Glasgow University
2. Pioneering Families Project
Evaluation by Nixon et al Sheffield Hallam University 2006

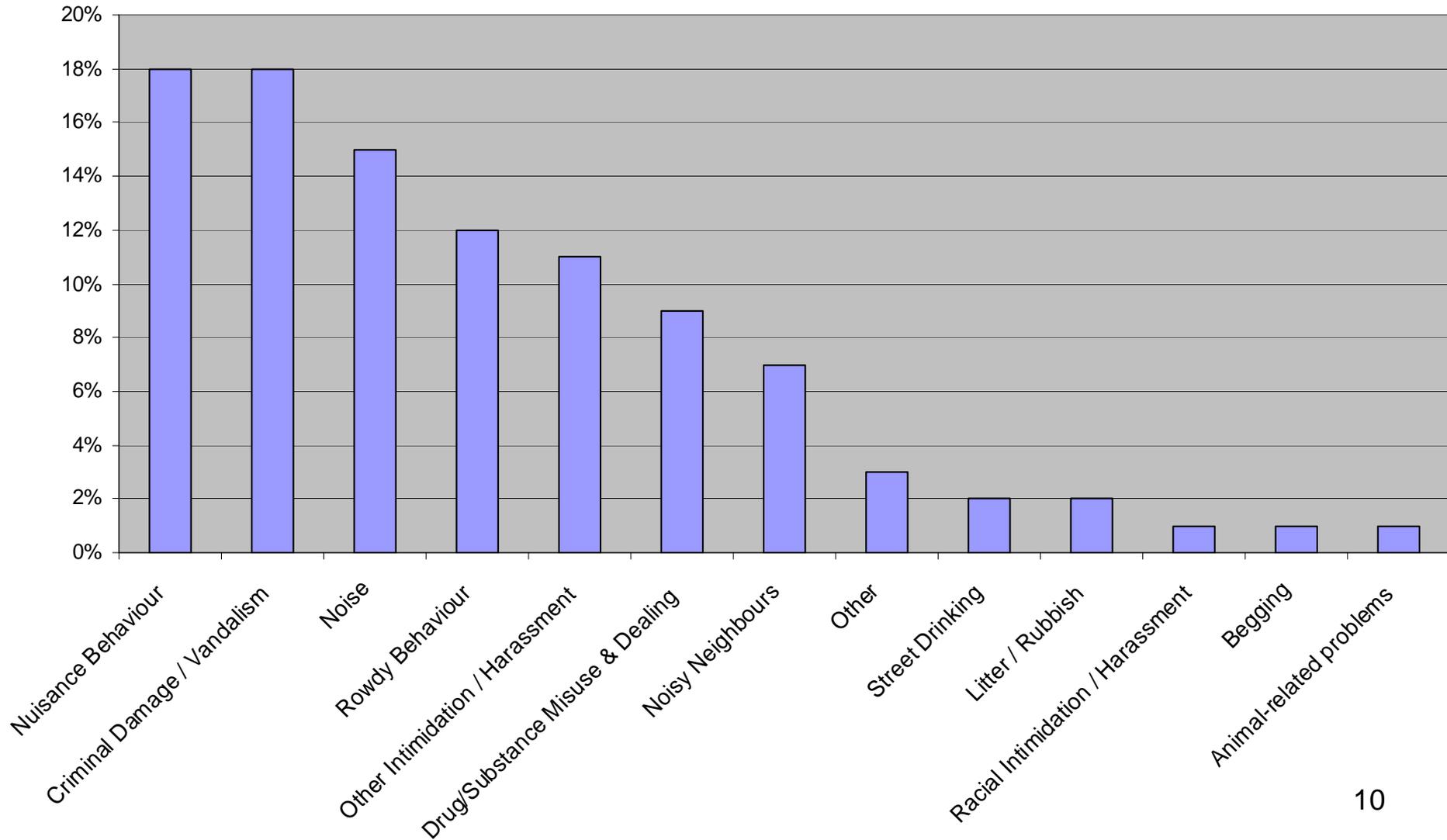
Blackburn with Darwen Family Intervention Project (FIP)



...and a 360° tour!



