

Friday, 08 November 2024

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
SUB-BOARD**

A meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board**
will be held on

Monday, 18 November 2024

commencing at **3.00 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Banking Hall, Castle Circus entrance on the left
corner of the Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Board

Councillor Fellows (Chairman)

Councillor Law
Councillor Nicolaou

Councillor Tolchard
Councillor Twelves (Vice-Chair)

Co-opted Members of the Board

Pete Brown, Church of England Diocese

Laura Colman, Primary Parent Governor Representative

Vacancy - Secondary Parent Governor Representative

Vacancy - Roman Catholic Diocese Representative

A Healthy, Happy and Prosperous Torbay

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-BOARD AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.
2. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board held on 23 September 2024.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
 - a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.
 - b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

(**Please Note:** If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)
4. **Urgent Items**
To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.
5. **Home to School Transport** (Pages 11 - 14)
To consider the submitted report on a review of Home to School Transport and make recommendations to the Cabinet.
6. **Early Years Sufficiency Duty Report** (Pages 15 - 40)
To review the Early Years Sufficiency Strategy including recruitment and retention and preparedness to meet the new extended duties and make recommendations to the Cabinet.
7. **Sufficiency Strategy Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children** (Pages 41 - 44)
To receive an update on the Sufficiency Strategy and permanence

for children, (unaccompanied asylum seeking children) UASC and fostering.

Key lines of enquiry:

- Do SEN need a special housing offer in respect of care experienced young people?
- Understanding housing provision for care experienced young people developing into adulthood – are we providing satisfactory accommodation in the portfolio of housing we provide?

- 8. Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme and Sustainability** (Pages 45 - 48)
1. To review the sustainability of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and sustainably post funding ending in April 2025.
 2. To formally note the update on the take up of Free School Meals and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme.
- 9. 0 to 25 Provision** (Pages 49 - 60)
To review the scope of 0-25 Services, including obesity, face to face one year old and two to two and half year-old checks, update on vaccine take up, oral health.
- 10. Safeguarding Children Annual Report** (Pages 61 - 96)
To consider the Safeguarding Children Annual Report.
- 11. Children's Continuous Improvement Board Update**
To receive an update on the Children's Continuous Improvement Plan.
- 12. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker** (Pages 97 - 100)
To receive an update on the implementation of the actions of the Sub-Board and consider any further actions required (as set out in the submitted action tracker).

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**Minutes of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny
Sub-Board**

23 September 2024

-: Present :-

Councillor Fellows (Chairman)

Councillors Law, Foster, Nicolaou and Tolchard

Co-opted Members

Mike Cook, Voluntary and Community Sector and Alternative Provision (Education)
Tanny Stobbart, Play Torbay

(Also in attendance: Councillors Bye and David Thomas)

10. Apologies

Apologies for absence was received from Pete Brown (Voting Co-opted Member) and Hayley Costar (Non-voting Co-opted Member).

It was reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Conservative Group, the membership of the Sub-Board had been amended to include Councillor Foster in place of Councillor Twelves.

11. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Board held on 29 July 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12. Youth Provision in Torbay

Members considered the submitted report which provided an update on youth provision in Torbay. The Youth Hub within Children's Services provided the following support to young people:

- Youth Service;
- Young Carers;
- Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF); and
- Community Youth Clubs.

Members were advised that since the report had been written agreement had been made for the Youth Improvement Fund (YIF) for improvements to the Acorn Centre and work was due to start at the Acorn Centre in October 2024. The Board

expressed their thanks and appreciation to everyone involved in securing the YIF money to improve facilities for young people at the Acorn Centre.

The Sub-Board asked a number of questions in relation to £100,000 for Community Youth Clubs and was there an indication on if the Government proposed to continue to fund HAF; Members wanted to look at accessibility to play parks with a review due to be completed by the end of September, what progress had been made on that and would it include a condition report of existing play parks; and a lot of funding streams were coming to an end in March 2025 what action was being taken to mitigate potential loss of future funding, was this the same for all local authorities and was there national work to lobby Government about funding for young people.

In response to questions around funding, Members were informed that the Council was looking at how we deliver youth services and if we want to deliver the same model for the HAF (which had very prescriptive criteria and outcomes) or if we could work with providers to help them to deliver more services to more young people in a different way. The Council was already supporting providers to become Ofsted Registered which would open up further opportunities for them including the ability to provide the free child care placements to those families who were eligible. Tanny Stobbart from Play Torbay welcomed this support and advised that she had been working with the Council towards getting Play Torbay registered. There had been reasonable feedback from the Government around funding and this was expected to be announced as part of the Budget Statement in October 2024. This did not allow a lot of time for the Council and partner organisations to plan their activities and to support families and lack of permanent funding does not give the voluntary and community sector a sustainable solution moving forward. The Council was looking at how it could use the £100,000 within the Children's Services base budget for youth provision. There was a lot of lobbying at a national level regarding funding, particularly temporary or one-off funding streams, also in the context of many local authorities struggling with their overall budgets. The Council was also working with other local authorities to explore the potential to pool budgets to support young people.

Members were advised that there had been a delay to the play park review to enable Participation Officers to engage with young people, which linked to our work with UNICEF to be a Child Friendly Torbay. UNICEF supported this approach. The Clerk advised that a timetable for the review had been sent to Members of the Board for the Overview and Scrutiny Board Monthly Briefing meeting on 24 September 2024. The final report would include a condition report on the existing play parks and had been provisionally added to the Work Programme for 27 January 2025.

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Cabinet be requested to continue to support young people, ensuring young people have a voice and access to support in Torbay, and to ensure that the welfare of Torbay Council staff and the staff teams working with young people in Torbay is considered within decision making, planning and communications going forward.

13. 0 to 19 Services Procurement

Members considered the submitted report which provided an update of the recommissioning of 0-19 services which were proposed to be divided into three separate elements. The first being delivered by the current provider Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, contracts for advocacy services and independent visitor services would be going out to open market procurement and young people's substance misuse and missing and return home conversations would be delivered in-house as part of a wider Torbay Council Youth Service.

Members asked a number of questions relating to what did PSR stand for (Provider Selection Regime) and what input would there be from children and young people on PSR; and had young people and their families contributed to what was proposed for the services.

In response to questions, it was noted that the Provider Selection Regime was a process that necessitated following stringent legal process that determined whether a direct award was applicable. Because of this complex internal process, led by the Council's Commercial Services, children, young people and families were not consulted on whether or not direct award was the applicable procurement process. However, children, young people and families would be consulted on any new specifications and as part of ongoing service quality improvement once contracts were in place. Additionally, Insights work was commissioned to hear the voice of the children, young people and their families accessing 0-19 provision as well as working with Children's Services Participation Officers and accessing 0-19 and Family Hubs service user feedback, forming part of a Health Needs Assessment that had supported the commissioning process and development of the new specifications. Members were informed that the current providers were good at receiving and sharing both positive and negative feedback regarding service provision, forming part of contract management and hearing the voice of children, young people and families. The Public Health Team and Children's Services had utilised the information taken from those accessing services to ensure specifications align to the needs of children, young people and families including improving accessibility, people telling their story only once, and accessing support in single places. Once approved and agreed further, engagement would be carried out with young people and their families on how services can be developed and implemented. A written response would be provided on what involvement children and young people would have in the selection process for the elements that will be procured by open tender.

The Sub-Board noted the timetable for the Torbay 0-19 Service procurement.

14. Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Self Evaluation Framework (SEF)

This item was included on the agenda in error as it was discussed at the previous meeting. An update would be provided to a future meeting as requested.

15. Our Promise to You - The Torbay Pledge to care for and care experienced children/young people - Revised Children's Pledge

Members received a paper which provided an update on the revised Children's Pledge 'Our Promise to You – The Torbay Pledge to care for and care experienced children/young people 2021-2022' as there had been a change in the way the Council was engaging with young people. Since its adoption the Torbay Youth Trust had moved back in-house and the Cared for Council had been reset. There was a need to go back to our care for and care experienced children and young people to ensure that it was still relevant and reflected the views of the whole community on how they want us to work with and support them.

The Sub-Board asked questions in relation to the Cared for Council not working as a group and them working on separate projects; and how many young people were on the Cared for Council.

In response to questions Members were advised that there were 12 to 14 young people who do not currently wish to meet as a group but that it was important to ensure that more of the 290 cared for children were represented in the review of the Pledge. The Team was exploring options to encourage a wider group of people to come together in a safe environment as well as looking at how they could bring in the voice of the young people who live outside Torbay.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board note the contents of the submitted report and the plans for next steps to review the existing Pledge;
2. that an updated Children and Young People's Pledge is scheduled on the agenda for the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board meeting in 4 months time; and
3. that an informal meeting be arranged with our Cared for Young People and the Sub-Board on the development of the revised Pledge.

16. Fostering Annual Report

The Sub-Board considered and noted the submitted Annual Fostering report for 2023/2024 which set out the activities and achievements of the Fostering Service over the past twelve months. Members noted the need to continue to recruit and retain new Foster Carers and were encouraged to spread the word to encourage more people to sign up.

Members asked a number of questions how many Foster Carers keep young people when they reach 18 years old and if they received financial help; how would the Mockingbird project be co-ordinated; how often do Foster Carers meet; and part of the Mockingbird project was around respite/staying overnight without the need for the Foster Carer to get permission to let them stay elsewhere, was that element included.

In response to questions, Members were informed that 31 young people were currently Staying Put with Foster Carers but there were some challenges as they do not receive the same payment as a Foster Carer but get support for rent and housing. It was acknowledged that more work needed to be done to help people understand what this looks like to the Foster Carers and young people. Whilst this was a positive step and good for the young person, it means that the Foster Carer cannot take on any new children, which was another reason for the need to recruit around 10 new Foster Carers a year to keep up with demand. The Fostering Service would co-ordinate the Mockingbird Project and identify the lead Foster Carer with 8 or 9 coming together to support each other and become like an extended family network. All Foster Carers have a supervising Social Worker on top of the support from the Fostering Service and meet when they need to.

Members particularly welcomed the Mockingbird project pilot in Brixham which provided a constellation where Foster Carers would be supported by a lead Foster Carer and become part of a wider family network which would also enable cared for young people to sleep over at other members of the constellation's homes as this would be a safe environment for them with other families which they would become part of and would give them more autonomy.

The Sub-Board requested their formal thanks be recorded to Foster Carers and the Foster Carer Service.

17. Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Board

The Chairman, Councillor Fellows, presented the Report of the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group meeting held on 24 July 2024, which he had attended as the Council's representative on this Group. By the end of 2023/2024 196 children had a plan for adoption an increase of 15.2% and of the 109 children placed 91.3% (100) were placed with Adopt South West adopters, 8% higher than previous years.

Members acknowledged that the number of days for adoption in Devon was twice as high as others. Torbay had the best timescales for adoption which had improved month on month identifying children who required adoption and matching them quickly through the process was welcomed by the Sub-Board.

Members reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Group and noted that Torbay's governance required the relevant Cabinet Member and Director to be present when scrutising topics so that they can be held to account as well as any external partners, however, only the Clerk had been invited to the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group.

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group be requested to update the invite list to include the following:

1. Torbay Council Scrutiny Representatives – Chair of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board and Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator; and

2. Invitees – Director of Children's Services, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Democratic Services Team Leader.

18. Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter

Members received and noted the Annual Ofsted Letter which had been prepared following a meeting on 29 May 2024. It was noted that the letter had been delayed due to the General Election. It was noted that there was a more positive trajectory regarding paragraph 2 on page 126 with a portal being put in place to enable families to access Family Hubs and early help themselves without the need for a statutory referral. Work was being done to align the children in need and early help model with the child in need no longer requiring a qualified social worker but instead could use a lead professional.

The Sub-Board asked if there had been any changes since May and if anything was missing from the letter. In response Members were advised there was 21 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and there were now 23. It was hoped to welcome another five who would move to care experienced. Previously 25% of care experienced young people were not living in suitable accommodation and now 91% were living in suitable accommodation. Staff vacancy rates continued to be a concern and had increased from 15% to 17% which was the same nationally. National guidance had been published on how to manage agency workers on a regional basis which was now due to be implemented in October rather than April this would cap the agency rate and set an expectation of the number of years Social Workers were required to work before they could move to agency. As a region Torbay Council was looking at how we could bring this forward sooner. This was being monitored closely through the Children's Services Strategic Quartet.

19. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

The Sub-Board noted the contents of the submitted action tracker. The Director of Children's Services was positive about the accommodation for the Youth Justice Team with further discussions required around funding.

Chairman

Meeting: Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

Date: 18 November 2024

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Home to School Transport

When does the decision need to be implemented? n/a

Cabinet Member Contact Details:

Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan Director of Children's Services

nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this update to board of progress being made following a review of Home to School Transport.

2. Background

2.1 The H2ST has increased expeditiously over several years, although cost reductions were agreed at the star chamber for the period 22/23 these were not realized nor was any action put in place to potentially meet the activity identified.

2.2 The significant cost pressures are detailed below but in essence the spend has increased by 104% from £2.146m in 18/19 to £4.378m in 23/24, whereas during this period the number of children in receipt has increased from 711 to 745. With a significant reduction during the period of Covid.

18/19 – Budget £1.915m	Spend £2.146m	Overspend £231k	Number of children 711.
19/20 - Budget £2.225m	Spend £2.316m	Overspend £91k	Number of children 656.
20/21 - Budget £2.435m	Spend £2.594m	Overspend £159k	Number of children 409.
21/22 - Budget £2.897m	Spend £3.208m	Overspend £311k	Number of children 823.
22/23 - Budget £3.240m	Spend £3.902m	Overspend £662k	Number of children 678.
23/24 - Budget £3.958m	Spend £4.378m	Overspend £420k	Number of children 642

There was an overspend of £420k at the end of the financial year 2023/24 and an overspend of £162k is forecast for 24/25, against a budget of £4.075m. This is lower than the previous year due a number of changes, including a focus on route optimisation and maximisation of shared transport where possible. Along with reviewing processes and nebulous practice that was in place.

A thorough review of provision is being undertaken and a number of key areas for improvement have been identified. These are summarised below and feed through to the activity plan and milestones section.

- Increase transport options, including use of minibuses, less use of single occupancy taxis and the promotion of independent travel.
- Route planning and route optimisation
- More robust check and control over contracts and payments
- More collaboration and integration with other CYP teams

Redesign of the service as part of the “one child’s” vision

3. Progress

3.1 To receive transport approval, parents complete an online application and processing timescales are monitored through a moderation panel.

3.2 The moderation panel oversees all applications and any changes to existing arrangements. This is chaired by the Divisional Director and all transport arrangements and associated costs are now agreed at panel. This means that no children are allocated to transport without transport options, route optimisation and a full understanding of cost being agreed by the Divisional Director.

3.3 The panel will also make decisions on proposed changes to existing provision of transport, including where appropriate the ceasing of transport. We are strengthening the panels oversight of requests.

3.4 There is an emphasis on transport staff to discuss the application with parents and they are asked to enter into a dialogue alternative methods of transport provision which includes,

- Directing parent to free bus transport
- The purchase of bikes
- Direct payments to families who are eligible.
- Personal budgets for children who are eligible.
- Bus passes for Parents and children

3.5 A travel trainer (TT) is now in post and is supporting young people with their independence and delivering cost avoidance. The travel training programme will include train the trainer in schools / early help teams to support young people gaining the confidence to use public transport, demonstrating road safety awareness and being able to travel by themselves without confusion or anxiety. This may not bring a saving but will be avoided cost.

3.6 It is envisaged that the TT will deliver 1 session per month for a maximum of 12 delegates who will be responsible for training young people within their setting. Travel Trainer to work with schools to keep a record of young people trained and their outcomes.

3.7 Some thought is being given to an in-house fleet, or commissioned fleet of transport for some schools and routes. This is still in the early stages of development but could bring in a reduction of £150k in 2025/2026

3.8 The Transport Team continue manual route optimisation which includes amalgamation of routes and reviewing use of escorts. Consider implementation of route optimisation software. Approximate cost of £30,000 would need to be considered alongside a service structure review if manual tasks can be made automatic.

3.9 The plan is to move the invoice and financial oversight to the placement team in order that all of the funding streams have a clear line of sight of the DCS. This may not produce cost reductions but will provide more robust assurances and efficiencies.

3.10 A review of Post 16 transport is planned, which will look at bringing Torbay Post 16 offer in line with some other Local Authorities.

4. Recommendation(s)

4.1. The members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board note the contents of this report, and the progress made to date.

4.2. That members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board continue their oversight of the Home to School Transport improvement work.

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Meeting: Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

Date: 18 November 2024

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Early Years Sufficiency Duty Report

When does the decision need to be implemented? n/a

Cabinet Member Contact Details:

Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan Director of Children's Services
nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to provide an overview on the sufficiency of early years childcare places in the Torbay area.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment.
- 2.2 As part of these duties, Torbay Council is required to report annually on the local arrangements to ensure those duties are met and a report is available and accessible for parents and the wider childcare market.

3. Progress

- 3.1 At the time of submission, the report establishes that there are sufficient early years childcare places to meet the requirements for funded children in Torbay. However, occupancy levels have increased across Torbay and this can be attributed the introduction the new 15 hours funded entitlement for 2 year olds of working families which started in April 2024.
- 3.2 Increased demand will continue across Torbay with the introduction of further new entitlements for children under 2 years whose parents/carers are entitled to the expanded 15 hours entitlements, from 9 months old. This new entitlement began in September 2024 and has not been calculated into this report. Further work will continue to be undertaken

during 2024/25 to understand the ongoing supply and demand for the new entitlements. In September 2025 these new entitlements for children from 9 months to 3 years will double from 15 hours to 30 hours.

- 3.3 The recruitment and retention issues that are affecting the early years sector is evidenced within the report with over 25% of respondents stating that staffing levels have impacted on their capacity and the places they can provide. Ongoing engagement with the sector and wider partners during 2024/25 will continue to develop they early years workforce.
- 3.4 No formal complaints have been received from parents/carers who have not been able to find suitable funded childcare.
- 3.5 The parent survey suggests, from the responses received, that 73% we able to access their full entitlement at their chosen provider. While this is an indication that some families have not been able to access their full entitlement at their chosen provider, they may have been able to access this through another provider. Response rates to the survey were very low and therefor may not provide a true reflection across Torbay. Further engagement with parents/carers is planned for 2024/25 to look at demand in the lead up to the full expansion of provision in September 2025.
- 3.6 The report indicates that for most wards children travel outside of their home ward to access childcare. For Torquay and Paignton this migration is contained within the Town, however the data shows for Brixham over half the children attend provision in another town.
- 3.7 The quality of provision in Torbay remains high with 94% of providers rated good or outstanding.

4. Recommendation(s)

- 4.1. That members of the Sub-Board note the content of the report and actions within it.



Torbay Early Years Service

Data Analyst & Author - Anya Williams

Contents

1 Introduction and overview

- 1.1 Torbay childcare market
- 1.2 Child Population
- 1.3 Migration in Torbay for Childcare

2 Key findings

- 2.1 Pattern of provision
- 2.2 Patterns of demand
- 2.3 Take-up of the early year's entitlements
- 2.4 Financial sustainability and resilience
- 2.5 Expansion of capacity
- 2.6 Staffing in childcare settings
- 2.7 Parent survey
- 2.8 Quality of childcare in Torbay
- 2.9 New homes developments

3 Recommendations

Introduction and overview

The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

As part of this duty Torbay Council is required to report annually to elected Council Members on how this duty is being met and to publish this report to make it accessible for parents. Working with providers from the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors, the local authority aims to create a strong, sustainable and diverse childcare market ensuring there are sufficient places to meet the needs of local families.

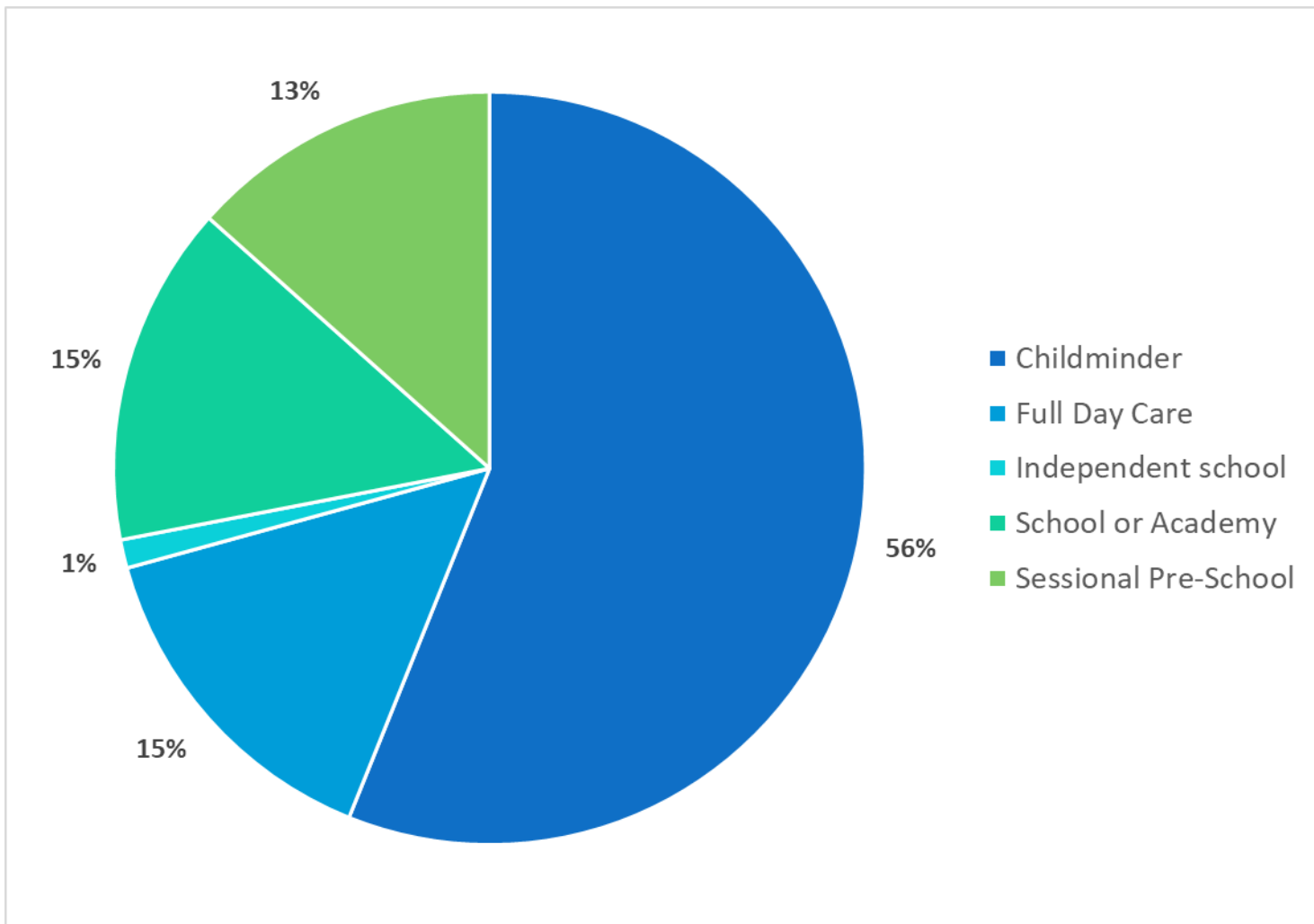
This document summarises key priorities for Torbay, an overview of the local childcare market and local changes to the supply and demand of childcare in the Torbay area. The report has been formulated using a mixture of desk research, provision assessments, snapshot surveys of providers, analysis of attendance and a parent survey.

Results show the population of children in Torbay has not changed significantly since the last count. Alongside the introduction of the expanded childcare offer there is also an ongoing potential for continued growth in demand for childcare, particularly in the Torquay and Paignton areas as housing developments continue, attracting inward migration of families with one or more children.

1.1 Torbay Childcare Market

In July 2024 Torbay Council undertook a survey of childcare providers to gain a snapshot overview of the childcare market in Torbay.

