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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 18th March 2014

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement 2011-14 – Action Plan Partnership Anti Social Behaviour

Summary This report provides a brief update on the work associated with delivering two of the agreed project outcomes around Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) that were included within the Kent Community Safety Agreement Delivery Plan.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) was one of the identified county wide priorities that formed the basis of the County Community Safety Agreement for 2011 – 2014.
- 1.2. This report focuses on the delivery of actions associated with ASB, particularly with reference to the delivery of an ASB Case Management system and the development and approval of a Partnership ASB Strategy and associated minimum standards.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In November 2012, following extensive partnership consultation the Kent Community Safety Partnership agreed the draft ASB strategy for Kent. The final document was published in December 2012.
- 2.2 As recommended, KCC Community Safety and Kent Police established a “Task and Finish” Group to engage local partners in the adoption of the strategy at a local level. This group met on a number of occasions and has now ceased.
- 2.3 The development of a custom designed ASB Case Management system was ongoing with an initial implementation date planned for Phase 1 of the project for December 2013.

3.0 Review of Kent ASB Strategy

- 3.1 In 2012 the Coalition Government outlined proposals to reform the existing ASB Tools & Powers. Subject to its parliamentary progress, the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill is anticipated to receive Royal Assent by the end of the session in Spring 2014. The Bill seeks to introduce simpler, more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour that provide better protection for victims and communities.
- 3.2 The Bill proposes a high level duty on Local Authorities, Police and Health to deal jointly with complaints raised by members of the community regarding ASB under a new “Community Trigger” arrangement, where no action has previously been taken. The Community Trigger will give victims and communities the right to demand that agencies deal with persistent anti-social behaviour. Private registered providers of social housing will also have a duty to cooperate.

3.3 A review of the current Partnership ASB Strategy will be required to reflect the changes in the forthcoming legislation. A broad consultation exercise is currently being completed across partnerships in Kent. The changes in legislation provides a useful platform to review the existing strategy and assess if it is still fit for purpose, whilst also developing options for a process that Kent could consider adopting in relation the Community Trigger mechanism.

4.0 ASB Case management system

4.1 The ASB Case Management system 'Themis' is currently in use between KCC & Kent Police staff, therefore phase one of this roll out has been delivered and the project team are receiving very positive feedback. The project team are currently evaluating phase 1 which will identify any lessons to be learned, prior to the delivery phase 2 which is the roll out to District/Borough CSU staff. Following completion of this evaluation, it is anticipated that the roll out of phase 2 to Districts/Boroughs, will occur in April 2014. This date will be dependant upon training resources being available, any necessary software adjustments being completed and the implementation of suitable information governance arrangements.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 It is therefore proposed that the partnership review of the Countywide Partnership ASB Strategy should continue to be completed ensuring that it is updated to reflect the changes in legislation, that are likely to receive Royal Assent in the next few months and also accommodate the implementation of the partnership ASB case management system.

5.2 Regular updates will be communicated to the District/Borough Community Safety Managers Meetings and via the Kent Community Safety Team Quarterly Briefings. If as expected the evaluation of phase 1 is completed in the near future and no major issues are highlighted; it is anticipated that phase 2 of the Themis roll-out will be delivered as planned.

5.3 Given the uncertainty associated with the changes to ASB legislation it is proposed that a report is considered by the Kent CSP in July this year, which will cover adjustments to the current ASB Partnership Strategy, the impact of the changing legislation on delivery and also consider the potential for a pan Kent community trigger mechanism. This timescale will enable extensive consultation with all partners, including Medway and consideration of any pilot community trigger projects both in Kent and elsewhere.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Kent CSP is asked to note the current progress in relation to the implementation of a partnership ASB Case Management system (Themis) and the proposals for future roll-out.

6.2 The Kent CSP is also asked to support the proposal for extending the current partnership led review of the ASB Strategy, including accommodating the new legislative ASB changes and proposals for a community trigger.

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