

The Partnership

December 2009

For everyone who works for children and families in Torbay

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Welcome

Foreword



Welcome to this festive edition of the Children's Trust's Partnership newsletter. As I look back on 2009, so much has changed across the Trust. We have taken a long, hard look at ourselves and recognised the need to improve governance and focus much better on our core priorities.

It has really felt that "children's services" has come of age this year. Safeguarding has been a key theme throughout this year: The independent review of local safeguarding arrangements and our recently published serious case review has resulted in positive, purposeful action-planning and a shared commitment to achieving best outcomes for children at risk of significant harm.

But there is no room for complacency and 2010 will require a redoubling of our collective efforts. We have achieved excellent outcomes in reducing the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training over the last year - and our work has been recognised nationally as demonstrating best practice. Equally, our schools have made excellent progress in a number of key areas - although I wish to especially acknowledge the impressive 5.5% improvement in those young people achieving the national challenge (5 or more A* - C GCSEs including English and Maths). Placement stability for children looked after has improved significantly - as has school attendance at secondary schools. Led by the Torbay care Trust, we have hit our target for breastfeeding and the reduction of smoking among young people.

None of those improved outcomes for children and young people would have been possible without your significant hard work and professional tenacity. Our work is not easy - and all too often we feel pilloried, not praised. So I want my final message of 2009 to all Children's Services to be that of thanks and praise. Please be proud of the difference you have made!

The Christmas message is all about joy in the moment and hope for the future. So, whatever your faith or creed, I hope that the holidays bring you some of that joy and hope.

Dr. Carol Tozer,
People Commissioner and Director of Children's Services

Welcome

Welcome to new starters



We would like to welcome **Matthew Todd**, who joined Torbay Council as an Attendance Improvement Officer on 20th April 2009. Matthew joined the Attendance Improvement Service and is excited to be part of a new team dedicated to improving attendance and outcomes for children, young people and families. He is keen to ensure the service can promote awareness of the importance of school attendance to families through such means as primary school attendance mascot and attendance week.

Matthew previously worked for Southampton City Council where he worked with Children who were Looked After by the Local Authority as a qualified social worker. He is looking forward to the challenge of improving levels of school attendance and to learning about all the different types of provision in Torbay in order to assist children, young people and families. He believes that working within a locality multidisciplinary team will enable him to develop appropriate support packages for families where there are school attendance issues and that this is a really exciting time for the service.

We would also like to welcome **Sam du Bock**, who has also recently joined Torbay Council as an Attendance Improvement Officer on 17th August 2009. Sam has previously worked for Devon County Council as a Home-School Liaison Worker. She is looking forward to the launch of the Attendance Improvement Service.

If you would like your new starter to be welcomed here in a future edition please email csequiries@torbay.gov.uk

Latest News

Torbay Inter-faith Forum 4 Youth

Torbay inter-Faith Forum 4 Youth (TIFFY) is entering its third year, thanks to a second National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE) / Westhill Award which will enable the inter-faith work with Torbay young people to continue.

Background

After 7/11, Torbay Inter-Faith Forum realised it had to serve the broader community, by sharing its knowledge and understanding of Faiths. The ensuing national Islamophobia also highlighted the importance of setting up a local Youth Inter-Faith Forum. Further, Torbay's new Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education required the delivery of inter-faith dialogue as part of the curriculum, with Community Cohesion also becoming a focus for schools. So, with a grant from Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, TIFFY was launched by inviting pupil representatives from Torbay's secondary schools and colleges to a tea in The Grand Hotel. Thus began a free out-of school service offering an inter-schools, inter-faith programme to facilitate the meeting together of young people from different Faith backgrounds and those with curiosity but no particular religious affiliation .

Setting Up TIFFY

Setting up this group proved challenging. The support and encouragement of Torbay SACRE, Torbay Youth Service, the Change-Up Consortium, schools and parents has been appreciated. We have been blessed with four leaders who generously offer their time and expertise. TIFFY represent the Baha'i Faith, Christianity (Catholic and Methodist) and Islam and have religious education, inter-faith and religious research backgrounds. Each leader brings different qualities and expertise, while our common bond is a passion to transform our narrowly focused local world into a global community of mutual respect, embracing our common humanity while enjoying the diversity.

