

Thursday, 11 April 2024

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
SUB-BOARD**

A meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board**
will be held on

Monday, 22 April 2024

commencing at **9.30 am**

The meeting will be held in the Banking Hall, Castle Circus entrance on the left
corner of the Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Board

Councillor Law (Chairwoman)

Councillor Fellows
Councillor Nicolaou

Councillor Tolchard
Councillor Twelves (Vice-Chair)

Co-opted Members of the Board

Laura Colman, Primary Parent Governor Representative

Jo Hunter, Church of England Diocese

A Healthy, Happy and Prosperous Torbay

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Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk - www.torbay.gov.uk

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-BOARD AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Board.
2. **Minutes** (Pages 4 - 8)
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board held on 19 February 2024.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
 - a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.
 - b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

For reference: Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

(**Please Note:** If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)
4. **Urgent Items**
To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.
5. **Sufficiency Strategy and Permanence for Children** (To Follow)
To receive an update on the Sufficiency Strategy and Permanence for children, (unaccompanied asylum seeking children) UASC and fostering.
6. **Schools Capital Programme Review** (Pages 9 - 12)
To receive an update on the Schools Capital Programme, particularly the Spires and Homelands PFI (Public Finance Initiative) which will be one of the first school PFI in the country to reach expiry in 2027.

7. **Child Friendly Torbay** (Pages 13 - 32)
To review the work with UNICEF to be a Child Friendly Torbay.
8. **Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Inspection Written Statement of Action Update** (Pages 33 - 38)
1. To receive update on the progress of the implementation of the action plan arising from the Written Statement of Action following the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs (SEND) Joint Inspection.
 2. To receive an update from the SEND Governance Executive on the progress of SEND moving forward, including the progress made towards a shared approach across the county.
9. **Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)**
To receive a verbal update on the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan.
10. **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2024/2025** (Pages 39 - 48)
To approve the initial Work Programme for Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board for 2024/2025.
11. **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker** (Pages 49 - 51)
To receive an update on the implementation of the actions of the Sub-Board and consider any further actions required (as set out in the submitted action tracker).

**Minutes of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny
Sub-Board**

19 February 2024

-: Present :-

Councillor Law (Chairwoman)

Councillors Fellows, Nicolaou, Tolchard and Twelves (Vice-Chair)

Co-opted Members

Jo Hunter, Church of England Diocesan

Non-voting Co-opted Members

Mike Cook, Voluntary and Community Sector and Alternative Provider (Education)
Ian Stevens, Devon and Cornwall Police

(Also in attendance: Councillors Bye and David Thomas)

22. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Hayley Costar (Non-voting Co-opted Member who was represented by Ian Stevens).

The Chairwoman welcomed Jo Hunter to the Sub-Board as the new Church of England Diocesan Co-opted Member.

23. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Sub-Board held on 7 and 18 December 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairwoman.

24. Virtual School Annual Report 2022/2023

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services – Councillor Bye and the Divisional Director Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – Rachael Williams outlined the submitted Virtual School Annual Report for 2022/2023, which also included information on new extended duties in respect of Children in Need (CiN) and responded to the following:

- how much focus was given to social and emotional need rather than academic focus at Key Stage 1;
- was there capacity for the Dr Val Brooks speech and language training to be rolled out to all leads within schools and early years settings;

- one of the case studies referred to them having 10 social workers and more than 13 placements, what assurance could be given that this had improved;
- what action was being taken to address multiple long term suspensions;
- where was the voice of the child in the Annual Report;
- how had the CiN (Children in Need) money been used and would future reports include data relating to the extended duties;
- would the data for CiN separate out the data for cared for children;
- does the Council have sufficient capacity to increase the number of children they would have overview of under the new extended duties;
- a large number of cared for children were educated outside of Torbay, where were they being educated and what was the reason for this; and
- what was the current time taken to move a child into care and how was this process managed.

Members acknowledged the great progress the Virtual School had made since its introduction and thanked those involved for their hard work.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Director of Children's Services be requested to arrange an all Member briefing on the extended duties for the Virtual School to enable them to understand the implications as part of their role as Corporate Parents; and
2. that the Director of Children's Services be recommended to ensure the voice of the child is included in future Virtual School Annual Reports as well as an update on the pathways for the extended duties for the Virtual School.

25. School Mental Health Programme

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services – Councillor Bye outlined the submitted report which provided an update on the school mental health programme and responded to the following:

- how long was the funding guarantee to support the programme and what measures were place if the funding was withdrawn;
- not all schools were able to join the programme, what was the reason for this and how were schools selected;
- interventions were crucial to prevent children needing to be referred to formal Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), what circumstances would a child not be accepted and what happens to those children (a written response would be provided to the Sub-Board);
- were one to ones held in school outside of core time;
- would it be possible for all schools to be covered by the programme and what timescale could this be achieved;
- was there data from participants to measure if the programme was working;
- what was the overall school population and how did the programme ensure it was supporting the most children;
- what was the difference between settings and schools;

- were the workshops held within schools and were other schools able to access these workshops; and
- were other approaches used in addition to cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT).

Members acknowledged the positive work being supported through the school mental health programme and welcomed the impact this was having such as children talking about becoming mental health ambassadors in schools to help their peers and providing resources and videos that could be used across all schools.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the outcomes framework for the mental health in schools programme be presented to a future meeting of the Sub-Board with the Torbay Lead for the Mental Health Team being invited to attend (2024/2025); and
2. that the Cabinet be recommended to request the Director of Children's Services to promote the work in schools around mental health programmes and support to families and carers.

26. Family Hub Sustainability and Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Members formally noted the submitted report on the Family Hub Sustainability and Holiday Activity and Food Programme which had been presented to the meeting of the Sub-Board held on 18 December 2023 but had not been able to be formally considered as the meeting was not quorate.

Members suggested the merit of the Sub-Board and other Councillors visiting the Family Hubs so that they can understand how they work.

Resolved (unanimously):

That a visit be arranged to the Torquay Family Hub for all Councillors and Members of the Children and Young People's Sub-Board.

27. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Children's Service Continuous Improvement Plan 2022/25

Members formally noted the submitted report on the progress of the implementation of the Children's Continuous Improvement Plan 2022/2025 which had been presented to the meeting of the Sub-Board held on 18 December 2023 but had not been able to be formally considered as the meeting was not quorate.

28. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

The Sub-Board noted the contents of the submitted action tracker. An update on the actions arising from the Spotlight Review on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) would be published on the website after the meeting.

Tanny Stobart, Play Torbay provided a verbal update on the work being undertaken in the community to address concerns around anti-social behaviour in and around Kings Ash. Members noted the success of bringing together the community and key stakeholders to create a new Youth Hub and a shack to provide food to families in need.

29. Exclusion of press and public

Prior to consideration of the item in Minute 30 the press and public were formally excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

30. Children's Services Self-Assessment

Members considered the submitted exempt report which set out the draft Self-Assessment on an annual position of the performance of Children's Services and had been prepared in advance of the annual engagement meeting with Ofsted. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services – Councillor Bye and the Divisional Director of Safeguarding Torbay Children's Services – Becky Thompson responded to the following:

- were the Police seeing an improvement and benefits of joint working;
- what support and supervision were given to staff;
- the report referred to housing, how many families were being housed using funding from Children's Services rather than through Adults Temporary Accommodation Budgets;
- when would the work start at the Acorn Centre;
- what action was being taken to reduce the number of children on plan for a second time;
- what action was being taken to address the numbers of children with disabilities having supervision within timescale;
- what was the reason for the figures relating to initial health assessments and what action was being taken to address this;
- what sort of action was being taken to promote work experience for care experienced young people and to encourage more businesses to offer work experience;
- what was the reason for the low figures for return home interviews and what action was being taken to address this; and
- what was the reason for the increase in youth justice service numbers and what action was being taken to address this.

Members acknowledged the recognition and importance of the lived experience of the children and their families across the whole of Children's Services and the restorative practice in operation.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Director of Finance be requested to include the statistics on families in temporary accommodation within future quarterly Budget Monitoring

Reports to show the numbers and how much is being funded from the Adults Temporary Accommodation Budget and how much is being funded from the Children's Services Budget to make this more transparent; and

2. that an update on the Youth Improvement Fund be presented to a future meeting of the Sub-Board.

Chairwoman

SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Children and Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Board Report

22 April 2024

This report provides an update on the Torbay Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI) project and the Schools' Capital Programme.

TORBAY SCHOOLS PFI:

Torbay Council has a PFI contract in place for two schools in Torquay, The Spires College (secondary) and Homelands Primary. The contract expires in October 2027 and as the IPA recommends that Local Authorities start the process at least 5 years before expiry, Officers have begun to map out the expiry plan for the next 3 and a half years.

Torbay PFI is one of the first school PFI projects in the South West to reach expiry. As a result, both the IPA and the DfE are offering extensive support to Torbay to ensure a successful handover process. If the handover is not carefully managed there could be both financial and reputational penalties for the Council.

