

## March 2018 – Group Notes and Actions

- Following approval of the terms of reference for the group a meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018, it was agreed at the meeting that the group should attend the Parents on Drugs meeting to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March, to gather evidence of the extent of the concerns of the public in relation to drugs.  
The meeting was an opportunity to understand the current problems facing the community and some initiatives that are being considered to help tackle the problems in Totnes. We also have received evidence from the Caring Town Totnes regarding the concerns of the parents and have started to analyse these concerns for actions that the Council can take.
- T+F group have identified the need to separate the “drugs issue” into adult drug use and teen drug use and education as the two are very different and come with very different challenges and the need for different approaches to be undertaken.
- With regards to needles and toilets, there was initially a marked improvement following the reopening, but there has been some recent deterioration of the situation. Environmental Services have received from the Police ALO (Architectural Liaison Officer) a list of suggestions for improvements that could be made to the toilets to minimise the use of drugs in these facilities. Costings for this work are currently being undertaken, however elsewhere in the Country the introduction of pay on entry has improved the situation.
- We have also held a multi-agency meeting of the Police, Public Health and RISE Addaction to discuss needle finds, it is apparent that improvements could be made to the needle exchange services in Totnes and this is something that we are putting pressure on the relevant parties to ensure is carried out.
- The T&F group met with Tim Perrin (Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Totnes) and Chris Tapley (South Devon Chief Inspector) to discuss the concerns raised so far and to find out what they felt we as a Council could do to support their efforts in tackling the situation.  
There are some initiatives being supported by the Police involving introducing distraction activities for the young persons in Totnes, and we are looking to see if this is something the Fusion may be able to support.
- We continue to support and work closely with the Police through the use of anti-social behaviour powers to address the messy drug takers, and an initial warning letter would be sent to a group of persons who we believe may be responsible for leaving needles and other drug paraphernalia at various locations in the Town.
- The Licensing team will be working closely with the Police to identify potential off-licences in the Town to assess whether there is a weakness in the supply of alcohol to underage persons and whether there is anything that can be done to prevent this. Although initial view is that alcohol is not as a significant problem in our younger person population.