

Safe & Sound

Building Safer Communities Together

Reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

Celebrating 10 Years of Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Across North Devon & Torridge Districts

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Safer North Devon: Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Probation, North Devon Youth Offending Team, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Devon Primary Care Trust, North Devon Council, North Devon Magistrates Court and Torridge District Council

Safe & Sound – Community Safety News



Amanda Palmer,
SND Manager

Welcome to the first edition of *Safe & Sound* where you can find out more about Safer North Devon and our work.

Safer North Devon was set up to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across the North Devon and Torridge districts and this year we are celebrating ten years.

Northern Devon is one of the safest areas of the country. We have the benefit of committed staff in all our partner agencies who work together on a daily basis to tackle any emerging problems and increase confidence in our communities locally.

This newsletter aims to bring you news of all our work and encourage more feedback from our communities.

We are based at Barnstaple Police Station and work jointly with eight other partner agencies.

We challenge our partners to work together to provide the best solutions to solve local crime and anti-social behaviour concerns.

We listen to and act upon your ideas and contributions so keep telling us about your concerns and we'll keep working on solutions to address them. Contact us on info@safernorthdevon.co.uk to let us know what is important to you.

Who is the Safer North Devon Partnership?

Safer North Devon works with agencies including:

Devon County Council, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, North Devon Council, Devon Primary Care Trust, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, Devon & Cornwall Police Authority, Torridge District Council and Devon and Cornwall Probation Area, North Devon Youth Offending Team, North Devon Magistrates Court and local Housing Associations.

We ensure that North Devon remains a priority area for community safety within Devon and we work with our partners to deliver projects to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

The five areas we work across are: Alcohol and Drug Related Crime; Anti-Social Behaviour; Violent Crime including Domestic Violence; Prejudice and Hate Crime and Youth Crime Prevention.

Safer North Devon Manager Amanda Palmer said: "We add expertise to projects already happening locally to help ensure they meet their objectives and work with our partners to respond to different needs as they arise in the community.

This helps us to better tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. We signpost people to agencies who can help them and we also encourage people to get involved in local projects."

Safer North Devon responds to information provided via parish plans, our partners, through police statistics and also through community events.

This helps us to identify our priorities:

- ◆ Where to focus effort
- ◆ How we can best manage our resources
- ◆ How to support local communities with area improvements

How to Get Involved

- ◆ Visit our website: <http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk>
- ◆ Email in ideas to: info@safernorthdevon.co.uk
- ◆ Attend a local PACT (Partners & Communities Together) meeting.
For more information visit:
<http://neighbourhoodpolicing.devon-cornwall.police.uk>



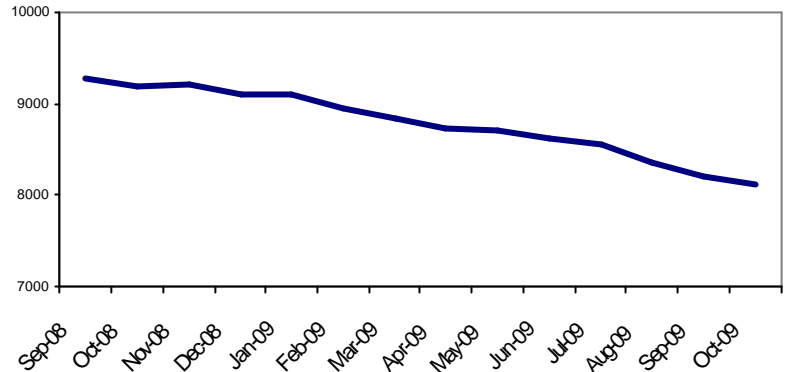
How Are Crime Statistics Looking Locally?

◆ Northern Devon is performing well. Every year for the past 10 years overall crime has dropped, ensuring we remain one of the safest places in the country to live.

◆ Compared with the same period last year crime is 13.2% lower this year, that means almost 1000 less victims of crime locally.

◆ Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour reported to the police are showing reductions on last year with an estimated 12% less in North Devon and 22% less in Torrridge district by the close of this year.

Northern Devon Local Policing Area
Trends - Recorded Crime (12 month rolling)



Police Customer Satisfaction levels show:

- ◇ Burglary, Violent Crime, Vehicle Crime and Road Traffic Collisions (overall experience) at 88.3% - best in Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
- ◇ Anti-social Behaviour (overall experience) at 84.4% - 2nd best in Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
- ◇ Sanction Detection is at 33% - highest in Devon - 3rd best in Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
- ◇ Surveys tell us that "Public Confidence in Police and Local Authority dealing with Anti- Social Behaviour issues which matter to them" show our policing area 2nd best in Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

Our New Look Website

Our new look website is one of only a handful of dedicated community safety websites nationally.

