

Thursday, 08 May 2025

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-BOARD

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

Monday, 19 May 2025

commencing at **3.00 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Banking Hall, Castle Circus entrance on the left
corner of the Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Board

Councillor Law (Chairwoman)

Councillor Fellows (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Nicolaou

Councillor Tolchard
Councillor Twelves

Co-opted Members of the Board

Laura Colman, Primary Parent Governor Representative

Jo Hunter, Church of England Diocese

A Healthy, Happy and Prosperous Torbay

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Governance Support, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk - www.torbay.gov.uk

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-BOARD AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.
2. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board held on 10 March 2025.
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. **Care Experienced, Including Housing for Care Experienced Young People** (To Follow)
To receive an update on the Mark Ridell visit and implementation of an action plan for care experienced young people and how we deliver Housing to Care Experienced Young People.
6. **Early Years Sufficiency** (To Follow)
To review the sufficiency of Early Years placements (six monthly update).

Key lines of enquiry:

- What action is being taken by the Council to influence the market and ensure that there are sufficient early years places available to meet the demands across the whole of Torbay?
- What is happening regarding preparedness for the new requirements coming into force in September?
- Do we have over capacity of placements with the falling birth population?

7. **Children's Services Self-Assessment** (To Follow)
To review the draft Children's Services Self-Assessment which provides an annual position on performance of Children's Services.
8. **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2025/2026** (Pages 11 - 24)
To approve the initial Work Programme for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board for 2025/2026.
9. **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker** (Pages 25 - 28)
To receive an update on the implementation of the actions of the Sub-Board and consider any further actions required (as set out in the submitted action tracker).

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

10 March 2025

-: Present :-

Councillor Law (Chairwoman)

Councillors Fellows (Vice-Chair), Nicolaou, Tolchard and Twelves

Voting Co-opted Member

Jo Hunter (virtually)

Non-voting Co-opted Members

Tanny Stobbart, Play Torbay

Mike Cook, Voluntary and Community Sector and Alternative Provider (Education)

(Also in attendance: Councillor Bye)

41. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Laura Colman (Parent Governor, Voting Co-opted Member) and Hayley Costar (Non-Voting Co-opted Member).

42. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Board held on 27 January 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairwoman.

43. Urgent Items

The Sub-Board considered the item in Minute 44, and not included on the agenda, the Chairwoman being of the opinion that it was urgent by reason of special circumstances i.e. the matter having arisen since the agenda was prepared and it was unreasonable to delay a decision until the next meeting.

44. Report of the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group

Councillor Twelves presented the submitted report from the meeting of the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group held on 18 February 2025. Performance continued to be strong and the Group heard lots of good news stories. Cornwall Council had proved to be a good partner since joining the Group in 2023.

It was noted that the Members of the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group were the Scrutiny Lead for Children's Services, Councillor Law and the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Councillor Long.

Members endorsed the report of the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group.

45. Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Bye, the Divisional Director for Learning and Partnership Hubs, Rachel Setter, and the Head of Safeguarding NHS Devon, Michelle Thornberry outlined the submitted report which provided an update on the implementation of the action plan arising from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection held in November 2023 and responded to questions.

The Sub-Board asked questions in relation to action 4 referred to 'no data from the Police yet' then 'now SafeLives DV data in its place', what was the current position regarding data from the Police and the timescales for the data being provided (a written response would be provided); action 6.2 referred to child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) waiting lists would be cleared to under 18 weeks by Summer 2025, how significantly under 18 weeks would that be (a written response would be provided to this) and what ambitions were there to reduce waiting times for the CAMHS further; there were currently 682 children on the CAMHS waiting list for first assessment, how likely would NHS Devon meet the 18 week target by June 2025 (a written response would be provided); last time a Mental Health Sub-Group was being formed, this did not show on the structure chart, what progress had been made on establishing this Group; and did the Mental Health Summit take place in January 2025 and how did it feed into the Sub-Group.

In response to questions around CAMHS, Members were advised that as part of the new reforms over the next year there would be new data provided which would include both Police and health data specific to Torbay. This would include information on young people attending Accident and Emergency Departments, self-harming and safeguarding issues. It would be implemented during 2025 and would be used to report back to the Department for Education (DfE) to show the impact on children and level of CAMHS. Members welcomed the new reforms and requested that an update be presented to a future meeting so that they could understand the implications.

