

Medway Community Safety Partnership

Strategic Assessment 2020



COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP

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Introduction

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 the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

To ensure we address the crime, 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 year we have adopted the new Community Safety Plan 2020-2024, with new priorities that are outlined within this document. This report is a summary of the key findings of the Partnership's Strategic Assessment 2020. It will reflect upon the work that has been undertaken to support the priorities outlined in the Community Safety Plan. The report will take into account the enormous upheaval caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and how services have adapted. It will also identify gaps or future aims 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.

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



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

Community Safety Plan 2020 - 2024

In April 2020, the Community Safety Partnership adopted the new Community Safety Plan.

The new priorities are outlined in the below table;

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 (MTF)	Mental Health	Youth Offending	Communications
Kent and Medway Serious Youth Crime Project	Radicalisation		Annual Consultation Event
	Tackling ASB		Empowering Communities
	Domestic Abuse		

The Community Safety Plan outlines a number of priority actions within its action plan which is reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Community Safety Strategic Executive Board. Rather than each core agency taking responsibility for one main priority, as has been the case in previous years, agencies are responsible for many smaller priorities across all the categories. This reflects the nature of partnership working and the need to support each other to achieve the overall aims of the Partnership.

Overview

Priority	What we have been doing
Safeguarding Adults and Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption of County Lines has continued with several warrants executed by the Divisional Support Unit, the Community Safety Unit (CSU) and the MTF. • Cuckooing checks by the Community Policing Team have taken place with a successful Closure Order placed on one property by the CSU in one case of serious anti-social behaviour. • Serious Organised Crime Partnership (SOCP) meetings have taken place virtually to ensure that disruption and investigation can continue with all relevant partners engaged. • Successful joint funding bid by Medway Youth Service, MTF and The Rowans to the Youth Endowment COVID-19 Fund.
Reducing Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has received £111,000 from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund to help prevent acquisitive crime in areas of Gillingham. • The 'Vulnerability Panel' led by the MTF, has been created to provide an effective multi-agency response to vulnerable adults in Medway. • Additional funding allowed Medway Domestic Abuse Service (MDAS) to create a full time Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (HIDVA) in January 2020. • Between July and September 2020, the CSU has secured 4 more Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) against those who adversely affect their communities. There are 3 more CBO applications pending with the Courts awaiting hearings.
Reduce re-offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint working commenced between the Youth Offending Team and MTF in March 2020 involving the intensive support and supervision of an agreed cohort of young people; work is now ongoing with DWP to support those not in education, employment or training. • Funding from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has allowed for BUDDI Tag (GPS monitoring) training for the CSU and MTF Officers. • Community Payback teams have worked on a range of projects including creating Luton Forest School on former wasteland at zero cost to the school. • Pre-pandemic, there were 11 unpaid work groups in Medway including 1 female only group. By 30 September 2020, Community Payback on Medway had reached 75% of pre-lockdown hours worked and alternative approaches to delivery, are being explored to add resilience.
Listening to our Communities and Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Fire and Rescue held an 'Embracing Difference' Event on 26 February 2020 at the Road Safety Experience in Rochester to engage and discuss some of the different issues and concerns in different communities. • During the COVID-19 Pandemic, officers from Medway Council and Kent Police held Twitter Engagement Events online. • Surveys were produced online to consult with Medway residents about Public Space Protection Orders which have been reviewed. • MTF has delivered leaflets to Gillingham households and has commenced their crime prevention activity engaging door to door with local residents listening to their concerns

The Crime Picture in Context

Whilst the Strategic Assessment will discuss some of the challenges and actions that have taken place during the COVID-19 Pandemic, due to the way data is collected, recorded and published the timeframe will be prior to the Lockdown period which officially began on 23 March 2020. All data will be for the time period of April 2019 – March 2020 to ensure consistency and to allow comparison with previous years.

After significant increases in crime over previous years, explained by the changes in the way Kent Police recorded crimes, we are beginning to see the start of a plateau effect emerging with last year experiencing a 12% increase in recorded crime, compared with a 36% increase in the year previous. This year we have seen a 5% decrease in recorded crime. As expected, the figures have come more into line. There has been significant work in Medway to improve partnership working with a number of new measures being implemented reducing incidents of reported crime. It has also been positive in reducing repeat crimes with target hardening and effective support for victims. This holistic approach appears to be having a positive impact on the level of crime within Medway.

The introduction of the MTF has developed the partnership approach even further and particularly in areas identified as needing the most support and intervention from the multi-agency team. The focus of the Task Force as well as other agencies and organisations has been on reducing violence against the person. Incidents have seen a small decrease by about 3% which, whilst small, shows a positive trajectory. Crimes against society, which include drug offences, have reduced by 14% which reflects the significant work in tackling offenders, disrupting County Lines as well as the work to tackle substance misuse and reduce the market for drugs in Medway.

