

## **East Devon Community Safety Officer's Report April 2016**

### **The Exmouth Local Action Group**

- Ken Grose from the Youth Offending Team mentioned that an unfortunate growth area for the YOT has to do with the number of young people in contact them due to Harmful Sexual Behaviour. Getting a specialist service to these young people is getting harder due to increased volume and not having enough qualified practitioners.
- Inspector Weeks said that the Hush Shop which used to be in the Strand in the town and sold legal highs has closed down and the persons operating it had moved out of the area. Cllr Gazzard confirmed that the residents and nearby shop owners were very happy that the Hush Shop had closed and thanked Inspector Weeks for all the police support.
- Alice Burrow, Environmental Health Officer with EDDC reported that she is busy working on the Public Spaces Protection Orders for the East Devon area to help reduce antisocial behaviour. The deadline for completion is October 2017. All the Town and Parish Councils have been contacted with a request to provide information on their parish and town byelaws – currently awaiting responses.
- Helen Tribble from the Open Door Centre said that the new mental health support facility for young people called the Project has now been given the go-ahead to provide early intervention while people are waiting for support from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Also a new support group for survivors of domestic abuse has been set up and will be held every Wednesday at the Open Door Café to offer peer support positive networks.
- Ben Goodman, Devon Youth Service mentioned that the Hive youth club is still busy, with between 150 – 180 attending each week. The Family Work pilot scheme is going well.

### **The Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary Local Action Group**

- Re vehicle related anti social behaviour (boy racers) Police patrols are still continuing in the car parks. No recent complaints received.
- Re the Christmas shoplifting initiative in Sidmouth this did take place using plain clothes Police Officers.
- Kaz Arnett, Environmental Health Officer with EDDC presented a 15 minute talk to Cranbrook Primary School on Pet Care of the Future to educate children on responsible dog ownership. This talk was well received and will be delivered in primary schools across the district if the schools want it.

- A barrier and dragons teeth have now been installed at Manor Road Car Park in Sidmouth to deter vehicle related anti social behaviour. This follows many complaints from residents about such behaviour over a number of years.
- Karen Jennings, Cranbrook Town Council, mentioned that there had been several reports received from residents about anti social behaviour around the mobile youth bus which is in the town two evenings a week. A meeting took place with EDDC, the Town Council and Devon Youth Service who operate the provision and it was agreed that the Youth Service would provide an extra member of staff on the youth bus. It was also decided to set up a Local Action Group to address this and other issues. PSCO Clapp advised that advisory letters had been sent out to the known suspects and the situation would be reviewed again in a few weeks. I mentioned that I was writing to the complainants about the action being taken to address the issues.
- I discussed the reasoning behind the decision to close Newton Poppleford toilets temporarily saying that they are now open again. This was due to a report that a male visitor had been approached by a male person who offered to provide sex. This was reported direct to a national newspaper who contacted East Devon District Council. The council owns the adjacent car park but the toilets are maintained by Newton Poppleford Parish Council. I advised that all agencies that needed to be aware of the report were made aware and the situation would be monitored closely.

### **The Honiton Local Action Group**

- At the request of the Police Honiton Town Council are considering increasing the number of CCTV cameras in the town. Police are trying to get the evidence in support of this at the additional locations under consideration.
- PC James Mackay stated that Devon & Cornwall Police regularly team up with specialist officers from the Environment Agency, HM Customs and Excise and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) as part of Operation Mascot to deter travelling criminals etc. Recently operations near Monkton and Dunkeswell resulted in various offences being detected including a number of fixed penalty tickets being issued. One was a £500 fine for using red diesel.
- The local paper have reported that Honiton Police had carried out a total of 32 speed checks already this year resulting in some motorists undergoing various speed awareness training.
- Honiton Town Council will be setting up a Community Engagement Forum and various organisations within the town will be invited to attend. The purpose will be to provide a forum where there is efficient and effective two-way flow of communications on significant issues affecting the development of Honiton between the Town Council and the main community organisations.

