

Meeting: Cabinet **Date:** 20 October 2026

Wards affected: All wards

Report Title: Torbay Young Futures Hub and Local Youth Transformation Programme

When does the decision need to be implemented? Following expiry of the call-in period.

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Nick Bye, Lead Cabinet member Children's Services

Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1.1 Torbay has been selected to take part in the national Young Futures Hubs and Local Youth Transformation programme. The opportunity provides funding and support to strengthen Torbay's youth offer and to co-produce the area's first long-term Youth Strategy with children and young people.
- 1.2 The attached programme overview sets out the proposed strategic framework, governance, workstreams, indicative timetable and funding profile. Cabinet is asked to note the opportunity and endorse the proposed direction of travel, recognising that the detailed service model and Youth Strategy will be developed through evidence, partnership working and meaningful co-production with young people.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1.1 The proposals support a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay by creating a coordinated, accessible and sustainable youth support system. The programme will focus on improving mental health and wellbeing, increasing opportunities, reducing vulnerability to crime and exploitation, strengthening the youth workforce and ensuring young people have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect them.
- 2.1.2 The programme responds to the current absence of a Torbay Youth Strategy and creates an opportunity to develop a new and innovative approach with children and young people. It will also support the Council to strengthen delivery of its statutory duty under section 507B of the Education Act 1996 and align local arrangements with the National Youth Strategy, Families First Partnership expectations and the Young Futures programme.

3 Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1.1 That Cabinet notes the Torbay Young Futures Hub and Local Youth Transformation Programme overview set out at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 That Cabinet endorses the proposed strategic direction, including development of a multi-venue Young Futures Hub model and co-production of Torbay's first Youth Strategy with children and young people.
- 3.3 That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, be authorised to progress programme mobilisation, governance and co-production arrangements, and to bring forward the resulting Youth Strategy and any decisions requiring further approval through the appropriate governance route.

4 Appendices

Appendix 1: Torbay Young Futures Hub and Local Youth Transformation Programme Overview

5 Background Documents

- Department for Culture, Media and Sport Young Futures Hubs and Local Youth Transformation programme information supplied to the Council.
- Relevant programme guidance, funding agreements and delivery partner documentation as issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Supporting Information

6 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Torbay currently has a range of youth services delivered across the Council and voluntary, community and partner organisations, but does not have a single long-term Youth Strategy or fully integrated youth infrastructure. The Young Futures programme provides a time-limited opportunity to undertake a comprehensive needs analysis, map provision, strengthen governance and safeguarding, develop the workforce and create a sustainable multi-agency model. The intended target age range is 10 to 18, extending to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities, with flexibility to reflect local need.

7 Options under consideration

- 7.1.1 **Preferred option – progress the Young Futures Hub and Local Youth Transformation programme.** This secures external support and funding, enables meaningful co-production and provides a structured route to a sustainable youth system and Youth Strategy.
- 7.1.2 **Develop a Youth Strategy without participating in the programme.** This could provide a local framework but would not benefit from the same level of funding, national support, transformation capacity or connection to Young Futures Hubs.

7.3.1 Maintain current arrangements. This would avoid immediate mobilisation activity but would leave the current strategic gap unresolved and risk losing the opportunity for external investment and system-wide improvement.

8 Financial Opportunities and Implications

8.1.1 The indicative programme funding comprises up to £100,000 Stage 2 funding for planning and co-production, up to £300,000 per year for Young Futures Hub frontline delivery, up to £500,000 for Local Youth Transformation activity and up to £125,000 capital funding for building and digital improvements.

8.1.2 Final allocations, conditions, eligible expenditure and any Council contribution remain subject to the formal grant arrangements and Finance Team advice. Sustainability beyond March 2029 will be addressed through a future funding strategy, commissioning framework and business-as-usual plan.

9 Legal Implications

9.1.1 The programme will support the Council's duty under section 507B of the Education Act 1996 to secure sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities and facilities for young people. Delivery must also comply with relevant safeguarding, equality, procurement, information governance and data protection requirements. Formal legal advice will be sought as the delivery model, partnership agreements, information-sharing arrangements and commissioning proposals are developed.

10 Engagement and Consultation

10.1.1 Co-production with children and young people is central to the programme rather than a one-off consultation exercise.

