



# TSCP Annual Report

Torbay   
Safeguarding  
Children Partnership

2022-23

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## Introduction

Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP) has been 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 current reporting period (01/04/22 to 31/03/23), Darryn Allcorn, Nancy Meehan and Roy Linden represented the Safeguarding Partners at an executive level, with Darryn Allcorn being the Chair of the TSCP Executive Group. Shortly after this reporting period ended Darryn Allcorn moved to a new post in the ICB, with the new CNO taking chairing responsibilities.

		
<p><b>Darryn Allcorn</b> Chief Nursing Officer Devon Integrated Care Board</p>	<p><b>Nancy Meehan</b> Director of Children's Services Torbay Council</p>	<p><b>Roy Linden</b> Policing Commander for South Devon Devon and Cornwall Police</p>
<p>During this reporting period Darryn Allcorn held the position of Chief Nursing Officer for the Integrated Care Board in Devon. Darryn was also the Chair of the Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership. Darryn has over 25 years' experience across many healthcare settings and at an Executive level for the last 9 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

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In April 2017, the Children and Social Work Act received Royal Assent, this ended the role of 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 their welfare in England. The major shift has been the responsibility for safeguarding children, now being shared between the Local Authority, Health partners and the Police.

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 (CSPR) 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).

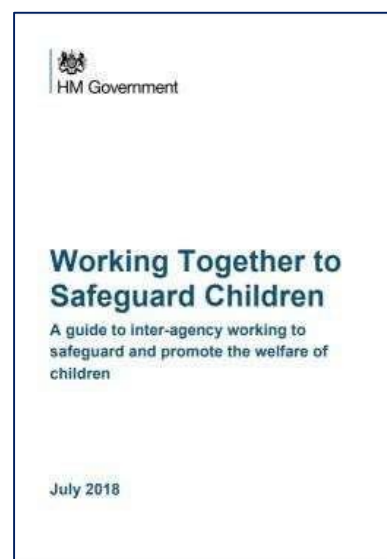
In March 2020, the transition period ended, and new safeguarding arrangements were fully implemented. For Torbay this meant stepping away from a traditional board and implementing a new multi-agency partnership, initially via shared arrangements with Plymouth but as a Torbay only partnership from September 2020.

The new Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 (WT2023) arrangements are in the process of being written by HM Government and once these are agreed will become the guide and standards for the work of the TSCP.

“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 - **[publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)**

## 2 Governance and Structure

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TSCP governance arrangements have remained in-line with those reported last year. 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, Integrated Care Board 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 TSCP incorporates a smaller Executive Group where items can be more quickly escalated and authorised. The TSCP Executive Group meets on a bi-monthly basis.

The TSCP Business Group, which 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 proposed task and finish group, with each being established to focus on the business and priorities of the partnership. The work of the TSCP Learning and Development Group is due to be reviewed/realigned beyond the end of the current reporting period as it has been identified that there is a potentially more efficient method of translating learning to training and practice without the need to retain sub-group arrangements.

The CSPR Panel is responsible for converting all learning review recommendations into actions, ensuring oversight of these actions through to resolution, to ensure local multi-agency practice improves in line with that agreed in review reports.

The Quality Assurance Group, alongside the CSPR Panel, completes multi-agency audits and concurrently identifies learning, has oversight of TSCP audit activity and actions and works with the Learning and Development Group to support the implementation of learning within the partnership.

The Learning and Development Group is responsible for multi-agency training and learning events, with the administration managed by Torbay Children's Services Learning Academy. The Learning and Development Group's role and methodology is under review, and will be aligned with the outcome of the current TSCP Independent Review.

The Exploitation Group is part of Torbay's multi-agency response to child exploitation and is responsible for Torbay's multi-agency Child Exploitation Strategy. The Exploitation Group is also the TSCP's direct link into local exploitation services. The need for a local Contextual Safeguarding strategy was identified by the Exploitation Group in early 2023 and this has led to the agreement for the TSCP to commission a 12 month Task and Finish group to lead on and complete this piece of work. The group had not started this process within the current reporting period.

The Neglect Group is focused on identifying and understanding causes of local neglect and promoting preventative multi-agency responses. This group has also led on the implementation of Graded Care Profile 2, which is a locally agreed multi-agency tool for assessing neglect. The Neglect Group is responsible for the TSCP Neglect Strategy.

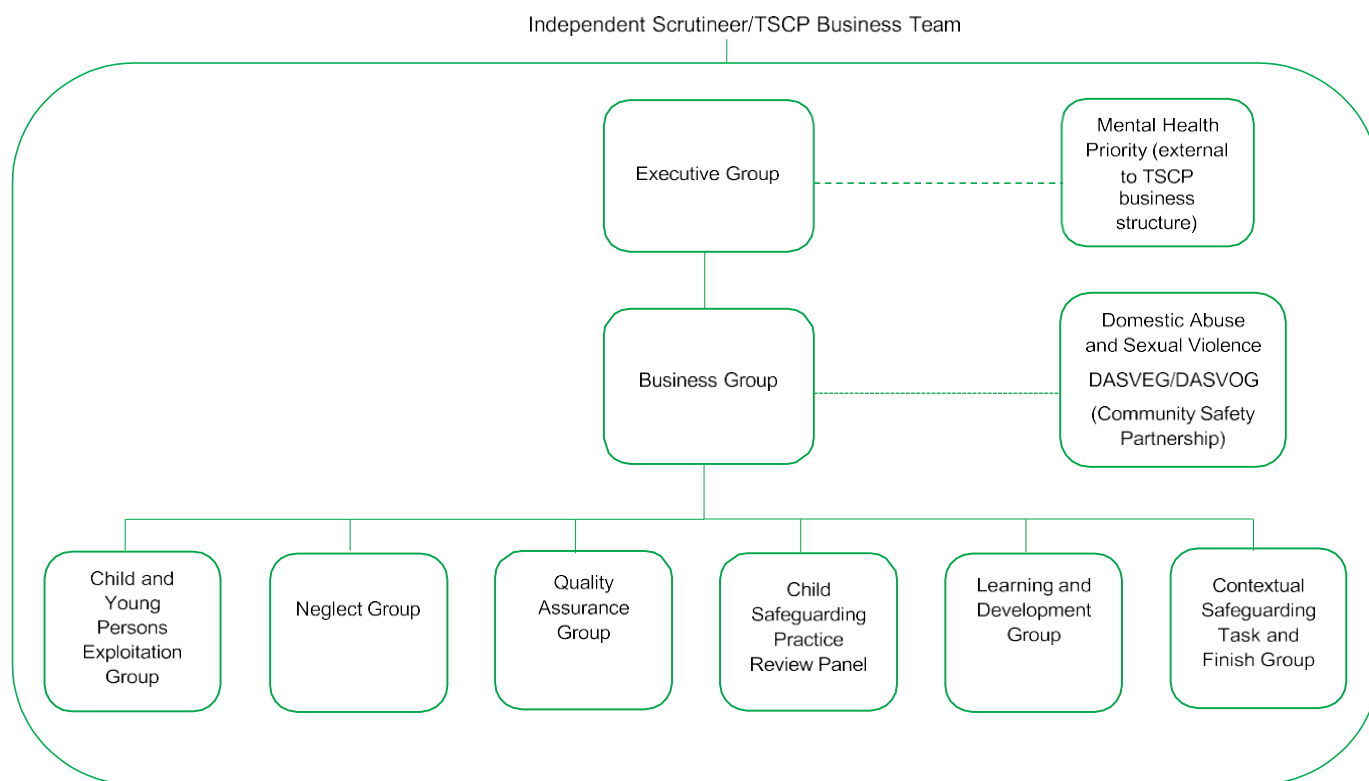
In 2022/23, the domestic abuse priority continued to be managed via joint arrangements with the Torbay Community Safety Partnership (TCSP), with this arrangement being subject to review as part of the wider TSCP Independent Review.

The TSCP mental health priority has not progressed as anticipated since the previous Annual Report. The partnership has requested the arrangements to be scrutinised within the TSCP Independent Review. The resolution of this delay is a TSCP priority that has been escalated to Executive level.

Each TSCP group is chaired by a safeguarding partner and is attended by a broad range of agencies, including the voluntary and community sectors, achieving quoracy by the attendance of each of the three safeguarding partners.



TSCP Structure Chart



### 3 Independent Scrutiny

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*‘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

The role of Independent Scrutineer for the TSCP forms part of a wider system of scrutiny which also includes single agency external inspectorates. The partnership has been subject to a number of thematic reviews, including MASH and the criminal exploitation of children, and a system wide effectiveness review of TSCP arrangements was in process at the time of this report. Both Torbay Childrens Services and Devon & Cornwall Police have been subject to recent respective inspectorate reviews. As the TSCP has evolved, I as the Independent Scrutineer have moved away from chairing of specific groups, which has allowed me to adopt a more recognisable role in an assurance function. In this role, I am also able to provide a conduit between the Partnership and other groups such as the Childrens Continuous Improvement Board and the Childrens Services monthly focus meeting. The Partnership has a strong approach to exploitation and decision making and timeliness in the MASH is sound. The effectiveness review has clearly identified that the TSCP has to progress as a matter of urgency its priority on children’s emotional wellbeing and mental health and have a clear set of data on which it can monitor the service provided to children and families and identify emerging risks.

