

# Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 11/23

Date: 21 August 2023

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Purpose: Community Safety Partnership 6-month update**

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## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The CSP has been requested that a briefing note be provided to the Committee six months after the Community Safety Partnership's attendance at Committee.
- 1.2. The Strategic Executive Group of the CSP has met on 2 occasions since Committee in December 2022. The CSP meets every quarter and has a number of standing items on the agenda that are reported on at each meeting. These are:
  - Prevent Update
  - CCTV
  - Combatting Drugs
  - Violence Reduction Unit
  - Medway Task
  - CSP Action Plan
  - PCC Crime Reduction
- 1.3. The following key issues were discussed in the first 6 months of 2023:

## 2. January 2023 Meeting

- 2.1. **Interventions Alliance CFO (Co-Financing Organisation) Activity Hub.**
  - 2.1.1. CFO Activity Hubs is a project funded by CFO, HMPPS and part funded by the European Social Fund. The hubs aim to provide a safe space for ex-offenders to build a healthier, more stable and fulfilling life.

- 2.1.2. To date there have been 652 referrals into the hub. The hub is a voluntary intervention, so people attending differ due to their circumstances and their needs. There are roughly 50-80 engaging participants. The highest demographic is those that are out of work, and those that identify as disabled.
- 2.1.3. In terms of the teams' projects, the Hub try to run as many events as possible.
- A new project to support younger males aged between 18-25 has commenced, the aim is to help upskill, assist finding work, helping with CV's or mock interviews.
  - The Phoenix Programme ran in January, this was for domestic abuse female survivors, and was a 10-week programme.
  - The team commenced 'substance misuse pods', where attendees link in with the local substance misuse support providers Turning Point.
  - Finally, the team are looking at addressing the need around harm reduction and education around addiction.
- 2.1.4. The benefit of the CFO Activity Hubs is to give a resilience to vulnerable people, so they are less likely to become victims of crime or been drawn into further criminal activity. Participants can self-refer to the hub via phone or just turn up to the hub; partners can refer by filling in a referral sheet, or just by giving the team a call.
- 2.1.5. Information was provided on 'Andy's Man Club'. At present there are no local clubs to Medway, however Interventions Alliance are monitoring this situation.
- <https://andysmanclub.co.uk/>
- 2.1.6. The Hub are already linked in with the Sunlight Centre in Gillingham and every Wednesday they go there and work on the allotments. They are in discussion with the Sunlight Centre about using their radio station and using the other facilities at the centre.
- 2.1.7. The CFO project has always been co funded and Interventions Alliance have extended the contract until April 2024. They have secured new funding through the levelling up agenda, so the co funded element will end. They will be delivering the service until the end of March 2024 but there is funding secured so there will be provision that carries on after that.

2.1.8. Interventions Alliance will attend a community response meeting organised by Medway Voluntary Action, which takes place once a month where the project can be presented to a number of sectors.

## **2.2. Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB)**

2.2.1. The Independent Chair of the KMSAB made their annual attendance at the CSP.

2.2.2. The following appendices are attached to this document -

- Appendix 1 – KMSAB Report into the CSP.
- Appendix A - KMSAB Annual Report 2021/22, which includes the following appendices:
  - Appendix 1 - Annual Report 2021-2022 Data.
  - Appendix 2 - Annual Report Partner Highlights.

2.2.3. The Chair of the KMSAB gave an overview of the attached reports and took question from members of the CSP SEG.

## **2.3. CCTV Update**

2.3.1. In the January meeting it was reported that the CCTV network was very strong with only 2 faults. One fault was a camera in Gillingham High Street due to intermittent loss of picture. The second fault is the camera outside Rochester Train Station, due to a cabling problem.

2.3.2. The CSP SEG which includes cross party membership, makes recommendations as to which cameras should be decommissioned and which cameras should be made permanent. At the January meeting there were two for discussion.

