

Priority three: substance misuse

Utilising a partnership approach to identify, support and tackle alcohol and drug related issues within our communities. We work with specialist drug and alcohol services (both commissioned and voluntary) which in turn work with both service users and their families in a range of ways to reduce harm and support recovery.

Priority four: emerging threats

To allow the CSPs to respond quickly and effectively to new concerns, we review emerging issues in our communities and where necessary, will set up a specialist group from within our partners to work on a specific problem. Any of our partners can bring matters to the board for consideration and action.

Our CSP is represented on the Safer Devon Partnership through our Chair. Some statutory functions of the CSP are delivered at regional level, such as the production of a crime and disorder strategic assessment, regional reoffending strategy development, and the management of Domestic Homicide Reviews. At a local level, the role of the board consists of setting and monitoring local priorities, overseeing the allocation of CSP funding by both authorities and maintaining an overview of issues affecting community safety in both districts.

2. REPORT

The Torridge Community Safety Partnership has had an active year, facing many challenges over a range of issues. The following gives an outline of the work specific to or affecting Torridge:

- A bite sized training programme has been delivered covering a range of topics of interest and use to both front line staff and to members. Topics covered to date include modern slavery, County Lines, radicalisation, dementia, suicide awareness and loan sharks, and the programme for 2019 is currently being finalised. Invites for this training are publicised in the members briefing and attendance by members is very much welcomed.
- Junior Life Skills – this is an annual 2 week programme of awareness raising for year 6 pupils across both authority areas. Last year over 1,000 children from 48 schools took part in activities that raised awareness about day-to-day dangers and real-life emergencies.
- A suicide intervention tool kit had been developed and is available to front line staff. Further awareness raising and training for officers and managers is currently being rolled out in Torridge.
- County Lines has been a significant issue in both areas and through the CSP, awareness raising and improved intelligence had been generated which has led to increased enforcement action and a reduction in activities in Torridge.
- TDC involvement at the North Devon Crime and Disorder Sub Committee – the last meeting was attended by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez. Minutes of that meeting can be found here <https://democracy.northdevon.gov.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?CommitteeId=138&MeetingId=201&DF=18%2f09%2f2018&Ver=2> Topics covered include the



proposed merger with Dorset Police, PCSO reductions, road safety and places of safety.

- An investigation report for a local Domestic Homicide Review has been submitted to the Home Office and recommendations from the report have been taken forward by all partners and incorporated into internal processes.
- Programmes funded by the CSP – Street marshals, dementia trackers, Op Mangold support (Bideford ASB issues), mediation services and support resources for taxi drivers in relation to reporting modern slavery and CSE.
- TDC involvement in the Devon and Torbay Suicide Alliance
- TDC involvement in the Devon Anti Slavery Partnership and newly created Migrant Workers Action Group (MigWAG). Involvement in partnership action against local businesses implicated in modern slavery practices.
- Promotion of Fire and Rescue's Home Fire Safety visit Programme to vulnerable households in Torridge.
- Road safety has been recognised as an 'emerging threat' and discussions are currently underway with Devon Highways Road Casualty Reduction Team to determine how the CSP can support and promote their priority plan locally. In addition, the CSP and OPCC are supporting the implementation of 'Operation Snap' in Northern Devon – this will allow public dash cam footage to be used in road safety enforcement action.

Regular updates have been given to the board on 'Project Genesis' – this is the police review of community policing and in particular the reduction in PCSO's across Devon. This has so far impacted on Torridge less than in other areas however we have not escaped these changes. Through the CSP and involvement in other committees and panels, we have repeatedly raised our concerns and have lobbied on PCSO levels and the impacts of their reduction particularly on our rural communities.

Crime statistics and emerging threats are reviewed at every CSP meeting. In terms of local crime, trends are generally rising especially in relation to crimes associated with County Lines (drugs, violence etc.) and shoplifting (which also has a connection to County Lines). Generally, we are mirroring the national trend in crime levels, however, Northern Devon remains amongst the lowest crime areas in the country.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Torridge Community Safety Partnership remain active and committed to monitoring, supporting and promoting activities in a wide range of areas that impact on community safety in Torridge. This is against a backdrop of ever reducing resources across all agencies as well as changing threats and issues facing our communities, which while providing continual challenges, also gives a driver to maintain our work in a efficient and effective joined up manner. The CSP provides a basis for this approach and is pivotal for community safety in Torridge.

