

Tuesday, 15 July 2025

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

Wednesday, 23 July 2025

commencing at **3.00 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 Law (Chairwoman)

Councillor Fellows (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Nicolaou

Councillor Spacagna
Councillor Twelves

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

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 5 - 18)
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 May and 2 June 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 Chairman decides are urgent.
5. **Torbay Youth Justice Plan 2025-26** (To Follow)
To receive an update on the Youth Justice Service and consider the Youth Justice Service Annual Plan and make recommendations to the Cabinet.
6. **Youth Provision and Physical Activity** (Pages 19 - 54)
To review youth provision and offer.
7. **Family First Partnership Programme - 6 Month Update** (Pages 55 - 90)
To consider the submitted report on the above.

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

(Pages 91 - 96)

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

19 May 2025

-: Present :-

Councillor Law (Chairwoman)

Voting Co-opted Members

Laura Colman (Primary Parent Governor Representative - virtual)

Jo Hunter (Church of England Diocese - virtual)

Non-voting Co-opted Member

Miranda Pusey (Devon and Cornwall Police - virtual)

Councillors Fellows (Vice-Chair), Tolchard and Twelves

(Also in attendance: Councillor Bye)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nicolaou, Mike Cook (Non-voting Co-opted Member) and Hayley Costar (Non-voting Co-opted Member who was represented by Miranda Pusey).

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Board held on 10 March 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairwoman.

3. Care Experienced, Including Housing for Care Experienced Young People

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Bye, Divisional Director of Community and Customer Services, Tara Harris and Affordable Housing Manager SHAP (Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme) – Programme, presented the submitted report and responded to questions in respect of housing for care experienced young people.

The Sub-Board asked questions in relation to the following:

- was SHAP supported living or follow on accommodation;
- when a care experienced person leaves their families were they encouraged to stay in touch and continue to be supported;

- the care experienced people who come back and need support, were they referred to Adult Services or would they continue to be supported by Children's Services;
- were young people who stay with host families a short term option;
- paragraph 1.1 referred to Torbay supporting 128 former care experienced young people, of whom 85% (110) were assessed as living in suitable accommodation, which left 18 who were not, 9 were in temporary accommodation and 1 in His Majesty's Prison, where were the remaining 8 (it was agreed that a written response would be provided to this question and where the Council was regarding staying put accommodation for care experienced young people);
- the figures were not correct in the report, it was requested that the figures be updated and the report be republished;
- section 8 referred to limited options to move families who have been found intentionally homeless, was there a plan to support those families; and
- what counted as intentionally homeless for a care experienced young person.

Members received the following responses:

- The SHAP project was being delivered by the YMCA to provide 36 units of accommodation for young people between the ages of 18-25 who were at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping. The YMCA was at the stage of practical completion for 3 of the 4 units of accommodation representing 28 of the 36 units. 18 units were expected to be occupied in July 2025. These units were intended to be the main landing point for young people where there would be overnight warden support. A further 8 units would come online in September 2025 and the remaining 10 in October 2025. The YMCA Staffing Team was in place and training was underway. From a local authority perspective, the allocation policy would now be developed at pace and a Panel established to ensure that this was a transparent process that was operational to ensure that properties were occupied at the earliest opportunity. Members were informed of the work that the YMCA had done in Exeter and suggested the merits of visiting to see what could be learned from their projects.
- There was a lack of suitable accommodation across Torbay, with 220 properties on Devon Home Choice a year across the system, with 1800 on a waiting list. The report had also been prepared in conjunction with the Devon Ofsted and feedback from the Mark Rydell visit. Support for housing for care experienced young people would form part of the Council's Ofsted inspection due later this year and was also the focus of a recent Corporate Parenting Board. Part of the challenge for some supported accommodation was the length of stay due to lack of suitable move on accommodation. High numbers of care experienced young people were staying over 18 months, with some for up to three years. Over the past four years take up had increased from 73% to 90% and accommodation was being utilised better.
- Feedback from Mark Rydell's visit showed that care experienced young people did not want to be in shared accommodation and wanted to be able to move on when they were ready. They felt that the housing offer could be inconsistent at times and could be better. The Council was reviewing the Band B offer and looking to get a set of guarantees to help care experienced young people to transition between Children's Services and Adults Services, with better joining

up of services specially around support for mental wellbeing. The Director of Adults and Community Services and Director of Children's Services were looking at the wider gaps and what the offer was for people post 18.

- Although the number of people in temporary accommodation had increased the number of care experienced young people in that accommodation had decreased. Supported lodgings with host families who support young people to live within their properties was a preferable option, but there had been a reduction in the number of families coming forward, which was the same nationally as well as a national shortage in foster carers. The length of time a young person stayed with a host family varied and depended on their relationships, the intention was for them to stay until they were ready to move on, but the problem was then lack of move on accommodation.
- There was expected to be a bottle neck of care experienced people this year with 35-59 and next year 30-44 people needing support. This excluded referrals through unaccompanied asylum seeking, potentially 25 a year, many of whom were 16 or 17 years old when they come through the scheme. These young people have complex needs particularly around mental health and wellbeing and substance misuse.
- Devon Home Choice had been asked how many care experienced young people had been allocated placements since changing them to a Band B, to help the Council identify how many young people were being placed through the current system to help identify demand.
- The Council has a duty of care for care experienced young people up to 25 years of age. Even after 21 years of age, if the young person says they do not want to see their Personal Advisor, the Personal Advisor will still reach out to them on a quarterly basis. Some do come back for support where they are struggling. They would continue to be supported through the Care Experienced Team, who would then work with other agencies to provide to support to the young person to meet their needs. There was concern that if they did not meet the criteria for support through Adult Services they would not receive the support, this was part of the reason the two Directors were working together as Children's Services retains responsibility but would need support through Adult Services. Work was being carried out with the Human Resources Team to have care experienced as a characteristic for job applications, which would ensure they receive an interview if they meet the essential job criteria.
- There was a pilot to provide early help via the Housing Options Team, to support families who were at risk of becoming homeless, this was carried out with Children's Services to identify issues and source temporary accommodation which was more cost effective than that previously secured by Children's Services as the Housing Team have more expertise in the temporary accommodation market. The Council did not have any intentional homeless people, that was just a legal term.
- Under the new Children's Reforms those children who would have previously been categorised intentionally homeless would have automatically been classed as children in need would no longer happen as they do not have to be held with a social worker, whoever was working with the family from early help services would support them and anyone could be a family lead practitioner. They would only come into Children's Services if they needed to escalate to

- child protection. There was a need to skill up the wider workforce to make them aware of the triggers to escalate to child protection.
- Last year the costs to Children's Services for spot purchasing temporary accommodation was £272,000, there had been a reduction in the number of families but the costs were increasing. There was a lot of different legislation coming into force which would impact on services. Previous market engagement events were not that successful. A needs analysis was being carried out so that the Council knows what it needs over the next five years, which would be used to drive the market to be flexible to meet our needs.
 - The Council did not define care experienced young people as intentionally homeless, when they may have difficulties with temporary accommodation.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the Democratic Services Team Leader be requested to arrange a site visit to the YMCA project in Exeter; and
2. that the Democratic Services Team Leader be requested to invite the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Members to the Planning Committee meetings when any new planning applications come through from the YMCA for the SHAP project.

4. Early Years Sufficiency

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Bye and the Divisional Director of Learning and Partnership Hubs, Rachel Setter presented the submitted report on Early Years Sufficiency Duty and responded to questions.

Members asked questions in relation to:

- was the early years provision in the areas where it was needed;
- how many schools provided nurseries;
- the questionnaire only had 50% response rate, what was being done to improve this, was this showing just the current situation or estimates for September, do we have sufficient places for September;
- how were staffing levels with a number of people leaving the sector and the impact on National Insurance contributions;
- do we know which providers charge for consumables e.g. nappies (a written response would be provided);
- 23% of providers had 10 unfilled spaces, 25% had more do we know what age group they were and what extent would the vacancies be taken up by the increase in hours, for the older age children do we encourage them towards school based nursery settings and encourage younger towards private nurseries;
- how many responses were received from the carers survey on who was able to access their full early years entitlements and what about the 15% who were not able to respond;
- how was affordability defined;
- how would the falling birthrate impact capacity in the longer term; and

- how many 0 to 4 years olds were there and what percentage of children were not represented and how do we capture that data.

The following responses were provided:

- Early years provision was sufficient across the whole of Torbay, with most being required close to where people work. One nursery was looking at a business plan to see if they could maintain their base funding. There were approximately 19 nurseries within schools. Discussions were being held with some schools due to dropping birth rates and less children coming into Reception to see how they could use their nursery provision moving forward. Future sufficiency was being reviewed alongside consideration under the Children's Reforms, which were focussing on having more community based teams.
- The recent capacity survey was advertised with schools, 0-19 providers and via the Council's communications and social media. It was felt that the low response from parents was due to people being satisfied and being able to access spaces. There was a separate survey for providers and parents. The Council had carried out its own mapping exercise and forecasts of birthrates and where people live and access provision and was satisfied that there was sufficient capacity where required. A written response would be provided on the breakdown of the responses to the surveys.
- The Council was working with South Devon College to access apprenticeship programmes, although it could be challenging taking people out of settings to undertake training. There was not a current problem with staff but this was being closely monitored due to challenges around wider education and cost of living, increase in National Insurance contributions and seeing some of the system struggling to maintain and think about key posts. Ongoing discussions were being held with providers to see if they had any issues with staff.
- The codes for early years entitlement were applied for before a parent could access a provider, sometimes a code was requested but not used. The Council does not have the information about individual codes. The majority of parents were validating their codes which was higher than the national average.
- Affordability was subjective based on how the parent felt.
- Parental preference was mainly to access early years close to where they work with schools being closer to their home due to friendships and after school activities. There was a risk of creating another transition if the Council encouraged parents into either school based or private nurseries. School based nurseries could also be term time only which did not suit some parent's needs.
- The surplus capacity for those going into reception at Primary School overall was 27% in Torquay, 25% in Paignton and 38% in Brixham. The Council was working with both early years and schools to see what was coming through. There was only one bulge year for secondary schools. In Paignton and Torquay secondary numbers were more consistent with numbers still falling in Brixham but not at the rate they were previously. These figures were monitored each term.
- There were 5666 children aged 0 to 4 years old out of 26115 children. Family Hubs were working with families and encouraging them to access provision

and support their development. There has been an increase in development of young children which takes the Council above national levels.

Members noted the update and thanked Officers for their work.

5. Children's Services Self-Assessment

This item was deferred to 2 June 2025 meeting.

6. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme 2025/2026

The Chairwoman presented the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme for the municipal year 2025/26 and Members noted that it had been devised with input from Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet Members, partners and Senior Officers. The Work Programme was designed to help shape how the meetings of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board would operate, and the Work Programme would be flexible to accommodate additional topics that may require scrutinising throughout the year.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that the initial Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme for 2025/2026 as presented be approved; and
2. that the Work Programme will be kept under regular review by the Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board and the Democratic Services Team Leader.

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

The Sub-Board noted the contents of the submitted action tracker. Arising from Minute 48, Councillor Twelves updated Members that she had contacted the Participation Leads again and they would put her in touch with other care experienced young people if the identified individual did not come back to them.

Chairwoman

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

2 June 2025

-: Present :-

Councillor Law (Chairwoman)

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

Co-opted Member

Jo Hunter (Church of England Diocese)

Non-voting Co-opted Member

Tanny Stobart (Play Torbay - Representing the Voluntary Children and Young People Sector)

(Also in attendance: Councillors Bye, George Darling, David Thomas and Tyerman)

8. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Hayley Costar and Mike Cook (Non-voting Co-opted Members).

9. Service Changes at the St Margaret's Academy and The Spires College Hearing Impairment Units

Following a Councillor call for action in respect of the decision taken by the Director of Children's Services on changes to the funding arrangements for the Hearing Impairment Service (referred to as HIU) at St Margaret's Academy and The Spires College and the Torbay children at these two schools, whose Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) stated that they required an enhanced offer at a mainstream school (3 children at St Margaret's and 2 at The Spires), for whom the units were resourced and a petition requesting the decision to close the St Margaret's Hearing Impairment Unit to be overturned, which was referred to the Sub-Board by the Council on 6 February 2025. Members considered the following evidence and oral representations:

Written statements:

- Petition;
- Statement from One Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB);
- Statement from National Deaf Society;
- Statement from St Margarets Academy;

- Statement from The Spires College (Note: the Headteacher of The Spires College gave her apologies for the meeting); and
- Statement from Director of Children's Services responding to the key lines of enquiry.

The following people made oral representations and responded to Members' questions:

- Felicity Morris - Petitioner;
- Su Smart - One Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB);
- Martin Thacker - National Deaf Society;
- Nicki O'Dwyer, Headteacher - St Margaret's Academy; and
- Nancy Meehan - Director of Children's Services.

Members heard about the excellent work done by the two schools to support children with a hearing impairment at the Hearing Impairment Units (known as enhanced resource provision) and how valued the service was by staff, parents, carers and children.

Members discussion focussed on the following:

- how the units were funded and the number of children with an EHCP;
- the process for engagement with the schools and families;
- future anticipated numbers of children with a hearing impairment who may require enhanced resource provision (ERP); and
- what the changes for the existing children would be and how children with a hearing impairment would be supported moving forward.

Members noted the decision taken by the Director of Children's Services was a change to a funding model not a removal of support. The previous method of funding – via an enhanced resource provision – means that more complex needs cannot be resourced well. The new proposal increases the funding which both schools would receive for the children and young people who previously had places in the ERP going forward.

It was noted that the empty spaces (only 50% of capacity across both schools was being used) meant that there had been £47,245.00 of unutilised funds due to the unfilled places at St Margaret's Academy and £64,082.00 at The Spires College in 2023/4 (these funds remain with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and are not given to either the Local Authority or school settings). These spaces were specifically nominated spaces which the Local Authority had designated to receive support and submit numbers to the ESFA (rather than those the school may be supporting more 'informally', as described by the schools in how they currently use the provision). The report stated:

- St Margaret's Academy total increase spend on the previous year would increase by 16.23%.
- As an example, at St Margaret's Academy the unit or element funding had increased for one individual by at least five times. This increased funding would ensure that a higher level and quality of provision could be delivered.

- As an example, at The Spires College the unit or element 3 funding for one young person had increased for one young person had increased by ten times their previous unit rate.

Members noted the concerns of the Head of St Margaret's Academy that removal of the baseline funding meant that future funding could not be guaranteed, however, the increased rate per child and an indication from the statistics provided by the Integrated Care Board that numbers were expected to remain at similar levels at approximately 2.2 children per year and with provision being funded to meet the individual child's needs, and should those children currently being assessed for an EHCP or were SENK develop a need for an enhanced resource provision the new higher level of funding would be provided to the Schools to meet their needs. It was then up to the school how they used the funding to meet the identified needs.

The Board noted that most children who attended primary and secondary schools with a diagnosed hearing impairment were being supported in mainstream schools with Hayes Primary School having the largest primary school numbers at 4 and Churston Ferrers Grammar School having the highest secondary school numbers at 5. The Consortium for Research in Deaf Education (CRIDE) Report was referred to which stated that there had been a drop of forty HIUs over recent years, moving away from separate units. It was acknowledged that there was also a reduction in specialist teachers and support staff to support children with hearing impairment across the country and the National Deaf Children's Society had concerns over potential impact in attainment for deaf children.

The Board heard about the chronological order of engagement with the Schools and parents of the five children who receive ERP through the HIUs at St Margaret's Academy and The Spires College but that due to the teachers also being employed by Torbay Council to provide the Hearing Advisory Service across all schools they were not able to be consulted on the proposals due to conflicts of interest, also the children had not been spoken to as it was a funding decision and the Council did not want to cause them any worry about a change which they should not see. Members acknowledged the wider concerns raised by the schools and other parents outside of the five identified children but they were not part of the decision as the funding was only provided for the five children and therefore fell outside the statutory process required by the Government for service changes. Members were advised that the Council had not received any complaints from the five families involved. It was recognised that this process for the change in funding may have not been clearly communicated to the wider school community as well as what enhanced resource provision was and who could access it. The Director of Children's Services advised that the Council had not previously published details of enhanced provision and she intended to develop Service Level Agreements with schools which covered the new statutory elements of support as well as EHCPs and how to support children with a diagnosed hearing impairment who did not yet have an EHCP in place and that this would be communicated wider to help raise awareness.

Members noted the statutory assessment framework for EHCPs as set out in the written response to the Key Lines of Enquiry and that the agreed EHCP would set out specific requirements e.g. number of hours a week with a specialist teacher etc. and that there would be no change to the EHCP or support that would be provided as a

result of the funding changes. The EHCP can name the school where support would be provided but does not include the name of the HIU for St Margaret's Academy and The Spires College. As a result of this the families and children should not see any changes to how their support was provided within the schools. The EHCPs were reviewed annually with the families, child, schools and relevant professionals to ensure that they were kept up to date with additional reviews looking at transition and next steps for future educational placements and what support the child needs moving forward.

