



Public Document Pack

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 **THURSDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 2023 at 10.00 am.**

(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, Cann, Denton, Haworth-Booth, Hunt, Jusef, Lethaby, Maskell, Milton, Norman, Quinn, Renshaw, Whitehead and Williams

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2022 (attached). (Pages 7 - 14)
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. A declaration of interest under the Code of Conduct will be a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, an Other Registrable Interest or a Non-Registrable Interest. If the item directly relates to your interest you must declare the interest and leave the room for the item, save in the case of Other Registrable Interests or Non-Registrable Interests where you may first speak on the item as a member of the public if provision has been made for the public to speak. If the matter does not directly relate to your interest but still affects it then you must consider whether you are affected to a greater extent than most people and whether a reasonable person would consider your judgement to be clouded, if you are then you must leave the room for the item (although you may speak as a member of the public if

provision has been made for the public to speak) or, if you are not, then you can declare the interest but still take part).

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 15 - 20)

Report by the Chair of the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership (attached).

PART 'B' (CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED INFORMATION)

Nil.

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

22.11.23



North Devon Council protocol on recording/filming at Council meetings

The Council is committed to openness and transparency in its decision-making. Recording is permitted at Council meetings that are open to the public. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be recorded. The Chairman of the meeting will make sure any request not to be recorded is respected.

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.

Notes for guidance:

Please contact either our Corporate and Community Services team or our Communications team in advance of the meeting you wish to record at so we can make all the necessary arrangements for you on the day.

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.



This page is intentionally left blank

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee held at Barum Room - Brynsworthy on Tuesday, 1st November, 2022 at 1.00 pm

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor York (Chair)

Councillors Cann, Chesters, Gubb, Henderson, Hunt, D. Spear, L. Spear and Walker

Officers:

Chief Executive, Community Protection Officer and Service Lead
Housing Vulnerable Persons and Community Safety

Also Present:

Councillors Leaver

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Biederman, Pearson and Tucker.

13. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2021 (ATTACHED).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2021 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

14. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE MEETING AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

The Chair advised the Sub-Committee of the "Reclaim the Night" march taking place in Barnstaple on Friday 9th December 2023. This was organised following a recent spate of attacks on women in Barnstaple in order to raise awareness of the problem and signpost those organisations available to help those affected. Anyone interested in getting involved was advised to contact Councillor Leaver.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

There were no declarations of interest announced.

16. UPDATE ON THE NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE COMMUNITY

SAFETY PARTNERSHIP.

Superintendent Toby Davies introduced himself as the Local Policing Commander for North and West Devon and the current Chair of the Community Safety Partnership. Members were also introduced to Nathan Walker, Community Safety Sergeant, Community Safety Manager Janet Williams (Community Safety Manager) TDC) and Natasha Rowlands (Service Lead – Vulnerable Needs Group and Community Safety) (NDC) and Tim Birtwisle, (Community Protection Officer) (NDC). The Local Elected Members for Devon County, North Devon Council (NDC) and Torridge District Council (TDC) were also introduced – Cllr Paul Henderson, Cllr Caroline Leader and Cllr Philip Hackett.

A detailed introduction to the Community Safety Partnership the Safer Devon Partnership was provided for members. Superintendent Davies then drew members' attention to the update report for the NDC and TDC Community Safety Partnership. It was confirmed that over the last 12 months crime had increased in the local area – it was explained that comparative data was taken from 2019 (pre-Covid).

The main points highlighted were as follows:

- From 2019 there has been a 4 percent increase in crime for the local 'patch'. This was said to equate to 11,000 crimes across last 12 months.
- Violent crime made up the majority of these crimes and crimes of violence had seen an increase of 10 percent.
- A third of violence was domestic abuse.
- Sexual violence recorded crimes are up 20 percent.
- Burglary and theft is down to 15 percent.

