

The Partnership

November 2011

For everyone who works for children and families in Torbay

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Latest News

Organisations come together for a Safer Bay

There was a fantastic turn out by local organisations at Torbay's very first Safer Bay event. A wide range of agencies and departments manned information stands at the drop in day at Torquay Town Hall's Assembly Hall on Tuesday 22 November.



Safer Bay was organised by the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) as part of a Devon-wide Safeguarding Awareness Week. It aimed to promote the services available in Torbay, particularly focusing on keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe.

Toddlers were entertained in a soft play area, provided by Torbay Gymnastic Club, whilst parents and individuals obtained information and advice from a variety of stalls. They were manned by different departments and organisations including, Paignton and Brixham Children's Centre, Safer Communities, The Family Information Service, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Under 18s drug and alcohol team Safeguarding Adults and Children's Integrated Services (Inclusion, Emotional Health and Disability).

TSCB Chairman, Bob Spencer, said: "This awareness week was about promoting the safer life choices we can all make in our personal and professional lives to prevent children and vulnerable adults from being harmed or neglected. It's the responsibility of all of us to do what we can to keep ourselves and those we come in contact with safe. Everyone has the right to feel safe and I hope that this Safer Awareness Week moves us a step closer towards this goal."

A range of other activities also took place during Safeguarding Awareness week, including the launch of a safeguarding survey and the launch of the Child's Journey

The Child's Journey is a model for improving children and young people's outcomes through the early identification of need and vulnerability. During Safeguarding Awareness Week all staff who work with children, young people and their families were invited to one of six interactive workshops.



For more information contact the TSCB on 01803 207176

Safeguarding children survey deadline looms

Time's running out if you want to help shape safeguarding practice in Torbay.

The survey launched by the Torbay Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) during Safeguarding Awareness Week needs to be filled out and submitted by Friday 2 December.

So if you have direct contact with children, young people and families then please can you spare 10 to 15 minutes of your work time to express your views in a short but important questionnaire on safeguarding children.

The survey is totally confidential and will be used to help shape the new Children's Partnership Improvement Plan so your views are very important.

The survey is being hosted by Devon County Council and can be accessed on <https://www.devon.gov.uk/lscb>.

Children's Services Ofsted reports are released

Ofsted published the findings of two children's services reports in November.

The findings of the recent unannounced Ofsted inspection of the contact, referral and assessment arrangements at Torbay Council reveal that children's services are improving. The council no longer has any areas of priority action and has dealt with many of the areas for development highlighted in previous inspections. However, there are still some areas which need improving and these are covered in the Children's Partnership Improvement Plan.

The inspection results are good news, because they demonstrate that progress has been made. However, the inspection doesn't lift Children's Services out of intervention as this can only be achieved through a full two week inspection.

Torbay Council's annual children's services assessment for 2011 was also published by Ofsted this month and Children's Services in Torbay have been judged as performing poorly. This is mainly as a result of a full inspection in September 2010, which concluded that safeguarding arrangements were inadequate. Until a full re-inspection of safeguarding takes place the judgement remains the same.

The 2011 assessment letter also says: 'the very large majority of services, settings and institutions inspected by Ofsted are good or better'.

Torbay becomes 'Young People Friendly'

Corner Place Surgery in Paignton is celebrating after becoming the first health service in the Bay to be awarded 'Young People Friendly' accreditation by Torbay Care Trust.

The new Young People Friendly (YPF) scheme is aimed at all health services in the Bay where 11-19 year olds are likely to be potential users. It highlights services that are young people friendly and are committed to developing and improving their services.

The YPF scheme, formerly known as 'You're Welcome', is supported and endorsed by the Office of Sexual Health South West. Corner Place Surgery joins Chilcote and Parkhill surgeries which successfully achieved the former 'You're Welcome' award.

For further information on YPF, including how to become a young verifier, please contact Emily Wilebore, Sexual Health Outreach Young People's Worker, at Emily.wilebore@torbay.gov.uk

Bay adventure play areas receive Big Lottery funding

Play Torbay is to receive more than £300,000 from the Big Lottery to support and develop three state of the art adventure play areas.

Based in Hele in Torquay, Blatchcombe in Paignton and Summercombe in Brixham, the play areas will be free to local families and will encourage greater participation in community-based recreation. The new facilities will build on the developments at Fort Apache, Wild Fox and Indigos Go Wild adventure playgrounds where children and families are already involved.

Parkfield is 'wheelie' popular!

More than 5,000 visitors have 'bunny hopped' to Paignton's multi million pound centre to Experience the Extreme since it officially opened to the public.



Parkfield is 'wheelie' popular!