Although an increase in anti-social behaviour is concerning it can also reflect a positive increase in reporting through appropriate channels. There has been consistent messaging across all partner agencies to advise the community to report anti-social behaviour to Kent Police. This is so that these can be recorded appropriately and acted upon, rather than emails to different agencies that can be missed or dealt with in isolation.

There has been an increase in calls to Kent Police, for the whole of Kent and Medway, in the 2019/20 period totalling 344,749 which is an increase of 10,781 on the previous year. The number of non-emergency 101 calls increased by 14,717 to 470,314 in total. In addition to this Kent Police has launched its 'Click Before You Call' campaign which gives the public the opportunity to use self-serving online services. These services are quick and easy to use and can be accessed 24/7. It is highly likely that some people, who would previously have given up on calls to 101, due to busy periods and wait times are now reporting online. This means incidents that would have previously gone unreported are now being picked up. In the 2019/20 period Kent Police received 24,268 online reports and another 17,257 live chats for the whole of the Kent and Medway highlighting how popular the service has been.

All Recorded Crime	
Level of Crime	<p>33,334 recorded crimes (April 19 – March 20, Kent Police Data)</p> <p>119.67 per 1000 people (Based on the population estimate of 278,566 for 2019 from the Office of National Statistics, June 2020)</p>
Peer Comparison	8th highest number of recorded crimes for Unitary Authorities (57 responding authorities, lginform.gov.uk) (Down from 6 th previously)
Annual Change	5% decrease
General Trend	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>General Trend</p> </div>
Seasonality	<div style="text-align: center;"> </div>
Breakdown of Crime Types	<div style="text-align: center;"> </div>

For breakdown of crime types – see appendix 1

ASB																											
No of Incidents	<p>6023 incidents between Apr 19 - Mar 20 (Based on Kent Police data available Oct 2020)</p> <p>21.62 incidents per 1000 people (Based on the population estimate of 278,566 for 2019 from the Office of National Statistics, June 2020)</p>																										
Annual Change	<p>10% increase</p> <p>521 additional incidents (Compared with the 5502 incidents between Apr 18 - Mar 19)</p>																										
General Trend	<table border="1"> <caption>General Trend Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Incidents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Apr 15 - Mar 16</td> <td>8800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 16 - Mar 17</td> <td>8500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 17 - Mar 18</td> <td>7500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 18 - Mar 19</td> <td>5500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 19 - Mar 20</td> <td>6000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Incidents	Apr 15 - Mar 16	8800	Apr 16 - Mar 17	8500	Apr 17 - Mar 18	7500	Apr 18 - Mar 19	5500	Apr 19 - Mar 20	6000														
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Hotspots	<p>Top 5 Wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River • Gillingham North • Gillingham South • Strood South • Luton and Wayfield <p>These 5 Wards account for 48% of all ASB incidents in Medway.</p>																										

Progress on Our Priorities

Safeguarding Adults and Children

The Safeguarding Adults and Children priority includes tackling serious violence and County Lines. The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that many services were postponed, adapted or in some cases cancelled all together. Whilst it has been difficult in some instances, the partners and agencies of the CSP have strived to continue to meet as many of their aims and targets as possible to keep Medway a safe place to be.

As part of the COVID-19 emergency response Trading Standards were tasked on the 22 March 2020 with the enforcement of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020 which were later replaced with assorted iterations of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020. The regulations created the regime that caused the closure of many commercial and retail premises. The legislation is a key mechanism in the Government's control strategy. In contrast to Kent County Council where it was a combined Environmental Health and Trading Standards function it was delivered exclusively in Medway by the Trading Standards team consisting of three available officers.

A dichotomy in enforcement roles was immediately established with Kent Police, with the Trading Standards team taking the lead in the application of the Regulations to the 'businesses' and Kent Police addressing 'individuals'.

At the outset of the incident the Trading Standards Team had an overt presence in our High Streets and shopping Centres, by immediately engaging with businesses the small team were able to effectively implement the regulations with the overwhelming support of Medway Businesses. The dynamic nature of the marketplace saw the team working many evenings and weekends to ensure local compliance.

