



TSCB Annual Report

2016-2017

Version: 1

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Torbay Council Children's Services ■ Police ■ Health ■ Careers South West
Youth Offending Team ■ Probation ■ CAFCASS ■ Safer Communities ■ Fire Service
Schools ■ Community & Voluntary Sector

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Foreword by Independent Chair



2016/17 has been a period of development and consolidation for the TSCB. Throughout the year the TSCB continued to make steady progress in responding to Ofsted's findings by ensuring it delivers its core assurance findings. The cycle of planning, delivery and review is now more embedded and effective contributions were made by member agencies to the drafting and implementation of new strategies relating to Early Help and Neglect.

A close working relationship has been maintained with the Children's Improvement Board, chaired by the Children's Commissioner, John Coughlan CBE. This is providing for multi-agency oversight of Children's Services and other agencies in delivering key elements to the Improvement Plan.

However, there is still a lot that remains to be done. The Performance Framework agreed by the TSCB has to be subject to regular and exhaustive reporting with appropriate interpretation and commentary to enable the Board to clearly identify and quantify the safeguarding performance issues within Torbay.

I am confident that the strong working relationships between partner agencies will continue to drive improvements in the work to ensure children are protected across Torbay during 2017/18.

Ian Ansell
Independent Chair

Lead Member



An effective LSCB is crucial in ensuring that local arrangements to safeguard children across a range of agencies are robust. 2016/17 was a year in which the focus had been on ensuring that the deficits identified by Ofsted were advanced and that the Board could fill its key role in overseeing the evidence of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

As the Independent Chair noted, improvement is underway but not yet complete. As the Executive Lead for Adults and Children's Services, I see the role to play not just for our services but in working with a full range of TSCB partners to challenge and support them around their particular contributions.

Our aim must be to get to a level of effectiveness that can enable the Department for Education Commissioner to be confident that the TSCB can fully discharge its role and enable the Children's Improvement Board to be stepped down as soon as practicable.

Julien Parrott
Executive Lead Adults and Children

1 Essential Information

Authorship:

Alex Stuckey TSCB Practice Manager, Nick Hollins TSCB Business Manager and Ian Ansell Independent Chair of the TSCB

Approval Process:

Presented to the TSCB Board, Torbay Council Senior Leadership Team, Policy Development and Decision Group: and Full Council

Date of publication – 14th December 2017

This report covers the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 and reflects the structures that were in place up to the end of March 2017.

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Statutory and legislative context for LSCBs

The Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how local organisations cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within Torbay. Governed by the statutory guidance in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015* and the *Local Safeguarding Board (LSCB) Regulations 2006*, the TSCB comprises senior leaders from a range of different organisations.

The core objectives of the Board are set out in section 14(1) of the Children Act 2004 as follows:

- to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
- to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose

Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of the Board in order to fulfil those responsibilities, these include:

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Communicating to local people and organisations the need to safeguard children, raising their awareness of how this can be done and encouraging them to do so
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding work by TSCB members individually and collectively and agreeing ways in which this can improve
- Participating in the planning of services for children and young people in Torbay
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews and advising Board members on lessons to be learned and actions to be taken

- Implementing an effective and co-ordinated response by Board members to the unexpected death of a child

The full Terms of Reference for the TSCB can be found at www.torbaysafeguarding.org.uk

2 Governance and Accountability Arrangements

The TSCB is required to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The TSCB undertakes this task through its business plan and subgroups.

The full Board has continued to meet four times per year and was supported by a smaller Delivery Group which meets six times a year.

The diagram attached as Appendix 1 outlines the structure of the TSCB and its associated subgroups and Peninsula working groups in March 2016.

The Board is supported by a Board Manager and two Coordinators which are responsible for both co-ordinating the work of the Board and its Subgroups and ensuring that the TSCB is supported in making informed decisions. The business unit employs an Independent Chair.

2.1 Partnership and Accountability Arrangements

The TSCB has an Independent Chair who is directly accountable to the Chief Executive Officer of Torbay Council and works closely with the Director of Children's Services and other agency strategic leads. The Lead Member for Adults and Children is the Councillor elected locally. One of Councillor Parrott's responsibilities is for making sure that the local authority fulfils its legal responsibilities to safeguard children and young people.

Designated Health Professionals sit on the Board and Subgroups and take a strategic and professional lead on all aspects of health service contributions to safeguarding children.

The Health and Wellbeing Board provides a forum where key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. Health and Wellbeing Board members collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and encourage commissioners to work in a more joined-up way. A Protocol has been drafted to address the relationship with this board and the TSCB.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's role is to hold the Chief Constable to account in relation to policing priorities. A representative of the Commissioner's office sits on the Board.

Torbay does not have a Children's Trust arrangement to develop and promote integrated front line delivery of services to safeguard children unlike many other local authorities but has plans in place to re-establish this through a Strategic Commissioning Group.

3 The Board

3.1 The Independent Chair

The Independent Chair of the TSCB is Ian Ansell. Supported by a Board Manager and two co-ordinators, the Chair is tasked with ensuring the Board fulfils its statutory objectives and functions. Key to this is the facilitation of a working culture of transparency, challenge and improvement across all partners with regards to their safeguarding arrangements.

The TSCB is required to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The TSCB undertakes this task through its business plan and subgroups.

The Chair is accountable to the Chief Executive of Torbay Council and has met frequently with the Chief Executive throughout 2016/17. The Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Adults and Children for Torbay also continued to work closely with the Chair on related Safeguarding challenges, including implementation of the recommendations from OFSTED following their 2015 inspection.

Whilst unable to direct organisations, the TSCB does have the power to influence and hold agencies to account for their role in Safeguarding. This influence can relate to matters of governance as well as impact directly on the welfare of children and young people.



Ian Ansell contributed to work across the Peninsula this year, taking over the role as Chair of the Peninsula Online Safety Group. Ian also represents the four Peninsula Chairs on the Devon and Cornwall MAPPA Strategic Management Board

3.2 Torbay Council

Torbay Council is responsible for establishing a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) in its area and for ensuring that it is run effectively. The Council's Chief Executive has responsibility for this. The Lead Member for Children in Torbay has the responsibility for making sure Torbay Council fulfils its legal responsibility to safeguard children and young people.



The Independent Chair has had regular face to face meetings with the Chief Executive of Torbay Council and with the Director of Children's Services to steer and support the ongoing work of the Board. The Chief Executive has undertaken an appraisal process with the Independent Chair. The Lead Member for Adults and Children has attended the Board meetings and supported specific areas of partnership work such as the development of the Neglect Strategy and Early Help development work

3.3 Partner Agencies

All partner agencies across Torbay are committed to ensuring the effective operation of TSCB. This is supported by the terms of reference that defines the fundamental principles through which the TSCB is governed. Members of the Board hold strategic positions within their organisations and are able to speak with authority, commit to matters of policy and hold their organisation to account.



This year the partnership commenced a comprehensive review of Early Help in Torbay in response to feedback from the OFSTED inspection in late 2015. Partners from across the statutory and non-statutory sector engaged fully in this piece of work, leading on areas of work, and contributing to a number of task and finish processes around specific pieces of work which will culminate in a Torbay wide launch event in July 2017.

3.4 Designated Professionals

The Designated Doctor and Nurse take a strategic and professional lead on all aspects of the health service contribution to safeguarding children. Designated professionals are a vital source of professional advice. Across the range of TSCB activities, these designated roles have continued to demonstrate their value in 2016/17.



Both the Designated Doctor and Nurse sit on the Serious Case Review Subgroup and full Board. The Designated Doctor is co-leading on a management review of bruising in non-mobile babies which will take place in 2017, resulting from a serious case review referral. The Designated Nurse currently chairs the Quality Assurance Subgroup which leads on the Multi-Agency Case Audits and Section 11 and 157 175 school audits. The Designated Nurse has also contributed significantly to other areas of work for the Board this year, including the development of Early Help work.

3.5 Relationship with Other Boards

There is a clear expectation that LSCBs are highly influential strategic arrangements that directly influence and improve performance in the care and protection of children. There is also a clear expectation that this is achieved through robust arrangements with key strategic bodies across the partnership. During 2016/17 engagement continued with the Torbay Safeguarding Adults Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Community Safety Partnership and the MAPPA Strategic Management Board.

The TSCB has also continued to work closely with the Peninsula Safeguarding Children Boards of Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall on specific areas of work and Child Death arrangements.

