It provides information on a wide range of projects including anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drugs and youth crime prevention initiatives.

The website is aimed at signposting residents and local organisations to advice on community safety issues.

It also provides a forum for community safety information to be published.

"The website gives communities an opportunity to feedback directly on concerns they may have and it also links to the many sites of our partners," says Amanda Palmer, Manager SND.

This includes links to:

- Local councils
- Policing
- Health services
- Youth offending
- Commissioned local service providers e.g. drugs, alcohol, family support, domestic violence awareness.



For more information check out our new website <http://www.safenorthdevon.co.uk> where you can also leave feedback on what you think about our newsletters.

Every reader giving feedback will be entered into a draw for the chance to win a £20 M&S voucher*.

(*See back page for details)

Responding To Community Drug Concerns

Following community concerns around drugs, Safer North Devon teamed up with Crimestoppers to work with communities to tackle drug-dealing neighbours.

Safer North Devon launched Crimestoppers 'Rat on a Rat' campaign to encourage residents to call Crimestoppers (0800 555111) anonymously to report any suspected drug dealing in their neighbourhood.



Launch of 'Rat on a Rat' Campaign

This campaign has been used very effectively in other areas and comes to North Devon for the first time this year.

Bob Widdecombe, Chairman for Devon and Cornwall Crimestoppers said: "We are aware that communities know what's happening and want to report it, but often fear reprisals, this scheme makes it safe to do so as they won't be asked for their name and the call will not be traced or recorded."

Safer North Devon Partners have also recently made some significant local drug house closures, through community information drastically improving quality of life for local residents.

"We now want to build on this and ask every community to get involved. We live in a very safe area; we want to work with our residents to keep it that way," said Julia Page, Devon PCT and Safer North Devon Drug & Alcohol theme champion.

Residents can report any drug litter to their local council on either:

North Devon (Greensweep) Tel: 01271 374776
or Torridge District Council Tel: 01237 428734.

Anybody who wants help with a drug or alcohol problem can visit our website for more help and information:

See: <http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk>

'Three Strikes And You Are Out' Campaign

Watch out in our next issue for the launch of "Three Strikes And You Are Out"; a campaign developed by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary working in partnership with Safer North Devon and the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Three Strikes Campaign is an anti-social behaviour escalation process that will incorporate a banning system where repeat offenders can be excluded by all licensees in North Devon participating in the scheme.

The campaign uses a system similar to the card system used in football i.e. yellow warning card followed by a red warning card and covers public order offences.



www.three-strikes.co.uk/northdevon

Already working well in Exeter, the campaign is being launched to target late night disorder offenders (adults only) within North Devon.

Young People Tell Us What They Need To Know

Great Torrington Junior School helped Safer North Devon to design and produce an anti-social behaviour (ASB) leaflet to appeal to 7 – 11 year olds, as no ‘young person friendly’ information was available.

Safer North Devon felt the most effective way to design the leaflet would be to talk directly to young people to find out what they would like to know. The leaflet contains a basic understanding of what ASB is, how it can affect others and tips to avoid it.

Pupils helping out with the leaflet were presented with certificates recognising the time and effort they put in during school, at lunch times and at home after school to help produce the leaflet.

“We hope that the leaflet will be given out to all children to give them a better understanding of what anti-social behaviour is and how to tackle the problem,” said Kate Morne, Safer North Devon Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.



Great Torrington Junior School launch their Anti-Social Behaviour leaflet

The leaflets are available in all police stations, libraries and schools locally or please email Safer North Devon for copies.

Email: info@safernorthdevon.co.uk

Tackling Not Tolerating

The police and local councils are working with our partner agencies, social services, registered social landlords, schools and youth offending teams to respond to anti-social behaviour (ASB) concerns.

“We are committed to reducing the impact of anti-social behaviour and to following the anti-social behaviour escalation process to tackle individual perpetrators,” says Kate Morne, Safer North Devon Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator. “We also use prevention, diversion and enforcement to solve anti-social behaviour concerns.”

ASB causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress impacting on people’s quality of life. We respond to ASB reports from partner agencies and the public and follow the ASB escalation process used to tackle individual perpetrators.

This is a tiered approach which includes low level warning letters, joint agency visits and multi-agency meetings.



ASB Specialists in key partner agencies (Police, Councils, Registered Social Landlords, Youth Offending team) work jointly on local ASB problem solving

It also includes actions such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). Steps can be bypassed or repeated if appropriate.

