

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 JUNE 2011

SCRUTINY OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AND ANNUAL REFRESH OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2009 - 2012

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

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Summary

Every local authority is now required to have a designated crime and disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee with power to make recommendations regarding the functioning of their local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (now called Community Safety Partnerships). This report provides information on the operation of the partnership in 2010/2011.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Community Safety Plan 2009 to 2012 provides a framework plan as part of the Council's policy framework. However the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) now has a duty to revise this three-year plan every year through strategic assessments to identify new priorities, which will reflect any changes.
- 1.2 Previously, the Home Office has made a specific stronger and safer communities grant to Medway Council. The Home Office wrote to local authority chief executives in February of this year to confirm that this allocation now forms part of non-ring-fenced funding to the authority. Medway's allocation in 2011-12 was 25% less than in 2010/11, resulting from the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. Beyond that partners contribute resources from their funding to carry out partnership activity.
- 1.3 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Police and Justice Act 2006 give Overview and Scrutiny Committees powers to require information from and scrutinise partners in relation to crime and disorder. A report to the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 August 2009 outlined the legislative position, including the need to scrutinise the activities of the Community Safety Partnership.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is managed through the Partnership Office based at Medway Police Station with specific responsibility for performance delivery of the Community Safety Plan. The Partnership Office is run by the Community Safety Partnership Manager supported by three posts: an Information Support Officer; a Data Analysis Officer and a Performance Co-Ordination Officer.
- 2.2 The Community Safety Partnership is a statutory body comprising members from Medway Council, Kent Police, Kent Police Authority, NHS Medway, Kent Probation and Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS). The Chair of the Community Safety Partnership should rotate each year between the Area Commander of Medway Police (current) and the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Enforcement.
- 2.3 The operational arm of this group has been the Performance Delivery Group, which is chaired by the Community Safety Partnership Manager. Attendees at this meeting mirror the Community Safety Partnership members. It is proposed that structure be changed to better deliver the priorities identified in the plan through a set of thematic groups. The proposed management structure for the Community Safety Partnership is attached in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The Community Safety Plan is a published document available in Council contact points and via the Council's website. Every three years the Partnership is required to produce a three year community safety plan, which is informed by an audit of crime, disorder and drugs misuse and through consultation with the wider public. Legislative changes have resulted in the Medway Community Safety Partnership now being required to produce a 3-year 'rolling' community safety strategy, which is reviewed annually through a strategic assessment. The strategic assessment must include information on:
- Analysis of levels of crime.
 - Changes in crime since last strategic assessment.
 - Views from the community on matters that need to be prioritised.

Medway CSP carried out an innovative consultation exercise at the Corn Exchange in Rochester on 13 April 2010. Each Ward was represented by a mixture of residents, Partner agency and voluntary sector workers, Members, Community Officers, and Police staff who took part in the consultation evening whereby priorities were identified.

- 2.5 The current Community Safety Partnership Plan was adopted in 2009 and identified six priorities for the three years (2009-2012). These priorities each contributed to the safety of people of living, working or visiting Medway and a snapshot of performance is shown below.

The current plan is also going through an annual review which will be considered by Cabinet at its next meeting on 5 July 2011. The priorities for the coming year have been highlighted as –

- Tackling Class A drug and alcohol abuse.
- Improving the local street scene.
- Reducing youth offending.
- Reducing night time economy related crime and disorder (Specifically alcohol related disorder, violence and theft).
- Working with vulnerable victims to reduce harm and repeat victimisation (Including Domestic Abuse & hidden communities).
- Reducing Theft and Shoplifting.
Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Road Traffic Collisions.

2.6 Community Safety Plan 2010/11

The five identified priorities for last year were

- Tackling substance misuse.
- Tackling ant-social behaviour, including criminal damage.
- Tackling repeat business of violent crime.
- Improving your local street scene.
- Reducing your worry of crime and disorder and improving your confidence in Medway's Community Safety Partnership.

Over the last 12 months we have achieved a great deal. We have carried out some innovative developments to the way we work together enhancing our ability to deliver improved services to the public.

Kent Police continue to run a 'Safe Exit' programme which runs as a way of tackling the unique and historic problem in Medway of street prostitution and the scourge of drug dependency, abuse and exploitation that went with the trade. Safe Exit was originally launched in 2009, targeting street sex workers, their clients, and those involved in the sale and possession of drugs.

The 'SOS Bus' service, funded by contributions from Medway Council and partners, based on a converted and fully equipped single-decker bus and a supporting minibus, operates as a 'safe haven' in the Medway nighttime economy and as an educational 'outreach' vehicle for health promotion at other times. CVS Medway manages this service.

A number of targeted, multi-agency operations have taken place throughout Medway. A major aspect of these operations has been high visibility joint patrols between Police Officers and Medway Council Community Officers to reassure and engage with members of the public, and to address environmental concerns.

The Community Safety Partnership has entered into an agreement with Kent Probation, to utilise the Community Payback scheme to work for 2 days a week in Medway. Work is commissioned by Medway Council's Community Team, Kent Police and other front line services by working with our local communities. Since the agreement was signed at the end of 2010, over 70 jobs have been passed to Kent Probation by the Community Safety Partnership.

Medway Council continued to address a variety of environmental issues -

- Swept up more than 1,500 tonnes of dropped litter from Medway's streets last year.
- Provided more than 2,000 litterbins and 700 dedicated dog-waste bins.
- Issued 150,000 free dog-fouling bags a year from contact points.
- Removed over 1,370 instances of graffiti.
- Issued over 350 Fixed Penalty Notices for littering.
- Picked up over 660 stray dogs.
- Removed over 3,000 incidents of fly tipping (equating to over 2,700 tonnes of waste).
- Took over 3,400 enforcement actions for fly tipping.
- In the 841km of carriageway in Medway, approximately 10,000 potholes will have been repaired.
- Fixed 7,977 lights.
- Assisted with 42 community partnership clean ups and 100 ad hoc community clean ups.
- Managed more than 130 play and recreation areas and more than 1,000 allotment plots.
- Were awarded four Green Flag open spaces at; The Vines, Rochester, Capstone Farm Country Park, Gillingham, Hillyfields, Gillingham and Riverside Country Park, Rainham.
- Over 6000 proactive environmental issues were raised and dealt with by Medway Council's Community Team.

The Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership is responsible for the operation of all road safety cameras in Medway. Since the introduction of the camera sites the number of killed and seriously injured people at camera sites has reduced by 72% throughout Kent and Medway. A reduction of over 50% on the amount of children killed and seriously injured and a reduction of all people killed and seriously injured by over 40%, compared to the 1994-98 average. This progress in reducing the overall numbers of casualties is achieved through local safety schemes, education, and enforcement.

Within the financial year 2010-2011 KFRS completed 1,522 Home safety visits, fitting over 2000 smoke alarms in homes across Medway, attended 95 accidental house fires and 84 road traffic collisions. Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) also visited 18 schools to impart both home fire safety and road safety engagement messages reaching 4,478 pupils. They supported 27 community safety events to promote a range of safety messages, and delivered 6 road safety demonstrations in partnership, aimed specifically at the nighttime economy.

3. Options

- 3.1 This report and the associated presentation provides an opportunity for the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the actions of the partnership and to make recommendations that may be considered for incorporation into future activities.

4. Advice and analysis

- 4.1 At least once a year Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee **must** meet to review or scrutinise decisions made or other actions taken by the responsible authorities making up the CSP in connection with their crime and disorder functions and has power to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. This must be done no less than once in every twelve-month period effective from 30 April 2009. At a previous meeting in February 2010 the committee agreed that an annual review should be held in June each year.
- 4.2 The Community Safety Plan supports delivery of targets in the Council Plan and Community Plan in particular the priority to reduce anti social behaviour to increase people's feeling of safety. There are also reputable, environmental, economical and legal risks to the Council for not pro-actively pursuing an improvement in crime and disorder level.
- 4.3 Scrutiny on crime and disorder matters have been circulated under separate cover to all Members of the committee. The guidance summarises the role of overview and scrutiny as follows:
- to consider crime and disorder Councillor Call for Actions (CcfAs)
 - to consider actions undertaken by the responsible authorities on the Community Safety Partnership
 - to make reports and recommendations with regard to these functions.
- 4.4 The guidance also encourages overview and scrutiny committees to include in its work programme a list of issues which it needs to cover during the year. This should be agreed in consultation with the relevant partners on the Community Safety Partnership and reflect local community need.
- 4.5 This committee has already identified the effectiveness of PACTs (Partners and Communities Together) as its current topic for an in-depth review, for which the outcomes are in the process of being reported back to its own committee.

- 4.6 Also, since the report to committee in August 2009, there has been a Member training event on scrutiny of crime and disorder and the Vice-Chairman and spokespersons have met the Chief Executive of the Kent Police Authority to discuss co-ordination and activities to ensure overview and scrutiny complements the role of Kent Police Authority.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report minimise the principal risks associated with the new crime and disorder scrutiny powers by recognising the importance of constructive dialogue with the organisations making up the CSP and also the importance of co-ordinated and collaborative working.

6. Financial and legal implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 The service received capital grant from the Stronger, Safer, Communities Fund but this had been cut from £75,267 for 2009/10 to £37,000 for 2010/11, however, this grant is no longer in place. Therefore, expenditure is now met from base revenue budgets.
- 6.3 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities and the Police to carry out an audit of crime and produce a three year strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area. Following a fundamental review of the Crime and Disorder Act, Schedule 9 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 repealed this duty and in place of this made it a statutory requirement to produce an annual rolling three year plan, that was underpinned by an annual strategic assessment (SA) and reviewed yearly. The plan's overarching aim is to reduce crime and disorder and combat substance misuse.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to consider the performance of the Community Safety Partnership and delivery of the 2010/2011 Community Safety Plan and to make recommendations that may be considered for incorporation into future activities of the Community Safety Partnership.

