

Medway Community Safety Partnership

Strategic Assessment 2016



COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP

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Introduction

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 undertake 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 2016/17. 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 Adrian Gulvin

Portfolio Holder for Resources and Chair of the Community Safety Partnership

Executive Summary

In the previous Strategic Assessment for 2015-16 there were five priorities identified as being the areas that the Community Safety Partnership needed to focus on. These priorities will remain the same for 2016-17 as we continue to build upon the successes of 2015-16 but also strive to continue in developing new ways to tackle the key priorities for the people 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 once again declined it continues to be a volume issue and has been identified by residents as a priority. Crimes of this type affect both the day and night-time economies and as such we must continue to focus on it as we work to regenerate Medway and make it a place people can enjoy during the day or the evening. 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 (CSE), 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 their 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 offenders 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

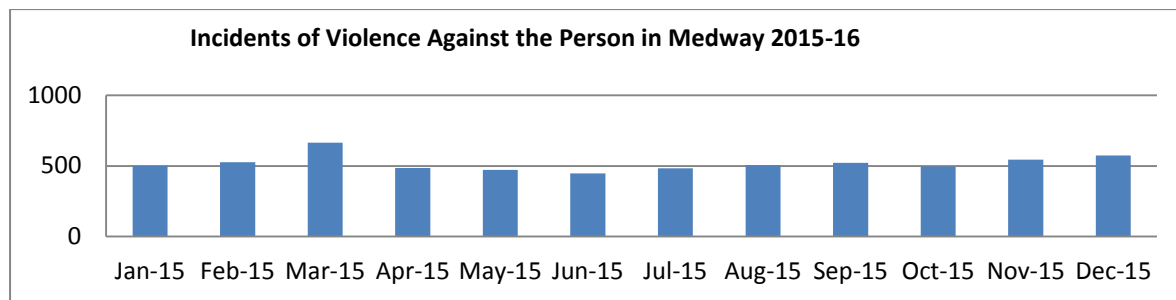
Priority	What we have been doing
Strengthening Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of applicants to the Community Trigger have been responded to as per guidelines. (Target 95%) • The CSP Operational Group meets once a month and is attended by a number of agencies focussing specifically at repeat offenders, victims and locations. In the last year 140 complex issues have been addressed by this group. • Use of ASB, Crime & Policing Act 2014 powers such as Injunctions & Community Protection Notices by Housing and Enforcement teams and Closure Orders by Police to deal with high level ASB cases.
Supporting Victims and Tackling Offenders of Sexual and Domestic Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions completed at Medway Hospital for frontline staff. • Repeat victimisation is currently 25.4% but nearing target of <25% • Op Perceptual, enforcement campaign for tackling Human Trafficking and led by Kent & Essex Serious & Organised Crime ran the week commencing 17th Oct 2016. • Implementation of recommendations from the Home Office peer review around Ending Gang and Youth Violence.
Reduce re-offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearing target for the completion of Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders. Target 75%, Q2 result - 74.5% • Delivery of individual/group based interventions including DA perpetrator training • Completion of 148 community payback jobs in partnership with Medway Council
Tackle the Harm Caused by Substance Misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the proportion of successful opiate users moving on to 8% in Q1. • Increase in alcohol misusers accessing treatment with 44 new presentations in Q1 • Work has begun on cumulative impact policy for the Medway Statement of Licensing Policy. • Several shops closed by Trading Standards due to the sale or storing of illicit tobacco.
Commitment to Safeguarding and Improving Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigns such as Home Safety Week have been increasingly communicated via social media such as Facebook & Twitter • Daily Community Safety Partnership conference phone calls to share information and identify vulnerable people. In the last year just over 440 different issues have been discussed during this conference call leading to the issues being dealt with and resolved quickly. • Safe and Well visits delivered to those identified as vulnerable. • Co-located working arrangements at a number of stations and offices with SECAMB (South East Coast Ambulance Service)

