
JOINT AREA REVIEW

2006

Self-assessment

Name of Authority: TORBAY COUNCIL

24th November 2006



PART A Background Information

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The following partners contributed to the APA: – Health, Voluntary Sector, Housing, Cultural services, Environment, Development Agency, Adult Education, Safer communities, Connexions and the Youth Offending service.	
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Context

Torbay consists of three towns: Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. It serves a small local authority area, population (2005 mid year estimate) of 132,804, which increases by about 50,000 during the summer holiday season.

Torbay's popular image as a leading tourist resort masks problems which exist for many families in relation to poverty, poor housing and poor employment prospects. Torbay contains pockets of deprivation which are amongst the worst in the West Country. Torbay also has a low wage economy. House prices are 10.44 times average earnings. Whilst the population is estimated to continue growing (16% increase over the last 20 years) the number of children and young people is projected to decline until 2015.

Key developments within the Council over the last year include the election of an Executive Mayor who is the Chair of the Partnership Board and was initially the "Lead Member" for Children's Services. Following recommendations from the Mock Inspection ([JAR document 36H](#)) Peer challenge the Mayor has appointed a new lead member for Children's Services and a cross-party Member team of 'champions', who will support the development of Torbay's Children's Services. The champions will each have a role alongside the five Children's Services Assistant Directors ([JAR document 41/42](#)), in driving the Every Child Matters agenda, and will each take a lead on one of the five ECM outcomes. Torbay Council has continued to make significant progress since the 2002 Comprehensive Performance Assessment having improved in every area identified at that time as a weakness. The 2005 CPA rated Torbay Council as a 2 star Authority.

The development of Children's Services

The Children's Service has moved forward significantly over the last two years as illustrated by the recent APA outcome of **good (3)**. Torbay's Children and Young People's Plan sets out a new vision that will bring to the fore partnership working and early intervention (see Page 14 of the CYPP) ([JAR document 36](#)). The vision has been well received across Children's Services and its partners. Developments within Children's Services include:

- Enhanced the senior management structure to align with the 5 ECM outcomes and the potential for partnership working. (*See page 17 of our CYPP*)
- Realised opportunities for integration in areas addressing early intervention e.g. implementation of the Youth Inclusion Programme with targeted engagement of 30 young people at risk of offending.
- Achieved good performance at the end of year 2005/06 across all key performance indicators.
- Significantly reduced the numbers of children in care and children on the register and the management down of associated costs through an emerging culture of commissioning.
- Succeeded in driving up performance of KS 3 pupils.
- Delivered a significantly improved 14-19 strategy.
- Good treatment levels for young people with substance misuse.

Partnership Arrangements

In 2006/07 the Partnership arrangements have continued to strengthen with the further development of a Children's Partnership Board and Children's Partnership Executive ([JAR document 42](#)). The Torbay Safeguarding Children's Board has been firmly established to promote the stay safe agenda across all services. The voluntary and community sector are represented at all levels of our Children's Trust arrangements, at Children's Partnership Board, Partnership Executive and Task Group levels, as well as being involved in specific areas of development, i.e. Torbay's Youth Volunteering Strategy.

See *Children and Young People's Plan (JAR document 36)* for more details, *Key Developments*, page 12, *Children's Trust arrangements* on page 13 and *Partnership diagram* on page 15.

Integrated Front Line Working

In reflecting the aspirations of Torbay's vision, Services are improving the way they work in order to identify and intervene at an earlier stage when a child or young person is seen to be vulnerable, and has additional needs.

Locality based Schools and Community Clusters are starting to emerge as a hub within communities, primarily aimed at identifying and co-ordinating preventative support and intervention to children, young people and their families but also acting as a gateway to targeted and specialist services when required.

These developments will, over the next year, increasingly deliver integrated front-line working between agencies to meet local needs. This approach is being piloted during 2006 in Paignton with a view to rolling it out across the rest of Torbay from 2007 onwards. It is planned that there will be four Schools and Community Clusters across Torbay. Eventually these localities will form the bases for co-located services.

See *Integrated Front Line working section of Children and Young People's Plan*, page 26, and the *locality school and community cluster system diagram* on page 28.

Links to other strategies

Torbay's Strategic Partnership has identified economic prosperity as being central to the new vision for Torbay ([JAR document 36F](#)). The five Every Child Matters outcomes, including 'Achieving Economic Well-Being', is a link between our Children and Young People's Plan and the community's aspirations. Economic renewal is also an overarching theme being addressed through the priorities being identified in the Children and Young Person's block of the Local Area Agreement. It is vital that our children and young people are equipped with the skills for tomorrow's jobs as well as the broader life skills that will enable them to make the most of opportunities that arise to lead full lives.

See *key strategic priorities in Children and Young People's Plan*, page 25

The council's children's services	Grade
The contribution of <i>the council's children's services</i> in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people.	3

The council's children's services	Grade
The council's capacity to improve its services for children and young people	3

Additional area for judgement in 2006 only	Grade
Children's social care services	3

Being healthy

Based on the grade descriptors and key judgements, we believe that services in Torbay make a **good (3)** contribution to maintaining and improving health outcomes for children and young people in Torbay.

There is good evidence ([JAR document 2 + 3](#)) to support the collaborative working between agencies and practitioners on prevention, universal and targeted programmes including school nursing and teaching staff, CAMHS and early intervention, community paediatrics and disability services. The Care Trust has seconded an Assistant Director for Children's Health to sit within the senior management team of the Local authority directly accountable to the Director of Children Services.

There are a range of being healthy positive outcomes for children and young people in Torbay including;

- High impact of the 'Know the Code' and Stay Safe Bus to promote the dangers of risk taking behaviour. (23.1% of young people reported that their drinking habits had changed as a result of 'Know the Code').
- Good rates of immunisations for children under 2 years.
- All 22 GP practices offer child surveillance and health visiting has implemented the child health promotion programme.
- High numbers of under 18's receive treatment for substance misuse.
- Improved PAF C19 Health of Children looked after at 84.1%.

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles and Reducing Risk Taking Behaviour

The Stay Safe Bus offers immediate assistance to those ill, injured or suffering from the effects of drink or drugs from a base on Torquay Harbour side area which is a known hot spot for alcohol related issues. Young people using this service value it highly with public support for the project running at 84%. In tackling anti social behaviour the bus was used during the October and summer school holidays to hold "games evenings" and is planned again to be used in the run up to Christmas period to promote the safe sex message and dangers to risk taking behaviours. Continuing with the high profile campaign, 'Know the Code' on the dangers of alcohol consumption and parental awareness.

Childhood deaths in Torbay are in line with the national average. The Junior lifeskills programme targets Year 6 pupils (age 10-11) to ensure that they are equipped with the skills and awareness to help keep them safe in the home and on the street. During 2006 at least 1500 pupils from 31 schools attended one of the two annual events which are held in September and in May.

Smoking in pregnancy rates although lower than previous year may not reach the target set of 21%. The partnership continues to target high risk groups such as teenage parents this has included the recruitment of health Trainer to offer 1.2.1 sessions for young people who want to quit smoking. Peer mentors are also be trained to help work in this area.

The latest breast feeding figures for Qtr 2 show an increase on Qtr 1 but they are still slightly below the target set of 78.8%. A more co-ordinated approach involving health visitors, midwifery and early years has been established to target key groups such as teenage mothers **Childhood Immunisations** rates for Under 2yrs are good overall in Torbay and continue to see a rise. National campaigns have been supported by a local initiative involving pharmacists and health visiting staff offering drop in advice and information clinics in areas with the lowest take up for immunisations.

Dentistry – oral promotion has been introduced through the community dental service to schools and children centres. Free toothbrush and toothpaste is distributed to all babies at 8 month developmental check.

Teenage conception rates are one of the greatest challenges that all agencies within Torbay have to meet. 2004 saw a 13% increase on the base year of 1998 (44.2). The plan for 06/08 ([JR document 36G](#)) has been developed following an assessment of what's working in other areas and best practice guidance from the TP Unit. The partnership is reviewing the effectiveness of current services through a number of audits including :

- Audit on the delivery of SRE in all secondary schools.
- Conception audit with young mums and young people who have given birth or terminated a pregnancy to identify a more local picture for the reasons behind conception.
- Audit of health provided resource within schools focusing on SRE.

As a result of the review the partnership has :

- Increased the provision of emergency hormonal contraception
- Held a sexual health conference focusing on working with boys and young men;
- Offered more training opportunities for all staff working with young people on SRE and risk taking behaviour. Key groups for further training include foster carer's and social care staff (See JAR 23)The revised teenage conception strategy will also deliver: Improved access to condoms, information and advice.
 - Targeted interventions with young people identified as being at greatest risk i.e. young people in the Pupil Referral Unit, those involved in the Youth Inclusion Project and pilot in Torquay Community College.
 - A focus on informing and engaging parents and carers on the ways to introduce discussion about relationships, sex, alcohol and drugs in the home.
 - Enhanced Chlamydia screening programme for 16 to 25 year olds starting at South Devon College

All 22 GP practices offer **child surveillance** and health visiting services. There has also been a 100% take up in the implementation of the **child health promotion programme**. This has helped to improve the coordination and access to support services for vulnerable families especially those where domestic abuse has occurred or where substance misuse is an issue.

