

Tuesday, 10 August 2021

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

A meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board** will be held on

**Wednesday, 18 August 2021**

commencing at **10.30 am**

The meeting will be held in the Meadfoot Room - Town Hall

**Members of the Board**

Councillor Bye (Chairman)

Councillor Barnby  
Councillor Mandy Darling

Councillor Douglas-Dunbar  
Councillor Loxton

**Co-opted Members of the Board**

Tatiana Wilson, Church of England Diocesan Representative

Laura Colman, Primary Parent Governor Representative

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**Together Torbay will thrive**

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# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD AGENDA

1. **Apologies**  
To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.
2. **Minutes** (Pages 4 - 7)  
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 27 July 2021.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
  - a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda  
  
**For reference:** Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.
  - b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda  
  
**For reference:** Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.  
  
(**Please Note:** If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)
4. **Urgent Items**  
To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.
5. **Corporate Parenting Strategy** (Pages 8 - 24)  
Further to the meeting held on 27 July, to review the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy and provide feedback to the Cabinet at their meeting on 24 August 2021.
6. **Exploitation Update** (Pages 25 - 42)  
To receive an update on exploitation from Katie Buckley, Exploitation Team Manager.

## **Meeting Attendance**

Whilst national Covid-19 restrictions were lifted on 19 July 2021, Torbay Council has taken the decision to continue operating in a Covid-19 secure manner in order to protect staff and visitors entering Council buildings and to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 in Torbay. This includes social distancing and other protective measures (e.g. wearing a face covering (unless exempt), signing in and using hand sanitiser). Our public meetings will continue to operate with social distancing measures in place and as such there are limited numbers that can access our meeting rooms. Also, to help prevent the spread of the virus, anyone attending meetings is asked to take Covid lateral flow test the evening before - if you have a positive test result please follow the Government's guidelines and do not attend the meeting.

If you wish to attend a public meeting please contact us to confirm arrangements for your attendance.

**Minutes of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board**

**27 July 2021**

**-: Present :-**

Councillor Bye (Chairman)

Councillors Barnby, Mandy Darling and Douglas-Dunbar

Co-opted Members

Laura Colman, Primary Parent Governor Representative

Non-voting Co-opted Members

Brent Davison, Devon and Cornwall Police

Mike Cook, Imagine This Partnership

(Also in attendance: Councillor Law)

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**7. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mills, Tatiana Wilson and Jo Morrell.

**8. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 4 May 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**9. Children's Improvement Plan Quarterly Update**

The Director of Children's Services, Nancy Meehan, and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Law, presented the submitted report which provided up to date performance information on the implementation of the Children's Services Improvement Plan. Members were advised that the statistics were up to date, but the narrative was up to May due to moving from Paris to Liquid Logic software. The highlight report had been updated from the original actions in the Improvement Plan to take into account the issues raised from the Ofsted visit in March and to ensure it was based on children's needs and where we needed to improve.

The Board noted that as a result of Torbay's improving position in respect of Children's Services performance we had changed who we were benchmarked against e.g. previously one of our benchmarking neighbours was Blackpool, now we were benchmarked against Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch. This was

seen as a positive step as we were now benchmarking against higher performing Councils which in turn would help us to raise our standards further.

The Chief Executive, Anne-Marie Bond, advised that the Council was being more proactive to understand ourselves and the issues we faced better, as part of this work a review was being undertaken on the theme of Leadership, Management and Governance to see where we feel we were and where we want to be.

The Board asked questions and sought assurance in respect of the following elements, responses were provided by the Director of Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services. The Chief Executive also provided assurance and updates in respect of her role and action being taken to help support our children and young people:

- edge or care and how this was used;
- when Liquid Logic would be effectively up and running and fully implemented;
- barriers in respect of timely receipt of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and working with the voluntary and community sector and Youth Offending Team to help support this area;
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) and need for early intervention;
- problems finding suitable accommodation for care leavers, the support available such as the guarantor scheme and the work of the Strategic Housing Board;
- early help current situation and aspirations;
- children's care plans not being robust enough and the action taken to address this;
- the voice of the child at their review meetings and the aspirations to encourage all children to attend their review to hold service providers to account and to automatically be referred to the advocacy service;
- later life letters and the actions being taken to address this;
- homelessness shown overall as amber but a lot of red actions; and
- staffing issues and the learning academy;
- quality assurance and the improvement in this area;
- learning from complaints and how this was raised through management and frontline staff to ensure it made a difference to the child.

Resolved:

1. that all partners be requested to work together to ensure Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provision meets the needs of our children and young people in Torbay in a timely manner;
2. that the highlight report be updated to reflect what action is being taken to address concerns in respect of accessing appropriate CAMHS;
3. that the Board receive an update on the guarantor scheme for care experienced young people at a future meeting;

4. that the outcome of the Leadership, Management and Governance review to be reported to a future meeting of the Board; and
5. that an update on housing for care experienced young people be presented to a future meeting of the Board (unanimous).

## **10. Corporate Parenting Strategy**

The Board considered the refreshed interim Corporate Parenting Strategy which had an overall objective to ensure that all children, young people and care experienced young people and adults are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can fulfil their full potential. The Strategy also provided improved governance to recognise the role of corporate parents across the whole of the Council and working with our partners. It was also proposed to acknowledge the key importance of the Strategy by recommending to Council it was included as one of the Policy Framework documents, therefore requiring it to be signed off by all Councillors at a full Council meeting, rather than being approved by the Cabinet.

The Chief Executive, Anne-Marie Bond, explained the rationale for the interim Strategy and the consultation it was going through and highlighted some of the feedback already received from the Corporate Parenting Board and Foster Carer Forum, which would result in further changes being made to the document prior to its submission to Cabinet in August.

