

## **REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**3 DECEMBER 2020**

### **ATTENDANCE BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR RESOURCES**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gulvin, Portfolio Holder for Resources

#### Summary

This report sets out progress made within the areas covered by the Portfolio Holder for Resources which fall within the remit of this Committee.

#### 1. Background

1.1 The areas within the terms of reference of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered by the Portfolio Holder for Resources are:

- Community Safety Partnership
- CCTV.

Note: The following services fall within the Resources Portfolio, in relation to the Community Safety Partnership:

- Tobacco control, excluding smoking cessation services
- Community safety aspects of alcohol and drug misuse
- Public health aspects of promotion of community safety, violence prevention and response.

1.2 The Community Safety Partnership is made up of the following responsible authorities –

- Medway Council
- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
- Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company KSS CRC)
- Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

1.3 The nature of the work of the Community Safety Partnership means that several areas of work detailed in this report although are all community safety

initiatives, involve a number of different council departments who are the responsibility of a number of Portfolio Holders.

- 1.4 Achievements for 2019/20 are detailed by services area below.
2. **Community Safety Team and Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference**
  - 2.1 In July 2018 Medway Council created a team of 2 Community Safety Officers (specifically to deal with anti-social behaviour), reporting to the Community Safety Manager and in September 2019 recruited a third officer, responsible for dealing with unauthorised encampments.
  - 2.2 All 3 posts are currently vacant; however, unauthorised encampments are now overseen by the Environmental Enforcement and Street Scene Enforcement Team (see 19.1). The Community Safety Team are in the process of recruitment for one of the Community Safety Officer posts (ASB) posts.
  - 2.3 The remit of the team is to identify on-going, long-term anti-social behaviour issues and act as a hub for Medway Council colleagues and partner agencies. The team have formed close working partnerships with Kent Police and other members of the Community Safety Partnership. They have extended a holistic approach to assist housing providers and other organisations in dealing with anti-social behaviour that affects the wider community.
  - 2.4 The team have set up a daily meeting with Kent Police and the Medway Task Force. The Task Force act as a conduit to other agencies and stakeholders. The meeting allows a partnership approach to community safety and a speedier response to community issues in Medway.
  - 2.5 The Community Safety Team co-chair the Vulnerability Panel with Medway Task Force. 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 panel has dealt with numerous cases ranging from anti-social behaviour to mental health. The panel brings a holistic approach to problem solving and allows all involved parties to work towards successful outcomes.
  - 2.6 Since its creation, the Community Safety Team (Anti-Social Behaviour Team) have dealt with nearly 300 cases. These have ranged from some 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.
  - 2.7 The team use the tools and powers contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. Since December 2019 they have issued 100 Community Protection Warnings and 18 Community Protection Notices in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition, they have worked on a number

of extensive enquiries that will have a positive impact on Medway's communities and may ultimately bring offenders to prosecution.

### 3. Community Payback

- 3.1 The Community Safety Team continue to supply the majority of unpaid work in Medway for completion by offenders with community sentences. These are managed by the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC).
- 3.2 Over the year a total of 31 jobs were nominated by a variety of elected Members, Community Wardens, PCSOs, and the Council's Public Rights of Way (PROW) team. This is lower than the previous period due to the impact of their ability to operate in light of COVID-19 and since reopening have been extremely restricted due to need to social distance.
- 3.3 The majority of activities undertaken were litter picks in open spaces, for example, the Great Lines Heritage Park continues to be regularly litter picked. Other projects include working with a number of churches to clear and maintain overgrown graveyards and cutting back vegetation and working on public rights of way, cutting back hedges as well as clearing ice or snow when needed from doctor's surgeries and care homes.

