



TSCCP Annual Report

Torbay 
Safeguarding
Children Partnership

2021-22

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Torbay Council ■ Devon and Cornwall Police ■ NHS Devon ICB

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Introduction

Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP) has been fully established under Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 (WT2018) arrangements since September 2020, stepping away from the previous joint Plymouth Council arrangements that were initiated in 2019 after the dissolution of the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB).

WT2018 Arrangements state that a Safeguarding Partner in relation to a Local Authority area in England is defined under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017) as:

- (a) the Local Authority
- (b) a Clinical Commissioning Group (amended to Integrated Care Board from 01/07/2022) for an area any part of which falls within the Local Authority area; and
- (c) the Chief Officer of Police for an area any part of which falls within the Local Authority area

Within the TSCP, Darryn Allcorn, Nancy Meehan and Roy Linden represent the Safeguarding Partners at an executive level and attend/rotate chairing of the TSCP Executive Group.

		
<p style="text-align: center;">Darryn Allcorn Chief Nursing Officer Devon Integrated Care Board</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nancy Meehan Director of Children's Services Torbay Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Roy Linden Policing Commander for South Devon Devon and Cornwall Police</p>
<p>Darryn Allcorn holds the position of Chief Nursing Officer for the Integrated Care Board in Devon. Darryn is also the current Chair of the Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership and Senior Responsible Officer for the Covid Vaccination Programme. Darryn has over 25 years' experience across many healthcare settings and at an Executive level for the last 8 years.</p>	<p>Nancy Meehan is the Director of Children's Services for Torbay Council, having previously served as the Deputy Director. Nancy has significant experience, both as a senior manager and consultant, for a number of Local Authorities across England. Beginning her career in the field of social care in 1989, Nancy has more than 25 years post qualifying social work experience and during this time has successfully led, stabilised, re-designed and launched new services across multiple council departments, always with the intention of improving outcomes for children. Nancy is committed to working in partnership, both with statutory organisations and the voluntary and community sectors, and delivering safe, high-quality services to the children and young people of Torbay.</p>	<p>Roy Linden is the Policing Commander for South Devon; an area which extends from Dawlish to Wembury, including Torbay, the South Hams and Teignbridge. Roy is responsible for the overall policing of this area including responding to incidents, investigation, and neighbourhood policing. Roy joined Devon and Cornwall Police in 2003, and has worked in Patrol, CID, Public Protection and Major Crime, and is an experienced and accredited Senior Investigating Officer. Roy works with partners and commissioners to address key threats to the community and individuals in order to prevent crime and disorder. His aim is to provide a quality local policing service by building strong community relationships across the area to keep people safe.</p>

1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

In April 2017, the Children and Social Work Act received Royal Assent, this abolished Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) and all sections of the Children Act 2004 that relate to them. The Department for Education (DfE) published the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance in July 2018, which sets out what organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children must do to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England.

In addition, further statutory guidance was published to support LSCB's, the new safeguarding and child death review partners, and the new Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in the transition from LSCBs and Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) to a new system of multi-agency arrangements and local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs).

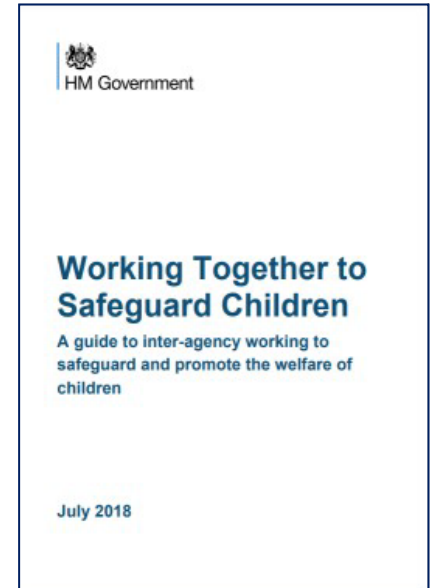
The guidance aimed to help those involved understand the requirements and to plan and manage their work in the transitional period. In March 2020, the transition period ended, and new safeguarding arrangements were fully implemented. For Torbay this meant stepping away from a traditional board and implementing an agile partnership.

Working together to Safeguard Children 2018 laid the foundations for the TSCP. The major shift has been that the responsibility for safeguarding children in Torbay is now shared between the Local Authority, NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (Integrated Care Board from 01/07/2022) and Devon and Cornwall Police.

“Local organisations and agencies that work with children and families play a significant role when it comes to safeguarding children.

To achieve the best possible outcomes, children and families should receive targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way. Fragmented provision of services creates inefficiencies and risks disengagement by children and their families from services such as GPs, education, and wider voluntary and community specialist support.

There is a shared responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.” – **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.**



Click the following link to access the full guidance - **[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)**

2 Governance and Structure

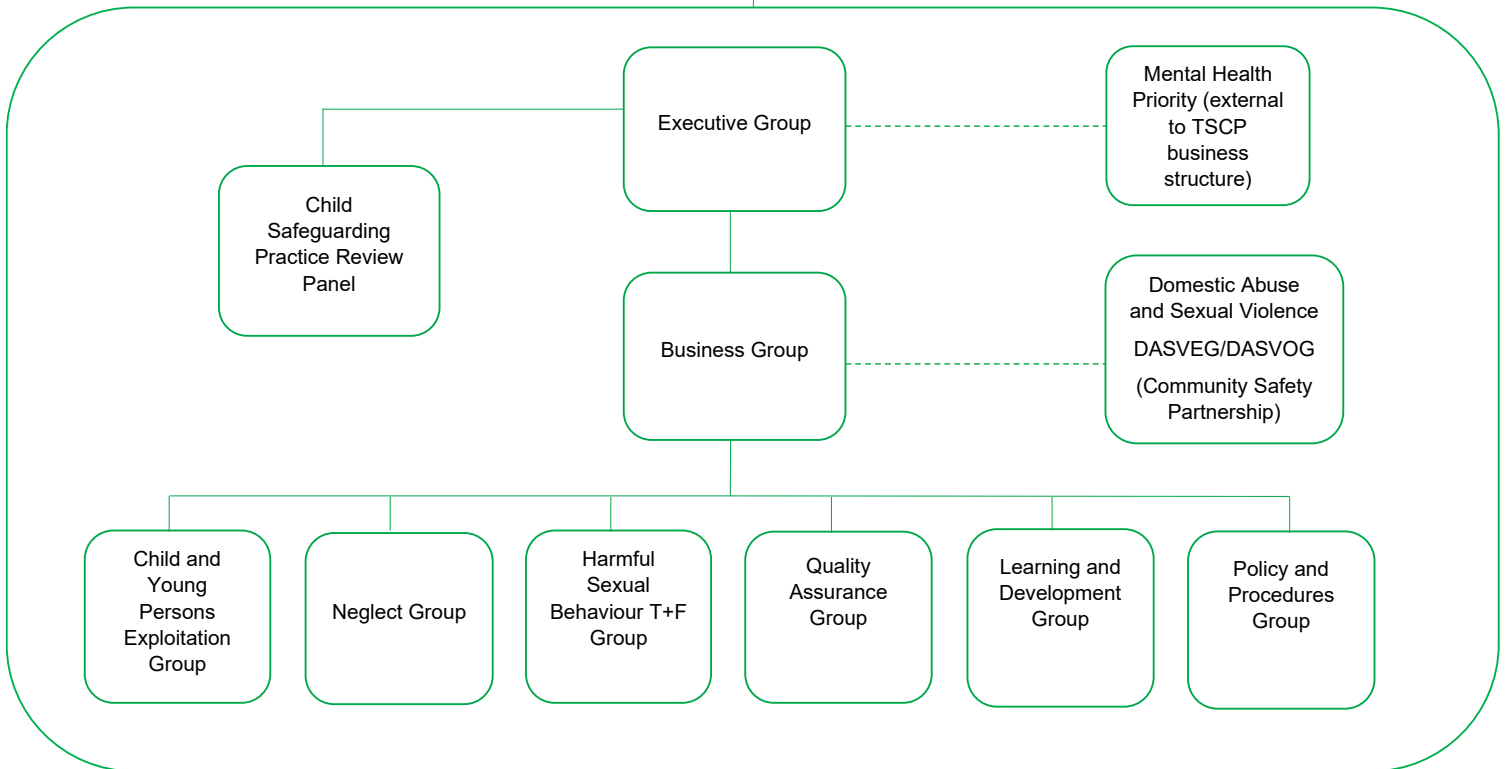
The TSCP has an Executive Group which oversees the work of the partnership and promotes and supports multi-agency practice across all areas of local safeguarding. The local Police, Clinical Commissioning Group (Integrated Care Board from 01/07/2022) and Local Authority are equally responsible for the TSCP and its outcomes, this is one of the major changes compared to the previous LSCB arrangements. Under previous TSCB arrangements the partnership held quarterly board meetings, with most partners in attendance, the new system incorporates a smaller Executive Group where items can be more quickly escalated and authorised.