Devon (including North Devon & Torridge) is on course to see a fall in ASB reported to the police, however perceptions of ASB locally are a concern as it may indicate that problems are not being reported to agencies.

We are working to understand what support our communities need to feel safe.

If experiencing ASB visit our website for directions to help. We live in an area of very low crime however if you feel in danger call 999.

Celebrating 10 Years of Safer North Devon

Safer North Devon is celebrating ten years of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour across North Devon and Torridge.

Over the last 10 years we have secured grants from Government and external bodies of over £1.5 million pounds to deliver community safety projects locally through our partners.

Launching the 10 year celebration campaign as part of National 'Not in My Neighbourhood Week' - a Government run initiative to give local crime reduction agencies, police forces and partners an opportunity to highlight the work they do,

Amanda Palmer, Safer North Devon Manager said:

"We want to celebrate our success by raising awareness of our work, how it benefits the local community and how we work with and challenge our partners to come up with the best solutions to solve local crime and anti-social behaviour."

Safer North Devon acts on the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour to try to reduce long term crime and anti-social behaviour trends.

Devon and Cornwall remain a safe place to live with a crime rate the 6th lowest nationally per 1,000 per population (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary 2007/2008).



Working with young people to understand more about anti-social behaviour

Safer North Devon works with a wide range of people including:

- Specialist professionals
- Neighbourhood Police Teams
- Specialist Police Officers
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Youth Offending Teams
- Probation Officers
- Local government officers
- Alcohol and Drug Services
- Housing Associations
- Youth and family support services

We also work with a wide range of voluntary and community sector partners who provide vital links to residents and vulnerable groups locally.

We will work with communities of greatest need to problem solve where we can.

"We signpost people to specialist agencies who can help them and encourage people to get involved in local projects as it helps us better tackle crime and anti social-behaviour," says Amanda Palmer, Safer North Devon Manager.

"We listen to and act upon ideas and contributions from the public and work on solutions to address these. Every problem is unique, every community has different needs and we try to address these by supporting partners to deliver expanded local services."



North Devon College students design a new teenage anti-social behaviour leaflet

Tackling Crime And Anti-Social Behaviour

10 years ago a visionary decision was made by the police and North Devon and Torridge District Councils to form one Community Safety Partnership across both districts instead of two.

The two districts then appointed shared posts reporting to a single Board.

This meant we could work easily with partners supporting the wider community to provide the best solutions to solve local crime and anti-social behaviour concerns.

The partnership moved from a grant giving partnership seen as a 'cash cow' by many to a partnership which now focuses on commissioning pilots for individual projects based on a clear need, backed up by evidence, and lobbying to set up services which can be maintained in the long term.

We initially spent time on the locations with the highest crime such as vehicle crime, criminal damage and burglary.

Our energies then turned to preventative work including early integrated offender management - where agencies work together to manage offenders and their impact on the community - increasing access for the community to drug and alcohol services and working to increase reporting of domestic violence.

We also work together in partnership to reduce hate crime and anti-social behaviour and to ensure services develop to meet community need.

"Community Safety Partnerships face the ongoing challenge of new responsibilities at a time of great pressure on all public sector resources," says Kevin Harris, Superintendent for Northern Devon. "We need to evolve over the next 10 years to continue to deliver on the expectations of our partners and communities we serve."



Supt Kevin Harris



Bringing generations together in East Bideford

We now work as an inter-agency team with shared priorities driven by local need. We actively seek referrals for individuals and families where complex needs are identified. This includes mediation, restorative justice, parenting support, youth inclusion support, alcohol and drug treatment, housing advice and diversion projects to prevent re-offending or repeat ASB by providing positive activities or structured support for individuals.

For information see:

<http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk>



Working To Reduce The Risk Of Violent Crime



Partners working with A&E at North Devon Hospital raising awareness of community alcohol support services

The risk of becoming a victim of violent crime in Devon is very low with North Devon and Torridge remaining one of the safest places in the country to live. Between 2004/05 and 2007/08 violent crime in Devon reduced by 27.6%.

The Government requires each region to develop a Violent Crime Strategy to focus partnership resources effectively.

These identify local issues, set priorities and outline how priorities will be addressed in partnership. In Devon, the Safer Devon Partnership produced a plan which we helped to develop. See the plan on our website.

We have decided to focus on the night time economy, as alcohol misuse is strongly related to violent crime.

Even though violent crime is very low in our area it remains a key priority.

We are working right now with all our partners to identify the actions which will have the biggest impact on reducing violent crime and reassure our communities. Future issues will contain more details of our work.

