

Teignbridge District Council  
Executive  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Part i

## Devon Serious Violence Governance and Strategy

### Purpose of Report

To approve the peninsula governance arrangements and Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy.

### Recommendation(s)

The Executive Committee RESOLVES to: approve the proposed governance arrangements to enable delivery against the Serious Violence Duty and approve the Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy

### Financial Implications

The financial implications are contained within Section 4. There are no additional funding pressures on the revenue budget.

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### Legal Implications

Section 8 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, imposes a duty on the Council to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.

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### Risk Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment is being completed by the Safer Devon Partnership  
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### Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

There are no significant environmental implications clear at this point

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Executive Member  
Cllr Linda Goodman-Bradbury

[Appendices/Background Papers](#)  
Equality Impact Assessment

## 1. Introduction/Background

The Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) was introduced in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC Act) and commenced on 31 January 2023. The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area.

The core elements of the Duty are:

- To establish a local serious violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA).
- To prepare, publish and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- To review and revise the strategy as required.

District Councils are named as specified authorities in the duty. There is a requirement for the area's strategy to be published by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

The South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a member of the Safer Devon Partnership who are leading the Strategy for Devon. They have worked closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop the governance framework for delivery of the duty.

## 2. Governance arrangements

In Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, a peninsula-wide partnership arrangement already exists to actively tackle serious violence. The Duty will strengthen the region's Serious Violence Prevention Programme (SVPP), mandating regional collaboration via multi-agency delivery. Community Safety Partnerships agreed a Serious Violence Prevention Concordat which sets out a shared commitment to collaborate, to prevent and reduce serious violence across the Peninsula.

Each of the CSPs have responded locally to serious violence, informed by the Peninsula Strategic Needs Assessment, local Strategic Needs Assessments, and other analytical products.

The delivery and decision-making associated with core elements of the Duty will be met through the upper-tier Community Safety Partnerships (Safer Devon Partnership) this will allow existing partnerships to tailor their response to serious violence to meet local need. Given the delivery of the Duty will be met by the upper-tier Community Safety Partnerships, the CSPs will report back to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in line with their requirements and timetable. The OPCC will undertake the administration of official reporting, as per Home Office funding requirements.

Strategic overview and monitoring of the Duty at a Peninsula level will be provided by the 'Strategic Serious Violence Prevention Partnership'. This group will bring together representatives from across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to ensure that the strategic approach is sustainable, and evidence based, and also delivers the outcomes required to meet the needs of the regional community. This group will be chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner as designated convener and serviced by the OPCC's Serious Violence Prevention Team, with specialist support from the office's Governance Team as required.

The purpose of the Strategic Group will be:

- To facilitate and co-ordinate the overall strategic direction of serious violence prevention across the Peninsula; particularly to ensure consistency between the respective Community Safety Partnerships, in such a way that supports sustainability.
- To provide strategic oversight of the core elements of the Duty, and assurance of CSP delivery against the Duty.
- To identify opportunities for collaboration and enable these opportunities as far as possible.
- To consider and manage strategic risks in relation to delivery of the Duty – and emerging gaps and threats.
- To share best practice, both within and outside of Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly
- To encourage innovation and identify opportunities for pilots, test and learn projects, and evidence-based practice.
- To identify and develop opportunities for improvements to data and information sharing across the Peninsula.
- To align with contiguous Peninsular level portfolios (e.g., the Local Criminal Justice Board)
- To identify and leverage additional funding opportunities, both regionally and nationally, through joint procurement, grant funding and other avenues.

In line with the SV Duty, the Strategic Serious Violence Prevention Partnership must have each of the specified authorities represented, in addition to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The South Devon and Dartmoor CSP will be included in the membership and there are still discussions needed to identify the appropriate Local Authority representative for the peninsula.

