

# Medway Community Safety Partnership

## Strategic Assessment 2019



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## Introduction

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Medway Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together the key agencies involved in crime prevention and community safety work. This includes; Medway Council, Kent Police, Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC), Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

To ensure we address the crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and reoffending issues that are having an impact on Medway we:

- Conduct an annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment to collate and analyse data and crime patterns.
- Listen to the views and concerns of Medway residents and undertake consultations to ensure we address the issues that matter the most to residents.
- Review and monitor performance and delivery against objectives.
- Strive to build and maintain strong relationships between partner agencies to ensure a cohesive approach to tackling crime and ASB.

The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide an analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder. The assessment analyses any changes since the previous assessment and will review the possible causes as well as assessing the implementation of the previous Community Safety Plan. Consideration will be given to the views of Medway's residents and what they identify as priorities together with the analysis of crime and disorder to identify the key matters that the Partnership should prioritise.

This report is a summary of the key findings of the Partnership's Strategic Assessment 2019. It will identify the key priorities for the Community Safety Partnership, which will enable us to focus on ensuring that Medway is a great place to work, live, learn and visit.

This year we are coming to the end of our 2016 – 2020 Community Safety Plan, so it gives us the opportunity to refresh the plan in its entirety ensuring our combined focus for the next four years.

Medway Council has announced its aspiration to become City of Culture in 2025. Ensuring Medway remains a safe place to work, live, learn and visit will help us to together create a legacy for Medway and improve local pride within our communities.



**Councillor Adrian Gulvin**  
Portfolio Holder for Resources and Chair of the Community Safety Partnership

## Overview

Priority	What we have been doing
<b>Strengthening Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Medway 'Task Force' has been set up with a focus on keeping Medway safe. The multi-agency task force will see various agencies co-located in a shared office space in Gun Wharf, Medway Council's offices.</li> <li>• Funding from the Home Office has resulted in the recruitment of a Prevent Coordinator and Prevent Education Officer for Kent and Medway.</li> <li>• Medway Council's ASB team have issued 119 Community Protection Warnings and 39 Community Protection Notices (April 2019 – October 2019).</li> <li>• Medway Council have recruited a Community Safety Officer for Chatham High Street using part of the £259,462 Section 106 funding received specifically to spend in Chatham.</li> <li>• The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) uplift has allowed for the recruitment of further town centre Police Officers to help keep our High Streets safe.</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Victims and Tackling Offenders of Sexual and Domestic Abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new Domestic Abuse service with Choices has been commissioned and was launched on 1 April 2019. This service provides support to medium risk victims as well which was previously missing in Medway.</li> <li>• 30 people have been trained as Domestic Abuse Champions with a further 30 to be trained in September. Champions will provide basic information and awareness to their teams and colleagues.</li> <li>• A second Community Liaison Officer has been appointed in Medway by Kent Police. They continue to monitor incidents of hate crime, looking for trends and patterns and supporting victims.</li> <li>• Medway are delivering restorative justice training across the authority, including in schools, health and social care.</li> </ul>
<b>Reduce re-offending</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KSS CRC are extending their range of structured programmes designed to reduce reoffending and are working with their Research Unit to evaluate the effectiveness.</li> <li>• Medway Youth Offending Team are leading the development of 'Trauma Awareness' training and are developing wider work force training in trauma informed practice. The Child First planning through our desistance model has given Medway national recognition for this programme of work.</li> <li>• Community Payback are working with CRC Education, Training and Employment team to explore ways to fully utilise the 20% of hours that can be used to increase skill and improve employability.</li> </ul>
<b>Tackle the Harm Caused by Substance Misuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An agency 'all out day' was held in June 2019 to address homelessness and begging. Medway outreach team conduct 3 verifications a week (they are rough sleeping, have no accommodation and are not known as rough sleeper).</li> <li>• There are 15 peer mentors based in recovery services with 7 working within Turning Point to support clients to move out of treatment and begin recovery.</li> <li>• Reducing Drug Related Death panel established which is a multi-agency approach to learning from drug related deaths to implement change and improve outcomes</li> <li>• Blue Light project provides multiagency platform to work with the most complex and chaotic substance misuse clients.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 premises have been shut down by Trading Standards and partners. One individual concerned in the supply of illegal tobacco was given 180 days in prison and £7,172 in fines and costs. Over 300,000 illegal tobacco products were seized in 2 days of action.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commitment to Safeguarding and Improving Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each partner agency completes audits of training and are able to evidence the safeguarding training it has provided</li> <li>• KSS CRC have worked in conjunction with Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) to develop systems and procedures for exchanging information between Chatham Probation office and Medway Children’s Services Front Door.</li> <li>• The protocol in place has ensured that a number of strategic boards share their action plans and progress against targets to avoid duplication and ensure the best use of resources. As well as the CSP, this includes the Health and Wellbeing Board, Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership, Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board and Corporate Parenting Board.</li> </ul>

## Crime Picture in Context

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Whilst crime has increased again this year it appears that the level of increase is far lower than the previous year, with a 12% increase in April 2018 – March 2019 compared with a 36% increase the previous year. This is likely the beginning of a plateau effect whereby the increased accuracy to crime recording are part of the normal business and the figures will start to stabilise (as at October 2019 Medway is now actually showing a 5% decrease on rolling year).

