

## Community Services

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Carter

**Responsible Officer:** Tara Harris

### Bereavement Services

This service was externalised in 2008 to Westerleigh Group who now manage the Cemeteries and Crematorium service under a 25 year lease and management agreement.

### Community Protection and Private Housing Standards

Community Protection includes core statutory services of Environmental Health, namely Pollution Control and Private Sector Housing Standards and Anti-Social behaviour. Community Protection key services are managed collectively to ensure neighbourhood issues are adequately addressed.

The Community Protection Team has a range of mandatory regulatory responsibilities and the way in which it delivers services is governed by a large number of statutes.

The Private Sector Housing Standards Team deploys the statutory duties of the council, intervenes and regulates the private sector housing market in Torbay to ensure the health, safety and welfare of owner occupiers and tenants. The Home Improvement Service which supports vulnerable clients in their Disabled Facilities Grant adaptations is currently contracted out.

### Food Safety, Licensing, Trading Standards, Health and Safety and Resilience

These statutory services protect the public's health, safety and welfare across Torbay. They are managed as an integrated team to improve the service to the customer and to improve efficiency. Food hygiene, food standards and health and safety enforcement. Investigation of infectious disease. Premises Licensing and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing.

Health and Safety and Resilience – This includes corporate health and safety, emergency planning and business continuity which support all other business units of the Council and are an essential part of the Council's resilience and statutory responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Civil Contingencies Act.

Trading Standards in Torbay (fair trading, metrology, product safety) is now run by Devon County Council under a shared services arrangement.

## **Housing Services (Operational)**

The Housing Options Service provides a range of services to prevent homelessness and support individuals and families in crisis, through the provision of emergency and temporary accommodation. Housing Options is the main referral route into any temporary accommodation contracted by the Authority.

There is a statutory duty to produce a Homelessness Strategy and maintain a housing register (Devon Home Choice). This requires the provision of a Housing Options service for prevention advice and homeless applications. In addition the Council has to provide emergency and temporary accommodation and access to support and supported accommodation to meet different needs.

The Housing Options Team has a range of statutory duties to deliver emergency and temporary accommodation and prevent homelessness and manage the housing waiting list. The way in which it delivers services is governed by a large number of statutes.

## **Safer Communities**

The Safer Communities team co-ordinates the Safer Communities Partnership as well as managing the front line service delivery of a number of partnership funded and delivered projects. Its main aim is to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, making Torbay a safe and healthy place to live in and visit. The Council has statutory duties as a Community Safety Partnership and also has duties to meet the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act. Torbay Council works with other partners including the Police, Fire, Probation Service and NHS, who also contribute to the Safer Communities Partnership.

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. This duty includes a number of specific elements including: Community Safety meetings held, formal multi-agency information exchange protocol, holding public meetings to consult with communities about priorities, rolling strategic assessment of crime and disorder, implementation of a strategy to reduce offending, delivery of the PREVENT agenda and domestic homicide reviews.

CCTV and Security team support many of the Council's other functions, notably Safer Communities work, Licensing and the Night Time Economy; its duties under the Safety at Work Act 1974 with regard to its own staff, safeguarding of young people, prevention of sexual violence and supporting the anti-social behaviour team in delivering its work to reduce the impact of those with dependency problems and to protect those who are vulnerable.