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To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 19th July 2017

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

Summary This report includes details of the refreshed Kent Community Safety Agreement action plan and feedback on 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 previous version of the CSA covered the three year period of 2014-17 and was reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis. This Agreement came to an end on 31st March 2017.

2.2 During the lifetime of the previous CSA (2014-17) a number of new pieces of legislation were introduced and a variety of emerging issues identified that placed a greater emphasis on safeguarding. As a result the CSA priorities changed over the years to have a greater focus on safeguarding as well as supporting victims / vulnerable people. This focus has continued in the most recent refresh of the CSA which was agreed by members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) at the last meeting:

Priorities

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Road Safety

Cross Cutting Themes

- Early intervention, prevention & education
- Reducing re-offending and supporting victims
- Improving quality of life and enhancing community resilience

2.3 In addition to agreeing the above priorities and cross-cutting themes the partnership also agreed that the CSA should become a rolling document rather than covering a set three-year period. The Agreement will continue to be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis with relevant Chapters and appendices being updated as appropriate.

3.0 Action Plan Development

- 3.1 Following the development of the new Kent Community Safety Agreement the action plan has been refreshed by members of the KCSP Working Group to ensure that it appropriately reflects the updated priorities and cross-cutting themes. A draft of the new plan is attached for information (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The plan includes the key pieces of work that are being delivered by community safety partners across the county linking in with other multi-agency groups where possible, including the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group, the Kent and Medway Road Casualty Reduction Partnership, the Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy, Safeguarding Boards etc.
- 3.3 Since the last refresh of the action plan at the start of 2016/17 some of the actions are now complete and as such have been removed from the updated plan, these include the joint Community Safety Conference on Drugs (2016), the Commissioning of Domestic Abuse Services and the joint Drug and Alcohol Strategy. All of which were delivered by a variety of multi-agency partnerships involving community safety partners.
- 3.4 Although the plan has been refreshed, a number of actions are ongoing and will remain within the document such as Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), information sharing and continuing to raise awareness across partners on a variety of issues, as well as training/ workshops on issues such as Online Safety and Road Safety (Licence to Kill). Whilst new actions have been added including this year's annual Community Safety Conference (2017), the projects that have received funding as well as a range of other activities.
- 3.5 It should be noted that the format of the action plan has also changed for 2017/18 following a recent audit of community safety activities. One of the recommendations was to include more outcome focused actions within the plan with specific goals and timelines. Therefore this refreshed plan now includes details about the overall aim for each priority, the planned outcomes, what actions will be taken, how delivery will be measured and reported and who will co-ordinate activity or feedback.
- 3.6 KCSP members are invited to feedback on both the updated format of the draft action plan and the content itself. The action plan will remain a living document and will be reviewed, monitored and updated as appropriate throughout the year by the KCSP Working Group.

4.0 Performance Monitoring

- 4.1 In addition to monitoring the action plan the KCSP Working Group also monitors a set of proxy indicators chosen to represent the key priorities. Of the indicators monitored, the partnership is asked to note the following focus areas are being monitored:
- 4.2 Domestic Abuse - the number of reported incidents, MARAC referrals and visitors attending domestic abuse one stop shops show an increase. As previously mentioned this adds significant pressure to agencies (voluntary and statutory partners), however with the newly commissioned and jointly funded Domestic Abuse Services now in place, pressures on delivery, demand and resources will be able to be monitored across the County.

- 4.3 Road Safety – the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on roads in Kent and Medway has gone up by more than a third, an increase which appears to be similar to the national picture. Whilst the number of seriously injured has increased, people being killed on the road has fallen. The increased number of serious injuries is, in part, likely to be related to a change in police reporting where some slight injuries are now categorised as serious injuries. Most incidents are still down to driver behaviour and the multi-agency Road Casualty Reduction Partnership continues to work together to identify and deliver collective interventions and campaigns targeting specific road user groups. At a recent workshop on 5th June, those key partners came together to identify further opportunities for joint working.
- 4.4 The KCSP Working Group and its members will continue to monitor the proxy indicators that support delivery of the CSA and to highlight any issues or concerns to the Kent Community Safety Partnership.

5.0 Crime Statistics

- 5.1 Whilst the KCSP Working Group does not have a performance indicator relating to 'all crime', KCSP members are asked to note that in Kent there has been an increase in recorded crime but it is important to recognise that there are a number of administrative and sociological factors behind some of the statistics.
- 5.2 All forces in England and Wales are improving the way they record crime in line with national guidelines which is victim-orientated. This further strengthens Kent Police's mission to put victims at the heart of what it does but this focus on victims for crime recording has provided some anomalies.
- 5.3 For example, a crime involving a protester who throws a bottle of fluid into a crowd would have previously been recorded as a single public order offence. Now, due to changes in recording practices, this is recorded as 32 violent crime reports because the fluid landed on 32 people in the crowd. This means there are 32 victims, not 32 protesters each throwing a bottle of fluid. Victim based crime has therefore seen an increase in reports in 2016/17 compared to the same period the previous year. Violent crime has been a key category responsible for the increase in victim based crime, however, 80 per cent of the increase in violent crime relates to offences where the victims have not suffered an injury.
- 5.4 The impact of improved crime recording practices extends to serious sexual offences as well while many crimes are being recorded at the first point of closure, including from third parties where the victim is not yet identified. This, coupled with increased confidence amongst victims to report serious sexual offences and domestic abuse, means more offences both recent and non-recent are being disclosed to officers. The emergence of new crime types and classifications, such as cybercrime, modern slavery and human trafficking, have also added to crime statistics for every force where in previous years crimes of this nature were not as well understood or recorded as they are now.

6.0 Crime Data Integrity

- 6.1 On 15 June 2017, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary published an assessment on the accuracy of crime recording in Kent which found its police force was recording approximately 84 per cent of the crimes reported to it. Based on set

criteria, Kent Police was graded as 'inadequate' when it comes to crime recording accuracy.

- 6.2 Chief Constable Alan Pughsley has accepted the findings and the force has responded quickly to make the necessary changes including a new comprehensive training package for officers and staff responsible for recording crime and a change in the way those decisions are scrutinised by supervisors. There has already been a marked improvement for Kent's crime recording accuracy since these changes were implemented.
- 6.3 While there were a number of instances identified by HMIC where a crime had not been accurately recorded; victims' needs were responded to, an effective investigation was conducted and safeguarding was provided to victims.
- 6.4 The report also acknowledged that officers and staff approach crime recording in a positive and ethical way and have no desire to under-record crime and HMIC has agreed to work with Kent Police, at the force's request, to help make crime recording in Kent the best it can be.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) members are asked to note the changes to the draft action plan which supports delivery of the refreshed Community Safety Agreement.
- 7.2 KCSP members are asked to provide feedback on the content and format of the draft action plan either at the meeting or via email to Shirley Brinson by 31st July 2017.
- 7.3 KCSP members are asked to note the areas that have been highlighted, by the KCSP Working Group, with regards performance measures and the actions being taken by partners to address them.

Attachments:

Appendix 1: Draft Community Safety Agreement Action Plan

For Further Information:

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