The Board thanked Anne-Marie Bond for her leadership and work with colleagues and partners in Children's Services and for bringing forward a more child and family focussed Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Resolved:

1. that the Board supports and welcomes the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy and requests an additional meeting to be arranged, prior to the document being submitted to the Cabinet, to enable it to fully consider the changes made in response to the comments received to date; and
2. that the Cabinet be recommended that the Council be recommended to add the Corporate Parenting Strategy to the list of key Policy Framework documents (unanimous).

## **11. Update on the implementation of the Youth Offending Team action plans**

The Board received and noted the submitted report which provided an update on the implementation of the Cabinet's response to the Board's recommendations on the Youth Offending Team (YOT) action plans.

Members were advised that due to technical difficulties at the first consultation event for Parkfield a second event was planned for September. Members also noted the work being undertaken by the YOT Strategic Board and proposals to co-locate the YOT Team with the wider Children's Services Team to bring the workers together to work alongside the young people and help deliver services to young people within the community rather than at official YOT bases.

Brent Davison, Devon and Cornwall Police, provided an update on his work as the Chair of the YOT Strategic Group and suggested some opportunities to work differently with some of the officer resource rather than providing additional funding for YOT services. Members recognised the need for all partners within the YOT to be contributing fairly and together which may result in further support. Any actions identified by the Strategic Group would be funded from the joint fund as agreed by the partners. The Board was advised that the Children's Services element of the budget equated to between 47 to 49% and in addition to this approximately £140k was funded from the service for business support and accommodation, which should be included as part of the overall budget.

It was noted that work was being undertaken through Supporting Families to help move some of the support to help young people who were on the edge of criminality, which looked at a menu of options to choose from rather than just a single offer.

## **12. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board Action Tracker**

The Board noted the submitted action tracker. The Clerk advised that Laura Colman had been appointed as a primary parent governor co-opted member and the Overview and Scrutiny Board had agreed to extend the membership to enable parents who are not parent governors to be appointed as non-voting co-opted members, where parent governor statutory co-opted member appointments cannot be filled. This would be following an interview with the Chairman of the Board and the Democratic Services Team Leader and they would be expected to sign up to the Code of Conduct for Members as they would not have been appointed through an official body.

The Chief Executive advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Board had also considered a review of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board following its operation for six months and the Board had unanimously agreed for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board to continue to be the mechanism for overview and scrutiny of all issues relating to children and young people.

## **13. Exploitation Update**

This item was deferred to 18 August 2021 due to the presenting officer being unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

Chairman

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**Meeting:** Children's Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
Cabinet

18 August 2021  
24 August 2021

**Report Title:** Corporate Parenting Strategy

**Wards Affected:** All

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

**Officer Contact Details:** Anne-Marie Bond, Chief Executive, email : anne-marie.bond@torbay.gov.uk

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### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the Corporate Parenting Strategy, so that the Council has an improved Strategy as an interim position, pending the outcome of work that is currently being undertaken with children and young people so as to inform an ultimate Strategy for consideration.

### 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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.

- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver this ambition by ensuring that as Corporate Parents, the Council provides the very best for our cared for and care experienced young people.
- 2.2 The Children and Young People's Plan sets out Torbay Council's objectives and priorities for all services which directly affect children and young people across all the communities which make up Torbay. Its overriding objective is to ensure that all children, young people and care experienced young people and adults are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential. In the



context of Corporate Parenting this objective can be re-stated so as to ensure that our cared for children and care experienced young people are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential; and have all the opportunities that good parents afford their children.

- 2.3 The reasons for the decision are due to the fact that our current Corporate Parenting Strategy is out of date, having expired last year. In considering the tone of the previous strategy it is evident just how far the Council has travelled in its journey to a model of restorative practice and ensuring that our children are at the heart of everything we do as a Council. We recognise that it is imperative that our cared for and care experienced young people are a part of developing a final version of the Strategy, and that work is currently underway. However in the interim it is imperative that the Council has a Strategy that is current and is reflective of our approach as a Council.
- 2.4 The Corporate Parenting Strategy is not a Policy Framework document within our constitution currently, and therefore it is approved by the Cabinet. In our approach to ensuring that Corporate Parenting is fully understood and enacted across all Members and Officers, it is proposed that Cabinet makes a recommendation to Full Council that the Corporate Parenting Strategy be a Policy Framework document.
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### **3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- (i) That feedback be given in respect of the Corporate Parenting Strategy

Cabinet

- (i) That Cabinet approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy,
- (ii) That Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the Corporate Parenting Strategy become a Policy Framework document,
- (iii) That following engagement with children and young people a further updated Corporate Parenting Strategy be prepared for consideration by Council.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Corporate Parenting Strategy

# Supporting Information

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The current Corporate Parenting Strategy is out of date having expired last year. Work is underway within the service to produce a Corporate Parenting Strategy which is informed by the views of our cared for and care experienced young people, however whilst that work is progressing it is important that the current strategy is updated. If one considers the tone of the previous strategy it is evident just how far the Council has travelled in its journey to a model of restorative practice and ensuring that our children are at the heart of everything we do as a Council, and it is important that we have a current strategy that reflects this.

## 2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 The current Corporate Parenting Strategy expired at the end of 2020. Whilst it is not a legal requirement to have the same, it is an essential element of Leadership, Management and Governance within Children's Services, and therefore doing nothing is not an option.

The 2018-2020 Strategy could have been extended, however in respect of the tone of the same, it does not align with the Council's restorative practice approach and therefore this is not recommended.

Rather than approving this Strategy the Council could await the outcome of the work that is currently being undertaken with our cared for children and care experienced young people. However given it is out of date and the tone does not align with current practice this is not recommended.

## 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications of this Strategy. There are existing financial implications of the Council fulfilling its role as Corporate Parent, and these will continue under this Strategy.

