

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Board** will be held on

Thursday, 11 December 2014

commencing at **5.30 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Meadfoot Room, Town Hall, Castle Circus,
Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Board

Councillor Thomas (J) (Chairman)

Councillor Bent
Councillor Darling (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Pentney
Councillor Stockman

Councillor Davies
Councillor Kingscote
Councillor Tyerman
Councillor Hernandez

Co-opted Members of the Board

Penny Burnside, Diocese of Exeter

Working for a healthy, prosperous and happy Bay

For information relating to this meeting or to request a copy in another format or language please contact:

Kate Spencer, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR
01803 207063

Email: scrutiny@torbay.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence, including notifications of any changes to the membership of the Committee.

2. 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.)

3. Urgent Items

To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

4. Children's Services 5 Year Plan - Update and Way Forward

(Pages 1 - 14)

To consider a report of the Director of Children's Services on the Children's Services Five Year Plan.

5. Torbay Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report

(Pages 15 - 62)

To consider the TSCB Annual Report together with the Business Plan (and update).



Title: **Children's Services 5 year plan – Update and Way Forward**

Wards Affected: All

To: **Overview and Scrutiny Board** On: **11th December 2014**

Contact: **Children's Executive Lead: Cllr Ken Pritchard**
Director of Children's Services: Richard Williams

E.mail: Ken.pritchard@torbay.gov.uk
Richard.Williams@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to detail the process by which the Children's Services 5 year plan will be implemented, monitored and evaluated, within the context of driving forward further service improvement.

2. Proposal Decision

- 2.1 That Members endorse the implementation of the 5 year plan and consider the process, by which the 5 year plan is monitored, evaluated and endorse the direction of travel for the improvement of Children's Services.

3. Reason for Decision

- 3.1 Children's Services have had significant budget pressures for a number of years. The 5 year plan addresses the issues that have created these and a change process that ensures the effective use of resources to resolve them, whilst ensuring that children are safeguarded.
- 3.2 It is imperative that ongoing expenditure within Children's Services is monitored and reported in line with the remuneration of the 5 year plan.

4. Background

- 4.1 The history of Children's Services budget pressures runs in parallel with both the local judgements of its services by Ofsted and increasing national focus on child abuse concerns, in particular Baby P and more recently CSE.
- 4.2 Historically for Torbay the impact of a Local Authority moving into intervention created two immediate pressures. Firstly, it created a staffing crisis with social workers leaving for a wide variety of reasons (possibly exaggerated by their characterisation in the national media) and secondly, the service as a whole moved towards a risk adverse approach to protecting children. Both of these factors have had profound implications on Torbay and a consequent impact on budgets.

4.3 To resolve the issue and following deliberation by Overview and Scrutiny in 2013 Children's Services have developed a 5 year plan, in collaboration with Social Finance – on October 30th the Council agreed to adopt this plan.

- I. approve the 5 year financial strategy for Children's Services Safeguarding and Wellbeing;
- II. fund the projected overspend: in 2015/16 (£2.3m) and 2016/17 (£1.1m) from reserves as set out within the submitted report;
- III. note the forecast overspend of £1.4m in 2014/15 which will be managed by in-year savings;
- IV. move the £2 million social care contingency into the Children's Services base budget (Safeguarding & Wellbeing) in 2014/15 and future years;
- V. the improvement actions as recommended by Social Finance as set out within the submitted report;
- VI. the Director of Children's Services and the Children's Services Finance Manager reporting back to the Mayor and the Executive Lead for Children's on a quarterly basis and present updated reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on performance both operational and financial;
- VII. the repayment of reserves as set out within the submitted report;
- VIII. the strict performance management mechanism for the changes as set out in the submitted report;

4.4 The 5 year plan recognises that moving out of intervention and resolving the budget situation without putting children at risk is a long term strategy. It requires Children's Services to both stem the flow of children coming into Child Protection and ultimately the care system and secondly, a new approach to working with those children already in the care system to secure more positive and sustainable long term outcomes. It is clear that this strategy has to be under pinned with quality partnership working at all stages.

5. Report

5.1 Children's Services was removed from intervention by the Government in January 2014, following an adequate judgement by Ofsted in March 2013. Immediately following the removal from intervention Children's Services faced new 'staffing' challenges that initially stalled the ongoing improvement process. This ran in parallel with the development of the 5 year strategy with Social Finance. The culmination of both these situations has now led to Children's Services being in a strong position. However, it is the central premise of the strategy that improvements to the service run in parallel with improvements in the budget situation. The two cannot be divorced.

5.2 Following a peer review of Children's Services in September 2014 priorities were set for the continuing improvement journey.

The ambition is to have these priorities addressed during 2014/5 financial year, when a further review will be undertaken.

- **Translation of the safeguarding hub into a MASH.** This will increase the levels of engagement of partners in decision making and the use of live intelligence across the partnership to aid decision making of children potentially at risk of harm. We will also address and improve the operation of our pathways for child sexual exploitation and domestic violence as part of the implementation of the MASH.
- **Implementation of a single assessment.** To support a culture of proportionate and timely assessments we are putting in place a single assessment.
- **Introduction of a Social work model.** Following consultation with staff we will be implementing the signs of safety approach. This will create a consistent framework for practitioners to follow when engaging with CYP and families.
- **Strengthening the early help pathway.** We will be implementing the plan for the formulation of an early help pathway that will establish community based hubs that will manage the organisation and delivery early help.
- **Raising the bar for Children Looked After.** We will be raising the bar for children in care and the corporate commitment to prioritising CLA.
- **Overhaul of quality assurance.** This includes reprising local practices and gearing up the daily use of quality assurance through into supervision and the check and balances offered by IROs.
- **Improving and streamlining systems.** We are committed to making the systems we use work better for practitioners. This also includes an implementation of a more rigorous performance management culture.

A small number of Enablers have been employed to aid the initial delivery and modelling of the practice changes highlighted above. The Enablers have been engaged utilising the 'invest to save' monies set aside within this financial year as these priorities will further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of what we do and therefore inevitably improve the budget situation.

5.3 The additional operation changes that will be delivered as part of the 5 year plan are:-

- **Improving the capacity of in-house Foster Care for older children.** A combination of KEEP and THRIVE will be rolled out across the foster care service to improve the quality and capacity of carers in responding to the emotional well being of children. This will be targeted at foster carers looking after young people whose behaviour is particularly challenging.
- **Sustaining the improvement of the adoption pathway.** 2013/14 has seen the best Torbay performance for numbers being adopted. 11 children have been adopted so far in 2014/5 with a further 35+ children with a plan for adoption.
- **Developing in house parent and child capacity.** So far 1 with a further 4, in house parent and child placements will be created by the end of 2014/5. This will enable the authority to deliver more community based assessments of parental capacity and thereby shifting the reliance away from residential and distant resources.
- **Strengthening the operation of panels.** The need to re-assert the role and significance of panels as the vehicle for scrutiny, challenge and prompting creative solutions has been revisited following a recent peer audit process. This is currently focusing on reviewing all children subject to section 20 placements. The aim is to safely and securely de-LAC 1 child per month right through to April 2015. To-date this target has been exceeded. This forms one aspect of the a think different' culture about residential care we are adopting to help reduce the reliance on residential placements.

- 5.4 To monitor and evaluate these development Children's Services will put in place the following mechanisms:
- The ongoing work of the Members Monitoring Group and the Members Corporate Parenting Group. The former to focus on the budget and the second the broader range of Children's Services with a particular focus on Looked After Children.
 - The development of a new Children's Dashboard (Appendix 1). This will be the focus of discussions of the Members' Monitoring Group and future meeting of Overview and Scrutiny.
 - The creation of a Members Safeguarding Assurance scheme to ensure that all Members are informed of developments and have a more pro-active input into future direction (Appendix 2).
 - The ongoing Members briefing sessions to continue to highlight particular issues of concern or interest to Members

6. Progress

- 6.1 Appendix 1 of the report details the key performance indicators that underpin the 5 year plan. The progress of both the Fostering Service and the Adoption Service should be highlighted with both reaching their targets on or before the prescribed dates. In addition to this the staffing situation has improved from a figure of 46% vacancy rate to below 10% in recent months (with only 3 front line social worker vacancies)
- 6.2 However the funding of the key projects within the 5 year plan will not be available until April 2015 where further progress will be made (KEEP project/Parent and Child Project). This will ensure that they are funded on an ongoing revenue basis as opposed to one off expenditure. The reduction of numbers of children classified as Section 20 is also progressing well and is on target. (one per month). It should be emphasised again that no new arrangements will be made to any child that will have a detrimental impact on individual outcomes.
- 6.3 Progress on the indicators for the 5 year plan is therefore largely positive. However at this stage this has not worked through to impact on the full budget. The restriction on this is because the final budget plan was not agreed until late Summer (passed at Council in October) and six months of the financial year has passed. It is, therefore, a matter of catch up and the Children's Services Management Team in partnership with Finance colleagues are exploring all possible options to reduce the expenditure.

7. Issues

- 7.1 The implementation of the 5 year plan was based on the premise that £500K funding was available in year one on an 'invest to save' bases. Half of this was set aside for the development of the plan with Social Finance and the remaining half has been set aside to fund the Enablers.
- 7.2 As has already stated Children's Services has been successful in its recruitment campaign for new Social Workers. However, there has always been a challenge in the recruitment of managers and we have now instigated a 'talent' programme to bring forward quality staff to become quality managers. There are currently 22 staff on this programme. We are also about to recruit for a permanent Executive Head for Safeguarding.
- 7.3 During the period of the 5 year plan challenges will come from a variety of sources. In particular national trends/events will have an impact; Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is

very prominent in services at present and will inevitably provide some challenges going forward. Member will be kept informed of developments and services are currently being refocused to manage the additional pressures from within existing resources.

