

From: Sean Bone-Knell,
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To: **Kent Community Safety Partnership – 19 March 2015**

Subject: **Joint Community Safety Team – Progress report**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Electoral Division: Countywide Service – all divisions affected

Summary:

This report updates the Kent Community Safety Partnership on progress made in establishing a county-wide co-located Joint Community Safety Team.

Recommendation:

That progress is noted.

Further reports will be presented to the Partnership as the project develops.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) has sponsored an innovative project to develop closer collaboration and joint working on Community safety matters between Kent Fire and Rescue (KFRS), Kent Police (KP) and Kent County Council (KCC).
- 1.2 The KCSP has previously received reports on progress, with the last being in October 2014. At that time there was a request for a further report to this meeting.

2. Background and context

- 2.1 The partners in this project have a strong history of collaboration and joint working, via the statutory KCSP. They also have strong history of working with District Community Safety Units and District Community Safety Partnerships. This is all encapsulated in the '[Kent Community Safety Agreement](#)' which sets out how partners work together to address the key community safety priorities for the County.
- 2.2 In the past both county and district partners have been able to access considerable funding streams available as part of Government initiatives. This funding enabled countywide partners to provide services in support of their

district colleagues. With the removal of these funding streams, and changes to support funding, all three partners are facing significant financial pressures now and in years to come.

- 2.3 To progress the project, a Steering Group meets regularly and is supported by a Working Group. The Steering Group, chaired by KFRS, contains the 3 partners (KFRS, KCC and Kent Police) together with other key players – a District Council representative chosen by the Kent Joint Chiefs, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Medway Council, Public Health England and the Community Rehabilitation Company.

The Working Group consists of Community Safety Practitioners from the three partners and District Councils and is led by an experienced community safety consultant provided by KFRS.

3. Progress to date and initial phase

- 3.1 The initial intention is to co-locate staff from the three organisations in order to promote closer joint working and to identify opportunities for improved value for money.

A suitable site has been identified in Maidstone and planning work for the move has now started. It is intended that the physical move will take place in mid-2015. Staff would remain under the management and control of their own organisation. The three partners are currently considering which functions and, therefore, which staff will move to the new location. As the Partnership has been told in earlier reports, it is intended to start with relatively small steps in order to deliver early benefits and to enable the concept to be developed and expanded in the light of experience.

- 3.2 Initial thinking has identified several areas where the co-located team can deliver benefit and work streams have been established to progress these ideas. The initial work streams are as follows:

- Undertaking strategic assessments to enable and support the production of Countywide and District community safety agreements. Medway Council have also asked to be involved in this work.
- Undertaking a review of each organisation's youth education activity and examining the feasibility of combining this activity where applicable. Particular attention will be given to including e-safety and Prevent within any joint education visits.
- Manage and provide administrative support to domestic homicide reviews.
- Reviewing current and future community safety campaigns with the ambition of creating more efficient and effective joint campaigns.

3.3 District Council colleagues are undertaking an exercise to collect views on where they feel a County co-located unit can deliver greatest benefit to them and have also looked at the top 3 priorities for them for this team. Once

completed these views will assist in making decisions on the work of the team and its priorities

3.4 It is also expected that, once the team is in a single location there will be opportunities for closer joint working in the following areas:

- Joint co-ordination to develop common approaches to changes in procedures and legislation.
- Promoting the work of the joint team amongst other county partners such as health and offender management.
- Supporting the management of anti-social behaviour (ASB) requirements of the Police and Crime Act 2014 and support partners in the management of the ASB (Themis) recording system.
- Improving services to the district CSP's and CSU's and providing a single point of contact for enquiries. This would include collation and sharing of best practice.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 The KCSP are asked to note the content of this report and the progress made in developing a co-located team and the=t further reports will be presented to the Partnership as the project progresses.