## 4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications of this Strategy. There are existing legal responsibilities to those cared for and those who are care experienced, and these will continue under this Strategy.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 As has already been set out, work is progressing with our children and young people to ultimately inform our Corporate Parenting Strategy. This Strategy has been prepared to ensure that an approved Strategy is in place pending the outcome of that work. Therefore the extent of engagement with young people on this version has been limited to the views of a small number of young people that have reviewed the same with the Head of Service.

5.2 Engagement has been undertaken with the Quartet, Corporate Parenting Board and a group of Foster Carers and the version for consideration includes revisions based upon the outcome of this engagement.

**6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services**

6.1 Not applicable

**7. Tackling Climate Change**

7.1 This Strategy will not directly relate to tackling climate change.

**8. Associated Risks**

8.1 If this Strategy is not approved the Council could face criticism as to the existing Strategy being out of date and not in line with our current approach.

## Equality Impacts

9.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
	Older or younger people	The strategy will have a positive impact on young people. It sets out clearly the Council's vision for Corporate Parenting and provides a governance structure to ensure it is delivered.		
	People with caring Responsibilities			No differential impact
	People with a disability			No differential impact
	Women or men			No differential impact
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>			No differential impact
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No differential impact
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No differential impact
	People who are transgendered			No differential impact

	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			No differential impact
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	By being good Corporate Parents, we will provide our children and young people with the best start in life which could have consequential beneficial socio-economic impacts for them.		
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			No differential impact.
10..	<b>Cumulative Council Impact</b> (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	No cumulative council impact		
11.	<b>Cumulative Community Impacts</b> (proposed changes within the wider community (inc the public sector) which might worsen the impacts identified above)	No cumulative community impact		

# Corporate Parenting Strategy

Ensuring all our children are safe, happy  
and healthy and reach their full potential



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# 1 Foreword

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We are passionate in wanting Torbay and its residents to thrive. Central to this vision is making sure that everyone can play their part in supporting Torbay's children, and making Torbay 'child friendly.'

We are so proud of our children and we are committed to do all we can to support them to benefit from the many opportunities that the Bay has to offer. In all we do, we want our children to feel loved, supported and safe. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredibly dedicated fostering families and staff for the commitment they demonstrate to our children every single day.

We are committed to being great corporate parents, to ensure that our children have every opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives.

## Corporate Parenting Board



Cllr Steve Darling  
Leader of Torbay  
Council



Cllr Cordelia Law  
Cabinet Member  
for Children's



Cllr Nick Bye



Cllr Judith Mills



Cllr Lyn Sykes



## 2 Corporate Parenting Vision

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The Children and Young People's Plan sets out Torbay Council's objectives and priorities for all services which directly affect children and young people across all the communities which make up Torbay. Its overriding objective is:

**To ensure that all our children, young people and care experienced young people and adults are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential.**

In the context of Corporate Parenting this objective can be re-stated;

**To ensure that our cared for children and care experienced young people:**

- are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential; and
- have all the opportunities that good parents afford their children.

We are committed to being an effective, caring and ambitious corporate parent and we will show this through;

- our love,
- our focus,
- our language, and
- our actions.

We are loving parents and we care deeply for our children. We will ensure they receive the same standard of care as any good parent would provide, protecting them and supporting them to cope with the dangers and risks of everyday life. We will celebrate and share in their experiences and achievements, no matter how big or small; and we are ambitious for them and will work hard to support them to achieve their aspirations and reach their full potential. We will do everything we can to make sure that our care experienced children are set up for life.

We know that our fostering families are critical in the lives of our children. We are committed to providing support and training for them and embrace them as a part of the Torbay fostering family.

We want Torbay to be a 'Child Friendly' place, a place that champions our cared for and care experienced children.

### 3 Introduction

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This Strategy has been developed, to sit alongside a number of other strategies and plans, to ensure that we deliver for those children and young people who are cared for by the Council and those who are care experienced.

This Strategy is exclusively focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for our cared for children and care experienced young people for whom we are Corporate Parents. It provides the framework for Torbay Council, in all its respects, to fulfil our role in the lives of our children and young people.

In Torbay, we are passionate in believing that ensuring the effective care and protection for our cared for children is the most important responsibility we hold. In order to provide high quality services we must all work together to meet their needs.

The Strategy builds on Torbay's commitment to multi-agency working as we know that the best outcomes for our cared for children and care experienced young people can only be achieved through effective partnership working. The Council, our foster fostering families and independent providers, our NHS and education partners, the Police, the private sector and faith and voluntary sector organisations all contribute to improving the lives of our children and young people.

This Strategy also builds on the progress we have made in improving our services, however it will be further reviewed and updated following the focused work that is currently being undertaken with our cared for and care experienced children, so that we can truly reflect their voice within this strategy moving forward.

## 4 Context

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### Legal Duties

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is cared for by the Council if they are:

- Provided with accommodation for a continuous period for more than 24 hours,
- Subject to a Care Order,
- Subject to a Placement Order.

When a child or young person becomes cared for, we become their Corporate Parent.

A young person stops being cared for when they turn 18. At this point, they become a young adult eligible for help and assistance from the Council as care experienced. The Council continues to provide support to care experienced young people until they are 25.

We want to ensure that across the Council, including elected members, senior officers and all staff and fostering families, there is the shared vision, collective responsibility, and commitment to our cared for children and care experienced young people, including the provision of quality services for them.

## 5 Principles and Priorities

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### Corporate Parenting Principles

We will ensure that we meet the needs of our children and young people, and we will use these principles to guide every element of our approach.

We will always;

- act in their best interests and promote their physical and mental health and wellbeing,
- encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings,
- take account of their views, wishes and feelings,
- ensure that their identity needs are met,
- help them gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by us and our partners,
- promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for them,
- ensure that they are safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships, education and work, and
- prepare them for adulthood and independent living and support them as they continue to grow and mature in their early adult lives.