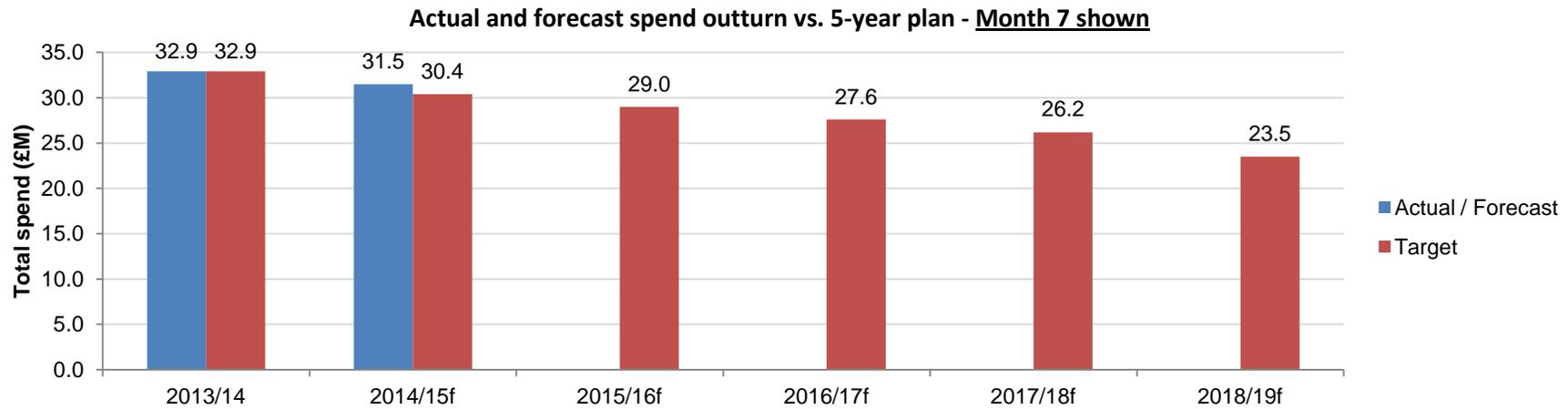
- 7.4 The ongoing budget reduction process has and will continue to provide challenges. Many of the projects that have been withdrawn were put in place some years ago when central government grants were a plenty. Where the projects have a direct impact on families and children it will require the LA to put in place alternative arrangements. However these should also be an onus on the host organisations to assess their priorities and to make their own adjustments, learning from the past and looking to the future.

8. Looking Forward

- 8.1 The initial milestone for Children's Services will be to ensure that the key performance indicators set in the 5 year plan are met. This will generate the confidence in the service that the targets can be met on an ongoing basis. As has been highlighted in the report we are on target but this is still subject to some volatility and will be closely monitored.
- 8.2 Children's Services is still subject to an Ofsted Inspection and this is due in the next few months. It is a four week inspection and will be a testing time for the whole service. It is never easy to predict the outcome of an inspection as there are many variables and it is a very different framework from our previous inspection in 2013. However it is asserted that the service will be able to demonstrate clear improvements.

Richard Williams
Director of Children's Services

Members monitoring report



LAC rate / 10,000							
Actual	127	122	0	0	0	0	0
Target	127	122	109	97	84	72	
Total	316	299*	271	241	209	179	

Latest data = 31/10/14

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Positive trends

- In house fostering rates continue to significantly reduce additional payments to carers that had been operating before the change was introduced in Oct 2013
- To-date 3 CLA on section 20's have come out of care following reviews. This progress is ahead of the planned and safe removal of at least 1 section 20 per month up to April 2015
- Adoption rates are projected to hold up well this year despite the recent national trend that has seen a halving in the numbers being put forward for Adoption

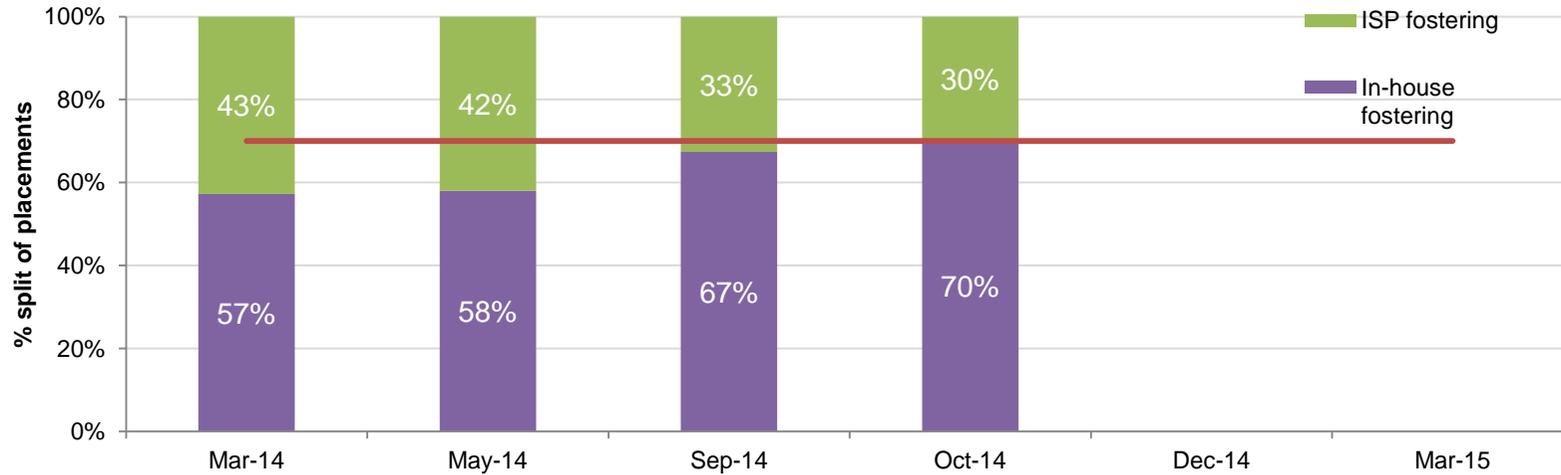
Current developments/pressures

- **+4 placements** have resulted as a direct result of operational priorities - this potentially is an ongoing short to medium term pressure
- **+1 remand placement** has been required - remand placements are court directed, cannot be predicted and are high cost

Key assumptions in respect of the targets

- total bed days reduces
- no significant population changes
- no significant national policy changes
- no inflationary costs
- The DFE has recently changed the baseline group of similar authorities on which the above targets were set. The average Children Looked After rate for our new group is now **4 points higher than when these targets were set.**

**5 year plan priority - increasing the proportion of foster placements provided in house
Split of in-house vs. ISP fostering placements (excl P&C)**



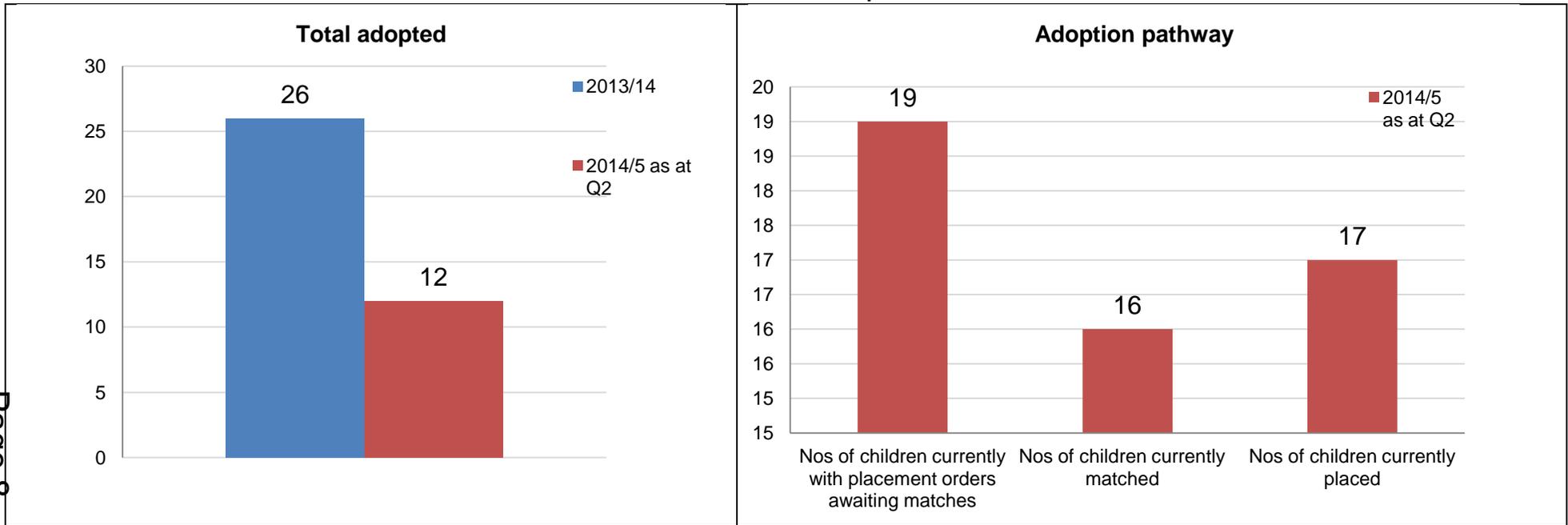
Positive trends

- The single fee system has successfully increased in-house capacity 6 months ahead of our target.
- CLA have also feedback positively about the impact that the single fee has had on their lives by removing the previous arrangements which marked them out as different i.e. no longer being transported to school by taxi and by being transported by people they know i.e. their carer not taxi drivers.
- Not shown on the graph but the plan to establish in-house capacity to deliver parent and child assessment placements has also been achieved on schedule. By end of the financial year, we will have the ability to provide 4 community based parent and child placements.

Next stages

- The next stage for the development of our fostering is to increase the capability of in house foster carers to address the needs of older children. This will be delivered through the introduction of KEEP and THRIVE training for foster carers. A review of the single tier will also be carried out in the next period.

