

Clerk: Governance Support
Telephone: 01803 207013
E-mail address: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk
Date: Tuesday, 12 December 2023

Governance Support
Town Hall
Castle Circus
Torquay
TQ1 3DR

Dear Member

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-BOARD - MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2023

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Monday, 18 December 2023 meeting of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item	Page
5.	Youth Justice Service	(Pages 2 - 10)
7.	Exclusions and Absence	(Pages 11 - 13)

Yours sincerely

Governance Support
Clerk

Meeting: Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board **Date:** 18th December 2023

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Torbay Youth Justice Service Improvement Plan Update December 2023

When does the decision need to be implemented? N/A

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cllr Nick Bye, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Nick.Bye@torbay.gov.uk

Director/Divisional Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan, Director of Children's Services
nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the progress of the Torbay Youth Justice Service Improvement Plan 2023-24

2. Reason for Proposal and its Benefits

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 39) introduced the statutory requirement for local authorities to establish Youth Offending Team¹ (YOTs) in their area, requiring the involvement of the local authority, Police, Health, and Probation – the statutory partners.
- 2.2 Local Authorities are required under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to 'formulate and implement' an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out. The plan should equally address the functions assigned to a youth justice service, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending.
- 2.3 The Torbay Youth Justice Plan was developed through multi agency consultation, including feedback from children, parents and victims and was approved by Cabinet and Torbay's

¹ The term 'Youth Offending Team' remains in the legislation but locally the service is called the Youth Justice Service.

Strategic Youth Justice Board. It was submitted to national Youth Justice Board (YJB) before the deadline of the 30th of June 2023.

2.4 The Improvement Plan Update before the committee shows progress against the stated priorities of the TYJS Improvement Plan 2023-24.

2.5 The Youth Justice Plan contributes to the desired outcomes of the Community and Corporate Plan: -

'We want Torbay and its residents to thrive'

The Youth Justice Service works with vulnerable children whose offending behaviour if not addressed is likely to have lifelong impact on their ability to thrive.

'where our children and older people will have high aspirations'

The Youth Justice Service supports children to develop alternatives to their current behaviours and raise their expectations and aspirations.

'Build safer communities'

- *Work with partners to tackle crime, including exploitation, and its effects.*
- *Work with partners to reduce offending and reoffending and its impacts*
- *Work with partners to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence and its effects'*

The Youth Justice Service contributes to the delivery of these aspects for children as part of the 'Thriving Community' element of the Corporate Plan

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

3.1. That members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board note the contents of the report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: TYJS Improvement Plan 2023-24 Dec 23 Update

Background Documents

N/A

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Improvement Plan has 10 priority areas for improvement activity, 2 of which are showing as 'Green' meaning they have been completed or are on target to be completed within the originally estimated timescale or a revised one agreed by the YJS Strategic Board.

(the numbers below refer to the Torbay YJS Improvement Plan attached document)

6) There have been positive developments particularly in relation to increasing our focus on ensuring the children known to the service are attending appropriate education or training provision. It is well established that children open to youth justice services nationally are less likely to be in education or training and more likely to have additional learning needs. Torbay Youth Justice Service is working well with education partners and providers to ensure children have suitable placements and are supported to attend regularly.

10) In October 2023 the service completed a multi partner audit against the Youth Justice Board (YJB) National Standards of children who were sentenced at court. Overall, we rated ourselves as at the upper end of 'Good' and have developed an action plan to address the areas identified for improvement. At the time of writing this report the service is currently waiting for feedback from the YJB on our submission.

- 1.2 There are 5 areas that are 'Amber' indicating that they are in progress but are delayed these are in the areas of: -

1) Child First Approach –There has been much development activity in this area and as part of the YJB National Standards Audit this area scored well overall. However the implementation of new systems for gathering feedback from children, parents and victims was initially delayed, but is now in place, and we are gathering a robust and statistically viable body of feedback which will be used to inform service provision and priorities.

