

Council

18 July 2024

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024 – 2027

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alex Paterson, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement

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Summary

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are under a duty to produce a Community Safety Plan to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse, and reduce re-offending. This report provides information on the proposed plan, which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, to cover the period from 2024 to 2027. The Community Safety Plan discharges the Council's statutory requirement to produce a plan for community safety.

The report was previously considered by the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 June 2024, the comments of which are set out at section 6 to the report. The report was also considered by the Cabinet on 9 July 2024, the decisions of which are set out at section 7 to the report.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Council is asked to note the comments of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out at section 6 to the report and the decisions of the Cabinet, as set out at section 7 to the report.
- 1.2 The Council is requested to approve the proposed Community Safety Plan 2024 – 2027, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, and draft Community Safety Action Plan 2024 – 2025, as set out in Appendix 2.

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1 CSPs were set up under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and comprise representatives from the 'responsible authorities'. For Medway these are: Medway Council; Kent Police; Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS); The Integrated Care Board (ICB) and The Probation Service. CSPs are able

to work in partnership with any other agencies or bodies that they may feel would contribute to community safety.

- 2.2 Although the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is not a responsible authority on the CSP, there is however a mutual duty to co-operate and to take account of the PCCs priorities.
- 2.3 Regulation 5 of the Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 requires the CSP to carry out an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder. Regulation 10 requires CSPs to prepare a partnership plan and to revise it annually in consideration of the strategic assessment. The plan's overarching aim is to reduce crime and disorder, tackle substance misuse and reduce reoffending.
- 2.4 The draft Community Safety Plan covers the period 2024 to 2027 and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. The classification of this plan as a policy framework document is set out in Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, and in Article 4 (The Full Council) of the Council's Constitution.
- 2.5 Sections 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area and to make reports and recommendations to the local authority and the Partnership. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require Local Authorities to scrutinise CSPs at least once a year.

3. Background

- 3.1 Scrutiny of the partnership was last carried out in December 2023 where the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the findings of the strategic assessment. The Committee agreed to support the proposed CSP priorities in light of the strategic assessment findings. The Committee scrutinised the activity of the Community Safety Partnership, over the past year, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. The Committee requested a written response from the Probation Service regarding actions taken in response to staffing rates and when the next HMIP inspection is expected.
- 3.2 The existing Community Safety Plan was agreed by full Council in July 2020 and ran from 2020 to 2024 and it is proposed that the new 3-year Community Safety Plan will run from 2024 to 2027.
- 3.3 As part of the development of the new Plan, the CSP has conducted a strategic assessment of community safety issues in Medway. The assessment looks back at issues that have impacted upon community safety in Medway and forward at potential issues and emerging themes/trends.
- 3.4 It is also important to note that the protocol remains in place between the CSP, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Kent and Medway Adult

Safeguarding Board, the Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the Corporate Parenting Board to ensure the sharing of assessments and plans to foster a better strategic alignment.

3.5 The draft Community Safety Plan for 2024 to 2027 is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The plan contains four priorities going forward, which have been developed from the strategic assessment findings, which are summarised in the plan, with a number of work streams under each priority. This has been agreed by the five responsible authorities. The priorities are proposed to be:

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour
- Tackle Drugs and Alcohol
- Reduce Reoffending

3.6 The five responsible authorities have agreed that the process for monitoring these priorities in the CSP Action Plan should be by way of a more focused plan than in previous years. The Action Plan is shown at appendix 2.

3.7 Over the last few years the Community Safety Strategic Assessment has highlighted these key emerging issues on both a national and local level that we need to ensure agencies continue to focus on.

3.8 The new Action Plan will enable a more focused approach to tackling issues, better coordination and enable members of the CSPs Strategic Executive Group (SEG) to scrutinise and monitor progress and provide a more efficient way of working.

3.9 In considering the new priority areas, it must be remembered that Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for developing strategies for reducing crime and offending in their areas, and have a statutory duty to work together to:

- reduce re-offending.
- tackle crime and disorder.
- tackle anti-social behaviour.
- tackle alcohol and substance misuse; and
- tackle any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment.

4. Options

4.1 The strategic assessment and its recommendations have been subject to scrutiny by members of the CSP. The Council and partners have developed the Action Plan which will underpin the high-level commitments of the CSP.

4.2 No alternative options have been considered as the preparation of a 3-year CSP Plan is required statutorily.

5. Advice and analysis

- 5.1 The CSP recognises that Medway's future success is contingent on regeneration. It is clear that benefits from growth must be delivered to existing communities and new developments and residents must be effectively integrated. This physical regeneration will only be successful if people feel that they and their families are safe.
- 5.2 Hand in hand with this physical regeneration, it is important to recognise that this will only be successful if people feel that they and their families are safe in our open spaces and high streets.
- 5.3 The new chairperson and vice-chairperson wish to ensure there is a continued strategic view of community safety in Medway and to ensure that it reflects and supports the strategic ambitions of the Council and the partner agencies in the CSP to make Medway a great place to live, work, learn and visit.

6. Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 6.1 The Committee considered the report on 13 June 2024 and the minutes of the discussion were as follows:
- 6.2 The minutes will be added here in the final Cabinet version of the report.
- 6.3 The Committee considered a report regarding the proposed Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2024 – 2027.
- 6.4 Members asked for more information on the innovative developments and partnership initiatives referred to in the Introduction to the Community Safety Plan. Officers explained that a briefing note would be prepared for Members to provide further information on this.
- 6.5 Members expressed concern at the brevity of the Community Safety Plan, a number of areas that were not included and the lack of targets and detail to show the impact that it is hoped the action plan would have. Officers informed the Committee that the Community Safety Plan is based on a strategic assessment and is produced and written in partnership with the 5 key partners. It was explained that there had been an aspiration to produce a streamlined document however Members' comments would be considered moving forward.
- 6.6 Concerns were also expressed regarding the low level of response to the consultation. Members suggested that community engagement events could be considered as well as trying to utilise IT services to engage people when they are already interacting with the council, for example, when booking a visit to a waste and recycling centre. In response officers stated that they would explore the feasibility of different options to improve the level of engagement for the consultation.

6.7 The Committee commented on the proposed Community Safety Plan 2024 - 2027 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, and draft Community Safety Action Plan 2024 – 2025 as set out in Appendix 2.

6.8 The Committee noted that the proposed Community Safety Plan 2024 – 2027 will be considered by Cabinet on 9 July 2024 and will be determined by full Council on 18 July 2024.

7. Cabinet

7.1 The Cabinet considered the report on 9 July 2024 and its decisions were as follows:

7.2 The Cabinet noted the comments of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out at section 7 to the report.

7.3 The Cabinet recommended Full Council to approve the proposed Community Safety Plan 2024 – 2027, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, and draft Community Safety Action Plan 2024 – 2025, as set out in Appendix 2 (decision no. 100/2024).

8. Risk management

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

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Decreased Agency “buy in”	Changes in leadership, staffing or resources could reduce the involvement of key agencies	Ensure that agencies are aware of the impact of dis-engagement upon their own service delivery/performance. Ensure that strategic members of the CSP are made aware of any situation as it arises.	D II
A wide range of CSP objectives	Means that the CSP may be spread too thin and not have the resources to deal with all aspects so there may be gaps in service.	Prioritisation based on Strategic Assessment	D II

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Legislation	Government guidance could change focus for CSP	CSP to ensure that it effectively horizon scans to be aware of impending legislative changes.	C III
Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) plans	Changes in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.	Continued engagement with the PCC.	C III

Likelihood	Impact:
A Very likely	I Catastrophic
B Likely	II Major
C Unlikely	III Moderate
D Rare	IV Minor

9. Consultation

- 9.1 The CSP ran a Consultation in September 2023 which asked respondents about how safe they felt and what they felt the partnerships focus should be upon.
- 9.2 80% of respondents felt either very safe or fairly safe in Medway during the day which is a very positive figure with only 2% reporting that they felt very unsafe, perhaps due to perception of crime or having been a victim. When asked how safe they felt in the evening, 36% felt safe or fairly safe with 33% reporting that they felt fairly or very unsafe. This is not uncommon with less people around at night to provide a natural surveillance, there is a greater perception of danger. The top 5 issues that respondents felt were an issue for Medway were:
- People using or dealing drugs (80%)
 - People driving carelessly or too fast (79%)
 - People dropping litter (72%)
 - People fly tipping (72%)
 - People being drunk or rowdy in public places (62%)
- 9.3 These were also the top five issues respondents felt should be addressed as priorities by the CSP in Medway.
- 9.4 Respondents were asked to choose three things they felt would have the most impact on making people feel safer in Medway. The most frequently chosen options were:

- Visible and effective policing.
 - Well maintained public spaces and infrastructure i.e., parks, streetlighting, pavements, shop fronts, alleyways, etc.
 - CCTV.
- 9.5 The same questions asked in the Q2 Citizens Panel. Although the number of respondents was low (107 and 192 respectively) it is important that the CSP acknowledge resident's views.
- 9.6 The CSP recognises that the consultation response rate was low and is committed to ensuring that more work is done to improve its reach.
- 9.7 A Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out on the proposals set out in this report and is attached at Appendix 3 to the report.
10. Climate change implications
- 10.1 There are neither positive nor negative climate change/carbon emission implications arising from the report.
11. Financial implications
- 11.1 The only funding for the CSP is from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), who has submitted his Police and Crime Plan and allocated a budget (Crime Reduction Grant) to the CSP of £106,460. It is worth noting that there is a Medway Council budget allocation of £276,274 for 2024/25 (excluding SLA's) for council only community safety activities. There is no budget pressure expected arising from the service.
- 11.2 The focus of the CRG is to deliver projects that support the PCCs priorities set out in [Making Kent Safer 2022-25](#). Types of projects the CSP can consider funding with the CRG allocation are those that; reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime; reduce violence against women and girls; provide crime prevention and reassurance activities; deliver initiatives to reduce crime and ASB in the daytime and in the night-time economy; deliver diversionary activities, including school-based interventions to increase awareness of risk-taking behaviour and encourage positive behaviours; enable partnership approaches to specific areas of concern to reduce crime and ASB; deliver drug and alcohol reduction and treatment services; reduce offending and re-offending.
12. Legal implications
- 12.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
- 12.2 The Council's statutory powers are detailed in the report.
- 12.3 As a Policy Framework document, the Community Safety Plan will be developed in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Rules (Chapter 4, Part 3 of the Council's Constitution).

12.4 The Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the strategic assessment in December 2023. Recommendations on the CSP Plan and Action Plan from this Committee were considered by the Cabinet on 9 July 2024. The Cabinet considered comments made and recommended the proposed Plan to full Council on 18 July 2024. The adoption or modification of the Community Safety Plan is a decision for Full Council.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Community Safety Plan 2024 to 2027

Appendix 2 – Proposed Action Plan 2024 to 2025

Appendix 3 – Diversity Impact Assessment

Background papers

None