

Monday, 01 March 2021

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

A meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board** will be held on

**Monday, 1 March 2021**

commencing at **9.30 am**

The meeting will be held remotely via Zoom (the links to the meeting are set out below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87556403027?pwd=SDRJaHRGL3ZlbitjYmFVb3plbUNDQT09>

Meeting ID: 875 5640 3027

Passcode: 014219

One tap mobile

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**Members of the Board**

Councillor Bye (Chairman)

Councillor Atiya-Alla  
Councillor Barnby

Councillor Mandy Darling  
Councillor Mills (Vice-Chair)

**Co-opted Members of the Board**

Tatty Wilson, Church of England Diocesan Representative

Vacancy - Roman Catholic Diocese Representative

Vacancy - Primary Parent Governor Representative

Vacancy - Secondary Parent Governor Representative

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**Governance Support, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR**

Email: [governance.support@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:governance.support@torbay.gov.uk) - [www.torbay.gov.uk](http://www.torbay.gov.uk)

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**Together Torbay will thrive**

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# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD AGENDA

## 1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

**For reference:** Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

**For reference:** Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

**(Please Note:** If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)

## 3. Urgent Items

To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

## 4. Children's Improvement Plan Update

To consider the submitted report on the latest position in respect of the implementation of the Children's Improvement Plan and to receive an update from the Chairman of the Improvement Board, Mr Nigel Richardson.

(Pages 7 - 11)

## 5. Children in Care Council and Pledge

To consider proposals on the Children in Care Council and Pledge and make recommendations to the Cabinet.

(Note: Jo Morrell, Director of the Youth Trust and Jenny Hunt, Senior Youth Worker have been invited to the meeting to present this item.)

## 6. Ensuring Children receive the right support at the right time

(i) to review and evaluate the current Early Help and

preventative offer, following implantation of a new model, to ensure that the support meets the needs of children and their families; and

- (ii) to consider the partnership approach to ensure there is adequate understanding and implementation of the correct level of support to meet the needs of children and their families.

**7. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board Action Tracker**

(Pages 12 - 13)

To receive an update on the implementation of the actions of the Board and consider any further actions required (as set out in the submitted action tracker).

**8. Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider passing a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting prior to consideration of the following item on the agenda on the grounds that exempt information (as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) is likely to be disclosed.

This is due to the Report on the Youth Offending Team review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) being embargoed until 1 March 2021 when it will be published on their website. It is not known if this will be published prior to consideration of this item and therefore if it has not been published the item will have to be considered in private without the press and public present. If it is published the information will be released and the item considered in public.

**9. Review of the Youth Offending Team**

- (i) to receive the 'An Inspection of Youth Offending Services in Torbay Youth Offending Team (YOT)' report, the response to factual accuracies and the Out of Court Disposals Action Plan arising from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) inspection of the YOT (note this report and associated documents will be embargoed until 1 March.);
- (ii) to consider the outcome of the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review of Youth Offending Services (note this report and associated documents will be embargoed until 1 March as they are linked to (i) above); and
- (iii) to consider issues in connection with anti-social behaviour in Paignton.

**Instructions for the press and public for joining the meeting**

If you are using an iPad you will need to install Zoom which can be found in the App Store. You do not need to register for an account just install the software. You only need to install the software once. For other devices you should just be taken direct to the meeting.

### **Joining a meeting**

Click on the link provided on the agenda above and follow the instructions on screen. If you are using a telephone, dial the Zoom number provided above and follow the instructions. (**Note:** if you are using a landline the call will cost up to 13p per minute and from a mobile between 3p and 55p if the number is not covered by your inclusive minutes.)

You will be placed in a waiting room, when the meeting starts the meeting Host will admit you. Please note if there are technical issues this might not be at the start time given on the agenda.

Upon entry you will be muted and your video switched off so that only the meeting participants can be seen. When you join the meeting the Host will unmute your microphone, ask you to confirm your name and update your name as either public or press. Select gallery view if you want see all the participants.

If you have joined the meeting via telephone, your telephone number will appear on screen and will be displayed for all to see until the Host has confirmed your name and then they will rename your telephone number to either public or press.

### **Speaking at a Meeting**

If you are registered to speak at the meeting and when it is your turn to address the Meeting, the Chairman will invite you to speak giving the Host the instruction to unmute your microphone and switch your video on (where appropriate) therefore please pause for a couple of seconds to ensure your microphone is on.

Upon the conclusion of your speech/time limit, the Host will mute your microphone and turn off your video.

### **Meeting Etiquette for Registered Speakers – things to consider when speaking at public meetings on video:**

- Background – the meeting is public and people will be able to see what is behind you therefore consider what you will have on display behind you.
- Camera angle – sit front on, upright with the device in front of you.
- Who else is in the room – make sure you are in a position where nobody will enter the camera shot who doesn't want to appear in the public meeting.
- Background noise – try where possible to minimise background noise.
- Aim to join the meeting 15 minutes before it is due to start.



