

Wednesday, 29 October 2025

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
SUB-BOARD**

A meeting of **Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board**
will be held on

Thursday, 6 November 2025

commencing at **2.00 pm**

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 Johns (Chairwoman)

Councillor Bryant
Councillor Douglas-Dunbar

Councillor Foster
Councillor Spacagna (Vice-Chair)

Co-opted Members of the Board

Amanda Moss - Chair of the Voluntary Sector Network
Pat Harris - Healthwatch Torbay

A Healthy, Happy and Prosperous Torbay

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Governance Support, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

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

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-BOARD AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board.

2. Minutes

(Pages 5 - 8)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board held on 9 October 2025.

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 Chairwoman decides are urgent.

5. Public Health Update on Suicide Prevention and Baton of Hope Torbay

(Pages 9 - 22)

To consider a report that provides an overview of the work of the public health team and partners in suicide prevention and specifically reports on the success of the Baton of Hope Torbay.

6. **Public Health Update on Winter Readiness and Year Round Resilience to Adverse Weather and Infections** (Pages 23 - 32)
- To consider a report that provides an overview of the work of the Public Health Team and partners in the following areas:
- maintaining year round resilience and readiness in relation to adverse weather and health;
 - preventing and managing outbreaks through good infection control, and tackling anti-microbial resistance; and
 - promoting health through uptake of the Winter vaccine programmes.
7. **Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker** (Pages 33 - 44)
- 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).

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**Minutes of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny
Sub-Board**

9 October 2025

-: Present :-

Councillor Johns (Chairwoman)

Councillors Foster, Spacagna (Vice-Chair) and Long

Non voting Co-opted Members

Amanda Moss (Chair of the Voluntary Sector Network)

(Also in attendance: Councillors Chris Lewis and Tranter)

22. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bryant.

It was reported that, in accordance with the wishes of the Liberal Democrat Group, the membership of the Sub-Board had been amended to include Councillor Long in place of Councillor Douglas-Dunbar.

23. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Board held on 4 September 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairwoman.

24. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

25. Women's Safety and Domestic Abuse Strategy

The Partnership Manager - Sarah Omell, the Strategic Lead Community Protection – Dave Parsons and the Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence, Communication and Strategy Lead - Shirley Beauchamp presented the submitted Women's Safety and Domestic Abuse Strategy report and responded to Members questions.

The Board raised the following questions:

- had funding been applied for to fund the proposed Behavioural Change workstream for domestic abuse perpetrators;
- what work was carried out within schools to educate children regarding online pornography;

- how do schools educate children on the action to take if domestic abuse is witnessed at their home;
- if a child was identified at school as a victim of sexual abuse, what action could be taken without parental consent;
- what support could Torbay Council provide to local organisations and charities who provide support to LBGTQ+ residents within the Bay; and
- how confident was the Team that the funds would be secured for the Drive Programme.

The following responses were provided:

- the Team was currently investigating available sources of funding to be applied for to secure funds to introduce the Behavioural Change workstream for domestic abuse perpetrators;
- regular visits to schools were carried out to explain to children, the dangers of accessing online pornography;
- if a child was identified in school as being affected by domestic violence at home, then a member of the Torbay Domestic Abuse Service would visit the school to speak with the child;
- parental consent from at least one parent had to be sought to allow for a member of the Torbay Domestic Abuse Service to speak with a child who had been identified as a victim of sexual abuse. However, if it was identified that the abuser was a parent, then the Team could work with safeguarding and pastoral support Teams at school;
- officers were aware of trolling being received by Intercom Trust staff since the recent announcement of biological sex ruling and suggested that Members and officers should consider what further actions could be taken by Torbay Council to support Intercom Trust and local residents; and
- the funding that had been applied for the Drive Programme, would not all be allocated to Torbay as this scheme was for the region and collaborative work with other local authorities was being carried out.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board request that the Director of Adult and Community Services to work with Community Safety Partnership to consider what actions they could take together to publicly demonstrate their commitment to inclusion and diversity with support from the Safer Communities Team;
2. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board request assurance that the recently published Relationships, Health and Sexual Education programme is being implemented in Torbay schools and that a report is brought back to a future meeting with Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board along with the Portfolio Holder be invited to attend;
3. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board support the option 2 proposal for the provision of Behavioural Change workstream course for the perpetrators of domestic abuse; and

4. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board note the content of the Women's Safety and Domestic Abuse Strategy.

26. Multiple Complex Needs (MCN) Alliance Review

The Public Health Consultant – Bruce Bell, the Head of Housing Need, Lianne Hancock, Torbay Domestic Abuse Service Manager – Claudia O'Neill and the General Manager for Public Health Services at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust – Simon Acton provided an overview of the submitted Multiple Complex Needs (MCN) Alliance Review Report and responded to questions from Members.

The Board raised the following questions:

- was the Alliance working as well as it could be to benefit local residents;
- when residents were allocated accommodation in safe houses, would this be considered temporary accommodation;
- how much work was carried out by the Alliance with other local organisations and voluntary groups for example 'Unleashed' charity;
- had the closure of the Haven affected the numbers of residents staying in accommodation at the hostel; and
- how often were meetings held by the three services that constitute the Alliance.

