



**Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel**  
**30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**  
**Police and Crime Plan Priority: Drugs and alcohol**

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Commissioner's Police and Crime plan focusses on four main priorities: antisocial behaviour (ASB), serious violence, drugs and alcohol and theft. This report describes activity undertaken by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Devon and Cornwall Police to deliver the priority area of drugs and alcohol, specifically tackling concerns in our towns and city centres, in our countryside and coastal areas, on our roads and in our homes and neighbourhoods. The report also describes how the force and the Commissioner are delivering this priority through a focus on repeat victims, repeat offenders and repeat locations.



## **2. Background**

### Drug offences

2.1 In the 12 months to November 2025:

- 4,350 drug offences were recorded, a 10% decrease on the previous year (-501)
- Most offences related to possession of drugs with 2,860 offences recorded (66%); largely cannabis (1,669)
- 1,490 offences related to drug trafficking (34%), including importation, supply, and intent to supply.

2.2 In the 12 months to June 2025:

- Devon and Cornwall had the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest outcome rate for drug offences out of 42 police forces in England and Wales.
- 43% drug offences had a positive outcome in Devon and Cornwall, compared to 62% in England and Wales.



## 2.3 During 2025:

- 1,131 people were arrested for Drug Driving Offences in 2025<sup>1</sup>

## Alcohol related offences

## 2.4 In the 12 months to November 2025

- 9,692 offences were flagged as related to alcohol, a 12% increase on the previous year (+1,022)
- Most offences related to violence (58%); including violence with and with injury (5,631), followed by shoplifting (1,043, 11%)
- Comparing alcohol-related offences year-on-year should be approached with caution particularly as some increases may be a result of improved recorded practices and improved use of the alcohol flag by police.

## 2.5 The key aims of the Police and Crime Plan's drugs and alcohol priority are:

- A reduction in drug dealing and alcohol related disorder in our towns
- Drug dealers are deterred from using our countryside and coastal routes
- Zero tolerance to drink and drug driving
- Supply and demand for illegal substances are disrupted

## 2.6 During 2025:

- 1,656 people were arrested for Drink Driving offences in 2025<sup>2</sup>

2.7 The Chief Constable has developed a delivery plan which sets out the prioritised activity for which Devon and Cornwall Police will focus its resources, activity and development in 2025-26 in line with the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan priorities.

In our towns and city centres 	In our countryside and coastal areas 	On our roads 	In our homes and neighbourhoods 
<p><b>A reduction in drug dealing and alcohol related disorder in our towns.</b></p> <p>We will make use of referrals to drug and Alcohol services for specific individuals.</p> <p>We will continue to focus on Drink Spiking offending utilising Op Oppossum – targeting specific areas as directed by intelligence.</p> <p>We will make use of diversion schemes to take offenders away from committing offences and to provide support to reduce reoffending.</p> <p>We will focus on License premises enforcement and event licensing to make sure appropriate alcohol sales are in place.</p> <p><b>Lead: ACC Crime, Justice and Vulnerability</b></p>	<p><b>Drug dealers are deterred from using our countryside and coastal routes.</b></p> <p>We will use our intelligence and tasking processes to target OCGs to support disruption tactics such as County Lines drug supply.</p> <p>We will also continue to work in partnership to identify and target Organised Crime Groups who engage in crime, including human trafficking, theft, drug dealing and money laundering, disrupting their activity and confiscate their profit.</p> <p>We will 'target-harden' coastal access points using specialist resources.</p> <p><b>Lead: ACC Crime, Justice and Vulnerability</b></p>	<p><b>Zero tolerance to drink and drug driving.</b></p> <p>We will pursue impaired drivers using technology and will continue the delivery of Lift Legend and Op Limit during NPCC road safety campaigns.</p> <p>We will develop an impaired driving problem profile, using data and intelligence to identify offending drivers and problem hotspots, adopting a zero tolerance to drink and drug driving.</p> <p>We will use ANPR hotlists to find drivers suspected of driving whilst impaired and respond proactively to activations.</p> <p><b>Lead: ACC Contact and Specialist Operations</b></p>	<p><b>Supply of and demand for illegal substances are disrupted.</b></p> <p>Our intelligence and tasking processes will target OCGs to support disruption tactics such as County Lines drug supply.</p> <p>We will also continue to work in partnership to identify and target Organised Crime Groups who engage in crime, including human trafficking, theft, drug dealing and money laundering, disrupting their activity and confiscate their profit.</p> <p><b>Lead: ACC Crime, Justice and Vulnerability</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> Up to and including 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025