Although in draft form, the proposed 2023 Working Together statutory guidance, retains an independent scrutiny element in local children’s safeguarding partnerships, but has clearly set out that chairing responsibilities lie with the safeguarding partners. Torbay’s Chief Executive has started valuable and critical work around how engaged partners are within our multi-agency landscape. There has been significant improvement within the TSCP over the last 12-18 months, but there is still much to do, and full engagement & proactivity within the partnership is critical if Torbay is to provide the level of service to children and young people that they both deserve and need.

The opening line of Working Together clearly sets out our aim:

*Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.*

I look forward to continue working with you to further improve the support that is making a difference to children in Torbay.

## 4 TSCP Priority Areas

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When the TSCP was formed in the Autumn of 2020, the Executive set three key priority areas of targeted work that the partnership would 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.

### **Priority 1: Reduce the level of child neglect in the Torbay area and challenge the causes of local neglect to prevent re-occurrences.**

The responsibility for priority one lies with the TSCP Neglect Group. The Neglect Group reflects its purpose and membership within its Terms of Reference. The membership of the group has expanded, to ensure the work it undertakes is given a high level of priority by all partner agencies, to include the addition of professionals from speech and language, housing, mental health, and oral health. The Business Group maintains robust oversight of the work of the Neglect Group, to ensure it remains focused and meets the need of Torbay children and families. The key objective in 2022 was the adoption and roll out of Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) across the partnership area which has now been achieved. GCP2 is the latest version of the NSCPP neglect assessment tool. The Neglect Group is closely connected to work being undertaken in respect of Torbay's Family Hubs, to ensure that neglect is identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity.

### **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.**

The responsibility for priority two lies with the TSCP Children and Young People Exploitation Group (CYPEG). CYPEG has a wide-ranging membership, incorporating representatives from commissioned providers as well as links to Community Safety in addition to key safeguarding partners. At the point of initiation of this group, which focused on the initial 100 day plan to address immediate exploitation risk, work then progressed to the formation of the 2021-2024 Action Plan. Since this point, work has continued in line with the group's action plan, focusing on embedding a restorative and relational approach to supporting those children at risk of exploitation, raising awareness to support identification of exploitation risk, ensuring children and young people have an understanding of healthy relationships and challenging victim-blaming behaviour and language. CYPEG has retained active links with other local multi-agency exploitation frameworks via shared memberships, data/information sharing and networks. During this reporting period, CYPEG identified the need for a local Contextual Safeguarding model; the Business and Executive groups agreed with the implementation of a Contextual Safeguarding task and finish group, to support this. This has not yet been implemented as a task and finish group chair has not been identified.



### **Priority 3: Prevent children in Torbay from being harmed by the effects of domestic abuse.**

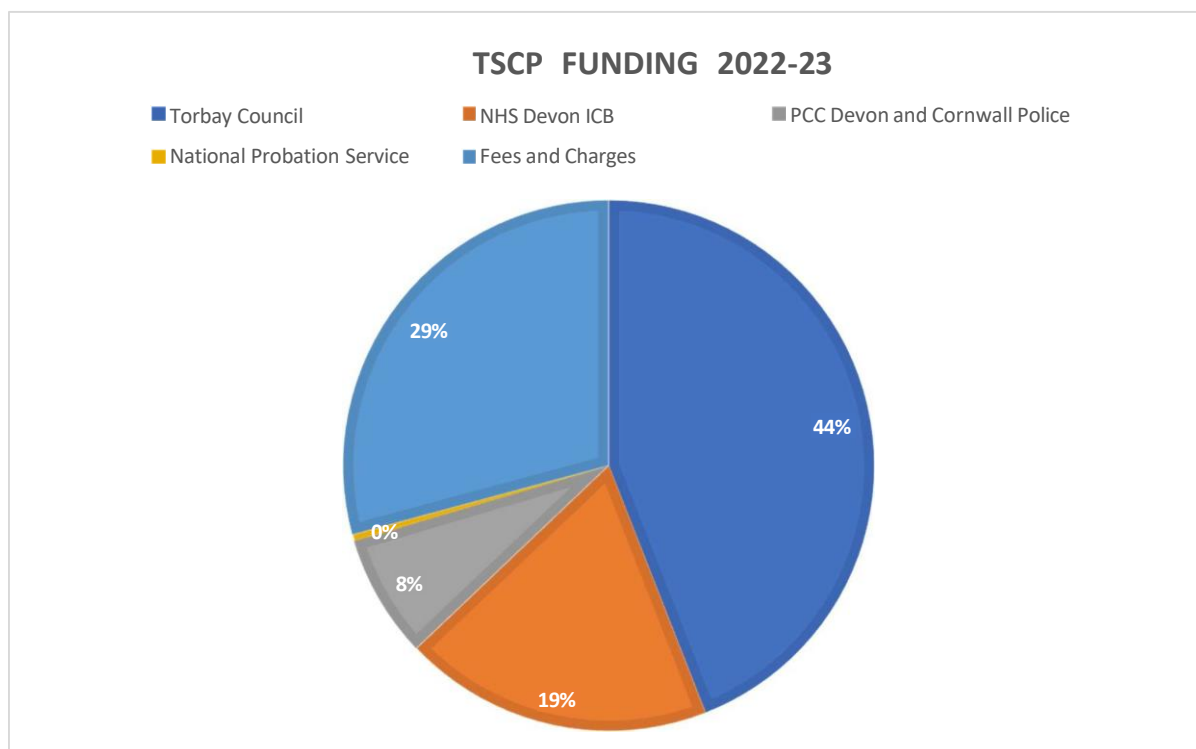
Torbay's domestic abuse and sexual violence prevention and support services fall under the remit of the Torbay Community Safety Partnership (TCSP). The TSCP and TCSP work in a cross-partnership manner to share information and planning designed to protect children from the effects of domestic abuse in line with priority three. Although the TSCP does not have a specific domestic abuse sub-group, as this work is undertaken locally by the TCSP, the TSCP is represented within these arrangements and all three statutory safeguarding partners attend meetings and participate in joint actions across both partnerships. During the 2022/23 reporting period it was agreed that the TCSP's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Commissioning and Strategy Lead would become a member of the TSCP Business Group to further strengthen these cross-partnership arrangements and the authors of the TSCP review will be asked to comment on the strength of these arrangements within their report. Wider partners are also made aware of local safeguarding priorities/actions in respect of domestic abuse and sexual violence via email updates, the TSCP newsletter, multi-agency forums and shared training.

### **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 four has not progressed as envisaged in 2022/23 and will be a key theme of the TSCP review. Local mental health services are not represented across the TSCP to the level required, and this is an ongoing challenge that the Executive Group and Independent Scrutineer are fully appraised of. The TSCP continues to work with partner agencies to ensure that services match need, and this is an area in which progress must be made. Timely local access pathways for children to the level of mental health/emotional wellbeing support they need remain unclear. There is no formal TSCP sub-group that focuses on mental health, however there may be an option for the TSCP to be represented in a mental health led forum that is currently being arranged, with the lead on this area of work being a regular attendee at the TSCP Executive Group.