Out of the 93 childcare providers contacted, we received 86 responses, these were from a range of childcare provisions, as detailed below:



These are the following registered early years and childcare providers in Torbay:

Type of Provider	Number of Providers 2022	Potential daily Places* 2022	Number of Providers 2023	Potential daily Places* 2023	Number of Providers 2024	Potential daily places* 2024
Full Day Care	17	833	16	840	14	631
Sessional Pre-schools	10	313	10	300	12	376
Maintained Primary Schools & Academies with Nursery Classes	19	754	19	732	19	868
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	1	49	1	76	1	80
Childminders	58	180	46	153	47	172
TOTAL	105	2129	92	2101	93	2,127

*Potential places indicates the number of children a provider can take at any one time and is based on a provider 'moment in time' survey.

*86 providers responded so total numbers do not include the potential places available in 7 of the settings

Since the last report, one provider has closed. There has been an increase in the number of active childminders within Torbay with a loss of 2 childminders but an additional 3 moving to the area with an increase of 19 places.

There has been some fluctuation in the number of available places which can be attributed to providers changing the way they operate to accommodate staff shortages, reducing the number of spaces offered or conversely where spaces have been increased or extended.

TOTAL 0-4 spaces (PVI, School & CM) – by town

Ward/Area	Early years population (2021 census)	Childcare places (0-4) available at PVI/School/Childminder	Occupancy level (Summer 24 Headcount)	Average Occupancy Level (%)
Brixham	681	255	247	96%
Paignton	1822	688	629	91%
Torquay	2792	1184	1108	93%
Torbay	5294	2127	1984	93%

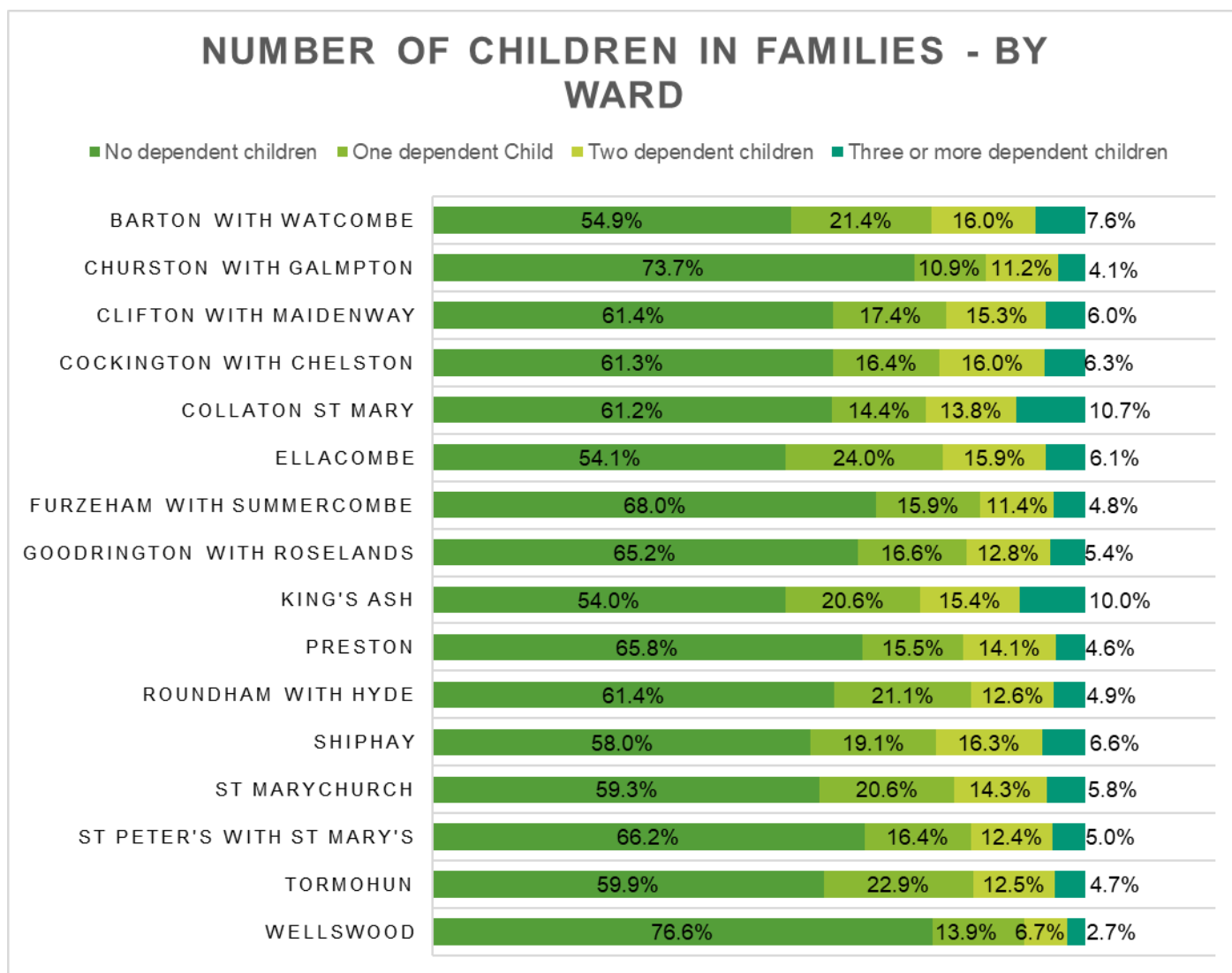
Ward/Area	Childcare places (0-4) available at PVI/School/Childminder	Occupancy level (Summer 24 Headcount)	Average Occupancy Level (%)
Brixham	255	247	96%
Churston With Galmpton	51	72	141%
Furzeham with Summercombe	61	82	134%
St Peter's with St Mary's	143	93	65%
Paignton	688	629	91%
Clifton With Maidenway	137	84	61%
Collaton St Mary	96	105	109%
Goodrington With Roselands	107	125	116%
King's Ash	18	14	77%
Preston	144	119	82%
Roundham with Hyde	186	182	97%
Torquay	1184	1108	93%
Barton with Watcombe	347	314	90%
Cockington With Chelston	42	60	142%
Ellacombe	11	8	72%
Shiphay	288	294	102%
St Marychurch	345	277	80%
Tormohun	123	120	97%
Wellswood	28	35	125%
Torbay	2127	1984	93%

The over occupancy in some wards is down to how the sector has classified their potential places available within the survey and may vary depending on sessional and full day care. However, across the bay, the town occupancy levels are not over capacity and show vacant spaces.

When examining the data, wards with higher occupancy rates tend to have fewer spaces available overall. For example, a ward that appears to have an occupancy level of 142% which would indicate it being far above capacity, is only accommodating 18 additional children from their 42 child capacity. Some occupancy levels may also be skewed due to the response rate on the sufficiency survey and not all settings responding with their count of available spaces.

1.2 Child population

The following chart shows the number of dependent children in each family in Torbay:



(source: Nomis)

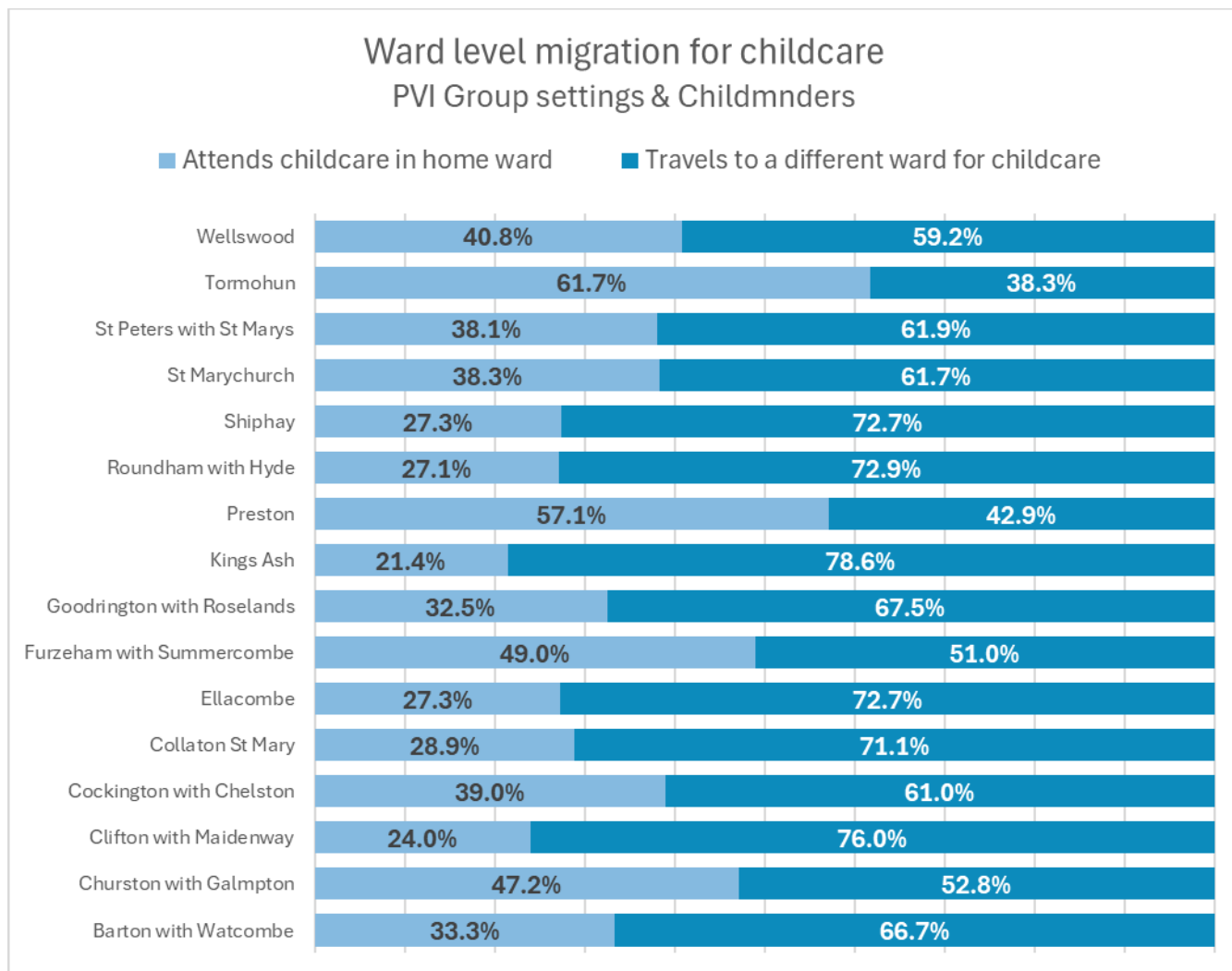
This chart provides an overview of the family dynamics in Torbay. It demonstrates that in all areas of Torbay over half of the families have no children. This is likely to be due to the large numbers of older residents in Torbay (according to the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) 27% of residents in Torbay are over the age of 65).

Collaton St Mary and King's Ash show high numbers of families with 3 or more children, closely followed by Barton with Watcombe. This could be linked to the type of housing available in these

wards where, according to local authority records, a high percentage of properties are larger houses which accommodate larger families.

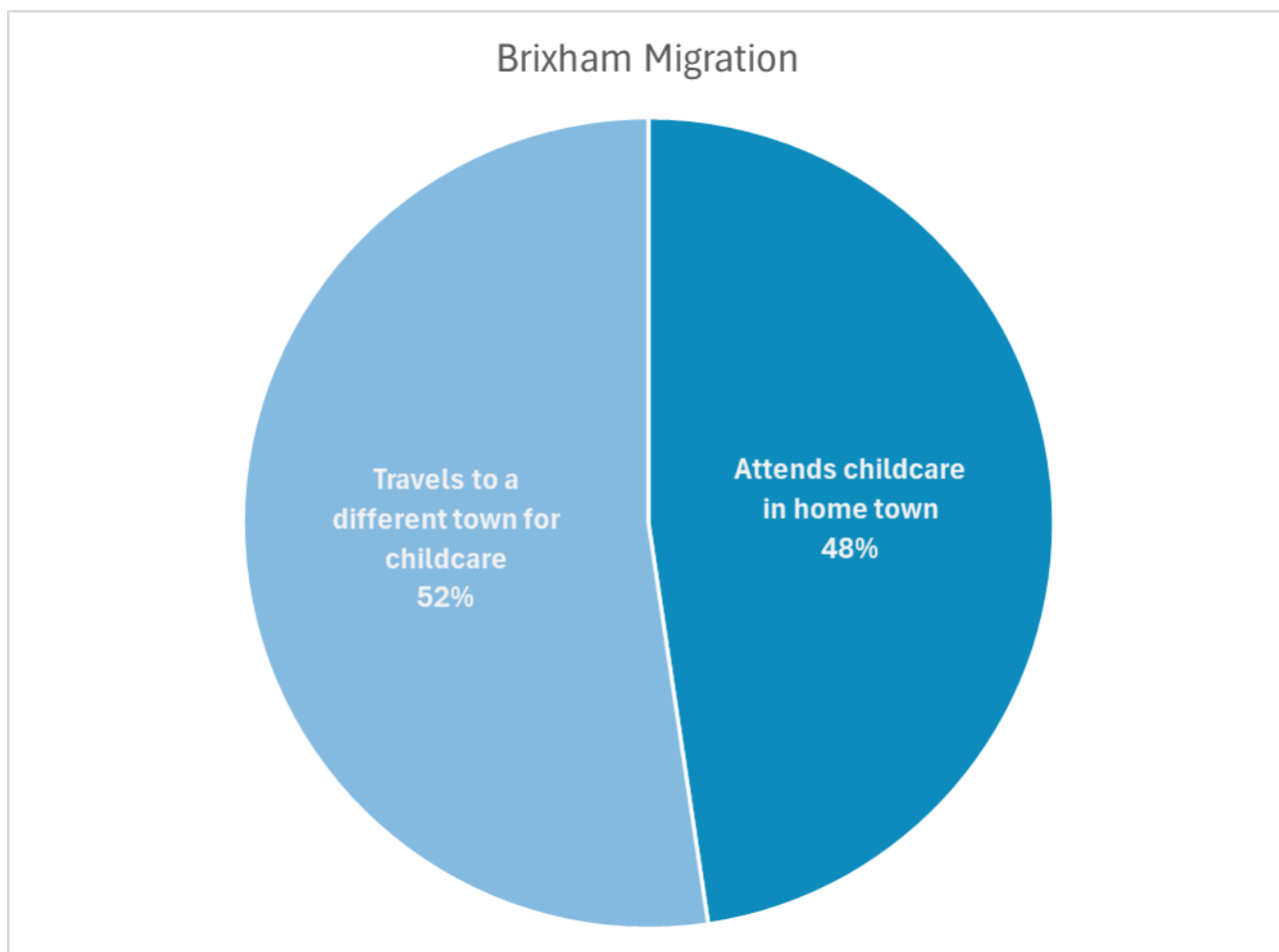
1.3 Migration in Torbay for Childcare

The table below shows migration across Torbay for childcare; i.e., the percentage of children who attend a setting in their home ward and those who travel outside their home ward to a setting. This information is valuable when considering Torbay childcare sufficiency as a whole and at town level.

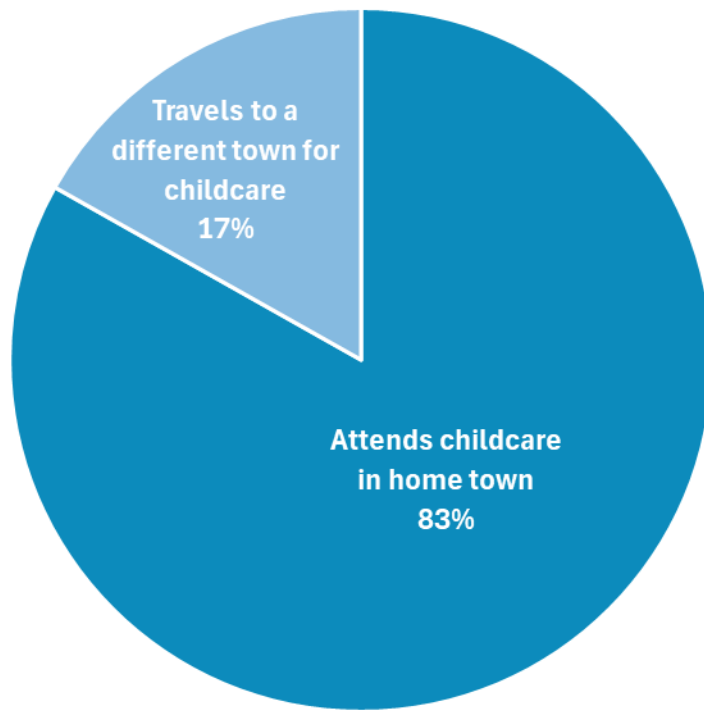


The above table shows that there is a lot of travel between wards, however less so between towns when comparing with the pie charts below. Within Brixham, 52% of children travel outside of Brixham to their Early Years Setting. This drops to 17% for Paignton, and 10% for Torquay.

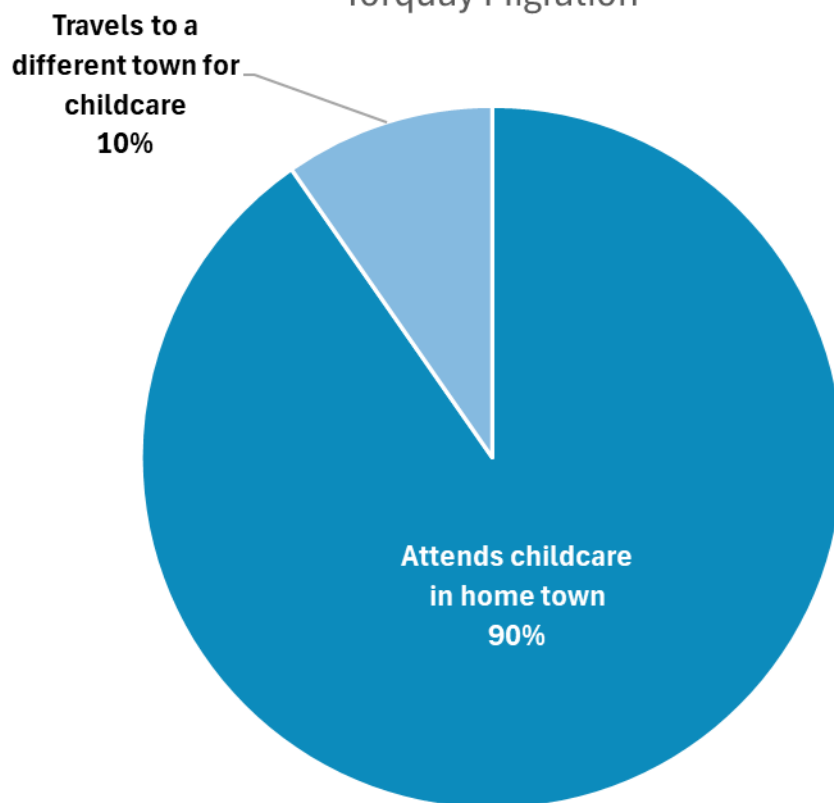
The breakdown for children travelling outside their home town is set out below:



Paignton Migration



Torquay Migration



This information suggests that there is generally sufficient childcare within family's home wards and towns to accommodate their needs. There is no set way to calculate how and why parents choose their childcare provider and many will choose a provider close to work rather than close to home. This would mean that there will always be some cross town and cross border migration for childcare.

In comparison to previous years, these percentages have remained consistent and have only fluctuated by 1% since 2023.

Key Findings

2.1 Pattern of provision

The below table details the places offered by day nurseries, school nurseries and childminders. Some providers offer both All year round and term time, so some places are counted twice.

Town	0–4-year-old population (2021 census)	Total places available (0-4)	All year round (over 38 weeks)	Term time only	Mixed
Brixham	681	255	4	204	47
Paignton	1,822	688	82	440	166
Torquay	2,792	1,184	145	643	396
TOTAL	5,294	2,127	231	1,287	609

Torbay has a strong, stable and diverse childcare market which is dominated by the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector.

As a small Local Authority, Torbay parents are well informed about the childcare settings in their local area. There has always been a notable pattern showing that parents would rather wait for a place at their preferred provider or location (e.g., a nursery on site or close to their preferred school), than find an alternative. This is particularly prevalent where a sibling is in a primary school on site or close to the preferred provider. Some providers have low occupancy and childcare spaces are difficult to fill, whereas other providers have extensive waiting lists and report being full for the coming terms.

2.2 Pattern of demand

2 year old funding entitlement

From the term after their second birthday, some children are eligible for 15 hours targeted childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year (or an equivalent amount). Torbay Council has a duty to ensure that all children who want to take up this entitlement can do so.

Since the implementation of the targeted 2-year funding scheme in September 2014, the Department for Education (DfE) have provided each LA with estimated numbers of children that will be eligible for the funding in the local area, using records provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. Upon implementation, the local area had around 700 children that were eligible for the funding. Since then,

the number of families has reduced significantly and is now around 300 families who are eligible based on their financial circumstances or other eligibility criteria.

As part of the childcare expansion, the children of working families may now be eligible for 15-hour funded childcare per week, subject to a successful application which is managed centrally by the HMRC Childcare Service.

Childcare supply and demand for funded places (2-year-olds) in Torbay by town

(Places available include private providers, schools offering 2YO places and childminders)

Town	2-year-old population (2021 census)	No. of children potentially eligible for targeted 2YO funding	% of 2YO population potentially eligible for funding
Brixham	165	35	21%
Paignton	431	100	23%
Torquay	665	164	25%
TOTAL	1261	299	23%

(Source – 2021 census compared with the 2yo list issued by the DWP)

Ward/Area	2-year-old population (2021 census)	No. of families potentially eligible for 2YO funding
Brixham	165	35
Churston With Galmpton	51	4
Furzeham with Summercombe	66	20
St Peter's with St Mary's	48	11
Paignton	431	100
Clifton With Maidenway	86	11
Collaton St Mary	50	6
Goodrington With Roselands	47	18
King's Ash	105	30
Preston	70	16
Roundham with Hyde	73	19
Torquay	665	164
Barton with Watcombe	147	32
Cockington With Chelston	75	17
Ellacombe	93	25
Shiphay	79	15
St Marychurch	105	22
Tormohun	139	46
Wellswood	27	7
Torbay	1261	299

(Source – 2021 census compared with the 2yo list issued by the DWP)

3-4 year old funding entitlement

From the term after their third birthday all children are eligible for 15 hours funded childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year. The Local Authority has a duty to ensure that all children who want to take up this entitlement can do this.

The children of working families may also be eligible for an additional 15-hour funded childcare per week (known as the 30 hours), subject to a successful application which is managed centrally by the HMRC Childcare Service.

The number of 4-year-olds within the below tables has been reduced by 60% to account for children in a school reception class. We have calculated the number of children eligible for the Extended working family funding using take up data from the Summer 2024 headcount (59% of 3- and 4-year-olds claiming funding were eligible for extended hours).

Childcare supply and demand for entitlement places (3- & 4-year-olds) in Torbay by town:

Town	3 & 4YO population (2021 census)	No. of children eligible for 3 & 4YO Universal funding	No. of children eligible for 3 & 4YO Extended funding	% of 3 & 4YO population potentially eligible for Extended funding
Brixham	242	242	143	59%
Paignton	610	610	360	59%
Torquay	939	939	554	59%
TOTAL	1.790	1,790	1057	59%

(Source - 2021 census)

Ward/Area	3 & 4YO population (2021 census)	No. of children eligible for 3 & 4YO Universal funding	No. of children eligible for 3 & 4YO Extended funding
Brixham	242	242	143
Churston With Galmpton	68	68	40
Furzeham with Summercombe	96	96	57
St Peter's with St Mary's	78	78	46
Paignton	610	610	360
Clifton With Maidenway	114	114	67
Collaton St Mary	44	44	26
Goodrington With Roselands	96	96	57
King's Ash	128	128	75
Preston	121	121	72
Roundham with Hyde	106	106	63
Torquay	939	939	554
Barton with Watcombe	210	210	124
Cockington With Chelston	108	108	64

Ellacombe	148	148	87
Shiphay	116	116	68
St Marychurch	147	147	87
Tormohun	170	170	100
Wellswood	40	40	24
Torbay	1790	1790	1057

(Source - 2021 census compared with the Summer 24 headcount)

This data has been worked out to give an indication of families who claim the extended working family entitlement against those who are entitled to the universal funding offer. This will support future work when looking at planning for the roll out of full entitlement for 9 months and 2 years.