<sup>2</sup> Up to and including 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025



### 3. Police and Crime Plan aim: A reduction in drug dealing and alcohol related disorder in our towns

#### Street Focus



3.1 Street Focus was launched in May 2024 to support partners in driving down ASB and crime in Torquay town centre, much of which is caused or exacerbated by drug and alcohol misuse. Additional police and uniformed community patrols aimed to provide a reassuring presence to help people feel safe in the town centre as well as acting as a deterrent for crime. Street Focus Torquay was used as a multi-agency pilot approach to test new initiatives to improve the environment, increase public confidence, reduce ASB and crime and bring long term change to the area.

3.2 During 2024/25, the Commissioner has invested additional resources into Torbay through Hot Spot Policing, additional policing teams, Safer Streets 5 funding, as well as in kind contributions from the Commissioners' own staff and operational budgets.

3.3 The benefits of Street Focus are now being seen, and the learning has been taken and translated into tangible actions across the rest of Devon and Cornwall, which also includes the launch of Street Focus Camborne in October. Plans are being developed in collaboration with the police and community partners and discussions have already been initiated with Cornwall College Group, Cornwall Youth Services, and Cornwall Council colleagues responsible for children in care, exploring opportunities for meaningful involvement of young people in local improvement initiatives.

#### Hotspot Policing

3.4 Devon and Cornwall Police's Hotspots initiative supports improved safety outcomes within evening and night time economy (ENTE) locations. Although ENTE sites are not a primary programme focus, a number of Hotspots fall within (or immediately adjacent to) ENTE areas. The increased visibility of patrols and intelligence led tasking in these Hotspots strengthens guardianship at peak demand times and reduces the opportunities and conditions that enable harm. This is particularly relevant for drug related activity and alcohol related disorder. Targeted patrol presence, early intervention, and joint working with partners and licensed premises can disrupt street level drug dealing, reduce associated violence and exploitation risks, and prevent escalation of intoxication related incidents that commonly drive calls for service in the night-time economy.



3.5 The same approach contributes to improved outcomes against wider ENTE concerns, including VAWG (violence against women and girls) related harm (such as harassment, unwanted sexual attention, stalking and predatory behaviour) and vulnerability related incidents. A visible and consistent policing presence in Hotspots overlapping ENTE areas increases deterrence, improves public confidence and reporting, and enables earlier identification of safeguarding opportunities, particularly in high footfall areas such as queues, transport hubs, taxi ranks and key routes to and from venues.

3.6 Proactive engagement with venue staff and door supervisors, coupled with rapid response to emerging disorder, helps to create a safer operating environment and reduces repeat harm.

### Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)

3.7 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to help tackle anti-social behaviour and are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour.

3.8 These orders allow authorised officers to tackle against specific behaviours, such as street drinking, aggressive begging, and public urination, by issuing fines or requiring individuals to leave the area.

3.9 Currently all the Community Safety Partnerships have PSPOs in place within the main town centres. Use of PSPOs are within all of the local community safety plans.

### UKPAC

3.10 There is a strong relationship between substance misuse, shop theft and violence committed by offenders affected by drug and alcohol addiction and this presents challenges for local businesses and communities across Devon and Cornwall. UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing business crime reduction. UKPAC's model contributes significantly to policing efficiency and on outcomes for the community by reducing the administrative burden on the police and by building a strong evidence base.



3.11 Through a dedicated team of crime analysts, UKPAC collects and compiles critical evidence of shoplifting offences, including statements, CCTV footage, and business impact statements. This process ensures that when a repeat offender commits multiple crimes, the police receive a comprehensive case file, allowing them to maximise court outcomes.