### 4. Medway Task Force

- 4.1 The Medway Task Force, although operating since summer 2019, formally launched in February 2020. Since November 2019 the team has been focussing their activity within the Luton and Wayfield Ward. In August 2020 it commenced within Gillingham North.
- 4.2 COVID-19 has presented challenges with some staff from other agencies being required to work away from Gun Wharf. However, a full time member of staff has joined the team from Kent Fire and Rescue Service; some activity, in particular outreach work has been curtailed; but relationships and connections have been developed and fostered and these engagement opportunities will recommence when safe to do so. The team has operated throughout COVID and although some joint partnership activity/operations were temporarily suspended; this work, where possible, has restarted. Joint working with Trading Standards and Environmental Enforcement has continued including joint visits with Adult Social Care, the Rough Sleeper Team and our Housing teams and this has ensured the team respond immediately to any prevailing vulnerability.
- 4.3 The Medway Vulnerability Panel was implemented in July 2020 (previously the Community MARAC) and is chaired jointly by Medway Task Force and Community Safety. Since its inception there has been 23 adult referrals. This Panel has been supported by a number of key agencies with the aim of providing a multi-agency problem solving approach to protect and support those who are highlighted as vulnerable. The Task Force has worked closely with the Youth Offending Team (YOT) undertaking a number of visits to an

identified cohort of young people. This work is continuing, integrated DWP staff work with those young people who are not in education, employment or training. The team also works closely with the Violence Reduction Unit, the Adolescent Team and the Serious Youth Violence project.

4.4 In August, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner was successful in securing £111,000 through the Home Office Safer Streets Fund to undertake some crime prevention/target hardening and street scene improvement within the residential area to the north of Gillingham High Street. This project was launched on 10 October with leaflets being delivered to every household providing an overview of the project. The Task Force, in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioners office will coordinate this activity through to the project end in March 2021. This provides an excellent opportunity for partners to engage with the local community through the different work strands with the aim of preventing acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and helping the local community to feel safe.

4.5 Since 5 September 2020 the Environmental Enforcement Team have been working with MTF in the Gillingham North area and have dealt with 393 jobs. These have resulted in the following;

- 76 Community Protection Warnings for refuse out early
- 18 Community Protection Warnings for bulky waste
- 6 Community Protection Notices
- 6 Fixed Penalty Notices
- 9 trade waste violations
- 13 fly tipping investigations

The rest of the jobs were picked up and disposed of at the waste site.

## 5. PACTs

5.1 There are currently 13 PACTs running in Medway, often PACTs disband once their specific concerns have been addressed. However, others have continued to remain active in their communities as residents' groups.

## 6. Community Engagement

6.1 A total of 68 community engagement events have been arranged or attended by the Community Safety Team, which were supported by wider Safer Communities' staff and partner agencies at a variety of locations in both urban and rural areas of Medway, including Community Hubs and Residents Groups/Associations, Dementia Groups, Fresher Fayres and High Street Banks. Since December 2019 we have engaged with 738 people through these events.

6.2 General community safety advice is given along with personal safety equipment and leaflets, where appropriate. No community engagement events have taken place since early March due to COVID-19.

## 7. Illegal Tobacco

- 7.1 Tackling the sale of illegal tobacco remains a priority in Medway and enforcement actions are currently being led by Kent Police as part of Operation Ignite. These are being carried out with the support of HMRC and are coordinated by Public Health.
- 7.2 Seizures have been made as a result of two separate enforcement actions, including those made under Operation Ignite.
- 7.3 In June an incident in a retail establishment associated with intelligence on illicit tobacco resulted in Kent Police making four arrests. One individual was remanded in custody and a 3 month closure order was applied to the premises. Kent Police seized 900 packets of illicit tobacco as well 11,800 packets of cigarettes (236,000 sticks of cigarettes).
- 7.4 In August, Operation Ignite, supported by detection dogs yielded seizures totalling a further 28.5kg of hand rolling tobacco and 144,420 cigarettes. This is equivalent to £62,000 in evaded excise duty and has an estimated retail value of £35,000. Two vans were also seized and removed and a concealed fridge compartment identified, seized and removed.
- 7.5 Further enforcement actions are planned as part of Operation Ignite.

