

**Capital Investment for Children's Services
Higher Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) Programme 2025-2026**

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. 55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. 27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.</p>	<p>Positive impact: These works will ensure the Chestnut Centre remains open and can expand to meet demand. There is a growing demand for this type of specialist provision – i.e. a provision for primary aged pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. The Chestnut Centre is the only provision within in Torbay which caters for this type of need. The LA has a statutory duty to ensure all children can access a school place, if a child's needs cannot be met locally then the child would need to be placed in a costly out of area provision; and face long daily commutes to school away from the local community and network of support.</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>Positive impact: These works will ensure the Chestnut Centre remains open and can expand to meet demand. There is a growing demand for this type of specialist provision – i.e. a provision for</p>		

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		<p>primary aged pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. The Chestnut Centre is the only provision within in Torbay which caters for this type of need. The LA has a statutory duty to ensure all children can access a school place, if a child's needs cannot be met locally then the child would need to be placed in a costly out of area provision; and face long daily commutes to school away from the local community and network of support.</p>		
Disability	<p>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.</p>	<p>Positive impact: These works will ensure the Chestnut Centre remains open and can expand to meet demand. There is a growing demand for this type of specialist provision – i.e. a provision for primary aged pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. The Chestnut Centre is the only provision within in Torbay which caters for this type of need. The LA has a statutory duty to ensure all children can access a school place, if a child's needs cannot be met locally then the child would need to be placed in a costly out of area provision; and face long daily commutes to school away from the local community and network of support.</p>		

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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.	No material impact		
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.	No material impact		
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 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.	No material impact		

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Race	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.	No material impact		
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	No material impact		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	No material 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 material impact		
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had	No material impact		

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	previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.			
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		No material impact		
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		Positive impact: long commute to an out of area placement and being removed from the local community/support network could have a negative impact on a young person's mental health.		
Human Rights impacts		Positive impact; support the right of the young person to access education within their local area.		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for	Positive impact: These works will ensure the Chestnut Centre remains open and can expand to meet demand. There is a growing demand for this type of specialist provision – i.e. a provision for		

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	and care experienced children and young people.	primary aged pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs. The Chestnut Centre is the only provision within in Torbay which caters for this type of need. The LA has a statutory duty to ensure all children can access a school place, if a child's needs cannot be met locally then the child would need to be placed in a costly out of area provision; and face long daily commutes to school away from the local community and network of support.		