5 year plan priority - sustaining improved levels of adoption
Adoption



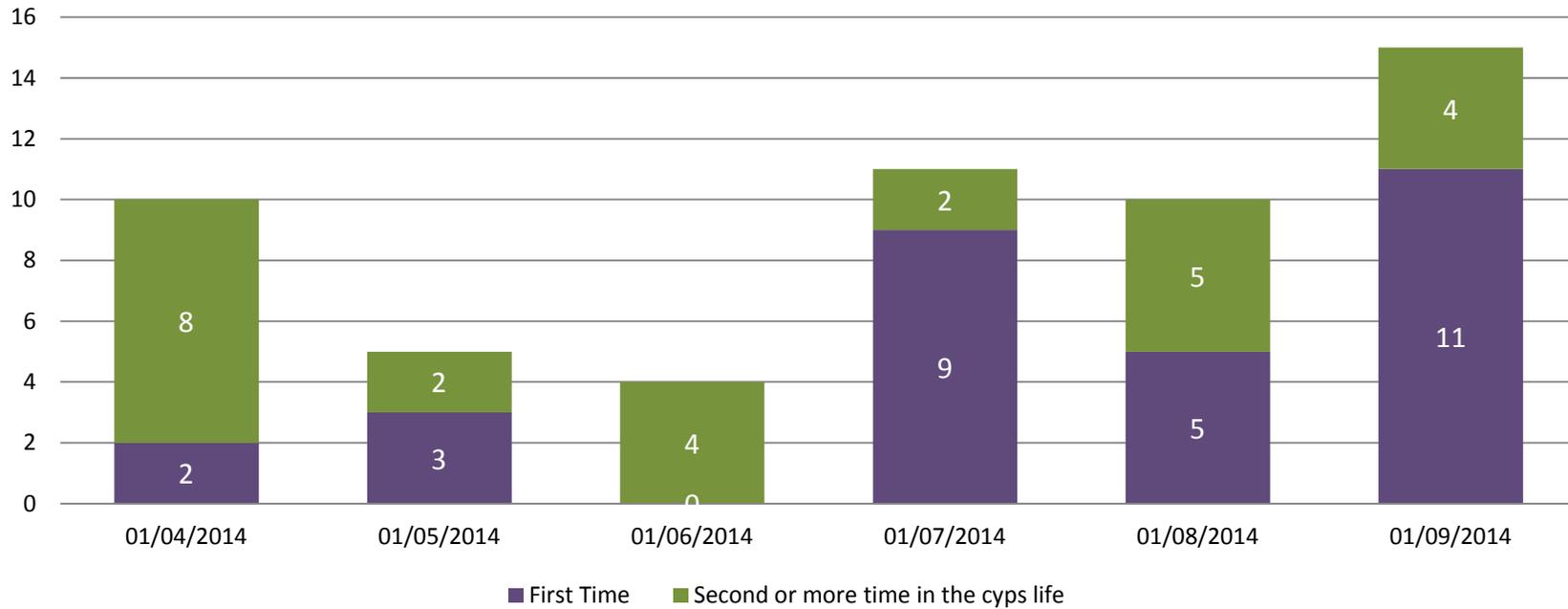
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Key Adoption Metrics	2014-5 as at Quarter 2	National average 2014	National Target 2015
Average time from entering care to moving in with adoptive family	510	628	487
Average time from LA receiving Court authority to deciding on a match	198	217	152
% children waiting less than 18 months to moving in with adoptive family	67%	51%	

Current developments

- Following a recent ruling by the Lord Chief Justice, the numbers being presented for placement orders has begun to fall significantly. Nationally there has been a **51%** reduction in the numbers of placement orders being granted. This trend is not predicted to impact on Torbay for at least another year to 18 months as the service had already sought orders on a significant number of children prior to this ruling taking affect.

CLA entrants per month



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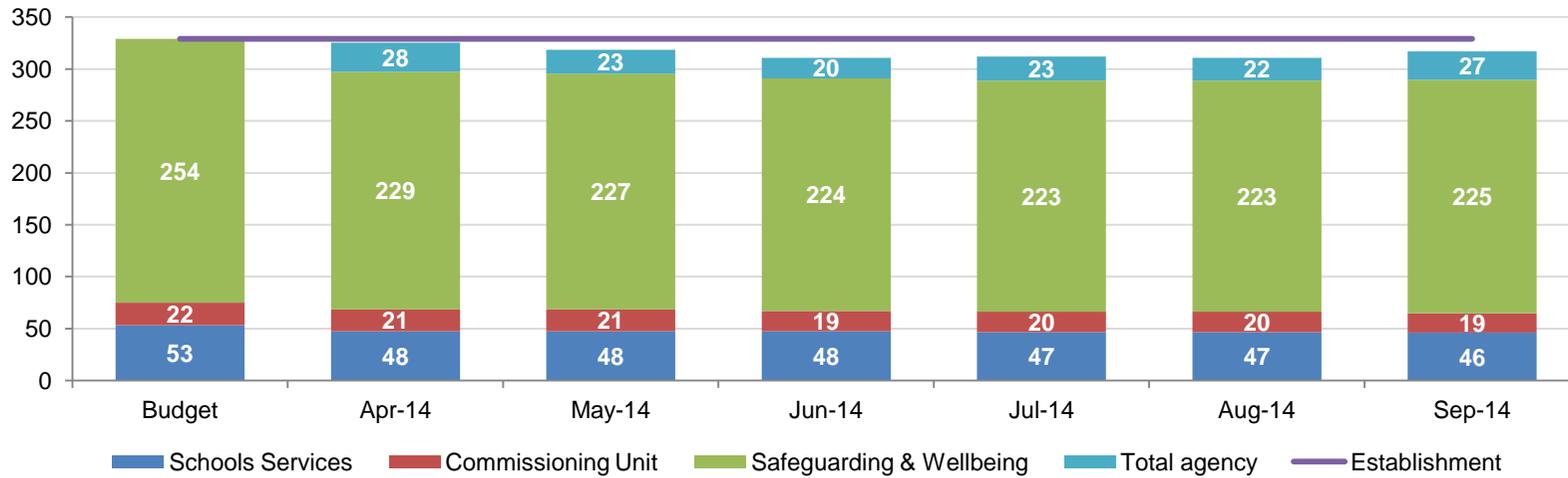
	30/04/2014	31/05/2014	30/06/2014	31/07/2014	31/08/2014	30/09/2014
Respite entrants (CWD)*	4	4	3	3	4	4

* children who are placed for more than 17 day consecutively or for more than 75 under any one agreement are according to regulations considered to be CLA
 They have been shown here on a separate line as they will form part of an anticipated inflow of children.
 Children can be potentially be counted more than once if they have entered and left care during the period shown

Current developments

- There are fewer care entrants this year compared to the same period last year. Currently inflows are 20 -30% lower than what they were last year.

