

## REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 DECEMBER 2014

### ANNUAL SCRUTINY OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP, INCLUDING THE FINDINGS OF THE ANNUAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND REFRESHED COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN

Report from: Andy McGrath, Assistant Director, Frontline Services

Author: Neil Howlett, Community Safety Partnership Manager

#### Summary

Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places obligations on Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, also known as Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's), to produce a Community Safety Plan to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse, and reduce re-offending.

This report provides information on the operation of the CSP from April to October 2014, the findings of the strategic assessment and the proposed action plan for 2015/16.

#### 1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 CSP's were set up under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. and comprise representatives from the 'responsible authorities'. For Medway these are: Medway Council; Kent Police; Kent Fire and Rescue Service; Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (formerly Kent Probation).
- 1.2 Sections 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area and to make reports and recommendations to the local authority and the Partnership. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require Local Authorities to scrutinise CSP's at least once a year.
- 1.3 Regulation 5 of the Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 requires the CSP to carry out an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder. Regulation 10 requires CSP's to: prepare a partnership plan and to revise it annually in consideration of the strategic assessment. The plan's overarching aim is to reduce crime and disorder, tackle substance misuse and reduce reoffending.

- 1.4 The current Community Safety Plan covers the period 2013 to 2016 and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework.
- 1.5 The classification of this plan as a policy framework document is set out in Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, and in Article 4 (The Full Council) of the Council's Constitution.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Scrutiny of the CSP was last carried out in June 2014. It is proposed to move the date for annual scrutiny to December to enable members to scrutinise more effectively the findings of the strategic assessment, the proposed revisions to the CSP plan and review the actions of the CSP.
- 2.2 The current Community Safety Partnership Plan, covering the years 2013 to 2016, was adopted in 2013 and identified five priorities:
  - Tackle substance and alcohol abuse;
  - Tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and Envirocrime;
  - Reduce re-offending;
  - Tackle domestic abuse; and
  - Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Road Traffic Collisions.
- 2.3 Performance against these priorities since April 2014 (since the last scrutiny) is set out within the Action Plan, appended at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2.4 The key findings of the strategic assessment are produced below.
- 2.5 The proposed action plan for financial year 2015/16 (the revised plan) is produced at Appendix 2.

## **3. Options**

- 3.1 If members are happy with the priorities that they refer the action plan to Cabinet. If not, that officers redraft the CSP plan and take that through Cabinet to Council.

## **4. Advice and analysis**

- 4.1 The strategic assessment is restrictively marked and cannot be reproduced in its entirety. However, the key findings are reproduced below.
- 4.2 The various community safety issues experienced in Medway were scanned to ascertain which should be priorities for the CSP in the financial year 2015/16.
- 4.3 The issues were ranked using a weighted scoring matrix. This matrix approach is widely used, including by neighbouring Kent authorities, and takes into account the following factors:
  - Perception of Community Concern
  - Volume of Incidents
  - Short Term Trend
  - Trend Over Time
  - Harm
  - Partnership Contribution

- 4.4 Five community safety issues scored higher than the others. As a result, the analyst proposed that the CSP prioritises for 2015/16 should be:
- Domestic abuse
  - Road safety
  - Substance misuse
  - Envirocrime
  - ASB
- 4.5 As ASB and envirocrime are closely linked it is proposed that they form a combined priority, with a single action plan, as is currently the case.
- 4.6 Reducing reoffending is a statutory requirement placed on all CSP's and is a theme that runs through all of the priorities. It is proposed that this remains as a priority for the partnership and performance continues to be tracked through the action plan.
- 4.7 Each of these priority issues was then subjected to a deeper dive to further inform the assessment. These are summarised below.
- 4.8 Within the Action Plan 2015/16 some targets are listed only as percentage figures. This is due to these targets being dependent on outcome figures from 2014/15, which will not be available until after April 2015.