The launch in October half term week, with its fun packed programme of free activities, attracted at least 3,000 visitors.

As expected, the most popular facilities so far are the international competition standard BMX track, the skate park and the climbing wall. And there's plenty more fun for young people to look forward to - a new Apple Mac IT suite will be available soon and Parkfield is getting ready to launch its Christmas programme!

Young people are also being encouraged to snap up a membership card, which offers half price youth sessions plus much, much more.

For more details call Parkfield on 01803 698900 or visit www.parkfieldtorbay.co.uk

Brixham College chalks up success

Only three weeks into the new school year and already Brixham College has a lot to shout about. First, significant improvements in GCSE examination results have made the College the top-performing non-selective school in Torbay and nearby areas. Now inspectors from Ofsted have praised it highly and have marked it as a school on the up.

In the College's recent inspection, Ofsted stated, 'Brixham College is a good and improving school. Students achieve well as a result of good teaching, a curriculum that offers an increasing level of personalisation and well-targeted academic and pastoral support'. The Chair of Governors, Mike Morey, was particularly pleased with the praise for the Principal, who has only been in post for two years. His drive to improve the College for all students was noted by inspectors.

Principal, Mark Eager said, "I am delighted with Ofsted's judgements. This inspection was conducted under a more stringent framework than the last. Under the new framework, it is more difficult to get the higher grades. We have worked tirelessly to improve the outcomes for our students, and the inspection report endorses this.

"The Ofsted report is a true picture of the journey we have been on in the last 24 months. It is a reflection of where we were, where we are now and where we are heading. It confirms that the changes we have made at the College are effective and will continue to have impact into the future.

"It has been a very exciting time at the College and I am particularly pleased with Ofsted's comments that 'there is a palpable sense of pride among those who work and learn here.' I am very proud to be the College's Principal."

New hall opens at Oldway School

Oldway Primary School's new £1.2 million hall and kitchen has been officially opened. The opening of Gibson Hall on Friday 18 November was marked with the cutting of a ribbon as well as singing, dancing and gymnastic displays by pupils.

The new facility was partly funded with £428,796 from the Government's Targeted Capital Fund grant, which Torbay Council successfully bid for in 2009 to improve school kitchens and dining halls. The school contributed an additional £50,000 and £721,204 came from the Council's Children's Services Capital Programme.

The improvements will increase the opportunity for more children to take up school meals and will reduce the need for timetable disruption, queuing and the competing demand for use of a school hall for other educational purposes. The new space, with a sprung floor will also be available for community use.

Latest News



Headteacher, Pete Maunder, said: "I'm really pleased this superb new space is now finished - it will make such a difference to our pupils and staff. The children have already started to use the hall and the response has been really positive. It enables the whole school to come together in one area and will increase healthy living opportunities for our pupils and of those in our local community."

Your Bay, Your Say!

Young people from across Torbay have been sharing their views and debating current issues affecting them at the annual Your Bay, Your Say event. On Thursday 24 November 11 to 19 year olds gathered at Parkfield for the event which was organised by members of Torbay's Youth Parliament.

This year the day included a sexual health seminar, bullying workshops and Question Time with a panel of Torbay councillors and decision makers. Relationships and sex education as well as bullying are the top campaigns this year for Torbay MYP's - mainly due to the responses from young people at previous Your Bay, Your Say events.

MYP Olivia Bushell said: "I think young people across Torbay should be given the opportunity to have a voice and tackle issues affecting teenagers. I have worked hard to organise a sexual health seminar for the young people which I feel will educate them and help them say no to peer pressure."

Torbay Council's Executive Lead for Children, Schools and Families, Councillor Chris Lewis, said: "It is so important to give young people a voice and this event is a fantastic way of connecting young people with decision makers in the Bay. Torbay Council is committed to involving young people in local services and we want to hear what they say to help us prioritise the services we can offer."

All change for Paignton and Brixham children's centre

Paignton and Brixham Children's Centre has been busy over the last few months. The team has said farewell to Sue Bradbury who retired in August after many years of working within Children's Services. Her optimism and unique ways will be missed by many.

The Children's Centre team has also moved. It is no longer based at the Studio in Paignton and team members have been divided across two sites:

- Paignton Library & Information Centre, Great Western Close
- Parkside Children's Centre (old youth service site), Victoria Park, Paignton.

There are now fewer services running at Oldway Children's Centre as this site has been handed over to the school, but families can still continue to enjoy the same services at other sites and many have been moved to the Parkside building. For a new timetable please call 01803 556081

Parkside Children's Centre opened its doors to parents on Saturday 29 October when a fun day was held to celebrate the occasion.