3.12 The OPCC has committed £250,000 funding over two years to initiate a pilot in Torbay followed by wider force rollout. Since the launch of UKPAC in April this year, over 330 businesses across Devon and Cornwall have joined the scheme, including several major national retailers such as Superdrug, SPAR, Matalan, B&M and the Fraser Group (which includes Sports Direct, House of Fraser, Evans Cycles and Jack Wills).

3.13 The partnership is already achieving positive outcomes, with seven prosecutions secured against repeat offenders, including custodial sentences and compensation orders. These results demonstrate the value of collaborative working between businesses, the police and the wider criminal justice system to tackle shoplifting prolific offenders and reduce the impact of retail crime on local economies.

#### Buvidal pilot in Torquay

3.14 Buvidal is a slow-release medication that is subcutaneously injected and provides Buprenorphine exposure for either one week following a single injection, or one month. Buvidal has therefore been designed for flexible dosing, to meet individual needs, in contrast to other Opiate substitution medications that require daily doses.

3.15 In early 2024, the OPCC secured £50,000 funding to support a Buvidal pilot in Torbay to support Office for Health Improvement and Disparities' (OHID) ambition to increase the number of adults accessing drug and alcohol treatment and reduce Torbay drug related deaths. Some individuals within Torquay town centre struggled to engage with existing Opiate substitution treatment options and had difficulties stabilising on a prescription of methadone or buprenorphine.

3.16 There were a cohort of individuals within the town centre whose illicit drug use was associated not only with their own individual risks but was also creating anti-social and offending behaviour for the wider community. There were also other individuals exiting prison already prescribed Buvidal and the pilot funded the continuity of this treatment.

3.17 In total, eight individuals participated in the pilot, four females and four males, aged between 29 and 57 years. All participants saw improvements in their drug use and self-reported physical and psychological health. All reported that their life circumstances had improved – this ranged from better relationships with their families, stopping sex work, and moving away from vulnerable positions of being cuckooed. A resounding theme was gratitude that they did not have to attend a pharmacy daily saying this impacted on reducing the thoughts of having to use drugs daily to only once a month.

#### Naloxone

3.18 Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose. It works by attaching to the receptors in the brain that opioids bind to blocking their effects and restoring breathing and is available in either nasal or injectable form.



From October 2024, Naloxone nasal kits were rolled out across the Force and available in all marked response and neighbourhood police vehicles.

3.19 The OPCC has supported two Naloxone peer led programmes (Plymouth and Torbay) involving local public health commissioners, drug and alcohol services and people with lived experience of drug and alcohol misuse, working across their own networks to supply Naloxone, whilst offering essential overdose awareness advice.

3.20 The overall aim of the Naloxone peer led programmes is to widen the supply of Naloxone, reduce the risk of drug related deaths, and promote access to treatment via a unique co-produced peer driven approach.

#### Amber Foundation

3.21 The OPCC have committed to a 3-year funding arrangement of £48,000 per year with the Amber Foundation to support up to 12 individuals aged 18-30 facing problems and offer homeless support to help them move away from homelessness, out of unemployment and work towards better, brighter and healthier futures.

3.22 The provision offers a temporary home, personalised support and opportunity to develop new skills, experiences and have the time to focus on themselves. The service is designed to help young people move on positively and independently to a job, a place in education or training, abstain from long term drug and alcohol use and most importantly of all a safe, sustainable place to call home.

#### Licensing reviews

3.23 There are over 8,500 licensed premises across Devon and Cornwall, spread over 11 licencing authorities. Under the Licensing Act 2003, police forces may apply to the relevant authority for a review of any premises which is licensed for the sale of alcohol.

3.24 Devon and Cornwall Police have a policy of engagement and education before enforcement, meaning that the force will aim to put measures in place to ensure the safe running of licensed premises, before referring to the licensing authority for a review.

3.25 During 2025, the force made approximately 1,500 proactive visits, around 400 incident-related visits, conducted 197 consultations with licensed premises and attended over 100 Pubwatch meetings.

3.26 The positive outcome of this work led to the force supporting seven cases brought by other partner agencies and three referrals were made by the force to the licencing authorities for review. In total three premises licences were revoked, six resulted in updated conditions of licence, plus numerous voluntarily amendments to licence conditions agreed in partnership with licensees.