Actual staffing vs. establishment



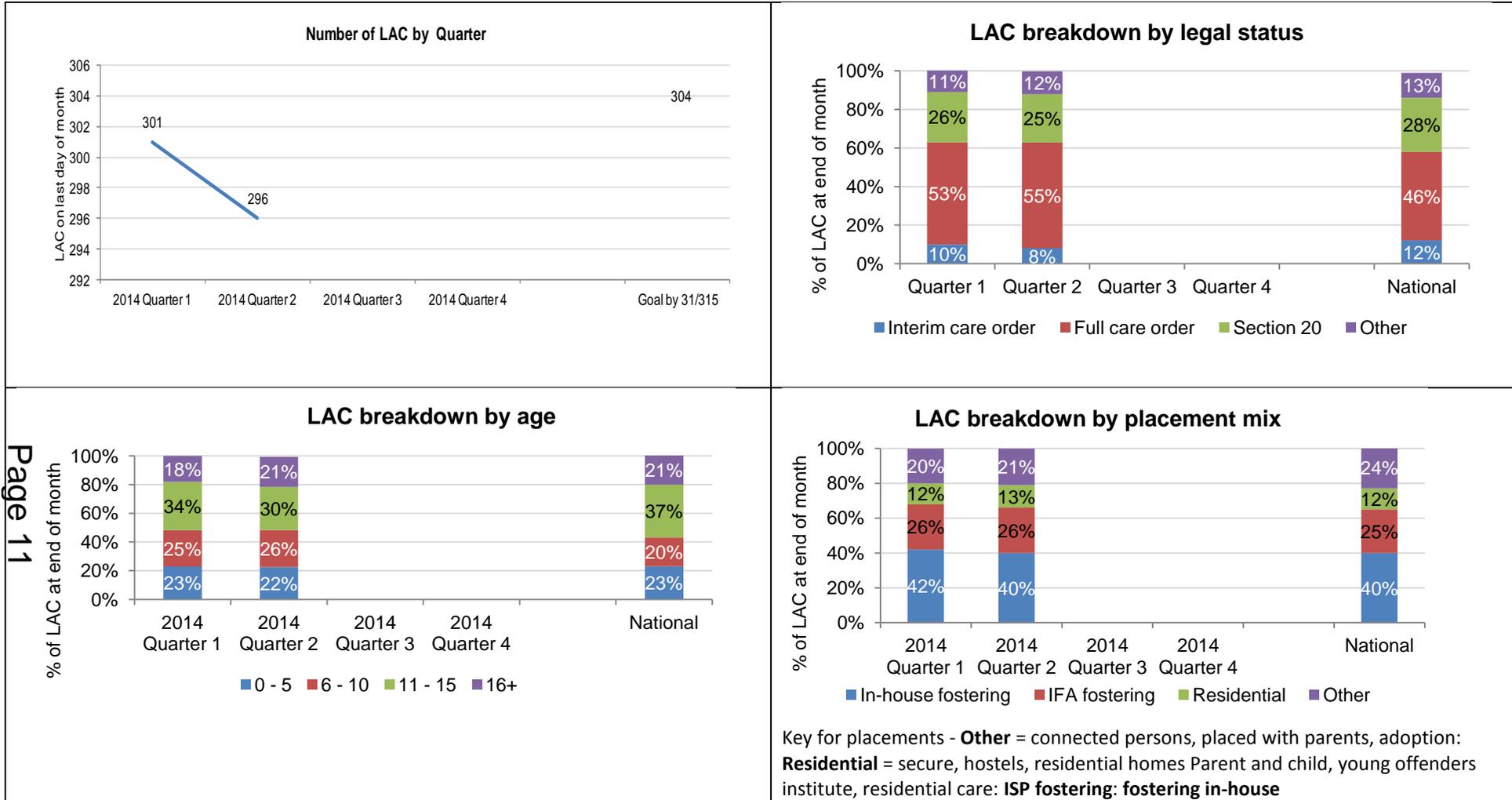
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% agency staff against total head count		9%	7%	6%	7%	7%	9%
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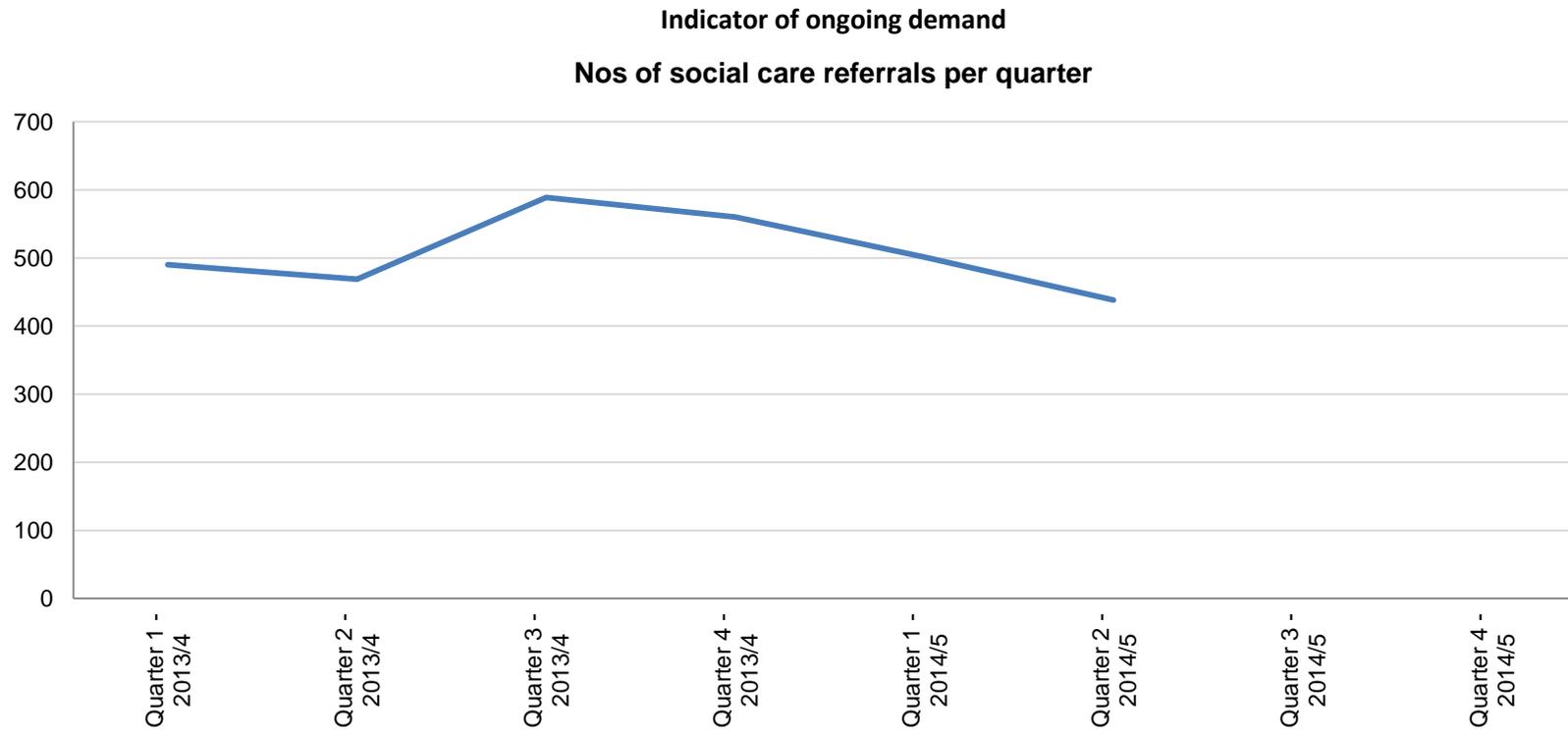
Current developments

- An internal talent programme has been established to help further address vacancies and reduce the use of agency staff. The talent programme, will through mentoring, shadowing and training help develop existing staff acquire the competencies to step up to more senior roles.
- The number of positions filled has reduced despite a continuing focus on recruitment and retention which includes Torbay leading on a regional drive to manage the agency social worker market.
- Since April, 19 permanent social care staff (all grades) left and 10 have started (April to Oct).
- Case loads do vary across the workforce. We are minded to follow the national average were possible and appropriate. However, the exact number of cases held depends on the team, the relative intensity of the work and the complexity of the work. Allocation to individuals will also reflect the experience of the worker and the nature of cases they are already holding.

Profile of CLA

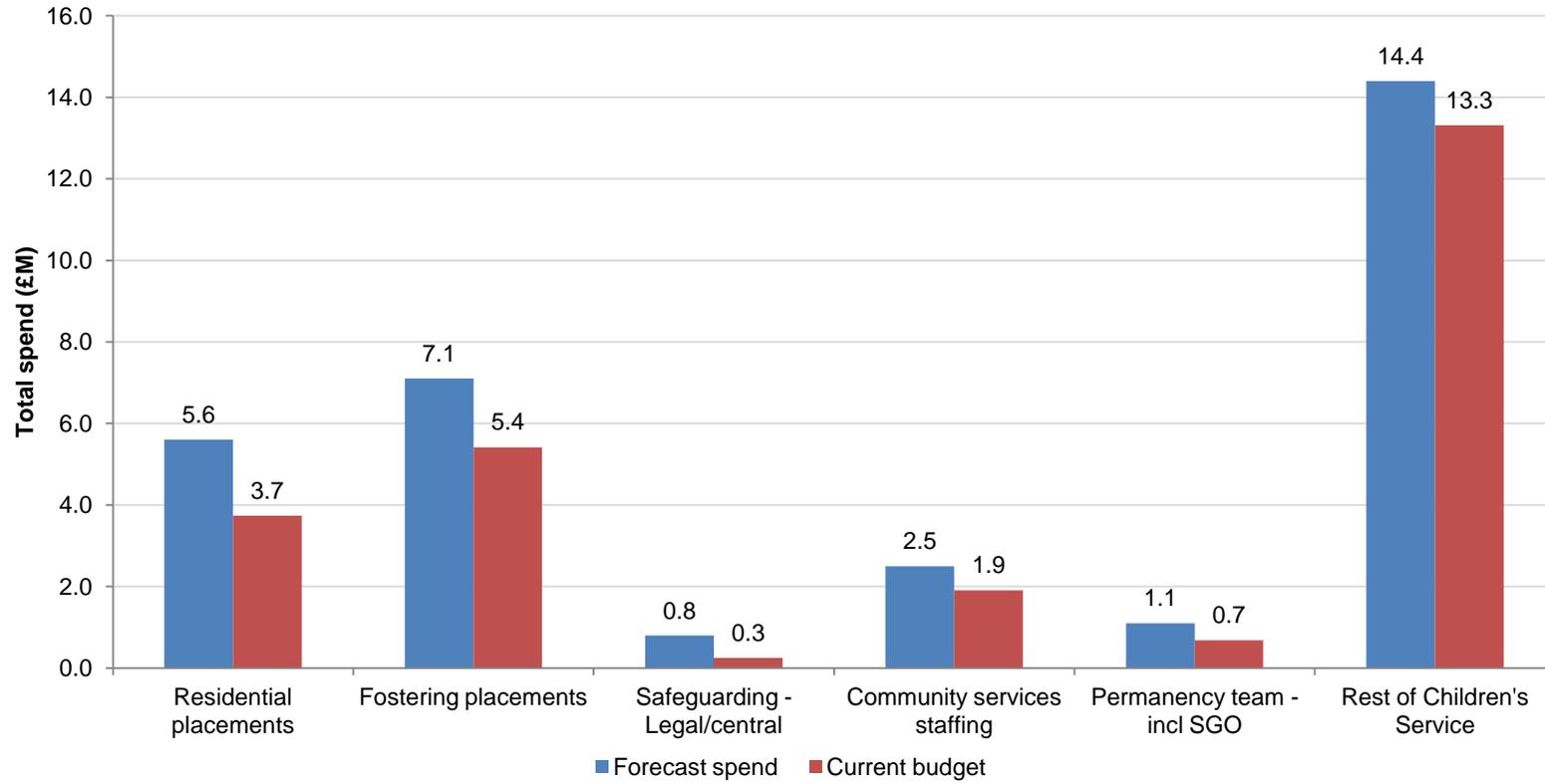


LAC breakdown by age	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
0 - 5	68	66		
6 - 10	76	78		
11 - 15	102	95		
16+	55	57		
Total	301	296		

**Current developments**

- The type of referrals has remained consistent over the periods shown above
 - 50% of referrals consistently relate to children in need
 - 25-30% relate to child protection concerns
 - 10% relate to domestic violence
 - 15% relates to other (CSE, notification from other agencies, case transfers)

Forecast annual spend against budget by key spend areas focussing on Social Care Month 7



Year	Average Weekly Cost of CLA	Comparison to previous period
2010/11	£2,563	
2011/12	£3,136	UP
2012/13	£3,253	UP
2014 Q2	£3,107	DOWN

