

The Partnership

March 2011

For everyone who works for children and families in Torbay

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Latest News

Teenage conception rates in Torbay fall

Torbay Care Trust and Torbay Council have welcomed the latest figures for teenage conceptions, which show a drop in rates in the Bay.

The latest figures for conceptions in those under the age of 18 have seen a 15 percent reduction from 2008 to 2009. The rate fell from 64.9 per 1000 in 2008 to 55.3 per 1000 in 2009. In actual numbers there were 131 conceptions in 2009 compared to 159 conceptions in the previous year. The rate takes into account full term pregnancy and abortions in girls under the age of 18.



Left to right: Siobhan Grady, Assistant Director of Public Health; Debbie Stark, Director of Public Health; Kim Flemming, Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Manager; Dr Carol Tozer, Torbay Council's Peoples Commissioner and Director of Children's Services; Elizabeth Raikes, Chief Executive of Torbay Council.

Debbie Stark, Director of Public Health for Torbay said: "We are encouraged by the latest figures in Torbay which reflect the work of NHS, the council and our other partners to ensure that the young people of Torbay have the very best opportunities for a full childhood.

"Although these figures are welcomed and are a step in the right direction, tackling teenage conception remains very much a key priority here in Torbay. The fact that a high number of these conceptions result in a termination indicates that these are unwanted pregnancies that could have been avoided."

A number of other developments and initiatives have taken place in Torbay all of which are aimed at improving access, services, information, support and education for young people. These include:

- The creation of an outreach team to take sexual health and contraception services out into the community and reduce the number of unplanned and repeat conceptions in under 18s.
- The launch of the Sexwize website to give young people sexual health information in one place. This popular site has more than 200 hits per month.
- The use of social media sites like Facebook to reach young people and raise awareness.

Latest News

- The Healthwize shop provides young people with a safe and convenient place on the high street to get information and advice. Since it opened the shop has worked with over 2000 young people.
- Tighter and stronger links with schools are being developed with the sex and relationship education becoming a core part of Physical, Social, Health Education (PSHE).
- Work to provide parents in Torbay with a stronger network of support and information is underway.

Torbay Council's People's Commissioner and Director of Children's Services, Dr Carol Tozer, said: "Reducing teenage conceptions remains a top priority in Torbay and I am pleased that the measures we have taken are starting to have a positive effect. We have sought best practice from other areas and implemented what we know has made a difference elsewhere.

"We know the key factors for reducing teenage conceptions are good quality and consistent sex and relationships education, easy access to effective contraception and sexual health services, early intervention and support for those young people most at risk and helping parents/carers to talk to their children about sexual health and relationships. Our commitment to young people, their families and the wider community is that we will continue to work closely with our partners to focus on and improve all these areas so our younger generation are given the best opportunities for full and healthy teenage years."

Torbay praised for reducing the number of children in custody

The Prison Reform Trust has congratulated Torbay Council for helping to reduce the number of children sent to custody in the Bay in 2009/10. The percentage of custodial sentences given to young people in Torbay is at a five year low.

In a letter to the council the charity writes: "Torbay is to be particularly congratulated since the number of custodial sentences received by children in your area has decreased far more than the average."

The Prison Reform Trust is running a programme entitled 'Out of Trouble' to try and reduce child and youth imprisonment in the UK. It believes child custody is ineffective, very expensive and should be reserved for serious violent crimes.

Between 2008/9 and 2009/10 Torbay's reduction in the number of custodial sentences was one of the highest in the country at 55% - that compares with a national decrease of 24%. Out of the 229 court cases in 2009/10 only 5 young people were sent to custody compared with 11 out of 291 in 2008/9.

Latest News

Torbay Council's Youth Offending Team (YOT) works closely with partner agencies to keep young people out of custody. Key aspects of their success include:

- Providing robust community alternatives for young people to reduce the need for custody. Community sentences can include up to 25 hours a week direct supervision and electronically monitored curfews.
- The alternatives to custody provided by the YOT ensure that the needs of the victims and communities are recognised whilst providing young people with a better chance of turning their lives around than would be achieved by going to custody.
- The courts and police having confidence in the YOT's ability to work effectively with young people in the community with the full knowledge that if it isn't working the YOT will return young people to court.

