torbaysafeguarding childrenboard

Torbay **Safeguarding Children** Board

Annual Report 2013-2014

November 2014

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Torbay Council Children's Services ■ Police ■ Health ■ Connexions
Youth Offending Team ■ Probation ■ CAFCASS ■ Safer Communities ■ Fire Service
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www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

Foreword by Independent Chair

Welcome to the annual report of the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board for 2013-14. This report sets out the activities of the Board in the financial year 2013-14. This report is for all partners of the TSCB as well as informing the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and providing assurance to the Executive Director of Torbay and the Council's Scrutiny Committee.

The report describes the work of the Board and its sub committees over the last year and notes areas of achievement as well as identifying further areas for improvement and future work. The business plan for the Board for 2014-15 and its identified priorities draw from the annual report. (http://www.torbay.gov.uk/tscbbusinessplan2014-15.pdf)

As is noted in the report there was change of Independent Chair in August 2013 and our priorities were set quite late in the year. A number of these have been rolled over into 2014-15.

The Board has created an Executive on which the senior members of the respective agencies sit as well as the chairs of the subgroups that report to the Board. This has allowed much more debate and challenge as well as linking the work of the subgroups up more tightly. In addition it has allowed the main Board to focus much more in depth on key areas as well as having significant input into the learning arising from Serious Case Reviews.

Over the last twelve months the Board has sharpened its focus on frontline practice, and strengthened the Multi Agency Case Review process. The ability for agencies to challenge more effectively and the Board to hold agencies to account has been strengthened and the impact of this can be seen through changes in practice and policy.

The priorities over the coming year will be to continue to look at early help arrangements and also develop better engagement with children, young people and their parents as part of our monitoring of multi professional safeguarding practice.

We will follow through on the work around training to make this more effective and look to strengthen multi agency working. A particular focus will be around the needs of looked after children particularly these placed outside the local area and also looking at how neglect is tackled at all levels within Torbay.

The TSCB will be developing closer links with Devon Safeguarding Children Board and looking to appoint a Manager to cover both Boards. In addition it is proposing to move to one Serious Review Group covering both Boards as well as a single back office and shared web site. There are real benefits in terms of improving capacity and building a more robust structure as a result of these developments.

The reductions in public expenditure and accompanying organisational change puts real challenge to building and sustaining effective safeguarding arrangements. It requires organisations to work even closer with one another to achieve this. The Board will be focusing on ensuring that all partners play their part in safeguarding the most vulnerable children and young people.

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1. Essential information

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This report covers the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 and reflects the structures that were in place up to the end of March 2014

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2. Executive Summary

The Torbay Safeguarding Children Board set itself a number of objectives in 2013 -14. This annual report sets out the progress in achieving these as well as the other work undertaken by the Board and its subgroups.

The Board undertook a review of training in this year and a finished report in respect to this has now been to the Executive. This recommended a greater synergy between the activities of the Board and single agencies as well as the development of a blended training programme in the next year. In addition there needs to be a greater emphasis on evaluating the impact of training. A particular success in this year has been the Best Practice Forums which have had a high level of multi agency attendance. The next stage will be to implement this and this will be a significant piece of work in 2014-15.

The Board has strengthened its approach to case auditing and performance management and the outcomes of this have been used to challenge practice as well as inform the deep dive whole Board events which have focused on issues such as Mental Health and also Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). There is still more work to be done on gathering information from all partners and also getting feedback from children, young people and their families. This will be a priority for the Board in 2014-15.

The Board has focused on the Chid Sexual Exploitation work following the learning from Operation Mansfield. There has been training provided for schools and awareness raising with local businesses and schools. A CSE pathway has been agreed and work is being done to link the outputs from the CSE assessment tool to the Children's Journey threshold document. The Board intends to have a deep dive event focusing on CSE in 2014-15 as well as monitor the arrangements for agencies to work together and track the incidence of CSE in Torbay.

The Board has undertaken two serious case reviews (SCR) this year and both of these are to be published in the coming year. A serious case review which involved Torbay was published in Birmingham and the learning from this has been disseminated via a briefing report which all agencies were tasked with cascading to their staff.

The Board reshaped its operation this year and created an Executive to deal with detailed business of the Board and allowing the wider Board to focus in on particular areas. This has worked well and allowed the opportunity for front line workers to engage with senior managers. Similarly the attendance of the subgroup chairs at the Executive has allowed more understanding across the Board of different pieces of work. The Chair has produced a summary for all Board Members at the end of each Executive and everybody receives the papers and a standing invite to attend for any matter of interest. The Board have secured the participation of one lay member and are hoping to get somebody to represent the faith community in 2014-15.

The Board has demonstrated its challenge role and the Chair has attended the Health and Wellbeing Board on a number of occasions as well as meeting with senior managers in all agencies and also the Executive Director in Torbay Council. With the demise of the Children's Improvement Board the TSCB will have a more direct challenge role in respect to the Local Authority and its performance and in this year coming has made the safety and well being of Looked After Children as a priority.

In this year a Health subgroup, covering the far south west, has been set up as well as an Education Safeguarding Group for Torbay. Both of these groups report to the Executive. There is still outstanding work to resolve the lead Safeguarding role for the Local Authority in respect to schools as well as the LADO arrangements.

The Board has worked with Devon closely and there are now plans to have a joint Board and also Office Manager and to bring the Serious Case Review Groups together from January 2015. In addition there will be a joint conference in 2014 and a bringing together of the respective websites. These changes will give the Board added capacity and reduce demands on partners who cover both authorities.

In this year a practitioners group has been established and a facilitated event generated ideas and proposals in respect to early help arrangements. The practitioners group are looking to do further work on the effective functioning of core groups and also review the standards document.

