

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - EXECUTIVE GROUP

Wednesday 16 January 2019

Present:-

Jo Yelland (Chair)	- Exeter City Council
Superintendent Matt Lawler (Deputy Chair)	- Devon and Cornwall Police
Louise Arscott	- HM Prison & Probation Service
Councillor Philip Bialyk	- Exeter City Council
Simon Bowkett	- Exeter CVS
George Crossland	- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Councillor Peter Edwards	- Exeter City Council
Jim Laker	- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
Simon Lane	- Exeter City Council
Jeanie Lynch	- DSVF Forum
Melinda Pogue-Jackson	- Exeter City Council
County Councillor P Prowse	- Devon County Council
Julie Richards	- Safer Devon Partnership
Lisa Rutter	- Devon Youth Service - Exeter, East & Mid Devon
James Tisshaw	- Devon County Council Childrens Services
Gary Thompson	- RD&E NHS Foundation Trust
Jo Quinnell	- Exeter City Council

Apologies:-

Simon Arliss	- Devon & Cornwall Police
Dave Passmore	- Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
Janet Quinn	- Devon County Council Trading Standards
Gill Unstead	- Public Health Devon
Lisa Vango	- Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

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MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 10 OCTOBER 2018

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 October 2018 were agreed.

Superintendent Lawler updated the meeting as a result of media reporting that had occurred on 14 January relating to an Exeter man appearing in court charged with offences under Terrorism legislation.

No further details of the case nor evidence were shared, but Superintendent Lawler confirmed information already in the public domain as a result of media reporting. Key stakeholders had been briefed and joint messaging and a media strategy was in place. Further court hearings were planned, and therefore further media reporting was expected in response to those hearings.

The meeting then discussed its existing activity, responsibilities, and plans around information sharing, Counter Terrorism Prevent duties, and community tension and reassurance. In the short term Superintendent Lawler asked partners to share any information they may have around community impact as a result of media reporting. There were no further requests from the police for partners at this stage, but an undertaking was given to share further information and work with partners on the issues that arise when it was legally able and appropriate to do so. A similar update would also be provided to the Safer Devon Partnership in due course.

It was noted that a Prevent partnership meeting would be held in the near future which would work to raise further awareness by looking at workforce development and competency framework.

2

ACTION LOG

The Action Log was discussed and updated and comment was made on the following:

CSP/023/18 – Information to be collated and circulated to Gary Thompson re signposting for homeless. Issues were still being experienced at the RD&E, and a request was made for an up to date summary report of where security officers can signpost rough sleepers.

Agreed that Simon Bowkett would send a list of contacts to Gary Thompson.

CSP/008/18 – Consider how the North Devon suicide prevention pilot had been rolled out and discuss at a future meeting whether this could be replicated. A training session was being undertaken on 17 February 2019 on how this may work and what the toolkit will look like.

Agreed that Melinda Pogue-Jackson provide an update at the next meeting.

All other actions were discharged.

3

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIRS

Jo Yelland was elected as Chair and Superintendent Lawler and Dave Passmore elected as Deputy Chairs.

4

COLAB CONTRIBUTION TO CSP INCLUDING UPDATE ON COUNTY LINES DIVERSION PROJECT AND FEMALE OFFENDER STRATEGY - SIMON BOWKETT AND JEANIE LYNCH

County Lines Diversion Project

Simon Bowkett provided some background to CoLab Exeter, which is a cross agency hub. Many people who they work with engage in a particular service, but CoLab enables these services to be knitted together.

A trend is emerging nationally around children and young people, but the street attached community are also subject to exploitation by county lines groups. Julian House workers have also noticed unexplained assault injuries.

Funding received from the Home Office was used to employ a custody liaison/arrest referral worker, particularly in relation to county lines activity. Confirmation had now been received from the Home Office that funding would not be renewed past 31 March 2019.

The post had started in early October 2018, and data was circulated at the meeting relating to gender, age, reason for referral, local connection, substance misuse and accommodation outcome. The post had proved effective with the limited housing options available in the city.

Young Devon, Esther House, Gabriel House and the Night Shelter had experienced issues with young people in their projects that were caught up in county lines activity.

Exeter City Council continued its support with the street housing service. However, Teignbridge would continue this service in-house and East Devon were pulling their outreach services altogether for 2019/20. The outreach team would be reduced to three roles. Some of that capacity had benefitted Exeter, and a meeting would be held with the Business Development Manager at Julian House to discuss and explore options. It was suggested that other circumstances, such as care leavers, could be factored in to particular services as this may allow access to other avenues of funding.

Julie Richards advised that funding was committed for a project under the Safer Devon Partnership to lead on children's services with care leavers, which is due to commence imminently. This will involve stakeholders to gain an understanding of their experience in transition from childhood to adulthood. A business case will be developed to inform future decisions.

