Kent Police Cumulative Impact Assessment 2024

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Introduction:

In 2021 Kent Police provided supporting evidence as part of the Cumulative Impact Assessment within the Medway area that was initially approved by Medway council in May 2018.

As during the previous Cumulative Impact Assessment, in order to comply with the Licensing Act 2003 and Guidance under S.182 of the Licensing Act, Kent police have been consulted in relation to the CIA.

In reviewing evidence in relation to this assessment, Kent Police have taken into consideration information from officers as well as new data provided by Kent police analysts to come to a decision regarding this Cumulative Impact Policy.

Since the last Cumulative Impact Assessment, Kent police have gone through a change to Neighbourhood Policing which was implemented in June 2023. This involved those officers, previously dedicated to being responsible for patrolling town centres within Medway, being assigned to their own specific ward. To provide continuity within Medway, a number of these officers were retained on wards that covered the town centres they were assigned previously. There was also a reduction in the number of police community support officers within Kent police. Despite these changes, Neighbourhood officers are continuing to patrol areas covered by the CIP and have provided evidence that there is an ongoing issue with persons, having consumed alcohol, then commit criminal offences or engage in anti-social behaviour (Annexes 1-5).

Data in relation to crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and begging has been provided by Kent police analysts, which is shown within Chloropleth & hotspot maps & ward breakdowngraphs (Annexes 7 - 24).

As stated within the previous Cumulative Impact Assessment, Luton is included within Chatham data (Annexes 11 and 17).

Consultation

As with the previous Cumulative Impact Assessment, Kent police received notification on 8th January 2024 that there was to be a further consultation in relation to the CIA and have to consider the following options:-

- · Remain as is.
- Remain, but be amended.
- Be removed.

Evidence to support continued application of the CIP

Evidence provided by Kent police analysts shows that despite intervention by officers to address alcohol related issues, crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and public nuisance continues in the following areas:

Rochester High Street and surrounding area.

Chatham High Street and surrounding area.

Gillingham High Street and surrounding area.

Luton Road and surrounding area.

Kent Police still believe that the number of off licence premises in the geographical areas of Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Luton continue to generate a high number of incidents for crime and disorder, ASB as well as public nuisance and is of the opinion that the granting of further off licences in these areas would likely undermine the licensing objectives and likely lead to an increase of incidents within these areas.

With regard to Rochester, there is evidence in relation to this area suffering negatively with antisocial behaviour and crime, which cannot be attributed to a particular premises and with the temporal data provided for both crime and anti-social behaviour (Annexes 10 and 16), this demonstrates that incidents are thoughout the day. With this in mind, a review as to whether on licenses should be included for Rochester needs to be considered, similar to the original CIA.

Data provided by the Medway Council licensing team shows that there are currently a total of 851 licensed premises in the Medway Towns. These licensed premises have been split into different categories as follows (2021 figures in brackets):

283 (278) Off Licences 124 (127) Public Houses 209 (184) Restaurants/Takeaways 185 (160) Other 50 (51) Club Premises Certificates

When the previous review of the CIA was made, there were 800 licensed premises, so with the total now being 851, meaning the number of licensed premises within Medway is now back at prepandemic levels, with off licenses still the largest type of premises, whose number appears to have stayed at a similar level since the Cumulative Impact policy was proposed in 2016 (280).

Crime data previously supplied by Kent police analysts for the previous CIA in 2021 showed that each of the High Streets for Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham had the highest number of incidents, and this is replicated within the crime hotspot maps for each town (Annexes 10, 11 and 12). If a comparison was made for each of these High Street locations, while overall there has been a decrease in recorded crime within Medway since 2020, the number of incidents for each of the High Streets has increased.

The hotspot map for crime in Rochester (Annex 10) shows that areas for most incidents are located within Strood Town centre and Rochester High Street, including night time economy locations. The hotspot map for crime in Chatham (Annex 11) shows that Chatham High Street, Pentagon Centre and The Brook are places with the highest density of incidents as well as going into Luton, with Luton Road having the second highest number of recorded crimes. The hotspot map for crime in Gillingham (Annex 12) identifies Gillingham High Street along with Gillingham Train Station, and surrounding area are the highest incident locations within this area.

Within the hotspot map for crime within Rochester (Annex 10), this also shows temporal data for when incidents of crime have occurred, with peaks during lunchtimes, and evenings throughout the week, with particular a high intensity on Monday evenings and Friday evenings.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a marked increase in Anti-social behaviour incidents within Medway, however on reviewing the current data supplied (Annex 15), these shows a decrease from 2020 of 45% however incidents within Rochester are almost back to 2019 level (1732 in 2019, 1646 in 2023). The temporal data within the ASB hotspot map for Rochester (annex 16) shows ASB incidents are throughout the week, with peaks during the evenings, in particular 1900-2100 hours as well as both Rochester and Strood High Street and surrounding roads being a hotspot area.

While there has been a decrease in ASB within Gillingham and Chatham, the areas that are highest for these incidents are both Chatham High Street, as well as Pentagon centre and The Brook, with incidents spreading towards Luton area (Annex 17) and Gillingham High Street (Annex 18).

The ward profile graph for Anti-social behaviour (Annex 14) also shows CIP wards having 59.8% of incidents involving anti-social behaviour for the whole of Medway, showing that these wards have a disproportionate number of incidents compared to the rest of wards within Medway.

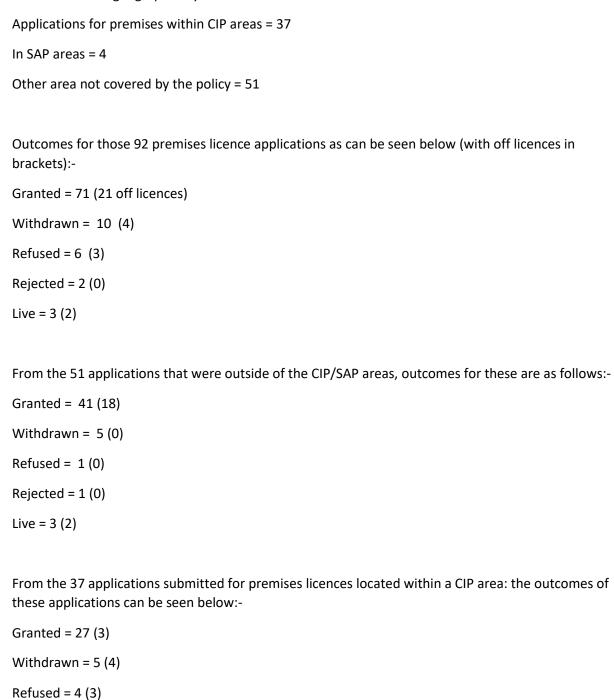
Both Chatham & Rochester have incidents of domestic abuse that are of a similar level to that in 2019, however Gillingham has shown a decrease of incidents since 2019, but still has the highest quantity of incidents amongst the three towns (Annex 19). The ward breakdown for incidents of domestic abuse (Annex 20) that those wards that cover the CIP area account for 61.3% of reported incidents, showing a disparity for the number of incidents per ward compared to other non-CIP wards.

The Chloropeth map for begging (Annex 22) shows the number of incidents that have been reported, which shows that while both Gillingham and Rochester (including Strood) have a reduced number of incidents, Chatham has almost the same (34 in 2023, 35 in 2020). Within the hotspot map for begging (Annex 24), this highlights that the high density hotspots are Chatham High Street, The Pentagon shopping centre, New Road as well as the Waterfront bus station and the High Street, leading towards Rochester, with both Rochester and Gillingham High Streets also affected by begging.

Impact of the CIP over the past 3 years

Rejected = 1(0)

Medway Council Licensing Department received 92 licence applications for new premises since the last Cumulative Impact Assessment in 2021 to the time of writing this report. These applications can be broken down geographically as follow:-



From the 4 applications submitted for premises licences located within a SAP area, the outcomes of these applications can be seen below:-

Granted = 3 (0)

Refused -1 (0)

Based on the information available, there has been an increase in the number of applications received from 70 to 92 applications, with an overall increase to 77% of applications being granted, up from 73% from the previous review. This increase we would assume is in part is as a result of the recovery from Covid-19 Pandemic with businesses looking to open or diversify into other revenue streams.

When looking at the new applications within the CIP areas, the number of applications received within these areas are very similar to the previous review in 2021 (33) however the number of applications granted has increased from 58% to 73% with almost half the number of applications refused (9 down to 4 applications) since the previous review.

As seen from the figures above, applications for off licences outside the CIP were granted in 35.3% (18 out of 51 applications) of applications however compared to those within the CIP, this is significantly lower, showing only 8.1% (3 out of 27 applications) of off licence applications within the CIP being granted, which does evidence that the CIP does have an effect on the granting of off licence applications within these areas, however each are being assessed on their own merits and this policy is not a blanket ban, so ensuring compliance with Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, subsection 14:40 "A CIA should never be absolute. Statements of licensing policy should always allow for the circumstances of each application to be considered properly and for applications that are unlikely to add to the cumulative impact on the licensing objectives to be granted."

