



Public Health Cumulative Impact Assessment



1 TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Executive summary	6
3	The report	8
4	Methodology.....	8
5	Summary of Public Health evidence	8
5.1	Background	8
5.2	Medway Overview Summary	9
5.2.1	Licensed Premises	9
5.2.2	Deprivation.....	9
5.2.3	Hospital Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions	11
5.2.4	Public Spaces Protection Order	11
5.2.5	Alcohol related anti-social behaviour	11
5.2.6	Community data - Survey.....	11
5.2.7	Community data – Focus Groups	12
6	Conclusion.....	12
6.1.1	Proposed Chatham amendment	12
6.1.2	Proposed Rochester amendment	13
	Appendix A.....	16
7	Medway.....	16
7.1.1	Summary	16
7.1.2	Licenced Premises	16
7.2	Deprivation.....	19
7.2.1	Index of Multiple deprivation.....	19
7.2.2	Crime deprivation.....	22
7.2.3	Deprivation summary.....	24
7.3	Hospital Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions	24
7.4	Public Spaces Protection Orders	25
7.5	Alcohol related anti-social behaviour	25
7.5.1	Community Surveys	26
7.5.2	Community data – Focus Groups.....	37
7.6	Research linking outlet density to alcohol harm.....	37
	Appendix B	39
8	Chatham Cumulative Impact Assessment.....	39

8.1	Summary	39
8.2	Introduction	39
8.3	Current Cumulative Impact area	40
8.3.1	Recommended amendment	40
8.4	Licensed premises	41
8.5	Deprivation.....	42
8.5.1	Multiple Indices of deprivation	42
	'Indices of Deprivation	42
8.5.2	Health deprivation	44
8.5.3	Crime deprivation.....	46
8.6	Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions, persons, all ages	47
8.7	Public Space Protection Order	48
8.8	Alcohol related Public Nuisance.....	49
8.8.1	2021	50
8.8.2	2022	52
8.8.3	2023	54
8.9	Community evidence	56
8.9.1	2022 survey	56
8.9.2	2023 survey	61
8.9.3	Focus Group	66
	Appendix C	71
9	Gillingham Cumulative Impact Assessment.....	71
9.1	Summary	71
9.2	Introduction	71
9.3	Cumulative Impact Area.....	72
9.4	Licensed premises	73
9.5	Deprivation.....	73
	'Indices of Deprivation	74
9.5.1	Health deprivation	78
9.5.2	Crime deprivation.....	79
9.6	Admission episodes for alcohol specific conditions – persons – all ages.....	80
9.7	Public Space Protection Order	82
9.8	Alcohol related public nuisance	83
9.8.1	2021	83
9.8.2	2022	85
9.8.3	2023	87

9.9	Community evidence	89
9.9.1	2022 Community survey	89
9.9.2	2023 community survey.....	93
Appendix D.....		100
10	Rochester Cumulative Impact Assessment	100
10.1	Summary	100
10.2	Introduction	100
10.3	Cumulative Impact Area.....	101
10.3.1	Recommended amendment	102
10.4	Licensed premises	103
10.5	Deprivation.....	104
10.5.1	Multiple indices of deprivation	104
	'Indices of Deprivation	105
10.5.2	Health deprivation	107
10.5.3	Crime deprivation.....	108
10.6	Admission episodes for alcohol specific conditions – persons – all ages.....	110
10.7	Public Space Protection Order	111
10.8	Alcohol related public nuisance	112
10.8.1	2021	113
10.9	Community evidence	115
10.9.1	2022 survey	115
10.9.2	2023 survey	120
10.9.3	Focus Group	125
Appendix E		130
11	Luton Cumulative Impact Assessment.....	130
11.1	Summary	130
11.2	Introduction	130
11.3	Cumulative Impact Area.....	131
11.4	Licensed premises	132
11.5	Deprivation.....	132
11.5.1	Multiple indices of deprivation.	132
	'Indices of Deprivation	133
11.5.2	Health deprivation	136
11.5.3	Crime deprivation.....	136
11.6	Admission episodes for alcohol specific conditions – persons – all ages.....	138
11.7	Public Space Protection Order	139

11.8	Alcohol related public nuisance	140
11.8.1	2021	140
11.8.2	2022	143
11.8.3	2023	145
11.9	Community evidence	146
11.9.1	2022 survey	146
11.9.2	2023 survey	153
11.9.3	Focus Group	157

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is a direct correlation between excessive alcohol consumption and a variety of harms to the public health. Alcohol harms are strongly associated with increases in crime and disorder and domestic abuse. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy can lead to foetal abnormalities in babies. Long term use of alcohol is a risk factor for such things as vascular dementia, pancreatic cancer and a range of other conditions. These harms and wider societal impacts are well evidenced through a range of publications and research produced by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), the World Health Organisation and the UK. National government.

Medway residents are keen to minimise the potential harms arising through alcohol consumption on local areas.

In 2023 Medway Public Health undertook an Alcohol Availability and Impact survey. They received the following response from one resident...

'Problems in the area include drink/drug driving including cars performing stunts (people openly sit in their cars in side streets smoking and taking drugs, day and night), noise from drunks walking home regularly wakes me, chucking litter in the street and also peoples gardens including mine, vomiting, smashing glass bottles (so I have to be careful that my dog doesn't walk on the broken glass), hanging around in groups smashing bus stops and other street furniture, this is particularly bad after the local pubs close, especially at weekends and during good weather. I would prefer to see less premises selling alcohol in the area, especially cheap alcohol that is sold late into the evening. Sit in restaurants selling alcohol with meals doesn't seem to cause the problems. Being woken up in the night by noisy drunks outside my house isn't just a nuisance it causes a great deal of anxiety. They also put a strain on our already fragile environment with their littering and also on our NHS.'

Off licenced premises are the single most common type of licenced premises Medway Council Licensing Department has recorded. These are mostly small community, convenience, and newsagent type shops. As can be seen from the maps in this report, while they are generally scattered throughout Medway, there is a noticeable density following the corridor from Strood in the west through Rochester, Chatham and into Gillingham in the east, with another cluster around Luton.

All the areas highlighted in the evidence contained in this report, have high levels of deprivation. Areas of disadvantage are more likely to be affected by alcohol related crime than more affluent areas. The population living in these areas are also more likely to be affected by the physical and mental alcohol related harms described previously. The National institute for Health and Care Excellence and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities have found evidence of the link between the density of licensed premises in an area and alcohol harms.

Acts that could lead to public harms associated with alcohol, such as street drinking, littering, public urination and defecation and co-located public drug use are visible throughout the areas highlighted

3 THE REPORT

This report outlines evidence to support the continuation of the current policy, with two amendments:

- An expansion of the Chatham High Street area to include the new development by the bus station, and;
- an extension of the Rochester High Street policy to include premises, in certain circumstances, which are applying for a licence, or applying to vary a licence, with an on licence element.

4 METHODOLOGY

This assessment has been carried out with reference to the following indicators:

- Location and types of licensed premises
- Deprivation
 - Indices of multiple deprivation
 - Health deprivation
 - Crime deprivation
- Hospital admission episodes for alcohol specific conditions
- Public Spaces Protection Orders
- Alcohol related anti-social behaviour
 - Litter, public drinking, drug litter
- Community data
 - Alcohol Availability and Impact Survey
 - Focus groups

A summary of the evidence covering Medway as a whole, will be outlined below, while the detailed evidence supporting each area will be contained in the following appendices:

- Medway overview (Appendix A)
- Chatham High Street area(Appendix B)
- Gillingham High St/Canterbury St area (Appendix C)
- Rochester High Street area(Appendix D)
- Luton Road area (Appendix E)

5 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH EVIDENCE

5.1 BACKGROUND

The connection between alcohol and a variety of harms, such as crime and disorder, domestic abuse, harms to young people and over 60 health harms is well evidenced and accepted by the [Government](#), [National Institute Health and Care Excellence](#) (NICE), The [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities](#) (OHID) and the [World Health Organisation](#). In addition, evidence of the link between the [density of licensed premises in an area and alcohol harms](#) is also accepted.

In 2012 the Government produced an [Alcohol Strategy](#), which stated:

‘There is evidence of a link between the number of venues selling alcohol in an area and levels of harm, whether this is crime, damage to health, or harm to young people’.

The strategy identified home drinking as a key element and driver of alcohol related harm and acknowledged research showing a link between off licence density and alcohol related harms.

In 2016 the Government published the ‘[Modern Crime Prevention Strategy](#)’ which stated

‘Over the last decade, in around half of all violent incidents the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offence, a proportion that increases in incidents between strangers, in the evening and night, at weekends, and in public places. This is also the case in 17% of incidents of partner abuse.’

thus, linking the consumption of alcohol to a proportion of violence and domestic abuse incidents. The Strategy goes on to state

‘Given the association between alcohol use and violence, reducing consumption is likely to be beneficial in crime prevention. The actions outlined in the chapter are based on evidence that reducing the availability of alcohol, [...] can be effective in reducing alcohol harm.’

5.2 MEDWAY OVERVIEW SUMMARY

Appendix A details the evidence to support this section.

5.2.1 Licensed Premises

There are 802 premises listed as licenced under the Licensing Act 2003 in Medway. Of these the greatest number by type of licence are off licenced premises numbering 275 across the authority area, most of which are small convenience/corner/newsagent type shops. They are mainly clustered in an arc running through:

- Strood town centre,
- Rochester High St,
- Chatham High St,
- Gillingham High St
- along and to the south of Luton Road.

There are 118 premises listed as public houses, and 126 listed as restaurants.

5.2.2 Deprivation

Deprivation is relevant to the issue of alcohol outlet density. In 2014 Medway Public Health commissioned a study into alcohol use in Medway – ‘Medway Alcohol: Insight’. This identified a clear link between alcohol related harms, hospital admissions, alcohol related crimes and deprived areas where there is a density of licensed premises.

Medway is in the 30% most deprived local authority's nationally. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation is a tool used to measure deprivation. There are seven domains of disadvantage including health and crime. 8.6% of areas in Medway are within the top 10% of the most deprived areas in England.

The most [deprived areas](#) run through Strood in the east, to Rochester, Chatham, Luton and Gillingham in the west of Medway.

5.2.2.1 Health Deprivation

The areas suffering from the highest health deprivation are similar to those areas above. [The Medway Monitoring Report 2021/2022](#) states:

'Medway ranks in the 38 % most deprived local authorities nationally for health. Seven areas rank in the most deprived 10% nationally for health and 20 rank in the most deprived 20% nationally.'

Alcohol use is associated with 60 medical conditions, including liver disease, heart disease and cancer.

5.2.2.2 Crime Deprivation

Crime and the prevalence of crime is a public health issue. Tackling crime is key to addressing the negative impacts of the wider determinants of health. Being a victim of crime or witness to it, effects people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Certain types of crime are more associated with alcohol consumption. Among crimes that are regarded as being '[alcohol related](#)' are

- Violence including wounding and assault with or without injury
- Verbal and physical abuse
- Sexual offences including abuse and assault
- Harassment
- Domestic abuse
- Public disturbance and nuisance including street drinking, noise, littering, public urination and defecation and intimidation
- Harms to children including assault, witnessing violence and all types of abuse
- Driving offences including drink driving

[Ward profiles](#), compiled by Medway Council Business Intelligence team, shows within overall crime, the 'violent crime' category has the greatest number of reported cases, followed by 'anti-social behaviour'. Both types of crime are associated with alcohol consumption.

The following wards are common to both the 'violent crime' and 'anti-social behaviour' categories:

- Chatham Central and Brompton
- Gillingham South
- Fort Pitt
- Luton
- Rochester West and Borstal

- Gillingham North

5.2.3 Hospital Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions

Alcohol use is associated with [60 medical conditions](#), from liver disease, heart disease and strokes to types of cancer, hypertension, and mental health issues.

The top six wards which have the highest admission episodes for alcohol specific conditions are:

- Chatham Central and Brompton
- Gillingham South
- Luton
- Gillingham North
- Fort Pitt
- Strood Rural

5.2.4 Public Spaces Protection Order

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), formally known as alcohol control zones, have been introduced in areas of Medway where there are proven issues with anti-social behaviour, some of which is alcohol related.

The PSPO's are in

- Chatham town centre into the lower part of Luton Road
- Gillingham town centre
- Rochester city centre
- Strood town centre

5.2.5 Alcohol related anti-social behaviour

Public Health has carried out ongoing monitoring of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Medway throughout the period of 2021 to 2023 since the last review of this policy. This includes evidence of alcohol litter, street drinking, public urination and defecation and co-located drug use in areas of public drinking, all of which is evidenced in current CIP areas.

5.2.6 Community data - Survey

In both 2022 and 2023 Public Health conducted surveys asking Medway residents about their experience and views of alcohol sales and consumption and associated harms

In 2022 there was a total of 71 relevant responses to the survey. The most commented on areas, in order of the number of comments from high to low, were:

- Chatham
- Rochester
- Gillingham
- Luton
- Strood

The majority of respondents identified licensed premises as contributing towards alcohol related harms in Medway, with littering, begging, street drinking and anti-social behaviour as the main issues. Off licensed premises were identified as the type of licensed premises which were of most concern in all areas except Rochester, where it was nightclubs, pub and bars as well as off licences.

In 2023 the survey there were a total of 134 relevant responses. The most commented on areas, in order of the number of comments from high to low, were the same as 2022, with the addition of Rainham:

- Gillingham
- Chatham
- Rochester
- Luton
- Rainham
- Strood

As with the 2022 survey a majority of respondents identified licensed premises as contributing towards alcohol related harms in Medway, particularly off licensed premises and, in the case of Rochester High Street, pubs and bars. Noise nuisance, crime and violence, anti-social behaviour, damage and underage drinking were all identified as issues.

5.2.7 Community data – Focus Groups

There were 3 focus groups held, which discussed issues in Luton High Street area, Luton Road and Chatham High Street and Rochester High Street.

All participants in all three groups agreed there were issues of crime, nuisance and anti-social behaviour associated with licensed premises in the areas they were talking about. In Luton and Chatham this was confined to issues concerning customers of off licensed premises, while in Rochester High Street the customers of on licensed premises were also identified as causing problems.

6 CONCLUSION

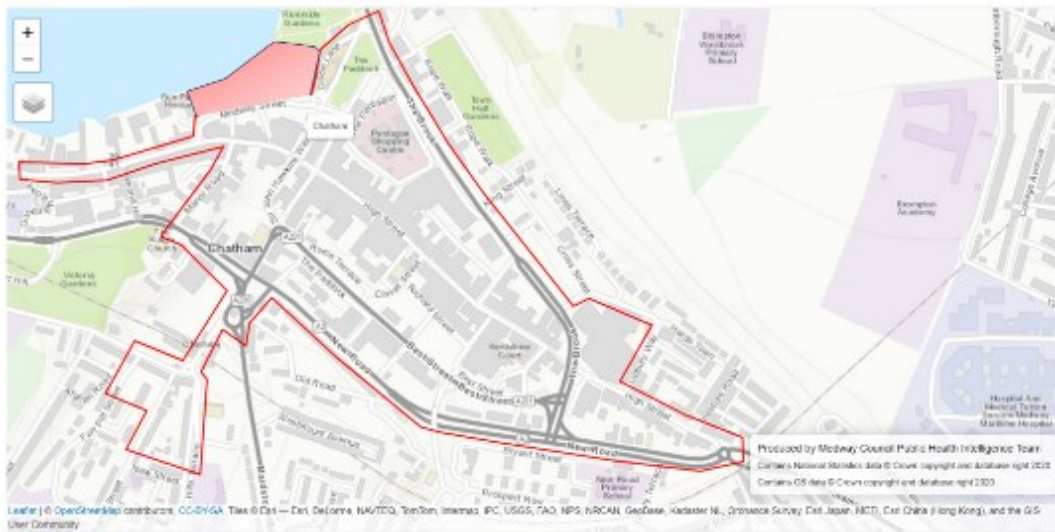
While alcohol related harms effect many areas of Medway, evidence continues to show those areas with the highest concentration of licenced premises, particularly 'off' licenced premises in Chatham High Street, Gillingham High Street and Luton Road and additionally 'on' licensed premises in Rochester High Street, suffer from the highest levels of alcohol related harms. These harms are health harms, crime, anti-social behaviour and nuisance.

The Director of Public Health believes there is sufficient evidence to continue the Cumulative Impact Policy in the current four area but with the following amendments.

6.1.1 Proposed Chatham amendment

The addition of the area north of Chatham bus station (as shown in shaded red on the map) to the Chatham CIP area should be considered by the Licensing Committee. This was excluded when the original policy areas were drawn up as it was a car park. With the extensive building work being

carried out in this area and the potential for retail property such as shops, the addition of this area will ensure the policy is consistent across all of Chatham High Street.



6.1.2 Proposed Rochester amendment

Currently the policy in Rochester High St only covers applications and variations for off licensed premises. The Director asks the Licensing Committee to consider extending the policy in Rochester to include those applications and variations with an ‘on licence’ element, as it did prior to the last review in 2021.

Evidence supports that since the lifting of restrictions during the pandemic, levels of alcohol harms associated with on licensed premises have risen and are causing residents in the High Street unacceptable levels of disturbance, distress and harm. This is evidenced by the comments made by the focus group, survey responses, the evidence supporting the continuance of the Public Spaces Protection Order in Rochester High Street, and the evidence of alcohol related crime supplied by Kent Police.

This extension would still fit within the overall policy aims of the Statement of Licensing Policy. The suggested additional wording below (which was included as part of the first policy) allows the Licensing Committee sufficient flexibility to encourage family friendly licensed premises, while allowing them the opportunity to control high volume drinking establishments with late night opening.

- Rochester is unique due to its historic setting. It is the location of extensive heritage assets, such as Rochester Cathedral, Rochester Castle and The Guildhall. As a result, it attracts many tourists, visitors and business travellers and the Authority wants to support and encourage businesses which complement and support these assets, increasing dwell time, growing local spend and improving the economic health of the city centre.
- Rochester High Street is also a mixed use area, with many residential, as well as commercial, properties. There are nearly 500 residents who live in the High Street and the roads, streets and alleyways linking the city centre to the nearby residential areas.

- The offer in the High Street has evolved to support the historic attractions through the provision of commercial leisure (restaurants and cafés), reinforcing its attractiveness for day and evening activities. There are several pubs and late-night venues and it has the primary late-night economy in Medway.
- There are also several off licences, all of which are small convenience stores, corner shops and newsagents. Many of these sell products which are termed as ‘super strength’ beer and cider i.e. cheap beer and cider products over 5.5% ABV, making cheap, high-strength alcohol readily available. Responsible authorities, other agencies, residents and businesses in Rochester have provided evidence showing the number of off licensed premises has led, in part, to issues of street drinking and associated crime, disorder and nuisance as well as other, more hidden alcohol related harms, such as domestic abuse and health harms. Kent Police and Rochester residents have evidenced alcohol related crime, disorder and nuisance associated with both day time alcohol misuse and the night-time economy.
- A new railway station has been built, creating a sense of arrival for visitors, improving transport links and further supporting Rochester, and Medway, as a leisure destination focussed around its heritage assets.
- Rochester Riverside, just outside the CIP area, situated between the river and Corporation Street, will provide a quality waterfront location for homes, leisure, jobs and services, complementing and respecting the unique historic High Street.
- Rochester has an established reputation for street festivals in the High Street area, such as the Sweeps Festival and the Dickens Festival, as well as open air concerts and events in the Castle grounds. There is also an award winning visitors’ centre and extensive parking.
- There is potential to increase both visitor numbers and local engagement and raise Medway’s image as a tourist destination by enhancing and strengthening the above offer by encouraging a range of diverse venues and promoting hotel development to ensure Medway becomes a strong weekend break destination. A successful Rochester High Street should provide a range of accessible services and facilities and also contribute to the image of Medway, as the place which many visitors first see when they arrive in the area.
- Notwithstanding the existence of the CIP, members are supportive of applications which will positively benefit the High Street in line with the aspirations outlined above. The kind of applications which would be encouraged are family friendly venues, such as restaurants, community venues and other leisure businesses where the sale of alcohol is ancillary to the main activity.
- The key aim in Rochester High Street is to encourage and expand the leisure, tourism and business visitor offer, with the intention of providing premises attractive to all age groups and a diversity of licensed premises primarily centred on the day and early evening economy including:

- Restaurants and cafés, with an emphasis on good quality, family friendly venues
 - Premises where the sale of alcohol is ancillary to the main business, such as:
 - Exhibition and art venues
 - Theatres and cinemas
 - Hotels
 - Venues which complement and enhance Medway's heritage
- This is a less restrictive approach than is suggested in the Statutory Guidance, which suggests that licensing authorities can adopt a policy of refusing all new licences in areas where special policies on cumulative impact apply, subject to their discretion being engaged.

James Williams
Director of Public Health
Medway Council

APPENDIX A

7 MEDWAY

7.1.1 Summary

While alcohol related harms effect many areas of Medway, evidence continues to show those areas with the highest concentration of licenced premises – Rochester High St, Chatham High St, Gillingham High St and Luton Road areas - suffer from the highest levels of alcohol related harms – whether the harms are health harms, crime, anti-social behaviour or nuisance. The concentration of ‘off’ licenced premises, in particular, effects the areas surrounding the defined policy zones. There is evidence that in Rochester High St the concentration of late night ‘on’ licenced premises and their customers creates unacceptable levels of alcohol related crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and nuisance to the large number of residents who live in and near to the High Street.

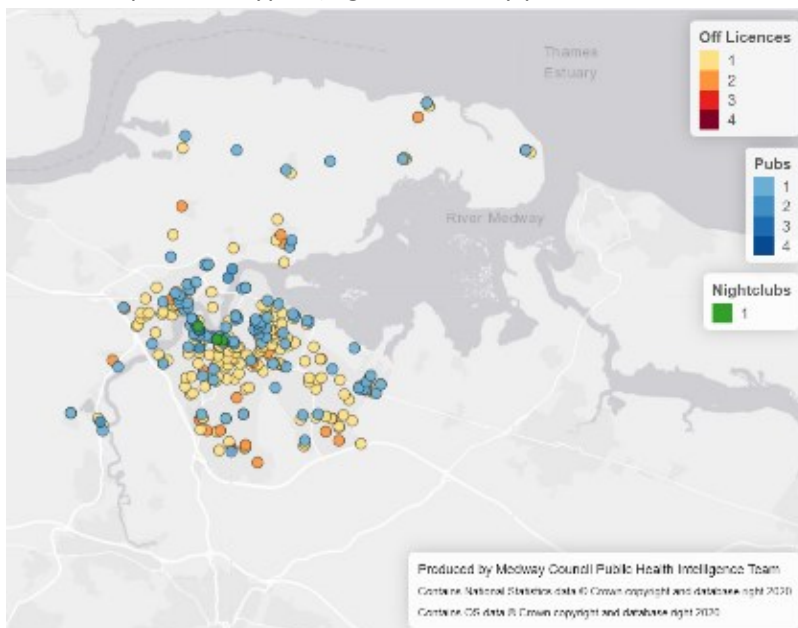
7.1.2 Licenced Premises

Medway Licensing Department has 802 premises (December 2023) listed as having a premises licence granted under the Licensing Act 2003 for one or more of the following licensable activities

- the supply of alcohol,
- regulated entertainment
- the provision of hot food and drink between 2300 hours and 0500 hours.

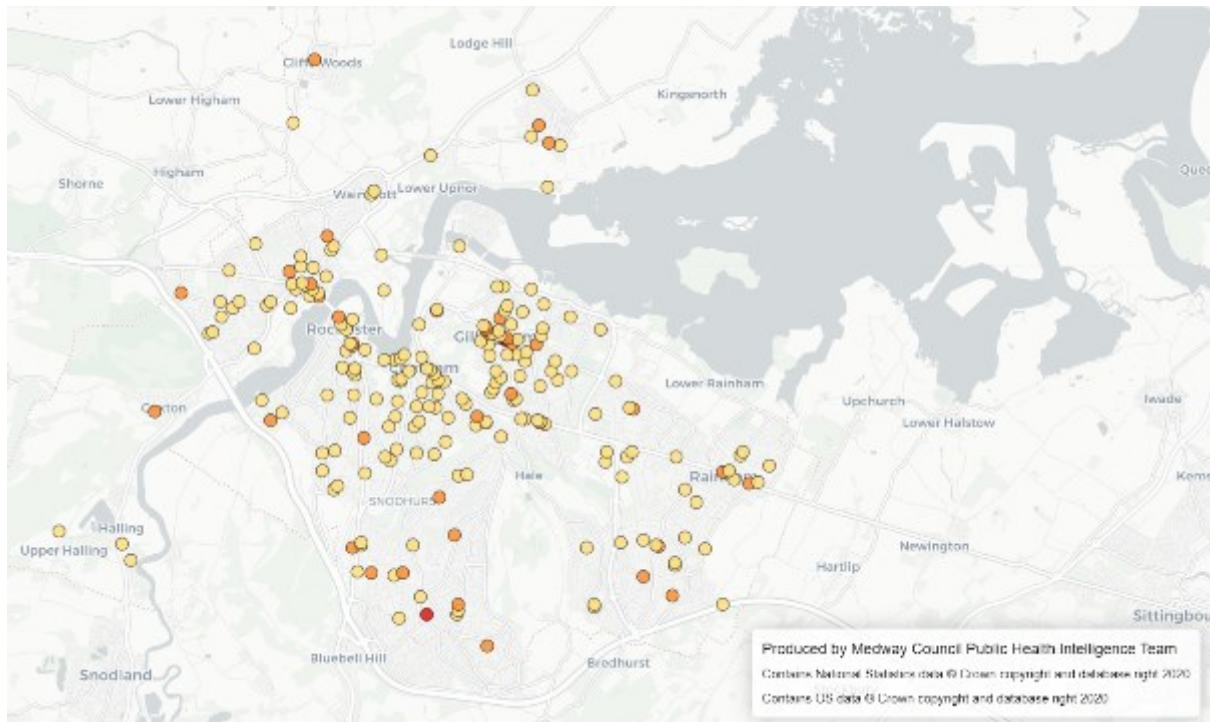
Of these

- 275 are operating as solely ‘off’ licenced premises.
- 126 operating as restaurants
- 118 operating as public houses
- 53 operating as takeaways
- 230 other premises types (e.g., community premises/theatres/leisure/members clubs)

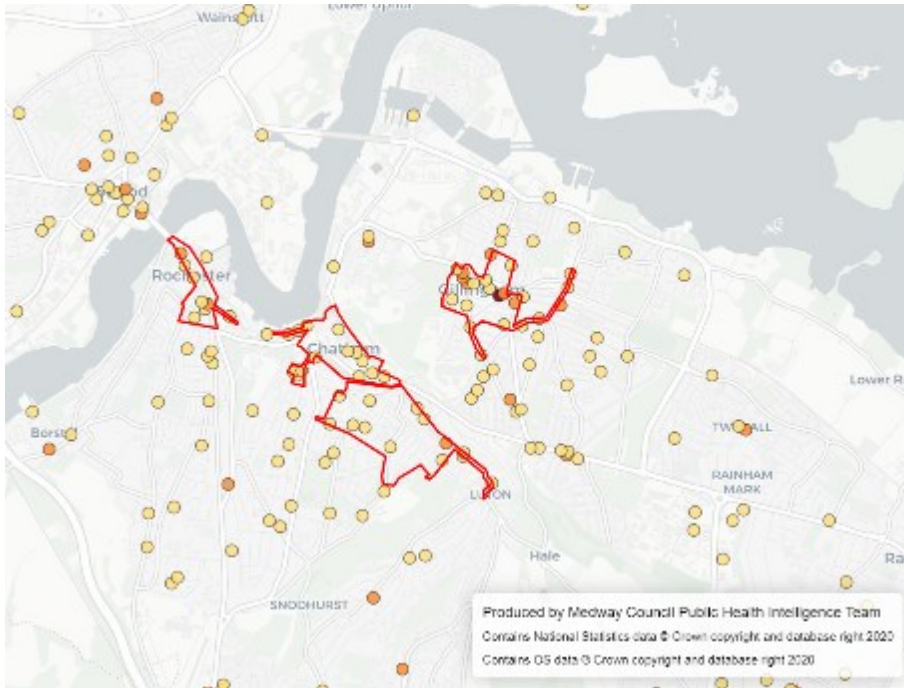


The single largest 'type' of licenced premises in Medway are 'off' licenced premises, most of which are small convenience/newsagents/corner shops, followed by restaurants, public houses and takeaways. Off licences

The location of the 275 off licenced premises are:



As can be seen they are clustered in the Strood, Rochester, Chatham, Luton and Gillingham areas, specifically around each town centre and, in the case of Luton, along, and to the south of, Luton Road. The following map shows off licence locations against the four CIP areas.



- Gillingham High Street into Canterbury Street and Gillingham Road area
- Chatham High Street and surrounding area
- Luton Road and surrounding area
- Rochester High Street and surrounding areas
- Strood town centre

Pubs and Nightclubs

There are 118 premises operating as public houses.

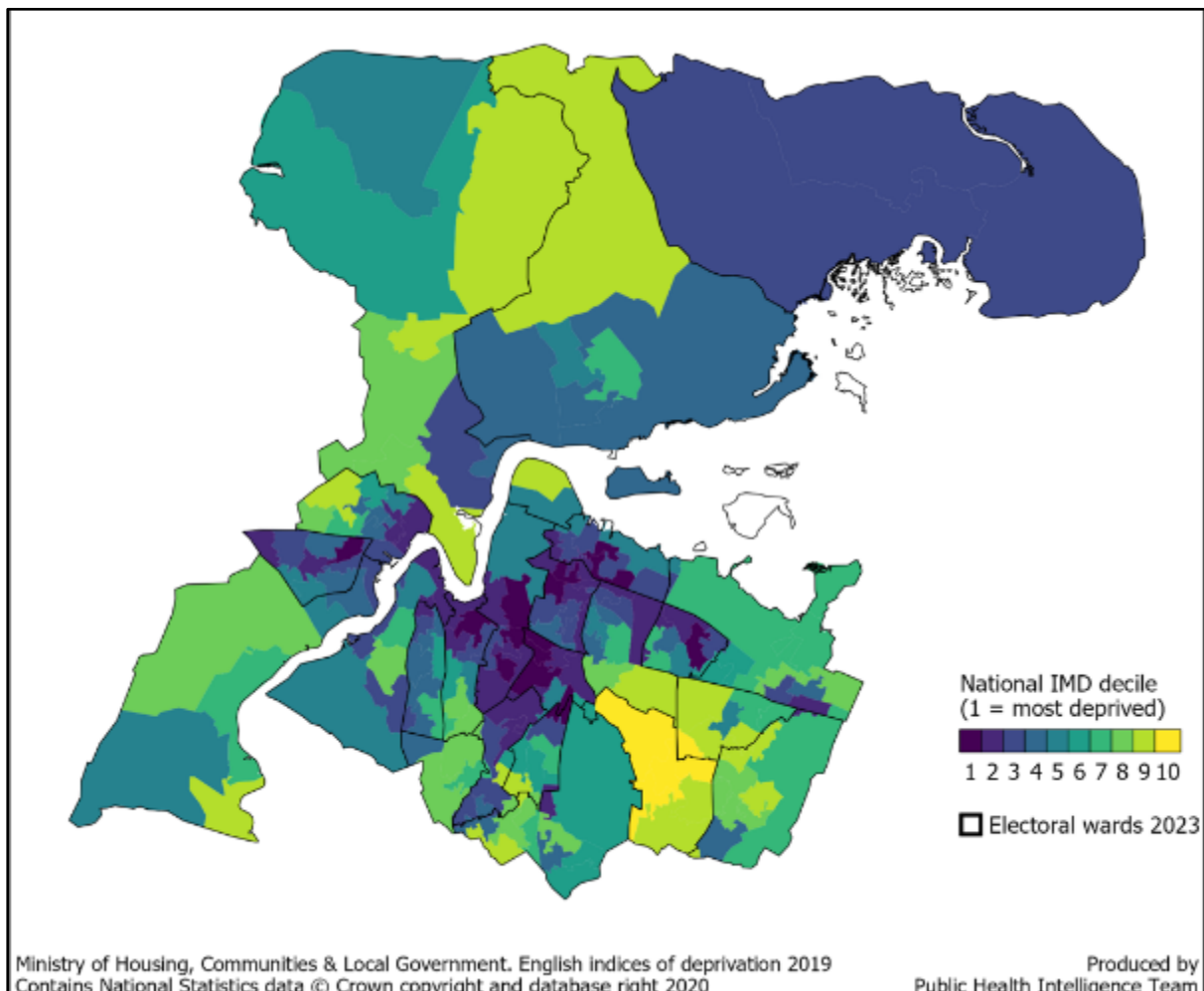


- Gillingham High Street area
- Chatham High Street area
- Rochester High Street area
- Strood town centre

7.2 DEPRIVATION

Deprivation is relevant to the issue of alcohol outlet density. In 2014 Medway Public Health commissioned a study into alcohol use in Medway. The result - Medway Alcohol: Insight (2014) - identified there was a clear link between alcohol related harms, hospital admissions, alcohol related crimes and deprived areas where there is a density of licensed premises.

7.2.1 Index of Multiple deprivation



The most deprived areas in Medway, as shown in in the map, run from Strood, through parts of Rochester, into Chatham, Luton and Gillingham.

[The Medway Monitoring Report 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022](#) states the following:

‘Indices of Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation are a unique measure of relative deprivation at a small local area level (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England. These bring together a range of data sets and are published in a linked set every 3-4 years. The latest set of indices were published in 2019.

The [Indices of Deprivation](#) consist of the following seven themes: Income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing & services and the living environment.

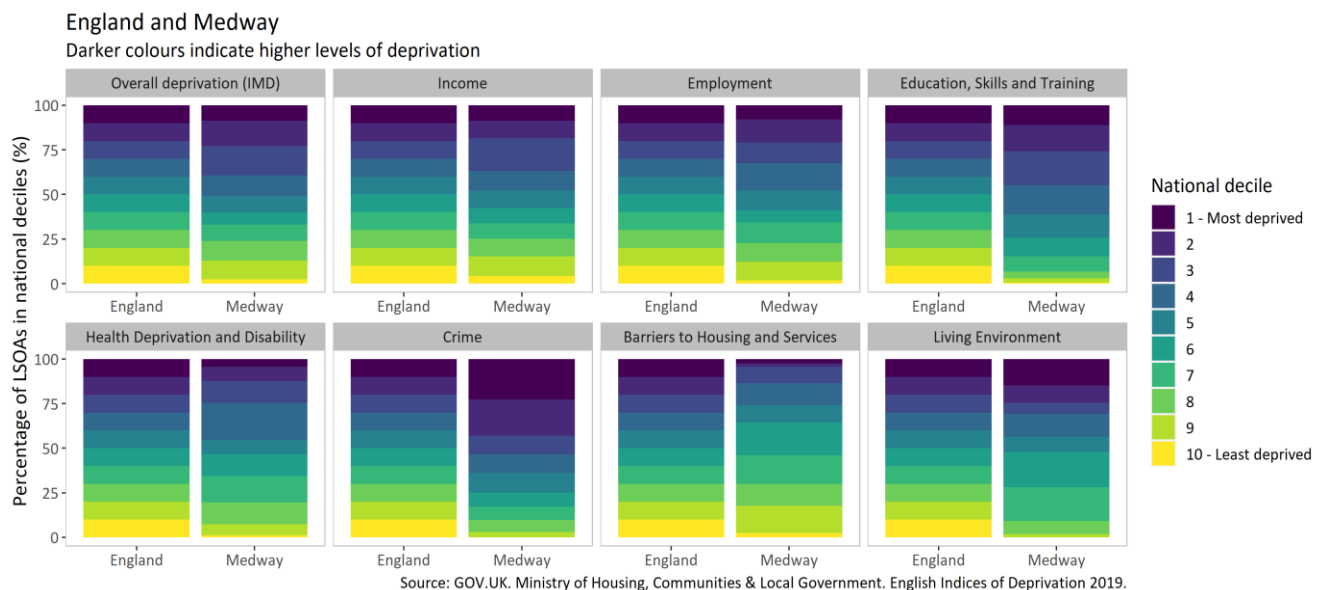
Medway is ranked in the 30% most deprived local authorities nationally in the 2019 Indices of Deprivation (IoD), in 2015 it was ranked in the 37% of most deprived local authorities nationally. Medway is ranked 93rd most deprived local authority of 317 in England in the latest indices.

Medway has fourteen neighbourhoods ranked in the 10% most deprived and thirty-seven in the 20% most deprived nationally.

Medway appears to fair worst in the crime domain, ranking in the most deprived 10% of local authorities nationally for crime.

Medway has an additional two areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an additional five in the most deprived 20% nationally since the IoD 2015.’

There are seven domains of deprivation, which combine to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019). Each of these domains describe different aspects of deprivation. The graphic shows the proportion of the Medway population ranked in one of 10 groups across all Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England for each of these domains. The darker colours indicate the most deprived groups or 'deciles'.



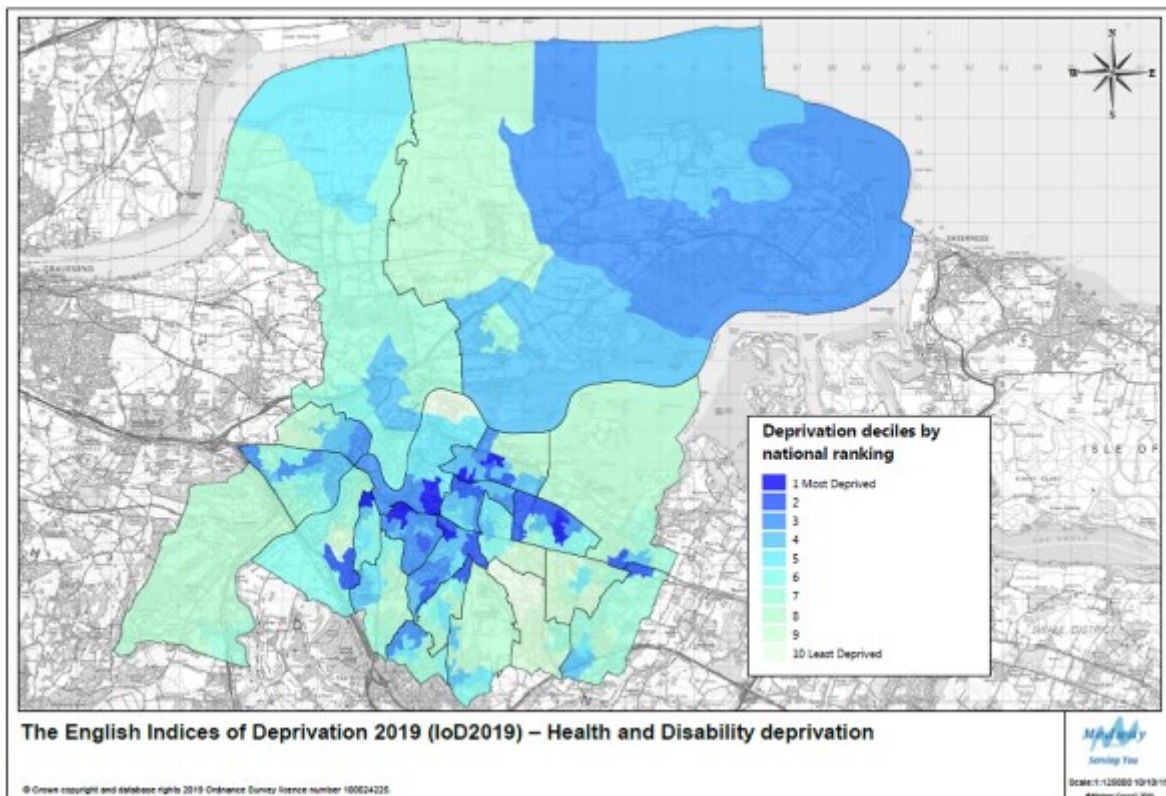
Of particular relevance to this report Medway has high levels of health and crime deprivation when compared against England. Health Deprivation

[The Medway Monitoring Report 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022](#) states the following:

‘Medway ranks in the 38 % most deprived local authorities nationally for health. Seven areas rank in the most deprived 10% nationally for health and 20 rank in the most deprived 20% nationally.

Health deprivation is measured as the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.

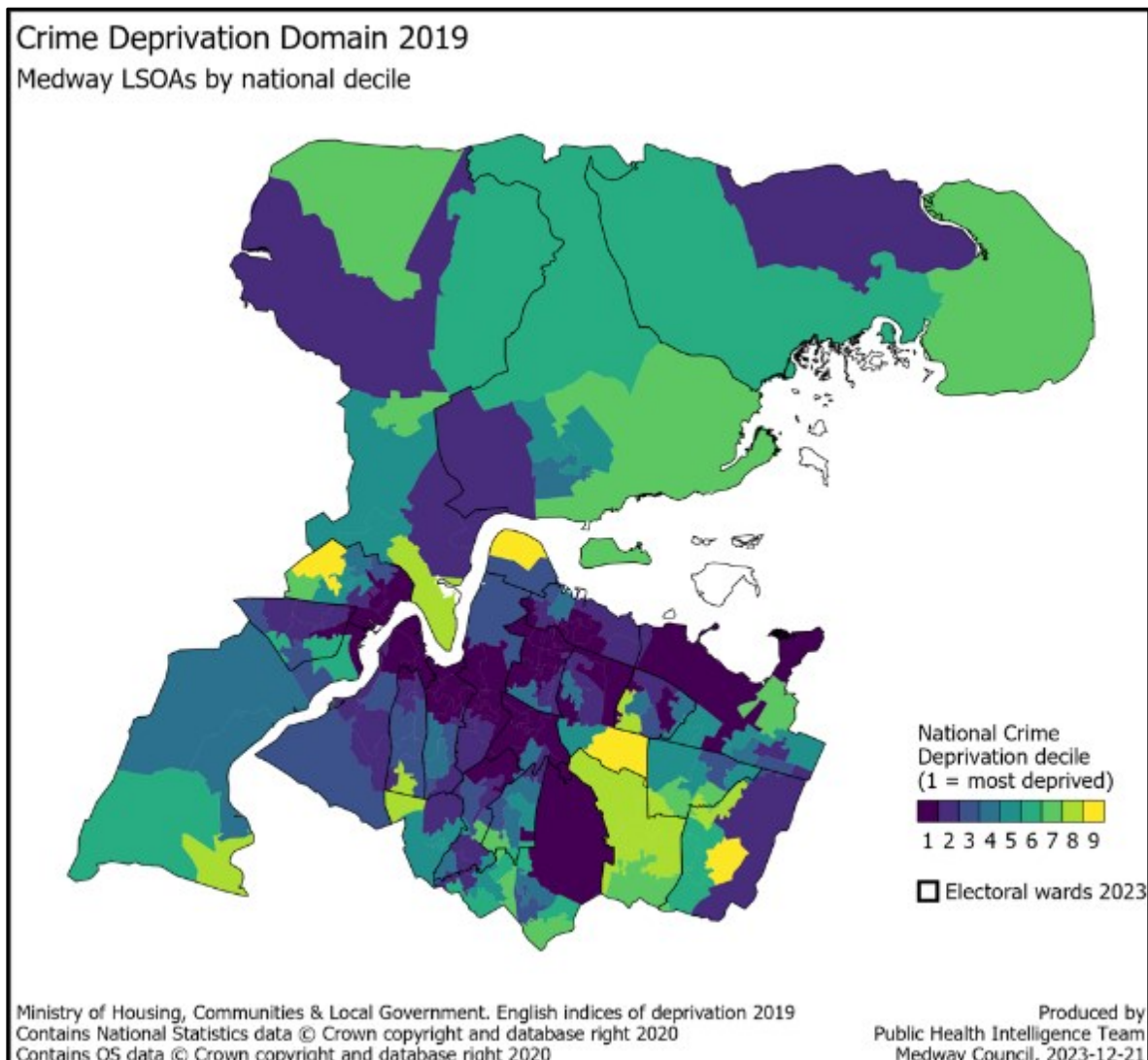
There has been a relative worsening in health deprivation, with Medway seeing an extra four areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an extra eight areas in the most deprived 20% nationally. While the most severely affected areas for health deprivation are spread across a number of wards in Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester, Gillingham North stands out as having two areas in the most deprived 10% for health, while River stands out as having the most deprived area for health in Medway. Medway’s most deprived area – located in River Ward overall for multiple deprivation is ranked in the most deprived 1% of neighbourhoods for health nationally.’



The most deprived areas for health in Medway, as shown in the map, run from Strood, through parts of Rochester, into Chatham, Luton and Gillingham.

7.2.2 Crime deprivation

Crime and the prevalence of crime is a public health issue. Crime is part of the wider determinants of health as it effects people’s physical and mental health and wellbeing.



Certain types of crime are more associated with alcohol consumption than others. Among crimes that are regarded as being ‘[alcohol related](#)’ are

- Violence including wounding and assault with or without injury
- Verbal and physical abuse
- Sexual offences including abuse and assault
- Harassment
- Domestic abuse
- Public disturbance and nuisance including street drinking, noise, littering, public urination and defecation and intimidation
- Harms to children including assault, witnessing violence and all types of abuse
- Driving offences including drink driving

Research from [The Office for National Statistics](#) states that victims perceived an offender to be under the influence of alcohol in 53% of violent incidents; a proportion which has remained consistent during the last 10 years.

Research has also shown that access to off licensed premises, such as convenience shops and supermarkets, had a greater association with violent crime than premises which only allow for on-site consumption of alcohol ([Trangenstein et al \(2018\)](#)). This is particularly the case for incidents of domestic abuse where incidents often happen in the home. Alcohol consumption, and domestic abuse, increased during the COVID 19 lockdowns, where alcohol could only be purchased from off licensed premises ([Institute of Alcohol Studies, 2021](#)).

[Ward profiles](#), compiled by Medway Council Business Intelligence team, shows within overall crime, the ‘violent crime’ category has the greatest number of reported cases, followed by ‘anti-social behaviour’, as shown in the tables below. Both of these types of crime are associated with alcohol consumption.

1,000 RESIDENTS			Ward	CRIME CASES	CASES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
Chatham Central & Brompton	1,867	108	Central & Brompton	655	
Gillingham South	1,745	96	St Werburgh & High Halstow	503	
Luton	974	94	Gillingham South	586	
Rochester West & Borstal	1,120	89	Fort West & Borstal	325	
Fort Pitt	990	75	Chatham & Weeds Wood	252	
Gillingham North	954	65	Fort Pitt	238	
Wayfield & Weeds Wood	551	55	Gillingham North	279	
Rochester East & Warren Wood	688	54	Wayfield & Weeds Wood	232	
Gillingham	723	52	Rochester East & Warren Wood	239	
Chatham West	678	47	Gillingham	245	
Walderslade	443	46	Chatham West	245	
Chatham North & Frindsbury	674	45	Walderslade	235	
Mary's Island	181	44	Fort Pitt	69	
Gillingham North	582	44	Mary's Island	59	
Saints	189	40	Gillingham North	187	
Chatham, Halling & Riverside	267	33	Saints	135	
St Werburgh & High Halstow	436	33	Chatham, Halling & Riverside	164	
Chatham Park	269	32	St Werburgh & High Halstow	164	
Fort Horsted	147	32	Chatham Park	93	
Chatham & Walderslade	369	25	Fort Horsted	151	
Gillingham South West	233	24	Chatham & Walderslade	45	
Gillingham South East	267	20	Gillingham South West	68	
Wigmore & Wigmere	166	18	Gillingham South East	82	
			Wigmore & Wigmere	55	

([Medway Council Business Intelligence Team, 2023](#))

The following wards are common to both lists in the top 10 of most cases per 1,000 residents

- Chatham Central and Brompton
- Gillingham South
- Fort Pitt
- Luton
- Rochester West and Borstal
- Gillingham North
- Wayfield and Weeds Wood

- Watling

7.2.3 Deprivation summary

Research has shown that deprivation is relevant to the issues of the harms that can be caused by a significant alcohol outlet density, such as shops, and alcohol related crime.

In 2014 Public Health in Medway commissioned a study into alcohol use in Medway. The result - Medway Alcohol: Insight (2014)2 - identified there was a clear link between alcohol related harms, hospital admissions, alcohol related crimes and deprived areas where there is a density of licensed premises.

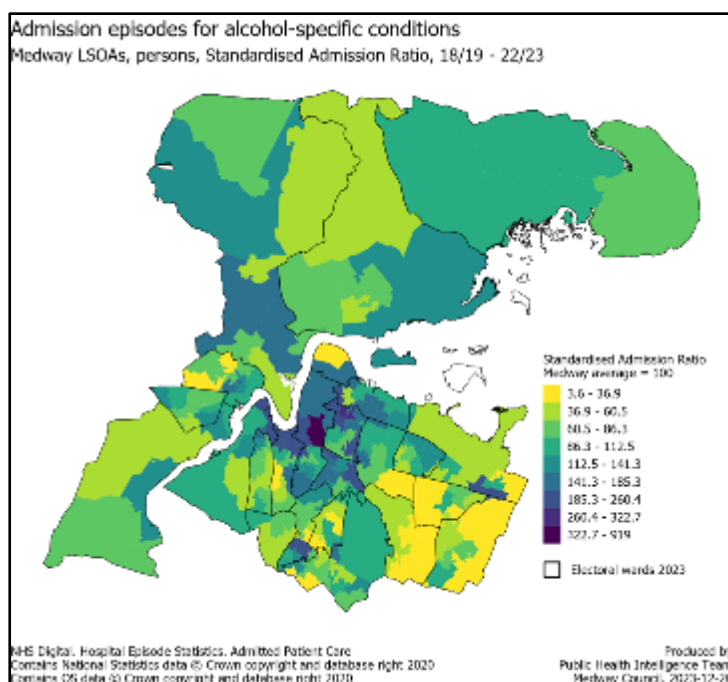
The most deprived areas of Medway can be found in

- Gillingham
- Chatham
- Luton
- Rochester
- Strood

7.3 HOSPITAL ADMISSION EPISODES FOR ALCOHOL-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

[Alcohol misuse is associated with 60 medical conditions](#), from liver disease, heart disease and strokes to types of cancer, hypertension, and mental health issues and is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health, and disability among 15–49-year-olds in the UK.

This map shows the areas which have the highest rates of alcohol related hospital admissions in Medway.



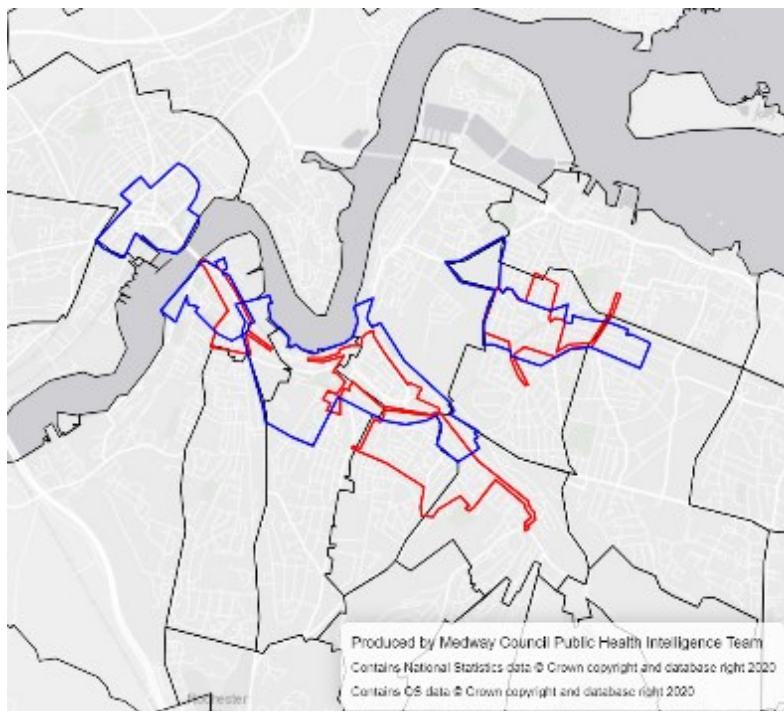
The wards with the highest rates of alcohol related hospital admissions are:

- Chatham Central and Brompton
- Gillingham South
- Luton
- Gillingham North
- Fort Pitt
- Strood Rural

7.4 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), formally known as alcohol control zones, have been introduced in areas of Medway where there are proven issues with anti-social behaviour, some of which is alcohol related. The areas covered are currently Chatham High St area into Luton Road, Gillingham High Street, Rochester High Street and Strood Town Centre areas, and were formally agreed in 2019 and are currently under review (at the time of writing this report), with extensions being recommended for Chatham, Rochester and Strood.

The PSPO areas are defined in blue, with the CIP areas defined in red.



Details of the areas covered by these orders are contained in Appendices B, C, D and E.

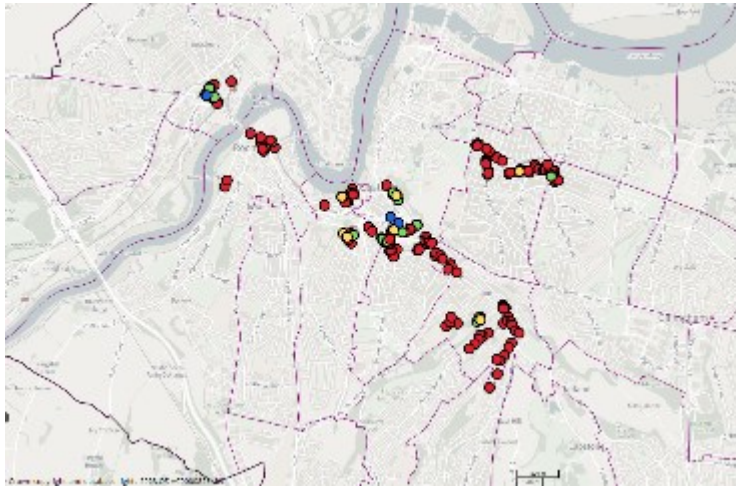
7.5 ALCOHOL RELATED ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Public Health has carried out ongoing monitoring of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Medway throughout the period of 2021 to 2023 since the last review of this policy. This includes evidence of alcohol litter, street drinking, urination and defecation and co-located drug use in areas of public drinking.

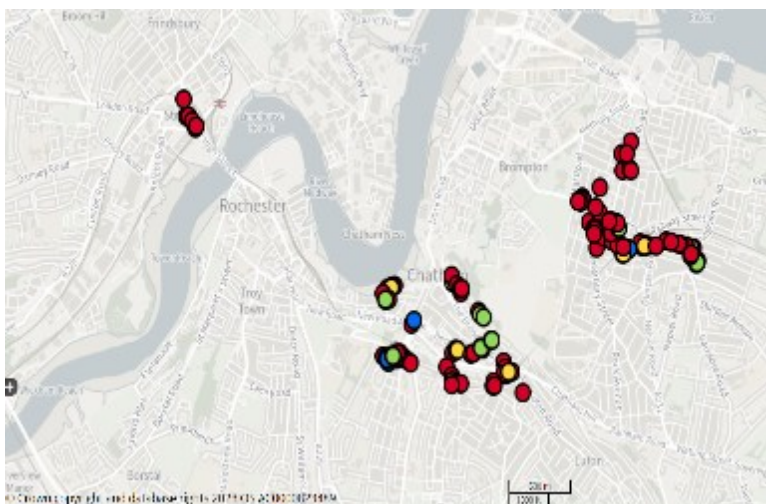
The following maps show the locations where alcohol related litter has been found (red dots) on more than one occasion by public health and environmental enforcement. Additionally, the maps

show where street drinkers have been seen or reported (blue dots), drug litter found by public health staff or environmental enforcement (green dots), and human waste found in the same locations as the alcohol related litter (yellow dots).

2021



2022



Community data

7.5.1 Community Surveys

In both 2022 and 2023 Public Health conducted surveys asking Medway residents about their experience and views of alcohol availability, consumption and associated harms.

7.5.1.1 Summary

The majority of respondents in both 2022 and 2023 stated that licensed premises contributed towards alcohol related problems in their area. The areas most commented on in both surveys were:

- Gillingham
- Chatham

- Rochester
- Luton
- Strood

In 2022 people believed that customers from licensed premises contributed to issues related to all four licensing objectives. This question was not asked in 2023. The most complained about issues were litter, street drinking, drug use/dealing, begging and public nuisance, with issues happening every day and at no particular time. In both surveys off licensed premises were viewed as causing or contributing the most to alcohol related concerns, followed by pubs/bars, although in Rochester on licensed premises, such as pubs, bars and nightclubs, caused most concerns. The majority of respondents believed that the number of licensed premises in their area added to the problems they experienced.

Each survey had a 'free text' section where respondents were able to put any comments they had. The responses are copied into this report at the end of this section. Overwhelmingly, in both surveys, respondents describe what they perceive to be alcohol related crime, disorder, nuisance, and anti-social behaviour.

The responses for each CIP area are dealt with individually in

- Appendix B - Chatham
- Appendix C - Gillingham
- Appendix D - Rochester
- Appendix E - Luton

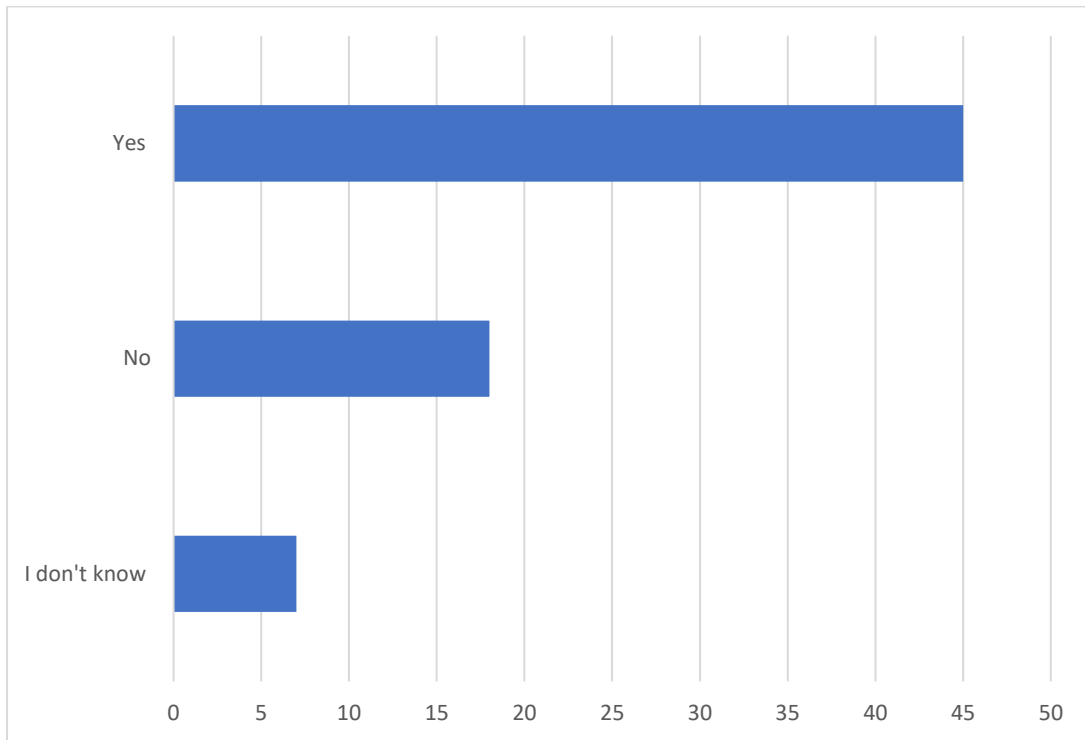
7.5.1.2 2022 survey results – whole of Medway

There were a total of 71 relevant responses to the survey making comments on the following areas:

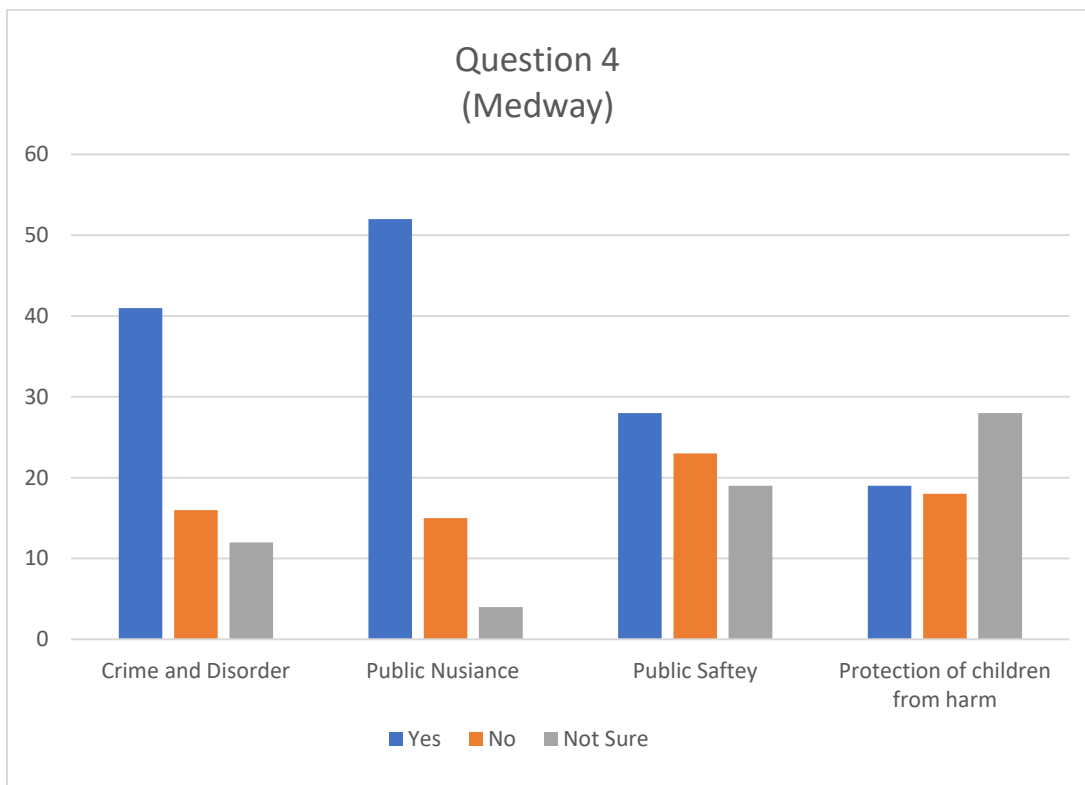
- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| • Chatham | • Rainham |
| • Rochester | • Cliffe |
| • Gillingham | • Allhallows |
| • Luton | • Wainscott |
| • Strood | |

The first 5 areas were the most commented on. The survey was circulated on Facebook and on council circulated newsletters giving residents the opportunity to respond to the following questions:

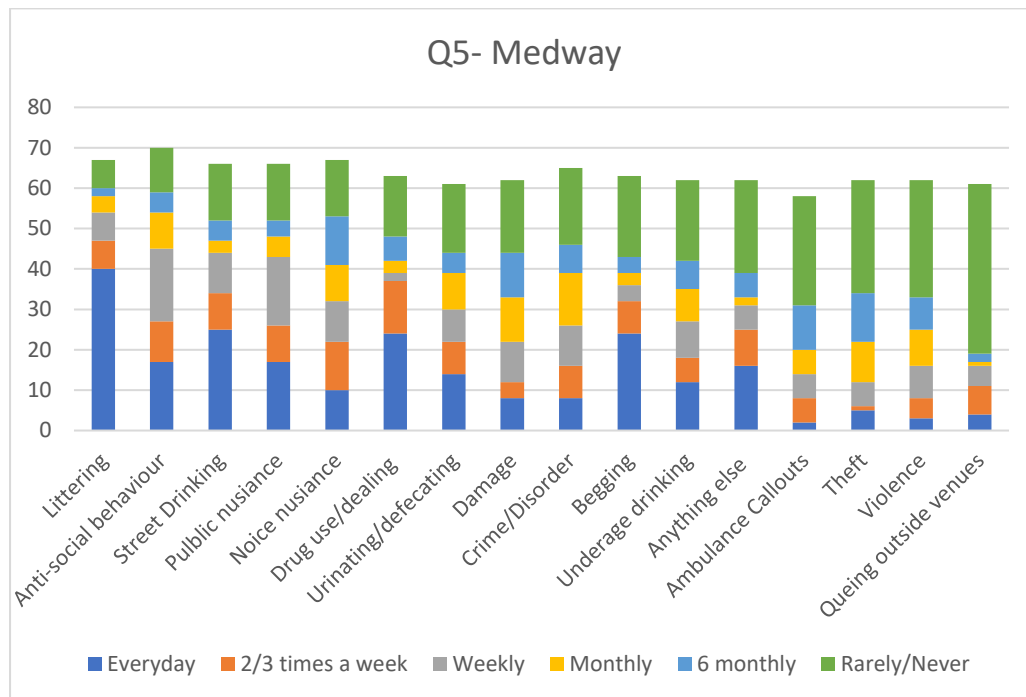
Question 3 - Are licensed premises, such as pubs/nightclubs/restaurant in this area contributing to alcohol related issues?