A Business Group, that is responsible for maintaining oversight/work flow and actioning the strategic decisions made by the Executive sits under the Executive Group. Below the Business Group sit five Sub-Groups and one Task and Finish Group, that have been established to focus on the business and priorities of the partnership. The Quality Assurance Group, alongside the CSPR Panel, identifies learning and works with the Learning and Development Group to support the implementation of this within the partnership. The Learning and Development Group is responsible for multi-agency training and learning events and is also closely aligned with Torbay Children's Services Learning Academy. The Exploitation Group is part of Torbay's multi-agency response to child exploitation and is currently writing, and will implement, the local Child Exploitation Strategy. The Neglect Group is focused on identifying and challenging causes of local neglect alongside leading on the implementation of Graded Care Profile 2, which is an updated tool for assessing neglect. In early 2021, following a multi-agency audit, the TSCP identified the need to identify and implement an assessment tool to support consistent practice regarding harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). The HSB Task and Finish Group has been constituted to complete this work. The domestic abuse priority is managed via joint arrangements with the Torbay Community Safety Partnership (TCSP), with formal arrangements for the mental health priority still being in the process of agreement. The Policy and Procedures Group is due to begin its work in April 2022. Each group is chaired by a safeguarding partner and is attended by a broad range of agencies, achieving quoracy by the attendance of each of the three safeguarding partners.

The partnership has been strengthened by key agencies actively supporting the work streams, including shaping and leading the work in identified priority areas. Covid-19 continued to be a concerning factor during the 2021/22 period. However, the use of remote working technology mitigated the effects of this, and agile working enabled more effective use of time than previous face to face arrangements. Key events were held over video conferencing throughout the year, with all three safeguarding partners utilising Microsoft Teams to support closer secure working.

TSCP Structure Chart

Independent Scrutineer/TSCP Business Team



3 Independent Scrutiny

‘The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases’ and “The independent scrutineer should consider how effectively the arrangements are working for children and families as well as for practitioners, and how well the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership and agree with the safeguarding partners how this will be reported.”
– **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**



Keith Perkin
Independent Scrutineer

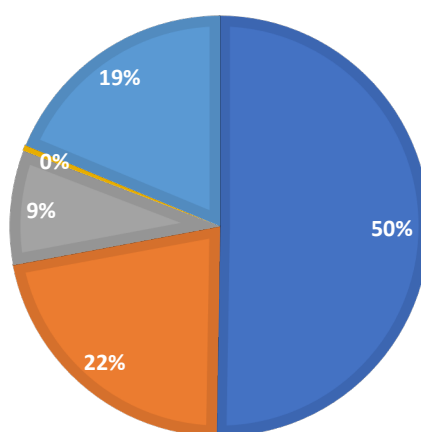
It was pleasing to read in the most recent Ofsted inspection report of Torbay Children’s Services that partnership working was strong and that teams across the partnership are working closely together to minimise the risk to children in Torbay. There has been sound improvement across the operational groups, introducing new ways or updating processes which will improve the identification of risk or safeguarding practice. The Neglect Group has led on the implementation of Graded Care Profile 2. The Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Task and Finish Group are introducing a new framework of assessment & support in working with children in this area. The HSB Task and Finish Group emanated from a multi-agency case audit. In addition, the Learning Academy led on a series of best practice forums, one including a presentation from a leading authority in the UK on harmful sexual behaviour, Professor Simon Hackett. This year saw the publication of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR), C80 with a number of critical recommendations. One recommendation has led to a comprehensive audit of Torbay’s Early Years Providers, and it is equally pleasing that there was a 100% return. This has enabled the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to oversee an action plan which will improve the impact on young children within these settings. Such work can only happen through partnership working from both those responsible for setting strategies & policies and those who provide a service to children. However, we cannot be complacent, and the partnership needs to be agile in responding to ongoing & emerging risks, continue to be open to learning & improvement and above all, maintain a keen focus on improving outcomes for children across Torbay.

4 Financial Arrangements

“Working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area should make payments towards expenditure incurred in conjunction with local multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding and promoting welfare of children. The safeguarding partners should agree the level of funding secured from each partner, which should be equitable and proportionate, and any contributions from each relevant agency, to support the local arrangements. The funding should be transparent to children and families in the area, and sufficient to cover all elements of the arrangements, including the cost of local child safeguarding practice reviews” – Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

TSCP FUNDING 2021-22

■ Torbay Council ■ NHS Devon CCG
■ PCC Devon and Cornwall Police ■ National Probation Service
■ Fees and Charges



Torbay Council	£88,160
NHS Devon CCG	£38,253
PCC Devon and Cornwall Police	£15,300
National Probation Service	£823
Fees and Charges	£32,843

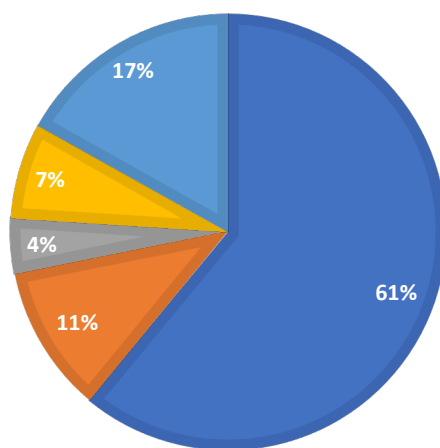
Total = £175,379

TSCP funding arrangements for 2021/22 were agreed between the safeguarding partners near to the end of the fiscal year in question and are laid out above. The current partnership funding arrangements are not equally divided between the three safeguarding partners. This is an issue referred to in WT2018 and the Wood Report 2021, with it being stated in both documents that Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Groups should be able to set their own funding arrangements in an ‘equitable and proportionate’ manner. However, there are no agreed national or local funding formulas to facilitate this process. Devon and Cornwall police have consulted with strategic partners and agreed changes to their funding formula across all four

safeguarding children partnerships in their force area, with the proposed funding changes meaning that they will still be the minority funding partner in the TSCP, but this is under police review. At the time of the current reporting cycle, inflation was recorded as 7% (March 2022) and rising, with the level of the 2022/23 Local Government pay settlement being both an unknown factor and the primary TSCP expenditure. The proposed police contribution for 2022-23 of £16034 is fixed for three years so is likely to reduce as an overall percentage contribution to the TSCP budget, particularly if inflation remains a significant consideration. At present the Local Authority and ICB plan for single year TSCP funding arrangements. Funding equity has been raised as an agenda item at the TSCP Executive Group and subsequently escalated to Chief Executive level for response/resolution.

TSCP EXPENDITURE 2021-22

- Business Team staffing
- Independent Scrutineer
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- Contract Costs (CDOP, tri.x)
- Other (training , equipment,etc)



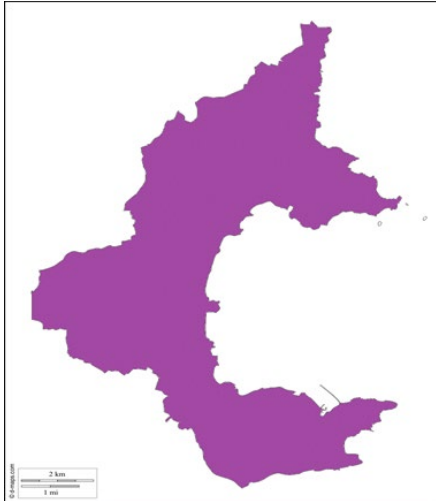
The TSCP had a total budget of £175,379 in the year ending 31/03/2022. The main TSCP expenditure is as below:

- Business Team staffing £105,181
- Independent Scrutineer £18,813
- Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews £7100
- Contracts Costs (CDOP and tri.x) £12,258
- Other (training, equipment etc) £29,194

Total = 172,546

In the financial year 2021/22 the TSCP had a slight underspend of £2833, with budgets such as printing and other office costs being significantly reduced due to the Business Team being home based. Some TSCP expenditure is unpredictable, such as the cost of CSPR’s, as the number required each year is unknown. However, in these circumstances the statutory partners would share the additional costs.

5 Local Background and Context



The latest figures (2018) record the population of Torbay as 135,780, with this being projected to rise to 149,500 by 2040. There are 25,423 children and young people aged under 18 in Torbay (19% of the population), and a total of 33,600 children and young people aged under 25 (24% of the population). In 2020, for every person of retirement age in Torbay, there were 2.1 people of working age. This compares to an average in England of 3.4 working people to each person of retirement age (ONS 2020). The ratio of working to retirement age people in Torbay is expected to continue to decrease and is likely to lead to increased financial challenges for local services. This is exacerbated by Torbay having an economy that is ranked amongst the weakest in England (JSNA 2020/21), being highly dependent on tourism and its associated low wage, intermittent employment, and recent vulnerability to the effects of Covid-19.

The latest data shows that 95% of people living in Torbay in 2020 were White British, compared to 80% across England as a whole. In Torbay schools in 2021/22, 90% of children were recorded as White British, 4% were White Other, 1.3% were Asian British, 0.2% were Black British and 4% were of mixed ethnicity. 5% of children in Torbay schools in 2021/22 spoke a first language other than English. Of Children in Need in Torbay in 2020/21, 93% were recorded as White British or White Other, 6% were of mixed ethnicity, 0.7% were Asian British and 0.2% were Black British. The Children in Need elements of the data used within this and the subsequent paragraph of the Annual Report is considered current as Children in Need 2021/22 data is not published until October 2022.