This breakdown also demonstrates that despite the increase in the number of premises licences applications being granted from 51 to 71, this is not replicated in the number of premises operating (present 851 from 800 in 2021), showing there is a number of premises that will not continue trading or open going forwards from now.

Amendments to currently published CIA:

As a result of the previous consultation in 2021, upon review of evidence available it was deemed by Kent police there was insufficient evidence to continue to include on licences within the CIA and made this recommendation within the conclusions submitted at the time. However, with the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions after the review took place, with the last of the premises, being night clubs being allowed to re-open in 2021, there has been a number of licensed premises open as well as close.

Licensing officer, PC Pickett makes mention of Rochester within his statement, being vibrant with premises, that are open into the early hours, which by default will mostly be pubs or clubs within this area. From working within the licensing department, PC Pickett has stated he is aware of the impact premises staying open into the early hours can have on those that live or work within this area. While police can take enforcement action against a premises if they are undermining the licensing objectives, it is probable that a premises would not be identified.

With the temporal data, showing times of incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour occurring within Rochester (annex 10 and annex 16), range from late morning to midnight, with peak times between 1900-2100 hours for incidents of anti-social behaviour and 1900-2000 & 2100-2200 for incidents of crime, with Friday nights being peak for both and again, the presumption would be that those customers frequenting on licence premises, would be the main cause of these incidents.

While Kent police licensing officers will review a new premises licence application to ensure that the proposed premises has prepared an operating schedule, that will ensure the premises will promote the licensing objectives, there is a limit as to what police can suggest should be included in any application.

With police aware of concerns of residents and those that work within Rochester, an expectation that a premises that failed to uphold the objectives may not be identified as well the removal of on licence premises licence applications as a result of the previous CIA, as well as the temporal data provided, it is believed that there needs to be a method to ensure that on licence applications are also considered as part of the CIP.

With the regeneration of Chatham, especially on the waterfront near to the bus station, consideration should be given to extend the Chatham CIP area to cover this location as Chatham High Street, The Brook and Pentagon Centre are all areas that are largely affected by crime and antisocial behaviour.

Conclusions and recommendations:

Since the inception of the Cumulative Impact Policy within Medway, there has an improvement with regards to premises licence applications within these policy areas, however there is a disregard for the CIP in the majority of applications. The data provided by Kent police analysts shows that although there has been a reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour within Medway, those areas still affected by these type of incidents are the town centres as well as ongoing continuation of crime in all of these locations.

With regards to the following CIP areas, Kent police request the following are considered for these areas:-

Policy area 1 - Chatham High Street — Remain but with amendments - Extend CIP area to include area from Sun Pier to Riverside gardens, along Medway Street to the river front.

Policy area 2 - Gillingham High Street – Remain as is.

Policy area 3 - Luton Road and Chatham central – Remain as is.

Kent Police request that these three areas remain subject to a CIP in relation to <u>off sale premises</u> <u>only</u>.

Policy area 4 - Rochester High Street - Remain but with amendments -

The temporal evidence in relation to crime & anti-social behaviour shows this occurs throughout the week and across the day, from late morning to late evening, which Kent police believe are linked to licensed premises, in the majority of cases. With regards to Rochester High Street and the surrounding area as defined in the CIP, Kent Police request that there is consideration for amendment of the policy for Rochester to include premises licence applications for on licences, however not to the same standard as to what off licences are, but on licence applications should be considered to ensure that applicants are taking into account the CIP within their operating schedule.

Stress area 1 – Strood Town centre – Remain as is - While there is evidence to suggest that Strood does suffer from crime and anti-social behaviour, Kent police do not believe that this is sufficient to request this area is also made a CIP area, but this should remain as a stress area at this time.

Stress area 2 - Chatham High Street, Rochester High Street and A2 - Remain as is.

Stress area 3 – Gillingham South – Remain as is.

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WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

		URN 46	
Statement of:	Mark Squires		
Age if under 18:	Over 18	(if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation	Police Officer 13355
Γhis statement (consisting of 3 pa	ge(s) each signed by me) is true to	the best of my knowledge and

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: Mark Squires Date: Monday 11th December 2023

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police officer currently working as a Beat officer in Medway and have performed this role for the last 4 years. My main daily duties are to patrol the location of Chatham town centre that incorporates the ward of Chatham central as well as the other town centres in Medway and to respond to any incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour offering public reassurance and a providing high visibility presence. I engage with members of the public, key stakeholders and business owners daily. I also engage with the street drinkers, homeless and well-known persons of interest to Police. As a Beat team, we deal mainly with shopliftings and theft related offences caused by a lot of people trying to fund their drug and drinking habits. Medway has 4 town centres with a lot of retail premises that suffer from a lot of thefts daily. A lot of these incidents are committed by the same group of well-known offenders that we regularly deal with. Other incidents that we deal with include domestic arguments, missing persons, drunkenness and public order incidents. There are alcohol control zones in place in all the High Street locations to help us enforce the issues of street drinking and the issues that come with that. There is a significant problem in the

Signature: Mark Squires Signature witnessed

by:

Kent Police MG11 [erev APR 2020 PM00062599]

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Continuation statement of:

Town Centres with people drinking alcohol and standing around causing anti-social behaviour when they do this. Unfortunately, these alcohol control zones have recently run out meaning at the moment we are unable to enforce them and take the alcohol off anyone acting anti-social. One location that is currently one of the worst for this is the steps outside of the old Buzz Bingo building in Chatham High Street where a lot of street drinkers gather regularly to drink alcohol and talk to each other. Other locations nearby include the bench outside of Barclays bank and the bench opposite McDonalds in Chatham High Street. I have seized alcohol from this location numerous times before the order run out after complaints from members of the public. One alcoholic male who lives nearby is always drunk in and around the High Streets and is regularly causing issues there. He is moved on most days and has been arrested a couple of time due to how drunk he was. Another location is Gillingham High Street is outside of Costa coffee where again street drinkers regularly congregate, and we receive complaints from local shops and people walking past. Alcohol is either clearly visible on these people and seized or it is hidden, and they walk away prior to our arrival and return after we leave. Every effort is made to pour away any alcohol found in the controlled zones and the people associated with it are moved out of the High Street. If they do return and commit offences, they are arrested. A lot of the street drinkers are also drug addicts and that is also a major problem in all the town centre locations. I have been called to the toilets on Sappers Walk numerous times recently for males going into the gents to score drugs and have recently arrested a prolific offender in there who had been stealing multiple items to fund his drink and drug habits. The presence of these people will stop people shopping in Gillingham using the toilet. I am aware there are a lot of locations in the town centres that sell cheap and strong alcohol to these drinkers as it is always the high strength alcohol that is being drunk by these individuals. A lot of homeless people have been offered accommodation but there are still a hardcore of drinkers and addicts that are refusing any help. When I first joined the team, I was based mainly in Rochester and Strood where again I would regularly seize alcohol and pour it away. I have seen the street drinkers from the square in the middle of Strood regularly go into a nearby store and buy bottles of full-strength cider. Most of these street drinkers would also be named suspects for theft shopliftings in the area as they would steal items to pay for alcohol. On one occasion I seized alcohol from a known shoplifter in Strood town centre before later finding out the male had stolen this alcohol to fund his habit. I have also found human faeces in and around High Streets during my Signature **Mark Squires** Signature witnessed by

Kent Police MG11 [erev 7/07] v13-2006/07(1)

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Continuation statement of:

time. Recently as a team we have started making use of Community Protection Warnings and started issuing them for persons committing anti-social behaviour in the High Streets. These can be escalated if they are not adhered to and Criminal behaviour orders have been issued banning people from all the High Street areas. A lot of our street drinkers have been issued a warning and a few of them have also been issued orders. A word document has also been created by me detailing a list of all our regular street drinkers including a photo in an effort to keep a record of any interactions we have with them while we are unable to seize their alcohol. Most of the crime we deal with is either directly or indirectly linked to alcohol and drugs. I work in the same office as the Medway licencing team, and I am aware they have conducted checks of various in the high streets and will be dealing with any offences they find. I am in no doubt at the moment there are too many shops in Medway trying to sell cheap high alcohol drinks to street drinkers and other members of the public and I feel if any more shops are given the opportunity to open and sell alcohol this will make the problem harder to police and worse for the residents of Medway.

