

Clerk: Governance Support
Telephone: 01803 207013
E-mail address: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk
Date: Wednesday, 18 October 2023

Governance Support
Town Hall
Castle Circus
Torquay
TQ1 3DR

Dear Member

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-BOARD - MONDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2023

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the Monday, 23 October 2023 meeting of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item	Page
6.	Youth Provision in Torbay	(Pages 2 - 6)
7.	Adopt South West - Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report The Cabinet considered a report on Cornwall Council to join Adopt South West at its meeting held on 17 October 2023 – their papers can be viewed at - https://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=741&MId=24516&Ver=4	
9.	Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Inspection Written Statement of Action Update	(Pages 7 - 33)

Yours sincerely

Governance Support
Clerk

Agenda Item 6

Torbay's Youth Offer Update for the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Written on 15/10/2023

Current situation:

The creation of The Youth Hub as part of Children's Services was undertaken in response to the need and intention to improve the coordination and communication of opportunities for young people. Under the Youth Hub sits and will sit the Youth Service, the Young Carers Service, HAF, the Youth Parliament, the YIF, the funded community-based youth clubs and elements of the Child Friendly Torbay work.

Youth Service:

The Youth Service transferred back to the direct management of Children's Services on the 1st June. The service is made up of 3 full time staff and one member of staff working 5 hours per week. The Youth Service offered a 12-week targeted 1-1 offer for young people referred via Early Help, and four group sessions for young people who had undertaken the 1-1 support. We have opened up the referral route to now include the Vulnerable Pupils Team, have relaxed the targeted offer so it can be up to 12 weeks and very much guided by the young people and their needs, and have opened up the group sessions to any young people from Torbay. Information can be found here: [Youth Service - Torbay Council](#)

The Youth Service runs x4 groups a week. There is a weekly She N Us group (for young women), a table top roleplay group (x2 games per week – often neurodiverse YP), a weekly Friday session at Parkfield in partnership with Torquay United Community Sports Trust and Reach Outdoors (new young women's session starting this week on top of the current offer) and a Saturday social group.

These groups used to only be for young people that had accessed the targeted youth offer, but we have recently opened them up for any young people wanting to access groups. We have 73 young people who have signed up and provided consent for Parkfield. The group offer can be found here: [Torbay Youth Service Group Offers 2023 - Torbay Council](#)

Future plans - We have worked with Torquay United Community Sports Trust to employ two staff for our Friday sessions at Parkfield, one being a female coach so we can start a football session specifically for young women, followed by a young mens football session. This has been the result of young women wanting to play football without the pressure they feel from sharing the sports hall with the young men. The plan is to build on these sessions with the female coach and support the young women to watch Torquay United Women's Team, meet the players etc.

We are very aware as such as small team, that additional staff would benefit the Bay and our ability to have a wider reach. We have a Youth Attendance Officer post that will soon be going out to advert, and they will work under the Vulnerable Pupils Team and alongside the Youth Service specifically to have a direct focus on attendance.

YIF (Youth Investment Fund):

The Acorn Centre have been working with the TDA to agree the capital development work which will begin in April 2024 following a tender and evaluation process to determine the lead contractor. The Acorn Centre have devised a plan of youth activities, and we are looking to better understand how these will be funded, advertised, and delivered. The funder is happy with the progress made to date.

Council funded community-based youth clubs:

We have recently commissioned three providers to deliver five youth clubs, all of which will operate twice a week across Torbay. Two in Torquay, two in Paignton and one in Brixham. The providers (The Windmill Centre, Love Enterprise CIC and Plymouth Argyle Trust) are in the process of agreeing the details of how they will operate, but they will look to start in mid-November. Collectively they will look to submit joint bids to allow them to strengthen their current offer and will work together to support the young people they are working with.