We recognise that our fostering families are an integral part of Torbay's corporate parenting vision and are a crucial part of the team for our children. Our Fostering Statement and Charter sets out how we work with and support our fostering families.

### Priorities

We have identified a number of priorities in ensuring we are the best corporate parents we can be. We will focus on these priorities. Set out below each of the Priorities are the relevant Pledges that we have made to our children and young people. The Pledges have been reviewed by The Circle as part of a consultation with young people in care and care experienced adults.

#### **Priority 1: We will work with our children and young people**

- We will come prepared, and we will listen.
- Our children and young people's views will come first, but we will be honest about what we can do.
- We will explain our children and young people's rights using language that is easily understood.
- We will use Language that Cares.
- We will respect our children and young people's privacy and work to ensure that they are not singled out or bullied at school, college, or in any other setting.
- We will use our training to be thoughtful about the challenges our children and young people have faced.
- We will celebrate our children's and young people achievements with them in the ways that they would like.

#### **Priority 2: We will ensure our children and young people's homes are safe and meets their needs**

- We will work with our children and young people’s carers to ensure their home is the best it can be.
- We will work together to keep our children and young people safe (safety planning).
- We will work with our children and young people’s carers to ensure that they have opportunities that they enjoy and enable them to have a voice if they want to.
- We will plan visits in advance and involve our children and young people in those plans.
- We will help our children and young people to stay in contact with any family they may have if they want that and explain the reasons if this is not possible.

**Priority 3: We will support our children and young people to achieve their aspirations and fulfil their potential**

- We will ask children and young people about what their goals are and support their achievement.
- We will develop a Personal Education Plan of the things they do in school, so they are helped to do well.
- We will work closely with schools, colleges or providers and offer our children and young people easy to understand reasons for any changes.
- We will encourage and support our children and young people to take up opportunities in education, employment and training until the age of at least 21, in ways that suit them.

**Priority 4: We will ensure that our children and young people's physical, emotional, mental health needs are met**

- We will work together to support our children and young people have a sense of well-being and personal identity.
- We will develop a plan to ensure our children and young people are healthy and wanting to have good choices called a Personal Health Plan.
- We will support our children and young people to access regular health and dental checks and any appointments or treatment they may need – virtually and in person.

**Priority 5: We will support our children and young people to develop into independent, confident and responsible adults**

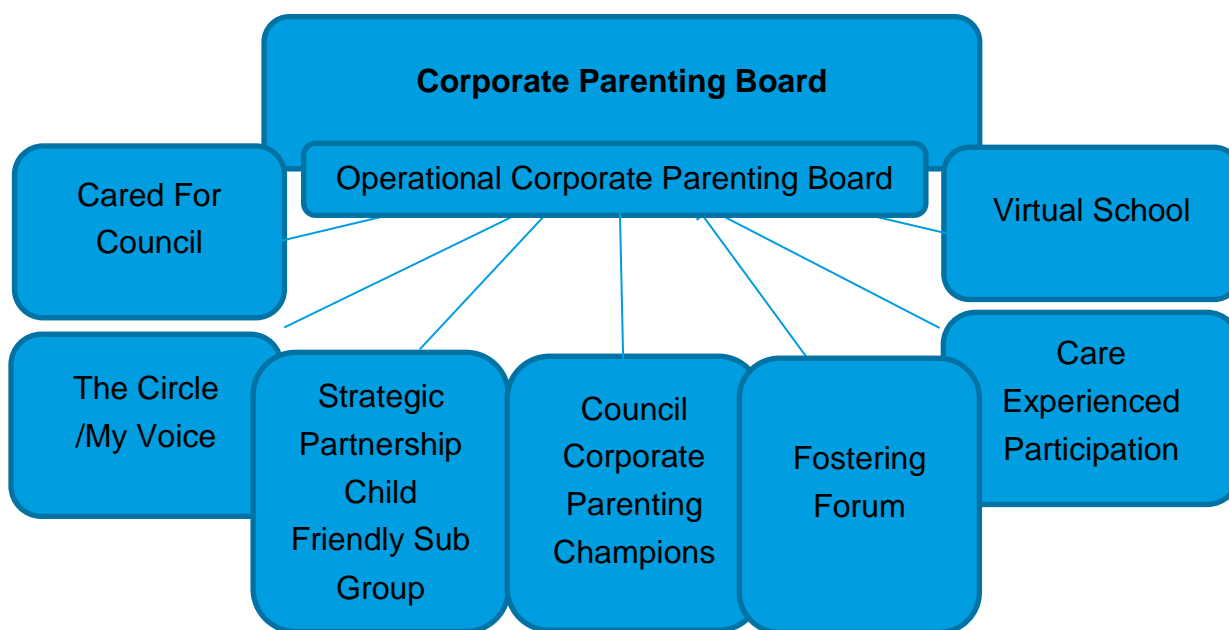
- We will support our children and young people to know that challenges and uncertainty are part of life and growth.
- We will ensure our children and young people to have support and advice, so they are less likely to take certain risks or be open to exploitation by others.
- We will work with our children and young people to develop the life skills we all need to achieve our goals and have the best opportunities for the future.

## 6 Governance

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The Council's Community and Corporate Plan sets out our aspirations for the community of Torbay including children and young people. The Council's objective is to ensure that all children and young people are safe, happy and healthy in order that they can reach their full potential.

Whilst corporate parenting is the responsibility of the Council as a whole and of its partners, on a day-to-day basis our arrangements are set out below.



### Corporate Parenting Board

This Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and comprises of a wider group of members drawn from all political groups together with partner representatives and senior officers from Children's Services.

