

## Torbay MASH Team – Team of the Year

We were delighted last month to recognise Torbay's MASH team as Team of the Year at the Children's Celebration event. Many practitioners across the partnership work for or with the MASH, and we wanted to share with you the details of their winning nomination in order for this to be shared more widely across the partnership.

The MASH team are often the first point of contact for children and families, and partners, and continue to have a critical and central function in terms of the part it plays in ensuring that children are safeguarded.

Torbay's MASH team continue to demonstrate effective and innovative partnership working, through for example MASH and partnership dip sampling activity which ensures that learning continues to drive forward their practice.

The MASH has been the subject of significant scrutiny over the last two year, with a Peer Review, iLACs inspection and the recent JTAI to name but a few.

The team rise to these challenges with professionalism, openness and a desire to showcase the impact of the work they do, day in day out, within paced timescales. As outlined in the JTAI letter, the MASH continues to demonstrate good partnership working, a robust shared understanding of threshold and timely multi-agency decision-making.

*Becky*

**Becky Thompson**  
DD Safeguarding and Chair of the MASH Strategic Board

## 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**

**All safeguarding concerns raised will be assessed by highly experienced staff who will explore your concerns with you and where appropriate make decisions about what should happen next.**

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## 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, any suggestions or comments on what you would like to see are welcomed [tscp@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:tscp@torbay.gov.uk)

**TSCP Harmful  
Sexual  
Behaviour  
Guidance**  
(click here)

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

*Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility*

# TSCP Training schedule

Our updated training flyers are available to view on the TSCP training page here: [Training - Torbay Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) or if you have an iLearn account, links are on the right hand side of your iLearn dashboard homepage. If you don't yet have an iLearn account, you can create one on the iLearn home page here: <https://torbay.learningpool.com>

Our Level 3 Safeguarding training offer is continuing for 2024-25 with [Safeguarding Children Foundation](#) and [Safeguarding Children Refresher](#) courses on offer.

[DASH](#), [DARAC](#) and [GCP2](#) training are all ongoing for 2024-25 and dates will continue to be added.

A recording of the 2024 TSCP Conference is available to view via the course page here: [Course: TSCP Conference 2024 \(learningpool.com\)](#)

Restorative Practice training is available for free. Delivered by the Learning Academy Relational Practice Training Officer, Andrea Gjikolaj there is the half day [Restorative Practice Awareness course](#) delivered via MS Teams and a full day class based [Restorative Language Workshop](#).

**If you have any navigation issues, or would like further information on training, please get in touch: [tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:tscptraining@torbay.gov.uk)**

## MASH Online Portal

After lots of development work, testing and socialisation across the partnership, we have finally completed the Portal and uploaded it to live. This will provide the facility for partners, parents, young people and members of the public to make referrals into MASH and Early Help directly. It will also optimise performance by automating the referral process internally whilst also, for the first time, allowing Early Help to have its own front door. This represents a significant mile stone for Torbay in the way it connects with its stakeholders. However, I will reiterate that this is additionality at this point and there is no obligation on partners to use this function as we know partners such as the police will need to continue with their current method of referral. Nevertheless, please can I ask that where possible as many partners use the new method of making referrals.

We delivered familiarisation/socialisation sessions to approximately 170 partners last month and mostly the message was well received. Nevertheless, we value ongoing feedback to inform any improvement work required going forward.

The link to the Portal is as follows – you will be required to set up an account (this is a one off process):

<https://childrensportal.torbay.gov.uk/>

The recording of the socialisation sessions can be found at the following link if anyone would like to revisit this:

[Course: Socialisation Sessions for New MASH Referrals Process \(learningpool.com\)](#)

Thanks all for your support in this work.

**Shaun Evans, Head of Service – Safeguarding, Early Help and Business Intelligence**

### An animated guide to the Children's Social Care National Framework for children and young people

The Children's Social Care National Framework is guidance for those who work in children's social care. This is a short, animated version of this guidance for children and young people which explains what good help for children should look like

**Please click on the link below which will take you to the YouTube video:**

<https://youtu.be/r5zx4YQEVml?si=3jhgo3DPWDQftMND>

### Dangers of super strong magnets

The tragic story of Rhys Millum which appeared in headlines across the country is a reminder to us of all the dangers posed by strong magnets. If you are in touch directly with families who may be at risk, the NCMD has a brief guidance post and detailed advice is available from CAPT

**Please click on the links below to access the information mentioned above:**

[Rhys Millum news story](#)

[NCMD brief guidance](#)

[Detailed advice from CAPT](#)

## The difference between a personal advisor and a social worker

**Social Worker (Cared for Teams)** – A social worker holds a relevant degree qualification in social work and is registered with Social Work England. There are many requirements to maintain registration including ongoing evidencing of professional development.

A social worker in the cared for team works with children who are cared for by the local authority between the ages of 0-18. A social worker is responsible for ensuring all statutory obligations are met including regular visits to the child in their home and ensuring regular cared for review meetings. A social worker safeguards, assesses needs and works with all partner agencies to support and enhance the safety, wellbeing and development of children. A social worker has overall responsibility for care planning.