## 8. Age Restricted Goods

- 8.1 The Trading Standards Team continues to advise local businesses on the assorted age restricted product controls they regulate. Training packages and bespoke advice are provided to local traders to enable them to train their staff on good practice
- 8.2 The team also carries out test purchasing surveys with the assistance of local volunteers checking the availability of age restricted products to under age persons, recent exercises have covered fireworks, butane, e-cigarettes, knives, tobacco and alcohol. Eight traders were warned in these exercises.

## 9. Strategic Community Safety Approach

- 9.1 A strategic approach continues to be adopted to ensure the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is closely aligned with the ambitions of Medway as a great place to live, work, learn and visit.
- 9.2 The strategic assessment reviewed the CSP's existing priorities and has confirmed that they meet their statutory obligations as a partnership, reflecting the priorities of partner agencies in delivering a safer Medway, and supporting sustainable regeneration.

9.3 The annual strategic assessment will this year refresh the Action Plan as part of the 4-year CSP Plan, which the CSP aims to align with the Police and Crime Commissioners Safer in Kent Plan.

## 10. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

10.1 Legislation introduced by the Government in 2014 gave local authorities more freedom and flexibility to control ASB in places to which the public has access. PSPOs replaced the Designated Public Place Order (DPPO), which created 'alcohol control zones' and Dog Control Orders. The change to the law came into effect on 20 October 2017. From this time the DPPOs were treated as provisions of a PSPO.

10.2 PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

10.3 The PSPOs in Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Strood have been extended as have the dog control PSPOs after a period of consultation. These can be varied or discharged at any time following further consultation.

## 11. Prevent

11.1 The Kent and Medway Prevent Duty Delivery Board (PDDDB) is the strategic partnership board responsible for overseeing Prevent. It is jointly chaired by Corporate Directors from Medway Council and KCC, and has good attendance from a range of partners.

11.2 The Kent and Medway Prevent Partners Plan sets out required activity and was amended to reflect both the Counter Terrorism Local Profile recommendations and themes from the Kent and Medway Counter Terrorist Risk Assessment 2020-21, with agreement from all partners. Progress updates are delivered to the quarterly Kent and Medway PDDDB. The Kent and Medway Plan has been identified as national best practice.

11.3 A Medway Prevent Cross-Directorate Group has been established, with the first meeting held in September 2020. The Kent and Medway Prevent Coordinator chairs this group and worked with Medway colleagues to identify suitable representatives from across the council to attend. A Medway Council internal Prevent action plan will be developed and monitored through this group.

11.4 A programme of Prevent training has been arranged for Medway Council staff through the March 2021 including Prevent Awareness training, Prevent and Radicalisation workshops, Extreme Identities Online workshops, and thematic webinars entitled 'Extremist exploitation of COVID-19' and 'Extremism and online gaming'. The Prevent Coordinator is delivering the training virtually and initial sessions have been well attended.

- 11.5 The Prevent Education Officer (PEO) covering Medway continues to form a good working relationship with schools in Medway. Schools are able to access training for staff, workshops for students, guidance on Prevent related policy, and advice on individual queries from the PEO. The Prevent Coordinator provides quarterly updates to the Medway Community Safety Partnership Strategic Executive Group. The last update in July 2020 received interest and support from attendees.

