

East Devon Community Safety Officer's Report November 2015

The Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary Local Action Group met on 20th October

- 17 persons representing 11 different agencies/departments attended the meeting. In the Ottery St Mary area for the period 1st October 2014 until the end of September 2015, total crime has increased by 4.7% from 515 to 539 offences while in the Sidmouth area for the same period it has increased by 5.3% from 432 offences to 455.

Anti Social Behaviour

- In my previous report I mentioned an elderly volunteer who assisted in cleaning up graffiti around Ottery St Mary. At this meeting I presented him with our Community Safety Partnership Certificate for his public spiritedness. The local press attended and took a photograph of the presentation which was published in the Midweek Herald.
- Sgt Squires from Sidmouth updated on the 'boy racer' issue saying that a portable CCTV camera had recently been installed at Manor Road car park. The camera had experienced problems with the 3G network on the first day so no live link was available. However, the problem was quickly resolved and there was 9 days of recording. Unfortunately the timing of the installation of the camera coincided with Seaton Carnival so that particular weekend did not see much action. Sgt Squires confirmed the residents had been informed that the camera would be there until 9 September and had been asked to record dates and times of any activities or incidents they were concerned about so that the recordings could be viewed for evidence. It was noted that a total of 3 incidents had occurred over the 9 days of recording.
- I reported on an article in the Sidmouth Herald advising that Manor Road residents had signed a petition urging EDDC to install barriers at the car park to stop the problem of 'boy racers'. Comments from Andrew Ennis, Service Lead Environmental Health and Car Parks said this would be an expensive option but EDDC would consider all the options.
- The Streetscene attendee reported that Sidmouth, Honiton and Seaton had seen an increase in fly tipping of cans and bottles around recycling banks from local businesses. A plan is being put together to help try to discourage this.
- There have been issues in Cranbrook with anti social behaviour and Police have issued 7 warning letters. This situation is being monitored.

Crime Prevention

- Cllr Marc Kilsbie said that Sidmouth Town Council will shortly be considering 3 quotes for supplying CCTV cameras in Sidmouth. Sgt Squires advised he had a meeting that day with the security firm that had supplied the cameras to Honiton and that he would provide Cllr Kilsbie with their contact details.

Substance Misuse

- It was reported by the teachers from both King's School and Clyst Vale Community Colleges that the 'Last Orders' performances in October were very well received. I said that if the same funding is available next year I would like to offer this to local schools again.
- Sidmouth Police reported that alcohol was seized during carnival night but less than previous years.

Other Community Safety Activities / Issues

- As a member of the Sidmouth Health and Social Care Forum Cllr Matt Booth explained that he would be working alongside Anita White, a School Nurse at Sidmouth in setting up a Focus Group to help young people who self harm.
- Cllr Kilsbie agreed this was a growing concern and said as a parent of a child at Sidmouth College he had contacted the school to ask them if they were aware that there was a high percentage of pupils in one particular year group that were self harming. It was acknowledged that pupils would not always tell their teachers as teachers had a responsibility to inform parents but if it was reported to the school nurse this would be kept confidential. The group agreed with a suggestion made by Cllr Roger Giles that tackling self harm should be added to our local action plan.
- Schools reported that Year 12's had visited Exeter University to attend the road safety presentations called 'Learn to Live'. This was well received.
- Aaron Clark, Community Development, EDDC said that he attended a meeting held at Stowford Rise, Sidmouth aimed at helping reduce unemployment figures. Plans are being put in place to run an employment programme to help with CV's and interview/ training etc. This EDDC led programme will be open to everyone.

The Exmouth Local Action Group met on the 21st October

- 9 persons representing 7 agencies attended. In the Exmouth area for the period 1st October 2014 until the end of September 2015, total crime has decreased by 4.7% from 1989 to 1896 offences.

Anti Social Behaviour

- Cllr Bill Nash from Exmouth Town Council said that 6 people in the past month have complained about anti social behaviour outside the Old Warehouse in the town centre, usually around 10am with drinking and swearing. Sgt Stonecliffe said that he had not received any reports of these disturbances. Cllr Nash said business owners would not report the disturbances to the Police for fear of damage to their properties. Insp Weeks advised she would request the PCSO's to patrol the area.

Substance Misuse

- The Town Council had received reports of suspected legal high packages being handed out at The Strand at around 9am and 5pm. Insp Weeks asked Streetscene if it was possible to check the bins for evidence and this will be done. Police will also pay this area some attention.

