

## **Regeneration Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**11 December 2025**

### **Annual Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership, including an Update on the Community Safety Plan 2024 to 2027**

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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 operation of the CSP and summarises the findings of the strategic assessment. This report provides information on the Community Safety Plan covering the period from 2024 to 2027.

#### **1. Recommendations**

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

#### **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)
  - Integrated Care Partnership
  - The Probation Service
- 2.2. CSPs are able to work in partnership with any other agencies or bodies that they feel would contribute to community safety.
- 2.3. Although the Police and Crime Commissioner is not a responsible authority on the CSP, there is a mutual duty to take account of each other's priorities and to co-operate.
- 2.4. Regulation 5 of the Crime and Disorder Formulation and Implementation of Strategy Regulations 2007 requires the CSP to carry out an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder. Regulation 10 requires CSPs to prepare a partnership plan and to revise it annually in consideration of the strategic assessment. The plan's overarching aim is to reduce crime and disorder, tackle substance misuse and reduce reoffending.
- 2.5. The current 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.
- 2.6. Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area and to make reports and recommendations to the local authority and the Partnership. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require Local Authorities to scrutinise CSPs at least once a year.
- 2.7. The CSP is made up of the following responsible authorities –
- Medway Council
  - Kent Police
  - Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS)
  - The Probation Service
  - NHS Kent and Medway

### 3. Background

- 3.1. Scrutiny of the partnership was last carried out in December 2024.
- 3.2. The current Community Safety Partnership Plan, covering the years 2024 to 2027, was adopted at Full Council on 18 July 2024 and contains four priorities for the responsible authorities:
- Violence Against Women and Girls
  - Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Tackle Drugs and Alcohol
  - Reduce Reoffending

- 3.3. The Community Safety Plan for 2024 to 2027 is attached as appendix 2 to this report. Highlights on progress are contained within the strategic assessment which is attached as appendix 1.
- 3.4. The CSP has conducted a strategic assessment of crime, disorder and other community safety issues in Medway over the previous year. The assessment looks back at issues that have impacted upon community safety in Medway and forward at emerging issues, themes and trends.
- 3.5. The strategic assessment has shown that the existing priorities remain the same and that the Action Plan should be refreshed as per the findings, with a number of work streams under each priority. This has been agreed by the five responsible authorities.

## 4. Options

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

## 5. Advice and analysis

- 5.1. For the purpose of Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, this Committee acts as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee and as such is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the decisions and work of the Community Safety Partnership. The Council is a responsible authority within the Community Safety Partnership and has a statutory duty to deliver against crime and disorder. No other options can be considered.
- 5.2. This strategic assessment has taken into account all aspects of community safety from the five 'responsible authorities' which support the priorities and future direction of the work. The priorities are reviewed annually and based on local crime data for the previous year. Consideration is given to local concerns and trends, police priorities set through community consultation, and taking into consideration the impact of a crime type on the local community.
- 5.3. A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) will not be required as this report does not recommend any policy/service change.

## 6. Risk management

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

organisations comprising the CSP and also the importance of coordinated and collaborative working.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Decreased Agency “buy in”	Changes in leadership, staffing or resources could reduce the involvement of key agencies	Ensure that agencies are aware of the impact of disengagement upon their own service delivery/performance. Ensure that strategic members of the CSP are made aware of any situation as it arises.	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
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
The Police Grant Settlement is reduced or ceases.	The PCC provides funding from The Home Office for the Crime Reduction Grant to CSPs in Kent and Medway.	The 5 ‘responsible authorities’ would have to consider funding community safety projects themselves, or there is no funding.	B II

## 7. Consultation

7.1. The CSP is required to consult with a wide variety of stakeholders in putting together the annual strategic assessment.

7.2. In summary for the online survey - 790 (last year 103) respondents completed the survey:

- 54% (69% last year) feeling very safe/fairly safe in Medway during the day.
- 26% (19% last year) feeling very unsafe/fairly unsafe.

- 21% (26% last year) felt very safe/fairly safe in Medway during the evening.
- 63% (50% last year) feeling very unsafe/fairly unsafe.

