

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**4 FEBRUARY 2016**

### **STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2016 to 2020**

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

Author: Tim England, Head of Safer Communities

#### **Summary**

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are under a duty to undertake an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder in their area and formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse, and reduce re-offending.

This report presents the current strategic assessment and the proposed Community Safety Plan to cover the period from 2016 to 2020.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 CSPs are statutory bodies comprising representatives from the 'responsible authorities'. For Medway these are: Medway Council; Kent Police; Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS); Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC - formerly Kent Probation).
- 1.2 CSPs are required to carry out an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder, prepare a partnership plan and to revise it annually in consideration of the strategic assessment. The plan's overarching aims are to reduce crime and disorder, tackle substance misuse and reduce reoffending.
- 1.3 Local Authorities are required to scrutinise CSPs at least once a year.
- 1.4 A protocol has now been signed among the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Boards and CSP, to encourage the sharing of assessments and plans to foster better strategic alignment.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The current Community Safety Plan covers the period 2013 to 2016 and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework..
- 2.2 The last scrutiny of the Partnership, including scrutiny of the proposed plan for 2016 to 2020, was last carried out in December 2015.
- 2.3 The CSP has conducted a strategic assessment of community safety issues in Medway. The assessment looks back at issues that have impacted upon community safety in Medway and forward at potential issues and emerging themes/trends. The assessment is appended at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.4 The draft Community Safety Plan for 2016 to 2020 is appended at Appendix 2 to this report. The plan contains five new priorities going forward .

## **3. Approval of the Community Safety Plan 2016 to 2020**

- 3.1 During the next few months it is proposed to develop the action plans for each of the workstreams under the priorities and submit the finalised plan to Cabinet on 5 April 2016, followed by approval by full Council on 28 April 2016 as part of the Policy Framework.
- 3.2 The Board's comments are sought on the proposed priorities and Community Safety Plan prior to it being taken through the Council's governance processes as set out above.

## **4. Advice and analysis**

- 4.1 There are clear linkages between health and community safety and a range of areas of congruence where Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety players can make strong common cause, such as:
  - Drugs and alcohol
  - Domestic abuse
  - Mental health
  - Tobacco control
  - Health of ex-offenders and their families
  - Troubled families
  - Hate crime and vulnerable people
- 4.2 The CSP recognises that Medway's future success is contingent on regeneration. It is clear that benefits from growth must be delivered to existing communities and new developments and residents must be effectively integrated.
- 4.3 This physical regeneration will only be successful if people feel that they and their families are safe. Safety is a key factor in encouraging people to take exercise, especially for children and older people. Taking regular exercise has clear health benefits, including limiting obesity, heart health, reducing the onset of diabetes, promoting a sense of wellbeing and protecting older people from depression.
- 4.4 The new priorities are:

- Strengthening communities
- Supporting victims and tackling offenders of sexual and domestic abuse
- Tackling the harm caused by substance misuse
- Reducing re-offending
- Commitment to safeguarding and improving services

4.5 It is envisaged that each of the priority leads will be responsible for those workstreams under their priority, albeit that there will be some crossover between workstreams. The leads will develop action plans for each workstream and be accountable to the CSP executive group.

## 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 ensure that it effectively horizon scans to be aware of impending legislative changes.	Low
Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) plans	Changes in the PCC’s Police and Crime Plan.	Continued engagement with the PCC.	Low

## 6. Consultation

6.1 The CSP is required to consult with a wide variety of stakeholders in putting together the annual strategic assessment. Members of the public are consulted through a series of community engagement events. A stakeholder

engagement event with elected Members and representative community groups was undertaken on 4 November 2015. The proposed new priorities were discussed and there was significant support for them.

## **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has submitted her Police and Crime Plan, and has proposed that CSPs be allocated a budget to use for funding activities to tackle crime, disorder, drugs and reoffending. In 2015-16 the amount allocated to Medway CSP was £96,782 Subject to PCC elections, the amount committed for 2016-17 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 Board is invited to note the strategic assessment and to make any comments or recommendations to the Partnership in that regard.
- 9.2 The Board is requested to note that as a Policy Framework document the Community Safety Plan will be reported to Cabinet on 5 April 2016 and the Cabinet will be asked to formally consider and recommend the proposed plan for 2016 to 2020, containing new priorities for the CSP to Full Council on 28 April 2016. The comments of this Board are invited.

## **Lead officer contact**

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## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Strategic Assessment  
Appendix 2 Proposed Community Safety Plan 2016 to 2020

## **Background papers**

None

# **Medway Community Safety Partnership**

## **Strategic Assessment 2015**



**COMMUNITY SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP**

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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Partnership Actions</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overall Crime Picture</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The Crime Picture in Context</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Emerging Themes</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Listening to the Public</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Background and Data Information</b>	<b>16</b>

## Introduction

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Medway Community Safety Partnership brings together the key agencies involved in crime prevention and community safety work. This includes Medway Council; Kent Police; Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company; Kent Fire and Rescue Service and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

To ensure we continue to address the crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues that are having an impact on Medway we:

- Conduct an annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment to collate and analyse data and crime patterns.
- Listen to the views and concerns of Medway residents and undertaking consultations to ensure we address the issues that matter the most to residents.
- Review and monitor performance and delivery against objectives
- Strive to build and maintain strong relationships between partner agencies to ensure a cohesive approach to tackling crime and ASB.

The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide an analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder. The assessment analyses any changes since the previous assessment and will review the possible causes as well as assessing the implementation of the previous Community Safety Plan. Consideration will be given to the views of Medway's residents and what they identify as priorities together with the analysis of crime and disorder to identify the key matters that the Partnership should prioritise.

This report is a summary of the key findings of the Partnership's Strategic Assessment 2015/16. It will identify the key priorities for the Community Safety Partnership, which will enable them focus on ensuring that Medway is a safe place to live.



**Councillor Andrew Mackness**

Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Chair of the Community Safety Partnership

## Executive Summary

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By reviewing the changes that have taken place since the last strategic assessment and also analysing the data available from all partners within the Community Safety Partnership it has been possible to identify the five priorities for the next year. These priorities also take in to account the emerging trends that have been identified within the assessment as well as the issues that have been identified as important by the residents of Medway.

### **The priorities identified are:**

- **Strengthening communities**

Working to further reduce ASB and envirocrime by building on previous success. Although the number of incidents of ASB has declined it continues to be a volume issue and has been identified by residents as a priority. It affects both day and nighttime economies, which will support feelings of safety as the regeneration of Medway continues. As part of strengthening our communities there is a national as well as local focus on preventing radicalisation; the government has introduced new legislation around Prevent, which requires all partner agencies to tackle this issue. Tackling Hate Crime will also be included in this priority, although the numbers are small it is a growing trend which has significant impact on individuals, and is a crime that it is recognised is largely under reported.