There are several workstreams involved in the expiry process, these are as follows:

1. Expiry Management

Torbay LA is well advanced with this activity. With the support of the IPA, Officers have commissioned a high-level contract review with further legal involvement required in the near future. An Expiry Plan and a Resource Plan have been compiled to identify investment needed and the key milestones over the next few years.

2. Governance

A PFI Project Board has been established under the Children's Services Transformation Board. Membership includes Finance and HR. The Board meet regularly to review the Expiry Plan and the risk register, identify resource requirements and map progress against key milestones.

3. Stakeholder Planning

Officers are holding regular meetings with the PFI Provider and the schools to ensure all parties are aware of responsibilities and are involved with key milestone planning. This workstream will also look at the future staffing requirements for the schools post-handover including any TUPE arrangements.

4. Expiry Condition

One of the critical workstreams is ensuring that the assets are handed over to the schools in good condition and in accordance with the clauses set out in the contract. Under the contract, there will be three sets of condition surveys required in the lead up to handover. The DfE have undertaken the first set of surveys in September 2023. Officers are currently working with the DfE and the PFI Provider to ensure that all issues highlighted in those surveys are addressed. The second set of surveys is due to be undertaken in October 2024 (3 years prior to expiry). These will be instructed by the LA using survey parameters agreed with the IPA. A final set of surveys will be then undertaken just before the expiry date.

Negotiations with the PFI Provider to rectify any issues identified will be critical to a successful handover. The current relationship between Torbay Officers and the PFI Provider is collaborative and effective but there is likely to be challenge during the process that will need to be carefully managed.

5. Data Gathering

Officers are working with the PFI Provider and the schools to establish what information is required to (a) manage the assets post expiry (asset management system, statutory compliance logs, as built drawings, O&M manuals etc), and to (b) specify and procure the future services (staff numbers/types, cost base, TUPE/pensions, back office

functions, helpdesk, equipment, IT/systems etc.). HR for the Council and the schools are involved to ensure that the staffing structure post TUPE is appropriate and to support the TUPE process at that point.

6. Future Services

Officers will need to commission a high-level commercial strategy to set out the anticipated direction of future services strategy, namely are the assets still fit for purpose going forward, are the future FM services likely to be different in any way to the existing service. This workstream will also need to consider any implications of academisation either pre or post expiry.

SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The programme consists of a variety of projects, ranging from works to provide additional school places and improvements, to essential and planned maintenance.

PRIMARY

St Michael's Academy Free School Paignton

St Michael's Academy is a new "Free School" which is being managed, funded, and delivered by the DfE. The school actually opened in September 2021 in temporary accommodation with the expectation it would move into its new premises Spring 2022. Unfortunately, this project has experienced unforeseen delays due to the collapse of the main contractor, MIDAS. Officers are meeting the DfE weekly to gather updates and ensure the project is being progressed. The DfE recently entered into contract with a new completion contractor, ISG. The permanent/new accommodation is expected to be completed in Summer 2025. Until then the school will remain in temporary accommodation. All current and prospective parents are being kept up to date with the situation. There are no resource implications or risks for the LA as its contribution was to provide the site for the school which is complete.

Windmill Primary School / Inglewood

The conditional approval from DfE for a second free school for Paignton has been withdrawn due to a fall in demand for primary school places across Torbay. A site for a new school is still secure through a S106 agreement for the Inglewood development however the need for a school would need to be confirmed and the land requested within the next 5/6 years. Officers are maintaining a watching brief to see if, and when, a new school is required. If primary demand increases then the LA would need to re-submit the free school application or alternatively would need to fund the capital.

Primary numbers across Torbay remain low although there are still pockets of high demand, particularly in the Western corridor of Paignton. Officers are monitoring need in this area and will consider options for expansion as required and subject to the resources available.

SECONDARY

St Cuthbert Mayne – Phases 1 & 2

This capital project, funded through the LAs Basic Need allocation, was to facilitate the school taking bulge classes between 2021 and 2025. Both phases are now complete and the school have seen a significant improvement in their school estate and an increase in pupil numbers over the last few years.

Secondary numbers in Torbay remain high but the higher demand is temporary and is being managed through bulge classes and through schools agreeing to accept numbers above PAN as this is more sustainable than permanent expansion. No further capital investment in secondary school places is expected in the short to medium term.

SPECIALIST PROVISION

Higher Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA)

In March 2022, Torbay was allocated £2.67m to support the provision of new places and improve existing provision for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities or requiring alternative provision. The funding covered a 2-year period, 2022-2024. Investment has been focused on supporting all schools with developing and enhancing their existing provision. The table below shows some examples of where the funding has been used to enhance provision:

Cockington (primary provision)	£40,000
Brixham College	£200,000
STEPS at Paignton Academy	£750,000
Combe Pafford (match funding)	£40,000
Schools Funding Opportunity focused on Graduated Response	£100,000
Barton Hill Academy - Development of Outdoor Learning Environment	£35,000
Watcombe Primary School - Create an alternative high-needs provision incorporating outdoor learning experiences.	£41,500

As of April 2024, there remains an available balance of approximately £1.6m of the original grant that has not yet been allocated to schemes and is set aside to support the strategic delivery of SEND across Torbay in accordance with Council priorities. The LA has also received a further allocation of £2m to be allocated in 2024-25. A Strategic Working Group will be looking at how this funding can support the wider objectives of the SEND Sufficiency Review.

Paignton Academy STEPs & SEN Provision

STEPS is an enhanced resource provision catering for secondary pupils with ASD. The provision is run by Paignton Academy, part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) and is the only secondary provision of this type within the local area. STEPs is currently located approximately 1.5 miles from the main school site at QED Community Centre. Managing a provision based off site is having a detrimental impact on service delivery with logistic issues and lack of facilities. The pupils attending the provision have fewer opportunities for integration and miss access to wider facilities such as sport centres, libraries, and social spaces.

The LA and the Trust agree that the only solution to address the ongoing service issues and ensure the provision remains open is to relocate it to the main Academy site. To facilitate the relocation of STEPs, the Academy requires sufficient fit for purpose accommodation to be re-provided on its Borough Road site. The provision requires dedicated office space, therapy space, one to one spaces and toilet facilities. To support this relocation, the LA has allocated £750,000 of the HNPCA to this scheme.

To ensure value for money and maximise the capital investment, this project has been aligned with the Trust's strategic vision for the Academy. Rather than treat the relocation in isolation, the Trust has taken the opportunity to review and reconfigure its existing accommodation to better fit its service delivery needs and they are contributing £500,000 towards the total cost.

This has resulted in a two-phase capital project.

- Phase 1 will be the refurbishment of existing library area into a suitable environment for an enhanced resource unit for the relocation of STEPs.
- Phase 2 will consist of the demolition of 2 condemned mobiles and the building of a new block with 2 purpose-built spaces to accommodate PAs existing onsite SEND provision. The academy's library will then move into the space vacated by the onsite SEND unit.

The entire project is being managed by the Council in collaboration with the TRSUT. The works are currently out to tender and the expected start on site is early Summer 2024. Phase 1 will be completed by September 2024 and Phase 2 will be completed by September 2025.

LA Repairs & Maintenance Programme

This is a rolling programme of essential repairs and maintenance projects at LA maintained schools. The LA currently has a carry forward of £342,278 from previous years and an allocation of £348,883 for the 2024-25 financial year. Officers have reviewed recent condition surveys to identify the next priorities to be funded, this includes projects which reduce school's carbon emissions supporting the Council's pledge to become carbon neutral.

Proposed works included in the first phase of this programme and to start this summer are:

School	Agreed Budget	Proposed Works
Mayfield BXM Chestnut	£30,000	To enclose the heating distribution throughout the site & cover panel radiators with low surface temperature panels
	£11,000	To bring the electrical wiring up to current regulations & address EICR defects
Mayfield PTN Occombe House	£10,000	To implement various gas works to make the site compliant
	£35,000	To rationalise redundant pipework to reduce risks of legionella
Mayfield TQY	£20,000	Works to address the bowing in external masonry
	£16,000	To bring the electrical wiring up to current regulations & address EICR defects
	£70,000	To replace the air handling unit in the hydrotherapy pool area with a heat recovery unit to address temperature & humidity issues
Sherwell Valley Primary	£15,000	To address external emergency lighting issues throughout the site & replace exit boxes for all blocks
	£15,000	To review fire doors throughout the site & address shortfalls
	£20,000	To refurbish Year 3 and 4 boy's toilets
Watcombe Primary	£6,000	To install Manual Call points throughout school linked to fire system
	£12,000	To rationalise and improve electrical installations throughout school
	£12,000	Match funding to support school's installation of solar panels
White Rock Primary	£70,000	To replace boiler in Block N with heat source pump
	£8,000	To install emergency lighting & address electrical issues
General	£5,000	To design and undertake feasibility of new carbon neutral heating system for entire school site in readiness for Salix bid submission

The remaining funding will be held to address any unforeseen breakdowns or works that may be needed during the year, particularly during the winter.