## Alcohol licensing Consultation 2025

3.27 Earlier this year, the UK government launched a call for evidence on proposed changes to the alcohol licensing system. The consultation aimed to gather views on a consistent, transparent licensing system that supports economic growth while promoting public safety and community wellbeing. The Commissioner submitted a response to the consultation highlighting her overarching support and the need for such changes, recognising the support needed for local businesses, but also stressing the importance of a balance being struck between police response to ASB linked with alcohol related harms and consideration of public health matters. She proposed the need for more discussion, and involvement with wider health authorities together with a consistent set of public health data to inform longer term alcohol treatment options as well as the impact to frontline emergency health response services.

### **4. Police and Crime Plan aims: Drug dealers are deterred from using our countryside and coastal routes & supply of and demand for illegal substances are disrupted**

#### Operation Scorpion

4.1 Operation Scorpion is a well-established programme of regionally co-ordinated and focused drug disruption activity, intended to make the South West a hostile environment for those who deal drugs and engage in anti-social drug taking activity. Operation Scorpion harnesses the collective strength of South West policing to better coordinate disruptive activity, and target-harden the area to protect against criminals engaging in drug activity. It achieves this by drawing on the region's collaborative capabilities and adopts an intelligence-led approach in the disruption of organised crime and drug-related criminality. While the specific focus of activity may vary with each iteration, the overarching theme is "Ring of Steel" (around the South West to prevent drugs entering etc). It has just completed its thirteenth iteration. The results from Op Scorpion 13 are as follows.

#### 4.2 Regional results:

- 112 people were arrested
- £67,329 cash was seized
- 52kg of cannabis was confiscated, along with 868 cannabis plants
- Three guns were recovered, plus five imitation firearms
- 19 other weapons seized, such as knives, hammers and tasers
- 48 people were safeguarded, including five children

#### 4.3 Devon and Cornwall results:

- 27 arrests
- 21 people safeguarded, including one child
- £17,465 cash seized
- 308 cannabis plants confiscated



- Two guns seized, plus one imitation firearm
- Six other weapons seized

4.4 Op Scorpion 13 received good press coverage. For the first time, TikTok and Snapchat were used to engage directly with the public, especially young people. This was paid for through the regional budget drawdown for Op Scorpion. In Devon and Cornwall, Snapchat had 51,961 impressions for children and young adults aged 13-24. TikTok for Devon and Cornwall had 186,699 impressions and 724 click throughs.

4.5 The South West Police Strategic Collaboration Board has agreed that there will be three Op Scorpions per year with at least one being linked to County Lines Intensification Week (CLIW).

### Crimestoppers

4.6 A Crimestoppers regional co-ordinator funded by the OPCC launched a coastal crime campaign last year asking residents to be vigilant and report anonymously any suspicious activity related to coastal crime, including theft, criminal damage and smuggling.

4.7 The new campaign launched by the charity has provided a guide of things to look out for, such as boats moored up in unusual places or at times that seem 'out of the ordinary', people making attempts to signal or guide boats offshore or people putting objects into the water.



### Drugs Intel Desk

4.8 For the last three years, the OPCC has funded £89,000 towards an analyst and researcher posts within Devon and Cornwall Police's Drugs Intel Desk team. This additional capacity enhances knowledge around drug threats and the force's ability to map and score organised crime groups (OCGs), as well as enabling local intelligence and information to be shared appropriately with partner agencies supporting all four Combating Drugs Partnerships in the peninsula.

4.9 Significant drugs disruptions have been undertaken in recent months. A total of 108 disruptions were undertaken force wide during County Line Intensification Week which ran concurrently with Op Scorpion in June 2025, prioritising threats which exploited children and vulnerable adults or were linked to serious violence. A total of 41 individuals were arrested during the intensification phase, with 12 of these individuals going on to be charged with drug supply offences.





4.10 In addition, 30 adult and 15 youth engagements were undertaken during these intensifications, which included a series of public engagements, planned visits, delivery of training and county lines themed campaigns.