Signature Mark Squires

OFFICIAL

Annex 2

WITNESS STATEMENT

edure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B URN 46

Statement of: **Jade Sargun**

Age if under 18: **Over 18......** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation:

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: J.Sargun 13713 Date: **15/12/2023**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

am a Police officer currently working as a Beat Team officer in Medway and have performed this role for the last 6 months. Prior to this I worked as an officer within the Town Centre Team which covered all High Streets within Medway. Currently my main area is Gillingham South which covers Gillingham High Street. My daily duties are to patrol the location of Gillingham in Medway and to respond to any incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour offering public reassurance and a providing high visibility presence. I engage with members of the public, key stakeholders and business owners on a daily basis. I also engage with the street drinkers, homeless and well known persons of interest to Police. There is a significant problem in the Town Centres with people drinking alcohol and standing around causing anti-social behaviour when they do this. One location that is currently one of the worst for this is the benches on Gillingham High Street outside of Costa Coffee. I have seized alcohol from this location numerous times recently after complaints from members of the public. The area of Baba Food and Wine in High Street, Gillingham also causes issues. They are open late hours which in turn attracts people to surround the High Street area late at night, drinking alcohol and playing loud music all throughout the evening. This is turn causes the residents who live in the area issues. One female who lived above the store stated that sometimes her and her children would be up until the early hours of the morning due to loud, anti-social behaviour fuelled by alcohol. Another location slightly further up the High Street is outside of Nisa where again street drinkers regularly congregate and we receive complaints from local shops and people walking past. Alcohol is either clearly visible on these people and seized or it is hidden, and they walk away prior to our arrival and return after we leave. Every effort is made to pour away any alcohol found in the controlled zones and the people associated with it are moved out of the High Street. If they do return and commit offences, they are arrested. A lot of the street drinkers are also drug addicts and that is also a major problem in all the town centre locations. Most of the crime we deal with is either directly or indirectly linked to alcohol and drugs. I work in the same office as the Medway licencing team and I am aware they have conducted checks of various in the high streets and will be dealing Signature: Signature witnessed by: J.Sargun 13713

MG11 (Cont)

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Continuation statement of:

with any offences they find. I am in no doubt at the moment there are too many shops in Medway trying to sell cheap high alcohol drinks to street drinkers and other members of the public and I feel if any more shops are given the opportunity to open and sell alcohol this will make the problem worse.

Signature: J.Sargun 13713 Signature witnessed by:

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OFFICIAL

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B URN 46

Statement of: PC 14028 MINEHAM

Age if under 18: O/18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **POLICE CONSTABLE**

This statement (consisting of 4 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: PC 14028 MINEHAM Date: 18/12/23

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police Constable working within the Medway Community Safeguarding Unit and have worked in this role as a town centre officer/beat officer for over two years. My time in this role has had me work closely in the town centre areas of CHATHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD and most specifically in GILLINGHAM. During this time I have repeatedly had to deal with street drinkers and incidents that have had alcohol as an aggravating factor in behaviour of persons involved. Offences committed by these persons would range from simple thefts of alcohol or small items to trade for alcohol to large fights and verbal disturbances. Not all instances of drinking in the town centre's necessarily involve criminality but definitely have had an effect on the local traders and members of public passing by the drinkers and their loutish behaviour. Their mere presence has found some footfall to businesses in peak times fall and people less inclined to visit these commercial areas in convenient times with children due to the language and behaviour of the street drinkers that could vary from calm to expletive. These persons tend to drift towards the HIGH STREET as their accommodation and support services tend to be located very close to the town centres and as such, these locations become local haunts. This is further coupled with these areas being predatory grounds for drug dealers selling drugs to persons already struggling with addiction problems and as such compounds issues. Recent examples of the behaviours for GILLINGHAM have been persons buying alcohol from stores on the fringes of the high street and then moving closer to the centre, sitting on benches and low garden benches along GREEN STREET and HIGH STREET. The drinkers will start as one or two but usually numbers then inflate as the day progresses. This is not as prevalent in winter and autumn but in the spring and summer months when weather is nice, this particular location is the go to location. I have repeatedly had to patrol this location over the last few summers and utilise seizing and pouring away alcohol under the Public Spaces

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Continuation statement of: PC 14028 MINEHAM

Protection Order that has been in place to dissuade drinkers from remaining in this location and causing issues from their rowdy and untoward behaviours. Alcohol they buy tends to be high strength cider and beer which is cheaply available and even though stores under their licences are not to sell alcohol to drunk persons, this is not always the case and they clearly do as persons I have confiscated alcohol from have reappeared a short time later with more alcohol which was subsequently confiscated. They are reluctant to say where they got the alcohol from but members of public have been useful in saying which off licence they have seen them come out from. The regular occurrence of this has become a nuisance to the community. It doesn't help that some of the most vulnerable people seeking a break from reality use alcohol as an escape and can leave them in extremely dangerous situations. Early in 2022 I witnessed the same female going through troubles in her life get blind drunk most days and become nonverbal when sat on the high street. She would be subject of numerous calls to the ambulance service and the police due to her intoxication. Constantly being able to get alcohol to get to this state lead to her being victim of several robberies, a serious sexual assault and very public medical episode. My colleague and I were able to eventually work with her to get her housed and where her accommodation was away from the town centre and any cheap off licences. This was a contributing factor in her being able to change her situation, stop drinking and go through rehabilitation. However, when she was in her transient position, she was sleeping in areas close to the high streets and again, leaving herself in vulnerable situations usually very close to the nearest off licence where she obtained cheap, high strength alcohol.

In a wider view, ROCHESTER has had issues where last winter, local rough sleepers took shelter in a recessed door front of a closed business. This was large enough an area for at least two persons to sleep but on regular passing, there would be lots of empty cans of alcohol and bottles of spirits. Persons in this doorway would regularly be begging for money from passers by that would go and get spent at an off licence at the end of the high street before returning to this spot. There was a regular turnover of rough sleepers as there

Signature C.MINEHAM 14028

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Continuation statement of: PC 14028 MINEHAM

was one constant person but then his friends or other rough sleepers would attend and hang out. Again, sometimes they could be calm and compliant but other times drinkers there would become irate at members of public not giving them money or making under their breathe comments and persons present taking umbrage to this. Over the bridge in Strood, rough sleepers have recently been camped out in the gardens of a nearby church which the clergy initially didn't have an issue with but when the rough sleepers started to shout and be abusive towards one another when children and frail attendees came to clubs at the church this started to cause some tensions. The rough sleepers were all known drug users and alcoholics who were also causing issues at the neighbouring Asda whereby they were either stealing alcohol or making efforts to steal whilst intoxicated. This problem floated over to Aldi where the same thing was happening and then the drinkers would congregate on a public square at junction of HIGH STREET and NORTH STREET. Again, in this location the local drinkers would become quite raucous and then thefts from food/alcohol vendors in the local vicinity would be reporting an increase in shopliftings. I personally found one of the local drinkers loitering around the rear of an M&S food store and then found that they were concealing a whole tray of alcoholic cocktails they had stolen from a briefly insecure rear door. This was technically a burglary offence and committed so they would have something to drink without paying. After these encounters, efforts have been made to engage with these people to get them to change their ways, habits and lifestyles but ultimately they are turned down as they are not at a point where they believe they require help. This can become frustrating as where they do not wish to change, the same offences will occur and the outcomes will continue to be the same from the courts and then the cycle will continue again. Street drinking has a constant detrimental effect on the Medway towns and is an easy go to for people struggling with addiction and stress of modern life. Cheap, high strength alcohol is already widely and easily accessible in multiple areas close to the town centres and this availability causes issues for the community and then have to have involvement from my colleagues and I. Alcohol is not seen as harmful as drugs however it's ease of access causes issues

Signature C.MINEHAM 14028

MG11 (Cont)

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Continuation statement of: **PC 14028 MINEHAM**

for lots of persons with addiction issue and other personal conflicts where it is seen as a method of self-medication. This is not a problem that is going to go away any time soon however needs to be managed at a local level to ensure what currently is available can be effectively managed and held to account.

Signature C.MINEHAM 14028

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of:	PC 14792 WOO	D-THATCHER				
Age if under 18:	Over 18	(if over 18 insert 'ove	er 18') Occı	upation:	Police Co	onstable 14792
belief and I make it	knowing that, if	e(s) each signed by r it is tendered in evide know to be false or	ence, I sha	all be liab	ole to pros	_
Signature: PC 14	792 WOOD-THA	TCHER	Date:	15.1	2.2023	
Tick if witness evide	ence is visually re	ecorded (supply wi	itness details	s on rear)		

I am a Kent Police Officer currently working within the BEAT TEAM of CSU, with an emphasis on GILLINGHAM HIGH STREET AND GILLINGHAM SOUTH.

I am also a former Town Centre PC, based specifically within GILLINGHAM HIGHSTREET and have an extensive knowledge of the area and current issues within the town.

A highly prevalent issue within GILLINGHAM HIGHSTREET is the street drinking which causes a multitude of issues for emergency services, the council and negatively impacts members of the public. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is often fuelled by alcohol. Alcohol is readily accessible from several stores which fuels the issues faced by the emergency services and council.