Aim

Our aim is 'Community Building through Crossing Boundaries'. This means crossing school, faith and culture boundaries by developing understanding and mutual respect in order to enrich the community spirit in Torbay. Of course, this is a slow process, achievable gradually by providing new experiences and encounters which can raise awareness.

Our Young People

Over 60 pupils between 11 and 17 have participated in our activities. We have a core of loyal supporters and others who join in when the event interests them. Most of our young people come from the Christian and Muslim Faiths and no faith

Latest News

stance. This year we aim to encourage young people from the Hindu community to join our gatherings. Our meetings take place after school or on a Saturday in Torbay Foyer. Young people particularly enjoy meeting pupils from other schools and benefit from a supportive environment to raise issues of faith without embarrassment or derision.

Our Programme

The Forum has presented a various and challenging programme. A residential weekend at Buckfast Abbey was a valuable experience. Topical and controversial issues are addressed from an inter-faith perspective. We have debated the existence of God and explored the relationship between science and religion, peer pressure in relation to faith, the media's role in portraying faith as well as the purpose of life! In order to expand the horizons and experience of South Devon young people, visits have been made to Torbay Islamic Centre and further afield to the Plymouth Centre for Faith and Cultural Diversity, Bristol Hindu Temple and Bristol Youth Faith Conference, 'Proud 2 B'. The links with the young people in Plymouth and Bristol will be maintained and ensure our future programme gets across to our young people Archbishop Desmond Tutu's message, 'We are made for togetherness'. For information contact Heather Savini at savini@ukgateway.net or on 01803 690079 or Jan Mughrabi 01803556632.

CHANGEit Awards

Nominations are currently being invited for the CHANGEit awards. The CHANGEit awards are a collaboration between Common Purpose, an organisation dedicated to improving the quality of leadership in the UK, Common Purpose International and Deutsche Bank. The awards recognise, support and reward the achievements and ambitions of young campaigners between the ages of 11-18 who want to speak out and create positive change to their community. There are three categories in the CHANGEit awards.

These are:

- **"Innovation"** for people who have an idea to improve their community but need training or support to get started
- **"Performance"** to celebrate the achievements of young people who have already taken positive action in their local areas
- **"Photography"** young people's photos that capture campaigning in action or images that illustrate the change you see in the world around you.

Winners in the Innovation and Performance categories will receive £750 and finalists will received £250, winners in the photo contest will receive £250.

Nominations will be accepted until the **11th December 2009**.

www.changeit.org.uk/index.php/what-is-changeit/superhero

Targeted Mental Health in Schools

Torbay TaMHS is a new project within the Torbay Council currently in its developmental phase. TaMHS will be working with a specific cohort of 8 schools within the locality working and with schools to improve the mental health and well-being of young people and families, in partnership with other key agencies. A monthly e.bulletin going to all stakeholders was sent out to Children's Services staff last week. Further newsletters will be available on Torbay Council's website in the near future with links provided via this publication.

For more information, please contact Fiona Shaw, Educational Psychology Assistant-TaMHS on email at Fiona.shaw@torbay.gov.uk or telephone **01803 208956**

Improving skills, knowledge and standards for the Children's Workforce



Skills for Justice have launched an extensive project which will develop National Occupational Standards and qualifications based on core competencies for those working with Children and Young People. Read more on the:

www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk/news_press/our_news/improving_skills_knowledge_and_standards_for_the_childrens_workforce/?page=1&cat=all

R-Nite

Rnite is a youth provision designed to cater for all young people aged between 11 and 19 who live in Torbay. It takes place most Saturdays at Torbay Leisure Centre between 6pm and 8 pm. Rnite has been growing in popularity with as many as 200 young people turning up on a regular basis to take part in a varied menu of activities.

