**NETWORK MEETING HELD AT PAIGNTON LIBRARY ON 20TH APRIL 2017**

**Apologies:** Cockington Primary , The Foyer, Torbay Youth Services, Devon & Fire Rescue Service, Devon & Cornwall Police

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| 1. **Introduction by Victoria McGeough - (Supporting Families Co-ordinator)**

Vikki and Steve thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Everyone present introduced themselves and their role.Supporting Families & Early HelpVikki discussed the forthcoming changes taking place impacting Early Help & Supporting Families. This is being supported by Hampshire County Council.There will be 3 workshops – for what we need to know and what we are developing for the future. Workshop (1) Vision and Principles Workshop (2) Threshold Tools Workshop (3) The Next StepsDevelopment Steering GroupRepresentatives from Partnerships to be involved within the development of Early Help in what we have in skills/resources and what support is needed. 1. Vikki will be leading the Early Help Assessment Team around Families.
2. Panels/Process/Pathways – Kerrie Ford will be leading
3. **PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE:** Early Help launch will now take place 18th July 2017.

Everyone should feedback their comments/thoughts in development work to tscb@torbay.gov.ukAll will be signed off by the Board on 12th June.***Question – What if some have missed the Workshops?******Answer:*** *Everyone can still have access, strategic leads, members of Steering Group, information can be shared with everyone****.*****New Pathway*****Question -* *Concerns have been raised from parents about Children’s Services involvement and Safeguarding Hub. Not many parents wish to engage when this is mentioned***. ***Answer:***Vikki explained the benefits of having only one front door as a pathway to give more effective screening. | Attached Vision & PrinciplesDetails of Launch will be circulated nearer time.Email your feedback  |
| ***Question -Having had conversations with parents, just mentioning Early Help can leave some feeling guarded. This might close the door for some families, especially using the word Safeguarding****.* ***Answer:*** *Solution: Wording it ‘The Spa’ as access, sounds less threatening*. | Email your thoughts tscb@torbay.gov.uk |
| ***Question*: The Referral Form**1. **Question: ‘Lead Professional’ –** *really a partnership, it has no impact to families but how does this feel to Professionals?*

*The response that it should be changed to ‘Co-ordinating Agency’ as this sits more comfortably, but would still need to be able to contact someone. The word Professional within a family can imply ‘them or us’ or puts up barriers. Another suggestion was ‘Team Around Family’ as a culture change.* 1. ***Early Help Referral (name on form)***

*Early Help is misleading as EH can be more complex and not a single service. Should be simplified as ‘Request for Support’.****Answer:*** *Please feedback to TSCB*Vikki asked that a couple of volunteers try the new EH Assessment form.Please email her if you wish to participate victoria.mcgeough@torbay.gov.uk.It was duly noted that TSCB is also known as Torbay Children’s Safeguarding Board (TCSB)tscb@torbay.gov.uk**.**1. **Speaker – Paul Blake (Department Works & Pensions)**

Paul talked about changes that may affect families in his role as (SFEA) Supporting Families Employment Advisor & DWP. (See attached document) Benefits1. PIP – (Personal Independence Pension) Adults’ disability allowance
2. Universal Credit – This will affect JSA (Job Seekers Allowance, those on Income Support and ESA (Employment Support Allowance).
3. Child Tax Credit from 4th April 2018 will only apply for the first 2 children of a claim,

***Concerns were raised: Families will need to learn ‘How to budget’*** *- They would have to be signposted to Citizen’s Advice/Volunteers.*For further information please contact Paul: PAUL.BLAKE2@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK | Email your thoughts tscb@torbay.gov.ukEmail VM to volunteer.Attach SFEA Referral Form & Leaflet. |
| 1. **Speaker – Nick Holland (Torbay Housing Team)**

Nick talked about Housing and how they response to enquiries. Presently there are 67 families in temporary accommodation.For further information please contact Nick:Nicholas.Holland@torbay.gov.uk***Question: Some emergency accommodation is not fit for purpose.****Assessments of emergency property is Landlords registered through the LA. Any concerns regarding property conditions should be emailed to the Housing Team.* ***Question: Some families in emergency accommodation have problems transporting their children to school as they are out of area.***Presently no-one from housing sits on EH Panel as it is done by evaluation, if the need arises someone from Housing would be invited to attend. **A suggestion was also to put** **Housing on EH Referral Form.**Concerns were raised that Landlords are taking advantage of families i.e. putting up rent and some families are too frightened to contact anyone if housing conditions are not fit for purpose. Nick advised to phone for irreparable/damages and let Housing Standards do an Inspection. ***Question: No-one understands the system of Devon Home Choice?******Answer:*** It is recommended that clients request do an ‘auto bid’ if on system to prevent them having to re-register***.******Question: Guidance regarding siblings sharing a bedroom?******Answer:*** Over 10 years of age they should be in a separate bedroom if opposite sex. | S.L. to invite Transport to future meetingAttached Info on Housing Advice.Invite future meeting Devon Home Choice |
| 1. **Speaker: Rose Neave – TDAS (Torbay Domestic Abuse Service)**

