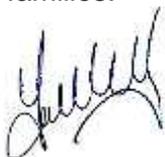


Foreword

The following guidance has been produced to assist practitioners across all Children's and Adult Services in the Outer Hebrides in their endeavours to promote the wellbeing of children. A partnership approach has been taken in developing and consulting on this document and I would like to thank all those involved in their helpful suggestions and amendments.

By working collaboratively and sharing relevant information that is appropriate and proportionate we collectively will make a real difference in the lives of children and their families.



Jack Libby
Chair – GIRFEC Group

This document was approved by the GIRFEC Group in August 2018.

Team Around the Child (TATC)

A child will only have a Team Around the Child when the level of support extends beyond the universal service i.e. (Health Visiting or School).

TAtC meetings are conducted on three levels depending on the assessed level of the wellbeing need. If on receipt of a wellbeing need and having asked the five key questions above the Named Person decides that additional help may be needed from others the first decision they must make is whether or not a TAtC meeting is required to plan this additional help. If the decision is that a TAtC meeting is required then the first decision is - what level should it be convened at? It is important to note that the TAtC process is not linear i.e. it does not always have to start at level 1. It can begin at any level depending on the assessed wellbeing concern.

TAtC Level 1

A TAtC Level 1 meeting should be convened when the Named Person's assessment is that mainstream resources within their own service are not sufficient to address the wellbeing concern(s) identified, but there are sufficient other resources from within that agency to provide effective support to the child or young person. For example within Education the Named Person may seek the assistance of Educational Psychology or Extended Learning Resources in providing support to a child or young person and their family. Similarly within Health a Named Person (e.g. a Health Visitor) may seek the assistance of Speech and Language Therapy or an Occupational Therapist in providing support to a child and their family. These support packages may be relatively complex but they are still within a single agency.

The TAtC Level 1 meeting should produce a Child's Plan using the Wellbeing Indicators to identify desired outcomes for the child or young person and the actions required by whom and by when to achieve them. It is important to note that Level 1 involvement is single agency only.

TAtC Level 2

A TAtC Level 2 meeting should be convened when the child would benefit from more specialised interventions and/ or there are insufficient resources within the single agency to address the wellbeing need(s). For example a Named Person within Education may assess that a Health Practitioner e.g. CAMHS and/or a Voluntary Sector agency may play an important role as partners to the Child's Plan. Similarly a Named Person within Health may assess that a Nursery Head Teacher and/or a Voluntary Sector agency may play an important role as partners to the Child's Plan.

An important task for the TAtC Level 2 meeting is to allocate a Lead Professional who will facilitate the construction, co-ordination, review and communication of the Child's Plan with all partners. It is important to note that there will only be one Child's Plan. This does not exclude other specialist assessments taking place, or if there is a Co-ordinated Support Plan in place, but they must be incorporated into the single Child's Plan. For further guidance please see the information leaflet on the Role of the Lead Professional.

TAtC Level 3

A Level 3 TAtC is when the Child's Plan has not resolved the wellbeing need, issues have remained static or the child may be deemed at significant risk. The level TAtC 3 meeting could be chaired by someone outwith the TAtC such as a Senior Manager within one of the services.

The meeting should consider all options available including whether a Child Protection Case Conference is required, a referral to the Children's Reporter is necessary or any other appropriate course of actions.

In some situations consideration should be given to convening a Multi-Agency Meeting where the parents or carers and/ or child will not be attendance.

Multi-Agency Meeting

Parents or carers should normally be informed of a Multi-Agency meeting and the reasons for this, if not, this should clearly be recorded. Parents or Carers should be informed of the outcome of the Multi-Agency Meeting and within 5 working days a minute of the meeting should be made available.

Dispute Resolution

Dispute resolution/arbitration can happen at any TAtC level in relation to the involvement of any service requested by the Named Person or Lead Professional, or where an agreement cannot be reached in terms of who should be the Lead Professional. Disagreements should not be 'played out' in front of families. Dispute resolution is the responsibility of the GIRFEC Group. A request to resolve a dispute should be made to the Chair of the GIRFEC Group.

Who Should Attend a TAtC Meeting?

The Team Around the Child is there to establish or review a Child's Plan with the child at the centre of that planning process. Not all partners to the Child's Plan will attend the TAtC but the child/young person and their family should always be invited to attend. Normally, only those partners who are directly involved in providing support to the child/young person and their family should be in attendance or those who the Named Person or Lead Professional is of the opinion can enhance the TAtC process. This is specifically intended to make the process as meaningful as possible for the child/young person and their family. Remember children and their families can often find it difficult to attend meetings and the

greater the number in attendance, the more challenging for them this can be. On occasions, other professionals may be invited to attend a particular TAtC meeting for a specific purpose.

Please note that it is appropriate to convene a TAtC meeting to discuss wellbeing concerns even if a parent/carer or child/young person declines to attend. The Named Person/Lead Professional can then feedback the outcome of the meeting to the child/young person and their family share the Child's Plan with them and elicit any opinion the family might have.

TEAM AROUND THE CHILD PROCESS MAP