- **Supporting Victims and Tackling Offenders of Sexual and Domestic Abuse**

There has been an increase in victims coming forward to report domestic abuse. This in part can be explained through the significant amount of awareness raising and training that has taken place, and given the impact on victims and children, further work to support victims is required. As it is still a largely 'hidden crime' it must remain a priority. Within this priority will be the need to tackle the generally hidden, but growing issue of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation, which have both been identified as growing trends nationally. Finally this priority will also aim to combat Youth Gang Violence, which has been identified by Kent Police as a growing concern in Medway, with good transport links to London giving gangs opportunities to expand there networks.

- **Tackling the Harm Caused by Substance Misuse**

This is a continuing priority, which will build upon the success of Public Health working together with the Medway Drug and Action Alcohol Team to ensure help and support is given to those most in need. It will also build on targeted operational work by Kent Police, which aims to disrupt organised gangs. By working to remove the supply chain other agencies can work with offenders on treatment plans. The aim will be to prevent and treat drug and alcohol misuse through intervention and education. There will also be a focus on tackling illicit tobacco, building on the ongoing intelligence and operations by Trading Standards and Public Health.



- **Reducing Re-offending**

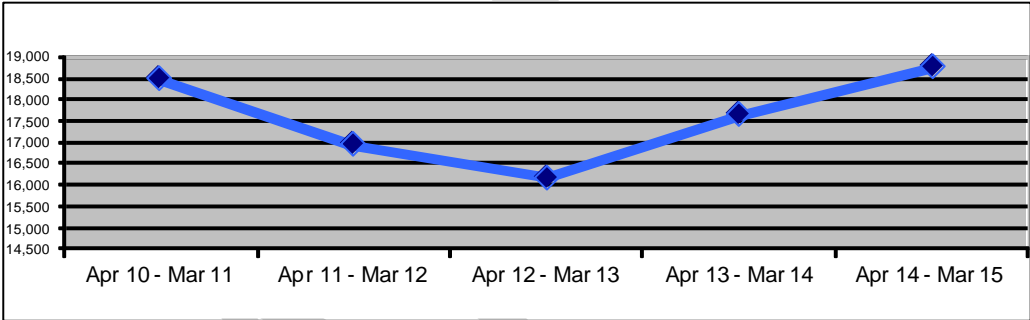
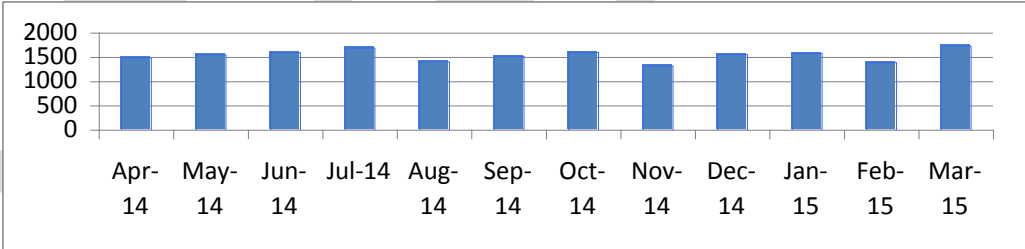
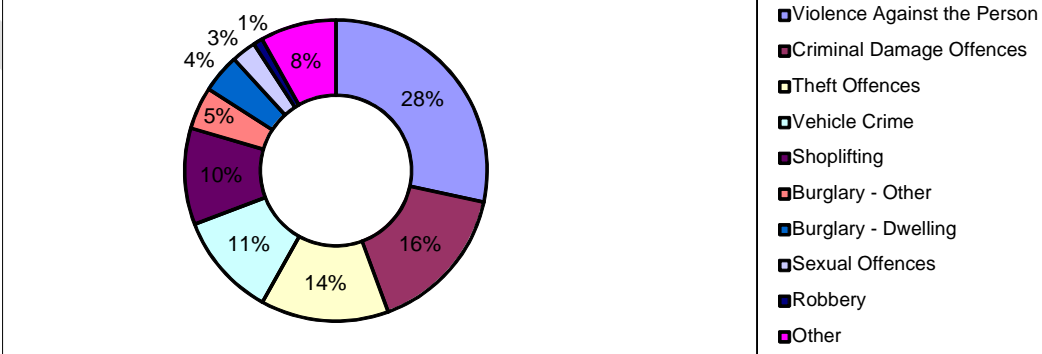
Whilst repeat offenders are small in number, they are responsible for a significant number of offences and cause disproportionate damage to our local neighbourhoods. Multi-agency approaches through the CSP aim to deliver a balance between enforcement and protecting the public and providing offender with the help and support that they need to steer them away from offending in the future. Certain factors are recognised as 'pathways' to offending, e.g. lack of accommodation/housing and lack of employment. Partnership activity to evaluate how we may be able to improve current practices and procedures in respect of housing or assist ex-offenders into training or employment, will make a sound contribution to reducing the risks of individuals reoffending.

- **Commitment to Safeguarding and Improving Services**

With all partner agencies operating with constrained resources we need to make better use of resources. The aim of this priority will be to look into ways of making improvements to current practices and sharing resources where possible to become more efficient. We will also seek to improve on how we communicate with our communities to provide information and education.