Activities on offer include swimming, use of the gym, street dancing, table tennis, arts and crafts, badminton and football. Also, once a month a roller blade disco takes place in the main hall. The activities available do vary but if you log onto the My Bay website (www.my-bay.org.uk) you can see what activities will be available that week. Alongside these activities, Torbay Youth Service offer young people the opportunity to gain an accreditation through the activities they are participating in as well as providing general information and advice. Other

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agencies also attend on a regular basis to raise awareness of their services and provisions.

Torbay Youth Service has negotiated with Stagecoach that young people who want to attend Rnite **can use Stagecoach buses for 50p return from anywhere in Torbay**. In order to access this discount the young people will need to apply for a Youth Travel Card. The applications for these can be picked up at Rnite or by contacting Jo Penhaligon (01803 208221).

PLEASE NOTE THAT RNITE IS RUNNING ON SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER AND SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER BUT THEN WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL SATURDAY 9th JANUARY 2010. For more information please log onto My Bay or contact Chris Roots on 07785 973461.

Niterider

In response to the views of young people and the Torbay Youth Parliament, Torbay Council has teamed up with Stagecoach to introduce discounted bus travel for young people to get around the Bay for less.

Young people aged 16 -19 will be able to buy a bus ticket for a flat rate of £1 which entitles them to unlimited travel throughout Torbay from 6pm until 10.30pm daily.

The scheme (advertising poster shown over the page) will be piloted in December and if it is a success, it is hoped that the offer will continue into the future. Stagecoach is investing in the scheme to encourage more young people to travel by bus in the evenings than would otherwise have done so, therefore generating extra customers. Torbay Council's Youth Service and School Transport Department will be co-ordinating and publicising activities throughout the month to generate higher numbers of young people travelling to more events.

Youth News

Please see the links below to the November edition of the Youth News. Please feel free to distribute this to any groups / young people that you work with.

www.my-bay.org.uk/november_2009.pdf

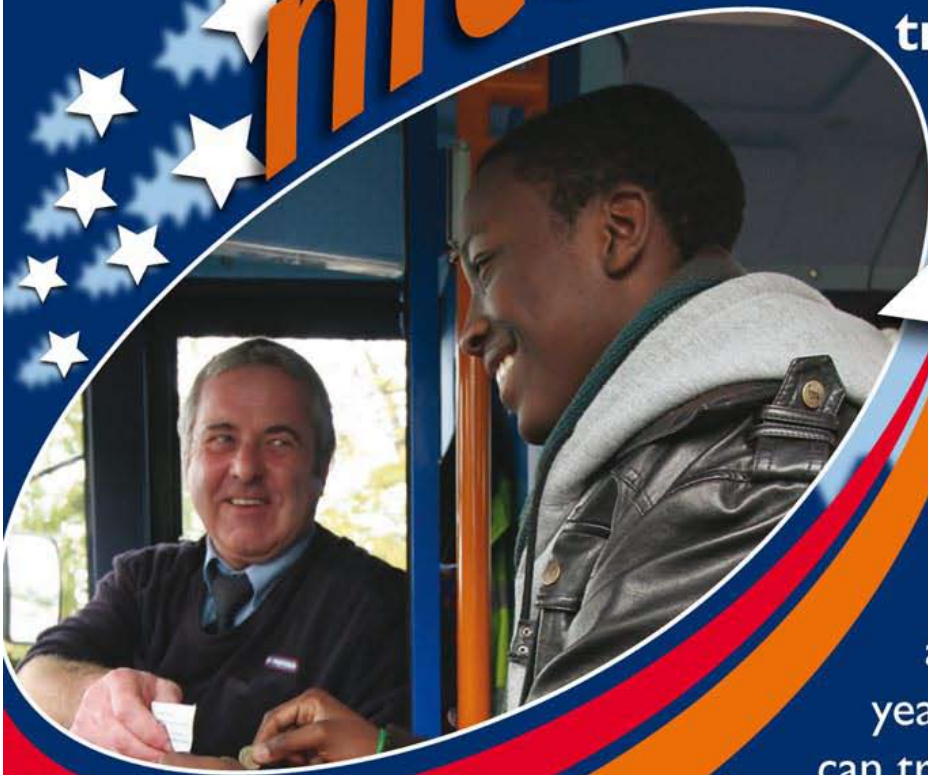
www.torbay.gov.uk/november_2009.pdf

Introducing the
Torbay

nite rider

unlimited
travel for
only

£1



If you're
aged 16-19
years old, you
can travel within
the Torbay Megarider
zone for only £1 between
6pm and 10.30pm, 7 days a week!