7.3. The top issues that were felt to be a problem in Medway were:

- People using or dealing drugs (79%)
- People driving carelessly or too fast (67%)
- Shoplifting (62%)
- People fly-tipping (61%)
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places (60%)

7.4. The top five issues that respondents felt should be addressed as a priority in Medway were:

- People using or dealing drugs (69%)
- People driving carelessly or too fast (44%)
- People fly tipping (35%)
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places (34%)
- Shoplifting (32%)

7.5. The top three things respondents felt have the most impact on making people feel safer in Medway were:

- Visible and effective policing 72%
- Well maintained public spaces and infrastructure 50%
- CCTV 45%

7.6. The Strategic Executive Group of the CSP will be holding a Community Cohesion Event in 2026 which will also be used as an in-person event where the annual consultation can also be shared with attendees to hopefully see and increase in responses.

## 8. Climate change implications

8.1. There are neither any positive or negative climate change/carbon emission implications arising from this report.

## 9. Financial implications

9.1. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has not yet submitted his Police and Crime Plan, which in previous years has granted CSPs a Crime Reduction Grant to use for funding activities to tackle crime, disorder, drugs and reoffending. In 2024/2025 the amount allocated to Medway CSP was £106,460.

9.2. We have been advised by the OPCC in their 2025/26 grant offer for the Crime Reduction Grant (CRG) that the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) had reduced the core victim services grant received by Police & Commissioners (PCCs) by

4.2% for 2025/26, which equated to £90,000 less funding for victim services in Kent. This decision impacted on his full commissioning budget as he needed to ensure funds were available to deliver services to victims that met their needs.

- 9.3. For 2025/26 the PCC was able to work with his Commissioning Team to ensure that victim services and organisations in receipt of the CRG were able to receive the same funding levels as 2024/25. This approach will not be sustainable for future financial years.
- 9.4. The PCC is expecting to receive grant settlements for 2026/27 from central government in late autumn and once received he will need to consider how funding is allocated. Services are seeing increased demand for support, with greater complexity of case and need, alongside increased delivery costs. The PCC has stated that the provision of the CRG beyond the 31 March 2026 was not guaranteed and therefore CSP's will need to consider alternative funding options should the PCC not be able to provide a full grant for future financial years.
- 9.5. The CSP's initial business case needed to reflect no more than a spend of £70,973, the PCC automatically allocates a third of the total grant to a tactical pot which is £35,487. The tactical pot supports the delivery of projects which address emerging needs and demands throughout the financial year. Brief details of successful bids are shown below.
- 9.6. **Business Case -**
- 9.7. **Hateful Extremism Learning Event - £4,000.** The Kent and Medway Prevent Team and Kent Police organise and deliver the Hateful Extremism event. The CPD event will be delivered as a hybrid event: in-person at the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel and virtually via Microsoft Teams. The funding enables the hire of a venue and audio-visual to support its delivery. The event includes a range of speakers who provide an update to partners and professionals on the current situation, emerging issues, and to strengthen their knowledge on the subject.
- 9.8. **Countering the Extreme Right-Wing Training - £3,683.** Small Steps training is for any professional who works with adults and young people and wants to learn about the Far-Right influences in Medway. The training offers practical advice and guidance as well as in depth training to spot the signs of radicalisation and raise awareness of the far rights recruitment strategies and online influences.
- 9.9. **Medway One Stop Shop (OSS); for victims of domestic abuse to access multi agency support services - £11,222.** The Medway Domestic Abuse Forum CIC strategically runs the Medway One Stop Shop (OSS) with an OSS Steering Group overseeing the operational side. The Medway Domestic Abuse Forum (MDAF) is a multi-agency practitioner forum with the aim of raising awareness of Domestic Abuse (DA) and increasing support provision for victims of DA in Medway. MDAF members represent statutory and voluntary sectors including Medway Council, Medway Community Healthcare,

Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Social Care, Medway DA commissioned services and many voluntary partners. To ensure the OSS is well staffed and run efficiently the MDAF has funded an OSS coordinator. This person is employed through Home Start as their Domestic Abuse Coordinator with one day per week dedicated to supporting/coordinating the OSS. Their responsibilities include managing data of attendees, maintaining rotas, seeking new services to support or attend the OSS, support OSS volunteers, support follow on referrals or contacts to services linked to the OSS, maintain safety equipment stock and manage distribution. Without this role the OSS would not be able to go ahead in Medway.

