

# UPDATE ON TESS

## TORBAY EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING SERVICE

TESS was developed in response to changes in LA staffing and the need to support schools in meeting their safeguarding responsibilities. It aims to provide proactive, high quality advice, guidance and training to schools.

There has been an increase both in the numbers of children meeting the thresholds for intervention and also the complexities of the needs of those individuals. Schools and social care are under increasing pressure to meet these demands.

The joint funded (LA and schools) service should...

- Provide support, advice and guidance to schools (Core Business)
- Support schools in working directly with children and families (Intervention)
- Develop multi agency links ensuring that all agencies working to support families do so in partnership (Partnership)

Two TESS education social workers (ESWs) have been appointed. **Sarah James** is the Lead SW, supported by **Hayley Mason**. They are employed and line managed by the Head of Mayfield School. They will be on 52 week contracts with an expectation that they take holidays during school vacations.

They are based at Paignton Community & Sports Academy (Waterleat Road site), alongside the SEN and safeguarding team. Supervision will be provided by a senior SW manager in Torbay. They will also “hot desk” at Tor Hill House (reflecting the joint funding/supervision arrangements).

Their contact details will be sent to you soon.

### **Schools should expect the following support...**

#### *Core Business*

- Support in ensuring that schools are fulfilling their statutory duties and advising schools regarding statutory processes as required.
- Child Protection training advice and guidance to all staff. This would include a planned programme of training as well as bespoke training as requested by individual schools.
- Management of the designated teacher network.
- Taking the lead for a locally adopted anti bullying strategy and related activity with schools.
- Providing support and leadership for schools involved in serious case reviews and in ensuring that action plans and recommendations are implemented.

## *Intervention*

- Direct access to PARIS system and case notes via the ESWs.
- Work with individual children and families cases.
- Supervision/mentoring for staff working with children and families on complex cases.
- Support and advice in making referrals into the safeguarding hub and in following up these referrals where necessary.
- Analysis of referrals, levels of need, patterns of referrals across schools.
- Monitoring children missing out in education.

## *Partnership*

- To provide a link between schools and safeguarding teams to ensure improved partnership work and communication.
- To work directly with the LADO to support to schools in managing allegations against adults and in ensuring that due process is followed.
- Support in ensuring that whistle blowing and complaints to Ofsted are addressed and risks of escalation are mitigated.
- To champion on behalf of schools the engagement of professionals from other services in working with children, young people and families.
- To support schools in developing partnerships with health services including health visitors, school nurses and GPs.

The two ESWs will (between them) visit all schools in the early Autumn term to introduce themselves.

The TESS Steering Group provides strategic direction for the service. The group has representatives from TASH, TAPS and the LA. The group has devised a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the service. The TESS Steering Group will represent all schools on TSCB, therefore linking school to key strategic developments.

A TESS Handbook is being developed and will be distributed in the Autumn term. This will include a Best Practice Guide (already circulated to schools), the KPIs, a training plan, the TSCB training plan, sample policies and sample record keeping pro formae.

## **Training**

**Basic Child Protection (CP) training for newly recruited staff** will be provided every term – in about week 6. These will all take place at Oldway School on Tuesdays, **either** 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. or 2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Dates are...

7<sup>th</sup> October  
3<sup>rd</sup> February  
12<sup>th</sup> May

Basic training for **CP governors** has been carried out and will be repeated in the Summer term 2015. A level 2 course for those governors trained this term will be held in the Spring term 2015.

A session for **Managing Allegations Against Teachers and other Staff** will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. at Oldway School. This is the first notification of this date. It will also be circulated to Heads and DCPOs in the next few days.

Anthony Goble will lead a support group for **Designated Child Protection Officers** (DCPOs) every half term, in about week 3. These will all take place at Shiphay Learning Academy on Tuesdays, 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. We are working hard to ensure that every school is represented.

Dates are...

23<sup>rd</sup> September  
18<sup>th</sup> November

2015  
20<sup>th</sup> January  
10<sup>th</sup> March  
28<sup>th</sup> April  
16<sup>th</sup> June

Booking for all courses is managed on CPD online. All of these courses are free, but you will need to arrange cover, in order to release your staff.

The TESS Steering Group continues to meet regularly in order to monitor and develop the service. A data base of all DCPOs has been created and this will be used to circulate TESS information, as well as circulating it to all Heads.

If you have any proposals or comments that the group could consider, please contact me.

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18th July 2014  
Revised 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014