Question 4 - In your view have the customers of licensed premises in this area ever contributed to any issues relating to the four licensing objectives in the area you are concerned with?

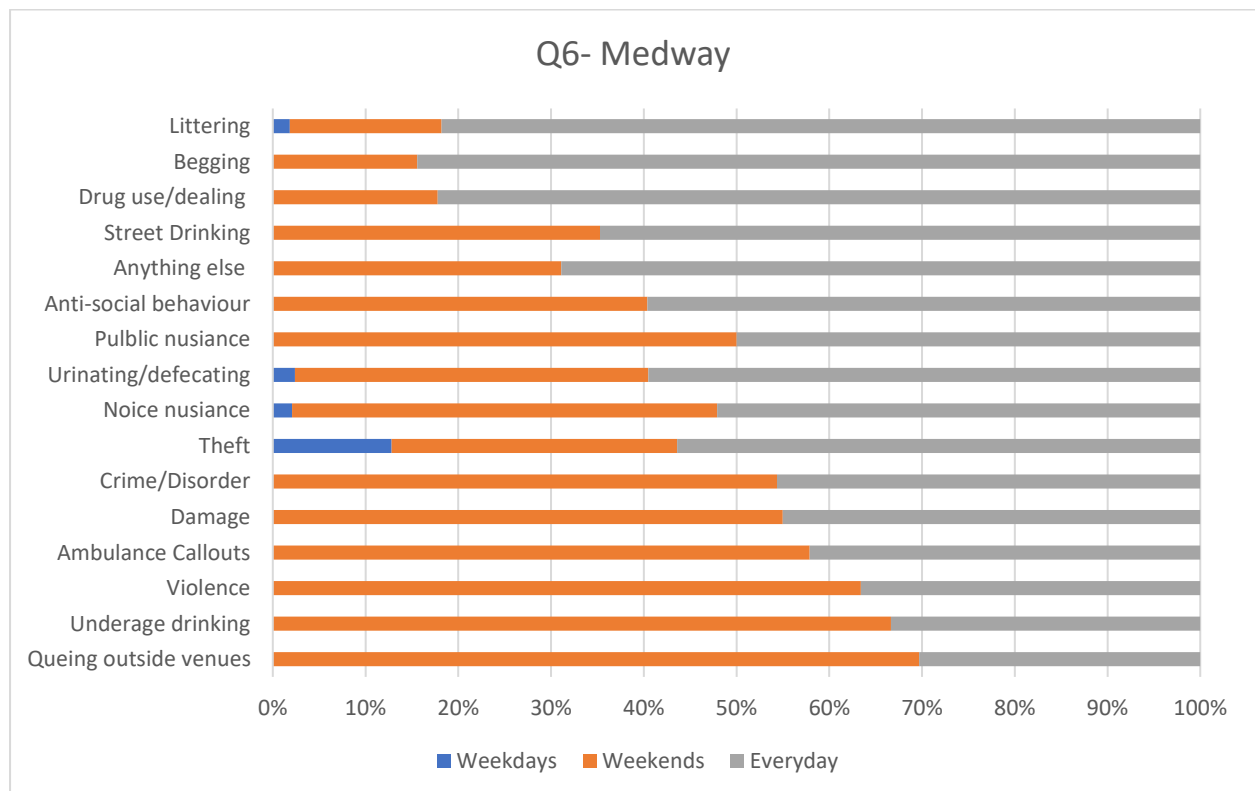


Question 5 - How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following alcohol related issues in the area you are concerned with?



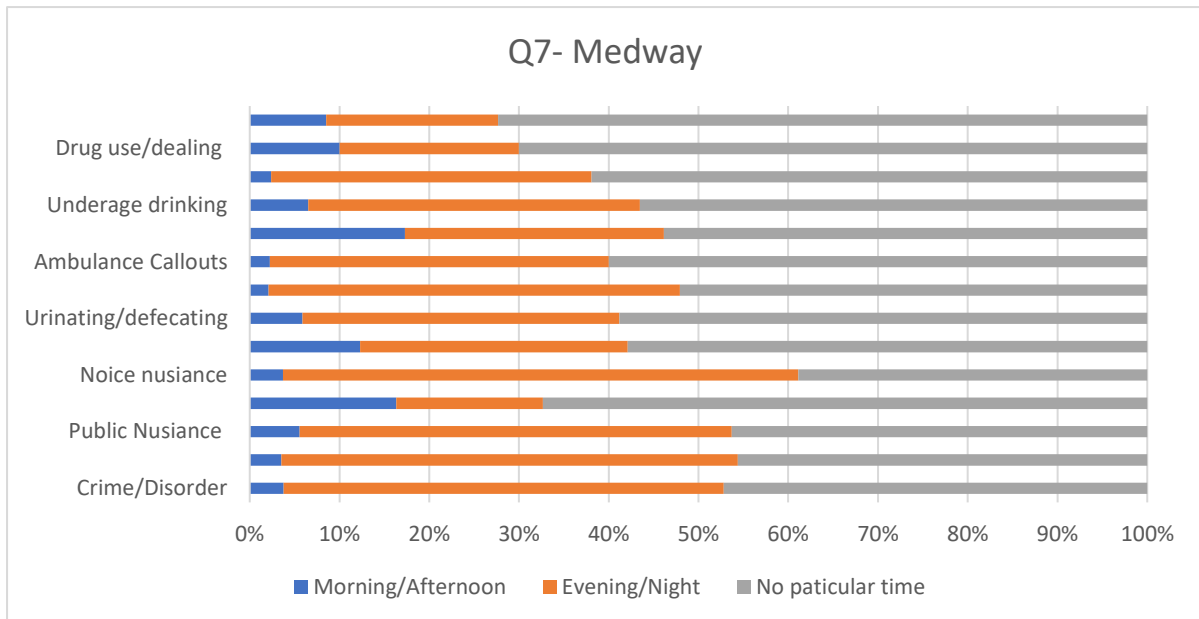
The most complained about issues were litter, street drinking, drug use/dealing, begging and public nuisance.

Question 6 - Are there any particular days of the week when these alcohol related issues happen?



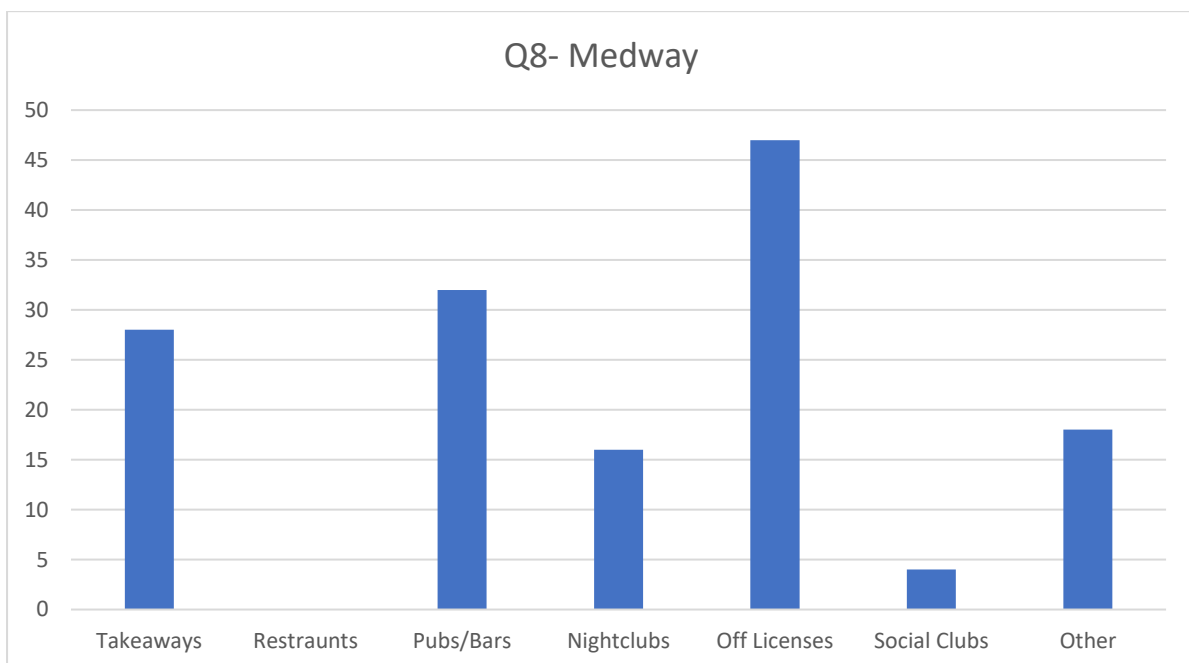
All types of harms were witnessed every day, with queuing outside of venues causing issues at weekends, and littering seen everyday by a majority of respondents.

Question 7 - What time of the day are these alcohol related issues happening?



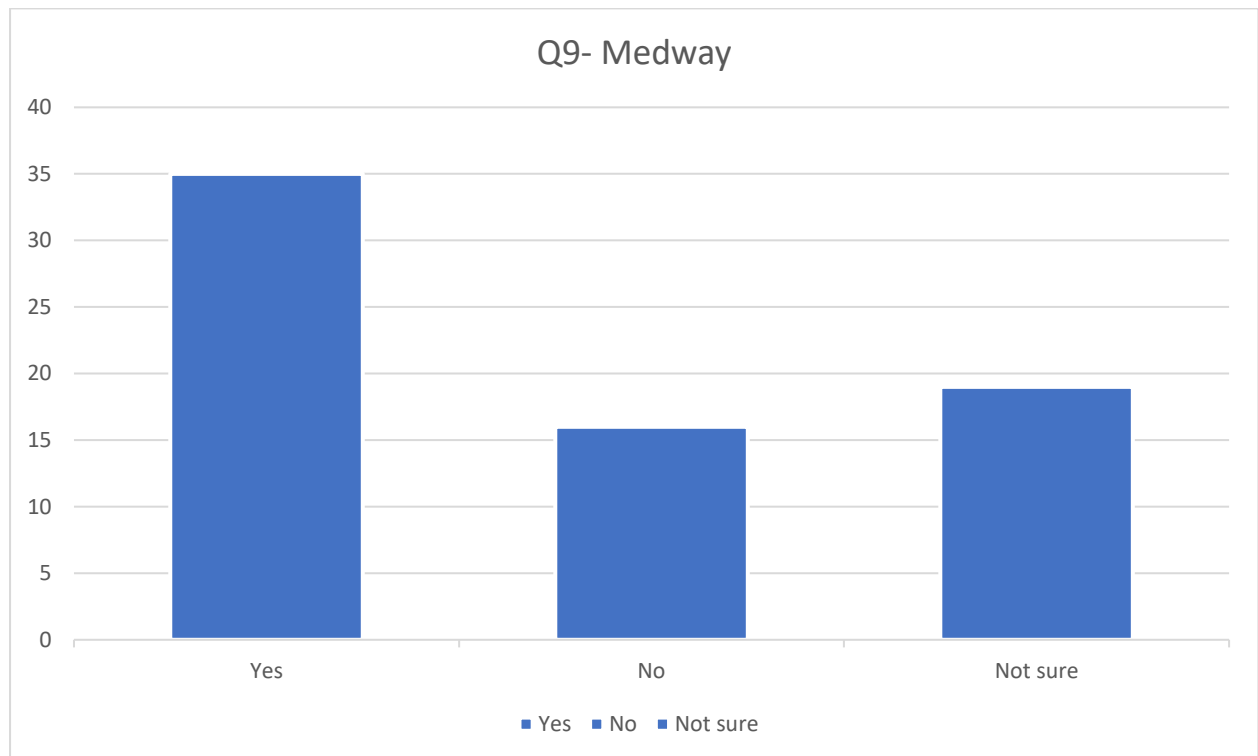
Most issues were identified as happening at no particular time.

Question 8 - What type of premises are causing or contributing towards any alcohol related issues or problems?



Off licences were identified as the type of premises mostly causing or contributing to alcohol related issues.

Question 9 - Do you think the number of licensed premises in this area contribute to any of these issues?



Question 10 –Free text - Tell us about your experiences with alcohol related issues and the impact it has. Examples of the submitted comments are:

- ‘There are always at least 6 people in the high street drinking alcohol and frequently people begging St Marks Church is daily littered in greenery with cans and bottles There is a major problem with people urinating around the church property’
- ‘Begging spitting littering and general lack of concern for other people and surroundings. Noise levels are high as the evening progresses. Littering, cigarette and weed smoking seem to have become the norm’
- ‘Stopped using Rochester high St bars after 8 pm due to amount of drunken yobs causing problems’
- ‘Within the Luton area, street drinking, litter and antisocial behaviour are common place 24/7 365, the behaviour of these individuals is directly fuelled by the proliferation of business selling cheap, strong and high volume alcohol. Take a walk from Luton Primary School where you can collect your first alcoholic drink from [...] at 6am, then 150m meters down the road to [...] at 7:30am, 150m meters down the road to [...] for 6am, 250m down the road to [...] for 8am, 150m meters down the road to [...] for 8am.’
- ‘Alcohol in particular super strength variety is a blight across our community not only does it have a significant impact on reducing those consuming, productivity. It also robs many

children of their childhoods with many of them becoming the carers for alcoholic parents and replacing their innocence with fear and misery.'

- 'As a runner, it is impossible to go out and not have to experience issues with drunkenness, urinating and drug dealing taking place. As a female, it is impossible to go out and not see men urinating in the street at all times of day. You cannot go anywhere at any time and not see (majority) men walking along drinking from cans of beer/lagers as early as 7:30am every day of the week. The whole area needs a huge clean up. The stench of marijuana in the air in Luton is horrible with people openly smoking it in their gardens making other people's gardens unusable.'
- 'My home has become a prison because of the daily ASB, violence and noise outside. Whoever agrees these licences, along with the councillors in charge should be forced to live next to one of the many HMOs and bail hostels that this council have allowed to infect what was once a lovely community. I have not had a proper night's sleep for over 20 years because of this council's maladministration. There is NO NEED for every convenience store, newsagent, petrol station and supermarket to sell alcohol.'
- 'Huge impact on mental well-being and feeling safe within the neighbourhood. Prostitution is very prevalent in this area. Alcohol abuse seems to progress to drug use and then many young and vulnerable young girls and women end up trapped in the cycle with the constant threat of violence through prostitution.'

7.5.1.3 2023 survey results – whole of Medway

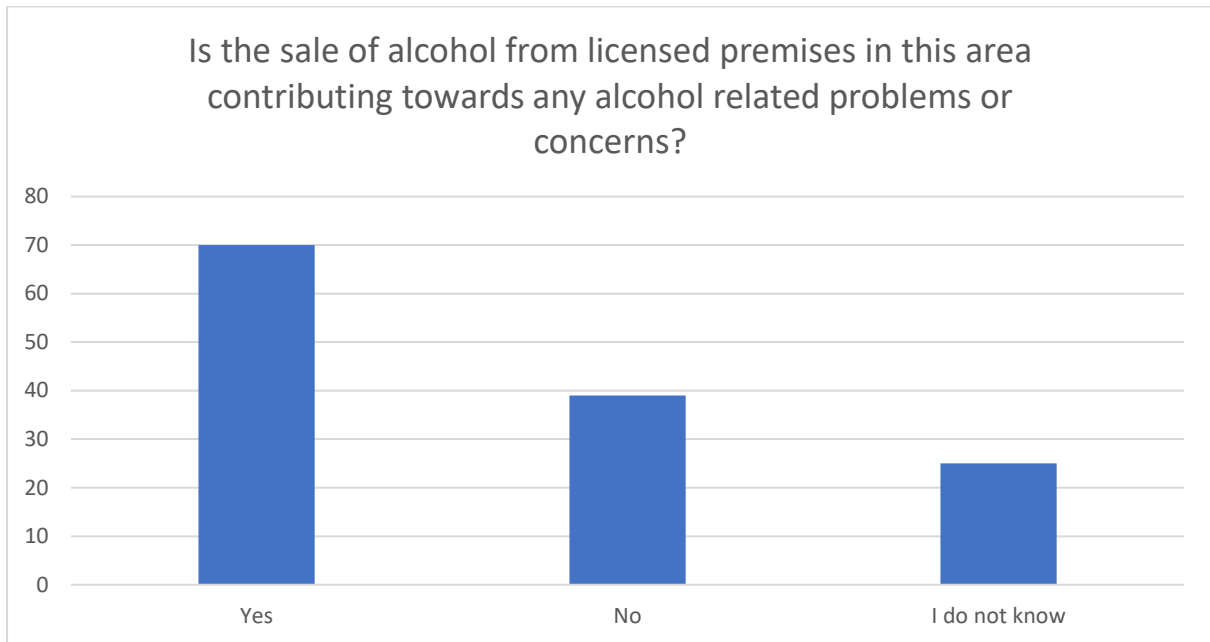
There was a total of 134 relevant responses to the 2023 survey referencing 26 areas in Medway.

- Chatham
- Luton
- Old High Street Intra,
- Brompton,
- Town Hall Gardens
- Rochester High Street
- Strood
- Rochester high street
- Cliffe
- Twydall
- Hempstead
- Rainham
- Arethusa Road
- Wainscott
- Parkwood
- Lordswood
- Capstone
- Hoo St. Werburgh
- Medway university campus
- Princes Park
- Halling
- Borstal
- Walderslade village
- Pattens Lane
- Peninsula
- Wigmore

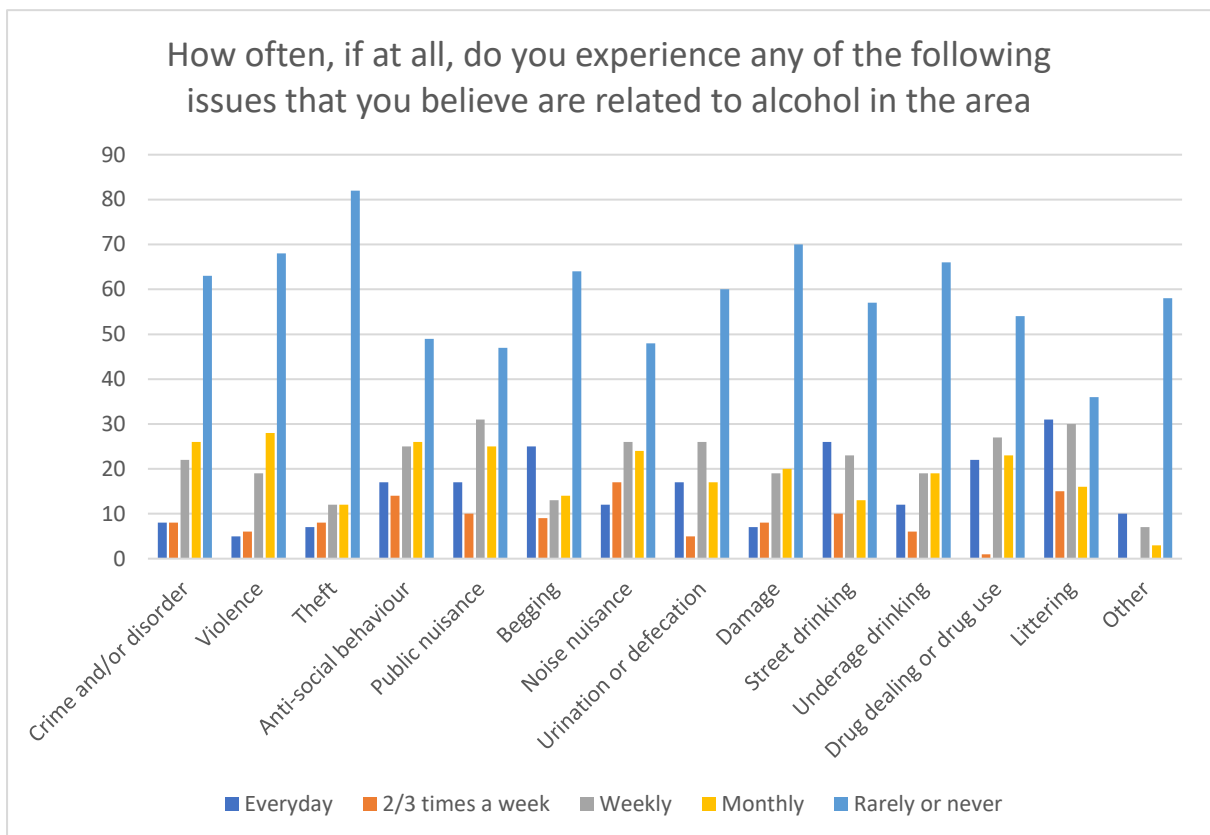
The most commented on areas, in order of most to least, were:

- Gillingham
- Luton
- Chatham
- Strood
- Rochester

Q3 Is the sale of alcohol from licensed premises in this area contributing towards any alcohol related problems or concerns?

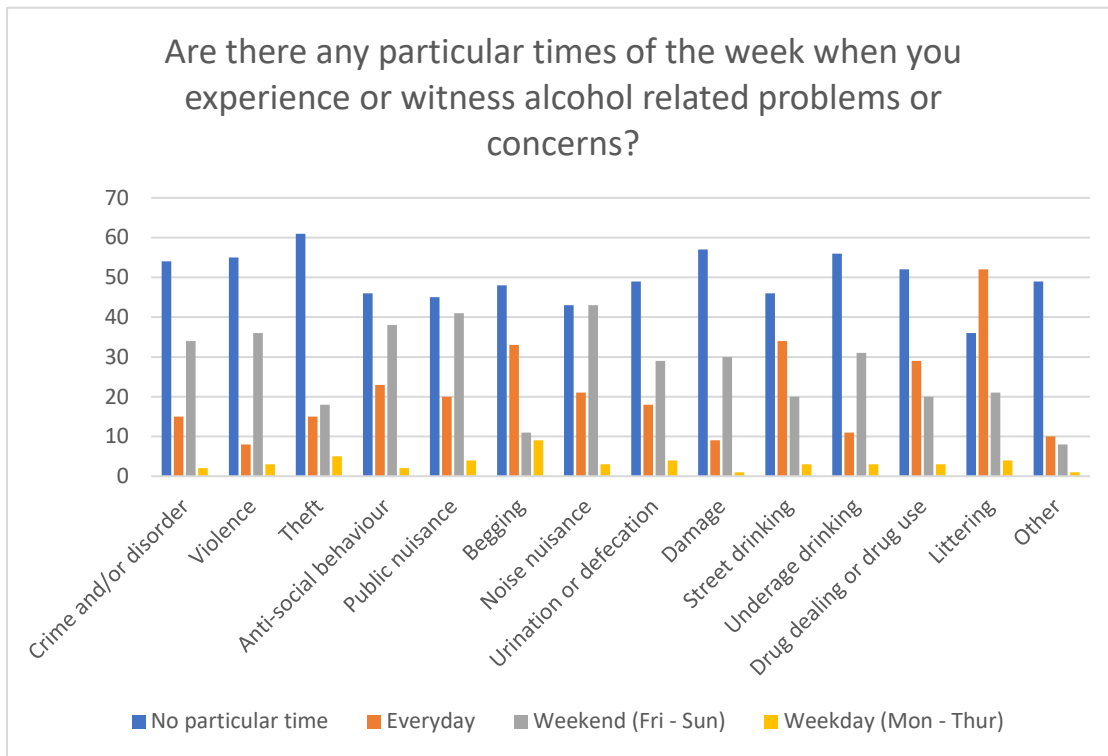


Q4 How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following issues that you believe are related to alcohol in the area

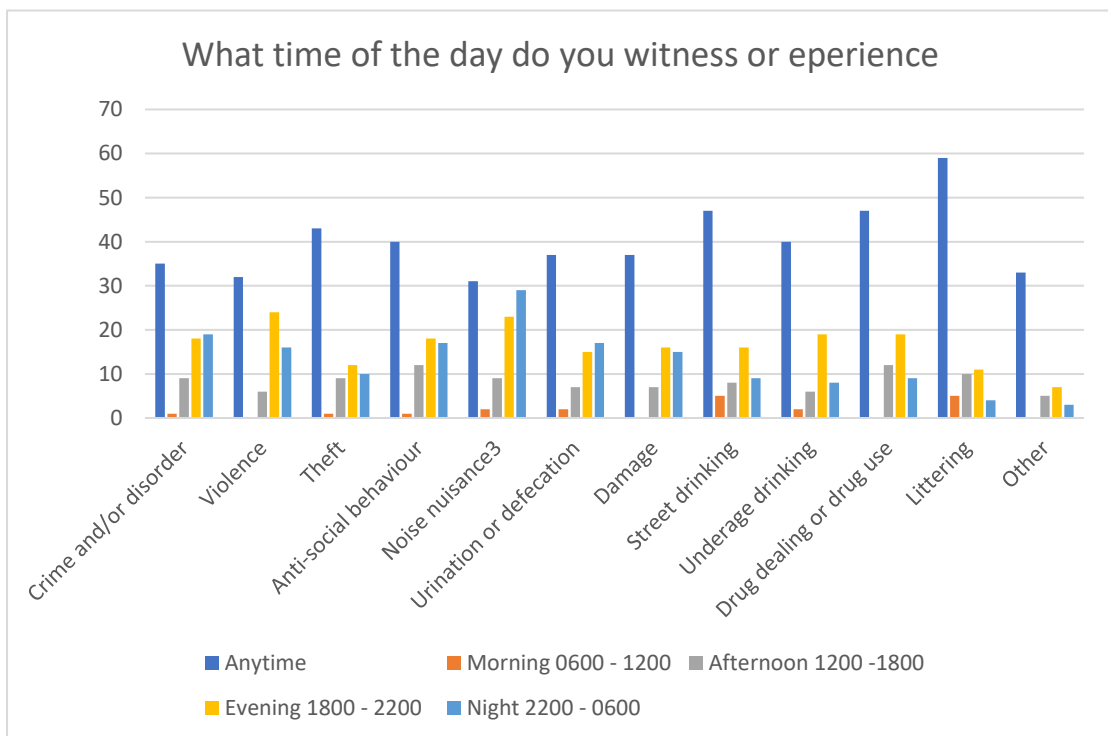


Alcohol related harm in all categories was reported as being experienced every day by respondents.

Q5 Are there any particular times of the week when you experience or witness alcohol related problems or concerns?

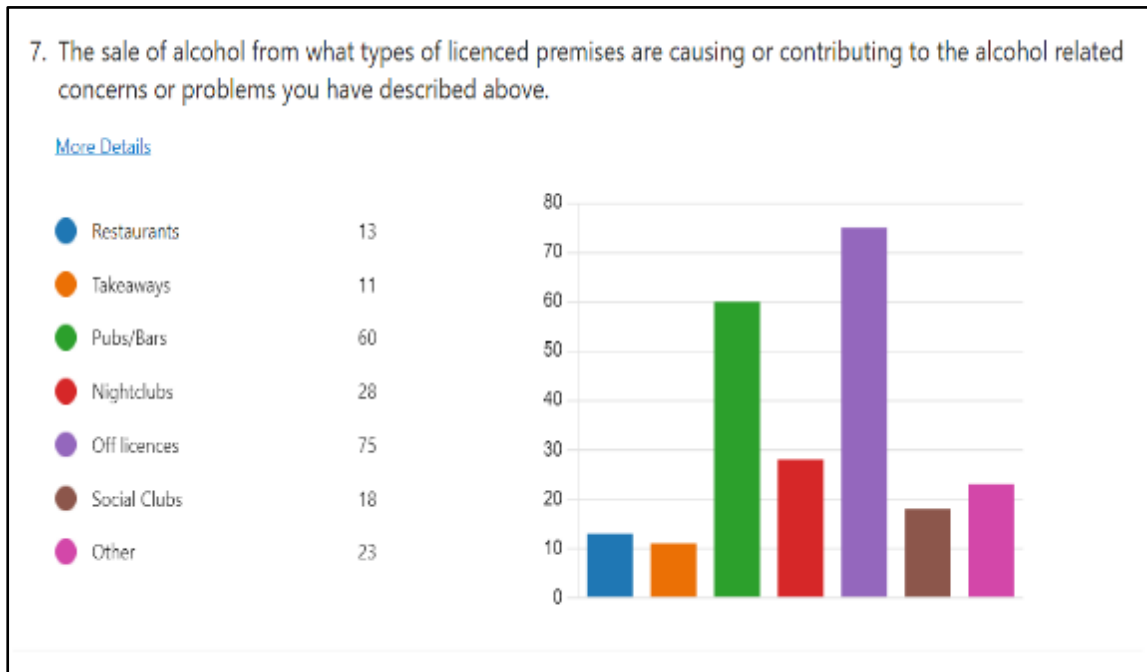


Most issues were identified as happening at no particular time. Q 6 What time of the day do you witness or experience



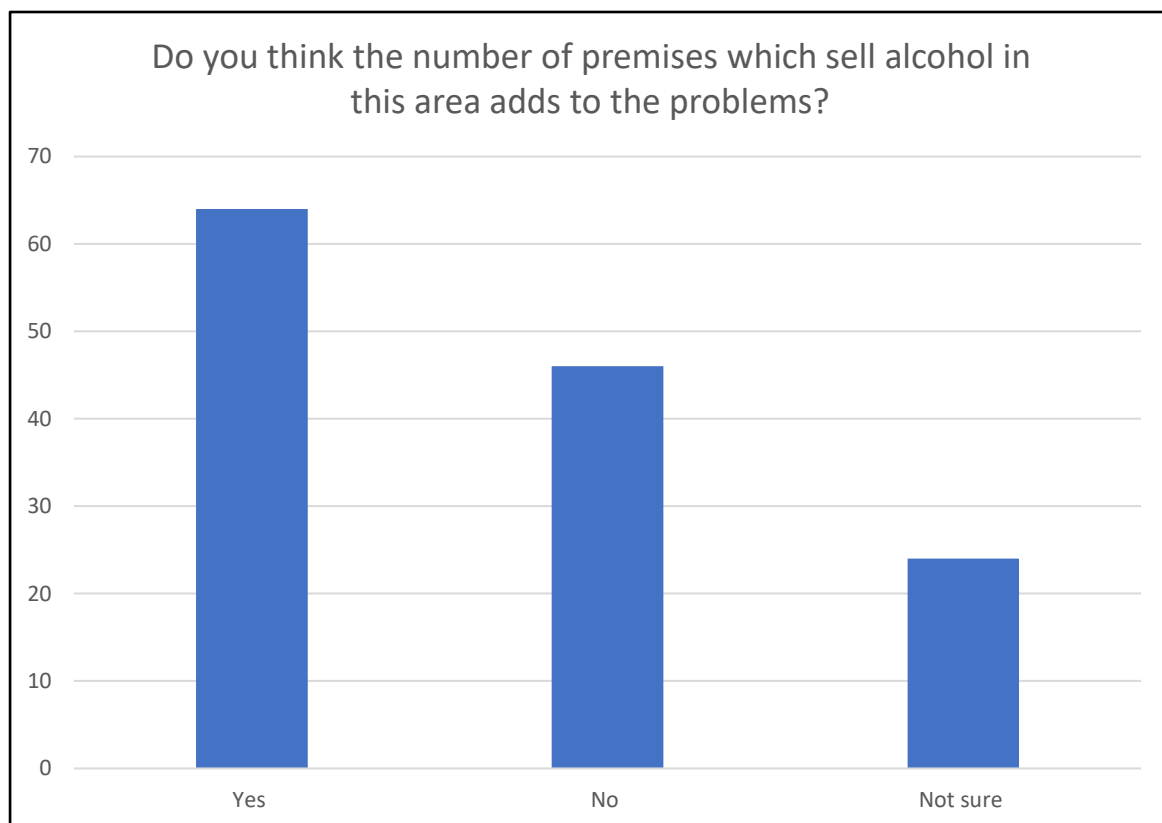
Most issues were identified as happening at no particular time.

Q7 The sale of alcohol from what types of licenced premises are causing or contributing to the alcohol related concerns or problems you have described above.



Off licences were identified as the type of premises mostly causing or contributing to alcohol related issues.

Q8 Do you think the number of premises which sell alcohol in this area adds to the problems?



Question 9 –Free text - This is your opportunity to have your say if you wish.

Are you happy with the number and type of premises which sell alcohol in the area?

Do you want to see more or less shops/pubs/restaurants in your area selling alcohol?

If there are problems, can you give us some examples?

What have you seen or experienced?

What impact do any issues have on you or your community?

86 people chose to respond in this section. Examples of the comments are:

- I am a resident in the Fort Pitt Ward, near Intra. My road is full of discarded high strength alcohol and cider cans and cheap wine bottles from visitors of the caring hands charity. People walk up from the high street, loiter while they finish their drinks, urinate in the alleyways and discard their litter on the floor for others (like me) to pick up. I would like to see the sale of high strength alcohols limited or prohibited (it has no place or purpose) and the alcohol prohibition zones enforced.
- Chatham high street (and Rochester to a certain extent) is blighted by alcoholics and drug users begging and making a nuisance of themselves for their next fix. These people are sick and need help for their benefit, the benefit of our society and our high streets which are unpleasant places to visit and businesses are suffering. So, I would strongly support any efforts to deter street drinking and the sale of high strength and low costs alcohol from any premises but particularly off licences and supermarkets
- Alcohol is too easily available in the town centre and surrounding streets. I frequently see bottles and cans left on benches in parks and bus stops, or on the ground. The no alcohol zone in Gillingham does not seem to be adhered to with frequent street drinkers in the High Street / Jeffrey Street and Balmoral Gardens. It causes litter, anti-social behaviour with regular arguments from people walking past and others urinating in alley ways or even in the streets between the town centre/ station and lower Gillingham. It makes it very unpleasant for residents and those working in the area
- Have witnessed very drunk people still be sold alcohol in bars and off licences - staff are sometimes young and not able to say no to service or challenge customers. No more bars or off licences in Rochester please
- I think most people in Rainham consume alcohol sensibly in restaurants and bars, the issue is with off licence selling.
- I don't find it to be a problem. I know there are some issues on Rochester High Street but I think a thriving night economy is important. Most pubs and restaurants are good. [...]
- Whilst Rochester High Street is a thriving area , business wise , there are now too many licensed premises selling alcohol . This leads to frequent anti-social behaviour in all forms . A major problem is licensed premises continuing to sell/serve alcohol to customers who are already intoxicated (an offence!). Far more licensing & Police enforcement is required here. A

major step forward would to re - introduce police on foot patrolling the streets . It provides a visible deterrent!

- I would certainly like to see less takeaways and off-licenses selling alcohol in this area. Anti-social behaviour, street drinking, underage drinking and drug dealing are the most common issues associated with the sale of alcohol on Luton Road. There are also littering hotspots in the immediate vicinity of these establishments[...]. The sale of alcohol on Luton Road has a significant impact on the safety of my community. Residents and I do not feel safe walking along Luton Road particularly at night, although street drinking is very common during the day too. On a daily basis there would be street drinkers who shout and scream at each other, sometimes as late as 2am during the night.
- Alcohol is very readily available in this area. There are shops on Chatham High Street, but also in the Luton area that sell alcohol. Often these shops sell cheap drinks - beers/ciders and even vodka - and there are places people can buy alcohol overnight. I have seen large gatherings of people near the former Gala Bingo and Go Outdoors sites. In the summer, the group outside Gala Bingo numbered around 10 at times, was loud and intimidating for passers-by. More recently, I have noticed a smaller group gathering near Go Outdoors, usually drinking together. I know of more than one occasion on which someone has been assaulted, including by Gala Bingo. Whilst I cannot be certain, I believe alcohol and/or drugs were part of the reason for the fight breaking out.

The complete comments for each specific area are included in each relevant appendix.

7.5.2 Community data – Focus Groups

There were 3 focus groups held in late 2023 to discuss alcohol availability and impact in Luton High Street area, Luton Road and Chatham High Street area and Rochester High Street area.

All participants in all three groups agreed there were issues of crime, nuisance and anti-social behaviour associated with licensed premises in the areas they were talking about. In Luton and Chatham this was confined to off licensed premises, while in Rochester High Street the customers of on licensed premises were also identified as causing these issues.

Details of the comments made are contained in the evidence contained in Appendices B (Chatham), D (Rochester) and E (Luton).

7.6 RESEARCH LINKING OUTLET DENSITY TO ALCOHOL HARM

Research and academic evidence tells us that certain categories of crime are more likely to be ‘alcohol related’ than others. For example, violence offences are associated with the misuse of alcohol and theft of a motor vehicle, generally, is not. There is also substantial academic evidence which links the density of alcohol outlets in an area with the rate of alcohol harms, such as domestic abuse and alcohol harms in young people, in the same area. While this evidence does not directly relate to licensed premises in Medway, it provides an indication of the factors to consider when deciding what evidence is relevant in linking outlet density and alcohol harms. Much of this evidence indicates links

between the density of off licences and these harms. Examples of this research are shown below.

- [Theall, K.P. et al \(2009\). The neighbourhood alcohol environment and alcohol related morbidity. Alcohol and Alcoholism, 44\(5\), pp.491-499.](#)
 - There is a substantial evidential link between the density of premises and alcohol harm; Alcohol outlets had a significant impact on health and social outcomes at a neighbourhood level, irrespective of individual consumption. There was a significant association between off-licence density and rates of liver disease, sexually transmitted infections and violence.
- [Livingston, M \(2011\). A longitudinal analysis of alcohol outlet density and domestic violence. Addiction, 106\(5\), pp.919-925](#)
 - Alcohol outlets had a significant impact on rates of domestic violence; the affect was larger for off-licenses compared to on-licenses. A 10% increase in the number of off-licenses increased hospital admissions by 1.9% (on-licenses = 0.5%).
- [Osterberg, E \(2009\). Availability of Alcohol, a chapter within Alcohol in the European Union; Consumption, Harm and Policy Approaches. WHO Regional Office for Europe, pp83-88.](#)
 - Consistent evidence that limiting availability (regulating the density of outlets and times of sale) leads to a reduction in alcohol harm.
- [Alcohol Concern \(2011\). One on every corner – The relationship between off license density and alcohol harms in young people. Report by the Alcohol Concern Youth Policy Project](#)
 - Moderate but significant relationship between off-license density and underage alcohol specific admissions; 10% of admissions were directly attributable to off-license density.

The link between alcohol outlet density in an area and alcohol harms is accepted by many official bodies and forms parts of their policy or strategy documents.

The Government's [Alcohol Strategy 2012](#) stated:

‘There is evidence of a link between the number of venues selling alcohol in one area and levels of harm, whether this is crime, damage to health, or harm to young people’.

The strategy identified home drinking as a key element and driver of alcohol related harm and acknowledges the research showing there is a link between off licence density and these harms.

[NICE](#) (National Institute for Care and Health Excellence), [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities](#) (OHID) and the [World Health Organisation](#) also accept this link.

APPENDIX B

8 CHATHAM CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 SUMMARY

The evidence shows there is a concentration of off licensed premises in and around the Chatham Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) area. The CIP borders some of the most deprived areas in Medway, which is relevant to alcohol related harms. Both Chatham Central and Brompton ward and Fort Pitt ward, are deprived in both health and crime domains.

Chatham Central and Brompton ward is ranked 1 for admission episodes for alcohol-specific hospital admissions, where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best, and Fort Pitt ward is ranked 5.

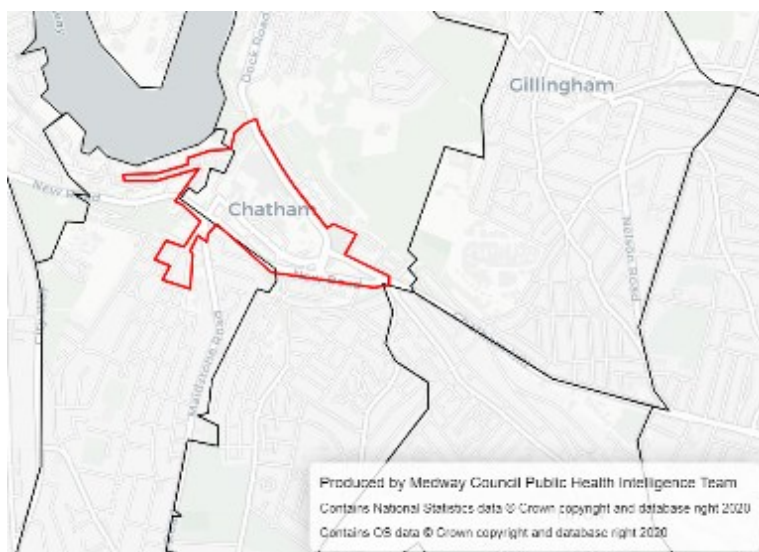
The Chatham Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which has been introduced due to issues with anti-social behaviour covers almost all of the Chatham CIP area.

There is extensive evidence of alcohol related nuisance in the form of alcohol related litter, public urination and defecation, street drinking and co-located drug litter over the period of 3 years since the last review. This is evidenced by both the observations of public health staff and the community.

Evidence concerning the effect the sale of alcohol and its use has on the community is shown by the responses to the 2 public surveys in 2022 and 2023. Both highlighted alcohol related anti-social behaviour, nuisance and crime as issues. Participants in the focus group which covered this area also highlighted alcohol related anti-social behaviour, nuisance and crime as concerns.

8.2 INTRODUCTION

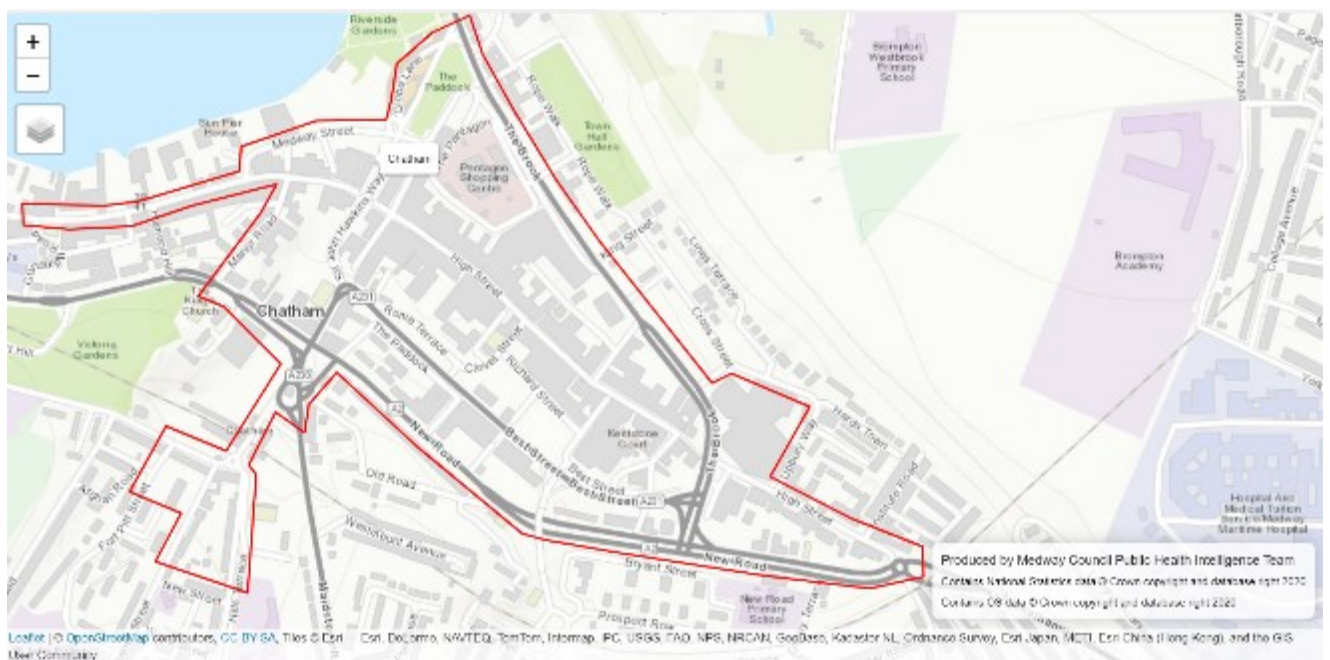
This report outlines alcohol related harms in and around Chatham High Street area. The policy area is mainly in Chatham Central and Brompton ward with a small amount in Fort Pitt ward. However, the effects from the sale of alcohol can be experienced beyond the outline of the policy area, as will be shown below.



The evidence presented covers

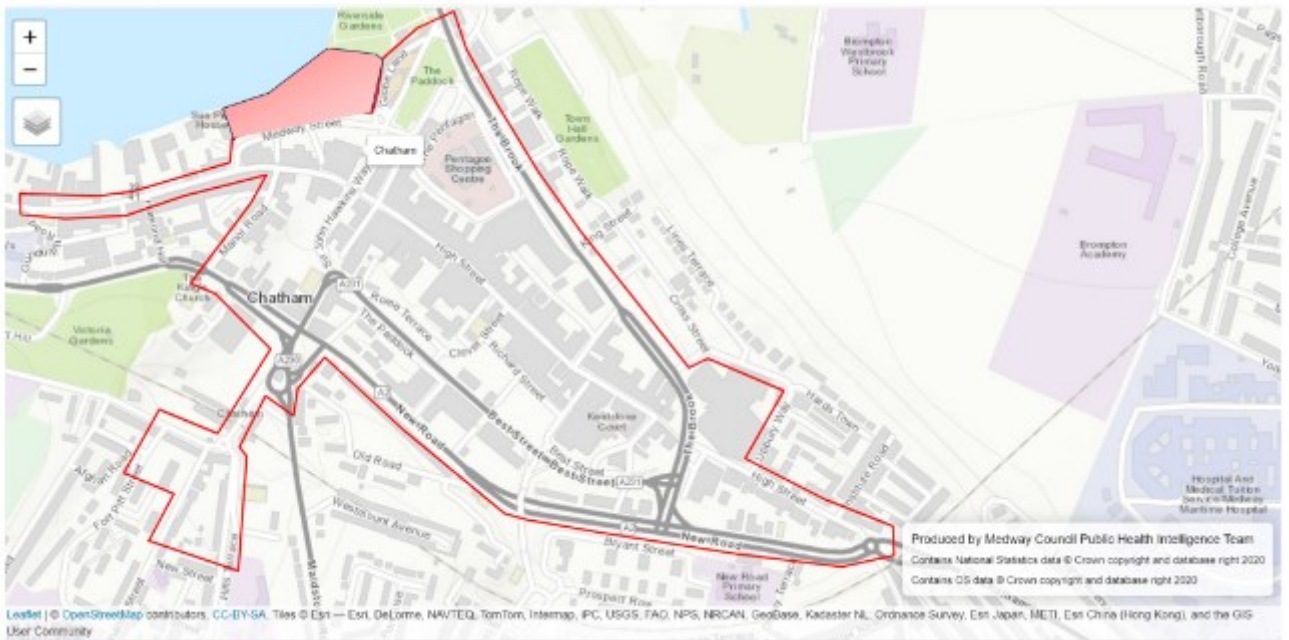
- Deprivation
- Alcohol related hospital admissions
- Public Space Protection Order
- Public nuisance in the form of
 - o street drinking,
 - o alcohol litter
 - o drug litter
 - o human waste
- Community comments

8.3 CURRENT CUMULATIVE IMPACT AREA



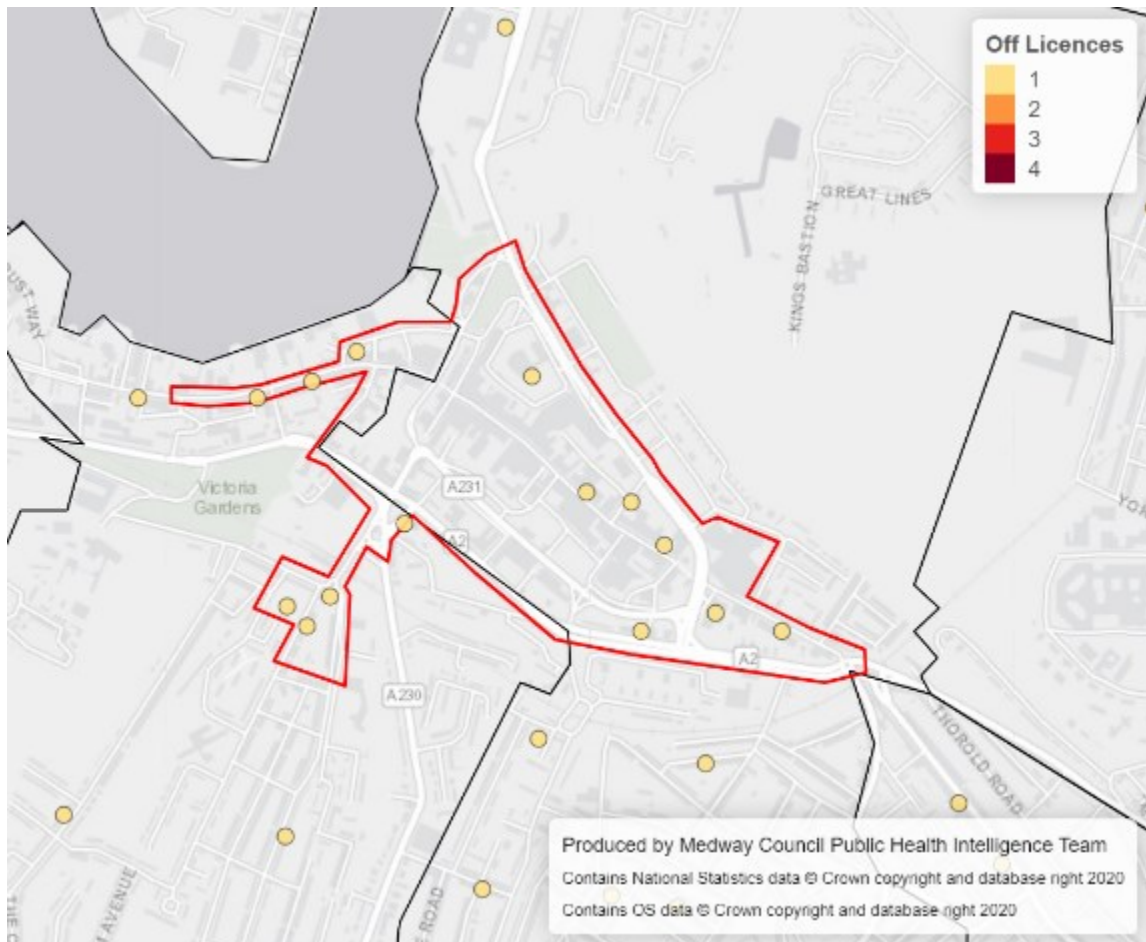
8.3.1 Recommended amendment

Proposed extended area - Shown as shaded red area - an expansion of the Chatham High Street CIP to include the area of the new development adjacent to the bus station, which was a car park when the original policy areas were drawn, as shown in the shaded area of the map below.



8.4 LICENSED PREMISES

The below map shows the locations of premises which currently have an off licence in and around the Chatham CIP area.



8.5 DEPRIVATION

8.5.1 Multiple Indices of deprivation

Chatham CIP area borders some of the most deprived areas in Medway.

Deprivation is relevant to the issue of alcohol outlet density. In 2014 Medway Public Health commissioned a study into alcohol use in Medway. The result - Medway Alcohol: Insight - identified there was a clear link between alcohol related harms, hospital admissions, alcohol related crimes and deprived areas where there is a density of licensed premises.



[The Medway Monitoring Report 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022](#) states the following:

'Indices of Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation are a unique measure of relative deprivation at a small local area level (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England. These bring together a range of data sets and are published in a linked set every 3-4 years. The latest set of indices were published in 2019.

The [Indices of Deprivation](#) consist of the following seven themes: Income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing & services and the living environment.

Medway is ranked in the 30% most deprived local authorities nationally in the 2019 Indices of Deprivation (IoD), in 2015 it was ranked in the 37% of most deprived local authorities nationally. Medway is ranked 93rd most deprived local authority of 317 in England in the latest indices.

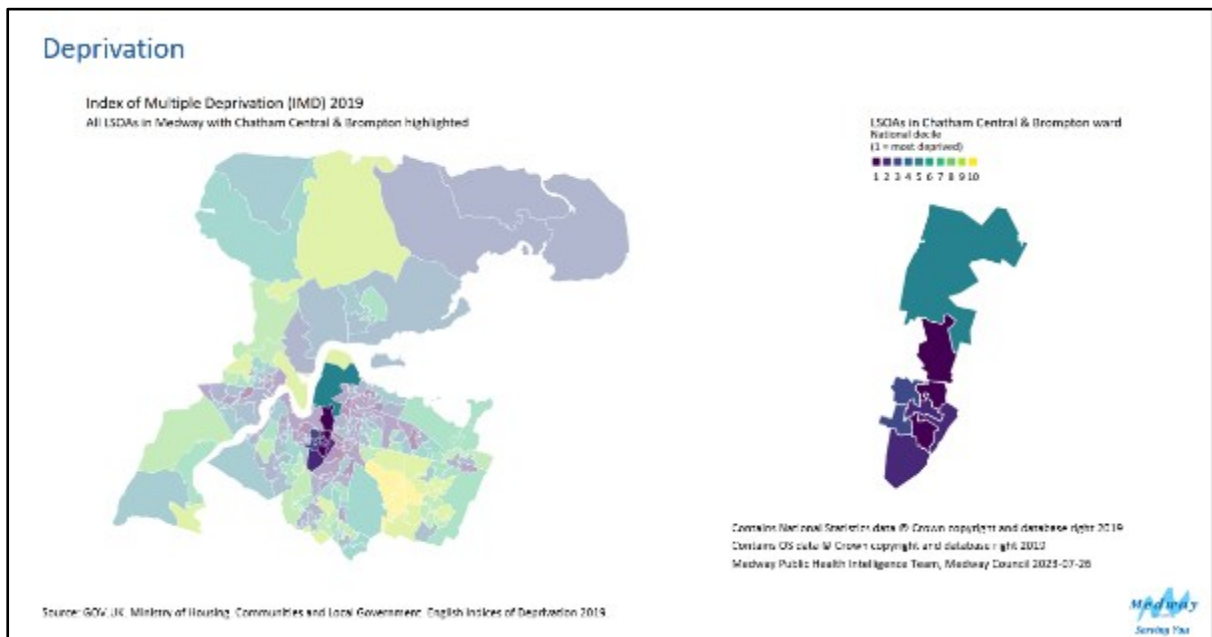
Medway has fourteen neighbourhoods ranked in the 10% most deprived and thirty-seven in the 20% most deprived nationally.

Medway appears to fair worst in the crime domain, ranking in the most deprived 10% of local authorities nationally for crime.

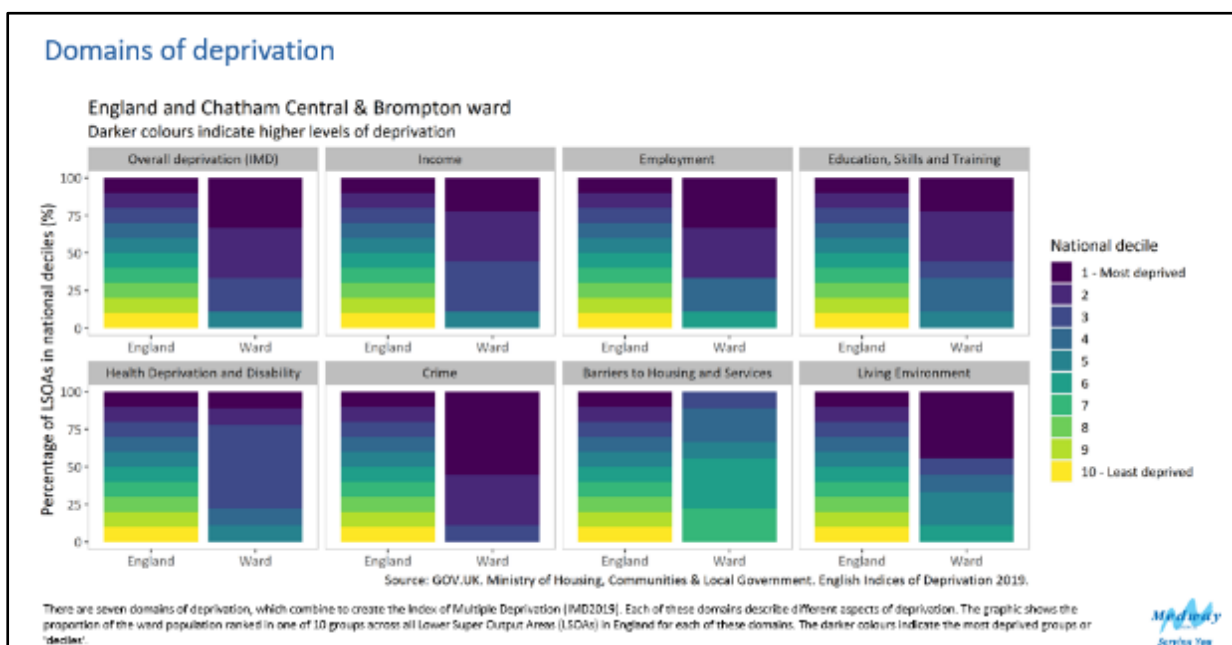
Medway has an additional two areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an additional five in the most deprived 20% nationally since the IoD 2015.'

There are seven domains of deprivation, which combine to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019). Each of these domains describe different aspects of deprivation. The graphic shows the proportion of the Medway population ranked in one of 10 groups across all Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England for each of these domains. The darker colours indicate the most deprived groups or 'deciles'.

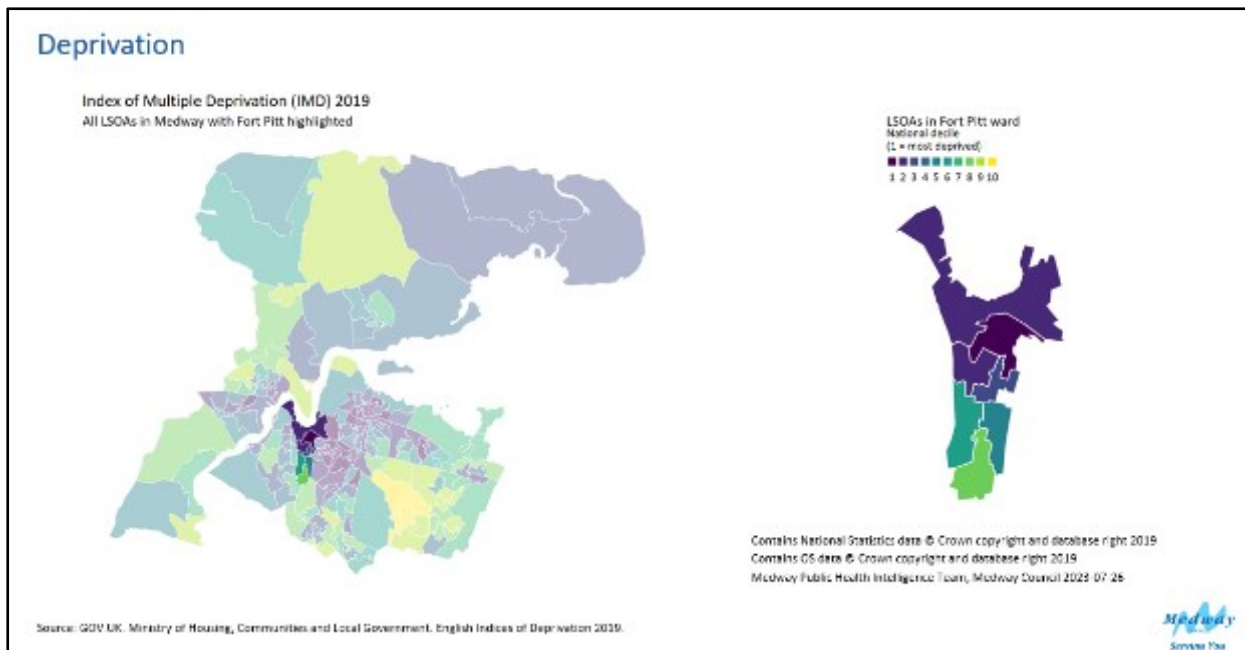
Chatham Central and Brompton Ward – [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#).



