

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

NOTES of a meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership held in the Medway Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 8 October 2019.

PRESENT: Mr M Hill, OBE (Chairman), Mr J Rivers (Vice-Chairman), Ms C Allen, Ms C Axon-Peters, Ms S Brinson, Ms C Collin, Ms L Connor, Mr A Harper, Mr C King, Ms K Leigh, Ms A Oates, Mr M Overbeke, Mr S Peerbux, Mr M Powell, Mr A Pritchard, Mr M Rhodes, Ms S Vaux, Ms V Widden and Mr N Wilkinson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms E Weaver (KRF Senior Brexit Resilience Officer) , Mr P Barrington-King (Member for Tunbridge Wells East & Chairman of the Select Committee) , Ms S Ms Annan-Veitch (Policy Adviser) , Mr T Woodhouse (Kent and Medway STP Suicide Prevention Programme Manager) , Miss G Little (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

237. Introduction

(Item A1)

238. Notes of meeting held on 17 July 2019

(Item A4)

It was RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 are a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman subject to the rectification of the typographic error within minute 233.1 and 234.1.

239. Kent Community Safety Agreement Update

(Item B1)

1. Ms Brinson (Community Safety Team Leader, Public Protection, KCC) introduced the report that detailed the progress of the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) action plan and the upcoming strategic assessments. Ms Brinson confirmed that one new action had been added to the CSA action plan to 'support and implement changes to the Kent Community Safety Partnership as a result of new legislation around tackling serious violence' and guidance that was due to be produced by the Government to explain the various partnership models. The CSA action plan and performance measures would continue to be monitored with ongoing assessments to identify emerging issues. Work had also started on the collation of data for the annual strategic assessment process to identify local priorities and cross-cutting themes; an update report would be present to the KCSP in March 2020.
2. The officer responded to comments and questions as follows:
 - (a) Ms Brinson said that the Government consultation proposed that each agency should have its own primary legislation and proposed an amendment to the

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence was an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships,

3. It was RESOLVED that the progress of the Community Safety Agreement, be noted.

240. Kent Community Safety Partnership Working Group Update

(Item B2)

1. Mr Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, Public Protection, KCC) provided an update on the key activities and projects managed on behalf of the Kent Community Safety Partnership by the Working Group. Mr Peerbux outlined some of the projects funded by the Police and Crime Commissioners Crime Reduction Grant including the community safety conference that is planned for early next year and the topic will be based on an identified need.
2. Mr Peerbux referred to the success of the recent Trading Standards event entitled 'Scams: The True Cost – Working Together to Tackle Financial Abuse' which was held on 1 October 2019 and highlighted the local work of Trading Standards, the Community Wardens and partners as well as the traumatic effect on victims
3. Mr Peerbux also briefed the KCSP on the next phase of work that was due to be carried out by the Kent Community Safety Team. This included working with the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB) on the annual Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week (SAAW) campaign (7th-11th October), and the Hate Crime Awareness Week campaign (12th-19th October). As mentioned at the last KCSP, a questionnaire had been devised as part of the continuous improvement of the KCST and this was due to be circulated to local district CSPs.
4. Mr Peerbux welcomed Chief Inspector Lara Connor to the KCSP with extended thanks to Chief Inspector Guy Thompson for his continued support to the KCSP throughout the interim period.
5. It was RESOLVED that progress and actions undertaken by the Working Group and the work of the KCST, be noted.

241. Mental Health Update

(Item B3)

1. Mr Harper (Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) provided an update on the disproportionate use of Section 136 detentions within Kent, the challenges presented to Kent Police and the ongoing projects funded by the Police and the Crime Commissioner to help reduce demand on police resources.
2. He informed the KCSP that one of the initiatives funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner was Op Concern. The pilot scheme was a joint initiative between Kent Police and Kent Search & Rescue (KSAR), whereby volunteer patrol teams would be deployed to low risk welfare incidents in a bid to reduce pressure on police forces. Mr Harper said that the initiative followed concerns about the rising number of welfare calls and that "over 50% of the incidents were mental health related". Mr Harper noted that whilst pressure had been alleviated from Police

resources, there was a significant need for additional resources within the voluntary sector.

