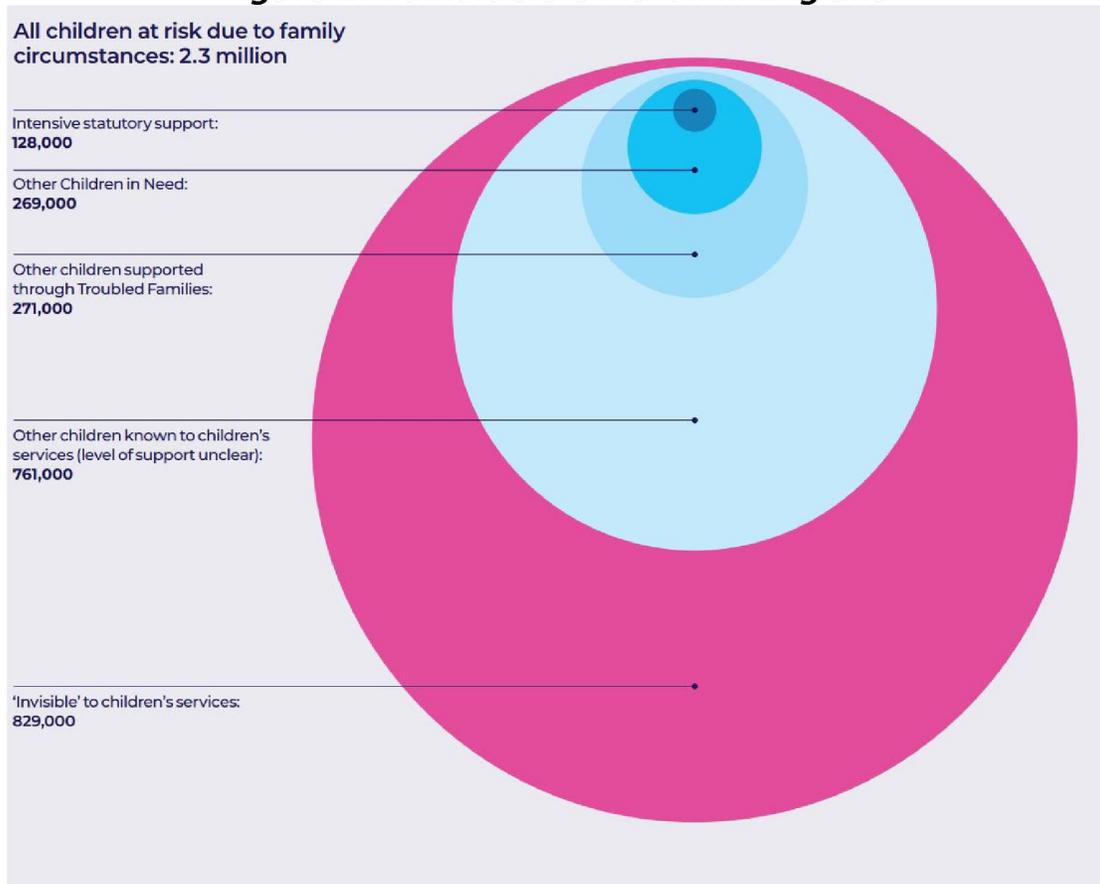


3. A failure to understand the services currently being provided.

These issues are demonstrated by the diagram below, which shows the 2.3m children who the Children's Commissioner would classify as vulnerable due to their family circumstances. This includes: domestic violence in the home (831,000 children), parent with alcohol or drug dependency (473,000 children), both parents (or single parent) with significant mental health problems (900,000 children) or material deprivation *and* severe low-income (593,000 children). Of these children, about 270,000 are on a 'Child in Need' plan<sup>2</sup>; a further 270,000 are in a family that is being worked with by local authorities under the 'Troubled Families programme'<sup>3</sup>.

**Figure 2: Vulnerable Children in England**



Source: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/cco-vulnerability-2019-tech-report-1.pdf>

A relatively small number of children are receiving what we term 'intensive statutory support'. These children are in care or on a Child Protection Plans. These children have reached the statutory threshold of 'significant harm' (or risk of) as defined by the Children Act. 'Preventative' approaches are often aimed at preventing children reaching these thresholds. Hence the recent focus

<sup>2</sup> This number excludes children in care and children on a Child Protection Plan.

<sup>3</sup> Children both on a Child in Need Plan and within the Troubled Families are counted within the Child in Need figures only for the purpose of this graph.