Children remain entitled to an early year's place until they reach statutory school age, which in England is the term after their fifth birthday. However, most children take up a place in a reception class in school before this, with fewer than 1% of children delaying entry into school. Therefore, the number of 4-year-olds has been reduced by 60% to account for children in a school reception class.

The majority of providers do not allocate places for specific age ranges. Therefore, it is necessary to look at the places available overall compared to the number of children 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds, who will be entitled to a funded place.

The table below allows analysis of the number of individual 15-hour places required. One funded 2-year-old will take one 15-hour place, a universal 3-year-old will take one 15-hour place and an extended child will take another 15-hour place.

For this purpose, the number of available places per day submitted from our annual sufficiency report has been multiplied by 2, on the assumption that one place in a childcare provider would be able to accommodate at least two funded 15-hour places across a week. Not all settings responded to this survey (86 of 93), so the occupancy level and number of places available is not 100% reflective of the true childcare provision across Torbay.

The number of children entitled to 30 hours is based on estimates using take up data from Summer 2024 (59% of 3- and 4-year-olds were eligible for extended hours).

Town	No. of children potentially eligible for 2yo funding	Approx no. of eligible 3+4yo UNIVERSAL*	Approx no. of eligible 3+4yo EXTENDED (59%)	TOTAL number of 15-hour places required	Number of places available	Number of places per 100 children	Occupancy Level %
Brixham	35	174	143	352	510	144	96%
Paignton	100	677	360	1137	1,376	121	91%
Torquay	164	939	554	1675	2,368	141	93%
TOTAL	299	1790	1057	3146	4,254	135	93%

*This number has been adjusted to account for 4-year-olds in a school reception class

It is therefore evident that Torbay continues to offer sufficient childcare places to accommodate need for the current entitlements which are in place. Current occupancy levels demonstrate some availability to accommodate a small level of increased demand for funded places. Increased demand will also come from children under 2 years old whose parents/carers are now entitled to the expanded 15 hours entitlement funding from 9 months This new entitlement began in September 2024 and has not been calculated in this report. Further work will be undertaken during 2024/25 to understand the ongoing supply and demand for the new entitlements.

2.3 Take up of the early years entitlements

The below table details the number and percentage of eligible 2-year-old children accessing the targeted 2-year-old funded hours in an Early Years setting within Torbay. The numbers of 2-year-olds taking up places is expressed as a percentage of the 2-year-old population eligible for early years targeted funding. The estimated number of eligible children is derived from data supplied to the Department for Education by the Department for Work and Pensions on the number of children believed to meet the benefit and tax eligibility criteria.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number	404	380	305	356	312	276
Percentage	74.3%	69.7%	63.3%	80.4%	78.6%	86.5%

(Source: LAIT)

The below table shows the number of 3–4-year-olds benefitting from funded Early Years education with Torbay. The estimated number of eligible children is derived from data supplied to the Department for Education by the Department for Work and Pensions on the number of children believed to meet the benefit and tax eligibility criteria.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number	2,775	2,624	2,528	2,471	2,428	2,276
Percentage	95.2%	92.5%	92.5%	94.9%	94.9%	92%

(Source: LAIT)

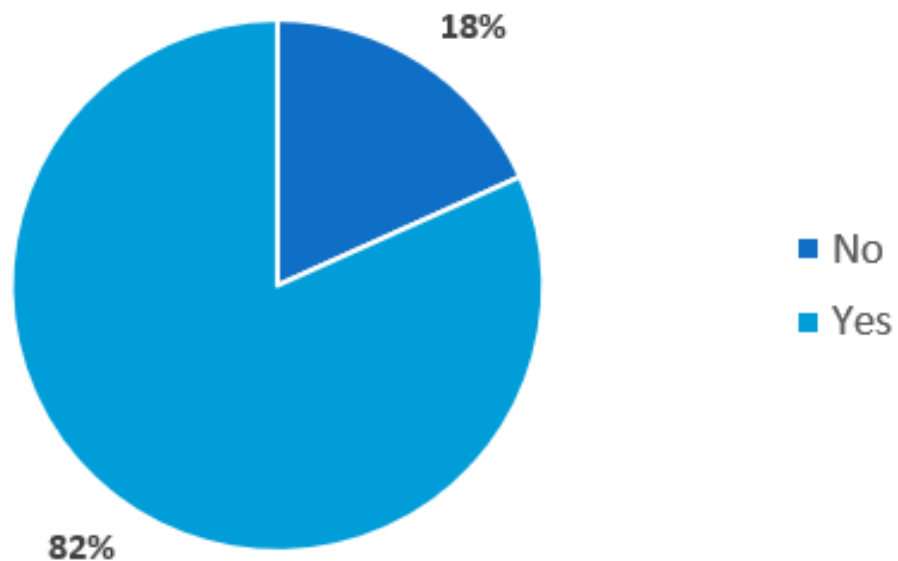
Working parent funding for 2 year olds was introduced in April 2024 and was available for the Summer 2024 term. There was a significant uptake in this funding, with details for the summer term being listed on the table below.

Overall, for the Summer term there were a total of 509 eligibility codes issued by Childcare choices for eligible 2 year olds within working families. 490 of these codes have been validated by a setting for use that term, which was a validation percentage of 96% across Torbay.

Town and Ward	Codes Issued	Codes Validated	Percentage Validated
Brixham	84	81	96%
Churston with Galmpton	39	38	97%
Furzeham with Summercombe	32	30	94%
St Peter's with St Mary's	13	13	100%
Paignton	186	181	97%
Clifton with Maidenway	36	36	100%
Collaton St Mary	18	18	100%
Goodrington with Roselands	37	36	97%
King's Ash	33	33	100%
Preston	40	39	98%
Roundham with Hyde	22	19	86%
Torquay	239	228	95%
Barton with Watcombe	54	49	91%
Cockington with Chelston	26	25	96%
Ellacombe	34	34	100%
Shiphay	41	39	95%
St Marychurch	41	40	98%
Tormohun	32	31	97%
Wellswood	11	10	91%
Total	509	490	96%

2.4 Financial Sustainability and resilience

The majority of respondents reported to feel financially stable within their business.



When asked to emphasise on any concerns they had about business and financial sustainability, the following points were raised:

PVI's

- Although the new funding increases are appreciated, they still don't cover the increase in cost of staffing, minimum wage increases increased bills and consumables.
- There are increasing concerns over recruitment of staff, we have found there is a low interest in the nursery jobs we offer and those that are interested, don't all have the right qualifications which means we then can't hire them or use them in ratios.
- Declining birth rates within the area have been a major factor to us, as we have been unable to fill all our available places.

School Based Nurseries

- Funding rates do not cover the overheads. We are offering childcare to a very vulnerable and deprived community so consciously keep our rates as low as we can. However, rises in the cost of living, minimum wage and improvements in the government offer of childcare are making it increasingly difficult to do this.
- The levels of SEND need and additional staffing, along with the levels of funding linked to this need are not covering actual costs.

Childminders

- The number of hours I am required to put into the job for paperwork and background admin has increased recently. This with addition to actual childcare hours being compared to what I a take-home money wise ends up below minimum wage.
- I used to charge a day rate, now we have gone to funding I can only claim for the hours they use rather than the times I am open. This can lose me up to 4/5 hours a day, which results in a loss.

2.5 Expansion of Capacity

In the government's spring 2023 budget, the Chancellor announced transformative reforms to childcare, representing the single biggest investment in childcare in England.

The original Early Years childcare entitlements are as follows:

- 15 hours per week for 2-year-olds who meet certain eligibility requirements (Targeted)
- 15 hours per week for all children aged 3 and 4 years old – known as the universal entitlement
- 30 hours per week (15 hours universal, plus an extra 15 hours) for children aged 3 and 4 years old who's parent(s) work and meet eligibility requirements around earnings – known as the extended entitlement.

The new entitlements are being introduced in phases:

- from April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week
- from September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 4-years-old can access 15 hours per week
- from September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 4-years-old can access 30 hours free childcare per week

As this demonstrates, these new entitlements significantly increase the offer to children and families and place a responsibility on the local authority to secure sufficient childcare to meet the new demand.

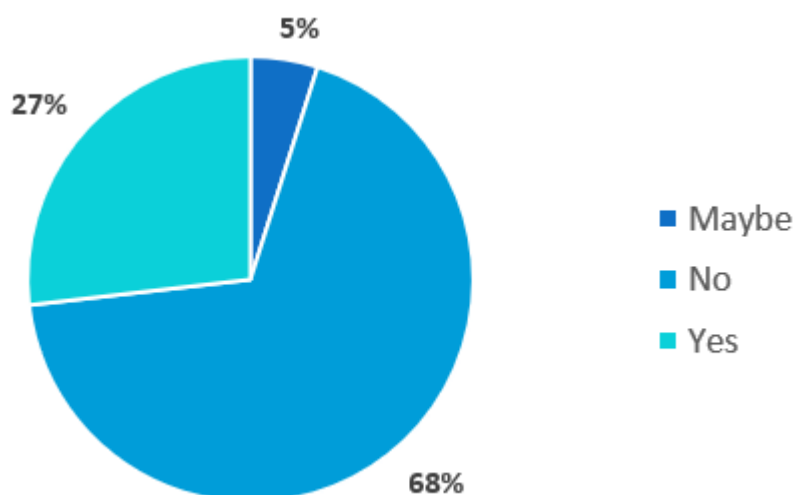
To support Local Authorities with the roll out of the expansion and understanding supply and demand the DfE provided detailed documents with analysis of supply and demand. In summary its calculations have provided an overall predication of new places, at each phase of the roll out, which need to be generated to meet demand:

April 2024	57 places needed
September 2024	30 places needed
September 2025	198 places needed

The local authority will use the data from the DfE, in conjunction with this sufficiency report, to continue to further understand areas of high demand for places across Torbay. This work will be undertaken during 2045/25 as we analyse initial take up of the offer from September 2024 and move to full implementation from September 2025.

2.6 Staffing in childcare settings

Providers were asked to provide some information about their staffing levels and their capacity in relation to staffing levels. 27% of settings reported that they would require additional staff to work at full capacity and offer the full number of places available. 5% of providers were wanting further guidance and advice and 68% said they were currently happy with their staffing levels.



Like several professions and services, the Early Years sector are facing a recruitment and retention crisis which will have an impact on their ability to deliver the additional places required and ensure they maintain the legal staffing ratios and qualifications.

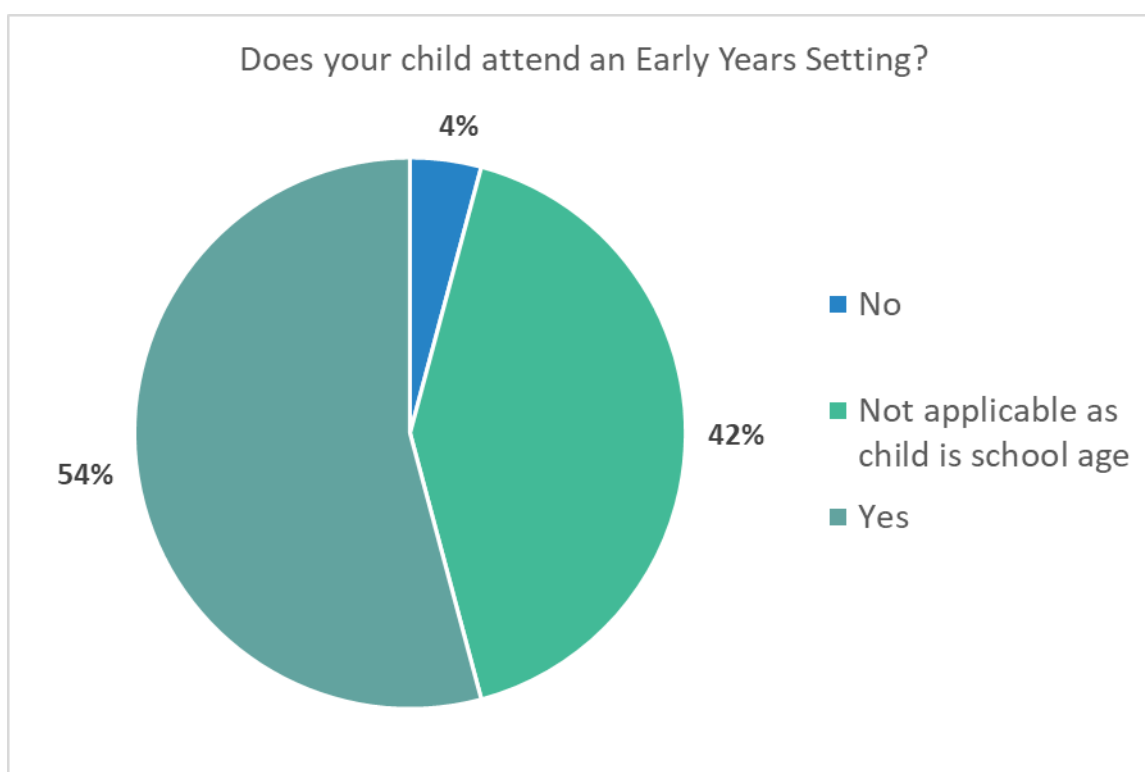
The Early Years service have recognised this and are working with a number of partners to support recruitment and raise awareness of Early Years as a profession. This has included;

- Linking with South Devon College to look at specific courses (including Childminders and Baby Practitioner Training) and how their current course and apprenticeships can be promoted across the sector.
- Link with the Job Centre Plus to share information with job coaches about the roles within early years and how these can be promoted.
- Attendance at recruitment fayres and Job Centre recruitment events to represent the Early Years sector and discuss opportunities within it.
- Localised Childminder Recruitment Campaign to encourage more people into the profession.

Childminder numbers have continued to remain stable, but it is a point to note that the new Childminders joining are replacing numbers of those (for various reason) who have chosen to leave the profession.

2.7 Parent survey

This years parental survey had a lower response rate in comparison to previous years. Due to this, we don't believe it shows an accurate representation of the Torbay population. We have summarised the key findings below to provide a snapshot.



54% of respondents have a child who attends an Early Years setting

92% of respondents require childcare to enable them to work

67% were able to access the days and times that they required, with 73% saying they can access and use their full entitlement at their chosen providers.

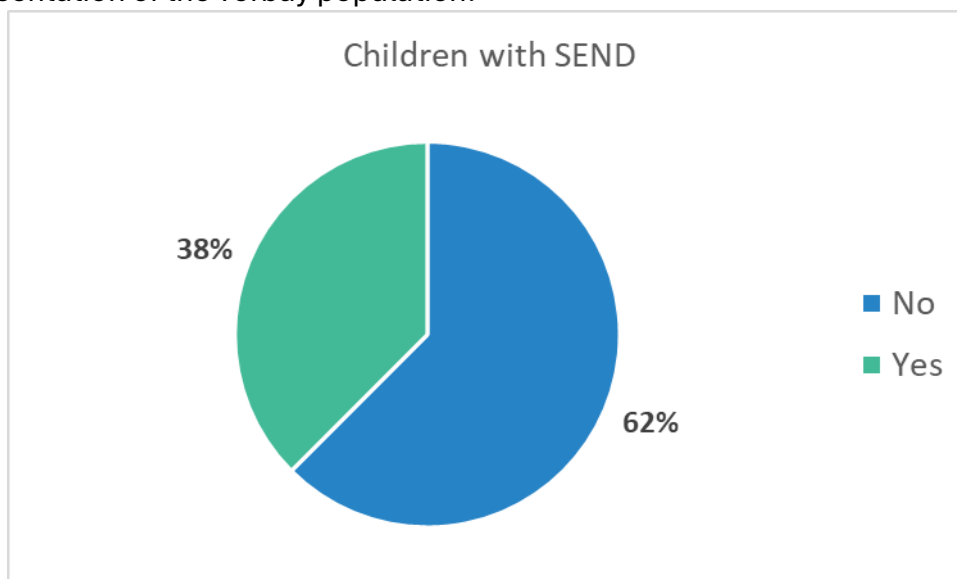
71% make use of informal childcare (family or friends) to enable them to work, with 70% having grandparents help and 30% getting help from other family members or friends.

When asked if they had any additional comments or feedback regarding childcare within Torbay, there were several responses highlighting the cost of childcare top-ups within early years settings and the flexibility of settings session days and times. We have summarised the key feedback below:

- The prices Early Years providers charge for top-ups fluctuates and some parents have reported struggling to find a good value provision within their local area. This is due to the additional costs charged on top of the funded hours they will be entitled to.
- There needs to be provision for Childcare for weekends. Most jobs aren't Monday- Friday anymore, which is the case in our household. Grandparents work until later in their lives now, which means it's harder to lean on family for support.
- Not all settings promote the importance of play and focus heavily on getting the children 'School ready'. While this is important for children to learn, not all children are ready, and this makes choosing a childcare provision difficult. This is especially the case when the settings within the local area are school based, which can be less holistic in the view of the child.

“All children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) should be able to reach their full potential in school. They should also be supported to make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training” – Department for Education

38% of the respondents to the parent consultation noted that they have a child with SEND, which is an increase from last years 16%. As stated above, we did however have a significant reduction in the response rate from parents this year with our childcare survey and we don't believe this is an accurate representation of the Torbay population.

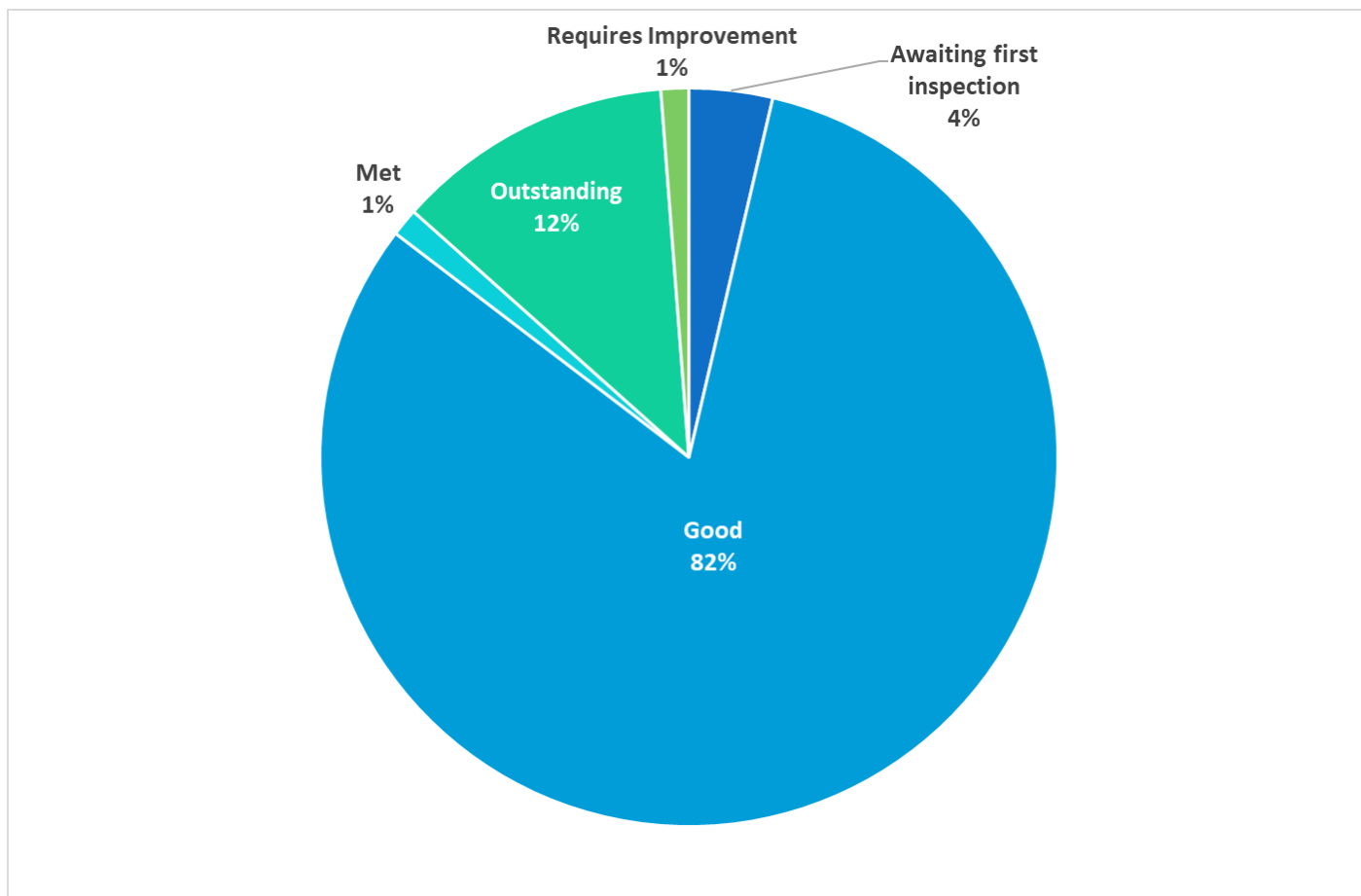


The consultation includes SEND specific questions of which a summary of responses can be found below (please note, only the respondents who indicated they have a child with SEND are included in this section of the report):

- 44% of respondents have a child aged under 5 years old with SEND
- 56% of respondents have school aged children with SEND
- 100% indicated they consider themselves to live in a working household
- 60% found it easy to locate a suitable early years place for their child with SEND

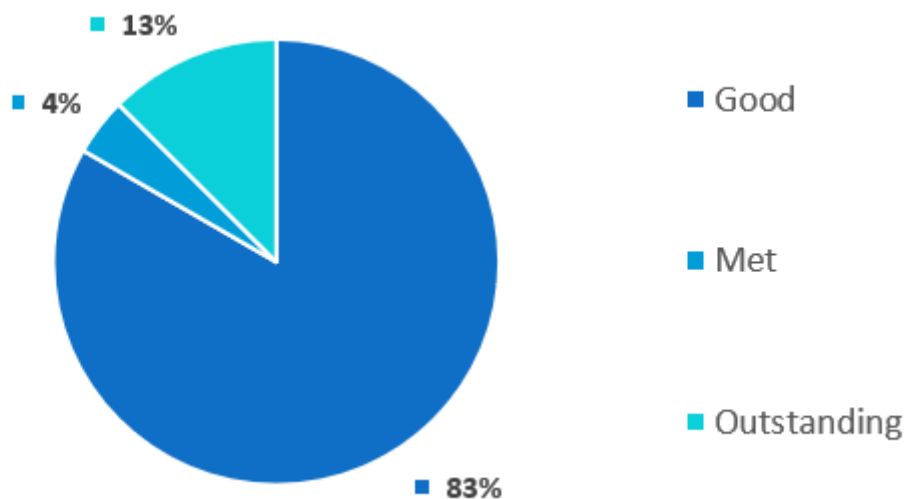
2.8 Quality of Childcare in Torbay

The pie chart below shows that 94% (97% nationally) of Torbay Early Years providers are good or outstanding, this is a decrease from 96% last year, with 4% now awaiting their first inspection; this has increased from 1% in 2023 and is due to the addition of new childminders in the area.