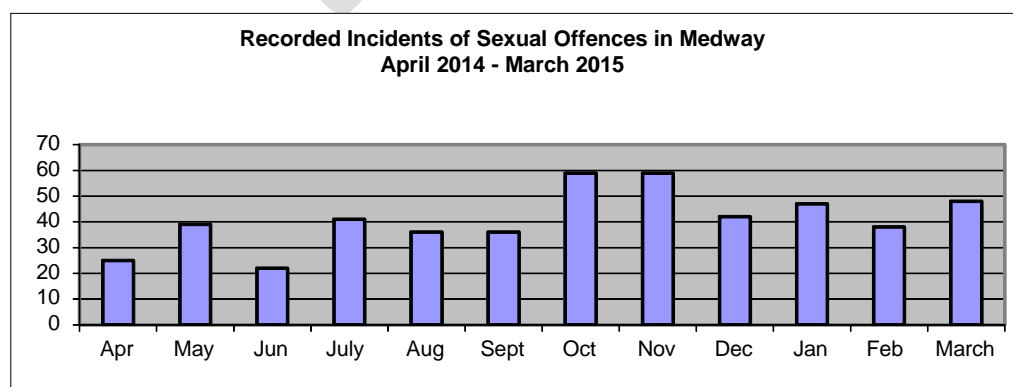
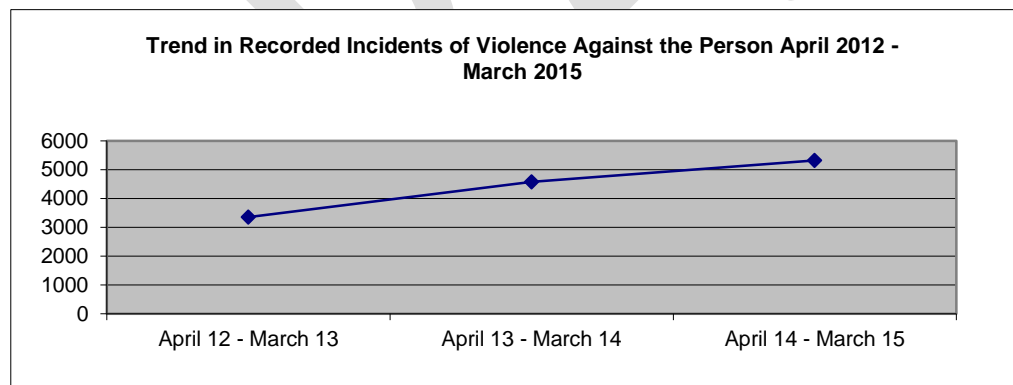
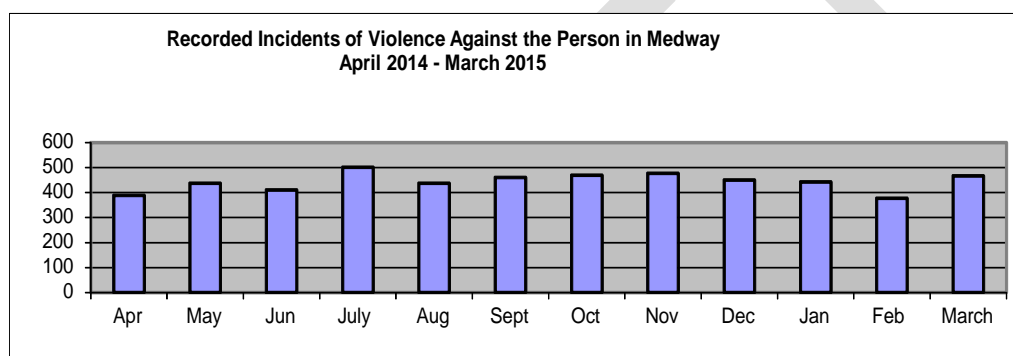
## Community Safety Partnership Actions

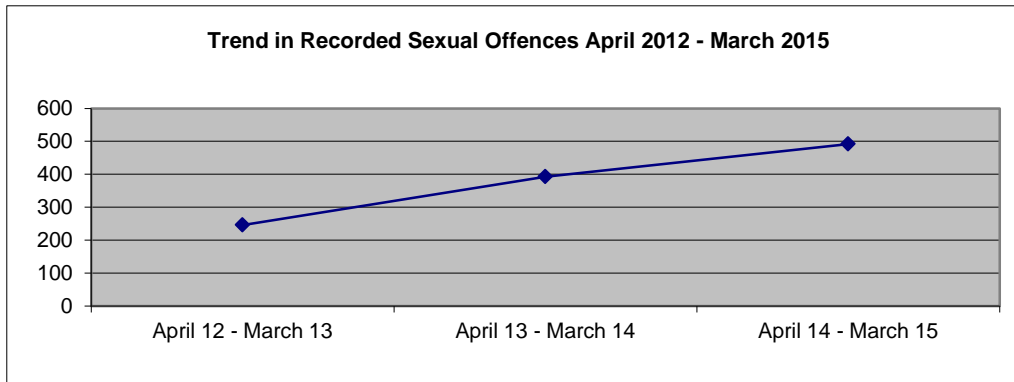
Priority	What we have been doing
<b>Tackle drug and alcohol abuse</b>	<p>Increased the number of users of opiates that left drug treatment successfully (free of drug(s) of dependence) who do not then re-present to treatment again within 6 months.</p> <p>Commissioned alcohol liaison service at hospital.</p> <p>The total number of staff around early identification and prevention of alcohol related harm for the year was 264, surpassing the target of 100. Services to have received training include: Sexual Health GUM services, foundation Doctors, Ministry of Defence health staff, supported housing charity staff, health visitors, social care, GPs and pharmacists.</p> <p>6 schools engaged in Assist (smoking prevention programme) and new staff trained up to deliver the programme, surpassing the target of 4 schools.</p>
<b>Tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and envirocrime</b>	<p>Exceeded the target of a 5% reduction in repeat victims of ASB.</p> <p>100% of repeat ASB offender's families screened for nomination into the Medway Action for Families Programme.</p> <p>83% of fly tipping incidents cleared by the next working day (target 75%)</p> <p>A reduction in the number of environmental crimes reported.</p>
<b>Reduce re-offending</b>	<p>Increased the percentage of offenders successfully completing community orders and licenses to 82% (target 70%)</p> <p>Increased the proportion of offenders in suitable accommodation to 89%, target 60%</p> <p>Reduced the number of young offenders that re-offend within 6 months of completing their intervention to 31%, target &lt;50% (Q4, 2014-15)</p>
<b>Tackle domestic abuse</b>	<p>Delivered domestic abuse awareness training to multi agency practitioners.</p> <p>A reduction in repeat victimisation rate for those identified at higher risk of harm.</p> <p>Significant reduction in the percentage of clients where risk has been reduced as a result of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) intervention</p> <p>Medway's successfully becoming a White Ribbon Authority – a national campaign championed by men, working to end violence against women.</p>
<b>Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions.</b>	<p>On target to achieve a 40% reduction in killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties</p> <p>'Licence to Kill' delivered to 80% of year 12 students.</p> <p>Exceeded target to deliver multi-agency motor bikes/bicycle campaigns targeted to raise awareness to drivers.</p> <p>A number of joint initiatives of partner agencies working collectively to raise awareness of the impact of irresponsible parking outside schools.</p>

All Recorded Crime																											
Level of Crime	18,754 / 69 per 1000 residents.																										
Peer Comparison	19 <sup>th</sup> highest number of recorded crimes for Unitary Authorities (50 responding authorities) 14 <sup>th</sup> highest number of recorded crimes for Local Authorities in South East (74 authorities)																										
Annual Change	6% Increase 1117 additional crimes recorded compared to April 13- March 14																										
General Trend	 <table border="1"> <caption>General Trend Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Recorded Crimes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Apr 10 - Mar 11</td> <td>18,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 11 - Mar 12</td> <td>17,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 12 - Mar 13</td> <td>16,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 13 - Mar 14</td> <td>17,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 14 - Mar 15</td> <td>18,800</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Recorded Crimes	Apr 10 - Mar 11	18,500	Apr 11 - Mar 12	17,000	Apr 12 - Mar 13	16,200	Apr 13 - Mar 14	17,800	Apr 14 - Mar 15	18,800														
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Hotspots	Top 5 Wards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River</li> <li>Gillingham South</li> <li>Gillingham North</li> <li>Luton and Wayfield</li> <li>Chatham Central</li> </ul>																										

## The Crime Picture in Context

There has been an increase in the number of recorded crimes for the April 2014-15 period compared with the previous year. However it is highly likely that these figures have been affected by the introduction of the framework for recording and the assignment of outcomes for crimes. Looking at the longer-term trend there is a noticeable increase in the number of recorded crimes between the April 12-March 13 and April 13 –March 14 periods. During this period Kent Police made significant improvements in how they recorded crimes. It is highly likely that these improvements have had a direct impact on the number of recorded crimes. Further work has been done to encourage the reporting of historically under reported crimes, such as domestic abuse, which has also contributed to these figures.



