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REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 DECEMBER 2018

ATTENDANCE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR RESOURCES

Report from: Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gulvin

Summary

This report sets out progress made within the areas covered by the Portfolio Holder for Resources which fall within the remit of this Committee.

1. Background

1.1 The areas within the terms of reference of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered by the Portfolio Holder for Resources Corporate Services are:

- Community Safety Partnership

Note: The following services fall within the Resources Portfolio, in relation to the Community Safety Partnership:

- Tobacco control, excluding smoking cessation services
- Community safety aspects of alcohol and drug misuse
- Public health aspects of promotion of community safety, violence prevention and response.

1.2 The Community Safety Partnership is made up of the following responsible authorities –

- Medway Council
- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
- Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC)
- Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

1.3 The nature of the work of the Community Safety Partnership means that several areas of work detailed in this report although are all community safety initiatives, involve a number of different council

departments who are the responsibility of a number of Portfolio Holders.

1.4 Achievements for 2018/19 are detailed by services area below.

2. Community MARAC

2.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has set up a daily conference call with a number of agencies that takes place at 9.15am every day. The call is chaired by the Community Safety Manager and supported by Kent Police, Community Wardens, Medway Council Housing, and all 3 full time KFRS Stations (Medway, Strood and Rochester). This is to discuss immediate issues of concern over the previous 24 hours and allocate resources to address them.

2.2 In the last year 145 different issues have been discussed during this conference call leading to the issues being dealt with and resolved quickly.

2.3 The CSP Operational Group has been reviewed during the year with the process changing to Community MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference). Community MARACs developed in London where it was found that even the use of the term 'MARAC' encouraged higher levels of professionalism which enabled local agencies to better engage and improve understanding of each other's specific roles and responsibilities in relation to how cases are managed.

2.4 The group meets monthly and is attended by a number of agencies focussing specifically on repeat offenders, victims and locations. In the last year 83 complex issues have been addressed by this group.

3. Community Payback

3.1 The Community Safety Team continue to supply the majority of unpaid work in Medway for completion by offenders with community sentences. These are managed by the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Community Rehabilitation Company.

3.2 Over the year a total of 344 jobs were nominated by a variety of elected Members, Community Wardens, PCSOs, and the Council's Public Rights of Way (PROW) team, up from 213 in the previous period.

3.3 The majority of activities undertaken were litter picks at open spaces, for example, the Great Lines continues to be regularly litter picked. Other projects included working with a number of churches to clear and maintain overgrown graveyards and cutting vegetation back; work on public rights of way cutting back hedges, and clearing an allotment plot for a primary school to use.

4 Safe Haven

4.1 Work has taken place between the CSP and Medway Street Pastors to introduce a multi-purpose mobile street triage service capable of

delivering health, mental health, wellbeing and community safety services to the night time economy. The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has committed funding to Medway Street Pastors in order to deliver this work.

- 4.2 Medway Norse has donated a vehicle to the Medway Street Pastors with which there were some delays in completing the process of being serviced and liveried, Street Pastors are planning to have this vehicle operational in December 2018.
- 4.3 This vehicle will enable volunteers to respond to people in mental health crisis; providing a place of calm, or who need support to help them recover from the effects of alcohol.
- 4.4 It will benefit those who visit Rochester at night to enjoy themselves without fear of anti-social behaviour (ASB) or crime, as well as Rochester's business community who do not want their trade or reputation jeopardised by such behaviour and also residents who live in close proximity to the town centre.
- 4.5 In addition, proposals remain in place for Medway Street Pastors and other services to use the Safe Haven Bus during the day to offer simple health checks such as diabetes checks, and blood pressure checks on Gillingham Market days.