Anti-social behaviour issues identified in families



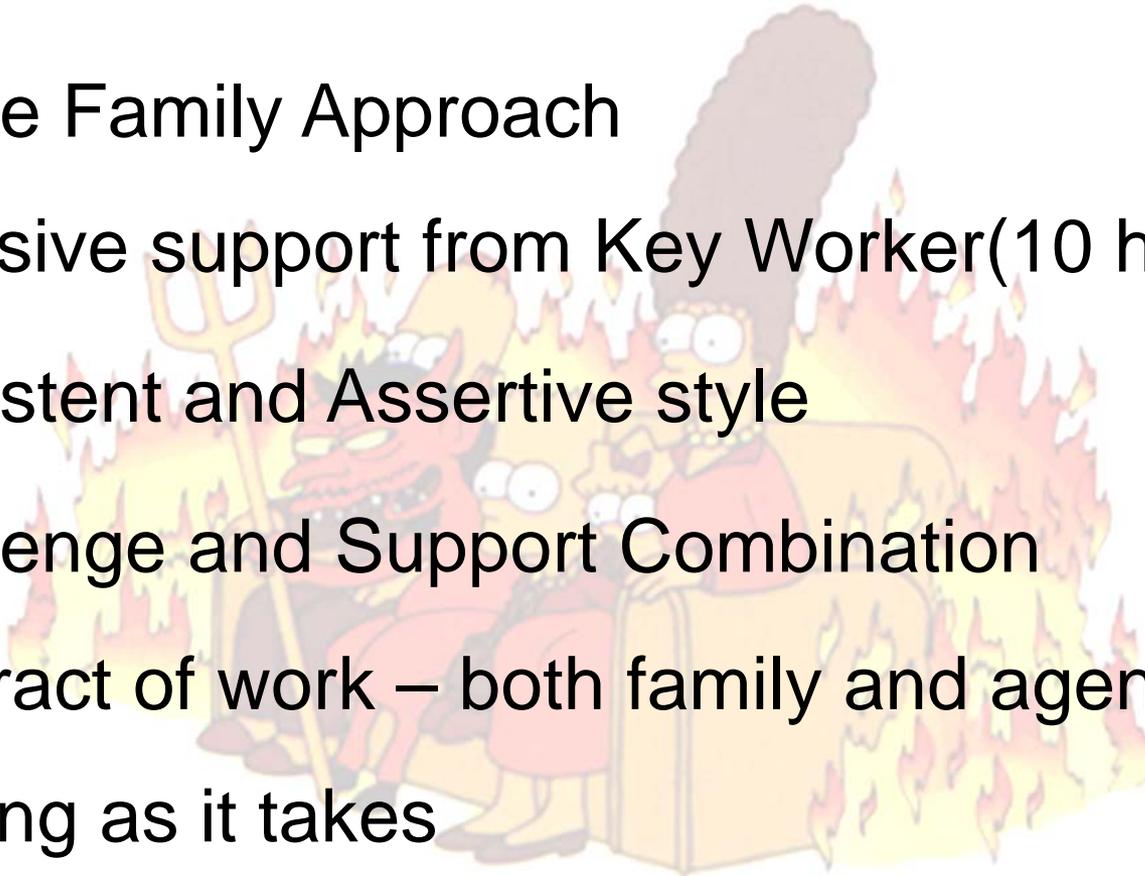
Family Characteristics

- **39%** of children in families at ‘very high /medium’ risk of being taken into care
- **50%** of children ‘frequent’ non attendees at school (**30%** experienced school exclusion)
- **28%** of children had learning difficulties (**18%** with ADHD)
- **19%** of parents with depression
- **17%** with child drug/alcohol problems



The Family Intervention Project Model

- Whole Family Approach
- Intensive support from Key Worker(10 hrs/week)
- Persistent and Assertive style
- Challenge and Support Combination
- Contract of work – both family and agencies
- As long as it takes

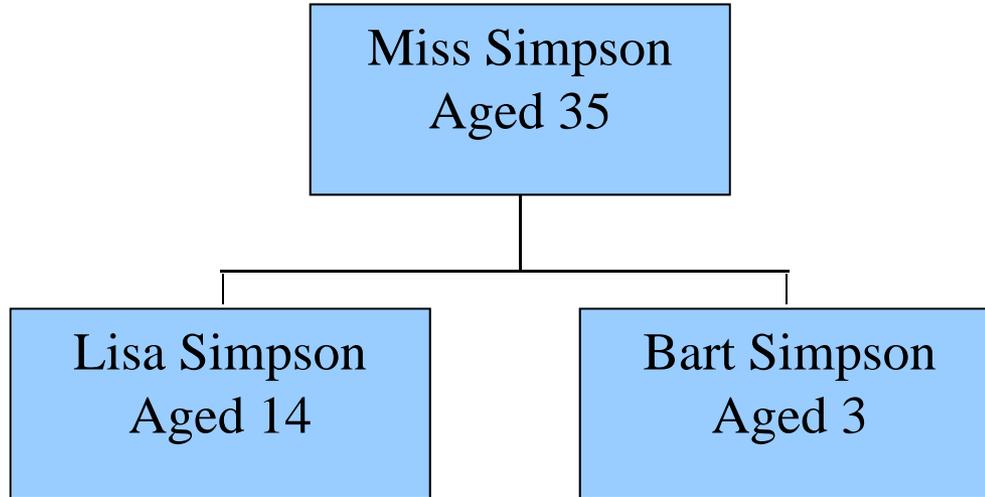


So how does it work in practice?



