

# Single Assessment Framework for Early Help Team Around the Child and Family (TAC/F) approach

## Principle

The Team around the Child & Family (TAC/F) is a concept that has existed for some time, and has been used in a variety of ways, including in the “Think Family” strategy. The TAC/F & family approach is the preferred concept for delivering effective integrated services. It defines the group of practitioners working with each child, or adult within one family at the same time. Wherever a family is working with a variety of agencies, they may need support through the SAFeh process to ensure that professional interventions are co-ordinated and planned.

## Aims

- For families to understand and feel more in control of their various experiences of the many services and systems they may encounter within family life.
- For the parents/carers and children/young people to be seen as an integral part of the team, as well as all practitioners working with the family

- For information between agencies to be shared appropriately wherever there is informed consent obtained from the parents/carers and/or young person.
- For all professionals to acknowledge that they are not the only practitioners involved in the delivery of services to families.
- For there to be a shared understanding that one service will not always be able to meet all needs assessed within the SAFeh process, and to coordinate work with other services.
- For services and resources to be effectively targeted to ensure positive outcomes for the family and the efficient use of resources within services to meet needs.
- For professional responsibility for the well-being of individual children and families to be equally owned and shared by all practitioners.

## Guidelines

- To be aware that a TAC/F exists for all families, as a number of practitioners encounter each family through their normal daily work, whether this is universal or targeted provision. It only needs to be formally brought together where there are additional needs, and the family consent to a SAFeh, in order to coordinate service provision.
- To assess and identify multiple or unmet needs for each individual child within a family in order to identify resources that may be appropriate to be used.
- To be flexible in how these resources may be accessed and co-ordinated.
- To share information appropriately.
- To ensure that all members of the team have an opportunity to contribute to the assessment, evaluation, action planning and review.
- To ensure that all members of the TAC/F receive copies of the SAFeh form, and all action plan and review forms.

- To plan to bring the SAFeh process to a close as soon as possible, as it should be focusing on realistic and achievable targets for each child.
- To explicitly acknowledge needs and actions that are beyond the control of the team members and maintain a solution focused approach based on what the family will accept.

## Conclusion

It is important for all practitioners to be aware of, and contribute to TAC/F meetings and ensure that the needs of each child in the family are being met, whether they are part of the Children's workforce or Adult workforce.