

**Meeting:** Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub Board

**Date:** 5 September 2024

**Wards affected:** All

**Report Title:** Annual Director of Public Health report 2024: Women's Health

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** As soon as possible.

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## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 This paper outlines the key themes and recommendations from the forthcoming Annual Director of Public Health report which focuses on the health and wellbeing of women.
- 1.2 The report has been informed by interviews and engagement with community groups and organisations, commissioned services, peer networks and individuals living in Torbay. This has been supported by further research and evidence.
- 1.3 The full findings and supporting films of interviews will be presented to strategic leads, contributors and stakeholders at a launch event on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October in Paignton.
- 1.4 The report will outline future strategic areas of focus for improving health and wellbeing of women recognising the benefits to the wider population in Torbay.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver our vision of a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay. The Directors Annual report strategically aligns to all key themes of Community and People, Pride in Place and Economic growth.
- 2.2 Women make up 51.3% of the Torbay population. Despite progress made, taking a focus on women is as important as ever as gender and sex-based barriers to health remain.

Taking time to focus on these barriers as well as facilitators and enablers means that recommended actions for senior leaders and decision makers can be smarter, sharper and more effective.

2.3 Gender based violence, biases, prejudice, misogyny and discrimination – whether conscious or unconscious continue to pervade within society. Outdated stereotypes about women’s roles can hold back the potential of men and women when it comes to family life, employment, education and health and wellbeing.

2.4 By exploring sex and gender-based issues within Torbay, this report aims to inform a series of recommendations which will create the conditions to address health inequalities and disparities and improve outcomes for all.

2.5 The reasons for the proposal and need for the decision are to support and endorse the themes and recommendations for the 2024 Annual Director of Public Health Report.

### 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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3.1 The current draft recommendations within this report are intended to be broad, strategic and inclusive to all directorates within Torbay Council and the Health and Wellbeing Board including strategic partners.

3.2. The draft themes emerging from interviews and research are:

- Women, employment and household labour
- Working with vulnerable women
- Discrimination, inclusion and exclusion
- Connecting with communities
- Reproductive Health
- Barriers to being physically active

3.3 The recommendations for the Adult Social Care and Health Sub-Board to consider are:

That the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board notes the Director of Health’s Annual report 2024: Women’s Health and that the Cabinet be requested to support:

1. development of flexible and inclusive employment practices to reflect and encourage women into education and employment;
2. raising awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on women who experience it, and the sensitivity of response needed to meet their needs;

3. improvement to access, experience and outcomes for women's healthcare through Torbay's women's health hub;
4. recognition and support of grass roots women's groups and activities as integral components of mental health and wellbeing provision;
5. development of integrated service delivery pathways for women's health care, reducing the need to attend multiple appointments for routine health care; and
6. development of inclusive approaches that facilitate and support girls and women to become more physically active.

## Supporting Information

### 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 Focusing on women's health opens further opportunities to centre our understanding of the causes, opportunities, and solutions for improving outcomes for all residents. For example, women in Torbay live slightly longer than men, but are more likely to spend longer in poor health. Our rates of domestic violence and sexual assault demonstrate that women are at significantly higher risk of being subject to such behaviours, either on our streets or in homes.
- 1.2 This report is intended to go beyond describing the issues and seeks to set a course of direction which will support our local areas of strength and potential, as well as outlining opportunities to work together within the council and with external partners to address disparities amongst Torbay residents.

### 2. Options under consideration

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- 2.1 Not applicable

### 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

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- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report.
- 3.2 By adopting the recommendations, the economic outcomes for women and families can be improved in the long term for Torbay.

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications for this report.
- 4.2 By adopting the recommendations of this report, Torbay will be demonstrating its commitment to gender equality and its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 5.1 A broad range of community organisations focussed on women and girls have been approached and engaged in co-creating and influencing the content of this report.
- 5.2 The views of a range of different girls and women in Torbay have informed the report narrative, but where contributors have felt able to, we have invited them to participate in film content.
- 5.3 Film contributors have been invited to the launch event to see the impact of their participation with decision makers and strategic leads in Torbay and Devon.

## 6. Procurement Implications

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- 6.1 There are no direct or immediate procurement implications as a result of this report

## 7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

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- 7.1 There are no direct environmental or climate change impacts as a result of this report.

## 8. Associated Risks

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- 8.1 There are no significant associated risks as a result of this report.

## 9. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	<p>18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old.</p> <p>55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old.</p> <p>27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.</p>	<p>This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on women of all ages and stages of the life course.</p>	None	
Carers	<p>At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.</p>	<p>This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on women.</p>	None	
Disability	<p>In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.</p>	<p>This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on women</p>	None	
Gender reassignment	<p>In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community</p>	<p>This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on</p>	None	

	<p>answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.</p>	<p>women, trans and non-binary people in Torbay.</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<p>Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.</p>	<p>This report and its recommendations is unlikely to have either a positive or negative impact on those in a marriage or civil partnership or none. No differential impact.</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<p>Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.</p>	<p>This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on women and pregnant people.</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>Race</p>	<p>In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.</p>	<p>This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on women from minority ethnic groups and populations.</p>	<p>None</p>	

Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	This report and its recommendations are unlikely to have either a positive or negative impact upon populations with a stated faith or religion, or none. No differential impact.	None	
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on women. It is likely to improve outcomes for men too, but the report is focussed on females in Torbay.	None	
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on women, including Lesbian and Bisexual Women.	None	
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.	No differential impact.	None	
<b>Additional considerations</b>				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		This report and recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on women and girls and support deeper solutions to addressing generational poverty and deprivation.	None	

Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on the social and wider determinants of health, specifically those of women and girls in Torbay.	None	
Human Rights impacts		This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on Human Rights, particularly gender and sex-based rights.	None	
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.	This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on girls and women and families across Torbay.	None	



## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

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- 10.1 A potential cumulative impact for the council is the possibility of improving lives and outcomes for women in Torbay. This can have a positive knock on for revenue and benefits, adult social care, children's social care, place based and community and environmental services and demand.

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

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- 11.1 A potential cumulative impact for communities could be improved community cohesion, social mobility and impact for small and large grass roots and VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) organisations within Torbay.