

Friday, 19 July 2024

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

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

Monday, 29 July 2024

commencing at **3.00 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Banking Hall, Castle Circus entrance on the left
corner of the Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Board

Councillor Fellows (Chairman)

Councillor Law

Councillor Tolchard

Councillor Nicolaou

Councillor Twelves (Vice-Chair)

Co-opted Members of the Board

Laura Colman, Primary Parent Governor Representative

Jo Hunter, Church of England Diocese

A Healthy, Happy and Prosperous Torbay

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Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk - www.torbay.gov.uk

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-BOARD AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

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

2. **Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board held on 22 April 2024.

(Pages 5 - 10)

3. **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.)

4. **Urgent Items**

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

5. **Care Experienced, Including Housing for Care Experienced Young People**

To receive an update on Mark Ridell (National Implementation Advisor for Care Leavers at the Department for Education) visit and implementation of action plan for care experienced young people and how we deliver housing to care experienced young people.

(Pages 11 - 12)

- 6. Youth Justice** (Pages 13 - 24)
 To receive an update on the Youth Justice Team, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) provision.
 (Note: Jon Ralph - Service Manager has been invited for this item.)
- 7. Exclusions and Absence** (Pages 25 - 34)
1. To receive the latest qualified exclusion data and the views of those children who have been excluded.
 2. To receive an update on the new Local Authority Attendance Duties and Home Education.
 3. To receive an update on children on a part time timetable or on roll but not attending children, children educated other than at school (EOTAS) and children educated through Alternative Provision.
- (Note: Rachel Setter (Divisional Director of Learning and Partnership Hubs) and Dan Hamer (Head of Vulnerable Pupils) have been invited for this item.)
- 8. Special Educational Needs and Disability Update (SEND)** (Pages 35 - 40)
 To receive an update on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) self-assessment and outcome of the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) engagement meeting.
 (Note: Hannah Baker (Head of SEN and Inclusion) and Hannah Pugliese (Head of Women and Children's Commissioning – NHS Devon) have been invited for this item.)
- 9. Exploitation and Children Missing** (To Follow)
 To receive an update on Exploitation and children missing to include comparative data to demonstrate the improvements and impact to young people who are vulnerable to exploitation.
 (Note: Katie Buckley (Exploitation Team Manager) has been invited for this item.)
- 10. Young Carers Strategy** (Pages 41 - 52)
 To review the current Young Carers Strategy and make recommendations to the Cabinet.
- 11. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker** (Pages 53 - 54)
 To receive an update on the implementation of the actions of the Sub-Board and consider any further actions required (as set out in the submitted action tracker).

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**Minutes of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny
Sub-Board**

22 April 2024

-: Present :-

Councillors Fellows, Nicolaou, Tolchard and Twelves (Vice-Chair)

Co-opted Members

Jo Hunter, Church of England Diocesan (virtually)

Non-voting Co-opted Members

Tanny Stobart, Play Torbay

Mike Cook, Voluntary and Community Sector and Alternative Provision (Education)

Miranda Pusey, Devon and Cornwall Police

(Also in attendance: Councillor Bye)

31. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairwoman, Councillor Law (the Vice-Chairwoman Chaired the meeting in her absence) and Hayley Costar (who was represented by Miranda Pusey).

32. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Board held on 19 February 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairwoman.

33. Sufficiency Strategy and Permanence for Children

This item was deferred.

34. Schools Capital Programme Review

The Sub-Board considered the submitted report which set out the latest position on the Schools Capital Programme and the work being undertaken in respect of The Spires College and Homelands Primary School Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which expires in October 2027.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to where the temporary accommodation was for St Michael's Academy Free School and if the temporary accommodation had affected numbers on roll; what impact was development at Inglewood going to have on primary school places; what impact birth rates were having on numbers and capacity of school places across Torbay.

Members were advised that St Michael's Academy Free School had done an incredible job working with temporary accommodation with another unit due to be in place for September due to having 20 pupils on roll with a PAN of 30. It was expected that all 30 places would be filled once the permanent accommodation was in place.

It was acknowledged that whilst there was capacity overall in Paignton and Brixham, development around Roselands and the new Inglewood site had put pressure on Whiterock and Roselands Primary Schools. However, due to only around 50 houses a year being built out of the 500 approved the conditional approval from the Department for Education for a second free school in Paignton had been withdrawn. There was still potential to increase capacity at Roselands Primary School to make them a two form of entry school if numbers increased sufficiently. However, birth rates across all three Towns had fallen significantly and this would need to increase as well as more new housing coming on board in order to justify creating an additional school in the area. Members had regard to the impact that this had on other schools in Paignton and the ability for parents to secure a school place closer to their home.

It was noted that the new developments around Aldi and Lidl had secured Section 106 funding which had contributed towards Roselands and Whiterock Primary Schools' expansions.

The Director of Children's Services advised that the current Capital Programme included a roll over of £1.6m, which had already been rolled over previously and needed to be allocated and committed by the end of August 2024. Officers were looking at options around Section 19 duties, Parkfield and the Medical Tuition Service to identify a strategic plan for specialist education provision and enhanced resource for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) which this funding could help deliver. Members requested an update on this at a future meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services provided a verbal update on the Acorn Centre. Following further negotiations the project was due to go out to tender in April/May with a completion date of the end of December 2024. Whilst there had been delays due to changes in the project some time had been clawed back following agreement to close the Centre for a period whilst the works were being carried out. The Council was looking at how approximately £97,000 Revenue Funding for the project could be used working with the Trustees from the Acorn Centre.

35. Child Friendly Torbay

The Sub-Board reviewed the submitted report and received an update on the Council's partnership with UNICEF UK in a bid to be recognised as a Child Friendly Community which was formally launched on 22 April 2024. The ambitious partnership would see Councillors, Council staff and local community and voluntary sector organisations turning to children's rights – as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – to guide decisions that affect children and young people in Torbay.

The right of the child to have their views heard and taken seriously, for example, would mean that children would have a say in Council decisions from major policies, to decisions around the care they receive, as well as the opportunity to design local services and spaces.

Torbay Council joins eight other Councils in the UK taking part in the UNICEF UK Child Friendly Cities and Communities programme which works with Councils to put children's rights into practice and the only one in the South of England outside of London.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to how Councillors would be informed and engaged; how long was the discovery phase and how would feedback be gathered; how would we measure success over five and ten years' time; was there anything that could be done through schools via social, emotional and wellbeing classes and were schools and teachers involved; and the top priority for young people identified via Imagine This Partnership was protecting the environment and climate change how was this being addressed.

It was noted that a briefing would be circulated to all Members on 22 April together with wider communications on the proposals later in the week.

The Council was in the discovery phase which would last six months and would bring together existing work, data and partnerships with a detailed programme being developed to align with existing groups run by The Imagine This Partnership, linking in with LocalMotion, schools, voluntary and community groups.

Members recognised that this was about Torbay as a place with reaccreditation every three years and additional badges being worked towards and core principles on a forever journey to ensure the needs and voices of young people were embedded in everything that makes Torbay a place, with the Council leading and facilitating those conversations. This would include weaving in environmental and climate issues as part of the wider projects.

Resolved (unanimously):

That updates on the UNICEF UK Child Friendly Community be presented to the Sub-Board every six months.

36. Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Inspection Written Statement of Action Update

Members considered the submitted report which provided an update on the progress being made against the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Written Statement of Action. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services requested his thanks to be placed on record to the Chairwoman of the Sub-Board for attending a meeting with Ofsted on his behalf to discuss the progress made. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services acknowledged that there was a long way to go, and the Council and its partners needed to deliver all the things they promised to deliver but that we were more self-aware.

It was noted that there had been a change in regime with a new framework in place which the Area would be judged against in addition to the 8 areas identified for improvement at the previous inspection held in November 2021. This would focus on an audit of children and young persons who had an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and were registered for SEND support. There was still a lot of challenge nationally as well as locally in respect of SEND, this had been incorporated into the new SEND Strategy which covered the next five to ten years and had been coproduced with young people, parents, health, education and social care with five key priority areas identified. It was highlighted that SEND was everyone's business. A draft self-assessment had been developed and would be presented to a regional engagement meeting in June with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission to learn with others how to make further improvements in SEND.

The Sub-Board asked a number of questions in relation to what progress had been made on waiting lists, particularly speech and language; what was being done to identify speech and language in early years; were the Family Hubs involved in helping families with SEND; what were the Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) figures currently and where were they when we were inspected.

In response to questions, it was noted that waiting lists were still long but that alternative options were being explored looking at community recovery and additional investments. The importance of identifying speech and language difficulties at an early age was a key priority and work had been undertaken with early years providers to train them how to recognise and signpost parents to support for SEND. Work and training was also undertaken with primary and secondary schools and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs), with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) was being delivered through the Family Hubs and a dedicated social care officer based within the Team responsible for the Family Hubs so they link across all services. A link between people with speech and language difficulties entering into the Youth Justice system was also highlighted.

