

**Interim Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2025/2026 V1**

Approved 19 May 2025 - Updated 1/5/2025 by Teresa Buckley

**Items to be scheduled:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Outcomes and Objectives</b>
TBC	Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children’s Continuous Improvement Board Update	To receive an update on the Children’s Continuous Improvement Plan
TBC	Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children’s Emotional Wellbeing and Support	<p>To review the support for children’s emotional wellbeing, including the NHS Devon Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy and Plan.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To review the outcomes framework for mental health in schools (Torbay Lead for Mental Health Team to be invited).</li> <li>• To consider access to mental health services for children and young people diagnosed with autism.</li> <li>• To consider how the community and voluntary sector is being supported to assist families when young people are on waiting</li> </ul>

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			<p>lists for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or who don't meet the threshold.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has access to CAMHS improved?</li> <li>• When is it expected to take less than 18 weeks to receive an CAMHS assessment?</li> <li>• What action is being taken to reduce waiting lists to ensure young people get access to support sooner?</li> <li>• How has access to the Schools Mental Health Programme been improving outcomes for young people?</li> </ul>
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Inspection Written Statement of Action Update (six monthly)	<p>To receive update on the progress of the implementation of the action plan arising from the Written Statement of Action following the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs (SEND) Joint Inspection.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider the action plan arising from the SEND Inspection Update carried out in March 2025.</li> <li>• To consider the impact of the review of home to school transport and how children with SEND are being supported to travel to and from school.</li> </ul>
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	NHS Long Term Condition Improvement Work	To review the NHS Long Term Condition Improvement Work

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TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	One Devon Children's Strategic Approach and Annual Plan	To review the One Devon Children's Strategic Approach and Annual Plan
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter	To receive the Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Adopt South West Annual Report	To receive the Adopt South West Annual Report
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Young Carers Under 25 Strategy	To review the refresh of the Young Carers Under 25 Strategy and make recommendations to the Cabinet  Key lines of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What support is available to Young Carers?</li> <li>• How are opportunities for Young Carers promoted?</li> </ul>

## Timetable of Meetings

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
19 May 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Care Experienced, Including Housing for Care Experienced Young People	Update on Mark Ridell visit and implementation of action plan for care experienced young people – Update on how we deliver Housing to Care Experienced Young People to be provided
19 May 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Early Years Sufficiency (six monthly)	To review the sufficiency of Early Years placements  Key line of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What action is being taken by the Council to influence the market and ensure that there are sufficient early years places available to meet the demands across the whole of Torbay?</li> <li>• What is happening regarding preparedness for the new requirements coming into force in September?</li> <li>• Do we have over capacity of placements with the falling birth population?</li> </ul>
19 May 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children's Services Self-Assessment	To review the draft Children's Services Self-Assessment which provides an annual position on performance of Children's Services -

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19 May 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2025/2026	To approve the initial Work Programme for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board for 2025/2026
2 June 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Service Changes at the St Margarets and Spires Hearing Impairment Units  (Single item agenda)	To review the service changes at the St Margarets and Spires Hearing Impairment units following the Councillor call for action and to consider the petition on the closure of the unit at St Margarets referred by the Council.
28 July 2025 or do we need to add to 2 June as additional item?	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Youth Justice Service (six monthly)	To receive an update on the Youth Justice Service and consider the Youth Justice Service Annual Plan  Key lines of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What work or activities are being undertaken to reduce anti-social behaviour?</li> </ul>
28 July 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and	Youth Provision and Physical Activity	To review youth provision and offer  Key lines of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What kind of opportunities for children and young people currently exist? Are there additional opportunities?</li> </ul>

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	Scrutiny Sub-Board		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What youth clubs and play centres are available in Torbay?</li> <li>• How do young people and families engage with Torbay events?</li> <li>• What opportunities exist for young talent?</li> <li>• What leisure facilities are available for young people?</li> <li>• What free sports opportunities are available for young people in Torbay?</li> <li>• How can the benefits of play and physical activity enhance the physical and mental wellbeing of young people?</li> <li>• What is the Council doing to highlight the importance of physical playtime and facilities within schools?</li> </ul>
28 July 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Family First Partnership Programme (six monthly)	<p>To receive an update on the Family First Partnership Programme</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How we are delivering against the overall reforms as a partnership?</li> <li>• What has been the impact of the Children's Reforms in improving outcomes for children and young people in Torbay?</li> </ul>
28 July 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	UNICEF Child Friendly Update	<p>To receive an update on the implementation of the UNICEF Child Friendly programme</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the introduction of Child Friendly Torbay what are the plans for the future?</li> <li>• How many children, young people/parents/carers will be involved?</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the opportunities available?</li> <li>• What strategic and/or statutory requirements do they link to?</li> <li>• How are the voluntary and community sector engaged?</li> <li>• How do we consult with children and young people? What short or long-term impact have their views/opinions had? What will or has changed? How is this fed back to the young people involved?</li> </ul>
29 September 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	To consider the Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report
29 September 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Exploitation and Children Missing (six monthly)	<p>To receive an update on Exploitation and children missing</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What action is being taken to support children who go missing regularly, particularly from care placements?</li> <li>• What are the risks, opportunities, safeguarding measures, e.g. Philomena Protocol, intelligence gathering (return home interviews)?</li> </ul>
29 September 2025	Children and Young People's Overview	Exclusions and Absence (six monthly)	<p>To review exclusions and absence.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p>