Street drinking is often a method of satisfying an addiction to alcohol, leading to a quantity of very intoxicated people congregating in the High Streets. These groups in turn often tend to engage in loud, boisterous behaviour which is often perceived as intimidating to many on the high street. Street drinking can also further lead to other foul acts including urinating, spitting, and even fighting.

Signature: **PC 14792 WOOD-THATCHER** Signature witnessed by:

Typed by: PC 14792 WOOD-THATCHER

Kent Police MG11 [erev 8/11] v15

2019

MG11 (Cont)

Continuation page 21

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Continuation statement of: **PC 14792 WOOD-THATCHER**

This is incredibly harmful to the High Street atmosphere and public perception of these spaces.

If the issues of street drinking is not tackled, I truly believe the footfall of the high street will be negatively effective, which impacts businesses and communities alike.

This is a true and accurate account to the best of my knowledge; the statement was typed at MEDWAY

POLICE STATION. PC 14792 WOOD-THATCHER

Signature PC 14792 WOOD-THATCHER

Signature witnessed by

Typed by:

PC 14792 WOOD-THATCHER

OFFICIAL

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.	2; Criminal Justice	Act 1967, s. 9; I	Magistrates' Courts	Act 1980, s.5B

URN 46

Statement of: **Daniel LEE**

Age if under 18: **OVER 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **POLICE OFFICER**.....

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **Daniel Lee PC 46013859**Date: **Wednesday 29th November**2023

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am currently a serving Police Constable for Kent Police, working within the Neighbourhood Beat Team, covering the are of ROCHESTER WEST and BORSTAL. My daily duties include patrolling my wards and engaging with members of the community. Within my ward falls HIGH STREET, ROCHESTER which is a historic HIGH STREET with plenty of drinking establishments along it. I engage with members of the public, key stakeholders and business owners on a daily basis. I also engage with the street drinkers, homeless and well-known persons of interest to Police. As a high street team, we deal mainly with shopliftings and theft related offences. Medway has 4 town centres with a lot of retail premises that suffer from a lot of thefts on a daily basis. A lot of these incidents are committed by the same group of well-known offenders that we regularly deal with. Other incidents that we deal with include domestic arguments, missing persons, drunkenness and public order incidents. There are alcohol control zones in place in all of the High Street locations to help us enforce the issues of street drinking and the issues that come with that. There have been a few occasions whilst on patrol in the HIGH STREET of ROCHESTER where alcohol abuse has caused me

Signature: Daniel Lee PC 46013859 Signature witnessed by: N/A

Kent Police MG11 [erev APR 2020 PM00062599]

MG11 (Cont)

Continuation page 2

URN

46

Continuation statement of: **Daniel LEE**

issues. A specific issue was raised to me whilst on patrol of a male and his friends who were causing loud disturbances on the HIGH STREET, causing Anti-Social Behaviour and being a nuisance to passer's by, asking for money. This male and his friends were located sitting outside a local establishment, causing an obstruction of the doorway to the shop so other paying customers could not get in. The main male of this group was arrested three times within a four-week period due to being drunk and disorderly, theft and assault on emergency workers. Each time he was arrested he was heavily intoxicated and abusive to not only Police but other members of public. Another point of interest that I have noticed whilst on mobile patrol in different areas is a congregation of street drinkers and drug users that hang outside of a, now closed, GALA BINGO, HIGH STREET, CHATHAM. Without fail every day there is a group of between 3-10 persons gathered on the steps of GALA BINGO and drinking, causing a nuisance, littering and being generally loud and causing members of public to fear for their well-being when walking around. There is a local shop which sells alcohol a stone's throw away from GALA BINGO which regularly sells the alcohol to these people. This area of GALA BINGO falls just outside of the PSPO area, and it is noticeable that the street drinkers know this and take advantage of this fact. A lot of our street drinkers have been issued a warning and a few of them have also been issued orders. Most of the crime we deal with is either directly or indirectly linked to alcohol and drugs. I work in the same office as the Medway Licencing Team and I am aware they have conducted checks of various in the high streets and will be dealing with any offences they find. I am in no doubt at the moment

there are too many shops in Medway trying to sell cheap high alcohol drinks to street drinkers and other

members of the public and I feel if any more shops are given the opportunity to open and sell alcohol this

will make the problem harder to police and worse for the residents of MEDWAY.

Signature **Daniel Lee PC 46013859**

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Proce	dure Rules, r 16.2	; Criminal Justice Act 196	7, s. 9; M	lagistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B	
		URN	46		
Statement of:	Ian Pickett PC	12274			
Age if under 18:	Over 18	(if over 18 insert 'over 18")) Occupati	on: Police Officer	
and I make it know	wing that, if it is		hall be li	the best of my knowledge and belic able to prosecution if I have wilfull rue.	
Signature: Ian I	Pickett PC 1227	4	Date:	18 th January 2024	
Fick if witness evid	ence is visually re	corded (supply witness o	details on re	ear)	
I have been a	police officer for 2	22 years, working for the r	majority o	of my service within Kent police as	
a patrol officer	, responding to inc	cidents as directed from th	ne Force (Control Room however for the last	

two & half years I have worked as a licensing officer within North Division.

While working as a patrol officer, I was fully aware of how alcohol can affect a person, be that their behaviour at the time, when they were intoxicated, detrimental effect to their physical and/or mental health as well as how a persons alcohol consumption can also affect family and friends by that persons behaviour.

When I transferred into the role of a licensing officer, I became aware of how important this role is in ensuring licensed premises maintains a responsible attitude to ensuring they are promoting the licensing objectives, be that through a licensing visit or enforcement action through a stepped

Ian Pickett PC 12274 Signature witnessed by: Signature: N/A

MG11 (Cont)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

URN	46	

Continuation statement of: Ian Pickett PC 12274

approach. Having conducted visits at premises, it has become apparent how premise licence holders can employ staff to work within the premises, however do not support them sufficiently by giving staff for example, training in Licensing Legislation, in selling alcohol and giving them support in order that a staff member has sufficient confidence to justify a refusal of alcohol or other age restricted products. These staff are then left on their own within a store and therefore it is no surprise that sales of alcohol or age restricted products occur, when perhaps these sales should not take place.

As part of a police licensing visit, the lack of training of staff given by a premises licence holder or DPS should be picked up and rectified, however police intervention should not be relied upon in order to ensure a premises is complying with a premises licence and conditions within the operating schedule.

In spite of police intervention with licensed premises, there has been occasions where issues of street drinking, anti-social behaviour, alcohol related crime and disorder that have occurred within the town centres have been relayed to police licensing team, however the premises that alcohol was purchased from, could not be identified however in order to ensure premises were promoting the licensing objectives, myself as well as other colleagues within the licensing team have hand delivered warning letters to licensed premises, primarily off licences within the CIP locations. Within these letters, it is made clear to the licence holder of their responsibilities in relation to the sale of alcohol and how much of an negative impact, a premises can have if the premises is not being proactive in refusing sales of alcohol.

As part of my role within the North Division licensing team, I have been actively involved in gathering evidence, both first hand and in conjunction with Kent police analysts team, to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to support the continuation for the Cumulative Impact Policy that is currently in place within Medway towns.

Signature Ian Pickett PC 12274

Signature witnessed by

N/A

URN	46	

Continuation statement of: Ian Pickett PC 12274

There are currently four areas that fall under this policy:-

Chatham High Street and surrounding area

Gillingham High Street and surrounding area

Rochester High Street and surrounding area

Luton Road and surrounding area

There are also three stress areas that are covered by this policy, which are:-

Strood town centre and surrounding area

Chatham High Street, Rochester High Street and A2

Gillingham South

Having visited these locations, I have witnessed evidence of littering with empty alcohol containers, being left within the following locations. For examples, areas such as:-

High Street j/w The Brook, Best Street, Solomons Road, Medway St (leading to the riverside) – Chatham.

Sappers Walk, Motor Lane, Green St, Briton Street, Balmoral Gardens, Britton St, – Gillingham.

Corporation Street j/w with Northgate, Boley Hill, Crow Lane, - Rochester

Luton High Street, Magpie Hall Road - Luton

Church Path, Friary Place, Newark Yard - Strood

Having been aware of the Cumulative Impact Policy and the justification for initially implementing this policy in Medway, as well as the subsequent review in 2021, this appears to have had the desired effect in relation to new applications however each application is reviewed, based on its own merits,

Signature Ian Pickett PC 12274

MG11 (Cont)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

URN	46	

Continuation statement of: Ian Pickett PC 12274

this has not stopped premises opening with a CIP area, if the application can show that the premises will not have a negative impact.

Having reviewed applications that have been received for locations within the CIP & Stress areas, it is apparent that despite the Cumulative Impact Policy being referenced within Medway's Statement of Licensing policy and available on-line, applicants are still not aware of this policy and do not state what measures would be included within their operating schedule in order to mitigate concerns in relation to the licensing objectives.