## 5 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.*

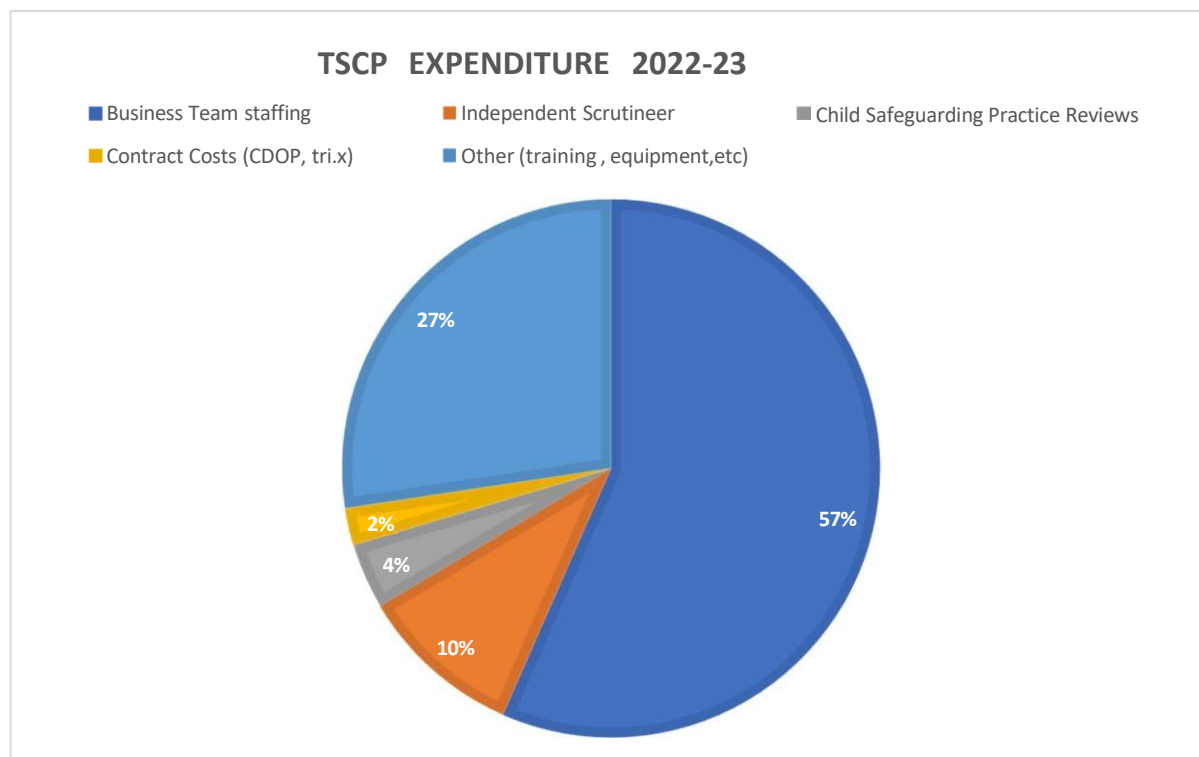


Torbay Council	£93,948
NHS Devon ICB	£40,167
PCC Devon and Cornwall Police	£16,034
National Probation Service	£823
Fees and Charges	£62,235

Total = £213,207

The final TSCP funding arrangements for 2022/23 were agreed between the safeguarding partners on 25/03/23 and are laid out above. The unequal division of partnership funding arrangements has remained an item for debate between the three partners during the current reporting period, but no solution has been found. This was also noted in the previous TSCP Annual Report for 2021/22. Although the WT2018 guidance and Wood Report 2021 state that

partnership funding should be 'equitable and proportionate', there remain no agreed national or local funding formulas to facilitate this process. It was hoped that the new WT2023 guidance would provide clarity, however early drafts indicate that the wording is likely to remain unchanged or very similar. Due to the division of funding arrangements not being able to be agreed within the TSCP, this issue will pass to Chief Executive level for each of the three safeguarding partners to jointly discuss and hopefully resolve. The draft WT2023 guidance elevates the role of Chief Executive Officers with local safeguarding arrangements which would appear to include the agreement of financial arrangements.

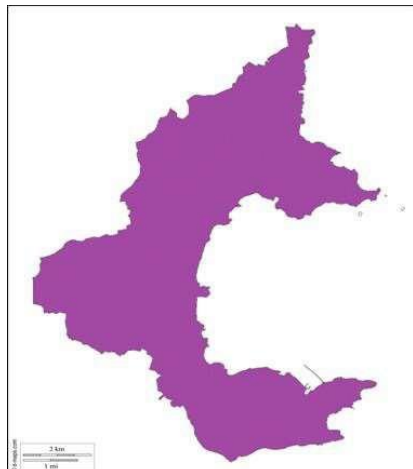


Business Team staffing £112,136  
 Independent Scrutineer £19,533  
 Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews £7,852  
 Contracts Costs (CDOP and tri.x) £4,393  
 Other (training, equipment etc) £54,255

Total = £198,169

## 6 Local Background and Context

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The latest figures (2021 Census) record the population of Torbay as 139,322, living in 62,992 households. The population is projected to rise to 153,088 by 2043 (JSNA 2023). Torbay's population profile shows an older demographic than the rest of England. Torbay has significantly larger proportions of those aged 50 and over than England, conversely it has significantly smaller proportions of those aged under 50, in particular those aged 20 to 44. Torbay's average age of 49 years compares to 40 years for England and 44 for the wider South West. This age profile can lead to significantly higher demand for health and care services. The proportion of the population aged 0 to 17 is projected to fall from 18% to 16% by 2043, it was recorded at 19% in 2021, with those aged between 18 and 64 projected to fall from 55% to 50% by 2043 (JSNA 2023). The proportion of the population aged 65 and over is expected to rise from 27% to 34% by 2043, with these forecasts being expected to exacerbate the already higher than average demand in Torbay for health and care services than is currently being experienced.

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 age people to those at retirement age in Torbay is expected to continue to decrease and is likely to lead to increased financial challenges for local services. This is worsened 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.

96.1% of Torbay residents self-classified their race as White for the 2021 Census, in 2011 this was 97.5%. In 2021, 92.1% of residents classified themselves as White British as opposed to 94.8% in 2011. The 2021 Census shows rises in the 4 other broad ethnic classifications in Torbay. Torbay has a higher rate of those who classify themselves as White Caucasian than the wider South West region and England. Those who do not classify themselves as White Caucasian are significantly more likely to live in areas of Torbay recorded as being amongst the 20% most deprived in England.

51.3% of Torbay's population for the 2021 Census were female, this was a slight fall from 2011 when it was 51.8%. Female to male ratios within Torbay change significantly once reporting refers to those residents aged 80 and over, with 70.5% of the 90+ population being female.

Over the last decade, Torbay has had a higher level of school children at its primary and secondary schools with diagnosed SEND than the England average. For Torbay primary and secondary schools, the number of children with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) is significantly higher than England, for those with SEN Support rates have been broadly in line with England since 2019/20. Rates of recognised special needs are significantly higher in males and among those who are eligible for free school meals (JSNA 2023).

Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm among 10 to 24 year olds in Torbay have been significantly higher than the English average. It should be noted that because of the numbers involved (fewer than 200 admissions on average per year in Torbay), it is possible for a handful of individuals with significant levels of admissions to skew the figures. However, the pattern of Torbay having significantly higher rates than England is consistent (JSNA 2023). There are very large differences between female and male populations across England, with rates being consistently 3 to 4 times higher for females than males. This is also evident in Torbay where the number of hospital admissions for females is almost 4 times higher than males over the 5 year period 2017/18 to 2021/22.

The rate of hospital admissions of under 18s for alcohol specific conditions within Torbay has consistently been above South West and England rates (JSNA 2023). An alcohol specific condition is a hospital diagnosis code that is wholly attributable to alcohol. Since the middle of the last decade there has been a significant fall in admissions amongst males in Torbay (58 admissions for 2009/10 to 2014/15 and 29 admissions for 2015/16 to 2020/21). Female rates have remained steady over the same period (63 admissions for 2009/10 to 2014/15 and 67 admissions for 2015/16 to 2020/21).

In 2019, the year for which the most recent data is available, Torbay's deprivation score made it the 38<sup>th</sup> most deprived upper-tier Local Authority area in England, out of a possible 151, and the most deprived in the South West out of a possible 15 (DoPHAR 2021/22). Torbay has been ranked the most deprived South West upper-tier Local Authority since 2007. 24 of Torbay's 89 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are classified as being amongst the 20% most deprived in England, this was down from 28 in 2015. The 24 areas equated to approximately 27% of the 2019 population.

In January 2021, 29% of children attending Torbay primary schools, 18% of children attending Torbay secondary schools and 24% of children attending Torbay special schools were eligible for and claimed free school meals. 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.

More than 1 in 4 (27%) of Torbay households live in privately rented accommodation, which is significantly higher than the South West and England rates of 20%. This is combined with Torbay having the lowest level of socially rented accommodation in the South West (Census 2021). On 31st March 2022, Torbay Council had 1,572 households on its housing waiting list, this is a significant increase compared to 31st March 2019 when there were 1,045 households on the list. Significant house price rises have exacerbated affordability issues which further compounds Torbay's housing problems (ONS). The average number of households in temporary accommodation in Torbay (averaged over 4 quarters from 3 months to 30th September 2021-3 months to 30th June 2022) was 146, of these 50 were households with children. The most common form of temporary accommodation was bed and breakfast hotels which accounted for 44%, although this fell to 31% in the quarter to 30th June 2022. For those households with children, they were most likely to be placed in private self-contained accommodation, with this occurring in 57% of cases (JSNA 2023).

Torbay's homelessness figure has risen significantly in recent years and is now above England and South West rates, having been 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).

No accurate data was available from Devon and Cornwall Police for 2022/23 due to data quality issues with their new record management system, NICHE, that was implemented in November 2022. The police report that reliable, quantifiable data was not available for the duration of the 2022/23 reporting cycle and this year they have not provided data for agencies to be able to use in annual reports. The information below regarding crime figures and domestic abuse is therefore the most current that the TSCP has access to and is taken from last year's TSCP Annual Report.

