Membership of Child Poverty Commissioning Board in Torbay



Background/Special Interest: Member of the Mayors Children's Policy Committee; represented most deprived Ward in Torbay for approx 20 years which is Tormohoun; Helped develop the 1st poverty/policy in Torbay in the Early 90's; Children's Champion for participation, Founder of "Chilled Out "YOUTH CLUB; Vice Chairman and president of the Windmill Community; have worked on and developed the Youth strategy



Cllr Alison Hernandez

Background/Special Interest: A Parent with a five year old daughter, from Torquay, with over 10 years experience in paid professional and voluntary roles tackling crime and poverty in the South West who has helped secure £millions for 'deprived' communities. I have a special interest in community involvement in decision-making and action. Along with helping people to help themselves.

I was invited onto this board to help energise and promote this important issue and encourage the active involvement of those affected by poverty.



Cllr Chris Lewis

As the Executive Lead for Children, Schools and the Family I am very aware of the problems and needs we have in Torbay concerning children from poor backgrounds. Previously I was Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration. The economy of the Bay and improving job prospects is so important to our most needy families.

I was invited To use my experience in Business, Local Government and as Lead member for children services. It is so important to help those families in need.



Cllr Julien Parrott

Background/special interest: In 2007 I was elected to Torbay Council to serve the people of Ellacombe. During the following four years I held particular and wider responsibility for Overview & Scrutiny (Chairman 2007/8), and children (Children & apos; s Champion for Being Healthy, and Staying Safe 2009/11). I served on the Licensing Committee, and led the Member Development Committee work to achieve special charter for excellence status. In May 2011 the people of Ellacombe re-elected me as their councillor. I am proud to be a governor of Ellacombe School.

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Cllr Neil Bent.

I have lived and worked in Torbay since 1963 and have 4 children and 8 grandchildren all living in Torbay. My working life has been in the private sector - originally training as a mechanical engineer, 24 years running a local tourism business and over 20 years running a local support services business.

From 2007 until 2011, I held the portfolio of Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Affordable Housing and in that role it became very clear that child poverty was inextricably linked to a wide variety of issues among them poor quality housing, family employment opportunities and health and wellbeing inequalities.

I was also co-chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board, Torbay Council member representative on the South Devon Healthcare Foundation Trust Governors Board and member representative on the Torbay Care Trust Board.

With this breadth of knowledge and experience I feel that I can add some value to the Child Poverty Commissioning Board.



Richard Williams Director of Children's Services

Background/special interest: Richard has been working in Children's Services for the past 30 years, with experience in the voluntary sector, Local Authorities and was an advisor to national/local government on the Early Years and Sure Start initiatives. Prior to arriving in Torbay Richard worked as a Head of Family Services, bringing together a range of services from across the spectrum of 'need' and partnership to a new focus on families. He achieved National Beacon status for this work specifically focusing on Child Poverty.

Richard has recently been appointed the Director of Children's Services in Torbay, following a period as Acting Director with the Council. He has prioritized steering the Council and its partners away from intervention for its safeguarding services, but is very clear that this is everybody's responsibilities and that early intervention/prevention are key factors in achieving a successful outcome.

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I have worked for Torbay Council for the last 8 years in management roles involving statutory services for a range of areas of housing (including Homeless prevention).

My career background was within the community and voluntary sector, including health and older person's organisations.

Working with and developing partnerships has always been an important part of my various roles, and something I appreciate and enjoy.

Julie Sharland

Strategic Housing Manager

I was particularly pleased when asked to take on the lead officer role in tackling child poverty, and look forward to using my knowledge and experience in supporting the Commission with the challenge ahead, and making a difference.

I have a four year old granddaughter who is a real inspiration and a reminder of how important the future is.



Michelle Kennedy Independant Chair Torbay Child Poverty Commissioning Board I have worked for over 20 years in Local Government and the Health Service at senior and executive levels in London and was Head of Child Poverty Policy and Co-ordination for the Government Office for London (GOL) from October 2008 until August 2010. My main role was to support Local Authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships to deliver the National and London child poverty targets ,new duties in the Child Poverty Act; monitoring the Local Authority Innovation Pilots in London; sharing best practice, providing support and linking to existing national and regional strategies. For the last two years I have worked as an independent adviser specialising in child poverty and deprivation to a number of organisations, including as an Associate with Local Government Association and child poverty sector specialist with C4EO, providing specialist advice, research and knowledge at a national, regional and level as an expert in the field.

I have two children at University and am passionate about tackling poverty and supporting young people to achieve their full potential