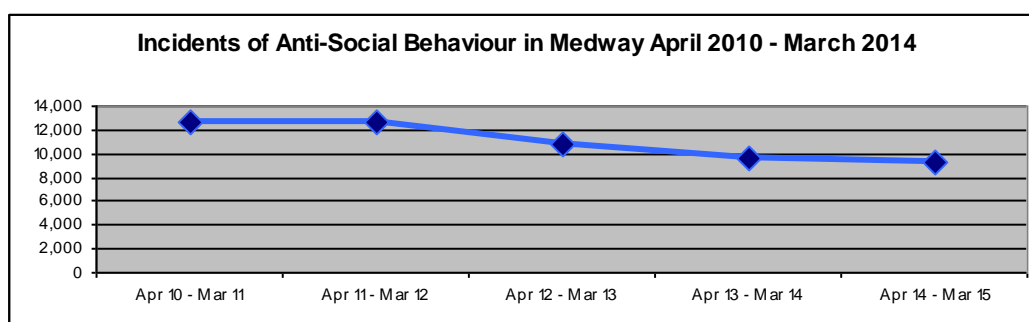


There has been a rise in recorded incidents of violence against the person as well as sex offences. Whilst better recording practices may have affected the levels, it is also highly likely that the pattern of increased reporting of cases of domestic abuse has a direct link to the increase in incidents of violence against the person and sex offences. Whilst it is positive that people feel more confident in reporting this type of crime it is also important to take steps to reassure the public by prioritising crimes of this nature to try and reduce them. The increase may also be linked to an increase in gang activity in the area.

The success of Operation Trident in London has led to a number of individuals and families with links to gangs being relocated to Kent and Medway. These gangs have also moved their drug related business into the Home Counties in "County Line" operations to widen their supply and market. There is already evidence of former gang members coming together in Medway and recruiting others and carrying out violent acts including stabbings. These incidents may help to explain an increase in the number of recorded incidents of violence against the person.

The launch of Operation Jupiter by Kent Police, which is dedicated to pursuing, and disrupting organised criminal networks was put into action in response to a growing trend of organised criminal networks and gangs from outside Medway and Kent as a whole. These gangs not only sell drugs but also exploit the young and vulnerable, but have also seen the issue of human trafficking and child sex exploitation as an emerging theme.

## Anti-Social Behaviour and Envirocrime



Incidents of anti-social behaviour in Medway have decreased by 2.5% from the previous year (2013-14) and are down 14% since 2012-13. This is a very encouraging statistic that reflects the good work of partner agencies, however it is still a volume issue and one, which is a priority to our communities. It is therefore key that it remains a priority.

### Top 5 Wards (ASB Incidents April 14 – March 15)

River	980
Gillingham South	955
Gillingham North	934
Luton and Wayfield	809
Chatham Central	801

These Wards account for 48% of the total number of incidents.

There have been some recent changes in national legislation creating a more effective approach to tackling antisocial behaviour. Public Space Protection Orders have been introduced within the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and are designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti social behaviour in a public space. Community Protection notices have also been introduced and are designed to direct an individual, business or organisation responsible for the issue to stop causing the problem and ensure it doesn't happen again. Whilst this may have helped to reduce the number of incidents of ASB it is still a volume crime and often a highly visible crime, which still needs prioritising.

In terms of Litter and Graffiti in Medway targets for dealing with incidents are being met. Over 300 fixed penalty notices were issued to individuals for depositing litter, a 16% increase on the previous year.

The purchase of an additional tipper truck has meant that incidents of fly tipping are dealt with within 24 hours of reporting rather than the previous 5-day target, with over 90% removed on the same day. Where previously multiple reports were received regarding the same incident, this has been reduced due to the quick removal of the fly tipping. This has also resulted in fewer incidents of duplicate reports from customers, and reducing the risk of the 'broken window' effect. The reduction in incidents is reflected in resident's consultations where the number identifying fly tipping as an issue has decreased.

## **Substance Misuse**

It is estimated that there are around 1,300 opiate and crack cocaine users in Medway with 50% in treatment (635 in 2014-15) against national average of 52.9%. It is an aging group – increasing numbers are over 35. There is also a higher than average number with a long ‘career’ of drug use – 32% adults in treatment have been using for over 21 years. Compared with similar local authorities, opiate users have a more complex set of needs with 51% who present for treatment having high/very high levels of complexity.

In terms of alcohol abuse 39% completed treatment however the numbers accessing treatment (298 in 2014-15) is still very low. Medway has avoided the national trend of 7% drop in numbers but there are estimates that 10,500 adults in Medway are high risk of experiencing problems with alcohol use.

There has also been significant work on tackling the issue of illicit tobacco. Medway Trading Standards, working closely with Public Health, have seized around tens of thousands of pounds worth of illegal tobacco. By working with Kent Police they were also able to successfully close two shops that were selling illegal tobacco in Medway, in October 2015 alone, under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 with further closures expected in the coming months.

## **Reoffending**

Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) and the National Probation Service (NPS) are committed to reducing reoffending and protecting the public. As statutory bodies within the Community Safety Partnership framework they, alongside other partners, contribute to the delivery of the key priorities outlines within the Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for reducing reoffending. The plan coordinates focus around several Multi-Agency Priority Groups: Integrated Offender Management, Young People, Women Offenders and Troubled Families. There are also currently four Multi-Agency Priority Interventions in the plan: Accommodation, Education and Employment, Substance Misuse and Mental and Physical Health. NI 18 Reducing Reoffending data has seen significant reductions in performance making Kent statistically higher than predicted, however KSS CRC continue to focus their efforts, with partners, on driving reoffending down.

From December 2014 the number of people on the Integrated Offender Management programme was 37, which was around average for that year. All were male and white with an age range of 18 to 48 years. Their risk of reconviction is predominantly high with nearly 80% at high or very high risk of reconviction. Considering the percentage is so high, initiatives to tackle re-offending are a priority.

## **Domestic Abuse**

The number of domestic abuse incidents increased by nearly 8% in April 2014- March 2015 when compared with the previous financial year. When looking at the longer term the number of incidents compared with April 2012-March 2013 have increased by 17%. It is highly likely that these figures have increased due to an increase in the reporting of such incidents and also due to changes in the recording of such crimes rather than due to an increase in the overall prevalence rate. There has also been a significant increase in the number of cases seen at MARAC, 496 cases compared to 342 in the previous year (2013-14). Over 90% of clients had their risk level reduced as a result of IDVA intervention compared to 68% in the previous period.

