

Team around the Child (TAC)

The TAC brings together young people, parents and practitioners, regardless of agency boundaries, into a small team for each particular child who has been identified as having additional needs.

Parents/carers and young people have a full role in the TAC. Parents/carers' needs are recognised and their central role to meet the needs of the child should be acknowledged.

The membership of the TAC may change as the needs of the child and family change.

The TAC operates as a supportive team; there is direct benefit to parents who have opportunities to discuss their child and family with key practitioners in one place. There is also benefit to practitioners who might otherwise feel isolated and unsupported in their work with the child and family.

A successful TAC meeting will have taken into account the views of the child, young person and parent.

The function of the TAC includes:

- Identifying how support can be offered to the child and family to meet needs, including actions for the family and child to undertake where appropriate
- Arranging, as necessary, additional referrals, supported by a Common Assessment, as a pathway to targeted and specialist services
- Reviewing the support given to the child and family
- Agreeing the child's level of need

In phase 1 of Local Delivery The TAC will:

- Be chaired/facilitated by the Local Delivery Team Development Manager, but this will become the role of the Lead Professional
- Identify a new Lead Professional, if and when appropriate.
- Give Consideration to the views of the child/young person and/or family
- Share Common Assessment information so it can be analysed and understood
- Jointly agree possible solutions and appropriate actions
- Complete a TAC plan listing the actions
- Provide copies of the plan to all TAC members (including the family of the child/young person, as appropriate) and to the local delivery team development manager

The best practice model TAC:

- is encouraging, positive and supportive to all members
- gives all members an equal voice
- arrives at collective agreements
- acknowledges differences of views and negotiates workable solutions

The Role of a Team Around the Child (TAC) Member

The role of a TAC member includes:

- To have a vision based on children and young people's identified needs and not to be led by the availability of services from agencies
- To support the Lead Professional by providing relevant information for the Common Assessment (CAF).
- To keep the Lead Professional up to date with any developments in between the TAC meetings
- To ensure that informed consent has been gained to share information and that children, young people and/or their parents/carers are an equal part of the team
- To recognise and support when the Lead Professional role needs to change and to accept and help identify who may now be the more appropriate person to take on the role of Lead Professional
- To deliver actions as agreed in the TAC plan
- To contribute to the monitoring of the TAC plan and reviewing outcomes
- Through the TAC process, agree necessary actions and provision of services to provide solutions to the unmet need(s). Identify the most appropriate Lead Professional in consultation with the child/young person and parent/carer.
- If there remains a gap in service provision, discuss with your manager and if appropriate the Local Delivery team Development Manager.
- If a Lead Professional and/or actions cannot be agreed, refer to the escalation procedures
- If actions are agreed and a Lead Professional is identified, implement the TAC Plan, agree timescales and a TAC review date.
- If the Lead Professional has changed, ensure the local delivery database has been updated