The new correspondence address is:

Paignton & Brixham Children's Centre
Paignton Library & Information Centre
Great Western Road
Paignton
TQ4 5AG

Young film fans get animated at Paignton Library

Budding young film makers tried their hand at film animation techniques at a special event at Paignton Library on Saturday 26 November.

The library's FILMCLUB for young film fans aged 8–18 years old hosted the one day Animation Film Festival that included free movie screenings, discussions and a fascinating hands-on workshop on film animation techniques.

The library's FILMCLUB is run by young volunteers, and regularly screens features for age groups 8 to 11 and 12 plus, who are then encouraged to write reviews of the films that can be posted to the national FILMCLUB website. FILMCLUB is a national charity whose activities teachers report increase social and cultural awareness, engage pupils with barriers to learning and increase pupil confidence.

FIS is given a helping hand

Hugh Malyon, a young resident with cerebral palsy, recently spent some invaluable time carrying out work experience with the council's Family Information Service (FIS). Hugh is also a member of the Disability Council and spent some of his time helping the team develop My Bay, a website for young people in the Bay with information on health, education, work activities and events.

Hugh has since started a course at Westlands School but hopes to continue his work experience with the team once a week, during term time.

Hugh said: "During the summer I did work experience at FIS for half a day a week. I was working on My Bay for children and young people in Torbay. I did a lot of research and enjoyed working in a real office. I am looking forward to going back on my school's work experience scheme"



What's coming up

Families invited to a weekend of events in memory of babies

Staff from Torbay Hospital's maternity unit, A&E and chaplaincy services have joined up with local parents in the planning of the hospital's annual Baby Remembrance Weekend to be held on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th December. The weekend is open to all those who have ever experienced the loss of a baby, in pregnancy or in the early days or months of life.

This year, the Saturday will involve the popular family craft afternoon, which is an opportunity for all to express their feelings and to create Christmas themed tributes to their loved ones through tapestry, art and craft work. On Sunday there will be a remembrance service held in the hospital chapel, which will include prayers, readings, lighting of candles and carefully chosen music from the hospital choir to reflect the focus for the service.

Rev. Martin Manley of Torbay Hospital Chaplaincy said: "Christmas can be a poignant time and a time of mixed emotions for those families who have experienced the loss of a baby. The remembrance weekend aims to provide all family members, from grandparents to brothers and sisters, with a way to remember their loved ones, and the event is open to all regardless of religious beliefs."

"During the remembrance service, tiny candles will be lit to remember each baby, and there will be an opportunity to place stars carrying messages onto the branches of the young trees which grow in the hospital's Heartsease remembrance garden."

If you would like more details about the baby remembrance weekend you can contact the Chaplaincy on 01803 654186.

Sexual health training

There is a wide range of sexual health training available in Torbay. The training is for any individuals who promote sexual health as part of their role. The sexual health training programme is supported by the local teenage conceptions strategy and sexual health strategy for Torbay.

To find out about the latest sexual health training courses taking place throughout Torbay visit <http://www.eddystone.org.uk/training/>

The Nurturing Group

A programme, aimed at helping parents to get the best out of family life is being held in January following a successful pilot project – and referrals are being taken now.

The Nurturing Programme helps parents deal with the challenges of looking after their children so they can have a calmer, happier family life. With emotional well being at its core it:

- Promotes emotional literacy and emotional health
- Enhances self esteem, self awareness and empathy
- Develops communication and relationship skills
- Provides effective strategies to encourage co-operative, responsible behaviour and manage challenging behaviour in children

This is a ten week programme and it can be quite intense so parents need to be really committed and recognise the need to change. The first session starts on Thursday 12 January, 10:30am to 12:30pm, at the Studio in Paignton.

If you have previously completed a referral for Triple P group but feel that this programme would be more beneficial for the family, there is no need to complete another form – just get in touch. Referrals need to be in by Wednesday 30 November

For more information please contact.

Bianca Staunton

Parent Programme Coordinator

Torquay Locality Team

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07767 670979

01803 206282

What's coming up

Christmas at Cockington Court Craft Centre

Carol singers, mince pies and mulled wine will help to kick off the festivities at Cockington Court Craft Centre next month...and there will even be a special visit from Santa!

