



## Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

**4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### Hotspot Policing: Mid-term Update.

#### Background

In February 2024 the Home Office announced £1M for each force area to deliver a 12 month hotspot patrol programme to target ASB and Serious Violence. The funding criteria allowed for force areas to use the full range of uniformed visible presence available in their area to conduct patrols in hotspots, for example, police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), local authority community safety wardens, Business Improvement District (BID) patrol staff, and street marshal.

The funding came with strict criteria to ensure the hotspot activity was maximised to have the greatest impact in local areas and achieve tangible reductions in ASB and Serious Violence, and positive outcomes for those communities that were experiencing the most harm.

The Home Office funding was supplemented by a further £200,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s budget in order to maximise the number of partner patrols across Devon and Cornwall, in addition to the additional police patrol hours.

Using police data and input from Community Safety Partnerships, 16 hotspot areas (matching LSOA boundaries) were identified as per the Home Office criteria. These were then further ranked as Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas depending on volume and severity of incidents, which determined the level of police and / or partnership uniformed resources that would be deployed to deliver the hotspot patrols and how the funding would be allocated.

<b>Tier 1 (additional policing and partnership patrol resources)</b>	<b>Tier 2 – Partner funded patrols (warden/marshals)</b>
Exeter – Sidwell Street area Exeter – South Street/Cathedral Plymouth – Barbican and Hoe Plymouth – City Centre Torquay – Castle Circus Torquay – Waterfront and Torre Truro – Boscawen Newquay– Beach and Centre Barnstaple – Town Centre	Bideford Exmouth Newton Abbott Paignton Penzance Camborne St Austell

## **What is the purpose of Hotspot Policing?**

The main objectives of the Hotspot Policing project are:

- To increase trust in police/authorities in tackling Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) and Serious Violence (SV).
- To increase comfort for residents in using hotspots public spaces.
- To influence behaviour change to reduce the number of incidents of ASB and Serious Violence in identified hotspots.
- To encourage reporting of ASB and Serious Violence.

## **How were the hotspot locations identified?**

Crime data for serious violence and incident data for antisocial behavior was collated for the 12 months January 2023 to the end of December 2023. This data was mapped against LSOAs across the force and ranked. This provided a hierarchy enabling the project team to identify locations suffering the highest levels of SV and ASB combined. The 13 areas suffering the greatest combined SV and ASB were selected across the force.

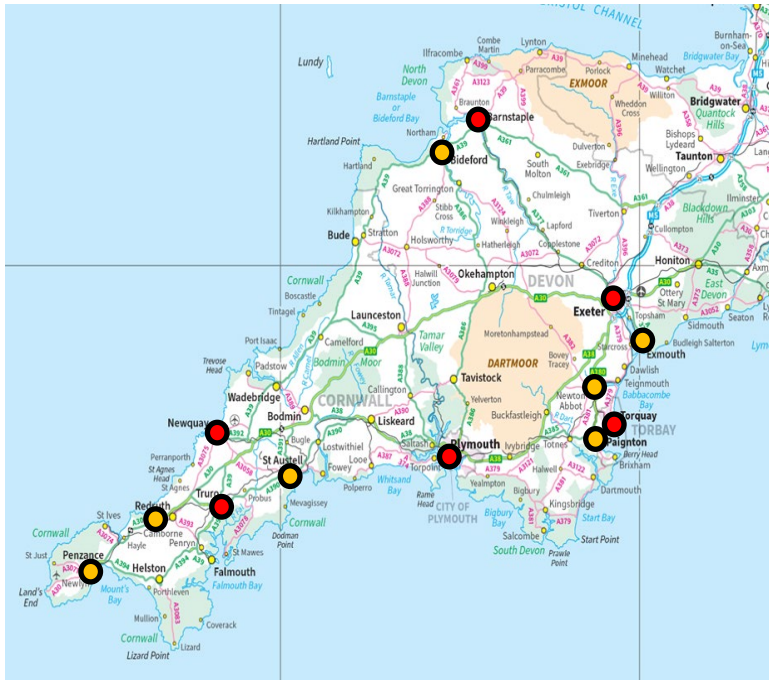
In addition, the data was considered and scored against the Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CCHI) allowing the project team to confirm the right areas had been selected from a harm perspective, rather than solely by incident type.

