



Neath Port Talbot

Think Family Partnership Newsletter

May 2014

Welcome

Welcome to the third edition of the Think Family Partnership Newsletter.

Since our last newsletter, the Partnership has made steady progress and there are a number of things to share with you.

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If you have any comments about this newsletter or suggestions for items you would like to see included, please email thinkfamilypartnership@npt.gov.uk

Message from Director of Social Services NPTCBC



The Think Family Partnership is making great strides within its first year in terms of working together to move forward our Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) agenda.

We have successfully implemented phase one of the Team Around the Family (TAF) Service, which included recruiting staff. This also involved the launch of our new 'Lead Family Contact Approach' and the partnership is currently delivering a comprehensive programme of training around this. I will be making this mandatory for Council staff in Children and Young People Services and would expect staff from other partner agencies to also take advantage of this valuable training opportunity.

In addition, a number of quality assurance mechanisms have been developed and an early review of TAF activity has been undertaken. You can read about these on page 3, and find details of how phase two of TAF will look on page 2.

All of these achievements show how effective our partnership has become in just ten months. They demonstrate excellent progress towards our aim of giving families appropriate support so that they don't reach a point where it is necessary for children's social care to become involved with them, less still for them to break down to the stage where their children are taken into care.

I would like to thank you all for your continued commitment in driving forward the work of the partnership.

Nick Jarman

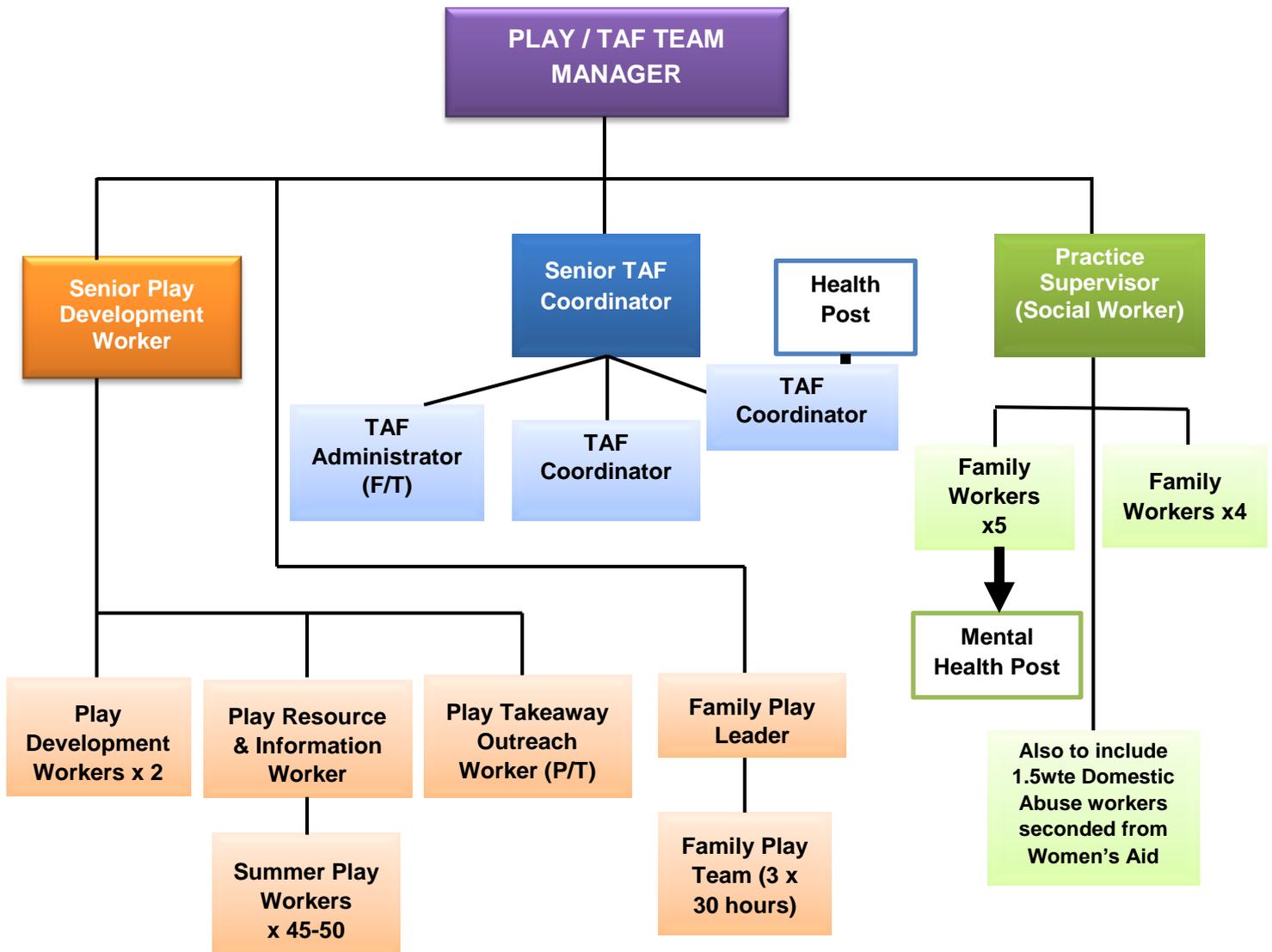
Director of Social Services, Health and Housing
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Team Around the Family Service Phases one & two

Phase one of the TAF service is now complete and evaluation shows that it has been successful.