On line Safety and Scams

- Together with Police and Trading Standards I had a stand at Tesco's in Exmouth re scams awareness. This is the second time we have been to that store and the take up rate was very good.
- I advised the group that the Exmouth Policing Team have been alerted to a scam involving elderly members of the community who are receiving telephone calls from a company calling themselves Premier Care. They tell people that they have been asked to make contact by the person's GP surgery and the victim is talked into making an appointment at their own home address, to gain access to their home. If approached by this company people should contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or the Police on 101. The Police advise people to visit the SCAMWISE website and to register with the Telephone and Mail Preference Service which is free

Other Community Safety Activities / Issues

- The Open Door Centre took part in Hate Crime Awareness Week and distributed leaflets and raised awareness of the helpline through the Community Café and ICE project (Exmouth Community College). They will do the same for National Alcohol Awareness Week and Domestic Abuse Awareness Week.
- Open Door and East Devon CAB are hosting a homelessness conference for all those who work with the homeless, to present a 'road map' of what support is available across East Devon.
- Devon Youth Service's Hive is open from Monday to Friday and is well attended by approximately 100 young people each week.

The Honiton Local Action Group met on 5th November

7 persons representing 6 agencies attended.

In the Honiton area over the last year up to the end of September 2015, total crime has increased by two offences from 590 to 592

Substance Misuse

- Honiton carnival went well with one person dealt with for being drunk & disorderly.

Other Community Safety Activities /Issues

- A successful traffic operation was carried out on 12 October by Honiton and Sidmouth Police Neighbourhood Teams resulting in the following offences: 1 drink driver, 1 red diesel, 3 seat belts. 12 vehicle owners were served with Prohibition Notices.
- Police reported that a Criminal Behaviour Order had recently been applied for. Also, following a successful drugs raid 3 arrests were made.
- The Town Council has written to Devon County Council and Highways England to bring to their attention the safety concerns being raised due to parked cars on Monkton Road. Highways England has informed the Town Council that they will monitor the situation to determine the best course of action.

- The new 55+ Centre had been approached by an employee from the Citizens Advice Bureau asking if the Centre would be willing to provide a shower, coffee and a sandwich to homeless people. However, due to the Centre's lack of funding they cannot afford to support this scheme and asked me if the Community Safety Partnership could help with funding. I advised that I would need more information about this before a decision could be made.
- The Children's Centre representative stated that a 10 week parenting programme (Solihull training) will be starting next term in the 3 main areas. It is a universal course open to primary school age and below.

The Axe Valley Local Action Group met on 5th November

9 persons representing 5 different agencies/departments attended.

In the Axminster area over the last year up to the end of October 2015, total crime has increased by 2.5% from 474 offences to 486. In the Seaton area it has decreased by 3 offences from 346 offences to 343.

Anti Social Behaviour

Sgt Andy Squires attended the EDDC Cabinet meeting the previous evening when the Councillors had agreed to install barriers and dragons teeth at the entrance/exit to Underfleet car park at Seaton. This is to deter 'boy racers'. Also, the car park will then be closed no later than 9pm, except on special occasions.

Crime Prevention

- It was noted that since the last meeting there had been further break-ins at Seaton beach huts. I have resolved the issue surrounding data protection rules for providing details of beach hut owners/tenants in Seaton and Sidmouth to the Police.
EDDC will be considering some preventive measures next year re the beach hut burglaries.

Other Community Safety Activities /Issues

- The EDDC Youth Development Officer, Victoria Robinson mentioned that there were up to 20 teenagers in her second group at Millwey Rise Youth Club, many of whom had been involved with Early Help. There were 10-15 in the younger group. She had arranged for a woman to talk to them about homelessness. A new Youth Worker named Aaron had been appointed and had taken many of the boys in the group on a boot camp which they had enjoyed.
- Axminster Police reported that there were a number of speed checks being undertaken in and around the town.

The East and Mid Devon Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Forum met on 7th October

The meeting was attended by 16 people representing a number of agencies.

- Aimee Williams from the Police gave the group an overview of the work of the Victim Care Unit (VCU). There are approximately 85,000 victims of crime across Devon and Cornwall each year. The Ministry of Justice decided not to

fund Victim Support nationally from April 2015 and funding was given to the Police and Crime Commissioners to decide how to support victims locally. In Devon and Cornwall the VCU was set up.