For more information, pick up a leaflet or visit

www.stagecoachbus.com/southwest

or www.my-bay.org.uk

 **Stagecoach** SOUTH WEST

TORBAY
COUNCIL

What's coming up

Attendance Improvement Service and Attendance Week

Ensuring best attendance is all of our business

"The aim of the attendance improvement service is to eliminate poor school attendance across the Bay and help children and young people achieve the very best outcomes they can during their time at school. We do this by identifying, supporting and, where necessary, intervening in those families where children have a poor attendance record. As a council we work with schools to celebrate and promote excellent attendance" (Torbay Attendance Strategy 2009 - 11).

Tina Tozer - Paignton and Brixham Cluster Early Intervention Services Manager advises:

Torbay Attendance Improvement Service has eight Attendance Improvement Officers. In addition, and as part of the strategy and service delivery, we also have four of our secondary schools who have been commissioned to employ their own Attendance Officers. They work in partnership with the Attendance Improvement Officers ensuring a Torbay joined up and integrated service. Each AIO has a number of schools to which they offer dedicated attendance advice, support and guidance. They also work directly with children, young people and their families when there is poor attendance. Voluntary engagement with parents /carers and pupils is always the preferred option but when attendance is not improving the service has a range of statutory interventions that can and do make a difference. Ensuring good attendance is a priority of Torbay Council and working in partnership with our internal and external colleagues to achieve this is critical to ensuring improved attendance and outcomes. The Attendance Improvement Services is one of the Cluster Early Intervention Services and works alongside Cluster Family Support Workers, Parenting Support Facilitators, Youth Workers and Targeted Youth Support to improve outcomes for children Young People and Families of the bay

Attendance Week will involve a variety of events, workshops, techniques and incentives with the aim to improve attendance across all schools in Torbay, by engaging pupils, professionals and parents to think about the importance of good attendance and how it can help pupils stay safe, enjoy school and achieve their full potential.



What's coming up

Torbay Council has teamed up with music, films and games giant hmv, which has just opened a temporary 'pop-up' shop in Torquay 's Union Street for Christmas, to run a competition for secondary school pupils who have an excellent attendance record up to January.

As part of Torbay Council's Attendance Week, planned for the New Year, the council is running this competition to encourage pupils to maintain good attendance up to January in order to qualify for a free prize draw to win an hmv voucher or goody bag.



During this week the mascot (part of the Chick – In campaign) will be out and about in primary school playgrounds and making appearances in their assemblies, as well as handing out attendance stickers and balloons. Attendance Mascot's for primary schools is nationally proven to be an effective resource for primary schools in improving attendance and we look forward to our mascot making a difference.

Children's Services Christmas Raffle



Yes its that time of the year again - BUT this year we will do things a little differently, partly in recognition of how busy everyone is.

We are asking people to **donate prizes**, to be held by Tish, on Oldway Mansion Reception. Tickets will be sold £1 per ticket - from Reception.

Winning tickets will be drawn on Friday December 18 (please note not attended by staff as in the past). Prize winners will be announced by email and all cash raised

will be donated to Children In Need.

Please support this by **bringing a prize and buying at least one ticket**
Raffle Tickets available from Monday November 30th.

*Thank you and ... Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!!!!*

What's coming up

Home Access Programme

This is to raise awareness of a forthcoming opportunity, the benefits of which could be highly significant to Torbay families and which we ought to be promoting wherever appropriate.

