

Health and Wellbeing Board

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Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Plan

Report from: Adam Bryan, Director of Place

Author: Neil Howlett, Community Safety Partnership Manager

Summary

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are under a duty to produce a Community Safety Plan (appendix 1) to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse and reduce re-offending. This report provides information within the annual Strategic Assessment (see appendix 2) on the CSPs current priorities. The CSP Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and will cover the period from 2024 to 2027.

1. Recommendation

- 1.1. The Board is asked to note the Strategic Assessment 2025 and draft CSP Action Plan 2026-27 (appendix 3) and to make any comments or recommendations to the Partnership in that regard.

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 and The Probation Service. CSPs are able to work in partnership with any other agencies or bodies that they feel would contribute to community safety.
- 2.2. Although the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is not a responsible authority on the CSP, there is a mutual duty to take account of each other's priorities and to co-operate.
- 2.3. 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 re-offending.

- 2.4. The current Community Safety Plan covers the period from 2024 to 2027 and forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. The classification of this Plan as a policy framework document is set out in Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, and in Article 4 (The Full Council) of the Council's Constitution.
- 2.5. 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.

3. Background

- 3.1. Scrutiny of the partnership was last carried out in December 2025 where –
 - a) The Committee noted the findings of the strategic assessment.
 - b) The Committee supported the proposed CSP priorities in light of the strategic assessment findings.
 - c) The Committee scrutinised the activity of the CSP over the past year, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.
- 3.2. The existing Community Safety Plan was agreed by full Council in July 2024 and runs from 2024 to 2027.
- 3.3. As part of the development of the refreshed Action Plan, the CSP conducted its strategic assessment of community safety issues in Medway. The assessment looks back at issues that have impacted upon community safety in Medway and forward at potential issues and emerging themes/trends.
- 3.4. The Community Safety Plan for 2024 to 2027 contains four priorities, which were developed from strategic assessment findings. These are summarised in the plan, with a number of work streams under each priority. This has been agreed by the five responsible authorities. The priorities are:
 - Violence Against Women and Girls;
 - Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour;
 - Tackle Drugs and Alcohol;
 - Reduce Reoffending.
- 3.5. The five responsible authorities agreed that the process for monitoring these priorities in the CSP Action Plan should be by way of a focused plan.
- 3.6. Over the last few years, the Community Safety Strategic Assessment has highlighted these key emerging issues on both a national and local level that we need to ensure agencies continue to focus on.

- 3.7. The Action Plan will continue the focused approach to tackling issues, with better coordination and will enable members of the CSPs Strategic Executive Group (SEG) to scrutinise and monitor progress and provide a more efficient way of working.
- 3.8. In considering the priority areas, it must be remembered that Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for developing strategies for reducing crime and offending in their areas, and have a statutory duty to work together to:
 - reduce re-offending.
 - tackle crime and disorder.
 - tackle anti-social behaviour.
 - tackle alcohol and substance misuse; and
 - tackle any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment.

4. Options

- 4.1. A protocol is in place to encourage the sharing of assessments and plans, so as to foster improved strategic alignment amongst the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Boards and CSP. Board members' comments are sought on the strategic assessment, to inform future assessments and plan priorities.
- 4.2. The strategic assessment and its recommendations have been subject to scrutiny by members of the CSP, and through RCE Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Council and partners have developed the Action Plan which will underpin the high-level commitments of the CSP.
- 4.3. No alternative options have been considered.

5. Advice and analysis

- 5.1. There are clear linkages between health and community safety and a range of areas of congruence where health and wellbeing and community safety players can make strong common cause.
- 5.2. The CSP continues to recognise that Medway's future success is contingent on regeneration. It is clear that benefits from growth must be delivered to existing communities and new developments and residents must be effectively integrated. The CSP is confident that the identified community safety priorities are robust and remain the right priorities.
- 5.3. The chair and vice-chair wish to ensure there is a strategic view of community safety in Medway and to ensure that it reflects and supports the strategic ambitions of the Council and the partner agencies in the CSP to make Medway a great place to live, work, learn and visit.
- 5.4. This physical regeneration will only be successful if people feel that they and their families are safe. Safety is a key factor in encouraging people to take

exercise, especially for children and older people. Taking regular exercise has clear health benefits, including limiting obesity, heart health, reducing the onset of diabetes, promoting a sense of wellbeing, and protecting older people from depression.

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 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

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

7. Consultation

7.1. The CSP ran a Consultation in the Summer of 2025 (appendix 4) which asked respondents about how safe they felt and what they felt the partnerships focus should be upon.

8. Climate change implications

8.1. There are no direct climate change/carbon emission implications arising from the report.

9. Financial implications

9.1. The Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed that Medway Community Safety Partnership will receive a total CRG grant allocation for 2026-27 of £106,500.

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.

Lead officer contact

Neil Howlett ,Community Safety Partnership Manager

neil.howlett@medway.gov.uk

01634 331183

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Community Safety Plan 2024 to 2027.

Appendix 2 – Strategic Assessment 2025.

Appendix 3 – Draft Action Plan 2024 to 2025.

Appendix 4 – CSP Consultation 2025.

Background papers

None