Since the 22 March 2020 the Trading Standards team achieved the following outputs:

- Issued 14 Formal prohibition notices
- Voluntarily closed 137 non-compliant premises
- Engaged and visited 6503 commercial premises
- Issued 9 Internet take down notices for prohibited businesses

The team took a 'proactive regulatory' approach to the enforcement of the regulations, this is best seen as a proverbial iceberg with the formal 'enforcement' actions being seen above the waterline but with much of the work taking place discretely with individual businesses. This saw the team educating traders on their legal obligations, with them electing to voluntarily cease their prohibited activities. Importantly, much of the work the team did was advising businesses on how they could trade during the prohibition period, this included:

- Technical guidance to traders on the legal standards of hand wash and businesses trying to import face masks.

- Distance selling guidance to a broad range of business who decided to open via the internet/mail order.
- Assisting food businesses to evolve to home delivery and takeaway services.
- Offering guidance to many retail shops so that they could provide the 'service' element of the business, such a mobile phone repairs.

At the highpoint of the crisis the small team were getting in excess of 45 complaints a day concerning alleged breaches by businesses, all of which were immediately actioned.

Moreover, the team delivered a bespoke news function mailshotting business sectors on changes to the law so that they had accurate and reliable information on when they could open. They have also dealt with enquiries on a range of issues such as;

- The high level of non-compliant and counterfeit hand sanitisers and personal protective equipment that has appeared on the market.
- The increasing importation of non-compliant PPE products being processed through Thamesport. This included a refusal of entry into the UK of a container of unsafe hand sanitiser.
- Guidance on the cancellations of flights and package travel holidays.
- An increase in COVID-19 themed scams and cold calling approached to local residents
- Guidance to businesses on implementing COVID-19 compliant underage age sale controls.
- Advice to businesses and consumers on the law surrounding cancelled events, such as Weddings.
- Engaging with the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) and Gillingham Football Club to ensure that the relevant changes to the Safety Certificate and Operations Manual are implemented to allow for the resumption of competitive football.

With social distancing guidelines in place and an increasing number of people working from home, partners and other agencies have had to adapt with many meetings being held virtually. Many partners have found that online meetings have dramatically improved the attendance with participants not having to worry about travel time. This has improved partnership working and has made working together more efficient without the stress of finding suitable venues and parking. Meetings such as the SOCP have been able to continue which has meant that work to disrupt this form of criminality hasn't stopped. Early during the pandemic and lockdown partners worked together to disrupt two emerging young criminal groups who were in dispute. The VRU, Social Services and the Police worked together to agree ownership of each of the young people and take appropriate interventions with each. One young person was remanded, three were moved out of the district and the remainder received interventions from various agencies. This effectively disrupted the criminality and the networks and reduced the risk they posed to the public and each other.

In the last financial year, the SOCP owned one organised crime group which was tackled through a partnership approach. There were a number of disruptions to the criminal activity which ultimately led to the organised crime group being archived. Other issues dealt with by the SOCP include a group linked to ASB and fly tipping in a town centre. Partners including the MTF and the local authority worked together to disrupt the group through enforcement and safeguarding, and incidents reduced. More recently since the pandemic started, HMRC, Police and Public Health have worked together to disrupt the trade in illegal tobacco in one of the town centres.

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is now providing reporting on times, locations and persons linked to weapons offences which is driving some operational activity. Proactive work to remove weapons from the streets has continued throughout the year. The strong links between the VRU and MTF (MTF), Youth Offending Team (YOT), CSU and the Medway Adolescent Team has allowed for a holistic approach to problem solving by helping to identify victims and suspects along with places and spaces of interest. Medway Sexual Exploitation Team (MCET) has welcomed two new officers in June and since July there have been an additional 3 officers joining MCET and one PCSO leaving to re-join Kent Police as a Constable. The Serious Youth Violence Project officers have started to work regularly out of the MCET office and MCET staff are encouraging agencies to nominate any young people who may fit the criteria for intervention from the project.

MTF was launched in October 2019 and began work in the Luton and Wayfield Ward as this area was identified as an area with multiple concerns in terms of vulnerability but also having a good network of organisations and resources to draw on to have a good impact. The MTF has successfully engaged with key schools in the area. Inputs for assemblies were planned at one secondary school but unfortunately these were cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, engagement has continued and will continue where needed. The MTF also provided signposting to the many agencies and organisations available to support both children and adults. This included referring young people to Fearless, the Youth Service element of Crimestoppers. The ability to report concerns completely anonymously gives young people the opportunity to raise their fears and concerns without the fear of retribution. The Task Force has begun to explore working within the Gillingham North Ward whilst still playing a role within the Luton and Wayfield area.

Following a successful bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) Supporting Families Against Youth Crime (SFAYC) fund work has continued by partner agencies. Kent County Council successfully led on the bid which secured £1,362,645 in funding over two years to deliver a collaborative North Kent and Medway Project. There has been good collaboration between partners in Kent and Medway with particular benefit felt in Medway's Youth Offending Team.

