

Medway Community Safety Partnership

Strategic Assessment 2017



COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP

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Introduction

Medway Community Safety Partnership (CSP) 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 (KSS CRC), Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

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 2017. 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 2016-17 five priorities were identified as being those areas that the Community Safety Partnership should focus on. We believe these priorities should remain the same for 2017-18 as we continue to build upon the successes of 2016-17 but there will be some new themes added under some of them to take into account emerging issues. 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.

Following a local consultation event held by the Community Safety Partnership a new theme regarding Homelessness and begging will be added to ensure focus on an issue that has been raised by the public and local agencies.

- **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 Hate Crime will also be included in this priority as it fits with the focus on supporting victims. 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.

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

This is a continuing priority, which will build upon the success of Public Health working together with wider partners 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 crime. 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, 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’ out of offending, e.g. obtaining employment and suitable housing. 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.

Under the priority of Safeguarding there will be a new theme of water safety which has been raised as a concern following a number of deaths over many years in the River Medway.

Another theme will be road safety with a particular focus on young people and bike safety due to an increase in incidents of anti social behaviour involving youths riding bikes at other vehicles.

Finally the last addition to this theme will be addressing vulnerabilities in partnership with Trading Standards through home safety visits and working with those identified as most vulnerable to scams in the local community.

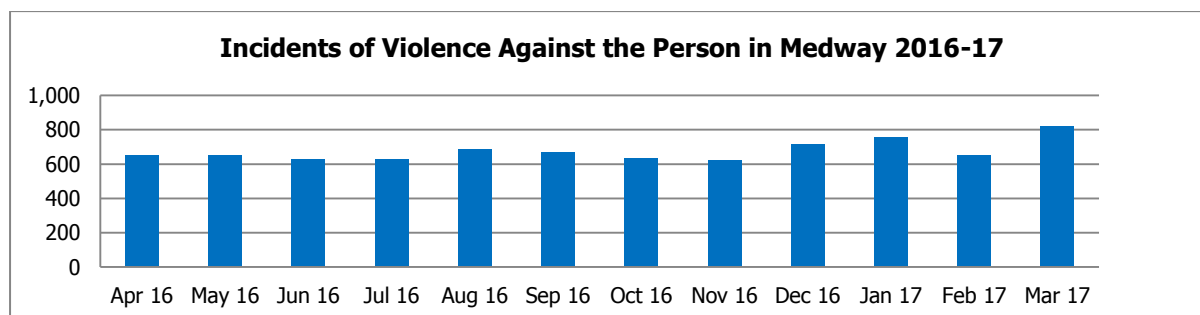
Community Safety Partnership Actions

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 continues to meet once a month and is now attended by an even broader range of agencies such as the environment agency focussing specifically at repeat offenders, victims and locations. In the last year 180 complex issues have been addressed by this group. • Funding secured for pilot 'street triage' with a mental health nurse deployed with a police officer.
Supporting Victims and Tackling Offenders of Sexual and Domestic Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions on civil & criminal orders delivered to social workers and housing teams to increase knowledge. • A Medway Gang profile has been put together and the Serious Organised Crime Partnership (SOCP) has been refreshed. • Training has taken place for seven 3rd party recording hubs for hate crime. • KSS CRC co delivered the multi-agency domestic abuse programme to mixed groups of convicted and unconvicted perpetrators.
Reduce re-offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders on target (75.5%, target 75%) • Completion of Licence and Post Sentence Supervision Period above target (78.5%, target 65%) • Delivery of unpaid work requirement through Community Payback (94%, target 90%) • The Community Payback team has continued to expand the range of projects that benefit the local community and enable those performing unpaid work to develop new skills. • The criteria for integrated offender management (IOM) has been changed to include all crime types. The Medway cohort has been refreshed to ensure that intensive multi agency management is targeted at those who will benefit most from this approach.
Tackle the Harm Caused by Substance Misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint provider and Kent Police training delivered at GP Protected Learning Event with the CCG reporting a reduction in benzo prescribing in some key practices since the event. • Recommissioning of treatment services to improve recovery outcomes. • Draft Cumulative Policy written.
Commitment to Safeguarding and Improving Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Safety Experience being used by a number of schools and promoted at various events to raise awareness. • 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. • Targeted work with partners to support the Dementia Alliance Action Plan, including opening all of Kent's 24hr Fire Stations as dementia safe havens.

