

Meeting: [Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board 2024](#)

Date: [23rd September](#)

Wards affected: [All](#)

Report Title: [Revised Children's Pledge](#)

When does the decision need to be implemented? [N/A as update](#)

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to provide members of the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the 'Revised Children's Pledge'

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 On 1 March 2021 the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the 'Our Promise to You – The Torbay Pledge to cared for and care experienced children/young people 2021-2022'
- 2.2 The Board approved the adoption of the pledge and the development of an action plan to demonstrate how the Council will implement the Pledge to have the greatest and most positive impact on our cared for and care experienced children and young people. The Board requested that updates on the action plan be monitored by the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board.
- 2.3 This report has been prepared to provide Board Members with an update on the above and the next steps.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board note the contents of this report and the plans for next steps to review the existing Pledge.

2. That an updated Children and Young People's Pledge is scheduled on the agenda for the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting in 3 months time.

Appendices

N/A

Background Documents

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 1 March 2021 the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the 'Our Promise to You – The Torbay Pledge to cared for and care experienced children/young people 2021-2022'. This Pledge was developed working with Children and Young People from across Torbay, and at that time was supported by the Torbay Youth Trust, the Youth Service and the 'Cared for Council' - The collective group were formerly known as The Circle and My Voice dependent on their ages.
- 1.2 The adoption of this Pledge provided a commitment to our cared for and care experienced children/young people to listen and work with them to provide and secure the best outcomes for our looked after children.
- 1.3 Since this time a number of key changes have been undertaken including transferring services from Torbay Youth Trust back 'in house' and resetting our Cared for Council. This has naturally taken some time to implement, and as a result there have been a number of priority actions underway such as the 'Young People's Manifestos' and individual projects such as guides for social workers and resources for our Relational Conference.
- 1.4 It should also be noted that currently, our 'Cared for Council' does not meet as a group due to their preference to work individually on their separate projects. The way that the Cared for Council meet will be regularly reviewed and will be adapted to meet their needs. Direct meetings and hybrid meetings will be facilitated accordingly to meet the young people's needs as and when this is appropriate.
- 1.5 Due to the changes outlined above it is recommended that a review of the Pledge is undertaken - to ensure this is now up to date and that all members (and the wider cared for population) are able to have their say.
- 1.6 The review of the Pledge will include the following:
 - Are the 'You Said' elements still relevant?
 - Are the associated pledges therefore still relevant?
 - How can we learn from other pieces of participation work and reflect this is a revised Pledge?
 - How can we align this Pledge to others, such as our SEND pledge?
- 1.7 We anticipate we need a further three months to undertake this work, as such it further recommended that an updated Pledge is scheduled on the agenda for the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board at a future meeting.

2. Options under consideration

2.1 N/A – as above.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

3.1 None

4. Legal Implications

4.1 None.

5. Engagement and Consultation

5.1 As above – as part of the revision of the Pledge consultation and engagement will be undertaken. We will seek to understand Children and Young Peoples views on the pledge to inform the review. The platform to complete this work and enhance participation will be both offered online and in person. A hybrid approach will enhance the way we engage children and young people.

6. Procurement Implications

6.1 None.

7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

7.1 N/A

8. Associated Risks

8.1 N/A

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>	As part of the revision of the pledge Children and Young People will be consulted.		
Carers	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.	No differential impact		
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.	No differential impact		
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community	No differential impact		

	<p>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.</p>			
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>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.</p>	No differential impact		
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>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 South West (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.</p>	No differential impact		
Race	<p>In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West 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.</p>	No differential impact		

Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	No differential impact		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	No differential impact		
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.	No differential impact		
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 have previously serviced in the UK armed forces.	No differential impact		
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		No differential impact		
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of		No differential impact		

the population of Torbay)				
Human Rights impacts		No differential impact		
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.	As this is a pledge for Children and Young People this supports Torbay Councils ambition to become a 'Child Friendly' community.		

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 N/A

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 N/A