It was noted that the ICB was seeing a different demand for services, which had been impacted by Covid-19 and the ability to manage children with a hearing impairment. The ICB was working with the Family Hubs on recovery work to try to see children earlier with a priority need for speech and language to help prevent demand from escalating.

Members were advised that the previous community events resourced by the HIUs were now being organised and funded through the Family Hubs who were able to reach out to wider deaf communities and schools who had other deaf children to bring them all together.

Resolved (unanimously):

1. that following the Councillor call for action and petition and having carefully considered all the written and oral evidence, the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board acknowledges the concerns raised from the parents, schools and the National Deaf Children's Society in respect of the service changes for St Margaret's Academy and The Spires College Hearing Impairment Units. Members noted the concerns relating to some children who have been benefitting from support from the Hearing Impairment Units, whilst not actually qualifying for the enhanced support of the HIU and the confusion this appears to have caused. Members have been assured that both the children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), as well as those who are Special Educational Needs Known (SENK), will continue to receive the required levels of support identified in their plans, to meet their needs;
2. that there is a misconception of the community and parents' understanding of who can access an enhanced resource provision for hearing impairment and as a result the Director of Children's Services be requested to prepare service level agreements for all enhanced resource provisions in Torbay, including the criteria required, the legal and statutory framework and this be published on the website in an accessible format in order for parents, carers and young people to have a clear understanding of the criteria and provide transparency of the requirements for those provisions;
3. that having heard the new funding arrangements the Board was assured that the funding would achieve better outcomes tailored to the individual child's needs, that the Director of Children's Services be recommended that no further action be taken regarding the decision taken on the service changes to St

Margaret's Academy and The Spires College Hearing Impairment Units and that the decision continues to be implemented; and

4. that the Torbay Association of Secondary Headteachers (TASH) and Torbay Association of Primary Schools (TAPS) be recommended to consider working with school on how they deliver sensitive news to parents, particularly when only a small number of pupils and their families may be affected.

(Note 1: Members were informed by the Monitoring Officer that some of the written statements had been redacted or rejected as they contained either information which falls outside the scope of that to be considered by the Sub-Board e.g. related to Devon children, or made reference to a third party which the Council did not have consent to disclose, and elements of which have been subject to legal representation and a response provided by the Council's Legal Department and were not matters to which the Sub-Board were able to make any recommendations on. The Director of Children's Services advised that there was also information which had been inadvertently published in the statement from St Margaret's Academy that should have been redacted in line with the other representations as stated above, namely information on page 1 regarding 8 places (as only 3 of these children were Torbay children with an EHCP) and the bullet points relating to children on roll without an EHCP or on pathway to application for EHCP could not be considered as only children with an EHCP could be considered in the enhanced resource provision. The numbers on the SENK register also differed from the numbers officially reported to the Local Authority and these children do not have access through the framework to the Hearing Impairment Unit, and the Advisory Service is provided by the Local Authority and was Council information, with the Advisory Service providing support to all children with hearing impairment across the whole of Torbay.)

(Note 2: prior to consideration of the item in Minute 9, Councillor Tyerman declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Governor of The Spires College.)

10. Exclusion of Press and Public

Prior to consideration of the item in Minute 11 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).

11. Children's Services Self-Assessment

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Bye, and the Director of Children's Services, Nancy Meehan outlined the exempt draft 2024-25 Torbay Children's Services Self Evaluation of Practice, which set out the Council's self-evaluation against the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services Framework and articulates what the Council knows about the quality and impact of practice in Torbay and plans to maintain and improve practice over the next year and responded to questions.

The Sub-Board asked questions in relation to:

- recruitment and retention of staff within the Disabilities Team had been a challenge, it was projected to be staffed to capacity by May 2025, had this been achieved;
- was the Agency Manager impacting on budgets;
- what level do people have to be in order to be a lead practitioner;
- were parents, children and families concerned about the new Children's Reforms;
- the child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and agreement had ceased, what does the new commission look like;
- who were hidden men;
- 29% of those Children in Need open within Operational Services have been open for over twelve months..... to ensure they are not subject to intervention for longer than they should be, was this covered by the Family First Programme;
- were special guardianship orders and children staying put affecting the Council's sufficiency numbers or could they take another child; and
- what was being done about children's access to dentistry.

The following responses were provided:

- the staff within the Disabilities Team were up to capacity but an Agency Manager was currently in post due to current restructuring and working towards the new Children's Reforms which would change the way the Council works;
- there were budget pressures in 2024/2025 due to use of agency workers but it was expected that this would decrease when the new ways of working and restructuring was completed;
- under the Reforms the worker holding Early Help will be the lead worker as the child will no longer need to have a social worker unless they progress to child protection. There were proposals to develop staff across the whole of the workforce including the Homelessness and Housing Teams to ensure that they were able to appropriately support families and children and know when to escalate which were due to go live from 1 September, the Council was currently reviewing each child to make sure that they were allocated to the right worker ready for this change;
- it was not yet known if parents, families and children were aware of the new Reforms, pathfinders have not realised that moving from early help to child in need would be the same worker, with them only moving to a social worker if they progress to child protection;
- the Council was currently reviewing the provision for the child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and agreement and would be going out to procurement later in the year to ensure that children have their therapeutic needs met;
- hidden men were males involved in the child's lives, to help understand their involvement, previously the Council had not actively engaged in speaking to men to understand their influence on the child's lives as the focus had been on the main carer;

- the Children in Need open within Operational Services were part of the Family First Programme and the Council was looking at every child who was in need starting with those who have been known the longest as part of a health check to see where they were progressing;
- special guardianship orders and children staying had impacted on sufficiency as well as a number of retirements and concern over the sufficiency of foster carers, the Council was at minus two at the moment, but they could take on extra children if they met the criteria and had space; and
- the Council was working with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) about local dentistry services and it was part of the oversight of the Torbay Safeguarding Children's Partnership Neglect Sub-Group. It was noted that there was a lack of dentists locally taking on NHS for children.

It was suggested that the data on children placed out of area could be better quantified as some children choose to stay in an area and it also included unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC); also a footnote to be included with the Adopt South West average time from receiving court authority to placement as this can be skewed by a small number of children and could be where some were in foster care and then adopted.

Members welcomed the catch up on the life story work, which had seen a real improvement as well as good escalation of issues through the Children's Continuous Improvement Board carrying out deep dives on areas of concern.

Resolved (unanimously):

That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board endorse the Torbay Children's Service Self Evaluation of Practice 2024-2025 as set out in exempt Appendix 1 to the submitted report and that it is published in accordance with Council's requirements and thank officers for all their hard work in preparing the Self Evaluation Practice.

Chairwoman

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight how youth provision, including sport and physical activity is delivered across Torbay.
- 1.2 The reports details key provision delivered by both the local authority and wider partners, including the VCS.
- 1.3 The report also provides background information to Torbay on the Move and the vital benefits play, physical activity and sport can bring to children and young people.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 A review and development of youth provision is a key local workstream within the wider transformation work that is currently being undertaken by Children's Social Care in conjunction with the Children's Social Care Reforms as directed by central Government.
- 2.2 Through collaboration with schools, community groups and other agencies, Torbay Council aims to create a comprehensive transformation action plan ensuring young people's safety and wellbeing supporting a smooth transition to adulthood.
- 2.3 Torbay Council aims to achieve its vision of creating a comprehensive and inclusive youth services framework by enhancing youth services, address community needs, promoting the youth work curriculum, and increase engagement in positive opportunities, including sport and physical activity for young people.
- 2.4 The vision will be enhanced by closer collaboration with community groups that will allow a wider activity base offer to young people that taps into the intrinsic motivations and interests of the widest group as possible. This will involve partnership working with Community Youth Services, Church Youth Services, and Arts, Sports, and School Youth activity groups and build on existing work through Torbay on the Move. This will allow an offer to be built that focuses on delivering high-quality services and responding to emerging needs.

2.5 Torbay on the Move helps us to deliver against our corporate objectives of wanting our residents to thrive; turning the tide on poverty; reducing inequalities and making Torbay a premier resort in the UK. We will help to deliver this ambition by;

- Increasing physical activity levels across Torbay, which has the potential to make a positive contribution, not just to the health and wellbeing agendas but also to the local economy and the environmental agenda with an established link to cleaner air, less carbon produced and cleaner and safer roads.
- Realising the range of benefits of physical activity (including sport) at both an individual and societal level. It is proven to have significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds and it contributes to the prevention and management of noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, and diabetes.
- Reducing the symptoms of depression and anxiety, as well as the enhancement of thinking, learning and judgement skills through physical activity; ensuring healthy growth in young people and improves overall wellbeing.
- Addressing physical inactivity which is known to increase the risks of experiencing poor physical and mental health and has a strong link with lower life expectancy. In Torbay there is a gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived quintiles of 8 years.
- Improving the physical inactivity profile of Torbay where currently 1 in 4 Adults and 1 in 4 Children & Young People are physically inactive. The impact of physical inactivity and obesity falls hardest on those from lower income backgrounds rates for both being higher among children and adults from the most deprived areas. Children aged five from the poorest income groups are twice as likely to become obese compared to their more well-off counterparts and by age eleven they are three times more likely to become obese.
- Reducing the burden on the public purse by helping Torbay residents become more resilient to the daily challenges they face; challenges which have increased in recent times as a result of the pandemic and inflation.
- Sharing the Torbay on the Move strategy across the council and aligning with other key strategic objectives is important to increase the likelihood for success and reduce the potential for duplication or confusion.
- Investing in the proposed way of working will require a sizeable shift from transactional behaviours to transformational. Typically, a shift of this nature takes long-term sustained commitment alongside investment in people and resources to develop and implement new ways of working.
- There is a significant opportunity to continue to engage with Community Partners and capitalise on the commitment and energy given to the consultation process. Delivering Torbay on the Move will require close community working and supporting local solutions resulting in increased community resilience with the Council as an enabler for change.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

3.1 That members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider this report in relation to the overall Transformation work and the Torbay on the Move work and raise any concerns about this that can be taken back to the Transformation Board for further discussion and resolution.

Supporting Information

Torbay on the Move

Background Information

- Torbay on the Move was launched in 2021 as a series of recommendations that sought to increase physical activity levels in Torbay. Consultation with partners has increased our understanding of the strengths of Torbay and the opportunities for making a difference for our communities, with four key recommendations being recognised: [1] having an overarching strategy; [2] committing to a whole systems approach; [3] communicating effectively with internal and external partners; and [4] supporting the formation of a 'Strategy Oversight Group'.
- The Torbay on the Move strategy aims to support and encourage residents to be active in a way that works for them and at a level that provides significant benefits to physical and mental wellbeing.

The vision for Torbay on the Move is 'More people, more active, more often.'

- Eight Strategic Outcome Themes have been identified for Torbay on the Move: • Active Environments • Active Travel • Active Children and Young People • Active Health • Active Clubs • Active Places • Active for All • Active Workforces.
- The final two themes are crosscutting in nature and underpin the other six themes. Equally important to the identification of the Strategic Outcome Themes is the approach taken in the development and roll out of Torbay on the Move. Adopting a place based and whole system approach is considered critical to increasing the likelihood of population level change.
- Further to the outcome themes, three specific priority audiences have also been identified for Torbay on the Move: • People with lower incomes or those experiencing poverty • People with a disability or long-term health condition, including mental health difficulties • Children and Young People.



What does Physical Activity look like for Children and Young People in Torbay?

What is the data telling us?

In Torbay, 27% of children are less active, which is higher than the 23% in Devon. Childhood obesity levels in Torbay stand at 11%, compared to 9% in England and 8% in Devon. Additionally, 21% of children in Torbay live in poverty, higher than the 19% in England and 17% in Devon. The percentage of children with disabilities in Torbay is 9%, compared to 6% in England and 7% in Devon. Children and young people with two or more characteristics of inequality are the least active, least likely to volunteer, and have the lowest levels of positive attitudes and wider outcomes.

Physical Literacy and its importance

Physical literacy refers to the degree to which we have a positive and meaningful relationship with movement and physical activity. It reflects our connection and commitment to movement and physical activity, influenced by various factors such as our thoughts, feelings, engagement, and experiences. The quality of our relationship with movement and physical activity profoundly influences our choice to be active. A positive and meaningful relationship with movement and physical activity makes us more likely to stay active, benefiting our health, wellbeing, and quality of life. Through our programme delivery and various approaches, we use physical literacy to understand and support children and young people in Torbay to have positive experiences of physical activity and movement. Our goal is to help them develop a positive relationship with movement that will support them throughout their life journey.

Using physical activity to enhance the physical and mental wellbeing of young people

Physical activity (including Sport) has a range of benefits at both an individual and societal level. It is proven to have significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds and it contributes to the prevention and management of noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers and diabetes. Physical activity reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety, enhances thinking, learning and judgment skills, ensures health growth and development in young people and improves overall wellbeing. [Source: World Health Organisation(WHO)].

Helping children and young people have more access and opportunities to be active will be critical to Torbay being a healthy, happy, and thriving place. Embedding activity into schools and creating daily movement opportunities will give a greater chance of normalising active behaviour throughout their lives. Working with schools in Torbay will help children and young people thrive physically, emotionally, socially, and academically. Torbay has seen rising levels of mental health concerns in Children and Young People following the pandemic and physical activity is a key tool to support and address this mental health crisis. There is already a strong commitment from Torbay via the 'Child Friendly Torbay' initiative and networks such as the Imagine This partnership that puts the heart and voice of children and young people at the forefront of everything that they do. Collaborating with the physical activity sector and co-designing initiatives that improve the provision will strengthen this shared vision.

The importance of physical playtime and facilities within schools and what are we doing to highlight this

The positive effects of leisure and play time include better problem solving, improved work ethic, and improved creativity. Outside of a work performance realm, quality leisure time has also been shown to help with wider psychological and cognitive wellbeing, physical health, and quality of life.

What does our physical activity and sport offer, including leisure centre provision, for children and young people look like?

Our approach

Our approach with Torbay on the Move, is to support children and young people to improve their relationship with movement from an early age. We are focussing some of our key programmes on improving children's school readiness and fundamental skills needed, children's mental health in schools and supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. So far since the launch of Torbay on the Move, we have:

- Set up a Children and Young People sub-group which includes a youth voice.
- Youth Sport Trust Insight Visits have taken place across seven schools, and a report has been delivered.
- We have worked with Paignton Academy and Ellacombe Academy to introduce the **Creating Active Schools** (CAS) professional development programme which supports schools to create happy and healthy environments through physical activity. Using behavioural science, CAS helps schools to create impactful and sustainable change for physical activity. Underpinned by world-leading research CAS supports schools to build on their strengths while identifying areas of improvement that can be improved step-by-step.
- The DfE **Opening School Facilities** (OSF) Programme has supported Paignton Academy (£53,126.76), Torquay Academy (£25,098.42) and Oldway Primary School (£39,415.96). OSF funding has supported these schools to open their sports facilities beyond the normal school day, (evening, weekends and holidays) to support them to provide a broader range of young people and local communities access to more opportunities to be physically active.
- School to Club link programmes continue to be delivered with Back to Sport 2 Funding and most recently 'More Active, More Often' funding. Programmes include cricket (Barton Cricket Club), women and girls rugby (Paignton Rugby Club) and Table Tennis (Torbay Table Tennis Academy).
- The **Stormbreak Surge Training Programme** was offered with three primary schools; Collaton St Mary, Our Lady of the Angels and Sacred Heart taking up the training offer. Surge is a primary school emotional wellbeing programme which empowers senior leaders, teachers and wider school staff to support children's mental and physical health. Surge aims to equip Stormbreak advocates in schools with resources, activities and confidence to support children to recognise their emotions, respond to their feelings and regulate their emotions as they navigate the challenges of growing up. A video and blog showing the impact of the work can be viewed [here](#). Schools can now sign up to take part in cohort 2 which will start in the autumn term.
- **Set for Success** is live and taking place at Torquay Academy, Paignton Academy and Brunel Academy. Set for Success is an intensive youth leadership initiative which seeks to support young people at risk of not achieving their full potential through a series of sessions delivered by inspirational athlete mentors and teachers through active learning and sport. Set for Success supports participants to improve their life and employability skills, their engagement at school, as well as develop their confidence, aspirations and self-esteem. The programme is also providing the opportunity for a Torbay care experienced young person to undertake a Project Support Assistant role to support the programme for 12 months.
- The free to access **Activity Volunteer Award**, which supports and encourages young people to play an active role in volunteering has been delivered at Paignton Academy and Lifeworks. The programme of learning is designed to offer young people a pathway into volunteering through building transferable core skills that complement their wider education journey. The programme covers five skills, which were identified by Youth Employment UK as being the most in-demand by employers - self-belief, communication, problem solving, teamwork and self-management.

