



# TSCP Annual Report

2020-21

*Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility*

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## Introduction

Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP) has been fully established under Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 arrangements and has stepped away from the previous Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) arrangements to create a more agile and responsive system.

Working Together 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 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 Torbay, Darryn Allcorn, Nancy Meehan and Nikki Leaper make up the leadership and core partners and rotate chairing of the TSCP Executive Group.

		
<b>Darryn Allcorn</b> Chief Nursing Officer Devon Clinical Commissioning Group	<b>Nancy Meehan</b> Director of Children's Services Torbay Council	<b>Nikki Leaper</b> Policing Commander for South Devon Devon and Cornwall Police
<p>Currently Chief Nursing Officer for the Integrated Care System in Devon and the Devon Clinical Commissioning Group. Darryn is also the current Chair of the Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership and Senior Responsible Officer for the Covid Vaccination Programme. Darryn has over 25 years' experience across many healthcare settings and at an Executive level for the last 7 years.</p>	<p>Nancy is an experienced Children's Services senior manager and consultant who started her Social Care career in 1989. Nancy has more than 20 years post qualifying social work experience and has successfully led, stabilised, re-designed and launched new services across multiple children's services departments. She has a deep and extensive knowledge of children's social work, of what works and how to sustain positive changes and improve outcomes for children. Nancy is currently the Director of Children's Services in Torbay (appointed June 2021) having originally served as the Deputy Director since September 2019. Nancy is committed to working in partnership, both with statutory organisations but also the voluntary and community sector and delivering safe services to the children, and young people in Torbay.</p>	<p>Nikki Leaper is the Policing Commander for South Devon. South Devon includes Torbay, South Hams and Teignbridge. She is responsible for the overall policing of this area including responding to incidents, investigation, and neighbourhood policing. Working in consultation with partners and the local community, Nikki sets local priorities which meet local needs and support organisational goals. Nikki works with partners to address key threats to the community and individuals and contributes to the prevention of crime and disorder. Her aim is to provide quality local policing and public service by building strong community relationships across the area to keep people safe and prevent crime and incidents. Nikki joined Devon and Cornwall Police in 2003. Her career since then has consisted of roles in uniform, intelligence, and operations.</p>

# 1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

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

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

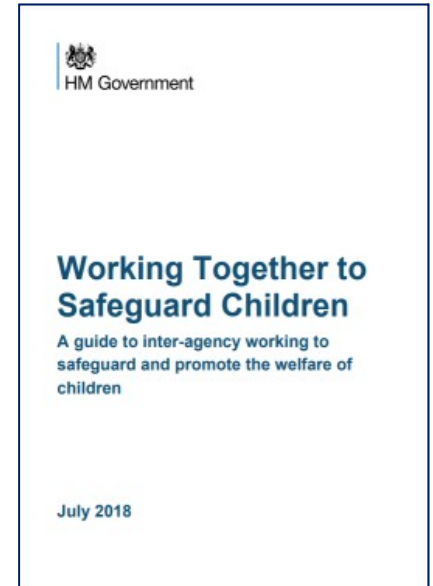
The guidance aimed to help those involved understand the requirements and to plan and manage their work in the transitional period. In March 2020 the transition period ended, and new safeguarding arrangements were fully implemented. For Torbay this meant stepping away from a traditional Board and implementing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

Working together to Safeguard Children 2018 laid the foundations for the TSCP. The major shift has been that the responsibility of safeguarding children in Torbay is shared between the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and Police.

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

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

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

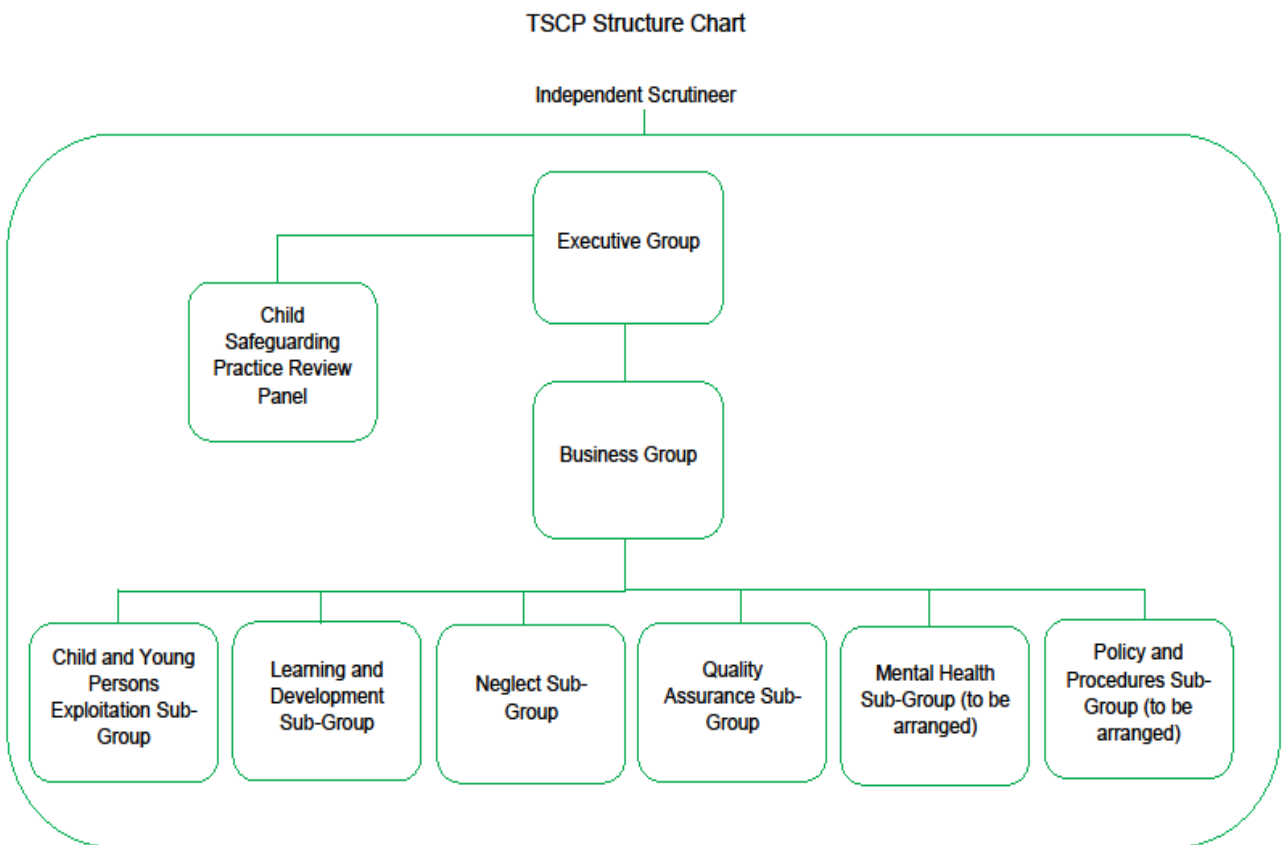


Click the following link to access the full guidance - **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))**

## 2 Governance and Membership

Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership has an Executive Group which oversees the Partnership and works to promote and support multi-agency working across all areas of local safeguarding. The local Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Authority are now equally responsible for the Partnership and its outcomes, this is one of the major changes compared to the previous LSCB arrangements.

In the previous set up the partnership held quarterly board meetings with most partners in attendance, the new system incorporates a small Executive Group where items are escalated and authorised. A Business Group, Executive Sub-Groups and Task and Finish Groups have been established to focus on the business and priorities of the partnership. Each group is chaired by a partner and is attended by a broad range of agencies.



The partnership has been made stronger this year through key agencies taking the lead in many areas including shaping and leading the work in our priority areas. During the period of Covid-19, the partnership has had to work smarter to ensure that collaboration is continuous. This has meant utilising technology and becoming creative with ways to engage. Key events were held over video conferencing throughout the year.

Partners have faced a number of challenges, and the TSCP has created the space for agencies to be open and honest about challenges and work together to mitigate them.

### 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*



Following retirement from Devon & Cornwall Police in January 2020 I was pleased to be appointed as the Torbay Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Independent Scrutineer in January 2021. Torbay has fond memories for me as I both started & finished my policing career in South Devon.

Although Torbay has immense challenges in safeguarding children, there are also opportunities through partnership working. No one agency can be held responsible for improving the lives of children in Torbay, and I am pleased that within the TSCP, there are various senior leaders who have volunteered to lead our operational groups. Throughout 2021, despite the context of the coronavirus pandemic and all the challenges that has posed, the partnership has moved forward. We have proactive and enthusiastic operational groups who have developed plans to improve safeguarding practice for children.