The VCU looks at the impact of a crime on the individual and a victim needs assessment is completed for anyone reporting a crime, including businesses. They VCU staff ask the victim if they need support to help cope and recover from the crime. They then write to those who say they don't want support to offer that it will be available in the future if they change their mind. Those who do want support are phoned. There are 70 service providers that can provide support and the VCU signpost to the most appropriate service for their need. The process is victim led and support is followed through so the service provider will report back to the VCU if they have no capacity or the request is not within their remit. Victim Support is also still funded separately and are one of the 70 agencies the VCU refers to. The crime has to be have been reported to the police and defined as a crime before VCU can deal with the victim. Victim Support can still take non reported crimes.

There are 15 staff in the VCU and they can support events with resources if they are not able to attend. 800 victims have been supported since April by signposting to other agencies and a further 750 within the VCU by being given crime prevention advice etc. VCU staff do ask what other agencies the victim is already engaging with. Three staff are Victim Care Advocates and can provide face to face meetings and multi-agency work.

Domestic Abuse victims are only contacted by the VCU if they say it is safe to do so via secure email etc. They cannot automatically provide a call back to offer future support as they have to consider the victim's safety. This is not a unique issue for Devon and Cornwall; other areas are experiencing this too. Any ideas on how to communicate with victims of DVA would be welcome by the VCU.

There are low numbers of referrals from Domestic Abuse victims to the VCU at the moment and the VCU don't deal with high risk victims as other support services (DDASS) are already in place. Medium risk DVA victims are being picked up on an individual basis by the VCU if there is an additional need for support for other aspects of the crime. They are currently looking at setting up a pilot with the police Public Protection Unit in Cornwall where police officers will call VCU there and then when they attend domestic incidents.

- An update was also given by Devon Rape Crisis Service (DRCS). Although sexual violence can be part of domestic abuse, it is separate to it and most sexual violence incidents seen by DRCS and the police happen between acquaintances. Most of the work of DRCS is not attached to domestic abuse. Only about 20-25% of their referrals come from DVA services. They are about to change the name of service to describe what they do, as most women have not been raped and are not in a crisis but they have experienced sexual violence. Around half of women contacting DRCS have experienced historic sexual violence or historic childhood sexual abuse. If women have experienced recent sexual abuse they will go to the Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC) or police and DRCS don't support women with current cases. They are working with an increasing number of 70+ year olds.

The young people's service which is funded by the Home Office is now up and running. This is a counselling service for 13-25 year olds for both male and female victims. It is a free service of 8 sessions, which is then reviewed and then more sessions are offered as required. This service is in place in Barnstaple, Exeter & Newton Abbot for young men where the counselling is provided by Young Devon. The young women's service operates in Barnstaple, Exeter and Torbay and the counselling is provided by DRCS. The adult service is still for women only and is supported by Ministry of Justice funding. This provides specialist support, trauma focused work not counselling. This is often work around guilt, shame, blame and addressing myths. They use Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) trauma intervention which works for women experiencing flashbacks, nightmares and panic attacks and is NICE recommended. DRCS set up meetings with the police and the victim to explain why no further action was taken in their case. This is usually due to a lack of evidence rather than that the police don't believe them (which is often what women wrongly assume). Also if the CPS decides not to take a case to court people now have a right to appeal against the decision not to prosecute and DRCS will support victims in this.

DRCS also provide support with housing issues such as providing support if the victim was raped by a neighbour or friend of a neighbour and they don't feel safe but don't want to approach their housing provider to tell them that. DRCS can also provide practical support for health and dentist appointments which can often be terrifying for women who have experiences sexual violence.

The service provides 8 sessions and then undertakes a review but it could be open ended support for as long as it takes. They are not working with women in current threat of DVA but work closely with DDASS and will refer.

There is an anonymous email service which uses software which removes the email address and allocates a number instead. The DRCS Helpline compliments the hours provided by the Rape and Sexual Abuse Helpline. Friends, family & partners support is also offered via email and phone for both males and females.

- The remainder of the meeting was used to discuss the Domestic Abuse Awareness Week which commences on 23rd November 2015.

Other Community Safety and ASB Work

- I have asked Gary Gates, a recently retired Police Youth Interventions Officer, to do some training of teachers in East Devon Primary schools re internet safety. Gary is CEOP trained and is doing consultancy work.
- I arranged a photo shoot at Exmouth Fire Station last week in connection with Domestic Abuse Awareness Week. The Fire Service, Police and Royal Marines had agreed to take part and wear white ribbons in support of violence against women. Some 10 minutes before the event the emergency services got called to a road traffic collision and I therefore went ahead with the 12 Royal Marines who attended.

