

Overview Report for Safer Torbay (Torbay's Community Safety Partnership)

Overview and Scrutiny Board

8th November 2023

Introduction:

This report provides a brief overview of some of the key areas of work led by Safer Torbay and focuses on the following areas:

1. Prevent and Channel
2. Modern Slavery
3. Serious Violence
4. Youth ASB
5. Domestic Homicide Reviews

1. Prevent and Channel

1.1 Prevent:

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) as modified by the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, placed a duty on a number of organisations, including the local authority, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

The Prevent Duty was created by the Home Office as part of the government's Counter Terrorism Strategy and sets out the guidance for the local authority and its partners to prevent people becoming terrorists or engaging in extremism leading to terrorism.

The Duty aims to safeguard vulnerable people from harm, just like all other types of safeguarding such as human trafficking, child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.

Torbay Council shares a Prevent Partnership Board with Devon County Council. The Prevent Partnership Board provides a key forum for partner agencies to come together to understand the local risks and needs and to develop and deliver a co-ordinated response to reduce the radicalisation and terror risk across the Torbay and Devon geography. This includes performing a quality assurance role for the delivery of Channel locally.

The work of the Partnership is formed using both the Counter Terrorism Local Profile and local Channel data and intelligence.

The work of the Prevent Partnership Board and Channel is overseen by Safer Torbay and Safer Devon for their respective local authorities.

1.2 Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP):

The CLTP identifies the threat and susceptibility in relation to terrorism and extremism in a local area. One CTLP is completed annually by Counter Terrorism Police for each region using local police and partnership data, information and intelligence. The CTLP helps the police and local partners understand and prioritise threat and vulnerability with suggested recommendations to address any risk.

The CTLP for the south west outlines that our primary concern is Self-initiated Terrorist (S-IT). The majority of concerns are linked to young white males with an interest in Right Wing /Extreme White Wing ideology and who are vulnerable due to issues such as their mental health, domestic violence within the family and social isolation. There is a significant risk with isolated individuals that their beliefs are further developed by extensive use of the online space.

Through our local referrals to Channel we know that the profile of the Torbay risk is in line with the above profile.

1.3 Channel:

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

The role of Channel is to:

- identify individuals at risk
- assess the nature and extent of that risk
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Channel is attended by a core group of partners including, local authority community safety, counter terrorism police, local police, children's services, adult services, mental health services, substance misuse services, Youth Justice, probation, and education. Other specific / specialist services are invited to attend where they have particular knowledge, or a skill set to support a particular case.

Channel is subject to regular scrutiny through the Homeland Security Department in the Home Office. This includes an annual assurance statement being completed, bi-monthly development meetings with Homeland Security, dip sampling and attendance at Channel by Homeland Security Quality Assurance Leads.

Torbay's Assurance Statement is green with the exception of partnership information sharing which is amber as there is an agreement in place, but it is being renewed.

The Homeland Security Quality Assurance Lead attended a Torbay Channel in January 2023. The feedback was that Channel performs well and Torbay is considered an area of good practice and new Channel Chairs have been directed to Torbay by Homeland Security to shadow Channel as part of their induction and training into their role.

1.3 Community:

The Safer Communities Team works with local police, partners and the community to understand and respond to community tensions and to identify, monitor and respond to potential emerging issues. This includes addressing instances of stickering and graffiti that have hate crime or radicalisation links. The team also work with the Home Office, police and community to monitor

and respond to the local impact from national and international incidents such as the Israeli-Gaza conflict.

1.4 Current developments:

- Safer Communities (within Torbay Council Community Safety Team) is working with the Learning Academy to develop and renew the Prevent and Channel training on i-Learn.
- Safer Communities is also developing Council webpages and materials for use across the partnership using the Home Office Communication Strategy Toolkit.
- Safer Communities and Adult Social Care are working together to develop a bid to the Home Office to gain funds to deliver a Prevent conference to the partnership in early 2024 that will focus on upskilling the workforce to identify and respond to terrorism and radicalisation risk.
- Safer Communities continues to work with the Department for Education and local education providers to increase their understanding of Prevent and support referrals into Torbay Channel.
- Torbay and Devon responses to the CTLP recommendations are being developed and will be shared and supported through local partnership delivery both in the children's and adult's partnerships.

Please note: The Home Office has arranged a Prevent Elected Member Conference for the 8th December 2023. There are 2 spaces per Council. Invitations for this have been forwarded to Cllr. Tranter and Cllr. Bye.

2. Modern Slavery

2.1 Anti-Slavery Partnership:

Torbay Council and Devon County Council share the Torbay and Devon Anti-Slavery Partnership (ASP).

The ASP is a multi-agency forum that brings together statutory and non-statutory partners from across Devon & Torbay to tackle the growing threat of modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) in all its forms.

