

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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MEDWAY TASK FORCE

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Summary

The Medway Task Force is a multi-agency initiative agreed as part of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Violence Reduction Challenge. The aim of this initiative is to tackle and reduce violent crime by looking at causal factors and context.

This briefing is to seek the support of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, has proposed the inception of a Task Force in Medway based upon the concept of the Margate Task Force. This proposal forms part of his Violent Crime Reduction Strategy which has involved key stakeholders from partnership agencies, including Councillor Adrian Gulvin as Portfolio Holder for Resources and Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.2 The creation of the Task Force is consistent with the strategic priorities set out within the council plan. The Task Force is resourced from within existing budgets of partner agencies.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Medway Task Force is based upon the Margate Task Force model which sees partner agencies co-located to allow for better and more efficient working. Medway's Task Force will be based in the Medway Council Offices at Gun Wharf to facilitate the co-located set up. The Task Force will not duplicate current work streams, but rather seek to join partners together to look at key gaps in intelligence and working practices. The main aim is to reduce violent crime; this will be achieved through focusing on vulnerable people, both children and adults, as well as tackling crime types which lead to vulnerability. The Task Force will also seek, as one of its main objectives, to

improve accessibility to commissioned services. A large part of this work will be based around 'Contextual Safeguarding.'

- 2.2 The overarching aspiration is for the Task Force to adopt an integrated and committed partnership approach, utilising joint information sharing under the Kent and Medway Information Sharing Agreement, with a clear focus on identified vulnerability and threat, harm and risk to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour across Medway. Analysis of wide ranging datasets and hot-spotting is contingent to its success. They will need to tackle complex issues to immediately safeguard, mitigate risk and divert from criminality through early intervention, improving the lives of Medway's children, young people, and vulnerable adults and improving community cohesion in our wider diverse communities.
- 2.3 The Chief Constable has committed police resources, including a Task Force lead officer, with a clear focus on keeping Medway safe in line with Kent Police's strategic aims and objectives through targeted and integrated working. This would be additional to the work already undertaken by the Medway Community Policing Team and the Medway Community Safety Unit.
- 2.4 The wider strategic aims and objectives are to contribute to keeping Medway a safe place to live, work, learn and visit are proposed as follows:
 - Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Reduce the risk to vulnerable people
 - Diversion through early intervention
 - Reduce escalation of offending
 - Adopt a partnership approach to problem solving
 - Ensure the 'Voice of the Child' is heard at every contact
 - Enhance data sharing to improve the effectiveness of interventions and safeguarding
 - Crime prevention
 - Improve community cohesion.
- 2.5 The function and responsibility of the Medway Task Force is designed to:
 - Promote and deliver integrated and collaborative working in the areas of Medway based upon analytical data, vulnerability factors and the level of threat risk and harm.
 - Develop and utilise information sharing to enhance and promote an ethos of effective and efficient operational delivery and safeguarding of vulnerable people.
 - To develop a comprehensive understanding of communities within Medway enabling the optimum utilisation of resources to improve quality of life factors.
 - To undertake detailed analysis of complex data to identify emerging trends and produce problem profiles to tackle violent crime, making short, medium and long term recommendations.
- 2.6 In terms of accountability and governance, it is recommended that this be discharged through a Governance Board, separate from existing boards, which consists of senior officers from partner agencies, including Medway

Council – Front Line Services, Community Safety, Public Health and Adult/Children’s Services. This board will be chaired by Medway Council Chief Legal Officer. There will be a separate strategy document, tactical delivery plan, communications strategy and risk register – all of which will be subject to performance monitoring and effectiveness evaluation. The Task Force will be an integral component within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) reporting into the CSP and being subject to the same scrutiny process within the Council. The Task Force update will also be reported annually into the Health and Wellbeing Board in conjunction with the CSP update.

3. Advice and analysis

- 3.1 The Task Force aims to establish an approach to sustainability to ensure community ownership and public trust, which are essential to securing lasting social change.
- 3.2 The Task Force will aim to increase sustainable outcomes through the application of an enhanced public/private/voluntary sector integrated service model. This will include developing community stewardship in micro-locations of most complex need, with an aim to reduce long-term agency demand.
- 3.3 The Medway Task Force has liaised extensively with the Margate Task Force – managers and partnership staff, both past and present and will seek to develop best practice accordingly. The Task Force lead officer is cognisant of other multi-agency initiatives which have taken place in Medway, namely Street Week, which was co-ordinated by Job Centre Plus, Department of Work & Pensions. Street Week has evolved within Margate and will be considered as a potential tactic moving forward; however since this initiative there are a number of new multi-agency work streams within Medway which have arisen and it is vital that the work of the Medway Task Force complements these existing initiatives.

4. Risk management

- 4.1 This report reflects the importance of constructive dialogue with our partner organisations, commissioned services and the third sector and also reflects the importance of coordinated and collaborative working.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Competing demands on agency staff within the Task Force	Changes in leadership, staffing or resources could reduce the involvement of key agencies	Engagement of strategic partners within the governance arrangements	D3
Too many objectives across a wide geographical area	The Task Force is spread too thin and has insufficient resources to deal with a high number of work streams	Prioritisation based on strategic analysis; clear objective setting and governance arrangements	D3

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultation was initially carried out by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in January 2019. There has been ongoing consultation through the PCC's Violence Reduction Challenge and through engagement by the Medway Task Force lead officer.

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.2 Support for the Task Force will need to come from existing resources. There have been concerns raised that this may lead to an increased pressure on existing resources; however, to generate greater cost savings, efficiencies and effectiveness, this can be achieved through the use of shared commissioning and a joint case management approach (in comparison to standard community safety and single agency functional models).

7. Legal implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

8.1.1 note the progress towards establishing the Medway Task Force; and

8.1.2 note the governance model set out at paragraph 2.6 of the report.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None