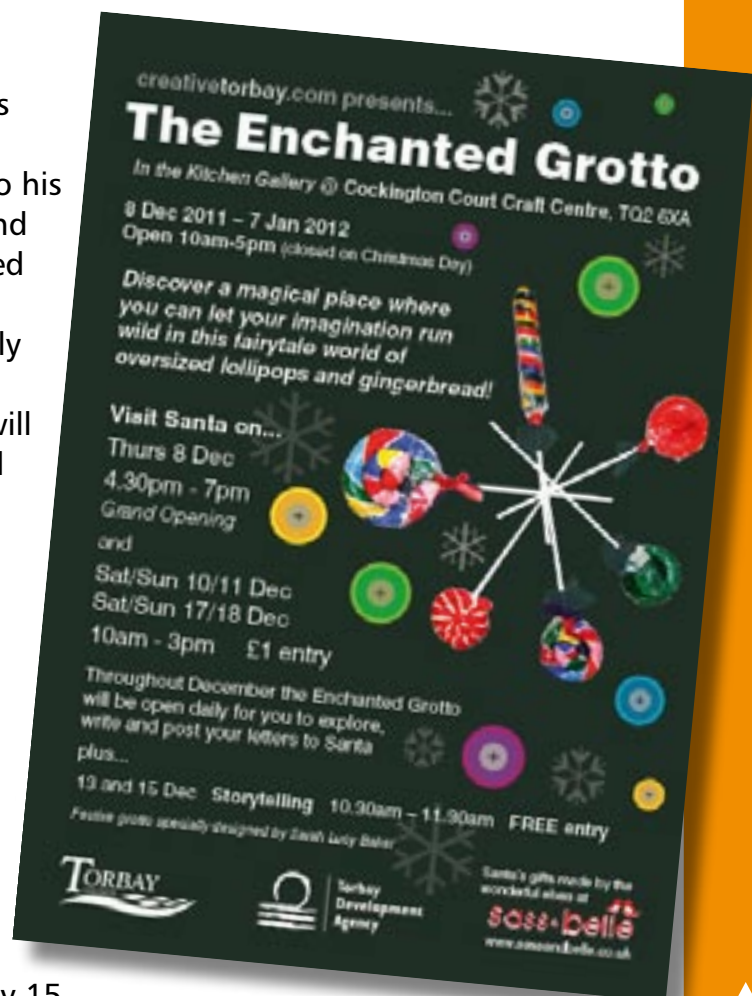
The court has recently been part of a £2.85million regeneration project. Throughout December the craft studios and tea rooms will be open from 10am until 4pm daily until Saturday 24 December, with extended late night opening hours until 8pm on Thursday 8 December.

Those visiting the Court on Sunday 4 December will be in for a real treat as the Christmas Fayre spectacular comes to Cockington! With over 20 stalls, carol singers, mince pies and mulled wine there is sure to be something for everyone. The Fayre will be open from 10am until 4pm followed by a carol service in the church from 4pm.

Santa will be flying in on Thursday 8 December for the grand opening of his 'Enchanted Grotto' and to welcome youngsters and the young at heart into his magical world of oversized lollipops and gingerbread. The Grotto will be located in the Kitchen Gallery at Cockington Court Craft Centre. It will be open daily for visitors to explore and write their letters to Santa and the man himself will be making special appearances, armed with his sack full of presents on:

- * Thursday 8 December from 4.30pm until 7pm
- * Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December from 10am until 3pm
- * Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 December from 10am until 3pm.

The cost of the Grotto will be £1 per child. In addition to this there will also be a free storytelling session in the Grotto on Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15 December from 10.30am until 11.30am.



What's coming up

Crafty Sunday

An arts and craft session has recently started at the new Parkfield youth facility on Sundays and your help is needed. There are limited arts and craft materials to run this session and so any spare arts and craft equipment you could kindly donate would be gratefully received.

If people are able to deliver anything, please can they take them to the new Parkfield centre (Parkfield, R/O Colin Road, Paignton, TQ3 2NR). Donations will be kindly received and put to good use.

Please also feel free to promote the crafty arts club to children and families you may support.

An open club for 11yrs plus running Sundays term time **1pm-4pm**

Be involved

Arts and crafts

TRY NEW ACTIVITIES

Crafty Sundays

Have fun, meet new people

free for members
£1 for non members

PARK FIELD

Torbay Youth Service

Contact details

Service	Telephone Number/Website
Hand in Hand Volunteering Service	01803 314876 or 07900 678278 email: sue.cousins@torbay.gov.uk
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 841414 or 07736731956
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
Paignton & Brixham Locality	01803 208104
Torquay Locality	01803 208102
Job Centre Plus	01803 356000
For an Easier Life	www.foraneasierlife.co.uk/riviera_life.html
Family Information Service	fisenquiries@torbay.gov.uk http://Torbay.fsd.org.uk 08003285974
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
Sexual Health information and C-card (condoms)	www.s-wize.co.uk
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
Torbay Youth Service Services, 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
Community and Voluntary Action Torbay (CVA Torbay)	www.torcom.org.uk
Torbay Council Communications Team	01803 207048