

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

16 APRIL 2019

### 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 This report covers the last year of the current CSP Plan and Action Plan; there will be a new CSP Plan from 2020.
- 1.6 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 Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the strategic assessment and Community Safety Plan on 6 December 2018. The comments of the Committee are set out at section 5 of the report.
- 2.4 Highlights on progress are contained within the strategic assessment, which is attached as Appendix 1. The Community Safety Plan for 2016 to 2020 is attached as Appendix 2, with the Action Plan attached as Appendix 3. The Kent and Medway Gangs Action Plan has been added as an appendix to the Action Plan and is appended to this document as Appendix 4.
- 2.5 The Community Safety 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. Programmes to support this priority are being developed by the responsible authorities and will be in place for April 2019 (paragraphs 4.5 to 4.25 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 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 five 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 during 2018-19 are:

- Tackling ASB;
- Preventing radicalisation;
- Supporting our Town Centres;
- Engaging with our communities.

4.8 This priority is led by Medway Council (Community Safety Team).

#### **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 during 2018-19 are:

- Tackling domestic abuse;
- Tackling child sexual exploitation;
- Tackling human trafficking;
- Tackling hate crime;
- Support Mental Health Provision;
- Combatting youth gang violence.

4.12 This priority is 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 during 2018-19 are:

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

4.16 This priority is led by Medway Council (Public Health).

#### **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.

4.19 Programmes to support this priority during 2018-19 are:

- 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 re-offending;
- Delivering Community Payback/reparation that benefits the local community and enables service users acquire new skills.

4.20 This priority is 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 during 2018-19 are:

- Communication;
- Improvement;
- Efficiencies.

4.24 This priority is led by KFRS.

4.25 Each of the priority leads is 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 for each workstream are accountable to the CSP Strategic Executive Group through quarterly reporting, as well as a 'deep dive' into one priority at each meeting.

#### **4.26 Proposal for a Medway Task Force**

4.27 The Medway Task Force is an initiative agreed as part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Violence Reduction Challenge. It has received full support from the Chief Constable who has agreed additional police resources for Medway from the increase in precept 2019-20. This agreement is based upon support provided by other partner agencies. The PCC has committed to a lead civilian officer, one Sergeant and 6 Police Constables.

4.28 The implementation of a Medway Task Force presents an excellent opportunity for effective integrated partnership working at a tactical level. The Serious Violence Strategy (2018) and the recent Children's Commissioner's report, 'Keeping kids safe, Improving safeguarding responses to gang violence and criminal exploitation' (2019) all call for a co-ordinated approach and a better joint agency understanding of the complexities surrounding the challenges of violent crime, in particular youth related violence.

4.29 The overarching aspiration of a Medway Task Force is to develop an integrated and committed partnership approach, where agency staff sit and work together in a shared space, utilising joint information sharing with a clear focus on vulnerability to ultimately reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, reduce risk to vulnerable people and improve accessibility to services. The proposal is for the Task Force to be based at Medway Council's offices at Gun Wharf.

4.30 The following agencies have already agreed to support this initiative moving forward. Some agencies will be able to provide staff on a full time basis others on either a part time or an adhoc basis. It is important for there to be a strong nucleus of staff working together: Medway Council, Medway Police, Department of Work and Pensions, Immigration Enforcement, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, South East Coast Ambulance, Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, Kent and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, HMRC, Gang Master and Labour Abuse Authority, Prison Service, Victim Support and CrimeStoppers.

## 5. **Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 6 December 2018**

- 5.1 The Chairman welcomed the partners of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to the meeting.
- 5.2 The Committee discussed the following topics:
- 5.2.1 **Crime statistics for Medway** - In response to a question concerning the 35.7% increase in the level of recorded crime in Medway, Chief Inspector Marsh informed the Committee that following a Crime Data Integrity Inspection, changes had been made to the way crimes were recorded. Where previously there would have been one crime report per incident which covered all elements, under the new procedure individual elements were required to be assigned an individual crime report. Therefore, although the number of crime incidents may not have increased, the number of crime reports related to the incidents would have increased.
- 5.2.2 In addition, as a result of recent cases in the media surrounding sexual exploitation and historic child abuse cases, this had led to an increase in the reporting of this type of crime and through the work of the various agencies involved, there had been a higher level of reporting of domestic abuse, which for many years had largely remained hidden.
- 5.2.3 Chief Inspector Marsh stated that it was likely that as the new recording procedure became established, there would be a plateau effect over the coming years.
- 5.2.4 **Levels of anti-social behaviour in Medway** – In response to the statement that the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour (ASB) continued to fall in Medway, a Member expressed concern that this decrease could be attributed to people failing to report incidents. In response, Chief Inspector Marsh confirmed that from the crime reporting received on a daily basis, he was confident that people were continuing to report incidents of ASB. He referred to the various methods by which individuals could report crimes.
- 5.2.5 **ASB Team** – A Member paid tribute to the work of the Council's ASB Team and questioned whether there were plans to expand this team at a future date. In response, the Chairman of the CSP advised that ideally he would like to expand the team but funding was not currently available. He advised that he was currently exploring the possibility of sourcing increased funding via other agencies.
- 5.2.6 **Policing of Town Centres** – In response to concerns as to the visibility of Police Officers in Town Centres, Chief Inspector Marsh advised that specific funding was not available for the provision of Police Officers dedicated to Town Centres. However, in recognition of the benefit of having Police Officers within Town Centres, Officers had been deployed to Town Centres from other areas of Medway. In addition, PCSOs were also available to patrol town centres.
- 5.2.7 **Kent and Medway Gangs Action Plan** – A Member referred to the Kent and Medway Gangs Action Plan appended to the CSP Action Plan and

