



Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

12th November 2021

Serious Violence Prevention Partnership: *Creating safer futures in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly*

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This paper provides an update to the Police and Crime Panel on the activity being delivered by the Serious Violence Prevention Programme launched in 2020 by the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

2. Background

- 2.1 In February 2020, the Commissioner and the Chief Constable announced a new preventative approach to tackling serious violence in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Supported by an annual investment of £1 million for four years the new Serious Violence Prevention Partnership takes a public health approach to preventing and tackling the forms of violence which are most evident across the region and in our communities.

3. Progress of the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership

- 3.1 The overarching vision set for the Partnership is: ***Violence is not inevitable. The Serious Violence Prevention Partnership will focus on breaking the cycle of violence in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.***
- 3.2 A summary of the key progress and achievements of the partnership to date are set out in the brochure attached to this report. The Partnership commenced its work in autumn 2020 with an initial focus on detailed and expert analysis of the types of violence most prevalent in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to steer and guide the partnership's focus, and ensure that activity is targeted and evidence based. The programme has worked with Crest Advisory, a leading crime and justice consultancy, to carry out this analysis.
- 3.3 The attached document highlights the key achievements to date of the Partnership which are focused on working with young people in order to break the cycle of violence within our communities, in particular through:



- *Commissioning innovative services* like the U+ Programme in Cornwall which in its pilot phase is working with over 100 young people on the verge of becoming involved in disruptive and harmful anti-social behaviour and the deployment by Shekinah/Make Amends of two Restorative Justice Family Workers who will work, through restorative family conferences, with at least 40 eligible families per year.
 - *Enabling criminal justice partners to enhance their focus on early intervention*, for example by providing funding to Youth Offending Teams across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to increase the use of Out of Court Disposals with eligible young people and by providing additional support to Plymouth Youth Offending Team for speech and language therapy services with young people.
 - *Supporting the adoption of early intervention and prevention approaches* such as the expansion of the Turning Corners Youth Violence Project in Teignbridge and the South Hams and the piloting of sport based diversionary initiatives with Street Games in Plymouth.
- 3.4 The Partnership will continue to work closely with partners from across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as we work to prepare for the new legislative framework around preventing serious violence which is currently being debated in the Houses of Parliament. A Senior Leaders Event is planned for January 2022 which will bring together strategic leaders from across the peninsula to build on that collaborative approach and explore how we can work better together to prevent serious violence.

Contact for further information:

Pierre Doutreligne

Governance Officer

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

pierre.doutreligne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

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