

Meeting: [Overview and Scrutiny, Health and Wellbeing Board, Cabinet](#)

Date: [6 November 2024, 12 December 2024, 17 December 2024](#)

Wards affected: [All](#)

Report Title: [Annual Director of Public Health Report 2024: Women's Health](#)

When does the decision need to be implemented? [Immediately](#)

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite endorsement of, and a formal strategic commitment to the recommendations of the Annual Director of Public Health report across all directorates and departments within Torbay Council.
- 1.2 The DPH annual report is a statutory independent requirement of the Director of Public Health and has been informed this year by interviews and engagement with a diversity of women in Torbay. Insights have been gathered through community groups and organisations, commissioned services and peer and grass-roots networks as well as individuals living in Torbay. This report has been written with the support of further robust research and evidence.
- 1.3 The findings and report content were presented on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at an event in Paignton. The audience was made up of key local stakeholders and report contributors and was well attended.
- 1.4 The report which combines text and videos is being prominently featured as part of the launch of a new website: [Torbay Public Health - Torbay Health Partnerships \(www.torbayhealthpartnerships.co.uk\)](http://www.torbayhealthpartnerships.co.uk)

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The proposals in the report help us to collectively 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, unacceptable inequalities persist. By taking a focus on women, girls and gender and sex-based barriers to health, economic prosperity, community safety, community wellbeing, health and care barriers can be directly addressed.
- 2.3 Colleagues and leaders across Torbay are all invited to commit to principles and actions which will see the recommendations become an area of distinct measurable focus for all, notably within the corporate planning cycles and business plans.
- 2.4 The recommendations within the annual Public Health Directors report are intended to be broad, strategic, and inclusive to all directorates and departments within Torbay Council, and the health and Wellbeing Board, including external strategic partners.
- 2.5 The key themes are:
 - Women, employment, and household labour
 - Working with vulnerable women
 - Discrimination, inclusion, and exclusion
 - Connecting with communities
 - Reproductive Health
 - Barriers to being physically active

The report recommendations are:

- a) To develop flexible and inclusive employment practices to reflect and encourage women into education and employment.
- b) To commit to actions which raise awareness of Domestic and Sexual Violence and directly address of the impact of domestic abuse on women who experience it.
- c) To improve access, experience, and outcomes for women's healthcare through Torbay's women's health hub.
- d) To recognise and supporting grass roots women's groups and activities as integral components of mental health and wellbeing provision.
- e) To develop integrated service delivery pathways for women's health care, reducing the need to attend multiple appointments for routine health care.

- f) To develop inclusive approaches that facilitate and support girls and women to become more physically active.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Director of Public Health's Annual Report, as set out at Appendix 1, be endorsed.
- 3.2 That the Director of Public Health be instructed to undertake explicit planning and activities which directly support and contribute to the achievement of the recommendations of the Annual Report, as outlined by indicative actions in appendix 2.
- 3.3 That the Overview & Scrutiny Board be requested to monitor the implementation of the Annual Report on a quarterly basis.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Director of Public Health Annual Report

Appendix 2 Indicative actions for Torbay Council departments

Appendix 3 Report of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 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

- 2.1 Not applicable

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct negative implications of this report
- 3.2 By adopting the recommendations, the economic outcomes for women and families can be improved in the long term. ¹

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications of 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

- 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.

¹ [Gender Gap: This is the state of work for women in 2024 | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](https://www.weforum.org)

- 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 were invited to the launch event to see the impact of their participation with decision makers and strategic leads in Torbay and Devon.
- 5.4 The Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board (Appendix 3) also considered the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2024: Women's Health and recommended that the Cabinet be requested to support the recommendations contained therein.
- 5.4 Further engagement with contributors and groups is intended to continue throughout 2024/25. This will raise the profile of this report and continue the momentum and support for its recommendations.

6. Procurement Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct or immediate procurement implications because of this report
- 6.2 It is possible that by committing to actions around the report recommendations, this would have a positive social value impact

7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

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

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 There are no significant associated risks because 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>		
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>		
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>		
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>		

	<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>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 are unlikely to have either a positive or negative impact on those in a marriage or civil partnership or none. No differential impact.</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>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>		

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.		
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.		
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.		
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.		
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		This report and recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on women, girls, and support deeper solutions to addressing generational poverty and deprivation.		

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.		
Human Rights impacts		This report and its recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on Human Rights, particularly gender and sex-based rights.		
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.		

10. Cumulative Council Impact

- 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
- 10.2 By all directorates and departments committing to recommendations and actions to improve outcomes for girls and women, this demonstrates a cohesive commitment to Public Health as well as addressing health and social inequalities in Torbay.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

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