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North Devon Council
Brynsworthy Environment Centre
Barnstaple
North Devon EX31 3NP

K. Miles
Chief Executive.

CRIME AND DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee will be held in the Barum Room - Brynsworthy on **TUESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 2022 at 1.00 pm.**

(NOTE: A location plan for the Brynsworthy Environment Centre is attached to the agenda front pages. For meetings held at Brynsworthy only, you can join the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. There are also limited spaces to attend the meeting in person. Please check the Council's website for the latest information regarding the arrangements that are in place and the requirement to book a place 2 working days prior to the meeting. Taking part in meetings (northdevon.gov.uk))

Members of the Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee - Councillor York (Chair)

Councillors Biederman, Bulled, Campbell, Cann, Chesters, Gubb, Henderson, Hunt, Pearson, D. Spear, L. Spear, Tucker, Walker and Yabsley

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2021 (attached). (Pages 7 - 12)
3. Items brought forward which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered by the meeting as a matter of urgency.
4. Declarations of Interests.
(Please telephone the Corporate and Community Services team to prepare a form for your signature before the meeting. Interests must be re-declared when the item is called, and Councillors must leave the room if necessary).
5. To agree the agenda between Part 'A' and Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted Information).

PART 'A'

6. **Update on the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership.**
(Pages 13 - 18)
Report by Superintendent Toby Davies, Devon and Cornwall Police (attached).

PART 'B' (CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED INFORMATION)

Nil.

**If you have any enquiries about this agenda, please contact Corporate and
Community Services, telephone 01271 388253**

24.10.22



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The rules that the Council will apply are:

1. The recording must be overt (clearly visible to anyone at the meeting) and must not disrupt proceedings. The Council will put signs up at any meeting where we know recording is taking place.
2. The Chairman of the meeting has absolute discretion to stop or suspend recording if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting or if the person recording is in breach of these rules.
3. We will ask for recording to stop if the meeting goes into 'part B' where the public is excluded for confidentiality reasons. In such a case, the person filming should leave the room ensuring all recording equipment is switched off.
4. Any member of the public has the right not to be recorded. We ensure that agendas for, and signage at, Council meetings make it clear that recording can take place – anyone not wishing to be recorded must advise the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.
5. The recording should not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or in a way that ridicules or shows a lack of respect for those in the recording. The Council would expect any recording in breach of these rules to be removed from public view.

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For more information contact the Corporate and Community Services team on **01271 388253** or email **memberservices@northdevon.gov.uk** or the Communications Team on **01271 388278**, email **communications@northdevon.gov.uk**.

North Devon Council offices at Brynsworthy, the full address is:
Brynsworthy Environment Centre (BEC), Roundswell,
Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3NP.

Sat Nav postcode is EX31 3NS.

At the Roundswell roundabout take the exit onto the B3232, after about ½ mile take the first right, BEC is about ½ a mile on the right.

Drive into the site, visitors parking is in front of the main building on the left hand side.

On arrival at the main entrance, please sign in using the Track and Trace App and follow the signage and instructions in order to access the Meeting Rooms. Alternatively, dial 8253 for Corporate and Community Services if you have any problems.



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NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee held at Barum Room - Brynsworthy on Monday, 8th November, 2021 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor Tucker (Chair)

Councillors Biederman, Cann, Gubb, Hunt, D. Spear and L. Spear

Officers present via Teams link:

Service Lead Housing Vulnerable Persons and Community Safety
and Service Lead - Community Safety Partnership Officer/Harm Risk

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bulled, Campbell, Chesters, Henderson, Orange, Pearson, Yabsley and York.

9. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2020 AND 19 OCTOBER 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 25 November 2020 and 19 October 2021 (circulated previously) be approved as correct records and signed by the Chair.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

There were no declarations of interest made.

11. UPDATE ON THE NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Superintendent Toby Davies gave Members an update on the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership over the last year. Unlike Cornwall, which was a unitary Council, Devon had both district and county level local government administrations. The Community Safety Partnership was a district level partnership as well as a County level safety partnership. This could prove challenging when bringing together different organisations.

Over the last year the partnership had focussed on the following priorities:

- Protecting the vulnerable

- Sexual violence and domestic abuse
- Substance misuse
- Emerging threats

The approach of the partnership had always been preventative, high intensity, and trauma informed. The partnership was unique in that it had very rural areas, urban and coastal, focus mustn't just be given to the urban areas.

