**Torbay Early Help Locality Network Meeting**

**Torquay – Monday 17th January 2022**

**15.00 – 17.00 via MS Teams**

**Present:**

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| Mark Gray | MG | Peopletoo (Chair) |
| Amy West | AW | Family Support Officer, Cuthbert Mayne School |
| Beth Chitty | BC | Torbay Council – Early Help Service |
| Carolyn Brend | CB | Torbay Council – SEN Service |
| Catherine Rance | CR | Torbay Youth Trust |
| Claire Jones | CJ | Sherwell Valley School |
| Dan Hamer | DH | Head of Vulnerable Pupils |
| Debra Mountford | DM | Paignton Academy |
| Elaine Watling | EW | Torquay Academy |
| George Morley | GM | Peopletoo |
| Jessica Keast Towns | JKT | Make Amends Project, Shekinah |
| Lauren Rigby | LR | Torbay Council – Early Help Service |
| Lorrie Layne | LL | Torbay Council - Community Engagement Officer |
| Paul Blake | PB | Department of Work and Pensions |
| Sarah Moore | SM | Torbay Council – Portage Service |
| Shirley Hamlod | SH | Torbay Council - Attendance Improvement Team  |
| Suzanne Julyan | SJ | Torre C of E Academy |
| Tilly Bryne-Giltrow | TBG | Action for Children – Family Support |
| Theresa Bennett | TB | DSL, The Spires College Torquay |
| Thomas El-Hoss | TE | University of Exeter |
| Yolanda Golea | YG | Livewest |

**Apologies:**

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| Pauline Narraine | PN | Torbay Council – Operational (Children’s) Services |
| Amanda Barr | AB | Action for Children |
| Sarah Pike | SP | St Margaret’s Primary Academy |
| Denise Gillette | DG | 0-19 Service |
| Beverley Mack | BM | Children and Family Health Devon |
| Sarah Pengelly | SP | Torbay Council – HAF Programme |

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of November 8th 2021 were accepted as a true record.

**Chairing of the Early Help Locality Network Meetings**

The future chairing of the Early Help Locality Network meetings was raised. Peopletoo’s time in Torbay comes to an end at the end of February 2022 and hence a new chairing arrangement for the Early Help Locality Network meetings is sought. Partners were asked to forward any suggestions to Mark Gray of Peopletoo.

**Feedback from Delivery of the Early Help Model**

The group discussed how they were finding delivering Early Help in Torbay. Key points included:

* The Early Help Assessment would appear easier to use than previous versions
* There was some concern that when referrals went via the Early Help Panel, that they may come back to the referrer with a recommendation that they should be the lead professional, without any additionality. The group discussed that there is a step that can be taken prior to making a referral, through engagement with Lorrie as Community Engagement Officer or the Early Help Assistant Team Manager (ATM) on duty in the MASH, whereby they would be able to talk through the case and identify if there were any other strategies, or organisations to connect with, which may negate the need to make a referral and get the right support to the family more readily. This may help avoid a referral coming back in the way described, which was acknowledged as potentially frustrating.
* It was also discussed that there can be long waiting times to access some more targeted services, and that understanding what support was available in the meantime was all the more important, and suggested once again a discussion with Lorrie and the ATM to see if there were any other sources of support. The group were also informed of the Community Helpline and Torbay Together service directory.

**Early Help Governance**

The new Early Help Governance framework, with a Strategic Board, replacing the current Early Help Board, is now expected to be in place by February 2022. There has been a change to the proposed structure in that whereas previously there was an intention to develop a Commissioning Group alongside this, there will now be 4 sub groups to the Strategic Board, which will be:

* The 3 Early Help Locality Networks
* Best Start in Life (incorporating the Torbay Promise)
* The Early Help Hub Project Board
* Workforce Development

Commissioning will be subsumed into the main strategic group. The group discussed the draft principles and priorities of the proposed Early Help Strategic Board.

**Early Help Assessment Training**

Early Help Assessment Training is still currently ongoing on a fortnightly basis to the end of February.

These have been well attended; all current dates as well as the current version of the Early Help Assessment and Early Help Plan can be found on the Early Help Website <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/children-and-families/services-and-support/early-help/>

**Domestic Abuse Mapping**

The group were referred to the recent questionnaire seeking to establish the extent of work around domestic abuse in Torbay. This is to support the Standing Tall Forum to understand if there are any further services that they may not be aware of, and support in a mapping of DA services across the Bay.

The questionnaire will be sent through again with these minutes, with a request if returns could be made as soon as possible.

**Early Help / Family Hubs**

A bid has been made to the DfE Family Hubs Transformation Fund, with the outcome to be known in March. Notwithstanding whether this will be successful or not, the bid has sharpened the focus on our delivery plan, and we now have a detailed delivery plan which can be either implemented in full should we be successful with the funding, or a version thereof if we are not. We have been speaking to a number of potential Hub partners as part of a Phase 1 implementation, and will be looking to confirm these by the end of February.

Torbay’s Early Help / Family Hub model (the two titles mean the same, but “Family Hubs” is the term being used nationally) is very much based on Hubs that are a fundamental part of their local community, where families have existing relationships that they trust and who help connect them to wider services as they need them.

**TMRF Research Project**

Thomas El-Hoss updated the group around the research programme being led by the University of Exeter. This is focussed on understanding families’ experience of receiving services, to help inform services around their planning and how they can be sure to be accessible.

The group were invited to connect with the project if they have families who they feel would like to contribute to this research.

**Family Intervention Team – Domestic Abuse Service**

Beth Chitty promoted a new service being delivered via the Family Intervention Team.

These include:

* Parenting Apart – reducing parental conflict for separated parents and resolving contact issues outside of the family court arena.
* DAY programme for young people (13+) identified as at risk of DA or CSE or beginning to display abusive behaviour. This programme uses popular culture media to promote more healthy relationship behaviour
* CRAFT restore relationships enabling men to change their behaviour and form more healthy relationships. Also appropriate for low/ med risk DA perpetrators.
* DA champion training - for professionals.

The contact for this service is Beth Chitty – beth.chitty@torbay.gov.uk

**First Steps Advice**

Carolyn Brend presented to the group on the First Steps Advice service. Key points:

* This service provides a drop in service for professionals requiring advice on supporting a child or young person with an additional need. It is recommended as the first step before considering whether or not to request an assessment for an EHCP
* The drop in is offered every third Tuesday of the month. Cases can be brought to these sessions but must be anonymised
* This service will be launched in April 2022

The contact for this service is Carolyn Brend – Carolyn.brend@torbay.gov.uk

**Torbay Promise**

Mark Gray updated about the Torbay Promise. This is a project focussed on the first 1001 days to an expected cohort of around 20 families in the Lower Barton and Hele area of Torquay. It is designed as a wrap around support programme with services which are universally available but to which we are increasing access, and in some cases enhancing the offer with an enhanced offer.

Partners who are interested in becoming involved are encouraged to contact Mark Gray on mark.gray@peopletoo.co.uk

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

To be agreed for March 2022