All Recorded Crime

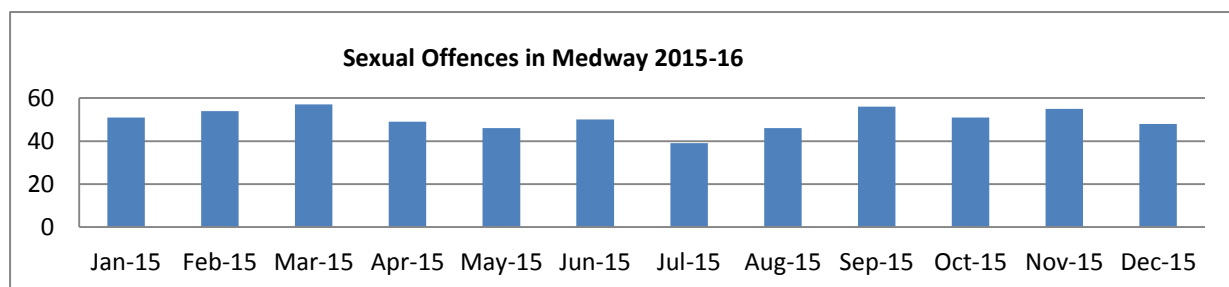
Level of Crime	20,285 / 70 per 1000 residents.																										
Peer Comparison	<p>26th highest number of recorded crimes for Unitary Authorities (56 responding authorities)</p> <p>10th highest number of recorded crimes for Local Authorities in South East (71 authorities)</p>																										
Annual Change	<p>8% Increase</p> <p>1531 additional crimes recorded compared to April 14- March 15</p>																										
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 11 - Mar 12</td> <td>16,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 12 - Mar 13</td> <td>16,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 13 - Mar 14</td> <td>17,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 14 - Mar 15</td> <td>18,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 15 - Mar 16</td> <td>20,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Recorded Crimes	Apr 11 - Mar 12	16,500	Apr 12 - Mar 13	16,000	Apr 13 - Mar 14	17,000	Apr 14 - Mar 15	18,000	Apr 15 - Mar 16	20,000														
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ASB																											
No of Incidents	8978 / 31 per 1000 residents																										
Annual Change	3.7% decrease 349 fewer incidents compared with April 2014 - March 2015																										
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Crime Picture in Context



There has been an increase in incidents of violence against the person. This may be explained by the increasing numbers of gangs from London operating within Medway as gangs are often associated with violent crimes. Although gangs are closely associated with drug trade, the falling number of drug offences (493 in 2014-15 compared to 479 in 2015-16) suggests that the work done by Op Jupiter is having a positive affect in reducing drug related crime, however there are other offences associated with gangs.



There has been particular focus on gangs associated with people trafficking and sexual exploitation. Kent Police's Op Willow has aimed to raise awareness of exploitation. The more visible a crime becomes the more likely it is that cases may be reported. The number of sex offences may also have increases as a result of ongoing media coverage of Operation Yewtree and a number of high profile historic sex offences that may have encouraged victims to come forward after many years of silence.

The number of incidents of thefts from motor vehicles has decreased in Medway by 7.2% between 2014-15 and 2015-16. It is likely this can be attributed to Op Rhino which targets insecure vehicles in the Wards deemed most vulnerable to car crime.

Incidents of shoplifting have also decreased by around 3.5% after local PCSO's were assigned to town centre areas where shoplifting is most common. These officers are able to provide a high visibility deterrent as well as providing a local knowledge on the area and of persistent offenders.

Strengthening Communities

Antisocial behaviour incidents have decreased once again, however it still remains a volume crime and is a cause of concern amongst members of the public in Medway. The same Wards as the previous year make up the top 5 for antisocial behaviour, however Gillingham South Ward has moved to the top. Gillingham South Ward is the most densely populated Ward and is showing concern on other indices of deprivation. Luton and Wayfield remains in the top 5, as does River Ward where there are a high number of incidents of drunken or rowdy behaviour. Issues with street drinking in River Ward tend to be found around the edge of Chatham High Street as the issue is moved away from the High Street itself by the Designated Public Place Order (alcohol control zone). Another concern is the number of licensed premises selling 'super strength' alcohol at cheap prices.

