



7 years of learning from Together for Childhood

Learning from the evaluation of Together for
Childhood

What is Together for Childhood?

Together for Childhood works in partnership with local communities to prevent child abuse and build safer, preventative communities.



What we'll cover

- 1** Our evaluation aims and how we did it
- 2** What we have learned so far in Plymouth
- 3** How Together for Childhood Plymouth is making a difference
- 4** Opportunities for the future in Plymouth
- 5** Our next steps

What we wanted to learn and why

Our developmental evaluation aimed to understand how effective Together for Childhood has been so far as an approach for preventing child sexual abuse.

What we wanted to know	How we answered the question
Process evaluation – The design, implementation, and evaluation of Together for Childhood	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What have we learned about how Together for Childhood has been designed, implemented, resourced, managed, and evaluated? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reflective practice ➤ Meta-evaluation
Outcome evaluation – The outcomes and active ingredients of Together for Childhood	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How is Together for Childhood making a difference to the prevention of child abuse, and what are the active ingredients driving this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outcome harvesting
Wider learning – The opportunities for sustainability in Together for Childhood	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How can Together for Childhood be improved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reflective practice

How we did the evaluation

Our evaluation was largely qualitative and participatory, combining participatory workshops, focus groups and interviews, and a document review.



Hearing from you

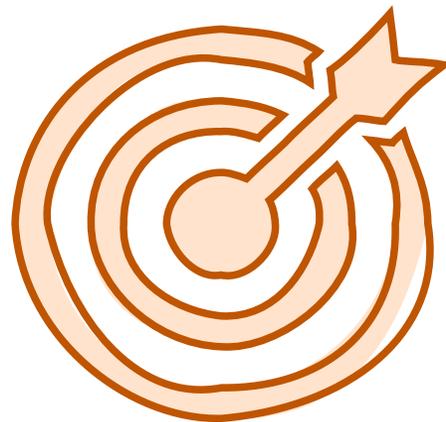
In **one word**, what does place-based prevention mean to you?



A place-based approach to preventing child sexual abuse in Plymouth



- Taking time to **develop relationships** and recognise the **strengths and capacities** of communities to engage in child sexual abuse prevention.

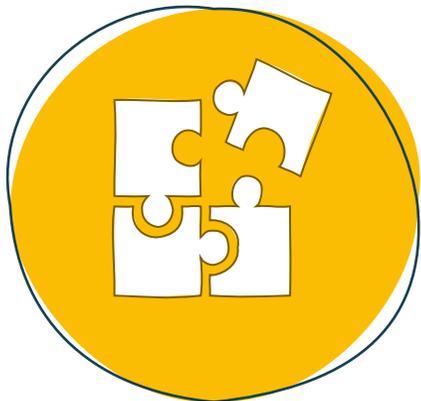


- Responding to the **needs** of people in Plymouth.

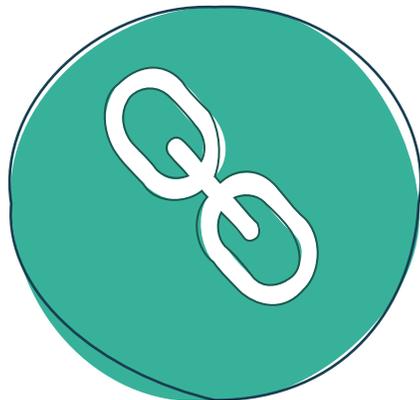


- Developing a shared **vision**, shared **leadership**, and shared **ownership**.

What are the strengths of Together for Childhood's approach in Plymouth?



- Together for Childhood has the **bravery** to be leaders in innovation



- Emphasising & maintaining a **focus on "prevention"** to create systems change



- Together for Childhood staff have provided the **backbone support & long-term investment**



- Together for Childhood is **evidence-led & evidence generating**

What are the limitations and barriers for Together for Childhood in Plymouth?

1. Child sexual abuse is a sensitive, taboo, and potentially traumatic subject

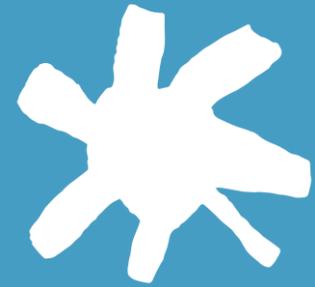
2. Negative perceptions of the NSPCC and statutory services