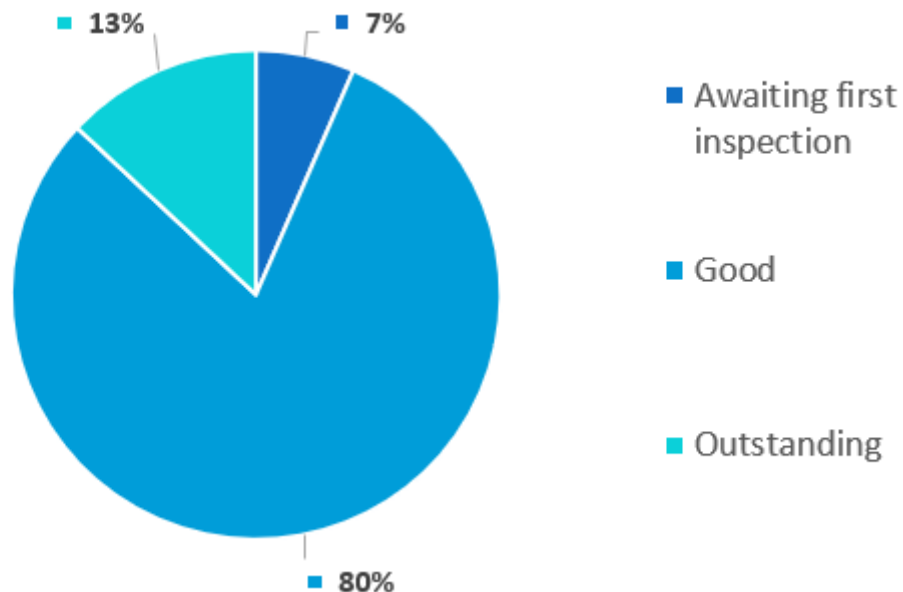
Below you will find a breakdown of the Ofsted grades by provider type.

Private Nurseries and pre-schools



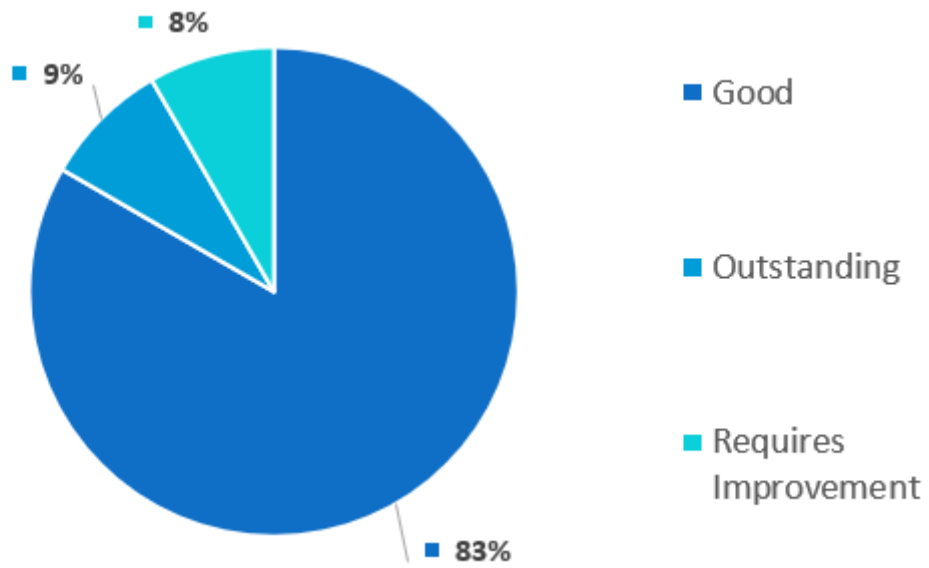
96% of the private group providers in Torbay are graded Good or Outstanding. This is equal to the national average of 96%.

Childminders



93% of Childminders in Torbay are graded Good or Outstanding with 7% still awaiting their first inspection.

Schools



93% of primary schools with nursery classes are graded good or outstanding. This is above the national average of 89%.

2.9 New Homes developments

Below is a table demonstrating numbers of housing completions broken down by town, per year since 2017/18:

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Torquay	168	200	71	128	91	94	82
Paignton	178	228	91	130	184	151	120
Brixham	68	103	26	4	37	6	9
Total	414	531	188	262	312	251	211

Below is a table estimating the number of additional childcare places required as a result of the new housing developments:

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Torquay	4.3	5.5	1.0	7	5.5	5.7	4.9
Paignton	4.6	6.3	1.3	7.15	11	9.1	7.2
Brixham	1.7	2.9	0.4	0.2	2.2	0.3	0.5
Total	10.6	14.7	2.7	1.2	18.7	15.1	12.6

This shows that the current impact of housing developments in Torbay has a minor influence on the number of childcare places required. All new housing developments in Torbay are planned for and analysed to ensure that in the schools planning process, the additional school/childcare places are planned for. All new schools will have due consideration given to nursery provision for two- to five-year-olds.

Recommendations / Actions

This report demonstrates that currently there is sufficient childcare places to meet demand.

The recommendations focus on ensuring the Local Authority meets its sufficiency duty for the full roll out of the new expanded entitlements from September 2025.

Supply and Demand

- Analyse data from termly headcount to understand current demand for the new entitlements from 9 months
- Carry out termly snapshot surveys with childcare providers to understand capacity and supply of places for each of the funded age ranges.
- Develop parental engagement to understand need and requirements for childcare provision across Torbay.
- Focus on specific wards where occupancy level indicates over subscription to ensure meeting level of demand

Expansion of Provision

- Support the expansion of provision utilising the capital expansion grant from the Department for Education

Recruitment and Retention

- Develop a localised recruitment campaign to highlight a rewarding career in Early Years.
- Embed work within the economic growth strategy.

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Report Title: Sufficiency Strategy, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Prepared By:	Becky Thompson, Fozia Ashraf, Gina Powell and Colin Schumacher	Contributors:	Cared for and care experienced services
Partner organisations:	Health, education and wider partners and stakeholders		
Date Prepared:	6 th November 2024	Date of Meeting:	18 th November 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update in relation to Children's sufficiency strategy in relation to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

Summary

The National Transfer Scheme was introduced in 2016. It was launched to encourage all local authorities to volunteer to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in order that there is a more even distribution of caring responsibilities across the country. Under the scheme, a child arriving in one local authority area already under strain caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children may be transferred to another council with capacity.

The National Transfer Scheme became mandatory in 2022; originally, the expectation was for each LA to accept 0.7% of its child population in terms of transfers, however this subsequently rose to 0.1%. Since this time, the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, and subsequently care experienced young adults, transferring or presenting to Torbay has significantly increased.

Torbay have supported the following numbers of cared for and care experienced UASC since 2017-18:

	Numbers of cared for UASC (fluctuates over the year)	Numbers of care experienced UASC (fluctuates over the year)
2017-18	5	0
2018-19	4	0
2019-20	0	3
2020-21	0	3
2021-22	8	1
2022-23	38	3
2023-24	24	18
2024-25 to date	18	28

Referrals have been received in respect of 47 potential UASC, 24 through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and 23 through representations from the local asylum hotels.

The need for age assessments was identified in respect to 27 individuals, 23 who presented from the local asylum hotel and four in relation to young people who transferred under the National Transfer Scheme, following which further information raised the need for age to be assessed. Please see the previous paper which outlined the expectations in terms of the age assessment process. Twenty-five age assessments have been concluded: twelve of these concluded that age was accepted, and thirteen concluded that the individual was an adult.

As of the 28th of October 2024, Torbay supports six cared for UASC and 28 care experienced UASC. A significant number of cared for UASC have turned eighteen in the last six months, reducing our overall cared for cohort and increasing the care experienced cohort. As such, Torbay are significantly below their 0.1% figure of 25 and are submitting our figures to the Home Office on a monthly basis and remain subject to referrals from the National Transfer Scheme on a cycle basis. However, we have three live referrals who are pending transfer from the Home Office as part of the National Transfer Scheme, in addition to two anticipated referrals from the week beginning the 4th November 2024. These five UASC will be supported in the additional Young Devon provision outlined below.

In recognition of the enhanced sufficiency required to meet the needs of Torbay's UASC cohort, for the Millbrook provision a waiver variation has been requested to extend provision in alignment with the approved end date of the block contract, which is 31st March 2026. This extension will ensure the continuation of vital support for young people already accommodated. The waiver is sought for an 18-month period, from 1st December 2024 to 31st March 2026, allowing for ongoing essential services while a wider review and procurement activities are undertaken to establish new contracts starting 1st April 2026. Previously, a waiver was requested for a 12-month period from 1st December 2023 to 30th November 2024, with the expectation that the review and procurement options would be completed by that time. However, the timeline for the re-commissioning of 16-plus supported accommodation has since been extended and approved, resulting in the current block contracts being extended until March 2026.

Furzebrake, a Torbay-owned property, complements Millbrook by offering similar floating support for up to three UASC placements aged 18 and over.

As of 28th October 2024, a further UASC-specific provision at Barton Road, comprising 5 units, has been launched, already accommodating three young people aged 16-18. The Barton House hub, as part of the supported accommodation service, is committed to providing high-quality, trauma-informed support tailored to UASC. This environment is designed to equip residents with the skills, knowledge, and access to services needed for a successful transition to adulthood and independent living. A psychologically informed approach fosters authentic, transformative relationships, facilitating the shared objectives of the supported accommodation service.

Further to the UASC specific provisions above, there are additional two UASC young people accommodated under lot2A provision - one at Grosvenor Road YD and one at the Foyer LiveWest.

The financial recompense provided for the support required for UASC and the age assessment process is insufficient in terms of meeting need and this has been outlined in previous reports to the Board. Based on our own financial tracking, the cost of the age assessment process [which is more aligned to four to five months, as opposed to one month] can be in the region of £40,000 on the basis of up to five month assessment period. This does not include placement costs, cared for costs, staffing and workforce costs. The overall total spend on UASC related service delivery in 2023-24 was £535,000. This has a direct impact on the overall placement budget (which has risen increasingly over the last three years).

The placement budget increases year on year:

Year	Budgeted	Actual
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2021-22	£17,188,100	£18,547,000
2022-23	£18,006,845	£19,882,000
2023-24	£19,177,311	£22,346,000
2024-25	£22,034,315	£10,839,214 spend to date

There is a particular financial pressure in relation to care experienced UASC. The financial recompense per young person reduces at that point to £270 a week. As care experienced UASC do not have recourse to public funds pending the outcome of their asylum claim and achieving settled status, the duty to accommodate this cohort of young people remains with Children's; with the average semi-independent provision costing between £500-£900 a week and other housing options limited, there is a gap between the funding available and the funding needed to sufficiently support this group. Financial mapping in relation to those UASC turning eighteen this financial year indicates a further budget pressure of £250,000. In addition to this, there are substantial delays in the Home Office claims being processed, which adds to the financial pressure and complicates our ability to plan and map resources.

The sufficiency of housing for our care experienced young people is low. They are given band B status however the waiting time remains significant. This results in young people remaining in block contract accommodation which exceeds both their need and the age criteria of their placement. This further results in those provisions becoming 'blocked' and move-on to independence plans being stifled by a bottleneck situation in which 16-19 year olds are not able to move into the housing which has been identified to meet their needs.

Currently, we have four young people who are placed in Grosvenor Road who are ready to move on however they have not been successful in securing permanent homes. The support and understanding that is needed to assist these young people to bid on Devon Home Choice is a Corporate Parenting responsibility and should be a joint effort by both the Care Experienced team and Housing together. A new protocol introduced by Devon Home Choice has been applied whereby those who are applying to Devon Home Choice receive Band B at age 16. This will reduce the waiting time and is a welcome step in supporting this situation. However, it is a recent development and could be strengthened by a strategic joint response whereby the necessity for bidding is reviewed.

The recent successful SHAP bid and plan by the YMCA to create over 20 units of accommodation for our young people has been impacted upon by the recent decision by the lack of planning approval. This is hugely disappointing but also contributes to the severe lack of accommodation for our cared experienced young people in the Bay and from the Bay. There is also no specific sufficiency for those with SEND needs and limited availability to provide adapted accommodation for disabled children in an emergency. This is particularly importance as this cohort of care experienced young people with additional needs are impacted even more significantly by change, or unplanned or unclear transitions.

The UASC care experienced young people previously placed out of area who have turned 18 are supported to secure accommodation in the area that they choose, aligned to the Local Offer. However, we have encountered many challenges to this. Those placed in cities find it challenging to secure private rented accommodation and we have experienced that other Local Authorities can refuse to recognize their connection with the local area because they were placed with Torbay upon arrival.

The lack of suitable accommodation in the area complicates this situation and we have four young people that will potentially return to the Bay which will reduce the sufficiency further and add significant challenge to the move on planning that is in place for our cohort of cared for young people aged sixteen to seventeen.

2. Recommendations

*That the Board note the information within this report, including the actions being taken to ensure a sufficient response to the needs of Torbay's UASC.

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme

- To review the sustainability of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and sustainably post funding ending in April 2025
- To formally note the update on the take up of Free School Meals and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Torbay HAF Data:

Easter	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of providers	6	8	10	11
No. of holiday clubs	12	16	20	21
Total places available	397	580	621	641
Total no. of CYP reached	321*	998	947	796
No. of FSM eligible CYP	321	796	764	736
No. of FSM Primary CYP	239	602	637	616
No. of FSM Secondary CYP	82	194	127	120

**Only recorded FSM eligible CYP*

Summer	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of providers	8	7	8	9
No. of holiday clubs	21	17	19	19
Total places available	856	711	574	611
Total no. of CYP reached	1,496	3,591	1,571	1,288
No. of FSM eligible CYP	1,275	2,606	1,229	1,081
No. of FSM Primary CYP	986	2,225	947	900
No. of FSM Secondary CYP	289	381	282	181

Christmas	2021	2022	2023
No. of providers	9	7	9
No. of holiday clubs	12	13	19
Total places available	696	545	606
Total no. of CYP reached	635	507	706
No. of FSM eligible CYP	629	449	584
No. of FSM Primary CYP	563	337	484
No. of FSM Secondary CYP	72	112	100

Total annual data	2021	2022	2023
No. of holiday clubs	45	46	58
Total places available	1,949	1,836	1,801
Total CYP reached	2,452	5,096	3,859
No. of FSM CYP	2,225	3,851	2,577
No. of FSM Primary CYP	1,788	3,164	2,068
No. of FSM Secondary CYP	443	687	509

Narrative:

The Pandemic and Strep A both impacted on the numbers of children accessing the HAF holiday clubs, but they also became a lifeline for children and families feeling vulnerable and isolated during that period.

We continually receive feedback from parents and carers on how they rely on HAF for support in relation to providing a hot and healthy meal, continuing to offer a routine during the holidays for their children, offering a safe and fun environment, offering opportunities to learn new skills and to make new friends, and allowing them to have time apart from their children which gives them time to catch up with chores or to take space for themselves, or to give their attention to another child or family member, which helps prevent family tension and lead to potential family breakdowns.

We also know that friendships and support networks between parents and carers have been formed as a result of HAF existing, and where holiday clubs have directly involved parents in their offer, it has helped strengthen the relationships between the parents and their child/ren.

The relationship between the providers, whilst competitive when applying to run their holiday clubs is positive once that process has been completed, and they meet regularly, share external providers such as caterers where possible, and communicate regularly about vacant spaces, uptake, concerns etc. Most of the providers have a regular presence in the community so they really get to know the local families and the wider community.

Through the HAF holiday clubs, we have been able to raise safeguarding concerns (including a child disclosing abuse at home), we have prevented a mum from taking her own life (she disclosed that she had dropped the children off with the intent to leave them), supported a family to flee an abusive relationship, assist several families struggling financially - unable to provide food, and also Christmas gifts for their children, and help with many more very 'real' situations for families.

With this being said, the children and young people attending the holiday clubs have also achieved so much! Children have learned how to fix and ride bikes, been in the sea for the first time, learned how to surf, they've taken part in plays, created and performed music, taken part in sporting activities and mindfulness activities, they have learned how to cook, learned how to grow food and plants, taken part in lots of craft activities, spent time on the beach learning about the seaside, spent time in the woods learning about nature, learned about healthy eating and food etc.

They have grown in confidence, made new friends, built relationships with trusted adults, been active, been well fed, and had fun!

Funding:

The total grant funding Torbay has received has decreased but costs of provision have increased significantly.

	Total grant funding allocated	FSM eligible children and young people
2021	£611,890	5,179
2022	£575,560	5,216
2023	£548,820	5,451
2024	£537,200	5,301

Sustainability: We are continuing to encourage providers to become Ofsted registered to ensure that they can deliver holiday club provision in 2025 for parents and carers that are eligible to tax-free childcare.

The priorities – the role that HAF has had over the last few years in Torbay apart from the points listed above has been to 'be present'. The holiday periods can be difficult for families and for communities when there is little to no accessible or funded provision available. Some families struggle financially to **provide meals for their children**, some need **somewhere to go to be safe**, some need warm spaces to go to, some need to be around other children or to be with other people their own age, or in similar situations to them.

The HAF Programme has always been larger than just the commissioned provision, the ripple effect of school and community-based provision is long-lasting, and other contributors, funders and individuals make up the success of the programme to date.

HAF Providers – past and present: Imagine Torbay Multicultural Group, Kinetics Sports Group, Glo Torbay/Love Enterprise CIC, Premier Education, Lifeworks, Play Torbay, Taleblazers, Shear Soccer, Torbay Youth Trust, Roselands Nursey, Great Parks Community Centre, Turning Heads, Sporty Stars, Pro Coaching, Achieve 4 All, Libraries Unlimited, Plymouth Argyle Community Trust.

Other organisations linked through the providers: Sanctuary Housing, Morrisons Supermarket in Paignton, Cycle Torbay, Moore to Sea, Weird Sticks, Animal Encounters, Foxhole Community Centre, Barton Cricket Club, The Acorn Centre, Watcombe Primary School, Sherwell Valley Primary School, Combe Pafford School, Abbey School, St Marychurch Primary School, Torre Primary School, Upton St James C of E Primary School, Torquay Boys Grammar School, St Cuthbert Mayne School, Hayes Primary School, Sacred Heart RC Primary School, Cockington

Primary School, Paignton Academy, Brixham Rugby Club, Brixham College, St Margaret Clitherow School, Eden Park Primary School, Brixham C of E Primary School, Upton Vale Church, The Works in Paignton, Sovereign Housing, iBounce, Cosmo the Clown, Pot Gang, Dan Magness Football Freestyler and many more.

Please contact sarah.pengelly@torbay.gov.uk with any questions. Thank you.

Overview and Scrutiny

Subject: 0-25 Services – To review the scope of 0-25 Services, including obesity, face to face one year old and 2- to 2.5-year-old checks, update on vaccine take up and oral health.

Director: Lincoln Sargeant and Nancy Meehan Cabinet Member: Hayley Tranter and Nick Bye

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of health and development for children and young people in Torbay. It considers the data, key issues and details some of the interventions and programmes for child weight, physical activity, oral health, and immunisation rates for those aged 0-19. The report examines face-to-face developmental reviews at ages one and 2.5, outlining the processes and outcomes of the checks as well as detailing local interventions that support child development.

There are limitations when addressing the health needs for people transitioning to adulthood aged 19-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and/or with care experience, as oral health, weight and immunisations data for this age group falls within adult services.

2. Child weight

This section provides data on child weight in Torbay and the links to deprivation and children with SEND. It also explores data sets for breastfeeding and diabetes as health indicators for weight. The section discusses current interventions and programmes designed to tackle the issue of childhood weight.

The Data

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) measures the height and weight of children in Reception (ages 4-5) and Year 6 (ages 10-11) in England. This program helps monitor the prevalence of obesity and underweight among children, providing data by age, sex, deprivation, and ethnicity. The most recent Torbay NCMP data (2022/2023) shows 21.1% (245) of all Reception age and 36.1% of all Year 6 children are overweight. Torbay Reception data has improved, and Torbay is now better than the England value, Year 6 remains static.

Rates of overweight children in Torbay are notably higher in more deprived areas. For 2022/23, the rates of overweight children in the most deprived decile were 25.7% for Reception and 44.5% for Year 6, compared to 16.9% and 25.9% in the least deprived decile.

Children in deprived areas are also more likely to have a recognised Special Educational Need (SEN). The proportion of pupils with SEND is higher in these areas. Currently, NCMP data does not specifically include SEND information. However, it is assumed that children with SEND are more likely to be classified as overweight due to the observed correlations between SEND and deprivation, as well as between weight and deprivation.

Studies have shown that breastfeeding can reduce the risk of obesity in children and can lead to health benefits in adulthood. There has been a marked improvement in breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks with Torbay (49.8%) now better than the England average (49.2%) for the first time in over 10 years.

Diabetes data is a significant indicator of unhealthy weight due to the correlation between body weight and developing diabetes Type 2. There is no specific diabetes data set for children and young people, however the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) includes the prevalence of diabetes among patients aged 17 and over. For Torbay the Diabetes QOF prevalence is at 8.1% and is worse than the England value which is 7.5%. There has been a steady increase year on year for 10 years of reporting (6.4%-8.1%). Children and young people diagnosed with diabetes will be increasing in line with overall diabetes prevalence.

Interventions and Programmes

Aside from the NCMP, the Local Authority do not directly commission weight management provision for children and young people in Torbay, however Public Health collaborates with commissioned services and wider partners to reduce rates of overweight and obesity across the life course through a targeted and whole systems approach. Some examples for Torbay include:

- Complications of Excess Weight (CEW) Community Pilot: A multi-disciplinary team-based service to improve food, nutrition, physical activity, and overall health outcomes while reducing BMI in a targeted group of neuro-divergent/SEND children and young people at Combe Pafford School. This ICB-funded scheme, developed with Torbay Council, builds on several national pilots. Depending on outcomes, there is potential to broaden numbers, eligibility, and include self-pathways via primary/secondary care.
- Breastfeeding: UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) Gold accreditation was awarded to Torbay's Public Health nurses' team for their collaborative work on supporting families with infant feeding and parent infant relationships. The team were recognised for their supportive and kind culture when supporting parent to breastfeed. Alongside this, Hitch have been commissioned to develop and infant feeding research and marketing campaign that addresses local barriers to breastfeeding.

- Body Image Workshops: Commissioned activities to combat the effects of social media on body image, focusing on weight, currently being researched as a joint approach across Devon.
- Vegetable Uptake: Commissioned activities to increase knowledge, consumption, and cooking of vegetables in school settings, currently being researched.
- School Food: Activities to maximize Free School Meal (FSM) uptake for Key Stage One (KS1), such as an agreed opt-out model for Devon. Currently, 20% of eligible children are not receiving FSM, compared to a 10% national average.
- Healthy Start Vouchers: Maximizing uptake of means-tested vouchers to assist with buying fruit, vegetables, and milk.
- Healthy Schools: Providing advice for whole school staff and parents on food and nutrition for children and young people.
- Torbay Neighbourhood Growing Programme: Using unused council land for community groups to grow fruit and vegetables, supporting cooking skills, utensil/white goods access, and measures to combat fuel poverty.

3. Child physical activity

This section looks at data taken from relevant surveys relating to physical inactivity and the impact inactivity has on children and young people. It details Torbay on the Move as a model that aims to improve physical activity across the area including for children and young people and covers some of the activities and interventions associated with the programme.

The Data

Data from the Adult Active Lives Survey and Children & Young People's Survey shows that almost half of children and young People are physically inactive. The impact of physical inactivity and obesity falls hardest on those from lower income backgrounds with the inactivity figure for adults significantly rising to one in three.

The percentage of Torbay children and young people reported as physically active has dropped by 11% in the last twelve months. This means that less of our Torbay children and young people are meeting the Chief Medical Officer guidelines of taking part in sport and physical activity for an average of 60 minutes or more every day.

Interventions and Programmes

Torbay on the Move was launched in 2021 as a series of recommendations that sought to increase physical activity levels in Torbay. Consultation with partners has increased our understanding of the strengths of Torbay and the opportunities for making a difference for our communities.

The Torbay on the Move strategy aims to support and encourage residents to be active in a way that works for them and at a level that provides significant benefits to physical and

mental wellbeing. The vision for Torbay on the Move is **‘More people, more active, more often.’**

Eight Strategic Outcome Themes have been identified for Torbay on the Move: · Active Environments · Active Travel · Active Schools · Active Health · Active Clubs · Active Places · Active for All · Active Workforces.

Delivery relating to children and young people to date includes:

- The Healthy Selfie Trail
- School Streets in Brixham
- Creating Active School Pilots at Paignton Academy and Ellacombe Academy
- Cared for Children event in partnership with the British Triathlon Foundation
- Delivery of Learn to Ride and L1, L2 and L3 Bikeability
- Opening School Facilities Programme
- Stormbreak Surge Programme Engagement
- Partnership working with the Youth Sport Trust to deliver programmes such as the Set for Success Programme with the Wimbledon Foundation and Athlete Mentor Programmes.
- Walking and Cycling Plan: Promoting sustainable, low-cost, low impact means of active travel.

