

Overview Report for Safer Torbay (Torbay's Community Safety Partnership)

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Introduction:

This report provides a brief overview of 3 key areas of work led by the Safer Torbay Partnership, namely:

1. Annual Strategic Assessment
2. Prevent
3. Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

1. Annual Strategic Assessment:

It is a statutory obligation under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for Community Safety Partnerships to produce or procure an annual localised Strategic Assessment, providing a strategic evidence base that identifies future priorities for the partnership and evaluates year on year activity. The approach and format of these is not prescribed by legislation.

To enable effective prioritisation, an accurate understanding of what poses the greatest threat or risk to the safety of the community is vital.

To achieve this in a fair, equitable and effective way, a common and consistent framework of assessment is used called MoRiLE.

The MoRiLE programme was created in 2014 through the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC)'s Intelligence Innovation Group. It was established with the aim of providing a common methodology and language for the assessment of threat, risk, and harm in relation to law enforcement.

MoRiLE is a matrix which generates a score for each community safety issue based on the individual scores assigned for the following areas:

- **Impacts** on the victim, the local community, and the environment
- **Likelihood** – how often it happens, how much and whether it is improving or declining
- **Organisational position** -risks to the partnership's reputation, external factors such as political and public expectations, and the effectiveness of local responses.

The Strategic Assessment for Torbay is in its final stages at the time of writing, with the final draft being presented to the Safer Torbay Partnership on the 31st October 2024.

The Strategic Assessment this year underpins the following as the lead priorities for Safer Torbay for 2024-2025:

- Serious Violence
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Drugs
- Exploitation

These priorities have been consistent over the past few years, with serious violence being added through this year's assessment.

The addition of serious violence as a priority this year is due to the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty and the interlinking drivers and themes of serious violence across the other 3 areas listed.

Safer Torbay is committed to effective partnership working across all of its areas of work to ensure evidence-based understanding and response to need in Torbay to achieve the most effective outcomes for residents and visitors to the area.

Following the formal agreement of the Strategic Assessment and the priorities above, the Safer Torbay Partnership will continue working with key stakeholders other key partnerships, including (but not limited to) the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships, to critically review the understanding of the current work and develop and implement cross agency approaches that enhances current understanding and response to need across the Torbay population.

2. Prevent and Channel

2.1 Prevent:

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) as modified by the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, placed a duty on a number of organisations, including the local authority, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

The Prevent Duty was created by the Home Office as part of the government's Counter Terrorism Strategy and sets out the guidance for the local authority and its partners to prevent people becoming terrorists or engaging in extremism leading to terrorism.

The Duty aims to safeguard vulnerable people from harm, just like all other types of safeguarding such as human trafficking, child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.

Torbay Council shares a Prevent Partnership Board with Devon County Council. The Prevent Partnership Board provides a key forum for partner agencies to come together to understand the local risks and needs and to develop and deliver a co-ordinated response to reduce the radicalisation and terror risk across the Torbay and Devon geography. This includes performing a quality assurance role for the delivery of both Prevent and Channel locally.

The work of the Partnership is formed using both the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and local Channel data and intelligence.

The work of the Prevent Partnership Board and Channel is overseen by Safer Torbay and Safer Devon for their respective local authorities.

2.2 Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP):

The CLTP identifies the threat and susceptibility in relation to terrorism and extremism in a local area. One CTLP is completed annually by Counter Terrorism Police for each region using local police and partnership data, information and intelligence. The CTLP helps the police and local partners understand and prioritise threat and vulnerability with suggested recommendations to address any risk.

The CTLP for the south west outlines that our primary concern is Self-initiated Terrorist (S-IT). The majority of concerns are linked to young white males with an interest in Right Wing /Extreme White Wing ideology and who are vulnerable due to issues such as their mental health, domestic violence within the family and social isolation. There is a significant risk with isolated individuals that their beliefs are further developed by extensive use of the online space.

Through our local referrals to Channel we know that the profile of the Torbay risk is in line with the above profile.

2.3 Channel:

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

The role of Channel is to:

- identify individuals at risk
- assess the nature and extent of that risk
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Channel is attended by a core group of partners including, local authority community safety, counter terrorism police, local police, children's services, adult services, mental health services, substance misuse services, Youth Justice, Probation, and education. Other specific / specialist services are invited to attend where they have particular knowledge, or a skill set to support a particular case.