In the review by Kent police in 2021, it was determined that there was insufficient evidence to include on sale premises, such as pubs, bars and clubs due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing restrictions these types of premises were having at the time. As I have been working as a licensing officer within North Division since August 2021, it has been apparent through myself working in this role that while Chatham and Gillingham town centres night time economy is lacking, Rochester, especially the High Street is still vibrant with premises, offering both on and off sales through to the early hours however this also then brings associated issues in relation to those premises that would undermine the licensing objectives. This has been through working night shifts over weekends, through reviewing incident reports and crime reports, that are directly linked to licensed premises or the general area of the High Street or while preparing for licensing hearings, in order to gather evidence in relation to licensed premises. From reviewing this type of evidence, it is apparent that there are concerns of persons who live and work within Rochester as to the effect that persons that frequent licensed premises have, especially into the early hours and incidents of crime/disorder, public nuisance as well as anti-social behaviour do have a detrimental effect of those within this area, whether they are residents, tourists or work within this area.

Signature Ian Pickett PC 12274

Signature witnessed by

N/A

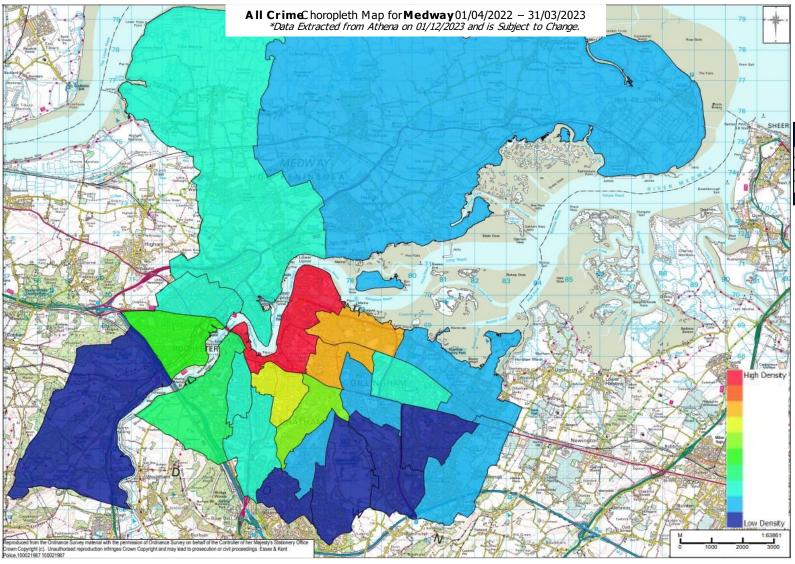
MG11 (Cont)

URN	46	

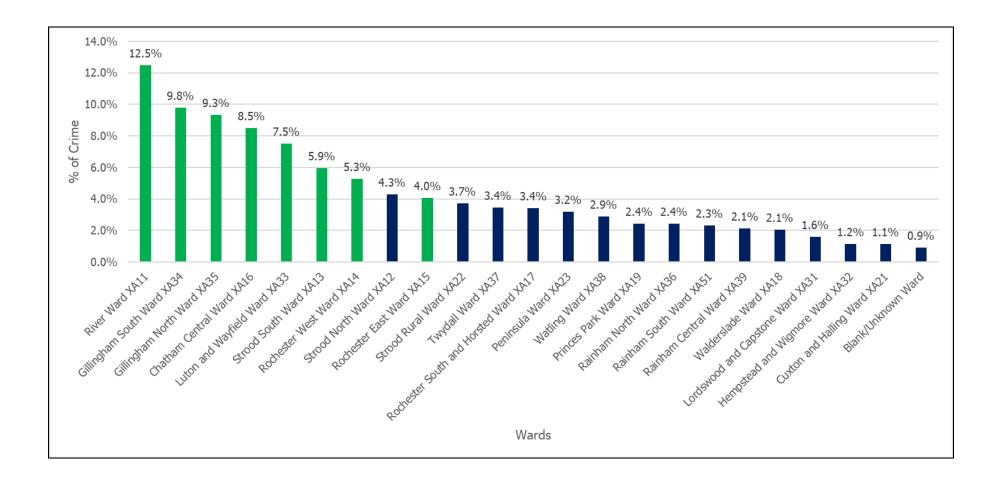
Continuation statement of: Ian Pickett PC 12274

When a drunk person or persons are involved in an incident, it is not always apparent where they have been prior to the incident and so, the premises cannot be held accountable. As I said previously within this statement, a warning letter to premises may be considered the appropriate course of action however this type of response would not be suitable for those that are primarily on sales premises. As such, it would be of benefit if the Cumulative Impact policy be reviewed to include on sale premises, so as to ensure that a consideration is given for this policy when an application relevant to this policy is submitted.

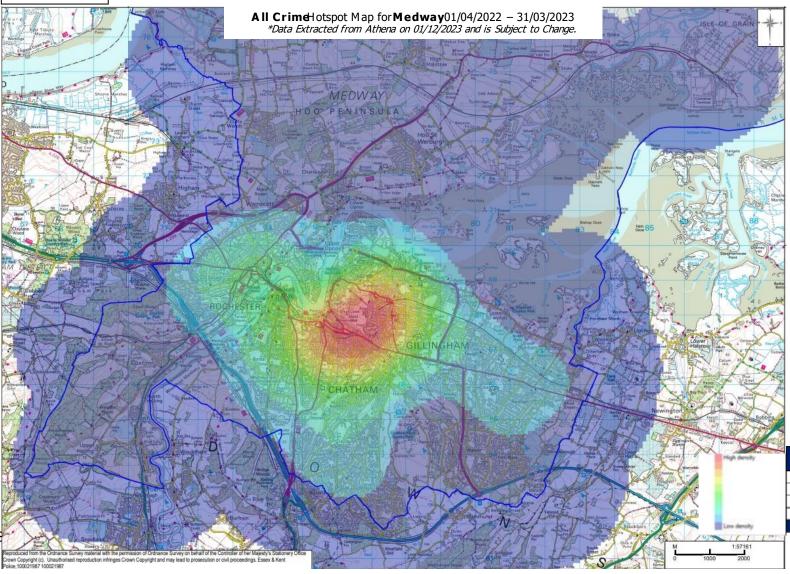
Signature Ian Pickett PC 12274



Town	Count of Crime Apr 22 - Mar 23
GILLINGHAM	10981
CHATHAM	10709
ROCHESTER	9173
GENERAL MEDWAY	124
Grand Total	31287



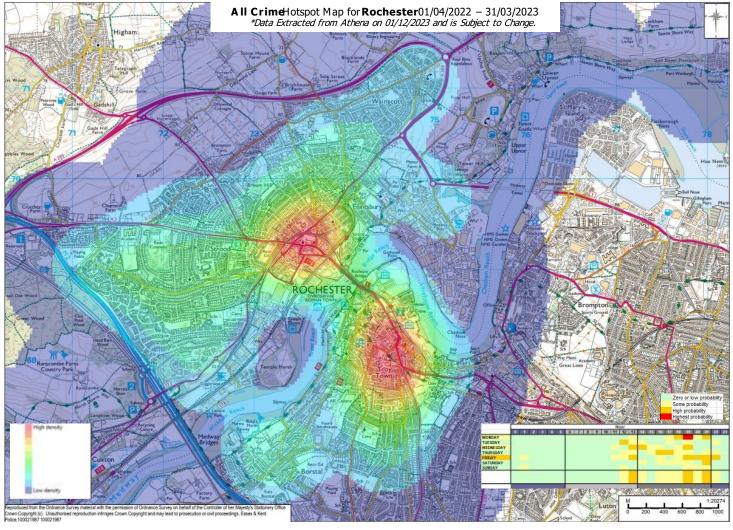
CIP/SAP area Wards account for 62.9% of All Crime in Medway during FY 2022/23.



Medway FY 22/23

- All Crime Offences in Financial Year 22/23 are centred around Chatham and Gillingham town centres, which is visually shown on the map by the red colour on the hotspot map showing the highest density.
- The yellow and green areas that surround the red highdensity area in Chatham and Gillingham show areas where lower volumes have occurred but are still moderate density, these areas include Luton, areas towards Rochester and south/east of Gillingham town centre.
- The light and dark blue areas indicate the areas of lowest density of offences, areas include East areas of Medway (Rainham, Wigmore, Hempstead) and more rural areas (Cuxton and the Hoo peninsula).

