

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE	24 June 2014
REPORT TITLE	Annual review of the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership
Report of	Senior Community Safety Officer
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the opportunity to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) as defined by Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** notes the report and the achievements of the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership in 2013/14 and makes any recommendations with respect to the discharge of the functions of the partnership.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships were set up as statutory bodies under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 1.2 The South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership (CSP) consists of a number of 'responsible authorities' who have a legal responsibility to work in partnership to tackle crime and disorder. The authorities are the:
 - Police;
 - Local Authorities;
 - Fire and Rescue Authority;
 - Health Service; and
 - Probation Service.

- 1.3 The South Devon and Dartmoor CSP is a merger of the South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon CSP's. The merger allows for the effective use of limited resources across the three authorities. It has been operating since 2007.
- 1.4 The responsible authorities work together to develop and implement strategies to protect their local communities from crime and disorder and to help people feel safe. They work out local approaches to deal with issues including antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and re-offending. They also work with others who have a key role, including community groups and registered housing providers.
- 1.5 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires that every local authority shall ensure that it has a committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.
- 1.6 This report looks at the work of the CSP over the last 12 months with particular reference to activities within the West Devon area.
- 1.7 Although there are no direct financial implications associated with this report, the CSP continues to operate in a restrictive financial environment.

2. BACKGROUND

Police and Crime Commissioner

- 2.1 In November 2012 Tony Hogg was elected as the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. He published his Police and Crime Plan for 2013 - 2017 which has the vision of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly being the safest area of the country, served by the best police force. His mission is to cut crime and the fear of crime by bringing policing closer to the public.

On 3rd April he published a revised plan following a period of consultation which set new priorities

- 2.2 His objectives are laid out under the following headings:

- Cutting crime, keeping Devon and Cornwall safe;
- Reducing the harm caused by alcohol related crime;
- Efficiency and long-term financial security;
- An improved criminal justice system;
- High quality, accessible help for victims of crime;
- Greater public involvement in policing.

- 2.3 Across the Peninsular, the Community Safety Partnerships have worked together to produce a Strategic Assessment for 2013/14. The Strategic Assessment is a 'snapshot' of crime and community safety produced using factual data. It identifies 4 priorities which most affect communities in the peninsular

- Domestic, family and sexual abuse;
- Alcohol, violence and the night time economy;
- Anti-social behaviour;
- Reoffending.

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- 2.4 It also identifies two additional risks of Hate crime and hidden harm, and Preventing Violent Extremism. In his plan the PCC makes reference to the Community Safety Partnerships' Peninsular Strategic Assessment, stating that he supports the priorities identified and that they are built into his Crime and Policing Plan.
- 2.5 The South Devon and Dartmoor (SD&D) CSP's have chosen to mirror the priorities as laid out in the Strategic Assessment:
 - Domestic, family and sexual abuse;
 - Alcohol, violence and the night time economy;
 - Anti-social behaviour;
 - Reoffending.
- 2.6 It also works across Devon to tackle issues such as drug misuse, youth crime, prejudice related crime, preventing violent extremism and domestic violence and abuse.
- 2.7 2013/14 income to the CSP included a £9,000 grant of Safer Communities funding from the PCC via the Safer Devon Partnership, small contributions from agencies and income to support specific projects. The mobile CCTV cameras generated incomes over the year but did not generate in income above their operating costs. The Honest Truth project board have generated incomes to be reinvested into the project by selling resources to other areas across the Country.

3. PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

- 3.1 The following projects are examples of those delivered across the SD&D Partnership.
- 3.2 Local delivery plan – A Local Delivery Plan is produced by the CSP each year. This year there are more than 60 projects detailed. The delivery of the plan is monitored at each CSP meeting and supports the CSP priorities. Excellent Anti-Social Behaviour achievements – a 95% success rate with referrals from a number of agencies.
- 3.3 Police tasking – CSP staff continue to attend fortnightly tasking processes to enable effective sharing of information and targeting of resources. They are also involved in more local level sector meetings with Police to monitor crime performance and work in partnership to resolve any emerging issues.
- 3.4 The Honest Truth – Over 1,300 Driving Instructors are now signed up to work in Partnership to get key messages regarding anti-social driving and ways to avoid becoming a fatality on our roads to new drivers. The messages are given directly to new drivers and their parents across Devon and Cornwall.
- 3.5 The project is now operating in Hertfordshire, Swindon, Wiltshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Cumbria and Somerset and are working with the AA and BSM nationally. Presentations are booked for Bedfordshire, Luton, Dorset and Essex who have all expressed an interest in rolling out the scheme. The project Board is currently progressing with an application to establish a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to deliver the Project.