For further information on any of these projects, or the Children's Services Capital Programme, please contact:

Clare Talbot

Education Team – Pride & Place

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Meeting: Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 22nd April 2024

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Child Friendly Torbay

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cllr Nick Bye, Lead Member for Childrens Services

Director Contact Details: Anne-Marie Bond, Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report has been prepared to provide members of the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the 'Child Friendly Torbay' programme.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 Following the submission of a successful 'Expression of Interest' Torbay Council have recently become part of an ambitious partnership with children's charity the UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) to support us in becoming a 'Child Friendly' location.
- 2.2 Torbay Council is now one of 9 other local authorities taking part in UNICEF UK's Child Friendly Cities & Communities programme, which will see us put children's rights at the heart of all our work for children and young people as we work towards international recognition as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly Community.
- 2.3 The programme is part of Child Friendly Cities – a global UNICEF initiative launched in 1996 that reaches close to 30 million children in 40 countries.
- 2.4 The programme aims to create cities and communities in the UK where all children – whether they are living in care, using a Family Hub or simply visiting their local library – have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives.
- 2.5 The first step towards becoming a Child Friendly Community is the 'Discovery Phase', a six-month period during which councillors, council staff, the community, local partner organisations and children and young people will identify six priority areas, or 'badges', to guide our work over the coming years.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That members of the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Board note the contents of this report and identify how they can play an active role in supporting the programme.

Appendices

Appendix 1: UNICEF Prospectus.

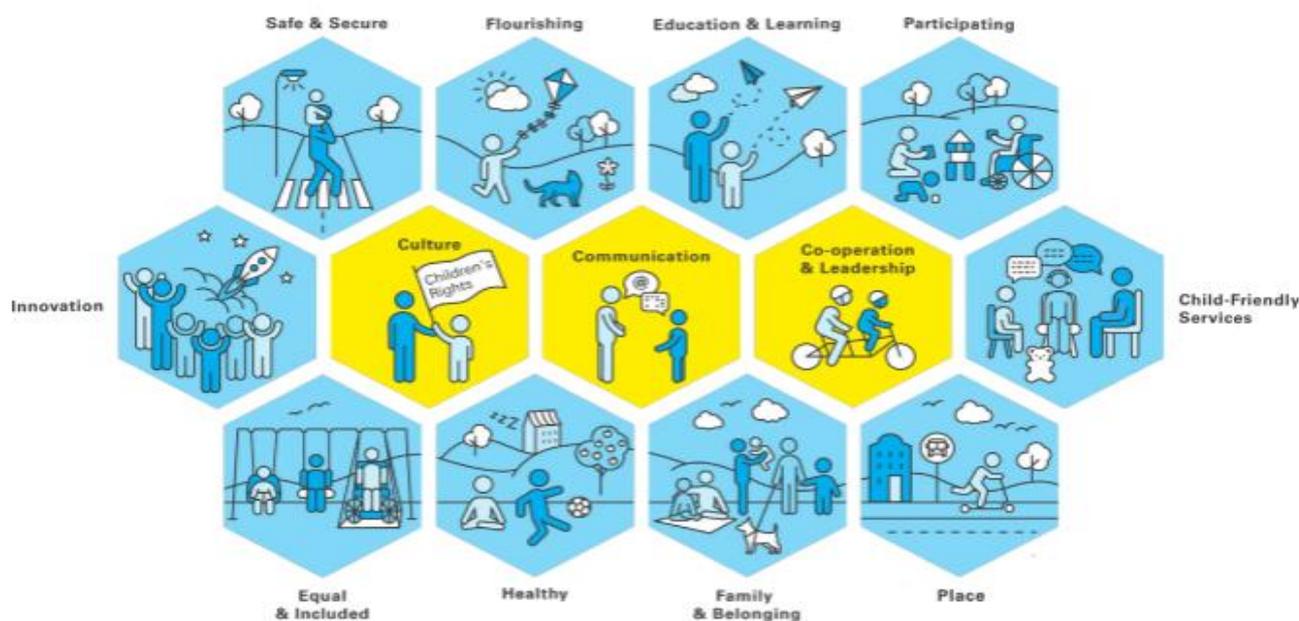
Background Documents

N/A

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As stated above Torbay Council have recently become part of an ambitious partnership with children's charity the UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) to support us in becoming a 'Child Friendly' location.
- 1.2 The programme aims to create cities and communities in the UK where all children – whether they are living in care, using a Family Hub, or simply visiting their local library – have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives.
- 1.3 The first step towards becoming a Child Friendly Community is the 'Discovery Phase', a six-month period during which councillors, council staff, the community, local partner organisations and children and young people will identify six priority areas, or 'badges' (as per the diagram below), to guide our work over the coming years.



- 1.4 Given the extraordinary breadth of children's rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), as well as the wide-ranging responsibilities of local authorities, the CFC programme employs a badge framework which will allow us to focus on defined areas of work during their partnership with UNICEF UK.
- 1.5 There are three foundational badges (yellow) that we must work towards and three thematic badges (blue) that are chosen from a choice of ten.
- 1.6 Torbay Council will work with local children and young people to understand which areas, or 'badges' they think should be prioritised to make Torbay more child-friendly – feeling safe, or staying healthy, for example.

- 1.7 The right of the child to have their views heard and taken seriously, for example, will mean that children will have a say in council decisions – from major policies, to decisions around the care they receive – as well as the opportunity to design local services and spaces.
- 1.8 The work with UNICEF also supports our own Community and Corporate Plan, which outlines our plans for Torbay to be recognised as a child friendly place. We want all residents, including our children and young people, to feel and be safe and to live well within their communities.
- 1.9 Following the ‘Discovery Phase’ Torbay Council will need to show evidence of sustainable progress in the six chosen badges to be recognised as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly Community.
- 1.10 Progress will be closely monitored by an independent panel of experts in human rights, child wellbeing and public services, as well as an advisory board of local children and young people. If recognised as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly City/Community, Torbay Council will join cities and communities in 40 countries taking part in this global programme.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 N/A

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 N/A

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 N/A

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 A full communications plan will be developed for the programme working with both Torbay Council and UNICEF colleagues – this will detail the engagement and consultation activity that needs to take place as the programme progresses.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

- 6.1 N/A

7. Tackling Climate Change

7.1 N/A

8. Associated Risks

8.1 N/A

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	Due to the nature of the programme this will have a positive impact on Children and young people as detailed above.		
People with caring Responsibilities	Due to the nature of the programme this will have a positive impact on Children and young people as detailed above including our young carers		
People with a disability	Due to the nature of the programme this will have a positive impact on Children and young people with a disability.		
Women or men			No differential impact.
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			No differential impact.
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No differential impact.
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No differential impact.

People who are transgendered			No differential impact.
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact.
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			No differential impact.
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			No differential impact.
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			No differential impact.

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 There will be a positive Council Impact should Torbay Council achieve its recognition status as a 'Child Friendly' location.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 There will be a positive community Impact should Torbay Council achieve its recognition status as a 'Child Friendly' location.

CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES & COMMUNITIES

PROSPECTUS



CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES & COMMUNITIES IS A UK COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF (UNICEF UK) PROGRAMME THAT WORKS WITH COUNCILS TO PUT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTO PRACTICE.

The programme aims to create cities and communities in the UK where all children – whether they are living in care, using a children's centre, or simply visiting their local library – have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives.

The programme is part of **Child Friendly Cities** – a global UNICEF initiative launched in 1996 that reaches more than 30 million children in close to 50 countries.

In the UK, we provide training based on the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** and support councils, their partners, and children and young people, as they work together on an ambitious three-to-five-year journey towards international recognition as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly City or Community.

For more information visit unicef.org.uk/cfc

PART OF UNICEF'S GLOBAL



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CFC IS PART OF THE CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES INITIATIVE – A GLOBAL UNICEF PROGRAMME THAT REACHES MORE THAN 30 MILLION CHILDREN IN CLOSE TO 50 COUNTRIES

1 WHO WE ARE



Child Friendly Cities & Communities (CFC) is a UNICEF UK programme that works with councils to put children's rights into practice.

Every child has the right to grow up in an environment where they feel safe to play, learn and grow. A place where they have access to public services and where their voice is heard and matters.

- **We support local politicians** to incorporate children's rights into their decision-making, so that the people who make decisions in cities are listening to the children who live there.
- **We train council professionals** who work with children every day – social workers, youth workers etc. – providing the tools they need to put children's rights into practice. We do the same for others who might not realise just how much their decisions affect children's lives – planning or housing officers, comms teams etc.
- **We champion the voices of children and young people** by ensuring their views are given equal weight to adults when decisions are made about the communities they grow up in.