Superintendent Davies advised that:

- There had been an increase in hate crime locally, with 250 reported crimes in the last 12 months – most of these cases were reported in the last 3-5 months. This was stated as an area of concern and potential focus for the Community Safety Partnership.
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) was down from 2019 figures, however it was still recognised as the most visible issue for the area, with 2,840 reports in last 12 months.
- Devon and Cornwall ranked the third safest force area in England & Wales. It was also stated that outcomes and crime data integrity was best in the force.

The Strategic Assessment and feedback from CSP joint committee were referenced at this point and Superintendent Davies highlighted the main areas of focus – these were confirmed as:

- Serious violence (inc VAWG)
- Safer Streets (inc ASB)
- Road Safety
- Emerging Threats (Hate Crime was highlighted, along with Sexual Violence)

Principles and themes were then highlighted for members:

- High Intensity work - targeting those causing the most harm in the community and then working with them in a trauma informed way.
- The rurality of the community and the added sense of vulnerability and issues this part of the community experience.
- National priorities – counter-terrorism and Prevent, as well as work on anti-slavery and modern day slavery and domestic homicide reviews.

Superintendent Davies summarised the work taking place for the Partnership.

Serious violence / violence against women and girls – the work of the multi-agency forum was highlighted for members, along with the preventative work taking place through awareness campaigns and education resources.

In terms of County lines work it was confirmed that the CSP area was responsible for sharing the highest amount of Partnership Intelligence through to Devon & Cornwall Police. The positive impact of this was highlighted.

The Safer Streets initiative was explained and Members were advised of The Anti-Social Behaviour steering group for North Devon and Torridge. The group look at hot spots and how to coordinate response. Some of the local projects in the districts were then highlighted.

It was confirmed that Barnstaple town centre had successfully bid for Safer Streets funding from HM Government's Safer Street Fund, and there was a summary of how this funding would be used.

Road Safety work locally and within the region was highlighted.

It was confirmed there had been an increase in Road Policing staff and the success of Operation Snap were also highlighted. It was confirmed that there was a push for funding more speed detection teams, with dedicated officers in local area – based in South Molton. The ongoing work of Community Speed Watch was also highlighted.

The trauma informed work with the most vulnerable and complex individuals was further explained for members.

Although it was specific to Devon and Cornwall Police, the outcome from the recent MH Inspectorate Review were mentioned and it was recognised that members may have questions relating to the outcome and recent Special Measures for the force.

Members were reminded of the next steps for the CSP in setting the priorities of the partnership and ensuring these fit within the national picture and they feed into the Strategic Assessment.

Areas to consider were highlighted as:

- Hate Crime

- Legal obligation to CSP on serious violence
- Change in the funding process from the PCC.
- Safer Streets – the opportunity in relation to funding and future bids.

The response to ASB in local areas and issues relating to reporting were raised. Superintendent Davies highlighted some of the outreach work that is available via partners and highlighted how work could be coordinated and planned to target issues in the longer term. The Community Safety & Public Health Lead for TDC highlighted some of the work that had taken place in relation to the case highlighted.

Concern was expressed at the length of time a 101 call can take. It was recognised by Superintendent Davies that this was one of the key areas HM Inspectorate picked up on. It was confirmed that a plan was in place regarding response times, including an increase in staffing and improved IT. Different ways of reporting were also highlighted, especially online reporting and via the 101 email.

Discussion moved on to the other areas the Inspectorate had identified as a concern and Superintendent Davies summarised the position for the local Force Areas in relation to these concerns.

Members raised the Safer Streets agenda and mentioned specific concerns in relation to increased street homelessness, street drinking and begging. It was felt there had been an escalation in incidents and that reporting was taking too long. Members also stated that residents and shoppers were expressing concerns about safety as a result.

Superintendent Davies acknowledged concerns and raised the importance of partnership work, using the teams within the CSP to coordinate the response. CCTV was also highlighted and the potential of Safer Streets funding to bring together all the services that can respond to the complex issues at play.

There was a query in relation to the operation hours for CCTV in Barnstaple. The Community Safety Manager for NDC confirmed that on Thursday, Friday and Saturday it was operational until 3am, and all other days it was operational until midnight. Current bids were also looking to increase coverage.

