

Report to: **West Devon Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **29 September 2015**

Title: **Community Safety Partnership**

Portfolio Area: **Customer First**

Wards Affected: **All**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: N/A

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y / N**

Date next steps can be taken:
(e.g. referral on of recommendation or implementation of substantive decision)

Author: **Rebecca Hewitt** Role: **Senior Community Safety Officer, South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership**

Contact: **01626 215873**
Rebecca.hewitt@teignbridge.gov.uk

Recommendations:

- 1. That Members note the report**
- 2. That Members identify any areas for further scrutiny**
- 3. That Members identify any issues to be raised at the next Community Safety Partnership meeting**

1. Executive summary

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.

Community Safety Partnerships were set up as statutory bodies under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

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 (West Devon , Teignbridge, South Hams and Devon)
- Fire and Rescue Authority;
- Health Service; and
- Probation Service.

West Devon is represented on the CSP by Ian Luscombe (Community of Practice Lead – Environmental Health) and Councillor Musgrave.

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.

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.

2. Background

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.

This report looks at the work of the CSP over the last 12 months with particular reference to activities within West Devon.

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.

Across the Peninsula, the Community Safety Partnerships work together to produce a Strategic Assessment. 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 peninsula

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

The strategic assessment also identifies two additional risks of Hate Crime and Hidden Harm, and Preventing Violent Extremism. In his plan the Police and Crime Commissioner makes reference to the Community Safety Partnership's Peninsula Strategic Assessment stating that he supports the priorities identified and that they are built into his Crime and Policing Plan.

The South Devon and Dartmoor CSP has 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.

However, it is important to note that the CSP also responds to emerging issues.

The CSP works collaboratively across Devon to tackle issues such as drug misuse, youth crime, prejudice related crime, preventing violent extremism and domestic violence and abuse.

3. Outcomes/outputs

Partnerships achievements in the last 12 months

The Partnerships achievements in the last 12 months are outlined in the attached **appendix 1**. The CSP works with partners to help deliver statutory duties of the Local authorities for example "Prevent" and also provide multi agency support for vulnerable groups for example the Targeted Family Support programme. This type of partnership working allows improved outcomes using reduced funding.

West Devon Project Work

Louisa Daley is the Community Safety Officer for West Devon, since T18 she has taken over responsibility also for South Hams. She works with partner agencies covering the main towns of Tavistock and Okehampton and their surrounding areas in tackling the most serious community safety issues and is engaged in the following initiatives. Since 1st June 2015 Louisa Daley is the Community Safety Specialist for South Hams and West Devon Councils. A summary of this work may be found in **appendix 2**.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WITHIN WEST DEVON

Monthly ASB meetings take place to discuss information sharing and case management on high level or persistent ASB perpetrators. These multi-agency meetings 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 and Children and Young Peoples Services.

The information below covers the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Referrals made to ASB Officer from WDBC, Police, Fire, Registered Social Landlords etc.	38
First stage letters & Alcohol letters	30
Second stage letters	2
Acceptable Behaviour Contracts	7
Anti-Social Behaviour Orders	0
Closure order	1
ASB Repossessions	0

Appendix 3 provides examples of case studies to demonstrate the multi-agency work the ASB Officer is engaged with on a daily basis.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

The CSP has adopted an intelligence led approach and is directed by the findings of the Peninsula Strategic Assessment. Each year a workshop is held including representatives from statutory partners to review the Strategic Assessment and agree the projects for the following year. Spend of budgets relates to those priorities agreed annually. Due to the nature of the work it is essential that responses are also made to emerging issues and threats such as child sexual exploitation or metal theft.

5. Proposed Way Forward

The main considerations for members include –

- The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections are due to take place in May 2016, the current PCC has provided funding directly to the CSPs in Devon and Cornwall and it is not known what the future funding structure will be.
- The Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police has a new mission statement to detect and prevent crime; protect the vulnerable and reduce crime. This will create a clear focus on safeguarding. This approach is mirrored in the priorities of the CSP.
- The CSP will continue to engage all statutory partners in the development of the Local Delivery Plan which sets out the work of the CSP directed by the Peninsula Strategic Assessment.
- The future allocation of West Devon resource to the partnership.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address						
Legal/Governance		<p>The CSP works under several sections of legislation including –</p> <p>Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Police Reform Act 2002 Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 Police and Justice Act 2006 Policing and Crime Act 2009 Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). Anti Social Behaviour , Crime & Policing Act 2014</p>						
Financial		<p>2014/15 income to the CSP included a £20,000 grant of Safer Communities funding from the PCC via the Safer Devon Partnership and contributions from agencies and income to support specific projects and cover the redundancy costs of the CSP Administrator.</p> <p>West Devon Borough Council costs for 2014/15:</p> <table data-bbox="705 1765 1404 1982"> <tr> <td>Officer time</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support services (includes HE, Finance etc</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£13,437</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total contribution</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£38,437</td> </tr> </table>	Officer time	£25,000	Support services (includes HE, Finance etc	£13,437	Total contribution	£38,437
Officer time	£25,000							
Support services (includes HE, Finance etc	£13,437							
Total contribution	£38,437							

Risk		The report is for information and as such there is no risk associated with decisions to set out.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		The CSP addresses issues including hate crime and specific crimes relating to vulnerable members of the community such as distraction burglary.
Safeguarding		CSP staff engage in a number of safeguarding forums and promote effective safeguarding practice in their work. This links to internal Council safeguarding.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		The report details the many implications on Community Safety of West Devon engagement in the CSP.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		The CSP works closely with public health and other partners on health and wellbeing issues including alcohol and licensing.
Other implications		

Process checklist	Completed
Portfolio Holder briefed	Yes/No
SLT Rep briefed	Yes/No
Relevant Exec Director sign off (draft)	Yes/No
Data protection issues considered	Yes/No
If exempt information, public (part 1) report also drafted. (Cabinet/Scrutiny)	Yes/No