- **And we support councils to engage more meaningfully with children**, especially those who might not usually have their voices heard, so that they can share their priorities for making the city more child-friendly and hold the council to account when it promises change.
- **It's not just councils we work with.** We support councils to bring together their local partners – from the police, fire and health services, community organisations, volunteers, and even transport providers – to work with UNICEF UK, raising awareness of children's rights more widely and putting rights into practice across the entire community.

ABOUT US

The CFC team is led by staff with expertise in human rights, public policy, public administration, social research and extensive senior experience of leading community and organisational development programmes, systems change and the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2 HOW WE WORK



We partner with councils in the UK who wish to work towards international recognition as a **UNICEF UK Child Friendly City or Community**.

Over the course of three to five years, we support them to achieve measurable progress in embedding children's rights across the city or community - building on existing good practice and identifying gaps.

We ask that they make a political and strategic commitment to upholding children's rights and we train their elected members, council staff, and voluntary and statutory partners in a **child rights-based approach** – a practical tool that can be used to weave children's rights into practice and policy.

We support councils to set realistic and focused goals through the **CFC badge framework**, which allows children and young people to codetermine where a council's attention should be directed.

And, as they embark on their **CFC journey**, trained in a child rights-based approach and with a strong understanding of the priorities for local children and young people, we're there to guide, challenge and champion at every stage.

9 CITIES AND COMMUNITIES TAKING PART

We are currently working with Aberdeen, Cardiff, Derry & Strabane, Lambeth (London), Liverpool, Nottingham, Redbridge (London), Southampton and Wokingham

2,000+

PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

Highly interactive and customised training courses are delivered by UNICEF UK child rights and local government experts. Courses are tailored to elected members, professionals, and children and young people, and range from how to put children's rights into practice to carrying out Child Rights Impact Assessments. All courses are currently delivered online.

20+

YEARS PUTTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTO PRACTICE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Our UK programme is based on over 20 years' experience of embedding children's rights into policies, laws, programmes and budgets through the global Child Friendly Cities Initiative.

THE CFC JOURNEY

It takes between three to five years for a candidate city or community to be eligible for recognition.

Once accepted onto the programme, councils move through a four-stage process as set out in the image below.

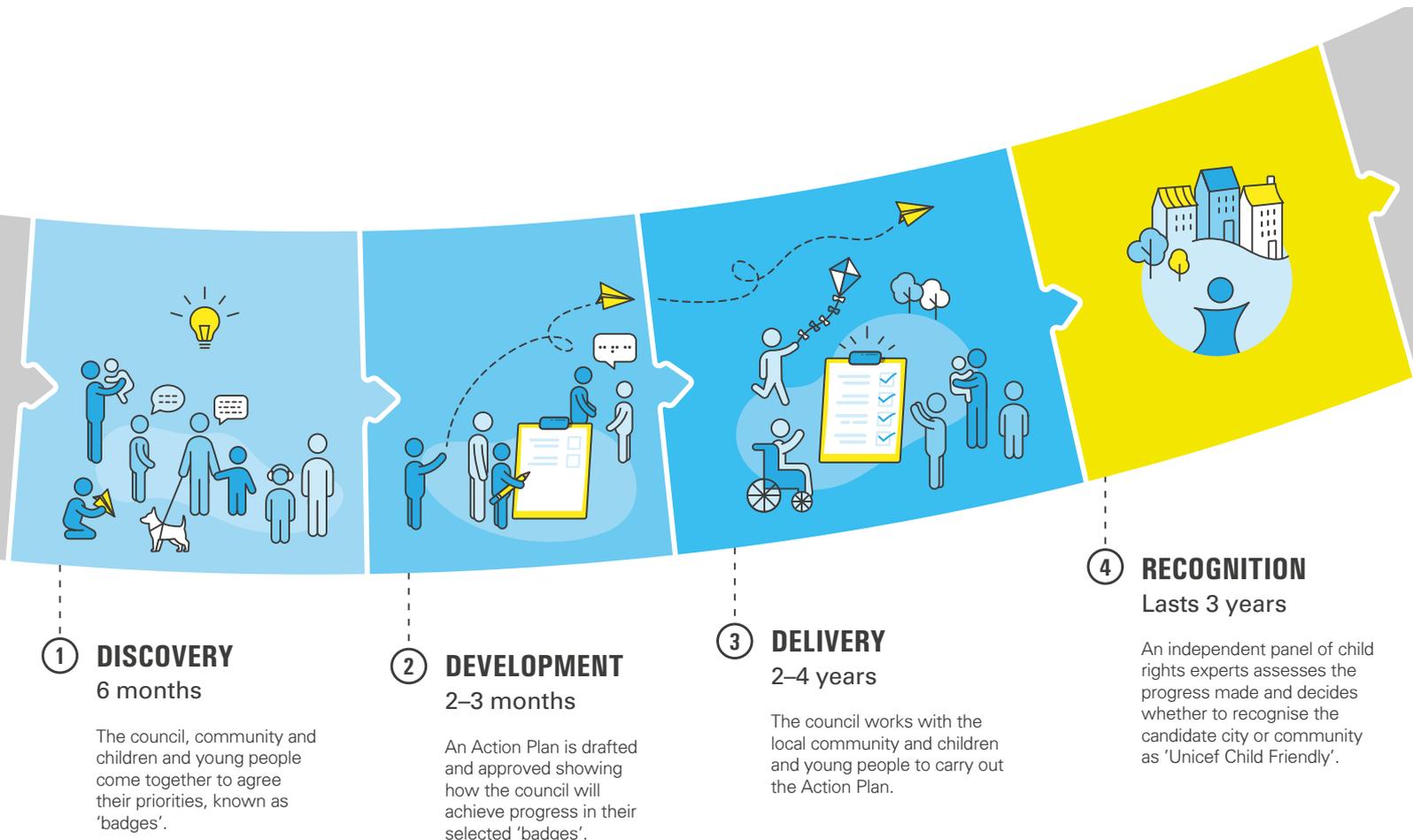
The first is the **Discovery Phase**, during which UNICEF UK begins to deliver expert training in children's rights to local politicians, council staff, partners such as the police, health services, commissioned services, voluntary organisations, and children and young people.

The council also comes together with the local community, including children and young people, at a 'Discovery Day' to see where things are going well for children and where things need to change.

Based on this training and analysis, the city or community chooses six priority areas – or 'badges' (see next page) – and, with support from UNICEF UK, drafts a realistic Action Plan during the **Development Phase**, setting out how they will work towards achieving progress in their badges over the following two to four years.

Councils must show sustainable progress in all six of their badges during the **Delivery Phase** to gain **Recognition** as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly City or Community.

Recognition lasts for three years.



THE CFC BADGES

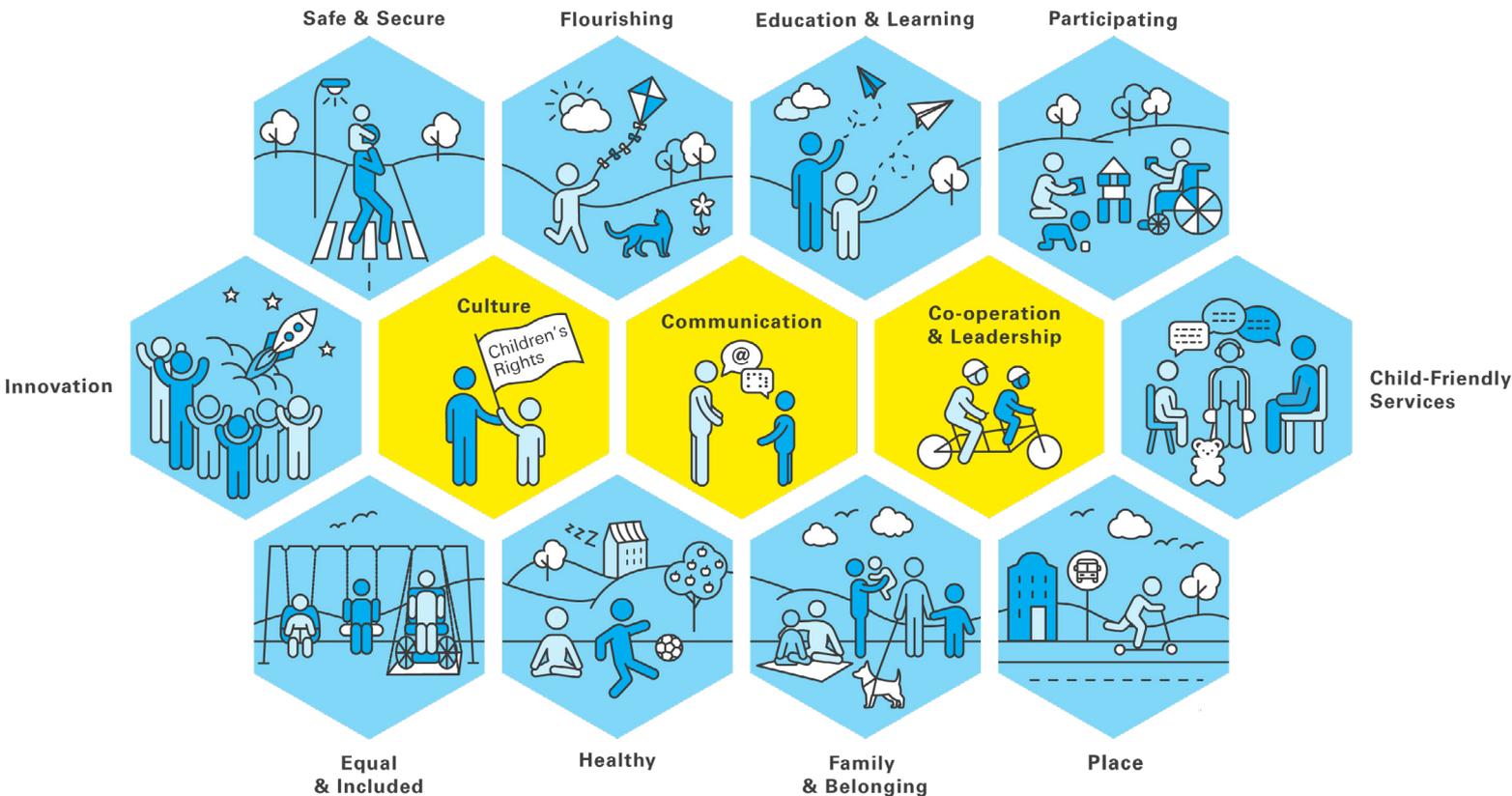
Given the extraordinary breadth of children’s rights as set out in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, as well as the wide-ranging responsibilities of local authorities, the CFC programme employs a badge framework which allows councils to focus on defined areas of work during their partnership with UNICEF UK.