It was also confirmed that CCTV cameras are always recording, but there are areas that cameras couldn't reach (blackspots). It was hoped that the safer streets funding would help to provide a mobile camera, which can be deployed to a hotspot and blackspot areas.

During discussions members were reminded to ask questions relevant to the focus of the joint CSP meeting.

Discussions returned to reporting, public perception, and concerns regarding drug use and ASB in Barnstaple town centre. The need for a coordinated and partnership approach was restated and was suggested that members could be involved with the planning for Safer Streets funding as well.

It was confirmed that mental health would be a focus of a newly appointed worker linked to the high intensity work programme. Members were also advised of the multi-agency team who are working with rough sleepers and street attached. It was stated that Safer Streets meant there would be an increase in education for members of the public and this could raise awareness of the team's work.

Superintendent Davies recognised the need for more officers in the area and explained some of the barriers to attracting newly qualified officers and those requesting a transfer – the lack of affordable housing was highlighted.

Members discussed some of the positive engagement work that had taken place locally to manage ASB before escalating to the Police. This led to discussions around engaging with disaffected young people, the impact of youth service cuts and lack of places and spaces for young people to go.

Members discussed consultation that had taken place with a local school council on play equipment and the importance of tolerance of young people within the wider community was also highlighted. During discussion access to SPACE outreach workers was mentioned and it was explained this provision could be accessed via community safety contacts.

Members asked about the increase in hate crime locally and it was recognised that the local increase was also being seen across Devon and Cornwall and nationally. Although there wasn't a pattern to the incidents race was the biggest issue locally.

Members asked if there was correlation between Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and antisocial behaviour. The Public Health and Housing Manager at TDC said figures could be shared with TDC members and explained that Bideford wasn't seeing any specific HMOs targeted by Police due to ASB. It was explained where there was enough evidence Police and Local Authorities had powers to close HMOs.

During discussions on face-to-face policing members were advised that PCSOs would be able to make themselves available for surgeries if a place and space could be identified.

Members provided further examples of ASB within their areas and the need for funding towards more youth worker presence, places to go and engagement work. The recurrence of ASB as a theme in the meeting was recognised and some of the youth engagement work accessible via the CSP was highlighted. The Mini Police Cadets were also mentioned as a way to positively engage with young people through schools.

Members went on to highlight public perception of crime, especially on social media, and whilst members could be reassured it was felt that further communication was needed to reassure the public, including older people, that town was a safe place to visit. Superintendent Davies explained that bids were being completed to increase the street presence in the area and agreed that more work was needed in relation to promoting the work taking place.

The Community Safety Manager for NDC went on to highlight some of the communications planned as part of the Safer Streets funding. The 'tap to change' initiative was mentioned, where people can donate to charity at local businesses in Barnstaple town. It was hoped this would steer people away from giving to those begging.

Members raised the Police and Crime Commissioner's aspiration to open front desks. It was asked how this could be balanced with actual staffing levels.

It was confirmed that more officers had been recruited, but there was a high turnover, so there was still an issue in terms of staffing numbers. It was explained that a taskforce had been established to look at spreading the resource more fairly across the area, so it was hoped resourcing would improve.

In relation to front desks, it was recognised that this was a commitment for the PCC and something Bideford had requested. Superintendent Davis reminded members of the Police Surgeries and advised that the information on days and time would be on the website.

Members asked about the future of CSP and funding opportunities. Superintendent raised that the Chair role needed to be reviewed and highlighted that partnerships across Devon were also looking at how they could work together more. Members were advised that there was still a legal duty to have a community safety function to ensure partnership working.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of youth work provision and the Community Safety Sergeant highlighted some of the provision available via their team.

- A PCSO for all the colleges, who works with the safeguarding teams.
- PCs who are Youth Intervention Workers, trying to prevent young people becoming ongoing offenders.
- Mini Police
- A YOT Officer in the Youth Justice Service
- As part of Safer Streets there is a dedicated youth intervention worker for Park and Pilton for the next 11 months, looking at offending behaviour in schools.