#### **4.9 Domestic Abuse**

- 4.10 The scanning phase of this strategic assessment highlighted domestic abuse as a concerning community safety issue, scoring highest of all the issues examined.
- 4.11 A breakdown of this scoring shows that Medway's population do not currently perceive this to be particularly problematic. However, the volume of incidents is of concern, especially when considered in the context of increasing short and long term trends: the number of recorded incidents has increased by 15% from 2011/12, with Kent Police recording over 5,000 domestic abuse incidents in 2013/14 in Medway. There is a Kent and Medway strategy for combating domestic abuse and a subgroup of the CSP, with an action plan for delivering the Medway elements of the strategic plan. Medway Council has appointed a domestic abuse specialist to coordinate partnership activity and deliver the action plan.
- 4.12 Analysis of incident location has highlighted Gillingham North as experiencing the highest number of domestic abuse incidents (11%). This is followed by Luton and Wayfield (10%), Gillingham South (9%), Chatham Central (9%) and River (7%). Almost half of all the recorded domestic abuse incidents (46%) are attributed to these five wards.
- 4.13 Examination of all recorded incidents in 2013/14 shows that across all days, between midnight and 1.00am is when most (16%) domestic abuse incidents took place, with the window between Saturday midnight and 1.00am on Sunday comprising the highest number of incidents (5%) It is probable that this peak is influenced by the consumption of intoxicants.
- 4.14 In consequence the action plan 2015/16 should focus on:
- Increasing the percentage of clients where risk is reduced as a result of Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) intervention.
  - Reducing the repeat victimisation rate for those identified at higher risk of harm.

- Delivering domestic abuse awareness training to multi agency practitioners.

#### **4.15 Road Safety**

- 4.16 The scanning phase of this strategic assessment highlighted road safety as a concerning community safety issue, scoring highly, second only to domestic abuse.
- 4.17 A breakdown of this scoring shows that Medway's population do perceive this to be an issue of significant concern with a high 'Harm' scoring. Indeed, a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) in itself can have devastating consequences both for those directly involved and on the wider community in the form of damaged infrastructure and property as well as traffic congestion. There were 620 reported personal injury collisions in 2013 (calendar year) with the trend over time showing a small decrease and short term trend remaining fairly stable (615 in 2012 and 656 in 2011). This is also an area in which most partners can contribute to addressing.
- 4.18 Analysis of the location of the RTC's in Medway during 2013 highlighted that 88% took place within an urban area. River Ward experienced the highest number of incidents with 10% of all RTC's, followed by Gillingham North (9.5%) and then Luton and Wayfield (7%).
- 4.19 77% of the vehicles involved were cars, followed by motorcycles at 8% and pedal cycles comprised 7%. The remaining 8% is composed primarily of goods vehicles, buses and taxis.
- 4.20 Of the 1,153 vehicles involved in the 620 collisions, there were almost twice as many male drivers (673) than female drivers (391).
- 4.21 The 26–35 age group had the largest amount of drivers (21%) involved in collisions. This was followed by the 36–45 age group (15%).
- 4.22 Overall, males between 26 and 35 accounted for the largest proportion (12%) of drivers involved in RTC's.
- 4.23 93% of all casualties were classified as 'slight', with 6% being serious and 1% fatal.
- 4.24 In consequence the action plan 2015/16 should focus on:
- Achieving a reduction in killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties.
  - Achieving a reduction in slightly injured casualties.
  - Continued delivery of educational programmes to pupils in Medway attending Academies, Sixth forms and Colleges.
  - Targeting nuisance vehicles/motor bikes.

#### **4.25 Substance Misuse**

- 4.26 The scanning phase of this strategic assessment highlighted substance misuse as a significant community safety issue, scoring third highest of all the issues examined.
- 4.27 A breakdown of this scoring shows that Medway's population perceive this to be the issue of highest concern, even though the 'Harm' score is low. The relatively stable scores for both long and short term trends indicate that this is an issue that has not been significantly affected by attempts to tackle the problem. Data, information and publications have also been sought from

Public Health to provide additional context beyond the scope of that established from Kent Police data and is examined in more detail below.