The Board meets every two months and forms a key element within the Council's Constitution, providing a forum for regular, detailed discussion of issues and a positive link with our cared for and care experienced children and young people.

An Operational Corporate Parenting Board will be established, which will be chaired by the Chief Executive. The Operational Corporate Parenting Board will provide an operational oversight of all of the Corporate Parenting activities being undertaken and will operationalise decisions of the Corporate Parenting Board.

### Fostering Forum

A Forum which enables our fostering families and senior managers to come together to focus upon how we work together to provide the very best care and opportunities for our children.

## Virtual School

Torbay Virtual School provides the framework through which the educational needs of our cared for children are met working closely with educational providers, carers, social care and health practitioners, and children and young people. The work of the Virtual School is overseen by a Governing Body and led by the Virtual School Headteacher.

Educational attainment and progress for our children is subject to regular review to determine the effectiveness of the arrangements put in place for them via their Pupil Education Plan. The Virtual School also produce an annual report for the consideration of the Governing Body, Corporate Parent Members Group and Full Council.

## The Circle and My Voice

The Circle and My Voice is facilitated by Torbay Youth Trust and brings together some of our cared for children to take part in activities on a regular basis and to obtain their views on the effectiveness of our arrangements for them. Their views have been instrumental in developing Torbay's Pledge for our cared for children.

## Care Experienced Participation Group

This Group is facilitated by the Torbay After Care Team in conjunction with the Torbay Youth Trust and brings together a representative group of our care experienced young people to ensure their views are heard in the development and delivery of our services for them. Their work has been fundamental to our pathway plans.

## Council Corporate Parenting Champions

All departments across the Council and our wholly owned companies, will have designated officers as Corporate Parenting Champions. The Champions will come together on a quarterly basis to help to shape their department's role in ensuring that we are good corporate parents, and that we provide opportunities for them as a result of the relationships we have as a Council.

## Strategic Partnership Child Friendly Subgroup

Our Strategic Partnership will have a subgroup, which is focussed upon how organisations and communities come together collectively to become Child Friendly and support our cared for and care experienced children and young people, including opportunities that can be provided for them.

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This document can be made available in other languages and formats.

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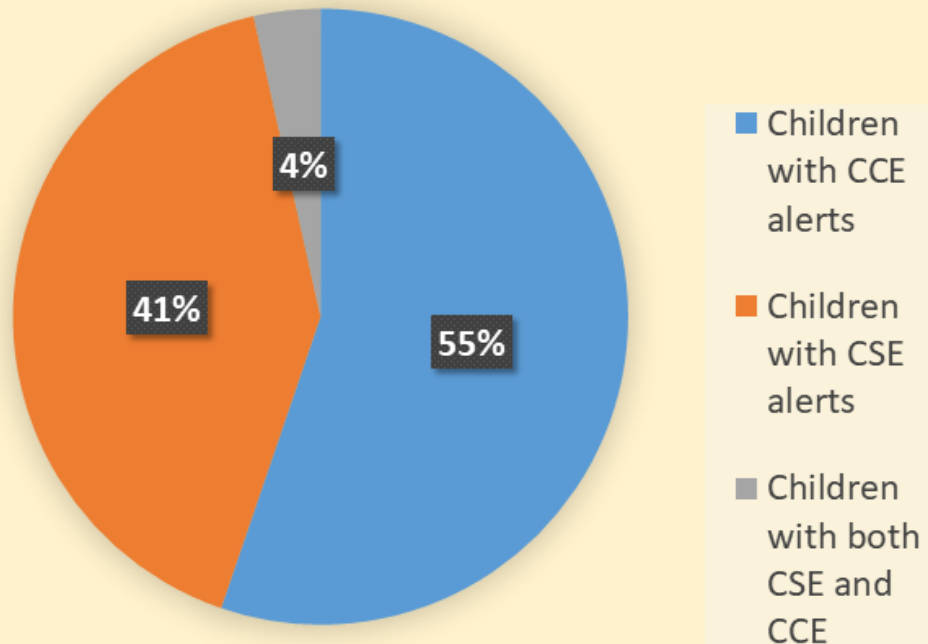


