

A young man with dark hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt with a graphic, is seated in a wheelchair. He is looking towards the right of the frame. The background shows a gymnasium with other people, a basketball hoop, and a yellow pom-pom decoration.

**We want
your views!**

DRAFT JOINT EQUALITY STRATEGY FOR TORBAY

UNDERSTANDING OUR COMMUNITIES



**Torbay
Strategic
Partnership**

Teaming up for Torbay's Tomorrow

Working together to develop
better outcomes for individuals,
families and communities

We recognise that everyone has different needs and together as partners we are committed to our leading role in promoting equal opportunities and valuing diversity.

This draft strategy aims to highlight the key issues for our communities in order for us to deliver real outcomes over the next five years for all those who live, work and visit Torbay.

OUR COMMITMENT

As partner organisations we all work hard to ensure that the differing needs of our communities are served. This includes people from black and minority ethnic communities, women, disabled people, lesbians, gay men, those who are transgender, young people, older people and those communities with a faith or belief.

It also relates to standards of living and those households who live in the more deprived areas of Torbay, people who are carers, families with children and everyone having access to high quality healthcare. It is about access to employment, having a positive experience in the workplace, training and life-long learning, a work/life balance, and being able to care for others. It also involves individuals, family and social life including self-development, having independence and equality in relationships and marriage as well as participation in decision-making.

Diversity touches everyone, but more can be done

By working together as partners from the council, health, police, fire, voluntary sector and private sector we want to ensure that Torbay meets the needs of all communities and becomes a better place to live, work and visit.

Understanding our Communities – The Joint Equality Strategy for Torbay aims to bring together key partners to deliver real outcomes for the communities we serve over four key themes: Healthier Communities, Prosperous Communities, Safer Communities and Stronger Communities.

KNOWING OUR COMMUNITIES

- Torbay's resident population is projected to grow by 19.9% from 137,000 in 2007 to 164,200 in 2027.
- The proportion of Torbay's population aged 50 and over is currently 43.5%; this is projected to increase to 54% in five years time. The proportion of people aged 65 and over is projected to be just under a quarter (24.7%) of the total population in five years time, compared to around 17% nationally.
- The overall number of young people in Torbay is projected to increase. However, for Torbay the proportion of young people in the resident population is projected to drop from 21.8% in 2007 to 19.1% in 2027.
- Torbay's non-white population has increased in recent years from 0.7% in 1991 to 4.5% in 2007 (ONS Mid Year Est 2007). The BME (black, minority, ethnic) population in Torbay has increased from 3.2% in 2001 to 5.04% in 2005. With the expansion of the European Union, there has been a further increase in Eastern European workers in recent years.
- Despite the 'palm tree' image of Torbay, there are areas of severe deprivation, with two of Torbay's electoral wards being ranked in the top 10% most deprived in England.
- It costs ten times the average salary to buy an average priced house in the Bay (2007)
- Torbay is becoming more diverse as a community with a growth in population from Europe and elsewhere (including elsewhere in Britain), and this brings opportunities as well as challenges to ensure we stay a cohesive community.



HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

What we know already

There are a growing number of children and young people with health issues

The rate of older people aged 65 and over admitted on a permanent basis to residential or nursing care homes in the Bay is significantly higher than the national rate.

Levels of people providing unpaid care in Torbay are higher than both the national and regional levels.

The number of adults receiving community care services for physical disability, frailty and sensory impairment, learning disability, mental health, substance misuse and vulnerable people services is higher than national figures.

Local people would like greater opportunity to influence health and social care decisions.

Key priorities

To tackle inequalities for those people who are least healthy.

To improve care for older people, particularly in their own homes and support their unpaid carers

To work with partners to promote healthy lifestyles and address risk taking behaviour e.g. smoking, drugs, alcohol, obesity, teenage pregnancy.

To ensure equal access to health and social care services for people who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgender.