Members were informed that the Mental Health Summit did take place in January 2025 and a multi-agency action group was being established to pull together the actions arising from the Summit. There had not been a Torbay Safeguarding Children's Partnership Mental Health Sub-Group established, however, Su Smart, NHS Devon was Chairing an Emotional Wellbeing Sub-Group.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board welcomes the progress made in implementing the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan and acknowledges the actions still to be taken; and
2. that an update on the Children's Reforms is presented to a future meeting of the Sub-Board.

46. Schools Capital Programme Review

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Bye, and the Head of Education and Corporate Services Schools Capital, Clare Talbot, presented the submitted report which provided an update on the Schools Capital Programme and Torbay Schools Private Financial Initiative (PFI) and responded to questions.

It was noted that the STEPs provision run by Paignton Academy (part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust) was an enhanced resource provision catering for secondary pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) and was the only one of that type of provision in Torbay. This provision was not specific for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and there were two providers of ASD, namely The Harbour and provision within The Spires.

The Sub-Board asked questions in relation to services moving out of Great Parks Community Centre and if they would be moving back in later in the year; how long the land at Inglewood could be held under the Section 106 Legal Agreement; had the delay in finalising the new accommodation at St Michaels Academy impacted on the expected intake numbers; the YMCA had an allocated portion from the Higher Needs Block, was this due to them accommodating large numbers of young people for alternative education provision and had this been offered to other providers; the Locality Pilot sought invitations to increase special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision, how many applications had been received; and there had been delays securing information from the provider for the PFI, did the surveys get completed within the February half term.

In response to questions around Great Parks Community Centre, Members were advised that there was a 12 month pilot, similar to the locality based way of working, with some secondary schools to support non-exclusions working with the Thinking Schools Academy Trust. It would be them who would be using the Great Parks Community Centre in order to have the capacity to work with the number of people proposed.

Members were informed of the ongoing negotiations in respect of the Inglewood Site and Section 106 Legal Agreement. This included timing and if the land could be termed for education use rather than a Primary School to make options more flexible for its future use. It was noted that the agreement must be secured by May 2025.

Members noted that Primary School numbers had dropped but St Michaels Academy still remained a school of choice with 15 to 20 children per year group in order to manage numbers whilst they were still in temporary accommodation.

The Sub-Board was advised that there was an existing agreement with the YMCA to help fund some of their projects, with a number of surveys being carried out on the building. The YMCA also delivered SEND provision for early years. There was a current procurement exercise being undertaken looking at education other than at school (EOTS) with a view to developing a framework rather than spot purchasing places.

It was noted that 7 applications had been received so far for the Locality SEND Fund, the closing date was 28 March 2025 and it was anticipated that more applications would be received by that date.

Members were informed that the Surveyor for the PFI was on site in the February half term but due to a delay in getting some information and scale they would have to come back for two days in the Easter Holidays to complete the work. This would not delay the completion of the Survey Condition Report.

The Sub-Board noted the contents of the submitted report.

47. Update on Local Government Association Peer Review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Bye, the Head of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities & Inclusion (SEND), Hannah Baker, and the Director of Women and Children's Improvement NHS Devon, Su Smart outlined the submitted report which provided an update on the implementation of the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review of SEND, and responded to questions. The Director of Children's Services, Nancy Meehan and the Divisional Director for Learning and Partnership Hubs, Rachel Setter, also attended the meeting and responded to questions.

Members were advised that action 7 recommended that 'the Council needs to assure itself that it is compliant with the Code of Practice and relevant caselaw around its statutory processes' this was taken from a dip sample of 16 out of 16000 cases and picked up as a result of one case going to tribunal. The Council had undertaken a further dip sample across all ages and was assured that it was compliant.

Members asked questions in relation to what SLAIP stood for (SEND Local Area Inclusion Partnership); concern over waiting lists (682 young people were currently on the waiting list for CAMHS), two or three years was a long time for a person to be on a waiting list and it was becoming more difficult to get an appointment with a GP, how many parents were not raising concerns at an early stage, how likely would Members be able to see a change, why was this still a challenge and when would families start to see a difference; were families on speech and language waiting lists given help whilst they were waiting for an appointment; how would older children in other settings benefit from the early years help that was being targeted through Primary Schools; what action was being taken to address schools not wanting to take excluded children under the Fair Access Protocol; does the Council understand why more parents were elected home educating their children; how were School Leaders responding to feedback; and three out of five secondary schools in Torbay had been judged as 'requiring improvement' by Ofsted, was there a common reason for this.

