



**Kent  
Police**

**Kent Police**  
**Cumulative Impact**  
**Assessment**

### **Annex 1-15**

1. Statement from PC 13355 Squires dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
2. Statement from PC 13282 Elliot dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
3. Statement from PC 14165 Wolfe dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
4. Statement from PC 13964 Copeland dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
5. Statement from PC 12982 Hothi dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
6. Statement from PC 13859 Lee dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
7. Statement from PC 14371 Luxford dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
8. Statement from PC 14199 McGlone dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
9. Statement from PCSO 60243 Postil dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
10. Statement from PCSO 56643 Freed dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
11. Statement from PCSO 56573 Smith dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021– Town Centre Team
12. Statement from PCSO 56554 Smuts dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
13. Statement from PCSO 60181 Parsons dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team
14. Statement from PCSO 60174 Walker dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021– Town Centre Team
15. Statement from PCSO 61226 Marsh dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Town Centre Team

### **Annex 16**

16. Licensing Statement from PC 11044 Hunt dated 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

### **Annex 17-20**

17. Public Order arrests in Medway in 2019 and Public Order arrests in Medway in 2020
18. Drunk and Disorderly arrests in Medway in 2019 and Drunk and Disorderly arrests in Medway in 2020
19. Assault on Police arrests in Medway in 2019 and Assault on Police arrests in Medway in 2020
20. Arrests for drug related offences in 2019 and arrest for drug related offences in 2020.

### **Annex 21-34**

21. Hotspot map and data showing begging in Medway in 2019
22. Hotspot map and data showing begging in Medway in 2020
23. Crime hotspot map and data for Medway in 2019
24. Crime hotspot map and data for Medway in 2020
25. Crime hotspot map and data for Chatham in 2019
26. Crime hotspot map and data for Chatham in 2020
27. Crime hotspot map and data for Gillingham in 2019
28. Crime hotspot map and data for Gillingham in 2020
29. Crime hotspot map and data for Rochester in 2019
30. Crime hotspot map and data in Rochester in 2020
31. ASB hotspot map for Medway and data in 2019 and ASB hotspot map for Chatham & Gillingham in 2019
32. ASB hotspot map and data for Medway in 2020 and ASB hotspot map for Chatham and Gillingham in 2020
33. Domestic abuse hotspot map and data for Medway in 2019
34. Domestic abuse hotspot map and data for Medway in 2020

## **Introduction:**

In 2017 Kent Police provided supporting evidence for the implementation of a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) in partnership with other agencies including Public Health. This evidence was contained within the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) created at that time. Medway Council approved the implementation of a CIP in May 2018 and the policy has formed part of Medway Councils Statement of Licensing Policy since this date.

In compliance with the Licensing Act 2003 and the subsequent guidance issued under Section 182 of this act, Kent Police have been consulted on the statutory 3 year review of the CIA, with specific questions asked as to whether the CIA continues to provide the evidence to justify the CIP in its current form

In undertaking this CIA review, Kent Police have considered the below information in coming to its conclusions and recommendations. This includes taking account of relevant factors that have altered or changed since the initial implementation of the CIP.

- Kent Police have increased the allocation of resources to the 'Town Centre Team', within the Community Safety Unit operating from Medway Police Station. These officers focus on the town centre locations of Chatham, Gillingham Rochester and parts of Strood. At the time of the previous CIA this team consisted of a maximum of 4 Police Officers and 4 Police Community Support Officers. The Town Centre Team currently has a resource allocation of 8 Police Officers and a further 7 Police Community Support Officers, however this is soon to be strengthened even further in the next couple of months by a further 2 more Police Officers, bringing to the Town Centre Team to its full capacity of 17. This highlights the importance that Senior police leaders from Medway have placed on policing of town centre areas and tackling the issues found within it.
- Statements have been provided from the Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers assigned to the Town Centre Team which provide first-hand experiences and findings from those patrolling on the High Streets and surrounding areas. These can be found in Annex 1-15 of this report.
- Crime and incident data provided by Kent Police analysts. These can be found in annexes 17-34.
- A slight variation from the Kent Police data provided for the CIA in 2017/2018 to that produced in this report is the absence of a specific hotspot map for the area of Luton. This is not because Kent Police believe that Luton no longer needs to be included as a specific area applicable to the CIP but because of a change in the operating and crime recording systems used by Kent Police that occurred during this intervening period. The system used in 2017/2018 collated data from geographical defined wards, whereas the current police database systems plots data from postcodes. As such the evidential data justifying the continued necessity for the Luton to be included as a CIP area is contained within the hotspots titled Chatham on annexes 25 and 26 of this report.
- The global pandemic from Covid-19 has affected licensed premises greatly and subsequently impacted on not only the business operation of many licensed premises but also the levels of alcohol related crime and nuisance emanating from them as a result. On sales premises, predominately pubs, bars and restaurants, have been closed or have been operating under Government imposed restrictions for a large majority of 2020. Data and hotspot maps provided in annexes 17-34 detail information from 2019 (prior to the impact felt by Covid-19 restrictions) and also 2020 (when restrictions aimed at stopping the spread of the virus were imposed on licensed premises, especially those operating in an on sale capacity).

The fundamental question considered by Kent Police as part of the statutory review of the CIA and the current consultation on this is as follows:

- Should it remain as is?
- Should it remain with amendments?
- Should it be removed?

It is the view of Kent Police that the answer to this question is the second option, it should remain but with amendments. The amendments sought and the updated evidence to support the continued justification of the CIA are presented in this report.

### **Evidence to support continued application of the CIP**

Current legislation allows the police to deal with individual licensed premises which may be poorly managed or be acting irresponsibly, but it does not allow police to deal with the wider issue of having so many licensed premises in close proximity. The analytical product contained within this report clearly demonstrates a pattern of crime and disorder in the defined areas and supports the continued need for a CIP to address this issue.

The police evidence shows that despite active action to address alcohol related issues, alcohol related crime, disorder and public nuisance continues at unacceptably high levels in the following areas:

Rochester High Street and surrounding area.

Chatham High Street and surrounding area.

Gillingham High Street and surrounding area.

Luton Road and surrounding area.

Kent Police still believe that the number of off licence premises in the geographical areas of Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Luton (as defined in the maps with the current CIP) continue to generate high levels of alcohol related crime and disorder, ASB and nuisance in the streets and is of the opinion that the granting of further off licences in these areas would likely undermine the licensing objectives and likely lead to an increase in the current issues reported.

Data provided by the Licensing Department at Medway council shows that at the time of writing there are a total of 800 licensed premises in the Medway Towns. These licensed premises have been categorised as follows:

278 Off Licences

127 Public Houses

184 Restaurants/Takeaways

160 Other

51 Club Premises Certificates

If a direct comparison is made to data provided by Medway Council Licensing department in 2016 (as detailed in the previous CIA), it can be seen that the total number of licensed premises has decreased from 848 to 800. Although this is a significant reduction of around 6%, it is notably that that off licence numbers remain almost identical at 280 and 278 in 2016 and 2021 respectively. The single largest premises type in Medway is off licences (as is was in the previous CIA report). This equates to 35% of licensed premises in Medway being that of an off licence.

There are clusters of off licence premises within all the specified geographical areas of Gillingham Chatham, Rochester and Luton.

As previously stated, resources allocated by Kent Police to town centres have increased from 4 to 17 officers. The statements provided by officers of the Town Centre Team fully detail how despite continued efforts, instances of alcohol fuelled nuisance and crime continue to regularly occur in and around the High Streets of Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham. There is a common belief amongst the Town Centre Team evidenced through these statements that a disproportionate amount of their time is already spent dealing with alcohol related issues and that additional off licences operating in these town centres would pose a real risk of an increase in alcohol related crimes. Additionally, these statements highlight persistent comments of concern from other members of the public (including children) and local businesses with regards to people suffering from alcohol dependency congregating in the town centres (often to make use of the close proximity of off licence premises). The result of this is nuisance and ASB that leads to an unpleasant atmosphere for others to attend and utilise the shops and facilities present within the towns. These statements are in annexes 1-15 of this report.

It is often the case that those involved in street drinking are also involved in begging within the High Streets (evidenced from the statements in annexes 1-15). Begging often occurs to facilitate the purchase of additional alcohol or perhaps other substances for which that person is addicted or dependant. The hotspot maps and data provided by Kent Police analysts in annex 21, details that the greatest levels of reported begging in 2019 occurred in the town centres of Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham. The volume of reported begging dropped considerably by 40.1% in 2020 (as shown in annex 22), presumably due to the impact of the Covid -19 pandemic and subsequent reduction in footfall from within the town centre areas. Despite this reduction of begging in the geographical areas of Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham town centres, these remained the greatest affected. It is noted that Rainham shopping precinct also figured highly in experiencing reports of begging, Rainham however has not experienced the same levels of other crimes as such at this time the CIA does not support the implementation of CIP in this area.

The crime data provided by Kent Police analysts in annex 25 and annex 26 clearly highlight the concentration of offences occurring in the area of Chatham. The location suffering the most crime offences was, by some distance, the High Street. This was evident in both 2019 and 2020. The surrounding areas of Maidstone Road, and the Pentagon Centre also experienced high crime levels. In both 2019 and 2020 the hotspot map displayed in annexes 25 and 26 show that levels of high crime spread from the High Street area in a south easterly direction into nearby Luton, with Luton Road and Magpie Hall Road prominent repeat locations of crime especially in 2020.

Similarly, annexes 27 and 28 which display crime locations in Gillingham and annexes 29 and 30 displaying crime levels in Rochester show a concentration of crime occurring in the High Street and the roads immediately surrounding it. It is evident that hotspot areas where crime occurs have remained almost identical between 2019 and 2020, showing that although Covid-19 has had a small impact of the number of crimes occurring, it has had relatively little effect on the locations of these crimes.

It is well documented in the statements from the Town Centre Team that alcohol consumption is often a significant factor in occurrences of anti-social behaviour and nuisance. Annexes 31 and 32 show that the main locations for calls into Kent Police reporting ASB were in the centres of Gillingham and Chatham, spreading into Rochester. In a similar manner to the crime hotspots, there is very little variance between the locations experiencing high levels of ASB between 2019 and 2020.

This suggests that these locations should remain the focus of a CIP and that Covid-19 has had little impact on the location of these incidents.

Alcohol continues to be a prominent factor in incidents of domestic abuse across not only Medway but across the country. It often leads to increased occurrences of domestic abuse incidents but also increases the risk of those incidents being more serious or grave in their outcome. Annexes 33 and 34 again show that Chatham and Gillingham were the locations for the highest density of offences of domestic abuse in Medway, followed by Rochester in both 2019 and 2020.

### **Impact of the CIP over the past 3 years**

As evidenced in the statement of PC 11044 Hunt (annex 16), the North Division Licensing Team have identified a *'general improvement in the quality of proposed operating schedules within the premises licence applications.'* This appears to have occurred since the implementation of the CIP and the publication of the accompanying CIA in 2018. It is believed that the existence of the CIP and CIA has encouraged applicants to consider, in far more detail, the specific issues experienced in geographical areas and the impact proposed applications will have on the licensing objectives. The section 182 guidance within the Licensing Act 2003, subsection 8.43 states *"applicants are expected to include positive proposals in their application on how they will manage any potential risks. Where specific policies apply in the area (for example, a cumulative impact policy), applicants are also expected to demonstrate an understanding of how the policy impacts on their application; any measure they will take to mitigate the impact; and why they consider the application should be an exception to the policy."* It is felt that the current CIP has led to applicants striving to adhere to this guidance in a more thorough manner than prior to its implementation. Although it is accepted this alone is not justification for the continuation of the policy, it has been an unexpected benefit of the policy and is seen as a positive step and greatly welcomed by Kent Police.

According to data provided by Medway Council Licensing Department 70 licence applications for new premises have been submitted since the implementation of the CIP in 2018. These applications can be broken down geographically as follow:

Applications for premises within the CIP area = 33

In the SAP areas =2

Other area not covered by the policy = 35

Medway Council Licensing department have also provided outcomes for those 70 premises licence applications as can be seen below:

Granted = 51 (73%)

Withdrawn = 6 (9%)

Refused = 10 (14%)

Current application still ongoing = 3 (4%)

From the 33 applications submitted for premises licences located within a CIP area: the outcomes of these applications can be seen below:

Granted = 19 (58%)

Withdrawn = 4 (12%)

Refused = 9 (27%)

Current application still ongoing = 1 (3%)

The above data, in the opinion of Kent Police, highlights two important factors. The first being that Kent Police and the Licensing Authority have continued to assess and deal with premises applications on a 'case by case' basis, giving due regard to the potential impact of the proposed application to the licensing objectives. This has led to 51 new businesses being granted a premises licence in this 3-year period, which equates to 73% of all new applications across Medway being granted. This suggests that the CIP has not been a barrier to new premises licence applications being received and that those applications, that have demonstrated sufficiently that the licensing objectives will be promoted, have been encouraged to progress.

In the view of Kent Police this demonstrates a compliance with the guidance issued under section 182 of the licensing Act 2003, subsection 14:40, which states; *"The CIA does not, however, change the fundamental way that licensing decisions are made. It is therefore open to the licensing authority to grant an application where it considers it is appropriate and where the applicant can demonstrate in the operating schedule that they would not be adding to the cumulative impact."*

The second factor, highlighted by this data, is that the percentage of applications that are either refused or withdrawn, have increased when the application is for a venue located within a CIP area. Only 10 applications for a new premises licence have been refused across Medway with 9 of these refusals occurring in an area covered by the CIP. It is fair to say that the vast majority of applications that have been refused are those that intend to operate as an off licence. When it is believed by Kent Police that a new premise would add significantly to the problems in a defined area, they have relied upon the data in CIA, alongside additional evidence specifically relevant to that individual application to make opposing representations. Kent Police are of the opinion that the current CIP has assisted the Licensing Authority in refusing application's, that if granted, would have led to greater levels of alcohol crime and harm.

#### **Amendments to currently published CIA:**

The current Cumulative Impact Policy adopted into Medway Councils Statement of Licencing Policy details that the type of premises that fall within the ambit of the policy are off licences in all areas as already defined by the policy. In addition to this, on sales premises such as pubs, bars and clubs within the areas of Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and the defined stress areas are also subject to the CIP.

On review of the new evidential data and officer statements contained within this CIA report, Kent Police do not consider the evidence is sufficient to justify the continued application of the cumulative impact policy in relation to new on sale premises.

The Section 182 guidance issued as part of the Licensing Act 2003, in subsection 14:36 states: *"It will be important for any evidence included in the revised CIA to be robust and relevant to the current problems described. This is likely to involve the collation of fresh or updated evidence of the kind described in the above section on evidence of cumulative impact. The licensing authority must also at this stage publish any other material change to the assessment. For example, if the types of premises*

*or area described in the assessment have changed due to a shift in the nature of the problems being experienced or where there is evidence of the emergence of a new type of problem.”*

The impact of Covid-19 on the licenced trade, especially those operating bars, pubs and clubs has been considerable. These premises have been operating under varying levels of restrictions since March 2020. These restrictions have included but are not limited to; limiting capacity numbers, reduced operating hours, ensuring customers remain seated and being unable to provide an on-sale service. These restrictions are still ongoing at the time of writing and it would be fair to say that the longer-term impact on the industry as a whole will not be fully known for some time yet. Due to these restrictions any crime data for the year of 2020 and evidence provided relating to alcohol fuelled ASB and nuisance, would likely not be reflective of either experienced problems and hot spots or indeed potential future issues or risks that need tackling.

The North Division Licensing Team are always fully consulted and continue to scrutinise any new licence applications or licence variations that are submitted. The data already provided around the number of applications submitted and granted in Medway shows that 19 new premises licences have been granted in the last 3 years out of the 33 applications submitted for venues within the CIP areas. Many of these newly granted premises licences have been for on-sale premises such as restaurants, cafes and bars. This shows that the licensing team on behalf of Kent Police are being objective in assessing the effect that these new premises, located within the CIP areas, will have on the licensing objective and cumulative impact of alcohol related harm and/or crime in those areas as a whole. It is believed, on a relatively high percentage of occasions, that despite the body of evidence in existence within the current CIA, that supporting these applications did not negatively affect the licensing objectives.

### **Conclusions and recommendations:**

This report shows that there are geographical areas within Medway, which have a high concentration of licensed premises, that suffer from alcohol related crime and harm. There is evidence that these crimes and harms are caused (at least in part) by the customers of the licensed premises in these areas.

The section 182 guidance from within the Licensing Act 2003 states in subsection 14:39; *“When publishing a CIA a licensing authority is required to set out evidence of problems that are being caused or exacerbated by the cumulative impact of licensed premises in the area described. The evidence is used to justify the statement in the CIA that it is likely that granting further premises licences and/or club premises certificates in that area (limited to a kind described in the assessment), would be inconsistent with the authority’s duty to promote the licensing objectives.”*

The police evidence shows that despite active action to address alcohol related issues - alcohol related crime, disorder and public nuisance continues at unacceptably high levels in the following areas:

**Rochester High Street and surrounding area** as already defined in the CIP embedded in Medway Councils statement of licensing policy.

**Chatham High Street and surrounding area** as already defined in the CIP embedded in Medway Councils statement of licensing policy.



**Gillingham High Street and surrounding area** as already defined in the CIP embedded in Medway Councils statement of licensing policy.

**Luton Road, Chatham and surrounding area** as already defined in the CIP embedded in Medway Councils statement of licensing policy.

**Kent Police request that these areas remain subject to a CIP in relation to off sale premises only.**

Note: Kent Police are not seeking any amendments at this time to the geographical areas already defined in the CIP.

On review of the new evidential data and officer statements contained within this CIA report, Kent Police do not consider the evidence is sufficient to justify the continued application of the cumulative impact policy in relation to new on-sale premises for geographical locations listed above.

In addition, the evidence shows there are alcohol related issues in the Strood Town Centre area, although not to such a high level as those locations listed above. This area has a concentration of licensed premises particularly off licences and is within easy walk of Rochester High Street. There are concerns that alcohol purchased in this area can be easily taken for consumption within the designated CIP areas and subsequently add to the ongoing alcohol related problems experienced. As such Kent Police request that **Strood Town Centre** (as already defined in the CIP embedded in the Medway Council Statement of Licensing Policy) remain as a 'stress area' for CIP in relation to off sale premises.

## WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of: **Mark Squires**

Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Officer 13355**  
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This statement (consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

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Signature: **Mark Squires**

Date: **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (*supply witness details on rear*)

I am a Police officer currently working as a Town Centre officer in Medway and have performed this role for the last 18 months. My daily duties are to patrol the location of all the town centres in Medway and to respond to any incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour offering public reassurance and a providing high visibility presence. I engage with members of the public, key stakeholders and business owners on a daily basis. I also engage with the street drinkers, homeless and well known persons of interest to Police. As a high street team, we deal mainly with shopliftings and theft related offences. Medway has 4 town centres with a lot of retail premises that suffer from a lot of thefts on a daily basis. A lot of these incidents are committed by the same group of well known offenders that we regularly deal with. Other incidents that we deal with include domestic arguments, missing persons, drunkenness and public order incidents. There are alcohol control zones in place in all of the High Street locations to help us enforce the issues of street drinking and the issues that come with that. There is a significant problem in the Town Centres with people drinking alcohol and standing around causing anti-social behaviour when they do this. One location that is currently one of the worst for this is the benches on Gillingham High Street outside of Costa Coffee. I have seized alcohol from this location numerous times recently after complaints from members of the public. Covid tickets have also been issued as people are gathering there just to meet and drink alcohol. Another location slightly further up the High Street is outside of Nisa where again street drinkers regularly congregate and we receive complaints from local shops and people

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Continuation statement of:

walking past. Alcohol is either clearly visible on these people and seized or it is hidden, and they walk away prior to our arrival and return after we leave. Every effort is made to pour away any alcohol found in the controlled zones and the people associated with it are moved out of the High Street. If they do return and commit offences, they are arrested. A lot of the street drinkers are also drug addicts and that is also a major problem in all the town centre locations. I have been called to the toilets on Sappers Walk numerous times recently for males going into the gents to score drugs. I have stopped 4 males in that location that have just taken drugs prior to our arrival. The presence of these people will stop people shopping in Gillingham using the toilets. While patrolling near to Gillingham train station last week we stopped to deal with a drunken male urinating in public as he could not wait to find a toilet. He was dealt with for this and advice given to him regarding drinking in public and his actions afterwards. I am aware there are a lot of locations in the town centres that sell cheap and strong alcohol to these drinkers as it is always the high strength alcohol that is being drunk by these individuals. Due to Covid a lot of homeless people have been offered accommodation but there are still a hardcore of drinkers and addicts that are refusing any help. When I first joined the team, I was based mainly in Rochester and Strood where again I would regularly seize alcohol and pour it away. Most of these street drinkers would also be named suspects for theft shopliftings in the area as they would steal items to pay for alcohol. On one occasion I seized alcohol from a known shoplifter in Strood town centre before later finding out the male had stolen this alcohol to fund his habit. I have also found human faeces in and around High Streets during my time. Recently as a team we have started making use of Community Protection Warnings and started issuing them for persons committing anti-social behaviour in the High Streets. These can be escalated if they are not adhered to and Criminal behaviour orders have been issued banning people from all the High Street areas. A lot of our street drinkers have been issued a warning and a few of them have also been issued orders. Most of the crime we deal with is either directly or indirectly linked to alcohol and drugs. I work in the same office as the Medway licencing team and I am aware they have conducted checks of various in the high streets and will be dealing with any offences they find. I am in no doubt at the moment there are too many shops in Medway trying to sell cheap high alcohol drinks to street drinkers and other members of the public and I feel if any more shops are given the opportunity to open and sell alcohol this will make the problem harder to police and worse for the residents of Medway

Signature **Mark Squires**

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Continuation statement of:

Signature **Mark Squires**

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**OFFICIAL**

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of: **Sarah ELLIOTT** .....

Age if under 18: **Over 18**..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable 13282** .....

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **S. ELLIOTT** ..... Date: **05/03/2021**.....

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am employed by Kent Police in the role of town centre police constable for the Medway towns; my allocated town centre is GILLINGHAM. I began this role in March 2020, days before lockdown one began. The key priorities for a town centre officer are to tackle violence, protect the vulnerable and to build and improve relationships with stakeholders; all of these priorities are closely linked to alcohol misuse. My day to day role includes responding to incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centres, conduct high visibility patrols, offering public reassurance and engaging with members of the public, business owners and known nominals. The town centres are always very busy; although it has been lockdown the town centres have remained one of the busiest areas because the vast majority of shops have been permitted to remain open. This in turn leads to a diverse group of individuals that are attracted to the town centre. GILLINGHAM town centre also has the Street Angels who on a daily basis give food to those in need and Kingsley House, where people looking for housing need to visit, is based right by the train station and balmoral gardens and their outreach workers will often ask people to stay in the town centre for their staff to make contact. Often these services are attracting the street drinkers to congregate in the town centres after they have received the support offered and sometimes when they haven't received the support. Kingsley house in particular are unable to offer support to persons who are unable to interact with the service due to levels of

Signature: **S. ELLIOTT**

Signature witnessed by:

N/A

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intoxication Prior to working in the town centres I was aware alcohol was a problem and this is part of why alcohol control zones are in place across many of our town centres, however I did not witness the first hand effects of it on the community as I do now. On an almost daily basis part of my role is taking alcohol off the street drinkers; each day these people will sit in GILLINGHAM HIGH STREET by BABA's FOOD and WINE, outside COSTA COFFEE or in BALMORAL GARDENS and whilst myself and my colleagues take it from them and pour it away they will just go into the nearest off license and buy more. Even though the vast majority of the time I have worked in the town centres has been lockdown street drinking has still been a problem and is often causing disputes between the drinkers themselves or intimidating other members of public who are just attempting to do their shopping, quite often they will approach members of the public asking for money in order to buy more alcohol. I have had to put on numerous crime reports where the street drinkers have had a falling out, normally over who should be buying the alcohol, which results in a physical fight or shouting and swearing causing public disorder. This behaviour is extremely frightening to members of public, especially the vulnerable and the children who it is our priority to protect. Furthermore it has a negative impact on businesses and the public wanting to visit the towns. I believe there are already too many shops with alcohol licenses in such a small condensed area, if more were allowed to trade this would only increase the crime levels and anti social behaviour. Recently myself and a colleague attended HIGH STREET, CHATHAM due to one of the street drinkers smashing up a phone box. He had called police to report that he had fallen out with another street drinker who he was good friends with and that other person had taken his phone, due to him being heavily intoxicated the call taker was unsure what he was trying to say and he became angry smashing the phone box up whilst still on the phone. Upon our arrival he was still drinking from his bottle of alcohol. This male is very well known amongst the town

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S. ELLIOTT

Signature witnessed by **N/A**

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Continuation statement of:

centre team; when he is sober he is pleasant and wants to stop to chat, however when he is drunk he can be very abusive and even aggressive to members of the public and police officers. As well as being known to police officers he is also well known in the local shops so should not be being served, if alcohol wasn't so readily available to people like this we wouldn't have these kind of problems. Only last weekend myself and a colleague stopped another male in GILLIGHAM HIGH STREET who was intoxicated, it turned out he was wanted for court offences. He was arrested and became very aggressive and abusive. This was on a Sunday lunchtime so there were children around and he was shouting and swearing which was clearly upsetting the children and their parents. This kind of behaviour is largely due to these people being intoxicated, often we will see the same people when they are sober and they will apologise. More licensed premises can only lead to more violent crime and anti social behaviour putting a larger strain on policing and the community as a whole. There is absolutely no need for any further licenses to be granted; there are already more than enough locations in which to buy alcohol. S. ELLIOTT

Signature

S. ELLIOTT

Signature witnessed by **N/A**

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 3**

URN 46

Statement of: **Liam Wolfe**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable  
14165**

This statement (consisting of three page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **PC 14165 WOLFE**Date: **Friday 5 March 2021**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (*supply witness details on rear*)

I am a Kent Police Officer currently working within the Town Centre Team, with an emphasis on Gillingham High Street and the surrounding town centre.

There is a common saying that most of Police time is spent dealing with alcohol-related incidents; between street drinking, drink driving, domestic incidents where one or both parties are intoxicated, fights in public houses etc I feel this rings true.

I would enthusiastically describe alcohol, in particular cans and plastic bottles of cider and beer but other beverages as well, as a blight on the town centres. The sale of alcoholic beverages contributes to Anti-Social Behaviour almost as much as every other factor put together. The ways in which it does this are through street drinking as a method of satisfying an addiction to alcohol, leading to a quantity of very intoxicated people congregating in the High Streets. These groups then, in my experience, tend to engage in shouting, swearing, fighting, spitting on the floor, littering, public urination and other displays of drunken disorderly behaviour. This is incredibly damaging to the High Street atmosphere, which is what keeps people coming back and shopping at the local stores and small businesses. However, should proliferation of street drinking increase, the off-putting atmosphere will dry up trade and commerce for the stores and storekeepers on the High Street.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> December of last year, I arrested a very intoxicated local street drinker for being drunk and disorderly in a public place – this is one of the many examples of arrests I have made in the High Street in which alcohol was if not a factor in the arrest, then at least a factor in the commission of the



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Continuation statement of: **PC 14165 WOLFE**

offence. Another example would be last year when I took alcohol from a local street drinker who then went into a nearby off-licence and attempted to shoplift some more cans of alcohol, not only to continue her own drinking, but also to share with the group of friends she was with.

I have on several occasions dealt with people publicly urinating on the High Street. These incidents were brought to my attention by shopkeepers who were dismayed at people treating the rear of their shops as toilets. I confronted those responsible and they were intoxicated, which was seemingly the cause of their creating a toilet out of the rear of a shop.

Another facet of street drinking as Anti-Social Behaviour is littering. A patrol of the High Street reveals cans and bottles out in plain view, discarded on the High Street or at the side of surrounding roads. The waste land at the rear of Gillingham High Street is awash with discarded alcohol containers, as well as other types of refuse. This is also true of the beds of the trees that line Gillingham High Street, behind the NCP car park and Church Street in Chatham, and the Eastgate House gardens in Rochester. The most littered items and the ones which cause the greatest impact are in my experience alcohol containers. The mere presence of the containers indicates that there is street drinking taking place, and this harms the reputation of Gillingham High Street as a safe place for families and individuals to work and shop.

I would be remiss to give this statement about the effect of alcohol on the High Streets without linking to Class A drug use. The Town Centres, being within walking distance of many homeless charities, support living charities and council facilities, are a hotbed of drug dealing and use. The street drinkers engaging in Anti-Social Behaviour are generally the same people who use Class A drugs such as heroin and crack-cocaine. The evidence of this is clear, with needles having been found in derelict areas of waste ground, behind the NCP car park in Chatham and in flower beds and other communal spaces.

Signature **PC 14165 WOLFE**

Signature witnessed by

Typed by: **PC 14165 WOLFE**

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Continuation statement of: **PC 14165 WOLFE**

On many occasions it is the drug-takers who contribute to Anti-Social Behaviour encompassing their drug use, begging, street drinking and other such behaviours.

On many, many occasions I have taken alcohol from people not only in Gillingham but also on Rochester and Chatham High Streets. I have taken full bottles of Lambrini, entire six-packs of high strength alcohol etc. away from people. On several occasions, I have taken alcohol away two or three times in a single day – I argue that the easy availability and proximity of off-licence stores fuels this type of repeated breaches of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

PSPOs have been effectively deployed across the Medway Towns to curb street drinking, and part of the Policing response is to make use of the powers bestowed under this order. However, as with any part of public engagement and enforcement, a single measure cannot be used in isolation with the expectation that this will break a cycle of offending – my experiences above go towards this idea in that flouting the PSPO is something people will do in order to fuel their addictions. We should therefore be supporting the PSPO with measures to tackle the root of the issue, with one strand of this being reducing the on-hand availability of alcohol. This multi-layered approach should be the *de facto* response to this issue, and a continuation of the policy of removing the possibility of off-licences opening on the High Street will be a step in the right direction.

This is a true and accurate account to the best of my knowledge; the statement was typed at MEDWAY POLICE STATION at 13:46 hours on 5 March 2021, shortly after the incident while it is still fresh in my mind. I will be using this statement as a part of my original notes. **PC 14165 WOLFE**

Signature **PC 14165 WOLFE**

Signature witnessed by

Typed by: **PC 14165 WOLFE**

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 4**

URN

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Statement of: **Kirsty COPELAND**Age if under 18: O/18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable  
13964**

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **K.Copeland**Date: **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police Constable for Kent Police and have worked for Kent Police for 4 years and 11 months. I have worked at Medway for the last 3 years and I am the Chatham Town Centre Officer. As part of my role I patrol the High Streets, mainly CHATHAM. My role involves dealing with any offences committed on the high street, tackling anti-social behaviour and providing safety and reassurance to the public. When I first started working on the high street, I started to experience a common theme around Anti-Social Behaviour. One example is the amount of youths underage drinking on the High street which results in low level crime or ASB. Another example is the homeless begging and committing theft related offences in order to fund their alcohol/drug habit. Anti-Social Behaviour on the High Street is a regular problem with majority of cases resulting in behaviour influenced by alcohol. Chatham High Street is an alcohol-controlled zone. In order to deal with these issues, I seized multiple amounts of alcohol from people, majority being the homeless under Section 50 Police Reform Act 2002. This section allows me to seize alcohol from any person I believe has committed or will commit anti-social behaviour. However, when the alcohol has been seized, I find the next day that the same people are consuming alcohol again on the high street. There is one male who drinks alcohol on the high street, which he has been bought from the local shops. Once he is drunk, he commits offences such as criminal damage and rings police from a pay phone for no reason. I have personally responded

Signature: **K.Copeland**Signature witnessed by: **N/A**

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Continuation statement of: **Kirsty COPELAND**

to multi reports of Criminal Damage by him on the High Street whereby he has caused damaged to the pay phones by kicking and breaking the phone and phone booth. This is an issue and the pay phones then go out of use meaning members of the public cannot use the phone if required. When I locate and deal with the male, he is always drunk and abusive towards me. I have also had many people approach me and complain about his behaviour in public. I also receive a high number of complaints about all the homeless on the high street and frustration that nothing is done to get them off the street. I started to investigate where the homeless was getting their alcohol from. On a few occasions I was informed that a certain off licence on the high street kept selling alcohol to drunk people. As the shop owners should know, it is an offence to sell alcohol to a drunk person. Due to the information I was receiving I attended the off licences and reminded them about the law around selling alcohol to minors and drunk people. There is also another male who is always drunk on the high street. He has been arrested multiple times for drunk and disorderly. There have been multiple occasions whereby this male has bought alcohol from the high street, gets drunk and then causes anti-social behaviour. However, this male used to go into Santander Bank and cause issues involving urinating on the customer chairs and being abusive to members of the public. When he was arrested, he persistently showed no remorse for his actions. This male claimed he was an alcoholic. There are alcoholics who live on the high street who will commit crime to get their alcohol and continue to commit crime once they have had their alcohol. This used to be persistent until the covid pandemic started and lockdown occurred however although this has slowed the problem down it is still ongoing. Since being on the high street I have dealt with many incidents involving Theft, anti-social behaviour, drugs and knife crime to more serious offences such as robberies, most of which have been committed by the homeless and people with a drug addiction or alcoholic. On occasions the homeless have even

Signature **K.Copeland**Signature witnessed by **N/A**

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Continuation statement of: **Kirsty COPELAND**

committed offences against each other. When I walk along the high street, I tend to see 6+ homeless people all congregated together in a group which firstly is a constant breach of covid 19 lockdown rules and secondly can be intimidating for members of the public walking past. They either sit on the benches in the middle of the high street or on the floor in a shop doorway. They are all drinking or taking drugs together which on some occasions has been witnessed by children. There have also been occasions where they all start arguing amongst each other because they are drunk or under the influence of drugs which results in a fight. When police turn up, they either disperse or refuse to engage with me making it harder to deal with as no suspect can be identified. We make multiple efforts in trying to sign post the homeless to places where they can get food and shelter but most of them refuse the help and prefer to be on the street. There are many services in Chatham that can help offer the homeless with food and shelter such as Amat housing, Turning Point, Emmaus, Caring Hands and Salvation Army. However, when they get housed, they get kicked out the accommodation a few days later for bad behaviour and appear back on the high street. The other issues around people drinking on the high street is the litter they leave behind. When patrolling the high street there are large amounts of rubbish on the floor including sleeping bags, old food, drug paraphernalia and empty beer cans. Not only does this look unappealing to member of the public who like to shop on the high street, it is also an environmental hazard which leaves us no choice but to contact the council and get them out to clear it up. In my professional opinion on alcohol, I do not believe that greater amounts of alcohol should be sold on the high street. By allowing this it attracts the wrong type of people to buy alcohol which then leads to offences and anti-social behaviour. We have issued several Community Protection Warnings to the homeless which are warnings for them to stop their behaviour. When this is breached then the warning gets replaced with a community protection notice which is

Signature **K.Copeland**Signature witnessed by **N/A**

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Continuation statement of: **Kirsty COPELAND**

an arrestable offence. However, I strongly believe that if there were fewer stores on the high street which served alcohol then a lot of crime would be prevented.