- Learn to Ride and Bikeability Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 continues to be delivered across all schools in Torbay.
- The Torbay Leisure Card has supported children and young people who have been recognized through the NCMP as being overweight/obese; offering them subsidised activity sessions across numerous venues in the Bay.
- The Healthy Selfie Trail, a year long walking treasure hunt around Torbay was launched. The walks remain a permanent feature with three new accessible trails added; 'The Healthy Selfie Geopark Journeys', in partnership with the English Riviera BID Company and the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark.
- School Street Pilots delivered at Furzeham Primary School and Curledge Street Primary School. A School Street is a road (or collection of roads) outside a school with restriction on motorised traffic at the start and end of the school day. They are introduced through Traffic Regulation Orders and require consultation with the public. School Streets have the potential to improve the experience of people using the highway around schools (including staff, pupils, neighbours) at peak times by reducing congestion in the area, improving road safety and encouraging walking, wheeling and cycling to school. Torbay currently has two School Streets in operation. One is at Curledge Street, Paignton which was introduced in 2020 and then formalised in 2023. The second School Street was introduced at Furzeham Primary School, Brixham as an experiment in 2023 and then made permanent in 2024. Both schools report that the School Streets are having positive benefits:

Hannah Wilkinson (Head of School, Curledge Street Academy) – “We want to make sure that our environment is the safest happiest place that it can be for not just the children but the whole school community and it’s really important for us that they can enter the school and exit the school with reduced emissions and a safer zone for cycling and scooting which our children absolutely adore” (July 2023)

Richard Bennett (Teacher, Furzeham Primary & Nursery School) – “The Experimental Traffic Order has significantly reduced the amount of traffic outside the school main entrance since its introduction and has encouraged more children to either walk, cycle or scoot to school, particularly in the Summer term. We are grateful for all the help and support we have received that have helped make all of this possible.” (September 2024)

Leisure Facilities: Background Information

Leisure facilities for young people offer numerous benefits, including improved physical and mental health, increased social interaction, and reduced crime rates. These facilities can also enhance community cohesion and provide opportunities for positive engagement, particularly for young people who might otherwise be excluded due to cost barriers:

- Increased Physical Activity: Access to gyms, swimming pools, and sports facilities encourages young people to participate in physical activities, which can reduce the risk of obesity, heart disease, and other health problems.
- Reduced Risk of Mental Health Issues: Engaging in leisure activities can help alleviate stress, anxiety, and depression, promoting better mental health among young people.

- **Community Engagement:** Leisure facilities can serve as hubs for social interaction, allowing young people to connect with peers, build relationships, and develop a sense of belonging.
- **Reduced Crime Rates:** Studies have shown that providing free or affordable leisure activities can help reduce crime rates by offering young people constructive alternatives to negative behaviors.
- **Improved Social Skills:** Participating in group activities and sports can enhance teamwork, communication, and other important social skills.
- **Savings:** Free leisure facilities can help families save money on childcare and recreational activities, freeing up resources for other essential needs.
- **Reduced Healthcare Costs:** By promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases, leisure facilities can contribute to long-term healthcare cost savings.

A snapshot of Torbay's Leisure and Sport Facilities offer:

- **Swim Torquay** – recently awarded More Active funding to deliver free snorkelling sessions for children and young people over the summer holidays.
- **Brixham Admiral Pool** – recently awarded More Active funding to deliver free aqua aerobics for teenagers over the summer holidays.
- **Torbay Leisure Card** - Offers reduced entry charges to various activities for Torbay residents on low incomes, promoting physical activity, including access to Torbay Leisure Centre and the Riviera International Conference Centre and Waves Pool, and our Park Tennis sites.
- **Torquay United Community Sports Trust** – recently awarded More Active funding to deliver a 12-month subsidised football in the community programme for families on low incomes.
- **Barton Cricket Club** in partnership with Riviera Cricket Academy – offers 'free' membership to the club for families in receipt of free school meals who attend their partner schools.
- **Free Moovement** – a free, friendly and welcoming group who motivate and support each other to get fit and improve physical health and mental wellbeing, in Upton Park every Monday and Thursday.
- **Park Yoga** – free yoga session every Sunday morning throughout the summer at Torre Abbey.
- **Junior ParkRun** – free 3k run, every Sunday morning at Torbay Velopark.
- **Whizz Around for a £1** – £1 rides at Torbay velopark every Wednesday after-school and during the summer holidays.
- **Torbay Leisure Centre and Riviera International Conference Centre** – offer dedicated junior gym sessions.
- **Healthy Holidays** - Free holiday provision available to children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals (FSM) or are Electively Home Educated (EHE). Children will experience an activity offer, including physical activity.
- **Park Tennis** – free park tennis at Abbey Park courts on a Saturday morning, 10am-11am. Holiday Tennis programmes are also delivered at Abbey Park.

- We mustn't forget our **green and blue spaces** in Torbay as they have been firmly identified as one of Torbay's greatest assets. This has been recognised in 'Our Torbay Story', showcasing the strengths and assets of Torbay:

'The combination of active experiences on offer provides a celebration of outdoor enjoyment for all ages and abilities.' (Our Torbay Story)

- The unique landscape of Torbay is home to many calm natural bays, coastland, and parks for the local community to connect with and be active in nature. The Active Environment theme of Torbay on the Move seeks to enable more people in Torbay to be active in their local environment to support physical and mental health. There are perceptions that these green and blue spaces are not safe or accessible places for people to be active. The aspiration is that people in Torbay are empowered, confident and able to engage actively with their local green and blue spaces. Barriers to access are addressed to increase accessibility. Research shows, that 'where' and 'how' people can be active, has a significant impact on the likelihood that individuals will take part in activities and build activity into daily and weekly habits.

What is our Youth Service offer?

Summary of the Youth Service Offer

- Currently, the in-house Youth Services consists of:-
 - Senior Youth Worker 1.6 FTE
 - Youth Support Workers 1.8 FTE
 - Attendance Support Youth Worker 1.0 FTE
- Following the phase one implementation of the Children's Services redesign on 1st September 2025, the Youth Service will be enhanced by the addition of a fulltime Youth Hub Manager, an additional 2fte Youth Support Workers and 3fte Substance Misuse workers
- The in-house Youth Service offer operates in collaboration with a number of VCS organisations to offer a comprehensive package of targeted and universal activity-based programs as detailed below.

Targeted Intervention: The in-house service offers a targeted Level 3 intervention, Flip the Script, for young people aged 11-17 facing various challenges, including autism, exploitation risks, SEND, and mental health issues. It provides up to 12 sessions for 25 young people at a time.

Weekly Drop-In Sessions: The in-house service runs weekly drop-in sessions at Parkfield which are held in partnership with Reach Outdoors, Torquay United Community Sports Trust, and YMCA. There are 77 young people currently registered for these sessions.

Tabletop Roleplay Group: Every Thursday from 5pm to 7.30pm, young people aged 15 to 19 years can join the Tabletop Roleplay Group to create their own character or choose a pre-made one and play.

'SHE and US' Young Women's Group: Every Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm, young people identifying as young women can join the 'SHE and US' Young Women's Group for fun and empowering conversations on issues that impact them. Activities include outdoor games, music, cooking, arts & crafts.

Kaleidoscope LGBTQIA+ Offer: Kaleidoscope is the Torbay Council Support offer for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans young people or those questioning their gender or sexuality. It works closely with local LGBTQIA+ organization Proud2Be.

'Doing it Differently' Youth Drop-In Group: Every Friday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, young people aged 11-17 years can join the 'Doing it Differently' Youth Drop-In Group for information and support, fun indoor climbing sessions and other activities.

Youth Work and School Attendance: The Attendance Youth Worker, managed via the Vulnerable Pupils Team, works across small groups of children at risk of not successfully transferring to secondary school or having poor attendance at school.

Community-Based Youth Clubs: Commissioned providers deliver five youth clubs, operating twice a week across Torbay (10 youth club sessions every week). Providers include The Windmill Centre, Love Enterprise CIC, and Plymouth Argyle Community Trust.

Youth Hub Torbay Social Media: Since November 2023, the Youth Hub and Participation Team have been running @YouthHubTorbay on Instagram and Facebook to showcase the work undertaken by the Youth Hub, the Participation Team, and local providers to young people aged 13+ years and parents/carers of young people in Torbay.

Youth Service Summer Activity Programme: Every July and August the in-house Youth Service in collaboration with partners provides a comprehensive summer camp and activity programme. The programme on offer covers all types of activities including sports, adventure, arts and life skills. See appendix 1 for this year's activities.

Youth Justice Service: Our YJS service has a prevention model in place to deter young people from entering into criminal activity – as part of this programme, we redirected 68 children away from crime activity last year.

The youth justice service group mainly involves children and young people from Torbay that are vulnerable to exploitation and/or at risk of offending. Many of these children have SEMH needs and have difficulties within the school environment. Many of the children and young people have experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and some of the young people within the group are cared for by the local authority.

The group aims to provide an environment that encourages growth in social and emotional abilities as well as mental health support. The Youth Justice Service supports children and young people to actively participate in positive activities with their peers. Activities include but are not limited to,

forest school, sports, and construction. The YJS aim to provide an environment where all participants feel comfortable to express themselves and have trained youth justice professionals to guide activities and conversations to get the best out of young people. The main objective is to support young people to desist from offending by using a strength based approach that will help to build and develop their skills, self-efficacy and self-esteem.

Many of the activities are outdoors and this is something that has been highlighted by young people as being important. For example, Harry age 14 says, "*The group has been fun and enjoyable being outdoors and I have been able to make new friends*". Harry like many others, attends the group regularly and professionals have noticed an improvement in his practical abilities, his confidence and social ability and his engagement in education. Harry's risk of offending has reduced since being part of the group.

Substance Misuse Treatment: The Substance Misuse Treatment Service and Return Home Interview for young people were both brought back in-house in May 2025 to strengthen youth engagement and support post-treatment or missing episodes.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme: HAF has been running in Torbay since the start of the programme in 2021. In this time, we have worked with a variety of providers to deliver the core offer of the HAF programme. Within the requirements set out by the Department of Education, we complete due diligence checks on all providers during every holiday period, this is to ensure high quality provision throughout Torbay. During our procurement process, we have tender opportunities that ensure sufficient provision is available for primary and secondary aged children and young people, provision for children with SEND and ensuring provision is geographically well situated. It is a requirement for all HAF provision to offer a range of physical activities; an enrichment activity which could be anything from crafts or a petting zoo coming in; and as well as the healthy meal there must be education around nutrition and a balanced diet.

Although the programme is aimed at children receiving benefits related free-school meals (FSMs), as a local authority we can allocate up to 15% of our funding to provide free or subsidised spaces for children who are not in receipt of FSMs but fall under another category that is within the local authorities' priorities. In Torbay, we have focused on allocating these spaces to children and young people that are electively home educated (EHE). This decision was made because of the number of children and young people who are EHE in Torbay and our understanding of the benefits of attending a holiday club.

We have recognised, along with many other local authorities, that our Christmas provision may not be able to meet the full offer of 4 days face-to-face; this is due to the way Christmas holidays fall. Therefore, we offer 2 days of this remote which has mostly been in the form of activity packs and food hampers.

The HAF budget is allocated by the government and is determined by the number of FSM eligible children and young people in Torbay. The budget is not expected to cover spaces for all eligible children as understandably not everyone will access the programme.

The total budget for 2024/25 was £537,200.

The following table demonstrates the reach the HAF gained across the child population in 2024/25:-

2024 numbers of	Easter	Summer	Christmas
Providers	12	11	11
Holiday clubs	21	20	20
Total places available	2596	9516	2132
CYP reached	795	1288	664
FSM eligible CYP	585	1081	585
FSM primary CYP	497	703	404
FSM secondary CYP	88	139	78
FSM eligible primary aged CYP with SEND	119	197	92
FSM eligible secondary aged CYP with SEND	32	42	11

Twelve providers were engaged for the 2024/25 programme providing a range of activities across different locations in the Bay as follows:-

- Achieve4All
- Argyle Community Trust
- Imagine - Torbay Multicultural Group CIC
- Kinetic Sports Group
- Libraries Unlimited
- Love Enterprise
- Play Torbay
- Premier Education Holiday Camp

- ProCoaching
- Shear Soccer
- Sporty Stars
- Turning Heads

Feedback from the 2024/25 programme was really positive with all the children taking part having the opportunity to experience new activities or develop skills that they already have an interest in. Examples of the feedback received is detailed below:-

"The children had a fantastic time; all the staff are so supportive and caring. Very welcoming and reassuring, you all do an amazing job. Thank you."

"It has been an amazing time with other families joining in the drumming workshop, arts & crafts and interactive story. Children had fun and team made sure parents got fun too. Session absolutely worth coming to. Many thanks for this opportunity to have a different kind of fun."

"My two boys were constantly entertained and thoroughly enjoyed the thought out activities. The healthy 'make your own lunch' was inviting and my boys ate more fruit and veg than normal. Super friendly environment and atmosphere for all parents and children involved."

"We have been to both Wildfox and Barton - HAF has been fantastic! The whole family are included; there's something for everyone. It's given me the opportunity to socialise with other mums whilst knowing A is safe and socialising with others. There has been so much choice of activities. Everything's been really successful – very impressed."

"We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Sporty Stars team for their exceptional care of J. His daily return with a radiant smile speaks volumes about the positive experiences he's had. Despite his usual struggles to fit in, the team has managed to instil confidence and excitement in him. Thank you, Sporty Stars team, for your dedication and support!"

Following a successful HAF 2024 programme and the positive feedback from the families using the HAF programme, it has been well received that HAF has been continued for 2025. As with every other year, high quality provision will continue, and Torbay Council will be working closely with providers to ensure HAF is continuing to grow and benefit the community. This will be done by speaking to families, finding out their honest reflections on the programme and what can be done to improve it. Additionally, in partnership with providers in 2025, Torbay Council are looking to provide more opportunities, signposting and support to families outside of the standardised HAF offer; this may be through a whole Christmas event, resources sent home to encourage growing your own food, easily accessible information on signposting to support services amongst others.

The Importance of Providing a Balanced Activity Programme

The above demonstrates the various activities that are covered by the current youth offer across the area. This includes music, arts, cooking, adventure and sports. It is considered extremely

important to promote a full range of activities as possible to allow children to develop their creative side as well as being supported to be active.

It is well documented that from childhood to later life, the benefits of being active are life changing. Movement is good for our physical health and mental wellbeing. It also connects and strengthens communities and has huge economic value. A positive experience of physical activity in early life, (0-25 years) can contribute towards movement being a lifelong habit.

With the above in mind, Active Devon provide support and collaborate with local and national partners across Education, Health and VCSE, (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises). Working together with a network of system partners, schools, School Games Organisers and home educators, they aim to increase the understanding of the benefits of physical activity. Alongside this they aim to embed positive physical activity experiences to help children and young people develop the physical competence and confidence to be active for life.

Active Devon have a published strategy to provide everyone across Devon with the opportunity of an active life ([Our Strategy - Active Devon](#)). They are working with some local schools to promote sport for fun and embed the importance of being active from an early age so it becomes a lifelong habit.

Gaps in Provision – What Young People Have Told us

Torbay Council has engaged with over 2,000 children and young people, representing more than 1 in 13 children in Torbay. This engagement activity has been achieved through surveys, workshops, and consultation events. The council has also gathered perspectives from youth groups that are often overlooked, including those with SEND, Cared for Children, Proud 2 Be LGBTQIA+, and children educated outside of school.

Young people have told us *“There is not enough for young people to do. We need more youth clubs and parks.”*

Of the 11-18 years olds surveyed:

- 54% think there are clean, safe spaces to hang out in Torbay.
- 20% do not think Torbay is a good place to grow up.
- 26% disagreed that children can play and explore the world around them and 62% did not know or want to say.
- 76% disagreed that all children live somewhere clean and safe.

What opportunities exist for young talent?

