

To: KCC Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee – 8 July 2011

By: Stuart Beaumont – Head of Community Safety

Subject: Community Safety Agreement 2011-14

1. Introduction

At its meeting on 6th April 2010, the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided that the community safety agreement for Kent would be the key reference document for the Committee in order to assist with the scrutiny of community safety.

The Community Safety Agreement sets the key strategic priorities which could form the basis of issues for the Committee to consider. The Community Safety Agreement for 2011-2014 was approved on 20 May 2011 by the Kent Community Safety Partnership

2. Community Safety Agreement

In order to deliver the statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006), two tier authorities are required to prepare a Community Safety Agreement for the county. Section 17 recognises that there are key stakeholders that have responsibility for a wide range of services to the community that can deliver community safety solutions. The Kent Community Safety Agreement recognises that community safety does not respect district / borough council boundaries and that the coordination of effort across county wide partners can lead to economies of scale, joined up working and more effective solutions.

The Kent Community Safety Partnership is responsible for the delivery of the Kent Community Safety Agreement priorities, with membership taken from senior officers across statutory partners, CSP Chairs and the County Council portfolio holder.

The Kent Community Safety Agreement is the product of the amalgamation of the strategic assessments for each of the CSPs in the county. From the strategic assessments that were completed during late 2010 – early 2011 a number of areas emerged as crime and disorder issues or themes across CSPs. The strategic assessments have relied heavily upon the exchange of data between a range of partners, information gathered from consultation with communities, surveys and national policy initiatives.

In addition to the analysis of the strategic assessment data two partner workshops were held in order primarily to ensure that all partners had the opportunity to have an input to the priority setting process. The workshops were very well supported by partners with the second workshop focussing on how existing partnership arrangements / strategies could become more focussed towards delivering the identified priorities. Given the current resource limitations being experienced by all partners joint working and the sharing of actions is the primary aim of the new agreement.

3. County Wide Priorities

The identified county wide priorities that will form the basis of the new County Community Safety Agreement for 2011-2014 are as follows:

- Anti-social behaviour including environmental
- Domestic abuse
- Substance misuse
- Acquisitive crime (ie thefts and shoplifting)
- Violent crime
- Road safety

Work is now progressing with partners to ensure that all statutory partners & CSPs give the necessary level of priority to the approved work streams. This process will be supported with the communication of high level action plans. The majority of the priorities already have detailed action plans in place as part of wider partnership plans and these will be consolidated to ensure the necessary focus towards delivering against the identified priority areas.

It is also planned to further support the priorities with the completion of a geographic analytical product in conjunction with Kent Police, that will provide a focus for the allocation of any scarce resources and will link with community based budgeting and other similar local based projects.

Lead Officers will take responsibility for the delivery of each of the priority areas and will report progress to meetings of the Kent Community Safety Partnership and the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

4. Links with Partnership Plans

All the priorities listed above have enforcement implications but they also share cross partner priority in terms of the core business activity of statutory partners. As part of the workshops, partners were asked to reference the above priorities with their existing strategies / plans and to identify key linkages. The result being that the new priorities are underwritten by cross cutting themes that enable clear links to be established with statutory partner business planning processes and help to identify where business objectives can be shared. The identified cross cutting themes that support the identified priorities are:

- Early intervention, prevention and education
- Priority neighbourhoods / geographic focus
- Vulnerable households and individuals
- Safeguarding children and young people
- Reducing re-offending

The cross cutting themes will bring together other work streams with the community safety priorities and enable shared objectives and priorities therefore engaging more partnership focus towards delivering sustainable local solutions.

5. Recommendations

That Members of the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report.