

Clerk: Governance Support
Telephone: 01803 207013
E-mail address: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk
Date: Friday, 22 January 2021

Governance Support
Town Hall
Castle Circus
Torquay
TQ1 3DR

Dear Member

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2021

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Wednesday, 27 January 2021 meeting of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item	Page
6.	Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter and Work Programme Work Programme	(Pages 61 - 65)
7.	Adoption Adoption (including Care Leavers) Update	(Pages 66 - 69)

Yours sincerely

Governance Support
Clerk

Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2021/2022 – Initial Draft



Timetable of Meetings

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
27 January 2021 5.30 pm	Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Board	Terms of Reference and Membership of Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the Terms of Reference and consider co-opting Members to provide expert advice and support to the Board.
27 January 2021 5.30 pm	Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Board	Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter and Work Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the Annual Conversation Letter and identify relevant areas for overview and scrutiny – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law. To agree the initial work programme and meeting schedule for the Board.
27 January 2021 5.30 pm	Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Board	Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group Update and Annual Report and receive feedback from Councillor Bye as the Council’s representative on the Group from the meeting held on 30 November 2020. To consider local issues in respect of adoption, Corporate Parenting and care leavers and the impact on our children – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law.

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
1 March 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Children's Improvement Plan Quarterly Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the Plan – Nancy Meehan/Cllr Law/Lisa Chittenden/Sean Cremer. <p>The Chairman of the Improvement Board has also been invited to the meeting for this item – Nigel Richardson.</p>
1 March 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Review of the Youth Offending Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive the report and associated action plan arising from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) (note this report will be embargoed until 1 March when it is published on the HMIP website – if it is not published before the meeting the report will need to be considered in Part 2.) – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law. To consider the outcome of the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review of Youth Services and association action plan – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law. To consider issues in connection with anti-social behaviour in Paignton – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law.
1 March 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Children in Care Council and Pledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider proposals on the Children in Care Council and Pledge and make recommendations to the Cabinet – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law.
1 March 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Ensuring Children receive the right support at the right time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and evaluate the current Early Help and preventative offer, following implantation of a new model, to ensure that the support meets the needs of children and their families – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law. To consider the partnership approach to ensure there is adequate understanding and implementation of the correct level of support to meet the needs of children and their families – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law.

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
4 May 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Workforce Development and Sufficiency of Placements and Commissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the effectiveness of the Council's approach to workforce development for Children's Services, including the recruitment and retention of staff – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law. To review the effectiveness of the arrangements for fostering and residential care, including the options for meeting the needs of children and young people with complex needs who require specialist provision within Torbay – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law.
4 May 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Children's Improvement Plan Quarterly Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the Plan – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law/Lisa Chittenden/Sean Cremer.
27 July 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Children's Improvement Plan Quarterly Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the Plan – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law/Lisa Chittenden/Sean Cremer.
20 September 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Engagement and participation of children and young people and their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the current arrangements for engaging with children, young people and their families and how we ensure that their voices are heard strategically and operationally – Rachael Williams/Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law.
22 November 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Children's Improvement Plan Quarterly Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the Plan – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law/Lisa Chittenden/Sean Cremer.

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
22 November 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Education and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the arrangements in respect of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision against the Code of Practice, including the timeliness of Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs), the local offer, co-production with parents and the Children and Young People's Plan – Rachael Williams/Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law. To review the effectiveness of education on vulnerable learners, including the performance of the Virtual School for children in care and children missing education. This would also explore the impact on children whose parents have elected to home educate their children and the impact of Covid-19 on educational attainment, especially for vulnerable children and those impacted by poverty – Rachael Williams/Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law.
22 November 2021 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Early Years and Child Care Sufficiency Strategy Annual Report – Rachael Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the report and make recommendations to Cabinet – Rachael Williams/Councillor Law.
24 January 2022 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Children's Improvement Plan Quarterly Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the Plan – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law/Lisa Chittenden/Sean Cremer.
24 January 2022 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the Annual Conversation Letter and identify areas for overview and scrutiny - Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law.

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
28 March 2022 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1086 183 1108 199">•
3 May 2022 9.30 am	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board	Children's Improvement Plan Quarterly Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1086 422 1937 486">• To receive an update on the Plan – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Law/Lisa Chittenden/Sean Cremer.