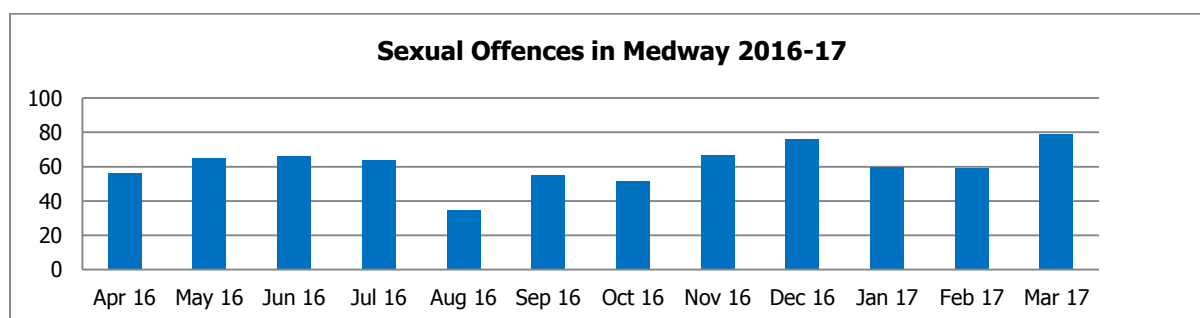
All Recorded Crime																											
Level of Crime	23,125/ 83 per 1000 residents.																										
Peer Comparison	22nd highest number of recorded crimes for Unitary Authorities (56 responding authorities) 11 th highest number of recorded crimes for Local Authorities in South East (69 responding authorities)																										
Annual Change	12% Increase 2840 additional crimes recorded compared to April 15- March 16																										
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 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> <tr> <td>Apr 16 - Mar 17</td> <td>~23,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Recorded Crimes	Apr 12 - Mar 13	~16,000	Apr 13 - Mar 14	~17,000	Apr 14 - Mar 15	~18,000	Apr 15 - Mar 16	~20,000	Apr 16 - Mar 17	~23,000														
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ASB																											
No of Incidents	7077/ 25 per 1000 residents																										
Annual Change	21% decrease 1901 fewer incidents compared with April 2015 - March 2016																										
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Crime Picture in Context



There has been an increase in the number of incidents of violence against the person. Part of this increase is likely due to an increase in gang related activity in Medway both from London 'County Lines' and emerging local groups. Incidents of violence can occur where there is rivalry over 'turf', for example in Medway where members of the Chatham based C4 gang move into Gillingham where an emerging group calling themselves G10 are based. There is also an emerging issue of violence associated with drug dealing. With an increase in this activity we have also seen an increase in young people carrying knives. In 2012 Medway Youth Offending Team were supervising 2 young people for knife possession and this stayed at a near constant figure until 2016 when there was a sharp increase to 14. Whilst it is difficult to evidence whether it can all be attributed to gangs it is unlikely to be a coincidence that this is increasing at a time that we are also seeing an increase in this activity.



The number of sexual offences in Medway has increased again during the April 16 - March 17 period. This increase can in part be explained by an increase in reporting of this type of offence. Kent Police's Op Willow continues to raise awareness of exploitation and exploitation is also often associated with an increase in gang activity in the area. The more visible a crime becomes the more likely it is that cases may be reported. The number of sex offences may also have increased as a result of ongoing media coverage and a number of high profile historic sex offences that may have encouraged victims to come forward after many years of silence.

