

**COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
23 MARCH 2021**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES REPORT 2021-2022**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Dennis Knowles  
**Responsible Officer:** Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing (Chair East & Mid Devon CSP)

**Reason for Report and Recommendation:** To provide an update on the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities and the planned activities of the partnership for the coming year.

**Recommendation:** That the PDG notes priorities of the East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership and planned activities within the partnerships priorities and action plan for 2021-22.

**Financial Implications:** There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report aside from highlighting potential ad-hoc costs arising from Domestic Homicide Review responsibilities as set out below.

**Budget and Policy Framework:** Funding for the Partnership is provided by external grant and the details of this are outlined in Section 4.0 of the report. It should be noted that from financial year 2022 onwards the Police & Crime Commissioner has reviewed the service commissioning process and the CSP will no longer receive a direct grant. Future funding will likely be in the form of direct funding applications for specific projects with priority to those that show joint working across Devon.

The CSP are legally responsible for the delivery of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. Until recently this activity was absorbed at county level without any direct financial contribution by local CSPs. They will continue to be coordinated and delivered on a county basis through the Safer Devon Partnership, however all District Authorities agreed to contribute £1,125 annually towards the cost of undertaking these reviews. This amount may vary slightly depending on the number of DHRs that are required across the county.

**Legal Implications:** The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 makes it a statutory requirement for the police and local authorities to engage with partners to form a community safety partnership for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder. The 1998 Act places a legal responsibility on the partnership to consult with the community on the priorities it has set and to inform them of progress against the action plan. The Act also requires the partnership to carry out a Strategic Assessment of the area which is used to inform the partnership priorities. The partnership is also responsible for conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews and these are led by Devon County Council.

The new Domestic Abuse Bill will place a duty on Local Authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. It is currently going through the House of Lords and likely to come into force in the spring.

The Serious Violence Bill has been delayed until 2022 but is likely to have implications for Community Safety Partnerships and Public Health teams.

**Risk Assessment:** There is a risk to the Council if it does not engage with the partnership in respect of failing to meet statutory duties. In turn, the ability of the partnership to provide effective multi-agency working to reduce crime and disorder in our community is potentially reduced.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** The 2018-21 CSP Plan has had an equality impact assessment (EIA) completed. The transition to the Trauma Informed approach plan has had an equality impact assessment completed. Overall, no adverse impacts on persons with legally protected characteristics has been identified. However, the CSP Plan and the wider purpose of the CSP itself is to help protect or support some of the most vulnerable persons in our area.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** The priorities of the CSP and the activities undertaken as part of the action plan compliment the ambitions of the Corporate Plan. In particular this activity contributes to the priority of Community. The CSP works directly with the wider community, youth groups and local partners to ensure the district is a safe place to live, work and visit.

**Impact on Climate Change:** None directly arising from the report. Since the Covid Pandemic the Partnership now undertakes the majority of its management work remotely through electronic communications which limits officer travel and physical meetings.

## 1.0 Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has been formed in order to meet our statutory duties under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and is a multi-agency group working together to reduce crime and disorder.
- 1.2 The CSP meets four times per year. The role of chairing the partnership can be met by any of the statutory partners within the partnership and most recently this function has been carried out by Mid Devon District Council.
- 1.3 The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires the local authority to put in place a method of scrutinising the manner in which the partnership functions. Every local authority must have in place a committee with the power to review and scrutinise the actions of the CSP and make recommendations about how it functions. The East and Mid Devon CSP is scrutinised through each Councils

Scrutiny Committee via an annual report. A report was presented at the Scrutiny committee meeting held on 20 July 2020 and an updated report will be presented in the summer of 2021.

- 1.4 The principal purpose of this report is for the Community Policy Development Group to be aware of the planned activities for the CSP going forward.

## 2.0 **Priority Areas**

- 2.1 The East & Mid Devon CSP Priorities for 2021-22 are based on the evidence given in the Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) Strategic Assessment, which was refreshed in 2020. This gave clear indications that the biggest areas of concern are hidden risk, harm and exploitation alongside emerging issues that are a result of the pandemic. East & Mid Devon risks are clearly mirrored within the report, matching the key areas.

- 2.2 The CSP has therefore shaped and sharpened the priorities based on the strategic assessment 2020:

1. Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence & Abuse
2. Youth Risk and Vulnerability
3. Problem Alcohol & Drug Use
4. Exploitation
5. Violent Crime

- 2.3 The CSP will have a focus on building resilience for children and young people across all themes.

- 2.4 The impact of the pandemic has been felt across all communities and the CSP agreed that work would also be proactive in identifying and addressing neglect of our residents, both young and old, which has been heightened due to the pandemic impacting on finances and services.

- 2.5 As resources across all partner agencies become even more stretched our approach will be to commit to putting our energy into areas where we can add best value.

- 2.6 We will continue to promote a 'Trauma Informed' approach across the partner agencies. This approach encourages practitioners and staff to recognise that many service users and community members have experienced some form of traumatic event that they are living with day to day, and may impact on their life choices, activities and actions. This is even more evident as services notice the increases in domestic abuse, child on parent abuse and an increase in substance and alcohol misuse during the pandemic.