In response to questions around waiting lists, it was acknowledged that it was not good enough for children and young people to be waiting too long. Health waiting lists covered lots of areas e.g. mental health, autism etc. Lots of action was being taken by NHS Devon as well as investment and looking at what support parents and children could get whilst on waiting lists (e.g. Waiting Well and Neurodiversity Champions) to move away from only receiving support from diagnosis to needs led support. It was noted that this was not having as positive impact as NHS Devon

would like. There had been positive feedback through writing to every family on the waiting list for Autism support so they know what support was available and working with providers to give more information, it was suggested that lessons could be learned from this approach to see if it could be rolled out wider. The Council was working with 30 Primary Schools on a model which would see Speech Therapists linked with every Primary School from June, they would be able to provide support with observing children, strategies and looking at referrals and what support they could provide. SENDCOs had been trained with Language Enrichment Groups to provide a targeted intervention programme. As well as collaboratively working with health and education in a way not previously done before to help primary children with their speech and language, this linked to the Locality Model Pilot. 12 Primary Schools had early years within their schools which would help pick up problems with speech and language at an early stage as well as through the Family Hubs. NHS Devon plan to roll out support wider than the Locality Model Pilot Schools as part of a speech and language programme, but there was a need to make sure the approach was right for all the education settings. A lot of early intervention work was carried out as part of the 2 ½ year old checks looking at speech and language which would trigger a Section 23 notice. Early Talk Boost training had been rolled out to look at school readiness, working with Health and the Family Hubs. There was a need to increase the confidence of those working in early years settings to carry out the Early Talk Boost conversations to identify needs at an early stage and make appropriate referrals.

Members were advised that in response to action 9 in respect of children being out of school, there was a proposal from the Thinking Schools Academy Trust on a Secondary School based locality pilot to focus on preventative work to stop suspensions and exclusions and enable greater inclusion. The Director of Children's Services, Nancy Meehan, advised that an Education Leaders Group had been established comprising herself, the Chief Executive, Schools Forum, Torbay Association of Primary Schools (TASH) and Torbay Association of Secondary Headteachers (TASH) who were having challenging conversations about this topic as well as resetting with those schools who were sceptical about the Locality Model Pilot, with focus on an education strategy looking at the best outcomes for our children. It was noted that there were currently 547 children who were elected home educated with 54 children leaving schools this academic year. Extra resources had been put in place and this was being closely monitored by the Children's Strategic Quartet, which noted that a survey of 50 to 60 parents had highlighted the main reason was dissatisfaction with the School their child attended. The paper would be shared wider with the Local Education Board and Chairs of other Forums to look at how the Council and our Schools could do things differently. There was also concern over the potential lack of peer socialisation and isolation outside of the School setting. It was acknowledged that this was a National Issue and there were proposed changes as part of the Children's Bill, but Torbay was an outlier, with some Schools having more people leaving than others. There was approximately £2.5m not going into Torbay Schools as a result of children not attending Schools. School Standards were acknowledged and part of the reasons for three of the Schools being judged as 'requiring improvement' related to how they delivered education for those with SEND but that was not the only reason. The Sub-Board wished to monitor this area in more detail as part of its future Work Programme.

Tanny Stobbart provided an overview of a group of mums that had raised money to run a forest school for children who were not in school with support from Play Torbay. They had decided to establish themselves as a community and put in an application to carry out research with Exeter and Plymouth Universities to gain evidence on why people were choosing to elected home educate their children. They proposed to take the research to Parliament and were working with the two Local Members of Parliament who had agreed to support them. It was noted that there were colleagues in the voluntary sector who could work with children and parents to help them achieve better outcomes. Tanny to bring back the results of the research to a future meeting of the Sub-Board.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board welcomes the progress made in implementing the Local Government Association Torbay SEND Peer Challenge Action Plan and acknowledges the actions still to be taken;
2. that the Sub-Board reviews the reasons for children being elected home educated and what can be done to reduce the numbers, and the links to exclusions part of its Work Programme for 2025/2026; and
3. that the Sub-Board reviews the Secondary Schools standards as part of its Work Programme for 2025/2026.

48. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

The Sub-Board noted the contents of the submitted action tracker. The UNICEF Child Friendly training had been confirmed for 29 May 2025 2pm to 6pm, in person and the Corporate Parenting Board on that day was being moved to another date.

Councillor Twelves advised that she had passed her details to Beth but had not received a response. It was agreed that the Clerk, Teresa Buckley, would provide Councillor Twelves with the contact details for the Participation Leads so that she could make contact through them.