There was still a prevalence of organised crime groups in the area with County lines and drug activities still a big area of concern. Drug activities was a common theme for most authorities nationally as well as locally. Bitesize training has provided front line workers with knowledge to spot signs of illicit behaviour.

Another priority that was concentrated on was sexual violence and domestic abuse. The most likely way a female would come to harm in this area was what often happened behind closed doors in the home. There is a sub group dedicated to victims of domestic sexual abuse.

Road safety was of considerable importance especially in light of the loss of three lives within the space of eight days in the Torridge area recently. It had been found that the cause of most of the road traffic accidents over the year could be attributed to locals in the area. The road safety initiative Operation Snap, whereby members of the public could upload their dash-cam footage to the police via their website, had proven to be very successful. There would be two speed detection officers in vans dedicated to the area and mostly located on the link road. The Community Speed Watch initiative saw communities working together and having an input which helped the police in local, rural areas. If communities were experiencing speeding issues advice and help could be given to set up a local Speed Watch group.

The final area that had a big impact on town centres was anti-social behaviour. The Home Office had launched an app called 'Street Aware' which allowed the public to anonymously log areas of concerns over personal safety in the town. Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) was an area of big concern for everyone and wasn't just for the partnership to resolve. An anti-social Behaviour steering group had been set up whose role was to identify and target individuals, who were street based, with the aim of helping them regain a role in society. The use of Public Spaces Protection Orders was a useful tool in tackling anti-social behaviour in public places and in Torridge was being widely extended. The use of Covid Marshalls patrolling the streets gave a sense of safety for visitors to the towns.

Toby was a senior response Officer for a group called High Flow working in collaboration with One Northern Devon. 13 individuals who were putting the most demand on services had a team around them helping to turn their lives around. A High Intensity Pilot was a collaboration between the Devon Partnership Trust, Police and other partners providing 10 individuals with mental health issues a team dedicated to their needs.

The partnership had strong links with the Exmoor Rural Alliance and the Rural Affairs team. The Office for the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) were collaborating

with a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) at Ilfracombe Harbour, which would be the host location but would cover the coastal communities across the whole Devon area.

Via a virtual link, Janet Williams, Public Health and Housing Manager (TDC) then gave Members an update of the work carried out in the Torridge area of the partnership as follows:

- The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Bideford town was reviewed and renewed in 2021
- Ahead of the introduction of the renewed order being implemented a consultation was carried out with the Police, residents and businesses in the town
- An awareness raising campaign was carried out advising individuals and businesses of the new provisions under the renewed PSPO
- A regular set up of joint patrols involving the police and council enforcement team reiterating the new provisions
- An anti-social behaviour steering group was set up to look at and understand issues and provide resources to tackle problems where necessary
- This steering group was open to Councillors as well as businesses to give their feedback and concerns on issues affecting them
- The feedback from the public and businesses in relation to the introduction of the new PSPO provisions had been very positive in Bideford

Via a virtual link, Natasha Rowland, Service Lead, Housing Equality, NDC gave Members an update on the work carried out in North Devon as follows:

- The Public Space Protection Orders in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe had been reviewed and renewed during 2021
- Barnstaple was currently experiencing high anti-social behaviour issues
- Alongside the ASB steering group an action plan was being drafted to address the problems currently being experienced. This would include a zero tolerance approach to some of the behaviours that were taking place
- The plan showed recognition that there were issues but also balanced with the desire to understand what was triggering the behaviours in certain individuals and how to address those issues

Via virtual link, Tim Birtwisle, Service Lead - Community Safety Partnership Officer/Harm Risk, NDC, provided Members with a Bitesize update on the Trauma Informed approach as follows:

- Over the last year the trauma informed approach had helped individuals turn their lives around
- In 2020 a Trauma Informed Conference was held and it had been hoped to run more events like that but with the Covid situation these meetings had to be stopped so the events had to move online
- A training organisation had been co-opted providing training online to more than 200 delegates from various backgrounds. These included statutory

partners of the CSP as well as individuals from agencies involved in health and social care

- The feedback from the training sessions had been very positive, with delegates saying they had been able to put into practice what they had learned on the course

Emma Butler-Jones, Devon and Cornwall Police gave Members an update on road safety as follows:

- The Forum that met to discuss road safety issues ceased at the beginning of lockdown due to the Covid pandemic
- The work dealing with road safety had continued with the input from local communities and liaising with Highways and local authorities
- The community speed watch project was being used successfully as an approach to dealing with speeding issues in rural towns and villages
- Anyone interested in the issue of road safety was invited to get in touch