It was recognised that this provision was from the Police and it was suggested that the concerns around youth service provision in the area should be raised with the County Council representatives. During discussion it was highlighted that there was a gap in representation from education and the County Council on CSP.

The Chair (NDC) left the meeting (14:41pm) and the Vice Chair assumed the role of Chair.

Following a question from members about the CSP bite size training it was agreed these will be considered before the next District and Parish elections in May 2023.

Members asked about rural crime and highlighted the changing nature of this crime. The isolation and vulnerability people can experience as a result was recognised, and Superintendent Davies highlighted some of the partners the Police and Partnership are working with.

During discussion TDC Local Area Advisory Groups were highlighted as a positive way to share information with the more rural areas in the districts.

Following a question to members of the two committees about the CSP function and its membership members were asked to provide their feedback to their CSP elected members or the Community Safety representatives for their areas.

Following a question regarding the achievements of the CSP Superintendent Davies clarified some of the points made within the report regarding partnership work, whilst recognising the need to improve on reporting and 101.

The Chief Executive (NDC) referred to the report and explained some of the positives that have come about from the CSP, specifically in relation to partnership working and the coordination of work and funding bids.

The issue of funding was raised and the need for CSP to continue to coordinate efforts was stressed. It was recognised that all partners were facing increasing struggles in terms of budgets and that this increased the importance of partnership working.

RESOLVED that a one to one meeting with the Chairs of the two Committees and with Superintendent Davies would be organised for January (2023).

Chair

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm

This page is intentionally left blank

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 and Violence Against Women and Girls

The first of our priorities focusses on the CSP's work with our statutory partners to reduce all crime including serious violence, this includes 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 and enacted on 16 December 2022. Specified Authorities have until January 2024 to put their plans in place.

Officers attend Devon level working groups where this project is developed – it is likely that the focus will be on trauma and interventions to address this and prevent later violence.

Discussions are being held at a county level with regards how the HM Government funding will be distributed to CSP areas. It is anticipated that funding will be held at a county level to commission county wide activities (Safer Devon Partnership), with smaller pots of funding coming to each CSP.

Our CSP recognises that domestic abuse, drug supply and early intervention of youth should be areas of focus to reduce the risk of Serious Violence

Priority two: Safer Streets & Anti-Social Behaviour

We continue to monitor, identify, and address the anti-social behaviour issues impacting our communities and seek to identify and support local preventive projects- with an ASB Steering Group. 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.

One of the most significant projects relates to the Safer Streets funding for Barnstaple Town Centre ward which has led to significant reductions in crime and disorder across the reporting year.

Anti-social behaviour patrols continue across both districts and individuals are escalated through Anti-Social Behaviour process in a prompt manner, often resulting in court appearances and prosecutions.

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. By working in partnership with specialist drug and alcohol agencies (both commissioned and voluntary), service users and their families receive a range of options to help reduce dependency, harm and support their recovery.

Priority Three: Emerging threats.

To allow the CSP to respond quickly and effectively to new concerns, we review emerging issues in our communities and where necessary, 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, extremism, the online space, modern slavery, and human trafficking.

At the Community Safety Partnership Meeting on 9 November 2023, it was agreed that **Hate Crime** will be a CSP priority for the next year. This is against a backdrop of an increase in offences and incidents such as the distribution of racist material in our area. A working group will be established to formulate an action plan. It is anticipated that a focus of this work will be to increase awareness and reporting amongst the public in general and to more diverse communities.

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

Agenda Item 6

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'
- 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 Domestic Abuse Act, via the Devon Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to support our work locally and thus providing strategic direction with a grass roots focus on preventing sexual violence and domestic abuse in our local communities. Both the Devon service, Fearfree, and local provider, North Devon Against Domestic Abuse, regularly attend and contribute to CSP board meetings and sub-groups.
- 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. The terms of reference of this group has recently been reviewed, membership has been extended to a wider

diversity of statutory partners including elected members at district and town levels. This diversity adds value through much more representative conversation around this key CSP priority. Member involvement also brings a really useful community perspective.