Agenda Item 4

Appendix 2

Member's Safeguarding Assurance Sessions

Introduction

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

Overview of the Safeguarding Assurance Session

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

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

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

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



Torbay Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report
2013-2014

November 2014

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Torbay Council Children's Services ■ Police ■ Health ■ Connexions
Youth Offending Team ■ Probation ■ CAFCASS ■ Safer Communities ■ Fire Service
■ Schools ■ Community & Voluntary Sector

www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

Foreword by Independent Chair



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1. Essential information

Authorship: Lisa Jennings, Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) Business Manager and David Taylor, Independent Chair of the TSCB

Approval Process: Approved at the TSCB meeting of 5th November 2014

Date of publication: November 2014

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

Contact: tscb@torbay.gov.uk

2. Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Local background and context

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Statutory and legislative context for LSCBs

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

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

- to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
- to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose

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

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

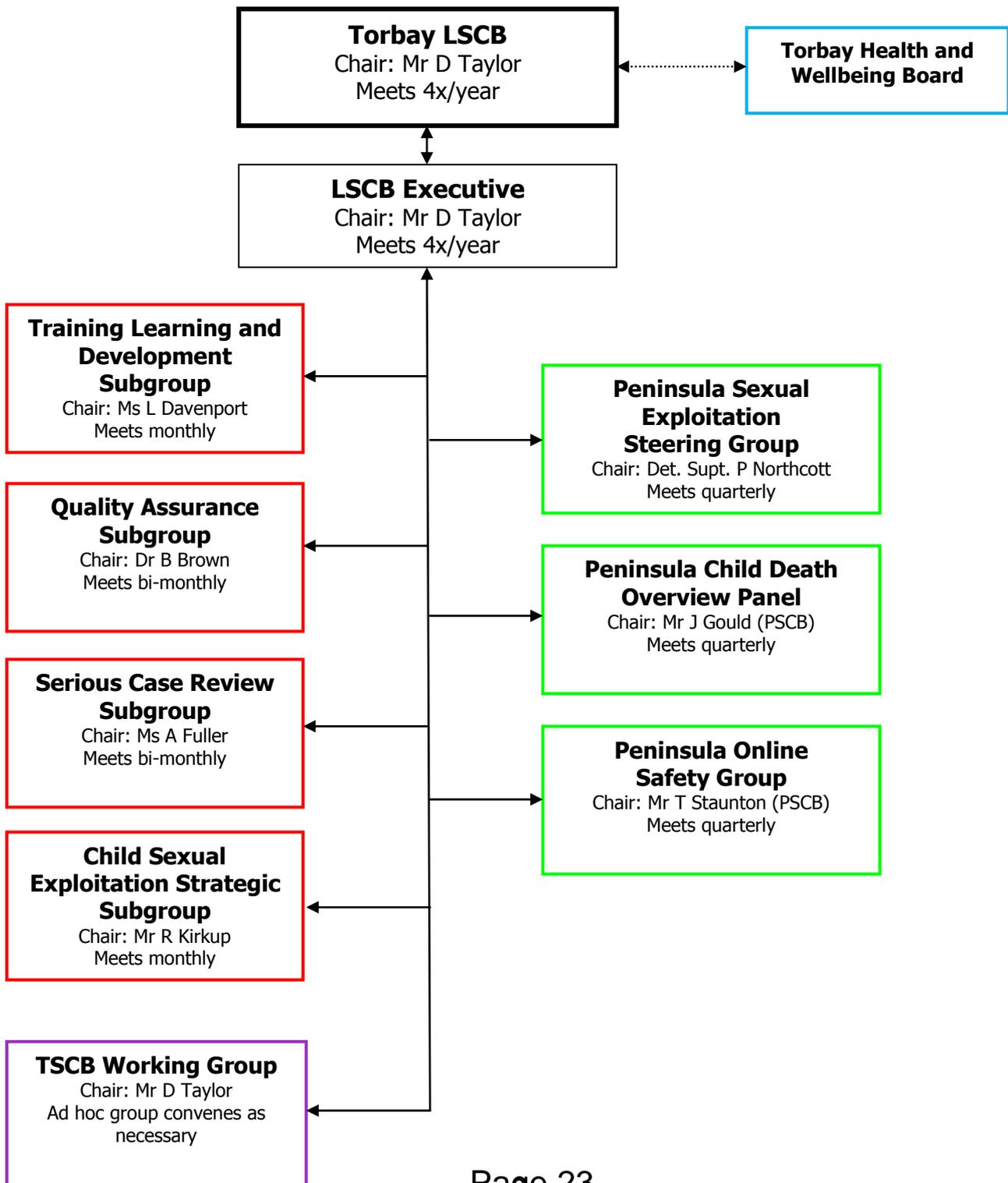
The full Terms of Reference of the TSCB can be found at www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

5. Governance and accountability arrangements

TSCB Structure

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

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



TSCB Office

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

TSCB Financial Statement

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

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

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

Torbay Council £75,280.57

Torbay and Southern Devon Clinical Commissioning Group £28,673.02

Devon & Cornwall Police £13,861.30

Devon & Cornwall Probation £5,616.11

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

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

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

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

6. Summary of the sufficiency of safeguarding arrangements

Progress made against strategic/themed priorities in 2013-2014

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

Multi-Agency Training

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

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

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

Multi-Agency Case Auditing

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

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

In addition to the Multi Agency auditing the Board is also considering single agency audits and learning from these about the quality of safeguarding practice across organisations. Outcomes from the December 2013 audit can be found on our website.

(<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/multiagencycaseaudit2013.pdf>)

Child Sexual Exploitation

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

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

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

Early Help

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

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

Board Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of attendance at Board meetings.

Subgroup Updates

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

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Subgroup

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

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



Risk Indicators

- Change in physical appearance
- Bruising or other physical injuries
- Alcohol/drug abuse
- Self-harming behaviour
- Mood swings
- Sexually active
- Known sexual relationship with inappropriately aged persons(s) (current or past)
- Reports from reliable sources suggesting likely sexual exploitation
- Disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of the allegation
- Repeat sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations
- Truancy from school
- Detaching themselves from their friends and usual activities
- Paradoxically going missing from home or care
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations
- Association with gangs/missing with other young people who are known to be, or who have been sexually exploited
- Evidence of vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking
- Discretionary behaviour to get out of their home
- Wearing inappropriate clothes
- Possession of money, new clothes, jewellery or other items with no obvious means of obtaining them
- Having unusual items in their possession - e.g. train tickets, hotel receipts, mini stereo/poo etc. from hotels, new/different mobile phone
- Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- Suspicious behaviour of unknown adults hanging around outside their home
- Secretive relationships with unknown adults

WHERE TO GET HELP AND INFORMATION

The Safeguarding Hub provides a single point of contact for any child, young person, parent/carer, member of the public and workers.

Telephone: 01803 208100
Email: torbay.safeguardinghub@torbay.gov.uk

In an emergency always call the Police on **999**.

For more information goto: www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

Torbay Council Children's Services
Police ■ Health ■ Careers South West
Youth Offending Team ■ Probation
CAF/CASS ■ Safer Communities
Fire Service ■ Schools
Community & Voluntary Sector

Are you missing the signs of sexual exploitation?

know the signs:
older friends, coming home late, unexplained gifts, being secretive

Tel: 01803 208100
Email: torbay.safeguardinghub@torbay.gov.uk
www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

Torbay Council Children's Services ■ Police ■ Health ■ Careers South West ■ Youth Offending Team ■ Probation ■ CAF/CAS ■ Safer Communities ■ Fire Service ■ Schools ■ Community & Voluntary Sector

Torbay Safeguarding Children Board

Children Abused Through Sexual Exploitation Risk Indicator Toolkit

DATE: July 2014
VERSION: FINAL

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Torbay Council Children's Services ■ Police ■ Health ■ Careers South West
Youth Offending Team ■ Probation ■ CAF/CASS
Safer Communities ■ Fire Service ■ Schools ■ Community & Voluntary Sector
www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

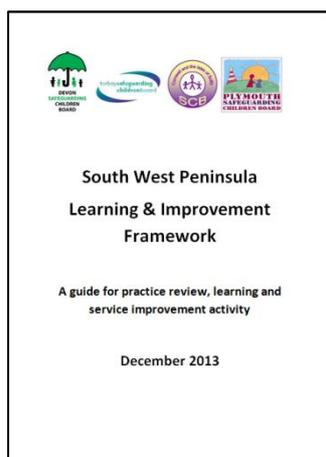
<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/childsexualexploitation>

Quality Assurance Subgroup

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pre-Birth Cases

Good Practice	Areas of concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification of risk and compliance /adherence to Unborn Baby Protocol • Above leading to good outcomes for children within appropriate timescales for their development and attachment • Appropriate referrals into the Peri-Natal Mental Health Team • Evidence of clear identification of risk and contingencies in place (police) • Appropriate referrals into Family Health Partnership • Robust management oversight of cases by Named Midwife • Evidence of early risk identification and continued review as issues change (Social Care/Health) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in Parenting Assessments and other specialist assessments required to assess level of risk posed by parents • Is use of CP process appropriate in all cases • Clarity about CP process when child is accommodated • Poor contingency planning in one case where parents had moved out of Torbay • No clear links with Adult Services in one case when assessing risk • No access to current peri-natal mental health service for under 18's

Child in Need

Good Practice	Areas of Concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some evidence of good visiting patterns being established by Social Workers and Health Visitors/School Nursing • Some evidence of effective supervision across health and social care allowing time for reflection, review of progress and identification of need to challenge (health) where there are delays • Good evidence of delays/decisions being challenged by health • Good evidence of child being seen following disclosure and roles of professionals being explained to them (police) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of consideration given to father being a protective or risk factor and able to provide a safe environment • Lack of specialist health input into the CP process, e.g. dental and ophthalmology in neglect case • Some evidence of passive involvement by HVs/SNs – focus more on Public Health than Safeguarding • Inadequate communication between Probation and Social Workers regarding levels of risks posed by adults – this was reciprocal • Lack of engagement of Specialist Services (Alcohol, substance misuse, mental health) in CP process/risk assessments • Some evidence of erratic or even absence of supervision within health and social care