5 PACTs

- 5.1 There are currently 12 PACTs running in Medway, compared to 11 in 2017; often PACTs disband once their specific concerns have been addressed. However others have continued to remain active in their communities as residents' groups.
- 5.2 Community Wardens have attended a total of 32 PACT meetings at which 143 issues of public concern were raised - 91 of these (65%) were resolved by the Warden Service and the remainder were referred to other departments or partner agencies.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1 A total of 50 community engagement events have been arranged by the Community Safety Team, which were supported by wider Safer Communities' staff and partner agencies at a variety of locations in both urban and rural parts of Medway, including Community Hubs and Residents Groups/Associations, Dementia Groups and High Street Banks. Since November 2017 we have engaged with 2617 people through these events.
- 6.2 General community safety advice is given along with personal safety equipment and leaflets, where appropriate.
- 6.3 Community Wardens delivered presentations to 9 junior schools on the range of services provided by the Community Wardens. These presentations are aimed at year 6 pupils to give them a better

understanding of topics such as personal safety, good citizenship, environmental responsibility and responsible dog ownership. This programme of presentations is due to be extended to Scout groups in the coming quarter

7 Illegal Tobacco

- 7.1 The sale of illegal tobacco remains a point of concern in Medway, as for all authorities in the UK, and officers continue to challenge those caught selling counterfeit and smuggled tobacco.
- 7.2 Officers have recently made two seizures from retail premises and carried out a test purchasing exercise. The estimated value of the seized tobacco is £11,500. The sniffer dogs revealed quantities of illegal tobacco in concealed compartments and hidden in motor vehicles adjacent to the shops.
- 7.3 The seizures are subject to ongoing investigations against the retailers. Officers are also engaging with the landlords of the properties about the potential offence of money laundering.
- 7.4 The service has a pending criminal case against a local retailer listed for a hearing in January 2019.

8 Age Restricted Goods

- 8.1 The Trading Standards Team continues to advise local businesses on the assorted age restricted product controls they regulate. Training packages and bespoke advice are provided to local traders to enable them to train their staff on good practice.
- 8.2 The team also carries out test purchasing surveys with the assistance of local volunteers checking the availability of age restricted products to under age persons, recent exercises have covered fireworks, knives, tobacco and alcohol. Two traders were warned in these exercises and are subject to re-inspection.

9 Strategic Community Safety Approach

- 9.1 A strategic approach has been adopted to ensure the CSP is closely aligned with the ambitions of Medway as a great place to live, work, learn and visit.
- 9.2 The strategic assessment reviewed our existing priorities and has confirmed that we meet our statutory obligations as a partnership, reflecting the priorities of our partner agencies in delivering a safer Medway, and supporting sustainable regeneration.
- 9.3 The CSP has amended the Action Plan to become more focused on achieving specific aims and objectives by stating what we aim to do in the coming year, rather than focusing on numerical targets.

10 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

- 10.1 Legislation introduced by the Government in 2014 gave local authorities more freedom and flexibility to control ASB in places to which the public has access.
- 10.2 PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from ASB.
- 10.3 Medway Councils newly created ASB Team (see note 24) will consider PSPOs as part of the tools they can use to tackle ASB.
- 10.4 The Designated Public Places Orders DPPOs or Alcohol Control Zones in Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Strood remain in place.

11 Prevent

- 11.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced the 'Prevent Duty', which requires local authorities, and other specific bodies, to act to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. All specified bodies are required to have 'due regard' to the duty in the following areas: awareness of the risks of terrorism; leadership; working in partnership; staff capabilities and sharing information.
- 11.2 The Corporate Management Team acts as the strategic Prevent Panel, with a subgroup of the CSP discharging the tactical and operational tasks, chaired by the Community Safety Manager and supported by cross-Council participation.
- 11.3 In addition a multi-agency Prevent Board is in place, chaired by the Community Safety Manager. The duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism applies to Local Authorities and other specific named bodies: education and child care providers, further education and higher education institutions, the health sector, criminal justice commissioned penal institutions and providers, and the Police.
- 11.4 The board's role is to agree levels of risk and coordinate Prevent activity across Medway. A number of e-learning training packages are available which have been rolled out to front line staff, as well as a planned training day in partnership with the Medway Safeguarding Children's Board and KSS CRC.
- 11.5 The Community Safety Manager is also a member of Kent County Council's Prevent Panel, ensuring a regular dialogue to share best practice.

