The Challenge

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 provides the legal framework to deliver the Getting it right for every child vision. Across Ayrshire all practitioners working with children and young people work as a Team Around the Child (TAC) to support, promote and safeguard children's wellbeing with the child firmly at the centre. This approach set out to address the following issues:

- Families having to tell their same story several times to different practitioners.
- Children and parents struggling to give their views and not feeling fully involved.

Aims

- Effective collaborative working to improve children's wellbeing.
- Reduce number of meetings.
- Ensure the views of the child and their parents are sought and taken into account.

Method

1. Multi-agency Working Group established.
2. Scoping of existing meetings and documentation.
3. Developed a streamlined meeting pathway.
5. Information Leaflet produced for children and families.
6. Utilised Quality Improvement Methodology to test the TAC model over a three month period.
7. Analysed the data produced.
8. Rolled out the TAC model across Ayrshire.

Positive Outcomes

The TAC model helps ensure that children receive the right help, at the right time by the right people resulting in:

- More appropriate inclusion of the child and their family ensuring their views are heard and respected.
- Fewer meetings for children and families to attend.
- Children, Young People and Parents being meaningfully involved in the Child's Plan.
- Improved partnership working and appreciation of roles and responsibilities.
- Getting it right for every child ethos and language is recognised across children's services.

What did we learn?

- There was a variance in experience and confidence levels of practitioners chairing Team Around the Child meetings.
- Children and families were not as involved in their wellbeing assessment and plan as much as we thought they were.
- Clear guidance and multi-agency training is essential.

What’s next?

- Build the confidence of practitioners chairing Team Around the Child meetings.
- Embed the TAC model in practice.
- Continue to monitor the process and consider refinements as necessary.
- Evaluate the TAC model in 2019.

References


Acknowledgement

Pan Ayrshire Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Implementation Working Group.