Future delivery focus is on building partnerships, incorporating existing activity into the sector and considering how new ideas can be developed across Family Hubs, Early Years setting, education settings, youth clubs and mental health support teams.

4. Child oral health

This part of the report considers the data associated with poor dental health for children and young people in Torbay including access to dental services and hospital admissions for tooth extractions. The section considers the association between poor oral health and wider social and health outcomes and describes some of the key local interventions aimed at addressing the issue.

The Data

Children with dental problems may have poorer diets due to dental pain, have higher levels of school absenteeism as well as impaired concentration due to pain and interrupted sleep. Severely decayed teeth will often require extraction under general anaesthetic, exposing small children to low but significant life-threatening complications. Extractions in early years may also require extensive follow up including orthodontics.

As of September 2024, there were 2921 Torbay residents on the NHS dental waiting list, 2795 adults and 233 children/young people. This represents an increase of 107 children and young people since the last reporting period of December 2023. The access rate for dental services for children and young people is better than the England value. The percentage of children in care who have had their teeth checked is the same as the England value.

Hospital admissions for tooth decay for 0-19 years (caries as primary diagnosis) for 2022/2023 was 597 per 100,000 population (England 236 per 100,000 and the Southwest 240 per 100,000). There has been a 6.8% increase from 2021/2022 which is a smaller percentage increase than England (15%) and the Southwest (10%) but is still the highest rate in the Southwest with most admissions in the 5-9 age group.

Both Epidemiological Surveys for dental caries, Year 6-year Children (2023) and 5-Year-olds (2022) show an improvement – Torbay is no longer an outlier and in both cases are lower than the Southwest and England value.

Interventions and Programmes

Public Health has the mandatory duty for oral health in the population across the life course, but do not have the responsibility for dentistry. Since July 2023 this function has moved across from the NHS to the ICB and presents an opportunity for joint improvement and delivery as the issues of oral health and dental access are intrinsically linked.

Accordingly, there is a high degree of collaboration/joint delivery with the ICB, Devon County Council and Plymouth City Council as outlined in the joint delivery projects below and overseen by a new ICB Oral Health Steering Group established earlier this year.

Torbay oral health interventions and programmes of delivery are increasingly interconnected and system wide. Some examples include:

- Supervised Toothbrushing in early years settings (Year 2 & Nurseries). 33 of 36 primary schools have signed up to the scheme, including Mayfield special school. This is an NHS contract but delivered in conjunction with Public Health nurses. It is a whole school approach but includes specific SEND measures such as tailored toothpaste and specialist training for teachers. Early Years settings in IMD deciles 1-5 are prioritised.
- Open Wide Step Inside is an evidence-based education programme for Year 2 children delivered in the classroom by Peninsula Dental School Oral Health Educators. 27 of 36 schools completed the programme in 2023/2024.
- First Dental Steps - oral health education and pathway to NHS dentists for families with children under 1. This is an NHS contract but is delivered in conjunction with Public Health via Health Visiting. The lack of available NHS Dentists means families are currently being seen by Community Dentistry while on the NHS waiting list.
- Oral Health Education via Family Hubs – Community Dentistry have trained Hub staff on brief intervention and toothbrush packs (paste and brushes) supplied by Public Health nurses for distribution to families attending the Hubs.

Examples of planned oral health interventions for Torbay include:

- Supervised Toothbrushing delivery within Family Hubs (Home Dental, same provider for main NHS contract in schools)
- Supervised Toothbrushing to Children in Care (semi-dependent 16-18). Delivery as above.

Public Health teams in Devon alongside Peninsula Dental School have negotiated with Devon ICB to secure NHS Dental contractual underspend to re-invest in Torbay to fund a suite of mitigating oral health interventions to offset the impact of reduced dental provision on children and young people in Torbay, as evidenced in the high rate of extractions under general anaesthetic in the 0-19 population.

This programme represents a significant re-investment in the Devon oral health system at approximately £1m a year for 5 years. As a result, interventions include:

- Extend Supervised Toothbrushing to cover Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles 6-10 and include independent nurseries
- Establish a new fluoride varnish scheme to cover all primary schools in IMD deciles 1-6. The full procurement process applies. Alongside supervised toothbrushing, Fluoride varnishing is the best evidence-based population level intervention to implement
- Extending Open Wide Step Inside to cover all primary schools in IMD deciles 1-6.

The Oral Health Steering Group will oversee a new communications campaign, both workforce and public facing that will outline current programmes designed to improve dental access and oral health in the population as well as an update on emergency dental measures. This campaign was put on hold until the new Government plans regarding the national Dental Recovery Plan are known.

5. Immunisations

This section considers immunisation rates relating to children and young people in Torbay and discusses some of the activities associated with improving vaccine uptake.

The Data

Most immunisation data is managed by NHS England who stipulate information can be shared for management purposes only and is not to be published in the public domain. Data within this section is taken from the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) compiled by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID).

The routine vaccination schedules for children from infancy to pre-school is designed to protect them from various serious diseases, including from:

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP)
- Polio (IPV)
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis A and B
- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Pneumococcal disease
- Rotavirus

- Influenza

For 2022/2023, Torbay had significantly higher rates of uptake across all infant and pre-school vaccines when compared to the England average, although the majority sit slightly below the national target.

Vaccines are also given in the school setting, including those against the human papillomavirus (HPV), for both girl and boys aged 12-14 years, Meningococcal ACWY which protects against four types of meningococcal disease (aged 14 –15 years), and flu nasal vaccine annually.

School vaccination uptake rates across Devon are lower than the national target. HPV is a specific area for improvement. Latest published rates for 2022/23 are 67% for girls and 63% for boys for single doses, against England figures of 71% and 65%.

Childhood flu vaccine uptake is at or around the England average.

A particular issue locally is for the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR) second dose which is recorded at 89% for the latest publish year 2022/23. Although this is above the England rate of 85%, it needs to be above 95% to achieve herd immunity.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination has been introduced for pregnant women from 1 September 2024, with vaccine given from 28 weeks to protect the infant in the early years of life. Torbay local maternity leads have an active programme in place.

Interventions and Programmes

The Vaccination and Screening Team (VaST), part of NHS England are responsible for commissioning the immunisation service in Torbay, and Kernow Health Community Interest Company (CIC) deliver the school aged immunisations in Torbay. Public Health is working locally with VaST, Kernow and local partners on activities to increase uptake.

Torbay Public health is part of the Devon wide Maximising Immunisation Uptake Group (MIUG), who look at actions to improve uptake across all programmes, with a current focus on MMR and school vaccinations.

Kernow Health CIC cover Devon, Plymouth and Torbay schools, and are actively working with schools to improve uptake across all school age vaccinations, including flu and HPV.

Public Health actively work with partners to improve childhood and maternal immunisation uptake, some activities include:

- Work with the vaccine maternity nurse to promote uptake of new RSV vaccine for pregnant women.
- Promotion of pertussis vaccine in pregnant women due to increase in cases.
- Continue work with VAST and school age immunisations provider to target schools with low vaccination uptake.
- Presentations in secondary and primary school assemblies.

- Work closely with Public Health nurses and Family Hubs to promote immunisation uptake.

6. One and 2.5 Year Developmental Reviews

This section considers the mandated health and development reviews at age one and 2.5, detailing the review process, outcomes from the health checks and discusses some of the integrated support available to children and families.

Health and Development Reviews

Mandated development reviews for children at age one and 2.5 years are part of the health and development checks provided by Public Health nurses. These reviews are designed to ensure that a child's development is on track and to address any concerns parents/carers may have.

The Public Health nurses see children and their families for development reviews either in a Family Hub or at home if the family are known to Children's Social Care. In 2023/2024, around 90% of children within the age range received a review. For children not seen for a review, primarily because the family chose not to engage, safeguarding processes are followed to ensure there are no concerns.

At both development reviews, the Public Health nurses along with the parent/carers use an evidence-based tool called Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) that are tailored to the child's exact age and can be used to determine potential additional support needs.

Children are assessed through the ASQ on communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, personal-social and are scored for each domain. Children fall within the following categories:

- Low – requires intervention and ongoing support
- Monitor – requires low level intervention and review
- Pass - is at an expected level of development

Children who fall within the monitor area are reassessed as part of a Torbay child development pathway, those in the low category and needing specialist intervention are referred to appropriate services.

All consenting families whose children fall within the low area receive referral to the Local Authority under Section 23 of the Education Act. A Section 23 notification is a formal process used by health professionals to inform the local authority if they identify a child under compulsory school age who has or is likely to have a SEND. Between October 2023 and September 2024 there were 126 Section 23 notifications made to the LA. There is no comparison data available for previous years as the process began in October 2023.

The Data

One-Year Review

Alongside the ASQ, this review typically includes checking the child’s growth (weight and height), physical development, oral health and general health. The Public Health nurse will also discuss with the parent/carer their child’s diet, sleep patterns, and any vaccinations they might need. The table below provides ASQ outcome data for the one-year development review for 2023/2024.

ASQ outcomes for the one-year development review by domain and score category 2023/24

Domain	Low		Monitor		Pass	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Communication	26	2.8%	94	10.1%	812	87.1%
Gross Motor	195	21.0%	102	11.0%	633	68.1%
Fine Motor	38	4.1%	76	8.2%	816	87.7%
Problem Solving	45	4.9%	74	8.0%	808	87.2%
Personal-Social	40	4.3%	75	8.1%	814	87.6%

2.5-Year Review

This review is more comprehensive and includes a detailed assessment of a child’s physical, emotional, and social development. The public health nurse will check the child’s speech and language development, motor skills, and social interactions through the ASQ assessment and interaction with the child. At this review the Public Health nurse and the parent/carer will also use a tool called Early Language Identification measure (ELIM) an evidence-based tool that can identify speech and communication needs early.

ASQ outcomes for 2.5 year development review by domain and score category 2023/24

Domain	Low		Monitor		Pass	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Communication	90	9.0%	90	9.0%	815	81.9%
Gross Motor	60	6.0%	73	7.3%	862	86.6%
Fine Motor	29	2.9%	131	13.2%	834	83.9%
Problem Solving	66	6.6%	56	5.6%	874	87.8%
Personal-Social	65	6.6%	88	8.9%	838	84.6%

Based on ASQ scores, the percentage of children achieving a good level of development at 2.5 years has increased by 1.7 percentage points from 77.9% in 2021/22 to 79.6% in 2022/23. It has gone from red to amber due to the slight increase and because England has had a decrease (from 81.1% to 79.2%). What is worth noting is that the Torbay percentage has decreased from pre-Covid levels as in the table below. In 2022/23 it has not further declined.

Children achieving a good level of development at 2.5 years, 2017 – 2023

	Torbay	England
2017/18	91.1%	83.3%
2018/19	87.2%	84.1%
2019/20	91.4%	83.3%
2020/21	84.0%	82.9%
2021/22	77.9%	81.1%
2022/23	79.6%	79.2%

Interventions and Programmes

Children identified as needing moderate or specialist interventions based on their developmental reviews receive assistance from a broad range of interconnected support from:

- Torbay LA Children’s Social Care
 - Early Years Settings
 - Portage – Home visiting educational service for pre-school children with SEND
 - Home Learning Environment
 - Early Years Consultant
 - Family Hubs
- Torbay 0-19 Service (commissioned by Public Health and Children’s Services)
 - Public Health nurses
 - Action for Children
- NHS Devon
 - Child and Family Health Devon (CFHD) Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)

Torbay services involved in early development and families have designed and implemented a local integrated pathway for the 2.5 ASQ development review, which has led to improved communication across provision including with nurseries and child minders. The overarching aim of the pathway is to ensure children access support at the earliest opportunity, improve systems and processes associated with the developmental reviews, and reduce the number of escalations and Section 23 Notifications.

In September 2024, Section 23 Notification meetings were expanded to include all Torbay providers involved in supporting children identified from their developmental reviews as needing specialist support and increased to taking place twice termly.

With the aid of government grant funding for Family Hubs Start for Life, Torbay has expanded and enhanced childhood development and school readiness interventions for

children falling in the moderate or low areas of development. Despite uncertainty around the continued funding, this enhanced offer of support will continue to be provided through Children's Social Care and Public Health commissioned services. Examples of the support offer available to children and families requiring moderate to specialist support includes:

- NHS Devon - Child and Family Health Devon (CFHD) Speech and Language Therapy
- NHS Devon - CFHD Speech and Language Therapist based at St Edmund's Family Hub
- Children's Social Care - The Portage service – One-on-one Small Steps groups for pre-school children displaying additional needs. The portage team also provides workshops each term at each Family Hubs venue on developing independence skills, total communication and supporting play and interaction.
- Children's Social Care - The Home Learning Environment (HLE) outreach worker provides Chat, Play, Read support to families, many of whom experience social anxiety. As a result, a parenting group, *People Supporting Parents and Children to Learn Together*, was developed that supports families to develop parent interactions and support speech, language and communication, and personal, social, emotional development.
- 0-19 Service - Action for Children provide one-on-one talk and play sessions for children experiencing moderate support needs. They also run developing toddler and Let's Talk and Play sessions, the most accessed provision in the Family Hubs. Action for Children programmes are offered in all three Family Hubs in Torbay.
- 0-19 Service – Public Health nurses provide one-on-one support to children and families.
- Chat, Play, Read – Across the sector, the Chat, Play, Read initiative is promoted widely and families are guided on how to bring activities that promote communication and learning development into everyday life.

7. Conclusion

In summary, this report highlights the current situation of child health and development in Torbay and the data reveals both progress and ongoing challenges in all areas. While there are areas of improvement, significant challenges remain. Addressing these issues requires a coordinated effort from the local authority, health services, education, community organisations and families to ensure that all children and young people in Torbay can achieve optimal health and development outcomes. Continued focus on reducing disparities, particularly for those in deprived areas and with SEND, will be crucial in making further progress.

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Meetings: Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board / Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 18th November 2024 / 12th December 2024

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023/24

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cllr Nick Bye, Lead Cabinet Member Childrens Services
nick.bye@torbay.gov.uk

Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan, Director Childrens Services
nancy.meehan@tobay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report has been prepared to provide members with the latest Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP) Annual Report 2023/24.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

2.1 Within the 2023/24 reporting period the TSCP arrangements were aligned with Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 (WT2018). New Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (WT2023) arrangements are due to be implemented by December 2024.

2.2 The partnership produces an annual report providing updates on the following:

- The current governance arrangements and structure of the partnership.
- Independent scrutiny.
- The areas of priority focus for the partnership.
- Financial arrangements.
- The local background and context.
- Any statutory reviews and audits that have taken place within the reporting period and the impacts of these.
- Child death overview arrangements.
- Learning and development.
- Allegations that have taken place against people that work with children.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That Members note and endorse the contents of the Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023/24

Background Documents

N/A

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In April 2017, the Children and Social Work Act received Royal Assent, this ended the role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB), and all sections of the Children Act 2004 that relate to them. The Department for Education (DfE) published revised Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance in July 2018 (WT2018), which sets out what organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children must do to safeguard and promote their welfare in England. The major shift was the responsibility for safeguarding children being shared between the local authority, health partners and the police.
- 1.2 New Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (WT2023) arrangements, in respect of statutory safeguarding partners relating to a local authority area in England, are defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:
- (a) the local authority.
 - (b) an integrated care board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.
 - (c) the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.
- The TSCP 2023/4 Annual Report was written under the 2018 arrangements, however the TSCP is currently in the process of implementing the new WT2023 arrangements and future annual reports will be written to reflect this.
- 1.5 The attached annual report provides updates on the activity of the TSCP over a 12 month period from April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 N/A – no other options are under consideration.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 The final TSCP funding arrangements for 2023/24 were agreed between the safeguarding partners and are detailed in section 5 of the attached report.
- 3.2 It should be noted that the unequal division of partnership funding arrangements has remained an item for debate between the three partners during the current reporting period, but no solution has been found. This was noted in previous TSCP annual reports.

3.3. Although the WT2018 guidance, and the Wood Report 2021, state that partnership funding should be 'equitable and proportionate', there remains no agreed national or local funding formulas to facilitate this process. It was hoped that the new Working Together 2023 guidance would provide clarity, however the wording within the guidance has remained unchanged.

3.4 As such this issue will pass to the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP), who represent their organisations at Chief Executive level, to review and resolve.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 N/A

5. Engagement and Consultation

5.1 N/A

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

6.1 N/A

7. Tackling Climate Change

7.1 N/A

8. Associated Risks

8.1 N/A

9. 10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 N/A

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 N/A



TSCP Annual Report



2023-24

Contents


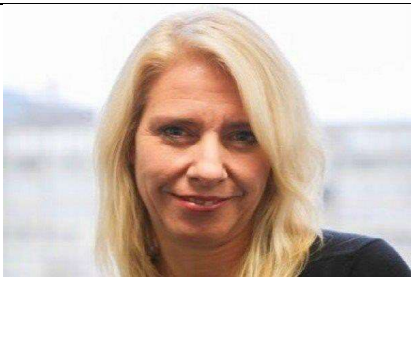

Introduction.....	3
1 Working Together to Safeguard Children.....	4
2 Governance and Structure	6
3 Independent Scrutiny.....	9
4 TSCP Priority Areas	11
5 Financial Arrangements.....	14
6 Local Background and Context.....	16
7 Statutory Reviews and Other Audits	25
8 Child Death Overview Arrangements	27
9 Learning and Development Summary.....	28
10 Allegations Against People that Work with Children	31
11 Glossary	32

Introduction

Working Together 2023 (WT2023) arrangements in respect of statutory safeguarding partner in relation to a local authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:

- (a) the local authority.
- (b) an integrated care board for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.
- (c) the chief officer of police for an area any part of which falls within the local authority area.

Throughout the current reporting year 01/04/23 to 31/03/24, Nancy Meehan and Roy Linden represented their respective agencies at executive level, with Penny Smith representing the NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB) from December 2023. The role of chair of the TSCP Executive Group currently sits with the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of the ICB.

		
<p>Penny Smith Chief Nursing Officer NHS Devon Integrated Care Board</p>	<p>Nancy Meehan Director of Children's Services Torbay Council</p>	<p>Roy Linden Policing Commander for South Devon Devon and Cornwall Police</p>
<p>Penny Smith is Interim Chief Nursing Officer for the Integrated Care Board in Devon. Penny and the Chief Nursing Officers across Devon are responsible for nursing leadership and professional standards of nurses and allied health professionals employed by the NHS across the county. She has significant experience working in a number of key roles regarding clinical quality, professional leadership and safeguarding. Penny is also Executive lead for oversight of services for Women and Children. Penny is committed to partnership working across the county to support the health and wellbeing of the whole population of Devon.</p>	<p>Nancy Meehan is the Director of Children's Services for Torbay Council, having previously served as the Deputy Director. Nancy has significant experience, both as a senior manager and consultant, for a number of Local Authorities across England. Beginning her career in the field of social care in 1989, Nancy has 30 years post qualifying social work experience and during this time has successfully led, stabilised, re-designed and launched new services across multiple council departments, always with the intention of improving outcomes for children. Nancy is committed to working in partnership, both with statutory organisations and the voluntary and community sectors, and delivering safe, high-quality services to the children and young people of Torbay.</p>	<p>Roy Linden is the Policing Commander for South Devon; an area which extends from Dawlish to Wembury, including Torbay, the South Hams and Teignbridge. Roy is responsible for the overall policing of this area including responding to incidents, investigation, and neighbourhood policing. Roy joined Devon and Cornwall Police in 2003, and has worked in Patrol, CID, Public Protection and Major Crime, and is an experienced and accredited Senior Investigating Officer. Roy works with partners and commissioners to address key threats to the community and individuals in order to prevent crime and disorder. His aim is to provide a quality local policing service by building strong community relationships across the area to keep people safe.</p>

1 Working Together to Safeguard Children

In April 2017, the Children and Social Work Act received Royal Assent which ended the role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) and all sections of the Children Act 2004 that related to them. To support the updating of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements the Department for Education (DfE) published revised Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance in July 2018, which set out what organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children must do to safeguard and promote their welfare in England. The major shift within the 2018 guidance was the responsibility for safeguarding children being equally shared between the local authority, health services and the police.

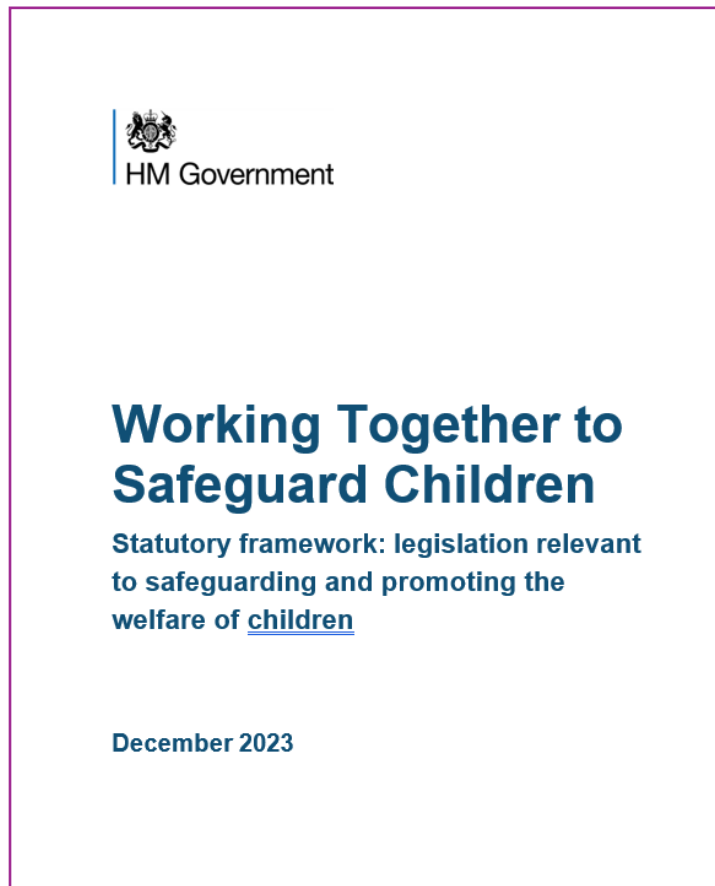
In addition, further statutory guidance was published to support LSCB's, the new safeguarding and child death review partners, and the new Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in the transition from LSCBs and Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) to a new system of multi-agency arrangements and local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs). In March 2020, the transition period ended, and new safeguarding arrangements were fully implemented. For Torbay this meant stepping away from the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) and implementing a new multi-agency safeguarding children partnership, initially via shared arrangements with Plymouth, but as a Torbay only partnership (the TSCP) from September 2020.

In December 2023 the DfE published new Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 arrangements, which will become fully established by December 2024. The main changes between WT2018 and WT2023 are:

- A renewed focus on safeguarding being a shared responsibility across the whole system of help, support, and protection for children, including principles for working with and building positive, trusting relationships with families.
- Substantive changes to strengthen how local safeguarding arrangements work, including the role of relevant agencies. WT2023 also introduces the role of Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP), who for the TSCP are the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police, the Chief Executive of Torbay Council, and the Chief Executive of NHS Devon ICB. LSP's are differentiated from Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP) within WT2023 arrangements, with the three TSCP Executive members taking on DSP roles on behalf of their respective organisations.
- A renewed focus on how organisations and agencies provide help, safeguarding and protection for children and families. This is split into three sections: early help, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and child protection. Early help strengthens the role of education and childcare settings in supporting children and families. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children clarifies a broader range of professionals who can be the lead practitioner under S17 of the Children Act 1989. Child protection introduces new multi-agency standards for improved practice and outcomes for children and clarifies expected responses where abuse and exploitation occur outside of the child's home.
- A strengthening of information sharing processes between prisons, the probation service, and children's social care.

- A clarification regarding the expectation for keeping in touch with care experienced young people over the age of 21 and the non-mandatory reporting of the deaths of those who are care experienced up to the age of 25, to improve learning and outcomes for this group of young people.

Click the following link or image below to access the full guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)



2 Governance and Structure

Although 2023/24 TSCP governance arrangements have effectively remained in-line with those reported in 2022/23, the introduction of LSP's via the new WT2023 arrangements published in December 2023 will lead to governance changes throughout 2024 as the role of the LSP's becomes more evident within the TSCP. LSP functions will be fully reported on when the TSCP's updated arrangements are published by December 2024 in line with DfE guidelines.