congratulated the agencies on the work being undertaken. The Chairman of the CSP confirmed that bids for additional funding were being progressed.

- 5.2.8 Aeilish Geldenhuys outlined the approach taken by Public Health in working with schools to enable the delivery of training programmes by school staff to those pupils who were at risk of joining gangs. Cynthia Allen from the Community Rehabilitation Company confirmed that statutory agencies were working together on this issue.
- 5.2.9 Members expressed appreciation that the issue of 'gangs' had been taken on board and addressed by the CSP and stressed the importance of ensuring that gang related activity was not permitted to escalate.
- 5.2.10 **Social Isolation** – In response to a question as to how the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service progress the social isolation agenda, Mick Jackson advised that following a restructure in April, an officer had been designated responsibility for safeguarding and isolation.
- 5.2.11 He outlined the training put in place for Fire and Rescue staff and the ways in which staff could identify individuals who were of concern and refer them to other agencies for help and assistance.
- 5.2.12 **Inclusion of historical data in the CSP Plan** – The Chairman of the CSP advised that the CSP Plan covered the period 2016 – 2020 and therefore some of the data included in the plan was historical. Appendix 2 provided the relevant information for 2018.
- 5.2.13 It was suggested that in future the appendices to the CSP report be re-ordered so that the strategic assessment is the first item.
- 5.2.14 **Additional Police Resources** - Chief Inspector Marsh informed the Committee that Kent Police were in the process of recruiting 200 additional Police Officers across Kent. However, they would require training before they were patrolling the streets.
- 5.2.15 **Update on rough sleepers** – In response to a question as to the work being undertaken to reduce the number of rough sleepers in Medway, the Chairman of the CSP confirmed that the CSP had been successful in securing funding from a range of sources. As a result, a Rough Sleeper Coordinator had been engaged to link with partner agencies, existing support services and volunteer partners to agree a support plan for those known to be sleeping rough in Medway. He advised that to date approximately 40 rough sleepers had been re-housed and another 10 – 12 had been reconnected with their home areas.
- 5.2.16 He advised that a number of rough sleepers had drug, alcohol or mental health issues and advised that the CSP was now investigating a further scheme in conjunction with MHS to help these individuals.
- 5.2.17 He also referred to the work undertaken in Rochester Town Centre with local traders and residents to encourage individuals to support collections which direct funds to agencies providing assistance and support to rough sleepers.
- 5.2.18 He stated that there was no evidence that rough sleepers were being attracted into Medway as a result of the work being undertaken.

- 5.3 The Committee thanked the various partners of the Community Safety Partnership for attending the meeting and:
- 5.3.1 requested that in the future, the Strategic Assessment be placed as the first appendix to the CSP report.
- 5.3.2 noted the findings of the strategic assessment.
- 5.3.3 supported that, in light of the strategic assessment findings, the Community Safety Plan priorities remain unchanged.

## 6. Risk management

- 6.1 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

## 7. Consultation

- 7.1 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 50 events were attended, a 25% increase on the previous year.

- 7.2 A stakeholder engagement event with elected Members and representation from young people from a variety of youth groups/faith groups and Medway Youth Council was undertaken on 3 July 2018. Outcomes from this consultation have been taken into account in the strategic assessment.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in submitting his Police and Crime Plan 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 was £106,460. The PCC has been committed to supporting the funding of CSPs, and has agreed to maintain the same level of funding for 2019-20.

## **9. Legal implications**

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

## **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the strategic assessment set out at Appendix 1 to the report and to make any comments to the Partnership in this regard.
- 10.2 The Board is asked to note the action plan set out at Appendix 3 to the report.
- 10.3 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.

### **Lead officer contact**

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### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Strategic Assessment  
Appendix 2 - Community Safety Plan 2016 to 2020  
Appendix 3 - Community Safety Action Plan  
Appendix 4 - Kent and Medway Gangs Action Plan

### **Background papers**

None