

Report for: Community PDG

Date of Meeting:	26 March 2024
Subject:	COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE, PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN REPORT 2024 - 2025
Cabinet Member:	Councillor David Wulff, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure
Responsible Officer:	Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing (Chair of the East and Mid Devon CSP)
Exempt:	Not Applicable
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

This is an annual report to provide an update on the East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities and the planned activities of the Partnership for the coming year 2024/25.

Community safety relates to all crime, anti-social behaviour, harm and other behaviours that negatively affect the lives and local environment of communities. Partners with responsibility for community safety are required to protect communities from the threat and consequences of these issues by reducing their incidence and fear of their occurrence.

Following review by the statutory partners within the CSP, the overarching priorities for the CSP remain unchanged for 2024/25, but with a new Serious Violence Duty on 'specified authorities' (including district councils) introduced in 2023 and requiring the CSP partners to work together and publish a joint strategy and action plan to reduce serious violence in their areas. The CSP must therefore take due accord of the strategy in its priorities going forward and the review identified that the existing overarching

priorities of the partnership were consistent with this enabling continuity. The Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29 was published in January 2024 in accordance with legal requirements and deadline. A separate paper specifically on this strategy and its proposed adoption into the Council's policy framework to formalise this in the context of the work of the CSP is provided separately on this PDG meeting agenda.

The future working of CSPs and their formal relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is under review by the Government following a consultation exercise during 2023 and a range of recommendations have been accepted by the Government in November 2023. Proposed changes are nonetheless not expected to directly impact on the CSP priorities or activities for 2024/25.

Furthermore, as part of the national Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Action Plan published on 27 March 2023, the government has also consulted on strengthening some of the powers in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which may present future opportunities for delivery of identified CSP priorities regarding ASB.

Recommendation(s):

- 1. That the Community PDG notes the ongoing priorities of the East and Mid Devon CSP and planned activities for 2024-25 including the new statutory Serious Violence Duty.**
- 2. That the Community PDG notes the potential changes proposed to strengthen the working relationship between PCCs and CSPs, and proposals to change and extend certain anti-social behaviour powers.**

Section 2 – Report

1 Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was 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 formal operating structure of the partnership has been agreed through Terms of Reference. Oversight is provided by a CSP Board which hold quarterly meetings and comprises both statutory and other key partner agencies. The role of chairing the partnership can be met by any of the statutory partners within the partnership and currently this function is 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 this Council's Scrutiny Committee via an annual report. The most recent report to the Scrutiny Committee was in December 2023.

1.4 The statutory CSP partners in local context 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 Integrated Care Board (One Devon)

1.5 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 Priority Areas 2024/25

2.1 The East & Mid Devon CSP Priorities for 2022-25 were based on the evidence given in the Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2021/22. An interim update to this assessment was completed in 2022/23. Of concern is the uninterrupted rising trend in issues including domestic abuse and hate crime. This is indicative of the continued challenges faced by families and communities from 'hidden harms' that have been intensified by the pandemic amongst other factors, increasing the vulnerability of populations and their exposure to harm.

2.2 Current financial pressures and cost of living challenges facing households and wider society are highly likely to influence the occurrence, complexity and intensity of hidden harms including domestic and intimate partner violence and abuse. Violence Against Women and Girls, sexual violence and weapons related violence remain substantial issues of concern. Against this backdrop, community safety remains an important area of focus for national government with new policy and legislation continuing to be announced.

2.3 The CSP priority areas of focus for 2024/25 are based on these Strategic Assessments that have been discussed, shaped and agreed by the CSP board members:

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

- **Youth Risk & Vulnerability**
 - Community Wellbeing (including mental health)
 - Exploitation
 - Radicalisation and violent extremism (Prevent)
 - Anti-social Behaviour
 - Hate Crime and related community tensions
- **Serious Violence Duty (new for 2024)**
- **Martyn's Law - new legislation expected**
- **Review of Community Safety Partnerships & ASB powers**

Trauma Informed Approach

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.