12 Channel Panel

- 12.1 Channel is an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremist or

terrorist behaviour. Channel works in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at protecting vulnerable people.

- 12.2 Medway's Channel Panel is chaired by the Community Safety Manager and brings together a range of multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk and can decide whether a support package is needed. If the group feels the person would be suitable for Channel, it will look to develop a package of support that is bespoke to the person. The partnership approach ensures those with specific knowledge and expertise around the vulnerabilities of those at risk are able to work together to provide the best support.
- 12.3 Anyone can make a referral. Referrals come from a wide range of partners including those from education, health, Youth Offending Team, police and social services. There have been 4 referrals onto Channel this year.

13 Serious and Organised Crime Partnership (SOCP)

- 13.1 The SOCP continues to meet with the aim of being instrumental in providing an effective local response to the issue of serious and organised crime and gang related issues in Medway. This is vice-Chaired by the Community Safety Manager.
- 13.2 The multi-agency group develops and implements plans using the '4 P' model of Prepare, Pursue, Prevent and Protect to target known gangs, to disrupt and dismantle the criminality, as well as to work with partner agencies to raise awareness of organised crime and its negative impact on individuals, communities and the local economy.
- 13.3 The SOCP incorporates Modern Day Slavery, Human Trafficking, Missing Persons and Human Trafficking and works closely with the MASE (Child Sexual Exploitation).
- 13.4 The SOCP also works with partner agencies to develop techniques to deter people (particularly young people) from being drawn into serious and organised criminality.

14 Community Clear Ups

- 14.1 Community Wardens organised 41 Community Clean-ups, 21 of which were done as part of the national Spring Clean campaign. A total of 165 members of the public took part in these events, as well as 31 elected Members. A total of 285 black sacks of litter were collected and removed, weighing in at just over 1 tonne. The Community Wardens were also involved in 91 Litter Picks with the local community.

15 Offensive or Hazardous Litter

- 15.1 Community Wardens patrol known hotspots every morning to remove offensive or hazardous litter. Since the last report, they have removed 1206 items of drug related litter including needles, and 271 items of sex related litter. Intelligence is passed to Kent Police through the

Community Safety Team and also to service providers such as Turning Point so that outreach work can be undertaken.

16 Blue Light Project

- 16.1 The Medway Blue Light Project is an innovative multi agency approach, facilitated by Medway Public Health Department (in partnership with Alcohol Concern), to inform joint interventions aimed at adult substance misusers with complex needs and with a history of poor engagement with services. The cohort is also characterised by ongoing involvement in ASB in Medway's communities.
- 16.2 The Blue Light project continues to meet monthly and has representatives from the following organisations: Medway Council Social Care; Medway Council Housing; Medway Public Health; Anti-social Behaviour Officers; Kent Police; Medway CRC; National Probation Service; AMAT; Pathways to Independence Ltd; Riverside Housing; Turning Point; Forward Trust (Prisons); Open Road; One Big Family and Caring Hands.
- 16.3 The operating procedures have been updated in line with the recent GDPR legislation and partners have signed up to the new Kent and Medway Information Sharing agreement.
- 16.4 There are currently 22 individuals on the list who face severe and multiple disadvantage with Substance Misuse, Homelessness or Involvement in the Criminal justice system. The aim is to maintain the list at 20 individuals to ensure that adequate time can be given to sharing relevant information, creating an action plan and monitoring progress for each person. Referrals continue to be made by a range of agencies. Where an individual faces a set of very complex issues a team is set up around the individual to overcome barriers to progress and maintain momentum between the monthly meetings.
- 16.5 Outcomes from the project have included long standing individuals on the Blue Light Project list being housed and accessing drug treatment services; others have been supported to access a range of services; and in some cases others are now serving prison sentences. Due to effective partnership working, the project is able to continue its oversight of the individuals even when they are in prison and ensure they continue to be supported on release. The Blue Light Project is now linked closely to the Rough Sleeper's initiative.