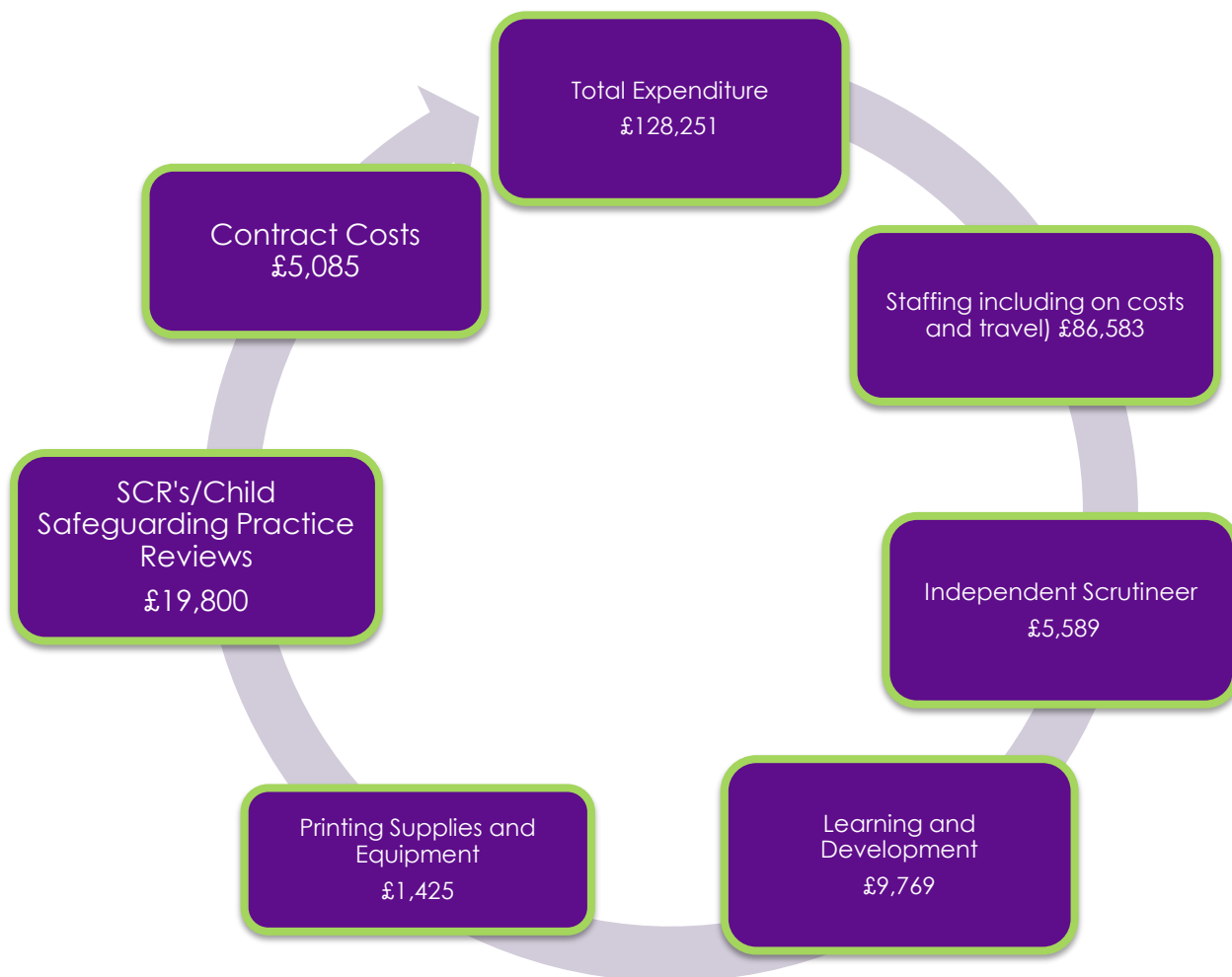
We are also seeing improved connections between other groups, and I am confident that over the next 12 months, there will be further dovetailing and coordination of work. I am pleased that we have restarted the multi-agency case auditing process, and how recent case audits formed the basis of a Best Practice Forum. We now need to build on this and develop an evidence base process to ensure that our learning does improve the service we provide to children in Torbay.

### 4 Financial Arrangements

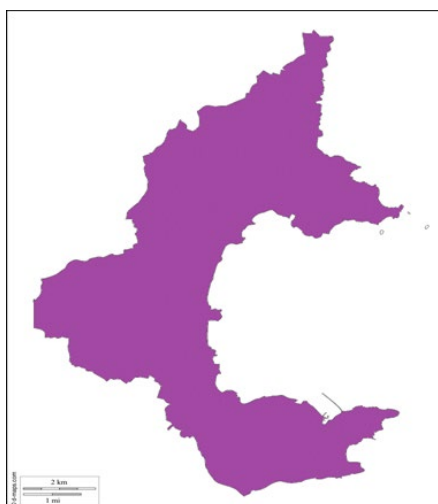
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*‘Working in partnership means organisations and agencies should collaborate on how they will fund their arrangements. The three safeguarding partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area should make payments towards expenditure incurred 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.*

Funding is agreed at the beginning of the year between the partners and is used to fulfil the function of the partnership. It is noted that many organisations face financial challenges each year. The partners will often give their time and resources in kind to support the functioning of the partnership. Which includes, chairing and participating in sub/task and finish groups, conducting reviews, audits, leading and attending working shops and analysing and submitting data.



## 5 Local Background and Context



The population of Torbay is 136,000. There are 25,500 children and young people aged under 18 in Torbay (19% of the population), and a total of 33,600 children and young people aged under 25 (24% of the population).

The latest data show that 93% of people living in Torbay in 2016 were White British, 4% were White Other, 2% were Asian British and 1% were of mixed ethnicity. In Torbay schools in 2020/21, 90% of children were White British, 5% were White Other, 2% were Asian British, 0.2% were Black British and 3% were of mixed ethnicity. 5% of children in Torbay schools in

2020/21 spoke a first language other than English. Of children in need in Torbay in 2020/21, 93% were White British or White Other, 6% were of mixed ethnicity, 0.7% were Asian British and 0.2% were Black British.

Some children's health outcomes in Torbay are good relative to elsewhere in the UK: A&E attendances of under 5s, breastfeeding, children's development at two years. Other outcomes are in line with the England average: women smoking whilst pregnant, children's dental decay, children's obesity, children admitted to hospital for mental ill-health. Some outcomes are less good than the England average: more children are admitted to hospital for self-harm in Torbay and the rate of teenage conceptions is higher than average.

In 2015, Torbay was the 39th most deprived local authority in the country. In 2019, the year for which most recent data are available, Torbay's deprivation score had increased (worsened) by 9 percentage points and the area was the 30th most deprived local authority. The percentage of children living in poverty in 2019/20 was 30.0%, an increase of 1.2 percentage points from 2014/15. 29% of children attending Torbay primary schools in January 2021 were eligible for and claimed free school meals, 18% of children attending Torbay secondary schools and 24% of children attending Torbay special schools. For primary schools, this is considerably higher than the England average of 22%, but for secondary and special schools it is generally in line with the England averages.

As of January 2021, 83% of children attending Torbay schools had no identified Special Educational Needs. 12% of children were identified as needing SEN Support, and 6% of children had Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The figure for SEN Support is the same as the England average. The figure for EHCPs is higher than the England average of 4%. 365 children in need were recorded as having one or more disabilities in the 2020/21 year, 12% of all children in need during the year. This is in line with the England figure of 13% for all children in need at 30/03/2020.

The crime rate for Torbay in 2020/21 was 77 per 1000 population. This compares to 51 per 1000 population for the Devon and Cornwall police force area. The Torbay figure fell by 7% from the previous year, compared to a fall of 10% for the whole Devon and Cornwall police force area. The most recent figures on reported incidents of domestic abuse in Torbay are from 2019/20, when 3645 incidents were reported. In 22% of incidents children were recorded as present during the abuse. Domestic abuse rates are above the England average and are the highest in the South-West.

As of March 2021, 93% of young people in Torbay aged 16-17 were in employment, education, and training, this is in line with the England average.



## Children and Young People in Need or the Subject of Child Protection Enquiries and Planning

The number of referrals to the Local Authority of Children in Need in Torbay increased in 2020/21 to 2238 from 1869 in 2019/20, an increase of 20%. The rate of referrals per 10,000 children in Torbay was considerably higher than the statistical neighbour (SN) and England averages. (Note: all comparisons to SN and England data are to the previous year, 2019/20, as more recent data is not yet published.) The proportion of referrals from schools fell in 2020/21 and was lower than the SN and England averages. The proportion of referrals from Health rose and was in line with the SN and England averages. The proportion of referrals from the Police was in line with the 2019/20 figure and was also in line with the SN and England averages.

