

Mr S Hearse
Chief Executive
Torrige District Council
Riverbank House
Bideford
Devon
EX39 2QG



Tel : Bideford (01237) 428700

MEETING OF EXTERNAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On:	Tuesday 1 November 2022	At:	1.00 pm
Venue:	Barum Room, Brynsworthy Environment Centre. Barnstaple. EX31 3NP		

NOTICE OF MEETING

Temporary measures during the Coronavirus Pandemic:

Members of the public attending meetings or taking part in the public forum are advised that all External Overview & Scrutiny meetings taking place during the Covid-19 Pandemic will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the YouTube channel -

<https://tinyurl.com/TorrigeYouTube>

To:	Councillor J Manley (Chair) Councillor C Cottle-Hunkin (Vice-Chair) Councillors: S Harding, C Hawkins, S Langford, C Leather, P Pennington, R Wiseman and C Woodhouse Non elected Members: K Baker and L Bach
------------	---

Members are requested to turn off their mobile phones for the duration of the meeting

AGENDA

PART I - (OPEN SESSION)

1.	Apologies For Absence To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
2.	Minutes (Pages 3 - 5) Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 July 2022.
3.	Public Participation 15 minute period for public contributions

4.	Action List (Page 6) To review the action plan.
5.	Declaration Of Interests Members with interests should refer to the agenda item and describe the nature of their interest when the item is considered.
6.	Agreement Of Agenda Items Part I and II
7.	Urgent Matters Brought Forward With the Permission Of The Chair
8.	Consideration Of The Forward Plan (Page 7) To review the forward plan.
9.	Community Safety Partnership (Pages 8 - 13) Report by Superintendent Toby Davies, Devon and Cornwall Police (attached).
10.	Exclusion Of The Public The Chair to move:- That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
	Meeting Organiser: Democratic Services
	Centre for Public Scrutiny – website http://www.cfps.org.uk/

150. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests for public participation were received.

151. ACTION LIST

Chair reviewed and updated the action plan with members.

In relation to Minute 118 of the action list, the Head of Legal and Governance (& Monitoring Officer) it was explained the Citizen's Advice uplift in funding went to Full Council for agreement and was signed off as part of budget setting.

In relation to Minute 5 of the action plan, Councillor Cottle-Hunkin confirmed that an email had been circulated to members of the Joint Planning Policy Committee and agreed that Climate Change would be added to each agenda.

Following a discussion on the action related to Bucks Mills it was agreed that this action would remain on the action list as ongoing.

152. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made as and when the specific agenda item to which they related was under discussion.

153. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

There were no Part II items.

154. URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Chair raised that a response had been received from the Commissioning Team for NHS England and South West. It was explained that they were unable to accept the invite to attend External in September due to work commitments, it was further explained that the Commissioning Team already report to several Scrutiny Committees in the region.

The Commissioning Team had offered to share a report with members, and this would be forwarded once received. It was also stated that they attend Devon Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, which County Councillor Linda Hellyer attends.

It was requested that an action to distribute the report be added to the action list.

Members also suggested that the Committee could link up with Councillor Hellyer and forward on any questions or concerns to her as a representative on the Devon Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.

155. LINK CENTRES & MENTAL HEALTH PROVISION

With agreement of the Chair, it was suggested that this item be adjourned till the September Committee meeting.

156. CONSIDERATION OF THE FORWARD PLAN

There was a lengthy discussion regarding a request to invite Pollyfield to attend Committee to present their forward plans and take questions. The Head of Legal and Governance (& Monitoring Officer) provided some background to the lease agreement and the length and agreed that this could be shared with members.

Following a discussion regarding the reasons for this request and the scope of the invitation the Head of Legal and Governance (& Monitoring Officer) reminded members of the role of External Overview & Scrutiny Committee in inviting Community Centres to highlight their work, and explained that queries in relation to Leases and Property would sit with Community & Resources Committee.

Following discussions members felt that the request may sit outside the function of the Committee and it was suggested that the Town Council could be approached.

It was agreed that the representatives for the Link Centres would be invited to the September Committee.

Following a discussion on the merger of the Health Trusts and the expected pressures on health provision it was agreed they would be invited to the Committee in March / April 2023.

There was a further discussion regarding an invite to the South West Ambulance Service given the current issues being experienced. It was also requested that an update on First Responders be explored. It was suggested that Democratic Services look to how SWAS report to DCC.

