

Foreword: Penny Smith, Interim Chief Nurse

My name is Penelope (Penny) Smith, I am the interim Chief Nursing Officer for One Devon – NHS, and new Chair of the Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Group.

Taking the role of Chief Nursing Officer for Devon feels like coming home. I was born and raised in Dawlish and completed my initial registered nurse training in Exeter. Many members of my extended family live in Devon.

Prior to returning to Devon, I worked as Director of Nursing and Leadership for NHS England, South West Region. I worked with the 7 Integrated Care Boards in the area. Part of that role included Director lead for Safeguarding. However, safeguarding has been fundamental to my nursing practise since becoming a student. Along the way my career has been varied including working as an occupational health advisor for Cadburys and undertaking a mountain rescue role when working for National Power!

I am proud to take the Chair for the Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership, especially as it coincided with publication of the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 arrangements. Which once again, outlines what organisations and agencies must and should do to help, protect and promote the welfare of children and young people and the role of Safeguarding Children Partnerships. Values and behaviours when working together are key, it's not what we do it's how we behave that will make a difference. I have already forged positive collaborations and look forward to this continuing.

I look forward to meeting you all at the TSCP Conference on 15th March 2024.

Penny Smith

Who to contact if you think a child is at risk of abuse:

In an emergency always 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**

All safeguarding concerns raised will be assessed by highly experienced staff who will explore your concerns with you and where appropriate make decisions about what should happen next.

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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, any suggestions or comments on what you would like to see are welcomed tscp@torbay.gov.uk

TSCP Harmful Sexual Behaviour Guidance
(click here)

Torbay's Professional Differences Policy
(click here)

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

TSCP Training schedule

Children's Services training flyer for any training specifically for Children's Services staff, available on the SharePoint page: [Children's Services Training Opportunities](#)

[TSCP training flyer for all TSCP commissioned training including the Level 3](#)

[Safeguarding courses and the Child Exploitation courses](#): includes **Early Help Assessment and lead Practitioner e-learning**; TSCP Safeguarding Children Foundation; **TSCP Safeguarding Children refresher**; Recognising and Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation; **Recognising and Responding to Child Criminal Exploitation**; Understanding Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism; **Understanding the importance of children and young people who go missing**; Introduction to Family Group Conferences in Torbay; **Graded Care Profile 2 training**; Supporting survivors of modern slavery as a Local Authority; **First Responder – Modern Slavery**; Identifying and responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse.

E-learning course page links include **Level 2 introduction to Child Protection**; Self-harm awareness; **LGBTQI awareness**; Drug and alcohol awareness; **An introduction to trans-awareness**; Introduction to domestic abuse and sexual violence; **Online safety**.

[Children and Young Peoples Workforce flyer for any multi-agency training not from the TSCP](#)

Includes Early Help assessment and lead practitioner e-learning; **Safer recruitment for schools and early years providers**; Safer recruitment for non-school staff; **Restorative Practice awareness**; Restorative Language workshop; **Makaton parts 1 and 2**; Reducing parental conflict; **Introduction to the EOS learning disability and domestic abuse and sexual violence learning and development programme**; Domestic abuse champions training; **Understanding more about mental health**

[SEND Flyer for Torbay Graduated Response and SEND training for practitioners](#) includes Torbay resource guide SEND support and provision graduated response – Family Hub; **Emotional literacy support assistant training programme**; SEND forum (school SENDCo's only); **Inclusive family financial education events**; Early years autism network; **Early years SENDCo forum**; Putting the pieces together: complex trauma, language and communication development; **Makaton Parts 1 and 2**; Understanding more about mental health; **E-learning course page links including**: Webinar: graduated response 'Train the Trainer' presentation for SENDCo's; **Augmentative and alternative communication**; Mind your words: exploring the links between CYP mental health and communication; **Speech and language therapy**; Autism awareness; **Learning disability awareness**; Epilepsy awareness; **Downs Syndrome awareness**; Trauma Informed practice level 1

Please do remember to check back regularly to see what's new and keep an eye on the weekly Children's Services Newsletter where we will highlight any new sessions.

Finally, the updated **WRAP e-learning module** has now been added to the course page, if you have been waiting for this you can access it here: [Course: Enhanced Workshop Raising Awareness of PREVENT \(WRAP\) \(learningpool.com\)](#)

If you have any navigation issues, or would like further information on training, please get in touch: tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: summary of changes

The Department for Education published a new edition of its statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children in December 2023 (WT2023). The 2023 edition replaces Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, which underwent a limited factual update in 2020.

The guidance outlines what organisations and agencies must and should do to help, protect, and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England.

[It is important that you familiarise yourself with the changes by accessing the new guidance HERE](#)

The revisions to the guidance focus on strengthening multi-agency working across the whole system of help, support and protection for children and their families, keeping a child-centred approach while bringing a whole-family focus, and embedding strong, effective, and consistent multi-agency child protection practice.

The main changes in WT2023, include updates around:

- multi-agency expectations for all practitioners
- working with parents and families
- clarifying the roles and responsibilities of safeguarding partners
- the role of education and childcare providers
- multi-agency practice standards
- support for disabled children
- tackling harm that occurs outside the home

TSCP Conference 2024

15th March 2024 9:30am – 3:30pm

The Forum, Riviera International Conference Centre, Torquay

The theme for the 2024 conference is 'Working Together 2023'.

Agenda to be confirmed.