The NEET figures were 45 when we were inspected with a target to reduce to 15 by April and by July 0 and as of April 2024 there were 8 people with SEND who were NEET. It was noted that Torbay has a transient population which fluctuated over the academic year. The Council was looking at a better way to forecast need and pathways for young people including internships and the creation of an Internship Forum looking at as many businesses as possible to sign up. It was noted that more care experienced young people were NEET and the overall numbers were 257 which was still too high. This linked to the Child Friendly Community work to inspire young people to want to be in education or employment and the voice of the young person was being heard and gathered in this work. Members also noted the work carried out by Play Torbay around training and apprenticeships.

Members acknowledged the multi-agency and maturity of the Local Area work being undertaken to address the recommendations from the Inspection but that there was still further work to be done.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that an update on the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Written Statement of Action Self-Assessment and outcome of the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) engagement meeting be presented to the next meeting in June; and
2. that the Cabinet be requested to work with Council Directors to identify more opportunities for internships within Torbay Council and SWISCo for our young people, including those with SEND.

37. Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)

Members received a verbal update from the Director of Children's Services and the Head of Safeguarding NHS Devon on the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) which was carried out in November 2023 looking at front door services for children's health and protection. The Inspection involved inspectors from across a number of agencies including Ofsted, Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Police, Fire and Ambulance services. The inspection identified 2 priority actions in respect of services delivered by health as well as a further 7 areas that needed to be considered and as a result a written statement of action was required with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) as the principal lead organisation. A written statement of action had been developed and would be submitted to Ofsted by 9 May 2024 and was presently working its way through governance processes within each of the statutory partner agencies. Members received assurance that the written statement of action covered the nine points identified for improvement with a lot of progress already made, particularly around the priority areas. There was a clear focus around professional curiosity, with good leadership oversight with working groups and appropriate governance in place to take forward the actions. The process had helped identify cases within the health sector that needed a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) referral with learning taken and used for educational sessions with the line manager and taking learning and emerging themes to make positive changes across the partnership. Focus was also given to data available to the partnership to help inform their practice and the Torbay Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive Group was working out what data would be useful, based on what was available from the Police, Council, Hospital and Health.

It was acknowledged that children's mental health, particularly those sitting at a lower-level threshold needed support from multiple agencies whilst they were on waiting lists to ensure there was support for them. This linked to the Children's Continuous Improvement Plan. The partnership around quality assurance was robust, with the Independent Scrutineer playing a key role in this.

The Torbay Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Children's Continuous Improvement Board were monitoring this work as well as ensuring that the voice of the children and their families was heard as well as working with the wider community as part of the activities within the Children's Partnership.

Members questioned what happens with the written statement of action once it was submitted to Ofsted and were advised that it would be monitored via the ICB and Torbay Safeguarding Children's Board. If Ofsted identified any significant issues, it could trigger an Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILAC) inspection.

Resolved (unanimously):

That the update on the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) Action Plan be removed from the Work Programme for June, the final written statement of action be circulated to the Sub-Board and an update on delivery against the actions to be presented to the Sub-Board in November.

38. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2024/2025

The Sub-Board received the Initial Work Programme for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board and picked up the below changes which were made during the discussions on the early items.

Resolved (unanimously):

That, subject to the following changes, the Initial Work Programme for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board be approved and kept under regular review by the Chairwoman and Democratic Services Team Leader with consultation being carried out with other Scrutiny Members via the monthly informal Overview and Scrutiny Briefings:

1. remove the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) from 3 June 2024;
2. remove the Work Programme from 3 June 2024;
3. add Sufficiency Strategy and Permanence for Children to 3 June 2024;
4. add Special Educational Needs and Disability Update (SEND) to 3 June 2024;
5. add Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) to 18 November 2024; and
6. add Update on UNICEF work to be a Child Friendly Torbay (six monthly) to 18 November 2024.

39. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

The Sub-Board noted the contents of the submitted action tracker. An update on the actions arising from the Spotlight Review on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) would be published as soon as possible. (Note: this document was circulated on 1 May 2024.)

Chairwoman

Report Title: Care experienced housing

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Prepared By: | Becky Thompson | Contributors: | Cared for and care experienced services |
| Partner organisations: | Health, education and wider partners and stakeholders | | |
| Date Prepared: | 13th May 2024 | Date of Meeting: | 3rd June 2024 |

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update in regards to the needs of care experienced young people

Summary

Access to a stable and permanent accommodation is an urgent need for Torbay's care experienced young people; this is one of their base needs, and often is the foundation of stability that they need to be able to achieve their potential and achieve a sense of safety.

At the end of the year 23/24 the performance evidences that 81% Torbay's care experienced young people were assessed as living in suitable accommodation. This compares to the 2021-22 national figure of 88% and statistical neighbour comparator for that year of 90%. Children's Services continue to offer a range of accommodation and placements to cared for and care experienced young people aged 16-25. As of the 13th May 2024, this includes:

- 38 fostering placements (both in-house and independent fostering placements);
- 3 residential placements;
- 15 spot purchased semi-independent placements;
- 52 units of supported semi-independent accommodation through a commissioned block contract, with 2 of these vacant at the point of writing the report.

This totals 117 individual units; in addition, we have 24 care experienced young people in Staying Put arrangements.

We are working with the TDA on an opportunity for six care experienced young people to access further transitional accommodation with support as part of their permanence accommodation journey.

There are two current vacancies within the block contract, with all vacancies linked to identified cared for or care experienced young people.

Only four care experienced are currently in temporary accommodation, demonstrating a significant reduction from earlier this financial year, when we had a high of seven in temporary accommodation; This is tracked on a weekly basis, and all of these young people have oversight of the DCS and senior leadership team through Independent Placement Overview Panel (IPOP). We are also seeing a continued reduction of care experienced young people being tracked through Youth Homelessness Panel, compared with previous years.

On the 3rd May 2024, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Education (DFE) published updates on several key areas in regards to the housing and

accommodation of care experienced young people as part of their three step approach:

1. **Preventing care experienced homelessness:** DLUHC has updated the Homelessness Code of Guidance to strengthen their expectation that all local authorities should develop a joint housing protocol. DLUHC have also updated the good practice guidance, which can support local authorities with the development of joint housing protocols. Whilst this is in place in Torbay, and reviewed annually, there is a need to update it further considering the proposed changes to governance as outlined below.
2. **Intentional homelessness decisions for care experienced young people are exceptional:** both departments have outlined a clear expectation that local authorities should avoid the impact of intentionally homeless decisions wherever possible. The Homelessness Code of Guidance has been updated to clarify that, when a housing authority is considering whether a care experienced young person has become homeless intentionally, the local authority should be satisfied that the support and accommodation provided has met the care experienced young person's need needs. Whilst recognising that in rare situations, a decision of intentionality may be necessary where all other avenues have been exhausted, local authorities must have regard to vulnerability of care experienced young people and the lack of parental support and stability that would ordinarily be provided to young people, when considering accountability. Intentional homeless decisions in respect of care experienced young people should therefore be exceptional. This is not yet the case in Torbay.
3. **Increasing governance in respect of intentional homelessness decisions for care experienced young people:** there is now an expectation for local authorities to increase governance around intentional homelessness decisions for experienced young people by updating their joint protocol to include arrangements for senior leader level sign off, for example Director or Assistant Director, from **both** housing and children's services for any intentional homelessness decisions for care experienced young people. This will increase governance around negative decisions and ensure that all appropriate checks are in place and interventions have been considered. As part of this sign off, senior leaders should review the circumstances that have led to the decision. Whilst this sign off exists in Torbay, it is from Children's only, with oversight of all care experienced young people in temporary accommodation (for any reason) reported on weekly and discussed in the Independent Placement Overview Panel chaired by the DCS on a fortnightly basis. There is a need therefore to ensure that there is replicable accountability and responsibility from Housing as part of this decision-making process.

2. Recommendations

*Endorsement of a joint update to the Youth Homelessness joint protocol by Children's and Housing, to incorporate the proposals to amend governance processes outlined in this report. This will include an agreed process for senior leader sign off of intentional homeless decisions from both Housing and Children's.

*All further updates in regards to care experienced and housing/accommodation should be jointly authored by Children's and Housing, to further enhance joint working and responsibility.

Meeting: Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board **Date:** 3rd June 2024

Wards affected: All

Report Title: TYJS Improvement Plan Update June 2024

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 & nationally services are called the Youth Justice Services.

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 March 2024 Update

Background Documents

N/A

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Improvement Plan 2023-25 has 13 priority areas for improvement activity, 7 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)

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). The service has been able to recruit to the CAMHS worker role for the first time in nearly 3 years, which enables swift access for all children open to the YJS for both mental health screening, support, and referral on if required.

5) The Review of the Prevention / Turnaround provision took place in December 2023 which was one month behind schedule. Vikki McGeough from Community Safety chaired the review and all relevant partner agencies took part. Overall partners agreed that good progress had been made and that the programme was delivering its targets specifically 81% of children open to the service had not offended. Questions were raised about was the service getting the 'right' referrals and were they coming early enough as many children referred were already being investigated for alleged offences. An action plan has been created for the changes to the program agreed at the review and this is being overseen by the Strategic Board. Turnaround funding from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) funds half of the Prevention Service and this is due to end in March 2025, the YJS strategic Board is looking at how this can be funded in the future.

