

## Foreword: Nancy Meehan, Director of Torbay Children's Services

It is with great pleasure I have been asked to write the foreword the TSCP newsletter. For those who do not know me I am the Director of Torbay Children's Services (DCS) with statutory responsibility for social care, education and early help as well as the youth justice service. My career has spanned over 30 years, starting in social care in 1989 and I now have more than 25 years post qualification experience as a social worker. Following an interim period as Deputy Director in Torbay from September 2019, I was appointed as the DCS from February 2020 (permanent appointment April 2020).

Reflecting on what I want to say I am so conscious that like many of you we cannot underestimate what has occurred over the last two years. Events have been both challenging but also exciting, as we worked, along with our partners, to improve services to our children, young people and families in extraordinary times. On reflection the different ways of working possibly allowed us to meet each other more often than we would normally, benefiting from the reduction in travelling to meetings and the easy access (eventually!!) to Zoom and Teams. The result of the hard work of everyone in Torbay and the more collaborative approach led to the Good grading that we received following our Ofsted ILACS inspection in March 2022. This would not have been possible without the council corporate support but also the political and partnership support that has been so positive within the TSCP.

Since being established in September 2020, the TSCP has gone from strength to strength and it is important to acknowledge all the hard work of everyone to support strengthening the partnership arrangements to safeguard our children and support our families. It has been an incredibly exciting time in which we constantly worked to find imaginative ways to support our communities through a pandemic. I feel humbled by the response of everyone in Torbay to rise to the challenge.

We are not complacent though and acknowledge there is much more to do. We are facing a winter of crisis with the cost of living and we know that many of our families will struggle. We are seeing and are responding to an increase in the numbers of children whose mental well-being has been affected over the last two years and we have seen rising numbers of families choosing to electively educate their children at home, and as a local area we are involved in delivering a detailed and far-reaching strategy to improve our services to our children with SEND, as well as rolling out our family hub model amongst a number of other initiatives.

However, I do believe that together we can build on our progress and continue to strive to be the best partnership by working together effectively and collaboratively to support our communities. It is a genuine privilege to be part of this.

Finally, as we count the days to Christmas, may I be the first to wish everyone season greetings. I would like to make everyone aware that on 31.01.2023 we will hold our first TSCP annual conference and I look forward to meeting as many colleagues as possible at the event.

*Nancy Meehan*

*Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility*

# Nightstop: Tackling homelessness through community hosting

Here at Nightstop we provide emergency temporary accommodation for young people aged 16-25 that are homeless or facing homelessness through community hosting. We take referrals from various agencies and carry out a risk assessment, alongside gaining references for that young person to determine if they are suitable to place with our hosts.

When placed we work with housing agencies to plan a move on that is more permanent and work with the young people, supporting them with appointments, phone calls, clothing, toiletries, and travel money if needed. We are also able to refer into other agencies if more support is needed.

None of this would be possible without our amazing host volunteers, that we recruit and train. Our hosts open their homes to these young people offering them a safe and warm place to stay, where they can have a hot meal, shower, and someone to talk to if they want/need to. Our hosts have their own household boundaries and host around their own lives and what they can manage. Some offering 1 night a month and some 3 nights a week. We also offer a 24 hour on call system so that hosts are fully supported when a young person is placed with them.

Our aim at Nightstop is to prevent young people sleeping on the streets and to provide a warm safe place to stay while feeling fully supported by us and our hosts.

If you would like more information on how to make referral and are interested in becoming a host, please click [here](#).

We welcome submission of articles and suggestions for the TSCP Newsletter – please email your details to [tscp@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:tscp@torbay.gov.uk)



**TACKLING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS  
THROUGH COMMUNITY HOSTING**

 [nightstop@ymcasouthdevon.org.uk](mailto:nightstop@ymcasouthdevon.org.uk)  
 [ymcasouthdevon.org.uk/nightstop](http://ymcasouthdevon.org.uk/nightstop)  
 [facebook.com/YMCASDevon](https://facebook.com/YMCASDevon)  
 01803 551578

The logo for NIGHTSTOP, with the word 'NIGHTSTOP' in a bold, blue font. Below it, the tagline 'Preventing homelessness through community hosting' is written in a smaller, blue font.

**NIGHTSTOP**  
Preventing homelessness through community hosting



**If you think a child is at risk of abuse: In an emergency call the police on 999**

Torbay Council's Children's Services **01803 208100** Devon and Cornwall Police Non-Emergency Number: **101** NSPCC: **0808 800 5000**



**Believe in  
children  
Barnardo's**

## **The new Barnardo's Exceed service – Tackling Child Exploitation across Cornwall and Devon**

Barnardo's Exceed Service is funded by the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner in Devon and Cornwall and has gone live this October. We can accept referrals for young people who are living in the Devon and Cornwall police area, and are able to provide advice, safety information, signposting and indirect support, so if you are concerned that a young person may be experiencing child sexual exploitation (CSE), please do contact us.

