

The Child and Young People Exploitation Strategy 2025-2028 outlines our commitment to all children and young people in Torbay, as well as everyone involved in their care and support. The Torbay Safeguarding Children's Partnership are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We recognise the profound impact that exploitation can have on individuals and families, and we provide comprehensive support to those affected.

What is Exploitation

- Child exploitation is when someone uses a child for financial gain, sexual gratification, labour or personal advantage
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Peer on Peer Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation(CCE), including County Lines
- Child Financial Exploitation
- Missing Children from home, care and education are at increased risk.
- Child victims of Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Radicalisation and extremism (Prevent)
- Association with gangs, organised crime groups (OCGs)
- Online Grooming

The Child's Voice

- "I get gifts and attention, which makes me feel important."
- "I have an older partner who says they love and care for me."
- "I do things for them because they provide money or things I need."
- "I'm scared to say no because of what might happen to me or my family."
- "I don't see my friends much because they don't get my relationship."
- "I believe they're helping me because I get things I wouldn't otherwise."

Learning From Research

- 7360 cases of child sexual exploitation recorded as a primary need by social services (2022)
- Thousands of children estimated to be involved in county lines (NCA 2023)
- 250,000 plus webpages of child sexual abuse imagery identified online (IWF 2023)
- Self-generated content by children 7 to 13, increasingly exploited online
- Modern slavery act 2015, criminalises child trafficking and exploitation
- Tackling child sexual abuse strategy 2021 launched to improve protection

Our Key Principles

- **Child centred:** We listen to, respect and act on the voices and experience the child.
- **Rights-Based:** Every child has the right to safety, protection, and support.
- **Trauma informed:** We understand the impact of trauma and avoid re-traumatisation.
- **Collaborative:** We work across agencies and disciplines to protect children effectively.
- **Inclusive:** We consider diverse experiences and needs including culture, disability, gender, and identity.

Our Strategic Priorities

- **Prevent:** Reduce risks of exploitation through education, early help and Community Action.
- **Protect:** Strengthen safeguarding responses to identify harm and support victims.
- **Pursue:** Disrupt and respond to perpetrators with enforcement and legal action.
- **Prepare:** Build resilience in children, families, and systems to recover and thrive.
- **Improve practise:** Use data, research, and feedback to refine safeguarding efforts.
- **Empower:** Equip children with knowledge, confidence, and safe relationships.

How Will we Measure Positive Change for the Children & Families in Torbay

- **Child's Voice:** Actively listening to and acting on children's feedback.
- Collaboration:** Multi-agency efforts ensure coordinated responses.
- Quality Assurance:** Regular audits and reviews assess service impact.
- Outcome Objectives:** Care plans with clear objectives are regularly evaluated.
- Continuous Improvement:** Ongoing reviews and adaptations to enhance safeguarding practices