Young Carers Service:

The Young Carers Service transferred back to the direct management of Children's Service on the 1st June. There is a statutory requirement of the local authority to ensure that any potential young carers identified need to receive an assessment and access to support. We currently have 4 part-time Project Workers and a manager but are looking to employ a fifth part-time Project Worker to support the development of our current group sessions and holiday activities. We have one monthly group meeting in Brixham and a fortnightly group meeting at Oldway Tea Rooms at present but hope to add a Torquay group to this offer in the near future. The staff team and Business Intelligence Team are currently undertaking a piece of work to better understand the needs of the young people currently registered as young carers. Further information can be found here: [Young Carers Service - Torbay Council](#)

Other community-based youth clubs:

There are several providers working with young people across the Bay. The majority work with a targeted cohort often defined by grant funding awarded or they offer a specific activity, but there are some open-access youth clubs in existence across the Bay and the plan is to work with them in the future to expand on the collective response to the need.

HAF:

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme is funded until March 2025, so our last guaranteed holiday club offer will be in December 2024. We are working with our current providers to encourage them to become Ofsted registered as this will allow families who are entitled to Government funded discounted childcare (up to 80%) to access the holiday clubs still. We have always seen a much smaller uptake of the holiday clubs offer for the older cohort, as is the national trend, but we hope that having the youth clubs up and running all year round will help to build the trusted relationships with the young people and drive up the engagement.

Youth Voice and Participation:

- We are looking to support the development of a Youth Parliament in Torbay. This process has started with the support of colleagues from Electoral Services, Communications and Education. An election will take place early next year.
- The Young Persons Panel supported by the Participation Team have been and will be actively involved in several participation activities to improve the delivery of Children's Services and related health provision in Torbay. They regularly meet in the Town Hall and always have a very full agenda for their meetings.
- The Children in Care Council (CICC) will be responsible for assisting in developing the service offered to Cared For and Care Experienced children and young people in Torbay and will be supported by the Participation Team.
- The Imagine This...Youth Council have been working with the Voluntary and Community Sector – they are going to be change the format of how this has been operating to include a younger cohort and an older cohort. One of the Imagine This...groups working with Local Motion partners is specifically focussing on the needs of 16-25 year olds.

Working with Torbay Communities:

We have regular diarised strategic meetings with Torbay Communities to update each other on current pieces of work, to discuss opportunities to work together and to share trends and issues being experienced. We plan to continue to work with the VCS on the Child Friendly Torbay work and are going to do a piece of work relating to good practice, to help drive up standards of service delivery and make it easier for providers when bidding for grant funding and working in partnership together.

Joint funding bid applications:

As mentioned above, we aim to work on funding opportunities in partnership with Imagine This...partners and with providers who might not be existing partners but still have the passion and drive to work with young people in Torbay.

Community youth partnerships:

We have been working with certain providers operating in specific communities across the Bay and are seeing the need for providers to be communicating with each other and sharing what is available in the area for children and young people. Sanctuary Housing recently brought providers together in Blatchcombe to undertake a mapping exercise – to look at the strengths and current gaps in the area.

We hope that more of these opportunities will happen across the Bay and the intention for the Youth Hub is to produce or for a provider (or the young people if they choose to) to produce a poster which can be displayed and shared on social media with a menu of what is available in each area of Torbay. We would like to develop a 'no logos, no egos' approach to working with young people and for a genuine collective approach to ensuring provision is available, which is of good quality and accessible.

Communication plans:

The Youth Hub is looking to have its own social media presence in partnership with the Participation Team which will look to communicate with young people over the age of 13 and with parents/carers regarding what is available in the local area, where to access support and online resources and how to get involved with participation opportunities. We have met with our Communications Team and are currently planning content, maintaining the management, standards etc.

Where the Overview and Scrutiny Board could assist and play a role:

Many of the projects or pieces of work mentioned are in their very early stages and whilst we believe that progress can and will be made, regular opportunities to share the progress and being held to account to keep the momentum would be much appreciated.

As we see an increase in demand for youth services, we are undertaking a scope to employ additional youth staff within the current establishment. Working with our Voluntary and Community Sector, we would welcome the opportunity to develop the philanthropy offer in Torbay.

I am more than happy to expand on any of the projects or plans mentioned. Please feel free to get in touch on sarah.pengelly@torbay.gov.uk Thank you.

