

Children's Services

Cabinet Member: Councillor Law

Responsible Officer: Nancy Meehan

Children's Safeguarding Service - Disabilities / Quality Assurance

This area of the budget covers services to safeguard children and young people with disabilities and work with families with complex needs. It covers the work associated with placing, supporting and monitoring the children with disabilities who need to be in the care of the local authority as well as the provision of short breaks; holiday playschemes; and other groups for children with complex to profound learning and/or physical disabilities.

This section also includes the Safeguarding Unit, the Torbay Safeguarding Children's Board and PARIS team as well as organisational development for all Children's Services staff.

Children's Safeguarding Service – Placement Costs and Allowances

This section of the budget only includes costs relating to the care of children in need or in care. It includes health income to support packages of care and contributions from Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for joint funded placements with an educational element.

Children's Safeguarding Service – Specialist Services/Intensive Youth

Children's Safeguarding team provides fostering and adoption services in Torbay such as recruitment, assessment, supervision and support. It also covers the Looked After Children/ Permanence team in which the Social Workers take the statutory responsibility, in conjunction with colleagues within the Adoption Team, for completing the necessary reports and procedures around the process of placing a child for adoption, from the making of a 'Placement Order'. And also the work of Long-Term Care:

In which a large number of the children allocated to this team are placed either in Torbay foster placements, or within 'out of area' fostering and residential provision.

This section also covers the work of the Integrated Youth Support Service that provides an integrated service to children and young people from the age of 10 until 25. The IYSS service will bring together a range of areas such as youth offending, care leavers, attendance improvement and provide targeted interventions to prevent or reduce the numbers of young people entering or remaining within the care system.

Children's Safeguarding Service – Senior Management/Support

This service includes the costs of LA funded Business Support including staff travel, subsidence, mobile phone and office expenses across Children's Services. It also includes the costs of the Senior Management Team.

Children's Safeguarding Service – Safeguarding & Supporting Families/Single Assessment/MASH

This section of the budget covers the Children in Need Service which came into effect on 1 June 2014 and is responsible for the following areas of social work: Initial Assessments, Core Assessments, Child Protection investigations (s47) from Initial Assessment where required, Children Looked After, Duty system/rota and Section 7 reports. It also covers The Family Solutions Service is one part of the journey towards the Integrated Services Delivery Model. This has enabled the opportunity to bring together the Family Intervention Project with the Locality Family Support Teams to create a new service of Community Care Workers currently delivering targeted interventions to children, young people and their families at high level 2 of the child's journey.

It is also responsible for child protection service where the teams hold caseloads of children who have been identified as being in need of support and/or protection which is delivered via a Child in Need plan or a Child Protection Plan. Those children most at risk of harm may be 'looked after' and their circumstances considered within the Court arena.

It also covers work by The Arc (Assessment Resource Centre), Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS) and Family Group Conferencing.

Commissioning Unit Including Youth and External Contracts

This includes Commissioning Unit (including Youth Carers Service), Youth Services an external contracts with Careers South West, Children's Society and Citizens Advice. This also includes the Troubled Families Grant.

Schools Services

This service includes services funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) of approximately £42m and Council funding. The main services predominately by DSG are: - School Formula Allocations, Alternative Provision / Vulnerable Children, Independent Special School Fees, PVI and Early Years funding.

Services predominately funded by Council funding are:- Special Educational Needs, Home to School Transport / Escorts, other school support services including Educational Psychology and Advisory Teachers, Governing Body Support and Private Finance Initiative.