Rose talked about the support that is available in Torbay.  **Outreach Service** – this could be 1:1 or on the phone or signposted. *There is a refuge ( women only) and 5 safe houses ( which may accommodate male victims depending on availability and whether victim has children as some are more than 1 bedroom)*Courses:1. **Freedom Course** – due to demand there is up to a year waiting list, *Creche Facilities****: only*** *6 places available* per course.
2. **Group Work** for about 10 weeks. *This group work is the Freedom programme not something separate*
3. **Confidence Course**
4. **Group for children – ‘Helping Hands’** for children 6-11 - 8 week course.
5. **Perpetrator CHOICES 20 week Couse** – At present is (men only) over 18’s
6. **Survivor Group** **LIGHT** –not available for under 15’s. For over 16s as domestic abuse definition is that victims are 16 years +
7. **Summer Group** –Social Skills. This is the survivor group not something separate. The group is for victims post crisis, to build confidence and self-esteem, reduce isolation, learn new skills, including social skills. Activities in school holidays arranged to include children. Member can include those whose domestic abuse is historic. But this is not witnessing domestic abuse as a child, but past adult relationships as a victim.

**Question: *Adults want help when historical/pattern changes – Survivor and Witness (A different group is required, eg, they were victims when child by their parents and now a parent.******Answer:*** New groups and funding continue to be sourcedFor further information please contact Rose: Rose.Neave@sanctuary-housing.co.uk**Update:**Rose ask us to circulate the following information to the Network:- Support for teenagers in DA families. Youth Genesis in Brixham *were* running something supporting this age group - Project Dave. [Youthgenesis.org.uk](http://Youthgenesis.org.uk) (however, may not be currently running). **CAP** Money Management course. next course at Upton Vale Baptist Church St Marychurch Road in Torquay on three Thursdays in May - 4th, 18th and 25th - from 7.00 - 9.00pm.Contact details:-  Cathy DavisCAP Money Coachcathy@uptonvale.org.ukThe previous course included childcare in the evenings so people could attend not sure if this one does.  | **Addendum****Addendum** **Addendum****Addendum** |
| 1. **Network Development – where next?**

Steve handed to all attendees a Network Survey which was completed after the meeting. Steve & Vikki thanked everyone for their support in attend and the Speakers for their advice and input of their Service.  |  |
| 1. **Network survey Feedback 00/00 = result from survey out of 10**

Thank you for those who have responded to our survey so far - results to date broken down below. If you were not at the latest Network meeting I have attached a suitably amended Survey Form to these minutes *see attachment* - **Non Attendees Network Survey**. Your additional responses will allow me to capture your thoughts on our Network and how it should develop. I look forward to receiving additional forms - please return all completed forms electronically 7.5 /10 as this was evident as the best pathway for information sharing. to:- nadia.cooper@torbay.gov.uk, as soon as possible. The results from the Survey taken at our last Network meeting clearly indicate that it was an overwhelming success on the day 9.2 /10. The results so far *subject to further responses* from those who were unable to attend on this occasion will see our Network set to continue into the future following out current format 9.3/ 10 remaining hosted by Children’s Services 8.7/10. The survey highlighted that a central venue in Paignton 7.7/10 is preferred and that our existing 09:30hrs - 12:00hrs timeframe 9.1/10 meeting on a quarterly basis is the way forward **5.3**/10 . However, a significant number of those who have responded thus far have indicated a preference for Bi- Monthly meetings- **3.9**/10. As the Network develops we will have to consider if this is a more appropriate way forward in the future as it apparent that regular meeting are essential to keep the Network ‘alive’. Consideration will also have to be made as the Network evolves as to the possible inclusion of some formal training as 6.7/10 felt that this was appropriate at our meetings. As previously indicated the current format is well received and all the guest speakers were heartily appreciated and the results would have been higher if the speakers had scored themselves☺. As stated on the day I take full responsibility for the lack of time for each of our 3 speakers and going forward I will ensure that we only have a maximum of 2 guest speakers and a Supporting Troubled Families & Early Help update. From feedback we need a greater presence from secondary schools and a clear need for each of this meetings guest speaker to return in the near future with a greater time for Q & A. Our thanks to Rose, Nick and Paul for a job well done. **Date of next meeting Thursday 29th June - 09:30 12:00hrs at Parkfield Youth Centre, Colin Road, Paignton. (Please note the venue may change, still in Paignton, on same date.) You will be notified if this is the case.** **The Agenda will be circulated 4 weeks before the next meeting.****QUOTES**:-…love the venue … networking is fab…    The chance to ‘chat and meet with other professionals    Suggestions for future Guest Speakers :-TDAS, SENDIASS, FIT, Speech Therapy, Voluntary community Sector Groups, Housing, FIT, IFFS, Adult Mental Health, DWP …..    …forum to enable our views and concerns to be fed back to Early Help… feedback…    It is important that good communications exist between schools and Children’s Services ……     Good mix of professionals, plenty of opportunity to ask questions ……     … should remain informal if possible as this networking is helpful ……     … I enjoy the variety of agencies attending …really useful ……     … Thanks for organising today it was very informative      | See attached Documents |

Future Network Meetings are planned to be held at Paignton Library, dates available at the next meeting.