4.11 Examples of other types of activity include:

- Engagement with Safer Cornwall Partners: information sharing with partner agencies to provide information around county lines and exploitation and generate intelligence gathering to fill intelligence requirements and understanding of county line threats.
- 13 presentations given to students at schools and colleges in East Cornwall, which were focused on providing literature on the methodology of county lines, in order to educate and develop awareness of county lines exploitation and signs of cuckooing.
- Community alert to warn parents regarding the signs and dangers of using vapes laced with spice/THC in Plymouth.
- Police cadets have been involved in a community engagement project in Plymouth, targeting areas prevalent with drug-related issues. They have delivered leaflets generating awareness of cuckooing risks and vulnerability.
- Distribution of county lines material to a variety of establishments in North, East and West Devon, including foster placements, residential settings, support accommodation, colleges and housing departments within local councils, to develop their awareness of county lines exploitation and indicators of cuckooing.
- Visits to hotel establishments in Torquay to engage with the community and increase awareness of the signs of county lines criminality and exploitation, in order to safeguard those vulnerable and at risk.

4.12 In addition, the Neighbourhood Policing Week of Action also ran concurrently during the intensification period, increasing community engagement to disrupt and deter anti-social behaviour, acquisitive crime, violence and street-based drug supply. The highest proportion of commodity seized during the intensification was cocaine. Multi kilo quantities with an estimated value at approximately £3,000,000 was seized, plus six firearms, three bladed weapons and a total of £57,466 of cash.

4.13 Other successes include:

- An intelligence-led vehicle stop resulting in a single occupant to be found in possession of 77 individually wrapped deals of cocaine and a burner phone. The suspect was charged and remanded and class A drugs seized.
- A warrant at an industrial unit in Exeter located a cannabis factory involved in the large-scale distribution of cannabis infused products. Six persons were arrested believed to be involved in criminal enterprise. Packages containing 0.6KG of cannabis were seized.
- An intelligence-led stop of a vehicle travelling from Manchester to South Devon. Three persons were arrested for possession with intent to supply class A drugs. A quantity of controlled drugs was seized.
- In South Devon, two males from London were arrested for being concerned in the supply of class A drugs. A quantity of crack cocaine, heroin and cash was seized from hotel accommodation in Torquay.



- A separate warrant was executed at a storage unit in Torquay. 1.75kg of cocaine and quantity of cash £45,000 has been taken out of circulation and control of a drug line.
- An out of force warrant was executed at an address in Staffordshire to arrest a male suspect forensically linked to a quantity of class A drugs couriered into South Devon. The male was charged and remanded for intent to supply and money laundering. Class A drugs, cash, and a mobile phone were seized which was identified as a drug business phone linked to an active line in South Devon.
- In Plymouth, a warrant was executed at a business premises and the subject arrested for being concerned in supply of cannabis. Multi-kilo quantities of suspected class A drugs were concealed inside the roof lining of the premises.
- In Cornwall, a warrant was executed at a car wash establishment in Redruth. This resulted in seizures of quantities of cannabis and cocaine. Five males were arrested for Class A drug supply.
- A warrant was executed at the home address of a significant player of a mapped drug threat impacting Penzance. Large quantities of crack cocaine, heroin, cash, and cutting agents were seized from the footwell of an attributed vehicle. The male was charged and remanded for possession with intent to supply class A drugs and money laundering offences and pleaded guilty and has been committed to Crown Court for sentencing.
- Police attended an address in St Ives and arrested an occupant on suspicion of cannabis importation. A stun gun was seized. The occupant admitted to possessing the weapon for self-defence.

4.14 The Drugs Intel desk team prepare quarterly reports shared with each of the four Combatting Drugs Partnerships providing drugs intel at a peninsula and local authority level for Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

4.15 The report includes the following:

- Identification of training and awareness gaps
- Partnership work undertaken
- Emerging drug trends
- Case studies - disruptions
- Issues/ concerns

#### Addressing drugs in prisons

4.16 Devon and Cornwall Police work closely with the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit (SWROCU) and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) to tackle drugs in prisons. SWROCU have primary responsibility for the activity in this area for which Devon and Cornwall Police provide officers to support. There is also a Crime and Courts Act tasking for policing to assist with drone ingress in the prison estate.