3. Lack of funding and investment constrains the focus on prevention

4. Capacity issues affect partners' ability to engage and the scope of Together for Childhood

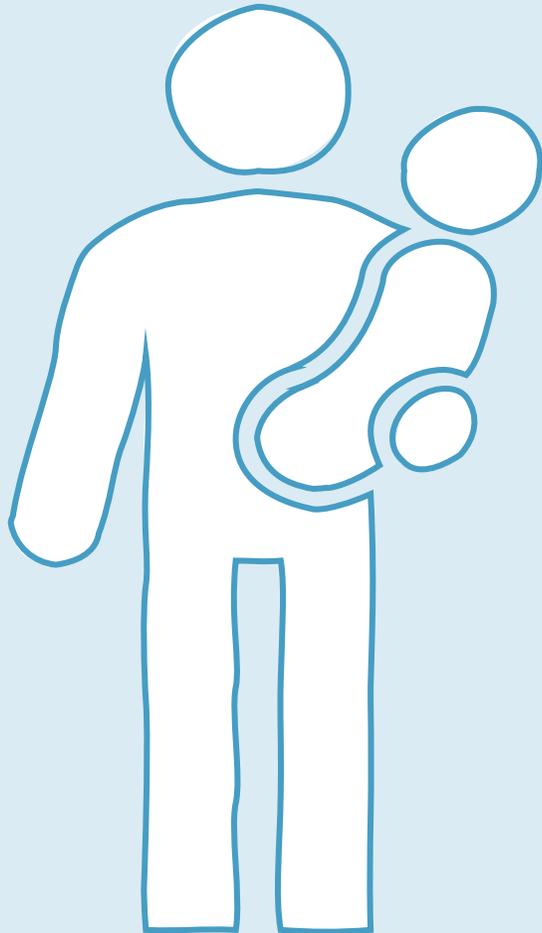
5. The challenges of maintaining engagement and momentum

6. Is Together for Childhood sustainable in Plymouth without the support of the NSPCC?



Reflections and comments?

What has changed so far in Plymouth?

