

TSCP Business Plan 2021-2024

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

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Chair's foreword

The Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP) was formed in September 2020, with the Business Plan for 2021-2024 setting out our key safeguarding priorities to protect and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in Torbay.

The TSCP Executive Group will share equal responsibility for ensuring effective oversight and implementation of the Business Plan. The partnership has reflected on the challenges and achievements of the TSCP's first year, following the dissolution of our previous joint safeguarding partnership arrangements with Plymouth Council, against a backdrop of being in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and the significant impact this has had on children's physical and emotional wellbeing. We have consulted with partners who have assisted in identifying the key themes that have helped define our safeguarding priorities for the next three years to further strengthen our work to safeguard and protect children and young people across Torbay.

The work of the TSCP will be underpinned by the views and experiences of Torbay's children and young people and we acknowledge that the successful implementation of the Business Plan will be judged on the difference it makes to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the Torbay area.

Darryn Allcorn
TSCP Executive Group Chair

1 Introduction

The TSCP was formed in September 2020 following the ending of joint safeguarding children arrangements that were being undertaken in partnership with Plymouth City Council under the previously agreed Ofsted Improvement Plan. This Business Plan, for the period 2021-2024, sets out the TSCP strategic vision, ambition, purpose, principles, and safeguarding priorities for the next three years. The TSCP will continually reflect on progress and take account of new or emerging themes and if necessary, refocus partnership activity to ensure the priorities set out in the Business Plan are both relevant and delivered. This document should be read in conjunction with the partnership governance arrangements that are available on the TSCP website.

Our Ambition

To ensure that Torbay is an area in which children feel safe, listened to, are able to freely access the best possible learning opportunities and feel enabled to actively contribute to their society.

Our Purpose

The TSCP is comprised of the statutory Safeguarding Partners; Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Authority, who work in close collaboration with other identified agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Torbay. The partnership provides leadership in all areas of safeguarding, promotes good practice, challenges poor practice, and holds organisations to account. The partnership is focussed on creating a learning

culture and uses its links to local, regional, and national safeguarding partners to drive improvement across all local agencies to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

2 Our Principles

The work of the TSCP will be based on a set of key principles. These are;

- Ensuring that all professionals and agencies in Torbay keep children and families at the heart of everything they do.
- Promoting local multi-agency working arrangements in line with Working Together 2018 and supporting best practice by modelling behaviours of critical self-reflection, respect and trust.
- Ensuring all local safeguarding agencies have access to a training programme of learning and development which supports a high standard of leadership and evidence-based practice learning.
- Communicating effectively with the wider regional and national system of safeguarding organisations, policy makers and individuals to ensure learning from these relationships is accessible to local agencies and benefits children and families.
- Driving progress through sub-groups and work streams which are accountable to the partnership's Executive Group.

3 Our Priorities

The partnership will focus on four specific safeguarding priority areas for the period 2021-2024, in addition to ensuring that all other functions regarding the safeguarding and welfare of children in Torbay are undertaken effectively. Therefore, this Business Plan is focussed on the key workstreams and planned partnership activities that the Executive Group will oversee during the next three-year period. These priorities support the statutory functions of the TSCP and the whole partnership response to protecting vulnerable children and young people, preventing harm, and promoting their welfare.

The four key priority areas for the TSCP in the period 2021-2024 are:

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

The responsibility for leading the partnership's work in priority 1 will fall to the TSCP Neglect Group. The Neglect Group will retain an appropriate membership designed to fit with its purpose and terms of reference that ensure the work it undertakes is given a high level of priority by all partner agencies. The group's work will be regularly self-audited to ensure it remains focussed and meets the need of Torbay children and families.

The TSCP Children and Young People Exploitation Group will be the partnership's lead for priority 2. In line with the Neglect Group, the Exploitation Group will also have a membership designed to match its purpose and terms of reference that ensure the work it undertakes is given a high level of priority by all partner agencies. The group will regularly audit its targets and work to make certain it remains focussed on ensuring the safety of Torbay children. The Exploitation group has formulated a 100 day plan to focus on immediate risk and will follow this with a longer term strategy.

Torbay's domestic abuse prevention and support services fall under the remit of the Torbay Community Safety Partnership (TCSP). The TSCP and TCSP will work in a cross-partnership manner to share information and planning designed to protect children from the effects of domestic abuse in line with priority 3.

Priority 4 is likely to involve a significant review of local mental health services to ensure they are able to meet the needs of children who require this type and level of support at their time of need. The TSCP will work with partner agencies to ensure that services match need and will be undertaking a multi-agency audit in this area in the early Spring of 2022 to inform future care planning.

In addition to the key priority areas the partnership will ensure that the multi-agency groups set up to focus on these areas are fit for purpose, regularly feedback operational activity via planned reporting mechanisms, attain the results intended and remain answerable to the TSCP Executive Group regarding the work they undertake. The TSCP

Executive Group will oversee the effective implementation of the Business Plan and will publish Annual Reports evaluating local progress on safeguarding children each year.

The TSCP will use learning from its quality assurance and audit cycles, statutory inspections, and emerging good practice from national and local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews to inform the development of high-quality multi-agency practice in Torbay. The TSCP will host three best practice forums per year on themes identified as requiring practice improvement. The TSCP will continue to build and retain links with CDOP and the South-West consortium to ensure best practice from other areas is evaluated and used to improve services in the Torbay area. The partnership will also be vigilant in identifying and responding to cross-cutting themes as these are likely to be an indication of system problems and/or failures and will require a priority response.

The partnership is fully committed to ensuring local agencies follow trauma informed practices and use a contextual approach regarding safeguarding. Further to this, the TSCP supports the notion that an effective local Early Help strategy is essential for families to achieve their best outcomes and avoid being unnecessarily drawn towards safeguarding services. Therefore, the TSCP will retain an active interest in the restructuring of Torbay's Early Help offer and will work alongside the Early Help service in the form of a critical friend to ensure local priorities are attained and service meets need.