

**Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>30 November 2012</b>
Subject:	<b>Team Around the Child</b>

**Summary:**

This paper presents to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee a review into the effectiveness of Lincolnshire's Team Around the Child (TAC) processes and systems in enabling early identification of children with additional needs and in meeting the needs of vulnerable children.

**Actions Required:**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the report presented and to consider the matters raised as addressed.

## **1. Background**

The Team Around the Child process is pivotal in coordinating support services for children and young people with additional needs. It promotes a model of early intervention and integrated working through targeting resources to support a child in achieving positive outcomes.

In October 2011, following the implementation of the full core offer, revisions were made to the strategic TAC processes. The outcome was that Lincolnshire County Council no longer provided an administrative infrastructure to the TAC process and Lead Professionals would be expected to set up the first TAC meetings, and distribute minutes of such meetings. This review focused on assessing the impact of these changes.

To support this, a number of actions were undertaken:

- A Lincolnshire TAC Handbook for Professionals was produced
- LCC appointed Locality TAC Coordinators and assigned Practice Supervisors to Districts as points of contact for advice
- A series of update briefings were held across all districts

- It was proposed to establish a TAC Action Group (TAG) with a focus on reviewing active TAC cases where further guidance may be required
- A Locality Leader Group was established to consult with Head Teachers in the TAC process
- Professional Advisors for schools were trained in the TAC process to enable them to help schools and monitor engagement
- The website was refreshed

## **2. Conclusion**

Effective prevention enables children, young people and families to receive appropriate support at the earliest opportunity thus assisting families to overcome their challenges in a timely manner, reducing risk of escalation of problems.

From the review undertaken to date, indications are that the current TAC systems are a key contributor to the Local Authorities effectiveness in helping and protecting children and young people, and the revisions made in October 2011 have not impacted significantly on initiation of the multi-agency approach. However, it is recognised that further strategic influence may be necessary to ensure all agencies are equally accountable for timely identification, help and protection and to enable the Authority to be assured that TAC is effective at enabling vulnerable children to access early help.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

Not applicable.

## **4. Appendices**

Appendix A	TAC Evaluation Update 31 October 2012
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## **5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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