Emma Butler-Jones went on to give Members an update on the Sexual violence and Domestic Abuse Forum as follows:

- The Forum continued to meet online during lock down and were able to introduce measures to help victims of abuse such as the Safe Spaces campaign and the Ask for Angela scheme
- Bitesize sessions on spotting abuse in the workplace had been run for businesses
- The focus of the Forum was early intervention and prevention and the awareness of violence against women and girls was being taken into schools
- As the biggest risk behind closed doors the Forum would still treat domestic abuse as a top priority

Toby concluded by saying that unless there were to be no crime things would never be perfect but that the partnership was working hard. Attendance at CSP meetings was intermittent by some partners and a concern. He reminded Members that the responsibility was not just the Police's but everyone needed to be involved. The area remains the safest place to live in terms of levels of crime. Safe Devon Partnership would be restructuring. The OPCC's office was changing the way funding would be given out, projects had to be specific and show where the money was going to be spent.

The following responses were given to questions asked:

- The Ask Angela scheme was nationally recognised and licensed premises in the area were all aware of what to do
- The partners whose attendance was intermittent at CSP meetings were representatives from health, the probation service and the fire service, not all partners were statutory some were volunteers. Covid had affected the ability for people to attend

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- The issues with 101 and not being able to get through on the phone was not a CSP priority but historically the problem of retaining call handlers had left the service with gaps
- Police stats not showing incidents of criminal activity suggests that the reporting of those incidents was not being made through the correct channels and so not getting to the police. Anything reported was logged and there would be a record
- There were youth engagement officers who visited schools in Torridge and they had received really good funding to put outreach workers on the street educating the young people
- The increase in public offence numbers was seen as a positive as it meant the police were being far more pro-active
- The road safety sub group welcomed attendance from Councillors and would be a good way to get involved
- The Street Safe app was a Home Office app and anonymous it was not the same as reporting to the Police. The CSP promoted the Street Safe app on its social media platforms as well as Devon Live whose audience numbers were significant
- There were Bitesize sessions that dealt with Safety Online, these could be delivered at parish level to reach the elderly
- There was a dedicated rural affairs team dealing with poaching of livestock from agricultural land

Chair

The meeting ended at 11.33 am

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REPORT OF Chair of the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership
To: External Overview & Scrutiny Committees for NDC and TDC
Subject: Update on the North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership
Date: 1st November 2022 **Reference:** CSP1

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide the members of the External Overview and Scrutiny Committees for North Devon and Torridge Councils an update on the work of the North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership.

1. INTRODUCTION

The North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body set up under sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is made up of representatives from several agencies involved with crime, disorder, and community safety. There is a joint CSP board between North Devon and Torridge which meets on a quarterly basis. The current Chair of the board is Superintendent Toby Davies of Devon and Cornwall Police. Meetings are attended by the following agencies:

- Torridge District Council
- North Devon District Council
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
- Police and Crime Commissioner representative
- DCC Public health
- Together (drug and alcohol support services)
- Leesar (domestic and sexual violence support services)
- Probation services
- TTVS/NDVS (voluntary services)
- North Devon Healthcare Trust
- Elected members from TDC, ND and DCC

The current priorities of the CSP are:

Priority one: Serious violence

The first of our new priorities focusses on the CSP's work with our statutory partners to reduce all crime including serious violence, this will include knife violence / crime, sexual violence, domestic violence and abuse, and will include violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Following the publication of the Serious Violence Strategy, the Serious Violence Bill was announced in December 2019. The Bill proposes to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to make serious violence an explicit priority for CSPs. The new 'public health duty' will require our CSP, to work in partnership with other responsible authorities to provide education and to work together to share data and intelligence to address the root causes of serious violence. It places an emphasis on early intervention with young people. Current guidance indicates The Serious

Violence Duty will be introduced in January 2023 with all CSPs having until January 2024 to be compliant with the duty and to have developed a local Strategic Needs Assessment and to publish a Serious Violence Strategy.

Priority two: Safer streets

We continue to monitor, identify, and address the anti-social behaviour issues impacting our communities and seek to identify and support local preventive projects. We co-ordinate responses to community level anti-social behaviour by using innovative ways to work with our partners to build and sustain community resilience.

