

By: Shafick Peerbux, Head of Community Safety (Kent County Council)
To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 16th March 2016
Classification: For Decision
Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement 2014-17

Summary This report includes the annual review of the Kent Community Safety Agreement priorities including recommendations and provides an update on the current action plan and performance monitoring.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities (KCC/District/Boroughs), Kent Police and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (now Community Safety Partnerships) were required to carry out 3 yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies. A formal review of the 1998 Act took place in 2006, with the result that three year audits were replaced with annual partnership strategic assessments and rolling partnership plans, whilst in two tier authority areas a statutory County Community Safety Agreement was introduced.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety priorities for the county along with the cross-cutting themes that support the identified priorities. The priorities in the current CSA for 2014-17 were based on data analysis, partnership consultation and the local district/borough strategic assessments. Whilst the agreement was published at the start of 2014/15 it is subject to an annual review and can be amended during the three year period if appropriate.

2.2 The CSA was most recently reviewed in March 2015. The outcome of that review recommended that the original priorities and cross-cutting themes remain unchanged (see below). However following feedback from the Kent Community Safety Partnership there was a minor amendment to the document to acknowledge the emerging issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE). This was incorporated into the existing cross-cutting theme 'safeguarding children and young people'.

Priorities

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Violent Crime
- Road Safety

Cross Cutting Themes

- Early intervention, prevention & education
- Reducing Re-Offending
- Safeguarding Children & Young People
- Supporting Victims and Vulnerable Households / Individuals

2.3 An action plan and performance monitoring framework was also developed to support the CSA which is being progressed and is monitored by the KCSP Working Group. Last year an additional action around safeguarding was included to reflect the inclusion of child sexual exploitation.

3.0 Review of the County Priorities for 2016/17

- 3.1 The review of the current Community Safety Agreement has taken into consideration the outcome of local district/borough strategic assessments, changes to partnership plans, emerging issues and new legislation that may need to be implemented. The review document is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 3.2 The Kent Police and Crime Plan has recently been reviewed and following a consultation with the public and partners the draft revised plan was presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 2nd February 2016 for comment and approval. Whilst the proposal is to retain the current strategic priorities it was suggested that there be a stronger emphasis on some of the emerging issues such as tackling radicalisation, child sexual exploitation (CSE), human trafficking/modern slavery, protecting children from harm including unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) & looked after children (LAC), tackling cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime.
- 3.3 The Kent Police Control Strategy which is currently being revised identified a number of focus areas based on a 'threat, risk, harm' approach. The current priorities for 2015/16 reflect many of the emerging safeguarding issues including child abuse and exploitation; human trafficking/modern slavery; domestic abuse, serious violence and sexual offences; gangs; organised acquisitive crime; and counter-terrorism & domestic extremism. These priorities are currently being refreshed for 2016/17.
- 3.4 The introduction of new legislation in 2015 and 2016 has placed a number of new duties on partners in relation to the following acts: Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015; Modern Slavery Act 2015; Serious and Organised Crime Act 2015 and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. Whilst many of the duties relate to enforcement and prosecution, there are a number of preventative and safeguarding elements that partner agencies can contribute to. For example under the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015 there is a statutory duty for public sector organisations to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism' and the accompanying guidance outlines how different sectors can play their part in relation to raising awareness, training, policies, etc.
- 3.5 Local district/borough Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) have undertaken their annual strategic assessments and are currently finalising their priorities and developing plans for 2016/17, once these have been agreed and signed off by each local CSP the priorities can be fully incorporated into this annual review. Although local discussions are still underway and priorities have not yet been finalised initial indications from the local CSPs show that many of them will include a safeguarding priority in some form or other. Based on the draft priorities the following appear to be the top issues that are emerging either as a main priority, cross-cutting theme or as an issue within a broader theme:
- Domestic Abuse (inc. sexual offences & serious violence)
 - Safeguarding (inc. public protection & resilience)
 - Substance Misuse
 - Crime / Serious & Organised Crime (inc. violent crime and acquisitive crime)
 - Anti-social behaviour (inc. environmental)
 - Road Safety
- 3.4 Using PESTELO analysis members of the KCSP Working Group helped to identify upcoming events and existing or emerging issues that may need to be considered. Many of the safeguarding issues which were identified by the Working Group such as preventing violent extremism, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, online safety, looked after children etc. reflect the issues being identified within the legislation and partnership plans.

