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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) – 16th March 2016

Classification: For Information

Subject: Serious and Organised Crime

Summary This report details actions that have been taken since the last meeting to brief Partners regarding Serious and Organised Crime Profiles and the role of partnerships in tackling Serious and Organised Crime.

1.0 Background / Introduction

- 1.1 At the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) meeting on 14th October 2015 a member of the Home Office' Strategic Centre for Organised Crime gave a presentation/update on Local Serious and Organised Crime Profiles.
- 1.2 The meeting felt that there had been a lack of consultation with partners regarding the Local Profiles and also what the role of the Community Safety Partnership was in respect of Serious and Organised Crime. An action was taken by Kent Police to brief senior managers from the relevant agencies and report back to the KCSP.

2.0 The Report

- 2.1 On 14th December 2015 a meeting took place at North Kent Police Station. The following services were present: KCC Community Safety, Trading Standards, Youth Justice and Public Health. At this meeting the Director of Intelligence for Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate provided an overview of Local Serious and Organised Crime Profiles. There followed a discussion about how to further consult and brief partner agencies at practitioner level. This culminated in a proposal to run a Serious and Organised Crime Workshop.
- 2.2 On Thursday 25th February the workshop was run at Kent Fire & Rescue (KFRS) Training Centre in Maidstone. There were approximately 30 attendees representing a variety of agencies including Local Authority Community Safety Managers, Kent Police, KFRS, Kent Community Safety Team (KCST), Trading Standards, Public Health, Medway Unitary Authority, Prison Service etc.
- 2.3 The intention of the workshop was to raise awareness of Serious and Organised Crime and to explore how this can be tackled through individual agencies and collectively through partnerships. Partners were encouraged to consider what enforcement powers were available, how community intelligence could be gathered and referred and also how to identify and protect persons who are vulnerable to exploitation by organised criminal gangs.
- 2.4 Officers and staff from the Serious Crime Directorate Intelligence Department gave detailed presentations. This included providing an understanding of the different types of organised crime (e.g. Serious Acquisitive Crime, Drug Supply, Urban Street Gangs, Human Trafficking/Modern Day Slavery and Child Sexual Exploitation). The Senior Analyst gave a presentation on the number and nature of mapped Organised Crime Groups within Kent. A

Senior Investigating Officer gave case studies of Organised Crime Groups that had been tackled both with and without partner involvement, with a view to stimulating discussion regarding how partners can contribute to tackling Organised Crime Groups.

- 2.5 The second half of the workshop involved a facilitated group discussion around how agencies and partnerships could contribute to tackling Serious and Organised Crime. Various issues were raised including training requirements, organised retail crime, working with schools to identify and appropriately refer young people who are thought to be involved in organised crime as vulnerable victims and/or offenders etc. The attendees felt that there was a role to be played by their agencies. The attendees felt that there needed to be an improved two-way flow of information between agencies and Kent Police Intelligence Unit. It was also suggested that agencies and existing forums that discuss vulnerable people should be mapped in order to understand the interdependencies. There was a general lack of appetite to have a separate board or meeting and the Community Safety Partnerships were considered to be appropriate mechanisms to monitor and coordinate activity. The Community Safety Managers who were present felt that they were best placed to be the link into partnership activity.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 A meeting is planned between Kent Police (Serious Crime Directorate Intelligence Team) and the Kent Community Safety Team to review the findings from the workshop and generate a draft action plan.
- 3.2 A district/borough Community Safety Manager suggested that the Community Safety Partnerships would benefit from detailed case studies as to how Serious and Organised Crime can be tackled through multi-agency activity. The Director of Intelligence believed that this would be possible and could be combined with the publication of the refreshed and updated Local Profiles that are hoped to be more specific to individual Districts. Once these awareness sessions have been completed then the partners will be in a better position to identify the role that they can play. A further suggestion was made that following such awareness the Community Safety Managers could coordinate and collate activity to be reported back to the Kent Community Safety Partnership through the Kent Community Safety Team.
- 3.3 The National Serious and Organised Crime Strategy (Local to Global) requires Police and Crime Commissioners to establish local partnership groups to lead multi-agency work to disrupt and minimise harm from organised criminal groups. The strategy further more states that 'Police and Crime Commissioners have the discretion to decide whether to establish new arrangements or to look to existing partnership structures. Some may feel that existing partnerships can take on this responsibility. CSPs are well established partnerships where SOC is already discussed in a number of areas and should be closely involved in any work aimed at tackling serious and organised crime'. The Local Government Association (Tackling Serious and Organised Crime: A local response) have said that established CSPs are well placed to lead on the strategic coordination of this activity, with their statutory duty to: reduce reoffending; tackle crime and disorder; anti-social behaviour; alcohol and substance misuse; and any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment. There is also a significant role for partnerships to prevent people from becoming involved in organised crime. Discussions are to be had with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent regarding these arrangements.
- 3.4 It is suggested that Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) should work together to ensure there are integrated pathways of support for vulnerable children, good awareness amongst local practitioners and services available that

can support children and young people away from this complex criminal activity. Further work is required to be undertaken to understand how the CSPs and LSCBs will work together.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Multi-agency working to disrupt and minimise the harm caused by Serious and Organised Crime is at an early stage and this partner's workshop is a key first stage in raising awareness. It is pleasing that the majority of Community Safety Partnerships do have Serious and Organised Crime contained within their priorities for 2016/2017 to some extent. More work is still required to raise awareness amongst agencies so that they can better understand the role they can play. Following on from this, processes need to be established to mainstream Serious and Organised Crime into Partnership activity.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 The partnership is asked to note the progress since the last meeting and to support continued work (led by the integrated Kent Community Safety Team) to further develop the embedding of Serious and Organised Crime within partnership agendas and priorities.

For Further Information:

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