

REGENERATION, CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 DECEMBER 2017

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 October 2016, which summarises the findings of the strategic assessment. 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 Although the Police and Crime Commissioner is not a responsible authority on the CSP, there is a mutual duty to take account of each 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 Section 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 2016.
- 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 Progress on the CSP Action Plan for the first 2 quarters of the year is appended at appendix 2.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 The strategic assessment has shown that there are some new and emerging issues; however these can be incorporated into the existing 5 identified priorities. The strategic assessment is appended at appendix 3 to this report.

3. Advice and analysis

- 3.1 The Regeneration, Culture 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.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
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 throughout the year.

5.2 A stakeholder engagement event with elected Members and representative community groups was undertaken on 3 October 2017. Outcomes from this consultation have been taken into account in the Strategic Assessment.

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 2017-18 the amount allocated to Medway CSP is £93,395. The PCC has been committed to supporting the funding of CSPs, however as yet no confirmation has been received of funding for 2018-19.

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, noting however that the Action Plan reflects some new and emerging issues contained within the Strategic Assessment.

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.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - Community Safety Plan 2016 to 2020

Appendix 2 - Community Safety Action Plan progress report

Appendix 3 - Strategic Assessment

Background papers

None