Chair of the Magistrates Youth Bench, Dr Jill Diprose, said: "This is very welcome news. Torbay Youth Offending Team works closely with the magistrates who deal with young offenders, and these strong links are undoubtedly part of this success story. "

Superintendent Jim Nye from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary said: "Torbay YOT is working extremely hard with young offenders to divert them away from criminal activity and give them a brighter future. The police continue to work closely with the YOT, making sure youth crime is reduced here in the Bay."

Somebody else's child – everyone's responsibility

Torbay Council is once again urging people in the Bay to help ensure the safety and well-being of children who are being cared for by people who are not direct relatives.

It is all part of the British Agency for Adoption and Fostering's (BAAF) awareness week from 21 – 27 March 2011. The initiative aims to reduce the number of un-notified private fostering arrangements in England and is specifically targeting professionals and others whose work brings them into contact with children and families.

What is Private Fostering?

Private Fostering describes an arrangement when a child (under 16, or under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone other than a direct relative for 28 days or more. These children are not looked after by the local authority, but they are potentially very vulnerable. Typical examples of private fostering in Torbay include: teenagers living with a friend's family; international students living with host families; other children living with members of the wider extended family (e.g., great aunt,

cousin, mum's former partner); children living with a family friend because of parental ill-health, substance misuse, parent being in prison or living away from the area.

It is feared that some of these 'invisible' children could be at risk of abuse or the victims of trafficking. What these children all have in common is that they are living apart from their parents. The local authority has a legal duty to make sure these arrangements are safe.

What is your role?

If you come across a young person who isn't living with their parent, please check their status. Who are they living with? What is the carer's relationship to the child? Does the carer hold parental responsibility? (This can only be conferred by the court, such as through a Residence Order or Special Guardianship Order). If in doubt, please phone 01803 208100 to tell us about it, so we can make enquiries.

You can obtain more information by contacting our website - www.torbay.gov.uk/privatefostering - or by phoning the Private Fostering Officer on 01803 207869. You can also view the government's dedicated website - www.privatefostering.org.uk

Torbay Family Information Service Launches New Drop In Sessions

The Family Information Service (FIS) is now offering drop in sessions twice a month at Torquay Connections Office and Paignton Library and Information Centre.

As well as providing information to families via its free helpline and online, the FIS also attends local events and sessions to provide information in locations convenient to families across Torbay.

The drop in sessions at Torquay Connections Office and Paignton Library and Information Centre allow families and practitioners to speak to an advisor in person.

Contact the Family Information Service on 0800 328 5974 or email FISenquiries@torbay.gov.uk to find out where the FIS will be or visit the online calendar (<http://torbay.fsd.org.uk/calendar.htm>). If you want the Family Information Service to attend a session you are running please get in touch.

Torbay students benefit from Parkfield development

Students from South Devon College are getting hands on experience thanks to a series of workshops being held at Parkfield.

Latest News

The Young Person Construction Workshops are being held at the Paignton site alongside the contractors, Interserve, whilst the multi million pound world class facility for young people is being constructed. They give students an opportunity to find out more about engineering work that takes place on a large project.



South Devon Community College has already taken part in engineering and bricklaying workshops and students from Torquay Community College will also be getting involved in future sessions.

Head of Construction and Heritage at South Devon College, Dean Bowden, said: "The learners involved in the visits to the Parkfield site have had an opportunity to expand their knowledge and practical skills in a real life setting. Learner feedback has been positive saying that they have enjoyed being part of the project. They are looking forward to revisiting the site to take part in further activities, as well as visiting once it is open."

Interserve's Construction Manager, Paul Cockram, said: "We are committed to forming strong relationships with the local community from the earliest stages of a project. We do everything we can to develop positive activities with schools and colleges in the areas where we work and I am really pleased with the response we have had from South Devon College. These workshops help the students to understand the nature of the building process and improve their awareness of careers in the sector."

Torbay Council was awarded more than £4.8 million from the Government funded Myplace programme, delivered by the Big Lottery Fund, to develop the Parkfield site into a world class Olympic youth hub. It is expected to be completed by September 2011 and will offer a wide range of high quality activities and facilities.