Strengthening Communities

Incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to Kent Police have dropped significantly, around 21%, during April 16 to March 17 when compared with the previous year. There has been further progress in multi-agency working which is likely to have assisted in reducing the number of incidents. Repeat or high level cases that cause significant use of agency resources continue to be referred to the CSP Operational Group which meets monthly. This group has allowed a joined-up approach and resolved a number of cases including neighbour disputes, issues with nuisance youths and in one case led to the discovery of cannabis growing in a tenant's property.

Interestingly the statistics suggest that incidents of anti social behaviour have migrated to Gillingham North with this ward coming top with the highest number of incidents compared with last year when Gillingham South Ward was top. This may be due to the ward boundary running along Gillingham High Street where there has been a recent hotspot for anti social behaviour. Incidents could have been placed in either Ward but it's likely due to beat codes used by Kent Police that they would be recorded in Gillingham North.

Trading Standards continue to work to protect vulnerable members of the community from scams. In the last few years they have issued over 43,000 cold calling stickers for residents to place in their front doors or windows to prevent doorstep sellers from knocking. They have also intervened in bogus doorstep transactions and within the last year this was calculated to have prevented £221,000 being handed over by residents to rogue traders. The team have adopted an innovative approach to shops who repeatedly sell illegal tobacco; six shops were closed last year and over 90,000 cigarettes seized.

Trading Standards have also provided a hotline to Medway's 16 vets to call if they have any concerns about an animal due to an increase in illegal imports, particularly of puppies. All of Medway's 24 marinas and boating clubs have also been visited and given guidance on rabies controls.

The Food Safety Team at Medway have seen levels of business compliance with food law increase with the number of broadly compliant businesses increasing from around 85% to over 97%. The team have also worked with the Council's Community Wardens to visit commercial premises to try and ensure that information held on them is accurate. This allows for better communication with local businesses and supports them to operate correctly.

Supporting Victims and Tackling Offenders of Sexual and Domestic Abuse

Kent Police in Medway now deploy a 'domestic abuse car' on a daily basis to act as first responder to incidents and crimes involving domestic abuse. Diary cars are also deployed to ensure victims receive a timely and first class service and that support can be put in place as

soon as possible. Restructuring within Kent Police has seen the creation of the VIT (Vulnerability Investigation Team) which deals with cases of domestic abuse and sexual assaults. This has also seen the creation of specialised roles for PCSO's to focus on supporting victims. The Community Policing Team deploy and undertake safe and well visits to victims of domestic abuse, ensuring compliance with Domestic Violence Protective Orders (DVPO). They also undertake checks of prison releases focussing on high risk domestic abuse offenders and supporting victims where necessary.

The Community Policing Team also takes ownership for elements of Kent Police's Control Strategy. Each member performs a single point of contact (SPOC) function in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE), human trafficking and modern day slavery. This ensures a consistent approach. The Community Safety Unit led a multi-agency day of action in relation to CSE, to identify any victims and gather intelligence in relation to vulnerable locations.

Op Unnerve is a police-led initiative specifically targeting gang related crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Resources are deployed to a concentrated area where youth crime and ASB has been occurring to disrupt and provide reassurance. Several arrests were made and the use of ASB dispersal legislation was used. This resulted in a two week period where no ASB was reported. The community felt engaged, supported and reassured.

A Medway Gang Profile has been produced by the Community Safety Partnership Analyst to provide a picture of the issues in Medway. Ongoing work includes mapping of those involved in this activity and hotspot locations to allow for targeted early intervention work. This issue is also included within the Serious Organised Crime Partnership meetings to ensure a multi agency approach. These meetings also include Organised Crime Groups, with a partnership approach to explore targeting and disruption opportunities.

In relation to hate crime the Police Community Liaison Officer is tasked to make direct contact with victims of hate crime to provide support and reassurance. Eight third party reporting hubs have been launched to allow people to report incidents in their local community and to act as a place of safety. Training has already been delivered to seven venues who agreed to facilitate this. This will provide an accessible outlet for victims to report incidents with confidence.

