

# Greater Access for ALL



<b>Date</b>	Monday 20 January 2025	<b>Time</b>	12 - 1
<b>Attendees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tanny Stobart (Play Torbay)</li> <li>● Amanda Lynn (Torbay Communities)</li> <li>● Kelly Givens (SENDIASS)</li> <li>● Sam Egan (Prevention Worker - Youth Justice Service)</li> <li>● Lynsey Robbins (Victim &amp; Restorative Justice Officer - Youth Justice Service)</li> <li>● Jan Moate (Volunteer Co-ordinator - Torbay Council)</li> <li>● Katie Chivers (Trustee for Torbay Communities &amp; YMCA South Devon)</li> <li>● Lisa Money &amp; Jo Morrell (Imagine This Partnership Managers)</li> <li>● Rebekah Daws (Partnership Administrator)</li> </ul>		

<b>Agenda</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Catch up &amp; partner updates</li> <li>● Strategic direction of the group</li> </ul>
<b>Summary</b>

## Introductions

- The meeting began with introductions as we had some new additions to the group.
- Jo mentioned how great it was for Youth Justice staff to join us as there is an upcoming meeting discussing creating reparation and out of court opportunities for young people in the YJS within Imagine This, as there huge potential to make better use of the partnership.
- Jan also mentioned she is currently working to rebuild mentoring and training programmes within the YJS.

## Group Overview & Mayfield Hub Club

- Lisa provided an overview of the purpose of the this impact group, which aims to improve to opportunities and services for all young people in Torbay.
- Jo raised previous discussions about how this group should operate, reiterating access should be embedded across everything we do.
- Kelly clarified she still agreed with this but other groups could be bring issues back to this group, where deeper conversations can be had.
- Tanny shared how their practice and partnership with Kelly & SENDIASS at Mayfield Hub Club has grown closer and evolved as an outcome of this group.

- Tanny then gave an overview of Mayfield Hub Club for those who weren't aware. The provision grew out of an offer to parents of children with a variety of spectrum conditions like autism. Initially based at the Indigos Playground in Brixham, they discovered families were traveling from Torquay so they built a second provision at Mayfield School.
- This provision has grown into more and has become a collaborative partnership. Junior placements, young people supporting the delivery of the sessions are another important aspect of the provision.

## **Youth Justice Service**

- Lynsey discussed working with young people who have come through the YJS via the criminal justice system, either through out-of-court resolutions or court proceedings.
- She emphasised balancing support between these young individuals and the victims, noting that victims' access to services is often overlooked.
- The team focuses on providing positive activities, educational opportunities, and tools to help young people pursue further education or employment.
- They recognise that boredom often leads to offending behaviour, so keeping young people engaged and providing meaningful opportunities is a priority.
- Additionally, Sam's work focuses on prevention, targeting individuals at risk of entering the criminal justice system. The overarching goal is to reach as many young people as possible, either to prevent initial offenses or to reduce reoffending.
- Sam discussed initiating a new group for children involved in one-to-one work within the youth justice service. While one-to-one work has been ongoing for years, he identified a gap in group-based activities and is now developing programs in collaboration with community services like Grenville House. He has also engaged with organisations such as Little Squirrels in Parkfield and Sound Communities, exploring creative activities like graffiti projects in local parks.
- Sam aims to provide positive activities that connect children to their communities and help them build practical skills. These include interests like construction, woodwork, music, and drama. He is committed to making the group a long-term initiative rather than a short-term program, ensuring lasting impact and engagement for the children involved.
- Jo mentioned Taleblazers are starting up a new project soon at Parkfield that would be a great opportunity for YJS to be part of.

## **SENDIASS**

- Kelly gave an overview of her work. SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service) provides legal information and support regarding education, health, and social care to parents, children, and young people.
- While the service effectively engages with parents, reaching children and young people independently remains a challenge. Some young people do access the service separately from their parents, particularly when their needs or preferences differ.
- The team is working to enhance independent support for young people, with a focus on empowering them to understand their legal rights and make informed decisions.
- Jo, a recently qualified team member, is leading efforts to engage with children and young people, ensuring their voices are heard and aligning their support with their individual perspectives and rights.
- Lynsey asked about the minimum age for young people to independently access SENDIASS services. Kelly clarified that, legally, anyone from birth can access the service. Any young person seeking

impartial advice is entitled to use the service, though additional safeguarding is applied for those under 14.

- Lisa pointed out the potential crossover between SENDIASS and youth justice services. Kelly agreed, noting that a significant proportion of young people in the youth justice system likely have diagnosed or undiagnosed SEND, making collaboration beneficial.

