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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 Social Distancing Agenda the Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee will be held in the Bideford Town Hall - Bideford on **WEDNESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 2024 at 10.00 am.**

(NOTE: 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. Appointment of Chair
In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair it is recommended we call for nominations to appoint a Chair for today's meeting.
3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2023 (attached). (Pages 7 - 12)
4. Items brought forward which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered by the meeting as a matter of urgency.
5. 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).

6. To agree the agenda between Part 'A' and Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted Information).

PART 'A'

7. **Update on the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership**
(Pages 13 - 18)

To receive an update on the work of the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership.

PART 'B' (CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED INFORMATION)

Nil.

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

5.11.24



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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.
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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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NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee held at Barum Room - Brynsworthy on Thursday, 30th November, 2023 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor York (Chair)

Councillors Biederman, Cann, Denton, Maskell and Norman

Officers:

Chief Executive, Head of Programme Management and Performance, Community Protection Officer, Place Manager (Town Centres) and Lead Environmental Health Officer Environmental Protection

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Milton.

2. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST NOVEMBER 2022 (ATTACHED).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2022 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. 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" which was taking place in Barnstaple on Saturday 9th December. It would be starting from Barnstaple Square at 4:30pm.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

There were no declarations of interest announced.

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

Members of the North Devon Council Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee, and Torrridge District Council's External Overview and Scrutiny Committee were present for the update.

Superintendent Toby Davies introduced himself as the current Chair of the Community Safety Partnership.

Members were also introduced to: Kevin Connar (Community Safety Sergeant), Inspector Andrew Wills (Barnstaple Town Inspector), Chief Inspector Graham Thomas (North and West Devon Chief Inspector), and Inspector Richard Preston (North Devon and Ilfracombe Inspector).

Superintendent Davies gave a brief detail of the background to the role of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and confirmed that there was a legal requirement for the partners to work together with regard to domestic, homicidal review, suicide (off the back of domestic abuse) and knife crime.

Superintendent Davies noted that the majority of officers involved in the CSP had been appointed since the previous meeting (of November 2022), and that this CSP was the only one within the Devon area which was chaired by police personnel. He would be 'sitting back' from his position as Chair but would still be involved with the CSP.

Superintendent Davies highlighted the main areas of focus – these were confirmed as:

- Serious violence (including violence against women and girls)
- Safer Streets (including anti-social behaviour (ASB))
- Emerging Threats (including Hate Crime)

The main points highlighted were as follows:

- The Devon and Cornwall area remained one of the safest.
- Anti-social behaviour had reduced by 17%
- The area was, in the majority, rural, which gave a greater sense of isolation and vulnerability among its residents.
- Local threats were most likely 'hidden from view' in the form of domestic violence.
- Project 'Night time' was looking to tackle problems caused by the night-time economy.
- The success of the recently-introduced 'night-bus' service between Bideford and Barnstaple.
- Street Marshalls
- County Lines / Cuckoo-ing / drug dealing networks.
- 'Ask for Angela' campaign – and other campaigns within the licensing trade – eg identifying vulnerable customers, anti-drink spiking campaigns.
- the CSP area was responsible for sharing the highest amount of Partnership Intelligence through to Devon & Cornwall Police.

Superintendent Davies advised that:

- the Safer Streets initiative had helped to reduce crime although the main benefit was the improvement in visible behaviour, and the reduction of the public feeling unsafe in the towns.
- Joint patrols had taken place.
- There had been an increase in the number of Community protection notices being issued.
- ASB House closures had been issued where properties had been linked to drug supply.
- A tailored-approach to working with the individuals causing the most issues: identifying those people and assigning case-workers to help them.
- Tackling Hate Crimes would be given a higher priority.
- The Police were interested in the possibility of utilising 'hubs' within Bideford and Barnstaple. NDC were consulting on the possible creation of a community hub in Green Lanes, Barnstaple, and TDC were considering using office space at Jubilee Square, Bideford.

