

Report to: **Scrutiny Committee**



Date of Meeting Thursday 2nd April 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Community Safety Partnership Report

Report summary:

The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and it brings together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in their communities.

The report outlines the activity of the East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership during 2025 and related community safety activity within East Devon District Council.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Scrutiny Committee note the activity that has been taken with regards to Community Safety Activity for 2025

Reason for recommendation:

No decisions are required, and the report is for informational purposes

Officer: David Whelan, Acting Community Safety Lead

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Assets and Economy
- Communications and Democracy
- Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- Environment - Nature and Climate
- Environment - Operational
- Finance
- Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

Whilst Community Safety as a subject could be considered medium impact, as this report is a review and does not make any recommendations for future service provision, the associated impact is low.

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Impact ; As a statutory service, failure to deliver Community Safety would be considered high risk. But as this report is retrospective the risk associated is low.

Links to background information None

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- A supported and engaged community
 - Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
 - Resilient economy that supports local business
 - Financially secure and improving quality of services
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Introduction

The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and it brings together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour (ASB) in their communities.

The responsible authorities that make up the East & Mid Devon CSP are:

- Devon & Cornwall Police
- Devon & Somerset Fire Rescue Services
- East Devon District Council (EDDC), Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) and Devon County Council (DCC)
- Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
- Probation Service South West
- Safer Devon Partnership
- Supported by our local VCSEs and other organisations

East and Mid Devon District Council's have recently Chaired and provided a secretary for the partnership.

East & Mid Devon Community Safety Priorities 2025-2028 are:

- Youth ASB in public open spaces
- Street Drinking, drugs, nuisance behaviour and ASB in town centres
- Domestic Abuse (DA), Sexual Violence and Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)
- Child Exploitation

In support of these priorities and to deliver EDDC's own statutory responsibilities for dealing with ASB, the Council employs a small team of ASB and CS specialists that sits within the Environmental Health service with a further ASB specialist in Housing.

Achievements in 2025

Achievements over the last year for the East & Mid Devon CSP

- Introduction of ASB Hotspot Policing across the CSP. East Devon are now into their second year of funding and delivery. Mid Devon commenced July 2025.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) introduced their 'hot spots' policing project in 24/25. Hot spots of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and serious violence (SV) in Devon (based on reports) were identified and funding provided for 'hot-spot' policing – either directly by the police (Tier 1) or by local authority partners (Tier 2).

The Hotspot Policing project aims to:

- Increase public trust in the police and partner agencies to tackle antisocial behaviour (ASB), serious violence, and knife crime.
- Improve residents' confidence and comfort in using public spaces within hotspot areas.
- Encourage positive behaviour change to reduce incidents of ASB, serious violence, and knife crime.
- Boost the reporting of ASB, serious violence, and knife crime by improving community engagement and visibility.

Exmouth Town Centre was identified as a Tier 2 hotspot. Funding was provided to EDDC and a Marshal service was procured. Patrols started in July 2024 and continued through 24/25 with further funding of £30,769 towards the provision street marshals in 25/26.

As we are still within the 25/26 period at time of writing, we don't have the full statistics for the year but as an example in a 3-month period the Marshalls & Police in Exmouth:

- Conducted 520 Extra Patrol Hours
- Carried out 695 Premises visits
- Engaged with 2391 members of the public.
- Submitted 17 pieces of intelligence to the police

The OPCC report that our region has been commended nationally for the partnership approach we have taken to hotspot policing and problem-solving. Devon & Cornwall is currently the only force delivering the programme in this way, and the strength of these local partnerships has been recognised as a key factor in our delivery.

- Officers supported East Devon Specific Patrols in relation to Op. Loki (a police operation targeting ASB), Exmouth Hotspot Street Marshall & Police Patrols
- Introduction of Youth ASBIP (Anti-Social behaviour Intervention Panel) across Mid and East Devon. This is the introduction of multi-agency decision making Panels which form an integral part of the ASB Toolkit for young people under 18 in Devon. Agencies can refer cases where young people are committing ASB to the Panel with recommendation for action to be taken. Discussion and collaboration between agencies will aim to offer support and proportionate measures to reduce the ASB being caused, and put the child at the centre of the decision making.
- Re-designed young persons ASB letters to ensure a more neurodiverse approach.
- Completed a Community Protection Warning (CPW) project
 - CPW issued to disrupt child drug exploitation. To date there have been no further reports or intelligence to suggest that young people are going to the property.
 - CPW issued for intimidation of a female resident by regular staring into her house from the property boundary by a male neighbour, together with alleged sexual

behaviour. CPW was issued based on police evidence, and this has resolved the matter

- Very long standing (years) noise complaint from alleged knocking on a party wall – resolved by the CPW.
- 76 CPWs issued across both Districts with a 92% compliance rate
- Raised awareness of reporting of ASB across the Community Safety Partnership by advertising on the back of our car park tickets
- Joint working with Police and Trading standards to obtain closure order on two businesses in Exmouth to stop the selling of illegal vapes and tobacco.
- CPW issued to disrupt drugs and exploitation in a property which resulted in a successful closure order.
- One Community Trigger carried out (now known as ASB case reviews) to enable greater partnership working with a focus on achieving best outcomes for the victim.
- Completed Gryphon Router Pilot to help us better understand the difficulties that parents have monitoring their child's network activity and identify opportunities to strengthen knowledge and understanding of healthy and unhealthy online activity.
- Purchase of two VIASIS LITE mini speed detectors and a 'Scout pro' thermal imaging monocular using an £8,000 grant from the Safer Devon Partnership. The speed detectors will assist in identifying and reducing the amount of ASB driving. The 'Scout Pro' is a thermal imaging monocular that will assist with searching for missing people or suspects at night.
- Better cross team working between Housing and Environmental Health, ensuring that there is a consistent approach to ASB for tenants and the wider public.
- New Community Safety Groups in East Devon (meeting quarterly) covering the areas around:
 - Cranbrook
 - Ottery St Mary
 - Exmouth
 - Axe Valley
 - Sidmouth
 - Honiton

These replaced the previous Local Action Groups and are a mix of EDDC and Town Council led. They are designed to offer local neighbourhood partners the opportunity to raise, discuss and offer solutions to ASB/CS issues, which can then be escalated to EDDC or the CSP if there are wider implications.