Early help arrangements remain a priority of the Board and there will be a further audit of cases in 2015 as well as a themed event together with ongoing monitoring of activity.

The Board has worked hard to improve its communications and has produced a regular newsletter as well as doing some more targeted work to particular groups. Over the next year the Board will be developing its ability to reach key groups through the joint website and a number of themed campaigns.

The Board works with other authorities in the far south west and have jointly carried out a staff survey as well as administered the section 11 audit. The Board will be involve in the re-commissioning of the Child Death Overview Process (CDOP) service as well as influencing the specification of the south west child protection procedures.

3. Local background and context

Torbay is located within the South West region of England. It consists of 24 square miles of land spanning the towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham, which together occupy an east-facing natural harbour by the English Channel.

Torbay is highly populated with some 131,000 people across its 24 square miles. Torbay's position as a seaside community continues to prove popular as a retirement destination with the number of over 65's residing in the area being 7.3% higher than the England average. In addition the number of 0-19 year olds residing within Torbay is 2.9% lower than the national average.

There are pockets of severe deprivation and inequalities within Torbay. These pockets tend to be communities that experience poorer outcomes such as poorer educational attainment, poorer socioeconomic status, lower earnings and the lowest life expectancy.

Torbay is within the top 20% most deprived local authority areas in England and most deprived local authority in the South West for rank of average score. Torbay's relative position within the national model of deprivation has worsened in recent years.

In terms of income deprivation affecting children there has been an increase in the number of areas which rank in the top 10% most deprived. The increase in areas is across Torquay. The number of children aged 0 to 15 who are living in areas which rank in the 10% most deprived increased from 681 in 2007 to 2,301 in 2010.

Torbay has approximately 27,700 children and young people aged 19 and under. This is 21.1% of the total population. The proportion of state-funded pupils entitled to free school meals based on the January 2012 School Census is above the national average (Torbay 17.6%, national 16.9%).

Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 6.3% of the total statutory school age population, compared with 25.4% in the country as a whole. The largest minority ethnic groups are Mixed (1.3%), Any Other White Background (0.8%) and Asian (0.6%). The proportion of, state funded, compulsory school age pupils whose first language is believed to be other than English is below the national figure (Torbay 3.2, national 15.2).

Children Services in Torbay recorded 1100 referrals in 2013/14 which was 10% up on the previous year. The increase recorded last year was not linked to any changes in the systems or thresholds used by Children's Services during this time. Torbay's rates of referral are slightly below similar authorities and national benchmarks.

Ofsted (March 2013) found the thresholds and practice within the Safeguarding Hub to effective and safe.

The levels of referral are indicative of the levels of demand within the community and the ability and readiness of the public and partners to identify children about whom they are concerned. Contacts from Schools, Health and members of the public all rose by about 30% in 2013/14 compared to the previous year.

Internal auditing and independent research has confirmed that complex families involving significant levels of neglect and abuse, often linked to domestic violence, are a dominant feature of the referrals that social workers are dealing with. For example, an independent exploration of Torbay's practice by Social Finance and the NCB both noted the high levels of domestic violence in the referrals received by Children Services.

4. Statutory and legislative context for LSCBs

The TSCB is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how local organisations cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within Torbay.

The core objectives of the Board are set out in section 14(1) of the Children Act 2004 as follows:

- 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

- to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of the Board in order to fulfil those responsibilities, these include:

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Communicating to local people and organisations the need to safeguard children, raising their awareness of how this can be done and encouraging them to do so
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding work by TSCB members individually and collectively and agreeing ways in which this can improve
- Participating in the planning of services for children and young people in Torbay
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews and advising Board members on lessons to be learned and actions to be taken
- Implementing an effective and co-ordinated response by Board members to the unexpected death of a child

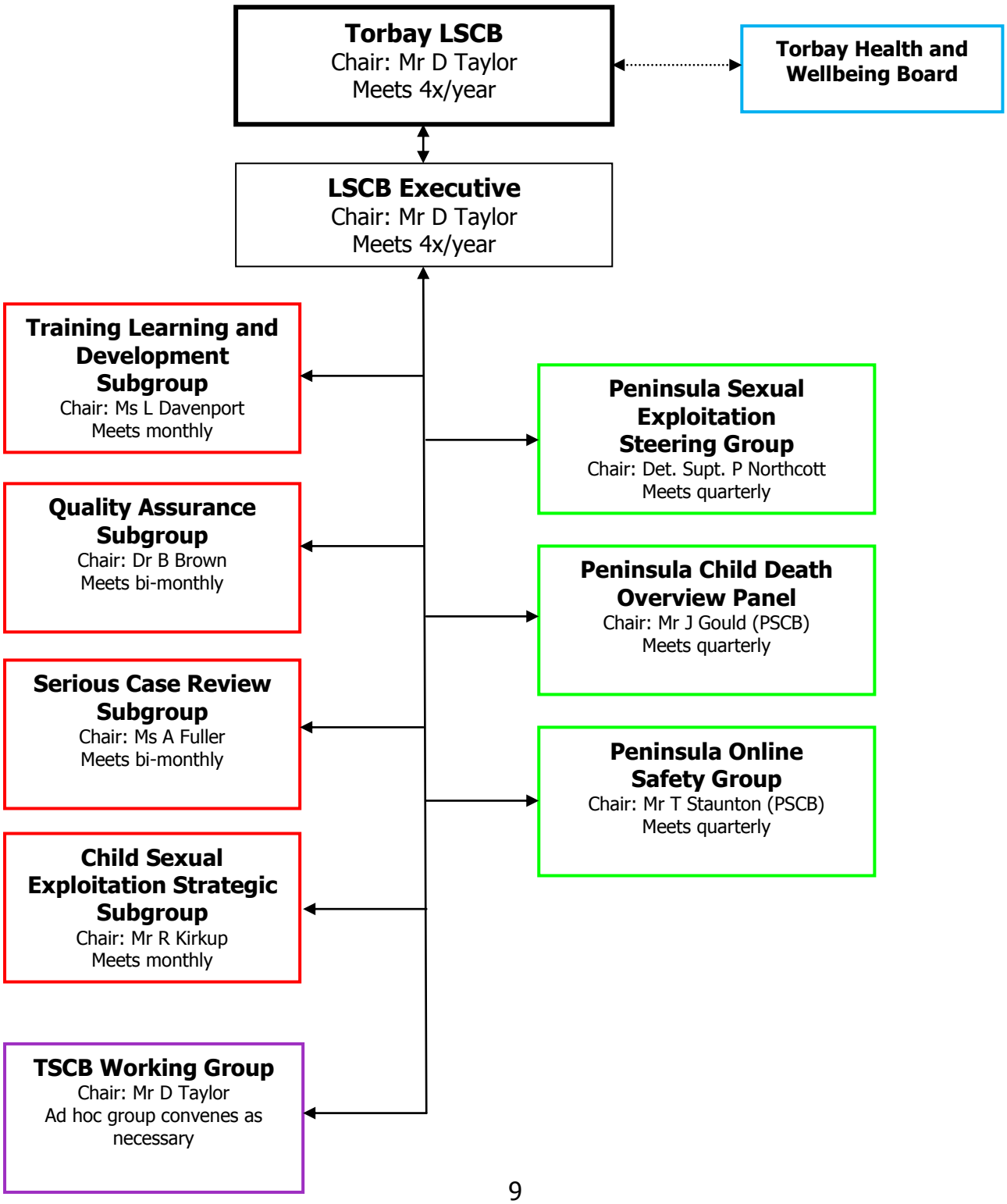
The full Terms of Reference of the TSCB can be found at www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

