

Keeping children safe
Is everyone's responsibility



Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership

Child Exploitation Strategy

2021-2024

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

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1 Introduction

This strategy and planning document outlines the long-term strategy to tackle Child Exploitation across Torbay.

Human Trafficking and all forms of Exploitation is abuse.

Those who exploit children for personal benefit or profit cause lasting emotional, physical and psychological harm to those that they abuse, their families and communities.

We know that children suffer many forms of exploitation and victims are often subject of more than one form of exploitation (i.e., those at risk of criminal exploitation by gangs are often also victims of sexual exploitation.)

We will always work with the understanding that child exploitation is first and foremost a safeguarding and child protection concern.

Our Partnership is committed to working with children and their families in Torbay who are being exploited, or who are at risk of exploitation using a relational (trauma informed and restorative) approach.

2 Aim and Vision

Our vision and aim is simple. We want to stop the exploitation of all children in Torbay, and we believe the actions contained in this strategy and action plan will help us move towards that.

The Partnership will promote a culture whereby nobody tolerates or ignores trafficking or exploitation in any form, and where communities, families and all professionals in Torbay are prepared and understand how to identify, report and prevent harm to children.

We will target, tackle, and bring to justice those who exploit children.

The partnership sees this as everyone's responsibility, and we will seek to utilise any opportunity to disrupt & bring to justice those who exploit children.

Our strategy development will be supported by national and local best practice. Multi agency discussions and reflective workshops have taken place, and it is our aim to continue this dialogue between safeguarding partners on a long-term basis.

We recognise that for some children who reach the age of 18 exploitation and/or trafficking doesn't stop; so our strategy includes our work with partners such as Adult Services to ensure a safe transition for those children to other support services.

In order to achieve this we need to have strong and effective multi-agency working, based on professional respect, understanding of each other's skills and knowledge, as well as professional support and challenge when needed.

From this approach we will ensure in Torbay that: -

- Our approach to this work is child focused; trauma informed; restorative in approach and practice and does not discriminate
- Children, parents, carer's and families, professionals and communities, can identify the signs of exploitation, and know how to report concerns
- Children, young people and their families have high quality assessments and plans to meet their identified needs
- All children and young people are supported to have a good understanding of healthy relationships and are aware of what exploitation is.
- We will investigate and pursue those who exploit children to commit criminal acts.
- Children and young people who are being exploited are identified, safeguarded and supported for as long as they need. (including for some beyond their 18th Birthday).
- We will challenge and educate around victim blaming for exploitation
- Children and their families will be able to access a sufficient range of effective services that are well coordinated
- Children who are at risk or are exploited experience a child-centred approach from all professionals. Practice is based on a good understanding of children's experiences; their background and identity, including any barriers to them accessing help and support; and their needs and strengths.

3 Governance

Torbay Safeguarding Children's Partnership (TSCP) holds local responsibility for ensuring the effectiveness of the collective systems response to Child Exploitation in Torbay.

The Torbay Safeguarding Children's Partnership (TSCP) has as one of its partnership priorities:

"To support the local and professional community to recognise and respond to all types of exploitation and missing children in a child centred way."

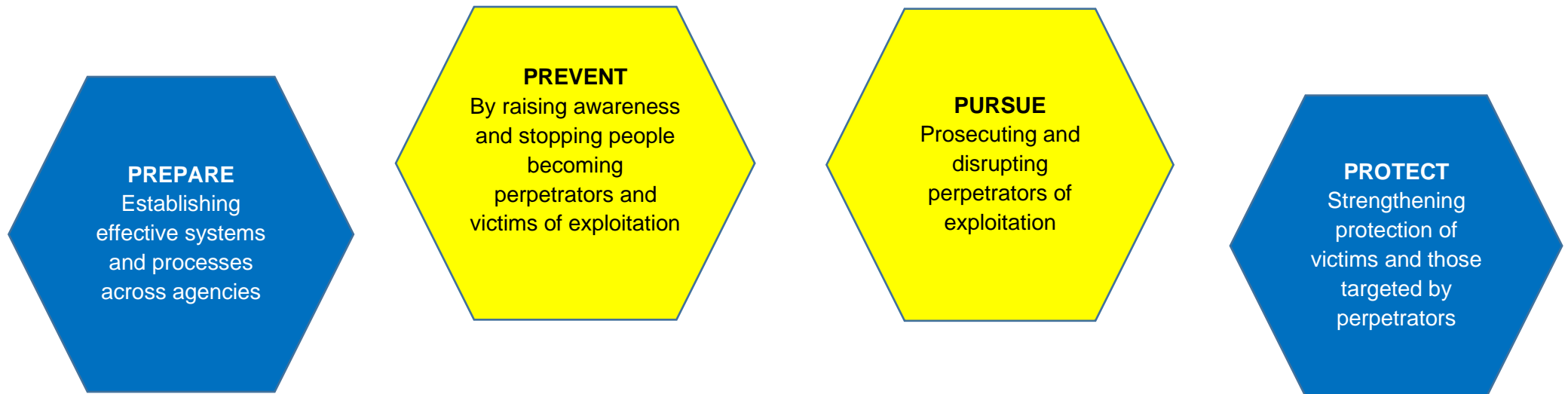
All partners are therefore accountable to the Partnership for its delivery.