6) The Committee will be aware of the concerns re school attendance, suspension and exclusion in the Bay and this is also true for children open the YJS. 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 with education partners, providers and the Virtual School and Vulnerable Pupils Unit to ensure children have suitable placements and are supported to attend regularly. Attendance at the PRUs by children open to YJS is better than other groups but is still high.

8) More positive activities and opportunities for children. Torbay Council contracted a range of providers to enhance youth work provision in the bay (started in November 2023) and has brought other services back in house to increase the coordination. Torbay YJS use these new activities and clubs to refer children to pre and post interventions as supportive activities and social networks away from offending behaviour. Many of these clubs are also based in

the higher crime areas within the bay as well as the assertive outreach programmes targeting these areas.

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.

11) This Action Plan was introduced during the year following a Multi-Agency Case Audit (MACA) for Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) that was carried out by the Torbay Safeguarding Children's Partnership (TCSP). Four of the five areas for improvement identified in the audit are either completed or on track to complete. One area is rated as amber which is attendance in education for children at risk of CCE. This links to 6) above.

13) This Action Plan was introduced during the year following CEO Deep Dive led by Anne Marie-Bond and the actions were accepted by the Strategic Board in March 2024 and an action has been developed to ensure work is progressed.

1.2 There are 2 areas that are 'Amber' indicating that they are in progress but delayed these are in the areas of: -

1) Child First Approach –There has been significant 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.

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.

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. The service has looked at nine different buildings in the last 2 years recently we had agreement to use the Torr Abbey Lodge as a temporary location, but initial scoping identified a number of issues in terms of both health and safety matters and cost that made the building unsuitable. Most recently TDA identified the Upton Vale building (behind the Torquay Town Hall) as a suitable building but this has again been ruled out very recently due to fire regulations preventing the use of the most usable space upstairs. The lack of suitable, safe and confidential space to carry out sensitive work with children and their parents and victims is not only potentially impacting the quality of the work the service delivers, as well as the

efficiency of the service and may impact the HMIP Inspection rating if we were inspected again as this is an outstanding recommendation from the 2020 inspection.

4) The second area is the lack of access to mental health and well-being provision for children open to YJS. The red rating 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, after a gap of nearly 3 years. The new worker has started and is already making an impact in the ability of children open to the service to access CAMHS screening, support and ongoing referrals. The red rating has not been changed as the other aspect of the action was to review the contract with Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD) re the provision of the CAMHS support to seek access to psychologist input for the staff team for child case formulation as part of the best practice model for youth justice services.

There are two areas that has not started yet which are: -

9) the website development which is due to protracted negotiations with the Family Hub website about suitability which have not been resolved. The service is now seeking an alternative location through the council website.

12) After Action Review (AAR) this review was requested by the service following a nearly 3-year delay in the investigation and resolution of allegations serious sexual offences by a Torbay child and the impact of this on his education, employment, and health and wellbeing. The review was carried out by the TSCP and has produced a final report which is currently with the TCSP executive group for ratification of the recommendations.

- 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 | 77% 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 (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community) | | | No differential impact |
| 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.

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Torbay Youth Justice Improvement Plan 2023-24

March 2024 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 21 | 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 | The Zig Zag building 1 st floor has now been ruled out for YJS use, as well as a private office space on union street in Torquay. We are currently assessing the suitability of the Upton Vale building (behind Electric Hse & Town hall) however this is on Castle Circus where the highest rates of ASB& offending is for Torquay. The DCS has written to all partners asking for them to review their buildings for suitable sites. |
| 2a | Outstanding Deep Dive April 2022 Recommendation Continue work to secure a range of local facilities that are fit for purpose | | | See above | |

| | | | | | |
|---------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|-------------|
| | 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 started in post. | In place |
| 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Audit offending rates following intervention. b) Ensure Turnaround funding requirements are met. c) Prevention Review & Action Plan to be established based on recommendations of the review. | <p>July 23</p> <p>March 25</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 took place in Dec 23. All key partners attended report & improvement action plan is in place. | Completed |
| Page 22 | 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 was 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <p>May 23</p> <p>Sept 23</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 contracted a range of providers to enhance youth work provision in the bay (started in Nov 23) and has brought other services back in house to increase the coordination. This is now well established. | Completed |
| 9 | Improve the visibility and understanding of Youth Justice Service work – telling the good | Liaise with Torbay Council communications dept to develop better communications to inform the public & | Sept 23 | Website development as part of the Family Hubs website is planned but this has not yet started due | Not started |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|---|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| | stories of children & the work of the YJS | community about TYJS (website, leaflets, news articles?) | | to priority for other aspects to be delivered due to funding requirements. | |
| 10 | Review the Quality of Youth Justice provision in Torbay. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete an audit against the YJB National Standards for Youth Justice Services. 2. Complete the YJB National Standards Action Plan devised following the audit | <p>October 23</p> <p>July 24</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audited completed sent to YJB by the deadline and Report to Nov 23 Board. 2. 14 of 17 action have been completed | In progress |
| 11 | Improve systems and processes to reduce Child Criminal Exploitation. | Implement Multi Agency Case Audit (MACA) re Criminal Exploitation Action Plan | July 24 | 4 of the 5 areas for improvement identified in the audit are either completed or on track to complete. One area is rated as amber which is to attendance in education for children at risk of CCE | In progress |
| 12 | After Action Review (AAR) re Swift Youth Justice C103 | Implement the recommendations of the AAR | | The AAR has been completed, YJS has a copy of the report & its recommendation but are currently waiting for sign off from the TSCP exec before it can be released. | Not implemented |
| 13 | CEO Deep Dive 2023 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and action plan on the recommendations of the Deep Dive report. 2. Implement the Action plan devised from the recommendations. | Jan 24 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The CEO Deep Dive report was accepted at the Jan 23 Strategic Board 2. An Improvement Plan has been devised and will be presented to the March Strategic Board for approval. | In progress |

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Meeting: O&S **Date:** May 2024

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Absence from Schools Autumn and Spring 2023-24

Compiled by: Dan Hamer, Head of Service for Vulnerable Pupils, dan.hamer@torbay.gov.uk

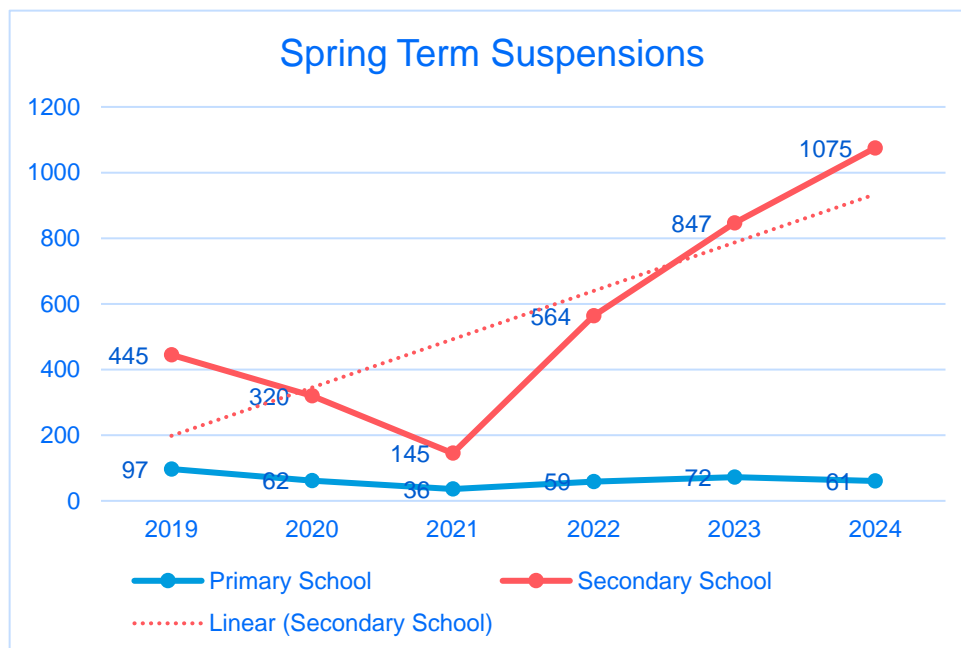
Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan, DCS, nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To illustrate the current levels of exclusion and suspension.
- 1.2 To illustrate the current numbers of Electively Home Educated children and young people.
- 1.3 To outline the position of the Local Area regarding school attendance.
- 1.4 To outline the current numbers in school part time or educated other than at school.