2.7 The CSP has confirmed commitment to project work as follows:

- The use and understanding of the Trauma lens to focus on how harm happens and how safety is compromised within relationships (individual or family) and in the community
- Developing Person Centred Approaches to Community Safety in line with the Strategic Assessment Priorities.
- Equitable, timely and evidence based interventions

### 3.0 **Action Plan 2021-22**

Work over the coming year will include:

- Training and awareness raising for staff and practitioners on the Trauma Informed Approach and Recognising & Addressing Neglect.
- Raising awareness of trauma and the lifelong legacy with staff and community leaders
- Explore and support nurturing and supportive provision for young people who are experiencing traumatic events in their lives
- Support positive ways to 'close the loop' in the negative cycles that trauma can bring to families
- Analysing and responding to the new responsibilities for Local Authorities as a result of new Domestic Abuse and Serious Violent Crime legislation currently going through parliamentary approval.
- Focus on the transition year from primary to secondary education which can be very challenging and look to support young people and families through this process.

### 4.0 **Spending Plan 2021-22**

4.1 Annex 1 indicates the draft CSP spending plan in relation to the £25,000 grant from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC). This has yet to be approved by the OPCC (a condition of funding), with a caveat that it may be subject to change if other issues emerge during the year. Approval is likely to be late April 2021.

4.2 The CSP will also be mindful of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and localised areas of concern that relate to this within both districts. It has already been well documented and reported in press and media that a rise in domestic abuse cases has been seen during 'lockdown', confirmed by the unprecedented rise in referrals to supporting organisations during the last year. There has also been an increase in anti-social behaviour issues relating to neighbourhood disputes that have bubbled-up during the lockdown periods, and a rise in noise and bonfire complaints. The CSP continue to keep a watchful eye on emerging issues and linking with the other Devon CSPs and the OPCC to address these.

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**Circulation of the Report:**

Cabinet Member for Community Well Being (Cllr Dennis Knowles)  
Members of the Community Policy Development Group  
All Leadership Team  
All Corporate Management Team  
All Group/Operations Managers

**List of Background Papers and weblinks:**

Safer Devon Partnership  
Information relating to the Devon Strategic Assessment and priorities for Devon.  
<https://saferdevon.co.uk/about-safer-devon/>

Domestic Abuse Bill – updates available at  
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2021/january/lords-debates-domestic-abuse-bill2/>

Public Health England/College of Policing – *Public health approaches in policy. A discussion paper* (PHE 2019) available at  
<https://www.college.police.uk/What-we-do/Support/uniformed-policing-faculty/Documents/Public%20Health%20Approaches.pdf>

## Annex 1

### Community Safety Partnership Fund 2021-22 Spending Intentions Plan (draft)

Project/Service/Pilot title and brief outline	Amount allocated £	How the outcomes will be measured
<b>Problem Drink &amp; Drug Use</b> Axminster Hub – Continued support of this community project supporting drugs and alcohol misuse in the town, supported by Together service.	£1000	Number of clients using the Hub. Reduction of community issues caused by drugs & alcohol users.  Possible link to YSmart and Space and Together
<b>Extra-Familiar Youth Risk &amp; Vulnerability</b> East & Mid Devon Youth Engagement. Youth development meeting to develop bespoke solutions for the area consideration of Outreach Fixed working or bespoke work	£10,000	Number of clients engaged. Support to vulnerable young people and links to County Lines and other vulnerabilities. Reduction in ASB / positive outcomes recorded in relation to trauma informed working.
Supporting Youth Provision over school holidays for most high risk and vulnerable	£1000	Number of clients engaged. Support to vulnerable young people and links to County Lines and other vulnerabilities.
Supporting Schools and education providers to impact on the CSP priorities	£1000	Number of staff or youths engaged with/trained.
<b>Sexual Violence &amp; Domestic Violence &amp; Abuse</b> Supporting Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse services to provide local projects across the two districts.	£5000	Evaluation of project and positive outcomes. Investigating supporting services locally with rise in referrals and consideration of where best value could be for CSP financial input.
DHR Contributions for each Authority relating to additional resource costs as required for each review.	£2000	Hours of administrative and support time for each DHR
<b>Exploitation</b> Raising the awareness of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modern Slavery &amp; Human Trafficking</li> <li>- Radicalisation / Extremism</li> <li>- On-line Safety</li> </ul>	£2000	Number of Bitesize workshop sessions delivered and number of practitioners reached and upskilled.
<b>Violent Crime</b> Work with partner agencies to develop strategies and training to support staff to understand and tackle violent crime by means of Bitesize workshops and information exchange.	£1000	tbc
<b>Trauma Informed Approach</b> Delivery of Trauma Informed training to professionals and practitioners to raise awareness of this approach to business and influence future working practices.	£1000	Number of Sessions and informed/trained practitioners.
<b>COMMUNITY</b> Devon Mediation Service to allow 'free referrals' from agencies.	£1000	Reduction in neighbour disputes Number of referrals to the Devon mediation service Number of cases successfully resolved.
<b>Total</b>	£25,000	

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