From early in the New Year, the government, through Becta, is rolling out its **Home Access** programme which for families of KS2 and KS3 pupils (7-14) who are at an income level broadly equivalent to Free School Meal entitlement (whether claimed or not), will be able to apply for a PC (netbook / laptop / desktop) which is pre-loaded with parental control tools, and comes with Internet connectivity and support.

Successful applicant families will receive a loaded "credit card" to spend against an approved range of packages that have e-safety built in. Additionally there will be accessibility options available where appropriate. **There are potentially up to 1500 families in Torbay who could benefit from this initiative**, significantly bridging the digital divide and impacting on young people's learning and the way in which we are able to communicate with families. The Local Authority will be responsible for applications for Looked After Children.

Schools will be wanting to promote this to their families and as well as supporting the application process, possibly looking at ways in which this could be enhanced, but for all of us working directly with families who are likely to be eligible, **we need to be promoting and supporting this programme.**

Further information can be obtained at and through the following link, which I will keep updated, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any specific questions about the programme and how it may relate to your work.

<http://public.merlin.swgfl.org.uk/establishments/880/TorbayNetwork/TheTorbayLearningNetworkPublicSpace/Pages/HomeAccess.aspx>

John Pering, ICT Adviser, Learning & Standards
John.Pering@torbay.gov.uk Tel: **01803 208725**

Christmas Concert

A concert of music and seasonal Carols



*7pm Friday December 4th, Oldway Mansion Ballroom
Oldway Mansion Torquay Road Paignton, Tq3 2TE*



*Tickets:- Adults £4.00 (£2.00 for 16 Years and under)
available from members of the orchestras or on the door
(Reservations can be made on 01803 208917)*



Torbay Learning Standards
Oldway Mansion, Torquay Road, Paignton TQ3 2TE
01803 208917
Email colin.waller@torbay.gov.uk

What's coming up



Making Every Child Matter: The Journey Continues

Healthy Schools Conference

5th July 2010 from 9.00am to 4.30pm

(registration from 9.00am)

at the Riviera International Centre, Torquay

To celebrate the success of Healthy Schools & the development of outstanding PSHE in Torbay and to vision the future well being of our children & young people, we are holding a not to be missed Children's Services Conference.

The aims of this learning experience are to:

Share how we can continue to meet the ECM agenda outcomes & safeguard all our young people

Celebrate & share the successes of Healthy Schools Plus
Develop, share & model healthy relationships working across Children's Services

Continue raising awareness of the teenage pregnancy agenda

Keynote speakers include:

Dr Carol Tozer - People Commissioner/Director of Children's Services

Gill Frances, OBE - Chair, the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group

Jane English - Principal, Paignton Community & Sports College

Fiona Feehan - National Lead, Healthy Schools Plus

Michael Moore - Interim Head of Learning, Children's Services

Workshops will include:

Working with boys & young men
Early Years/KS1 Story Book Projects on challenging homophobia & developing student voice
Domestic violence work in schools
Achieving Healthy Schools Plus – the school experience
Establishing student need
Establishing health drop-ins
Challenging homophobia in secondary schools
Schools' contribution to the ECM agenda
Making targeted interventions effective

Who should attend:

All those who work in the Bay with children & young people
Headteachers, Governors & PSHE Leads
Councillors
PCT partners
Education Advisers & consultants
Youth workers
Extended Services
Early Intervention Teams

The annual Healthy Schools awards will also take place.

Please note that there is NO CHARGE for this conference.