## 12. Channel Panel

- 12.1 Channel is an 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.
- 12.2 The revised Channel Duty Guidance had been published. Implementation of the new guidance remains an action in the Kent and Medway Prevent Partners Action Plan.
- 12.3 ‘Dovetail’ refers to arrangements where a local authority takes on responsibility for the administration and management of Prevent referrals suitable for Channel consideration and adopted Channel cases, which had previously been a police function. The Dovetail arrangements were initially piloted in KCC from September 2016 and have continued beyond the original 12-month pilot. The Home Office provided additional resourcing to the KCC Dovetail team, in order to extend the Dovetail arrangements to Medway. Roll-out of Dovetail coverage to Medway commenced on 1 September 2020. A revised terms of reference was agreed and a Memo of Understanding regarding the Dovetail process has been drafted between KCC and Medway Council.
- 12.4 Following the agreement between KCC and Medway Council to move to a combined Kent and Medway Channel Panel, the first joint panel was held virtually on 10 September 2020. The combined panel is co-chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance from Medway Council Children’s Services, and the KCC Prevent and Channel Strategic Manager.
- 12.5 Since Dovetail implementation on 1 September the number of referrals received into Dovetail for Medway is more than double the number of referrals made to the Medway Channel Panel in 2019/20. It is likely the increase in referrals for consideration in Channel is due to increased training with Medway professionals, and a lower threshold for referral to Dovetail than the police managed Channel process.

## 13. Serious and Organised Crime Partnership (SOCP)

- 13.1 The 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 and MCET (Missing Child Exploitation Team) and is Vice-Chaired by the Community Safety and Enforcement Manager.

- 13.2 The multi-agency group develops and implements plans using the '4 P' model of Prepare, Pursue, Prevent and Protect 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.
- 13.3 In the last year one Organised Crime Group (OCG) was tackled at the SOCP. Following partner and police activity, the OCG was successfully disrupted and archived. There has also been significant input on two other cases from the Medway Task Force, Trading Standards and Environmental Enforcement. Another case has been raised to the SOCP in September for joint working between Trading Standards, Public Health and the police to tackle organised groups involved in the illegal tobacco trade.
- 13.4 The SOCP incorporates Modern Day Slavery, Human Trafficking, Missing Persons, Gangs and Human Trafficking and works closely with the MASE (Child Sexual Exploitation).
- 13.5 The SOCP also works with partner agencies to develop techniques to deter people (particularly young people) from being drawn into serious and organised criminality.

#### 14. Blue Light Project

- 14.1 The Medway Blue Light Project is an innovative multi-agency approach, facilitated by Medway Public Health Department to inform joint interventions aimed at adult substance misusers with complex needs and with a history of poor engagement with services. The cohort is also characterised by ongoing involvement in ASB in Medway's communities.
- 14.2 During the lockdown phase of the COVID-19 pandemic the project was paused. Clients were supported as part of the Rough Sleepers Initiative and through the work of the 'Everyone in' scheme where rough sleepers were housed in temporary accommodation. The Blue Light project resumed monthly meetings in August 2020 and invites representatives from the following organisations: Medway Council Social Care; Medway Council Housing; Medway Public Health; Community Safety; Kent Police; KSS CRC; National Probation Service; AMAT; Pathways to Independence Ltd; Riverside Housing; Turning Point; Forward Trust (Prisons); Open Road; One Big Family and Caring Hands.
- 14.3 There are currently 3 individuals on the list who face severe and multiple disadvantages with substance misuse, homelessness or involvement in the criminal justice system. A limit on numbers of clients has been put in place as the meetings moved online to ensure the procedures work correctly and that adequate time can be given to sharing relevant information, creating an action plan and monitoring progress for each person. Prior to the lockdown the



number of clients had fallen, due in part due to the Rough Sleepers Initiative project having outreach workers identifying individuals and providing earlier solutions to complex issues. This should be considered a successful development of the project. Referrals continue to be made by a range of agencies. Where an individual faces a set of very complex issues a team is set up around the individual to overcome barriers to progress and maintain momentum between the monthly meetings.

- 14.4 Outcomes from the project have included long standing individuals on the Blue Light Project list being housed and accessing drug treatment services; others have been supported to access a range of services. Due to effective partnership working, the project is able to continue its oversight of the individuals even when they are in prison and ensure they continue to be supported on release. The Blue Light Project is linked closely to the Rough Sleeper's initiative which has provided valuable and effective outreach.