4.17 There is a Crime in Prison Response Agreement (CIPRA) between the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and HMPPS to assign all criminal activity (drugs and



other offences) to be dealt with by the police or by the prison. There are regular meetings with prison staff to agree allocation and ensure CIPRA is being complied with. Any police allocated crime is investigated in the usual way excepting the use of production orders for interviews.

### Pubs Against Drugs (PAD)

4.18 Pubs Against Drugs (PAD) was first hosted in the South East Cornwall area in April 2023. The operation is designed to work with licenced premises and promote a safer night out for locals, sending the message that there is no place for drugs within these locations. Plain clothes officers are deployed into pubs, shortly followed by a passive drugs dog and high visibility uniformed officers, looking for behaviour changes and indications by the passive dog, whilst completing surface wipes and engaging with the venue.

4.19 Since April 2023, six operations have been run across South East Cornwall. 48 pubs were entered, 45 stop searches were carried out, including 15 searches resulting in controlled drugs being located. One search resulted in an arrest for possession with intent to supply, with further controlled substances found at the subject's home address. Six operations in South East Cornwall have now been undertaken, with fewer drugs being located in later operations which may indicate that officer visibility and presence is deterring the use of drugs in these licenced premises.

4.20 The operation has since been rolled out to other parts of the force area via neighbourhood teams.

4.21 Officers from Torquay neighbourhood team recently conducted a PAD operation across the town with the assistance of the passive drugs dog Skye and the force licensing team, visiting seven locations across Torquay. Numerous stop searches took place along with drug-wipe testing in toilet areas.



Three person searches resulted in quantities of both suspected cannabis and cocaine being recovered, with investigations now underway with these individuals.

### Possession of Drugs Positive Outcome Rate

4.22 Devon and Cornwall Police have been achieving significantly lower offender outcomes for drug possession offences (43%) compared to the England and Wales average (62%)<sup>3</sup>. The force have conducted a deep dive and have discovered that

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<sup>3</sup> 12 months to June 2025



this was likely due to the ‘over-criming’ of offences, which is out of sync with Home Office counting rules. The force is closely monitoring this area and already have an action plan in place to address this issue. Since this was implemented monthly performance improvements are already evident. In September 2025, positive outcomes for possession offences were at 46.2% and this has increased to 69.0% in December 2025 (+23.0%). The Commissioner is monitoring this trend and closely scrutinising the force’s response to the issue.

### Funding to Combatting Drug Partnerships

4.23 The OPCC has for some years committed over £340,000 in funding split between the four Combatting Drug Partnerships, Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. This funding contributes towards drugs and alcohol interventions for individuals within the criminal justice system. This includes custody suite and court support, prison in-reach and continuity of care for prison leavers. The aim of these interventions is to support long-term recovery and reduce reoffending.

4.24 The Commissioner is not a statutory member of local Drugs Partnerships and has no specific role or oversight responsibilities as to how this funding is utilised. Inconsistent reporting from local Drug Partnerships, has also made it difficult to understand what impact and value this funding has made. In December 2024, the Commissioner agreed a further year of funding for 2025/2026 to allow for a funding review to be undertaken during 2025 with the outcome of this review determining future funding arrangements for 2026 onwards.

4.25 Following the outcome of the funding review the commissioner made the decision to not continue funding the Combatting Drug Partnerships but to explore other opportunities to utilise any future funding more strategically across the peninsula to drive greater value and impact.

### Op Vapor

4.26 In October 2024, the police commenced Op Vapor in conjunction with Public Health and Educational partners to increase the understanding of the Force around the prevalence of Spice (and other illegal substances) in vapes.

4.27 13 secondary schools from across the force area participated in the confiscation of vapes/ vape liquids from their students which were then submitted for examination. The data collated from this study showed the following results.

- 0.5% MDMA – 1 vape
- 0.5% Ketamine – 1 vape
- 15% Spice – 8 vapes

4.28 These figures reflect the national trend from data collated by Bath University in a study led by Professor Chris Pudney where 16% of vapes examined contained spice.