Signature **K.Copeland**

Signature witnessed by **N/A**

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 5**

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46

Statement of: **Harpreet HOTHI**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable 12982**

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **H.HOTHI**Date: **05/03/2021**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (*supply witness details on rear*)

I am making this statement in regards to the Medway Cumulative Impact Policy within with High Streets in the Medway towns. I am a local town centre officer for these towns and have been specifically policing these areas for nearly a year. I can say from my experience policing the town centre areas presents unique challenges as well as repeat offenders committing the same anti-social behaviour and crimes within the specific geographical location. A large contributor to such issues are for sure alcohol. Many of our clientele will consist of drug and alcohol abusers. They will gather within these locations to meet others, purchase alcohol from local vendors such as off licences. The off licences sell various alcoholic drinks which are a popular choice with the local drunks, such as strong ciders, beers and cheap vodkas. Any direct issues with off-licences selling to these individuals is reported back to our licencing officers. Its on a daily basis that we are having to move on street

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by:

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Continuation statement of:

drinkers and confiscate alcohol from these individuals using the Public Space Protection order, if such problems are not directly addressed throughout the day, the street drinkers go on to cause a variety of issues within the towns, a place where families and children of all ages should be able to shop freely without worry or concern for their safety. As a recent example a well-known street drinker from Gillingham but was in Chatham at the time of the issues, on more than one occasion became intoxicated and started to cause damage to shop windows, smashing them during busy morning hours where many people were present. On a separate occasion whilst holding and drinking a bottle of strong cider proceeded to smash a phone box. Whilst dealing with the individual there was lots of glass everywhere, families with children had to walk past the broken glass with no other real route to pass. The local off licences in the Medway area would be fully aware of this individual and at any point could have refused a sale but has still be able to continue. I have on other occasions seen him early in the morning buying bottles of alcohol in High Street, Gillingham to then conceal it under his jacket and try to evade police but has always been spoken too. Some of the same individuals are more often than not seen begging within the high street locations with an alcoholic drink too, they will sit near shops and take their coins to buy the drink to get them through the day. During COVID it has been even more so apparent as individuals have not been able to purchase quite as easily from larger shops such as Sainsbury or Tesco as they have strict security allowing a certain number of individuals into the store and keep a tight control on their alcohol sales. Whereas local off licences are open various hours throughout the day and night are more susceptible to relax their rules to allow for sales as they need the business even more so than ever during a national pandemic. There is no real need for off licences within a town centre locations as the public are not being deprived with chances to buy goods such as alcohol or the overall shopping experience and services provided to the public by them not

Signature

Signature witnessed by



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Continuation statement of:

being there. Off licences and convenience stores are more suited to locations that are convenient if they were placed closer to residential areas where social drinking on the street and gathering opportunities are reduced. Having more off licences on the other hand will increase issues within the town centres and increase antisocial behaviour which in turn will make your average member of public feel apprehensive when out conducting normal daily activities such as shopping, furthermore not mention the criminal issues such as thefts and robberies will increase as the street drinkers will increasingly become vulnerable to attacks from others who target them thus increasing violence in the town centre locations and putting general public at risk of harm.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

# WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 6**

URN

46

Statement of: **Daniel LEE**

Age if under 18: **over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable**

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **Daniel Lee PC 46013859**

Date: **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (*supply witness details on rear*)

I am a town centre officer in MEDWAY Community Safety Unit and predominantly work in HIGH STREET, CHATHAM however also attend other town centres in the MEDWAY area, including GILLINGHAM and ROCHESTER. I regularly attend the HIGH STREETS in order to provide a high visibility Policing presence and to try and deter any criminality on the HIGH STREETS. I am aware that despite the continued Police presence in the HIGH STREET that there are people who will regularly attend them and continue to commit crimes including shopliftings, assaults and criminal damage. One of the contributing factors to these types of crimes are drugs and alcohol. I have in the past year had multiple dealings with the same people including a male that was a heavy drinker continually calling Police day after day, shouting abuse at the staff on the phone including racial and abusive comments. This male continually threatened to cause criminal damage to property in the town centre and eventually did cause damage leading to arrests. This male was then remanded to prison due to constant damage caused in the town centres. There has been an increase in the level of violence including robberies, attempt murders and an increase in the carrying of knives in the HIGH

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Signature witnessed

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Continuation statement of:

STREET. Nearly all the persons involved in this criminality are alcoholics or drink regularly in the town centre. Whilst attending the HIGH STREET I am constantly taking alcohol from people and putting it in the bin due to them drinking in "Public Space Protection Order". Over the past year, despite lockdown restrictions and the country being in a national lockdown, due to Coronavirus, regular town drinkers continue to come into the HIGH STREET, buy and then drink alcohol in the HIGH STREET. A number of fines have been issued to local drinkers to stop them from coming into the HIGH STREET but it appears to be to no avail and they continue to breach lockdown rules in order to continue their drinking habits. If there are more stores on the HIGH STREET that sell alcohol the danger is that people will then go and buy more alcohol when theirs is confiscated by officers in the HIGH STREET. There are a lot of homeless people that migrate towards the HIGH STREETS and they tend to sit around all day drinking alcohol bought from local off license shops. After drinking these people will then not clear up after themselves, leaving empty cans on the floor and clothing or sleeping bags. This in turn makes the HIGH STREETS look untidy and unappealing to members of public who want to attend their local towns to shop happily and safely and not be disturbed by people there to cause trouble. Close by to CHATHAM town centre is a rehab centre named TURNING POINT. This is a matter of minutes from the HIGH STREET which means that people who are engaging with the service then move into the HIGH STREET and buy their alcohol. The sale of alcohol in and around the town centres would increase this kind of criminality and also attract persons to continue coming to the town centres.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 7**

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46

Statement of: **Mathew Luxford PC 46014371**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable**

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **M LUXFORD**Date: **03/03/2021**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (*supply witness details on rear*)

I am a Police Constable based out of MEDWAY POLICE STATION. I have been working for the Police for over five years in various roles but within the last year I have been a Town Centre Officer dedicated to Rochester. During my year in the Town I have dealt with various incidents in the High Street which have all been alcohol or drug fuelled. Before the global pandemic I had attended several calls in the High Street for street drinkers. These calls had been involving shoplifting, serious violence and robberies. During that time, I had arrested multiple people in the High Street and the Castle Gardens area. Specifically, one male I arrested for a robbery in the Castle Gardens was sitting with two other females who had bought alcohol from a local off licence. The females were drinking a Cheap Cider and began to become abusive to police, nearly escalating in violence. I believe the alcohol was the complete root cause of this. The robbery was involving a shopkeeper who had been assaulted and alcohol stolen. The male was intoxicated at that time too.

Signature: **M LUXFORD**

Signature witnessed

**N/A**

by:

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Continuation statement of:

Even once the Pandemic started, I continued to attend calls within Rochester High Street and come across people begging. The beggars who sit around and loiter in the High Street all have substance misuse problems and no matter how much support we offer them they continue to drink alcohol in the High Street. The people I had spoken too who were drinking in the public space protection order (PSPO) area stated they were drinking in groups due to being alcoholics and didn't want to sit at home. Now in the PSPO we can take the alcohol away from these people to prevent them causing a nuisance. Once their alcohol has been confiscated, we let local shops know not to serve them and this works. I fear that if there are more off licences allowed to open this will encourage more street drinkers to come to the High Streets knowing that if we take alcohol from them that they will be able to obtain it from nearly any other shop if they were allowed to open.

Alcohol continues to cause issues within the High Street predominately for the shops and the tourists. Beggars directly impact the shops as when they are sitting outside, they often leave litter from alcohol containers. The shops often stop me on Patrol to let me know about the litter generated, the abuse their customers get and then in turn do not want to enter the stores. Rochester High Street is often the place that street drinkers will come to sit due to the tourist trade, they know that they can sit their with a blanket hiding their alcohol and earn some money. The money that the beggars and street drinkers obtain always goes back onto more alcohol. As the days go on the drinkers become more abusive in a desperate attempt to get money to fuel their alcohol habit. After their day of drinking, they will leave their litter laying around ready for someone else to pick it up. The cycle repeats the next day and we as the Police will continue to take open containers and move the street drinkers on, however as soon as we leave the town words gets around. The street drinkers appear again drinking normally Cheap Cider or high strength alcohol such as Vodka.

Signature **M LUXFORD**

Signature witnessed by **N/A**

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Continuation statement of:

Alcohol is already far too readily available, but we manage it with the shop safe radios and knowing our local businesses, however if more off-licences were introduced to the towns you would see the downfall of Historic Rochester. M LUXFORD

Signature **M LUXFORD**

Signature witnessed by **N/A**

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 8**

URN

46

Statement of: **Thomas MCGLONE** .....Age if under **OVER 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **POLICE OFFICER....**  
18: .....

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **T.MCGLONE**  
.....Date: **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**March 2021**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (*supply witness details on rear*)

I am a Police Officer and work within the Medway Community Unit (CSU). I have been working as a Chatham Town Centre PC since November 2019. I work my majority of the time in Chatham but cover all High Streets within the Medway Towns. During my time working on the High Streets I have dealt with a number of people who have a dependency on alcohol. Some of the calls I get resourced to can range from simple thefts, public order and fights. Many street drinkers congregate in the Town Centres and are clearly under the influence of alcohol. This brings a significant strain on Kent Police, Secamb and other services as I have attended a number of incidents were, I have had to deal with drunk people who have had a medical incidents. These people are attracted to the area due to a number support services which are based in the Town Centre, services like Caring Hands, Turning Point and the Job Centre. Most of the incidents I attend are related in some way to alcohol and drug related

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Continuation statement of: **THOMAS MCGLONE**

issues. As a result Chatham Town Centre has issues were people congregating in secluded areas to take drugs. Places like The Brook Car park and the multi storey carpark behind Go Outdoors. The stairwells to these car parks have become a 'no go zone' for the public as there are drugs paraphernalia, uncapped needles scattered everywhere. These places are often covered in urine and faeces. On a typical day I seize and dispose of many high strength cider/beers and move the people on. There are a number of stores/pubs within Chatham Town Centre that sell cheap alcohol and the town does not need anymore of these establishments. I am often flagged down by members of the public who have been verbally abused by the local street drinkers, sometimes they can be aggressive but generally they move on after much persuasion. This is similar to the local beggars if they don't receive any money from the general public they can be confrontational and start to follow members of the public and hassle them. These street drinkers congregate on benches in the middle of the High Street, they are in full view of families and children and this brings a negative image to the town. Only yesterday on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, I found a male unconscious due to the effects of alcohol. I had to place him in the recovery position and call Secamb. I was with the male for two hours. In all 5 members of the emergency services were tied up due to his drunken behaviour. Due to covid 19 Kent Police has issued a number of fines to these people sometimes numerous to the same individual, but they are still attracted to the Town Centre, either to drink or seek help from the services. These people are fully aware of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and the rules around not drinking on the High Street,

Signature **PC MCGLONE 14199**

Signature witnessed by



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Continuation statement of: **THOMAS MCGLONE**

but they continue to do it. This order is invaluable in enforcing the rules around drinking alcohol in these zones and helps reduce criminality, anti-social behaviour and public nuisance.

Signature **PC MCGLONE 14199**

Signature witnessed by

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 9**

URN

46

Statement of: **Simon David Postill**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Community Support Officer**

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This statement (consisting of 2 page each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **S. Postill**Date: **03/03/2020**

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Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I have been employed as a Police Community Support Officer for three and a half years and I have spent all this time working on the town centre team. I predominately work in Rochester and Strood High Street's, but I also spend some time in Chatham and Gillingham High Streets. Strood High Street and The Retail Park has a lot of the big retailers represented with stores and there are also banks, post office and a library. This makes Strood town centre a very busy centre with many people visiting to use the shops and use the other services. Theft from shops and theft of other types are the main crimes in this area that I deal with and most offenders are driven to commit these crimes to feed their drug or alcohol addiction. More recently over the past 24 months I have noticed a significant increase in staff members and security staff being assaulted when trying to intervein when these incidents occur. In Rochester High Street most of the shops are small independently run and there is also a post office, library and community hub providing adult education as well as a visitor centre, Cathedral and Castle. Again, in the past 24 months there has been a noticeable increase in shoplifting and anti-social behaviour in Rochester High Street with the majority of these incident being carried out by the same offenders. Rochester High Street has had a community of drug and alcohol users rough sleeping in and around the High Street and this has had a big impact on the residents, shop owners and visitors to the High Street. Due to its historic nature the High Street attracts thousands of visitor from all over the county and abroad and unfortunately often the first thing they come across is street drinkers in groups and beggars sitting around with large amounts of bedding and in the worst cases they become a victim of crime. I engage and work with the street drinkers and rough sleepers/beggars on a daily basis and always try to encourage them to accept the help of service providers such as Medway Council Outreach team and Turning Point. More often than not they are unwilling or unable to accept the help on offer and the cycle of us moving them from begging or confiscating their alcohol continues. Many of the business owners in Rochester High Street tell me that this is all very detrimental to their business particularly some of the restaurant's. One in particular stated that the

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Continuation statement of:

table in the window was there most popular but this has now changed due to some of the incidents that have happened outside. The area around Eastgate in Rochester High Street has Eastgate House a visitor attraction, Mrs Twinkleton's tearoom with an outside decking area in the gardens of Eastgate Hall and the library /Community Hub. Personally, I think this is a lovely part of the High Street for people to meet and socialise, but this is spoilt as the street drinkers and rough sleepers use the area to gather and use the public toilets. I have attended numerous calls, mainly from staff who feel intimidated and distressed by the presence of these people who show no respect for anyone or anything. Many of the adults who attend the Community Hub are venerable adults from a wide range of communities across the Medway Towns and often they are left distressed by what they see.

Signature **S.Postill****Typed by: S. Postill.**

Signature witnessed by

## **Annex 10**

### **WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

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Statement of:	<b>Michael Freed</b>		
Age if under 18:	<b>Over 18</b>	(if over 18 insert 'over 18')	Occupation: <b>Police Community Support Officer</b>

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **M Freed**

Date: **03/03/2021**

Signature witnessed by

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I have been a Town Centre PCSO for fourteen years and for that time I have worked mostly in the High Street Chatham.

When I first came to Chatham Town Centre I was horrified to so many people drinking in the street, so many people sitting about drunk, every day there was fights and anti-social behaviour, every day ambulances came to collect intoxicated persons from the street.

The impact on the public and businesses due to the above behaviour was massive, people often said they were scared to come to Chatham High Street with their children for any reason because they didn't want to expose their children to the drunks and beggars.

Business owners would complain they were losing business and customers because of the impact of street drinkers.

The environment suffered also because drinkers would often urinate and defecate in alleyways and shop doorways, and they would leave bottles and cans all over the place. They would sleep in doorways and leave all the refuse associated with that.

Over time the number of premises selling high strength Alcohol has been reduced because there has been licencing restrictions to reduce the type and strength of alcohol sold and it has not been so easy to get the Alcohol Licence, and as a result the number of incidents involving Alcohol related behaviour has reduced.

Unfortunately there is still incidents of drunken behaviour which again brings with it anti-social behaviour and crime, the amount of resource consumed by this problem is staggering, when you take in to account the time spent by police ambulance doctors and nurses and other service providers to deal with and combat this alcohol/substance fuelled problem, together with the impact on business and the shopping public, it is staggering.

I am dealing with the same people doing the same thing every day, I move them on and dispose of the alcohol but within a short space of time they come back with more alcohol doing the same thing repeatedly.

Medway has a high number of service providers and charities situated in and around the high streets they provide services to the homeless and persons prone to substance abuse, unfortunately these services attract more and more of the persons who create the sort of issues that make the town centres less attractive to the public and businesses.

It is my opinion that the sale of alcohol for consumption off premises in the town centre should be strictly controlled. Restaurants should be able to sell alcohol with food to be consumed on premises; supermarkets should be able to sell alcohol for consumption at home.

It is my opinion we should do everything in our power to stop street drinking altogether, local councils are spending millions to improve and promote town centres to attract more people to towns to live and work, they are spending millions to make town centres more attractive to visitors and to improve the shopping experience, but this will all be for nothing if the towns are littered with beer cans cheap cider bottles and sprawling drunks.

It should also be noted that even through the Covid19 pandemic the hardened street drinkers have continued to gather and drink as they have always done.

In Chatham town centre we have a Public Space Protection Notice which gives designated persons the powers to disperse drinkers and seize alcohol. Chatham also has police officers dedicated to the town centre, without which the town centres high streets would degenerate into alcohol fuelled chaos.

M Freed 56643

Signature: **Mark Squires**

Signature witnessed by:

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 11**

URN

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Statement of: **Alexandra Smith**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police community support officer .....**

This statement (consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **A.SMITH**Date: **WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2021**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (*supply witness details on rear*)

I have been a PCSO within Medway for nearly 14 years and have worked on the Town Centre Team for over 11 years. I am currently the local officer for GILLINGHAM HIGH STREET and I am fully aware of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which has replaced the Alcohol Control Zone. My role is to give the town centre a visible policing presence dealing with anti-social and low level crimes that occur. I regularly engage with the homeless, beggars and street drinkers. Over the last 2-3 months I have seen an increase in homeless persons congregating and in turn drinking on the HIGH STREET, this has also been evidenced by the public who are making regular complaints to officers and also from shop staff who are having to deal with them. This is resulting in the public avoiding the town centre for fear of coming into contact with these individuals who they perceive as intimidating. A convenient spot for the street drinkers seems to be on the bench directly outside of BABA Food & Wine shop who provide a 24hr service to these persons, selling individual super strength cans of beer. As recent as this week an assault taking place whereby a victim suffered a slash to his face. Both

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Continuation statement of:

victim and suspect had been witnessed on council cameras street drinking into the early hours with several others. On another occasion, I attempted to seize half a bottle of Lambrini from a regular drinker who swiftly moved the bottle above his shoulders at full stretch and motioned towards my head as though he was going to throw it, before he was rapidly stopped from doing so. These are just small snapshots of what street drinking is doing to all town centres. I regularly educate these people on where they can go to for help Street Angels, AMAT Housing, Kingsley House, Caring Hands, The Salvation Army etc, which are all in relatively close proximity should they wish to visit. I conduct routine visit to local shops and off licences believed to be serving these persons in order to prevent the sale of the alcohol at the source. I regularly seize alcohol and tip it away immediately which then results in tension and anger towards officers which has to be diffused. The issue for town centre officers is that the vast majority of small shops popping up regularly across all high streets are now selling alcohol and regularly competing in price, meaning even the strongest of beers are now affordable even to the homeless. Being homeless or intentionally homeless seems to come hand in hand with street drinking. Again, persons are always directed towards the services that can actually help them and are of benefit to them.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

# OFFICIAL

## WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 12**

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Statement of: **Rachael Smuts** .....

Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police community support officer** .....

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This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

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Signature: **R.Smuts** Date: **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021** .....

.....