The following responses were provided:

- the hostel located at Factory Row forms part of the single homelessness pathway, supporting a holistic assessment approach. The hostel benefits from co-location of services, enabling streamlined support and strong links with drug and alcohol services. The facility was well-regarded, though its location may need review. The Alliance was functioning effectively, with joined-up working ensuring that individuals only need to tell their story once, enhancing continuity and quality of care;
- safe houses allocated were classed as temporary accommodation but were allocated as a higher priority;
- Torbay Domestic Abuse Service works effectively with a range of voluntary organisations, demonstrating strong partnership working. While it had not partnered with Unleashed, the Factory Row Hostel Service had. The Alliance comprises three core services, but also collaborates with wider organisations. Work was currently underway to establish governance structures, which would support the integration of additional partners moving forward into the Alliance;
- the closure of the Haven had resulted in increased use of the facilities located at the Factory Row Hostel; and
- the three services meet regularly through monthly strategic group meetings and a joint operational group, which includes service managers. There have been numerous meetings held, and working relationships are strong. The benefits of partnership working at an operational level between staff were becoming evident, however more work was needed to demonstrate the transformational requirements of the Alliance Agreement and the resultant benefits for people who engage with the Alliance. It had been identified that there was a need to

better implement, articulate and capture these outcomes. With a clear strategy now in place and implementation underway, there was optimism that the expected improvements will be realised.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board notes the Multiple Complex Needs (MCN) Alliance Review report;
2. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board recognise the variance in key process metrics across service in Growth In Action (GiA) and the need for improvement where decline had been noted;
3. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board note that assurance would be sought over the upcoming year to ensure that that the implementation plans for GiA are achieving the strategic aims and milestones as requested and the necessary internal mechanisms, forums and capability are in place to improve performance and quality of service; and
4. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board request that a deep dive into the drug and alcohol service commissioned by Torbay Council is completed and a report to be presented at a future Sub-Board meeting.

27. Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

The Sub-Board noted the submitted action tracker.

Chair

Meeting: [Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board](#)

Date: [6 November 2025](#)

Wards affected: [All](#)

Report Title: [Public Health update on suicide prevention and Baton of Hope Torbay](#)

When does the decision need to be implemented? [n/a](#)

Cabinet Member Contact Details: [Hayley Tranter, Cabinet member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities, hayley.tranter@torbay.gov.uk](#)

Director Contact Details: [Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health, lincoln.sargeant@torbay.gov.uk](#)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report gives an overview of the work of the public health team and partners in suicide prevention and specifically reports on the success of the Baton of Hope Torbay.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The programmes of work described in this report will help us to deliver our vision of a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay by helping to improve public mental health and prevent deaths by suicide.
- 2.2 Poor mental health and deaths by suicide significantly impact upon our residents and are financially detrimental to society. Torbay experiences some of the highest suicide and self-harm admission rates in England.
- 2.3 This paper outlines plans and activities designed to tackle poor mental health and suicides at local level.

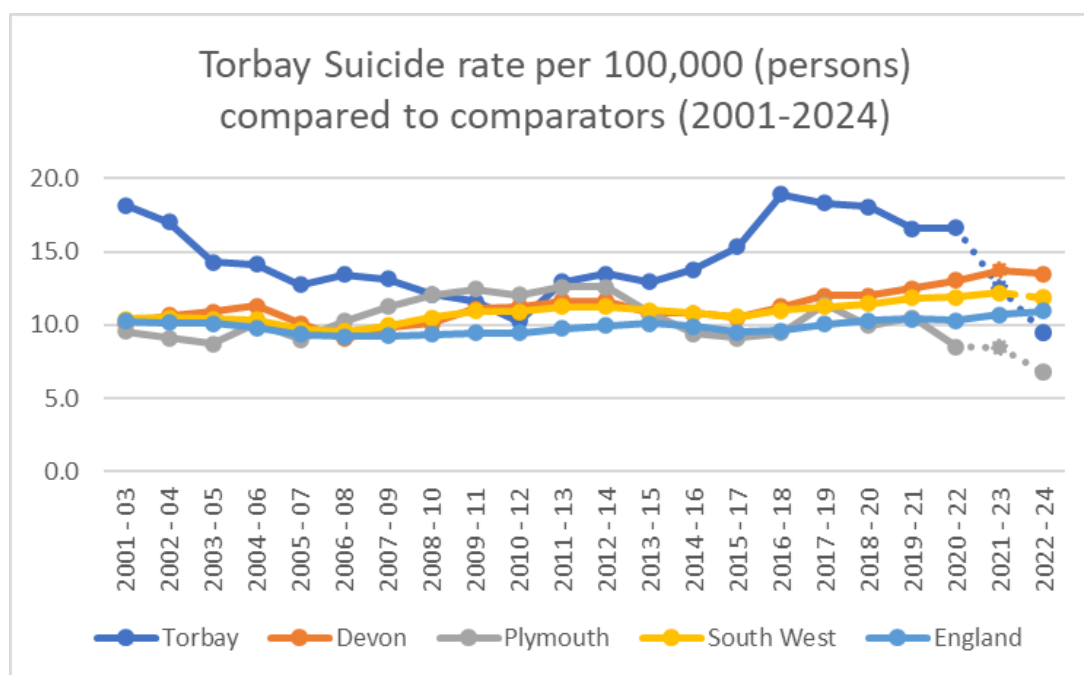
3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report and to support efforts to improve public mental health and reduce the number of local deaths by suicide.

Background

Suicide is a major public health issue: it is the leading cause of death in men under 50 years, young people under 35 years and new mothers. Every death is a tragedy. Not only does it hint at the distress and pain that was felt by the person who died, it is sorely felt by the people who are closest to them. For every person who ends their life by suicide, 135 people are estimated to be affected¹. For every life lost, the estimated total cost² to the economy was 1.46 million in 2022³. Previous estimates have been higher as they did not include older people; however this is still considered to be a conservative estimate. If we apply this to the Torbay population which experiences an average of 20 deaths by suicide per year, the potential cost to the local economy is £29.2 million a year and around 2,700 residents will be affected by these deaths annually.

Torbay has experienced significantly higher suicide rates since 2014-16 (as shown in the following chart) and generally records one of the highest suicide rates in England. Despite this we have seen a small but consistent decline in rates since 2016-18 when local multi-agency suicide prevention plans came into place. Suicide rates from the most recent two-year period should be regarded with caution as Torbay is experiencing the highest delay in death registration of suicide of all upper tier local authorities in England⁴.