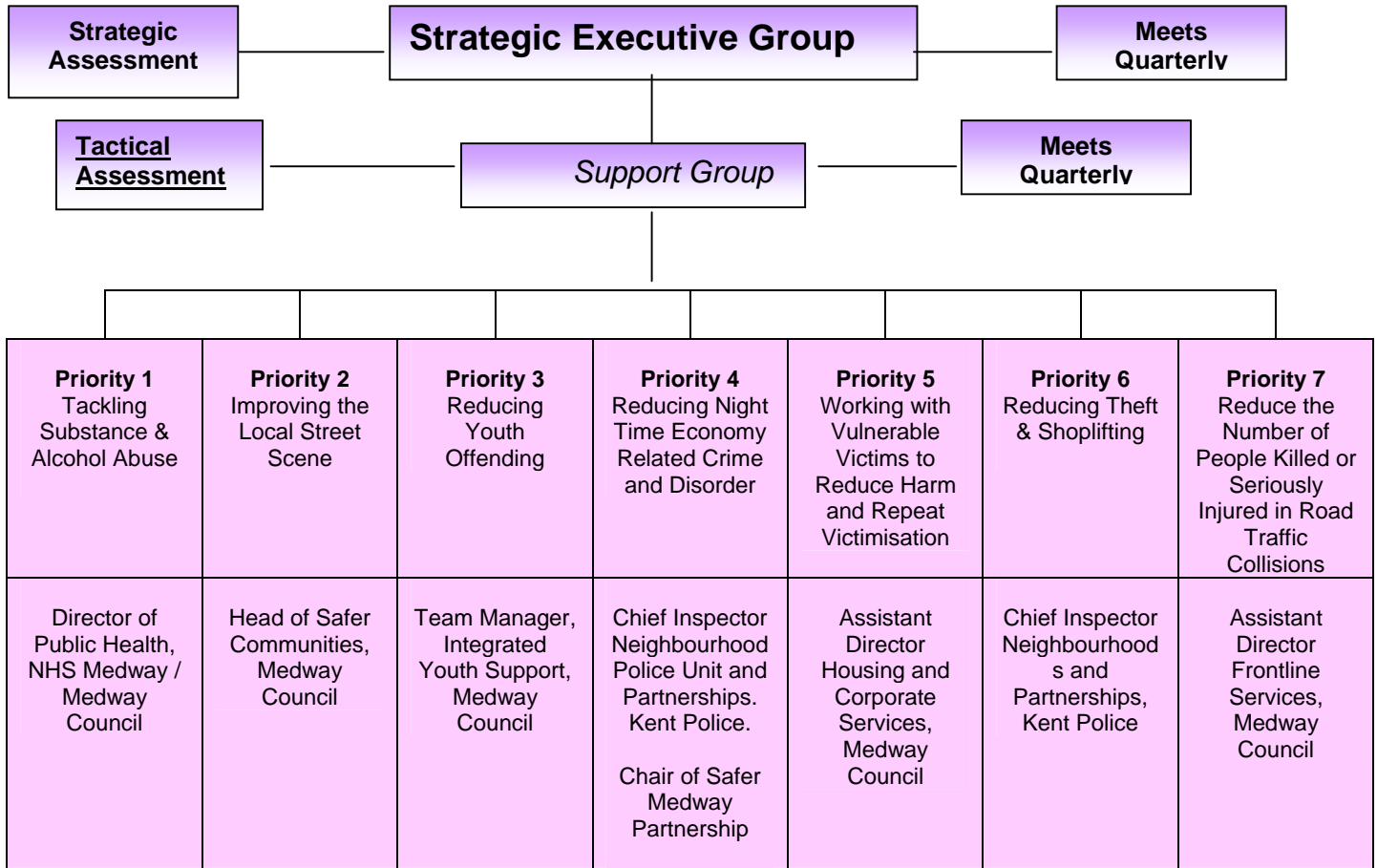
Lead officer contact

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Background papers

Home Office guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – England – published in May 2009

APPENDIX 1



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Medway Community Safety Partnership

Community Safety Plan 2009 – 2012

2011 Refresh



**COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**

Our Mission Statement

We aim to work together to keep Medway a safe place for people who visit or live, work or study in Medway.

The Medway Community Safety Plan for 2009-2012 sets out the aims and objectives for the partnership. This plan is the 2011-2012 refresh.

Medway is a unique mix of urban and rural. The area has seen economic recovery and diversification over the last 20 years after the collapse of heavy industries. This is continuing with Medway as a key part of the Thames Gateway - a national priority area for regeneration and growth. The majority of the population (85 per cent) lives in urban areas, which are centred on the five towns of Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester, Strood, and Rainham. A smaller percentage lives in the outlying villages on the Hoo Peninsula, including Grain.

Medway is not a deprived area, but at ward level we have some of the most affluent and some of the most deprived areas in the country. In particular, low income and employment levels drive deprivation. Working together has been vital to our success, and the range of organisations involved in Medway's Community Safety Partnership have reduced crime more effectively than any single organisation working alone. However, big challenges still remain in building on our achievements. Our aim for the next three years is to continue to reduce crime and respond effectively to incidents of antisocial behaviour across Medway by working together across agencies and with the communities we serve.

As a partnership of statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and other organisations, with links to local people throughout our community, our mission is to work collectively to tackle those issues of crime and disorder of most concern. Our work together is driven by a desire to help local people feel safer, become more involved with reducing crime and the fear of crime, especially amongst the most vulnerable people within our communities. In doing so to engage with those most at risk of offending in a manner that compliments the work of agencies that have individual responsibilities in tackling crime and disorder.

There has recently been an increase in new arrivals from EU accession states. A significant number of students in Medway are from overseas, reflecting a changing ethnic mix in the local population. This, together with the arrival of migrant workers from the EU accession countries, means that Medway's ethnic diversity is changing rapidly. This brings challenges of integration and the need to overcome communication difficulties to promote trust and understanding to build a strong community.

We will continue to ensure that strong communities are created and maintained. We will ensure that the diverse nature of our community is celebrated and perceived as an asset.

The student population continues to increase with the following universities having a presence in Medway - The University of Greenwich at Medway, University of Kent at Medway, Canterbury Christ Church University, University for the Creative Arts and The Open University.

In 2011-12 we will do this by –

- Tackling substance and alcohol abuse.
- Improving the local street scene.
- Reducing youth offending.
- Reducing night time economy related crime and disorder.
- Working with vulnerable victims to reduce harm and repeat victimisation.
- Reducing Theft and Shoplifting.
- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Road Traffic Collisions.

Funding and Targets

When the Coalition Government was formed in 2010 one of it's first acts was to carry out a nationwide Comprehensive Spending Review. This resulted in a reduction in funding for partner agency activities, which will have an impact on the programme of works that the partners are able to deliver. All partners will continue help people to feel safe in their local neighbourhoods. However, the reduction in funding means that the mechanisms in place in previous years to measure this are no longer resourced.

Foreword

Community safety is consistently identified as a key priority for our residents in Medway. We all want to feel safe and secure on our streets and in our homes, and this Community Safety Partnership Plan outlines our aims and objectives to make our community a safer place to live, work and socialise.

By working in partnership, both Kent Police and Medway Council are ensuring that all agencies are operating effectively together to reduce criminal behaviour, tackle disorder and improve public confidence and perceptions of crime.

Over the past year we have had a number of successes. Anti-social behaviour is on a downward trend and crime is falling. We have introduced a number of initiatives and led targeted operations to improve community safety. This includes a multi-agency operation in Luton to tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental issues as well as continuing the 'Safe Exit' programme and the invaluable SOS bus.

We have built upon our network of Partners and Community Together (PACT) meetings and expanded the initiative into our local schools. This Schools and Community Together (SACT) initiative is bringing together pupils from all year groups to discuss community projects and learn about the impact of graffiti, litter and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

We are continuing to tackle graffiti, with over 1,370 instances removed in the past year. It is also now easier for residents to report this and other issues, through our new phone app and website – Love Medway.

In this plan we have set out our priorities for the year ahead which aim to address drug and alcohol abuse, crime and disorder related to the night time economy and reduce theft and shoplifting in our towns. We also want to tackle youth offending, help protect vulnerable victims, reduce deaths and injuries on our roads and improve the street scene.

Together we will continue to improve the safety and quality of life for people of Medway and those who live, work and visit.



Chief Superintendent Steve Corbishley
Chair of the Community Safety Partnership
and Police Area Commander for Medway



Councillor Mike O'Brien
Cabinet Member for Community
Safety and Customer Contact, and Vice-Chair of
the Community Safety Partnership

Reflecting over the last 12 months we have achieved a great deal. We have carried out some innovative developments to the way we work together enhancing our ability to deliver improved services to the public.

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- Over 6,000 proactive environmental issues were raised and dealt with by Medway Councils Community Team.

Kent Police in Medway achieved:

- A 13.2% reduction in non-domestic burglaries.
- A 6.5% reduction in violence against the person.
- A 3.4% reduction in theft of motor vehicles.
- A 13.4% reduction in serious ASB incidents.
- A 13.6% reduction in the number of young offenders (10-19 yrs).

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Priority 1

Tackling Substance and Alcohol Abuse

The Facts – Why is this a Priority?

