

**Open Report on behalf of Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>11 September 2015</b>
Subject:	<b>Multi Agency Early Help Audit Report</b>

**Summary:**

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the findings of the Early Help Audit 2015.

**Actions Required:**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the attached report.

## **1. Background**

In 2013 the review of Working Together to safeguard children put a significant emphasis on Early Help. This compounded with learning from a Serious Case Review (SCR) and a couple of significant incidents relating to children that were engaged in Team Around the Child (TAC) led to an initial audit of Early Help and TAC arrangements in Lincolnshire.

The findings and recommendations from the 2013 audit in summary were to establish a mechanism for effective quality assurance of the TAC process, ensure sufficient resources are available so that practitioners have access to advice and challenge, review recording arrangements, amend all paperwork used for the TAC process, for the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to actively raise the awareness of the Escalation and Professional Resolution Policy and for TAC training to continue to be delivered regularly by the LSCB and for partners to prioritise attendance of practitioners. As a result of the audit and recommendations, in 2014 the Early Help Officer in Lincolnshire was developed to address these aspects.

The 2015 audit, and subject of this report, is part of that wider review of Early Help and TAC in Lincolnshire and to establish what difference those changes have made to the TAC process, including the experience of families and practitioners.

A multi-agency task and finish group decided that the overall purpose of the 2015 audit was to examine the Early Help multi-agency assessment and Team Around the Child process (TAC) and not the universal Early Help services offered by

individual agencies. The focus of the audit was on the outcomes for children and families and the voice of the child through the assessment process and TAC arrangements.

**2. Conclusion**

This has been a comprehensive audit looking at the multi-agency Early Help and TAC process in its entirety. The findings have generally been positive and have demonstrated that the process has improved since the developments were introduced in April 2014. The audit report includes a number of recommendations which will be monitored by the LSCB Audit and Policy Officer and board members through the Strategic Management Group.

Following consideration of the attached report, the Committee is requested to consider the findings and direct any queries or comments to the LSCB Audit and Policy Officer.

**3. Consultation**

**a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

n/a

**4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Early Help Audit Report 2015
Appendix B	Early Help Audit Summary presentation

**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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