### **The Axe Valley Local Action Group**

- As a result of issues with young people consuming high energy drinks in the Millwey Rise area of Axminster the local Premier Store Head Office was contacted re this by Police as a result of which the following reply was received: *'As such, with immediate effect our Store in Axminster will limit the purchase of high caffeine energy products, namely Red Bull, Monster and Relentless, to children under 16 to 1 purchase only and also advise children of the reasoning behind this policy'*.
- Police and EDDC's Streetscene Dept are working together to combat the issue of thefts from beach huts at Seaton.
- One Axminster councillor requested assistance in cleaning a building at Cloakham Lawns which provides sporting facilities for the town. He has been put in contact with the Community Payback Dept of the Community Rehabilitation Company.
- Police reported that as the Underfleet car park barrier had prevented access for boy racers in Season they had started going to other parts of the town, such as the Methodist Church car park.

### **The East and Mid Devon Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Forum**

- I met with Joanne Jones the Devon coordinator of the Farming Community Network (FCN). The FCN provides practical and pastoral support for farmers and for farming families during times of need, anxiety and distress which stem from the farm business or from within the family. Joanne has a stand at the Exeter Cattle Market every couple of weeks so I supplied her with some DSVAs leaflets. A representative from the Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service recently spoke at a meeting of the FCN in Copplestone. It was reported that this went very well with about 20 FCN pastoral workers in attendance and they were very interested to learn more about domestic abuse support services.
- Following reports from several sources about the number of reports and referrals re domestic abuse from the Cranbrook area, I have arranged a meeting of all relevant agencies to discuss what can be done.
- The Forum was advised that all Devon Local Authorities and some RSLs have been asked to nominate a property as a safe house. There will be one in Tiverton and one in East Devon, which DCC will pay to fit out and also pay any void costs. These are primarily aimed at families rather than single people as they will have to pay rent on the property. The idea is to try to keep these safe houses for victims from Devon
- Honiton and Axe Valley Children's Centres have identified families who have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse as a target group for support in the year 2016-17.
- A representative from the Royal Marine Commando Training Centre at Lympstone reported that she had attended training on the delivery of

educating the military regarding the signs and symptoms of domestic abuse. This has improved a great deal recently because the military are keen to work alongside the interests and well-being of victims. Such training will now be delivered regularly which is a great break through.

### **Other Community Safety and ASB Work**

- Our Community Safety Partnership Annual Conference on 6th April was once again very well attended and a great success with around 130/140 people in attendance. This is the most we have had at such conferences. Based on safeguarding awareness there were powerful presentations on veterans, modern slavery, child sexual exploitation plus inputs on PREVENT, The Victim Care Unit and Crime Stoppers.
- I have commissioned Gary Gates the former Police Youth Intervention Officer, to do internet safety training for teachers in East Devon Primary schools. I attended one session at Sidmouth Primary School recently and there were some 40 persons present. The session lasted 2 hours and the information imparted to the attendees by Gary was an eye opener for them.
- I am funding mediation again this year meaning that the Police and I can refer any number of cases to Devon Mediation at no extra cost. Such interventions can be a good way of dealing with disputes.
- In connection with modern slavery, child sexual exploitation and PREVENT there will be a Devon wide campaign called "Be Curious" whereby we have paid for the services of a communications company to highlight those issues in a number of ways, such as information cards, media campaign etc.
- The Psychoactive Substances Act became law earlier this month and applies across the UK. The Act:
- Makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, possess on custodial premises, import or export psychoactive substances; that is, any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect. The maximum sentence will be 7 years' imprisonment.
- Excludes legitimate substances, such as food, alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, caffeine and medical products from the scope of the offence, as well as controlled drugs, which continue to be regulated by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

**Gerry Moore**  
**18<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

# **Mid Devon Community Safety Officer's Report**

## **April 2016**

### **The Creedy Local Action Group met on 27 Jan 2016**

- Only 6 young drivers attended a safe driving event held at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre on 28 November which was disappointing following a lot of publicity.
- Prevent training for schools will be delivered by PC Anastasia Earls who has been trained in delivery by myself. She is rolling this out across the whole district and contacting primary schools and youth leaders to attend training sessions.
- Children's Centre has noticed a decline in attendees following moving out of their dedicated building.
- Fire Safety Workshop held in Crediton on 19 April 2016.