Channel is subject to regular scrutiny through the Homeland Security Department in the Home Office. This includes an annual assurance statement being completed, bi-monthly development meetings with Homeland Security, dip sampling and attendance at Channel by Homeland Security Quality Assurance Leads.

Torbay's Assurance Statement is green with the exception of partnership information sharing which is amber as there is an agreement in place, but it is being renewed.

The Homeland Security Quality Assurance Lead attended a Torbay Channel in April 2024. The feedback was that Channel performs well and Torbay remains as an area of good practice.

2.4 Community:

The Safer Communities Team works with local police, partners and the community to understand and respond to community tensions and to identify, monitor and respond to potential immersing issues. Examples of which include, supporting the local response to protests and addressing the provision of materials or instances of stickering and graffiti that have hate crime or radicalisation

links. The team also work with the Home Office, police and community to monitor and respond to the local impact from national and international incidents.

2.5 Current developments:

After a successful bid to the Home Office Preventing Radicalisation Fund, in June 2024 Safer Communities organised a local Prevent Conference aimed at raising agency's awareness of Prevent; including how to identify and report concerns, as well as upskilling them in the understanding of key vulnerabilities and ideologies that impact Torbay and Devon.

All topics were led by subject experts from across the UK and 121 professionals from Torbay and Devon attended the event.

Feedback from this event was very positive with attendees stating they felt they understood the subject matters covered in far more depth and were much more confident in how to approach them in their roles.

The event was also attended by the Home Office Homeland Security Group who also provided positive feedback in relation to the quality of speakers and information provided as well at the co-organisation and attendance at the event.

Safer Communities with Devon counterparts have redeveloped a Prevent Training Framework for use across the Torbay and Devon Partnerships to support understanding of the level and access to learning needed across services from awareness through to specialist.

Safer Communities has developed both the internal and front-facing Council webpages to support both professionals and the public to effectively find information and respond to Prevent.

The Torbay and Devon Partnership have developed a Delivery Plan to support, monitor and evaluate the cross agency response and implementation of this year's CTLP recommendations.

3 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

3.1 Devon and Cornwall Anti-Slavery Partnership:

For a number of years Torbay Council and Devon County Council have shared the Torbay and Devon Anti-Slavery Partnership (ASP).

The ASP is a multi-agency forum that brings together statutory and non-statutory partners from across Devon & Torbay to tackle the growing threat of modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) in all its forms.

The ASP meets on a quarterly basis and is established to provide a strategic meeting framework to raise awareness, share information and expertise, and proactively work together to ensure a consistent and robust approach to tackling MSHT.

Due to the effectiveness of the ASP and due to the shared risks and needs across the peninsula, in 2024 Plymouth and Cornwall joined the Partnership to support the development of an effective and consistent whole peninsula response to modern slavery and human trafficking and evolving the Partnership into the Devon and Cornwall Anti-Slavery Partnership.

The ASP Chair reports into the south west regional ASP and is a proactive member with it's breadth of partnership working being seen as good practice.

3.2 Development:

Nationally and locally there is an increase in reporting of modern slavery concerns.

Modern slavery takes many forms. The most common are:

- Domestic Servitude
- Sex Trafficking
- Forced Labour
- Bonded Labour
- Child Labour
- Forced Marriage
- County Lines – Movement of Drugs

To support awareness raising and effective responses in the Torbay the current developments have been made / are in progress:

- Safer Communities has developed both the internal and front-facing Council webpages to support both professionals and the public to effectively find information and respond to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- Devon and Cornwall ASP are developing a MSHT Training Framework to support professionals to understand and respond effectively (following the success of the Prevent training framework).
- Campaigns and information have been shared with key partners businesses and communities to support them to effectively identify, disrupt and report exploitation.
- Safer Communities has been working with key partners to increase the knowledge and use of the Devon and Cornwall Police Community Partnership and Intelligence Portal to report concerns and enable police to both respond and build an effective local understanding and profile to support an evidence-based local approach to needs which can be shared with the key local partnerships to develop an effective multi-agency response.