

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 27 August 2026

Wards affected: ALL

Report Title: Overview report for Safer Torbay (Community Safety Partnership)

When does the decision need to be implemented? n/a

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the O&S Board with an update on key work areas for Safer Torbay, covering headlines of progress from the last 12 months, and key focus areas for the next year.

2. Strategic Assessment 25/26 – and current crime data

- 2.1 The most recent Strategic Assessment was reviewed in August 2025 to inform decision-making and prioritisation by Safer Torbay. It involves risk assessing and scoring each community safety issue.
- 2.2 The following highlights were identified:
- Overall recorded crime in Torbay increased by 16.1% (compared to the previous year 24/25)
 - 46% of recorded crime was violent crime (including sexual offences, violence against the person, and robbery)
 - 40% of violence against the person offences was flagged as domestic abuse
 - The overall level of domestic abuse (including DA incidents and DA crimes) increased by 11%
 - The number of sexual offences reported increased by 10% compared to the previous year
 - There was a decrease in police reported ASB incidents of 7.4% compared to the previous year
 - Alcohol and drug related harm continues to present the highest risk to communities.

In addition, community feedback is gathered throughout the year, in the form of structured surveys or more informal intelligence gathering via, for example, community engagement and complaints received. These surveys have identified that antisocial behaviour continues to be a key issue for the local community, particularly in public spaces.

Snapshot of current crime data:

Crime / incident type	23/24	24/25	25/26	Change	Trend	Q1 25/26	YTD
All Crime	11538	13391	13057	-2.5%	▼	3595	3595
All ASB*	3007	2783	2375	-14.7%	▼	573	573
Violent Crime							
Violence with injury	1659	1736	1639	-5.6%	▼	411	411
Violence with no injury (inc stalking and harassment)	3262	3756	4477	19.2%	▲	1123	1123
Homicide	1	1	0	-100.0%	▼	0	0
Domestic abuse and sexual offences							
Domestic abuse Incidents	1374	1456	1331	-8.6%	▼	327	327
Domestic Abuse Crime Related	2339	2665	2629	-1.4%	▼	570	570
Other sexual offences	314	379	404	6.6%	▲	95	95
Rape	193	179	207	15.6%	▲	48	48
Acquisitive Crime							
Domestic Burglary	275	286	241	-15.7%	▼	79	79
Non domestic burglary	155	148	144	-2.7%	▼	53	53
Shoplifting	984	1473	1161	-21.2%	▼	472	472
Other theft	862	1092	1023	-6.3%	▼	291	291
Vehicle Crime	575	555	369	-33.5%	▼	141	141
Robbery	106	100	92	-8.0%	▼	23	23
Drug offences							
Drug trafficking	114	265	194	-26.8%	▼	20	20
Possession of drugs	329	430	291	-32.3%	▼	70	70
Anti-Social Behaviour							
Criminal Damage	1301	1421	1246	-12.3%	▼	333	333
Arson	41	32	36	12.5%	▲	11	11
Public Order	741	860	823	-4.3%	▼	223	223
Possession of Weapons	171	150	170	13.3%	▲	41	41
ASB Incidents*	3007	2783	2375	-14.7%	▼	573	573

Table 1: Police data by incident type for Torbay

*D&C Police that recording practices for ASB have changed. Once this has been rectified data will be updated.

3. Safer Torbay headline activities in last 12 months

3.1 Prevent The Prevent Duty was established via the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with the aim of stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent also extends to supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism. It sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms, such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs, and physical and sexual exploitation. The duty helps to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes.

This year much of the focus of Prevent nationally has been responding to the tragic events in Southport in July 2024 and considering how the Prevent framework currently responds to violence fixated individuals where there is no identifiable ideology. The Southport Inquiry has published its Phase 1 report which examined the years, months and days leading up to the attack. It looked specifically at how decisions were taken, info was shared, and existing policies and guidance. Five fundamental failings were identified:

- 1) The failure of any organisation or multi-agency arrangement to take ownership of the risk
- 2) Poor information management and sharing
- 3) Excusing the perpetrator's behaviour because of his perceived or diagnosed ASD
- 4) Failure to oversee and intervene in the perpetrator's online behaviour
- 5) The role of the perpetrator's parents

The report made 67 recommendations - 30 for central government, 27 at other organisations, and 10 for Phase 2 of the Inquiry. The Government has agreed with all the recommendations and formed a new taskforce to establish a clearer picture of the threat of Non-Ideological Extreme Violence. Phase 2 of the Inquiry will examine the adequacy of arrangements in England and Wales for managing the risk from violence fixated individuals (VFIs) and how effective are multi-agency arrangements at identifying, assessing and managing risk posed by VFIs.

