

Community Safety Plan 2016 - 2020

Introduction

We want Medway to be a great place to live, learn, work and visit. As part of a 20-year regeneration programme lasting until 2026, Medway has embarked upon a huge transformation in terms of its physical environment, its communities and its economy.

Medway is the largest urban area in the south east outside London, with great connections to the capital and Europe. Medway is at the heart of the Thames Gateway, only 30 miles from central London, with frequent high-speed trains linking Medway to London's St Pancras International in just 35 minutes. Being just 40 miles from Dover and Folkestone, there are excellent links to the Channel ports and Eurotunnel; Paris is just over three hours away by train.

The creation of cohesive and sustainable communities is important for Medway with an expected 29,000 new homes to be built in the coming years. It is clear that benefits from growth must be delivered to existing communities and new developments and residents must be effectively integrated.

The focus of Medway's exciting regeneration programme is on economic growth, community infrastructure, cultural and waterfront projects. Medway has embarked upon a huge transformation of its physical environment, its communities and its economy. The first phase involves £120 million of urban and brownfield regeneration along the river Medway. Rochester Riverside is a 32-hectare site being transformed to create a community of 1,500 homes, a primary school, shops and leisure facilities as well as a new Rochester Railway Station. The Chatham Waters development is transforming part of the former Royal Naval dockyard to create a 'waterfront boulevard' making the most of the riverside views.

This physical regeneration will only be successful if people feel that they and their families are safe. This Medway Community Safety Plan is a rolling four-year document, which explains how the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) plans to tackle community safety issues that matter to Medway's diverse communities. This plan is reviewed on an annual basis, using information provided by a wide range of organisations and captured in a strategic assessment, to ensure that current and emerging concerns can be taken into account by the CSP.

Councillor Adrian Gulvin

Chair Medway CSP

Portfolio Holder for Resources



Background to the CSP

Medway CSP is a statutory body bringing together a number of public sector agencies, known as responsible authorities, to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reducing reoffending. The responsible authorities are Medway Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS), Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (probation services) and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). These statutory partners work with other organisations, agencies and community sector organisations within the framework of the CSP to deal with community safety issues.

The CSP and Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) are under a mutual duty to cooperate with each other and to take account of the other's priorities.

The operation of the CSP is subject to annual scrutiny by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Medway Council.

Summary of progress against previous plan priorities

| Priority | What we have been doing |
|---|---|
| Tackle drug and alcohol abuse | <p>We have commissioned an integrated drug and alcohol service with a focus on the recovery of people from drug and alcohol dependence</p> <p>Commissioned alcohol liaison pilot service at hospital to identify and support those people whose drinking levels are causing them to frequently attend</p> <p>The total number of staff trained to deliver alcohol identification and brief advice interventions for the year was 264, surpassing the target of 100. Services to have received training include: Sexual Health Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) services, foundation Doctors, Ministry of Defence health staff, supported housing charity staff, health visitors, social care, GPs and pharmacists.</p> <p>Six schools engaged in Assist (smoking prevention programme) and new staff trained up to deliver the programme, surpassing the target of 4 schools.</p> |
| Tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and envirocrime | <p>Exceeded the target of a 5% reduction in repeat victims of ASB.</p> <p>100% of repeat ASB offender's families screened for nomination into the Medway Action for Families Programme (MAfF).</p> <p>83% of fly tipping incidents cleared by the next working day (target 75%)</p> <p>A reduction in the number of environmental crimes reported.</p> |

| Priority | What we have been doing |
|--|---|
| Reduce reoffending | <p>82% of adult offenders successfully completed community orders and licenses (target 70%)</p> <p>89% of adult offenders in suitable accommodation (target 60%)</p> <p>Reduced the number of young offenders that re-offend within 6 months of completing their intervention to 31%, target <50% (Q4, 2014-15)</p> |
| Tackle domestic abuse | <p>Delivered domestic abuse awareness training to multi agency practitioners.</p> <p>A reduction in repeat victimisation rate for those identified at higher risk of harm.</p> <p>Significant increase in the percentage of clients where risk has been reduced as a result of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) intervention</p> <p>Medway's successfully becoming a White Ribbon Authority – a national campaign championed by men, working to end violence against women.</p> |
| Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions. | <p>On target to achieve a 40% reduction in killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties</p> <p>'Licence to Kill' road safety experience delivered to 80% of year 12 students.</p> <p>Exceeded target to deliver multi-agency motor bikes/bicycle campaigns targeted to raise awareness to drivers.</p> <p>A number of joint initiatives of partner agencies working collectively to raise awareness of the impact of irresponsible parking outside schools.</p> |

Strategic drivers

From the 1st July 2015 many public bodies have a statutory duty to consider the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism through the Prevent duty under Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. These Responsible Authorities must assess the risk of residents being drawn into terrorism, develop an action plan to reduce the risk and train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism. There is also a requirement to ensure that people at risk of being drawn into terrorism are supported to reduce that risk.