The percentage of female victims remains significantly higher than male victims at 75% and in over 85% of incidents the offender was male. The number of incidents for the July – September 2014 period were 6.6% higher than those reported in the April – June 2014 period and 35% higher than the number of incidents in the January – March 2015 period.

Although there has been an increase in the reporting of incidents of domestic abuse it is still a largely hidden crime as it often takes place ‘behind closed doors’. The level of harm is also high which means that it domestic abuse should be treated as a priority by the Partnership. It is also important to consider the fact that a number of partners can work together, pooling resources to tackle offenders as well as supporting victims.



## Emerging Trends

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From the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 every responsible authority has a duty to consider the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. This is due to recent legislation changes including the 'Prevent Duty' under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The responsible authority must assess the risk of residents being drawn into terrorism, develop an action plan to reduce the risk and train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism.

The reporting of hate crime is improving, but hate crime is still felt to be under-reported, work must continue to improve reporting - over 50% of hate crimes not coming to the attention of the police. Hate Crime can cause tension within a community and can make residents feel unsafe. Hate Crimes have increased at national level by 18% in the 2014-15 period with 82% of Hate Crimes being race related (Home Office Statistical Bulletin, October 2015).

An emerging issue for Kent Fire and Rescue Services is the settling migrant communities from Eastern Europe, which are impacting on their home safety services. Door knocking and Street Week interventions have been used in past as well as a targeted approach being used to target these families. A multi-agency approach to identify communities that may include those that are at higher risk of both committing and being a victim of crime will be required.

With the growing crisis of displaced refugees arriving in Europe as well as the ongoing situation in Calais it is likely that cases of human trafficking may increase. At a national level in 2014, 2340 people were identified as potential victims of trafficking – a 34% increase on the previous year (Figures available at [www.unseenuk.org](http://www.unseenuk.org)). Further concerning is that 671 were children. Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of children, women or men through the use of threat, force, coercion, or deception for the purpose of exploitation. This is an emerging area of work, which has recently been brought to the attention of public agencies. The extent of human trafficking in Medway is not yet fully known, however work has recently been commissioned by Kent Police to develop multi agency actions to tackle it and raise greater awareness of the issue amongst members of the public and practitioners.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a growing concern in the UK and it is closely linked with trafficking as well as organised crime and gangs. Kent Police have identified within their Control Strategy that the production, distribution and possession of indecent images of children, with live streaming of child abuse for payment as an emerging trend as well as noting that abuse by urban street gangs of girl gang members is under reported but recognised as a threat. A range of recent reports, widespread national media coverage and criminal trials in Oxfordshire, Derby, Rochdale and Rotherham have highlighted this form of child abuse which is often hidden and preys on the most vulnerable in our society. Children and young people who are sexually exploited are subject to significant long-term risks to their physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing. The inquiry into (CSE) in Rotherham is

a reminder of the extent and devastating effects CSE has upon children and young people, their families and wider communities. In March 2015 the Government released a report (Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation) announcing a number of key changes and stating that child sexual exploitation affects all our communities. While the full extent of this crime is still unknown, we do know that it is not confined to one area. The report goes on to say that 'The Government deplores the sexual exploitation of children, and will not tolerate failure at any level to prevent harm, support victims and bring offenders to justice'.

Kent Police have also highlighted gang networks as an emerging theme with an increase in cross border criminality and people travelling to the area in particular to deal drugs. There are no perceived problems with organised criminal groups, but there is a low level emerging gang threat. In 2016 Medway will engage with a Home Office Ending Gangs and Youth Violence peer review, and partners are working on improving data sharing between agencies to help tackle issues related to this.

Kent Fire and Rescue Services' new Road Safety Experience in Rochester, opens at Easter in 2016, will further enhance the ability to educate young people in road safety issues such as the consequences of not wearing a seatbelt.

Recent operations by Medway Trading Standards in partnership with Public Health have seen in one case alone £60,000 of illegal cigarettes and tobacco being seized. Sellers of illegal products often target children and vulnerable adults to buy/sell these products, and can often be part of organised gangs and sell other products. Sales of illegal products affect honest retailers, which causes the Medway economy to suffer, and consumption of these products, whether it's illegal or genuine, can seriously harm your health.

# Listening to the Public

## Feedback from Medway Residents about community safety

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Resident's consultation surveys are provided at a number of community engagement events to give us the opportunity to view the issues that concern the residents of Medway. The Medway Citizens Panel, which is made up of a representative sample of Medway residents, is also another source of public opinion.

### Key Findings

- Over two thirds (67%) of residents felt safe in Medway.
- People aged 25-34 of the group as a whole were twice as likely to feel unsafe than any other age group, (28% compared to 12%).
- The most frequently cited issues were related to antisocial behaviour with 'People dropping litter', People driving carelessly, people not clearing away dog fouling, people being drunk or rowdy in public places and fly tipping seen as the biggest problems in Medway.
- Less than a fifth of respondents to the Citizens Panel felt more serious criminal offences were a problem.

Overall both the Citizen's Panel and the Consultation surveys from various events revealed the same top 5 issues that residents felt should be addressed as a priority.

- People not clearing away dog fouling (57%)
- People using or dealing drugs (57%)
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places (52%)
- People dropping litter (51.5%)
- People driving carelessly or too fast (51%)

## Background and Data Information

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Annual strategic assessments of crime and disorder are carried out to satisfy the requirement under Regulation 5 of the Formulation and Implementation of Strategy Regulations 2007.

The assessment is based upon information that has been made available by partner agencies and information available in open source material. The data will have some limitations; it is not always possible to get the same time frame from every source as Partners measure their data in different ways. It should also be noted that not all data has been cleansed due to the large volume.

The following is a list of data sources used to inform the strategic assessment.

- Kent Police – Published crime data April 2014- March 15, Control Strategy.
- Medway Council – Database systems, Confirm and M3
- Kent Fire and Rescue – Fire data and Road Traffic Collision Data July 2014- June15
- Public Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment of Drugs and Alcohol
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehab Company (KSS CRC)
- Kent and Medway Action Plan – Domestic Violence Statistics
- Local Government Association – LG Inform Database
- Public Health England – Local Health, [www.localhealth.org.uk](http://www.localhealth.org.uk)
- Medway Trading Standards
- Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Hate Crime' October 2015
- [www.unseenuk.org](http://www.unseenuk.org) - People Trafficking
- Medway Citizens Panel
- Community Safety Partnership Consultation Surveys
- Community Safety Partnership Action Plan Reviews (Action Plan 2014-16 Q4)

### Introduction

We want Medway to be a great place to live, learn, work and visit. As part of a 20-year regeneration programme lasting until 2026, Medway has embarked upon a huge transformation in terms of its physical environment, its communities and its economy.