Healthy schools partnership is well developed in Torbay. The Pupil Referral Unit and one primary schools has achieved new healthy school status with a further 3 schools on track to achieve the new status by Dec 2006 rising to 7 schools by April 2007 and 26 by July 2007. We have 3 nurses who have successfully been awarded the DfES PSHE Certificate for Community Nurses.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Obesity

Torbay has made significant progress in identifying key issues and the actions needed to tackle obesity with the development of a new obesity strategy "Tipping The Scales" led by Health. The measurement programme of both reception and year 6 pupils has been completed. Torbay overall is in line with the most recent national figures with proportions higher in boys than in girls. 84.4% were measured with 7% opt out rate. Of these figures 12.9% were obese.

Working with council partners some of our achievements include:

- School meals contracts which have reduced the amount of convenience products in meals and targeting of caterers to encourage them to introduce healthier options on kids party menus.
- The reintroduction of kitchen equipment in schools to make non-prepared

foods.

- The banning of all fizzy drinks and crisps from vending machines in schools.
- 5 a day successful project which increased awareness amongst children and reinforced the basic message and continuation of fruit tuck shops in schools.
- Training of 42 community nutrition workers who continue to delivery cook and eat sessions and information including SureStart, family learning & youth organisations.
- Initiated CHOMP package for the under 5s via Early Learning Partnership which has been repeated several times for playgroups, nurseries after school workers and childminders.
- School growing clubs set up and continuing in schools as are community allotments.
- Theatre in Education "OH yes You Ca-an" production used humour to deliver the message about health eating, citizenship and peer pressure. Targeted at primary schools with the highest number of eligible free school meals year 4 pupils.
- Working with Healthy Schools programme, schools sports partnership extended schools, monitor levels of P/A via annual schools survey and targets those with low uptake.
- Schools using "Fit to succeed" and "Take 10" training packs with KS1 & KS2.
- Weekly young people's Lifestyle Café offers fitness session and drop in health information and advice based within Barton health Centre.
- Lifestyles road shows being planned for 2007 which will be trialled in the Summer term which will include healthy eating, physical activity, sexual health and smoking delivery.

Substance Misuse

Specialist services provided by the YOT and Checkpoint (a voluntary sector partner) continue to see on average 150 people a year. During April to June 06 all young people (38) assessed as needing a substance use assessment received this within 5 days and any intervention identified started within 10 days. There is a high level of under 18s in treatment within young people's services as opposed to being seen in adult services (98.5% compared to the regional average of 78%). All children and young people looked after by the local authority and young people excluded from school were screened for substance misuse and targeted prevention interventions were provided to 50 young people by the drug and alcohol youth worker.

An agreed protocol regarding alcohol is in place between A&E and school nurses who follow up by offering advice, education and a health interview with the young person; young peoples needle exchange was introduced as part of the young people's drug and alcohol service, Guide to Alcohol and Drug Advice in Torbay" is being revised and will be re-distributed through schools and youth settings.

- An audit of Drug education in secondary schools is near completion which will assist 100% of secondary schools to meet the guidance requirement (DfES: Guidance for Schools, 2004). Work is ongoing to ensure more professionals receive substance misuse awareness training and to improve access to universal or targeted interventions.

Mental Health and Emotional Well Being

Torbay is currently recommissioning the Specialist Tier 3 services from a new provider Devon PCT from April 2007. A number of service delivery workshops have been held with key clinicians and commissioners which have been included in the CAMHS service improvement plan ([JAR document 3](#)). Recruitment process is underway to secure a dedicated CAMHS manager to lead the local development and commissioning of the Torbay "virtual" team. Improvements in the service include;

- Joint referral meetings are held between tier 2 and tier 3 services to ensure most appropriate service and reduce delay.

- Further work is planned in the development of the early intervention service and school counsellors and brief solution therapists who already work directly with schools in addition to school nurse specialist role in promoting mental well being at tier 1.
- Check Point offer drop in information and advice and counselling service to young people from 11 to 25 years.
- Voluntary sector Bereavement service is represented on the Torbay CAMHS partnership.
- Social and Emotional Literacy tool (SEAL) has been introduced for use in schools.

There is a training programme in place for practitioners and community including a good introductory course to mental health. South Devon CAMHS Training Website provides information about training opportunities and child and adolescent mental health generally. (www.camhs.nhs.uk).

- Specialist health visitor leads work on maternal mental health and attachment issues through use of screening tool and early identification and intervention.
- Young people from age 14 years are able to access the Early Intervention in Psychosis team and there is an agreed transition protocol in place between Adult mental health and children mental health services.
- The ethnic make-up of the local community does not have a high proportion of BME residents however Translation services are provided to health services including specialist and primary care.

Early Intervention Pre & Post Birth

Torbay has made significant developments in working across agencies to provide targeted support to parents and carers who are more vulnerable including travelling families, teenage parents, victims of domestic abuse and children with ADHD. Paediatric physiotherapy and speech and language offer clinic sessions at Children's Centres; trained Sure Start staff and educated teacher assistants in order to identify developmental issues and deliver some therapy intervention

Health of children who are looked after

The health outcomes of children looked after has improved (84.1% PAF C19 – OC2 return November 2006). A designated nurse for Children Looked after has helped to ensure children in care have a health care plan that is regularly reviewed. For the period January 2006 to September 2006, 119 assessments were carried out by a range of practitioners. Specific dental provision for vulnerable groups that include children looked after has been set up. For those children who refuse an assessment, the designated nurse has developed a health questionnaire and this is currently targeting those leaving care.

Significant progress has been made in relation to assessing and meeting the mental health needs of children looked after. A Primary Care Mental Health Worker was appointed in January 2006 and is now based within the Permanency Planning team along with the designated nurse and Advisory teacher for those that need. The CAMHS strengths and difficulties questionnaire is completed on all CLA prior to the first LAC review.

Health Needs of Children & Young People with LDD are addressed

Children with learning disability have access to the South Devon children learning disability team including a clinical psychologist. Two key worker posts funded by the Care Trust work across this service, CAMHS and the Torbay Childrens Disability Team supporting families. They are particularly working with a number of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and ADHD. This model builds on the success of the team around the child (TAC) key working approach for families which has been developed in the Bay working with portage, Consultant paediatrician and the child development centre. Community Nursing team involved with parents, families and school staff supporting them in caring for children with life limiting conditions.

Review is planned for the current Transition protocol in place between disability services (see JAR document 21).

Staying safe

Based on the grade descriptors and key judgements, we believe that services in Torbay make a good (3) contribution to monitoring and sustaining the staying safe outcomes for children and young people. Our Annual Performance Assessment demonstrates significant and sustained improvement in service delivery. The JAR tool kit shows that:

- High rates of referral of children in need (consistent with accessible service)
- Numbers of children on the CPR and children looked after have both shown significant reductions during the last two years.
- Child protection performance is good with 97% of reviews held on time.
- Rates of child protection registration are lower than the national average and comparator group.
- The proportion of children looked after experiencing three or more placement moves during the year is low (2005 106 PAF A1).
- There have been no Serious Case Reviews in Torbay for more than three years. [for the last SCR see JAR document 12](#)).
- The increase in the number of children adopted from care has been sustained for the last three years.
- All children were placed for adoption within twelve months of the best interest decision being made.
- The Torbay Fostering, Adoption and Residential services have all performed well against national standards in CSCI Inspections over the last two years.
- Rates of admissions to hospital for accidental injury are low.
- The number of children killed in road traffic accidents have been exceptionally low for several years.

Significant progress has been made on the specific improvement areas identified in the APA, Children and young people's Plan and service business plan.

- Following a review of our business processes substantial progress has been made to improve performance on timing of initial and core assessments and we are on target to meet our plan of 70%.
- We continue to closely monitor performance for the long-term stability of looked after children. Analysis demonstrates that the high percentage of moves includes children and young people changing placement to move back to their birth family or into semi-independent living appropriate to their leaving care plan.

Torbay Safeguarding Children's Board (TSCB)

The TSCB has been implemented with a robust constitution and with high levels of commitment from all partner agencies. The TSCB will publish an annual report and business plan by the end of the year clearly illustrating outcomes for 2006 and setting the agreed priorities for 2007/08 ([JAR document 6](#)). Achievements within 2006/07 include:

- Successful conversion of the Child Protection Unit to Safeguarding Unit providing consultation and co-ordination to all agencies.
- Improved support to schools and education establishments to safeguard children (safe recruitment procedure, training, monitoring of allegations against staff, TSCB education subgroup and support groups for designated teachers).
- Effective implementation of the new requirements of the licensing and gambling acts.
- Business Plan with agreed priorities to co-ordinate safeguarding activity across all agencies within Torbay.
- Multi-agency child protection training plan.
- All schools have policies in place for safeguarding and a high percentage of

- schools have attended safeguarding workshops.
- Development of the Private Fostering service now fully functional.