Reducing Vulnerability

Prior to the pandemic MTF (MTF) had been reviewing different meetings that take place to identify whether there were any gaps or more efficient ways of working. This has led to the creation of a Vulnerability Panel which provides an effective multi-agency response to vulnerable adults in Medway. This has absorbed the previous Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC). The panel is led by the MTF and looks at cases that are often complex with multiple areas of concern or vulnerability. Agencies nominate individuals who would benefit from a partnership approach or may need additional help from a specific partner within the group. If the case is heard at the Panel meeting members of MTF will continue to work with partners to ensure that actions are carried out and all options are explored. The case will be discharged from the panel when it is either resolved, can be effectively managed by a single agency, or no longer meets the threshold for Vulnerability Panel intervention.

The CSU Crime Prevention PCSOs have carried out assessments of locations vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and crime across Medway and liaised with landowners. They have also supported the MTF with identifying opportunities for investment in Gillingham to support the PCC's bid to the Home Office Safer Streets fund.

Medway Council's Community Safety Team also worked closely with Kent Police. They investigated complex cases of anti-social behaviour that require a more long-term problem-solving solution, whilst providing support to victims and complainants, including evidence capture, statement taking and preparation. In the course of the last year, the team has investigated cases using powers contained within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. They also took on responsibility for dealing with unlawful traveller incursions using the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to direct unauthorised campers to leave, in partnership with Kent Police, who have used their powers under the same act, under specific circumstances. In addition, the team worked with Medway Norse to identify those areas that required target hardening to prevent further incursions.

Whilst initially the pandemic made life difficult for those involved in the drugs trade it did not cease altogether and work continued behind the scenes to tackle 'County Lines' and drug dealing. Anecdotal reporting has suggested that there has been some difficulty in sourcing drugs. This has led to concern for drug users who may have taken greater risks to source drugs, which may also have been of poor quality. There has also been anecdotal data from Medway Council's Rough Sleeper Team that there has been an increase in the use of psychoactive substances/synthetic cannabinoids (collectively referred to as 'spice') which is reported to be causing an increase in aggressive behaviour amongst some of the current and former street population.

Substance misuse treatment and recovery services continued to deliver throughout the pandemic. Although face to face work was minimalised, online and phone support was put in

place to ensure a continuation of support and treatment. Business and COVID-19 continuity plans are currently in place to minimise disruption. The Blue Light meetings which look at complex cases of substance misuse, mental health and homelessness were temporarily stopped due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, these restarted in August and agencies are working together to find innovative ways to provide support and assistance to those that fall within these categories.

The ratio of successful completion of drug treatment in Medway is 1.3 with anything above 1 being better than the average in England. There are an estimated 1459 opiate and crack cocaine users in Medway and although treatment is often successful there are an estimated 63.7% of opiate and crack cocaine users who are not accessing services. This is a slight increase that may be attributable to the increase in Public Health England's estimated opiate and crack cocaine users. Having for a number of years been higher than the England average for the rate of deaths from drugs misuse, encouragingly the rate in Medway has fallen to meet the England average and is currently 4.4 per 100,000 people.

The Rough Sleeper Initiative Team worked as normal throughout the pandemic but had to respond to the 'everyone in' request from Government. This meant that all known people sleeping rough and anyone found in the period after the announcement were provided with immediate offers of accommodation. 51 people who had been placed in Hotel or Bed and Breakfast accommodation as a result of the pandemic have now been moved into longer term housing such as supported accommodation, private sector room/flat etc., with support available to help them become established in their new home.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, Medway Council's Housing Solutions and Review Team have successfully prevented/relieved 333 homeless cases with performance being comparable to the pre COVID-19 situation. Despite the disruption to service and restrictions, Housing Options have experienced a similar number of approaches and have been successful in maintaining the level of prevention or relief of homelessness. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the numbers of evictions for rent arrears as the suspension of eviction is lifted and this will have an increase pressure on staff due to the high numbers anticipated. Longer notice periods may see some private landlords forced out of business and this will potentially mean less availability for private rental properties to prevent and relieve homelessness.

The lockdown measures that were introduced in March are considered to have caused an increase in the general risk of domestic abuse. Kent Police has monitored the number of calls received to enable them to assess the impact of the lockdown. It is reported that call volumes have been higher than normally seen and showed an increase as the lockdown period progressed. Non-crime calls increased by over 30% between the 17 May and 14 June. Although KSS CRC data appears to show a downward trend in offending during lockdown, there was a spike in reported domestic abuse and Domestic Abuse Notifications (DANs) in this period, resulting in an increase in the risk of serious harm posed to victims and children.

