

REGENERATION, CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2020 – 2024

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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 proposed Plan, which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, to cover the period from 2020 to 2024.

A Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out on the proposals set out in this report and is attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

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). CSPs are able to work in partnership with any other agencies or bodies that they may feel would contribute to community safety.
- 1.2 Although the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is not a responsible authority on the CSP, there is however a mutual duty to co-operate and to take account of the PCCs priorities. The period covered by this Plan mirrors the term of office of the PCC.
- 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 which this committee considered in December 2019. 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.

- 1.4 The draft Community Safety Plan covers the period 2020 to 2024 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 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 Scrutiny of the Partnership was last carried out in December 2019 by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee where the Committee noted the findings of the strategic assessment and supported that the Community Safety Plan priorities be refreshed in the light of the strategic assessment findings. The full minute may be found at the following link: <https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=22414>
- 2.2 The existing Community Safety Plan was agreed by full Council in July 2016 and ran from 2016 to 2020 and it is proposed that the new 4 year Community Safety Plan will to run from 2020 to 2024.
- 2.3 As part of the development of the new Plan, the CSP has conducted a strategic assessment of community safety issues in Medway. This has included input from across the Council and the 'responsible authorities', part of this process being a half day event which included colleagues from Public Health and Children and Adult Services.
- 2.4 It is also important to note that the protocol remains in place between the CSP, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Kent and Medway Adult Safeguarding Board and Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership to ensure the sharing of assessments and plans to foster a better strategic alignment.
- 2.5 Examples of cross-directorate work has been the CSPs annual consultation event in 2018 which focused on consulting with our young people and was coordinated in partnership with Youth Services; and the Gangs and Early Intervention Conference put together in partnership with Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership in 2019.
- 2.6 The strategic assessment looked back at issues that have impacted upon community safety in Medway and then forward at potential issues and emerging themes/trends.
- 2.7 The draft Community Safety Plan for 2020 to 2024 is appended at Appendix 1 to this report. The Plan contains four new priorities going forward, which have

been developed from the strategic assessment findings, which are summarised in the Plan, with a number of work streams under each priority. This has been agreed by the five responsible authorities. The priorities are proposed to be:

- Safeguarding Adults and Children.
- Reducing Vulnerability.
- Reducing Reoffending.
- Listening to our Communities and Partners.

2.8 The five responsible authorities have agreed that the process for monitoring these priorities in the CSP Action Plan should be by way of a '4 P Plan' (Prevent, Protect, Pursue and Prepare). This Plan continues to be developed with our partners in time for 1 April 2020 with the draft document shown at Appendix 2 to the report. The CSP Plan and Action Plan will then be presented to Cabinet on 7 April 2020, who will be asked to consider any comments made and recommend the proposed Plan to full Council on 23 April 2020.

2.9 The proposed strategic priorities are headlined below with areas of focus underneath each heading.

Safeguarding Adults and Children (Tackling Serious Violence and County Lines)	Reducing Vulnerability	Reducing Reoffending	Listening to our Communities and Partners
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	Communications
Kent and Medway Serious Youth Crime Project	Radicalisation	Secure Settings	Annual Consultation Event
	Tackling ASB	Ending Serious Youth Violence and Violent Reduction Unit (VRU)	Empowering Communities
	Domestic Abuse		

- 2.10 Over the last few years the Community Safety Strategic Assessment has highlighted these key emerging issues on both a national and local level that we need to ensure agencies continue to focus on.
- 2.11 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 to create a more efficient way of working.
- 2.12 In considering the new priority areas, it must be remembered that 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.
- 2.13 Safeguarding Adults and Children has been identified as an overarching priority, mainly due to national concerns about the increase in county line activity as well as the need to tackle serious youth violence. 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 Serious and Organised Crime Partnership has been running in Medway for 2 years. The creation of the Medway Task Force, whose aims align with the work of the Community Safety Partnership is another opportunity to take a coordinated approach to keeping Medway safe and preventing the levels of violence being seen in some London boroughs.
- 2.14 Reducing vulnerability will be an overarching priority to ensure a continued 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 where a joined up approach can continue to be taken. Substance misuse impacts strongly on each of the partnership priorities identified. In order for the partnership to address the priorities, it is essential to have an effect on substance misuse issues.
- 2.15 The Policing and Crime Act 2009, which came into effect from the 1 April 2010, placed a new duty on CSPs to implement a strategy to reduce reoffending by adult and young offenders. Reducing reoffending is critical to both protecting communities from crime and to delivering a more effective and economic justice system. A further element is rehabilitative interventions, which was designed to help individuals turn their lives around and it is believed this is best achieved through coordinated local services.