Substance misuse, primarily of class A drugs and alcohol is inextricably tied to crime and disorder with established links to violent and acquisitive crime. The Community Safety Partnership is keen to minimise the associated risks to health, particularly in relation to young people. Concerted efforts to address drug-related crime have brought more offenders to justice and preventative work has improved access to treatment services, advice and assistance. However, when consulting with our communities they sometimes tell us they are concerned about 'people using or dealing drugs in their neighbourhood' and with 'people being drunk and rowdy in public'. Tackling substance misuse will not only help reduce crime and disorder, it will also help people to live healthier lifestyles and improve quality of life generally by reducing the fear and intimidation that can be caused by drug and alcohol related behaviour. It is considered that 70% of crime, particularly violence, is related to alcohol. Therefore focus will continue to develop the successful Safer Medway Partnership, bringing together licensees to conduct their businesses responsibly, as well as developing banning orders for those who choose to cause disorder and finally to offer education and advice to young people to ensure they drink responsibly.

Aims – What do we want to do?

- Reduce the number of drug and alcohol-related offences, especially in the nighttime economy.
- Reduce the number of alcohol-related hospital attendances at A and E.
- Increase the number of drug and alcohol misusers accessing treatment and increase the proportion achieving recovery.
- Reduce the perception of that drink and drugs are problems in Medway.

Implementation – How are we going to do it?

- Using Licensing controls and other enforcement measures to ensure that licensed premises do not encourage binge drinking, or sell to those underage or allow drug dealing.
- By promoting use of referrals of those misusing drugs and coming into the criminal justice system into the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) and appropriate treatment services.
- Carry out targeted intelligence-led Police operations focusing on known offenders to disrupt drug markets.
- Launch the Medway Community Alcohol Partnership.
- Multi-agency projects targeted at locations where drug and alcohol-misuse is more prevalent to encourage reporting; improve intelligence so action can be taken against offenders and provide reassurance to local residents.
- Use of enforcement measures such as Exclusion Orders and Alcohol Control Zones where alcohol is a factor in prolific offenders behaviour.
- Improve the use of data from a wide selection of partners to target operations and licensing activity (e.g. Assault data collection project with hospital).
- Provide alcohol services – the partnership will continue to work together with Medway Drug and Alcohol Action Team (MDAAT) to ensure that they provide effective Alcohol Treatment Requirement Orders as an option for sentences, and ensure alcohol services are able to meet demand for all people requiring help with alcohol abuse.
- Continue to run a joint agency visit regime to monitor premises & encourage good practice such as discouraging irresponsible drinks promotions (Op Albatross).
- Identify individuals at risk of alcohol abuse and link to appropriate support programmes and tackle sales and sources of alcohol to under 18s.
- Continue Trading Standards programme of Test Purchases throughout the year targeting premises that sell alcohol to those under age.
- Where 'Triage' is effective, referrals will be completed to KCA - Drug Intervention and Support Programme (DISP), or Alcohol Intervention and Support Programme (AISP).
- Monitoring and rehabilitating users – to increase the number of substance misusers on the Identified Prolific and Priority Offenders (IPPO) Scheme under the rehabilitate and resettle strand.
- Identify neighbourhood drug issues and potential solutions and ensure interagency response to tackle and prevent local drug problems.
- Provide support and interventions to substance misusers to assist them to become drug free and integrated into the community; engage substance misusers on issues such as drug litter, reducing harm to the community.
- Increase public confidence in the local agencies tackling substance misuse and reducing drug related crime by working with the local media.
- Through commissioning by MDAAT to KCA, to continue to work with schools and under-18 services to advise on drug and alcohol policy, training courses, resource consultation and promote greater knowledge.
- KCS support of the Clever Thinking programme (targeted support to young people involved in anti-social behaviour, to change behaviours, offer support, increase personal confidence).
- Work with the Children's Trust to find out more about drug and alcohol use amongst young people, to target resources towards future reduction initiatives.

Priority 2

Improve The Local Street Scene

The Facts – Why is this a Priority?

The environment is consistently rated as one of the top priorities for local people. This will continue to be important as our population grows - the quality of our environment and green spaces will be key to a sustainable future. The quality of our physical environment affects how safe we feel. Signals of neglect are an invitation to vandalism and anti-social behaviour. If deterioration is not addressed, affected areas can become places that people avoid, particularly at night, and fear of crime can curtail the active use of neighbourhoods and town centres. Local residents regularly highlight environmental quality issues as matters of concern. Working in partnership with our contactors, Medway works hard to continually improve the street scene. This is of course not possible without the help and cooperation of the local residents. Both the perception and actual cleanliness of the street scene has continued to improve in recent years but constant attention is required to maintain this.

Aims – What do we want to do?

- Improve the cleanliness of Medway's environment
- Improve perceptions of the cleanliness of the local environment
- Increase effective enforcement activity against environmental crimes
- Improve participation rates in PACTS and SACTS
- Increase community ownership and pride in the condition of the local environment through participation in the Love Medway Campaign
- Engage with Kent Probation's Community Payback scheme to deliver local environmental remediation schemes.

Implementation – How are we going to do it?

- Increase visibility: Medway Councils Community Officers will continue their visible presence in the community, in particular town centres. Along with PCSOs, the two services will act as the eyes and ears of the community contributing to the intelligence-led approach to dealing with environmental issues.
- Medway Council's Environmental Enforcement Team and Community Officers will continue to enforce environmental crime through education, fixed penalty notices and prosecutions where necessary. They will also continue to investigate instances where private land is littered or fly tipped which can have a detrimental impact to the street scene environment.
- Implement Tobacco control action plan to reduce tobacco related litter.
- Continue to work with Kent Probation's Community Payback scheme. Environmental work is one strand of work that will continue to be used to address areas of Medway to underpin the work of Medway Council's graffiti removal service and community clean up schemes for areas not covered by Council contracts.
- Partnership operations: There will be a continued partnership approach to dealing with environmental crime. Operation Cubit will continue to run a number of operations in the next year whereby the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, and Medway Council will target vehicles that are untaxed. Operation Discard will continue to target illegal waste carriers, whereby Kent Police and Medway Councils Environmental Enforcement Team will work in partnership to carry out roadside checks for unlicensed waste carriers.
- Use the 'Love Medway' campaign to encourage more local ownership and pride in our local street scene.
- Encourage people to report environmental crime, fly tipping, dog fouling and graffiti through the use of the Love Medway App, the Love Medway website and of course Customer First.
- Continue to work with our street-cleaning contractors, Veolia, to maintain a high standard of cleaning on public highways.
- Encourage community led 'clean ups' and litter picks.
- Encourage local communities to engage with PACTs and encourage schools to set up SACTs.
- CSP to support PACTs and SACTs.

