

TSCB Business Plan 2017-18

Version 1

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Torbay Council Children's Services ■ Police ■ Health ■ Careers South West
Youth Offending Team ■ Probation ■ CAFCASS ■ Safer Communities ■ Fire Service
Schools ■ Community & Voluntary Sector

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1 Chair's foreword

Throughout 2016/17 the Board concentrated upon addressing the inadequate areas highlighted following the Ofsted Inspection conducted in November 2015. The partner agencies have worked together to make significant progress on a number of themes including:

- Drafting and publishing a new Neglect strategy
- Reviewing and refreshing the Early Help strategy and associated processes
- Agreeing and collating information against a new performance data framework and
- Completion of a revised Section 11 audit process

The priorities and work plan for 2017/18, will continue to underpin the improvements made by the Board and provide a large degree of continuity building upon work commenced in the past twelve months.

Following on from the recommendations of the Wood Review, the Children and Social Work Act 2017, has given the 'designated safeguarding partners' for a Local Authority area (the Local Authority, Clinical commissioning Group and police) the opportunity to agree new local safeguarding arrangements. Subject to the continued improvements in Local Children's Social Services and the operation of the TSCB, these new opportunities will be explored during 2017/18. This will involve continued engagement with the Children's Improvement board to agree transition arrangements back to the sole oversight of the TSCB.

2 Our Purpose

The Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how local organisations cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within Torbay.

The core objectives of the Board are set out in section 14(1) of the Children Act 2004 as follows:

- to co-ordinate 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 of the authority; and
- to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of the Board in order to fulfil those responsibilities, these include:

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Communicating to local people and organisations the need to safeguard children, raising their awareness of how this can be done and encouraging them to do so
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding work by TSCB members individually and collectively and agreeing ways in which this can improve
- Participating in the planning of services for children and young people in Torbay
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews and advising Board members on lessons to be learned and actions to be taken
- Implementing an effective and co-ordinated response by Board members to the unexpected death of a child

3 Priorities

The TSCB has agreed to focus on the following priorities in light of the ongoing improvement journey following on from the Children's Services Ofsted Inspection in October 2015 and taking into account the following:

- The 2016/17 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Torbay Organised Crime Local Profiles and associated guidance for Modern Day Slavery, Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- Torbay Strategies on Alcohol, Drugs and Domestic Abuse

- The findings of Serious Case Reviews and Inspections - local, regional and national.
- Findings of Torbay multi and single agency audit activity including the Multi-Agency Case Audits, Section 11 audits and Section 157/175 audits, training and development work
- The Wood report and Children and Social Work Act 2017

The TSCB Structure was redesigned in 2016/2017 to ensure a more streamlined working model to better facilitate Partners attendance at the right level to the most appropriate Board Meetings. The TSCB has taken a lead role working closely with the Children's Improvement Board to raise standards of service delivery and quality assurance of partnership work in the priority areas.

The format of the Business Plan is designed to enable implementation and monitoring of actions in a clear and concise way. Progress against this plan will be reviewed and monitored by the TSCB Delivery Group, with Chairs of the relevant subgroups reporting on progress against their actions to this group. Where necessary and appropriate the Delivery Group will highlight areas of concern and good practice to the full TSCB Board meetings for further action.

Our priorities for 2017/18 are:

P1 To promote the welfare of children and young people who are vulnerable to abuse

P2 Responding to new legislation and Joint Inspection criteria to ensure the Board fulfils its' statutory duties

4 Cross Cutting Themes

The cross cutting themes are specific areas of concern for the TSCB. These are areas that have been highlighted across a number of areas such as Serious Case Reviews, audits and inspections. The themes should underpin all Safeguarding activity across the partnership and be the 'Golden Threads' of how partners in Torbay work with Children and Young People and their families.

Assurance work by the Board will focus on these themes and partners will be expected to report against them within reporting mechanisms.