New Graffiti Clean Up

A graffiti clean up operation 'P.R.I.D.E. – Positive Response Improving Devon Environment' - has been launched in North Devon and Torridge Districts, involving a range of clean up activities including graffiti and chewing gum removal.

“The graffiti removal machine will be used by supervised offenders on Community Payback who have been convicted of a range of offences which may include graffiti offences or criminal damage,” said Simon Perkins, Devon and Cornwall Probation Area.



“The public will see justice undertaken and offenders putting something positive back into the communities they have offended against.”

Safer North Devon partners, including the Devon and Cornwall Probation Area, Torridge and North Devon Council, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and Devon and Cornwall Police Service worked closely together to secure the £26,000 needed to buy a specialist graffiti removal machine.

The machine will be used as part of an array of tools used to tackle environmental crime. The P.R.I.D.E. project is an excellent example of how we work together and it will really make a positive difference to our local communities.



P.R.I.D.E. project launch in Barnstaple

Listening to Young People In Northern Devon



Working creatively with young people to see how they want to spend their holiday time

Partner agencies, responsible for Youth Crime Prevention, set about finding out how young people want to spend their holiday time in a bid to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime during school holidays.

In order to identify areas needing additional holiday provision for young people, the team mapped youth crime and youth anti-social behaviour against existing positive activities available for 8-18 year olds across North Devon and Torridge.

Detailed consultation with young people was carried out to gather qualitative information on the

needs of the communities. In the known youth crime hotspots, the amount and type of provision was considered to identify whether there was a need for more or different provision.

The subsequent report is being used to advise and inform providers of holiday provision for young people and may be used to help drive forward a community project in areas of greatest need including Bideford South.

As a result of the report, funding has been given to positive activity projects for 8-12 year olds in two of the areas of need identified in the report.

For example, Forest Schools sessions will be held for young people in the local woodland surrounding Bideford South Ward.

The report provided the quantitative data needed to ensure that South Bideford is recognised as an area deserving the attention of services and organisations.

It also led to the creation of a directory of local clubs and activity providers operating in North Devon and Torridge.

The directory has been disseminated with the report. See: <http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk>

Capital Grant Success

Government Grants Awarded By The Safer North Devon Partnership

£13,334 – Forches Cross Multi-Use Games Area
Match funding for installation of permanent floodlighting on the multi-use games area at Forches Cross Primary School to allow a full programme of youth and sports activities to be offered throughout the year.

£20,335 - Update to North Devon CCTV
Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (ANPR) update to link with Devon and Cornwall Police system.

£3,385 - Devon Partnership Trust
DPT provides structured day care for drug user treatment under court orders. This matched investment in IT equipment to rehabilitate offenders, reducing crime and fear locally.

£25,000 - P.R.I.D.E. Restorative Justice
A multi-agency project dealing with graffiti removal targeting those subject to Community Orders with Devon and Cornwall Probation Area (DCPA), part of a Restorative Justice initiative.

£20,000 - Grow @ Jigsaw Phase 1
Community Projects North Devon (CPND) has worked with Probationers, ex offenders, and those close to the criminal justice system for many years. The Grow project promotes engagement through horticulture in its glasshouse project.

£19,885 - Grow @ Jigsaw Phase 2
As above, for Phase 2.

£23,335 - North Devon Women's Aid
Grant to complete extension works on the local outreach centre providing new meeting space and facilities to deliver victim and family support.

£22,000 - EDP, Barnstaple
EDP provides harm reduction services to drug users locally. This is aimed at reducing the impact of drug using on our communities reducing crime and fear locally.

Hate Incident Reporting Form Launched

A hate incident reporting form is being launched by Safer North Devon and partners: North Devon Council, Torridge District Council and Devon & Cornwall Police, to encourage people to report hate incidents.

A hate incident is where someone has been targeted because they are believed to be different. This is motivated by their race, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender. Hate incidents include verbal or physical assault, damage to property or harassment causing emotional or physical damage to victims.

"We know that the majority of incidents are never reported and we would like this to change," said Ian Hobbs, Devon County Council Community Strategy Officer and Safer North Devon Champion for Prejudice and Hate Crime.

"When you report you don't have to give your name or even involve the police. Devon County Council records hate incidents and provide help, advice and support."



"Reporting hate incidents, helps us to understand the scale of the problem and to provide the right services to support victims."

"It is a small minority of local people who commit hate crimes and the vast majority of decent people do not want to see that kind of behaviour in their communities."

What can a Hate Incident include?