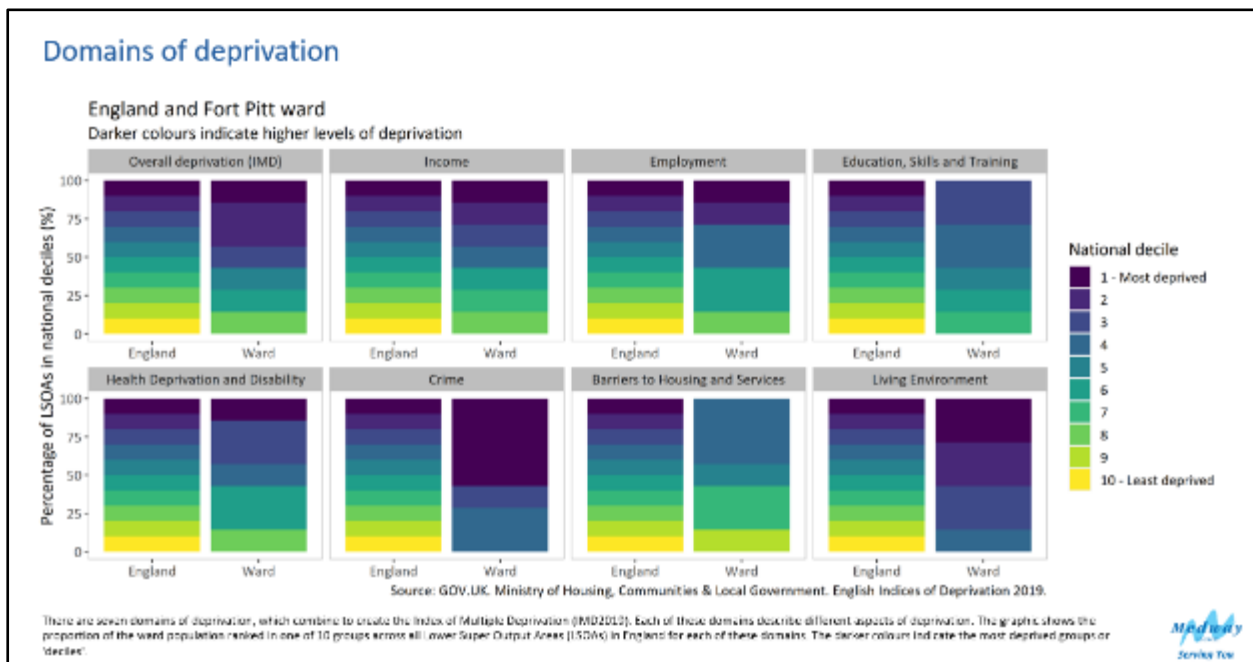
Taking each domain separately it can be seen that Chatham Central and Brompton is deprived in both the health and crime domains.



Fort Pitt ward – [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#)



Taking each domain separately it can be seen that Fort Pitt is deprived for in both the health and crime domains.



8.5.2 Health deprivation

Both [Chatham Central and Brompton ward](#) and [Fort Pitt ward](#) have high levels of health deprivation.

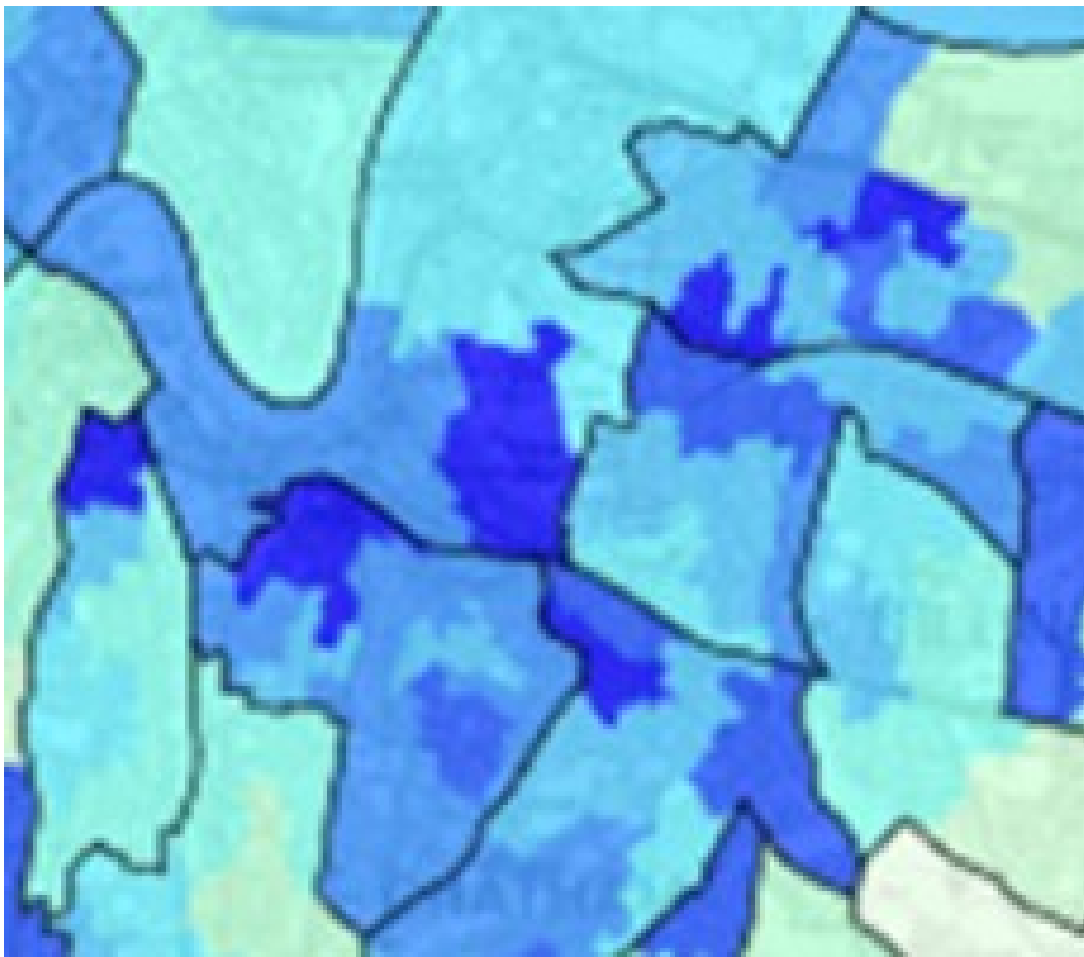
[The Medway Monitoring Report 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022](#) states the following:

‘Medway ranks in the 38 % most deprived local authorities nationally for health. Seven areas rank in the most deprived 10% nationally for health and 20 rank in the most deprived 20% nationally.

Health deprivation is measured as the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.

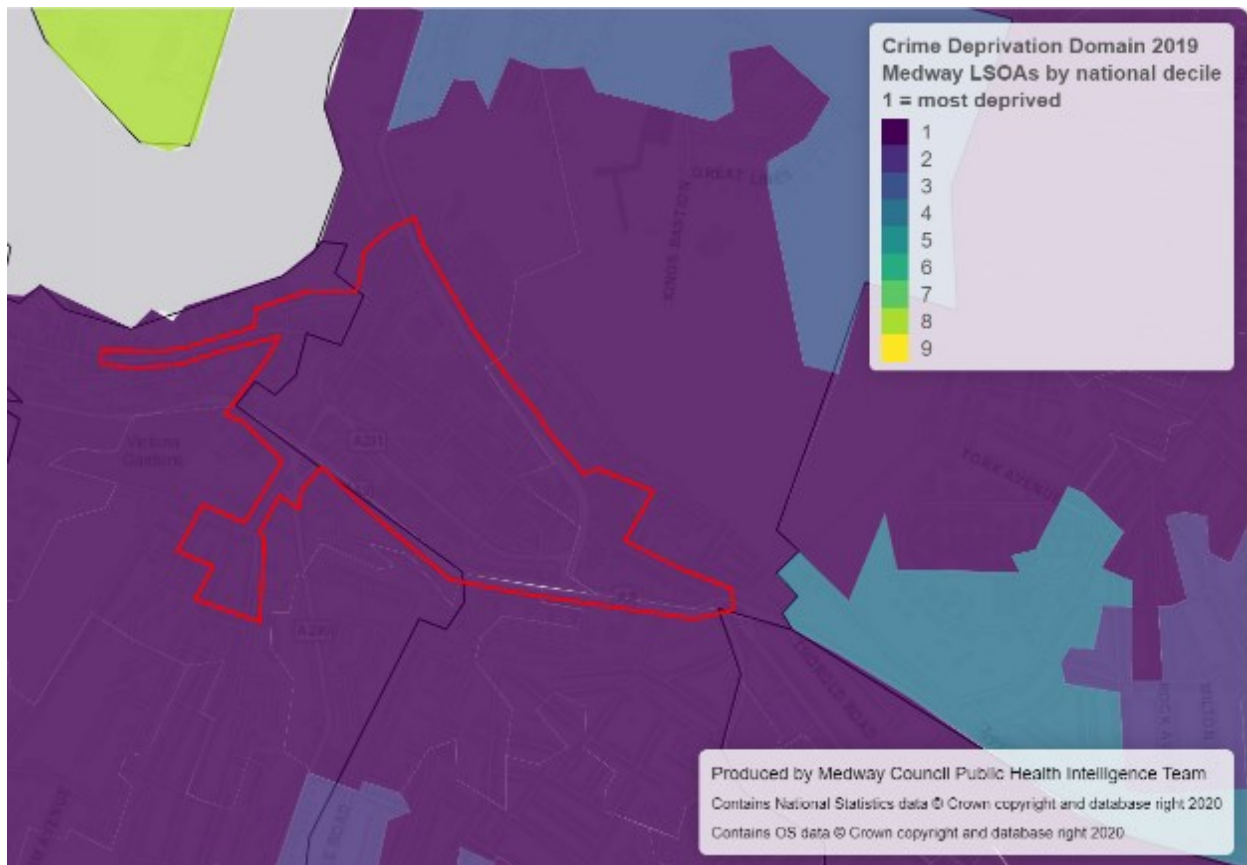
There has been a relative worsening in health deprivation, with Medway seeing an extra four areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an extra eight areas in the most deprived 20% nationally. While the most severely affected areas for health deprivation are spread across a number of wards in Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester, Gillingham North stands out as having two areas in the most deprived 10% for health, while River stands out as having the most deprived area for health in Medway. Medway's most deprived area – located in River Ward overall for multiple deprivation is ranked in the most deprived 1% of neighbourhoods for health nationally.'

The below map (pre 2023 ward boundaries) shows health deprivation in and around the Chatham CIP area. The darker blue shows the most health deprivation.



8.5.3 Crime deprivation

Both [Chatham Central and Brompton ward](#) and [Fort Pitt ward](#) have high levels of crime deprivation.



Crime and the prevalence of crime is a public health issue. Crime is part of the wider determinants of health as it effects people’s physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Certain types of crime are more associated with alcohol consumption than others. Among crimes that are regarded as being [‘alcohol related’](#) are

- Violence including wounding and assault with or without injury
- Verbal and physical abuse
- Sexual offences including abuse and assault
- Harassment
- Domestic abuse
- Public disturbance and nuisance including street drinking, noise, littering, public urination and defecation and intimidation
- Harms to children including assault, witnessing violence and all types of abuse
- Driving offences including drink driving

Research from [The Office for National Statistics](#) states that victims perceived an offender to be under the influence of alcohol in 53% of violent incidents; a proportion which has remained consistent during the last 10 years.

Research has also shown that access to off licensed premises, such as convenience shops and supermarkets, had a greater association with violent crime than premises which only allow for on-

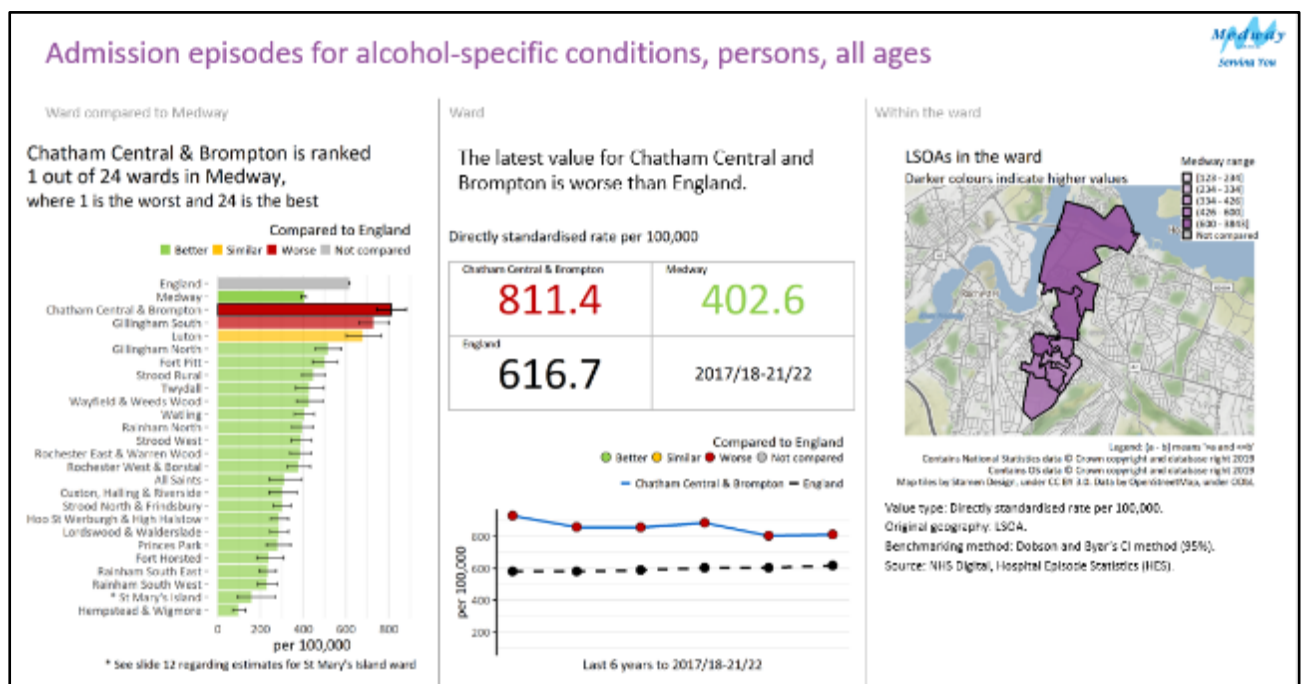
site consumption of alcohol ([Trangenstein et al \(2018\)](#)). This is particularly the case for incidents of domestic abuse where incidents often happen in the home. Alcohol consumption, and domestic abuse, increased during the COVID 19 lockdowns, where alcohol could only be purchased from off licensed premises ([Institute of Alcohol Studies, 2021](#)).

8.6 ADMISSION EPISODES FOR ALCOHOL-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS, PERSONS, ALL AGES

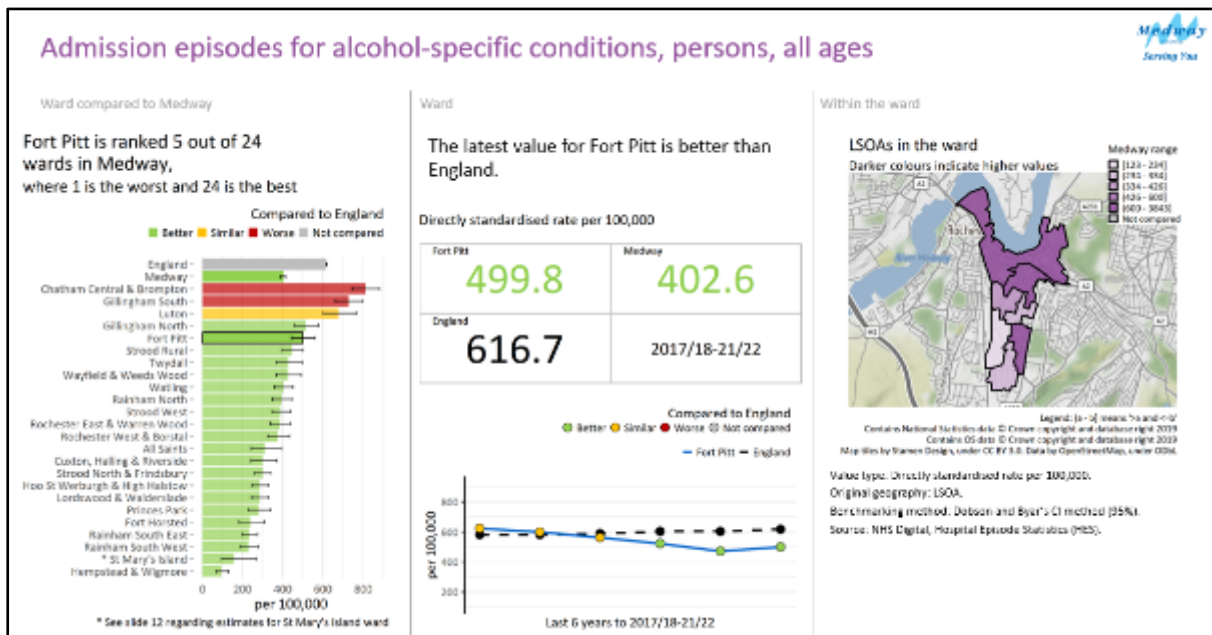
[Alcohol misuse is associated with 60 medical conditions](#), from liver disease, heart disease and strokes to types of cancer, hypertension, and mental health issues and is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health, and disability among 15–49-year-olds in the UK.

This shows the [measure of hospital admissions](#) where the primary diagnosis (main reason for admission) is an alcohol-related condition. Since every hospital admission must have a primary diagnosis, it's less sensitive to coding practices but may also understate the part alcohol plays in the admission.

[Chatham Central and Brompton ward](#) is ranked 1 out of 24 wards in Medway where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best.

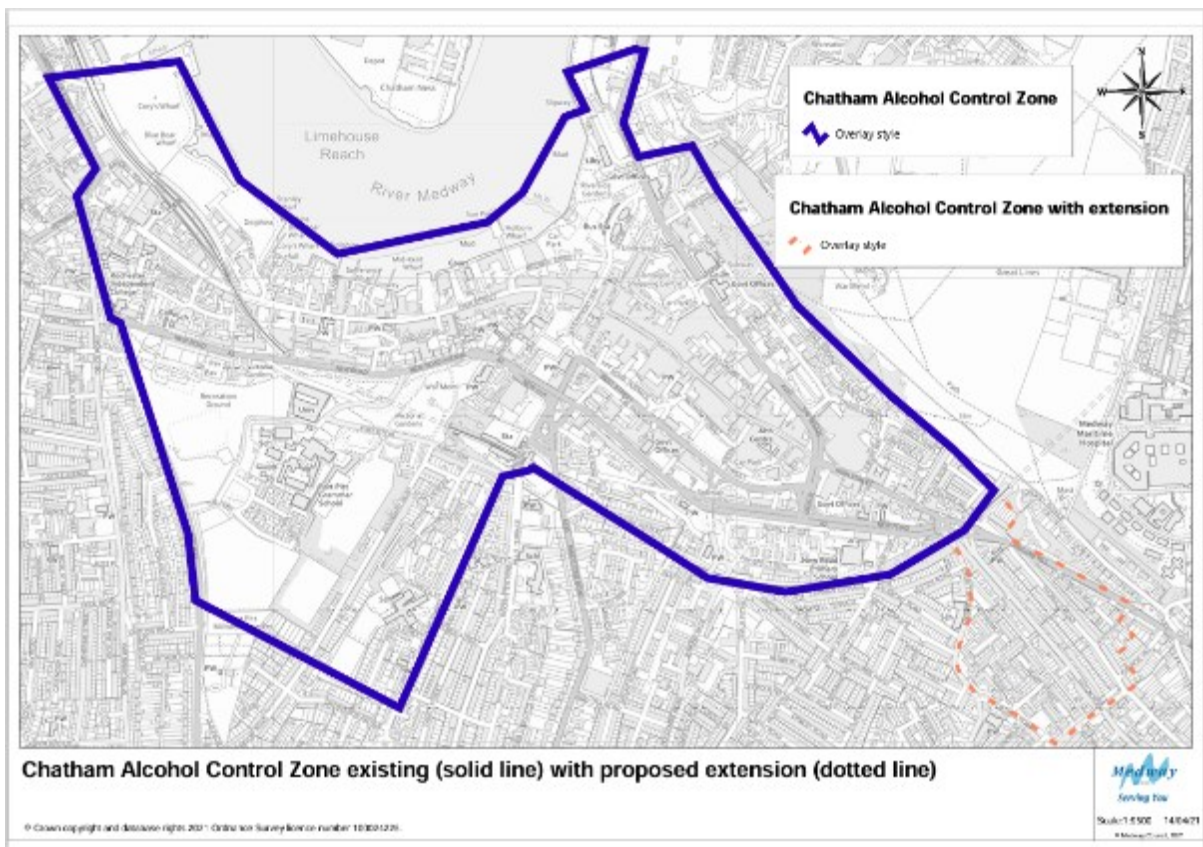


[Fort Pitt ward](#) is ranked 5 out of 24 wards in Medway where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best.

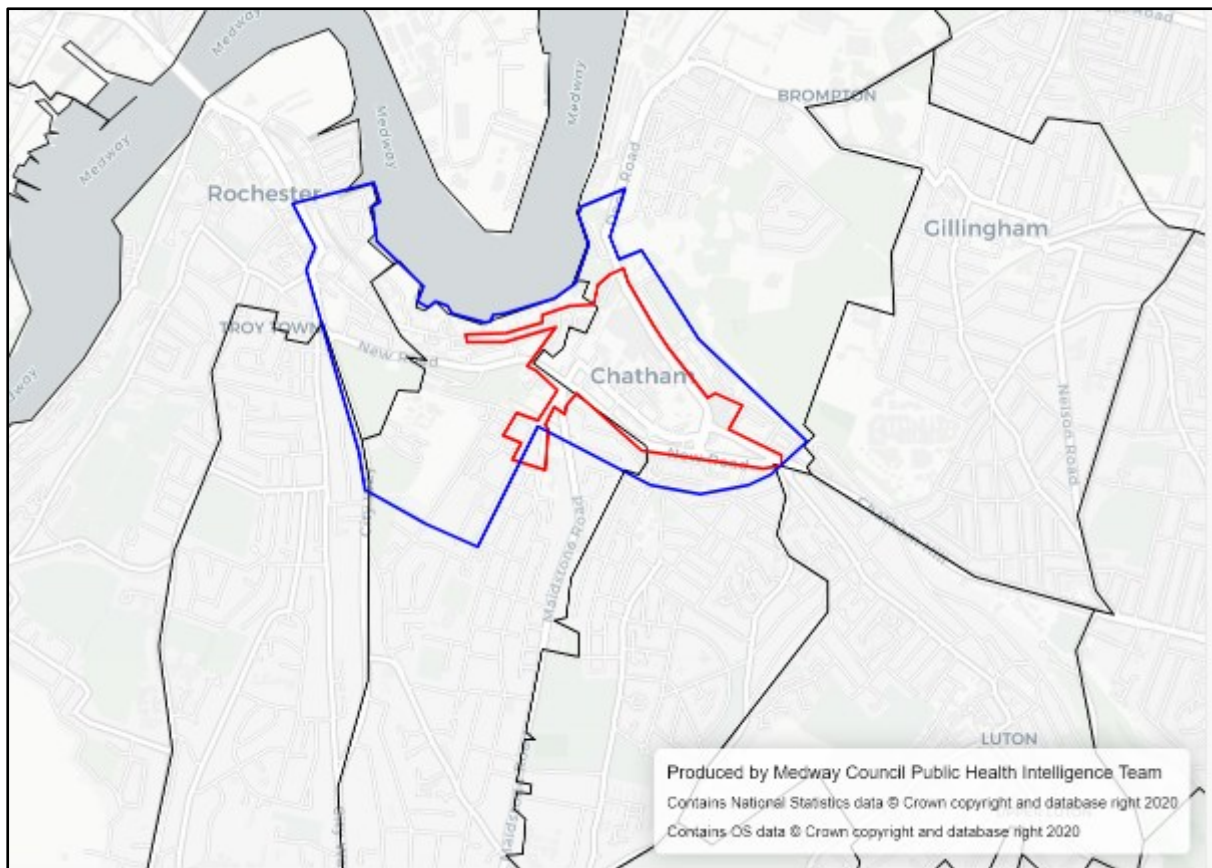


8.7 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), formally known as alcohol control zones, have been introduced in areas of Medway where there are proven issues with anti-social behaviour, some of which is alcohol related.



The Chatham CIP area is almost wholly within the Chatham PSPO.



8.8 ALCOHOL RELATED PUBLIC NUISANCE

Public Health has carried out ongoing monitoring of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Medway throughout the period of 2021 to 2023 since the last review of this policy. This includes evidence of alcohol litter, street drinking, urination and defecation and co-located drug use in areas of public drinking.

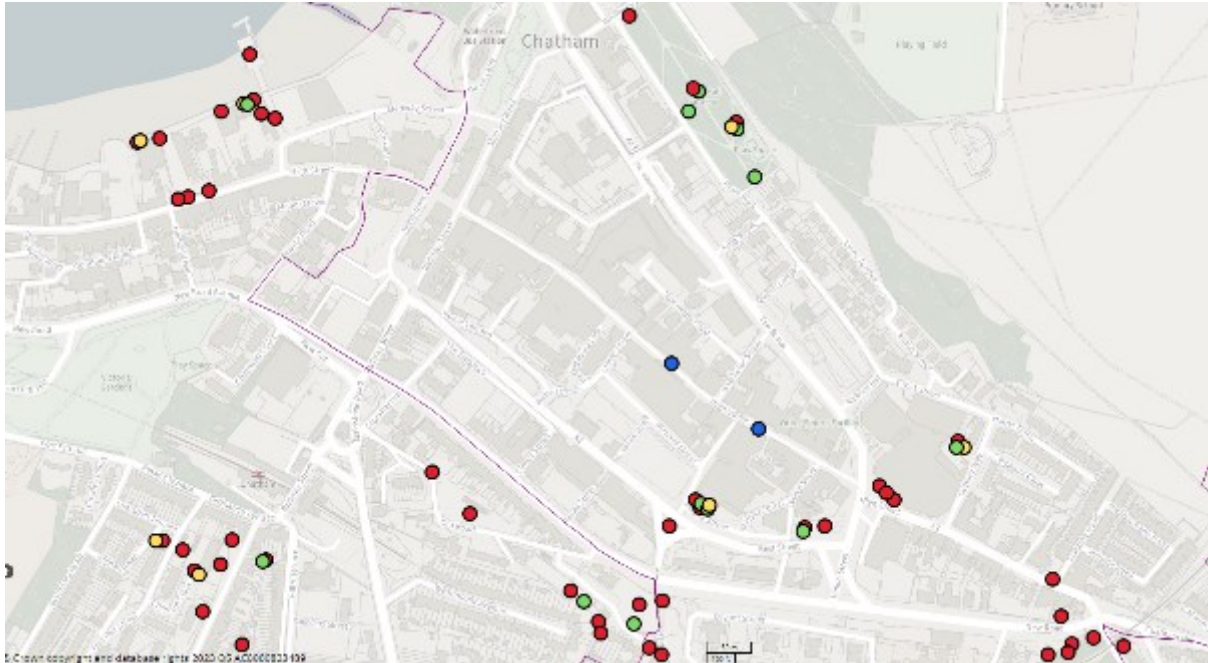
The following maps show the locations where alcohol related litter has been found (red dots) on more than one occasion by public health and environmental enforcement. Additionally, the maps show where street drinkers have been seen or reported (blue dots), drug litter found by public health staff or environmental enforcement (green dots), and human waste found in the same locations as the alcohol related litter (yellow dots).

Photographs have been provided to give an indication of the types of alcohol related litter, drug related litter and evidence of human defecation and urination found during the 3 year period covered. The photographs are not intended to be more than an indication of the type of litter in this area and are not representative of the amount that has been recorded during this time, which runs into thousands of separate items.

While there is evidence of areas where large quantities of litter is left, much of the litter consists of single cans and bottles. However, taken in totality, there is a large quantity of it throughout the area covered by the policy. It can be seen over the three year period the litter is ongoing and consistent in all the areas shown.

Public health staff also found drug related paraphernalia in several locations where street or public drinking was believed to take place in and around Chatham High Street. This consisted of discarded syringes, wrappers, discarded spoons (used during opiate consumption) and syringe caps. These were often co-located with alcohol litter.

8.8.1 2021



Ordnance Street



Jenkin's Dale



High Street



River Walk

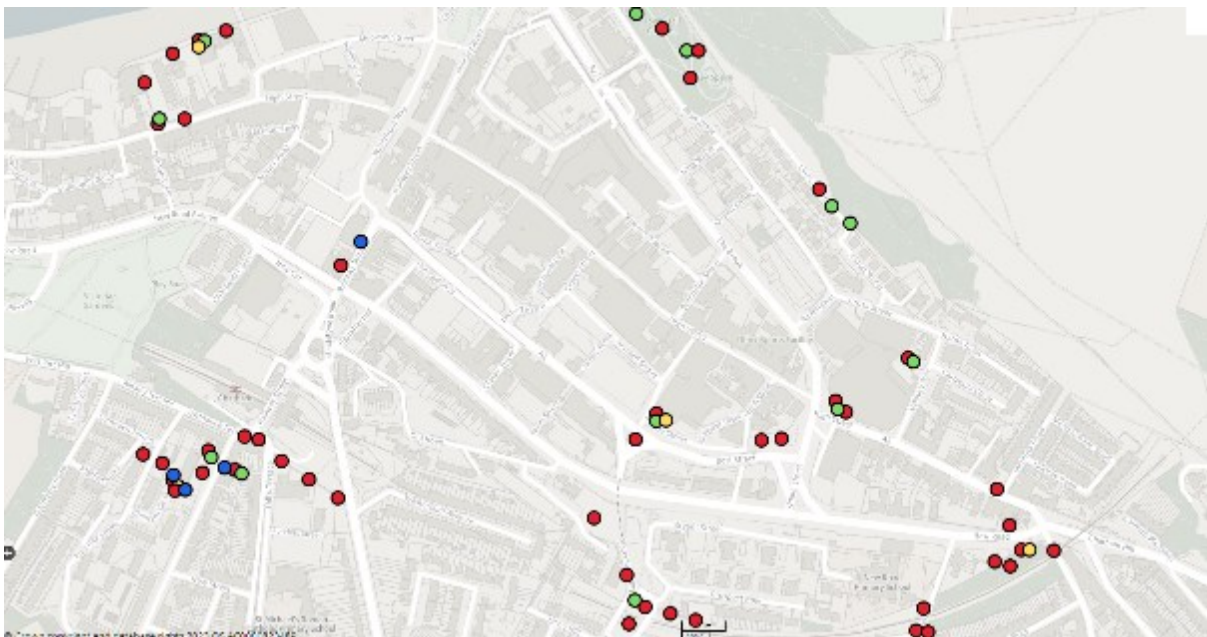


Town Hall Gardens





8.8.2 2022



Best Street area





Fort Pitt Road



High Street



River Walk



8.8.3 2023

Alleyway by Chatham Railway station



Jenkins Dale



Ordnance Street alleyway



8.9 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

8.9.1 2022 survey

8.9.1.1 Summary

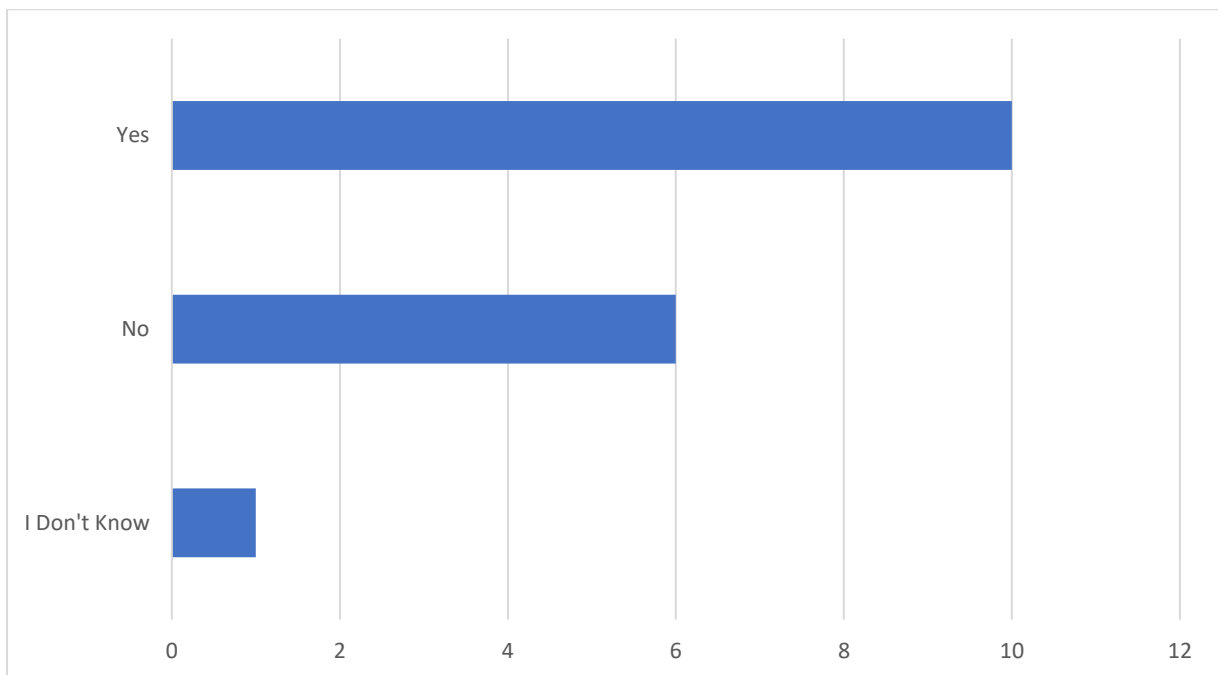
The majority of respondents said that licensed premises were contributing to alcohol related issues in the Chatham area. Issues such as littering, begging, anti-social behaviour, nuisance, and public drinking are experienced every day and at no particular time. Most people believed that off licenses contributed most to alcohol related issues, followed by pubs and bars. A majority believed that the number of licensed premises contributed to the alcohol related issues in Chatham.

8.9.1.2 Questions and replies

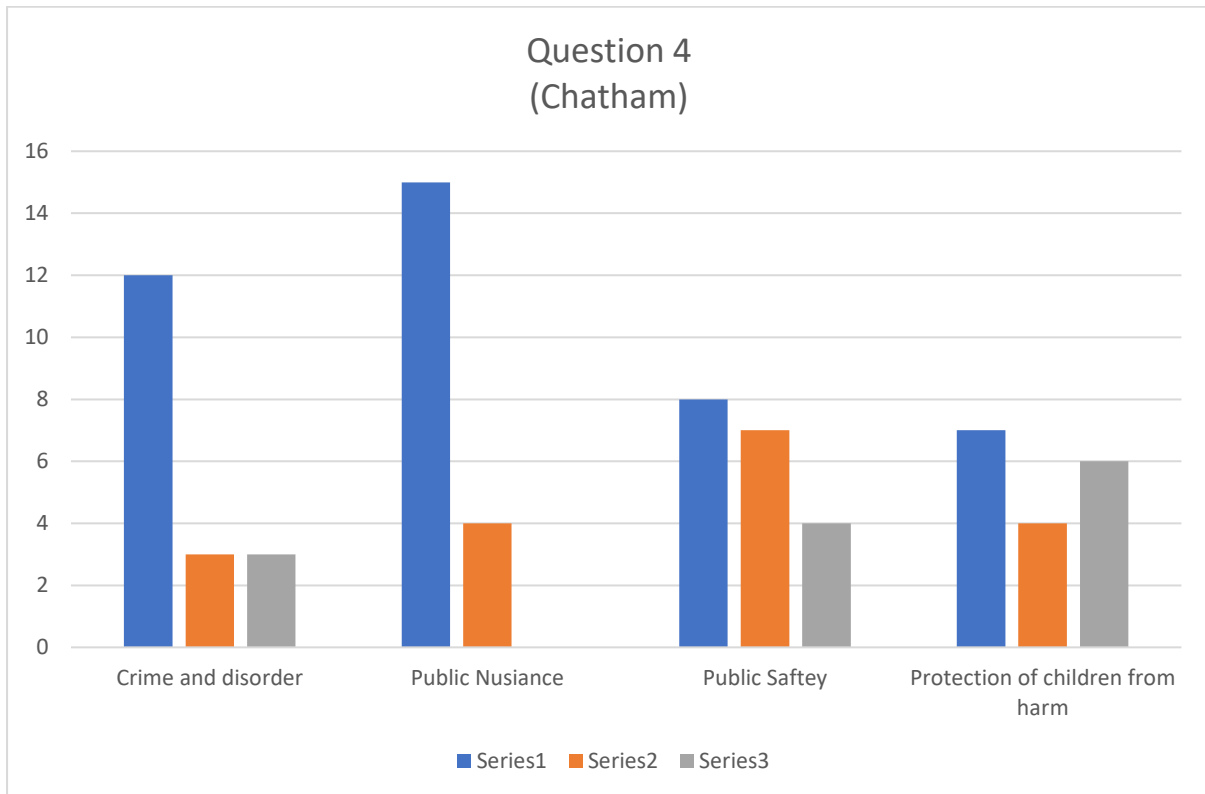
Question 2 – Please tell us which area in Medway you are talking about when responding to these questions. E.g. Chatham High St/Strood town centre/Hoo.

22 respondents stated they were talking about Chatham.

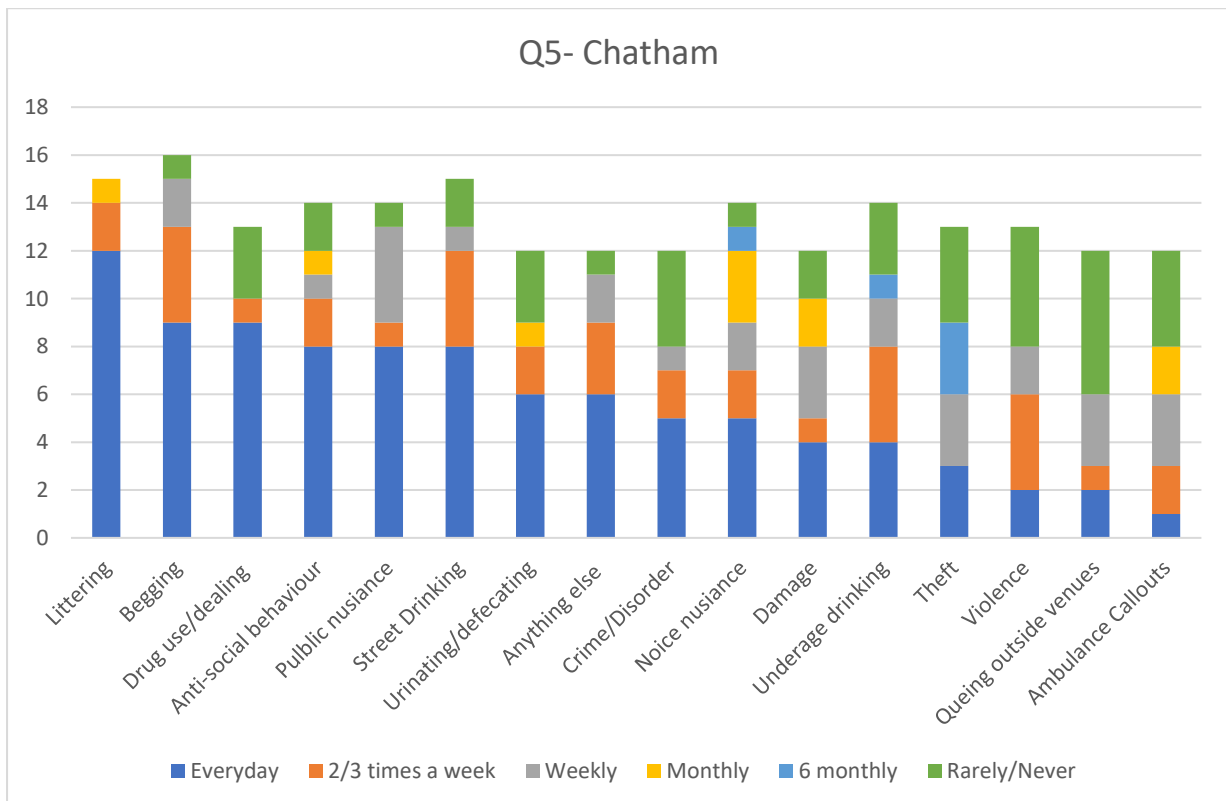
Question 3 – Are licensed premises such as Pubs/Nightclubs/restaurants in this area contributing to the alcohol related issues?



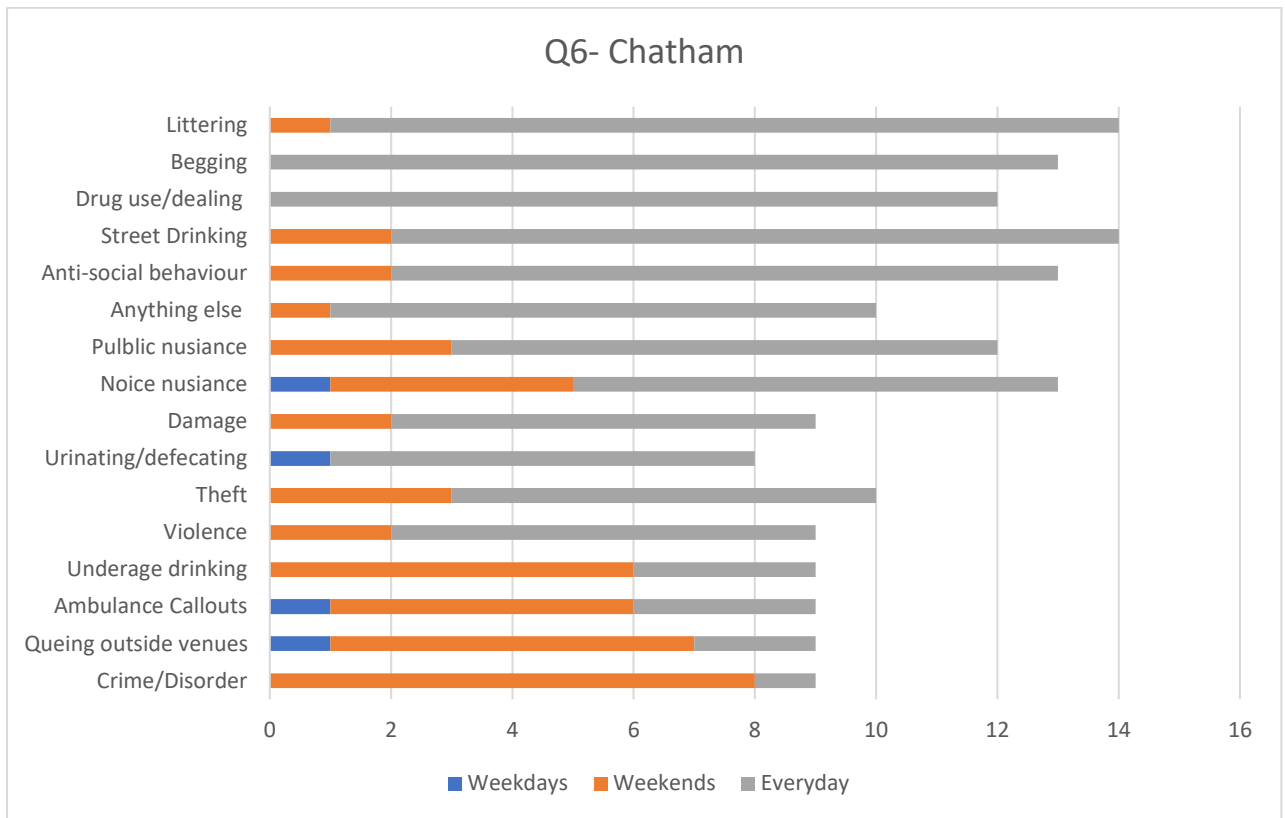
Question 4 - In your view have the customers of licensed premises in this area ever contributed to any issues relating to the four licensing objectives in the area you are concerned with?



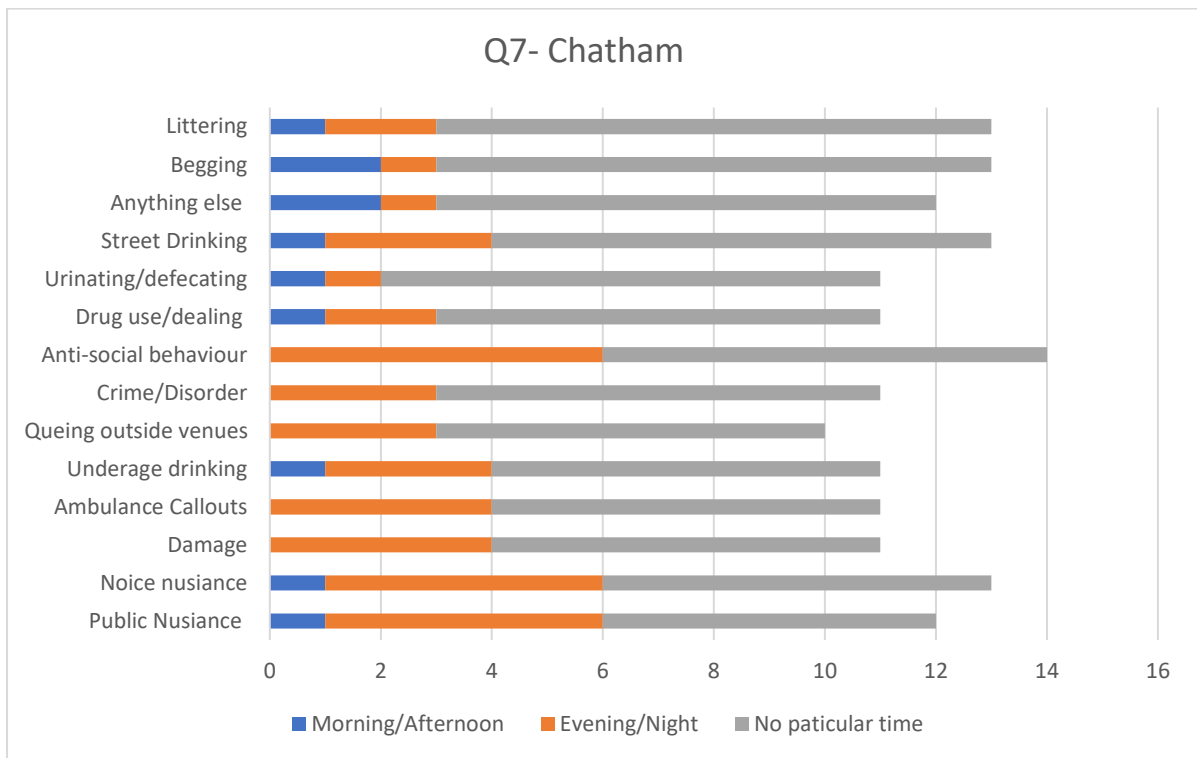
Question 5 - How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following alcohol related issues in the area you are concerned with?



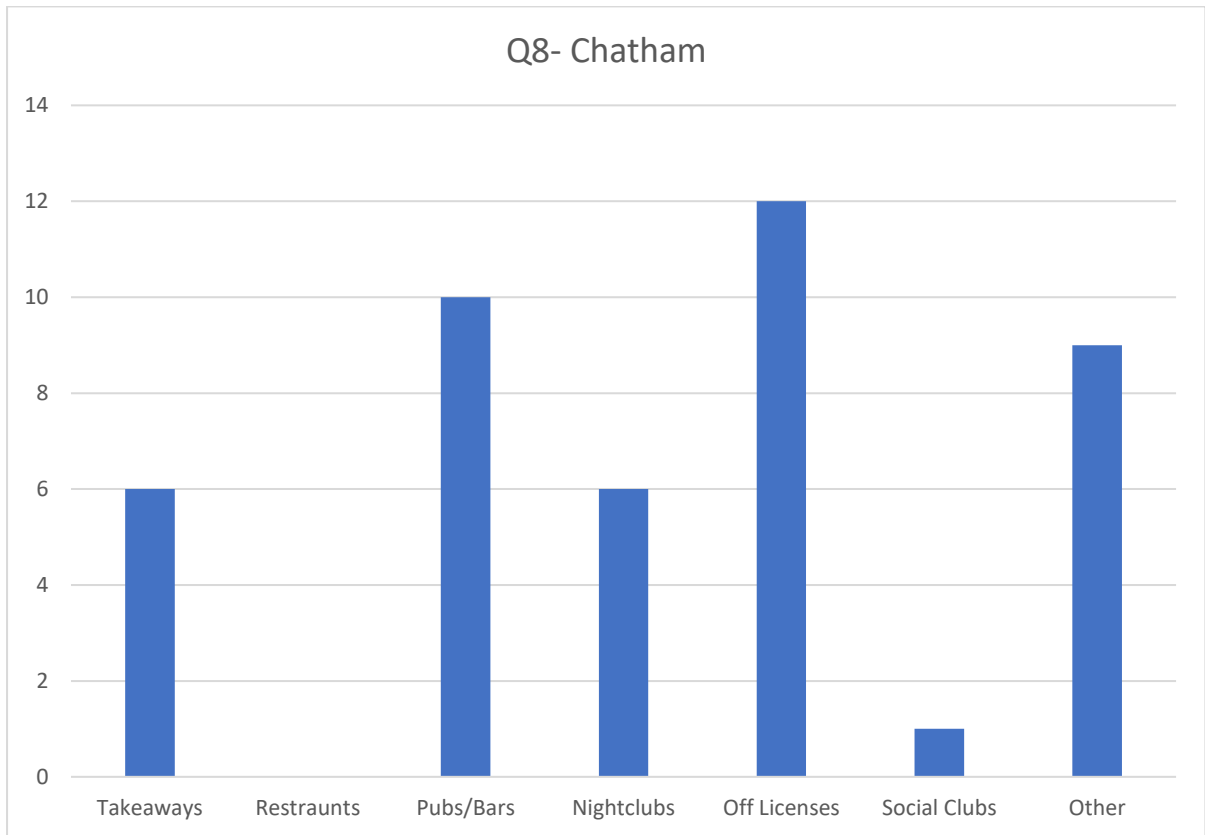
Question 6 - Are there any particular days of the week when these alcohol related issues happen?



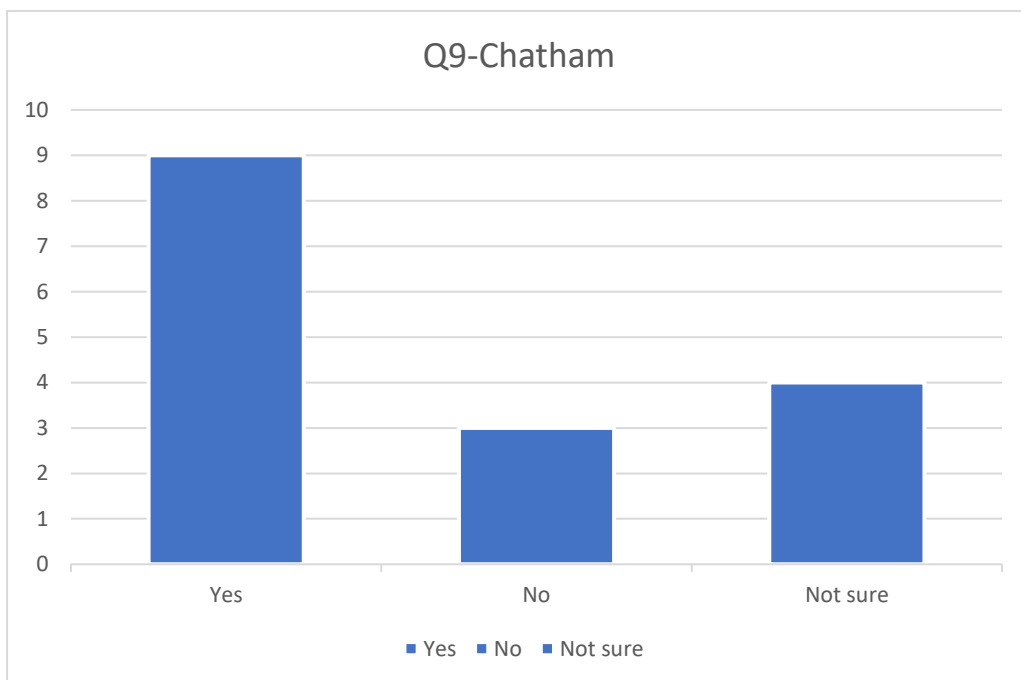
Question 7 - What time of the day are these alcohol related issues happening?



Question 8 - What type of premises are causing or contributing towards any alcohol related issues or problems?



Question 9 - Do you think the number of licensed premises in this area contribute to any of these issues?



Question 10 – Free text - Tell us about your experiences with alcohol related issues and the impact it has

- ‘Chatham is a no go area during day and night, the muggings, the litter, yobs gathering around, being pestered by foreign men’
- ‘Since the relaxing of the strict licencing and hours due probably to when we entered the EEC in the early 70's to make us "More European" with wine for meals easily obtainable, the regular alcoholics have had a field day with "Open all hours" day. So in the main shopping centre in Chatham despite the byelaws and signs relating to drinking in the streets, it goes on with begging also common there. In the past two trips no sign of law enforcement was seen. Locally around Luton Village discarding litter is a daily thing including small glass spirit bottles that get broken on pavements causing danger to pets and possibly humans. A curbing of giving out licences to all and sundry with encouragement to give up holding a drinks licence by higher insurances and stricter punishment on illegal selling could help but I fear this will never happen. Another method of drying out the people with drink problems with some discipline will fail because of "Human rights" clouding the issue. Society in general to work in a nice way needs this same discipline usually applied by good policing. This would make us a "Police State" by offenders and their Lawyers stopping that. In Medway a lot of Public Houses have gone making Off Sales more from all the fresh outlets so drinking on the streets more is easier in evidence now. Perhaps we should all have a passport to buy Alcohol which can be suspended if abused. No easy answer. CCTV need swift backup to work but too much reliability is placed on these.’
- ‘Begging and anti-social behaviour at all times of the day/night.’
- ‘The high street area of Chatham has a drink and drug problem which makes it very unpleasant for other residents and visitors. The amount of litter dropped by inconsiderate people is disgraceful. Particularly those drinking and leaving cans/smashed bottles all over the pavements and in Victoria Park and Jackson field. The homeless shelters on new road and the high street, while doing a good deed, attract a lot of drunks and drug takers that drop high strength beer cans, spirits and food wrappers. It’s particularly bad when caring hands provide people with food in plastic takeaway containers which are then discarded all over Chatham and surrounding areas.’
- ‘You cannot visit any of Medway’s towns without witnessing anti-social behaviour. Littering, drug dealing and taking, begging, theft, damage to property, foul language, drinking, young people being threatening, beggars constantly accosting you for money and swigging from bottles of drink in our high streets. Broken glass and the silver gas cannisters in our parks and playground areas.’
- ‘Always people screaming and shouting late at night. Broken glass everywhere !!! Have to be careful when walking my dog. Worry about children falling on it or small toddlers. Was asked for money the other day when walking back from taking my dog for a walk. All the rubbish from institution road/ path up to the great lines is appalling. Bins never emptied, then drunks start throwing it around. Seen rats up there where rubbish has been left and broken bottoms up the top of the path from institute road up to the great lines pathway. Broken bottles under the arches (roundabout) going up magpie hall road. Broken bottles on the bridge going over arches roundabout. Absolutely appalling!!’

- ‘Always people in Chatham high street sat around drinking and dealing in illegal drugs. The high street is quickly becoming a no go area. I hate having to go there to shop. The drinkers leave their cans and bottles all over the street and the whole area is filthy dirty. A very unpleasant area to be. The whole area needs to be regenerated’
- ‘Huge impact on mental well-being and feeling safe within the neighbourhood. Prostitution is very prevalent in this area. Alcohol abuse seems to progress to drug use and then many young and vulnerable young girls and women end up trapped in the cycle with the constant threat of violence through prostitution.’
- ‘Drug and alcohol abuse has impacted my neighbourhood and me personally in all the ways described in this survey. In addition this has had the knock on effect of increasing the amount of prostitution activity in the area. Within the Luton, New road and the entirety of Chatham town centre you can drive around and see numerous people street drinking. Usually these are cheap cans of beer and cider. They are often both individual and groups of people drinking at all hours of the day. Even at 7 o’clock in the morning you will see people loitering, sitting on a wall or ambling annoy with a can in their hand. Frequently I see a group of 4 or 5 men gathered together shouting and drinking. This is particularly concerning with school children frequently walking past. I have felt vulnerable on numerous occasions and have had issues concerning all the associated difficulties raised in this survey. It’s a thoroughly depressing state of affairs and if something can’t be done the cycle will continue to grow at an alarming rate.’
- ‘My home has become a prison because of the daily ASB, violence and noise outside. Whoever agrees these licences, along with the councillors in charge should be forced to live next to one of the many HMOs and bail hostels that this council have allowed to infect what was once a lovely community. I have not had a proper night's sleep for over 20 years because of this council’s maladministration. There is NO NEED for every convenience store, newsagent, petrol station and supermarket to sell alcohol.’

8.9.2 2023 survey

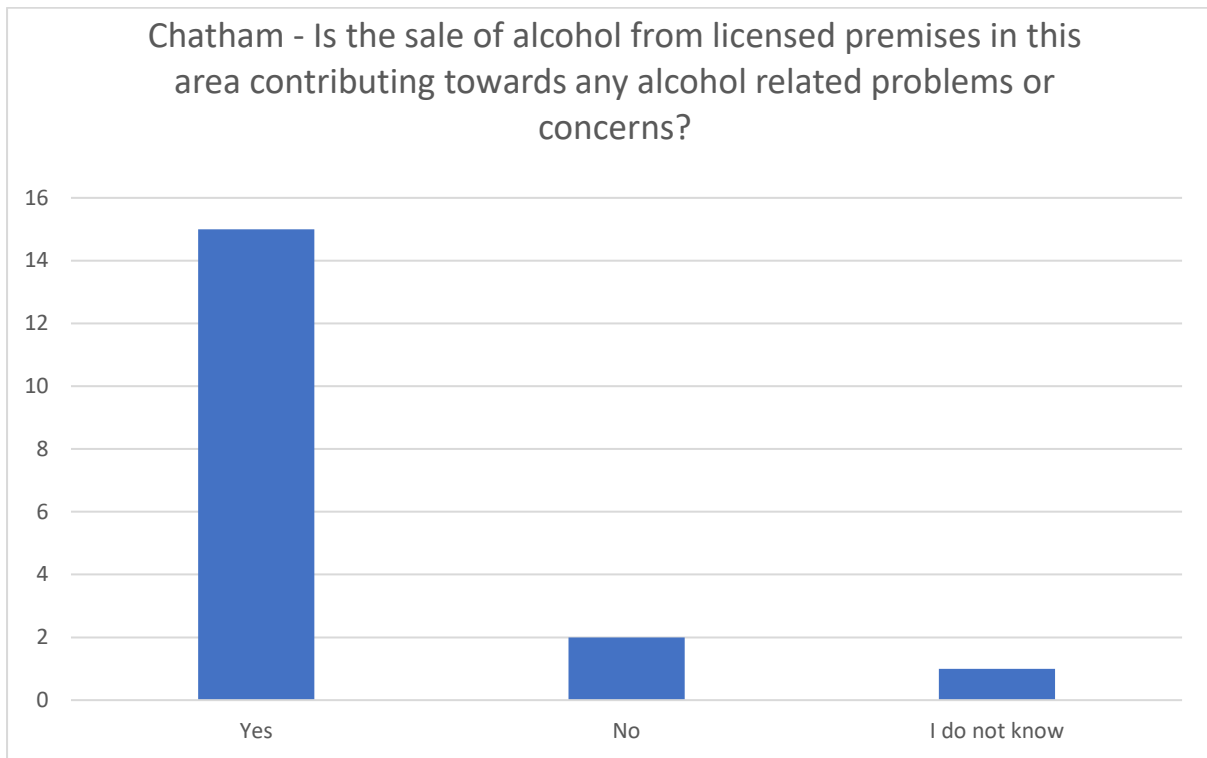
8.9.2.1 Summary

The majority of respondents said that licensed premises were contributing to alcohol related issues in the Chatham area. Issues such as littering, begging, anti-social behaviour, nuisance, and public drinking are experienced every day and at no particular time. Most people believed that off licenses contributed most to alcohol related issues, followed by pubs and bars. A majority believed that the number of licensed premises contributed to the alcohol related issues in Chatham.

