

Member's Safeguarding Assurance Sessions

Introduction

Safeguarding children is not a simple task, requiring as it does, the careful coordination of both a complex array of information and professionals. Ensuring a child's needs are clearly understood and risks are managed is at the heart of this process which requires constant vigilance and engagement with children, parents, carers and other professionals. To support Member's Corporate Parenting and governance responsibilities, Children's Services is proposing to provide a series of Member Quality Assurance Sessions. Each session will provide Members with an opportunity to learn more about how Children Services works and what it achieves for the Children and Young People of Torbay. Over time, these sessions will give the opportunity for all Members to see every major aspect of the 'child's journey' from the first point of contact right through to the care leavers service.

Overview of the Safeguarding Assurance Session

A rota of sessions will be established for all Members to follow the child's journey. Each session will give a small group of Members the opportunity to gain an overview of the performance and quality of each service. During the first half of the session links will also be made between current outcomes and those expected from each service as described by Ofsted. The session will then conclude with the relevant Head of Service along with their Practice Managers taking Members through the processes their services follow and how the teams work.

The first scheduled sessions will start in Jan 2015 with the Multi-Agency-Safeguarding Hub. This session will be followed by others focusing on Early Help, Early Years, Child Protection and Children In Need, Children Looked After (covering Children with Disabilities, Adoption and Fostering), Special Education Needs and Integrated Youth Support Services (covering youth offending and care leavers).

This is what we are proposing for the structure of the assurance (half) days:

Briefing session with Executive Head & Performance Lead: Members provided with briefing document examining performance and quality information. High level review of performance, reflecting on Ofsted descriptors and opportunity to ask questions.	30 – 45mins
Visit to service with relevant Head of Service: Opportunity for Service Heads and Practice Managers to talk through the process they follow and how the team the works. Discussion of current opportunities and plans for the future.	1 – 2+ hours (depending on scope of the service)