5. Governance and accountability arrangements

TSCB Structure

At the start of 2013/2014 the structure of the TSCB was based on a full Board meeting which met four times per year and a Delivery Board which met four times per year. Following the appointment of David Taylor as Independent Chair in September 2013 a review of the TSCB's governance arrangements was completed. The full Board continues to meet four times per year and is supported by a smaller Executive which meets six times a year.

The diagram below outlines the structure of the TSCB and its associated subgroups and peninsula working groups at March 2014.



TSCB Office

The Board is supported by a small Business Unit which is responsible for both coordinating the work of the Board and its subgroups and ensuring the TSCB is supported in making informed decisions. The Business Unit employs an Independent Chair, Business Manager and two Coordinators.

TSCB Financial Statement

Partner agencies contribute to the TSCB budget on an annual basis. Contributions have remained set for last 2 years. The budget for 2013-14 was set at £122,151.00.

TSCB Business Unit	
Expenditure type	**Outrun £**
Staffing Costs	£98,936.11
Meeting Costs	£765.70
Admin & Office Costs	£1,424.99
Child Protection Procedures	£750.00
Child Death Overview Panel	£9,651.00
SCR Training	£3,590.68
TSCB Development Day	£652.00
Best Practice Seminars	£1,337.00
VCS Engagement	£2,500.00
Total	**£119,607.48**
Contribution from TSCB Partners	£122,151.00
Under spend for 2013-14	**£2,543.52**

The Budget for 2014-15 has been set at £123,981.00 with partner contributions agreed as follows:

Torbay Council £75,280.57
Torbay and Southern Devon Clinical Commissioning Group £28,673.02
Devon & Cornwall Police £13,861.30
Devon & Cornwall Probation £5,616.11

The costs associated with Serious Case Reviews are not covered by the main board budget. The costs associated with Serious Case Reviews in 2013-14 came to £31,759.13, and were covered by contributions from partner agencies.

Serious Case Reviews	
Expenditure type	**Outrun £**
Panel Chairs	£4,187.50
Overview Report Writers/Lead Reviewers	£23,582.19
Admin & Office Costs	£1,489.44
Training	£2,500
Total	**£31,759.13**

Each year partner agencies are asked to complete a training needs analysis which determines how many multi-agency training courses are required. The costs associated with Training in 2013-14 came to £23,113.60. Partners contribute to the costs based on the number of places they purchase.

Multi-Agency Training	
Expenditure type	**Outrun £**
Trainers	£21,859.60
Venues	£1,080.00
Printing Costs	£174.00
Total	**£23,113.60**

6. Summary of the sufficiency of safeguarding arrangements

Progress made against strategic/themed priorities in 2013-2014

Following the appointment of a new Independent Chair in August 2013 the September Board meeting was used to determine the Board's priorities: Multi-Agency Training, Multi-Agency Case Auditing, Child Sexual Exploitation and provision of Early Help.

Multi-Agency Training

The Training, Learning & Development Subgroup was commissioned by the Independent Chair to complete a review of Safeguarding Training in November 2013. The subgroup completed an initial analysis of the training position in November 2013. This was reported to the TSCB Executive in December 2013. In summary it drew the following conclusions:

- there is a training sub group in place with good cross agency representation uptake of training across agencies is inconsistent
- information on training standards does not help workers know what is expected of them
- the link between training and practice is not well defined
- the package of training is not sufficiently flexible to meet the diverse needs of organisations
- organisations are developing their own solutions departing from principles of multi agency training
- the TSCB does not receive sufficient assurance that staff have appropriate training to meet the requirements of their role
- funding streams restrict the opportunities to develop flexible training options

Details on how the subgroup has taken this forward can be found in the subgroup report on page 20.