- 3.5 Based on the review there are a number of emerging safeguarding issues and new duties that are not currently referenced within the Community Safety Agreement (CSA) and it is therefore recommended that the CSA should be amended accordingly. In particular that two of the current priorities: 'Violent Crime' and 'Acquisitive Crime' should be consolidated into a priority entitled '**Serious & Organised Crime**' (or similar) to include some of the existing issues such as violent crime, shoplifting etc. whilst incorporating emerging issues such as gangs and modern slavery. In addition, it is proposed that a new priority of '**Safeguarding**' (or similar) should be introduced to take account of issues such as child sexual exploitation, preventing violent extremism, online safety etc.

Although changes are needed to ensure the CSA remains relevant, many of the existing priorities continue to be a focus for both local and county partners, as such it is recommended that the following four priorities are retained: Domestic Abuse; Anti-Social Behaviour; Substance Misuse; and Road Safety; It is also recommended that the cross-cutting themes remain unchanged (see below).

The multi-agency KCSP Working Group has been consulted with regard to the above recommendations and initial feedback from partners is supportive. However, it should be noted that the names of the new priorities and the specific issues which will be incorporated are still to be finalised and could be subject to change following the provision of the final priorities identified by districts/boroughs and any additional feedback from county partners.

4 Current CSA Action Plan and Performance Monitoring

- 4.1 Partners have continued to work towards the activities identified in the current CSA action plan linking in with various organisations and multi-agency groups across the county to help tackle the identified priorities and themes. The KCSP Working Group which meets as a sub-group of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is monitoring the activities set out in the Action Plan and has reviewed the latest update at their meeting in February 2016.
- 4.2 Good progress is being made and some of the recent work includes:
- ASB Case Management (Themis) – small pilot being undertaken with East Kent Housing to assess the viability of local housing associations accessing the management system.
 - Domestic Abuse – adolescent to parent violence pilot programmes are underway in three districts; domestic homicide review (DHR) lessons learnt seminars have been delivered to front-line practitioners; an e-learning package providing basic support and an enhanced safety planning one day course for practitioners is being developed.
 - Road Safety – the new Road Safety Experience (R.S.E) will be open for visitors from April 2016 and the Casualty Reduction (CaRe) Executive Group have agreed to support appropriate multi-agency delivery at the Centre; a new CaRe Strategic Board has been created to provide strategic commitment and support for road safety and casualty reduction from all the CaRe partners.
 - Substance Misuse – Public Health and the Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) are working together to establish the current position regarding new psychoactive substances (known as legal highs) and to prepare for the implementation of new legislation.
 - Safeguarding – the KCST are linking into the new multi-agency subgroup of the Kent Safeguarding Children Board known as 'Risks, Threats & Vulnerabilities' which will cover gangs, missing children, CSE, Prevent etc.
- 4.3 In addition to monitoring the action plan the KCSP Working Group also monitors a set of performance indicators chosen to represent the key priorities. At this stage, there are no unexpected results with regards the proxy indicators, however the partnership is asked to note that the following focus areas are being monitored:

Domestic Abuse - the number of reported incidents, MARAC referrals and visitors attending domestic abuse one stop shops all continue to rise. This continues to add significant pressure to agencies (voluntary and statutory partners) that are facing reductions in staffing

and resources to manage this increasing demand for services. Work is being progressed around commissioning of services to try to bring more resilience.

Road Safety - early indications suggest that 2015 will record a decrease in relation to the number of KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) casualties compared to 2014, although it is still likely to be higher than 2013, therefore it is recommended that casualty reduction remains a focus area. The multi-agency CaRe partnership continues to work together to identify and deliver collective interventions and campaigns targeting specific road user groups; and as mentioned above a new board has been created to provide organisation strategic commitment to road safety and casualty reduction.

- 4.4 Following the proposed revision to the CSA priorities it is recommended that the action plan is also reviewed and refreshed to ensure it reflects the new focus areas. It is recommended that the new Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) support the work of the KCSP Working Group in delivery of the new action plan.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 Finalise the updated priorities for the Community Safety Agreement following provision of the final priorities from district/borough CSPs and with agreement from partner organisations.
- 5.2 Update the Kent Community Safety Agreement accordingly and publish the refreshed document on the Kent.gov website.
- 5.3 Review and refresh the action plan to take account of the new priorities and work with the members of the Kent Community Safety Team to implement and action with partners.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is asked to agree that the priorities within the Community Safety Agreement should be amended based on the outcomes of the review, although this is subject to the final outcomes of the district/borough strategic assessments and any additional partnership feedback.
- 6.2 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is asked to note the progress and actions undertaken by partners with regards the current CSA action plan.

Attachments:

Appendix A: Draft CSA Annual Review - March 2016

For Further Information:

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