This year, the four Peninsula Safeguarding Children Boards delivered a peninsula wide CSE awareness campaign in partnership. The TSCB also supported the review of the Domestic Abuse strategy and held a joint Adults and Children Safeguarding Board to identify shared priorities and identify opportunities for joint working. The Adult Safeguarding Board have contributed to case audits and the review of Early Help.

3.6 Lay Members

TSCB has two Lay members who play an important role challenging, supporting and holding partners to account in the way they meet their safeguarding duties. One of our Lay Members also sits on a number of subgroups including the Voluntary, Community and Faith group and the Training and Development Subgroup, making important contributions to these areas.

3.7 Board Attendance

The Board met four times during 2016/17 in addition to a business planning full day and half day session. A list of current Board Members is set out at the back of this report. The attendance rates by agency for 2016/17 to the four full meetings are set out below. The  represents how many seats are held by each organisation.

Organisation	Number of seats	% attendance
Independent Chair		100%
Torbay Children's Services	   	100%
Devon and Cornwall Police		100%
Office of the Police Crime and Commissioner, Devon and Cornwall		100%
Public Health		75%
South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group	  	75%
Devon Partnership Trust		0%
Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust		50%
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service		50%
South Western Ambulance Service Trust		0%
Torbay Primary School Representative		100%
Torbay Secondary Head Representative		0%
Voluntary Sector Representatives	 	75%
Torbay Further Education Representative		100%
Careers South West		25%

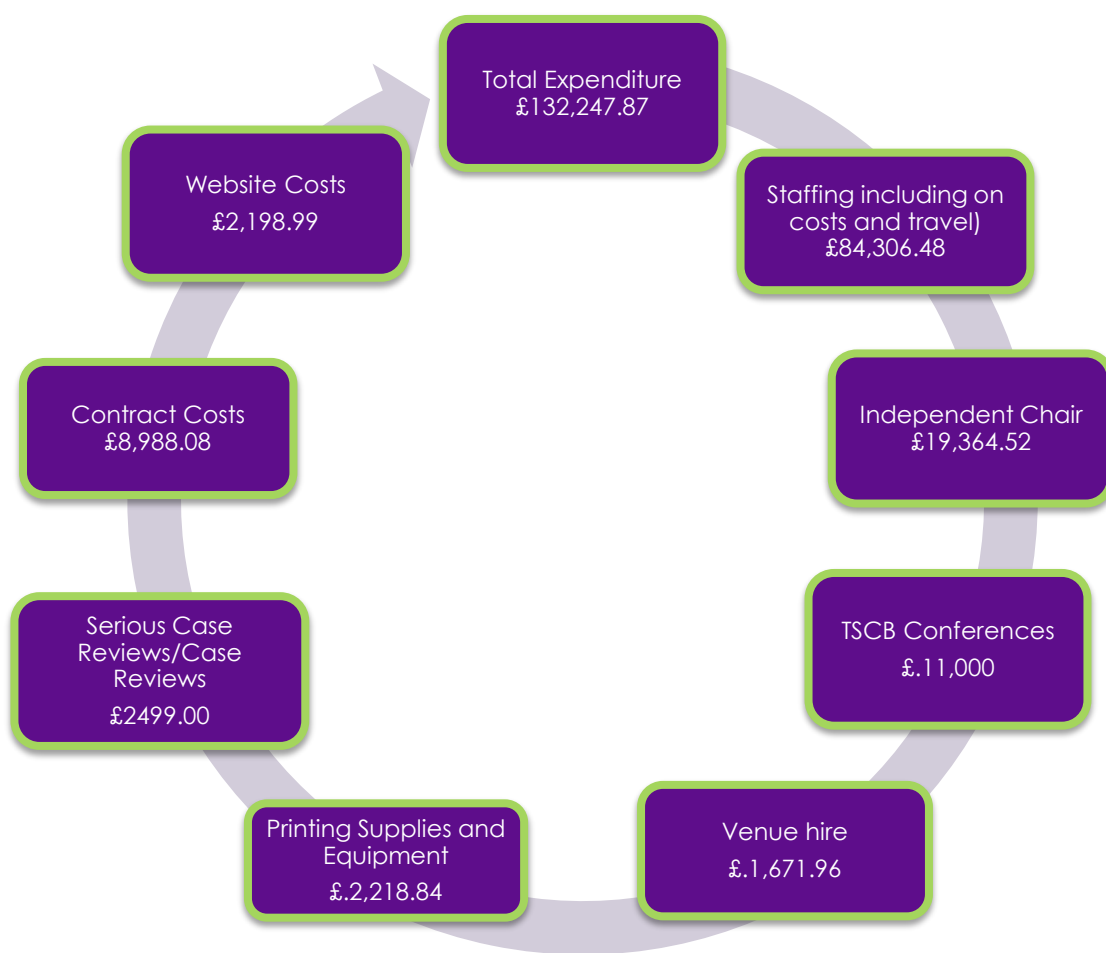
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	♀	0%
National Probation Service	♀	50%
Devon, Dorset and Cornwall Community Rehabilitation Company	♀	25%
Lay Members	♀ ♀	75%



4 Financial Arrangements

4.1 The Board

Partner agencies continued to contribute to the TSCB's budget for 2016/17, in addition to providing a range of resources such as staff time and free venues for meetings and training. Contributions totalled £131,789.34, with Torbay Children's Services contributing 65% of the total agency funding. £3,543.00 was rolled over from the previous year to cover planned costs around development of the TSCB website. There was an overall budget shortfall of 4.51% this year. There were funding reductions in 2016/17 from the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company. This meant that the TSCB had to review spending and make reductions where possible. The TSCB met this through accessing alternative training and meeting venues at a lower or no cost, and reviewing additional meeting and office costs. The TSCB also commissioned an internal management review this year which was funded out of the Serious Case Review budget.



The TSCB saved £2500 from accessing free meeting venues in 2016/17

4.2 Training

Each year partner agencies are asked to complete a training needs analysis which determines how many multi-agency training courses are required. The costs associated with Training in 2016-17 came to £46,513.73. Partners contribute to the costs based on the number of places they purchase.



Summary of Delivery 2016/17

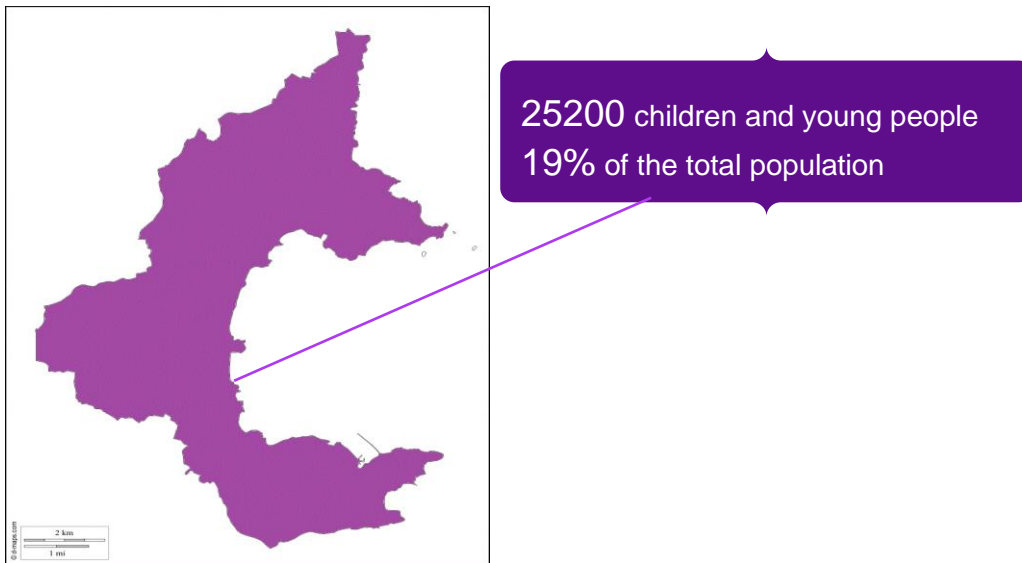
During 2016-2017; TSCB provided 44 training courses (of which 4 were half-day courses). 6 courses were cancelled and are not included in the above figure.

The following topics were provided:

- Topic**
- Safeguarding Children Foundation
 - Safeguarding Children Refresher
 - Signs of Safety – Education
 - Signs of Safety – Advance
 - Introduction to Signs of Safety
 - FEMA
 - Emotional Abuse & Developing Resilience
 - CSE
 - Neglect & Graded Care Profile
 - Safeguarding Children with Disabilities
 - Reflective Supervision in Safeguarding
 - Child Sexual Abuse

5 Local Background and Context

5.1 Demographics



Torbay is located within the South West region of England. It consists of 24 square miles of land spanning the towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham, which together occupy an east-facing natural harbour by the English Channel.