- *Harassment
- *Graffiti/damage to property
- *Threatening behaviour
- *Offensive telephone calls or texts
- *Hate mail or email
- *Physical assault
- *Verbal abuse
- *Bullying at school/college or in the workplace
- *Bullying via social networking sites.



There's nothing wrong in being **different.**

▼
A **hate incident** is motivated by believing someone is different.
And now there's a form available for you to **report it.**

TO REPORT AN INCIDENT, PLEASE COMPLETE A 'HATE INCIDENT REPORTING FORM' OR VISIT www.safernorthdevon.co.uk

Alternatively, you can contact:
Crimestoppers 0800 555 113
Victim Supportline 0845 676 1020

Anyone can be a victim.
Anyone can report it.



To report a Hate Incident

Complete the Hate Incident Reporting Form see website: <http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk>

OR

Pick up a form available from a number of locations

OR

Contact your local Police station.

In an emergency dial 999.

Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence in Devon



2008/09 has seen the highest number (9362) of reported Domestic Abuse incidents since 2003/04. 2,069 of those incidents were in North Devon and Torridge.

In 48% of Devon incidents children were present. Locally we encourage reporting of all Domestic Abuse so that victims are able to get support and advice, and perpetrators can be brought to justice.

Each November a big campaign is run across Devon, supported by all local voluntary and statutory agencies to raise awareness of the problem of Domestic Abuse in our communities.

This is aimed at highlighting the support services available for victims and their families.

This year local events take place from 23rd –27th November 2009, but local awareness raising carries on all year.

All agencies work with local press to ensure that the message reaches every member of our community.

If you live in North Devon or Torridge you can get help.

If you are in immediate danger call 999 or visit <http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk> for a directory of services.

Keeping Men Safe

Men Safe is a Devon-wide risk assessment, safety planning and advocacy service for men who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence and abuse, funded by ADVA – Against Domestic Violence and Abuse.

The service is located at North Devon Women's Aid. They offer information, advice and access to a range of support services aiming to increase men's safety whether they want to stay in the relationship or not. In 2008/9 across Devon, 19% of victims of domestic violence were male.

Men Safe has just produced a new leaflet outlining the free and confidential service which supports all men irrespective of sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, culture and disability.

“We recognise that men from these communities may face additional barriers and challenges and we are trained to ensure that everyone's individual needs are being met,” says Christine Fritsch, North Devon Women's Aid.“



Men Safe is also now accepting self referrals directly from men who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Men Safe provides help in: developing a personalised safety plan; someone to give advice and discuss options with; information on services in the local area (housing, legal services, children services, counselling, etc); someone to listen without judging; help in communicating with other agencies; support and assistance at court; and support in accessing other services and organisations.

For more details please see our website: <http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk>

Your Community Needs Street Champions

The PACT (Partners & Communities Together) Street Champion scheme amalgamates the Police Neighbourhood Watch and the Cleaner, Safer, Greener agenda. It's a scheme run by residents for residents.

The scheme asks local communities to help identify environmental issues e.g. graffiti, fly-tipping and criminal damage and asks them to take the lead in reporting any incidents to us.

Street Champions will conduct regular street inspections, act as a link between residents, the Police and other agencies, monitor the neighbourhood for problems and alert agencies early for a quicker resolution and look out for the vulnerable residents.

The scheme is supported by local Police, Councils, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Devon and Cornwall Watch Association, Neighbourhood Watch and local Housing Associations .



Launch of Street Champions

Like to know more? Interested in becoming a Street Champion?

Please contact your local Neighbourhood Beat Manager by calling 08452 777444 or call your local housing association.

Safe & Sound Newsletter Needs You

We listen to and act upon your ideas and contributions so keep telling us about your concerns and we'll keep working on solutions to address them. We are interested to hear your views, and this month we are looking for feedback on our newsletter.

How to win a £20 M&S Voucher

Visit our website <http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk> for a chance to win a £20 M&S voucher (Your entry code is SND01) and to find out more about who we work with, what we do and where you can go for help and support on any of the issues raised in this newsletter.

Safer North Devon

Safer North Devon works with 8 partner agencies to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across North Devon and Torridge: Devon County Council, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, North Devon Council, Devon Primary Care Trust, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Torridge District Council and Devon and Cornwall Probation Area.

Edited by: Amanda Palmer
Published by: Safer North Devon, Barnstaple Police Station, Devon EX31 1DU.
Tel: 01271 335241 info@safernorthdevon.org.uk <http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk>
Printed by: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary.

For more details about Safer North Devon or for information and support about any of the issues raised in this newsletter visit: <http://www.safernorthdevon.co.uk>

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