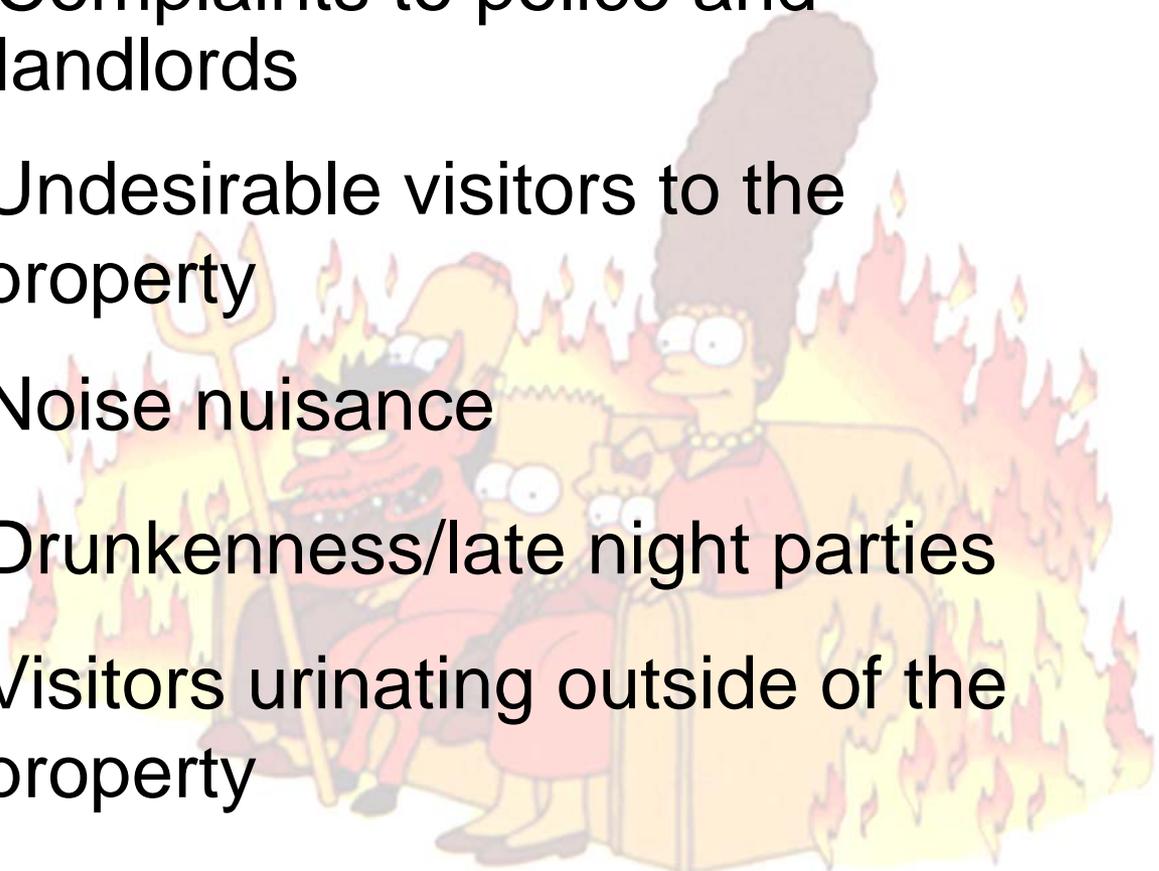
A Case Study

Simpson Family



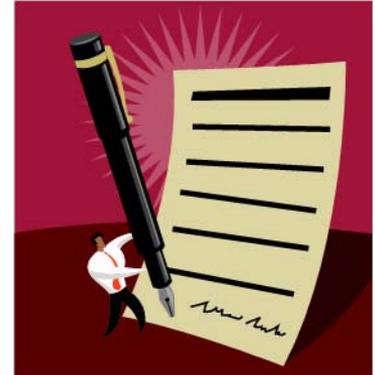
The problems

- Complaints to police and landlords
- Undesirable visitors to the property
- Noise nuisance
- Drunkenness/late night parties
- Visitors urinating outside of the property
- Child Protection Concerns – including child crime!



The support contract

- Motivation to change?
- Knowing the sanctions?
- Addressing the issues
- Writing the contract:
 - ***Strategies to enable Miss Simpson to turn away visitors***
 - ***Addressing alcohol issues***
 - ***Multi-agency working***
 - ***Child Protection***
 - ***Relationships***





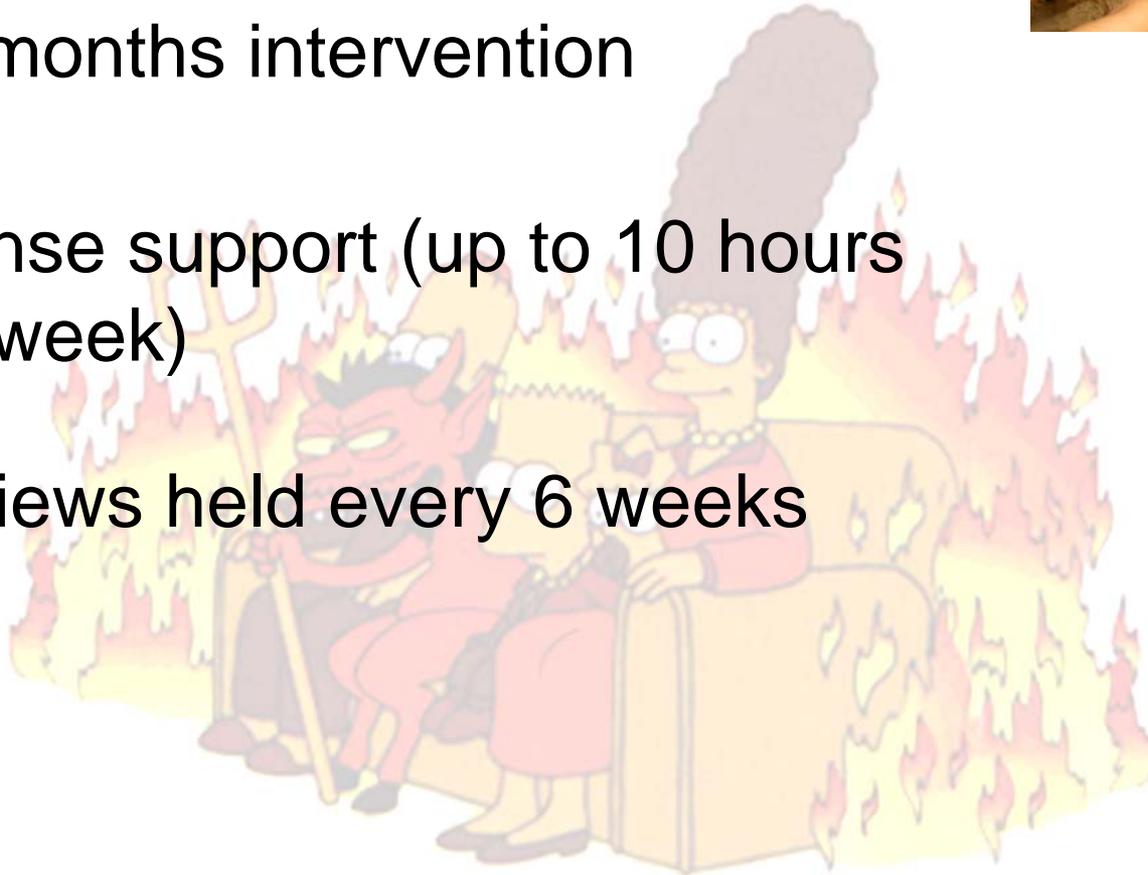
What we did...