Board members will need to ensure that in delivering each of the two TSCB priorities, that there is evidence that each of the cross cutting themes identified below have been fully taken into consideration when providing services for children, young people and their families

- CC1** Children's and young people's voices are heard and influence decision making, service development and practice
- CC2** 'Think Family' approach is used in all work with Children and Young People and their families.
- CC3** Early help is embedded and effective, including partnerships with voluntary, faith and community groups where appropriate.
- CC4** Lessons are identified and learned from National and Local Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), Independent Management Reviews, Multi Agency Case Audits (MACA) and monitoring of the implementation of recommendations takes place.
- CC5** Signs of Safety approaches are fully embedded into work with Children and Young People and their families
- CC6** Safeguarding training is attended and learning is reviewed and embedded into practice

CC7 The Thresholds for Torbay are fully embedded and understood

5 Action Plan

Priority 1: To promote the welfare of children and young people who are vulnerable to abuse					
	Aim/objective	Action Required	Time Scale	Owner/Subgroup Responsible	Outcome and Impact Measure
1.1	1.1 To ensure safeguarding of children subject to neglect through embedding the Multi-agency Neglect Strategy in service delivery.	To audit and hold Board members to account for how the neglect strategy is embedded within their organisations	September 2017	All Board Members	Plans are in place where neglect is an issue and appropriate action is being / has been taken.
		To gather and assess local data to benchmark the prevalence of neglect and to monitor the impact of the new strategy upon that baseline	March 2018	Chair of the Performance Management Subgroup	
		To review the content of the Graded Care Profile and clarify how the Profile is used to deliver the Strategy	March 2018	DCS	
		Monitor and evaluate the quality of practice to safeguard children.	Mar 2018	Chair of QA Subgroup	

1.2	To ensure safeguarding of children subject to domestic abuse	To gather and assess local data to benchmark the prevalence of domestic abuse involving children and to monitor the impact of services upon that baseline.	Mar 2018	Chair of the Performance Management Subgroup	<p>Partner agencies provide the agreed data set to the TSCB to demonstrate the positive impact of intervention of the service provided.</p> <p>Information and intelligence is shared proactively across the partnership to improve the protection of children, increase the rate of prosecution and drive the development of domestic abuse services.</p>
		To review the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Delivery Plan for Torbay	January 2018	TSCB Independent Chair	
		To engage with service commissioners to influence and test service delivery to children.	Mar 2018	Director of Public Health	
		To monitor and oversee the implementation and impact of Operation Encompass within Torbay	Mar 2018	Chair of Education Subgroup	
		To require an end of year audit report from service commissioners to parents and carer in relation to substance misuse and mental health services	Mar 2018	TSCB Business Manager	
1.3	To test the efficacy and fitness of services for missing, exploited and trafficked children in Torbay	To gather and assess local data to benchmark the prevalence of missing, exploited and trafficked children and to monitor the impact of	Mar 2018	Chair of MET Subgroup	The Board data set to include relevant information on missing, exploited and trafficked children and young people, high risk adolescents and those at risk of radicalisation.

		services upon that baseline			Information and intelligence is shared proactively across the partnership to improve the protection of children and increase the rate of prosecution.
		To engage with the CSE National Working Group (NWG) and to ensure that any relevant learning is highlighted for consideration locally.	Mar 2018	Chair of MET Subgroup	Appropriate levels of use of preventative orders and powers.
		To explore ways to ensure that the appropriate use of Legal Orders is maximised	Mar 2018	Chair of MET Subgroup	
1.4	To ensure safeguarding of children subject to Early and targeted Help services in Torbay.	Embed the Multi-Agency Early Help Strategy to ensure that there is a shared understanding of Early Help in Torbay.	September 2017	TSCB Independent Chair/ Early Help Steering Group	The TSCB Data set includes relevant information on Early Help activity to monitor progress and subsequent destinations and consequential demand on statutory children's services.
		To monitor and receive quarterly reports on the application of thresholds underpinning the 'Child's Journey'.	Mar 2018	TSCB Board Manager	Children, young people and their families receive effective and timely Early and Targeted Help services.
		To ensure that all Early help Pathways are clearly defined, understood and fully embedded into practice.	Jan 2018	DCS and Asst Director Safeguarding.	The thresholds underpinning the 'Child's Journey' are understood and applied appropriately by all partners.
		To complete a multiagency case audit	Mar 2018	Chair of QA Subgroup	