The Devon and Torbay Prevent Partnership has pre-emptively started considering these findings and our existing responses within local safeguarding, social care and education to manage risk from VFIs.

Home Office Benchmarking for Prevent found that Torbay has met or exceeded all of the benchmarking areas with one exception. The benchmarking recommended that there needs to be a clearer communication and engagement plan for Prevent with more proactive engagement.

Locally our approach has been increasingly on communications regarding hate crime and community cohesion rather than Prevent specifically and the Home Office have supported this approach as proportionate given the level of risk in Torbay. We will continue to strengthen how we gauge community sentiment and emerging themes by sharing intelligence regarding community tensions and understanding local risk levels.

The Prevent Partnership have supported SPACE Youth Services to apply and successfully secure Home Office Preventing Radicalisation funding to deliver 'Navigating the Web' project which will work with young people identified at risk of online radicalisation across Devon and Torbay. This is an exciting new project which will work with schools to deliver face to face sessions with young people over an 18-month period.

Areas of focus for this year

- Progress development of work to respond to the Phase 1 findings of the Southport Inquiry ensuring close alignment with safeguarding and education partners.
- Continue to build engagement and proactive communication activity regarding hate crime and community cohesion, and development of a partnership problem-solving plan for hate crime and incident reporting.

3.2 Antisocial Behaviour – Town Centre ASB & Youth ASB

Town Centre ASB: Addressing and responding to antisocial behaviour as a partnership was agreed as a priority for Safer Torbay in the 25/28 Strategy. Via the Torbay Town Action Group collaborative activity has progressed in Torquay Town Centre building on the success of the Street Focus project. The partnership has continued to exploit legislative enforcement tools such as Criminal Behaviour Warnings and Orders; and joint problem solving in regular weekly huddles. Progress is being made on the Environmental Visual Audit with a focus on identifying private building owners to gain permission for graffiti removal. Ongoing discussions have taken place to explore options for improving safety in Town Centre Car Parks; and strengthening the partnership response to abandoned buildings.

During 25/26 the 'This is Our Circus' event took place which was supported by various teams involved in the Castle Circus area and delivered a range of community engagement activities, artistic displays in vacant shops and murals in Factory Row. In addition, CSAS Accreditation has been obtained for SWISCO Enforcement Officers and Town Centre Officers giving additional enforcement powers.

The ENTE working group has been successfully established which is focusing on improving safety specifically in the evening and night-time economy. A partnership nighttime walkabout used the Purple Flag assessment criteria to identify priority areas for improvement which forms the basis for activity this year, these include improving lighting and signage but also highlights longer term improvements which has been fed into wider regeneration planning. This also has provided an evidence base for consideration of funding bids for Home Office Funding.

Youth ASB: During this year it has been recognised that there are improvements that can be made in how the partnership collectively responds to antisocial behaviour by children and young people. Gaps have been identified in how young people are identified at an early stage and how we ensure we are coordinating and directing the limited resources available towards early intervention rather than when behaviour has escalated to require warnings or enforcement action. There are also numerous voluntary sector organisations working with young people in Torbay, and there are opportunities to work more closely with these partners to make a collective difference by sharing

information earlier and coordinating a response. Within the Local Authority we have mapped the existing structures and services who are working with young people – and identified where we can make improvements. This will be widened to capture policing processes within the Child Centred Policing Team. In addition to this work, the Safer Communities Team have been engaging with Torquay Academy to introduce some peer-to-peer work to Year 10s focused on antisocial behaviour. We have also been exploring how we can gain young people’s voices in how they perceive ASB and what they think should be done in response.

Areas of focus for this year

- Antisocial Behaviour Strategic Partnership Workshop September 2026 – to bring together wider partners who can also contribute to reducing to ASB (adults and young people) and supporting victims; and strengthen strategic governance
- Strengthening information sharing between internal local authority teams working with young people to ensure early intervention and prevention of ASB with outreach or direct support.
- Continue to develop links with local businesses and stakeholders to build trust and confidence.