### **3. Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29**

The Preventing Serious Violence Strategy outlines Safer Devon's framework for preventing and reducing serious violence in Devon. The strategy is grounded in a public health response to violence; recognising that addressing the root causes of violence is crucial for prevention. It outlines the overall vision, priorities and intended impacts for work to prevent violence. A delivery plan exploring work towards these priorities and its impacts will sit underneath this strategy and provide details about specific actions and activities.

Safer Devon Partnership's definition of violence: The intentional use of physical, sexual or psychological force or power (including threats of violence, and including coercive and controlling behaviour).

The defined 'focus areas' which are in keeping with the Serious Violence Duty's focus on 'public space youth violence' are weapons-related violence and drug related criminal activities, and are reflective of the findings around serious violence identified in the local needs assessment.

The strategy vision - Our vision is for our residents, families and communities in Devon to thrive, safe from the fear and experience of violence. We will work with our communities to prevent harms as early as possible, address the impacts of harms that have occurred, and work to strengthen people's wellbeing, resilience and opportunities in life.

The priorities outline the overarching statements of intent which have been informed by the needs assessment. Each priority will be accompanied by an impact, outlining what change is anticipated in our communities as a result of delivering work against the priorities.

- Priority 1 - work towards trauma-informed, shame-competent and neurodivergence-aware systems.
- Priority 2 - respond to young people and adults who are at greatest risk of involvement in violence to take account of their individual needs and experiences, including the likelihood of intersecting needs and the individual ways needs may present.
- Priority 3 - strengthen our understanding and response to contextual harms, including risks from peer groups and from exploitation.
- Priority 4 - strengthen our targeted offer for families, including early years and early help
- Priority 5 - challenge the normalisation of violence in young people and supporting them to develop healthy relationships, both intimate partner and peer to peer.
- Priority 6 - create inclusive, supportive education environments where all young people can thrive, with a focus on strengthening their wellbeing, resilience and opportunities

Performance will be reported back to the Safer Devon Partnership who will formally report to the OPCC. The South Devon and Dartmoor CSP will continue to deliver work that will support the Devon Strategy including work through the Let's Talk programme.

## 4 Implications and Risk Management

### Financial

The Home Office has provided funding for 23/24 and 24/25 to support specified authorities to prepare for; and deliver the Duty. As the 'local Policing Body', the OPCC receives the funding and is responsible for meeting Home Office reporting and oversight responsibilities to ensure the funding is spent appropriately. There are no funding implications for Teignbridge District Council.

Funding associated with the Duty will be devolved to each upper-tier Community Safety Partnership (Safer Devon Partnership). Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for ensuring that specified authorities can access this funding to support them to meet the Duty. CSPs will be required to agree to the terms of a Grant Agreement with the OPCC.

Non-labour funding (for interventions) will be allocated by an agreed funding formula; labour funding (for staff to deliver the SV Duty) will be allocated equally between the four upper tier CSPs. Whilst this may be subject to refinement, the Home Office has provided indicative funding levels for 24/25, of £657,297. This will be devolved as follows:

Community Safety Partnership	Non-labour funding (split by formula)		Labour funding
Safer Cornwall (including Safer Scilly)	25%	£125,804.25	£38,520
Safer Plymouth	26%	£130,836.42	£38,520
Safer Torbay	19%	£95,611.23	£38,520
Safer Devon	30%	£150,965.00	£38,520

As part of the Safer Devon Partnership our CSP Chair will be involved in agreeing the distribution of the Safer Devon element of the funding. The Labour Costs will be utilised at Safer Devon level to support the delivery of the Strategic needs assessment.

There is no allocation of funding from the Home Office post 2024/25

## 5 Risks

There is a risk that if the Devon Strategy is not agreed and published by the deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 all specified authorities would not be complying with the duty and funding may not be provided by the Home Office.

## 6 Conclusion

In order to discharge our duties under the Duty we are required to agree governance arrangements and publish a strategy. The Devon Strategy has been developed by

the Safer Devon Partnership and utilises a public health approach over the next five years to address the key areas identified through the Strategic Needs Assessment