

REGENERATION, CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2019

ANNUAL SCRUTINY OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP, INCLUDING AN UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2016 TO 2020

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director Regeneration, Culture,
Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief
Executive

Author: James Brown, Head of Regulatory Services

Summary

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are under a duty to produce a Community Safety Plan to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse, and reduce re-offending.

This report provides information on the operation of the CSP from October 2018, which summarises the findings of the strategic assessment. This report provides information on the proposed plan to cover the period from 2020 to 2024.

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
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC - formerly Kent Probation).

1.2 CSPs are able to work in partnership with any other agencies or bodies that they feel would contribute to community safety.

1.3 Although the Police and Crime Commissioner is not a responsible authority on the CSP, there is a mutual duty to take account of each other's priorities and to co-operate.

- 1.4 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 aim is to reduce crime and disorder, tackle substance misuse and reduce reoffending.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 Section 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 Scrutiny of the partnership was last carried out in December 2018.
- 2.2 The current Community Safety Partnership Plan, covering the years 2016 to 2020, was adopted at Full Council on 21 July 2016 and contains five priorities for the responsible authorities:
 - 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
- 2.3 The Community Safety Plan for 2016 to 2020 is attached as appendix 2 to this report, with the Action Plan attached as appendix 3 and the Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy (Action Plan) as appendix 4. Highlights on progress are contained within the strategic assessment which is attached as appendix 1.
- 2.4 The CSP has conducted a strategic assessment of crime, disorder and other community safety issues in Medway over the previous year. The assessment looks back at issues that have impacted upon community safety in Medway and forward at emerging issues, themes and trends.
- 2.5 This is the last year of the current Community Safety Plan (2016–2020). This strategic assessment will then inform the priorities for the next 4 year plan (2020-2024). In doing so we need to take account of the Police and Crime Commissioners Safer in Kent plan, and also the priorities of the Medway Task Force.

2.6 The strategic assessment has shown that the existing priorities and Action Plan should be refreshed as per the findings, with a number of work streams under each priority. This has been agreed by the five responsible authorities. The priorities are proposed to be:

- Tackling Serious Youth Violence and County Lines
- Reducing Vulnerability
- Reducing Reoffending
- Listening to our Communities and Partners

3. Advice and analysis

3.1 The Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets annually to review or scrutinise decisions made or other actions taken by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The Committee has power to make reports or recommendations on the functioning of the CSP. Any significant amendments to the Community Safety Plan itself will require a new plan, which will be routed via Overview and Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council, in accordance with the Council’s policy framework rules. Members will note that the forthcoming new Community Safety Plan is referenced at paragraph 3.3 of the Work Programme report at item 12 on this Agenda, in which it is proposed that the new Plan be considered by this Committee on 26 March 2019.

4. Risk management

4.1 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.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
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

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
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

5. Consultation

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 A number of community engagement events have been held throughout the year, with the annual stakeholder engagement event with elected Members and representatives scheduled for March 2020. Outcomes from community engagements have been taken into account in the Strategic Assessment.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has submitted his Police and Crime Plan, and has proposed that CSPs be allocated a budget to use for funding activities to tackle crime, disorder, drugs and reoffending. In 2019-2020 the amount allocated to Medway CSP was £106,460. The PCC has in previous years been committed to supporting the funding of CSPs, however we will not get any confirmation on the level of funding for 2020-2021 until the overall budget is considered and approved by the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel on 6 February 2020.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The Council's statutory powers are detailed in the report.
- 7.3 The adoption or modification of the Community Safety Plan would be a decision for Full Council.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Committee is requested to note the findings of the strategic assessment.
- 8.2 The Committee is asked to consider that the Community Safety Plan priorities are refreshed in the light of the strategic assessment findings.
- 8.3 The Committee is requested to scrutinise the activity of the Community Safety Partnership, over the past year, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.

Lead Officer

James Brown, Head of Regulatory Services

Email: james.brown@medway.gov.uk

Telephone no: 01634 338901

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