### **The Culm Local Action Group next meets on 23 Feb 2016**

- Fire Safety workshops have been rolled out around district.
- WhatsAp now being used to keep Cullompton traders informed of shoplifting and other offences and offenders in the town which is a replication of the Tiverton scheme.
- Crime figures remain low with no specific peaks.
- Street Pastors are operating well and no issues.

### **The Exe Local Action Group next meets on 2 March 2016**

- Good joint partnership working, coordinated by Laura, to deal with issues at abandoned Chicken Factory in town that was attracting youths. Letter to parents that was sent out by school explaining the dangers and describing the H&S issues such as open pits and asbestos. This was replicated in local press and seemed to help resolve the problem as parents were informed of the issues and took action.
- A property closure in Tiverton obtained by MDDC Housing, supported by Laura, lead to the house being repossessed by the council and the tenants moving away.
- Graffiti in the town is still occurring but a local councillor is involved in town clean up days and has been working with groups to remove graffiti from the town. A further event is planned during April/May and new removal kits are being purchased by CSP to support this.
- Street Pastors have in principal agreed to undergo training to cover CCTV at weekends, once the new CCTV system is put in place.
- Tiverton Town CCTV is to undergo an upgrade with new HD cameras installed and some additional cameras on new locations included. This is planned for early May.
- It is agreed that MDDC, Police and Fire will have a joint stand at Mid Devon show this year – 23 July 2016.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour work**

- The Youth ASB meetings continue to be held monthly with 20 young people on the agenda for discussion at the April meeting.
- Laura has been working closely with the Tiverton neighbourhood police team to deal with two groups of young people via the ASB Escalation Process, including for cannabis use and other ASB at the multi storey car park next to the MDDC offices.
- Banning letters issued to four young people from a Council property in Crediton after they stayed over at the property during the Easter holidays without the tenant's consent.

## **INFORM Group**

- The INFORM group continues to meet and most schools were active in supporting Safer Internet Day in early February.
- SWGFL held an Internet Safety session hosted by MDDC on 3 Feb 2016 at Tiverton town hall and was attended by about 50 delegates.

## **Other Work/Updates**

- **CSP Annual Conference** with the theme of Safeguarding Awareness was held on 6 April 2016. It was extended for the first time for the full day and ran until mid afternoon. Feedback from delegates was extremely positive with all presentations getting very good reviews. Lunch as usual especially praised as being very good – thanks to Sainsbury's again!
- **Bitesize Workshops**
  - Fire Safety** workshops held from Feb to April and 33 delegates were trained and can now make direct referrals to DSFRS.
  - Hoarding** workshops were held on 9 March and 45 delegates from across both districts attended the course held in Cullompton.
  - Restorative Justice** workshops were held on 1 February 2016 in Tiverton and Honiton and 52 delegates from all agencies were trained in understanding the RJ concept for victims of crime.
- **Modern Slavery** – a police operation was held early in the New Year on a property in Mid Devon where intelligence indicated individuals may have been held against their will. No individuals were detained or removed from the property but it was a good exercise for all agencies to understand the concept of MS.
- **Safety Advisory Group** going well and reviewing many events that are planned for the district. So far we have worked with 15 event planners for some quite major events including Mid Devon show and several festivals. It has proved extremely useful to meet some festival planners who have put minimal plans in place and expect to host a three day music festival with around 3000 paying customers. We have been able to assist in seeing some major flaws in their plans and expectations.
- Attended a WRAP Trainer information event at DCC to outline Prevent issues and policies which was interesting and informative.

- I joined the Devon Modern Slavery meeting to discuss how we are to jointly address this issue across Devon districts.
- CSP finance. End of year return has been forwarded to DCC and all money from the grant has been spent. In addition £4500 that MDDC contribute has also been spent.

Julia Ryder  
Community Safety Officer, Mid Devon CSP