As of January 2022, 18% of children attending Torbay schools were identified as having Special Educational Needs (SEN), an increase of 1% from the previous year. 12% of those children were identified as needing lower level SEN Support, and 6% of children had higher level Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs). The figure for SEN Support across England is 13%, slightly above Torbay's figure, but the number of EHCPs in Torbay schools is higher than the England average of 4%. 365 Torbay Children in Need were recorded as having one or more disabilities in 2020/21, equating to 12% of all identified Children in Need during the year. This is roughly in line with the latest England figure of 13% for all Children in Need.

Ensuring that children are able to access the appropriate level of mental health support at their time of need is one of the TSCP's four priority areas. However, there has been an increase in Torbay children being admitted to hospital for self-harm in Torbay and Torbay has one of the highest numbers of school age children requiring social, emotional, and mental health interventions (DoPHAR 2021-22).

In 2019, the year for which the most recent data is available, Torbay's deprivation score made it the 38th most deprived upper-tier Local Authority area in England and the most deprived in the South West (DoPHAR 2021/22). The percentage of Torbay population living in areas considered to be in the most deprived category in 2019/20 was 27.5%, against a South West

average of 10.4% and an England average of 20% (JSNA 2020/21). 29% of children attending Torbay primary schools in January 2021 were eligible for and claimed free school meals, 18% of children attending Torbay secondary schools and 24% of children attending Torbay special schools. For primary schools, this is considerably higher than the England average of 22%, but for secondary and special schools it is generally in line with the England averages.

Torbay's rate of homelessness has risen significantly in recent years and is now above England and South West rates, after being below these as recently as 2016. The number of people rough sleeping in Torbay is also higher than national and regional rates by almost 50% (JSNA 2020/21).

The crime rate for Torbay in 2021/22 was 83 per 1000 population, compared to 57 per 1000 population across the entire Devon and Cornwall police force area. The Torbay figure increased by 9% from the previous year, compared to an increase of 12% for the whole Devon and Cornwall police force area.

In 2021/22, 3546 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to the police in Torbay, a slight fall from 2020/21 when 3560 incidents were reported. However, children were recorded by the police as being present in 26% of the reported incidents in 2021/22, compared to 22% in the previous reporting year 2020/21. In reporting year 2020/21, domestic abuse rates for the Devon and Cornwall police area were recorded as being above the England average, with rates for Torbay being the highest in the South West. Updated 2021/22 data was not available at the time of this report. As risk to children posed by domestic abuse is one of the TSCP's four priority areas, the level of local incidents is concerning and will need to remain a key focus of the TSCP.

Children in Need or subject of Child Protection Enquiries and Planning

The number of Child in Need referrals made to Torbay Council in 2021/22 was 2084, a decrease from 2020/21 when 2242 were received. The rate of referrals per 10,000 children in Torbay in 2020/21 was 880, 35% higher than the statistical neighbour (SN) who received 651 and 78% higher than England Local Authority average which was 494. (Note: all comparisons to SN and England data are to the previous year, 2020/21, as more recent data is not yet published). Although the reduced number of Child in Need referrals into the Local Authority is possibly linked to increased Early Help support and activity since the launch of the new Local Authority practice model in June 2021, or a better understanding of thresholds by partners, both of which would be considered as a positive sign, further work is required to evidence the change causation. The reduced number of referrals also needs to be considered against SN and England data, once this is available, as Torbay has consistently received an above average number of referrals against both comparators.

The proportion of referrals from schools rose by 1% in 2021/22 and was in line with the SN and England averages from 2020/21. The proportion of referrals from Health also rose by 1% in 2021/22, this was the third consecutive yearly rise, but remains slightly below the SN and England averages. The proportion of referrals from the Police rose to 32%, the highest police referral rate in the last four years, however this rate is in line with the SN and England averages

from 2020/21. Overall, the referral rates from schools, health and the police rose slightly in 2021/22 but remain consistent in their ratio.

The number of Torbay Children in Need on 31/03/22 had fallen to 1425 from the previous year's figure of 1619, recorded on the same date, a reduction in rate of 14%. However, during the previous three reporting years, SN and England comparator data has evidenced that Torbay has consistently had a higher proportion of Children in Need than many other Local Authority areas. The most recent direct data comparison available, year 2020/21, evidences that Torbay had a Child in Need rate 51% higher than SN and 97% higher than the England average.

The number of section 47 child protection enquiries started in 2021/22 in Torbay fell to 819, a 22% decrease from the previous year, with the rate being 321 children per 10,000. Although comparisons are not yet available, this rate is likely to remain significantly above the SN and England averages as in the year 2020/21 the SN was 251 and the England average was 164.

There were 152 children subject to child protection plans on 31/03/2022, which is a rate of 60 per 10,000 children. This is in line with the SN figure for the previous period but 46% higher than the England average. The number of child protection plans starting in 2021/22 was 189, this was a significant drop of 37% from the previous year when 298 child protection plans were started. The rate of child protection plans starting in 2021/22 was 74 per 10,000 children. This was 5% below last year's SN average of 78 but 40% higher than last year's England average 53. The number of child protection plans ceasing in 2021/22 was 260, a reduction from the previous two years, but this is likely to be due to less plans being started.

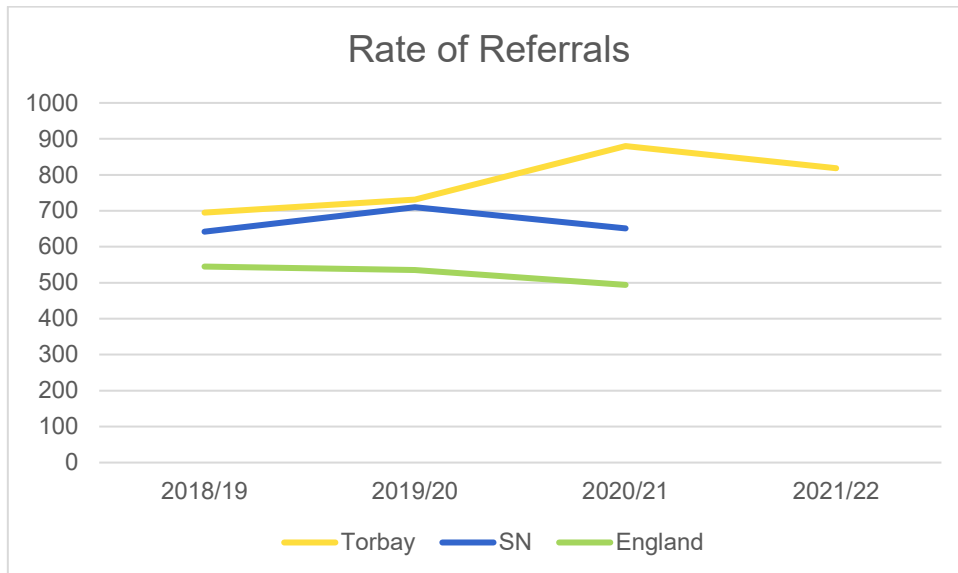
Neglect was the most common recorded category of abuse for children in receipt of a child protection plan in Torbay on 31/03/2022 at 62%, a significant rise from the previous year when neglect was the second most recorded category at 35%. The second most common category on 31/03/2022 was emotional abuse at 27%, a drop from 53% recorded in the previous year when emotional abuse was the most recorded category. Torbay records exploitation under the category of neglect and this may be a factor in the reversing of the top two child protection plan categories. The other three categories of abuse were low in number and therefore susceptible to the effects of sibling group size impacting on data.

Cared-for Children and Young People

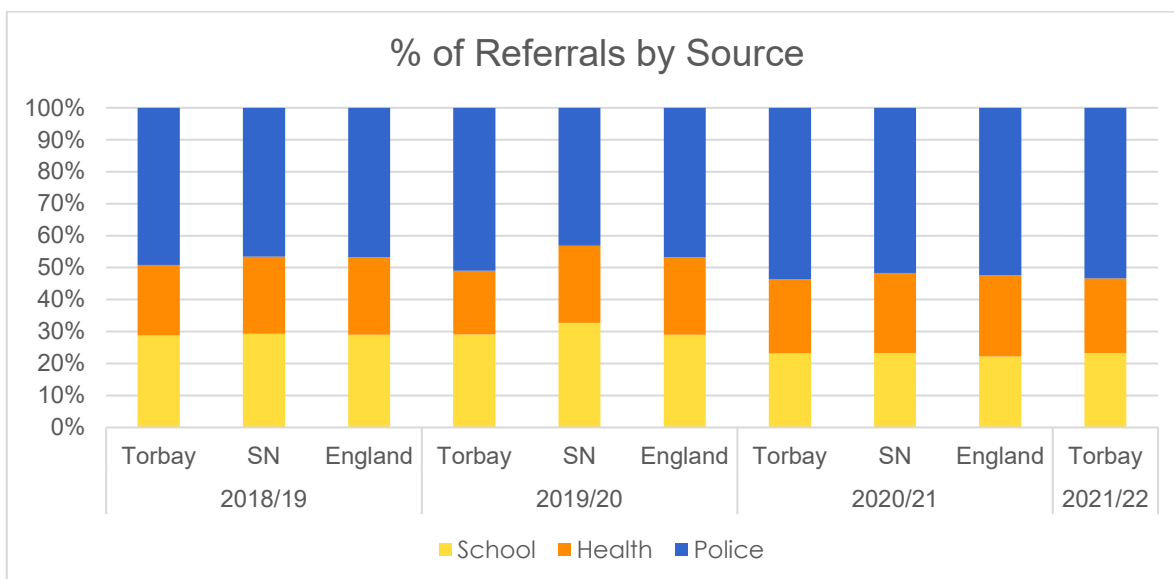
On 31/03/2022 there were 299 children cared for by Torbay Council, a rate of 117 per 10,000 children. Whilst this remains significantly above the SN and England rates, there has been a significant decrease of over 15% in the past two years.