Child  
Exploitation  
In Torbay

August 2021

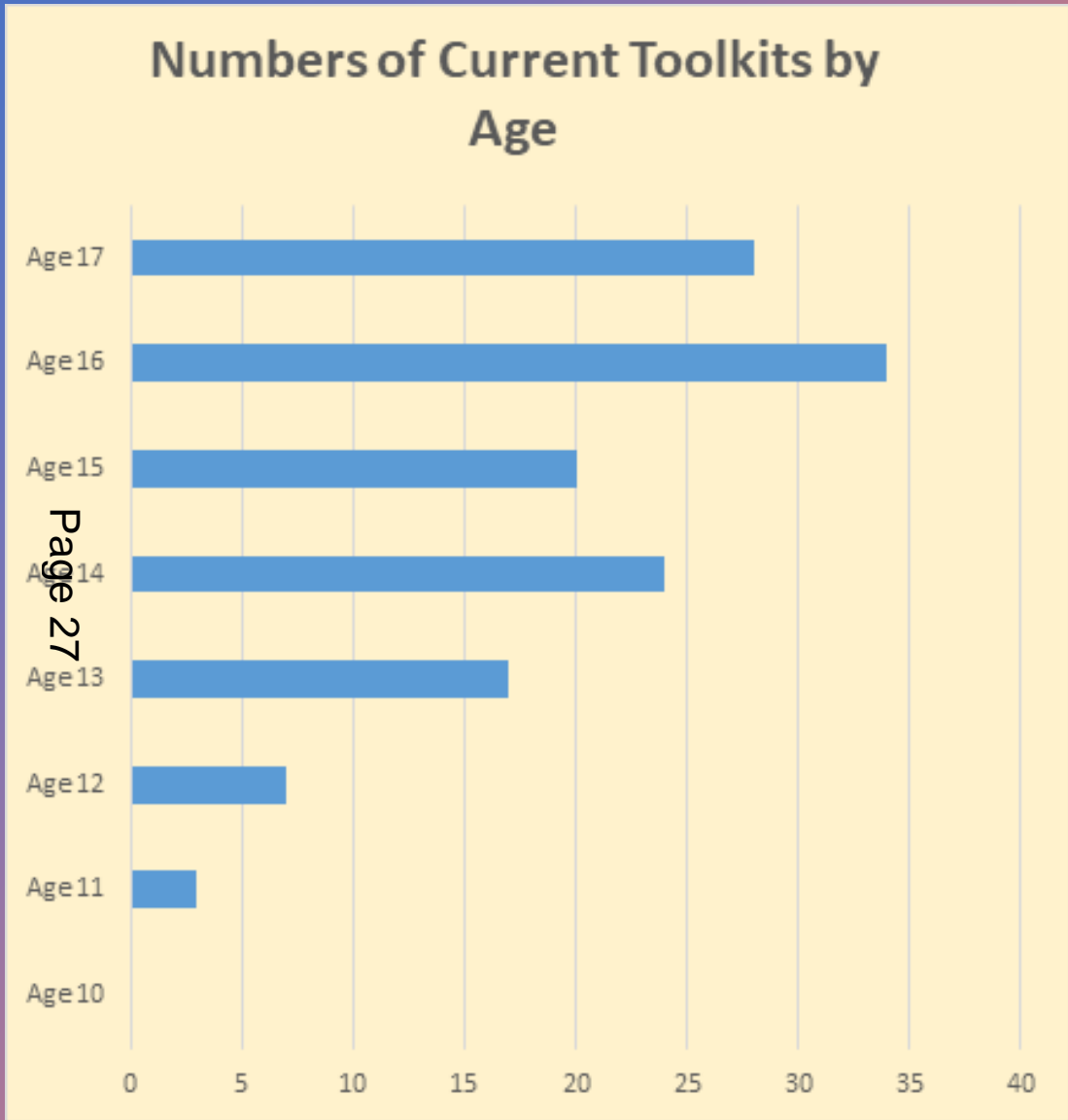
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- Katie Buckley
- Team Manager
- Exploitation Team –  
Torbay Children’s  
Services



## Exploitation toolkits 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021

- 17 High Risk – Children being Exploited
- 116 Medium Risk – Children At Risk of Exploitation
- 79 children at risk of/experiencing Child Criminal Exploitation
- 59 children at risk of/experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation
- 5 children at risk of both



# Number of current toolkits by age

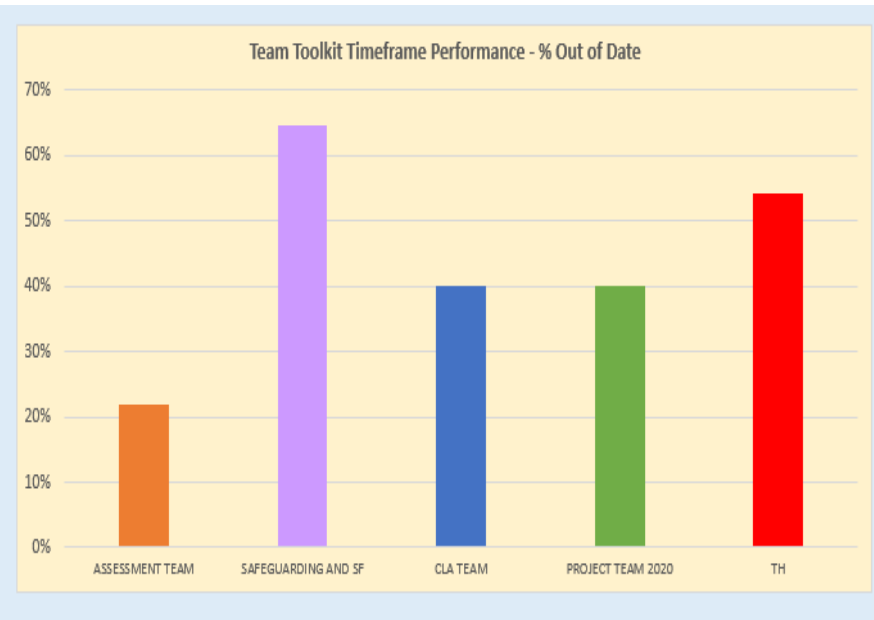
Average Ages:

- High Risk Toolkits: 14 years, 9 months
- Medium Risk Toolkits: 15 years
- Males with toolkits: 15 years, 1 month
- Females with toolkits: 14 years, 11 months

# Exploitation Toolkits – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021

- 133 current Medium or High toolkits
- 49% in date (which have updated in the last 3 months)

Toolkit Stats (Table B)	Totals	In Date	Out of Date	% in Date	% out of Date	% of Current Toolkits
Current Toolkits	133	65	68	49%	51%	N/A
Children with CCE alerts	79	45	34	57%	43%	59%
Children with CSE alerts	59	24	35	41%	59%	44%
Children with both CSE and CCE	5	4	1	80%	20%	4%
Male	76	39	37	51%	49%	57%
Female	57	26	31	46%	54%	43%
RED	17	12	5	71%	29%	13%
AMBER	116	53	63	46%	54%	87%
ASSESSMENT TEAM	23	18	5	78%	22%	17%
SAFEGUARDING AND SF	34	12	22	35%	65%	26%
CLA TEAM	20	12	8	60%	40%	15%
PROJECT TEAM 2020	10	6	4	60%	40%	8%
TH	35	16	19	46%	54%	26%
Not yet open	6	1	5	17%	83%	5%
Closed	19	8	11	42%	58%	14%