There are plans to further develop the Safeguarding Unit to include the nurse advisor and a dedicated training co-ordinator to sustain staying safe outcomes across all agencies ([see JAR document 6,7,10](#)).

Social Work Practice Improvement

Child protection performance is generally good with timeliness of child protection conferences on track for 100% within timescale and duration on the register low. The re-registration rate of children on the child protection register is high and has been closely monitored through out the year. Analysis of the data demonstrates that it is related to two specific cases (one family of one child and one family of five children) which has a disproportionate effect due to the small numbers registered (20) since April 2006. Case tracking has taken place to review decision making on this case and improve future practice.

Child protection arrangements within Torbay have been strengthened in line with CSCI recommendations from the Children's Services inspection in 2005. The Intake Service has been reconfigured and has increased from two to three intake teams to provide a more robust and consistent assessment service. This has contributed to the overall reduction in the number of children placed on the child protection register. This reduction in workload has meant that the Safeguarding Unit and IRO service have been able to extend their role in case file auditing and other training and practice improvement activities ([see JAR document 6 + 39](#)). There have been no Serious Case Reviews in Torbay in the last three years. A case tracking policy and procedure has been implemented which includes practice auditing and workshops for the appropriate managers and staff to ensure lessons are learnt and practice improved. Further case tracking exercises are planned for the children in need services to audit case numbers and introduce an independent reviewing of children in need cases.

The TSCB Good Practice Sub Group has been set up to specifically target problems and difficulties related to multi-agency deficiencies in service provision and to recommend clear multi-agency training plans for all agencies regarding safeguarding ([see JAR document 10](#)). From the analysis of trends of recent referrals into the Intake Service it is clear that a range of child protection cases have been related to parents with drug and alcohol or mental health issues. There is clearly a need to build more constructive and effective protocols with the Adult Mental Health Service to ensure that issues are identified and addressed at an early stage.

In November 2005 Children's Services introduced PARIS, a new electronic social care system, as part of a rolling programme to improve front-line service delivery. The Integrated Children's Service (ICS) module has also now been successfully launched in November 2006. The implementation of ICS has included a complete review and re-engineering of all business processes and introduction of national exemplars for use by the service. All relevant staff have been given specific training on the functionality of the system. This has been complemented by a range of practice workshops for service managers and front line staff to ensure ICS improves practice. A review of the ICS will be undertaken in March 2007 to confirm implementation and launch new procedures and practice guides to staff.

Children Looked After

As planned, there has been a significant fall in the numbers of children looked after as a result of better care planning, effective diversion from care and increased permanency outcomes. The numbers of CLA participating in their reviews remains high and on target for 100% and 98% of LAC reviews are held on time (See Positive contribution section for more information). The Children Looked After Improvement Forum, chaired by an elected

member, has continued to develop a range of actions to improve outcomes for children looked after (see JAR document 25). CSCI service inspections for Adoption, Fostering and Residential care demonstrate that Torbay's services for children looked after have significantly improved. Within the recent CSCI Inspection of Torbay's Fostering Service the Kinship Care Scheme was highlighted as an excellent service offering alternatives to care.

Early Intervention

Torbay is now implementing a cluster model of integrated front line service delivery with aligned teams becoming embedded during 2007. Early intervention has been strengthened with the co-location of Education Welfare Staff (EWS) within Halswell Family Centre. These changes have led to more effective communication between the EWS and Family Support and a wider offer of parenting support for those struggling to raise attendance. Improvements have been made to the identification and tracking of children missing from education. Guidance has also been established along with consistent reporting tools that ensure a clear follow up on all notifications. (see JAR document 13). Improved case management processes have also increased the capability for early intervention work and the ability to focus on specific vulnerable groups of pupils, e.g. CLA, pivotal pupils where attendance could be improved and victims of bullying, as well as its direct focus on improving attendance generally. Other improvements include:

- Innovative solutions to improving attendance - reward scheme "Cool to be in school in the Bay", focussed on transient pupils at Cockington Primary School. Attendance at this school improved to its highest levels for over 2 years.
- The "Trophy Scheme" at Cuthbert Mayne to engage disaffected pupils in the development of materials that will be used to work with other young people.
- Solution Focused Brief Therapy has targeted children and young people who are experiencing high levels of unauthorised absence from school or where bullying is an issue. (Please see enjoy and achieve for more information on attendance)
- 2 Children Centres have opened with a further 3 planned

There have also been a range of developments within the Family Centre itself including the establishment of a Crisis Response Service to avoid children and young people being accommodated. The unit has also set up a successful ADHD Parental Support Group, created in consultation with parents welcomed as a highly supportive resource and a Domestic Violence Initiative bringing together professionals from Women's Aid, Sure Start and Child and Family Guidance for children who have witnessed domestic violence. A volunteer strategy has been initiated and volunteers engaged with a number of vulnerable primary school aged children to offer targeted support in order to raise self-esteem and promote engagement and attainment in school.

Public Protection

Torbay continues to play a full role as a partner in the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) working closely with Devon and Cornwall Police and probation services to review and audit management arrangements of all adult Offenders who are deemed to be a risk to children (see JAR document 11). This has included the introduction of a 'risk to children policy' jointly with Police, probation and YOT. Torbay contributes to the witness support project to assist children and young people giving evidence in criminal proceedings. The Torbay Domestic Abuse Forum has successfully engaged relevant partner agencies to improve services to children and young people who have suffered or witnessed domestic violence. The Forum has focused on awareness of domestic violence issues with SENCOs, greater participation of youth service and developing an early intervention service within Torbay to children and young people experiencing domestic abuse/violence (see JAR document 49).

Internet Safety

100% of schools have signed up to proactive monitoring of internet usage by SWGfL (our Regional Broadband Consortium). All have revised their Appropriate Use policies as a result of joint Torbay & SWGfL guidance. With this initiative and comprehensive regional and individual school filtering, Torbay pupils and students are among the safest nationally when using the internet from school or library settings. Guidance on responding to cyber bullying, text bullying etc. have been incorporated into school policies and procedures as a result of headteacher briefings. Students report (from informal feedback during adviser visits) that they feel safer and know how to respond if they feel threatened or unsafe.

English Language Schools

The TSCB has raised the issue of inadequate vetting procedures within the English Language Schools with the DfES and the British Council. TSCB has been made aware of the progress made on this matter by the proposal of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill which will ensure that host families are included in the list for police vetting. The quality of vetting by English Language Schools remains a concern and will be a priority for TSCB to address further.

Road safety

The number of serious road traffic accidents involving children is low compared to national and local benchmarks. Safety on the roads is addressed well in schools by the Road Safety unit in partnership with the Police.

For information on **Young Offenders** please refer to the 'Positive contribution'.

For information on **Children with Disabilities** please refer to the 'Achieving economic well being'.

Enjoying and achieving

Based on the grade descriptors and key judgements, we believe that services in Torbay are performing well but due to variable key stage attainment we only make an **adequate (2)** contribution to maintaining and improving enjoying and achieving outcomes for children and young people in Torbay. We will continue to focus on improving attainment but can also demonstrate some good outcomes in this area for example;

- Significant improvements in Key Stage 3 results over time.
- Increase attainment for children looked after achieving at least 1 GCSE A* to G and 5 A* to G.
- 100% of 3 and 4 year olds are able to access nursery education if their parents choose to.
- All 5 LA Priority schools made improvements in attainment.
- Leadership of ICT in schools good with highest proportion of schools with an ICT NAACE mark.
- No schools in an Ofsted category of concern since 2001.
- 76% schools graded good or better by Ofsted for overall effectiveness
- Good gifted and talented provision.
- 89% of EY settings graded overall good or better by Ofsted.
- Good attainment, value added and value for money at Key Stage 5.

2006 attainment

Assessment **at KS1** has declined across all subjects and levels reflecting the national trend but a more significant fall in Torbay. Performance is at national for L2+ writing and mathematics, but below at L2b+ and L3. First year for decline in reading since 2000. Girls outperform boys except at L2b+ and L3+ mathematics. 50% of schools were moderated in 2006, the other 50% will be moderated in 2007. The Primary/Foundation Stage teams' joint support for assessment throughout FS and KS1 for **all** schools has led to secure, well evidenced and consistent judgements. This rigorous focus on the use of teacher assessment is one reason for the lower outcomes at KS1, but also better enables early

intervention and progression in learning and provides a more sustainable and consistent basis for developing learning into KS2. Early communication and language skills are a focus area and Torbay has employed a CLLD consultant to further improve attainment in these strands. At the instigation and full support of Headteachers, software for pupil tracking has been centrally supported and resourced from March 2006 until 2008 for primary and special schools.

