

## THURROCK CHILDREN'S TRUST

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Dear Colleague

### **Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Implementation Date 1st April 2008**

As you will be aware Local Authorities are required by government to implement the CAF within their authorities by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

The Children's Trust Board are pleased to announce that we have been working hard with our partners to meet the implementation date. We have devised our own local system, Assessment and Responses to Children (ARC), a Practitioner's Toolkit, as a means of supporting delivery and in embedding in to practice. The Practitioner's Toolkit provides national and local processes and guidance; tools and pro-formae to support practitioners and managers to deliver on the CAF and to promote integrated working practices. The Practitioner's Toolkit can be found on the Children's Trust website ([www.shapingthurrock.org.uk/childrenyoungpeople](http://www.shapingthurrock.org.uk/childrenyoungpeople)), and the Local Safeguarding Children Board website ([www.shapingthurrock.org.uk/safeguard](http://www.shapingthurrock.org.uk/safeguard)). Several hundred copies will also be made available within the next few weeks. Awareness raising training has been provided as well as CAF in Practice training, and this will be ongoing. Further details of training can be found on the LSCB website.

Four geographical clusters have developed across Thurrock, and these clusters, set around schools, have become home to the Multi-Agency Group (MAG) Panels. Children who have been identified as having additional needs, requiring a multi-agency plan, have had a CAF completed and taken to a MAG Panel, for early intervention/prevention services. Currently at least 120 children in Thurrock have had a CAF.

The Children's Trust Board has ratified the implementation of the CAF across Thurrock and as of the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 it will be expected that all referrals to another service, other than universal, will require a CAF attached to the referral. For Child Protection referrals it will be expected that as much of the CAF be completed as possible, however, in doing so this should not delay a child protection referral being made to social care, following the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures (SET procedures).

Whilst everything has been done to minimise any problems arising through the implementation, if there are any difficulties Children's Services will do all they can to support agencies and families in accessing a CAF and services to meet the needs of children and families at the earliest opportunity. If you have any queries or wish to enquire about further training please contact Chris Miller, Strategic Leader Safeguarding 01375-652898, or via [childrensplan@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:childrensplan@thurrock.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Robert McCulloch-Graham**  
Chair, Thurrock Children's Trust Board