There are three **foundational badges (yellow)** that all councils must work towards and three **thematic badges (blue)** that are chosen from a choice of ten. The thematic badge choices are heavily influenced by the views of local children and young people gathered during the **Discovery Phase** of the programme, and so represent their priorities for making the city or community more child-friendly.

A CHILD RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO THE BADGES

Because all cities and communities are different – and all choose their own badges – no two UNICEF UK Child Friendly Cities or Communities will look the same. Some may prioritise creating free or affordable safe spaces where children can play, while others may focus on tackling mental health and ensuring local health services are child-friendly.

Yet all UNICEF UK Child Friendly Cities or Communities, no matter which badges they choose, take a **child rights-based approach** to their work (see next page).



A CHILD RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

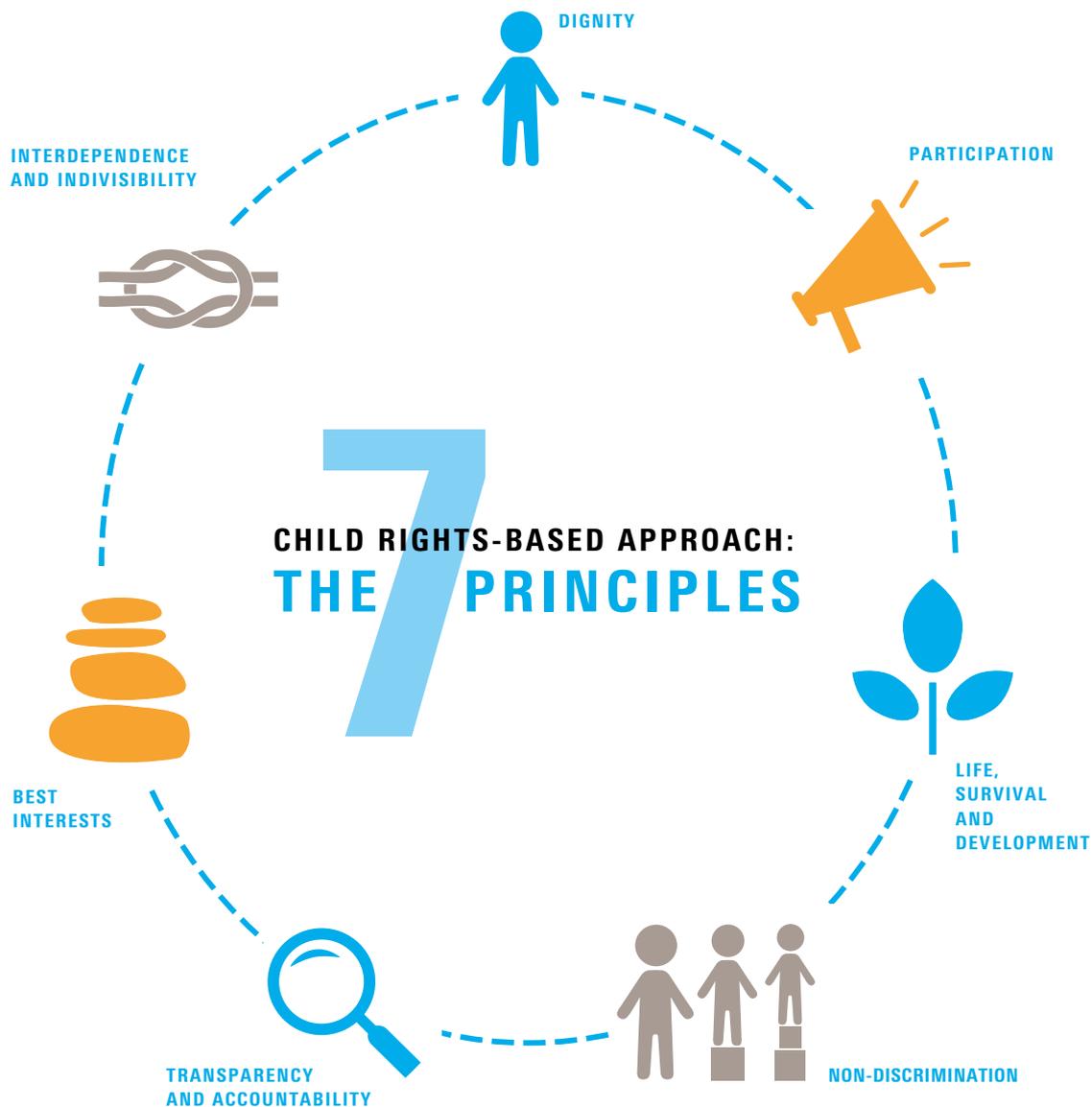
A **child rights-based approach** sits at the heart of the CFC programme and is a practical tool that can be used by anyone making decisions that directly or indirectly impact children – from where to build a playground to deciding on budgets or a child’s care.

It brings together the four general principles of the **UNCRC** (best interests; life, survival and development; non-discrimination; participation) and three general human rights principles (dignity; interdependence and

indivisibility; transparency and accountability).

Throughout their CFC journey, politicians, council staff, commissioned services and local partners receive expert UNICEF UK training on a child rights-based approach: what it means and how they can apply it to their work.

Using this approach is how councils and local partners can ensure decisions are guided by children’s rights, leading to better outcomes for children and young people.



CASE STUDY

“Children’s rights are giving these communities a universal language and an exciting, new, whole-city approach to policy and planning.”

A CHILD-RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO POLICY

UNICEF UK training in Cardiff has led to a radical new approach to drafting its Children and Young People’s Plan.

Children’s rights are the building blocks of this new policy document – with children not just benefiting from the stated vision and ambitions, but driving them.

Children and young people have been supported to voice their frustrations, needs and priorities; encouraged to set the goals and targets of their local plan; and given the tools they need to hold their council to account.

And local partners have been brought on board at the earliest stage – the police, health services, community organisations, volunteers etc. – to understand their role in actioning the Children and Young People’s Plan and embedding children’s rights across the community.

Children’s rights are giving Cardiff a universal language and an exciting, new, whole-city approach to policy and planning – one that brings everyone together to determine and achieve the best interests of every child.

3 WHY PARTNER WITH US

© UNICEF/Jones



Joining this structured, supported and strengths-based programme presents a unique opportunity to work towards international recognition as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly City or Community.

It represents a bold commitment to a new, transformative approach – one in which children’s rights become the main organising framework for policy, programmes and practice.

Across our candidate CFC cities and communities, a child rights-based approach has:

- Helped to identify and protect the most vulnerable.
- Placed children at the decision-making table, with evidence pointing to a direct correlation between positive outcomes for children and young people and the degree to which their views and experiences are known and taken into account.
- Provided compelling guidance for action when funding pressures or competing interests were at play.
- Offered a universal language for conversations across council, statutory, voluntary and community-based organisations.