ACORN CENTRE YIF CAPITAL PROJECT

OVERVIEW

In October 2022, Children’s Services submitted a bid to the Department of Culture and Social Media (DCSM) for a project at The Acorn Centre, Torquay; the project was specifically to increase the youth offer from the centre to meet the needs of the local area.

The bid compromised of 2 elements:

1. A capital project which included internal refurbishment to create dedicated youth areas within the existing building for group work and sensory activities, external gym equipment, the upgrading of the kitchen for the teaching of cooking and life skills, and the upgrading of the changing rooms to facilitate use outside of the centre’s opening hours.
2. Request for revenue funding to support the delivery of an increased youth activities programme from the centre.

The bid was successful with a total award of £625,995; *£528,447 for the capital project and £97,548 for the revenue element.*

TDA was instructed by the CS to deliver the capital project, whilst Children’s services are working with the Trust on the delivery of the youth programme.

PROGRAMME

There has, unfortunately, been an unavoidable delay to the start of this project due to a complete change in personnel of the Trustees at the Acorn Centre. The incoming trustees had some reservations about the proposed works and there has been a period of re-scoping to ensure that the final scheme meets the long-term aspirations of the new trustees as well as the conditions for the grant funding.

All parties are now agreed on the scope of works but there has been a need to revise the original programme for this project. The revised programme was agreed and signed off by the grant funder; the new key dates are as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| • Project Team set up | Summer 2023 | <i>completed</i> |
| • Complete Feasibility | 30 th September 2023 | <i>completed</i> |
| • Tender Returns | 31 st March 2024 | |
| • Start on site | 31 st May 2024 | |
| • Completion | 31 st December 2024 | |
| • Funding Deadline | 31 st March 2025 | |

The critical milestone is that the grant funding is spent by **31st March 2025**.

The project is on programme with the Project Team currently working with an architect to formalise the project brief; this will then be used to prepare the tender documents and inform discussions with the planners. *If planning is needed, an application will be submitted next month.*

BUDGET

The project is 100% grant funded; the funding is from the DCSM, and expenditure will be monitored by that department on a regular basis.

A contingency and allowance for inflation have been factored into the current budget costings for the capital project which are:

- Contractor Budget £467,968
- All-in Budget £527,646 *inc fees and surveys*

RISKS

- The project must deliver the outcomes specified in the bid or funding will be withdrawn.
- The funding is finite, it is agreed in the T&Cs of the grant that the Council will cover any overspend.
- The funding must be spent by 31st March 2025.

The Acorn YIF capital project forms part of the Council's Capital Programme monitored and reported on monthly to the Capital & Growth Board.

For further information please contact:

Samantha Poston, Education team Leader, TDA

Samantha.poston@tda.uk.net

Meeting: Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board **Date:** 23 October 2023

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Update on the progress of the implementation of the action plan arising from the Written Statement of Action following the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs (SEND) Joint Inspection.

When does the decision need to be implemented? N/A as update on progress

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cllr Nick Bye, Lead Cabinet Member Childrens Services

Director Contact Details: Rachael Williams, Divisional Director Education & SEND

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is being prepared to provide members of the Childrens Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the progress of the implementation of the action plan arising from the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs (SEND) Joint Inspection.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

2.1 N/A – as this report has been prepared to provide members with an update on progress.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision.

3.1.1 To consider the full report (appendix one)

3.1.2 To request an update from the new SEND Governance Executive on progress moving forwards

Appendices

Appendix 1: Report providing an update on the progress of the implementation of the action plan arising from the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) following the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs (SEND) Joint Inspection.

Background Documents

N/A

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to provide members with an update on the Written Statement of Action and the associated action plan.
- 1.2 in summary the report identifies the following:
- There are some areas of delay that have been identified in the Written Statement of Action
 - The Higher Needs Block reductions are in line with our Dedicated School Grant (DSG) projections.
 - Requests for Statutory assessment remain too high, and the Graduated Response is not embedded.
 - There requires the need to identify a budget within the ICB to ensure effective joint commissioning and contributions can be made.
- 1.3 For more details please see the full report at appendix one.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 N/A – this report has been prepared to provide members with an update on progress.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 N/A

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 N/A

5. Engagement and Consultation.

- 5.1 Please see the report at appendix one.