Tackling the Harm Caused by Substance Misuse

Over the last two years there has been an increase in the proportion of clients successfully completing treatment and we have begun to see a decline in the proportion of those clients who re-present to treatment within six months. However, proportions of representations are still higher than for comparator areas. A new clinical lead within the drug service introduced a more vigorous treatment pathway which moved away from the previous 'script and go' and required clients to make more of a commitment to their treatment as well as treating them more holistically (for example supporting COPD and Hepatitis C clinics).

A number of partners including Kent Police and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have reported high levels of opiate and other drugs, such as pregablin, being prescribed within primary care. The Police have also highlighted that they are finding prescribed medications being dealt on the streets. Partners have been working collaboratively to reduce the levels of prescribing of particular identified medications.

During the winter of 2016 there was an increase in media coverage around the issue of homelessness and the deaths of two men sleeping rough in Chatham. These deaths were both drug related rather than a direct result of being homeless. Since then a Drug Related Death Panel has been established which works in a multi-agency way to learn from drug related deaths and improve systems and treatment. As a result of this Panel, Naloxone is widely available in Medway. Naloxone is used to treat a narcotic overdose in an emergency situation as well as being used to block or reverse the effects of opioid drugs such as drowsiness and slowed breathing.

Reducing Re-offending

Investment in joint work between Kent Police, KSS CRC, National Probation Service and other partners has taken place to develop Integrated Offender Management (IOM) to provide robust multi agency management of those at high risk of re-offending. This provides a joined up approach to reducing reoffending.

The Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) 2014 which came into full force on 1st February 2015 extended supervision to all offenders released from short prison sentences of less than 12 months. This means that any person whose offence was committed on or after 1st February 2015, who is sentenced to a custodial term of more than 1 day and is 18 years old or over when released, now receives Through the Gate resettlement and post release supervision. This has resulted in the caseload increasing by approximately 15%, seeing the proportion of the service users in custody reducing by nearly 25% but those on post release licence / post sentence supervision increasing by nearly 35%.

KSS CRC has identified key areas of service user need, which include housing, employment and finance. Housing is particularly high on the agenda given the increased focus on homelessness in Medway. 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. Housing support for offenders can resolve a number of issues, from reducing the likelihood of reoffending to also reducing the number of homeless individuals on the streets.

Education is extremely important as it can open doorways to more employment opportunities and this can often prevent reoffending.

KSS CRC is expanding its pool of volunteers and peer mentors to provide wrap around support. Additionally, we work closely with the Service User Council to gain direct feedback from service users and explore ways of improving the effectiveness of the services provided.

Commitment to Safeguarding and Improving Services

Since the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in London, KFRS have been working on a targeted inspection programme of high rise buildings across Kent and Medway. These inspections formed a high rise reassurance campaign intended to carry out public reassurance, carry out audits and ensure up to date information is held. In one particular tower block in Medway, KFRS liaised through the Community Safety Partnership to highlight concerns around fire safety and through discussion with the responsible party improvements were made and tenants advised of what they needed to do to ensure safety. Issues with waste disposal at the block also raised concerns of fire risk but this issue was resolved by Medway Council's enforcement team.

In response to the rise in road traffic collisions KFRS have carried out a targeted promotion of the road safety experience in schools as well as during events at shopping centres and community days. This is in addition to the regular programme of RTC prevention work such as Licence to Kill, fire bike events and targeted campaigns.

Collaboration between KFRS and Kent Police continues on Predpol (Predictive Policing) activities KFRS 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. Identified issues are discussed through daily contact with CSU and other partners. These daily contacts allow for a quicker sharing of information on issues such as fly tipping which may have been set alight to concerns around parking and getting a pump through certain areas.

Home safety and the safety of vulnerable people remains a priority for KFRS so although there has not been a significant change in activity levels, considerable prevention work is continuously carried out. KFRS have, over the last year, been using Exeter data which has been provided by the NHS. This data has allowed them to target the most vulnerable members of the community. Visits have also been organised after an incident has occurred to provide further reassurance for the victim. KFRS are also engaging in the Medway pilot to target social isolation and are actively participating in the social isolation strategy group.

