

Medway Council
Meeting of Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday, 4 September 2025
2.05pm to 4.22pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

- Present:** Councillor Teresa Murray, Deputy Leader of the Council (Chairperson)
Councillor Mark Jones
Councillor Eddie Peake
Councillor Adam Price, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (including statutory responsibility)
Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive
Jackie Brown, Assistant Director Adult Social Care
Dr David Whiting, Director of Public Health
Andrew Stradling, Interim Medical Director, Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership
Kelly Cogger, Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
Voluntary Community Sector, Jane Howard, Medway Voluntary Action
- Substitutes:** Councillor Habib Tejan (Substitute for Councillor Andrew Lawrence)
- In Attendance:** Matt Capper, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Medway NHS Foundation Trust
DCI Garry Cook, Kent Police
Stephanie Davis, Democratic Services Officer
Inspector Paul Diddams, Kent Police
Bob Dimond, Head of Sport, Leisure, Tourism & Heritage
Scott Elliott, Head of Health and Wellbeing Services
Vicki Emrit, Climate Response Officer
Clare Saunders, Funding and Programmes Director, Medway Voluntary Action
Malti Varshney, Director of Strategic Change and Population Health, NHS Kent and Medway ICB

278 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Bentley, Integrated Care Board (ICB) Representative, Councillor Coombs, Councillor Curry, Councillor Lawrence, Martin Riley, Joint Senior Responsible Officer, Medway and Swale

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Integrated Care Partnership and Jonathan Wade, Interim Chief Executive, Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

An apology was also received from the following invited guest:
Dr Caroline Rickard, Kent and Medway Local Medical Committee.

279 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 26 June 2025 was signed by the Chairperson as correct.

280 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

281 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

282 Theme: Safe Connected and Sustainable Places

a Kent Police Response to analytical data in relation to Serious Violence and Killed and Seriously Injured Casualties on Roads

Serious Violence

Discussion:

The Board received a presentation on Serious Violence and was informed on the following:

- The Police were committed and determined to keep people safe and tackle serious violent crime.
- Data was reviewed over a rolling year to track progress against previous years. Most serious violence was demonstrating a downward trend, whereas drug offences and possession of drugs and weapons continued to rise. This was reflective of the proactive work being undertaken in this area as figures would otherwise be low otherwise.

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- There were three hot spot zones in Medway, these were defined by data from the Government and Home office for offences pertaining to knife crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour. These areas were Rochester, Chatham Town Centre and Gillingham. There was funding received from the Home Office used to uplift patrolling hours and officers in those areas. From 1 June till end of August there were extra patrolling with over 1000 hours of uniformed officers in Chatham, 600 in Gillingham and all areas had their own specific priorities.
- As part of tackling crime related issues, in place was the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) led by a Medway Councillor. The CSP held the police to account on police led issues and activity. There was strong partnership in place with members working collectively to address issues.
- The Community Safety Unit in Medway consisted of circa 50 members of staff dedicated to working with the community, and there was a neighbourhood task force in place to deal with specific problems. The task force at present worked on issues of serious violence. There was also a proactive Investigation Team leading on work relating county lines and serious and complex investigations.
- A full report was made available daily on all matters and activities were therefore tasked based on the daily report. Using principles linked to the National Intelligence Model, there was a monthly process to address all types of crime, but violent crime was a priority. There was also extensive tracking of individuals, locations and venues, with additional resources put into areas highlighted as presenting with the most significant issues. All work was not guided by data and intelligence as there was also reliance on reporting by the community.
- Work undertaken was not limited to enforcement, there was also a strong focus on prevention and targeting of people that perpetuate crime. There was a holistic approach undertaken through work with partners from Youth Offending, Children's Services and Pupil Referral Units as preventative measures for vulnerable young people in being perpetrators and victims of crime. The Serious Crime directorate was responsible for serious crime groups and underpinning their work were robust governance processes and analysis.
- There were still areas of improvement needed, and the neighbourhood work and model was central to the journey and tackling issues better.

Members raised questions and comments which included:

The Chairperson reminded the Board that this was an opportunity to delve into the impact of serious violence on health, including mental, physical, economic health. It was crucial for services, including the NHS to work together collectively on solutions to problems where possible. The partnership work

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undertaken by the Chatham Community Forum, Councillors and the Police on its ambassador work over the summer was commended for its impact.