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 Please see the full report at appendix one.

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 Please see the full report at appendix one.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 Please see the full report at appendix one.

Report Title: SEND Update - Update on the progress of the implementation of the action plan arising from the Written Statement of Action following the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs (SEND) Joint Inspection

Agenda item:

Prepared By:	Hannah Spencer	Contributors:	
Partner organisation:			
Date Prepared:	12.09.23	Date of Meeting:	23.10.23

1. Purpose

WSOA update

Torbay have seen a slower and less impactful month, with a continuation of activity in some pillars but very little evidential change to impact, there remains a momentum and ambition for development over the next 3 years in line with our SEND strategy but with significant changes to the Governance within the ICB, it is essential that we re-group and focus our priorities.

One of our main priorities within the SEND strategy is to ensure that SEND is everyone's business - by embedding our values through education, health and social care, changing culture and reforming our workforce which is closely linked to another priority for Torbay in making sure that all early year's providers and mainstream educational settings support an inclusive approach to education.

Our Torbay Graduated Response and its new SEND van has begun it's Roadshow generating enthusiasm and interest in SEND for parent/carers and practitioners, the aim is to visit every school in Autumn term and our first Roadshow and train the trainer session have occurred.

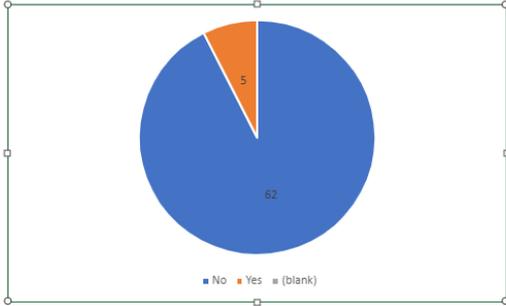


The toolkits can now be found on our new Local offer on the Family Hubs website alongside lots of accessible SEND information. [Torbay SEND Local Offer | Family Hub \(torbayfamilyhub.org.uk\)](https://torbayfamilyhub.org.uk) This term Torbay will begin its Graduated Response workforce development plan which will ensure that every teacher and practitioner is equipped to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. While Torbay acknowledges the time it will take to embed the toolkits and build parental confidence and trust, we are committed to this process, as reflected in our data on Requests for Statutory Assessment, which currently exceeds our target.

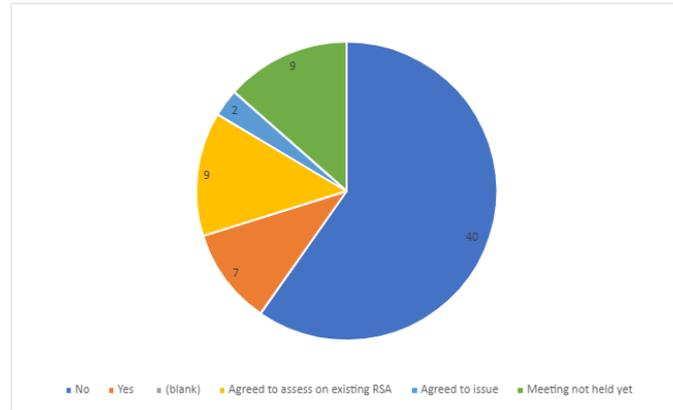
Requests for statutory assessment remain too high, with the majority coming from the 11-15 age group and from schools. Torbay have been consistent with their 'no to assess' responses which are on average for the year 38%. We understand that the impact from the Roadshows and Graduated Response training will take time to be embedded across each and every school. Our Next Steps data for 22-23 shows

Next Steps Meetings

How many proceeded to having a EHC plan, following the Next Steps Meeting



How many proceeded to having an assessment, following the Next Steps Meeting



that our response meeting to a no to assess decision is reducing the reoccurrence of a request for an EHCP with 62 of 67 not having an EHCP within 6 months of the first request.

Our Newsletter has seen a 20% increase in subscriptions between July and August which means our reach is extending and we are starting to measure our hits on the SEND Local offer through the Family hubs.