3) The further development of the Trauma Recovery Model (TRM) through the ability to access psychologist support has been mitigated by Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (FCAMHS) providing clinical supervision and case formulation insights for high-risk cases. This support by FCAMHS is not long term and does not fully meet the best practice guidance for the Enhanced Case Management (ECM) approach recommended by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

5) The Review of the Prevention / Turnaround provision is taking place in December 2023 one month behind schedule, overall performance is on target and the review will focus on whether we are intervening early enough as many children referred are already being investigated for alleged offences.

7) Swifter Youth Justice: - A tracking system for all youth cases has been delayed due to problems with the Police NICHE system result in unreliable data. Work is in progress to seek Police approval for the tracking and prioritisation of all youth cases by the Police as part of the peninsular wide update of protocols for Out of Court Disposals. This will likely come into force in early 2024.

8) More Positive Activities: - this area has been delayed by the late start in the commissioning of youth club provision in Torbay. This has been resolved and most provision started in September and November. Work on the new 'Youth Offer' will start in January 2024 and should codify what is available to children and young people in the local area 'Youth Offer'.

1.3 The 2 areas flagged as 'Red' are in respect of

2) and 2a) securing safe, secure and accessible locations to deliver face to face work with children, we have agreement to use the Torr Abbey Lodge building as a temporary location, but initial scoping work has identified a number of issues in terms of both health and safety matters and cost in making the building suitable for use. Additionally given the significant rise in the number of children being seen by the service it may no longer have enough capacity to meet all the service needs. Another potentially more suitable building has been identified which is within Council ownership in which we are in early discussions about its use.

4) The second area is the lack of access to mental health and well-being provision for children open to YJS. This had been caused by an inability to recruit to the CAMHS seconded post, but I am very pleased that this post has now been filled with the new worker started on the 27th of November. The Red rating has not been changed because the appointment happened after the last Strategic Board meeting.

9) There is one area that has not started yet which is the website development which is due to delays with the Family Hub website which have now been resolved and work should start before Christmas.

1.4 The Improvement Plan is regularly updated and reviewed at the bimonthly YJS Strategic Board meetings which all statutory partners attend and agree progress and mitigations outlined in the Improvement plan.

2. Options under consideration

2.1 N/A

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

3.1 N/A

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. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	Positive Impact for children who have or are likely to offend		
People with caring Responsibilities			No differential impact
People with a disability	Positive impact for children with SEND as they receive intensive support package		
Women or men	90% of children in contact with YJS are male. Young males are more likely to criminalised for their behaviour & therefore referred to the service.		
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background			No differential impact

(BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No differential impact
People who are transgendered			No differential impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			No differential impact
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			No differential impact
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			No differential impact

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 None

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 The positive impact of the service is that children are diverted from crime and those with SEND and the impact of trauma are supported to develop positive life choices.

Torbay Youth Justice Improvement Plan 2023-24

November 2023 Update

Our Vision: -

'Keep young people and their communities safe by working in collaboration with other services to help children recognise and repair the impact of harmful behaviour and develop a positive future'.

RAG Key	Green = On Track / Completed	Amber = In progress	Red = Delayed / unresolved issues	Grey = Not Due/ not started
---------	------------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------

	Area for Improvement / Outcome desired	Action	Timescale	Update	RAG	
Page 8	1. Child First approach to all we do	a) Ensure that that TYJS adheres to the YJB Child First approach in all aspects of our delivery. b) All staff to be trained in Child First approach in youth justice services. c) Hear and respond to the voice of the child and carers not only in the delivery of their intervention but in the development of the service. d) Review our systems and methodology for ensuring feedback is used to improve services.	Ongoing Within 6 months July 23	a) All internal audits and QA work will include assessment of our Child First approach & will be reported back YJS boards. b) All new staff have been trained. c) A short report went to the Sept Board, this is a 'work in progress' and will be improved as more data comes through from all service users. d) New approach is starting to be implemented and we re are getting a growing body of data.	In progress	
	2	Secure access to suitable child friendly, safe, accessible premises for delivery of face-to-face work	Locate & agree terms with suitable delivery locations in Torquay and Paignton	Sept 23	Torr Abbey Lodge has been agreed for YJS use we are currently working with the Torr Abbey Architect to find out costings / feasibility of what would need to do for approval by English Heritage to agree to our use.	Delayed
	2a	Outstanding Deep Dive April 2022 Recommendation Continue work to secure a range of local facilities that are fit for purpose to enable services to be delivered effectively to children.				