The strategy and plan are managed by the Multi Agency TSCP Children and Young Person's Exploitation Subgroup (CYPEG).

This group delivers actions against the plan, and reports any themes, barriers and operational issues to the TSCP Business Group who in turn is overseen by the TSCP Executive Group.

This strategy will look at four areas where we will focus our efforts to help tackle and eliminate all exploitation.

We will approach all of this work in a multi agency, child focused and restorative manner



Throughout our work we will communicate and develop tools that will increase public confidence in the work the partnership does to tackle exploitation and trafficking in Torbay

Overall aim	Outcome	How will we know that this is achieved
PREPARE	To develop an up to date, comprehensive and agreed local child exploitation profile based on multi agency information and data	<p>Our multi agency record systems will be able to produce accurate and meaningful reports on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s missing episodes and outcomes • Progression of children who are being exploited/at risk of exploitation through services, and reduction in repeat tool kits • Progression of children who are referred to the NRM process • Completion of RHI’s within required timescales • Number of children’s toolkits completed/out of date and the level of risk being assessed • Overview of children aged 16/17 who transition to adult services and the outcomes of these transitions • Understanding of trauma themes and adverse childhood experiences which impact upon these children • Individual characteristic breakdowns of all of the above • Standing CYPEG agenda item for data sharing for all Partners – especially important for those that use different systems, so the broader picture can be seen by all. • Exclusion Data – to identify themes and trends in reasons why. • Health Data – to have a focus where exploitation is a factor • Police Data – use of data to try and identify perpetrators.
PREPARE	TSCP will have a rolling multi agency training programme making use of research, best practice and lived experience, covering all forms of Child Exploitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will have good knowledge on areas of strength and identified need in respect of staff training. This will be achieved through attendance records and staff training evaluation. • Bespoke module regarding the local Torbay picture to be developed and delivered by the TSCP Exploitation lead.

PREPARE	<p>Robust and consistent practice across all first Responders in relation to NRM referrals and protection of children.</p> <p>There will be a transition to Adulthood pathway in place and embedded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training provision to be led by the Learning Development group of the TSCP. This will ensure that all Practitioners have a shared understanding of the process and their responsibilities. This initially will be progressed through on-line training. • Development of a protocol between Police, Local Authority, CPS and YOT in regard to young people who are subject to a NRM referral. This will ensure a consistent approach. • Explore opportunities to improve the knowledge of Defence Solicitors of exploitation, the NRM and the Youth Justice outcomes and how they can benefit young people. • Children identified as modern slaves, through NRM referrals, will be offered the support and protection that they need as long as the risk remains. • A robust transition process will be established between Children Services and Adult services. The outcome will be embedded into working practice.
PREPARE	<p>Embedded Peninsula wide relationships and information sharing protocols. Building relationship with other regions with connections to Torbay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick and easy communications will be enabled across the Peninsula regarding exploitation. • We will have comparative knowledge and understanding of practices and processes across the Peninsula. • Working towards or an agreed framework for Peninsula wide information sharing in respect of locations/persons/themes of concern.
PREPARE	<p>Partners will have a broad understanding of each other's safeguarding processes, with an aspiration to achieve a shared approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CYPEG will be the forum to facilitate this wider understanding regarding the relationship and

		reporting/oversight structure around the exploitation of children with the intention to improve outcomes and support.
PREPARE	We will continuously review local and national best practice to develop and adapt an appropriate framework that will assist with tackling Exploitation across Torbay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will be confident that the model we are developing in Torbay is robust, functional and provides the best impact on assessment and care planning for young people being exploited, or at risk of exploitation. We will compare and consider other potential operational models and tool kits to ensure that Torbay has the best possible resources to tackle exploitation.
PREPARE	We will have an agreed set of short, medium and long term KPI's which reflect a shared vision of tackling exploitation in Torbay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner agencies will know what we are striving to achieve and contribute to meeting KPI's. We will reflect and challenge ourselves, and each other when practice or targets fall short of expectation.
PURSUE and BRING TO JUSTICE	Increased prosecutions and convictions for perpetrators of exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will understand 'what has worked' locally to bring perpetrators to justice and commit to do 'more of the same'. This will be based on local learning including Case reviews. We will also understand what regional and national best practices and processes have worked in relation to prosecution and conviction and use them to best effect in Torbay.
PURSUE and BRING TO JUSTICE	Victims of exploitation and their families will have access to quality and meaningful victim support as long as the risk remains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting and protecting victims will lead to increased reporting, police investigations, prosecution, and conviction of perpetrators