3.3 Serious Violence

Over the last year the focus has been on continuing to focus on Violence Against Women and Girls, with an emphasis on improving safety on public transport and embedding the successful mentors in violence prevention approach with peer-to-peer work in schools. The Home Office Serious Violence Grant has continued for 26/27 which has allowed Safer Torbay to fund several test-and-learn initiatives with young people to prevent serious violence which are summarised in Appendix 1.

SWAN (Safety of Women at Night Charter) – the SWAN charter has been running for several years and is about supporting businesses and organisations to take practical steps together to make Torbay safer at night for women. 200 organisations are currently signed up to SWAN and we have continued to engage with local businesses to increase engagement. SWAN has widened to encourage businesses outside of the night-time economy to sign up such as gyms; grocery shops and B&Bs. Engagement work is also ongoing with Hackney cab drivers who have committed to sign up as an association with plans developing to do a specific joint awareness campaign on taxi safety and using licensed taxis later in the year. As part of the training offer for SWAN signatories the partnership can now provide a tiered offer including DA Friends training which is an online basic introduction to domestic abuse; which can be enhanced with the DA Champion training. Active Bystander Training have been secured for September and October 2026. SWAN and IMABI Travel Guardian are now being promoted together – with SWAN signatories involved in raising awareness of the safer travel app as part of their commitment. Travel Guardian is continuing to be grown in Torbay and now includes a variety of resources – a focused comms campaign is due to launch from September to push up sign up and engagement on the platform.

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP): as Home Office funding was not a sustainable way of funding the MVP, funding was secured from DASVEG underspend to recruit a Partnership Delivery

Manager for Young People and Healthy Relationships. The priority for this post holder is to fully embed the learning from MVP into mainstream youth provision and within schools. In the last six months work has been ongoing with the Torbay Council youth hub team to train youth workers in how to use peer to peer approaches; continued engagement with schools to embed the role of Active Bystander and also planning for an 'Adults Stand Back' day to highlight MVP which will be led and delivered by young people.

Home Office Serious Violence Funding: for 26/27 Safer Torbay was allocated £109K from the Home Office to fund serious violence prevention projects. Unfortunately, the Home Office were only prepared to commit to a single year funding proposal, although the funding will potentially be available until 2029 which significantly restricted the scope of what could be realistically delivered. In addition, there was a delay of almost two months in the Home Office agreeing delivery plans which has resulted in projects only starting in June 26. There were also much stricter criteria for delivery plans in which at least 30% of the interventions had to be 'high impact' according to Youth Endowment Fund evidence; and 15% match funding was required, although this was 'in kind'. Further details of the delivery plan can be seen in Appendix 1.

Serious Violence Duty (SV) requires 'specified authorities'¹ to work together to identify and respond to the kinds of violence that occur in their area. This means sharing multi-agency data to fully understand local issues; and using this data, alongside the lived experience of communities, to inform the development and implementation of a local serious violence strategy. The strategy should be reviewed at least on an annual basis using the most recent data and insight. Although not mandatory, updated national templates have been developed recently to assist partnerships in producing the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and resulting strategy. Although Safer Torbay does have an SNA and Strategy this has not been updated since it was first published in 2023 primarily due to limited capacity and resources within the partnership. The significant lack of strategic analytical capacity for this work has been escalated internally, and to the Safer Torbay Partnership but due to the short-term nature of grant funding and lack of available funding within statutory organisations this gap has not been addressed. This is considered a risk for the Partnership and statutory partners if expected at any point to demonstrate to the Home Office they are meeting the requirements of the Duty. At Peninsula level this has been highlighted and discussions taken place to explore how we may better collectively share resources including commissioning of a Peninsula police-led SV strategic assessment; and from existing capacity there will be a light-touch review of the local SNA and Strategy completed by the end of 26/27 using the new templates as much as possible.

¹ Torbay Council, Devon and Cornwall Police, Torbay Youth Justice Service, Devon and Torbay Probation Service, Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, Devon Integrated Care Board

Areas of focus for this year

- Successfully deliver all Home Office funded Serious Violence projects and ensure all have an evaluation framework
- 'Adults Stand Back' event with schools in November 2026
- Review the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy and utilise new national templates.
- Continue to work to address gaps in partnership data and analytical capacity.

4. Safer Torbay

- 4.1** The new Community Safety Strategy highlighted several areas of development relating to identified gaps in strategic delivery, governance and engagement.