## 15. Homelessness and Begging

- 15.1 Medway Housing continue to work in partnership with Public Health's Blue Light project to ensure support and advice is offered to vulnerable people, who often have rough sleeping and/or begging as part of their complex range of issues. Whilst people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness continue to get support from Kingsley House, additional input is often required for rough sleepers.
- 15.2 Many homeless people (including those who sleep rough) have a range of support needs across drugs and alcohol, mental health issues, physical health issues – sometimes all three - which require support and assistance.

## 16. Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (OSS)

- 16.1 Medway's One Stop Shop (OSS) is held every Tuesday morning (9.30am-12pm) at the Sunlight Centre in Gillingham. There is representation and commitment from a number of multi-agency partners, including statutory and voluntary agencies such as Medway Community Health, solicitors, Home Start, Medway Domestic Abuse Service (Choices), SATEDA (Domestic Abuse Charity), DWP, Turning Point, Support to Court, Kent Police, Clarion, West Kent Housing, NSPCC and Medway Council.
- 16.2 The OSS was closed from 17 March to 28 July due to COVID-19. Since reopening on 28 July they have supported 26 women and 1 man. The One Stop Shop is a continuous project with no plans to close again unless complete lockdown makes it impossible to remain open.
- 16.3 They have been running a "OSS Lite" version since 28 July 2020. This version of the OSS offers immediate support by trained domestic abuse specialists within an environment which adheres to the current Government guidelines. They encourage agencies to signpost victims to the MDAS Helpline in place of attending the OSS in person, therefore numbers at the OSS have reduced significantly since pre-COVID-19. However there remains to be a need for a

face to face drop in style service in Medway as they rarely go a week without any visitors. The main objective of the OSS Lite session is to signpost and refer victims to services – in this was the session acts a gateway to existing services. The Government restrictions have allowed the OSS to return to the original purpose of a OSS, whilst encouraging those who seek ongoing support to access MDAS as Medway's commissioned service.

## 17. Doorstep Fraud

- 17.1 The Trading Standards Team has continued to work with local banks to disrupt doorstep criminals who use building works and home improvements as vehicles for fraud. The implementation of the national Banking Protocol sees a formal referral process for banks to use to alert Trading Standards and the Police of potential doorstep crime victims
- 17.2 Supported by staff from the Community Safety Team, a number of high profile engagements have been held in banks to highlight the issue.
- 17.3 The team have been participating in a national project to intervene with the chronic victims of mail order and internet scams. They have contacted over 120 local residents to offer them support and advice to prevent further exploitation.
- 17.4 The team have re-designed very popular Medway Council 'No Cold Calling packs' and have been issuing them through numerous public engagement events. Over 12,000 of new designed packs have been issued to local residents.

## 18. Kent and Medway Serious Youth Crime project

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 Project strategic aims:
  - 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;
  - 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.

18.3 The programme proposed to break down into 3 tiers to cover all areas.

- Tier 1 will look at children transitioning from year 6 to 7 and schools in areas that were in deprecation Wards. Tier one will focus on training the trainer to support young people and be delivered by the schools in those areas.
- Tier 2 will look at those at risk of being involved or who are on the periphery of criminal involvement. This tier will work with schools, PRUs and specialist schools, to increase understanding.
- Tier 3 was young people who had been convicted and either were going in or coming out of custody.

18.4 KCC (as the bid lead) has been successful in the bid with the University of Bedfordshire for a 3-year project to embed a contextual approach to the work.

18.5 Contextual Safeguarding has been developed at the University of Bedfordshire over the past six years to inform policy and practice approaches to safeguarding adolescents. Initially emerging from a three-year review of operational responses to peer-on-peer abuse, Contextual Safeguarding provides a framework to advance child protection and safeguarding responses to a range of extra-familial risks that compromise the safety and welfare of young people.

18.6 In August 2019 KCC appointed the Project Coordinator. They have liaised with Medway; YOT, Youth Services, Early Help, Community Safety and the Medway Task Force.

18.7 There has already been liaison with young people at Cookham Wood Young Offender Institution with regard to what support would be beneficial to them and their families.