17 Homelessness and Begging

- 17.1 The Blue Light Project (Section 16) works with individuals who are often homeless and those that beg.
- 17.2 Begging and Homelessness are often confused as being seen as the same issue. Although they are linked, not every beggar is homeless.
- 17.3 Many homeless people have either a drug, alcohol or mental health issue that requires support and assistance.

- 17.4 Medway Council facilitates and hosts the Medway Homelessness Forum which meets three times a year to share information and discuss key themes around homelessness as well as agreeing a collaborative response in working with homeless people. This forum is supported by ex-offenders, young people and the Rough Sleeper Task and Finish Group, which meet every two months. Outcomes from this work includes Medway Council's Homeless Charter detailing our responsibilities for assisting homeless people, developing information leaflets for rough sleepers and progressing joint working agreements between voluntary agencies and supported housing providers.
- 17.5 There are quarterly Strategic Housing meetings to ensure that our Homeless Prevention Strategy Action Plan is on track to meet our aims. Updates are provided to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, Cllr Doe and also provided at a CSP multi-agency meeting with a group of Rochester residents and retailers which meets quarterly to discuss and provide updates on issues relating to homelessness, begging and rough sleeping and what actions are currently being taken. This is led by Cllr Gulvin as Portfolio Holder for Resources.
- 17.6 The Council has continued in its approach to assist those that are Rough Sleeping in the area; in addition the number of homeless encampments has significantly reduced. Via the Community Safety Partnership and Police and Crime Commissioner, funding was achieved to contribute towards a jointly funded housing first project with the Strategic Housing Service and Public Health. In June 2018 the Council was awarded £410,000 to provide targeted initiatives for Rough Sleepers. So far, the funded initiatives have assisted 30 rough sleepers to receive an offer of accommodation and a further 8 have been re-connected to the local authority that they had originated from.

18 Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (OSS)

- 18.1 Medway's One Stop Shop (OSS), held every Tuesday morning (9.30am-12pm) at the Sunlight Centre, has been very busy and well attended by both clients and support services and providers all year.
- 18.2 There is representation and commitment from a number of multi-agency partners, including statutory and voluntary agencies such as MCH, solicitors, Home Start, Choices, SATEDA, DWP, Turning Point, Support to Court, police, Centra, NSPCC and Medway Council. The Medway Domestic Abuse Forum (MDAF) and the OSS Steering Group continues to strategically scrutinise and monitor the OSS with various accountability measures to ensure multi agency ownership. These in turn report to the Medway Domestic Abuse Subgroup (MDAS), Community Safety Partnership and the Domestic Abuse Tactical Group.
- 18.3 OSS attendance data has recently evidenced 'high' numbers of repeat visitors to the OSS and this is now being tracked and monitored with plans to address and take into account this trend. Attendances by

solicitors has also been monitored in these forums and a new provider has been sourced to ensure consistency from a much sought after support service for victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Gaps in other service providers has also been explored, with a plan in place to ensure Early Help now has a presence at the OSS and that Victim Support services are utilized more proactively.

- 18.4 The OSS Operating Procedures have also been reviewed and updated to take into account GDPR guidance and all partners have read and signed copies to continue to increase ownership and clarity of roles and responsibilities. There continues to be an effective triage and screening process in place at the OSS, with clear escalation and referral pathways to tailored support for individual clients. These include referrals for floating support, support to court, foodbank vouchers, safety planning advice and guidance, outreach support for 1:1 work, substance misuse referrals and referrals to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
- 18.5 During the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) the OSS was visited by one of the inspectors, who remarked how impressed she was with all that she had observed, heard and read about the OSS during her visit; this was later captured within the JTAI Inspection Report. The OSS remains an essential and integral service for some of the most vulnerable Medway residents and continues to provide opportunities for real positive change and impact to these residents and help prevent domestic abuse from happening.