Licensing – it was commented that the focus on the high street was appropriate and that more information was needed on the work undertaken in partnership with Licensing, in particular due to the issues experienced with nighttime economy. It was asked what more could be done by the Licensing Team to support addressing issues. The Board was informed that there was joined up work with the Council, the Licensing Team was a central function based outside of Kent Police. They were strong in terms of enforcement and had clear direct targets and objects which operated within the Law.

Tackling issues - it was commented that there was a spotlight on Chatham high street as a hot spot of incidence, some with service users of organisations like the Forward Trust being given dispersal orders. Moving forward it was asked what the long term plan was for those people's needs in terms of medical, housing and social care support. The Board was informed that paramount to addressing issues was a partnership approach. The focus was on exploration of means to support people into areas of recovery, this was the approach and management plan for Chatham and surrounding areas.

The Service Manager from the Forward Trust provided assurance that partnership working and relationships were being built, and they were hopeful that this would continue.

Drugs - in response to a question on whether the perception of Chatham as a drug traffic hot spot was accurate and if the work being undertaken in targeting of specific areas at specific times would improve issues, it was acknowledged that there was a challenge in relation to drug use and offences in Chatham. Addressing issues had to be on a partnership basis and the Police would continue to engage and deal with issues presented. There was a strong commitment and confidence in the approach to tackling serious violence through various methods. This issue would be explored further at the upcoming Combating Drugs Partnership Annual Conference on 8th October 2025.

Young people - it was asked what was being done to identify people from a young age who may be at risk of offending or being exploited. The Service Manager, Youth Justice said that this was a continuous area of focus across the Violence Reduction Network. There were many risk factors for young people and identification, intervention and support was key. There was ongoing targeted work in communities, underpinned by sharing of information and joined up work with services, such as Children's Social Care and the Child Centred Policing Team.

Benchmarking – in response to a question on benchmarking against other authorities, the Board was informed that there were different priorities across authorities with each having their own individual targeted way of working as peoples experience of crime was different. An action would be taken away to explore this in detail.

Decision:

The Board noted the report.

Killed and Seriously Injured Casualties on Roads

Discussion:

The Board received a presentation on killed and serious road traffic collisions in Medway and was informed of the following:

- This was a Kent and Medway Road Safety Partnership and Kent Police lead on enforcement.
- Any fatality on roads had severe impacts on families and communities. The collective approach of partnership would continue to prevent fatalities and seriously injured from road accidents.
- Medway was densely populated, with many old roads. The composition of Medway roads when analysing the data and when comparing, to other boroughs like Lancashire must be considered in context. For example, Medway had approximately 5 miles of motorway within its district compared to its peer borough Lancashire which had 167 miles of motorway running through it.
- Medway was above national average with road incidents involving those aged 16-24 and 60 plus and these were areas of priority for the Police. Operation spotlight which ran from 22 September - 5 October, was a national operation targeting young drivers. 80% of drivers of fatal road accidents were males and there would be targeted enforcement for that cohort. As part of the operation there would be education through schools as well as visits to known locations that young drivers frequent. In the 60 plus cohort, there was a need for improvement on the '751s' which is the ability to request an eye test. There were powers in place to instruct anyone over 60 that had been involved in a road accident to undertake a roadside eye test, but improvements were still required in this area to identify those that should not be on the road.
- Many incidences involved cars but increasingly motorcycles were involved.
- The local policing team targeted specific areas daily, including individuals known to be using the roads without insurance or an MOT.
- Heavy investment had been made into neighbourhood policing, with an aspiration to increase the speed watch programme.

Members made the following comments and raised questions:

E-Bikes - it was commented that there had been a rise in the use of e- bikes, trikes, and unlicensed vehicles on the roads behaving dangerously, including playing dangerous games in traffic, obscuring faces with masks, and concealing number plates. The Board was informed that this was an area of priority for the policing team who were aware of these incidences. Neighbourhood officers continued to target this behaviour, with operations taking place monthly. Any vehicles involved were seized and individuals prosecuted.

Additionally, it was asked to what extent technology was used to empower the public to report incidences, and how it could aid people to provide information that would enable the police to build on hot spots and areas where incidences took place . The Board was informed that there was increased access to a website that enabled the community to upload pictures. There was however more to be done to enable the ability to provide a pin of an incident location. There was also the need to educate people on the legalities of the use of e-bikes, safety of quad bikes and other unlicensed vehicles.

