

East Devon Community Safety Officer's Report March 2015

The Exmouth Local Action Group met on both the 14th January and 25th February

Both meetings were well attended. Total crime in the Exmouth area over the last 12 months up until the end of January 2015, has increased 2% from 1922 offences to 1960.

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse and the Support Services Available

- To support victims of domestic abuse The Open Door Centre is considering offering advice, help and support via a website and email service. This is in the early stages and they have received a lot of peer support to help this get underway. The Open Door Centre manager will contact SPLITZ for further advice.

Deliver consistent messages re Substance Misuse

- Since the last Exmouth LAG I informed the group that I had received a response from both Hugo Swire MP and Lyn Featherstone MP, re Government intentions concerning new psychoactive substances (legal highs).

Other community safety activities / issues

- The Open Door's Night Shift Team have requested training from the Street Homeless Outreach Team (SHOT) to enable their volunteers to be trained to assess and refer rough sleepers.
- Open Door is considering registering their café for the Safe Places Scheme which will enable people with learning disabilities/difficulties to have a place to go to feel safe.

The Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary Local Action Group met on both 20th January and 17th March

Both meetings were well attended particularly the March meeting.

In the Ottery St Mary area over the last year, up to the end of February 2015, total crime has increased 3.6% from 494 to 512 offences while in the Sidmouth area it has decreased 2.3% from 441 to 431 offences.

Deliver consistent messages re Substance Misuse

- The Solomon Theatre Group has performed 'Last Orders' at both Sidmouth and Clyst Vale Community Colleges since the last meeting. Both were very well received.
- The attendee from King's School, Ottery St Mary reported that following the drugs presentations by the Police at the school and the school giving both warnings to individuals and sending letters to parents, the drug problems seem to have reduced.

Other community safety activities / issues

- Following recent community issues in Lower Brook Meadow, Sidford, the East Devon District Council led Community Fun Day held on Saturday 21st

February 2015, was a success. As a result of all the hard work put in the residents have set up an association and two of the tenants who were causing problems for others have moved to another part of the county. Lee Bunn the Housing Officer is doing some work to improve the estate under the council's Regeneration Programme.

- Debbie Humberstone the lead officer of The Project, a mental health support service for young people in East Devon, spoke at the March meeting about what the service provides.
- Sidmouth Police surgery dates have now been arranged and Police will be working in close partnership with Devon Library Service by holding them in Sidmouth Library every 8 weeks. It is hoped that the Trading Standards Dept will attend the first one. It is also hoped to hold surgeries in the mobile library visiting Sidford, Sidbury, Salcombe Regis and Newton Poppleford.
- I have agreed to chair a couple of case conferences re local issues in Sidmouth. One is a drugs issue while the other relates to anti social behaviour involving very young children.

The Honiton Local Action Group met on both 22nd January and 12th March

Both meetings were well attended.

In the Honiton area over the last year up to the end of February 2015, total crime has decreased 10.2% from 627 offences to 563. It should be highlighted that crime is decreasing in the Honiton area and has been for some time.

Other community safety activities / issues

- I have contributed £2,500 to assist with the relocation and upgrade of the Honiton Town CCTV cameras. The Town Council and EDDC's Housing Dept are also providing funding. The council thanked the Community Safety Partnership and Housing for their donations.
- A litter clean up operation had been carried out along the A303 resulting in 71 black sacks being filled.
- Police reported that 14 new Special Constables from the Honiton area are currently undergoing training.
- Police reported that funding has been secured for Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) vehicles to be purchased.

The Axe Valley Local Action Group met on both 22nd January and 12th March

The March meeting was better attended than the January one with 11 people representing 7 different agencies.

In the Axminster area over the last year, up to the end of February 2015, total crime has increased by just 2 offences to 458. In the Seaton area it has increased 2.3% from 343 offences to 351.

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse and the Support Services

Available

- Vikki Raymond the Children's Centre Manager reported that she widely circulates the Centre's Partners' Bulletins. In the current issue the Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service contact details feature.

Tackling Rural Crime

- A new Police Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Simon Aldred, has recently started work in Axminster. Simon used to be the local lead for liaising with adjoining Police Forces in terms of rural crime issues.

Other community safety activities / issues

- PCSO Sam Slater reported that she had been undertaking a lot of work in schools and with young people in general, mainly in the 11-16 year old age group, regarding on- line safety.
- Streetscene reported that there has been evidence of drug use in the West Street toilets in Axminster. Drug paraphernalia has been found in both the gents and ladies toilets. Police will pay attention.
- There were reports of a number of rough sleepers around Seaton Town Hall who are also causing other problems in the town. Police are aware of this and are monitoring it.
- I mentioned that a young male had recently been evicted from a privately owned flat in Axminster. I anticipate problems being caused by this individual in the future.
- Police reported that two new 'Speed Watch' groups had been set up at Colyford and Seaton Down Hill. Both had 8 volunteers who will undertake to do regular speed checks