### Illegal vape/tobacco shop closures

4.29 Devon and Cornwall Police work closely with Heart of the South West Trading Standards to stop the sale of illegal products. This type of illegal activity can cause significant harm to individuals and public health, can harm trade for legitimate local businesses and is often linked to offences of modern-day slavery and exploitation.

4.30 Over the last 18 months, 13 shops have been closed after having been found to selling illegal products:

- Three in Exeter (Sidwell Street, Cowick Street and Fore Street)
- Five in Torquay (Fleet Street, Tor Hill Road and three on Union Street)
- Four in Paignton (Torbay Road, Victoria Street, Palace Avenue Torquay Road)
- One in Honiton (linked to closure in Torbay)

4.31 Work with Trading Standards is ongoing into 2026 to ensure the sale of illegal and harmful products continue to be tackled and that a clear message is sent to businesses that illegal sales which can damage public health will not be tolerated in Devon and Cornwall.

## **5. Police and Crime Plan aim: Zero tolerance to drink and drug driving**

### Vision Zero – Lift Legend campaign

5.1 The Vision Zero South West Road Safety Partnership has once again carried out its Lift Legend anti-drink-driving campaign throughout December. The scheme rewards designated drivers with free soft drinks at participating venues across the region as a thank you for getting their friends, family and colleagues' home safely.

5.2 This year a record number of venues have signed up to the scheme, with more than 275 pubs, clubs and restaurants taking part. Designated drivers simply let the bartender know that they are a Lift Legend for the night and, when purchasing their first soft drink, they will receive a voucher for a free drink.

5.3 Venues are provided with a free Point of Sale (POS) kit to promote the scheme, including posters, flyers, window stickers and shelf wobblers. The scheme raises the profile of drink-driving throughout the festive period and has grown massively each year, with positive feedback from pubs and customers.



### Night buses

5.4 The Saturday night bus routes which started in May 2025, funded by the Commissioner, have continued to operate successfully throughout the summer and into the autumn period. To date, £80,000 has been invested by the Commissioner in the night bus services across Devon and Cornwall.



5.5 Since the start of the service in May 2024, a total of nine routes have been active across Devon and Cornwall (four in Exeter, two in Torbay, two in Plymouth and one in Cornwall) with over 14,600 passengers accessing the night bus so far this year<sup>4</sup>.

5.6 A further £100,000 in funding has been secured by the Commissioner to extend the Saturday night bus scheme across the nine routes throughout 2026 until March 2027, aiming to reduce ASB, drink and drug related incidents, as well as helping people get home from a night out safely.

### Learn2Live

5.7 Learn2Live is a road safety education partnership aimed at young people aged 16-19. The Partnership consists of representatives from Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, Devon and Cornwall Police, South West Ambulance, Devon Air Ambulance, Devon County Council, Somerset Council, Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council. Learn2Live aims to support young people to behave in a way that maximises their safety when using the roads.

5.8 During 2025, Learn2Live events have educated 12,000 college students across 48 further education establishments about the dangers of drink and drug driving, as well as wider aspects of safe driving.

### Drink and drug driving enforcement activity

5.9 The force's roads policing teams continue to undertake drink and drug driving enforcement as part of their business as usual activity. Specific activity undertaken over the last year includes:

- 60 additional frontline police officers in South Devon have received specialist training enabling them to carry out drug wipes, a preliminary drug screening test which can be done at the roadside. Out of the 1,245 drivers who were drug tested in Devon & Cornwall between 1 January and 30 June 2025, nearly half (45%) had illegal substances in their system.
- The force took part in Op Limit - a month long NPCC (National Police Chiefs Council) campaign of education and enforcement from 1st December through

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<sup>4</sup> As of 17 December 2025



to the New Year. This included additional resources on duty on Friday to Sunday, targeting drink and drug driving across the force area.

- A new mechanism to ensure hand held breath testing devices are regularly calibrated across custody centres, with support from Citizens in Policing volunteers. This guards against officers finding kit that is either out of date or defective.
- The force are planning the delivery of a condensed impairment training package to include station procedure, drug wipe and FITDIRT (coordination test) which will significantly increase the impairment testing capability across the force in the New Year.

### **Contact for further information**

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