#### **4.28 Drugs**

- 4.29 In 2013/14 Kent Police the peak in the highest number of drug offences as between 00:00 and 1.00am, with a steady increase throughout the evening from 17:00 onwards, before a sharp decline can be seen after 1.00am. This peak in nighttime activity can likely be attributed to an overall reduction in natural surveillance and an increase in Police activity to tie in with the nighttime economy (closure of bars, pubs and clubs etc). There are four other noticeable peaks in the number of recorded offences: between 6.00am and 7.00am, 10.00am and 11.00am, 1.00pm and 2.00pm and between 4.00pm and 5.00pm. The exact reasons for these peaks are currently not known, but it is believed that proactive operations carried out by Kent Police may have impacted on these figures.
- 4.30 May 2013 saw the highest number of recorded offences (11%), whilst September 2013 saw the lowest number.
- 4.31 Almost three quarters (74%) of all recorded drugs offences were for possession of a controlled substance, with 72% of these being for possession of cannabis specifically. This is followed by possession of cocaine (12%).
- 4.32 River Ward saw the highest number of drug offences (15%) in 2013/14. It is likely that this ward experiences higher numbers of drug offences due to the prevalence of pubs and clubs in this ward and the consequential links to the night-time economy. After River, the ward with highest number of drugs offences is Gillingham South (14%) and then Luton and Wayfield (11%).
- 4.33 These three wards experience some of Medway's most complex issues in relation to health, crime and substance misuse.
- 4.34 Applying the Public Health England prevalence estimates for Medway (3,910 adults would indicate that only 16% of the substance misusing population were engaged in effective treatment in 2013/14.
- 4.35 Medway Council's 'TellUs 6 Survey', completed anonymously by students in Years 8 and 10 at schools, showed that in the previous 4 weeks, 12% of students had used drugs, of which cannabis was the most common choice (48%), followed by solvents (30%) and then legal highs (28%).

#### **4.36 Alcohol**

- 4.37 Between 2011/12 and 2013/14, the number of alcohol admissions due to alcohol has decreased by 17%, from 734 to 608.
- 4.38 Of the 385 adults in treatment services for alcohol in 2013/14, those between the ages of 40 and 49 formed the largest proportion, in both males and females. The 30–39 age group and then the 50–59 group second this, and the trend is consistent for both males and females.
- 4.39 A project was commissioned during the time period 01/10/2010–31/10/2013 to examine alcohol misuse in Medway and the links with crime. The project ascertained that Gillingham is the area worst affected by street drinking. Furthermore, Gillingham South has the highest levels of alcohol related crime per hectare. Overall however, Rochester West ward generated the largest amount of alcohol-related crime. River ward generated 22% of the alcohol-

related crime linked to the nighttime economy, which peaks between 12am and 3am. River ward contains 15% of the licensed premises in Medway.

- 4.40 Concerning alcohol use amongst young people, the TellUs 6 Survey found that 40% of the 10–15 year olds questioned had consumed a whole alcoholic drink (not just a sip). This was an increase from the 35% that admitted to having an alcoholic drink in 2012.
- 4.41 Older respondents (15 year olds) were more likely (78%) to have had an alcoholic drink than younger respondents (10 years old, 16% of whom had consumed an alcoholic drink).
- 4.42 In consequence the action plan 2015/16 should focus on:
- Increasing the number of opiate users who successfully leave drug treatment.
  - Exploring opportunities to implement new licensing tools to reduce alcohol related harm.
  - Supporting young people to develop skills to reduce multiple risk taking behaviours.
  - Continued joined up working during the night-time economy with Kent Police and Medway Council's Licensing teams.