Serious Violence Duty

2.5 The Council became subject to the new statutory Serious Violence Duty in 2023. The Duty requires 'specified authorities' to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in an area, the cause of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence. The Duty does not specify a lead authority to be responsible for coordinating activity, or prescribe a structure in which the prescribed authorities are expected to work. Local policing bodies (PCC) are responsible for allocating grant funding for authorities under the Duty.

2.6 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to ensure preventing and reducing serious violence is a statutory priority for CSPs. We are participating in a Devon working group that has developed a Devon-wide strategic needs assessment and a Devon Serious Violence Strategy which was adopted by all partners in January 2024 (<https://saferdevon.co.uk/about-safer-devon/> - scroll down to the Serious Violence section). It will influence and shape activity by CSPs in the next 12 months and thereafter. This is the subject of a separate report to the Community PDG on this agenda.

- 2.7 The Duty also requires an annual review of the Serious Violence Strategy by the Safer Devon Partnership / CSP. Further information on the Duty, the Devon strategy and governance arrangements is set out in the separate serious violence duty paper.

Martyn's Law

- 2.8 The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill is proposed legislation that would enhance the security of public venues and events from terrorist attacks. The Bill is also known as 'Martyn's Law' is named after Martyn Hett, who was killed in the Manchester Arena bombing in 2017. The law would require venues to assess and mitigate potential risks, and to be prepared to deal with incidents. The law was confirmed in the King's Speech on 7 November 2023 to be on the legislative agenda. This law has potential implications around additional focus for the CSP as well as Local Authority Licensing functions.
- 2.9 Ahead of introduction to Parliament, the government has indicated it intends to launch a public consultation on the standard tier ensuring the Bill strikes the right balance between public safety and avoiding undue burdens on smaller premises, such as village halls and other community venues.
- 2.10 Martyn's Law will improve protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK by mandating, for the first time, those responsible for certain premises and events to consider the terrorist risk and how they would respond to an attack (also referred to as a PROTECT duty).
- 2.11 Martyn's Law will follow a tiered approach, with the level of security measures required depending on the size and type of venue. If the capacity of the venue is less than 100 people, it will fall outside of the scope of Martyn's Law. These premises will be encouraged to adopt the spirit of the legislation and undertake voluntary measures to reduce the risk of terrorism attacks.
- 2.10 Tier 1 (standard tier): Applies to locations with a maximum capacity of over 100 people. These locations will be required to undertake basic security measures, such as staff training, public awareness campaigns, and the development of a preparedness plan.
- 2.11 Tier 2 (enhanced tier): Applies to locations with a maximum capacity of over 800 people. These locations will be required to conduct a risk assessment and develop a detailed security plan in addition to the Tier 1 measures. Those with maximum capacity of over 5,000 people or those hosting specific types of events, such as major sporting events or concerts will be subject to a more rigorous risk assessment and security planning process.

3 National Review of Community Safety Partnerships and ASB powers - Conclusions & Next Steps

3.1 Based on consultation responses, the Home Office will seek to improve and clarify the ways in which CSPs and PCCs work together by taking forward the following proposals. The measures aim to enhance strategic alignment between CSPs and PCCs and deliver more effective outcomes for the public in tackling crime and ASB:

- Create a requirement for the CSP to include in their strategic assessments how it has had due regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan.
- Create a requirement for the CSP to send a copy of its strategic assessment to the PCC or equivalent.
- Create a requirement for the CSP to publish the executive summary of their strategic assessment.
- Clarify how PCCs can best fulfil their duty to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs in the police force area.
- Create a power for PCCs to make recommendations on the activity of CSPs to support the delivery of the objectives set out in the police and crime plan.
- Create a duty on CSPs to take those recommendations into account. A CSP will not be mandated to implement the recommendation but should demonstrate consideration.

