

## Foreword from Keith Perkin Independent Scrutineer and Chair of the TSCP Business Group

It is nearly a year that I have been the Independent Scrutineer for the TSCP, and despite the challenges of living and working in a seaside resort can bring, I am also seeing people take the opportunity to work more effectively together in safeguarding children.

The Wood review of Local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships raised some concerns about wider engagement with individuals and groups that play a valuable role in protecting children, but after a hesitant start, we are now seeing some very good partnership work.

It has been pleasing to see that key areas of safeguarding are being identified, scrutinised with focused programmes addressing the learning. Please do take the opportunities through the Learning Academy to build on your skill base.

I am also seeing increased efforts by a number of agencies in seeking the views of children in how they develop their services. We can too often focus on the negative aspects of living and working in Torbay or in the protection of children. Yes, there are real challenges and real problems to overcome, but there are children and families who are extremely grateful for the work that is being done in Torbay to support them.

It is clear there have been significant improvements in how children and young people are being safeguarded in Torbay, but we can never be satisfied until we can be sure we are providing the best service to children and families across Torbay. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the work you are doing in supporting and safeguarding children, and I look forward to working with you in developing safeguarding practice further in Torbay across the partnership.

Keith

**TSCP Independent Scrutineer**

**Torbay's  
Professional  
Differences  
Policy**  
(click)

## Safer Sleeping Advice

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) (also known as Cot Death) is now very rare but there are still over 300 babies that die every year. There is now accurate information about how and where babies die and research to help prevent sudden infant death.

The full Polaris procedure is available on our website here:

[News stories - Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance that is evidence based to reduce the risk of SIDS.

## Recently published Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews: C80, C81, C84 and C85

Since our last newsletter we have published four Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in respect of C80, C81, C84 and C85. The full reports can be found via the following link:

<http://torbaysafeguarding.org.uk/child-safeguarding-practice-reviews/>

## Trainer's Forum

**Do you deliver level 2 child protection training or know someone who does?**

We're looking into restarting the trainer's forums to support trainers in staying up to date with local changes, reviews, as well as national changes. If you or someone you know would be interested, please email:

[tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk)

*Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility*

## Ivan Sullivan: Torbay LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

Every local authority has a statutory responsibility to have a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who is responsible for co-ordinating the response to concerns that an adult who works with children may have caused them or could cause them harm. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) works within Children's Services and gives advice and guidance to employers, organisations and other individuals who have concerns about the behaviour of an adult who works with children and young people. Included in this group are volunteers, agency staff and foster carers as well as people who are in a position of authority and have regular contact with children, such as religious leaders, political figures or school governors.

**The LADO for Torbay Council is Ivan Sullivan**

**To talk to a Local Authority Designated Officer, please call 01803 208541**

For further details on the process for reporting allegations please view the [South West Child Protections Procedures](#).

[Click here for further information and to view the LADO newsletter](#)

## MACA's

The Safeguarding Children Partnership in Torbay has the responsibility to quality assure safeguarding practice across agencies. This work is undertaken by the TSCP Quality Assurance Group and includes undertaking a cycle of multi-agency case audits through the year.

The themes of the audits are directed by the partnership Executive Group or informed through learning from Rapid Reviews or Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

Two audits have been undertaken this year. The first focused on a Torbay Rapid Review, [please click here for the report and terms of reference](#). The second has focused on Harmful Sexual Behaviour for which a learning page and summary are being created to share the outcomes and themes.

We are now planning on our next MACA focusing on Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing which will take place in the new year.

If you are interested in being part of the TSCP Quality Assurance Group then please contact [tscp@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:tscp@torbay.gov.uk)

## Best Practice Forum: Harmful Sexual Behaviour 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 9:30am – 11:00am on Zoom

This half day forum will review the learning from the recent Multi-Agency Case Audit on Harmful Sexual Behaviour, learning from the Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and the Child Death Overview Panel.

<b>Presenters confirmed:</b> Prof Simon Hackett, Durham University, whose bio and reports can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>	<b>Target Audience:</b> All practitioners and professionals working directly with children, young people and their families.
<b>Cost:</b> FREE	<b>Link:</b> <a href="#">Course: Best Practice Forum: Harmful Sexual Behaviour (learningpool.com)</a>

## TSCP Free Training Opportunities

Are you interested in broadening your knowledge in the following areas? Click on the links below to sign up for FREE training.

For further information please email: [tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk)

<a href="#">Introduction to Family Group Conferences in Torbay</a>	<a href="#">Managing Allegations Against Members of Staff</a>
<a href="#">Youth Homeless Prevention Training</a>	<a href="#">First Responder – Modern Slavery</a>
<a href="#">Domestic Abuse, Stalking &amp; Honour Based Violence (DASH) Training</a>	<a href="#">Early Help Assessments, Team Around The Family and Working in a Restorative Way in Early Help</a>

## 1. Background

One of two siblings had injuries that indicated they were likely to have experienced sexual and/or physical harm.

Neither child made any direct disclosure of abuse, but the family home was in a state of neglect.

A number of professionals were working with the children, but no single agency appeared to have a full understanding of the children's lived experiences.

## 5. Links and more information:

- [Information sharing](#)
- [Voice of the child](#)
- [Professional Differences \(Escalation\) Policy](#)

## 2. Why it matters

- A Child Safeguarding Practice Review (this used to be called a Serious Case Review) takes place when a child dies or is seriously injured, and abuse or neglect is suspected. The purpose of the Review is to:
  - Establish why practice was not able to safeguard the child.
  - Identify what is expected to change as a result of this identified learning.
  - Try to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.



## 4. What to do

You can read the full C67/C68 Serious Case Review report that was published on the TSCP website in February 2021 via the link below:

<http://torbaysafeguarding.org.uk/child-safeguarding-practice-reviews/>

## 3. Learning and Information

1. Information sharing was a key area of learning. Not all involved professionals were invited to or attended meetings held to discuss risk i.e. Strategy discussions and Child Protection Conferences.
2. There was a lack of understanding across agencies about the differing legal thresholds between Criminal law and Family Proceedings law. Criminal threshold is based on the notion of the offence being 'beyond reasonable doubt', whereas the threshold for safeguarding proceedings is based on the 'balance of probability'.
3. There was lack of understanding and knowledge about how to proceed when children do not disclose abuse, but abuse is suspected.
4. Partners did not use the Professional Differences escalation policy effectively and consequently there was lack of challenge when partners did not agree what actions were needed to safeguard the children.
5. Multi-agency working did not have any significant impact on the children's lived experience. The fact that several agencies were involved in supporting the family was described as giving false hope and optimism.
6. Interventions focused on the presenting behaviour of the children and did not consider what could be the cause of this behaviour.