The reason behind the sharp increases was mainly due to a Crime Data Integrity Inspection and the hard work that took place in the way crime was being recorded, to ensure nothing was missed. Increased reporting of crime does not always reflect an increase of incidents. Where previously there may have been one crime report for an incident to cover all elements, these are now broken down into multiple reports. So the actual number of incidents may not have increased but rather the number of reports generated by those incidents. Crimes involving multiple victims are now recorded as separate crimes, and crimes where multiple potential offences are committed in the same incident (such as harassment and malicious communications) are also recorded separately, where before only the more serious offence was recorded

Kent Police received an outstanding grade from HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) in regards to crime recording data integrity in 2019.

We continue to see the reporting of historic offences particularly those involving abuse or sexual abuse. We continue to see high profile cases in the media as well as movements such as the 'Me Too' movement which have seen victims gain the confidence to come forward and report incidents and allegations from many years previous.

There has been a 22.9% increase in violence against the person crime in England and Wales and Medway has seen a 19% increase which is in line with a national trend. This offence category includes all harassment and public order offences, many of which do not actually include violence. Much of the increase is believed to be linked to improved accuracy in the recording of public order offences.

ASB continues to decline with a lot of work by multiple agencies to tackle the causes as well as the anti-social behaviour itself. The Community Safety Team chair the Community MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference). This meeting brings together partner agencies, stakeholders and other agencies to deal with community related issues that affect the wider community and require a multi-agency approach. In the last year the conference has dealt with numerous cases ranging from anti-social behaviour to mental health and environmental crime. The conference brings a holistic approach to problem solving and allows all involved parties to work towards successful outcomes.

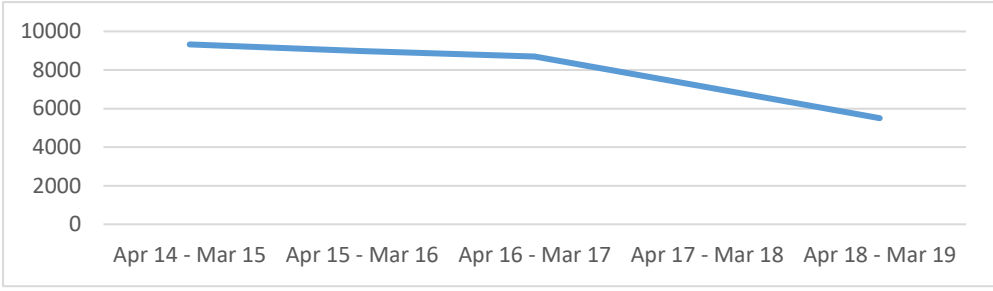
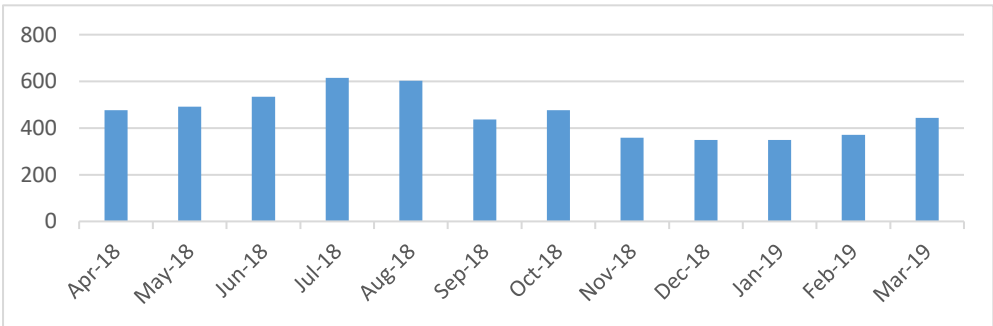
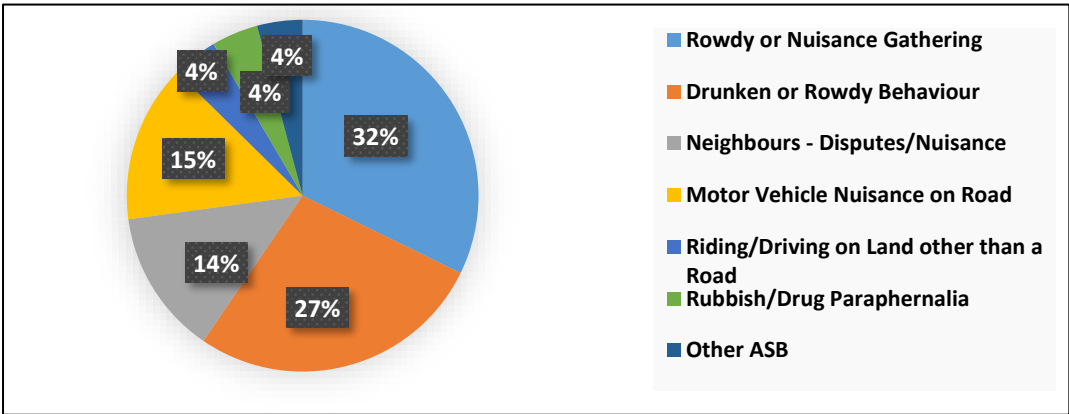
Since its creation the Community Safety Team (Anti-Social Behaviour Team) have dealt with nearly 400 cases. These have ranged from simple anti-social behaviour issues, which required a quick fix, to complicated community safety issues which needed a protracted investigation and multi-agency approach led by Community Safety Officers.