Parkfield is an online success

Torbay Council's Parkfield web pages are proving a big hit. The most recent statistics for February 2011 show Parkfield was a new top 10 entry.

These statistics include the number of visits and unique visitors, details about the top and bottom 10 pages as well as the usual cost comparisons between the different customer access channels (phone, face to face and web).

A new web cam has recently been installed at Parkfield and up to date pictures are being streamed to the website. To take a look go to www.torbay.gov.uk/parkfield.

Torquay children's centre has outstanding features

Zig Zags Children's Centre in Torquay's Market Street is good with some outstanding aspects according to a recently released Ofsted report.

In the centre's very first inspection it was judged as providing a good and improving range of services and its capacity for sustained improvement was classified as "outstanding".

The report highlights a total of six outstanding features in total. The others are:

- The effective assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users.
- The quality of care, guidance and support offered to users within the centre and the wider community
- The extent to which the centre supports and encourages the wider community to engage with services and uses their views to develop provision.
- The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities.
- The way that ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community.

The centre, which is one of four Sure Start Children's Centres in Torquay managed by the children's charity Action for Children on behalf of Torbay Council, will now be making further improvements. It will develop work with health partners to increase the number of mothers breastfeeding and to provide more information and support to reduce the under-18 conception rate. It will also engage with Jobcentre Plus to improve the provision of learning and workplace skills available to users.

Noreen Libby, Manager of Action for Children's Sure Start Torquay Children's Centres, said: "Children and their families are at the centre of everything we do, so we're absolutely delighted Ofsted has praised our strong commitment to working in partnership with the local community to ensure the services we provide are meeting their needs. I am also very proud that Ofsted has highlighted the excellent commitment of our staff, who are dedicated to always providing the highest possible standard of service to the children, young people and families we support."



Parents with their children at Zig Zags Children's Centre

Torbay Council's People Commissioner and Director of Children's Services, Dr Carol Tozer, said: "The work undertaken by Zig Zags children's centre is key in improving the life long outcomes for young children and families. This inspection judgement by Ofsted is validation of the excellent work undertaken by Zig Zags staff and good news for the children and families the centre serves."

Polish party celebrates mini museum project

More than 20 childminders and 30 children enjoyed learning about Polish culture at a special event at Torquay museum on Thursday 17 March.

The 'impieza' (party) was held for all Torbay childminders and children and aimed to help improve childminders' understanding of the Polish culture so they can support the transition of Polish children into their settings.

During the session, which was supported by Torbay Childrens' Centres, there was a presentation about Polish culture, music from local Polish musicians, nursery rhymes and dancing, children's crafts and food.

The Polish 'impieza' was part of the year long National Lottery funded Mini Museum project, which aims to encourage local childminders to take the children they look after to Torquay and Brixham museums.

Torbay Council helped secure a £9,500 Awards for All grant for the scheme which offers local childminders free entry and access to a range of inspiring child-based workshops and activities.

The grant is also being used to provide early year's resources in both museums for all visitors and their children to enjoy. The resource donated to Torquay Museum will be dedicated to Tim Crine, the museum's Education Officer, who passed away recently and was a driving force behind the project. He was passionate about the importance of children accessing museums and instrumental in securing the funding.

The national lottery funding also contributed to a Yurt at Torre Abbey last summer, used by hundreds of children for a host of activities put on by Play Torbay.

So far more than 60% of childminders have visited Torquay and Brixham museums during the mini museum project, enabling 263 children to be inspired by their surroundings.

It is hoped that funding can be secured for the continuation of the mini museums project in order to build on the achievements of the past year.



Paignton pupils given the 'Chance to Shine' in cricket

Paignton Community and Sports College welcomed a special visitor to the school to teach pupils cricket skills in the new sports hub.

It was all part of the Cricket Foundation's scheme 'Chance to Shine'. This was launched in May 2005 to bring competitive cricket and its educational benefits back to at least a third of the country's state schools initially over a ten year period.