The number of assessments of Children in Need in Torbay increased in 2020/21 to 2197 from 1700 in 2019/20, an increase of 29%. The rate of assessments was higher than the SN and England averages. 76% of assessments were completed on time (45 working days) in Torbay, compared to 82% for SN and 84% nationally. The most frequently identified factors at assessment were mental health of parent and carer (36% of completed assessments), the parent or carer being the subject of domestic violence (35%), emotional abuse of child (22%), Other (20%), Neglect (20%), alcohol misuse by parent or carer (17%) and mental health of child (17%).

Torbay has a high proportion of Children in Need when compared with England and statistical neighbours. The number and rate of children in need at the end of 2020/21 rose by 11% from the previous year.

In March 2021, 70% of visits to children in need had taken place within timescales (20 working days).

The number of section 47 child protection enquiries started in 2020/21 in Torbay rose by 21% from the previous year. The rate was above the SN and England average. The rate of children who were the subject of child protection plans also rose by 18% and was above the SN and England average. There were 226 children subject to child protection plans at the end of the year. The rate of new child protection plans was also above the SN and England averages but did not show a significant increase from the previous year.

Emotional abuse was the most common form of abuse for children in receipt of a child protection plan in Torbay at the end of 2020/21 at 53%. The second most common category was Neglect at 35%.

In March 2021, 77% of visits to children on child protection plans had taken place within timescales (10 working days).

In 2020/21, 154 children went missing; the number of episodes of children going missing was 514. 166 children returned home from being missing. 198 return-home interviews took place within 72 hours of children returning.

## Cared-for Children and Young People

In March 2021 there were 320 children cared for by Torbay Council, a rate of 126 per 10,000 children. This is significantly above the SN and England rates. The number decreased by 10% from the previous year.

Most cared-for children in Torbay as of March 2021 were in foster care (78%). 6% were in residential care, 6% were living independently, 4% were living with their parents and 3% were placed for adoption. These proportions are generally in line with the England averages, though the national proportions of children in residential care (8%) and living with their parents (7%) are higher.

In March 2021, 52% of visits to cared-for children had taken place within timescales (timescales can vary depending on the child's situation).

In 2020/21, 38 cared-for children went missing; the number of episodes of cared-for children going missing was 244.

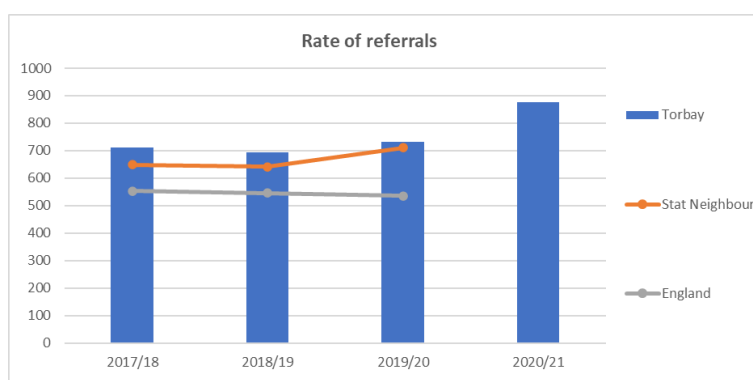
## Care-Experienced Young People

In 2020/21, 63% of care-experienced young people aged 19-21 were in contact with Torbay Children's Services and were in suitable accommodation. This was a fall from 90% in the previous year and is considerably below the SN and England averages.

In 2020/21, 44% of care-experienced young people aged 19-21 were in contact with Torbay Children's Services and were in employment, education, or training. This was a fall from 55% in the previous year and is considerably below the SN and England averages.

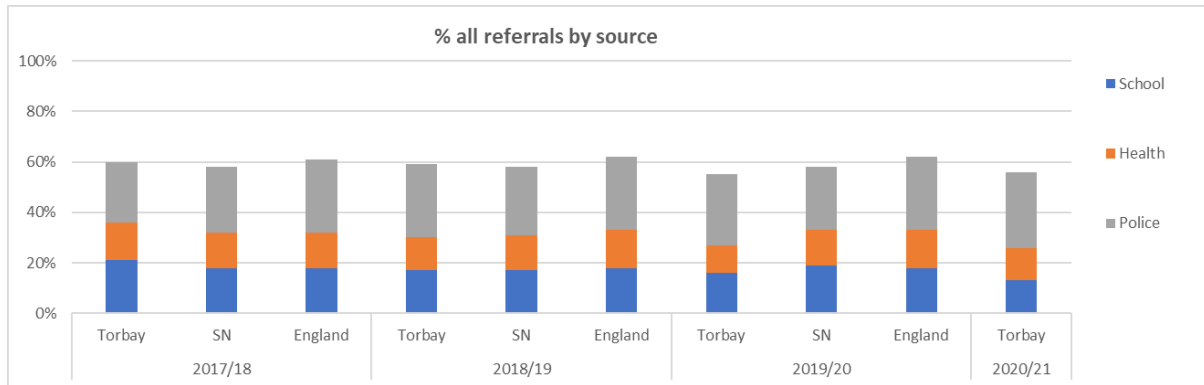
### Number and Rate of Referrals

		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Number of referrals</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	1805	1766	1869	2238
<b>Rate of referrals</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	710	695	731	876
	<b>Stat Neighbours</b>	648	642	710	–
	<b>England</b>	553	545	535	–



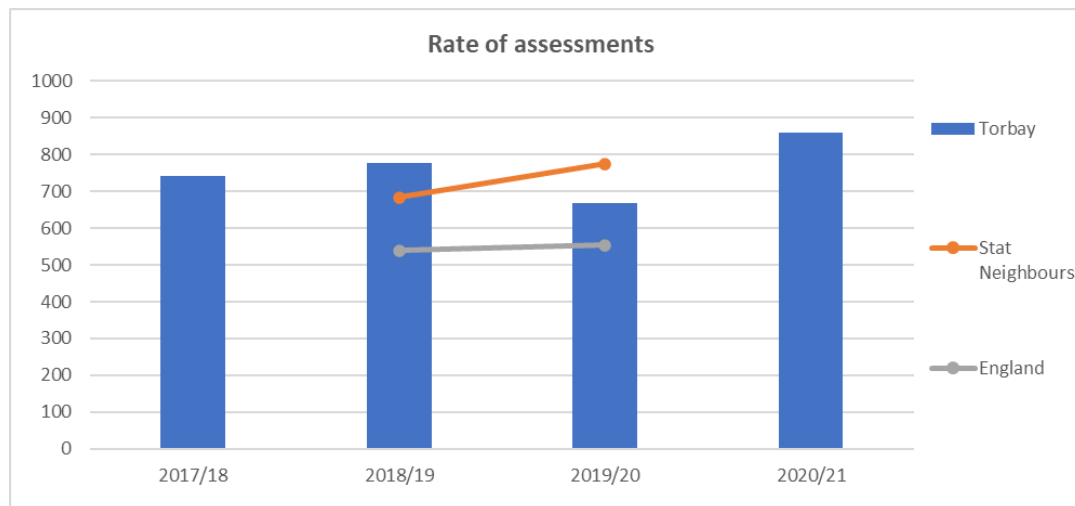
## Referrals by Source

	2017/18			2018/19			2019/20			2020/21
	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay	SN	England	Torbay
School	21%	18%	18%	17%	17%	18%	16%	19%	18%	13%
Health	15%	14%	14%	13%	14%	15%	11%	14%	15%	13%
Police	24%	26%	29%	29%	27%	29%	28%	25%	29%	30%