- 3.6 Prevent – We work with partners, including the Police, to implement a strategy known as Prevent. Prevent is about trying to intervene with individuals who appear to be adopting radical views to avoid them becoming terrorists. Each Council in Devon has appointed a Prevent special point of contact (SPOC). Peter Dale is the SPOC for South Hams and West Devon and Becca Hewitt is the SPOC for Teignbridge.
- 3.7 Project H2O – H2O project – The Community Safety Officer (CSO) is running this project which has been taken up across Devon. The project is to place water coolers in licensed premises based on good practice from other places in the UK to reduce violent behaviour. She is working closely with Dr Dan Gilling from Plymouth University on an evaluation of the project. There has been some delay over obtaining data analysis for evaluation due to change of personnel but this has now resolved and we hope to finalise the project shortly.
- 3.8 Targeted Families Support – one of the four key elements of the Government’s programme for Troubled families is reducing ASB and crime. In Devon the scheme is known as Targeted families and is now fully operational across the CSP area. CSP staff are involved at both operational and strategic levels and we are starting to see some excellent results from the initiative.
- 3.9 Street pastors – The CSP has supported the development of street pastor schemes across the area.
- 3.10 Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) – The CSO and Senior CSO (Rebecca Hewitt) have represented CSP’s in Devon on the Devon-wide group which has recently been set up to look at the increase in NPS’s (previously known as Legal Highs.) This group sits monthly and has the strategic overview to discuss the growing concerns and increase in the availability of NPS. The themes of this meeting include mapping the areas of greatest concern, Devon’s media response to queries, Police intelligence, how to monitor, contain and raise awareness of these sometimes lethal and often highly addictive substances in our communities.
- 3.11 Prisons- work continues with both HMP Channings Wood and HMP Dartmoor to address issues which impact on community safety.
- 3.12 Licensing Meetings – Monthly meetings take place in Teignbridge to bring together both Council and Police Licensing staff, Police Officers and representatives from Environmental Health, ASB and the CSP. The meetings ensure good information sharing and agreed multi-agency plans to address any concerning issues in relation to licensed premises.
- 3.13 Forum Event – The annual Forum event took place on the 30th April 2014. There were over 50 delegates and presentations included Integrated Offender Management, Domestic Violence and Abuse, Targeted families, Phoenix project, Last Orders Project, Police and a representative from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. WEST DEVON PROJECT WORK

- 4.1 Louisa Daley is the West Devon Community Safety Officer (CSO) who works with partner agencies mainly based in Tavistock and Okehampton to tackle community safety issues. A community safety meeting is held every quarter in West Devon and agencies that attend include Police (Local Policing Partnership Teams), West Devon Borough Council representatives, Registered Social Landlords, Tavistock and Okehampton Colleges, Youth Service, Fire and Rescue Service and the Youth Offending Team.
- 4.2 Community Days have been held in Tavistock and Okehampton where the Community Safety Partnership has worked in conjunction with West Devon's Connect Initiative and engaged with hundreds of members of the public, providing targeted crime prevention advice – such as shed and garage security and ways to prevent theft from your vehicle.
- 4.3 The CSO continues to chair and co-ordinate the Okehampton and Tavistock Matters meetings and the number of borough and town Councillors attending continues to increase. This is an excellent way of representing views of the local community through their elected member to Community Safety and Police colleagues and also helps with any issues that may require resolving. Councillors continue to report that they find the meetings very useful – hence the increase in interest and attendees.
- 4.4 The CSO is engaged with the Police tactical tasking meetings at Local Policing Area Head Quarters in Barnstaple on a fortnightly basis. Involvement is through conference calls in addition to attending the meetings to reduce costs.
- 4.5 A “Home Fire Safety Professionals Event” was held in conjunction with the CSP, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS) and the Older Peoples Service in West Devon in 2012 and 2013. 32 health and social care professionals, with caseloads of 50+ vulnerable people in West Devon attended the sessions, which were held at the Fire Station in Tavistock. Social Services and NHS workers reported to find the session very helpful and informative and have asked for these sessions to become an annual fixture. Dates have already been fixed for 2014 and the Fire Service in North Devon are running the events in their area due to positive feedback and an increase in home fire safety checks for DSFRS.
- 4.6 The CSO has made strong links with The Probation Service who are keen to highlight their work and continue to increase their delivery in the rural community. The CSO has coordinated the delivery of one community payback scheme in West Devon and two further projects are underway in the area. Feedback from local Councillors was extremely positive and there was also positive comment from Cllr John Hart of DCC when the information regarding budget spend was fed back at Council. A press release was published and more are planned to go out in the public domain to show how local offenders are “paying back” to the community that they offended in.
- 4.7 Two Drink Drive events were run in West Devon in conjunction with Police and DSFRS. The events ran on concurrent Saturdays in late November and early December in Okehampton and Tavistock Town Centre. The events ran

