

The report template does not lend itself to be able to answer the proposed question. I have taken elements of the report template to ensure that we try to reach the same intended outcome

Meeting: [Overview and Scrutiny – Children and Young People](#)

Date: [Click here and enter date](#)

Wards affected: [All wards](#)

Report Title: [Youth Provision in Torbay](#)

What we were asked to report on:

Youth Provision in Torbay - *To receive an update on the direction of travel for the review of youth provision and consider how the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board can contribute towards the review and add value, to include Youth Improvement Fund, youth work including sport, leisure and culture, accessibility to play park and Holiday, Activities and Food (HAF).*

The last update report was written in October 2023.

The current youth provision under the Youth Hub in Children's Services:

- Youth Service
- Young Carers Service
- HAF
- Community Youth Clubs

Proposed developments:

- YIF

Youth Service:

As a small team, we have continued to deliver 1-1 youth work, group sessions, and holiday programmes for young people 11+ in Torbay. We are recruiting for a new part-time Youth Support Worker as one of the Senior Youth Workers has reduced their working hours, which we are hoping will bring some new energy and offer a bit more flexibility to cover leave or sickness within the team.

We have and continue to deliver weekly drop-in sessions at [Parkfield](#) in partnership with [Reach Outdoors](#), [Torquay United Community Sports Trust](#) and have recently welcomed the [YMCA](#) to become part of those sessions. We have also delivered and continue to deliver drop-in sessions on Saturdays at [Chill'd Out](#), a weekly young women's group called She N Us and a Tabletop Role Play group (TTRP) who meet weekly at Chill'd Out also.

Young Carers Service:

The O&S Group have received a recent update on the service, so please see that report for the detail regarding the service, however since meeting we have delivered activities over the summer and are working with the [Orchard Forest School](#) and the [Babbacombe and St Marychurch Lions](#) to deliver young carer and family activities up until the end of the financial year.

The Service Manager has been off on long-term sickness for over 6 months which has created some additional pressure on the existing team.

Youth Service and Young Carers Service staffing:

A Change Paper is being developed to ensure all staff are on Torbay Council terms and conditions as there are still staff who TUPE'd over in June 2023 who need to transfer, and there are some necessary changes to be made in the staff structure. The intention is for this to be out for consultation with changes to be made between January and March 2025.

Youth Work and School Attendance

The Attendance Youth Worker has been working across small groups of children who are at risk of not succeeding on transfer to secondary school, In the Autumn term this will be developed into a pilot programme alongside the Early Help Community Engagement Officer to focus on specific groups in the TQ1 postcode area.

Community-based youth clubs:

The commissioned providers deliver five youth clubs, all of which will operate twice a week across Torbay (10 youth club sessions every week). Two in Torquay, two in Paignton and one in Brixham. The providers - The Windmill Centre, Love Enterprise CIC and Plymouth Argyle Community Trust, are continuing to deliver these clubs and this agreement has been extended until the end of this financial year.

Other funded community-based youth clubs:

The Youth Hub has part-funded some youth activity at Great Parks Community Centre over the summer period, part-funded youth wellbeing sessions delivered by the YMCA, we have funded Cycle Torbay to deliver youth engagement at Crafty Fox in Foxhole and the Medway Centre in Watcombe, contributed to food being made available at the Foxhole Community Centre, and have contributed to the youth volunteer sessions at YES Brixham. These are all one-off investments with the understanding that their valued activity helps to meet the needs of young people across Torbay, gives young people access to trusted adults outside of a school or home environment, and offers safe spaces for young people to go to.

HAF:

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme is funded until March 2025, so our last guaranteed holiday club offer will be in December 2024. We are working with our current providers to encourage them to become Ofsted registered as this will allow families who are entitled to Government funded discounted childcare (up to 85%) to access the holiday clubs still. We are waiting to find out whether there will be an extension of the HAF Programme going forward or an alternative offer in 2025 – this is yet to be announced by Government.

The current providers – Play Torbay, Achieve4All, Sporty Stars, Premier Education, Libraries Unlimited, Imagine Torbay Multicultural Group, NOVA/Love Enterprise CIC, Argyle Community Trust, Kinetic Sports Group, Shear Soccer and ProCoaching.

Youth Hub Torbay Social Media:

Since November 2023, the Youth Hub and Participation Team have been running @YouthHubTorbay on Instagram and Facebook. This has helped showcase the work undertaken by the Youth Hub, the Participation Team and from local providers to young people 13+ years old and parents/carers of young people in Torbay.

YIF:

There have been several delays to the planned delivery at the Acorn Centre both on the capital and revenue development due to the changes and concerns raised by the Board of Trustees there. This is currently sat with the Legal Team within the Torbay Council, the CEO of Torbay Council and the YIF funders, so we are not able to offer an update at present.

Accessibility to Play Parks – The Participation Team have spoken to 30 young people over the summer aged 4-16 years old children, over the last few weeks at holiday clubs, children's week and at the young person panel and SEND youth forum meetings on which parks they use in Torbay, how often they use them and what equipment they most use at the parks. This information has been shared with SWISCo and the Divisional Director of Environment and Infrastructure.

We made the collective decision to not ask children and young people what they would like to see because there is currently no available budget for investment. It has been made clear of what young people want to see happen in Torbay previously, and this has not yet been delivered, so it was deemed unfair to keep asking young people without being able to deliver this.

Where the Overview and Scrutiny Board could assist and play a role:

As mentioned in the report in 2023, resources and investment in youth provision and services is always a challenge. The intention is to consider how Torbay Council uses the existing investment as part of the Change Paper proposal that will be up for consultation with the team when this is ready, so we are not able to share this proposal outside of a confidential environment until staff have been made aware of the proposed changes.

The HAF programme is unlikely to continue in its existing format and potentially not at all in 2025, and the Community Youth Clubs funding agreement ends in March 2025 also, so there will need to be a discussion relating to the £100k currently allocated to these.

There will be some changes in staffing going forward and we are hopeful that there will be future investment from the Government for youth and preventative services going forward. The request to the O&S Board is for continued support for 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 with decision making, planning and communications going forward.

Thank you