76% of cared-for children in Torbay, as at 31/03/2022, were in foster care, 6% were in residential care, 6% were living independently, 5% were living with their parents and 4% were placed for adoption. These proportions are broadly in line with England averages, though the national proportion of children living with their parents is higher at 7%.

1. Number and Rate of Referrals to Children's Social Care					
		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Total number of referrals	Torbay	1766	1869	2242	2084
Rate of referrals per 10,000	Torbay	695	731	880	818
(SN = Statistical Neighbour)	SN	642	710	651	-
	England	545	535	494	-

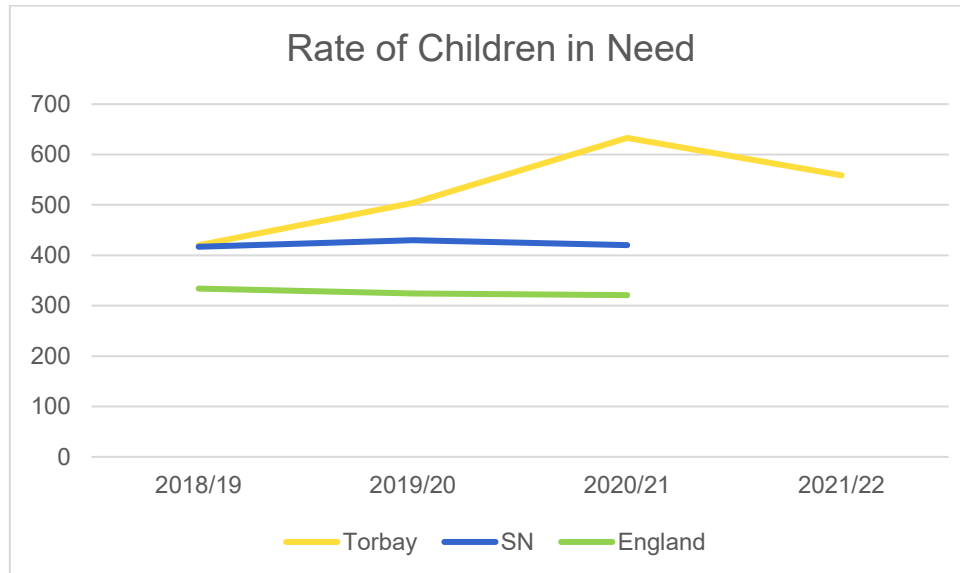


2. Referrals to Children's Social Care by Source										
	2018/19			2019/20			2020/21			2021/22
	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay
School	17%	17%	18%	16%	19%	18%	13%	14%	14%	14%
Health	13%	14%	15%	11%	14%	15%	13%	15%	16%	14%
Police	29%	27%	29%	28%	25%	29%	30%	31%	33%	32%



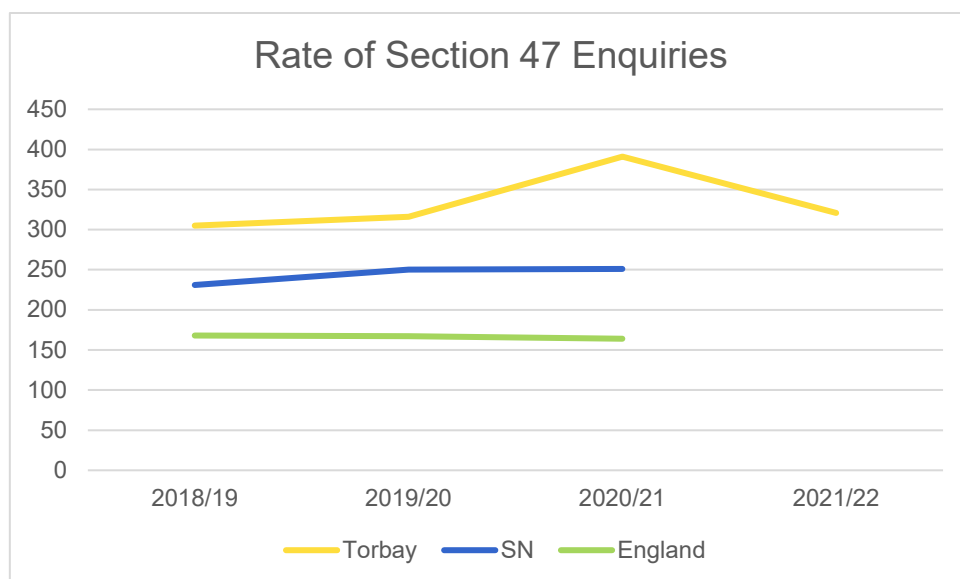
3. Number and Rate of Children in Need as of 31st March 2022

		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of Children in Need	Torbay	1241	1464	1619	1425
Rate of Children in Need per 10,000	Torbay	420	504	633	559
	SN	417	430	420	-
	England	334	324	321	-



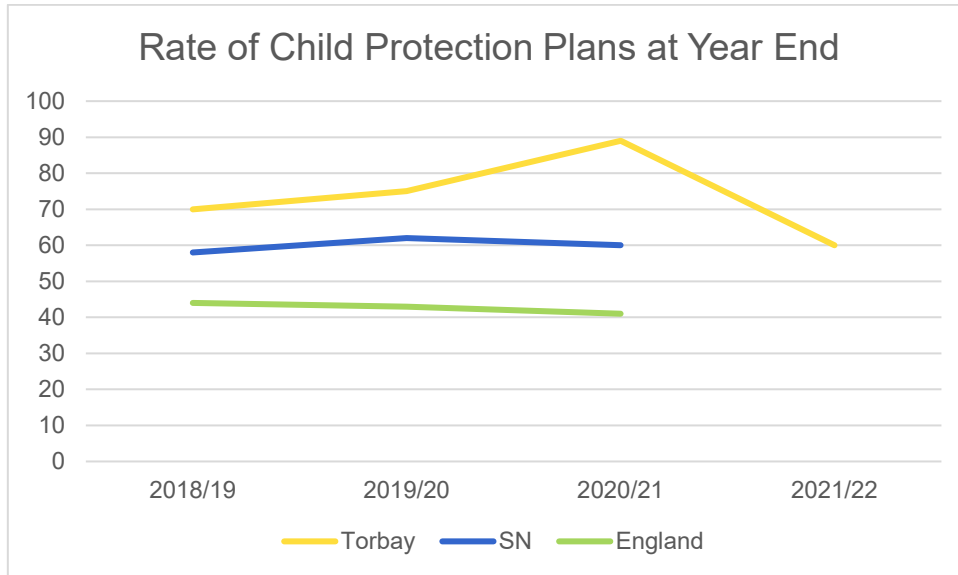
4. Number and Rate of Section 47 enquiries

		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of S47 enquiries starting	Torbay	776	822	997	819
Rate of S47 enquiries starting per 10,000	Torbay	305	316	391	321
	SN	231	250	251	-
	England	168	167	164	-



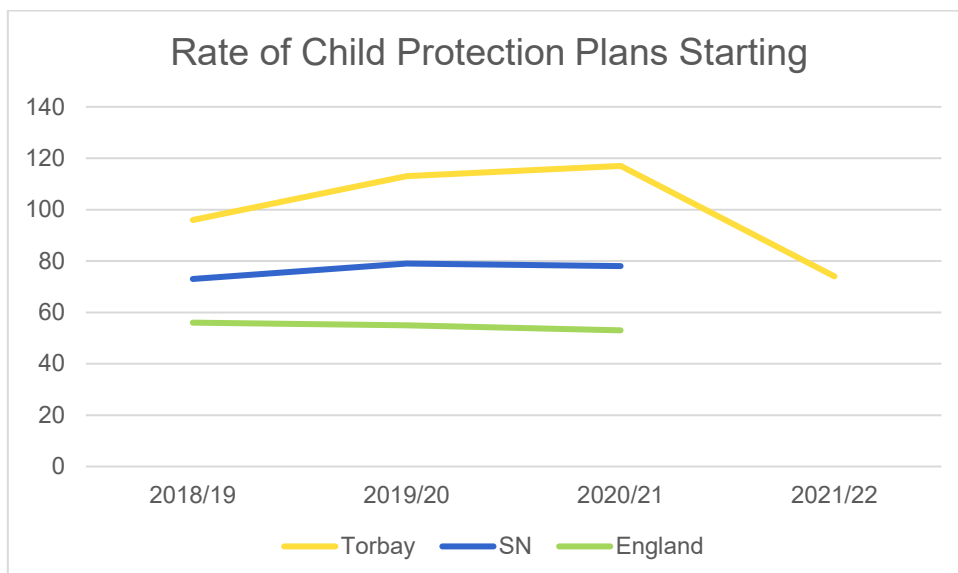
5. Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans as of 31st March 2022

