

**NORTH DEVON COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the CRIME AND DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Brynsworthy Environment Centre, Barnstaple on Thursday 16th November 2017 at 12.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor Mathews (Chair)

Councillors Chesters, Greenslade, Patrinos (present for minutes (f) to (g)), Webber and White (present for minutes (f) to (g)).

Also present:

Officers:

Community Protection Manager (AP),  
and Corporate and Community Services Officer (KJ).

Also Present:  
Sergeant Paul Jones

**(a) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bonds, Meadlarkin and Roome.

**(b) ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

RESOLVED that owing to a quorum of Members not being present in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules Part 4 of the Constitution, that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes.

Councillors Greenslade and Webber arrived at 12:35pm.

RESOLVED that it being 12:35pm and the meeting now being quorate, that the meeting be reconvened.

**(c) MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2017 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**(d) ITEMS BROUGHT WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE MEETING AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

The Chairman advised that although the Police and Crime Commissioner had been invited to attend the meeting she had now sent her apologies, despite previous agreement to attend.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to attend the Sub-Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- (b) a list of questions be prepared by the Sub-Committee to be presented to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**(e) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were announced:

Councillor Greenslade declared a personal interest as a family member was in the Police force.

**(f) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP) FOR 2017**

The Sub-Committee received an update on the Review of the Performance of the Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2017 by Sergeant Paul Jones and Amanda Palmer.

Sergeant Jones brought the Committee's attention to the website [www.Police.uk](http://www.Police.uk) which provided crime statistics which could be specific to individual streets if required. The site's information would always show information up-to the prior month.

He provided the Committee with the following information:

- There had been a 25% increase in recorded crime in the last quarter. This was a National trend. Although the British Crime Survey reported that crime rates were reducing.
- The Police force was subject to a H. M. Inspectorate of Constabulary (H.M.I.C.) review on crime data integrity. This dealt with the recording of the crime process. The inspection found that whilst victims experience would not have been any different, the Police should record all crimes related to an incident rather than recording the most serious only. This is simply a procedural process.
- The police were now easier to contact and more approachable than ever before. There was now the option of contacting the police by email.
- The local police statistics had increased on the previous year.

- Drug trafficking had increased by 270%. It was noted that this kind of information only ever came to light by proactivity and intelligence from the community.
- In the last quarter, 84% of all calls to the police were non crime-related. Leaving 16% relating to actual crime. Of the non-crime related calls 50% involved public safety and 19% transport-related issues. ASB accounted for 15% of calls
- If there is no substantive criminal offence, then Anti-social behaviour can be dealt with as a civil matter and dealt with under different anti-social behaviour legislation.

In response to questions from the Committee, Sergeant Jones confirmed the following:

- A large amount of information was gathered by the community when Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) were on duty as they were closer to the community. The Chair and Vice-Chair also confirmed that they receive information from residents which they pass on to the police where applicable.
- 50% of incidents that the police were called to locally were in relation to public safety, e.g. people missing from home (such as dementia sufferers) and accidents in locations inaccessible by ambulance crews. The police worked with the South West Ambulance Trust (SWAST) to provide support.
- The 84% of non crime-related calls were still attended by the police.
- The public could still contact the police on 999 or 101, however, a quicker response (to calling 101) could often be attained by emailing the police.
- There were now approximately 2900 Police Officers in comparison to 3500 previously. The PCC has freed funding to increase this figure to 3000.
- New police recruits were coming through to the local forces. There was no plan to recruit further PCSOs at present. Planning exercises were ongoing to develop the best use of the 150 PCSOs.
- Not all forces employed PCSOs.
- Some forces have recruited PCSO's as Police officers.
- The police currently used social media to keep in touch with the public for example, to provide the public with contacts for, and promoting the work of organisations such as the Samaritans.

Councillor Patrinos arrived to the meeting.

The Sub-Committee received a presentation on the Review of the Performance of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Priorities for 2017 by the Community Protection Manager as follows:

- The CSP priorities were – Domestic and Sexual Violence, Alcohol and Drug Misuse, Protecting the Vulnerable and Emerging Threats (currently Road Safety).

