

Torbay Strategic Partnership

UPDATE

June 2009



Closing the Gap- A Neighbourhood Management Model for Torbay

A ground breaking project is getting underway in Hele, Torquay.

Neighbourhood Management (NM) is an evolving approach to improving public services, building community capacity and promoting renewal in deprived areas. NM brings the local community and local service providers together at a neighbourhood level to tackle local problems and improve local services. The process is run by a manager who is responsible for viewing the neighbourhood in its totality as a 'place' rather than being concerned with individual services and who seeks to develop a systematic, planned approach to improving the quality of life in that neighbourhood.



The Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder initiative has been developed by a partnership of Torbay Council, Torbay Care Trust, Torbay Development Agency, Devon and Cornwall Police, Safer Communities Torbay, Riviera Housing Trust, Devon and Cornwall Probation, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and JobCentre Plus.

The vision is to establish the neighbourhood management model in one of our areas of inequality, deliver on a pathfinder basis for 9-12 months and then take forward the lessons learned to roll out the same model to similar areas across the Bay.

National best practice recommends choosing an area or 'neighbourhood' typically consisting approximately 5000 residents that is set within an area experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities and deprivation. As a potential pathfinder area it is clear that Hele meets such criteria. It is envisaged that the next area to benefit from the intervention model would be Torquay town centre and then, in an order to be determined, our remaining areas of inequality: Ellacombe, Roundham-with-Hyde, Foxhole and Queen Elizabeth Drive

The benefits of the Neighbourhood Management Model

The experience of the 35 national Pathfinders points to several key areas of anticipated success:

- **Engaging communities:** broadening resident engagement in their own decision making process through a locality based approach that is both practical and personal.
- **Influencing services:** through the 'joining up of two or more service providers, improving access to or take up of services or the creation of new service demand.

- **Specific short term impacts:** improvements include - resident satisfaction, street cleanliness, environmental enhancement, community reassurance, reduced fear of crime and perceptions of self reported health. In Torbay we would also expect to see a decline in worklessness in the short-term and a strengthening of relations between our older and younger people.
- **Longer term impacts:** Longer term objectives such as improved life expectancy, reduced morbidity, improved quality of housing (both in terms of numbers and quality of privately owned rentals), improved employment and educational attainment should form part of the phased delivery plan. This plan will ultimately establish a set of objectives for each neighbourhood that escalate from the operational to the strategic, effectively joining up the areas with combined long term vision of improved quality of life for all.

It's Take 3 for Teranga !

A date for your summer diaries is the Teranga Festival celebrating cultural diversity.

The festival will take place at Oldway Mansion on Sunday 23 August from 11am to 4pm. Appropriately named Teranga, which means hospitality in the language spoken by the Wolof people of Senegal, the festival is being supported by Imagine (Torbay Multicultural Group), Torbay Council and Torbay Care Trust.

Torbay Council's Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Cllr Louisa Aiton, said: "The past two events which were held at Hollacombe Community Resource Centre and Paignton Green proved to be really popular, with hundreds of people being treated to live bands and musicians, international food, workshops, arts and crafts and much more.

"Teranga 3 this year also promises to be a fantastic family event, with a whole host of performances and other attractions taking place throughout the day. People who come along to enjoy the festival can be assured of some typical Torbay Teranga!



A 'ground breaking' celebration in Paignton



Torbay Council's vision for a new multi-million pound library in Paignton have moved a step nearer with the official 'ground breaking' ceremony which took place on 28 May.

The Mayor of Torbay Nick Bye, as well as other representatives from Torbay Council, BAM, Kensington Taylor (architects), the Big Lottery Fund and various partners were on hand to celebrate the start of works on the new two storey, 2,245 square metre building.

The project costing nearly £6.4million has been funded by the Big Lottery Fund and Torbay Council and will take approximately 65 weeks to complete. It will provide a new state-of-the-art library, to replace the

existing library in Paignton, as well as centralised facilities for a number of agencies including community police, Connections, adult and community learning as well as office accommodation for SureStart and others - to be confirmed.

The building has been sympathetically designed to reflect the history of the former railway and goods yard site, whilst aiming to achieve an environmental rating of 'very good', it is due to open mid 2010.

Tackling Domestic Violence

In January 2008 a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies met as the Peninsula Domestic Violence and Abuse Group to examine resourcing issues for sustaining domestic abuse services. Historically core domestic abuse services do not fall within the responsibility of any single statutory agency. Income streams are time limited and do not provide the sustainability to

ensure standards of service delivery for victims of domestic abuse.

The Peninsula model is being led by Assistant Chief Constable Paul Netherton, and at the last TSP meeting members were asked to endorse the vision and key principles of the Peninsula Vision.

Peninsula Vision

- Increase the safety of families living with domestic violence and abuse ;
- to promote their health and wellbeing; and
- empower children and young people to live lives free of violence.

Key Principles

- achieve a greater degree of consistency in service provision across the area
- statutory agencies to respond effectively to the impact of domestic violence and abuse in their mainstream services
- to support the provision of community based specialist services across the area through the use of pooled budgets and joint commissioning models.

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Update

From April 2009 the CAA has been introduced as a new framework for inspecting public services. It aims to provide;

- a catalyst for improvement and better local outcomes
- independent assurance for citizens and tax payers
- independent evidence for central government on progress with national priorities
- a means of rationalising and co-ordinating inspection processes.

Torbay participated as a pilot area for the CAA in the South West and the draft report of that process was reported to the TSP in autumn 2008. At May's meeting members were asked to endorse the CAA project plan and timetable. The report of this year's CAA inspection will be available for the TSP's November meeting.

Local Area Agreement (LAA) Progress Review

Torbay's first LAA has been in place since April 2007. It includes stretch targets to be delivered over three years. Successful delivery will attract a reward element of up to £3.9M. These stretch targets carry through to a new three year LAA signed off in June 2008. This review covers;

- performance against stretch targets at the end of year two and;
- performance at the end of year one for the 2008 agreement.

TSP members were given a detailed progress report at May's meeting. This review will meet the requirement of an annual review of progress to Government Office South West

Date of next TSP meeting

23 July 2009 3pm- 5pm

Meadfoot Room, Town Hall Torquay.