**Meeting:** Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board

**Date:** 1 March 2021

**Wards Affected:** All

**Report Title:** Children's Improvement Plan Update

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Cllr Cordelia Law, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, [Cordelia.law@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Cordelia.law@torbay.gov.uk)

**Director Contact Details:** Nancy Meehan, Director of Children's Services, [nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk)

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### **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 Children's Services Improvement Plan.

### **2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits**

We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.

We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.

We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.

- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver this ambition by supporting the Council's responsibilities as corporate parents.
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### **3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

- (i) That members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board note the contents of the report and the progress made.

# Supporting Information

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report details the current position within Torbay's Children's Services. It reflects the work we have been undertaking to tackle the wide array of performance and quality challenges highlighted over a number of years by Ofsted, most recently in:

- their Inspection report of 2018 which found Torbay to be inadequate overall, and
- in their later monitoring visits.

Ofsted's analysis and conclusions have been built upon and added to by work undertaken within the service and supported by its partnerships. The understanding that has crystalized over the period has enabled the service to develop a functional and encompassing improvement plan and a much revised and evidence rich sufficiency strategy. Much of this work has taken place following the arrival of the new management and leadership team and a new Department for Education (DfE) appointed Commissioner who also chairs our Improvement Board with the support of both corporate and political leaders.

This update coincides with a time when the first phase of our improvement journey is coming naturally to a close and the next phase gathers momentum.

Unsurprisingly and commonly in recovering local authorities, we have maintained a major focus on compliance to ensure that children and their families receive services that are at a minimum timely and consistent with statutory and council expectations and requirements. Opportunities to impact upon quality have of course been taken and we shall be building on this encouraging start in the next phase of improvement. This last year has also seen us review and rebuild the platforms and organizational structures necessary to support good management and practice and this has included the commission of a new IT system to replace the existing, inadequate version. By nature of being outdated means that the existing system is not able to fully support the improvement initiatives in which we are engaged and which rely upon quality performance data for assurance purposes. The new system will be operational during the first half of 2021 and is eagerly awaited.

In some places the reconfiguration of our service infrastructure has meant that we have restructured and realigned services to make them (more) fit for purpose and consistent with our improvement priorities. All of this this work has been undertaken within the framework of our service re-design. Elsewhere we have launched innovative new initiatives, for example;

- a Learning Academy which offers a three-year program for newly qualified social workers as well as advanced and skills-based courses for our wider workforce. We anticipate this initiative making a major contribution to our wider and broadly based recruitment and retention strategy;
- an Edge of Care Service to support vulnerable young people in their communities rather than rely on what has become a plethora of unfocused and avoidable use of unsustainably high-cost care resources. This service, though not yet fully operational is already impacting significantly upon entry



to care rates and of the 16 young people who have so far used the service, only one has subsequently needed a residential resource and that was largely determined by the young person's complex and challenging clinical need; and

- a dedicated Exploitation Team to work with children highly vulnerable to sexual and criminal exploitation.

Our improvement planning and the service changes that have been introduced have been welcomed and, in many cases, actively supported by partners, Council leaders, politicians, our workforce and ultimately by our children, young people and families who are central to all that we do. At each stage we have discussed and shared our plans and strategies with our Commissioner, the DfE and with Ofsted and they too have been supportive of the detail and the direction we are taking.

We are encouraged by some significant progress over the last year, some of which is set out in the table below which captures the current position and compares it to our starting point presented at the 2019 Annual Conversation with Ofsted. Despite this progress, there is no complacency and our mood of impatient search for sustained improvement will continue unabated. In particular, and to highlight the breadth and significance of progress in a wide range of areas, we draw attention to:

- the rate of contact completed in 24 hours which has increased to 98.15% from 86.6% despite significantly increased demand upon the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH);
- the increase in the number of Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 days of a strategy discussion from 56.9% to 81.9%;
- the reduction of the number of children subject to a second or further child protection plan from 34.9% to 19.6%, performance which is highly credible at a time when our Child Protection numbers are predictably rising due to our strategy of managing more children safely in their communities;
- the decrease in our current care experienced population from 352 to 326, improvements in our short- and long-term placement stability rates, and major improvements in securing initial health assessments and dental checks while continuing our steady progress and high performance in completing annual health reviews;
- improvement in the proportion of children living with Torbay foster carers (63% from 55.7%), a reduction in the use of residential care (from 42 children to 22) and a significant and welcome reduction in the proportion of children living more than 20 miles from home from 60% to 26.5%;
- improvement in the proportion of care leavers in education, employment and training from 63.2% to 68.1%; and
- significant improvement in the recognition of and response to children vulnerable to sexual exploitation from 47 to 182 reflecting the development and impact of the new and dedicated team.

