**Torbay Early Help Locality Network**

**Torquay – Monday 8th November 2021**

**15.00 – 17.00 via MS Teams**

**Present:**

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| Mark Gray | MG | Peopletoo (Chair) |
| Amy West | AW | Cuthbert Mayne School |
| Claire Jones | CJ | Sherwell Valley School |
| Daisy Dooley | DD | Early Help Service (Torbay Council) |
| David Bevan | DB | Torbay Elective Home Education Team (Torbay Council) |
| David Roe | DR | CSW Group |
| Debra Mountford | DM | Paignton Academy |
| Denise Gillette | DG | Action for Children |
| Francesca Lawrence | FL | Early Help Service (Torbay Council) |
| George Morley | GM | Peopletoo |
| Jane Stead | JS | Preston Primary School |
| Lauren Rigby | LR | Early Help Service (Torbay Council) |
| Lorrie Layne | LL | Community Engagement Officer (Torbay Council) |
| Nicola Haycock | NH | Talkworks |
| Paul Blake | PB | Department of Work and Pensions |
| Rosalyn Avery | RA | Action for Children & 0-19 Torbay |
| Sally Wise | SW | Torbay BASE Barnardo’s |
| Sarah James | SJ | Education Safeguarding Service (Torbay Council) |
| Sarah Pengelly | SP | HAF (Holiday Activities and Food Programme) |
| Sara Pike | SPI | St Margaret’s Academy |
| Shirley Hamlod | SH | Attendance Improvement Team (Torbay Council) |
| Susannah Ford | SF | Public Health Team Torbay |
| Susanne Hughes | SHU | TMRF |
| Theresa Bennett | TB | The Spires College Torquay |
| Thomas El-Hoss | TE | University of Exeter |
| Yolanda Golea | YG | Livewest |
| Zoe Bell | ZB | Homestart Torbay |
| Zoe Davies | ZD | Cockington Primary School |

**Apologies:**

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| Jessica Keast Towns | JKT | Make Amends Project, Shekinah |
| Richard Tozer | RT | Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust |

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of September 13th were accepted as a true record.

**Chairing of the Early Help Locality Network Meetings**

The future chairing of the Early Help Locality Network meetings was raised. Peopletoo’s time in Torbay comes to an end at the end of February 2022 and hence a new chairing arrangement for the Early Help Locality Network meetings is sought. Partners were asked to forward any suggestions to Mark Gray of Peopletoo.

**Early Help Governance**

The new Early Help Governance framework, with a Strategic Board and Commissioning Group replacing the current Early Help Board, is expected to be in place by January 2022, with the last Early Help Board in its current form meeting at the end of this month (November).

**Early Help Assessment Training**

Early Help Assessment Training is currently ongoing on a fortnightly basis to February, and whilst these are getting well booked up, partners are encouraged to sign up for this if they would find it useful. Details of future dates will be re-circulated. There is now a new Council **Early Help website** which has the most up to date versions of the Early Help Assessment and Early Help Plan.

**Family Support Review**

Sue Ford from Public Health presented around a review of Family Support (presentation attached).

Key points include:

* Often defined as “Family support” this definition covers a diverse range of services and activities across partner agencies.
* All families will experience challenges at different times and in different ways – how do we work together as a system to meet these times of challenge?
* Public Health and Early help have agreed to complete a review of this work in Torbay to enable long term sustainability and best practice.
* This review is focussed on **Early Help** - universal and preventative services that work early on in the onset of challenges to reduce impact and improve resilience.

Key priorities for Torbay include:

* **Early help for Families,** building resilience in partnership with families and communities including maternal and pre-conceptual support
* **An accessible range of community and virtual locations for families** to support early Child development through the first 1001 days.  These are the building blocks of future resilience and emotional capacity
* **Support for key transitions in** a child’s journey and at significant life events
* **Workforce development** and retention including alliance commissioning with providers
* **Investment in data and intelligence and partnership working**
* **Leadership,** supporting the Torbay system to be sustainable and resilient

A survey will be distributed to partners to help understand the breadth of activity across Torbay. A working group will then be developed to identify opportunities and develop a specification which then be shared.