All Recorded Crime																											
<b>Level of Crime</b>	<p>35,172 recorded crimes (April 18 – March 19, Kent Police Data)</p> <p>126.56 per 1000 people (Based on mid-year population estimate for 2018 from the Office of National Statistics, available at <a href="http://lginform.gov.uk">lginform.gov.uk</a>)</p>																										
<b>Peer Comparison</b>	6th highest number of recorded crimes for Unitary Authorities (52 responding authorities, <a href="http://lginform.gov.uk">lginform.gov.uk</a> )																										
<b>Annual Change</b>	12.1% Increase																										
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For breakdown of crime types – see appendix 1



## ASB

<b>No of Incidents</b>	5502 incidents between Apr 18 - Mar 19 (Based on Kent Police data available Sept 2019) 19.8 incidents per 1000 people (Based on mid-year population estimate for 2018 from the Office of National Statistics, available at <a href="http://ginform.gov.uk">ginform.gov.uk</a> )																										
<b>Annual Change</b>	29% decrease 1598 fewer incidents (Compared with the final figure of 7100 between Apr 17 - Mar 18)																										
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## Progress on Existing Priorities

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### Strengthening Communities

Medway Councils Community Safety Team continues to grow and develop in terms of its ability to tackle anti-social behaviour alongside partner agencies. The team have supported the work of those working in Town Centre areas by issuing Community Protection Warnings to those who undertake aggressive begging, often intimidating members of the public in the Town Centres and making them feel unsafe whilst shopping or visiting the area. This issue is being tackled to ensure the focus can remain on those that are genuinely in need and require the support of both statutory and voluntary organisations.

The Chatham Town Centre Forum and wider Chatham community raised concerns that young people were hanging around the town centre area. Medway Youth Service worked with the community as well as staff in the Pentagon Centre and created the WREC (Walderslade, Rochester East and Chatham), a drop in session for 8 to 19 year olds based on sports and fitness and work around other related topical issues to young people.

All Town Centre Forums continue to be actively supported by officers from Kent Police Community Safety Unit (CSU) and Medway Council. Medway Council have also recruited a Community Safety Officer for Chatham High Street using part of the £259,462 Section 106 funding received specifically to spend in Chatham (Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires developers to enter into an agreement with local councils to make financial contributions to reduce the impact of their development on the local community). With the increase in police numbers and Medway Council's Community Safety Officer, they have been able to actively support the work of the Youth Service in the Pentagon Centre.

Medway has seen a number of illegal encampments throughout the summer on several greenspaces. Medway Council's Community Safety Team work hard to ensure the civil legal process is followed as quickly as possible whilst liaising with partners to work on re-securing any gates that had been damaged as well as ensuring that areas were environmentally cleaned where this was needed. The team have recruited an additional Community Safety Officer who will work on illegal encampments as well as having a focus on housing related anti-social behaviour.

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. Multi-agency board meets quarterly and oversees the action plan. The Channel Panel continues to meet on a monthly basis. A multi-agency Prevent Board is in place, chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in Children and Adult Services. 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. 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.

Channel is the 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.

Medway's Channel Panel is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in Children and Adult Services 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 looks to develop a package of support that is bespoke to the individual. 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.

Referrals have come from a wide range of partners including those from education, health, Youth Offending Team, police and social services. There have been 15 referrals onto Channel this year. This is an increase on the previous year. This can be attributed to a concerted effort to increase awareness of Prevent and Channel that has been carried out in the last 18 months. There has been a push amongst all agencies to ensure that all of their new staffs' induction includes Channel/Prevent, as well as ensuring that refresher training is carried out as well as in November 2018 a day long (Kent and Medway) Community Safety Conference was held at Detling Showground focussing on 'Preventing Extremism and Hate'.

The Community Safety Team continues to coordinate the Medway action plan for the Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy. Many activities are taking place with a particular focus on early intervention and prevention. The creation of a Medway Task Force will see a coordinated multi-agency response to reducing violent crime, reducing vulnerability and building resilient communities. This will see a more efficient way of working on issues with agencies sharing projects, work streams and intelligence to avoid duplication.

Through the Community Safety Unit, there has been a focus on engaging with our town centres as well as specific events such Social Prescribing event, World Homelessness Day, Hate Crime Event and the Peace Walk 2019.