Concerns were also raised around those young people aged 16-17 in supported accommodation for just three days per week in regards the level of engagement, MACSE data and intelligence around this. Simon Bowkett would feed back concerns to Julian House.

A data lead in CoLab would be funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation, and it was anticipated that any data extracted would be able to make the 'spend to save' case for any potential future funding opportunities.

Female Offender Strategy

Jeanie Lynch reported on the Female Offender Strategy which was doing some active targeting through county lines, and gave a presentation on Women in the Justice System 2019.

Further comments were made on the presentation as follows:

- The Ministry of Justice are looking to introduce residential units for women, the nearest likely to be Plymouth to cover the Devon and Cornwall area.
- From 1,300 visits to CoLab per month, 40% of footfall was from women, rising from just 24% in 2016.
- A six week programme to support women onto the next stage of their development was being established.
- Funding had been awarded through the Police and Crime Commissioner for three part-time project workers across three centres for the Health Pathfinder project.
- Potential £130,000 funding from the National Probation Service and Ministry of Justice to make enhancements to the CoLab building to include a women only space for gender sensitive work.
- £5,500 funding had been received for a six month research project, Out of the Shadows, focussing on adult women engaged in the sex industry or who have been victims of sexual exploitation.
- 'My Money, My Life', a financial abuse project to be undertaken.
- Examples of successes were given.

The November Safer Devon Partnership meeting held a discussion on trauma and adversity and the role of individual organisations and partners. There was not sufficient time to explore in detail at the meeting, but a trauma seminar had been organised for 13 February 2019 to explore and understand how it manifests, how it impacts on the community and individuals. All partners with an interest were invited to attend. The Safer Devon Partnership would be the correct vehicle to take it forward in a cohesive way.

Data relating to sexual exploitation was a gap for police intelligence and understanding, and any interaction from Jeanie would be welcomed to help inform.

The government would be consulting around shorter sentencing, and the Partnership could make contributions to that consultation around stability of funding available for it to work. Reference was made to low level offending and the cost of bringing people to court, with a preference of instead having a conditional licence for offences such as a requirement to engage with the women's project for a period of time. If people are kept out of custody, this may have a better effect with diversion. Any missed opportunities to be fed to Matt Lawler.

There was potential to link up with the Magistrates AGM and also suggested that criminal justice colleagues have a one hour slot on a future agenda.

It was recognised that a meaningful difference can be made to individuals with a number of small steps over a period of time. However, there is a need to provide security, and a longer term strategy and funding around these issues was essential for this to happen.

5 **PRIORITIES 2019/20 - MATT LAWLER (REPORT TO FOLLOW)**

The Priorities and Action Plan for 2019 was circulated with the agenda.

Each priority was agreed, and further comments were made on the following:

Priority 1 – Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse

Objective 4 – Support children affected by domestic violence.

It was suggested whether there should also be a focus on adults which could build on the Female Offender Strategy reported earlier in the meeting.

Agreed that adults would be included in this objective.

Objective 6 – Improve referral rates from black and minority ethnic residents.

A specific project was being undertaken with Splitz who are engaged with a number of community workers, including the mosque. A toolkit would be pulled together to assist in talking about DSVVA. Community champions were also being developed.

Priority 2 – County Lines and Dangerous Drugs Network

Objective 7 – Improve public awareness of County Lines and the signs of vulnerability.

An exploitation web resource would be rolled out which was a good way of raising awareness.

Agreed to include support of the web resource in the Action Plan.

Objective 8 – Improve intelligence sharing across partners/public.

Concerns were raised around barriers to share information at a strategic level. The difficulties over data sharing was recognised and work was ongoing at the Safer Devon Partnership around strategic intelligence sharing with an overarching

information agreement. Although partners were more nervous about sharing information in relation to GDPR, the message is to continue sharing information.

It was anticipated that Devon would lead the way with a web based process. A working group would be devising a one stop shop encrypted on the police website which enables other organisations to report concerns. Intel would be submitted via drop down menus so information would not be held on email servers and would get over the challenge of some firewalls which tend to stop some information getting through due to the language used.

Objective 10 – Improve links with hotels/businesses to identify risks.

EBAC were looking at introducing a safe places scheme which was for children and vulnerable adults, particularly the elderly, who were victims of cuckooing. Retailers are be able to identify signs, but do not know how to progress, and this will aid help. A specialist problem solver at the police was working on this, but will take some time before it becomes operational.

Reference was made to Domestic Homicide Reviews. One case currently under review with the Home Office was an employee of a small hotel in Exeter. Other employees had been aware of issues with the victim, and if this had been escalated, the victim may have been deemed high risk and appropriate support put in place. One of the recommendations is about raising awareness with hotels/small businesses so that employees can better identify the signs. Once the report has been signed off by the Home Office, it would be submitted to the CSP for information.