A multi-agency operational group has been set up to tackle repeat criminal behaviour and anti-social behaviour to form a joined up approach. Agencies that attend this group include Kent Police, KFRS, as well as a number of Medway Council teams, including Housing, Environmental Protection and Enforcement teams, as well as other housing providers. The group meet monthly to discuss their top victims, offenders and locations that may benefit from a multi-agency approach. The group has had several successes whereby a multi-agency approach has had a positive outcome. Multi-agency working has also proved invaluable in other incidents of anti-social behaviour, for example a number of issues with youths gathering at Ambley Woods in Gillingham. KFRS were in attendance on a number of occasions to put out fires - neighbours were also complaining of noise and other antisocial behaviour. Kent Police were able to use a Dispersal Order to allow for the issue to be dealt with and youths that had gathered were dispersed. Kent Police and KFRS patrolled the area to enforce the dispersal order and Medway Council worked to remove the litter left behind.

Supporting Victims and Tackling Offenders of Sexual and Domestic Abuse

Kent Police and Medway Council's Public Health team have been working on the implementation of the NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guidelines. A domestic abuse sub group is formulating a delivery plan to chart the implementation led by the Domestic Abuse Coordinator in Public Health. They are currently on target to achieve their aim of 75% implementation by the year end.

Kent Police set a target of reducing repeat victimisation in cases of domestic abuse to be less than 25%, the rate currently stands at 25.4% meaning they are nearing this target. Kent Police have received updated training from victim care units on understanding a victim's needs. The National Centre for Domestic Violence has delivered additional training on the use of non-molestation orders, which assists in reducing further offences and protects the victim. Kent Police have created a Domestic Abuse Board to target serial perpetrators and support repeat victims of domestic abuse.

Further work to inform victims of the services available to support them has been undertaken by all agencies. A victim information booklet has been produced by Medway Domestic Abuse Forum (MDAF) and has been distributed to frontline staff, community hubs and is available at the One Stop Shop in Gillingham. Posters were also created by Medway Councils Domestic Abuse Coordinator and funded jointly by Medway Council Housing and Public Health were distributed to sporting venues, community hubs, and GP surgeries to target any potential violence linked to major sporting events such as the European Football Championships in 2016. Specialist domestic abuse officers were also on duty during Euro 2016 to provide specialist domestic advice to officers and victims.

There has also been the development of the first perpetrator programme for Kent and Medway which commenced in September 2016, as well as a Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART) programme for young persons affected by domestic abuse fully booked and run by the NSPCC and early help outcomes have been identified to focus on a whole family approach. An event for young people (key stage 3) also took place at the Brook Theatre in Chatham in March 2016.

In relation to tackling child sexual exploitation, the MASE (Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation) implementation plan is kept updated by Medway's Safeguarding Children's Board. The child sexual exploitation self-assessment toolkit has now been completed by agencies and results are being translated into actions where appropriate. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has also provided funding for awareness training to be delivered in the community through the use of volunteers. The volunteers are trained by Barnardo's and cascade the training into our communities. Volunteers have been identified and training took place in October 2016. Kent Police and the Community Partnership attended fresher's week at Mid Kent College in Gillingham and used a market place setting along with Choices and Sexual Health and were able to engage with the new students and raise awareness. A police CSE champions training day was also held in July to increase specialist knowledge within the local policing teams.

Wards identified during vulnerability mapping for child sexual exploitation include Strood Rural, Strood North, Gillingham North, Princes Park and Walderslade. With the exception of Gillingham North, these Wards are on the outskirts of Medway and away from the built up, densely populated main towns. This is most likely due to a greater opportunity to stay undiscovered in less densely populated areas. The average age of CSE victims in Kent is 15 years old and defined as white British, although there are emerging risks around 'Roma' and Slovakian females. The average age of offenders is 19, and 1 in 5 offenders are female.