The index of multiple deprivation identifies Torbay as the most deprived local authority area in the South West, and within the top 20% most deprived local authorities across England. 42,000 people resident in Torbay, a third of the population, live in areas within the top 20% most deprived in England.

Levels of child poverty in Torbay are relatively high, with the latest estimates (2014) suggesting that 23% of all children in Torbay are in poverty, this compares to 20% across England

There are pockets of severe deprivation and inequalities within Torbay. These pockets tend to be communities that experience poorer outcomes such as poorer educational attainment, poorer socioeconomic status, lower earnings and the lowest life expectancy.

8.1% of children come from minority ethnic groups, which is much lower than the national average of 28.6%. The largest minority ethnic group of children and young people in Torbay are recorded as 'any other white background'

5.1% of children in primary schools have English as an additional language which is lower than the national average of 19.4%. For secondary school children it is slightly lower at 4.1% where the national average is 15%

Domestic abuse is a significant feature in Torbay as detailed above and this alone accounts for around 40% of cases held across all levels of thresholds of the Child's Journey. Domestic Abuse rates in Torbay are very high at 431 per 10K; the highest rates across the Devon and Cornwall Police Force area. In

2016/17 there were 1030 reported incidents of domestic abuse reported where a child/children were present. The number of recorded crimes on under 18 year olds is also high. The rate of sexual offences across age ranges in Torbay is double the national average and is the highest in the Peninsula.

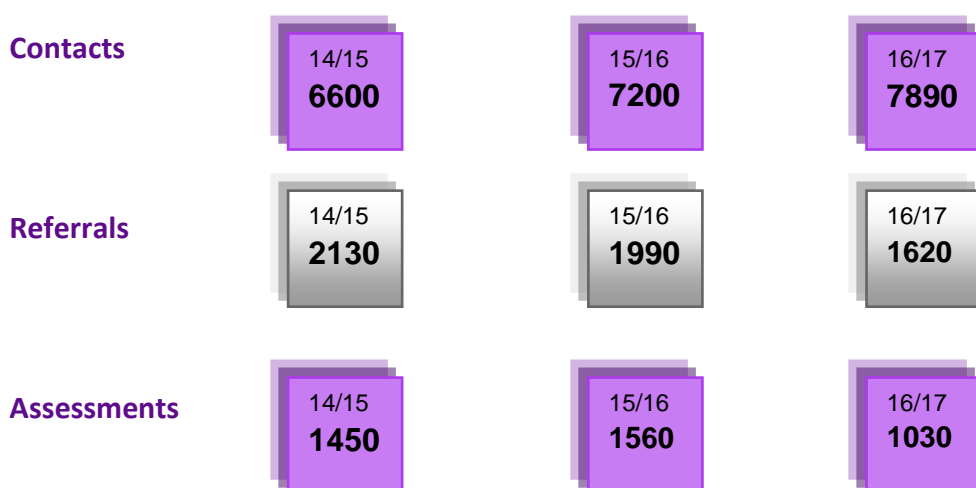
Academic attainment is slightly above the regional and England averages with 58.2% of pupils achieving >5 A* - C GCSEs or equivalent compared to 57.7% regionally and 52.3% England average. The numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) is not significant in relation to national figures at 3.8%.

National research shows that 8.9 - 10.8% of 4-5 year olds, and 16-19% of 10-11 year olds in Torbay are classed as obese¹. The rate of alcohol-specific hospital stays among those under 18 has reduced from the previous year at 61.5 (per 100,000), however remains worse than the average for England. This represents 15 stays per year. Levels of smoking at time of delivery are worse than the England average. Hospital admissions across adults and children for self-harm and alcohol related harm are significantly higher than the England average, as are the numbers for opiate and/or crack use.

In addition, Torbay is an outlier in a number of other national and statistical neighbour indicators. The number of care applications rose from 22.2 in 2014/15 to 22.6 in 2016/17 (per 10,000 children) in comparison with 12.5 nationally. Nearly twice the number of section 47 investigations undertaken compared to our statistical neighbours. Just over 110 children per 10,000 of the population are looked after compared to 60 England average. The number of young people in a CAMHS Tier 4 provision is high.

The number of pupils with SEN statements is the second highest in the country at 4.4 % with the national average being 2.8% and increasing numbers of children subject to Child Protection Plans.

5.2 Contacts, Referrals and Assessments



The levels of contacts are indicative of the levels of demand within the community and a reflection of the confidence and readiness of the public and partners having to identify children about whom they are concerned.

¹ House of Commons Briefing Paper 3336 20th January 2017

This year saw the creation of a single point of entry via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which enables more accurate screening and signposting for lower tier cases, and timely progression of referrals where the threshold for a statutory social work assessment is reached. This has simplified how colleagues and the public from across Torbay can raise concerns regarding children. More information on this is outlined in the Progress sections.

Whilst the numbers of children and families reportedly receiving Early Help in Torbay appears good, there has been a long-standing lack of clarity and evidence as to the impact of these interventions. This has impacted on the tendency of social care staff to actively step cases down into Early Help. Partners have also had concerns regarding their role in leading early help cases. In response, Early Help and what the offer is for families will be relaunched in early 2017/18.

Children’s Services in Torbay recorded 1620 referrals which was just over 18.5% less than last year.

Year	Total number of referrals	Torbay per 10K	Statistical neighbour per 10k	National average per 10k
13/14	2750	1104	715	573
14/15	2130	851	644	548
15/16	1990	789	771	532
16/17	1620	643	Not available	Not available

Over the last 4 years referrals have continued to fall and is now much closer to benchmarks. The profile of partners notifying Children Services is also generally in line with that seen nationally. In 2016/17 the Police, Schools / Academies and Health accounted for 55% of the total number of referrals deemed to meet thresholds. The reduction in the number of referrals is linked to the successful operation of the MASH and the ongoing and consistent engagement of partner agencies, most notably Police and Health colleagues.

Further work around understanding thresholds of intervention for Children’s Services and the Child’s Journey document will form part of the plan of work for the TSCB for 16/17.

During 2016/17 further improvements were made to create one front door and thereby remove the requirements on partners to complete different paper work and engage in different processes to raise concerns about children.

The number of children in need assessments has also continued to fall and is now just below comparator authority levels. This trend is a reflection of the delivery of the MASH which is helping to better ensure that the right cases go on to assessment.

The relative number of section 47 investigations is currently 36% higher than the latest set of available benchmarks. However, practice compliance on the timeliness of these investigations actually improved in 2016/17 compared to the previous year. Timeliness of reviews were also good.

5.3 Children on Child Protection Plans

Following a child protection enquiry, where concerns of significant harm are substantiated and the child is judged to be suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm, social workers and their managers should convene an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC). An ICPC brings together family members (and children/young people where appropriate) with supporters, advocates and professionals to analyse information and plan how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child/young person. If the ICPC considers that the child/young person is at a continuing risk of significant harm, they will be made the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP).

Children who have CPP are considered to be in need of protection from either neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse or a combination of one or more of these. The CPP details the main areas of concern, what action will be taken to reduce those concerns and by whom, and how professionals, the family and the child or young person (where appropriate) will know when progress is being made.

Number of children on plans

Year	Total number	Torbay per 10K	Statistical neighbour per 10k	National average per 10k
13/14				
14/15	151	60	55	43
15/16	133	53	52	43
16/17	215	85	Not available	Not available

Child Protection by category

Year	Torbay 2015/16	Torbay 2016/17	Statistical neighbour 2015/16	National average 2015/16
Emotional abuse	54.1%	49.5%	26%	35.3%
Neglect	33.3%	38.3%	46.9%	46%
Physical abuse	8.9%	4.7%	5.9%	8.3%
Sexual abuse	3.7%	7.8%	5.1%	4.7%
Multiple	Not used in TC	Not used in TC	15.2%	5.6%

Length of plans (% of all those that cease in year)

Year	Torbay 2015/16	Torbay 2016/17	Statistical neighbour 2015/16	National average 2015/16
0-3 months	33%	15%	24%	20%
3-6 months	15%	30%	12%	11%
6-12 months	36%	44%	41%	41%
1-2 years	15%	11%	20%	25%
Over 2 years	1%	1%	3%	4%

Children on plans for a second or subsequent time

Year	Total number of referrals	Statistical neighbour per 10k	National average per 10k
13/14	12.9%	16.8%	15.8%
14/15	16.7%	17.4%	16.6%
15/16	23.1%	19.7%	17.9%
16/17	23.4%	Not available	Not available

Children who are at immediate risk of significant harm are on plans. 2016/17 saw the number on plans rise significantly. The reasons for this are linked to a number of factors that relate to practice across Torbay. In the first instance Child Protection rose in response to a check on the application of threshold for investigations. This led to an increased number of children being subject to investigation. Another factor is the high degree of confidence expressed by partners in the protection process. Work is underway to ensure that the use of Child Protection is balanced with other approaches to help address risks to children.