- 9.10. **Rapid Deployment CCTV – £13,000.** Medway Council via Kyndi Ltd. Investment in cameras aiming to deter 'opportunistic' crime, where people take advantage of a situation on the spur of the moment. The cameras can also create a vastly increased rate of conviction after crimes are detected. Anyone caught committing an offence on public space surveillance cameras are more likely to plead guilty, thus saving time on long and expensive trials. Incidents such as robbery, road traffic offences, theft, fly-tipping, drug-related incidents and any other anti-social behaviour or suspicious activities are often captured.
- 9.11. **Brief Intervention Counselling - £20,000.** Medway Council Youth Service. This funding renews and continues the counselling project that was originally funded by the CSP/PCC in 2018 and is now renewed in until March 26. This project has made a real impact supporting vulnerable young people in our community. Funding supports the counselling offer to young people who do not meet the CAMHS threshold.
- 9.12. **Child-Friendly Medway Drop-In Football - £14,000.** Child Friendly Medway working in partnership with Medway Sport, who will help deliver the project as they have access to coach contacts and leisure centre locations where the project will take place. Drop-In Football sessions started when it was reported that young people were breaking into Strood Sports Centre to play football. As they were breaking in, they were also vandalising the facility and stealing footballs. This was addressed in the form of weekly drop-in football sessions. The aim is to provide free positive opportunities for children and young people. Opportunities that will develop their skills, confidence, and sportsmanship on and off the pitch, providing positive mental and physical health benefits from being more physically active - combat childhood obesity and social isolation and will narrow the social economic gap by providing free programming for all. Also to provide positive role models for attendees to build trusted relationships with coaches to combat ASB, gain respect for the staff, local sport centre and community.
- 9.13. **Tactical pot –**
- 9.14. **Night-time Economy Project - £5,082.** To purchase personal attack alarms, torches, portable phone chargers and bag clips would be accessed by the public either via monthly surgeries, or Street Pastors. Having portable phone chargers would assist those in getting home safe and staying connected to

their families and friends. Torches and alarms to ensure that females and vulnerable person have a light or sound to deflect offenders if they do not have a phone. Drink testing kits will allow for individual autonomy testing of their drinks. A defibrillator which is in the public's and policing interest to have one accessible. Handheld weapon detectors – these are issued out to venues and also to each police response vehicle to be used when they are out on patrol. The metal detectors will allow for quicker and better detection of metal knives.

- 9.15. **AIM3 intervention training to tackle Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) - £4,887.** The project trains staff in 'AIM Intervention Guidance for Adolescents Who Display HSB' along with Intervention Guidance workbooks for the staff who have been trained. Target staff: Medway Youth Justice Officers, Medway Care Leaving Service Social Workers, Medway Multi-Disciplinary Team workers. A total of 20 staff from the three services will be trained so that they can carry out work with any adolescents who have been assessed as posing a risk of sexual harm to others. Once trained, the staff will collaborate together and with CAMHS to ensure that there is a robust and coordinated approach which offers assessment of interventions with any children of concern, and that staff are well supervised by skilled managers. The AIM3 intervention training will equip professionals with the skills and knowledge to work with adolescents who have been assessed as being a risk to others where the harm is that of sexualised behaviour. The Serious Violence strategy identifies that the majority of victims of sexual violence were girls aged 11 – 15, and the majority of suspects were boys aged 12 – 18.
- 9.16. There are a number of bids which are in the process of being finalised before they are sent to the OPCC to review for approval.

## 10. Legal implications

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

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## Appendices

Appendix 1 - Strategic Assessment 2025  
Appendix 2 - Community Safety Plan 2024 to 2027

## Background papers

None