19 Doorstep Fraud

- 19.1 The Trading Standards Team has continued to work with local banks to disrupt doorstep criminals who use building works and home improvements as vehicles for fraud. In the last twelve months, in twenty six incidents, officers have directly prevented just over £240,000 being passed over to rogue traders. Changes to the regulatory landscape have seen the team work closer in this field with Kent Police. The implementation of the national Banking Protocol sees a formal referral process for banks to use to alert Trading Standards and the Police of potential doorstep crime victims.
- 19.2 Supported by staff from the Community Safety Team, a number of high profile engagements have been held in banks to highlight the issue.
- 19.3 The team has also given advice at numerous public engagement events. At these events they have encouraged householders to declare their properties 'No Cold Calling Homes' to discourage doorstep crime, this initiative has engaged with over 54,000 local residents.

20 Park Sports

- 20.1 The Parksport project was devised as a joint venture between the Sports Participation Team at Medway Council, Kent Police and Community Safety Team to provide sporting activities to young people in areas identified as having a higher level of ASB than others across

Medway. Funding was provided by the Community Safety Partnership and was match funded by Medway Council, to provide dedicated coaches and equipment to the project.

- 20.2 The locations were chosen as they are close to areas of Medway that suffer increased incidents of ASB, particularly through the school holiday periods.
- 20.3 These locations were – Cross Park, Allhallows; Lordswood Youth Centre and Kestrel Shops; Jackson’s Fields, Rochester; Chalk Pit Open Space, Chatham; Hook Meadow, Princes Park.
- 20.4 As part of ongoing work to find new and effective ways to engage with local young people, the aim of this project was to engage with young people; continue to identify potential members for a future Youth Independent Police Advisory Group (YIPAG); disrupt potential for crime and ASB in the identified locations by engagement with local young people and providing them with activities.

21 Abandoned Vehicles

- 21.1 Community Wardens have removed 91 abandoned vehicles from the streets of Medway since the last report. Twelve vehicles were surrendered to the Council.
- 21.2 By providing intelligence to the DVLA, Community Wardens secured the clamping of 1,193 untaxed vehicles.

22 Youth Violence

- 22.1 Following a tragic death in Gillingham in October 2017, officers from the Community Safety Team, Youth Services and Medway Sports Team looked at how we could work together to take more proactive steps and work on more preventative measures, aiming to divert young people away from criminality and into positive activities. Coupled with this was a desire to give professionals training enabling them to be more aware of risks associated with knife crime. As a result a cross-departmental bid into the Home Office ‘Community Knife Crime Fund’ was submitted, with Medway being the only Local Authority in Kent to be successful in our bid for £12,000. This was complimented by a successful bid of £2,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioners fund allocated to CSPs.
- 22.2 The project was divided into two elements, the first being a number of youth sport events in various areas across Medway. These were identified through a number of different agencies intelligence, as well as carrying out analysis to assist in identifying hotspot areas for anti-social behaviour, and possible gang activity.
- 22.3 The second element of this project was to work with the Charity Growing Against Violence (GAV) to deliver a pilot project in schools and to provide 2 professional information sessions. The school pilot

included presentations to year 8 pupils about the dangers of gang association, carrying knives and joint enterprise.

