

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

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COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2009-2012

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Summary

This report seeks Members' views on Medway's annual rolling three year Community Safety Partnership Plan 2009-2012 prior to consideration at Cabinet on 10 March 2009 and final approval at Council on 16 April 2009.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Community Safety Partnership Plan is listed as a policy framework document in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended). Therefore, this is a matter for Council.
- 1.2 The Community Safety Partnership helps to deliver against the 'Safe and Strong' with following Local Area Agreements (LAA) targets:
- NI 1* % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. PSA 21
 - NI 4*, % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
 - NI 15* Serious violent crime rate PSA 23
 - NI 16* Serious acquisitive crime rate
 - NI 17* Perceptions of anti-social behaviour. PSA 23
 - NI 19* Rate of young offenders reoffending
 - NI 30* Re-offending rate of prolific and priority.
 - NI 32* Repeat incidents of domestic violence. PSA 23. HO DSO
 - NI 47* People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents. DfT DSO

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 Following a fundamental review of the Crime and Disorder Act, Schedule 9 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 repealed this duty and in place of this made it a statutory requirement to produce an annual rolling three year plan, that was underpinned by an annual strategic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 published in November 2007, inline with home office requirements. This SA included some partnership data, however, due to the challenging timescale between the release of Home Office guidance and the deadline to complete the assessment, partners were unable to provide certain data sets, and therefore the assessment heavily featured police data. This has not been an issue for this year and all key partner agencies have submitted substantial information for the second SA. This has enabled the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to make well-informed decisions when setting the forthcoming year's priorities which has resulted in the priorities being different to those identified in the previous year.
- 2.3 The priorities are mainly derived from the SA, however, there must be a synergy between the CSP priorities and the National Indicator (NI) set. In developing the plan the relevant NIs have been incorporated under 'what are we going to do'. The CSP's Strategic Executive Group will measure the NIs on a quarterly basis.
- 2.4 Leading out of the CSP framework plan will be action plans for each priority for the forthcoming year. The CSP is holding a workshop on 26 February 2009 whereby individual agencies will identify how they can contribute to each priority collectively. Action plans will then be developed and circulated to this committee's Members and Cabinet for reference week commencing 2 March 2009. The performance measures may need further consideration as paragraph 2.5 below.
- 2.5 The performance measures will not be included until the individual agencies have set their targets. The CSP performance measures need to be aligned with the performance required by agencies responsible for delivery on relevant performance targets. To this end, the CSP is

waiting current performance targets for 2009-2010 around five of the six priorities. For example, it would be fruitless to set a reduction target for Criminal Damage for the CSP and then a separate one for the Police.

- 2.6 The Strategic Executive Group of the CSP considered and supported the priorities on 19 November 2008. The CSP plan will be made available on 1 April 2009, in line with statutory requirements.
- 2.7 The Council Plan will be submitted to Full Council on 26 February 2009 and has a section entitled "Safer Communities", one of the Council's key six strategic priorities. The emerging Community Safety Plan will necessitate some minor revisions to the Council Plan as follows:
- To replace the term 'reducing domestic violence' with 'reducing repeat incidences of violent crime, including domestic abuse'.
 - To replace the term 'anti crime initiatives' with 'crime and disorder reduction initiatives'.
 - To include in the action plan under violent crime 'tackle night time disorder in partnership with the night time economy and Safer Medway Partnership' and 'Test purchase operations to be run to ensure alcohol is not sold to under 18s'.
- 2.8 Should Members agree the Community Safety Partnership Plan at Council on 16 April 2009, authority will be sought to amend the Council Plan in light of the above changes, plus any other issues Members identify to ensure consistency between the two plans.

3. Options

- 3.1 There are two options:
- Endorse the Community Safety Partnership Plan and adopt it as a partnership strategy with Medway Council being one of the two main responsible owners
 - Decline to adopt the strategy.

4. Priority setting

- 4.1 The 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 Substance Misuse: Substance misuse affects 1 in 3 people and the CSP wants to ensure that they can provide the best assistance, support and treatment. The CSP are committed to tackling substance misuse, in particular the associated crime and disorder. Furthermore, nearly a quarter of the respondents in the public consultation said that 'People using or dealing drugs in their

neighbourhood' was their greatest concern.

Priority 2: Tackling Repeat Business of Violent Crime: Although incidences of violent crime have reduced in Medway there is still a need to focus on the repeat victims, offenders and venues. Approximately 40% of all Medway's violence is repeat business.

Priority 3: Tackling Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage: Anti social behaviour remains a high priority for the partnership and public. Although there has been a reduction of 3,280 offences, the CSP still need to work hard to continue to improve these reductions and increase 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. The CSP want to ensure that where residents live is free from blight.

Priority 5 Reducing Fear of Crime: In Medway there is a disproportionate amount of worry around certain crime and disorder, compared with actual crime. The CSP hopes to bridge the gap.

Priority 6 Improving Public Confidence: The CSP aims to operate an effective and high profile partnership in the forthcoming year.

5. Advice and analysis

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 There are reputable, environmental and legal risks to the council for not pro-actively pursuing an improvement in crime and disorder level.
- 5.3 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.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 As part of the strategic assessment, the CSP are required to carry out public consultation on the identified priorities. Medway CSP carried out an innovative consultation exercise across Medway between the 21 November and 4 December 2008. Over 1,300 residents, visitors and workers took part in the consultation whereby priorities were identified. Across the area, "people using or dealing drugs" was the highest priority (21%), followed by "teenagers hanging around" (15%) and fear of being physically assaulted or attacked (13%). These identified priorities were considered and now appear within the Plan.

7. Financial and legal implications

- 7.1 The Medway Community Safety Partnership will resource any costs incurred by projects within the strategy.
- 7.2 There is a legislative framework to work within to reduce crime and disorder, as outlined earlier in the report.
- 7.3 The CSP Plan is a three-year framework whereby action plans will be refreshed on an annual basis.

8 Recommendation

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2009-2012 prior to consideration at Cabinet on 10 March 2009 and final approval at Council on 16 April 2009.

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Background papers

Home Office: Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working.

Home Office: Developing a Strategic Assessment

Medway's Community Plan

Medway Partnership Strategic Assessment (November 2008)

Medway Community Safety Partnership Plan 2009-2012