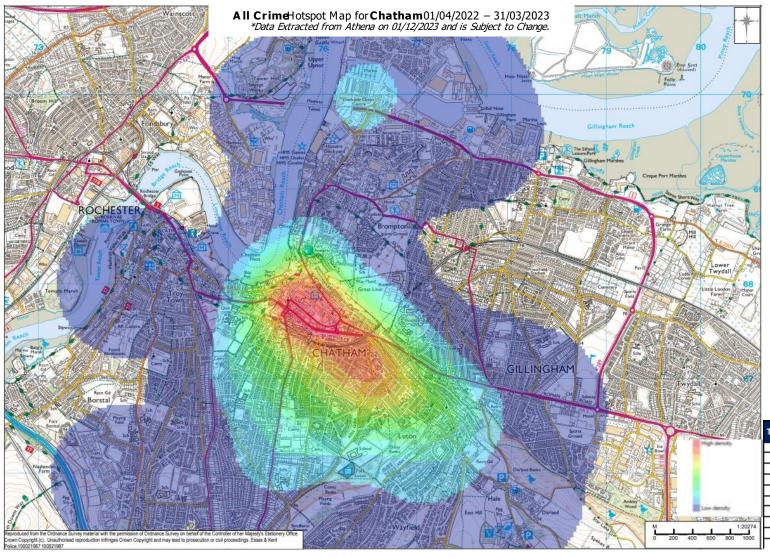
Town	Count of Crime Apr 22 - Mar 23
GILLINGHAM	10981
CHATHAM	10709
ROCHESTER	9473
GENERAL MEDWAY	124
Grand Total	31287



Rochester FY 22/23

- During Financial Year 22/23 there were 2 main hotspots (indicated by red areas on map):
 - Strood town centre; area around Strood Retail Park, London Road, Commercial Road. Offences extend towards Strood Train Station and a lower volume towards Frindsbury and Wainscott.
 - Rochester High Street and surrounding shops, eateries and NTE venues. This extends to Troy Town and the section of High Street towards Chatham. Offence density decreases towards the south of Rochester High Street however slight hotspot around Borstal.

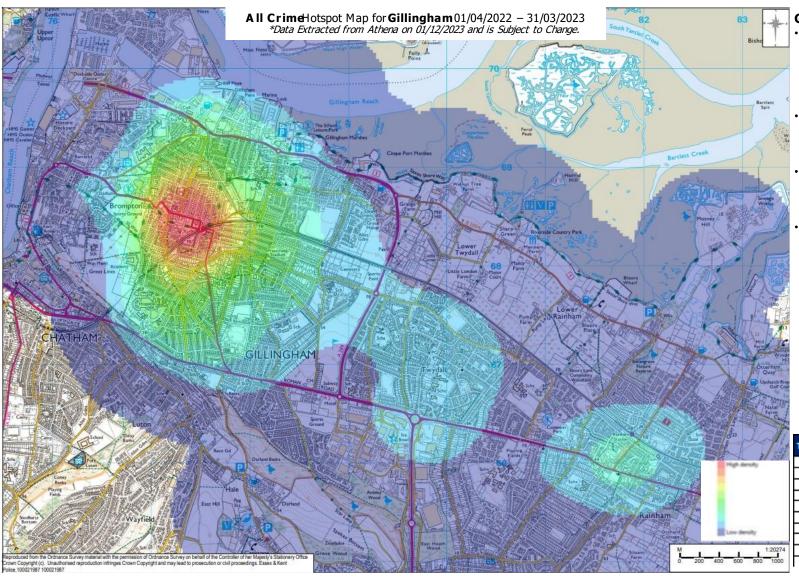
Top 10 Repeat Venues	Count of Crime Reference Number
HIGH STREET	715
SIR EVELYN ROAD	300
DARNLEY ROAD	176
CITY WAY	151
COMMERCIAL ROAD	131
BLUE BOAR LANE	130
ANTHONYS WAY	126
WATLING STREET	114
COOKHAM WOOD ROAD	111
MAIDSTONE ROAD	101



Chatham FY 22/23

- The highest density of offences in Chatham occurred in the High Street, Pentagon Shopping Centre, Best Street, New Road, The Brook and surrounding area.
- Offence density spreads southeast from Chatham town centre towards Luton.
- A low-density hotspot at Chatham Dockside Outlet.
- Low level of offences committed in areas such as Way field and Hale.

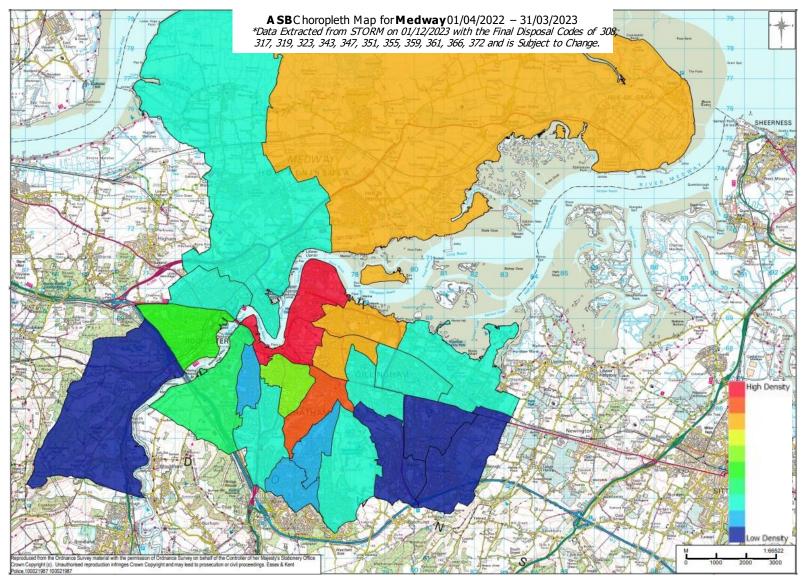
Top 10 Repeat Venues	Count of Crime Reference Number
HIGH STREET	835
LUTON ROAD	414
MAIDST ONE ROAD	358
THE PENT AGON	278
RAILWAY STREET	216
MAGPIE HALL ROAD	201
NEW ROAD	176
CASTLE ROAD	155
MARITIME WAY	129
BRYANT STREET	122



Gillingham FY 22/23

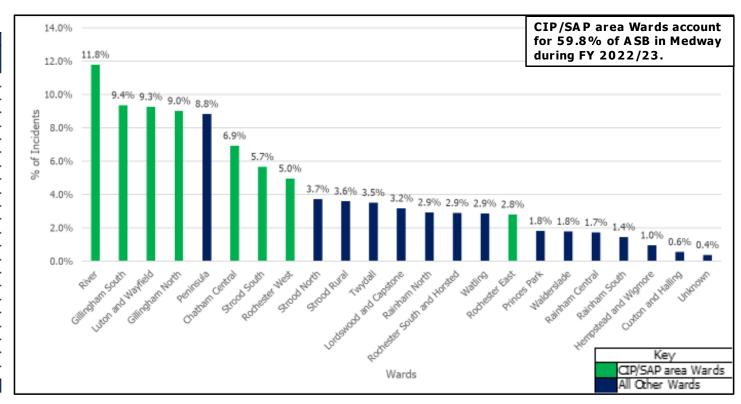
- The highest density of offences in Gillingham occurred around Gillingham High Street and Gillingham Train Station. This also continued towards surrounding residential roads and streets.
- The hotspot spreads slightly east of the main town centre area towards Priestfield Stadium and south towards Medway Maritime Hospital.
- An area of lower density but higher than surrounding areas is seen around Twy dalland the Bowaters roundabout.
- A lower density hotspot also seen around Rainham shopping centre, Station Road and surrounding roads.

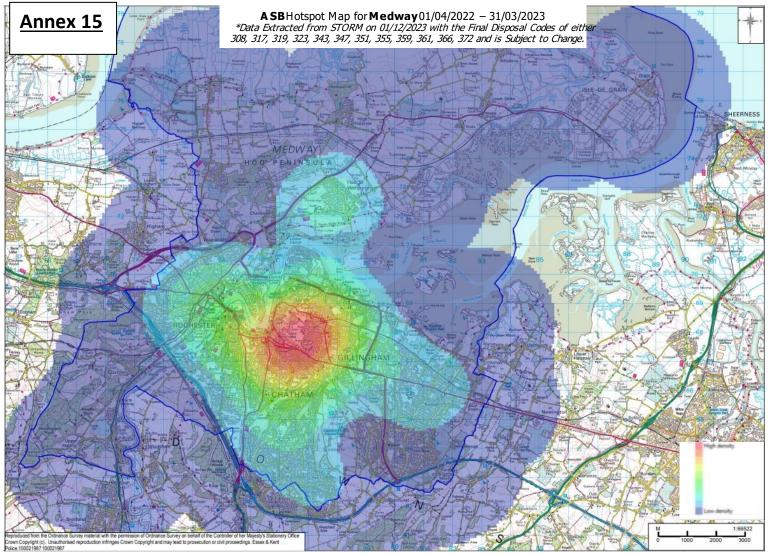
Top 10 Repeat Venues	Count of Crime Reference Number
HIIGH STREET	682
WINDMILLROAD	354
CANTERBURY STREET	244
PURSER WAY	231
GILLINGHAM ROAD	202
DUNCAN ROAD	177
JAMES STREET	165
COURTENEY ROAD	153
SKINNER STREET	151
STATION ROAD	148



