

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the

## MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL



Date: Wednesday 12 April 2017

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Town Hall, High Street,  
Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Adkinson, Barned, Mrs Blackmore,  
Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton,  
Butler (Mayor), Clark, Cox, Cuming,  
Daley, Ells, English, Fermor,  
Fissenden, Fort, Garland, Garten,  
Mrs Gooch, Greer, Mrs Grigg, Harper,  
Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Hemsley,  
Mrs Hinder, Joy, Lewins, McLoughlin,  
B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford,  
Naghi, Newton, Perry, Pickett, Powell,  
Prendergast, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson,  
Round, J Sams, T Sams, Springett,  
Mrs Stockell, Vizzard, Webb, Webster,  
de Wiggondene, Wilby, Willis and  
Mrs Wilson

Continued Over/:

---

**Issued on 4 April 2017**

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEBBIE SNOOK on 01622 602030**. To find out more about the work of the Council, please visit [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

*Alison Broom*

**Alison Broom, Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council,  
Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ**

---

## **AGENDA**

Page No.

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Dispensations (if any)
4. Disclosures by Members and Officers
5. Disclosures of Lobbying
6. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information.
7. Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough Council held on 1 March 2017 1 - 18
8. Mayor's Announcements
9. Petitions
10. Question and Answer Session for Members of the Public
11. Questions from Members of the Council to the Chairmen of Committees
12. Current Issues - Report of the Leader of the Council, Response of the Group Leaders and Questions from Council Members
13. Report of the Democracy Committee held on 8 March 2017 - Amendments to the Constitution 19 - 21
14. Report of the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee Acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee held on 14 February 2017 and 28 March 2017 - 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh and 2017-18 Strategic Assessment 22 - 75
15. Oral Report of the Heritage Culture and Leisure Committee to be held on 4 April 2017 (if any)
16. Oral Report of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee to be held on 11 April 2017 (if any)

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

In order to book a slot to speak at this meeting of the Council, please contact Debbie Snook on 01622 602030 or by email on [debbiesnook@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:debbiesnook@maidstone.gov.uk) by 5.00 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting. If asking a question, you will need to provide the full text in writing and specify the Councillor to whom it is to be put. If making a statement, you will need to say which agenda item you wish to speak on. Please note that slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE ON 1 MARCH 2017**

**Present:** Councillor Butler (The Mayor) and Councillors Adkinson, Barned, Mrs Blackmore, Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Clark, Cox, Cuming, Daley, Ells, English, Fermor, Fissenden, Fort, Garland, Garten, Mrs Gooch, Greer, Harper, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Hemsley, Mrs Hinder, Mrs Joy, Lewins, McLoughlin, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Perry, Pickett, Powell, Prendergast, Revell, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Round, J Sams, T Sams, Springett, Mrs Stockell, Vizzard, Webb, de Wiggondene, Wilby, Willis and Mrs Wilson

93. **MINUTE'S SILENCE**

The Council stood in silence for one minute in memory of Sir John Wells, a former Member of Parliament for Maidstone, and a Freeman of the Borough, who died on 8 February 2017.

94. **PRAYERS**

Prayers were said by the Reverend Ian Parrish.

95. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Grigg and Webster.

96. **DISPENSATIONS**

There were no applications for dispensations.

97. **DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

The Chief Executive, on behalf of herself and all other members of staff present, disclosed an interest in the report of the Employment Committee relating to the Pay Policy Statement 2017.

98. **DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING**

All Members stated that they had been lobbied on the notice of motion given by Councillor Harper, seconded by Councillor Adkinson, relating to the Council's Integrated Transport and Cycling/Walking Strategies.

99. EXEMPT ITEMS

**RESOLVED:** That the items on the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

100. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2016

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Borough Council held on 7 December 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

101. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor updated Members on recent and forthcoming mayoral engagements, and thanked them, the Deputy Mayor and former Mayors for their support.

During his announcements, the Mayor made specific reference to the deaths of Sir John Wells, Member of Parliament for Maidstone between 1959 and 1987, and Monsieur Gilbert Froment, former Mayor of Montauban de Picardie, who was known to a number of Members of the Council.

102. PETITIONS

Councillor Harper presented a petition in the following terms:

*We object to the plans by Oakwood Park Grammar School and Saint Augustine's Academy to close the public access and fence off the whole of the Oakwood Park playing fields. We want to keep public access to the site and leave them open as they have been since the 1940's.*

Councillor Harper said that the petition, in the form of a letter and reply slip, had been collected over the period 18 December 2016 to early January 2017. Over 150 reply slips had been returned.

The public had enjoyed uncontrolled access to the Oakwood Park playing fields since before the Second World War, and statements were available to confirm this. The public had been able to use the site before the schools were laid out and had used the site jointly with the schools since they were built. Taking this into account, there were concerns about the lack of consultation regarding the enclosure of the land.

The community wished to see the site returned to a shared use, with the schools having use during the school day and the community having use at other times. The fencing had been erected over the last two weeks, and the work was likely to be completed the next day. St Augustine's Academy had stated that the fencing was required in the interests of safeguarding pupils and staff, but local residents maintained that the school rarely used its part of the playing fields. Oakwood Park Grammar School did, however, use its part of the playing fields on a regular basis.

An application had been made for the playing fields to be designated as a town green to give full public access, and a general right of way across the site would also be claimed through presumed dedication.

During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that a compromise should be sought if possible. Whilst this was a matter for Kent County Council, it was appropriate for Borough Council Members to provide advice and support, and that was what they had done.

The petition was referred to Kent County Council as the decision making body.

#### 103. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

##### **Questions to the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

Mr Brian Flinders asked the following question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee:

*Is the banning of community access to Oakwood Park as a result of fencing off by St Augustine Academy and Oakwood Park a major loss to the community in west Maidstone? This is in the context of the Department for Communities and Local Government cross party inquiry report (11 February 2017) identifying the community benefits of access to parks of increased fitness, better mental health and community cohesion.*

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources replied that:

Looking at the first sentence of your question, clearly, the community does believe this to be the case, and what people believe makes the loss real to them. To link this to your statement about how this relates to the Department for Communities and Local Government cross party inquiry report, everyone who has fought for open spaces believes the report to be correct in terms of the community benefits of access to parks – increased fitness, better mental health and community cohesion. The problem here is that the Council does not own the land and has no jurisdiction over it. Several Councillors, including some County Councillors, have looked in detail at the history to see if weight can be added to the view that there should be open access. It appears that when Kent County Council acquired the land it was for educational use. The fact that people have had access to the land for a very long time would have to be tested by the community through the various methods open to them, but again apart from Councillors assisting in the process, there is nothing else the Council can do as it has no jurisdiction over Oakwood Park.

I think that our sympathies are with you, but there is nothing else that the Council can do other than what has been done already. I do agree that the schools have handled this badly because of the lack of consultation, but that is in the past and we have to move forward as best we can. It is appropriate for the petition objecting to the enclosure of the land to be referred to Kent County Council as the responsible body.

The Mayor then asked if any Group Leader/representative present would also like to respond.

Councillor Mrs Blackmore, the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Barned, on behalf of the Leader of the UKIP Group, and Councillor Harper, the Leader of the Labour Group, responded to the question.

Mr Flinders asked the following supplementary question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee:

*Oakwood Park is midway on the route between Cornwallis Park and Clare Park. The gates to these parks are locked and unlocked by Borough Council operatives at dusk and dawn. Without any commitment would the Council be willing to consider in partnership with the residents' group a proposal that the Council lock and unlock a gate at Oakwood Park if that approach can be negotiated and agreed with the schools?*

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources replied that:

The Council has already looked at this, and whilst we would like to assist the cost is quite prohibitive. It is not just a question of locking and unlocking the gate, it is the responsibility that goes with it when this has been done. Insurance cover is required and with this responsibilities are accrued that are not appropriate.

The Council does take this very seriously, and has tried to find ways around it. Whether people use it or not, Oakwood Park is a green lung for the west side of the town. The fear is that in the future the schools may wish to expand buildings on the site, and that would impinge, but again the Council would be limited in what it can do. We do sympathise, but it is almost impossible to find a practical way that the Council can assist other than by giving advice on processes that residents can follow themselves.

The Mayor then asked if any Group Leader/representative present would also like to respond.

Councillor Mrs Blackmore, the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Barned, on behalf of the Leader of the UKIP Group, and Councillor Harper, the Leader of the Labour Group, responded to the question.

#### **Questions to the Chairman of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee**

Mr Stuart Jeffery asked the following question of the Chairman of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee:

*As air pollution is the second largest cause of preventable deaths and as it is responsible for around 130 deaths in this Borough each year, can the*

*Council tell me what steps you are taking or are proposing to take to reduce the pollution?*

The Chairman of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee replied that:

The Council is committed to reducing the impact of poor air quality on residents of the Borough and has been implementing its adopted Air Quality Action Plan produced in 2008 in order to achieve this aim. This has involved working with partners, for example, Kent County Council, bus operators and others.

Before saying anything further, I would just like to dwell on the figure of 130 deaths that you are quoting. I have been unable to trace the exact source of the figure of 130, but, to give context, if you take the study that found that air pollution might contribute to about 40,000 early deaths each year in the UK, of which 29,000 deaths might be related to particulates and 11,000 might be related to NO<sub>x</sub>, and look into the background, you will find that it emanates from a piece of work undertaken in North America which made the distinction that air pollution might have an impact on length of life rather than being the actual cause of deaths.

To put that into another context, a number of months of additional life expectancy in the context of air quality should be compared to a seven year reduction in life in areas of deprivation, which can mainly be attributed to housing quality.

However, putting all of these numbers to one side, I do not think any Member of this Council wants to breathe bad air or stand in the way of measures to improve things.

The Council currently has a working group looking at measures to revise our Air Quality Action Plan. Over the last few years this is a subject that I have taken a particular interest in, and I have attended many workshops, and one of the things I have discovered everywhere I go is that there is a significant concern about diesel vehicles, and there are many who forecast that the solution might be around electric vehicles.

The Modern Transport Bill announced in the Queen's Speech last year sets us on course to be a world leading country when considering alternatives to tackle congestion and the consequential air pollution.

One of the things I will be pushing for is that we might consider as a Council in the short term bringing in a Kent Air Quality Planning Guide. This document would set out very clearly the intention and direction of this Council and it would have measures, for example, to require developers to put in electric vehicle charging points in every new property with allocated parking and also in shared parking areas. This sounds like a small measure, but it is predicted that by 2040/47 almost all vehicles will be electric. What I would like us to look at is where we are now and where we want to be, and every year that we can make a 5%

improvement in the uptake of zero emission vehicles we will potentially be making a 5% improvement in air quality. However, we need to recognise that vehicle emissions are not the only causative agent for air pollution, and we have to look at other factors such as emissions from home boilers etc. In future, Planning Guidance might assist on this.

The point is that this Council is fully committed and actively working to see what measures we can put in place to improve air quality for Maidstone.

The Mayor then asked if any Group Leader/representative present would also like to respond.

Councillor Mrs Blackmore, the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor English, on behalf of the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Powell, the Leader of the UKIP Group, and Councillor Harper, the Leader of the Labour Group, responded to the question.

Mr Jeffery asked the following supplementary question of the Chairman of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee:

*How much worse will the air pollution get with the almost 20,000 houses that are being built on the periphery of Maidstone which at the moment require cars to be there, and can you tell me what the annual death toll is likely to increase to?*

The Chairman of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee replied that:

The very direct answer is no, but we are taking positive steps so that when we bring in the essential new development to provide the homes that the residents of our Borough need, we will take every measure possible to mitigate air pollution and congestion consequences. We will make sure that the correct educational facilities are provided. We will do everything we can to plan positively.

My vision between now and 2040/47, when we have got essentially an electrified vehicle fleet, is that air pollution will improve, improve and improve again. My vision is that the roads we drive down at the moment with dirty hedgerows etc. will become the nature reserves of the future when the pollution ends. I would like to see a steady progression of improvements between now and 2040.

The Mayor then asked if any Group Leader/representative present would also like to respond.

Councillor Mrs Blackmore, the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor English, on behalf of the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Mrs Gooch, the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor Powell, the Leader of the UKIP Group, and Councillor Harper, the Leader of the Labour Group, responded to the question.



104. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO THE CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

**Question to the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

Councillor Garten asked the following question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee:

*Various service reviews are about to be undertaken, please could all Members be informed which services are being reviewed, when the reviews are due to be completed and finally, what proposals are in place to ensure Member involvement in order that Members may have the opportunity to shape the outcome of these reviews from the very start?*

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee replied that:

A comprehensive review of the Planning service is currently being undertaken. The Council's Transformation and Planning teams are working in conjunction with an external consultancy to review processes and look at opportunities to make improvements. The objectives and outcomes were shared with the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee and the review is due to be completed in June 2017. Recommendations will be made to the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee following this. The ICT shared service will be reviewed in 2017/18 and, depending on Officer capacity, Street Cleansing may also be reviewed.

Member involvement is vital to the success of these reviews. Taking the review of the CCTV service as an example, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee were involved throughout, Members had the opportunity to respond to a survey, a workshop was held to which all Members were invited, and two reports were presented to the Committee for decision. There was, therefore, an opportunity for all Members to be involved.

The other reviews we intend to do will be handled in similar ways depending on the requirements of the review being undertaken. However, due to the nature of the service, the Planning review requires more in depth engagement with Members; so, there will be an opportunity for all Members and Substitute Members of the Planning and Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committees, plus the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of all other Committees and Group Leaders, to give their views through a focus group, which is currently being arranged. Other Members will have the opportunity to feed their views through any of these parties; so there will be opportunities for all Members to be involved right the way through the process.

105. CURRENT ISSUES - REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, RESPONSE OF THE GROUP LEADERS AND QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

There was no report from the Leader of the Council on this occasion.

106. REPORT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2017 - COUNCIL TAX EMPTY PROPERTY DISCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Wilson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, that the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to Council Tax Empty Property Discounts be approved.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council Tax Empty Property Discount Policy, attached as Appendix B to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be approved.

107. REPORT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2017 - STRATEGIC PLAN 2015/2020 (2017/18 REFRESH)

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Wilson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, that the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Strategic Plan 2015/2020, 2017/18 Refresh be approved.

**RESOLVED:** That the Strategic Plan 2015/2020, 2017/18 Refresh, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be approved.

108. REPORT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2017 - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017/18 ONWARDS

Before calling upon Councillor Mrs Wilson to move the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 onwards, the Mayor reminded Members that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.4, each Group Leader could speak for up to ten minutes when moving his/her Group's budget proposals.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Wilson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gooch, that the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 onwards be approved.

Amendment moved by Councillor Mrs Wilson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gooch, that the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 onwards be approved with the addition of the following and the consequential changes as indicated in the papers circulated:

4. That a 20% increase in planning fees effective from 1st July 2017 be agreed with a corresponding increase in the revenue estimates in the Strategic Revenue Projection and a corresponding increase in planning expenditure of £180,000 in 2017/18 and a further £70,000 in 2018/19.

