

**COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
22 MARCH 2022**

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES REPORT 2022-2023

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 2022-25.

Financial Implications: There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report aside from highlighting potential 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 (PCC) 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. An annual contribution has been made by the CSP to Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) to oversee these reviews. There is a proposal for a Peninsula/Greater Devon resource that can coordinate and discharge DHRs and discharge other homicide review responsibilities that are likely to come to the CSPs in the near future. This is likely to have cost implications but subject to an ongoing SDP, Police and partner review due to conclude in spring 2022.

It is confirmed that from April 2022 onwards the CSP will no longer receive a direct funding grant from the PCC on a rolling basis as the commissioner moves to direct commissioning funding basis. Therefore, the CSP will become a facilitator and consultee on direct applications for funding from external projects and organisations via the PCCs Community Grants Fund.

The PCC will be providing the CSP with a one-off funding of £12k to be spent by December 2022, ring fenced to locality based serious violence projects.

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 Act 2021 placed a duty on Local Authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. A Devon Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is now in place to assist with the discharge of these duties and is represented for Mid Devon by the Corporate Manager for Public, Regulation and Housing.

The Serious Violence Bill has been delayed until 2022 but is likely to have implications for Community Safety Partnerships and Public Health teams. The PCC has recently looked to get ahead of this duty and launched its Serious Violence Prevention Programme in January and there is a clear expectation that serious violence is reflected in all local CSP priorities going forward. Part of this programme is the local partner funding outlined above alongside more significant upper tier serious violence funding via its Local Partnership Fund allocated to SDP in Devon.

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 in 2019-20 also had an equality impact assessment completed. Overall, no adverse impacts on persons with legally protected characteristics were identified. The assessment have been reviewed against the proposed priorities for the CSP for 2022-25 and no additional considerations have been identified, so no new EIA has been completed however the existing EIA will be updated to reflect this review.

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 is due to go to Scrutiny Committee in April 2022.
- 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 2022-23 are based on the evidence given in the Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) Strategic Assessment, which was produced in December 2021 and the CSP Quarterly Update documents. These give 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 therefore has priorities based on the strategic assessment 2021-22. Below are the priority areas of focus that have been discussed and shaped by the CSP members at the 2 February 2022 meeting, and will be ratified when the CSP next meets on 16 March 2022.

1. Violent Crime

- Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence & Abuse
- Street safety (including street drinking)
- Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking
- Violence Against Women & Girls

2. Youth Risk & Vulnerability

- Community Wellbeing (including mental health)

- Exploitation
- Prevent (of extremist views)
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Hate Crime

A Trauma Informed Awareness approach will be applied to all of these themes.

2.3 The impact of the pandemic is still being felt across all communities and the CSP recognises the risk of neglect of our residents, both young and old, which has been heightened due to the pandemic impacting on finances and services.

2.4 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.

3.0 **Action Plan 2022-23**

3.1 Work over the coming year will include:

- Continued Partnership working with other Devon CSPs to consider joint project working and funding applications.
- Training and awareness raising for staff and practitioners on the Trauma Informed Approach and other community safety priority areas.
- Supporting communities and organisations to be more aware of community safety priorities and their role in tackling these as a joint approach and supporting grant funding bids.
- Work will include resilience building for children and young people across all themes.
- Responding to the Violent Crime Act responsibilities.
- Continuing work around reducing violence towards women and girls.
- Lower level mental health needs to build support/capacity before crisis.

4.0 **Funding 2022-23 onwards**

4.1 Historically the Devon CSPs have received annual grant allocations to support local projects and purchases which support achieving the CSP goals by reducing or tackling specific areas of crime or concern. From 2022-23 that financial support has been withdrawn from the OPCC.

- 4.2 The CSPs are able to support local bids from organisations and community groups for funds from the OPCC Community Grant Scheme if the projects meet the CSP priority areas in their grant applications. Furthermore, there is an expectation from the PCC that local bids are consistent with the adopted priorities of the relevant CSP. The CSPs themselves are unable to make a direct bid to this grant scheme.
- 4.3 Sourcing other funding streams is an option but when staffing resources have been reduced this may result in many fewer projects being supported or delivered directly by the CSP. Joined up working with other CSPs will ensure that we have the benefit of mutual support at the forefront of funding applications.
- 4.4 Mid Devon District Council currently provide an annual grant or budget to the CSP of £4750 as recommended and supported some years ago by members and is included in the draft G/F budget for 2022/23 (as recommended to Council for adoption by Cabinet on 1 February 2022). This sum will enable some limited support towards local projects and enable the CSP to continue to deliver a small number of activities that support the action plan for 2022 in the first instance.
- 4.5 The local MDDC budget will work alongside the ring-fenced £12k of PCC serious violence for 2022 and supporting the external, direct-commissioned projects from local organisations.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are recommended to note the report.

Contact for more Information: Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk or Julia Ryder, Specialist Lead - Community Safety & Emergency Planning jryder@middevon.gov.uk

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 Operations Managers

List of Background Papers and web-links:

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

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>