3	Further development of Trauma Recovery Model (TRM) through an Enhanced Case Management (ECM) approach with Child and Adolescents Mental Health Service (CAMHS).	Scope and agree the options for accessing and funding of psychology input to meet ECM best practice guidelines	Nov 23	FCAMHS are providing clinical supervision and case formulation guidance for YJS staff on a limited basis. A CAMHS worker has been offered a post and is due to start in November 23	In Progress
4	Review the role and provision of CAMHS to the Youth Justice Service	Ensure that children at TYJS have access to suitable accessible mental health services either through CAMHS staff or another provider.	Nov 23	We are seeking to agree a date to review the contract with CFHD for the provision of MH services to YJS.	Delayed
5	Review the success of the Targeted Prevention Service for children coming to the attention of the youth justice systems.	a) Audit offending rates following intervention. b) Ensure Turnaround funding requirements are met	July 23	a) New Performance report will have a live tracker of reoffending. b) Turnaround cases will be tracked in the new Performance report. c) Review of Prevention service is planned for November 23 all partners will be invited to take part in the review	In Progress
6	Ensuring children in contact with the Youth Justice Service are in appropriate education, training, or employment	Complete the Action Plan from the ETE Thematic Review.	Sept 23	a) Update Report was brought to May 23 Board, remaining actions in progress report was brought to the Sept 23 board and was signed off as completed. b) ETE report will be brought to Nov 23 Board re what YJS is doing to ensure cohort are in education following letter from head of YJB.	Completed
7	Swifter Justice - reduce delays across whole youth justice system	a) Create a system to track all youth cases from arrest to disposal. b) Devise an approach to influence all organisations awareness and reduce delays	May 23 Sept 23	a) System being devised but not yet in place. b) Once system has been devised this will be shared with partners and an escalation process agreed regarding delays will be agreed.	In Progress
8	More positive activities and opportunities for children.	Support the development of the new Torbay Youth Offer.	July 23	Torbay Council has contracted with a range of providers to enhance youth work provision in the bay (starting in Nov 23) and has brought other services back in house to increase the coordination	In progress
9	Improve the visibility and understanding of Youth Justice Service work – telling the good stories of children & the work of the YJS	Liaise with Torbay Council communications dept to develop better communications to inform the public & community about TYJS (website, leaflets, news articles?)	Sept 23	Website development as part of the Family Hubs website is planned but this has not yet started due to priority for other aspects to be delivered due to funding requirements.	Not started

10	Review the Quality of Youth Justice provision in Torbay.	Complete an audit against the YJB National Standards for Youth Justice Services.	October 23	Audited completed sent to YJB by the deadline and Report to Nov 23 Board.	Completed
----	--	--	------------	---	-----------

Continuous Improvement Board

Action to reduce non-attendance and lateness and high rates of exclusion from school.

Agenda item:

Prepared By:	Dan Hamer	Contributors:	Rachael Williams
Partner organisation:	Torbay Children's Services		
Date Prepared:	29th November 2023	Date of Meeting:	18th December 2023

1. Purpose

This report outlines the current position regarding attendance, suspension and exclusion at and from Torbay's schools. It then details actions being taken to improve the current position.

2. Summary Data

Attendance

As of 30th October (the latest full shared DfE dataset) Torbay has the following picture for attendance.

Phase	Percentage Attendance	LA Rank Order
Primary	94.46%	141 st (improved in year)
Secondary	90.59%	136 th (improved in year)
Special	85.65%	121/149 (improved in year)

The most significant factor limiting attendance at Torbay's schools is illness. In this we are not unusual. What is unusual is the number of sessions missed with 6.5% of sessions vs a regional figure of 5.4%.

Suspension

As of 17th November (most recent data drawn from schools) Torbay is in the following situation.