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 percentage points from the previous year, compared to an increase of 12 percentage points 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 the 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 the 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 partnership.

### **Children in Need or subject of Child Protection Enquiries and Planning**

*Please note that data cited for the 2022/23 year are from the final end of year Children in Need Census submitted to the Department for Education in July 2023, and may have been updated from the figures given in April 2023 for the Monthly Performance Report. This is a result of data quality work completed as part of the end of year submission.*

The rate of referrals per 10,000 children in Torbay in 2021/22 was 841. This is 21 percentage points higher than the statistical neighbour (SN) rate of 697, and 52 percentage points higher than the England Local Authority figure of 538. (Note: all comparisons to SN and England data are to the previous year, 2021/22, as more recent data is not yet published).

The proportion of referrals from schools rose by 4 percentage points in 2022/23 to 18%, which was two percentage points below the SN average and England figure for 2021/22. The proportion of referrals from Health also rose in 2022/23, by one percentage point; this was the fourth consecutive yearly rise and is now above the SN and level with the England averages. The proportion of referrals from the Police dropped by 6 percentage points to 26%, the lowest police referral rate in the last four years; this rate is now below the SN average and England figures from 2021/22. The referral rates from schools and health increased and the police reduced in 2022/23, however they remained consistent in their overall ratio.

The number of Torbay Children in Need, as per the definition of the DFE relating to all children open with any case status, as of 31/03/23 decreased to 1630 from the previous year's figure of

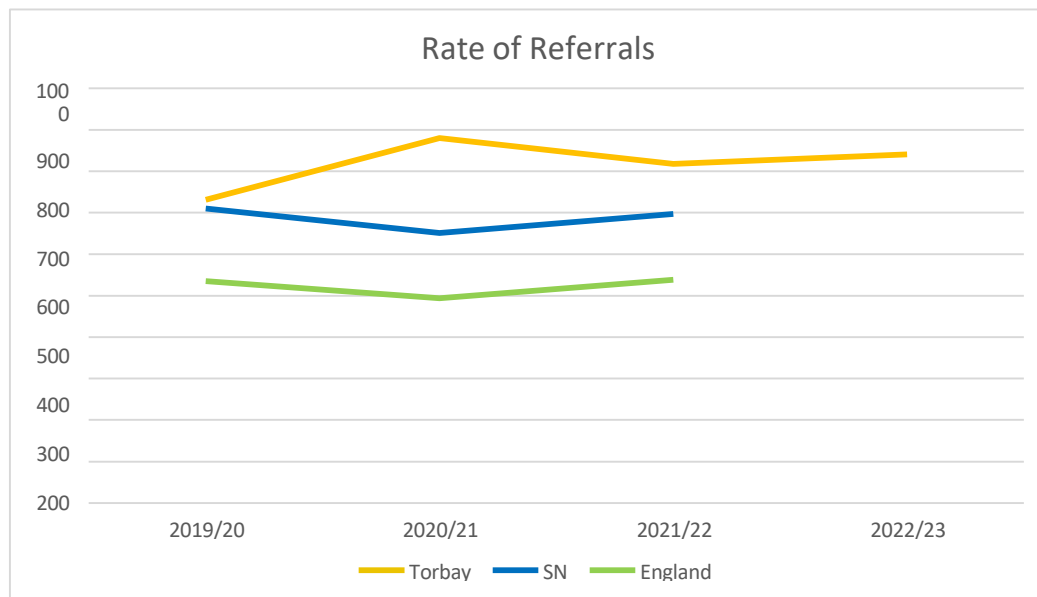
1705, recorded on the same date, a decrease of 4 percentage points. SN and England comparator data continue to evidence that Torbay has a consistently higher proportion of Children in Need than many other Local Authority areas. The most recent 2021/22 data comparisons to this year show that Torbay has a Child in Need rate 46 percentage points higher than SN and 93 percentage points higher than the England average.

There were 152 children subject to child protection plans in Torbay on 31/03/2023, which is a rate of 60 per 10,000 children. This is an identical number to 2021/22 and slightly below the SN figure for the previous period but 43 percentage points higher than the England average of 42. The number of child protection plans starting in Torbay in 2022/23 was 213, this was an increase of 13 percentage points from the previous year when 189 child protection plans began. The rate of child protection plans starting in Torbay in 2022/23 was 84 per 10,000 children, an increase of 14 percentage points from 2021/22. This was 5 percentage points above last year's SN average of 80 and 62 percentage points higher than last year's England average of 52. The number of child protection plans ceasing in Torbay in 2021/22 was 215, a continuing reduction from the previous three years and in line with the number of plans starting.

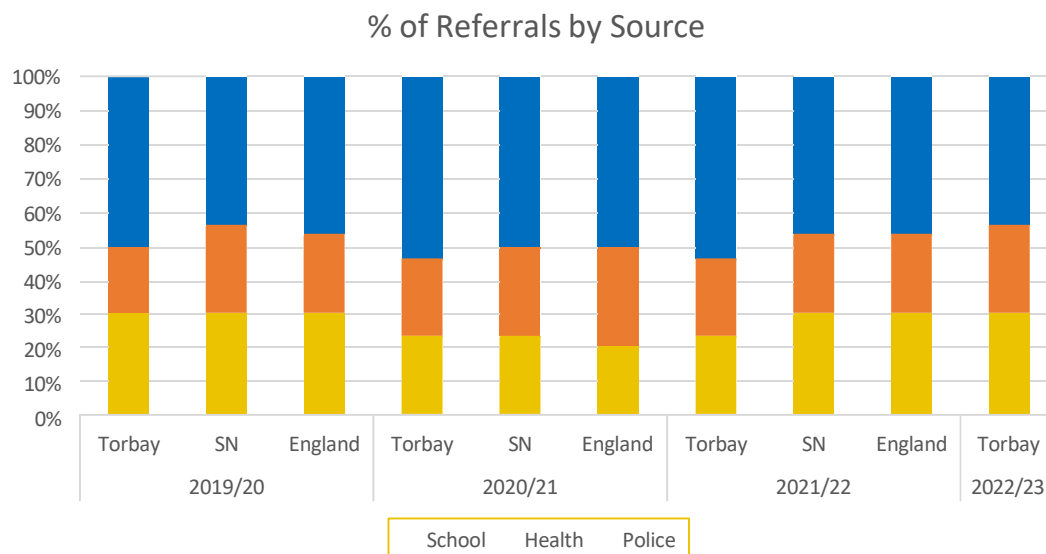
At 71%, neglect remained by far the most common recorded category of abuse for children in receipt of a child protection plan in Torbay on 31/03/2023, a percentage that has now doubled since 31/03/2021. The second most common category on 31/03/2023 was emotional abuse at 18%, a drop from 27% recorded in the previous year and almost two-thirds less than that recorded on 31/03/2021. Torbay now records exploitation under the category of neglect and this may be a factor in the high number of children with neglect recorded as their category of abuse, combined with the declining number of children categorised under emotional abuse. The other three categories of abuse remain low in number and are therefore susceptible to the effects of sibling group size impacting on data.

Data regarding the number of Strategy Meetings held in Torbay in 2022/23 was not available at the time of this report, however the quoracy percentage is recorded at 100%. There were 480 initial and review Child Protection Conferences held in Torbay in 2022/23, however quoracy for these was only 83%. This will require further investigation as quoracy is expected to be 100%. Data in respect of these two areas is currently being expanded by Torbay Council's Business Intelligence Team and will form part of the TSCP data dashboard.