Evidence of the changing profile of Child Protection can also be seen in the relatively short time some plans are in place compared to benchmarks. In 2016/17 saw only a small number of children on plans for more than 2 years and these were linked to complex legal cases.

The rise in Child Protection did lead to a rise in those coming on to a plan for a second time. However, the majority of the increase related to children who had never been on a plan before. Emotional abuse and Neglect accounted for nearly 90% of children on plans. Case auditing and reviews have identified that Emotional abuse is most often linked to families where Domestic Abuse has occurred.

5.4 Children Looked After

A child or young person who is 'looked after' is in the care of the Local Authority. The local authority only seeks the court decision to move a child from their family once all other possibilities are explored for protecting them.

As at 31st March 2017, Torbay was responsible for looking after 284 children and young people. A year prior to this the total number of children being looked after was 279. At end of March 2017, 17% of the children looked after are under 4 years old, 22% are between 5-9, 45% were aged 10 to 15 and 18% were over 16 years old.

5.5 Placement Stability, Type and Location

Children looked after generally enjoy long term stable placements in Torbay. For example, the number of children experiencing 3 or more placement moves is low compared to benchmarks. Where possible and appropriate, family based placements are sought for children looked after. In Torbay 77% of children looked after were cared for within family settings. However, a small proportion, 13% of children are looked after in residential care.

Local placements are sought for children so that they can remain close to the community in which they had lived. However, a longstanding short fall in the amount of local specialist types of provision means that 23% of children are placed more than 20 miles from Torbay.

5.6 Private Fostering

Private Fostering is where parents make their own arrangements for the care of their children who are under 16 years old to live away from home with someone other than a parent or close relative. The local authority must be notified of these arrangements if they last for 28 days or more. For the year ending 31 March 2017, notifications were received in respect of 236 Private Fostering arrangements which is a 3% increase on last year. This high number is in relation to the number of language schools based in the Torbay area. The number of notifications in relation to local young people was broadly the same as last year.

Approximately 94% of all privately fostered young people in Torbay were from overseas studying to improve their English. Most of the host families recruited by the various schools and organisations are white British. This year 52% were seen within statutory timescales representing a considerable improvement on the previous year which was 26%.

5.7 Children with Disabilities

The need to safeguard disabled children and provide effective support to children and their families is a priority both nationally and locally. The Children and Families Act 2014 brought significant changes to support service provision for disabled children.

Research has found that disabled children are four times more likely to be abused and neglected than non-disabled children, are more likely to experience multiple types and occurrences of abuse and have a prevalence rate of 20% for experiencing physical abuse, 14% sexual violence, 18% emotional abuse and 9.5% for neglect. Disabled children have additional needs and face both additional and specific risks and barriers to their protection including:

- Attitudes and assumptions such as a reluctance to believe that disabled children are abused, minimising the impact of abuse and attributing indicators of abuse to a child's impairment without an exploration of possible causes or reasons underlying these;
- Barriers to the provision of support services;
- Impairment related factors such as dependency on carers for personal assistance, impaired capacity to resist/avoid abuse, communication impairments and an inability to understand what is happening or seek help;
- Skills gaps such as an inability to communicate with the disabled child and respond to their individual needs in a child protection context, inappropriate application of thresholds'

(NWG on Safeguarding Disabled Children (2016) Safeguarding Disabled Children in England NSPCC)

Safeguarding disabled children was the subject of a multi-agency case audit completed by the Quality Assurance Sub-Group of the TSCB. The findings of the audit demonstrated that children with disabilities receive a good service overall:

"It is encouraging that in the six cases audited no significant concerns were identified and there was a focus on ensuring the needs of the child were met. All of the cases discussed appeared to be rightly

managed by the appropriate teams, given the nature and range of disabilities experienced. Many professionals strived to offer a responsive service in line with “Think Family” and their commitment to providing this, in difficult circumstances, should not be overlooked.”

5.8 Domestic Violence and Abuse

Protecting children and young people from domestic violence and abuse is a priority for the TSCB. This year the Board worked with the Community Safety Partnership to influence a renewed focus on children and young people within this area of work. Further detail is provided within the progress section of this report.

Key figures for Torbay reflect the scale of this issue:

- **1030** Domestic Abuse incidents where children/young person present during 2016/17;
- **33%** of all social work assessments completed in 2016/17 identified domestic abuse as an issue within family;
- **147** children started on a plan under the category of emotional abuse. This category is most closely associated with the harm caused by Domestic Abuse.



Health practitioners attended the Best Practice Forum to share an example of good practice in working with a victim of domestic abuse. Practitioners shared how they facilitated contact for the victim with supportive services, by providing a safe place and time for this to take place without putting the victim at risk/increasing suspicion by the perpetrator. The example showed great initiative and creativity by practitioners, and led to a successful outcome for the victim. Their presentation was well received and very powerful.

5.9 Children and Young People at risk of Exploitation

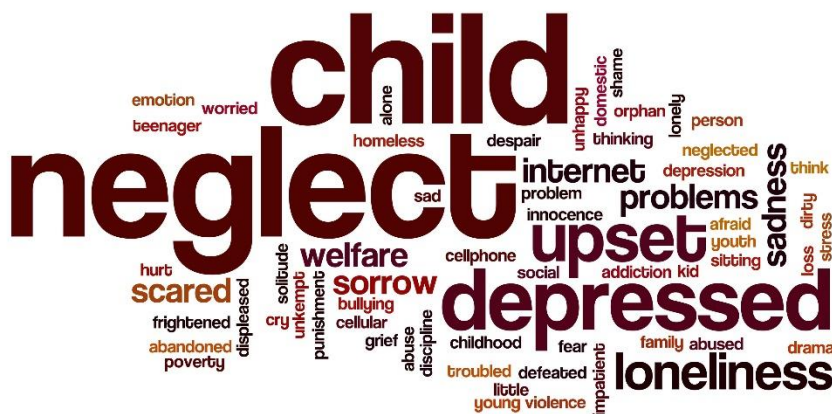
This year saw a change in focus for the TSCB in relation to children and young people at risk of exploitation. The Child Sexual Exploitation subgroup widened its’ remit to become the Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Subgroup in recognition of the complexity of issues facing our children and young people. The group now focuses on radicalisation, modern slavery, trafficking and missing children in addition to those at risk of/experiencing sexual exploitation.

6 Progressing the Board’s Business Plan

During 2016/17 the TSCB focused on the following five priorities:

- Priority 1** Enhance the understanding of neglect amongst professionals across Torbay by developing a Multi-Agency Neglect strategy which will include the provision of tools to better identify indicators of neglect, and understand what interventions are available to support and protect children affected by and/or at risk of neglect;
- Priority 2** Ensure that Board partners recognise the needs of children and young people when considering the impact of domestic abuse;
- Priority 3** Ensure a coordinated multi-agency approach and response to complex safeguarding issues including; Missing, Exploited and Trafficked children and young people, High Risk Adolescents, Radicalisation and the PREVENT agenda;
- Priority 4** Embedding Early Help – Ensure that Board members have a shared understanding of Early Help and their contribution to the Early Help offer in Torbay; and
- Priority 5** The Child’s Voice is heard so that our work is child centred and we continually seek to engage and involve young people in the provision and planning of services by partners.

Priority 1 – Enhance the understanding of neglect amongst professionals across Torbay by developing a Multi-Agency Neglect strategy which will include the provision of tools to better identify indicators of neglect, and understand what interventions are available to support and protect children affected by and/or at risk of neglect.



Neglect has been identified as a priority for the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) because of the serious impact it has on the long term chances for Children. Neglect in the first three years of life can seriously impact on brain development and have significant consequences through adolescence and into adulthood.