On a more positive note, the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21 is progressing through parliament. In 2019 the Government announced it would reintroduce a bill to tackle domestic abuse. On 3 March 2020 the Bill had its first reading in the House of Commons. It has moved through the Commons and is being considered by the Lords. The Bill will place a legal duty on Local Authorities to deliver support to survivors of domestic abuse in the form of support services and accessible emergency accommodation. It has also seen the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner, who is already in post, to provide public leadership on domestic abuse issues.

There is further positive news from Medway Hospital who are fortunate to have a Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (HIDVA) in the emergency department. This initially began with a one day a week provision but has been extended to full time to meet the required capacity. It is reported that there has been a good uptake in services including from male victims.

Within the Reducing Vulnerability priority there is also a large amount of work around Contextual Safeguarding. Contextual Safeguarding is a way of understanding young people's experiences of significant harm and responding to these. These are significant harms outside of the family home environment. It provides recognition that young people can be vulnerable to abuse in a wide range of different social contexts and from a number of external threats. The Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership (MSCP) has overall statutory responsibility for Medway's Contextual Safeguarding Strategy and are responsible for monitoring, scrutinising and challenging services at an individual and collective level on their response to child exploitation in which it occurs.

The Youth Service was severely impacted in terms of the direct delivery of youth services. However, they quickly adapted to online sessions with one-to-one support, art sessions, gaming sessions and cookery classes delivered by workers. It was important to provide a means of contact with young people to reduce their vulnerability. The Youth Service identified a need for additional detached work, particularly in the Chatham and Gillingham Town Centres. This work has focussed on supporting vulnerable young people at risk of involvement and impact from youth violence. This has also led to a successful Youth Endowment Fund bid that is targeting daily detached work in the after-school time of 3:30 – 6:30pm.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen an increase in mental health concerns across both adults and children. Children and young people's mental health remains an area of concern. In Q1 (April-June) mental health attendances at Medway Foundation Trust attributed to 2.58% of all attendances in the previous quarter January-March it was 1.48%. There were three cases of suicide in young people during lockdown across Kent and Medway, however a significant review at the time did not find any link between the cases nor did the data indicate a significant variation from previous years. Nonetheless a Kent & Medway wide Suicide Prevention group has been set up to share learning and improve outcomes. Locally a range of services have been established to manage stress and anxiety at a community level, without

the need to refer to specialist services, these include online counselling support through Kooth (personalised digital mental health care), expansion of school nursing emotional wellbeing support and successful bid for Mental Health in Schools teams. There is also a work underway to improve how we manages Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and take a trauma informed approach when working with our children and young people.

It is known that approximately 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience some form of mental health problem each year. The ongoing isolation and removal of some support networks caused by ongoing restrictions and lockdowns is likely to have a large detrimental effect and many teams across Medway will be monitoring the ongoing impact. Medway Council's 'Service Updates' page on their website directs those who are suffering from anxiety or depression to the NHS 'Moodzone' Website. This guides people towards practical advice and support and is promoted by agencies across Medway as well as the rest of the Country. Medway Talking Therapies continue to offer support where possible, with access to free counselling services for people with mild to moderate depression and anxiety to try to reduce this and prevent any escalation. The Single Point of Access remains available to those in crisis, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Work is also ongoing to prevent radicalisation and the threat it poses to the community. Prevent is now managed by the Kent and Medway Prevent Duty Delivery Board which is the strategic partnership responsible for overseeing the Prevent agenda. Identified as national best practice, the Kent and Medway Prevent Partners Plan sets out the required activity and was amended to reflect both the Counter Terrorism Local Profile recommendations and themes from the Kent and Medway Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment 2020-21. In September 2020, the first meeting of the Medway Prevent Cross-Directorate Group took place. This group is chaired by The Kent and Medway Prevent Coordinator who 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. There is a programme of Prevent training that has been arranged for Medway Council staff including Prevent Awareness training, Prevent & Radicalisation workshops, Extreme Identities Online workshops, and thematic webinars entitled 'Extremist exploitation of COVID-19' and 'Extremism and online gaming'. The Prevent Coordinator is currently delivering the training virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. Initial sessions have been well attended. The Prevent Education Officer (PEO) covering Medway continues to form a good working relationship with schools in Medway. Schools can 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 CSPs Strategic Executive Group.

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. The revised Channel Duty Guidance was published on the 2 November 2020 after being delayed

from May 2020. The implementation of the new guidance has remained an action in the Kent and Medway Prevent Partners Action Plan. From September 2020 joint Kent and Medway Channel Panel arrangements have been in place, with co-chairs and representation from each authority, as well as other Channel partners. The joint Channel panel replaces the previous separate panels in each authority.