The Community Team have attended 68 Community Events this year so far (Sept – Oct 2019). The events have taken place both in urban and rural areas to ensure we reach as many communities as possible. These events have included coffee mornings, local support groups such as Dementia Cafes as well as fresher fairs (as well as KFRS) and community hubs. The team will attend with a variety of information ranging from personal safety, community safety and awareness around scams. Members of the community are given personal safety items such as key chains or reflective bands to help them feel safer when out and about in the

community. These visits are also an opportunity for members of the public to raise any concerns they have within their local area which can be fed back to other agencies where required.

Regular drop in sessions are now being held between the Community Safety Team and the Community Liaison Officer from Kent Police within places of worship. This helps the team highlight some of the work that is going on to continue keeping Medway safe and improves engagement with minority communities and multiple different faith groups.

Medway now have an active Youth Police Advisory Group (YPAG) who meet regularly with the district commander to discuss policing issues that directly affect young people. The YPAG have regular contact with the Medway Community Liaison Officer (CLO). A second CLO has been appointed to work within Medway. The CLO's monitor hate crime reports on a daily basis looking for patterns or trends and to help support victims of hate crime.

Medway Youth Council continue to ensure that the views of young people across Medway are heard. Throughout September work takes place on the Make Your Mark scheme, a national programme which asks young people to vote for the matters that concern them. The previous report published in early 2019 showed that over 10,000 votes had been cast by young people all over Medway, at schools, youth centres and other outlets. Over 2000 votes were cast for 'Ending Knife Crime' as the most important issue.

Young people and the wider community also raised concerns in Gillingham about safety and access to services. Medway Youth Service, Public Health, Community Safety, Kent Police and Sports Development developed a programme of activities for young people in the Saunders Street area. The work recognised the work of individuals in the Community Safety Team and Youth Services winning Medway Councils 'Working in Partnership' category in their 'Make a Difference' awards.

KFRS held an Open Day at Strood Fire Station where there was approximately 5,000 visitors throughout the day, which included fire safety talks.

The Medway Task Force was an initiative developed as part of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Violence Reduction Panel. It is an integrated and committed partnership approach where agency staff sit and work together in a shared space within Medway Council's Gun Wharf offices. There are a number of partners working together, including a Task Force lead officer, a Police Sergeant, Police Officers, Medway Council, Department of Work and Pensions, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Immigration Enforcement, Victim Support and Community Rehabilitation Company, all complemented by wider partner, commissioned services and third sector support and buy in.

The key aims of the Task Force will be to work towards reducing violent crime, reducing vulnerability and building community resilience. Under each of these key aims are wider objectives which will contribute to keeping Medway a safe place to live, work, learn and visit. The Task Force will not duplicate work streams but instead look to join agencies together to look at key gaps in intelligence and working practices. There will be a clear focus on the public health approach to reducing violent crime by working to address the underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or perpetrator of violence. There will also be a focus on contextual safeguarding, looking at common themes, locations or people which will enable emerging issues to be solved holistically. The Task Force will look to tackle complex issues to safeguard, mitigate risk and divert from criminality through early intervention. Work will be focussed in key geographic areas across Medway.

The Youth Service are paying a particular focus on those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). One project that has been very successful is the Be Yourself Programme. Described as a mentoring and training provision, the Youth Team will ask the individual to identify things they are interested. They will then be matched with provisions that are available to provide a bespoke and individual way forward. The programme can last between 4 -10 weeks, lasting roughly 1 hour – 2.5 hours a week. Courses fall into the following main categories; 'Be Active, 'Be Creative', 'Be Independent', 'Be Skilled' and 'Be Ready'.

### **Supporting Victims and Tackling Offenders of Sexual and Domestic Abuse**

Medway Domestic Abuse Service which was commissioned by Medway Council was launched on 1 April 2019. The service is provided by Choices Domestic Abuse Service and Clarion Group in partnership with Medway Council, Kent Police, Victim Support and other services including early help services and Housing. The service supports medium and high risk victims and provides support groups, one-to-one specialist support, advice and information via a helpline as well as specialist support for families and school programmes for young people that focus on them being able to understand and identify abusive behaviour.

Medway continues to support the White Ribbon campaign and have had their status reaccredited for a further 3 years. In November, Gillingham Football club supported the campaign by launching the new plan at their home game, with players wearing WRC shirts and fundraising taking place in the stands. This significantly helped to raise the profile of Domestic Abuse issues.

As part of the commitment to tackling domestic abuse in Medway a domestic abuse champion's programme was launched in February 2019. 30 champions have been trained so far with a further 30 trained in September. Domestic abuse champions raise awareness within their teams or areas and are able to deliver a first level awareness training to make sure everyone has a good basic knowledge. This enables the messages around the support and services available to be spread further.

In 2018 Medway was subject to a Joint Area Inspection reviewing how we support children living with domestic abuse. A significant action plan was developed following the inspection and has resulted in improved partnership working and information sharing in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), improved training and embedding newly commissioned services into children's services.