Other Community Safety and ASB Work

- I am engaging with a national company called Home Instead who provide carers to visit people's homes. The manager of the Budleigh Salterton branch has done a lot of work re scams prevention and with that in mind I am organising a Community Safety morning at Budleigh Salterton Public Hall on Wednesday 22nd April. Scams will be the main topic but other agencies will be represented, e.g. Police, Age Concern, D&SFRS, Homesafeguard .
- Following on from January's Action Planning Day in Honiton all East Devon Local Action Groups will devote much of their next meetings to discussing how they can contribute to the actions.
- Julia and I are planning further 'Last Orders' performances and workshops in all East and Mid Devon secondary schools later this year. The Solomon Theatre Group has been given the details of school contacts and will make arrangements direct with the schools.
- I have given two talks recently to external groups. In the first one to local business people, I concentrated on domestic abuse and in the second talk to elderly people I highlighted scams prevention.

- The alcohol 'bite size' workshop run by RISE which was held at Honiton on 10th February was well attended and well received.

The East and Mid Devon Drug and Alcohol Group met on 11th February

The meeting was not particularly well attended on this occasion due to other commitments.

Rise reported:

- There are 415 clients in treatment at the moment. There is still a bit of a waiting list but this is improving. Treatment groups are now running in Honiton and Exmouth.
- A 'Friends and Family' drop-in support group has started in Tiverton and it is hoped to have such a group in Exmouth.
- There is a 'Breaking the Cycle' worker for East and Mid Devon now in post.

Police reported:

- Cannabis grows have increased. Cannabis fumes are now being fed into drainage systems making it very difficult to detect the source. Fire risks are high due to tampering with and overloading electrical circuitry.
- Cocaine supply remains high.
- Heroin supply continues to be linked to anti social behaviour. Recent drugs warrants have disrupted a small supply chain.

The East and Mid Devon Domestic Abuse Forum met on 11th March

- The SAFE representative mentioned that re the Spiralling DVD, they are working with the Stansfield Centre, Exeter delivering workshops for Year 11 students. Next year they will also be working with Year 10s and they would like the students to make the DVD.

Fee Scott from Devon Rape Crisis gave an overview of the service:

- It is based in Exeter but they deliver face to face services in 22 locations across Devon and Torbay (the service doesn't cover Plymouth).
- A telephone helpline for victims is open 3 days a week and they also provide an email support service. If clients require face to face support they undergo an initial assessment to see if DRCS can they help them and to establish what they want from DRCS. A formal assessment and re-evaluation takes place at 8 weeks and DRCS will carry on providing support after this if it is required. Support provided is not counselling but is specialist trauma work, advocacy and both emotional and physical support. For example they can go with the client to hospital appointments, provide mediation with housing etc.
- They also help clients to make complaints to the police where they have had bad experiences. 70% of rape victims experience trauma symptoms so the service receives lots of referrals from GPs, Mental Health and DVA services.
- They are a small staff team with 25 volunteers across the county. Volunteers receive training for 3 months then undergo a 6 months induction which is

assessed and then they receive an accredited award. Volunteers can then help with the helpline and email support after their 9 months training. Not all volunteers do face to face work, but around half of them do, after being assessed and matched up with the right cases.

- Referrals are 50 % self referrals and 50% from agencies, with the biggest agency referrals from DVA services. All reports of sexual violence to the police go to the sexual abuse referral centre (SARC) but many offences are not going through the criminal justice system and so are referred by the SARC to DRCS.

Gerry Moore
19th March 2015

Mid Devon Community Safety Officer's Report **For 25 March 2015**

The Creedy Local Action Group met on 20 January 2015

Domestic Abuse Awareness

No specific issues were raised on this topic.

The group discussed actions and activities that could be achieved as part of the new CSP action plan and they wanted to :

- Support Pattern Changing Courses for women, and encourage the Children's Centres to continue hosting these events.
- Help with the distribution of information leaflets for people who need support to pick up and also leaflets to help people to ask someone the difficult questions.
- Help in the distribution of pens and keyrings with helpline numbers on - won't draw attention to people picking them up.

Problem Alcohol Abuse

- QE missed the round of Last Orders by Solomon Theatre Group so have been offered Emma's Wardrobes performance which is more about drugs misuse but does cover alcohol issues too. This will be provided during the Summer term 2015.

With regard to new priorities and actions the group were willing to help again with the distribution of information material.

- Last Orders will be funded by CSP for Year 9s in the next academic year.
- Interest in raising awareness of NPS's but need a Countywide approach on this.

ASB

No specific issues raised locally.

For part of the new priorities the group members will help raise the awareness of the police non-emergency 101 number within the area.

On-line Safety & Scams

Activities for the new priorities could include:-

- Solomon Theatre Company – ‘Too good to be true’ production.
- Police can arrange inputs locally to parishes/clubs and groups on this and as above they need an audience to receive this, which will need to be coordinated by parishes.
- Nominated neighbour scheme – do we need to use this again?
- No cold caller info – further use and publicity of this.