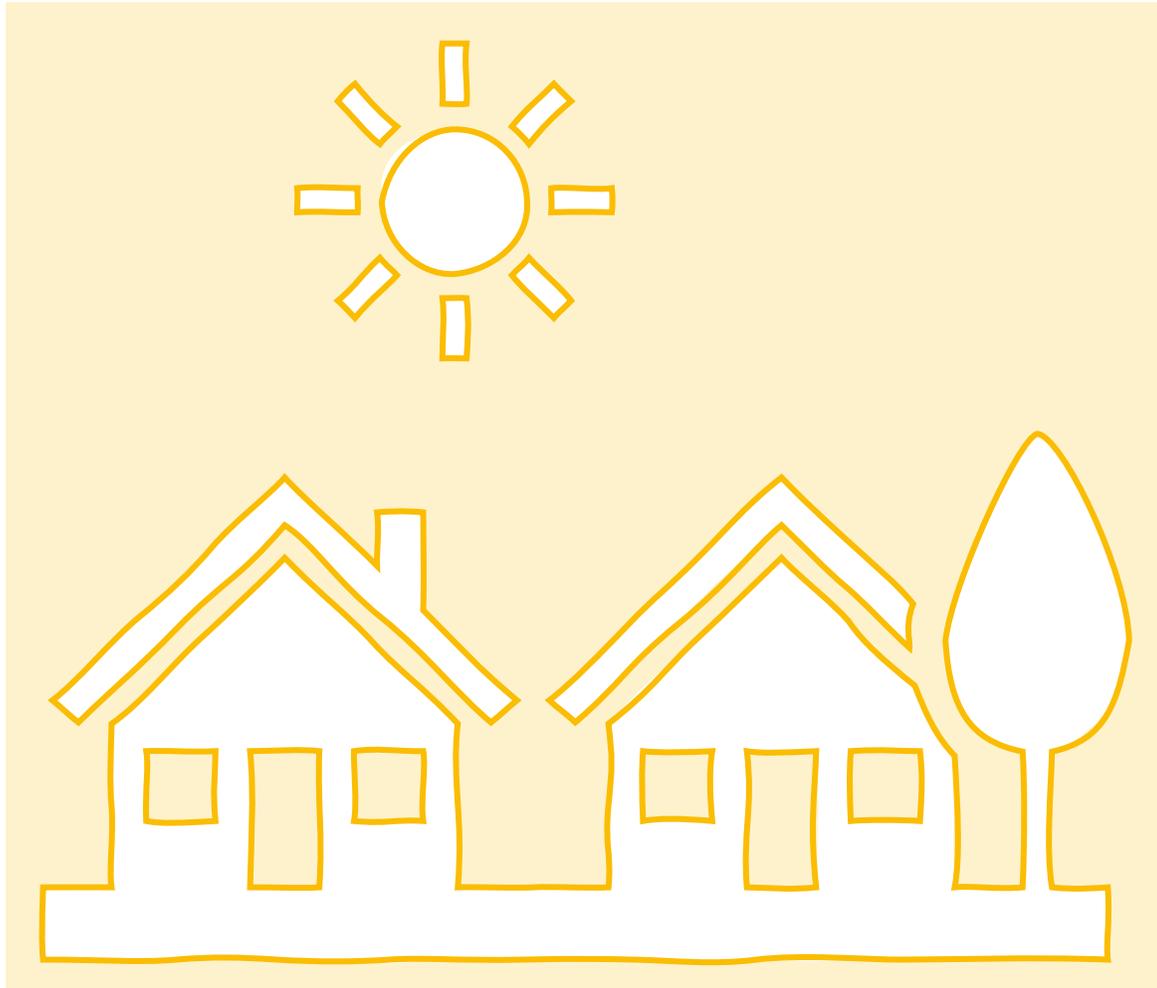


Children and families

- 14 outcomes
- 3 outcome descriptions

Between 2019 and 2023, the voices and views of children and young people had an influence on improving Relationships & Sex Education in school settings through the EMPOWER and Young Voices projects, and involvement in the Young People's Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviours research project.

What has changed so far in Plymouth?



Communities

- 15 outcomes
- 3 outcome descriptions

Since TfC embedded practitioners and Community Engagement Officers in Ernesettle in 2019, community members have become more comfortable and confident to talk about child sexual abuse and healthy relationships and feel more able to seek help and support about sexual abuse from community leaders or TfC staff.

What has changed so far in Plymouth?

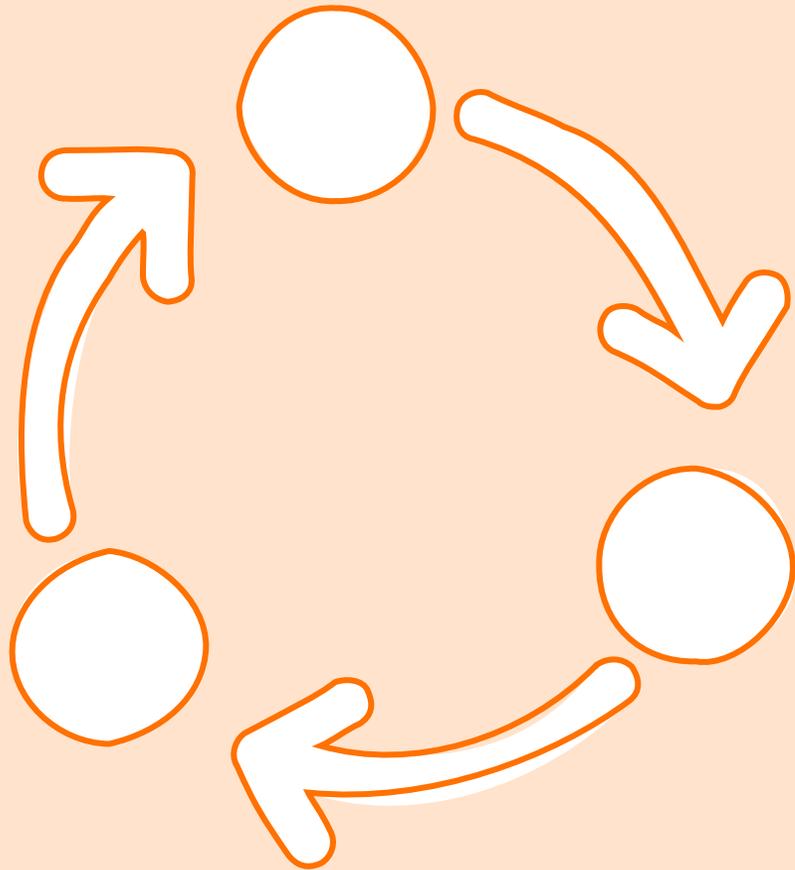


Professionals

- 15 outcomes
- 3 outcome descriptions

There is now an established focus on Preventing Sexual Harm in Plymouth involving multi-agency partners who have created shared trauma-informed language, developed the annual Stop It Now! Campaign (from 2022), and provided training from Circles South West on working with people who (may) sexually harm (2022 and 2024).

What has changed so far in Plymouth?



Systems change

- 25 outcomes
- 5 outcome descriptions

From 2021-2023 child sexual abuse became a strategic priority in Plymouth for 3 of the 5 local statutory boards, including Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence board, and Safer Plymouth Community Safety Partnership.

What are the active ingredients driving change in Together for Childhood?