CCTV - it was asked if the Council CCTV unit which was run in partnership with Kyndi was utilised as it was vital that this provision was accessed when necessary. The Board was informed that there was a good relationship between the Police and the CSP team, and they met regularly to be briefed on the working statuses of CCTV across Medway. It was however acknowledged that the technology in place could be better utilised as it was important to also take on board learning from other parts of the country. There was also a possibility of exploration, increased and better use of portable cameras.

Policing had changed over the years and there had been a reduction in the amount of time available to proactively stop and manage issues with nuisance or dangerous drivers. The challenge going forward was how to work smarter despite challenges and use technology to support the work and enforcement on serious matters through the ability to track offenders.

The Community Safety Team was commended for their innovative and fresh ideas to tackling issues and the way technology could be deployed to support the work being undertaken.

Car seats - it was commented that there had historically been issues with the low usage of child car seats and through extensive education undertaken through schools and voluntary sector organisations there had been improvements. There was however still a concern, and it was asked what was being done to continue to raise awareness. The Board was informed that this was an area for the Neighbourhood Policing and Child Centred Policing Team to explore through engagement with schools to continue to raise awareness and report concerns. It was suggested that this was an area that the Board could support with.

Policing in schools - the neighbourhood policing model was commended for its visibility; it was however felt that there had been a withdrawal of policing teams from schools. The Board was informed that this was a priority for the

Child Centred Policing Team; to stay involved in schools but the offer had changed slightly in terms of officers being based permanently in schools but there would be continued visibility in schools where possible.

Highways – in response to a questions on the robustness and collaboration with the Highways Team, including the work being undertaken on active travel to reduce the number of cars on the road, the Board was informed that the Highways Team was part of the strategic partnership.

Drug and Alcohol - people being arrested on drug and alcohol driving offences appeared to be on the increase and it was asked what mechanisms were in place for educating people arrested and connecting them with the appropriate support. The Board was informed that there was an increased focus on education and support for this cohort.

It was further commented that as part of joint work through the combating drugs partnership, there was a need for increased focus and work with young people, working together on addressing issues of use of illegal and casual drug use which was on the rise.

Decision:

The Board noted the report.

283 Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2028

Discussion:

The Board received the refreshed Climate Change Action Plan which aligned closely with the One Medway Council Plan and the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy . This is the third action plan since 2019 when the Council declared a climate emergency, and since then, both Council headquarters and the Medway area overall emissions had reduced by over 30%. There were two overarching aims of the Action Plan which were to reduce carbon emissions by 2050 and to improve resilience to climate change both for the Council directly and the area of Medway as a place and a community. The Action Plan was structured around five priority areas detailed in the report.

It was important for the Council to support all of its communities to understand what a changing climate means for them, what they can do to take action, individually and collectively, where to go for guidance and support and to understand the wider benefits of taking action. The Board was reminded that the effects of climate change had a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, particularly older adults, young children and those with long term health conditions.

The Board was asked to consider how they could work in partnership to support the aspirations of the Plan for example, through knowledge sharing, community engagement, infrastructure, or service delivery.

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Members made the following comments and raised questions:

It was recognised that for the first time there was significant progress and actions taking place to meet net zero by the target date.

The Medway Voluntary Action (MVA) reaffirmed their commitment to driving forward the aspirations of the Plan and commented that there were several things that would be useful in driving forward actions, such as a toolkit or provision of resources that could be shared with the community. Officers agreed to work with the MVA on any specific resources that may be useful. It was also commented that resources on Climate Change were shared through the Council website as well as social media platforms.

The MVA was asked how many charities had an objective to address climate change, and if it was possible to do a comparison to determine how best to support them. The Board was informed that a full audit had not been completed but an opportunity to poll Charities on whether they had a policy and statement on climate change would be explored. However, it was envisaged that many would as it was often a requirement linked to funding.