Multi-Agency Case Auditing

The TSCB has set up a robust approach to case auditing on a bi yearly basis. Particular themes are chosen and the case audit relates to these. The learning from the case audits are considered by the executive of the Board and the Best Practice forum is used as a channel to disseminate key messages to practitioners. In addition changes are made to training programmes, practice guidance and procedures as a result of the audits as well as informing challenge to individual agencies from the Board.

For next year consideration is being given to undertaking auditing on a quarterly basis and thinking about how practitioners are involved more systematically.

In addition to the Multi Agency auditing the Board is also considering single agency audits and learning from these about the quality of safeguarding practice across organisations. Outcomes from the December 2013 audit can be found on our website.
(http://www.torbay.gov.uk/multiagencycaseaudit2013.pdf)

Child Sexual Exploitation

The Board established a new Subgroup in July 2013 to act as a conduit between the Peninsula CSE Steering Group and the local Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation Forum (M&CSE). The group have been pulling together a comprehensive strategy in relation to the way agencies respond to incidence of Child Sexual exploitation. This includes an emerging strategy to raise awareness in schools and the local community, agreeing a clear pathway for referrals via the MACSE and the safeguarding hub and thinking about how victims are best supported and protected.

In addition a specialist assessment tool has been devised based on the Derby model. These recommendations will be coming to the executive of the TSCB for approval in the next round of

meetings. It is planned to hold an in depth Board event looking at CSE early in 2014 which will look at feedback from young people and their families as well as some of the empirical data.

Early Help

The development of a robust approach to early help is an important part of the safeguarding pathway for vulnerable children. The Board has set up a practitioner group which will be looking at the Working Together 2013 guidance, as well as the existing arrangements and reporting back to the Executive in June in respect to this.

In addition through the case auditing the Board is looking at a spread of cases including early help which will inform this work. Through the sample of CAMHS cases the Board has raised the gap in tier 2 provision for CAMHS and also the supervision arrangements of agencies where cases are not subject to safeguarding plans. The Chair has also written to the Local Authority about the commissioning arrangements for children's centres and how well these are tied into the wider early help strategy.

Board Meetings

The Board agenda offers opportunities for information sharing and discussion, but also encourages questioning and challenge. Five meetings have taken place this year with a range of areas having been addressed. Appendix 1 sets out Board Membership.

The April Board meeting looked at the findings from **Ofsted's inspection** of Torbay's arrangements for the protection of children.

June's meeting looked at the **Sexual Harmful Behaviour Policy and Missing Persons Guidance.** It also identified some streams of work coming out of Working Together 2013.

September focused on the **Board's priorities** following the appointment on a new Independent Chair.

The December meeting looked at the findings from **multi-agency case audit activity** undertaken by the Quality Assurance Subgroup. The issues identified for the Board to consider included:

- Multi Agency Training
- Child Protection to Child in Need and step down arrangements
- Effectiveness and efficiency of Core Groups
- Supervision across the partnership
- Escalation – lack of confidence and knowledge

The Board agreed that they would initially focus on the effectiveness and efficiency of Core Groups and a working group was established…

It was also agreed that Torbay's Professional Differences Policy would undergo a review and re launch.

The March meeting concentrated on the emerging findings from an ongoing **Serious Case Review**

A summary of all Torbay Safeguarding Children Board meetings can be found on our website.
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/tscbboardmeetings.htm

Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of attendance at Board meetings.

Subgroup Updates

The TSCB is required to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The TSCB undertakes this task through its business plan and subgroups.

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Subgroup

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Subgroup is responsible for supporting strategic delivery of the multi agency response to children and young people involved in or at risk of sexual exploitation.

The subgroup has also developed a **referral pathway, risk assessment toolkit** and **awareness campaign**. All of which are due to be launched in 2014-15 following sign off by the TSCB Executive.

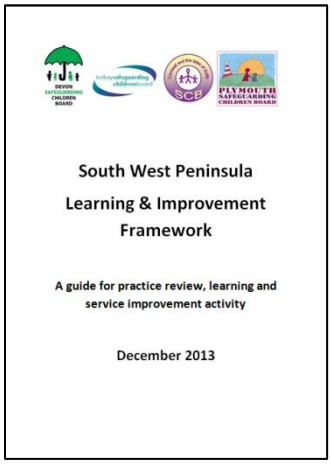
http://www.torbay.gov.uk/childsexualexploitation

Quality Assurance Subgroup

The Quality Assurance Subgroup meets every eight weeks. For the period April 2013 to March 2014 seven meetings were held. The subgroup is responsible for quality assuring the child protection work being undertaken by partner agencies and advising the Board on any required action arising from audits in order to improve safeguarding responses across the system.

In partnership with the far South West Peninsula LSCB's the Quality Assurance Subgroup has developed a **Learning & Improvement Framework.** Working Together 2013 requires all LSCBs to maintain a local Learning and Improvement Framework which is shared across local organisations who work with children and families. The framework sets out the LSCB's commitment and statutory obligations to ensuring learning and improvement not only takes place, but does so in a blame free, child centred culture. It describes where practice learning comes from, how it should be

disseminated and embedded in practice and finally arrangements through which service quality and improvement should be evaluated and monitored.



http://www.torbay.gov.uk/tscbguidance.htm

During 2013-14 the Subgroup piloted a **safeguarding survey with schools**. A sample of four schools were chosen from the 43 schools in Torbay and all staff within each of these schools were provided a safeguarding questionnaire to complete and return anonymously.

The focus of the questions was themed around the following aspects of safeguarding:

- creating a culture of safeguarding,
- safeguarding policies and procedures, and
- Training in safeguarding – specially low-level neglect and child sexual exploitation which were highlighted as areas of improvement in Torbay as a result of findings in recent Serious Case Reviews C24 and C26.

The survey identified that there are several areas of work required to develop further the safeguarding arrangements in existence.