Timeliness of EHCP's is down to 40% in July and needs improving, as does the timeliness of advice which is sitting at 50% across the partnership.

Exclusions and suspensions have reduced for children with EHCP's and are reducing for children registered as SEND K, which is attributed to case conferences and new processes for children and young people with EHCP's and also an indication of cultural change. There were no EHCP exclusions from January to July 2023.

Torbay is currently delivering Autism Education in schools, collaborating with parent/carers and the Autism Education Trust to offer valuable support. The Learning Academy and SEND service has developed a workforce development offer to schools to promote an inclusive approach to education, which will all be advertised on our Family Hubs website.

Another priority, in which we are making good progress, is the identification of children's needs at the earliest opportunity, through valuing lived experience and expertise. Torbay SEND partnership have a newly rolled out Section 23 process which will ensure signposting or support and intervention is accessed at the earliest opportunity. An exciting and recent advancement has been the successful application for Dingley's promise, which will enable all of our settings providing for children under 5 to access high quality training, ensure sufficiency of inclusive places and promote engagement in early years childcare entitlements for children with SEND.

To ensure effective collaboration with children, young people, and their families, Torbay has taken proactive steps. Their newly appointed CYP participation officer has been actively engaging with schools to gather valuable thoughts and feelings through the Participation Survey Feedback. This initiative aims to give children and young people a voice in shaping decision-making at a strategic level. Torbay is in the process of establishing a child and young person's SEND group. This group will provide a platform for children and young people to express their thoughts and views, enabling them to actively contribute to strategic discussions.

Adults Services have been imperative at coordinating a more joined up approach to improve transition planning for young people moving into adulthood. It should be noted that Torbay have sought support from their Sector Led Improvement Partner aide the scoping of the landscape of post 16 providers and their offer to ensure that CYP will have choice and control moving forward but this is yet to have impact. Adults and children's commissioners have also met to look at the here and now quick wins and are furthering the joint planning work in the Autumn term by collaborating to share good practice.

One of our key priorities is to understand the needs of our children, young people and families and ensure joint commissioning supports service delivery, and that we make best use of all resources. The focus of our work is now focused on securing the essential strategic agreement and mechanisms for how we commission as a collective for children and young people with complex needs, EHCP's or where there is a gap in the provision for children and young people. Without such a shared agreement there is a significant risk that we will not move further forward in this key priority area and there is little reported impact in this highlight report. For example Torbay partnership are in agreement that the Torbay parent programme for

ASC need re procuring but are still undecided on the long term plan for the Parent Programmes whilst children and young people wait for a diagnosis. Whilst there is some delay in this commission, Family Hubs have recruited a practitioner to lead the send peer support programme in collaboration with send family voice Torbay.

It should be noted, and it is encouraging, that the ICB have bought in a strategic partner to aid the development of the agreement across Plymouth, Torbay and Devon but this work is in its early stages and significant impact is yet to be secured. To supplement this work there is a need to develop a shared understanding across the partnership of the detail setting out the focuses for joint commissioning. In particular, this will require the ICB and Local Authority (Children's and adults) to work in partnership to agree the shared priorities and what should be joint commissioned using statutory provision. The DfE and NHS England 'deep dive' exercise will support us as a local area to evaluate our current position and plan next steps.