2. Exclusion and Suspension

- 2.1 Suspensions in Torbay's schools continues to rise. The picture for the spring term from shared data is below:



The data per school is below. The colour coding shows change in Spring 2024 vs 5 year Spring average discounting Spring 2021 (Lockdown).

| School | 2019 | 2020 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | % of Sector Spring 2024 | Spring 2024 vs 5 Yr Average |
|---|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lodestar Academy | 36 | 29 | 35 | 53 | 42 | 100 | |
| Primary School | 97 | 62 | 59 | 72 | 61 | | 87% |
| All Saints Babbacombe CE Primary School | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Barton Hill Academy | 4 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 3% | 48% |
| Brixham CE Primary School and Nursery | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Cockington Primary School | 12 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 2% | 21% |
| Collaton St Mary CE Primary School | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2% | 100% |
| Curledge Street Academy | 14 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 7% | 69% |
| Eden Park Primary School | 0 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 10% | 167% |
| Ellacombe Academy | 16 | 11 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 10% | 83% |
| Hayes School | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 21% | 283% |
| Homelands Primary School | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3% | 100% |
| Ilsham CE Academy | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Kings Ash Academy | 14 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 8% | 54% |
| Oldway Primary School | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Our Lady of the Angels School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3% | 250% |
| Preston Primary School | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Priory Roman Catholic Primary School | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Roselands Primary School | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2% | 83% |
| Sacred Heart Catholic School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Sherwell Valley Primary School | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 5 | 8% | 132% |
| Shiphay Learning Academy | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3% | 143% |
| St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| St Margaret's Academy | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| St Marychurch CE Primary School | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 7% | 143% |
| Torre CE Academy | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Upton St James CE Primary School | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 11% | 269% |
| Warberry CE Primary School | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Watcombe Primary School | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Secondary School | 445 | 320 | 564 | 847 | 1075 | | 165% |
| Brixham College | 35 | 9 | 25 | 51 | 163 | 15% | 288% |
| Churston Ferrers Grammar School | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 0% | 24% |
| Paignton Academy | 72 | 67 | 106 | 317 | 259 | 24% | 158% |
| St Cuthbert Mayne Joint Catholic & CE School | 155 | 100 | 119 | 231 | 385 | 36% | 194% |
| The Spires College | 51 | 41 | 105 | 89 | 120 | 11% | 148% |
| Torquay Academy | 120 | 101 | 186 | 147 | 131 | 12% | 96% |
| Torquay Boys' Grammar School | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 12 | 1% | 188% |
| Torquay Girls' Grammar School | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 0% | 154% |
| Special School | 67 | 33 | 50 | 92 | 65 | | 106% |
| Combe Pafford School | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 28% | 300% |
| Mayfield @ Chestnut | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| Mayfield School | 9 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 3% | 43% |
| Paignton Academy | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| The Brunel Academy | 45 | 29 | 36 | 84 | 43 | 66% | 91% |
| Grand Total | 645 | 444 | 708 | 1064 | 1243 | | 151% |

Many schools are keeping suspension as a last resort. This appears particularly true in the Primary sector where most suspensions are repeats for one or two children.

Two secondary schools have 40% of all Spring Term suspensions between them. They have 26% of all students for the phase on roll.

The table below shows the number of suspensions in the Academic Year to the 1st April 2024.

| | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Grand Total | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--|
| Lodestar Academy | 5 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 19 | 6 | 17 | 72 | |
| Primary School | 46 | 39 | 33 | 21 | 26 | 21 | 14 | 200 | |
| Hayes School | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 21 | |
| Curledge Street Academy | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 20 | |
| St Marychurch CE Primary School | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 18 | |
| Cockington Primary School | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 17 | |
| Ellacombe Academy | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | |
| Sherwell Valley Primary School | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 14 | |
| Upton St James CE Primary School | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 13 | |
| Eden Park Primary School | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 13 | |
| Roselands Primary School | 5 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12 | |
| Our Lady of the Angels School | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | |
| Kings Ash Academy | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 10 | |
| Oldway Primary School | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | |
| Homelands Primary School | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | |
| Barton Hill Academy | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | |
| All Saints Babbacombe CE Primary School | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | |
| Collaton St Mary CE Primary School | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | |
| Shiphay Learning Academy | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | |
| Warberry CE Primary School | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| Watcombe Primary School | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| St Margaret's Academy | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Secondary School | 346 | 337 | 444 | 186 | 367 | 324 | 384 | 2388 | |
| St Cuthbert Mayne Joint Catholic & CE School | 180 | 139 | 185 | 75 | 156 | 113 | 116 | 964 | |
| Paignton Academy | 34 | 62 | 59 | 36 | 83 | 73 | 103 | 450 | |
| Brixham College | 77 | 54 | 107 | 30 | 50 | 52 | 63 | 430 | |
| Torquay Academy | 17 | 45 | 54 | 31 | 41 | 44 | 46 | 278 | |
| The Spires College | 29 | 36 | 34 | 15 | 33 | 38 | 49 | 233 | |
| Torquay Boys' Grammar School | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 17 | |
| Torquay Girls' Grammar School | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 | |
| Churston Ferrers Grammar School | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | |
| Special School | 73 | 48 | 36 | 27 | 33 | 25 | 7 | 249 | |
| The Brunel Academy | 68 | 45 | 31 | 24 | 26 | 17 | 0 | 211 | |
| Combe Pafford School | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 27 | |
| Mayfield School | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 | |
| Grand Total | 470 | 428 | 521 | 247 | 445 | 376 | 422 | 2909 | |

In the same period in 2022/23 the figures were:

| Phase | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Total | 2024 +/- |
|-----------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------------|
| Primary | 15 | 40 | 49 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 31 | 185 | +15 |
| Secondary | 160 | 239 | 312 | 145 | 287 | 216 | 344 | 1703 | +685 |
| Special | 13 | 8 | 17 | 9 | 19 | 22 | 50 | 138 | +111 |

2.2 The exclusions data below is from the Vulnerable Pupils Team records. It captures all exclusions, including those yet to be reviewed by governors and trustees.

| | 2022/23 | | | | | 2023/24 | | | | | Difference |
|------------------------|---------|------|------|------|-------|---------|------|------|------|-------|------------|
| | Aut1 | Aut2 | Spr1 | Spr2 | Total | Aut1 | Aut2 | Spr1 | Spr2 | Total | |
| AP | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 | -1 |
| Lodestar | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 | -1 |
| Primary | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 16 | 3 |
| All Saints Babbacombe | | 2 | | | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 | -1 |
| Cockington Primary | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 0 |
| Qurlidge Street | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 | -1 |
| Eden Park Primary | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | -2 |
| Elacombe Academy | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | 0 |
| Homelands | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 |
| Ilsham Academy | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | -1 |
| Kings Ash Academy | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 0 |
| Oldway Primary | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 |
| Our Lady of The Angels | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 |
| Roselands | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | -1 |
| Sacred Heart Primary | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | -1 |
| Sherwell Valley | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Shiphay | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| St Marychurch | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Upton St James | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 0 |
| Warberry Academy | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| White Rock | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Secondary | 3 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 29 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 24 | -5 |
| Brixham College | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Paignton Academy | | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | -4 |
| St Outhbert Mayne | | 4 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | -3 |
| Teignmouth CC | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | -1 |
| The Spires College | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| Torquay Academy | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | -1 |
| TBGS | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | -1 |
| Special | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 |
| Brunel School | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 0 |
| Combe Pafford | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 |
| Grand Total | 6 | 16 | 13 | 10 | 45 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 9 | 43 | -2 |

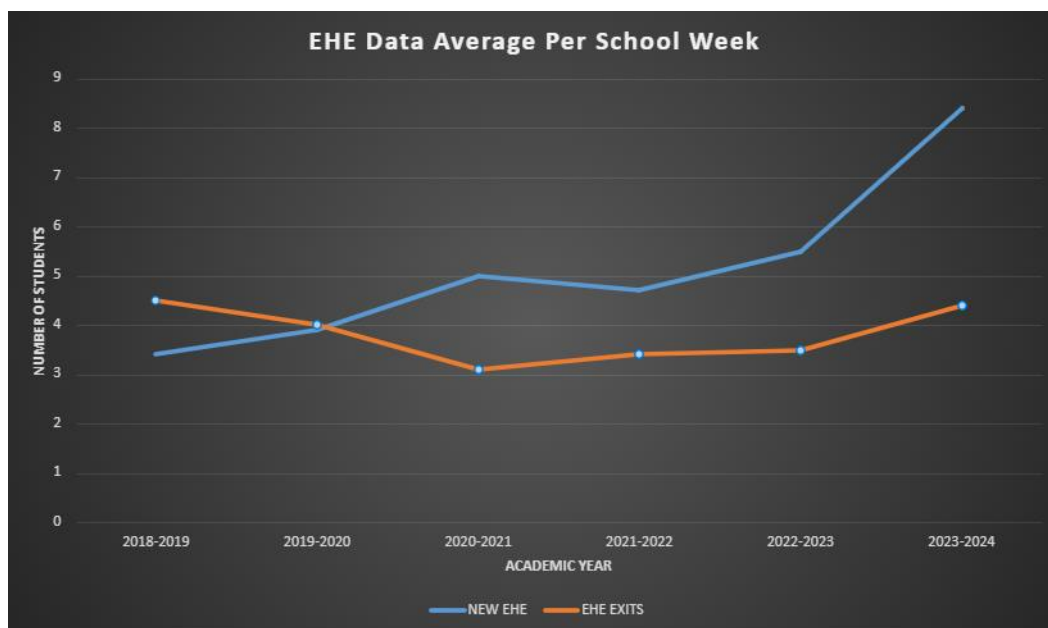
There have been fewer exclusions year on year. In the first week of the summer term there have already been three and two further children placed in new settings by the SEND and Virtual School Teams to avoid exclusion.