There needs to be greater consistency in all schools seeking active participation of parent(s) / carer(s), children and staff when reviewing safeguarding policies and procedures. This might be achieved through the governing bodies of schools publishing the dates of its cyclical review of policies and procedures on the school website inviting contributions through a serious of standardised questions of a particular policy in terms of their personal experience of its implementation.

Embedding safeguarding culturally would be more effective if schools used staff meetings and briefings, written communiques and other identified modes of communication to ensure frequent and regular information and guidance on safeguarding was being communicated. This 'drip-drip' effect of succinct, accurate and relevant information sustained over time would enhance everyone's knowledge basis and raise confidence in dealing with concerns.

The promotion within schools of its procedures for managing allegations against teachers and other staff and of the school's whistleblowing policy would improve confidence in the process of raising concerns about the behaviour of colleagues irrespective of the individual's position within the school.

Induction and training content needs developing to raise awareness of topical local issues facing - schools – child sexual exploitation and low-level neglect. This could be achieved by production of a

standardised induction and level 2 training programme containing direct reference to identifying concerns in these areas.

The findings were presented to the Schools Steering Group who agreed to role out the survey across all Torbay schools. This was completed and resulted in the following recommendations:

1. Development of a standardised induction on safeguarding for use by all schools.
2. Commissioning the development of a participation strategy for stakeholders.
3. Commissioning of training programmes for staff around low-level neglect and child sex exploitation.
4. Development of a mechanism to allow the dissemination of safeguarding information to all staff within each school.
5. Yearly audit of this nature to establish whether there are any changes as a result of plans put in place.

In response the Board has agreed to introduce a dedicated Education Safeguarding Subgroup in 2014-15 to take the recommendations forward and will be reported on in next year's annual report.

The Subgroup undertook a **Multi-Agency Case Audit** in December 2013 which focused on pre-birth and child in need cases. The organisations covered within the audit were Police, Probation, Children's Social Care, Midwifery, Health Visiting, School Nursing and Education. Due to time constraints and capacity, on this occasion General Practice and Adult Mental Health records were not viewed.

The findings have been grouped into those specific to each area, then commonalities across the two. There was a notable improvement in more recent practice in the cases audited, reflecting the outcomes of the Ofsted inspection and commitment to improvement by all partners.

Pre-Birth Cases

Good Practice	Areas of concern
• Early identification of risk and compliance /adherence to Unborn Baby Protocol • Above leading to good outcomes for children within appropriate timescales for their development and attachment • Appropriate referrals into the Peri-Natal Mental Health Team • Evidence of clear identification of risk and contingencies in place (police) • Appropriate referrals into Family Health Partnership • Robust management oversight of cases by Named Midwife • Evidence of early risk identification and continued review as issues change (Social Care/Health)	• Delays in Parenting Assessments and other specialist assessments required to assess level of risk posed by parents • Is use of CP process appropriate in all cases • Clarity about CP process when child is accommodated • Poor contingency planning in one case where parents had moved out of Torbay • No clear links with Adult Services in one case when assessing risk • No access to current peri-natal mental health service for under 18's

Child in Need

Good Practice	Areas of Concern
• Some evidence of good visiting patterns being established by Social Workers and Health Visitors/School Nursing • Some evidence of effective supervision across health and social care allowing time for reflection, review of progress and identification of need to challenge (health) where there are delays • Good evidence of delays/decisions being challenged by health • Good evidence of child being seen following disclosure and roles of professionals being explained to them (police)	• Lack of consideration given to father being a protective or risk factor and able to provide a safe environment • Lack of specialist health input into the CP process, e.g. dental and ophthalmology in neglect case • Some evidence of passive involvement by HVs/SNs – focus more on Public Health than Safeguarding • Inadequate communication between Probation and Social Workers regarding levels of risks posed by adults – this was reciprocal • Lack of engagement of Specialist Services (Alcohol, substance misuse, mental health) in CP process/risk assessments • Some evidence of erratic or even absence of supervision within health and social care

Commonalities

Good Practice	Areas of Concern
• Overall it is clear that practice has sustained an effective change • Supervision is variable in frequency and recording but has improved • Outcomes for children have improved, with more timely interventions taking place	• Effectiveness of Core Groups, often not taking place, not being recorded, lack of clarity of partner agencies roles and responsibilities within the Core Group • Lack of challenge and escalation in respect of Core Groups and progress against plan • Step down from CPP to CIN – plans not always evident or communicated to other professionals • Contingencies not always considered • Evidence of cases being dropped when they move to CIN status (health) • Lack of clarity around legal thresholds and roles and responsibilities where children become looked after • Delays in Core Assessment completion, and the quality of them, often not using partner agency knowledge and expertise • Strategy discussions/meetings need to be widened to include other agencies and recorded

Section 11

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 placesa duty on key persons and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that, in discharging their functions, they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

LSCBs are required to co-ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of partners, both individually and together, for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including arrangements made under the Section 11 duty. The far South West Peninsula LSCBs take a collaborative approach to Section 11 audits.

This means agencies covering more than one LSCB submit only one annual return to be used by all four safeguarding children boards. Partner agencies are required to self-evaluate their compliance against the standards and submit a safeguarding improvement plan for the coming 12 months. Agencies can assess their compliance using an audit tool reflecting the Children Act 2004 Agencies are also expected to report on the progress of improvements to safeguarding during the previous 12 months.

Additionally, under the Section 11 assurance process, the far South West Peninsula LSCBs expect front line staff working directly with children, and their immediate managers, to provide their views

about their agencies' policies, procedures and practices related to the safeguarding of children and comment on how to improve safeguarding children practice by responding to the Staff Safeguarding Children Survey. The results from these surveys provide further assurance of agency compliance and provide each LSCB with an indication of overall safeguarding children practice within their LSCB area. The individual agency survey reports present leaders of such agencies with comparative information and feedback from their staff on where safeguarding children practice is considered good and in place and where weaknesses exist and need improvement.