The Public Health and Community Safety Manager (TDC) advised the Sub-committee that:

- PSPOs for alcohol and ASB had been issued by the neighbourhood safety teams. Approximately 30 orders had been issued.
- To assist with the PSPO enforcement TDC had been looking at utilizing office space on Jubilee Square.
- CCTV operation would be included within the remit of the TDC community safety team.
- A small budget had been made available for the provision of Street Marshalls in Bideford over the Christmas period.

The CCTV, Town Centre and Pannier Market Manager (NDC) addressed the Committee and reconfirmed the importance of a partnership approach in delivering the Safer Streets initiative. The Safer Streets funding had now ended. She also confirmed that:

- Additional cameras had been installed around ASB hotspots. This included Maiden Street, Barnstaple.
- Street-Marshalls, intelligence groups, and the presence of uniformed 'officers' (not necessarily Police) had assisted in tackling complex ASB cases.
- An additional High-Flow worker had been employed to assist with those cases.
- Pro-active works had taken place to help reduce violence against women and girls. This had included visits by officers to schools, additional training and support to those in the night-time economy, self-defence training, workshops and training with Taxi-drivers, and mystery-shopper exercises.
- Pro-active works to 'reclaim' public spaces (such as Paternoster Row, Barnstaple) had made areas feel safer; removing unwelcome behaviours had changed the feel of the area.

- The Licensing team had undertaken a project with Soroptomists International (Barnstaple and District) in an Anti-drink-spiking campaign.

In response to a question from the Committee, the CCTV, Town Centre and Pannier Market Manager confirmed that additional powers had been delegated to officers to deal with problems they encountered. This enabled those working in the coastal areas (not just in the towns) to deal with issues such as under-age drinking, the safety of those drinking on beaches/near water.

Superintendent Davies confirmed that:

- Patrols would take place around areas where known under-age drinking took place. This would be monitored around the time of the end of the exams and the dates for each school/college would be used to create a timetabled, co-ordinated response.
- A pro-active approach with schools and youth groups was required and would focus on prevention and teaching. This was hoped to help reduce knife crime, and those carrying weapons. These were not problems just encountered in cities. The CSP held regular meetings where intelligence was shared on this issue. CCTV operators were skilled in identifying potential problems.

Inspector Andrew Wills addressed the Committee and advised, in respect or crime-reporting:

- Abandoned calls to the 101 line had reduced by 40% since the introduction of the 'call-back' service.
- We are recording more crime incidents than we were 12 months ago.
- Overall the number of incidents reported across the region have fallen by 3.7% in the past 12 months.
- Incidences of ASB had reduced by 17.3%
- 32.7% of those were in Barnstaple town centre.

In response to a question from the Committee, Superintendent Davies confirmed that the Night-bus service between Bideford and Barnstaple was a trial service. 600 tickets had been sold to date. The intention was to increase the trial and expand the route to include Ilfracombe. This service was beneficial to all although to continue the service alternative funding would be required.

Inspector Andrew Wills emphasised the need to ensure Stage Coach were made aware of how valuable this service was.

Cllr Cottle-Hunkin confirmed that the TDC External Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recently contacted Stage Coach, and would make sure the importance of the night bus was included in their correspondence and specifically the potential to extend it to towns such as Torrington and Ilfracombe.

In response to questions, Superintendent Davies advised that should further CCTV cameras be required in an area then the capital would be required for the initial

purchase and installation, but that in most cases those cameras could be added to the existing CCTV system and be monitored.

(11:15 Cllr Biederman left the meeting).

Chief Inspector Graham Thomas confirmed that Operation Loki (involving TDC Officers and the Police) had been successful in reducing ASB in Westward Ho! over the summer although within the same period there had been a slight increase in Bideford.

Superintendent Davies advised that there needed to be a good provision of youth-clubs and activities but that there were gaps appearing in youth-provision.

The Chairs, and Committee members, thanked Inspector Davies and his team for their work on the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and noted that there was a heavy reliance on the community sector to ensure the work continued.