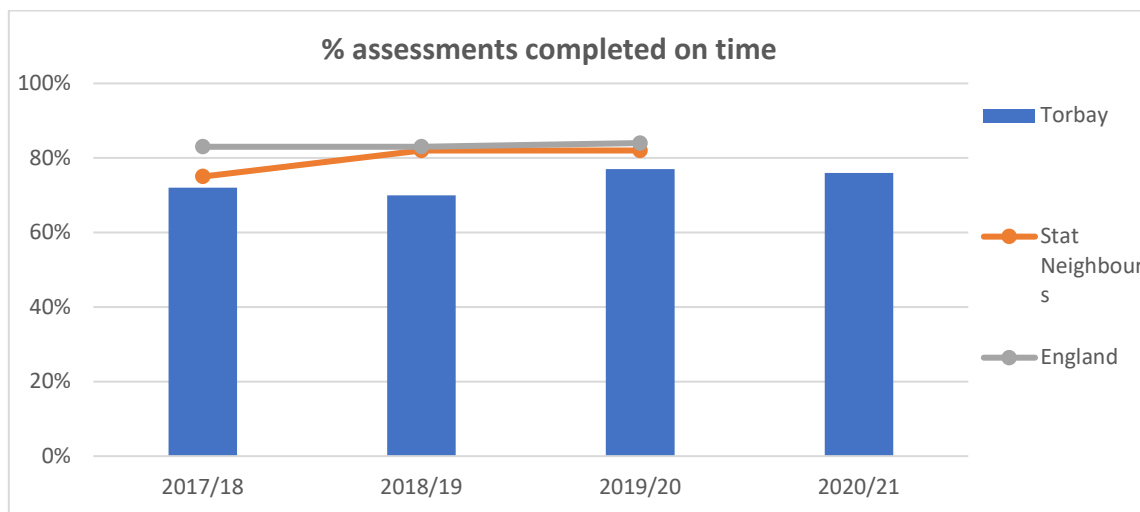
## Number and Rate of Assessments

		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Number of Assessments</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	1885	1974	1700	2197
<b>Rate of Assessments</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	742	776	669	860
	<b>Stat Neighbours</b>	—	683	775	—
	<b>England</b>	—	539	554	—



## Assessments Completed in Time

		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>% Assessments Completed on Time</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	72%	70%	77%	76%
	<b>Stat Neighbours</b>	75%	82%	82%	—
	<b>England</b>	83%	83%	84%	—

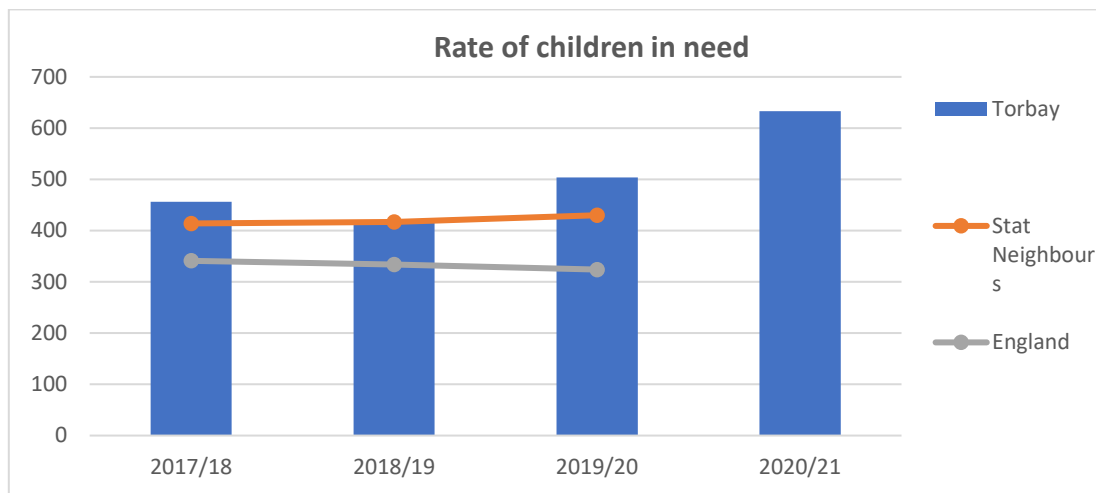


<b>Factors at the end of assessment 2020-21 - Torbay</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
1A - Alcohol misuse: child	65	3%
1B - Alcohol misuse: parent/carer	368	17%
1C - Alcohol misuse: another person	32	1%
2A - Drug misuse: child	114	5%
2B - Drug misuse: parent/carer	299	14%
2C - Drug misuse: another person	60	3%
3A - Domestic violence: child subject	282	13%
3B - Domestic violence: parent/carer subject	754	35%
3C - Domestic violence: another person	139	6%
4A - Mental health: child	354	16%
4B - Mental health: parent/carer	775	36%
4C - Mental health: another person	119	6%
5A - Learning disability: child	247	11%
5B - Learning disability: parent/carer	58	3%
5C - Learning disability: another person	27	1%
6A - Physical disability or illness: child	120	6%
6B - Physical disability or illness: parent/carer	140	6%
6C - Physical disability or illness: another person	32	1%
7A - Young carer	132	6%
Privately fostered (all)	27	1%
9A - UASC	1	0%
10A - Missing	83	4%
11A - Child Sexual Exploitation	92	4%
12A - Trafficking	7	0%
13A - Gangs	57	3%
14A - Socially unacceptable behaviour	127	6%
15A - Self-harm	105	5%
16A - Abuse or neglect - neglect	426	20%
17A - Abuse or neglect - emotional abuse	466	22%
18B - Abuse or neglect - physical abuse by child	0	0%
18C - Abuse or neglect - physical abuse by adult	1	0%
19B - Abuse or neglect - sexual abuse by child	1	0%

19C - Abuse or neglect - sexual abuse by adult	0	0%
20 - Other	433	20%
21 - No factors identified	1	n/a
22A - Female genital mutilation	0	0%
23A - Abuse linked to faith or belief	6	0%
Not Invalid Code 18A	176	8%
Not Invalid Code 19A	124	6%
Total assessments completed	2162	
Number with factors recorded	2161	

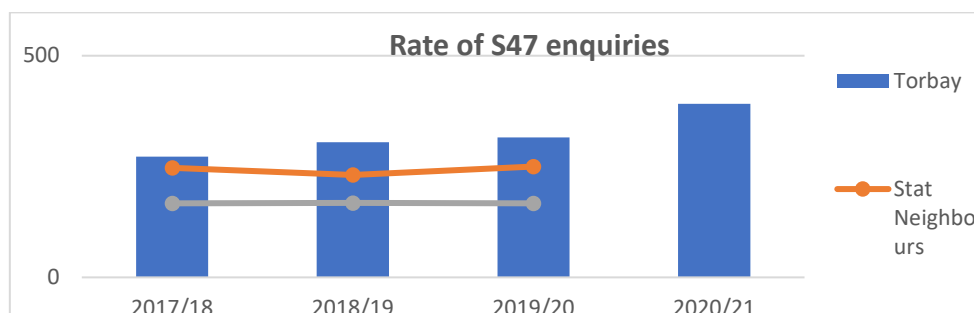
### Rate of Children in Need as of 31 March 2021

		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Number of Children in Need</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	1159	1241	1464	1619
<b>Rate of Children in Need</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	456	420	504	633
	<b>Stat Neighbours</b>	414	417	430	—
	<b>England</b>	341	334	324	—

