

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 15 June 2021

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Community Safety – Update on Violence Against Women and Girls

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 In light of the issues arising from the murder of Sarah Everard, the Cabinet wanted to take the opportunity to review community safety within Torbay. At the Cabinet meeting on 23 March 2021 Members considered a report and requested that a further update be presented to Cabinet post the Community Safety Partnership meeting on 29 April 2021.

1.2 Appendix 1 provides the update and considerations of the Community Safety Partnership.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.

We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.

We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.

2.1 The proposals in this report help us to develop and deliver this ambition by creating a safe environment and enabling those who experience sexual and domestic violence to receive the help they need, when they need it.

The report highlights work being undertaken under the direction of the Community Safety Partnership and by Torbay Council's Safer Communities team. Also mentioning the ongoing work within the street lighting infrastructure by the Natural Environment and Highways Teams.

An ongoing programme of work continues to review street lighting outages across Torbay whether on our highways or parks, promenades and green spaces. Lights and or cables are being replaced to ensure the infrastructure works effectively.

Parks Lighting Update

Works have been ordered to address the areas where enquiries and complaints were highest. This work has been completed in the main but await a Western Power repairs at Torwood Gardens and Preston Promenade. For information these areas are:

- Paignton Seafront
- Torwood Gardens
- Victoria Park
- Preston Promenade

SwisCo are now working with SSE and taking a more systematic approach with biannual scouting and repairs. SwisCo will respond to faults when reported by the public but there is often a longer than ideal repair time due to capacity and condition of infrastructure. Alongside this approach there is investment at Upton Park and Young's Park which will see improved lighting. There is also investment in decorative lighting at Torquay and Paignton Seafront. The priority currently is to address faults with the current infrastructure.

Highway Street Lighting Update

Introduction of additional areas of 'all night' lighting with the introduction of dimmable LED streetlights. Whilst some 70% of our inventory now use LED lights, the remainder are being upgraded to this, as and when outages occur on the older lamps. These are in residential areas, where currently 'part night' lighting with the lamps being turned off from 0030hrs until 0530hrs throughout the winter months and from 0130hrs in summer has been adopted.

Eventually, a programme of bulk replacement will be investigated, but currently there is an obligation to concentrate on renewing overaged lamp columns.

Unfortunately Torbay's Safer Streets bid was not successful and nor were the vast majority of secondary bids across the country, so will not be able to implement the range of interventions and infrastructure improvements as hoped. We are currently reviewing the Safer Streets round 3 details to see what opportunity may present for us to apply for.

Whilst there are ongoing activities around awareness raising and workforce development, a lot of work is being undertaken to inform a new strategy or strategies for domestic abuse and sexual violence. The strategic review is being undertaken due to progress made since the advent of the 2018 – 22 DASV Strategy. The detail of an action plan will accompany this work being undertaken throughout 2021.

We are considerate of taking preventative messages into schools, but work in this sphere is still to be scoped and no detailed plans developed yet. DASV is included within schools' PSHE programme but there is no consistency across Torbay as regards content due to each school being responsible for its own approach to these

themes. How we engage with schools and young people will be picked up within our strategic review.

The instance of violence against men has not been a part of this update. It is however featured within our DASV work and male survivors of childhood sexual abuse were spoken to as part of the sexual violence work conducted over the last 6 months. Whereas there may be gendered experiences, prevalence and approaches to this work, we are keen not to exclude any persons from help who may have suffered various forms of violence.

Supplementary to the report we can confirm that we have been successful in the request for MOJ monies within an OPCC led peninsular bid for IDVAs and ISVAs. Consequently we are now seeking to recruit 3 new IDVA posts on 2 year contracts – one to work specifically with LGBTQ community (in conjunction with Intercom Trust), one in our sexual health services and one attached to courts.

- 2.2 The reasons for the decision are to ensure that Torbay is a safe place where the residents feel able to live their lives without fear of violence.
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3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) That contents of the report are noted and future updates requested to monitor progress.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Safer Communities Torbay - Community Safety – Update on Violence Against Women and Girls