Commonalities

Good Practice	Areas of Concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall it is clear that practice has sustained an effective change • Supervision is variable in frequency and recording but has improved • Outcomes for children have improved, with more timely interventions taking place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of Core Groups, often not taking place, not being recorded, lack of clarity of partner agencies roles and responsibilities within the Core Group • Lack of challenge and escalation in respect of Core Groups and progress against plan • Step down from CPP to CIN – plans not always evident or communicated to other professionals • Contingencies not always considered • Evidence of cases being dropped when they move to CIN status (health) • Lack of clarity around legal thresholds and roles and responsibilities where children become looked after • Delays in Core Assessment completion, and the quality of them, often not using partner agency knowledge and expertise • Strategy discussions/meetings need to be widened to include other agencies and recorded

Section 11

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

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

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

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

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

Peninsula Safeguarding People Staff Survey 2013

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

Section 11 process for 2014

Organisations will be asked to provide the following:

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

Performance data

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

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

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

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

Allegations Against People Who Work with Children

January to June 2014

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

Allegation Management Criteria:

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

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

Contacts

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

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

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

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

Referrals

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

Breakdown of LADO referrals that did meet the criteria:

Type of harm	
Physical	12
Sexual	10
Emotional	
Neglect	
Other	2

Inquiry Strands:

- Criminal Inquiry 6
- Assessment by Children’s Services 5
- Disciplinary Inquiry by employer 19

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

Outcomes

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

Key trends

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

Commentary

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

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

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

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

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

LADO arrangements

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

Private Fostering

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

The annual report for Private Fostering within Torbay can be downloaded [here](#)

Serious Case Review Subgroup

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

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

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

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

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

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

Training, Learning & Development Subgroup

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peninsula Subgroup Updates

Peninsula Child Sexual Exploitation Steering Group

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

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

The protocol was presented for a final consultation at the Peninsula Steering Group on 29th April 2014 and the completed document has been presented to the four LSCB's for approval.

Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation, (MACSE) forums are now operational across the Peninsula. These forums are multi-agency, identifying and managing CSE risk to children at an early stage. The focus for the steering group has been establishing the membership and operational activity of these groups which has now been achieved. Over the next 12 months the group will be reviewing the impact these groups have on protecting children by collecting and reviewing data sets, auditing operational activity and seeking feedback from children.

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

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

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

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

Peninsula Child Death Overview Panel

Number of Torbay child death notifications in 2013-14:

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

Panel Case Reviews of Torbay Child Deaths in 2013-14

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

Particular issues coming from the CDOP reviews have been

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

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

Peninsula Online Safety Group

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

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

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

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

In February 2014 the group co-ordinated European Safer Internet Day (SID) for the fourth year, with significant events across the Peninsula. In Torquay, the Virtually S@fe project featured on the BBC3 Documentary 'Porn – what's the harm?'¹. The Virtually S@fe project received a commendation in The MJ 2014 Awards. A special film on the dangers of Sexting² created by local young people was broadcast (<http://www.torbayvirtuallysafe.co.uk/a-parents-guide-to-sexting/>) reaching 30,000 people.

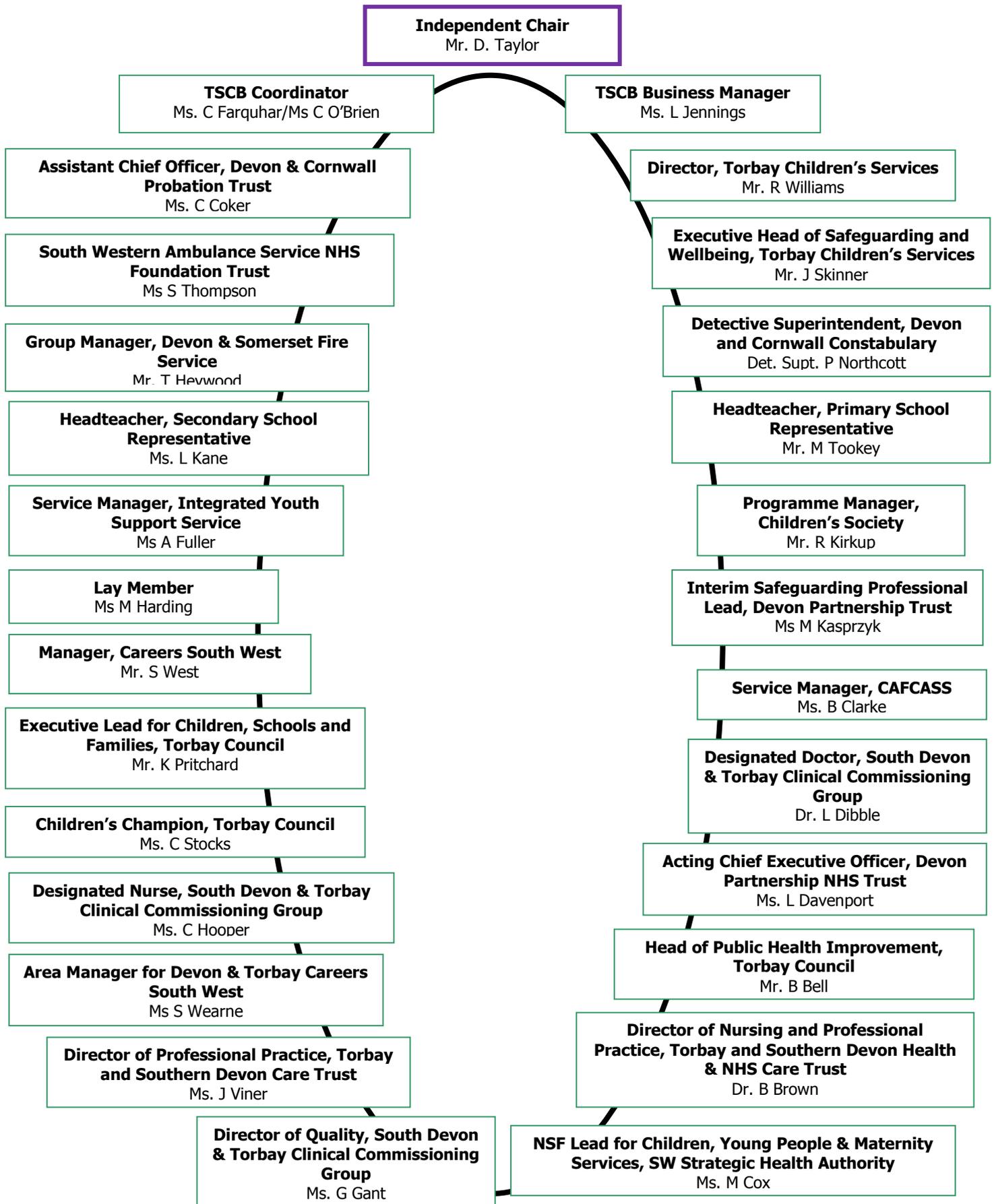
Plymouth University hosted the PSCB's event for secondary schools, with Year 9 students attending workshops for advanced online safety guidance, and sharing their experiences and suggestions for future safeguarding policies.

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

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b040n2ph>

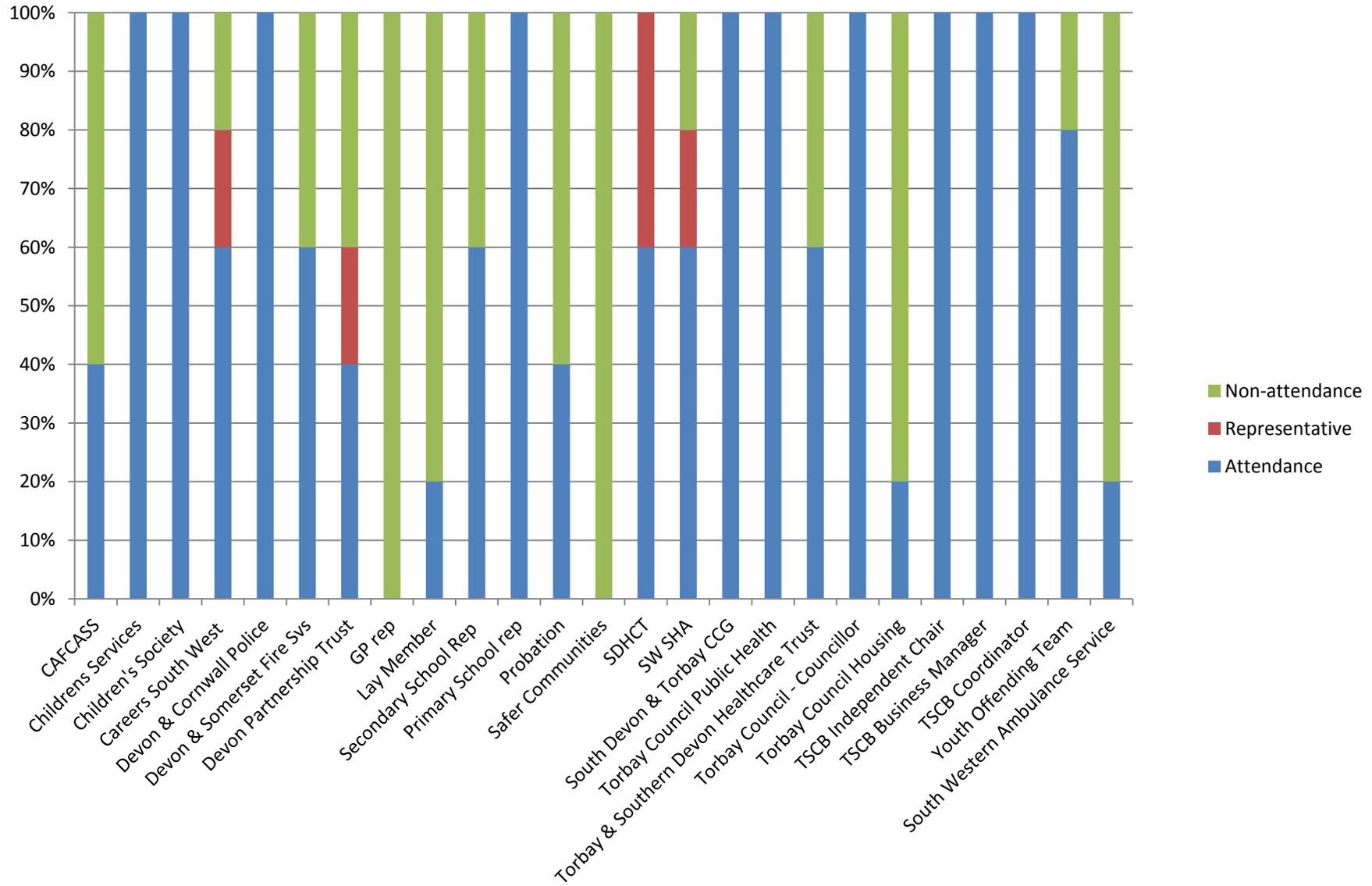
² <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CoO3fjOGkM>