The Facts – Why is this a Priority?

The safety of children and young people is paramount, and first and foremost the emphasis is on reducing the risk of children and young people becoming victims of crime, but also on those at most risk of commencing a life of crime at a young age. Support needs to be given to those involved in intervention work, as it is shown that those that do are more liable to change their behaviour. Children and young people who break the law are dealt with quite differently than adult offenders. Those under the age of 18 require different kinds of sentences and support services to help prevent them re-offending. It is also important to address public perceptions about young people - 'teenagers hanging around' is one form of perceived anti-social behaviour (ASB) that residents feel is a big problem, even when young people may not be engaging in any ASB, their gathering in groups is often seen to be intimidating to others. We will also work alongside the Children's Trust to ensure that those at risk of falling into the criminal justice system are diverted at the earliest stage and that we educate and provide advice to young people to reduce their risk of being victims of crime or anti social behaviour.

Aims – What do we want to do?

- Reduce the number of young people who are repeat victims of crime.
- Ensure that young people have safe and accessible places for learning and socialising.
- Encourage the active participation of young people in positive activities that promote mutual respect, social responsibility and taking pride in the local environment
- Improve public perceptions about young people and reduce the percentage of residents who believe 'teenagers hanging around' is a problem.
- Reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system.
- Reducing re-offending by those already in the youth justice system
- Reduce the number of incidents of youth-on-youth crime.
- Encourage schools to set up SACTs to enable young people to feel confident about engaging with police and partners on issues affecting their safety.
- Reduce the number of Anti-social behaviour incidents and reduce 'Hotspot' areas.

Implementation – How are we going to do it?

Improving safety for young people

- By developing and delivering programmes to address the safeguarding of young people, encourage reporting by young victims and provide appropriate support to reduce the risk of repeat victimisation (working alongside Local Children's Partnerships and Children's Trusts).
- By continuing to improve and publicise safe facilities and opportunities for young people to constructively use their free time and encourage healthy lifestyles.
- By extending the involvement and engagement of young people in the design and implementation of local community projects to give them a sense of pride and promote good citizenship.
- By providing targeted initiatives to young people identified as most at risk from drug and/or alcohol misuse.
- Provide means for young people to be consulted through the PACT and SACT processes.
- Police Safer School Partnership Coordinators (SSPCs) to support schools by delivering educational inputs on a range of topics aimed at promoting good and safe choices and reducing the risk of young people becoming victims of crime or future offenders within the existing education curriculum.

Reducing offending behaviour and the risk of offending

- Working with the Integrated Prevention Team, (Targeted Youth Support, Youth Justice Prevention and Intensive Family Support) we will identify young people at risk of offending through triage, reprimands and final warnings. All young people will be given a tailored package to target needs of them and their families. This includes positive activities.
- Increase the use of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in targeting the needs of young people and families.
- Deliver a diversion scheme at the point of arrest (triage) and link the work of reprimand and final warnings to this initiative.
- Run targeted programmes in targeted Wards – 'Clever Thinking' (10 week programme aimed at young people involved in ASB to offer support, change behaviours, build confidence), 'Anger Management' (8 week programme aimed at those between 8 and 16 years of age), and 'Incredible Years' (12 week parenting programme).
- Continue to use panels effectively to support monitoring or identifying young people at risk.
- Youth Services will continue to deliver detached youth work in high priority areas. Provide facilities (including Youth Centres) and events for youth diversion and engagement.
- By continuing to intervene early, ensure that final warnings for young offenders are supported by appropriate multi agency interventions.
- Early intervention and support to prevent young people becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, using the Joint Family Management Programme framework.
- Adherence to the 'Crime Reporting in Schools' protocol, with continued interventions with students in partnership with local schools.
- Targeting those at high risk of offending and providing individual intervention packages delivered by a multi agency approach, lead by the Youth Offending Team (YOT).
- Through Partnership working with Kent Police, MDAAT (KCA) and NHS Sexual Health Team, continue to utilise the Drug Intervention Support Programme (DISP), where appropriate, as an alternative to police prosecution for offences of possession of class B or C drugs.
- Encourage referrals to the Drug Intervention Support Programme (DISP) from other agencies including schools where there are concerns about a young person's alcohol or drug misuse.
- Delivering key support for young people from new, settling communities.
- Implement a targeted youth support programme in partnership with KFRS.

Priority 4

Reducing Night Time Economy Related Crime and Disorder

The Facts – Why is this a Priority?

Tackling violent crime in the night time economy will have a significant impact upon community safety within Medway. The Community Safety Partnership aims to reduce the prevalence of serious violence that occurs within the night-time economy whilst addressing the lower level violence that has a significant impact on people's well being, feelings of safety and upon agencies resources in dealing with the consequences of violent behaviour. Violent crime has high physical, emotional and financial consequences for individuals, families and society. Serious violence is a significant influence on people's fear of crime. As our area has five towns and a significant night time economy, violent crime continues to be an area in constant need of preventative measures. It is well evidenced both locally and nationally that the misuse of alcohol often leads to disorder within licensed premises, public places and other establishments.

Aims – What do we want to do?

- To work in partnership with the licensed trade to improve the management of licensed premises.
- To reduce the number of alcohol related incidents in our town centres.
- To improve dispersal from the town centres, and therefore reduce the potential for disorder.
- Reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce the number of criminal damage offences.
- Improve public confidence in the way in which Kent Police deal with anti social behaviour (ASB).

Implementation – How are we going to do it?

Responding to ASB and environmental crime:

- Reducing NTE related ASB within Medway High Streets through effective prevention and initiatives, such as Op Maximise and the SOS Bus, will be a priority.
- Manage effective information sharing between partners to enable the identification of people experiencing or vulnerable to violent crime.
- Operate high visibility targeted policing patrols at peak times in hotspot areas.
- Run campaigns targeted victims, offenders and the wider community to raise awareness of violent crime.
- Manage the use of the Emerging Issues Group in order to tackle specific problems in hotspots areas.
- Work with and PACTs and SACTs to identify specific areas meriting multi agency action.
- Support delivery of the Medway Domestic Abuse Sub-Group (domestic abuse strategy).
- To share intelligence to provide support to victims and use available powers to take prompt and appropriate against offenders.
- To engage with businesses, retailers and licensed premises to develop initiatives to target the differing nature of ASB affecting daytime and night time economies.
- To use enforcement measures e.g. Dispersal Orders, Alcohol Control Zones, mobile CCTV cameras and consider how opportunities for ASB can be 'designed-out' in locations where it is more prevalent.