As a consequence of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken on the amendment as follows:

FOR (53)

Councillors Adkinson, Barned, Mrs Blackmore, Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Butler, Clark, Cox, Cuming, Daley, Ells, English, Fermor, Fissenden, Fort, Garland, Garten, Mrs Gooch, Greer, Harper, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Hemsley, Mrs Hinder, Mrs Joy, Lewins, McLoughlin, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Perry, Pickett, Powell, Prendergast, Revell, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Round, J Sams, T Sams, Springett, Mrs Stockell, Vizzard, Webb, de Wiggondene, Wilby, Willis and Mrs Wilson

AGAINST (0)

ABSTENTIONS (0)

#### AMENDMENT CARRIED

Amendment moved by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, seconded by Councillor D Burton, that the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 onwards (as amended) be approved subject to the following and the consequential changes as indicated in the papers circulated:

That the revenue estimates set out in the Strategic Revenue Projection at Appendix A are amended to delete growth for the Museum in 2017/18 and 2018/19, reduce the provision for Contingency from £200,000 to £100,000 in 2017/18 and to create an earmarked reserve for Planning Enforcement of £150,000 to enable direct action should a case require escalated enforcement and add £100,000 to the Contingency provision in 2018/19 to make a total of £200,000.

As a consequence of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken on the amendment as follows:

FOR (23)

Councillors Barned, Mrs Blackmore, Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Butler, Cuming, Fort, Garland, Garten, Greer, Hemsley, Mrs Hinder, McLoughlin, Perry, Prendergast, Revell, Mrs Ring, Round, Springett, Mrs Stockell and de Wiggondene

AGAINST (30)

Councillors Adkinson, Clark, Cox, Daley, Ells, English, Fermor, Fissenden, Mrs Gooch, Harper, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Mrs Joy, Lewins, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Pickett, Powell, Mrs Robertson, J Sams, T Sams, Vizzard, Webb, Wilby, Willis and

Mrs Wilson

ABSTENTIONS (0)

AMENDMENT LOST

Amendment moved by Councillor Harper, seconded by Councillor Adkinson, that the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 onwards (as amended) be approved with the addition of the following and the consequential changes as indicated in the papers circulated:

That an amount of £30,000 be allocated in the General Fund Balance as a Community Development Fund. The purpose of the fund being to help develop local charities and not for profit organisations with one-off small funding up to a maximum of £5,000 to aid in the development of projects to encourage community cohesion and develop arts based projects to celebrate the cultural diversity of Maidstone, and to celebrate Maidstone.

Detailed proposals of how to allocate the fund be submitted to a future meeting of the Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee.

As a consequence of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken on the amendment as follows:

FOR (3)

Councillors Adkinson, Harper and Newton

AGAINST (41)

Councillors Barned, Mrs Blackmore, Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Butler, Clark, Cox, Cuming, Daley, Ells, Fermor, Fissenden, Fort, Garland, Garten, Mrs Gooch, Greer, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Hemsley, Mrs Hinder, Mrs Joy, Lewins, McLoughlin, D Mortimer, Munford, Perry, Powell, Prendergast, Revell, Mrs Ring, Round, Springett, Mrs Stockell, Webb, de Wiggondene, Wilby and Mrs Wilson

ABSTENTIONS (9)

Councillors English, B Mortimer, Naghi, Pickett, Mrs Robertson, J Sams, T Sams, Vizzard and Willis

AMENDMENT LOST

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

As a consequence of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken on the substantive motion as follows:

FOR (31)

Councillors Adkinson, Barned, Clark, Cox, Daley, Ells, English, Fermor, Fissenden, Mrs Gooch, Harper, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Mrs Joy, Lewins, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Pickett, Powell, Mrs Robertson, J Sams, T Sams, Vizzard, Webb, Wilby, Willis and Mrs Wilson

AGAINST (20)

Councillors Mrs Blackmore, Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Butler, Fort, Garland, Garten, Greer, Hemsley, McLoughlin, Perry, Prendergast, Revell, Mrs Ring, Round, Springett, Mrs Stockell and de Wiggondene

ABSTENTIONS (2)

Councillors Cuming and Mrs Hinder

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION CARRIED

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the revised revenue estimates for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee (circulated separately), be agreed.
2. That the minimum level of General Fund Balances be set at £2m for 2017/18.
3. That the proposed Council Tax of £245.61 at Band D for 2017/18 be agreed.
4. That a 20% increase in planning fees effective from 1st July 2017 be agreed with a corresponding increase in the revenue estimates in the Strategic Revenue Projection and a corresponding increase in planning expenditure of £180,000 in 2017/18 and a further £70,000 in 2018/19.
5. That the revenue estimates for 2017/18 incorporating the growth and savings items be agreed.
6. That the Statement of Earmarked Reserves and General Fund Balances, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed.
7. That the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed.
8. That the funding of the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed.

9. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy statements for revenue and capital, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed.
10. That the amended Strategic Revenue Projection, circulated at the meeting, be endorsed as the basis for future financial planning.
11. That it be noted that the Council's Council Tax Base for the year 2017/18 has been calculated as 59,439.3 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992.
12. That it be noted that in accordance with Government guidance the yield from business rates has been calculated as £56,789,676.
13. That it be noted that the individual parish area tax bases set out in Appendix B are calculated in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations and are the amounts of the Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of the Council's area to which a special item relates.
14. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 (excluding Parish precepts) is £14,598,886.
15. That the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011:-
  - (a) £87,749,013 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
  - (b) £71,484,720 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £16,264,293 being the amount by which the aggregate at 15(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 15(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 32(4) of the Act).
  - (d) £273.63 being the amount at 15(c) above (Item R), all divided by the figure stated at 11 above (Item T in the formula in Section 33(1) of the Act), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33 of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).

- (e) £1,665,923 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).
- (f) £245.61 being the amount at 15(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 15(e) above by the Tax Base given in 11 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

16. That it be noted that for the year 2017/18 Kent County Council, the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

<b><u>Valuation Bands</u></b>	<b><u>KCC PRECEPT</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>KCC ADULT SOCIAL CARE</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>KPCC</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>	<b><u>KMFRA</u></b> <b><u>£</u></b>
A	756.24	29.64	104.77	48.90
B	882.28	34.58	122.23	57.05
C	1008.32	39.52	139.69	65.20
D	1134.36	44.46	157.15	73.35
E	1386.44	54.34	192.07	89.65
F	1638.52	64.22	226.99	105.95
G	1890.60	74.10	261.92	122.25
H	2268.72	88.92	314.30	146.70

17. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 15 (d), and 16 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets out in Appendix C, the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2017/18 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

109. REPORT OF THE AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2017 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017/18

It was moved by Councillor McLoughlin, seconded by Councillor English, that the recommendation of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee relating to the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 be approved.

**RESOLVED:** That the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 and the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators, attached as Appendices A and B to the report of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee, be adopted.

110. REPORT OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2017 - GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES 2016/19

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Joy, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hinder, that the recommendations of the Licensing Committee relating to the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles 2016/19 be approved.

**RESOLVED:** That the Draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles 2016/19, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Licensing Committee, be adopted.

111. REPORT OF THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2017 - PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017

It was moved by Councillor Cox, seconded by Councillor Fissenden, that the recommendation of the Employment Committee relating to the Pay Policy Statement 2017 be approved.

**RESOLVED:** That the Pay Policy Statement, attached as Appendix B to the report of the Employment Committee, be approved for publication on the Council's website after 31 March 2017.

112. ORAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2017

There was no report from the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee on this occasion.

113. NOTICE OF MOTION - INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AND CYCLING/WALKING STRATEGIES

Councillor Harper, seconded by Councillor Adkinson, had given notice of the following motion:

- (1) That this Council objects to the current bus consultation which will reduce bus services to residents of the Borough both in urban and rural areas.
- (2) That this Council takes all necessary action to urge KCC to adopt the MBC Integrated Transport Strategy and Cycling and Walking Strategy.
- (3) That this Council recognises that cycling and walking are green non-polluting forms of transport as well as benefiting individuals' health and fitness.



In moving the motion, Councillor Harper, with the consent of the meeting and Councillor Adkinson, amended the first paragraph to read:

*That this Council expresses its great concern to Arriva about the reduction to bus services in urban and rural parts of the Borough because of the adverse impact that this will have for the public.*

The motion, as amended, was seconded by Councillor Adkinson.

With the agreement of the mover and the seconder, and the remainder of the Council, the second paragraph of the motion was amended to read:

That this Council takes all necessary action to urge KCC to *support* the MBC Integrated Transport Strategy and Cycling and Walking Strategy.

The Council voted on each part of the motion separately.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That this Council expresses its great concern to Arriva about the reduction to bus services in urban and rural parts of the Borough because of the adverse impact that this will have for the public.
2. That this Council takes all necessary action to urge KCC to support the MBC Integrated Transport Strategy and Cycling and Walking Strategy.
3. That this Council recognises that cycling and walking are green non-polluting forms of transport as well as benefiting individuals' health and fitness.

Councillors Brice, Perry and de Wiggondene requested that their dissent be recorded.

114. **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2017/18**

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor English, and

**RESOLVED:** That the Calendar of Meetings for 2017/18, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Head of Policy and Communications, be approved.

Note: Councillor Fissenden left the meeting after consideration of this item (9.45 p.m.).

115. **APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR SELECT 2017/18**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Blackmore, seconded by Councillor Daley, supported by Councillors Mrs Gooch, Barned and Harper, and

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Malcolm Greer be appointed as Mayor Select for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

116. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR SELECT 2017/18

It was moved by Councillor English, seconded by Councillor Butler, supported by Councillors Mrs Gooch, Newton and Harper, and

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor David Naghi be appointed as Deputy Mayor Select for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

117. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 9.55 p.m.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL TAX 2017/2018

Schedule of Council Tax Base and Additional Basic Amounts of

Council Tax in parts of the area with Parish Precepts

PARISH	TAX BASE	PRECEPT £	BAND 'D' TAX £
Barming	731.8	26,995	36.89
Bearsted	3,609.4	117,342	32.51
Boughton Malherbe	219.5	5,268	24.00
Boughton Monchelsea	1,357.0	60,237	44.39
Boxley	3,867.4	107,437	27.78
Bredhurst	174.1	10,000	57.44
Broomfield & Kingswood	711.3	55,500	78.03
Chart Sutton	411.4	21,000	51.05
Collier Street	362.6	13,385	36.91
Coxheath	1,547.3	68,500	44.27
Detling	383.2	22,922	59.82
Downswood	836.3	27,000	32.29
East Sutton	144.8	6,434	44.43
Farleigh East	666.1	47,598	71.46
Farleigh West	222.4	21,000	94.42
Harrietsham	1,077.9	93,945	87.16
Headcorn	1,504.3	144,484	96.05
Hollingbourne	444.6	22,600	50.83
Hunton	315.7	25,000	79.19
Langley	496.2	20,014	40.33
Leeds	334.0	30,898	92.51
Lenham	1,402.8	101,000	72.00
Linton	248.2	12,271	49.44
Loose	1,096.4	68,712	62.67
Marden	1,627.2	116,100	71.35
Nettlestead	308.3	16,434	53.30
Otham	284.1	10,466	36.84
Staplehurst	2,358.2	139,400	59.11
Stockbury	318.4	14,020	44.03
Sutton Valence	658.6	46,807	71.07
Teston	314.7	23,250	73.88
Thurnham	560.5	17,366	30.98
Tovil	1,346.7	71,052	52.76
Ulcombe	381.9	19,875	52.04
Yalding	972.3	61,612	63.37
		<b>1,665,923</b>	

**APPENDIX C**

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL TAX 2017/2018**

Schedule of Council Tax Levels for all Bands  
and all Parts of the Area including District Spending and all Precepts.

		Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barming		1,127.88	1,315.86	1,503.84	1,691.82	2,067.78	2,443.74	2,819.70	3,383.64
Bearsted		1,124.96	1,312.46	1,499.95	1,687.44	2,062.42	2,437.41	2,812.40	3,374.88
Boughton Malherbe		1,119.29	1,305.84	1,492.38	1,678.93	2,052.02	2,425.12	2,798.22	3,357.86
Boughton Monchelsea		1,132.88	1,321.70	1,510.51	1,699.32	2,076.94	2,454.57	2,832.20	3,398.64
Boxley		1,121.81	1,308.78	1,495.74	1,682.71	2,056.64	2,430.58	2,804.52	3,365.42
Bredhurst		1,141.58	1,331.85	1,522.11	1,712.37	2,092.89	2,473.42	2,853.95	3,424.74
Broomfield & Kingswood		1,155.31	1,347.86	1,540.41	1,732.96	2,118.06	2,503.16	2,888.27	3,465.92
Chart Sutton		1,137.32	1,326.88	1,516.43	1,705.98	2,085.08	2,464.19	2,843.30	3,411.96
Collier Street		1,127.90	1,315.88	1,503.86	1,691.84	2,067.80	2,443.76	2,819.74	3,383.68
Coxheath		1,132.80	1,321.60	1,510.40	1,699.20	2,076.80	2,454.40	2,832.00	3,398.40
Detling		1,143.17	1,333.70	1,524.22	1,714.75	2,095.80	2,476.86	2,857.92	3,429.50
Downswood		1,124.82	1,312.28	1,499.75	1,687.22	2,062.16	2,437.09	2,812.04	3,374.44
East Sutton		1,132.91	1,321.73	1,510.54	1,699.36	2,076.99	2,454.63	2,832.27	3,398.72
Farleigh East		1,150.93	1,342.75	1,534.57	1,726.39	2,110.03	2,493.67	2,877.32	3,452.78
Farleigh West		1,166.24	1,360.61	1,554.98	1,749.35	2,138.09	2,526.83	2,915.59	3,498.70
Harrietsham		1,161.40	1,354.96	1,548.53	1,742.09	2,129.22	2,516.35	2,903.49	3,484.18
Headcorn		1,167.32	1,361.88	1,556.43	1,750.98	2,140.08	2,529.19	2,918.30	3,501.96
Hollingbourne		1,137.18	1,326.70	1,516.23	1,705.76	2,084.82	2,463.87	2,842.94	3,411.52
Hunton		1,156.08	1,348.76	1,541.44	1,734.12	2,119.48	2,504.84	2,890.20	3,468.24
Langley		1,130.18	1,318.54	1,506.90	1,695.26	2,071.98	2,448.70	2,825.44	3,390.52
Leeds		1,164.96	1,359.12	1,553.28	1,747.44	2,135.76	2,524.08	2,912.40	3,494.88
Lenham		1,151.29	1,343.17	1,535.05	1,726.93	2,110.69	2,494.45	2,878.22	3,453.86
Linton		1,136.25	1,325.62	1,515.00	1,704.37	2,083.12	2,461.86	2,840.62	3,408.74
Loose		1,145.07	1,335.91	1,526.76	1,717.60	2,099.29	2,480.97	2,862.67	3,435.20
Marden		1,150.86	1,342.66	1,534.47	1,726.28	2,109.90	2,493.51	2,877.14	3,452.56
Nettlestead		1,138.82	1,328.63	1,518.43	1,708.23	2,087.83	2,467.44	2,847.05	3,416.46
Otham		1,127.85	1,315.82	1,503.80	1,691.77	2,067.72	2,443.66	2,819.62	3,383.54
Staplehurst		1,142.70	1,333.14	1,523.59	1,714.04	2,094.94	2,475.83	2,856.74	3,428.08
Stockbury		1,132.64	1,321.42	1,510.19	1,698.96	2,076.50	2,454.05	2,831.60	3,397.92
Sutton Valence		1,150.67	1,342.45	1,534.22	1,726.00	2,109.55	2,493.11	2,876.67	3,452.00
Teston		1,152.54	1,344.63	1,536.72	1,728.81	2,112.99	2,497.17	2,881.35	3,457.62
Thurnham		1,123.94	1,311.27	1,498.59	1,685.91	2,060.55	2,435.20	2,809.85	3,371.82
Tovil		1,138.46	1,328.21	1,517.95	1,707.69	2,087.17	2,466.66	2,846.15	3,415.38
Ulcombe		1,137.98	1,327.65	1,517.31	1,706.97	2,086.29	2,465.62	2,844.95	3,413.94
Yalding		1,145.54	1,336.46	1,527.38	1,718.30	2,100.14	2,481.98	2,863.84	3,436.60
Basic Level of Tax		1,103.29	1,287.17	1,471.05	1,654.93	2,022.69	2,390.45	2,758.22	3,309.86

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

**12 APRIL 2017**

### **REPORT OF THE DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE HELD ON** **8 MARCH 2017**

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

##### **Issue for Decision**

To adopt the changes to the Constitution as recommended to take effect from the date of the annual meeting of Council.