18.8 It has been agreed that the 2-year timeline will commence once funding of posts begins.

## 19. Unauthorised Encampments

19.1 The Community Safety Team took on responsibility for dealing with unauthorised traveller incursions in April of 2019. The Community Safety Officer who dealt with unauthorised encampments has now left the authority and an arrangement has been put in place that officers from the Environmental Enforcement and Street Scene Enforcement Team deal with any unauthorised encampments.

19.2 Since December 2019 a total of 42 unauthorised encampments (which includes 'tent' encampments) have been dealt with. The process commences with an initial welfare check alongside the due process to remove unlawful encampments using the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (CJPO).

These site visits are usually done in tandem with officers from Kent Police. The team have worked very hard in making sure they promptly use the CJPO Act, on day 1 serving notice under section 77 to direct campers to leave; if they fail to comply with the section 77 direction, they then use section 78 of the same act to go to court on day 2 to get an order which allows for their removal. This means that the quickest time to legally removal an unauthorised encampment using the CJPO act is 3 working days.

- 19.3 PSPOs allow local authorities to draw up local orders to address specific problems affecting the council area's communities. Breach of PSPOs is a criminal offence and can result in issue of a £200 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or if summoned to court a £1000 fine. One local authority introduced a PSPO which they believed would stop unlawful incursions in some areas of their borough. These have proved to be ineffective. This is due to the difficulty of prosecuting individuals who are sometimes from outside the UK. Fixed Penalty Notices were inappropriate as, if issued and unpaid, costly prosecution action would have to begin. It was found that some travellers treated the PSPOs with contempt. The inability of this particular council to enforce the PSPOs also led to serious reputational damage and adverse press-coverage.
- 19.4 Injunctions – A number have been refused, these relate to borough wide injunctions rather than injunctions for specific pieces of land. The reason the High Court refused a borough wide injunction was due to the fact that it was found to be discriminatory as they prevented the ability of gypsies and travellers to pursue their way of life. In relation to injunctions for specific pieces of land, these would effectively be impossible to enforce due to the Council having to know the names of those persons breaching the injunction in order to be able to take them to Court for breaching the injunction. Advice from our Legal Services was that Injunctions would not have the desired effect and would not be quicker than the current process that we have in place. Refusing to grant a final five-year injunction in a London borough, the deputy High Court judge said that the ban sought was “unduly wide and disproportionate”.
- 19.5 In the last few years Medway has seen an increase in unlawful encampments both on Medway Council and private land. In addition there has been a change in the behaviour of some travellers, with a more belligerent attitude towards council staff and police. A small number have also caused high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, left fly-tipped and domestic waste and caused damage to the land and surrounding property. This increase has created additional pressure on services. Some locations have been subject to multiple incursions. In all but a few Medway Council has faced substantial repair and/or clean-up costs.
- 19.6 The Community Safety Team works closely with partner agencies, including Kent Police and have adopted a more pro-active and interventional approach towards incursions. It is felt that early intervention, intelligence sharing with other local authorities and robust enforcement will have a positive effect on

the length of time that incursions occur and a will bring a preventative outcome in the future.

- 19.7 The team have also worked with Medway Norse to not only target harden areas, but also in assessing other 'at risk' sites to assess what options are available to protect these areas.