1 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/sltb.12450>

2 Productivity and intangible losses (the value that society places on loss of life) account for the majority of total costs. There are, however, some immediate costs to the NHS, both for deaths by suicide and for treating non-fatal self-harm events in hospital.

3 https://media.samaritans.org/documents/The_economic_cost_of_suicide_in_the_UK_-_web.pdf

4 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/suicidesbylocalauthority>

The median delay in death registration is now 746 days – over 3.5 times the national average. This means it takes over two years from date of death to register a death by suicide. This has an impact on our statistics and for local people who have been bereaved. Real time surveillance data from the police indicates that the number of suspected deaths by suicide has not materially changed from more representative figures recorded in 2019-22. Thus, it is recommended to continue working with a rate of 16.6 per 100,000 as a baseline whilst the registration backlog is remedied. It is highly likely that our rates will increase over the next few years, and they may rise to unprecedented levels if registrations are processed at an above average rate before they return to their natural level.

Torbay Suicide Prevention Action Plan

Local suicide prevention activity is coordinated via the [Torbay Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2024-27](#) and various working groups that sit beneath this. This year multi-agency partners have delivered on the three priority areas of this plan as shown in table 1.

Priority area	Activity	Anticipated outcomes
Ensure mental health and emotional support is accessible to all	- Co-created a <u>children and young person and an adult one-page signposting document</u> for universal services across the mental health continuum - Brought mental health and emotional support organisations together in one place at the Torquay Hope Hub as part of the Baton of Hope event in September 2025 - Confirmed longer-term funding and procurement for mental health support via the Torbay Community Helpline	- Professionals and the public are more informed about what services are available for a range of mental health and wellbeing needs. - The public can engage with a range of appropriate services that already exist face-to-face. - Local mental health and wellbeing organisations have the opportunity to network with each other face-to-face - People aged 18yrs and over are supported with their basic needs as well as their mental wellbeing with minimal exclusion criteria (complementary to other provision)

Acknowledge and work with Torbay's risk factors for suicide	• Co-created support documents for people who are struggling in relationships or are no longer in a relationship. Relationship loss/break down can be a catalyst for other risk factors for suicide such as challenged finances, housing instability, poor mental health and risk-taking behaviour	• System professionals can share appropriate support materials for a common issue that impacts on everyone. • People feel supported and may engage with the information and services suggested in the leaflet. This may prevent the development of other risk factors.
Harness passion, commit to collaborate and pool resources to reduce suicides	• Co-created (at times co-produced) the Baton of Hope Torbay event. As well as the event itself, this includes two dedicated Facebook Pages (public and for baton bearers) a partnership website and email box to facilitate partnership working and collaboration.	• People are more aware of the impact of suicide locally (particularly highlighting groups who are more at risk) • People feel more comfortable to engage in conversations around suicide • People are more aware of the services and training that are available • People bereaved by suicide and/or suicide survivors are supported and engage in a positive healing process

Suicide Prevention Leads in each local authority area in Devon work in close collaboration. The following areas have been progressed by our public health teams across Devon:

- Continuing to deliver suicide bereavement support and real-time surveillance
- Bespoke suicide prevention training for GPs
- Engaging with the media to improve reporting on suicide
- Creating self-harm support training resources
- Disseminating the updated It's Ok to Talk About Suicide Z-Card

- Creating a Safety Plan Z-card to supplement the above.

One Devon Suicide Prevention Action Plan

Strategic partners across the Integrated Care System (ICS) prioritised a reduction in suicides via the Joint Forward Plan 2025-30 by including a system target to reduce suicides to England average levels within five years. In order to improve system ownership and maximise limited resource, the Devon Suicide Prevention Oversight Group (SPOG) and Health and Wellbeing Boards across Devon have agreed to create a single One Devon suicide prevention action plan. This will amalgamate and prioritise actions from current plans and add actions that are deemed appropriate for system change. Four multi-agency workshops have been held to date. A draft plan will be streamlined and circulated to partners for input by the end of this year. The requirement to maintain localism within this single action plan is recognised and acknowledged by all throughout this process.

Baton of Hope Torbay

In August 2024, Torbay successfully applied to the Baton of Hope UK to be part of their national tour in 2025. The Baton of Hope Tour is considered to be the UK's largest suicide prevention initiative with an aim of raising awareness, reducing stigma and uniting people who have been impacted by suicide. The rationale for Torbay's submission was three-fold:

- Significantly higher suicide rates than regionally and nationally
- Well established and effective partnership working in the local area
- Strong alignment with priority three of the Torbay suicide prevention action plan – Harness passion, commit to collaborate and pool resources to reduce suicides.

In January 2024, Torbay Council senior leaders confirmed project lead and budget arrangements as costs for local delivery are not funded by the national charity. A multi-agency planning committee was established to steer and contribute to its implementation. The key principles used by the planning committee were:

- Community-driven where possible, involving the three towns of Torbay
- Using existing assets and relationships to best effect
- Real people, real stories, real places (filming of partners, baton bearers and the local area)
- Being as inclusive as possible (e.g. ensuring that young people could be involved and that smaller voluntary sector organisations could participate) whilst highlighting particular populations who have an increased risk of poor mental health and suicide (e.g. men)
- Having an open conversation about suicide but focusing on hope and wellbeing.

The Baton of Hope UK charity allocated the date of the event based on a national route which included 19 other locations. The chosen date was Tuesday 30th September. Although we requested a weekend date to maximise public impact this was not possible.

The Baton of Hope Torbay was structured around a walking relay for people who have been impacted by suicide. Wellbeing events and activities, and other methods of transportation, were involved en route. The circular route – which involved the three towns of Torbay – culminated in a fundraising finale show at the Riviera International Centre. The following diagram summaries the main elements that were involved on the day. Further detail is included in Section 2 of this document.