The reporting of hate crime is improving, but is still believed to be under-reported with over 50% of hate crimes not coming to the attention of the police. Hate crime can cause tension within communities and can contribute to making people feel unsafe. Hate crimes have increased nationally by 18% in the period 2014-15, with 82% of hate crimes being race related (Home Office Statistical Bulletin, October 2015). Work must continue to improve reporting.

An emerging issue for KFRS is the settling migrant communities from Eastern Europe, which are impacting on their home safety services. Door knocking and Street Week interventions have been used in past as well as a targeted approach being used to target these families. A multi-agency approach to identify communities that may include those who are at higher risk of both committing and being a victim of crime will be required.

Modern slavery, in particular human trafficking, is an international problem and victims may have entered the United Kingdom legally, illegally on forged documentation or clandestinely, or they may be British citizens living in the United Kingdom. Modern slavery takes a number of forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude, and victims come from all walks of life. With the growing crisis of displaced refugees arriving in Europe and travelling to the UK there is concern that cases of human trafficking, smuggling and modern slavery may increase in Medway. Nationally, in 2014, there was a 34% increase in potential victims of trafficking on the previous year (Figures available at www.unseenuk.org). Further concern is that some of those were children. This is an emerging area of work, which has recently been brought to the attention of public agencies.

A range of recent reports, widespread national media coverage and criminal trials in Oxfordshire, Derby, Rochdale and Rotherham have highlighted high profile cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE), reaching back over a number of decades. This abuse is often hidden and preys on the most vulnerable in our society. Children and young people who are sexually exploited are subject to significant long-term risks to their physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing, as well as upon their families and wider communities.

The extent of human trafficking and CSE in Medway is not yet fully known, however work has recently been commissioned by Kent Police to develop multi agency actions to begin to tackle these issues and raise greater awareness of the issue amongst members of the public and practitioners.

We also know that young people who are drawn into gang violence, whether as a victim, perpetrator or both, are subject to a wide range of risk factors, including sexual abuse, that need a tailored response. We know that gangs look and operate differently in different areas and there is no single approach that will work in all cases. The success of Operation Trident in London has led to a number of individuals and families with links to gangs being relocated out of London boroughs.

Kent Police have also highlighted gang networks as an emerging theme with an increase in cross border criminality and people travelling out of London to deal drugs. There are no perceived problems with organised criminal groups in Medway, but there is some evidence of emerging low level gang activity. In 2016 Medway engaged with a Home Office Ending Gangs and Youth Violence peer review, and partners are working on improving data sharing between agencies to help address issues related to this.

Recent operations by Medway Trading Standards in partnership with Public Health have resulted, in one case alone, £60,000 of illegal cigarettes and tobacco being seized. Sellers of illegal products often target children and vulnerable adults to buy and sell these products, and can often be part of organised crime, which is involved in other criminality. Sales of illegal products affect honest retailers, to the detriment of Medway's retail economy.

Medway, in common with many urban areas, has a number of resistant substance misusers, with about half engaging in treatment programmes. It is an aging group; increasingly users are over 35. A recent Office of National Statistics (ONS) report on the numbers of drug related deaths in the country reported a 17% increase during 2012-14, particularly amongst opiate users. Medway has also seen a rise in this area, with the Public Health team introducing a more robust reporting process and improved responses to reported deaths in 2015, including the formation of the Medway Drug Related Death Panel. The CSP will continue to work to reduce substance misuse.

In terms of alcohol abuse, 39% of persons starting treatment in Medway completed it; however the numbers accessing treatment (298 in 2014-15) is still very low. Medway has avoided the national trend of 7% drop in numbers but there are estimates that 10,500 adults in Medway are at high risk of experiencing problems through their alcohol use. Led by Public Health, the CSP is running Alcohol Concern's Blue Light project, which is a national initiative to develop alternative approaches and care pathways for treatment resistant drinkers who place a burden on public services. It has challenged the traditional approach by showing that there are positive strategies that can be used with this client group. Partners believe these strategies will enable Medway agencies to offer a coherent and planned approach to engaging and retaining adults with complex needs in appropriate services.