Operation Encompass a national initiative regarding the notification and sharing of information from Police to schools in respect of reported domestic abuse incidents within families. It is a process by which Key Adults in schools and academies are informed that a child attending their school may be affected by domestic abuse. This will usually mean that a child has been in the household where an incident of domestic abuse has taken place, or has been exposed to domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass is now live across Medway. According to feedback received from social care partners at Medway Council the schools have been very open to the scheme and positive about the impact it has had on their safeguarding, especially the schools whose pupils are regularly involved with DA. There are plans in the near future to conduct a survey to get formal feedback from all schools, but this will be happening next year as it would have allowed the process a good amount of time to settle.

Medway schools have been very proactive with wanting to be involved and there has been an increase in the number of schools signing up who were not signed up initially. There are currently 72 primary schools in Medway signed up to the scheme, 10 secondary schools and 1 pupil referral unit.

Work has been ongoing within Medway Council's Youth Service around reducing the fear of youth crime and violence amongst young people. Following the success of the StepBack Project, particularly in the Gillingham area, the Youth Service ran the StepUp Transition Project where young people were identified as going to a particular school. Sessions took place once a week in the school with 23 young people identified as vulnerable during the transition from year 6 into secondary school. At the start all were asked what they feared most about moving to secondary school, 18 out of 23 said gangs and being stabbed. Over 12 weeks the youth service worked on education and their concerns and fears. StepBack cards were also used, credit card sized cards that were designed by young people as a reassurance told of what to do if they find themselves in a difficult situation. At the end the same question was asked and none mentioned gangs or being stabbed with most fearful of whether they would get on with their teachers.

The Serious and Organised Crime Partnership (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 chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector for CID (Criminal Investigation Department) and MCET (Medway Missing and Child Exploitation Team) and is vice-Chaired by the Community Safety Manager. The multi-agency group

develops and implements plans 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. The SOCP also works with partner agencies to develop techniques to deter people (particularly young people) from being drawn into serious and organised criminality.

Since January 2019 there have been five cases tackled by the SOCP. Cases are worked on in partnership with Kent Police there has been significant input on cases from Medway Councils Trading Standards and Environmental Enforcement teams. A sixth case has been nominated by the Community Safety Team in October.

The SOCP incorporates Modern Day Slavery, Human Trafficking, Missing Persons, Gangs and Human Trafficking and works closely with the MASE (Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Group).

### **Tackling the Harm Caused by Substance Misuse**

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 the Ex-Offender and the Rough Sleeper Task and Finish Groups, which meet every two months, and the Rough Sleeper Forum which meets twice a year to give rough sleepers a space to tell us directly about the issues which impact on their lives and how we can best use resources to support them.

Housing Services have continued to receive funding from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government for our Rough Sleeping Initiative. From July 2018 to July 2020 they have a total of £1.3 million grant funding which has allowed them to have; an outreach team with specialist mental health and specialists in working with vulnerable females, a Housing First project to house people who have support needs too varied and complex to live in supported housing, additional hours to bolster existing homeless hostel provision, flexible budgets to pay rents in advance or buy essential items, or short stays in temporary accommodation, a resettlement worker, a navigator to assist with leaving prison support and a Coordinator to pull the work together. Since July 2018 they have housed 95 people who were sleeping rough with a success rate of over 80%.

There has been an increase in the number of people dying from drug misuse nationally. Between 2012-2016 deaths from drug misuse in Medway were higher than the average for England but they are now falling in line with the national picture. It is believed that opiates account for around 50% of drug misuse deaths with an increasing number of those deaths associated with crack cocaine use. There are an estimated 1,459 opiate or crack cocaine users in Medway and 52.6% are not currently in treatment (2016/17 Public Health England data). There is significant evidence which supports that treatment is a protective factor in reducing drug related deaths.

Medway has seen the recommissioning of substance misuse services to increase 'visible' recovery and improve the access to services. Turning Point deliver treatment services with Open Road delivering the Wellbeing and Recovery Service to reduce the incidence of lapse. The Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service (CJLDS) have begun to work closely with substance misuse services to identify and support individuals who enter custody. There is also a police initiative called Heroin and Crack Cocaine Action Areas (HACCA) which has recently been set up. Medway sits in the area covering the East of England.

Medway Council's Public Health team continue to lead the Blue Light Project, a multi-agency approach to case managing those with complex needs who are likely to be suffering from one or in many cases all of three major concerns, substance misuse, mental health or homelessness. Agencies continue to engage well with the Blue Light Project offering a range of interventions that can help reduce the risk and vulnerability to this cohort.

Medway Trading Standards team, in partnership with the Public Health Team and Kent Police, have continued to successfully tackle illegal tobacco. In June 2019 a weekend of action in Chatham saw several premises visited. With the help of sniffer dogs two large secret hides were located within one shop which were full of both illegal cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco. In total 82,000 cigarettes and 19kg of hand rolling tobacco were seized by officers amounting to roughly £37,000 in illegal tobacco. Two weeks later a further 133,000 illegal cigarettes were seized from premises in Chatham, Rochester and Strood.