We are now moving into phase two. The second phase sees the merger of our TAF and Play Team. This will maximise the impact of their work with children, young people and their families as we move forward.

So ... what will phase two of TAF look like? See our diagram below.



TAF Service contact details

If you have any questions or require further information in relation to the Early Intervention and Prevention agenda and Team Around the Family Service, please contact TAF:
 Tel: 01639 875500
 email TAF@npt.gov.uk

TAF Recruitment Update

Look out for our advertisement for staff for TAF phase two.

We are looking to recruit 3 Family Workers, a TAF Coordinator and part time Administrator from within the Local Authority.

Lead Family Contact Training

Our first event for the Lead Family Contact Training was attended by over 80 representatives from a variety of partnership organisations working with children and young people.

It was well received and feedback from those attending was overwhelmingly positive. Most notably 70% stated that they felt more confident to carry out the functions of the Lead Family Contact and be a part of Team Around the Family.

We would like to invite you and your colleagues to the next session of this programme of training which will be held on Tuesday 20th May at Baglan Community Church, Baglan from 9.30am to 4.15pm.

'more aware of potential issues & concerns of others'
feedback from last session

We are hoping the next session will be as successful as the first. The focus of the day is highly relevant to multi-agency working

as it will concentrate on the role of the Lead Family Contact within the TAF model. It will be a discrete session, so attendance at the previous session is not required.

To book a place please contact the Think Family Partnership Support Team on 01639 873024 or at h.bailey@npt.gov.uk by 12th May.

'Very comprehensive'
feedback from last session

Think Family Partnership collaboration work with local Health Services

To support robust working arrangements between teams across services, a number of quality assurance mechanisms have been established:

- 1) **Step-up and Step-down protocols** have been developed. These protocols will facilitate a quality assurance mechanism for referring into TAF and to support TAF to safely refer back to Tier 1 services or onto specialist services
- 2) To ensure that common language is applied across agencies **Health Visitors now apply the Child In Need status in line with the Children Act (Section 17)** and its legal definition rather than a previously applied definition developed locally.
- 3) **Specialists are being seconded into the TAF team** over the next few months with a TAF worker with vast CAMHS experience, a TAF co-ordinator seconded from the Health Board.

An early review of TAF activity was undertaken in March who at that point in time were working with 96 children across 36 families and were engaging well with the TAF team. The review indicated that education colleagues are the highest referrers and that the most commonly referred issue was support for children's behaviour. A more detailed review is planned for September when specific packages of work will have been completed with families.

The added value of the Social Worker within the TAF team is evident in supporting the direction of travel for families where there may be safeguarding issues as well as harnessing relationships across agencies; having commenced a series of warmly received presentations to Health Board staff.

Think Family Partnership forges link between TAF & local Domestic Violence Services in NPT

After a series of workshops and discussion with local providers we are delighted to announce that we are developing TAF Family Workers with an expertise in Domestic Violence.

This role will develop training support for the TAF Team as well as being the expert for Domestic Violence Family work within the team. These 2 posts are seconded from Local Women's Aid Organisations.

Team Around the Family - news from the engine room!



Hello

My name is Allison Harris and I am the Play Co-ordinator for NPT. On 1st April 2014 I extended my role to include responsibility for the TAF team, becoming the new Play/TAF Manager.

I am excited to be part of the TAF team and take on the challenge of leading the team in the implementation of the new TAF model across Neath Port Talbot. The model has the wellbeing of children and families at its core, and it is this that will be the focus for partners to work in an integrated way to service delivery.

Since April 2012, as a play service we have been working with individual families that have come to us through a referral process, to help them improve their relationships and support their children's development, using play as a vehicle to do this. The development and delivery of the family play service and the relationships we have built with partners will be a huge benefit in supporting TAF on its journey forward.

I look forward to working with TAF staff and partners to build on the success the team have had through the pilot phase of the service.

Allison Harris
Play/TAF Manager

Focus on.....the Family Information Service

www.nptfamily.com, the website developed by the Family Information Service is going from strength to strength as more and more services are joining the 'Services Search' and the number of visitors steadily increases month by month.

NPT Family provides free information and signposting for all the family, including children under 11, young people 11 – 25 and professionals who work with families.

You can find all the latest, up to date information, news, publications and services including childcare, youth services, play, sports, finance, health and wellbeing, education, family learning, staying safe and much more by visiting their website www.nptfamily.com.



Alternatively, if you would like your information on the website or would like to know more, the team would be more than happy to hear from you and can be contacted by emailing fis@npt.gov.uk, tel: 01639 873018 or you can follow them on twitter (@NPTFamily) and facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/nptfis>).