TSCB Business Plan 2018-19

**Version 1**

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# Chair’s foreword

Throughout 2017/18 the Board concentrated upon continuing to address the inadequate areas highlighted following the Ofsted Inspection conducted in November 2015. The partner agencies have worked together to make significant progress on a number of themes including:

* Drafting and publishing the new Early Help Strategy;
* Drafting and publishing the new Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy;
* Agreeing and collating information against a new performance data framework; and
* Completion of a revised Section 157/175 audit process

The priorities and work plan for 2018/19, will continue to underpin the improvements made by the Board and provide a large degree of continuity building upon work commenced in the past twelve months.

Following on from the recommendations of the Wood Review, the Children and Social Work Act 2017, has given the ‘designated safeguarding partners’ for a Local Authority area (the Local Authority, Clinical commissioning Group and police) the opportunity to agree new local safeguarding arrangements through publishing of ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ 2018. Subject to the continued improvements in Local Children’s Social Services and the development of the contractual arrangement with Plymouth City Council, new opportunities will be explored during 2018/19. This will involve continued engagement with the Children’s Improvement Board to agree transition arrangements back to oversight of the TSCB and the development of a new Strategic Commissioning Group.

# Our Purpose

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.

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

# Priorities

The TSCB has agreed to focus on the following priorities in light of the ongoing improvement journey following on from the Children’s Services Ofsted Inspection in October 2015 and taking into account the following:

* The 2016/17 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
* Torbay Organised Crime Local Profiles and associated guidance for Modern Day Slavery, Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
* Torbay Strategies on Alcohol, Drugs and Domestic Abuse
* The findings of Serious Case Reviews and Inspections - local, regional and national.
* Findings of Torbay multi and single agency audit activity including the Multi-Agency Case Audits, Section 11 audits and Section 157/175 audits, training and development work
* The Wood report and Children and Social Work Act 2017

The TSCB Structure was redesigned in 2016/2017 to ensure a more streamlined working model to better facilitate Partners attendance at the right level to the most appropriate Board Meetings. The TSCB has taken a lead role working closely with the Children’s Improvement Board to raise standards of service delivery and quality assurance of partnership work in the priority areas.

The format of the Business Plan is designed to enable implementation and monitoring of actions in a clear and concise way. Progress against this plan will be reviewed and monitored by the TSCB Delivery Group, with Chairs of the relevant subgroups reporting on progress against their actions to this group. Where necessary and appropriate the Delivery Group will highlight areas of concern and good practice to the full TSCB Board meetings for further action.

**Our priorities for 2018/19 are:**

**P1 To promote the welfare of children and young people who are vulnerable to abuse by ensuring the appropriate partnership response to the management of risk and collective understanding of the locally agreed thresholds**

**P2 To ensure that Early Help and Targeted Help services continue to be developed in a manner that meets the needs of children, young people and families and are delivered in effective manner across the partnership;**

**P3 To ensure that the Partnership response to Child Exploitation remains fit for purpose and acknowledges the development of improved pathways and processes that will lead to improved recording and reporting across the Partnership; and**

**P4 a) To implement a performance management framework that reflects the strategic requirements of the Board and the operational requirements of the key stakeholders in Torbay.**

**b) To evaluate the performance of the key stakeholders in safeguarding in Torbay using the framework and identify safeguarding issues requiring further analysis and to propose enhanced performance measures to meet the emergent demands and priorities for safeguarding identified by the Board.**

# Cross Cutting Themes

The cross cutting themes are specific areas of concern for the TSCB. These are areas that have been highlighted across a number of areas such as Serious Case Reviews, audits and inspections. The themes should underpin all Safeguarding activity across the partnership and be the ‘Golden Threads’ of how partners in Torbay work with Children and Young People and their families.

Assurance work by the Board will focus on these themes and partners will be expected to report against them within reporting mechanisms.

Board members will need to ensure that in delivering each of the two TSCB priorities, that there is evidence that each of the cross cutting themes identified below have been fully taken into consideration when providing services for children, young people and their families

**CC1** Children’s and young people’s voices continue to be heard and influence decision making, service development and practice

**CC2** ‘Lessons are identified and learned from National and Local Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), Independent Management Reviews, Multi Agency Case Audits (MACA) and monitoring of the implementation of recommendations takes place.

**CC3** Signs of Safety approaches continue to be embedded into work with Children and Young People and their families

**CC4** Multi Agency safeguarding training is attended and learning is reviewed and embedded into practice

# Action Plan

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| **Priority 1: To promote the welfare of children and young people who are vulnerable to abuse by ensuring the appropriate partnership response to the management of risk and collective understanding of the locally agreed thresholds** | | | | |
|  | **Aim/objective** | **Owner/Subgroup Responsible** | **Time Scale** | **Outcome and Impact Measure** |
| 1.1 | To monitor the proportion of activity flowing from Level 3 Targeted Support to Level 4 Statutory Intervention | Performance Sub- Group | Quarterly | Increasing the proportion of cases that are stepped down and not returning to Level 4 Statutory Intervention.  Number of cases escalated from Level 3 Targeted Support to Level 4 Statutory Intervention decreases. |
| 1.2 | Benchmarking against CIN/CP Groups within statistical comparators is undertaken | Performance Sub- Group - | Quarterly | Will allow for the Sub- Group to develop an understanding of how risk is managed across Torbay against statistical comparators |
| 1.3 | Re-referral Rates including Children on Plans for a 2nd Time | Performance Sub- Group | Quarterly | Re-referral rates improve and are better that the national average and statistical comparators. |
| 1.4 | Neglect –Measuring the impact of New Neglect Strategy, including a revision to the Graded Care Profile | Quality Assurance Sub- Group | Yearly | Multi Agency Case Audit activity demonstrates improved understanding of Neglect across the partnership. |