The ASP meets on a quarterly basis and is established to provide a strategic meeting framework to raise awareness, share information and expertise, and proactively work together to ensure a consistent and robust approach to tackling MSHT.

Due to the effectiveness of the ASP and due to the shared risks and needs across the peninsula, from November 2023 Plymouth and Cornwall will also be joining the Partnership to support the development of an effective and consistent whole peninsula response to modern slavery and human trafficking.

The ASP Chair reports into the south west regional ASP and is a proactive member with its breadth of partnership working being seen as good practice.

2.2 Concerns in Torbay:

Nationally there is an increase in reporting of modern slavery concerns in the adult care sector. This is also being seen locally in Torbay and the surrounding areas.

As such, Safer Communities is working with adult social care leads to support understanding of the local concerns and is providing tools, resources and support address these moving forward.

This includes provision of the newly published 'Establishing modern slavery risk assessment and due diligence in adult social care-a commissioning officer's guide' and working with the LGA National Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Group to determine best practice and developing that in Torbay.

2.3 Development:

Safer Communities as part of the ASP is leading on the development of a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Partnership Training Framework using the Skills for Care Training Framework. This will act as a clear guide to commissioning and delivering good quality training to organisations according to their roles and responsibilities in relation to responding to modern slavery, from organisations that need a basic knowledge through to first responder organisations.

3. Serious Violence:

3.1 Legislation:

Clauses 7-21 of the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a multi-agency 'Serious Violence Duty'.

Statutory guidance for the Duty was published in December 2022 and the Duty commenced in January 2023 with the requirement for specified authorities to be compliant with the Duty and have published Serious Violence Strategies by January 2024.

3.2 The Serious Violence Duty:

The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, 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 aim of the Duty is to encourage organisations to share information, data and intelligence, and work collaboratively rather than in isolation to tackle serious violence. New powers are created for sharing information with each other and with the police.

The specified authorities subject to the duty are:

- Police
- Local Authorities
- Youth Justice Service
- Probation
- Fire and Rescue
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Local Health Boards

In recognition of the vital roles of education providers, prisons and youth custody establishments in relation to addressing serious violence, section 14 of the PCSC Act imposes a specific duty on those bodies to collaborate with specified authorities if their involvement is requested.

The Duty does not specify a 'lead' organisation or person whose responsibility is to coordinate activity or prescribe a structure within which specified authorities are expected to work. It is for the specified authorities to come together to decide on the appropriate lead and structure of collaboration for their area.

This could be Violence Reduction Units, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), Multi-agency safeguarding partnerships or Health and Wellbeing Boards.

In recognition of CSP's role in this area of work and considering the recent amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which make serious violence an explicit priority for CSPs, the local decision is that CSPs will be the delivery mechanism for the Duty. This is consistent across the Devon and Cornwall geography.

3.3 Defining the local area:

Torbay is the defined area for delivery but the Duty gives scope for working in wider geographies if there are shared needs and aims.

As such it has been agreed by the 5 CSPs in Devon and Cornwall that there will be a local focus at a local authority level but where there is added value, identified common themes / areas of work will be addressed at a shared authority level or a peninsula level.

3.4 Duty requirements:

- 1. Undertake an evidence-based analysis of the causes of serious violence within their area and develop a local strategic needs assessment (SNA) which should inform the local strategy.*

The guidance makes it clear that the strategic needs assessment and resulting strategy can be 'incorporated into existing products'.

The SNA is currently being developed and led by the Data Analysts in Community Safety and Youth Justice

Through funding provided by the OPCC the CSP commissioned a review of youth violence in Torbay at the end of 2022.

This document is being used as the foundation for the development of the SNA with other key documents and data sets already developed across the partnership being used to inform the SNA further, to build a clear picture of the serious violence profile in Torbay.

- 2. Prepare and implement a strategy (informed by the local strategic needs assessment) with bespoke solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area.*

On completion of the SNA the strategy will need to be developed.

Other requirements of the CSP include completing a Community Safety Strategy.

There are extensive pressures across the specified authorities currently and as such, limited capacity to undertake the development of two strategies.

The statutory guidance states that the serious violence strategy can be embedded with existing strategies and plans and doesn't have to be specific to serious violence.

Due to the nature of the two strategies above, there will be a naturally occurring overlap. As such, a hybrid strategy will be developed to meet the needs of all the two duties to ensure a consistent and robust approach to each and reduce unnecessary duplication or multiple strategic aims and objectives across the partnership.

- 3. Keep the strategy under review which should be done on an annual basis and updated where necessary.*

Once the strategy is completed it will be kept under review by the CSP Board to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

3.5 Defining Serious Violence:

In considering how to define serious violence within their area, specified authorities are required to encompass serious violence as defined for the purposes of the government's Serious Violence Strategy and include a focus on issues such as public space youth violence.