The number of domestic abuse (DA) incidents increased by nearly 8% in the period April 2014 - March 2015 when compared with the previous financial year. When looking at the longer term the number of incidents compared with April 2012-March 2013 has increased by 17%. It is highly likely that these figures have increased due to an increase in the reporting of such incidents and also due to changes in the recording of such crimes rather than due to an increase in the overall prevalence rate. There has also been a significant focus on promoting services for victims of DA, which has been driven by Medway having its own Domestic Abuse Coordinator.

In 2014 the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) issued guidelines around domestic abuse multi-agency working. This was produced for health services, social care and organisations who can respond effectively to domestic abuse. There are 17 recommendations that the guidance explores for improving the response and Medway Council are taking this forward with recommendations across all partners to ensure a consistent response.

The Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme has brought about significant changes to the Probation Service, notably the creation of the National Probation Service delivering services for high risk and other offenders and Community Rehabilitation Companies delivering probation services for medium and low risk offenders. The primary focus of KSS CRC is to reduce reoffending by delivering rehabilitation services that help people to help themselves. With effect from May 2015 this has included working with adult offenders sentenced to prison sentences of under 12 months, who were previously released without supervision on licence.

Reported incidents of ASB in Medway in 2014-15 decreased by 2.5% from the previous year and are down 14% since 2012-13. This is a very encouraging statistic that reflects the good work of partner agencies. However, reports of ASB still comprise the highest volume of complaints from our residents and tackling it remains a priority to our communities and the partnership.

The top five wards reporting ASB in 2014-15 were:

- River 980 reports
- Gillingham South 955 reports
- Gillingham North 934 reports
- Luton and Wayfield 809 reports
- Chatham Central 801 reports

These Wards account for 48% of the total number of reported incidents in Medway.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 brought in new provisions and powers relating to ASB. The Act implements measures that aim to:

- focus the response to ASB on the needs of victims;
- empower communities to get involved in tackling ASB;
- ensure professionals have access to fast, effective powers to protect the public; and
- speed up the eviction of the most anti-social tenants.

The provisions in the Act consolidate 19 existing antisocial behaviour powers into six new and more flexible powers. These new powers came into effect on 20 October 2014. The use of these new powers will allow the Council, together with its partners, to tackle ASB more effectively.

Since 2010, central government funding for public services has been declining as the Government tackles the spending deficit. CSP partners will receive significantly less

funding from central government than has historically been the case. This means that now, more than ever, effective partnership working is essential to improve efficiency, economy and effectiveness. A key role of CSPs is to improve outcomes for communities and make sure that local resources are used well. Where we can work together, we will prevent duplication, reduce costs and tackle issues through joined-up problem-solving approaches. The CSP is not complacent and will continue to strive to find new and innovative ways to tackle criminality within Medway, and ensure that positive messages are communicated to the community.

What the public tells us

Residents' consultation surveys are provided at a number of community engagement events to give us the opportunity to establish the issues that most concern Medway residents. The Medway Citizens Panel, which is made up of a representative sample of Medway's residents, is also another source of public opinion.

Key Findings

From our research:

- Over two thirds (67%) of residents feel safe in Medway.
- People aged 25-34 of the group as a whole are twice as likely to feel unsafe than any other age group, (28% compared to 12%).
- The most frequently cited issues were related to ASB with 'people dropping litter', people driving carelessly, people not clearing away dog fouling, people being drunk or rowdy in public places and fly tipping seen as the biggest problems in Medway.

Less than a fifth of respondents to the Citizens' Panel felt more serious criminal offences were a problem.

Overall both the Citizen's Panel and the consultation surveys from various events revealed the same top 5 issues that residents felt should be addressed.

- People not clearing away dog fouling (57%)
- People using or dealing drugs (57%)
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places (52%)
- People dropping litter (51.5%)
- People driving carelessly or too fast (51%)

Public Consultation Event

The CSP held a public consultation event at The Corn Exchange in Rochester, where feedback was sought on community safety, below is a summary of the key issues that were raised:

- 94% felt safe during the day
- 47% felt safe during the evening, with 25% stated they neither felt safe nor unsafe.

When asked what the most important issue the CSP should be addressing, in order they were:

1. People using or dealing drugs (24%)
2. Violent crime (14%)
3. Domestic abuse (14%)

The following issues were felt to be important to those attending:

- Tackling the root causes of ASB as well as more work on prevention.
- Tackling gang migration before it became a big issue and that it may be useful to tie this issue to organised crime.
- Tackling hate crime.
- Tackling harm caused by substance misuse and dealing with drug dealing in public places.
- Providing better education to young people on the harm substance abuse causes with education around legal highs as an emerging theme.
- In relation to reducing reoffending as a priority a number of attendees felt that better education and the creation of opportunities to become employable would help reduce reoffending particularly in young people. Many also felt that greater use could be made of local community groups to help and support the reintegration of offenders into the community.
- Better communication with the public – especially in rural areas.
- Addressing issues surrounding parenting by providing education as well as community support. Many attendees felt that the various faith groups played a vital role in bringing the community together.