## 20 CCTV

- 20.1 There are no faults outstanding on the Community Safety Closed Circuit Television (CSCCTV) estate, the network infrastructure for Rainham is now being upgraded to a wireless solution.
- 20.2 There are no plans to further reduce the number of CSCCTV cameras, however mechanisms need to be in place to ensure compliance with the surveillance camera code of conduct.
- 20.3 Each month a report is generated by the CCTV control room that lists activity levels of all CSCCTV cameras and circulated to the council's lead officer for CSCCTV. Part of this report will highlight zero activity cameras. If a camera reports zero activity for a period of 6 months the cameras placement will be reviewed e.g. Is it in the correct position? Is it performing a specific function that has changed? Has the environment surrounding the camera changed etc.
- 20.4 If it is found that a camera is serving no specific purpose in the opinion of the CSCCTV lead officer based on documented evidence, it will be submitted to the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Executive Group (CSP SEG) for decommissioning or re-deployment elsewhere. It is at this point the qualified professionals of the board may intervene with their own service based intelligence. If it is decided that a camera is to be removed Ward Members will be informed of this decision and the rationale behind it.
- 20.5 If a Ward Member, a Member of the Public or an Officer of the Council feels a location would benefit from a new camera due to anecdotal evidence of increased activity in an area, this may be reported to the Community Safety Team (it's important to note the distinction between the Community Safety Team and the Community Safety Partnership). The Community Safety Team will then investigate whether a Camera is the correct response to the specific issue. If this is the case, the team will then collect evidence and complete a privacy impact assessment and present the suggestion to the CSPSEG for consideration.
- 20.6 This process will ensure that no single Officer, Member or Government Official will decide the location or removal of any camera in Medway.
- 20.7 There are currently 2 sites being investigated for consideration of new cameras in Rainham and Lordswood.
- 20.8 A new camera has been installed in Station Road, Strood covering the underpass and approach.

- 20.9 Four new cameras have been commissioned to improve the water safety of the riverfront funded by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 20.10 The cameras have been installed at river side points located near or on Rochester Pier, Strood waterfront, Sun Pier and Gillingham Pier. The cameras were originally intended to have dual sensors, one being a thermal the other an optical lens. On testing however, it was found to be more effective to use laser assisted units. The laser assists focusing in low light conditions with a very high definition image. The laser also triggers an alarm in the control room if the beam is broken (for example a person in the river).
- 20.11 A new additional Transmitting Rapid deployment camera has also been purchased by the Community Safety Team (funded by the Safer Streets Project) for use by the Medway Task Force on specific project work.
- 20.12 The CSCCTV estate continues to be monitored 24/7, 365 days a year. There has been no downtime in monitoring.

## 21. Environmental Enforcement

- 21.1 The Environmental Enforcement Team continue to work in partnership with Kent Police and neighbouring local authorities. They use Kent Police's custody suite to facilitate the interviewing of suspects in environmental crime investigations. Last year the team successfully prosecuted 10 cases with court awarding fines and costs totalling £9,255. During the past year the team have compiled 17 cases that have been referred to Medway magistrates court, these are all awaiting court dates (delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions).
- 21.2 The team conducted 7 operations alongside Kent Police, this resulted in 11 vehicles being seized. Two of the vehicles were seized due to their links with an unlawful encampment/waste transfer station at Sharps Green Gillingham. Three other vehicles are due to be crushed, the details of which will be released via local media sources.

## 22. Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

- 22.1 The Emergency Trauma Pack (ETP) scheme, funded by Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit (VDR), makes sure our communities and first responders are empowered to have the right equipment to stop critical bleed injuries and save lives. Kent are the first county to have complete funded coverage across all our communities. Learning evidences that correct basic early actions make a significant positive difference. It also shows that this equipment needs to be accessible in the community before trained and emergency services people arrive. These have been distributed at key points throughout Medway.

22.2 The Medway CSP supported the Violence Reduction Unit's #knifefree campaign in September. The CSP have purchased knife tubes, trauma dummies, first aid kits, knife wands and a knife arch using funding provided by the VRU. This was supported by operational activity from Kent Police which included youth engagement through the schools, weapon sweeps by ward officers in areas where knives have previously been found, and proactive operations by police to deter those carrying weapons. The period ended with a week of action targeted at those involved in county lines, drug dealing and weapons offences which resulted in 25 arrests, 6 weapons being seized, 5 weapon sweeps, 4 community engagement events and 3 warrants.

## 23. Communications

23.1 The CSP has its own Twitter account with tweets being sent on behalf of the partnership with general community safety advice as well as messaging when and where we are holding community engagement events. The account currently has 1,394 followers.

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### **Appendices**

None

### **Background papers**

None.