

Torbay Together Locality Network Meeting
Paignton – Tuesday 6th July 2021, 3pm – 5pm

Via Teams

Minutes

Attendance and Apologies

David Bevan	Torbay Elective Home Education Team	Attended
Elaine Watling	DSL Torquay Academy	Attended
Felix Gradinger	TMRF	Attended
Kate Mullen	Oldway School	Attended
Lorrie Layne	Torbay Council – Community Engagement Officer	Attended
Mark Gray (Chair)	Peopletoo	Attended
Nicky Jeffery	Eat That Frog	Attended
Paula French	White Rock Primary	Attended
Rachel Dimeck	Curledge Street Academy	Attended
Steven Hulme	Burton Academy	Attended
Stuart Heron	Mayfield School	Attended
Susanna Hughes	TMRF	Attended
Zoe Elsdon	Youth Genesis (Youth operations lead)	Attended
Rebecca Goddard	Roselands Primary School	Attended

Welcome and introductions

The group were welcomed to this first Locality Network meeting for Paignton with the “business as usual” agenda. Given the size of the group and the virtual nature of the meeting, it was agreed not to do introductions at this meeting but hopefully to be able to do some form of introductory activity at the next meeting in September, which we may be able to do in person. In the meantime it was agreed to circulate a template where partners would put a short paragraph to state the key purpose of their organisation / role and for this to be circulated, once complete, to the group along with contact email address.

Action: Circulation of template for completion as stated for partners to complete and return.

- 1. Early Feedback about the Early Help Model in Practice – focussed discussion on how we can make the model work in practice**

Early feedback around the new Early Help process was sought. Key points of discussion included:

- The phrase “targeted help” has been phased out and only “early help” is being used to cover all levels of early help, from levels 1-3

- The Early Help Assessment is now effectively the “referral form” into MASH
- Engagement with Early Help is voluntary and therefore consent by the family is essential not just from a process point of view but from the point of view of their meaningful engagement (i.e. if they haven’t consented they won’t engage anyway). It is fine to record the family’s consent as having been gained verbally.
- “Referrals” are still to be made to the MASH for the time being. There is an aim to work towards developing the Community Helpline as the front door to early help, but this is in the early stages of development – further progress will be brought to these networks as we have it
- Partners should contact Lorrie Layne, Community Engagement Officer, for advice if they are unsure whether to complete an Early Help Assessment / referral, or for advice about any other connection that they could make that would support the family. It is not necessary to do this if they are sure that a multi agency response is required or if they know the single agency that they need to connect with.

Action: It was agreed to circulate the Early Help Assessment Form and Early Help Plan template out with the minutes

2. Feedback from Early Help Implementation Board

Training

Partners were reminded of the offer of training for Restorative Practice which was circulated last week. We are keen to embed Restorative Practice as a key principle of Early Help and hence encourage partners to access either form of training, which are:

- A 3 day course delivered by L30 will enable learners to understand the key principles and values of restorative practice as a way of ‘being’ by providing interactive learning opportunities to acquire and practice the skills needed to understand and use restorative practice effectively in a variety of settings. It will also give you a better knowledge and understanding of the key theories, principles and values which underpin the restorative approach. It is aimed at front line practitioners who will be working directly with our children and families perhaps at an early help or statutory CIN/CP level. The dates for this are **15th, 22nd and 29th July 9.30am till 3.30pm via zoom.** Places can be booked via Sophie.deSousa@torbay.gov.uk with the names and email address of the two identified staff members you wish to attend training Please note that **full** attendance is required on all 3 training dates to be eligible to attend. Once we have an idea of numbers we will then be able to confirm via email how many spaces we can allocate your organisation.
- An online Restorative Practice basic awareness courses (4 hours) which can be booked via the I learn website <https://torbay.learningpool.com/course/view.php?id=893> which is aimed at those who would benefit from an awareness of the model and theory but don’t necessarily need the in-depth Deep Dive 3 day course. Dates for this course can be found below:

Date	Time	Virtual Platform
2 nd July 2021	9:30am – 1:00pm	Zoom
13 th July 2021	9:30am – 1:00pm	Zoom
20 th July 2021	9:30am – 1:00pm	Zoom
23 rd September 2021	9:30am – 1:00pm	TBC
Further dates available on the course page at the above link		