### **Gathering Data to inform our work**

- Jo made an ask of the group to share statistics about the profiles of young people in their service. She highlighted the relevance of this data for the current impact group and other groups focused on safer streets, youth spaces, and the environment.
- The information would help identify emerging and unmet needs in communities, including insights into the age range of young people first entering the youth justice system.

### **Supported Internships & Pathways**

- Tanny shared details about an event on February 11th, organised by the National Development Team for Inclusion, focusing on supported internships. This year's event will be held in Exeter and is in high demand. Tanny noted that many young people they work with want junior placements and that in Tor Bay, young people can begin placements from age 13 with a work permit.
- Early work experience helps these individuals gain confidence and skills, but there is a need for varied pathways as not all want to pursue play work. Some are interested in areas like groundwork or admin. She emphasised the importance of collaboration to support young people in building confidence and exploring different employment pathways. Learning about supported internships and inclusion can be valuable, even beyond play work.
- Kelly highlighted upcoming changes related to access under the new Safeguarding and School Bill, expected to take effect soon. She has created a simplified PowerPoint presentation breaking down the legal aspects to make it easier to understand. Kelly plans to circulate this resource shortly to ensure everyone is informed about its implications for children.

### **Closure of Nova & One Space**

- Sam expressed concern about the closure of Nova's Unit 5 in Lidl Square, a space where young people could connect with trusted adults and get hot meals. He noted that young people stealing food is something he has been aware of for the last couple of years.
- Lisa and Jo acknowledged this gap and highlighted ongoing efforts to address it through partnerships with former Nova staff, now part of Fuel Youth, who aim to recreate similar provisions.
- Jo mentioned that the issue aligns with the objectives of the "More Space" impact group, which is collaborating with One Space, a youth-led initiative for creating inclusive, multifunctional youth spaces.
- One Space, comprising 16-25-year-olds, works with Local Motion, a people-powered systems change movement in Torbay. Their goal is to address gaps in youth spaces and services. Jo noted that doesn't include younger children but there is still a huge crossover in needs.
- Lisa emphasised the importance of flexible, youth-friendly engagement methods, such as questionnaires or informal discussions. Lynsey highlighted the importance of using existing relationships with young people to gather feedback effectively. Jan offered support in coordinating these efforts, despite not directly working with young people, ensuring strong collaboration between organisations.

- Lisa noted the shared commitment to taking concrete action based on youth feedback rather than just gathering input.

## **Strategic Direction**

- Lisa raised the topic of setting a strategic direction for the group in 2025.
- She emphasised the importance of creating a clear, unified purpose for all impact groups to work towards.
- Acknowledging the presence of new participants, Lisa invited initial thoughts on what this group should prioritise, particularly regarding improving access, to guide their focus for the year.

### **More youth groups & addressing food security and stigma**

- Sam discussed the importance of opening more youth groups similar to Nova, highlighting their effectiveness in building relationships with vulnerable young people, sharing information, and recognising local trends. He emphasised the need for weekend activities, mentioning the positive impact of group activities like paddleboarding and shared meals.
- Sam also touched on the importance of preventing stigma by integrating young people in prevention programs, to avoid labelling them as offenders.
- Jo appreciated Sam's insights and recognised the need to address the issue of youth hunger, which is often overlooked in broader discussions about food security. She pointed out that while the local food alliance is working on food-related issues, the specific needs of young people and how hunger contributes to their involvement in crime are not being considered.
- Jo suggested taking this conversation to the food alliance and advocating for support for youth groups, including access to free, healthy food and growing opportunities. The goal is to connect different support services to better meet the needs of young people.
- Amanda recognised that community builders may not work directly with young people but they do have relationships with families
- Being aware of information like this could help them to further support families.
- Tanny shared her interest in this area. In King's Ash, efforts were made to address anti-social behaviour by providing various opportunities for young people.
- She noted that food provided at the Tuesday group at Crafty Fox was quickly consumed, highlighting the significant need.
- Tanny expressed interest in sharing information around the Great Parks and Wild Fox initiatives
- She emphasised the importance of connecting these efforts with other local services, such as Cycle Torbay, to create a more holistic approach to addressing the needs of young people.

Lisa encouraged everyone to reach out with any additional ideas or questions, and to also continue the conversation and collaboration outside of these formal meetings.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Owner</b>
Jo to email Lynsey what information would be useful to know so she can ask their data analyst for that information.	Jo & Lynsey
Tanny to share information from Alice McColl re National Development Team for Inclusion event, Rebekah to circulate to the group.	Tanny & Rebekah
Tanny to send info re food growing initiatives across Crafty Fox etc, Rebekah to circulate to the group.	Tanny & Rebekah