- As per the presentation page “Our Devon Work” the team were involved in dealing with:
  - 1) Serious Organised Crime Local Profiles, (OCLP’s)
  - 2) Counter Terrorism Local Profile,
  - 3) Leading County Lines Briefing / planning,
  - 4) Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) £433k Domestic and Violence and Abuse Bid,
  - 5) DCC Scrutiny Committee
  - 6) Information Sharing Protocols.
  - 7) Project Genesis –Neighbourhood Policing Consultation.
  - 8) Suicide Prevention Conference & Devon Strategy
  - 9) Devon and Torbay Suicide Prevention Alliance
  - 10) Safer Devon Partnership – Officer Group and Strategic Group,
  - 11) Safer Devon Website and Communication Campaigns,
  - 12) Sit on thematic groups (Prevent, Reducing Re-Offending, Modern Slavery etc).
- The Community Protection Manager, along with the police, was involved in identifying the local profiles and uses those to target the best course of action.
- The OCLP’s identify a number of key features of victims locally. This included cyber crime (under the age of 25) had been identified locally as an emerging problem in the area.
- They have been working with commissioned service providers regarding how to tackle the problems locally of drug issues in our town centres.
- Around County Lines (Serious Organised Drug Crime) They organised multi-agency targeting groups. 79 different agencies worked together to identify and understand the scale and location of problems and provide increased police intelligence.
- A DCLG bid for Devon had been successful for support solutions for victims and families including housing. This was for looking into creative ideas for provision of accommodation for those needing support to flee violence and abuse.
- This included working with Exeter University to undertake an evaluation regarding all work delivered under the DCLG bid in the area.
- Project Genesis – Involved in providing feedback as to how resources were used.
- The Council were key stakeholders in the Suicide Prevention Conference, working alongside the NHS; this was an ongoing problem in our front line services.
- CSP has led on a new single website for community safety for Devon. All agencies in Devon had provided information via the Safer Devon website to make information easily accessible to all in the region.
- Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) was a county-wide CSP which enabled organisations to take advantage of economies of scale and facilitate the division of labour – each tackling projects/research and eliminating the possibility of duplication of work. SDP own service delivery for

some strands of Devon Wide Commissioning through Police and Crime Commissioner Funding.

- As per the presentation page “Our North Devon Work” the team were involved in dealing with:
  - 1) Local County Line Briefing,
  - 2) Road Safety Review and Planning Meetings,
  - 3) Social media Campaigns,
  - 4) Full council briefings,
  - 5) Diversion and Support Team pilot
  - 6) Suicide Intervention Toolkit
  - 7) CCTV Review of proposals for North Devon.
  - 8) Internal Awareness on Counter Terrorism & Prevent
  - 9) Hoarding Protocol
  - 10) Multiagency working on protecting the vulnerable
  - 11) New Action Plan
  - 12) Bite-size Training / Briefings
  - 13) Work with CVS,, North Devon Against Domestic Abuse (NDADA), Samaritans, Clarity and Soroptimists on supporting local delivery
  - 14) Junior Life Skills
  - 15) Street Marshalls ongoing
  - 16) Community Mediation
  - 17) Domestic Homicide Review – Barnstaple
  - 18) Modern Slavery Operations.

Following the presentation, the Community Protection Manager and Sergeant Jones discussed the presentation with the Sub-Committee and provided the following responses in relation to the questions raised:

- Local community safety meetings were being held with Torridge District Council (TDC).
- In the recent study undertaken by CSP around 40% of serious collisions/road traffic accidents (RTCs) on the A361 were due to fatigue, or that it plays a significant part in the cause of the RTC. It is the driving standards on the roads and not the roads themselves.
- A high number of serious RTCs involved people from outside of the area when travelling long distances. It was thought that fatigue set in once they had reached the end of the motorway/end of their journeys.
- There were some locations where the positioning of road crossings near junctions and traffic lights may play a part in reducing incidents..
- Two-thirds of the positions for Police Road Traffic Officers in Devon and Cornwall were currently filled.
- The CSP was using Twitter and Facebook in partnership with the Police and nationally-recognised charities to raise the profile.
- Under the local pilot of Diversion and Support Team, 85% of low risk offenders had no opportunity for intervention. It was found that working with offenders’ vulnerabilities was very effective; this was now being formally evaluated.

Councillor White arrived.

- The Council were involved in a large project on Domestic Homicide following a case last year.

In response to a question from the Committee, Sergeant Jones confirmed that the local Police Inspector had powers under Section 35 for dealing with any issues on New Year's Eve. (Formerly known as Section 30 which involved support from councils)

The Community Protection Manager advised that the challenge for CSP and NDC was to understand the 'unseen' risks such as those of the internet were often greater than those risks perceived as important by the public. Together communicating the reality if the risk is a priority and the resources needed to be allocated where they were most required.

The Chairman addressed the issue of rough sleepers and beggars on the local streets. He stated that approximately 80% of calls he received from the public concerned this.

Sergeant Jones advised that Barnstaple had an issue with the number of rough sleepers in that it had become a victim of its own success due to the support that was available to those in need. There were presently approximately 20 rough sleepers in Barnstaple. Significant partnership work was ongoing to work with rough sleepers and prevent them being victims of crime as well as reduce any risks they pose to wider communities. He advised the Sub-Committee to be aware that the homeless and beggars were two separate things. He had been advised (by those begging) that they could receive up to £80 per day from begging. He advised that the public should not give money directly to those individuals begging, but to give to appropriate charities, or perhaps donate food/drink. Begging is not seen as a significant problem in North Devon and was being challenged by the CSP.

He advised that there had been a problem recently in an area of Braunton involving drugs which, after a meeting with police and the parents of the young people involved, had been resolved. A 'Zero tolerance' approach had now been accepted in the area.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

**(g) WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

The Committee considered the Work Programme 2017/18 (circulated previously).

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their attendance at the meeting.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 1.46 p.m.

**NOTE:** These minutes will be confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.