

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
19 APRIL 2022

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

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

Reason for Report and Recommendation: To ensure Scrutiny has oversight of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the opportunity to review the activities of the partnership during 2021-22 as required.

The report is also an opportunity to highlight funding changes, emerging activities, duties and priorities for the CSP going forward.

Recommendation: To note the work and completed outcomes of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in delivering activities against the partnerships priorities and action plan for 2021-22 within its externally funded budget.

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

Budget and Policy Framework: Funding for the CSP for 2021/22 was provided by an external grant of £25k from the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). This was combined sum for the entire CSP area (East and Mid Devon) and the details of how this has been spent is detailed in this report (Section 5.0 and Annex 1).

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 and will support projects with align the CSP priorities and action plan going forwards.

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

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.

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.

Looking ahead the Serious Violence Bill has been delayed until later in 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 2022 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.

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. The partnership undertakes the majority of its 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 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 and this report forms part of that annual oversight.
- 1.3 Based on this responsibility, the principal purpose of this report is for the Scrutiny Committee to look back at the activities that have been undertaken by the partnership in 2021-22 and review these against the action plan.
- 1.4 The formal operating structure of the partnership comprises of quarterly meetings of all partner agencies. 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 having taken over from a Police representative.
- 1.5 The statutory CSP partners are:
 - Devon and Cornwall Police
 - Devon County Council
 - Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
 - Probation Service
 - East Devon District Council
 - Mid Devon District Council (current Chair organisation)
 - NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group

2.0 Priority Areas 2021-22

- 2.1 The East & Mid Devon CSP Priorities for 2021-22 were 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. East & Mid Devon risks are clearly mirrored within the report, matching the key areas.
- 2.2 The CSP therefore adopted the following priorities to focus on:
 - **Sexual Violence & Domestic Violence & Abuse**

- **Problem Drink & Drug Use**
- **Violent Crime**
- **Exploitation**
- **Youth Risk & Vulnerability**

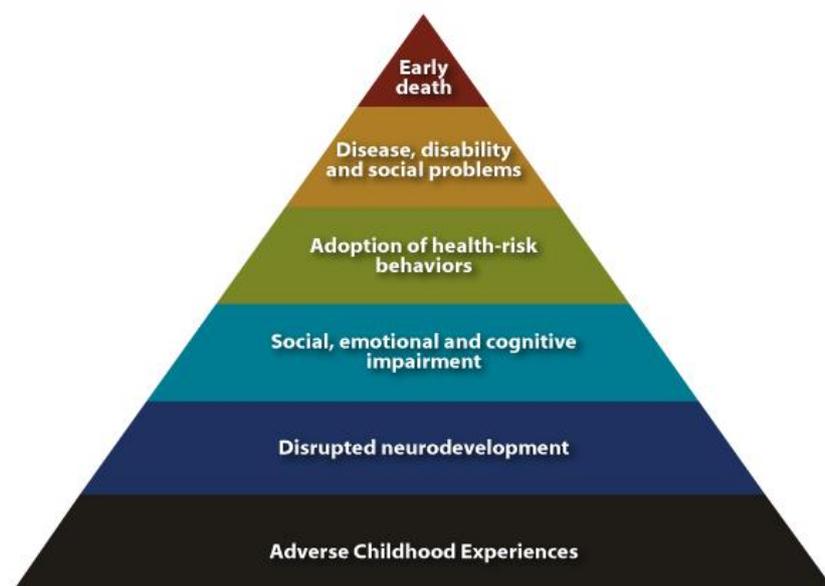
2.3 As resources across all partner agencies become more stretched the approach was to commit to putting our energy into areas where we can add best value. The projects and initiatives that we have funded during the last year are a testament to the hard work of agencies pulling together to come up with creative solutions in order to deliver best value at minimal cost directly where it is most needed.

2.4 We introduced 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. Training and information about this approach is being promoted and rolled out across many partner agencies to support staff to be more sensitive to the needs of individuals and communities.

2.5 A paper was also presented to Community Policy Development Group (PDG) 22 March 2022 at the request of a working group of the PDG which proposed that Mid Devon District Council consider further investigation to becoming a Trauma Informed Council. It was agreed that a report with recommendations will come back to the PDG in August 2022.

3.0 **Trauma Informed Lens**

3.1 The CSP recognise that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) can have a massive, and potentially detrimental effect on many children who, as a result, may experience less opportunity than others as they reach adulthood. There is clear correlation between ACEs and mental health issues, addiction, and vulnerability. We have an opportunity to recognise those links and put in place working practices and support that reduce the risk to individuals, family members and the wider community.



3.2 During 2021-22 the CSP looked for ways to introduce support to children and young people in order that they are supported through trauma they may have experienced and not put at a disadvantaged as a result. For adults who have experienced childhood trauma we looked to offer an improved, more positive experience when engaging with professional staff from the CSP agencies. This was achieved by offering funding to support training and information sessions to staff and increased support services to those who had directly experienced trauma.

3.3 The CSP remains committed to:

- The use and understanding of ACEs/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, where the CSP can have direct impact.