- 6 weekly multi-agency meetings
- CCTV, front door lock installed
- Referral to women's centre
- Referral to Community Alcohol Team
- Access to nursery provision
- 1:1 parenting sessions
- 1:1 family sessions



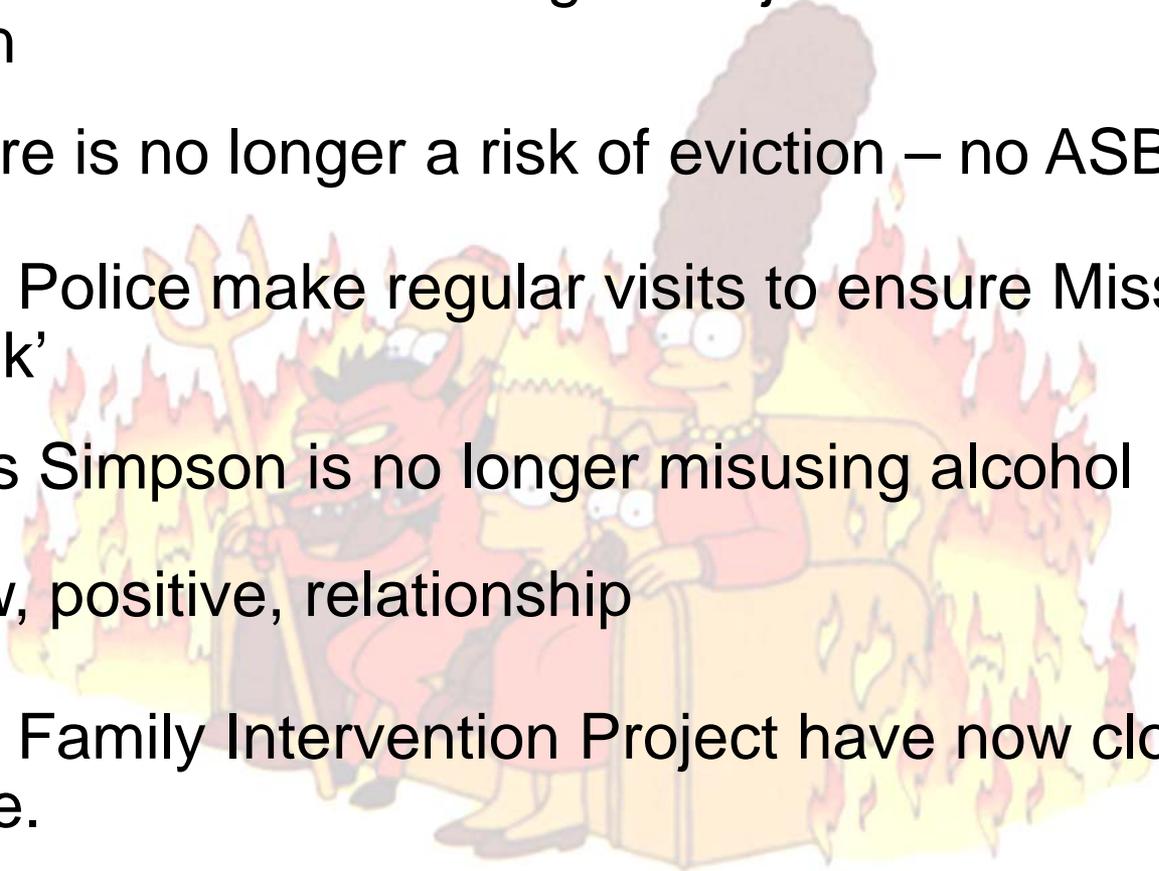
Involvement

- 18 months intervention
- Intense support (up to 10 hours per week)
- Reviews held every 6 weeks



Outcome

- The children are no longer subject of a Child Protection Plan
- There is no longer a risk of eviction – no ASB!
- The Police make regular visits to ensure Miss Simpson is 'ok'
- Miss Simpson is no longer misusing alcohol
- New, positive, relationship
- The Family Intervention Project have now closed the case.



Actual comments from 'Bart'!



