

## Overview

Team Around the Family (TAF) is a generic term used to describe the group of professionals, volunteers and potentially community or family members who are involved in supporting a family. The TAF could be just the Lead Professional and the family however it is likely that it will include a group of others as well.

When a family is in receipt of social care services, the TAF meetings will be known as Child in Need meeting, Core Group meeting or Child Protection Conference. In this factsheet, the term TAF is used generically for all types of meetings.

### What should be covered in a TAF meeting

- First Meeting
- All members of the TAF should share with each other their role, why they are there and how they work. This is important so that members of the TAF have realistic expectations of each other.
  - Share the assessment or parts of it (if the family have consented) so the TAF have an understanding of the needs of the family
  - Share any further information or significant events
  - Develop or build on the initial Family Plan being clear about who is doing what and how you as a group will know if it has worked (referring to the Outcomes Framework)
  - Agree how you will communicate between meetings
  - Agree who is visiting the family (if there is a need), how often and why
  - Agree when you will next meet

- Future Meetings
- Use the Family Plan as an agenda to review progress, engaging the family for each point in the plan in relation to their view of how much progress is being made
  - Ensure any new members of the TAF share their role with other members
  - Share further information or significant events
  - Amend the actions required for the Family Plan
  - Agree when you will next meet

### Role of members of the TAF

Professionals who are part of the TAF but aren't the Lead Professional would be expected to:

- Understand and respect the role of the Lead Professional
- Continue to follow their own safeguarding procedures where there are child protection concerns. Inform the Lead Professional as soon as possible if a referral has been made.
- Participate in the gathering of information to inform assessment of family needs
- Update the Lead Professional on information gathered and work completed
- Ensure the work undertaken is reflected in the Family Plan and works towards the common goals agreed by the TAF.
- Be accountable for delivery of own actions
- Commit to attend TAF meetings (or agree an alternative method of communication where this is not possible) to ensure work is well co-ordinated.
- Agree to share information with other professionals in the Team Around the Family as agreed
- Commit to put the family's needs at the centre and be part of the solution to overcome professional difference.
- All members of the Team Around the Family need to share a willingness to be open and reflective about thinking and practices and understand the perspective of other professionals to enable better multi agency working