- 22.4 The sports events took place for one hour on a weekly basis for 6 weeks and were attended by a number of agencies, but lead by the Youth Service and Medway Council's Sport Team. This funding bid was originally for 8 sessions but when locations were identified an additional location was deemed a high need, and this is where the additional funding was so important via the CSP.
- 22.5 The second wave was completed during the Spring at a further 4 locations and were run in the same format as the previous wave.
- 22.6 The collaborative team then worked with GAV to deliver a pilot project of 10 sessions to year 8 pupils in schools. The sessions lasted for roughly 1.5 to 2 hours and were presented to whole year groups of up to 6 classes.
- 22.7 Finally 2 professional sessions took place attended by approximately 200 people from a number of partner agencies, as well as Secondary School representation. These sessions ran for half a day and covered areas such as signs of gang involvement, knife crime and gang recruitment, as well as safeguarding.
- 22.8 Overall the feedback from the projects has been highly positive. During the sports projects we have counted attendees as well as measured the popularity of sessions. We have found that the most successful session was the one which built upon previous sessions in the same area. This suggests that the projects need to be more long term and sustainable in areas where there is good interest. Services will seek to continue in some form in those areas as much as funding and resources allows. The sessions have also allowed us to map target areas better by understanding the dynamics of where young people socialise, for examples areas of high ASB have not always been the most engaging, but by looking at where some of the young people reside and taking projects to them, we may have a better opportunity to engage them in positive behaviours.
- 22.9 The GAV sessions have proven a successful pilot in highlighting both strong points but also areas we can develop for the future. Over 2000 hours of preventative education reaching over 1000 students has been provided. In one school, 11 young people were identified as being of potential risk to gang involvement and criminality, with the Youth Service working with them in groups and mentoring them.
- 22.10 The Professional event also proved to be a success - 96% of the attendees agreed that the session met their expectations and 91% felt that it had improved their knowledge around gangs and youth violence. A clear message from the sessions was that a lot of professionals were happy they had gained knowledge but they felt that they possibly lacked the tools and information to act.

- 22.11 A total of 4 sessions were held in secondary schools with a theme of 'Keeping Safe over Summer'. These were delivered by a professional identified as being able to draw on a wealth of experience via work for Redthread (youth work charity aiming to support and enable young people in south London to lead healthy, safe and happy lives) who worked with partners to create these sessions specific for Medway.
- 22.12 The Community Safety Team are continuing to work closely with the Youth Service to ensure that those young people who are involved in some of the sports activities can continue in some capacity. Kent Police and Park Sports secured additional funding for sports projects to continue in school holidays which has been a positive development. In term time, young people are directed to local sports centres and sports sessions that are being run in the evenings after school. Sports sessions continue in two areas of Gillingham and Chatham and are currently funded up until December 2018. The local Youth Centre in Gillingham has recently been refurbished and has re-opened and able to offer various activities for young people. In the long term other funding opportunities are now being looked into.
- 22.13 One of the issues around funding is making projects sustainable and looking at ways of building and continuing the good work we have started. With this in mind we have tried to reflect on how we can continue this project with the support of other agencies for the benefit of our communities.
- 22.14 There has been a successful bid to the Home Office Knife Crime Fund by St Margaret's Church in Rainham. This will include mentor training, provision for junior school assemblies, and promotion work around CrimeStoppers Fearless Campaign for young people. The Community Safety Team have been working with the Rev Nathan Ward to ensure that there is a joined up approach, and to support his work where possible.
- 22.15 The Community Safety Team has forged a good working relationship with Islington Council, which has led to joint working on a project focussing on county lines and missing children in the coming year. This will also inform part of a Medway profile being put together by the Community Safety Team with the support of partner agencies.
- 22.16 There has also been a successful bid by Youth Services into the Police and Crime Commissioners fund allocated to the Community Safety Partnership of £20,000. This funding takes into account the work referenced in 22.14 above.
- 22.17 This bid is focussed on mental health brief interventions for young people. This will be split across the four social care areas of Medway to ensure that hours are equally distributed to meet need. Premises would be covered by Medway Council, by using existing resources and delivering alongside youth provision.
- 22.18 The provision will work with young people who either do not meet the threshold for existing CAMHS services (child and adolescent mental

health services) or where early/brief intervention could have a greater impact. Young people will be referred from both the Children and Adults Vulnerabilities Panel, which discusses support for young people at risk of child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation, as well as the Channel Panel and the Early Help Allocations Panel who support families raised to Early Help Services by schools and partners. Each area aims to work with at least 30 young people, with a total of 120 young people supported across Medway.