To improve services for those who need mental health or learning disability services

To review the transport need to the local community to get to health and social care appointments (community priority)

To offer greater opportunities for people to become involved in health/ social care decision making (community priority)



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PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

What we know already

Too many young people are leaving the Bay.

Earnings for employees working in Torbay are significantly lower than the national average.

Torbay's employment market has a higher than national proportion of employees employed part time (2007/08).

There is a distinct 'benefit economy' within Torbay. In early 2009 the Job Seekers Allowance claimant levels reached 4.2%, significantly higher than the 2.2% average for 2007/08.

The Bay is a popular destination for early retirement. This means the number of people of working age who are not working is high.

Levels of personal indebtedness in the Bay are higher than the national figure and vary across the Bay, both in terms of numbers and levels of debt.

Key priorities

To retain our young people in the Bay.

To improve access to employment and training for older people.

To provide opportunities to people with disabilities and learning disabilities and improve access to education / training and develop life skills.

To support local businesses owned by black and minority ethnic and women owners.


To tackle the 'benefit economy' and look into economic inequalities and deprivation within certain areas and communities of Torbay.

To support a more diverse economy including encouraging the 'Pink Pound' as a tourism market for people who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgender.

To increase the number of affordable housing units delivered and target young people's access to the housing market.

To work together as partners to ensure new homes adaptability for older people and people with disabilities.

To look into mobility issues and getting around the Bay especially with regards to public transport, car parking and access to taxis who are able to accommodate disabled customers.



details on how to let us know what you think.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

What we know already

Women feel less safe on Torquay harbourside after 8pm.

There has been an increase in the percentage of people who feel informed about anti-social behaviour in their area.

There has been an increase in the proportion of domestic violence incidents resulting in sanction detection.

On average, 11 racist incidents are recorded per month. The peak period for racist incidents is the May-July period. This could be related to the tourist season/visiting students.

Young people have the same concerns regarding crime in the area as older people.

Key priorities

To build respect within our communities and work with partners to tackle hate crime relating to a person's race, faith, religion, sexual orientation and or disability.

To tackle domestic violence by raising awareness and providing coordinated support services.

To address older people's fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

To work together as partners to ensure interaction between young people and foreign students to ensure a positive experience of Torbay (Torbay visiting international students).

To engage with headteachers to deal with bullying in schools related to racism and homophobia and encourage the reporting of incidents.

To work with schools and colleges to use education to promote community cohesion and respecting diverse neighbours.

To provide facilities/services for young people to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and increase positive activities for young people providing more things to do and safe places to go.

To ensure all citizens are safe at home, safe at work and safe in their leisure time.



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STRONGER COMMUNITIES

What we know already

Torbay has a higher percentage of older people compared to some areas and this brings the opportunity to make sure older people's knowledge/life experiences are fully part of our community.

Over three quarters of people believe that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area.

The percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality is 22.2%.

There is a wealth of older and younger people who volunteer on a regular basis to help shape their local community.

Overall levels of fuel poverty in the Bay are higher than both the national and regional averages, with the three wards of Ellacombe, Roundham with Hyde and Tormohun having significantly higher than national levels of households in fuel poverty.

Key priorities

To support diverse community events and build relations to promote community spirit.

To review access to open space and play facilities for people with disabilities.

To improve community involvement and review how people want to be involved in decision making to promote democracy.


To support residents living within disadvantaged and fragile communities to engage in a good quality of life.

To recognise communities of place and to build on Torbay being an area that celebrates the differences between its three major towns.

To continue to develop the Supporting People programme which offers housing related support to help vulnerable people live independently in the community.

To tackle inequalities between wards within Torbay and close the gap between those most disadvantaged and the rest.

To support people over 50 to make the most out of life.



details on how to let us know what you think.

LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS

Are we heading in the right direction? Will the key themes lead to more inclusive and diverse communities within Torbay?

The concept of a Joint Equality Strategy for partners has been developed by the Torbay Strategic Partnership which brings together representatives from public, private and community and voluntary sectors for the benefit of the area.

For further information about the draft strategy and to feedback your views please contact: -

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