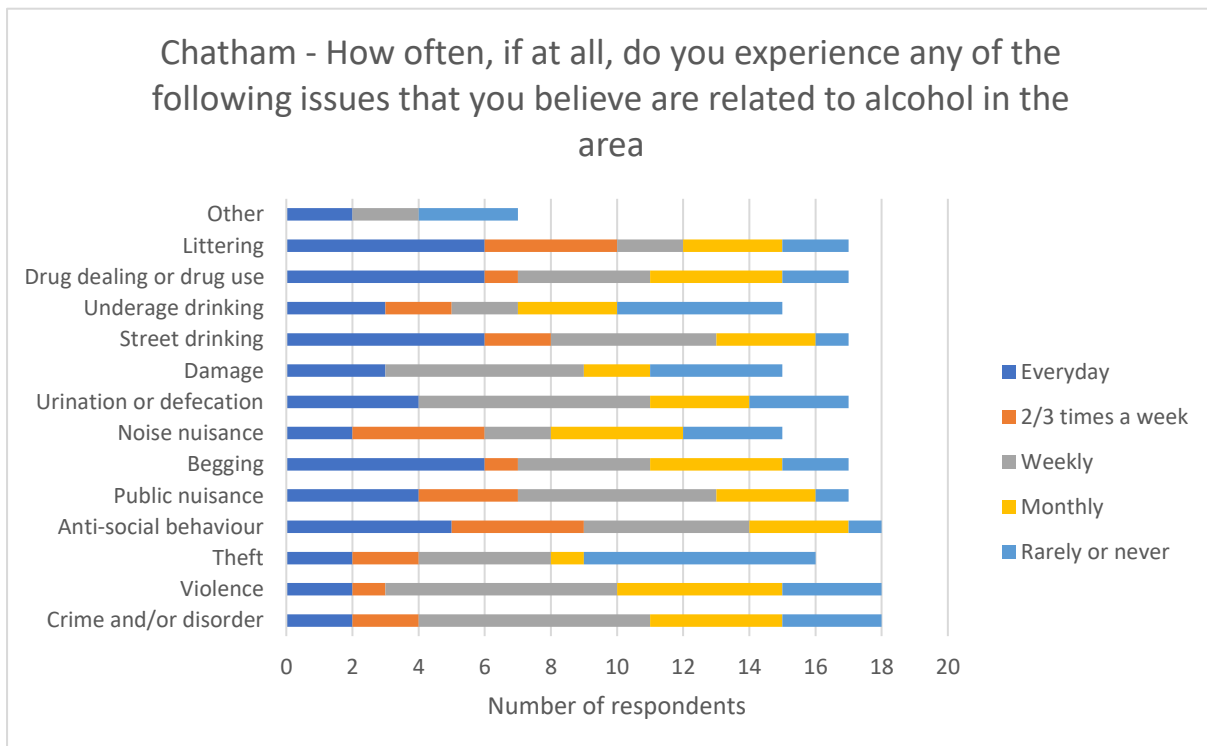
8.9.2.2 Questions and replies

A total of 18 people stated they were referring to Chatham in their responses.

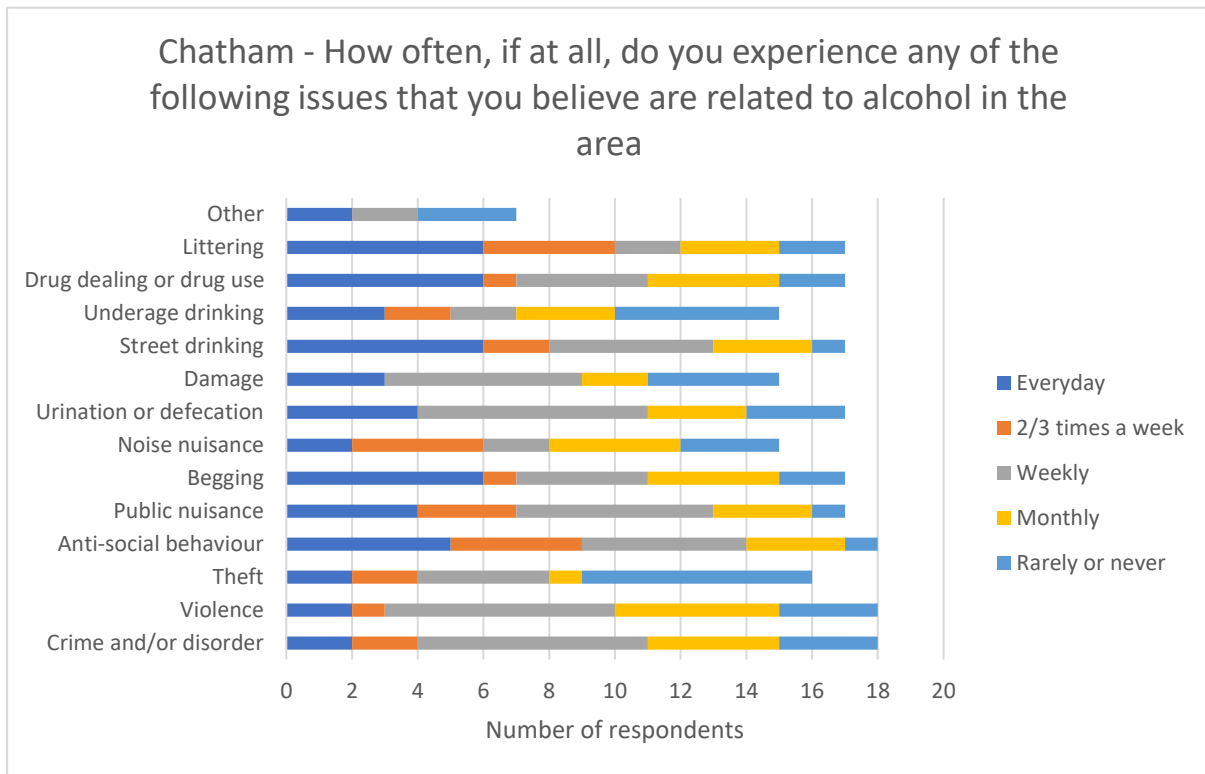
Q3 - Is the sale of alcohol from licensed premises in this area contributing towards any alcohol related problems or concerns?



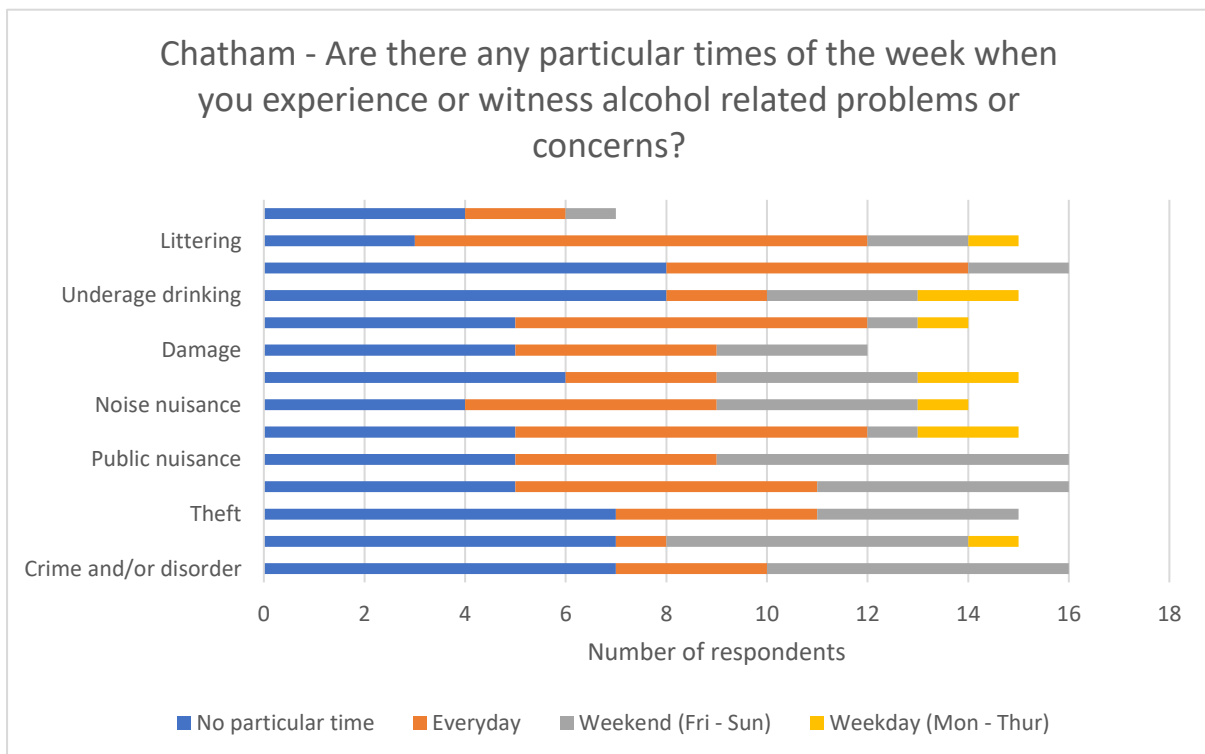
Q4 How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following issues that you believe are related to alcohol in the area



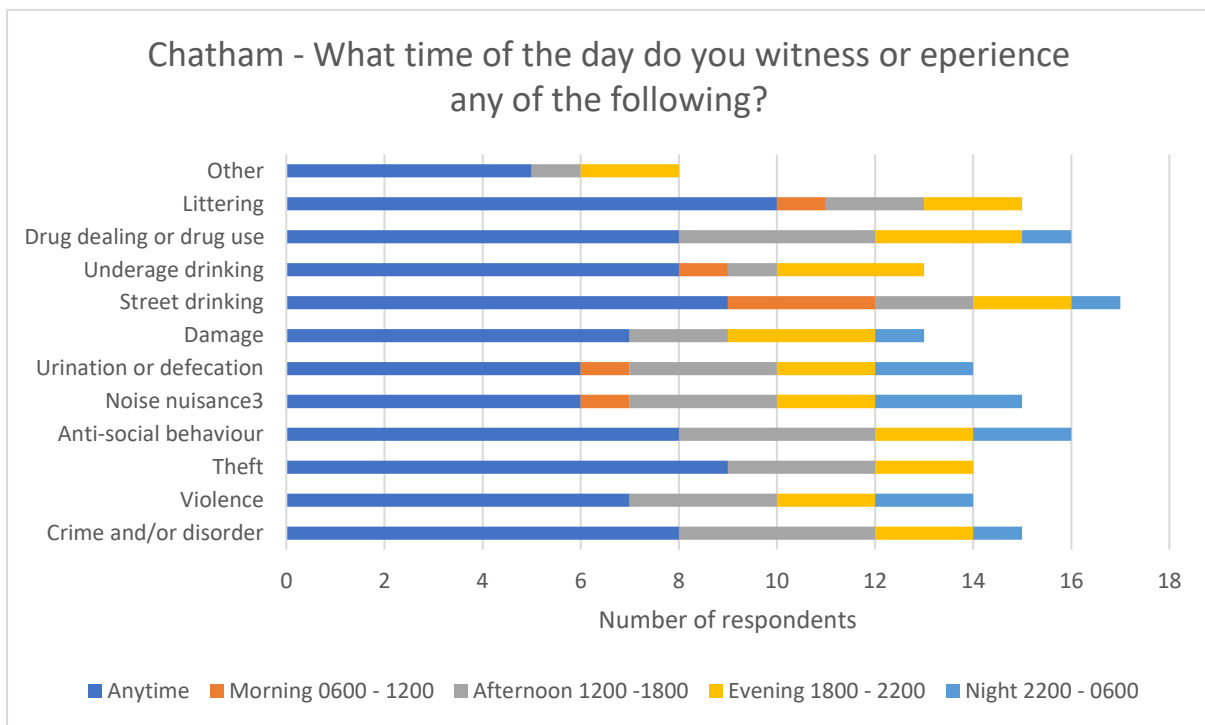
Q4 How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following issues that you believe are related to alcohol in the area



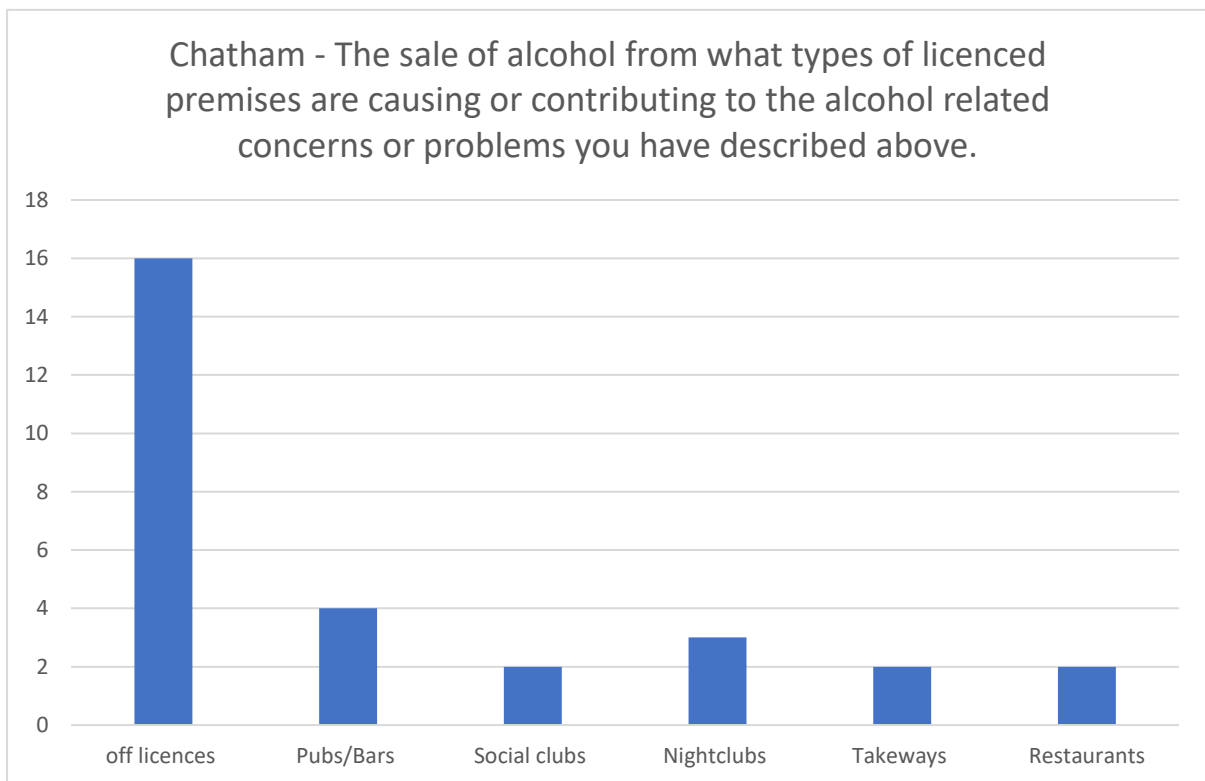
Q5 Are there any particular times of the week when you experience or witness alcohol related problems or concerns?



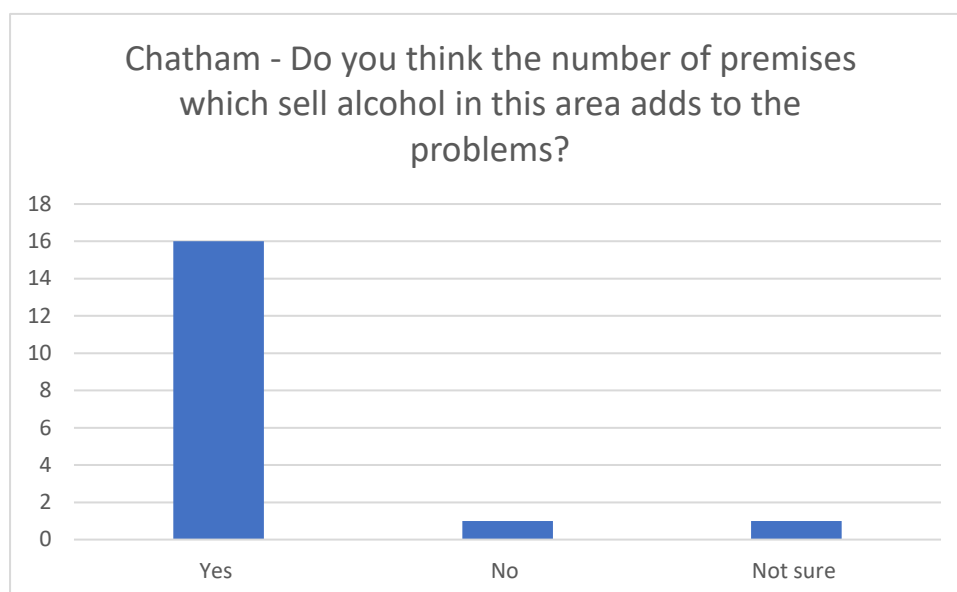
Q 6 What time of the day do you witness or experience



Q7 The sale of alcohol from what types of licenced premises are causing or contributing to the alcohol related concerns or problems you have described above.



Q8 Do you think the number of premises which sell alcohol in this area adds to the problems?



Q9 - Free text - This is your opportunity to have your say if you wish.

- There needs to be fewer places to purchase alcohol and vapes. The fundamental problem is the primary legislation at governmental level. Government knows the problem but chooses NOT to do anything about. Premises who sell vapes and alcohol should only get a 6 month licence at a time, which may be renewed if adherence to licencing policy is proven. If not they licence should be taken away from the licensee and premises. The off licence owners do not actually understand THEY are the problem.
- I am a support worker, I work with people with substance misuse issues and alcoholism. We are finding it harder to speak with our customers at any time of the day as alcohol is always available... one of our customers will walk 5 miles in the early hours to a garage where he will be served alcohol even though he is a well known alcoholic. We feel there should be some time restrictions in place like there are on Sunday.
- Not sure if 'off licences' in no.7 includes supermarkets and convenience stores. The availability of cheap alcohol in these shops is a problem.
- I would like to see more engagement with users, premises and businesses to better address the antisocial impact of alcohol. More enforcement visibility and projects to help residents deal with the impact of problem drinking.
- Many of the local off licences sell alcohol to underage children. I've reported to the police but they struggle to prove it as it depends who is serving. Chatham high street is dangerous, I've seen people openly selling and using drugs during the day. I've seen drug dealers selling from their cars near the theatre. There is a huge number of people who are homeless and drunk. I've seen teenagers in Kestral causing disturbances and harassing local people, they steal from the Tesco express and sit drinking unchallenged. I don't let my children go out alone in the evenings to the shop, I'm cautious and as much as possible avoid Chatham high street.

- Chatham high/Gillingham high street has got worse over the years, homeless, begging theft in shops ,worked in a high street store 23 years drink drugs theft constant problem , no police to help you had to defend yourselves!
- Less alcohol in every shop and put the prices up so people will stop drinking .
- We have a greater issue with drug dealing in most of the streets in our ward often these residents have an open house policy of drug buying and associated crime which is out of control, but alcohol is always the common factor, drunk dealers selling, buyers both men and women also visit in our street with cans of stella and openly get smashed in front gardens regularly whilst making so much noise especially in the dead of night. Its like a scene from the drunk living dead. and no one cares residents are petrified and although we have some police visits residents won't report anymore because they always get away with it. The issue in equal measure drugs and Alcohol.
- There is a lot of drug dealing even in daytime in alleyways and road. There are many drunks also and it is becoming normal for a whole street to have people stand outside dealing, drinking, making noise and intimidation with bikes.
- Alcohol being sold to those who are already drunk because staff are too scared not to. Increased violence and damage to property.
- There should be stricter controls on the venues that serve alcohol and more monitoring to make sure that noise and disturbance to residence is minimal
- Alcohol is very readily available in this area. There are shops on Chatham High Street, but also in the Luton area that sell alcohol. Often these shops sell cheap drinks - beers/ciders and even vodka - and there are places people can buy alcohol overnight. I have seen large gatherings of people near the former Gala Bingo and Go Outdoors sites. In the summer, the group outside Gala Bingo numbered around 10 at times, was loud and intimidating for passers-by. More recently, I have noticed a smaller group gathering near Go Outdoors, usually drinking together. I know of more than one occasion on which someone has been assaulted, including by Gala Bingo. Whilst I cannot be certain, I believe alcohol and/or drugs were part of the reason for the fight breaking out.

8.9.3 Focus Group

8.9.3.1 Summary

Luton Road/Chatham High St area focus group

The Focus Group was held with four people who all lived in this area. A member of public health staff moderated and asked the questions.

All participants agreed there were issues of crime, nuisance and anti-social behaviour associated with licensed premises in the Chatham High Street area. In Chatham it was confined to the customers of off licensed premises.

P1 to P4 – Participants.

Question – What effect does the sale and supply of alcohol have on, and within the community?

P1 – Well you see fights, shouting, screaming, smashed bottles, cans, and that's just on a good day.

Question - Where do you see this?

P1 – A lot of it is down the High St (pointing to Chatham on the map provided). The Bingo Hall, along side Tesco's and the stairs.

Question - The old Go Outdoors building

P1 – Yes.

P2 – That alley between the New Road and the High Street, that was the pub

P3 – The Crown.

P2 – There was a fella when I walked through this morning with his tin.

Question - What do you see them drinking?

P1 – vodka, cans, just anything they can get their hands on basically.

Question – How does it make you feel as you're walking around?

P1 – I'm used to it. So it's just ... It's not a nice look. Let's put it that way. You're trying to make this a nice town, it's just ... no. It's just not very good. It's not a nice look and obviously if you're female, and you've got small children you're more likely to worry. You know, I've had small children, but weirdly, I live [lower Chatham High St area] which is a square and 2 thirds rented [***] and the children are safe. It's ironic as we had the police round so often, and the ambulance. Every now and again we had a fire engine. But the police round once or twice a week, ambulances as we saw on Tuesday. 2 at once. It's entertainment. But it's not a nice place to be if you were to come and visit.

Question – Where are the main dwell areas for drinking? Where are they?

P1 – The Luton Millenium Green, although now they've cut it back it's less visible.

Question - Do they use the Millenium Green to drink?

P1 – Yeah. Drink and drugs.

P3 – Only a point to collect.

P1 – You'll see people going in to the bushes. Town Hall Gardens.

Question - Have you seen people drinking in Town Hall Gardens?

P1 – I haven't been there for a while, so no. But there's litter there.

P3 – Short Street, Luton shoppers car park.

P1 – By the flyover.

P2 – I don't think it's outside so much. It's alcoholics indoors around my way that I'm aware of.

P1 – I know the footbridge they sit either side of that. The New Road side.

P2 – And the bingo.

Question - Yes you can walk over there [bridge] and see cans and bottles on the steps.

P4 – You see them on the embankment by the railway where they've been thrown.

P3 – R2 mentioned the bingo. That's a big area.

P2 – And the bus stop. The bus stop shelter by the bingo and then the steps.

Question - other people have told me about this.

P4 – It's been quite recent, in the last couple of months. Probably this year. Before it wasn't as bad but now ...

Question - Is that because it's closed?

P3 – Yes. It's sheltered. That pavement isn't used a great deal. It's nearby to places that sell.

P2 – There's a shop 2 doors up.

P4 – You see people going in and out of there.

P3 – It's normally occupied by the usual suspects, as I would call them. The people well known to the authorities. It's a point for those extremely vulnerable people. 2 or 3 times I've seen someone collapsed there and a member of the public on the phone to an ambulance.

P3 – At some point they prised open the door to the building and got in the gap. It's literally a foot, between the glass doors and the roller shutters. That is a hot spot at the moment.

P5 – That's a bad one.

P1 – Sometimes you get some of the people that live on the other side of the footbridge, on this side of the footbridge, by the flats and congregate at the bottom and have a drinking session. They usually use the bins.

Question – You've got the areas [CIP areas on map]. We've vaguely discussed the expansion of the Chatham one. What's your view on the area, bearing in mind it's about controlling any new applications in the area. Have we got the areas about right?

P1- definitely we need that expansion to include the follies. The 3 follies.

Question - Is that what we're calling it?

P2 – That's what R1 calls it.

Question - so the new area by the bus station.

P2 – It would be silly not to have it included.

All agreed.

P2 – because why let that be a pocket that isn't ...?

P1 – and it needs to go along to the Pier as well. To include B&M, as that will change to another folly.

Chat about the Intra area.

Chat about inclusion of on licence – agreement the Chatham and Luton areas don't need on licence added.

Question - So you still think off licences are valid. No on licences?

All agreed.

Question – Baring in mind this has been in place since 2018 and it does not effect the licensed premises currently in place, do you still feel over the years [...] have things improved, got worse, stayed the same?

P1 – They've not got better.

P4 – I think on a location specific level have become worse. The Buzz Bingo.

P1 – It's shifted.

R2 – It's fluid. You know you find a new good spot so your mates come there, and then there's a concerted effort to keep moving you on so you find somewhere else.

P1 – That is what happened. For many years until we started working up there the place to go was the Millenium Green, but we've slowly pushed them out of there and they find new areas. Some still use the Millenium Green. They use further in the bushes. So they so move and find new places. Buzz Bingo is the classic. It's the one they go to now.

P3 – On Luton Road my experience of the challenge is that it's stayed the same, but I'm aware behind the scenes that the policy has prevented it from getting worse.

All agreed.

Question - Do you think that's been the result of the policy

P1 – Yes

P3 – Otherwise those premises would be there.

P1 – You have the pizza place, which would then have converted to buy 10 cans of beer and get a free pizza.

P3 – and there's a couple examples of that where alcohol is arguably too available as it is, but the policy can't work to effect current availability.

P4 – its difficult work in retrospect

P3 – but it's held that challenge and prevented it from slipping further, which is what is was intended to do.

P4 - it hasn't got worse it's either maintained the same or, as you say, new places haven't popped up.

Question - and you think that would have made things worse?

All agreed

P4 – definitely

P1 – horrendous

P4 – if it's already bad enough now just imagine other establishments as well then without the policy.

APPENDIX C

9 GILLINGHAM CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 SUMMARY

The evidence shows there is a concentration of off licensed premises in and around the Gillingham Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) area. The CIP borders some of the most deprived areas in Medway, which is relevant to alcohol related harms. Both Gillingham South ward and Gillingham North ward, are deprived in both health and crime domains, with Gillingham South being one of the most deprived areas of Medway. Watling ward also borders the CIP area and is deprived in the crime domain.

Gillingham South ward is ranked 2 for admission episodes for alcohol-specific hospital admissions, where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best, and Gillingham North is ranked 4. Watling ward is ranked 14.

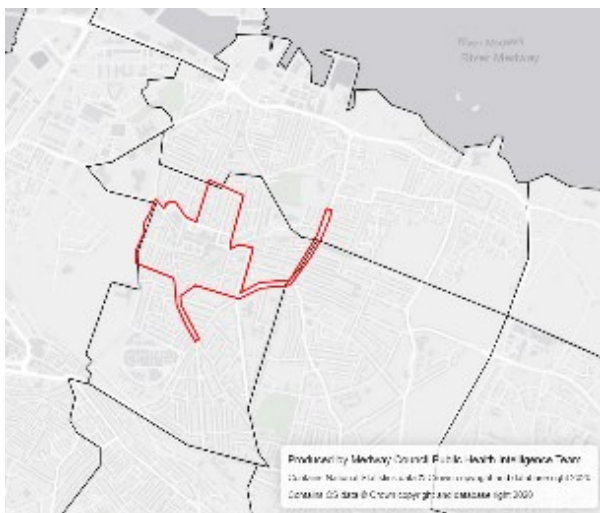
The Gillingham Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which has been introduced due to issues with anti-social behaviour covers the majority of the Gillingham CIP area.

There is extensive evidence of alcohol related nuisance in the form of alcohol related litter, public urination and defecation, street drinking and co-located drug litter. This is evidenced by both the observations of public health staff and the community.

Community evidence concerning the effect the sale of alcohol and its use has on the community is shown by the responses to the 2 public surveys in 2022 and 2023. Both highlighted alcohol related anti-social behaviour, nuisance and crime as issues.

9.2 INTRODUCTION

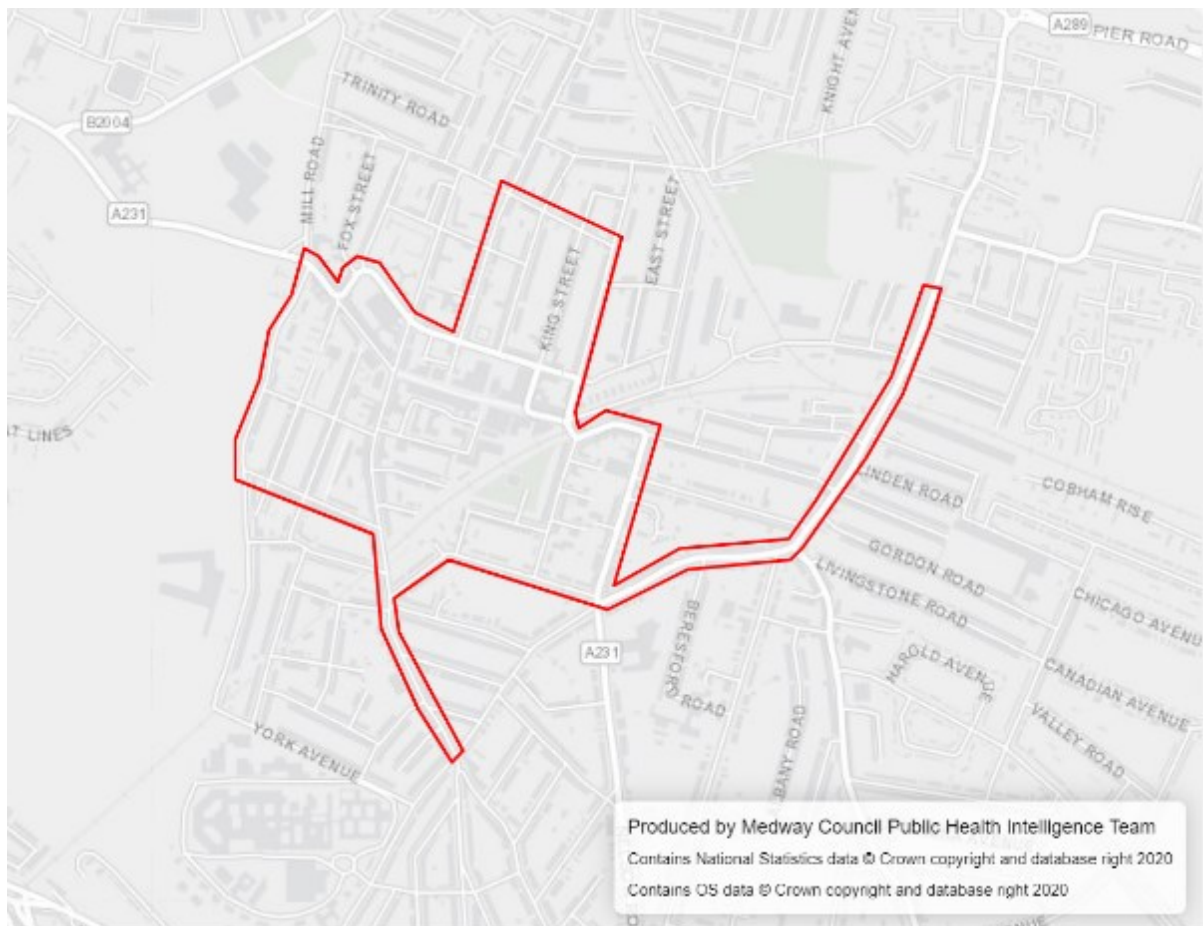
This report outlines alcohol related harms in and around Gillingham High Street area. The policy area is almost exclusively within Gillingham South ward, with small areas in Gillingham North and Watling wards. However, the effects from the sale of alcohol can be experienced beyond the outline of the policy area, as will be shown below.



The evidence presented below covers

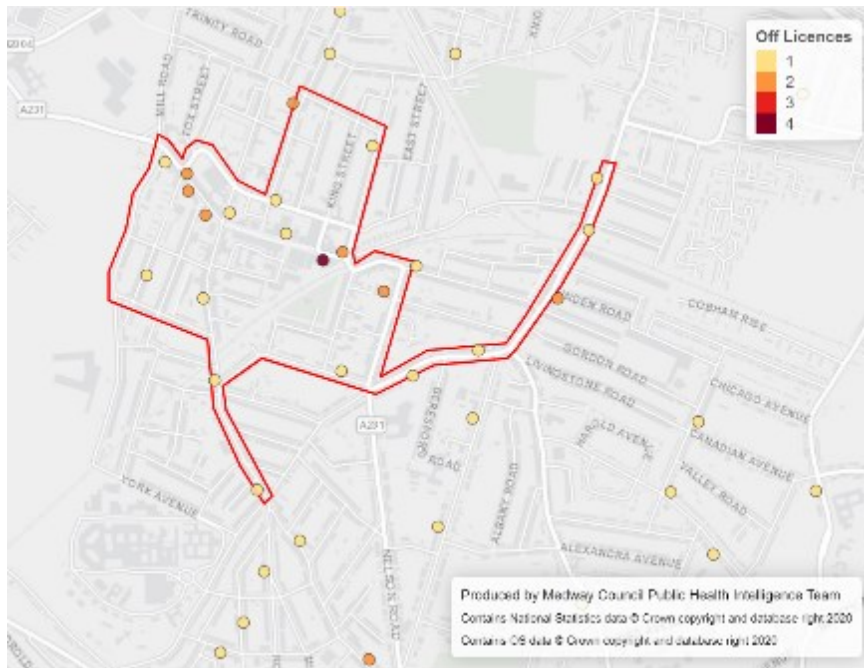
- Deprivation
- Alcohol related hospital admissions
- Public Space Protection Order
- Public nuisance in the form of
 - o street drinking,
 - o alcohol litter
 - o drug litter
 - o human waste
- Community comments

9.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACT AREA



9.4 LICENSED PREMISES

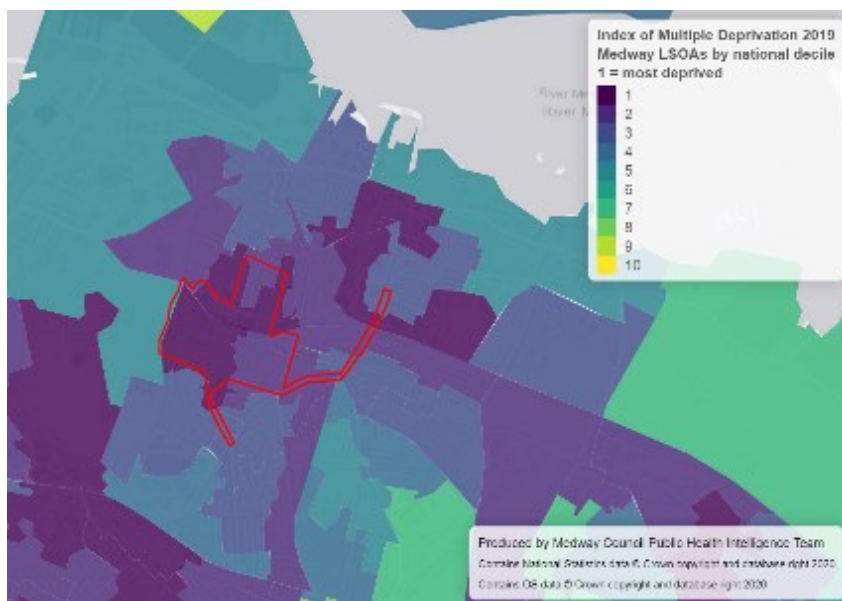
The below map shows the locations of premises which currently have an off licence in and around the Gillingham CIP area.



9.5 DEPRIVATION

The Gillingham CIP area borders some of the most deprived areas in Medway.

Deprivation is relevant to the issue of alcohol outlet density. In 2014 Medway Public Health commissioned a study into alcohol use in Medway. The result - Medway Alcohol: Insight - identified there was a clear link between alcohol related harms, hospital admissions, alcohol related crimes and deprived areas where there is a density of licensed premises.



'Indices of Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation are a unique measure of relative deprivation at a small local area level (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England. These bring together a range of data sets and are published in a linked set every 3-4 years. The latest set of indices were published in 2019.

The [Indices of Deprivation](#) consist of the following seven themes: Income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing & services and the living environment.

Medway is ranked in the 30% most deprived local authorities nationally in the 2019 Indices of Deprivation (IoD), in 2015 it was ranked in the 37% of most deprived local authorities nationally. Medway is ranked 93rd most deprived local authority of 317 in England in the latest indices.

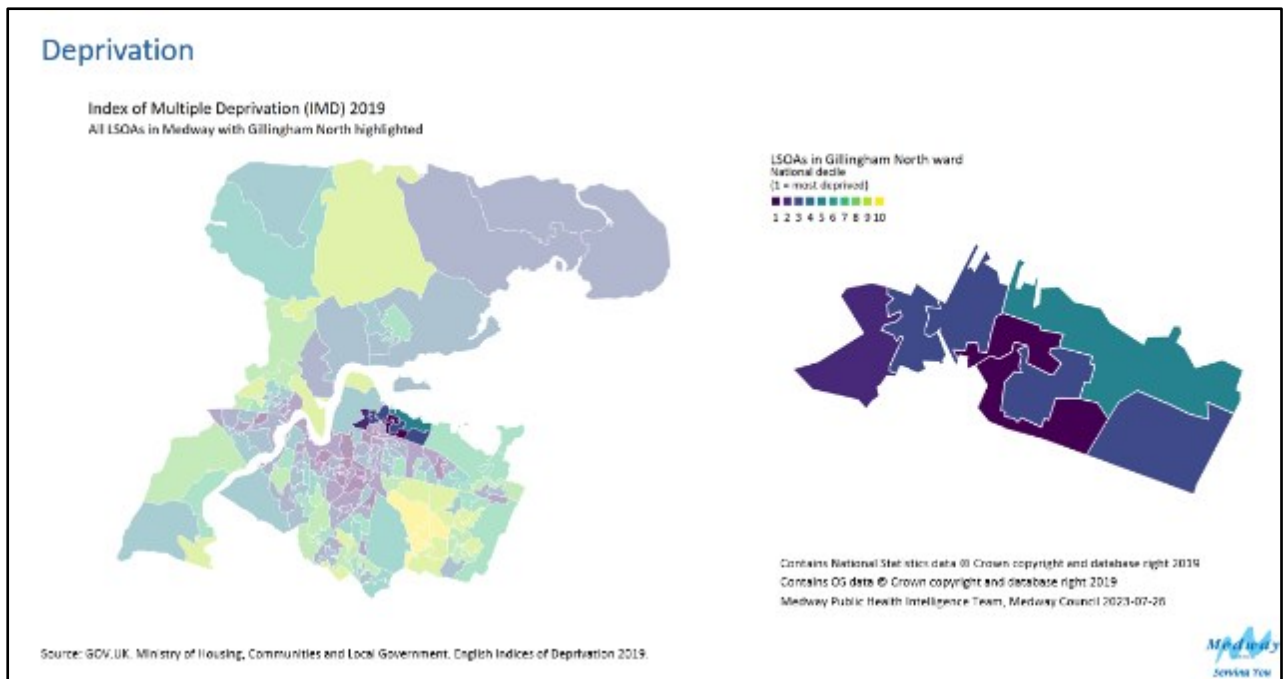
Medway has fourteen neighbourhoods ranked in the 10% most deprived and thirty-seven in the 20% most deprived nationally.

Medway appears to fair worst in the crime domain, ranking in the most deprived 10% of local authorities nationally for crime.

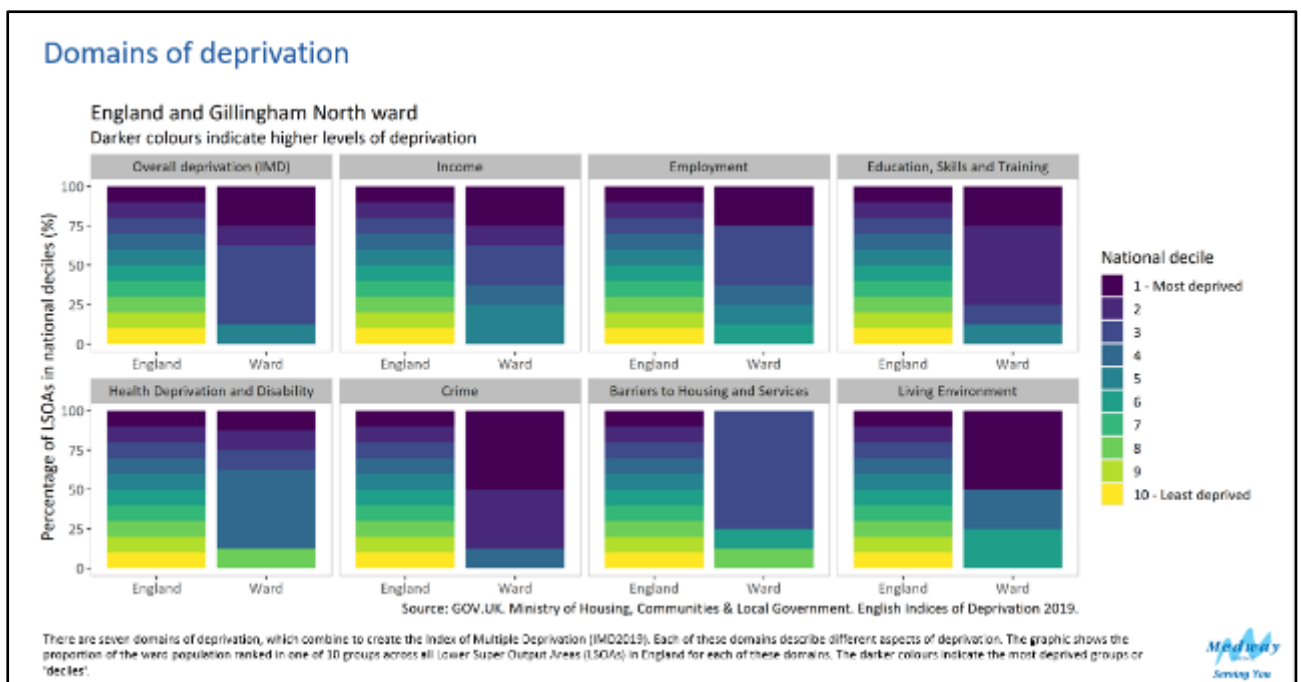
Medway has an additional two areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an additional five in the most deprived 20% nationally since the IoD 2015.'

There are seven domains of deprivation, which combine to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019). Each of these domains describe different aspects of deprivation. The graphic shows the proportion of the Medway population ranked in one of 10 groups across all Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England for each of these domains. The darker colours indicate the most deprived groups or 'deciles'.

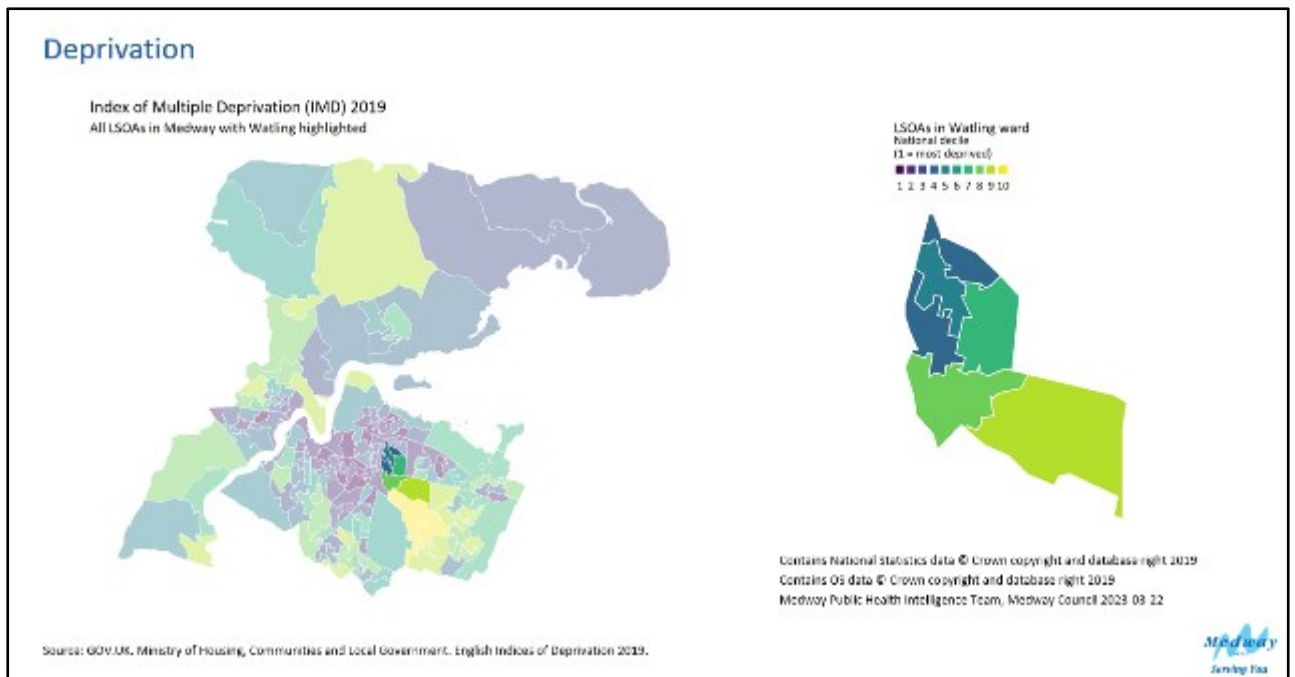
Gillingham North ward – [Indices of deprivation](#)



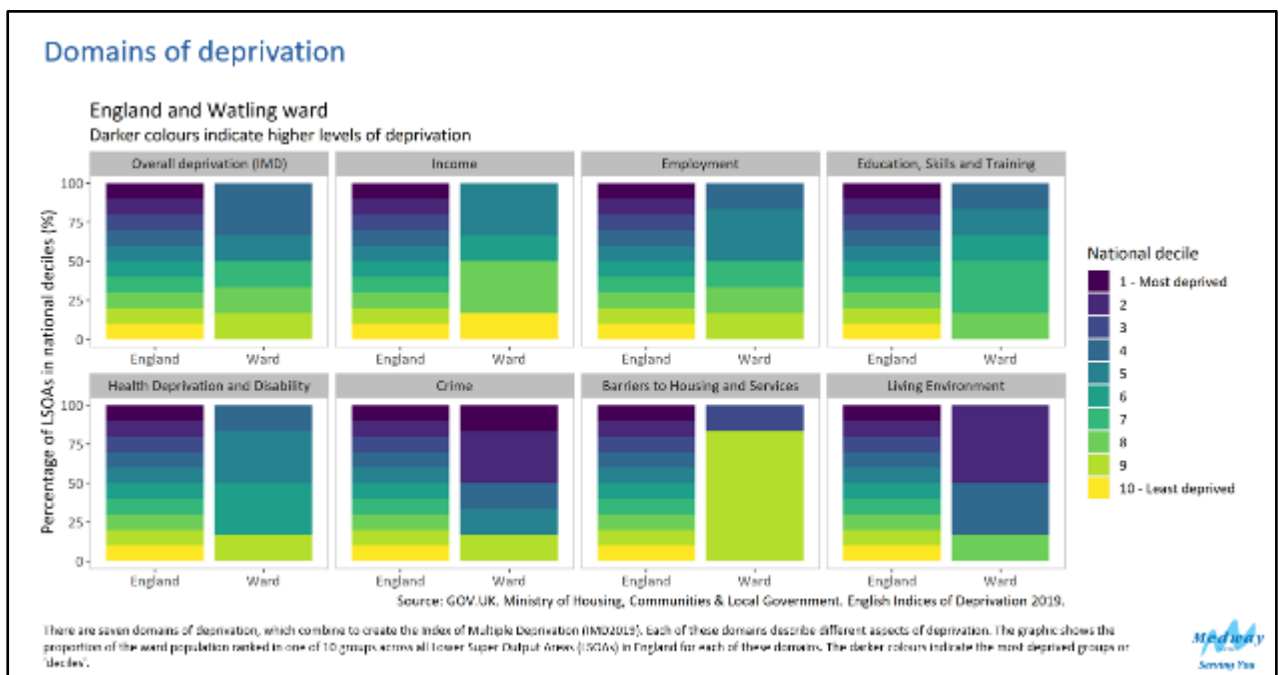
Taking each domain separately it can be seen that Gillingham North is deprived in both the health and crime domains.



Watling ward - [Indices of deprivation](#)



Taking each domain separately it can be seen that Watling is deprived in the crime domain.



9.5.1 Health deprivation

Both [Gillingham South](#) and [Gillingham North wards](#) have high levels of health deprivation as shown in the domains of deprivation graphic above.

[The Medway Monitoring Report 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022](#) states the following:

‘Medway ranks in the 38 % most deprived local authorities nationally for health. Seven areas rank in the most deprived 10% nationally for health and 20 rank in the most deprived 20% nationally.

Health deprivation is measured as the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.

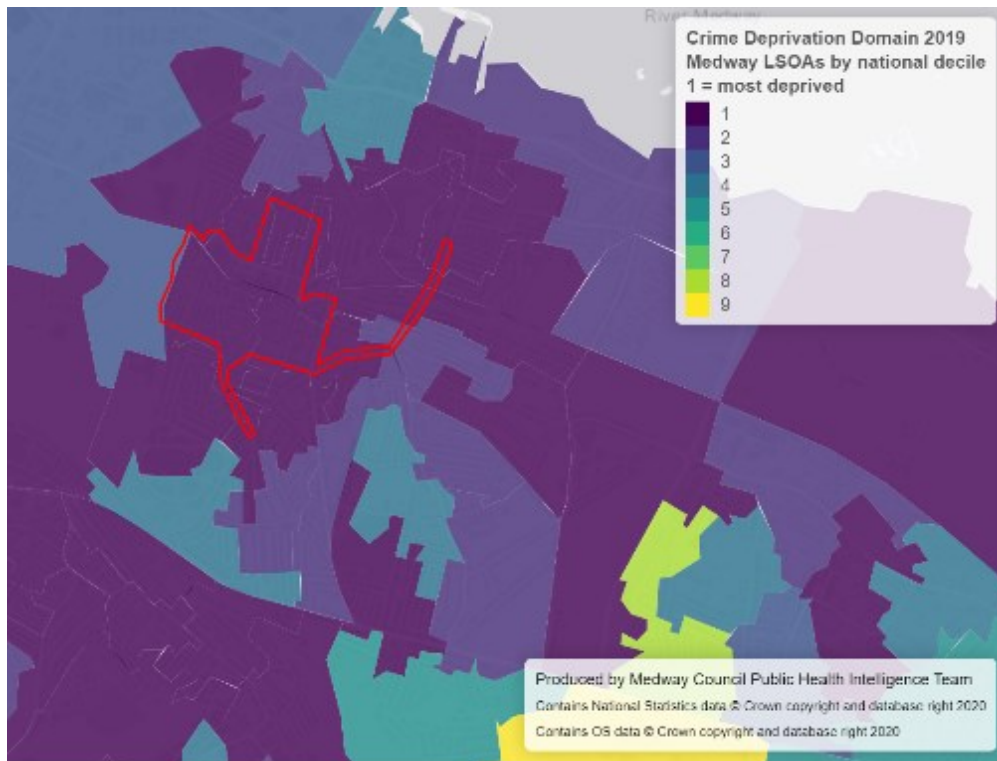
There has been a relative worsening in health deprivation, with Medway seeing an extra four areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an extra eight areas in the most deprived 20% nationally. While the most severely affected areas for health deprivation are spread across a number of wards in Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester, Gillingham North stands out as having two areas in the most deprived 10% for health, while River stands out as having the most deprived area for health in Medway. Medway’s most deprived area – located in River Ward overall for multiple deprivation is ranked in the most deprived 1% of neighbourhoods for health nationally.’

The below map (pre 2023 ward boundaries) shows health deprivation in and around the Gillingham CIP area. The darker blue shows the most health deprivation.



9.5.2 Crime deprivation

Gillingham South, Gillingham North and Watling wards all have high levels of crime deprivation as shown in the domains of deprivation graphic above.



Crime and the prevalence of crime is a public health issue. Crime is part of the wider determinants of health as it effects people’s physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Certain types of crime are more associated with alcohol consumption than others. Among crimes that are regarded as being ‘[alcohol related](#)’ are

- Violence including wounding and assault with or without injury
- Verbal and physical abuse
- Sexual offences including abuse and assault
- Harassment
- Domestic abuse
- Public disturbance and nuisance including street drinking, noise, littering, public urination and defecation and intimidation
- Harms to children including assault, witnessing violence and all types of abuse
- Driving offences including drink driving

Research from [The Office for National Statistics](#) states that victims perceived an offender to be under the influence of alcohol in 53% of violent incidents; a proportion which has remained consistent during the last 10 years.

Research has also shown that access to off licensed premises, such as convenience shops and supermarkets, had a greater association with violent crime than premises which only allow for on-site consumption of alcohol ([Trangenstein et al \(2018\)](#)). This is particularly the case for incidents of

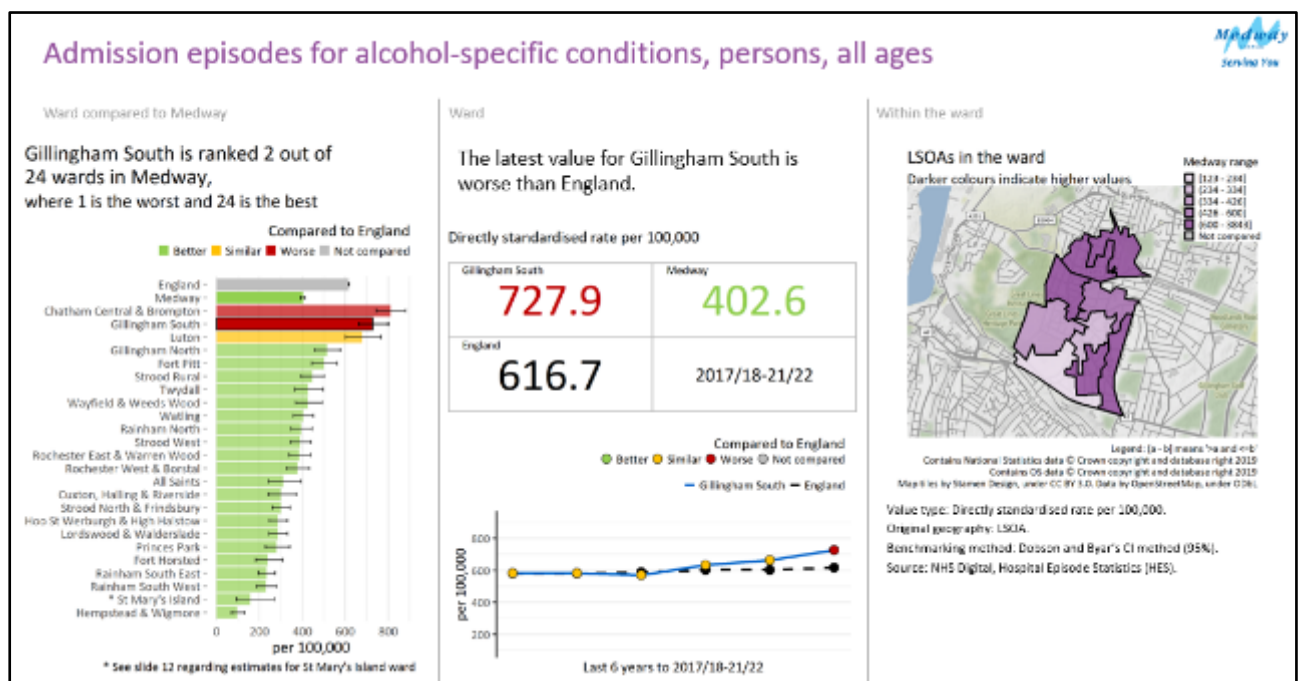
domestic abuse where incidents often happen in the home. Alcohol consumption, and domestic abuse, increased during the COVID 19 lockdowns, where alcohol could only be purchased from off licensed premises ([Institute of Alcohol Studies, 2021](#)).

9.6 ADMISSION EPISODES FOR ALCOHOL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS – PERSONS – ALL AGES

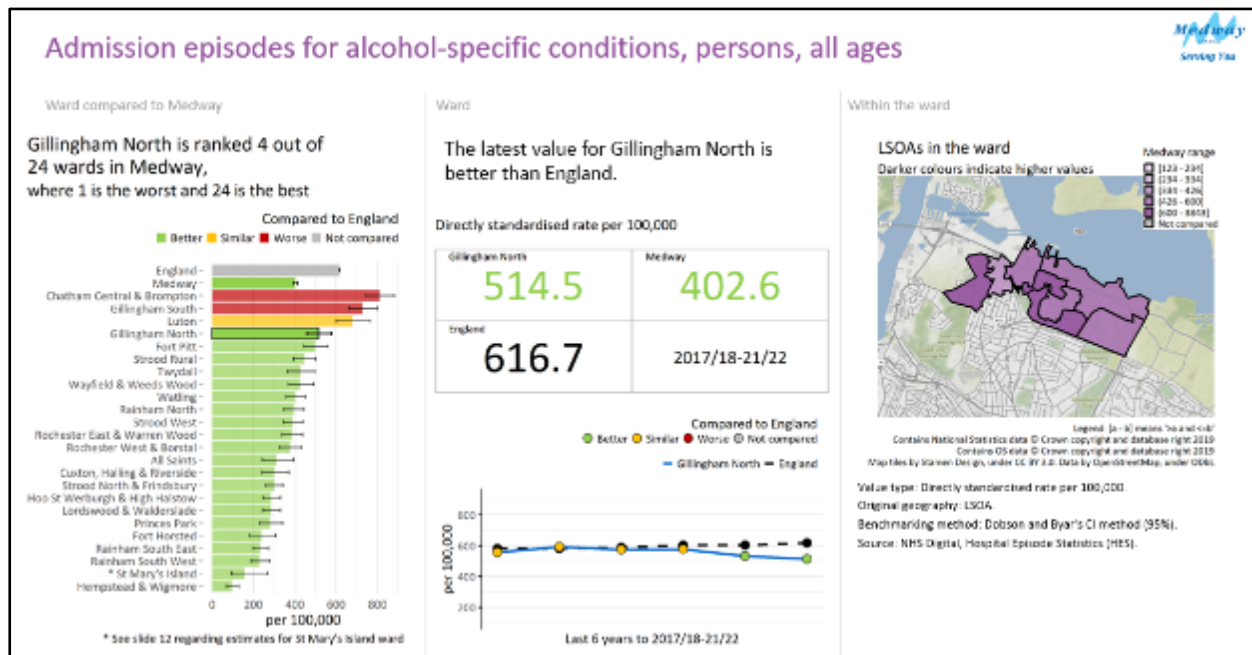
[Alcohol misuse is associated with 60 medical conditions](#), from liver disease, heart disease and strokes to types of cancer, hypertension, and mental health issues and is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health, and disability among 15–49-year-olds in the UK.

This shows the [measure of hospital admissions](#) where the primary diagnosis (main reason for admission) is an alcohol-related condition. Since every hospital admission must have a primary diagnosis, it's less sensitive to coding practices but may also understate the part alcohol plays in the admission.

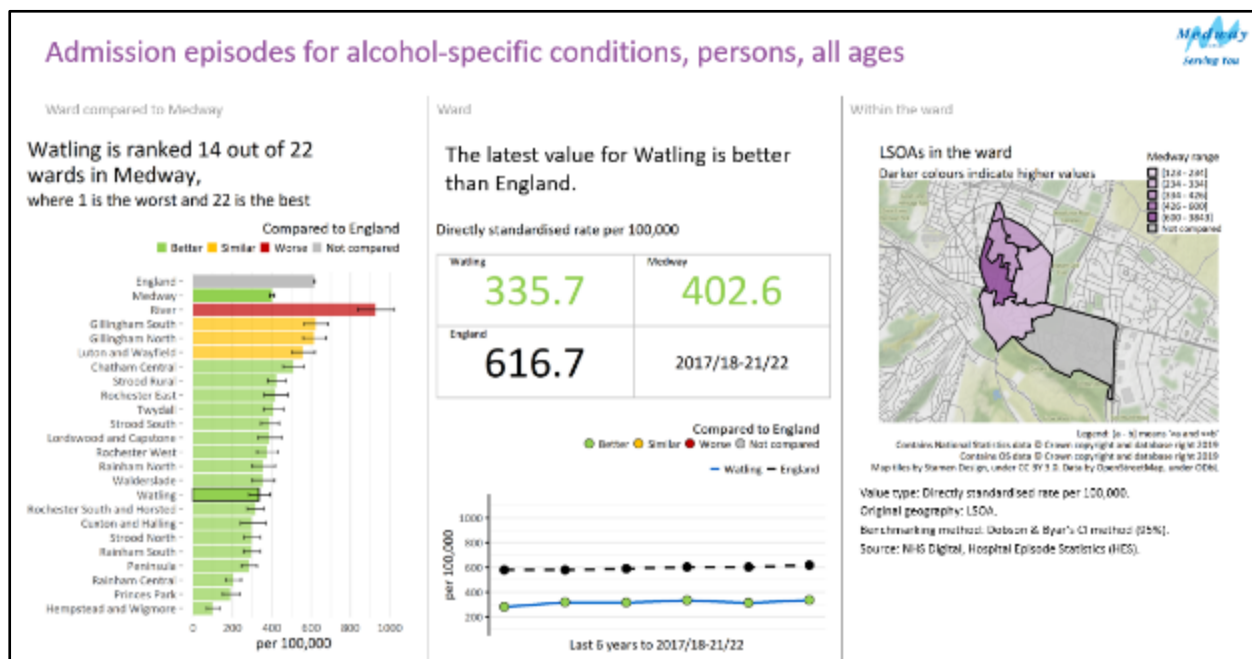
Gillingham South is ranked 2 out of 24 wards in Medway where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best.



Gillingham North is ranked 4 out of 24 wards in Medway where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best.



Watling is ranked 14 out of 24 wards in Medway where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best.