		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of CP plans at 31/03/22	Torbay	179	192	226	152
Rate of CP plans at 31/03/22 per 10,000	Torbay	70	75	89	60
	SN	58	62	60	-
	England	44	43	41	-

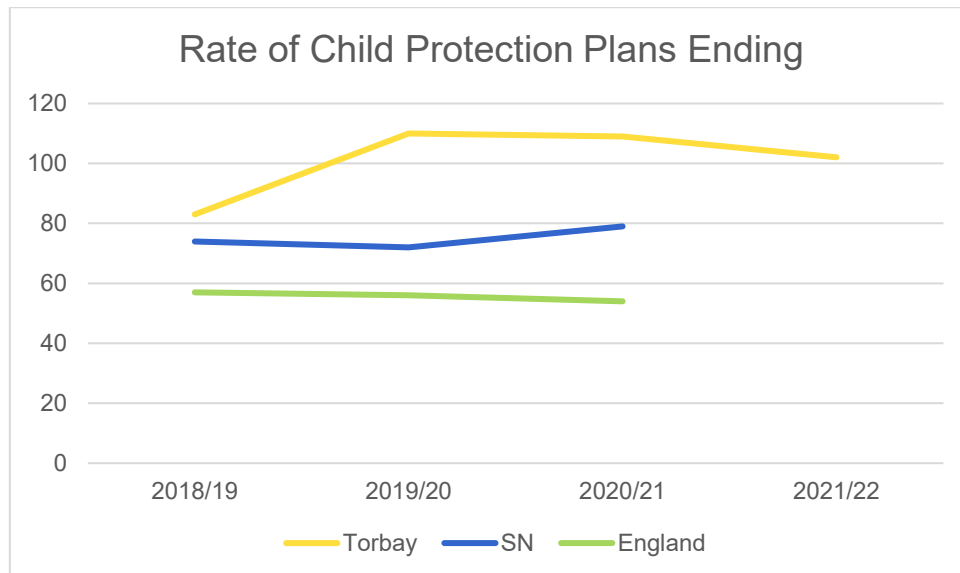


6. Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans Starting

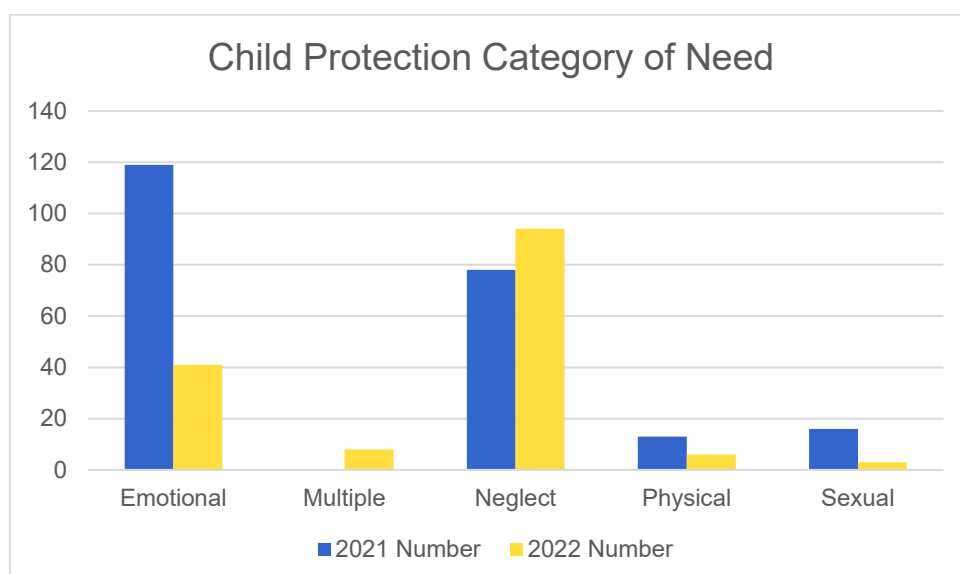
		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of CP plans starting	Torbay	244	289	298	189
Rate of CP plans starting per 10,000	Torbay	96	113	117	74
	SN	73	79	78	-
	England	56	55	53	-



7. Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans Ending					
		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of CP plans ending	Torbay	211	280	277	260
Rate of CP plans ending per 10,000	Torbay	83	110	109	102
	SN	74	72	79	-
	England	57	56	54	-



8. Child Protection Plans by Category of Need as of 31 st March				
	2021		2022	
	2021 Number	Percentage	2022 Number	Percentage
Emotional	119	53%	41	27%
Multiple	0	0%	8	5%
Neglect	78	35%	94	62%
Physical	13	6%	6	4%
Sexual	16	7%	3	2%
Total	226		152	



6 TSCP Priority Areas

When the TSCP was formed in the Autumn of 2020, the Executive set three key priority areas of targeted work that the partnership would initially focus on. These being domestic abuse, neglect, and child exploitation. A fourth priority, children's mental health, was added in the late Spring of 2021.

The four key priority areas for the TSCP are covered by the 2021-2024 Business Plan and are:

- Priority 1: Reduce the level of child neglect in the Torbay area and challenge the causes of local neglect to prevent re-occurrences.
- Priority 2: Prevent child exploitation and sexual harm within the Torbay area and ensure the safety of all children, resident or visiting Torbay, from these forms of abuse.
- Priority 3: Prevent children in Torbay from being harmed by the effects of domestic abuse.
- Priority 4: Ensure that children in Torbay receive appropriate mental health support at their time of need and that this support dovetails with any other care planning needs of the child.

Priority 1

The responsibility for leading the partnership's work in priority 1 sits with the TSCP Neglect Group. The Neglect Group has a membership designed to fit with its purpose and Terms of Reference that ensure the work it undertakes is given a high level of priority by all partner agencies, with membership planned to be expanded to include the addition of professionals from speech and language, mental health, and oral health. The group's work is regularly self-audited to ensure it remains focussed and meets the need of Torbay children and families, with the key objective in 2022 being the adoption and role out of Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) across the partnership area. GCP2 is the latest version of the NSCPP neglect assessment tool. It is also anticipated in 2022 that the Neglect Group will forge close ties with the Local Authorities community based Early Help teams.

Priority 2

The TSCP Children and Young People Exploitation Group is the partnership's lead for priority 2. In line with the Neglect Group, the Exploitation Group also has a membership designed to match its purpose and Terms of Reference that ensure the work it undertakes is given a high level of priority by all partner agencies. One of the first tasks of the Exploitation Group was to formulate an initial 100 day plan to focus on immediate exploitation risk whilst the full longer-term local Exploitation Strategy is being devised, with this being planned for completion in the Summer of 2022. The Exploitation Group has active links with other local multi-agency exploitation frameworks via shared memberships, data/information sharing and networks.

Priority 3

Torbay's domestic abuse prevention and support services fall under the remit of the Torbay Community Safety Partnership (TCSP). The TSCP and TCSP work in a cross-partnership manner to share information and planning designed to protect children from the effects of

domestic abuse in line with priority 3. Although the TSCP does not have a specific domestic abuse sub-group, as this work is undertaken locally by the TCSP, the children's partnership is represented within these arrangements and all three statutory safeguarding partners attend meetings and participate in joint actions across both partnerships. Wider partners are made aware of local safeguarding priorities via email updates, the TSCP newsletter, multi-agency forums and shared training.

Priority 4

Ensuring that priority 4 meets the mental health needs of children who require this type and level of support at their time of need is likely to involve a significant review of local mental health services. The TSCP aim to work with partner agencies to ensure that services match need and will be undertaking a review of services in this area in 2022 to inform local arrangements. There are a number of local resources focussed on children's mental health in Torbay. However, at present there appears to be limited coordination across services, leading to access pathways for children to the level of support they need being unclear. There is no formal TSCP sub-group that focuses on mental health and therefore no Terms of Reference, membership, or chair. This issue has been highlighted and is known to the Business Group, Executive and Independent Scrutineer, with the risk being elevated via agreed TSCP channels for challenge, review and resolution.

7 Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Children's Safeguarding



The Covid-19 pandemic remained a challenge to services in Torbay during 2021/22, however the reduction of statutory restrictions in comparison to 2020/21 enabled more direct work with children and families. Learning in respect of service response/working methodology through a pandemic was reported across the partnership, with agencies being anecdotally better placed to work through pandemics if the current Omicron strain develops into a more serious variant of Covid-19. The TSCP will review the findings of the ongoing UK government enquiry into the national response to Covid-19 and amend practice accordingly.

Agencies across the TSCP adopted the use of Microsoft Teams in 2021 and all partnership meetings were held virtually, with no Covid-19 related meeting cancellations being reported. In addition to virtual meetings being used to prevent the potential spread of Covid-19, feedback from the vast majority of partner agencies was that this method of working was preferential to face to face meetings as it also provided for greater efficiency and negated the need for travel so was environmentally friendly. The TSCP has not returned to face-to-face meetings since national Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in February 2022 and it appears that this new agile way of working is likely to continue.

During the pandemic, the TSCP has responded to increased risk in areas such as domestic abuse, exploitation, educational attainment and increase of screen time for children, with these elevated risks being factored into partnership responses as and when identified.