Councillor Nicolaou provided feedback on the event held on 7 February 2025 with young people. The event was a real success, the young people performed in front of the Councillors and they then had the confidence to perform at the Apple and Parrot in front of the wider public. It was a good night to celebrate young people locally. The event had a positive impact on the confidence of the young people as well as on their families. It was agreed that Councillor Nicolaou would consider inviting Councillors to future events with young people. There was a further event planned with young people to celebrate their work at Torre Abbey in Summer.

Chairwoman

Interim Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2025/2026 V1

Approved 19 May 2025 - Updated 1/5/2025 by Teresa Buckley

Items to be scheduled:

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children's Continuous Improvement Board Update	To receive an update on the Children's Continuous Improvement Plan
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Support	<p>To review the support for children's emotional wellbeing, including the NHS Devon Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy and Plan.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the outcomes framework for mental health in schools (Torbay Lead for Mental Health Team to be invited). To consider access to mental health services for children and young people diagnosed with autism. To consider how the community and voluntary sector is being supported to assist families when young people are on waiting

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<p>lists for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or who don't meet the threshold.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has access to CAMHS improved? • When is it expected to take less than 18 weeks to receive an CAMHS assessment? • What action is being taken to reduce waiting lists to ensure young people get access to support sooner? • How has access to the Schools Mental Health Programme been improving outcomes for young people?
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Inspection Written Statement of Action Update (six monthly)	<p>To receive 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.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the action plan arising from the SEND Inspection Update carried out in March 2025. • To consider the impact of the review of home to school transport and how children with SEND are being supported to travel to and from school.
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	NHS Long Term Condition Improvement Work	To review the NHS Long Term Condition Improvement Work

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	One Devon Children's Strategic Approach and Annual Plan	To review the One Devon Children's Strategic Approach and Annual Plan
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter	To receive the Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Adopt South West Annual Report	To receive the Adopt South West Annual Report
TBC	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Young Carers Under 25 Strategy	<p>To review the refresh of the Young Carers Under 25 Strategy and make recommendations to the Cabinet</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support is available to Young Carers? • How are opportunities for Young Carers promoted?

Timetable of Meetings

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
19 May 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Care Experienced, Including Housing for Care Experienced Young People	Update on Mark Ridell visit and implementation of action plan for care experienced young people – Update on how we deliver Housing to Care Experienced Young People to be provided
19 May 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Early Years Sufficiency (six monthly)	To review the sufficiency of Early Years placements Key line of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What action is being taken by the Council to influence the market and ensure that there are sufficient early years places available to meet the demands across the whole of Torbay? What is happening regarding preparedness for the new requirements coming into force in September? Do we have over capacity of placements with the falling birth population?
19 May 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children's Services Self-Assessment	To review the draft Children's Services Self-Assessment which provides an annual position on performance of Children's Services -

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
19 May 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2025/2026	To approve the initial Work Programme for the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board for 2025/2026
2 June 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Service Changes at the St Margarets and Spires Hearing Impairment Units (Single item agenda)	To review the service changes at the St Margarets and Spires Hearing Impairment units following the Councillor call for action and to consider the petition on the closure of the unit at St Margarets referred by the Council.
28 July 2025 or do we need to add to 2 June as additional item?	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Youth Justice Service (six monthly)	To receive an update on the Youth Justice Service and consider the Youth Justice Service Annual Plan Key lines of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What work or activities are being undertaken to reduce anti-social behaviour?
28 July 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and	Youth Provision and Physical Activity	To review youth provision and offer Key lines of enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What kind of opportunities for children and young people currently exist? Are there additional opportunities?

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	Scrutiny Sub-Board		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What youth clubs and play centres are available in Torbay? • How do young people and families engage with Torbay events? • What opportunities exist for young talent? • What leisure facilities are available for young people? • What free sports opportunities are available for young people in Torbay? • How can the benefits of play and physical activity enhance the physical and mental wellbeing of young people? • What is the Council doing to highlight the importance of physical playtime and facilities within schools?
28 July 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Family First Partnership Programme (six monthly)	<p>To receive an update on the Family First Partnership Programme</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How we are delivering against the overall reforms as a partnership? • What has been the impact of the Children's Reforms in improving outcomes for children and young people in Torbay?
28 July 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	UNICEF Child Friendly Update	<p>To receive an update on the implementation of the UNICEF Child Friendly programme</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the introduction of Child Friendly Torbay what are the plans for the future? • How many children, young people/parents/carers will be involved?