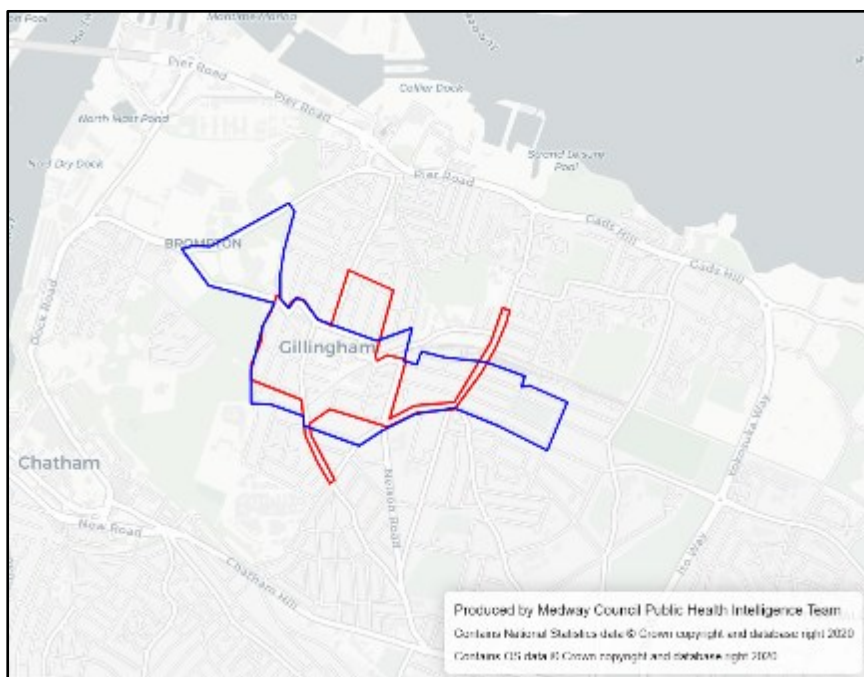


9.7 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), formally known as alcohol control zones, have been introduced in areas of Medway where there are proven issues with anti-social behaviour, some of which is alcohol related.



The Gillingham CIP area is mostly within the Gillingham PSPO.



9.8 ALCOHOL RELATED PUBLIC NUISANCE

Public Health has carried out ongoing monitoring of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Medway throughout the period of 2021 to 2023 since the last review of this policy. This includes evidence of alcohol litter, street drinking, urination and defecation and co-located drug use in areas of public drinking.

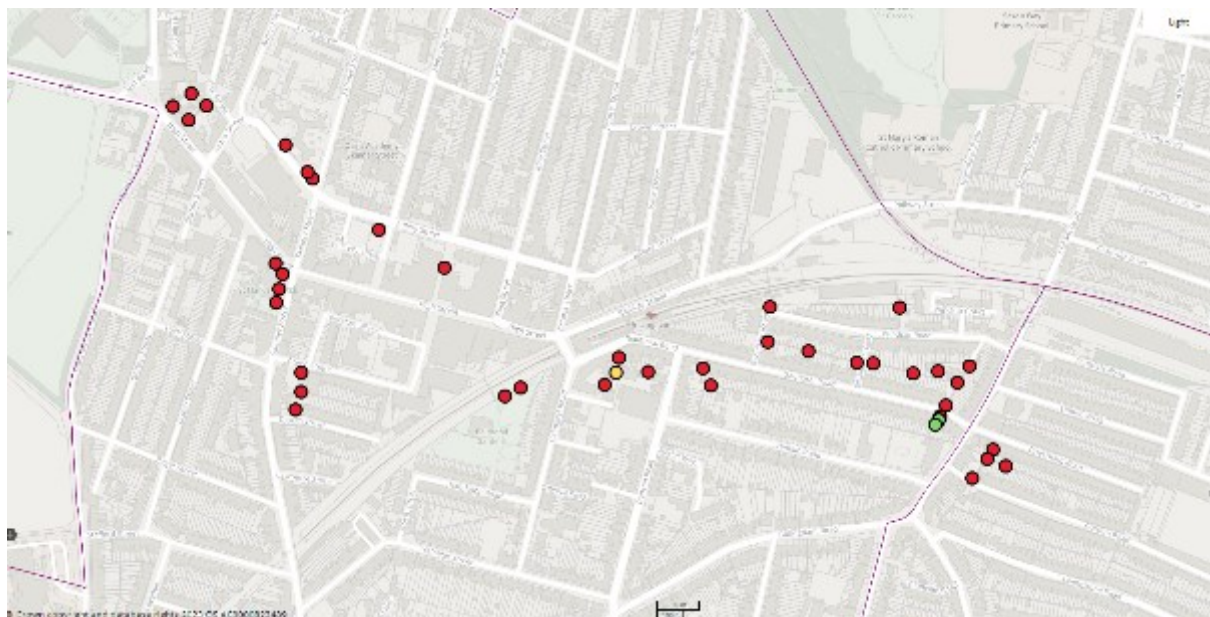
The following maps show the locations where alcohol related litter has been found (red dots) on more than one occasion by public health and environmental enforcement. Additionally, the maps show where street drinkers have been seen or reported (blue dots), drug litter found by public health staff or environmental enforcement (green dots), and human waste found in the same locations as the alcohol related litter (yellow dots).

Photographs have been provided to give an indication of the types of alcohol related litter, drug related litter and evidence of human defecation and urination found during the 3 year period covered. The photographs are not intended to be more than an indication of the type of litter in this area and are not representative of the amount that has been recorded during this time, which runs into thousands of separate items.

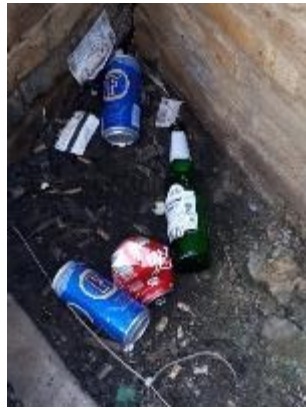
While there is evidence of areas where large quantities of litter is left, much of the litter consists of single cans and bottles. However, taken in totality, there is a large quantity of it throughout the area covered by the policy. It can be seen over the three year period the litter is ongoing and consistent in all the areas shown.

Public health staff also found drug related paraphernalia in several locations where street or public drinking was believed to take place in and around the area. These were often co-located with alcohol litter.

9.8.1 2021



Alleyway behind Aldi's



Balmoral Road alleyways



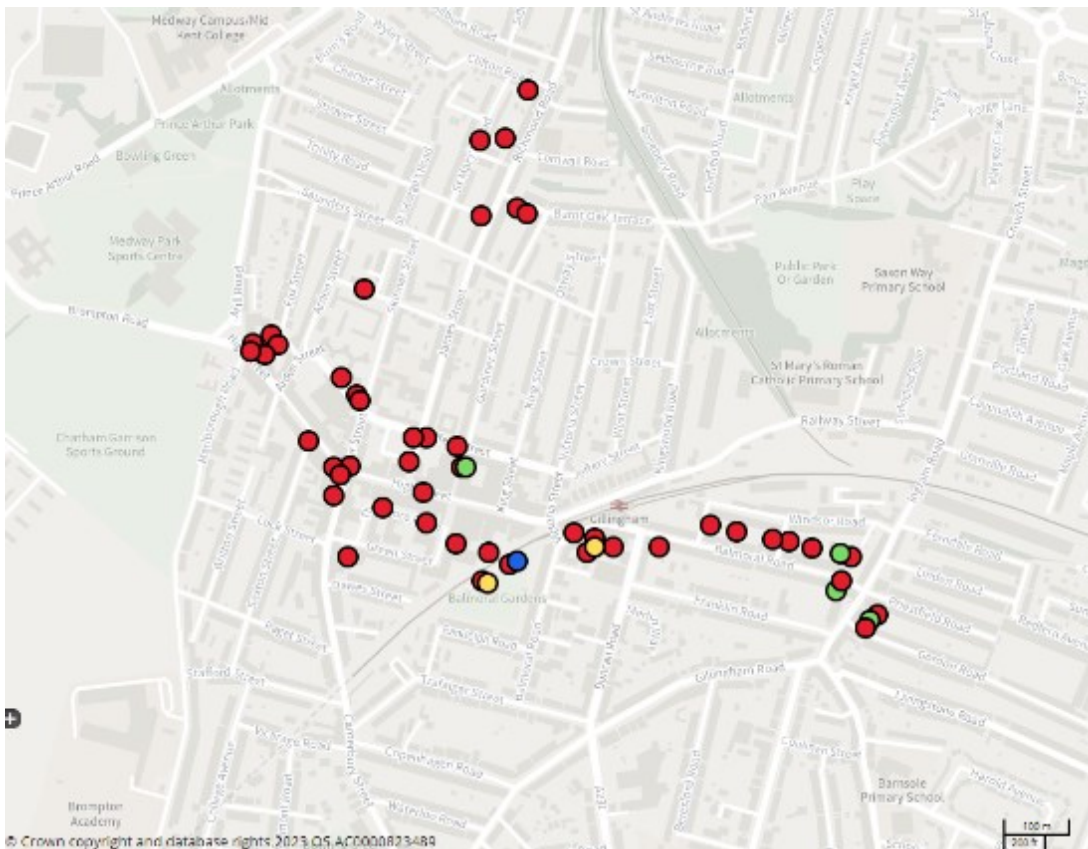
Green Street



Fox Street



9.8.2 2022



Balmoral Road area



High Street/Marlborough Road



High Street – St Mark's Church



Sappers Walk

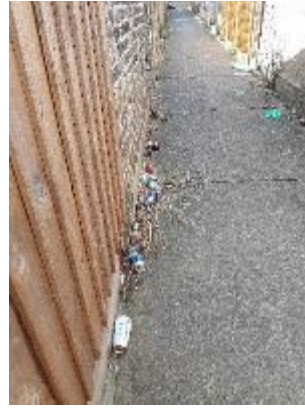


9.8.3 2023
Balmoral Road



Hospital area





Jeffrey Street



Victoria Street



9.9 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

9.9.1 2022 Community survey

9.9.1.1 Summary

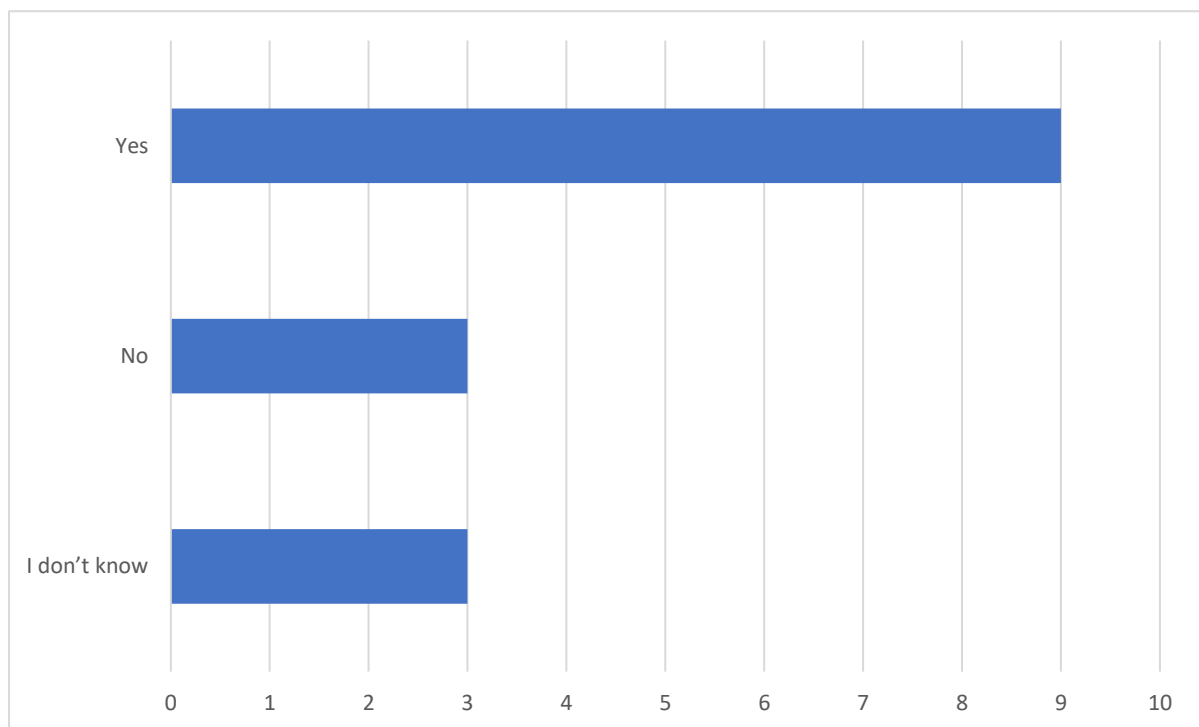
The majority of respondents said that licensed premises were contributing to alcohol related issues in the Gillingham area. Issues such as littering, begging, anti-social behaviour, nuisance, and public drinking are experienced every day and at no particular time. Most people believed that off licenses contributed most to alcohol related issues, followed by pubs and bars. A majority believed that the number of licensed premises contributed to the alcohol related issues in Gillingham.

9.9.1.2 Questions and replies

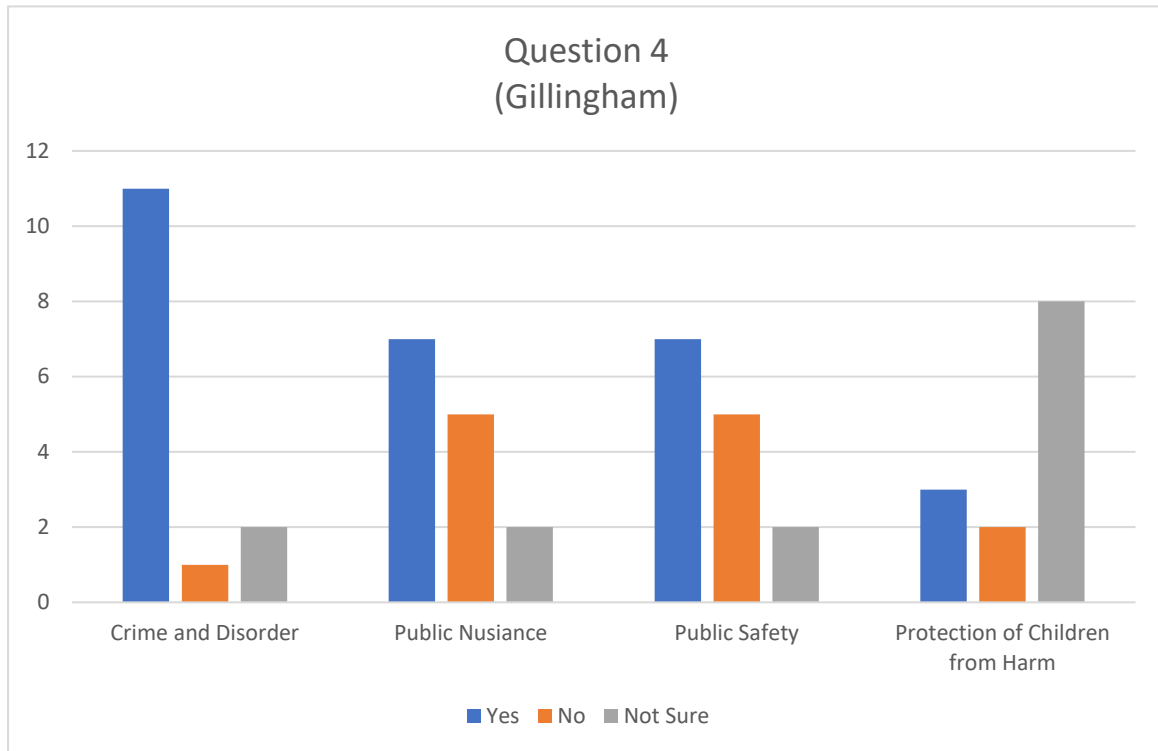
Question 2 – Please tell us which area in Medway you are talking about when responding to these questions. E.g. Chatham High St/Strood town centre/Hoo.

14 respondents stated they were talking about Gillingham.

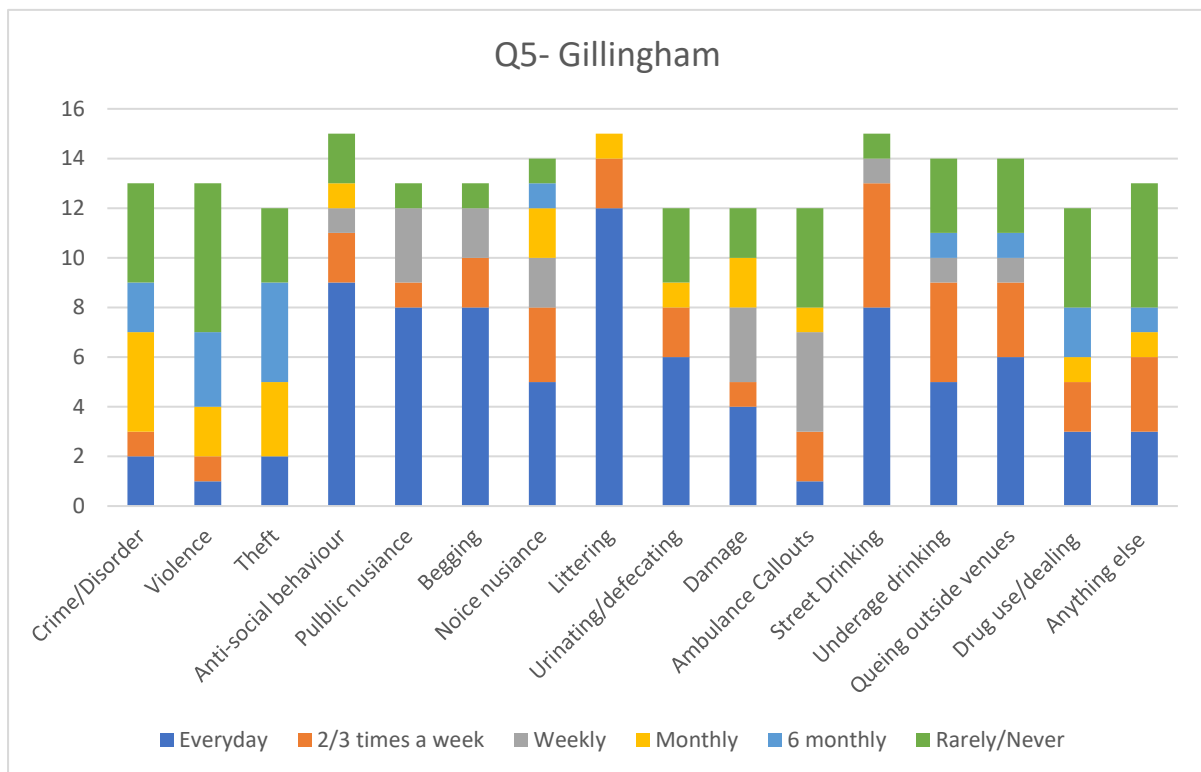
Question 3 – Are licensed premises such as Pubs/Nightclubs/restaurants in this area contributing to the alcohol related issues?



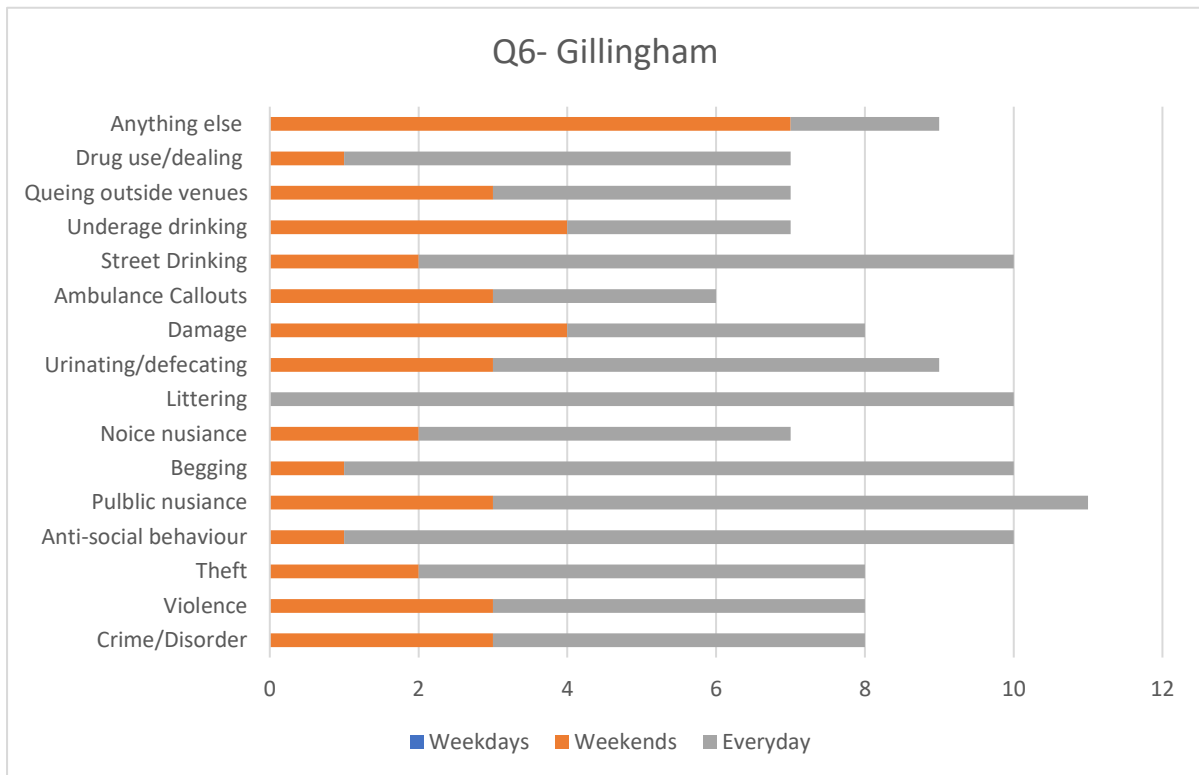
Question 4 - In your view have the customers of licensed premises in this area ever contributed to any issues relating to the four licensing objectives in the area you are concerned with?



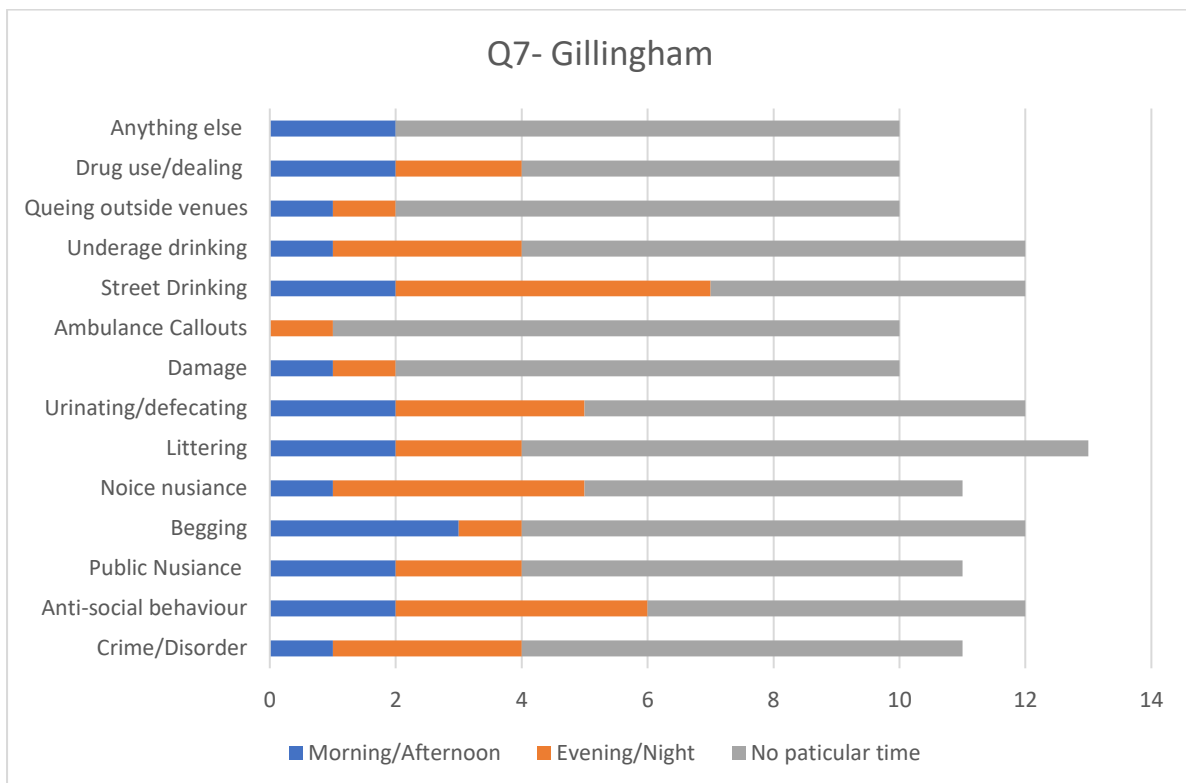
Question 5 - How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following alcohol related issues in the area you are concerned with?



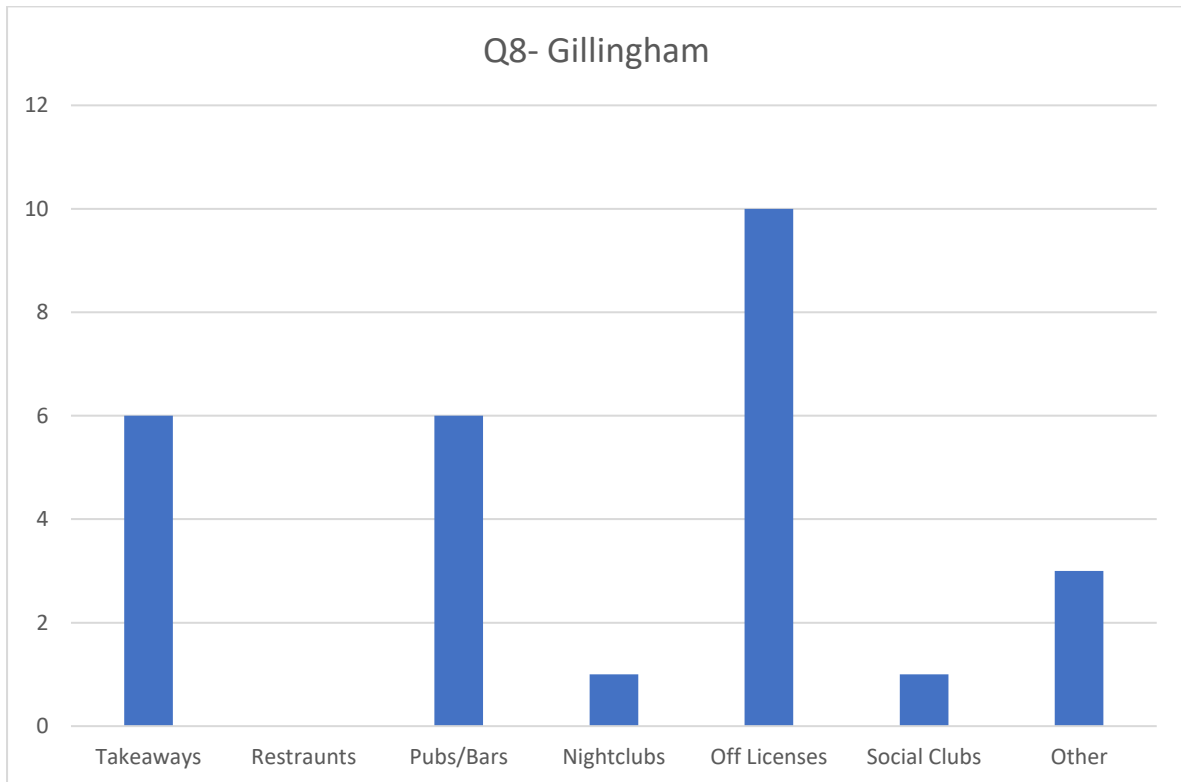
Question 6 - Are there any particular days of the week when these alcohol related issues happen?



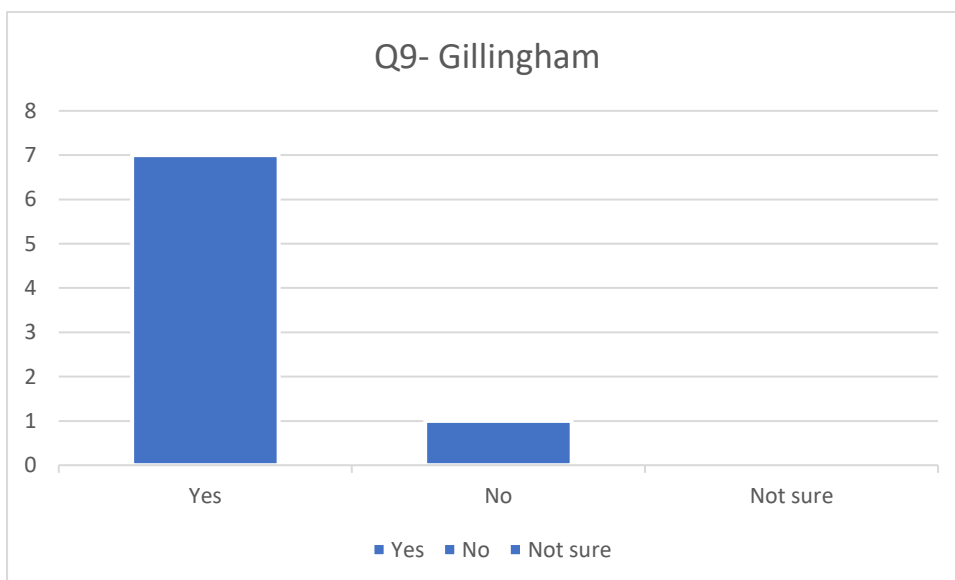
Question 7 - What time of the day are these alcohol related issues happening?



Question 8 - What type of premises are causing or contributing towards any alcohol related issues or problems?



Question 9 - Do you think the number of licensed premises in this area contribute to any of these issues?



Question 10 – Free text - Tell us about your experiences with alcohol related issues and the impact it has

- There are a large number of off licences either in or close to Gillingham town centre, plus supermarkets and even shops like Savers selling cheap alcohol. This leads to increased amounts of street drinking and litter in side roads and local parks such as Balmoral Gardens and Hillyfields where there are often bottles and cans on the grass.
- Not enough money time and effort is being spent on Gillingham. It is totally being ignored by the council and the Police it is getting to the point of a no go area for residents, consumers and businesses and if something isn't done soon it will be beyond the point of no return!!
- Most damage and disruption from drunken groups staggering home. This makes the environment unpleasant and is very intimidating for female shift workers attempting to travel to or from work.
- Damage to cars, break ins, damage in general.
- [FB comment] The Anchorians playing fields is a haven for alcoholics, alcohol related litter is everywhere stuffed into hedges, broken glass in the pedestrian walkway along the outside of the field. Alcohol is to easily available and to cheap.
- Daily having to pick up bottles and cans left outside my home. Broken glass daily make it unsafe to walk dogs. Trash and litter make the whole area feel run down. As the warmer weather comes there will be more and more loud parties and associated arguments and violence. Woken up every 2mk the or so by people having alcohol fuelled arguments.
- Begging spitting littering and general lack of concern for other people and surroundings. Noise levels are high as the evening progresses. Littering, cigarette and weed smoking seem to have become the norm.
- Empty beer cans and bottles. Fast food wrapping
- The uncontrolled sale of alcohol and the issue of alcohol licences to shops should be curtailed. Alcohol should be only available in select retail outlets (i.e proper off licences and public houses for consumption at home or on licenced premises. The expansion of alcohol free areas and enforcement of said areas would discourage street drinking and reduce begging thus lowering most antisocial behaviour.
- There are always at least 6 people in the high street drinking alcohol and frequently people begging St Marks Church is daily littered in greenery with cans and bottles There is a major problem with people urinating around the church property

9.9.2 2023 community survey

9.9.2.1 Summary

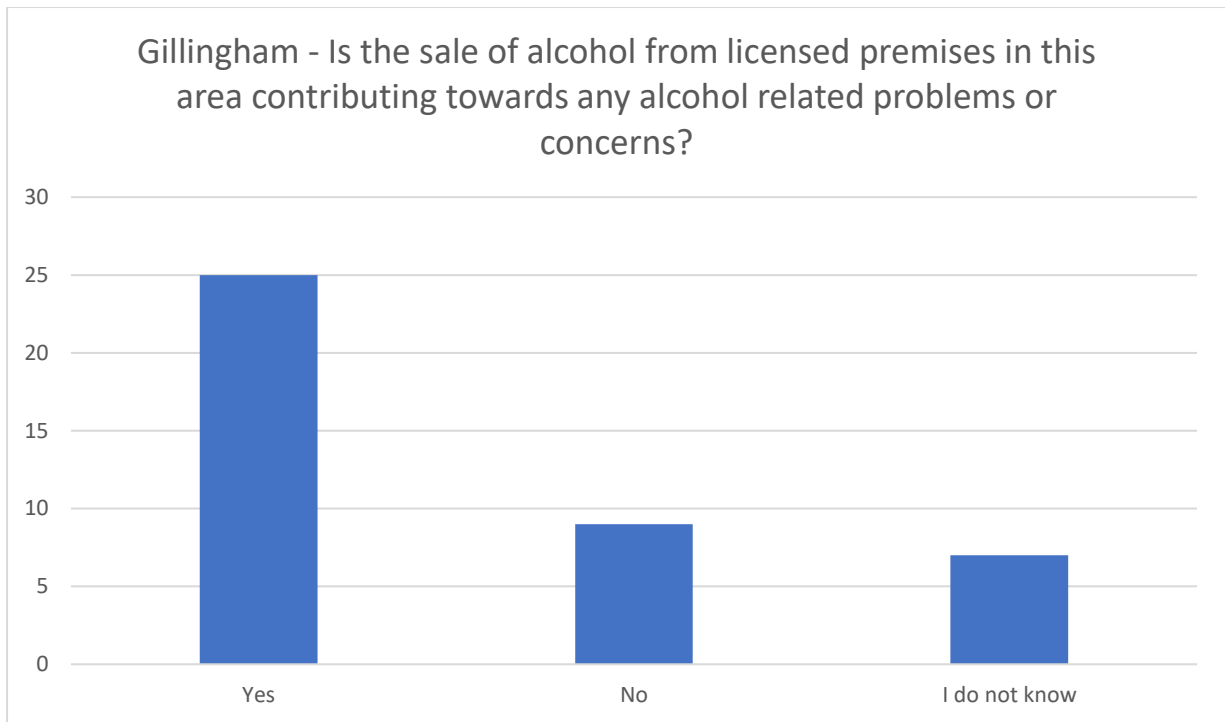
The majority of respondents said that licensed premises were contributing to alcohol related issues in the Gillingham area. Issues such as littering, begging, anti-social behaviour, nuisance, and public drinking are experienced every day and at no particular time. Most people believed that off licenses

contributed most to alcohol related issues, followed by pubs and bars. A majority believed that the number of licensed premises contributed to the alcohol related issues in Gillingham.

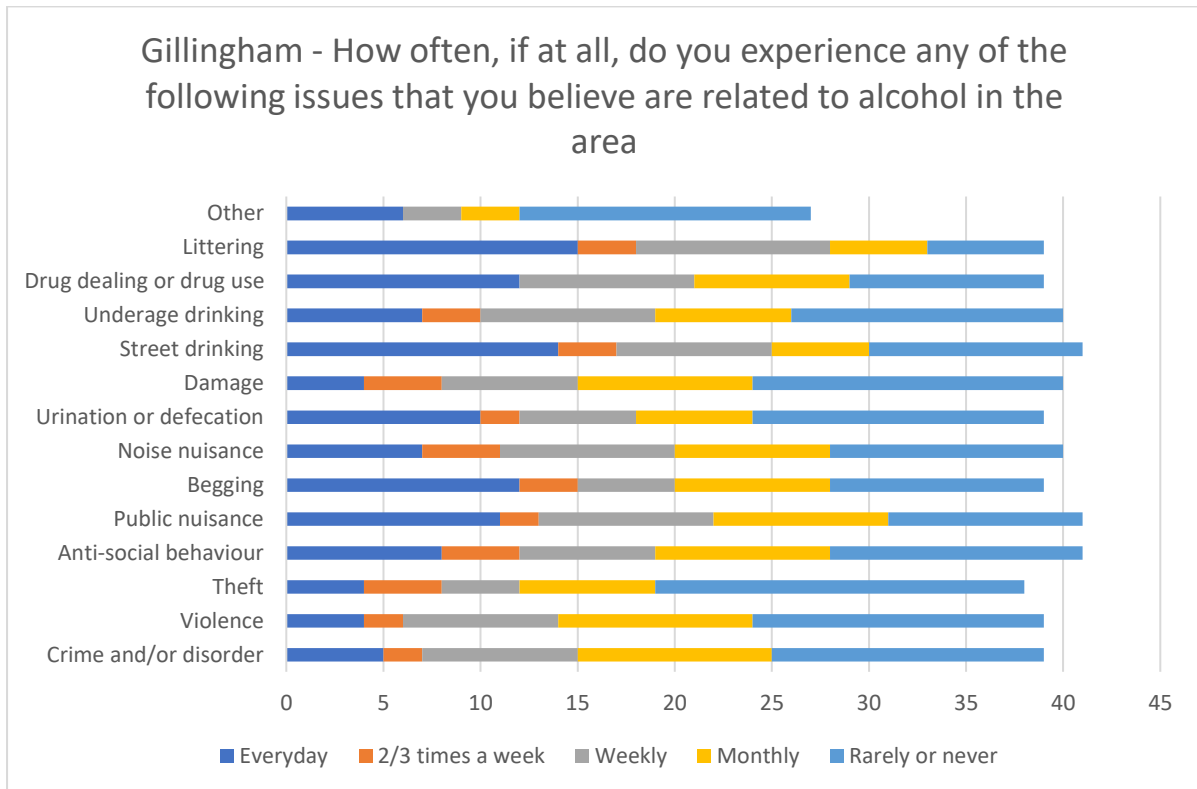
9.9.2.2 Questions and replies

A total of 41 people stated they were referring to Gillingham in their responses.

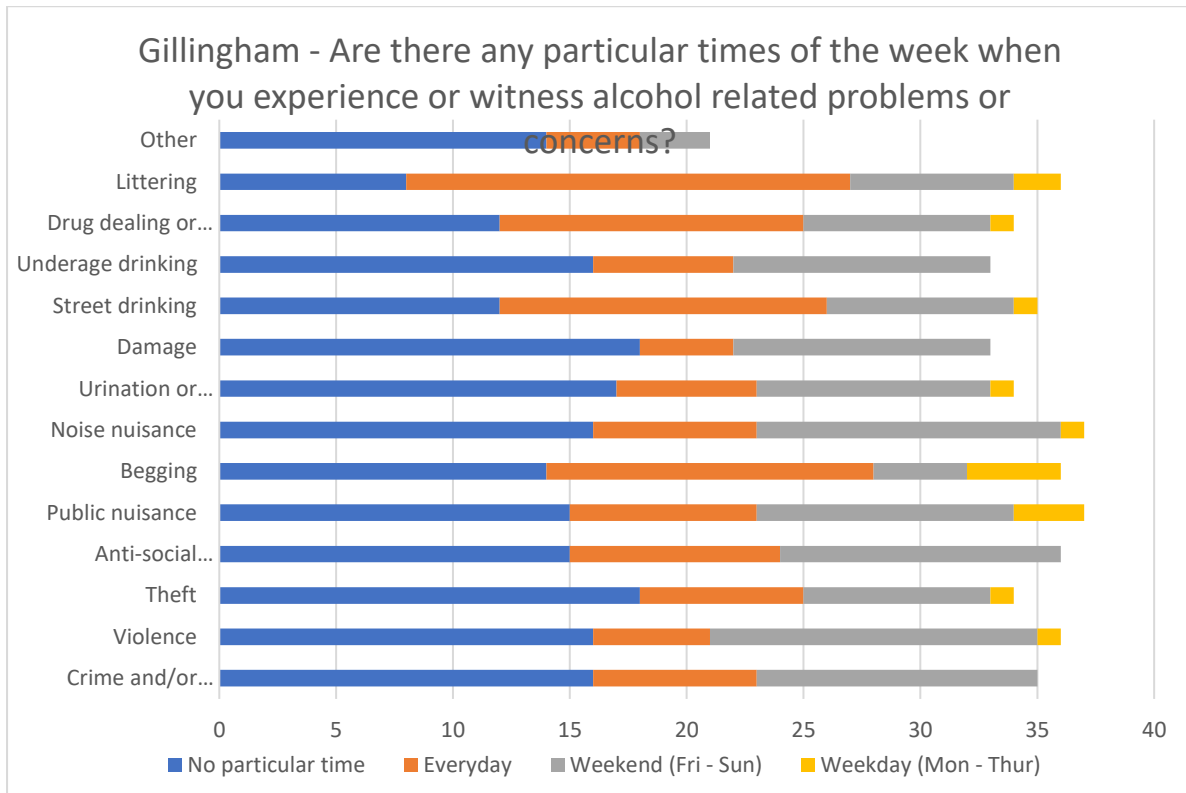
Q3 - Is the sale of alcohol from licensed premises in this area contributing towards any alcohol related problems or concerns?



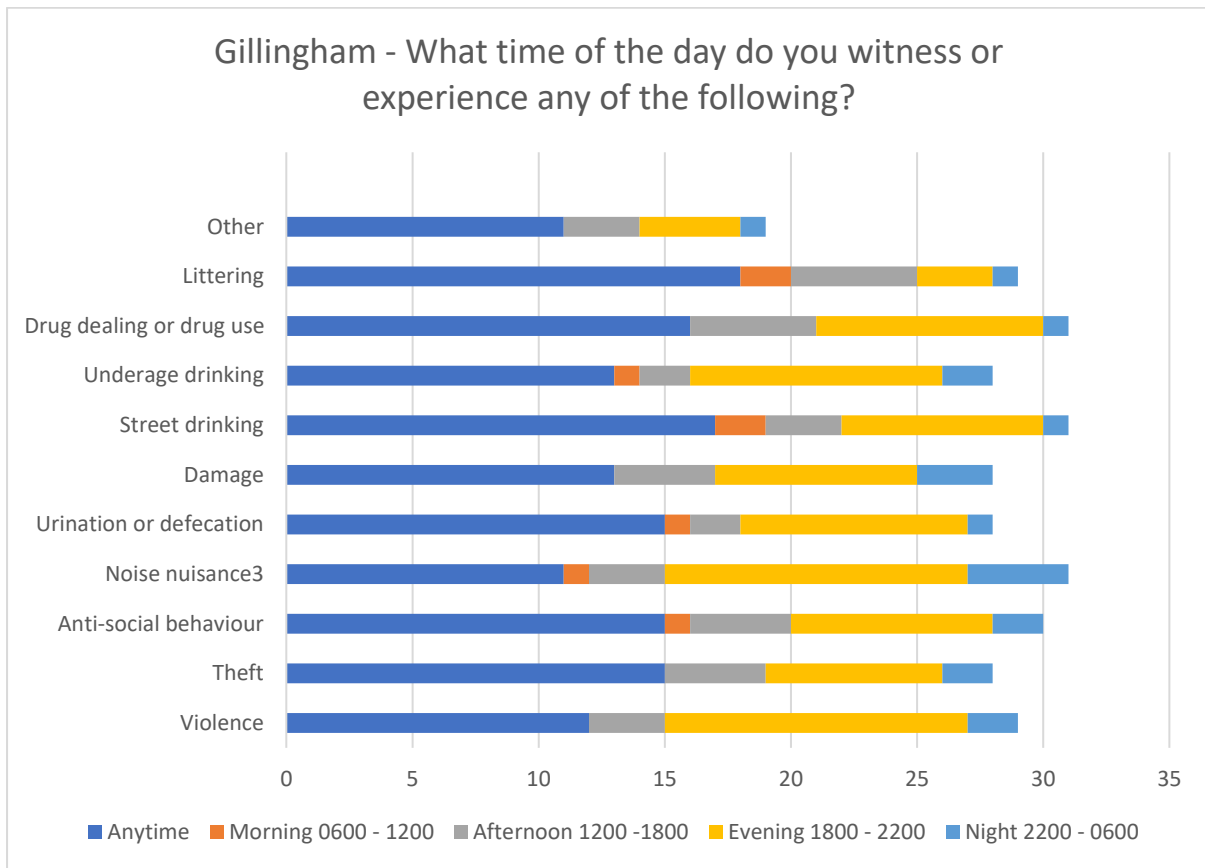
Q4 - How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following issues that you believe are related to alcohol in the area



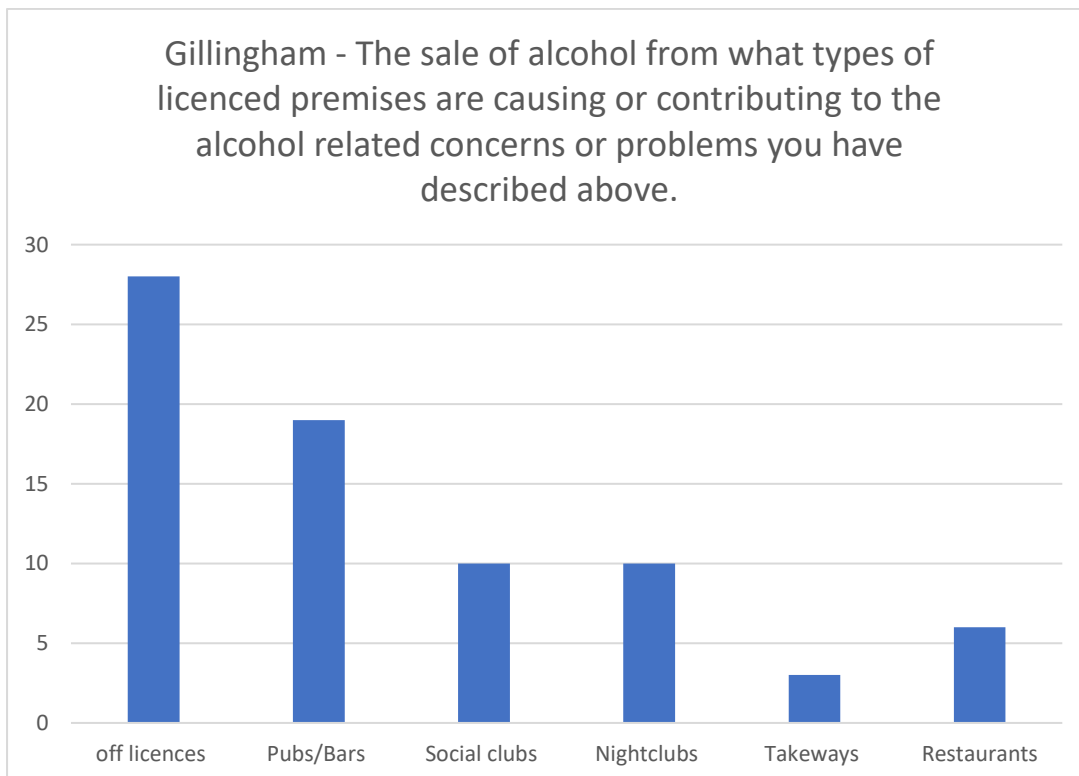
Q5 - Are there any particular times of the week when you experience or witness alcohol related problems or concerns?



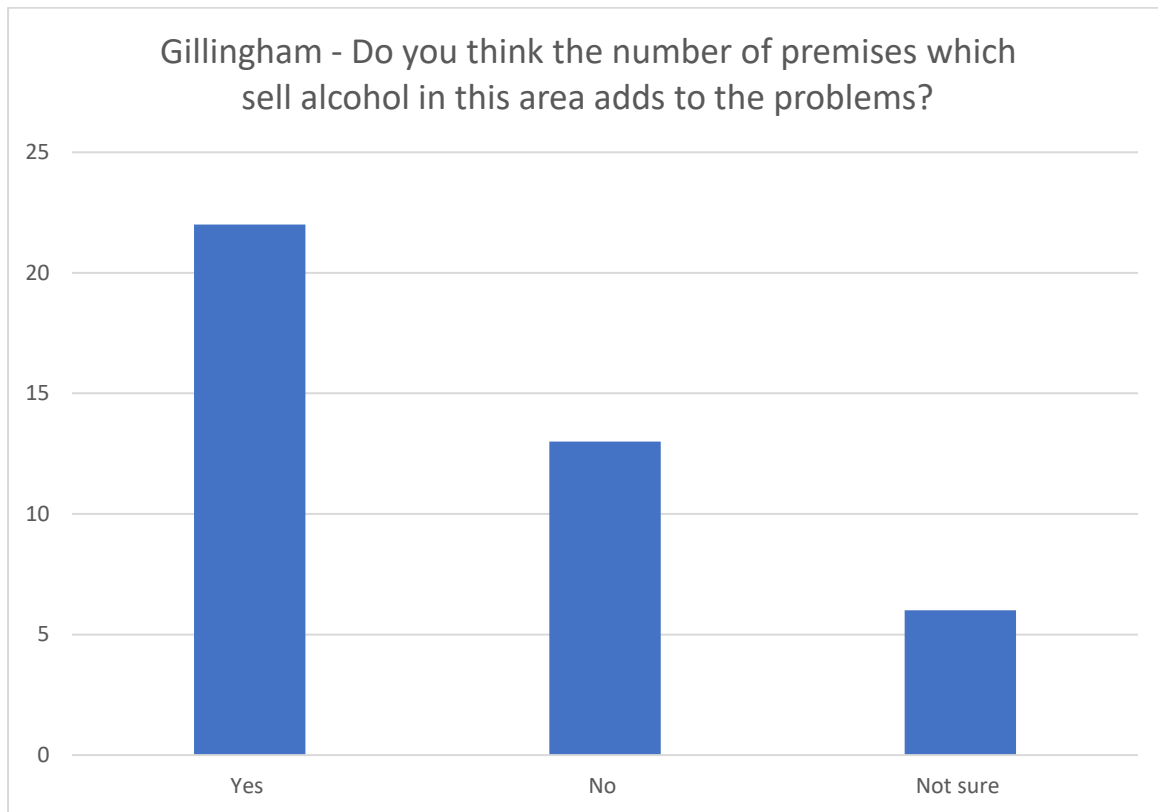
Q6 - What time of the day do you witness or experience



Q7 - The sale of alcohol from what types of licenced premises are causing or contributing to the alcohol related concerns or problems you have described above.



Q8 - Do you think the number of premises which sell alcohol in this area adds to the problems?



Q9 - Free text - Tell us about your experiences with alcohol related issues and the impact it has

- Gillingham needs more nightlife.
- alcohol is too easily available in the town centre and surrounding streets. I frequently see bottles and cans left on benches in parks and bus stops, or on the ground. The no alcohol zone in Gillingham does not seem to be adhered to with frequent street drinkers in the high street / Jeffrey Street and balmoral gardens. It causes litter, anti-social behaviour with regular arguments from people walking past and others urinating in alley ways or even in the streets between the town centre/ station and lower Gillingham. It makes it very unpleasant for residents and those working in the area
- Alcohol is sold at the shop next door to me, which is less of a problem than the plethora of pubs around the area and people making their way home and shouting, fighting, smashing glass (bottles etc). The main issue with the shop next door is young people attempting and begging to buy vapes, which also in turn causes a lot of rubbish being thrown around. There is a lot of drug dealing in the area, but reporting this places us at risk as it would be obvious we are reporting it and there have been incidents of people purchasing drugs, whilst drunk and driving off at speed. I'd like the focus to be on drinking responsibly and cracking down on the areas of Gillingham that often get neglected by Police because they are often considered "safe" or just not a priority. The local area is primarily older, often with disabilities next to an area that is known for being "rough", although this will obviously differ between

households. Often people will be walking back from the 3-4 pubs in the small area shouting whilst walking home, keeping many people awake and sometimes waking up to damage or litter in the area. There have also been incidents of the small glass bottles being left under car's tyres. There is an entirely different conversation regarding car parking and the dangers this causes with people stopping at the shop to buy alcohol/vapes.

- There are too many places that sell alcohol that is only for drunks and all of the off licenses and corner shops have loads of stuff thrown outside it. There's broken glass and cans everywhere and no one clears it up. Outside the schools. People drink on the street down the high street and throw stuff in the lanes and yelling and fighting. All the corner shops have drinks that are really strong that are only for alcoholics so why are they selling this?

- STOP SELLING IT 24 HOURS A DAY

RESTRICT THE AMOUNT, AND TIMES THAT IS AVAILABLE

- Alcohol should be banned as it's a drug at the end it's not like other drugs but indeed it is a drug that slowly damages you. There's 1000s of medical evidence if you google. The country should stop selling alcohol and influence people to switch to non-alcoholic drinks. Children can see everyday their parents are drinking and drunk and swearing and take those approaches as they learn from their home and parents then blame their children and education that they never listen to them. People don't use their sense due to consume alcohol. Nightclubs and pubs are the worst ... even for socialising why people have to go to pub to get drunk. After getting drunk they do not have any control, and do all the things that you don't mean to do. Whole country is very conservative about their approach and good they are but this when it comes to alcohol then no one speaks about. Even the person who is now reading this thinking I am ignorant and just WTF am I talking about. But if you are reading this think about it and if you have the courage which I dare say no to alcohol. The change ain't happen straight as majority in this country drinks so this change either won't happen at all or can be slowly, or like others you delete my text completely and ignore and straight after work go to pub so you can socialise with others by consuming alcohol and get drunk.
- Too many pubs in Gillingham area Full of rowdy men and women
- Man standing outside the local shop asking for money, I said no I only use card he then followed me in to the shop asking me to buy him alcohol with my card. I had just picked my girls up from school and he was drunk swaying all over the place
- I think local shops shouldn't be serving alcohol until after a certain time of the day
- The main issues I've experienced personally are the corner shops selling alcohol. They are between housing estates and most of the time you can see a person drinking on someone's drive close to the shops, urinating and or being sick. It's unacceptable as families live in these areas with small kids who are daily exposed to this behaviour.

If you want on Gillingham high street you will always find people with cans of alcohol in their hands drinking on a bench, begging or causing nuisance.

I personally have witnessed a man near Napier Primary school urinating on a wall when it was pick up time and it's disgusting as it's public indecency.

- The main issue with drunks loitering is in the high street area or balmoral gardens, I do not see it on residential streets. I wouldn't let my children go here in the evenings
- I want to see less selling alcohol in my area because Many people drinking alcohol at high Street and public place. Every day crime is increasing.
- 24 hour shops should not b allowed shops should close at reasonable times and pubs stay open till earlie [sic] hours they should not be allowed when I was young, they open and close at certain times never had all this trouble then
- More pubs please
- To many shops sell alcohol, they are extending their opening hours and this is affecting the residential areas where they are situated
- Not enough pubs anymore. Would like to see more bars and restaurants and less Vape shops and mobile phone repair shops. The only trouble I ever see is youngsters who have nowhere to go and hang around the streets and the High Streets. Not alcohol related at all.
- Problems in Gillingham High Street are all day long. All week long.
- I want to see police presence in the area and also use of the CCTV cameras to stop the street drinking, parties in the high street, vehicles driving in pedestrian areas and general anti-social behaviour.
- We live just a few doors away from a pub and particularly at weekends the noise coming from the pub can be very disruptive. Fights are not uncommon and there is regular drug use/dealing happening in and around the pub.
- I do not want to impact local businesses and I do not believe they are the core of the problem. I believe the community needs support on how to deal with those with a drinking problem. I have seen abuse, theft, and other criminal activities as a result of drinking alcohol, especially around Gillingham Train station. The public is scared to walk around the area and you are not sure if you will be attacked.

APPENDIX D

10 ROCHESTER CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 SUMMARY

Rochester is different from the other CIP areas in Medway. Many people are resident in the High St and are effected by alcohol related issues from customers of both the off licences and the pubs, bars and nightclub.

The evidence shows there is a concentration of on and off licensed premises in and around the Rochester Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) area. The CIP borders some deprived areas in Medway, which is relevant to alcohol related harms. Both Rochester West and Borstal ward and Rochester East and Warren Wood ward, are deprived in crime domain.

Rochester West and Borstal ward is ranked 13 for admission episodes for alcohol-specific hospital admissions, where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best, and Rochester East and Warren Wood is ranked 12, so in the middle ranking of wards in Medway.

The Rochester Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which has been introduced due to issues with anti-social behaviour covers the majority of the Rochester CIP area.

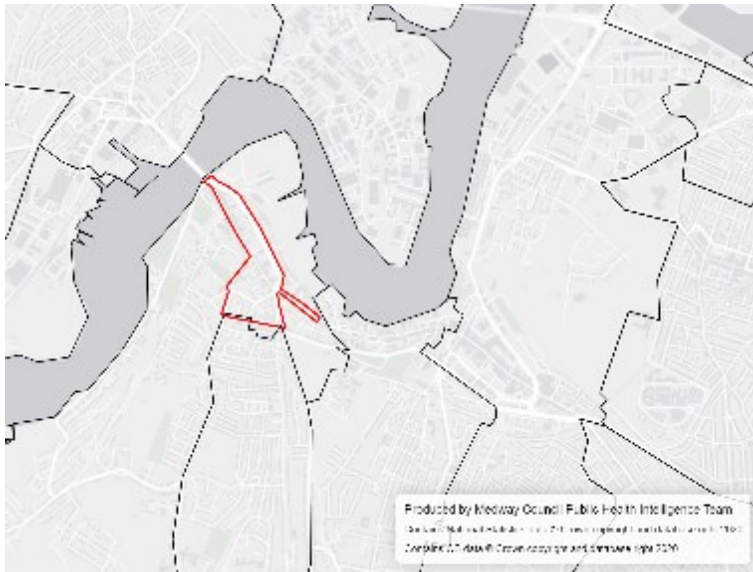
There is evidence of alcohol related nuisance in the form of alcohol related litter, public urination and defecation and street drinking which is mainly provide by the community evidence contained in the survey results and the focus group statements.

The main issue highlighted by the community from the survey was the unacceptable disturbance and crime generated by customers from the pubs, bars and nightclub in Rochester High Street, with issues from street drinking, begging and litter caused by sales of alcohol from the off licensed premises.

All participants in the focus group were agreed the issues in Rochester High Street were spread across the day and into the evening and the night due to Rochester's night time economy. There were 2 distinct issues. Rochester High Street had issues of people drinking during the day and causing alcohol related issues such as anti-social behaviour, nuisance, intimidation, begging and public urination. The second issue was connected to the night time economy, when residents were subject to fighting, noise, anti-social behaviour, public sex acts and disturbance.

10.2 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines alcohol related harms in and around Rochester High Street area. The policy area is in Rochester West and Borstal ward but also abuts Rochester East and Warren Wood ward. However, the effects from the sale of alcohol can be experienced beyond the outline of the policy area, as will be shown below.



The evidence presented below covers

- Deprivation
- Alcohol related hospital admissions
- Public Space Protection Order
- Public nuisance
- Community comments

10.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACT AREA



10.3.1 Recommended amendment

Currently the policy in Rochester High St only covers applications and variations for off licensed premises. The Director asks the Licensing Committee to consider extending the policy in Rochester to include those applications and variations with an 'on licence' element, as it did prior to the last review in 2021.

Evidence supports that since the lifting of restrictions during the pandemic, levels of alcohol harms associated with on licensed premises have risen and are causing residents in the High Street unacceptable levels of disturbance, distress and harm. This is evidenced by the comments made by the focus group, the responses to the survey, the evidence supporting the continuance of the Public Spaces Protection Order in Rochester High Street and the evidence of alcohol related crime supplied by Kent Police.

This extension would still fit within the overall policy aims of the Statement of Licensing Policy. The suggested additional wording below (which was included as part of the first policy) allows the Licensing Committee sufficient flexibility to encourage family friendly licensed premises, while allowing them the opportunity to control high volume drinking establishments.

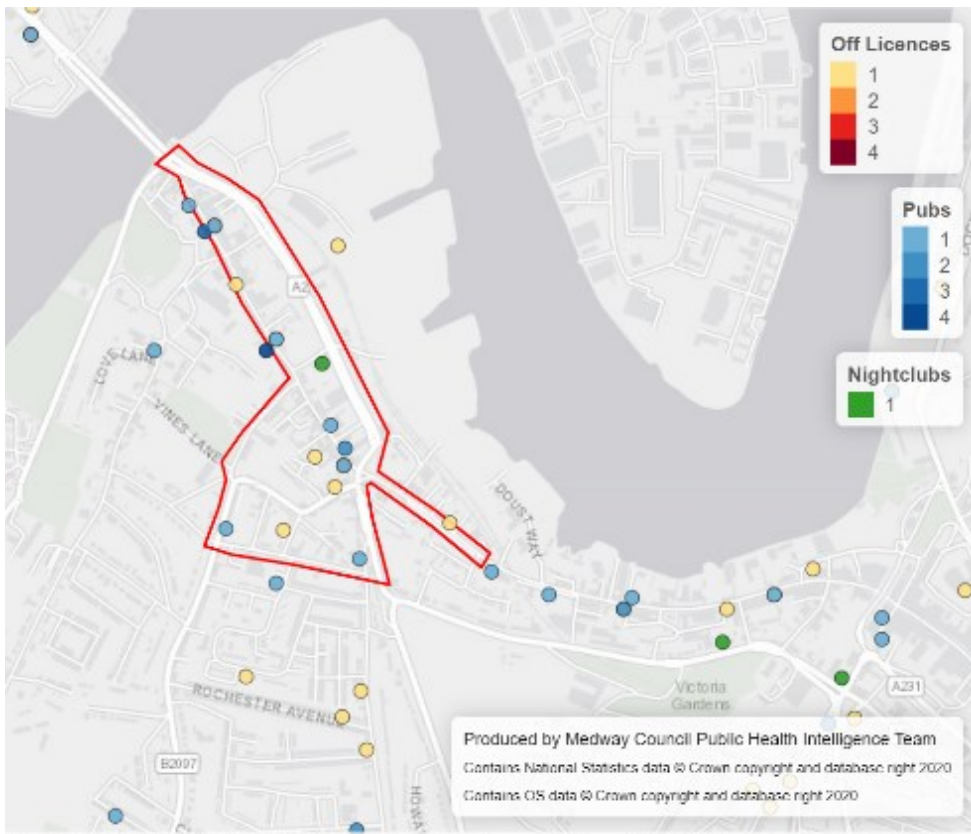
- Rochester is unique due to its historic setting. It is the location of extensive heritage assets, such as Rochester Cathedral, Rochester Castle and The Guildhall. As a result, it attracts many tourists, visitors and business travellers and the Authority wants to support and encourage businesses which complement and support these assets, increasing dwell time, growing local spend and improving the economic health of the city centre.
- Rochester High Street is also a mixed use area, with many residential, as well as commercial, properties. There are nearly 500 residents who live in the High Street and the roads, streets and alleyways linking the city centre to the nearby residential areas.
- The offer in the High Street has evolved to support the historic attractions through the provision of commercial leisure (restaurants and cafés), reinforcing its attractiveness for day and evening activities. There are several pubs and late-night venues and it has the primary late-night economy in Medway.
- There are also several off licences, all of which are small convenience stores, corner shops and newsagents. Many of these sell products which are termed as 'super strength' beer and cider i.e. cheap beer and cider products over 5.5% ABV, making cheap, high-strength alcohol readily available. Responsible authorities, other agencies, residents and businesses in Rochester have provided evidence showing the number of off licensed premises has led, in part, to issues of street drinking and associated crime, disorder and nuisance as well as other, more hidden alcohol related harms, such as domestic abuse and health harms. Kent Police and Rochester residents have evidenced alcohol related crime, disorder and nuisance associated with both day time alcohol misuse and the night-time economy.
- A new railway station has been built, creating a sense of arrival for visitors, improving transport links and further supporting Rochester, and Medway, as a leisure destination focussed around its heritage assets.