between 1000 hours and 1300 hours in order to impact on the most people at the Christmas markets. There was a strong visual impact with a crashed car and demonstrations of cutting equipment used which simulated the end result of a drunken journey. There was coverage in both local papers and further information in the CSP newsletter. Police used the Drunk Goggles and 'Alcoblows' as interactive tools to use with members of the public.

- 4.8 The CSO has recently set up social media accounts and maintains the Community Safety Twitter account for South Hams and West Devon, the account is @CommSafetySHWD

5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WITHIN WEST DEVON

- 5.1 The information covers the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014

Referrals made to ASB Officer from WDDC, Police, Fire, Registered Social Landlords etc.	49
First stage letters & Alcohol letters	34
Second stage letters	2
Acceptable Behaviour Contracts	2
Anti-Social Behaviour Orders	0
Closure order	0
ASB Repossessions	3

- 5.2 Monthly ASB meetings take place to discuss information sharing and case management of high level or persistent ASB perpetrators. These are multi-agency meetings which are chaired by the ASB Officer, John Ward. The agencies attending the meetings include the Youth Offending Team, West Devon Borough Council, Registered Housing Providers, Police, Children and Young Peoples Services, Education Welfare Officers. Also discussed at this meeting are vulnerable individuals. The purpose of discussing these individuals is to ensure they are receiving the full help and support they require and ensuring all relevant agencies are aware and engaged.
- 5.3 Over the past year 3 ASB related housing repossessions were obtained. All were as a direct result of intensive multi-agency work. There are currently 2 individuals who are subject of a CrASBO. Since the issue of the orders, neither has come to the attention of the Police for anti-social behaviour. Both still live in the area. Their orders expire in July 2014
- 5.4 The following are example case studies to demonstrate the multi-agency work the ASB Officer is engaged with on a daily basis
- In December 2012 a Sec 30 Dispersal Order was signed in relation to Anti-Social Driving caused by 'boy racers' in Bedford Car Park, Tavistock. The order expired in May 2013. Following a review of the Order while a number of drivers were identified and received 1st stage ASB letters, the order did not completely solve the problem.

Following further discussions between West Devon Borough Council and Tavistock Police the Council made substantial changes to the layout of the car park. As a result the 'boy racers' are unable to use the car park as a race track or demonstration arena.

- In April 2013 West Devon Homes successfully won possession of a property in Tavistock. This was after the property was subject of a closure order. The tenant has since moved into Tavistock Town Centre. She has not caused the problems she had at her previous address.
- In July 2013 Plymouth County Court issued Westward Housing with a demotion of tenancy against a tenant in Lamerton. This followed a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal behaviour directed towards their neighbours. Despite having the demotion of tenancy the same behaviour continued. Following a multi-agency meeting Westward Housing took the decision to seek full possession which they were granted.
- In the period between January & March 2014 there was a spike in anti-social behaviour and criminal behaviour in the Simmons Park area in Okehampton. As a result the Police asked for a Sec. 30 Dispersal Order for the park. John Ward the anti-social behaviour officer carried out a consultation gathering the views of district and town councillors, YOT and youth services. The order was signed in April 2014.
- Following a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour in Godolphin House, Tavistock a tenants meeting was called by John Ward the ASB officer and Louisa Daley the Community Safety Officer. The meeting was chaired by John ward and was attended by tenant's members of WDBC and West Devon Homes (WDH) the Registered Provider responsible. As a result of the meeting incidents of ASB greatly reduced and WDH started the process of organising a tenants Association to deal with such problems in the future.