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the opportunities available? • What strategic and/or statutory requirements do they link to? • How are the voluntary and community sector engaged? • How do we consult with children and young people? What short or long-term impact have their views/opinions had? What will or has changed? How is this fed back to the young people involved?
29 September 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	To consider the Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report
29 September 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Exploitation and Children Missing (six monthly)	<p>To receive an update on Exploitation and children missing</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action is being taken to support children who go missing regularly, particularly from care placements? • What are the risks, opportunities, safeguarding measures, e.g. Philomena Protocol, intelligence gathering (return home interviews)?
29 September 2025	Children and Young People's Overview	Exclusions and Absence (six monthly)	<p>To review exclusions and absence.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p>

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	and Scrutiny Sub-Board		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive the latest qualified exclusion data and the views of those children who have been excluded. • To receive an update on the new Local Authority Attendance Duties and Home Education. • To receive an update on children on a part time timetable (including the numbers coming off a part time timetable) or on roll but not attending children, children educated other than at school (EOTAS) and children educated through Alternative Provision. • What is the reason for young people being NEET? • How well do careers services work in Torbay to help advise young people of their options for employment, education and training? • How do we support our young people when they reach 16, 17, 18 etc. to help them understand and access appropriate education, employment or training? • How many of our young people are going into apprenticeships or supported internships? • How many apprenticeships and/or supported internships are available in Torbay and through Torbay Council? • To receive an update on an analysis of the 500 home elected young people to understand the reasons why and if there are any children missing from the list of home educated or attending school and what action is being taken to identify and support these young people and their families (moved from main Board 7 November 2024 as links to this work).
17 November 2025	Children and Young People's	Sufficiency Strategy for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Annual)	To consider a report on the Sufficiency Strategy for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board		<p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What placements are available for children in emergency situations? What consideration has been given to the suitability of a Police Station as place of safety, meeting basic needs, overnight care options?
17 November 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Family Hub Sustainability	To review the long-term sustainability of the three Family Hubs in Torbay and the early help services they provide including the role of the Learning Academy following the end of Government Funding.
19 January 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services	<p>To review access to Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is access to Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services Promoted? How is drug safety taken into account? How has this impacted on young people's health and wellbeing?
19 January 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny	Public Health Nursing and Early Help (0-19)	To review Public Health Nursing and Early Help (0-19)

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	Sub-Board		
February 2026 (date TBC – 4 hours)	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Spotlight Review on Education	<p>To carry out a spotlight review on Education covering the following:</p> <p>School Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What action is being taken to improve the Ofsted ratings of the three secondary schools rated as 'requiring improvement'? • What impact have the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) Advisors had on schools in Torbay? • What are the rules around provision of religious education in schools and is there scope for ensuring more varied representation to take into account our multi-cultural society? <p>Locality Model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What lessons have been learned from the Locality Model Pilot and how can this be used to improve performance and consistency across all schools in Torbay? • What is happening with the MyPlace (Parkfield) site and how does the Council ensure the covenant is being met? • What additional support is available to young people with SEND to help them into employment, education or training? <p>Exclusions, Suspensions and Absences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the reasons for exclusions, suspensions and absences and what action the schools are taking to reduce them. • To consider if there are schools with disproportionate numbers and how a more uniformed approach could be encouraged.

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What restorative work is being undertaken to prevent exclusions, suspensions and isolation? • How does the Council ensure that children who excluded, suspended or absent from school are safeguarded from harm? • What consideration is given to social and emotional support for these children? • Is there a link with exclusions and parents choosing to elected home educate their children? <p>Elected Home Educated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the reasons why parents are taking their children out of school to be elected home educated? • What are schools doing to reduce the number of children being taken out of school to be elected home educated? • What can the Council do to reduce the numbers? • How does the Council ensure that children who are being elected home educated are safeguarded from harm? • What consideration is given to social and emotional support for these children? <p>Free School Meals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive an update on the auto enrolment for free school meals. • To understand the other opportunities that free school meals qualifies for support. • What action is being taken to raise awareness and increase take up of free school meals?