4.0 **Action Plan 2021-22**

4.1 Work over the year included:

- Training and awareness raising for staff and practitioners on the Trauma Informed approach
- Raising awareness of ACEs and the lifelong legacy with staff and community leaders
- Resilience building for children and young people
- Explore and support nurturing and supportive provision for young people who are experiencing ACEs/Trauma

- Support positive ways to 'close the loop' in the negative cycles trauma can bring to families
- Analysing and responding to the new responsibility for Local Authorities around violent crime and domestic abuse.
- We recognised that the transition year from primary to secondary education can be very challenging and looked to support young people and families through this process.
- Remaining aware and vigilant of emerging threats and local priorities within our communities, and responding in a positive, proactive way.

5.0 Grant Spend Summary 2021-22

- 5.1 Annex 1 sets out the CSP spending plan in relation to the £25,000 grant from the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). This shows how projects and services were funded to support the priorities, and also summarises some of the other work supported (without funding) by the CSP.
- 5.2 Members should be aware that the PCC has taken the decision to withdraw direct funds to the CSPs in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly from the end of the financial year 2021-2022. See statement above in Budget and Policy Framework section.
- 5.3 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 General Fund budget for 2022/23. 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 2022-23 in the first instance.

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:

Safer Devon Partnership
 Information relating to the Devon Strategic Assessment and priorities for Devon.

<https://saferdevon.co.uk/about-safer-devon/>

Community Grant Scheme - Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
[OPCC Community Grants - Devon Community Foundation \(devoncf.com\)](https://www.devoncf.com/)

Community PDG 22 03 2022 CSP Priorities and Trauma Informed Reports
[Agenda for Community Policy Development Group on Tuesday, 22nd March, 2022, 2.15 pm - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK.](#)

Annex 1

East & Mid Devon CSP Project Plan Spend 2021-22 Total Grant Received from PCC £25,000

Priority Area	Project	Funding £	Outcome
Problem Drink & Drug Use	Axminster Hub	1,000	Continued support for community hub supporting those with drugs & alcohol dependency.
Youth Risk & Vulnerability	Crediton Boxing Club	1,500	New club supported where positive engagement from youths at risk of ASB and crime.
	Bradninch Youth Group	200	Equipment purchased to support a cooking group for vulnerable young people
	Active East Devon Mental Health First Aid Training	1,800	Train the trainer MH first aid and 8 MH courses to allocate across the district.
	Youth Engagement discussing Drugs at Cranbrook School	1,700	Raised awareness for young people
	VOYC Youth Network in 4 xs youth centres in East Devon towns	3,209	Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Sidmouth and Dunkerswell
	Supported extra Youth Provision during closures to most high risk young people	800	Tiverton area DYS Space
	Girls Group Cullompton	490	DYS Space provided specialist support
	Sexual Violence & Domestic Violence & Abuse	CoLab Resilient Women work supporting vulnerable in rural areas	3,000
16 Days of Action Awareness Raising to general public – joint work with Exeter CSP		1,032	Radio Campaign and Reclaim the Night awareness raising

			delivered by Devon Rape Crisis
	Translation Service for BAME Toolkit produced by Splitz	544	Joint project with Exeter CSP. Translation into 5 languages.
	Additional counselling support to tackle waiting list	3,000	48 clients were outstanding on the SAFE waiting list offered support sooner.
Trauma Awareness	Felt Trauma – Training course targeted at professionals delivered by Stop Abuse For Everyone x 3 courses	3,000	30 professional staff working with families now have raised awareness of trauma impacts on daily living.
	Mobilising Support for Women – Probation Service	750	Women better able to access services and support
Community	Mediation Services	1,000	Free service offered to ASB cases and neighbour disputes
	Bodyworn surveillance <i>tbc</i>	1,975	MDDC Enforcement team can better respond and gather evidence of ASB and environment crimes.
Total		25,000	

In addition the following project work was also delivered without any direct funding requirement.

- a) **Prevent Awareness Training** (level 1) rolled out to council staff as part of the Prevent Competencies Framework.
- b) **Memorandum Of Understanding for Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking** adopted by both District Councils and CSP agencies. Awareness Training for Staff in place and First Responder Training and processes being developed for delivery during 2022/23.
- c) East Devon actively involved in two **Domestic Homicide Reviews** that have taken place in the district.
- d) Police are leading on **Hate Crime** education in local schools.
- e) Awareness of **Suicide Prevention Partnership** activities and support offered where practicable.
- f) Officers with an antisocial behaviour remit are supporting the newly formatted **Antisocial Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT) Meetings** which are held every 4-6 weeks, hosted by the police. This links with the Police lead **Youth Intervention Clinics** for first time offenders.
- g) The CSP is actively engaged with the **Devon Domestic Abuse Partnership**, formed following the requirements in the Domestic Violence Act 2021.
- h) The CSP is actively engaged in the **Serious Violence Prevention Partnership** as a result of the Violent Crime Bill.
- i) The CSP instigated a **Social Media Campaign to support the Sexual Violence Awareness Week**, 7-13 Feb 2022.
- j) MDDC adopted a **Domestic Violence Policy** in June 2021, to fall in line with other District Councils in Devon.
- k) The CSP has linked with Exeter CSP to support and promote **Safety of Women at Night** campaign.

- l) Supported and promoted the **Let's Talk Teenagers Campaign** run by South Devon & Dartmoor CSP, but covering all of Devon.
- m) **East Devon extended the Public Spaces Protection Order** to cover additional areas of the seafront, town centre and estuary areas to support the police keeping the areas safe.
- n) **Street Drinkers in Tiverton** were actively engaged by local police team using ASB powers and tools available.