##### **Recommendation Made**

That the following changes to the Constitution be adopted to take effect from the date of the annual meeting of Council:-

1. That the additional delegations to the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development and the Head of Housing and Community Services be approved as follows:-

**Head of Regeneration and Economic Development** – Responsibility for the implementation of the Council's Public Realm Design Guide and Public Arts Policy.

**Head of Housing and Community Services** – To liaise and negotiate with government bodies and their appointees, third parties and housing providers in order to promote the priorities identified in the Council's Housing Strategy.

2. That the following be added to the Strategic Planning and Performance Management functions of the Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee:-

**Bereavement Services – Vinters Park Crematorium and Maidstone Cemetery** with the delegation of functions to the Head of Environment and Public Realm.

**Regeneration and Economic Development, the Public Realm Design Guide and Public Arts Policy** with the delegation of functions to the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development.

## **Reasons for Recommendation**

The Democracy Committee, at its meeting held on 8 March 2017, considered the report of the Interim Head of Legal Partnership and Monitoring Officer. It was noted that:-

- Under the Monitoring Officer's delegation minor amendments had been made to the Constitution to reflect the new management structure with the majority of the amendments related to Part 2 of the Constitution, specifically the sections on 'Responsibility for Functions Related to Officers' and the 'Proper Officer' Functions to ensure the right delegation sat with the correct member of the management team.
- In addition, the Constitution had been amended to reflect the decisions made by Council with regards to the introduction of electronic voting and the changes in the process for the selection of the Mayor.
- Whilst the transference of delegated functions from one officer to another to reflect structural changes could be carried out under the Monitoring Officer's delegation, any new delegated function could only be agreed by Council. The following delegations had been requested by the respective Heads of Service as being necessary for them to carry out their role effectively:-

Head of Regeneration and Economic Development – responsibility for the implementation of the Council's Public Realm Design Guide and Public Arts Policy

Head of Housing and Community Services – to liaise and negotiate with government bodies and their appointees, third parties and housing providers in order to promote the priorities identified in the Council's Housing Strategy

- The review of officer delegations highlighted omissions in the functions and responsibilities of Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee as there was no reference to Bereavement Services or to the Public Realm Design Guide and Public Arts Policy. As such it was recommended that Bereavement Services, the Public Realm Design Guide and Public Arts Policy be listed as part of the Performance Management functions of the Committee.

## **Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended**

Do nothing. Council could decide not to accept the proposed amendments at this time. The Constitution has worked quite well for the last year. However,

the proposed amendments would facilitate the Council and its Officers to more effectively carry out their duties.

# Agenda Item 14

## **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

**12 APRIL 2017**

#### **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, ACTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2017 AND 28 MARCH 2017**

### **2013-18 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN REFRESH AND 2017-18 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

#### **Issue for Decision**

To adopt the 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh and 2017-18 Strategic Assessment to be implemented by the Safer Maidstone Partnership and its priority subgroups.

#### **Recommendation Made**

That the Council adopt the 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh and the 2017-18 Strategic Assessment to be implemented by the Safer Maidstone Partnership and its priority subgroups.

#### **Reasons for Recommendation**

The Communities, Housing and Environment Committee, acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee, at its meeting held on 14 February 2017 approved the 2017-18 Strategic Assessment for adoption by Council. In addition, at its meeting on 28 March 2017 the Committee approved the 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh for adoption by Council, subject to some redrafting to include the clarity of the document. It was noted that:-

- The priorities from the Strategic Assessment for 2017/18 were:-
  - Organised Crime Groups (including Modern Slavery)
  - Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
  - Substance Misuse
  - Domestic Abuse and Violent Crime
  - Mental Health
- The refreshed plan and its action plans will be delivered under the umbrella of the Safer Maidstone Partnership via the subgroups set up for each priority. A new subgroup will be formed for the Mental Health priority and the current Community Resilience subgroup will be reformed into separate groups for Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and Gangs & Child Sexual



Exploitation (CSE).

- Mental Health, although not a crime, is an issue at the heart of many cases discussed in the weekly Community Safety and Vulnerabilities Group meeting. Poor mental health is often a causational factor in a person's anti-social behaviour and a victim of crime whose mental health is affected by their experiences.
- Changes in legislation from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 mean that police custody suites will no longer be used as 'safe places' to take someone when they are detained under the Mental Health Act. This will mean that intervention to prevent a person from reaching crisis point, and thus be detained under the Mental Health Act will be required. This also reinforces the decision to have Mental Health as a priority in its own right. A full scoping exercise looking at the impact of these issues, the services that currently exist, how they interlink and whether there are gaps, will be one of the actions for the new subgroup.

### **Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended**

1. Do nothing. This is not a recommended option as the Strategic Assessment shows that community safety trends have changed. Other emerging issues need to be addressed by the partnership and if not picked up would potentially result in more victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, especially amongst the most at risk and vulnerable of society.
2. By approving the Partnership Plan (refresh) and the identified priorities for 2017/18 would allow for it to be implemented by the SMP and enable the action plans to be delivered by its subgroups. The priorities have been clearly evidenced within the Strategic Assessment and have been highlighted as priorities by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and other Community Safety Partnerships, both in Kent and nationally.

### **3. Appendices**

Appendix 1 –Strategic Assessment 2017-18

Appendix 2 – SMP Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh 2013-18



Strategic Assessment  
2017-18

## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>1. Executive Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 What is a Strategic Assessment?	4
1.2 Headline information aligned to key priorities 2016-2017	4
1.3 Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP)	4
1.4 Priorities recommended to the SMP for 2017-2018	5
1.5 Methodology	5
1.6 Demographic and Economic Information	6
<b>2. Total Recorded Crime</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Total recorded Crime in Maidstone November 2015 - October 2016	7
2.2 Total recorded crime per 1,000 population in Kent – year ending March 2016	7
2.3 Volume of crimes by type within Maidstone for November 2015 – October 2016 and the same time period in 2014 - 2015	9
2.4 Police Statistical Process Control (SPC) Charts	10
<b>3. Violent Crime</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1 Total Violent Crime	11
3.2 Levels of Violence in the Borough Wards April 2016 – October 2016	13
3.3 Violent crime – Night-Time economy	13
3.4 Domestic Abuse	14
3.5 Adolescent to Parent Violence (APV)	16
<b>4. Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1 Anti-Social Behaviour in Maidstone	16
<b>5. Substance Misuse</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1 Substance Misuse in Maidstone	17
5.2 NPS related hospital admissions	18
5.3 Alcohol related hospital admissions	18
5.4 Clients in treatment	19
5.5 Substance Misuse recommendations	19
<b>6. Reducing Re-Offending</b>	<b>19</b>
6.1 Availability of 'Proven adult reoffending' Data	19
6.2 Integrated Offender Management (IOM)	20
6.3 Reducing Re-Offending recommendations	21
<b>7. Road Safety</b>	<b>21</b>
7.1 Road Safety in Maidstone	21
7.2 Road Safety recommendations	21

<b>8. Community Resilience</b>	<b>22</b>
8.1 Community Resilience topics	22
8.2 Local Profiles	22
8.3 Community Resilience recommendations	22
<b>9. Subsidiary priority relating to Safeguarding (self-neglect &amp; hoarding)</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>10. Mental Health</b>	<b>23</b>
10.1 Mental Health recommendations	23
<b>11. Unlawful Encampments (UE's)</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>12. Recommendations to Safer Maidstone Partnership</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>13. How to get further information</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
<b>Appendix 1 – Information services</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Appendix 2 – Case studies</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Appendix 3 – Methodology notes</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Appendix 4 – Acronym glossary</b>	<b>30</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

### 1.1 What is a Strategic Assessment?

Locally, our Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is known as the 'Safer Maidstone Partnership' (SMP). This assessment will look at the SMP's progress against the priorities set last year, and evaluate the effectiveness of the work undertaken. This document is reviewed annually and agreed by the SMP in March each year. It is also independently assessed by the Kent Community Safety Unit.

### 1.2 Headline information aligned to key priorities from 2016-2017:

- **ASB** – an **increase of 3%** in Maidstone in the past 12 months. Since 2010, recorded ASB incidents in the borough have fallen by 33%.
- **Substance Misuse** – offences **increase of 22.3%** in Maidstone.
- **Violent Crime (Domestic Abuse)** – an **increase of 34.8%**. One Stop Shop use is up 42%.
- **Violent Crime overall** – an **increase of 26.2%**.
- **Road Safety** (killed or serious injured) – a **decrease of 20.6%** (over three years 2013-2015) 2015 – 50, 2014 – 74, 2013 – 63.
- **Reduce Reoffending rate** – Due to the division of the Probation services into the National Probation Service (NPS) and the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Crime Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) data around re-offending will not be released by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) until 2017. However Integrated Offender Management (IOM) data shows an overall **reduction of 45% in offending** for the West division cohort of prolific offenders.
- **Community Resilience** – multi-agency subgroup created to discuss all themes for this new priority. Serious Organised Crime (SOC) presentations from the police delivered to partners, desktop exercise to develop case working and information sharing. Local Profiles published to highlight areas of risk for victims under the police Control strategy topics in the borough.

It should be noted that part of the reason for increases in certain offences is partly because of changes in the recording of incidents. For example a victim of domestic abuse may report 6 further offences towards them but these will be individually crimed instead of being collated together.

Certain crimes have also been re classified into other thematic areas, also where a particular offence has been targeted for enforcement and individuals have been caught and charged; there will inevitably be a percentage increase in offences recorded.

The results of reclassifications and targeted enforcement will be known in future quarterly crime briefings and strategic assessments. The latest (2016) HMIC PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) assessment of Kent Police reported: The extent to which the force is efficient at keeping people safe and reducing crime is: **good**. The extent to which the force is legitimate at keeping people safe and reducing crime is: **outstanding**.

### 1.3 Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP)

The SMP brings together people from local government, the NHS, the police, the fire service, probation, local businesses, housing providers and the voluntary and community sector to work as a team to tackle crime.

Priorities identified from the last strategic assessment (2016-17) were:

- **Violent Crime (specifically Domestic Abuse and Night Time Economy)**
- **Substance Misuse**
- **Reduce Reoffending**
- **Road Safety – Killed & Seriously Injured**

- **Community Resilience (emerging issues around CSE, Prevent, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, SOC and Safeguarding)**

Emerging themes that occurred through the year:

- **Serious Organised Crime (SOC) covering all vulnerabilities with a safeguarding risk, have seen an increase.**
- **Mental Health issues becoming more prevalent in all priorities.**

These priorities were closely aligned with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's crime plan and that of the Kent County Council community safety agreement to ensure a continuity of strategy locally. Consideration has also been given to the Kent Police Control strategy which has seen the emergence of the following themes: Their current 6 key priorities are:

- **Child abuse and exploitation**
- **Gangs**
- **Human trafficking and modern slavery**
- **Organised acquisitive crime**
- **Counter terrorism and domestic extremism**
- **Domestic abuse, serious violence and sexual offences**

#### **1.4 Priorities recommended to the Safer Maidstone Partnership for 2017 – 2018.**

Our priorities for this year have been extracted from a wide variety of information shared with our partners and represent the most important issues to focus on this (2017/18) year. Based on the information in this Strategic Assessment, it is recommended that the Safer Maidstone Partnership confirm the following **2017/18** priorities:

- 1. Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery);**
- 2. Gangs & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);**
- 3. Substance Misuse;**
- 4. Domestic Abuse and other violent crime;**
- 5. Mental Health.**

These priorities have also been borne out by the scoring matrix used in 'MoRiLE' which ranked these priorities based on threat risk and harm to the public and organisations.

Prevent and Reducing Reoffending will now be cross cutting themes rather than named priorities along with ASB. All the priorities will require a robust multi-agency response, but because they are important for residents and communities, achieving them will have a positive impact on people's quality of life.

#### **1.5 Methodology**

Data for this year's Strategic Assessment has been sourced by the Kent Community Safety Unit from a variety of statutory partners including Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS), Health, Probation and KCC Services. They are available in the Partnership data sets section on the Kent Safer Communities portal. A number of different data display tools have been included in this year's assessment for the purpose of putting the context of crime data into more perspective, over a longer period of time.

The Kent Community Safety Unit has explored the use of the **MoRiLE** (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) scoring matrix to look at ranking offences based on threat, risk and harm. Maidstone

Borough Council and others in Kent have incorporated this methodology within this year's Strategic Assessment. (Appendix 3).

Another variation to this year's methodology is a greater use of **Statistical Process Control** Charts (SPCs). These give a clearer visual perspective of crime figures over a specified timescale and allow for natural variations within the control limits. (Appendix 3)

Serious Organised Crime **Local Profiles** have now been published by Kent Police for each Local Authority area. They highlight the risk for each topic in the Police 'CONTROL' strategy and offer advice to partners around what to look out for. (Appendix 3).

It is important to note that most of the data relating to crime and disorder collated for this strategic assessment covers the period November 2015 – October 2016 unless otherwise stated. It should also be noted that changes to crime definitions in 2013 and changes to data collection practices has meant that comparisons before 2014 were not always possible. The data in this assessment will be used to identify trends in criminal activity in Maidstone and will be cross referenced with other districts in Kent and previous Maidstone data sets to highlight specific issues unique to Maidstone.