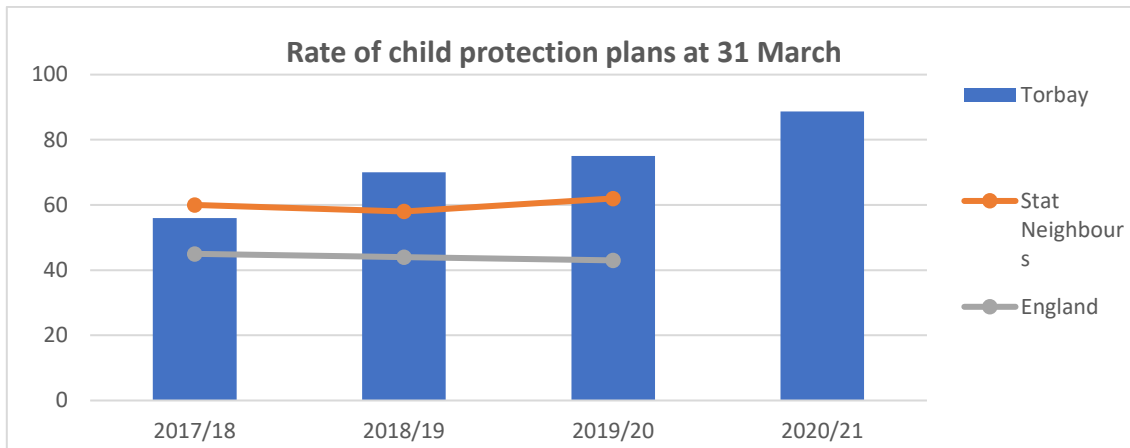


### Number and Rate of Section 47 enquiries

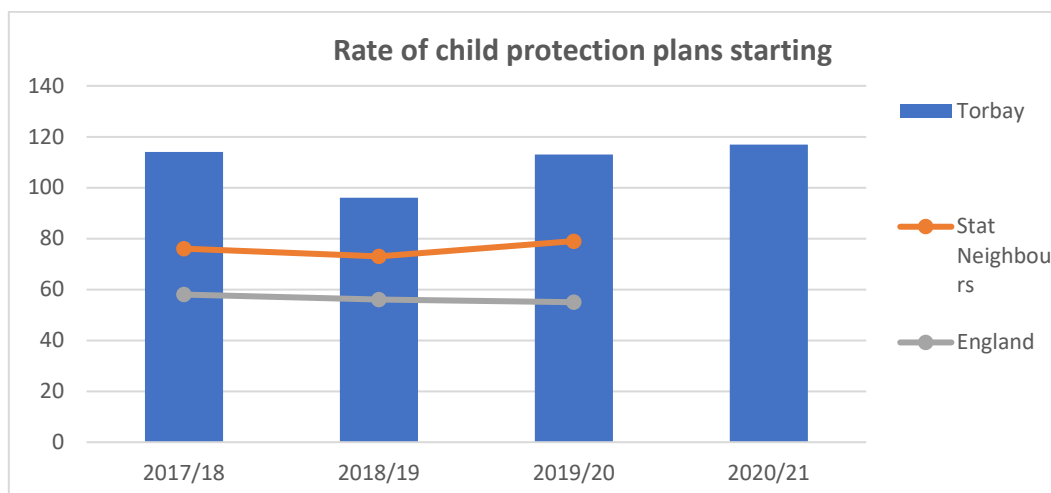
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Number of S47 enquiries starting</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	705	776	822	997
<b>Rate of S47 enquiries starting</b>	<b>Torbay</b>	272	305	316	391
	<b>Stat Neighbours</b>	247	231	250	—
	<b>England</b>	167	168	167	—



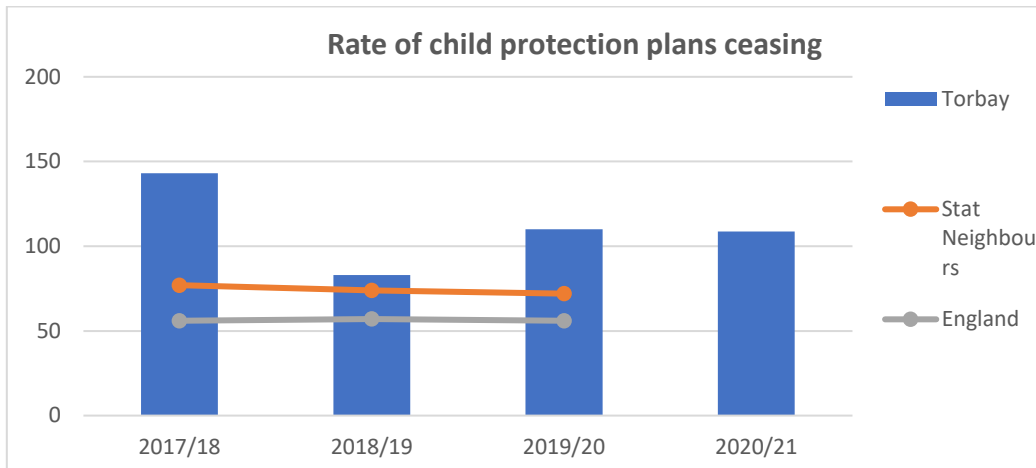
Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans as of 31 March 2021					
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of CPP at 31 March	Torbay	141	179	192	226
Rate of CPP at 31 March	Torbay	56	70	75	89
	Stat Neighbours	60	58	62	–
	England	45	44	43	–



Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans Starting					
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of CPP starting	Torbay	290	244	289	298
Rate of CPP starting	Torbay	114	96	113	117
	Stat Neighbours	76	73	79	–
	England	58	56	55	–



Number and Rate of Child Protection Plans Ceasing					
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of CPP ceasing	Torbay	364	211	280	277
Rate of CPP ceasing	Torbay	143	83	110	109
	Stat Neighbours	77	74	72	–
	England	56	57	56	–

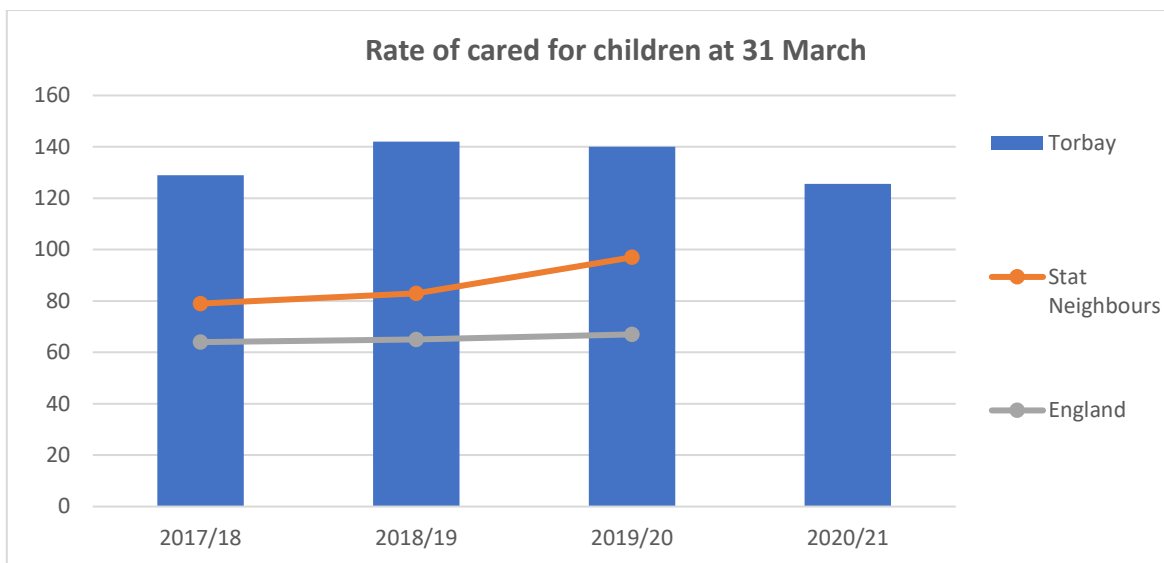


### Child Protection Plans by Category of Need as of 31 March 2021

	Number	%
Emotional	119	53%
Multiple	0	0%
Neglect	78	35%
Physical	13	6%
Sexual	16	7%
	<b>226</b>	

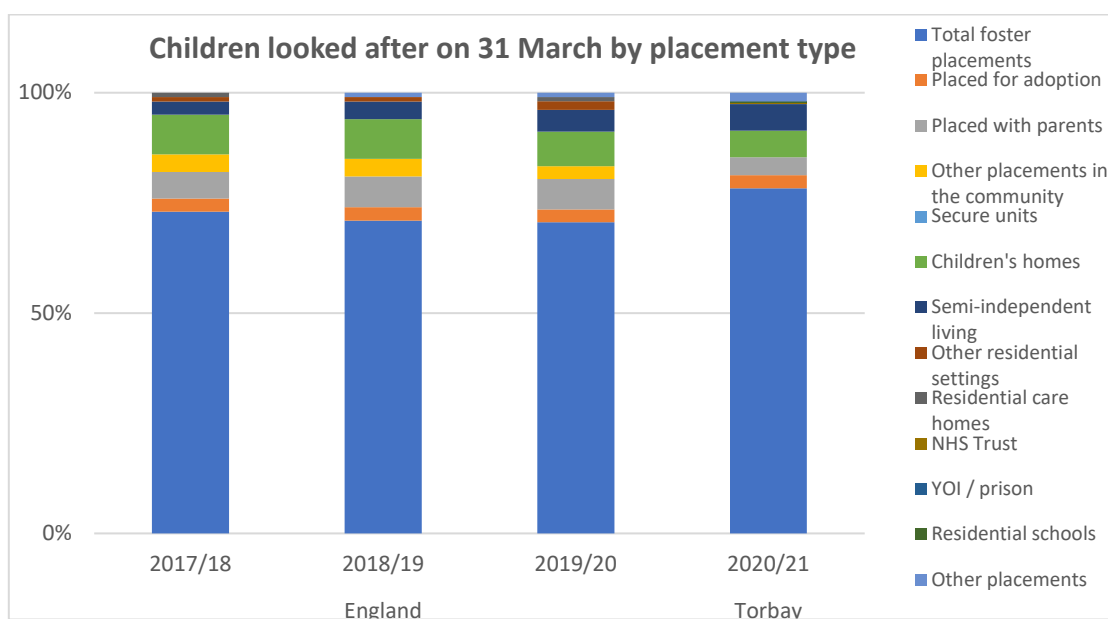
### Number and Rate of Cared for Children as of 31 March 2021

		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of cared for children	Torbay	329	362	357	320
	Stat Neighbours	79	83	97	
Rate of cared for children	Torbay	129	142	140	126
	Stat Neighbours	79	83	97	
	England	64	65	67	