Despite targeted intervention by the LA, attainment **at KS2** Level 4 has stuck and is a priority in the CYPP and LAA (Please see p46-43 in CYPP JAR document 36). Other indicators are better, however. After a fall in 2005 L4+ attainment in Maths in 2006 has improved but is below national. L4+ Attainment in English at both national and local level remains static with Torbay 2% below national at L4+ and 1% above at L5+ with a significant increase at L5+ of 6%. Gains of 3% have been made in L5+ reading. Writing has improvements of 2% at L4+ and 4% at L5+. Torbay performance is 4% above national at L5+ writing. Performance has shown increases at L5+ for both girls and boys, with boys continuing to improve at L4+ in writing and mathematics. Girls outperform boys in writing and the reverse in mathematics. Gender differences continue to decrease in English. (Torbay 9%, national 11%). Improvements in all areas except Girls L4+ English. LA has had focused support on boys' writing and improving the pedagogy in mathematics and this is reflected in improved performance in certain schools.

Variability in schools' performance is addressed by differentiated engagement of advisers and consultants. Local Authority focus in targets, for pupil tracking and formative assessment underpins the expectation that all L2+ pupils will progress to L4+ through the development of quality first teaching supported by the recommendations and offer to schools of the new Primary Framework. This is a priority focus for mathematics and writing where at present only 44% of L2c pupils in mathematics and 46% in writing progress to L4+ at end of KS2. Between school variation in boys' writing, and schools have been targeted to take part in the National Strategies' SW writing project. The focus on the strategic role of the SENCo in evaluation of inclusive practice in classrooms and meeting the needs of pupils with SEN has contributed to a decline for the second year running in % of children who leave KS2 below L3. Torbay performance is now at least 1-2% better than national.

In secondary schools any shift in attainment levels in respect of the Best Value Performance Indicators is only effected by the five non-selective schools.

At KS3 In 2005 there were significant improvements in KS3. 2006 has been a year of consolidation, but with further improvements at L5+ of 5% in ICT, 1% in science and 3% in mathematics. There was a decrease in English of 1% but this was lower than the decrease of 2% nationally. There were corresponding improvements at level 6. Level 5+ and 6+ attainment is still above the national average in all core subjects. There has been a continued focus on using data to identify key pupils and their learning needs and consultants have worked closely with subject leaders and class teachers to raise attainment. Schools which have received an appreciable LA support have seen significant improvements (e.g. one school increased 13% in English at L5+).

At KS4 the % 5 A*-C has stuck and remains below the national figure, with variable performances of the five non-selective schools. There are no schools below floor targets. It is a priority focus for the Secondary Strategy Team in the CYPP and LAA (see CYPP p40-43 JAR document 36). Performance measured by % 5 A*-C including M & E is stronger, above the national average. The cohort is 'boy heavy'. The very significant change to the curriculum for over 25% of the cohort beginning in the current year 10, will impact not only on the results of individual students involved but on the Bay as a whole (see Economic Wellbeing section). It is predicted that there will be an improvement in GCSE performance in 2007 and 2008.

At KS5 schools have maintained their strong performance at level 3. The one school which 'dipped' slightly in 2005 has now recovered to the performance/rate of improvement of earlier years.

The attainment and progress of the very small numbers of **BME** pupils in 2005 were in line with Torbay averages at KS 4 and above at other key stages. Our EAL service provides in school assessment, support, training and translation. Traveller children are catered for within the Devon-wide consortium.

Overall attainment and progress of the very small cohort of **Children Looked After** has increased, although is not predicted to reach targets (see [JAR document 33](#)). However, improvements have been made to the Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and the tracking of progress by schools, foster parents and the in-house residential home (see [JAR document 21 PEP Protocol](#)). All CLA at KS4 are also given the opportunity to receive additional tuition and laptops. Some individual young people perform well.

A commitment to improving outcomes for children through high quality **early years** provision remains a key priority for the Early Years and Childcare Service. 100% of 3 and 4 year olds are able to access a nursery education place if their parents choose to. 2006 FSP outcomes have improved in almost every area of learning. This includes the outcomes for children in the 20% most disadvantaged SOAs where the % of children scoring 6+ in all areas of learning has increased from 13.4% in 2005 to 27.9%.

Torbay FSP outcomes remain below the National Averages (based on 2006 provisional results) but the gap has narrowed considerably with Torbay showing an upward trend against the downward National trend, explained by the DfES as an improvement in robustness of assessment and moderation across all LAs. It has been recognised and confirmed by the FS SW Regional Adviser that this rigour is already in place in Torbay, allowing the LA to use the data at local level with confidence for future development. A robust moderation and training programme remains in place with 100% of schools taking part in moderation activities in 2005/6. Previous analysis of FSP data identified key areas for improvement where performance was low, and support and training has been focused on these areas, resulting in significant improvement e.g. the % of children scoring 6+ in Calculating has increased from 56% in 2005 to 68%.

The Early Years Inclusion Service, through the Early Support/Team Around the Child project has provided a key working service to 73 families that have a disabled child under 5, and this has improved the co-ordination of services and ensured parental involvement in the development of family service plans.

The Project's co-ordinated referral and assessment process has resulted in improved early identification of children with additional needs and disabilities, and an increase of 30% in referrals to the Early Years Inclusion Service. Enhanced funding supports children with developmental difficulties in their early years mainstream settings, and the authority is exploring ways to continue this support through the transition into school without recourse to statutory assessment. The transition planning meetings are attended by parents and other agencies, so that support is adjusted to meet children's needs. The joint health and local authority communication groups initiative, which enhances the skills of pre-school children with social and communication difficulties and autism, is consistently rated as highly effective by parents, is now located in a Children's Centre.

Prioritisation, challenge and support

The Local Authority has very good data sets and analysis, based on local, FFT and DfES sources shared with schools to focus human and resource allocations on the schools, phases, subjects, individual and groups of pupils in order to support and challenge schools to raise attainment ([JAR document 33](#)). The Local Authority knows its schools and settings well, has categorised them through a multi-disciplinary assessment based

on criteria against data and service standards, has identified Priority Schools and challenges actively and rigorously with all schools on target setting to secure improvement. Intervention is differentiated and negotiated annually in accordance with LA, Primary and Secondary Strategy procedures. The in-school programmes are agreed with schools, adjusted in year as necessary by link advisers and strategy managers and formally reviewed annually (see JAR document 14). Aggregated school targets for 2006/7 are challenging. If targets are realised in 2007 Torbay performance would be above national on all indicators.

Of the two Secondary LA Priority schools, one improved at GCSE 5 A* - C from 21% to 36% and the other reversed its downward trend and shows improvements in the conditions for learning. This is the result of effective and focused action within the schools with intensive support at whole school and team/teacher levels from the LA Secondary team. The secondary team is focusing in 2006/7 more intensively on KS4. In addition to school specific intervention in core areas there will be support for under-performing 'stuck' foundation subject teams in some schools.

The three Primary Intensifying Support Programme (ISP) LA identified Priority schools in 2005-2006 showed improvements of 21%, 11% and 8% in mathematics but less significant gains in English. We would expect the gains in English to be more apparent in 2007. The national Primary Leadership Programme (PLP) showed limited impact. Because of this and the success of ISP the number of schools participating in the programme in 2006/7 has increased to 8 and the PLP support model has been shelved. The integration of the Behaviour and Learning Support team into primary team has enabled a more cohesive support package to improve conditions for learning and embed SEAL. LA promotes and supports five Primary Strategy Learning Networks (PSLN) focusing on local priorities: language and communication; mathematical language; boys writing; the QCA Futures Curriculum. SAM Learning supports independent learning in 10 schools.

Where interventions have been unsuccessful this can be linked to quality of teaching, poor senior and/or subject leadership and a lack of capacity within the school to sustain and embed improvement programmes.

18 Advanced Skills Teachers are effectively deployed and supported across phases to help to raise standards in underperforming schools and classrooms, coach and mentor underperforming teachers, Gifted and Talented activities, implementing ELL and supporting learning networks. Feedback from schools benefiting from AST support is always positive.

No school in Torbay has been in an OFSTED category of concern since 2001. Between September 2003 and September 2006 33 Schools were inspected. 25 (76%) were graded good or better for pupils' achievement and also for overall effectiveness. Most schools also improved since their last inspection. Effective Local Authority support and engagement by advisers and consultants has contributed to this very good position.

The Early Years teams' differentiated package of support and advice to schools, early years settings and childminders, is based on a set of quality criteria and the settings' own self- evaluation, focused where it is needed most to have maximum impact on promoting quality provision and positive outcomes for all children. As a result early years provision in Torbay remains of a high quality with 89% of settings achieving overall Ofsted judgments of good or above. The proportion of settings receiving good or outstanding judgments within Enjoy and Achieve is above the National Average, and there are currently no settings within the inadequate category for care or education.