Within this priority there is several key issues and challenges that have been faced, some that have developed over time but others as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. What is clear is that agencies have found ways to overcome some of the challenges such as holding meetings online. This has had a positive effect in that reports from services appear to show better participation as staff can attend far more easily. With better partner participation, a more joined up approach develops which will be a great benefit going forward. What is concerning is the increased vulnerability created by COVID-19 to the young and old in terms of socialisation and mental health as well as increases in domestic abuse. Services will continue to work to support young people and adults, even as we begin the next stage of a national lockdown.

Reducing Reoffending

The restrictions imposed during COVID-19 on Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) and partner agencies, has affected our ability to monitor and observe offenders subject to supervision over this period, and to be responsive to changes in risk or needs. Nevertheless, KSS CRC has sought to mitigate the impact on service delivery and consequently, the well-being of service users and community safety. Initially the office in Chatham was closed for face to face appointments, except for those assessed as posing the highest risk of harm to others. Contact was maintained by telephone and where necessary, through doorstep visits. Responsible Officers have been creative in their approach and delivery, such as setting 'homework tasks' to enable service users to continue rehabilitative work during the lockdown.

As not all those under statutory supervision have access to a phone, at the height of the pandemic the Ministry of Justice nationally funded a number of basic mobile devices and service users in Medway benefited. This temporary provision has now ended.

Service users who were undertaking an Accredited Programme at the time of lockdown received telephone contact from the Programmes Team, with a focus on risk oversight and extra support during lockdown. Programme delivery has now resumed albeit in small, socially distanced groups. KSS CRC set up a Support Line to provide advice, assistance, and signposting to service users, in recognition of the increased pressure, including the impact on mental health.

As the initial lockdown restrictions were slowly lifted, Chatham Office reopened in September and is now open 5 days a week, with two evenings for those in employment and a 'woman only' reporting session.

Delivery of Community Payback was suspended due to the pandemic. Pre-COVID-19, KSS CRC delivered 11 unpaid work groups per week, specifically within the Medway area. A weekly, women only group at Buckmore Park is staffed by a female supervisor. Our placements spread across the region include projects at Hoo, Allhallows, Rainham and Cuxton as well as central Medway. There are also 12 individual placements delivering on average 25% of unpaid work hours. These are typically charity shops, but we do also have agreements with some of our group projects, to provide specialist individual placements which will utilise a trades person's skills for a specific task i.e. bricklaying. A project worth mention is the Luton Forest School where Community Payback teams have turned an area of wasteland into a safe outdoor learning area with a mud kitchen and 'tree house'. All the materials have been sourced/supplied by our own staff (and some service users) at zero cost to the school.

At the end of September, Chatham office was delivering 75% of its pre-lock down hours. We have accessed a number of new projects since resuming operations, with groups now attending the following sites:

- Medway Foodbank - small project with an individual service user and supervisor collecting donations from local supermarkets.
- Sun Pier House community art studio - helping to re-decorate and maintain the premises.
- Great South Allotments - Restoring a community allotment on Magpie Hall Road.

As a temporary measure, the Ministry of Justice provided accommodation assistance for homeless prison releases, to complement local authority responsibilities. There have been examples of service users who have been placed in accommodation and whose engagement improved significantly during lockdown. This certainly provided respite and relative stability for these service users, some of whom took the opportunity to reduce their substance misuse during this period. This scheme supported by KSS CRC and the National Probation Service (NPS), was overseen by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) Regional Homelessness Prevention Task Force. Funding enabled temporary accommodation to be secured on release from custody, with provision for rent deposit and rent in advance where required, to facilitate move on. A total of 15 service users in Medway benefited from this support, 9 achieving a positive outcome. The initiative which ran from 11 May 2020 – 31 August, has now been relaunched with effect from 22 October and will continue until 21 January 2021.

Many Court cases were rescheduled during the lockdown and the Courts have been under unprecedented pressure. This has impacted on enforcement action not being brought to conclusion and on reviews to extend Orders, where this is required. Only cases assessed to pose a high risk of serious harm and where there are significant vulnerability issues have been

prioritised and as a result most KSS CRC cases do not meet this threshold. There is now a backlog of service users who are waiting for breach hearings.

The IOM has continued to operate, albeit at a reduced level, with reviews taking place remotely. A total of 30 adult offenders are currently managed under the IOM, 16 in the community and 14 in custody. The IOM Performance Report, October shows that of the adult community cohort, 79% fewer offences were committed while subject to intensive multi agency management, than during a comparable period prior to IOM. Two young people are managed under IOM, one in the community and one in custody. In the same timeframe, the individual in the community committed zero offences while on IOM, a reduction of 100%.