**Our office is open Monday to Friday and you can call the service on 01752 256339, or email us at [exceed@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:exceed@barnardos.org.uk)**

Some of our priority groups include young people aged 18 to 25 with care experience or with additional needs, young people from outside of Devon and Cornwall who are placed here in care, boys and young men, LGBTQ+ young people, and young people from ethnic minority groups, although we can accept referrals and provide signposting or other/ indirect support for any young person, parent or professional who needs our service.

## **TSCP Website links and information**

The TSCP website is updated regularly with useful information and links to support safeguarding of children and young people, and you in your own practice. Click on the links below for more information in each area:

- **[Child Safeguarding Practice Review reports and NSPCC Repository](#)**
- **[TSCP Quality Assurance audit reports and learning pages](#)**
- **[Managing allegations against adults working with children](#)**
- **[TSCP training schedule and guidance](#)**
- **[Information and advice for children and young people](#)**

We are in the process of building a new website, if there are any areas you would find helpful to access on this, please let us know [tscp@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:tscp@torbay.gov.uk)



# TSCP Training

## Autumn 2022/ Spring 2023 Training



### Harmful Sexual Behaviour training and resources

#### **New to Torbay: AIM Checklists**

AIM Checklists help to put sexual behaviours in perspective and to identify those that need short interventions and those which require further assessment.

The checklists have been recently adopted by Torbay Safeguarding Children's Partnership (TSCP) who are working through a programme of work to improve Torbay response to Harmful and problematic sexual behaviours.

An updated guidance document is due later in 2022 to further support all the Torbay workforces. The checklist version now available to those working directly with children and families in Torbay has been updated and reflects concerns around use of technology.

The checklists provide a **framework to inform and support professional decision making**, as not all behaviours which have a sexual component will need a referral to another agency or an AIM3 or AIM Under 12s assessment.

**There are four AIM Checklists to reflect different levels of development due to age or ability.**

1. Adolescents
2. Children under 12 years old
3. Adolescents with learning disabilities
4. Children with learning disabilities

With permission from the author, the AIM checklists incorporate Professor Simon Hackett's Sexual Behaviour Continuum (2010). Simon Hackett was the guest speaker at a **Torbay Best Practice Forum in November 2021** and has written extensively on this subject.

**How to Access the Checklists: The checklist is available after practitioners complete the 1-hour induction film, all available on the iLearn platform. License conditions apply. If you are unable to access this link, please contact:**

**[TSCPtraining@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:TSCPtraining@torbay.gov.uk) directly to enable access for local practitioners.**

**If you have any navigation issues, or want further information on training, please get in touch: [tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk)**



# Restorative Practice

## What is Restorative Practice?

Restorative practice provides all staff and partner agencies with a value base, language that cares, behaviours, and tools to strengthen relationships with children and families and each other. It is about collaborating WITH people, rather than just “doing to” or “doing for”, which can often be the reality of how practitioners work with children and their parents in a social care setting.

## Restorative Practice Training

**Quotes from staff who have recently attended the Restorative Practice Basic Awareness training course and how it has changed their way of working:**

*“I have adapted the way I work with some families and am now working ‘with’ and not ‘for’ them in order for them to adopt the skills that they will need moving forward without support. I now understand the principles of restorative practice and it has enabled me to work better with colleagues and statutory services as we are working on the same principles and premise to try and enable our families.”*

*“Applying working ‘WITH’ through active listening and in continuing to build relationships built on trust and respect so that in being fully invested, we can work together to address areas of ‘harm’.”*

*“I have tried to ensure that I actively listen rather than think about other things instead of actually listening. Trying to ensure that I work ‘with’ people as opposed to trying to do things ‘for’ people!”*

*“I have changed the wording I used when reporting on a young person.”*

*“I have given families power and control over the timings of the sessions that I do with them and let children choose the activities. I always keep the window in the back of my mind and ensure that alongside high support that I am also giving challenge where needed.”*

*“I have explored and used some of the tools with families. I have changed the language I use”*

*“I have changed the terminology of how I refer to situations/teams and the impact this has; not ‘Looked After Child’ but ‘Cared for Child’. I reflect this in emails, documents, minutes and case notes.”*

**Book your Basic Awareness Course via i-Learn**  
[Course: Restorative Practice Awareness \(learningpool.com\)](http://learningpool.com)