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	and Scrutiny Sub-Board		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive the latest qualified exclusion data and the views of those children who have been excluded.</li> <li>• To receive an update on the new Local Authority Attendance Duties and Home Education.</li> <li>• To receive an update on children on a part time timetable (including the numbers coming off a part time timetable) or on roll but not attending children, children educated other than at school (EOTAS) and children educated through Alternative Provision.</li> <li>• What is the reason for young people being NEET?</li> <li>• How well do careers services work in Torbay to help advise young people of their options for employment, education and training?</li> <li>• How do we support our young people when they reach 16, 17, 18 etc. to help them understand and access appropriate education, employment or training?</li> <li>• How many of our young people are going into apprenticeships or supported internships?</li> <li>• How many apprenticeships and/or supported internships are available in Torbay and through Torbay Council?</li> <li>• To receive an update on an analysis of the 500 home elected young people to understand the reasons why and if there are any children missing from the list of home educated or attending school and what action is being taken to identify and support these young people and their families (moved from main Board 7 November 2024 as links to this work).</li> </ul>
17 November 2025	Children and Young People's	Sufficiency Strategy for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Annual)	To consider a report on the Sufficiency Strategy for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

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	Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board		Key lines of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What placements are available for children in emergency situations?</li> <li>• What consideration has been given to the suitability of a Police Station as place of safety, meeting basic needs, overnight care options?</li> </ul>
17 November 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Family Hub Sustainability	To review the long-term sustainability of the three Family Hubs in Torbay and the early help services they provide including the role of the Learning Academy following the end of Government Funding.
19 January 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services	To review access to Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services  Key lines of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is access to Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services Promoted?</li> <li>• How is drug safety taken into account?</li> <li>• How has this impacted on young people's health and wellbeing?</li> </ul>
19 January 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny	Public Health Nursing and Early Help (0-19)	To review Public Health Nursing and Early Help (0-19)

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	Sub-Board		
February 2026 (date TBC – 4 hours)	Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Spotlight Review on Education	<p>To carry out a spotlight review on Education covering the following:</p> <p>School Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What action is being taken to improve the Ofsted ratings of the three secondary schools rated as ‘requiring improvement’?</li> <li>• What impact have the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) Advisors had on schools in Torbay?</li> <li>• What are the rules around provision of religious education in schools and is there scope for ensuring more varied representation to take into account our multi-cultural society?</li> </ul> <p>Locality Model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What lessons have been learned from the Locality Model Pilot and how can this be used to improve performance and consistency across all schools in Torbay?</li> <li>• What is happening with the MyPlace (Parkfield) site and how does the Council ensure the covenant is being met?</li> <li>• What additional support is available to young people with SEND to help them into employment, education or training?</li> </ul> <p>Exclusions, Suspensions and Absences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand the reasons for exclusions, suspensions and absences and what action the schools are taking to reduce them.</li> <li>• To consider if there are schools with disproportionate numbers and how a more uniformed approach could be encouraged.</li> </ul>

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What restorative work is being undertaken to prevent exclusions, suspensions and isolation?</li> <li>• How does the Council ensure that children who excluded, suspended or absent from school are safeguarded from harm?</li> <li>• What consideration is given to social and emotional support for these children?</li> <li>• Is there a link with exclusions and parents choosing to elected home educate their children?</li> </ul> <p>Elected Home Educated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the reasons why parents are taking their children out of school to be elected home educated?</li> <li>• What are schools doing to reduce the number of children being taken out of school to be elected home educated?</li> <li>• What can the Council do to reduce the numbers?</li> <li>• How does the Council ensure that children who are being elected home educated are safeguarded from harm?</li> <li>• What consideration is given to social and emotional support for these children?</li> </ul> <p>Free School Meals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive an update on the auto enrolment for free school meals.</li> <li>• To understand the other opportunities that free school meals qualifies for support.</li> <li>• What action is being taken to raise awareness and increase take up of free school meals?</li> </ul>

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<p>Schools Capital Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider a visit to Paignton Academy STEPS and other Alternative Providers.</li> <li>• To consider the impact of the lowering birth rate on schools.</li> </ul>
16 March 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group Annual Report	To receive the Report of the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group
16 March 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Exploitation and Children Missing (six monthly)	To receive an update on Exploitation and children missing
16 March 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Exclusions and Absence (six monthly)	<p>To review exclusions and absence.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive the latest qualified exclusion data and the views of those children who have been excluded.</li> <li>• To receive an update on the new Local Authority Attendance Duties and Home Education.</li> </ul>

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1059 188 2045 352">• To receive an update on children on a part time timetable (including the numbers coming off a part time timetable) or on roll but not attending children, children educated other than at school (EOTAS) and children educated through Alternative Provision.</li> </ul>

Annual reports to Cabinet to be circulated to Sub-Board as useful background documents:

- Local Authority Designated Officer Annual Report
- Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report