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (*supply witness details on rear*)

I have been a PCSO in Medway for almost 14 years, I have been on Gillingham High Street for approximately 3 years and help to cover Chatham High Street and Strood High Street when call demand permits. Gillingham High Street is covered by a public space protection order but Gillingham High Street still suffers with anti social behaviour in relation to alcohol. Street drinking, which encourages homeless people, alcohol dependants and anti social behaviour in the area. I feel the issue around drinking in the high street has become progressively worse, on a daily basis I have to move street drinkers away from the area, seize and dispose of alcohol to prevent anti social behaviour, have witnessed verbal altercations and fighting amongst drinkers which can be very intimidating for members of the public. Gillingham High Street has seen an increase in the last six months of homeless people congregating in the area, sleeping in door ways and begging. Council support services are located near to Gillingham High Street which attracts drinkers and users, this is a place where homeless people attend regularly. I am aware that we have been called to that support location on



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Continuation statement of:

numerous occasions to support staff with aggressive persons at the location and to criminal damage reports, staff have been unable to deal with those people at that time and haven't been able to provide the support on that occasion. Shop workers have expressed their concerns to me directly around the amount of thefts they have daily and alcohol dependants that are seen just hanging around in the High Street. There are welfare concerns due to COVID, homeless persons and beggars will continue to congregate in the High Street which then breaches coronavirus regulations and has a significant impact on the spread of the virus.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 13**

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Statement of: **Daniel Parsons**.....

Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **PCSO**

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **D PARSONS**

Date: **04/03/2021**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I have currently been employed as a Police Community Support Officer for the last three and a half years. Since November 2020 I have worked in and around Chatham High Street. Previously I have worked in Strood and Luton.

Since most of the shops have been closed due to Covid-19, the main concern in this area is the continuation of drug use, street drinking and a high amount of anti-social behaviour. Most days I am trying to engage with the vast amount of homeless people that frequent the High Street, in the attempt to get them housing and off the High Street.

Most of these people suffer with mental health issues and are using drugs and alcohol to see them through the day. The homeless people that beg in the High Street start to become aggressive when members of the public who are trying to go about their day to day business around the town refuse to give them any money. There are many occasions where I have

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Continuation statement of:

been stopped by members of public to ask if there is anything being done about this, as it is making them feel uncomfortable and putting them off coming to do their shopping.

Most of the people frequenting the High Street all know each other therefore it attracts a lot of them to stand around drinking in small groups. This of course is more intimidating especially as the earlier darker nights approach.

On 02/03/2021 around 09:30 there were three males all drinking alcohol in the doorway of Bonmarche, Chatham High Street. One of these males is an alcoholic who will continuously beg to fund his habit.

Around the town centre various tents will be pitched up overnight normally accommodating drug users and homeless. These tents appear at Chatham Bus Station and various car parks around the area. The litter starts to build up outside giving a bad image of the area, especially when used uncapped needles, alcohol bottles and cans, left over food and bottles of urine are left outside tents. This behaviour then affects local businesses in the area because members of public are afraid to park near the tents.

There are services around Chatham High Street that are there to help those with addiction including Turning Point, Pathways and Caring Hands. There is a Salvation Army building which provides food and drink to those who need it. There have been occasions where groups of ten people are gathered around after receiving their food, all sitting back in the High Street with alcohol that they have purchased from local shops. There are many people that have little or no regard for the rules set in place.

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Signature witnessed by

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Continuation statement of:

There is a gated off section of pathway next to TUI Travel Agents and a gated off bit of land next to the McDonalds alleyway, both of which are a dumping ground for empty alcohol bottles and cans, needles, faeces and general rubbish.

There are unsavoury people I know from my time covering the Luton ward that will make their way to the High Street to collect drugs and cause a general nuisance, it is not just the homeless on the High Street.

It is my opinion and observations that drug taking is the biggest challenge to tackle in this area, however street drinking and the anti-social behaviour that comes with it, is still ever present.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

# OFFICIAL

## WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 14**

URN

46

Statement of: **James Walker**.....

Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Community Support Officer .....**

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This statement (consisting of            page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

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Signature: **J. Walker**  
 .....

Date: **04/03/2021** .....

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am currently employed by Kent Police as a Police Community Support officer ( PCSO ) I have been working for Kent Police since August 2017. I have worked within the town centre team at Medway since August 2020 and was a ward officer previously. My allocated areas to cover are Rochester and Strood high streets. Since joining the town centre team in August covid 19 restrictions have been in place and have changed continually. Throughout this period a high number of vagrants have been present within Rochester and Strood high street's respectively. Vagrants loiter in positions awaiting members of the public to solicit donations from. Shop fronts and near to busy footfall areas are often occupied by vagrants. PCSO's regularly engage on a daily basis when out on patrol and provide information and help by way of contact with outreach teams, Medway council and various other avenues to get individuals housed and off of the streets. Unfortunately, many of the vagrants that PCSO's deal with take no responsibility and often revert back to patterns of behaviour that are

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Continuation statement of:

unsavoury. These behaviours constitute of taking drugs and consuming alcohol all the while soliciting donations and pestering members of the public who are trying to undertake there day to day business. Street drinkers in Medway are a constant issue, in Strood town centre for example street drinkers will congregate on the pedestrianised area between the A207 and the A2. This area between the post office and gorj hair salon has many benches and appears to be a particular favourite spot for drinkers to spend time. Alcohol is readily available as an Asda and Aldi store are located close by and cheap alcohol is readily available. A Tesco store is also close by along with Iceland, M&S, Strood food and wine and Reena food store all of which sell alcohol. The gathering of individuals has been problematic and under current covid legislation Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued. The area of Strood retail park is also a spot where vagrants and street drinkers like to sit and solicit donations. They often sit infront of the B and M store, M&S, Poundland and KFC. Strood has a variety of shops and stores and many families with small children and also the elderly use these as access is very close by. As they are trying to enter stores, they will be pestered by vagrants siting outside of the stores who are sometimes in an intoxicated state which can lead to members of the public feeling uncomfortable and vulnerable. Rochester high street also has issues with street drinkers, due to the area attracting tourists with many places of interest to visit. Again vagrants, drug users and street drinkers sit in shop doorways and outside of the museums. They also sit on the benches along the high street and leave disregarded bottles and rubbish behind. Rochester has still been busy throughout the lockdown periods with many cafes and shops providing takeaway services. The high street in Rochester is a popular location amongst street drinkers as the amount of footfall in the area means they can make money day to day and this helps to fund their drinking. In the Eastgate area of Rochester and the gardens where Charles Dickens chalet is located empty alcohol bottles are often found left strewn

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Signature witnessed by

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Continuation statement of:

across the floor. This is a public area for people to enjoy when out and about in Rochester and is somewhat spoilt by a lack of consideration by individuals that use the location to cause anti-social behaviour and litter. Alcohol is accessible from the Co-op in Rochester Riverside, Castle food and Wine, Food and Wine and also S&J News all located in Rochester high street sell alcohol and street drinkers do not have far to go to get this. If more off licenses were to open in the Strood and Rochester high street areas I believe it would have a detrimental impact on those areas. Anti-social behaviour and street drinkers further congregating would not be far behind. All of this in busy retail and tourist areas respectively. Town centres across Medway attract undesirable attention from those with drink and drug habits. In the six months or so I have been working in the Rochester and Strood town centre areas I have had countless interactions with individuals who have very little regard for the law and regulations that are in place. On a day to day basis I see and deal with street drinkers, advice is given to individuals on my part and often in turn abuse is received back. As things stand those that drink and cause anti-social behaviour in town centres have plenty of shops and off licences to choose from. The opening of more stores would just cause further issues for the public and Police. This concludes my statement. PCSO 60174 JAMES WALKER. 04/03/2021.

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Signature

Signature witnessed by

**OFFICIAL****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

**Annex 15**

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Statement of: **Paul MARSH 61226**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Community Support Officer**

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **P.MARSH 61226**  
.....Date: **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (*supply witness details on rear*)

I am employed by Kent police as a police community support officer and have been since July 2019. Since November 2019 I have been working in the Medway town centres which include Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Strood all of which are alcohol control zones. My role includes dealing with shopliftings, general anti-social behaviour and offering reassurance to members of the public. Since I have been one of the local officers, I have dealt with many incidents which include thefts, robberies, assaults and anti-social behaviour, most of which have been driven by drug addiction and alcoholism. There are numerous homeless people residing on Chatham High Street, most of whom have drug addictions and/or alcohol dependency. Many of the shopliftings are carried out by the same characters who steal items which they then sell to gain money for alcohol or drugs. On many occasions I have dealt with abusive and threatening behaviour towards myself which has been the result of individuals being under the influence of drugs or intoxicated. During these incidents, the High Street has been full of people most of whom are going about their business doing their shopping often with small



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Continuation statement of:

children who have been subject to this awful and sometimes intimidating behaviour. I am often offering reassurance to elderly and vulnerable people who have said that they are intimidated and sometimes scared to walk along the High Street due to the presence of people under the influence of drink or drugs. There appears to be new homeless people appearing all the time who will sit on the floor outside various shops, parking machines or cash machines. They will ask members of the public for donations or food and I have witnessed on occasion these people becoming abusive and aggressive, often swearing when they are not given what they want. In my opinion from observations I have made during my time working in Chatham, vagrants often migrate towards the town because it is too easy to buy alcohol due to the amount of shops which sell to them. I have dealt with individuals who have been under the influence of alcohol and have bought more from these shops whilst intoxicated. This is unacceptable for the shops to continue to sell alcohol to people who are clearly drunk. The same people that have been abusive one day when they are drunk are sometimes completely different characters when they are sober which shows how alcohol is affecting the behaviour of these people. Street drinkers will congregate in groups which breaches Covid-19 regulations and causes an intimidating environment. When there are groups of drinkers, they will often argue amongst themselves and sometimes fight causing a level of fear, alarm and distress to passers-by.

Chatham town centre consists of many services which are used by the homeless, drug addicts and alcoholics. These services include, AMAT, Turning Point, Emmaus, Caring Hands and others. These do a great job at offering help and assistance to people in need, however due to the proximity to the High Street this encourages street drinkers and drug users to flood a small area. For example, on

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Signature witnessed by

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Continuation statement of:

Church Street, Chatham, the Salvation Army gives out food for the homeless, however due to its location, people will often gather on the benches outside with alcohol which has been bought from the local shops. There are multiple locations where this happens such as the NCP car park and The Brook car park. When these locations are patrolled there is often piles of rubbish including alcohol containers and drug paraphernalia which causes a hazard to members of the public and in particular, children.

The anti-social behaviour has been dealt with by means of community protections warnings, community protection notices and criminal behaviour orders. This has had some effect on reducing the level of begging and general unsavoury behaviour, however this is a huge use of police time which could potentially be focused elsewhere if the local shops were to reduce their sale of alcohol to street drinkers and vagrants. I appreciate that small businesses need to make money however the sale of alcohol which has a direct impact on the community needs to be better controlled by the shops involved and these shops need to take more responsibility.

PCSO Paul MARSH 61226

Signature

Signature witnessed by

# OFFICIAL

## WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

<b><u>Annex 16</u></b>
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Statement of: **Daniel Hunt** .....

Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Officer** .....

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This statement (consisting of 5 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

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Signature: **PC HUNT 11044**  
 .....

Date: **02/03/2021**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am a serving police constable working within Kent Police and currently perform the duties of licensing officer attached to North Division. The geographical areas covered by the North Division includes the Medway Towns. Please consider this MG11 statement submitted on behalf of North Division Licensing as documentation to support the Medway Cumulative Impact Policy statutory review process.

There are currently 4 cumulative impact areas within Medway predominantly made up of town centre locations, these include:

- Chatham High Street and Railway Street area
- Gillingham High Street, Canterbury Street and Gillingham Road area
- Luton Road area
- Rochester High Street area

All of these geographical areas were identified by police, partner agencies and the public as being areas of concern with regards to alcohol related crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour as evidenced

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Continuation statement of: **Daniel Hunt**

in previous representations presented to the Licensing and Safety Committee in March 2017, prior to the implementation of the cumulative impact policy (CIP) in 2018.

A specific area of concern previously identified by both town centre police officers and licensing officers alike was issues and problems associated with street drinking. All four cumulative impact areas identified suffered in that regard and persons living and working in those areas suffered the knock-on effects and alcohol related harms that street drinking generates. Whilst at times there have been signs of improvement, at the time of writing this statement during what is a period of national emergency due to the Coronavirus pandemic, with various restrictions and a national lockdown in place, street drinking remains a problem within Medway CIP locations. Below are some very recent examples of this:

- At approximately 15:45 on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021 I was on duty walking through High Street Gillingham returning to my police vehicle having conducted a visit to a nearby premises. At the junction of High Street and James Street my Colleague and I encountered 2 males that were in possession of multiple cans of Perla Green 6.2% ABV lager. Both males were heavily intoxicated and were transferring the cans of lager from a shop bought carrier bag into a rucksack. I suspect that the alcohol had been purchased nearby but at this stage have not established from which premises. My colleague advised both males not to consume the alcohol within the town centre Public Space Protection Order area (PSPO). In a drunken state both males decided to leave the area and turned to walk away. Due to his high level of intoxication one of the males lost his footing and suddenly fell to the floor hitting the floor with some considerable impact. He was helped to his feet by his friend and both walked away from the town centre.

Signature **PC HUNT 11044**

Signature witnessed by **N/A**

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Continuation statement of: **Daniel Hunt**

- At approximately 15:20 on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 I was off duty driving through the CIP area of Luton Road into Luton Village. The weather was dry, warm and bright and was very pleasant considering that only a couple of weeks prior the country was experiencing snowstorms and freezing conditions. As I drove past the seated area opposite the shops in Luton Village I saw approximately 3 persons all of whom appeared to be drinking cans of alcohol in full view of passing pedestrians and motorists, almost certainly these persons would have been breaching Coronavirus restrictions during a period of national lockdown.
- At approximately 16:00 on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 I was on duty responding to reports of an alleged assault in High Street Gillingham. The alleged suspected was a known street drinker who frequented the town centres of Medway on an almost daily basis. He was found to be extremely intoxicated through drink and it was alleged that prior to police arrival he had thrown an open can of beer at the victim, having been consuming the beer within the High Street. The male was drunk and abusive in full view of members of the public including children and was subsequently arrested.
- At approximately 12:05 on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 I was on duty in High Street Gillingham where I observed a group of approximately 4-5 street drinkers stood in the street consuming cans of high strength beer or cider. As I observed the group, I witnessed that they were also in possession of slush puppy crushed ice style drinks. I witnessed a female within the group then pour a bottle of vodka into the ice drinks before the group walked off along the high street. Again, almost certainly these persons were breaching Coronavirus restrictions during a period of national lockdown.

Signature **PC HUNT 11044**Signature witnessed by **N/A**

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Continuation statement of: **Daniel Hunt**

I can confirm that the above examples are not isolated incidents. Similar incidents occur on a regular basis within all current Medway CIP areas and I have no doubt will be evidenced and documented by both my police colleagues, partner agencies and the public. Street drinking associated with rough sleeping and begging in shop doorways very much remains a problem within the area of High Street Rochester, particularly at times during which night-time economy venues such as pubs and restaurants have been allowed to open during the various stages of the Coronavirus pandemic. High Street Rochester has many pubs, bars and restaurants and can become busy in an evening. The customer base of such premises can easily become targeted by persons begging, often resulting in persons feeling obligated to offer food or money. Whilst this may not always be the case, it is apparent that monies obtained through the act of begging can be used to obtain alcohol or drugs which can then be consumed in public view and add to the issues already identified and experienced within the CIP areas.

The licensing team at North division continue to work closely with our licenced premises. We regularly visit, advise, educate and when required take appropriate enforcement action against premises that are considered as failing to uphold the licensing objectives and have often persisted to fuel public nuisance, crime and disorder. Such efforts and work are often conducted in partnership with other police officers (for example town centre teams) or with other non-police agencies and local authorities, these works are continuous and ongoing.

A duty we also undertake within the licensing officer role is to assess all premises licence applications and variations, with a view to working with the applicant to either suitably condition a premises licence or to submit representations against those applications that are of concern. What is evident since the introduction of the CIP is a general improvement in the quality of proposed operating schedules within

Signature **PC HUNT 11044**Signature witnessed by **N/A**

URN

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Continuation statement of: **Daniel Hunt**

premises licence applications. Historically it could often be the case that the standard of applications (in-particular those for off-licenced premises) did not meet the expected standards as laid out within the S.182 guidance. This clear improvement in many proposed operating schedules submitted within applications is very positive and is welcomed by Kent Police. It shows that the applicants are giving a wider consideration to the promotion of the licensing objectives and suggests that applicants have a greater understanding of the area in which the premises are located and to the possible impact that the premises licence could have on the community. It is my opinion that in some cases it is the very existence of the CIP that is responsible for this marked improvement. Whilst it may be the case that such applications are still not deemed exceptional and thus premises licences are not granted by the licensing panel, it clearly indicates and highlights the standard and expectations to be maintained by all persons both new and old working within the town centre areas of Medway.

It is the opinion of Kent Police licensing that the four cumulative impact policy areas already identified and established within Medway are saturated with off-licenced premises. The availability of alcohol, particularly the off sale of alcohol is already vast. It is feared that the addition of further off licence premises that are not considered to be of an exceptional standard when given due regard to the CIP into these identified areas will almost certainly add to the levels of antisocial behaviour, crime and disorder and alcohol related harms already experienced by and impacting on the community in these areas.

