

What is a Team Around the Family (TAF)?

A Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting should take place when it is identified that there is a need for a multi-agency response. It provides the opportunity to discuss how additional needs for the children and family can be met and what services could support this.

In preparation for A TAF meeting you should:

- Identify an appropriate lead professional for the first TAF meeting.
- Ensure the family are aware what the meeting is about and who has been invited
- Invite family members in advance & send reminders too, this includes Young people if they are appropriate and Gillick competent
- Identify with the family an appropriate place for the meeting to be held
- Share assessment/CFAN in advance and any information that will be discussed at the meeting
- The meeting should be as small as practically possible, so that the child/young person and family members do not feel overwhelmed.

What is the main purpose of a TAF?

- To bring together children, young people, parents and practitioners
- To ensure a coordinated approach is implemented to support the individual or family's needs.
- To ensure parents/carers and children/young people have an equal role in agreeing their goals and the actions
- To ensure that the needs of parents/carers are recognised and that their central role in meeting the needs of the child.

What happens at a TAF Meeting?

- Share information as agreed by the family.
- Identify strengths and discuss actions to address needs.
- Ensure services are coordinated and do not overlap.
- Where appropriate, agree to consult with and/or refer to other services, and invite them to the next TAF meeting.
- Identify gaps in support and reflect this in the planning
- Members of the TAF are jointly responsible for developing and delivering the package of support
- Each member is responsible for delivering their assigned actions of the action plan. Members are also responsible for keeping each other informed about their progress and any concerns.
- Each member should support the TAF by keeping families informed, providing information and consultation when required, and attending meetings.
- Members should contribute constructively when attempting to solve problems or resolve difficulties. They should also encourage families to take an equal role in the process.
- Review progress and discuss escalation or step down if necessary.
- The decision to close a TAF should, if possible, be made together with the family and all TAF members. Ideally, the decision to close a TAF will be made due to the family having made good progress with their plan and no longer requiring additional support