

## 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

Torbay Children Services – Exploitation Team  
V1 June 2021

- 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.