Children open to social care and/or with Free School Meal entitlement account for 50% of all exclusions whilst the FSM cohort is 29% of all children.

75% of all exclusions are of children with SEND. (88% in Primary phase)

3. Elective Home Education (EHE)

3.1 Elective Home Education numbers continue to rise from a pre pandemic low of 0.9% (164) of school aged children to 2.5% (500) in April 2024. **These 500 children would be funded at approximately £2.5M per year if in schools.**



The graph above shows the rate of children leaving schools to EHE vs the number the team can support to return.

The current rate of leavers to EHE is 8.3 a week. This is the highest recorded rate by 3%. There is no sign of the rate slowing as we would expect at this time of year.

3.2 The numbers per Year group as of April 2024 are as below:

| Yr Group | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Active | 16 | 19 | 28 | 21 | 23 | 32 | 53 | 53 | 89 | 86 | 80 |

3.3 The previous hypothesis that the 'bulge' in Years 10 and 11 would work through the system and lead to a reduction in numbers was incorrect. Significant increases in year for Year Groups 7, 8 and 9 suggest that there is a group of parents who start at secondary phase and, over time, come to believe that remaining in school does not benefit their child.

3.4 The active cohort contains 104 children at SEN Support and 24 with EHCPs.

3.5 The most common reasons given for moving to Elective Home Education are dissatisfaction with the school due to alleged bullying, failure to meet SEN needs or failure to support or prevent mental health deteriorating. (215 children). 149 parents declined to give a response. One year 11 child's family suggested that the school had recommended EHE.

4. School Attendance

4.1 The relative position of the LA from DfE as live data is:

| Data as at 22/04/24 | Primary | Secondary | Special |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| % Attendance | 93.77% (94.46%) | 89.32% (90.59%) | 85.03% (85.65%) |
| Position vs 153 LAs | 148 th (141 st) | 142 nd (136 th) | 146 th (121 st /149) |

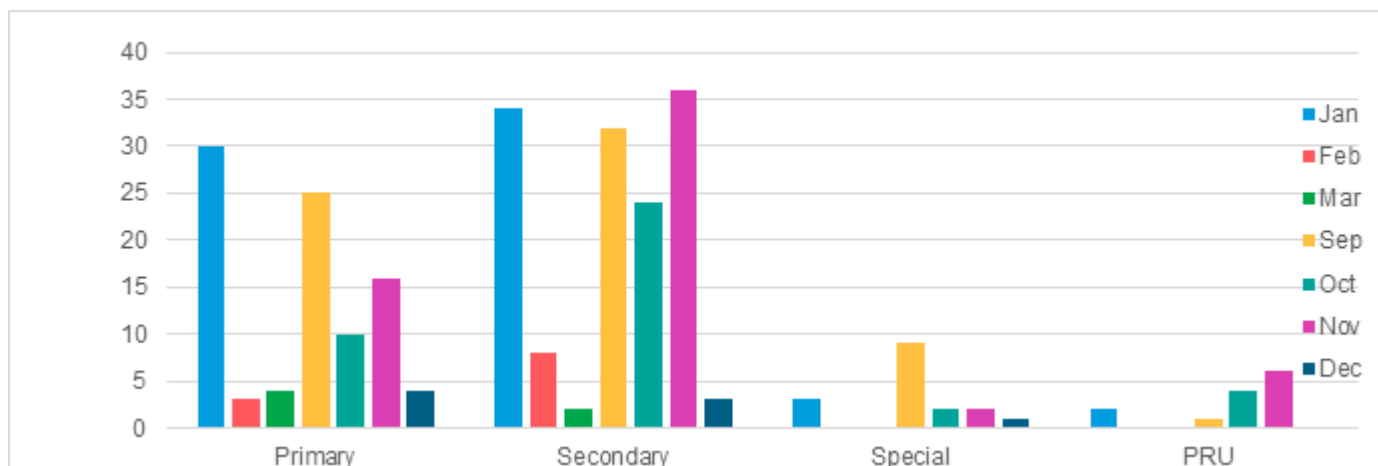
(November figures in parentheses)

4.2 The most common reason given for absence is illness. Torbay has the highest percentage of primary phase absence through illness in the country. In secondary phase, only S Tyneside has greater absence through illness.

4.3 Torbay is an outlier regarding absence through arriving late to school after the registers close.

4.4 Torbay is also an outlier for the use of the E code for exclusion and suspension with only one local authority (Norfolk) suspending for a greater percentage of sessions at Primary Phase.

5. Part time and Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS)



5.1 We remain committed to championing children's rights to a full-time education, however, the use of reduced timetables in Torbay remains high. Part time timetables should only be implemented in very exceptional circumstances, where it is in a pupil's best interests and for the shortest time necessary.

The data per school is below, showing all reduced timetable requests submitted to the LA between 1st September 2023 and 1st April 2024.

Primary

| Row Labels | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Grand Total |
|---|-----|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| All Saints Babbacombe CE Primary School | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| Barton Hill Academy | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 6 |
| Brixham CE Primary School and Nursery | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Cockington Primary School | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Curledge Street Academy | | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Eden Park Primary School | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Elective Home Education | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Ellacombe Academy | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Furzeham Primary School | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Galmpton CE Primary School | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| Hayes School | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Homelands Primary School | | 3 | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Kings Ash Academy | | 3 | | 4 | | 3 | 1 | 11 |
| Oldway Primary School | | 1 | | 3 | | 4 | | 8 |
| Our Lady of the Angels School | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Roselands Primary School | | 5 | 2 | 1 | | | | 8 |
| Shiphay Learning Academy | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 |
| St Marychurch CE Primary School | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| St Michael's' C of E Academy | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Torre CE Academy | | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Upton St James CE Primary School | | 3 | | 2 | 1 | | | 6 |
| Warberry CE Primary School | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| Watcombe Primary School | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 9 |
| White Rock Primary School | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 4 |
| Grand Total | | 30 | 3 | 4 | 25 | 10 | 4 | 92 |

Secondary

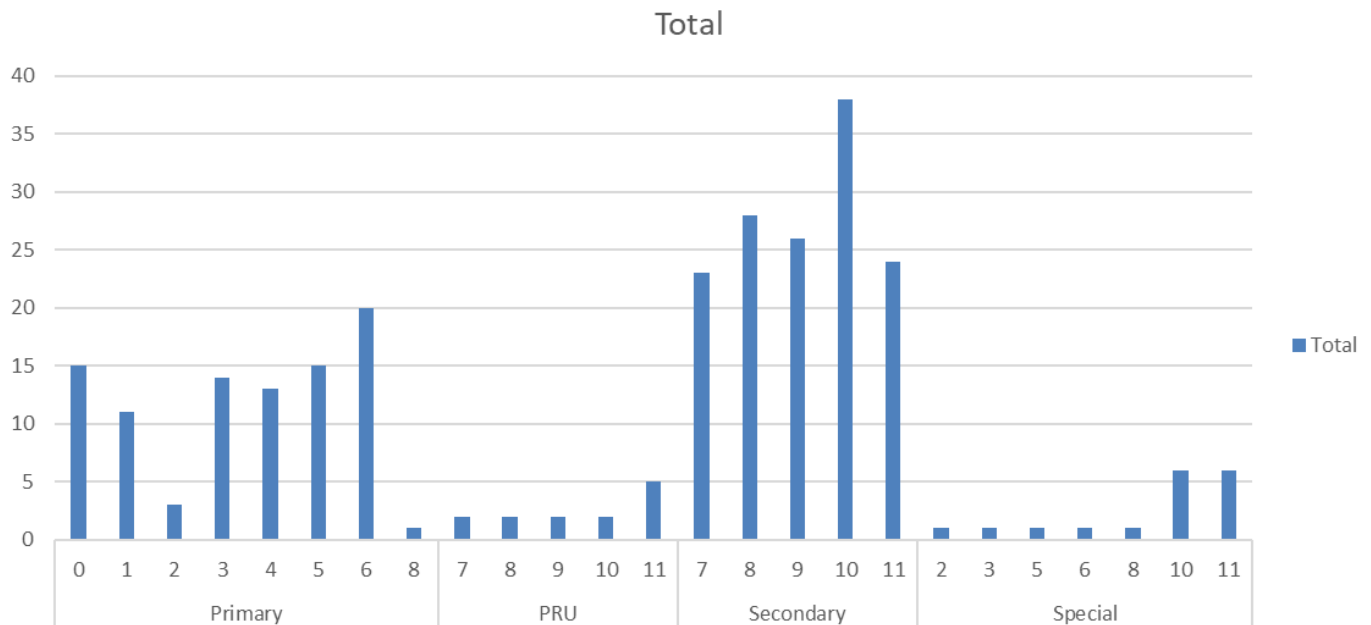
| Row Labels | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Grand Total |
|--|-----|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Brixham College | | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 23 |
| Churston Ferrers Grammar School | | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 8 |
| King Edward VI | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Paignton Academy | | 1 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 7 | | 27 |
| St Cuthbert Mayne Joint Catholic & CE School | | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 1 | 33 |
| The Spires College | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | 11 |
| Torquay Academy | | 12 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | | 32 |
| Torquay Boys' Grammar School | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 3 |
| Torquay Girls' Grammar School | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Grand Total | | 34 | 8 | 2 | 32 | 24 | 3 | 139 |

Special

| Row Labels | Jan | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Grand Total |
|-----------------------|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Combe Pafford School | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Mayfield School | | | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Preston Bridge School | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| The Brunel Academy | | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Torbay Unknown School | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Grand Total | | 3 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 17 |

Lodestar

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|-----------|
| Lodestar Academy | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | | 13 |
| Grand Total | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | | 13 |



The graph above shows reduced timetables per year group.