3. Mr Harper said that the current data revealed a disproportionate use of S136 detentions by Kent Police compared to other task forces in the UK and acknowledged that there was a clear anomaly in Kent that needed to be understood. Mr Harper assured the KCSP that Kent Police were committed to working with partner agencies to understand the challenges and said that Matthew Scott (Police and Crime Commissioner) sat on the Independent Review Panel and the Advisory Groups, amongst senior representatives from a number of partner agencies, that helped to inform Government's response. Kent Police were also due to hold an assessment day to understand the disparity in the data captured across the various services and to agree a standardised format which would ensure a consistent and standardised approach when carrying out a comparative analysis on the use of S136s across the UK.
4. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) had agreed in January 2019 that the National Police Chiefs Council for Mental Health and the College of Policing should draft and agree a new national definition of mental ill-health for inclusion within the new national strategy on policing and mental health. All forces would be expected to adopt the agreed definition as soon as reasonably practicable.
5. In regard to the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb), the conveyancing of persons with a Mental Health condition remained an issue. Kent Police were working with partners to resolve the pressures on the ambulance service; an update would be provided in due course.
6. Mr Harper commended the success of the Mental Health Policing Teams which had been established to protect the rights of vulnerable individuals in challenging environments.
7. Mr Harper and Mr Pritchard (Chief Superintendent, Kent Police) responded to comments and questions as follows:
 - (a) Mr Harper welcomed the suggestion to hold a focus day within the summer and winter period and agreed to review the possibility of accommodating the request.
 - (b) In response to queries regarding Mental Health first-aid training, Mr Pritchard informed the KCSP that the Mental Health Team currently sat within the Victim Justice Directorate, however, following the recent restructure, the decision was taken to transfer the team under Chief Inspector Lara Connor's jurisdiction; Mr Pritchard confirmed that the required level of training would be put in place following completion of the transfer. Mr Pritchard advocated the need for strengthened partnership working in order to fully support the work of the Community Safety Partnership and associated services that dealt with issues around trauma, mental health, alcohol, drugs etc. and these would be better supported under Mr Pritchard's directorate.
 - (c) Mr Harper informed the KCSP that repeat presenters had a significant impact on Police resources, however, work was being done in partnership with the

KSAR voluntary service to develop bespoke individual plans for those people to either prevent them from entering into a state of crisis or to help divert them from entering into the care of emergency services. One of the options that had been explored was the Folkstone Safe Haven pilot project which offered an alternative Place of Safety for Kent Police and this would be in operation from January 2020. The project had been supported by local NHS mental health services and professionally trained volunteers, along with Kent Police, SECamb and the Kent and Medway Partnership Trust for Mental Health. Mr Harper said that the service would be open 365 days of the year at various peak times throughout the day and would help to deescalate the number of potential S136 cases. In regard to the conveyance of persons to Safe Havens, Mr Harper said that a joint initiative had been explored with Kent Police Specials and the ambulance service to review the use of fast response cars to transfer those experiencing a mental health crisis to Safe Haven locations.

8. Mr Hill welcomed the proposal for an update report to be presented at a future KCSP meeting.
9. It was RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.