6 Crime data – Recorded Crimes – 01/04/2013 to 31/03/2014

Crime Group	Recorded crimes this year	Recorded crimes last year	% Change Crime Year on Year
Violence with Injury	217	220	-1.4%
Violence without Injury	201	127	58.3%
Rape	17	14	21.4%
Other Sexual Offences	44	26	69.2%
Robbery	4	3	33.3%
Burglary Dwelling	49	49	0.0%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	95	148	-35.8%
Vehicle Offences	143	121	18.2%
Shoplifting	157	124	26.6%
Other Theft	319	301	6.0%
Criminal Damage	349	343	1.7%
Public Order Offences	112	94	19.1%
Possession of Weapons	7	9	-22.2%
Trafficking of Drugs	16	21	-23.8%
Possession of Drugs	66	103	-35.9%
Other Offences	27	45	-40.0%
Total	1823	1748	4.3%

7. THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

- 7.1 There are a number of significant changes due to take place in the next twelve months for the CSP and also contributing partners' agencies. Significant changes are currently taking place to the delivery of probation services as a result of the Government's *Transforming Rehabilitation* agenda. Partnership remains key to delivering a reduction in re-offending and protecting the public from future harm. As part of these changes the Devon & Cornwall Probation Trust will cease to exist from 31 May. From this point offenders will either be supervised by the National Probation Service (NPS) if they pose a high risk of harm or there are significant public protection issues, or by the new Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) recently established, if they pose a low or medium risk.
- 7.2 In the autumn the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is due to come into force. The existing Anti-Social Behaviour Orders will be replaced by civil injunctions and a separate Behaviour Order on conviction. The Act also contains New Absolute grounds for possession, Dispersal Powers, Public Spaces Protection Orders, Closure Power, Community Protection Notice and the Community Trigger. Training will be required to ensure these powers are used effectively to the benefit of our communities.
- 7.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner has granted £20,000 to the CSP via the Safer Devon Partnership. This funding is to be spent on Anti Social Behaviour and also locality projects. The Local Delivery Plan for the coming twelve months has been drafted and includes 73 separate projects and initiatives. This builds on good practice from our CSP and other areas.

8. ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO CONSIDER

- 8.1 Home Office Guidance suggests that the role of the scrutiny function in relation to the work of the CSP should relate to:
- Policy development;
 - Contribution to the development of strategies;
 - Holding to account at formal hearings;
 - Performance management, looking at performance by exception;
 - Overview and Scrutiny function to scrutinise the work of the CSP and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the partnership itself.
 - The role of the committee should be applied as a 'critical friend' of the CSP, providing constructive challenge at a strategic level, rather than fault finding at an operational level.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report. Any comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the next Community Safety Partnership meeting. The Council's statutory powers are set out in the body of this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Although there are no direct financial implications associated with this report, the CSP does operate in an restrictive financial environment. All funding streams have now been transferred to the Police and Crime Commissioner. He has continued to provide funding to the CSP but has stated that continued

funding will depend on achieving results against priorities.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 The CSP is a statutory partnership with a wide remit. With so many individual agencies being responsible, in one form or another, for tackling crime and disorder within the District, the CSP provides a coordinated approach between partner organisations to ensure effective targeting of resources.

11.2 Crime figures have increased by 4.3% against 2012/13 figures.

11.3 The CSP continues to face a challenging future with partners facing pressure on resources

12. RISK MANAGEMENT

12.1 The risk management implications are:

Corporate priorities engaged:	Community Life; Environment; Customer First
Statutory powers:	Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Considerations of equality and human rights:	Restrictions placed upon individuals who are causing anti-social behaviour need to be balanced and proportionate
Biodiversity considerations:	Not applicable
Sustainability considerations:	Not applicable
Crime and disorder implications:	The work of the Community Safety Partnership directly impinges on crime and disorder issues within the District
Background papers:	None
Appendices attached:	None

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Partnership	Failure to support the work of the PCC	2	1	2	↔	The CSP allows key agencies to work together to tackle crime and disorder. An annual Delivery Plan is produced and monitored to ensure delivery of key projects	CSP Members
2	Finance	The CSP is operating in a restrictive financial environment.	2	2	4	↔	The merger arrangements have generated savings, while maintaining levels of service. Future funding will be results-driven. The PCC has provided additional funding to the CSP this year to tackle his priority areas	CSP Members
3	Strategic	Divergence of PCC and CSP priorities	2	2	4	↓	The PCC relies heavily on the Peninsular Strategic Assessment to shape his priorities. The CSP has an active input into the production of that strategic assessment	CSP Members

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