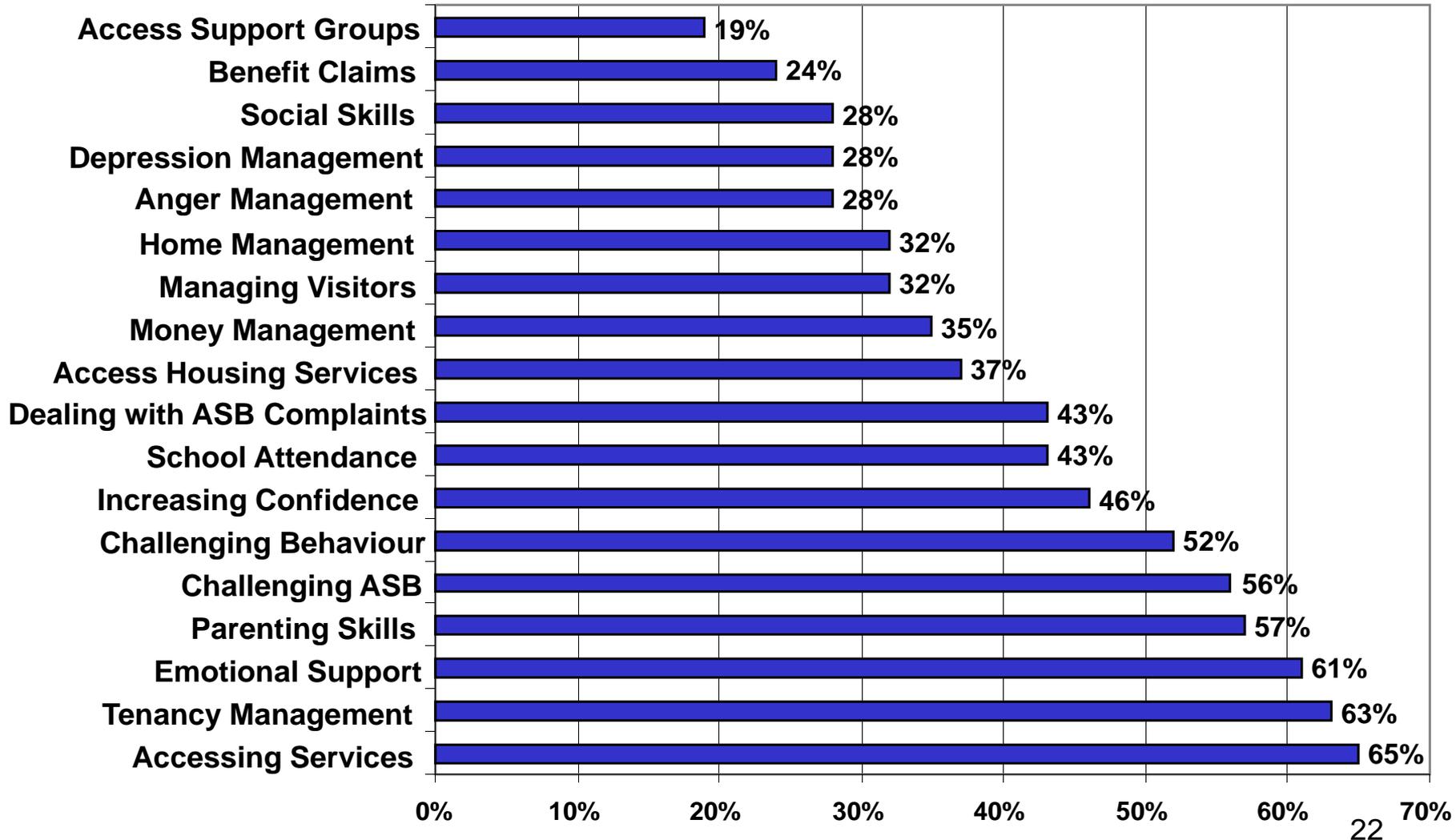
I like allan and I like myself and I like the changes. allan thankyou for comeing ard I like going to my old ~~to~~ nursery and playing and thankyou for going to my old class at my old nursery. -