## Cared for Children on 31 March 2021 by Placement Type

	England			Torbay
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total foster placements	73%	71%	72%	78%
Placed for adoption	3%	3%	3%	3%
Placed with parents	6%	7%	7%	4%
Other placements in the community	4%	4%	3%	0%
Secure units	~	~	~	0%
Children's homes	9%	9%	8%	6%
Semi-independent living	3%	4%	5%	6%
Other residential settings	1%	1%	2%	0%
Residential care homes	1%	~	1%	0%
NHS Trust	~	~	~	0.3%
YOI / prison	~	~	~	0.0%
Residential schools	~	~	~	0.3%
Other placements	~	1%	1%	2%



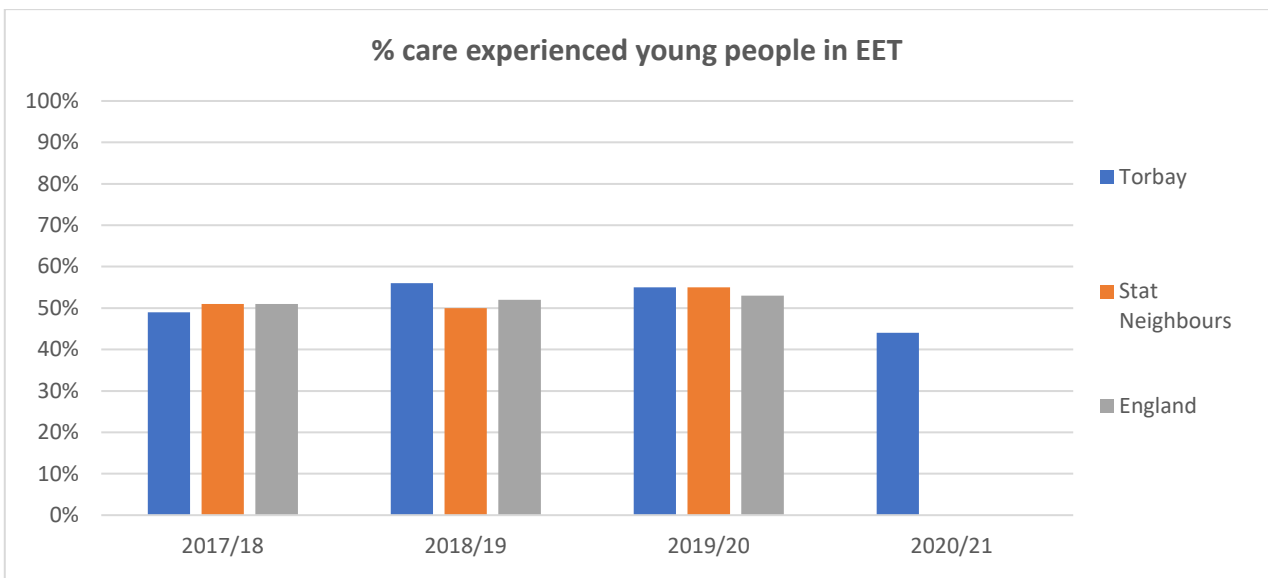
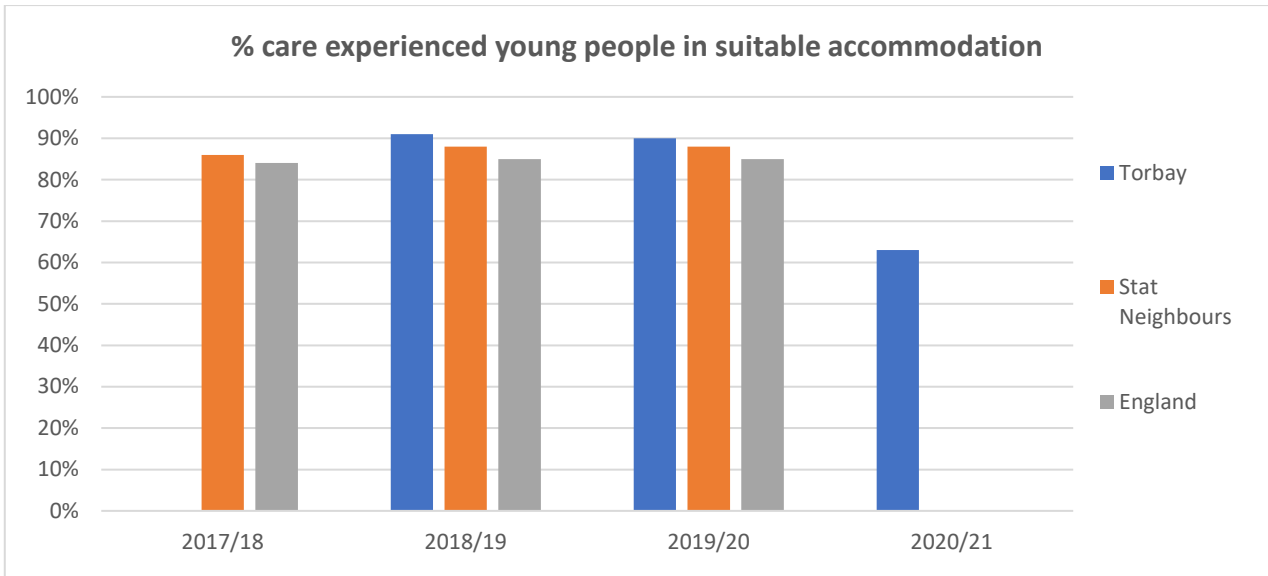
## Timeliness of Visits - March 2021

	%
Visits to Children in Need taking place in the month, % on time (within 10 working days of previous visit)	70%
Visits to children subject to child protection plans taking place in the month, % on time (within 10 working days of previous visit)	77%
Visits to cared-for children taking place in the month, % on time	52%

Children Reported as Missing in 2020/21			
			Number
Number of children going missing in period (count of children)			154
Number of episodes of children going missing (count of episodes starting)			514
Number of cared-for children going missing (count of children)			38
Number of episodes of cared-for children going missing (count of episodes starting)			244
Number of children returning home from being missing in period (count of children)			166



Number of episodes of children returning from being missing (count of episodes ending)					562
Number of Return Home Interviews completed within 72hrs					198
<b>Care Experienced Young People Aged 19, 20 and 21</b>					
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
% of care-experienced young people in suitable accommodation	Torbay		91%	90%	63%
	Stat Neighbours	86%	88%	88%	-
	England	84%	85%	85%	-
% of care-experienced young people in education, employment, or training (EET)	Torbay	49%	56%	55%	44%
	Stat Neighbours	51%	50%	55%	-
	England	51%	52%	53%	



## 6 Setting the Priorities

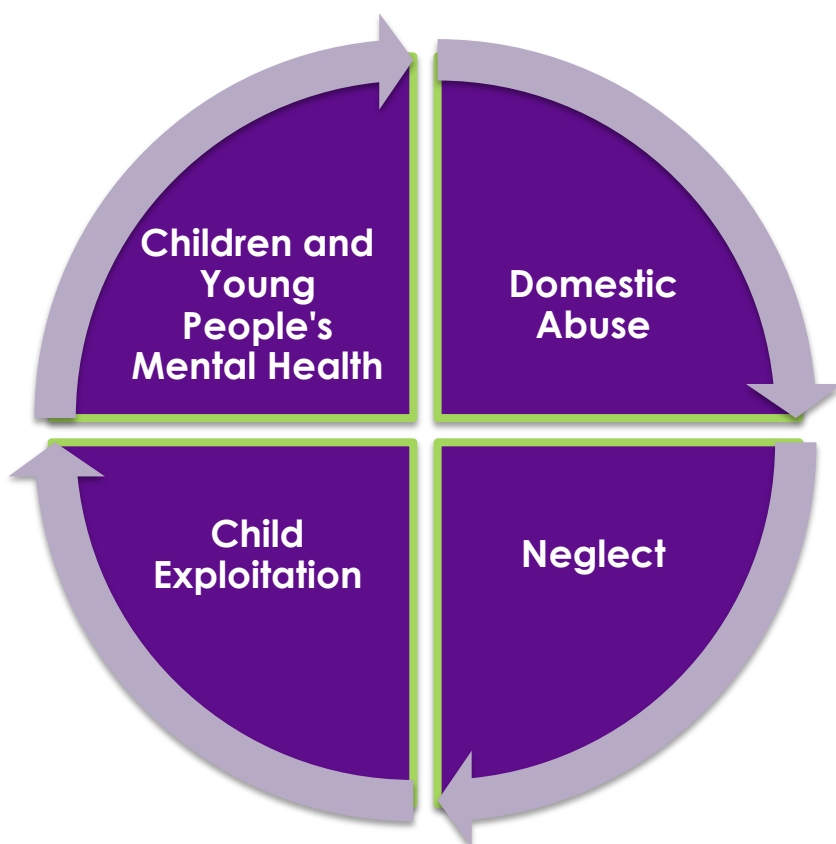
In the Autumn of 2020, when the TSCP was formed, the Executive Group focused on organising the partnership’s business and governance structure and the appointment of the Independent Scrutineer. This was followed by the setting of the three key priority areas of targeted work that

the partnership would initially focus on. These being domestic abuse, neglect, and child exploitation. A fourth priority, children’s mental health, was added in the late Spring of 2021.

