

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Annual review of the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Senior Community Safety Officer</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED</b>	<b>All</b>

**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 2011 and makes any recommendations with respect to the discharge of the functions of the partnership.

**Officer contact:**

*Becca Gordon – Senior Community Safety Officer South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership. [Rebecca.Gordon@Teignbridge.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Gordon@Teignbridge.gcsx.gov.uk) Tel: (01626) 215873*

*Ian Bollans - Head of Environmental Health and Housing.*

*[ian.bollans@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:ian.bollans@swdevon.gov.uk)*

*Tel: (01822) 813711*

**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;
- Police Authority;
- Local Authorities;

- Fire and Rescue Authority;
- Health Service; and
- Probation Service.

- 1.3 The South Devon and Dartmoor CSP is a merger of the West Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge CSP's. The merger allows for the effective use of limited resources across the three authorities. It has been operating for several years.
- 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 social landlords.
- 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.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The crime figures for West Devon have been reproduced below and show recorded and detected crime from 01/04/2011 to 30/11/2011

	Recorded crimes this year	% Change crime year on year	% Total detections
Tavistock Rural West	69	3.0%	31.9%
Tavistock Rural East	136	4.6%	16.9%
Tavistock Town	402	29.3%	20.6%
Okehampton Town	221	-6.4%	40.7%
Okehampton Rural West	133	26.7%	34.6%
Okehampton Rural East	127	27.0%	14.2%
Bere Peninsular	105	8.2%	16.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>12.3%</b>	<b>25.1%</b>

The table below shows the information for crime types

	Recorded crimes this year	Recorded crimes last year	%Change year on year
Other violent crime	251	206	17.9%
Sexual offences	35	27	22.9%
Robbery	5	4	20.0%
House burglary	38	26	31.6%
Other burglary	84	90	-6.7%
Theft from vehicle	60	65	-7.7%
Theft of vehicle	15	19	-21.0%
Other vehicle crime	5	5	0.0%
Theft of cycle	15	6	150.0%
Theft from shops	90	54	40.0%

Other theft	169	159	5.9%
Forgery and fraud offences	38	21	44.7%
Handling stolen goods	0	3	-100.0%
Criminal damage	287	268	6.6%
Drug offences	79	70	11.4%
Other crime	22	23	-4.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1193</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>12.3%</b>

2.2 It can be seen that following several years of decreasing crime, there has been increases in a number of areas. It should be noted that the crime levels overall still remain low, and therefore any increases in total numbers can have a significant effect on the percentages illustrated. In particular the activities of a few individuals can also have a major adverse effect. Nevertheless it is disappointing to see an overall increase in crime figures.

### 3. PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

3.1 The following projects are examples of those delivered across South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon.

- **Local delivery plan** – A Local Delivery Plan is produced by the CSP each year. This year there are 27 projects detailed. The delivery of the plan is monitored at each CSP meeting and supports the CSP priorities.
- **Community Safety Newsletter** – 3 editions have been published of the Newsletter which is distributed to councillors, town and parish councils, partner agencies, libraries, doctors surgeries, local policing teams and the council for voluntary services.
- **Excellent Anti Social Behaviour achievements** – a 95% success rate with referrals from a number of agencies.
- **The Honest Truth** – Over 300 Driving Instructors signed up to work in Partnership to get key messages regarding anti social driving and ways to avoid becoming one of the young people who dies on the roads of the UK every 18 hours. The messages are given directly to new drivers and their parents across Devon and Cornwall. The project has now generated interest from other counties.
- **Police tasking** – closer working of Community Safety Officers and Police tasking processes to enable effective sharing of information and targeting of resources.
- **Task groups** – three multi-agency groups established to address the most important emerging issues of domestic violence, alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour.
- **Connect events** – The CSP has attended 6 community events
- **Licensing newsletters** – 1,400 newsletters specifically designed for Licensees to update them on community safety issues were sent out with Council Licensing Newsletters in December 2011.
- **Mobile CCTV** – Two mobile cameras being deployed to priority areas to tackle crime and anti social behaviour. There have been 10 deployments in the year.

### 4. WEST DEVON PROJECT WORK

4.1 The West Devon Community Safety Officer (WDCSO) works with partner agencies mainly based in Tavistock and Okehampton to tackle the most

serious 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 Youth Offending Team.