Gerry Moore

17th November 2015

Mid Devon Community Safety Officer's Report **For 19 Nov 2015**

The Creedy Local Action Group met on 22 October 2015

Much of the meeting was taken up discussing the proposed cuts to the Police and the impacts this will have on the town and surrounding communities.

ASB

- MDDC have successfully obtained an Injunction for one of their tenants and her partner living in Coplestone.

DFSA

- Letters sent to GPs and dentists in Crediton area to highlight the DDASS open Day and provide information leaflets and door stickers.

Online safety and scams

- Additional information on call blockers sent to Coplestone Parish Council.

Crime Prevention

- The Neighbourhood Police team and DSFRS have arranged another Road Safety Awareness Event at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre on 28 November 2015.

The Culm Local Action Group next meets on 1 December 2015

- The Advanced Driver Challenge is planned for 25 November. This free event will be held at Cullompton Fire Station for young drivers aged 17 -24 to offer them advice on safer driving techniques and experience the DSFRS simulators.

The Exe Local Action Group next meets on 2 December 2015

DFSA

- There will be an Open Day for Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service on 3 December at Phoenix House between 10am and 1pm. This drop-in event is open to both professionals and members of the public and is part of the 16 Days of Action Campaign, which incorporates Domestic Abuse Awareness Week (23 – 27 November).

Crime Prevention

- A Community Meeting (one stop shop) was organised by the police at Tiverton Town Hall on the evening of 27 October. Around 12 members of the public attended.

Anti-Social Behaviour work

- Laura has arranged and Chaired 5 multi-agency ASB Case Conferences regarding adults since the last meeting.
- There has been some excellent partnership working between the Tiverton neighbourhood police team and MDDC with action being taken by MDDC against three of their tenants for ASB. This includes the first Closure Order in Mid Devon being applied for under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act.
- Youth ASB meetings are still being held monthly but relatively few young people are being discussed. One individual who was deemed a real problem by police only a

few months ago has just been sent a letter of praise by Laura for improvements to his behaviour.

- Laura attended a Devon ASB officers and Early Help meeting in September. As a result she is now providing Mid Devon ASB data to Devon County's central database on a monthly basis to help identify any new families who are eligible for support on the programme.
- Mid Devon police are now using a referral form for all requests for letters and ABCs on the Escalation Process and it is intended to extend this to MDDC staff. This will provide a better audit trail of all requests for interventions on the ASB Escalation Process that come into the CSP office.

INFORM Group

The INFORM group next meets on 2 December 2015.

- The questionnaire for students is now available and to date has 250 responses.
- Business cards with details of useful websites and helplines for young people, parents and professionals have been drafted.
- The CEOP training for professionals held on 27 September was well received and attended by 58 professionals. Unfortunately the next session, planned for 24 November, has had to be cancelled as the CEOP Ambassador is currently off sick. It is hoped to rearrange this in the New Year.
- James Sanders from Fixers has been invited to attend the next meeting to discuss possible online safety projects with the group.

Other Work/Updates

- CSP bitesize workshops which were run by RISE were held on 11 November – these were to help professionals gain a better understanding of substance misuse, be able to identify drugs and their symptoms, and inform them about New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). A further workshop for MDDC EH & Housing staff has been arranged for 18 January where identification of specific drug use and paraphernalia will be shared with staff.
- Alcohol Awareness Week – 16-20 November – there will be a display in Phoenix House reception.
- WRAP Training has been provided to 60+ staff at Cullompton Community College by L&D from MDDC with my involvement. Further training is planned on 19 November where 100 teaching staff at Tiverton High School will also receive WRAP.
- Restorative Justice is still a key priority for the PCC and I have attended Devon meetings regarding this. A discussion regarding a workshop to upskill Police and partnership staff in Mid Devon has taken place with the RJ coordinator and planning is progressing to put on a workshop in the New Year.
- Safety Advisory Group continues to meet monthly to discuss up and coming public events in the district and review past events with organisers.
- Letters to Doctors and Dentists regarding DV Awareness week have been sent to local practices for information and display.
- Letters for Taxi Drivers have been prepared to explain the issues around Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking issues. These will go out early December.

Julia Ryder
Community Safety Officer, Mid Devon CSP