An effective termly link adviser visit programme for primary, secondary, special schools and the PRU ensures rigorous target setting procedures, support and challenge for self

evaluation, improvements in teaching and learning and a focus on vulnerable pupils and groups of pupils in accordance with the ECM agenda. Secondary School Improvement Partners are in place, with Primary and Special school SIPs to be introduced in 2008. Support for school self-evaluation is well established and now based on the new Ofsted Framework. This has included website development and the reshaping of link adviser agendas to involve Governors actively. CPD is provided to improve leadership and management at all levels. Since September 2003, leadership and management have been judged good or better in 88% of schools inspected.

A comprehensive early years training programme has been planned to meet key priorities identified through data analysis and the Childcare Workforce Audit 2005. The implementation of the Transformation Fund will lead to an increase of approx. 16% of childcare staff on a level 3 qualification or higher over the next year.

The leadership and delivery of **ICT** in schools is good. Nationally, Torbay has the highest proportion of schools with an ICT NAACE mark. Torbay's Broadband solution for schools includes the libraries to ensure community-wide access. The latest upgrades exceed Government targets. 40% of schools are used as host schools for the National College of School Leadership SLICT programme. This is an indicator of the quality of whole school and subject leadership for ICT as these host schools are quality assured by BECTA. Interactive Technologies in schools enables a wider repertoire of teaching and learning styles to impact on pupil outcomes in a range of subjects. 77% of schools are at Integration Stage or beyond.

Set up and supported by the Local Authority, the trialling of new mobile technologies (such as PDAs) has impacted positively on pupil performance, access to the curriculum and behaviour. For example, a pupil exhibiting challenging behaviour has found he is an expert at using Personal Digital Assistants. He is now seen by his peers as a source of help and support, his self-esteem and therefore his achievement have improved. Pupils in the Year 5 class say, "We couldn't work as well together without the PDAs." And "This project has helped me work better than I have ever done before." Similarly access to the curriculum for SEN pupils and other pupils requiring support has improved. One school shows attainment beyond targeted expectations for 'reluctant boy writers' who used PDAs for collaborative work for a year before SATs tests.

As one of only 9 Local Authorities Torbay will be piloting the new ICT Progression materials from the National Strategy in 2007. By the end of 2008 all schools will have access to a Learning Platform that will enhance personalised learning and extended schools priorities and targets.

There is now a good strategy for **Gifted and Talented** pupils and a particularly improved engagement of secondary schools. They are now working with the Authority to extend provision for KS3 pupils, have taken part in an audit of provision, made suggestions for the support they need and identified good practice to share. Torbay membership of NAGTY increased from 84 in July 2005 to 658 in July 2006. 30 out of 32 primary schools took part in the audit. Opportunities for over 1,500 talented pupils to participate in the Torbay Music Festival, support groups, CPD organised in response to the audit, summer school (Going for Gold London 2012) and numerous enrichment workshops are greatly appreciated. Feedback from heads and pupils is very good. One Year 4 pupil, having enjoyed a creative writing workshop, wrote "There just isn't anything you could make better. I'd give it 10 stars out of 5 stars!"

The Co-ordinated **Admissions** Schemes for primary and secondary schools continue to operate successfully. There is effective cooperation with the admission authorities within Torbay and with Devon LA and every year 6 child is allocated a secondary school place on National Allocation Day - 1 March. All parents who have applied for school places are informed of their child's primary school place in December. In September 2005 the LA

successfully implemented a system for parents to apply for a school place online ahead of the legal requirement. The national target was for 5 - 10% and initial indications for Torbay are that 20% of primary and 33% of secondary applications have been received online.

The **exclusion** rates for fixed term and permanent exclusions rose in 2005/6, after 2004/5 being the lowest since Torbay became a unitary authority. It is now similar to previous years. The development of a Partnership/collaboration for behaviour and attendance in secondary schools across the Bay for September 2007 is currently being undertaken to address this issue.

The **Interim Tuition** Service has restructured resulting in better pupil attainment and training for tutors. Links with the PRU are strong and effective. User feedback has been incorporated on monthly reports. Group tuition has provided with other agencies contributing programmes and expertise, leading to better cost effectiveness. EHE pupils are monitored immediately on referral. There are currently 72 active cases. In 2005/06 all pupils permanently excluded were offered 20 plus hours of education by the 15th day following their exclusion. There has been some recent slippage with the complexity of establishing group tuition and the implementation of the universal curriculum inputs and other providers. This has been also as a result of the provision having to be in place from 15 days of the Headteacher's rather than the governors' decision. The numbers of pupils gaining 1A*-G at GCSE has risen for the third year running and is well above the national averages and the statistical neighbours. 2005/2006 cohort all took 3 GCSEs and the lowest grade was an F with our first A* achieved and a good number of C grades.

Improving **attendance** is a priority for the CYPP and LAA ([see p42 CYPP JAR document 36](#)). The level of unauthorised and authorised absence is higher than statistical and national benchmarks. This year, the level of authorised absences has increased, in large part the result of the 'norovirus' which lead to several school closures.

Despite mixed results on unauthorised absence, the issue is being met with new and more innovative approaches that are starting to impact on schools with attendance issues. (See Staying safe section for more information on the integration of EWS and Family support). Developments in respect of attendance issues include:

- Specific improvement plans to co-ordinate action from schools, Education Welfare Officers, link advisers and consultants are in place for targeted schools.
- The use of adult volunteers to mentor and offer personal support to improve pupil self esteem and social skills.
- The systemic training of secondary schools in Solution Focused Brief Therapy, a project which has received national recognition.
- The introduction of an early alert letter for schools to send parents where days have been missed for what ever reason.
- The doubling of resources and increase in the breadth of support available to the secondary school in highest need.

All new initiatives will be kept under review but the early indicators are good.

The Local Authority has developed and begun to implement its **Learning Inclusion Strategy 2005-8** ([see JAR document 58](#)), which contains nineteen goals and over sixty specific improvement actions. During 2005/6 various stakeholder standing groups were established to support the implementation of the strategy, notably *the Learning Inclusion Forum for Torbay (LIFT)*, supported by single stakeholder forums for SENCOs, parents and deaf/hearing impaired people.

The Authority is showing good improvements in reducing the number of statements of Special Educational Needs, which is high when compared with similar authorities. The rate of new statements has also continued to decline. To improve further more non-financial and financial improvement actions have recently been implemented or are

planned for 2006/7, as described in the Learning Inclusion Strategy, e.g. a more rigorous system for monitoring annual review returns and ceasing statements and that reduced reliance on statements will be matched in growth in unassigned funds delegated via the sub-formula for inclusion.

The Authority has improved significantly its efficiency in making statutory assessments and statements (see BVPI 43a & b) by reengineering processes (see JAR document 29). During 2005/6 there were only two appeals to the SENDIST both of which were upheld, though neither related to the decisions of Torbay Council. The number of appeals throughout 2006 has remained low. The proportion of children attending maintained special schools in Torbay is high but the use of non-maintained/independent schools is low by comparison with statistical neighbours. It is predicted that there will be a reduction (approximately 10%) in the number of children attending Combe Pafford special school over the next two years. Further reductions are expected as reliance on statements falls.

Fixed and permanent exclusion rates for children with statements of special educational needs remain in line with national averages.

The range of centrally employed specialists is low by comparison with other similar authorities but this compensated for by the use of well regarded ASTs and a range of commissioned services from regional special schools. Work to extend the range of outreach services provided by Torbay's maintained special schools has also begun, with expectation that an extended offer will be available for mainstream schools from April 2007. A Primary Link Adviser is working with EPS to monitor the standards of pupils with SEN are achieving and to identify schools where pupils do not make satisfactory progress through the recent development of the LA SEN School Self Evaluation framework. The LA can now identify training and support for schools more effectively.

Making a positive contribution

Based on the grade descriptors and key judgements, we believe that services in Torbay make a **good (3)** contribution to maintaining and improving positive contribution outcomes for children and young people in Torbay. Children's Services continues to ensure that all children and young people are given the opportunities they need to become responsible members of the local community. This includes a range of targeted support for those who face disadvantage:

- The sustained development of the Young Carers Service in identifying and actively supporting even more young people
- Excellent Youth Offending Service which includes the introduction of the Youth Inclusion Programme to expand the diversionary activities for high risk offenders
- The further development of services to support young people leaving care (see Economic Well-Being).

Young People Influencing Service Development

Opportunities for young people to have a say in the decisions that affect them are improving and additional opportunities are planned through the Change for Children agenda. This includes the potential development of a youth cabinet via the Youth Matters work strand (see JAR document 16 and 35).

Young people in Torbay were consulted on Youth Matters through a number of open consultation events and a young people's questionnaire. 83% of participants said they are involved in helping other people at school or in their community, including young people who help in more than one way. Young people fed back that they would like more recognition for the voluntary work they are involved in, they felt this would encourage them and their peers to get more involved in their communities. Consequently, resources have been identified to develop a Youth Volunteering Strategy for Torbay. This will focus on exploring needs and developing opportunities for young people to get involved in

volunteering and making volunteering a valued part of their lives, with a focus on young people from hard to reach groups. Junior Wardens have also been introduced in a number of wards across the area to actively encourage young people to responsibly contribute to their local neighbourhoods ([see JAR document 17](#)).