Town	Count of Incident Reference Mar 22 - Apr 23
CHATHAM	1715
GILLINGHAM	1685
ROCHESTER	1646
Grand Total	5046

Medway A	SB
Wards	Count of Incidents Mar 22 - Apr 23
River	594
Gillingham South	472
Luton and Wayfield	468
Gillingham North	455
Peninsula	445
Chatham Central	350
Strood South	286
Rochester West	250
Strood North	188
Strood Rural	182
Twydall	177
Lordswood and Capstone	160
Rainham North	148
Rochester South and Horsted	147
Watling	145
Rochester East	141
Princes Park	92
Walderslade	90
Rainham Central	88
Rainham South	73
Hempstead and Wigmore	48
Cuxton and Halling	28
Unknown	19
Grand Total	5046

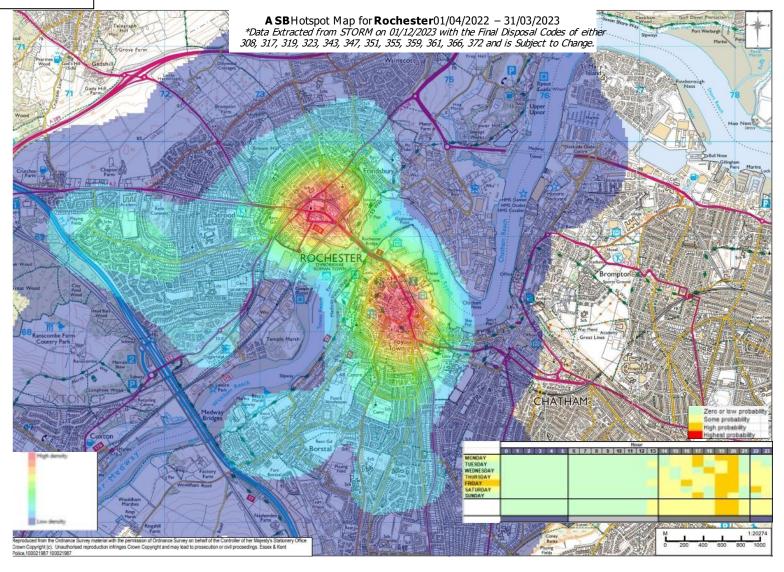




Medway FY 22/23

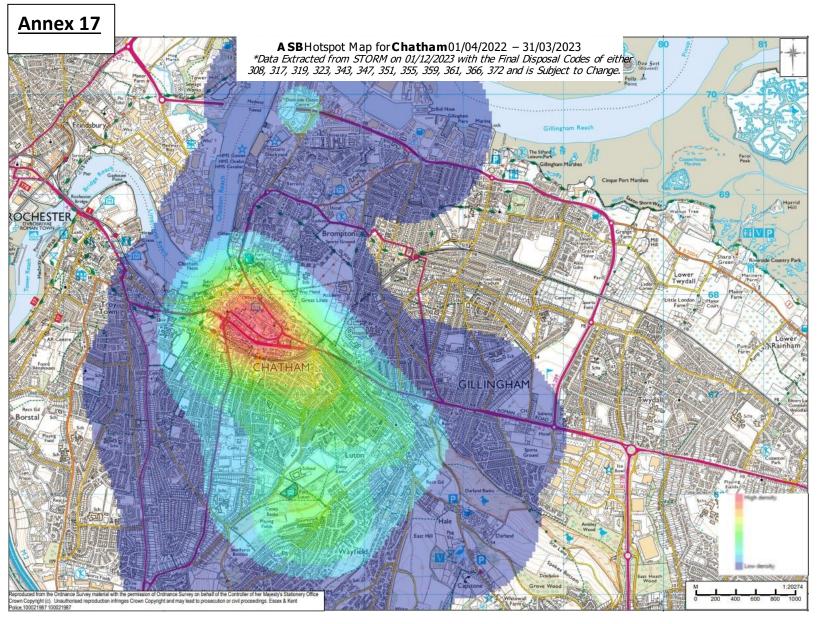
- ASB incidents in Financial Year 22/23 are focused in Chatham Town Centre, spreading towards Gillingham, Luton and Rochester.
- Areas of moderate ASB density are shown in yellow to green colour, these areas extend to Strood and East Gillingham.
- A small, less dense, isolated hotspot is in Hoo on the Hoo Peninsula.

Town	Count of Incidents Mar 22 - Apr 23
CHATHAM	1715
GILLINGHAM	1685
ROCHESTER	1646
Grand Total	5046



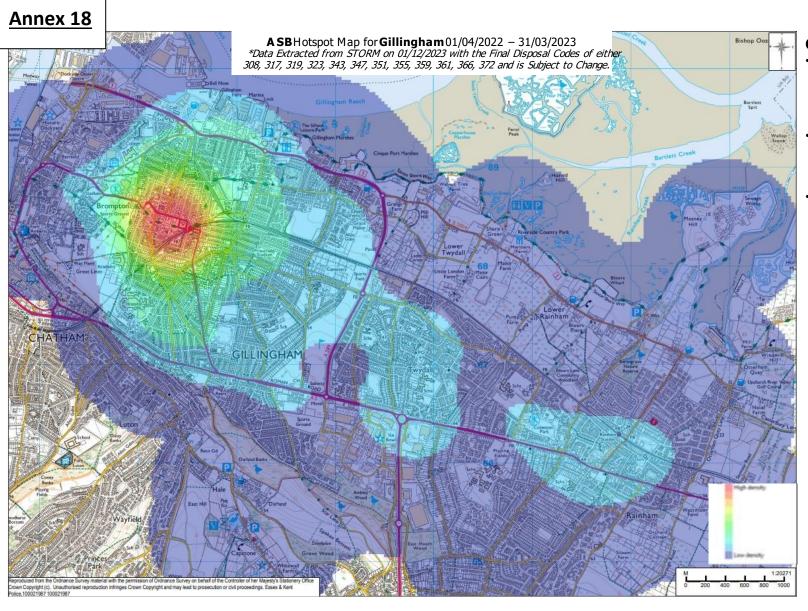
Rochester FY 22/23

- Highest density locations (red area on map) for ASB incidents were in 2 locations:
 - Strood Town Centre: areas around the High Street, Commercial Road, Gun Lane and North Street.
 - Rochester Town Centre: areas around the High Street, Corporation Street and the north side of Troy Town.
- Lower density hotspot towards southwest Strood (around Bligh Way).



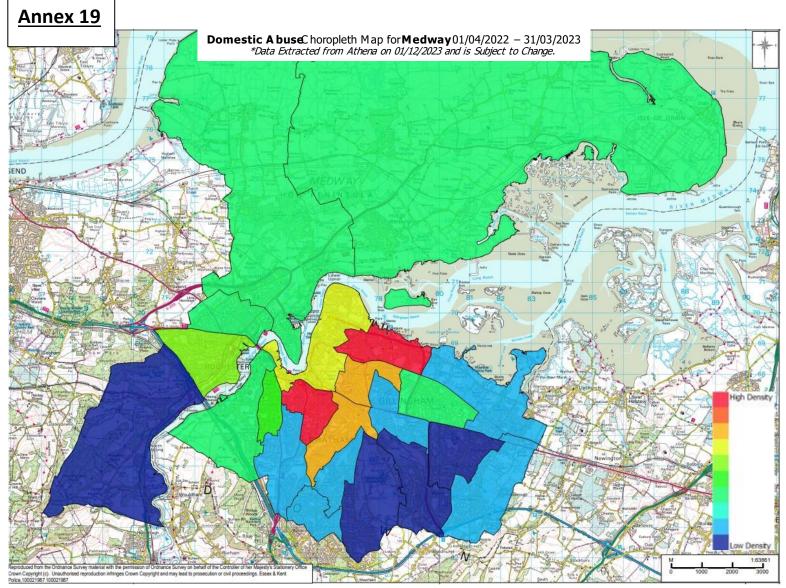
Chatham FY 22/23

- Highest density of incidents occur in Chatham Town Centre, the areas around the High Street, the Pentagon Shopping Centre, New Road and The Brook.
- Moderate density of offences spread towards the Luton area.
- A lower density hotspot is located at Coney Banks in Wayfield.



