

Torbay Safeguarding Children Board

**Protocol between Torbay Local Safeguarding Children Board
and Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board**

July 2013

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Torbay Council Children's Services ■ Police ■ Health ■ Connexions
Youth Offending Team ■ Probation ■ CAFCASS ■ Safer Communities ■ Fire Service
■ Schools ■ Community & Voluntary Sector

www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

1. AIM

- 1.1 The aim of this Protocol is to define how the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) work together in the pursuit of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The LSCB is a statutory body created under the Children Act 2004. It is responsible for challenging all relevant organisations on their performance in ensuring that children and young people are kept safe in Torbay. The LSCB is responsible for developing local policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- 2.2 The LSCB is not a delivery body: it is a scrutiny and assurance body. However, it would expect to initiate activities which investigate and improve practice in safeguarding. It has the authority to call any local agency represented to account for its safeguarding activity.
- 2.3 The work of the LSCB contributes to the wider goal of improving the wellbeing of all children and young people. Within its wider governance arrangements, its role is to assess the effectiveness of the arrangements made by the HWBB, individual agencies and the wider partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children/young people.
- 2.4 The HWBB is a statutory committee of the Council. Its overall aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Torbay from pre-birth to end of life, reduce inequalities and improve the quality of health and social care services. It will do this by promoting a strategy of prevention, early intervention, re-ablement and rehabilitation; supported wherever possible by community based public health programmes, education, health care and social care.

3. WORK OF THE LSCB

- 3.1 The objectives of Torbay LSCB are:
 - a. To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
 - b. To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.
- 3.2 The above objectives are pursued through the following functions:-
 - a. Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including on:
 - action where there are concerns, including thresholds
 - training of persons who work with children
 - recruitment and supervision
 - investigation of allegations

- privately fostered children
- co-operation with neighbouring authorities
- b. Communicating the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- c. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- d. Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the local authority.
- e. Undertaking Serious Case Reviews.
- f. Ensure a co-ordinated response to unexpected child deaths.
- g. Collecting and analysing information about child deaths.
- h. Publishing an annual report on the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

4. WORK OF THE HWBB

4.1 The main functions of the HWBB are to:

- a. Assess the needs of the local population and lead the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- b. Promote integration and partnership working between NHS, social care, education and public health.
- c. Support strategic joint commissioning and pooled budget arrangements, where all parties agree this makes sense.
- d. Assess the health, social care and public health commissioning strategies, plans and proposals developed by the GP Commissioning Consortium and the Local Authority.
- e. Lead on local health improvement and prevention activity.
- f. Supporting local voice and the exercise of patient choice.

5. THE ROLE OF THE HWBB IN SAFEGUARDING

5.1 The HWBB will ensure that safeguarding and child protection are cross-cutting themes in all its work.

5.2 It will ensure safeguarding is:

- a. Holistically addressed in local needs assessment; including by considering and addressing information provided by the LSCB on safeguarding priorities.
- b. Integrated into the development of the Health and Well-Being Strategy.
- c. Integrated into commissioning arrangements at both strategic and operational levels.
- d. Integrated into the Public Health agenda.
- e. Embedded and integrated into service arrangements.

6. THE HWBB AND LSCB WORKING TOGETHER

6.1 The two Boards will work together by:

- a. The HWBB consulting with the LSCB on the refresh of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- b. The HWBB providing information to the LSCB, in respect of the health and well-being of children, young people and their parents/carers on at least an annual basis.
- c. The LSCB formally presenting its annual report to the HWBB and the HWBB providing a formal response to the LSCB.
- d. Identifying a named individual to ensure co-ordination of relevant activities as well as to champion safeguarding in the work of the HWBB.
- e. Ensuring that messages and information about keeping children safe are disseminated within partner organisations, including collaborating on stakeholder events.
- f. Ensuring action taken by one body does not duplicate that taken by another.

7. THE ROLES OF POST AND POSITION HOLDERS

7.1 The Director of Children's Services (DCS), Director of Public Health (DPH), Executive Director of Operations and Finance (EDOF), Lead Members for Children's Services and Health and Wellbeing and Leader of the Council have central roles.

7.2 The DCS has the lead responsibility for improving outcomes for children/young people in Torbay.

7.3 The Lead Member for Children's Services is politically accountable for ensuring that the Local Authority fulfils its legal responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. He or she will provide the political leadership needed for the effective co-ordination of work with other relevant agencies with safeguarding responsibilities. He or she will also take steps to assure themselves through scrutiny and challenge that effective quality assurance systems for safeguarding are in place and are functioning effectively across service areas and levels of need.

7.4 The DPH is a statutory chief officer of the Council and the principal adviser on all health matters to elected members and officers, with a leadership role spanning all three domains of public health: health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health. The DPH is required to play a full part in the Council's action to meet the needs of vulnerable children, including through attendance at the LSCB.

7.5 In addition to matters relating to the health and well-being of adults, the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing is also responsible for health improvement, performance and inequalities issues and their impact on children.

7.6 The EDOF is responsible for satisfying him/herself that the DCS is fulfilling their managerial responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and in particular, by ensuring that the relationship between the LSCB and HWBB is working effectively.

7.7 The EDOF and Leader of the Council should make an annual assessment of the effectiveness of local governance and partnership arrangements for improving outcomes for children and young people and supporting the best possible standards for safeguarding children and young people.

7.8 The following people are members of both the LSCB and HWBB. This will ensure clear lines of communication:

Director of Children's Services
Director of Public Health
Lead Member for Children, Schools and Families

8. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

8.1 The wider public has an important role to play: keeping children/ young people safe (and healthy) is everyone's responsibility. The LSCB is looking to appoint Lay Members as full Board members, to increase communication links with the local community and support stronger public engagement in, and understanding of, children's safety issues. The LSCB will also continue to engage with children and young people to ensure their views are taken in to account in any developments. Although members of the HWBB are formally accountable to different parts of the partnership system, collectively they have a shared responsibility for developing and contributing to the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Citizen involvement including the views of children and young people should be integral to the HWBB and seen as everybody's business.

9. OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

9.1 The HWBB and LSCB will share their Board Minutes after every meeting.

9.2 This Protocol will be reviewed on an annual basis or when national guidance affecting either Board is revised or introduced.

10. RESOLUTION PROCESS

10.1 Where either Board is concerned that this protocol is not succeeding in ensuring strong partnership working to keep children safe and healthy, resolution should be sought through communication between the Chairs of the Boards, the Lead Members and the Directors of Children's Services and Public Health.

This protocol is agreed by the undersigned on behalf of the Torbay LSCB and Torbay HWBB:

Torbay Local Safeguarding Children Board	Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board
Chair	Chair
Date	Date

DRAFT