Throughout the 2023/24 reporting period the TSCP Executive Group remained responsible for oversight of the work of the partnership and agreed multi-agency practice across all areas of children's local safeguarding in Torbay. Devon and Cornwall Police, NHS Devon Integrated Care Board and Torbay Council are equally responsible for the TSCP, its activities and outcomes. The TSCP Executive Group meets on a bi-monthly basis. During this reporting period the position of Chief Nursing Officer changed on five occasions, in line with internal NHS Devon ICB staff changes, which subsequently led to the TSCP Executive Group having five different chairs between 01/04/23 and 31/03/24. This led to some Executive meetings requiring rearrangement to fit in with changing calendars and unfortunately delayed some elements of the decision making process.

The TSCP Business Group, which is responsible for maintaining partnership oversight/work flow and actioning the strategic decisions made by the Executive, sits under the Executive Group. Following the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) in November 2023 of the multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk in Torbay, a representative from the local authority's children's participation team became a fixed member of the Business Group in line with the JTAI work plan. In 2023/24 there were four sub-groups and one task and finish group sitting below the Business Group, with each being established to focus on the core business and priorities of the partnership.

The work and structure of the TSCP Learning and Development Group was reviewed in the Autumn of the 2023/24 reporting period and a more streamlined model of training delivery agreed by the Business Group in November 2023. This model obviates the need to convene full sub-group meetings, with the identification and roll-out of TSCP multi-agency training now being managed by identified training leads for each of the statutory partner agencies, with oversight being enacted by the Quality Assurance and Business Groups.

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel is responsible for the oversight of TSCP learning reviews, converting all TSCP learning review recommendations into actions, and ensuring oversight of these actions through to resolution. This is undertaken with the aim of ensuring local multi-agency practice improves in line with that agreed in review reports. The CSPR Panel also reviews regional and national learning and incorporates this into the TSCP where agreed. In 2023/24 the TSCP's Independent Scrutineer became a fixed attendee of the CSPR Panel.

The Quality Assurance Group, alongside the CSPR Panel, completes multi-agency audits and concurrently identifies learning, has oversight of TSCP audit activity and actions and works with the multi-agency learning and development training leads to support the implementation of learning within the partnership. Following the JTAI, the chairing of the Quality Assurance Group moved from NHS Devon ICB to Torbay Council in response to some of the recommendations within the JTAI report. As per the CSPR Panel, in 2023/24 the TSCP's Independent Scrutineer also became a fixed attendee of the Quality Assurance Group.

The Child and Young Persons Exploitation Group (CYPEG) is part of Torbay's multi-agency response to child exploitation and is responsible for Torbay's multi-agency Child Exploitation Strategy. CYPEG is also the TSCP's direct link to local exploitation services. The need for a local Contextual Safeguarding strategy was identified by the Exploitation Group in early 2023 and this led to the agreement for the TSCP to commission a 12 month Task and Finish Group to lead on and complete this piece of work. The Contextual Safeguarding Task and Finish Group reports to the TSCP Business Group in line with agreed TSCP process but also shares members with CYPEG to ensure continuity and shared understanding of local safeguarding concerns in respect of exploitation.

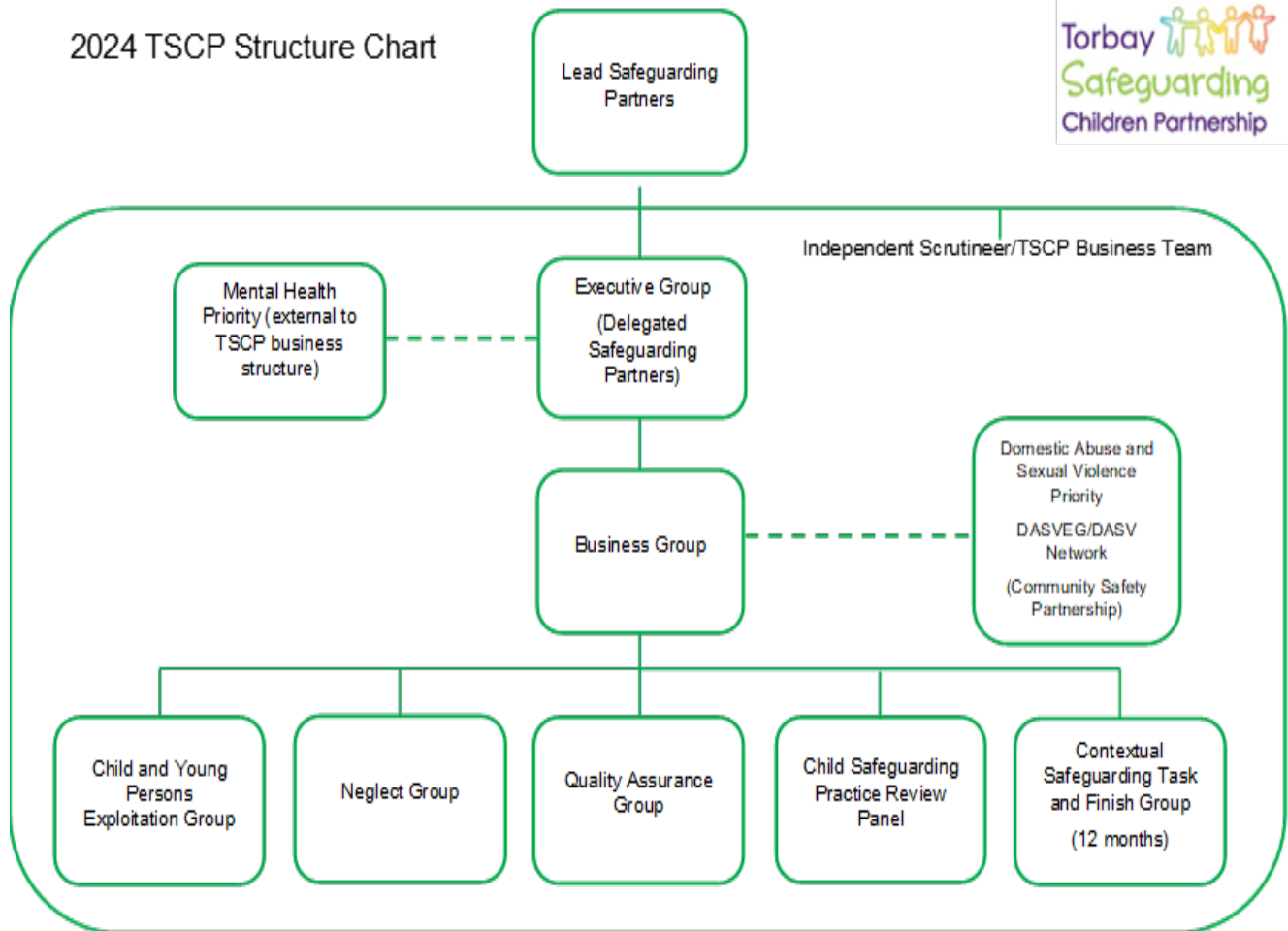
The Neglect Group is focused on identifying and understanding causes of local neglect and promoting preventative multi-agency responses. This group has also led on the implementation of Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2), which is a locally agreed multi-agency tool for assessing neglect. The Neglect Group retains oversight of the roll-out of GCP2 within Torbay. In 2023/24 the Neglect Group widened its membership in response to the mental health and housing needs of children within Torbay. The Neglect Group is responsible for the TSCP Neglect Strategy, which is being updated within 2024/25.

As reported in 2022/23, the TSCP's domestic abuse priority continues to be managed via joint arrangements with the Torbay Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) in 2023/24. These arrangements have been reviewed, with the TCSP domestic abuse lead being a fixed attendee of the TSCP Business Group to ensure oversight and information exchange. The domestic abuse lead also attends TSCP Executive Meetings by invitation when oversight at a higher level is required.

Focus on the mental health and emotional wellbeing of the children of Torbay has been a priority of the TSCP Executive Group since the publication of the previous 2022/23 Annual Report. Attendance at Executive meetings by the NHS Devon ICB Head of Mental Health Commissioning has informed partners on progress in Torbay regarding children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, with services currently being mapped and offered by health partners external to the TSCP group structure. There is an existing group that is scrutinised by the Children's Continuous Improvement Board and covers areas of mental health and wellbeing.

Each TSCP group is chaired by one of the statutory safeguarding partners and is attended by a broad range of agencies, including, where required, the faith, voluntary and community sectors. Attendance expectations are clearly outlined in each group's Terms of Reference and quoracy is achieved by the attendance of each of the three statutory safeguarding partners. The TSCP data dashboard includes subject areas relating to the work of groups and TSCP priorities, with the Business Group being responsible for the ongoing development of the dashboard and the Quality Assurance Group having oversight of the dashboard's data and associated responses.

2024 TSCP Structure Chart



3 Independent Scrutiny

'Independent scrutiny should drive continuous improvement and provide assurance that arrangements are working effectively for children, families, and practitioners. It should also consider learning from local child safeguarding practice reviews, national reviews, and thematic reports. The independent scrutineer or scrutiny group should be able to demonstrate knowledge, skills and expertise in the area being scrutinised and consequently add value to the work of local agencies.' – ***Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023***



Keith Perkin
Independent Scrutineer

The Partnership has been subject to a number of reviews and inspections during this reporting period. In November 2023, the Partnership was inspected by OFSTED, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Police & Fire Service and the Care Quality Commission as part of their Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) programme, particularly around the 'front door'. The Executive also commissioned an independent review of their MASH and the effectiveness of the partnership. I, as Independent Scrutineer, also examined the partnership response to the criminal exploitation of children and how well partners are engaged in the safeguarding system.

Although the partnership has one dedicated Independent Scrutineer, the commissioning of others brings added value to its scrutiny arrangements. To build on this approach, the ambition to commission subject matter experts in bespoke pieces of scrutiny work is one I applaud.

Despite the partnership benefiting from consistency of strategic leadership since December 2023, with all 3 delegated safeguarding partners being in post for this time period, prior to this, there was a period of time within the reporting period where there were a number of different chairs. The current consistency of delegated safeguarding leads has enabled consistency of message, more detailed understanding of operational matters impacting on the partnership and improved working relationships. Lead Safeguarding Partners need to be aware of the impact on such partnerships when senior roles are changed over a short period of time. Given the strategic issues identified in the JTAI, the role of the ICB as lead partner in developing the JTAI action plan and Chief Nurse as the Executive Chair is the 'best fit'.

Both the JTAI, and review of the partnership, identified that its priority of mental health has not progressed as quickly as it was envisaged. The learning from this is that when identifying priorities, there needs to be detailed discussions as to what that priority focuses on. The mental health of children incorporates many aspects, not all of which relate to safeguarding. The nature and size of Torbay should allow effective matrix management of a particular issue

with other strategic groups in Torbay, and the partnership needs to have a laser focus on how the safeguarding practice of children can be improved.

The absence of a partnership dashboard was also identified as a critical issue in reviews. The partnership took a pragmatic approach to how this was being progressed. The identification of useful partnership data held within Children Services allows some trends and performance issues to be identified. However, the inclusion of other partner's data, particularly from the other two statutory partners, remains a priority.

There is evidence that learning from either commissioned reviews or multi agency case audits (MACA) has led to improved practice. The MACA on harmful sexual behaviour led to a new audit tool in identifying and responding to the risk of children being harmed sexually. Similarly, the introduction of a graded care profile around neglect has enabled practitioners to provide a consistent approach in responding to neglect.

The partnership subgroups are proactive and have a good understanding of the lived experience of children who are being harmed or at risk of harm. This was particularly evident in my review of the criminal exploitation of children.

I am also pleased that the partnership has a process in place where learning from other partnerships is considered from a local perspective.

Scrutiny plan for 2024/2025

The imminent MACA on mental health will enable the partnership to redefine its focus on its mental health priority.

There are excellent areas of practice where the voice of children and families are considered and able to influence safeguarding practice. The learning from these examples now needs to feed into the wider system so there is consistency of practice in listening to the voice of children and families.

I am satisfied that there is an effective structure in place to learn from serious incidents, including learning from outside of Torbay. The next step is to examine how effective that learning has been embedded into practice.

Working Together 2023 identifies the importance of education settings within a safeguarding children's partnership. There is good engagement with educational establishments at an operational level. I do believe there are opportunities to engage the education sector in a more consistent and effective manner.

4 TSCP Priority Areas

When the TSCP was formed in September 2020, the Executive set three key priority areas of targeted work that the partnership would focus on, these being domestic abuse, neglect, and child exploitation. These priorities were based on identified local risks to children. A fourth priority, children's mental health, was added in April 2021, primarily due to the known impact of Covid 19 on children's emotional wellbeing. The four key priority areas for the TSCP are covered by the 2021-2024 Business Plan that will be reviewed and updated in the 2024/25 reporting period.

Priority 1: Reduce the level of child neglect in the Torbay area and challenge the causes of local neglect to prevent re-occurrences.

The responsibility for priority one lies with the TSCP Neglect Group. The Neglect Group reflects its purpose and membership within its Terms of Reference, with good attendance levels within the 2023/24 reporting year. The membership of the group expanded in the previous reporting period to ensure the work it undertakes is given a high level of priority by all partner agencies. This included the addition of representatives from speech and language services, housing, mental health, and oral health. The Business Group maintains oversight of the work of the Neglect Group, to ensure it remains focused and meets the needs of Torbay children and families.

In 2023/24 the Neglect Group supported the development of the TSCP data dashboard and has reinforced the ongoing roll-out of Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) across the partnership area and supported challenge where required when some agencies have not fulfilled their obligations under GCP2 working arrangements. The Neglect Group is also closely connected to work being undertaken in respect of Torbay's Family Hubs, to ensure that neglect is identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity. During 2024 the Neglect Group will be responsible for updating the TSCP Neglect Plan, with this being reported upon further within the TSCP 2024/25 Annual Report after its completion and implementation.

Priority 2: Prevent child exploitation and sexual harm within the Torbay area and ensure the safety of all children, resident or visiting Torbay, from these forms of abuse.

The responsibility for priority two lies with the TSCP Children and Young People Exploitation Group (CYPEG). CYPEG has a wide-ranging and consistent membership group, incorporating representatives from commissioned providers as well as links to Community Safety in addition to key safeguarding partners. During 2023/24 CYPEG has focused on the reduction of all forms of local exploitation, including where needed reviewing the impact of wider systems where risk has crossed borders into neighbouring areas. The group have also supported the formation and work of the partnership's Contextual Safeguarding Task and Finish Group and started work on the next TSCP Exploitation Action Plan, which will be reported on in the 2024/25 TSCP Annual Report. The group have also led on a Child Criminal Exploitation themed Multi Agency Case Audit (MACA) in June 2023 and the linked Action Plan and learning.

CYPEG have continued to promote and embed a restorative and relational approach to supporting children at risk of exploitation, raising awareness to support identification of exploitation risk, ensuring children and young people have an understanding of healthy relationships and challenging

victim-blaming behaviour and language. CYPEG has retained active links with other local multi-agency exploitation frameworks via shared memberships, data/information sharing and networks and contributed to the data set within the TSCP data dashboard.

Priority 3: Prevent children in Torbay from being harmed by the effects of domestic abuse.

Torbay's domestic abuse and sexual violence prevention and support services continue to sit under the remit of the Torbay Community Safety Partnership (TCSP). The TSCP and TCSP work in a cross-partnership manner to share information and planning designed to protect children from the effects of domestic abuse in line with priority three. Although the TSCP does not have a specific domestic abuse sub-group, as this work is undertaken locally by the TCSP, the TSCP is represented within these arrangements and all three statutory safeguarding partners attend meetings and participate in joint actions across both local partnerships.

During the previous reporting period it was agreed that the TCSP's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Commissioning and Strategy Lead would become a member of the TSCP Business Group to further strengthen these cross-partnership arrangements. This arrangement has been implemented and proven to be effective, with the TCSP lead worker also attending TSCP Executive Group meetings to provide updates and support oversight when required. In 2023/24 wider partners continued to be made aware of local safeguarding priorities/actions in respect of domestic abuse and sexual violence via email updates, the TSCP newsletter, multi-agency forums and shared training.

Priority 4: Ensure that children in Torbay receive appropriate mental health support at their time of need and that this support dovetails with any other care planning needs of the child.

Although the TSCP does not have a dedicated mental health sub-group, during 2023/24 there has been multi-agency activity in respect of the partnership's mental health priority. Attendance at the Executive Group by the NHS Devon ICB Head of Mental Health Commissioning has informed options and updated the Executive on local services and progress.

Across Torbay, and the wider Integrated Care System in Devon, there is an agreement that support and intervention for children and young people's mental health will be based on the THRIVE framework. This shared foundation has started to enable local children's mental health support systems to grow and work together towards delivery of the TSCP mental health priority. Progress has been made in respect of:

1. Establishment in 2023/24 of the Torbay Emotional Health Wellbeing group. This group has system wide representation.
2. Agreed co-produced priorities for this group for the next 12 months.
3. Connection to the SEND delivery boards within Torbay, aligned to Social Emotional and Mental Health.
4. Reporting to the Integrated Care System Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group with aligned priorities.

Identification of need is at the point of completion and has mapped out:

1. Emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of children and young people in Torbay.
2. Overlapping, protective and risk factors which impact emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in Torbay.
3. Impact of poor emotional wellbeing and mental health problems on lives and life chances of children and young people and the wider population.

In addition, mapping of need and current pathways has also been completed and aligned to infant mental health. This work will inform commissioning for the early parts of the children and young people's mental health pathway.

Across Torbay a number of mental health services have been working with children and young people on the needs-based quadrants of THRIVE including:

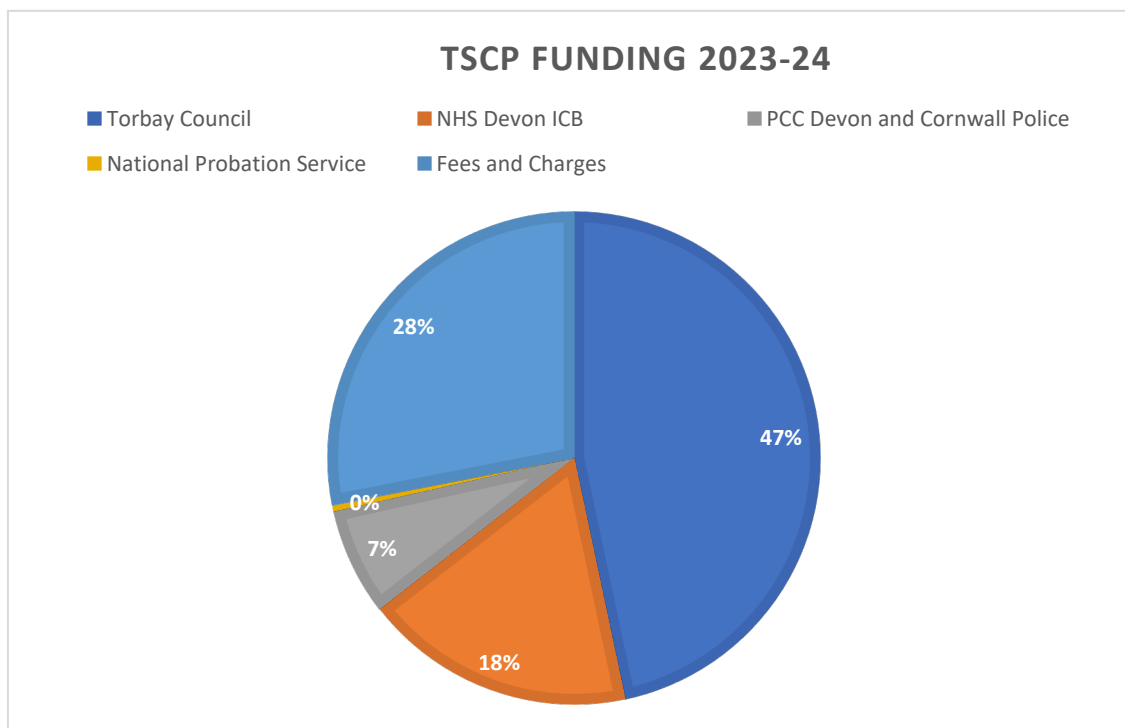
Mental Health Support Teams operate within 20 educational settings across Torbay, supporting in the region of 15 000 children and young people. These teams support individual children and young people and work as part of a whole school approach to supporting emotional health and wellbeing.

In Reach Service work with children and young people, with neurodiverse presentations, who have presented to Torbay Hospital in mental health crisis, to expedite discharge from the pediatric ward and support them in the community, avoiding unnecessary admissions, readmission and crisis presentation.

5 Financial Arrangements

“The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP) should agree on the level of funding needed to deliver the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This includes consideration of business and analytical support, independent scrutiny, infrastructure, and core functions including local child safeguarding practice reviews, multi-agency training and learning events. It is the responsibility of the LSP to ensure that adequate funding is allocated and spent in line with agreed priorities.

Funding contributions from the statutory safeguarding partners should be equitable and agreed by the LSP. Funding for the arrangements should be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that they can meet the financial needs of the arrangements. The funding should be transparent to children and families in the area, and the individual contributions of safeguarding partners and relevant agencies should be clearly set out in reporting. (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023)

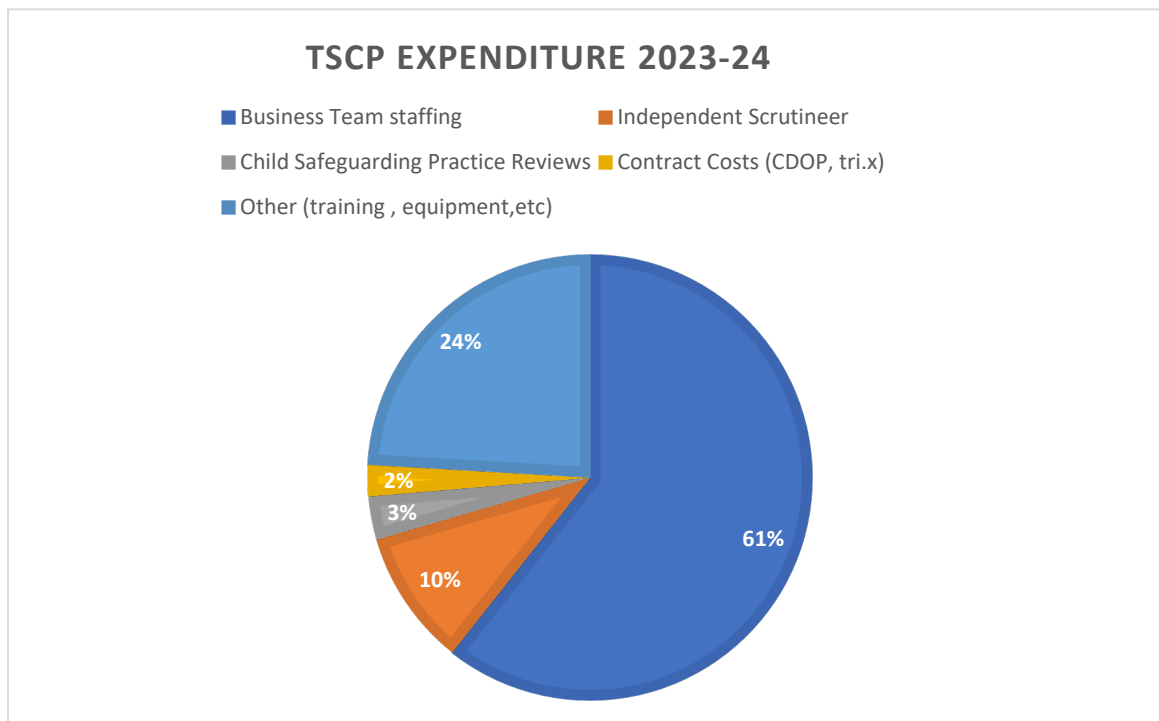


Torbay Council	£109,389
NHS Devon ICB	£41,814
PCC Devon and Cornwall Police	£16,469
National Probation Service	£888
Fees and Charges	£65,812

Total = £234,372

As the full WT2023 arrangements are not due to be embedded until December 2024, the final TSCP funding arrangements for 2023/24 were agreed at Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP) level on

20/03/2024 and are laid out above. The division of partnership funding arrangements was elevated to chief executive level officers during the current reporting period as the arrangements remained unequal and no solution to this could be found at TSCP Executive level. Guidance in WT2018 and the Wood Report 2021 states that partnership funding should be 'equitable and proportionate', however financial arrangements in many partnerships remain unequal, with WT2023 using the same wording as WT2018 in respect of funding. In line with WT2023, future TSCP funding arrangements will be agreed by the LSP, with some additional costs needing to be considered in respect of the formation and maintenance of the partnership's data dashboard and multi-agency training costs that have risen over the last few years in comparison to their previously agreed budgets.