Priority 3 – Locality based anti-social behaviour problem solving

Objective 12 – Identify those areas of the city particularly prevalent to anti-social behaviour (inc. seasonal) and provide bespoke prevention plans.

This is a joint exercise with the City Council and Police, with other partners being brought in when appropriate. Tamsin Williams at the Police was leading on this.

It was reported that a lottery bid had been submitted to change the landscaping of the Sidwell Street/King William Street alleyway.

It would also be useful to have an update on Cathedral Green anti-social behaviour issues at the next meeting.

Agreed to include Cathedral Green, Sidwell Street/King Williams Street activity in the Plan and to provide an update at the next meeting on Cathedral Green issues.

Objective 14 – Improve safety in the night time economy.

A meeting had been arranged for 6 February to discuss the re-establishment of the Help Zone.

General Comments

Julie Richards suggested that the Action Plan should in some way refer to Prevent as this was a statutory duty for most organisations. It was therefore suggested that an introductory paragraph is included in the Action Plan that it does not reflect the totality of the work of the Partnership or its members.

A revised Priorities and Action Plan will be attached to the minutes.

Agreed that:

- (1) Superintendent Lawler amend the action plan as discussed; and
- (2) The CSP agrees the action plan as amended.

6

ACTIVITY AGAINST PRIORITIES 2019/20 (REPORT TO FOLLOW)

Public consultation on closure of toilets

Reference was made to the proposals to close a number of public toilets in Exeter which are no longer considered fit for purpose. These include those that are in the wrong location and attract serious and repeated anti-social behaviour, including drug use and vandalism. Evidence had been gathered to support this. As a consequence, it was likely that activity will be displaced.

A discussion took place on safe disposal of needles and access to needle exchange.

It was suggested whether a safe disposal scheme could overcome this difficulty. However, it was noted that a pilot had been undertaken in recent years in three locations in the city where there were known problems, but this did not prove particularly successful. It was noted that as part of the needle exchange, a box is provided which can fit into a pocket, although it was understood that some design changes were being considered.

Agreed:

- (1) All partners of the CSP to be sent a copy of the public consultation on closure of toilets
- (2) Subject to timeframe, further discussion to be held at the next meeting for a collective CSP response and individual representation.

Mapping

Superintendent Lawler displayed an initial heatmap on crime/harm in the city from a police only perspective, which identified where offences occurred.

Of particular interest is the Polsloe Road/Old Tiverton Road route into the city centre.

The Police will start to trial GPS tracking to be more directive in hotspot patrolling in future. This will enable them to match existing patrolling with these areas and explore other options to improve visibility and tasking of police resources in the right place at the right time.

There is more analytical work to do. Some data work is being undertaken at Exeter City Council, looking at certain housing types which would be mapped to identify any correlations. Data on arson is also available.

Concern was raised on how other organisations data is fed in, as in order to be responsive there is a need to know where the activity is and to ensure information is passed to other relevant organisations. Superintendent Lawler advised that they are not at that stage yet, but there is a need to get consistency with different mapping software used across organisations.

The Chair informed the Partnership that any concerns or issues from partners were welcome to be proposed for discussion at future meetings.

A request was made that an update on the MACSE be presented to the next meeting.

7 **CURRENT EXTERNAL FUNDING BIDS - MELINDA POGUE-JACKSON**

A table of current Community Safety related bids was circulated for information.

Other organisations were encouraged to feed in any other bids they were working on which is linked to the CSP to help identify any opportunity for joining up.

8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Premier League Kicks

A question was raised around Premier League Kicks and whether the CSP would be looking to support a holiday programme as this was a particularly difficult time for some families.

The CSP had contributed to Premier League Kicks in 2018 towards the start up of a third location in Beacon Heath. It has not yet been announced by the Police and Crime Commissioner what, if any, funding would be available to the CSP for the next financial year.

Data

Reference was made around data and the lack of connection on an operational level. The Youth ASBAT meeting would be discussing this which would be fed into the July CSP meeting on the overall strategic data. It was noted that Inspector Simon Arliss is the link between the CSP and the ASBAT.

A Devon-wide meeting of child social care colleagues and the Safer Devon Partnership was taking place on existing arrangements.

Questions were also raised around feeding in of information from the MACSE.

Agreed that Chairs of the CSP sub-groups provide a report to Executive Group meetings to ensure that communication channels are open.

Knife Crime

Lisa Rutter requested that knife crime is included on a future CSP agenda due to an increase in carrying of knives by young people.

(The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and closed at 12.00 pm)