- Rochester Riverside, just outside the CIP area, situated between the river and Corporation Street, will provide a quality waterfront location for homes, leisure, jobs and services, complementing and respecting the unique historic High Street.
- Rochester has an established reputation for street festivals in the High Street area, such as the Sweeps Festival and the Dickens Festival, as well as open air concerts and events in the Castle grounds. There is also an award winning visitors' centre and extensive parking.
- There is potential to increase both visitor numbers and local engagement and raise Medway's image as a tourist destination by enhancing and strengthening the above offer by encouraging a range of diverse venues and promoting hotel development to ensure Medway becomes a strong weekend break destination. A successful Rochester High Street should provide a range of accessible services and facilities and also contribute to the image of Medway, as the place which many visitors first see when they arrive in the area.
- Notwithstanding the existence of the CIP, members are supportive of applications which will positively benefit the High Street in line with the aspirations outlined above. The kind of applications which would be encouraged are family friendly venues, such as restaurants, community venues and other leisure businesses where the sale of alcohol is ancillary to the main activity.
- The key aim in Rochester High Street is to encourage and expand the leisure, tourism and business visitor offer, with the intention of providing premises attractive to all age groups and a diversity of licensed premises primarily centred on the day and early evening economy including:
 - Restaurants and cafés, with an emphasis on good quality, family friendly venues
 - Premises where the sale of alcohol is ancillary to the main business, such as:
 - Exhibition and art venues
 - Theatres and cinemas
 - Hotels
 - Venues which complement and enhance Medway's heritage

This is a less restrictive approach than is suggested in the Statutory Guidance, which suggests that licensing authorities can adopt a policy of refusing all new licences in areas where special policies on cumulative impact apply, subject to their discretion being engaged.

10.4 LICENSED PREMISES

The below map shows the locations of premises which currently have an off licence and an on licence in and around the Rochester CIP area.

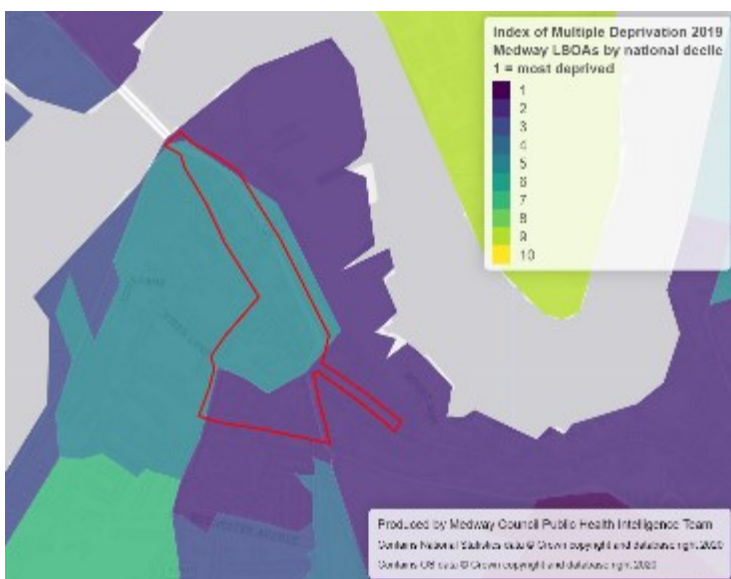


10.5 DEPRIVATION

10.5.1 Multiple indices of deprivation

Rochester CIP area borders some deprived areas in Medway.

Deprivation is relevant to the issue of alcohol outlet density. In 2014 Medway Public Health commissioned a study into alcohol use in Medway. The result - Medway Alcohol: Insight - identified there was a clear link between alcohol related harms, hospital admissions, alcohol related crimes and deprived areas where there is a density of licensed premises.



[The Medway Monitoring Report 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022](#) states the following:

'Indices of Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation are a unique measure of relative deprivation at a small local area level (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England. These bring together a range of data sets and are published in a linked set every 3-4 years. The latest set of indices were published in 2019.

The [Indices of Deprivation](#) consist of the following seven themes: Income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing & services and the living environment.

Medway is ranked in the 30% most deprived local authorities nationally in the 2019 Indices of Deprivation (IoD), in 2015 it was ranked in the 37% of most deprived local authorities nationally. Medway is ranked 93rd most deprived local authority of 317 in England in the latest indices.

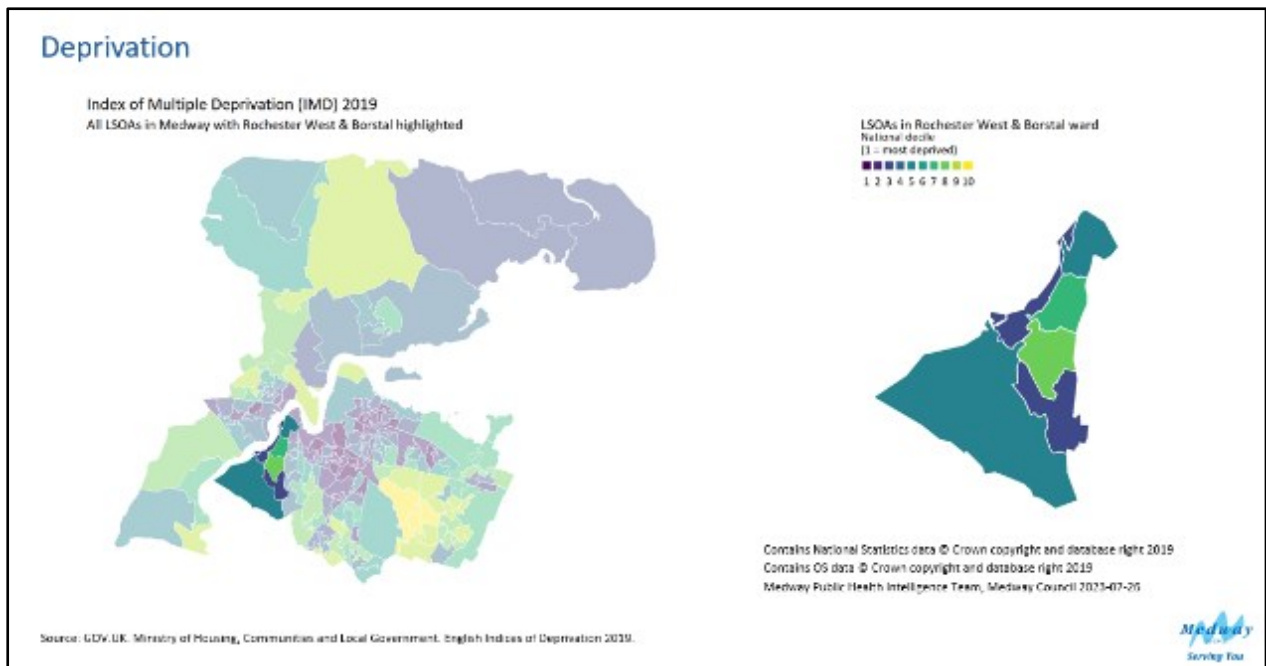
Medway has fourteen neighbourhoods ranked in the 10% most deprived and thirty-seven in the 20% most deprived nationally.

Medway appears to fair worst in the crime domain, ranking in the most deprived 10% of local authorities nationally for crime.

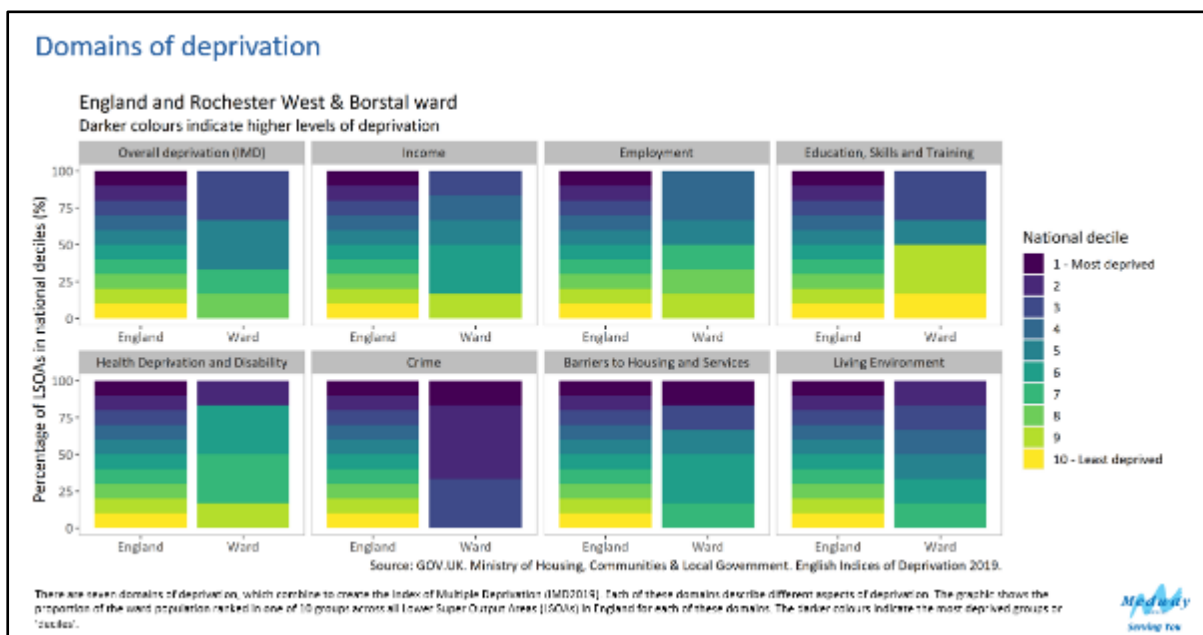
Medway has an additional two areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an additional five in the most deprived 20% nationally since the IoD 2015.'

There are seven domains of deprivation, which combine to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019). Each of these domains describe different aspects of deprivation. The graphic shows the proportion of the Medway population ranked in one of 10 groups across all Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England for each of these domains. The darker colours indicate the most deprived groups or 'deciles'.

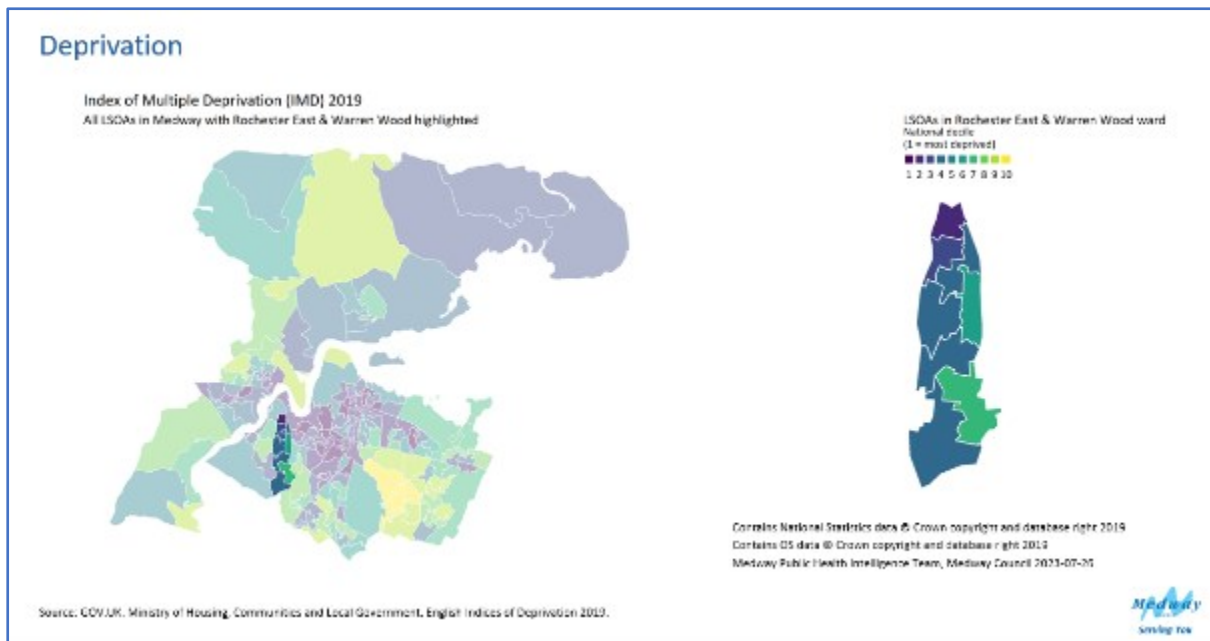
Rochester West and Borstal – [Indices of deprivation](#)



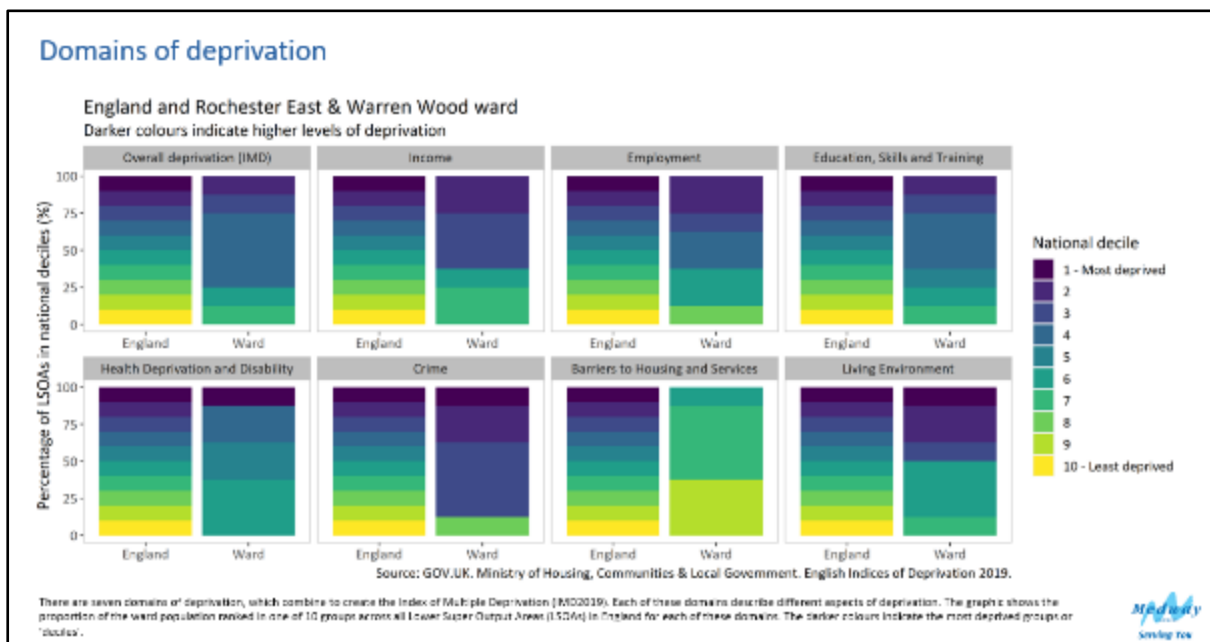
Taking each domain separately it can be seen that Rochester West and Borstal has some deprivation in the health domain and is deprived in the crime domain.



Rochester East and Warren Wood – [Indices of deprivation](#)



Taking each domain separately it can be seen that Rochester East and Warren Wood has some deprivation in the health domain and is deprived in the crime domain.



10.5.2 Health deprivation

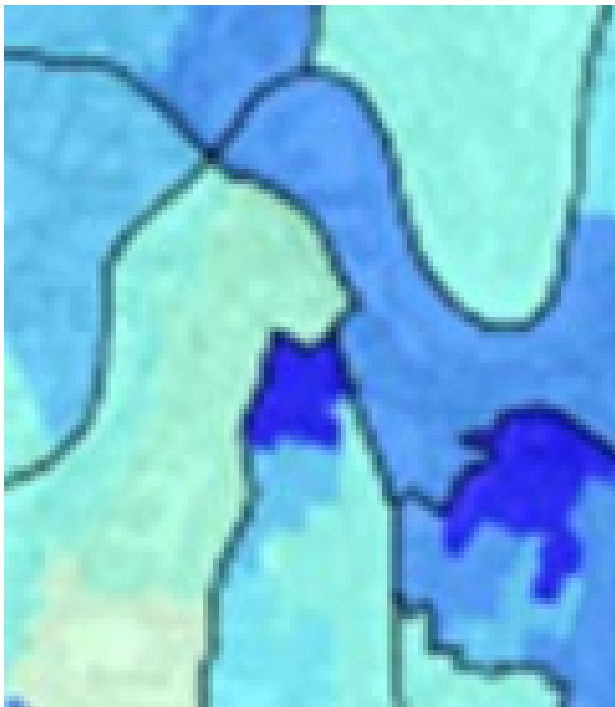
[The Medway Monitoring Report 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022](#) states the following:

‘Medway ranks in the 38 % most deprived local authorities nationally for health. Seven areas rank in the most deprived 10% nationally for health and 20 rank in the most deprived 20% nationally.

Health deprivation is measured as the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.

There has been a relative worsening in health deprivation, with Medway seeing an extra four areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an extra eight areas in the most deprived 20% nationally. While the most severely affected areas for health deprivation are spread across a number of wards in Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester, Gillingham North stands out as having two areas in the most deprived 10% for health, while River stands out as having the most deprived area for health in Medway. Medway's most deprived area – located in River Ward overall for multiple deprivation is ranked in the most deprived 1% of neighbourhoods for health nationally.'

The below map (pre 2023 ward boundaries) shows health deprivation in and around the Rochester CIP area. The darker blue shows the most health deprivation.



10.5.3 Crime deprivation

Both Rochester West and Borstal ward and Rochester East and Warren Wood ward have high levels of crime deprivation.



Crime and the prevalence of crime is a public health issue. Crime is part of the wider determinants of health as it effects people’s physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Certain types of crime are more associated with alcohol consumption than others. Among crimes that are regarded as being [‘alcohol related’](#) are

- Violence including wounding and assault with or without injury
- Verbal and physical abuse
- Sexual offences including abuse and assault
- Harassment
- Domestic abuse
- Public disturbance and nuisance including street drinking, noise, littering, public urination and defecation and intimidation
- Harms to children including assault, witnessing violence and all types of abuse
- Driving offences including drink driving

Research from [The Office for National Statistics](#) states that victims perceived an offender to be under the influence of alcohol in 53% of violent incidents; a proportion which has remained consistent during the last 10 years.

Research has also shown that access to off licensed premises, such as convenience shops and supermarkets, had a greater association with violent crime than premises which only allow for on-site consumption of alcohol ([Trangenstein et al \(2018\)](#)). This is particularly the case for incidents of domestic abuse where incidents often happen in the home. Alcohol consumption, and domestic

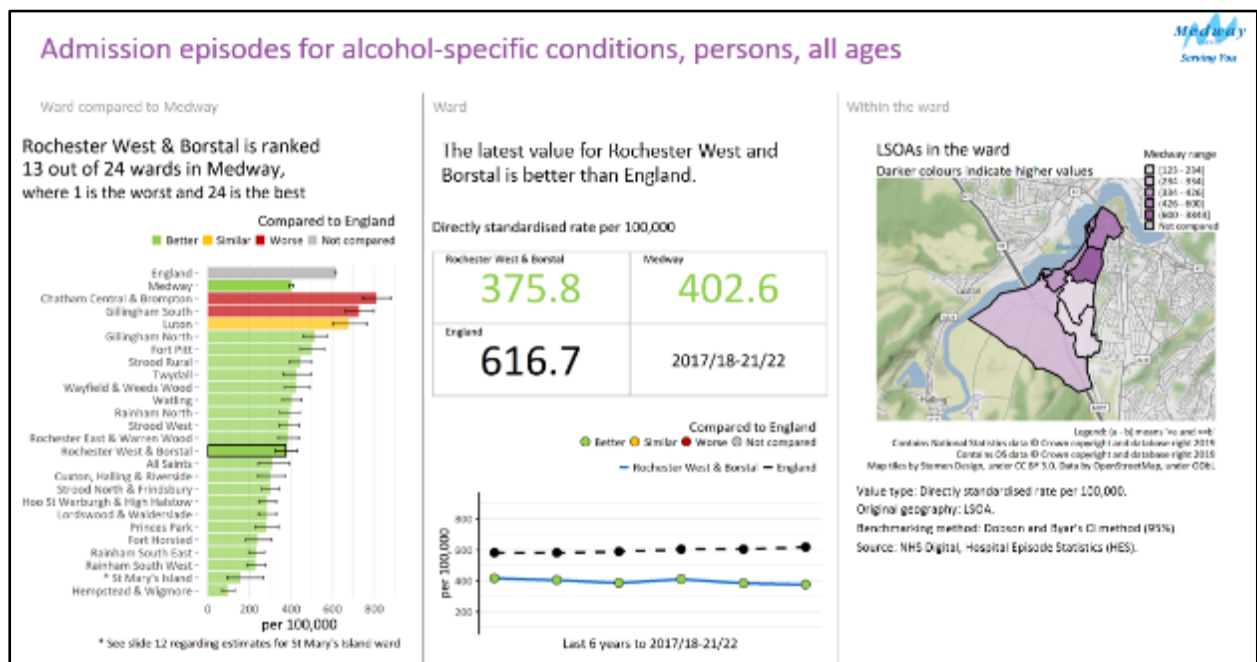
abuse, increased during the COVID 19 lockdowns, where alcohol could only be purchased from off licensed premises ([Institute of Alcohol Studies, 2021](#)).

10.6 ADMISSION EPISODES FOR ALCOHOL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS – PERSONS – ALL AGES

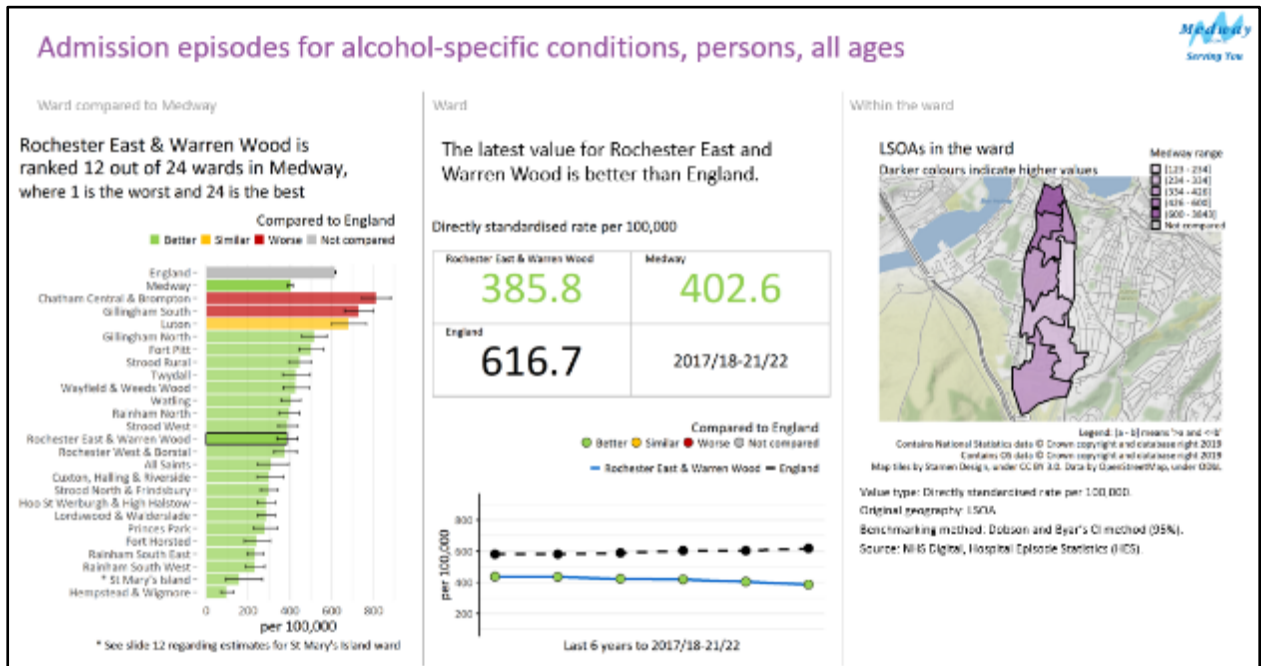
[Alcohol misuse is associated with 60 medical conditions](#), from liver disease, heart disease and strokes to types of cancer, hypertension, and mental health issues and is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health, and disability among 15–49-year-olds in the UK.

This shows the [measure of hospital admissions](#) where the primary diagnosis (main reason for admission) is an alcohol-related condition. Since every hospital admission must have a primary diagnosis, it's less sensitive to coding practices but may also understate the part alcohol plays in the admission.

[Rochester West and Borstal](#) is ranked 13 out of 24 wards in Medway where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best.

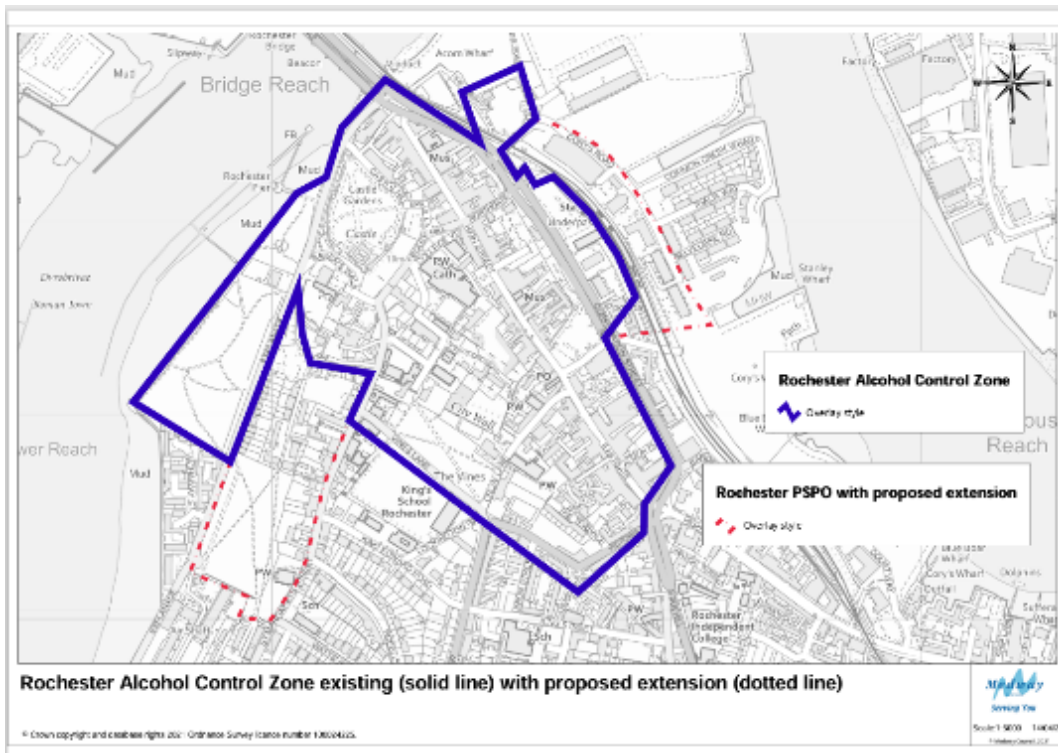


[Rochester East and Warren Wood](#) is ranked 12 out of 24 wards in Medway where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best.

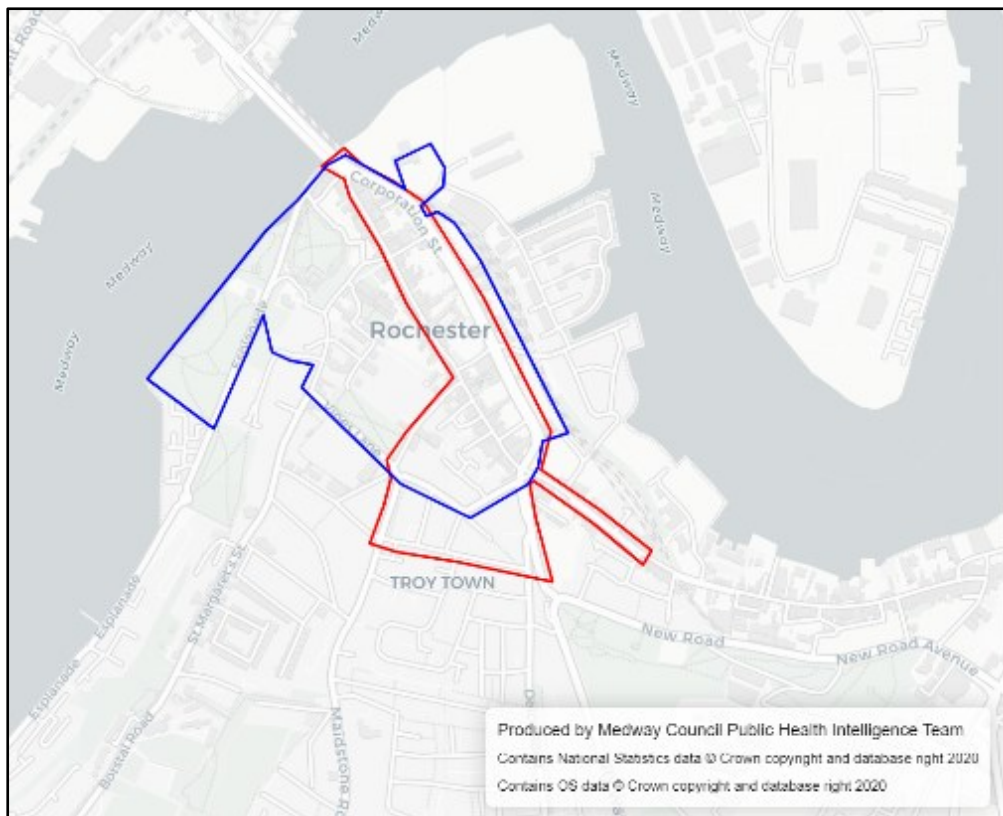


10.7 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), formally known as alcohol control zones, have been introduced in areas of Medway where there are proven issues with anti-social behaviour, some of which is alcohol related.



A large part of the Rochester CIP is within the Rochester PSPO.



10.8 ALCOHOL RELATED PUBLIC NUISANCE

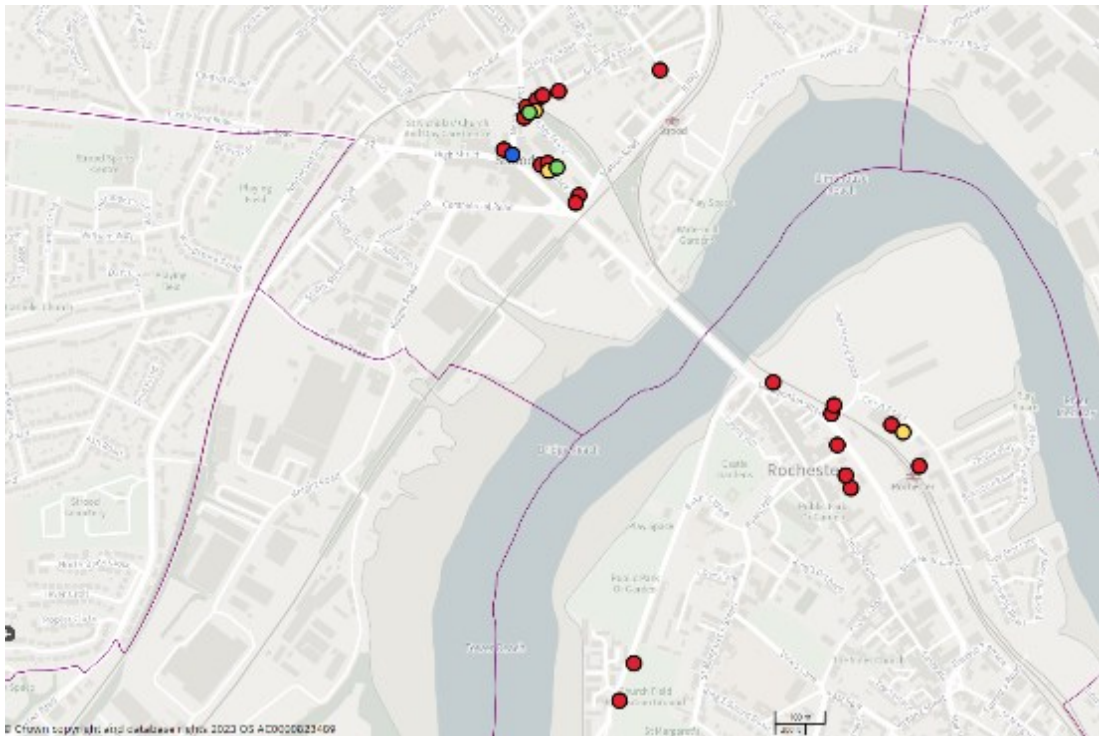
Public Health has carried out ongoing monitoring of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Medway throughout the period of 2021 to 2023 since the last review of this policy. This includes evidence of alcohol litter, street drinking, urination and defecation and co-located drug use in areas of public drinking.

The following maps show the locations where alcohol related litter has been found (red dots) on more than one occasion by public health and environmental enforcement. Additionally, the maps show where street drinkers have been seen or reported (blue dots), drug litter found by public health staff or environmental enforcement (green dots), and human waste found in the same locations as the alcohol related litter (yellow dots).

Photographs have been provided to give an indication of the types of alcohol related litter, drug related litter and evidence of human defecation and urination found during the 3 year period covered. The photographs are not intended to be more than an indication of the type of litter in this area and are not representative of the amount that has been recorded during this time, which runs into thousands of separate items.

There is a robust cleaning regime in place in and around Rochester High St and evidence of alcohol related litter found by Public Health staff walking in the area is relatively rare, however, it is highlighted in both public surveys and the focus group.

10.8.1 2021



Corporation Road



Esplanade Gardens



Gas House Lane



10.9 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

10.9.1 2022 survey

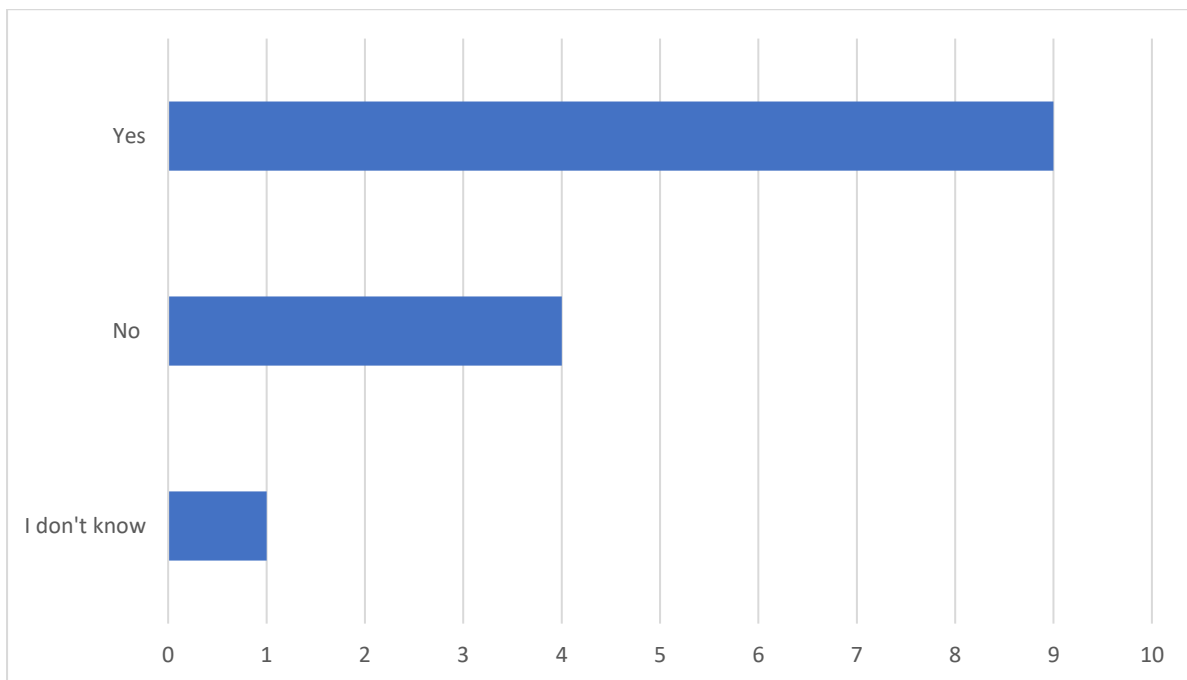
10.9.1.1 Summary

The majority of respondents believed that the sale of alcohol from licensed premises contributed to alcohol related problems. Crime and disorder and public nuisance were the two licensing objectives respondents were most concerned about. Littering, begging and street drinking and drug use were the main issues identified and these happened every day and all times. Nightclubs, pubs/bars, off licences and then takeaways were identified as the types of premises contributing to the problems in the area.

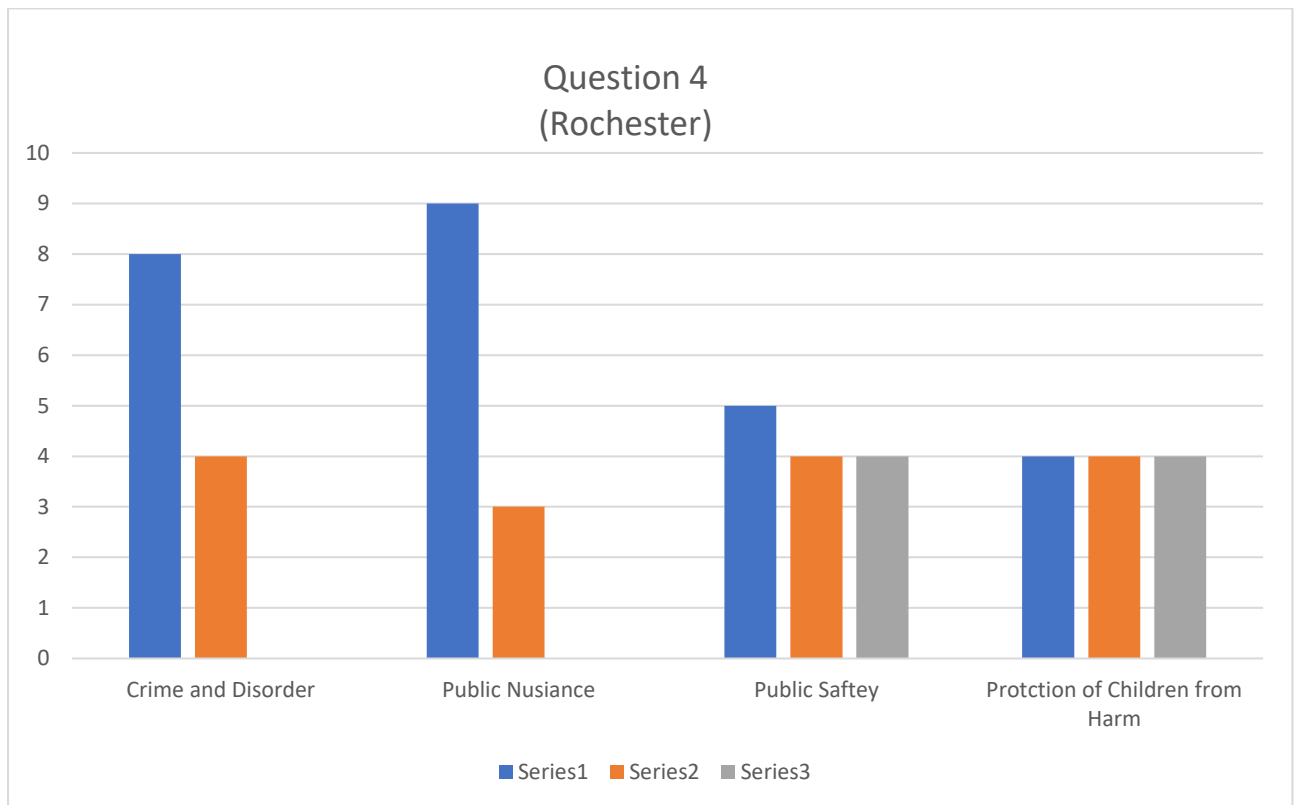
10.9.1.2 Questions and replies

17 respondents stated they were talking about Rochester.

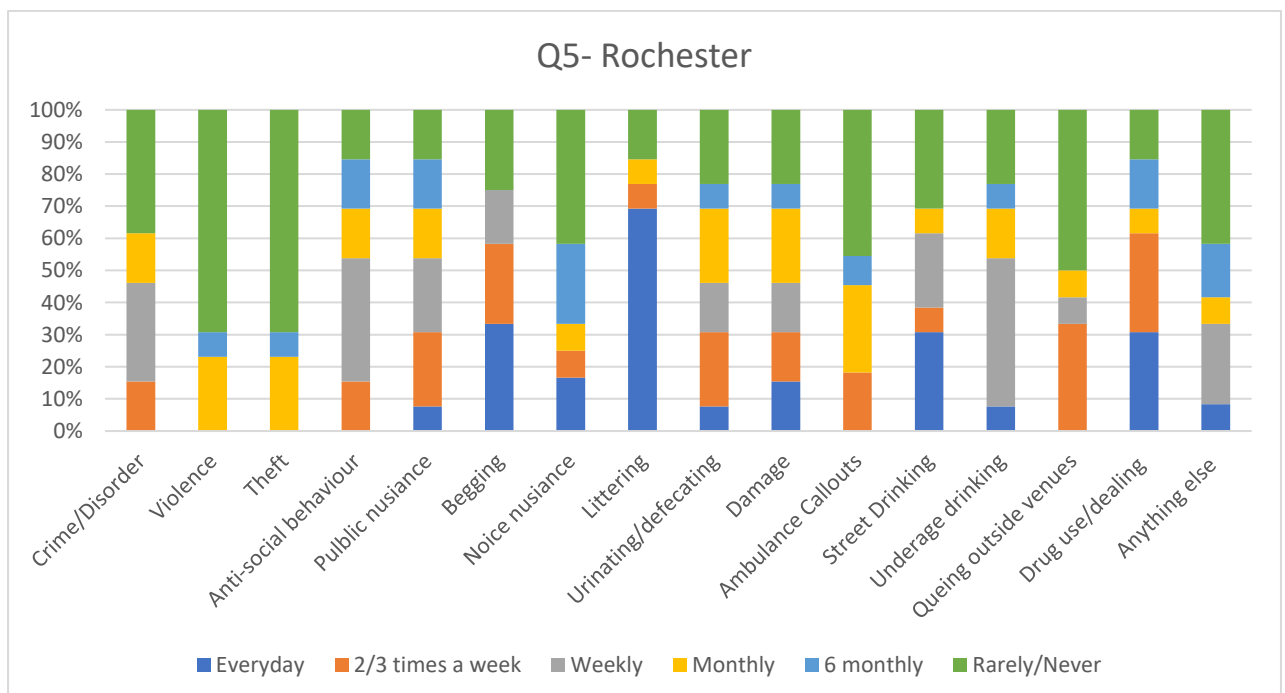
Question 3 – Are licensed premises such as Pubs/Nightclubs/restaurants in this area contributing to the alcohol related issues?



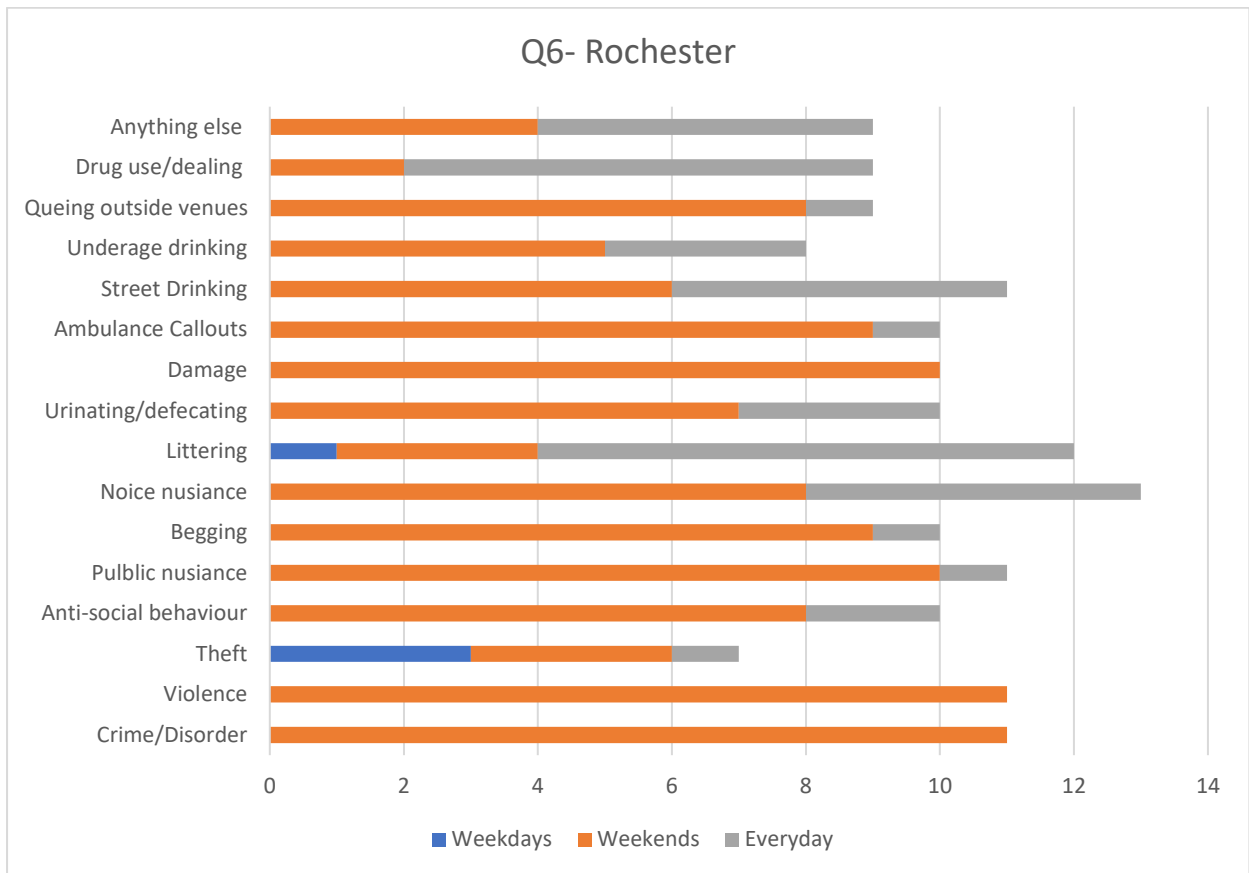
Question 4 - In your view have the customers of licensed premises in this area ever contributed to any issues relating to the four licensing objectives in the area you are concerned with?



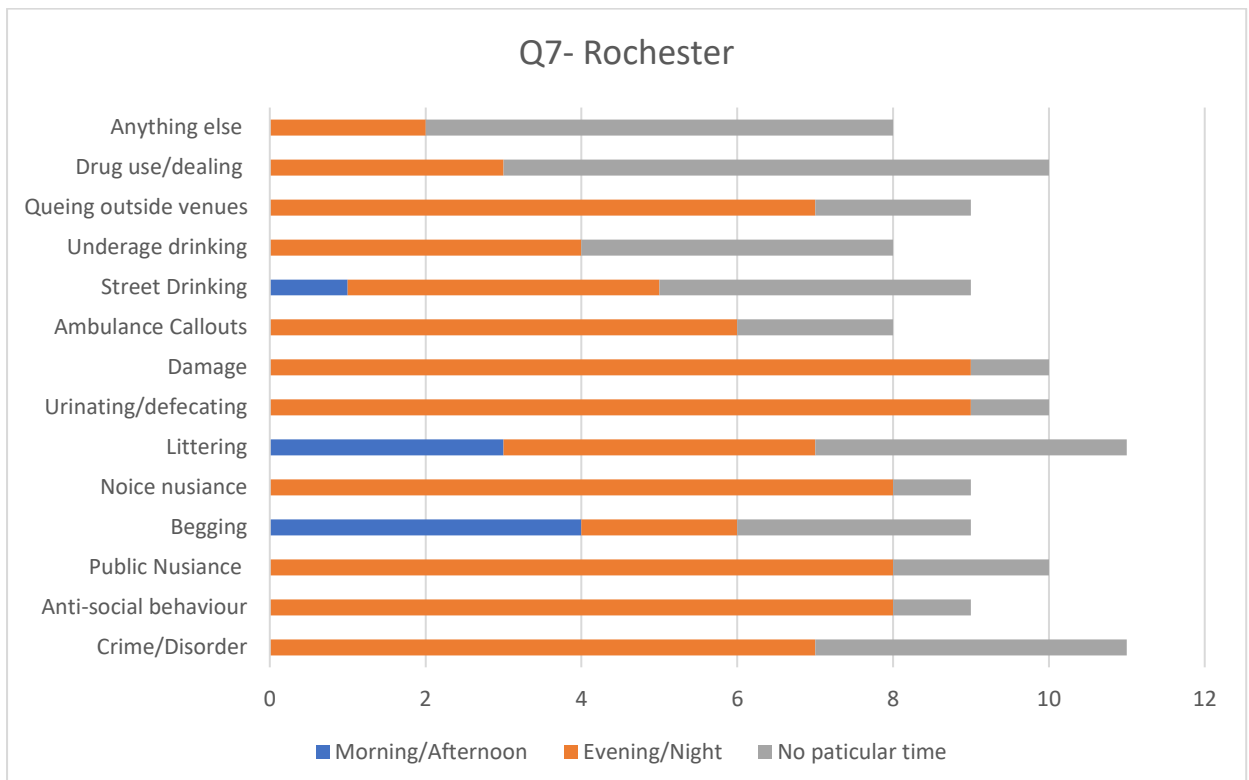
Question 5 - How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following alcohol related issues in the area you are concerned with?



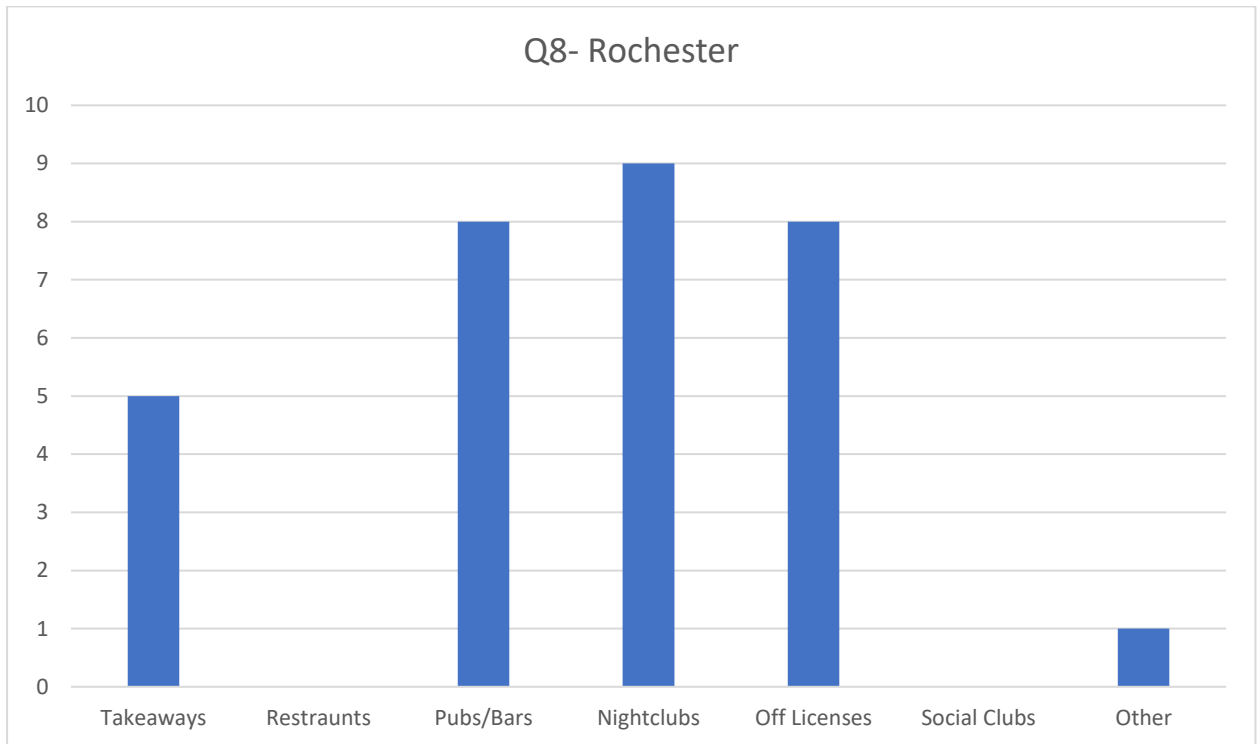
Question 6 - Are there any particular days of the week when these alcohol related issues happen?



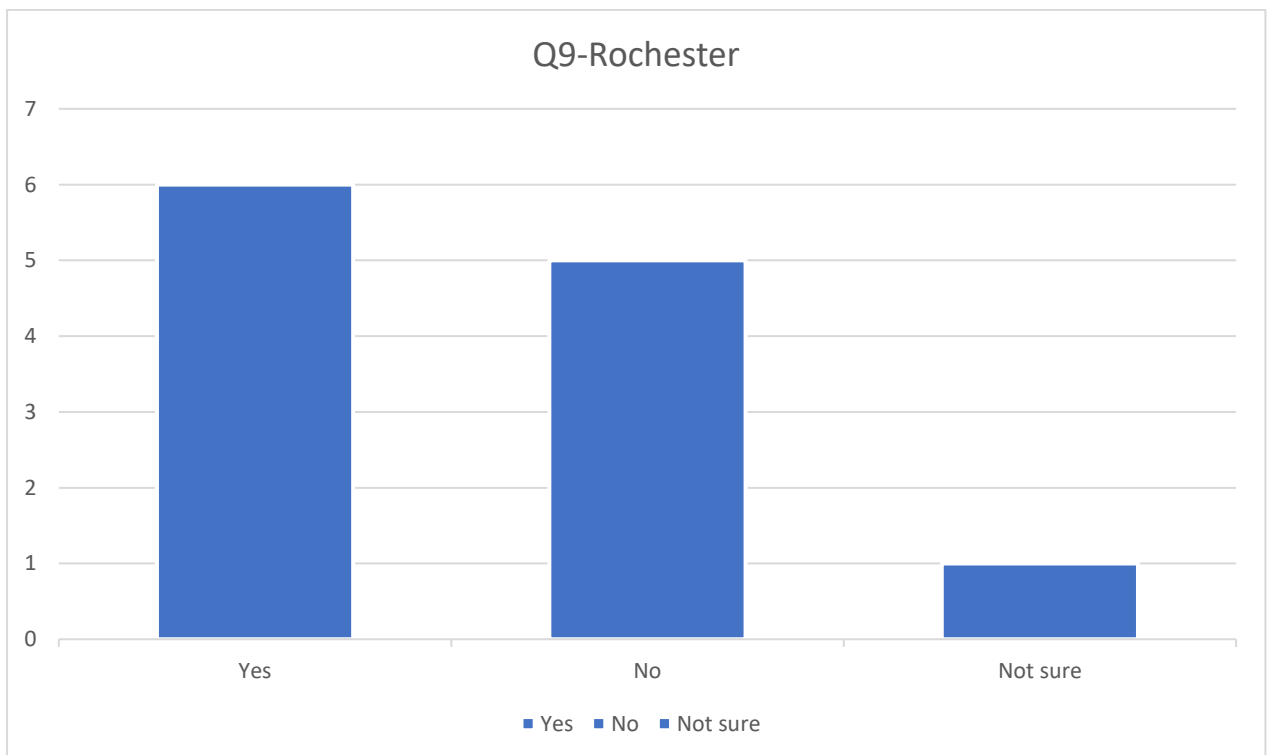
Question 7 - What time of the day are these alcohol related issues happening?



Question 8 - What type of premises are causing or contributing towards any alcohol related issues or problems?



Question 9 - Do you think the number of licensed premises in this area contribute to any of these issues?



Question 10 – Free text - Tell us about your experiences with alcohol related issues and the impact it has

- Begging particularly Friday and Saturday, but all day, every day putting people off coming into town. Cigarette butts left everywhere. People peeing up doors in the High Street. Sick on the pavements and in doorways. Drug dealing by the beggars. Smashed windows at the weekends and public holidays.
- Cheap alcohol is more of a problem than number of premises. A high street full of restaurants and microbreweries cocktails etc is going to be less problematic than cheap pubs and nightclubs advertising special discounts on shots
- Right near me St Margaret's Cemetery has become a drinking area for those claiming to be honouring the dead if I can put it that way. It has become an excuse that if a relative has recently been buried - often close to the Maidstone Rd wall - it is in some way acceptable to come to the graveside for weeks sometimes months after to drink. The empty cans and bottles are strewn around. A couple of times in the last few months following two particular funerals I have dodged glass bottles rolling down the road narrowly missing a punctured car tyre. I have also witnessed urinating at the bottom of my road (roughly opposite the entrance to the cemetery) against the garden wall of one of the homes overlooking the cemetery. There also appears to have been an increase in drug related items being discarded in the immediate area although I have not witnessed any clear direct link between the two. As for Rochester High Street this STILL undergoes a character change after sunset. This is putting off law abiding people coming to enjoy the High Street's evening economy due to the effect of the night-time economy not being controlled effectively. Also on-street begging is on the increase again since we have been coming out of all remaining Covid restrictions.
- To me, my family & friends Rochester is a bipolar town. During the day mainly pleasant & beautiful & welcoming but evenings noisy intimidating & quite scary. Most avoid the area in the evening deliberately. Too many bars, restaurants, licensed premises within close proximity of each other all competing for business. Some have door staff who can look intimidating & readily resort to violence to combat bad behaviour sometimes justified sometimes not. The Police presence is minimal. More alcohol related businesses are applying to open regularly. In the early morning I walk the High Street see the after effects of the night before namely litter everywhere signs of urine on the pavement in shop doorways. During the day I witness begging every day it is sometimes accompanied by the beggars others openly dealing in full view of passers by adults & children. Children especially should not be witnessing this. Again, any Police presence is minimal. Seeing High Street shop windows criminally damaged from the night before is happening all too regularly. I love my town' do everything I can to enhance its attraction, but I am ashamed of the behaviour of a few at night, mainly prompted by alcohol drugs
- Walking down these areas at night are not a nice experience due to the number of intoxicated people around. Often there are glasses, bottles left in residential areas which as a

result get knocked over and leave smashed glass on the pavements. These smashed bottles are often left for days with no one from the council clearing them up. I am talking predominantly around The Delce area, and especially around Cazeneuve St. I think the council needs to encourage more day time trade to reduce the proportion of day - night traders as this encourages a better reputation and arguably less cost spent rectifying the issues brought by the night, thus saving the council money. I also think the council needs to petition the government with the idea of business specific licences so that it is a business that has the licence given rather than the building. Alcohol consumption is a huge problem for the reputation of Rochester.

- Rochester is a beautiful and attractive place to be - no-one is immune to its beauty and there are many places to buy alcohol off licence and fast food. The footfall is high, and beggars do really well from the public, so they are always in place. I am in the High Street most days and almost without exception, there will at least 2 people begging, and others holding a can, obviously inebriated. Children obviously have a fascination with people behaving badly - and it is intimidating during the day. We have a fantastic litter-picking up team in Rochester, but I see discarded cans and bottles every day along with wrappers of fast food. Often on a Monday morning, there is a shop window boarded up because it has been smashed. I live a little way up from the High Street on a residential street and very often on a Thursday and Friday night (2 - 3 am) rowdy people walk past having been to the night clubs, shouting and talking loudly and using the churchyard wall to urinate against.
- I'm retired and live at then bridge end of the high street near the George Vaults. For sure it gets a bit noisy on Friday and Saturday nights but not alarmly [sic] so. I'm quite happy with the level of high spirits.
- Stopped using Rochester high st bars after 8 pm due to amount of drunken yobs causing problems
- It's usually just dickheads that shouldn't drink that cause 95% of the grief. I choose to drink in a pub that doesn't tolerate any bad behaviour but the Medway [sic] town's problems go a lot further than alcohol
- Supermarkets selling cut price alcohol for consumption at home (or the streets) in an unregulated environment. Pre loading in the home is the root cause of alcohol induced mischievous activity.