10.1.2 A Youth Advisory Board is proposed, with young people comprising at least 40% of the programme board, and engagement will use the Lundy Model.

10.1.3 The programme aims to hear from at least 500 young people, including those with SEND, care-experienced young people, young carers, LGBTQ+ young people, traveller communities, rural communities and other groups whose voices may be less often heard. Partners across the statutory and voluntary and community sectors will also be engaged through the landscape review, governance arrangements and workstreams.

11 Procurement Implications

11.1.1 No specific procurement decision is sought at this stage. Any future procurement or commissioning arising from the implementation plan will follow the Council's Contract Procedures and the Procurement Act 2023, with early advice from Procurement. Opportunities for local voluntary and community organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, lotting and social value will be considered when detailed requirements are known.

12 Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

12.1.1 No material environmental impact arises from noting and endorsing the strategic direction. The programme will prioritise best use of existing community spaces rather than creating new access points.

13 Associated Risks

13.1.1 Key risks include;

- delay in allocation of the national delivery partner;
- insufficient programme capacity;
- weak cross-system ownership;
- failure to engage a representative range of young people;
- fragmented data and referral arrangements;
- and the risk that grant-funded activity is not sustainable beyond 2029.

13.1.2 These risks will be managed through clear senior sponsorship, programme governance, dedicated workstreams, a comprehensive needs analysis, safeguarding and information-governance frameworks, active co-production, regular reporting and early development of a sustainability and future funding plan.

13.1.3 Failure to proceed would risk loss of external investment and continuation of the current strategic gap.

14 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	18% of Torbay residents are aged under 18 years old. 55% of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. 27% of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.	The programme is specifically intended to benefit young people aged 10 to 18, extending to 25 for young people with SEND. Younger children and young adults outside the programme range may experience a different level of direct benefit.	Use the permitted local flexibility to reflect need, ensure age-appropriate provision and connect young people to wider early help and adult services where required.	Children's Services and programme partnership; throughout design and delivery.
Carers	- At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these carers provided 50 hours or more of care.	Young carers may face barriers to participation because of caring responsibilities, time constraints and the need for flexible support. The programme offers a positive opportunity to strengthen the graduated response and make young carers' needs more visible.	Provide flexible and accessible engagement, include young carers in co-production, and align the programme with the improved Young Carers graduated response and assessment arrangements.	Children's Services and partners; mobilisation onwards.

Care experienced	As of January 2026, there were 277 former care experienced young people aged 18-24 in Torbay.	Care-experienced young people are identified as a priority cohort and may face barriers to opportunity, wellbeing and stable support. The programme provides a positive opportunity to design accessible, trusted and non-stigmatising support with them.	Ensure representation of care-experienced young people in governance and co-production, link delivery to corporate parenting responsibilities and monitor reach and outcomes.	Children's Services and Corporate Parenting partners; throughout the programme.
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.9% 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.	Young people with SEND are included up to age 25 and may experience physical, sensory, communication, digital or service-access barriers. Inclusive design should improve access, but there is a risk of unequal benefit if accessibility is not built in from the outset.	Co-design with young people with SEND; complete accessibility and transport reviews; provide reasonable adjustments, accessible communications and a mix of face-to-face, outreach and digital access.	Children's Services, SEND partners and programme board; design and delivery.
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.	Inclusive, non-stigmatising provision should have a positive impact. Some young people may face discrimination or may be reluctant to identify themselves in engagement activity.	Use inclusive language, confidential participation routes, staff training and links with specialist organisations.	Programme board and Youth Voice workstream; throughout.
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the	No differential impact is currently identified. The detailed design will remain	Keep under review through co-production	Programme board; review

	time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	alert to the needs of young parents and family circumstances.	and the updated equality assessment.	at key design stages.
Pregnancy and maternity	- Between 2013 and 2024, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 56.0 per 1,000) than the Southwest (53.4) and broadly in line with England (56.3). - For the period 2022 to 2024, rates in Torbay (44.6) have been significantly below England (50.0).	Young parents may require flexible, welcoming provision and support to overcome practical barriers to participation.	Provide flexible access, appropriate facilities and links to family and health support.	Programme partnership; design and delivery.
Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as the following: 1.6% as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh 0.3% as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African 1.5% as being of Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups 96.1% as White 0.4% described their ethnicity another way.	Young people from minoritised ethnic communities may experience additional barriers, under-representation or differing levels of trust in services.	Use targeted outreach, culturally competent practice, representative engagement and monitoring of participation and outcomes.	Programme board and partners; throughout.

	Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.			
Religion and belief	The 2021 Census showed that the residents in Torbay identify their religion and/or belief as the following; 48.5% are Christian 0.4% are Buddhist 0.2% are Hindu 0.6% are Muslim - Less than 0.1% are Sikh 0.1% are Jewish 0.7% have another religion 43.2% have no religion 6.3% did not answer	Meeting times, activities or venues could create barriers for some faith groups if not planned inclusively.	Engage faith and community organisations, provide reasonable flexibility and ensure provision is welcoming to young people of all beliefs and none.	Programme partnership; design and delivery.
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female. 48.7% of Torbay's population are male.	Needs and patterns of engagement may differ. The model should avoid reinforcing stereotypes and ensure equitable access, safety and choice.	Monitor participation and outcomes, provide safe and mixed delivery options, and consult young people on what helps them feel welcome.	Programme board and delivery partners; throughout.
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, residents described their sexuality as follows;	LGBTQ+ young people are identified for representative engagement and may experience stigma, safety concerns or	Co-design inclusive and confidential support, train the workforce and	Programme board and Youth Voice

	• 89% as Straight or Heterosexual • 1.7% as Gay or Lesbian • 1.1% as Bisexual • 0.1% as Pansexual • 0.1% described their sexuality another way • 7.4% of people didn't answer the question	reluctance to access mainstream provision.	work with specialist services.	workstream; throughout.
Armed Forces Community	• In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. • In Torbay, 5.9% of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.	No differential impact is currently identified, although children in Armed Forces families may experience mobility, separation or transition-related needs.	Keep under review and link with relevant education, family and community support where needed.	Programme partnership; review during needs analysis.
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)	• Torbay is ranked as the 39th most deprived upper tier local authority in England in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025.	Young people experiencing poverty or deprivation are a priority group and may face transport, digital and cost barriers. Open-access, outreach and community-based provision should have a positive impact if resources are targeted according to need.	Use needs analysis and local data to target provision; consider travel, cost and digital exclusion; provide outreach and detached youth work in areas of greatest need.	Programme board and delivery workstreams; needs analysis onwards.
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of	• For the five-year period 2020 to 2024, data shows there is a 6-year life expectancy gap between	The programme is expected to have a positive public health impact through earlier support, improved mental health	Embed public health expertise in governance, align pathways with	Public Health, Children's Services and

the population of Torbay)	males who live in Torbay's least and most deprived areas and, a 3-year gap for females.	and wellbeing, trusted relationships, increased opportunities and reduced vulnerability to harm.	health and mental health partners, and monitor reach and outcomes.	health partners; throughout.
Human Rights impacts		The programme supports children's rights to be heard and to access services that promote wellbeing and development. Participation must be meaningful, safe, inclusive and accompanied by clear feedback about how young people's views have influenced decisions.	Apply the Lundy Model, safeguarding and informed-consent arrangements; provide accessible information and feedback; and protect privacy in engagement and data-sharing.	Programme board and Youth Voice workstream; throughout.
Child Friendly	The overview proposes a youth-led model, a Youth Advisory Board and at least 40% young people's representation on the programme board, with an ambition to engage more than 500 young people.	The proposal has a strong positive child-friendly impact because young people will help shape the strategy, governance, service model, locations and digital offer. Leadership commitment and sustained partnership ownership will be essential to make participation influential and the model sustainable.	Use child-friendly communications, accessible meeting times and locations, representative recruitment, feedback loops and outcome monitoring. Review the impact assessment as the detailed Youth Strategy and hub model are co-produced.	Director of Children's Services, programme board and Youth Voice workstream; throughout the programme.

15 Cumulative Council Impact

15.1.1 The programme is intended to align and strengthen existing Council work across children's services, education, public health, community safety, housing, youth justice and participation. Potential cumulative impacts will be managed through the proposed programme board, shared workstreams and alignment with Families First Partnership developments and other transformation activity.

16 Cumulative Community Impacts

16.1.1 The programme depends on coordinated work with schools, colleges, health partners, police, the voluntary and community sector, faith organisations and local employers. The landscape review and partnership framework will identify overlapping initiatives, gaps and pressures so that the programme complements rather than duplicates existing activity.