Appendix 1: TSCB Membership as at March 2014



Appendix 2: Attendance at Board Meetings

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Business Plan

2014-2015

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

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Chairs Forward

The key role of the safeguarding Board is to promote effective multi agency working to ensure that children and young people are safe and able to thrive in a supportive environment.

This business plan sets out the key priorities for the Board over the next twelve months in order to help move towards this objective. There are great opportunities for developing new and more effective models of engaging with children and young people and their families and the TSCB will play its part in promoting closer work between all professionals and agencies to achieve this.

Introduction

This Business Plan outlines priority areas and associated action to be undertaken by Torbay Safeguarding Children Board during 2014-15. It draws together existing commitments as well as emerging priorities for the Board identified from the 2013-14 Annual Report and:

- Working Together 2013, Children Act 2004 and the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006
- TSCB Self Assessment
- The findings of Serious Case Reviews and Inspections
- Findings of multi agency audit activity
- Priorities identified by TSCB members

The Board is supported by a small Business Unit which is responsible for both coordinating the work of the Board and its subgroups and ensuring the TSCB is supported in making informed decisions.

The TSCB has five subgroups which take the lead on delivering the Business Plan:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Quality Assurance
- Safeguarding in Education
- Serious Case Review
- Training, Learning & Development

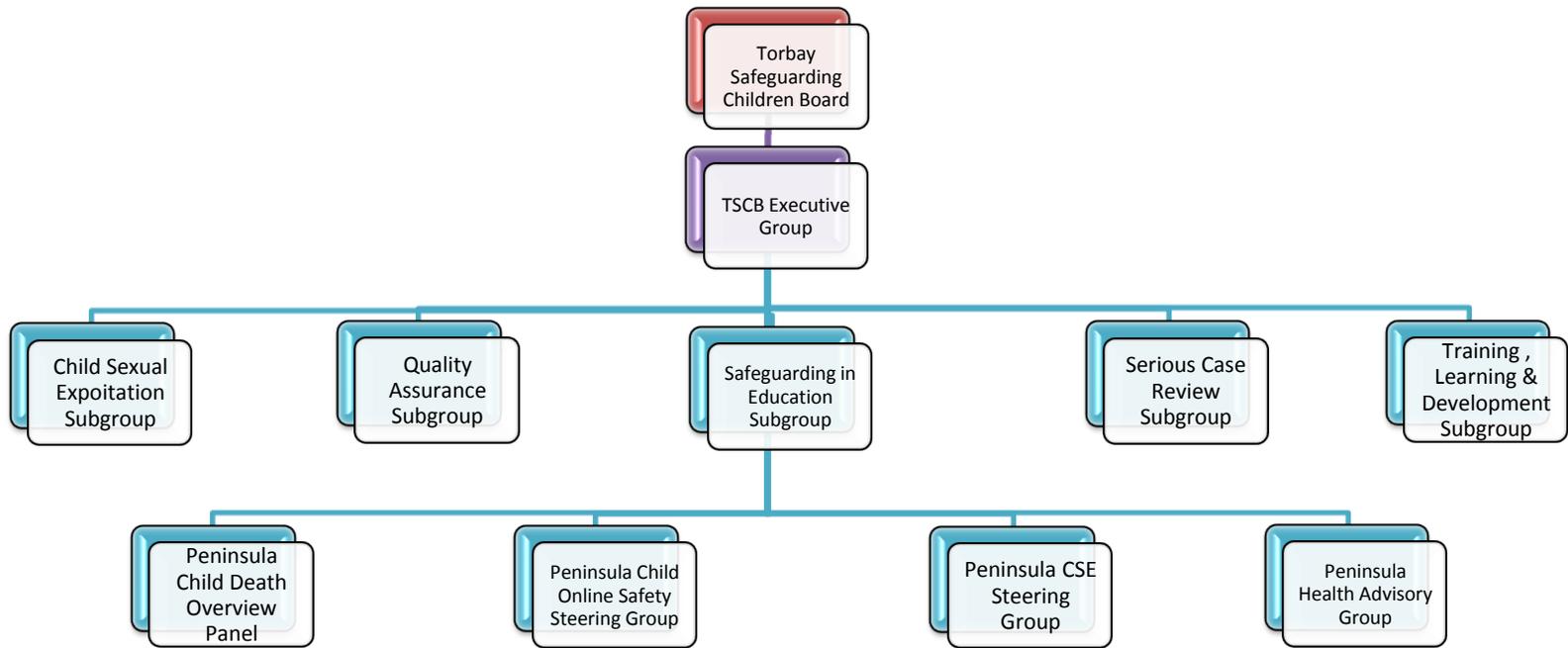
Each subgroup has its own work plan for the forthcoming year, detailing its objectives and actions based on those contained within the business plan. In addition to the standing subgroups the Board has a 'Working Group' of multi-agency practitioners who come together as and when needed to follow up specific pieces of work tasked by the Board.

The TSCB also works closely with neighbouring LSCBs (Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon and Plymouth). Collectively the peninsula LSCBs have four steering groups:

- Child Death Overview Panel
- Child Sexual Exploitation Steering Group
- Online Safety Steering Group
- Health Advisory Group

TSCB Structure

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Funding Arrangements

The TSCB is funded by contributions from its statutory partners. These contributions enable the Board to employ an Independent Chair, Business Manager and two Coordinators. The contributions also enable the TSCB to undertake key pieces of work including the development of multi-agency procedures.

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

Torbay Council £75,280.57

Torbay and Southern Devon Clinical Commissioning Group £28,673.02

Devon & Cornwall Police £13,861.30

Devon & Cornwall Probation £5,616.11

Progress against this plan will be reviewed and monitored by the Executive Group, with Chairs of the relevant subgroups reporting on progress against their actions to this group. Where necessary and appropriate the Executive Group will highlight areas of concern and good practice to the full Board meetings for further action.

Our Priorities

The TSCB has agreed the following priorities for 2014-15:

1. Listening to children, young people and their families

The Munro Review of Child Protection emphasises the importance of the quality of the relationship between the child and family and professionals and its impact on the effectiveness of help given. A key measure of the success of child protection systems is whether children are receiving effective help when they need it.

The audit work undertaken by the Board throughout 2012-13 has repeatedly demonstrated that the child's journey was difficult to follow, with limited evidence of the child's views across agencies records.

We will be looking to incorporate systematically into our performance data and other work of the Board the views of children, young people and parents in order that we are better able to improve the quality of multi professional practice and provide appropriate challenge where necessary.

2. Early Help

The Government's response to the Munro Review accepted the value of a local early help for safeguarding, and suggested a role for LSCBs in quality assuring early help plans. The development of an effective early help pathway was seen as a priority arising from a focus group of professionals facilitated by the safeguarding Board. This includes the development of a clear and robust de-escalation policy.

3. Multi agency partnership engagement

Serious Case Reviews in Torbay have identified that professionals have a tendency to work in isolation. In addition audits have demonstrated a lack of effective links between adult and children's services, a lack of

professional challenge amongst workers and concern around the effectiveness of multi-agency working in respect of child protection. In response the Board has introduced Best Practice Forums to provide partners with an opportunity to come together on a regular basis to build relationships and improve information sharing. In addition the Board will be promoting the introduction of the signs of safety model which will facilitate more effective sharing of risk and coming to clear multi agency agreements about appropriate action to take.

4. Looked after children

The numbers of looked after children in Torbay have risen by 67% since 2009 with a higher than average number of children having experienced more than one placement. At the end of March 2014 the number of children looked after in Torbay was 312. Looked after children are sometimes extremely vulnerable and the Board will look closely at their outcomes particularly in relation to children placed in residential settings, out of area and those who have a history of going missing and how all agencies are contributing to meeting their needs.

5. Neglect

Neglect is the most common reason for children to be subject to a child protection plan in Torbay (47% of plans at March 2014). Neglect has also featured in local Serious Case Reviews and was the subject of the Board's 2012 Annual Conference. At a whole population level the health outcomes for children and young people are poor by comparison to neighbouring authorities with higher levels of obesity and teenage pregnancy.

The Board has already introduced the Graded Care Profile, a tool for practitioners to measure neglect in 2013. Through targeted case auditing and also looking at other sources of data we will be looking in depth at how effective we are being in tackling neglect and promoting

timely intervention when there are concerns about the care provided for children and young people.