Kent Police licensing are fully supportive of the Medway CIP, specifically with regards to the impact that off-licenced premises have within our town centre and CIP areas. We would support that the CIP be renewed and amended with regards to the cumulative impact of off-licence premises and ask that

Signature **PC HUNT 11044**Signature witnessed by **N/A**

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Continuation statement of: **Daniel Hunt**

on-licenced premises be removed. We would further support that the geographical areas of the current Medway CIP remain the same. PC HUNT 11044

Signature **PC HUNT 11044**

Signature witnessed by **N/A**

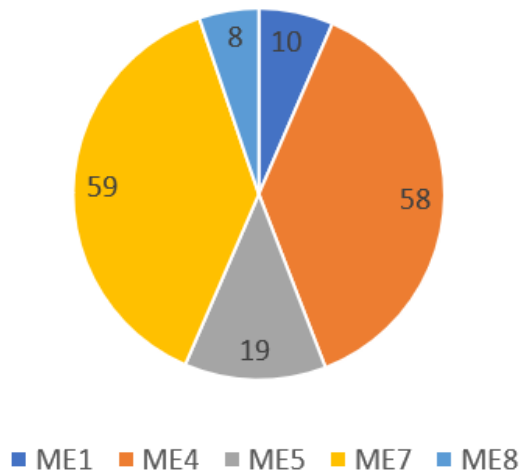


## Annex 17

Arrests for Public Order related offences in Medway between 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2019

ME1	10
ME4	58
ME5	19
ME7	59
ME8	8

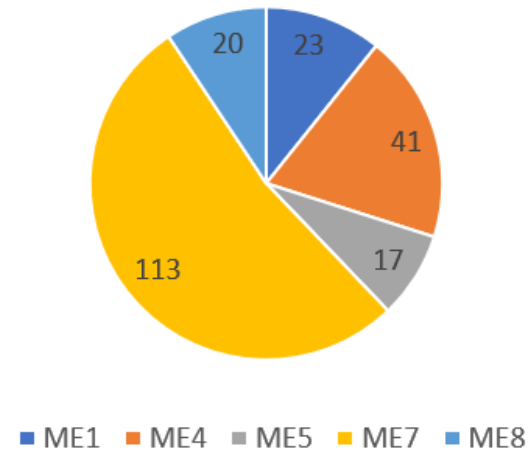
Public Order Arrests 2019



Arrests for Public Order related offences in Medway between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020

ME1	23
ME4	41
ME5	17
ME7	113
ME8	20

Public Order Arrests 2020

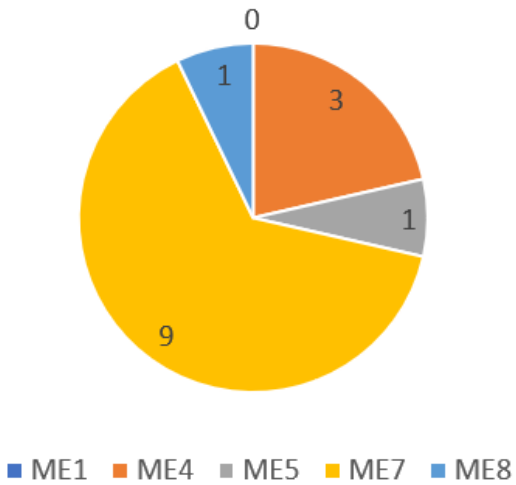


**Annex 18**

Arrests for Drunk & Disorderly related offences in Medway between 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2019

ME1	0
ME4	3
ME5	1
ME7	9
ME8	1

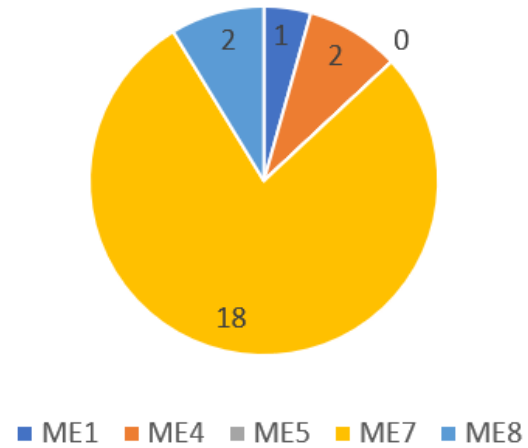
Drunk & Disorderly Arrests 2019



Arrests for Drunk & Disorderly related offences in Medway between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020

ME1	1
ME4	2
ME5	0
ME7	18
ME8	2

Drunk & Disorderly Arrests 2020

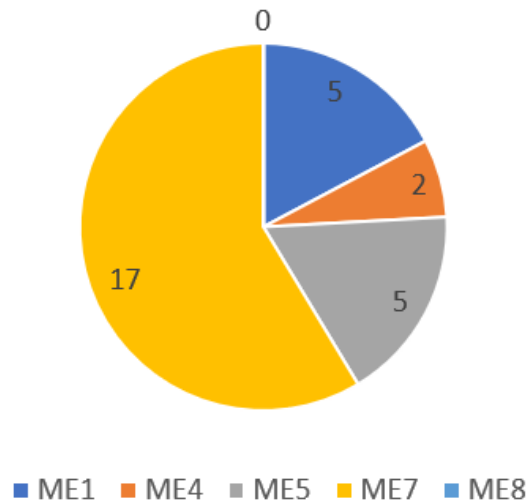


## Annex 19

Arrests for Assault on Police offences in Medway between 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2019

ME1	5
ME4	2
ME5	5
ME7	17
ME8	0

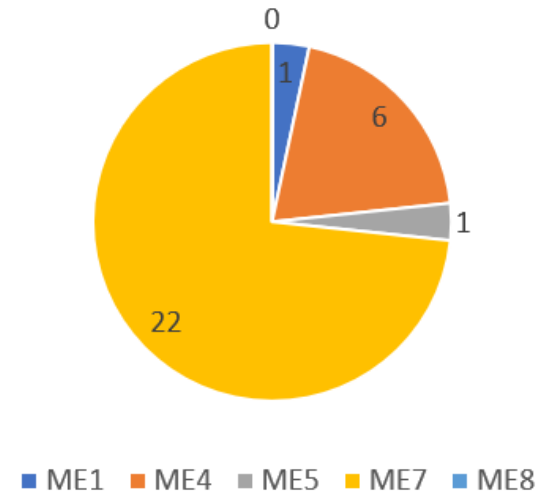
Assault on Police Arrests 2019



Arrests for Assault on Police offences in Medway between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020

ME1	1
ME4	6
ME5	1
ME7	22
ME8	0

Assault on Police Arrests 2020



**Annex 20**

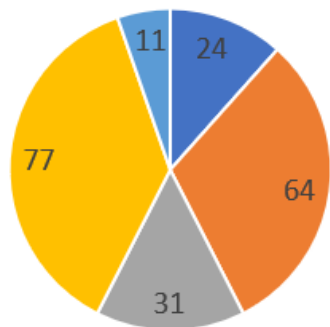
Arrests for Drug related offences in Medway between 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2019

ME1	24
ME4	64
ME5	31
ME7	77
ME8	11

Arrests for Drug related offences in Medway between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020

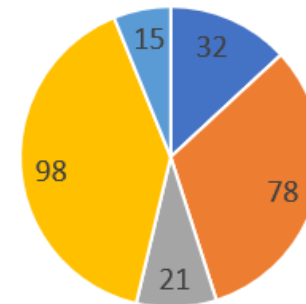
ME1	32
ME4	78
ME5	21
ME7	98
ME8	15

Drug Related Arrests 2019



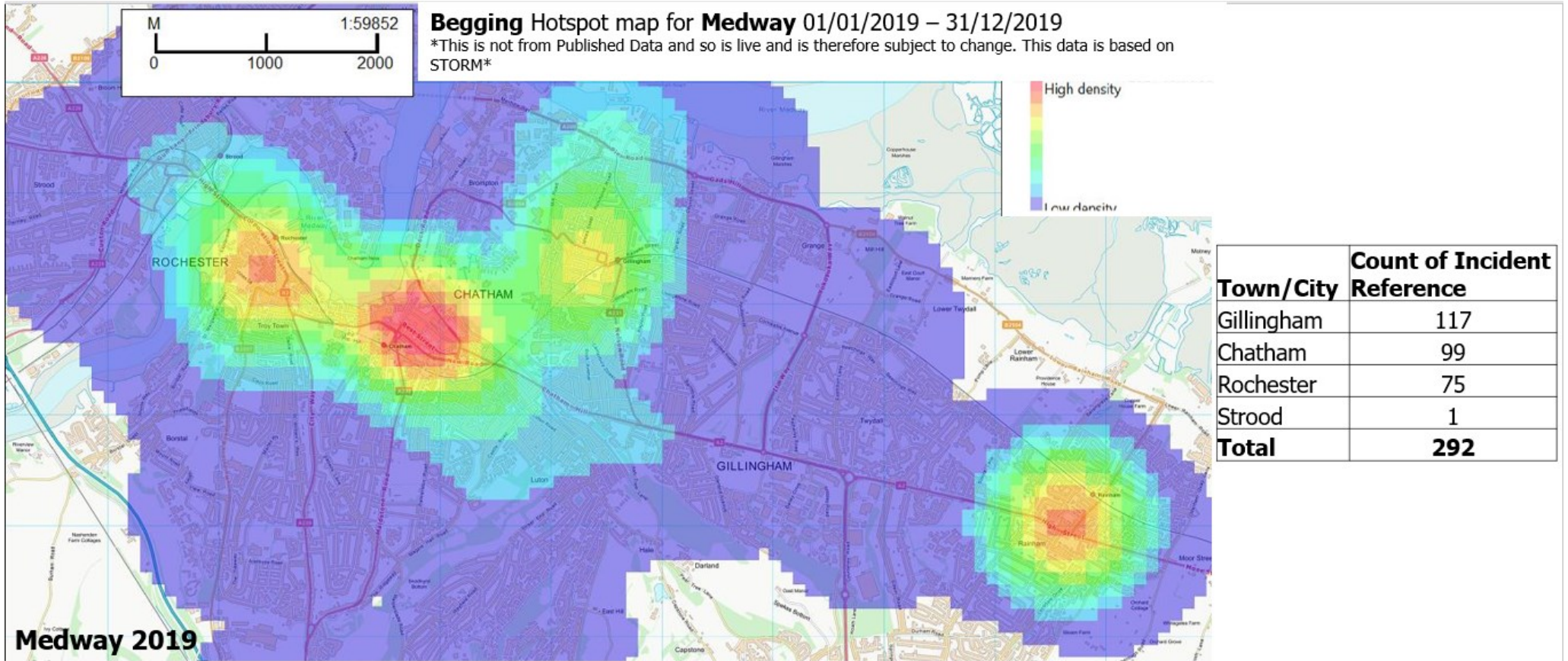
■ ME1 ■ ME4 ■ ME5 ■ ME7 ■ ME8

Drug Related Arrests 2020



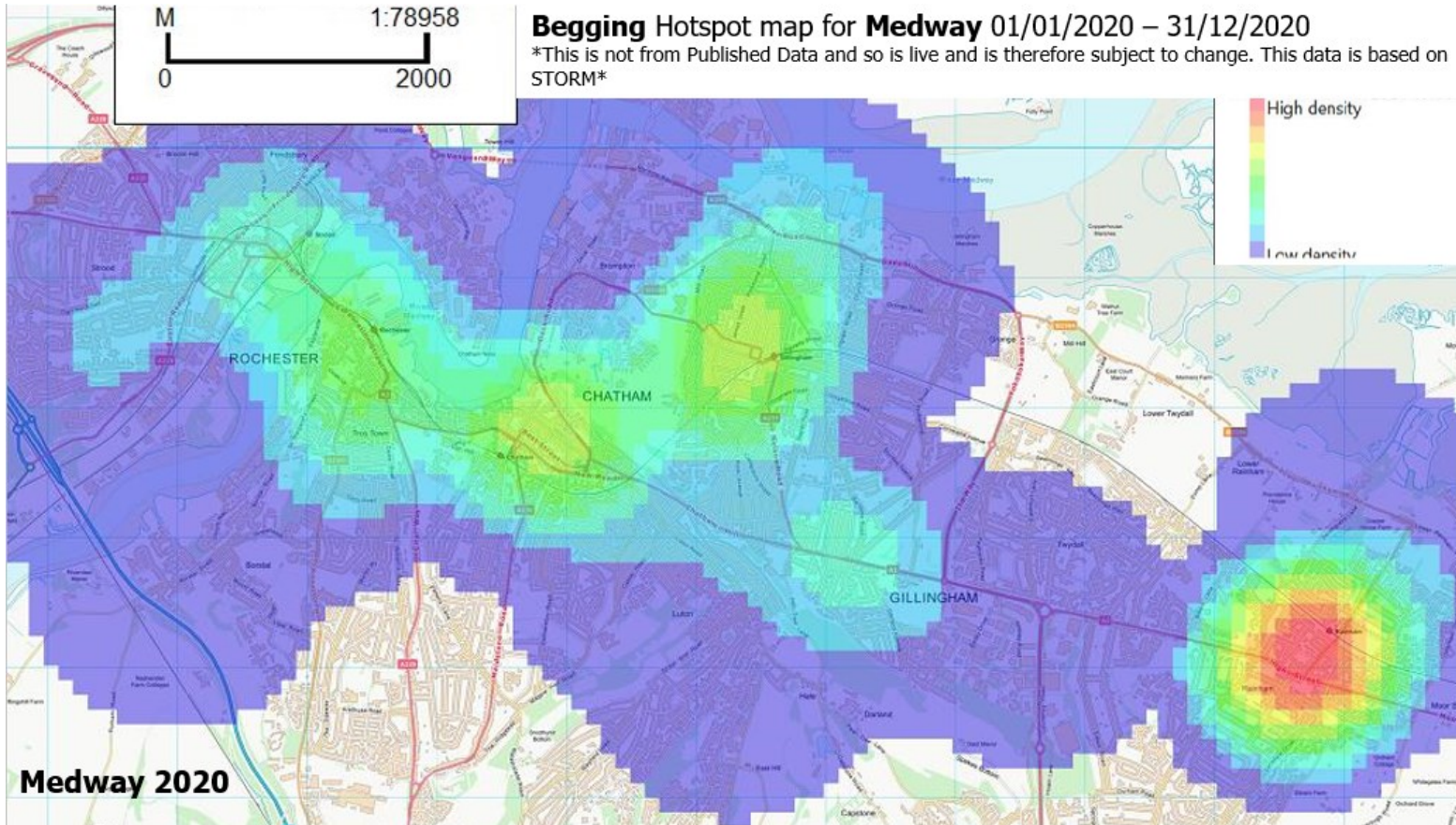
■ ME1 ■ ME4 ■ ME5 ■ ME7 ■ ME8

## Annex 21



- There are 4 main areas for in Medway where calls were made for Begging (Final Disposal Code 718).
- The main one is centred around High Street, Best Street and the surrounding roads and shops
- A lesser one is in Rochester, along Crow Lane where it meets East Gate/High Street and the surrounding roads and shops
- A further one is in Gillingham, which has a lower volume indicated by the yellow colour. This is the area in and around the High Street
- A separate hotspot is in Rainham with the centre being at Rainham Shopping Centre and Rainham Healthy Living Centre

## Annex 22

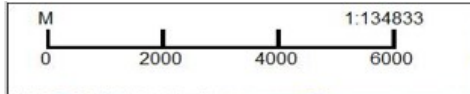


Town/City	Count of Incident Reference
Gillingham	93
Rochester	46
Chatham	35
Strood	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>175</b>

### Medway 2020

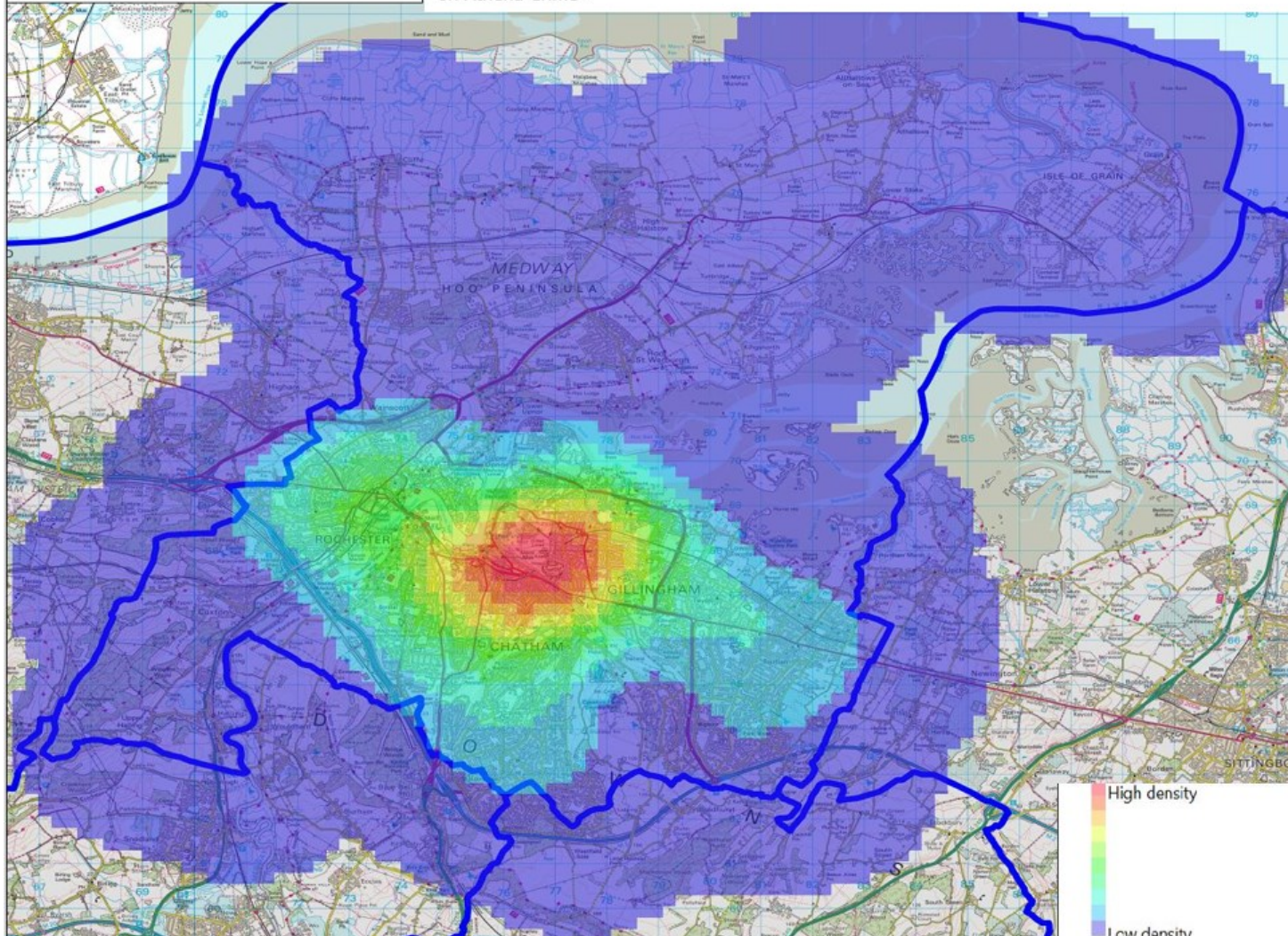
- There are 5 areas for in Medway where calls were made for Begging (Final Disposal Code 718) but the ones in the centres of Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham are not as prominent as they were for 2019. The number of incidents for begging has decreased by 40.1% from 2019.
- The area where Roman Road connects with Watling Street and the residential area is more prominent on the map for 2020 than it was in 2019.
- The main one for 2020 is in Rainham with the centre being at Rainham Shopping Centre and Rainham Healthy Living Centre and the surrounding residential area