Formal Meeting Structures

There are numerous CSP/ASB related meetings and fora that the CSP and EDDC support in its response to CS/ASB.

- MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference)
- Hate crime and Diversity, Safer Devon steering group

- MACE Missing and Child exploitation meetings
- Devon Interpersonal and Gender-Based Violence and Abuse (IG-BVA) Partnership Board
- Locality Partnership Meetings – Mid and East early help.
- Prevention of Avoidable Deaths and Clinical Forum.
- DHR core group (Quarterly)
- DHR (Domestic Homicide Reviews) a review of the circumstances in which a death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect from a domestic situation this process is managed by an Independent Chair on behalf of the Safer Devon Partnership. East Devon currently has one review which is with the Home Office and two which are waiting to commence.
- ASB Case reviews meetings (as required).
- Safer Devon Partnership (Quarterly)
- Devon & Torbay Prevent Partnership (Quarterly)
- Channel Panel Meetings (as required) (anti extremism and radicalisation process)
- Anti-Slavery Partnership's (Quarterly)
- Devon Community Safety Officer's meetings (Bi-Monthly)
- Trauma Network (Devon)
- Devon Preventing Serious Violence Partnership.
- Child Exploitation.
- Mid & East locality meetings
- Complex Strategy and mapping meetings (as required).
- ASB Forum.
- ASBIP Anti-Social Behaviour Intervention Panel
- Hotspot Policing meeting.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) work

The Council employs a Community Safety and ASB Lead and three Anti-Social Behaviour Officers; one whose work focusses on Housing and two covering the remainder of the district based East & West. In 2025 our ASB officers have dealt with (to date) 143 cases for a wide range of incidents including Harassment & Intimidation, rowdy nuisance, noise, neighbour disputes, drugs and criminal damage. There is a trauma informed approach to our ASB escalation process using our ASBIP to ensure a multi-agency approach. Community Protection Warnings and Notices are at the upper end of the interventions used as part of our ASB process once we have discounted less intrusive ones. In East Devon we have issued 45 Community Protection Warnings which have then resulted in the serving of 7 Community Protection Notices.

Other routine Community Safety work includes:

- Daily discussions with Partners
- Problem solving in our districts
- Working at the earliest opportunity to prevent ASB & Crime

- Being part of a wider partnership team
- Sharing knowledge and raising awareness

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO)

PSPOs are tools that councils can use to deal with nuisances or problems affecting a specified area that is or may be detrimental to the local community. They can be used for a wide range of problems for which there is evidence of impact, and the specified area can be as small as a play park or footpath, or as large as the district as a whole

The PSPO 2023 ASB Order Exmouth has been reviewed in 2025 and will be renewed in March 2026.

The Control of Anti-Social Behaviour and Consumption of Intoxicating Substances Public Spaces Protection Order apply in certain public spaces within Exmouth.

It is designed to ensure that people can use and enjoy public spaces without experiencing anti-social behaviour. It is a tool to enable Councils to deal with persistent issues that are damaging communities.

The PSPO can be used as a means of dealing with ASB without the issuance of fixed penalty notices because it is the failure to comply which causes an infringement. This has been a very useful tool for dealing with ASB in Exmouth.

There are also two PSPOs dealing with dogs that are generally dealt with by the Environmental Protection team.

Projects for the Mid & East Devon CSP into 2026

- Continue to deliver against the CSP priorities.
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed that hot-spot funding will be available in 2026/27 (awaiting further details).
- Delivery of knife crime awareness sessions in schools and identified vulnerable tenants.
- Integration of Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) into Business as Usual for the CSP – engagement in local SARs/improving process and link with Safeguarding Adults Partnership/dissemination of all SAR learnings across local agencies. Also to embed learning in EDDC through the safeguarding forum.
- Explore use of PSPO in Mid-Devon.
- Introduction of Adult ASBIP (Anti-Social Behaviour Intervention Panel).
- Continuing work around reducing violence towards women and girls.
- Support Neighbourhood Policing team to deliver on Community Safety and ASB.
- Support VCSE with funding applications and promote work through CSP networks.
- Introduce Community Alcohol Partnership into East Devon.
- Embed new Community Safety Groups in East.

Challenges

- Lost Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator in January 2026 and an Anti-Social Behaviour Officer in February 2026. Currently restructuring and recruiting.

- The increased use of CPW/Ns has led to legal challenges which we are learning from.

Conclusion

2025 has been a very busy year for the CSP and for EDDC in relation to ASB and CS work. The agenda for 2026 is challenging and changes within the team will have a short-term impact. However we are confident that EDDC will continue to meet its responsibilities both statutorily and as a trusted partner.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implication arising from this report.

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report.