2.3.3. The first was to discuss two old analogue cameras in the Cricketer's car park in Rainham, they are both essentially doing the same job, the CSP was asked to recommend that one is removed and the other is replaced with a new digital camera. This was agreed.

2.3.4. The second one was in Rainham Recreation Ground, which was subject to a public petition. Two rapid deployment cameras were put up about in late 2022, there have not been any requests from Kent Police for footage since its deployment.

2.3.5. There was a discussion around keeping the rapid deployment cameras in place as we move into lighter evenings and the possibility that ASB may increase in the area, taking into consideration guidelines from the Information Commissioners Office as to whether the camera could stay in place with no incidents being captured, then the CSP can review the

situation. The CSP were advised that there were problems in the summer of 2023, however there have been fewer problems since then.

2.3.6. The CSP agreed to keeping the cameras with an update at a future CSP meeting.

## **2.4. Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP)**

2.4.1. The CDP is based on the drug strategy from the government 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives, 'From Harm to Hope'. There are three main areas:

- breaking supply chains
- delivering a world class treatment and recovery system
- achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs.

2.4.2. Medway's CDP has been set up; the Director of Public Health, James Williams is the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO). The terms of reference have been agreed.

2.4.3. A decision was made that the 'Joint Needs Assessment' will be a living document, there will be quarterly addendums in time for each of the meeting of the partnership. There will be a 12-month review and a rewrite every three years.

2.4.4. The CDP will meet quarterly and will report into the CSP and via the SRO into the governments 'Joint Combatting Drugs Unit'. The CDP will be agile and responsive to emerging trends and information rather than a group that's set up to a fixed strategy. The CSP must have a publicly available document to indicate –

- What's the situation – "Where are we starting from?"
- What are the priorities – "Where do we need to focus our energy?"
- How will we measure success – "How will the public know if it has been successful?"

2.4.5. The CSP were advised that the CDP are looking at setting up a conference and a workshop which will be held in 2023/24.

2.4.6. Prescribed medications were highlighted as a concern amongst illicit drugs. Cannabis is the most used substance. Cocaine is the second most used substance. Illicit opioids were low, but they were the primary reason that people enter their drug treatment services. Alcohol is responsible for many ill health aspects within Medway.

- 2.4.7. The next steps are to prioritise the actions on the strategic action plan and agree ownership. Some of the one's it is believed should be a priority at this point is:
- Understanding how we achieve a generation shift in the attitudes towards drugs.
  - To understand and to map the pathways for people with a broad range of mental ill health and cognitive impairment who use substances.
  - Transitions and increasing continuity of care between custody prisons and community.
  - Looking at young people and adult services as one system
  - Reducing the likelihood of the most vulnerable being drawn into drug related crime.
- 2.4.8. Some members of the CSP sit on the CDP, partners were impressed with the pace that the officers are developing things. The CSP agreed that there must be a change in attitude towards the use of recreational drugs, this has successfully been done with smoking, so believe this can be done with recreational drugs as well.
- 2.4.9. The CSP commented that as we try and break 'country lines' we also have to stop people being consumers. As and when the new provider is in place, it was asked if elected Members could be provided with a briefing.

## **2.5. Prevent update including CT Risk Assessment**

- 2.5.1. As of January 2023, the risk level for terrorist related activity is still at substantial. Kent and Medway remain as a Prevent priority area. The Home Office is looking at 2-year funding, but this is not definite yet. In terms of the Medway and Kent Prevent Team will be in place until 2026.
- 2.5.2. There is still no update on the independent review of Prevent.
- 2.5.3. Following the terrorist related incident in Dover, which encompassed a lot of work, the threat/risk has remained as substantial. The individual was not from Kent or Medway but what is clear is that the individual drove a substantial number of miles to come to Kent to carry out the attack. There is a serious case review.
- 2.5.4. Kent and Medway are no longer a Dovetail site, which means that the Section 36 decisions have gone back to Counter Terrorism Policing. This hasn't led to many changes but now there is even more of a need for partnership work.