| <b>Area</b>   | <b>September 2019</b>                   | <b>November 2020</b>                   |
|---|---|--|
| Contacts  | 3869 (YTD)                              | 5307                                   |
| Contacts within 24hrs   | 86.6% (YTD)                             | 98.15%                                 |
| Conversion rate   | 17.7%                                   | 23.4%                                  |
| Re-Referral rate  | 24%                                     | 23.5%                                  |
| Children seen within 5 days   | 72.9%                                   | 77.8%                                  |
| Number of Child in Need   | 438 (19/20 – 595)                       | 557                                    |
| Number of Child Protection  | 218                                     | 221                                    |
| Percentage on a plan for a second or subsequent time                        | 34.9%                                   | 19.6%                                  |
| Visiting (within last 10 days)  | 68.2% (19/20 data 52% YTD)              | 70%                                    |
| Initial Child Protection Conferences within 15 days of Strategy discussion. | 56.9%                                   | 81.9%                                  |
| Number of children allocated to workers – Caseloads                         | Lowest 3 – highest 29 (Average 22)      | Between 5 – 28                         |
| Number of children who are cared for  | 352                                     | 326                                    |
| Placement stability   | Short term – 15.2%<br>Long Term – 65.6% | Short term – 9.8%<br>Long Term – 61.7% |
| Visiting  | 77.6% (YTD) - 55.1% (19/20 YTD)         | 68.4%                                  |
| Initial health assessments  | 47.4%                                   | 80%                                    |
| Annual health assessments   | 84.1% (August 2019 data)                | 88.1%                                  |
| Dental checks   | 45.8%                                   | 85.8%                                  |
| Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire.                                    | 60.8% (53% 19/20 YTD)                   | 56.9%                                  |
| Foster carer reviews  | 92% (July 2019 data)                    | 71.7%                                  |
| Mandatory training – foster carers  | 91.3%                                   | 97.3%                                  |
| Children placed internally (Foster Care)                                    | 129 – 139 (55.7% 19/20 YTD)             | 63%                                    |
| Number with connected carers  | 35                                      | 34                                     |
| Residential   | 42                                      | 22                                     |
| Child Looked After more than 20 miles away                                  | 60%                                     | 26.5%                                  |
| Care Leavers – in touch   | 100% (82.5% 19/20 YTD)                  | 70.3%                                  |
| Visited   | 83.3% (63.9% 19/20 YTD)                 | 40.6%                                  |
| In suitable accommodation   | 90% (88.1%. 19/20 YTD)                  | 85.7%                                  |
| Education Employment and Training   | 63.2%                                   | 68.1%                                  |
| Child Sexual Exploitation /Child Exploitation                               | 47 (High Risk, 38 Medium Risk)          | 182 (28 High Risk)                     |
| Missing   |   | 37                                     |
| National Referral Mechanism   | 0                                       | 7                                      |

## **2. Options under consideration**

2.1 N/A report has been prepared to provide an update.

## **3. Financial Opportunities and Implications**

3.1 N/A report has been prepared to provide an update.

## **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 N/A report has been prepared to provide an update.

**5. Engagement and Consultation**

5.1 N/A report has been prepared to provide an update.

**6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services**

6.1 N/A report has been prepared to provide an update.

**7. Tackling Climate Change**

7.1 N/A

### Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board Action Tracker

| Date of meeting | Minute No. | Action  | Comments  |
|-----------------|------------|---|---|
| 27/1/21         | 1          | Councillor Mills was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board.  | Complete – records updated  |
| 27/1/21         | 2          | <p>(i) that the Membership and Terms of Reference for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board, as set out in the submitted report, be approved;</p> <p>(ii) that the following people, or their representatives, be invited to be appointed as non-voting co-optees to the Board to provide expert advice:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(a) Jo Morrell, Torbay Youth Trust;</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(c) Nikki Leaper/Brent Davison, Devon and Cornwall Police; and</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(d) a young person who has been through the care system;</p> <p>(iii) that appointments be sought for the following Statutory co-optees who have voting rights on education matters:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(a) Roman Catholic Diocese;</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(b) Secondary School Parent Governor;</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(c) Primary School Parent Governor; and</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(d) Academy Trust Parent Governor (unanimous).</p> | <p>Membership document updated. Email sent to non-voting co-optees and chase email sent to school governors inviting up to three representatives and Roman Catholic Diocese but no response received. Further chases will be sent.</p> <p>Jo Morrell has accepted the invitation.</p> <p>Brent Davison has accepted the invitation.</p> <p>We are hoping to have a young person attend the meeting on 1 March 2021.</p> |

| Date of meeting | Minute No. | Action  | Comments   |
|-----------------|------------|---|--|
| 27/1/21         | 3          | <p>(i) that the initial Work Programme and timetable for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board be approved subject to the addition of the following:</p> <p>(a) family friendly vision to be considered later in the year; and</p> <p>(b) to review the implementation of the new Liquid Logic system in September; and</p> <p>(ii) that the Work Programme be kept under review by the Democratic Services Team Leader in consultation with the Chairman, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Director of Children's Services to ensure that any relevant emerging issues are considered by the Board at an appropriate time (unanimous).</p> | <p>(i) complete and work programme updated.</p> <p>(ii) ongoing and will be kept under review.</p> |
| 27/1/21         | 4          | that the Regional Adoption Agency and the Director of Children's Services be requested to bring forward a campaign to improve the take up of prospective adopters in Torbay and report the outcome to the Board   | Email sent to Regional Adoption Agency and the Director of Children's Services 1/2/21.             |