Priority 5

Working With Vulnerable Victims to Reduce Harm and Repeat Victimization

The Facts – Why is this a Priority?

There is substantial evidence that offences relating to domestic abuse, hate crime and other harm to vulnerable victims are significantly under-reported. In addition, vulnerable groups/minority and hidden communities often need tailored help and support to ensure that their needs are addressed and that they gain trust and confidence in the Criminal Justice system.

The Partnership believes that some forms of crime locally and nationally are under reported. This includes domestic abuse and hate crime for example against disabled people or lesbian gay trans and bi-sexual communities, or racially motivated crime. We want to do more to encourage reporting and access to appropriate support so communities do not suffer in silence. Medway has a proportionately higher level of reported cases of domestic abuse than the rest of Kent, with many victims of domestic abuse suffering repeatedly. Domestic abuse often occurs within families where children though not physically harmed, can suffer emotional damage.

Repeat victimisation is a Central Government priority, and it has pledged a considerable amount of money (£29.4 million) of dedicated funding over the next three years to help vulnerable victims of crime - voluntary sector groups will be able to bid for this money to provide the services their local communities need.

A recent profile of Medway's changing demography has highlighted many different opportunities and perceptions for partnership working and closer cohesion with all minority and hidden communities to improve engagement and shared understanding.

Aims – What do we want to do?

- Reduce repeat incidences of domestic abuse and hate crime.
- Increase reporting of domestic abuse and hate crimes.
- Increase the confidence of victims in the support services available to them.
- Reduce the number of prolific offenders who re-offend due to drug or alcohol dependency issues.
- Protect children and young people from the harm that domestic and relationship violence can cause.

Implementation – How are we going to do it?

- Support the Domestic Abuse Sub-Group that reports directly to the Strategic Executive Group.
- Aid the development of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) in Medway.
- Continue and improve the support services offered to victims.
- Implement and effectively run the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to support high-risk victims.
- Aim to reduce the number of repeat victims by effective use of the available services.
- The Community Cohesion Working Group has been set up to bring together key individuals from various diverse and ethnic backgrounds to promote a cohesive and confident community by coordinating activities and actions based on community need.
- Raise awareness of the impact and damage of hate crime within the community to encourage reporting and understanding of the issue.
- Develop partner agencies' ability to provide appropriate support and guidance to people effected by hate crime.
- Improve services for perpetrators of domestic abuse to reduce reoffending.
- Provide better and accessible information to victims on what services are available.
- Develop a programme of multi agency training and supporting information so agencies can effectively signpost victims.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of current One Stop Shop domestic abuse reporting arrangements.
- Develop a shared multi agency dataset to map demand and need and the impact of services.
- Ensure alignment between the Domestic Violence Court and the resources available for planned interventions within the community.
- Enhance our Independent Domestic Violence Advice Service for those at the highest risk of serious harm
- Work with a wide range of diverse groups to encourage reporting and offer support.

Priority 6

Reducing Theft and Shoplifting

The Facts – Why is this a Priority?

Shoplifting and 'theft other' account for 80% of all theft and handling within Medway. Shoplifting equates to 44%, theft other equates to 36%. 21% of theft offences involve cash; when including mobile phones and handbags this increases the percentage to 35%.

There has been a steady rise in thefts from night time economy venues - mobile phones are the desired property within the NTE, often left unattended or in trouser pockets.

Increases in theft and handling stolen goods offences can also be linked to an upturn and steady increase in the demand for commodity metal, the main driver for criminal activity having been the international price of scrap metal. Lead and copper are the most commonplace metals to be stolen, primarily due to their high asset price and ease of both accessibility and removal. Lead thefts are the issue within metal thefts, rather than copper. Lead from educational building & religious buildings account for 13% of lead thefts, but there has been a rise in reporting from dwellings, particularly blocks of flats.

Aims – What do we want to do?

- Reduce the total number of theft and handling stolen goods offences.
- Reduce the number of metal and cable theft offences.
- Reduce the number of shoplifting offences.

Implementation – How are we going to do it?

Work with retailers to ensure that the layout of shops, and the style & location of displays (especially for the most commonly shoplifted goods - meat, alcohol) are not close to exit of the store. Ongoing identification of priority locations, times of year, offenders and vulnerable victims (target hardening).

Targeted crime prevention awareness campaigns through community networks, Neighbourhood Watch and PACT's. Coordinate a visible presence of officers from Medway Council and Police working together at the appropriate times and places to reduce the opportunity for offences to take place & to reassure the public.

Preventative Steps and Reducing Theft

- Work with businesses that are repeatedly subject to shoplifting offences in order to target harden their premises and provide a high level of service through Operation Crystal.
- Medway Councils Environmental Enforcement Team to continue working with Kent Police to develop and deliver initiatives working with scrap metal dealers to stamp out illegal activity, and to target those that carry waste illegally.
- Targeted awareness-raising activities focussing on properties more likely to be susceptible to metal theft and the provision of advice to reduce risks.
- Working with developers to ensure that security on building sites is considered on larger developments.
- Delivering targeted initiatives focussing on groups most at risk or who are more vulnerable to personal theft, to raise awareness and provide practical solutions to safeguarding personal property.
- Proactive Police operations and partnership multi-agency approaches to identify and prosecute prolific theft offenders, including Operation Yang, Operation Safer Plate and Operation Crystal (NTE).

Reducing Shoplifting

- Increasing the number of business premises that use the Radio link scheme run by the Safer Medway Partnership.
- Continue to support the Safer Medway Partnership in issuing banning orders on prolific shoplifters from our town centres.
- Work with retailers to ensure that their stores are laid out so as to reduce the risk of shoplifting.
- Proactive Police operations and partnership multi-agency approaches to identify and prosecute prolific theft offenders.

Priority 7

Reduce the Number of People Killed or Seriously Injured in Road Traffic Collisions

The Facts – Why is this a Priority?

Major growth in the area will lead to increased demand for travel and the safety of the population is a continuing priority for the council, both for the citizens they serve and those who visit this historic area. A safer road network and use of the network are key objectives in fulfilling that priority. Considerable casualty reductions have been gained in previous years, specifically in the areas those killed or seriously injured. This enables us to build on these gains and further improve the safety of all road users.