Emerging Themes

Gang activity remains an emerging issue with an apparent increase in related incidents. The Medway Profile has shown that it is not just 'county lines' that are of concern in Medway but the emergence of Medway-based youth groups such as C4. There would also appear to be a second such group, G10 operating in Gillingham, and work is ongoing to establish how many members are involved and how organised they are. Medway is seeing cases of young people becoming involved in money laundering, particularly at local Colleges. This is an easy way to make quick money which makes it appealing to students. Work is ongoing to identify vulnerable areas such as vulnerable adults and areas where young people live or socialise.

KFRS have noted an increase in vehicle and rubbish fires over the last year but this trend is not unique to Medway. Rubbish and outdoor fires are heavily influenced by weather conditions and long spells of dry weather often results in an increase in activity. There has also been a notable increase in Medway of Road Traffic Collisions and work is ongoing to increase education using the Road Safety Experience at Rochester Fire Station.

Several emerging issues have been identified by Trading Standards. With the introduction of legal controls on allergens, we are seeing retailers and caterers being obliged to comply with strict requirements relating to the presence of specified allergens and controlling cross-contamination. Failures to adopt compliant working practices have led to tragic deaths nationally, and prosecutions for corporate manslaughter.

With a global market place and cheap importation of goods we are seeing an increase in unsafe or untested goods within Medway. These products are normally found at retailers in the cheaper end of the market, whose customers tend to come from areas of social deprivation putting them at a higher risk of the consequences. If legitimate goods are harder to come by there may be an increase in goods being brought into the Country illegally.

Water safety has emerged as a key theme in Medway. The Safe and Dry campaign is run by the Kent Search and Rescue Team with Medway Council and Kent County Council. It is an alcohol related drowning risk awareness campaign. Teams have visited the Student Hub at Chatham Maritime to help spread the message about the risks of drinking alcohol and ensuring you have a safe way of getting home after a night out avoiding the dangers of falling into the River Medway. Leaflets and bar mats with the campaign information have also been distributed into local pubs and clubs in Rochester.

Listening to the Public

Medway Community Safety Partnership has attended 40 community engagement events throughout the year. At these events we are able to communicate directly with the local community and they can advise us of any issues they have or they feel are an issue in Medway in general. This year we have seen a much more joined up approach, particularly with colleagues in Public Health. We have been able to tie healthy eating, the stop smoking service and other Health teams into our events as well as liaising with the Park Sport team to identify target hotspots for youth engagement. This means we are able to reach more people from different age groups and backgrounds and makes sure more voices are heard. This is something that we will continue to build on now that these good partnership links have been made.

The CSP has also been working with Medway Council's Housing Team on community engagement events in local neighbourhoods. These included a 'Big Lunch' event where local residents were invited to bring their children along to the local community centre to take part in various activities such as painting, crafts and dance. This was run along side a Park Sport event on the neighbouring field which allowed young people to take part in various activities including football, archery and tennis. These events also involve various stalls where residents can get further information on various agencies and the services and support they offer.

A CSP Consultation Event took place on the 3rd October 2017, with a theme of Homelessness and Begging. The event gave those from various organisations, charities and statutory bodies an opportunity to discuss their main issues of concern around homelessness and begging. There was also an opportunity for questions and feedback which helps the CSP to focus its attention and resources on the matters that really affect the community. As a direct result of this consultation event Homelessness will be added as a theme under the Strengthening Communities priority.

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 2016- March 17, Control Strategy.
- Kent Police Medway Ward Profile
- Medway Community Safety Partnership Gang Profile
- Medway Council – Database systems, Confirm and M3
- Medway Council – Public Health
- Medway Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehab Company
- Kent and Medway Action Plan – Domestic Violence Statistics
- Local Government Association – LG Inform Database
- Public Health England – Local Health, www.localhealth.org.uk