**Personal Advisor (PA)** – A personal advisor is a professional with relevant skills, knowledge and experience who offers support and advice to young people who are cared for at the point they reach 15 years and 9 months of age. A personal advisor will begin developing a relationship with the young person and working alongside the social worker in promoting independence and effective planning in advance of young people's 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

When our young people reach 18 years of age, they will no longer have a social worker and the personal advisor will continue to work alongside the young person in providing support including access to suitable housing, appropriate services and reaching each young person's own goals for their lives. If there are safeguarding concerns, the responsibility of managing these then lies with adult social care but the personal advisors will ensure any necessary referrals are made to other agencies, with consent where relevant.

A personal advisor will keep in touch with their young person regularly and support them until the age of 25.

## 'Think Prevent' – it's Safeguarding with a different name

- In our communities we often see and hear differences of views and opinions on areas such as poverty, escalating global unrest, politics, immigration and climate change.
- Debate around these and other topics is normal and healthy, everyone is entitled to a view.
- However, when those views begin to become more extreme or radical and influence or change an individual's behaviour or appearance, this may be an indication that they are at risk of being radicalised.
- If you notice changes in a young person or adult which may suggest they have, or are developing, extreme views or beliefs, discuss with your line manager to ascertain whether the individual meets the criteria for a Prevent referral.
- Prevent is part of the UK government's counter-terrorism strategy. It is a multi-agency approach which aims to identify and stop individuals from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by providing appropriate interventions and support.
- Information on making a referral to Prevent can be found on the TSCP Website:
- <http://torbaysafeguarding.org.uk/professionals/prevent/>
- **More information:**
- The ACT Early website [ACT Early | Prevent radicalisation](#) contains information about spotting the signs of radicalisation and it also contains helpful information for family and friends that maybe concerned about an individual.
- **Training:**
- If you feel you'd benefit from more training in this area, links to Home Office e-learning and TSCP modules on Prevent and Channel are available on i-Learn.

We're using the NSPCC Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) to reduce levels of neglect in Torbay.

[Find out more.](#)

Torbay  Safeguarding  
Children Partnership

## Girlguiding receives mental health support boost

Girlguiding units from across Torbay have been learning how to protect their mental health with a little help from Torbay Council. The council has funded 500 badges for girls who attend groups from Rainbows (four-seven year olds) right through to Rangers (14 years plus), and everything in between.

Girlguides work towards achieving badges in a range of activities and skills – everything from crafting and geocaching to photography and upcycling. The latest badge to be introduced, called the Twinkle for Heather badge, is for mental health awareness. Girls complete activities aimed at promoting good mental wellbeing. Torbay Council is thought to be the first council in the South West to offer this support, which has also included training for leaders.

Twinkle is named after Heather Porter, a Rainbow leader from Cumbria who took her own life in April 2022. Twinkle was her Rainbow name. Her unit wanted to do something in her memory. They devised the badge, which is for anyone from the age of four to adulthood, to enable and support the five basic steps to mental wellbeing – mindfulness, connecting with others, being physically active, learning new skills and giving to others.

Two staff members from the council's Public Health team spotted a news story about the badge and approached a retired colleague, who is active in Torbay's Girlguiding community, to see if it was something they would like to introduce in Torbay, as a way of linking to the council's own wellbeing and suicide prevention work. All the girls taking part make a self-care memory box which contains activities completed during the challenge.

Lincoln Sargeant, Torbay's Director of Public Health, said: "This is such an amazing way to remember someone who has lost their life in such tragic circumstances. Heather's legacy lives on – and not just in the people who knew her and loved her – but among young people in Torbay, hundreds of miles away from Cumbria. We were pleased to be able fund this challenge for Torbay's young girls. Good mental health is vital for people's wellbeing and if we can start that positive thinking from a young age, even better."

Rachel Offerdal, the Girlguiding Torbay Division Commissioner, said: "I wasn't aware of this badge when I was contacted by two employees from the council. I did some research and contacted one of the founders. Be Well is one of the six themes in our Guiding programme and we've used a lot of the activities in there as part of this project. I look after Brownies, Guides and Rangers and they've all taken this on board and it has made a real difference to them, particularly the Rangers who have so much to juggle. They are still putting things in their memory boxes. As one of my Brownies put it: 'it is OK to be sad or happy - we must learn to talk about things'. As leaders we have really seen development in all ages when it comes to talking about life."

Around 90 per cent of Torbay Girlguiding units are taking part in the Twinkle for Heather badge and Rachel has also had some interest from Devon County Girlguiding and the South West Region Girlguiding.

Guide Beatrice said: "We should all remember Heather, no matter how hard it may be, and always express how we're feeling. I really enjoyed making memory boxes to show all the work we have done towards this badge. It was nice to keep it all in one place and look through it every so often."