Certain road user groups and social groups in Medway are disproportionately represented in road traffic collisions. For example young people in Kent's more deprived areas have more than five times the risk of becoming a road traffic casualty. A road fatality is a crime for the Police, and investigated as such.

Medway Council has the statutory duty to deliver road safety and it is a Council priority, contained within the current Local Transport Plan, to:

- Improve travel safety by road safety interventions, incorporating highway schemes, education, publicity, promotion and enforcement, safer routes to school projects and public safety initiatives.

This priority is delivered through a partnership with Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Kent Police, The NHS Medway and Medway Primary Care Trust, Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership, The Kent and Medway Road Casualty Reduction Partnership Group (CaRe), Kent County Council and local schools.

Aims – What do we want to do?

- To achieve a 33% reduction in killed and serious injured (KSI) casualties based on the 2004/08 average of 85.2 KSIs. This results in an end target of 57 KSIs or less by 2020. At this stage it is proposed that target trend be linear with a 3.3% reduction per year.

Implementation – How are we going to do it?

Medway Councils Road Safety Team will strive to reduce road casualty figures in Medway through a combination of education, engineering, and enforcement, including:

- Identifying safety-weak areas.
- Ensuring new development does not introduce significant new hazards to highway safety.
- Reduce transport-related crime and antisocial behaviour through improved safety and security measures.

Identified through a combination of data analysis and stakeholder engagement, road safety schemes (where possible by design), will include:

- Alterations to the road environment to modify road user behaviour.
- Alterations to the road layout (on a varying scale) to control vehicle movements at various locations.
- Safety cameras where other engineering measures cannot be employed.

Medway Council will be proactive in the delivery of education initiatives to improve road safety. Actions will include:

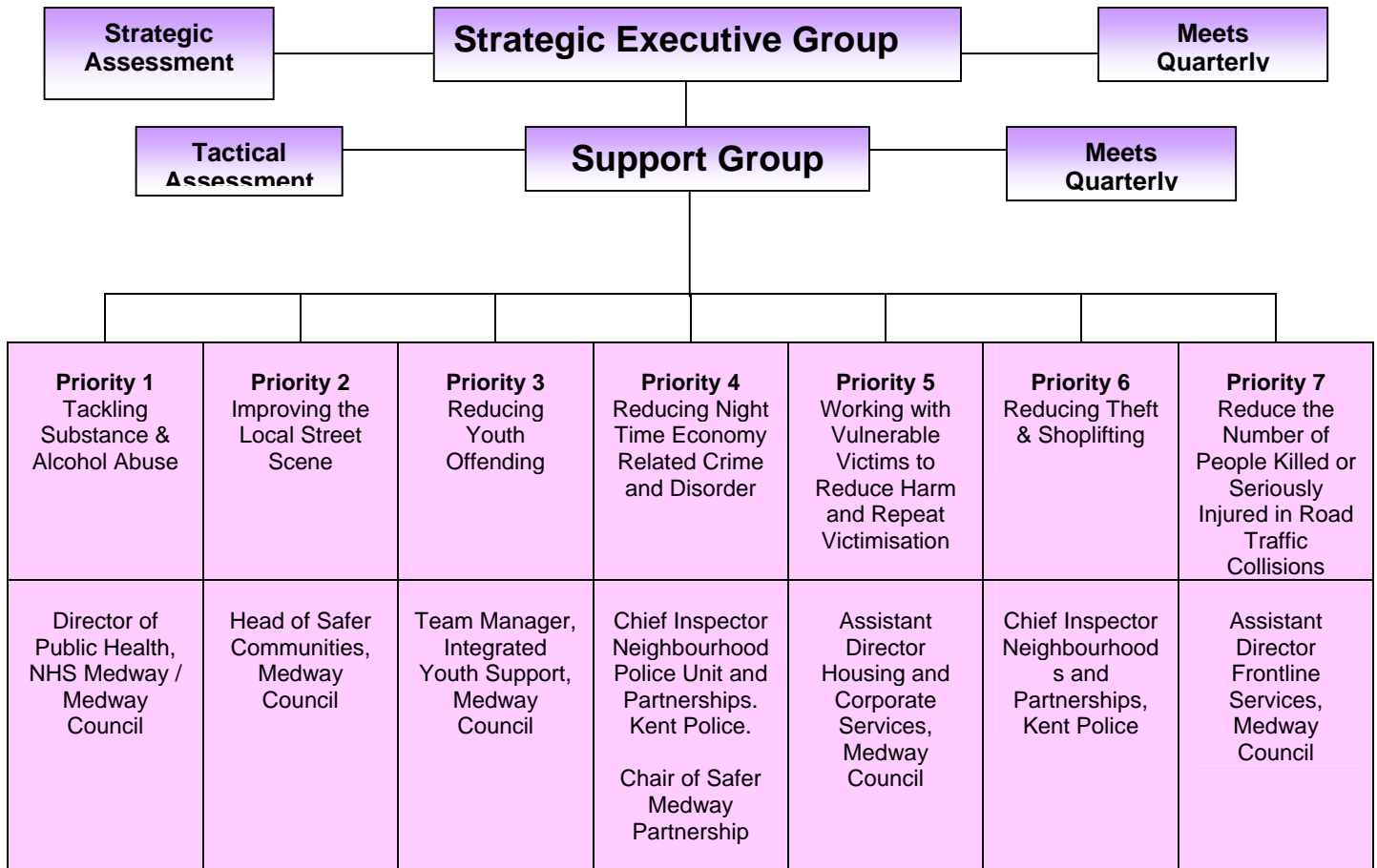
- Encourage walking to school through a variety of initiatives for example the walking bus scheme and practical pedestrian training.
- Monitoring and training school crossing patrols.
- Medway Council, linked with national Government and partners, will continue to prepare publicity material to inform and to raise awareness to all road users.
- Congestion reduction and reducing inconsiderate parking outside school by targeting the parking on the Keep Clear linage.
- Loaning Educational Resources to schools.
- Working with partners to focus on vulnerable road users including pedestrians, children, young drivers and moped riders.
- Working with schools and our partners to deliver the correct road safety message to the correct age group. Specifically the young driver education, which will be delivered through a collective, joint approach with KFRS. This will include the award winning 'A Licence to Kill?' Theatre in education production that reaches over 4,000 young people per year aged 16-18 years old, across Medway, and which KFRS lead on.

Kent Police will continue to run initiatives such as seasonal impairment campaigns, education campaigns, speeding enforcement, seat belt enforcement and mobile phones campaigns. They will also coordinate multi agency operations to target vehicle defects/document offences.