1. Number and Rate of Referrals to Children's Social Care					
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total number of referrals	Torbay	1869	2242	2084	2125
Rate of referrals per 10,000	Torbay	731	880	818	841
(SN = Statistical Neighbour)	SN	710	651	697	-
	England	535	494	538	-

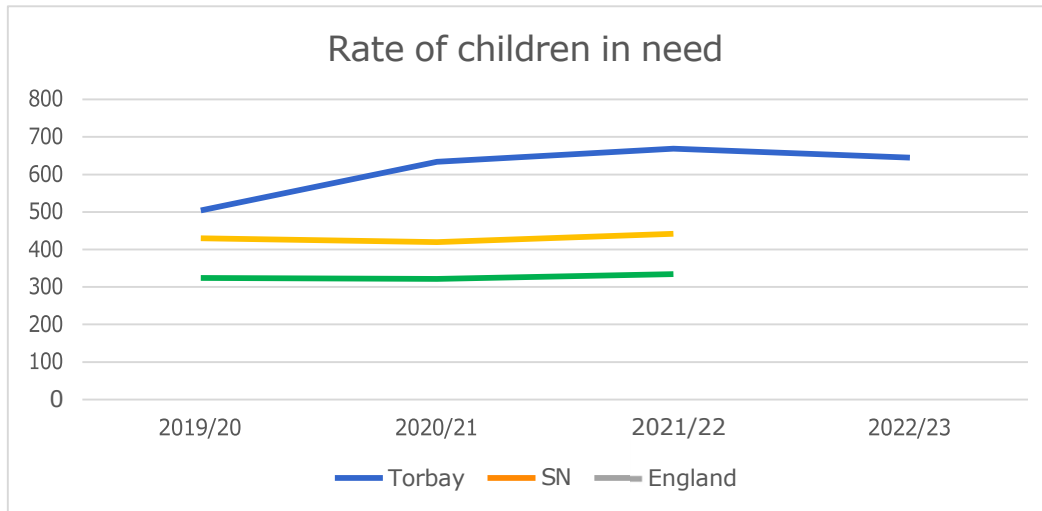


2. Referrals to Children's Social Care by Source										
	2019/20			2020/21			2021/22			2022/23
	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay
School	16%	19%	18%	13%	14%	14%	14%	20%	20%	18%
Health	11%	14%	15%	13%	15%	16%	14%	13%	15%	15%
Police	28%	25%	29%	30%	31%	33%	32%	28%	30%	26%

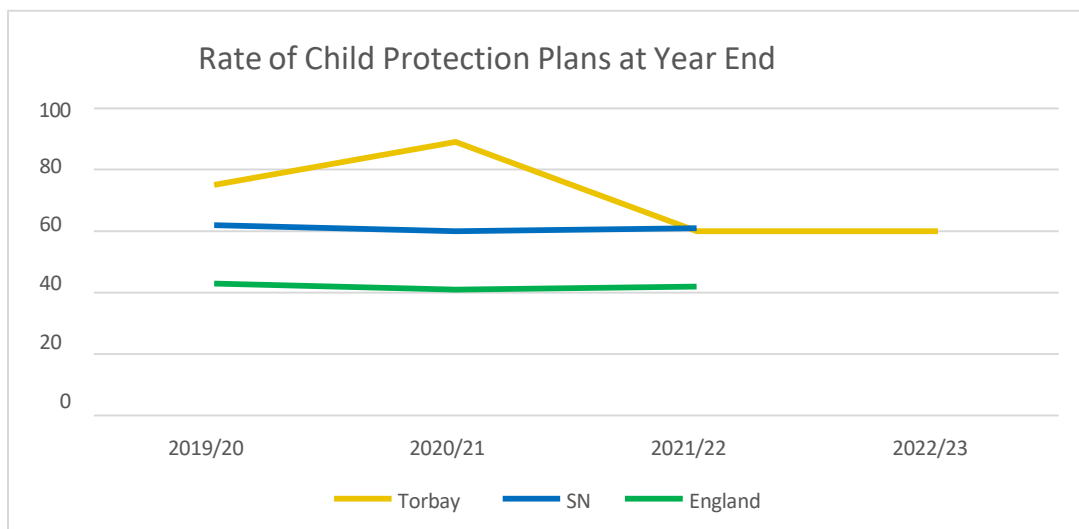




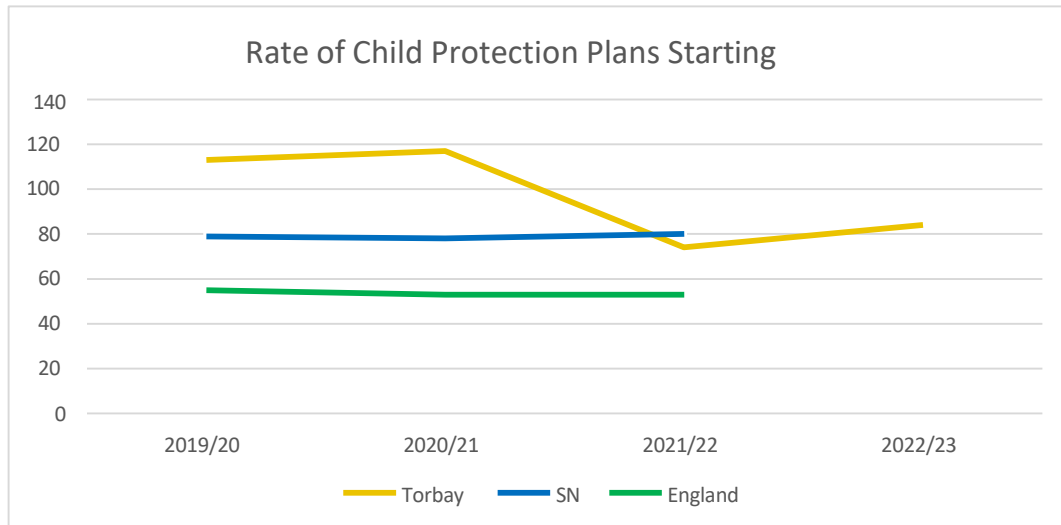
3. Number and Rate of Children in Need as of 31 <sup>st</sup> March					
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of Children in Need	Torbay	1464	1619	1705	1630
Rate of Children in Need per 10,000	Torbay	504	633	669	645
	SN	430	420	442	-
	England	324	321	334	-



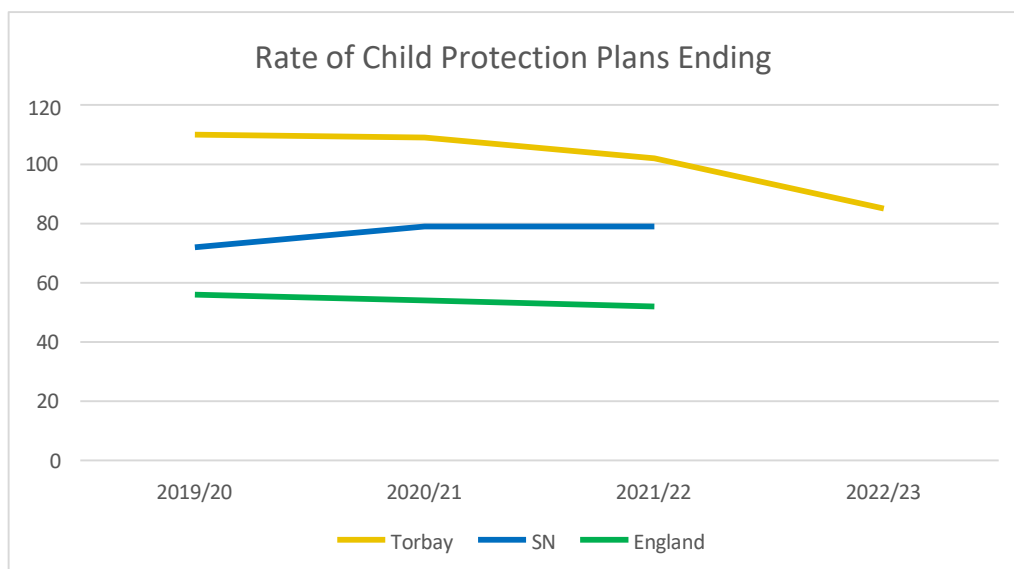
4. Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans as of 31 <sup>st</sup> March					
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of CP plans at 31/03/22	Torbay	192	226	152	152
Rate of CP plans at 31/03/22 per 10,000	Torbay	75	89	60	60
	SN	62	60	61	-
	England	43	41	42	-



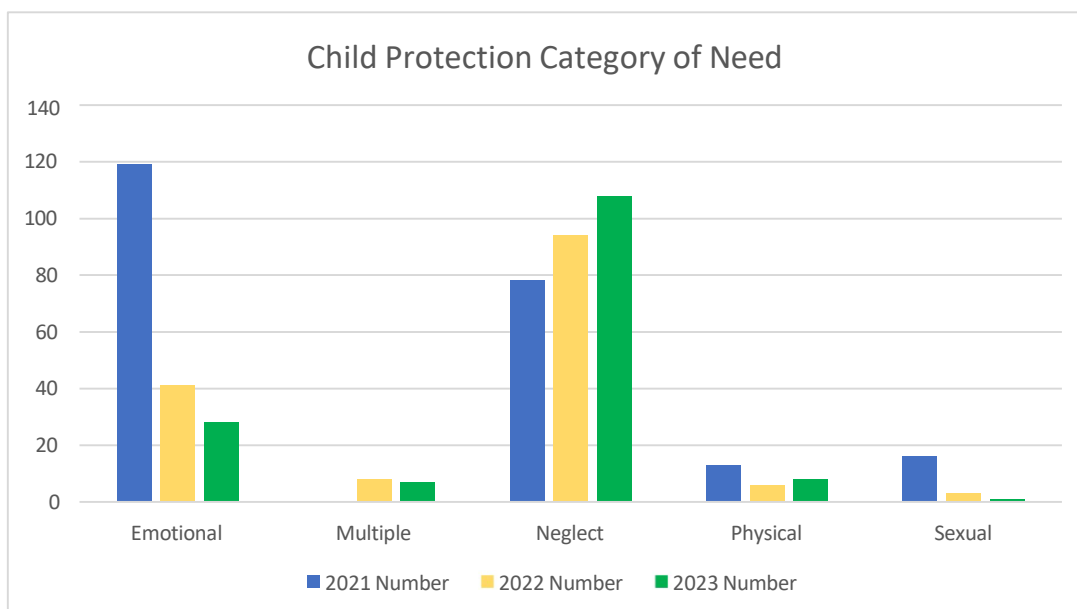
5. Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans Starting					
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of CP plans starting	Torbay	289	298	189	213
Rate of CP plans starting per 10,000	Torbay	113	117	74	84
	SN	79	78	80	-
	England	55	53	52	-



6. Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans Ending					
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of CP plans ending	Torbay	280	277	260	215
Rate of CP plans ending per 10,000	Torbay	110	109	102	85
	SN	72	79	79	-
	England	56	54	52	-



7. Child Protection Plans by Category of Need as of 31 <sup>st</sup> March						
	2021		2022		2023	
	2021 Number	Percentage	2022 Number	Percentage	2023 Number	Percentage
<b>Emotional</b>	119	53%	41	27%	28	18%
<b>Multiple</b>	0	0%	8	5%	7	5%
<b>Neglect</b>	78	35%	94	62%	108	71%
<b>Physical</b>	13	6%	6	4%	8	5%
<b>Sexual</b>	16	7%	3	2%	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	226		152		152	

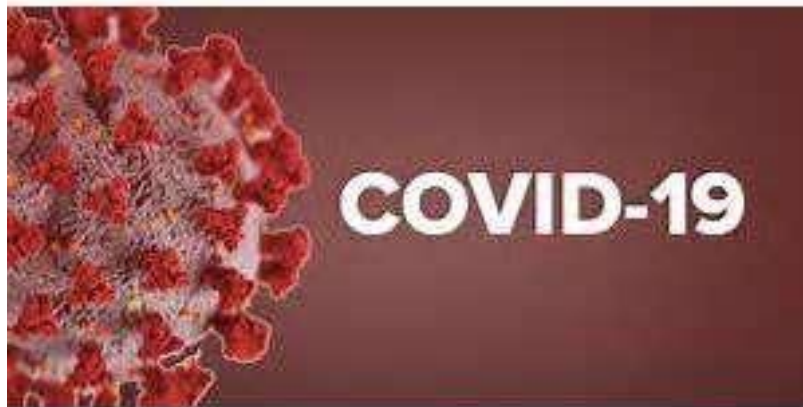


8. Quoracy of Strategy Meetings				
		2022/23	2023/24	2023/24
<b>Number of meetings</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	TBC	-	-
<b>Percentage of meetings</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	100%	-	-

9. Quoracy of Child Protection Conferences (Initial and Reviews)				
		2022/23	2023/24	2023/24
<b>Number of meetings</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	480	-	-
<b>Percentage of meetings</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	83%	-	-
	<b>SN</b>	-	-	-
	<b>England</b>	-	-	-

## 7 Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on TSCP Activity

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On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 ONS figures indicated that 4.9 million people in the UK had Covid-19 in the previous week ending 26<sup>th</sup> March. This was the highest recorded number of cases since records began in April 2020. Despite this, all Covid-19 related restrictions had been removed by the UK government at this time due to the impact of Covid-19 on people's health being generally far less severe than earlier in the pandemic. Therefore, work with children and families across Torbay had mostly returned to pre-Covid-19 practice during this 2022/23 reporting period.

Covid-19 symptom-based staff sickness continued to be reported by agencies across the partnership in 2022/23, however the lack of available testing made accurate diagnosis difficult to ascertain. Due to safeguarding partners in Torbay adopting the use of Microsoft Teams in 2021, the impact of Covid-19 on TSCP activity seems to have been mitigated as remote/home working has enabled meetings and other non-family contact safeguarding activity, that may otherwise have been cancelled, to continue as before. The TSCP has continued to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on practice during learning reviews where it is suspected this may have been evident.

In 2022/23 all partnership meetings, other than MACA's, continued to be held virtually, with no Covid-19 related meeting cancellations being reported. Feedback from most partner agencies continued to support remote partnership working, as opposed to face to face meetings, as it provided for greater efficiency and negated the need for travel so was also considered more 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 and more efficient way of working is likely to continue. The TSCP will continue to respond to future potential Covid-19 outbreaks as necessary as the disease remains ongoing in UK society and the full effects of Long-Covid remain unknown.

In light of new ways of working as a result of the pandemic, the TSCP launched a hybrid Annual Conference model in early 2023, the first such conference was held in January 2023 and was attended by 80 in person attendees and 80 attendees who attended online. The conference remains available as a recording, to enable further viewing.

## 8 Statutory Reviews and Other Audits

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Between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2023 the TSCP received seven Serious Incident referrals, covering ten children, these being coded C94 - C103. This was a slight drop from the nine referrals noted in last year's Annual Report, however that figure included four legacy Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) whose outcomes had not previously been reported on. The TSCP has initiated a formal process for reviewing Serious Incident Notification (SIN) referrals/decision making that includes the involvement of all three safeguarding partners.

Only one of the 2022/23 referrals met the criteria for undertaking a Rapid Review (RR) and subsequent CSPR. Three of the referrals led to After Action Reviews (AAR), which is a form of learning review devised by the TSCP that follows the Rapid Review process in respect of information gathering and analysis but without the 15 day statutory timescale. The other four referrals did not meet the criteria for a learning review.

### **C94**

SIN referral from Devon and Cornwall Police reporting concerns that C94 had suffered extensive injuries following a road traffic collision involving a stolen moped that he was travelling on. SIN threshold was not met as the incident/injuries were not attributable to abuse or neglect. AAR commissioned as learning was believed to be evident.

### **C95**

Request to another Local Authority to convene a Rapid Review on behalf of the TSCP following C95 being charged with murder in that area, where C95 was also resident. Rapid Review request was refused. The TSCP initiated the AAR process to identify potential learning, but consent could not be obtained from C95 (who is now an adult) and the process is under review regarding whether to continue or not.

### **C96-C99**

SIN referral from Devon and Cornwall Police following their reflection on a strategy meeting in which neglect was the theme. Rapid Review criteria was not met, with a recommendation that the ongoing S47 enquiry continues.

### **C100**

SIN referral from Torbay Council that led to a Rapid Review being convened due to C100 being less than one year old and having an unexplained non-accidental skull injury whilst being subject to a Supervision Order. The TSCP recommended to National Panel that all learning had been identified within the Rapid Review process and this recommendation was endorsed by the Panel.

### **C101**

SIN referral from Torbay Council due to concerns that C101 was eight weeks old and had multiple unexplained fractures that had occurred over a period of more than one occasion. A Rapid Review and subsequent Local CSPR were held, and the learning identified was endorsed by National Panel. CSPR report published on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

### **C102**

Information shared by Torbay and South Devon NHS Trust regarding physical harm to a young baby. No SIN referral was submitted due to the criteria not being met.

### **C103**

AAR initiated following a request from the Torbay Youth Justice Service Strategic Board for the TSCP to lead on a learning review in respect of significant delay to disposal resolution during a lengthy police investigation related to C103's alleged sexual offences. Learning was also sought in respect of delayed wellbeing support for C103 and his alleged victims.

## **Impact of Learning**

The impact of learning and subsequent actions from local Rapid Reviews, After Action Reviews and both local and national CSPRs is overseen within the TSCP structure. Review recommendations, actions and agreed learning from reviews are collated onto a central database that is reviewed and updated by the TSCP's CSPR Panel. Relevant learning is shared across the partnership, to individual agencies and sub-groups where appropriate. Where auditing is required to review local practice/procedures and ensure learning has become embedded, this is actioned and reviewed by the TSCP Quality Assurance Group. Updates and learning plans are then presented at the Business and Executive Groups and shared with the wider partnership.

During the current 2022/23 reporting period, the TSCP were due to undertake a Multi-Agency Case Audit (MACA) with the theme of mental health/emotional wellbeing. However, due to the absence of staff key to this MACA process, the timetable was rescheduled and a MACA initiated on the theme of Child Criminal Exploitation. The Child Criminal Exploitation MACA ended outside of the 2022/23 reporting period. The mental health/emotional wellbeing MACA will be undertaken within the 2023/24 schedule.

Following local learning and the outcome of the national learning in respect of Arthur and Star, the Executive Group requested the implementation of an annual TSCP Conference. This was designed to be an opportunity for the partnership to come together and reflect not only on the work of the TSCP throughout the year but also discussion in relation to how the partnership can address the themes of both local and national learning in a collaborative approach. The first TSCP conference was held in January 2023, with 80 delegates attending in person. The conference was also live-streamed, to enable hybrid access, with another 80 delegates watching live. The recording was then subsequently disseminated across the partnership and remains accessible to all.

