

Annual Performance Assessment of Torbay Council's Children's Services: May 2005

Self-assessment by the Council

Using the new joint inspection framework Torbay has recently completed the first annual performance assessment of its children's services. The outcome of this assessment will be known in November.

Scope of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA)

The APA assesses the Council's specific contributions to improving outcomes for children and young people. As part of the assessment, ratings will be made on:

- the overall contribution of the local council children's services to the five outcomes for children and young people, on the basis of separate judgements on:
- the contribution of the council's education functions;
- the contribution of the council's children's social care functions
- the council's capacity to improve

Gradings are based on the following four-point scale and descriptors:

Grade	Descriptor
Grade 4: A service that delivers well above minimum requirements for users	A service that delivers well above minimum requirements for children and young people, is innovative and cost-effective and fully contributes to raising expectations and the achievement of wider outcomes for the community.
Grade 3: A service that consistently delivers above minimum requirements for users	A service that consistently delivers above minimum requirements for children and young people, has some innovative practice and is increasingly cost-effective whilst making contributions to wider outcomes for the community.
Grade 2: A service that delivers only minimum requirements for users	A service that delivers only minimum requirements for children and young people, but is not demonstrably cost-effective nor contributes significantly to wider outcomes for the community.
Grade 1: A service that does not deliver minimum requirements for users	A service that does not deliver minimum requirements for children and young people, is not cost-effective and makes little or no contribution to wider outcomes for the community.

The ratings will form part of Torbay's Comprehensive Performance Assessment

The assessment is based on:

- performance indicators
- evidence drawn from inspections of schools and services,
- Torbay's self-assessment

The self- assessment and performance indicators are used by inspectors from Ofsted and the Commission for Social Care Inspection to:

- determine how well Torbay knows itself and has prioritised areas for improvement;
- establish how effectively different providers or services, working in partnership or separately, are contributing to the outcomes for Torbay;

- assess the effectiveness with which management information systems are being developed to determine needs and impact;
- evaluate how far young people are being involved in planning and review;
- assess the strengths and weaknesses of management and capacity for improvement of Torbay's services; and
- assess whether plans for improvement provide value for money.

Self-assessment

The focus of the self-assessment is the evaluation of the impact of actions taken to improve outcomes and implement local priorities.

PART A Background	Provides information about key contacts and partnership arrangements which have contributed to the completion of the self-assessment.
PART B Summary statement	Provides a statement of the priorities and an evaluation of overall performance in relation to services for children and young people in Torbay. The assessment may include key contextual features that directly impact on the delivery of Torbay's services.
PART C Show how your current priorities for action are founded on an analysis of need	<p>This section covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how Torbay has analysed need and reached decisions on its priorities • the use of data, including local data and information • how Torbay is focusing on the outcomes for children and young people • how Torbay ensures that sufficient attention is paid to the needs of particular groups, for example looked after children and those with learning difficulties or disabilities • how far gaps in provision have been met through the commissioning of new services • the action taken to implement any recommendation of recent inspections
PART D The impact of local services	<p>For each outcome area:</p> <p>How good are the outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are Torbay's outcomes as good as they should be, especially for those identified for targeted support? If not, why not and what action is being taken? • how well do Torbay's outcomes compare with other similar areas? • are there particular localities or groups of children and young people where progress has been better or worse than expected? If so, what are the reasons and what action are you taking? • to what extent have national and local PSA targets been achieved? <p>Is Torbay making a difference?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how have local services contributed to priorities and plans to improve outcomes? • have there been any significant barriers to implementing plans? • has Torbay taken any special or innovative actions that are having an impact?
PART E Service management and the use of resources	<p>Does service management help to improve outcomes for children and young people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have some approaches to service delivery been more successful than others? If so, why? • are Torbay's performance management and review processes effective? • how far do Torbay's services have the capacity to improve?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how well is Torbay developing its workforce to manage change? <p>How well is Torbay using available resources?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how successful are Torbay's investments and contributions to particular activities? • has there been any significant shift in expenditure? Has this been effective? • is expenditure in line with projections and if not what actions have been taken to resolve this? • what has been the impact of any pooled resources? • what evidence is there that Torbay provides value for money?
PART F Involving children and young people	<p>How well does Torbay engage children and young people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how involved are children and young people in decision making about the development of services in Torbay? • how has Torbay sought the views of children and young people and with what success? • how does Torbay feed back to them on the action taken?
PART G Partnership working	<p>How good is partnership working?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what arrangements have been made to co-operate with agencies and services? Are these arrangements effective? • to what extent are plans, targets and priorities agreed by service users and providers? • how has Torbay involved the voluntary and community sectors? • how has partnership working enabled Torbay to improve service delivery and outcomes for children and young people?

Download Torbay's Annual Performance Assessment May 2005

Other relevant websites

Every Child Matters Change for Children
Ofsted

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/>