Baton of Hope Torbay

Relay walk/transport

Over 100 local people applied to be a baton bearer with Baton of Hope UK, with many more expressing an interest. This highlights the impact of suicide, and the importance of positive mental wellbeing, for people in Torbay. Each baton bearer was allocated a What Three Word (W3W) location where they would be passed the baton. They each carried it for around 200 metres, although baton bearers were able to accompany the baton for a longer duration should they wish to. Some baton bearers chose to walk the whole 14-mile route.

The baton route was an opportunity to highlight neighbourhoods, populations affected and the assets of the Bay. The following methods of transport were also included en route – motor trike convoy to South Devon college, steam train to Churston, bus and replica Knight rider car to Brixham Rugby Club and RNLI lifeboat to Torquay. Local organisations volunteered their time and venues to be walking pit-stops such as Torquay

Rugby Club, Gaia Café, Parkfield House and The Guardhouse Café. The routes per town are shown on the Torbay Baton of Hope website for reference.

Daytime events/activities en route

A range of day-time events were scheduled along the relay route and can be found on the website for reference. An all-day wellbeing festival was held in Princess Gardens Torquay which was the start and end point of the Baton route. Other smaller events were held in each town throughout the day – some managed by the council, others managed by partners/community. Events of particular note were the senior leader event held at the Lyceum theatre (Torquay), an LGBTQIA+ focused event held in Young's Park (Paignton) and a very well attended Sound Bath held near Shoalstone pool (Brixham).

Evening finale show

After the Baton returned to Torquay with the last baton bearer, a ticketed finale fundraising event was held at the Riviera International Centre. This was a variety performance with celebrity performers, including Marcus Brigstocke, that weaved lived experience and suicide prevention throughout with speeches from the co-founder of the Baton of Hope UK and the CEO of Pete's Dragons (Devon's suicide bereavement support provider). The programme was designed to speak honestly about suicide whilst acknowledging the importance of bringing joy, lightness and hope into people's lives, particularly for those who have been impacted by suicide. Ticket sales, donations from baton bearers and donations gathered throughout the day helped to raise around £9,000. This will contribute towards a local suicide prevention legacy grant pot which will be used to contribute and grow grassroots suicide prevention initiatives in the future.

Resources

The Baton of Hope Torbay event was led by Torbay Council Public Health team with support from the Events team and partners across the community. Resource included:

- gifts in kind from partners and businesses (e.g. free or lower cost goods and services, and business sponsorship)
- support from volunteers (e.g. to support comms/design and to support the running of the event).

The event additionally generated around £9,000 in donations and ticket sales.

Evaluation

The following data will be collected, analysed and collated by December 2025.

- De-brief meetings within 6 weeks of the event with:
 - key personnel (events, public health and Torbay Communities)
 - planning committee (multi-agency)
 - volunteers
 - baton bearers

- Insights and photographic evidence of the event to gather:
 - Estimated attendance numbers
 - Participant feedback
 - Effectiveness of marketing and promotion
- Press coverage pre, on the day and post event
- Social media engagement pre, on the day and post event
- Financial records outlining expenditure and income.

Initial feedback has been extremely positive from the public, baton bearers and partners as illustrated by the quote below.

“...poignant, powerful and joyous all in one. It was perfectly organised with great representation from all the organisations who offer support. Personally, I found it a day full of mixed emotions – one-minute tearful listening to some of the stories of loss and the next minute, enjoying the music or the singing of local primary school children.” Healthwatch & Paignton Community Hub

Legacy

The Baton of Hope Torbay has always been about what happens next. The goodwill and partnerships that have been built upon and generated through the planning and execution of the event will be capitalised upon. The following will be realised within 6 months:

- Create a photo gallery, display art work created and host a thank you event
- Showcase the Baton of Hope Torbay documentary film
- Enable peer-support for local baton bearers
- Collaborate with Sound Communities, local schools and Papyrus to distribute age-appropriate suicide prevention resources and training within education settings
- Continue to scope a community art piece that speaks to people who may be struggling, inspires hope and signposts to appropriate support
- Repurpose the Baton of Hope Torbay Facebook Pages and website for general usage by the Torbay Suicide Prevention Partnership.
- Administer the suicide prevention community grant pot (scoping match funding) to extend and grow new grassroots initiatives (with input from baton bearers).

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

3.1 None identified

4. Legal Implications

4.1 None identified

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 Programmes include communications and engagement plans with local multi-agency partners, communities and specific target groups.
- 5.2 A multi-agency brain-storming session was held in December 2024 to steer initial plans for Torbay Baton of Hope event and membership for the planning committee. Regular communication updates were scheduled from January to September via the Torbay Baton of Hope Facebook page and website, and through usual corporate and multi-agency communication channels.

6. Procurement Implications

- 6.1 None identified

7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 The majority of multi-agency meetings relating to this programme are held online to reduce travel. Where events are held in person, participants are encouraged to use public transport, vendors are sourced locally and single-use plastic is kept to a minimum.
- 7.2 The following actions were taken during Baton of Hope Torbay:
- Event waste management was supplied by SWISCO who provided recycling and additional bins where required at outdoor events.
 - Food and drink vendors were sourced locally and prohibited from using single use plastics, including straws
 - Eco-friendly and temporary chalk was used to mark baton bearer's positions on pavements (using the word HOPE) with appropriate permissions agreed by SWISCO and Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
 - Stagecoach South West unveiled one of its first battery-electric Alexander Dennis Enviro400EV double-deckers for the area ahead of the operator's depot becoming fully zero-emission. This vehicle transported baton bearers from Churston to Brixham.