Now more than ever, this is an exciting opportunity to break new ground, reimagine and build back better not just for, but with, children and young people.

We will underpin your journey with a package of support, tailored to the particular needs and context of your city or community.

This includes:

- UNICEF UK staff time
- High-quality training and capacity building - including in how to mainstream a child rights-based approach independently over time
- Project management support and facilitation
- Technical assistance in the development of plans, policies and strategies
- Mentoring
- Recognition of progress
- Guided use of the CFC logo
- Access to digital and printed resources
- Access to a global UNICEF Child Friendly Cities movement

CASE STUDY

“Offering child-friendly communications and resources as standard, not an afterthought, has become the norm for councils involved in the CFC programme.”

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced councils to rethink the way they deliver services and communicate with residents under extreme circumstances.

Despite these challenges and the urgency to respond, the response to Covid-19 has been notably sensitive to children’s rights in the cities and communities working with UNICEF UK.

In Liverpool, the Director of Children’s Services, Director of Public Health, and the Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills have held regular virtual Q&As with young people, answering

their questions about lockdown, recovery plans and returning to school.

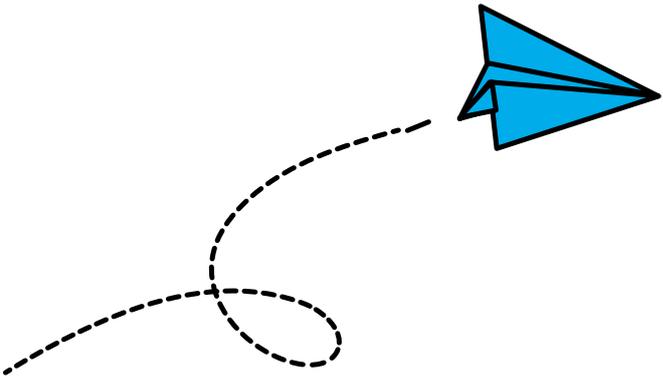
In Cardiff, a child-friendly version of the council’s recovery strategy – using clear terms, images and available in multiple languages – was published to ensure children and young people were receiving the same timely information as adults.

Offering child-friendly communications and resources as standard, not an afterthought, has become the norm for councils involved in the CFC programme, positively impacting the way children hear about and access services.

4 NEXT STEPS



We're looking to work with councils who are ambitious in their local vision for children and young people and ready to join a high-profile partnership with UNICEF UK for a minimum of three years.



Following initial discussions with the CFC team, interested councils are invited to submit an Expression of Interest outlining how they meet UNICEF UK's 12 participation criteria (see next page).

There is an annual fee for councils wishing to join the programme. This fee is calculated on a sliding scale according to a range of factors including the local authority budget, youth population size etc.

UNICEF UK is a registered charity operating on a not-for-profit basis and all income raised through the annual fee goes directly back into resourcing the programme.

Annual programme costs	
Tier 1	£25,000
Tier 2	£30,000
Tier 3	£35,000
Tier 4	£45,000

CONTACT US

To request an Expression of Interest form, or if you have any questions, please contact us and a member of the team will get back to you.

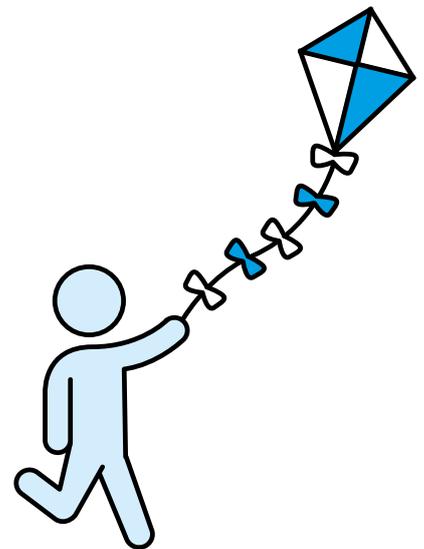
cfc@unicef.org.uk
unicef.uk/cfc

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

Before joining the programme it is important that both UNICEF UK and the council are confident that the city or community is ready to implement this ambitious child rights programme of change.

We therefore ask interested councils to confirm the following:

- 1** Is this the right time for your council and the wider city/community to join the programme?
- 2** Do you have a clear vision of what you hope to achieve for children and young people through participation in the programme?
- 3** Can you build on a pre-existing commitment to child rights and child-centred practice?
- 4** Are you committed to enabling children's ongoing, meaningful participation and forging new ways of supporting children and young people's involvement in local decision-making?
- 5** Are you prepared to take part in a learning programme which requires reflection, experimentation and ongoing data collection and monitoring?
- 6** Is there political commitment to the programme as well as commitment from across the wider council?
- 7** Will there be a robust, transparent and accountable local governance and coordination structure in place to implement the programme?
- 8** Will you take an inclusive, collaborative, community-wide approach in your delivery of the programme?
- 9** Can you commit to paying the direct programme fees and ensure there are adequate resources available locally to implement the programme over a minimum three years?
- 10** Can you explain how joining the programme will contribute to improving local standards and outcomes?
- 11** Can you identify what support you might need from UNICEF UK to ensure success in the programme?
- 12** Can you describe how your city/community has understood and responded to the needs of children and young people during the covid-19 pandemic?



**CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES
& COMMUNITIES IS A UK
COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF
(UNICEF UK) PROGRAMME THAT
WORKS WITH COUNCILS TO
PUT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS INTO
PRACTICE.**



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**CHILD
FRIENDLY
CITIES &
COMMUNITIES**

unicef 
UNITED KINGDOM

Meeting: Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

Date: 22 April 2024

Wards affected: All Wards

Report Title: Torbay Local Area SEND Joint Inspection Written Statement of Action

Report Author: Hannah Baker, Head of SEND and Inclusion

When does the decision need to be implemented?

Cabinet Member Contact Details:

Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan, Director of Children's Services,
nancy.meehan@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

1. Purpose

The purpose of this quarterly update is to detail to the Board the progress being made against the SEND Written Statement of Action. Torbay are now more than two years past the Local Area SEND Inspection of November 2021 which identified the eight areas of improvement as follows:

- Joint Commissioning
- SEND Strategy
- Culture
- Joint Working
- Graduated Response
- Becoming an Adult
- Quality Assurance and Community Engagement
- Resilience

Since the original inspection a number of new national developments which are important to note are the new SEND reforms (green paper) recommending a new Local Inclusion Plan (LIP) and other measures (guidance on a LIP are yet to be published) as well as a New Ofsted Inspection Framework for SEND Local Area Inspections which now sees areas being judged within three categories for all future inspections:

Outcome 1 - The local area partnership's arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed.

The next full area SEND inspection will be within 5 years.

Ofsted and the CQC ask the local area partnership to update and publish its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in this report.

Outcome 2 - The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.

The next full area SEND inspection will take place within approximately 3 years.

Ofsted and the CQC ask that the local area partnership updates and publishes its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in this report.

Outcome 3 - There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently.

A monitoring inspection will be carried out within approximately 18 months. The next full area SEND inspection will take place within approximately 3 years.

HMCI requires the local area partnership to prepare and submit a priority action plan (area SEND) to address the identified areas for priority action.

These new inspections will judge areas in the following ways:

31. Inspectors will evaluate the impact of the local area partnership's SEND arrangements on the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, including the extent to which:

- children and young people's needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way*
- children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support*
- children and young people receive the right help at the right time*
- children and young people are well prepared for their next steps, and achieve strong outcomes*
- children and young people are valued, visible and included in their communities*

32. Inspectors will evaluate how the local area partners work together to plan, evaluate and develop the SEND system, including the extent to which:

- *leaders are ambitious for children and young people with SEND*
- *leaders actively engage and work with children, young people and families*
- *leaders have an accurate, shared understanding of the needs of children and young people in their local area*
- *leaders commission services and provision to meet the needs and aspirations of children and young people, including commissioning arrangements for children and young people in alternative provision*
- *leaders evaluate services and make improvements*
- *leaders create an environment in which effective practice and multi-agency working can flourish*

You can read more about the new arrangements here - [Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/area-send-inspections-framework-and-handbook)

Torbay recently attended an “Annual Conversation” meeting with Ofsted on the progress being made in SEND across our Local Area (February 2024) however a full revisit and Local Area inspection is expected (and is currently overdue) it is thought towards the end of 2024.

Despite other developments within the Bay such as the Safety Valve agreement and advent of Family Hubs any revisit will seek to measure us against the new framework as well as revisiting the original eight areas identified above. The Local Area Partnership will need to significantly re-double its efforts in the next six months if we are to be able to prove to the Inspectorate that we have made enough progress and impact on our families to gain the middle (amber) judgement.

The summary below seeks to give an overview of our progress to date for the first quarter of our new governance arrangements between January – March 2024..