Peninsula Safeguarding People Staff Survey 2013
The Safeguarding People Staff Survey was managed on behalf of all LSCBs by the Devon Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB). The questions were aligned to the Section 11 guidance and the survey constituted a tool for Section 11 assurance agreed by the peninsula LSCBs. The survey was distributed to all agencies within the Peninsula LSCBs in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay for front line staff and their immediate managers during June 2013. Returns were collated by DSCB and distributed to agencies.

Section 11 process for 2014
Organisations will be asked to provide the following:

- to complete a declaration of compliance,
- to detail progress against the 2013 Action Plan and outline improvements planned for 2014,
- to reflect on the 2013 staff survey
- to detail subsequent improvements planned for 2014.

Performance data
The TSCB has worked hard to develop a performance data set that reflects the work of all agencies and looks at the effectiveness of our multi agency working in Safeguarding children and young people . We have had some success in this although there is still outstanding work in terms of getting good information back from some adult agencies in respect of the children subject to Safeguarding arrangements or children in need where they are a working with the parent. We are also keen to get better data re the CAMHS service both at level 3 and 4 as well as understanding those who currently are unable to access the service

In addition we are still trying to understand better the early help pathway and get better and more detailed information in respect to this including the participation of agencies as lead workers.

The Board have set as a priority in the 2014-15 business plan the gathering of feedback from children , young people and parents about the effectiveness of agencies in working together to support them and helping them tackle some of the underlying issues that are causing safeguarding concerns

The Board through its Quality Assurance subgroup is trying to distill from the report the key issues for the executive to consider so this really promotes effective challenge and change in the way that the agencies work together

Allegations Against People Who Work with Children
January to June 2014

This is a half yearly profile of allegation management activity in Torbay with commentary on service development.

Allegation Management Criteria:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or

- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children

Contacts
Employers/managers who make an initial inquiry to the LADO are asked to following this up in writing by means of completing a LADO referral form regardless of whether this meets the criteria or not.

If the referral is considered to meet the criteria it is accepted as a formal referral and placed on PARIS. If not it is logged in the LADO advice file.

Number of contacts that were not considered to meet the LADO criteria: 26

Note: These were more conduct type issues where a child was not harmed but where there was an inappropriate response to a child which the employer was advised to pursue through their disciplinary procedures

Referrals
Number of referrals that were considered to meet the LADO criteria: 24

Breakdown of LADO referrals that did meet the criteria:

Type of harm	
Physical	12
Sexual	10
Emotional	
Neglect	
Other	2

Inquiry Strands:
- Criminal Inquiry 6
- Assessment by Children's Services 5
- Disciplinary Inquiry by employer 19

Note: Some referrals will be managed down more than one strand

Outcomes

NFA	4
Disciplinary	19
Referral to DBS	3
Ref to regulatory body	2
Dismissal	1
Resignation	4
Additional training	5
Foster Panel	2
Unsubstantiated	3

Key trends

Physical harm	Most relate to inappropriate responses to children presenting challenging behaviour
Sexual harm	Most relate to the downloading of child pornography

Commentary
The data in-put, collection and documents supporting this activity needs to be reviewed to ensure it is delivering relevant information that may accurately and comprehensively provide a profile of allegation management activity.

People who consult the LADO are very willing to respond to the advice given, complete the referral form as requested and attend Allegations Management Meetings as required.

If they are advised to progress the issue under their disciplinary procedures they tend to respond to requests for outcomes in a timely manner.

Hence it is the LADO's experience that with those agencies the LADO has contact with the process is well respected and adhered to.

Whether all agencies are adhering to the allegations management process is unknown.

LADO arrangements
The LADO arrangements are currently under review. Since January 2014, one Reviewing and Safeguarding Officer has acted as Torbay's LADO whilst undertaking other Reviewing and Safeguarding duties e.g. Child Looked After Reviews, Chairing of Child Protection Meetings. However there are inherent weaknesses with only having one person who is familiar with the LADO system e.g. contingency planning for sickness, annual leave and resignation.

Private Fostering
A Private Fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (that is to say without the involvement of the local authority), for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled), by someone other than a parent or close relative, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. Private Foster Carers may be from the extended family, such as a cousin or great aunt, or they may be a friend of the family or other non-relative, such as the parents of the child's friend. A person who is a close relative of the child, as defined by the Children Act 1989 (a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether by full or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step-parent) will **not** be a Private Foster Carer.

The annual report for Private Fostering within Torbay can be downloaded here

Serious Case Review Subgroup

The Serious Case Review (SCR) Subgroup meets every six weeks to discuss referrals, oversee ongoing SCRs and monitor progress on action plans. For the period April 2013 to March 2014 nine meetings were held. Four cases were referred resulting in the commissioning of one SCR. This review is ongoing therefore only limited information can be provided at this stage. The Overview Report will be published by the TSCB once the review is complete.

Revised statutory guidance has introduced greater flexibility about the methodology and processes which may be used in SCRs. Working Together 2013 sets out that:

> "LSCBs may use any learning model which is consistent with the principles in this guidance, including the systems methodology recommended by Professor Munro".

There are a number of different systems models is use, including the Social Care Institute for Excellence's (SCIE's) Learning Together systems model which the Board has utilisied for the SCR commissioned this year.

The Subgroup has continued to monitor overview actions arising from previous SCR, at March 2014 they were monitoring actions from four Serious Case Reviews:

	Number of actions	% Red	% Amber	% Green
JS	42	7%	0%	93%
C18	20	10%	25%	65%
C25	4	0%	100%	0%
C26	9	0%	44%	56%

Training, Learning & Development Subgroup

Across 2013/14, 40 training events/ forums were available to the children and young people's workforce in Torbay.