Community Helpline and IAG Portal

The group were informed that it was still very much the plan to work towards the Community Helpline as the “front door” to Early Help, and alongside this consider the Torbay Together IAG portal as the key source of Early Help information online. A business case needs to be developed for both of these to understand what is needed to resource these and what steps need to be taken to make them happen. Adult Social Care in the process of developing their front door within the Community Helpline and the Board have agreed that we should develop our business case but in terms of moving towards any type of implementation, that we should let the Adult’s element bed down first so as not to impact on the effectiveness of their implementation, and potentially compromise the implementation of the Children’s element.

3. Key Priorities in Paignton Locality

The group had an initial discussion about the key emerging trends and priorities in Paignton. This is standard agenda item to ensure that any key messages are fed up to the Early Help Board so that ultimately we can start to evidence and address key gaps. It is also an opportunity for partners to be informed of any services that they may not have been aware of. Key points of discussion:

- Housing is a key issue, both housing stock and supporting people to maintain their housing / tenancy. **Shaun Evans reminded the group of the Housing Officer situated within the Early Help Service who can support families in maintaining appropriate housing and preventing eviction.** It was discussed that the housing issue may only be one part of a wider need, and hence any assessment should take account of this to see if there are any underlying issues. The Council is aware on a more corporate level of the issue of housing stock. This is to some extent being exacerbated by some rental stock becoming holiday lets. **Action: It was agreed to invite the Early Help to the September network meeting so that they can explain their role and the support that they can give.**

- Child Exploitation was also highlighted, and that cases being presented to the MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation) meetings are showing that the ages that this is affecting is becoming younger. The trend appears to be the sexual exploitation of young women, and the criminal exploitation of young men. It was also stated that lack of positive activities and safe spaces for young people was exacerbating the risk of exploitation as these would normally act as a diversion from them and access to positive adult role models. The group briefly discussed how the proposed Hubs could play a role here in providing safe havens for young people, and whether they could include a core offer. **Action: Where partners have a concern of Child Exploitation where they are working with a young person, they are encouraged to complete the Child Exploitation Toolkit. It was agreed that we could revisit this and promote it further at a future network meeting.**
- Mental Health was also highlighted, with a gap in particular below the CAMHS threshold. Parental mental health was also cited as a factor, especially where the combination of housing / financial concerns and stress can impact upon positive parenting and hence the mental health of the child / young person.

4. How we Engage with Communities

The group had some initial discussion about how we may best engage with communities to ensure that their voice is heard. Key suggestions included:

- Working through existing organisations who worked with communities; identifying what we want to ask and then using these organisations as the medium as they knew communities better. David Bevan also highlighted that there was a Home Educators and Young Carers Forum in particular that we could link in with.
- A potential forum linked to the Networks which had representatives of existing for a
- Use of social media through organisations' social media accounts
- Following the Community Builders roles which primarily are reaching out to adults at this stage but which is a model which could be replicated in Children's.

5. Reducing Parental Conflict

Emily Ingle and Jenny Lyons presented a session on Reducing Parental Conflict. Please see the attached slides that were presented.

The group was then informed of the Happy Families, Happy Families Service that they can refer into.

Please note – the further information and documents relating to the Happy Families, Happy Futures service will be sent separately to the minutes so that they do not get “lost” amongst other meeting documents. It will also help group members save the documents and information more readily in one place.

The group really valued this sessions and Emily and Jenny were thanked for their presentations. It was stated that these network meetings were very much about presenting things that got the group thinking but also promoted services that they can refer to.

6. Training and Development

In addition to the information regarding Restorative Practice training, the group was informed of the progress towards Early Help Assessment and TAF training. Key points:

- The Early Help Assessment and TAF training will be two separate 2 hour sessions, delivered once a month between September 2021 and February 2022. Participants will only need to book on once – the subsequent months will be the same training session but designed between September and February to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend.
- Dates beyond February will be arranged for those who need a “top up” or for new starters
- An action from this meeting is for these dates to be agreed and then the group informed of these dates and how they may sign up for them on i-learn.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th September, 3pm – 5pm.

It was also stated that we could consider meeting in person if restrictions allow.