Police Secondee - PC FISH



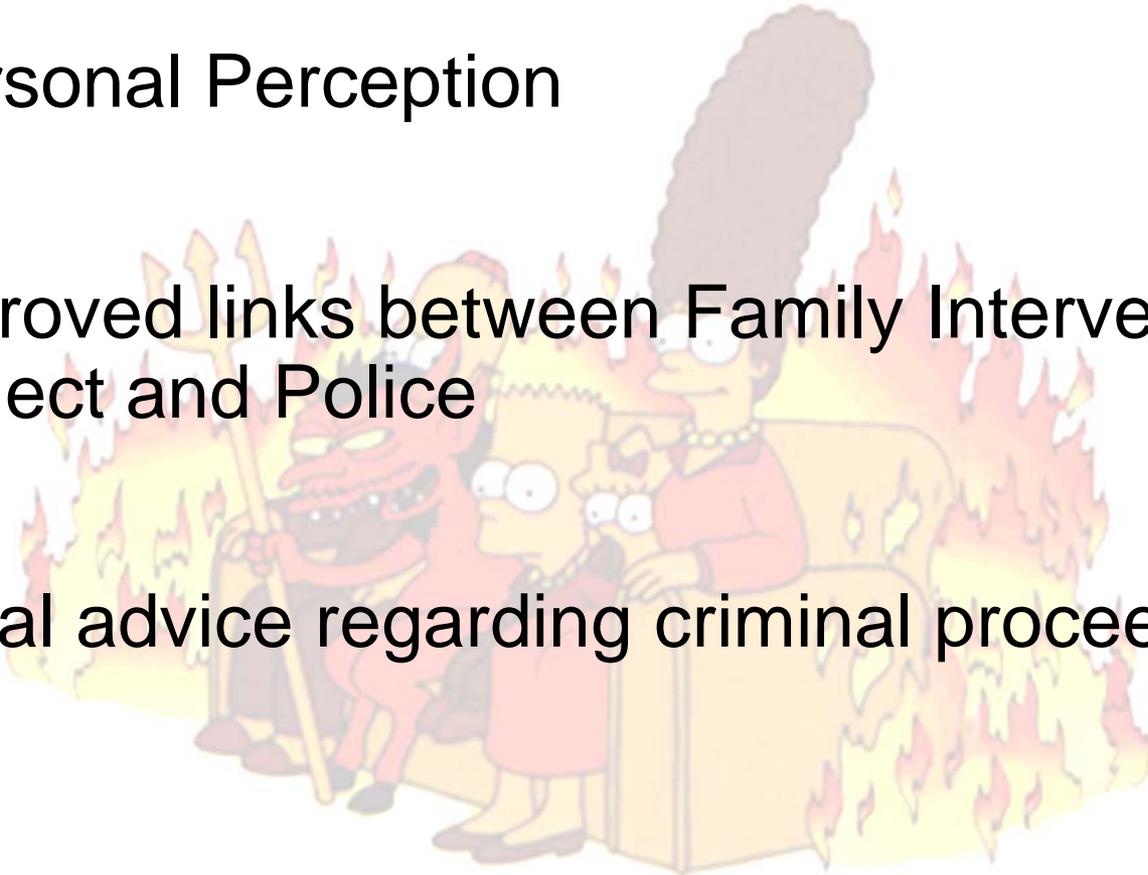
Response

Project Interventions



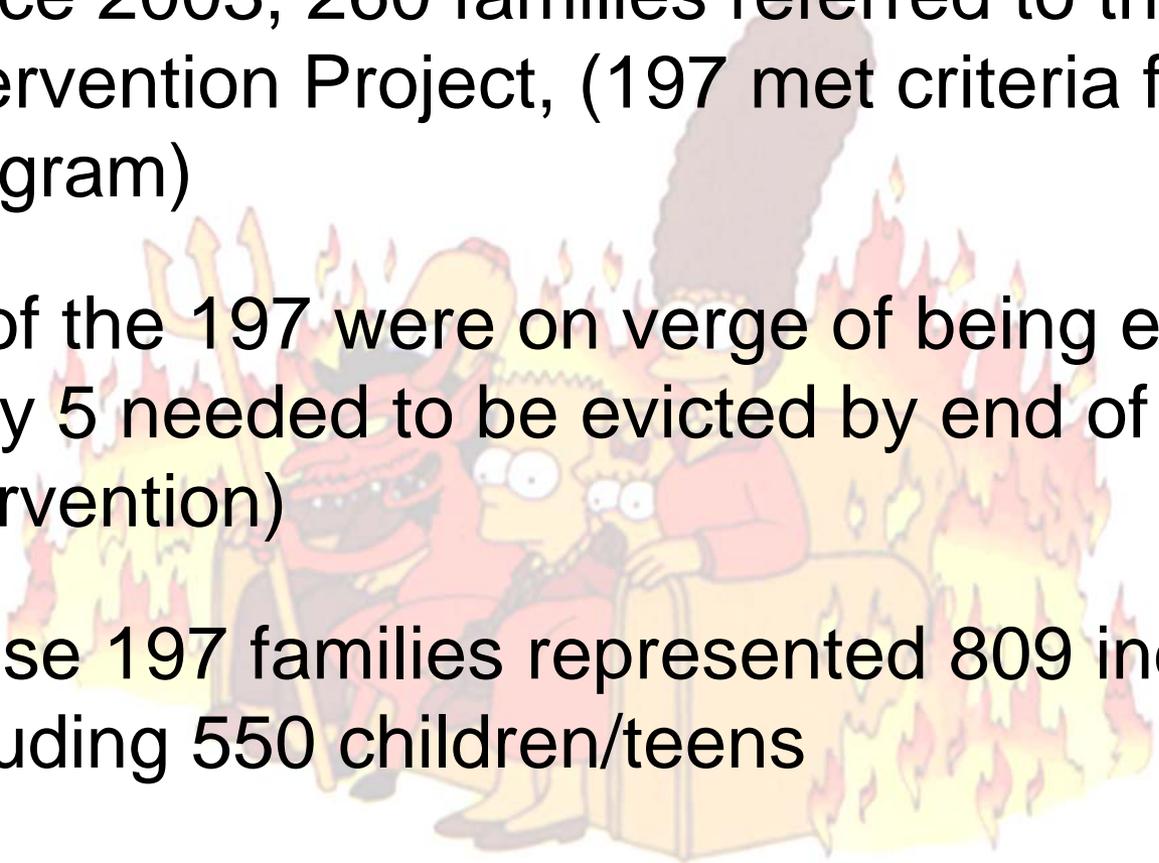
Benefits of Police Secondment

- Personal Perception
- Improved links between Family Intervention Project and Police
- Legal advice regarding criminal proceedings



Fantastic Outputs!