Safety Valve update

- In this quarter the number of plans within the Local Area have been held consistent to our previous quarter, we have improved our position by 4 plans since our last submission. The number of plans continues to be below our peak of plans at 1673 in August 2022. The reduction of plans is aligned to our DSG Management plan and Safety Valve agreement. Plans continue to be ceased as demonstrated below, however it should be noted that the identification of plans to cease is more difficult during the school/college holiday period. We have also issued a high number of plans in July 2023 as we recruited a full complement of staff, enabling us to deliver on our statutory 20 week timescale. We remain on track to make the reduction by March 2024. We have 29 plans that are in progress to cease that are not yet included in the figure and we recognise that the Autumn Term (quarter 3) supports the identification of young people that may select a different pathway into employment post the publication of their results.
- Special School numbers continue to be maintained at our agreed commissioned levels. The following chart details our commissioned placements against our position in August 2023.
- The projected DSG budget position remains aligned to the DSG management plan. The work to reduce spend continues to demonstrate that our financial position is improving. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded activities are currently forecast to **overspend by £1.037m**. This position is positive against the agreed budget **overspend of £1.263m** in the safety valve.
- Tribunals and appeals have increased significantly since our November 2021 inspection. It is evidence that where Tribunal and Appeal is deemed necessary that pathways are understood. Torbay have been successful in two Tribunals on refusal to issue, based on our assessment process. We are using both formal mediation and global mediation to manage demand and management of specialist provision numbers. We have Tribunals lodged for a variety of disputes including Section I, Section F, refusal to issue and cessation.
- We are also challenging the financial contributions from our health partners. Although it has been identified that there has been no health funding for the last two years for our children with EHCP. The level of health funding to support our children has not been forthcoming this continues to be tracked by the Local Authority. The work with Health partners to ensure that a budget and process is created continues to be escalated and is understood at a strategic level within the Council, The Chief Nurse, ICB Board and NHS Commissioner are all engaged in the conversations. Despite the escalations there is no identified budget within the ICB to contribute. This remains a key strategic risk.
- Not only is there a financial challenge, but there is also a gap in service provision at the level required to meet needs. This results in the local authority making provision through the high needs block.
- At the end of August 2023 we had 38 children who attend an independent specialist placement, this is an increase from 35 children in the previous academic year. There are multiple reasons for the increase, our deep dive into young people attending independent provisions indicated that the

highest needs being met were SEMH and ASC. We have made a decision to ensure that some children who were previously supported through an EOTAS package have been moved to an Independent Placement as they had made sufficient progress to be able to access provision within a group based offer.

2. Summary

- There are some areas of delay that have been identified in the WSOA
- The HNB reductions are in line with our DSG projections
- Requests for Statutory assessment remain too high and the Graduated Response is not embedded
- There requires the need to identify a budget within the ICB to ensure effective joint commissioning and contributions can be made.

3. Recommendations

1. To consider the report and request an update from the new SEND Governance Executive on progress.

Meeting: Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 23 October 2023

Wards affected: All

Report Title: To receive an update on the Safety Valve

When does the decision need to be implemented? N/A

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cllr Nick Bye, Lead Cabinet Member Childrens Services

Director Contact Details: Rachael Williams, Divisional Director Education & SEND

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to provide members with an update on the agreement of the Safety Valve.
- 1.2 The report sets out the progress made against each of the conditions of the grant, an overview of the budget position as of 31st August 2023 and the trajectory of the budget. The report also includes data that demonstrates the impact of our work to date.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 N/A – this report has been prepared to provide an update.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That members of the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board note the report (attached at appendix one), the progress made, the emerging risks and the support required.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Safety Valve Update – September 2023 - Exempt

Background Documents

Please see report at appendix one.

Supporting Information

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 This is the second progress report since the agreement of the Safety Valve in March 2023. The report sets out the progress made against each of the conditions of the grant, an overview of the budget position as of 31st August 2023 and the trajectory of the budget. The report also includes data that demonstrates the impact of our work to date.
- 1.2 Work continues to be implemented delivering the reform programme needed and setting the conditions for future and sustained change. Local scrutiny of performance remains considerable, the work of the safety valve continues to be overseen by the CEO through the executive transformation board and reviewed/driven by School Forum [Browse meetings - Schools Forum \(torbay.gov.uk\)](#).
- 1.3 The interdependencies between the Safety Valve and Written Statement of Action for SEND and the implementation of our Family Hubs are understood, and further challenge is provided by the SEND Strategic Board and monitoring meetings.
- 1.4 The Safety Valve was part of the new elected members induction.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 N/A – report has been prepared to provide members with an update therefore no options are under consideration.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications.

- 3.1 Please see the full report at appendix one.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 N/A

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 Please see the full report at appendix one.

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 Please see the full report at appendix one.

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 Please see the full report at appendix one.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 Please see the full report at appendix one.

Document is Restricted