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

2.1 This section seeks to give members an overview of progress for the first quarter of 2024.

1. Summary

Key Summary of Progress this Quarter: January – March 2024

Governance

For 2024 the Governance surrounding the Written Statement of Action has been re-modelled to align with our SEND Strategy ([Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) - Torbay Council](#)).

This strategy sets out the five key priority areas which the whole partnership is focusing upon. The eight areas of the Written Statement of Action are now integrated into the five priority areas.

The governance of these priorities has also changed whereby a ‘Project Board’ oversees the activity in each of the five priority areas, meeting every six weeks, whilst the SEND Executive Strategic Board (meeting quarterly) has reports by exception to track progress and make key decisions.

Participating observers have been created to have oversight across the governance. The Check and Challenge Group continues to meet as before to ensure overview and scrutiny of the SEND work as a whole. Children and Young People voices are central to our governance

arrangements and, with support from the Participation Officer, have time at the Executive Board to feed in their ideas and feedback.

It is important to note that our audit work, now integrated into our systems, plays a key role across all five areas. This is an area of progress with our Quality Assurance feedback showing that Education submission to the EHCP is largely rated as Good (88%) and Outstanding (4%), supporting the quality of EHCPs. This audit framework is now being integrated into each workstream activity, so this audit work is present from the design of each action.

Each of the five priority areas are currently creating action plans which will be time bound to try to instigate a faster pace of change. There is concern about the pace of improvements versus the impact for our families. It has been a real concern that our improvement work has seen little tangible improvements for our families to date; this will be a key line of enquiry in any future inspection.

Torbay SEND Improvement Priorities Update

Priority 1 – SEND is Everybody’s Business

The coproduced, high-level action plan has been reviewed and revised to reflect the progress that had been made prior to the establishment of the Priority 1 work and to focus on the consistent embedding of the key components in the health, social care and education sectors:

The embedding of the Torbay SEND Pledge and Coproduction Charter across the system:

- The SEND Pledge and Coproduction Charter have been developed. Further work is required to complete the organisational sign-up process and co-design of the products so that they are easily understandable to children and young people with a learning disability.

The creation and application of a ‘Coproduction Quality Mark’:

- Presently, there is no ‘coproduction quality mark’ or process for qualifying for this kite mark. A workstream under Priority 1 is being established to take this forward, building on work that has been done within education, health and social care.

The publication of the Year 2 SEND Survey and development of a sustainable model for a lived experience feedback cycle:

- The publication of the Year 2 SEND survey has been challenging due to the scale and complexity of the survey and limited resources available. While alternative options to hasten publication have been explored, pace has not been able to be accelerated significantly. The survey is expected to be published in June, with initial findings being shared in the next SEND newsletter.
- For further years, learning will be taken from the survey experience to date with more ‘real time’ evidence-based methodologies being implemented to establish a responsive feedback cycle that gathers insights into [1] CYP and families experience of the system ‘as is’ at any point in time; [2] their awareness of implemented changes; and [3] their experience of implemented changes.

Priority 2 – Early Intervention & Lived Experience

The group has focused on determining the KPIs in the original Strategy document to formulate its next steps.

Identifying Needs Early

- Using the Early Years Settings and with the support of the Family Hubs a training offer for early identification of need is being focused upon.

Communications

- A group to enhance the communication around the early support offer is being drawn together, ensuring that the lived experience is promoted and is central to the messages we communicate.

- *Use the creation of the Tell it Once approach to enable our service users to feel like partners in the decisions about their own support.*

Priority 3 – Needs and Joint Commissioning

The group has focused on addressing the agreed KPIs and development of an action plan which includes:

Joint Commissioning Model:

- This has included a short review of JSNA (2022) which supports the continued priority areas for commissioning focus.
- Updated budget and contract information is being collated. A workshop has been booked for June (intention to hold late March but due to key people's availability this has had to be re organised) to bring together the Executive Group and the Needs and Joint Commissioning Group (facilitated by Islington SLIP partner) to reach shared understanding of language, challenge and opportunities and to agree our principles and protocols of a Torbay Joint Commissioning Model with a shared language.

Commissioning Priorities:

- **Speech Language Communication Needs** - action plan drafted and aims to join up the system wide work and activity and priorities to make best use of resources and opportunities. This takes account of the current models and investment already being made by individual schools.
- **Neurodiversity (Support for Families)** - Autism and Us parent programme delivered in January which was coordinated by SFVT. Evaluation to be completed which will inform the costed options for a sustainable Torbay joint commissioned/funded programme. This is dependent on capacity across organisations including SFVT. Pump priming for this development has been identified from NHS and has been transferred to LA under s256.
- **Individual Funding** – this is paused whilst outcome and feedback from discussions are being taken forward at an executive level of local authority and NHS.
- **Reduction in Higher Needs Block** – the group acknowledged and agreed that whilst this sits in Needs & Joint Commissioning Group the achievement of this spans across several of the priority workstreams and links to the Safety Valve work. Therefore, it will need to be reflected in other priority feedback.

Priority 4 – Inclusion

The Inclusion priority group has an action plan completed focusing on three key areas:

The embedding of the Graduated Response in mainstream schools to meet need early and well:

- Schools have been working with a suite of materials to embed the toolkits after the launch with roadshows for each school. This action plan instigates a series of training opportunities to upskill colleagues in schools, supported by the SEND team and wider colleagues to deliver this support and training. The training schedule has already begun and is planned to continue through 24/25 academic year.

The reduction of suspensions and exclusions for SEND Support and EHCP:

- Suspensions and Exclusions data shows that although permanent exclusions have continued to decline the suspension rates have increased. When we look at this against national levels Torbay rates are still too high. Some of the reductions we have seen are attributed to case conferences and new processes for children and young people with EHCP's and an indication of cultural change. Our action plans seek to address suspensions particularly.

The wider response to inclusion, including the health waiting lists and 'waiting well' agenda:

- We have an action plan to support the wider response which includes some 'Bridging the Gap' support for families. However, we are concerned that this will not mitigate the waiting lists enough to have impact for our families.

Priority 5 – Becoming an Adult

The Becoming an Adult priority has attempted to meet on several occasions with sporadic engagement due mostly to system pressures. However, the action plan is beginning to take form with some meaningful contributions added. Key areas for further focus include:

- **Addressing and embedding** the recommendations from the Becoming an Adult commissioned Adult Report, whilst organising an appreciative enquiry led by Stuart Heron and Education colleagues which will aim to capture lived experience and further help improve the experience for young people and their carers.
- **Supporting** the ongoing creation and subsequent delivery of employment, training and voluntary opportunities across all partners working within the Bay. Torbay Council and TSDFT are leading discussions in this area and plan to develop proposals with providers to increase access to opportunities.
- **To co-produce and further develop** information available to individuals so they can be clear about their options and make informed choices about next steps in their transition. This will include more webinars to support parent carers in their own transition as their young people move towards adulthood.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

With many colleagues reporting "SEND" Fatigue it is important that we dig deep in each of our own organisations to find the determination and resilience to continue working to improve the area of SEND, especially against the national backdrop of a very challenging context for SEND.

It is essential that we now develop some planning and self-evaluative processes in readiness for a forthcoming inspection. We should use our newly constructed self-evaluation documentation to do this and identify the possible lines of enquiry, gather case studies and formulate our communications strategy so we are ready to report the good work which has been accomplished as well as report on the themes where progress is still being made.

We would ask this Board to continue to support the SEND work and lend its expertise to preparing for a forthcoming inspection.

We would wish to return to this Board in November to report back on how progress towards our original areas for improvement are progressing.

Background Documents

[Written Statement of Action - Torbay Council](#)

[Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) - Torbay Council.](#)

[Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2024/2025

Approved 22 April 2024 - Updated 5/4/2024 by Teresa Buckley

Items to be scheduled:

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
Date to be confirmed 2024	Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Revised Children’s Pledge	To consider the Revised Children’s Pledge (title to be confirmed) and to hear from the representatives from the Children in Care Council who have helped to develop the Pledge (Added following meeting on 31.7.23)
Date to be confirmed 2024	Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children’s Emotional Wellbeing and Support	To review the support for children’s emotional wellbeing and support. To include the outcomes framework for mental health in schools (Torbay Lead for Mental Health Team to be invited) (Added following meeting on 19.2.24)
Date to be confirmed 2024	Children and Young People’s Overview	Review of School Transport	Review of School Transport recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 7 December 2022

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	and Scrutiny Sub-Board		
Date to be confirmed 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Early Years Sufficiency Strategy	<p>To review the Early Years Sufficiency Strategy including recruitment and retention and make recommendations to the Cabinet in November</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How prepared are we to meet the new extended duties?
Date to be confirmed 2024 (after November)	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	0 to 25 Services	To review the scope of 0-25 Services, including obesity, face to face one year old and two to two and half year-old checks, update on vaccine take up, oral health (public health) (after Adults Dentistry review in November)
Date to be confirmed 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	0 to 25 Services Procurement	To review the procurement proposals for 0 to 25 services