# Toolkit Performance Challenges

- Time and capacity. The toolkit document is long and requires detail – we have already started looking at this
- Changes of allocated/Lead Professionals – often find out when requests for toolkits are sent out
- Time to engage the child, parents/carers and gather multi agency information (which is an expectation, hence many toolkits read like ‘single agency updates’)
- Professionals cant see the value/end result of the information being used to develop local profile and service responses– ‘why/what for questions’
- Need for specific training on when and how to complete/update toolkits – practice hints and tips (although support and consultation is on offer from Lorrie Layne and Vicky Fildew for any professional who needs this)

# Children with high CE toolkits – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021

	17	Male	Child Protection Plan	CCE
	14	Female	Child In Care	CSE
	12	Female	Child In Need (was CP)	CSE
Page 30	16	Male	Child Protection Plan	CCE
	17	Female	Child In Care	CSE
	17	Male	Child In Need	CCE
	16	Female	Child In Need	CSE
	16	Female	Child In Care	CSE
	14	Male	Child Protection Plan	CCE
	12	Female	Child Protection Plan	CCE
	14	Male	Child In Need	CCE
	14	Male	Single Assessment	CCE
	17	Female	Section 47	CSE
14	Female	Child In Need	CSE	
14	Male	Child In Need	CSE	
14	Male	Court proceedings	CCE	
14	Male	Court proceedings	CCE	

- All open with allocated Social Workers
- Majority of care records indicate that there is multi agency assessment and risk/vulnerability management
- Spread across services (3x CIC, 4x CP, 6x CIN, 2 in PLO)
- 8x at risk of Sexual Exploitation
- 9 x at risk of Criminal Exploitation

# Targets –set in the 100 day plan

- Back up to 70% by end September 2021
- Back up to 80% by end of 2021
- Continued at 80% or above after that.

This will need focus and management support to achieve.

Practitioners get multiple prompts as toolkits move close to date, then being out of date.

- Using LCS to assist with this (currently held on a manual spreadsheet)

# Top 10 Missing Children

## For whom Torbay are the 'home authority'

May/June/July 2021

- 6/10 Children are Cared for by Torbay as a Local Authority
- 2 of these young people have returned to Torbay from Cornwall and South Devon in this period of time.
- 7/10 children have missing out of the Torbay area where they have been placed

Age	Gender	Status	Location	Number of Missing Episodes
17	M	Cared For Child	South Devon/Torbay	20
16	F	Child In Need	Torquay	19
14	M	Child Protection	Dudley	18
17	F	Cared For Child	Cornwall/Torbay	17
16	M	Cared For Child	Somerset	15
14	M	Cared For Child	South Devon	7
17	M	Cared For Child	South Devon	7
16	F	Cared For Child	Exeter	5
16	M	PLO	Paignton	3
13	F	Child In Need	Paignton/Torquay	3



# Top 10 Missing Children

## LIVING IN TORBAY

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## May/June/July 2021

Age	Gender	Status	Number of Missing Episodes
16	M	Cared For Child	20
16	F	Child In Need	19
17	F	Cared For Child	17
16	M	DEVON Child	10
14	M	DEVON Child	8
16	M	PLO	3
13	F	Child In Need	3
13	M	Cared For Child	3
14	M	PLO	3
14	M	PLO	3

# Contextual Safeguarding

2x Peer Group Assessments have commenced

1 x Torquay – group of 8-10 males aged 13-17.

Mainly anti social behaviour and low level crime

Exploring some potential adult/elder networks

1x Paignton based – main group of 6 young men, but connected to 40-50 young people.

Drug supply, serious youth violence, criminal and sexual exploitation

Also linked to out of area locations in Liverpool, Manchester, Somerset and South Devon

# Trauma Themes

- Serious/repeated domestic abuse via maternal relationships
- Significant loss of primary attachment figure (maternal and paternal) through bereavement, imprisonment, lifestyle involving substance misuse
- Flashbacks/mental health needs arising from the above
- Substance Misuse (cannabis and vodka)
- Educational difficulties – attendance and engagement
- Hidden missing – COVID impact
- Multiple loss of professional relationships
- Isolation/rejected by communities and community leaders

# Top 20 vulnerable children – Exploitation

- The top 20 from March 2021 needs to be updated
- CEMOG group are planning a full review and update by end August 2021
- Multi agency collaboration is needed with social care, police, YOS, education and health.
- Each partner agency may have a slightly different 'list' depending on the focus of their work and children known to them?
- Parameters of vulnerability need to be reviewed and agreed

# Next steps

(details are in 100 day strategic plan)

- Review of CE toolkit – format and language for Medium and High – has started
- Review of pathways for completed and reviewed CE toolkits – has started
- Sharing key messages from dip sampling – needed
- Preventative CCE support – almost in place
- Review of the 2 cases causing KB some concern – who and how??
- Requests for children considered most vulnerable from multi agency partners to review at CEOMG – end July 2021

## Next steps.....

(details are in 100 day strategic plan)

- Review of Return Home Interviews practice and impact – has started
- Dip Sampling of Return Home Interviews?
- Workforce training needed on CCE, CSE, NRM, toolkits and local processes
- Senior Management support needed to improve CE toolkit performance
- Resources for professionals, parents and children/young people
- Practice tool for mapping and disruption (being piloted)



# Thank you for your time

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Any questions/comments?

### Torbay Children’s Services

#### Exploitation Team

The Exploitation Team comprises of 3 staff members, employed by Children’s Services:

Business Support Officer – Tom Hinchliffe (@torbay.gov.uk)

- Records missing episodes and subsequent Return Home Interviews both on internal spreadsheets and on Liquid Logic.
- Records Exploitation Screening Toolkits on Liquid Logic.
- Corresponds with workers about the above – and to prompt for the completion of Screening Toolkits.
- Administration for the 3 main meetings (Triage, CEMOG and MACE).
- Business support for Mapping Meetings carried out by the Exploitation Team.
- Provides/presents data reports to multi-agency meetings and senior management teams.