- 5.2 This academic year there have been 15 children registered as EOTAS as a result of exclusion. 9 Primary, 5 Secondary and 1 from AP. 6 of these children have now returned to a school setting.
- 5.3 At the time of writing, there are currently 9 pupils registered as EOTAS with the Vulnerable Pupils team.
- 5.4 We currently have eleven EHCP 16+ pupils on EOTAS and 28 EHCP pupils of compulsory school age.

6. Challenges

The following challenges to the system are of note:

1. Medical Absence.
2. Low numbers of excluded children returning to mainstream schools
3. 6th day settings are full, with waiting lists.
4. Vulnerable children are on part time provision awaiting places at registered settings.
5. Fair Access referrals from schools are increasing.
6. Parents report being dissuaded from applying to schools when visiting.

7. Activity

The local authority has taken the following actions:

1. Used reserves to employ two additional Attendance Improvement Officers.
2. Employed an Attendance Youth Worker
3. Agreed an Educational Neglect definition for referrals.

4. Provided an Attendance Graduated Response.
5. Are seeking to appoint an additional EHE Officer from LA funding.
6. Tasked the Virtual School Extended Duties Officers with a focus on SEMH children at KS2/3 transition.
7. An attendance officer attends all Early Help Panels
8. Rewritten the Penalty Notice Code of Conduct to ensure greater consistency between schools.
9. Procured an IT solution for Parental Legal measures around attendance.
10. Funded a social media campaign focused on the wards with the poorest attendance.
11. Provided advice and support via:
 - Attendance clinics
 - Attendance forums
 - Risk of Exclusion Panels
 - Risk of Exclusion Case Conferences
 - Primary Behaviour, ASC and Learning Needs outreach

Secondary Schools are:

1. Increasingly likely to work together to avoid exclusion.
2. Working between schools to reintegrate some children after exclusion without referral to Lodestar Academy.

7. Summary

This report can be summarised as follows:

1. Torbay has a slightly improving number of exclusions at secondary phase but a worsening number at primary phase.
2. Children who have been excluded struggle to find a new mainstream school as schools use fair access processes to resist admission.
3. The alternative provision for children who have been excluded is beyond capacity.
4. Children who experience disadvantage through SEN or low family income (FSM) are disproportionately suspended and excluded.
5. They are also less likely to attend school well.
6. Torbay has an exceptional amount of authorised absence through illness and suspension.
7. Torbay has also seen exceptional growth in the number of families choosing to leave schools and educate their children themselves.

Appendices

Previous Education for Active EHE Cases

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| All Saints Babbacombe | 2 |
| Barton Hill | 16 |
| Brixham CofE | 3 |
| Cockington | 16 |
| Collaton St Mary | 2 |
| Curledge Street | 8 |
| Eden Park | 10 |
| Ellacombe | 2 |
| Furzeham | 7 |
| Hayes | 5 |
| Homelands | 1 |
| Ilsham | 3 |
| King's Ash | 3 |
| Oldway | 6 |
| Our Lady of the Angels | 1 |
| Preston | 5 |
| Priory | 3 |
| Roselands | 4 |
| Sherwell Valley | 1 |
| Shiphay | 4 |
| St Margarets | 3 |
| St Marychurch | 8 |
| Torre | 1 |
| Upton St James | 1 |
| Warberry | 2 |
| Watcombe | 2 |
| Whiterock | 5 |

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Brixham | 11 |
| St Cuthbert Mayne | 43 |
| South Devon High | 1 |
| The Spires | 32 |
| Torquay Academy | 23 |
| TBGS | 3 |
| TGGS | 2 |
| Paignton Academy | 47 |

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Independent Sector | 2 |
| Never Schooled | 44 |
| Not Known | 5 |
| OOA | 62 |
| KEVICC | 1 |
| Combe Pafford | 3 |
| Mayfield | 5 |
| Lodestar | 2 |

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 17th May 2024

Wards affected: All Wards

Report Title: Update on Co-production of the Self Evaluation Form (SEF) of Torbay Local Area for Special Educational Needs (SEND) Provision and Report of the SEND AREA Engagement Meeting with Ofsted on 27th February 2024.

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

Cabinet Member Contact Details:

Director/Divisional Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan, Director of Children's Services.

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1. Purpose of Report

Following the SEND Local Area Inspection in November 2021 a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) was produced which was reported to Overview and Scrutiny in October 2023 and subsequently in April 2024. The written Statement of Action related directly to the outcomes of the November inspection. It is now almost 3 years since that inspection and as inspections are intended to be within 3 years of the previous inspection then Torbay Local Area can expect to be visited again within the near future.

A key element within an inspection is the Local Area's self-evaluation of their current position. Work has been undertaken on a self-evaluation and is currently being developed. Given that the new inspection arrangements would likely mean a full re-inspection later on in 2024 it is important for us to give due regard to the current results of the self-evaluation as we update this board.

As part of the follow-up by Ofsted on the previous inspection, an engagement meeting was held with Ofsted at the Offices in Bristol. A review of the feedback received from them is included in this report, following the discussion of the Self Evaluation Form.

2. The Local Area Self Evaluation Form

Work was started in the co-production of the SEF in January 2024. The Local Area SEND Inspection Framework is divided into two parts:

1. The impact of the local area partnership's SEND arrangements on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.
2. How the local area partners work together to plan, evaluate and develop the SEND system.

As can be seen, the first part is very much concerned with the impact of the various processes on outcomes for children, young people and their families. The second part is much more concerned with how the partners in the Local Area; Education, Health and Social Care plus other agencies in

the community, function for the benefit of those with special educational needs and disabilities from ages 0 to 25.

The first area is further subdivided into 5 areas which the Local Area partners have to address. These are:

- 1.1 Children and young people's needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way.
- 1.2 Children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support.
- 1.3 Children and young people receive the right help and support at the right time.
- 1.4 Children and young people are well prepared for their next steps and achieve strong outcomes.
- 1.5 Children and young people with SEND are valued, visible and included in their communities.

The second area is subdivided into 6 areas which the Local Area partners have to address. These are:

- 2.1 Leaders are ambitious for children and young people with SEND.
- 2.2 Leaders actively engage and work with children, young people and families.
- 2.3 Leaders have an accurate, shared understanding of the needs of children and young people in their local area.
- 2.4 Leaders commission services and provision to meet the needs and aspirations of children and young people.
- 2.5 Leaders evaluate services and make improvements.
- 2.6 Leaders create an environment for effective practice and multi-agency working to flourish.

Since the original inspection there have been a series of national developments. These include the new SEND reforms (green paper) recommending a new Local Inclusion Plan (LIP), a SEND National Change programme with several Pilot schemes around the country, as well as the changed Ofsted Inspection Framework for SEND Local Area Inspections. This now sees areas being judged within three categories for all future inspections:

Outcome 1 - The local area partnership's arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed. The next full area SEND inspection will be within 5 years. Ofsted and the CQC ask the local area partnership to update and publish its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in this report.

Outcome 2 - The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements. The next full area SEND inspection will take place within approximately 3 years. Ofsted and the CQC ask that the local area partnership updates and publishes its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in this report.

Outcome 3 - There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area

partnership must address urgently. A monitoring inspection will be carried out within approximately 18 months. The next full area SEND inspection will take place within approximately 3 years. HMCI requires the local area partnership to prepare and submit a priority action plan (area SEND) to address the identified areas for priority action.

3 The Co-production Process

At the beginning of the process 4 meetings were held starting on 31st January 2024. Panels were assembled related to the contents of the framework. Two of the meetings were related to Section 1 of the Framework and two to the second part. The meetings consisted of representation from SEND Services, Family Hub representation, ICB, Devon Health, Children's Social Care, SEND Family Voice Torbay, School representatives. SEND Family Voice were unable to attend but a separate meeting was convened to gather their views. Analysis was undertaken of the workstream outcomes from the Written Statement of Action, Partnership Surveys, Data Dashboard, SEND Strategy, as well as a range of other reports.

From the range of comments, findings and reports a range of strengths and areas for development were gathered and entered into the first iteration of the SEF. This was then circulated to the participants of the first meetings, to those who had been invited but could not attend, and a range of other people, including the wider group of Parent members of Family Voice Torbay. The responses were then set against the original statements and the SEF was modified into a second version.