## 1.6 Demographic and Economic Information

### Population profile

The latest population figures from the 2015 Mid-year population estimates show that there are 164,500 people living in the Maidstone Borough. This population size makes Maidstone Borough the largest Kent local authority district area.

75% of the borough's population live in the Maidstone urban area with the remaining 25% living in the surrounding rural area and settlements.

In 2015 Maidstone Borough was ranked as the 9<sup>th</sup> most deprived district in Kent (out of 12 districts, with the most deprived being ranked 1). Nationally, Maidstone ranks 198<sup>th</sup> out of 326 local authority districts in England. This rank places it within England's least deprived half of authorities.

### Unemployment rates

Maidstone's claimant rate is currently 1.2%. This is lower than the county average of 1.6% and considerably less than the national average of 1.8%. The majority of those unemployed are aged 18-24, this age group accounts for 23.7% of all those unemployed Maidstone.

District	Total unemployed as at September 2016	Resident based rate %	Change since previous month		Change since last year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Maidstone	1,225	1.2%	-15	-1.2%	45	3.8%
Kent	14,775	1.6%	-65	-0.4%	1,825	14.1%
Great Britain	718,910	1.8%	-9,390	-1.3%	-7,900	-1.1%

Source: NOMIS - Claimant Count

## 2. Total Recorded Crime

### 2.1 Total recorded Crime in Maidstone November 2015 - October 2016

This section looks at total crime data and is followed by a more detailed analysis of the crime categories that have formed Maidstone's strategic assessment.

Countywide there were 300,528 emergency '999' calls received to the Kent Force Control Room from November 15 – October 16. This was an **increase of 10.3%** on the previous 12 months. '101' non-emergency calls stood at 583,549, an **increase of 3.1%** on the previous 12 months. The average percentage of 999 calls answered was down 0.5% at 98.9%. Answered 101 calls were down from 88.8% to 82.4% in the same period.

All crime in the borough **rose by 11.8%** in the period November 2015 to October 2016 compared with the same period the previous year, from a total of 9,189 crimes to 10,271 crimes. Using financial year data (April 15 to March 16), recorded crimes equated to 58 offences per 1,000 population in Maidstone. When compared to the county, Maidstone has a below average number of offences per 1,000 of the population and is ranked equal 5th out of all of the districts in Kent.

### 2.2 Total recorded crime per 1,000 population in Kent – year ending March 2016

Area	Number of offences	2016 rate per 1,000 pop.	2015 rate per 1,000 pop.	2014 rate per 1,000 pop.	County Ranking
Tunbridge Wells	5140	44	43.4	43.2	1
Tonbridge & Malling	5961	48	45.3	45.7	2
Sevenoaks	5894	50	47.5	48.2	3
Ashford	6551	53	51.6	57.5	4
Maidstone	9332	58	56.7	59	5=
Dover	6581	58	57.8	59.1	5=
Canterbury	9557	61	57.1	58.7	7=
Shepway	6671	61	56.6	59.6	7=
Swale	10059	71	67.7	73.9	9
Dartford & Gravesham	15650	75	68.8	74.2	10
Thanet	11980	87	82	91	11
KCC Total	89643	59	59.4	62.7	
Medway	20285	74	70.3	67	
Kent	113651	64	61	63.4	

The Most Similar Group (MSG) chart below shows crimes per 1,000 residents for Maidstone compared to 14 other 'similar groups'. MSG's are grouped using over 20 different demographic parameters. You will notice that Tonbridge & Malling and Canterbury CSP's are both in this group. When comparing other CSP's crime data within Kent, these two CSP's are therefore the best to compare with Maidstone.

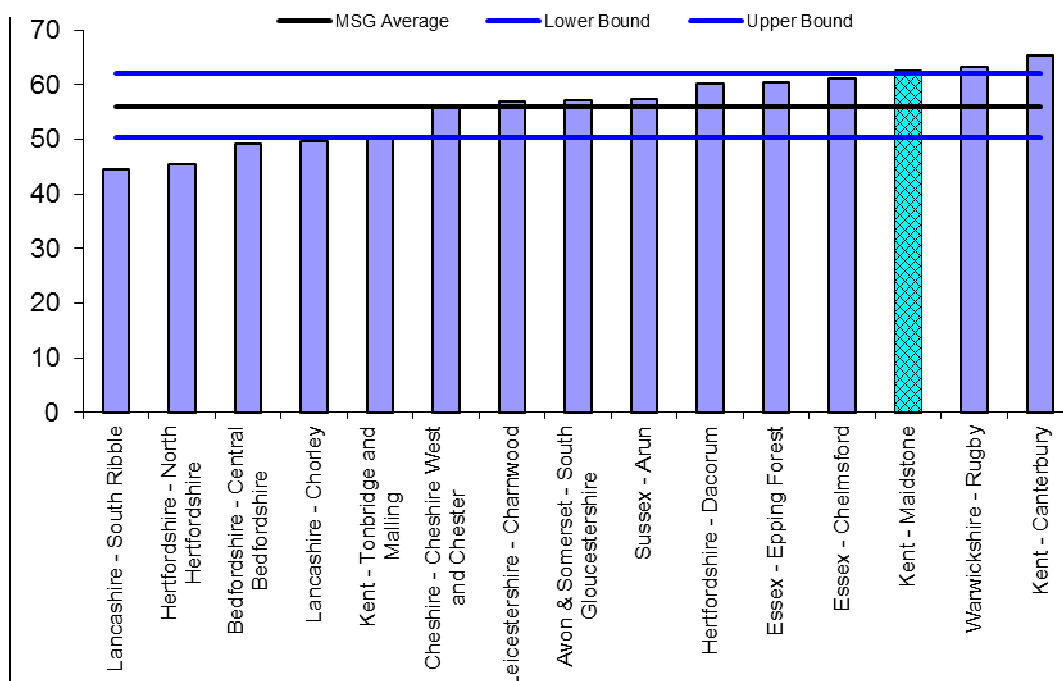


# iQuanta Bar Chart MSG (12 months) - Crimes per 1000 Residents

## Kent - Maidstone

### Crimes

01 Nov 2015 - 31 Oct 2016



OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - Provisional data before it is finalised and published by the Office for National Statistics

CSP	Crimes / 1000 Pop
Lancashire - South Ribble	44.459
Hertfordshire - North Hertfordshire	45.559
Bedfordshire - Central Bedfordshire	49.226
Lancashire - Chorley	49.775
Kent - Tonbridge and Malling	50.281
Cheshire - Cheshire West and Chester	55.679
Leicestershire - Charnwood	57.034
Avon & Somerset - South Gloucestershire	57.136
Sussex - Arun	57.291
Hertfordshire - Dacorum	60.106
Essex - Epping Forest	60.512
Essex - Chelmsford	61.163
<b>Kent - Maidstone</b>	<b>62.450</b>
Warwickshire - Rugby	63.252
Kent - Canterbury	65.339
<b>MSG Average</b>	<b>55.951</b>

### 2.3 Volume of crimes by type within Maidstone for November 2015 – October 2016 and the same time period in 2014-2015

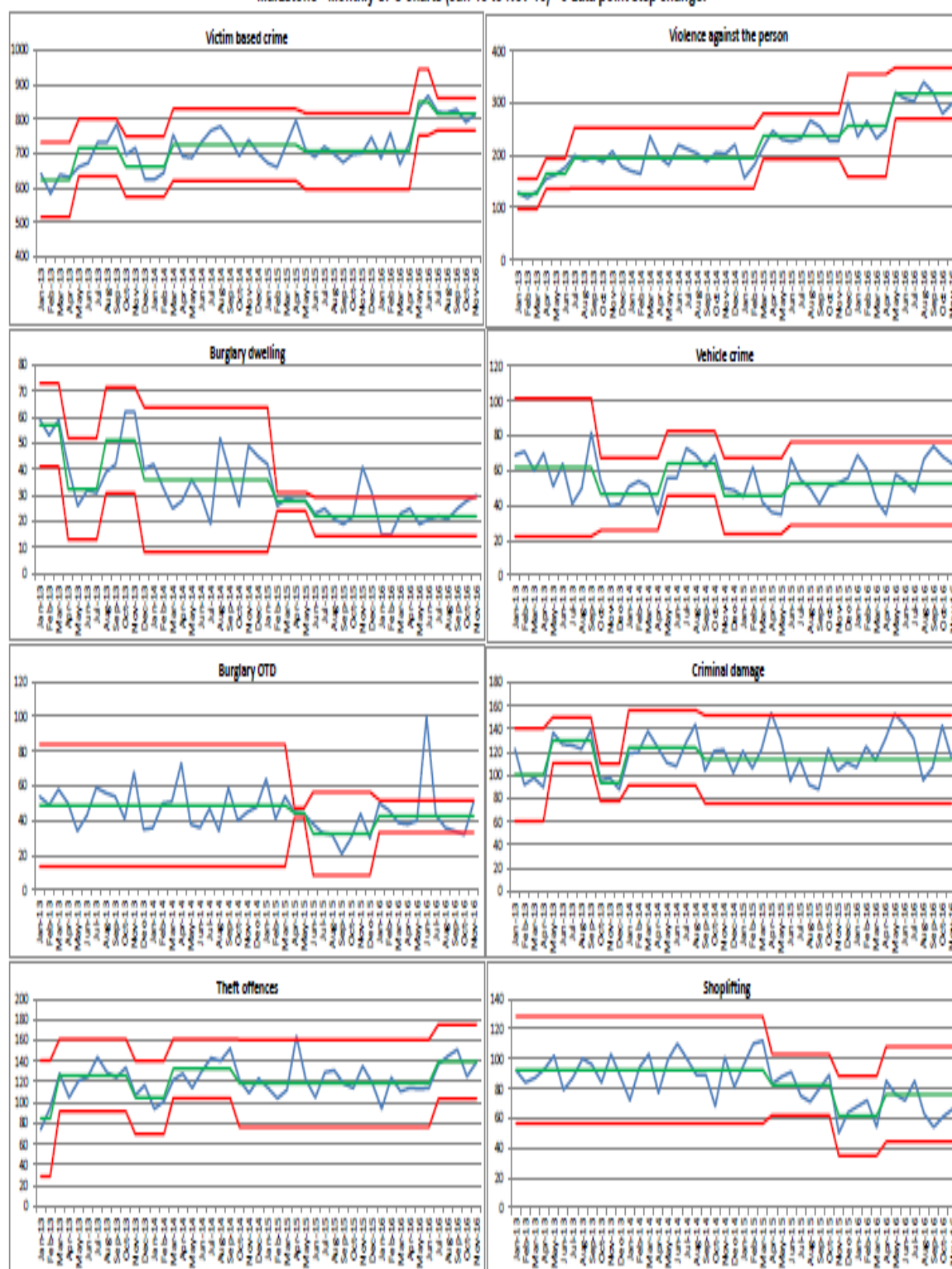
The table below identifies the different categories of crime reported in Maidstone and highlights the main areas where crime has increased/decreased.

	Month	Rolling year			% change
	October 2016	RY ending October 2016	RY ending October 2015	Number change	
<b>Victim based crime</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>9245</b>	<b>8488</b>	<b>+ 757</b>	<b>+8.9%</b>
Violent Crime	312	3743	2964	+ 779	+26.3%
- Violence Against The Person	280	3390	2665	+ 725	+27.2%
- Sexual Offences	26	284	222	+ 62	+27.9%
- Robbery	6	69	79	-10	-12.6%
Burglary Dwelling	28	286	357	-71	-19.9%
Burglary Other than Dwelling	32	532	495	+ 37	+7.5%
Vehicle Crime	68	686	583	+ 103	+17.6%
- Theft Of Motor Vehicle	20	182	132	+ 50	+37.9%
- Theft From Motor Vehicle	48	504	451	+ 53	+11.7%
Vehicle Interference	9	110	82	+ 28	+34.1%
Theft and Handling	199	2422	2633	-211	-8.0%
- Shoplifting	61	804	1077	-273	-25.3%
- Theft of Pedal cycle	13	136	111	+ 25	+22.5%
- Other Theft	125	1482	1445	+ 37	+2.6%
Criminal Damage	143	1466	1372	+ 94	+6.8%
<b>Crimes against society</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1026</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>+ 325</b>	<b>+46.4%</b>
Drug Offences	24	345	282	+ 63	+22.3%
Possession of weapons	4	50	45	+ 5	+11.1%
Public order offences	23	402	227	+ 175	+77.1%
Other crimes	18	229	147	+ 82	+55.8%
<b>All crime</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>10271</b>	<b>9189</b>	<b>+ 1082</b>	<b>+11.8%</b>

The data clearly illustrates an increase in crimes against society, violent crime and vehicle crime; (violent crime +26.3%, public order +77.1%, drug offences +22.3% & TOMV +37.9%); there has however been a decrease in robbery -12.6%, shoplifting -25.3% and burglary dwelling -19.9%. Violent crime increases could partly be due to new police recording measures. Some crimes against society figures have increased because of different classification of crimes and will be reflected better in subsequent quarterly crime figure briefings.

## 2.4 Police Statistical Process Control (SPC) Charts

Maidstone - Monthly SPC charts (Jan-13 to Nov-16) - 5 data point step change:



The above Police Statistical Process Control (SPC) Charts for Kent cover the period June 13 – November 16.

They show the trends in crime figures of 8 offences:

- Victim Based Crime
- Violence Against The Person (VATP)
- Burglary Dwelling
- Burglary Other Than Dwelling (BOTD)
- Vehicle Crime
- Criminal Damage
- Theft
- Shoplifting

The methodology for the charts is attached but put simply; SPC charts are generated based on historical data to produce the following:

- The Centre Line (CL) which is the average no. of recorded crimes / incidents
- The Upper (UCL) and Lower Control Limits (LCL) which are the limits of natural variation

Any result above the UCL suggests that there may be a problem. In addition, other indications that a category is out of statistical control includes when several results in a row are above the CL or when several results in a row show an increasing trend.

If the figures are consistently below the CL this indicates an improvement and will result in the centre line and the control limits being lowered, often referred to as a 'step change'.

This shows over a three and a half year period, a better visual picture of how crime figures for different offences have fluctuated. Rather than relying just on a table showing a percentage change from the previous year, it allows for naturally occurring rise and falls in offences year on year.

It can be seen that victim based crime and VATP have seen a steady increase in the period, and burglary dwelling, BOTD and Shoplifting have shown decreases. The remaining 3 crime types have held steady over the period.

### 3. Violent Crime

#### 3.1 Total Violent Crime

'Violent Crime' covers a wide range of offences including murder, manslaughter, GBH, ABH and other assaults without injury, threats to kill, harassment, sexual offences and robbery. Maidstone has seen an **increase of 26.3%** in violent crime compared with the period of November 2014 – October 2015. It's important to mention that this may be attributed to a change in police recording. This increase is below the division and county percentage and the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest increase out of 13 areas.