#### **4.43 Environmental Crime and Anti Social Behaviour**

- 4.44 Concerns around the volume of incidents and public perception have led the partnership to the decision that this should be tackled as a priority for 2015/16.
- 4.45 A breakdown of the scoring shows that Medway's population do perceive this as a significant issue, correlating with the high 'Harm' scoring that was attributed to ASB in particular. Whilst a decreasing trend can be seen in both the trend over time and in the short term, the volume of incidents under this priority is particularly concerning as both ASB and Envirocrime score highly.
- 4.46 There has been a decline in the number of ASB incidents, both in the trend over time (down by 23%, from 14,425 in 2011/12 to 11,163 in 2013/14) and in the short-term trend (down 10%, from 12,386 in 2013/14 to 11,163 in 2013/14).
- 4.47 July 2013 and August 2013 experienced the highest number of reported ASB incidents during the year, significantly above the monthly average.
- 4.48 When all police ASB reports are broken down according to ward, it can be seen that River, Luton and Wayfield, Gillingham South, Gillingham North and Chatham Central experienced the most ASB reports on an individual basis and accounted for almost half (48%) of all ASB reports received by Kent Police in 2013/14.
- 4.49 The breakdown of different ASB types in 2013/14 highlights 'rowdy or nuisance gathering' as the most reported ASB issue. With 10% fewer reports is 'neighbour disputes or nuisance', although this is closely followed by 'drunken or rowdy behaviour'.
- 4.50 Together, the reports for rowdy behaviour and nuisance gathering account for almost half of all ASB reports highlighting this to be the most concerning issue to Medway's population.
- 4.51 Environmental crimes are offences such as fly-tipping, littering and dog-fouling.

- 4.52 There has also been a decreasing trend in the number of environmental crime incidents, both in the short term (-15%, from 5,354 in 2012/13 to 4,554 in 2013/14), and in the trend over time (-30%, from 6,548 in 2011/12 to 4,554 in 2013/14). The most problematic wards remain Gillingham North and South, Luton and Wayfield, and Chatham Central.
- 4.53 During 2013/14 403 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for littering and dog fouling. Forty-five cases were prosecuted at Medway Magistrates Court, with fines and costs totalling £27,509.46. In addition, 7 cautions were administered, there was 1 conditional discharge and 2 warrants for arrest were issued. The Street Scene Enforcement Team dealt with 1,093 fly tips.
- 4.54 Although when compared to the previous year there has been a decreasing trend in the number of environmental crime incidents, public perception of these being a problem, remains high. For the coming year, the team will continue to focus on dealing with environmental crime, but will also endeavour to address the public perception by way of engagement through public engagements coordinated by the CSP.
- 4.55 In consequence the action plan 2015/16 should focus on:
- A reduction on the number of repeat victims of ASB.
  - The Community Safety Unit screening repeat ASB offender's families for nomination into the Medway Action for Families programme.
  - A reduction in the number of fly-tipping incidents.
  - Work towards the majority of fly-tipping incidents cleared by the next working day.
  - Ensuring that applicants to the Community Trigger are responded as per guidelines.

#### **4.56 Re-offending**

- 4.57 Tackling reoffending was not a priority that was scored within the scanning matrix, the reason for this being that it is not a specific community safety issue such as 'domestic abuse' or 'road safety'. Instead reoffending is a common theme that runs throughout many community safety issues. CSPs have a statutory commitment to reduce reoffending and, as such, it was agreed that tackling reoffending should be considered in it's own right and assigned to the fifth priority to be addressed.
- 4.58 Medway's population however, did not perceive this to be a particularly concerning issue. This could be due to their views and understanding of criminality and community safety in Medway in that they view all incidents in isolation instead of considering reoffending as a contributory issue.
- 4.59 During 2014 the Probation Service went through a period of significant change, with the creation of the National Probation Service, who is responsible for high risk offenders, advice to the courts, statutory victim liaison and approved premises. The Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) is responsible for managing low and medium risk offenders, programmes, such as those dealing with domestic abuse perpetrators, and Community Payback.
- 4.60 During time period October 2012–September 2013, the overall adult reoffending rate for Medway's was 10.01%. This was higher than the predicted reoffending rate of 8.60%.