Trading Standards also had success in prosecuting an individual involved in the supply of illegal tobacco. The individual pleaded guilty to 20 charges covering the unauthorised use of registered trademarks, the supply of unsafe products and breaching the controls on the standardised packaging of tobacco products. In total the individual was sentenced to 180 days in prison and was ordered to pay £7,172 in costs.

### **Reducing Re-offending**

KSS CRC has continued to review and expand its suite of programmes designed to reduce reoffending. This includes the development of an Obsessive and Compulsive Behaviour Programme. This is a one-one programme for convicted adults with stalking and harassment behaviours. KSS CRC Research Unit are evaluating the effectiveness of the programme. To enhance delivery, trained facilitators will additionally complete 'Multi Agency Response to Stalking' training provided by charity Abuse Free Life and mindfulness training.

KSS CRC continues to deliver group work programmes which address core areas of need and are accredited by the Correctional Services Accreditation and Advice Panel (CSAAP). This is a panel of independent, international experts who assess programmes against the principles of effective interventions. The Accredited Programmes provided are Building Better Relationships (for perpetrators of intimate partner violence), Thinking Skills, Resolve (anger management) and Drink Impaired Drivers Programme.



Community Payback now have a women's group, with a female supervisor running in Chatham. In order to keep the group operational, at times it has been necessary to include appropriately risk assessed male service users, as the volume of women fluctuates. As a minimum, Community Payback are able to offer a group placement which ensures that a lone woman will not have to work in an otherwise all male environment. This is supplemented by agreements with a variety of beneficiaries, to deliver individual placements across the Medway towns, where women typically complete their unpaid work.

Community Payback maintains a strong relationship with Medway Council, with teams completing 2 days per week around the Medway towns, with a focus on work which improves residential areas. One project which is nearing completion is the construction of a 'Forest School'. This has both utilised and taught offenders a variety of skills, but will also teach generations of children about wildlife and the importance of looking after the environment. All the work completed has been done at zero cost through recycling, upcycling and donations.

The Medway Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort has continued to be developed, to ensure that intensive multi-agency resources are targeted at those who meet identified priorities. Performance monitoring has demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach in reducing the re-offending of adults and young people who cause the most harm to local communities.

Following a public consultation from July to September 2018, the Ministry of Justice is planning to renationalise the case management of adults under probation supervision in England and Wales, however these changes will not take effect until June 2021 at the earliest. This means that the National Probation Service will take over responsibility for all case management. There will be a competition for a Probation Delivery Partner in each region to deliver Community Payback, accredited and structured programmes. Additional services to support rehabilitation will be commissioned through a Dynamic Framework. It is not anticipated that these changes will take effect until the spring of 2021 however much of the preparation will take place during the coming 12 months to enable a safe and smooth transfer. In the meantime KSS CRC will continue to deliver the existing range of probation services and maintain its commitment to work with partners to reduce reoffending.

The Youth Offending Team (YOT) have noted that they are increasingly seeing young people presenting to the youth court with significantly high complex needs. Another observation is that whilst the number of young people going through the Youth Court is decreasing the rates of reoffending have increased. In response to this changing cohort the Youth Offending Team has responded by ensuring that staff are trained to respond to more complex needs through trauma informed training. This has included developing and training a wider work force in trauma informed practice and restorative justice. The YOT is also leading the development of a child first programme through their desistance model in their planning which now has national recognition.

Interaction with some young people occur when a serious offence has been committed and increasingly these young people have had no previous convictions and sometimes no previous out of court disposals. Whilst preventing young people from having convictions at a young age, the use of no further action for more minor offences means that the Youth Offending Team do not have an opportunity to intervene into there is a serious offence and often the risks and concerns are much higher. To try and provide the team with a greater ability to interact and assess those with a greater level of risk, the Youth Offending Team have put forward a business case for a psychologist post to sit within the team. Recruitment is currently underway.

### **Commitment to Safeguarding and Improving Services**

Safeguarding is one of the key areas of Medway's Adult Social Care 3 year Strategic Plan and Medway Councils Plan 2016-2021 lays out the importance of Adult Safeguarding and providing a safe environment.

Sharing information between organisations as part of day-to-day safeguarding practice is already covered in the common law duty of confidentiality, the Data Protection Act, the Human Rights Act and the Crime and Disorder Act. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) provide a legal framework for lawful information sharing.

The MSCP was launched on 2 September 2019 replacing the Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The MSCP has developed a Quality Assurance Framework which sets out how the MSCP will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of multi-agency work to safeguard children. All partner agencies submit a Section 11 audit as part of this Quality Assurance Framework which covers all these aspects. Section 11 is the MSCP's methodology of monitoring and evaluating the safeguarding arrangements in place across key partner agencies within Medway. This is done on a two year programme which includes a staff survey.

KSS CRC is subject to annual inspection by HMIP, and an action plan is in place to develop safeguarding practice and interim progress which is reviewed through their internal Local Quality Inspection. They also have dedicated Quality Development Officers, who sit alongside their peers, to improve the quality of practice.