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 The risks of poor mental health and suicide are outlined in this paper. The aims of these programmes are to put in place measures to address these risks.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old. 55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. 27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.	Middle age is a risk factor for suicide.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility
Carers	At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.	Carers are a risk group for poor mental health and increased risk of suicide.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk.	Multi-agency responsibility
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.	People with a disability/neurodiversity are at risk from poor mental health and increased risk of suicide.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility

Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	Gender identity and gender reassignment can increase the risk of poor mental health and suicide.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	Marriage and civil partnerships are generally considered to be a protective factor for suicide where DASV is not present.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	Pregnancy and the perinatal period is not considered to increase suicide risk however suicide is the primary cause of death in this cohort.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility
Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being	Particular ethnicities can increase the risk of poor mental health and suicide.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility

	amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.			
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	Religion and belief are generally considered to be a protective factor for suicide.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	Males account for 3 in every 4 suicides. More woman are impacted by self-harm than men.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	The LGBTQIA+ have poorer mental health and a higher proportion of suicides than the general population.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.	The armed forces community are thought to have higher suicide risk than the general population but latest data suggests that risk is similar to the general population. Being part of a military family is considered to be protective for suicide.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility

Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)	Torbay is ranked as the most deprived local authority in the South West. Approximately 27% of people live in areas amongst the 20% most deprived in England. 22% of children live in a relative low income family (2022/23)	People in more challenged socio-economic circumstances are at greater risk of poor mental health and suicide.	Interventions and communications are specifically targeted to people who are most at risk. Services and providers account for this characteristic in their delivery.	Multi-agency responsibility
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		All programmes are designed to improve population health.	All programmes are designed to improve population health.	Multi-agency responsibility
Human Rights impacts		Services and providers will remain cognisant of human rights, including the right to life, health, privacy, education and prohibition of discrimination.	Services and providers will remain cognisant of human rights, including the right to life, health, privacy, education and prohibition of discrimination.	Multi-agency responsibility
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.	Nationally the mental health of children and young people is steadily getting worse and the number of suicides are increasing over time.	Suicide prevention resources and training are age-appropriate and children and young people are considered and engaged with for prevention of suicides.	Multi-agency responsibility

10. Cumulative Council Impact

- 10.1 Suicide prevention is everybody's business therefore partnership working with all areas of the Council is required to a varying degree. Relevant teams are involved in the delivery of the Torbay Suicide Prevention Action Plan and the Baton of Hope Torbay.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

- 11.1 All of these programmes involve close partnership working across the Integrated Care System, including voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, and all are intended to promote and improve health across the whole of our population.

Meeting: Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

Date: 6 November 2025

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Public Health update on Winter readiness and year round resilience to adverse weather and infections

When does the decision need to be implemented? n/a

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Hayley Tranter, Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, Public Health and Inequalities, hayley.tranter@torbay.gov.uk

Director Contact Details: Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health, lincoln.sargeant@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report gives an overview of the work of the public health team and partners in the following areas:
- Maintaining year round resilience and readiness in relation to adverse weather and health
 - Preventing and managing outbreaks through good infection control, and tackling anti-microbial resistance
 - Promoting health through uptake of the Winter vaccine programmes.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The programmes of work described in this report will help us to deliver our vision of a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay by helping to prevent and manage poor health through adverse weather and the spread of infections.
- 2.2 There are significant risks associated with excess heat and cold, and these disproportionately affect those who are most vulnerable through poor health, disability, or economic challenge. This paper outlines plans and activities designed to tackle these risks at national and local level.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report and to support efforts to build and maintain population resilience to adverse weather and infections.

Supporting Information

Preventing and Managing Outbreaks of infection

Local Authority public health teams work with UKHSA on all outbreaks of notifiable diseases. In Torbay we receive notifications of outbreaks in care homes, schools or homeless settings, and link with UKHSA to prepare for outbreaks in any setting that may require our support.

We were part of a regional incident management team to prepare for potential measles outbreaks during the past year. Although there were cases in other parts of the region there were none recorded in Torbay. Part of the mitigation was continued promotion of the MMR vaccine and infection prevention measures for education and care settings.

We continue to mitigate against the risk of a future pandemic which has included attending both regional and national pandemic exercises: Exercise Solaris (regional) and Exercise Pegasus (national).

Infection prevention & management and Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Good infection prevention and control is the cornerstone of the prevention of infectious disease and the spread of infections. NHS and Social Care settings in England are required to follow national guidance in relation to infection prevention and control. This is updated regularly and is used by the Council and our NHS and Care colleagues to promote best practice and monitor compliance.

AMR is effectively part of the infection management strategy. If drugs become ineffective, then infections will be rife; if infections spread, then drug resistance is more likely to develop. The World Health Organisation estimates that bacterial antimicrobial resistance is directly responsible for well over a million deaths worldwide each year and contributes to almost five million deaths.

Torbay Public Health are members of a Peninsula Antimicrobial Resistance Group where partners have developed priorities against the national action plan. Within Devon we have an antimicrobial stewardship group which is currently developing audit processes for the use of antimicrobials within healthcare. And at local level, Public Health convenes a Torbay AMR Group where we are working with partners in the NHS, Environmental Health, Medicines Optimisation (pharmacy), and UKHSA, to turn the national AMR commitments into practice.

A key activity currently is planning for WHO World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 18-24 November 2025, with a range of promotional activities. Last year's work with local schools and early years resulted in Torbay being shortlisted for the Antibiotic Guardian Awards.

Winter planning as part of year round readiness

UKHSA develops an annual adverse weather and health plan which includes preparation for both excess heat and excess cold. This replaces previous Winter only plans.

The adverse weather plan outlines those areas where public, voluntary, health and social care sectors can work together with local communities to develop integrated planning and response in order to:

- prevent the increase in years of life lost due to adverse weather events
- prevent mortality due to adverse weather events
- prevent morbidity due to adverse weather events
- reduce the use of healthcare services due to adverse weather events.

The plan and supporting document is used to produce a local authority cold (and heat) health alert action card linked to the UKHSA and MET Office health alert systems. The action card is a council-wide document which details activities to be undertaken from preparation through to red alert level.