The first three priority groups were set up in early 2021, which included appointing chairs, agreeing membership and terms of reference. At the time of this report the neglect and child exploitation groups are fully incorporated and meeting on a regular basis, with the work that they undertake being part of a planned auditing cycle to ensure it has the intended positive impact on the quality of life of children in Torbay.

Domestic abuse does not have a specific TSCP Sub-Group as this work is being undertaken locally by the Community Safety Partnership, however the TSCP are represented within these arrangements. Partners have been made aware of local safeguarding priorities via email updates, a TSCP newsletter and a best practice forum.

Several challenges have arisen since the formation of the TSCP, with the primary ones being the continuing impact of working under Covid 19 regulations and the identified need for services working with children and families to be able to better dovetail with CAMHS, Housing and Probation. There is also the need to improve links and care planning with adult social care in respect of the point of transition for children moving to adult services provision.



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

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The Covid-19 pandemic has been a significant challenge. It is important to understand what has happened, and continues to happen, in order to respond to changing safeguarding needs, learn lessons for future Covid-19 outbreaks and consider the longer-term impact of the pandemic.

As a Safeguarding Children Partnership, we held regular meetings to understand the key risks our partners were facing and quickly mitigated them. Note that beyond July 2020 other partnership groups had been established to take on this function and risks were escalated to the Executive Group when Required.

Our response to the pandemic is ongoing as it continuous to affect our communities. The TSCP would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Partnership during this difficult time. Longer term risks were also raised such as the increase of domestic abuse, increase of screen time for children and concerns of exploitation. These risks have been built into our partnership priorities for longer term intervention.

## 8 Statutory Reviews and Other Audits

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A big shift over the last year was moving from Serious Case Reviews to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. For Torbay this meant a complete change in how reviews are conducted and ensuring that the implementation of learning from reviews is key.

Since the inception of the TSCP on 24/09/20 the partnership has received six Rapid Review referrals (C86-C91). None of these referrals met the criteria for undertaking a Child Safeguarding Practice Review. However, one led to a local multi-agency audit and associated best practice forum, and another has led to an After-Action Review that is designed to draw out learning to inform improved future local practice. Information pertaining to C80, C81, C84 and C85 has been include in this report as these reviews were ongoing as of 24/09/20.

**C80**

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) completed by the TSCP on behalf of National Panel due to Covid restrictions. CSPR was undertaken following the sexual abuse of children at a local nursery by a care experienced young person who had been recently employed there.

C80's CSPR report was published on September 17th 2021.

**C81**

Local CSPR undertaken following C81 being found to be at continuing risk of sexual and criminal exploitation despite being placed in two 'out of area' residential placements.

C81's CSPR report was published in September 2021.

**C84**

Local CSPR relating to a stabbing incident and other similar incidents of violence involving a young person known to Children's Social Care and YOT.

C84's CSPR report was published on 11th August 2021.

**C85**

Local CSPR surrounding allegations of an inappropriate sexual relationship between a Social Worker and a young person open to children's social care. Additionally, C85 alleged intra and extra familial abuse.

Police investigation led to no criminal charging, but the Social Worker is currently under professional suspension from practice.

C85's CSPR report was published in September 2021.

**C86**

Rapid Review relating to a 34 week old baby who suffered severe burns to her body and a fractured skull. C86 was unresponsive and needing CPR whilst in her mother's care.

National Panel agreed with the recommendation of the TSCP not to hold a CSPR due to the learning in relation to this case being captured through the Rapid Review process and the agreed multi-agency case audit (MACA).

The MACA has been completed, report presented to and agreed by the TSCP Executive Group and learning incorporated into a Best Practice Forum.

**C87**

Rapid Review relating to a 17yr 11 month old young person who refused support offered by services in respect of his poor mental health but shortly afterwards committed suicide. The Rapid Review Panel agreed that the threshold was not met to proceed to a CSPR as learning was identified and responded to via the Rapid Review process.

**C88**

Rapid Review referral reporting practice concerns that did not meet threshold to initiate the Rapid Review process. The referrer was advised that the information reported would be considered for learning via an alternative process.

<b>C89</b>
Rapid review referral reporting concern for a baby that had been allegedly sexually abused by her father. Criteria for Rapid Review was not met but the TSCP Executive Group agreed for an After Action Review to be held.
<b>C90</b>
Rapid review referral from the police in respect of a young child with a fractured skull. NAI was not confirmed, and the extent of the injury was not reported to be life changing. Referrer advised that the criteria for a Rapid Review was not met.
<b>C91</b>
Rapid review referral from the police regarding a young child with suspected serious injuries who was believed to be exposed to significant neglect. Neglect was not evidenced, and the 'injuries' were confirmed to be the effect of a serious health condition.

### Impact on children:

Impact on the ability of local services to improve their safeguarding responses to children will be evaluated via TSCP auditing to ensure that learning from CSPR's has been embedded into practice. The relevant auditing cycle for the children identified within this report has not yet commenced, other than C86, which progressed via a MACA and subsequent learning event.

C86's MACA identified practice issues that have been raised with the relevant agencies and incorporated into a recent Best Practice Forum. Linked auditing is planned for January 2022 to ensure that learning has improved local practice and had a positive impact on the wellbeing and safety of Torbay babies.

## 9 Child Death Overview Arrangements

Child Death Review arrangements currently operate as a parallel group to the Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership. The TSCP, during 2020/21, has been working to ensure transition arrangements are put in place to transfer accountability for the current child death arrangements from the TSCP to the Health and Well Being Board.

The local child death review partners are;

- Cornwall Council
- Council of the Isles of Scilly
- Devon County Council
- Plymouth County Council
- Torbay Council
- NHS Devon CCG
- NHS Kernow CCG

The child death review arrangements operate in line with the requirements of the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and Child Death Review: Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) 2018. 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
4. Independent review of child death by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Present systems, commissions and meetings will be evaluated and if necessary revised to be consistent with contemporary guidance. Assurance of the arrangements is a function of the Executive Group, and the Child Death Overview Panel Business Group will publish the Child Death Review public report until such time that the function is transferred to the Health and Well Being Board.

## **10 Learning and Development**

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The TSCP continues to be confident that single and multi-agency training is of high quality, is valued by participants and is helping contribute towards positive outcomes for children and young people.

The training opportunities offered by the TSCP are designed to meet the diverse needs of staff at different levels across the wide range of organisations that work with children and young people, or their family members. The multi-agency training and Best Practice Forums are led by the Learning and Development sub-group and focuses on areas of practice prioritised by the Executive Group, with learning from local and national Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Multi-Agency Case Audits being fully integrated into the training material.

This year brought about a sudden change in how courses were accessed. Although the attendance rate has dropped this was not significant and allowances should be made for learners adapting to accessing on iLearn courses through Zoom/Teams. Changes were made in response to learner feedback which resulted in the attendance rate increasing for the level 3 courses.

Due to the changes in how courses were delivered quarter two and three focused on gaining feedback from attendees after each course to enable a quick response to issues raised. Course observations were also carried out within this period.

Evaluation return rates have dramatically increased from last year. Part of the Live Online Commissioning was for trainers to be clear about action setting and accessing further resources from the course page (only available once the initial evaluation was completed).

Feedback for the Safeguarding Children Foundation and refresher course has been impressive with most questions scoring above expectations and the remainder (including action setting being within expectations). 71% (foundation) and 78% (refresher) of the respondents to the impact evaluation completed at least two actions which is in line with last year. Therefore, the move to online delivery has not impacted the outcome of these courses. e-learning for both these courses were well received with 99%-100% stating this prepared them for the live online learning. Following the feedback given, particularly within the end of sessions it has been agreed that Safeguarding Children Refreshers will remain at half a day with an e-learning module to complete to support.

Introduction to Family Group Conference training is getting improved reviews as the course becomes more established but it is also helping the service to be considered for referrals and referrals to be made.

The ICPC and Core Groups course has made a very positive start and was a welcomed addition to the course menu.

Three TSCP Best Practice Forums were offered as webinars across this time period. They focused on:

- Mental health of the workforce
- Abusive Head Trauma in Infants (child Protection Medical process)
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence for schools, early years, and Children’s Centres (to support schools as children returned to full time education).