Phase	Sep	Oct	Nov	Grand Total
Other Establishment	4	4	1	9
Primary School	46	38	7	91
Secondary School	337	332	243	912
Special School	70	39	1	110
Grand Total	457	413	252	1122

A concerning development is the inclusion of Brixham College's data which places them as the second most suspending school after St Cuthbert Mayne (StCM). StCM has suspended on approx. 420 occasions vice 480 approx. for all other secondary settings.

The 2 TSAT secondary schools are both in the top 3 most suspending schools.

Exclusion

As of 29th November, the following exclusions have been issued.

SEN	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
EHCP	1	1	2	4
SEN Support	2	4		6
No SEN	1	4		5
RSA Submitted	2			2
Total	6	9	2	17

The most common reason for exclusion across all phases has been assaults on adults and peers. As the academic year progresses, we are seeing a greater variety of reasons, but abusive behaviour remains most frequent.

Only two schools have excluded more than once. The Spires College and Paignton Academy have both excluded 3 times.

3. Actions

Attendance

- Two Attendance Officers have been added to the establishment for the next year and will work in town areas.
- They will be supported by a new Attendance Youth Worker.
- Links are being drawn to the new Youth Clubs and the Youth Service.
- Attendance forums are being held termly for Attendance Leads.
- Drop-in advice clinics are being held in each town area for school staff.
- Ongoing coproduction of a school absence graduated response.
- Penalty Notice processes are being brought onto IT systems to increase Attendance Improvement Officer capacity.
- Attendance is a focus at Youth Justice Service Education meetings.
- Virtual School Extended Duties Officers are providing guidance to social care colleagues.
- School attendance target setting meetings will be held starting in the Spring Term 2024.
- Head of Service is liaising with the Head of Business Intelligence and colleagues in Plymouth to share challenges and solutions.
- A training package being drawn up for new children's services staff.

These actions are all current and will start to show impact in the Spring Term. The Plymouth meeting went well and we are sharing processes around data analysis and dissemination.

Suspension

- Primary schools are being canvassed to provide lists of Yr6 children at risk of suspension on transfer to secondary phase.
- This list will then be cross referenced with parental preferences for admission to secondary phase.
- From this, enhanced transitions will be promoted and supported for those with a social worker by the Virtual School Extended Duties Officers.
- Support and challenge are provided to school leaders around suspension.
- Support is provided to governors and trustees when reviewing repeat suspension.
- Case conferences and risk of exclusion meetings are held on demand and fortnightly respectively with multi agency representation.

- Challenge is provided to partners where delays in referral are preventing a full understanding and therefore addressing of a child or family's need.
- Enhanced Resource Provisions are being scoped to provide support before repeat suspensions without the need for an EHCP.
- Vulnerable Pupils Team is working with the Mentors in Violence Prevention Project to deliver bystander training and mentors in most secondary schools.
- This is also now being moved into Yr6 to provide ongoing understanding.
- Regular sharing of data and discussion of challenges with the Exploitation Team and partners including the Youth ASB group.
- Torbay is an active member of the SW Inclusion forum around exclusion and suspension.

The work on suspensions is showing impact with most primary schools seeing a steadying of suspension levels, particularly of those children with increased risks.

Exclusion

- The Vulnerable Pupils Casework Officer and Head of Service report to governing bodies on all exclusion review evidence packs.
- They also attend meetings when invited by academies and whenever possible for maintained schools.
- Regular meetings with Chestnut and Lodestar leaders to reintegrate children to mainstream as soon as is appropriate.
- Links to the Community Safety Policing Team to provide support to children at risk of exclusion through potentially criminal acts.
- Training has been delivered to governors and will be offered in the next term again.
- Virtual School and Extended Duties Officers are auditing school practice around restorative and trauma informed practice after delivering training to schools over an extended period.
- Trust leads are increasingly involved in reviewing decisions before heads exclude leading to a rise in rescinded exclusions.

We are working with schools to identify ways in which section 29 processes can be used to prevent exclusion.

4. Recommendations

The author recommends that the committee:

1. Recognises the challenges in the local area and the ongoing work.
2. Promotes school inclusion across all council activity to secure better outcomes for children, families and the community.
3. Has a regard to children and young people's sense of belonging when making decisions.