For further details contact Wendy Vreony on 01803 208920

Email wendy.vreony@torbay.gov.uk

Book on-line at www.torbaycpd.co.uk or contact

Jan Brown/Alex Rendell on 208207

What's coming up

Partnership Meetings

Community Partnership	Date	Venue	Time
Public			
Tormohun	Tuesday 1st December	Churston Room, Torquay Town Hall	7-9pm
Goodrington, Roselands and Hookhills Community Partnership	Tuesday 1st December	TBC	7-9pm
Paignton	Wednesday 2nd December	TBC	6-8pm
Brixham	Monday 7th December	Rugby Club	7-9pm
Churston, Galmpton & Broadsands	Wed 9th December	Churston Ferrers Grammar School, School Hall	7-9pm
Steering Group			
Wellswood & Torwood	Tuesday 1st December	St Matthias Church	6-8pm
Blatchcombe	Thursday 3rd December	Foxhole Shops	7-9pm
Ellacombe	Tuesday 8th December	Hut	6.30pm

For more details about community groups please contact
Lorrie Layne, Community Engagement Coordinator - Early Intervention
0777 1806870, email lorrie.layne@torbay.gov.uk

For details about community partnership meetings contact Tracey Cabache by email
at tracey.cabache@torbay.gov.uk

December 2009

Meeting	Dec '09
Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board	1st
Torbay 14 - 19 Strategy Group	2nd
Children's Services Capital Programme Monitoring Meeting	2nd
Torbay Safeguarding Children's Board	2nd
Transformation Management Board Meeting	3rd
Corporate Parenting Group	4th
ContactPoint Project Team	7th
Schools Property Strategy and Advisory Group (PSAG)	8th
Budget and Resources Group (BAR)	10th
Misper Forum	11th

What's coming up

Meeting	Dec '09
Torbay Play Partnership	14th
Transformation Reference Group Meeting	14th
Children's Trust Delivery Board	16th
Every Child Matters Forum (formerly Extended Managers Forum)	17th
Christmas Celebration for all staff	17th
Children Services ICT Strategy Board	21st

January 2010

Meeting	Jan '10
Children's Trust Commissioning Board	6th
Head of Service Team (HOST) - Children's Management Team	7th, 21st
Misper Forum	8th
Behaviour & Attendance Network Meetings	12th
Transformation Reference Group Meeting	12th
Torbay Association of Primary Schools Committee	13th
Schools Forum	14th
Children's Management Team	14th, 28th
TASH (Torbays Assoc. Secondary Schools)	26th
14-19 Executive Group	26th
Transformation Management Board Meeting	28th
Healthy Schools Partnership Group	28th

Contact details

Service	Telephone Number/Website
Torbay Children's Services (Education)	01803 208228
Children's Services (children at risk)	01803 208100
Torbay Care Trust	01803 210500
Police	08452 777444
South Devon Healthcare Foundation Trust	01803 614567
Torbay Voluntary Services	01803 212638
Probation Services	01803 213535
Youth Offending Service	01803 201655
Safer Communities	01803 84127 www.safercommunitiestorbay.org.uk
Connexions - Information, advice & guidance	08009755111 www.connexions-cd.org.uk
Brixham Cluster Team	01803 208102
Paignton Cluster Team	01803 208102
Torquay East Cluster	01803 208103
Torquay West Cluster	01803 208104
Job Centre Plus	01803 356000
For an Easier Life	www.foraneasierlife.co.uk/riviera_life.html
Family Information Service	fisenquiries@torbay.gov.uk. http://Torbay.fsd.org.uk 08003285974
Childline Free helpline to talk about problems	0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
NHS Direct National helpline for health advice	0845 4647 www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
Frank National helpline for drug and alcohol advice	0800776600 www.talktofrank.com
Know The Code Alcohol and drug issues:	www.safercommunitiestorbay.org.uk/ KnowTheCode
MyBay Positive Activities for Torbay young people	www.my-bay.org.uk
Devon Community Directory	www.devonline.gov.uk/community
Phab: National charity dedicated to the integration of people with physical disabilities in the community.	020 8667 9443 email: info@phab.org.uk www.phab.org.uk
R-Nite Leisure activities for people aged 11 – 19	www.my-bay.org.uk - click on Events
C Card Scheme Free condoms and advice	www.my-bay.org.uk
Torbay Youth Services Services, Youth Opportunity Fund, Volunteering and Youth News	01803 208221 www.my-bay.org.uk/getinvolved.htm www.torbay.gov.uk/youthservice
Torbay Youth Parliament	www.torbay.gov.uk/ukyp