3.2 Within Devon there will be important requirements to set out how the upper tier Community Safety Partnership (Safer Devon Partnership) and existing strategic needs assessments are updated and link into the work of district level CSPs. This close strategic and delivery alignment is already in place but will require review in the context of these specific proposals once formalised.

3.3 Furthermore, the Home Office will explore, either through legislation, updated statutory guidance or best practice documents, how to take forward the following proposals, which all received generally favourable feedback from respondents:

- Create a duty for PCCs to promote awareness of ASB Case Reviews
- Create a duty for PCCs to provide a route for victims to query the outcome made by the relevant agency following the ASB Case Review
- Create a duty for relevant bodies to report, at the end of a reporting period, the following to PCCs:
 - the number of complaints about anti-social behaviour made to the relevant bodies in the period

- the types of incident to which those complaints related
- the locations in which those incidents occurred, including whether any parts of the local government area appear to the relevant bodies to have a high prevalence of such incidents
- the number of ASB case reviews carried out by those bodies in the period
- the outcome of those ASB case reviews
- Extend the power to implement dispersal orders to local authorities
- Extend the timeframe for a dispersal order from 48 hours to 72 hours, with a mandatory review at 48 hours
- Extend the power to implement a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to the police
- Lower the age of a Community Protection Notice (CPN) from 16yrs to 10yrs
- Increase the upper limit for a Fixed Penalty Notice for breaches of a PSPO and a CPN from £100 to £500
- Extend the timeframe that relevant agencies can apply for a Closure Order from 48 hours after service of a Closure Notice through the courts to 72 hours
- Extend the Closure Power to registered housing providers
- Extend the power of arrest to all breaches of a Civil Injunction
- Extend the powers available under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) to allow CSAS officers to enforce breaches of Community Protection Notices and PSPOs

4 Action Plan 2024 – 2025

4.1 Within the above context, the work of the CSP during 2024/25 will focus on the following activities:

1. Continued Partnership working with other Devon CSPs to consider joint project working and funding applications.
2. Review the approach and co-ordination with other agencies in tackling youth ASB, and subject to agreement, re-initiating a Mid Devon Youth ASBAT (ASB Action Team) forum enabling case reviews and a joined up multi-agency approach
3. Work with East Devon District Council to share the resources of their new ASB officer, using serious violence funding to purchase one day per week for Mid Devon.
4. Linked to the review above, produce an ASB Toolkit and work with the Police to introduce new Police processes for the roll-out of CPW/CPN legal powers. Provide local training for practitioners and partners to ensure improved use of powers.

5. Roll-out of delegated powers to Mid Devon Housing under the ASB toolkit including Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) and Community Protection Notices (CPNs)
6. Link into the evidence base for Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence Working Group at Peninsula and Devon level as required under new Duty, and develop a support the development of the overarching Strategy delivery plan for 2024/25 onwards
7. Review further support, training and awareness raising for staff and practitioners on Trauma Informed Approach. This will focus specific services and areas where best practice can the highest impact on transitioning from being *Trauma Aware*, to being *Trauma informed* - this follows up on Council endorsement in late 2022 to work towards a corporate approach where no specific budget resources were available in the 23/24 budget to deliver this more holistically
8. Supporting communities, organisations and partners to have an increased awareness and understanding of the community safety priorities and their role in tackling these using a systemic model.
9. Continued efforts to reduce the violence towards women and girls.
10. Take a multi-agency approach to tackling street safety through disruption, enforcement and taking steps to increase pro-social activities to reduce the risk of repeated incidents.
11. Work closely with Mid Devon and East Housing services to review potential commencement of work towards gaining UK benchmark Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation
12. Implement expected new legislative requirements and guidance introduced by the Government during the year.
13. Promote ASB Awareness week 2024

5 Funding 2024/25 onwards

- 5.1 Historically the Devon CSPs had 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. This financial support was withdrawn three years ago with the PCC adopting a direct commissioning approach.
- 5.2 The CSPs have now adopted a different role in supporting local bids from organisations and community groups for funds from the PCC 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.