		(MACA) of Early and Targeted Help cases			
1.5	To ensure safeguarding of children subject to sexual abuse in Torbay	To gather and assess local data to benchmark the prevalence of sexual abuse in Torbay and to monitor the impact of services upon that baseline.	Mar 2018	Chair of the Performance Management Subgroup	Clear baseline established for the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Torbay that is widely understood. The number of children subject to child protection plans. The number of Criminal Justice interventions in cases involving child sexual abuse.
		To ensure staff of partner agencies are suitably trained and skilled to complete GMAP assessments and inform criminal justice processes	Mar 2018	Chair of QA Subgroup	Information and intelligence is shared proactively across the partnership to improve the protection of children, increase the rate of prosecution and drive the development of sexual abuse services.
		To revisit the recommendations from Operation Mansfield to ensure policies, processes and practice have fully embedded the learning identified	Mar 2018	TSCB Independent Chair	
1.6	To ensure safeguarding of children with disabilities in Torbay	To gather and assess local data to benchmark activity to safeguard children with disabilities and to monitor the impact of services upon that baseline	Mar 2018	Chair of Performance Management Subgroup	Relevant partner agencies provide the agreed data set to the TSCB to demonstrate the positive impact of the service provided.

		To review the practice of other Children Safeguarding Boards nationally to determine how they gain assurance that the additional needs of children with disabilities when being safeguarded are adequately met/ Also to establish the definitions of disabilities being used and from where data is obtained.	Jan 2018	TSCB Board Manager	
1.7	To ensure safeguarding of children who are Looked After Children in Torbay	To monitor and receive quarterly reports on arrangements to safeguard Looked After Children in Torbay	Mar 2018	Director of Children's Services	Relevant partner agencies provide the agreed data set to the TSCB to demonstrate the positive impact of the service provided.
1.8	To ensure safeguarding of children who require, or whose parents and carers require, services to sustain their mental wellbeing.	To receive and consider an annual summary report from the commissioner of children and adults substance misuse and mental health services, to include the numbers in services (including returns to service), waiting times for service and the outcomes achieved.	Mar 2018	TSCB Board Manager	Relevant partner agencies provide the agreed data set to the TSCB to demonstrate the positive impact of the service provided.

Priority 2: Responding to new legislation and Joint Inspection criteria to ensure the Board fulfils its statutory duties

	Aim/objective	Action Required	Time Scale	Owner/Subgroup Responsible	Outcome and Impact Measure
2.1	To ensure that the business planning processes of the TSCB are timely and efficient.	The Business Plan to be regularly updated and reports submitted on a quarterly basis.	Each business quarter.	TSCB Practice Manager	
		For Serious Case Review and Management Reviews to be completed in accordance with agreed timescales.	Quarterly reporting.	Chair of the SCR Subgroup	
		For each Board member agency to ensure engagement with and representation on appropriate subgroups.	March 2018	Board Members.	
		To link the case audit schedule with the published JTAI timetable.	October 2017	Chair of the Quality Assurance Subgroup / Independent Chair.	
2.2	To develop the TSCB Performance Framework in order to provide an ability	Board members to provide performance reports in accordance with agreed timescales.	Quarterly reporting.	Board Members.	

	to hold members to account and provide assurance.				
2.3	2.3 To develop an assurance framework / risk register for the TSCB	Establish a business process for an assurance framework to be developed and maintained.	December 2017	TSCB Practice Manager	
		Establish a business process for a risk register to be developed and maintained.	December 2017	TSCB Practice Manager	
2.4	Ensure that the work of the Board is influenced by the needs of children and young people in Torbay.	To review the Section 157 175 and Section 11 information relating to member agencies and gathering of information from children / parents and carers.	End November 2017	TSCB Practice Manager	All work undertaken by the Board is underpinned by clear evidence of issues that affect children and young people in Torbay. The Data set includes both quantitative and qualitative information on the needs of children and young people in Torbay.
		Children's social services to host an event to gather information regarding the lived experience of children in Torbay.	End November 2017	Andy Dempsey, Director of Children's Services	