



Community Safety – Update on Violence Against Women and Girls

1. Introduction:

This paper provides a brief overview of the work undertaken to date across Community Safety and what work is planned moving forward.

2. Safer Streets:

A second round of Safer Streets funding has been announced by the Home Office, under which areas identified as having disproportionate rates of crimes such as robbery, burglary and theft from person are eligible to apply. Torquay Town Centre (inclusive of edges of Ellacombe and Warren Road / Melville area) fit the criteria. Funds can be used for crime reduction measures such as CCTV, additional street lighting, Wardens, alley-gating and similar measures. A bid has been submitted for the fund, which Torbay Council are leading and it has been developed with partners in Police and OPCC and members of Making Melville Marvellous and other community and business representatives.

Last week the Government announced a further £25million would be added to the Safer Streets Fund. Future funding rounds will have a focus on personal safety. Community Safety will proactively monitor the opportunities related to this fund to ensure that we maximise the potential in relation to the improving personal safety of individuals in Torbay.

The bid we are submitting seeks to expand the CCTV infrastructure within the Town Centre to areas not currently covered and that have been highlighted as of concern. We are also seeking to upgrade street lighting provision in areas highlighted in the audit. These two measures have been designed with the intention of also promoting public safety following the murder of Sarah Everard.

Further crime reduction measures within Torbay's bid include:

- Design Out Crime Officers from D&C Police offering specialist advice and guidance on crime reduction measures.
- Community Watch to work with local partnerships and residents associations to enhance crime awareness and reduction measures.
- Start of a Hotel Watch Scheme.
- Funds for Feel Safe Scheme.
- Funds for specific target-hardening interventions (particularly relating to HMOs).
- Community funds for partnerships to access and improve local area

3. Current activity in relation to sexual/domestic violence against women

Perpetrator Funding:

Short term grant funding from MOJ (administered by OPCC) ending on March 31st 2021. Combined programme of work with Devon, Plymouth and Cornwall. In Torbay the funding has

been used to convert and deliver an online version of the CRAFT Framework training, which is a relational approach to early identification and prevention of domestic abuse. Participants learn how to identify coercive and controlling behaviour through exercising professional curiosity, increasing relationship conversations with families and identifying areas of difficulty or challenge. Tailored responses are offered and if safe and appropriate, a relationship education intervention (Restore Relationships) is delivered.

Two CRAFT courses will be running in the next two months, one is funded through this grant and the other by the CSP. The training is targeted at practitioners working in early help settings.

The perpetrator grant has also funded the development of the Day Programme in the YOT, a multimedia programme that uses short films, advertisements and chart music to raise awareness and provide education about domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation. It is designed to be used with young people over the age of 14, although can be adapted for use with young people over 11 years.

STP - Whole Systems for Whole People project:

As part of a three year programme of work cross the STP area to transform the 'system' response to people with multiple and complex needs with a specific focus on domestic abuse and sexual violence, Torbay has been working with Devon, Plymouth, OPCC and the CCG to better understand the health and wider system's capacity and capability to identify and respond to sexual violence. In collaboration with the Innovation Unit, we have gathered a compelling evidence base about prevalence and scale, and of victim survivor experiences through listening to the stories of practitioners and people with lived experience.

The findings from this work will be used to challenge the current system response and develop a coherent survivor led systemic service offer. Two stakeholder events are taking place on 6th and 12th May 2021 with strategic leaders invited to attend.

Next financial year the group intends to progress developing a pool of trainers across Devon and Cornwall to be able to facilitate Active Bystander training. This approach empowers people to challenge attitudes and behaviours in a situational context that are complicit in perpetuating abusive attitudes. People receiving the training will learn how to safely challenge where it is safe to do so.

4. Understanding the local experience of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence:

Safer Communities has initiated a confidential online survey on Are You OK asking for those who have experienced domestic abuse and or sexual violence to respond, and which will help us understand an individual's experiences, especially around help and support. The survey covers areas including what they might have experienced, whether they asked for help, who they spoke to and if they chose not to seek help, why they might not have done so.

The survey closed on the 19th March 2021. Work will now commence to collate the information to assist in the understanding of the lived experience of Torbay residents in relation to domestic abuse and sexual violence and to support in the development of effective approaches for our community. A similar survey was conducted in 2016 prior to the development of our 2018 – 2022 DASV Strategy so will enable some comparison to be made over the last 4 years.

5. Prevention:

The newly established Youth Crime Prevention Group has a focus on preventing young people from becoming involved in crime and becoming victims of crime.

One of the focus of this group is working to achieve sustainable outcomes for young people. This is to ensure that the outcomes achieved by them when they are children are maintained through that transition into adulthood so that they have the skills, confidence and ability to make positive choices.

The group is currently looking at funding opportunities to support this work through funding streams such as the Youth Endowment Fund.

6. Serious Violence

CREST Consultancy has recently concluded a review of serious violence across Devon and Cornwall as commissioned by the OPCC. The initial findings were shared at stakeholder events last week and highlight that DASV are some of the main manifestations of violence in the region. The CSP will work with the OPCC in developing approaches to serious violence in Torbay.

This work coincides with the progression of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021 through Parliament. If passed the Local Authority will have new statutory requirements relating to tackling serious violence that will likely be met through Safer Communities and the CSP. Funds have been announced relating to serious violence and we are assessing what opportunities, if any, are open to the Council or partnerships to take advantage of.

7. A response to the murder of Sarah Everard

The murder of Sarah Everard has appalled the nation and has served to highlight many issues that affect women and girls every day. As per the Safer Streets fund request regarding CCTV and street lighting and our wider Council efforts in reviewing street lighting we are taking some immediate steps to heighten confidence in the safety of our public spaces.

However, there are many big issues that are highlighted that require more consideration in how we should respond to the fear that many women manage in various ways on a daily basis. This will be discussed at the next DASV Executive Group on 6th April 2021 and as an agenda item at the CSP Stronger Board on 29th April.

The image below has been produced by the University of Alberta's Sexual Assault Centre, it serves to show the nature of contributory actions and attitudes that underpin the more extreme acts of violence in the upper part of the triangle. Whereas it focuses on sexual violence and these discussions are not limited to it, the graphic is included to demonstrate the levels at which we need to consider working and where our efforts are best placed. The sexual violence workshops in May 2021 will be some of the most significant steps into this space and significantly shape our new DASV Strategy that we are working on throughout the year.

Pyramid of Sexual Violence