The cold health alert action card is reviewed each Autumn to consider the activities required for departments in response to the cold-health alerts. This includes:

- Public Health
- Emergency Planning
- Adult Social Care
- Children's Services
- Events
- Rough Sleeping and Initiative (including the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol)
- Car Parking
- Health and Safety
- Communications
- Human Resources
- Torre Abbey
- Housing

Our processes for both Winter Readiness and Pandemic Response were audited in 2025 and assessed to be robust.

For Public Health, the cold weather action planning process aligns with the Winter vaccination programmes, vaccines being a key protective measure in the prevention of illness and outbreaks and reduction in NHS demand.

The annual Autumn/Winter vaccination programme provides vital protection to keep people from developing serious illnesses and ending up in hospital during the busy Winter months. Vaccination is also a major defence against AMR, as vaccines prevent infection and therefore the need for medicines.

Overall national uptake for flu vaccination in 2024/25 was 50.2%. In Torbay, uptake for the 65 and over age group was equal to the national rate at 74.86%. For those in clinical risk groups uptake was 40% (equal to the national figure but below the 55% target). Our childhood vaccination rates increased on the previous year to 41% for 2-3 year olds (similar to the national rate), 55% for primary aged children (just above the national rate) and 40% for secondary aged children (below the national rate).

Vaccine uptake in Torbay tends to be slightly below Devon, mirroring the high proportion of deprivation which is a key factor in low uptake. Therefore our efforts continue to be to target vaccine uptake in the higher risk, and the lower socio-economic groups, in particular 'taking the vaccine to where people are' through outreach clinics, and using local trusted voices to get the message across. For winter 2024/25 we worked with the ICB vaccination team to create podcasts aimed at the care workforce in accessing their vaccinations.

The national vaccination campaign for 2025/26 started with two waves. The flu vaccination programme started for cohort 1 on 1 September 2025. This included pregnant women, children and young people. The second cohort started on 1 October 2025, focusing on eligible adults. School vaccinations are due to complete by the end of the Autumn term and all other eligible groups by 31 March 2026.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme started on 1 October 2025 and will end on 31 January 2026. This year saw a change to eligibility, with the age threshold increasing from 65 to 75 years.

Torbay Primary Care Networks are this year offering Covid and flu vaccinations through community locations and their practices instead of the Riviera International Centre. This increases availability at different geographical locations within the Bay.

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust Maternity Service has active plans in place to promote and deliver all three Winter vaccines to pregnant women through the season. This is a group where uptake nationally and locally could be much higher, offering increased protection from infection to both the mother and the child.

This year the Devon vaccine outreach team is committing to running more clinics earlier in the season in Torbay, to help us to reach our target populations in our town centre areas and our homeless community. There are also 36 pharmacies signed up to provide Covid vaccines in Torbay and South Devon, an increase from 23 in 2024.

Winter communications programme

The Winter communications campaign was launched in October. Key messages for this year are:

- Stay strong, get vaccinated
- Choose well: when and how to access your GP, pharmacy, or self-care
- Support for mental health and wellbeing.

Communication campaigns and toolkits are disseminated through the NHS and UKHSA, with plans coordinated locally across NHS, local authorities and other partners. The public health team with partners produces additional communications to be used within local newsletters for audiences including schools, carers, and adult social care providers. As a local authority we also include information on social support in our communications, covering benefits, pension credit, warm homes, food and transport, all of which are important to helping people to stay warm, active and healthy through the Winter months. We have introduced a communications tracker for this season to monitor the distribution of messaging. This will enable us to review any gaps and assess the effectiveness of our targeting.

4. Financial Opportunities and Implications

4.1 None identified

5. Legal Implications

5.1 None identified

6. Engagement and Consultation

6.1 Programmes include communications and engagement plans with local communities and target groups.

7. Procurement Implications

7.1 None identified

8. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

8.1 Anti-microbial resistance is strongly linked with climate change and tackling one can help to tackle the other. Sustainability is a target area in the South West Infection Prevention and Management Strategy which we are all signed up to deliver.

9. Associated Risks

9.1 There are risks to population health and to health and care services associated with Winter infections and poor infection management or response. The aim of the programmes described in this paper is to put in place measures to control and address these risks.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old. 55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old. 27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.	Age is a risk factor for infection.	Age guides targeting of infection control measures including vaccine programmes.	
Carers	At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.	Carers are a risk group.	Vaccine programmes target carers.	
Disability	In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by a physical or mental health condition or illness.	Those with clinical risk conditions are at higher risk.	These groups are targeted in the vaccine programmes.	
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		

	to the Southwest and is lower than England.			
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	Pregnancy, and infants, are at additional risk.	These groups are targeted for vaccination.	
Ethnicity	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative		

		differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.	It is not anticipated that programmes will have a specific positive or negative differential impact based on this characteristic.		
Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		People in more challenged socio-economic circumstances are at greater risk of low vaccine uptake.	These groups are targeted for vaccine outreach.	
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		All programmes are designed to improve population health.	All programmes are designed to improve population health.	
Human Rights impacts		Services and providers will remain cognisant of human rights, including the right to life, health, privacy, education and prohibition of discrimination.		
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council and all staff and Councillors are Corporate	Infection prevention, AMR, and vaccine programmes all have activities targeting children.	Infection prevention, AMR, and vaccine programmes	

	Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.		all have activities targeting children.	
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11. Cumulative Council Impact

- 11.1 Planning for Winter includes all areas of the Council to a varying degree, and relevant teams are involved in preparation and delivery.

12. Cumulative Community Impacts

- 12.1 All of these programmes involve close partnership working across the Integrated Care System, including voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, and all are intended to promote and improve health across the whole of our population.