**Early Help / Family Hubs**

Mark Gray gave a presentation around the emergence of national thinking in relation to Family Hubs and what this could mean for Torbay in respect of the intention to develop Early Help Hubs (see attached presentation).

Key points:

* The Government has committed to championing Family Hubs**. They are a way of joining up locally to improve access to services**, the connections between families, professionals, services providers, and putting relationships at the heart of family help.
* The concept is that Hub buildings are supported by virtual offers, with services for families with children of all ages. How services are delivered will vary from place to place, but these principles are key to the Family Hub model.
* Family Hubs aim to **strengthen families by providing help with the many challenges parents face**; especially those which will hamper children’s social, emotional and physical development and their educational progress.
* National promotion of Family Hubs also talks specifically of **helping prevent family breakdown and providing support to separating families**, but these are not exclusive aims (i.e. they would be by-products of a successful Hub model)

Family Hubs will have a focus on:

* A relational approach adopted by everyone who works in the Family Hub.
* A whole-family approach which focuses on disadvantaged and vulnerable children.
* Families have somewhere they know they can go if they need information, advice or guidance
* Parents can get help for difficulties in their relationships with each other and not just with their children.
* Integrated health and public health priorities, such as health visiting and maternity, with social services, Troubled Families programmes and voluntary sector provision.
* Continued support for children’s early years (0-5) so their families get whatever help they need to give them the best start in life and ensure they are school-ready.

In terms of Torbay, we are keen to understand where communities feel comfortable accessing that we can work with to help these venues become as well connected as possible to all sources of support, so that people can be successfully supported in making the right connections and navigate these sources of support.

There is the opportunity to bid for some national Transformation Funding for Family Hubs if we are able to articulate our vision and plan, and there is an intention to do this by the end of December. This will then be brought back to the Early Help Locality Networks in January for further discussion and development.

**Restorative Justice**

Mark Gray presented information about the Make Amends Restorative Justice project on Torbay on behalf of Jessica Keast Towns (Make Amends Family Practitioner) – see attached presentation.

Key points:

* Restorative Justice is the broad philosophy which argues that **those most affected by harm and conflict should be involved in communicating the causes and/or consequences and empowered to make decisions about how to respond to that harm and/or resolve conflict.** This can take place in any setting i.e criminal justice, education and health settings and even the workplace
* The Victim Code of Practice extends the right for *‘*all victims’ to receive information about restorative justice, but the accessing of it has to be voluntary on both sides
* As well as crime, restorative justice can also be used to resolve conflict and heal the harm caused by anti-social behaviour and the harmful actions of others.
* The decision about participation is for the person harmed to make. As long as they have capacity to decide what is right for them, they should be supported to access RJ to help them cope and recover from what has happened
* Generally, however, stalking and harassment cases are not deemed appropriate for Restorative Justice.
* Those who cause harm often want to take part in RJ because they want to understand the harm they have caused so that they can stop. The process itself also helps them to take responsibility for what they have done. Offenders often say that they do not think about the victim or those they harm, so RJ makes them confront this so they understand the impact of their actions.
* Reduces reoffending between 14 and 21%

Referrals can be made to the Make Amends Project via the referral form attached to these minutes. Information is also available via the website - shekinah.co.uk/restorative-justice and via Jessica Keast Towns on [jessica.keast-towns@shekinah.co.uk](mailto:jessica.keast-towns@shekinah.co.uk)

**Torbay Promise**

Mark Gray updated about the Torbay Promise (see attached presentation). This is a project focussed on the first 1001 days to an expected cohort of around 20 families in the Lower Barton and Hele area of Torquay. It is designed as a wrap around support programme with services which are universally available but to which we are increasing access, and in some cases enhancing the offer with an enhanced offer.

Partners who are interested in becoming involved are encouraged to contact Mark Gray on [mark.gray@peopletoo.co.uk](mailto:mark.gray@peopletoo.co.uk)

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

At the time of writing these minutes, this has now been set as Monday 17th January, 3pm – 5pm via Teams.