

# Youth Crime FIP

South Glos ASB  
Conference

# Introduction

- Think Family Agenda
- Background to FIP's
- What is a Family Intervention Project?
- The Evidence for FIP's
- The Youth Crime FIP in South Glos

# What is Think Family?

Think Family aims to:

- Identify families which are at risk and provide support at the earliest opportunity
- Meet the full-range of needs within each family they are supporting
- Develop services which can respond effectively to the most challenging families
- Strengthen the ability of family members to provide care and support to each other

# The Background to FIP's

- Implement 'Think Family' reforms:
  - Synchronize young people's and adult services
  - Co-ordinate the support offered to both children, young people and adults in the families most at risk.
- Set up a Youth Crime Family Intervention Project:
  - Provide intensive support to families in the greatest difficulty with children at risk of offending.
- Offer Parenting Early Intervention Programmes (PEIP's)
  - to parents at risk of poor outcomes to improve their parenting skills.
- Continue to provide Parenting Experts and practitioners as announced in Children's Plan: in 2007.

# What is a Family Intervention Project?

- Think Family Agenda
- Intensive support to vulnerable families
- 3 FIP's
  - Anti Social Behaviour FIP's
  - Child Poverty FIP's
  - Youth Crime FIP's

# Who will the FIP support?

- FIP's will support families with multiple problems that are most at risk of poverty, anti social behaviour and offending.
- The Government's Families at Risk Review estimated that around 140,000 families in England experienced at least five of the risk factors that are known to be linked to poor outcomes.

# Risk Factors linked to Poor Outcomes for Children:

- No parent in the family in work;
- Family living in poor quality or overcrowded housing;
- No parent with any qualifications;
- Mother with mental health problems;
- At least one parent has a long-standing limiting illness, disability or infirmity;
- Family with low income (below 60% median); and
- Family cannot afford a number of food and clothing items.

# Families can be a source of risk

## Drug misuse

- Parental drug use is associated with neglect, poverty, physical or emotional abuse, separation and exposure to criminal behaviour.

## Alcohol misuse

- Alcohol misuse is identified as a factor in 50% of all child protection cases

## Domestic violence

- 25% children witnessing domestic violence have serious social and behavioural problems

## Parental offending

- 63% of boys with convicted fathers go on to be convicted themselves
- children of prisoners have 3 times the risk for mental health problems or delinquent behaviour compared to their peers

# The Evidence

- Effective parenting can:
  - protect against the risks of growing up in poverty
  - reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour and crime
  - Improve educational attainment, for example parental involvement is thought to be one of the most important factors in educational attainment.
- Strong rationale for government intervention to support those parents who are struggling
- And to challenge parents who are unable or unwilling to meet these responsibilities.

