

## **COUNCIL**

**21 JULY 2016**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2016/2020 (POLICY FRAMEWORK)**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Mackness, Corporate Services

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#### **Summary**

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are under a duty to produce a Community Safety Plan to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse, and reduce reoffending. This report provides information on the proposed plan to cover the period from 2016 to 2020.

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

- 1.1 CSPs 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 (KFRS); Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC - formerly Kent Probation). CSPs are able to work in partnership with any other agencies or bodies that they may feel would contribute to community safety.
- 1.2 While the Kent Police Authority was formerly a responsible authority on the CSP, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is not. There is however a mutual duty to take account of the other's priorities and to co-operate and the period covered by the plan mirrors the term of office of the PCC. Members of the CSP will be meeting with the new Commissioner on 12 July 2016 to discuss priorities.
- 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 CSPs 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 draft Community Safety Plan covers the period 2016 to 2020 and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. 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.
- 1.5 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 CSPs at least once a year.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Scrutiny of the partnership was last carried out in December 2015.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The draft Community Safety Plan for 2016 to 2020 is appended at Appendix 1 to this report. The plan contains five new priorities going forward, which have been developed from the strategic assessment findings, which are summarised in the plan.
- 2.4 These priorities are:
  - Strengthening communities
  - Supporting victims and tackling offenders of sexual and domestic abuse
  - Tackling the harm caused by substance misuse
  - Reducing reoffending
  - Commitment to safeguarding and improving services
- 2.5 These priorities are discussed in more detail below.

## **3. Advice and analysis**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 This physical regeneration will only be successful if people feel that they and their families are safe.
- 3.3 In May 2015 a new chair and vice chair of the CSP were elected. The chair has determined to take a more strategic view of community safety in Medway

to ensure that it reflects and supports the strategic ambitions of the Council and the partner agencies in the CSP to make Medway a great place to live, learn, work and visit.

3.4 The new priorities are as follows:

### **3.5 Strengthening communities**

3.6 There will be an emphasis on bringing communities together. The CSP will ensure that Medway is a place in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities.

3.7 Programmes to support this priority are:

- Reducing ASB and envirocrime
- Preventing radicalisation
- Supporting a safe nighttime economy

3.8 This priority will be led by Medway Council.

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

3.10 The CSP 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.

3.11 Programmes include:

- Tackling domestic abuse
- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- Tackling human trafficking
- Tackling hate crime
- Combatting youth gang violence

3.12 This priority will be led by Kent Police.

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

3.14 People who misuse drugs, alcohol or other substances cause considerable harm to themselves and to society. This includes harm to their 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 anti-social behaviour associated with substance misuse. Availability of cheap illicit tobacco undermines our efforts to reduce smoking and makes it easier for young people to start smoking.

3.15 Programmes include:

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

3.16 This priority will be led by Medway Council.

### **3.17 Reducing reoffending**

3.18 Bringing offenders to justice is pointless if these same criminals go on to offend again. 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 stop criminals reoffending. With some 90% of those sentenced in England and Wales in 2011 having offended before, many people are locked in a cycle of reoffending.

3.19 Programmes include:

- Reduce reoffending by delivering rehabilitation services that help people to help themselves, enabling them to aspire, achieve and make sustainable changes to their lives.
- Deliver individual and group based interventions including domestic abuse perpetrator programmes.
- Partners working together to deliver an intensive multi agency intervention aimed at those most at risk of reoffending.
- Continue to deliver the Community Payback to service users subject to community orders and post sentence supervision.

3.20 This priority will be led by KSS CRC.

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

3.22 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. The partnership will explore new ways of working together effectively to make the most efficient use of public resources.

3.23 Workstreams will include:

- Improvements/Innovation
- Communications
- Efficiencies

3.24 This priority will be led by KFRS.

3.25 Each of the priority leads will be responsible for those workstreams under their priority, albeit that there will be some crossover between workstreams, for instance the nighttime economy and substance abuse. The champions have developed action plans for each workstream and be accountable to the CSP executive group.

3.26 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.

3.27 On 10 December 2015, the plan was presented to the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the annual scrutiny of the CSP.

