

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

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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