

Title: Torbay Safeguarding Children Board

Wards Affected: All Wards

To: Health and Wellbeing Board **On:** 23 May 2013

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Purpose

To provide the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB) with a brief overview of the role of the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) and consider the inter-relationship between both Boards. Future reports will provide a summary of key areas of TSCB activity.

Background

The TSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant agencies will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Torbay and for ensuring the effectiveness of agencies' safeguarding activity.

The statutory objectives and functions of the TSCB are set out in Section 14 (1) of the Children Act 2004 as follows:

- a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of the LSCB in relation to the above objectives (appendix 1).

The current TSCB structure can be found attached (appendix 2), this is currently under review following a Development Day in March 2013.

Inter-relationship

The HWBB and the TSCB need to carefully consider the nature of their relationship, the governance arrangements that secure effective inter-action and the approaches that will enable robust, inter-active working between the two.

Working Together 2013 (Chapter 3, para 6) states that the LSCB should work with the HWBB, informing and drawing on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The LSCB is also required to submit its annual report to the Chair of the HWBB (Chapter 3, para 16).

It will be important for both the HWBB and the TSCB to develop an effective joint protocol to support their working relationship in the interests of safeguarding children.

The protocol should define how both Boards will work together in the pursuit of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and should set out how both Boards will work together to:

- Consult on the refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Share information in respect of the health and well-being of children, young people and their parents/carers
- Develop a coordinated approach to performance management and evaluation of success in securing outcomes
- Agree arrangements for the formal presentation of the TSCB annual report to the HWBB and the HWBB providing a formal response to the TSCB
- Ensure that messages and information about keeping children safe are disseminated within partner organisations, including collaborating on stakeholder events
- Ensure action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by the other

Recommendations

That the Director of Children's Services develop a draft protocol to support the working relation between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board in the interests of safeguarding children and seeks the agreement of the Chairmen of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board prior to formal ratification by the respective Boards.

APPENDIX 1. LSCB FUNCTIONS

As defined in the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 (2006 SI No 90)

5. (1) The functions of an LSCB in relation to its objective (as defined in section 14(1) of the Act (4)) are as follows:

- a) developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority, including policies and procedures in relation to:
 - i. the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention.
 - ii. training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children;
 - iii. recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children;
 - iv. investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children;
 - v. safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered;
 - vi. co-operation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners;
- b) communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done, and encouraging them to do so;
- c) monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and advising them on ways to improve;
- d) participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority;
- e) undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(e) a serious case is one where:

- a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- b) either:
 - i. the child has died; or
 - ii. the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

(3) An LSCB may also engage in any other activity that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objective.

Further functions relating to child deaths

6. (1) From 1st April 2008 each LSCB shall, in addition to the functions referred to in regulation 5, have the following functions in relation to the deaths of children normally resident in the area of the authority—
 - a) collecting and analysing information about each death with a view to identifying:
 - i. any case giving rise to the need for a review mentioned in regulation 5(1)(e);
 - ii. any matters of concern affecting the safety and welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
 - iii. any wider public health or safety concerns arising from a particular death or from a pattern of deaths in that area; and
 - b) putting in place arrangements for a rapid response to each unexpected death of a child, by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating the death.

APPENDIX 2. TSCB STRUCTURE