- Torbay Council currently has a grant fund available to support our elite and talented athletes, helping to ensure they can achieve their sporting dreams

- Believe to Achieve is a grant scheme aimed at supporting and encouraging talented athletes from across Torbay to keep pursuing their sporting goals and careers, by providing finance to help with the associated costs.
- Our grants of up to £1,500 (depending on level of competition) are available to be used to contribute towards athletes training, equipment, competition fees and expenses.
- The fund is designed to support activity above and beyond 'the norm' to propel them into the next level of sporting success.
- Training costs, travel, equipment, and competition fees can soon mount up and we don't want these to become financial hurdles that prevent our athletes from achieving their full potential.
- We want to support those people who are utterly determined to achieve their goals and by doing will inspire the next generation of sports stars to follow their example and choose sport as a fundamental part of their lives.
- The scheme was created to show Torbay Council's commitment to support the sporting talent of tomorrow, by ensuring they can flourish and thrive in their chosen fields.
- We recognise that every sport is unique, and each application will be based on the evidence provided.
- Grants are rewarded four times per financial year.
- Awards are given on a phased approach depending on the level an athlete is competing at:
Competing up to and including County Level – awards up to £350.
Competing up to and including Regional Level – awards up to £750.
Competing up to an including National and International Level – awards up to £1,500.
- Since it's inception in 2021, Believe to Achieve has supported 27 athletes with over £40,000 of funding.

Are there additional opportunities?

- Torbay Council is keen to explore the technical feasibility of school streets in other locations in Torbay and has allocated grant funding to carrying out a study this year to assess the potential at all primary school sites in Torbay for a School Street intervention and/or other near to school interventions such as new crossings, etc. This also builds upon some of the work undertaken and being planned to introduce 20mph schemes at many school sites in Torbay.
- To compliment the Schools Streets work, funding has also been committed to deliver a 'School Place' challenge, similar to our March Workplace Challenge.
- We are exploring our Physical Literacy offer and are looking to commit funding to support programmes in our Family Hubs, Early Years settings and in primary schools.
- Now that we have listened to young people, we would like to work with them to build a community that they can own and be proud of.

- The work undertaken with young people provides a foundation for the whole of the Council, in collaboration with partners across Health, the Police, Education and the VCS, to identify opportunities ripe for development to further support the youth provision across the area.
- There are two distinct areas that provide opportunities. Firstly, the development of the workforce across the partnership and secondly expanding youth provision delivery. It is considered that both these components work hand in hand.

Workforce Development Across the Partnership

- To enhance the quality of youth provision delivery there is a need to skill up the workforce across the partnership to ensure high quality professional youthwork is deployed that is led by need and maximises impact through targeted outcomes.
- Digital Offer and Upskilling: There is a need to create a digital offer that aligns with the National Youth Agency (NYA) digital standards. This initiative will upskill the partnership workforce to understand and provide what young people can and want to access digitally.
- Promotion of Youth Work Curriculum: There is a need to promote the use of the youth worker curriculum and its values in all aspects of youth engagement. This will ensure that our services are aligned with the nationally recognised principles and practices that support young people's development.
- Improve Access to Training to the Partnership Workforce: This should include Safeguarding, Restorative Practice, and ILearn modules, by creating a comprehensive 'learning suite' for all youth workers to access freely and easily.

Development of Service Provision

- Drawing on the work undertaken with young people as well as linking to our own needs gaps analysis work, a number of opportunities are apparent to engage with young people on a positive activities basis and help them maximise their outcomes and life chances as they transition into adulthood.
- Enriching Young People's Life Experiences: One of the activities that young people have told us they would like more of is trips and residential offers. This is due to the lack of mobility our most vulnerable young people can afford. Opportunities to be exposed and emersed in new experiences outside of the area will allow for new experience as well as raising aspirations.
- An increase in Safer Places to 'Hang out': Young people were clear that boredom and not having safe places to socialise and engage in constructive activities was a big issue for them. Therefore, there is a need to increase evening and weekend provision. Weekend activities is a particular area ripe for development.
- Support for Young People Not in Education: There is a need to increase access to AQA units for young people to help them develop CVs and portfolios, particularly for those not in education. This initiative would support their personal and professional growth and impact positively on those young people that are risk of becoming NEET post 16. Torbay currently has 123 children who are NEET.
- Collaborative Efforts and Crisis Prevention in Order to Move Towards a Sustainable and Impactful Youth Provision: There is a need bring together local commissioning leaders

to create a joint commissioning agreement. This agreement should focus on crisis prevention and demonstrate a long-term commitment to young people. The objective should be to help young people feel that they belong in their community and that adults are working with them and supporting their futures, safety, and ability to achieve their goals.

Call to action

A voice on our Oversight Group

- Sharing the Torbay on the Move strategy across the Council and aligning with other key strategic objectives is important to increase the likelihood for success and adopting a whole system approach. This enables Torbay Council, together with its partner organisations, to address opportunities and challenges that are specific to priority groups and communities. The Torbay on the Move oversight group meets every few months and would welcome the support and expertise from a Children and Young People lead to attend this group, supporting the future alignment and collaboration.

Collaborate and co-design

- To help us understand how we can best utilise this partnership moving forward, we would be keen to learn how using physical activity as a tool can enhance and support the goals and outcomes your role and departments are striving to achieve.

Financial Opportunities and Implications

- Currently, funding is being provided for the Transformation year. It has been tentatively confirmed that funding will be made available till the end of this Parliament. However, the level of funding has not been confirmed. This could place the current service level at risk going forward as the old Supporting Families Funding has been replaced with the new grant funding.
- Funding for the HAF programme is confirmed on a year-by-year basis which clearly causes challenges with planning and engaging partners.
- The current landscape for the VCS is challenging which places pressure on developing collaborative partnerships. This is exacerbated by the way the VCS is structured across the area as smaller organisations can be prevented from accessing valuable funding due to the somewhat centralisation nature of the funding streams.
- Torbay on the Move has unearthed opportunities to make a difference without additional investment using the capacity that already exists in the system. To capitalise on these opportunities, there needs to be a clear 'call to action' and we consider producing and sharing the strategy is the catalyst for this.

- Other opportunities exist where small amounts of funding can make the difference between something 'happening' and 'not happening' so investment will make the difference here.
- Finally, there are of course bigger opportunities where more significant funding either into capacity or resources is needed.
- Decisions taken over funding and investment will need to be consistent with the aim of tackling inactivity and supporting those that are most disengage.

Cumulative Council Impacts

- It should be recognised that providing safe spaces and youth provision is a collective Council responsibility. This is clearly demonstrated in the feedback from young people who have stated that having safe spaces to 'hang-out' is a priority for them. Therefore, development of a Youth Transformation Plan needs to include Place as much as it does People.
- Torbay on the Move will see a positive impact across several areas including but not limited to; reducing the Council's carbon footprint through encouraging walking and cycling; improved benefits to overall health and wellbeing; benefits to mental health, benefits to our Tourism offer and reducing demands on other health services.

Cumulative Community Impacts

- By having young people that feel a sense of belonging and ownership of their communities will have a positive impact through reduced youth criminality and a greater level of bridging the generation gaps.
- By providing young people with new and novel experiences this will allow them to develop hidden skills and tap into intrinsic motivations.
- By using positive activities as a conduit to education, young people will be more prepared for work and other positive activities for daily living which ultimately will have a positive impact on the local area's socio-economic development.
- Torbay on the Move will see a positive impact across several areas including but not limited to; reducing the Council's carbon footprint through encouraging walking and cycling; improved benefits to overall health and wellbeing; benefits to mental health, benefits to our Tourism offer and reducing demands on other health services.

Equality Impacts – Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	Young people will have positive activities that provide them with new socio-educational experiences.		
People with caring Responsibilities			No differential impact
People with a disability	Specific activities will be shaped around diverse needs to ensure disabled young people have opportunities to their more abled peers.		
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)	Specific activities will be shaped around diverse needs to ensure to ensure all traditionally overlooked groups are considered in service design and delivery.		
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	Specific activities will be shaped around diverse needs to ensure to ensure all traditionally overlooked groups are considered in service design and delivery.		

People who are transgendered	Specific activities will be shaped around diverse needs to ensure to ensure all traditionally overlooked groups are considered in service design and delivery.		
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)	By providing positive socio-educational activities to young people and in particular targeting those out of education, more young people will be prepared for the transition adulthood. Better educational outcomes will support work readiness for young people and consequently contribute positively to the local economy.		
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	By young people engaging in positive physical and creative activities their physical and mental health will be supported.		

Appendices

Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Youth Provision 250704 SE

Appendix 2: Youth Provision in Torbay 2025

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Torbay Youth Service Summer Programme

JULY TO AUGUST 2025

SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED MAINLY 11-17 YRS.

CAMPS ARE FOR EXISTING YOUTH SERVICE COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBERS

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE

Summer Programme Spaces and Places

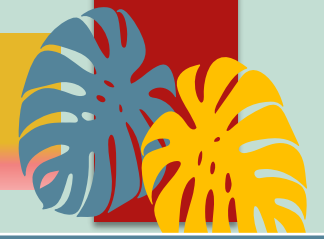
Chill'd Out Youth Project, Abbey Park, Belgrave Road, Torquay, TQ2 5HP

Parkfield Centre (not Parkfield House), Off Colin Road, Paignton, TQ3 2NR

Paignton Zoo, Slapton Sands, Dartmoor and Torbay Beaches



Summer sessions



Week 1

Fri 25th July Wild Rangers Activity Day **All day** Paignton Zoo **15 places**

Fri 25th July Doing it Differently Drop in **6.30pm – 8.30pm** Climbing (juniors 9+ and seniors), sports and games at Parkfield

Sat 26th July Summer Drop in **1-3pm** Games, sports, cooking, tennis, arts & crafts and food at Chill'd Out

Week 2

Tues 29th to Weds 30th July She & Us Camp **1night** Slapton Sands **7 places**

Weds 30th July Games Club and Tabletop Role Play (13 to 19 years) **1-3pm** at Chill'd Out

Thurs 31st July Paddle boarding with Reach Outdoors **1.30pm-4pm** Goodrington Beach **12 places**

Fri 1st August Doing it Differently Drop in **6.30pm – 8.30pm** Climbing (juniors 9+ and seniors), sports and games at Parkfield

Week 3

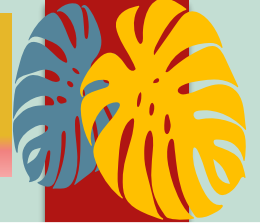
Weds 6th August Summer Drop in **1-3pm** Games, cooking, arts and crafts, tennis, at Chill'd Out

Thurs 7th August Kayaking with Reach Outdoors **1.30pm-4pm** Goodrington Beach **12 places**

Fri 8th August Doing it Differently Drop in **6.30pm – 8.30pm** Climbing (juniors 9+ and seniors), sports and games Parkfield

Sat 9th August Summer Drop in **1-3pm** Games, sports, cooking, tennis, art & crafts and food at Chill'd Out

Summer sessions



Week 4

Tues 12th to Weds 13th August Young Men's Camp **1night** Slapton Sands **7 places**

Weds 13th August Summer Drop in **1-3pm** Games, sports, cooking, tennis, arts & crafts and food at Chill'd Out

Thurs 14th August Coasteering with Reach Outdoors **1.30pm to 4pm** Churston Cove **12 places**

Fri 15th August Doing it Differently Drop in **6.30pm – 8.30pm** Climbing (juniors 9+ and seniors), sports & games at Parkfield

Week 5

Weds 20th August Summer Drop in **1-3pm** Games, sports, cooking, tennis, arts & crafts, food at Chill'd Out

Thurs 21st August Rock Climbing with Reach Outdoors **12.30pm to 5pm** Dartmoor **12 places**

Fri 22nd August Doing it Differently Drop in **6.30pm – 8.30pm** Climbing (juniors 9+ and seniors), sports & games at Parkfield

Week 6

Weds 27th August Beach walk, ice creams and outdoor games **1-3pm** meet Chill'd Out

Thurs 28th August Games Club and Tabletop Role Play (13 to 19 years) **1-3pm** at Chill'd Out

Fri 29th August Doing it Differently Drop in **6.30pm – 8.30pm** Climbing (juniors 9+ and seniors), sports and games at Parkfield

Sat 30th August Summer Drop in **1-3pm** Games, sports, cooking, tennis, arts & crafts and food at Chill'd Out

Then it's back to our usual session times when term begins

Camps



For Youth Service community group members – Please ask to be signed up

Tuesday 29th July to Wednesday 30th July She and Us Camp at Slapton Sands

Tuesday 12th August to Wednesday 13th August Young Men's Camp at Slapton Sands

All camping, snacks, meals and camping equipment are provided for FREE. A kit list will be provided.

Please call Paul for details 07766990922 and a Residential Consent form. There are 7 places per camp.

We can only offer spaces to young people we know/meet beforehand to provide a positive team camping experience. You are welcome to ask about how to sign up for the above projects.

Please contact us

Please Email youthservice@torbay.gov.uk for a consent form and full information

For Camp enquiries and Parkfield please call or text Paul 07766990922

For all other enquiries please call or text Jenny 07920806455

Activities subject to change due to the weather etc

<https://reach-outdoors.com> [Youth Service - Torbay Council](#) Please search for us

TORBAY COUNCIL

Flip the Script Programme Torbay Youth Service	Activities and Outcomes
<p>Flip the Script is a 1 to 1 programme for young people at Early Help (soon to be Family Help), level aged 11 to 17 years, and they are offered up to 12 sessions, with an initial home visit. Referrals come from an outcome from Early Help panel or from sign up from an Early Help Manager.</p> <p>We develop a plan and review process together to set some small goals and go out for walks or to places of interest to build trust – or to start at home if needed.</p> <p>The goal is for the young person to be able to find a group or activities they enjoy with the Youth Service if possible. Over this journey the youth worker and young person may decide to visit partner organisations and other provider sessions if we cannot meet their interests within our own youth offer.</p> <p>This is mainly a term time only programme.</p> <p>Please contact Jenny Hunt Senior Youth Worker 079020806455 Mon to Thurs youthservice@torbay.gov.uk</p>	<p>Our young people will have a wide range of needs and circumstances, and our team adapt their sessions to meet the needs of the young person. The Programme affords the opportunity for young people to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have someone to talk to and to be listened to. • Find things to do that they enjoy. • Get out and about, especially if the young person has been feeling isolated. • Begin thinking about their home life and what they do enjoy about it. • Start to look at their aspirations as well as school, college, and education. • Start to explore their relationships – including in their friendships and with their family and how to enhance these if needed. • Supporting young people with thinking about their identity. • Learn new skills and celebrate their talents • Follow the National Youth Agency Youth work curriculum. • For young people to take part in healthy activities and cooking, to include sports and walking and getting out in the fresh air and away from screen time • Have fun!
Our Youth Service Community Torbay Youth Service	Activities and Outcomes
<p>We also accept Youth Work Community Referrals for any young people through their supporting worker/parent/carer if young people want to join our groups and activities. This is also if they have a social work intervention.</p> <p>This usually involves a telephone call and an invitation to our groups and to join our mailing list. In some circumstances a home visit may be necessary.</p> <p>Young people can also do a sign-up form for themselves.</p> <p>Please contact Jenny Hunt Senior Youth Worker 079020806455 Mon to Thurs youthservice@torbay.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst 1 to 1 sessions can enable young people to build their confidence to be able to attend other youth work sessions, when possible, we welcome young people coming along to our sessions and activities as below • Here they get to meet new young people and make friends • Young people can learn new skills and take part in activities they may not have done before • They can learn life skills and improve their fitness and to explore healthy life choices

The She and Us Closed Group Torbay Youth Service	Activities and Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesdays 6-8pm at Chill'd Out youth project in Torquay • Transport is provided • Young people decide on session content • Open to young people identifying as young women • Ages 11-17 years • This group is term time only <p>Please contact Jenny Hunt Senior Youth Worker 079020806455 Mon to Thurs youthservice@torbay.gov.uk</p> <p>Young men's Project based sessions to resume once again in the autumn.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mix of circumstances and experiences for our young women • Young women engage in active decision making and positive time together within a place of belonging • We explore a range of healthy living and relationship topics, including women's health, sexual health, drugs and alcohol awareness, vaping and smoking harm reduction, periods, contraception, what is a healthy relationship, bullying, friendships, sleep hygiene, exam stress etc • The young women cook and eat healthy food together • The team have a Noamie plan in place with aims and objectives (National Youth Agency) • We hold She and Us summer residential overnight camps. • The young women held a Christmas meal together in a local restaurant • The young women have completed 2 music programmes with Sound Communities to explore their self-expression and to engage in teamwork • The young women will be able to access the Doink programme shortly (condom scheme) • Healthy activities are also available but are not as popular with the young women – such as tennis, games and badminton • She and Us was featured in the Director of Public Health's Annual Report: Women's Health (Community)
Tabletop Role Play Closed Group Torbay Youth Service	Activities and Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently for young people 15-19 yrs • Term time only, but with space to meet within our holiday programmes • Some transport provided • Capacity in the TTRP group for a maximum of 7 players • This group was meeting on Thursdays at Chill'd Out Youth Project in Torquay and then have been meeting temporarily on Saturdays due to staffing issues – this session will return to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a Medieval story with characters. • There is a Games master, and the group use their imagination and skills • The sessions also offer youth work discussions and a place of belonging, particularly for young people who may feel isolated • Discussions and support around topics alongside the game – this could be for example exam stress, healthy choices, relationships, family issues, friendships etc can be explored