- 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 continue to be active in Barnstaple following funding being agreed with North Devon Council. The marshals, provided by a local security company, are 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. A similar scheme has been introduced in Ilfracombe and preparations are being made in Bideford for a similar scheme during the Christmas period.
- The CSP played a significant role in Barnstaple's successful bid to HM Government's Safer Streets Fund. The Town Team consisting of Street Marshals, antisocial behaviour (ASB) and CCTV officers, CEOs and the Police neighbourhood team provided public reassurance and de-escalated situations that could lead to anti-social behaviour, leading to increased public reassurance. Additionally, a Safe Space has been established in Barnstaple Town Centre, providing a base for agencies to offer help, advice and support.
- The Safer Streets initiative also provided for interventions in local schools. This included activities including a theatrical production and self-defence lessons for students.
- The CSP engaged with a local training provider to develop and provide training to 8 local primary schools to increase resilience in their pupils - topics included relationships, social media, dealing with emotional development and confrontation. The course provided an improved understanding of self, self-management strategies, better relationships, recognition of impact of behaviour and self and others.
- 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.
- In Torrington officers have continued to enforce the Public Spaces Protection order in the town to tackle antisocial behaviour associated with the consumption of alcohol or other intoxicating substances. These patrols are carried out in partnership with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team at Bideford. To further assist TDC officers are authorised under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). Authorised Local Authority Officers are

Agenda Item 6

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.

- Torrridge have been working jointly with the local neighbourhood policing team to tackle anti-social behaviour in Jubilee Square. To help achieve this objective Torrridge have offered the police free use of office space on Jubilee Square. The local neighbourhood policing team are keen to utilise this space and it is currently with police estates for consideration. The use of this space has recently received verbal support from the acting Chief Constable during his visit to Bideford on 15 November 2023.
- In North Devon, Public Space Protection Orders have been renewed and two small areas that have been subject to Anti-Social Behaviour have been added to the map due to an increase in incidents. The new order will be effective from January 2024.
- Community Safety at Torrridge have just taken over the running of the towns CCTV system. This move is going to further strengthen the PSPO and help to reduce ASB within the town by more closely linking the means to identify those responsible and the Community Safety team. Those identified will be escalated under ASB legislation and the CCTV evidence will support this.
- The Public Spaces Protection Order is due to be renewed in the spring of 2024, prior to this it will go out for consultation. Torrridge and the police will be recommending the dispersal time will be extended to 24hrs to bring it in line with ND and other local authorities across the County.
- 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.
- Police Officers continue to be embedded in North Devon Council Offices, an arrangement unique to when compared with other peninsula CSPs

At The CSP Board Meeting on 9 November 2023 it was agreed that the chairing arrangements of the partnership will change. Responsibility will revert to both Local Authorities after a successful period of police chairmanship by Superintendent Toby Davies. This change brings our CSP in to line with the other Devon partnerships who all have non-police chairs.

Over the last year there have been significant staff changes at both local authorities and the police. These new appointments offer new perspectives to the work of the CSP and will bring fresh impetus to our work.

3. CONCLUSION

The CSP area remains as one of the safest areas in the UK. Crime per head of population remains very low. That said there are still areas within our CSP that experience higher levels of crime and disorder, and themes we are keen to address. The CSP remains committed to work with communities, other partners, and elected members in helping to identify and target those community issues.

The reporting year has seen a significant turnover in Local Authority Community Safety leads- a completely new team within TDC and new faces on the NDDC side too; as well as new Police Community Safety supervisors and officers. That transition did lead to a missed CSP meeting (July 2023) and understandably it has taken a little time for new staff to bed in. The good news is that each area now have community safety staff fully in place, and a clear structure of administration and leadership for the next reporting year.

The North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership remains 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.

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.