242. Violence Reduction Update

(Item C1)

1. Mr Harper (Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) introduced the report that set out the some of the key actions taken by the Commissioner in conjunction with partners to tackle violent crime and its causes; and provided an update on the funding received from the Home Office to support the various streams of activity.
2. Mr Harper noted that whilst Kent did not suffer from the same level of violence as the inner-cities, Kent still faced unique challenges linked to county lines which operated out of London and other areas.
3. In July 2019, nine projects received Violence Reduction funding (to access further information please click [here](#)).
4. An additional £35m was allocated to Police and Crime Commissioners nationally from the Home Secretary to set up multi-agency Violence Reduction Units (VRUs). Mr Harper said that whilst there was no limitation in the number of partners involved, Kent had to spend the allocated £1.16m by March 2020. Mr Harper paid thanks to all partner agencies involved and said that the funding had started to be utilised.
5. Subsequent to Mr Harper's comments, Mr Pritchard (Chief Superintendent, Kent Police) informed the KCSP that the money would support the development of the Violence Reduction Units for the first seven to eight months of their existence and to build a robust data tool. An Expression of Interest had been submitted for a number of new coordinator and analyst roles which would be paramount to the development of the VRUs; since publication of the report the roles had been advertised and Mr Pritchard had started to identify strategic leads.

6. Mr Harper announced that following the success of the Margate taskforce, the Violence Reduction Challenge report recommended the creation of a multi-agency taskforce in Medway to enable partners to work closer in tackling some of the underlying causes of crime, including vulnerable people, drugs and cuckooing.
7. Mr Hill welcomed the proposal for an update report to be presented at a future KCSP meeting.
8. It was RESOLVED that the update report be noted.

243. Select Committee on Knife Crime in Kent

(Item C2)

1. Mr Barrington-King (Chairman of the Select Committee on Knife Crime in Kent) introduced the report that set out the key activities undertaken by the Select Committee on Knife Crime and provided an outline of the Knife Crime Committee Report including the key points and recommendations that were due to be presented to County Council on 17 October 2019. Mr Barrington-King highlighted his gratitude for the cross-party involvement and the extensive amount of research conducted by both officers and Members.
2. Mr Barrington-King responded to comments and questions as follows:
 - (a) In response to comments regarding the recommendation of the Select Committee to promote high-quality, standardised training on knife crime in all Kent schools, Mr Barrington-King acknowledged that training had started to be delivered in schools, however, the principle concern was whether children were receiving a consistent message. The evidence submitted to the Select Committee suggested that there was not a consistent and standardised approach in raising awareness in schools and that more Teachers needed to receive the correct training. In response to whether there was the option to extend training and the responsibility of raising awareness outside of the KCSP and into the wider communities, Mr Barrington-King welcomed the suggestion and said that if Kent County Council developed a successful model which could be trialled within schools, then there was the potential for it to be deployed in other areas.
 - (b) In response to comments regarding the recommendation of the Select Committee to establish a multi-disciplinary, operational group whose remit is to ensure the implementation and delivery of strategic objectives to address knife crime and violence through a public health approach; and the proposal to amend the recommendation to include reference to the Police and Crime Commissioner having the power to hold the Chief Inspector to account and increased stop and search activities, Mr Barrington-King informed the KCSP that the Select Committee could not instruct Kent Police but could support them through partnership working. Kent Police were invited to attend the witness hearing session and provided comprehensive answers. A number of projects were being developed and delivered by Kent Police and a report detailing the objectives and outcomes of those work streams would be published in due course.