2.16 The CSP is committed to hearing from the community and understanding some of the issues beyond the statistics. It is proposed that this is an independent priority in the next Plan ensuring that there is a systematic way of engaging in existing panels and groups to gauge concerns and inform the actions the CSP take forward. In addition there will be particular focus on promoting the work of the partnership through joint communications. As part of our communications programme, the CSP aims to address and improve perceptions of safety within our communities.

3. Advice and analysis

3.1 The CSP recognises that Medway’s future success is contingent on ongoing regeneration, even more so as Medway aspires to become a City of Culture in 2025. It is clear that benefits from growth must be delivered to existing communities and new developments and residents must be effectively integrated.

3.2 Hand in hand with this physical regeneration, it is important to recognise that this will only be successful if people feel that they and their families are safe in our open spaces and high streets.

3.3 The chair and vice-chair continue to ensure there is a strategic view of community safety in Medway and to ensure that it reflects and supports the strategic ambitions of the Council and the partner agencies in the CSP to make Medway a great place to live, work, learn and visit.

3.4 The chair and vice-chair have continued their commitment to hold monthly Community Safety surgeries for all elected Members each first Tuesday of the month between 5pm and 7pm (this is in the process of being reviewed and may take place by using video calls). Average attendance in the last 12 months has been 3 Members per surgery.

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.	E2

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
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.	E2
Legislation	Government guidance could change focus for CSP.	CSP to ensure that it effectively horizon scans to be aware of impending legislative changes.	D3
Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Plans	Changes in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.	Continued engagement with the PCC.	D3

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. The CSP held a public consultation event at Mid Kent College in Gillingham in July 2018 (for the year 2018 – 2019). This was specifically aimed at hearing the voice of young people but also included representation from community groups, the voluntary sector and elected Members. Full details of consultation on the Plan may be found in Appendix 2 to the report.
- 5.2 A Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out on the proposals set out in this report and is attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 enables PCCs to issue grants to support crime and disorder reduction within their police area. The Crime Reduction Grant (CRG) will continue to be provided to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in 2020/21.
- 6.2 Following the Kent Police and Crime Panel Meeting held on 6 February 2020, it was confirmed that CSPs will receive the same grant award as 2019-2020. For Medway this is £106,460. There will be a continued focus on delivering projects aligned to violence reduction and projects that have a clear evidence base to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

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 As a Policy Framework document, the Community Safety Plan will be developed in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Rules (Chapter 4, Part 3 of the Council's Constitution).
- 7.4 The Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the strategic assessment in December 2019. Any recommendations on the CSP Plan and Action Plan from this Committee will be considered by the Cabinet on 7 April 2020. The Cabinet will be asked to consider any comments made and recommend the proposed Plan to full Council on 23 April 2020. The adoption or modification of the Community Safety Plan is a decision for Full Council.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to comment on the proposed Community Safety Plan 2020 - 2024 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, and draft Community Safety Action Plan 2020 – 2021 as set out in Appendix 2.
- 8.2 The Committee is asked to note that the the proposed Community Safety Plan 2020 – 2024 will be considered by Cabinet on 7 April 2020 and will be determined by full Council on 23 April 2020.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Community Safety Plan 2020 to 2024
Appendix 2 – Proposed Community Safety Action Plan 2020 to 2021
Appendix 3 – Diversity Impact Assessment

Background papers

None