

From: [Thompson, Becky](#)
To: [Licensing](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Torbay Council premises licence application - Barton Acorn Youth Community & Sports Centre
Date: 28 July 2023 07:33:48
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good morning,

As a responsible body, Children's Services would like to make representation in respect of this application. This representation is being made in relation to the national licensing objective, the protection of children from harm, on the following basis:

- The specifics of the lease relates to use of these premises as a Youth, Community and Sports Centre, with no other type of use endorsed without the express consent of the Council. As a Youth and Community and Sports Centre which will be delivering youth activity specifically between the hours of 5pm and 11pm, there is a concern that the licencing application and use of the premises to sell alcohol could pose a risk to those young people accessing the venue at that time. This is particularly pertinent as it is highly likely that many of those young people accessing this activities will be vulnerable young people.
- The application is for licencing seven days a week, 10am-10pm, with an understanding that the license is to allow the centre to hold functions such as weddings, which are likely to take place over the weekend and evenings, times when a significant schedule of specific youth activity should be taking place. Again, this links to the specific conditions of the lease and the use of the premises as a Youth, Community and Sports Centre.
- The application comments about installing CCTV which has not been context of the primary use of the centre being for young people, and the associated issues of consent and the storage of images captured.
- The Acorn Youth and Community Centre is situated within the Barton with Watcombe ward. This is the second highest ward across Torbay in respect of contacts received within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. In addition, there are higher number of children subject to child in need or child protection planning within this ward than other areas of Torquay and wider Torbay. This, linked with the known deprivation data in respect of this area, links to concerns in respect of child and young person alcohol use, with children living in Torquay are overrepresented in the Torbay Youth Justice Service (children in Torquay they make up 51% of the Torbay 10-17 population but 70% of the YJS cohort) and children living in this ward are known to be more at risk of child exploitation. As such, this is an area of high vulnerability and increases the concerns in respect of the protection of children from harm, through the selling of alcohol within a youth centre setting.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Becky Thompson
Divisional Director of Safeguarding
Torbay Children's Services

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