- (c) In response to comments regarding the recommendation of the Select Committee for a more proactive approach to the promotion of the responsible sale of knives by local retailers and the proposal for Kent Trading Standards to run a pilot scheme, Mr Barrington-King informed the KCSP that Trading Standards recognised the need for quality assurance from retailers and that several national initiatives to control and limit the sale of knives had been explored and trailed. The Select Committee report detailed the work that continued to be carried out by Kent Trading Standards and the need for additional funding to help support the suggested pilot schemes.
 - (d) In response to comments regarding the recommendation of the Select Committee for Kent County Council to pilot and evaluate a scheme such as the Youth Zone to extend youth service provision in the county, and why the primary focus was only in deprived areas, Mr Barrington-King said that the pilot followed models that have been successful in other areas outside of Kent which were set in deprived areas. The pilot will have its effectiveness assessed and evaluated which would then help inform future policy and should the Youth Zone prove to be a success, it would then support the need for other Youth Zones across the county.
 - (e) With regard to the opportunities available to those that have been imprisoned through acts of criminal violence, Mr Barrington-King said that the residents of HMP Stanford Hill indicated a willingness to educate and mentor offenders using their own experiences and life lessons and that opportunities such as mentoring roles needed to be explored and recruited into.
 - (f) Mr Barrington-King assured the KCSP that resilience programmes for young people in Kent had been acknowledged along with various examples of good practice.
 - (g) Mr Barrington-King informed the KCSP that the Select Committee recommendations were designed to complement the work already being carried out, not duplicate it and hoped to support partner agencies without replicating the excellent work that was already in operation.
 - (h) Mr Barrington-King said that the report advocated the need for a more proactive and collaborative approach which promoted intelligence sharing and said that Kent County Council hoped to play a pivotal role in assisting partner agencies to tackle knife crime.
3. Mr Hill informed the KCSP that following approval of the recommendations at County Council on 17 October 2019, an action plan would be devised, and it would be the responsibility of the portfolio holders to take those actions forward. Mr Hill welcomed the proposal for an update report to be presented at a future KCSP meeting.
 4. It was RESOLVED that the key activities undertaken by the Knife Crime Select Committee, and its report, be noted.

244. Preparations for Brexit

(Item C3)

1. Miss Weaver (KRF Senior Brexit Resilience Officer) presented a series of slides that set out Kent's response to the EU exit and the work carried out by the Kent Resilience Forum to understand the impact on Kent and contingency capabilities.
2. Miss Weaver advised the partnership to stay informed of the progress by visiting the Kent Prepared website (please click [here](#)) which supports local communities prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.
3. It was RESOLVED that the information set out in the presentation and given in response to comments and questions be noted.

245. Suicide Prevention Update

(Item C4)

1. Mr Woodhouse (Suicide Prevention Programme Manager) introduced the report that provided an update on the suicide prevention programme, including the latest headline statistics and commentary, an update on the quality improvement and system leadership elements of the programme, details of the recent mental health Summit held in Thanet on 19th September, an update on the research with the coroner's office; and wider programme updates.
2. Mr Woodhouse referred in particular to the national three-year rolling suicide rate figures detailed within the report and was pleased to announce that Kent's suicide rates were falling and that male suicides in Kent were below the national average for the first time in five years. Mr Woodhouse recognised the extensive amount of work that still needed to be done to address suicide prevention and welcomed comments in response to the report to strengthen future delivery.
3. The officer responded to comments and questions as follows:
 - (a) In response to whether the clinical pathway intervention for those with co-occurring conditions (both mental health and substance misuse) would focus on adults or children, Mr Woodhouse said that the details were yet to be confirmed, however, the intention was to focus on adults. Ms Mookherjee informed the KCSP that suicide was the most critical and most common cause of early death in adults who suffered from ill mental health and substance misuse. A multidisciplinary approach needed to be adopted across the health sector and it was important to ensure that good practice was being implemented and applied effectively. However, Addaction were working closely with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) within Kent.
4. It was RESOLVED that the progress made in implementing the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Strategy, be noted.

246. Kent and Medway Reducing Offending Board Update

(Item C5)