<p>Thursdays in the autumn as part of a wider group session for young people that require a gentle, quieter space</p> <p>Please contact Jenny Hunt Senior Youth Worker 079020806455 Mon to Thurs youthservice@torbay.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are high levels of participation and decision making for the young people
<p>Wild Wellbeing Project – School group Torbay Youth Service</p> <p>This is a new pilot project taking place with students from a local school</p> <p>Thursday afternoons started in July and will return in September after the summer holidays</p> <p>Please contact Paul Taylor Senior Youth worker, Weds to Fri 07766990922 Youthservice@torbay.gov.uk</p>	<p>Activities and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12-week programme beginning with team building Students take part in healthy activities that they choose as a team to support healthy choices May include cycling, tennis, sports, rock pooling, beach walks, healthy cooking and nature-based activities
<p>Doing it Differently Fridays Torbay Youth Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This drop in is held at Parkfield Centre in Paignton all year round The session is 6.30pm to 8.30pm The session has provided social and diversionary activities over many years for young people aged mainly 11 to 17 years Sports in the sports hall and support of young people outside in the park There are Juniors and Seniors climbing sessions with Reach Outdoors <p>Please contact Paul Taylor Senior Youth worker, Weds to Fri 07766990922 Youthservice@torbay.gov.uk</p>	<p>Activities and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large numbers of young people attending There is a climbing for juniors (8+) and seniors (11/12 to 17) After 4 sessions, young people can begin their NICAS award Has run with partners – YMCA, TQ united and Reach Outdoors is ongoing Wide range of experiences and needs for young people can be supported where required in such areas as exploitation & potential county lines, ASB, family breakdown, isolation, not in work, education or training, hard to engage/reach young people, drug and alcohol issues, sexually active young people, early intervention for junior climbing, young people with SEN needs & neurodiversity, unhealthy relationships, gender issues, LGTQIA+ young people, vaping and risk taking, cared for young people, internet safety Safe space on Friday nights with sports on offer – table tennis, basketball, football, badminton

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place of belonging, healthy choices, sports and fresh air, young people in the skatepark, presence on site – access support, first aid, info and support Doink will soon be able (Condom scheme), for young people aged 13 plus monthly
Saturday Drop-in Programme Torbay Youth Service	Activities and Outcomes
<p>Warm, safe space and project activities 11 to 17 years at Chill'd Out Youth Project in Torquay with offsite activities 12-3pm. This session will take place on some Saturdays in the summer.</p> <p>Please contact Paul Taylor Senior Youth worker, Weds to Fri 07766990922 Youthservice@torbay.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held at Chill'd Out 3 weeks of the month – cooking, food, games, issue-based discussion, tennis, sports Healthy living and wellbeing discussions and activities Was having monthly off-site clip and climb sessions in Exeter Has been good to have a presence on the weekend, however young people are often busy on Saturdays and so in consultation with young people it has been agreed to stop this session from the autumn The schools project and young men's work will replace the resources used on Saturdays
Kaleidoscope Torbay Youth Service	Outcomes
<p>Our LGTQIA+ offer for 11 to 17 years</p> <p>Please contact Jenny Hunt Senior Youth Worker 079020806455 Mon to Thurs youthservice@torbay.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was in partnership with South Devon College when the Youth Service was in Torbay Youth Trust from 2020 to 2023 Our LGBTQIA+ worker 5 hours – supporting 2 young people at a time 1 to 1 with a view to accessing Proud2be sessions Supporting young people around their identity and belonging
Holiday Programmes Torbay Youth Service	Activities and Outcomes
<p>Easter, summer and half term activities</p> <p>Please contact Jenny Hunt Senior Youth Worker 079020806455 Mon to Thurs youthservice@torbay.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions within Chill'd Out and Parkfield during the daytime Water based/outdoor education activities and camps for our groups etc in the summer Last year's 2 wild ranger days at the Zoo promoting environmental issues and animal care – this year one day Open to regularly attending young people and open access to Children's Services

- Fun, skilled based, new experiences, getting out of Torbay, sense of belonging and healthy living experiences
- Please see the attached summer programme

Youth Clubs/Provision in Torbay July 2025

This is not exhaustive list and contact with the partners will provide up to date information.

Torbay Youth Service Youth Service - Torbay Council

Two main venues used (were Youth Service buildings previously): Chill'd Out Youth Project, Abbey Park, Torquay, TQ2 5HP and Parkfield Centre, Off Colin Road, Paignton, TQ3 2NR

Community Youth Provision

The Acorn Centre Youth Club Torquay	Activities
<p> Page 49 Mondays 7-9pm Lummaton Cross, Torquay, TQ2 8ET Suitable for Year 7 and up • Free to join Enquiries: 01803 3298819 enquiries@acorncentre.co.uk </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games • Arts and Crafts • Tuck shop • Much more • Some music sessions with Sound Communities
Play Torbay	Activities
<p>AsRus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesdays 5.30pm to 7.00pm at Indigoes Play and Ecology Centre, Packhall Lane, Brixham, TQ5 OEQ 	<p>“Providing activities and social learning experiences for young people in Torbay who have Autism Spectrum Conditions (which may or may not be diagnosed).”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet friends • Play outdoors, bushcraft and trips • Make music with support from music leaders & Karaoke

<p>Mayfield Hub Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursdays 5.30-7.00pm at Mayfield School, Moor Lane, Torquay, TQ2 8NH. <p><u>Resource for children on the Autism Spectrum — Play Torbay</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different opportunities each week Arts and crafts Making food to eat in and outdoors Siblings and parents/carers can attend Cost £3.00 per child and accompanying adult free
<p>Youth Clubs at the Windmill Centre</p>	<p>Outcomes and Activities</p>
<p>Older Youth Club for secondary school age</p> <p>Tuesdays 4.15pm to 6.15pm (term time only) Thursdays 6.30pm to 8.30pm (all year)</p> <p>Young youth for Primary Years 3-6 (8 years +)</p> <p>Thursdays 4.30pm – 5.30pm (term time only)</p> <p>The Windmill Centre, Pendennis Road, Torquay, TQ2 7QR</p> <p><u>Youth@windmilltorbay.org.uk</u></p> <p>Tel: 07827844942 (club times only)</p>	<p>“The club offers a range of activities that are youth led. These activities will come under the 4 main brackets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooking – To promote transferable life skills such as food hygiene, cooking skills and preparation and promote healthy eating. Sport/physical activity – To help with physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and development as well as teamwork and social skills. Craft – To promote mental wellbeing, self-expression and boost self-esteem. This also encourages teamwork and socialisation. Games – To promote social skills, teamwork and mental wellbeing” <p>Youth led, feedback welcomed and free.</p>
<p>Foxhole Community Centre Youth Drop in</p>	<p>Activities</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open access youth drop in club for children aged 5 years to 11 Fridays 4pm to 6pm Run by partner organisations Play Torbay, Shaaq Torbay, and Argle Community Trust with support from Torbay Council, Kings Ash Academy, Paignton Police and Sanctuary Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Games Free safe space Socialising Support Play pool, table football and board games Make new friends

<p>Foxhole Community Centre, Belfield Rd, Paignton TQ3 3UZ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foxhole Fridays — Play Torbay
<p>Upton Vale Baptist Church</p>	<p>Activities</p>
<p>Wednesday Youth Club School years 7-13 7pm to 8.30pm St Marychurch Road, Castle Circus, TQ1 3HY Upton Vale Baptist Church : UV Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play games • Sports • Games consoles • Pool and table tennis • Chill out with friends • Tuck shop • £1.00 <p>Please see UV kids</p>
<p>Checkpoint Phoenix group</p>	
<p>For nightly Group 01803 200100 CheckPoint The Children's Society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is for young people living with learning disabilities, physical disabilities or who are socially isolated • A safe space • Fun activities such as bowling, crazy golf • Give views on local issues
<p>PHAB Club</p>	<p>Activities</p>
<p>PHAB Club – Youth Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mondays nights – 7pm to 9pm, for children and young people aged 14-25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The club provides an excellent centre for young people with disabilities in Torbay and arts, sports, drama and trips for disabled and non-disabled young people.”

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Monday in the month – 9pm to 10pm in the pub for over 18's • Wednesday nights from 6.30pm to 8pm, for children and young people aged 8-18 • Barton Baptist Church • Term time only • Contact Nicky Timmings Tel 074812676659 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find them on Facebook • The cost is £4.00 per session <p>Club nights are subject to change to fit in trips and additional activities</p>
Proud2be	
<p><u>Youth Groups - Proud2Be CIC</u></p> <p>Newton Abbot Youth Group LGBTQIA+ young people 13-17 5:00 – 7:00 PM every Tuesday (term-time)</p> <p>Torbay (Paignton) Youth Group LGBTQIA+ young people 13-17 5:00 – 7:00 PM every Wednesday (term-time)</p> <p>Low-Key Youth Group (Paignton) LGBTQIA+ young people aged 13-17 (booking is required as spaces are limited): 5:00 – 7:00 PM every Thursday (term-time)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations to be shared once a registration form has been completed • Free sessions • “a safe and friendly environment to meet other young people, access accurate information, and participate in fun activities!”
Brixham Youth Club	
<p>Brixham Town Council and Fuel Youth Initiative CIC launched in June</p> <p>Tuesdays (term time), 3.30pm to 5.00pm Scala Hall 11 to 18 years</p> <p>info@fuelyouthwork.org.uk</p>	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe space • Active decision making • Lots of fun activities • Tuck shop • Milkshakes and more
Other Provision	
<p>Imagine this Torbay</p>	<p>Imagine This Torbay Making Torbay a Great Place to Grow Up</p> <p>Front Page - Sound Communities</p>

<p>Sound Communities – music education, radio skills, Ocean Youth Radio</p> <p>Reach Outdoors – outdoor education and climbing wall</p> <p>Cycle Torbay – “Fix, ride, thrive”</p> <p>Ellacombe Community partnership ECPartnership2017@hotmail.com – summer programme and community activities</p> <p>Lovesports – summer activities, football, street-based youth work toby@glotorbay.co.uk 07704 921982. Website under construction.</p> <p>Active Devon</p> <p>Girls Against Anxiety Mon & Weds under 18’s 4.30pm to 5.30pm in Paignton</p> <p>Turning Heads</p> <p>Moor to Sea Music Collective</p> <p>Orchard Forest School</p> <p>Taleblazers</p> <p>YMCA South Devon – Events and youth work through alternative provision</p>	<p>Home Reach Outdoors Outdoor adventure specialists, Devon</p> <p>Cycle Torbay Cycle Torbay, Fix, Ride & Thrive Events Rides</p> <p>Torbay Communities Ellacombe</p> <p>HOME love-sports-project</p> <p>Active Devon - Supporting and Inspiring for an Active Devon</p> <p>Girls Against Anxiety</p> <p>Welcome to Turning Heads CIC - Turning Heads</p> <p>Moor to Sea Music Collective - Home</p> <p>Orchard Forest School - Lupton House Devon</p> <p>Taleblazers – Changing lives by connecting people with nature</p> <p>YMCA South Devon</p>
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Meeting: Children's Overview and Scrutiny **Date:** 23rd July 2025

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Family First Partnership Programme – 6 Month Update

When does the decision need to be implemented? For Information

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

Director Contact Details: Nancy Meehan, Director of Childrens Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 In November 2024 a new policy statement was issued by central government called 'Keeping children safe, helping families thrive', outlining a vision for the future children's social care system and a set of core legislative proposals. Following this 'The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill' was introduced into the House of Commons on 17 December 2024.
- 1.2 These reforms build on the "Stable Homes, Built on Love" strategy initiated in 2023. Although the terminology has changed under the current government, the core principles remain focused on improving outcomes for children and families.
- 1.3 Alongside the above the Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP) reforms is a comprehensive set of initiative aimed at transforming children's social care in the UK. It was introduced as part of the Government's children's social care implementation strategy and responds to recommendations from various reviews and reports.
- 1.4 The new children's reforms aim to significantly improve children's social care and education in England and aim to create a more effective, transparent, and supportive system for children and families. Alongside the National reforms, Torbay will be utilising the Transformation year to also include the development of a number of local workstreams.
- 1.5 This report sets out the progress to date made as a partnership along with detailing a road map going forward as well as the intended impact of the Reforms and wider transformation work on children and families in Torbay.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 As noted above, the directive to implement the Children's Social Care Reforms has come from central Government following a number of commissioned reviews of children's social care as well as a number Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.
- 2.2 The Reforms will be embedded in legislation via the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill set to come in force in 2027.
- 2.3 The DFE have determined that 2025/26 will be a 'Transformation Year' with an expectation on all Local Authorities that the Reforms will be embedded in practice by 31st March 2026.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision.

- 1. That members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the Transformation progress to date and raise any concerns about this that can be taken back to the Transformation Board for further discussion and resolution.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Initial Local Area Plan

Appendix 2: Reporting Timeline

Background Documents

[Children's social care: reform statement - GOV.UK](#)

[Families first for children \(FFC\) pathfinder programme and family networks pilot \(FNP\) - GOV.UK](#)

[Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024-25: progress of the bill - House of Commons Library](#)

1. Introduction and Progress Report

General Update

- 1.1 We have continued to attend share and learn sessions put on by the DFE which have allowed pathfinders to convey their experiences throughout the implementation of the Family First Partnership Programme. It should be noted that none of the pathfinder LAs have taken the same approach and despite some LAs having significant funding and 2 years to get this work completed none of them are in a state of absolute implementation. This inevitably is raising concern across partners in relation to the time constraints placed around the transformation year.
- 1.2 As further planning work is undertaken other issues are becoming apparent. For example, System C, the provider of our case management system, has now publicly stated that the configuration and architecture of their software does not lend itself to the seamless end-to-end system expectations set out by the DFE due to the LCS and EHMs being independent work areas.
- 1.3 Despite the evident challenges that the Reforms are throwing up at the current time, we are pressing ahead with the necessary work to progress both the national work as well as our own local work.

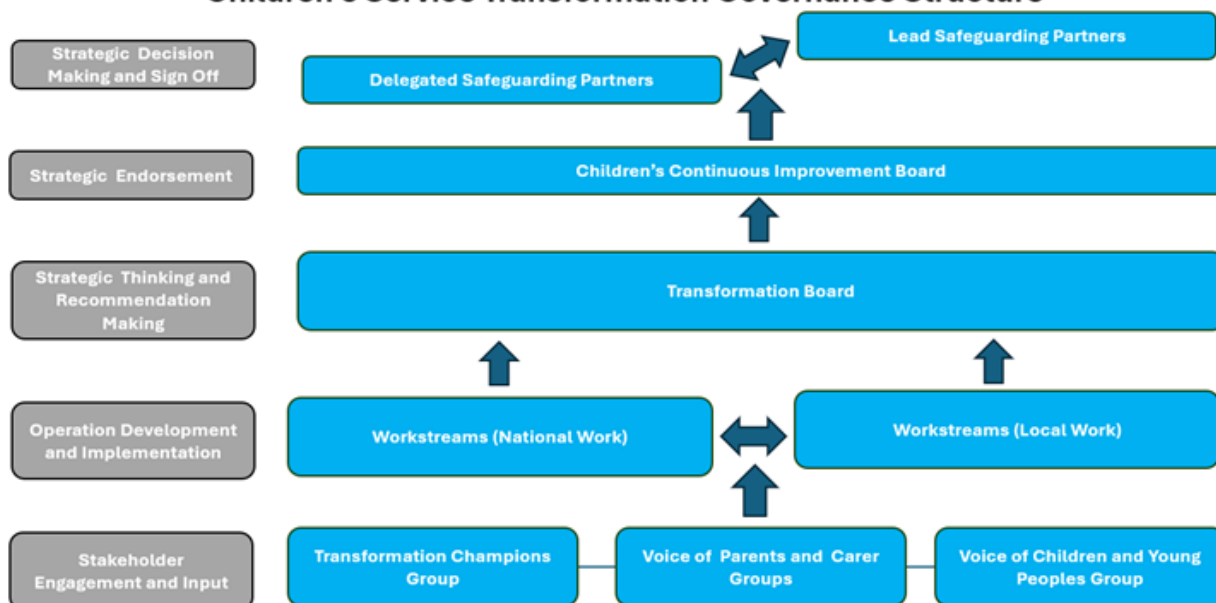
Transformation Team

- 1.4 We now have the Transformation Service Lead in post (from 19.05.25). Interviews for the Analysts took place on 25.06.25 and 01.07.25 with a candidate being appointed to start in August. The Project Lead post has gone out to advert with a closing date of 04.07.25 and interviews scheduled for week commencing 14.07.25
- 1.5 Further to the above, we are currently negotiating a fixed term secondment for a band 8c equivalent Health Professional to support the Transformation team. It is envisaged that the Job Description (JD) will be completed by the end of July 25 with a potential start date in the month of September 2025. The police have also indicated that they may be willing to second a 0.25fte officer into the Transformation Team but this is still to be confirmed.

