

**REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2008-2011

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Summary

This report seeks Members' views on Medway's annual rolling three year Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011 prior to final approval at Council on 18 September 2008.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Community Safety Partnership Plan is a policy framework document and is therefore a matter for Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on local authorities and the Police to carry out an audit of crime and produce a three year strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area. Following a fundamental review of the Crime and Disorder Act, Schedule 9 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 repealed this duty and in place of this made it a statutory requirement to produce an annual rolling three year plan that was underpinned by an annual strategic assessment (SA) and reviewed yearly. The plan's overarching aim is to reduce crime and disorder and combat substance misuse.
- 2.2 A strategic assessment (SA) presents and interprets the summary findings of an intelligence analysis. This intelligence analysis is used to identify those priority areas of concern. In assisting in making this a partnership assessment, the Police and Justice Act introduced a new duty on specified agencies to disclose certain sets of depersonalised information. The first SA was compiled by Medway's senior police

analyst and produced in November 2007, inline with home office guidance. The SA included some partnership data, however, due to Home Office requirements for the timing of this document, the initial strategy is heavily dependent on existing Police data. This is now being addressed and all partner agencies are compiling data for inclusion. This will be added as part of the second strategic assessment, which is due to begin in October of this year.

- 2.3 The priorities were mainly derived from the SA but the setting process could not ignore the wider picture of the LAA targets, which were in the process of being negotiated at the time of writing the Community Safety Partnership plan. Other relevant targets and demands were also put into consideration, such as the Local Public Service Agreements and the National Policing Plan (also in draft form at time of writing).
- 2.4 The Strategic Executive Group of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) considered and supported the priorities on 4 February 2008. The CSP plan was made available, in draft format, on 1 April 2008, in line with statutory requirements.

3. Priority setting

- 3.1 The Strategic Assessment (SA) set out recommendations for partnership priorities. These were then aligned to various targets to create an all-encompassing plan. The priorities are:

Priority 1 Tackling Violence: Violence has fallen steadily over the last few years, however, the partnership still sees it as a priority as reducing the levels of violence within Medway has got to be at the heart of keeping our communities safe.

Priority 2 Reducing Serious Acquisitive Crime: It has been identified that dwelling burglary and vehicle crime pose the greatest threat to our community over the forthcoming year.

Priority 3 Tackling anti social behaviour, including criminal damage: Anti social behaviour remains a high priority for the partnership to continue to reduce the number of incidences, thereby increasing people's feeling of safety

Priority 4 Improving the local street scene: The environment is continually rated as one of the top priorities for local people and is reflected in the LAA 1.

Priority 5 Delivering safer roads: Major growth in the area will lead to increased demand for travel and the safety of the population is a continuing priority for the council.

Priority 6 Reducing reoffending: The strategic assessment recommended increasing the activity of partners to reduce youth offending

Priority 7 Improving community cohesion: In order to build on the way residents positively view the area in which they live the partnership will continually work with local people to combat local issues.

Priority 8 Encouraging and Improving Citizen Participation: The strategic assessment recommended increasing the activity of partners to encourage and improve citizen participation.

Priority 9 Reduce Domestic Violence: Domestic Abuse makes up approximately 26 per cent of all violent crimes in Medway. It is believed that, on average, a victim is abused almost 30 times before reporting the initial offence. It therefore remains a priority to reduce the risk of repeat victimisation.

Priority 10 Reducing offending by prolific offenders: The SA recommended increasing the activity of partners to identify opportunities to work in collaboration to reduce offending by prolific offenders

Priority 11 Combating the terrorist threat: The terrorist threat is serious and sustained.

Priority 12 Tackling all aspects of substance misuse, including alcohol: 822 people were referred in Medway between April and September 2007, whereby heroin accounts for 48 per cent of all referrals, with alcohol second largest with 35 per cent. Substance misuse therefore continues to stand as a priority for the partnership.

4. Advice and analysis

- 4.1 This strategy directly aims to achieve objectives within the community plan, in particular the priority to reduce anti social behaviour to increase people's feeling of safety.
- 4.2 The strategy would enhance the council's reputation for taking community safety seriously and would further evidence a marked improvement in approach to crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour in line with the community safety national standards and the council's requirements under section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.
- 4.3 There is a legal requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act and the Police and Justice Act 2006 to have a three year strategy.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Home Office guidance; Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working, outlined the statutory requirement in formulating and implementing Community Safety Partnership Plans. Included in this is the statutory requirement to carry out a community consultation as part of the strategic assessment process. The partnership captured this information from the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) process.
- 5.2. The PACT is a police led initiative. PACTs do not operate in every area of Medway and generally only set up when there is a need for a partnership approach in tackling issues of crime and disorder. Their aim is to be self-sustainable. Each PACT identifies three priority issues to tackle. These priorities have been considered in setting priorities for the CSP over the next three years.

6. Financial and legal implications

- 6.1 The Medway Community Safety Partnership will resource any costs incurred by projects within the strategy.
- 6.2 There is a legislative framework to work within to reduce crime and disorder, as outlined earlier in the report.

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 The committee is asked to consider and comment on the Plan prior to final approval at Council on 18 September 2008

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Background papers

Home Office: Effective partnership

Home Office: Developing a Strategic Assessment

Medway's Community Plan

Medway Partnership Strategic Assessment (November 2007)

Medway Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-2011