We are continuing to seek opportunities to work with the health sector to actively address and monitor risks and changes relating to substance misuse locally. We promote and utilise a partnership approach to identify, support and tackle alcohol and drug related issues within our communities. We work with specialist drug and alcohol services (both commissioned and voluntary) which in turn work with both service users and their families in a range of ways to reduce harm and support recovery.

Priority three: Road safety.

We are working in partnership with Vision Zero South West to tackle local road safety issues to reduce road deaths and serious injury road traffic collisions.

We deliver educational safety awareness events locally aimed at 17-24 year old drivers and 16-24 year old motorcycle riders.

The CSP are also ensuring there is a joint district wide understanding of specific areas of concern in relation to road safety / Community Speed Watch / speeding initiatives.

Priority four: Emerging threats.

To allow the CSP to respond quickly and effectively to new concerns, we review emerging issues in our communities and where necessary, will set up a specialist group from within our partners to work on a specific problem.

We continue to deliver key messages through partnership communications to focus on community tensions, hate crime, extremism, the online space, modern slavery, and human trafficking.

Any of our partners can bring matters to the board for consideration and action.

Our CSP is represented on the Safer Devon Partnership Executive Management Group through our Chair. Some statutory functions of the CSP are delivered at regional level, such as the production of a Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment, regional reoffending strategy development, and the management of Domestic Homicide Reviews. At a local level, the role of the board consists of setting and monitoring local priorities and maintaining an overview of issues affecting community safety in both districts.

2. REPORT

The Community Safety Partnership has been very active since our last report to the Scrutiny Committee and the following provides an outline of activities carried out:

- A significant focus of the partnership and local policing looks at identifying and analysing activities related to organised crime groups. We continue to promote the sharing of vital intelligence with our policing colleagues through the Devon & Cornwall Police's Partner Agency Information Sharing Form. In this regard North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership continues to be the top partnership for all intelligence submissions to the Police's Force Intelligence Unit which evidences how well we promote community safety as a partnership.
- We have continued to focus on our trauma informed vision for Torridge and North Devon. The CSP is now actively involved in a 'Devon Trauma Network' which has been set up across Devon to share best practice and promote consistency in its application. Members of our CSP have also delivered presentations at the Trauma Network on 'Trauma Informed Practice in Northern Devon'
- We have actively participated and engaged in work to address our highest demand service users across the partnership. Only through working together and offering tailored programmes of intervention or support can we break the cycle of some of our most chaotic, challenging, and complex individuals putting pressure on our services and absorbing huge amounts of resource and energy.
 - High Intensity Pilot is between Devon Partnership Trust, Police and Partners working with 10 high demand service users suffering from mental health conditions. A dedicated plan is produced around each individual changing our 'normal' response and better reflecting their needs. This has seen huge reductions in demand across the whole cohort.
 - High Flow is a partnership initiative across all services with the CSP working in conjunction with One Northern Devon. All partner agencies identified and agreed the top 13 individuals putting most demand on our services and then sought to find a way to break that cycle. It leads to a High Flow casework providing additional support and putting a 'Team around the Person' to avoid the silo approach of agencies working alone. It has also seen dramatic reductions in demand and some outstanding stories of individuals turning their lives around, whilst also providing learning on how we can deal better with others in the future.
- Northern Devon Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse forum – This forum consists of wide representation from the CSP, wider partners and the local community. Our work continues to focus on raising awareness of domestic abuse in the workplace, introducing community and youth bystander projects, working together to support safety campaigns, focusing on young people, and promoting healthy relationships in schools. We are supporting and link in with the newly formed Domestic Abuse Act, via the Devon Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to support our work locally and thus providing strategic direction with a grass routes focus on preventing sexual violence and domestic abuse in our local communities.
- During March 2022 Torridge District Council introduced an Evening Night-Time Economy Street Marshalling Scheme in Bideford town centre to address a rise in street based anti-social behaviour. This scheme was funded by our Local Authority Welcome Back Fund. The CSP worked in partnership with a local security company to provide SIA licensed security staff to support the evening night-time economy with high visibility uniformed patrols of Bideford town centre over the winter period. This was supported by daily tasking and briefings by the Torridge

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District Council's CSP representatives. The marshals provided a welcome presence in the town offering support around ASB, supporting the vulnerable and reducing the demand on all blue light services.