Community engagement and building resilient communities: the Safer Communities team has increased its engagement with existing community groups, Community Builders and the CVS over the last year to raise awareness of Safer Torbay and re-establish relationships, networks and capture community voices. The Connecting Narratives event was held in December 25 which brought together partners across Torbay to explore the interconnected realities behind community safety priorities, using lived-experience narratives, interactive theatre ("On the Edge"), and system-wide reflection. The event focused on intersectionality, multiple disadvantage, and trauma-informed practice to better understand how services touch real lives. The learning from this event was fed back to service commissioners, it received positive feedback from participants and was described as an informative and innovative event. There are ongoing efforts to increase communication in relation to community safety initiatives particularly using opportunities to raise awareness around under reporting of hate crimes and domestic abuse. There are regular joint social media posts between the Local Authority and the police to highlight positive outcomes, particularly in the Town Centres. There have also been several neighbourhood community drop-ins attended by police and local authority representatives.

Reducing reoffending – A draft Reducing Reoffending Strategy has now been completed which will be signed off by Safer Torbay in October. The Policing & Crime Act 2009 places a statutory duty on CSPs to have reducing reoffending strategy for adults and young people. The strategy pulls together all the relevant strategic workstreams that contribute to reducing reoffending and highlights where Safer Torbay members can influence existing efforts that address drivers of reoffending. It also identifies areas where the drivers of offending should be specifically considered in wider strategic decision making outside of the community safety context. The principles of the strategy are:

- **We collaborate** – reducing reoffending is a shared responsibility. We work together to provide coordinated support; and remove barriers that can increase the likelihood of reoffending. We provide through-the-gate continuity with seamless custody to community support.

- **We are trauma informed** – we recognise that many people involved in the CJS have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect or significant life challenges. We take a strength's-based person-centred approach that recognises individuals' skills, resilience and potential for change.
- **We take a population approach** – we understand and address the underlying factors that contribute to offending and reoffending. We use evidence, data and local intelligence to understand patterns of need and target interventions where they can have the greatest impact. We focus on prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.
- **We are community focused** – we listen to the experiences of individuals with lived experience of the CJS victims, families, and communities. We seek to address stigma and create opportunities for people to contribute positively to their communities.

Safer Torbay Workshop series – to develop a partnership delivery plan to respond to the emerging contextual challenges included in the Community Safety Strategy, Safer Communities has developed a series of workshops led by nationally recognised experts. The workshops will be delivered during October 26 and supported by the Cynefin Company who will capture feedback and insight throughout the series to consider in the final sensemaking session. The online workshops will be available for any practitioners, and members involved in community safety and will cover the following:

- **The mainstreaming of the far-right** explores how divisive narratives become normalised and affect community cohesion and safety.
- **AI, algorithms and online harm** examines how emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and social media create challenges opportunities and disinformation. It also looks at how technology affects our relationships, wellbeing and community safety.
- **Climate change and community safety** explores climate change as a "threat multiplier". It looks at how climate change affects community safety and focuses on its psychological impact on us and our communities.
- **Social cohesion and societal resilience** explores the connection between social cohesion and societal resilience. It also considers how community safety and its wider partners fit into this connection.
- **Collective Sensemaking** is the closing session which will help participants reflect on the workshops and topics covered to identify actions that can be taken.

Following these sessions Cynefin will facilitate a local workshop with the Safer Torbay partnership to formulate a local delivery plan in response to these challenges.

Governance and accountability - Progress has been made to develop a performance dashboard which includes a range of KPIs to capture progress across the themes of the Strategy. A strategic risk register is also under development and will be taken to the CSP in October for consideration. Access to partnership data is still an area for improvement however there is now a signed information sharing agreement with Health which should result in health data being shared next quarter. Probation headline data is also now available. As mentioned previously analytical resource remains a risk.

5. Summary

- 5.1 In summary, Safer Torbay has continued to make positive progress over the last year, strengthening partnership working, developing new approaches to prevention and early intervention, and responding to emerging community safety challenges.

Whilst reductions have been seen across many crime categories, areas such as violence against women and girls, violence without injury, and sexual offences continue to require focused partnership attention. Looking ahead, the partnership will continue to develop its strategic response through improved performance management, stronger community engagement, and delivery of key prevention programmes.

In addition, the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation presents an opportunity to review the effectiveness, governance arrangements and future operating model of the Community Safety Partnership, ensuring it remains fit for purpose, aligned to any new local government structures, and well positioned to respond to the evolving needs of Torbay's communities.