- Since 2003, 260 families referred to the Family Intervention Project, (197 met criteria for program)
- 41 of the 197 were on verge of being evicted (only 5 needed to be evicted by end of intervention)
- These 197 families represented 809 individuals, including 550 children/teens



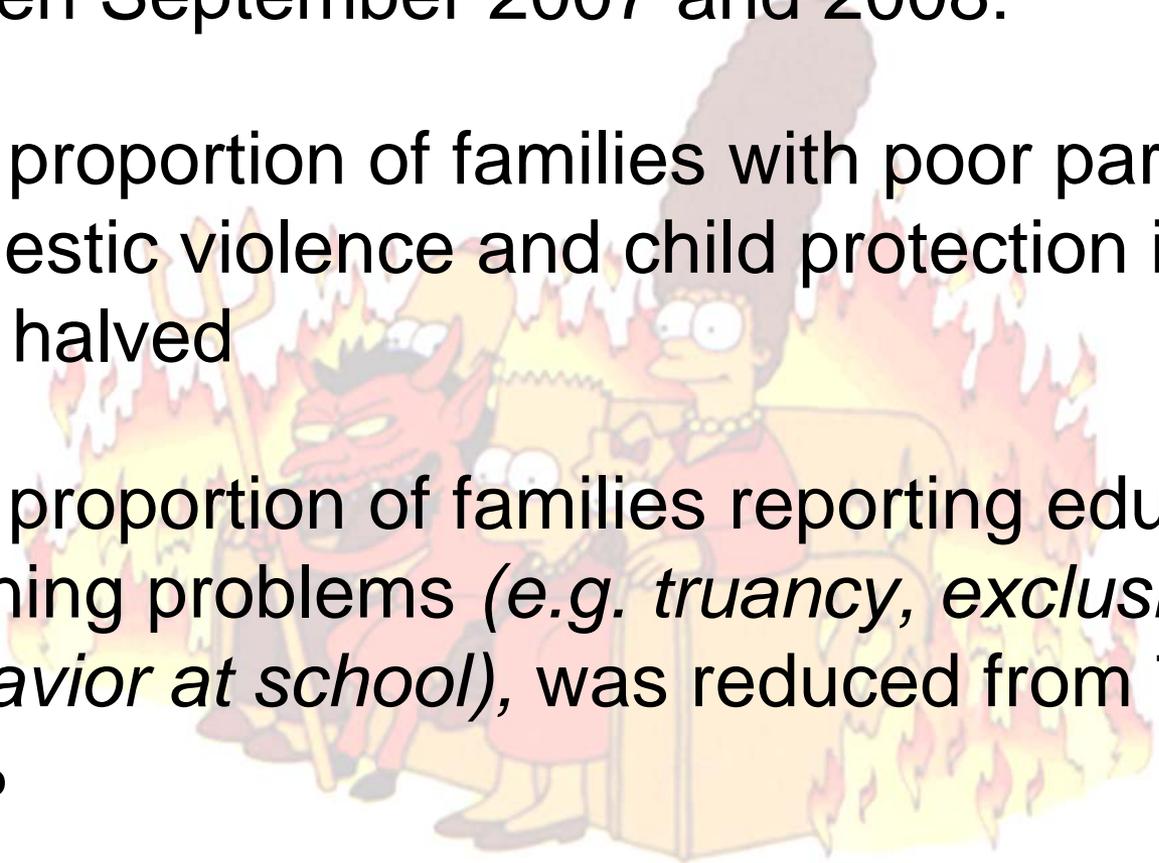
Significant Changes!

Perception that ASB a problem	2003	2006	2008
Teenagers Hanging Around	66%	62%	53%
Rubbish & Litter	63%	54%	48%
Drug Taking & Dealing	71%	52%	43%
Vandalism, Graffiti, Damage	63%	40%	37%
Drunk & Rowdy Behaviour	52%	33%	33%
Noisy Neighbours	27%	18%	19%

Fantastic Outcomes!

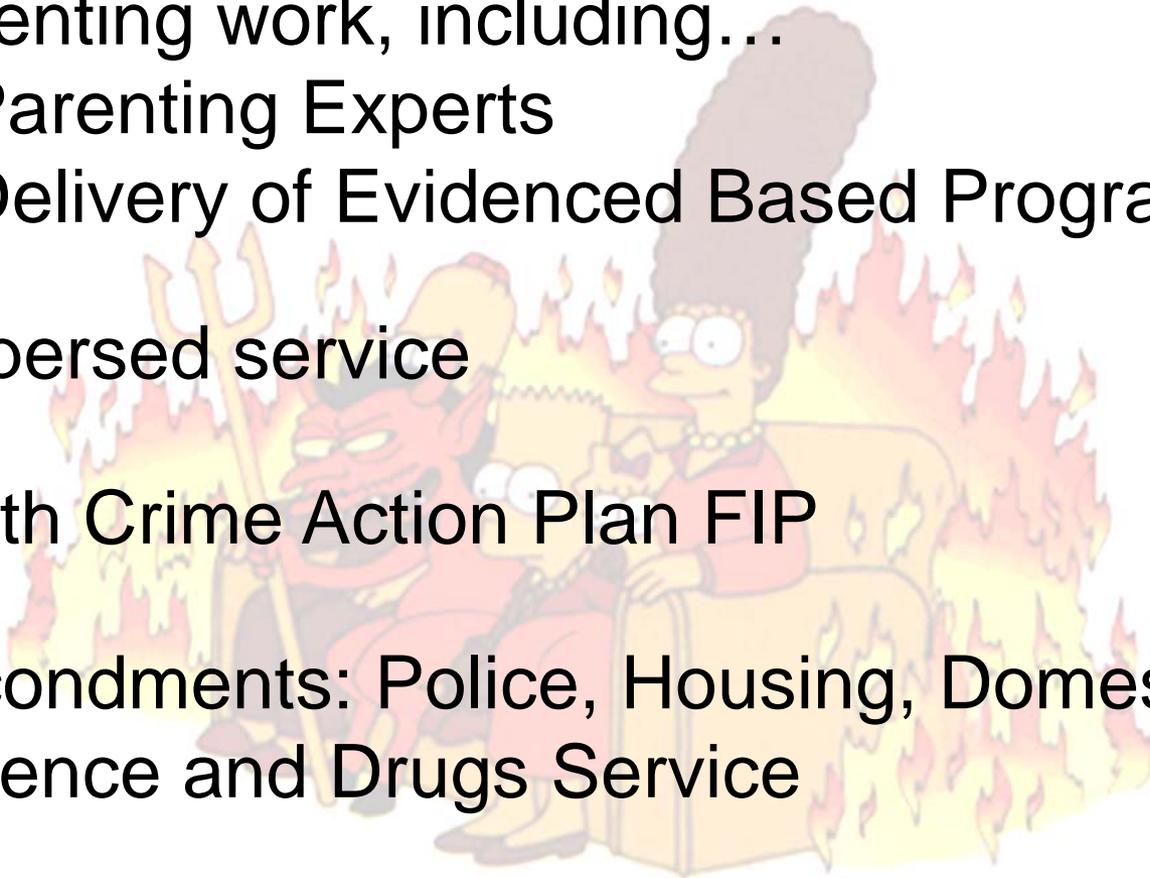
Between September 2007 and 2008:

- The proportion of families with poor parenting, domestic violence and child protection issues was halved
- The proportion of families reporting education/ learning problems (*e.g. truancy, exclusion, bad behavior at school*), was reduced from 72% to 45%



Developments since 2007

- Parenting work, including...
 - Parenting Experts
 - Delivery of Evidenced Based Programmes
- Dispersed service
- Youth Crime Action Plan FIP
- Secondments: Police, Housing, Domestic Violence and Drugs Service

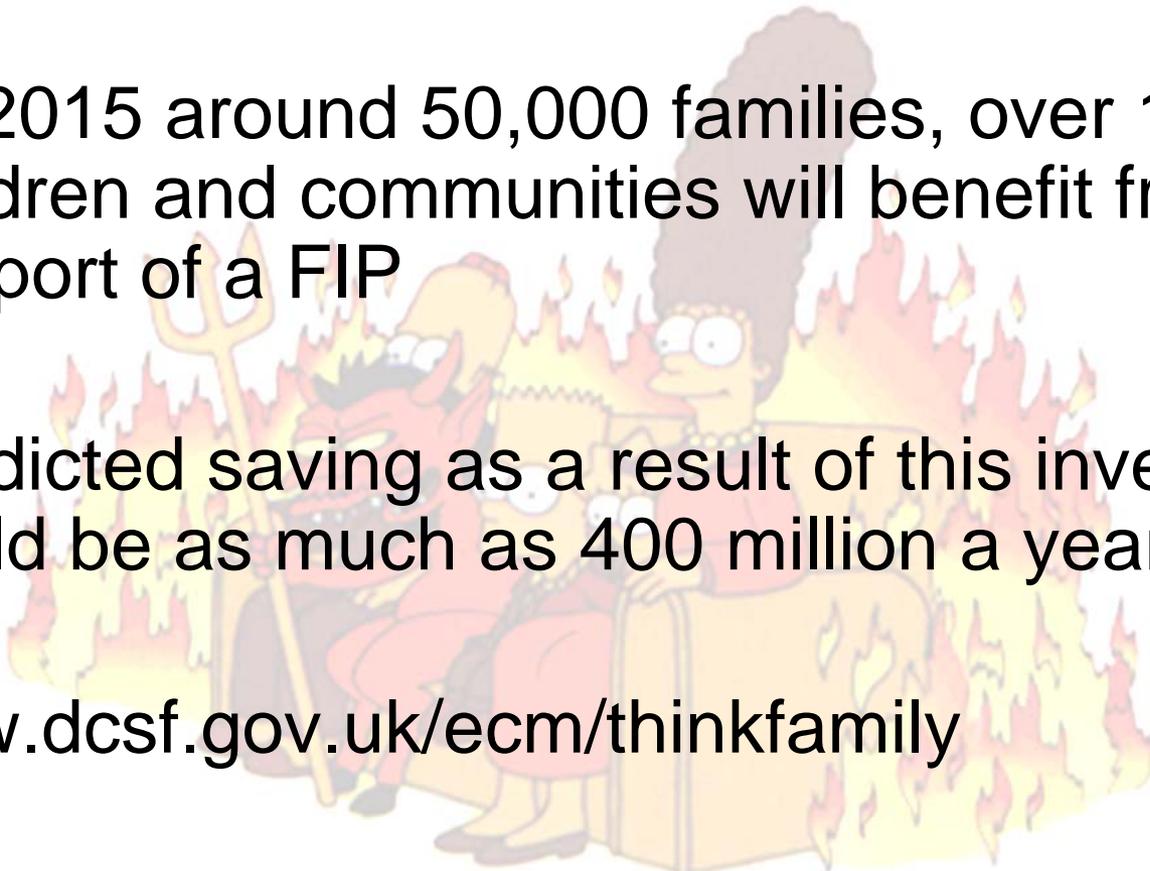


September 2009

Gordon Brown (Prime Minister)

states...

- By 2015 around 50,000 families, over 100,000 children and communities will benefit from the support of a FIP
- Predicted saving as a result of this investment could be as much as 400 million a year.
- www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/thinkfamily



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