23 Unauthorised Encampments

- 23.1 Medway Councils Housing Team continues to deal with Illegal encampments as swiftly and effectively as possible, with the support of the Community Safety Team. Since the beginning of the year 29 encampments have been evicted from Council land.
- 23.2 Following reviews and streamlining of processes, the Council is typically dealing with encampments within five working days subject to the availability of court and bailiffs. The team will continue to review the vulnerability of sites to ensure they are less likely to suffer incursion.

24 ASB Team

- 24.1 In July 2018 Medway Council created a team of 2 Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, reporting to the Community Safety Manager. The remit of the team is to identify on-going, long-term anti-social behaviour issues and act as a hub for Medway Council colleagues and partner agencies. The team have formed close working partnerships with Kent Police and other members of the Community Safety Partnership. They have extended a holistic approach to assist housing providers and other organisations in dealing with anti-social behaviour that affects the wider community.
- 24.2 The team are using tools and powers contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. They have issued to date, a total of 118 Community Protection Warnings and 22 Community Protection Notices.
- 24.3 Two examples of work carried out by the team –
- Kent Police received numerous calls relating to ASB at a derelict nursing home. Whenever the police attended the offenders made off and remained unidentified. The premises were in a poor state of repair and posed a danger to the children involved as well as to emergency services personnel. It also posed a serious fire risk. It became apparent that to chase the individual youths involved was impractical and the real issue was the premises. The ASB Team liaised with internal and external partners who had been unable to resolve the problem. The team identified the owners of the property and served a Community Protection Warning requiring them to fully secure the premises. The owners responded but payed lip-service to the warning. However a site meeting was arranged and they were served a Community Protection Notice, which if breached and

prosecuted could have led to an unlimited fine. The owners fully secured the premises and there have been no further ASB incidents.

- Residents in a road were suffering anti-social behaviour from local youths close to their properties. The ASB Team worked with PCSOs, a local housing provider and residents to identify the offenders, who were then served with Community Protection Warnings. Although the issues at that location stopped the group moved to a local park and caused similar problems. Once again the team intervened and following notices being served the youths no longer frequent the area.

25 CCTV

- 25.1 CCTV is not a statutory requirement for local authorities, and is fully funded by Medway Council. Officers from Front Line Services are in the process of carrying out a comprehensive review into the CCTV infrastructure in its entirety.
- 25.2 The Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety Manager have now been tasked with coordinating a comprehensive review of the CCTV infrastructure, and are using information provided by MCG for this review.
- 25.3 Using a list of cameras provided by MCG each camera has been rated using a RAG (red/amber/green) rating, with red being the highest priority for repair. This system has prioritised retail areas, transport hubs and areas of the night time economy. This has been shared with Kent Police.

26 Environmental Enforcement

- 26.1 The Environmental Enforcement Team continue to work in partnership with Kent Police and neighbouring local authorities. They use Kent Police's custody suite to facilitate the interviewing of suspects in environmental crime investigations. Since 1 January 2018 the team has successfully prosecuted 24 cases with court awarding fines and costs totalling £37,403.
- 26.2 Other examples of actions taken by the team include the crushing of a seized vehicle in July 2018 which had been used in a fly-tipping offence and joint work with Maidstone Borough Council and Kent Police Rural Team resulting in further vehicle seizures.

27 Communications

- 27.1 The CSP has its own Twitter account with tweets being sent on behalf of the partnership with general community safety advice as well as messaging when and where we are holding community engagement events. The account currently has 1,298 followers.
- 27.2 Medway Council also send out a number of community safety related press releases and social media messages, varying from the Portfolio Holders role in the Police and Crime Commissioners Violence Reduction Challenge to Medway's Zero Tolerance campaign addressing sexual harassment and discrimination in the night-time economy as part of its licensing policy and a conference for foster carers to learn more about what they can do to help safeguard children.

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Appendices

None

Background documents

None