Medway is the largest urban area in the south east outside London, with great connections to the capital and Europe. Medway is at the heart of the Thames Gateway, only 30 miles from central London, with frequent high-speed trains linking Medway to London's St Pancras International in just 35 minutes. Also, being just 40 miles from Dover and Folkestone, there are excellent links to the Channel ports and Eurotunnel; Paris is just over three hours away by train.

The creation of cohesive and sustainable communities is important for Medway with an expected 29,000 new homes to be built in the coming years. It is clear that benefits from growth must be delivered to existing communities and new developments and residents must be effectively integrated.

The focus of Medway's exciting regeneration programme is on economic growth, community infrastructure, cultural and waterfront projects. Medway has embarked upon a huge transformation of its physical environment, its communities and its economy. The first phase involves £120 million of urban and brownfield regeneration along the river Medway. Rochester Riverside is a 32-hectare site being transformed to create a community of 1,500 homes, a primary school, shops and leisure facilities as well as a new Rochester Railway Station. The Chatham Waters development is transforming part of the former Royal Naval dockyard to create a 'waterfront boulevard' making the most of the riverside views.

This physical regeneration will only be successful if people feel that they and their families are safe. This Medway Community Safety Plan is a rolling four-year document, which explains how the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) plans to tackle community safety issues that matter to Medway's diverse communities. This plan is reviewed on an annual basis, using information provided by a wide range of organisations and captured in a strategic assessment, to ensure that current and emerging concerns can be taken into account by the CSP.

**Councillor Andrew Mackness**

**Chair Medway CSP**

**Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services**



## Background to the CSP

Medway CSP is a statutory body bringing together a number of public sector agencies, known as responsible authorities, to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reducing re-offending. The responsible authorities are Medway Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS), Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (probation services) and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). These statutory partners work with other organisations, agencies and community sector organisations within the framework of the CSP to deal with community safety issues.

The CSP and Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) are under a mutual duty to cooperate with each other and to take account of the other's priorities.

The operation of the CSP is subject to annual scrutiny by an overview and scrutiny committee of Medway Council.

## Summary of progress against previous plan priorities

Priority	What we have been doing
<b>Tackle drug and alcohol abuse</b>	<p>We have commissioned an integrated drug and alcohol service with a focus on the recovery of people from drug and alcohol dependence</p> <p>Commissioned alcohol liaison pilot service at hospital to identify and support those people whose drinking levels are causing them to frequently attend</p> <p>The total number of staff trained to deliver alcohol identification and brief advice interventions for the year was 264, surpassing the target of 100. Services to have received training include: Sexual Health Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) services, foundation Doctors, Ministry of Defence health staff, supported housing charity staff, health visitors, social care, GPs and pharmacists.</p> <p>Six schools engaged in Assist (smoking prevention programme) and new staff trained up to deliver the programme, surpassing the target of 4 schools.</p>
<b>Tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and envirocrime</b>	<p>Exceeded the target of a 5% reduction in repeat victims of ASB.</p> <p>100% of repeat ASB offender's families screened for nomination into the Medway Action for Families Programme (MAfF).</p> <p>83% of fly tipping incidents cleared by the next working day (target 75%)</p> <p>A reduction in the number of environmental crimes reported.</p>

Priority	What we have been doing
<b>Reduce re-offending</b>	<p>82% of adult offenders successfully completed community orders and licenses (target 70%)</p> <p>89% of adult offenders in suitable accommodation (target 60%)</p> <p>Reduced the number of young offenders that re-offend within 6 months of completing their intervention to 31%, target &lt;50% (Q4, 2014-15)</p>
<b>Tackle domestic abuse</b>	<p>Delivered domestic abuse awareness training to multi agency practitioners.</p> <p>A reduction in repeat victimisation rate for those identified at higher risk of harm.</p> <p>Significant increase in the percentage of clients where risk has been reduced as a result of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) intervention</p> <p>Medway's successfully becoming a White Ribbon Authority – a national campaign championed by men, working to end violence against women.</p>
<b>Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions.</b>	<p>On target to achieve a 40% reduction in killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties</p> <p>'Licence to Kill' road safety experience delivered to 80% of year 12 students.</p> <p>Exceeded target to deliver multi-agency motor bikes/bicycle campaigns targeted to raise awareness to drivers.</p> <p>A number of joint initiatives of partner agencies working collectively to raise awareness of the impact of irresponsible parking outside schools.</p>

## Strategic drivers

From the 1st July 2015 many public bodies have a statutory duty to consider the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism under the 'Prevent duty' under Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. These Responsible Authorities must assess the risk of residents being drawn into terrorism, develop an action plan to reduce the risk and train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism. There is also a requirement to ensure that people at risk of being drawn into terrorism are supported to reduce that risk.

The reporting of hate crime is improving, but is still believed to be under-reported with over 50% of hate crimes not coming to the attention of the police. Hate crime can cause tension within communities and can contribute to making people feel unsafe. Hate crimes have increased nationally by 18% in the period 2014-15, with 82% of hate crimes being race related (Home Office Statistical Bulletin, October 2015). Work must continue to improve reporting.

An emerging issue for KFRS is the settling migrant communities from Eastern Europe, which are impacting on their home safety services. Door knocking and Street Week interventions have been used in past as well as a targeted approach being used to target these families. A multi-agency approach to identify communities that may include those that are at higher risk of both committing and being a victim of crime will be required.

Modern slavery, in particular human trafficking, is an international problem and victims may have entered the United Kingdom legally, on forged documentation or clandestinely, or they may be British citizens living in the United Kingdom. Modern slavery takes a number of forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude, and victims come from all walks of life. With the growing crisis of displaced refugees arriving in Europe and travelling to the UK there is concern that cases of human trafficking, smuggling and modern slavery may increase in Medway. Nationally, in 2014, there was a 34% increase in potential victims of trafficking on the previous year (Figures available at [www.unseenuk.org](http://www.unseenuk.org)). Further concern is that some of those were children. This is an emerging area of work, which has recently been brought to the attention of public agencies.

A range of recent reports, widespread national media coverage and criminal trials in Oxfordshire, Derby, Rochdale and Rotherham have highlighted high profile cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE), reaching back over a number of decades. This abuse is often hidden and preys on the most vulnerable in our society. Children and young people who are sexually exploited are subject to significant long-term risks to their physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing, as well as upon their families and wider communities.

The extent of human trafficking and CSE in Medway is not yet fully known, however work has recently been commissioned by Kent Police to develop multi agency actions to begin to tackle these issues and raise greater awareness of the issue amongst members of the public and practitioners.

We also know that young people who are drawn into gang violence, whether as a victim, perpetrator or both, are subject to a wide range of risk factors, including sexual abuse, that need a tailored response. We know that gangs look and operate differently in different areas and there is no single approach that will work in all cases. The success of Operation Trident in London has led to a number of individuals and families with links to gangs being relocated out of London boroughs.