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will have a clear understanding of what is available which will assist in identifying where there is an unmet need and inform planning to address. • This will entail close working with the current Commissioned providers and the wider Partnership.
INTERVENE, PROTECT AND SUPPORT	We will have a fit for purpose Toolkit that supports professionals to work alongside children, their families and each other to assess levels and areas of vulnerability regarding exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be confident in the effectiveness of a local toolkit to identify and assess children who are being exploited or at risk of exploitation. • This will be measured through activities such as audits and reviews and overseen by the TSCP.
INTERVENE, PROTECT AND SUPPORT	The consideration of Child exploitation, in all forms, is embedded into TSCP Threshold document and multi-agency assessment tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear guidance around thresholds and offer of support and protection is in place, understood and embedded in practice. This is achieved through TSCP multi agency training. • The Threshold document will be subject to review by the TSCP, when required.
INTERVENE, PROTECT AND SUPPORT	Torbay will establish and embed a recognised transition process into 18 plus support services, for young people approaching adulthood who are, or are at risk, of being exploited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner agencies will understand and effectively use the agreed pathways for this support to be accessed. This will be monitored by way of audit and review, including lived experience from young people.
INTERVENE, PROTECT AND SUPPORT	We will have embedded and active forums for children, young adults, families, and communities to be consulted, and for them to provide feedback on practice and processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will obtain examples of qualitative feedback from families and young people with lived experience of exploitation. • This will be achieved through the development of a Partnership intervention and support feedback framework supported by the TSCP Quality Assurance Group.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be achieved in conjunction with all stakeholders, both internal and external, and will inform future service development and delivery.
INTERVENE, PROTECT AND SUPPORT	<p>Cared For Children who are placed outside of Torbay will have the same access to consultation and feedback mechanisms regarding their experience of exploitation to those children who live in Torbay.</p> <p>There is aspiration to reduce the number of Cared For Children being placed outside of Torbay who are at risk of going missing and who are vulnerable to exploitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be clear planning, Senior Management oversight and risk management, where there are concerns regarding exploitation, for Children Cared for by Torbay when they are being placed in another Local Authority area. For those who are placed outside of Torbay, plans for their care and protection are robust and meet all statutory expectations. Practitioners are following the cared for children out of county cared for process and also any developing processes for unaccompanied asylum seeking children
INTERVENE, PROTECT AND SUPPORT	<p>There will be clear processes for information sharing, and professional challenge where needed, for cross authority planning for prevention and protection of Cared For Children being placed in Torbay by other Local Authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have clear information available to Local Authorities, as per the national guidelines, for notification of the placing of young people in the Torbay area. This will include key contacts and local processes. There will be clear multi agency responses and involvement in preventing harm to and protecting these children, in consultation with their Home Local Authorities.
INTERVENE, PROTECT AND SUPPORT	<p>Torbay's Exploitation strategy will make reference to and be linked strategically to other areas of safeguarding, for example Harmful Sexual behaviour, Crime Reduction and Substance misuse.</p> <p>This will extend to a wider County and Peninsular view.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be clarity on Governance and Group Interdependency. This will be achieved through mapping the Partnership Landscape and Independent scrutiny.

INTERVENE, PROTECT AND SUPPORT	All children, including those with protected characteristics, are represented and engaged and have equality of service provision to prevent and protect them from exploitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will understand our local profile of young people. This will include current strengths and challenges in identifying, engaging with and offering services to children and young people facing additional challenges. • This will be done using a variety of different methods that are appropriate to their needs.
PREVENT	<p>Responses to exploitation across partner agencies will be based on local and national learning and research.</p> <p>We will be reflective, restorative and challenging in our multi agency responses to child exploitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be identifying good practice and learning and applying this to improvements in service responses to child exploitation.
PREVENT	Torbay will be 'Child Friendly' and a safe place for children to live in their communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a rolling plan of exploitation awareness raising in local communities, businesses and public transport, so that they can assist in identifying exploitation. • Identifying and reporting exploitation will be built into commissioning contracts and inductions of all staff and management within key organisations.
PREVENT	<p>We will have clear, resourced pathways for engaging with children and young people vulnerable to any and all forms of child exploitation.</p> <p>We will have evidence-based interventions available for children and young people vulnerable to any type of exploitation.</p> <p>We will have evidence-based support for parents/carers siblings and families in relation to protecting the young person from exploitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop and resource our approach using our learning from those with lived experience. The views of young people, Carers and Families and professionals will be captured and used to inform the future delivery of services.
PREVENT	Every single missing episode for a child or young person will be taken seriously; meaningful and high-quality Return Home Interviews will be offered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be reassured that all of Torbay's children and young people who go missing are offered a Return Home Interview

	<p>Information from Return Home Interviews will be used to review the child's safety and vulnerability; and will also be used appropriately to identify locations, groups and adults of concern; leading to disruption planning.</p>	<p>within 72 hours – these offers will be meaningful and using the best forms of communication with that young person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will understand the profile and themes of vulnerability in relation to our children who go missing, and offer the highest quality of response, intervention, support and protection to all children who go missing.
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