

Report to the Annual Town Meeting with Parishioners of Saltash

Safer Cornwall partnership plan 2025-2028 that was passed at Cornwall Councils meeting 25th February 2025.

We are fortunate to be one of the 10 Safer towns in Cornwall. We were included in the 10 Safer Towns due to our connectivity with Plymouth.

We meet with the Safer town team, police, civil enforcement officers, youth workers, teachers at our schools and Saltash and Cornwall councillors each month. With numerous issues that have occurred in Saltash over the month. We find this meeting invaluable as if there are issues occurring the right people are at the meeting to help put the issues right or to help support to find a solution.

The Safer Cornwall Partnership Plan was approved to be implemented through Safer Cornwall from 1st April. It was passed at Cornwall full Council on 25th February 2025. The plan shows what we want to achieve over the next three years to improve community safety, reduce the harms of drugs and alcohol and ensure that our public places are safe and welcoming for everyone.

The plan aims to provide a balance between responding to the immediate visible community concerns and setting out a clear strategy to tackle the most harmful but more hidden issues such as domestic abuse, sexual- abuse , and exploitation.

The aim to bring everyone together to work towards these shared goals. We all have a part to play - our public services our voluntary and community organisations, our residents and even the many visitors we receive each year.

We hear the concerns about a rise in more visible issues like anti-social behaviour, street drinking and drug use and we understand how this can deeply affect how safe people feel.

We will ensure that there are straightforward ways to report concerns. Residents can feel confident that they will see action taken with a balance of enforcement and support.

We are determined to challenge the rise in hate crime and promote a message of respect and unity so important in the wake of national events in the last year.

A strong commitment to prevention runs through the plan. Approaches such as education, youth engagement and trauma- informed support are central to our work.

This aims to break the cycle of harm and improve the lives of residents who have been most affected by trauma, hardship, social exclusion, and health inequalities.

True safety is achieved not only by responding to crime and disorder as it happens but working together to address the vulnerabilities that lead to harm in the first place.

A lot has changed over the lifetime of our last three-year plan. Still feeling the effects of the pandemic, we went straight into the worst cost of living crisis for decades.

Many families are experiencing increased hardship as a result and people who were struggling have been affected. More people are needing extra help and support as well as practical help to prevent homelessness, get food or other financial support, often more specialist support is needed. This may be help with mental health, drug, or alcohol dependency or to recover from trauma or abuse.

Partnership working is enabling us to develop creative solutions together so that we can provide more intensive support and for longer periods of time.

Positive steps have been made in recognising the impact of trauma and embedding a trauma-informed approach to help break the cycle of abuse in people's lives.

Most types of crime are now above pre - pandemic levels, with local trends largely following national picture. The highest rises have been in violent crime, mainly low-level violence, stalking and harassment and domestic abuse related offences.

Theft offences remain comparatively low despite having risen over recent years. The rate of burglary experienced in Cornwall continues to be one of the lowest in the country.

Residents are telling us that they are seeing more anti-social behaviour and crime, which makes them feel less safe in their local area.

The partnership is working hard with and in communities to balance robust and appropriate enforcement when needed alongside stepped-up support through local services and more joined-up working.

There has been a lot of change in central government. We have seen new laws and guidance brought in, with more duties falling on local partnerships to deliver. This affected all areas of community safety, including anti-social behaviour, violence, drugs, and domestic abuse.

Key partners have changed how they work, and services are being provided differently to both the public and to other partners. This includes the police, health services and probation.

We know that identifying problems early and preventing harm provides the greatest benefits longer term- for people, for communities and financially.

All services are experiencing similar stresses and barriers, however that challenges us to do this consistently.

And as a town we will endeavour to maintain this Cornwall partnership plan.

At our last CAP meeting we were introduced to our new Inspector Ned Bowie who updated us regarding the set-up of a new Crime Investigation Team whose role will be to investigate crimes to reduce the work on the frontline team meaning more visibility on the ground we as a CAP welcomed this introduction.

End of report.

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