Violent Crime	Month	Rolling year			% change
		RY ending October 2016	RY ending October 2015	Number change	
Dartford	267	2956	2220	+ 736	+33.2%
Gravesham	308	3116	2284	+ 832	+36.4%
Medway	703	8252	6397	+ 1855	+29.0%
Swale	275	3701	2827	+ 874	+30.9%
<b>North Division</b>	<b>1553</b>	<b>18025</b>	<b>13728</b>	<b>+ 4297</b>	<b>+31.3%</b>

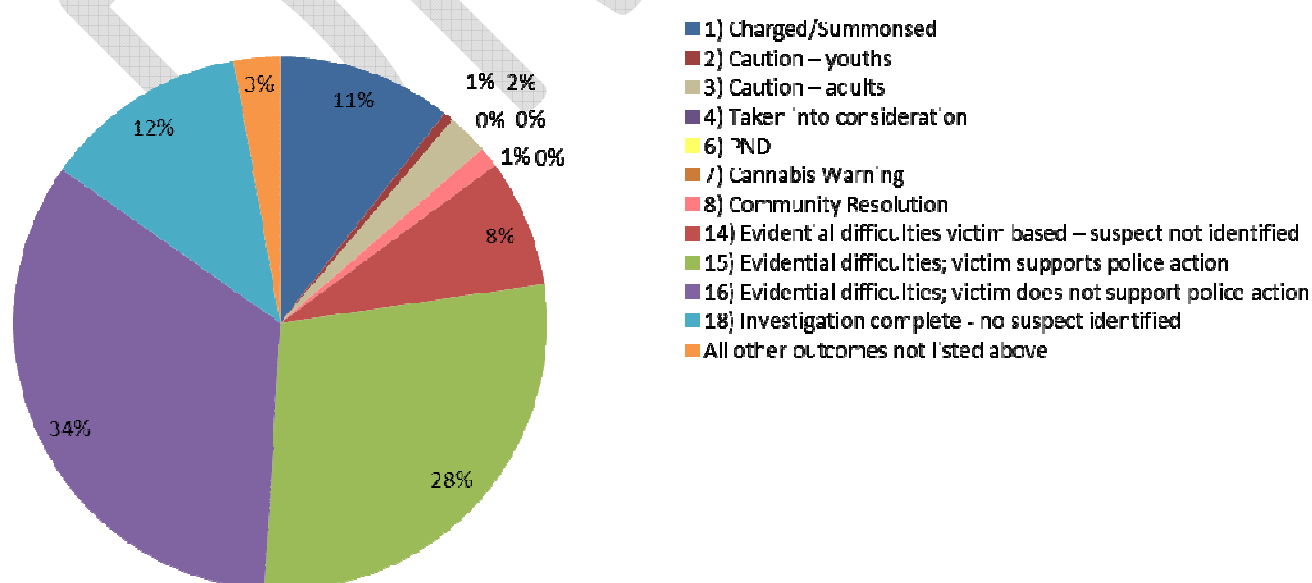
Maidstone	312	3743	2964	+ 779	+26.3%
Sevenoaks	158	1702	1301	+ 401	+30.8%
Tonbridge and Malling	180	2117	1623	+ 494	+30.4%
Tunbridge Wells	184	1962	1625	+ 337	+20.7%
<b>West Division</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>9524</b>	<b>7513</b>	<b>+ 2011</b>	<b>+26.8%</b>
Ashford	214	2378	1902	+ 476	+25.0%
Canterbury	361	3874	2938	+ 936	+31.9%
Dover	296	2799	2338	+ 461	+19.7%
Shepway	286	2960	2283	+ 677	+29.6%
Thanet	431	5262	4008	+ 1254	+31.3%
<b>East Division</b>	<b>1588</b>	<b>17273</b>	<b>13469</b>	<b>+ 3804</b>	<b>+28.2%</b>
<b>Force</b>	<b>3976</b>	<b>44823</b>	<b>34712</b>	<b>+ 10111</b>	<b>+29.1%</b>

### Violent Crime November 2015 - October 2016

The majority of violent crime offences occurring in Maidstone within the 12 months ending 31st October came under the 'Violence against the person' (VATP) category. This category covers offences ranging in severity from assault without injury to murder, however does not include robberies or sexual offences.

There were 3390 VATP offences in Maidstone spanning the same period of time. This is up from 2665 in 2014-15, an **increase of 27%**. It should be noted that many VATP offences will be minor assaults and on further investigation some of these will be found to be accidental contact with no malicious intent, rather than situations where force has been used intentionally.

This is demonstrated by the low number of charges in October 2016 where only 11% of perpetrators were charged or summonsed as a result of a VATP offence. 35% of VATP offences resulted where the victim did not support police action. 13% had no identified suspect.

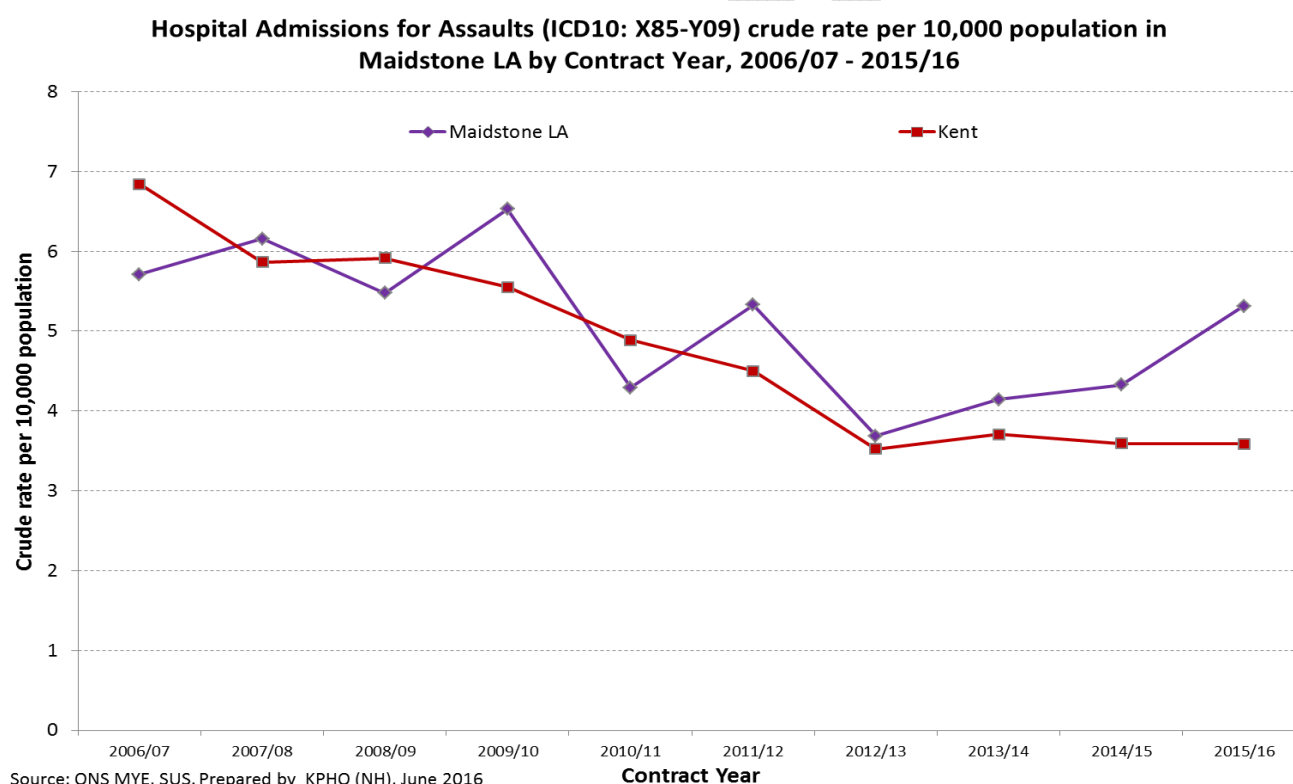


### 3.2 Levels of Violence in the Borough Wards April 2016 – October 2016

High street ward had the highest number of recorded violent crimes in the borough with 607 incidents reported (up from 452 on same period in 2015) alongside Fant with 178 (up from 108), Shepway North 171 (up from 95) and Parkwood 164 (up from 100). The Wards with the lowest levels of violent crime were Downswood & Otham with 10 incidents, Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton 14, Barming 16 and Leeds 17.

It should be noted that for this assessment there is no differential for offences in the High Street ward, to say if they were related to residential addresses or as is most probable for the majority, to businesses, shopping areas and the night time economy in general. At this time it is not possible for future assessments to separate this data so as not to portray such a skewed view of the ward.

The table below illustrates hospital admissions for assaults covering 9 years. Kent has seen a steady decline overall which Maidstone has generally followed. Recently however, county figures have plateaued and Maidstone has seen a slight increase.



### 3.3 Violent Crime - Night Time Economy

Maidstone has a highly active night time economy (NTE) which generates around £60 million each year; this is considered to be a key contributing factor to the heightened levels of violence in the High street ward. Bearing in mind the size of the County town's NTE though, it is still considered by agencies and the public as a relatively safe place to visit compared to similar large towns/cities. This was enforced by an overall sense of feeling safe in the town via a public consultation into the town centre and NTE.

**Violent crime has however seen a year on year increase in Maidstone and it is clear that greater focus needs to be provided to ensure violence is reduced. Current work undertaken to reduce the levels of violent crime in Maidstone is reported in the CSP rolling plan and Violent Crime will remain as a priority.**

### 3.4 Domestic Abuse

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- *psychological*
- *physical*
- *sexual*
- *financial*
- *emotional*

Domestic Abuse (DA) has and continues to account for a considerable proportion of violent crime; in Maidstone DA attributes to 39% of all violent crime, as well as being a fundamental feature of other offences such as criminal damage. Its prioritisation is not just in response to the serious nature of the behaviour involved but is also necessitated by the volume of incidents that are being recorded – made all the more significant as this is one crime category that has historically suffered from considerable under-reporting.

Domestic abuse sits as both a local, county and national priority which is supported through local mechanisms such as the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which provides support and protection to families and individuals in high risk domestic abuse situations. There is also the commissioning of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service (IDVA) which provides support and guidance to victims of DA. Each district also delivers a 'one-stop shop' where all victims of domestic abuse can receive advice and support.

#### Recorded Incidents of Domestic Abuse and Repeat Victims

Between the periods September 2015 - August 2016, Maidstone had recorded 2683 incidents of Domestic abuse (26.4% average repeat victims) compared to 2258 incidents (26.2% repeat victims) in the same period in the previous year. This translates to a **34% increase** in cases, though percentages of repeat victim figures are virtually unchanged.

Whilst our incidences are lower than the average in the county our rate for repeat victims is the second highest in Kent with a **26% rate of repeat victimisation**. Domestic abuse is a complex crime which puts great pressure on victims to return to their relationships on the basis of fear, low self-esteem, family ties and a hope for change.

It is widely recognised that increased recorded incidents of domestic abuse are not necessary indicators of a worsening situation. Since domestic abuse has been an under-reported crime, increased reports indicate that DA victims feel more confident to come forward to report the abuse they are suffering. Many of our partners on the domestic abuse forum champion domestic abuse in their respective services encouraging clients and service users to be open about their circumstances and feel confident in the services that can support them to move out of domestically abusive relationships.

#### One-Stop Shops

Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops offer free advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse. Maidstone's one stop shop is currently hosted at the Salvation Army and provides advice on housing, legal matters, policing and specialist DA advice. Information regarding the take-up of One-Stop Shop services has been provided by the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group for the 12 month period July 2015 - June 2016, and the previous 12 month periods.



## Number of Visitors

Between July 2015 and June 2016 **3,173** people were assisted at the domestic abuse one stop shops, an increase of **31.7%** compared to the previous year.

Table 1:

Location	No of visitors 2010/11	No of visitors 2011/12	No of visitors 2012/13	No of visitors 2013/14	No of visitors 2014/15	No of visitors 2015/16	% increase/decrease in visitors (compared to previous year)	Visitors per 10,000 LA population (based on KCC 2016 projection data)
Ashford	75	169	239	316	317	<b>362</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>28.2</b>
Canterbury	169	262	214	232	253	<b>328</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>31.1<sup>6</sup></b>
Dartford	60	46	52	74	116	<b>138</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Dover	102	54	83	81	86	<b>188</b>	<b>118.6</b>	<b>16.4</b>
Gravesend	52	31	52	64	134	<b>135</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>
Herne Bay <sup>1</sup>	n/a	n/a	43	125	147	<b>163</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>31.1<sup>6</sup></b>
Maidstone	n/a	20	65	97	156	<b>222</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>13.4</b>
Medway	128	146	147	287	508	<b>638</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>22.9</b>
Shepway	143	120	91	165	183	<b>260</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>23.5</b>
Sheerness <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	<b>167</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>26.2<sup>7</sup></b>
Sittingbourne	107	123	140	146	200	<b>208</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>26.2<sup>7</sup></b>
Sevenoaks <sup>3</sup>	6	12	16	25	16	<b>13</b>	<b>-18.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Thanet	49	71	117	215	223	<b>281</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>
Tonbridge <sup>4</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	55	<b>70</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Tunbridge Wells <sup>5</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>1054</b>	<b>1259</b>	<b>1835</b>	<b>2410</b>	<b>3173</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>17.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Opened in November 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Converted from a drop in service in May 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Swanley opened twice a month until January 2013; weekly service thereafter. Moved to Sevenoaks in November 2014. Closed in April 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Opened in April 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Opened in November 2014, closed in April 2015.

<sup>6</sup> Canterbury and Herne Bay total visitors are combined as within the same LA area.

<sup>7</sup> Sheerness and Sittingbourne total visitors are combined as within the same LA area.

Maidstone has seen a **42.3% increase in attendance** at the one stop shop since last year which is the 2nd highest increase in the county. 93% of all visitors were from Maidstone with the remaining 7% coming from other districts, 11.7% of all visitors made a repeat visit compared with the previous year where 22% of attendees made a repeat visit.

80% of visitors described themselves as white British, 7.2% identified as white European and were the largest other single group.

According to the analysis undertaken by the Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse strategy group, 74% of all visitors were made aware of the service through local agencies, with 14% hearing about the service through family and friends.

When visitors were asked who it is they would have liked to talk to that were not present at that time, the agencies that were mentioned the most for Maidstone were Solicitors, Housing & Mental health.

With a 42.3% increase in visitor numbers over the year it is clear that more people are continuing to seek domestic abuse advice and access to services via the one stop shop; therefore it is crucial to ensure that we can meet demand and provide the services they need to keep themselves and their families safe.



## Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs)

MARACs are meetings where information about high-risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies. By bringing all agencies together at a MARAC, a risk-focused, co-ordinated safety plan can be drawn together to support the victim. MARACs now cover all persons aged 16 years and over.

