

Cabinet Response to the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board – Support for Young People

Recommendation 1:

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.

Response:

The Director of Children's services along with the Divisional Directors continue to work with both Torbay participation leads and the youth services to hear the voice of young people. Torbay Council is also part of a global UNICEF led programme to become a 'child friendly community' this programme aims to create cities and communities in the UK where all children – whether they are living in care, using a children's centre, or simply visiting their local library – have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives. To ensure this programme is embedded in all we do the Chief Executive is nominated as the Senior Responsible Officer and is supported by colleagues across the council, members, our partners, and children and young people.

We are working alongside a number of community groups to better understand and align our work with young people so it has the widest reach and meets needs in our communities. For example,

- We are working with partners in Kings Ash to help upskill volunteers working with young people in the area and are supporting (alongside Sanctuary Housing, Great Parks and Cycle Torbay) to run a training session.
- We have also offered First Aid Training spaces for an upcoming training session being held on the 4th December 2024 to 3 of the team at Great Parks Community Centre and 3 of the team from SHAAQ (Sharing Hardship And Answering Questions – group of Mums in Kings Ash area who support families locally). Spaces were offered to Crafty Fox and Foxhole Community Centre but were not required.
- We have created social media poster for partners to use and are actively supporting partners in the King Ash Ward. We have contributed to activities run by Great Parks Community Centre, Foxhole Community Centre, Crafty

Fox Youth Club, Argyle Community Trust, Cycle Torbay and fund the HAF holiday clubs run by Play Torbay (usually held at Wild Fox, but will be from GPCC at Christmas).

- We regularly attend the Blatchcombe Partnership meetings for partners working with Children and Young People with the attendance of Cllr.
- We have provided a written statement to support a successful grant funding application made by Play Torbay for the Foxhole area, and regularly discuss grant funding opportunities and offer support to partners where possible.
- We continue to deliver youth activity, in collaboration with partners, to a range of young people at the MySpace Parkfield site

Torbay Council are committed to becoming a relational Council. Within the Children services restorative practice and ways of working are embedded in how we work not only with our families but with each other. The welfare of our staff is of paramount importance as we strive to become an outstanding service, without them we would not be able to meet the needs of our children, young people, families and communities. As part of the implementation of Stable Homes Built on Love (SHBoL), which emphasise early help and support consideration is being given as to how we support our staff in having the ability to influence service delivery and how we embed this way of working across all of children's services.