2.5.5. There remains a lot of focus on Andrew Tate. He is an individual that is being held on remand in Romania due to his behaviour which consists of modern slavery, human trafficking etc. There is an immense threat of this coming through online.

2.5.6. It was reported that the Prevent Advisory Group was being set up, this is an independent community group which will focus on communities having a full understanding of Prevent and to make sure that they don't see Prevent as something to be feared.

**2.6. VRU update including Gang Strategy Governance and briefing the Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance for responsible authorities.**

2.6.1. On the 16th of December the government published the final guidance around the Serious Violence Duty. This places a responsibility on specified authorities to collaborate to produce two documents, one being a Strategic Needs Assessment that must be reviewed and refreshed every 12 months, and the other is a shared strategy on how they will tackle serious violence. Part of the guidance does reference CSPs. The Crime and Disorder Act has also been amended to take account of the Serious Violence Duty. One of the challenges with the guidance that has been issued is that it does not give a specific definition of serious violence.

2.6.2. The specified authorities have agreed the following:

- A shared definition of serious violence. Specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, robbery and gun crime, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent such as in domestic abuse, sexual offences, gangs, county lines and drug supply.
- A multi-agency board. The Police and Crime Commissioner will chair the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership Board on which will sit representatives of the specified authorities. The board will drive the strategic response to serious violence and ensure that there are close links with existing multi-agency boards.
- The VRU will lead the work to create a strategic needs assessment (SNA) and a strategy to tackle serious violence. Both the SNA and strategy must be agreed and published by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The strategy will ensure that the current gangs strategy is refreshed and forms part of the serious violence strategy.

2.6.3. To support improvements in data and intelligence sharing, a multi-agency data sharing platform is being built which will allow the automation of reporting on serious violence using data from

participating organisations. Kent Police, Kent County Council and a number of district councils are currently involved with the project. There is support from Medway's Youth Justice service to join the platform but no decision has been made.

- 2.6.4. The VRU published an SNA for public place violence in March 2023 which covers the period 2022 - 23. The levels of public place serious violence remain lower than pre-Covid but there have been increases in the numbers of children involved in violence either as suspects or as victims, and both children and young adults aged 18 – 24 are over-represented in these cohorts.
- 2.6.5. The most frequent serious violence crime types identified in the SNA which affect Medway are violence where injury is caused, robbery, knife or weapon harm and violence linked to drug supply.
- 2.6.6. The VRU has a reduced budget for 2023 – 24 compared to the previous year. Medway remains a key authority of focus for the VRU, and funding will remain to deliver the Navigator scheme in Medway Maritime Hospital, community sports programmes, work with Pupil Referral Units and in the education sector. The Focussed Deterrence approach to tackle gangs and young street groups will be widened to include individuals involved in knife and weapon harm.

### **3. April 2023 Meeting**

#### **3.1. Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership (MSCP)**

- 3.1.1. The MSCP Business Manager made their annual attendance at the CSP. A report was presented to the SEG which covered the period from April 2021 to March 2022.
- 3.1.2. Annual report –  
  
<https://www.medwayscp.org.uk/mscb/download/downloads/id/535/mscp-annual-report-2021-22.pdf>
- 3.1.3. This report was approved by the MSCP executive in October 2022 and has been to the children and young people overview and scrutiny committee and the health and wellbeing board in November 2022.
- 3.1.4. The report provided an overview of the work carried out by the MSCP in the year, it set out the key achievements of the partnership against its key priorities and gave an overview of the learning and improvement role of the MSCP including case reviews. It also included a section for the independent scrutineer Rory Patterson.