The campaign has already reached over one million state taught children at the half way stage, and since 2008 England Women's cricketers have been involved in the delivery.

Caroline Atkins was part of the England Women's successful World Cup Campaign in 2009 and finds working for 'Chance to Shine' is a rewarding and enjoyable way to pass on her enthusiasm for cricket. She recently visited Paignton Community and Sports College.

Caroline said "I really enjoyed coming to Paignton, the facilities are excellent and it was great to see the girls really enjoy cricket in PE today. I'm sure many of them want to play cricket and I hope they make the most of the opportunities in school as well as at the girls section at Torquay Cricket Club."

John Julyan, Torbay Sport Partnership Manager, offered the opportunity to all local schools to have some time with Caroline.

Jazzmin, Sophie and Paige from Year 8 had a great time and said "Cricket really gets you moving and its great fun. We like being in the Sports Hub, its brilliant in here. It was great having Lee Mears come to visit and now we have a cricket star!"

Of the girls that worked alongside Caroline around 20% would consider taking it up in a club. So the next cricket star could be from Paignton Community and Sports College.



Duke of Edinburgh's award Annual Presentation Evening

Torbay youngsters celebrated their achievements on Wednesday 2 March at the Duke of Edinburgh's Annual Awards evening.

Eight Gold awards, 14 Silver and 41 Bronze awards were presented to young people, aged between 14 and 25, at the event held at the Beverley Park Holiday Centre, Goodrington. The evening was compared by Palm FM's Colin Leslie. Family and friends also attended to support and congratulate the young people.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in Torbay are heavily supported by the council's Youth Service, which facilitates groups around the Bay and supports the award scheme within local schools and colleges.

Chairman of Torbay Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Committee, Frank Sobey, said: "This annual event is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the young people's achievements. The award scheme has been running for over 50 years and it is excellent that so many young people in the Bay are participating and gaining so much from the experience."

If there are any young people aged between 14 and 24 that are interested in learning more about the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme they should contact Hazel Worcester from Torbay Youth Service on 01803 882098.

Fun day for children with disabilities and their families



A special needs playscheme for children and young people aged 5 – 17 with physical and/or learning disabilities has raised £189 for Marie Curie Cancer Care through a fun day.

Latest News

The playscheme, which is part of Torbay Council's Integrated Joint Agency Children's Disability Services (IJACDS), held the event in February at Torbay School.

The tombola was a big hit – many of the prizes were donated and the stall made £124 on the day. Around £65 of sponsorship was also raised by children and young people attending the playscheme who grew daffodils through the Marie Curie 'Mini Pots of Care' scheme.

Events like these give children and their families the opportunity to have fun, meet professionals and raise money for charity in a safe environment. It is hoped that another fun day can be organised for the playscheme and Saturday club in the summer.

Influencing Torbay

The premiere of a short film created by a group of 16-24 year olds has been screened at the Blue Walnut Cinema in Torquay.

The production highlighted young people's opinions and concerns about a youth unemployment in Torbay and the issues surrounding it – a topic the group identified as a high priority.

As part of the premiere screening of this film, delegates were given an opportunity to discuss what positive changes can be made in the Bay.



Torbay Council's Youth Service teamed up with Young Devon, FLeX and Equality South West to enable the project to take place.

Keeping quiet for Comic Relief!

Well done to Mark Treadwell from Torbay Council's Early Years Advisory Team for raising a magnificent £432.60 (and money is still coming in) by taking part in a sponsored silence for Comic Relief. Anyone who knows Mark will know what a challenge this was for him!

Mark would like to say a huge thank you to all of his colleagues, friends and family for their donations.



FIS success



Congratulations to Louise Blakemore and Jennifer Giles, Family information Service (FIS) Advisors, who have recently completed their NVQ3 in Customer Service.

The NVQ consisted of eight modules including

- understanding customer service to improve delivery
- making customer service personal
- going the extra mile in customer service
- monitoring and solving customer service problems.

The assessment was based on a mixture of written questions, professional discussions and work based observations.

Louise and Jennifer, said: "Good customer service is vital to the success of the Family Information Service and completing the NVQ has allowed the team to build upon the good customer service already offered and to think of ways to improve the service."