At the end of December 2016, 36% of Torbay children were subject to a

Schools, Torbay and South Devon Foundation Trust, Licensed Taxi Companies and agencies from the Voluntary Sector.

- The MET subgroup, alongside Safer Communities, reviewed and approved the Modern Slavery Toolkit which was published in March 2017
- A CSE awareness campaign was launched in conjunction with the Peninsula LSCB's in March 2017 to coincide with CSE awareness day. The awareness campaign launched on 17th March 2017 and ran for one week. This included a coordinated message sent out across social media platforms including a dedicated hashtag.

Priority 4 – Embedding Early Help – Ensure that Board members have a shared understanding of Early Help and their contribution to the Early Help offer in Torbay



A significant piece of work has commenced to review the Thresholds document and Early Help offer. Three multi-agency workshops have taken place to review existing practice and to identify gaps and where improvements are needed. The workshops focused on 3 key areas:

- The early help vision and priorities for Torbay
- A revised thresholds of need document
- Early help pathways and processes

As a result of the workshops, a revised Threshold document has been developed and will be signed off and published in summer 2017. Accompanying this, online interactive guidance to support practitioners in using the Threshold document effectively will be developed and launched. In response to feedback from partners, a single point of entry has also been established through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub for all referrals into Level 3 targeted Help and Level 4 statutory social care, and a consultation line will be implemented to support practitioners working at Level 2.

An Early Help Steering Group to drive the strategic delivery of Early Help has been established with membership at a Senior level from across the partnership, including voluntary and community sector representatives. The Steering Group has commissioned three further task and finish groups:

- Targeted Help Panel pathways and processes;
- Request for Targeted Support (formerly Team Around the Family) referral and minutes templates;

My social worker	1
Memes on Facebook	1
A game I played	1
Family contact	1

Hurt	1
Mega happy and excited	1
Alone	1
I was sad earlier	1
This things weird	1
Amazing	1

What is not good in life?	
School	9
Friends	3
Someone else	3
Where I live	3
My grandad	2
Nothing	2
Contact	2
Health	2
Never happy	1
Brother	1
Clubs	1
Ummm (custom)	1
Nothing	1
Not seeing my dogs	1
Someone in my class	1

How are you feeling?	
Happy	27
Ok	17
Calm	14
Excited	9
Enthusiastic	7
Unhappy	6
Unsure	6
Angry	6
Anxious	6
Hopeful	5
Confused	4
Bored	3
Thankful	3
Proud	2
Annoyed	2
Frustrated	2
Pleased	2
Overjoyed	2
Ignored	1
Loved	1

A mapping exercise also undertaken to establish which methods were being used in Children's Services to engage children and families and to capture their feedback, complaints and views. Heads of Service were asked to ensure representatives provided feedback about user participation and feedback in the following teams:

- Adoption
- Fostering
- Early Help: FIT, IFSS
- Safeguarding and Supporting Families
- CLA Team
- Disability Team
- MASH
- Single assessment team
- IYSS
- Independent Reviewing Unit
- Family Group Conference Service

Respondents were asked to comment on the type of engagement, how often it was done, where it was recorded and how it was used.

Nine different types of engagement were identified that are used to involve children, young people and their families and capture their views.

- Observation of children and young people
- Indirect contact and use of technology
- Methods to encourage participation
- Direct work with children and young people
- Direct meetings with families
- Group Work
- Assessment
- Feedback regarding services
- TSCB Multi Agency Case Audits (MACA)



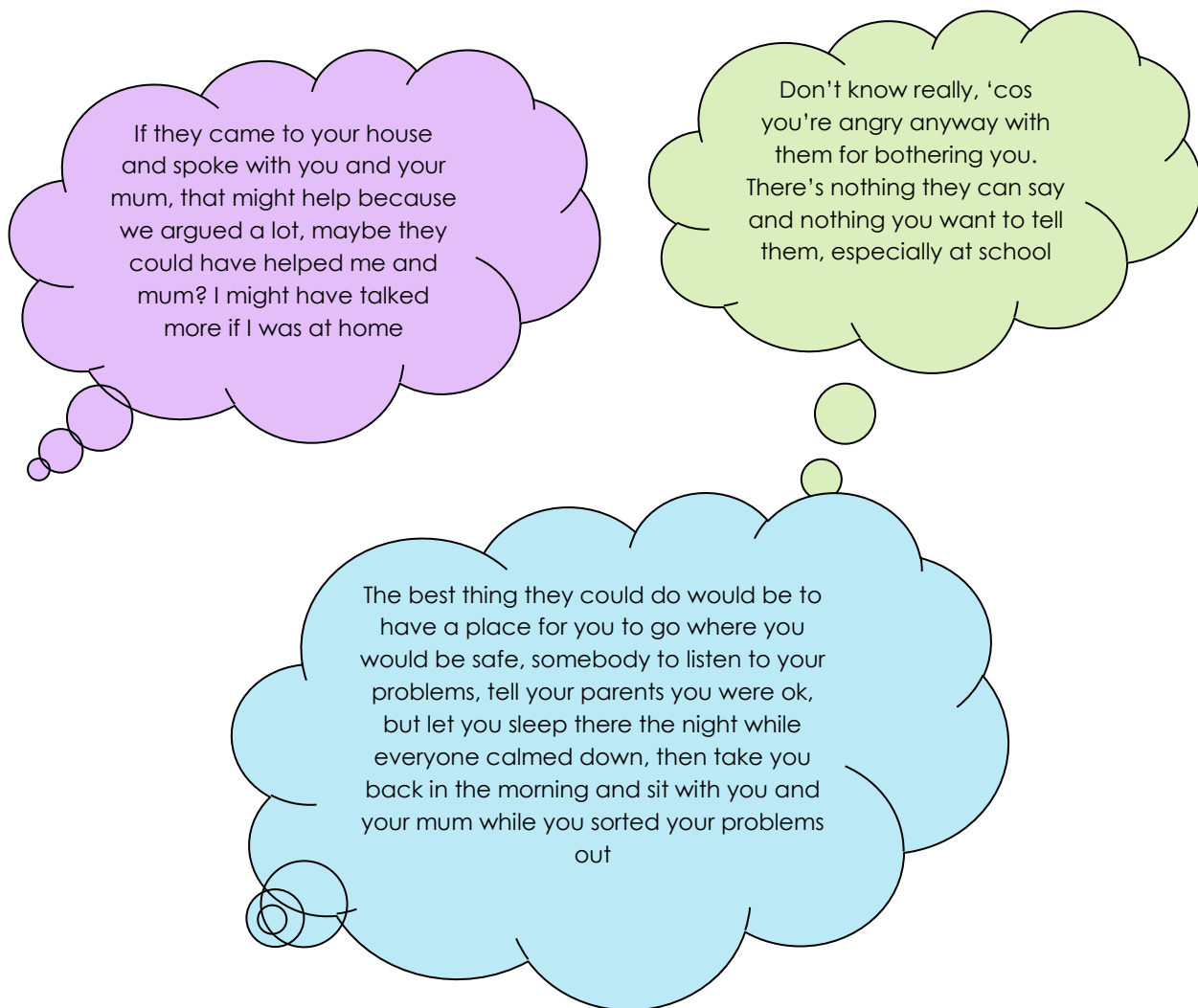
The Child's Voice

TSCB partners have a strong ethos of engagement with children and young people, ensuring they are seen, heard and helped. Practitioners from all agencies gather the views of children and young people on a daily basis, from a home visit by a social worker to comments made to a teacher in the classroom. The roll out of the Signs of Safety model across the partnership has made a significant difference to practice, with the views, worries and wishes of children and young people playing a central role in the development of plans. Recruitment of the current Independent Chair included meeting a panel of young people who had an opportunity to develop their own questions and contribute to the process.

7.1.1 The child's voice in multi-agency case audits

As part of a recent multi-agency case audit on missing episodes, a focus group took place with 3 young people who had recently gone missing. The young people were asked about their understanding of what responsibilities services had when children/young people go missing, what happened when they returned home, what could be done to make the return home interviews better, what would a good experience look like, what were their worries for themselves/other children and young people going missing and what was it like to live in Torbay.