There have also been many developments in regards to human trafficking. A Multi-Agency Serious and Organised Crime Partnership (SOCP) has been set up and takes the lead in relation to human trafficking. It has formulated a delivery plan to map the implementation of training across agencies. Police staff were trained to identify trafficked victims and to respond accordingly during a series of events for Human Trafficking Awareness week in October. Op Perceptual, an enforcement campaign led by Kent and Essex Serious &

Organised Crime began in October 2016 with a Human Trafficking Coordinator in post for Kent and Essex Police, with new reporting and meeting structures developed.

Tackling the Harm Caused by Substance Misuse

Medway has seen no significant increase in the number of opiate users over the last five years with a stable cohort of users that are in regular contact with specialist treatment services commissioned by Medway Council. The number of adults accessing specialist services has seen a slight increase from 1099 individuals in 2014-15 to 1172 individuals in 2015-16; however this slight increase was largely represented by alcohol misusers.

Following a combination of rigorous performance management by Medway Public Health and changes in the service delivery by the current provider, we have seen a positive change in the number of heroin users successfully leaving specialist treatment services heroin free. During 2015, levels declined to below 5%; however, Medway currently has 8% of adults completing treatment successfully – amongst the top quartile performance for similar Local Authority areas. Medway is also in line with the national experience and seeing no increase in new users of opiates, with a slowly declining population of long term entrenched users.

Medway Public Health are aware that there are a greater number of adults with alcohol issues who require support, with access to appropriate services that will reduce alcohol related harms. Intelligence from police, communities and agencies that work with the single homeless has highlighted issues around the availability of high strength, cheap beer and cider in Medway, so called ‘super strength’ products. There are concerns around health issues, public nuisance, anti social behaviour and crime all linked to the consumption of these products.

Reducing Re-offending

The main development in the work to reduce reoffending is the introduction of a new case management system by KSSCRC. Information is currently on two separate systems but the move onto one system will allow for the capture of richer and more complex data sets to allow KSSCRC to provide new data. There has also been further investment in joint work with Kent Police and other partners, including the development of Integrate Offender Management (IOM) for those at highest risk of offending.

KSSCRC have seen a significant caseload increase of approximately 15% due to changes in which offenders are included. The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 means that the caseload now includes any offender over 18 since 1st February 2015.

Ongoing needs identified by KSSCRC for their clients include Housing, Education and Finance. A suitable place to leave on release can help support a stable lifestyle, without this offenders can often end up living rough, which can lead them back into a life of crime. Without an address they can not claim benefits and use the job centre to find work meaning they may return to offending to fund their lifestyle. Education is extremely important as it

can open doorways to more employment opportunities and this can often prevent reoffending.

Commitment to Safeguarding and Improving Services

Overall the number of Fires in Medway has remained static for the last three years and shows no obvious signs of reducing in the current financial year, however figures are still less than what was seen in 2009-10 and 2011-12. Fires in dwellings have been reducing for many years but are now plateauing at between 100 - 140 a year. Outdoor fires, which are strongly affected by warm weather have been reducing, however in 2016-17 the number (at the end of October) had already passed the number attended in the entirety of 2015-16. The issues with youths setting fires has been a common theme for the CSP over the summer, as well as a number of fires at camps set up by homeless people, who were burning vegetation which created a large amount of smoke.

In April 2016 the new Rochester Fire Station opened allowing cover to be spread more effectively across the county, reducing the time it takes to get to incidents, particularly with the station being located near the M2 motorway. The introduction of a new IT system within the Control Room which is shared with Kent Police now means that appliances can be mobilised more dynamically based on their actual location.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service also supports Kent Police by undertaking visits by uniformed staff to areas identified by the PredPol predictive model utilised by Kent Police. Predpol identifies target areas based on crime data. This proves useful in providing a visual deterrent as well as a visible reassurance to members of the public. This proved effective when Medway City Estate was highlighted with regard to various complaints of car enthusiasts meeting up and racing on the estate. Following an incident on the estate Kent Police and KFRS provided a visual presence in the following week's event and KFRS also allowed a group of car enthusiasts to attend the new Road Safety Experience at Rochester Fire Station. The Road Safety Experience includes a powerful video clip of a driver speeding and texting before crashing with a live cutting exercise then played out in front of the audience. It also includes several activities to educate young people about the risks of dangerous and irresponsible driving.