# Key features of FIP's

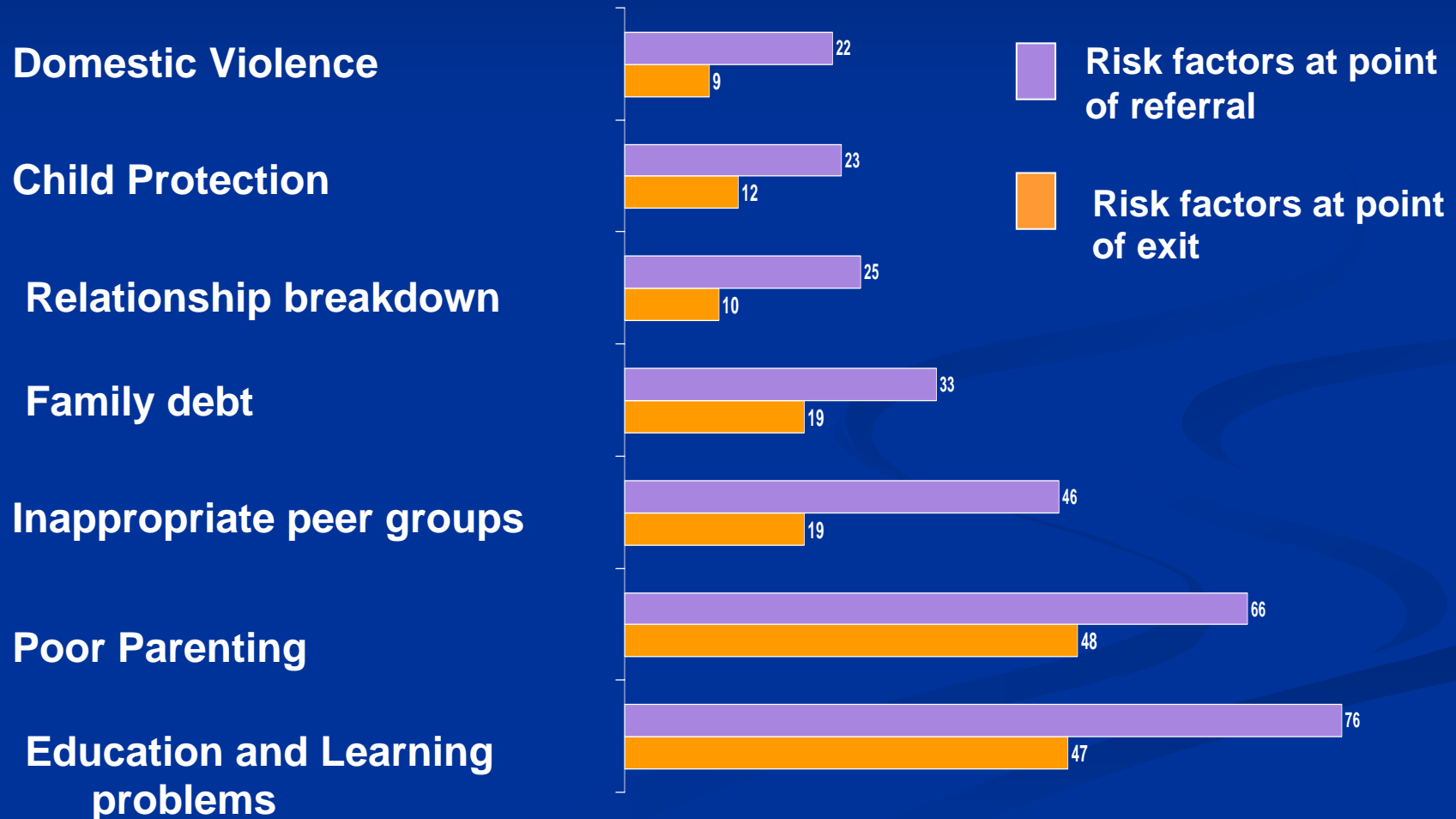
- A dedicated key worker with low caseloads who works intensively with the whole family
- Taking a whole family approach to assessment and the development of support packages
- Use of a contract setting out the changes that are expected, the support that will be provided and possible consequences if changes are not made
- Action to reduce the risk of sanctions motivating families to change
- Effective multi agency arrangements (referrals panel, information sharing, agreeing the objectives of intervention etc)