During discussion it was agreed that a list of organisations that TDC fund would be shared with members.

It was agreed that the next External Overview & Scrutiny Committee time would change to 6pm.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 6.42 pm

ACTION LIST
 Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee – 20 July 2022

Minute No.	Raised by	Action	Allocated To	Progress Update	Status
137.	Members	South West Water to provide a copy of the presentation slides and written responses to questions submitted before the meeting, along with a response to questions that were not answered in the meeting.	Alan Burrows, South West Water	Update provided on 20 th July and agreement to keep this action open.	Ongoing
145.	Cllr Pennington	Letter to be written to Sec of State for DEFRA and Sir Geoffrey Cox MP asking for clear direction in regard to future land usage, with particular focus on ELMS.	Democratic Services and Chair	A letter was received from MP Sir Geoffrey Cox, but a response from DEFRA still awaited. Letter received 29 th July.	Complete
154.	Cllr Cottle-Hunkin	A copy of the report from Dentistry Commissioning Team be chased up.	Democratic Services	Both contacts have been chased, but no report has been received as of 24-10-22	Ongoing
156.	Louis Bach	A list of organisations funded by TDC to be shared with members.	Democratic Services.	Sent on 21 July 2022	Complete

EXTERNAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FORWARD PLAN 2022/2023

Cycle 1 01 June 2022 2pm	Cycle 2 20 July 2022 6pm	Cycle 3 14 September 2022 6pm	Cycle 4 01 November 2022 1pm	Cycle 5 7 December 2022 2pm	Cycle 6 01 February 2023 6pm	Cycle 7 15 March 2023 2pm	Cycle 8
<p>Natural Devon – speak to their letter to Torridge District Council.</p> <p>Annual Report</p>	<p>Link Centres & Mental Health service provision</p>	<p>Dentistry – Invite Clinical Commissioning Lead</p> <p>Link Centres & Mental Health service provision</p>	<p>Joint Meeting with North Devon – Community Safety Partnership Update</p>	<p>Burton Art Gallery</p>	<p>Play Strategy Update – Adrian Avery</p>	<p>Healthcare Trust – Update on the merger of the local Health Boards</p>	
<p>To be invited 2022-23 cycle:</p> <p>South West Ambulance Service and First Responders service.</p> <p>Alabare North Devon</p> <p>Biosphere funding update – Rob Passmore (following TDC award of £18k to progress projects)</p>							

Agenda Item 9

REPORT OF Chair of the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership
To: External Overview & Scrutiny Committees for NDC and TDC
Subject: Update on the North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership
Date: 1st November 2022 **Reference:** CSP1

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide the members of the External Overview and Scrutiny Committees for North Devon and Torridge Councils an update on the work of the North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership.

1. INTRODUCTION

The North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body set up under sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is made up of representatives from several agencies involved with crime, disorder, and community safety. There is a joint CSP board between North Devon and Torridge which meets on a quarterly basis. The current Chair of the board is Superintendent Toby Davies of Devon and Cornwall Police. Meetings are attended by the following agencies:

- Torridge District Council
- North Devon District Council
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
- Police and Crime Commissioner representative
- DCC Public health
- Together (drug and alcohol support services)
- Leesar (domestic and sexual violence support services)
- Probation services
- TTVS/NDVS (voluntary services)
- North Devon Healthcare Trust
- Elected members from TDC, ND and DCC

The current priorities of the CSP are:

Priority one: Serious violence

The first of our new priorities focusses on the CSP's work with our statutory partners to reduce all crime including serious violence, this will include knife violence / crime, sexual violence, domestic violence and abuse, and will include violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Following the publication of the Serious Violence Strategy, the Serious Violence Bill was announced in December 2019. The Bill proposes to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to make serious violence an explicit priority for CSPs. The new 'public health duty' will require our CSP, to work in partnership with other responsible authorities to provide education and to work together to share data and intelligence to address the root causes of serious violence. It places an emphasis on early intervention with young people. Current guidance indicates The Serious

Violence Duty will be introduced in January 2023 with all CSPs having until January 2024 to be compliant with the duty and to have developed a local Strategic Needs Assessment and to publish a Serious Violence Strategy.

