

# **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board**

## **Draft Work Programme for 2025/2026 V3 – updated 1.4.25**

### **1. HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE**

How well are we meeting our children and young peoples' health needs, including dental?

- **Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Support**
  - Who has access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) improved? When is it expected to take less than 18 weeks to receive an assessment? What action is being taken to reduce waiting lists to ensure young people get access to support sooner?
  - How has access to the Schools Mental Health Programme been improving outcomes for young people?
- **Public Health Nursing and Early Help (0-19)**
  - How are the Public Health Nursing and Early Help (0-19) services performing?
  - What can be done to ensure that parents and carers are aware of the services and support available to them?
- **Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services**
  - How is access to Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services Promoted?
  - How is drug safety taken into account?
  - How has this impacted on young people's health and wellbeing?
- **Children's physical activity**
  - What leisure facilities are available for young people?
  - What free sports opportunities are available for young people in Torbay?
  - How can the benefits of play and physical activity enhance the physical and mental wellbeing of young people?
  - What is the Council doing to highlight the importance of physical playtime and facilities within schools?

- Exploitation and children missing
    - What action is being taken to support children who go missing regularly, particularly from care placements?
    - What are the risks, opportunities, safeguarding measures, e.g. Philomena Protocol, intelligence gathering (return home interviews)?
  - Children's Safety
    - What placements are available for children in emergency situations?
    - What consideration has been given to the suitability of a Police Station as place of safety, meeting basic needs, overnight care options?
  - Young People's Oral Health (Note: This will be picked up as part of the Annual Review of Dentistry carried out by the Adults Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board with Members of the Children's Sub-Board invited to the meeting)
  - One Devon (ICB) Children's Strategic approach and Annual Plan
  - One Devon (ICB) Family First Partnership Programme
  - One Devon (ICB) Mental Health and Emotional Well-being Strategy and Plan
    - To consider access to mental health services for children and young people diagnosed with autism.
    - To consider how the community and voluntary sector is being supported to assist families when young people are on waiting lists for CAMHS or who don't meet the threshold.
  - NHS Long Term Condition Improvement Work
- 

## **2. EDUCATION, LEARNING AND FLOURISHING**

What opportunities do our young people have post 16, including those with SEND needs? Are there any gaps?

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) including Home to School Transport
  - To consider the action plan arising from the SEND Inspection carried out in March 2025?
  - To consider the impact of the review of home to school transport and how children with SEND are being supported to travel to and from school.
- Early Years Sufficiency
  - What action is being taken by the Council to influence the market and ensure that there are sufficient early years places available to meet the demands across the whole of Torbay?

- Schools Capital Programme
  - To consider a visit to Paignton Academy STEPS and other Alternative Providers
- Children's Reforms
  - What has been the impact of the Children's Reforms in improving outcomes for children and young people in Torbay?

### **Spotlight Review on Education (to be held as an additional meeting)**

- School Improvement
  - What action is being taken to improve the Ofsted ratings of the three secondary schools rated as 'requiring improvement'?
  - What impact have the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) Advisors had on schools in Torbay?
  - What are the rules around provision of religious education in schools and is there scope for ensuring more varied representation to take into account our multi-cultural society?
- Locality Model
  - What lessons have been learned from the Locality Model Pilot and how can this be used to improve performance and consistency across all schools in Torbay?
- Exclusions, Suspensions and Absences
  - To understand the reasons for exclusions, suspensions and absences and what action the schools are taking to reduce them.
  - To consider if there are schools with disproportionate numbers and how a more uniformed approach could be encouraged.
  - What restorative work is being undertaken to prevent exclusions, suspensions and isolation?
  - How does the Council ensure that children who excluded, suspended or absent from school are safeguarded from harm?
  - What consideration is given to social and emotional support for these children?
  - How do exclusions link to parents choosing to elected home educate their children?
- Elected Home Educated
  - What are the reasons why parents are taking their children out of school to be elected home educated?
  - What are schools doing to reduce the number of children being taken out of school to be elected home educated?
  - What can the Council do to reduce the numbers?
  - How does the Council ensure that children who are being elected home educated are safeguarded from harm?
  - What consideration is given to social and emotional support for these children?
- Free School Meals

- To understand the reasons why not all those entitled to free school meals take up the offer.
  - To understand the other opportunities that free school meals qualifies for support.
  - What action is being taken to raise awareness and increase take up of free school meals?
- 

### **3. PLACE, EQUAL AND INCLUDED**

How are we identifying and planning for our young people's future needs?

- Youth Homelessness
    - There are secondary school young people who are choosing to live on the streets to avoid a hostile homelife, what is being done to identify these individuals and provide them with appropriate support and signposting?
  - Cultural Identity and Sense of Belonging
    - How do we support young people to develop a sense of belonging and cultural/heritage identity?
    - How do we support young people with their aspirations?
    - Torbay is a coastal area, how do we raise awareness of the benefits and dangers of the sea (e.g. tidal awareness) and encourage more young people to learn how to swim?
  - Children's Services Self Assessment
  - Children's Continuous Improvement Board Update
  - Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter
-

## 4. PARTICIPATING AND CHILD FRIENDLY SERVICES

What opportunities do our young people have to help shape the services we provide?

How do our young people participate in our communities, environment and services?

- UNICEF Update
    - With the introduction of Child Friendly Torbay what are the plans for the future?
    - How many children, young people/parents/carers will be involved?
    - What are the opportunities available?
    - What strategic and/or statutory requirements do they link to?
    - How are the voluntary and community sector engaged?
    - How do we consult with children and young people? What short or long-term impact have their views/opinions had? What will or has changed? How is this fed back to the young people involved?
  
  - Youth Provision
    - What kind of opportunities for children and young people currently exist? Are there additional opportunities?
    - What youth clubs and play centres are available in Torbay?
    - How do young people and families engage with Torbay events?
    - What opportunities exist for young talent?
-

## 5. FAMILY AND BELONGING, SAFE AND SECURE

How are our children, young people and their families being impacted by the cost of living? How is that manifesting itself in children's lives?

- Families First Programme
    - What action has been taken to implement the Families First Programme?
    - How has this had a positive impact on children, young people and their families?
  - Sustainability of Family Hubs
  - Youth Justice Service
    - What work or activities are being undertaken to reduce anti-social behaviour?
  - Safeguarding Annual Report
  - Adopt South West Annual Report
  - Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Report
  - Young Carers
    - What support is available to Young Carers?
    - How are opportunities for Young Carers promoted?
  - Children's Neglect Strategy (requested at meeting on 3.12.24)
  - MyPlace (Parkfield)
    - What is happening with the site?
    - How does the Council ensure that the covenant is being met?
-

## 6. EMPLOYMENT

How are we supporting youth social mobility, particularly in our more deprived communities?

- Youth Social Mobility
- Those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) needs
  - What additional support to young people with SEND have to help them into employment, education or training?
- Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
  - What is the reason for young people being NEET?
  - How well do careers services work in Torbay to help advise young people of their options for employment, education and training?
  - How do we support our young people when they reach 16, 17, 18 etc. to help them understand and access appropriate education, employment or training?
  - How many of our young people are going into apprenticeships or supported internships?
  - How many apprenticeships and/or supported internships are available in Torbay and through Torbay Council?
- Leaving care and our local offer for care experienced young people
  - What support is available for care experienced young people who are leaving care?