The Chair of the TDC External Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Cottle-Hunkin, noted that the closure by Devon County Council (DCC) of the local Link Centres could impact resources as those with mental health issues may not receive the support they required. She noted that the knock-on results of this could be severe.

Superintendent Davies advised that DCC were part of the CSP and the police would be in contact with DCC about the closures, although it was not a police matter. He noted that the D&C Police had responded to the public consultation and urged TDC and NDC to do the same if they had not yet done so.

In response to a question from the Committee, Superintendent Davies advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner (Alison Hernandez) had been a supporter of the Northern Devon area and an advocate of the Street Marshall scheme, although it was likely that she did not feel that the police force should be responsible for funding it. Local Authorities could look to provide funding from their budgets if it was felt to be a priority. Street Marshalls did not perform a policing role, but were community roles. The number of PCSOs had increased across the two districts. This would enhance the community work of the Marshalls. There were economic benefits to be had from making areas more attractive to the public.

The Chief Executive of NDC confirmed that NDC had allocated funding for the Street Marshall scheme, and that despite his initial reluctance he had found the results of the scheme to be startling. The benefits of the Marshalls in aiding the improvement of overall safety of public areas. He confirmed that NDC would continue to support the scheme for as long as possible. NDC had seen a drop in vandalism (eg in toilets) and helped the authority to be a 'curator of place' and develop the area to be welcoming. This was beneficial as part of the works undertaken on the Future High Streets project. There would be little point in developing an area if the public felt unsafe in visiting. NDC were considering extending the Street Marshall scheme to Ilfracombe.

The Public Health and Community Safety Manager (TDC) confirmed that Street Marshalls would be in operation in Bideford over Christmas.

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The Chair (TDC) discussed the provision of 'Bite-size' training sessions from the Police.

The Community Safety Sergeant confirmed that he would contact the two Chairs in relation to identifying the specific training need.

Chair

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm

North Devon & Torrington Community Safety Partnership Update

1. INTRODUCTION

The North Devon & Torrington Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body 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 Torrington which meets on a quarterly basis.

During the last year, the chair of the partnership was passed jointly to Phil Gilbert, Public Health & Community Safety Manager, Torrington District Council and Darren Hale, Lead Environmental Health Officer, North Devon Council.

Meetings are attended by the following agencies: Torrington District Council, North Devon Council, Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Devon County Council Public Health, Together (drug and alcohol support services), Fearfree, Devon & Cornwall Probation, TTVS/NDVS (voluntary services), North Devon Healthcare Trust, Sunrise Diversity, elected members from North Devon Council, Torrington District Council, Devon County Council and Town Councils.

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 had until January 2024 to put their plans in place. Officers attend Devon level working groups where this project is developed and implemented.

On a local level, we have engaged with Fearfree - provider of commissioned domestic abuse services – to develop an intervention for schools that seeks to address misogynistic attitudes with a view to preventing domestic abuse in the future. We were successful in obtaining funds for this work and is being rolled out across secondary schools in both Torrington and North Devon.

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.

The ASB Steering Group, held monthly, allows both councils, police, housing associations, elected members, substance misuse services, Town Councils and representatives from the voluntary sector to come together and address specific issues relating to people and place.

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.

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 this 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 has formulated an action plan and the CSP chair the Devon Hate Crime Steering Group.

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 joint chairs. 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 is again 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.

The Community Safety Partnership devised and presented an event for members designed to increase awareness of treatment options for people who misuse drugs and alcohol. The session included a number of inputs from various agencies involved in services, including Police, local voluntary sector, substance misuse agencies, public health and district and local councils. A follow-up session will be arranged in the New Year.

We have continued to focus on our trauma informed vision for Torridge and North Devon. The CSP 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.