- 4.2 The South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership deployed its mobile CCTV camera to Riverside Car Park in May/June 2011 to reduce anti social driving with loud exhausts and radio noise. Since the end of June 2011 there have been no further valid logs in this area. In conjunction with the CCTV camera the WDCSO arranged for Fire and Rescue staff to visit the area on a Friday night in order to engage with the young drivers. The Fire Service deployed their educational vehicle and engaged with over 30 young drivers. They considered the evening a success.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 A Safety Advisory Group has been run in West Devon which looks at events being held in the Borough and any possible crime and disorder implications. The WDCSO works closely with the Health and Safety Officer and the meetings are well attended by Police, Devon County Council Highways, Licensing, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service and event organisers.
- 4.5 Tavistock Matters continues to be Chaired by the WDCSO and she has also been asked by Okehampton Town Council to present to full Council on 3rd January 2012 with a view to create Okehampton Matters.
- 4.6 Police tasking meetings are attended at Barnstaple twice a month and officers also continue to meet and have valuable input into quarterly County wide meetings such as the Devon Alcohol Partnership. Louisa represents West Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge at these meetings.

## **5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WITHIN WEST DEVON**

- 5.1 There have been a total of 78 referrals made for individuals to the ASB Officer during the last twelve months. There has been a success rate of approx 95%, with only 5% of those who received either a first stage ASB letter or Alcohol letter going on to receive a second stage letter or second alcohol letter.
- 5.2 Monthly ASB meetings take place to discuss information sharing and case management on high level or persistent ASB perpetrators. These are multi-agency meetings and are chaired by the ASB Officer. The agencies attending the meetings include the Youth Offending Team, West Devon Borough Council, Registered Social Landlords, Police, Children and Young Peoples Services, Education Welfare Officers and a member of staff from both Okehampton and Tavistock Colleges. During the year 2011, 20 individuals were discussed; this is compared with 14 individuals in 2010. This increase is mainly due to an increase in referrals from partners in particular West Devon Homes the main Registered Social Landlord in the area.
- 5.3 A Section 30 Order has been obtained for Okehampton Town, facilitated by the ASB Officer. The Town Council and Police were keen to address issues around drinking in the town. This order gives the Police the power to disperse

groups of 2 or more people who the police believe have, or have the potential to intimidate, harass, alarm or distress a member of the public. The order runs from 15th December 2011 to 1st March 2012.

5.4 The following are example case studies to demonstrate the multi-agency work the ASB Officer is engaged with on a daily basis.

- Together with Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT) the ASB officer worked with a family in Tavistock whose children were climbing onto the roof of the maternity unit and theatre block of Tavistock Hospital. Warnings made by Devon PCT went unheeded. The family were sent a first stage ASB letter which was followed up by a joint visit. Despite initial denial by the children's parents, the children did modify their behaviour following these interventions. The problem has now stopped.
- Mr W and his son were causing a female neighbour great distress by causing noise nuisance, criminal damage to plants and throwing objects at her house. The relationship between the victim and her landlord, Sanctuary Housing, had broken down. The offending neighbours were sent a first stage letter which quickly escalated to a second stage letter and discussion at the ASB multi-agency meeting as the behaviour did not cease. Mr. W agreed to sign an Acceptable Behaviour Contract explaining what was and was not acceptable behaviour in relation to the evidence of his ASB. Children and Young Peoples Services arranged for a problem solving meeting to be held with partner agencies about the behaviour of the son and Okehampton Community College was able to put in additional support. As a result of this joint approach the relationship between victim and landlord improved. Mr W stopped his anti social behaviour and in four months from the start of the case it was closed.
- A young female from a West Devon village first came to notice in September 2010 when she started bullying a young male. This was found to be one of a number of incidents and in November 2010 she was arrested for an assault. She was also becoming more involved in wider ASB within the village. Between March and May 2011 she was written and spoken to about her behaviour. The ASB officer met with her and her mother and persuaded her to take part in the West Devon Youth Inclusion and Support Programme which is run by North Devon Youth Offending Team. Since then there has been a remarkable turnaround in her behaviour, she is no longer involved in ASB. This young lady is an excellent example of early intervention changing behaviour and changing lives.

## **6. ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO CONSIDER**

6.1 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.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

## 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Although there are no direct financial implications associated with this report, the CSP does operate in a increasingly restrictive financial environment.

## 9. RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 The risk management implications are:

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
The scrutiny of the work of the CSP will provide the role of a 'critical friend'.	The CSP allows key agencies to work together to tackle crime and disorder.
<b>Issues/Obstacles/Threats</b>	<b>Control measures/mitigation</b>
The CSP is operating in a restrictive financial environment. Crime figures have increased in the last 9 months.	The merger arrangements have generated savings, while maintaining levels of service. Further work will be needed to ensure that the work of the CSP is recognised and rewarded by the new Police and Crime Commissioner in 2013. The CSP will be addressing a number of performance issues early in 2012.

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

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 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 Borough, the CSP relies on a coordinated approach between partner organisations to ensure effective targeting of resources.
- 10.2 Crime figures have steadily reduced over a number of years, but have shown an increase over the past several months.
- 10.3 The CSP faces a challenging future with partners facing pressure on resources. Further challenges will be posed with the arrival of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2013 who will have widespread powers to direct crime and disorder prevention activities and control of budgets.