Governance

- 1.6 The governance around the Transformation work has now been finalised. As can be see below, the Transformation Board feeds into the CCIB where recommendations are either endorsed or rejected. Endorsed recommendations are filtered up to the DSP/LSP for ratification/decision signoff. The strategic views of the Transformation Board are informed by the focused operational work that will be undertaken by the workstreams that will be working to a clear set of deliverables at 2 phases – phase 1 being the development and planning phase and phase 2 being the implementation phase.

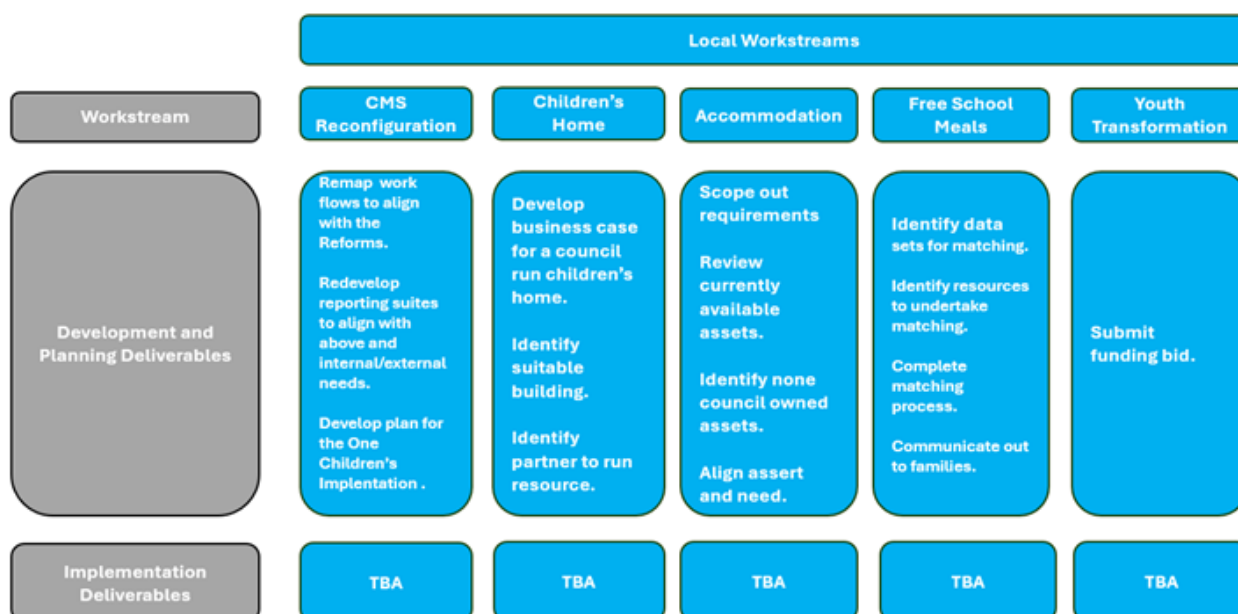
Children's Service Transformation Governance Structure



Children's Service Transformation Workstreams/Deliverables

National Workstreams				
Workstream	Family Help	MACPT	FGDM	Child Single Identifier
Development and Planning Deliverables	Deliver a multiagency engagement workshop. Explore current FH models (Pathfinder work etc). Define 3 models of FH to be considered for an options appraisal.	Deliver a multiagency engagement workshop. Explore current MACPT models (Pathfinder work etc). Define 3 models of MACPT to be considered for an options appraisal	Review current FGDM processes in relation to the reforms. Define 3 models of FGDM to be considered for an options appraisal.	TBA
Implementation Deliverables	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Children's Service Transformation Workstreams/Deliverables



- 1.7 The Transformation Board has now met on 3 occasions whereby the terms of reference, governance structure and the initial local area plan have been agreed. A planned Extraordinary Transformation Board took place on the 24.06.25 whereby the initial local area plan was devised with the summary detailed below. The full plan is attached to this report (appendix 1).

Planning – Milestones

- 1.8 The initial plan to the DFE that is due for submission on 27.06.25 has been finalised and endorsed by the DSPs. The summary timeline for the overarching plan is as follows: -
- Onboard Transformation Lead (SRO) by the end of April 2025 (completed).
 - Onboard Transformation Service Lead by the end of May 2025 (completed).
 - Establish the Transformation team by the end of April 2025 (completed).
 - Establish Transformation governance by the end of May 2025 (completed).
 - Establish work streams by the end of June 2025 (on track).
 - Establish initial Transformation Champions Group (LA practitioners) by the end of June 2025 (completed).
 - Run initial partnership engagement and co-design workshops linked to Family Help and Multi-agency Child Protection Team workstreams by the end of June 2025 (booked).
 - Establish the wider Transformation Champions Group to include all partner agencies by mid-July (on track).
 - Agree Comms plan across the partnership and start delivering regular comms out to all stake holders by mid-July 2025 (on track).
 - Establish transformation practitioner drop-ins (led by transformation champions) by the end of July 2025 (on track).
 - Onboard Data Lead by the end of July 2025 (on track).
 - Onboard Project Manager by the end of July 2025 (on track).
 - Agree and establish partner secondments into the Transformation Team by the end of July 2025 (on track).
 - Complete data harvesting to establish a full set of baseline measurements for improvement by the end of July 2025 (on track).

- Book next two partnership engagement workshops running up to phase two in January (workshop 2 end of September 2025 and workshop 3 end of November 2025) (on track) by the end of July 2025 (on track).
- Run parent carer/young people engagement events by the end of July 2025 (on track).
- Establish a regional working group by the end of July 2025 (on track).
- Establish regional consistencies by the end of August 2025 (on track).
- Onboard partner secondments by the end of September 2025 (on track).
- Run partner engagement workshop 2 by the end of September 2025 (on track).
- Define and agree on the Family Help (FH) structure, including community locations, by the end of September 2025 (on track).
- Define and agree on the Multi-agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) structure by the end of September 2025 (on track).
- Define and agree on the Child Protection Lead Practitioner (CPLP) role by the end of September 2025 (on track).
- Run partnership engagement workshop 3 by the end of November 2025 (on track).
- Establish a partnership development plan – initial by the end of June 2025 (on track) and follow-up by mid-December 2025 (on track).
- Re-design CMS workflows ready to go live by end of December 2025 (on track, however there is a risk here due to the way the software is currently structured).
- All reporting dashboards and reports aligned to new workflows by end of December 2025 (on track, however there is a risk here due to the way the software is currently structured).

1.9 The above milestones will set the foundation for developing a comprehensive implementation plan, which will be shared via the part 2 plan in December 2025 and set the scene for phase 2 of our work. An overarching reporting timeline is detailed in appendix 2.

SWOT Analysis

1.10 A multi-agency SWOT analysis was undertaken as follows: -

Strengths:

- The Early Help offer is well-developed.
- The Local Authority is ready to transition to the Family Help model following a comprehensive service redesign.
- The Learning Academy is well-established and supports broader partnership development.
- Universal services are effectively delivered through an established network of family hubs.

Weaknesses:

- The current Local Authority CMS has limitations due to its software configuration.
- Different recording systems across the partnership are not interconnected, which will significantly impact the child single identifier activity.
- High levels of child protection processes triggered (strategy discussions and s47 investigations).

Opportunities:

- A reduction in the number of children subject to Child Protection (CP) Plans will allow for greater focus on those children who need safeguarding arrangements, potentially reducing the duration of CP Planning and improving the quality of work delivered.
- The end-to-end system will include aspects beyond the Reforms, enabling further transformation work to be delivered to enhance the offer to children and families.
- Strengthening multi-agency arrangements and collaboration as outlined in Working Together 2023.

- The ICB footprint spans the entire Devon region, providing opportunities for regional sharing and learning.
- The Police footprint covers Devon and Cornwall, offering similar opportunities for regional collaboration with our neighbours in Devon, Cornwall and Plymouth on the basis of consistency where possible but not blanket uniformity as Torbay recognise the importance of developing a Family First Programme (FFP) that meets the local needs.
- Developing consistent approaches to certain FFP functions while maintaining the need for localized delivery of the Reforms.
- Developing a model of locality working that is aligned to the models partners are moving to.

Threats:

- The ICB footprint across Devon may place a strain resources and pose challenges in developing models regionally.
- The Police footprint across Devon and Cornwall may place a strain resources and complicate model development.
- Pressures from other Local Authorities in the region regarding different model proposals may over influence partners.
- Integrating Education, given the presence of numerous multi-agency trusts within the Local Authority.
- Managing workforce anxiety regarding the changes.
- National changes to the ICB delivery model.
- Budgetary cuts across partner agencies including the VCS.

1.11 Note that some matters lie in more than one component of the SWOT analysis.

Partnership Engagement

1.12 Our first partnership engagement workshops were held on 20.06.25. These were split into two workshops covering family help and multiagency child protection teams (MACPT). Attendance was extremely positive across the entire partnership including the VCS as noted below:-

Family Help	MACPT
LA = 25	LA = 17
Education = 25	Education = 18
Health = 4	Health = 2
Police	Police = 1
VCS = 6	VCS = 5
Housing = 1	Housing = 1
	TSCP = 1
	Probation = 1
TOTAL = 63	TOTAL = 46

Workstream Progress

1.13 July sees the commencement of the main workstreams with the partnership engagement workshops being used to promote the need for practitioners from partner agencies to come forward to support the workstream activity. This has been reasonably successful, but we do need a few more professionals from partner agencies to identify individuals to join the workstreams to support in shaping and influencing the models being developed.

- 1.14 *Family Help* – This workstream will be set up following the recent partnership engagement workshops whereby practitioners across the partnership were asked to put themselves forward for this workstream. Lead identified but a partner agency co-lead is still needed.
- 1.15 Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (*MACPT*) - This workstream will be set up following the recent partnership engagement workshops whereby practitioners across the partnership were asked to put themselves forward for this workstream. Lead identified but a partner agency co-lead is still needed.
- 1.16 Family Group Decision Making (*FGDM*) – This workstream is in the initial stages of being set up but a lead and co-lead have been identified.
- 1.17 *Child Single Identifier* – This workstream is on hold for the time being whilst we await further information from the DFE. The general consensus is that this can't be undertaken at a local level.
- 1.18 *Case Management System (CMS)* – This workstream is being led by the Business Intelligence Service Manager and co-led by BetterGov (a commissioned partner) and will include the development of the workflows that are required to support the Reform changes. However, it should be noted at this stage that there are significant challenges with the Liquid Logic system in terms of bridging between EHM and LCS. System C themselves have admitted that the structure of the system software as it stands does not lend itself to the practice expectations within the Reforms. We have now met with a number of Pathfinders to see if they have found workarounds to this challenge but as yet to no avail. This is going to cause a significant case management control issue that has been relayed to the DFE who have stated that they will not be in a position to provide system providers with a full technical specification for 4 to 6 months.
- 1.19 *Children's Home* – A lead and co-lead needs to be identified for this workstream. However, a business case has been developed and approved in principle at DOM. The next stage is to develop a full specification in readiness for procurement activity as well as identify an appropriate building. This needs to be a multi-agency led piece of work as it will be used to accommodate our most vulnerable cared for children that are usually hard to place and therefore result in being accommodated out of county and invariably in unregulated provision.
- 1.20 *Accommodation* – 9 programmes of work have been identified under this workstream. The priority at this point is to move Family Time out of the ARC to free up that provision for a Chestnut SEND cohort of children that needs to be in place for September 2025. To facilitate this, 4 temporary locations have been identified so work is now underway to move the Family Time provision out of Chestnut to allow time over the summer holiday to prepare the provision for a September start. Numerous health and safety issues are frustrating the use of one of the identified temporary premises which is now causing a logistical challenge. We are working through these matters with TEDC, Health and Safety and Facilities Management.
- 1.21 A potential permanent Family Time/assessment provision has been identified within the basements under the library in Torquay. This provision is spacious and well equipped but will need significant investment to turn it into a purposeful provision that can work alongside a satellite provision in Paignton. This is in the planning stage. There is capital provision set aside for this project which will also double up as a parent assessment centre.
- 1.22 Work continues to identify appropriate accommodation for the other programmes of work with the whole of the Council's corporate asset register being reviewed.

- 1.23 *Youth Transformation* - Unfortunately, the bid Torbay submitted for the Youth Transformation funding was unsuccessful. Nevertheless, work will continue to review youth provision and explore areas ripe for development as we move towards a locality model of delivery across all services. The new Youth Hub team manager comes into post in August 2025 and will take up the lead for this workstream.

Implications of the Reform on Partners

Local Authority:

- 1.24 There will be a shift in relation to alternatively qualified practitioners (i.e. none social work qualified workers). The Reforms are clear that s17 CIN no longer needs to be managed by qualified social workers which will mean Family Intervention Team workers and Community Care Workers will, going forward, be allocated CIN work where appropriate. Conversely, children stepping down from child in need to Early Help can and will be managed by qualified social workers so that hand-offs for families are kept to a minimum.
- 1.25 Following the publication of *Stable Homes Built on Love*, the change to a seamless Family Help model of service delivery was anticipated and this triggered a complete redesign of Children's Services across the board. Phase one of the redesign will be implemented on 1st September 2025 with the disbanding of the Single Assessment and Operational Services and the setting up three new distinct service areas: Family Help, Assessment and Intervention and a Care Proceedings Team. Family Help will incorporate the Family Intervention and the majority of the CIN work as well as a number of specialized services including the Youth Hub and MASH. The Assessment and Intervention service will have teams dedicated to the more complex CIN work as well as child protection and pre-proceedings. There will be greater alignment with Education services as well as none-stigmatising approach to providing services to children with complex needs. Support here will be offered by Senior Family Help Practitioners. The care proceedings team will work with children from the point of the initial Court hearing.
- 1.26 At the point of implementation of phase one, this will have been nearly 12 months in the planning. Phase two will look at the establishment of the MACPTs. This is planned for February/March 2026 to coincide with the expectation as set out by the DFE in terms of the Families First Partnership Programme.
- 1.27 There still continues to be a significant amount of work to be done in relation to the CMS to ensure it is aligned with the practice policies and procedures.
- 1.28 To facilitate the move towards a seamless Family Help model, all Family Intervention Team workers and Community Care Workers in this area of service will be identified as Family Help Lead Practitioners. The expectation to undertake CIN level work will be supported via appropriate training that has previously been piloted through a programme designed by South Devon College.
- 1.29 With regards to MASH, there will be a need for this to be rebranded to represent a 'warm and welcoming' first point of contact for families to access to advice, guidance and support. There will be a need to expand the remit of MASH to embrace the philosophy of 'whole family' thinking. That will mean ensuring relevant professionals are available to address parent related issues such as housing, parental mental health, parental substance misuse etc.
- 1.30 A significant amount of work has gone into the redesign in readiness for phase one go live in September but there continues to be a significant amount of work to ensure phase two go live remains on track and is aligned to the Reforms.

1.31 The move towards the expectation for alternatively qualified practitioners to manage CIN work will predominantly impact on Health and Educational workers who traditionally would have taken up the Early Help Lead Professional role. Previously, any escalation of need would have resulted in a MASH referral followed by a social worker undertaking a s17 assessment (single assessment). Going forward, the child will remain with the professional identified an escalation of need who will update the Family Help assessment to reflect the new needs and continue working with the family as the Family Help Lead Practitioner under s17. From the partnership engagement workshops, a great deal of anxiety was expressed about this expectation, and it is therefore important that the right level of training is offered across the partnership as well as the LA ensuring support and line of sight is maintained for children who are at the s17 level and being supported by partner agencies.

1.32 A further implication for partners is connected to the need to establish MACPTs. The teams will, as a minimum, need to consist of an experienced social worker, a relevantly qualified and registered Health professional, a relevantly experienced police officer and a relevantly experienced educational professional. We are currently analysing the data to determine how many MACPTs we will require – early indications suggest 3 teams which would marry well with our evolving locality model for Family Help. This will clearly have resource implications for all agencies.

