

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**20 FEBRUARY 2018**

### **STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2016 to 2020**

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#### **Summary**

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are under a duty to undertake an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder in their area and formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse, and reduce re-offending.

This report presents the current strategic assessment and the Community Safety 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 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 aims are 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 The Community Safety Plan was adopted by full Council on 21 July 2016.
- 2.2 The CSP has conducted its annual 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 last scrutiny of the partnership, including scrutiny of the strategic assessment and Community Safety Plan, was last carried out in December 2017. The Committee:
- a) Noted the findings of the strategic assessment;
  - b) Supported, in the light of the strategic assessment findings, that the Community Safety Plan priorities should remain unchanged;
  - c) Noted that the Action Plan reflects some new and emerging issues contained within the Strategic Assessment.
- 2.4 The assessment is appended at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.5 The Community Safety Plan for 2016 to 2020 is appended at Appendix 2 to this report. The plan contains five priorities:
- 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
- 2.6 These priorities are discussed in more detail below.

## **3. Options**

- 3.1 A protocol is in place to encourage the sharing of assessments and plans, so as to foster improved strategic alignment amongst the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Boards and the CSP. Board members' comments are sought on the strategic assessment and Community Safety Plan, to inform future assessments and plan priorities.

#### **4. Advice and analysis**

4.1 There are clear linkages between health and community safety and a range of areas of congruence where health and wellbeing and community safety players can make strong common cause, such as:

- Drugs and alcohol
- Domestic abuse
- Mental health
- Tobacco control
- Health of ex-offenders and their families
- Troubled families
- Hate crime and vulnerable people

4.2 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.

4.3 This physical regeneration will only be successful if people feel that they and their families are safe. Safety is a key factor in encouraging people to take exercise, especially for children and older people. Taking regular exercise has clear health benefits, including limiting obesity, heart health, reducing the onset of diabetes, promoting a sense of wellbeing and protecting older people from depression.

4.4 The priorities are as follows:

#### **4.5 Strengthening communities**

4.6 There continues to 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.

4.7 Programmes to support this priority are being developed:

- Reducing ASB and envirocrime;
- Preventing radicalisation;
- Supporting a safe night time economy;
- Working with partners and the voluntary sector to reduce homelessness and begging;
- Safer cycling.

4.8 This priority will be led by Medway Council.

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

4.10 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.

4.11 Programmes to support this priority are being developed:

- Tackling domestic abuse;
- Tackling child sexual exploitation;

- Tackling human trafficking;
- Tackling hate crime;
- Combatting youth gang violence.

4.12 This priority will be led by Kent Police.

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

4.14 People who misuse drugs, alcohol or other substances cause considerable harm to themselves and to society. This includes harm to their own 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 efforts to reduce smoking and makes it easier for young people to start smoking.

4.15 Programmes to support this priority are being developed:

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

4.16 This priority will be led by Medway Council.

#### **4.17 Reducing reoffending**

4.18 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 re-offending.

4.19 Programmes to support this priority are being developed:

- 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 re-offending;
- Continue to deliver the Community Payback to service users subject to community orders and post sentence supervision.

4.20 This priority will be led by KSS CRC.

#### **4.21 Commitment to safeguarding, and improving services**

4.22 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.

4.23 Programmes to support this priority are being developed:

- Increase education using the Road Safety Experience;
- Addressing vulnerabilities in partnership with Trading Standards;
- Partners working together to improve awareness of water safety.

4.24 This priority will be led by KFRS.

4.25 It is envisaged that 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 mental health and substance abuse. The priority leads will be developing action plans for each workstream and be accountable to the CSP executive group.

## 5. Risk management

5.1 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

## 6. Consultation

6.1 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. This year a total of 40 events were attended. A stakeholder engagement event with elected Members and representative community groups was undertaken on 3 October 2017, with a focus on homelessness and begging. There was significant support to include these issues in the Action Plan.

## **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1 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 2018-19 the amount allocated to Medway CSP is £106,460.

## **8. Legal implications**

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

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 The Board is invited to note the strategic assessment and to make any comments or recommendations to the Partnership in that regard.
- 9.2 The Board is requested to note that as a Policy Framework document the Community Safety Plan was adopted by Full Council on 21 July 2016. The comments of this Board are invited.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Strategic Assessment 2017-18  
Appendix 2 - Community Safety Plan 2016 to 2020

## **Background papers**

None