Meetings for 2022/2023

- Monday, 25 July 2022 at 9.30 am
- Monday, 19 September 2022 at 9.30 am
- Monday, 21 November 2022 at 9.30 am
- Monday, 30 January 2023 at 9.30 am
- Monday, 27 March 2023 at 9.30 am

Meeting: Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 27th January 2021

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Adoption (including Care Leavers) Update

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cllr Cordelia Law, Cabinet Member for Children's Services cordelia.law@torbay.gov.uk

Director/Assistant Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan, Director Children's Services nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Children and Young Peoples Board in relation to Adoption and Care Leavers.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.

We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.

We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.

The proposals in this report help us to deliver this ambition by supporting the Council's responsibilities as corporate parents;

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) That members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board note the contents of the report and the progress made.

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

This report has been prepared to provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on Adoption and Care Leavers.

Adoption:

1.1 The current position in relation to adoption in Torbay is as follows:

Year	Number of Adoption Orders	Average time between entering care and moving in with family	
16/17	16	17/18	411
17/18	20	18/19	386
18/19	11	19/20	421
19/20	26	20/21	689
Average time between court authority to place and decide on the match (annual figure)		Percentage of children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (annual figure)	
17/18	166	17/18	60%
18/19	91	18/19	72.7%
19/20	165	19/20	53.8%
20/21	322	20/21	36.36%

1.2 The impact of this is as follows:

- Adoption is now considered for all children, and we currently have a number of children above the age of five for whom adoption is the care plan.
- Covid-19 severely impacted on our care proceedings with 21 children's final hearings delayed from April and May 2020. Of these a number of children have since been made subject to placement orders.
- Our adoption data evidences a decline in performance against timescales for adoption which is a matter of some concern and a focus for improvement.
- The South West Adoption (the RAA) is subject to a peer review & we are waiting the final report to determine our local priority actions.
- We are also undertaking our own internal review to understand the declining performance in this area.

1.3 Our next steps & plans to improve practice in this area are as follows:

- Develop more robust means of tracking and monitoring permanence and the completion of later life letters;
- Permanence will be considered at the earliest stage;
- Review of the quality, timeliness and commissioning of life story books; and
- Continue to build partnership links with Adopt South West to ensure that permanence is achieved for children at the earliest possible stage.
- SGO – a significant focus as an option within permanency planning.

Leaving Care:

1.4 The current position in relation to care leavers in Torbay is as follows:

	September 2019 (date of last annual conversation)	November 2020 (SEF Information)	December 2020
Care Leavers – in Touch	82.5%	70.3%	71.2%
Visited (Face to Face)	63.9%	40.6%	49.6%
Suitable Accommodation	88.1%	85.7%	89.6%
EET	63.2%	68.1%	70.0%

1.5 The impact of this is as follows:

- We have recognised that the current Care Leaving Service requires transformation to maximise its effectiveness for young people.
- The adoption of restorative principles will support us in working with young people to improve their experiences.
- In the meantime we have updated our offer, taking account of young peoples' experiences while we consider its future direction.
- The Leaving Care Team has strengthened its links with our exploitation team and regular safety planning meetings are held.
- We have built strong links to the Child Exploitation Missing Operational Group and use the exploitation tool to risk-assess our young people.

1.6 Our next steps are as follows:

- We are committed to enabling young people to remain in education and will continue discussions with South Devon College to enable a broader educational offer for care leavers.
- Consideration of extension of the Virtual School up to 21 years.
- Work has started to improve our joint protocol with housing colleagues which will involve revising our commissioning activities. This work has actively involved the views and experiences of young people who have been central to the discussions.
- Our ambition is to match young peoples' needs to better quality and more suitable accommodation.
- We are finalising the arrangements with Torbay Youth Trust in setting up monthly drop-ins from January 2021.
- We will be utilizing the recently commissioned 'Bright Spots' survey to support our redesign.

2. Options under consideration

2.1 N/A

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

3.1 N/A

4. Legal Implications

4.1 N/A

5. Engagement and Consultation

5.1 At this time this report has been prepared to provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the Adoption and Care Leavers Services. Should any proposed changes to these services be identified in the next phases of development ('Next Steps' as identified above) the relevant engagement/consultation will be undertaken with service users and key stakeholders.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

6.1 N/A

7. Tackling Climate Change

7.1 N/A

8. Associated Risks

8.1 At this time this report has been prepared to provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the Adoption and Care Leavers Services. Should any risks be identified in the next phases of development the relevant engagement/consultation will be undertaken with service users and key stakeholders.

9. Equality Impacts

9.1 Not applicable at this time as this report has been prepared to provide an update on existing services - Should any proposed changes to these services be identified in the next phases of development ('Next Steps' as identified above) the relevant EIA(s) will be undertaken at that time if required