Appendix 1: Home Office Serious Violence Grant Delivery Plan 26/27

Title	Cost	Description	Outcomes
Youth Justice Service – Nutrition Programme HIGH IMPACT	£15,000	Contribution towards delivery of a nutrition programme as part of the YJS interventions offer – over a 12-month period the programme will deliver food preparation, cooking and nutrition sessions . The programme will include providing parents and carers nutritional advice and meal plans.	• Demonstrable improvements in young people's nutritional knowledge, as measured through pre/post programme questionnaires. • Increased ability to plan and prepare healthy meals independently and with family support. • Evidence of positive change in family routines around food (via parent/carer feedback)
Therapeutic response to harmful sexual behaviours HIGH IMPACT	£8,000	To upskill the Therapeutic Team with the appropriate therapeutic intervention skills to respond safely and consistently to referrals for concerns of HSB in children under 12 . This is currently an increasing area of need.	• Increased practitioner capability to deliver evidence-based interventions for children under 12 displaying HSB, measured through competency self-assessments and supervision feedback. • More timely, consistent, and developmentally appropriate responses to lower-level or early-onset HSB referrals. • Reduced escalation of concerning behaviours due to earlier targeted intervention.
Building Better Relationships Programme for girls & young women HIGH IMPACT	£10,000	Delivery of 2 x 8-week group work programme with girls and young women referred who have had members of their families convicted of serious violence (either parents or siblings). Covering friendships and safety; navigating conflict; reporting/talking to safe adults; standards and expectations in relationships.	• Improved emotional regulation and conflict-management skills, evidenced through participant assessments and facilitator observations. • Greater awareness of risks related to violence, exploitation, bullying and digital harm, and increased ability to identify safe adults.
Youth Justice Service - Holiday Programme HIGH IMPACT	£15,000	Deliver a programme of structured diversionary and social skills activities during the holiday periods. Activities delivered at least 2/3 times per week. Will provide an environment and group activities that encourages growth in social skills , such as problem solving, leadership, teamwork; and emotional abilities as well as mental health support.	• Increased engagement with structured, pro-social activities during peak seasonal risk period. • Growth in social, communication and teamwork skills, measured through session evaluations and practitioner reports. • Improved confidence and emotional wellbeing, leading to greater readiness for education or training in September • Reduction in episodes of anti-social behaviour or offending during the summer window.
Male 'Constructive Dialogue' trainer network HIGH IMPACT	£10,000	Fund a 'train the trainer' programme for men working with boys and young men . Training will provide participants with the skills to facilitate constructive dialogues with boy and young men, about safety, empathy, respect – and resilience to negative influences. Trained practitioners will then continue to be developed as a reference group / Ambassador's network	• A cohort of trained practitioners able to facilitate meaningful, evidence-based discussions on safety, respect, empathy and masculinity. • Improved quality and consistency of gender-informed practice across local settings. • Increased critical thinking and resilience among participating boys/young men exposed to harmful norms or influences.
SPACE – deliver the 'Not My Sentence' programme MEDIUM IMPACT	£37,500	To deliver the 'Not My Sentence' Programme for children and young people who have a parent or sibling in prison . This will fund 25 spaces for 121 support from a qualified youth worker for 8–18-year-olds (6 week +) who have a family member in prison.	• Reduced feelings of isolation, shame and stigma among children with a parent or sibling in prison, measured through validated wellbeing tools. • Improved emotional regulation and coping strategies, reducing vulnerability to harmful behaviours. • Increased school attendance, engagement and stability for participating children. • Positive attitudinal and behavioural changes evidenced through practitioner feedback and family reports.

SPACE – deliver the 'Belonging' programme HIGH IMPACT	£11,000	To deliver the 'Belonging programme' and fund 10 spaces for siblings of young people involved in exploitation / youth justice service to participate in the Belonging programme. The activities week includes social skills development ; building confidence; team working; problem solving; and healthy relationships- two further groups sessions include work on community; participation and follow up social skills development.	• Strengthened family relationships and support networks, reducing cumulative risk factors over time. • For siblings of exploited or YJS-involved young people: improved sense of belonging and reduced risk of adopting similar pathways.
Violence prevention youth and community event NOT ON YEF LIST	£5,500	To deliver a violence prevention youth & community event – to capture and share lived experience. This will be the culmination of a programme of partnership engagement & participation activities in targeted communities.	• Increased visibility and understanding of lived experience relating to violence across local communities. • Strengthened trust between communities, partners and services, enabling better intelligence-sharing and early intervention opportunities. • Greater involvement of children, families and communities in shaping serious violence prevention priorities.