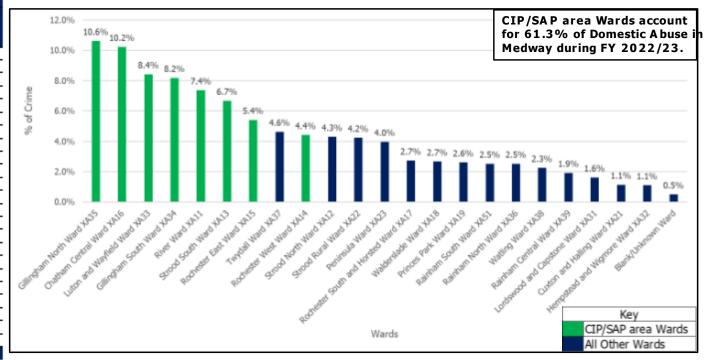
Gillingham FY 22/23

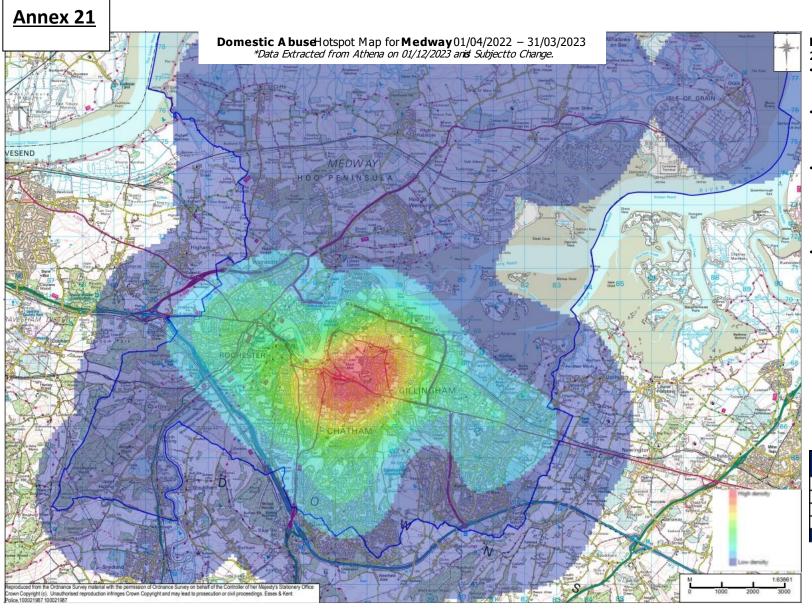
- High density of incidents (red area on map) in Gillingham were located around Gillingham High Street and Gillingham Train Station.
- Moderate density of offences (yellow-green on map) located in South and East Gillingham and towards Brompton.
- Lower density hotshot (light blue) extends from Gillingham to Twydalland a separate hotspot in Rainham (Town Centre area and Cozenton Park)



Town	Count of Crime Apr 22 - Mar 23
GILLINGHAM	2224
CHATHAM	2184
ROCHESTER	2125
GENERAL MEDWAY	12
Grand Total	6545

Med way Domestic Abuse	
Wards	Count of Crime Apr 22 - Mar 23
Gillingham North Ward XA35	695
Chatham Central Ward XA16	670
Luton and Wayfield Ward XA33	552
Gillingham South Ward XA34	536
River Ward XA11	482
Strood South Ward XA13	436
Rochester East Ward XA15	355
Twydall Ward XA37	303
Rochester West Ward XA14	289
Strood North Ward XA12	282
Strood Rural Ward XA22	277
Peninsula Ward XA23	260
Rochester South and Horsted Ward XA17	179
Walderslade Ward XA18	174
Princes Park Ward XA19	170
Rainham South Ward XA51	164
Rainham North Ward XA36	164
Watling Ward XA38	148
Rainham Central Ward XA39	125
Lordswood and Capstone Ward XA31	105
Cuxton and Halling Ward XA21	75
Hempstead and Wigmore Ward XA32	72
Blank/Unknown Ward	32
Grand Total	6545

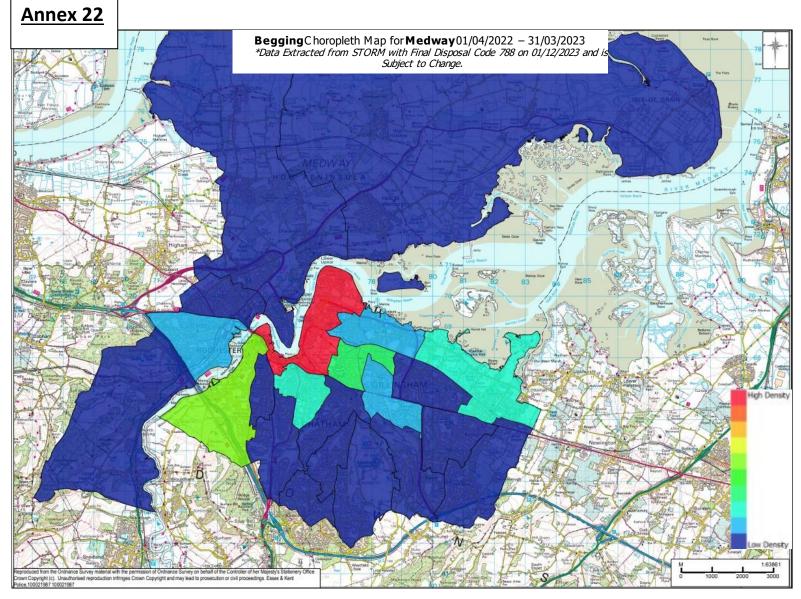




Domestic Abuse in Medway FY 2022/23:

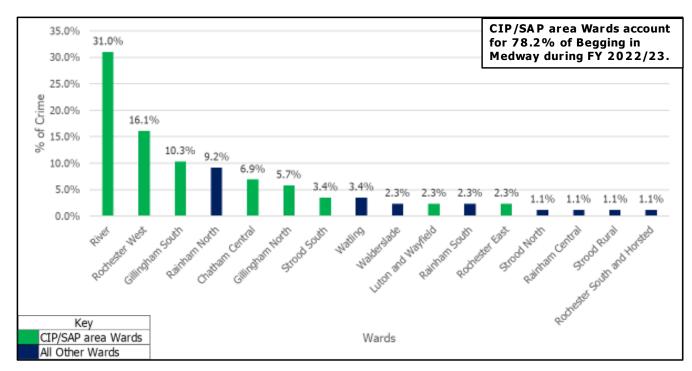
- Domestic A buse hotspot follows the same location pattern as that of the all-crime hotspot.
- The highest density of offences were in C hatham and into Gillingham, shown by the red colour on the hotspot map.
- The yellowto green areas on the map show the moderate density areas of offences which covers the rest of Chatham, Luton, east/south Gillingham, Brompton and into Rochester.
- The light to dark blue areas indicate locations with lowest density of offences.

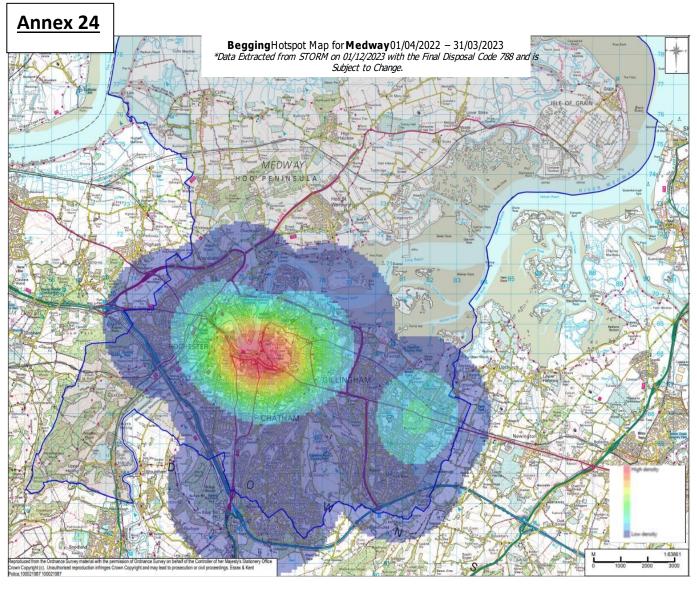
Town	Count of Crime Apr 22 - Mar 23
GILLINGHAM	2224
CHATHAM	2184
ROCHESTER	2125
GENERAL MEDWAY	12
Grand Total	6545



Town	Count of Incidents Mar 22 - Apr 23
CHATHAM	34
GILLINGHAM	29
ROCHESTER	24
Grand Total	87

Med way Begging	
Wards	Count of Incidents Mar 22 - Apr 23
River	27
Rochester West	14
Gillingham South	9
Rainham North	8
Chatham Central	6
Gillingham North	5
Strood South	3
Watling	3
Walderslade	2
Luton and Wayfield	2
Rainham South	2
Rochester East	2
Strood North	1
Rainham Central	1
Strood Rural	1
Rochester South and Horsted	1
Grand Total	87





Medway FY 22/23

- Highest density of incidents located in Chatham Town Centre; High Street, The Pentagon Shopping Centre and New Road. Offences also spread towards the Waterfront Bus Station and the section of High Street towards Rochester.
- Moderate density locations include Rochester Town Centre and towards Gillingham High Street.
- A lower density hotspot is located around the Town Centre of Rainham.