## 9 Child Death Overview Arrangements

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Child death reviewing arrangements in Torbay form part of the regional South West Peninsula Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP). This service remains 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

The TSCP are represented at CDOP by the ICB, this arrangement was agreed in May 2022. The ICB representative presents CDOP learning at the partnership's bi-monthly CSPR Panel and this is actioned/disseminated to partners or other sub-groups as required. The outcomes of the TSCPs interventions are then fed back to the CDOP by the ICB representative to complete the learning cycle. Assurance of the child death arrangements is a function of the TSCP Executive Group.

## 10 Learning and Development Summary

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The TSCP continues to provide multi-agency training designed to meet the diverse needs of staff working at different levels across the breadth of organisations who work with children and families in Torbay. The training and Best Practice Forums remained led by the TSCP Learning and Development Group during the current reporting period, however this may change to the training leads from each of the statutory partners if proposed amendments to the training system in the TSCP are adopted. As in 2021/22 training focused 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. There is a learning and development resources page on the TSCP website to support practitioner's continuous professional development.

### Key Performance Indicators

In 2022/23, 2118 TSCP training places were made available, with 1138 of those being accessed, an increase of 43% and 5% respectively from 2021/22. The number of courses on offer increased from 2021/22, which may have impacted the change in proportionate places booked (course place take-up) across different courses, decreasing from 89% during the last reporting period to 65% in 2022/23. Attendance rate of places booked has decreased slightly to 82.5% from 89% last year.

### New Courses

Several new courses have been added to the TSCP course offer, all of which are reported to have been well received, although the Project M exploitation courses were initially cancelled due to poor uptake and have been re-listed for 2023/24. The new courses are:

- AIM project in support of the funded Harmful Sexual Behaviour Checklists:
  - A whole school approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment in schools: Understanding and Managing sexual behaviours in Education Settings
  - Foundation Awareness of Harmful Sexual Behaviour Course
  - Technology Assisted Harmful Sexual Behaviours Foundation Course
- Graded Care Profile 2 Training
- Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment for Children (DARAC) and families
- Exploitation courses, delivered by Project M:
  - Recognising and Responding to Child Criminal Exploitation
  - Recognising and Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation
  - Understanding Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism
  - Understanding the Importance of Children and Young People Who Go Missing
- Exploring Child in Need and Child Protection Core Groups, by the Operational Team Managers, Torbay Children's Services
- ICPC and Core Group Training, facilitated by Torbay Independent Safeguarding and Reviewing Officers



Two Best Practice Forum events have been offered (recordings are available for those unable to attend) as well as a range of other events including:

- Strength Based Working
- Working with Childhood Trauma
- Young People, Self-Harm and Suicide - a Public Health Perspective
- Active Bystander Training

In addition to the courses offered the following e-learning is available:

- Honour Based Abuse (including Forced Marriage)
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Cuckooing
- County Lines Awareness
- 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

There is also additional online learning relating to Modern Slavery and Prevent/Channel (counter terrorism).

There is a **learning and development resources page** on the TSCP website to support practitioners' continuous professional development.

Further to courses commissioned directly by the TSCP, as One Children's Service, Torbay Children's Services and Local Area also continues to work to adopt Restorative Practice, a strength-based approach that recognises that building a positive relationship with children, young people and families who need support is important, acknowledging that listening to children, young people and families and working 'with' rather than doing things 'for' or 'to' people is the best way we can help support them. Further details can be found here: **Restorative Practice - Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership**. Torbay Children Services offer free Restorative Practice training to all partner agencies, which includes:

- **Restorative Practice Awareness**
- **Restorative Language Workshop** (new from May 2022)

This year, the TSCP also commissioned a Best Practice Forum on **Working Restoratively**, for which the evaluation is summarised below.

## Attendance Data 2022/23

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%
Child Exploitation in Torbay	12	176	121	83	69%	69%
Managing Allegations	2	29	25	22	88%	86%
Introduction to Family Group Conferences	1	16	9	5	56%	56%
DASH Risk Assessment	1	18	17	9	53%	94%
DSL Induction Event	1	16	11	10	91%	69%
CSPR Learning Events	4	20	10	7	70%	50%
Best Practice Forums	1	60	49	34	69%	82%
AIM Project	6	120	113	87	77%	94%
GCP 2 Training	6	137	79	62	78%	58%
DARAC Training	1	16	12	9	75%	75%
Exploring CIN & CP Core Groups	2	32	28	22	79%	88%
ICPC & Core Group Training	3	48	29	24	83%	60%
Project M Exploitation Courses	0	96	13	0	0	14% Cancelled

## Evaluation Response 2022/23

The level three safeguarding courses continue to be well attended and resulting learner actions completed remain high. The feedback on the pre-course online e-learning also remains high, with 99% stating it has supported the trainer led sessions.

For all courses that have continued from the previous financial year, there has been a decline in the proportionate number of course evaluations completed, as seen by the trend-arrows below. This is disappointing as course attendees who have not completed the initial evaluation will consequently not have had subsequent access to any associated course resources and materials (which is automatically enabled once the initial evaluation is completed). Course evaluation and

the impact of training on practice are essential elements of the learning cycle and this decline will be investigated by the Learning Academy to ensure training is fully utilised.

<b>Course Evaluations Returned</b> *Arrows indicate trend direction of returns compared to previous year		<b>Initial</b>	<b>Impact (12 weeks)</b>
Safeguarding Children Foundation		54% ↓	47% ↓
Safeguarding Children Refresher		52% ↓	36% ↓
Child Exploitation in Torbay		47% ↓	36% ↓
Managing Allegations		27% ↓	23% ↓
Introduction to Family Group Conferences		0% ↓	0% ↓
DASH Risk Assessment Training		44% ↓	44% ↓
DSL Induction		0% ↓	0% ↓
Best Practice Forums	TSCP 2023 Conference: 21 from live event 1 from recording	Working Restoratively (Virtual Webinar): 15 from live event 1 from recording	
AIM Project (new)		75%	56%
Graded Care Profile 2 Training (new)		32%	24%
DARAC Training (new)		78%	33%
Exploring CIN & CP Core Groups (new)		23%	23%
ICPC & Core Group Training (new)		50%	42%

## 11 Allegations Against People that Work with Children

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WT2018 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 (KCSI), revised 01/09/2023, place a responsibility on all Local Authorities in England to identify a designated officer (LADO) who is involved in the management and oversight of individual cases of allegations of abuse made against those who work with children. 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 information within Liquidlogic, which is the Torbay Childrens Services recording system, with the LADO section of Liquidlogic having a tightly controlled access process. All information held by the LADO is reported to be compliant with Data Protection Act (2018) and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Information is retained in accordance with Torbay Council's retention policy.

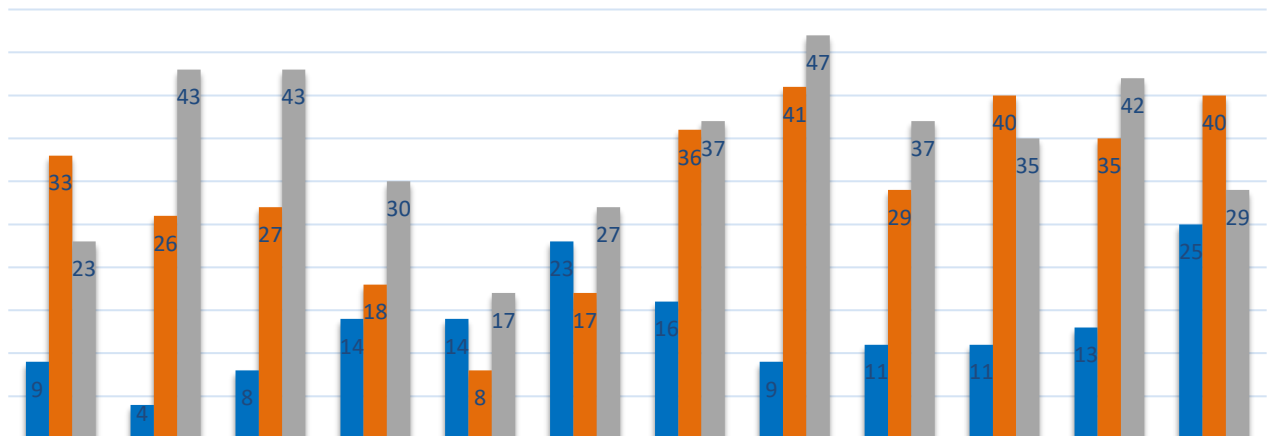
### Number of LADO Consultations and Referrals

In the previous 2021/22 reporting year, the LADO received 350 consultations, an increase of 123% over the previous year. Of these 53 met LADO threshold and progressed to Allegation Management Meetings (AMM), an increase of 96% in comparison to 2020/21. The LADO attributed this increase to an improvement in recording methodology.