Although the current Omicron strain of Covid-19 is not deemed to be as medically dangerous as previous versions, the TSCP will continue to respond to the pandemic as necessary as the disease is ongoing, continues to affect our communities and the full effects of Long-Covid remain unknown. The TSCP would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the partnership during this difficult time.

8 Statutory Reviews and Other Audits

Between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022 the TSCP received 4 Serious Incident referrals and a notification of concern from the Local Authority, these being coded C88 – C93 (C92 and C93 are siblings who shared one referral). Only one of these referrals met the criteria for undertaking a Rapid Review and subsequent Child Safeguarding Practice Review. However, one led to an After Action Review, a learning review that follows the Rapid Review process in respect of information gathering and analysis but without the 15 day statutory timescale. Information pertaining to C80, C81, C84 and C85 has been include in this Annual Report despite these CSPR's being commissioned in the previous reviewing year as they were published within the 2021/22 reporting period.

C80

Local CSPR completed by the TSCP on behalf of National Panel due to Covid restrictions. CSPR was undertaken following the sexual abuse of children at a local nursery by a care experienced young person who had been recently employed there. CSPR report published on September 17th 2021.

C81

Local CSPR undertaken following C81 being found to be at continuing risk of sexual and criminal exploitation despite being placed in two 'out of area' residential placements. CSPR report published on 11th October 2021.

C84

Local CSPR relating to a stabbing incident and other similar incidents of violence involving a young person known to Children's Social Care and the Youth Justice Service. CSPR report published on 11th August 2021.

C85

Local CSPR surrounding allegations of an inappropriate sexual relationship between a Social Worker and a young person open to children's social care. Additionally, C85 alleged intra and extra familial abuse. Police investigation led to no criminal charging, but the Social Worker is currently under professional suspension from practice. CSPR report published on 11th October 2021.

C88

Serious Incident referral from Checkpoint reporting practice concerns that did not meet threshold to initiate the Rapid Review process. The referrer was advised that the information reported would be considered for learning within alternative processes.

C89

Information shared with the TSCP by Torbay Children's Services reporting concern for a baby that had been allegedly sexually abused by her father. Criteria for Rapid Review was not met but the TSCP Executive Group agreed for an After Action Review to be held. After Action Review learning was shared with the partnership via a briefing report.

C90

Serious Incident referral from Devon and Cornwall Police in respect of a young child with a fractured skull. Non-accidental injury was not confirmed, and the extent of the injury was not

reported to be life changing. Referrer advised that the criteria for a Rapid Review was not met.

C91

Serious Incident referral from Devon and Cornwall Police regarding a young child with suspected serious injuries who was believed to be exposed to significant neglect. Neglect was not evidenced, and the 'injuries' were confirmed to be the effect of a serious health condition.

C92/C93

Serious Incident referral from Torbay Council that led to a Rapid Review being held following an incident during which the mother of two siblings stabbed one of them repeatedly with a knife and following her arrest was subsequently found to have been forcing her children to take unprescribed medication that was believed to have been stolen from her place of employment, a local hospital. Reports indicate that the mother may have been suffering from poor mental health at the time.

National Panel agreed with the TSCP's view to commission a CSPR following the Rapid Review, with the terms of reference and scope of the review being established on 25/02/22.

Impact of Learning

The impact of learning from Rapid Reviews, After Action Reviews and CSPR's is embedded into the TSCP structure and disseminated to safeguarding partners once agreed. Review recommendations, actions and agreed learning from reviews are collated onto a central database that is both reviewed and updated by the TSCP's CSPR Panel. Where dip sampling/auditing is required to ensure that learning has become embedded, this is actioned and reviewed by the TSCP Quality Assurance Group and updates provided to the Business Group and Executive Group.

9 Child Death Overview Arrangements

Child death reviewing arrangements in Torbay form part of the regional South West Peninsula Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). This service has been commissioned to Livewell Southwest.

Child death review partners are defined in section 16Q of the Children Act 2004, which for the South West Peninsula CDOP are:

- Cornwall Council
- Council of the Isles of Scilly
- Devon County Council
- Plymouth City Council
- Torbay Council
- NHS Devon CCG (ICB from 01/07/2022)
- NHS Kernow CCG (ICB from 01/07/2022)

The child death review arrangements operate in line with the requirements of the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, and the Child Death Review: Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) 2018. Within these arrangements, Devon and Cornwall Police join the child death review partners to form quoracy. The child death review process is defined by four stages following the death of a child:

1. Immediate decision making and notifications
2. Investigation and information gathering
3. Child death review meeting (CDRM)
4. Independent review of the child death by the CDOP

Learning from the CDOP is evaluated by the TSCP at the Quality Assurance Group, actioned and disseminated to partners where required and the outcomes fed back to the CDOP to complete the learning cycle.

Present systems, commissions and process will be evaluated and if necessary revised to be consistent with statutory guidance. The TSCP are currently represented at CDOP by the Business Manager and a Local Authority representative, although Business Manager attendance is under review. Assurance of the child death arrangements is a function of the TSCP Executive Group.

10 Learning and Development Summary

The TSCP provides multi-agency training that is designed to meet the diverse needs of staff working at different levels across the breadth of organisations that work with children and families in Torbay. The training and Best Practice Forums are led by the TSCP Learning and Development Group and focuses on areas of practice prioritised by the TSCP Executive, with learning from local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Multi-Agency Case Audits being fully integrated into the training material. A learning and development resources page has also been created on the TSCP website to support practitioner's continuous professional development.

Key Performance Indicators

In 2021/22, 1483 TSCP training places were made available, with 1083 of these places being accessed. This is an increase from 2020/21. Improvement of places booked (course place take-up) has increased to 82%. Attendance rate of places booked has remained at 89%.

To support the roll out of Restorative Practice the commissioned trainer's evaluation includes capturing 'what learners will do' to support Torbay closing the gap for disadvantaged children. The comments are available within the quarterly Learning and Development reports, ranging from how children are greeted each day as they come into class, the use of language and professional curiosity to the recognition of trauma. The roll out of Restorative Practice continues to be a work plan focus for the Learning and Development Group.

New Courses

Several new courses have been added to the course offer and have been well received:

- Managing Allegations, delivered by the LADO, HR representative from Torbay Council and TESS.
- DASH Risk Assessment Training, delivered by a Domestic Abuse specialist from Torbay Children's Services.
- Child Exploitation in Torbay, delivered by the Exploitation Team Manager from Torbay Children's Services.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead induction event has also been trialled, and from the positive response received will be offered on an annual basis for Education and Early Years staff in addition to a later session for staff working within the community, faith, voluntary and sports sectors.

Three Best Practice Forum events have been provided in 2021/22, these being themed on Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Recognition of Abuse and Neglect. Online recordings are available to watch for staff unable to attend the forums as well as a range of events to support the Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews published, full information is available on the online learning portal, ilearn.

In addition to the courses offered, the following e-learning is also available.

- Honour Based Abuse (including forced marriage)
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Cuckooing (new course)
- County Lines Awareness (new course)
- SCR for 'Jack' (Theme of Child Sexual Exploitation)







- Whistleblowing with Confidence
- Level 1 – Induction to Safeguarding Children and Adults
- Level 2 – Introduction to Child Protection
- Introduction to Safeguarding Adults
- Introduction to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Introduction to MARAC
- Introduction to Sexual Violence Disclosures
- Introduction to Online Safety
- An Introduction to Trans-Awareness
- MAPPA Awareness
- Additional online learning relating to Modern Slavery and Prevent (counter terrorism).

Attendance Data 2021/22

Course	Number of Courses delivered	Places Available	Booked	Attended	Attendance Rate	Places Booked Vs Available
Safeguarding Children Foundation	24	336	306	281	92%	91%
Safeguarding Children Refresher	29	405	355	328	92%	88%
Managing Allegations	4	61	52	43	83%	85%
Introduction to Family Group Conferences	2	27	16	8	50%	59%
DASH Risk Assessment	5	74	57	43	88%	80%
DSL Induction Event	1	24	12	11	92%	50%
CSPR Learning Events	3	85	40	29	73%	47%
Best Practice Forums	3	270	217	190	88%	80%
Child Exploitation in Torbay	2	32	30	26	87%	94%

Evaluation Responses 2021/22

The level three courses have been well attended and completed learner actions have increased from the previous year. The feedback on the e-learning has also improved to 100% stating it has supported the trainer led sessions.

