

Cabinet Response to the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board's Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group

Outcomes of Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group	Cabinet Response
<p>Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention</p> <p>This Council will take steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) ensure that the Housing Strategy supports ill health prevention; and (ii) ensure prevention treatment programmes are funded effectively to safeguard and reinforce their current positive work, in particular addressing addictive behaviours which can lead to poor mental wellbeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) On 19th May 2020 Cabinet approved the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2020 – 2025. Cabinet also agreed that authority would be delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Change, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, to agree the final details of the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan, including in-year adjustments to help progress housing delivery. Furthermore, it was agreed that the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan will be formally reviewed on an annual basis, through an appropriate level of consultation, with updates agreed and a refreshed version published as necessary. Although the current Housing Strategy Delivery Plan makes some reference to health it is not specific refer to ill health prevention. The Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Change, along with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, would welcome specific feedback from the Anti-Poverty Task and Finish Group, regarding any additional actions, to add to the Delivery Plan, that would support ill health prevention. ii) It is vital that we ensure that Public Health funding is continued and as a Cabinet we continue to lobby government on this matter. Whilst appropriate funding is required, we should not ignore the important work of Public Health England's health improvement and prevention arm. It is imperative that this element of Public Health England's role is not lost in government restructure as such a move would hinder work on prevention.

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	It is important that there is full and ongoing support for the MCN project.
<p>Give Every Child the Best Start in Life This Council will take steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) implement the Torbay Promise and ensure it is embedded in the budget setting process; (ii) further integrate early help and 0–19 services; and (iii) promote the Home Learning Campaign – Chat Play Read. 	<p>At the time of the Overview and Scrutiny task and finish group Children’s Services were undertaking a review of the wider Early Help delivery in Torbay. This review was a key strand of the Children’s Service’s Improvement Plan that was ratified as the vehicle to drive forward the prioritised actions to deliver good or better services to children and young people in the area. The review team, led by PeopleToo, included representation from the wider partnership and key community stakeholders and identified that services were not aligned. Although there was some good practice, Early Help was not delivered in ways best suited to achieving the Council’s goal of enabling families to consistently and easily access the ‘right services at the right time’. Consequently, PeopleToo have been tasked with co-ordinating the implementation of an integrated early help approach, supported by a newly constituted Early Help Board that will incorporate the vision of the Torbay Promise and the 0 to 19 services. It will report at regular prescribed intervals to the Torbay Improvement and Sufficiency Boards.</p>
<p>Enable Children and Young People/Adults to Maximise Their Capabilities & Have Control Over Their Lives This Council will take steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) promote the need for independent advice in accordance with the GATSBY standards to all young people; (ii) create a post 16 strategy within the Local Area; (iii) form a stronger connection between the business community and local education board; (iv) support the development of T Level Courses at South Devon College; 	<p>As part of the 16 plus strategy. There is ongoing work across all the various service areas to ensure a coordinated approach. The 16 plus accommodation and commissioning strategy is in place. The next stage is to create a multi-agency sub-group (CS, Housing, Adult, Health, Community /Third Sector.)</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (v) help to secure more young people with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHP) access to work; and (vi) encourage Members and businesses to support holiday/wrap around care schemes. 	
<p>Creating Fair Employment and Good Work for All This Council will take steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) promote and support the Apprenticeship Strategy and the Apprenticeship Fair; (ii) promote positive working relationships between TDA and the Council's Planning Department and to support TDA in exploring opportunities to ensure employment space in Torbay is viable; and (iv) work with TDA to undertake further research on the migration of the 39 to 45 age group who move away from Torbay. 	<p>The Covid Economic Response (https://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/policies/economic-regeneration/economic-strategy/) has been developed with a short term focus on immediate recovery progressing through to a repositioning of the local economy to provide better opportunities for the community. There are key pillars of wealth building and skills development which directly respond to the issues around poverty, deprivation and fair employment in Torbay. This includes working with the business community to adopt the lessons learnt from the high value apprenticeship programme to increase the number of apprentices in Torbay at all levels.</p> <p>Addressing the challenges that the community is experiencing through investment into the town centres, bringing forward new employment space, supporting local business to grow and, critically, increasing the skill levels in the local community will provide more and better opportunities for people.</p>
<p>Ensure a Healthy Standard of Living</p>	
<p>In relation to housing, this Council will take steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) consider how we can improve our advocacy role as a result of the work being done to understand what enables and deters people from coming forward with their housing issues; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) An initial scope had been agreed and work instigated with the communications team to engage with different target groups to understand the barriers to engagement and use of nudge and insight theory to interact with individuals. This work has been suspended due to the COVID response and reallocation of staff during the height of the pandemic. This will be resumed in November 2020.