All police officers and PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) receive initial safeguarding training and continuous professional development throughout their service. This is done by online training as well as safeguarding courses dependent on their specific role. All officers also receive PVP (Protecting Vulnerable People) training. All officers also receive a 2 day mandatory mental health course which is being delivered force wide.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service have continued to look at ways of supporting vulnerability and people at risk within the Community. Social isolation has been viewed nationally as an

increasing concern with the effect on the individual often considerable in terms of both physical and mental health. It is also a costly problem to services who may see an increase in calls or concerns from individuals who are suffering because they are socially isolated and find accessing services difficult. Kent Fire and Rescue Service have put training in place for staff to be able to identify individuals who were of concern and how to refer them to the appropriate agencies for help and assistance.

The development of the Medway Task Force is also a reflection of the multi-agency commitment to ensuring safeguarding continues to be a key thread. The Task Force will aim to build community resilience, involving the community in bringing about long term solutions and sustainability, particularly in areas identified as suffering from multiple indicators of deprivation. This will also involve signposting to the most appropriate service and will help to ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities are not deprived of services that could lessen their vulnerability and help to improve their quality of life.

Medway's Children and Family Hubs continue to provide an excellent resource within the community by allowing partners to be based together within the locality in which they work. There are four main hubs in Medway:

- Strood – Clifton Close
- Chatham – All Saints
- Wayfield – Luton
- Woodlands – Gillingham

These Hubs are supported by nine Children and Family Wellbeing Centres which are based in primary schools. Early help social workers are aligned to the four main hubs to allow better partnership working in tackling issues that families may face.

## Youth Violence

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On the 18th July 2019 Medway Community Safety Partnership held a 'Gangs, Vulnerability and Interventions' Conference with around 200 professionals from across Medway in attendance. The event aimed to give a realistic picture about emerging issues in Medway and nationally and showcased some of the work in place to tackle these issues. The Conference was opened by Professor Simon Harding of the University of West London, a leading expert on youth crime who helped set the scene and give an overview of the issues. The Conference then included presentations from several organisations and professionals working on projects and tools to tackle the issues providing great examples of how we are working to keep Medway safe. It also provided a networking opportunity for professionals to meet a range of service providers and other agency staff to find ways to work collaboratively in the future.

The CSP also supported Medway Youth Council's Annual Conference, which invites a small number of students between the ages of 11 and 18 (years 7 to 13) and accompanying staff from every secondary school to attend the conference. This year's conference was held at the Brook Theatre in Chatham. The conference chose the overall theme of community safety, and was entitled 'Are You[TH] Safe?', and involved a number of workshops on 'Does Gang Activity Make You Feel Unsafe?', 'What is an Unhealthy Relationship?', and 'When Does Substance Abuse Become Dangerous?'.

Additionally partners supported 'The Point Conference' which was organised by St Margaret's Church, Rainham, the University of Kent and the Medway African and Caribbean Association. As well as a main session for professionals, there was a twilight session aimed at teachers and an evening session for parents.

The Community Safety Team continues to work with colleagues from Medway's Safeguarding Children's Partnership to develop a training package for professionals around gangs and exploitation. It will cater for a variety of professionals by taking a holistic approach rather than looking at issues in isolation. With input from a range of sectors to help ensure the training captures not just a realistic setting of the scene but also provides practical tools and pathways to help professionals support vulnerable individuals. It is hoped that this will be ready to launch in November 2019.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) established the Supporting Families Against Youth Crime (SFAYC) Fund to support the delivery of the government's Serious Violence Strategy. Kent County Council was successful in securing £1,362,645 in funding from the SFAYC Fund over two years, to deliver and lead a collaborative North Kent and Medway project. This work commenced in August 2019.

The projects strategic aims are as follows -

- Provide additional capacity to local authorities where gang and youth crime is an issue, to help them respond to their local needs;

- Test and learn from interventions and place-based initiatives;
- Drive improved local, multi-agency partnership working with the VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector);
- Develop children's personal resilience to withstand peer pressure and make positive choices, particularly but not limited to the transition ages between primary and secondary school;
- Reduce gang and youth crime by intervening early to raise awareness of the dangers of gangs, youth violence and knife crime and changing the culture around the acceptability of carrying knives.
- Work with parents/carers and local workforce to understand the dangers and risks surrounding gang crime.

Additionally, following a successful Kent and Medway joint partnership bid of £1.16m to the Home Office for funding to deliver a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) by 31 March 2020, Kent Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) are leading on an initial programme delivering agreed key priorities, using a co-ordinated partnership strategy and the public health approach. The aim of the unit is to identify the major early causes of violence, co-ordinate activity to tackle it, deliver long-term reductions, and encourage the involvement of local communities in the work of the VRU and that of local service providers to build their capacity to deliver the best long term solutions to reduce violence, particularly with young people.

## Community Safety Plan Review

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The current Community Safety Plan expires in March 2019 and the new plan is currently under review. The Community Safety Strategic Assessment for 2019 as well as the previous few years have highlighted the key emerging issues on both a national and local level that we need to ensure agencies continue to focus on.

To enable a more focused approach to tackling issues and better coordination it is suggested that the number of Strategic Priorities is reduced from 5 to 4 but that the aims and targets that fall into these priority areas are better defined and assigned to lead agencies to create a more efficient way of working.