Course	Initial	Impact (12 weeks)
Safeguarding Children Foundation	71% 	54% 
Safeguarding Children Refresher	67% 	52% 
Managing Allegations (new)	54%	42% 
Introduction to Family Group Conferences	25% 	13%
DASH Risk Assessment Training (new)	58%	54%
DSL Induction Event (new)	64%	55%
Best Practice Forums	Rapid Reviews 21 from live event 1 from recording	Harmful Sexual Behaviour 1 from Live event 3 from recording
		Recognition of Abuse and Neglect 4 from Live event 8 from recording
Child Exploitation in Torbay (new)	31%	27%

11 Allegations Against People that Work with Children

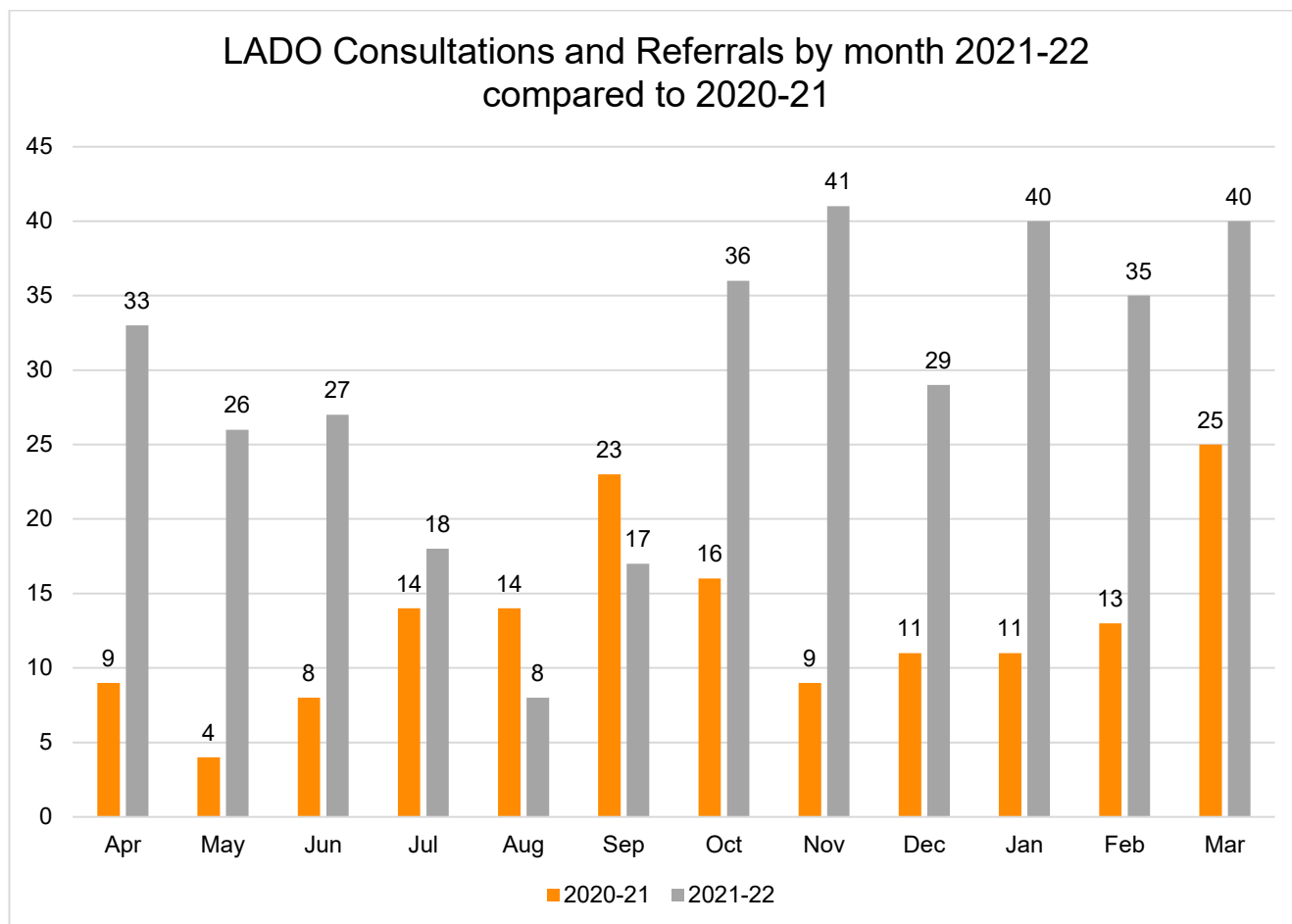
All Local Authorities in England must identify a designated officer (LADO) to be involved in the management and oversight of individual cases of allegations of abuse made against those who work with children, as set out in the Allegations Against People Who Work with Children procedures. The role of the LADO is to give advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations and liaise with the police and other agencies to monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible and are consistent with a thorough and fair process.

The LADO in Torbay receives enquiries from a range of sources, and most of these come in the form of a consultation or referral. All consultations and referrals are recorded on the LADO database. The LADO also records within Liquidlogic, which is the new Torbay Childrens Services recording system, with the LADO section of Liquidlogic having a tightly controlled access process. All information held by the LADO is compliant with Data Protection Act (2018) and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Information is retained in accordance with the Council's retention policy.

Number of LADO Consultations and Referrals

- In the previous 2020/21 reporting year, the LADO received 157 consultations. 27 of these met LADO threshold and progressed to Allegation Management Meetings.
- During the current 2021/22 reporting year, the LADO received 350 consultations, an increase of 123% over the previous year. 53 of these consultations met LADO threshold and progressed to Allegation Management Meetings, an increase of 96%. The LADO attributes these significant increases from the previous year to an improvement in recording methodology.

LADO Consultations and Referrals by month 2021-22 compared to 2020-21



A continuing high volume of consultations in 2021/22 related to allegations made against education staff. These came from a combination of:

- Early Years 29
- Schools/Academies 142

The data shows a slight drop in numbers from 23 in September 2020 compared to 17 in September 2021. The LADO reports that this may be attributed to a factor in September 2021 when KCSIE introduced changes to legislation for clarification on what constitutes a concern and what to report.

The figures from September 2021 onwards saw a sharp rise in LADO activity. Reports indicate that this may be related to a combination of challenges within the recovery from the pandemic and changes in legislation that led to increased reporting of allegations.

KCSIE 2021 highlights that a low-level concern is any concern that a person in position of trust has acted in a way that:

- Is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work.

- Does not meet the threshold of harm and is not considered serious enough for the agencies to refer to the LADO.

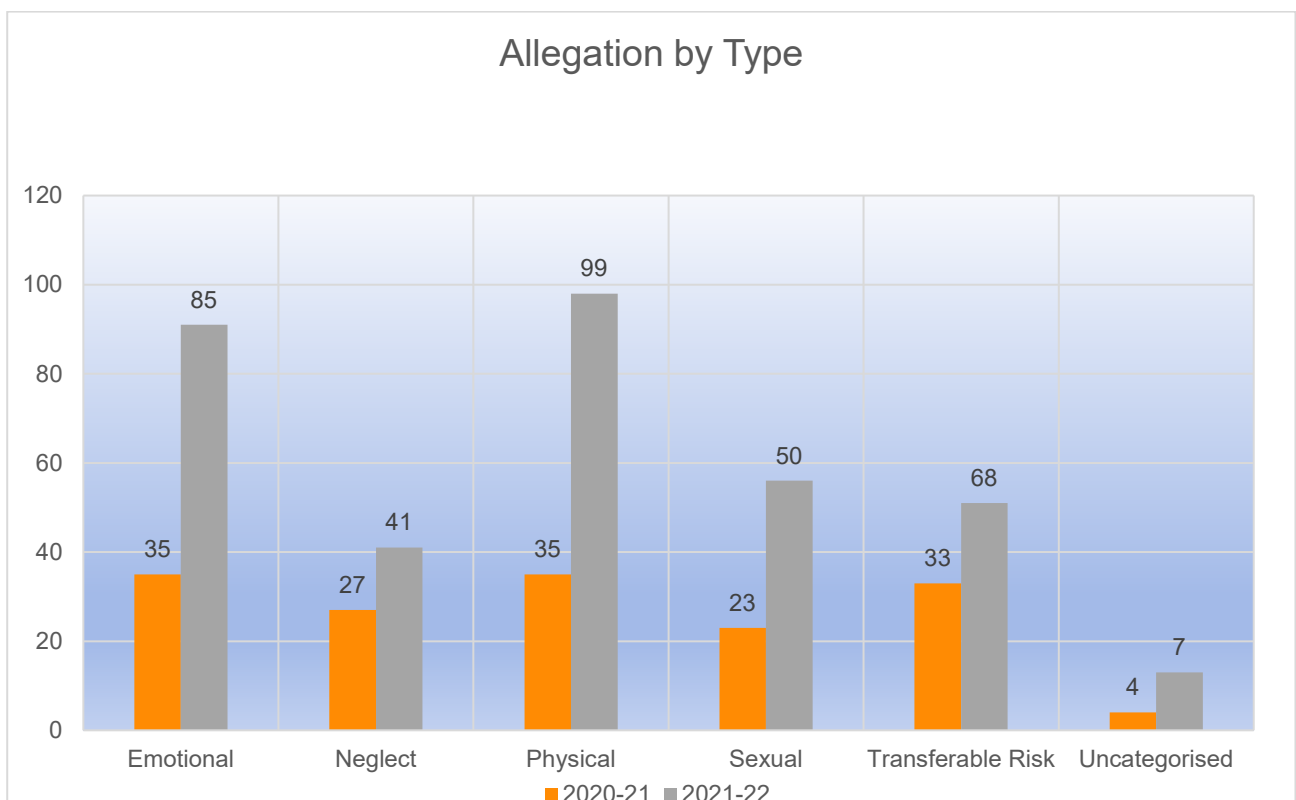
The number of the increased consultations may be due to organisations seeking clarity as to whether the alleged incident meets the harm threshold to trigger the managing allegations procedure. The LADO now ensures that all consultations are recorded to support evidence of a potential pattern of behaviour of a person in a position of trust.