- Our joint ASB Steering Group continues to develop and focus on ASB prevention and addressing local ASB issues across Northern Devon. The multi agency meetings take place monthly and look in detail at individuals and areas of reported issues, with an emphasis on hotspots and emerging issues. This approach has been particularly well received in relation to the street drinking issues in Bideford and Barnstaple.
- In North Devon, an increased Officer presence has been introduced to address and prevent Anti-Social Behaviour. The Council's ASB Officer has a daily presence in the town centre and issues advice, warnings and notices when required. A security operative is available should the Officer require additional assistance. The team work closely with the Barnstaple CCTV room and are linked by radio, allowing prompt action when required.
- Street Marshals were active in Barnstaple throughout the summer. The marshals, provided by a local security company, were patrolling the town on a daily basis. They helped to increase feelings of reassurance amongst both the public and businesses and dealt with incidents as and when they occurred.
- The CSP played a significant role in Barnstaple's successful bid to HM Government's Safer Streets Fund. Schemes have been developed to commence over the next year including further Street Marshals deployment, improved lighting and signage, a community hub in Barnstaple and further CCTV coverage.
- Plans are now in place to reintroduce late night economy street marshals based at the Fever night club in Barnstaple. The scheme, funded jointly by the CSP and the club itself, allows for marshals to stay on site one hour after the premises closes to keep order and allow for patrons to get home safely.
- North Devon CSP took part in a Barnstaple action days as part of the ongoing effort to address Anti-Social Behaviour. Action included visits to businesses to offer reassurance, engagement with the public and a general clean-up of the town. More events will follow this year.
- In Torridge, to promote, support and educate around our Public Space Protection Order for antisocial behaviour associated with the consumption of alcohol or other intoxicating substances we developed a summer 2022 programme of joint patrols. These patrols were in partnership with our local Neighbourhood Policing Team at Bideford / Community Support Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) Authorised Local Authority Officers and focussed on engagement, education, and enforcement of our PSPO. We were able to challenge and disrupt street drinking in Bideford town centre and provided high visibility assurance to our community and local businesses.
- Our CSP has representation on the Devon Suicide Prevention Strategic Group. Devon has adopted the Preventing Suicide in England – National Strategy which outlines two principal objectives:

To reduce the suicide rate in the general population and to provide better support for those bereaved or affected by suicide.

- CSP representation on the Devon Anti-Slavery Partnership (DASP) and continued contribution to and monitoring of intelligence relating to local modern slavery concerns and practices across both districts. Involvement in partnership action against local businesses implicated in modern slavery practices.
- CSP representation on both the Devon and Torbay Prevent Partnership and the Prevent and Education group, as well as individual representation of both districts on 'Channel panels' on cases within our own communities. Channel is a multi-agency programme which identifies and supports individuals at risk of radicalisation and extremism, and which delivers the strategic aim of the Prevent programme. Having identified an individual at risk, the Channel panel will assess the nature and extent of the risk, and subsequently develop the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned. The standing inclusion of District Council representatives on this panel is a new requirement.
- We continue to work with our local Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Community Safety and Engagement Teams to promote and raise awareness of free Home Fire Safety Visit Programmes to support some of the most vulnerable individuals within our community.
- Road safety has always been recognised as a high priority in Torridge and North Devon and our partnership is represented at the "Northern Devon Road Safety Forum". Partnership meetings continue to support and address road safety concerns within our localities. In addition, we work closely with Vision Zero South West to tackle local road safety issues to reduce road deaths and serious injury road traffic collisions and to provide advice and support to local communities who are concerned about speeding in their local areas through Community Speed Watch Schemes.

Crime statistics, our key priorities and emerging threats are all reviewed at every CSP board meeting. Our last meeting was held on 17th October 2022 with the next scheduled meeting due on 12th January 2023. In terms of local crime, while trends tend to follow the national picture Northern Devon remains one of the lowest crime areas in the country.

Since April 2022 we no longer receive direct funding to our CSP from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Instead, the OPCC have developed a new strategic commissioning framework to support community safety partnerships and local communities through Community Grant Funding opportunities and a co-commissioning Impact Scheme designed to support CSP's with longer term funding up to 3 years for specific projects which support the OPCC's Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025.

3. CONCLUSIONS

We are pleased to report that the North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership remain active and committed to monitoring, supporting, and promoting activities in a wide range of areas that impact on community safety in our districts. This is against a backdrop of dealing with the loss of valuable annual funding from the OPCC and the ever-reducing resources across all agencies as well as managing the changing threats and issues faced by our communities.

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However, these challenges empower the partnership to maintain our work in an efficient and effective joined up manner. The CSP provides a basis for this approach, and this is pivotal for community safety across Northern Devon.