

Foreword from Neil Cotton, TSCP Business Manager

The TSCP was formed in September 2020, with its purpose being to create and maintain a learning culture in Torbay that improves local safeguarding services for children and families. The TSCP ensures all agencies who provide those services do so in line with current legislation, policy and best practice, and act in a manner that is always child focussed. Agencies are expected to review and update practice when required by law or when learning identifies improvements that can be made. The role of the TSCP Business Team is to coordinate this process via a series of working groups and panels that are informed by local, regional, and national best practice and report to the TSCP Executive Group. The Executive Group sets the local safeguarding agenda and authorises changes to the way we all work in Torbay.

The Wood Report 2016, and subsequent Children and Social Work Act 2017, laid the basis for changing arrangements from Local Safeguarding Children Boards to the more learning-orientated culture of Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. The Torbay partnership is all of us, and the work the partnership does will always focus on improving the services we provide. To support this, the partnership disseminates learning on a regular basis and is involved in safeguarding training. We write and distribute four newsletters per year that provide information and practice guidance and we also have a TSCP website that is regularly updated with learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, changes to policies and procedures and information from the wider safeguarding arena. Please take time to read and consider the literature the partnership provides as it is written to help and support you to be the best practitioner you can be, which is the aim all of us should aspire to. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and if you wish to learn more about the partnership and its workings, please email me at neil.cotton@torbay.gov.uk and I will arrange a time for us to meet.

Kind regards, *Neil*

BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme

This programme supports children and young people who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances and is delivered by Family Fund Business Services. The programme provides items that meet a child's most basic needs such as a bed to sleep in, a cooker to provide a hot meal and other items or services critical to a child's wellbeing. Once registered this is very quick and easy service to use. This is useful not only for statutory services but also our partner agencies. There is a list of items available below, but the programme can arrange other items too. You can register as a referrer through this link:

[BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme - Family Fund Business Services \(familyfunds.co.uk\)](https://familyfunds.co.uk)

Baby bottles - Beds, mattresses, and bedding - Clothing and shoes - Cooker - Cot - Curtains - Desk - Freezer - Fridge - Heaters - Highchair - Microwave - Kitchen pack including crockery, cutlery and pans - Pushchairs (double and single) - Bedding - Sofa - Stairgate - Table and chairs - Towels - Tumble dryer - Vacuum cleaner - Wardrobe - Washing machine

Who to contact if you think a child is at risk of abuse:

In an emergency always call the police on 999
Torbay Council's Children's Services **01803 208100**; Devon and Cornwall Police Non-Emergency Number: **101**
NSPCC: **0808 800 5000**

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

NSPCC link: Brain Builders

This 'Brain Builders' video explains how experiences in the first years of our lives affect how our brains form. Science tells us that the stress of abuse or neglect can damage the basic structures of a child's developing brain. Without the right help, it can put them at risk of a lifetime of health problems, development issues and addiction.

Tackling the mismatch between children's parenting needs and our society's ability to provide for them will help build better children's brains. We can make a difference by:

- **Promoting suitable enquiry when insufficient information is available.**
- **Helping others interpret ALL the information held about children correctly.**
- **Negotiating SMART goals using restorative approaches.**
- **Advocating for increased universal resources, accessibility and continuity.**

Watch the video here:

[How a child's brain develops through early experiences - YouTube](#)

Quality Assurance Group and Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel update from Keith Perkin, Independent Scrutineer and Chair

Thanks to Cathy Hooper who has been chair of the Quality Assurance Group for some time. The Multi Agency Case Audits have led to focused and interesting Best Practice Forums, specifically around harmful sexual behaviour. Thanks also to the large number of Early Years Providers who responded to the recent audit. The next stage is now to collate the responses and provide an overview of early years provision across Torbay. The main priority for the coming months is the section 11 audit. These audits will again allow the TSCP to assess the not only compliance of organisations in discharging their duties to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, but again where we need to focus our time and energy in improving the service we provide across the partnership.

Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews is a primary element of **Working Together 2018**. The process can be quite daunting at times, particularly for those who are not regularly involved in such reviews. The TSCP is developing flow charts and guidance for agencies who may be required to participate in either a rapid review or CSPR. The move from traditional Serious Case Reviews should enable partnerships to develop a dynamic review process where learning can be identified and embedded quickly. There is room for improvement in Torbay around timeliness, and a task and finish group has been established to review outstanding actions from previous reviews so that new learning can be prioritised.

Professional Differences policy

The Professional Differences Policy is available on the TSCP website here:

<http://www.torbaysafeguarding.org.uk/publications/policies/> alongside the recording document that must be used if invoking an escalation.

Please familiarise yourself with the policy and be aware of the stages and timescales that must be followed.

If you are unsure whether the policy applies to a particular situation, we would advise that you email the TSCP Business Manager at neil.cotton@torbay.gov.uk who will assist.

Do you know the difference between Clare's Law and Sarah's Law?

Clare's Law (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) gives people the right to ask the police about an individual they are or were in a relationship with and where there is a concern that the individual may be violent or abusive towards them. Third parties (e.g. parents, friends or neighbours) also have the right to ask. Police will check records they hold and make a decision as to whether relevant information should be shared. Full information on Clare's Law, who can, and how to make an enquiry, and who information can be shared with can be found on the [Devon and Cornwall Police website](#)

Sarah's Law (the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme) gives anyone with concerns about a child being at risk from a convicted sex offender the opportunity to ask the police if the person has a record for child sexual offences. Parents, grandparents, guardians, carers or other interested parties can contact the police if they have concerns about someone who is in contact with a child. More information on Sarah's Law can be found [here](#)

Police will consider all requests individually and will assess whether any information they hold on an individual is relevant and whether it is appropriate to share based on the potential risk they may pose. The process can take several weeks. If you believe someone is at immediate risk of harm, always contact the police on 999

Assessing and Supporting Parents who have a Learning Disability

A learning disability is a life-long condition defined by the Department of Health as; "a significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence); with a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning); which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development" (Department of Health, Valuing People, 2001)

Helena Svedang, Court Quality Assurance Manager for Torbay Children's Services, has produced an article on assessing and supporting parents who have a learning disability to support you in your work with families who would benefit from this. The document can be accessed here:



Assessing and Supporting Parents

TSCP Training

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Learning Event

On 28th February the Learning Academy launched a range of events to take place across March and in to April to support the learning from the recent **Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews** published by Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership (TSCP). These events looked at some of the key themes coming out from these reviews and the wider issues including:

- **Children and Young Peoples Mental Health - including mental health within schools**
- **Recognition of Abuse and neglect –including the Role of the SARC**
- **Pursuing of Allegations – including what happens as part of a police investigation and how to support teams through trauma**
- **Ways to Protect – including Creating a Safeguarding Culture**
- **Working with those who have been harmed – Looking at Strength based working, Suicide Prevention and Trauma Informed Work**

Other resources were made available for you to use in your roles, share, or reflect upon. The event also linked to existing courses available to you including **Child Exploitation in Torbay Course: Child Exploitation in Torbay (learningpool.com)** and **Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers Course: Managing Allegations Against Members of Staff (learningpool.com)**

If you were unable to attend the learning event courses, all resources and recorded presentations are available for you to watch and access at your leisure

I-learn link: <https://torbay.learningpool.com/course/index.php?categoryid=189>

If you have any navigation issues, or want further information on training, please get in touch: tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk

TSCP Website links and information

The TSCP website is updated regularly with useful information and links to support safeguarding of children and young people, and you in your own practice. Click on the links below for more information in each area:

- **Child Safeguarding Practice Review reports and NSPCC Repository**
- **TSCP Quality Assurance audit reports and learning pages**
- **Managing allegations against adults working with children**
- **TSCP training schedule and guidance**
- **Information and advice for children and young people**

We are in the process of building a new website, if there are any areas you would find helpful to access on this, please let us know tscp@torbay.gov.uk