

From: Ann Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel
Subject: Protecting the Public from Harm
Item & Date: Item B2 17 November 2015

**Kent Police & Crime
Commissioner**

'Devoted to Kent'



Background:

1. As members will be aware there are seven priorities in the Police and Crime Plan, including to 'Protect the public from harm'. Due to the nature of some of the threats, operational activity relating to this priority is often unseen by the public. This paper provides an overview of activity in relation to some elements.
2. The governance for policing is set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Police and Crime Commissioners are required to hold their Chief Constable to account for the effectiveness and efficiency of their force, including performance against the Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner has developed proportionate and balanced structures to achieve this, including one to one meetings, bespoke briefings and external assessments (i.e. by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary). In addition, the public Governance Board enables Police and Crime Plan delivery to be probed and success acknowledged; recent examples relating to this priority include Organised Crime Groups (11 August 2015) and Child Sexual Exploitation (11 November 2015).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):

3. This is a national strategic policing priority and area of business the Force identified as a threat which requires a specialist response. As a result, the Commissioner has committed to providing £200k funding recurring for three years to boost Force capacity to fight CSE and enhance multi-agency working. The Chief Constable is supporting the establishment of a multi-agency co-located team with dedicated officers and staff to promote awareness, improve intelligence and investigate CSE. Work is also underway to secure partnership investment from Kent County Council, Medway Council and NHS England.
4. As well as 9 officers and 6 police staff, the team includes the following, some of whom have started:
 - Kent County Council – 1 Social Care Manager, with another awaiting Force vetting clearance. 1 Education Co-ordinator (Early Years Help) currently awaiting Force vetting clearance.
 - Medway – 2 Specialist Social Workers currently awaiting Force vetting clearance.
 - Health – Negotiations underway to secure an investment.
5. Importantly, robust processes with partners have been developed to ensure the CSE Team are able to readily receive early notification of CSE concerns, gather intelligence and effectively respond. In addition, a training and communication strategy is being developed for staff, as well as community engagement.
6. The establishment of Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Board's for Kent and Medway will provide strategic oversight of the combined CSE Team and wider arrangements. In turn, by reporting to the respective Safeguarding Children Boards they will provide robust accountability of service delivery. Work is underway to ensure Community Safety Partnerships are effectively incorporated into the governance arrangements.
7. Within Kent Police, the CSE Team reports into the Protecting Vulnerable Persons Board, which is chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable who is also the vice chair of the Kent Safeguarding Children's Board. The Head of the Public Protection Unit also sits on the Protecting Vulnerable Persons Board and is vice chair of the Medway Safeguarding Children's Board. This representation ensures appropriate accountability.

Organised Crime Groups (OCGs):

8. The Force uses 'National Intelligence Model' principles, particularly collation and dissemination of intelligence to tackle organised crime, from neighbourhood level through to national and international.
9. In 2011, the Government published 'Local to Global: reducing the risk from organised crime'. This summarised the impact of organised crime and promoted the Integrated Operating Model which brings all partners together to work collaboratively in order to maximise impact. The Kent & Essex Serious Crime Directorate, through Serious Organised Crime Unit investigations have adopted this principle by working with divisional command teams to tackle those groups that present the greatest risk. Commissioned and proposed operations are judged and prioritised on threat, risk and harm.



10. A key component is also the identification of 'vulnerability' and this runs through all wider activity. As the key to local delivery, a 'Violence and Vulnerability Board' has been created to work with Community Safety Partnerships to ensure responsibilities are appropriately discharged. Whilst there's recognition that in some areas (i.e. domestic abuse, child abuse) there are county-wide mechanisms, in relation to organised crime there is an assessed need to ensure an appropriate focus with local partners.
11. The Force have always been at the forefront of tackling organised crime and has established systems and processes to effectively disrupt and dismantle OCGs. Jointly, the Kent and Essex Commissioner's regularly receive presentations on operational activity to tackle organised crime groups.

Prevent Programme:

12. To tackle violent extremism and radicalisation, the Force has a dedicated Prevent Team who work with strategic partners to achieve three objectives:
- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat faced from those who promote it.
 - Prevent People being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.
 - Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed.
13. This year saw the implementation of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act which places a duty on 'specified authorities' to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The main focus of the Prevent Team is to manage referrals where individuals are considered to be vulnerable to radicalisation or suspected of becoming extremists. The Force has seen an increase in referrals year on year as awareness and understanding of Prevent increases. The Force also contributes towards briefing and advising a range of organisations, in addition to faith and community groups. The Government recently launched 'The Counter-Extremism Strategy' with the aim of defeating all forms of extremism: violent and non-violent, Islamist and neo-Nazi. Appropriate legislation is likely to follow.
14. On 3/4 November 2015, as part of the Home Office National Counter Terrorism Exercise Programme a 'live play' exercise took place at Ramsgate Port. In addition to Kent Police, partner agencies involved included SECamb, KFRS, Kent County Council, the armed forces and Local Authorities.
15. The Kent Prevent Delivery Board is co-chaired by Kent Police and Kent County Council ensuring a consistent and structured Prevent programme across the county. The board includes representation from Health, Education and Local Authorities.

Cyber Crime:

16. The Kent & Essex Serious Crime Directorate leads the Force response to this threat, whether that's cyber-attacks, or conventional computer offences. A joint Cybercrime Unit is being created and will be in place by March 2016, enabling a bespoke response. Regular crime prevention advice is circulated through media releases and social media. This will be enhanced through a Cyber Protect Officer within the Cybercrime Unit who will provide advice and complete cyber security assessments for small/medium enterprises.
17. Op Action is seeking to protect the public by visiting potential victims whose details were identified through warrants conducted by Trading Standards. The individuals are on a so called 'scammers list' being circulated between criminal groups as susceptible to fraud offences. This joint initiative with Trading Standards seeks to ensure they are aware of the risk and given appropriate crime prevention advice.

Hate Crime:

18. The Force has an established Hate Crime Forum with an active membership including the CPS Hate Crime Coordinator, Victim Support, the Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG) and local charities.
19. The IPAG has recently restructured and there are now 12 District IPAGs feeding into a County IPAG. The District IPAGs are establishing their membership and holding inaugural meetings. Hate crime is an area of particular focus and disability hate crime will be the first theme at the January 2016 County IPAG.
20. The Force works with a charity (MCCH) to deliver the Jigsaw project which aims to raise awareness and reporting of hate crime against those with a learning disability or autism. To date, 287 officers and staff have received awareness training as well as Victim Support court staff, the CPS and local Magistrates. The Office of the Commissioner has recently provided funding to the Jigsaw project enabling the roll-out of up to 40 third-party reporting hubs across Kent – the aim is to have ten hubs in place by Christmas 2015.