- 3.1.5. A couple of key areas were highlighted, these are:
- 3.1.6. The training that the MSCP delivered to professionals and volunteers working with children. During the year, training was delivered to 550 practitioners and in addition they held a series of conferences and learning events. Significantly, they saw a huge increase in professionals accessing the E-learning, with over 45,000 courses completed in the year.
- 3.1.7. The work that the MSCP are doing around neglect. This has always been a key priority for the year because they know that both nationally and locally neglect is a key feature in several cases. During the year, they published the Medway Neglect Strategy, set up a neglect champions network with champions meeting every two months to share learning and provide support to frontline staff, and also have been training practitioners in the use of graded care profile 2 'to talk it' which is the assessment tool for neglect. The MSCP will be starting work on the 2022/23 annual report shortly and it is proposed that this is reported back into the CSP in November 2023. The purpose of the review is to evaluate the leadership of the safeguarding arrangements in Medway and to identify areas to develop the arrangements and improve outcomes for children.

### **3.2. Prevent update including CT Risk Assessment**

- 3.2.1. The Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) is the document which looks at what the priorities are for the coming year and is used to complete the Kent and Medway Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment (CTSRA).
- 3.2.2. The priorities going forward haven't differed from last year, these will still be looking at Islamist extremism, extreme right-wing, self-initiated terrorist attacks, online threat, and extremism within prisons.
- 3.2.3. The Kent and Medway Prevent Team have now completed their new domestic abuse and Extremism training product. Over the last 2 years 45% of individuals referred into Prevent had a history with domestic abuse. They would like to deliver this training product to domestic abuse commission services.
- 3.2.4. Kent and Medway will remain a Prevent priority area and funding will be given for at least another 2 years by the Home Office – we are now the only Prevent priority area in the South-East.



- 3.2.5. The Independent Review of Prevent has been released. The key facts are that the Home Office, Home Secretary, Security Minister and the government accepted all 34 recommendations that are within the review. The government have put together a smaller version of the document that highlights each recommendation with their response.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-prevents-report-and-government-response>

- 3.2.6. In terms of the CTLP Medway is still the highest referring area for Prevent.

### **3.3. CCTV update**

- 3.3.1. There were a number of cameras out in Rochester which have now been fixed and are back online.
- 3.3.2. The new CCTV Partnership contract has been agreed and signed so work can start on that from next year.
- 3.3.3. Since the previous SEG there has been some further incidents at Rainham Recreation Ground; there are two rapid deployment cameras at the moment which colleagues feel is a good resource to have. The recommendation is that these cameras are made permanent. In terms of finance, the CSP were advised it would be an easy swap for which there is room in the budget for this.
- 3.3.4. The CSP agreed for these cameras to be made permanent.

### **3.4. Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP)**

- 3.4.1. Medway's CDP was set up in response to the government's new drug strategy 'From Harm to Hope'. The aims of the partnership are to:
- Break supply chains of drugs.
  - Deliver world class service for treatment and recovery.
  - Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs.
- 3.4.2. The guidance stated that there needed to be a report published by April, that has now changed and now there needs to be a webpage or document available by July that sets out what is the situation in Medway, what the priorities are, and how they will measure the success for the CDP. A series of national outcomes are due which success can then be measured by.

- 3.4.3. A Terms of Reference are in place and a joint needs assessment has been written; the aim is to have this as a living document that will be updated quarterly and refreshed annually.
- 3.4.4. There is a strategic action plan in place that partners are being measured against. There is also a series of local draft measurables and the aim is to have baseline measures against each of the measurables.
- 3.4.5. At the beginning of March, a survey for the Combatting Drugs Unit was carried out, and from the self-evaluation the indications were that Medway is in a good place and ahead of other areas.