It was also stated that there is a lot of negativity in the media and it would be good to spread good news stories and use social media platforms to communicate with the public.

Whilst most were supportive of the priorities identified by the Partnership, concerns were raised about whether the resources were available to achieve the goals set out.

Our Priorities

Stemming from our annual review and strategic assessment, and following public consultation, we have identified five priorities for 2016-20:

Strengthening communities

There will be an emphasis on bringing communities together. We want to ensure that Medway is a place in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities. Programmes include:

- Reducing ASB and envirocrime
- Preventing radicalisation
- Supporting a safe night time economy

Although the number of incidents of ASB has declined it continues to be a volume issue and has been identified by residents as a priority. It affects both day and night time economies, which will support feelings of safety as the regeneration of Medway continues. 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 partner agencies to come together to tackle this issue.

Supporting victims and tackling offenders of sexual and domestic abuse

We 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. Programmes include:

- Tackling domestic abuse
- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- Tackling human trafficking
- Tackling hate crime

- Combating youth gang violence

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, which have both been identified as growing trends nationally.

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.

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

People who misuse drugs, alcohol or other substances cause considerable harm to themselves and to society. This includes harm to their 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 ASB associated with substance misuse. Availability of cheap illicit tobacco undermines our efforts to reduce the prevalence of smoking in Medway and makes it easier for young people to start smoking.

Programmes include:

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

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 reoffending

Bringing offenders to justice cannot be truly effective if these same individuals continue to offend, creating more victims. 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 change a person's pattern of behaviour. With some 90% of those sentenced in England and Wales in 2011 having offended before, many people are locked in a cycle of reoffending. Priorities include:

- Delivering rehabilitation services that enable individuals to aspire, achieve and make sustainable changes to their lives.
- Delivering individual and group based interventions including domestic abuse perpetrator programmes.
- Delivering intensive multi agency interventions aimed at those most at risk of reoffending.
- Delivering Community Payback that benefits the local community and enables service users acquire new skills

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 providing the individual with the help and support that they need to steer them away from offending.

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

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. We will explore new ways of working together effectively to make the most efficient use of public resources. Workstreams will include:

- Improvements/Innovation
- Communications
- Efficiencies

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.

Priority leads

Lead officers have been assigned to each of the priorities within this Community Safety Plan. These officers will take the strategic lead for that priority. The lead officers for 2016-17 will be:

- Head of Safer Communities and Greenspaces, Medway Council – strengthening communities
- Medway Commander, Kent Police – supporting victims and tackling offenders of sexual and domestic abuse
- Director Public Health, Medway Council – tackling the harm caused by substance misuse
- Director of Rehabilitation (Interventions), Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company – tackling reoffending
- Assistant Director of Community Engagement, Kent Fire and Rescue Service – Commitment to safeguarding and improving services

The priority leads will be responsible for co-ordinating workstreams in their priority area, developing a performance framework and action plans to demonstrate successful progress and reporting up to the Strategic CSP Executive Group (SEG) on a quarterly basis, or as required by that group.

The Chair of SEG will share plans and assessments with other strategic groups, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Medway Children's Safeguarding Board and the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board. An information sharing protocol is in place to facilitate this.

Action Plan

The action plans for each of the priorities of the CSP will be appended to the plan and reviewed annually.

Glossary of terms

| | |
|----------------|--|
| ASB | Anti-Social Behaviour |
| Assist | Smoking prevention programme |
| CCTV | Closed Circuit Television |
| CCG | Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS Health) |
| CSP | Community Safety Partnership |
| DA | Domestic Abuse |
| GP | General Practitioner (doctor) |
| GUM | Genitourinary Medicine |
| IDVA | Independent Domestic Violence Advisor |
| ISVA | Independent Sexual Violence Advisor |
| KFRS | Kent Fire and Rescue Service |
| KSS CRC | Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company |
| MAfF | Medway Action for Families Programme |
| MARAC | Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference |
| NHS | National Health Service |
| NICE | National Institute for Health and Care Excellence |
| ONS | Office for National Statistics |
| PACT | Partners and Communities Together |
| PCC | Police and Crime Commissioner |
| SEG | Strategic Executive Group |
| YOT | Youth Offending Team |