During the current 2022/23 reporting year, the LADO received 410 consultations, an increase of 17% over the previous year. 30 of these consultations met LADO threshold and progressed to Allegation Management Meetings. This was reported to be evidence of organisations seeking more advice and guidance in relation to wider organisational safeguarding issues.

The LADO also stated an anecdotal view that many of the consultations received may be attributed to the referrer lacking the confidence to determine if any of the criteria are met and/or wishing to have an audit trail of consultation with the LADO to satisfy expectations by regulatory bodies. The Torbay LADO encourages the use of a chronology of lower-level concerns if an organisation is worried about the behaviour of an adult. To support an agency's decision making, they will often consult with the LADO regarding these types of concerns

## Consultations and referrals month by month 2020/21 to 2022/23



	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
2020/21	9	4	8	14	14	23	16	9	11	11	13	25
2021/22	33	26	27	18	8	17	36	41	29	40	35	40
2022/23	23	43	43	30	17	27	37	47	37	35	42	29

A continuing high volume of consultations in 2022/23 related to allegations made against education staff. This was also reported in 2021/22. The 2022/23 education consultation numbers comprised of:

- Early Years 21
- Schools/Academies 153
- Total 174

Consultation numbers from schools/academies show a slight increase from 142 in 2021/22, whereas consultations from early years providers shows a slight decrease in numbers from 29 in 2021/22 to 21 in the current reporting year.

LADO consultations in respect of cared for children in 2022/23 were comprised of:

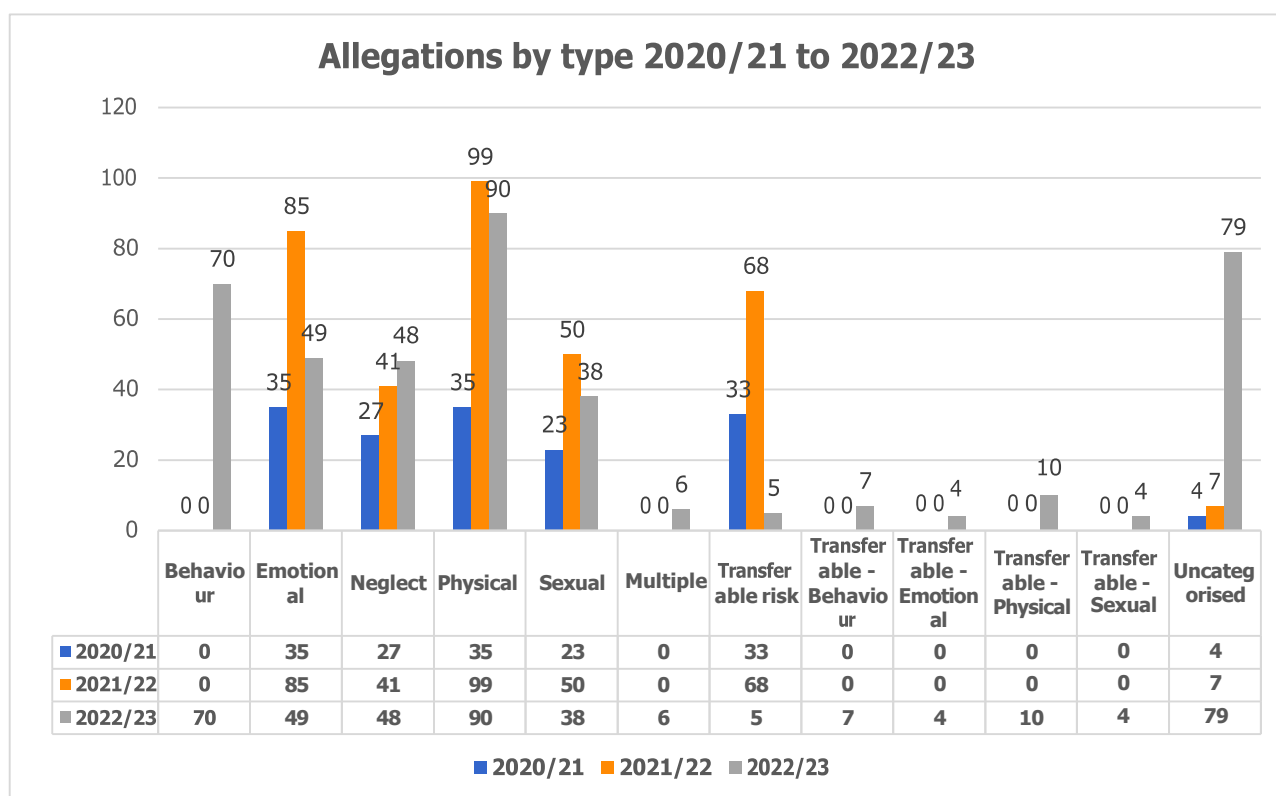
- In-House Foster Carers 18
- Independent Fostering Agencies 36
- Independent Residential Settings 55
- Total 109

The data shows an increase in LADO consultations for cared for children from 85 in 2021/22 to 109 in 2022/23, an increase of 28%. The numbers of in-house foster carer consultations dropped from 32 in 2021/22 to 18 in 2022/23, a decrease of 44%. The LADO reported that Torbay is seeing

an overall increase in allegations regarding care providers whose agencies provide care in the community. There is a high demand for these services and as part of the allegations system the Torbay LADO has collaborated with providers to look at safer recruitment process, induction, and training for staff. It is also reported that Torbay LADO and Torbay Council fostering services have conducted joint work with all foster carers, new and existing, as well as linking in with private residential homes and unregulated homes for children.

Most consultations were in relation to allegations of physical abuse followed by neglect. The LADO found that several allegations had been made after a child had left their placement or when there were times of instability, for example when there were ongoing court proceedings. Further work is needed to understand the reason why these particular figures are so high, with the LADO acknowledging this in their 2022/23 report.

### LADO Referrals and Consultations by Type



#### Behavioural Harm

This was not a category reported on in previous years but at 70 allegations is significantly higher than a number of other established categories.

#### Emotional Harm

The LADO reports a considerable decrease of incidences involving emotional harm from 85 in 2021/22 to 49 in 2022/23. A reduction of 42%.

#### Neglect

As on 2021/22, the trend of increase in neglect reporting continues. Data shows 48 recorded allegations in 2022/23 compared to 41 in 2021/22. An increase of 17%.

## Physical Harm

Although previous years recorded an increasingly higher number of consultations under the category of physical harm, with this increasing by 183% to 99 in 2021/22, the 2022/23 figures show a slight drop to 90, a decrease of 9%. Since LADO statistics began to be collated, physical abuse has remained the highest reported category. The LADO hypothesis remains 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 a decrease in the number of consultations from 50 in 2021/22 to 38 in 2022/23, a reduction of 24%.

## Transferable Risk

The LADO previously reported that the category 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. This criterion takes 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 related to transferable risk, an increase of 106% over the 33 reported the previous year, however this fell to 5 consultations in 2022/23, a decrease of 93%. This significant decrease may be aligned to the increase in uncategorised allegations from 7 in 2021/22 to 79 in 2022/23 but this would require further clarification from the LADO.

## Outcomes of Allegations

### Allegations Management Meetings (AMM)

An Allegations Management 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 three years.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Unfounded	4	12	4
Malicious	0	0	0
False	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	10	21	11
Substantiated	13	15	15
Pending outcome	5	15	7
Reconvened	20	24	14

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 third year the LADO has reported on the number of cases requiring

reconvened meetings, with 14 of the allegations needing more than one meeting in 2022/23. These were due to ongoing police investigations where all parties needed to be interviewed, or forensic examination of devices being required. The reconvening of meetings is reported 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.

Of note this year is the change in outcomes for substantiated and unsubstantiated cases. Substantiated outcomes are recorded at 15 for 2022/23, this mirrors 2021/22, and is similar to 2020/21 where this is recorded as 13. Unsubstantiated outcomes have decreased to 11 this year from 21 in 2021/22. The LADO reports that this is continued evidence that the threshold decision to proceed to a formal meeting is proportionate and robust.

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 taken and does not necessarily mean there are no concerns present.

### **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 investigation 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 2022/23 the LADO wrote to 67 children to inform them of the outcome of allegations management processes.

### **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 this reporting year can be found within the [2022/23 LADO Annual Report](#).



## 12 Glossary

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AMM	Allegation Management Meeting
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel
CNO	Chief Nursing Officer
CSPR	Child Safeguarding Practice Review
CYPEG	Children and Young People Exploitation Group
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
LA	Local Authority
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MACA	Multi-Agency Case Audit
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
SIN	Serious Incident Notification
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
WT2023	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023