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| **Priority 2: To ensure that Early Help and Targeted Help services continued to be developed in a manner that meets the needs of children, young people and families and are resourced and delivered in an effective manner across the partnership;** | | | | |
|  | **Aim/objective** | **Owner/Subgroup Responsible** | **Time Scale** | **Outcome and Impact Measure** |
| 2.1 | To understand the effectiveness of Early Help and Targeted Help provision. | Performance Sub-Group  Quality Assurance Sub-Group | Quarterly  Yearly | Performance Sub-Group receive analysis and data in relation to the Quality Assurance Framework for Early Help and Targeted Help, which includes quantitative and qualitative information and data, to evaluate effectiveness and operation in practice.  Quality Assurance Sub-Group scrutinises the quality of  safeguarding work through multi-agency quality assurance activity and consultation. |
| 2.2 | To ensure families and children’s views and experiences of early help intervention and support influences service delivery. | Early Help Sub-Group | Quarterly | The views of children and families will be sought on their experiences of services to contribute to measuring the impact and effectiveness of Early Help and Targeted Help services.  Early Help Sub-Group promotes the use of systems to gather feedback from children and parents in the evaluation and improvement of safeguarding services. |
| 2.3 | To make sure thresholds & referrals between early help and statutory child protection work are appropriate, understood and are operating effectively to meet a range of needs in different communities. | Board  Quality Assurance Sub-Group  Performance Sub-Group  Training Sub-Group  Quality Assurance Sub-Group | Quarterly  Yearly  Quarterly  Monthly  Yearly | The TSCB challenges across the Partnership and gains assurance that policies and procedures concerning thresholds are reviewed and maintained, to ensure children receive the right service at the right time.  The TSCB works with other boards, such as the Health & Wellbeing Board, which encourages wider organisations to recognise their responsibilities to safeguard children and ensure safeguarding is ‘everybody’s business’.  Audit activity demonstrates improved understanding of thresholds across partner agencies.  Data set shows increased level of appropriate and timely referrals.  Learning & Development assured that professionals have access to up-to-date learning and development opportunities in relation to clarifying thresholds and referral pathways.  Impact of Learning and Development on practice is audited to ensure outcomes for parents, carers, children and young people are being improved. |

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| **Priority 3: To ensure that the Partnership response to Child Exploitation remains fit for purpose and acknowledges the development of improved pathways and processes that will lead to improved recording and reporting across the Partnership.** | | | | |
|  | **Aim/objective** | **Owner/Subgroup Responsible** | **Time Scale** | **Outcome and Impact Measure** |
| 3.1 | Child Exploitation | MET Subgroup |  | MET Sub Group will receive data in relation to Missing Children and those at risk of CSE. To identify trends and seek assurances around practice and interventions.  Chair of the MACSE will report to the Subgroup giving assurance around partnership collaboration in dealing with Child Exploitation. They will report any perceived shortfalls in practice or service gaps as identified by the partnership.  MET Subgroup will have an understanding of the risks facing children within Torbay and have quantitative data provided for those considered at risk of CSE. It will seek assurance that these cases have adequate partnership intervention and that it has reduced the risk to the children concerned.  MET Subgroup will maintain an overview of guidance and toolkits and ensure that they are considered fit for purpose. Where it is considered that they are not fit for purpose a task and finish group will be put in place to ensure best practice is followed. |
| 3.2 | County Lines | MET Subgroup |  | MET Subgroup will have an understanding of County Lines and will be briefed in relation to the current Peninsula strategic position.  MET Subgroup will seek assurance from the CSP that prevention tactics are in place to safeguard the children of Torbay.  MET Subgroup will be provided with any recorded incidents where exploitation has occurred and county lines is linked. |

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| **Priority 4: a) To implement a performance management framework that reflects the strategic requirements of the Board and the operational requirements of the key stakeholders in Torbay.**  **b) To evaluate the performance of the key stakeholders in safeguarding in Torbay using the framework and identify safeguarding issues requiring further analysis and to propose enhanced performance measures to meet the emergent demands and priorities for safeguarding identified by the Board.** | | | | |
|  | **Aim/objective** | **Owner/Subgroup Responsible** | **Timescale** | **Outcome and Impact Measure** |
| 4.1. | To maintain the performance report, reviewing the performance indicators to reflect how safe children in Torbay. | Quarterly | Performance Sub-Group | The TSCB has an understanding regarding how safe children are in Torbay and holds partners to account when services need to be improved. |
| 4.2 | To review presentation of information to the TSCB, pose challenge questions to partner agencies with review dates for improvement or narrative behind the figures. | Quarterly | Performance Sub-Group | TSCB Members are actively holding partners to account in relation to safeguarding children.  Partners to be honest and risk assess and describe actions to be taken where performance is poor. |
| 4.3 | Further develop performance data to evidence the effectiveness and contribution of learning disability, drug and alcohol, mental health and domestic violence services on the protection of children | Ongoing | Performance Sub-Group | TSCB is actively holding partners delivering services to adults to account in relation to safeguarding children. |