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<p>Schools Capital Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider a visit to Paignton Academy STEPS and other Alternative Providers. To consider the impact of the lowering birth rate on schools.
16 March 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group Annual Report	To receive the Report of the Regional Adoption Agency Joint Scrutiny Group
16 March 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Exploitation and Children Missing (six monthly)	To receive an update on Exploitation and children missing
16 March 2026	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Exclusions and Absence (six monthly)	<p>To review exclusions and absence.</p> <p>Key lines of enquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive the latest qualified exclusion data and the views of those children who have been excluded. To receive an update on the new Local Authority Attendance Duties and Home Education.

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on children on a part time timetable (including the numbers coming off a part time timetable) or on roll but not attending children, children educated other than at school (EOTAS) and children educated through Alternative Provision.

Annual reports to Cabinet to be circulated to Sub-Board as useful background documents:

- Local Authority Designated Officer Annual Report
- Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report

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Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
4/7/24 18/11/24	29	The Clerk was requested to follow up on outstanding responses from the Police.	Complete response circulated to the Board on 14.4.25
27/1/25	33	That the Director of Children's Services be requested to prepare a full report on the service changes at the St Margarets and Spires Hearing Units and submit it to a future meeting of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board,	Key Lines of Enquiry and Process have been agreed – meeting confirmed for 2 June 2025 due to Ofsted and Easter Holiday.
27/1/25	38	4. that in light of the importance of the role the Director of Corporate Services be requested to include responsibility as Corporate Parents in all staff job descriptions and as part of their annual appraisal to demonstrate what staff are doing to support our cared for and care experience young people.	4. Email sent to Matthew Fairclough-Kay 11.2.25 to consider the request, chased 19.3.25. – HR are carrying out a full review to determine the best way to embed this across the Council looking at best practice from other local authorities. An update will be shared once the review has been finalised (due end March 2025).
10/3/25	45	<p>a. The Sub-Board asked questions in relation to action 4 referred to 'no data from the Police yet' then 'now SafeLives DV data in its place', what was the current position regarding data from the Police and the timescales for the data being provided (a written response would be provided);</p> <p>b. action 6.2 referred to child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) waiting lists would be cleared to under 18 weeks by Summer 2025, how significantly under 18 weeks would that be (a written response would be provided to this)</p>	<p>a. Complete response from Police circulated to Members on 22.4.25</p> <p>b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current (February 2025) median average waiting time for CAMHS pathway (now known as Mood, Emotion and Relationships (MERS)) is 19 weeks. • At the current pace of delivery, 95% of children and young people on the wait list would be waiting less than 18 weeks by the end of September 2025. • Achieving the original ambition by the end of June 2025 is possible and the team in Children and Family Health Devon (CFHD)

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		<p>and what ambitions were there to reduce waiting times for the CAMHS further;</p> <p>c. there were currently 682 children on the CAMHS waiting list for first assessment, how likely would NHS Devon meet the 18 week target by June 2025 (a written response would be provided);</p> <p>1. that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board welcomes the progress made in implementing the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan and acknowledges the actions still to be taken; and</p> <p>2. that an update on the Children's Reforms is presented to a future meeting of the Sub-Board.</p>	<p>are focusing significant attention and resource on this improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving the 18-week target will be a considerable improvement for children and young people across Torbay. The next priority will be to ensure that the 95% 18-week target is achieved across all of the mental health pathways and is consistent and sustainable. <p>c.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The above number looks like it would relate to the Devon and Torbay footprint, the current equivalent is 628 across Devon and Torbay (children waiting for MERS), with 94 children currently waiting in Torbay. At the current pace of delivery, around 18 children and young people in Torbay would be waiting over 18 weeks by the end of June 2025, with 95% of children and young people on the wait list would be waiting less than 18 weeks by the end of September 2025. <p>1. complete 2. complete added to 2025/2026 Work Programme</p>
10/3/25	47	<p>1. that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board welcomes the progress made in implementing the Local Government Association Torbay SEND Peer Challenge Action Plan and acknowledges the actions still to be taken;</p>	<p>1. complete</p> <p>2. and 3. Complete added to 2025/2026 Work Programme.</p>

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		<p>2. that the Sub-Board reviews the reasons for children being elected home educated and what can be done to reduce the numbers, and the links to exclusions part of its Work Programme for 2025/2026; and</p> <p>3. that the Sub-Board reviews the Secondary Schools standards as part of its Work Programme for 2025/2026.</p>	
10/3/25	48	Councillor Twelves advised that she had passed her details to Beth but had not received a response. It was agreed that the Clerk, Teresa Buckley, would provide Councillor Twelves with the contact details for the Participation Leads so that she could make contact through them.	Complete Teresa passed the details to Councillor Twelves.

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