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<p>(ii) consider options to address poor quality housing in specific and defined areas. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A selected licensing scheme ii. A housing company owned and managed by the council 	<p>(ii) i. A piece of research work has been concluded and a paper is being finalised outlining the options available for additional / selective licensing along with the associated business case. This will be available for further consideration in October 2020.</p>
<p>(iii) ensure the new Climate Change Officer addresses energy efficiency issues in housing under their remit.</p>	<p>The scope of the new Climate Emergency Officer role has yet to be fully concluded in all its detail. Consequently it is possible to ensure that the need to address energy efficiency issues, in a housing context, can be included as part of the role. Clearly the new role covers a wide and complex brief in respect the climate emergency response and therefore the impact on energy efficiency for housing might be limited but should be an improvement on the current position.</p>
<p>In relation to debt, this Council will take steps to:</p> <p>(iv) re-design support services to better enable individual needs to be met in a holistic (instead of silo-ed) way;</p>	<p>(iv) A review of Crisis support, DHP and financial hardships payments has been undertaken. This has provided a detailed analysis into who is asking for support and what support. It is the intention to redesign the services to provide a single simplified front door for financial hardship, taking a holistic assessment to also understand why people need assistance and hence provide a mechanism by which to also undertake preventative activity. This service will form part of the initial phase of Council Redesign due to commence in October 2020.</p>
<p>(iii) consider a Home and Money Hub – and link to on-going discussions in relation to Health and Wellbeing Hubs with volunteers and third sector organisations as potential providers; and</p>	<p>This work has been suspended due to COVID and will need to be reconsidered based on different operating models. As part of the COVID response wider networks of collaboration have been developed. Initial work has been undertaken by the newly formed Advice Network providing connectivity between</p>

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<p>(v) provide information so that front-line health and social care staff can understand needs and service options around housing and financial advice.</p>	<p>statutory and voluntary sector organisations including CAB, Salvation Army etc especially around debt and humbleness.</p>
<p>Creating and Developing Healthy and Sustainable Places and Communities</p> <p>This Council will take steps to support independent community initiatives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) working with the Community Development Trust and the Community Builders to enable community action; (ii) working with partners to develop and implement a volunteer strategy for Torbay; (iii) reviewing Torbay Council offers of community funding opportunities e.g. Community Enablement Fund and Crowdfunding; (iv) implementing Ward Ambassadors to support ward members; and (v) reviewing Council policy to promote volunteering by officers. 	<p>The Council has established a very good relationship with the Community and Voluntary Sector, offering staffing, PPE and grants to address the COVID crisis and wider poverty.</p> <p>TCDT and Local Spark have offered to engage with the Council with the SIMPL process. It is suggested that this is focussed on Tackling Poverty and is aligned to the Turning the Tide on Poverty program, with an all age, whole family approach. SIMPL will bring capacity & skills to run a co-design process that will bring new understanding and insight that collaboration and innovation can build from and flourish.</p> <p>In Quarter 3, the council will focus on working with TCDT and the wider Voluntary Sector to maintain Helpline and offer debt advice, support to Torbay food alliance and to support wider community development.</p> <p>The Torbay Voluntary Sector Steering Group will continue to plan for sharing and enabling volunteering in Torbay, including with Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust. The Council will continue to offer Crowdfunding to support community projects and will review the use of ASC precept to focus on community resilience.</p>