3.28 The draft plan has been presented to the Health and Wellbeing and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the Cabinet (4 February 2016, 18 March 2016 and 10 May 2016 respectively).

#### **4. Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

4.1 Full details of the Committee's consideration of the Plan plus the annual scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership is set out in Appendix 2.

4.2 In summary, the Committee:

4.2.1 thanked the members of the CSP for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

4.2.2 noted that as a Policy Framework document, the Community Safety Plan would be reported to Cabinet on 5 April 2016 and Cabinet would be asked to formally consider and recommend the proposed Plan for 2016 to 2020, containing new priorities for the CSP to Council on 28 April 2016.

4.2.3 noted the responses provided by the CSP on the issues outlined during discussions.

#### **5. Health and Wellbeing Board**

5.1 The Head of Safer Communities introduced a report that presented the current Medway Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment and the proposed Community Safety Plan to cover the period from 2016 to 2020.

5.2 The following points were made:

5.3 The inclusion of substance misuse within the documents was welcomed as there had been an increase in drugs related deaths in 2013.

5.4 The Council had reviewed how it shared intelligence with the Police in relation to the local drug market.

5.5 Public Health had recently provided evidence to a Licensing Hearing Panel which had resulted in the application for a premises licence being refused.

5.6 The report referred to the protocol setting out the relationship between key strategic boards in Medway and it was noted that this had been signed by the Chairs of a number of Boards in addition to those mentioned.

5.7 On 10 December 2015, the plan was presented to the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the annual scrutiny of the CSP.

5.8 The Board:

- 5.8.1 noted and commented on the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment.
- 5.8.2 noted that, as a Policy Framework document, the Community Safety Plan would be reported to Cabinet on 5 April 2016 and that Cabinet would be asked to formally consider and recommend the proposed plan for 2016 to 2020, containing new priorities for the Community Safety Partnership, to Full Council on 28 April 2016; and
- 5.8.3 noted the Boards that were included in the protocol setting out the relationship between key strategic Boards in Medway

## **6. Children's Safeguarding Board**

- 6.1 Neil Howlett presented the update report. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was a statutory body consisting of five authorities including the Local Authority, the Police, Kent Fire and Rescue, KSSCRC and CCG.
- 6.2 The main focus for the last 6 months had been putting together a strategic assessment and a new plan for April 2016. This should reduce crime disorder and substance misuse. There are five new priorities for 2016. These were:
- Strengthening communities
  - Supporting victims and tackling offenders of sexual and domestic abuse.
  - Tackling the harm caused by substance misuse
  - Reducing offending
  - Commitment to safeguarding and improving services.
- 6.3 There was a recent peer review which identified four streams. The work streams had been put together now and there would be another strategic assessment later this year.

## **7. Cabinet**

- 7.1 The Cabinet considered the report on 7 June 2016 and agreed to recommend the proposed Community Safety Plan (CSP) for 2016 to 2020, containing new priorities for the CSP, to Full Council on 21 July 2016, for approval (decision no. 81/2016).

## **8. Risk management**

- 8.1 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

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1 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 throughout the year. A stakeholder engagement event with elected Members and representatives from community groups was undertaken on 4 November 2015. The proposed new priorities were discussed and obtained significant support from the representatives attending.
- 9.2 A refreshed Diversity Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the proposals, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report. This indicates that the Community Safety Plan complies with the requirements of the legislation

## **10. Financial implications**

- 10.1 The newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has confirmed that he has allocated a budget to use for funding activities to tackle crime, disorder, drugs and reoffending. The amount committed for 2016-17 is £93,395.

## **11. Legal implications**

- 11.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 11.2 The Council's statutory powers are detailed in the report.
- 11.3 The adoption or modification of the Community Safety Plan is a decision for Full Council.

## **12. Recommendation**

- 12.1 The Council is asked to approve the Community Safety Plan 2016 – 2020, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

### **Lead officer contact**

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### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Proposed Community Safety Plan 2016 to 2020  
Appendix 2 – Regeneration, Community and Culture O&S Committee 15 December 2015 – minutes extract  
Appendix 3 – Diversity Impact Assessment

### **Background papers**

None