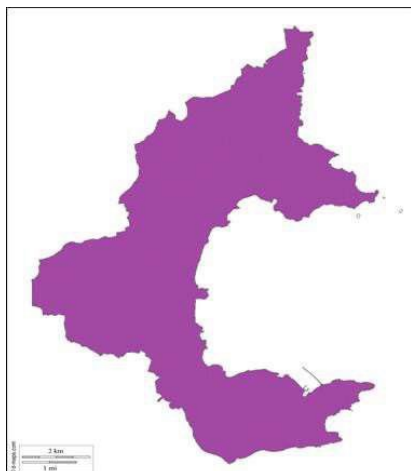


Business Team staffing	£120,217
Independent Scrutineer	£19,558
Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews	£6,325
Contracts Costs (CDOP and tri.x)	£4,393
Other (training, equipment etc)	£47,745

Total = £198,238

The difference in funds relating to training can be accounted for as follows. It was agreed that; £4,296.50 was ringfenced for the AIM Project and rolled over to 2024/25, £6,103.92 covered minimum cost of remaining 6 commissioned exploitation courses scheduled for end of 2023/24 to enable maximum impact and ensure cost not prohibitive to attendance. Children's Services had buoyed the TSCP training budget by oversubscribing for course places by approximately £10,000 and had additionally been charged doubly for cancellations to circa £4,000 (from individual teams as well as via subscription). A margin for the Children's Services Learning & Development Hub staffing for TSCP training coordination, as well as a smaller administration charge is built into course costs, which, if courses are fully subscribed, results in funds to support TSCP costs such as LMS, photocopying and resource materials which would otherwise be absorbed by the Children's Services Learning Academy, these account for the remaining difference.

6 Local Background and Context



Current figures record the population of Torbay as 139,322, living in 62,992 households, an increase of 6.4% from 2011, when the population was 131,000 (2021 Census). This was below the South West average increase during that time of 7.8% and the England average of 6.6%. Torbay had the fifth smallest population increase in the South West between 2011 and 2021, and one significantly below local areas such as East Devon at 13.8% and Exeter at 11.1%. Teignbridge and South Hams had respective increases of 8.5% and 6.6% (2021 Census). The Isles of Scilly was the only local authority area in the South West that had a population decrease during the ten year period under review, however it's low population of approximately 2100 means that it is susceptible to significant percentage population shifts when a relatively small number of people move into or out of the area.

Torbay has a significantly larger population of people aged 50 and over than the England average and therefore smaller proportions of those aged under 50, in particular those aged 20 to 44. Torbay's current average age of 49 years compares to 40 years for England and 44 for the wider South West. This age profile can lead to significantly higher demand for health and care services, which could potentially stretch resources in respect of the provision of services for children. The proportion of the population aged 0 to 17 is projected to fall from 18% to 16% by 2043, it was recorded at 19% in 2021, with those aged between 18 and 64 projected to fall from 55% to 50% by 2043 despite the overall population of Torbay being projected to rise to 153,088 by 2043 (JSNA 2023). The proportion of the population aged 65 and over is expected to rise from 27% to 34% by 2043, with these forecasts being expected to exacerbate the already higher than average demand in Torbay for services for that demographic than is currently being experienced. There has been an increase of 20.6% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 1.4% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 4.2% in children aged under 15 years. The age group showing the largest increase in Torbay between 2011 and 2021 was people aged 70-74, with the increase being 43% (ONS 2021).

The latest figures state that for every person of retirement age in Torbay, there were 2.1 people of working age, compared to the England average of 3.4 working people to each person of retirement age (ONS 2020). The ratio of working age people to those of retirement age in Torbay is expected to continue to decrease and is likely to lead to increased financial challenges for local services, with the older population demographic having the potential to have an adverse effect on funding for services for children and younger families. This is worsened by Torbay having an economy that is highly dependent on tourism and its associated low wage and intermittent employment, with 14% of Torbay residents having a level 4 qualification (degree level) or above, compared to the England average of 20.3% (JSNA 2023/24). Young people in Torbay are more likely to leave their home area to pursue higher paid employment than peers in many other non-coastal urban areas of England (Moving Out to Move On, Social Mobility Commission, 2020). Current projections indicate that Torbay's 16 to 64 year old population is set to fall to approximately 52% by 2041. This wider fall in the working age population could potentially exacerbate worker shortages and have an adverse effect on tax receipts (JSNA 2023).

2011. Torbay has a higher rate of those who classify themselves as White Caucasian than the wider South West region and England. More detailed information on ethnicity within Torbay can be found in the [2021 Census](#). Regarding gender, 51.3% of Torbay's population for the 2021 Census were female, this was a slight fall from 2011 when it was 51.8%. Female to male ratios within Torbay change significantly once reporting refers to those residents aged 80 and over, with 70.5% of the 90+ population being female.

Over the last decade, Torbay has had a high level of school children at its primary and secondary schools with SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) compared to England's national average. For Torbay primary and secondary schools, the number of children with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) is significantly higher than the England average (JSNA 2023). SEND has been a particular focus of services within Torbay during 2023/24, following the Local Area SEND inspection in November 2021. Torbay' SEND team continue to work with partner agencies on the agreed pillars of improvement; 1.SEND is everyone's business 2.Early intervention and lived experience 3.Children's needs and joint commissioning 4.Inclusion 5.Transition and preparing for adulthood.

2023/24 data on hospital admissions as a result of self-harm among 10 to 24 year olds in Torbay was not available at the time this report was written as the 2023/24 JSNA did not include specific data in this area. As previously reported in 2022/23, hospital admissions for this age group were significantly higher than the England average. The pattern of Torbay having significantly higher self-harm rates, that require hospital treatment than the England average has been a consistent theme (JSNA 2023). The rate of hospital admissions of under 18s for alcohol specific conditions within Torbay has also consistently been above South West and England rates (JSNA 2023), with hospital admissions for alcohol-specific conditions across all ages being approximately 50% higher in Torbay than the England average (JSNA 2023/24). The quality of health-related data is expected to increase during the 2024/25 reporting period and will be commented on in more detail within the next TSCP Annual Report. Current health data is not specific to Torbay children as the South Devon NHS Trust does not disaggregate data between children from Torbay and the wider Devon areas within their reporting mechanisms. This risk has been elevated within the TSCP and is a current workstream for resolution within local health systems to enable Torbay health data to be recorded within the TSCP data dashboard and used to inform local practice.

Poverty is a significant concern in Torbay. In 2019, the year for which the most recent data is available, Torbay's deprivation score made it the 38th most deprived upper-tier Local Authority area in England, out of a possible 151, and the most deprived in the South West out of a possible 15 (DoPHAR 2021/22). Torbay has been ranked the most deprived South West upper-tier Local Authority since 2007. 24 of Torbay's 89 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived in England, this was down from 28 in 2015. The 24 areas equated to approximately 27% of the 2019 population. Reducing child neglect is a TSCP priority area that is being reviewed in 2024 as part of wider updates to the TSCP Business Plan. Until there is clear evidence that deprivation in Torbay is significantly declining it may be prudent to retain this priority area due to the known adverse impact of deprivation on children's life chances.

In respect of housing, more than 1 in 4 (27%) of Torbay households live in privately rented accommodation, which is significantly higher than the South West and England rates of 20%. This is combined with Torbay having the lowest level of socially rented accommodation in the South West (Census 2021). On 31st March 2024, Torbay Council had 1,608 households on its housing waiting

list, a reduction from the 1,697 recorded on 31st March 2023. Torbay's homelessness figure has risen significantly in recent years, with data showing it to be above England and South West rates, having been below these as recently as 2016. The number of people rough sleeping in Torbay was also recorded as higher than national and regional rates, with a local rough sleeping and housing strategy being developed. During the current reporting period Torbay Council's Housing Department purchased 30 properties that have been converted for use in emergency housing situations. Children living in temporary accommodation is a reporting measure within the TSCP data dashboard and will be reviewed and risk escalated accordingly if this figure is not safely managed.

Devon and Cornwall Police report that reliable, quantifiable data was not available for the duration of the 2023/24 reporting cycle and as in 2022/23 the police have not been able to provide data for agencies to be able to use in annual reports. However, it is envisaged that the NICHE recording system, implemented in November 2022, will be operational in the summer of 2024 and data should be available for the 2024/25 TSCP Annual Report. Data on crime figures and domestic abuse in Torbay is therefore unchanged from that presented in the 2021/22 TSCP Annual Report.

Children in Need or subject of Child Protection Enquiries and Planning

The rate of referrals per 10,000 children in Torbay in 2023/24 was 752. This is higher than the statistical neighbour (SN) rate of 715, and significantly higher than the England average Local Authority figure of 545. (Note: all comparisons to SN and England data are to the previous year, 2022/23, as more recent data is not yet published). Although the rate of referrals per 10,000 children has generally been reducing in Torbay since the first TSCP Annual Report in 2020/21, the pattern of Torbay's referral rate being higher than SN and significantly higher than the England average remains a consistent theme that may be linked to local demographics and indices of deprivation.

The proportion of referrals from schools in Torbay dropped by three percentage points in 2023/24 to 16%, which is eight percentage points below the SN average and four percentage points below the England figure for 2022/23. The proportion of referrals from Health rose in 2023/24, by three percentage points; this was the fifth consecutive yearly rise and is now noticeably above the SN and England averages. The proportion of referrals from the Police in 2023/24 increased by two percentage points to 28%, roughly in line with the police five-year average. This rate is above the SN but slightly below the England averages from 2022/23. To summarise, in 2023/24 there was a reduction in the number of referrals made by schools and an increase from health and the police. At present there is no analysis for these data sets, with the impact of TESS on school referrals and the local authority's Early Help strategy and Family Hubs on others potentially being a factor but unknown. Further analysis of TSCP data should be possible once the partnership's data dashboard is fully operational.

The number of Torbay Children in Need, as per the DFE definition relating to all children open with any case status, as of 31/03/24 decreased to 1296 from the previous year's figure of 1630, recorded on 31/03/23, a decrease of 20%. SN and England comparator data continues to evidence that Torbay has a consistently higher proportion of Children in Need than many other Local Authority areas, although the number has declined in each of the last three years. The most recent 2022/23 data comparisons to this year show that Torbay has a Child in Need rate 17% higher than the SN figure of 429 and 46% higher than the England average of 343.

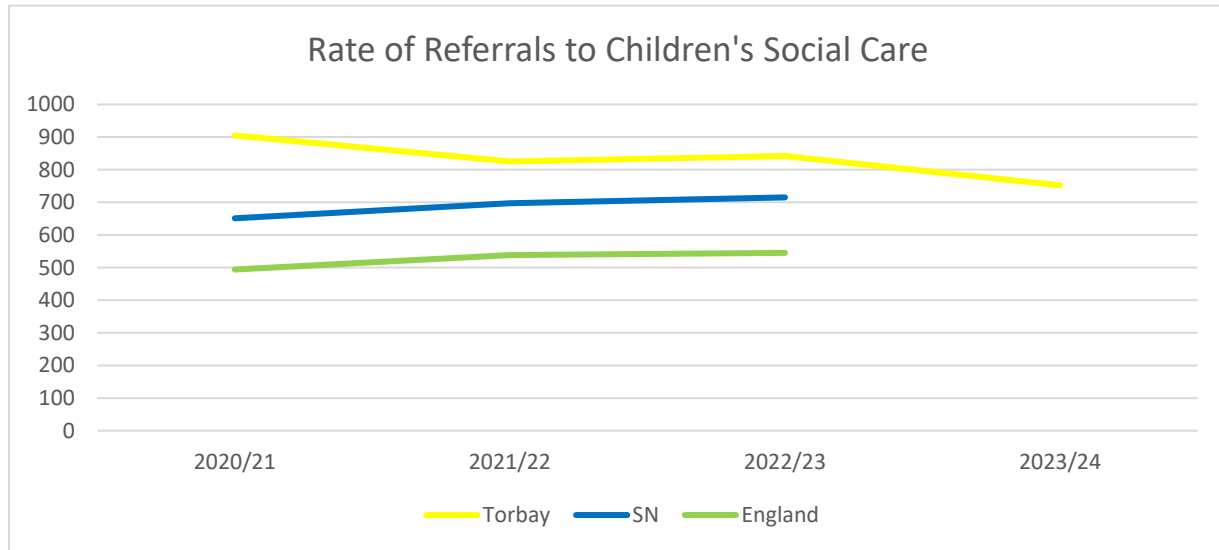
There were 163 children subject to child protection plans in Torbay on 31/03/2024, which is a rate of 65 per 10,000 children. This is 8% higher than the 2022/23 figure of 60 and 5% above the SN figure of 62 for the previous period. The number of Torbay children subject to child protection plans is 51% higher than the England average of 43 per 10,000 children, a considerable difference that has been consistent for the last three years. The number of child protection plans starting in Torbay in 2023/24 was 194. This is slightly lower than the previous year when 213 child protection plans began. The rate of child protection plans starting in Torbay in 2023/24 was 77 per 10,000 children, which is below last year's SN average of 85 but significantly above last year's England average of 54. The number of child protection plans ceasing in Torbay in 2023/24 was 183, a continuing reduction from the previous three years and roughly in line with the number of plans starting.

At 67%, neglect remained by far the most common recorded category of abuse for children in receipt of a child protection plan in Torbay on 31/03/2024, a percentage that is almost double that recorded in March 2021, when the figure was 36%, although slightly reduced from last year's 74% total. The second most common category recorded on 31/03/2024 was 'multiple' at 18%. This is the first year where this category has been second highest as it was emotional abuse for the previous two years. Torbay often records exploitation under the category of neglect and this may be a factor in the high number of children with neglect recorded as their category of abuse, although the category should be bespoke to the young person in question. There is a current TSCP workstream focused on contextual safeguarding, with part of that work investigating the potential to create a new category of 'contextual' child protection plan which would be considered restorative for parents/carers and reduce the number of child protection plans under the category of neglect. Emotional abuse remains a declining child protection category and the other two categories of abuse, physical and sexual, remain low in number and are therefore susceptible to the effects of sibling group size impacting on data. Although there were no children recorded in Torbay in March 2024 subject to child protection planning under the category of physical abuse, it should be noted that physical abuse may be present, and the category recorded as 'multiple', or physical abuse may be considered a secondary category. The local authority will be undertaking a review of child protection categories within the 2024/25 reporting period.

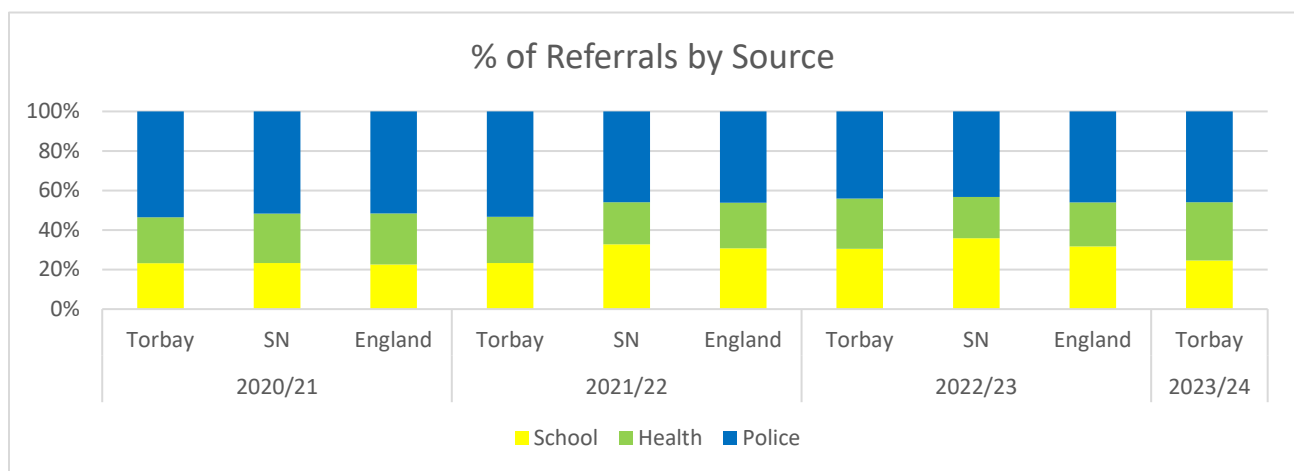
There were 1206 strategy meetings held in Torbay in 2023/24, with 94% of these being quorate. This compares to 2022/23 when a total of 1273 strategy meetings were held, with a quoracy rate of 96%. There were 603 initial and review Child Protection Conferences held in Torbay in 2023/24, however quoracy for these was only 79%, a decrease from 83% recorded during the previous year. This will require further investigation as quoracy is expected to be 100% and this concern has been reported on previously. Data in respect of quoracy is not available for SN and England comparison but is reported on within the TSCP data dashboard to inform local practice.

All Children in Need/Child Protection data has been provided by the local authority as police and health data systems were unable to provide accurate information within the current reporting period. However, both agencies are currently reviewing their data systems and aim to provide data to support the 2024/25 TSCP Annual Report. The improved new data system used by the local authority has highlighted some small discrepancies within historic data sets, but these are not reported to be significant enough to have influenced reporting trends. Statistical Neighbour and England data sets have been checked and their accuracies confirmed.

1. Number and Rate of Referrals to Children's Social Care					
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total number of referrals	Torbay	2288	2085	2126	1899
Rate of referrals per 10,000	Torbay	905	826	842	752
(SN = Statistical Neighbour)	SN	651	697	715	-
	England	494	538	545	-

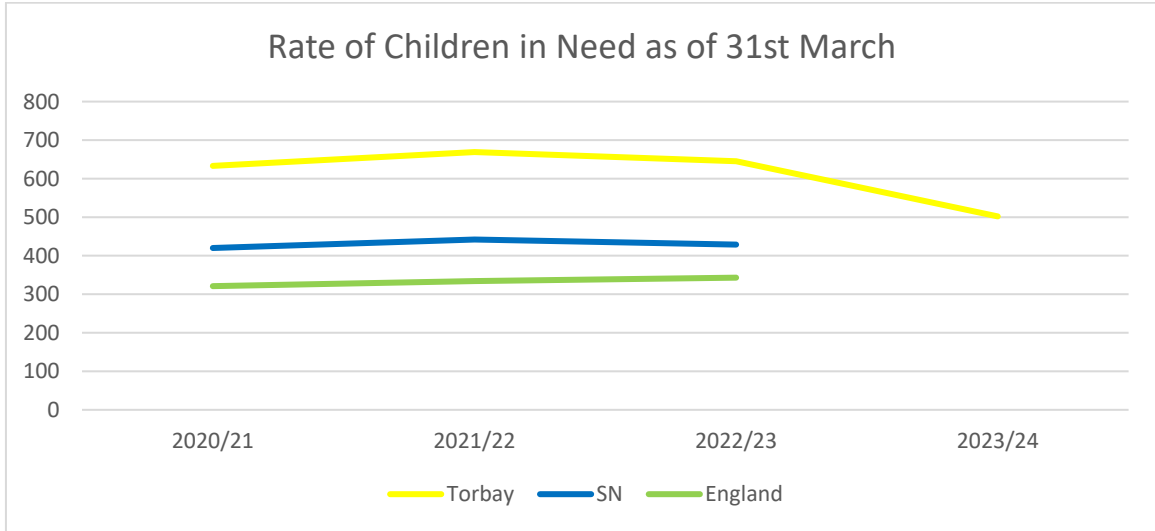


2. Referrals to Children's Social Care by Source										
	2020/21			2021/22			2022/23			2023/24
	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay
School	13%	14%	14%	17%	20%	20%	19%	24%	20%	16%
Health	12%	15%	16%	13%	13%	15%	15%	14%	14%	18%
Police	29%	31%	33%	26%	28%	30%	26%	23%	29%	28%



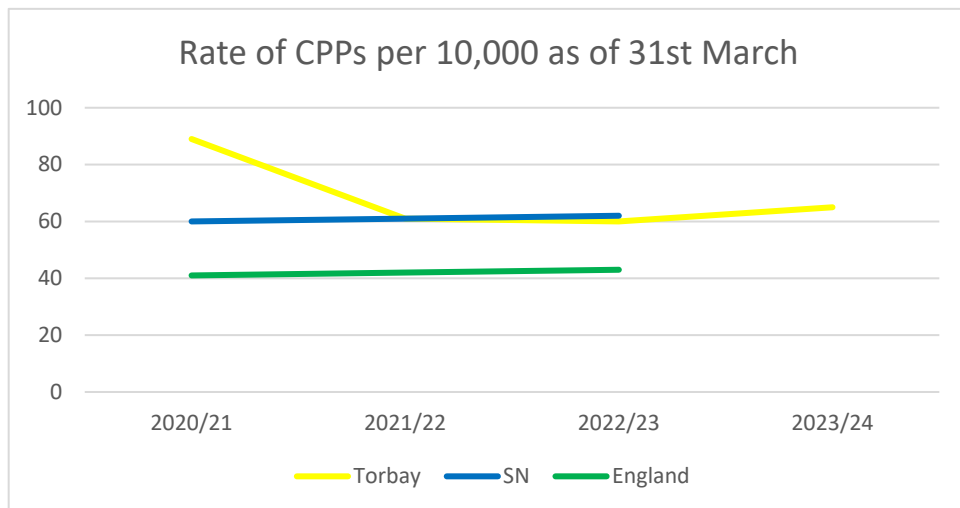
3. Number and Rate of Children in Need (CIN) as of 31st March

		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of Children in Need	Torbay	1619	1705	1630	1296
Rate of Children in Need per 10,000	Torbay	633	669	645	502
	SN	420	442	429	-
	England	321	334	343	-

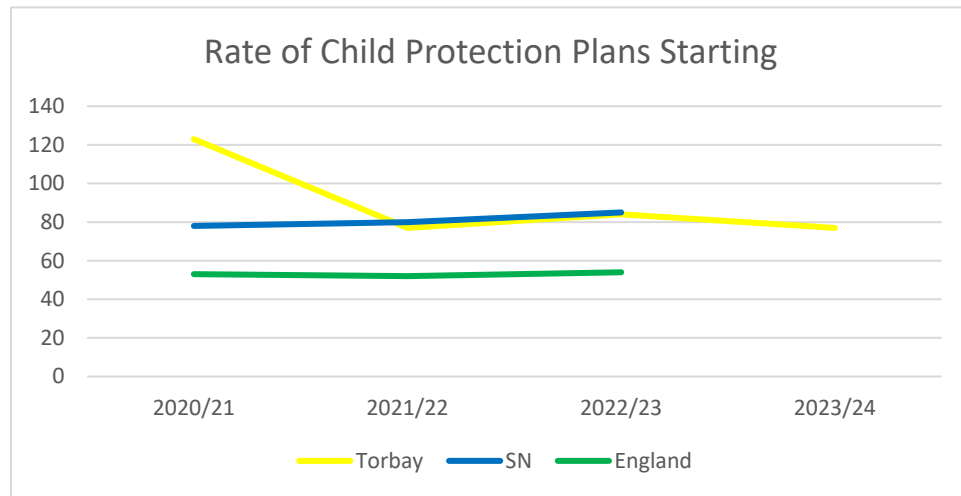


4. Number and Rate of Child Protection (CP) Plans as of 31st March

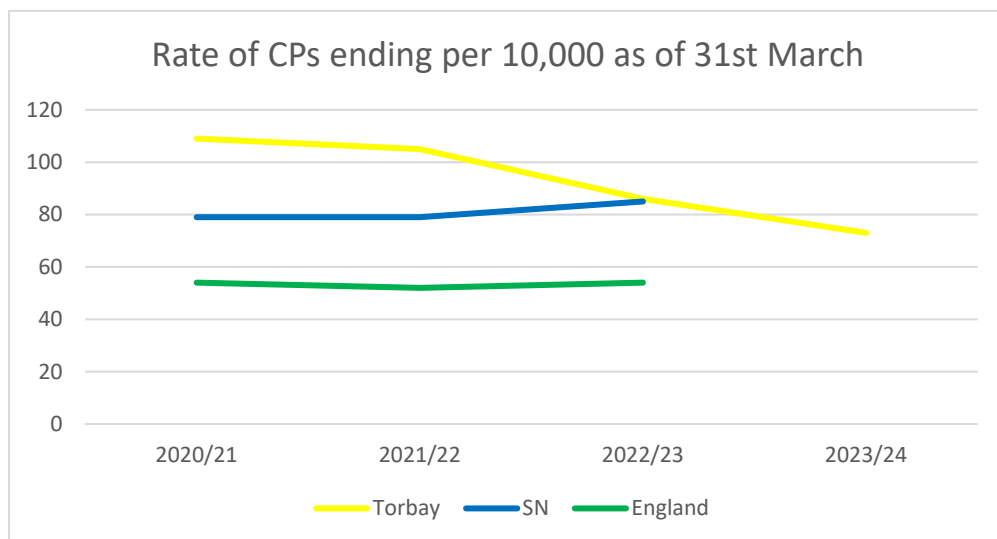
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of CP plans	Torbay	224	153	152	163
Rate of CP plans per 10,000	Torbay	89	61	60	65
	SN	60	61	62	-
	England	41	42	43	-



