
KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

3rd July 2012

Paper by Sarah Billiald, Chief Executive Kent Probation

Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending 2012 – 2015

1. Purpose of report

To provide Kent Community Safety Partnership with the opportunity to review and endorse the finalised Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending. With the intention of this plan being utilised at CSP and statutory partner level across the County as our core approach to Reducing Reoffending. This plan will also ensure a consistent focus on the key principles, priorities and target groups, and a clear framework for identifying and managing any specific areas of concern.

2. Background

As part of the Kent Community Safety Agreement 2011 – 2014 Reducing Reoffending is one of a number of cross cutting themes identified. As coordinating lead for this theme and with the agreement of the Medway Community Safety Partnership, Kent Probation has compiled a Strategic Plan for reducing reoffending for Kent and Medway bringing together and formalising the county wide ambition and approach.

Back in Summer 2011 Sarah Billiald wrote to the 13 CSP requesting information on their activities and priorities for Reducing Reoffending, the following CSP's responded:

Dartford / Gravesham

Tunbridge Wells

Thanet

Dover

Shepway

Swale

Canterbury

Ashford

Sevenoaks / Tonbridge and Malling

Medway

These responses were used to inform and shape the consultation paper prior to the finalised plan for e.g. Tunbridge Wells identified the key priority groups of ASB and Domestic Abuse, and Swale highlighted their support for a restorative approach.

The Integrated Offender Management Strategic Board also assisted with the development of the seven strategic principles with the support for a localised and holistic approach to working with offenders.

A 4 week consultation period has now taken place closing on 18th June, and 13 further partner agencies have provided feedback and comments, which we have now included in part into the final version of the plan.

3. Over view of plan and consultation feedback

The Strategic Plan will be a county wide multiagency plan, formalising the shared aims and ambitions to reduce reoffending.

It will include 7 principles to our approach that should underpin discussions and decisions of all agencies :

- Localised
- Integrated
- Targeted
- Individualised
- Evidence based
- Holistic
- Restorative

It details the priority groups to be targeted:

- IOM Cohort
- Troubled Families
- Young People (16-24)
- Women offenders
- ASB perpetrators
- Domestic abuse perpetrators

Then details the priority interventions identified and looks at the needs of offenders, the current provision for offenders in these areas and what our goals are for the future:

- Accommodation
- Employment
- Substance Misuse (Drugs and Alcohol)
- Mental and Physical Health

All CSP's will be accountable for delivering this plan with the governance channelled through the newly formed Reducing Reoffending Strategy Board (formally the IOMSB), which will report its findings to the Kent and Medway CSP's on an annual basis.

There will be a basket of measures to track and monitor performance on a quarterly basis, with the overall plan being reviewed annually.

There were 13 responses to the consultation paper from:

Rochester Prison
Kent Police x 2
Martin Alderman JP
Kent Fire and Rescue
Medway Council
Dover CSP
Tunbridge Wells CSP
Shepway CSP
Swale CSP
Gravesham CSP
Sevenoaks CSP
University of Kent

A number of points raised by the responses have been included within the final version of the plan as follows:

- Requests for a basket of measures to be used to track effectiveness, and that these are reviewed quarterly rather than annually
- Inclusion of specific priority interventions linked measures to be included e.g. evidence of reduction of unemployment showing percentage of offenders in sustainable employment
- Various housing concerns – linked to changes to housing benefits and ensuring safe and suitable accommodation
- General clarity on both the delivery framework and the governance structures
- An extra section (H) on future development work has also been included so that there is the ability to continue to research areas that may impact the plan i.e. implications of PBR and any the new developments of IOM data

It was decided that some points raised were not relevant for inclusion as they would be picked up under other current Kent Community Safety Agreement priorities or cross cutting themes :

Preventing offending in general as opposed to just reoffending would be covered by the existing Acquisitive and Violent crime priorities

Behaviour affecting quality of life could also be covered by the ASB (incl environmental) and road safety priorities

Several of the cross cutting themes also cover points suggested regarding raising the profile of safeguarding children and young people, and vulnerable households and individuals.

5. Next steps

An important next step will be to review the terms of reference for the newly formed Reducing Reoffending Strategic Board and to understand who the key attendees will now be to drive this plan forward.

The representation at a senior level to the current Integrated Offender Management Strategy Board is from the following organisations:

Kent Fire and Rescue

Kent Prisons

Kent Police

Kent Probation

Health

JPPB

Kent YOS and Medway YOT

Job Centre Plus

DAAT

KCC Community Safety

District Council – Chief Executive

For the new Board we can see some potential gaps at the moment with the current attendees. The following areas are currently identified as needing representation:

ASB – possibly a District Council Community Safety Manager

Women

RJ – possibly mediation services

Employment lead – possibly South East Region Employment and Offender Learning Skills

6. **Decision Requested**

We would like the Kent Community Safety Partnership to decide on the 4 following points:

- That they are happy to endorse the Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending 2012 – 2015
- That they agree to review progress on the plan annually
- That they consider who would be appropriate for encouraging to join the newly formed Reducing Reoffending Strategic Board
- Agree on how this plan should be communicated to a wider audience