## Annex 23



### Crime Hotspot map for Medway 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This data is based on Athena Crime\*

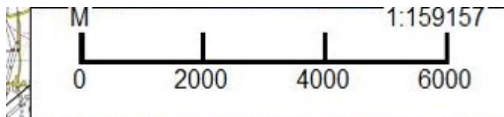


### Medway 2019

- The offences that occurred in 2019 are centred in Chatham/into Gillingham where there was the highest density of offences for Medway, shown by the red colour on the hotspot map
- The yellow to green areas on the map surrounds the red area of Chatham, and indicates areas where lower volumes of crime have occurred compared to the red area. This includes the rest of Chatham, Gillingham, and most of Rochester
- The light to dark blue areas stretch across the rest of Medway indicating the areas with an even lower volume of offences

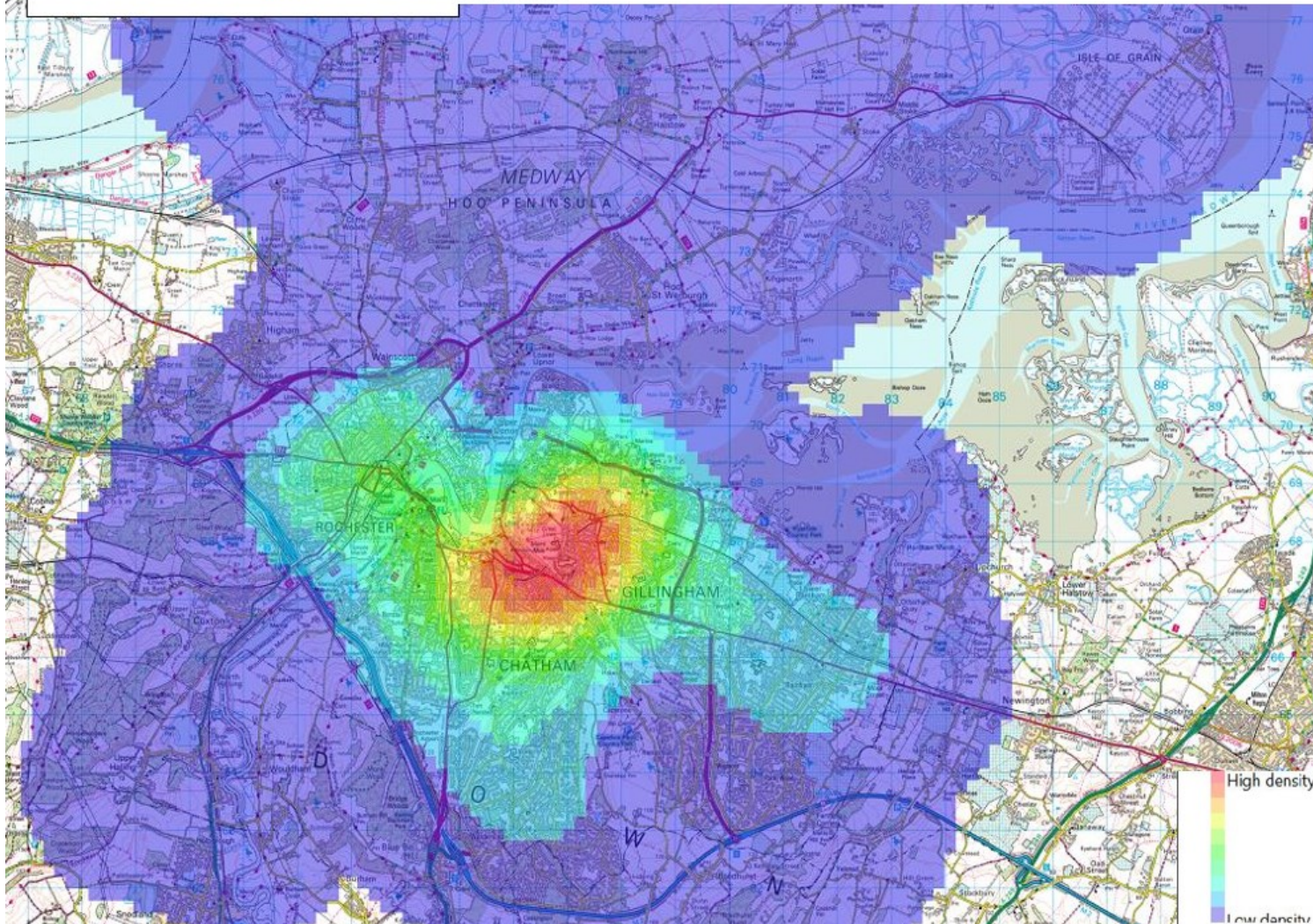
Town	Count of Crimes in 2019
Gillingham	12101
Rochester	10923
Chatham	10582
General Medway	156
<b>Total</b>	<b>33762</b>

## Annex 24



### Crime Hotspot map for Medway 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This data is based on Athena Crime\*



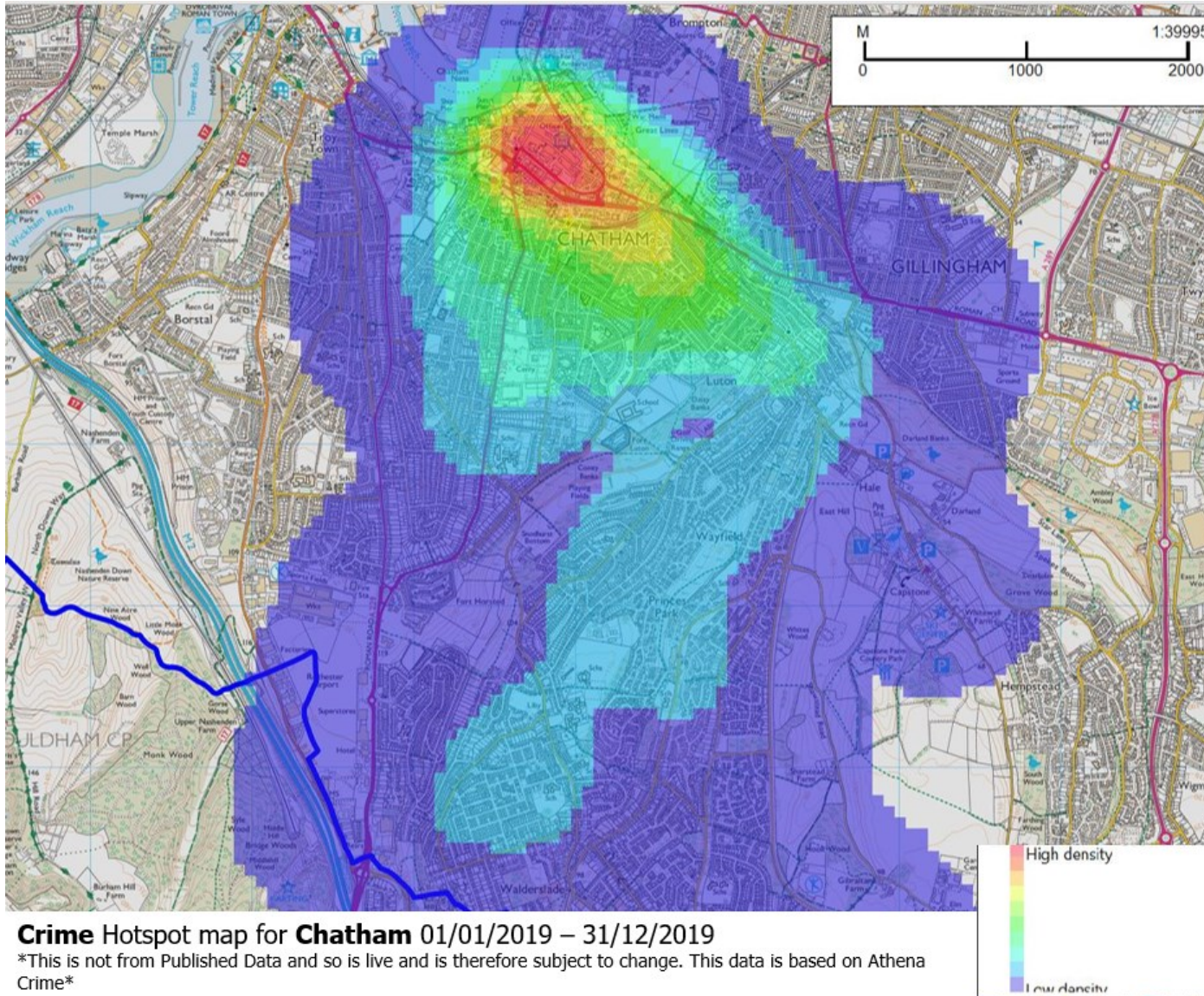
### Medway 2020

- The hotspot map for offences which occurred in 2020 is extremely similar to that of 2019, with the same areas being given similar/if not the same colour
- Similar to 2019, Gillingham has the highest volume of crime for 2020 compared to the other areas of Medway, with Chatham closely behind
- COVID-19 appears to have caused a 9.8% decrease in the number of crimes occurring in Medway in 2020

Town	Count of Crimes in 2020
Gillingham	11209
Chatham	9672
Rochester	9435
General Medway	141
<b>Total</b>	<b>30457</b>



## Annex 25



### Chatham 2019

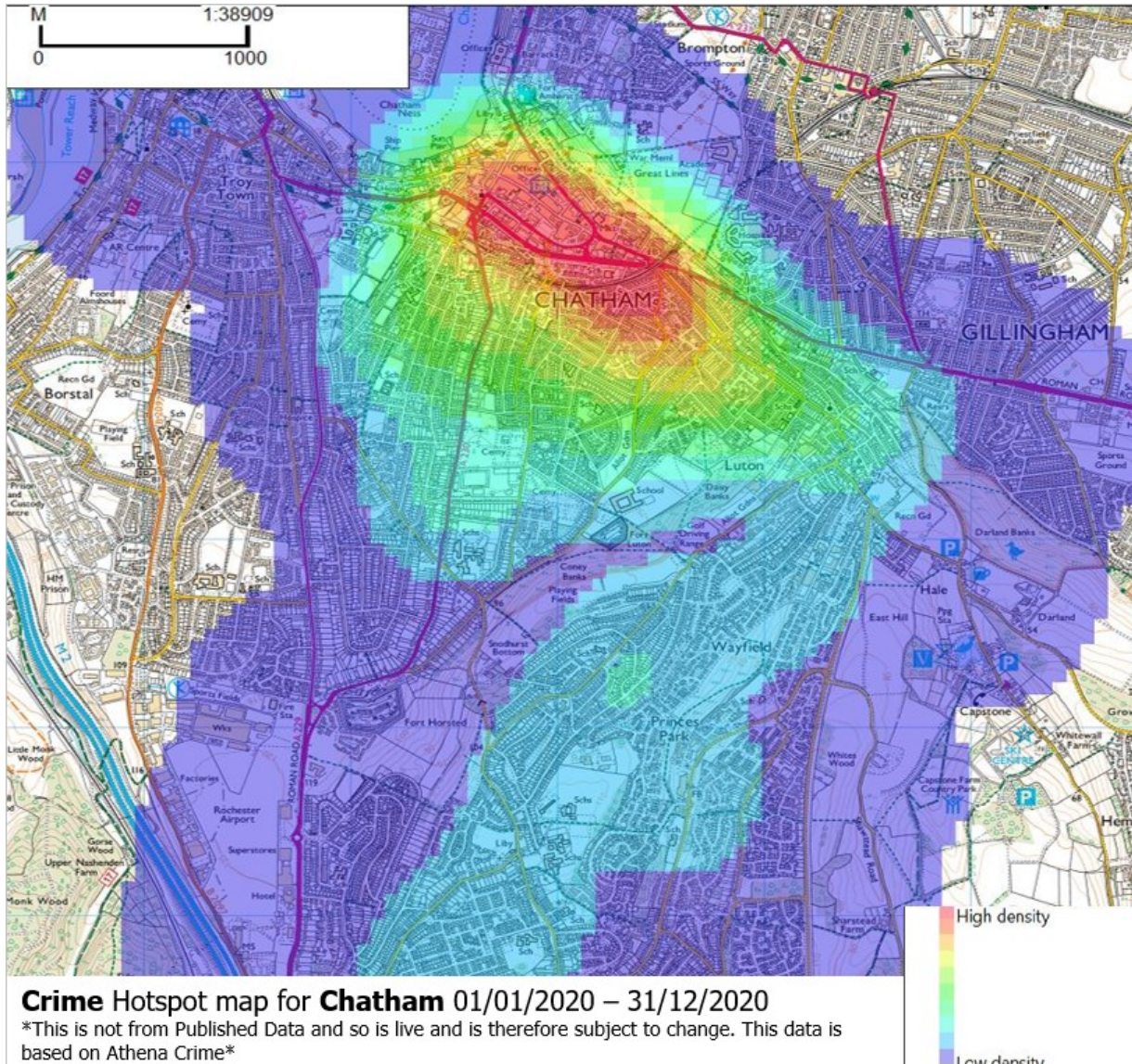
- The main hotspot in Chatham is focused around the High Street, Best Street and the surrounding area
- This then spreads in a south easterly direction towards Luton
- A lesser and larger hotspot surrounds this area and then continues through Wayfield, Princes Park and to some of the Walderslade area

Top 10 Repeat Venues	Count of Crimes in 2019
HIGH STREET	1073
MAIDSTONE ROAD	425
THE PENTAGON	349
LUTON ROAD	334
NEW ROAD	183
RAILWAY STREET	177
WALDESLADE ROAD	177
CHURCHILL AVENUE	160
MAGPIE HALL ROAD	155
DALE STREET	104

### Crime Hotspot map for Chatham 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This data is based on Athena Crime\*

## Annex 26



### Chatham 2020

- The crimes committed in 2020 in Gillingham occurred in very similar areas to that of 2019, resulting in almost matching hotspot maps.
- The main hotspot in Chatham is focused around the High Street, Best Street and the surrounding area. The main difference between this one and then one in 2019 is that the high density (red) spreads further towards the south east, following Chatham Hill and the surrounding residential area
- This then spreads in a south easterly direction towards Luton
- A lesser and larger hotspot surrounds this area and then continues through Wayfield, Princes Park and to some of the Walderslade area

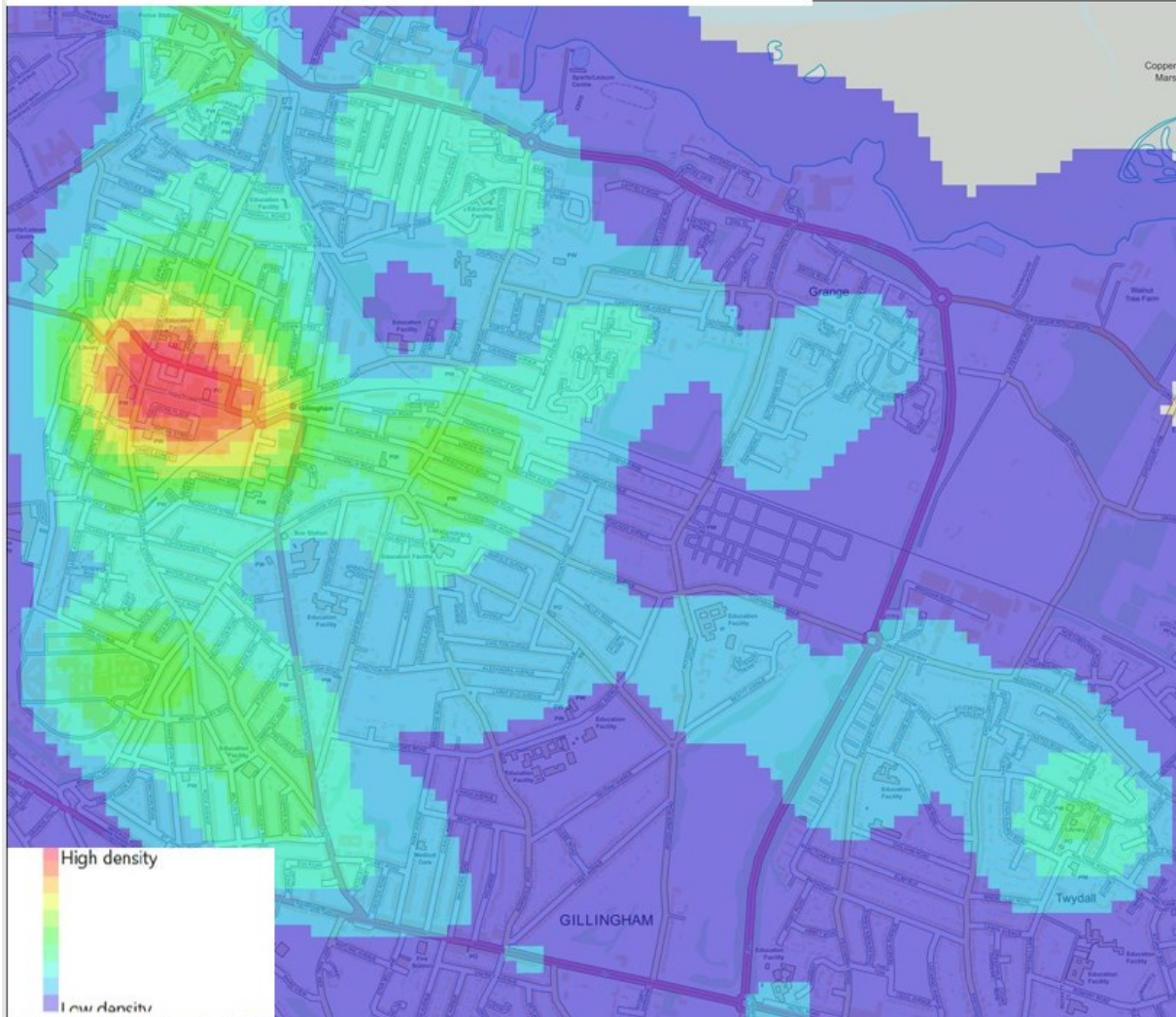
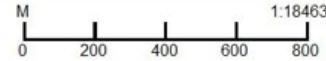
Top 10 Repeat Venues	Count of Crimes in 2020
HIGH STREET	807
MAIDSTONE ROAD	362
LUTON ROAD	343
THE PENTAGON	196
NEW ROAD	168
MAGPIE HALL ROAD	162
DALE STREET	146
WALDESLADE ROAD	127
CASTLE ROAD	127
RAILWAY STREET	126