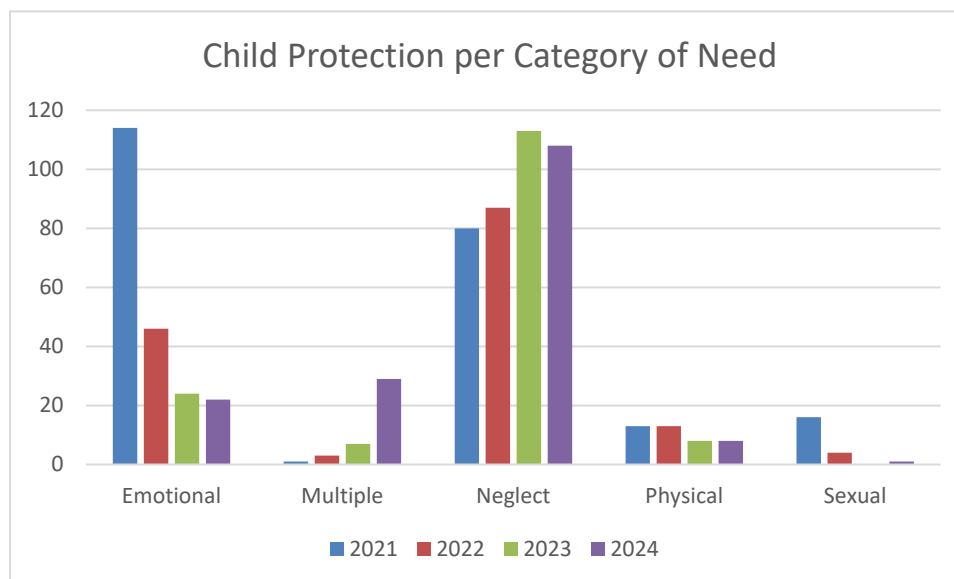
5. Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans Starting					
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of CP plans starting	Torbay	310	195	213	194
Rate of CP plans starting per 10,000	Torbay	123	77	84	77
	SN	78	80	85	-
	England	53	52	54	-



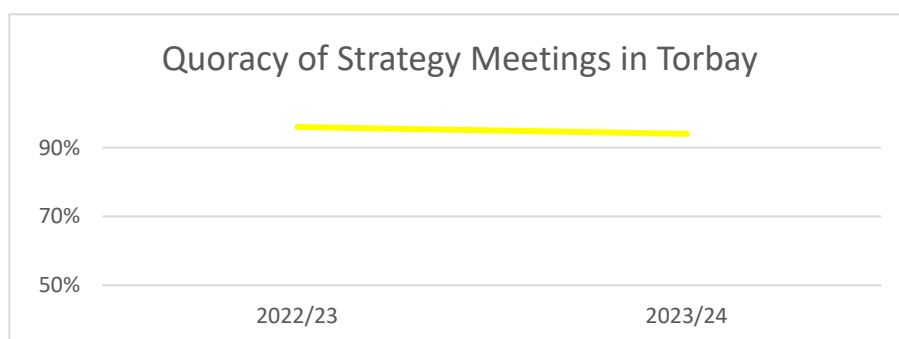
6. Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans Ending					
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of CP plans ending	Torbay	277	266	216	183
Rate of CP plans ending per 10,000	Torbay	109	105	86	73
	SN	79	79	85	-
	England	54	52	54	-



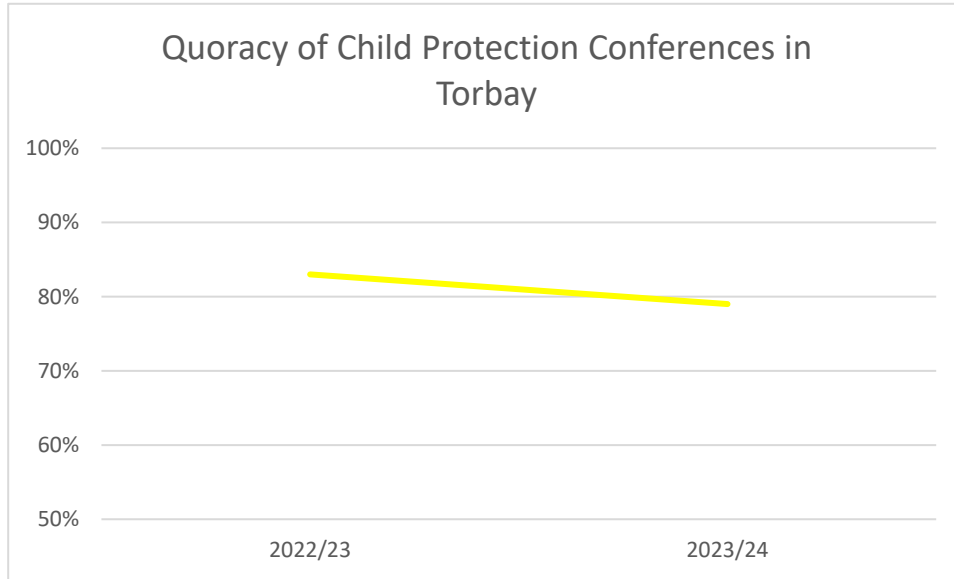
7. Child Protection Plans by Category of Need as of 31 st March								
	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Emotional	114	51%	46	30%	24	16%	22	13%
Multiple	1	0%	3	2%	7	5%	29	18%
Neglect	80	36%	87	57%	113	74%	110	67%
Physical	13	6%	13	8%	8	5%	0	0%
Sexual	16	7%	4	3%	0	0%	2	1%
Total	224		153		152		163	



8. Quoracy of Strategy Meetings				
		2022/23	2023/24	
Number of meetings	Torbay	1273	1206	
Percentage of quorate meetings	Torbay	96%	94%	
	SN	-	-	
	England	-	-	



9. Quoracy of Child Protection Conferences (Initial and Review)				
		2022/23	2023/24	
Number of meetings	Torbay	703	603	
Percentage of quorate meetings	Torbay	83%	79%	
	SN	-	-	
	England	-	-	



7 Statutory Reviews and Other Audits

Between 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2024 the TSCP received four Serious Incident Notification (SIN) referrals, covering six children, these children being individually coded C104 to C109. This was a drop from the seven referrals noted in last year's Annual Report and is a continuation in the pattern of reducing serious incidents being reported to the TSCP. There is no suggestion that this reduction in referrals indicates any form of concern as all potential incidents are reviewed by the partnership. However, the reduction may indicate an improving local understanding of serious incident criteria and the effectiveness of the TSCP's multi-agency SIN threshold reviewing process. All SIN referrals are reviewed via this mechanism within the first five working days of the referral being submitted, with all these meetings being quorate and occurring within timescale during the current reporting period.

Only one of the 2023/24 referrals met the criteria for undertaking a Rapid Review (RR), with all learning being identified at that stage of the process which obviated the need for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR). The other three referrals led to After Action Reviews (AAR), which is a form of learning review devised by the TSCP that follows the Rapid Review process in respect of information gathering and analysis but without the 15-day statutory timescale. Learning from all TSCP reviews is managed and reviewed by the CSPR Panel and Quality Assurance Group, with learning not deemed to be complete until there is evidence of it being embedded into local practice.

C104 AAR

SIN referral from the TSCP QA Group chair reporting concerns that C104 had suffered extensive injuries following an attempted suicide. SIN threshold was not deemed met as the incident/injuries were not attributable to abuse or neglect. AAR commissioned as learning was believed to be evident.

C105-C107 AAR

SIN referral from CAF/CASS reporting concerns that the children were living in a household in which there were high levels of neglect. SIN threshold was not met due to there being no evidence of chronic neglect leading to enduring, life changing harm. AAR commissioned to review related local multi-agency practice and implement any learning identified.

C108

SIN referral from Devon and Cornwall police following the death of C108. The referral did not meet SIN criteria as abuse was not suspected, and neglect was not believed to be evidenced to the required SIN threshold. Learning was agreed to be reviewed and incorporated into local practice via existing CDOP processes.

C109 RR

SIN referral from Devon and Cornwall police following the death of C109. Rapid Review held due to neglect being suspected to be a contributory factor to the death. The TSCP recommended to National Panel that all learning had been identified within the Rapid Review process, with that recommendation being endorsed by the Panel.

Impact of Learning

The impact of learning and subsequent actions in Torbay from Rapid Reviews, After Action Reviews and both local and national CSPRs continues to be overseen within the TSCP structure. Review recommendations, actions and agreed learning from reviews are collated onto a central database that is reviewed and updated by the TSCP's CSPR Panel during its bi-monthly meetings. Relevant learning is shared across the partnership, to individual agencies and sub-groups where appropriate. Where auditing is required to review local practice/procedures and ensure learning has become embedded, this is actioned and reviewed by the TSCP Quality Assurance Group. Updates and learning plans are then presented for ratification at the Business and Executive Groups and shared with the wider partnership to be actioned.

In August 2023, the TSCP published a Local CSPR, C101, following serious unexplained injuries to an eight week old baby. The learning from the CSPR was expanded by the Chair of the partnership's CSPR Panel to include a Gap Analysis of local services in respect of National Panel's research entitled 'The Myth of Invisible Men'. This Gap Analysis enhanced learning from the C101 CSPR across the partnership and will be used to inform future single agency and whole TSCP learning events.

During the 2023/24 reporting period, the TSCP undertook a Multi-Agency Case Audit (MACA) with the theme of Child Criminal Exploitation. The findings of the Child Criminal Exploitation MACA resulted in learning that was shared across the partnership and presented at the TSCP Annual Conference in March 2024. The proposed mental health/emotional wellbeing MACA was extended into a full Thematic Review, to include participation by children and young people, however on review this reverted back to a MACA and has crossed into the 2024/25 reporting period so will be reported on in the next TSCP Annual Report.

Following the success of the first TSCP conference in January 2023 the TSCP Executive Group requested a second annual TSCP Conference, which was held on 15th March 2024. The conference was themed on the new WT2023 arrangements and findings from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) that was undertaken in November 2023 by a multi-agency inspection team that reviewed and evaluated the arrangements of Torbay safeguarding partners in respect of 'the multi-agency response to identification of initial need and risk'. Other agenda items covered at the conference were child exploitation, professional curiosity and GCP2 assessment updates. As in 2023, the annual conference was also live streamed to enable hybrid access, with 173 delegates watching the conference online, both on the day and subsequently via the ilearn online portal, and 103 attending in person.

8 Child Death Overview Arrangements

Child death reviewing arrangements in Torbay form part of the regional South West Peninsula Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). This service remained commissioned to Livewell Southwest within the reporting year 2023/24.

Child death review partners are defined in section 16Q of the Children Act 2004, which for the South West Peninsula CDOP are:

- Cornwall Council
- Council of the Isles of Scilly
- Devon County Council
- Plymouth City Council
- Torbay Council
- NHS Devon ICB
- NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly ICB

The child death review arrangements operate in line with the requirements of the statutory guidance, WT2023, and the Child Death Review: Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) 2018. Within these arrangements, Devon and Cornwall Police join the child death review partners to form quoracy. The child death review process is defined by four stages following the death of a child:

1. Immediate decision making and notifications.
2. Investigation and information gathering.
3. Child Death Review Meeting (CDRM).
4. Independent review of the child death by the CDOP.

The TSCP were represented at CDOP by NHS Devon ICB during 2023/24 via arrangements that were agreed in May 2022. The ICB representative presents CDOP learning at the TSCP's bi-monthly Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, and this is actioned/disseminated to partners or other sub-groups as required. The outcomes of the TSCPs interventions are then fed back to the CDOP by the ICB representative to complete the learning cycle. Assurance of the child death arrangements is a function of the TSCP Executive Group.

9 Learning and Development Summary

Key Performance Indicators

Overall, 1360 training places were available this year (a decrease of 36% compared to available course places in the previous year) and 787 places were accessed. The percentage uptake (total places accessed compared to total places available) is slightly higher than last year, at 58%.

The average number of places attended compared to the number of places booked (due to late cancellations or no-shows) has decreased slightly again to 80%.

New courses

The Project M exploitation courses commissioned in 2022 (for which initial dates were cancelled due to poor uptake) were re-listed for 2023/24. Although course numbers were initially minimal, a directive for wider statutory partner attendance from the Executive Group and paying for March-April course places from the TSCP training budget enabled greater attendance and multi-agency discussion across all partners, evidencing that the course content and provision is welcomed.

Procurement for Level 3 Safeguarding training has been undertaken, with the aim of a new contract commencing from May 2024.

Training Offer

Information on training can be found on the [Training - Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) website page. The training offer available to support practitioners' continuous professional development, with current courses and e-learning, is listed here: [Training - Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Links to further training opportunities for practitioners working with children and young people are also available from the same TSCP training page, including practitioner training around young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Further supporting resources are available on the TSCP [learning and development resources page](#).

In addition to the courses detailed under 'Attendance Data' below, the following e-learning is available:

- Honour Based Abuse (inc. Forced Marriage)
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Cuckooing
- County Lines Awareness
- Whistle-blowing with confidence
- Level 1 – Induction to safeguarding children and adults
- Level 2 – Introduction to Child Protection
- Introduction to Safeguarding Adults
- Introduction to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Introduction to MARAC
- Introduction to Sexual Violence Disclosures
- Introduction to Online Safety
- An Introduction to Trans-Awareness

- Self-Harm Awareness
- LGBTQI Awareness
- An Introduction to Trans Awareness
- Drug & Alcohol Awareness
- PREVENT (counter terrorism) Level 1 (Awareness) and Level 2 (Enhanced) Training
- Modern Slavery
- MAPPA Awareness

Further to courses commissioned directly by the TSCP, as One Children’s Service, Torbay Children’s Services and Local Area also continue to work to adopt Restorative Practice, a strength-based approach that recognises that building a positive relationship with children, young people and families who need support is important – acknowledging that listening to children, young people and families and working ‘with’ rather than doing things ‘for’ or ‘to’ people is the best way we can help support. Further details can be found here: [Restorative Practice - Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership](#). Torbay Children Services offer free Restorative Practice training to all partner agencies, which includes:

- [Restorative Practice Awareness](#)
- [Restorative Language Workshop](#)

Attendance Data

Course	Number of Courses delivered	Places Available	Booked	Attended	Attendance Rate	Places Booked Vs Available
Best Practice Forum: TSCP Conference 2024	1	150	133	103	71%	89%
Level 3 Safeguarding Children Foundation	7	238	219	187	85%	92%
Level 3 Safeguarding Children Refresher	22	280	198	172	87%	71%
Child Exploitation in Torbay	1	16	9	7	78%	56%
Project M Exploitation Courses New	12	272	159	126	79%	58%
DASH Risk Assessment	4	80	72	46	64%	90%
DARAC Training	5	72	48	38	79%	67%
GCP2 Training	6	108	95	69	73%	88%
CSPR Learning Events	0	/	/	/	/	/
Introduction to Family Group Conferences	4	64	40	32	80%	63%
















AIM Project (HSB)	4	80	41	37	90%	51%
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Course Evaluation Responses

This was the second year of the TSCP Conference, which was again well-received – attendance increased by 27% and feedback responses have also slightly increased since its introduction. Evaluation forms were open to all, including both live online and in-person attendees.

The level three safeguarding courses have continued to be well attended – the number of evaluations returned has improved greatly from 2022-23 and resulting learner actions completed remain high. The feedback on the pre-course online e-learning also remains high, with 99% stating it has supported the trainer-led sessions.

As shown below, there has been an overall improvement in the number of initial course evaluations completed – which is excellent, as this shows the majority of attendees are following up course sessions and able to access online resources and supporting materials.

Course Evaluations Returned <i>*Arrows indicate trend direction of returns compared to previous year</i>	Initial Evaluation	Impact Evaluation (12 weeks)
Best Practice Forum: TSCP Conference 2024 (32 live event responses; 1 from livestream recording)	32% (up from 27% in 2023) 	N/A
Safeguarding Children Foundation	81% 	53% 
Safeguarding Children Refresher	93% 	76% 
Exploitation Courses: Child Exploitation in Torbay New Child Sexual Exploitation (Project M) New Child Criminal Exploitation (Project M) New Modern Slavery and the NRM (Project M) New Children and Young People Who Go Missing (Project M)	- 55% 40% 47% 46%	- 36% 23% 24% 29%
DASH Risk Assessment Training	76% 	72% 
DARAC Training	97% 	74% 
Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) Training	77% 	71% 
CSPR Learning Events	-	-
Introduction to Family Group Conferences	63% 	63% 
AIM Project: Harmful Sexual Behaviours	51% 	32% 

10 Allegations Against People that Work with Children

WT2023 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 (KCSI), revised 01/09/2023, place a responsibility on all Local Authorities in England to identify a designated officer (LADO) who is involved in the management and oversight of individual cases of allegations of abuse made against those who work with children. The role of the LADO is to give advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations and liaise with the police and other agencies to monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible and are consistent, with a thorough and fair process.

Torbay Council ensures effective management oversight of the LADO, including quality assurance, LADO supervision, dealing with developing areas of concern in individual professional cases and facilitating improvements in LADO practice.

A more detailed overview of the work of the LADO in Torbay during this reporting year can be found within the [2023/24 LADO Annual Report](#).

11 Glossary

AMM	Allegation Management Meeting
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CDRM	Child Death Review Meeting
CNO	Chief Nursing Officer
CSPR	Child Safeguarding Practice Review
CYPEG	Children and Young People Exploitation Group
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DfE	Department for Education
DoPHAR	Torbay Director of Public Health Annual Report
DSP	Delegated Safeguarding Partner
EHCP	Education, Health, and Care Plan
GCP2	Graded Care Profile 2
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
ICB	Integrated Care Board
IS	Independent Scrutineer
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspection
KCSIE	Keeping Children Safe in Education
LA	Local Authority
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
LSP	Lead Safeguarding Partner
MACA	Multi-Agency Case Audit
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
NCMD	National Child Mortality Database
NHS	National Health Service
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SIN	Serious Incident Notification
SN	Statistical Neighbour
TESS	Torbay Education Support Service
TSCB	Torbay Safeguarding Children Board
TSCP	Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership
TCSP	Torbay Community Safety Partnership
THRIVE	Therapeutic, Habit, Relational, Individual, Values and Emotional factors
Wood Report 2021	Government review of new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
WT2018	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
WT2023	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
29/7/24	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the Torbay Youth Justice Board be recommended to find suitable resources to enable the Targeted Prevention Programme to continue post March 2025 when the existing funding streams cease as this is a demonstrated invest to save project which reduces the numbers of young people offending as well as exploring other potential funding opportunities to support the Youth Justice Service; and 2. that the Clerk be requested to write to the Chief Executive Officer of Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and the Police and Crime Commissioner on behalf of the Sub-Board to raise concerns about the lack of a partnership approach to finding suitable accommodation for the Youth Justice Service and encourage wider partnership working for the benefit of our children and young people. 	<p>Report from Board to be submitted to Jon Ralf on 19.8.24 to go to the Youth Justice Board.</p> <p>The scrutiny panel report and its recommendations were shared with the Youth Justice Service Strategic Board at its meeting on 3 September 2024. Both elements of the recommendations were discussed at that meeting, below is a short summary of what was discussed and agreed: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resources for the continuation of the Prevention service – two reports were presented to the board re this matter on the performance of the service and an options paper of the ways forward. The board supported the continuation of the Prevention service, but no funding had been identified at that time. There was a decision to create a small working group lead by Nancy Meehan to develop an 'Invest to Save' bid with all statutory partners. This is yet to take place but some exploratory work has been completed 2. Identifying a suitable location for face-to-face delivery work – a building has now been identified and initial costing and scoping work has been carried out and the building looks feasible. The board instructed me to progress the detail of the development to the next stage

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
			<p>by developing more detailed plans, costing and confirming the financial arrangements of the capital funding. This work is now in progress.</p> <p>Teresa to prepare a letter with support from Nancy/Chairman – complete sent on 17.9.24.</p>
29/7/24	5	was there any data on absence during exam seasons for children with SEND (a written update on the data to see if there was a link with the exam aged students and absence was requested).	Rachel Setter to provide an update 17.9.2024 NM emailed RS requesting information – Teresa emailed 1.10.24
29/7/24	5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that future reports include the number of children coming off a part time timetable; and 2. that the Director of Children’s Services be requested to explore with partners, including the voluntary and community sector, what support parents might need to enable discussions with professionals about attendance. 	<p>Complete note added to Work Programme</p> <p>Nancy to provide an update – Teresa emailed 1.10.24</p>
29/7/24	8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board supports the development of a financial business case to seek investment in the Young Carers’ Service to ensure that it remains sustainable for the Young Carers within Torbay; 2. that the Director of Children’s Services be requested to consider writing to NHS and Adult 	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		<p>Social Care Partners to demonstrate the costs saved by Young Carers and if they would consider contributing towards the Young Carers Service; and</p> <p>3. that the Director of Children's Services be requested to consider exploring options to fund a free bus pass for Young Carers for school holidays.</p>	<p>Nancy to provide an update – Teresa emailed 1.10.24</p>
23/9/24	12	<p>That the Cabinet be requested to continue to support young people, ensuring young people have a voice and access to support in Torbay, and to ensure that the welfare of Torbay Council staff and the staff teams working with young people in Torbay is considered within decision making, planning and communications going forward.</p>	<p>Report sent to the Cabinet 26 November 2024 meeting 1.10.24.</p>
23/9/24	13	<p>A written response would be provided on what involvement children and young people have in the selection process for 0-19 contract.</p>	<p>Ian Tyson to provide an update – emailed 1.10.24.</p>
23/9/24	15	<p>1. that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board note the contents of the submitted report and the plans for next steps to review the existing Pledge;</p> <p>2. that an updated Children and Young People's Pledge is scheduled on the agenda for the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board meeting in 4 months time; and</p>	<p>1. Noted – Complete</p> <p>2. Complete added to the Work Programme 27 January 2024</p> <p>3. Nancy to support arrangements to meet with young people – Teresa emailed 1.10.24.</p>

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		3. that an informal meeting be arranged with our Cared for Young People and the Sub-Board on the development of the revised Pledge.	
23/9/24	17	That the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group be requested to update the invite list to include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="510 571 1308 715">1. Torbay Council Scrutiny Representatives – Chair of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board and Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator; and <li data-bbox="510 756 1308 855">2. Invitees – Director of Children’s Services, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and Democratic Services Team Leader. 	Teresa wrote to the Regional Adoption Agency on 1.10.24 - complete