

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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

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

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

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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

Supporting Information

Torbay on the Move

Background Information

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

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

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



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

What is the data telling us?

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

Physical Literacy and its importance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our approach

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

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

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

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

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

Leisure Facilities: Background Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is our Youth Service offer?

Summary of the Youth Service Offer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ProCoaching
- Shear Soccer
- Sporty Stars
- Turning Heads

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Importance of Providing a Balanced Activity Programme

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

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

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

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

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

Gaps in Provision – What Young People Have Told us

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

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

Of the 11-18 years olds surveyed:

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

What opportunities exist for young talent?

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

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

Are there additional opportunities?

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

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

Workforce Development Across the Partnership

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

Development of Service Provision

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

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

Call to action

A voice on our Oversight Group

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

Collaborate and co-design

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

Financial Opportunities and Implications

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

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

Cumulative Council Impacts

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

Cumulative Community Impacts

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

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

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

People who are transgendered	Specific activities will be shaped around diverse needs to ensure to ensure all traditionally overlooked groups are considered in service design and delivery.		
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			No differential impact
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	By providing positive socio-educational activities to young people and in particular targeting those out of education, more young people will be prepared for the transition adulthood. Better educational outcomes will support work readiness for young people and consequently contribute positively to the local economy.		
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	By young people engaging in positive physical and creative activities their physical and mental health will be supported.		

Appendices

Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Youth Provision 250704 SE

Appendix 2: Youth Provision in Torbay 2025