Priority two: Safer streets

We continue to monitor, identify, and address the anti-social behaviour issues impacting our communities and seek to identify and support local preventive projects. We co-ordinate responses to community level anti-social behaviour by using innovative ways to work with our partners to build and sustain community resilience.

We are continuing to seek opportunities to work with the health sector to actively address and monitor risks and changes relating to substance misuse locally. We promote and utilise 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 three: Road safety.

We are working in partnership with Vision Zero South West to tackle local road safety issues to reduce road deaths and serious injury road traffic collisions.

We deliver educational safety awareness events locally aimed at 17-24 year old drivers and 16-24 year old motorcycle riders.

The CSP are also ensuring there is a joint district wide understanding of specific areas of concern in relation to road safety / Community Speed Watch / speeding initiatives.

Priority four: Emerging threats.

To allow the CSP 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.

We continue to deliver key messages through partnership communications to focus on community tensions, hate crime, extremism, the online space, modern slavery, and human trafficking.

Any of our partners can bring matters to the board for consideration and action.

Our CSP is represented on the Safer Devon Partnership Executive Management Group 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 and maintaining an overview of issues affecting community safety in both districts.

2. REPORT

The Community Safety Partnership has been very active since our last report to the Scrutiny Committee and the following provides an outline of activities carried out:

- A significant focus of the partnership and local policing looks at identifying and analysing activities related to organised crime groups. We continue to promote the sharing of vital intelligence with our policing colleagues through the Devon & Cornwall Police's Partner Agency Information Sharing Form. In this regard North Devon & Torridge Community Safety Partnership continues to be the top partnership for all intelligence submissions to the Police's Force Intelligence Unit which evidences how well we promote community safety as a partnership.
- We have continued to focus on our trauma informed vision for Torridge and North Devon. The CSP is now actively involved in a 'Devon Trauma Network' which has been set up across Devon to share best practice and promote consistency in its application. Members of our CSP have also delivered presentations at the Trauma Network on 'Trauma Informed Practice in Northern Devon'
- We have actively participated and engaged in work to address our highest demand service users across the partnership. Only through working together and offering tailored programmes of intervention or support can we break the cycle of some of our most chaotic, challenging, and complex individuals putting pressure on our services and absorbing huge amounts of resource and energy.
 - High Intensity Pilot is between Devon Partnership Trust, Police and Partners working with 10 high demand service users suffering from mental health conditions. A dedicated plan is produced around each individual changing our 'normal' response and better reflecting their needs. This has seen huge reductions in demand across the whole cohort.
 - High Flow is a partnership initiative across all services with the CSP working in conjunction with One Northern Devon. All partner agencies identified and agreed the top 13 individuals putting most demand on our services and then sought to find a way to break that cycle. It leads to a High Flow casework providing additional support and putting a 'Team around the Person' to avoid the silo approach of agencies working alone. It has also seen dramatic reductions in demand and some outstanding stories of individuals turning their lives around, whilst also providing learning on how we can deal better with others in the future.
- Northern Devon Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse forum – This forum consists of wide representation from the CSP, wider partners and the local community. Our work continues to focus on raising awareness of domestic abuse in the workplace, introducing community and youth bystander projects, working together to support safety campaigns, focusing on young people, and promoting healthy relationships in schools. We are supporting and link in with the newly formed Domestic Abuse Act, via the Devon Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to support our work locally and thus providing strategic direction with a grass routes focus on preventing sexual violence and domestic abuse in our local communities.
- During March 2022 Torridge District Council introduced an Evening Night-Time Economy Street Marshalling Scheme in Bideford town centre to address a rise in street based anti-social behaviour. This scheme was funded by our Local Authority Welcome Back Fund. The CSP worked in partnership with a local security company to provide SIA licensed security staff to support the evening night-time economy with high visibility uniformed patrols of Bideford town centre over the winter period. This was supported by daily tasking and briefings by the Torridge

District Council's CSP representatives. The marshals provided a welcome presence in the town offering support around ASB, supporting the vulnerable and reducing the demand on all blue light services.