This version was formatted to include the following headings:

- SEND and Inclusion Vision,
- How the Strategy Was Produced,
- Our SEND Strategy Partnership Pledge,
- Local Area Governance Structure
- Executive Summary and
- The SEND Self Assessment.2024.

An analysis of the content of the strengths and weaknesses provided an overview of the main areas within the Draft SEF. These very preliminary findings were:

IDENTIFICATION & INCLUSION

Improve identification of needs through greater use of the Graduated Response and increase the ordinarily available provision, through increased training opportunities, to allow more pupils to remain in their home school without the need for an EHCP. Improve both attendance and exclusion rates. Review Social care thresholds in both Children's Disability and Adult Social Care for access to a range of support processes. Explore the culture change necessary to maintain children and young people in their communities and help them feel part of their community. Improve the role of Health in identification processes.

ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

Continue to implement and embed new EHCP and AR formats that are quality assured and receive advice in timescales to improve timeliness. Ensure that Health funding is identified and accessed along with reductions in waiting times for services and health checks. Improve attendance at, or reports for, Annual Review processes.

PARENTAL CONFIDENCE

Provide rapid communication with parents, carers and young people around developments and improvements so that they understand clearly what is happening and their confidence in the system improves. Support parent/carers, children, and young people with conversations regarding the transition to adulthood so that their voice in the amended plan is reflective of preparing for adulthood outcomes and the local offer.

SUFFICIENCY

Ensure that there are places for those who need specialist provision through the development of locality hubs linked with the Family Hubs to provide joined approaches through education, social care and health. Develop provision for those at Post 16 transition providing for increased attainment at Level 2 and 3 and also supported internships and apprenticeships. Review transitional arrangements in health where there are congenital issues.

JOINT WORKING

Use the Single Point of Contact for Health and Single Point of Contact for Social Care to support joined up working at the amended plan stage. Remove the opportunities for silo working by reviewing working and office practices across local partners. Review the meeting culture to ensure that meetings are effective and influence practice without duplication where possible. Work to fully develop the joint commissioning opportunities.

DATA

Conjoin the JSNA and data dashboard information and increase the specificity of demographic location against more specific need types, ensuring that the SEND data is used across the partnership to aid planning and delivery to meet the needs in the Local Area and that the impact of interventions can be judged.

Since the first versions of the SEF were produced further work has been done towards tidying the descriptors and combining into more cohesive statements and adding a further detailed section to show the comparative figures for Torbay against National and Local outcomes for SEND.

4 Next Steps

Since the original inspection a range of national developments have been introduced. These include the new SEND reforms (Green Paper) which recommends a new Local Inclusion Plan (LIP), a national Change programme for SEND as well as the Ofsted Inspection Framework for SEND Local Area Inspections which now sees areas being judged within three categories for all future inspections:

In order to meet the increased demands of the new inspection regime, as well as the increased expectations of the newly introduced programmes, including the Safety Valve in which Torbay is participating and the demands on Health, through the changes resulting from the introduction of the Integrated Care System (ICS), it is essential that the Local Area has an accurate view of the strengths and areas for development. The document that is expected to summarise these is the SEF.

We will continue to develop the SEF, which is a live and developing document. From the latest version an Action Plan will be produced. This will amalgamate the workstream actions from the Written Statement of Action to prevent duplication of effort.

The latest version of the SEF has been distributed to a wide range of partners across the whole of the Local Area. They have been asked to submit comment, observations and potential changes. The reason that this stage is being undertaken this way is to reduce the demand on partners to have to attend meetings, which is a drain on their time and increases meeting fatigue. This is such an important document that it is essential that we obtain the widest range of responses possible.

The final version of the SEF will be complete by the end of June and will then be an ongoing process of updating, linked to the associated Action Plan. This will be monitored through the SEND Strategic Board.

5 The Area Engagement Meeting with Ofsted

As stated previously in the report members of the Local Area Partnership were invited to Ofsted Offices in Bristol on the 27th February 2024 to review the progress that had been made since the SEND Local Area Inspection in November 2021. Representation included those from Education, health and Social Care. Parent and Family representatives joined on a video link so that they could participate in the presentation.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss SEND provision in the area and how the area partnership is meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND, how we are improving services for children and young people with SEND and their families, to identify any issues of concern and how the partnership is keeping up to date with any changes in the local SEND system.

Various members of the partnership presented their views of the work that had been done in Torbay since the inspection. The main points covered, and featuring in the response from Ofsted were as follows:

- Services for children are at the top of the council's list of priorities although it was explained that we are not seeing the impact of development work as fast as we would wish. We explained that the partnership is determined to explore different options for improving services, including independent oversight of all development work.
- There is now a much greater commitment to partnership work from leaders in each aspect of education, health and social care as well as an increased commitment to services for children and young people with SEND from the council.
- The partnership has a better understanding of the impact of its work on children and families through the partnership with SEND Family Voice Torbay.
- The partnership plans to strengthen the work of family hubs by collocating educational psychologists within them as well as including them in the recently established 'first step' groups to look at the needs of children in the early years and their families in order to build strong and sustainable foundations for the future.
- A quality framework was introduced last year to drive up the quality of education, health and care (EHC) plans but that there is a tension between quality and timeliness of EHC plans but have brought in more people and adopted a project approach to successfully clear any backlog.
- the partnership needs to do more work to ensure that children's health needs are appropriately incorporated into their EHC plans and so have instigated a pilot project in Torbay.
- We have changed the way our family hubs work. Each of the five hubs now has an outreach worker attached. This is proving to be a popular and effective approach.

- Outreach work is now being directed by the 'at risk' panel and the level of intervention for children with social, emotional and mental health needs and children who need speech and language therapy is increasing because of this. We hope that it will soon start to have an impact on the high rate of school suspensions and permanent exclusions in the Torbay area.
- We have developed a 'graduated response roadshow' which has visited all schools in Torbay. This has significantly raised the profile of the partnership's work with schools with increased attendance of school staff at the regular SENCO network meetings and Parent representatives sensing the higher profile of local SEND services.
- We stated that we are committed to more face-to-face work with families with a recent 'spotlight on CAMHS' day generating a lot of interest, despite messages being hard for staff to hear. Despite this, we believe that a big shift in parents' views is taking place.

APPENDICES

Torbay new version SEF V.1.pdf

Ofsted SEND Local Area Framework

Ofsted letter re: Area SEND Engagement meeting 27th February 2024.

Meeting: [Children's Overview and Scrutiny Board](#) **Date:** [29th July 2024](#)

Wards affected: [All](#)

Report Title: [Young Carers Service](#)

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

Cabinet Member Contact Details: [Cllr Nick Bye, Lead Member Children's Services,](#)
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Director Contact Details: [Nancy Meehan, Director Children's Services,](#)
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Young Carers Service transferred back to Torbay Council on the ^{1st} of June 2023 following a period of the service being run by Torbay Youth Trust. It was clear that there had been some challenges experienced by the service during the pandemic, when children and young people were not in school and social activities had to be put on hold. The service had returned to standard practice when it was able, however there were delays to assessments and transition reviews being undertaken and there was a clear need for service to 'catch up' with the backlog of transition reviews needed.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the current situation, a review of the Young Carers Service and identify existing areas of need against the U25 Strategy and Action Plan and to highlight the need for investment going forward.
- 1.3 The Young Carers Service works closely with the Young Adult Carers (YAC) service and Torbay Carers (Adult carers service) to ensure the actions set out in the Action Plan are completed, and progress is made. The areas of shared concern are still access to appropriate mental health support for carers, services available to young carers (outside of the carers services) during the transition into adulthood, identification of young carers by adult services such as Adult Social Care, Substance Misuse Services and Mental Health Services. Work is ongoing in all these areas to improve the current situation and the experience of carers and therefore not included in this proposal.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver our vision of a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay by recognising the importance of and contribution made by young carers and their families. Torbay Council and the Young Carers Service want to ensure that all children have a right to thrive, to enjoy their childhood and succeed in education or in any area of interest and importance to them. We want children to have the opportunity to become healthy, successful and happy adults, and feel able to contribute to their community
- 2.2 The reasons for the proposal and need for the decision are to improve the overall impact of the Young Carers Service for young carers and their families by investing in their wellness and offering opportunities for them to develop supportive networks and grow in confidence, have access to, and develop relationships with others outside of the family home.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That members of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Board support the development of a financial business case to seek investment in the Young Carers Service to ensure that it remains sustainable for the Young Carers within Torbay. 2.

Appendices

Appendix 1: No Wrong Door – Memorandum of Understanding signed commitment

Background Documents

[Young Carers Service - Torbay Council](#) Young Carers Service webpage on Torbay Council website

[Final Young Carers Under 25 Strategy and Action Plan 2022-25.pdf \(torbay.gov.uk\)](#) The U25 Strategy and Action Plan.