- 4.61 When examining the reoffending rates of different age groups, the group with the highest reoffending rate is the 18–20 age group (14%). Second to the 18–20 age group are those between 30 and 39, with a reoffending rate of 13%.
- 4.62 Figures from 2013/14 show that the number of young people reoffending after leaving the youth justice (YJ) system is 45%. This is an increase from the 37% seen in 2012/13.
- 4.63 The same increase can be seen in the reoffending rate of those young people leaving the Medway Youth Offending Team triage service. In 2012/13, this stood at 11% but increased to 13% in 2013/14.
- 4.64 This is being tackled through Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) programmes. The number of young people achieving completion of their ISS program has increased, between 2010/11 and 2012/13.
- 4.65 In consequence the action plan 2015/16 should focus on:
- Ensuring that the proportion of offenders who re-offend falls in line with the Ministry of Justice predicted level of reoffending.
  - Continued use of ‘triage’ system, to reduce 1st time entrants into the Youth Justice system.
  - Reducing the percentage of YOT Cohort that re-offend within 6 months of completing their intervention.

## 5. Risk management

- 5.1 There are reputational, environmental, economical and legal risks to the Council for not pro-actively pursuing an improvement in crime and disorder levels. This report reflects the importance of constructive dialogue with the partner organisations comprising the CSP and also the importance of coordinated and collaborative working.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action to avoid or mitigate risk</b>	<b>Risk rating</b>
Decreased Agency “buy in”.	Changes in leadership, staffing or resources could reduce the involvement of key agencies	Ensure that agencies are aware of the impact of dis-engagement upon their own service delivery/performance.  Ensure that strategic members of the CSP are made aware of any situation as it arises.	Low
A wide range of CSP objectives.	Means that the CSP may be spread too thin and not have the resources to deal with all aspects so there may be gaps in service.	Prioritisation based on Strategic Assessment	Low
Legislation	Government guidance could change focus for CSP	CSP to maintain strong communication with LGA/Home Office in order anticipate changes.	Low



Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) plans.	Changes in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.	Continued engagement with the PCC.	Low
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5.2 A Diversity Impact Assessment screening form has not been completed, as this is a report on progress of the CSP against the 2014 - 2015 Action Plan, and executive summary of the Strategic Assessment.

## 6. Consultation

6.1 As part of the process for putting together this report, all statutory partners submitted updates on the Action Plan, and also contributed to the Strategic Assessment. Members of the public were also consulted through Community Engagement events, the results of which fed into the Strategic Assessment.

## 7. Financial implications

7.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has submitted her Police and Crime Plan, and has proposed for CSP's to be allocated a budget to use for funding activities to tackle crime, disorder, drugs and reoffending. Medway CSP allocated £100,292. In 2015/16 the amount allocated to Medway CSP is £96,782, and 2016/17 it is £93,395.

## 8. Legal implications

8.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8.2 The Council's statutory powers are detailed in the report.

8.3 The adoption or modification of the Community Safety Plan is a decision for Full Council.

## 9. Recommendations

9.1 The Committee is asked to note the actions of the CSP for the half year April to September 2014.

9.2 The Committee is asked to note the findings of the annual strategic assessment.

9.3 The Committee is asked to consider the proposed action plan for 2015/16 in the light of the findings of the annual strategic assessment and to refer the plan to Cabinet on 13 January 2014.

### Lead officer contact

Neil Howlett,  
Community Safety Partnership Manager,  
Medway Police Station, Eastbridge, Purser Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1NE.  
01634 331183  
[neil.howlett@medway.gov.uk](mailto:neil.howlett@medway.gov.uk)

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Community Safety Plan Action Plan Report Q1 and Q2, 2013/14.

Appendix 2 - Updated Action Plan for 2015/16.

## **Background Papers**

Community Safety Plan 2013/16.

Community Safety Plan Action Plan for 2014/15.