Timetable of Meetings

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
3 June 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children's Continuous Improvement Board Update	To receive an update on the Children's Continuous Improvement Plan
3 June 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)	To receive the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Action Plan
3 June 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Care Experienced, Including Housing for Care Experienced Young People	Update on Mark Ridell visit and implementation of action plan for care experienced young people – Update on How we deliver housing to Care Experienced Young People to be provided once the work identified in Minute 15/10/23 has been completed (requested at meeting on 23.10.23) –
3 June 2024	Children and Young People's Overview	Youth Justice (every six months)	To receive an update on the Youth Justice Team, including and mental health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) provision

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	and Scrutiny Sub-Board		
3 June 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Exclusions and Absence – six monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive the latest qualified exclusion data and the views of those children who have been excluded. • To receive an update on the new Local Authority Attendance Duties and Home Education. • To receive an update on children on a part time timetable or on roll but not attending children, children educated other than at school (EOTAS) and children educated through Alternative Provision.
3 June 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2024/2025	To approve the initial Work Programme for Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board
29 July 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Adopt South West Annual Report 2023/2024	Adopt South West Annual Report 2023/2024 – include an update on the impact of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly joining the Regional Adoption Agency (requested at meeting on 23.10.23)
29 July 2024	Children and Young People's Overview	Safeguarding Children Annual Report	To consider the Safeguarding Children Annual Report and make recommendations to the Cabinet.

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	and Scrutiny Sub-Board		
29 July 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Fostering Annual Report	To consider the Fostering Children Annual Report and make recommendations to the Cabinet.
29 July 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Ofsted Annual Conversation Letter	<p>To consider the Annual Conversation Letter and identify areas for overview and scrutiny</p> <p>Question: What is going well and where does more focus need to be placed?</p>
29 July 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Our Promise to You – The Torbay Pledge to care for and care experienced children/young people - update every 6 months	<p>To receive an update on the progress of implementing the Pledge.</p> <p>To receive an update on youth engagement, Children in Care Council's (CICCs), My Voice and The Circle</p>
29 July 2024	Children and Young People's Overview	Exploitation and Children Missing – update every 6 months	To receive an update on Exploitation and children missing

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	and Scrutiny Sub-Board		Note: update to include comparative data to demonstrate the improvements and impact to young people who are vulnerable to exploitation.?
29 July 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Young Carers Strategy	To review the current Young Carers Strategy and make recommendations to the Cabinet – Nancy Meehan/Councillor Bye
23 September 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Youth Provision in Torbay	To receive an update on the direction of travel for the review of youth provision and consider how the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board can contribute towards the review and add value, to include Youth Improvement Fund, youth work including sport, leisure and culture, accessibility to play park and Holiday, Activities and Food (HAF)
23 September 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children's Continuous Improvement Board Update	To receive an update on the Children's Continuous Improvement Plan
18 November 2024	Children and Young People's Overview	Holiday Activities and Food HAF Programme and Sustainably	To review the sustainability of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and sustainably post funding ending in April 2025

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	and Scrutiny Sub-Board		To formally note the update on the take up of Free School Meals and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
18 November 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Family Hub Sustainability – 5 mins	To review the long-term sustainability of the three Family Hubs in Torbay and the early help services they provide including the role of The learning Academy following the end of Government Funding.
18 November 2024	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Joint Inspection Written Statement of Action Update (every six months)	To receive update on the progress of the implementation of the action plan arising from the Written Statement of Action following the Torbay Local Area Special Educational Needs (SEND) Joint Inspection.
27 January 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Youth Justice (every six months)	To receive an update on the Youth Justice Team, including and mental health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) provision
27 January 2025	Children and Young People's Overview	Our Promise to You – The Torbay Pledge to care for and care experienced children/young people - update every 6 months	To receive an update on the progress of implementing the Pledge. To receive an update on youth engagement, Children in Care Council's (CICCs), My Voice and The Circle

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	and Scrutiny Sub-Board		
27 January 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Exploitation and Children Missing – update every 6 months	To receive an update on Exploitation and children missing Note: update to include comparative data to demonstrate the improvements and impact to young people who are vulnerable to exploitation.?
27 January 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Exclusions and Absence – six monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive the latest qualified exclusion data and the views of those children who have been excluded. • To receive an update on the new Local Authority Attendance Duties and Home Education. • To receive an update on children on a part time timetable or on roll but not attending children, children educated other than at school (EOTAS) and children educated through Alternative Provision.
27 January 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Children's Continuous Improvement Board Update	To receive an update on the Children's Continuous Improvement Plan
27 January 2025	Children and Young People's Overview	Virtual School Annual Report 2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive the annual report from the Virtual School which includes an update on attainment of our cared for and care experienced young people along with extended duties

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	and Scrutiny Sub-Board		To ensure voice of the child is included in future Virtual School Annual Reports as well as an update on the pathways for the extended duties for the Virtual School (requested 19.2.24 Sub-Board)
10 March 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Sufficiency Strategy and Permanence for Children	To receive an update on the Sufficiency Strategy and permanence for children, (unaccompanied asylum seeking children) UASC, fostering, (Note: this to include an analyse the types of accommodation required for our care experienced young people to enable the Sub-Board to assess the type of accommodation required – requested at meeting 31.7.23)
10 March 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Schools Capital Programme Review	To receive an update on the Schools Capital Programme, particularly the Westlands PFI, which was one of the first in the country, what worked and what did not work
10 March 2025	Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board	Update on Special Educational Needs (SEND)	To receive an update from the SEND Governance Executive on the progress of SEND moving forward, including the progress made towards a shared approach across the county
10 March 2025	Children and Young	Children's Services Self-Assessment	To review the draft Children's Services Self-Assessment which provides an annual position on performance of Children's Services –

Date	Meeting	Issue	Outcomes and Objectives
	People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board		(Note: this report is exempt as it is in its draft format.)

Annual reports to Cabinet to be circulated to Sub-Board as useful background documents:

- Local Authority Designated Officer Annual Report
- Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
23/10/23	14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="510 339 1209 555">1. that an update be provided to a future meeting of the Sub-Board from the new SEND Governance Executive on progress of SEND moving forward, including the progress made towards a shared approach across the county; and <li data-bbox="510 595 1209 890">2. to seek reassurance from NHS Devon (Integrated Care Board), via a written report to be submitted to the meeting of the Sub-Board on 18 December 2023, on the progress made in respect of the level of contributions from health towards Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and issues with waiting lists. 	<p data-bbox="1234 339 1765 368">Complete added to Work Programme</p> <p data-bbox="1234 595 2051 699">The Director of Children's Services advised that formal negotiations were taking place with the ICO with a view to coming to an agreed position on this matter.</p>
7/12/23	17	An updated document will be circulated prior to the meeting.	To be circulated.
19/2/24	24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="510 1007 1209 1222">1. that the Director of Children's Services be requested to arrange an all Member briefing on the extended duties for the Virtual School to enable them to understand the implications as part of their role as Corporate Parents; and <li data-bbox="510 1262 1209 1364">2. that the Director of Children's Services be recommended to ensure the voice of the child is included in future Virtual School 	Complete - the VSH offered training to Members on the 6th March 2024 on the role of school governors which incorporated a one minute guide on the extended duties of the VSH as part of the wider government initiatives and roll out of the SHBOL. Unfortunately, due to the low attendance this is being rescheduled.

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		Annual Reports as well as an update on the pathways for the extended duties for the Virtual School.	Complete - The annual reports are a while away yet but we will capture the child's voice using Sophie and Katie our participation officers during the summer term.
19/2/24	25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the outcomes framework for the mental health in schools programme be presented to a future meeting of the Sub-Board with the Torbay Lead for the Mental Health Team being invited to attend (2024/2025); and 2. that the Cabinet be recommended to request the Director of Children's Services to promote the work in schools around mental health programmes and support to families and carers. 	<p>Complete – added to the Work Programme</p> <p>Report to Cabinet on 25 April 2024</p>
19/2/24	26	That a visit be arranged to the Torquay Family Hub for all Councillors and Members of the Children and Young People's Sub-Board.	Complete arrangements being made.
19/2/24	30	1. that the Director of Finance be requested to include the statistics on families in temporary accommodation within future quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports to show the numbers and how much is being funded from the Adults Temporary Accommodation Budget and how much is being funded from the Children's Services	Complete - For the financial year 23/24 the children's services have supported 32 families with 61 children at a cost of 164, 908.43 (as of 25.3.2024). this was an increase of 62.6% from the previous financial year of 22/23 when the service supported 34 families with 65 children. Therefore, although the numbers of children have not increased significantly the budget required to support them has increased significantly.

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		Budget to make this more transparent; and 2. that an update on the Youth Improvement Fund be presented to a future meeting of the Sub-Board.	Completed – added to Work Programme