Maidstone has had 179 MARAC cases between the periods of November 2015 - October 2016. This compares to 147 cases the previous 12 months, an increase locally of 22% and countywide 6.5%. 35 of those cases were repeat cases, this equates to 20% of all cases which is virtually unchanged from last year. This is the lowest repeat cases figure in the county whose average is 31.5%. Last year the county repeat case figure was 26.4%.

### 3.5 Adolescent to Parent Violence (APV)

APV is a form of domestic abuse inflicted by a child onto their parent. APV is usually perpetrated by a male child who victimises the mother.

APV is widely recognised by practitioners who work with families across a range of support services. However, it is only very recently that policy has begun to be developed to specifically address the problem. As a result, it is not usually officially documented and therefore does not currently appear in any public records or figures. Evidence of the extent of the problem is therefore piecemeal and developing incrementally.

Reports through the local early help teams, social services and troubled families have all identified APV to be an issue in Maidstone.

Whilst there is no current evidence to suggest perpetrators of APV grow into adult offenders it is highly likely that the learnt behaviour is carried on into adult relationships. It is recommended that APV is integrated into the SMP's DA priorities as a way of reducing future and current unreported offending.

### Violent Crime - domestic abuse

The Safer Maidstone Partnership has put considerable effort into raising the awareness of domestic abuse in the borough and has provided expert knowledge to local agencies. The SMP has also put in practical measures at the home of victims to keep them safe from their abuser. A number of initiatives have been supported this year and are outlined in the CSP plan. Due to the high levels of domestic abuse and repeat incidents, recommendation is made that Violent Crime (domestic abuse) remains as a priority for the partnership.

## 4. Anti-Social behaviour

### 4.1 Anti-Social Behaviour in Maidstone

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requires responsible authorities to consider crime and disorder (including antisocial behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment). ASB was removed as a priority in name last year as it was seen as 'business as usual' with strong partnership working and information sharing continuing to resolve issues.

Figures have shown this year that there has been a slight **increase of ASB of 3%** in Maidstone from November 2015 – October 2016 with 3697 cases compared to 3588 in the previous year. District wide saw an increase of 0.5% in cases over the same period. Since 2010, recorded ASB incidents in the borough have fallen though by **33.1%**.

	November 15 – October 16	November 14 – October 15	Number difference	% difference	County ranking
Canterbury	3852	4231	-379	-8.9%	1
Dover	3380	3701	-321	-8.7%	2
Tonbridge& Malling	2326	2469	-143	-5.8%	3
Medway	8747	8983	-236	-2.6%	4
Swale	3904	3991	-87	-2.2%	5
Gravesham	3274	3337	-63	-1.9%	6
Thanet	5368	5337	+31	+0.6%	7
Shepway	2948	2890	+58	+2.0%	8
Sevenoaks	2012	1970	+42	+2.1%	9
Maidstone	3697	3588	+109	+3.0%	10
Tunbridge Wells	2287	2200	+87	+3.9%	11
Dartford	2990	2620	+370	+14.1%	12
Ashford	1856	1582	+274	+17.3%	13
Kent district	46641	46897	-256	-0.5%	

Reports of ASB direct to the MBC CSU for the 12 months from December 15 - November 16 amounted to 113 cases. The majority of these were neither investigated fully or the direct responsibility of MBC CSU staff. They were however appropriately signposted to other departments and organisations, sharing necessary information and keeping an audit trail of data.

Despite the slight rise, this supports our decision to remove ASB as a priority in name last year which allowed us to explore more emerging issues. The weekly CSU partnership meeting has recently evolved into a vulnerabilities group focusing on repeat locations as well as individuals. It was found that many of those on the case list had a degree of mental health issue which would benefit from wider partnership involvement.

The wards most affected by ASB in order of number of offences recorded are High street ward (although no differential between residential reports and public), Fant, East, Parkwood and Shepway South.

In 2016 there were no applications for the Community Trigger in the Maidstone borough.

## 5. Substance Misuse

### 5.1 Substance Misuse in Maidstone

Substance misuse relates to the use of drugs, alcohol and includes New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) previously known as 'legal highs'. Neither alcohol nor NPS were included in the recorded drug offences as they were both legal. Since the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 became law in May 2016, NPS supply would be included in drug offence figures but not possession. It is however important to mention alcohol and NPS as there is a clear connection between criminal activity and the excessive use of these substances.

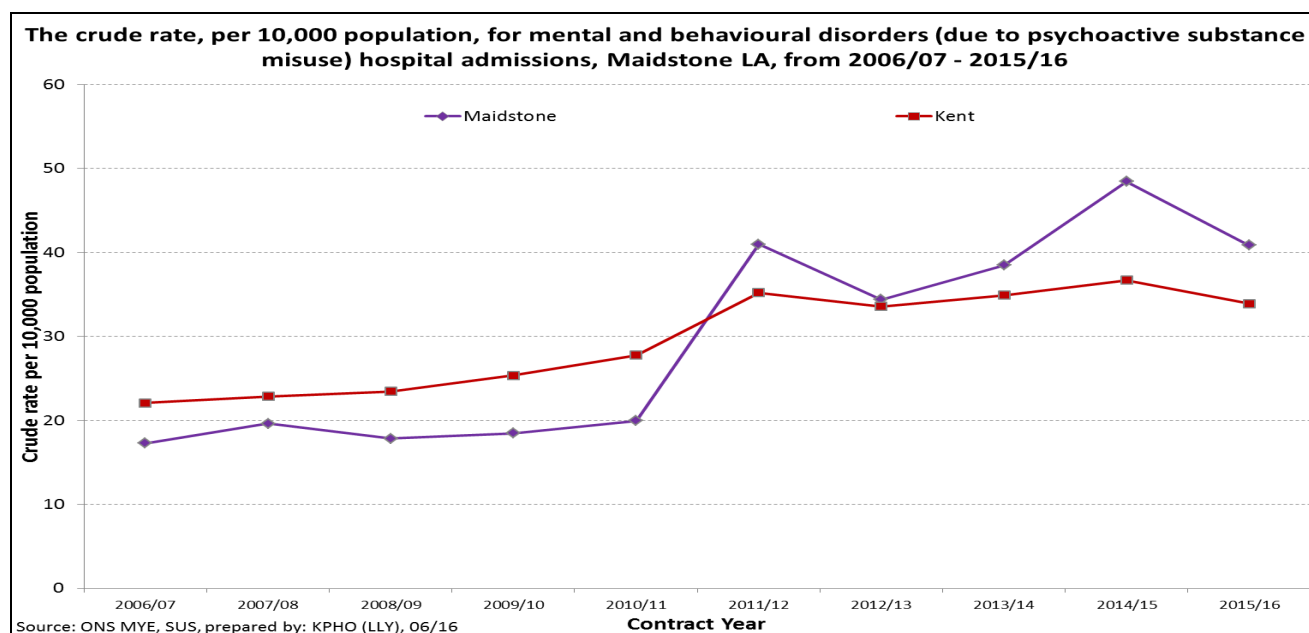
Kent police recorded drug offences includes both offences of drug supply and possession. Under this category of crime Maidstone has seen a **22.3% increase** in drug offences from Nov 15 – Oct 16 when compared to last year's data. This is an increase from 282 offences to 345 offences; this equates 63 more crimes this year.

Data from the Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory suggests a lower number of admissions to hospital for mental and behavioural disorders relating to psychoactive substances than in the past. 637 admissions from Jul 15 – Jun 16, compared to 734 from Sep 14 – Aug 15. This is a reduction of

13%. Next year's comparable data will provide a clearer picture of what impact the Psychoactive Substances Act has had in related hospital admissions.

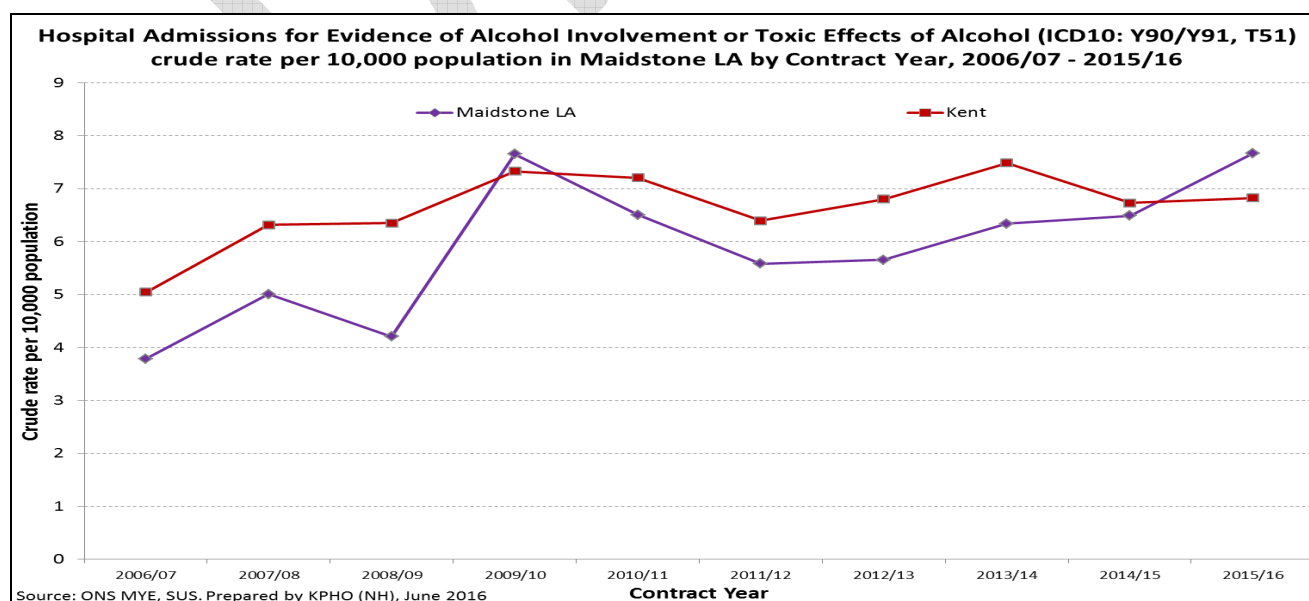
## 5.2 NPS related hospital admissions.

The table below illustrates hospital admissions over 9 years for mental and behavioural disorders (due to psychoactive substance misuse) for Maidstone. It shows a steep rise in Maidstone's figures from 2010/11. This was when NPS use and 'head shops' became more prevalent and publicised in the media. In the last 12 - 24 months, targeted enforcement by the Police and Trading Standards has removed various products from general sale. This, along with the impending PS Act in May 16 and targeted education and support by substance misuse charities has seen admissions start to drop. Again, this will hopefully be more prevalent in another 12 months.



## 5.3 Alcohol related hospital admissions.

This table explores hospital admissions in Maidstone for evidence of alcohol involvement or toxic effects of alcohol covering 9 years to 2015/16. Maidstone generally mirrors Kent's figures and both have seen an upward trend over the period.



## 5.4 Clients in treatment.

The substance misuse charity Change, Grow, Live (CGL) has seen a drop in the use of the 3 needle exchange schemes in Maidstone over the past 12 months:

	January 2016 – December 2016	January 2015 – December 2015	Number difference	% difference
Clients on exchange programme	422	538	116	-21.5%
Clients in treatment	313	316	3	-0.95%

This represents a **21.5% reduction** in needle exchanges despite no relative change in those in treatment. CGL explained that this is due to their recovery programme being very successful with a number of clients completing treatment successfully and/or their injecting status changing.

From April 2016 – December 2016, CGL had 93 positive discharges in Maidstone (31 drug & 62 alcohol). Positive discharge for Opiates is drug free and completion of opiate substitute medication. Alcohol is either abstinence via a detox or reduction regime or controlled drinking – within government guidelines, if that was their goal. Other drugs such as cocaine, cannabis etc can be occasional users but will have made significant reduction/changes to substance misuse.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, CGL had 208 clients in structured treatment – 152 Opiate, 41 Alcohol and 15 other drugs.

## 5.5 Substance misuse recommendations.

**Substance Misuse actions and examples of partnership working are covered in the CSP plan. Due to the high level of drug offences in certain wards, and the link between drug offences and other crimes; it is recommended that Substance Misuse remains as a priority.**

## 6. Reducing Reoffending

### 6.1 Availability of 'Proven adult reoffending' data

The 'Proven adult reoffending' data in this Strategic assessment is historic data that does not relate specifically to service users subject to probation involvement. As of June 2014, the former Kent Probation divided into two organisations; National Probation Service (NPS) and Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) that manage two separate cohorts of service users. Reoffending data related to the KSS CRC is currently unavailable, with the first publication due for release by the MOJ in October 2017.

As a result of this no information can be used in this strategic assessment that is up to date and is reflective of the current re-offending rate in Kent or Maidstone.

Youth Justice first time entrant's figures for Maidstone have reduced year on year from 1903 new offenders in 2012/13 to 1205 in 2015/16. This represents a **36.6% decrease** over 3 years. This is particularly encouraging as this will help reduce the prevalence of future 'prolific offenders' and the stigmatisation of young people with a criminal record.

## 6.2 Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) brings a cross-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together.

IOM helps to improve the quality of life in communities by:

- reducing the negative impact of crime and reoffending
- reducing the number of people who become victims of crime
- helping to improve the public's confidence in the criminal justice system

Division	Cost of Crime		Difference	Number @ Nil Cost 6 Months After
	Months before joining IOM	6 Months After joining IOM		
East Division	£350,435	£146,735	£203,700	22
North Division	£304,899	£159,630	£145,269	10
West Division	£451,812	£503,263	£51,451	20
Total	£1,107,146	£809,628	£297,518	52

In August 2016 there were 178 adult offenders on the IOM cohort in Kent, 96 of which were in prison, this equates to 54% of the overall cohort. From the period of January 15 to December 2015 the members of this cohort were arrested for 238 offences throughout the year compared with 474 offences before they joined the cohort, this is a reduction of 236 cases which equates to 49%. The main reductions were in burglary of a dwelling which saw a reduction of 91 offences.

The individuals in the IOM cohort are prolific offenders and although 31 (38%) of them committed offences, it is a positive outcome that 51 (62%) either committed no offences or had a reduction in offending whilst they have been on IOM compared to the same time period before they joined IOM.

IOM is predominantly populated by male offenders with only 4 women subjected to the process this year.

### West division

West division has the highest IOM cohort with 75 offenders open to the process, this equates to 42% of the overall cohort in Kent and Medway. This is a rise from 63 offenders in August 2015 and has also seen the cost of crime for the West division rise by over £50,000. This rise in the cost of crime for those on IOM this year was because of a change in the period and calculation over which the cohort were monitored before and during their time on IOM. Also if an offender started to reoffend, the values of the crime or associated costs incurred were higher on some occasions and the cohort was larger. Indeed, in Maidstone we experienced a 71% overall reduction in offences committed by the IOM cohort than before they were on IOM. This is slightly under the county average of 81%. For those IOM in the community, 45% in the West division had a reduction in offending.

It was stated that the predominate causes of offender behaviour across Kent related to thinking and behavioural needs which accounts 89% of the attributable needs amongst the cohort, the lowest criminogenic needs mentioned were accommodation (40%), and emotional wellbeing and alcohol abuse which both accounted for 44% of offenders each.