In addition to this, offers by other agencies have also been made available to the workforce including an Early Help Pilot and Gambling Awareness for Youth Facing Professionals.

## Course Delivery

Overall, 543 out of 783 learning and development places available were accessed this year (compared to 458 out of 532 for 2019/20). Even though only six months of the year was used to provide places there was a greater number of places were accessed and made available this year. 69% of places were accessed which is a reduction on the previous year’s 86%. By providing Best Practice Forums via a webinar route this has meant presentations could be recorded and accessed after the event. These numbers can be seen in blue below.

Attendance rate is 89% which is a drop from 92%.

	Courses delivered	Places Available	Booked	Attended	Attendance rate	Places used Vs Places Available





<b>Safeguarding Children Foundation</b>	16	224	219	204	93%	91%
<b>Safeguarding Children Refresher</b>	16	224	208	190	91%	85%
<b>Family Group Conferences</b>	5 (3 cancelled)	74	62	51	82%	69%
<b>ICPC and Core Group Training</b>	1	12	12	11	92%	92%

### Best Practice Forums – Webinar Based

	<b>Courses delivered</b>	<b>Places Available</b>	<b>Booked</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>Attendance rate</b>	<b>Places used Vs Places Available</b>
<b>Having good conversations about mental health - Looking after ourselves and each other.</b>	1	26	22	18	82%	69%
<b>Abusive Head Trauma in Infants</b>	1	100	31	22	71%	22%
<b>Domestic Abuse &amp; Sexual Violence Webinar for Schools, Early Years and Children's Centres</b>	1	100	31	28	90%	28%
<b>Early Help Pilot</b>	1	11	13	10	77%	91%



Information Session						
<b>Gambling Awareness for Youth Facing Professionals</b>	1 (one cancelled due to low numbers)	12	9	9	100%	75%

Evaluation Forms Returned		
Course	Initial	Impact
Safeguarding Children Foundation	67% (48%) 	52% (36%) 
Safeguarding Children Refresher	64%  (52%)	36% (37%) 
Family Group Conferences (new)	31%	28%
ICPC and Core Groups Training (new)	27%	9%

## 11 Allegations Against People that Work with Children

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

### Numbers of Referrals and Allegations/Referrals

The PARIS system records that the LADO received 157 contacts during April 2020 to March 2021. 27 of these met LADO threshold and progressed to an Allegation Management Meeting.

April 2020 to March 2021:

59 referrals during this period related to allegations made against education staff.

These came from a combination of: -

- Academy, College
- Early Years Education

- Independent School
- Maintained Schools

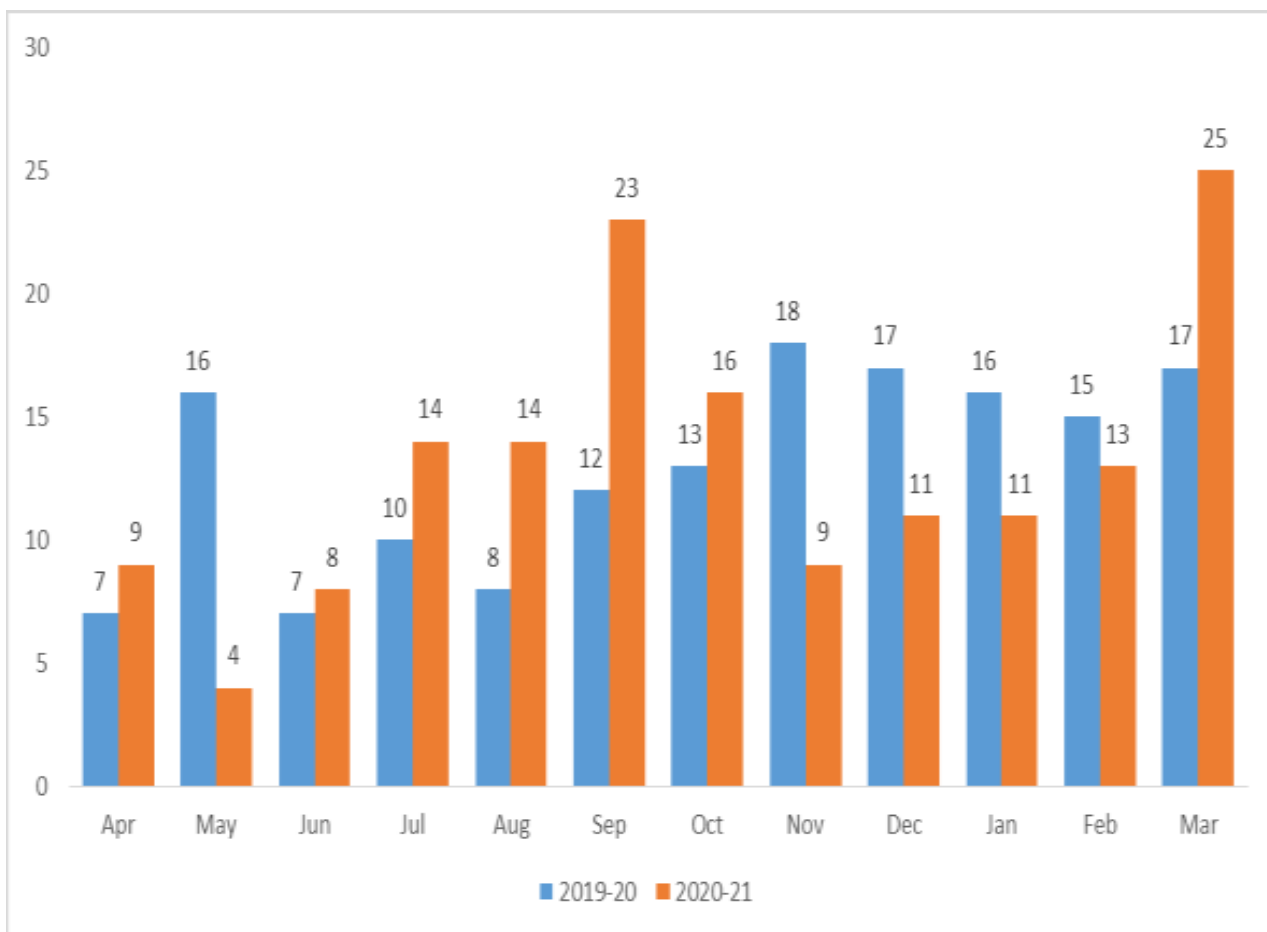
This is similarly as high for the period April 2019 to March 2020 which was recorded at 63.

49 of the referrals related to Cared For children and young people. During the previous year this was recorded at 30.

Research would suggest that children in care are of the higher risk of being victims of abuse and neglect. It is therefore sometimes anticipated that the volume of referrals/notifications from this part of the children’s workforce may be high.

The chart below illustrates the comparisons of LADO Contact and Referrals received for period 2019-20 and 2020-21.

### LADO Contact and Referrals



### Types of Allegations

#### Physical Harm:

The trend over the last two years indicates a higher proportion of referrals regarding physical concerns and this would mirror practice experience of a high proportion of education referrals relating to physical handling/restraint.

There has been a negligible decrease in the number of allegations relating to physical abuse being reported from 55 in 2019-2020 falling to 35 2020-2021.

Since LADO figures started to be collated, physical abuse has remained the highest reported category, although this may be due to it being the most easily identifiable of the categories.

#### Sexual Harm:

For the category sexual abuse there is a decrease in the number of notifications. Last year (2019–2020) this figure was 36 compared to this year (2020–2021) that is recorded at 23.

#### Neglect:

The trend of a yearly incremental increase in neglect/inappropriate behaviour continues. Data shows that 2019-20 records 14 incidents, compared to an increase to 27 in 2020-21.

#### Emotional Harm:

There has been a considerable increase in incidences involving emotional/verbal harm from 11 in 2019-20 to 35 in 2020-2021.

#### Transferable Risk:

Due to changes to statutory guidance in 2020, (Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together) the previous year's LADO recorded figures classified as 'unsuitable' and 'undefined' however these are now being considered in terms of 'transferable risks'.

The addition term looks at behavioural traits which may indicate when an adult could become a risk to children. The 'transferable risk', may arise from an incident which has occurred outside the workplace, not involving children, but could still affect their suitability to work with them. Someone involved in domestic abuse, for example, may not have been in contact with children at home, but may be at risk of triggering violent behaviour at their workplace.

As highlighted above, in September 2020 the fourth category was added to Keeping Children Safe in Education and should be read in conjunction with Working Together to look at the suitability of an adult within the children's workforce.

During 2020- 2021 there were 33 cases that related to transferable risk.