Our joint Anti-Social Behaviour Steering Group continues to develop and focus on ASB prevention and addressing local issues across Northern Devon. The multi-agency meetings take place monthly and look in detail at individuals and areas of reported incidents, 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 and has allowed for coordinated action to be taken. Membership has been extended to a wider diversity of statutory partners including elected members at district and town levels, and now includes representatives from local housing associations. This wider participation adds value through much more representative conversation around this key CSP priority.

In North Devon, an increased Officer presence has been introduced to address and prevent Anti-Social Behaviour. The Council's ASB Officer undertakes daily patrols 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. These patrols offer important opportunities to gather evidence to support the ASB escalation process and prosecution if necessary.

Street Marshals continue to be active in Barnstaple following further funding being provided by 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 where marshals patrol on two days a week.

North Devon and Torridge have secured hotspot funding from the OPCC to help tackle anti-social behaviour. The funding is under a two tier system, Barnstaple was awarded tier one which has allowed the police to pay overtime to officers to carry out dedicated patrols within the identified hotspots. Bideford was awarded tier two and this has allowed Torridge to employ street marshals 3 days a week to patrol the hotspots within the town.

Torridge introduced a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) earlier this year making it an offence to consume alcohol or other intoxicating substance within the specified area. Not only does it bring it in line with North Devon, it makes it easier to enforce and clearer for members of the public to understand. Torridge officers, street marshals and the local Neighbourhood Policing Team at Bideford have been working in partnership to enforce the PSPO. To further assist TDC have delegated power to the street marshals allowing them to confiscate alcohol and issue dispersal notices when required. The street marshals have been accredited under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) by Devon & Cornwall Police. This has had a positive impact and there has already been a reduction in reported anti-social behavior within the town. The feedback received from the community and local businesses has been positive.

Both Torridge and North Devon have extended the time dispersal notices remain in effect to 24hrs.

To further assist TDC officers are authorised under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). Authorised Local Authority Officers are 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.

The CSP have supported the Night Bus Scheme that has been running late night between Barnstaple, Bideford and Ilfracombe at weekends throughout the summer. The service ran throughout the night in order for people to get home safely following nights out in Barnstaple. In total, 832 people used the Barnstaple – Bideford service and 653 travelled on the Barnstaple – Ilfracombe bus. This initiative serves to both reduce anti-social behaviour by moving people away from the town centre in an efficient manner and allowing potentially vulnerable people to return home safely. A further scheme has been scheduled in the run up to Christmas.

Torridge have been working jointly with the local neighbourhood policing team to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town with the introduction of the new Community Hub. The purpose of the hub is to allow members of the community to engage with the Bideford Neighbourhood Policing Team and officers from TDC face to face and explain what issues within the community are effecting them.

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. These new areas are subject to regular patrols.

Community Safety at Torridge has taken over the running of the towns CCTV system, operators work closely with the police and the street marshals to highlight incidents and identify those responsible for committing offences. This approach has helped to further strengthen the PSPO and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour. Several offenders have been dealt with robustly by means of Community Protection Warnings, Fixed Penalty Notices as a result of offences witnessed on CCTV.

Our CSP has been at the forefront of anti-hate crime work in Devon following its adoption as a priority in 2023. At a district level, we have engaged extensively with Sunrise Diversity, a charity that promotes diversity and inclusion in Northern Devon. Sunrise are now a full member of the CSP Board and an important part of our ongoing work to increase reporting of hate crime locally. At a Devon level, the CSP chair the Devon Hate Crime and Diversity Steering Group and have developed an action plan with the aim of raising awareness, increasing the diversity of CSP boards and increasing reporting by victims of such offences. The work is ongoing and we next meet later in November.

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.

3. CONCLUSION

The CSP area remains as one of the safest 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 been one of change for the CSP as the chairmanship has been passed from Devon & Cornwall Police to a joint arrangement between the two district councils. Despite this change, D&C police remain fully committed to the Partnership and the vital joint work that is undertaken daily. Our CSP remains the

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only partnership across the peninsula that has police officers embedded in our offices and this allows for daily, close joint working.

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.