

Title: Torbay Safeguarding Children Board Update

Wards Affected: All

To: Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board **On:** 24th April 2014

Contact: David Taylor, TSCB Independent Chair

Telephone: 01803 207176

Email: tscb@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates the Health and Wellbeing Board with the work of the Torbay Safeguarding Board (TSCB) for children and young people. In addition it raises particular issues that it would like the assistance of the HWBB with.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 For the Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board to note the content of the report and to consider the request for support from the TSCB.

3. Supporting Information

- 3.1 The role of the TSCB is to oversee the Multi agency working to protect children and young people on Torbay and provide effective scrutiny and challenge to all agencies involved in this work.
- 3.2 The current Chair of the TSCB has been in place since September 2013. During this six month period Torbay Council has come out of intervention. It is anticipated there may be another OFSTED inspection within twelve months. The cessation of the Safeguarding Improvement Board puts more onus on the TSCB to effectively monitor and challenge the Local Authority
- 3.3 A self evaluation of the Board has been undertaken following a joint event with Devon Safeguarding Board in October 2013. This is coming to the TSCB executive Group in May and will inform the business plan. Particular Issues that have arisen from this have been:

- The need for a more robust and embedded approach to Multi Agency Auditing

- Collecting and using performance information that really reflects the reality of multi agency working
 - Follow through and implementation of SCR case review recommendations
 - Gathering the views of children and young people and parents involved with agencies
 - Ensuring better join up and information sharing between Adult and Children's Services
 - Fully implementing the Child Sexual Exploitation recommendations from Operation Mansfield and the peninsula strategy
 - Building a robust Early help system in which all partners are fully engaged
 - Ensuring that all partner agencies are able to demonstrate how they are supporting staff and quality assure their involvement in multi-agency working in respect to safeguarding
- 3.4 The Board has amended its model of operation and created an executive that meets regularly to deal with the more detailed business and a wider Board that has the opportunity to really drill down and look at specific areas of Safeguarding Activity. A new Education Safeguarding sub group is being set up and it is hoped to established a health sub group covering the peninsula.
- 3.5 The board is currently completing a serious case review which it will publish later in the year.
- 3.6 The focus of the next Board will be on Mental Health and the current multi agency case audit (MACA) is looking at this. The previous MACA looked at work with unborn babies and their parents where there were concerns and the findings from this are being disseminated to staff via the lunchtime learning forums. In addition there is a piece of work looking at roles and responsibilities in respect to core groups which we have reshaped working with practitioners to make these more robust and less dependent solely on the social worker.

4. Relationship to Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- 4.1 The HWBB has produced a JSNA which outlines the demography of people in the Bay and some of the key indicators in respect to children and young people. Some of the data this is based on has been recently refreshed (March 2014) and so it would be useful to understand what this new data says in terms of trends and outcomes. In addition the Board would like some triangulation of data in respect to safeguarding and early help intervention and how this relates to perceived levels of need.

4.2 There are particular areas such as self harm and also incidence of mental health amongst young people that would be helpful to have more information on. The Child death overview group for the region has produced a study in respect suicide for children and young people and it will be important to understand what this means for Torbay. (*Appendix 1*)

4.3 In addition the government and children's commissioner have suggested that through the JSNA Boards and Local Authorities should try and look at indicators which might estimate the likely level of child sexual exploitation (['if only they had listened'](#) Office of the Children's commissioner November 2013)

5. Relationship to Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

5.1 Specifically in commissioning terms there are concerns (which are echoed in the early findings from MACAS and also SCRs) about the way that Children's Social Care and Adult Mental Health services work together in respect safeguarding vulnerable children where the parent has a Mental Health or substance misuse problem. This being addressed by the relevant managers but needs to be more firmly embedded in any commissioning arrangement.

5.2 In respect Children and young people, the CAMHS service feels too remote from other services in respect children and young people and there appears to be a real gap in service. In addition the lack of an out of hours assessment service and the placing of children with overt mental health problems on acute children's ward is a matter of considerable concern. Discussions are happening about this both locally and regionally but the TSCB would welcome the support of the HWBB in ensuring these issues are addressed.

6. Implications for future iterations of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and/or Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

6.1 As detailed above

Appendices

None

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

- ['if only they had listened'](#) Office of the Children's commissioner November 2013
- Peninsula Child Death Overview Panel Report, Suicide in Young People up to the Age of 18 Years, C Holme, November 2013