

Hello and welcome to the latest blog from Torbay's SEND Local Area Improvement Partnership (SLAIP) Board.

In this piece, I'm focusing on our response to Torbay's recent local area SEND inspection, which judged there to be 'widespread and/or systemic failings'. It summarises the key points and actions from the last two meetings, which have been concerned with ensuring our response to the inspection is appropriate and that robust arrangements are in place for delivering the necessary improvements.

Inspectors published their [report](#) on 25th June, which outlined a number of key areas for improvement, including four areas for priority action, whilst acknowledging the progress made by the partnership since the last inspection.

The SLAIP Board, whose members include senior leaders from across the partnership, recognise the urgent improvements that need to be made and take responsibility for ensuring children and young people with SEND and their families in Torbay receive the support, care and services they need and deserve.

As a result of the inspection outcome, the local authority was issued an 'Improvement Notice' and will have 18 months in which to address the failings before a monitoring visit from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. This will be followed by a full inspection within 3 years.

Both July and September's meetings focused on the development of our Priority Impact Plan (PIP), which is the detailed outline of all the work that needs to take place in the coming 18 months. Representatives from the DfE and NHS England advised the board of their expectations for the coming 18 months, which will include regular monitoring to ensure the partnership is on track.

The PIP will be published on the Local Offer website shortly, along with an accessible version to highlight the key areas for improvement. These areas include:

- **Governance and Collaboration:** This will focus on ensuring all partners are working together effectively to address the range of issues. It also commits to improving our relationship and communication with families, including opportunities for meaningful co-production.
- **Commissioning Arrangements:** This priority is all about making sure the partnership know exactly what Torbay's children and young people need and are making sure there is the right support and provision in place.
- **Multi-agency Working and Access to Services:** A key focus for this area is improving multi-agency collaboration to identify needs earlier. It focuses on

ensuring partners are working together to meet needs more effectively, including the quality and timeliness of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Working with schools, to improve inclusive practice, is also a priority, to ensure children and young people with SEND are attending, happy and successful in their school environment.

- **Waiting Times and Access to Health Services:** This priority not only focuses on working to reduce the waiting times for services but on improving the quality and timeliness of support whilst waiting. It also looks at strengthening what is available to children and young people without a diagnosis and their families.
- **Preparation for Adulthood:** This area focuses on the importance of transition planning as a young person with SEND gets older and is preparing for further education, employment and independence.

One of the most important aspects for the development of the PIP was the involvement and engagement of SEND Family Voice Torbay, who committed their time, throughout the summer holidays, to shape the plan. In September's board meeting the Chair of SEND Family Voice presented a detailed report, summarising the output of the sessions and the expectations for improvement. The board is in the process of developing a formal response to the forum's report, which can then be shared with all forum members.

It is clear there is a great deal that needs to be done to tackle the issues, and I am encouraged by the commitment and determination from across the partnership to deliver these changes.

I hope this has been useful and I will update you following our next meeting either through a blog or vlog.

If you are a parent or carer and have any thoughts or comments, please share these with your parent carer forum [SEND Family Voice Torbay](#) by emailing admin@familyvoicetorbay.onmicrosoft.com

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