Some of the responses are outlined below:



One school had worked particularly hard to support a young person whose missing episodes were increasing and she was presenting as dishevelled in appearance at school. Police had a good relationship with this young person who was happy to share information and talk to them. School records clearly articulated the young person and her wishes and aspirations, and often undertook the Return Home Interviews when the young person did not want to engage with Checkpoint

7.2.1 Section 11 Auditing

The Section 11 Audit is the TSCB's primary audit to examine the safeguarding arrangements within agencies and provides the Board with reassurance that agencies are doing what they can to ensure the safety and welfare of children and young people.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key agencies and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. On an annual basis, the TSCB undertakes an audit of statutory, commissioned and voluntary sector organisations to establish reassurance that they are compliant with these expected safeguarding standards. In 2016 the TSCB

introduced an additional layer of scrutiny by adding in panel discussions with organisations about their Section 11 returns.



The TSCB received a total of 14 completed audits out of 15 requested and 13 statutory, voluntary and commissioned services attended the scrutiny panels

7.2.2 Section 11 Findings

There was a positive completion rate of the audits and attendance at the panels and many organisations reported the process as a positive experience. The main themes from the audits were:

- How do we ensure that learning and guidance from training, audits and serious case reviews is embedded into practice?
- Roles of commissioners – although not frontline, how do commissioners hold providers to account, transfer learning and ensure safeguarding assurance is built into tendering processes;
- What management oversight is there of the levels and quality of referrals and of complaint processes;
- An increased focus on children with disabilities was an area that a number of partners identified as needing more work
- The ability to use IT systems to extract key data.

Following on from the returns and panels, each organisation has an individual action plan and have been asked to provide an update on progress against these plans quarterly.

7.2.3 Section 157/175

Sections 157 and 175 of the Education Act 2002 place a statutory duty on independent and maintained schools to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions, they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that any services they contract out to others are provided having regard to that need.

In fulfilling its statutory objectives under Section 14 of the Children Act 2004, the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) is required to ensure that schools are meeting these duties effectively.

Historically, schools have engaged well in this work with the Local Authority. The TSCB has reviewed this process this year which will now be overseen by the Quality Assurance Subgroup. This is a significant step forward which will ensure closer oversight and scrutiny by all partners. The toolkit has also been reviewed in partnership with schools to ensure it covers all appropriate areas of safeguarding. This is a two year process with full audits being undertaken in year 1 and a review audit in year 2.

Priorities going forward:

- Encouraging all independent, maintained and language schools to participate fully in the 157 175 audit;
- Ensuring there is robust scrutiny of all the completed audits and regular scrutiny and oversight of progress against agreed actions for both the Section 11 and 157 175 processes.

7.2.4 Multi-Agency Case Audits

This year the Quality Assurance Subgroup led on three multi-agency case audits, looking at practice in relation to Children with Disabilities, Best Practice and Children Missing from Home and Care.

The case audits are undertaken by members of the Quality Assurance on analysis undertaken by practitioners and their line managers, feedback from children and young people and their families and other groups as appropriate. For example, the missing audit included conversations with a wider group of children and young people, and staff from services commissioned to deliver services in relation to missing children and young people.

From each audit, an action plan is developed which underpins the ongoing work of the Quality Assurance Subgroup, which includes commissioning work by other relevant groups.

Strengths identified:

- Evidence of good communication between the lead professional and all the relevant agencies.
- Good evidence of a “Think Family” approach being adopted and it taking account of all the known concerns and considerations.
- good planning, evidence and recording, for the transition from children’s’ disability services to adult services, with reference to all the professionals and agencies involved
- Evidence of agencies across the partnership working well together to support families
- Good engagement with children using a range of tools to capture their views and experience, often resulting in children “jumping off the page
- A multi-agency approach to engineering an opportunity for a woman to be seen alone to support a disclosure of domestic abuse
- Tenacity of early years providers to obtain safeguarding information from previous nursery provision
- Early years provision describing very good communication between the core group to improve outcomes for children
- Good evidence of the use of Signs of Safety
- Timely referrals to allow support services to be put in place for a child who was self-harming
- Use of weight charts to support referral into Children’s Social Care
- School working effectively to empower a child to talk about their emotions
- Where workers remained consistent in the cases audited, there was some excellent work done both in terms of single agency requirements and partner agency working

- One school had worked particularly hard to support a young person whose missing episodes were increasing. Specific action taken included; allocating a welfare officer, identifying a designated attendance spot in school, monitoring attendance with a specific protocol for this young person, working with mum and police/school nurse, adapting the curriculum to meet the young person's needs and being part of the safety plan for the young person. Police had a good relationship with this young person who was happy to share information and talk to them. School records clearly articulated the young person and her wishes and aspirations, and often undertook the Return Home Interviews when the young person did not want to engage with another service
- Clear evidence of police responding promptly to a young person's disclosure of domestic abuse at home, this was escalated to children's social care with a positive outcome for the young person.
- There was an excellent example of the Early Help process supporting a young person known to go missing, and where required support was escalated to a single assessment.
- There was evidence to demonstrate that the police worked over and above practice standards supporting one young person very effectively after one missing episode, where the young person upon being taken home stated they would run again – the police visited later to check on the young person. This resulted in police taking robust action to secure a conviction against one individual known to harbour and posing a risk to young people going missing, who young people had been found with.
- A senior leader within a school who had retired contacted the Head of the Virtual School and asked if she could continue to do some work with a particular young person known to go missing whom she had built a good relationship with
- The use of Equine therapy to support young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties, including attachment issues
- An excellent piece of work undertaken by a school nurse led to the young person "coming alive" off the records, it was noted there was careful and thoughtful interventions with the young person
- In cases where young people had become "Looked After", there was a notable improvement in the outcomes for those young people, with improved attendance at school and engagement with support services.
- Information regarding regular places that young people are known to go to is shared by the police at Missing and Child Sexual Exploitation meetings. This has resulted in improved responses to missing episodes, where "known places" are checked first

Actions arising from this year's case audits:

- To seek assurance that the CIN process is being followed appropriately and the CIN plans are seeking to make improvements in outcomes for our children and young people.
- To seek assurance that where supervised contact arrangements are in place, vulnerabilities of those being considered to "supervise" are taken into account
- Social Workers and Paediatricians to be reminded that it is not the role of the Paediatrician to undertake one off assessments on children to provide evidence of neglect

- To seek assurance that the process of supervision includes scrutiny of record keeping and monitoring of the progress of any plans in place
- To seek assurance that staff within Children’s Social Care are trained in using the SMART approach within their record keeping and care planning
- To seek assurance that Children's Social Care and Adult Mental Health services are working together to ensure that where there are concerns about an adult having a severe or complex mental health issue or a learning disability, which meets the threshold for a service that;
 - an appropriate intervention or assessment is implemented that identifies their needs and ensures they are met; and
 - allows the diagnosis to inform the plan for the child/ren and their family;
- Schools to be made aware of the resources available for children and young people experiencing low level emotional health needs where the threshold for CAMHS intervention is not met.
- Social Workers to be reminded that where there is a planned piece of intervention for a child, meetings to monitor the progress of that intervention should be organised in a way that allows the key professionals to attend
- All practitioners must ensure that the inbox details they give in order to receive minutes from Child Protection/Child in Need meetings (whether it be a generic or individual inbox) are regularly accessed and cover in place if on leave
- In future audits, there must be representation from all agencies reflected in the audit
- Seek assurance that where appropriate, reunification is considered for all child entering into the care system, and that an appropriate plan is in place that encompasses the emotional support required by children who are removed from their parent/s / primary care giver

The audit process was also updated this year to include a greater focus on the views of children and young people and their families, and the inclusion of specialist workers to ensure the audits remain focussed on practice within the subject area and not just general practice.

Planning is already underway for the 17/18 case audits which will again see a shift towards the Joint Targeted Area Inspection approach, with Terms of Reference already drawn up for a thematic Domestic Abuse audit which will take place in summer 2017.

7.2.5 Case Reviews

Local Safeguarding Children Boards have a statutory responsibility to undertake Serious Case Reviews in specified circumstances, which are set out in the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006.

Regulation 5 sets out the circumstances in which the Board should undertake a serious case review and advise the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned. Serious cases are defined as:

- Cases where the abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and
- Either the child has died, or the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

Serious case reviews should be undertaken by an independent person with involvement of all the agencies involved with the case, and should be published by the Safeguarding Children Board.

Cases meeting the criteria are referred to the Board and discussed at the Serious Case Review Subgroup, to assess whether they meet the criteria for a serious case review. Cases that don't meet this criteria but where there may be valuable learning for agencies, are sometimes reviewed in a different way with the learning shared with local partners but not published.