Proposed Strategic Priorities are headlined below with areas of focus underneath each heading.

<b>Tackling Serious Youth Violence and County Lines</b>	<b>Reducing Vulnerability</b>	<b>Reducing Reoffending</b>	<b>Listening to our Communities and Partners</b>
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) / Human Trafficking	Substance Misuse	Community Payback	Community Engagement events
Organised Crime Groups	Homelessness	Rehabilitative interventions	Young people's voice - YPAG, Medway Youth Council (MYC) etc.
Cuckooing	Contextual Safeguarding	Integrated Offender Management (IOM)	Parent and Carers Forum (Special Education Needs - SEN)
Medway Task Force	Mental Health	Youth Offending	
Kent and Medway Serious Youth Crime Project	Radicalisation		
	Tackling ASB		

Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for developing strategies for reducing crime and offending in their areas, and have a statutory duty to work together to: reduce re-offending; tackle crime and disorder; tackle anti-social behaviour; tackle alcohol and substance misuse; and tackle any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment.

Tackling Serious Youth Violence and County Lines will be a priority due to the national concerns about the increase in county line activity. The Serious Violence Strategy (2018) and the Children's Commissioner's report 'Keeping Kids Safe, Improving Safeguarding Responses

to Gang Violence and Criminal Exploitation (2019) both discuss the need for better joint agency working and information sharing as well as a co-ordinated approach to tackling violent crime, especially youth related violence. The creation of the Medway Task Force, whose aims align with the work of the Community Safety Partnership is an opportunity to take a coordinated approach to keeping Medway safe and preventing the levels of violence being seen in some London boroughs.

Reducing Vulnerability has been suggested as another priority due to the need to focus on early intervention and prevention work in multiple areas of work. This includes those that may fall victim to cuckooing from gangs, young people at risk of exploitation or even those at risk of homelessness. There are many types of vulnerability and Medway has many excellent services and voluntary organisations that can help to reduce this vulnerability if a joined up approach can be taken.

The CSP is committed to hearing from the community and understanding some of the issues beyond the statistics. We are proposing to make this an independent priority in the next plan and ensure that we have a systematic way of engaging in existing panels and groups to gauge concerns and inform the actions we take forward.

## Background and Data Information

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Annual strategic assessments of crime and disorder are carried out to satisfy the requirement under Regulation 5 of the Formulation and Implementation of Strategy Regulations 2007.

The assessment is based upon information that has been made available by partner agencies and information available in open source material. The data will have some limitations; it is not always possible to get the same time frame from every source as Partners measure their data in different ways. It should also be noted that not all data has been cleansed due to the large volume.

The following is a list of data sources used to inform the strategic assessment:

- Kent Police – Published crime data April 2018- March 19, Control Strategy
- Medway Clinical Commissioning Group
- Medway Community Safety Partnership Gang Profile
- Medway Council – Power BI and Ward Profiles
- Medway Council – Public Health
- Medway Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehab Company
- Kent and Medway Action Plan – Domestic Violence Statistics
- Local Government Association – LG Inform Database
- Public Health England – Local Health, [www.localhealth.org.uk](http://www.localhealth.org.uk)



## Glossary of Terms

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ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CJLDS	Criminal Justice and Diversion Service
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
CSAAP	Correctional Services Accreditation and Advice Panel
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSU	Community Safety Unit
DPA 2018	Data Protection Act 2018
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HACCA	Heroin and Crack Cocaine Action Areas
HMIC	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
KFRS	Kent Fire and Rescue Service
KSS CRC	Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASE	Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Group
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MCET	Medway Missing and Child Exploitation Team
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
MSCB	Medway Safeguarding Children Board
MSCP	Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership
MYC	Medway Youth Council
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PVP	Protecting Vulnerable People
SFAYC	Supporting Families Against Youth Crime
SOCP	Serious and Organised Crime Partnership
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector
VRU	Violence Reduction Unit
WREC	Walderslade, Rochester East and Chatham
YOT	Youth Offending Team
YPAG	Youth Police Advisory Group

## Appendix 1

Figure 1: Breakdown of Crime Types shown in All Crime Summary

<b>Violent Crime</b>
- Violence Against The Person
- Homicide
- Violence with injury
- Violence without injury
- Most Serious Violence
- Sexual Offences
- Rape
- Other sexual offences
- Robbery
<b>Burglary Dwelling</b>
<b>Burglary Other than Dwelling</b>
<b>Burglary - Residential</b>
<b>Burglary - Business and Community</b>
<b>Vehicle Crime</b>
- Theft Of Motor Vehicle
- Theft From Motor Vehicle
<b>Vehicle Interference</b>
<b>Theft and Handling Excluding Vehicle Interference</b>
- Shoplifting
- Theft of Pedal cycle
- Other Theft
<b>Criminal Damage</b>
- Arson
- Criminal damage
<b>Crimes against society</b>
Drug Offences
- Trafficking
- Possession of drugs
Possession of weapons
Public order offences
Other crimes