

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

Date: [7 November 2024](#)

Wards affected: [All](#)

Report Title: [Local Government Association Adult Social Care Preparation for Assurance Peer Challenge](#)

When does the decision need to be implemented?

[Not applicable.](#)

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

Director Contact Details: [Joanna Williams, Director of Adult and Community Services; Joanna.Williams@torbay.gov.uk](#)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 In June 2024 Torbay council invited the Local Government Association to undertake a Peer Challenge on Adult Social Care Preparation for Assurance.
- 1.2 This paper presents the feedback report and the action plan from that process.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The report outlines the findings of the of the Torbay Council Adult Social Care Preparation for Assurance Peer Challenge.
- 2.2 The report includes the Adult Social Care Assurance Peer Challenge Action Plan including progress to date.

- 2.3 The report's findings will assist us in improving the experiences of Torbay Residents and for us to deliver our vision of a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board considers the report and action plan and notes its content.
- 3.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Sub Board considers receiving an update of progress on the Adult Social Care Assurance Peer Challenge Action Plan quarterly.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Torbay Council Adult Social Care Preparation for Assurance Peer Challenge Feedback Report

Appendix 2 : Adult Social Care Assurance Peer Challenge Action Plan

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2024 Torbay Council invited the Local Government Association to undertake a Peer Challenge on Adult Social Care Preparation for Assurance.
- 1.2 The Council was seeking an external view about the preparation and readiness of the Adult Social Care Directorate for the arrival of the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) Local Authority Assurance inspections; as well as to inform their wider improvement planning.
- 1.3 This paper presents the feedback report from that process and the resulting action plan.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 The Action Plan is included in Appendix 2 and the recommendation is that an update on this plan is provided quarterly to the Overview and Scrutiny Sub Board.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 None

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Accountability for Adult Social Care in Torbay remains with Torbay Council (The Council), by law. The Council has chosen to delegate responsibility for the operational delivery of key aspects of the adult social care function to Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust (The Trust). That delegated responsibility is overseen by a Section 75 agreement (Section 8.1 to 8.7), the detail is articulated via a Memorandum of Understanding, set alongside the finance agreement established between the Council, the Trust, and NHS Devon Integrated Commissioning Board.
- 4.2 This Peer Challenge included services from both The Council and The Trust as well as Community and Independent Care providers.

5. Engagement and Consultation

5.1 The team was on site from 17th – 19th June 2024, following two days supported access earlier in June to carry out Case File Audits. The programme for the on-site phase included activities designed to enable members of the team to meet and talk to a range of internal and external stakeholders. These included:

- interviews, focus groups, and discussions, with Councillors, people with lived experience, managers, practitioners, frontline staff, and partner representatives; in total over 40 meetings were included on the timetable, and the team gathered views from over 150 people within these.
- preparatory work including a bespoke case file audit covering 11 case files, and reading documents provided by the Council both in advance of and during the Challenge; this included a Self-Assessment of progress, strengths, and areas for improvement and more than 30 documents.

6. Procurement Implications

6.1 None

7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

7.1 None

8. Associated Risks

8.1 Whilst overwhelmingly positive, the Peer Challenge Report identifies areas of weakness that, if not addressed, will potentially continue to have an adverse impact on the experiences of people with Adult Social Care needs.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act and groups with increased vulnerability	Data and insight	Equality considerations (including any adverse impacts)	Mitigation activities	Responsible department and timeframe for implementing mitigation activities
Age	<p>18 per cent of Torbay residents are under 18 years old.</p> <p>55 per cent of Torbay residents are aged between 18 to 64 years old.</p> <p>27 per cent of Torbay residents are aged 65 and older.</p>	<p>There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified.</p> <p>Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan</p>	<p>The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.</p>	<p>Adults and Communities</p>
Carers	<p>At the time of the 2021 census there were 14,900 unpaid carers in Torbay. 5,185 of these provided 50 hours or more of care.</p>	<p>There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified.</p> <p>Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan</p>	<p>The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.</p>	<p>Adults and Communities</p>
Disability	<p>In the 2021 Census, 23.8% of Torbay residents answered that their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by</p>	<p>There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified.</p>	<p>The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.</p>	<p>Adults and Communities</p>

	a physical or mental health condition or illness.	Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan		
Gender reassignment	In the 2021 Census, 0.4% of Torbay's community answered that their gender identity was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This proportion is similar to the Southwest and is lower than England.	There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	Adults and Communities
Marriage and civil partnership	Of those Torbay residents aged 16 and over at the time of 2021 Census, 44.2% of people were married or in a registered civil partnership.	There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	
Pregnancy and maternity	Over the period 2010 to 2021, the rate of live births (as a proportion of females aged 15 to 44) has been slightly but significantly higher in Torbay (average of 63.7 per 1,000) than England (60.2) and the South West (58.4). There has been a notable fall in the numbers of live births since the middle of the last decade across all geographical areas.	There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	
Race	In the 2021 Census, 96.1% of Torbay residents described their ethnicity as white. This is a higher proportion than the	There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified.	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	

	South West and England. Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals are more likely to live in areas of Torbay classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England.	Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan		
Religion and belief	64.8% of Torbay residents who stated that they have a religion in the 2021 census.	There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	
Sex	51.3% of Torbay's population are female and 48.7% are male	There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	
Sexual orientation	In the 2021 Census, 3.4% of those in Torbay aged over 16 identified their sexuality as either Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or, used another term to describe their sexual orientation.	There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	
Armed Forces Community	In 2021, 3.8% of residents in England reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. In Torbay, 5.9 per cent of the population have previously served in the UK armed forces.	There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	

Additional considerations				
Socio-economic impacts (Including impacts on child poverty and deprivation)		There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	
Public Health impacts (Including impacts on the general health of the population of Torbay)		There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	
Human Rights impacts		There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	
Child Friendly	Torbay Council is a Child Friendly Council, and all staff and Councillors are Corporate Parents and have a responsibility towards cared for and care experienced children and young people.	There is no decision required in his report, therefore no equality considerations are identified. Equalities issues are raised in the report which will be addressed in detail in the action plan	The Peer Challenge Action Plan will address the equalities issues identified in the report.	

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 Not applicable

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 Not applicable