1. Ms Allen (Kent, Surrey and Sussex, Community Rehabilitation Company) introduced the report that provided an update on the Kent & Medway Reducing Offending Board (KMROB) and referred in particular to the priority objectives and key outputs for 2019/20. This included the ongoing challenge to house offenders with complex needs, including those that had left prison after serving lengthy sentences. Ms Allen informed the KCSP that following the Board's recently commissioned report the KSS CRC were able to secure 10 bed spaces supported through funding from the 'Your Ambition' charitable sector and delivered in partnership with Maidstone Borough Council. The bed spaces would be available for current service users and the service would be run by Pathways to Independence, who had a long history of working with offenders and assisting them in resettling in the community.
2. Ms Allen said that positive steps had been made in relation to women in Kent and Medway. The first Kent and Medway Women's Forum took place on 1st May which saw a wide range of specialist agencies as well as universal services in attendance. Since the initial meeting a Terms of Reference has been agreed and a further two meetings have taken place.
3. In regard to Integrated Offender Management (IOM), Ms Allen informed the KCSOP that an updated Operational Guide was issued in April as a result of a workshop to review the current arrangements and simplify the priority groups to prevent duplication and confusion. A multi-agency audit to assess the extent to which the new guidance had been embedded would take place in the New Year.
4. The officer responded to comments and questions as follows:
 - (a) With regard to employment for offenders, a significant degree of work had been undertaken already to support those coming out of prison to find jobs, this included mock interview sessions, assistance in writing CVs and a range of other employer engagement strategies such as job fairs to help improve their chances of entering the job market. Ms Allen informed the KCSP that KCC CRC worked closely with employers to encourage companies to recruit offenders and noted the level of support provided by companies on both a national and local level.
 - (b) In response to whether it was possible to analyse individual needs using the IOM data, Ms Allen informed the KCSP that there was a two-year data set which the Minister of Justice produced, however, the way in which the data was collated would not allow the KSS CRC to analyse an individual's needs.
5. It was RESOLVED that the update report be noted.

247. Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Consultation Feedback (Item C6)

1. Mr Weiss (Head of Head start Kent) and Ms Annan-Veitch (Policy Advisor) provided an update on the feedback received following the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy consultation. The general feedback illustrated a strong degree of support for the Strategy, which was reflected within the comments, however, there was a recurring concern around the resources available to deliver the Strategy. Mr Weiss informed the KCSP that the Strategy was largely

aspirational, however, had been revised to include a section on the commissioning and collaborative working aspect to address the resourcing issues and to help inform future funding opportunities should they arise. The strategies action plan would also be devised with the intent to give a clear breakdown in external funding opportunities. Other feedback received suggested that the strategy was not clear and that it was conflicting, however, Mr Weiss informed the KCSP that the primary objective of the Domestic Abuse Strategy was to simultaneously reduce and prevent domestic abuse across Kent, it was not intended to strictly do one or the other. Mr Weiss said that the Strategy would be revised to ensure that message was clearly represented.

2. Ms Annan-Veitch informed the KCSP that the document would be revised following the feedback received from the consultation, however, informed the KCSP that due to the extensive involvement from various partners, it would require sign off from 20 other stakeholders before it could formally be agreed.
3. Mr Weiss concluded that the next stage of the process was to revise the strategy and produce an action plan which could be circulated to the Domestic Abuse Executive Group by the end of November 2019.
4. It was RESOLVED that the update report be noted and request that the strategy and associated action plan be brought back to a future meeting of the KCSP.

248. Date of next meeting

(Item D1)

It was RESOLVED that members noted the date of the next meeting which was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 18 March 2020.

249. Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) Update

(Item E1)

1. Mr Peerbux (Head of Community Safety, Public Protection, KCC) provided an update on Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).
2. It was RESOLVED that the update be noted.

250. PREVENT Duty Delivery Board Update

(Item E2)

1. Mr Wilkinson (Prevent and Chanel Strategic Manager, KCC) provided an update on the local and national activity in relation to the Prevent Duty, including the progress that had been made following the Home Office's designation of Kent and Medway as a Prevent priority area from 1st April 2019.
2. For further information on the Governments 'Commission for Countering Extremism: Challenging Hateful Extremism', please click [here](#).
3. It was RESOLVED that the update be noted.

251. Risk, Threats and Vulnerabilities Group Update

(Item E3)

1. Mr Wilkinson (Prevent and Chanel Strategic Manager, KCC) provided an update on the Kent and Medway Risk, Threats and Vulnerabilities Group.
2. It was RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.