- During 2016/17, the Serious Case Review Subgroup met on eight occasions with two cases being formally considered for a serious case review.
- The Chair decided not to initiate any serious case reviews.
- The Chair decided to initiate two management reviews. Both reviews remain in progress.
- One management review was concluded following a referral in 2015/16 (C53)

7.2.6 C53 - Management Review

This review was completed in 2016/17 following referral in 2015/16 due to concerns regarding unexplained marks to the child's body. The marks were later attributed to a medical condition however there were some concerns regarding multi-agency working and as such, an independent management review was undertaken. The following summary sets out the key areas of learning identified and actions to be taken by the TSCB:

7.2.7 Key learning – C53

Consideration of safeguarding issues alongside normal age and developmental factors in assessing injuries to young children

- Importance of how we resolve differing medical opinions so that we have a common understanding of the diagnosis and how this influences a view about safeguarding
- Importance of effective policies and procedures in relation to;
 - communication,
 - repeat presentations at emergency department,
 - location and nature of injuries in relation to age of child,
 - escalation and de-escalation of cases
 - the involvement of partner agencies within this decision making
- Importance of the quality of decision making, management oversight and sharing of information with other agencies

7.2.7 Actions – C53

- Action plan developed and monitored by the SCR subgroup

7.2 8 External Learning

The TSCB is a learning organisation and is constantly looking outwards to identify relevant learning opportunities that may help assist it's' role of coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the safeguarding systems across Torbay. Over 2016/17 a number of national reviews and inspection reports were considered by the TSCB, with Board members reflecting on their relevance to local safeguarding arrangements.

Some of these included:

- Good Childhood Report 2016 (The Children's Society)
- We have the right to be safe: protecting disabled children from abuse (NSPCC)
- National case review repository (NSPCC)
- The Brooke Serious Case Review into CSE (Bristol LSCB)
- Operation Erle (Peterborough LSCB)
- Joint targeted area inspections: framework and guidance (OFSTED)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE)
- The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers (DfE)
- Unknown Children: Destined for disadvantage? (OFSTED)

7.3 Performance Data

The TSCB agreed a partnership dataset this year in response to the recommendations from the 2015 OFSTED inspection. Data was available from Quarter 3 which enabled the TSCB to start to effectively scrutinise patterns and trends in performance and hold agencies to account where appropriate. Examples of challenge arising from the data are set out below:



Number of children and young people detained in custody overnight: high numbers were noted from the early data provided and challenged within the Board meetings. A working group was established under the governance of the Youth Justice Forum which looked individually at any young person detained in accordance with a concordat which addresses young people being detained overnight by the Police. This resulted in proactive work with custody sergeants to improve awareness and promote greater communication with children's social care in appropriate cases.



Declining trend force wide in domestic abuse incidents where a child is present: There has been a steadily declining trend over the previous 12 months which was noted. A separate piece of work is being undertaken to analyse this trend to ascertain what the reasons behind this may be, which will be monitored by the TSCB.



Rising trend in sexual offences where the offender is identified as a young person; a specific piece of work was commissioned to analyse the individual cases and will be reported into the MET Subgroup during 2017/18 identifying any wider partnership activity that may be required.

8 Child Death Overview Panel

The Peninsula Safeguarding Children Boards (Devon, Torbay, Plymouth and Cornwall) commission a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) which enables the Boards to carry out their statutory functions in relation to child deaths. The CDOP review all child deaths and are required to categorise the preventability of a death by considering whether any factors may have contributed to the death of the child, and if so, whether any of these factors could be 'modified' to reduce the risk of future deaths. Of the deaths reviewed in 2016/17 from across the peninsula, 18% were considered to be modifiable which is lower than the national figure of 24% from 2015/16.

CDOP facts and figures 2016/17:

- 44 deaths of Torbay children and young people reviewed since 2012
- Figures show a sustained reduction in deaths of Torbay children and young people in 2015/16 and 2016/17 from previous years
- 6 deaths reviewed in 2016/17
- 39% of deaths across the peninsula were unexpected

8.1 CDOP impact 2016/17 – improving child safety, child welfare and the CDOP process

Safe Sleeping CDOP wrote to the Directors of Public Health and The Lullaby Trust to seek reassurance regarding some of the messages being given to parents and carers about safe sleeping.

Palliative Care CDOP raised concerns regarding the quality and consistency of end of life care for children and young people and their families. CDOP requested a review of commissioning across the peninsula.

Health and Safety CDOP noted a number of cases where there were modifiable Health and Safety concerns and contacted the appropriate bodies to request a review of policies and guidance and awareness raising activity.

Children and Young People's mental health CDOP contributed to a national inquiry regarding children and young people's mental health and the role for education in improving emotional resilience. Once published, the findings will be considered by CDOP and appropriate actions identified.

8.2 Themes and Recommendations for the TSCB

CDOP have identified the following themes which the TSCB will need to consider in the ongoing work of the TSCB during 2017/18:

- The majority of childhood deaths nationally continue to occur in the less than 1 year age group. Studies that have explored sudden infant deaths and deaths for which the cause remained unascertained after a full investigation, have identified key risk factors which remain unchanged:

- Smoking and alcohol use
 - Parental mental health
 - Hazardous sleeping environments
 - Gender
 - Birth Weight
 - Maternal Age
 - Socioeconomic classification
-
- In previous CDOP reports, the under 5s and under 1s as a group have been highlighted for consideration. CDOP recommends working with Early Years workers to deliver safe sleeping and safety initiatives that safeguard children.
 - Another group of deaths reflected in the modifiable category are suicides. Notable factors identified in previous studies have included poor mental health within the family, bullying, suicidal ideation and deprivation.
 - As outlined above, there are ongoing concerns regarding the provision and configuration of palliative care across the South West.

9 Training and Development

The TSCB 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 TSCB 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 Training subgroup, and focuses on areas of practice prioritised by the Board, with learning from local and national serious case reviews and case audits being fully integrated into the training material.

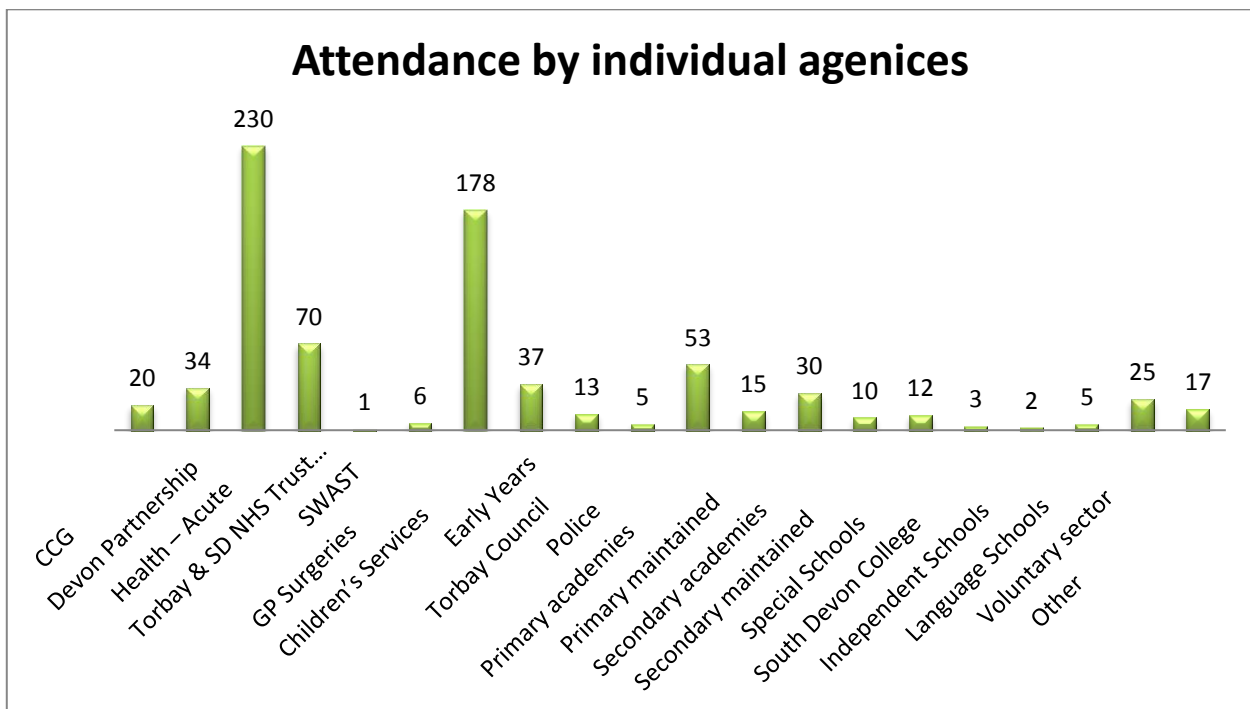
9.1 TSCB Multi-Agency Training Programme Summary 2016/17

During 2016-2017; TSCB provided 44 training courses (of which 4 were half-day courses). 6 courses were cancelled and are not included in the above figure.