What's coming up

Social Norms Project

A special supplement written by young people in Torbay is due to be published in the Herald Express.

It is all part of Torbay Council's Challenging Social Norms Project as Education Advisor, Annie Hargreaves explains:

Who Would Be a Teenager Today?

Despite what you read in newspapers or view on the television the majority of young people today spend their time doing homework, using Facebook, enjoying the company of their friends and following their hobbies. They achieve better examination results than ever before and regularly volunteer to support those less well off than themselves. However, when you're fourteen it can feel as if all the grown ups think that you are sexually active, smoking cannabis, breaking the law and drinking. The troubled behaviour of a small minority leads to the labelling of what seems like a whole generation.

If extreme behaviour is misperceived by the general population as an everyday occurrence, it means that teenagers, too, start to regard it as 'normal' behaviour – and are more likely to try it for themselves. It is like an unspoken set of rules that they feel pressurised to follow.

The dos and don'ts of society are called social norms. If young people don't follow the norms they fear that they may then stand out and be excluded by their peers. This is a fate worse than death for many teenagers who just want to belong.

The facts about young people challenge the popular negative stereotypes. Most sixteen year olds are virgins; fewer teenagers are drinking to excess and fewer are involved in illegal drug taking. There are a small number of vulnerable young people who do need extra care, protection and even legal intervention, but for the most part the teenagers of Torbay work hard, are supportive of each other and object strongly to how they are portrayed.

The Challenging Social Norms Project aims to do exactly what it says on the tin. Young people from three secondary schools across the Bay have received intensive training providing them with the skills and knowledge to challenge the social norms of their peers and promote a better understanding of a number of issues that affect young people. These 'peer surfers' will be available to: provide advice and signposting of relevant services to other students; deliver workshops on relevant issues to their year groups; and support them to make healthy life choices. Basically, they will present and promote positive images of young people across Torbay.

What's coming up

The project aims to increase referrals to local and national support services for young people, reduce the number of teenage conceptions and reduce the pressure on young people to binge drink and use drugs. But most of all, the project is promoting and growing a positive image for all young people across Torbay so that they can be proud of who they are, where they come from and the contribution they make to the life of the Bay.

This first Herald Express Young People's Supplement is one in a series of six for the Bay. This edition has been produced by the aforementioned peer surfers, with the support of those who work for the newspaper and Dave Sibley and Emily Wilebore, who manage the project. I would like to offer my thanks to all involved but in particular to the young people and to Dave and Emily.

Annie Hargreaves, Education Adviser - Torbay Children's Services

Consultation on young people's sexual health services

If you work with young people then you can help make improvements to sexual health services in Torbay.

A consultation with young people in Torbay who are aged 13-18 years of age is now being carried out to find out what they think of sexual health services in the Bay and how they can be improved.

You can help by providing as many young people as you can with the consultation paper so their views and opinions are represented. It is anonymous and confidential and any suggestions for improvement will be forwarded to commissioners.

The survey is available to download or complete online until Monday 18 July 2011 on the **sexwize website** - www.s-wize.co.uk. There is a free prize draw for every completed survey for the chance to win over £50 of high street vouchers.

Please send completed surveys to the address below. Alternatively, for those of you who work in education settings arrangements can be made for them to be collected.

If you have any questions please contact:

Emily Wilebore, Sexual Health Outreach Young People's Worker,
Sexual Health Outreach Team, Unit 4/5 South Quay, Paignton TQ4 6DT
01803 557870
07917587941

emily.wilebore@torbay.gov.uk

What's coming up

Family Healthy Fun Day



On
13th April 2011
at



Torquay Town Hall

Free entry

11.00am - 3.00pm

Activities for under 5's but everyone
welcome

Healthy goodies

Cosmo the clown

Yummy stuff to eat

Breastfeeding support

Prize Draw

Toddler Gym

SureStart



**action for
children**

Torbay
Care Trust

NHS

What's coming up

Meetings

March 2011

Community Partnership	Date	Venue	Time
Public			
Preston	30th	Ballroom, Oldway	7-9pm