# Significant reduction in Anti Social Behaviour

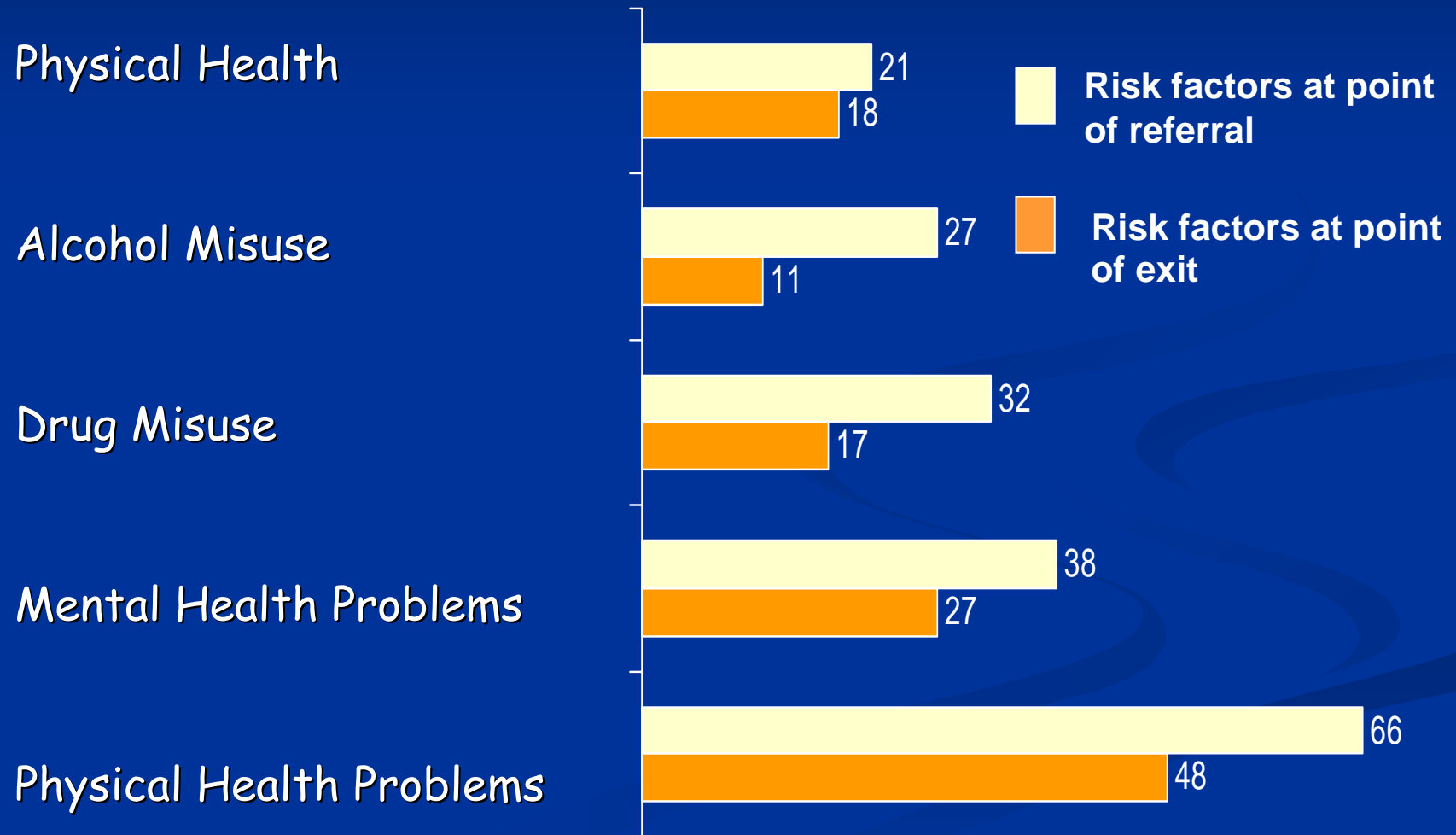
Anti-social behaviour problems identified by FIP staff at assessment and exit stage



# Significant reductions in child and family risk factors post intervention



# Some significant reductions in a range of health problems



# Youth Crime FIP's

- The Youth Crime Action Plan recognised the effectiveness of FIPs in preventing youth crime and delivering a whole range of outcomes.
- Youth Crime FIP's throughout England have successfully targeted:
  - Families with a particular type of risk e.g. Parents who are prolific offenders
  - Families with multiple problems and young children
  - Families with children identified as at risk of offending e.g. young people involved with YIP's

# Youth Crime FIP in South Glos

- Funding received for a Youth Crime FIP
- 2 Senior Family Support Workers have been recruited and are due to start work in March 2010.
- The workers will be based in the Youth Offending Team.
- Work has been undertaken to determine the referral criteria.

# Referral Criteria

The South Glos FIP will consider referrals of families whose children are involved in offending and anti-social behaviour and who are experiencing a number of these risk factors:

- Persistent absence from school or multiple fixed-term exclusions.
- Significant behavioural issues e.g. ADHD, CD
- Recent or current ABC
- Substance misuse within the family
- Domestic violence, family conflict or breakdown
- Significant offending by parent(s) or older siblings
- Mental health issues within the family
- Low income, risk of deprivation and poverty

# What work will be undertaken during South Glos FIP intervention?

- Every family will be allocated a Key Worker.
- Intensive work with the whole family to understand the under-lying causes of the behaviour and to help put strategies in place to prevent this.
- Families must agree to join the project. There are a number of ways the project can help:
  - by providing 1-1 parental support
  - access to specialist support
  - access to positive leisure activities
  - supporting family outings

# What work will be undertaken during South Glos FIP intervention?

The project will also:

- Offer practical support and advice for the whole family on the areas needed e.g. housing, employment, education, debt;
- Help access and co-ordinate support/advice on physical and mental health issues or drug and alcohol issues;
- Reduce the level of intensive monitoring and reporting by various agencies e.g. Social Services, Education, Police and Anti-Social Behaviour Team, through continued engagement with the FIP.