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
09/10/25	25	1. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board request that the Director of Adult and Community Services to work with Community Safety Partnership to consider what actions they could take together to publicly demonstrate their commitment to inclusion and diversity with support from the Safer Communities Team; 2. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board request assurance that the recently published Relationships, Health and Sexual Education programme is being implemented in Torbay schools and that a report is brought back to a future meeting with Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board along with the Portfolio Holder be invited to attend; 3. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board support the option 2 proposal for the provision of Behavioural Change workstream course for the perpetrators of domestic abuse;	1. 2. 3. Complete

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		4. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board note the content of the Women's Safety and Domestic Abuse Strategy.	4. Complete
09/10/25	26	1. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board notes the Multiple Complex Needs (MCN) Alliance Review report; 2. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board recognise the variance in key process metrics across service in Growth In Action (GiA) and the need for improvement where decline had been noted; 3. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board note that assurance would be sought over the upcoming year to ensure that that the implementation plans for GiA are achieving the strategic aims and milestones as requested and the necessary internal mechanisms, forums and capability are in place to improve performance and quality of service; 4. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board request that a deep dive into the drug and alcohol service commissioned by Torbay Council is completed and a	1. Complete 2. Complete 3. Complete 4. Complete - added to the Work Programme

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		report to be presented at a future Sub-Board meeting.	
04/09/25	17	1. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board notes the content of the Healthwatch Annual Report 2025; and 2. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board recommend to Cabinet that the Public Health funding provided to Healthwatch be included within the future years budget provision and if Healthwatch ceases, the funding should continue to be made available to ensure that engagement, coproduction and codesign continues in Torbay.	1. Complete 2. Complete
04/09/25	20	1. that the Director of Pride in Place be requested to provide final energy costs for the proposed Nightingale Park Solar Farm and work collaboratively with the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust to reach agreement stage; 2. that the Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board provide a letter of support for Torbay and South Devon NHS Trust future estate funding to be sent to the Government;	1. 2.

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		3. that the Director of Capital Development be requested to provide a written response to confirm the various buildings being used for patient appointments; and 4. that the Chief Strategy and Planning Officer be requested to provide a written response to confirm the number of wards within Torbay Hospital building.	3. 4.
06/08/25	12	1. that the Integrated Care Board (ICB) notes the strength of concern from Torbay residents and considers how they can engage further with residents as they develop their case for change;	1. NHS Devon is very cognisant of the concerns raised from Torbay residents regarding the future of cardiology services. This is clear from communication that has been received from local people over the last few months related to the previous proposal that was withdrawn ahead of the NHS Devon Board in May and the feedback shared from those that attended the Torbay OSC meeting on 6 August 2025. There are currently no proposals regarding cardiology services and the draft case for change, which covers the whole of Devon, will not contain any proposals. The case for change will describe the current and future needs of the local population, the provision of local services and the key challenges facing the health and care system that need to be addressed. The case for change will remain in draft form until the engagement programme is complete and findings have been considered, after which point a final version will be published. Since the Torbay OSC meeting 6 August, the NHS Devon Stakeholder Engagement and Public Affairs Manager has been working with Healthwatch Devon, Plymouth and Torbay to design an engagement programme which will allow patients, members of public, clinicians, elected

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		2. that the ICB be requested to provide the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board with details of who will be involved in engagement with the case for change so that they can be assured that all relevant groups are included and confirm the date that the case for change will be available for publication; and	representatives and other keys stakeholders to provide their views on the draft case for change. This includes a discussion with the Heart Campaign in Torbay. Once the draft case for change has been agreed, details of the engagement programme and how people can share their views will be shared and publicised. 2. A Cardiology Review Group (CRG) will be established to lead the engagement programme, as well as monitor the 'in year' performance recovery of cardiology services that is required by commissioners. The programme will report to NHS Devon's Board and NHS England's Specialised Commissioning Board. An overarching 11-month timeline is proposed to ensure there is time to engage stakeholders in a meaningful manner. A wide range of stakeholders will be involved in developing, reviewing and refining the draft case for change: • Clinicians working across the whole patient pathway will be engaged, including through a Devon-wide clinical reference group. Independent and external clinical advice will also be sought. • Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Torbay, Devon and Plymouth. Once the draft case for change is published – we will then return to OSCs in the Autumn to share the draft case for change for review, feedback and comment. • Public, patients and stakeholders from across Devon – including those with lived experience, MPs,

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
Page 38		3. that the ICB be requested to engage with the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board as they develop their case for change and any other significant changes to health care affecting Torbay's residents and that appropriate professional colleagues be invited to the Sub-Board to give evidence	Healthwatch, the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) and a stakeholder reference group. The cardiology draft case for change is currently being developed alongside the One Devon Health and Care Strategy. The Health and Care Strategy is due to be taken to the NHS Devon Board in early October 2025 and the draft case for change will be published shortly after this Board meeting – an exact date has not been agreed. 3. Added to the work programme.
	06/08/25	13 1. that Members welcome the joint work being carried out in partnership with Heart of the South West Trading Standards, Devon and Cornwall Police and Torbay Council and request them to continue to work together to identify the best way to address closure orders moving forward and bring an update back to the Sub-Board in 12 months time; 2. that the Police and Crime Commissioner be recommended to continue the funding for the Vulnerability Lawyer, post the	1. Added to the work programme 2.

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		temporary funding due to the importance of this role to Torbay in tackling crime and sale of illegal tobacco and vapes and prosecuting where appropriate.	
17/07/25	8	1. that Torbay Council Housing Options team provide a written update to the Members of the Adults Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board once the visit to Harbour Housing scheme in Cornwall has been completed to provide feedback on any innovation that could be considered for implementation across Torbay; 2. that the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Members are kept up to date on Union Square and Victoria Square developments on the numbers of properties that will be policy compliant; 3. that progress on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan is reported quarterly to the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board; 4. the recommendation from 12 June 2025 meeting, requesting a report detailing the actions that have been taken in response to Adult Social Care Housing need from the Director Pride in Place, be amended to include an update on plans to increase	1. 2. 3. Complete. Added to the work programme 4. Complete. Work programme amended.