Opportunities are being taken to link the work of extended services in schools, Youth Service activity, Connexions and the Police Service ([see JAR documents 15 + 18](#)). For example extended services in schools are funding activities that assist children with school engagement issues so they continue on in school. Newly funded activities include: art therapy for low achievers, conflict resolution training for play ground assistants and additional places for adventure play activities for the disadvantaged.

Young View Forums are now a well established means of consultation involving pupils from a significant proportion of schools in Torbay. These Forums have allowed young people the opportunity to influence the delivery of PSHE education and the planning of educational transitions. Young people have been consulted through these Forums on their priorities in the delivery of the Every Child Matters agenda.

LAC participation

On a service by service basis user engagement is being improved by sharing and learning what is already collected from sources such as the Independent Reviewing Team ([see JAR document 27 and 32](#)). The participation of children and young people in their LAC Reviews remains extremely high at 98% and new procedures have been implemented by the Independent Reviewing Service to ensure that all care plans clearly record a child's or young person's comments and participation. The level of engagement by parents in reviews is also high and is starting to help in the drive to get young people out of care early. A range of consultation forms have also been recently developed by young people to further increase the levels of participation by children looked after into their care planning. Good engagement in decision making has also been noted in the inspections of Torbay's children home.

Torbay, in partnership with the voluntary sector has continued to provide a Missing Person's Protocol for all children looked after to ensure they are offered an independent interview before they return to placement to ensure their wishes and feelings are considered. Assistance and support continue to be offered to missing children through the flexible Refuge run in partnership with the Children's Society ([see JAR document 13](#)).

Young Carers

To influence service planning a group of young carers have had 'question and answer sessions with the Torbay's chief executive and the assistant director for specialist services. Young carers also continue to influence the development of the service through the Young Carer Forum. Young carers are encouraged to complete a termly questionnaire which helps the service to monitor their health and well being. The service has developed ways to raise its profile through the secondary PSHE curriculum. The service now actively supports 280 carers. Feedback from young carers has helped identify the demand for activities and inform the activity programme for the school holidays. This included ensuring that young carers were provided with a discount leisure card. Providing opportunities to encounter young people with similar experiences has helped to reduce the reported levels of isolation and lack of confidence. Some improvements have also been seen in attendance and achievements amongst this group.

Children's Fund

Children and young people have been involved in shaping all Children's Fund services through the quarterly and annual service review process. The Take Part – Torbay Participation project has worked with a group of young people aged 9-16 years old where they have evaluated services against the Every Child Matters outcomes ([see JAR document 35](#)).

Children and young people have been involved in making DVD's about Children's Fund services including Link Youth Support, the Torbay Play Forum Adventure Play in the Bay Project and the Play Development Project. Steps have been taken to embed the good practice of the Children's Fund across Children's Services. Take Part – Torbay Participation Project worked with a group of young people and produced a DVD illustrating their view of the Top 10 Tips for involving children and young people. This will be used as part of a workshop package for frontline practitioners on participation.

Children and young people have been involved in decisions about funding for new services through work on the Big Lottery Play Fund, the Local Network Fund and the Youth Opportunities Fund. A young person aged 18 is chair of the Local Network Fund Grant Panel. A shortlist of projects was selected by a Children and Young People's Panel to submit to the Lottery. Most projects identified were adventurous play activity and supervised participation programmes. The application is expected to be assessed by the BLF Lottery Fund in January 2007.

Children and young people have been instrumental in the design and development of all the proposals, and these fully reflect the needs identified in the Strategy. If the bid is successful it will provide 3 new play spaces in Torbay's most deprived wards, 5 participation activity programmes including one specifically targeted at excluded children, and developing adventurous activities especially for teenage girls.

The Youth E-Panel has been set up. 700 young people aged 11-18 are registered. In their last survey on relationships and domestic violence they had over 400 respondents ([see JAR document 35](#)).

Promoting acceptable behaviour

The Safer Communities Partnership ([see JAR document 18](#)) funded a youth involvement project that engaged over 200 children and young people on their views about crime and anti-social behaviour. The young people identified personal safety, bullying and environment issues (vandalism etc) as their top priorities. Young people presented their findings to the Safer Communities Board as well as ideas for projects to engage young people.

Addressing recidivism rates remains a key priority for Children's Services. The Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) has been developed with this in mind ([see JAR document 18](#)). The YIP will provide a continued contribution to tackling and reducing anti-social behaviour through effective partnership working and closer working relationships between the Youth Offending Team and Youth Service. The YIP for Torquay will target three Wards with the highest levels of youth crime, anti-social behaviour and exclusion from schools. The YIP Project will provide early identification and interventions with the thirty most at risk young people (13 – 17 years) in those neighbourhoods. It will also act as the catalyst for integrating many of the existing preventative funding streams and resources locally.

There is now a particular focus on higher risk community sentence cases and also those receiving reprimands, which historically have had no input regarding their offending. Although practice has been generally good towards the end of Orders in terms of predicting risk of re-offending it is recognised there is room for improvement to minimise the risk of further offending, through improving the quality of exit strategies at the end of the contact with the YOT.

In Youth Crime there has been substantial reduction to the numbers of first time entrants to the youth justice system during 2005/06. The overall number of young people entering the youth justice system reduced significantly. Youth crime is down overall during 2005 in terms of detected crime (19.6%) and also outcome crime (5%). The number of overall offences is down and there are fewer young people coming into the system both in terms of first time entrants and overall numbers of offenders. Violent crime is down, as is

vehicle crime, public order and offences of criminal damage. According to the community safety unit, levels of anti-social behaviour have remained about the same over the last year, compared with a 19% increase in other areas of Devon and Cornwall. Various preventative initiatives, such as the LINK Projects, the YISP, school support project, anti-social behaviour strategy and the YOT education input to schools around alcohol use and criminal damage are now starting to have a positive impact.

Provisional figures indicate a very slight increase in pre-court recidivism rates, up from 28% to 30%, whilst there have been reductions in re-offending rates in both first tier penalties and community sentences. First tier penalty rates have encouragingly dropped from 73% to 55%, with community sentences down from 87% to 85%. Local targets to reduce offending by 5% on 2003 and 2004 cohorts have been met.

Overall performance is very good with further progress being made against the four areas now monitored by the Youth Justice Board. The average percentage scores against the thirteen key Performance Indicators came out at 92.5% across the year (2005), which was slightly up from the last year reported. The effective practice Quality Assurance Evaluations of two areas of service delivery, focusing on remand and resettlement processes, concluded in October 2005 that the Torbay YOT had generally very good systems in place, with some areas for further development. The 2005 audit against National Standards showed a score of just over 80% of standards being met, a considerable improvement from the 2004 audit (62.7%).

In addition, it is also intended to pilot an Integrated Youth Support Service in line with the recommendations of the Youth Matters Green Paper.

For information on **children with disabilities** please refer to 'Achieving economic well being'.

Achieving economic well-being

Based on the grade descriptors and key judgements, we believe that services in Torbay collectively make a **good (3)** contribution to maintaining economic well being for children and young people in Torbay.

The **14 – 19 Strategy** is now good. All schools and South Devon College, with key partners, have agreed a 5 year strategy implemented via a rolling 2 year action plan in respect of main priorities, improved curriculum, greater collaboration, better IAG. The highest initial priority has been to plan and implement a much wider curriculum at 14+ which both meets the learning needs of many students more effectively and will lead to the early introduction of the specialised diplomas from September 2008 to include pathways into post 16 courses. This decision was informed by the strong performance of all post 16 institutions validated by the Learning & Skills Council sponsored AV/VFM study, which places Torbay among the most effective in the SW, and reflects the priority to raise standards at KS4. Improvements include;

- Extended 14+ curriculum
- A wide range of accredited vocational courses run in a variety of locations
- All non-selective schools have achieved 'Investors in Work Related and Enterprise Learning'
- South Devon College 'Innovations Centre' to support new and small businesses.
- Extensive day care service for children with disabilities.

The extended 14+ curriculum, introduced from September 2006, impacts directly on the learning programmes of 334 young people (when 60 year 10 IF students are included, approximately 25% of the cohort in Torbay.) Initial feedback is very positive. More systematic review involving students and staff, as part of regular review processes, is taking place in November, with outcomes available by the end of term. Students engaged

in the extended curriculum are drawn from the 5 non-selective schools, EOTAS and the PRU. Further, some elements of the curriculum lend themselves to infill, not least from students moving into the 'Bay, as transience is high and has significant impact on some schools.