## Annex 27

### Crime Hotspot map for Gillingham 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change.

This data is based on Athena Crime\*

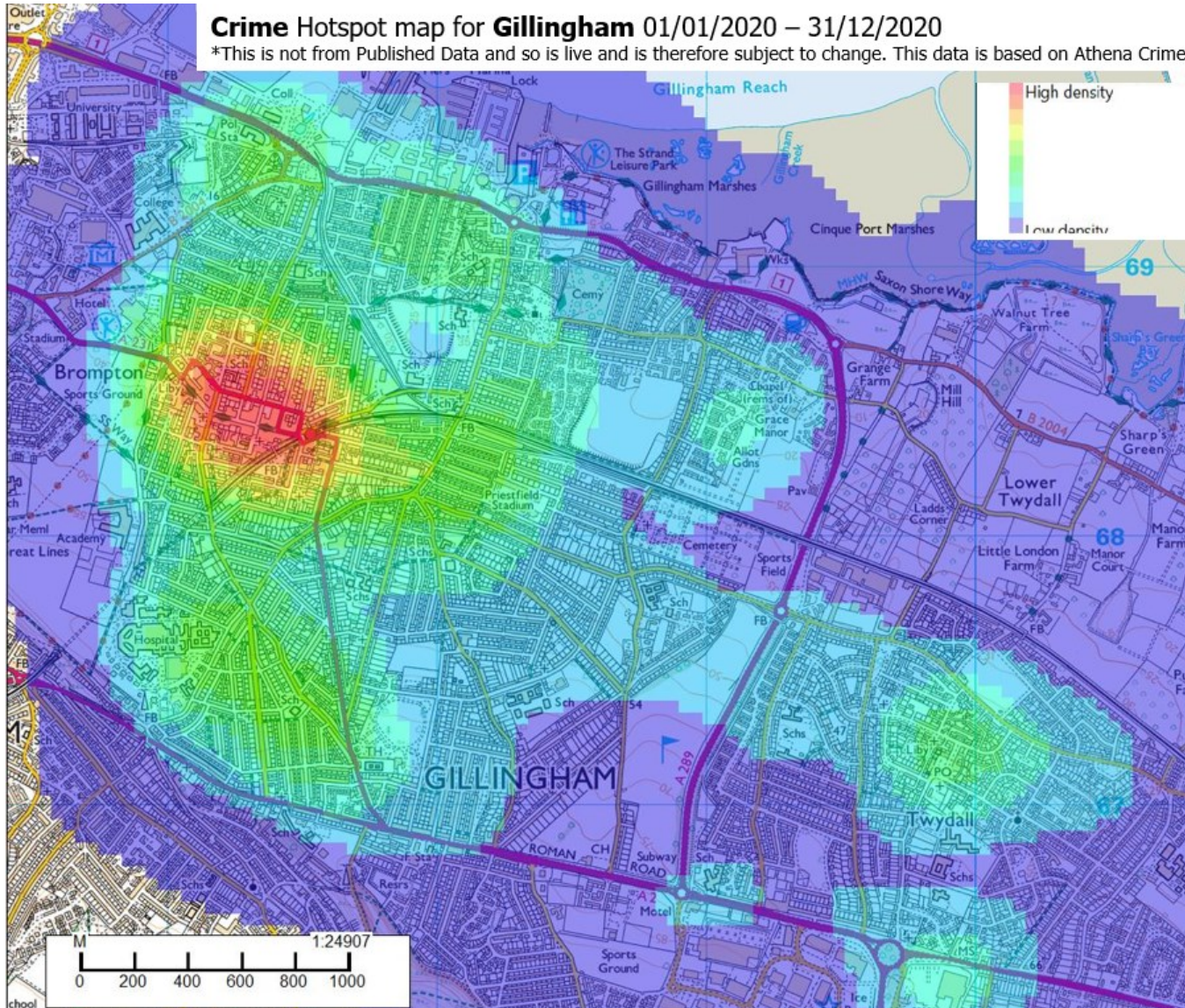


### Gillingham 2019

- Gillingham has a main hotspot centred around the High Street and Gillingham Train Station. This extends eastwards from the Train Station towards Priestfield Stadium, and then towards the residential area around Maple Avenue, forming a lesser hotspot in this area.
- There is a hotspot along Canterbury Street where it meets Rock Avenue, close to Medway Hospital.
- Another hotspot can be seen in the area surrounding Medway Police Station
- A further hotspot is in Tywdall, which centres around Twydall green and the Twala Evangelical Church
- Another lesser hotspot can be seen in the area around the Bowaters roundabout, especially by the McDonalds and Tesco superstore and another one by the Will Adams roundabout, encompassing Gillingham Premier Inn and Danecourt Special School

Top 10 Repeat Venues	Count of Crimes in 2019
HIGH STREET	744
CANTERBURY STREET	438
WINDMILL ROAD	304
PURSER WAY	267
COURTENAY ROAD	246
GILLINGHAM ROAD	243
BALMORAL ROAD	166
STATION ROAD	163
FARTHING CORNER	
MOTORWAY SERVICES AREA	150
GOUDHURST ROAD	142

## Annex 28



### Gillingham 2020

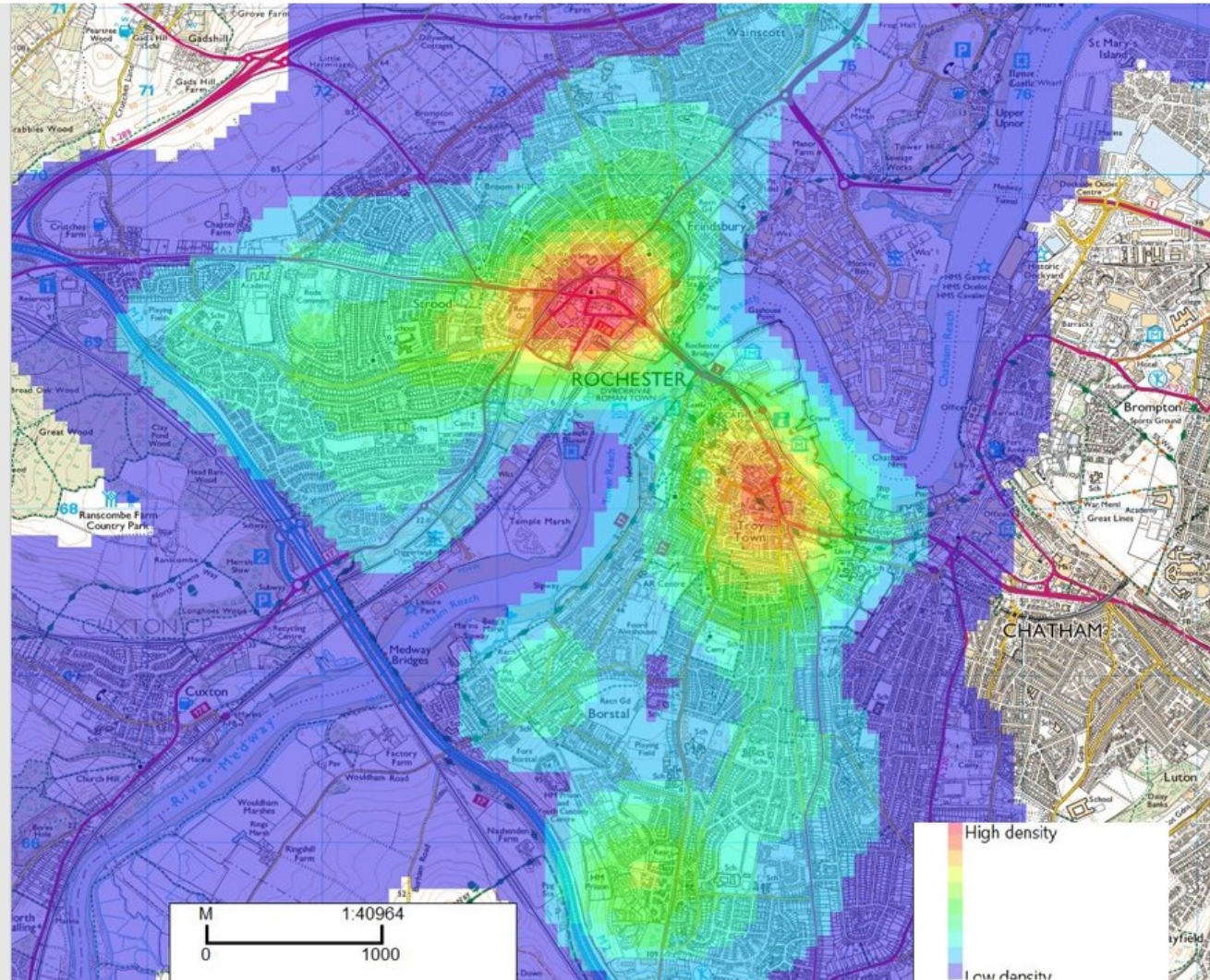
- The crimes committed in 2020 in Gillingham occurred in very similar areas to that of 2019, resulting in almost matching hotspot maps.
- Similar to 2019, Gillingham has a main hotspot centred around the High Street and Gillingham Train Station. This extends eastwards from the Train Station towards Priestfield Stadium, and then towards the residential area around Maple Avenue, forming a lesser hotspot in this area.
- There is a hotspot along Canterbury Street where it meets Rock Avenue, close to Medway Hospital.
- Another hotspot can be seen in the area surrounding Medway Police Station
- A further hotspot is in Tywdall, which centres around Tywdall green and the Twala Evangelical Church
- Another lesser hotspot can be seen in the area around the Bowaters roundabout, especially by the McDonalds and Tesco superstore and another one by the Will Adams roundabout, encompassing Gillingham Premier Inn and Danecourt Special School

Top 10 Repeat Venues	Count of Crimes in 2020
HIGH STREET	644
CANTERBURY STREET	322
PURSER WAY	297
WINDMILL ROAD	293
GILLINGHAM ROAD	234
COURTENAY ROAD	192
BALMORAL ROAD	151
HAZLEMERE DRIVE	148
STATION ROAD	143
GOUDHURST ROAD	118

## Annex 29

### Crime Hotspot map for Rochester 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This data is based on Athena Crime\*

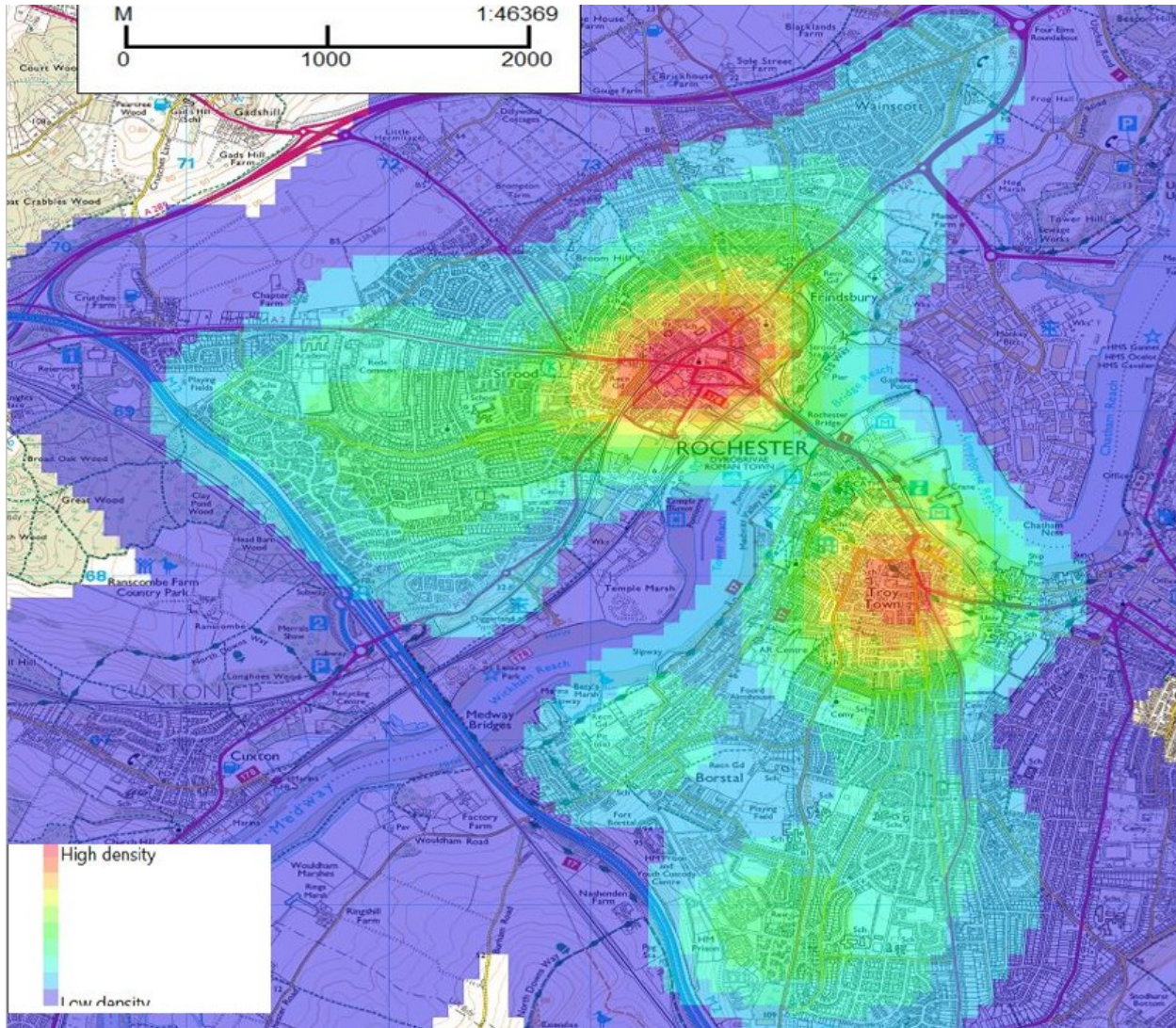


### Rochester 2019

- There are 2 main hotspots in this area, indicated by the red areas on the map
  - The area where Gun Lane, London Road and Commercial Road connect, including Strood Retail Park. This extends with less volume towards Frindsbury and Wainscott and also follows along Darnley Road
  - Rochester High Street (Eastgate) and the surrounding shops and area. This extends into Troy Town and also along New Road towards Chatham
- A smaller hotspot surrounds HMP Rochester and the local area
- A lesser hotspot is based around Borstal Street and Shorts Way in Borstal and another in the area around Beaulieu Rise, Rochester

Top 10 Repeat Venues	Count of Crimes in 2019
HIGH STREET	903
SIR EVELYN ROAD	483
DARNLEY ROAD	292
WATLING STREET	185
CITY WAY	177
KNIGHT ROAD	167
COMMERCIAL ROAD	167
BLUE BOAR LANE	157
CUXTON ROAD	151
FRINDSBURY ROAD	125

## Annex 30



**Crime Hotspot map for Rochester 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020**

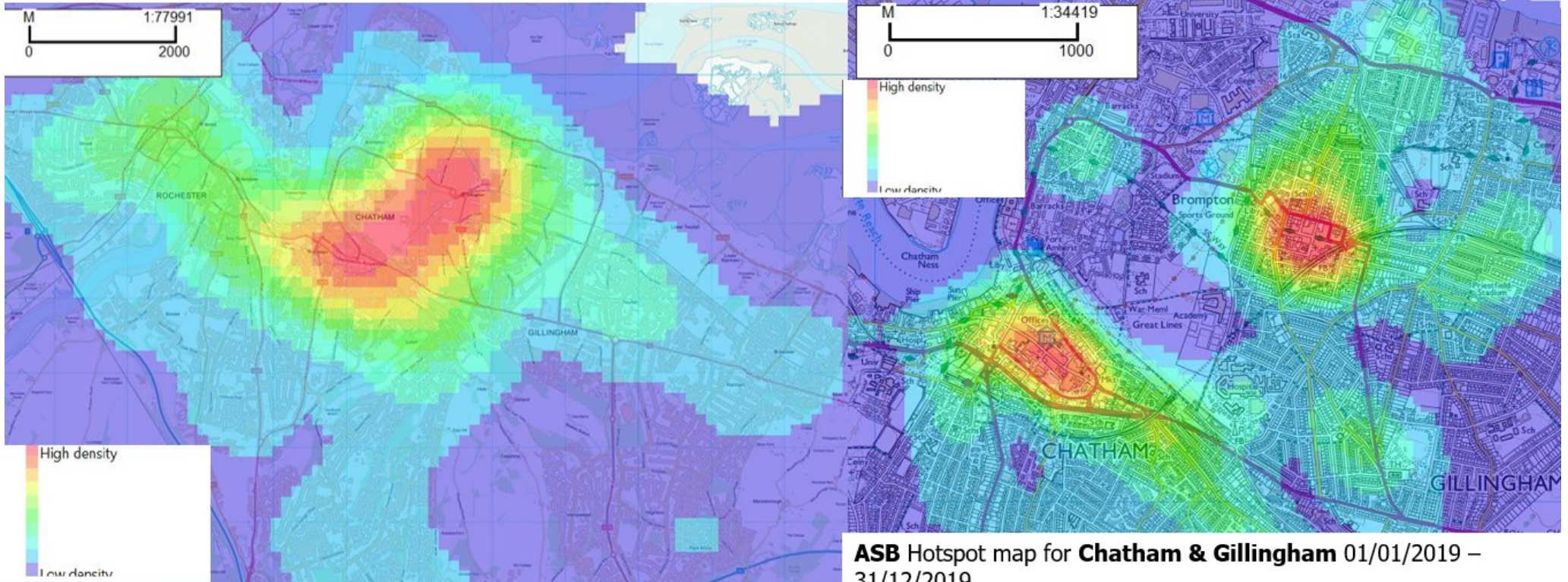
\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This data is based on Athena Crime\*