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Action Tracker

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		the delivery of affordable housing across Torbay to support the increasing demand on homelessness services.	
12/06/25	3	a. to provide a written response would be provided on the numbers of people who responded to the survey from each targeted area. 1. that the short report on the impact of the Co-design of the Learning Disability campaign be circulated to all Councillors once it is published in September; and 2. that Ms Gascoyne, Engaging Communities South West, be requested to provide a written update on the impact of the implementation of the recommendations within MacMillan Torbay Community Engagement Project Report.	a. Teresa emailed Abi Gascoyne 19 June 2025 1. To follow up in September

Torbay Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board

6 November 2025

ICB recent changes

Chair appointed to NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and NHS Devon

The Chair of the new NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board (ICB) and NHS Devon ICB Cluster has been announced as John Govett, following approval by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

John has chaired NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly ICB since it launched in 2022.

John Govett started his new role from 1 September, ahead of the first cluster Board meeting on 16 October. The cluster has also confirmed the new aligned group of ICBs' and Cluster Non-Executive Directors, along with the new ICB Cluster governance and committee arrangements. The appointment of the cluster Chief Executive Officer has not yet been announced.

Devon's exit from the Recovery Support Programme (RSP)

NHS Devon has exited from the Recovery Support Programme (RSP) following significant progress made to improve the quality of care for people in Devon in a sustainable way.

The organisation was placed into the National Oversight Framework Segment 4 by NHS England in 2022/2023 – the bottom category of national assessment – which triggered support from NHS England, both regionally and nationally.

The criteria were also applied to all three acute providers in Devon (Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust).

The criteria were designed to promote system-wide solutions to issues that are similar across Devon, given the geographical, demographic, staffing and financial challenges.

It has been recognised regionally and nationally that improvements have been made within the Devon system during the organisations' time in segment 4 and the associated national Recovery Support Programme (RSP).

As a result, NHS Devon and Royal Devon formally exited the RSP in August 2025 and this means the previous RSP exit criteria no longer apply to both organisations having demonstrated sufficient progress against all exit criteria for leadership, urgent and emergency care, and elective performance.

NHS Devon will continue to receive support for finance and strategy, and we will be agreeing a medium-term financial plan and health and care strategy by the end of the September to set us on a strong footing going forward.

The remaining Devon organisations in RSP (Torbay and Plymouth) continue to be supported regionally and nationally to achieve sufficient progress to also exit the RSP.

While there is still much more to do to continue improving services for our patients, we would like to thank our colleagues for their contributions to making this improvement and the huge achievements made.

Health and Care Strategy development

The Devon Health and Care Strategy was approved by the South West Peninsula Board on 16 October 2025. A Masterclass for Torbay OSC members has been arranged for the 13 November 2025 to talk through the Devon Health and Care Strategy in more detail. The final version of the strategy will be shared directly with members.

The Strategy sets out our vision and priorities for the next five years in line with the national NHS Plan and sets out clear priorities to improve prevention and early intervention, integrate services more effectively, and support people to manage their own health and wellbeing.

By focusing on personalised care, digital innovation, and workforce development, the aim is to create a resilient and responsive system that delivers high-quality care close to home. NHS Devon remains firmly committed to delivering services that are not only high-quality and person-centred, but also financially sustainable.

This strategy reflects NHS Devon's dedication to making responsible choices that ensure long-term value, resilience, and equity across the system. By rooting the new model of delivery, the aim is to safeguard resources while continuing to meet the evolving needs of local communities.

Importantly, the strategy embodies Devon's commitment to 'place-based' care, recognising the unique needs of communities across Devon.

NHS Devon is determined to break down traditional barriers between health and social care, working together in partnership with local authorities, voluntary organisations, and, crucially, the people it serves.

The development of the Strategy has been guided by a structured Discover–Design–Deliver methodology. This approach ensures that transformation is not only

evidence-based and strategically sound, but also inclusive and co-produced with the people who use and deliver services across the system.

Discover Phase: Building a Shared Understanding

The Discover phase focused on developing a rich understanding of the current health and care landscape in Devon. This included:

- Reviewing existing intelligence through the system's insights library, which collates data on population health, service performance, and inequalities.
- Drawing on the 10-Year Plan engagement, which involved over 3,400 participants across Devon. This provided a robust evidence base, particularly around the three strategic shifts:
 - From hospitals to community and primary care
 - From treatment to prevention
 - From analogue to digital services

This phase also identified a committed cohort of over 200 individuals who expressed interest in ongoing involvement. This presents a valuable opportunity to establish a citizens' panel or bespoke reference groups to support continued co-design and accountability.

Design Phase: Co-Creating the Future

Building on the insights gathered, the Design phase focused on collaboratively shaping the strategy's content, priorities, and delivery models. Key activities included design workshops, each aligned to a chapter of the strategy, involving stakeholders from across the system—health, care, voluntary sector, and community representatives.

Deliver Phase: Embedding Change

As the strategy moves into delivery, engagement will remain central.

This ongoing engagement will help build trust, foster shared ownership, and ensure that transformation is sustained over time.

Developing a case for change for cardiovascular disease, cardiology and cardiac surgery services

The development of the draft cardiovascular disease (CVD) case for change and technical document has progressed significantly and now includes feedback from colleagues across Devon, including acute provider trusts.

The draft case for case, once finalised, will not contain any proposals for change in itself. Instead, it will identify the current challenges from a clinical, organisation,

patient and public perspective and act as a starting point for discussions about any new models of care and service delivery.

The draft documents have been shared with cardiology clinical leads from across Devon for review, comment, and feedback. This feedback has now been received and is being reviewed to further develop the draft cardiology case for change document and supporting technical document. NHS Devon want to ensure sufficient time is provided for this process ahead of a patient and public involvement programme.

NHS Devon is committed to this being a clinically led piece that is supported by the clinical teams from across Devon. Further engagement work is also planned with Overview and Scrutiny Committees, clinicians and other stakeholders to support the draft case for change development process.

The latest updates are published on the One Devon [website](#).

ENDS