It is clear from the information provided that IOM is a successful way of supporting the most prolific ex-offenders to change their lives.

### 6.3 Reducing Re-offending recommendations.

**Actions to assist in reducing reoffending are in the CSP plan, reducing reoffending rates are key to the reduction of crime and thus fewer victims. In the borough it is considered a theme that spans across all of the other priorities. Therefore the recommendation is made that it is now moved to become a cross cutting theme rather than a specifically named priority.**

## 7. Road Safety

### 7.1 Road Safety in Maidstone

Road traffic is still the biggest cause of unnatural death, injury and harm to the people of Kent, especially young people aged between 5 and 25. Kent County Council is the Highway Authority for Kent and has a Statutory Duty under the Road Traffic Act for road safety with the aim to reduce casualties. The Safer Maidstone Partnership has maintained road safety as priority for the partnership in the past as it recognised the importance of making Maidstone's roads safe.

KSI figures (killed or serious injured) for Maidstone have seen a **decrease of 20.6%** over the three years 2013-2015, 2015 – 50, 2014 – 74, 2013 – 63. This has been achieved despite limited actions or interventions from MBC. However, the number of 17-24 year-olds killed or seriously injured (KSI) as car occupants in Kent rose by 16 per cent from 51 in 2014 to 59 in 2015.

KFRS have opened a 'Road Safety Experience' at Rochester and is the first purpose built, interactive centre of its kind in the UK. It uses powerful stories, exciting interactive experiences and information from experienced road safety experts. The aim is to encourage young people to look at the potential consequences of a road accident from all perspectives – for themselves, their passengers, other drivers and their families.

The Road Safety Experience aims to help young people learn from the experience of others, improve their safety and give them the skills they need to make better informed decisions in all driver and passenger situations.

The Road Safety Experience is set to provide essential road safety skills for young people across the county. The centre is built on the same site as the new Rochester Fire Station on the former Park and Ride site on Marconi Way, Rochester ME1 2XQ.

- It provides supervised education visits for up to 90 young people a day. It is free to all schools, colleges and groups in Kent and Medway.
- The centre is predominantly aimed at 14 to 25 year olds.
- The experience has been designed for schools to spend a total of four hours on their visit.
- There is additional educational content that can be used before or after the students come for their experience.
- The centre will also be available to youth groups.

KCC Road Safety Team and Kent Police have responsibilities and powers in relation to road safety that Maidstone Borough Council and others do not. There are 2 major motorways that run through the borough which contribute to a high number of casualties. Maidstone Borough Council has little or no influence or resources to affect casualty figures on these major routes through the borough.

### 7.2 Road Safety recommendations

**MBC continue to support major organisations with campaigns and initiatives around road safety but have no specific resources to implement anything further themselves. Road safety is therefore recommended for removal as a priority for the SMP due to many organisations having no direct resources, powers or influence in reducing the RTC or KSI figures in the borough compared to the statutory agencies.**

## 8. Community Resilience

### 8.1 Community Resilience topics.

Over the year emerging trends in child sexual exploitation (CSE) extremism and radicalisation, human trafficking, modern slavery and serious organised crime (SOC) have presented as significant issues across the country. To tackle these issues the police have implemented these areas into their Control Strategy

Given the prominence of Kent in regards to its links with Europe through Dover, the Safer Maidstone Partnership supports the control strategy through making a priority orientated around CSE, Prevent, human trafficking, modern slavery and SOC. By including these areas in the strategy it is hoped that the partnership can make our communities more resilient and pre-emptive to those issues.

An SMP Community Resilience subgroup was set up to explore these emerging issues further and discuss how partner agencies could assist with information sharing. This can help build evidence to support police investigations into organised crime groups.

Various presentations from the police Serious Crime Directorate to the subgroup have given a valuable insight into the police control strategy. They have shown partners what types of details to look out for and what to ask when conducting a site visit and showed that some agencies have more powers of entry to businesses than the police. This means that entry to a location can be gained earlier in an investigation.

### 8.2 Local Profiles.

The police Local Profiles have been published for each CSP and for Maidstone highlight the following redacted points for Community Resilience topics:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** - No CSE crimes or incidents have been recorded but 21 children at risk of CSE have been identified.
- **Gangs** – A number of London street gangs are associated with the area and drug networks, vulnerable people being exploited.
- **Organise Crime Groups** - There are 8 OCGs with a recorded impact in the Maidstone area. The crime types associated with these groups is commonly drugs related which mirrors the local and national trend.
- **Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery** - There are two car washes in the District linked to human trafficking via intelligence. There are links between a brothel in Maidstone and an OCG. The women being prostituted from these premises are believed to have been trafficked from abroad.
- **Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism** – Threat posed by individuals travelling through Kent ports raising funds for terrorism. Combating the threat from unlawful protest from extreme left and right wing groups.

### 8.3 Community Resilience recommendations.

Due to the relatively new nature of partnership working around these topics, it is recommended that Community Resilience topics are retained but because of their complexity, are separated into two priorities – i) Organised Crime Groups (including Modern Slavery) and ii) Gangs & CSE. This will continue to help build on these newly formed relationships and working practices.

## 9. Subsidiary priority relating to Safeguarding (self-neglect & hoarding)

As part of this priority, an emergence of ASB cases relating to hoarding and self-neglect became apparent in Maidstone. ASB was caused by the lack of care residents took over their properties which increased the levels of vermin in the areas they lived in. The SMP had coordinated many multi-agency case conferences to address the issues highlighted by self-neglect and hoarding. Partners involved in this process include adult social services, voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations with specialism relating to mental health, housing and health, environmental health/enforcement and the CSU.

The coordination of self-neglect cases has proved effective by enabling multiple agencies to support people in the community. This has reduced the environmental health issues and ensured that an ongoing plan is in place to support local residents. It has also led to this process being embedded into agencies case management and is now business as usual.

Following a review of the Maidstone self-neglect & hoarding protocol, the CSU have now stepped back from the tasking & co-ordinating of these cases. There isn't sufficient capacity for an officer to co-ordinate and carry a caseload of complex cases this large. They will however remain as a source of advice & guidance when needed. A case study can be found in Appendix 2.

## 10. Mental Health

Approximately 75% of all cases discussed in the weekly community safety & vulnerabilities group meeting have a degree of mental health associated with them. This is also true of previous self-neglect & hoarding cases. Figures for Section 136 use in the borough (where an individual is sectioned for their own or others safety) have increased year on year for Maidstone and last year it was used 66 times. This is an **increase of 46%** over the previous 3 years.

There is a concerted effort taking place to avoid where possible those with mental health issues from being kept in police custody as a 'safe place' when their behaviour is causing concern. Pilots have commenced elsewhere in Kent for designated places for this use and more access to mental health professionals. A future evaluation will determine what provision suits best and can be rolled out across the rest of the county.

Referrals for young adults and older people had seen a slight increase in most boroughs over the past 3 years (with 1358 and 701 referrals last year respectively). However figures for 2016/17 show Maidstone could be on target for a slight decrease but this won't be known fully until after April 2017.

### 10.1 Mental Health recommendations.

**Because of Mental Health issues being prevalent in so many topics, it is recommended that it be introduced as an SMP priority in its own right. One aim for example could be for all agencies to identify vulnerabilities early, and signpost clients to appropriate support.**

## 11. Unlawful Encampments (UE's)

The last 12 months have seen a total of 9 unlawful encampments set up on Council owned land. Approximately 5 others have been reported that were on private land. The associated officers time, legal & environmental costs are estimated to be put at thousands of pounds. An area wide working group was set up to review the Unlawful Encampment protocol. The aim of which was to explore more expedient ways of managing UE's, thus reducing time, costs and the escalation of potential environmental damage. A revised protocol and documents will be published by the end of the financial year 2016/17 and will see a wider range of enforcement options at our disposal, dependent on the threat and risk the UE's present to predominantly publically accessible land.



## 12. Recommendations to Safer Maidstone Partnership

Our priorities for this year have been extracted from a wide variety of information shared with our partners and represent the most important issues to focus on this (2017/18) year. Based on the information in this Strategic Assessment, it is recommended that the Safer Maidstone Partnership confirm the following 2017/18 priorities:

- 6. Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery);**
- 7. Gangs & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);**
- 8. Substance Misuse;**
- 9. Domestic Abuse and other violent crime;**
- 10. Mental Health.**

These priorities have also been borne out by the scoring matrix used in 'MoRiLE' which ranked these priorities based on threat risk and harm to the public and organisations.

Prevent and Reducing Reoffending are now cross cutting themes rather than named priorities along with ASB. All the priorities will require a robust multi-agency response, but because they are important for residents and communities, achieving them will have a positive impact on people's quality of life.

## 13. How to get further information

If you would like further information about the Safer Maidstone Partnership, please contact: Community Partnerships & Resilience Team, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Tel: 01622 602000. [www.maidstone.org.uk](http://www.maidstone.org.uk)

## **Appendix 1**

### **Information sources**

The list below includes the details of those data sources used to inform this strategic assessment, including the agency supplying the data. All information was correct at time of document production.

#### **Kent Community Safety Unit crime data – Safer Communities Web Portal**

All data provided by the County CSU is using recorded crime data provided by the Business Information Unit at Kent Police. This data places the incidents at the time at which they were recorded by the Police.

#### **Kent Police Intelligence Analysis data**

Data provided by Kent Police is 'committed' data. The 'date' used is the midpoint between the earliest and latest dates that the offence could have been committed.

#### **Other data sources**

Data and information used in producing this Assessment has been provided, directly or otherwise, from the following organisations:

Association of Chief Police Officers  
 Association of Police Authorities  
 Association of Public Health Observatories (PHO's)  
 Choices DA Services (formerly North Kent Women's Aid)  
 Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary  
 Home Office  
 iQuanta  
 Kent Community Wardens  
 Kent County Council  
 Kent Fire & Rescue Service  
 Kent Highways  
 Kent Police  
 Nomis  
 ONS Labour Market Statistics  
 National crime agency

## Appendix 2

### Community Wardens:

#### Case 1:

KCC Warden was first made aware of LC when they took over 'Area' on a temporary basis from a previous Community Warden approximately 2 years ago. LC was living on approximately £72 a month. She was not receiving benefits. She often went to the local supermarket and bakers to get food to tide her by, free of charge. They referred her to AgeUK to obtain a benefit check and help with probate/debts accrued. LC's husband had passed away a couple of years ago and the mortgage and other debts were not being paid. She was at risk of having her property repossessed. Details were provided of Step Change Debt Charity and also obtained food parcels from the Salvation Army.

Accompanied LC to the Bank, raised a concern that she held an account that charged her a monthly fee even though she was not using it. She was struggling to get by. The bank agreed to refund approximately £1600 in monthly fees and interest and charges on another account.

Her dog was being fed by the RSPCA. However LC contacted the Warden stating that the RSPCA had scheduled to remove the dog from the property due to the conditions. The dog was never walked & they offered to rehome her at a local farm. This was LC's preferred option.

LC's property was in a filthy condition with dog faeces and urine throughout. She was hoarding large amounts of items. They arranged for a home visit from MBC Environmental Enforcement to visit the property – an order was made to ensure that the property was deep cleaned and decluttered. KCC helped her to declutter a large amount of items. There was a water leak in the property and so MBC Private Sector Housing were contacted, who agreed to repair the leak.

Spoke to the GP and raised concerns about LC's mental health. They organised a mental health assessment where she was deemed to have capacity. LC mentioned that her Sister-in-Law had been taking LC's medication and so they notified the GP in order to limit the amount of prescribed medication.

Encouraged LC to go to the AgeUK Day Centre each Friday as she wanted her to mix with other people. Concerns had been raised that her sister-in-law was constantly harassing her all the time. The aim was for LC to have something to do, without her sister-in-law. LC obtains 2 more dogs and 2 cats. The RSPCA were notified and they agreed to do six monthly checks.

Another Warden took over 'Area' approximately 14 months ago, they continued to do joint visits. Working with AgeUK to continue to sort out her finances and mortgage and probate. LC stated that she no longer wanted her cats and so we rehomed them at Cat Protection. During Multi-Agency meetings we discussed the possibility of moving LC to Housing Association property as she was due to be evicted in the near future. KCC Warden and Community Safety (MBC) agreed to bid for properties on LC's behalf with her consent.

Wardens both accompanied LC to view a property and take her to Golding Homes to sign the tenancy agreement for a property elsewhere in the borough. Organised a local church group to assist in moving large items of furniture etc. to LC's new property. Social Services helped us to clean the furniture as it was brought in. AgeUK arranged for some offcuts of carpet to be fitted and installed LC's washing machine and a lady at the local library service donated a bed. Obtained a free electric oven and managed to get a fully qualified electrician to install it free of charge.

Social Services have put Kent Enablement in place before care was organised in order to encourage her to keep the property clean and tidy, look after her personal care and take care of her two dogs. She exceeded her overdraft when the first payment for rent was due. Wardens accompanied her to speak to the Bank Manager in order to prevent a daily charge until her finances had been sorted out and they were concerned that LC would go in to rent arrears with a few weeks.

Warden has taken LC in to 'Area' on a few occasions in order to ensure that she has had sufficient food until she has got confidence to use the local buses. LC is reluctant to travel because she is afraid of getting lost. They printed out the local bus timetables to get LC used to the bus routes. Whilst at the new property it was discovered that LC had a defective timer control for her gas central heating. The electrical wiring was exposed. Arranged for Golding Homes to repair it as a matter of urgency and this was done. KCC Wardens continue to do weekly visits where possible.

**Priority Target Achieved:** Safety and wellbeing.

### **Case 2:**

Following calls from a neighbour and a relative I visited an elderly resident in 'Area'. She had a severe stroke several years ago which has limited her mobility and her ability to communicate clearly. She lives alone in a cottage which, although in the centre of 'Area', is isolated. Quite often it is easier for her to sleep in her armchair which is located next to a ground floor window.

For some months she has occasionally seen torchlight in her garden during the night, usually around 0300 hours. She states that her door handle has been tested too. At first she was not concerned because she assumed a neighbour was checking on her welfare. She has now spoken to the neighbour who states that it was not them.

Due to her communication difficulties she is unable to effectively communicate on the telephone so the incidents have not been reported to the police.

The resident, her granddaughter and I discussed additional security measures including lighting, door locks and window locks. I subsequently provided details of various products listed on the internet and a list of security companies from CheckaTrade.

The resident has a lifeline installed. While there I spoke to the call centre and explained the situation. The operator has updated the residents file accordingly. If there is another incident they will contact the police on the resident's behalf.

I will continue to call in on the resident from time to time. I have also asked the granddaughter and the neighbour to report any future incidents to the police as soon as possible and to also keep me updated.