This included two Best Practice Forums which have been introduced into the training programme. These have received a positive response.

There have been 4 'The Child's Journey' events across this time period and these continue to be well attended (an i-learn module has also been created to enable greater accessibility or a refresh for learners who have attended the class based session).

Within 2013/14 the training, learning and development sub group separated from the Devon Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB)training and had the task of re-establishing the training programme, this has been delivered by Children's Services on behalf of the TSCB with the support of the sub group. Where possible the sub group have used the contracts already used by the DSCB (commissioned by Devon County Council (DCC)) and have continued to work with their workforce development team to ensure as far as possible parity across the Devon and Torbay borders. Therefore on the whole most courses are the same.

The Independent Chair of the Torbay Safeguarding Children's Board commissioned the Training Sub-group to complete a review of Safeguarding Training in November 2013. The request was informed by a Board development session held in June 2013 where Board members identified training as a key priority. In commissioning the review there was a recognition that there was a good range of training on offer and that there were strengths in the current system that could be built on. A Training and Practice Development Strategy was then created following this review.

The following principles were distilled from the feedback and create the building blocks on which the strategy has been developed:

- multi-agency
- personal accountability
- organisational commitment
- flexible and adaptable
- sharing best practice and current training offering - build on what we already have got
- value the contribution of all organisations
- quality assured

The Training and Practice Development Strategy will be completed in 2014 and the Training, Learning and Development subgroup will be creating a work plan to sit behind the strategy to ensure its implementation.

Peninsula Subgroup Updates

Peninsula Child Sexual Exploitation Steering Group

The Peninsula CSE steering Group has in the past twelve months reviewed the Peninsula protocol and re-written the document based on feedback from professionals, LSCB, CSE strategic groups and members of the Peninsula steering group. The following improvements have been made:

- Uses the Association of Chief Police Officers definition of CSE
- Incorporates 'Missing'
- Sets Objectives for the Steering Group
- Provides a standard Terms of Reference for the Strategic Group
- Provides a data set
- Provides clear guidance on information sharing
- Sets responsibilities regarding training and awareness
- Provides direction on the use of risk assessment 'tools'
- Provides clear referral pathways
- Provides flexibility for each Local Authority to deliver CSE and Missing provision based on their needs.

The protocol was presented for a final consultation at the Peninsula Steering Group on 29th April 2014 and the completed document has been presented to the four LSCB's for approval.
Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation, (MACSE) forums are now operational across the Peninsula. Theses forums are multi-agency, identifying and managing CSE risk to children at an early stage. The focus for the steering group has been establishing the membership and operational activity of these groups which has now been achieved. Over the next 12 months the group will be reviewing the impact these groups have on protecting children by collecting and reviewing data sets, auditing operational activity and seeking feedback from children.

Return home interview teams continue to see all missing reports and complete return home interviews where the case is not open to social care. Part of the return home interview includes the completion of a CSE risk indicator, allowing for escalation of any concerns.

Strategic CSE forums continue to translate and implement actions from the Peninsula Steering group into local areas. They develop and monitor the MACSE's ensuring good practice is shared and improvements are made. The chairs of the strategic group are members of the Peninsula Steering group.

The focus of the Peninsula CSE Steering group over the next 12 months will be review how each local authority area is delivering against the Peninsula CSE strategy under four categories, prevention, safeguarding, bringing Offenders to justice and raising public confidence.

The four strategic chairs will be asked to review the current strategy and develop their action plans for each LSCB against the strategy or inform the Peninsula Group where the strategy needs review to ensure it meets current needs.

Peninsula Child Death Overview Panel

Number of Torbay child death notifications in 2013-14:
During April 2013 – March 2014, there were 10 notifications of child death in the Torbay area. This represented 10.8% of the deaths in the South West Peninsula. Five of these required a rapid response.

Panel Case Reviews of Torbay Child Deaths in 2013-14
Seven Torbay child deaths from aggregated data from previous years were reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP In 2013-14. This constituted 9% of the CDOP cases reviewed in 2013-14 in the South West Peninsula. Of these reviewed deaths, three were expected and four were unexpected. There was a rapid response in one of these cases. The majority of cases (5) were under five years of age. Two of the cases had or were currently subject to a safeguarding plan. In three cases, there had been occurrence of domestic violence. A serious case review has been undertaken in respect to one of the cases. Two additional cases were fast-tracked (NAI) for urgent primary CDOP review in 2013-14.

Particular issues coming from the CDOP reviews have been

- Awareness of road safety by foreign students
- Consistency of advice re the resuscitation of young infants
- Gaps in provision of paediatric pathology
- Use of skeletal surveys for children under two who die
- Advice to Mother and Bay units about safe sleeping arrangements
- Risk analysis of expectant mothers with low BMI
- Advice to holiday let landlords re swimming pool safety and inclusion on environmental health website
- Hospital action plan assurance in relation to co-sleeping death
- Apparent Suicide and mental health referral / provision of services
- Children's treatment escalation plan where there is palliative care

In the forthcoming year, Torbay along with the three other Safeguarding Boards in the far south west are reviewing the arrangements for commissioning the CDOP service.

Peninsula Online Safety Group

The South West Peninsula LSCBs Child Online Safety Strategic Group seeks assurance from partner agencies for compliance with the group's implementation plan, including dissemination of multi-agency guidance and procedures.