Nationally, Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) contracts end in June 2021. During 2020 KSS CRC has worked closely with HMPPS and our colleagues in the NPS, to assure a smooth transition of services (Case Management, Community Payback and Accredited Programmes) to the NPS. A range of rehabilitative interventions, including employment training and education, accommodation advice and assistance, personal wellbeing, social inclusion and women's services, are being commissioned for delivery via a Dynamic Framework.

Listening to Communities and Partners

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that normal community events and engagement meetings have not been able to take place. The Community Safety Team would ordinarily have undertaken dozens of events in shopping centres, high streets, banks amongst other places as well as attending coffee mornings and organised groups to engage with the community. Whilst this has been disappointing a lot of work has gone into communicating messages on social media and other platforms to keep the community informed.

Medway Community Safety Team and Kent Police have held online engagement events on Twitter. For an hour, officers were available to respond to tweets from members of the public with concerns about several different community safety issues. A survey was also undertaken to consult with the public on the best days and times to undertake future events on Twitter to ensure it is accessible and reaches the largest amount of people possible.

This year has also seen the review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO'S) across Medway. PSPO's provide the Council with a flexible power to implement local restrictions to help to address anti-social behaviour issues in public places in order to prevent future problems. Existing Designated Public Place Orders and Dog Control Orders automatically became PSPO's as of 20 October 2017. These orders last for three years before a review must take place. Part of the review is for public consultation. This has taken place and the results suggested a lot of support for the orders to be renewed and this recommendation was put forward.

In February 2020 Kent Fire and Rescue Service were able to hold an 'Embracing Difference' event at the Road Safety Experience in Rochester. The event took place during LGBT (Lesbian,

Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) week with keynote speakers who were able to speak about the experiences when engaging with different services. The event gave many attendees from various organisations a better perspective and provided an opportunity to share this learning with their peers.

Medway's Community Safety Team held their annual Consultation Event at Mid Kent College in March prior to any lockdown restrictions. The event highlighted some of the work being undertaken in Medway regarding crime and violence. During the Consultation Event those in attendance were asked to take part in a survey. When asked how safe they felt in Medway during the day, 41% said very safe with 52% fairly safe and the remaining 7% neither safe nor unsafe. When asked how safe they felt during the evening, 51% responded that they felt very or fairly safe with 37% feeling neither safe nor unsafe and 11% saying they felt fairly unsafe. These results are very encouraging as it would appear that most people who attended this event do feel safe when out and about or living in Medway however it must also be stated that the sample size would have been small and may not reflect the community as a whole.

The survey also asked those in attendance whether they felt that the Community Safety Partners were dealing with violent crime as best they can which 11% strongly agreed with and a further 70% agreed with. Again, this is very reassuring that those present considered partners were working effectively. A further question asked what they felt the 3 main causes of serious violence were. The response was 63% felt anti-social behaviour, 44% felt domestic abuse and 44% stated drug abuse/dealing was to blame. These concerns are all reflected in the Community Safety Plan with actions for partners to continue addressing these issues to reduce the harm and impact they have and reduce violent crime as a result. The next consultation event is being planned before the end of the 2020-2021 financial year however there is a great deal of work to find a format that will work in line with COVID-19 restrictions.

The MTF is leading on the Safer Streets project within Gillingham. The team had intended to organise a community engagement event to publicise this work, however due to COVID-19 they have instead delivered a leaflet to every household explaining this initiative and complemented this with publicity through Medway Council, the Kent PCC and Kent Police social media sites. The multi-agency team has started engaging with residents and through this grass roots engagement has been able to respond to community concerns.

Moving forward it is hoped that there will be greater links with MYC. There is current work to set up the Youth Area Participation Groups which will give young people the opportunity to discuss the issues that they feel are important to them locally. This will be youth led and dependent on the issues that they want to discuss such as Community Safety. This will see partners such as Kent Police, KFRS etc. invited to attend the meetings. There is also a Recruitment Squad which is a group of young people that sit on interviews for roles within Medway Youth Service. They have sat on a number of interviews since July and also get training to support them in their roles.

Whilst the updates are largely positive it is unfortunate that more community events have not been able to take place. Partners will continue to review different and innovative ways of getting residents involved and reaching out to communities.

To Conclude

The Strategic Assessment reflects a large amount of hard work statutory partner, commissioned service and the third sector have put into keeping Medway safe, especially during a difficult year. When reflecting on the content it is clear that the priorities that have been set within the Community Safety Plan need to remain the same. The issues of tackling violence and protecting vulnerable adults and children are of great importance as the damage to people and the community is vast. Work in this area will reassure the community that all agencies are working together to make a difference and to make people feel safer as they go about their lives in Medway.