In-House Foster Carers	Independent Fostering Agencies	Independent Residential Setting	Total
32	20	33	85

The above table shows that 85 LADO consultations in 2021/22 related to cared for children. By comparison, the figure in 2020/21 was 49. This is an increase of 73%. Research states that children in care have a higher risk of being victims of abuse and neglect. The LADO reports an anticipation that the volume of consultations and referrals from this part of the children’s workforce may be therefore higher than other areas.

Most consultations were in relation to allegations of physical abuse, following by neglect. The LADO found that several allegations were made after the child left their placement or during times of instability, for example when there are ongoing court proceedings. The LADO reports that further work is needed to understand the reasoning behind these high figures.

LADO Referrals and Consultations by Type



Emotional Harm

The LADO reports a considerable increase in incidences involving emotional/verbal harm from 35 in 2020/21 to 85 in 2021/2022. An increase of 143%.

Neglect

The trend of a yearly incremental increase in neglect/inappropriate behaviour continues. Data shows 27 recorded allegations in 2020/21 compared to 41 in 2021/22. An increase of 52%.

Physical Harm

The trend over the last two years indicates a higher proportion of consultations overall under the category of physical harm, with this increasing by 183% to 99 in 2021/22, and this would mirror practice experience of a high proportion of education consultations relating to physical handling/restraint. Physical concerns in 2020/21 were recorded as 35. Since LADO statistics began to be collated, physical abuse has remained the highest reported category. The hypothesis is that this may be due to it being the most easily identifiable of the abuse categories.

Sexual Harm

Reports under the sexual harm category evidenced an increase in the number of consultations from 23 in 2020/21 to 50 in 2021/22, an increase of 117%.

Transferable Risk

The notion of transferable risk was introduced in line with statutory KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) guidance in 2020 and is an addition to the types of behaviour which would indicate a person being a risk to children if they continue to work in regular or close contact with them. The criteria take account of situations where a person's behaviour outside a work context may suggest that they pose a risk to children. It allows for a degree of interpretation that is not always considered easy to qualify. During 2021/22 there were 68 consultations that related to transferable risk, an increase of 106% over the 33 reported the previous year.

Children in a Position of Trust:

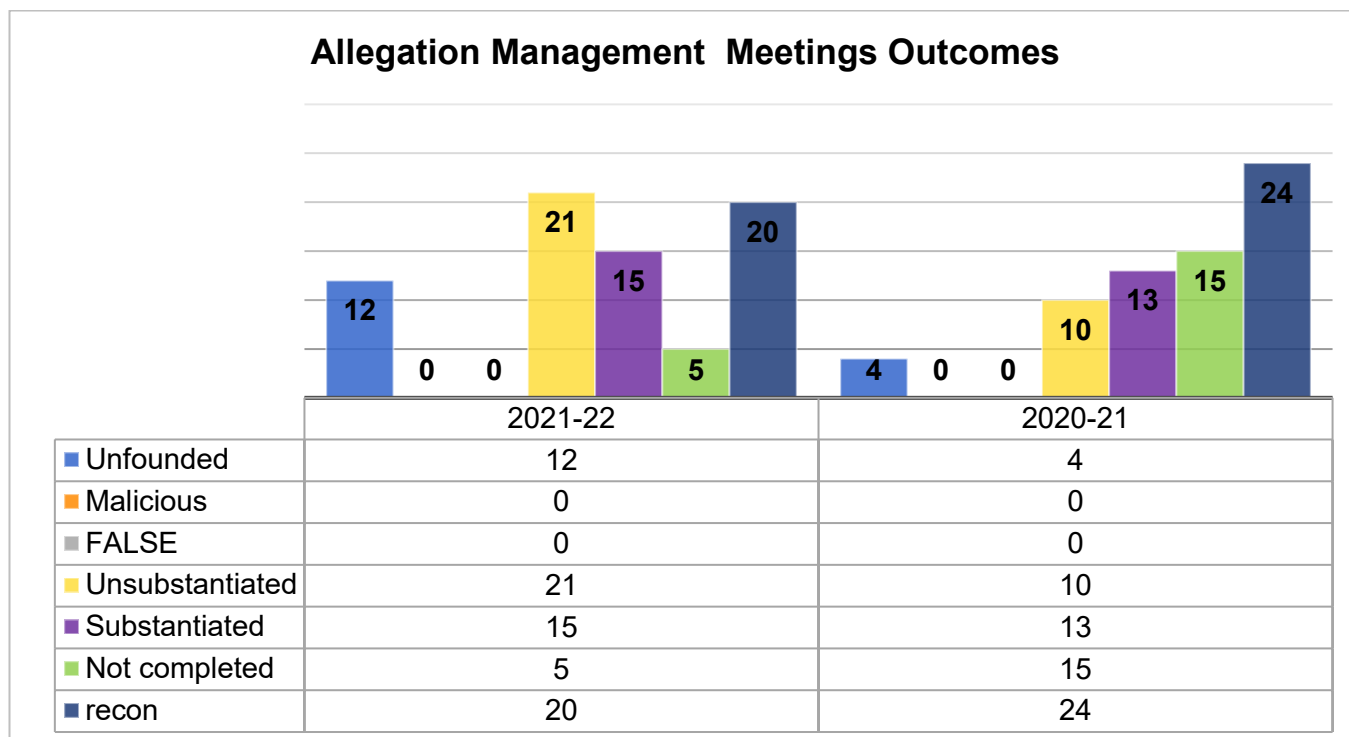
An adult who is working or volunteering with children or coming into contact with children through work on a regular basis, would be seen as being in a position of trust. This also applies to someone aged under 18 in the same position, e.g. a 17 year old teaching a musical instrument or instructing a group, under LADO regulations. The role of the LADO exceeds that of regulated activity defined by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and the age range applicable is not defined, whereas children in a position of trust defined by the police need to be 18 years of age. For the period of 2021/22 the LADO was consulted 4 times regarding persons under the age of 18 who were in positions of trust. All four of these consultations related to concerns under the category of sexual harm.

Outcomes of Allegations

Allegations Management Meetings (AMM)

A Managing Allegations Meeting refers to the multi-agency meeting process in respect of the individual who is subject of the allegation or concern.

The following table displays the outcomes of Torbay Allegation Management Meetings over the last two years.



Allegation Management Meetings are sometimes able to conclude the outcome of a concern at an initial meeting. However, if additional information is required through the completion of actions agreed at the initial meeting, attendees will need to re-convene, potentially on multiple occasions in complex cases. This is the second year the LADO has reported on the number of cases requiring reconvened meetings, with 20 of the allegations needing more than one meeting. These were due to ongoing police investigations where all parties needed to be interviewed, or forensic examination of devices being required. These figures are similar to 2020/21 where 24 meetings required reconvening. The reconvening of meetings is acknowledged by the LADO as having an adverse impact on the timeliness of outcomes for those subject to the managing allegations process. However, this is unavoidable at times if the right outcome is to be achieved.

At the final meeting, members of the strategy meeting will decide whether the allegation is:

1. **Substantiated** – where there is sufficient identifiable evidence to prove the allegation.
2. **False** – where there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation
3. **Malicious** – where there is clear evidence to prove there has been a deliberate act to deceive and the allegation is entirely false.
4. **Unfounded** – where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made. It might also indicate that the person making the allegation misinterpreted the incident or was mistaken about what they saw. Alternatively, they may not have been aware of all the circumstances.
5. **Unsubstantiated** – this is not the same as a false allegation. It means that there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation; the term therefore does not imply guilt or innocence.

Where concerns are unfounded or unsubstantiated, they may still require further internal investigation by the employer or other action to be taken and does not necessarily mean there are no concerns at all.

Letters to Children and Parents.

The parents and the child, if sufficiently mature, should be helped to understand the LADO process and be kept informed on progress of the case and the outcome where there is no criminal prosecution. This will include the outcome of any disciplinary hearing, but not the deliberations of the hearing. During the period of 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 the LADO wrote to 34 children to inform them of the outcome of the allegations management process.

Management Oversight.

Torbay Council ensures effective management oversight of the LADO, including quality assurance, LADO supervision, dealing with developing area of concern in individual cases and facilitating improvements in LADO practice. A more detailed overview of the work of the LADO during the last year can be found within the 2021/22 LADO Annual Report.

12 Glossary

AMM	Allegation Management Meeting
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CSPR	Child Safeguarding Practice Review
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DfE	Department for Education
DoPHAR	Torbay Director of Public Health Annual Report
EHCP	Education, Health, and Care Plan
GCP2	Graded Care Profile 2
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
HR	Human Resources
HSB	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
ICB	Integrated Care Board
IS	Independent Scrutineer
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
KCSIE	Keeping Children Safe in Education
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
NCMD	National Child Mortality Database
NHS	National Health Service
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEN	Special Education Needs
SN	Statistical Neighbour
TESS	Torbay Education Support Service
TSCB	Torbay Safeguarding Children Board
TSCP	Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership
TCSP	Torbay Community Safety Partnership
Wood Report 2021	Government review of new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
WT2018	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018