[Strategy, policy and quality - Torbay Carers Service \(torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk\)](#) Torbay Carers Strategy

[no6UjxZkmN \(dpt.nhs.uk\)](#) Devon Partnership Trust Carers Strategy 2024-2027 – DPT are a partner of the U25 strategy group.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Young Carers Service is made up of five part-time staff and a part-time service manager. Two staff members focus on secondary school age children, two focus on primary school age children and one member of the team focuses on Electively Home Educated and longer-term non-attenders of school. This allows us to ensure that all children and young people have a designated contact.
- 1.2 The statutory requirement of the service is to ensure that all children and young people identified as young carers are given an assessment to determine their caring role, and the impact this has on them, to undertake transition reviews where young carers are transitioning to adulthood, and to raise awareness and improve early identification of young carers.
- 1.3 As such there will be provision for an assessment of needs to support for all young carers under the age of 18 on request from them or their parent or on the identification of need. This will be available regardless of who they care for, what type of care they provide or how often they provide it. Young carers, the person cared for and, if different, the parents of the young carer will be informed about the assessment process, and we will ensure they are able to participate in the process as effectively as possible.
- 1.4 The primary responsibility for responding to the needs of young carers and young adult carers and ensuring an appropriate assessment rests with the service responsible for assessing the person they support, rather than the age of the carer. This means that:
- Young carers of disabled children are the responsibility of the Children's Service which will also need to undertake carers' assessments for any young adult carers who look after disabled children.
 - Adult Services will identify children in the household / family network and ensure that young carers are not left with excessive and inappropriate levels of caring responsibilities that risks them becoming vulnerable. They will also need to undertake carers' assessments for young adult carers. Adult Services will refer to Children's services where the child is thought to be a child in need or to young carers services or Early Help where other preventative services are needed.
- 1.5 Torbay Council sets out its vision for Torbay's young carers in its agreed 'Torbay and young carers under 25 strategy and Action Plan 2022 – 2025' as: 'to enable Torbay's Young Carers and Young Adult Carers to be protected from inappropriate caring, and to be able to have access to any additional support they may need to ensure they are safe, healthy, aspiring and achieving. We will achieve this through effective partnership working and the delivery of timely and high-quality services.'

- 1.6 There is a detailed action plan contained within the 2022 – 2025 strategy which links to the 4 agreed key priority areas for young carers as follows:
1. Identification of Young Carers Under 25 at the First Opportunity
 2. Information, Advice and Support Services available to Young Carers Under 25
 3. Young Carers Under 25 Assessments Proportionate to Need, including Whole Family Approach
 4. Involvement of Young Carers Under 25 in service delivery, evaluation and commissioning.
- 1.7 Further to this in February 2021, the Directors of Torbay Children’s Services, Torbay Adult’s Services and The Youth Trust committed to the refreshed Memorandum of Understanding ‘No Wrong Doors: working together to support Young Carers and their families’, an important document which emphasises the benefits of a joined-up approach.
- 1.8 To support the above the Young Carers Service team run a range of activities such as lunch clubs in schools, a monthly group for 8–12-year-olds, a monthly group for 12–17-year-olds, regular holiday activities for young carers, and family activities during holiday and half-terms. Whilst these activities are not a ‘statutory requirement’, it is recognised that young carers benefit from spending time with other young carers and outside of the family home or away from their caring responsibilities.
- 1.8 Whilst the Young Carers Service ensures that many opportunities are available for young carers there are some barriers to this including limited resources (staff and budget) as well as additional costs associated with transportation. Many parents and guardians are not able to provide transport to young carers to attend activities outside of the young carers service, therefore the Council provides taxis, at a sizeable cost.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 The service has been back within Children’s Services for just over a year and we now feel able to raise the profile of young carers and their considerable contribution to their families and the health service. However, as stated above resources within the service are limited and as such consideration now needs to be given as to how additional investment can be secured.

- 2.2 As mentioned above, a barrier for young carers accessing activities outside of the home is access to affordable transport. We would like to better understand whether discounted public transport or additional funding towards transport could be considered.
- 2.3 As such, it is recommended that a financial business case is developed setting out the available options to ensure that the service remains sustainable moving forwards, for the young carers in Torbay.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 As above – it is recommended that a financial business case is now developed to set out the options available to provide a sustainable service and raise the profile of young carers. This financial business case will detail the opportunities and implications if additional funding cannot be found.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Please see above – in summary:

The Children and Families Act (2014) required local authorities to take reasonable steps to identify Young Carers in their area, provide assessments for Young Carers under the age of 18, and identify whether caring responsibilities are appropriate. The Care Act (2014) introduced new obligations to Young Carers in transition to adulthood, including the requirement on adult services to provide transition planning for Young Carers who are likely to need support after becoming 18 years old.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 We have spoken to the parents/guardians of young carers to better understand their needs and the benefits and impact of the activities organised by the Young Carers Service. The consensus was that they appreciate the opportunity for their children to have their own space, spend time with other children and to have these activities organised by the service, so they do not have to try to manage this around the competing needs of the family.
- 5.2 We have spoken to the young carers accessing the service to better understand the impact on them when engaging with the service, what they would like to do and what they feel the

barriers are. The young carers have enjoyed the activities and have said that they would like to do more such as 'away days', 'overnight trips' etc.

- 5.3 To develop the business case we will speak with Children and young people and their families to ask for feedback on any options proposed.

6. Procurement Implications

- 6.1 N/A at this time.

7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 N/A

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 If additional funding for the service is not secured then this would potentially limit the number/frequency and offer of activities for young carers and would therefore mean that some of that activities within the associated young carers strategy action plan are not able to be delivered.

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>The main focus is on young people under 18 as this is the age group that the Young Carers Service serves, however parents/guardians and older siblings can also be impacted by the welfare of the young carers in the household.</p> | <p>Ensure whole-family engagement and communication is considered.</p> | <p>Children's Services – ongoing commitment.</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>The Young Carers Service works with young carers and often families who also share caring responsibilities.</p> | <p>We work closely with the Young Adult Carer and Torbay Carers Services to ensure transition between is smooth, that other family members are registered, and health professionals are engaged where required.</p> | <p>Children's Services and partners – ongoing.</p> |
| Disability | <p>In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities</p> | <p>The Young Carers Service will work with young carers who may care of a family</p> | <p>We make amendments to ow assessments are undertaken to mee their</p> | <p>Children's Services and</p> |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness. | member with a disability or themselves have a disability. | needs and ensure that partner agencies who are or need to be involved are engaged. | partners – ongoing. |
| Gender reassignment | In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay’s community 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. | We may have young carers who identify as a different gender to their assigned gender at birth. | There is no change to our service offer and we work closely with schools, families and agencies such as Proud2Be to ensure appropriate support is in place. | Children’s Service and partners – ongoing. |
| Marriage and civil partnership | 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. | N/A | | |
| Pregnancy and maternity | 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 Southwest (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. | N/A | | |
| Race | In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the | The proportion of young carers from a black, Asian or minority ethnic background is very small. | The service offer does not change, however and we link in with Imagine Torbay | Children’s Services and partners – ongoing. |

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| | Southwest 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. | | Multicultural Group or other partners where support is required. | |
| Religion and belief | 64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census. | N/A | The service offer does not change, we are however mindful of the food served at and the timings of activities we organise. | |
| Sex | 51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male | N/A | | |
| 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. | We may work with young people who identify are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. | There is no change to our service offer and we work closely with schools, families and agencies such as Proud2Be or the LGBTQIA+ Participation worker in the Youth Service to ensure appropriate support is in place. | |
| Veterans | 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 | N/A | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| | have previously serviced in the UK armed forces. | | | |
| Additional considerations | | | | |
| Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation) | | Many of the families of young carers experience financial hardship as their caring responsibilities impact on their ability or prevent them from working. | We try to support families with transport costs and access to activities that they aren't able to afford to benefit the young carers. | Children's Services – ongoing. |
| Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay) | | We know that young carers are impacted by the additional responsibilities they hold or where they are often not the focus of their parents/guardians because of the needs of siblings or parental substance abuse or mental health needs. | As a service, offer opportunities for young carers to talk about the pressures, their mental health and seek additional support where required. | Children's Services and partners – ongoing. |
| Human Rights impacts | | The rights of Young Carers are key to the Torbay Young Carers Service. | We campaign for the rights of the young carers to be heard and actively take part in Carers Rights Day every year. | Children's Services – ongoing. |
| 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. | We work predominantly with children and young people. | We ensure that children and young people take active ownership of the service they receive from us and make decisions about what the service offers. | Children's Services – ongoing. |

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 None

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 Increased demand of mental health intervention required for young carers should they not receive preventative support from the Young Carers Service.

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Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

| Date of meeting | Minute No. | Action | Comments |
|-----------------|------------|--|--|
| 22/04/24 | 36 | <p>1. that an update on the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Written Statement of Action Self-Assessment and outcome of the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) engagement meeting be presented to the next meeting in June; and</p> <p>2. that the Cabinet be requested to work with Council Directors to identify more opportunities for internships within Torbay Council and SWISCo for our young people, including those with SEND.</p> | <p>Complete added to Work Programme</p> <p>Report to be submitted to the Cabinet – see Cabinet Response 11 July 2024 - Cabinet Response to Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation Internships update draft.pdf (torbay.gov.uk)</p> |

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