Reducing reoffending is a key priority as it forms part of the duties placed on CSPs. The Policing and Crime Act 2009, which came into effect in 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 delivering a more effective and efficient justice system.

Our final priority of Listening to Communities and Partners is key as the community is at the heart of everything we seek to do. Consultations with communities help partner agencies identify what the community concerns are and respond accordingly. Whilst the many community engagement events that normally take place have not been able to happen as much since the March lockdown, agencies are working to find ways to keep communicating with the public.

The Community Safety Strategic Executive Group meets quarterly to review the Community Safety Plan. This involves seeking updates to many actions under a '4P plan' for each priority. The 4P's being Prepare, Protect, Prevent and Pursue. Whilst this gives a lot of detail it can be difficult to identify key actions as there are so many of them. It is recommended that rather than updating a large number of actions each quarter, agencies supply a summary of their work for each of the 4Ps within each Priority. This will allow for a quick, concise, and informative update rather than everyone getting lost in the details. This removes any duplication and streamlines the process whilst also accounting for actions that may have needed to be adjusted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank You

We conclude this year's Strategic Assessment by acknowledging the hard work that has taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic and with a thank you to all the Partner agencies, voluntary sector, colleagues and members of the public who have come together to keep Medway safe during one of the most difficult periods this Country has faced.

The Government's shielding programme saw many people needing extra support to collect food and medicines. Medway Council's Vulnerable People Hub helped over 5000 people during the pandemic. Many staff were redeployed from their normal roles to help assist in the efforts to ensure those that were required to shield had everything they needed. During this time over 110,000 meals were provided. Phone calls were made by staff in various departments within Medway Council to check in on vulnerable residents and ensure they were fully supported. Advice for dealing with social isolation was given out and the promotion of support lines.

Medway Council's Rough Sleeper Team worked on the Government's 'Everybody in' request with nobody to be left on the street at the height of the pandemic as many would be highly vulnerable to the virus. The team worked tirelessly to get people into hotels and temporary accommodation to keep them safe.

Members of Medway Sports Team continued to support schools in Medway which had remained open to keyworker children, allowing socially distanced PE classes to continue and still be enjoyable. This was hugely important to help young people who were possibly feeling anxious due to the lockdown situation and their parents still working on the frontline. A number of Medway Schools stayed open in some capacity throughout the pandemic, with 70% of schools reopening to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in the first week of June as the Government started the return to school.

There were hundreds of acts of kindness by members of the public, from businesses providing meals to NHS workers to people checking on their neighbours and collecting their shopping. Local distilleries turned their attention to producing much needed hand sanitiser and hotels gave their rooms to keyworkers.

With young people going into half term facing the possibility of going hungry, Medway Council in partnership with Medway Citizens Advice Bureau stepped in using emergency funding they were given by the Government. This will ensure those that are eligible will still receive a meal during the half term period and several local organisations have also stepped in to help offering free meals and food supplies to anyone in need. With another national Lockdown about to begin, agencies have and will continue to adjust to new ways of working all with the aim of keeping Medway safe.

Background and Data Information

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 departments and data sources used to inform the strategic assessment.

- Community Safety Partnership Action Plan 2020-2021 Quarterly Updates
- Community Safety Partnership Consultation Event Survey Results
- Kent Police – Published crime data April 2019- March 2020, Control Strategy.
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehab Company
- Kent and Medway Prevent
- Kent and Medway Action Plan (Domestic Abuse)
- Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group
- Local Government Association – LG Inform Database
- Medway Council – Power BI and Ward Profiles
- Medway Council – Public Health
- Medway Council – Trading Standards
- Medway Council – Youth Service
- Medway Council – COVID-19 Updates (Available via www.medway.gov.uk)
- Medway Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Medway Task Force
- Public Health England – Local Health, www.localhealth.org.uk

Glossary of Terms

ACES	Adverse Childhood Experiences
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
BUDDI	GPS monitoring
CBO	Criminal Behaviour Order
CMARAC	Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSU	Community Safety Unit
HMPPS	Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service
HIDVA	Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
KFRS	Kent Fire and Rescue Service
KSS CRC	Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
MDAS	Medway Domestic Abuse Service
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
MSCP	Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership
MSET	Medway Sexual Exploitation Team
MTF	Medway Task Force
MYC	Medway Youth Council
NPS	National Probation Service
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PEO	Prevent Education Officer
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SFAYC	Supporting Families Against Youth Crime
SOCP	Serious and Organised Crime Partnership
SGSA	Sports Grounds Safety Authority
VRU	Violence Reduction Unit
YOT	Youth Offending Team

Appendix 1

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

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