Exploitation Co-Ordinator – Victoria Fildew (@torbay.gov.uk)

- Attends strategy meetings, CP meetings, Core Groups, TAF meetings, TH Panel, etc
- Provides 1;1 screening tool sessions with all agencies who request support
- Screens all screening tools once they are submitted to MASH
- Coordinates all information re: Exploitation and Missing to ensure all agencies and professionals are aware of info and working together
- Provides advice and support around Torbay’s Exploitation and Missing procedures
- Alerts workers and managers when Missing Strategy thresholds are met.
- Chairs TRIAGE and CEMOG
- Links in with workers from other Local Authorities

Team Manager – Katie Buckley (@torbay.gov.uk)

- Has direct line management of the Exploitation Co-Ordinator
- Has oversight and responsibility for the operational and strategic work of the Exploitation Team
- Focused on developing and maintaining professional relationships within Children’s Services and a wide range of multi-agency partners.
- Focused on developing good practice relating to prevention, protection from and disruption of child exploitation
- Torbay Children’s Services representative for operational and strategic plans and processes in relation to Exploitation in Torbay and across the Peninsula

The Exploitation Team:

- Is focused on all types of child exploitation – sexual, criminal, children who are trafficked
- Is a ‘non-case holding’ team
- Is responsible for monitoring and reporting on all aspects of performance around exploitation and children who go missing across all Children’s Services
- Has oversight of all missing children episodes and service responses to these
- Has oversight of all exploitation toolkits with responsibility for monitoring and reporting that all toolkits remain in date and are of good quality



- Will offer 1:1 support sessions for practitioners and manager to complete exploitation toolkits and to consider/reflect upon potential support and disruption for individual children
- Will prompt allocated workers and Team Managers when missing children strategy meetings are required and attend these meetings
- Will attend planning or decision making meetings where there are indicators of any child being exploited, or going missing
- Has close links with all forums where vulnerable children are discussed in Torbay
- Works with all statutory and community partners to prompt and assist joined up working in respect of safeguarding and disruption in Torbay
- Has links to neighbouring authorities and Peninsula/Regional forums where Local Authority responses to vulnerable children are discussed
- Has its own performance surgeries with Senior Managers, where all of the above is presented and shared
- Is available for consultation, advice and support across all teams in Children's Services and Targeted Help

**Current processes which support, monitor and challenge (where needed) the response to children at risk of exploitation in Torbay:**

- Missing Persons Triage – occurs monthly

This multi-agency meeting considers all of the children who have been reported missing in the previous month, highlights children who may require further discussion and refers them to CEMOG.

This meeting is aimed at ensuring that information about children who go missing is recorded accurately and analysed by safeguarding partners, that return home interviews are completed in line with statutory requirements, and to analyse local activity and service responses to missing episodes for children.

- CEMOG (Children Exploitation Management Operational Group)

Social Workers and Team Managers will be invited to a multi-agency meeting to discuss the child/young person of concern. This is designed to be a supportive/reflective discussion to assist the allocated worker and team manager with developing plans of support/protection for the young person and their family.

This meeting will also consider and explore potential disruption techniques to reduce the risk of exploitation.

- MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation Forum)

This larger, multi-agency meeting is held monthly to consider, discuss and monitor LOCATIONS and PEOPLE OF CONCERN.

Referrals are received from multi agency partners, but could also be raised from information sharing at Triage and/or CEMOG.

This meeting is aimed at multi agency disruption and contextual safeguarding.

### **Management oversight and scrutiny:**

The Exploitation Team sits within Torbay Children's Service FRONT DOOR (alongside MASH and Single Assessment).

The Exploitation Team has its own performance surgery where updates are expected by Senior Managers and questions are asked about practice and performance across all services.

Updates and more strategic reports are frequently requested by Children's Services Assistant Director and Director, and may be shared with Elected Members and wider safeguarding partners as requested.

Reports are also regularly provided to the Torbay Safeguarding Partnership Exploitation Sub Group, and to a range of strategic meetings relating to safeguarding and community safety in Torbay.

Practice and performance updates will also be regularly shared across the South West Peninsula, and with neighbouring Local Authorities.

### **How can practitioners and managers assist the exploitation agenda in Torbay?**

Communicate with the Exploitation Team – we are here to support good practice and may have information to assist your assessment and support planning

Ensure that assessments and plans for the young person and their families consider trauma, avoid victim blaming language, and for children at risk of exploitation there is a focus on reducing risk and enabling the family to be as protective as possible.

Ensure that exploitation screening toolkits remain in date and are completed to a high standard – this ensures we have an accurate picture of exploitation in Torbay and can think about services which are needed to meet identified need

Communicate with the Exploitation team if you are closing a young person where there have been concerns relating to child exploitation

Ensure you have an awareness of the National Referral Mechanism process – including your responsibilities if you are a first responder – complete the E-Learning <https://torbay.learningpool.com/course/view.php?id=809>

Submit intelligence/information about exploitation in Torbay to the police via the Information Sharing Portal <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact/contact-forms/partner-agency-information-sharing-form/>

### **Learning and Practice Development**

The team welcomes requests from practitioners or managers for observations and learning in any of the above forums, and are keen to engage with any practitioner or Team Managers who have concerns, questions or learning needs around this area of work.

Please contact [katie.buckley@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:katie.buckley@torbay.gov.uk) or [Victoria.fildew@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.fildew@torbay.gov.uk) if you would like to arrange an observation or learning.