- 5.3 Sourcing other funding streams is an option but overall resources have been steadily reduced and this has resulted in fewer projects being supported or delivered directly by the CSP. Collaboration with other Devon CSPs will be even more important to share staff resources and expertise, and deliver projects of mutual benefit.
- 5.4 The CSP has been awarded £8k from the Government (Home Office as distributed by the office of the PCC) in 2023/24 for funding projects or initiatives that will support the new Serious Violence Duty. This represents £4k per district area and will be utilised for mobile CCTV for Police partners to target ASB activity across the entire CSP area.
- 5.5 The CSP has also been successful in one of two bids for Home Office serious violence delivery funding for 2024/25. This will enable an additional £8k towards the funding of a full-time East Devon District Council based dedicated ASB officer post. This award will enable that role to extend its work across into Mid Devon and target specific localities or ongoing incidents one-day per week within the district working alongside other agency partners under the above ASBAT approach.
- 5.6 The CSP are legally responsible for the delivery of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. An annual funding contribution has been made by the District Council to Devon County Council / Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) within budget to oversee these reviews on our behalf.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 In accordance with the above, the following recommendations are made:
1. That the Community PDG notes the ongoing priorities of the East and Mid Devon CSP and planned activities for 2024-25 including the new statutory Serious Violence Duty.
 2. That the Community PDG notes the potential changes proposed to strengthen the working relationship between PCCs and CSPs, and proposals to change and extend certain anti-social behaviour powers.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, aside from highlighting ongoing budget provision arising from Domestic Homicide Review responsibilities and successful bids for grant award funding under the Serious Violence Duty Home Office funding managed by the PCC in conjunction with the Safer Devon Partnership.

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 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 under agreement by Devon County Council.

The 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 Health, Regulation and Housing (also current East and Mid Devon CSP chair).

The Serious Violence Duty, which is encompassed in the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 is part of the Government's broad approach to prevent and reduce serious violence. The key strands being a multi-agency public health approach to understanding the drivers and impacts of serious violence, and a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Responsible authorities (also known as "duty holders") who are subject to the Duty include: local authorities and specifically CSPs at upper and lower tier level, the Police, Youth Offending Teams, NHS Integrated Care Boards, Probation Services and Fire Services.

The Serious Violence Duty requires organisations above to work together to share information, analyse the situation locally and come up with solutions, including the publication of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis. The duty also requires the responsible authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their serious violence strategy.

In addition to the Serious Violence Duty Section 17 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act has been amended to make preventing and reducing Serious Violence a specific statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).

The Commencement of the Serious Violence Duty was on 31 January 2023 with a requirement to formalise local partnership arrangements during 2023 and for specified authorities to publish their strategy by 31 January 2024. This has been completed at Devon level with appropriate sign-off by the each District area.

Risk Assessment

There is a risk to the Council if it does not fully engage with the Partnership in respect of failing to meet its numerous 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.

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.

Equalities 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. No significant changes have been made beyond those required legally, consequently no new EIA has been produced.

The new Devon Serious Violence Strategy has been subject to the Devon County Council formal equalities impact assessment process.

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.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 12 Mar 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leiburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 12 Mar 2024

Chief Officer: Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 08 February 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 13/02/2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing or Adrian Gardner, Specialist Lead for Community Safety & Safeguarding
Email: snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk or agardner@middevon.gov.uk Telephone: 01884 255255

Background information

Safer Devon Partnership

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

<https://saferdevon.co.uk>

CSP review and ASB powers

Government response including information of ASB power, notices and orders

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/community-safety-partnerships-review-and-antisocial-behaviour-powers/outcome/community-safety-partnerships-review-and-antisocial-behaviour-powers-government-response>

Police and Crime Commissioner Grants

Devon Community Foundation – Grants to enable and empower smaller VCSE organisations to reduce violence and ASB

<https://devoncf.com/grants/pcc-grants/>