

REGENERATION, CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 2021

ANNUAL SCRUTINY OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP, INCLUDING AN UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2020 TO 2024

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive

Author: Neil Howlett, Community Safety Partnership Manager

Summary

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are under a duty to produce a Community Safety Plan to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse, and reduce re-offending.

This report provides information on the operation of the CSP from October 2019, which summarises the findings of the strategic assessment. This report provides information on the Community Safety Plan covering the period from 2020 to 2024.

1. Budget and policy framework

- 1.1 CSPs were set up under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and comprise representatives from the 'responsible authorities'. For Medway these are:
 - Medway Council
 - Kent Police
 - Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
 - Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group
 - The Probation Service
- 1.2 CSPs are able to work in partnership with any other agencies or bodies that they feel would contribute to community safety.
- 1.3 Although the Police and Crime Commissioner is not a responsible authority on the CSP, there is a mutual duty to take account of each other's priorities and to co-operate.

- 1.4 Regulation 5 of the Crime and Disorder Formulation and Implementation of Strategy Regulations 2007 requires the CSP to carry out an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder. Regulation 10 requires CSPs to prepare a partnership plan and to revise it annually in consideration of the strategic assessment. The plan's overarching aim is to reduce crime and disorder, tackle substance misuse and reduce reoffending.
- 1.5 The current Community Safety Plan covers the period 2020 to 2024 and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. The classification of this plan as a policy framework document is set out in Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, and in Article 4 (The Full Council) of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.6 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area and to make reports and recommendations to the local authority and the Partnership. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require Local Authorities to scrutinise CSPs at least once a year.

2. Background

- 2.1. Scrutiny of the partnership was last carried out in December 2020.
- 2.2. The current Community Safety Partnership Plan, covering the years 2020 to 2024, was adopted at Full Council on 16 July 2020 and contains four priorities for the responsible authorities:
 - Safeguarding Adults and Children (Tackling Serious Violence and County Lines)
 - Reducing Vulnerability
 - Reducing re-offending
 - Listening to our Communities and Partners
- 2.3. The Community Safety Plan for 2020 to 2024 is attached as appendix 2 to this report. Highlights on progress are contained within the strategic assessment which is attached as appendix 1.
- 2.4. The CSP has conducted a strategic assessment of crime, disorder and other community safety issues in Medway over the previous year. The assessment looks back at issues that have impacted upon community safety in Medway and forward at emerging issues, themes and trends.
- 2.5. The strategic assessment has shown that the existing priorities remain the same and that the Action Plan should be refreshed as per the findings, with a number of work streams under each priority. This has been agreed by the five responsible authorities.

2.6. The Action Plan allows agencies to provide a summary of their work for each of the 4P's within each Priority. This will allow for a quick, concise, and informative update.

3. Advice and analysis

3.1 The Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets annually to review or scrutinise decisions made or other actions taken by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The committee has power to make reports or recommendations on the functioning of the CSP. Any significant amendments to the Community Safety Plan itself will require a new plan, which will be routed via Overview and Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council, in accordance with the Council's policy framework rules.

4. Risk management

4.1 There are reputational, environmental, economic and legal risks to the Council for not pro-actively pursuing an improvement in crime and disorder levels. This report reflects the importance of constructive dialogue with the partner organisations comprising the CSP and also the importance of coordinated and collaborative working.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Decreased Agency "buy in"	Changes in leadership, staffing or resources could reduce the involvement of key agencies	Ensure that agencies are aware of the impact of disengagement upon their own service delivery/performance. Ensure that strategic members of the CSP are made aware of any situation as it arises.	E2
A wide range of CSP objectives	Means that the CSP may be spread too thin and not have the resources to deal with all aspects so there may be gaps in service.	Prioritisation based on strategic assessment	E2
Legislation	Government guidance could change focus for CSP.	CSP to ensure that it effectively horizon scans to be aware of impending legislative changes.	D3
Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) plans	Changes in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.	Continued engagement with the PCC.	D3

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The CSP is required to consult with a wide variety of stakeholders in putting together the annual strategic assessment.
- 5.2 As a result of COVID-19 we have been unable to carry out community engagement events as we have previously done. The last CSP community engagement event was held on the 11 March 2020. Plans were made to hold an engagement event this year, but the impact of COVID-19 affected our ability to hold an event, this year the CSP will be holding a range of events out in the community to gauge people's feelings of safety.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has not yet submitted his Police and Crime Plan, which in previous years has granted CSPs a Crime Reduction Grant to use for funding activities to tackle crime, disorder, drugs and reoffending. In 2021-2022 the amount allocated to Medway CSP was £106,460.
- 6.2 The PCC has in previous years been committed to supporting the funding of CSPs, however the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner are not yet able to update us on the commissioning plan for 2022-2023. The Police Grant Settlement for 2022-2023 has not been issued by the Home Office and the Crime Reduction Grant is linked to this funding.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.2 The Council's statutory powers are detailed in the report.
- 7.3 The adoption or modification of the Community Safety Plan would be a decision for Full Council.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Committee is requested to note the findings of the strategic assessment
- 8.2 The Committee is asked to endorse the CSP priorities in light of the strategic assessment findings.
- 8.3 The Committee is requested to scrutinise the activity of the Community Safety Partnership, over the past year, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.

Lead officer contact

Neil Howlett, Community Safety Partnership Manager

Tel (01634) 331183, Email: neil.howlett@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Strategic Assessment 2021

Appendix 2 - Community Safety Plan 2020 to 2024

Background papers

None.