

Torfaen Together

– a ten year plan for your public services

All the organisations that provide services for people in Torfaen have come together to create a plan that aims to improve the lives of everyone who lives and works here.

It's called 'Torfaen Together' because no organisation can achieve these aims on their own – everyone has to work together to tackle the big issues facing communities today.

This brief guide sets out what we want to do and how we plan to do it. If you'd like to know more contact the Public Service Support Unit on 01495 762200 or email pssu@torfaen.gov.uk

The aims of the plan

- Torfaen has a healthy population with a good quality of life
- People in Torfaen are safe
- People in Torfaen are educated for life
- People in Torfaen enjoy a prosperous economy
- People in Torfaen live in quality affordable homes
- People in Torfaen live in clean, green, sustainable communities
- Frail people in Torfaen are happily independent.



How did we create the plan?

1. All the organisations involved work together as the Torfaen Local Service Board
2. They shared their own plans and compared what they are all trying to do
3. Lots of useful information was gathered
4. A draft plan was created
5. Everyone in Torfaen was asked what they thought of it
6. Some changes were made, but lots of people liked it
7. A final version was produced that all the organisations agreed with.

People in Torfaen live in clean, green, sustainable communities

- The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere falls because people are using things like solar, wind and water power to create electricity for homes and businesses
- When rubbish is dumped it will be cleared in five days, making communities better places to live
- People are throwing away less rubbish meaning less is being buried in the ground and more is recycled
- Where there are fields and open spaces, work will take place to encourage more wildlife and natural habitats to grow.

Frail people in Torfaen are happily independent

- More people can be cared for at home and not have to go into care homes
- If an old person falls over and hurts themselves, action is taken to try and stop them falling again
- People over 75 don't stay in hospital beds for more than 28 days when they could be treated somewhere else, ideally at home
- Old people don't feel lonely or cut off from family and friends.



Torfaen has a healthy population with a good quality of life

- There will be less people with cancer because people will have stopped smoking, they're drinking less alcohol and living healthier lives
- Less people will be overweight or suffering from long illnesses because they're doing more exercise and eating healthier food
- Mums-to-be will be supported so their babies are born healthier and not underweight. That means they will grow up healthier and stronger
- People won't become ill or die younger just because they live in poorer parts of Torfaen. They'll have more information and services to help them live healthier lives.

People in Torfaen are safe

- Problems like graffiti and vandalism are spotted early and tackled quickly
- There are less people taking drugs or drinking too much, helping to cut crimes like theft and violence
- People who are victims of violence in the home will want to tell the police, who will not just deal with the case but work to stop it happening again
- People will tell the police if someone is racist or abuses them because they are disabled or different in some way
- If young people are getting into trouble, they will receive help to try and change their behaviour before it becomes more serious and they start breaking the law
- Less children are at risk of abuse in the home.



How we will do this?

When the plan is up and running, we'll be gathering lots of information and data to tell us if we're on the right track.

We'll ask people what they think and act on what they say. We will be regularly checking our progress.

We'll make sure that people in Torfaen are told if the plan is working and if not, what we intend to do about it.

What is the Torfaen Local Service Board?

There are lots of organisations providing services for people in Torfaen. The police, health board, council, voluntary organisations, housing associations all help and support people every day of the year.

As members of the Torfaen Local Service Board, these organisations can ensure they are working together on the big issues facing people and communities.

Together we can make Torfaen a better place to live and work for everyone.

People in Torfaen are educated for life

- Young people aged 16-19 won't leave education, unless they are going onto college, university, training or have a job
- Children and young people don't miss out on lessons because they are going on holiday or they just don't like school
- Children who are badly behaved in school are supported and helped to change so less are being excluded
- Children aged 14-16 will get better results in their exams because of better teaching and better schools.



People in Torfaen enjoy a prosperous economy

- There will be new jobs for people because new businesses will be given more help and support to be successful
- People on benefits will be helped to go on training courses that will improve their chances of getting a job
- The poorest families will also have help in managing their money and given help to find work and training.

People in Torfaen live in quality affordable homes

- People won't become homeless and those who might will get help to avoid it through advice on things like not getting into rent arrears
- People can afford to buy or rent quality homes that have low energy bills because they don't use up so much gas and electric to heat and light.



There are also three big issues that need special attention.

They are:

- **Helping frail people live happily independent lives**
People are living longer which is a good thing, but we need to make sure everyone is getting the care and support they need to help them stay living in their communities
- **Empowering families with complex needs to achieve their potential**
Some families need lots of support in their lives for many different reasons. It's important that all different organisations work together so these families can tackle the problems they are facing
- **Enabling people to manage the impact of welfare reform**
The government's Welfare Reforms will leave some of the poorest families with less money, making it harder for them to make ends meet. That means people will need more support and advice from different organisations who will need to work together to meet this new challenge.