It was commented that Medway NHS Foundation Trust was in the process of revising its Green Plan and had just been awarded a grant to decarbonise its estate. The opportunity for more joined up working alongside being a stakeholder would be welcomed. Additionally, it was expressed that this grant would make a difference to patients, practice and the hospitals ability to deliver its targets. It was suggested that there may be opportunities to work in partnership to deliver synergies. Officers agreed to discuss this with Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

Climate change messaging - it was asked whether there was a wider appreciation from the public on the negative effects of climate change, particularly for older adults and the vulnerable. Officers said annual surveys took place to better understand community views, awareness of what the Council was doing and what their personal responsibilities were. There had been good improvement in awareness, action and ownership of responsibility. Businesses and organisations were aware of challenges and were actively making changes as they understood the connectivity. The Board was informed that there were still many people who were unsure what actions they could take, and it was vital the Council continued its engagement to help people understand how they can get involved in climate action and the benefits for them.

Home energy efficiencies - it was asked what support was being given to homeowners to support them with making energy efficiency measures, in particular the older housing stock which was a large proportion of Medway homes. The Board was informed of active engagement being undertaken to improve home insulation such as through the Warm Home Local Grant that was targeted particularly at people under a specific income threshold. It was recognised that there was a large older housing stock and there was a piece of work being undertaken to identify where there would be opportunities in the

future to do some more targeted work to assist homeowners to improve insulation in their homes.

It was commented that it would be beneficial to link actions to health and wellbeing and for the Health and Wellbeing Board to be champions by requesting report authors to emphasise how their report aligned with the aspirations of the Climate Change Action Plan.

Integrated Care Board - it was commented that in looking at the NHS blueprint and responsibilities for climate and sustainability, it was re-affirmed that the ICB was changing with a shift of responsibility to providers and it was asked how the ICB would ensure that providers remained committed. The Director of Strategic Change and Population Health, NHS Kent and Medway ICB clarified that at this stage the ICB was still undergoing planning for reorganisation, and it was not possible to provide specifics. It was within the national guidance that ICBs would not hold this responsibility in the future and therefore this work would need to be continued with providers. The Chairperson suggested that this question be posed at the upcoming meeting of the Integrated Care Partnership as well as sharing the plan with them.

Decision:

- a) The Health and Wellbeing Board noted the report.
- b) The Health Wellbeing Board agreed that Members share the Climate Change Action Plan with relevant stakeholders and encourage them to help promote and work towards the aspirations of the Plan

284 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028

Discussion:

The Board received the updated Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for 2025-2028 for approval. and were informed of the process that had contributed to development of the refreshed PNA, including the consultation process and the steering groups involvement in its development.

Production of the PNA was statutory duty that must be delivered every three years and involved a very prescribed process to be followed. It was vital to understand that the PNA was not an assessment of quality of service. It was however acknowledged that there were inconsistencies in provision across Medway, with a shortage of pharmacies on the Peninsula but based on the population, the provision in that area was adequate.

The Board was informed that 47% of pharmacies were not profitable and there were risks of closures associated with high numbers of pharmacies in any area.

The Board was informed that the report had been scrutinised by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had provided robust challenge on the way that the PNA was written, which was described as not

very user and public friendly. As a result, there was work being undertaken on production of a shorter more concise version which would be made available in due course.

It was commented that the mechanism to challenge and highlight concerns regarding performance issues was through the health commissioners. It was also noted that there had been low uptake to the consultation process by providers and going forward it was prudent to explore how to improve engagement in light of the collective idea of increase to the pharmacy offer as a means to reduce pressures on GPs and emergency services.

The Chairperson sought the Board's consent to represent the Board and meet with representatives of pharmacies to discuss how to improve engagement.

Comments were also made on the following:

- Pharmacies in some areas of Medway were not easily accessible and could only be accessed by car and this was contrary to the aspiration of the Climate Change Action Plan. It was important that measures be taken to improve the transport infrastructure of Medway.
- Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable groups and those living in more deprived sections of the community were taken into consideration.

It was advised that these concerns and the way services were delivered were outside of the PNA framework and that the meeting proposed would provide an opportunity for discussions to take place.

Decision:

a) The Health and Wellbeing Board approved the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028.

b) The Board agreed for the Chairperson to arrange and meet with representatives from pharmacy services as a means to improve engagement and build better relationships.

285 Work programme

Discussion:

Members considered a report regarding the Board's work programme, and the Democratic Services officer confirmed that going forward, a small table would be added to the work programme to reflect progress on actions.

Decision:

The Board agreed the work programme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Chairperson

Date:

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