

REPORT OF Chair of the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership
To: External Overview & Scrutiny Committees for ND and TDC
Subject: Update on the North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership
Date: 8th November 2021 **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 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: protecting the vulnerable

The broadest of our priorities focuses on crimes that often affect the most vulnerable in our society, for example: child sexual exploitation, modern slavery or radicalisation. With each we are fundamentally concerned with the impact on our communities.

Priority two: sexual violence and domestic abuse

A multi-agency approach to sexual violence and domestic abuse allows the victim to be at the heart of the service. DSVAs are commissioned locally and operate important provisions such as support and advice services, court located independent domestic violence advisors (IDVAs) and places of safety.

Priority three: substance misuse

Utilising 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 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. 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, overseeing the allocation of CSP funding by both authorities and maintaining an overview of issues affecting community safety in both districts.

2. REPORT

The Community Safety Partnership has been active since our last report to the Scrutiny Committee and we have faced many local challenges over a range of issues. Obviously for a significant period COVID-19 has given rise to additional challenges which have been met through the valuable contributions of the partnership. The following gives an outline of activities carried out:

- A significant focus of the partnership and local policing remains activities related to organised crime groups, most of which have maintained operations despite COVID-19 and which still poses a significant challenge

across Northern Devon. 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 by delivering a number of training courses in 'ABC of Trauma – Tier 2 Practitioner Training' This training was a CPD accredited one-day course that enabled practitioners working with children, young people and adults to understand the impact of trauma including adverse childhood experiences, trauma-informed practice and strategies to use to promote protective behaviours and develop resilience. This was delivered to over 200 delegates from our key partner agencies such as, police, fire, probation, education, healthcare, mental health, adult social services / children social care services, youth services, SVDA support services, registered social landlords and internal council staff and members. We are involved in a 'Trauma Network' which has been set up across Devon to share best practice and promote consistency in its application.
- 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. The forum has continued to meet during lockdown with well attended online meetings. Our work has focused around 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 healthy relationships in schools and supporting the upcoming 16 days of activism with a planned programme of awareness raising. We will support and link in with the newly formed DA Act. Via the Devon DA Partnership board to support work locally strategically and with a grass routes focus on preventing sexual violence and domestic abuse in our local communities.

- Both Districts were successful in gaining OPCC funding for ENTE (evening and night-time economy) marshalling for Barnstaple, Ilfracombe and Bideford. This investment totalled £30 000 and was matched by Local Authority funding from the Welcome Back Fund. Local security companies were appointed to provide SIA licensed security staff to support the evening night-time economy with high visibility uniformed patrols of the towns over the summer period. This was supported by daily tasking and briefings by the Local Authorities. The marshals provided a welcome presence in the towns offering support around ASB, supporting the vulnerable and reducing the demand on all blue light services.
- A joint ASB steering group has been established and tasked with reviewing the ASB strategy on a monthly basis across Northern Devon. The meetings take place monthly and look in detail at individuals and areas of reported issues, with an emphasis on hotspots and emerging issues. Part of the meetings are open to wider members of the public, local businesses and members to allow views to be expressed around current issues as well as receiving briefings and updates on response activities. This approach has been particularly well received in relation to the street drinking issues in Bideford and Barnstaple.
- In Torridge, the introduction of a new and expanded Public Space Protection Order for antisocial behaviour and street drinking in Bideford has been very well received by the public and businesses alike. To promote and support this, there has been a programme over the summer of joint patrols by the police/ CSAS (Community Support Accreditation Scheme) Authorised Local Authority Officers. These patrols have engaged and challenged street drinking in the town and provided high visibility assurance to our community.
- Public Space Protection Orders have also been renewed in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe. The orders address street drinking, antisocial behaviour, public urination and aggressive begging. Joint Police and North Devon Council patrols have been undertaken in Barnstaple to enforce conditions.
- Rough Sleeper Outreach across the North Devon Council District has continued throughout the pandemic. Most recently in addition to early morning and day-time Outreach they have begun evening Outreach as well. As well as targeting rough sleepers the team also engage with those that are street attached. The Freedom Day Centre has once again reopened offering services to anybody presenting in need.

- The Partnership were successful in gaining funding from the OPCC for “Preventing youth ASB in public spaces” This was allocated to The Devon Youth Network (locally DYS Space) to support youth outreach from local youth centres in hotspot areas.
- CSP representation on the Devon Suicide Prevention Strategic Group
- 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.
- Safeguarding those in our community by Promoting Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue’s Home Fire Safety Visit Programme.
- Road safety has always been recognised as an issue of concern in Torridge and North Devon and our partnership is represented at the “Northern Devon Road Safety Forum”. Meetings ceased during lock down but in partnership we continue to support road safety concerns by addressing them together in partnership. In addition, the CSP and OPCC are now fully supporting Devon & Cornwall Police’s ‘Operation Snap’ in Northern Devon – this is allowing the public to upload dash cam footage of road traffic offences so that the police can take positive enforcement action. We have continued to provide advice and support to local communities who are concerned about speeding in their local areas through Community Speed Watch
- In Torridge, Covid funding has secured additional marshalling in Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore. While this is primarily public health focussed, the high visibility uniformed patrols also work closely with the police and Local Authority to provide support to businesses, residents and the public and have been involved in monitoring and submitting intelligence in relation to ASB, business crime and drug taking.

Crime statistics and emerging threats are reviewed at every CSP meeting, the next is due to be held in November. In terms of local crime, while trends tend to follow the national picture Northern Devon still remains one of the lowest crime areas in the country. A crime report covering Northern Devon is appended to this report.

We continue to receive funding to our CSP from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, for which we are very grateful. The 21-22 Spending Intentions Plan, approved by the OPCC, is also appended to this report.

3. CONCLUSIONS

We are pleased to report that the 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 Torridge and North Devon. This is against a backdrop of dealing with our response to COVID-19 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.