Programmes include the YMCA 'For Me Time' re-engagement groups (80 students), Skill Force (100 students) and a wide range of accredited vocational courses run in a variety of locations (Vocational+). All are accredited at entry level or level 1 or 2. Already schools tell us that attendance and motivation are improved. There are a number of very positive comments from students. We anticipate improved outcomes for the students involved, better staying-on rates/fewer NEETs and a better learning environment for all students in schools involved resulting from the improved motivation and engagement.

Collaboration is developing strongly for example through the involvement of staff developing and delivering the programmes, the sharing of facilities and resources, the growing co-operation at meetings and on working groups and the agreement to hold the DSG centrally. Working agreements and protocols are being developed as they are needed and examples of this are the staff and student handbooks for Vocational+ as well as the student data sheets completed for the external providers and pooling money to enable the special school purchase a mobile construction van.

The collaborative unanimously agreed to apply to introduce the specialised diplomas from September 2008. 'Diploma Champions' and 'Key Partners' have been appointed from the complete range of institutions. Each champion will lead a group drawn from across the collaborative focused on successful 'gateway' application. IAG is the focus of one of the 'single issue task groups' with an LA/LSC funded leader, underpinned by the development of the area prospectus which is on track to 'go live' in January. This is a joint operation with Devon and linked to e-ILPs, which are the focus of another task group.

Careers, enterprise programmes and work experience are well established for all pupils at KS4. All non-selective schools and the Girls' Grammar School follow the West Country Education Business Services Quality Standards Framework involving enterprise activity, wrl, business and community links. All these schools have achieved the quality award 'Investors in Work Related and Enterprise Learning'. They are also engaged in Devon EBP's 'Passport to Enterprise' programme, and enterprise weeks. COPE is a key part of the Skill Force programme running in all non-selective schools and for a number of EOTAS pupils. South Devon College has excellent links with the business community and embraces the enterprise agenda in a wide range of ways. The 'innovation centre' has recently been established which is designed to support new and young small businesses, which will provide the core of economic prosperity in the region in the future. Economic renewal is a priority for the Council as whole. Thus the centre forms the hub of a baywide strategy in partnership with TDA.

South Devon College is a very strong partner of the collaborative, bringing excellence in many vocational areas. They either provide diploma champions or are designated key partners in all 5 diplomas, as well as leading the task group on blended learning and sharing the leadership of the post-16 collaboration task group. Provision of specialist facilities for the new diplomas forms a key part of the BSF plans for Torquay Community College. The development of a Skills Centre on this site will complement the provision at South Devon College as well as minimising travel to learn distances.

External evidence for the increased effectiveness of 14-19 planning and provision in Torbay can be found in the moderated RAG assessment, especially in terms of outcomes, the 2006 APA judgement and through the LA 14-19 team being selected to provide INSET for the SW Regional Secondary Strategy team, as well as its school staff. Partnership working with **Housing** services is strengthening with better links being

established between housing needs and the intake teams. This includes an emergency housing initiative with Children's Services for accommodating young homeless people overnight. Dedicated housing officer time is now available to the youth offending team to address issues early. The care to community team also operate a liaison service for young people to ensure housing needs and benefits are processed quickly. Housing services are fully engaged in the development of the CAF and they are looking to use this approach in the creation of Housing referral hub.

Children with Disabilities

Multi agency support for children with severe and complex learning difficulties and disabilities is generally good. The Social Work and Occupational Therapy Services support approximately 180 children and their families, aged 0 – 18, whilst two dedicated key workers attached to the Early Years Inclusion Service support a further 40 families. 24 families are receiving Direct Payments for services. This number is growing rapidly.

Overnight respite services are currently undergoing a joint Children Services/Health review. They include a voluntary sector residential respite home, specialist foster carers (Family 2 Family), occasional additional nights in the boarding section of the child's own school, 'in hospital' respite for children with complex medical needs use overnight childminding (OFSTED regulated) and overnight sitting services. Overall approximately 60 severely/profoundly disabled children and young people are receiving an overnight respite service. The Family2Family specialist short-break fostering service has a capacity of approximately 12 children. This service is jointly managed through disability and fostering social work teams. All carers are approved by the Torbay Fostering Panel.

Currently 21 Torbay children use a dedicated respite centre for approximately 360 bed nights. Torbay and South Devon Children's Services are working together to develop a long term contract with this service. 14 children are offered regular respite at the John Parkes Unit, Torbay Hospital, 3 with their regular childminders.

Day care services for children with disabilities are extensive and varied ([see JAR document 58](#)). The all day play scheme that takes 25 severely disabled youngsters every day of school holidays is now being used by over 70 families, and the Saturday Club by 22 children. The Playscheme was rated as good/excellent by OFSTED.

Befriending and sitting services are available through Direct Payments or accessed directly through Children's Services. These services are extremely flexible and the service is tailored around the child and family's needs. They are often used to assist inclusion and participation in sports and leisure activities. The befriending and sitting service is constantly being developed and expanded. There are 42 sessional staff available for this work.

The Torbay Inclusion Project is part funded by the Children's Fund but is based in the Children with Disabilities Team. It provides social and leisure opportunities for children and young people aged 5 – 13 yrs moderate physical or learning disabilities. At present it provides 21 children with positive experiences in settings of their choice.

Transitional support (14+) for the most severely disabled young people is offered through the Children with Disabilities social work team ([see JAR document 58](#)). A dedicated social worker works with 36 young people 16+ needing ongoing care across the Children Services/Adult Services boundary. Support for transitions into school is most frequently carried out by key workers attached to the Early Years Inclusion Service.

Adult and Community Learning is managed by South Devon College, and uses both free-standing and joint-use venues at the heart of communities, enabling better access for reluctant first rung learners. In 2005/06 4000 enrolments were targeted at this group. Family learning is targeted at school communities where there is a high incidence of

FMSs, to enable parents and carers to understand the school curriculum and how to support their children's learning as well as advance their own. 400 parents / carers enrolled 04/05. It also has a presence in the women's refuge, in Sure Start premises and temporary housing locations to access better vulnerable people and reluctant learners. The ESF and co-financed projects target specifically those adults who are disadvantaged, who have not traditionally benefited for educational opportunities, those who have not achieved a full Level 2 qualification as well as parents and carers with child care commitments. These are delivered in collaboration with the voluntary and community sector [VCS], with a focus on groups with for example mental health problems, drug addiction and physical difficulties. The projects include 'Bridge in to Learning', offering one to one support to potential learners to their first level 1 course; E-Torbay, which raises capacity to deliver IT courses within the VCS, narrowing the digital divide; and Skills for All, which supports literacy and numeracy for learners within voluntary and community-based settings.

Support to **young people leaving care** has improved and continues to achieve higher than average levels of engagement in training and education amongst its care leavers. Over the last year work has progressed on developing improved supported lodging for young people leaving care. This reflects the need expressed by young people for accommodation that offers a greater level of independence with some vestiges of home life. In addition, opportunities are being arranged for young people who are keen try living independently before they leave care, with a young person's foster placement being kept open whilst they try out living alone.

Pathway planning has improved with the development of a new guide to transition called 'Towards Independents' (see JAR document 21) written by a local carer, published with Children's Services support. The levels of engagement in pathway planning have been reported as good via quality assurance checks completed by the independent reviewing team.

The offer of financial support for work based expenses and training in practical life skills is now being enhanced with the help of young people via a new participation group. Advice on employment and training has further been improved with the inclusion of a dedicated connexions worker as part of the leaving care team.

Support for the most vulnerable care leavers has also improved with 72% of young people with mental health needs getting assistance from CAMHS. More work is needed but this is a significant improvement on previous year's results.

Connexions Cornwall and Devon is deemed to be a high performing service with a very good OFSTED, a Charter Mark award and the Investor in People award. Connexions performance in terms of engaging young people 16-18 in learning is demonstrated through the reduction in 16-18 year olds who are NEET or Not Known:

16-18 year olds - Percentages

Torbay
Plymouth
Cornwall
Devon

Cornwall & Devon

NEETS Nov 05

3.7
6.6
5.3

	4.8
	5.3
NEETS Nov 04	4.5
	7.0
	5.5
	5.0
	5.5
Not Known Nov 05	0.9
	1.1
	0.8
	0.9
	0.9
Not Known Nov 04	1.0
	1.5
	1.1
	1.4
	1.3
<p>There has been an increase in the percentage of 16-18 year olds in learning – this improved from 71.8% in November 04 to 78.8% in November 05.</p> <p>Connexions has signed partnership agreements with all secondary schools and a number of local partner agencies: the service is delivered on a lead professional model with personal advisers (PAs) brokering help and support from appropriate agencies to ensure young people achieve positive progressions from statutory education to post 16 learning and then into employment. Connexions targets high risk groups for non engagement; these include teenage mothers and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. Connexions is a key partner in the 14-19 Strategy and within the development of services to young people in response to Youth Matters.</p> <p>Connexions has an active network of young people groups to advise on the development of the service and regularly evaluates its work through the “Help Us Get It Right” survey. Results of the 2005 HUGIR showed that young people viewed Connexions in Torbay in a highly positive way based on a number of standard questions, when compared with other areas (see JAR document 35).</p>	

Partnership

The management of services for children and young people has significantly improved with the development of Children's Services Directorate in Torbay. The Annual Performance Assessment outcomes demonstrate our ability to provide a more focused approach to service delivery. The improvements and better outcomes include;

- A consistent trend of improvement for children looked after, including good health outcomes and participation in reviews.
- Significant improvements in the timeliness of initial and core assessment activity.
- Continued improvement at key stage 3.
- Excellent performing YOT leading to significant reductions to the number of young people entering the Youth Justice system.
- Very low percentage of children and young people not in education, employment or training.