### **3.5. Community Safety Unit (CSU)**

- 3.5.1. The last six months have been an important and exciting time for Kent Police as they have been preparing and implementing the new Neighbourhood Policing Model. This was introduced on the 12 June 2023 with the Beat Officer Teams at 50% Strength which will grow to 100% strength by September 2024. These teams are key to providing enhanced trust and confidence with each Ward having a dedicated Beat Police Officer. Already we have seen some great work carried out by the Beat Officers. For those who follow the Medway Police Twitter page you would have seen several concerns are being addressed including a number of Section 59's issued for nuisance bikes (where a Police Officer believes a driver is using a vehicle in manner causing alarm, distress or annoyance, they can issue a written warning which is valid for 12 months and this applies to the driver/rider and the vehicle).
- 3.5.2. Kent Police continue to encourage the community to sign up to 'My Community Voice' as their key communication tool. The Beat Officer will be responsible for this for their Wards and they are able to use this tool to survey their community to understand the local problems. Every Officer on the Neighbourhood Policing Team have received three days enhanced training to equip them for their new roles.
- 3.5.3. Medway benefits from a Neighbourhood Taskforce which continues to work with our Partners to grow on the successes seen through the Medway Task Force. Other Districts in Kent will not have a fully functional Neighbourhood Task Force until later in the implementation period, so Medway are in a good position to have one from the start.
- 3.5.4. The Neighbourhood Policing Model also has a Child Centred Policing team, and although they are not yet fully staffed, Kent Police will expand the work previously done by the Schools Officers. There is already one Sergeant and two PCSO's in this team and they have already started to form relationships and share good practices.

- 3.5.5. Inspector Joel Mitchell who oversaw the CSU moved on in June and has been replaced by Inspector Mick Hayes; he has over 26 years Policing Experience, is a Medway Resident and has already had a real positive impact on the team. Mick is working closely with Medway Council's Community Safety Team alongside their Team Leader Mark McCree and we have already seen some excellent joint work carried out.
- 3.5.6. Violence against women girls (VAWG) remains central to the work of Kent Police. During the summer period Kent Police will be looking to extend the previous successes of Operation Vigilant. This will see a mixture of uniformed and plain clothe officers working within our night-time economy keeping women safe. They will also target known offenders to ensure they are removed from the streets.
- 3.5.7. During the Spring period Medway experienced several incidents of serious violence in quick succession. These were all isolated incidents and in at least two the lifesaving skills of our officers were vital in the victims' outcomes. You would be aware that our investigation teams were very quick to identify, locate, arrest and charge the offenders involved and many of these are currently detained waiting for trails. One of these incidents involved the robbery of high value coat and as such we are planning for some crime prevention events in the Autumn in order to help people make these items less desirable to steal.
- 3.5.8. The summer period is often a time when we see an increase in ASB and with nuisance vehicles. Beat Officers and Neighbourhood Task Force are already implementing a number of initiatives within our Safer Summer Plan to deal with this. Kent Police and Medway Council's Community Safety Team have worked together to tackle this issue and are supportive of Medway Council's plan to introduce a Public Space Protection Order to assist in tackling this issue. A PSPO is not an order to restrict anyone's personal freedoms, but to help tackle anti-social behaviours, in this case those associated with the inappropriate use of motor vehicles. Earlier this year Medway Council sought the public's views on implementing this PSPO across Medway to help tackle persistent anti-social behaviour caused by certain use of motor vehicles, which negatively impacts upon individuals and businesses. A positive response was received, and the Council are currently going through the democratic decision making process to hopefully approve the Order later this year.

### **3.6. Community Safety Action Plan**

3.6.1. See appendix B for the refreshed Action Plan has been completed for 2023/24.

### **3.7. Lead officer:**

Neil Howlett  
Community Safety Partnership Manager  
Tel. No: 01634 331183  
Email: [neil.howlett@medway.gov.uk](mailto:neil.howlett@medway.gov.uk)

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - KMSAB Report into the CSP (attached to e-mail)  
Appendix A - [KMSAB Annual Report 2021/22](#), which includes the following appendices:

- [Appendix 1 - Annual Report 2021-2022 Data](#)
- [Appendix 2 - Annual Report Partner Highlights](#)

Appendix B – [CSP Action Plan 2023/24](#).