Cost: Free and lunch is provided

Book your place through iLearn here:

[TSCPConf2024 \(learningpool.com\)](https://learningpool.com/TSCPConf2024)

ADPH London | Damp and mould assessment toolkit

ADPH London and their regional partners have developed a **toolkit** for frontline professionals to use when visiting residents, following the Government's recent **guidance** on damp and mould. It contains advice, actions, and resources including letter templates to landlords.

Dog Safety for Children and Young People

Which Dog Breeds are Outlawed?

Any breed of dog can pose a risk of causing an injury to a person, however there are four breeds currently outlawed in the UK, these include: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro and XL Bully (from 01-02-24).

Remember that any dog with even the mildest temperament can bite in any given situation and children are often bitten by dogs they know within their own home or those of family members and friends.

When do I need to take action?

Where there is a report of a child having been injured by a dog or it is the professional judgement of the practitioner that a dog presents a risk to a child or be inappropriate (i.e. size, breed, temperament) for the family, a referral to your local MASH should be considered. The Police should be immediately informed if a dog is prohibited and/or dangerous, if a dog bite or attack is significant, or there is a belief that the dog is an ongoing risk.

Further information and resources

[Safe and Sound Award Scheme](#) | [Dog training](#) | [The Kennel Club](#)
[Understanding dog body language & staying safe](#) | [Blue Cross](#)
[Dogs and Children](#) | [Top tips to keep them safe and happy together \(capt.org.uk\)](#)
[Dog safety Archives](#) | [Child Accident Prevention Trust \(capt.org.uk\)](#)
[Dogs and children: living safely together](#) | [Dogs Trust](#)

Introduction

The benefits of owning pets are well established. Living in a pet owning household can have physical and emotional benefits for children as well as teaching them about responsibility and caring for living creatures. However, in recent years several children of different ages have been seriously injured or have died from attacks by dogs, and it is important therefore that professionals working with children and families feel confident to promote dog safety and are aware of the issues around dangerous dogs and the risks they can pose to children and young people.

All children are potentially vulnerable from an attack by a dog, but very young children are likely to be at greatest risk. A young child will be unaware of the potential dangers they could face and will be less able to protect themselves. Small children are of a size that leaves especially vulnerable parts of their body exposed. 70% of dog bites in children occur on the head.

What else should I consider?

Observation of the care and treatment of family pets can provide useful information about family functioning, neglect and/or violence and abuse within the household. There are well documented links between the abuse of animals and children and vulnerable adults.

Dog Safety Essentials

The RSPCA and the Dogs Trust both recommend two essentials for keeping a child safe:

- close supervision when dogs and children are together.
- understanding a dog's body language.

Close Supervision/Advice

Close supervision can feel like a big ask but it can be broken down into three key things:

- **Stay close** – watch, listen and stay close so that you can respond before anything bad happens.
- **Step – in** – intervene if your dog or your child is behaving unsafely or if either one looks uncomfortable.
- **Separate** – keep children and dogs separate when you know you're likely to be distracted, like during the morning rush, making the dinner, or answering the front door. You can use a safety gate, put your dog in another room, or take your child or dog with you.

Dog's Body Language

A dog's body language tells you how they're feeling. Being able to spot the signs early and separate a dog and a child helps to stop a situation from becoming risky.

The RSPCA outlines distinct behaviours that dogs show when they are worried and when they are angry or very unhappy. Examples include:

- A worried dog may have their head low and ears back with tail tucked.
- An angry dog may have a tense body, weight forward with their ears and tail up, looking directly at you.

Why do Dogs Bite?

The RSPCA reports that most bites occur in the home, where typical high risk human behaviours include approaching a dog when it's eating, sleeping, or in pain. Dogs may also bite due to protecting themselves or their property, they may feel trapped or concerned, they may have been woken up/surprised/startled by your actions or sudden movements or they may be very excited. Biting is only one way a dog can injure a person. Children can also be injured by dogs knocking them or pulling them over.

Look when you cook



Half of all accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen - often because of distractions like phone calls or family.

Whatever happens elsewhere in the house, always make sure you have one eye on the hob or oven.

Make sure that children know the hazards of a hot hob and make sure your smoke alarms are working so that you have that early warning to get out if the worst happens.

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service offer the following advice:

- take care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking
- take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk
- if a pan catches fire, don't take any risks – **get out, stay out, and call 999**
- double check the hob is off when you've finished cooking
- keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob
- avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking
- keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe
- hot oil can catch fire easily - be careful that it doesn't overheat
- get a smoke alarm and test it monthly.

For further fire safety advice
go to www.dsfire.gov.uk



Walk and Talk

Keeping our communities safe: Tackling violence against women and girls

Women aged 18 or over, living or working in any of the towns listed below, can Walk and Talk with a female officer to share their thoughts on women's safety, and help to bring about positive change.

Truro, Falmouth, Plymouth, Barnstaple, Exeter, Exmouth, Torquay, Paignton and Newton Abbot

Somewhere where you don't feel safe? Take us there and we'll walk and talk about it.

How it works

If you have concerns about a place where you live or work, please drop us a line. A female police officer will meet you at the location you have concerns about, then walk with you to hear more about it. The officer will listen to you and take note of your concerns so that, together with community partners, we can start tackling some of the issues.

How to apply

If you are a woman aged 18 or over, you can apply by emailing your name, address, contact number and the area you'd like the walk to take place, to: Walkandtalk@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk or scan the QR code with your phone camera.



A female officer in your local area will make contact to arrange the walk. Walks will take about 30 minutes.

Do not report crimes using this email address - please go to www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