10.9.2 2023 survey

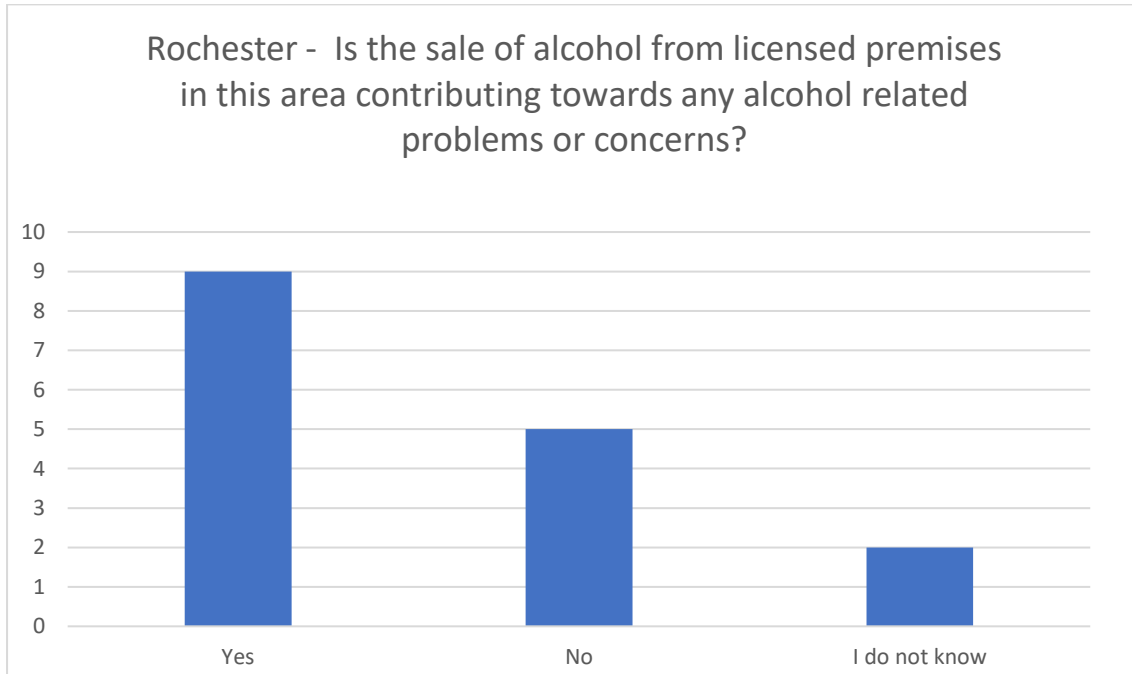
10.9.2.1 Summary

The majority of respondents believed that the sale of alcohol from licensed premises contributed to alcohol related problems. Littering, begging and street drinking were the main issues identified and these happened every day and all times. Pubs/bars, nightclubs and then off licences were identified as the types of premises contributing to the problems in the area.

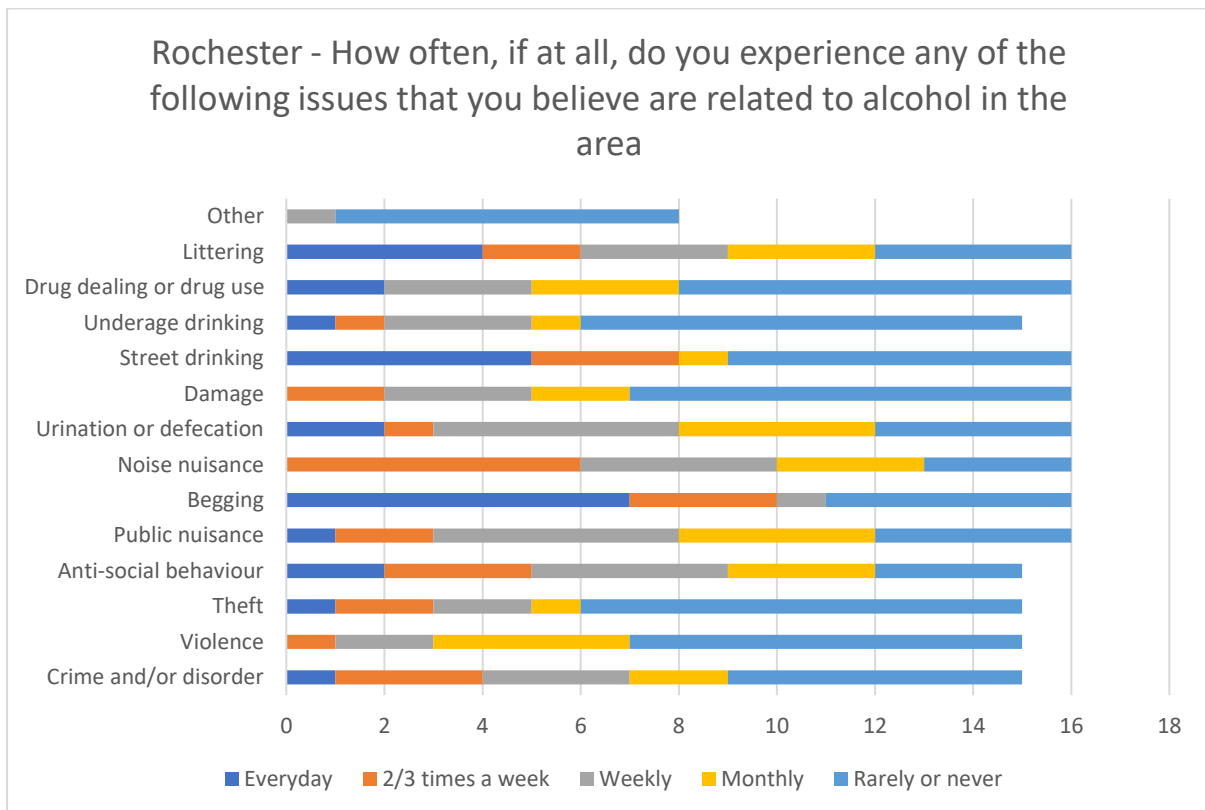
10.9.2.2 Questions and replies

There were 16 responses which gave Rochester as the area being commented on.

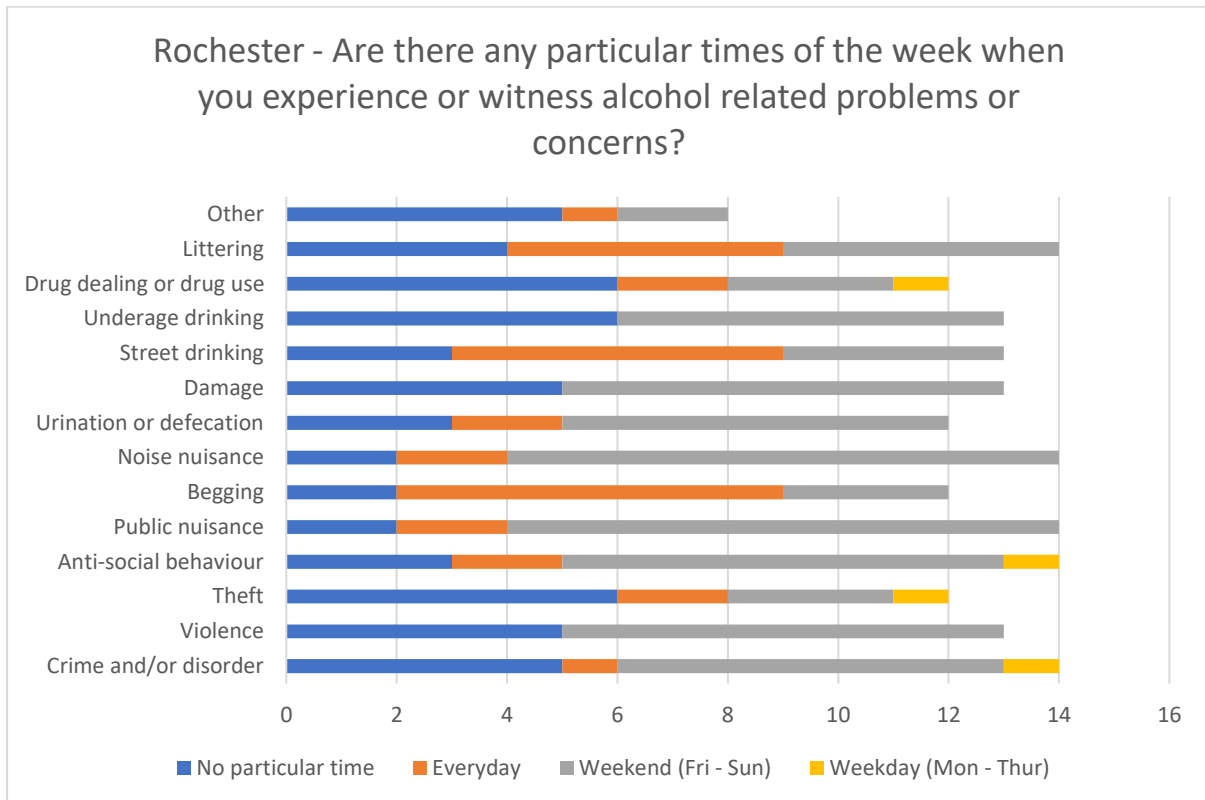
Q3 - Is the sale of alcohol from licensed premises in this area contributing towards any alcohol related problems or concerns?



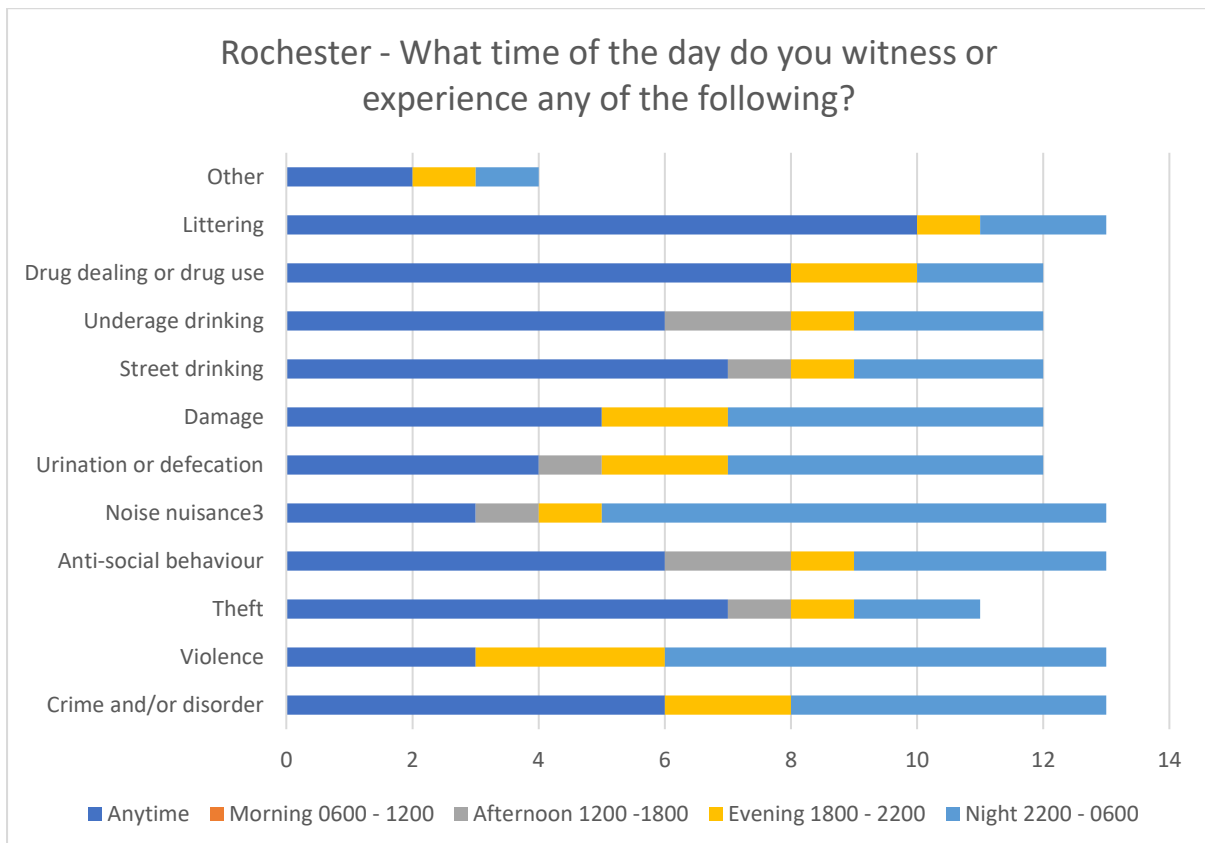
Q4 - How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following issues that you believe are related to alcohol in the area.



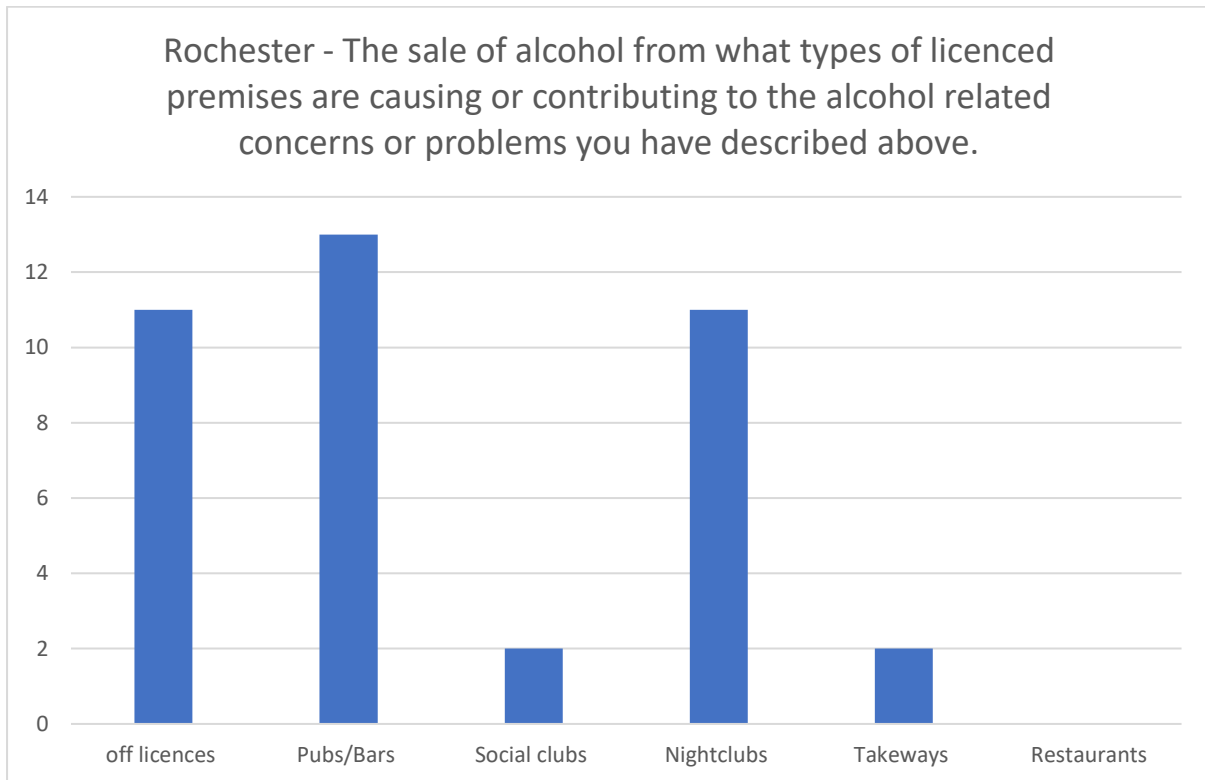
Q5 - Are there any particular times of the week when you experience or witness alcohol related problems or concerns?



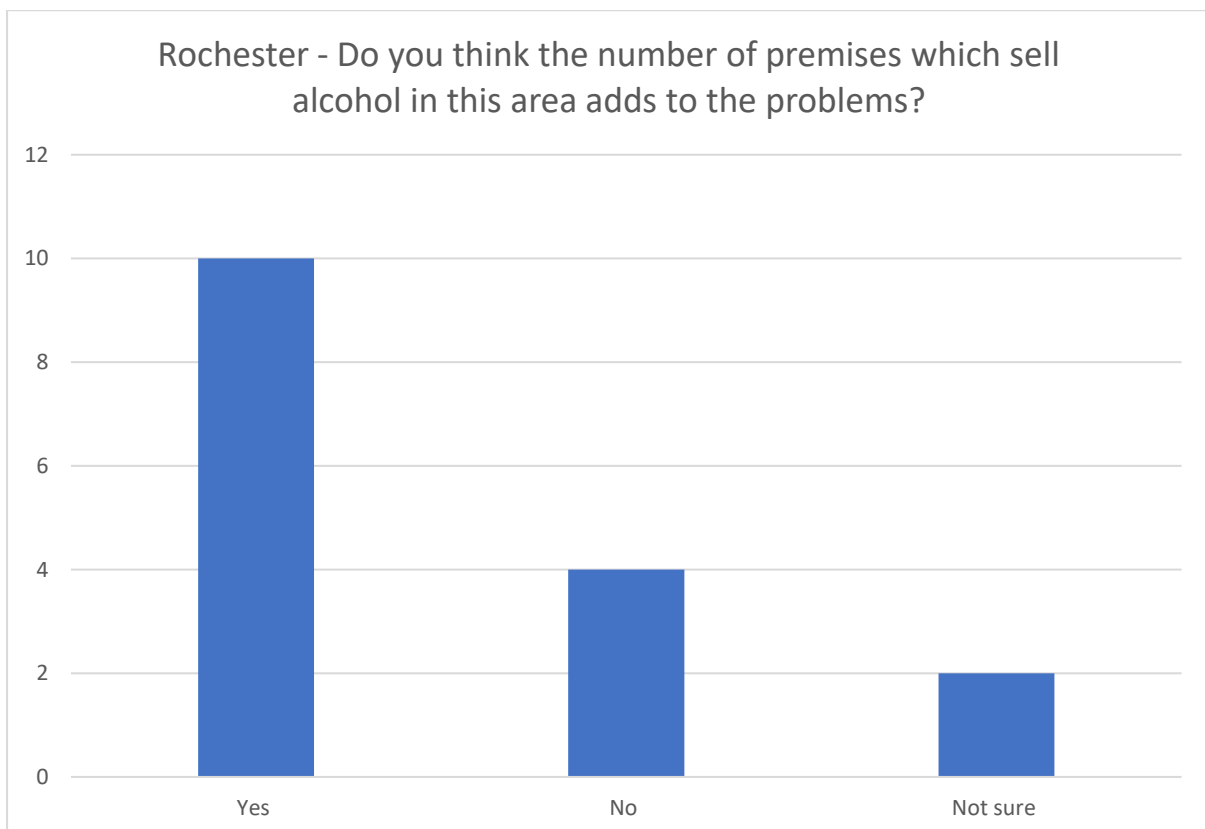
Q6 - What time of the day do you witness or experience any of the following?



Q7 - The sale of alcohol from what types of licenced premises are causing or contributing to the alcohol related concerns or problems you have described above.



Q8 - Do you think the number of premises which sell alcohol in this area adds to the problems?



Q9 - Free text - This is your opportunity to have your say if you wish.

- I would prefer to see fewer premises selling alcohol - particularly lower-priced and 2 for 1 offers. I certainly feel unhappy about any takeaway or off license premises in Rochester High Street being granted new licenses. My hope is that they will continue to be monitored and managed robustly.
- Shut the Casino earlier! Have witnessed very drunk people still be sold alcohol in bars and off licences - staff are sometimes young and not able to say no to service or challenge customers. No more bars or off licences in Rochester please - close down all the shops that are a front for hooky fags and booze in Chatham.
- I fell the nightclub has a lot to do with the problems in the area
- I don't find it to be a problem. I know there are some issues on Rochester High Street but I think a thriving night economy is important. Most pubs and restaurants are good. I don't understand the point of having casinos though.
- The Casino Rooms in Rochester is an issue with street drinking, urinating in the High Street. The number of homelessness contributes to the ASB and their drinking on the streets.
- No problem really, it's what comes with living near a pub, it could be so much worse
- Would like to see less, have experienced underage drinking, front door kicked in, drunken brawls and assaults
- Whilst Rochester High Street is a thriving area , business wise , there are now too many licensed premises selling alcohol . This leads to frequent anti-social behaviour in all forms . A major problem is licensed premises continuing to sell / serve alcohol to customers who are already intoxicated (an offence !) . Far more licensing & Police enforcement is required here . A major step forward would to re - introduce police on foot patrolling the streets . It provides a visible deterrent !
- Rochester High Street is a nightlife destination and reducing the number of bars and nightclubs would have a negative impact on the economy. Most venues employ security guards who help prevent antisocial behaviour outside pubs. As a resident, I am sometimes inconvenienced but rarely feel unsafe, and was aware that this was a nightlife hub when I moved here. However, I would like to see greater police/security presence in the area around blue boar car park on Fri/Sat evenings in light of the recent incidents in that area.
- I'm very happy with the outlets local to me to that sell alcohol, they are vital to our local communities. It is incredibly sad to keep losing so many public houses. This feels like a one sided survey with a leaning to suggest pubs and restaurants encourage anti social behaviour.
- I used to be an alcoholic which I genuinely believe was made worse by the ease of access in more densely populated areas of Medway. This not only now causes a lot of antisocial behaviour but also causes a lot of daytime drinking.
- I wish to see less pubs

10.9.3 Focus Group

The focus group was made up of 6 participants.

10.9.3.1 Summary

Rochester is different from the other CIP areas in Medway. Many people are resident in the High St and are directly affected by alcohol related issues from customers of both the off licences and the pubs, bars and nightclub. This is reflected in the responses to the questions below.

All participants were agreed the issues in Rochester High Street were spread across the day and into the evening and the night due to Rochester's night time economy. There were 2 distinct issues. Rochester High Street had issues of people drinking during the day and causing alcohol related issues such as anti-social behaviour, nuisance, intimidation, begging and public urination. The second issue was connected to the night time economy, when residents were subject to fighting, noise, anti-social behaviour, public sex acts and disturbance. Question – What effect does the sale and supply of alcohol have on the community?

R1 – I live [in the High Street] so I'm talking about the sale of alcohol [...]. Going into autumn it's been quieter I'd say, but we've had weeing on our doorstep and vomiting on our doorstep. My husband has opened the door to someone weeing in the doorstep. Since the [...] has opened the bouncer there didn't even know it was our front door step and had no idea there was a residence above [...].

R2 – If I leave the shop late at night when it's gone dark, weirdly, even as a young tall male, I will always look when I come out of the shutters, left and right to look who's about. I do find I am more conscious.

Question – What do you mean by late?

R2 – Sometimes about half seven, sometimes later if we have a meeting. I will always double look to make sure I feel OK.

Question – Why do you feel like that?

R2 – I think some of the issues we will come onto during the day still feed into the night and then the night. The issues we have during the day at the moment are a lot of homeless people, are on drugs and drink and are drinking excessively during the day in open public spaces. You have that issue as it is, and for some reason they seem to be congregating in Rochester a lot more at the moment. They've formed a little posse. They are becoming more and more intimidating. And so of a nighttime you don't know. Sometimes they're in pairs, sometimes they're on their own. You never know which way it's going to go. Then add on your evening drinkers it just adds to the volume in the High Street. It makes it more unpredictable. During the day I know nine times out of ten I know it's a safer place. It's makes me more nervous.

R3 – It's well known you don't go to Rochester at night after eight, nine o'clock.

Question – Why do you say it's well known?

R3 – Because people know the atmosphere changes and it's just not a safe place to be. I am extremely wary. I lock the gates at the French Hospital at nine o'clock at night and I do it on my own, so I'm really wary when I go out there and I make sure it's clear before I go out. But

when I lock the back gate, cos I have to go down the alley and I have the keys in my hand ready, because I've come across an extremely drunk man who had a big spliff, standing there. And I'm there on my own at nine o'clock at night in an alley. Afterwards I was a nervous wreck. It's just the unpredictable.

R2 – People would describe it as Jekyll and Hyde. You have one High Street during the day and one for the evening. They are very different places.

Discussion about the difference between Saturday and during the week.

R2 – On a Saturday You do notice than rather than during the week you have your leery homeless people, you have the other leery louts on a drinking stint. It does increase on a Saturday.

R4 – I come into Rochester regularly and I want to see it successful. I agree with what's been said so far. [...] If you have people drinking for eight hours you get people, extremely, not all the time, but can be intimidating to people, very aggressive, urinating, all sorts of things.

Question – Have you seen that?

R4 – Yes I've seen it lots of times. I very often because of where I live, walk through the Vines and we're getting an increasing problem in the Vines of people that have been down in the High St and that have been moved on, or are coming up there, sitting on the benches continuing to drink, shout, scream, whatever, all through parts of the evening. I've walked down earlier and they are stoking up in the Vines.

Question – Where are they buying their alcohol from.

R4 – I should imagine most of them are buying it from off licences.

R2 – I was going to say the same. Especially for the day. Most of them we have, the homeless ones who are drinking quite heavily often have the cans and often have the blue bags. It is the off licences they are getting it from, and I think that builds into the evening.

Question – Explain to me the dynamics of the High Street from early in the morning to six or seven at night.

R2 - From early in the morning it's quite quiet, there's not too many people around. You do find you still have many of the homeless who have stayed in the High Street overnight. [...] We did have an incident the other day, which I can't say for certain is around alcohol, but nine times out of ten most of these homeless people are drunk. [...] As the day goes on it goes from individuals to them congregating. They have their meeting benches, like at the memorial. They get together and it's like the egg each other on. They drink collectively together and it's like who can intimidate who the most because some of them get more leery when they're in a group, and that increases as time goes on. As you get into the early evening some of them will hang around for longer. [...] Some of them are only here when it's busy times of the day.

Question – Why is that?

R2 – For the begging. Some of them do, some don't. You'll some of them begging one minute and then off their face the next.

Question – And what are they drinking?

R2 – It's normally cans of cider and beer.

R3 – They can't afford bottles or anything like that.

R2 – Occasionally I have seen them with cheap wine bottles. They do occasionally have the cheap wine.

R3 – It's mixed with drugs.

R2 – Yes they openly use drugs. [...] This is where it gets difficult as the police data is not going to match with what we are saying because the police presence at the moment is diabolical. [...] At the last meeting we were told to report it, so I have twice over the last week. [...]

Question – So during the day and up to the early evening is it the pubs, the off licences or a combination of both adding to the issues?

R2 – During the week, Monday to Friday, I would say it's the off licences are probably more of the issue than the pubs.

Further general discussion about noise from the pubs and bars.

Question – What issues do you experience? (to R4)

R4 – We shut at 5. The problems that we've all discussed. The shouting. The drinking. The abuse. The fights.

Question – How long has this been going on for?

R5 – I've been working since lockdown and it's just got worse.

R2 – I've been here for a year now and it's getting worse. It's only getting worse. It's not getting better. More and more are appearing. You have your little core group and then it's like, because they are effectively doing what they want more and more from other parts are starting to appear. I've seen some of them in Chatham, but I've seen them more here than I have in Chatham.

Question – What issues do you experience? (to R5)

R5 – Explained she looks after elderly residents who live along the High St at various locations. Description of what one elderly resident has described to her – 'One lady's kitchen looks down on the car park. So on a Saturday night, 3 in the morning, 4 in the morning when they are coming out of the club they are all under her window, weeing, having sex, chucking their rubbish about. She can't sleep as her bedroom is on the front, on the High Street, so she gets all of it and she's in her 80's. A lot of our resident struggle, and because our flats back onto Commercial Road, we get all the noise of them walking down Commercial Road as well. So we are surrounded.

R5 – We've had people climbing our scaffolding, coming over the wall. I've had to go out in the middle of the night to try and find someone mooching about. They ring us [residents] first, so whosevers on call has to go out. We've just had painting done and we've had 2 or 3 incidents

where people who are drunk have climbed on the scaffolding. There was someone swinging on the scaffolding the other night. They're drunk. They think it's funny.

Question – Do you get anything during the day?

R5 – We have the vagrants opposite shouting and screaming. Most of our residents won't go on the High Street in the evening. They don't feel safe. Which means they are stuck there. They can't go out. They feel intimidated by people shouting and screaming in the street, and then in the evening it's just not safe. [discussion about reporting incidents to the police] Somebody burst open our gates, we lock our gates at night, at 9 o'clock everyone knows they are locked in and they're safe because we had so many issues with them all coming into our square. They were going down the bottom and having sex outside people's houses and windows. 5 o'clock on a Saturday you'll find a man having a wee on our premises, or on our doorstep. The other week I was on duty and I walked up to the door at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and there's a man standing there, exposing himself.

R3 – They do it in other doorways. At [shop] they do it there now as the other one has been blocked off. It goes under the door into the shop.

R2 – These issues aren't necessarily brand new, but they have increased but the reason we have shutters to stop the doorway is purely too many windows were getting broken and people were going into the doorway.

Discussion about the current CIP area and whether it needs to be expanded to the other side of the railway. It was agreed that there was no evidence to justify a change in area at the moment.

R5 – Frances Illes is up for sale and we are terrified that will be a club or off licence or bar or restaurant because that won't do us any good.

Question – Do you see lots of broken glass?

R2 – Occasionally. If it is there Norse pick it up. I have seen it here and there but not much. To be fair the one thing Norse can't do is, clear up, which I find on occasions, is sick. I find that I have to clear up sick and annoyingly people can't be sick in one place. They walk and are sick so I have to clear up as they go.

P4 – And the other interesting thing is that as I walk in a lot from where I live. The other thing that you will see, which they may have purchased it from the off licences or possibly from a pub, but perhaps not as people might not have that sort of money, cos it's quite expensive to take a bottle of something away from a pub. On the routes coming out of the town, like the Vines, Crow Lane, St Margaret's Street you often see a plethora of cans.

R3 – Definitely. That is a really good point. There is a huge amount.

R4 – It's people migrating from the town.

R3 – We live on St Margaret's Street, so the noise on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They sit in the gate opposite us, the lytch gate to the church. Sometimes they can be quite rowdy. The go round the corner and have a wee against the wall. The litter. We get cans and stuff on our wall and outside and we do round and pick up all the litter.

R2 – In the High Street itself, while you do have the litter, there are a lot of bins, which is quite handy. It's on the outskirts of going away, which have the issues. And to be fair the Vines is one

of those ones which is weird. You can sometimes just get them sitting and it can be very intimidating. That one is a worry.

Question – Can I ask about off licences. They are covered by the CIP. Do you think this is still appropriate for this area?

All agreed they should be covered by the CIP.

R2 – Because of the continuation of the problems which the off licences supply alcohol to. The day drinkers and therefore aiding the drinking in public. It's causing a problem. Anti-social behaviour is on the rise in Rochester High Street during the day because of the alcohol supply. It's easy access. So one hundred percent.

R3 – Easy access.

R4 – It's made worse by the drugs. Alcohol and drugs make them do worse things. Makes them more aggressive.

Question – Do you feel for pubs and clubs they should be brought back into the cumulative impact policy.

All agreed they should.

R3 – I think with the expansion of [various named bars and restaurants in the High Street].

R2 - We need to have a standard so things are monitored and to stop things going crazy.

R3 – It's a level of protection. I think when we've got the CIP in place you have to, to get another licence, or get in increased or whatever, you've immediately got that warning light come up, and it's we've got to look into this carefully because we've got this. I think that's for all of us.

R5 – There's too many of them for this area. They are all on top of one another and it's just so easy for everyone to just come in and go from pub to pub to pub. End up in the club, roll out in the morning at four o'clock. It's just constant noise.

R2 – We don't want another bar or club in Rochester because there's so many. We need more diversity. It's not just the economy of the area. It's also the safety of the area.

APPENDIX E

11 LUTON CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11.1 SUMMARY

The evidence shows there is a concentration of off licensed premises in and around the Luton Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) area. The CIP borders some of the most deprived areas in Medway, which is relevant to alcohol related harms. Both Chatham Central and Brompton ward and Luton ward, are deprived in both health and crime domains, with Luton being one of the most deprived areas of Medway.

Chatham Central and Brompton ward is ranked 1 for admission episodes for alcohol-specific hospital admissions, where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best, and Luton is ranked 3.

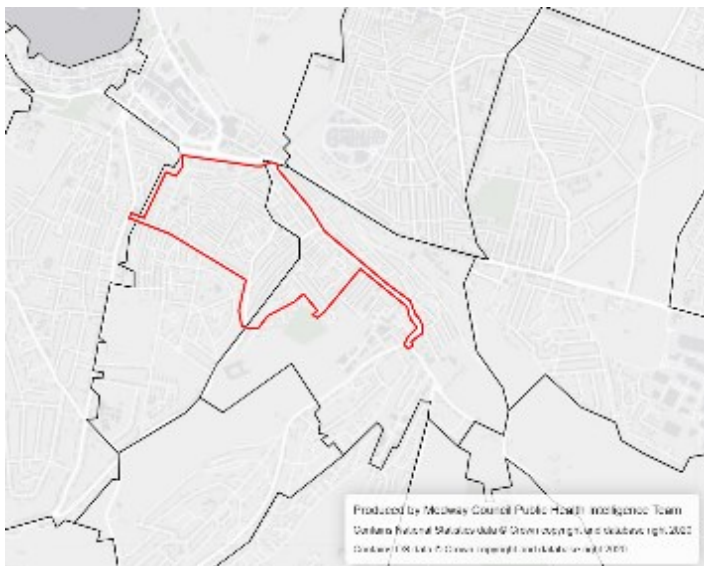
The Chatham Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which has been introduced due to issues with anti-social behaviour over the A2 end of the Luton CIP.

There is extensive evidence of alcohol related nuisance in the form of alcohol related litter, public urination and defecation, street drinking and co-located drug litter. This is evidenced by both the observations of public health staff and the community.

Community evidence concerning the effect the sale of alcohol and its use has on the community is shown by the responses to the 2 public surveys in 2022 and 2023 and the 2 focus groups which covered this area. Both highlighted alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, nuisance and crime as issues.

11.2 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines alcohol related harms in and around The Luton area. The policy area is in both Chatham Central and Brompton ward and Luton ward. However, the effects from the sale of alcohol can be experienced beyond the outline of the policy area, as will be shown below.



The evidence presented below covers

- Deprivation
- Alcohol related hospital admissions
- Public Space Protection Order
- Public nuisance in the form of
 - o street drinking,
 - o alcohol litter
 - o drug litter
 - o human waste
- Community comments

11.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACT AREA



The Luton Road CIP area abuts the Chatham High Street CIP area but is separate due to the difference in evidence of alcohol related harms in each area.

11.4 LICENSED PREMISES

The yellow dots on the following map show the number of off licensed premises in and around the Luton Cip area.



11.5 DEPRIVATION

11.5.1 Multiple indices of deprivation.

Luton CIP area borders some of the most deprived areas in Medway.

Deprivation is relevant to the issue of alcohol outlet density. In 2014 Medway Public Health commissioned a study into alcohol use in Medway. The result - Medway Alcohol: Insight - identified there was a clear link between alcohol related harms, hospital admissions, alcohol related crimes and deprived areas where there is a density of licensed premises.



[The Medway Monitoring Report 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022](#) states the following:

'Indices of Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation are a unique measure of relative deprivation at a small local area level (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England. These bring together a range of data sets and are published in a linked set every 3-4 years. The latest set of indices were published in 2019.

The [Indices of Deprivation](#) consist of the following seven themes: Income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing & services and the living environment.

Medway is ranked in the 30% most deprived local authorities nationally in the 2019 Indices of Deprivation (IoD), in 2015 it was ranked in the 37% of most deprived local authorities nationally. Medway is ranked 93rd most deprived local authority of 317 in England in the latest indices.

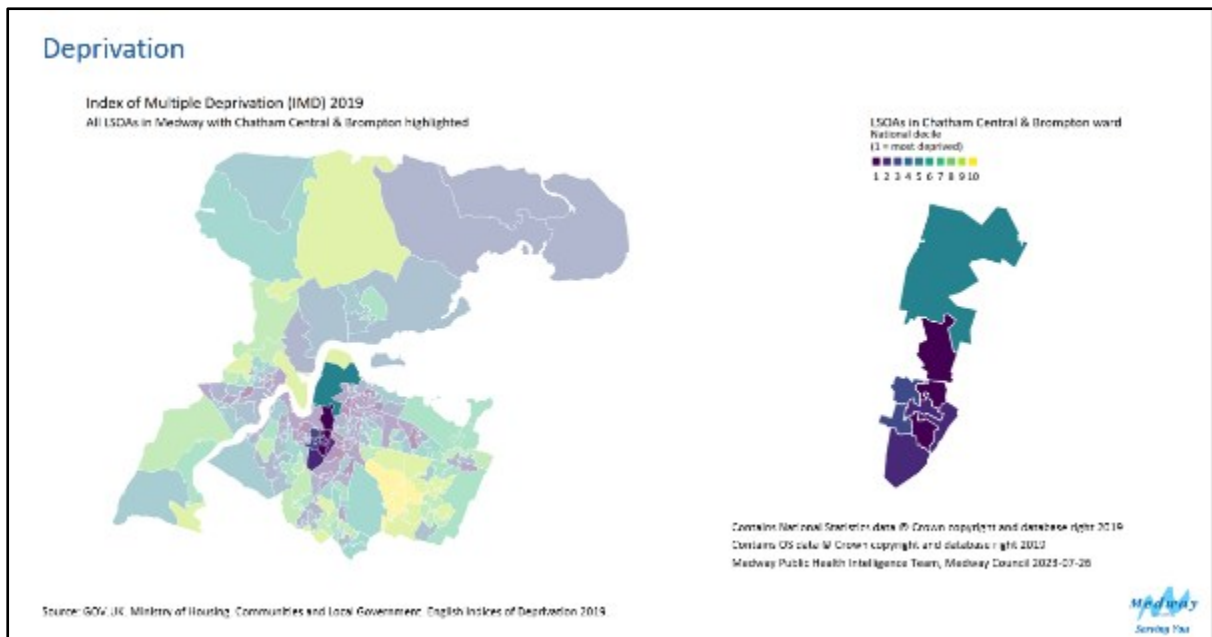
Medway has fourteen neighbourhoods ranked in the 10% most deprived and thirty-seven in the 20% most deprived nationally.

Medway appears to fair worst in the crime domain, ranking in the most deprived 10% of local authorities nationally for crime.

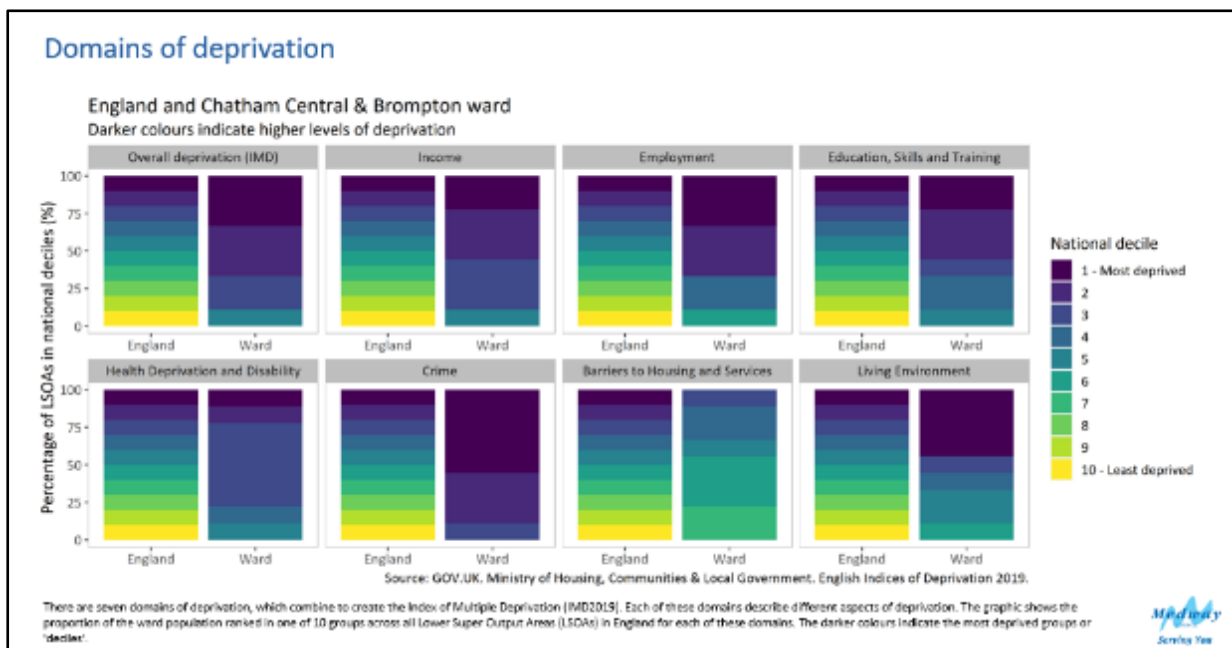
Medway has an additional two areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an additional five in the most deprived 20% nationally since the IoD 2015.'

There are seven domains of deprivation, which combine to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019). Each of these domains describe different aspects of deprivation. The graphic shows the proportion of the Medway population ranked in one of 10 groups across all Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England for each of these domains. The darker colours indicate the most deprived groups or 'deciles'.

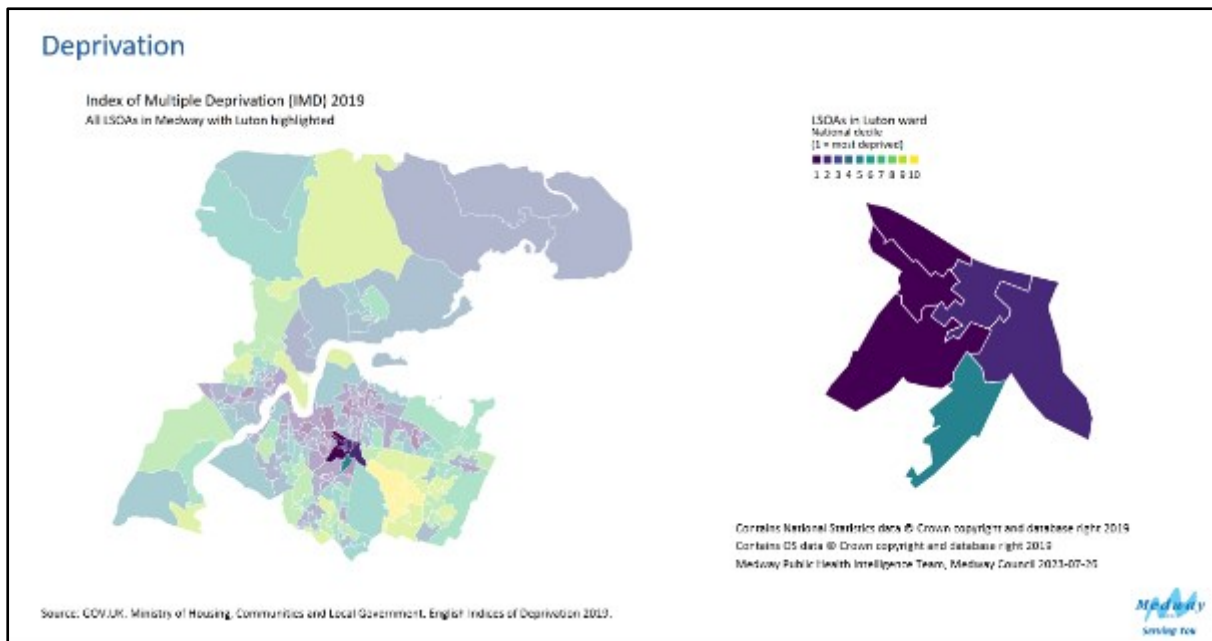
Chatham Central and Brompton Ward – [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#).



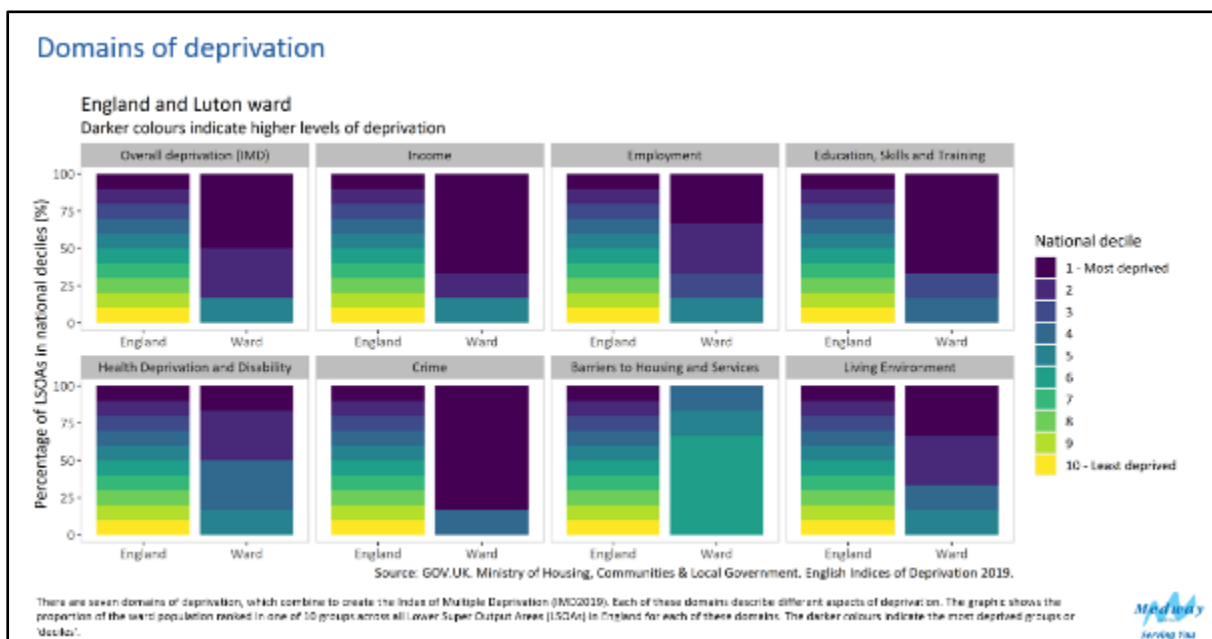
Taking each domain separately it can be seen that Chatham Central and Brompton is deprived in both the health and crime domains.



Luton Ward – [Indices of Multiple Deprivation](#)



Taking each domain separately it can be seen that Luton is one of the most deprived areas of Medway in both the health and crime domains.



11.5.2 Health deprivation

Both [Chatham Central and Brompton ward](#) and [Luton ward](#) have high levels of health deprivation.

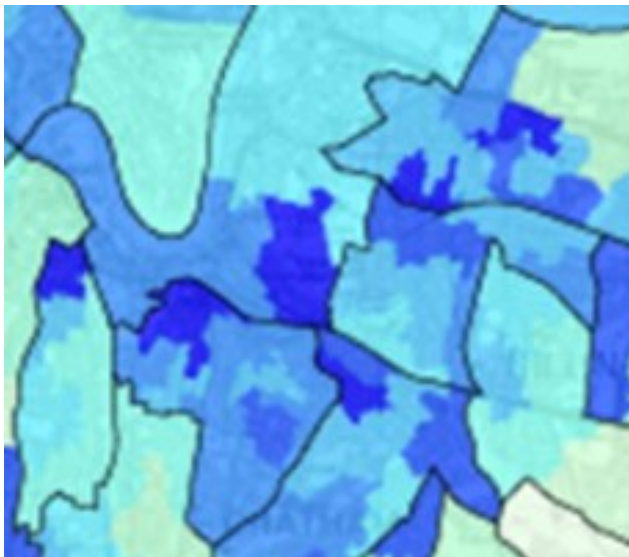
[The Medway Monitoring Report 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022](#) states the following:

‘Medway ranks in the 38 % most deprived local authorities nationally for health. Seven areas rank in the most deprived 10% nationally for health and 20 rank in the most deprived 20% nationally.

Health deprivation is measured as the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.

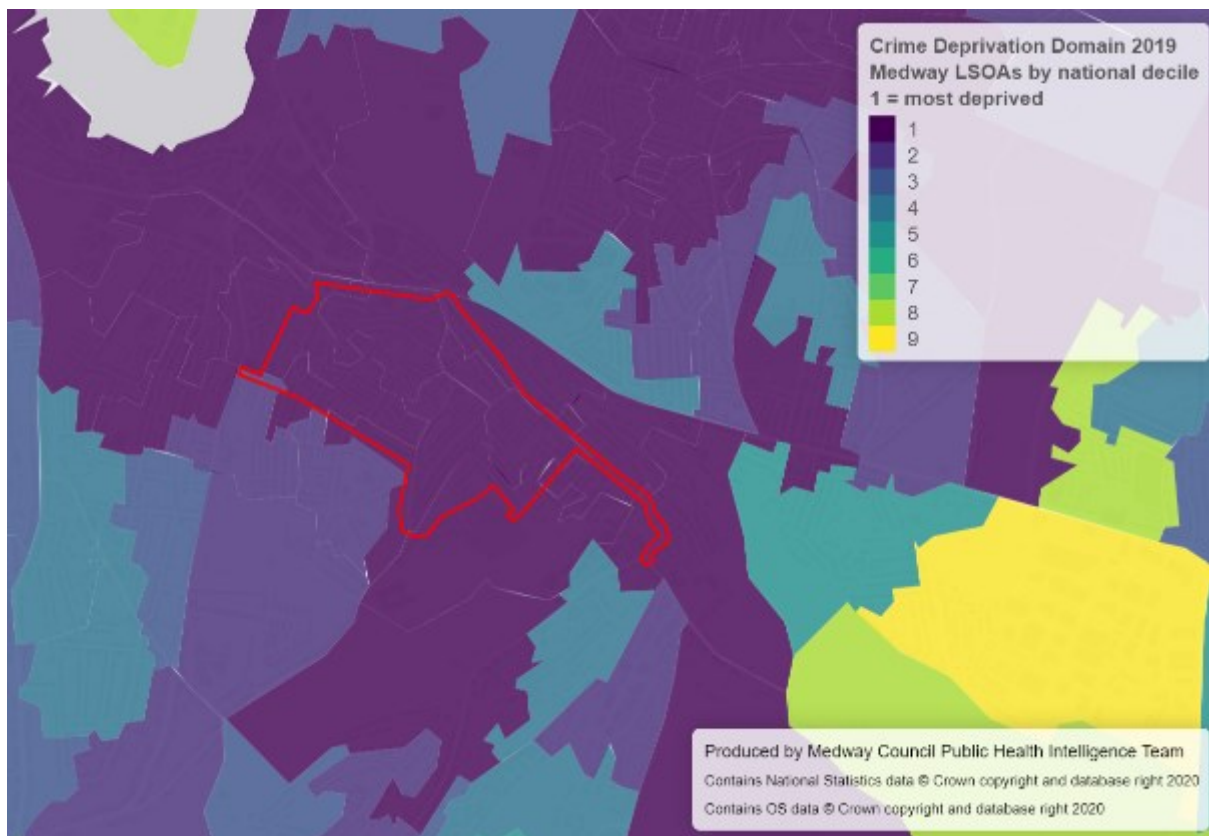
There has been a relative worsening in health deprivation, with Medway seeing an extra four areas in the most deprived 10% nationally and an extra eight areas in the most deprived 20% nationally. While the most severely affected areas for health deprivation are spread across a number of wards in Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester, Gillingham North stands out as having two areas in the most deprived 10% for health, while River stands out as having the most deprived area for health in Medway. Medway’s most deprived area – located in River Ward overall for multiple deprivation is ranked in the most deprived 1% of neighbourhoods for health nationally.’

The below map (pre 2023 ward boundaries) shows health deprivation in and around the Luton CIP area. The darker blue shows the most health deprivation.



11.5.3 Crime deprivation

Both [Chatham Central and Brompton ward](#) and [Luton ward](#) have high levels of crime deprivation.



Crime and the prevalence of crime is a public health issue. Crime is part of the wider determinants of health as it effects people’s physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Certain types of crime are more associated with alcohol consumption than others. Among crimes that are regarded as being ‘[alcohol related](#)’ are

- Violence including wounding and assault with or without injury
- Verbal and physical abuse
- Sexual offences including abuse and assault
- Harassment
- Domestic abuse
- Public disturbance and nuisance including street drinking, noise, littering, public urination and defecation and intimidation
- Harms to children including assault, witnessing violence and all types of abuse
- Driving offences including drink driving

Research from [The Office for National Statistics](#) states that victims perceived an offender to be under the influence of alcohol in 53% of violent incidents; a proportion which has remained consistent during the last 10 years.

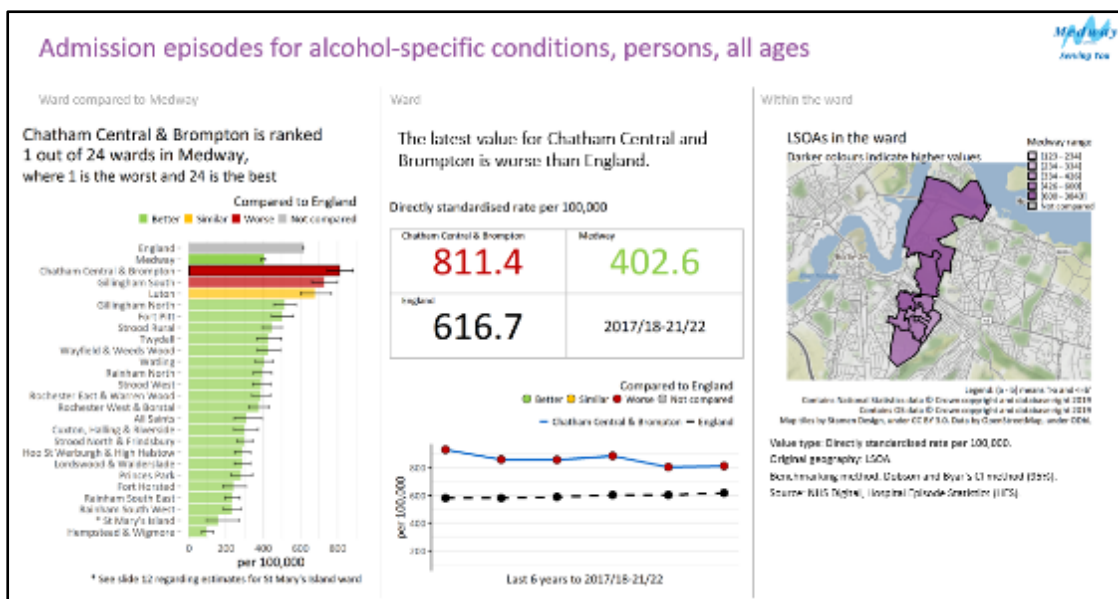
Research has also shown that access to off licensed premises, such as convenience shops and supermarkets, had a greater association with violent crime than premises which only allow for on-site consumption of alcohol ([Trangenstein et al \(2018\)](#)). This is particularly the case for incidents of domestic abuse where incidents often happen in the home. Alcohol consumption, and domestic abuse, increased during the COVID 19 lockdowns, where alcohol could only be purchased from off licensed premises ([Institute of Alcohol Studies, 2021](#)).

11.6 ADMISSION EPISODES FOR ALCOHOL SPECIFIC CONDITIONS – PERSONS – ALL AGES

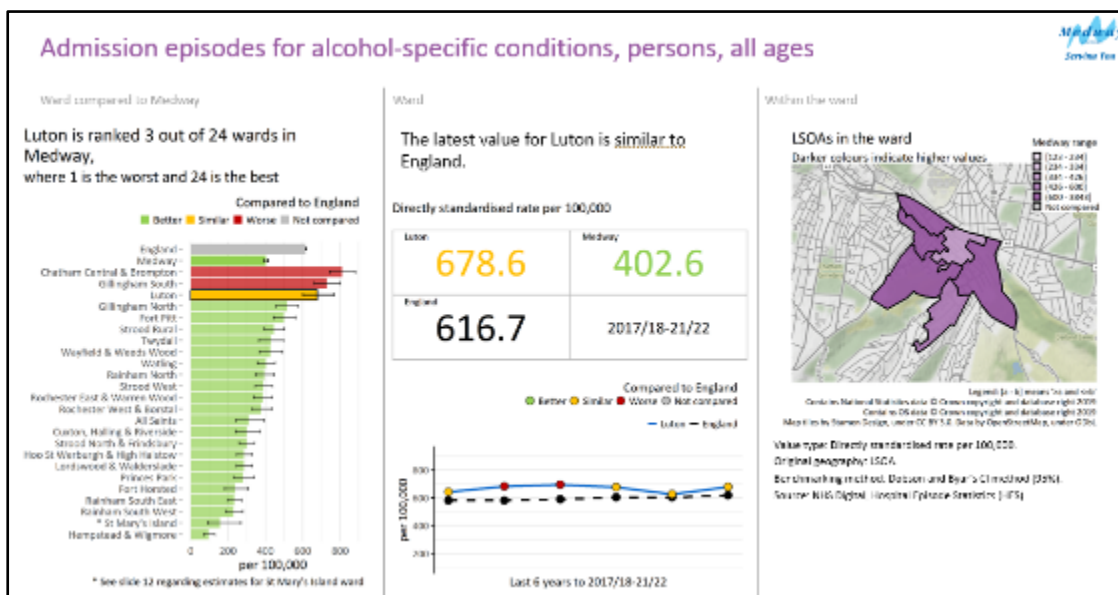
[Alcohol misuse is associated with 60 medical conditions](#), from liver disease, heart disease and strokes to types of cancer, hypertension, and mental health issues and is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health, and disability among 15–49-year-olds in the UK.

This shows the [measure of hospital admissions](#) where the primary diagnosis (main reason for admission) is an alcohol-related condition. Since every hospital admission must have a primary diagnosis, it's less sensitive to coding practices but may also understate the part alcohol plays in the admission.

[Chatham Central and Brompton ward](#) is ranked 1 out of 24 wards in Medway where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best.

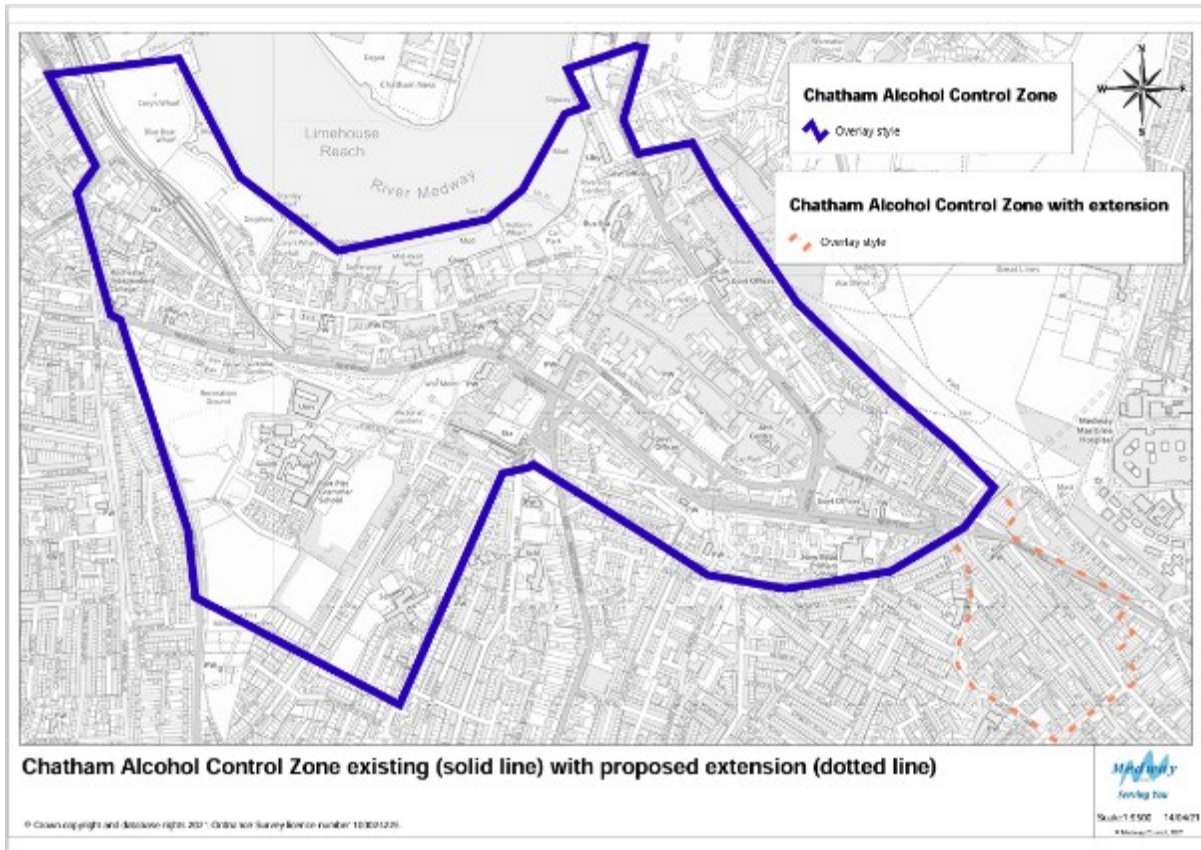


[Luton ward](#) is ranked 3 out of 24 wards in Medway where 1 is the worst and 24 is the best.

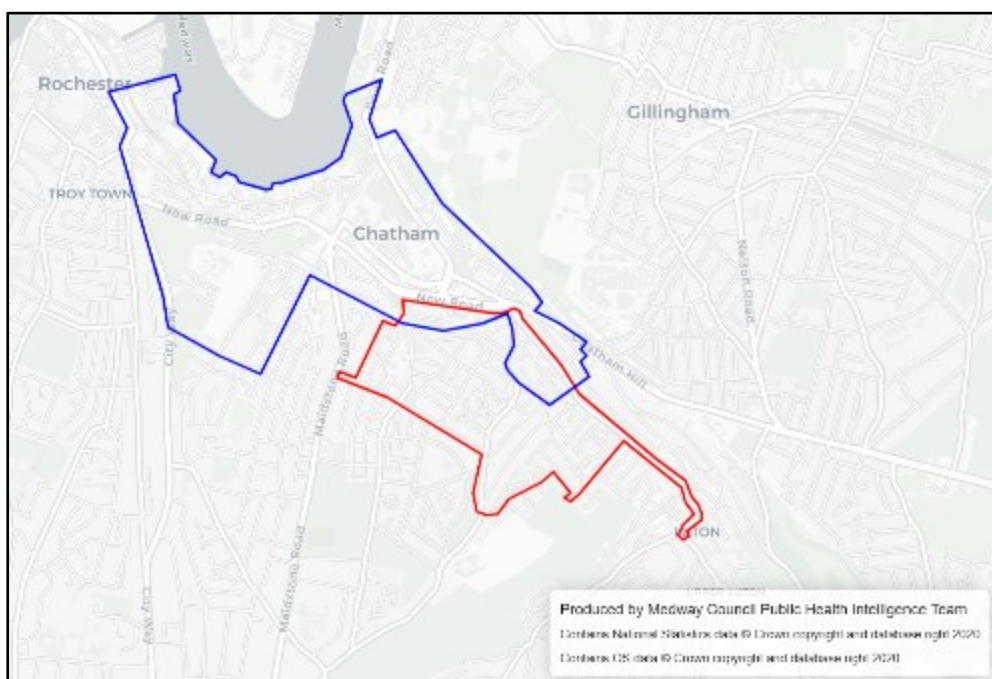


11.7 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), formally known as alcohol control zones, have been introduced in areas of Medway where there are proven issues with anti-social behaviour, some of which is alcohol related.