VCS

1.33 We really value the contribution our VCS organisations make across the LA and in particular the part everyone plays in the Early Help work. Having assessed the data for the last two years it is evident that a number of VCS organizations actively input into both Early Help Plans as well as CIN Plans. However, only a small number have been allocated the lead professional role at Early Help. Therefore, we expect the impact on the VCS to be minimal in terms of taking on s17 Family Help Lead Practitioner roles. Nevertheless, this does not detract from the high level of impact that the VCS has on planning for children at all levels on the continuum of need. We would like to think where a VCS organisation is identified that it follows through as Family Help Lead Practitioner of a child that escalates to CIN with the support of the LA.

Adult Services

1.34 The Reforms place a big focus on 'whole family working' which means there is going to be a greater need for children's social care and adult social care and adult health care to work closer. This will require more integration of adult services into MASH as well as practitioners across all adult services being more active in planning for children across the whole continuum of need. This may also mean practitioners across adults taking the Family Help Lead Practitioner role if appropriate. This will clearly have resources implications as well as training needs for partners across all adult services as well as adjusting to a new way of fully integrated children-adults working.

Impact on Children

1.35 As we are at the design and development stage the impact on children is yet to be seen. However, the key objectives of the Reforms have the following intended aims:-

- Children's Services reforms will provide a seamless Family Help offer which ensures support is easily accessible, responsive and consistent; with a strong emphasis on early intervention to prevent escalation of needs.
- All families will be empowered to strengthen their support networks through Family Group Decision Making, and through improved access to universal and voluntary community sector services within their own communities.
- Establishing multi-agency child protection teams will bring a clear, fresh focus where there are child protection concerns, bringing experts together across agencies to identify actual or likely significant Page 64 take decisive action to protect children.

- Working together is crucial to delivering change and improving support for children and families across Torbay. Together, we will create holistic support which strengthens families and improves outcomes.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 There is no option but to implement these Reforms.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 Currently, funding is being provided for the Transformation year. It has been tentatively confirmed that funding will be made available till the end of this Parliament. However, the level of funding has not been confirmed. This could place the current service level at risk going forward as the old Supporting Families Funding has been replaced with the new grant funding.
- 3.2 Failure to have the Reforms in place by 31st March 2026 could result in the current funding being clawed back and future funding be withheld. It should be noted that although the Reforms are partnership wide, the financial risk lies solely with the Council.

4. Legal Implications

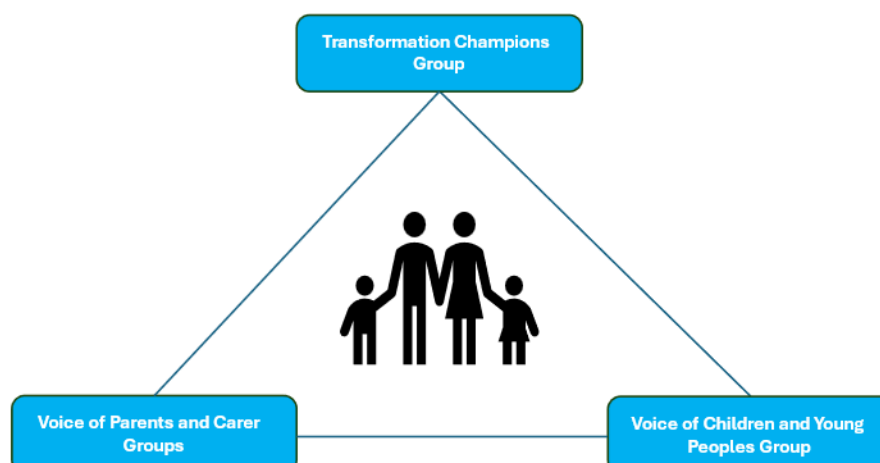
- 4.1 The Reforms will be embedded in legislation via the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill set to come in force in 2027. Failure to have the new Families First Partnership Programme in place by then across the partnership will result in legal implications for the Council and Partnership as a whole.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 Feeding in and out of the workstream is a co-design triangle to ensure there is practitioner engagement at the operational level as well as input and scrutiny from children and

parent/carers.

Children's Service Transformation Stakeholder Co-Production Triangle



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 The main risk here at this stage is funding claw back if the Reforms are not implemented by 31st March 2026.

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	Children, young people and their families will experience a seamless approach to family help and support. This will allow for a more proportionate and relational approach to		

	delivering help at the point of need.		
People with caring Responsibilities	The relational approach of the Reforms will make for more long-term relationships with alternatively qualified practitioners.		
People with a disability	Children with disabilities will benefit from a dedicate Additional Needs Team.		
Women or men	Parents will receive a seamless approach to family help that is none stigmatising and based on relational practice.		
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)	The ambition of the overall Transformational work is to ensure that any child, no matter their level of need or their socioeconomic status, has access to the highest quality family help at the point of need no matter where		

	they are on the continuum of need.		
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	Ensuring needs are identified and met as early as possible will ensure children's health, safety and wellbeing are met consistently. This will be further supported by an even greater shift towards preventative work as opposed to responding to issues that have already started to escalate.		

10. Cumulative Council Impact

- 10.1 The Transformation work that includes both the national and local workstreams will impact across the entire Council. This will include all of Children's Services as well as Adult Services and place-based services.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

- 11.1 The Reforms will have an impact on services being delivered to both children and adults in the community given that s17 planning will not solely have to be managed by qualified social workers going forward. This may place pressure on the resources of those organisations.

Families First Partnership Programme

Delivery Plan 2025-2026

This document is for strategic and operational leaders in local authorities, police, health, education and other relevant agencies involved in the delivery of the Families First Partnership Programme (FFP).

Effective multi-agency relationships and working practices are fundamental to successful reform and improving outcomes for children and families. It is critical that the statutory safeguarding partners, and relevant agencies including education and childcare settings, work together to deliver and embed change.

It is expected that 2025-2026 will be a transformation year, with local areas investing time and resource into local design in the first stage of the programme.

Developing a local delivery plan will be an important early step to set out how you and your partners will approach the reforms and codesign a local model tailored to your local context. A shared plan focused on codesigning your model will help foster collective responsibility for the reforms.

This phased plan will help you reflect on the existing strengths of your local system and the areas you need to develop. Identifying what you already know about your local system and identifying strengths will help you plan the codesign of your reform, reflecting your local context. You should consider this alongside your key partners to focus on commitment, capacity, leadership and wider engagement and build out from this as you are ready to move into implementation.

Signatories

Chief Executive	Anne-Marie Bond
Director of Children's Services	Nancy Meehan
Senior Responsible Officer	Shaun Evans
Practice Lead	Gemma Abrey
Data Lead	TBA (interviews taking place w/c 23.06.25)
Safeguarding Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police - Health - Education 	Roy Linden Penny Smith Stuart Heron

Part One - Submission date: 27th June 2025

Set up and codesign

For each section of the plan, it may be useful for you to consider the questions in the supporting information section.

Baseline position

It is important to recognise local context, understand that every area's starting position is unique, and activity and progress will look different everywhere. Having a good understanding of your starting position will help you be realistic in your planning and demonstrate progress and the impact of reform in your area. Think about how integrated targeted early help and child in need currently are. Do you use family group decision making, how integrated is it? What is the current multi-agency/multi-disciplinary elements of the service? What are the strengths and challenges within your multi-agency safeguarding and child protection arrangements? Do you have a strong and up to date understanding of your area/community needs across your locality?

400 words

Torbay Council aims to enhance its status as a Restorative Council by developing and delivering a Families First Partnership Programme, which places children and their families at the centre of decision-making. The Front Door is a well-established multi-disciplinary team that includes professionals from statutory agencies and education, working in an integrated manner. Early Help collaborates closely with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to ensure proportionality in progressing referrals. Over the past 18 months, service accessibility has improved with the establishment of portal facilities for electronic referrals to the Case Management System (CMS).

Early Help underwent a transformation in 2020/21, evolving into a multi-disciplinary service that includes Family Intervention, Reducing Parental Conflict, Housing Support, Benefits and Work Coaching Support, and Youth Homeless Prevention. This approach extends to partnerships with all partner agencies and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to ensure a team-around-the-family delivery. A recent service redesign has integrated Early Help with the Front Door, Family Intervention, Youth Services, and Child in Need under a unified Family Help umbrella service.

In terms of multi-disciplinary child protection work, there is a strong commitment from partners regarding strategy meetings and child protection conference attendance, with quoracy rates for 2024/25 being 91% for strategy meetings and 94% for Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) and Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs). However, there is room for improvement to ensure comprehensive input from statutory partners for robust Child Protection (CP) Planning. The number of 547 inquiries proceeding to ICPC is relatively low at 20%, compared to statistical neighbours averaging 35% and the national average of 36%, suggesting possible overreach in meeting needs.

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) has been well-established in Torbay since 2020 and is promoted at CP and Public Law Outline (PLO) points in a child's journey. Despite a reduction in the number of children in care over the past five years, the rate of children entering care at 52 per 10,000 is still higher than statistical neighbours. School exclusions remain high, and the number of electively home-educated children is increasing, indicating further scope for improvement in CP Planning and PLO processes.

Despite the positive multi-agency working culture, gaps hinder a complete team-around-the-family approach, particularly the lack of coordinated work with Adult Services and challenges with Health practitioners' capacity to take on the Early Help lead professional role. These issues will be addressed through a strategic needs and gap analysis and a partnership workforce development plan.

What will good look like?

Spending time identifying what you want to achieve will help keep the project focused and ensure everyone is working to the same end goal. It is critical to involve everyone in this and share the vision to help understand the reason for change, what the outcome will be, and how everyone has a role. How will engaging with services feel for children and families? How might services be designed and integrated across the journey of support for a family? Will people's jobs have changed? What will be the impact on the local authority and partners?

400 words

The overarching vision is to ensure that children and families receive the appropriate level of service at the right time, led by a single Family Help Lead Practitioner who preferably has an established relationship with the family. This will build upon the success of the Family Hub network by embedding multi-disciplinary Family Help Teams in community settings. This approach will include aligning Family Help with other established locality-based models of delivery, such as SEND and the evolving Health offer as well as services the Youth Service offer which is also being transformed.

A key component of providing a positive and effective experience for children and families will be the redevelopment and rebranding of the current Front Door Service to embrace the philosophy of 'whole family' thinking. This will necessitate an expansion of the service to include adult-related professionals to provide advice, guidance, and support, with warm handovers to relevant practitioners in the Family Help Teams.

By frontloading and providing whole family support at the right time by the right group of practitioners, children and parents/carers will experience a proportionate response to their needs, significantly reducing escalations into the safeguarding arena. Consequently, fewer children will be subject to strategy meetings and s47 investigations, ultimately resulting in fewer children being subject to CP Planning and potential escalation into PLO.

For those children requiring safeguarding arrangements, the framework for CP investigations and planning will be more efficient and effective due to fewer children escalating to this level of need and greater oversight from expert teams comprising key agencies. This will result in greater scrutiny over CP planning and interventions, minimizing the time children are subject to CP Planning.

Placing children and parents/carers at the heart of all assessment and planning is crucial to building resilience within the community we serve. Recognizing that the greatest and most responsive asset families have is their own social support network is essential to the success of the Families First Partnership Programme. With this in mind, the FGDM offer in Torbay will be reviewed and redeveloped to ensure all families have the opportunity to create a family plan that is taken forward as their Family Help Plan. Where possible, families will be supported to chair their Family Help Planning and Review meetings at whatever level they are on the continuum of need. The objective is to support parents/carers in owning the challenges they face, determining the direction of the work, and devising viable solutions within their social support network, thereby reducing the risk of dependency going forward.

What are our strengths and challenges?

Honestly assessing strengths and weaknesses provides important insight as you start to plan your changes. Understanding this can help you build on existing good practice, identify activities to be prioritised, provide rationale for decision making and understand the teams' capabilities.

Project management tools such as SWOT analysis can be useful. Consider where there are strong shared aims, practices and governance that can be built on. Where there are challenges, do you have the right people involved to change this, or are these opportunities to build new working relationships?

400 words

In order to tease out the strengths and challenges of implementing the Families First Partnership Programme A multi-agency SWOT analysis was undertaken as noted below:-

Strengths:

- The Early Help offer is well-developed.
- The Local Authority is ready to transition to the Family Help model following a comprehensive service redesign.
- The Learning Academy is well-established and supports broader partnership development.
- Universal services are effectively delivered through an established network of family hubs.
- Partnership approach is supported and embraced.

Weaknesses:

- The current Local Authority CMS has limitations due to its software configuration.
- Different recording systems across the partnership are not interconnected, which will significantly impact the child single identifier activity.
- High levels of child protection processes triggered (strategy discussions and s47 investigations).

Opportunities:

- A reduction in the number of children subject to CP Plans will allow for greater focus on those children who need safeguarding arrangements, potentially reducing the duration of CP Planning and improving the quality of work delivered.
- The end-to-end system will include aspects beyond the Reforms, enabling further transformation work to be delivered to enhance the offer to children and families.
- Strengthening multi-agency arrangements and collaboration as outlined in Working Together 2023.
- The ICB footprint spans the entire Devon region, providing opportunities for regional sharing and learning.
- The Police footprint covers Devon and Cornwall, offering similar opportunities for regional collaboration with our neighbours in Devon, Cornwall and Plymouth on the basis of consistency where possible but not blanket uniformity as Torbay recognise the importance of developing a FFP that meets the local needs.
- Developing consistent approaches to certain FFPP functions while maintaining the need for localized delivery of the Reforms.
- Developing an integrated model of locality working that is aligned to the models partners are moving to.
- Opportunity to strengthen strategic multi-agency planning.
- Opportunity to second Police and Health professionals into the Transformation Team and bring further dimensions to the work.

- Opportunity to strengthen relations and codesign work with the VCSE.

Threats:

- The ICB footprint across Devon may place a strain on resources and pose challenges in developing models regionally.
- The Police footprint across Devon and Cornwall may place a strain resources and complicate model development.
- Pressures from other Local Authorities in the region regarding different model proposals may over influence partners.
- Integrating Education, given the presence of numerous multi-academy trusts within the Local Authority.
- Managing workforce anxiety regarding the changes.
- National changes to the ICB delivery model.
- Budgetary cuts across partner agencies including the VCS.

Note that some matters lie in more than one component of the SWOT analysis.

What are our key activities in 2025-2026?

Be realistic about what can be achieved in this year. Focus on activity you all agree is a priority and will move you closer to your end goal. Give yourself deadlines to keep you focused and moving at pace. Prioritise engagement and codesign at this stage. Please share key milestones and anticipated dates.

400 words

The partnership project plan outlines the timeline for key high-level transformation activities, divided into two phases: development/planning and implementation/delivery. The initial development and planning stage, leading up to December 2025, includes several milestones:

- The Transformation Lead (SRO) and Transformation Service Lead were onboarded at the end of April and May 2025, respectively. The Transformation team and governance were established at the end of April and May 2025.
- Work streams and the initial Transformation Champions Group (LA practitioners) was established at the end of June 2025. Initial partnership engagement and co-design workshops linked to Family Help and Multi-agency Child Protection Team workstreams ran at the end of June 2025.
- The wider Transformation Champions Group, including all partner agencies, will be established by mid-July 2025. A communications plan across the partnership will be agreed upon and regular communications to all stakeholders will start by mid-July 2025.
- Transformation practitioner drop-ins, led by transformation champions, will be established by the end of July 2025.
- The Data Lead and Project Manager will be onboarded by the end of July 2025.
- Partner secondments into the Transformation Team are to be agreed upon and established by the end of July 2025.
- Data harvesting to establish a full set of baseline measurements for improvement will be completed by the end of July 2025.
- The next two partnership engagement workshops, running up to phase two in January, will be booked by the end of July 2025.
- Parent carer/young people engagement events and a regional working group will be established by the end of July 2025.
- Regional consistencies will be established by the end of August 2025.
- Partner secondments will be onboarded by the end of October 2025.
- The Family Help (FH) structure, including community locations, the Multi-agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) structure, and the Child Protection Lead Practitioner (CPLP) role will be defined and agreed upon by the end of October 2025.
- The second and third partnership engagement workshops will be run by the end of September and November 2025 respectively.
- A partnership development plan will be established initially by the end of July 2025 and followed up by mid-December 2025.
- CMS workflows will be redesigned and ready to go live by the end of December 2025.
- All reporting dashboards and reports will be aligned to new workflows by the end of December 2025.

These milestones set the foundation for developing a comprehensive implementation plan, which will be shared via the part 2 plan in December 2025 and set the scene for phase 2 of the work.

Part Two - Submission date: 19th December 2025

Codesign and implementation of Family Help, multi-agency child protection, family group decision making

For each section of the plan, it may be useful for you to consider the questions in the supporting information section.

The reforms to Family Help and multi-agency child protection, and embedding family group decision making, are fully interconnected. Whilst it may be useful to look at elements of planning and implementation of each strand individually to reflect the local starting point and activity needed, it is essential that they should not be seen as isolated strands and should always be considered from the perspective of whole system reform.