### Rochester 2020

- This map is very similar to the one for 2019
- There are 2 main hotspots in this area, indicated by the red areas on the map
  - The area where Gun Lane, London Road and Commercial Road connect, including Strood Retail Park. This extends with less volume towards Frindsbury and Wainscott and also follows along Darnley Road
  - Rochester High Street (Eastgate) and the surrounding shops and area. This extends into Troy Town and also along New Road towards Chatham
- A smaller hotspot surrounds HMP Rochester and the local area
- A lesser hotspot is based around Borstal Street and Shorts Way in Borstal and another in the area around Beaulieu Rise, Rochester

Top 10 Repeat Venues	Count of Crimes in 2020
HIGH STREET	658
DARNLEY ROAD	290
SIR EVELYN ROAD	275
WATLING STREET	154
FRINDSBURY ROAD	144
CUXTON ROAD	139
CITY WAY	127
KNIGHT ROAD	125
SHORTS WAY	112
COMMERCIAL ROAD	100

# Annex 31



## ASB Hotspot map for Medway 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This is based on STORM data with the Final Disposal Codes of either 308,317,319,323,343,347,351,355,359,361,366,372\*

### ASB in Medway 2019

The locations for calls for ASB incidents are mainly based in the centre of Chatham and Gillingham, spreading towards Rochester, the rest of Chatham to Walderslade and Gillingham to Twydall

Town	Count of Incident Reference 2019
Gillingham	2216
Rochester	1969
Chatham	1732
General Medway	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5922</b>

## ASB Hotspot map for Chatham & Gillingham 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

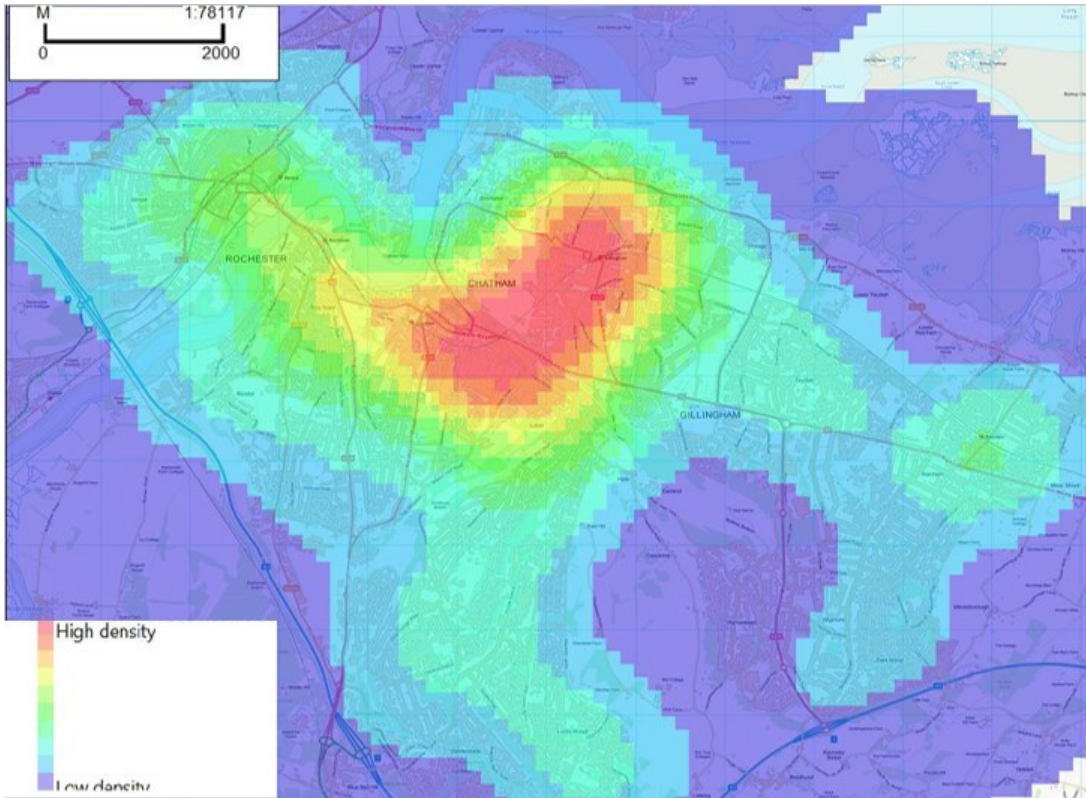
\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This is based on STORM data with the Final Disposal Codes of either 308,317,319,323,343,347,351,355,359,361,366,372\*

### ASB in Chatham & Gillingham 2019

When looking closer at the ASB incident locations in Chatham, these predominately occur in the area around The Pentagon Shopping Centre, Best Street and along New Road for Chatham.

In Gillingham there is a high volume of incidents located along and around Jeffrey Street and Gillingham High Street and the surrounding shops

## Annex 32



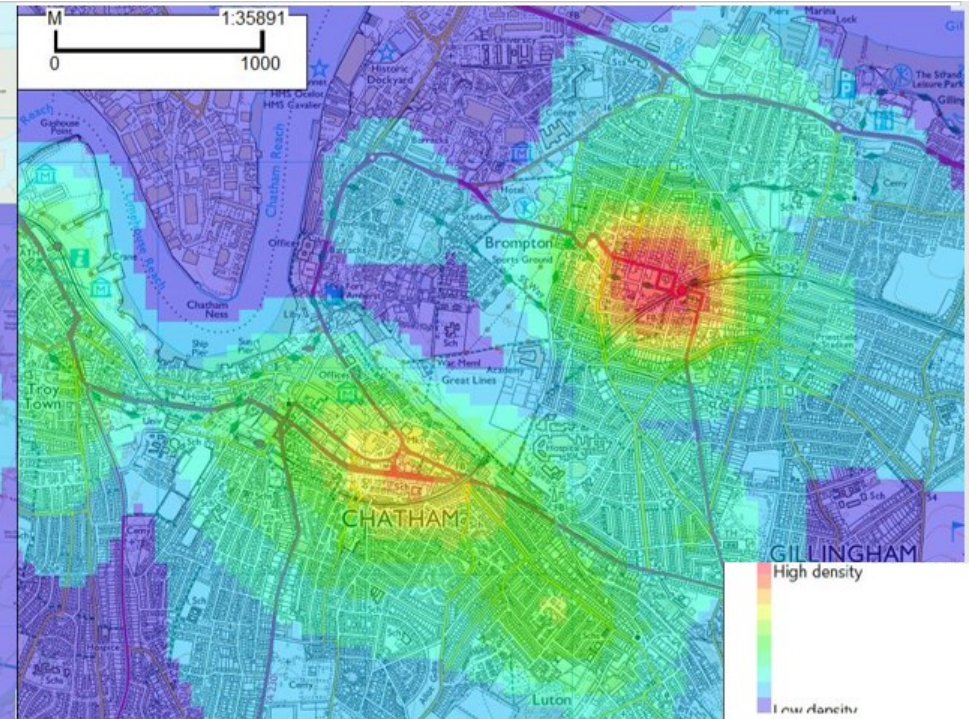
### ASB Hotspot map for Medway 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This is based on STORM data with the Final Disposal Codes of either 308,317,319,323,343,347,351,355,359,361,366,372\*

#### ASB in Medway 2020

The locations for calls for ASB incidents are mainly based in the centre of Chatham and Gillingham, spreading towards Rochester, the rest of Chatham to Walderslade and Gillingham to Twydall. In 2020 there was a higher proportion of incidents in the surrounding areas e.g. Rainham, than in 2019, as shown by the lighter green shading on the map.

Town	Count of Incident Reference 2020
Gillingham	3182
Rochester	2992
Chatham	2915
General Medway	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>9098</b>



### ASB Hotspot map for Chatham & Gillingham 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This is based on STORM data with the Final Disposal Codes of either 308,317,319,323,343,347,351,355,359,361,366,372\*

#### ASB in Chatham & Gillingham 2019

When looking closer at the ASB incident locations in Chatham, there is a lower proportion of incidents located here compared to 2019, as shown by the lower levels of red in this area of the map. Instead the incidents appear to occur more around the area of New Road Primary School and Union Street. A high volume of incidents in Gillingham have continued to be located along and around Jeffrey Street and Gillingham High Street and the surrounding shops, like they did in 2019.

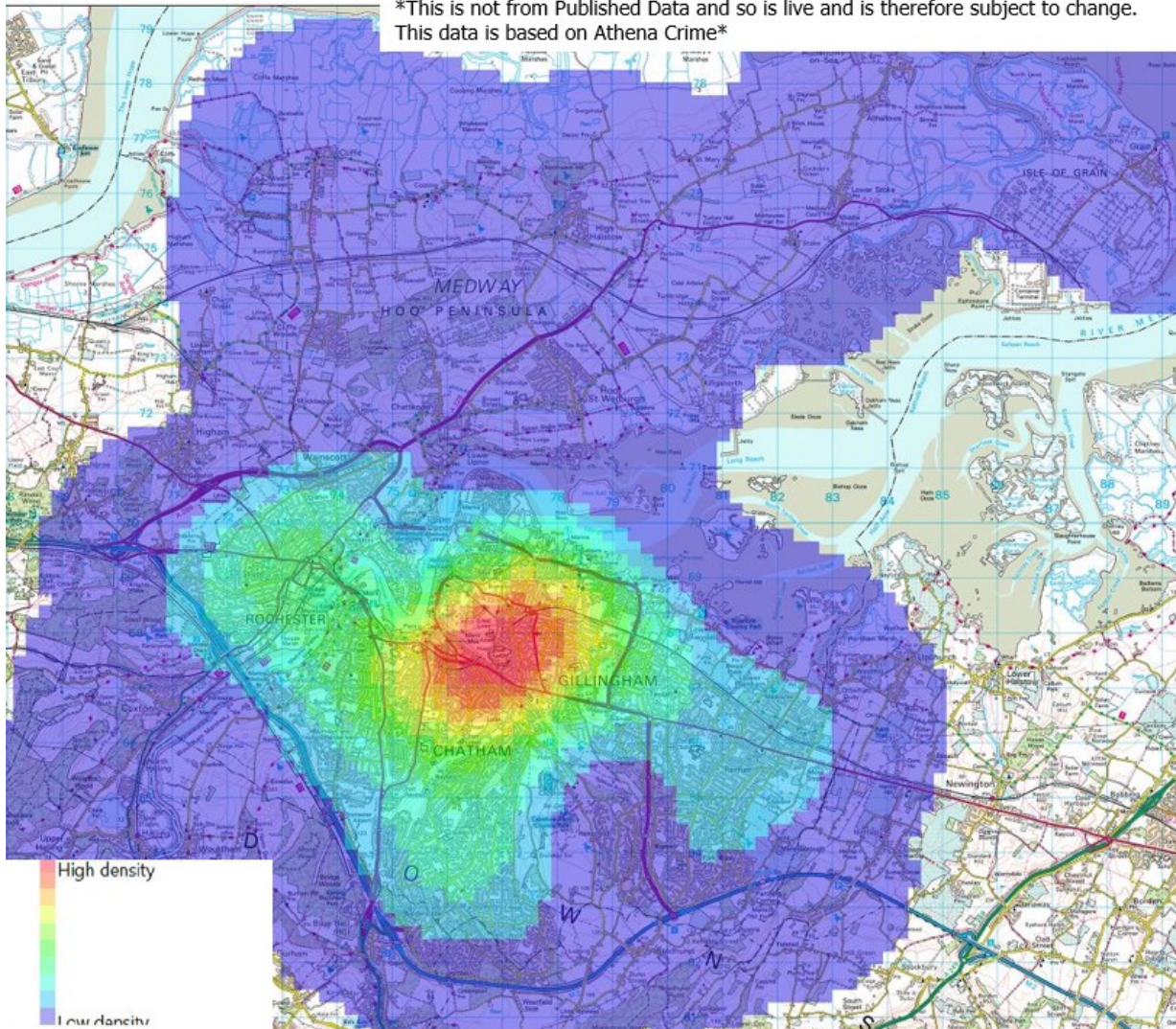


## Annex 33



### Domestic Abuse Hotspot map for Medway 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This data is based on Athena Crime\*



### Domestic Abuse in Medway 2019

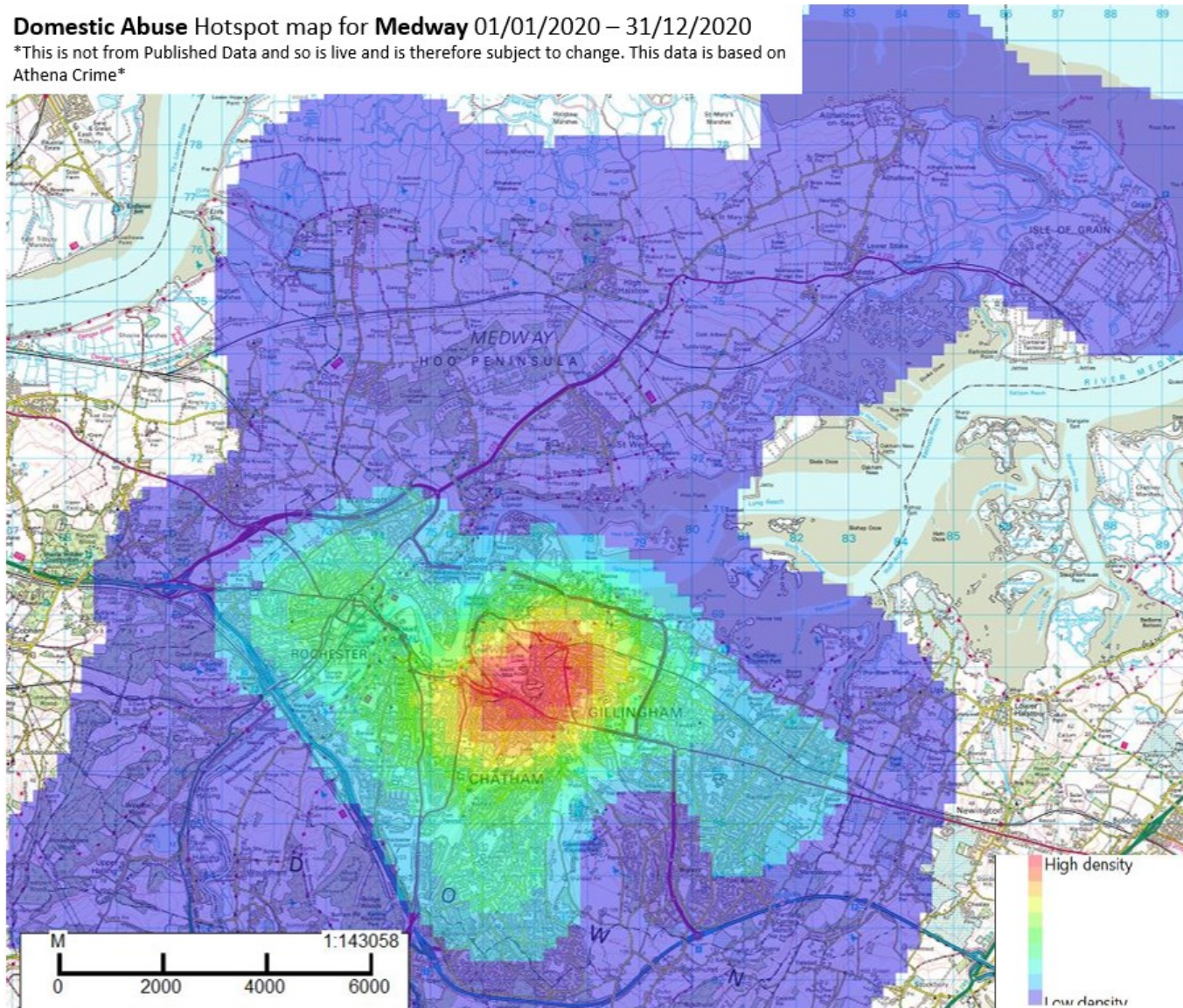
- The DA offences that occurred in 2019 follow the same location pattern as that of the all crime locations
- The offences are centred in Chatham/into Gillingham where there was the highest density of offences for Medway, shown by the red colour on the hotspot map
- The yellow to green areas on the map surrounds the red area of Chatham, and indicates areas where lower volumes of crime have occurred compared to the red area. This includes the rest of Chatham, Gillingham, and most of Rochester
- The light to dark blue areas stretch across the rest of Medway indicating the areas with an even lower volume of offences

Town	Count of Crimes in 2019
Gillingham	2449
Chatham	2053
Rochester	2046
General Medway	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>6570</b>

## Annex 34

### Domestic Abuse Hotspot map for Medway 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020

\*This is not from Published Data and so is live and is therefore subject to change. This data is based on Athena Crime\*



### Domestic Abuse in Medway 2020

- The DA offences that occurred in 2020 follow the same location pattern as that of the all crime locations and of DA offences in 2019
- The offences are centred in Chatham/into Gillingham where there was the highest density of offences for Medway, shown by the red colour on the hotspot map
- The yellow to green areas on the map surrounds the red area of Chatham, and indicates areas where lower volumes of crime have occurred compared to the red area. This includes the rest of Chatham, Gillingham, and most of Rochester
- The light to dark blue areas stretch across the rest of Medway indicating the areas with an even lower volume of offences

Town	Count of Crimes in 2020
Gillingham	2705
Chatham	2336
Rochester	2177
General Medway	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>7242</b>