Partnership Meeting	March 2011
Budget and Resources Group (BAR)	24th
TAPS - All Primary Heads	29th
Children's Trust Partnership Forum	30th
My Time	30th

April 2011

Community Partnership	Date	Venue	Time
Public (*AGM)			
Ellacombe*	4th	Ellacombe Church Hall	7-9pm
Torquay Town Centre	5th	St Lukes Church Hall	7.30-9.30pm
Paignton Town*	6th	Hayes Rd School (Small Hall)	6.30-8.30pm
Brixham*	18th	Brixham Rugby Club	7-9pm
Shiphay & The Willows*	18th	Farmhouse Tavern	7.30-9.30pm
Steering Group			
Cockington, Chelston & Livermead	5th	St Peter's Centre, Queensway	5.30-7.30pm
Hele's Angels Community Board	6th	Windmill Centre	6.30-8.30pm
Churston, Galmpton & Broadsands	6th	Churston Grammar School	6-8pm
Goodrington, Roselands, Hookhills	12th	TBC	7-9pm
Torre and Upton	13th	Boardroom Town Hall	7-9pm
Preston	28th	Cecil Room, Oldway	7-9pm

Partnership Meeting	April 2011
Misper Forum	1st
Every Child Matters Forum (formerly Extended Managers Forum)	29th

For more details about community groups please contact
Lorrie Layne, Community Engagement Coordinator - Early Intervention
0777 1806870, email lorrie.layne@torbay.gov.uk

For details about community partnership meetings contact Tracey Cabache by
email at tracey.cabache@torbay.gov.uk

Contact details

Service	Telephone Number/Website
Torbay Children's Services (Education)	01803 208228
Children's Services (children at risk)	01803 208100
Torbay Care Trust	01803 210500
Emergency Duty Service (Out of hours team that covers Torbay children's, adults and mental health)	01803 524519 (Mon - Thurs 16.30 - 09.00, Friday 15.45 - 09.00 Monday)
Police	08452 777444
Mispers	01803 200100 (Martine Osmond) and PC Natasha Jacskon, missing persons officer 01803 841386
South Devon Healthcare Foundation Trust	01803 614567
Community and Voluntary Action Torbay (CVA Torbay)	01803 212638 www.cvatorbay.org.uk
Probation Services	01803 213535
Youth Offending Service	01803 201655
Safer Communities	01803 84127 www.safercommunitiestorbay.org.uk
Connexions - Information, advice & guidance	08009755111 www.connexions-cd.org.uk
Brixham Cluster Team	01803 208102
Paignton Cluster Team	01803 208102
Torquay East Cluster	01803 208103
Torquay West Cluster	01803 208104
Integrated Joint Agency Children's Disability Service	01803 206280
Job Centre Plus	0845 604 3719 www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/index.htm
For an Easier Life	www.foraneasierlife.co.uk/riviera_life.html
Family Information Service	08003285974 email: fisenquiries@torbay.gov.uk www.torbay.gov.uk/fis
Childline Free helpline to talk about problems	0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
NHS Direct National helpline for health advice	0845 4647 www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
Frank National helpline for drug and alcohol advice	0800776600 www.talktofrank.com
Know The Code Alcohol and drug issues:	www.safercommunitiestorbay.org.uk/KnowTheCode
MyBay Positive Activities for Torbay young people	www.my-bay.org.uk
Devon Community Directory	www.devonline.gov.uk/community
Phab: National charity dedicated to the integration of people with physical disabilities in the community.	020 8667 9443 email: info@phab.org.uk www.phab.org.uk
PHAB Local Group contact is Mark Thorneywork	01803 324 657
R-Nite Leisure activities for people aged 11 – 19	www.my-bay.org.uk - click on Events
Sexual health - advice and information on local services	www.s-wize.co.uk
Torbay Youth Service - Youth Opportunity Fund, Volunteering and Youth News	01803 208221 www.my-bay.org.uk/getinvolved.htm www.torbay.gov.uk/youthservice
Torbay Youth Parliament	www.torbay.gov.uk/ukyp
Torcom	www.torcom.org.uk
Torbay Council Communications Team	01803 207048
Victoria Park Youth Centre	01803 698393