Baseline position

Family Help	Multi-agency child protection	Family group decision making
200 words	200 words	200 words

What will good look like

Family Help	Multi-agency child protection	Family group decision making
200 words	200 words	200 words

What are our strengths and challenges

Family Help	Multi-agency child protection	Family group decision making
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200 words	200 words	200 words
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Page 10
Key activities and milestones

Family Help	Multi-agency child protection	Family group decision making
200 words	200 words	200 words

Progress (local use only)

Family Help	Multi-agency child protection	Family group decision making

Supporting Information

Part One – Set up and codesign

Who are our key stakeholders for this programme?

Children and Young People,
Parents/Carers,
Children's Social Care staff,
Health Staff,
Police Staff,
Education Staff,
Public Health Staff,
Adult Social Care Staff,
Voluntary and Community Sector Workers,

Is there a shared vision and understanding of the purpose of the reform and where change is needed?

Yes – the high-level overarching vision is set out in the terms of reference for the Transformation Board. This vision is being shaped over time via the scrutiny of the Children's Continuous Improvement Board and ultimately the Local Safeguarding Partnership that owns the overall programme of work.

What are the opportunities to align to other government programmes to support an integrated end to end system of support for families e.g. Family Hubs.

The Family Hub network in Torbay is well established and the Reforms provide an opportunity for further development of the range of services and support offered via the Hubs such as co-location of multi-agency teams.

The Governments approach to utilisation of redundant school space and the alignment of the multi-agency teams with that of Health partners' neighbourhood models provides additional opportunities for locality-based partnership working. On a local level, the utilisation of vacant and/or redundant corporate assets will bring back into play valuable community-based resources.

What shared practices can be built on – practice frameworks, co-locations, workforce development, shared family voice?

As noted above, the neighbourhood delivery approach being developed by Health partners provides an opportunity to develop multi-agency delivery frameworks.

Significant pieces of work have already been completed via UNICEF Child Friendly Torbay activity as well a number of strategic needs assessments across the partnership that will be used to inform an over-arching needs-gap analysis.

The Learning Academy covers the wider partnership development which will form a solid foundation for delivering multi-agency training.

Is there a communications plan in place to communicate the vision to everyone, including families?

A communications plan will be developed to include the voice of all key stakeholders including parent/carers and young people as well practitioners. Within the Transformation Governance structure is a parent/carer group, young people's group and transformation champions group which will have members from across the partnership.

Communication channels will be agreed to ensure all key stakeholders receive consistent and timely updates as to the progress of the work.

How will we monitor and understand the impact of engagement?

Partnership engagement workshops will be delivered at crucial points in the transformation programme. These will provide measures in terms of numbers of practitioners attending the workshops as well as their agencies. The workshops will also allow for feedback from practitioners.

Workstream leads will provide highlight reports to the Transformation Board with the expectation that deliverables within the workstream are linked to direct impact on children and their families.

Transformation drop ins will be delivered by the Transformation Champions with feedback directly into the Transformation Board.

Staff surveys will be undertaken at key milestones within the Transformation work to directly measure and sense check the impact of the Reforms on practitioners across the partnership.

What are our codesign principles and processes? Who do we need to involve?

The codesign principles embraces a whole stakeholder and relational approach to codesign. This will involve the establishing of a parent/carer group, and young persons group and a transformation champions group for practitioners across the partnership.

What local data can we build on? Have we got a comprehensive up to date area needs assessment?

There is a current JSNA along with a number of other area assessments that have been completed over the last few years by different partners. These form the basis of a comprehensive literature review that will inform a needs-gaps analysis.

The local authority has a comprehensive suite of data dashboards and reports and a Business Intelligence Service that has the understanding and ability to write bespoke reports. This is complimented by partner agencies also having comprehensive data sets that will be used to triangulate data to form a richer understanding of baseline positions and measure progress over time.

Do we need a gap analysis?

An up-to-date gap analysis will be devised as noted above.

Do we have the right mechanisms to engage a diverse range of service users in our codesign?

There are a number of established parent/carer groups as well young people's groups across the local authority that will be tapped into. Previous work will also be referred to such as the UNICEF Child Friendly Torbay work as well as the Breathing Space work with parents who have repeatedly had children removed into care.

The Local Authority has a mature Participation Team as well as a Relational Practice Team which will collectively be able to facilitate engagement with parents/cares and children.

Do we have a range of lived experience groups to reflect different needs?

There are a number of established groups within the Local Authority such as SEND Family Voice, Breathing Space Parents Group, and the Children in Care Council to name just a few. The Participation Team along with the UNICEF Child Friendly Torbay Team will be able to enhance this area of work.

Do these enable ongoing feedback from families and in turn the continuous refinement of practice?

Feedback from these groups feeds into mechanisms such as the Council's Practice Improvement Forum as well as the Learning Academy which in turns designs and develops training packages or commissions training as appropriate.

Regular Local Authority auditing also captures feedback from parent/carers and children (where appropriate to do so). Audit and dip sample findings are translated into actions and learning to take forward. Learning is fed back via the Practice Improvement Forum as well as the TSCP QA Group.

The Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership also provides opportunities for refinement of practice via regular Multi-agency Case Audits (MACAs) and the annual conference.

Does this work align to the outcomes in the national framework?

All the Transformation work being undertaken marries well with the National Framework.

Who will be our change champions?

A volunteer group of practitioners has been established to champion the Transformation Programme going forward. This group has been tasked with the role of promoting the opportunities that come with the programme of change as well as helping to support staff and contain anxiety going forward. The group will be visible and accessible using mechanisms such as drop ins to gather views from practitioners across the partnerships and relay these to the Transformation Board. The initial group were Children Services based practitioners but now that it is established it will be expanded to include practitioners from across the whole partnership.

Do we have the appropriate practitioners within codesign groups with CYP with lived experience?

As previously noted, a practitioners transformation group has been established as well a child and young peoples group.

How will we monitor and understand the impact of engagement?

The views from the above noted groups will be continuously fed back into the Transformation Board for consideration and linked back into the workstreams that are tasked with planning and implementing key components within the overall Transformation programme of work.

Where might it be useful to work regionally with police/ICB leads to support implementation across shared LA boundaries?

Discussions have already taken place with colleagues in neighbouring authorities across the region. There is a general consensus that establishing a regional group will allow for the development of consistent approaches to the Reforms where appropriate whilst also ensuring localised delivery is maintained.

How will we assess the project's progress, effectiveness and impact?

Clear deliverables have been included in the terms of reference for all the workstreams. These feed into the Transformation Board which is scrutinised by the Children's Continuous Improvement Board.

The high-level activity is subject of a project plan and will be managed by a dedicated project manager who will report any identified risks into the Transformation Board as well as maintain a risks register.

Baseline data will be established as part of the initial planning and development work which will be used to measure improvement against going forward.

Do we have a dedicated programme leader who is well supported and enabled and has permission to make change?

A Divisional Director for Children's Services Transformation has been employed who reports directly to the DCS.

The Divisional Director is supported by a Service Lead and will also have the dedicated support of an analysis and project manager.

The Divisional Director is also supported by senior officers across the partnership to ensure a fully collaborative approach is taken to the Transformation work.

What local strategies and governance do we have in place we can build on?

The Children's Continuous Improvement Board is a multi-agency board that has been established for some time and is independently chaired. This board sits underneath the Delegated Safeguarding Partners.

The Transformation Board will feed into the Children's Continuous Improvement Board and therefore there is a line of sight from the Transformation Board up to the DSP.

Is there a partnership governance board everyone is engaged in? Should that cover the reforms?

A Transformation Board has been established that will hold to account all the national reforms based workstreams as well as the local workstreams to account.

Part Two - Codesign and implementation of Family Help, multi-agency child protection, family group decision making

Family Help

What services/agencies will form our multi-disciplinary teams?

What partners are already part of the front door?
How will these teams link with community/universal services (inc. VCS)?
What does our needs assessment tell us?
What recruitment do we need to start?
Do we have a shared practice framework?
Do we have a shared multi-agency workforce development plan outlining L&D offer for Family Help workforce (including FHLPs) and skills and knowledge required for FHLPs?
What processes do we need in place to identify and allocate the most suitable lead practitioner?
What management structures and supervision arrangements will we need for oversight of all FHLPs, including those that are alternatively qualified and/or not employed by the local authority?
Do existing data sharing agreements enable us to identify families needing support and understand outcomes?
Can we bring together TEH and CIN into the same CMS, with a single/assessment plan, that can be accessed by all relevant people?

Family group decision making

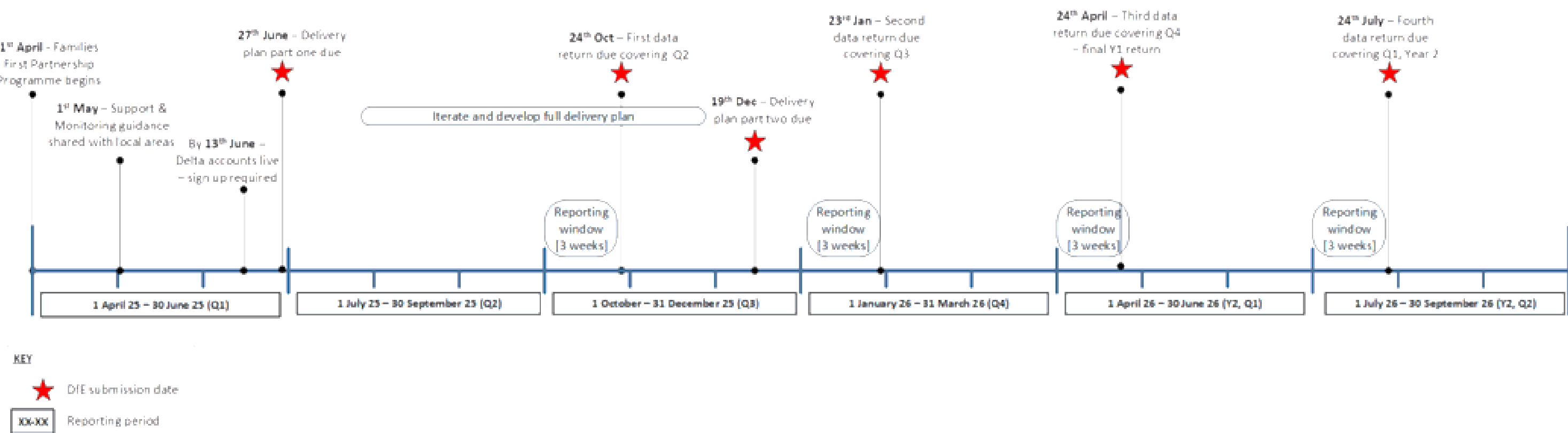
How do we already use family networks to support families?
How does FGDM align with existing practices? Where it is already used, what are the opportunities and learning to build from?
How can family network plans be integrated into Family Help and child protection plans?
What are the partnership's training needs? How does this align to existing practice frameworks and workforce development plans?

Multi-agency child protection

What does our local needs assessment and harms profile tell us about child protection in our area? What does this mean for our MACPT planning and design?
How many MACPTs might we need, who might work in them, where will we locate them?

What existing strengths and opportunities can our current multi-agency arrangements offer to this work?
How can we promote and embed a shared vision, identity and practice framework, whilst retaining agency expertise and clear lines of sight to parent agencies and MASA?
How will we integrate our MACPTs and establish them as centres of excellence for the wider system, including with our multi-agency front door(s) (MASH, Family Hubs or equivalent), LAC and court teams, etc?
How will we equip MACPTs to identify, understand and respond effectively to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of all children and to all harm types, inside and outside of the home and online?
How will MACPTs build trusting relationships with parents and carers to ensure their meaningful participation?
How will we equip MACPTs to identify, understand and respond effectively to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of all children and to all harm types, inside and outside of the home and online?
What form might our management, supervision and assurance processes take?

Families First Partnership Programme – Reporting Timeline for 2025-2026



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

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
27/1/25	38	4. that in light of the importance of the role the Director of Corporate Services be requested to include responsibility as Corporate Parents in all staff job descriptions and as part of their annual appraisal to demonstrate what staff are doing to support our cared for and care experience young people.	4. Email sent to Matthew Fairclough-Kay 11.2.25 to consider the request, chased 19.3.25. – HR are carrying out a full review to determine the best way to embed this across the Council looking at best practice from other local authorities. An update will be shared once the review has been finalised (update due September 2025).
19/5/25	51	a. Written response The recent capacity survey was advertised with schools, 0-19 providers and via the Council's communications and social media. It was felt that the low response from parents was due to people being satisfied and being able to access spaces. There was a separate survey for providers and parents. The Council had carried out its own mapping exercise and forecasts of birthrates and where people live and access provision and was satisfied that there was sufficient capacity where required. A written response would be provided on the breakdown of the responses to the surveys.	<p>To ensure that the data and information we hold on capacity and sufficiency is as accurate and up to date as possible (it can change term on term) we have re-issued a new survey to both providers and parents. The responses we received in the January/February survey would now not be reflective of the current childcare market and the space / capacity within it.</p> <p>This new survey is due to close mid-July 2025 and we are proactively working with the Early Years sector and partners to ensure and increased return rate. To support more dynamic capacity planning moving forward we are looking at ways to utilise our current funding system to collect data on a half termly basis.</p>
19/5/25	52	a. do we know which providers charge for consumables e.g. nappies (a written response would be provided); b. The recent capacity survey was advertised with schools, 0-19 providers and via the Council's	Updated guidance was issued by the DfE in April 2025 to ensure settings were transparent and upfront with parents/carers in their consumable charges. As a result of this, settings have been updating and adapting their policies. We are capturing this

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		communications and social media. It was felt that the low response from parents was due to people being satisfied and being able to access spaces. There was a separate survey for providers and parents. The Council had carried out its own mapping exercise and forecasts of birthrates and where people live and access provision and was satisfied that there was sufficient capacity where required. A written response would be provided on the breakdown of the responses to the surveys	information in our current provider survey which is due to close mid-July.
19/5/25	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> that the Democratic Services Team Leader be requested to arrange a site visit to the YMCA project in Exeter; and that the Democratic Services Team Leader be requested to invite the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Members to the Planning Committee meetings when any new planning applications come through from the YMCA for the SHAP project. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> in progress Teresa emailed YMCA to look at dates 22.6.25. Complete - Teresa emailed Clerk to Planning Committee 29.5.25 to request they be invited and Councillor Bye.
19/5/25	5	This item was deferred to 2 June 2025	Complete
19/5/25	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> that the initial Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board Work Programme for 2025/2026 as presented be approved; and that the Work Programme will be kept under regular review by the Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People's 	Complete/ongoing

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board and the Democratic Services Team Leader.	
2/6/25	9	<p>1. that following the Councillor call for action and petition and having carefully considered all the written and oral evidence, the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board acknowledges the concerns raised from the parents, schools and the National Deaf Children's Society in respect of the service changes for St Margaret's Academy and The Spires College Hearing Impairment Units. Members noted the concerns relating to some children who have been benefitting from support from the Hearing Impairment Units, whilst not actually qualifying for the enhanced support of the HIU and the confusion this appears to have caused. Members have been assured that both the children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), as well as those who are Special Educational Needs Known (SENK), will continue to receive the required levels of support identified in their plans, to meet their needs;</p> <p>2. that there is a misconception of the community and parents' understanding of who can access an enhanced resource provision for hearing impairment and as a result the Director of Children's Services be requested to prepare</p>	<p>1. Complete 2. In progress 3. Complete 4. Teresa wrote to TAPS and TASH 17.6.25 and they have confirmed they will be taking it to their next meetings. Response from TASH circulated 23.6.25</p>

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
		<p>service level agreements for all enhanced resource provisions in Torbay, including the criteria required, the legal and statutory framework and this be published on the website in an accessible format in order for parents, carers and young people to have a clear understanding of the criteria and provide transparency of the requirements for those provisions;</p> <p>3. that having heard the new funding arrangements the Board was assured that the funding would achieve better outcomes tailored to the individual child's needs, that the Director of Children's Services be recommended that no further action be taken regarding the decision taken on the service changes to St Margaret's Academy and The Spires College Hearing Impairment Units and that the decision continues to be implemented; and</p> <p>4. that the Torbay Association of Secondary Headteachers (TASH) and Torbay Association of Primary Schools (TAPS) be recommended to consider working with school on how they deliver sensitive news to parents, particularly when only a small number of pupils and their families may be affected.</p>	

Date of meeting	Minute No.	Action	Comments
2/6/25	11	That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board endorse the Torbay Children's Service Self Evaluation of Practice 2024-2025 as set out in exempt Appendix 1 to the submitted report and that it is published in accordance with Council's requirements and thank officers for all their hard work in preparing the Self Evaluation Practice.	Complete

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