Drivers of change – Active ingredients: **PRINCIPLES** **PRACTICES** **FEATURES**

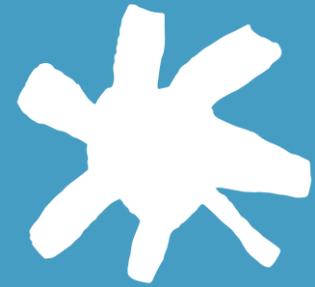
Use relational and trauma-informed approaches to build strong, enduring partnerships

Focus on *prevention* of child sexual abuse to build collective action

Be led by *experts of their own experience* through collaboration and co-creation

Ensure flexibility and responsiveness to need and opportunities

Create a culture of safe and supported continuous learning



Reflections and comments?

Our recommendations

1

Widen communications that child sexual abuse is preventable

2

Work with local organisations supporting the voluntary and community sector

3

Embed child sexual abuse prevention within existing strategy, services, and activities across the city

4

Enhance Together for Childhood's secondary prevention offer

5

Develop and expand the Together for Childhood volunteer strategy to support sustainability

Workforce Champions role overview

What we're looking for

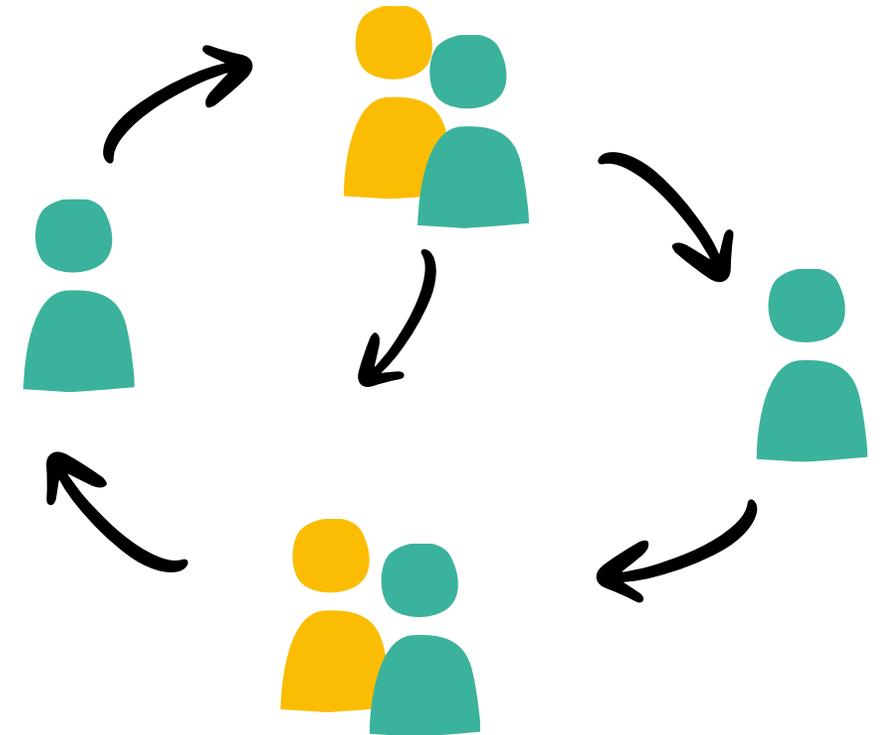
We need enthusiastic workforce champions to help us communicate the Together for Childhood message in Plymouth.

What you'll do

We need professionals who support and champion the work of Together for Childhood and prevention of child sexual abuse, to help us spread this important message amongst your colleagues and associates.

Time commitment

As and when, support us when you can. Flexible.



How we will support you



What you'll get

- Free training and access to information and resources
- A named contact in the Together for Childhood Team and access to the NSPCC Plymouth Duty line
- Invitations to relevant briefings with up to date with knowledge
- Opportunity to connect with other Workforce Champions
- Regular Together for Childhood Bulletin
- Opportunity to showcase how your organisation is involved



What you'll do

- Agree with your manager that its ok to undertake this role
- Promote the prevention of child sexual abuse, using information and materials shared with you by the NSPCC
- Play your part in keeping children safer

Learning into action

Call to Action

- What **ONE action** could you take **today** to contribute to the prevention of child sexual abuse?

Call to Action

- What **ONE organisation** could you reach out to **this week** to raise the profile of Together for Childhood?

Call to Action

- What **ONE question** could you ask **this month** in meetings you attend to draw attention to the voice of lived and living experience to prevent child sexual abuse?

Call to Action

- What **ONE thing** could you suggest should be included in the continuous learning agenda of your organisation or community **this year** to prevent child sexual abuse?

TOGETHER

CHILDHOOD

**Putting families at the
heart of Ernesettle**

Thank you