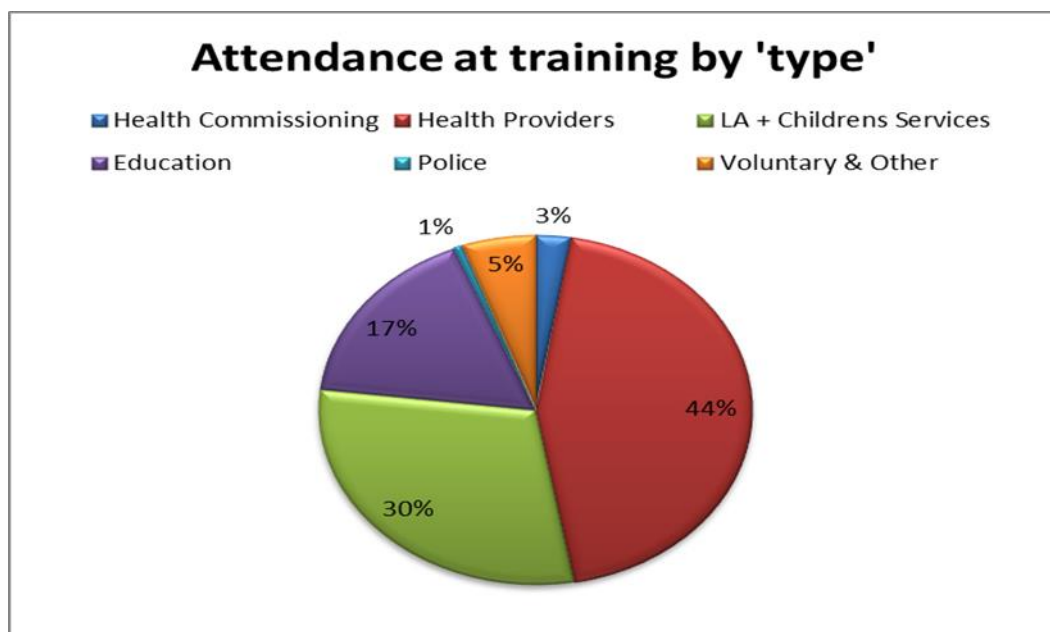
The following topics were provided:

Topic	No. Attending
Safeguarding Children Foundation	395
Safeguarding Children Refresher	165
Signs of Safety – Education	15
Signs of Safety – Advance	23
Introduction to Signs of Safety	47
Families Experiencing Multiple Adversities	23
Emotional Abuse & Developing Resilience	27
Child Sexual Exploitation	51
Neglect & Graded Care Profile	17
Safeguarding Children with Disabilities	5
Reflective Supervision in Safeguarding	7
Child Sexual Abuse	10
Total Attending:	785

9.2 Agency Attendance at TSCB Multi-Agency Training



This reveals that 47% of all attendance is by health professionals, 30% from the Local Authority (Children's Services, Early Help Services and other County Council employees) and 17% by Education. Only 1% of available training places are utilised by Police.



10 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.

In 2015-16 there were 164 referrals made to the LADO which is an increase from last year when there were 112. Of these 164, only 47 met the LADO threshold. The referrals come from a variety of sources but the largest majority of these are from Children's Services and schools. The settings subject to allegations included foster carers, schools and community organisations as well as others.

There was an increase of physical and sexual abuse allegations compared to last year. This year there was a small number of emotional abuse allegations which did not feature last year.

11 Going Forward - 2017 to 2018

There is clearly a significant amount of work to do to make the improvements identified by Ofsted. It is critical that Partners are able to work far more collaboratively in Torbay to make the necessary changes in services and the way that we work together to improve services for children and young people. We need to be able to measure and monitor services, challenge each other and hold each other to account to ensure improvements are sustained.

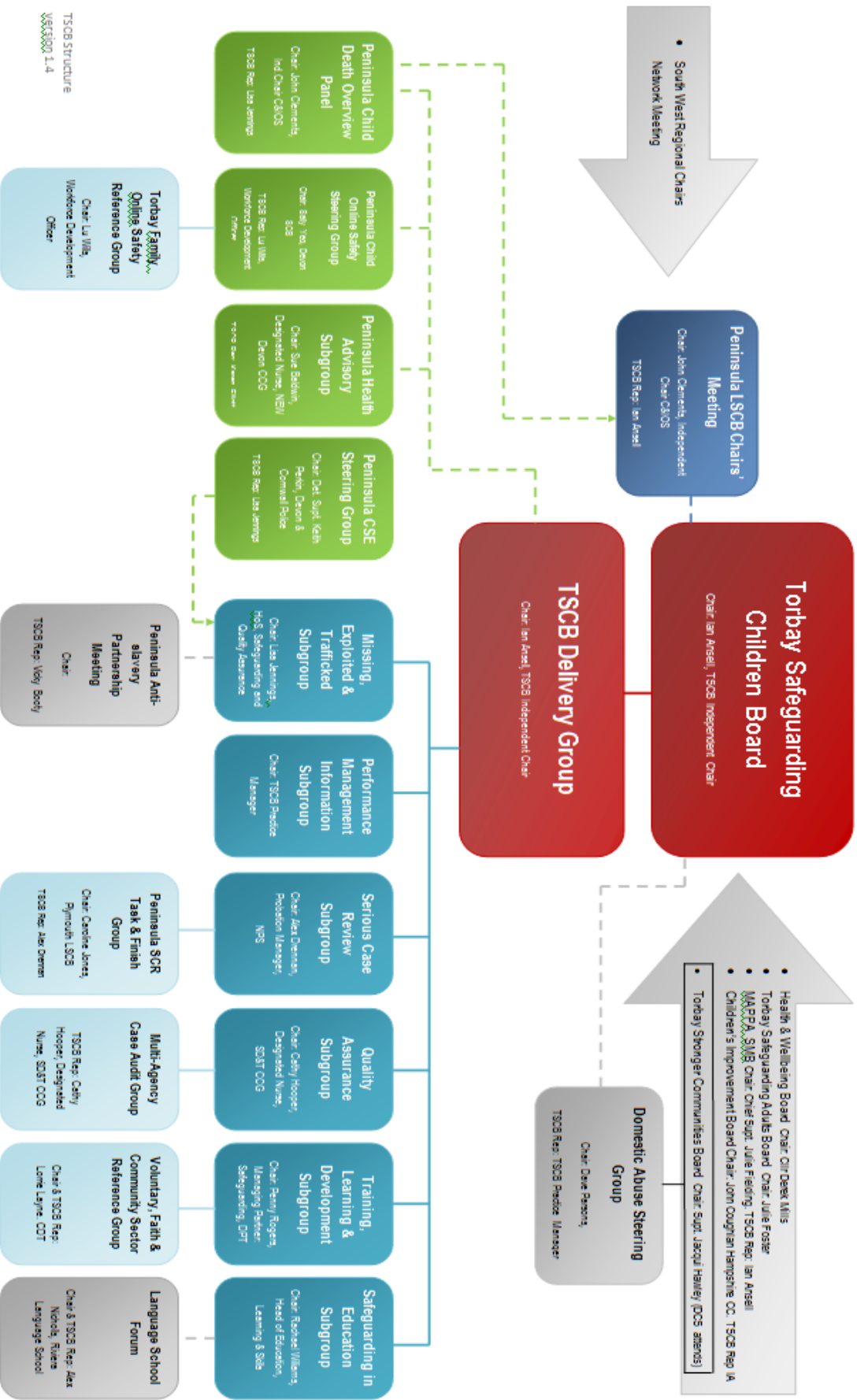
We need to know that what we do really does impact positively on our children's futures and we can only do that together.

The TSCB will need to agree a robust Business Plan for next year and the priorities agreed will have to be driven by the Ofsted Inspection report paying particular attention to the following:

- Board Data Set.
- Child's Voice.
- Early Help.
- Thresholds.
- Domestic Abuse Services.
- Neglect.

Appendix 1: Board Governance Structure

Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) Structure



Appendix 2: TSCB Membership as at March 2017