Mobile phones and the Internet play a central part of children's lives today, and should be a core element of any strategy for keeping children safe from harm. Plymouth LSCB facilitates and leads the Peninsula LSCB group promoting Child Online Safety (COS). The group includes leading statutory and voluntary agencies, representatives from schools and youth services, and expert consultancy from the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL)

Through 2013 the group concentrated on issues relating to the safeguarding of Children in Care or Adopted, and has ensured strong safeguards for children who are in care, fostered or adopted. It is widely recognised that the Internet has changed the boundaries of privacy" and "confidentiality", and new procedures are now in place to ensure protection of a child's identity, and the professional identity of associated practitioners. Concern has focussed upon the use of Facebook, as there are no legal controls on access by children pre- or post-13 years of age.

Schools have been advised on their increased responsibilities for their pupils, where any proven lack of safeguarding of the child's on-line activities could lead to legal action against that school, or individual professionals.

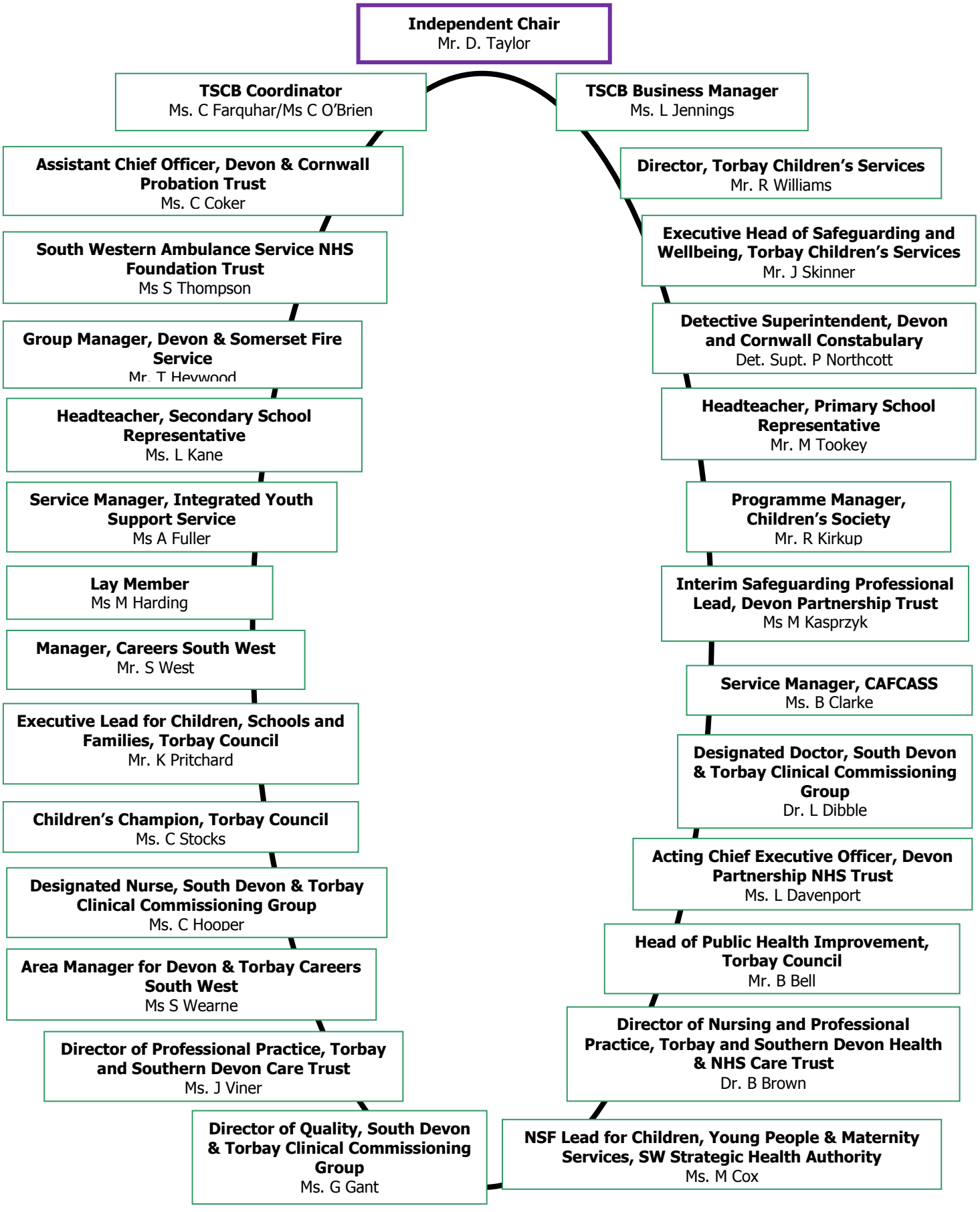
In February 2014 the group co-ordinated European Safer Internet Day (SID) for the fourth year, with significant events across the Peninsula. In Torquay, the Virtually S@fe project featured on the BBC3 Documentary 'Porn – what's the harm?'[1]. The Virtually S@fe project received a commendation in The MJ 2014 Awards. A special film on the dangers of Sexting[2] created by local young people was broadcast (http://www.torbayvirtuallysafe.co.uk/a-parents-guide-to-sexting/) reaching 30,000 people.

Plymouth University hosted the PSCB's event for secondary schools, with Year 9 students attending workshops for advanced online safety guidance, and sharing their experiences and suggestions for future safeguarding policies.

The PSCB ensured the establishment of strong links between the Group and the Missing & Child Sexual Exploitation strategic group formed by Peninsula LSCBs towards the end of 2013. As a result, the requirement for practitioners to understand risky online behaviours of children and young people was included in the first publication of the Peninsula Protocol for multi-agency safeguarding practice to tackle sexual exploitation, and was commended by the National Working Group tackling CSE in March 2014.

[1] http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b040n2ph
[2] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CoO3fjOGkM

Appendix 1: TSCB Membership as at March 2014



Appendix 2: Attendance at Board Meetings