

By: Sean Bone-Knell (KFRS) – Chair Kent Community Safety Team

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 19th March 2015

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Community Safety Team Update

Summary This report provides an update on a selection of activities and projects being managed by the Kent Community Safety Team on behalf of the Kent Community Safety Partnership.

1.0 Background / Introduction

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities were required to form multi-agency 'Crime and Disorder Partnerships' to undertake this activity. Subsequent revisions introduced additional responsibilities to tackle substance misuse and reduce reoffending and the partnerships were renamed Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- 1.2 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) operates at a County level with the overarching purpose to manage the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) on behalf of the responsible authorities in Kent and to deliver safer and stronger communities. The KCSP is supported by their multi-agency working group known as the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST). The working group has a particular remit to prepare and monitor the Community Safety Agreement including the action plan and performance reports, as well as managing the Kent Community Safety fund on behalf of the governing group.

2.0 ASB Legislation - Community Trigger & ASB Case Management System

- 2.1 Further to the last report presented at the KCSP meeting, KCC Community Safety has continued to assist local authorities to set the criteria and the review process for the Trigger. These are now in place in all districts as of October 2014. KCC CSU is now following this up with the collation of each district's individual review process and appeal route, which are subject to local variations.
- 2.2 The final criteria and application routes for each district trigger are available on the corresponding websites. Varying limitations with the IT software available in each district means that there are small local variations in online application processes. Partner organisations including Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner etc. were asked to place links to the application forms / processes on their websites to ensure residents can direct their requests appropriately. These are in place with further links from health and housing partners now being investigated to enable the trigger to be as widely advertised as possible.
- 2.3 The case management system known as 'Themis', which is a joint Kent Police and KCC IT project, is currently in use by both Kent Police and the Kent Community Warden Service. As of December 2014 the system was rolled out to local authorities upon completion of vetting and training. All districts including Medway have attended training with the majority completing vetting processes and having access to the live system. There are three districts

awaiting vetting before they can be allowed live access and this is expected to be finalised in the near future. Phase 3, which involves housing partners, is being discussed and a pilot is being planned although timelines are yet to be finalised.

- 2.4 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 has overhauled the existing powers and tools that are available to deal with anti-social behaviour (ASB) reducing them from 19 to 6. Work is ongoing with district and police partners to implement the powers, including the development of new policies and procedures. A workshop is being planned for May in order for districts to share case studies and best practice with their police colleagues and look at further implementation of the new powers.

3.0 E-safety Workshops

- 3.1 Following last year's Kent and Medway Community Safety Conference on 'E' safety which was commissioned and funded by members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) and Medway CSP, it was agreed that any excess funding would be used to run additional e-safety workshops for partners.
- 3.2 The first workshop took place on 3rd March 2015 at the Police Training College with around 90 staff attending from across a variety of partner agencies. Additional funding is available for a further 5 or 6 days of training to include either short workshops or more in-depth 'train the trainer' sessions. Training will be delivered by KCC's e-safety Officer who is able to adapt the sessions as required and subject to feedback from the attendees at the first workshop, which is currently being evaluated, future events will be developed as appropriate.

4.0 New Psychoactive Substances

- 4.1 A multiagency group met in January 2015, attended by Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, KCA, Trading Standards, KCC Community Safety and KCC Public Health to assess current activity in relation to New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). It was agreed that the Public Health England (PHE) Toolkit for Commissioners would be used as a framework to map current activity in Kent and highlight areas for new or further action.
- 4.2 The seven areas which PHE identify commissioners should be considering are:
- Tackling NPS supply and use
 - Prevention
 - Monitoring and information sharing
 - Responses to acute NPS problems
 - NPS interventions and treatment
 - Competence in working with NPS users
 - NPS in prisons and the children and young people's secure estate
- 4.3 KCC Trading Standards and Kent Police are already working together in partnership to tackle the sale of New Psychoactive Substances (referred to in the media as Legal Highs) and have had some success in the courts, this links to the first focus area highlighted by Public Health England. Further work is being undertaken to look at the other areas outlined in the toolkit.

5.0 Grant Update

- 5.1 As outlined in the paper presented at the last meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) the majority of the £41,100 grant funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner had been allocated to a variety of projects and just two additional funding requests were awaiting agreement and sign off. All the funding has now been allocated and the year-end return has been made to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 5.2 In 2014/15 the Kent Community Safety Partnership has funded the following projects:
- ASB School tour (£10,000) – contribution to the £60,000 programme which works with young people in schools to tackle the issues of crime and ASB.
 - Domestic Homicide Reviews (£8,000) – contribution to the ongoing costs of delivering the statutory DHR process, including independent Chairs and Lessons Learnt seminars.
 - Licence 2 Kill (£5,000) – road safety education initiative aimed at young people / drivers.
 - Domestic Abuse Services Website (£1,000) – improvements to the website including a reporting function to monitor use and help identify future development needs.
 - Stop the Scammers (£2,000) – education and support for victims who have repeatedly been targeted by scammers.
 - IRIS pilot programme (*Identification and Referral to Improve Safety*) (£7,550) – bespoke e-learning package developed for safe enquiry training for Kent and Medway GPs. Pilot project to be undertaken prior to roll-out across the County.
 - Pedestrian Safety Research (£7,550) – contribution to a joint funded research project looking to provide evidence based recommendations about suitable interventions to reduce pedestrian casualties amongst young people in Kent.
- 5.3 Additional funding of £11,000 has been received by the KCSP to fund Restorative Justice (RJ) initiatives. It has been agreed by both the Chair of the KCSP and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner that the funding will be used to train 10 staff members to Diploma Level 4 in Restorative Practice. Whilst there is already a pool of trained RJ facilitators the enhanced training will ensure that we have a number of champions across the County to deliver neighbourhood level restorative conferences supported by Project Salus.
- 5.4 Confirmation has been received from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) that the KCSP has been allocated a Community Safety Funding Contribution of £39,661 for 2015/16. The Kent Community Safety Team will contact partners in due course to invite funding requests for the next financial year.

6.0 Partner Agency Update: Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company

- 6.1 On 1st February 2015 the provisions in the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 (ORA) came into force. The most significant change set out in the Act is to extend statutory supervision to offenders who are released from short prison sentences of less than 12 months. This means that any offender whose offence was committed on or after 1 February, and who is sentenced to a custodial term of more than 1 day, will in the future receive at least 12 months of supervision after release. As a result, there will be a gradual build up from 1st February 2015 of eligible individuals.
- 6.2 The Offender Rehabilitation Act also makes a number of changes to the sentencing and release framework set out in the Criminal Justice Act 2003, including expanded drug testing powers for offenders released from custody and the creation of a new Rehabilitation Activity Requirement that can be imposed on offenders serving sentences in the community.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is asked to note the closer working arrangements of the Kent Community Safety Team and the revised reporting process to inform the partnership.

For Further Information:

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