

Safer Towns Summary

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1.0 Background

Crime and anti-social behaviour is concentrated within our larger towns and these are persistent problems, frequently co-existing with other social issues, such as deprivation, homelessness, health inequalities and worklessness.

Over the past two years we have seen an escalation in visible street problems in our town centres – including anti-social behaviour, street drinking, problem use of drugs, drug dealing and rough sleeping, with the cohorts of people involved being very vulnerable and having entrenched and complex underlying issues.

At the same time we are seeing levels of recorded crime rise and, although we know that some of this is driven by changes in recording practice, we may now also be seeing a change in crime prevalence and behaviour – which has been flagged on the national radar.

So far in 2017/18, the Partnership has co-ordinated effective multi-disciplinary operations in Truro, St Austell and Penzance responding to specific community problems. These responses have provided a balance of enforcement to address immediate crime and safety concerns, and provided targeted and intensive support to individuals with the aim of achieving longer term, sustainable positive outcomes.

Building on this success and that of our previous place-based initiatives that we ran in 8 towns between 2012 and 2015, Safer Cornwall is re-establishing the Safer Towns programme across ten designated towns.

These partnerships will be tailored to the needs of each area, to facilitate a co-ordinated, consistent multi-agency approach to complex localised issues. Membership will be drawn from public sector, private and voluntary sector and community groups.

2.0 Purpose and Scope

Multi-agency Safer Town partnerships will be established in ten designated towns to target persistent problem places and people; work with communities, partners and the business and voluntary sectors to develop sustainable solutions.

2.1 Safer Town Partnerships will;

- Develop evidence-based Delivery Plans focused on local priorities
- Embed a consistent problem solving approach
- Identify and deliver best practice approaches

- Lead and co-ordinate community events

2.2 The Safer Towns will be established in;

1. Penzance	2. Redruth	3. Camborne
4. Falmouth	5. Truro	6. Newquay
7. St Austell	8. Bodmin	9. Liskeard
10. Saltash		

3.0 Accountable Body

Safer Towns will be accountable to Safer Cornwall; the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Cornwall. The Safer Cornwall Strategic Board is chaired by Chief Fire Officer and Director of Resilient Cornwall Paul Walker and comprises of senior officers from the Responsible Authorities.

4.0 Core Membership

Core membership will be drawn from public sector, private and voluntary sector and community groups and will include;

- Community Safety Officer
- Cornwall Council ASB- case worker for area
- Cornwall Council Community Link Officer for area
- Cornwall Council Communications lead for area
- BID Manager for area (where applicable)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Cornwall Housing Ltd
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - Community Link Officer
- Devon and Cornwall Police-
 - Sector Inspector
 - Neighbourhood Team Leader
 - Neighbourhood Beat Manager
 - Specialist Problem Solver
- Addaction
- Town Council Clerk
- Local Councillors; elected members representation
- Integrated Offender Management Team/Turnaround
- Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service-
 - Prevention Watch Manager
 - Station Manager
- Adult Social Care
- Cornwall Council Licensing
- Environmental Protection
- Local voluntary and community sector organisations including Neighbourhood Watch and Crimestoppers
- Education lead

This list is not exclusive and local Safer Town membership will reflect the local organisations and current need. Task and finish groups will be set up to focus on specific emerging themes in order to deliver sustainable solutions.

5.0 Delivery

Each Safer Town will develop and consult on a delivery plan that will detail actions that represent Safer Cornwall priorities and reflect the findings from the Town Profile and Residents Survey pertaining to that Town. The delivery plans will contain specific, measurable actions that are realistic and time bound; each action will have a named owner(s).

6.0 Performance Management

Safer Town performance indicator; 3 year target with the final performance to be measured against the 2021 residents' survey question;

“Do you believe that the council and the police are dealing with crime and antisocial behaviour issues that matter in your area?”

Performance of this measure will give an indication of public confidence in the effectiveness of the police and Council working together to tackle local crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

The measurement method is the Cornwall Council Residents' Survey, with the baseline taken in 2017 and the final outcome in 2021.

This indicator mirrors one of the questions in the annual Crime Survey for England and Wales as well as our local community safety survey “Have Your Say” (HYS) and satisfaction surveys. The local surveys will be used as an indicative proxy measure, with the caveat that the question is asked in different contexts and should thus be interpreted with a degree of caution.

Individual Safer Town targets will be announced shortly.

7.0 The Launch of Safer Towns

The Safer Towns will be established and launched in April 2018. The launch of the 10 towns will be publicised across 10 days; with a large social media campaign highlighting the partnerships and purpose of these groups, along with the town profiles and targeted work each Safer Town will conduct. The launch events will be comprised of inaugural Safer Town meetings, workshops and engagement events.

Each Safer Town will have a page on the Safer Cornwall website and press releases will be issued to inform the public about Safer Towns and raise awareness of the key priorities.

Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez has committed £50,000 seed funding in support of the programme.

8.0 Further Information

If you would like to find out more about the Safer Town initiative please contact; communitysafety@cornwall.gov.uk