General Crime Prevention

For part of the new priorities the group members will help raise the awareness of the police non-emergency 101 number within the area.

Push out general crime prevention advice via parish newsletters etc.

The Culm Local Action Group met on 12 February 2015

Domestic, family and sexual abuse

No specific issues raised.

New Priorities activities can include-

- Links in with CYPS – better networking. Producing a multi-agency contact list for professionals.
- Bite size workshops – to be provided by Devon Rape Crisis and DVA services.
- Messages to businesses such as hairdressers, chiropractors etc.
- Stickers for toilet doors.

Substance misuse

- Link in with the Cullompton Skate Jam – 4 July – opening event for newest part of the skate park, with the JT Centre being open too. Possible topics to promote: safe driving, drinking/health and online safety.
- RISE are willing to put to attend team meetings and we can run another Bite Size workshop.
- Leaflet re: drinking alcohol in public spaces in Polish and any other languages as required.
- *Last Orders* theatre production to be offered again for next academic year 9s at Cullompton Community College and Uffculme School
- Police NPS leaflet to be circulated.

ASB

- Refresher ASB training – this will be done later on in the next financial year (2015/16).
- Safe driving – Skate Jam – see above.
- Reporting to police via 101/999/email – tenancy newsletters, Parish magazines, schools etc.

Crime prevention

- Messages as and when they are relevant, depending on current issues.
- **PREVENT** – workshops for professionals will be arranged to raise awareness of preventing extremism.
- **Immobilise** – police can input serial numbers onto Immobilise website for farms and isolated locations.
- Property marking and use of engraver by policing teams, including an event at Mole Valley.

Scams and online safety

- Messages on local plasma screens etc.
- Talks to groups – by Trading Standards and police.
- Information to District Nurses, Post Offices and places doing money transfers (Western Union) – use Action Fraud info.
- Children's Centres to include online safety in parenting courses.
- Police are doing e-safety talks to parents in schools.

The Exe Local Action Group met on 10 march 2015

Domestic Abuse Awareness

No specific issues but for the new action plan the group discussed-

- Introduction to DDASS/SAFE at Children's Centres? There are already good links between DV services and Children's Centres.
- Raise awareness of MASH to members of public – Care Direct and DCC Safeguarding numbers. Check capacity of the services first – will they be able to deal with increased reports?

Problem Alcohol Abuse

No specific issues but for the new action plan the group discussed-

- Information for parents on substance misuse and where they can go for support – signs and symptoms.
- NPS (Legal highs) messages to young people. There is a danger that any messages could encourage young people to take them. DYS to link with Tiverton High School to look at possible work on this area.
- Business cards for Street Pastors with helpline numbers on.
- Information on NPSs to the UCC at Tiverton Hospital.
- 'Last Orders' will be performed to Yr9 students at all Mid Devon secondary schools including THS again for the next 2 school years. Possibility of follow up workshops with local fire and police officers.

Anti-Social Behaviour

No specific issues raised.

For the new action plan the group discussed-

- Promote the Honest Truth and Learn2Live re: safe driving.
- THS car event – police to link in and DSFRS safety vehicles to attend.
- Promotion of 101.
- Online bullying linked in with ASB Escalation Process.

Crime Prevention

For the new action plan the group discussed-

- Promotion of 101, especially email facility.
- PREVENT training for practitioners on extremism.

- Link in with any local spates of crimes.

Scams and online safety

For the new action plan the group discussed-

- Talks on scams to community groups e.g. Lansdowne residents group at Amory Park bowling club.
- CEOP training for professionals working with young people to enable them to deliver online safety inputs via assemblies, classroom settings and 1-1.

Anti-Social Behaviour work

- There has been four workshops in Mid Devon provided by Laura and myself to staff from our MDDC Housing Teams, Social Landlords, EHOs and police staff. Approximately 50 staff have attended and a further session is planned for late April to ensure everyone has had the opportunity to attend.
- Laura has attended formal ASB Training – a BTech Level 3 in Neighbourhood Nuisance and ASB.
- Several adult case conferences have been held and the month youth ASB meetings continue. We now get CYPS attendance at these which is very helpful.

Other Work/Updates

- Last Orders theatre presentation by Solomon Theatre has attended most Mid Devon Schools to give the alcohol awareness presentation. QEII at Crediton (who missed this) have been offered Gemma's Wardrobe and Uffculme School may also be offered this.
- RISE workshops were held on 10 February in Tiverton and Honiton.
- INFORM meeting was held on 4 March and students from both Tiverton HS and Cullompton CC were invited and provided information about their social media habits. Really good connections with these two schools who are extremely positive and proactive about this work.
- Devon Community Safety Offers met on 5 March. Looked at RJ work, joint initiatives, funding etc.
- I gave an overview of CSP work to the Tiverton Soroptomist Group on 11 March who we link with on raising the profile of safe relationships. There may be opportunities to link with them on other work.

Julia Ryder
Community Safety Officer
Mid Devon CSP