The Children and Young People (see JAR document 36) Partnership and its Executive Group have set a clear vision in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). Councillor McHugh is the new lead member for Children's Services who will work with a cross-party Member team of 'champions', to support the development of Torbay's Children's Services. The champions each have a role alongside the five Children's Services Assistant Directors, in driving the Every Child Matters agenda, and will each take a lead on one of the five ECM outcomes (see JAR document 35).

An external evaluation by the IDeA confirmed that Children's Services was making good progress in the implementation of the change for children agenda. The IDeA identified that there was a positive ethos towards the changes amongst Children's Services and its partners. In this process middle managers were identified as pivotal in making the changes happen. The IDeA is continuing to work with Children's Services to equip middle managers with the skills they need as key change agents.

Engagement

Children and young people increasingly involved in the development of services and priorities, for example, the Take Part Participation Project including activities such as Teen Network Torbay (which recently received the Philip Lawrence award for its work) and Big Cheeses Listen Up (see JAR document 35).

The CYPP includes a clear focus (local Torbay additional Outcome area) on the need to further develop the participation of Children and young people at both a "strategic" level, and at an individual level. Services are increasingly taking more steps to involve users in service developments. (see JAR document 27 and 35) Consultation with users has led to:

- Switching the focus from family centre based activity to outreach parenting work within families' own homes as opposed to a one-size-fits-all style of Parenting Group.
- The formation of an ADHD Parent Support Group
- The facilities available to care leavers

These developments build on existing good practice in terms of engagement in services such as in house residential care and LAC reviews. Plans are also being developed to introduce improved customer focus and input by way of a Service User Telephone Questionnaires. This will directly pick up on the effectiveness and impact of children in need services. A Youth Enquiry Panel has also been established that will allow council services to consult via the web with a group of young people. (see JAR document 35).

Joint Commissioning

The Children and Young Peoples Plan contains a clear statement of intent on commissioning within children's services and outlines clear aims and strategies for the joint commissioning of services over the next two years (see page 57 of JAR document 36). As planned, Torbay has appointed an Assistant Director responsible for commissioning to add focus and impetus to developments within children's services. A number of priority areas have been identified for the focus of commissioning including the CAMHS Service, commissioning of placements for children looked after and services to reduce teenage conception rates. An example of improvements has included the establishment of Torbay's Children's Multi-Agency Panel in January 2006 leading to an improvement in joint agency working and placement provision in the independent sector. The strengthening of joint commissioning within Torbay is illustrated by the analysis of out of authority placements (July 2006) by the Regional Partnerships which demonstrates that Torbay now has below average number of placements per 10,000 population (0-19), lower than average costs per 0-19 population and one of the top ten authorities related to the percentage of funding from health towards independent sector placements. Torbay is also part of a pilot project with Devon and Cornwall local authorities in establishing a sub regional central purchasing body for all independent sector placements (see JAR document 73). The project has developed competition within the local market using prequalification of providers, tendering for individual placements and placements built around the needs and outcomes for children and young people. This pilot has been highlighted by the South West Centre of Excellence and DfES as an example of good practice and was highlighted at the National Commissioning Conference for Children's Services in November 2006.

Staffing

Performance indicators for spending on training show that in 2005/06 Children's Services is above similar authorities. Staff absence rates and staff leaving rates are both lower than comparator authorities and 100% of residential child care staff have achieved NVQ level three. Vacancies have come down as a result of an improved recruitment strategy which offers excellent remuneration, good training prospects and case load weighting to ensure that we can continue attract the most suitably qualified and experienced staff who work in safeguarding and looked after children's services (see JAR document 38). Due to relatively small numbers, recruiting and retaining experienced qualified social workers will remain a priority for Torbay. Children's Services will continue to invest in recruitment process and further develop a Star Student Bursary Scheme to attract local final year students from Plymouth University. Teacher vacancies for the area rose to 0.7% in January 2005. The work force is also aging. This is not regarded as a problem for Torbay (see JAR document 38).

CAF and ICS

Children's Services has a multi-agency Common Assessment Framework Implementation Board leading a CAF Pilot in Paignton, prior to rolling this out across Torbay through the emerging School & Community Cluster developments. (see JAR documents 9 and 59) Torbay will be adopting a "Team Around the Child" model of working, learning from our Early Support pilot as well as from Beacon Authorities such as Telford & Wrekin, and West Sussex, both of which participated in a local "Integrated Front-Line Working" conference in March 2006.

An Information Sharing Protocol has been developed and is in place (see JAR document 8). Further protocols will be developed with all partner agencies to enhance information sharing. Over the last year the sharing of management information has improved between public agencies. This has included the sharing of data between Children's Services and its partners to support the launch of initiatives covering, childhood obesity, youth crime and teenage pregnancy.

Torbay has been one of five new authorities to be invited by DfES to join the LA (Child)

Index Steering Group, alongside the existing ISA Trailblazers. The Integrated Children's System (ICS) has been implemented in November 2006, and to prepare for the introduction of the Child Index, an information raising workshop has been held with excellent multi-agency attendance. Torbay is exploring eCAF and single case record management (CRM) arrangements to further support integrated working and the connectivity between the Child Index, CAF and ICS. We are also exploring mobile working solutions, particularly Digital Pen & Paper (DPP), to support eCAF.

VFM and Investments

For 2006/07 Children's Services has made substantial savings to reduce its operating overspend. At the same time, consistent with the policy of early intervention, funding has been redirected towards universal/preventative services.

Spending on the Youth Service is lower than statistical neighbours; however, significant additional funding was added to the Youth Service budget in 2005/06, 2006/07 and proposed for 2007/08 to reflect a local political and inspection priority of increasing Youth Service funding. Activity is focussed around a robust improvement plan and there are some signs of recovery. The service is targeting its increased capacity to reach more young people and improve its quality assurance. The numbers of young people reached by the service is also predicted to increase (see JAR document 15).

Torbay has made a significant investment of £500k over the last two years as part of the CSCI Improvement Action Plan. It included a number of major investments within the Children's Social Care Service, including;

- Development of a dedicated private fostering service to audit the level of need and improve the public's awareness of private fostering within Torbay.
- Implementation of the Children's Placement Strategy to expand the quality and choice of in-house placements for Children Looked After.
- Implementation of the recruitment strategy to address the hard to fill posts within the Children Looked After and Assessment teams.
- To further expand the Family Group Conferencing service to further strengthen preventative services for CLA and CP.
- To expand the Independent Reviewing Service to offer a wider quality assurance and monitoring role for CLA.

The results of this investment has been to improve assessment, care planning, reduction in unallocated work and a reduction in the number of high-cost, independent sector placements.

2006/07 has seen the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for school and school block activities funding. Within DSG, an additional £550k of Personalised Learning Funding has been largely allocated to schools using the Inclusion Sub-formula which is based upon numbers of pupils entitled to free school meals, transient pupils and low attaining pupils (see JAR document 30). From September 2006 approximately 320 year 10 pupils are following alternative (largely vocational) curriculum pathways.

Integration of some children service functions has started to deliver improved efficiencies and effectiveness for its service users. For example the closer working, and more recently the amalgamation, of Education Welfare and Family Support services has led to a 7 fold increase in the numbers of cases addressed by the service. Work with regional partners has also established a portfolio of quality assured and graded services for schools.

Significant cost efficiencies have also been achieved by alternative procurement of elements of home to school transport. Savings in 2005/06 have been approximately £120k. and projected savings in 2006/07 are £200k. Good VFM is also predicted in the development of curriculum choices under the 14-19 strategy.

Performance monitoring

Performance is reviewed regularly within Children's Services and by its members. Within the next few months a new and more robust reporting system, designed with the CYPP in mind, is due to be piloted with the Children's Services management team and the partnership. This reporting system will supplement national data sets with additional local information drawn from finance, human resources, file audits and client feedback. Monitoring will take place quarterly and be driven by those identified as the leads for the different work strands in the CYPP. Members will also have access to this along with performance reports based on key indicators.

A culture of learning and performance review is also evidenced by the development of electronic management reporting tools in social care and the use of action learning sets. In the next year £160K of extended school initiatives will be justified and assessed using community profile information. The evaluation of the impact and outcomes of all the extended school schemes are due to feature the views of children and young people.