Action Plan

Priority 1: Listening to children, young people and their families				
Aim	Action Required	Time Scale	Desired Outcome	Subgroup Responsible
To ensure children, young people and their families have opportunities for their views and opinions to be heard in respect of their experience of safeguarding services	<p>Develop methods of consulting with children/families following their involvement in safeguarding processes</p> <p>Commissioners of services to ensure that there is regular feedback from service users</p> <p>Strengthen links between the TSCB and existing arrangements for consulting with children and young people</p> <p>Involve family members in audits/case reviews where possible</p> <p>TSCB performance reports to include 'child's voice' element</p>	April 2015	<p>Children and young people's needs are known</p> <p>Families are listened to when we examine practice</p> <p>The TSCB understands how children, young people and their families view the multi-agency safeguarding system</p> <p>The TSCB are able to reflect back and influence how services are developed</p> <p>The TSCB have a regular flow of information from children, young people and their families who have been involved in safeguarding services</p>	Quality Assurance Subgroup

Priority 2: Early help				
Aim	Action Required	Time Scale	Desired Outcome	Subgroup Responsible
To develop a framework for Early Help that supports multi-agency working	<p>Refresh the 'Child's Journey' threshold document to ensure it includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the process for the early help assessment and the type and level of early help service to be provided, and - the criteria, including the level of need, for when a case should be referred to Children's Social Care for assessment and statutory services <p>Agencies to sign up to early help and implement the framework</p> <p>Raise awareness of early help tools and how to use them</p> <p>QA and performance reports provided to the TSCB</p>	April 2015	<p>Children & young people experience more responsive services at an earlier stage of need</p> <p>Working Together 2013 fully implemented</p>	TSCB Working Group / Early Help Strategic Group

Priority 2: Early help

To continue to develop and deliver multi-agency safeguarding training	Training strategy to be approved by the TSCB Executive and work to be started on bringing this strategy to life i.e. policies, competency frameworks		Multi-agency workforce is sufficiently informed and skilled to provide Early Help	Training, Learning & Development Subgroup
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Priority 3: Multi agency partnership engagement

Aim	Action Required	Time Scale	Desired Outcome	Subgroup Responsible
To publish local protocols for assessment and professional involvement	<p>Develop a local protocol which sets out clear arrangements for how cases will be managed once a child is referred into local authority children's social care</p> <p>Publish information on the process for referring cases in and out of children's social care</p> <p>Update and re-issue the Childs Journey / TSCB Standards document</p>	April 2015	<p>Multi-agency workforce understands the process for escalating and de-escalating concerns</p> <p>Working Together 2013 fully implemented</p>	TSCB/Principal Social Worker
Provide opportunities for partner agencies to network	<p>Hold regular multi-agency Best Practice Forums</p> <p>Agree shadowing and secondment opportunities across the partnership</p> <p>Multi-agency training to be re-enforced within the TSCB</p>	April 2015	<p>Multi-agency workforce understands the roles and responsibilities of agencies</p> <p>Establish reciprocal arrangements for the induction of new staff</p> <p>Agencies share information and challenge one</p>	Training, Learning & Development Subgroup

Priority 3: Multi agency partnership engagement

	training, learning and development strategy		another	
Establish effective performance and quality assurance processes	<p>Undertake a minimum of 4 multi agency thematic audit exercises per annum</p> <p>Develop a communication plan to publicise the learning</p> <p>Review the TSCB key performance indicators and the process for monitoring performance</p>	September 2014	The TSCB are able to reflect back how services are safeguarding children	Quality Assurance Subgroup
Develop a family approach to safeguarding	<p>Develop clear protocols between adult and children's services</p> <p>Work with partners to implement the Signs of Safety model</p>	April 2015	<p>Effective joined up approach</p> <p>Consistent multi-agency working</p>	TSCB/Principal Social Worker

Priority 4: Looked after children

Aim	Action Required	Time Scale	Desired Outcome	Subgroup Responsible
<p>Ensure children looked after by the local authority are well supported and fulfil their potential</p>	<p>Monitor key information, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers of young people who go missing / return home interviews - Numbers of Young People vulnerable to CSE - Numbers of young people missing from education <p>Ensure commissioners demonstrate that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place</p>	<p>April 2015</p>	<p>The TSCB understands the needs and experiences of children and young people who are looked after</p> <p>Children and young people's placements are more stable</p>	<p>Quality Assurance Subgroup</p>
<p>Ensure children placed in Torbay by other local authorities have their needs met</p>	<p>Monitor how well children are progressing</p>	<p>April 2015</p>	<p>The TSCB understands the needs and experiences of children and young people who are looked after in Torbay</p>	<p>Quality Assurance Subgroup</p>

Priority 5: Neglect

Aim	Action Required	Time Scale	Desired Outcome	Subgroup Responsible
Develop an effective response to Neglect	<p>Develop and implement a neglect strategy</p> <p>Multi Agency Case File Audit (MACA) to review how effective tackling neglect is in Torbay</p> <p>Engage with the Health and Wellbeing Board to tackle the underlying causes of neglect</p>	April 2015	<p>Improved understanding of prevalence and patterns of neglect</p> <p>Children do not have to suffer extended periods of neglect before effective intervention is taken</p>	Quality Assurance Subgroup
To ensure the Graded Care Profile (GCP) is effectively utilised by lead professionals	<p>To develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GCP i-learn modules to guide practitioners within the use of the tool. - Commission a Level 3 Emotional Abuse and Neglect Course. - Commission level 4 emotional abuse and neglect course to include Graded Care 	April 2015	<p>Families where there are factors which increase the risk of neglect are identified and early help is offered</p> <p>Multi-agency workforce utilise appropriate tools to measure neglect and avoid drift</p>	Training, Learning & Development Subgroup

Priority 4: Looked after children

	<p>Profile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor the impact of GCP 			
<p>Run a public awareness campaign for parents, especially fathers about the fragility of babies and the dangers of shaking (SCR C40)</p>	<p>Implement the NSPCC's Preventing Non-accidental head injury (NAHI) programme.</p>	<p>April 2015</p>		<p>Training, Learning & Development Subgroup/Health and Wellbeing Board</p>



Title:	TSCB Business Plan Update		
Report to:	TSCB Executive		
Prepared By:	David Taylor	Contributors:	
Date Prepared:	28th October 2014	Date of Meeting:	5th November 2014

The TSCB Executive agreed the Business Plan on 30th July 2014. This report is an update on progress in terms of moving forward its priorities.

The Executive is asked to consider how some of the areas which have been graded red or amber might be moved forward. This is particularly so in terms of getting greater feedback from children and young people and their families in terms of shaping services

Listening to children and young people

There have been a number of discussions with commissioners about getting feedback from children and young people and families in respect to but as yet no tangible products arising from this. The commissioner for children's services in TSCB is attending the January meeting of the executive to update on progress.

We have requested the Reviewing officers to do some exit interviews with children, young people and families who have been subject to Safeguarding plans and are awaiting some indication of when this can commence.

We have consulted with parents, children and young people as part of our auditing process and most recently this is being done as part of our neglect audit by Checkpoint.

As chair I have requested to have a regular meeting with young people in Torbay for some themed discussions and would be looking to involve Board members in these.

In respect to looked after children, there has been a report from Checkpoint identifying some of the key issues for young people in care and this will inform the Boards work in this area.

We are keen to have feedback from children and young people through all partner agencies about how well we all work together to support them and their families and in particular are interested in young people accessing the CAMHS service and also receiving early help and support .

RATING FOR THIS AREA IS: **Red**

Early help

The early help strategy has been refreshed and the pathway revised. There is multi agency

agreement about the approach.

There are three joint funded Education social worker post established between the Local Authority and schools. There are also plans to set up a CAMHS tier 2 service. In addition there is recommissioning of the Children's centres and steps to link in CAMHS services more closely. There is work being undertaken to build capacity in specific communities and to enhance multi professional working.

A multi agency practitioners group has looked at the child's journey and threshold and these have fed into the review of the early help arrangements.

A best practice forum has been held to share the strategy re early help, and also raise awareness of the family information service and the resources that might be available

The training for early help will be delivered in 2015.

As yet there is no good information about the early help work and the participation of different agencies in this.

RATING FOR THIS AREA: Amber

Multi agency partner engagement

Work is underway in revising the standards and the process for undertaking assessment and the mutual, responsibilities of partners. There was a best practice event when frontline staff had a chance to look at and amend these documents.

There is a multi agency group revising the Child's Journey and ensuring some of the indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation are built into this document.

There needs to be a clear step down protocol which is monitored and has appropriate professional support.

There are clear arrangements to promote shadowing as part of the induction arrangements for all agencies through a joint programme.

The programme for case auditing and events to publicise it is in place and a draft programme has been devised. The migration to our new website gives us more possibilities for effective dissemination.

Work is underway about building stronger arrangements with Adult Services and a Think Family Protocol is coming to the January 2015 Executive to support this.

Work is underway in respect to the Signs of Safety Development and the Board has earmarked funds to support the roll out.

RATING FOR THIS AREA IS: Green

Looked after children

The Boards intention is to complement the work of the corporate parenting group rather than

duplicate it and it is focusing on Safeguarding issues for looked after children including exposure to Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Board has requested information about looked after children particularly in relation to those who are placed out of area, who go missing and also the level of restraints in the settings where they live.

It is proposed to run a themed event in June 2015 focusing on looked after children and as part of this we will be looking to engage with looked after children as well as undertaking a themed audit to inform this work.

RATING FOR THIS WORK: Amber

Neglect

The Board has undertaken an audit in respect to neglect and has identified that this is the area where it will focus on in its December meeting. The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board has been invited to attend this event which will look at neglect in the context of the Torbay Poverty Strategy and some of the wider public health determinants of neglect.

There is training underway to promote the use of the graded care profile by professionals.

Consideration will be given to devising a summarised version of this which might be easier for frontline workers to use on a routine basis.

RATING FOR THIS: Amber