Kent Police have also highlighted gang networks as an emerging theme with an increase in cross border criminality and people travelling out of London to deal drugs. There are no perceived problems with organised criminal groups in Medway, but there is some evidence of emerging low level gang activity. In 2016 Medway will engage with a Home Office Ending Gangs and Youth Violence peer review, and partners are



working on improving data sharing between agencies to help address issues related to this.

Recent operations by Medway Trading Standards in partnership with Public Health have resulted, in one case alone, £60,000 of illegal cigarettes and tobacco being seized. Sellers of illegal products often target children and vulnerable adults to buy and sell these products, and can often be part of organised crime, which is involved in other criminality. Sales of illegal products affect honest retailers, to the detriment of Medway's retail economy.

Medway, in common with many urban areas, has a number of resistant substance misusers, with about half engaging in treatment programmes. It is an aging group; increasingly users are over 35. A recent Office of National Statistics (ONS) report on the numbers of drug related deaths in the country reported a 17% increase during 2012-14, particularly amongst opiate users. Medway has also seen a rise in this area, with the Public Health team introducing a more robust reporting process and improved responses to reported deaths in 2015, including the formation of the Medway Drug Related Death Panel. The CSP will continue to work to reduce substance misuse.

In terms of alcohol abuse, 39% of persons starting treatment in Medway completed it; however the numbers accessing treatment (298 in 2014-15) is still very low. Medway has avoided the national trend of 7% drop in numbers but there are estimates that 10,500 adults in Medway are at high risk of experiencing problems through their alcohol use. Led by Public Health, the CSP is running Alcohol Concern's Blue Light project, which is a national initiative to develop alternative approaches and care pathways for treatment resistant drinkers who place a burden on public services. It has challenged the traditional approach by showing that there are positive strategies that can be used with this client group. Partners believe these strategies will enable Medway agencies to offer a coherent and planned approach to engaging and retaining adults with complex needs in appropriate services.

The number of domestic abuse (DA) incidents increased by nearly 8% in the period April 2014 - March 2015 when compared with the previous financial year. When looking at the longer term the number of incidents compared with April 2012-March 2013 has increased by 17%. It is highly likely that these figures have increased due to an increase in the reporting of such incidents and also due to changes in the recording of such crimes rather than due to an increase in the overall prevalence rate. There has also been a significant focus on promoting services for victims of DA, which has been driven by Medway having its own Domestic Abuse Coordinator.

In 2014 the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) issued guidelines around domestic abuse multi-agency working. This was produced for health services, social care and organisations who can respond effectively to domestic abuse. There are 17 recommendations that the guidance explores for improving the response and

Medway Council are taking this forward with recommendations across all partners to ensure a consistent response.

The Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme has brought about significant changes to the Probation Service, notably the creation of the National Probation Service delivering services for high risk and other offenders and Community Rehabilitation Companies delivering probation services for medium and low risk offenders. The primary focus of KSS CRC is to reduce reoffending by delivering rehabilitation services that help people to help themselves. With effect from May 2015 this has included working with adult offenders sentenced to prison sentences of under 12 months, who were previously released without supervision on licence.

Reported incidents of ASB in Medway in 2014-15 decreased by 2.5% from the previous year and are down 14% since 2012-13. This is a very encouraging statistic that reflects the good work of partner agencies. However, reports of ASB still comprise the highest volume of complaints from our residents and tackling it remains a priority to our communities and the partnership.

The top five wards reporting ASB in 2014-15 were:

- |                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| • River              | 980 reports |
| • Gillingham South   | 955 reports |
| • Gillingham North   | 934 reports |
| • Luton and Wayfield | 809 reports |
| • Chatham Central    | 801 reports |

These Wards account for 48% of the total number of reported incidents in Medway.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 brought in new provisions and powers relating to ASB. The Act implements measures that aim to:

- focus the response to ASB on the needs of victims;
- empower communities to get involved in tackling ASB;
- ensure professionals have access to fast, effective powers to protect the public; and
- speed up the eviction of the most anti-social tenants.

The provisions in the Act consolidate 19 existing antisocial behaviour powers into six more flexible powers. The new powers came into effect on 20 October 2014. The use of these new powers will allow the Council, together with its partners, to tackle ASB more effectively.

Since 2010, central government funding for public services has been declining as the Government tackles the spending deficit. CSP partners will receive significantly less funding from central government than has historically been the case. This means that now, more than ever, effective partnership working is essential to improve efficiency, economy and effectiveness. A key role of CSPs is to improve outcomes for communities and make sure that local resources are used well. Where we can work together, we will prevent duplication, reduce costs and tackle issues through joined-up problem-solving approaches. The CSP is not complacent and will continue to strive to find new and innovative ways to tackle criminality within Medway, and ensure that positive messages are communicated to the community.

## What the public tells us

Residents' consultation surveys are provided at a number of community engagement events to give us the opportunity to establish the issues that most concern Medway residents. The Medway Citizens Panel, which is made up of a representative sample of Medway's residents, is also another source of public opinion.

## Key Findings

From our research:

- Over two thirds (67%) of residents feel safe in Medway.
- People aged 25-34 of the group as a whole are twice as likely to feel unsafe than any other age group, (28% compared to 12%).
- The most frequently cited issues were related to ASB with 'people dropping litter', people driving carelessly, people not clearing away dog fouling, people being drunk or rowdy in public places and fly tipping seen as the biggest problems in Medway.

Less than a fifth of respondents to the Citizens' Panel felt more serious criminal offences were a problem.

Overall both the Citizen's Panel and the consultation surveys from various events revealed the same top 5 issues that residents felt should be addressed.

- People not clearing away dog fouling (57%)
- People using or dealing drugs (57%)
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places (52%)
- People dropping litter (51.5%)

- People driving carelessly or too fast (51%)

## Public Consultation Event

The CSP held a public consultation event at The Corn Exchange in Rochester, where feedback was sought on community safety, below is a summary of the key issues that were raised:

- 94% felt safe during the day
- 47% felt safe during the evening, with 25% stated they neither felt safe nor unsafe.

When asked what the most important issue the CSP should be addressing, in order they were:

1. People using or dealing drugs (24%)
2. Violent crime (14%)
3. Domestic abuse (14%)

The following issues were felt to be important to those attending:

- Tackling the root causes of ASB as well as more work on prevention.
- Tackling gang migration before it became a big issue and that it may be useful to tie this issue to organised crime.
- Tackling hate crime.
- Tackling harm caused by substance misuse and dealing with drug dealing in public places.
- Providing better education to young people on the harm substance abuse causes with education around legal highs as an emerging theme.
- In relation to reducing reoffending as a priority a number of attendees felt that better education and the creation of opportunities to become employable would help reduce reoffending particularly in young people. Many also felt that greater use could be made of local community groups to help and support the reintegration of offenders into the community.
- Better communication with the public – especially in rural areas.