- Our joint ASB Steering Group continues to develop and focus on ASB prevention and addressing local ASB issues across Northern Devon. The multi agency meetings take place monthly and look in detail at individuals and areas of reported issues, with an emphasis on hotspots and emerging issues. This approach has been particularly well received in relation to the street drinking issues in Bideford and Barnstaple.
- In North Devon, an increased Officer presence has been introduced to address and prevent Anti-Social Behaviour. The Council's ASB Officer has a daily presence in the town centre and issues advice, warnings and notices when required. A security operative is available should the Officer require additional assistance. The team work closely with the Barnstaple CCTV room and are linked by radio, allowing prompt action when required.
- Street Marshals were active in Barnstaple throughout the summer. The marshals, provided by a local security company, were patrolling the town on a daily basis. They helped to increase feelings of reassurance amongst both the public and businesses and dealt with incidents as and when they occurred.
- The CSP played a significant role in Barnstaple's successful bid to HM Government's Safer Streets Fund. Schemes have been developed to commence over the next year including further Street Marshals deployment, improved lighting and signage, a community hub in Barnstaple and further CCTV coverage.
- Plans are now in place to reintroduce late night economy street marshals based at the Fever night club in Barnstaple. The scheme, funded jointly by the CSP and the club itself, allows for marshals to stay on site one hour after the premises closes to keep order and allow for patrons to get home safely.
- North Devon CSP took part in a Barnstaple action days as part of the ongoing effort to address Anti-Social Behaviour. Action included visits to businesses to offer reassurance, engagement with the public and a general clean-up of the town. More events will follow this year.
- In Torridge, to promote, support and educate around our Public Space Protection Order for antisocial behaviour associated with the consumption of alcohol or other intoxicating substances we developed a summer 2022 programme of joint patrols. These patrols were in partnership with our local Neighbourhood Policing Team at Bideford / Community Support Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) Authorised Local Authority Officers and focussed on engagement, education, and enforcement of our PSPO. We were able to challenge and disrupt street drinking in Bideford town centre and provided high visibility assurance to our community and local businesses.
- Our CSP has representation on the Devon Suicide Prevention Strategic Group. Devon has adopted the Preventing Suicide in England – National Strategy which outlines two principal objectives:

To reduce the suicide rate in the general population and to provide better support for those bereaved or affected by suicide.

- CSP representation on the Devon Anti-Slavery Partnership (DASP) and continued contribution to and monitoring of intelligence relating to local modern slavery concerns and practices across both districts. Involvement in partnership action against local businesses implicated in modern slavery practices.
- CSP representation on both the Devon and Torbay Prevent Partnership and the Prevent and Education group, as well as individual representation of both districts on 'Channel panels' on cases within our own communities. Channel is a multi-agency programme which identifies and supports individuals at risk of radicalisation and extremism, and which delivers the strategic aim of the Prevent programme. Having identified an individual at risk, the Channel panel will assess the nature and extent of the risk, and subsequently develop the most appropriate support plan for the individual concerned. The standing inclusion of District Council representatives on this panel is a new requirement.
- We continue to work with our local Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Community Safety and Engagement Teams to promote and raise awareness of free Home Fire Safety Visit Programmes to support some of the most vulnerable individuals within our community.
- Road safety has always been recognised as a high priority in Torridge and North Devon and our partnership is represented at the "Northern Devon Road Safety Forum". Partnership meetings continue to support and address road safety concerns within our localities. In addition, we work closely with Vision Zero South West to tackle local road safety issues to reduce road deaths and serious injury road traffic collisions and to provide advice and support to local communities who are concerned about speeding in their local areas through Community Speed Watch Schemes.

Crime statistics, our key priorities and emerging threats are all reviewed at every CSP board meeting. Our last meeting was held on 17th October 2022 with the next scheduled meeting due on 12th January 2023. In terms of local crime, while trends tend to follow the national picture Northern Devon remains one of the lowest crime areas in the country.

Since April 2022 we no longer receive direct funding to our CSP from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Instead, the OPCC have developed a new strategic commissioning framework to support community safety partnerships and local communities through Community Grant Funding opportunities and a co-commissioning Impact Scheme designed to support CSP's with longer term funding up to 3 years for specific projects which support the OPCC's Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025.

3. CONCLUSIONS

We are pleased to report that the North Devon & 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 our districts. This is against a backdrop of dealing with the loss of valuable annual funding from the OPCC and the ever-reducing resources across all agencies as well as managing the changing threats and issues faced by our communities.

However, these challenges empower the partnership to maintain our work in an efficient and effective joined up manner. The CSP provides a basis for this approach, and this is pivotal for community safety across Northern Devon.