

By: Supt Andy Rabey, Kent Police
Sean Bone-Knell, Assistant Director, Service Delivery, KFRS
Stuart Beaumont, Head of Emergency Planning and Community Safety, KCC

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership

Classification: For Decision

Subject: Stocktake, audit and review of Community Safety Services

Summary This report proposes a stocktake, audit and review of community safety services across Kent

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Community safety services are delivered by a range of organisations across the County – Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups, District/Borough/Unitary/County Councils and Probation. Services are delivered in line with the Kent Community Safety Agreement, which sets out the strategic priorities alongside the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan. That agreement should also set out how partnerships within the County will cooperate to deliver their priorities (e.g. by sharing functions).
- 1.2 Each District also has its own crime and disorder reduction strategy which feeds into the Kent Community Safety Agreement.
- 1.3 Partnerships should act as effective coordinating bodies, ensuring that there is a strong voice for District/Borough priorities and the interests of others such as the Local Criminal Justice Board. This is particularly important when agreeing the targets and priorities that could be included within the Community Safety Agreement and how these reflect the priorities that the District/Borough level community safety partnerships have within their own partnership plans. There are reciprocal duties on both the Police and Crime Commissioner and Community Safety Partnerships to have regard for each other’s priorities.
- 1.4 The Police and Crime Commissioner has the power to provide community safety grants and is now using that power to direct resources towards the priorities in her Police and Crime Plan. This power, together with the power to convene meetings of Community Safety Partnership representatives, may well

influence the focus and direction of future community safety work, as will the power to request reports from, Community Safety Partnerships. Where a merger of CSP's is agreed by all the parties, the Commissioner has the power to approve the merger.

- 1.5 The Chief Constable has announced plans to embed a team of officers in local communities working alongside District Community Safety Units, consistent with the Police and Crime Plan, and this will also impact on the focus of community safety work across the County.
- 1.6 The recent report by Sir Ken Knight "Facing the future" demonstrated the positive outcomes that targeted community safety work has had in fire safety in the home over the last 10 years. It is with this background that all partners can look to benefit from a more targeted preventative approach to the communities we serve.
- 1.7 All providers of community safety services have, in recent years, faced serious financial pressures and it is clear that these pressures will continue for a number of years to come. As a consequence all providers have made some resource reductions and are facing difficult decisions about where to save money and where to focus scarce resources in the future. At the same time demand for community safety services shows no sign of diminishing. Despite these pressures there are examples of good practice and this proposed stocktake is intended to capture and enhance this work.
- 1.8 There have always been plenty of examples of co-operation between partners across the County but this background suggests that it is essential that this approach is reinforced and that all providers look together at what they are providing and see what steps can be taken together to maintain and enhance services and provide good value for money. At a meeting between the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chairman of the Kent Community Safety Partnership and the Chairman of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, it was felt that there was value in scoping current delivery of community safety services, provided that the review involved all statutory community safety partners and had no pre-determined outcome.

2.0 Stocktake, audit and review exercise

- 2.1 It is suggested that partners work together to undertake the following activities:-
 - Pulling together what is happening now across all the partners

- Identifying the targets for current activities (age groups, social groups, people with disability etc)
- Checking the extent which current activities are consistent with the priorities in the Agreement and the Police and Crime Plan
- Identifying local priorities and activities that support those priorities

2.2 The Partnership is asked to agree to this work being undertaken.

3.0 Possible next steps

3.1 It is likely that the stocktake, audit and review will suggest some areas of work that could be done differently, or in some other way changed to deliver or enhance priorities in a more affordable and effective way. Where this is a matter for one partner alone, it will be a matter for that partner to consider. There are though likely to be possibilities for delivering services differently that involve several or all partners. Where all those affected are willing, it is suggested that a project or projects could be established to deliver the agreed changes.

4.0 Timescale

4.1 If the stocktake audit and review suggests areas where services could be enhanced or delivered differently, there will need to be time for concepts to be developed, business cases made and approved, and changes implemented. In turn this is likely to feed into decisions about budgets and finance from 2015/16 onwards. It is therefore suggested that it would be helpful to all partners to complete the review and to report back to partners by May 2014.

5.0 Governance

5.1 At this initial stage it is suggested that each partner who wishes to participate contributes by identifying the work they currently do. Management of the exercise could be undertaken by a small group of representatives, under the overall direction of the KCSP, drawn from the partners involved. In order to support the work Kent Police, KFRS and KCC have identified a resource, which they are willing to fund, to act as Project Manager. Governance of any projects that are agreed on would be determined later.

6.0 Proposal

6.1 That each partner indicates whether or not they are willing to participate in the stocktaking audit and review exercise described in paragraph 2 to the timescale set out in paragraph 4.1.

6.2 Participating partners are asked to agree on the governance arrangements, discussed in paragraph 5.1.

Further information

Mike Campbell

Project Manager

KCC Community safety Unit

Mike.campbell@kent.gov.uk