Emerging Themes

There have been a number of illegal encampments set up in Medway which appears to be an ongoing and emerging issue. There have been a number of homeless people being supported by members of the community in setting up tents and creating camps. These camps bring numerous issues of anti social behaviour such as litter, alcohol related issues and also a number of fires which require attendance by KFRS. Some individuals within these camps have previously been housed and have caused such a problem that the organisations are no longer willing to assist them. Whilst the Council has to take enforcement action on illegal encampments on it's land, steps must also be taking to ensure everything is done to support anyone who is genuinely homeless and a partnership approach is required between the Council, Police and other charities and organisations. This work is done through the Blue Light Project.

A trend that is continuing to emerge is the issue of 'County Lines' whereby drug dealers from London are travelling through the Home Counties to widen their supply network. There has been an increase in individuals associated with London gangs being found in Medway where issues of Cuckooing have also increase. Cuckooing is normally undertaken by drug dealers who will identify a vulnerable person and move into their property, taking it over to use for drug supply or manufacture. Further work is required to identify and safeguard individuals who may be at a higher risk of falling prey to this type of scheme. Information has been passed to partner agencies by Kent Police's Gang Liaison Officer but work is required to ensure that frontline staff are trained to identify and appropriately deal with cases of suspected cuckooing or identifying vulnerable individuals.

In terms of child sexual exploitation an emerging trend is older teen females befriending younger girls and introducing them to male friends. They are supplied with alcohol and drugs and exploited. The older girls receive payment in goods or receive protection in return for recruiting new girls to exploit. Social media is also being used more to befriend and groom potential victims and there are links to missing persons with links to London.

A key emerging trend from a Public Health point of view is the increasing availability of 'super strength' alcohol products in Medway. Some areas of Medway are seeing increasing incidents of crime and disorder closely associated with alcohol. In January 2016, Medway Council rejected a new licence to sell alcohol by a shop in Chatham after warnings of further alcohol related anti-social behaviour as there were 93 other shops selling alcohol within a 1km radius. Many convenience stores are selling the 'super strength' beer and ciders that are cheap to purchase, allowing those with alcohol issues to binge on alcohol all day at a relatively low cost. Kent Police and Medway Council's Public Health team are preparing evidence gathered to support a cumulative impact policy for Medway which is an important tool in controlling the availability of alcohol in identified areas, and will be presented to the licensing committee.

Listening to the Public

The Community Safety Partnership visits the main community hubs on a quarterly basis to engage with members of the public. These visits are advertised through the Library and Community Hub website as well as on social media accounts. They allow members of the public to 'drop in' and discuss any concerns they have in their areas as well as providing safety advice and safety accessories to members of the public such as personal alarms and property marking pens. These events allow the public the opportunity to engage with the Community Safety Partnership, and raise the profile of the team and the work they do.

Other community events have taken place such as dog chipping events and community fun days where the CSP and other agencies have attended to meet with the public. Getting your dog chipped became a legal requirement from April 2016 and the dog chipping events have proven popular and have helped members of the public to become compliant. The events also raise awareness of how important having your dog chipped is as the Wardens still pick up a number of dogs that are not chipped and this makes returning them to their owners very difficult.

Two Community Safety Consultation events have taken place, one in November 2015 and another in July 2016. These events give members of organisations as well as members of the community from a range of ages and backgrounds, an opportunity to see what the agencies that make up the CSP have been doing. It also gives the CSP an opportunity to ask members of the community what issues they feel need to be prioritised in Medway as well as how they feel about community safety in Medway.

The CSP has also been working with Medway Councils Housing Team as well as other Housing providers on community engagement events in local neighbourhoods identified as having a number of complaints of anti social behaviour. These events involve a stall area for agencies to engage with the local neighbourhood and a door knocking exercise to find out what the local concerns of residents are.

Background and Data Information

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 2015- March 16, Control Strategy.
- Kent Police Medway Ward Profile
- Medway Council – Database systems, Confirm and M3
- Medway Council – Public Health
- Medway Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Kent Fire and Rescue
- 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