

## **REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**8 DECEMBER 2016**

### **ANNUAL SCRUTINY OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP, INCLUDING AN UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2016 to 2020**

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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 re-offending.

This report provides information on the operation of the CSP from December 2015, which summarises the findings of the strategic assessment. The current Community Safety Plan runs from 2013 to 2016. 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 is not. There is however a mutual duty to take account of the other's priorities and to co-operate.
- 1.3 Regulation 5 of the Crime and Disorder 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 current 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 current Community Safety Partnership Plan, covering the years 2016 to 2020, was adopted at Full Council on 21 July 2016 and contains five priorities for the responsible authorities:
- 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
- 2.3 The Community Safety Plan for 2016 to 2020 is appended at appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.4 The CSP has conducted a strategic assessment of crime, disorder and other community safety issues in Medway over the previous year. The assessment looks back at issues that have impacted upon community safety in Medway and forward at emerging issues, themes and trends.
- 2.5 The strategic assessment has shown that there are no emerging issues or threats that would require a change to the 5 identified priorities. The strategic assessment is appended at appendix 2 to this report.

## **3. Advice and analysis**

- 3.1 The Regeneration, Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets annually to review or scrutinise decisions made or other actions taken by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The committee has power to make reports or recommendations on the functioning of the CSP. Any significant amendments to the Community Safety Plan itself will require a new plan, which will be routed via Overview and Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council, in accordance with the Council's policy framework rules.

## **4. Risk management**

- 4.1 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

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 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 12 July 2016. Progress on these priorities was discussed and there was significant support for the new priorities.

5.2 On 23 November 2016 a further consultation event is taking place with young people through the Medway Youth Parliament’s annual conference.

## **6. Financial implications**

6.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has submitted his 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 2016-17 the amount allocated to Medway CSP is £93,395. The PCC is committed to supporting the funding of CSPs in subsequent years; as yet no confirmation has been received of funding for 2017-18.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The Council's statutory powers are detailed in the report.
- 7.3 The adoption or modification of the Community Safety Plan would be a decision for Full Council.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 The Committee is requested to note the findings of the strategic assessment.
- 8.2 The Committee is asked to consider that the Community Safety Plan priorities remain unchanged in the light of the strategic assessment findings.
- 8.3 The Committee is requested to scrutinise the activity of the Community Safety Partnership, over the past year, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.

## **Appendices**

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

## **Background papers**

None