

Report from your District Councillors

May 2024

Community Safety Partnership update

The end of the financial year is always a busy time for the CSP team, as it is for so many people.



At the beginning of March we hold our annual priority setting meeting, where we get together with our lead members and partners from a number of agencies to take a look at the intelligence we have and agree what the priorities of the CSP should be for the coming year.

These priorities include a mix of statutory duties such as the Domestic Homicide Reviews, along with additional local priorities.

Sadly the intelligence shows us Devon has seen a rise in suicides. As a result of this, suicide prevention and awareness will be one of our priorities for the coming year.

You will also see we have recently been publicising the need to be aware of rogue traders. This has been as a result of some recent incidents in Devon and we will also be looking at carrying out more awareness work around rogue traders and the online space.

Our overarching priorities for the coming year are domestic violence and sexual abuse, violence prevention and violence against women and girls, problem drinking and drug use, exploitation and hate crime, changing youth culture and anti-social behaviour.

If anyone would like to know more about the work we are doing to address these priorities, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In addition to the priority setting meeting, we held our annual forum. For the first time in many years this was a hybrid option so was a great opportunity to network with our partners face to face.

The forum gives an overview of some of the work carried out by the CSP and its partners over the year. We are looking at the possibility of holding it face to face again next year.

Finally we have launched two bitesize awareness sessions. The first is aimed at professionals working with young people and is to raise awareness of gaming and gambling harm. This session will be run on 23 April; people can sign up [online here](#).

The second is our exploitation awareness session which is available to any professionals. People can sign up for this session [online here](#).

Both sessions are completely FREE of charge and are held online. We will also be recording the sessions for those who are unable to attend.

Household Support Fund

Help is at hand for South Hams residents struggling with day to day living costs such as food, energy costs or essential household items from South Hams District Council's Household Support Fund.

New funds totalling £162,926 are now available for those most in need. With limited finances available, we will prioritise residents with the lowest incomes first.

The scheme offers one-off financial payments, or other support, within a six-month period. This support could be buying food, paying bills or help to buy household goods.

We recognise we can't predict every challenge that residents may face, so we will be accepting applications for other essential types of support which can't be budgeted for that deliver the aims of this scheme. These items will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Applications can be made online until 30 September 2024 at: www.southhams.gov.uk/hsf

To see what other support is available, visit our [support directory](#).



Hemlock Water Dropwort

Signs are going up in waterfront locations across Totnes to alert the public about a plant, which is poisonous to humans and dogs if eaten. Although Hemlock Water Dropwort is not poisonous to the touch, contact with the sap can cause a rash and blistering.

We are currently seeking advice from specialists to help us decide what next steps need to be taken to manage the plant. Sign are also being put up at places where it has been found, such as Longmarsh, Steamer Quay, Vire Island, and riverside paths north of Totnes Bridge and Brutus Bridge.

Hemlock Water Dropwort is native to the UK and a common plant. It grows in damp conditions and benefits pollinators and wildlife. It is easily confused with flat leaved parsley, water parsnip or water celery, and should not be foraged or consumed.



Free decarbonisation support for businesses

We're supporting local businesses and helping them to become more energy efficient through a new decarbonisation scheme.

As part of our efforts to support both the economy and natural environment, we're providing funding for a specialist business consultancy, being run by Libraries Unlimited.

The funding is being provided through our Council's £60,000 share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Those who take part can also apply for Rural England Prosperity Fund decarbonisation grants, which could help to pay for implementing one or more of the measures highlighted in their decarbonisation plans.



Please help sign post local businesses to more information. They can sign up for the project by registering an interest online at <https://bipc.librariesunlimited.org.uk/decarbonisation-plans/>

They can also find out more [on our website](#) and by [watching our YouTube video](#).