Kent Fire & Rescue Service will continue to raise awareness of the consequences of reckless driving in partnership with Kent Police, Medway Council & Medway Drug and Alcohol teams. This will be done through road safety initiatives (such as Carmageddon) delivered throughout the year to the night time economy, in particular to young drivers and their passengers. KFRS will also continue to deliver schools education ('Carnage') in respect of reckless driving, and will impart a range of road safety messages to those aged 16-26 years old. KFRS will also continue to work with a range of partners.

Priority Delivery Groups and Structure

The Chair of the Medway Community Safety Partnership is determined on an annual basis. This role is currently held by the Area Commander for Kent Police in Medway, and the role of vice chair held by the Council Cabinet member with portfolio responsibility for Community Safety and Enforcement. The CSP identifies its priorities for actions as a result of a business process involving an assessment of data supplied from all the partner agencies as well as public consultation through surveys and public meetings of PACT. The strategic leadership of the Community Safety Partnership demands clear accountability and performance management through effective processes to improve local community safety.



Two additional thematic groups have been added to the seven priorities above, namely 'Problem Families' and 'Emerging Issues Group'. Problem Families is specifically to look at pulling together the common issues that can often be caused by a small number of families that spread across a number of the above seven priorities, services and partner agencies. The Emerging Issues Group recognises that the CSP will need to be flexible to address new, emerging or urgent issues, and be able to respond appropriately, and to inform next years Strategic Assessment.

There are three groups that currently report directly in to the Strategic Executive Group for governance purposes:

- Medway Alcohol Partnership
- The Domestic Abuse Subgroup; and
- The Community Cohesion Group

We will examine how the future governance arrangements for these groups can be better aligned and rationalised.

Ways That The Community Can Help Make Medway Safer

As much as members of Medway's Community Safety Partnership work hard to make Medway a better place to live, we can all help towards achieving that goal –

- Report incidences of bullying, antisocial behaviour and crime to Kent Police - take a stand in your community.
- Report incidences of environmental crimes to Medway Council (download free the Love Medway app).
- Report incidents of illegal sales to Trading Standards, for example, or under-age sales of alcohol.
- Get involved in your local neighbourhood groups, such as PACT's and Neighbourhood Watches.
- Mentor a young person.
- Get to know your neighbours.
- Ensure any elderly neighbours are supported. Encourage your local community to engage with older people to foster respect and understanding of older generations.
- Become a Kent Police Special Constable or volunteer with one of the Community Safety Partnership agencies.
- Don't leave items on display in vehicles.
- Don't buy goods from illegal street traders.
- Take preventative action such as home and vehicle security and don't allow entry to bogus callers.
- Practise safe and sensible drinking.
- Take steps to prepare for an emergency, such as power failure, fire or extreme weather.
- Arrange a free home fire safety check and maintain a working smoke detector.
- Respect parking restrictions. We appreciate that everybody wants to park near their home, but this is not always possible. Consider others when parking your vehicle, particularly pedestrians. Remember not to block access for other residents or emergency service vehicles.
- Take steps to reduce risks and hazards in the home to prevent falls and decrease accidents involving children.
- Make sure that dogs are kept secure within your property and under control in public. Try not to let them become a nuisance by being noisy, especially late at night or early in the morning.
- Noise - remember that noise travels, try to be considerate towards your neighbours. Please keep noise down to a reasonable level at all times.
- Dispose of your rubbish correctly. Do not put bin bags out until the night before your morning of collection. Contact Medway Council to arrange disposal of large items. If you pay for removal of waste from your property ensure they are a registered waste carrier (with the Environment Agency, and ensure you are given a transfer note).

For more information on any of the above, please contact the Community Safety Partnership office on – communitysafetypartnership@medway.gov.uk.

Glossary of Terms

A and E	Accident and Emergency
ACZ	Alcohol Control Zone
AISP	Alcohol Intervention and Support Programme
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CaRe	Medway Road Casualty Reduction Partnership Group
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CVS	Community Voluntary Sector
DIP	Drug Intervention Programme
DVLA	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
EU	European Union
IPPO	Identified Prolific and Priority Offenders
KFRS	Kent Fire & Rescue Service
KFRS	Kent Fire and Rescue Service
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MDAAT	Medway Drug and Alcohol Action Team
NTE	Night-time Economy
PACT	Partners and Communities Together
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PI	Performance Indicator
SACT	Schools & Communities Together
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
SSPC	Safer School Partnership Coordinators
YOT	Youth Offending Team

For further information about the Medway Community Safety Partnership please contact:

Community Safety Partnership,
Based at Medway Police Station,
Eastbridge, Purser Way,
Gillingham, Kent,
ME7 1NE.

Telephone: 01634 338131
Email: csu@medway.gov.uk
Internet: www.medwaycsp.co.uk

Medway Council Safer Communities Service

Medway Council,
Gun Wharf, Dock Road,
Chatham, Kent,
ME4 4TR.

Telephone: 01634 333333

Medway Council & Kent Police Contact Points

Chatham Contact Point,
Riverside One, Dock Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 4SL

Rainham Contact Point,
1-3 Station Road,
Rainham, Kent, ME8 7RS

Gillingham Contact Point,
Gillingham Library,
High Street, Gillingham,
Kent, ME7 1BG

Rochester Contact Point,
Visitor Information Centre,
95 High Street, Rochester,
Kent, ME1 1LX

Strood Contact Point,
Annex B, Civic Centre,
Strood, Kent, ME2 4AU

Medway Neighbourhood Policing Teams

Gillingham/Rainham: 01634 792344
Chatham: 01634 792346
Rochester/Strood: 01634 792333

Kent Fire and Rescue Service

North Kent Group, Medway Fire Station, Watling Street, Gillingham, Kent, ME5 7HG
Tel: 01622 692121

One-Stop Shop

Sunlight Centre, Richmond Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1LX
Tel: 01634 338686

Domestic Abuse Hotline

0808 2000247

Kent Hate Incident Reporting Line

0800 3289162

Anti-Terrorist Hotline

In confidence on 0800 789321

Text service for the deaf or speech-impaired

If you're deaf or speech-impaired, you can text Kent Police. Start the message with the word 'police' then leave a space and write your message including what and where the problem is. Send your text to 60066 (the Kent Police communications centre) and they will reply with a message.



This information can also be requested in other formats including Braille, large print, audiotape and other languages. Please contact the Community Safety Partnership.