The Serious Violence Strategy sets out specific types of crime of particular concern, including:

- homicide,
- violence against the person which may include both knife crime and gun crime, and
- areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.

These crimes must be at the core of any definition of serious violence for the purpose of its reduction and prevention.

However, there is flexibility for specified authorities in local areas to take account of their evidence-based strategic needs assessment and include in their strategy actions which focus on other related types of serious violence, this could include (but is not limited to) domestic violence, alcohol related violence, sexual abuse, modern slavery or gender-based violence.

Once the profile of serious violence is fully understood through the SNA then an evidence-based definition based on the identified local needs will be developed and to support the strategy.

3.6 Funding:

In preparation for the Serious Violence Duty the Home Office has allocated £359,106.61 to Devon and Cornwall for 2023/2024.

Through the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership (led by the OPCC) £200,000 has already been committed by the OPCC to the CSPs in FY 23/24 to support each Upper Tier authority's Serious Violence Prevention activities.

For Torbay this funding (and the funding from the OPCC for the previous financial year) has been used for the following programmes:

- The Youth Violence Review
- Mentors in Violence Prevention (delivered by Break the Cycle)
- Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment for Children (additional resource based in Children's Services)
- Serious Violence Prevention Worker (based in the Torbay Youth Justice Service)
- Substance Misuse Outreach Worker (co-commissioned with Public Health and based at Checkpoint)

The Home Office funding for 24/25 remains unallocated pending the establishment of an agreed strategic governance structure for the Duty. Once this in place planning for the next financial year will commence using the SNA, strategy and learning from the above delivery.

4. Youth ASB

4.1 Overview:

Working with children and young people to meaningfully divert them from involvement in ASB remains a key focus for Safer Torbay and the wider partnership.

4.2 Youth ASB Forum:

To understand and respond to youth ASB in Torbay and ensure appropriate responses including safeguarding responses, the Youth ASB forum is held every fortnight and is attended by the ASB Caseworker, Town Centre Officers, Children's Services (including education), the Harbour Authority, the Community and Voluntary Sector and local police.

Referrals, information and intelligence are discussed by area and multi-agency plans and responses are put in place including but not limited to, information and referrals being sent to other key partnership forums such as MACE, ASB letters being sent, joint agency visits and inclusion of areas on police patrol plans.

4.3 Youth ASB and Safer Streets 4:

Through Safer Streets 4 youth outreach was provided by Sound Communities in Torquay throughout the summer. Early indications show that it was successful with less ASB in hotspot areas in Torquay and feedback from young people is that they really valued the provision. A full report on the programme delivery is due mid-November 2023.

4.4 Assertive Outreach (AO):

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has funded the Assertive Youth Outreach Project across the peninsula to divert young people from ASB. The lead provider is Devon Space, who deliver in Devon and Torbay.

Referrals are made to AO by the ASB team and police when it is identified that an area is being impacted by increased youth ASB. In the school holidays the provision increases to 3 areas and in term time it operates in one.

Currently the provision is in Foxhole and is working with the local community to increase local knowledge and links to sustain young people in positive activities in their community post intervention.

4.5 Community Development:

Safer Communities is linking with community partnerships to understand the local need in more detail in relation to ASB. This is already leading to development of approaches in the local community. For example, due to the concerns raised at the recent Foxhole partnership meeting, a community training event in Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is going to be delivered at Parkfield in November to increase knowledge and understanding in MVP to enable us to develop a community response to MVP. This has a good evidence base in relation to reducing crime and ASB in communities in areas such as the West Midlands, Merseyside and across Scotland.

5 Domestic Homicide Reviews

5.1 Overview of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs):

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 and became a statutory requirement in April 2011.

A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. Since April 2011 there has been a statutory requirement for local areas to conduct a DHR following a domestic homicide or suicide that meets the criteria.

DHRs are led by Community Safety Partnerships.

5.2 Torbay DHRs:

The status of Torbay DHRs are as follows:

- 1 DHR has just been agreed for publication by the Home Office.
- 2 DHRs are nearing conclusion.
- 1 DHR is in progress.

Of these DHRs 1 related to a homicide and 3 to suicide.

This increase in DHRs where the death occurred through suicide is being seen nationally.

Moving forward in Torbay where a DHR is linked to suicide, public health will become part of the partnership to ensure that any identified learning can be used to assist the local work in relation to suicide prevention.

Nationally there is a significant increase in DHR referrals. Although this has not been seen in Torbay at the point of writing, it has been seen in Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall and so we are aware we could see an increase moving forward.

Due to the increasing numbers and complexity of DHRs across Devon and Cornwall, DHR leads from Torbay, Devon, Cornwall and Plymouth now meet on a bi-monthly basis to share learning, discuss themes and to support a co-ordinated system wide response to approach and learning from DHRs.