- Addressing issues surrounding parenting by providing education as well as community support. Many attendees felt that the various faith groups played a vital role in bringing the community together.

It was also stated that there is a lot of negativity in the media and it would be good to spread good news stories and use social media platforms to communicate with the public.

Whilst most were supportive of the priorities identified by the Partnership, concerns were raised about whether the resources were available to achieve the goals set out.

## **Our Priorities**

Stemming from our annual review and strategic assessment, and following public consultation, we have identified five priorities for 2016-20:

### **Strengthening communities**

There will be an emphasis on bringing communities together. We want to ensure that Medway is a place in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities. Programmes include:

- Reducing ASB and envirocrime
- Preventing radicalisation
- Supporting a safe night time economy

Working to further reduce ASB and envirocrime by building on previous success. Although the number of incidents of ASB has declined it continues to be a volume issue and has been identified by residents as a priority. It affects both day and night time economies, which will support feelings of safety as the regeneration of Medway continues. As part of strengthening our communities there is a national as well as local focus on preventing radicalisation; the government has introduced new legislation around Prevent, which requires partner agencies to come together to tackle this issue.

### **Supporting victims and tackling offenders of sexual and domestic abuse**

We will tackle the offending and move towards taking a more proactive and preventative approach as well as providing effective support pathways for victims and their families. Programmes include:

- Tackling domestic abuse

- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- Tackling human trafficking
- Tackling hate crime
- Combating youth gang violence

There has been an increase in victims coming forward to report domestic abuse. This in part can be explained through the significant amount of awareness raising and training that has taken place, and given the impact on victims and children, further work to support victims is required. As it is still a largely 'hidden crime' it must remain a priority.

Within this priority will be the need to tackle the generally hidden, but growing issue of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation, which have both been identified as growing trends nationally.

Tackling Hate Crime will also be included in this priority, although the numbers are small it is a growing trend which has significant impact on individuals, and is a crime that it is recognised is largely under reported.

Finally this priority will also aim to combat Youth Gang Violence, which has been identified by Kent Police as a growing concern in Medway, with good transport links to London giving gangs opportunities to expand there networks.

## **Tackling the harm caused by substance misuse**

People who misuse drugs, alcohol or other substances cause considerable harm to themselves and to society. This includes harm to their own physical and mental health and wellbeing and that of their families. There is also harm to the communities in which they live through the crime, disorder and ASB associated with substance misuse. Availability of cheap illicit tobacco undermines our efforts to reduce the prevalence of smoking in Medway and makes it easier for young people to start smoking.

Programmes include:

- Preventing and treating drug and alcohol misuse
- Tackling illicit tobacco

This is a continuing priority, which will build upon the success of Public Health working together with the Medway Drug and Action Alcohol Team to ensure help and support is given to those most in need. It will also build on targeted operational work by Kent Police, which aims to disrupt organised gangs. By working to remove the supply chain other agencies can work with offenders on treatment plans. The aim will be to prevent and treat drug and alcohol misuse through intervention and education. There will also

be a focus on tackling illicit tobacco, building on the ongoing intelligence and operations by Trading Standards and Public Health.

## **Reducing re-offending**

Bringing offenders to justice cannot be truly effective if these same individuals continue to offend, creating more victims. While punishment is an important way of dealing with crime, and one of the five purposes of sentencing, on its own it is often not enough to change a person's pattern of behaviour. With some 90% of those sentenced in England and Wales in 2011 having offended before, many people are locked in a cycle of re-offending. Priorities include:

- Delivering rehabilitation services that enable individuals to aspire, achieve and make sustainable changes to their lives.
- Delivering individual and group based interventions including domestic abuse perpetrator programmes.
- Delivering intensive multi agency interventions aimed at those most at risk of re-offending.
- Delivering Community Payback that benefits the local community and enables service users acquire new skills

Whilst repeat offenders are small in number, they are responsible for a significant number of offences and cause disproportionate damage to our local neighbourhoods. Multi-agency approaches through the CSP aim to deliver a balance between enforcement and providing the individual with the help and support that they need to steer them away from offending.

Certain factors are recognised as 'pathways' to offending, e.g. lack of accommodation/housing and lack of employment. Partnership activity to evaluate how we may be able to improve current practices and procedures in respect of housing or assist ex-offenders into training or employment will make a sound contribution to reducing the risks of individuals reoffending.

## **Commitment to safeguarding and improving services**

As public sector funding continues to shrink it becomes increasingly important to reassure residents that agencies will continue to be responsive and deliver efficient and effective services to keep people safe. We will explore new ways of working together effectively to make the most efficient use of public resources. Workstreams will include:

- Improvements/Innovation

- Communications
- Efficiencies

With all partner agencies operating with constrained resources we need to make better use of resources. The aim of this priority will be to look into ways of making improvements to current practices and sharing resources where possible to become more efficient. We will also seek to improve on how we communicate with our communities to provide information and education.

## Priority leads

Lead officers have been assigned to each of the priorities within this Community Safety Plan. These officers will take the strategic lead for that priority. The lead officers for 2016-17 will be:

- Head of Safer Communities, Medway Council – strengthening communities
- Medway Commander, Kent Police – supporting victims and tackling offenders of sexual and domestic abuse
- Director Public Health, Medway Council – tackling the harm caused by substance misuse
- Director of Rehabilitation (Interventions), Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company – tackling re-offending
- Assistant Director of Community Engagement, Kent Fire and Rescue Service – Commitment to safeguarding and improving services

The priority leads will be responsible for co-ordinating workstreams in their priority area, developing a performance framework and action plans to demonstrate successful progress and reporting up to the Strategic CSP Executive Group (SEG) on a quarterly basis, or as required by that group.

The Chair of SEG will share plans and assessments with other strategic groups, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Medway Children's Safeguarding Board and the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board. An information sharing protocol is in place to facilitate this.

## Action Plan

The action plans for each of the priorities of the CSP will be appended to the plan and reviewed annually.



## Glossary of terms

<b>ASB</b>	Anti-Social Behaviour
<b>Assist</b>	Smoking prevention programme
<b>CCTV</b>	Closed Circuit Television
<b>CCG</b>	Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS Health)
<b>CSP</b>	Community Safety Partnership
<b>DA</b>	Domestic Abuse
<b>GP</b>	General Practitioner (doctor)
<b>GUM</b>	Genitourinary Medicine
<b>IDVA</b>	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
<b>ISVA</b>	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor
<b>KFRS</b>	Kent Fire and Rescue Service
<b>KSS CRC</b>	Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
<b>MAfF</b>	Medway Action for Families Programme
<b>MARAC</b>	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
<b>NHS</b>	National Health Service
<b>NICE</b>	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
<b>ONS</b>	Office for National Statistics
<b>PACT</b>	Partners and Communities Together
<b>PCC</b>	Police and Crime Commissioner
<b>SEG</b>	Strategic Executive Group
<b>YOT</b>	Youth Offending Team