Within each of the 13 areas a further mapping exercise was undertaken to identify where patrols were best focused and identify individual hotspot locations. Each of the 13 towns had a minimum of four hotspot locations identified. These hotspots would be the focus of patrol activity over the preceding 12 months.

## **How is it being delivered?**

Internationally and nationally, there is a strong evidence base for the Hotspot Policing methodology. This suggests that patrols should be conducted at a minimum frequency of every three days, with patrols lasting at least 15 minutes within each hotspot. Patrols should be high visibility and should be on foot, enabling officers to engage with the public.

Devon and Cornwall has implemented a two-tier system, providing a policing and partnership delivery model in 6 areas, these are referred to as tier 1. A further 7 areas have been selected for partner only patrols (street marshals/town wardens), these are referred to as tier 2. This is intended to maximise the opportunity for visibility through cross partnership working.



● Tier 1: These areas will have additional police and partnership resources to carry out the hotspot patrols

● Tier 2: These areas will have partner agency funded resources only to carry out the hotspot patrols

The project team have supported each area in constructing a bespoke problem-solving plan to tackle the longer-term causes of the crime and ASB present. This has been supported by the Devon and Cornwall Police Specialist Problem Solvers. Wherever possible to ensure a high quality of service the project team have supported local partnerships to contract street marshals who are already community safety accreditation scheme (CSAS) certified. Those that are not are currently receiving support from Devon and Cornwall Police to obtain their CSAS accreditation.

Patrols are mapped using GPS trackers to ensure that they are meeting the viability targets. This allows the project team to monitor how frequently foot patrols are taking place in each area, and to then monitor crime reports to evaluate whether the disruption is having a positive impact.

## Progress Update

Police Patrols began on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2024. This has used existing police resources (police officers and PCSOs) to deliver additional patrols on overtime.

Collaboration with our local authority delivery partners has been positive and productive and all areas now have operating local visible patrols in place. These are operated by a range of different types of officers including street marshals, Local Authority ASB Officers, and wardens delivered through Business Improvement Districts. Community feedback to the Hotspot patrols has been overwhelmingly positive.

In the period 01/05/2024 to 10/09/2024 the following results have been achieved through hotspot patrols:

- 369 ASB incidents attended by officers
- 107 arrests
- 146 Stop & searches
- 85 Safeguarding referrals or Public Protection Notices (PPN)
- Engagement with over 24,000 members of the public
- 6,000 premises visits
- 35 public engagement events.

It is important the public understand the reason for patrols in their area and that local partnerships are able to publish the work being undertaken. The project is supported through provision of a funded communication officer who seeks to gather outcomes and make these available to both local partnerships, police teams and the public.

This has taken the form of over 60 different external communication releases, delivered via both traditional media, social media and force messaging systems. Evidence suggests that where results are shared widely the public are likely to feel safe and have greater satisfaction in the service offered.

### **Next Steps**

Whilst continuing to ensure the quality of our patrols, public engagement and external communication, the project team are building legacy outputs that will provide sustainability post funding period.

For example, we are working with the Devon and Cornwall Police Performance and Analysis department to develop a programme that will enable Sector Inspectors to produce their own local hotspots maps on demand and plan their neighbourhood officer tasking, accordingly, enabling the Hotspot methodology to be tailored to local needs.

We are providing all Local Authority Hotspot Street Marshalls with access to free Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) training. CSAS gives employees who are involved in a community safety or traffic management roles a range of powers usually only available to police, such as the authority to issue fixed penalty notices for certain offences, thereby increasing their ability to contribute to community safety and combat crime and disorder, public nuisance, and other forms of antisocial behaviour, not just for hotspots patrols, but for all patrols they carry out in Devon and Cornwall.

Six months into project delivery we have gathered enough quantitative data to start analysing the effects of the patrols are having on ASB and Serious violence in the hotspots. By comparing data for the hotspots before and since patrols began, we will be able to evidence the effects of patrols, and to identify any trends and patterns.

We will also begin to review and evaluate qualitative data relating to project delivery and to patrols and compile a comprehensive best practise and lessons learned report that will inform the next 6 months of delivery, and will be available to inform future iterations of Hotspots projects or similar initiatives.

**A full and detailed presentation on the analysis and evaluation to date will be provided to the Police and Crime Panel on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024.**