The Luton CIP is covered by a small part of the Chatham alcohol control zone.



11.8 ALCOHOL RELATED PUBLIC NUISANCE

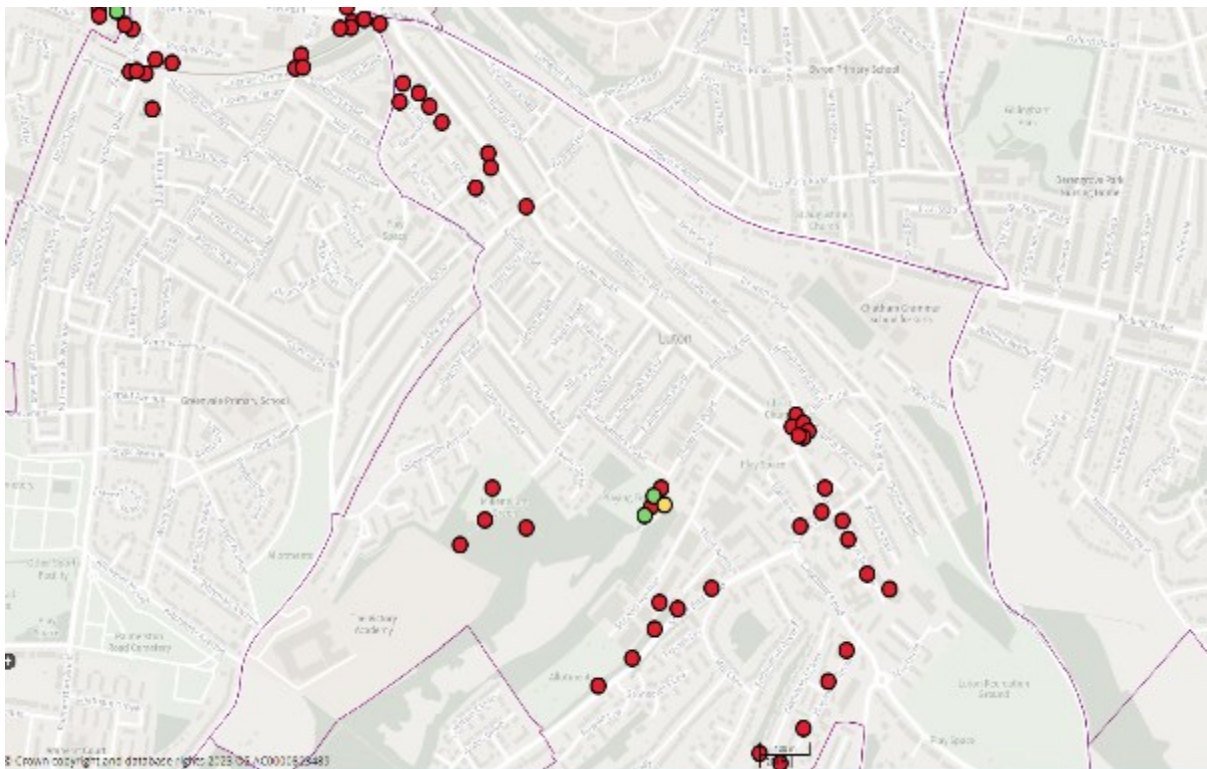
Public Health has carried out ongoing monitoring of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Medway throughout the period of 2021 to 2023 since the last review of this policy. This includes evidence of alcohol litter, street drinking, urination and defecation and co-located drug use in areas of public drinking.

The following maps show the locations where alcohol related litter has been found (red dots) on more than one occasion by public health and environmental enforcement. Additionally, the maps show where street drinkers have been seen or reported (blue dots), drug litter found by public health staff or environmental enforcement (green dots), and human waste found in the same locations as the alcohol related litter (yellow dots).

Photographs have been provided to give an indication of the types of alcohol related litter, drug related litter and evidence of human defecation and urination found during the 3 year period covered. The photographs are not intended to be more than an indication of the type of litter in this area and are not representative of the amount that has been recorded during this time, which runs into thousands of separate items.

While there is evidence of areas where large quantities of litter is left, much of the litter consists of single cans and bottles. However, taken in totality, there is a large quantity of it throughout the area covered by the policy. It can be seen over the three year period the litter is ongoing and consistent in all the areas shown.

11.8.1 2021



A2/Luton Arches



Shopper' car park area



Hopewell Avenue



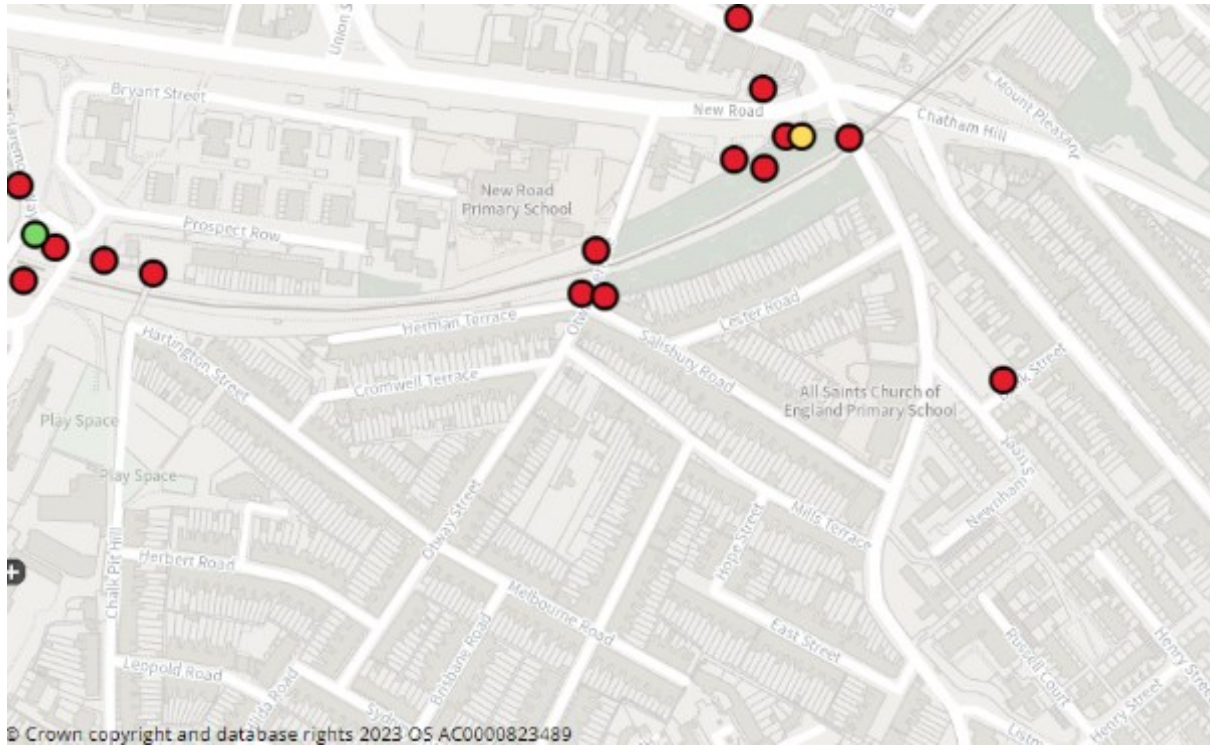
Millenium Green



Street End Road



11.8.2 2022



Railway arches/A2 footbridge



Shopper's car park



Otway Street

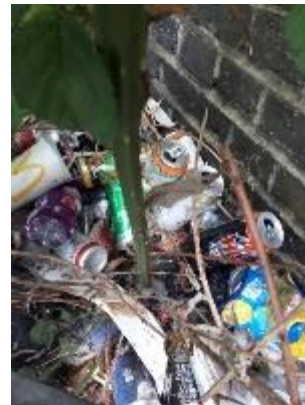


11.8.3 2023

Upper Luton Road/Luton Road



Otway Street/railway arches



A2 footbridge





Luton High St



11.9 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

Community evidence was gathered in 2 ways. The first was by way of surveys, which was distributed over Facebook and council newsletters and circulations. The second was by way of a focus group. For Luton, 2 of the 3 focus groups made comment on this area.

11.9.1 2022 survey

11.9.1.1 Summary

The majority of respondents believed that licensed premises in this area contributed towards alcohol related issues related to the four licensing objectives. Street drinking, littering, begging, public

nuisance and anti-social behaviour were seen by many of the respondents every day and at all times of the day. Off licences and takeaways were seen as the types of premises causing the most issues and the majority of respondents believed the number of licensed premises contributed towards these issues.

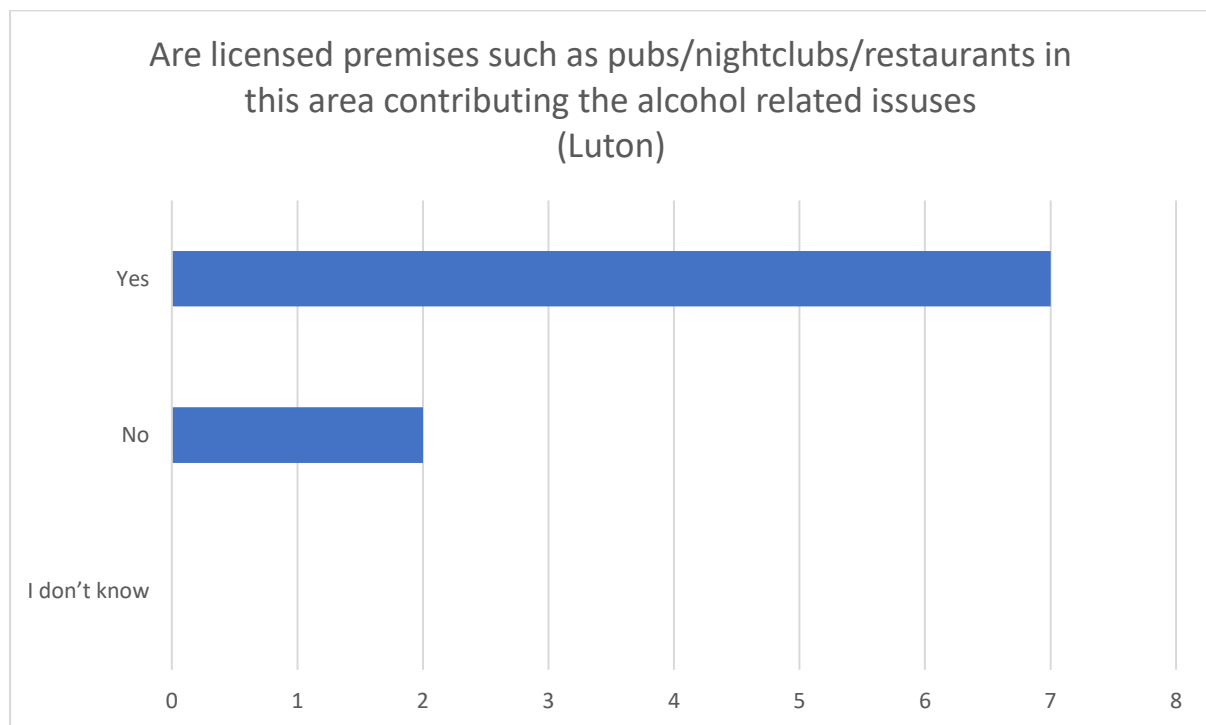
In the free text section respondents described seeing and experiencing issues with alcohol related behaviour such as drunkenness, public urination, street drinking, littering and many types of alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

11.9.1.2 Questions and replies

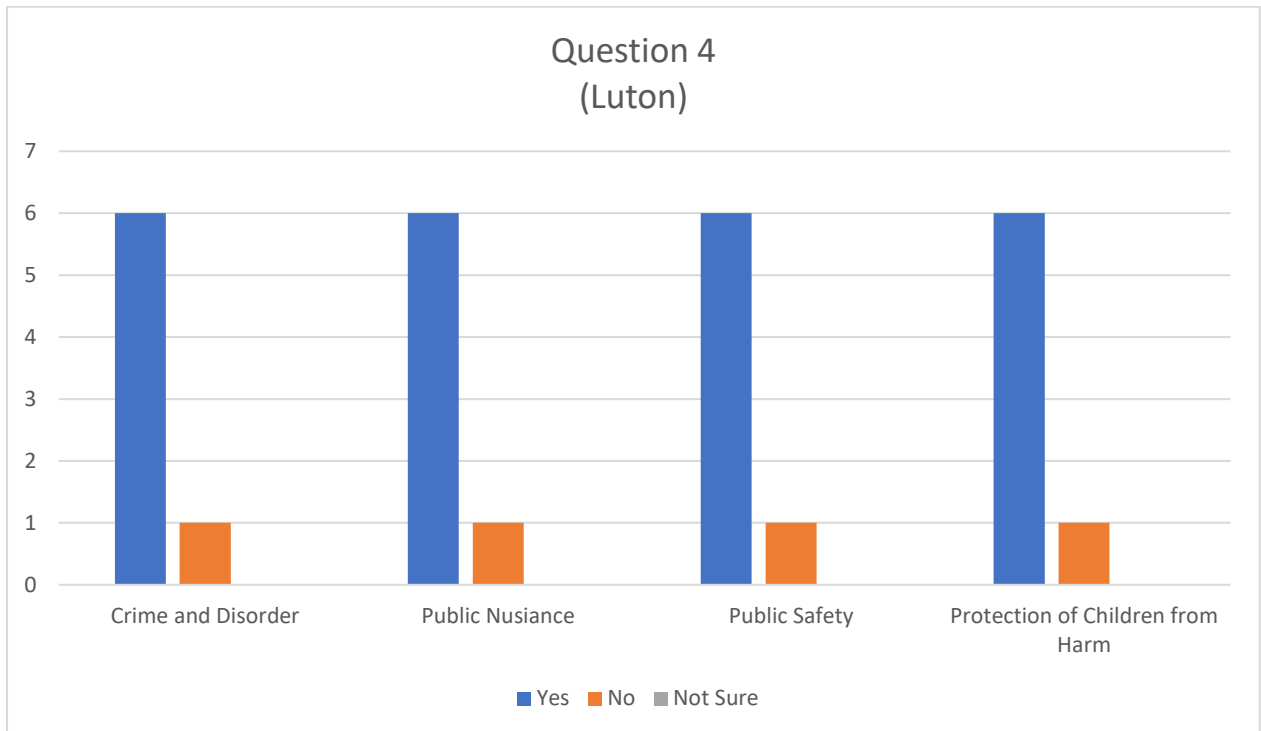
Question 2 – Please tell us which area in Medway you are talking about when responding to these questions. E.g., Chatham High St/Strood town centre/Hoo.

10 respondents stated they were talking about Luton.

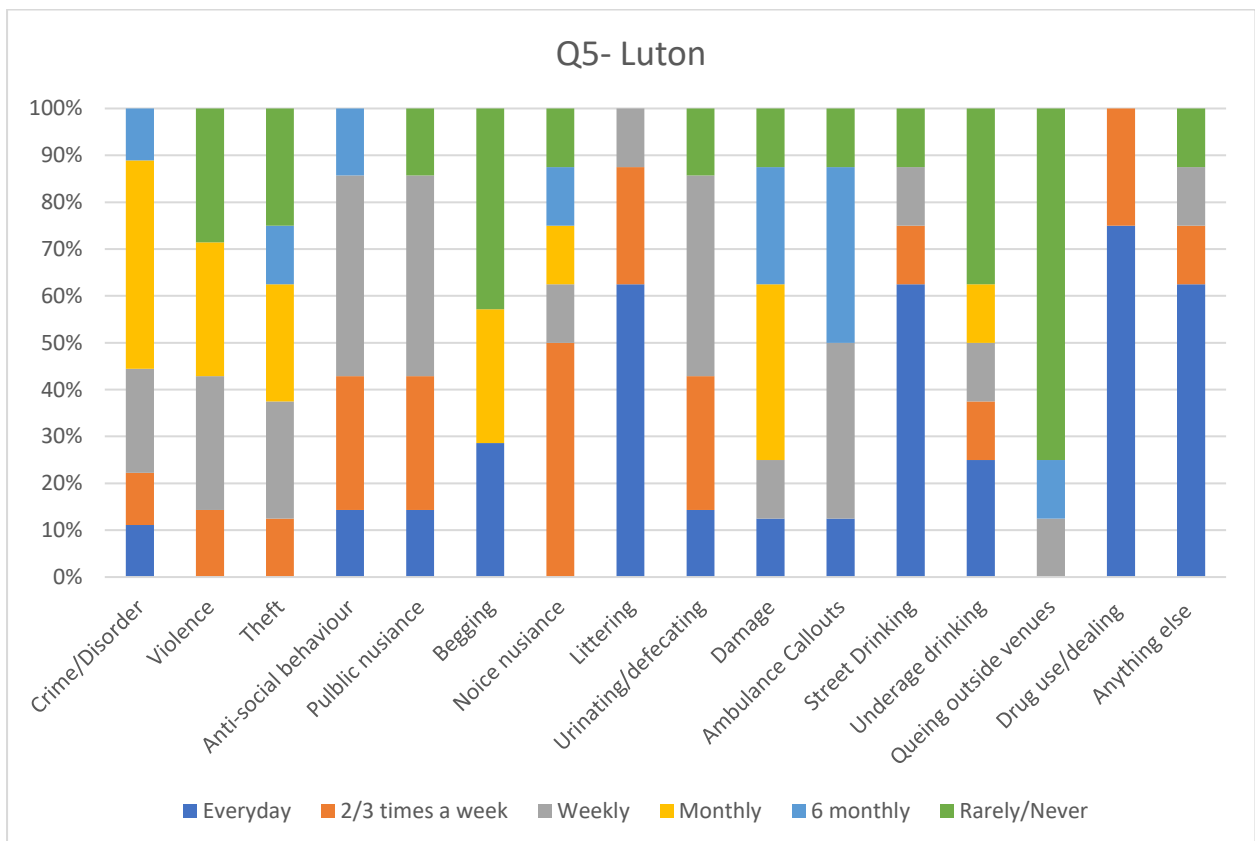
Question 3 – Are licensed premises such as Pubs/Nightclubs/restaurants in this area contributing to the alcohol related issues?



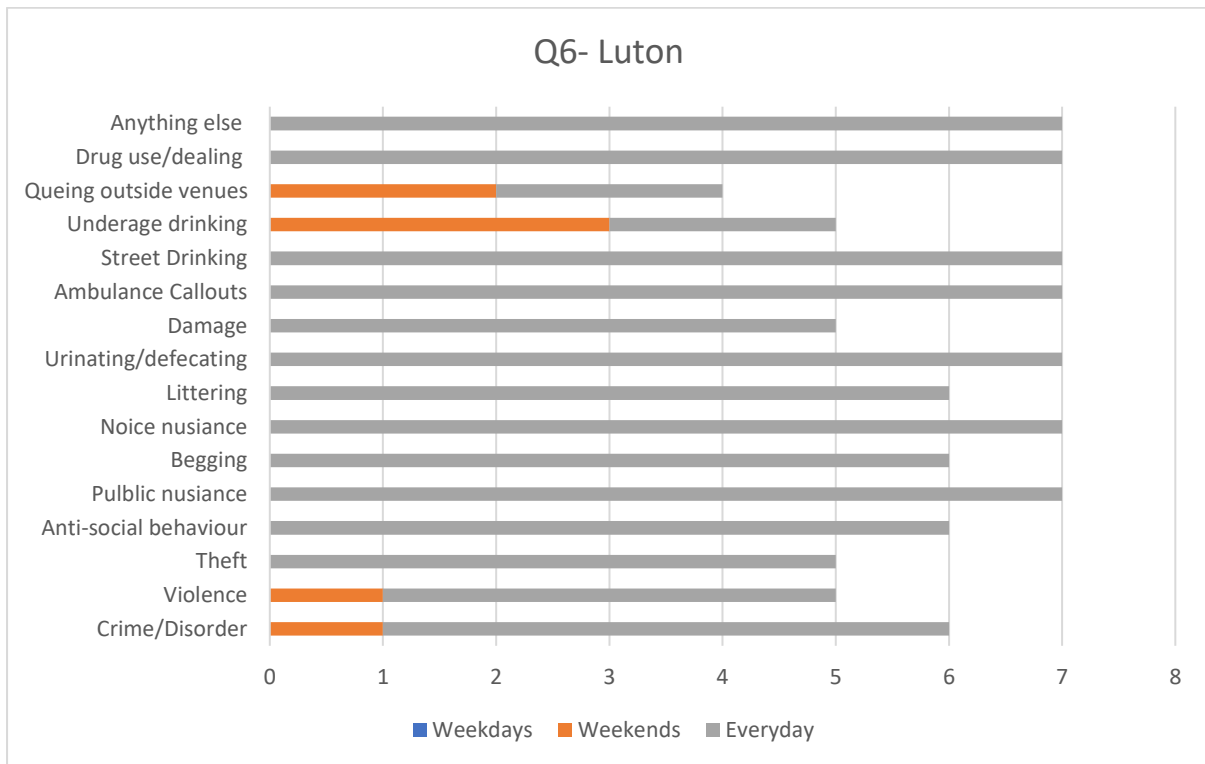
Question 4 - In your view have the customers of licensed premises in this area ever contributed to any issues relating to the four licensing objectives in the area you are concerned with?



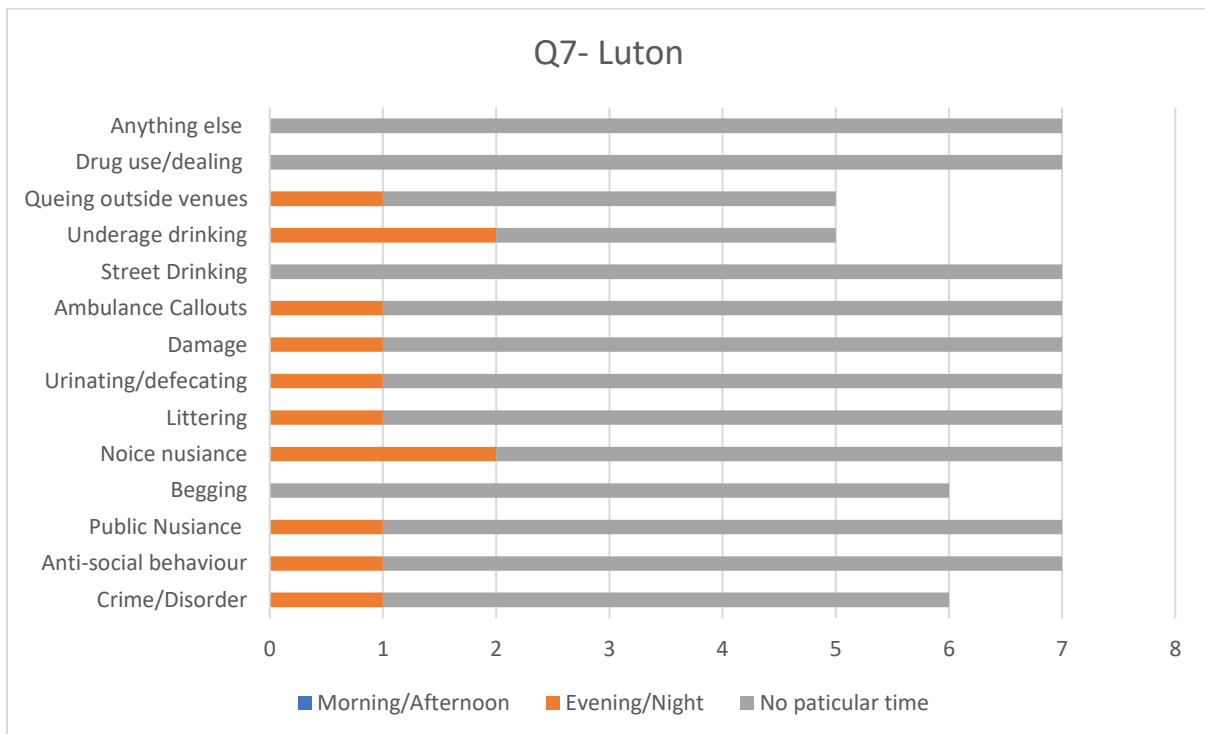
Question 5 - How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following alcohol related issues in the area you are concerned with?



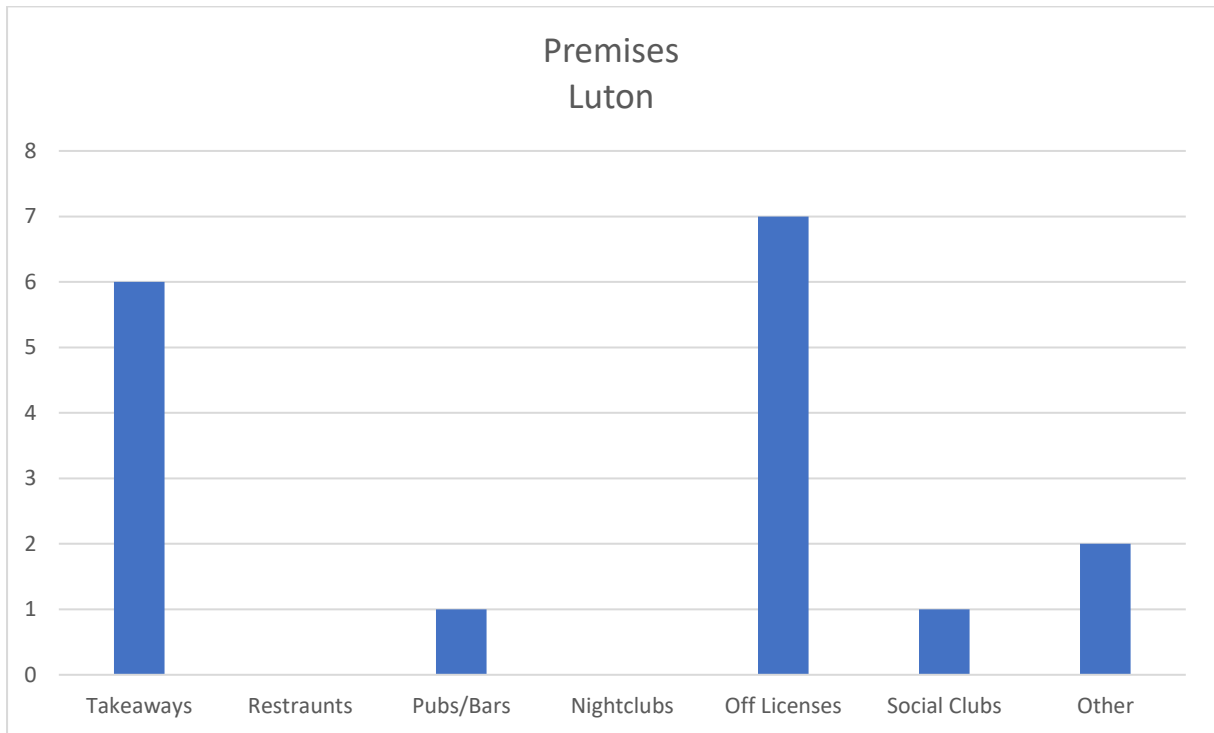
Question 6 - Are there any particular days of the week when these alcohol related issues happen?



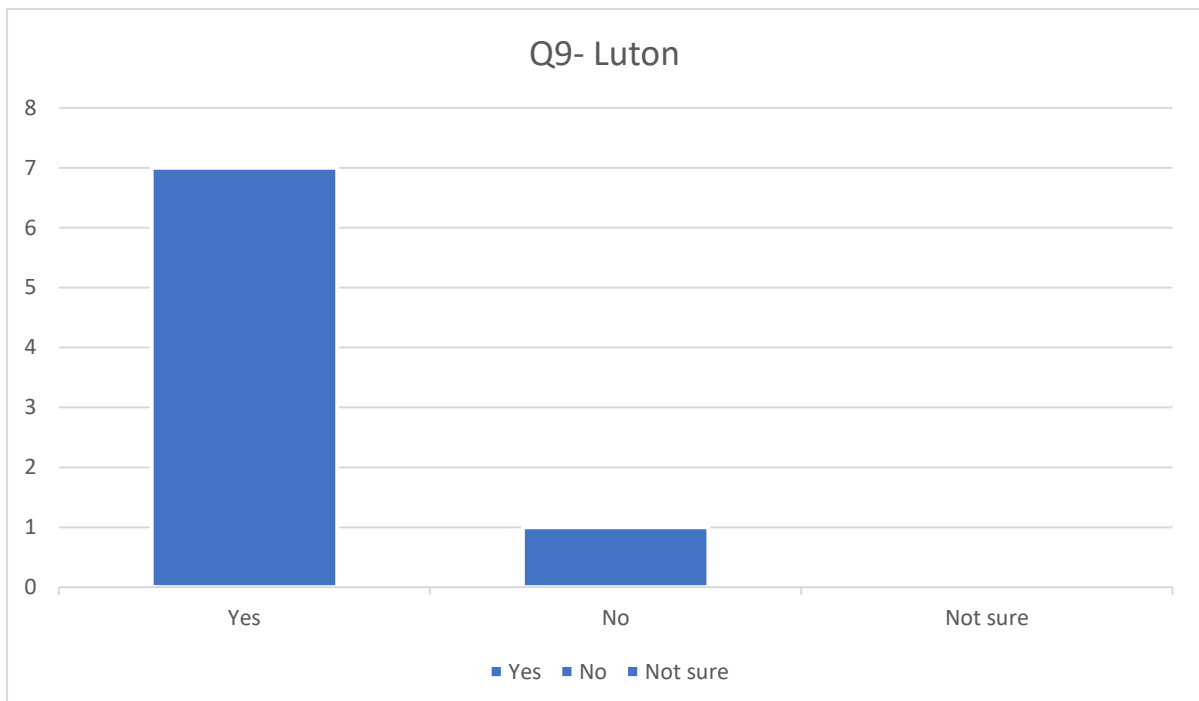
Question 7 - What time of the day are these alcohol related issues happening?



Question 8 - What type of premises are causing or contributing towards any alcohol related issues or problems?



Question 9 - Do you think the number of licensed premises in this area contribute to any of these issues?



Question 10 – Free text - Tell us about your experiences with alcohol related issues and the impact it has

- Alcohol in particular super strength variety is a blight across our community not only does it have a significant impact on reducing those consuming productivity. It also robs many children of there [sic] childhoods with many of them becoming the carers for alcoholic parents and replaces there [sic] innocence with fear and misery.
- As a runner it is impossible to go out and not have to experience issues with drunkenness, urinating and drug dealing taking place. As a female it is impossible to go out and not see men urinating in the street at all times of day. You cannot go anywhere at any time and not see (majority) men walking along drinking from cans of beer larger as early as 7.30am every day of the week. The whole area needs a huge clean up. The stench of marijuana in the air in Luton is horrible with people openly smoking it in their gardens making other peoples [sic] gardens unusable.
- Street drinking is a particular problem in the Luton area of Chatham. Those that drink in public spaces in this area usually congregate in larger groups of people, around 4-7 people at a time, which has a very intimidating effect on passersby. Day in, day out street drinkers would urinate on the public highway and/or on private property, such as the walls of residential buildings. Luton Road and Pig Alley (the service road behind Luton Road) are particularly affected by the issues of street drinking, especially considering the sheer volume of off-licenses operating within this area. Street-drinking related litter is significant in these areas, too, with high-percentage alcoholic cans/glasses straddling the roads at any time. It creates a very unpleasant and unhealthy environment that only encourages further street drinking and anti-social behaviour. I have previously been encountered in an attempted mugging by three men who were drinking on the street with cans in hand. Street drinking in this area, including the Henry Street estate, has led to noise, nuisance, and violence, especially in the late hours well beyond 11pm, and police have had to be called on numerous occasions to move street drinkers on. Drug dealing happens very often among street drinkers in broad daylight, even around passing school children and their parents, which is completely unacceptable and disrespectful to the community.
- I have not witnessed any incidents that are particularly alcohol related. Occasionally there is noise during the night where people are returning from pubs/clubs, but thus us [sic] unrelated to the local shops selling alcohol
- So often you see alcohol litter around the area, in the roadway, on the pavement, on top of our wall or neighbours wall, people deposit their empty beer can, broken glass from half bottles of vodka/whisky etc. It's not nice to see and makes the area look worse than it is. The graveyard is a meeting place for street drinkers, and they leave alcohol litter around the old graves.
- Within the Luton area, street drinking, litter and antisocial behaviour [sic] are common place - the behaviour [sic] of these individuals is directly fuelled [sic] by the proliferation of business selling cheap, strong and high volume alcohol. Take a walk from Luton Primary

School where you can collect your first alcoholic drink from Best-One Xpress at 6am, then 150m meters down the road to The Kabin at - 150m meters down the road to McColl's for 6am, 250m down the road to Abi Food & Wine for 8am, 150m meters down the road to Premiere for 8am.

- I have lived here for 23 years, and the situation has got worse in that time with the amount of off licences and access to alcohol at all times of the day and night. There are instances of anti-social behaviour at all times of the day including during school runs which is not acceptable. Our children should be allowed to walk to school without witnessing foul mouthed arguments and harassment [sic]. Luton Road has many decent hard working families and we feel quite often that we are abandoned to whims of the local authority as a dumping ground. But if they were to listen to the concerns and issues of our residents we could work in partnership to improve outcomes and life opportunities for them after all they are council tax paying voters. Drunken instances have not only caused anxiety but traffic accidents with injuries, violence and constant drunken disturbance.
- Since the relaxing of the strict licencing and hours due probably to when we entered the EEC in the early 70s to make us 'More European' with wine for meals easily obtainable, the regular alcoholics have had a field day with 'Open all hours' day. So in the main shopping centre in Chatham despite the byelaws and signs relating to drinking in the streets, it goes on with begging also common there. In the past two trips no sign of law enforcement was seen. Locally around Luton Village discarding litter is a daily thing including small glass spirit bottles that get broken on pavements causing danger to pets and possibly humans. A curbing of giving out licences to all and sundry with encouragement to give up holding a drinks licence by higher insurances and stricter punishment on illegal selling could help but I fear this will never happen. Another method of drying out the people with drink problems with some discipline will fail because of 'Human rights' clouding the issue. Society in general to work in a nice way needs this same discipline usually applied by good policing. This would make us a 'Police State' by offenders and their Lawyers stopping that. In Medway a lot of Public Houses have gone making Off Sales more from all the fresh outlets so drinking on the streets more is easier in evidence now. Perhaps we should all have a passport to buy Alcohol which can be suspended if abused. No easy answer. CCTV need swift backup to work but too much reliability is placed on these.
- [FB comment] Luton rec regularly has alcohol related litter also the walkway between the pub and new build is often strewn with broken glass a risk to both dogs and humans. Chatham high street is becoming a no go area. I could go on.
- Every day I walk my dog and empty spirit bottle and empty larger cans down several alleys and road side

11.9.2 2023 survey

11.9.2.1 Summary

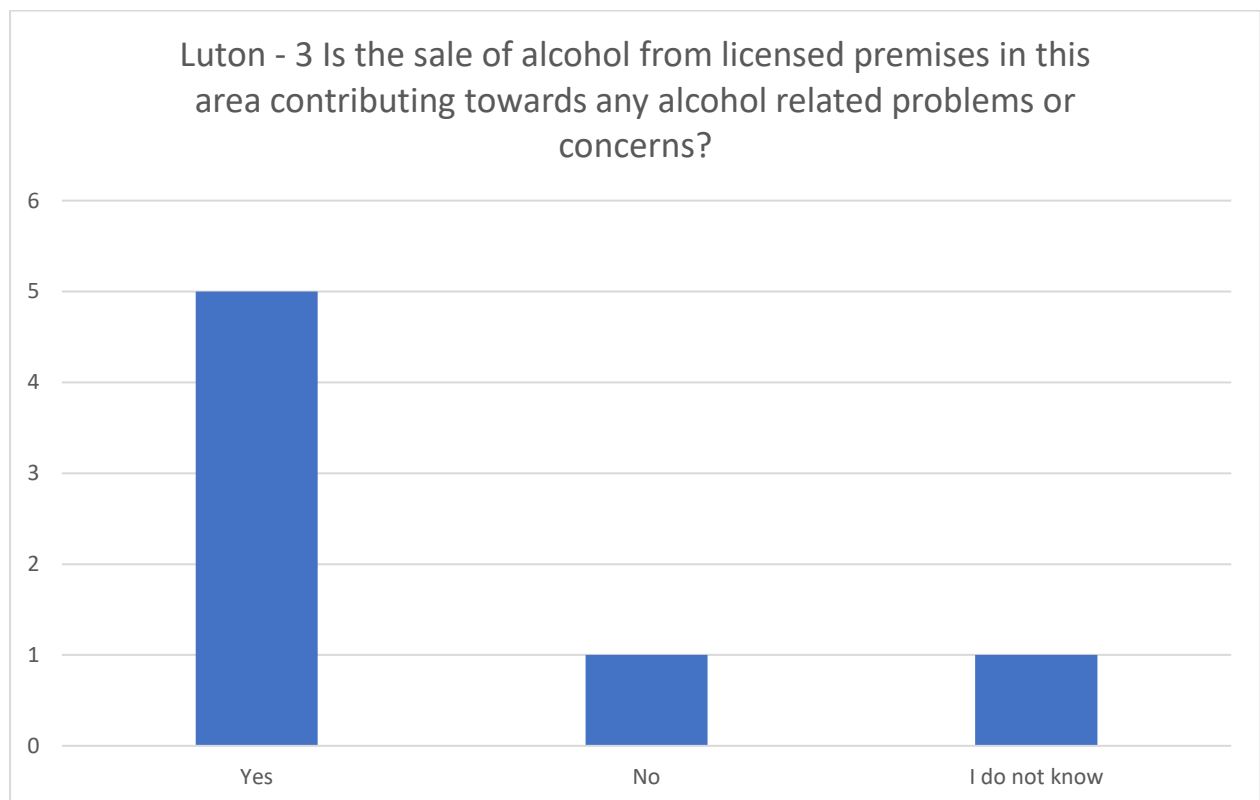
In a very similar way to the 2022 survey, the majority of respondents believed that licensed premises in this area contributed towards alcohol related issues. Street drinking, littering, begging, public nuisance and anti-social behaviour were seen by many of the respondents every day and at all times of the day. Off licences and takeaways were seen as the types of premises causing the most issues and the majority of respondents believed the number of licensed premises contributed towards these issues.

In the free text section respondents described seeing and experiencing issues with alcohol related behaviour such as drunkenness, public urination, street drinking, littering and many types of alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

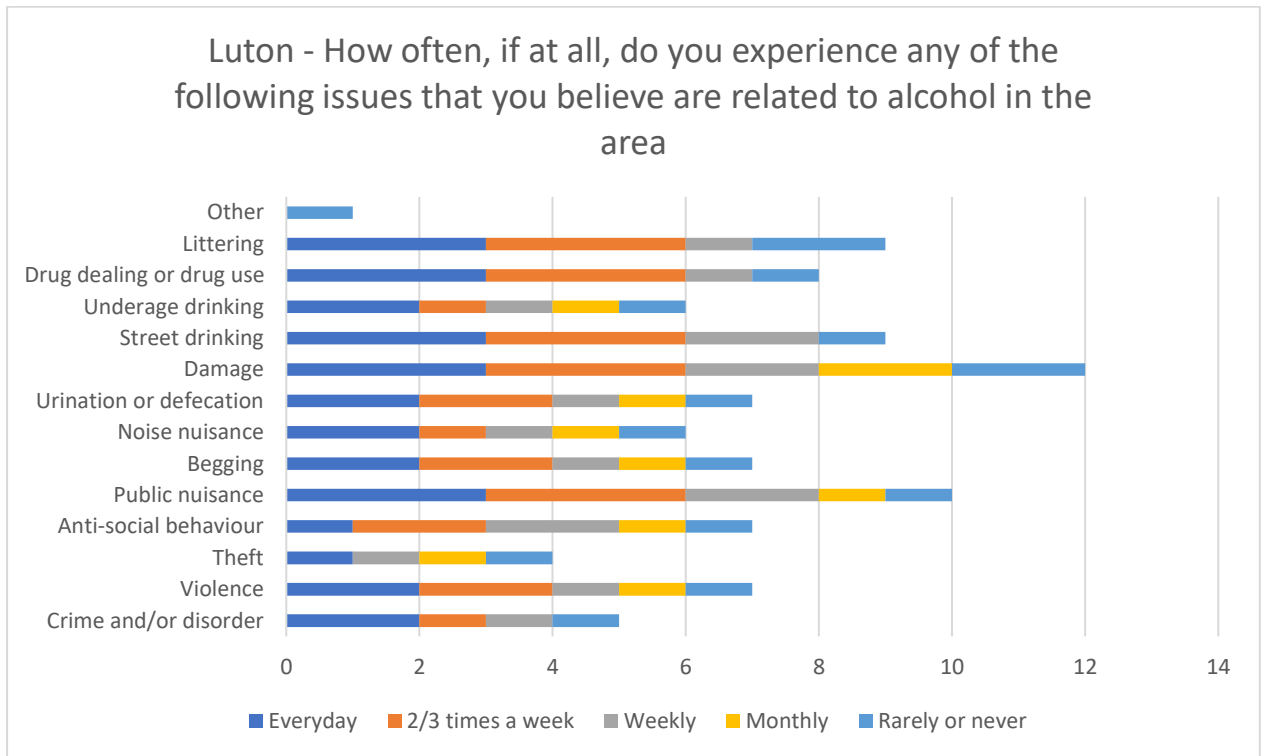
11.9.2.2 Questions and replies

A total of 7 people stated they were referring to Luton in their responses.

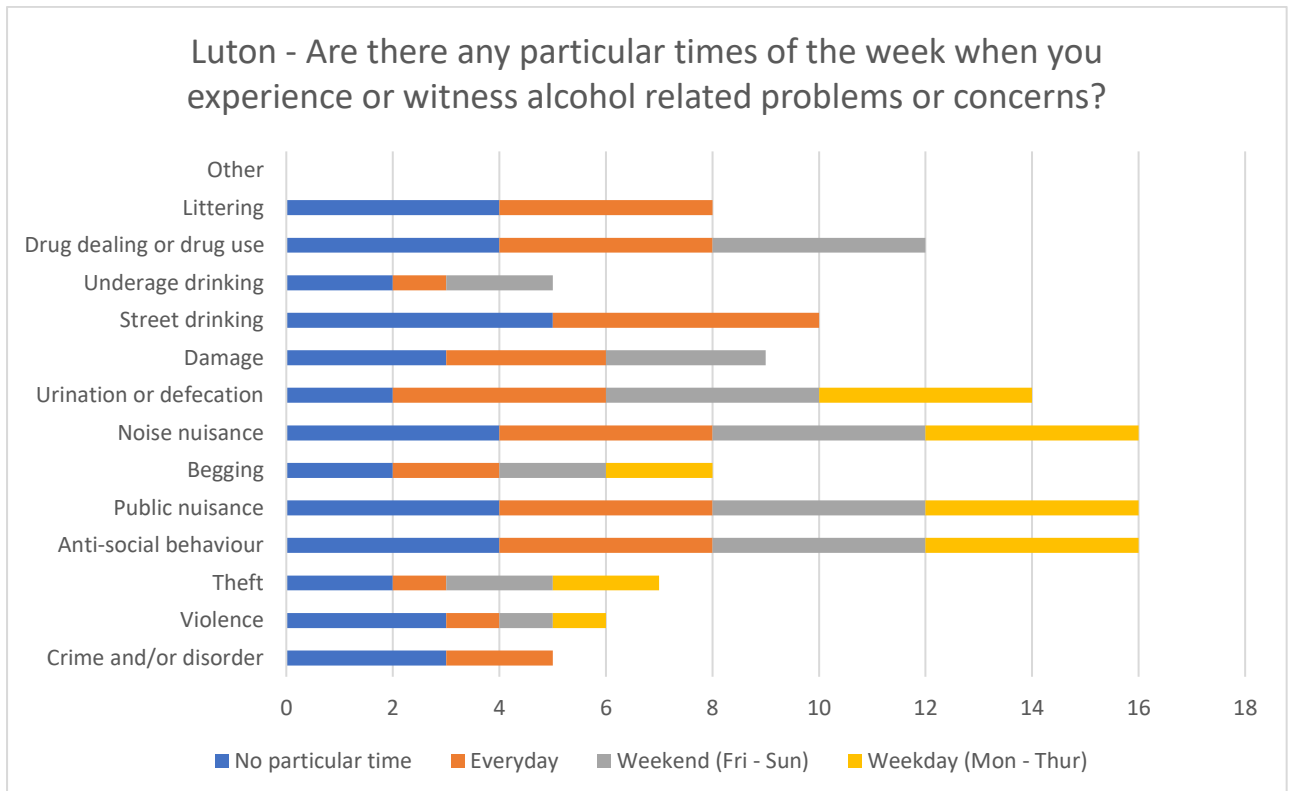
Q3 - Is the sale of alcohol from licensed premises in this area contributing towards any alcohol related problems or concerns?



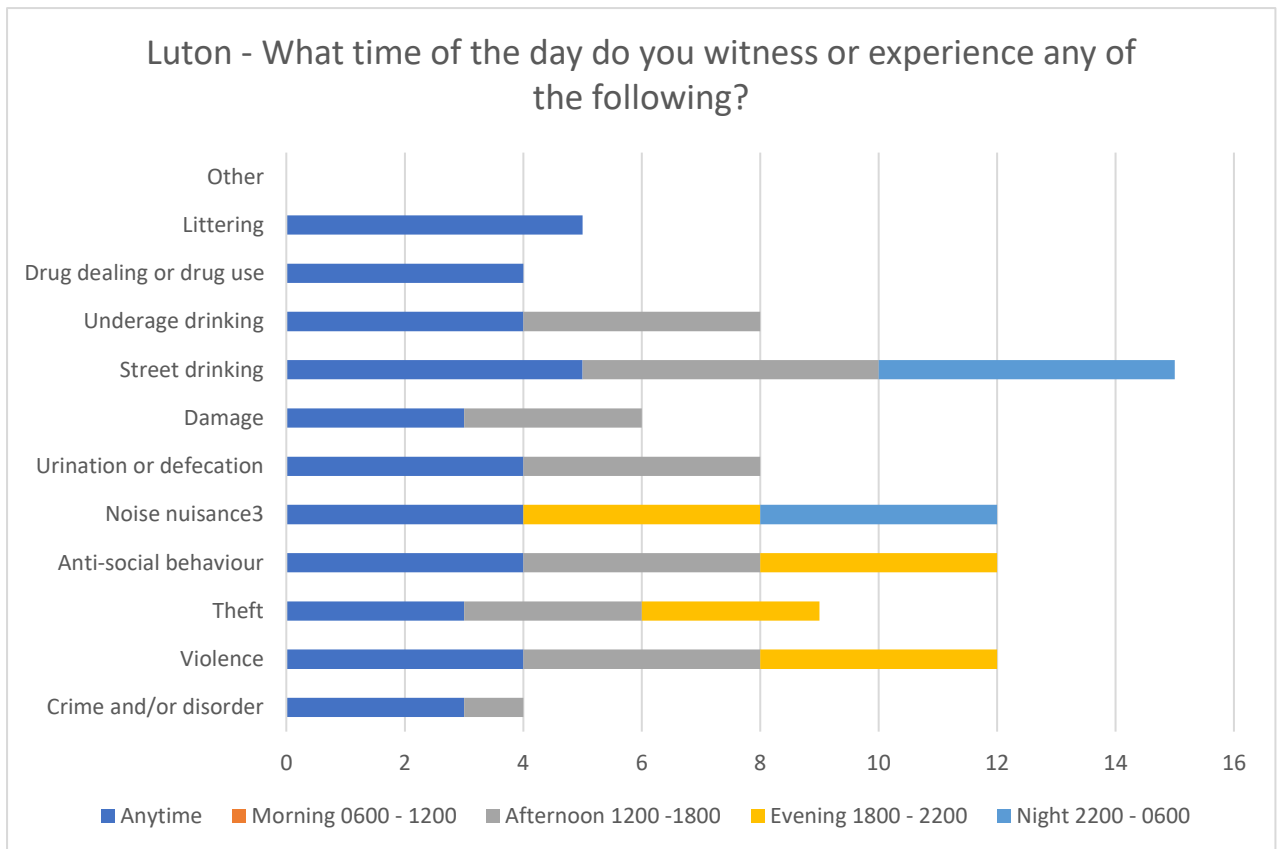
Q4 - How often, if at all, do you experience any of the following issues that you believe are related to alcohol in the area



Q5 - Are there any particular times of the week when you experience or witness alcohol related problems or concerns?



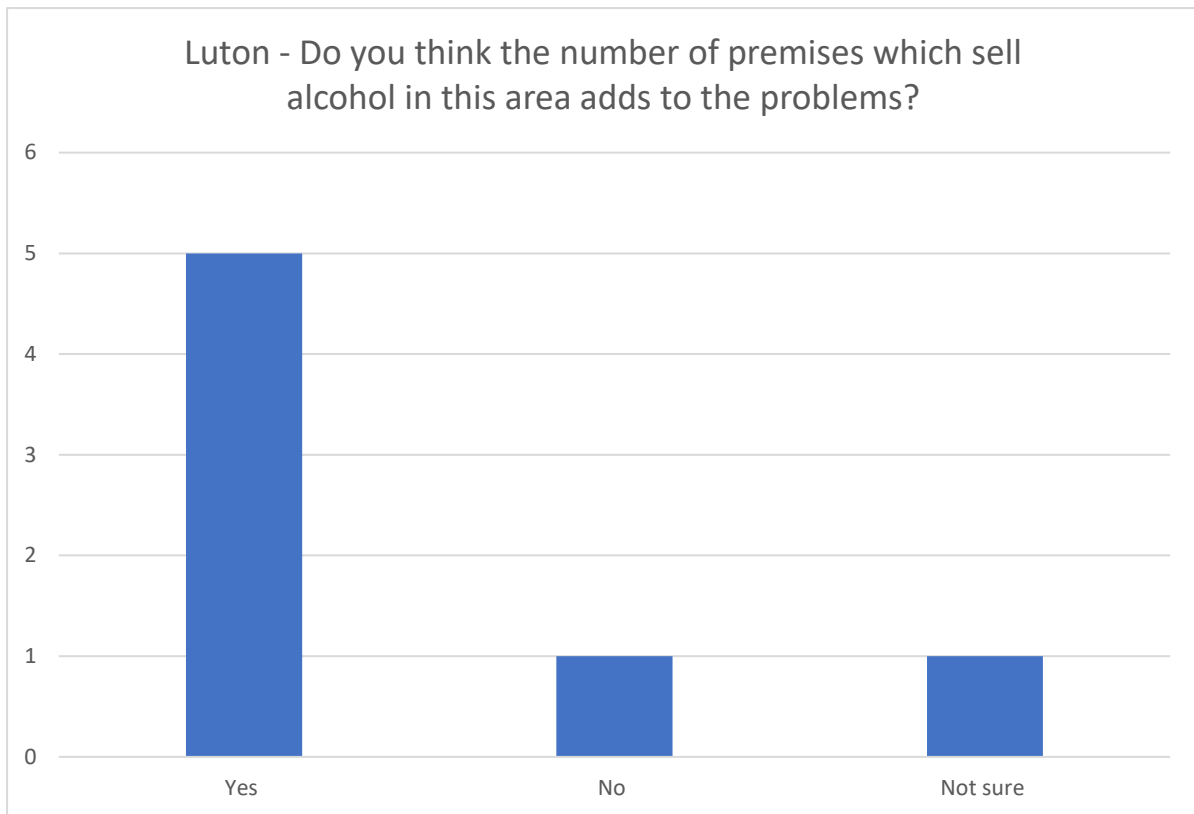
Q6 - What time of the day do you witness or experience any of the following?



Q7 - The sale of alcohol from what types of licenced premises are causing or contributing to the alcohol related concerns or problems you have described above.



Q8 - Do you think the number of premises which sell alcohol in this area adds to the problems?



Q9 - Free text - This is your opportunity to have your say if you wish.

- "There needs to be fewer places to purchase alcohol and vapes. The fundamental problem is the primary legislation at governmental level. Government knows the problem but chooses NOT to do anything about. Premises who sell vapes and alcohol should only get a 6 month licence at a time, which may be renewed if adherence to licencing policy is proven. If not they licence should be taken away from the licensee and premises.
- I certainly wouldn't want to see any more licensed premises ie shops or off licences. We regularly clear up alcohol litter, cans and quart bottles, as well as broken glass. I see men walking along drinking from cans as well as sitting around in small groups drinking depending on the weather.
- "Happy for well-intentioned restaurants and pubs to be serving alcohol as it's a managed relationship within a premises.
- Very unhappy about the amount of shops selling alcohol which is commonly consumed on the street and subsequently thrown once consumed. The sale of this alcohol particularly in impoverished areas like Luton then leads to ASB, littering and a general hostile public environment 24/7 which feels unsafe to regular people"
- I think the availability of alcohol is not the problem. The problem is the utter hopelessness of poverty and the constant media bombardment of negativity. These problems can be alleviated in part by investing in social enterprises and mental health.

- I would certainly like to see less takeaways and off-licenses selling alcohol in this area. Anti-social behaviour, street drinking, underage drinking and drug dealing are the most common issues associated with the sale of alcohol on Luton Road. There are also littering hotspots in the immediate vicinity of these establishments. I have also noticed that the same takeaways and off-licenses are now selling vapes, including single-use disposable vapes, particularly to young children and teenagers without any regulation. The sale of alcohol on Luton Road has a significant impact on the safety of my community. Residents and I do not feel safe walking along Luton Road particularly at night, although street drinking is very common during the day too. On a daily basis there would be street drinkers who shout and scream at each other, sometimes as late as 2am during the night.
- The off licence owners do not actually understand THEY are the problem."

11.9.3 Focus Group

11.9.3.1 Summary

Participants in both groups agreed there were extensive issues with alcohol related problems in the Luton area. The issues of most concern were crime, nuisance and anti-social behaviour. They all agreed the issue was from customers of the off licenses in the area.

11.9.3.2 Luton Road/Chatham High St area focus group

The Focus Group was held with four people who all lived in this area. A member of public health staff moderated and asked the questions.

All participants agreed there were issues of crime, nuisance and anti-social behaviour associated with licensed premises in the Luton area. They agreed the issues were confined to the customers of off licensed premises.

Question – What effect does the sale and supply of alcohol have on, and within the community?

P1 – Well you see fights, shouting, screaming, smashed bottles, cans, and that's just on a good day.

P4 – You struggle in places like Luton see the positives effects, you could argue, for alcohol. People coming together positively, socially, positively that's generally behind closed doors. In Luton you see the immediate negatives, the ASB, the litter, or whatever else. They're immediately obvious

P4 – I do think there's a dangerous acceptance of some of the behaviour we see.

P1 – And it's so common that it's normal.

P4 – Like there's certain spots in Luton where they're known for discarded alcohol and stuff like that.

P4 – Now it's so common that I presume it's there.

P1 – Yes you expect it.

P4 – Look around Short Street, [...]. Those sorts of places.

P1 – The shoppers car park.

P4 – So those sorts of places it's strange not to see that behaviour. And then only when that behaviour drastically changes so I notice it. I live there, so I'm not noticing it like [R1], walking along there who's that bit removed from that immediate centre. One thing R1 and I noticed over the summer was a lot more people sitting immediately on the street drinking. We'd be back and forth to Fit and Fed every day at the primary school and you'd have a lot of them outside the Chinese on Luton Road, where there isn't an immediate seller within metres. Then you'd have the one which was selling illegal cigarettes and got shut down and you'd have single individuals sitting there for 6 to 7 hours. I'd expect that in Chatham High St, but before I hadn't seen that behaviour in Luton. People sitting there for extended periods of time just binge drinking. That was something I'd noticed, but the rest of the stuff is pretty normal. If it wasn't there, I'd notice it more than if it wasn't there.

11.9.3.3 Luton Focus Group

There were 6 participants in this focus group.

Question – What effect does the sale and supply of alcohol have on, and within the community?

P1 - Quite a bit in my view. Because, often, I know this is during the day, but I've noticed there's been more people under the influence of either drink or drugs as I've gone into town, walked around to do exercise, and stuff. It's been quite frightening on a couple of occasions.

Question - Can you give an example?

P1 – Yes, I came with a couple of examples, recent ones. A friend of mine was last Saturday at the bus stop and incident happened and there were several old people there waiting for the bus and they were approached by a man who was obviously under the influence of something, demanding money. And they felt quite threatened. My friend's friend didn't like it and was grateful the bus turned up as he was persistent.

Question - What time was that?

P1 – She would have been going to the Cathedral so that would have been the morning. That is the bus stop in the village. Some weeks ago, I walked home from Luton, and I'd just come to the and I'd just come to pass the car sales, heard a rumpus behind me and looked back. There were two men, swearing shouting and threatening to each other. One took his shirt off and they were fighting each other. The worse one I experienced a short time ago actually frightened me. I don't frighten easily. By Luton Arches there was a man with a can in his hand yelling and shouting and swearing. I was the only one walking on the other side and he crossed the road and he was right behind me yelling at me. Swearing, threatening. I tried to speed up, but that didn't work as he was quite quick. I crossed the road, he followed me and I crossed the road back again and there were a lot of cars. He stood yelling and shouting and I sped off as quickly as I could. He nearly got run over. That was frightening. It looked like a lager can .

Question – Do you see people walking around drinking alcohol?

P1 – Yes. Quite often. They sit up at the village on the wall. By the bus stop. It's difficult to get passed them. And on the wall by the Arches. They congregate there sometimes. I find it intimidating, especially as I've got older.

P2 – Exactly like {name] was saying. I don't see that many with cans going round.

P3 – I do see people in and around the village in all sorts of locations quite often drinking. Quite often it is an alcoholic drink. I've never been intimidated by anybody. I'm also a volunteer at the church and on Mondays I do a rubbish pick. More often or not there's a half bag of cans from the church grounds. About half of that is alcoholic.

Question – That's constant every week?

P3 – That's constant every week. There are places where it's constant. By the gate, tucked behind the wall you'll find 4 or 5 cans of lager nine times out of ten there is a small bottle of vodka. It's a group of 2, 3, 4 people. It's not one person drinking all of that. They're meeting and having a drink. It's a persistent problem and it's alcohol related.

Question – Generally around Luton do you notice litter?

P3 – Yes. The large traffic islands we have out here. Persistent cans thrown there. Around the village area. The library area, towards the recreation grounds.

Question – What are your views? (R4)

P4 – As far as drinking is concerned outside by the lytch gate, because I come and go everyday, there's often people sitting there drinking various alcoholic drinks, or it's soft drinks but I always know there's vodka added as they offer me some. I will often sit with them and talk with them. Definitely opposite the church they sit round the rubbish bin by the graveyard bit. At least three times a week, if not every day. That's during the day.

Question – How do you, or the community, perceive that?

P4 – I think people generally just want to pass on by, or are scared of them because that is justifiable as they are out of control. They can be very aggressive. We have someone in the area who is very abusive and aggressive. ON the other hand there is another person who is often very drunk but wouldn't hurt a fly. People with children, other people, will be scared of them as it's unpredictable what they might do. It is quite threatening to see them there. Sometimes there's four to five of them.

Question – where are they buying the alcohol from?

P4 – I should imagine it's from the off licences in Luton.

P5 – I don't see any problems in Luton. I've lived here for years and there aren't any problems that I see. People are going to buy alcohol whatever. Chatham High Street is different. There's begging and drinking all along the High St. No one comes up to me asking for money in Luton, but they do in Chatham High St. No one has ever threatened me. Up around Chatham station you see drinkers all the time. You see a few people about in Luton with cans and drinking but it's not a problem.

P6 – I see people during the day as I walk by the Church grounds. They sit on the low walls on the other side of the road drinking. I see groups of 4 to 5 people about 3 times a week, sometimes every day. There's been no issue with needles in the church grounds since the pandemic. We used to have a lot in the grounds especially around the back, but we haven't had any for a long time. R3 – I have a high wall outside my house and it's not uncommon for me to find a beer bottle or can on it, or people put them in my brown bin, which I have to clear out. I see people standing drinking beer on the path and they put the bottles on the

wall. There's litter everywhere – cans and bottles in the alleyway at the back of me which I clear up all the time. They also have a wee and poo. Last year a man was banging on my door and when I opened it, he wanted to come in. He'd been drinking and it frightened me.

P1– I can smell where people have been to the toilet by the old telephone box near the old post office.

R6 – Men disappear down the alley opposite me and they have a wee. I see people walking about drinking all the time. There's a girl on roller-skates who drinks beer as she's going along. She goes in the road. It's dangerous. When you come home you have a feeling of dread in the pit of the stomach wondering what you're coming back to sometimes.

Question - Are there any particular types of licensed premises that cause more concern than others?

P4 – Yes shops that sell alcohol. We need shops that sell food but don't sell alcohol for the sake of people who struggle with alcohol addiction and who want to buy food without seeing alcohol.

P3 – When you look at the Arches up the road to here, there's too many shops selling alcohol.

All agreed with this statement, even R5 who didn't have an issue with alcohol related ASB in the area.

P4 – If people want to buy alcohol they can get it. We don't need any more.

Question - Would concern you if there was another application for an alcohol licence for a shop.

P5 – Yes. There's enough here. We don't need any more from somewhere which sells food, including takeaways.

Question - Is the area covered by the CIP still relevant? (everyone had a map of the Luton CIP area)

All agreed the area covered by the CIP does not need to change.