### **Case 3:**

Overview: Lady with Dementia

Spoke with residents who were concerned of an older lady walking looking lost and asking about the fences in 'Area'. Couldn't find her but a resident managed to find out where she lived as she saw her the next day. Luckily before I went to visit the lady's cousin phoned me to say that he was very stressed with the amount of care she needed to keep her safe and they had sought help with her dementia through the doctors surgery where she was confirmed as having dementia. I met with the family and referred her to the social care Coordinator and asked them to give the family more support and options.

I then went to meet this lady, she was a lovely lady who was charming, we got speaking and I mentioned that 'Area' has a café that is very friendly and that I like going. She was very pleased to hear there was a cafe and said she had never been there before, which the cousin confirmed. One of the worries of the family was that she was not eating. Since that visit I have confirmed with the café that she goes regularly and it's in her daily routine now. She stills needs regular visits and assessment from social care team giving the next of kin more options but it's made me think about getting the staff officially trained as dementia friends at 'Area' Café.

## Appendix 3

### Methodology Notes:

#### SPC Charts Explained

Statistical Process Control (SPC) Charts are a tool used by Kent Police to help identify whether there has been any significant improvements or deteriorations in a particular crime type.

When a category is stable and in control, the data will appear within a set of predicted limits based on past knowledge and experience. Although there will be some natural variation around the average (*also known as common cause variation*) as long as the figures remain within the control limits there has been no significant changes to what was anticipated.

If the category was unstable and displayed uncontrolled variation (*also known as special cause variation*), the data would not follow a predicted pattern and would indicate that something had changed and action might be required.

*Natural variation indicates that any change from month-to-month is expected, e.g. the time you come to work every day varies by a few minutes around an average, however if there was an accident on the road then the time taken to come to work would be significantly longer, this would be unnatural variation indicating that something has gone awry.*

SPC charts are generated based on historical data to produce the following:

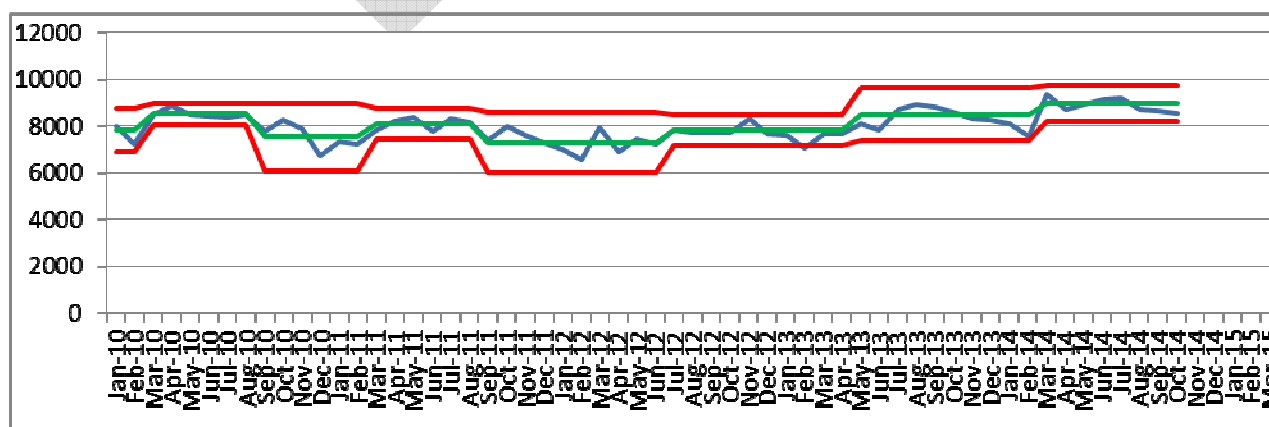
- The Centre Line (CL) which is the average no. of recorded crimes / incidents
- The Upper (UCL) and Lower Control Limits (LCL) which are the limits of natural variation

Any result above the UCL suggests that there may be a problem. In addition, other indications that a category is out of statistical control includes when several results in a row are above the CL or when several results in a row show an increasing trend.

If the figures are consistently below the CL this indicates an improvement and will result in the centre line and the control limits being lowered, often referred to as a 'step change'. Similarly if the figures for a specific category rise due possibly to an increase in activity; a revision to the data (i.e. back-record conversion); or possibly a change in what is recorded within each category then the CL and control limits may need to be raised.

NB. If the control limits are closer together this indicates a low level of variation around the average and shows that the category is in control, a wider gap between the limits indicates greater variation and less control.

Example of a Kent Police SPC Chart:



## Appendix 3

### **MoRiLE:**

The Kent Community Safety Unit has explored the use of the MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) scoring matrix to look at ranking offences based on threat, risk and harm. Maidstone Borough Council and others in Kent have incorporated this methodology within this year's Strategic Assessment.

The ideology behind MoRiLE is that it targets resources at offences that would have the biggest impact on individuals and organisations/areas. This is in contrast to concentrating solely on crime figure tables which can sometimes provide a skewed view on threats and risk based only on the frequency/volume of crimes.

Each thematic crime area is scored individually against various criteria. There is then a formula that calculates a final score. These are then ranked high to low, listing priorities based on threat, risk & harm which can then contribute to the SMP's final recommendation of priorities.

### **Serious Organised Crime Local Profiles:**

#### Aims:

- To develop a common understanding among local partners of the threats, vulnerabilities and risks relating to serious and organised crime.
- To provide information on which to base local programmes and action plans.
- To support the mainstreaming of serious and organised crime activity into day-to-day policing, local government and partnership work.
- To allow a targeted and proportionate use of resources.

#### Purpose:

- Local Profiles should inform local multi-agency partnerships, in particular police and crime commissioners, policing teams, local authorities and other relevant partners (such as education, health and social care and Immigration Enforcement); of the threat from serious and organised crime and the impact it is having on local communities.

#### What do we do with the Local Profile?

- The profile outlines key serious and organised crime issues within your district and provides information on what the offences are, what to look for and recognised serious and organised crime within your community and what to do if you see or suspect anything. This allows us all to PREVENT young people and vulnerable adults from becoming involved in crime and helping to protect and safeguard those that may already be involved through identifying and working together.

## Appendix 4

### Acronym Glossary:

ASB = Anti-Social Behaviour  
 BOTD = Burglary Other Than Dwelling  
 CCG = Clinical Commissioning Group  
 CDAP = Community Domestic Abuse Programme  
 CDRP = Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership  
 CGL = Change, Grow, Live  
 CSA = Community Safety Agreement  
 CSE = Child Sexual Exploitation  
 CSP = Community Safety Partnership  
 CSU = Community Safety Unit  
 DA = Domestic Abuse  
 HMIC = Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary  
 IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Advisor  
 IOM = Integrated Offender Management  
 JSNA = Joint Strategic Needs Assessment  
 KCC = Kent County Council  
 KFRS = Kent Fire & Rescue Service  
 KSI = Killed or Seriously Injured  
 KSSCRC = Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company  
 MARAC = Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference  
 MBC = Maidstone Borough Council  
 MOJ = Ministry Of Justice  
 MoRiLE = Management of Risk in Law Enforcement  
 MSG = Most Similar Groups  
 NPS = National Probation Service or New Psychoactive Substances depending on context  
 NTE = Night Time Economy  
 OCG = Organised Crime Group  
 PCC = Police & Crime Commissioner  
 PS = Psychoactive Substances  
 SMP = Safer Maidstone Partnership  
 SOC = Serious Organised Crime  
 SPC = Statistical Process Charts  
 UE = Unlawful Encampments  
 VATP = Violence Against The Person  
 VCS = Voluntary & Community Services



## **Safer Maidstone Partnership**

### **Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013–2018**

### ***'Delivering Safer Communities'***

**Refreshed March 2017**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the annual refresh of the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2017-18. This document outlines how we are going to collectively tackle community safety issues in the Maidstone borough, how we have achieved against the targets set in the previous year and what we will prioritise this year.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

The Maidstone Community Safety Plan 2013-18 is a five year rolling document, which identifies how the SMP plans to tackle local community safety issues that matter to the local community. The plan is revised annually through reviewing information set out in the Strategic Assessment which ensures that current issues are taken into account and used to direct the SMP's strategy and actions.

#### **3. PRIORITIES**

Our aim is to make Maidstone borough a better, safer place for people who live, work and visit here. Data analysis identifies that we continue to face challenges across our district and as such the SMP has agreed to focus on five key issues for **2017-18**:

- 1. Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery);**
- 2. Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);**
- 3. Substance Misuse;**
- 4. Domestic Abuse and other violent crime;**
- 5. Mental Health.**

These priorities have been identified by applying the "MoRiLE" scoring matrix which is a technique for Managing Risk in Law Enforcement that ranks crime and disorder issues based on threat risk and harm to individuals, communities and organisations and which also takes into consideration vulnerability and the capacity and capability of the Safer Maidstone Partnership.

Work around the Government's Prevent duty and Reducing Reoffending are now cross cutting themes rather than named priorities along with Anti-Social Behaviour.

All the priorities will require a robust multi-agency response, but because they are important for residents and communities, achieving them will have a positive impact on people's quality of life.



Road safety has been a named priority in previous years but it is not included as a top priority for 2017/18 for two key reasons. Firstly there has been a significant reduction in people killed or seriously injured in road traffic crashes in Maidstone and secondly the primary responsibility for reducing crashes lies with the highway authority (in terms of engineering and education) and Kent Police (in terms of enforcement) – work that is co-ordinated through other channels. MBC will continue to support initiatives around road safety but have no capacity or jurisdiction to implement anything further.

Due to the relatively new nature of partnership working around Community Resilience topics, these priorities have been retained. Due to their complexity and the experience gained over the last year two priorities have been identified – i) Organised Crime Groups (including Modern Slavery) and ii) Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). This will continue to help build on these newly formed relationships and working practices.

Mental health has been identified as a named priority for the SMP for the first time. There are two key reasons for this. Firstly mental health, although not a crime in itself, is an issue at the heart of many cases which are reported to the Community Safety Unit. Poor mental health is often a causal factor in a person's anti-social behaviour and victims of crime whose mental health is adversely affected by their experiences are often placed at increased risk, as in the case of Fiona Pilkington and her daughter.

Secondly, the provisions for detention of people under the Mental Health Act will be changing. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 police custody suites will no longer be available to be used as "safe places" for people detained under the Mental Health Act. This has, amongst other things, prompted the need to review how partners manage and support people with mental health conditions involved in crime and disorder. This includes paying greater attention to interventions that prevent people reaching crisis point, thereby reducing the need to detain people. Mental Health is also a priority for the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner.

#### **4. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 changed the way crime and anti-social behaviour were to be tackled. It recognised that in order to be effective, agencies needed to work together to address the issues collectively. Each local area formed a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which are now called Community Safety Partnerships.

The Safer Maidstone Partnership is made up of Responsible Authorities (those bodies for whom membership of the CSP is a statutory obligation) and voluntary members. Our statutory partners are: Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company and the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (which has the responsibility for local health services).

In addition to our statutory partners we also work with a large number of voluntary and private sector partners as well as community groups to collectively implement and deliver initiatives that will help keep the Maidstone borough a safe place to live, work and visit.

The SMP has co-chairs Alison Broom, Chief Executive of Maidstone Borough Council and Chief Inspector Mick Gardner of Kent Police.

## **5. ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES**

### **Community Safety Unit**

The way in which the Maidstone Community Safety Unit (CSU) works continues to evolve. The regular weekly operational partnership meeting has been reviewed and refocussed over the last 12 months in response to the Strategic Assessment and consequent priorities for keeping Maidstone safe. This meeting focussed predominantly on incidents of, and locations where, anti-social behaviour was prevalent. Over time the amount of ASB in Maidstone has reduced and other issues have come more to the fore, as reflected in our priorities.

The scope of the weekly meeting has been widened and is now the CSU Vulnerabilities Group. As a result a broader range of partners are now engaged and a wider range of people and incidents are discussed with a particular focus on threat, risk and harm for the most vulnerable people. This has re-energised the meetings and improved information sharing and joint working.

As well as Borough Council officers and Kent Police, partners include Kent Community Wardens, local housing Registered Providers including Golding Homes and KCC children's specialist social services. In 2014, the Borough Council's licensing team relocated to the CSU. Increasing the range of partners working as part of the CSU is a key priority to ensure community safety related issues are tackled holistically.

### **Kent Police**

The Kent Police mission is to provide a first class service protecting and serving the people of Kent. The vision of the Chief Constable and PCC is 'for Kent to be a safe place for people to live, work and visit. By protecting the public from harm, we will allow our communities to flourish and by working with the public and partners, we will provide a first class policing service that is both visible and accessible. We will retain neighbourhood policing as the bedrock of policing in Kent. We will be there when the public need us and we will act with integrity in all that we do'.

### **Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)**

PCCs are responsible for the appointment of Chief Constables, holding them to account for the running of the force, setting out a Police and Crime Plan based on local priorities, setting the local precept and force budget and making grants to external organisations. The current PCC for Kent, Matthew Scott, was elected in May 2016 and will remain in office for a period of four years.

The PCC has pledged to continue to support a number of agencies through the main policing grant and has announced his commitment to his wider duties around crime and community safety. Funding for Community Safety Partnerships was confirmed for 2017/18 and will be used to address our local priorities.

The Kent Police & Crime Plan is a four year plan and was reviewed in February 2017. The plan sets out the Commissioner's vision and priorities for policing in the county which includes placing victims first, focusing on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and protecting the public from harm. To achieve the aims in the plan the following strategic priorities are set out:

- Fight crime, ASB and reduce re-offending
- Tackle abuse, exploitation, violence, organised crime and gangs
- Invest in schemes that make communities feel safer and support the engagement of residents
- Support initiatives that reduce pressure on police working with mental health clients

- Support victims of crime and abuse
- Invest in schemes that make offenders pay for the harm they have caused

### **West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group**

Since 1 April 2013, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have become 'responsible authorities' on CSPs. This means that the CCGs now have a statutory duty to work in partnership to tackle crime and disorder. The act places a duty on CCGs to:

- Participate in a strategic assessment of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, and drug and alcohol misuse for the CSP area or areas in which they fall.
- Contribute to the development of local strategies that effectively deal with the issues where they are identified.

Joining their local CSPs gives CCGs more influence in shaping local action to tackle crime and the causes of crime, for example the delivery of services which have an impact on crime and disorder, including mental health services.

### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

The West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board brings together key organisations and representatives of the public to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of West Kent.

It has been set up in West Kent as part of the recent national health and social care reforms. Kent Public Health, the four West Kent authorities (Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councils), West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group, (who are responsible for commissioning health services locally) and patient and public representatives are all part of this Board.

The key themes for health and wellbeing are drawn from the West Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

### **Probation Services**

The Probation services are organised in two parts - the National Probation Service (NPS) and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). The NPS is a statutory criminal justice service whose supervision and support includes not only Service users who have never been in custody and have only solely been in the community, but also high risk offenders who are released into the community; this service is provided nationally by the government. The CRC supports the rehabilitation of low to medium risk offenders and is commissioned out to private companies. Kent is covered by the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) who alongside the NPS play an active part in the SMP's partnership.

### **The Kent County Perspective**

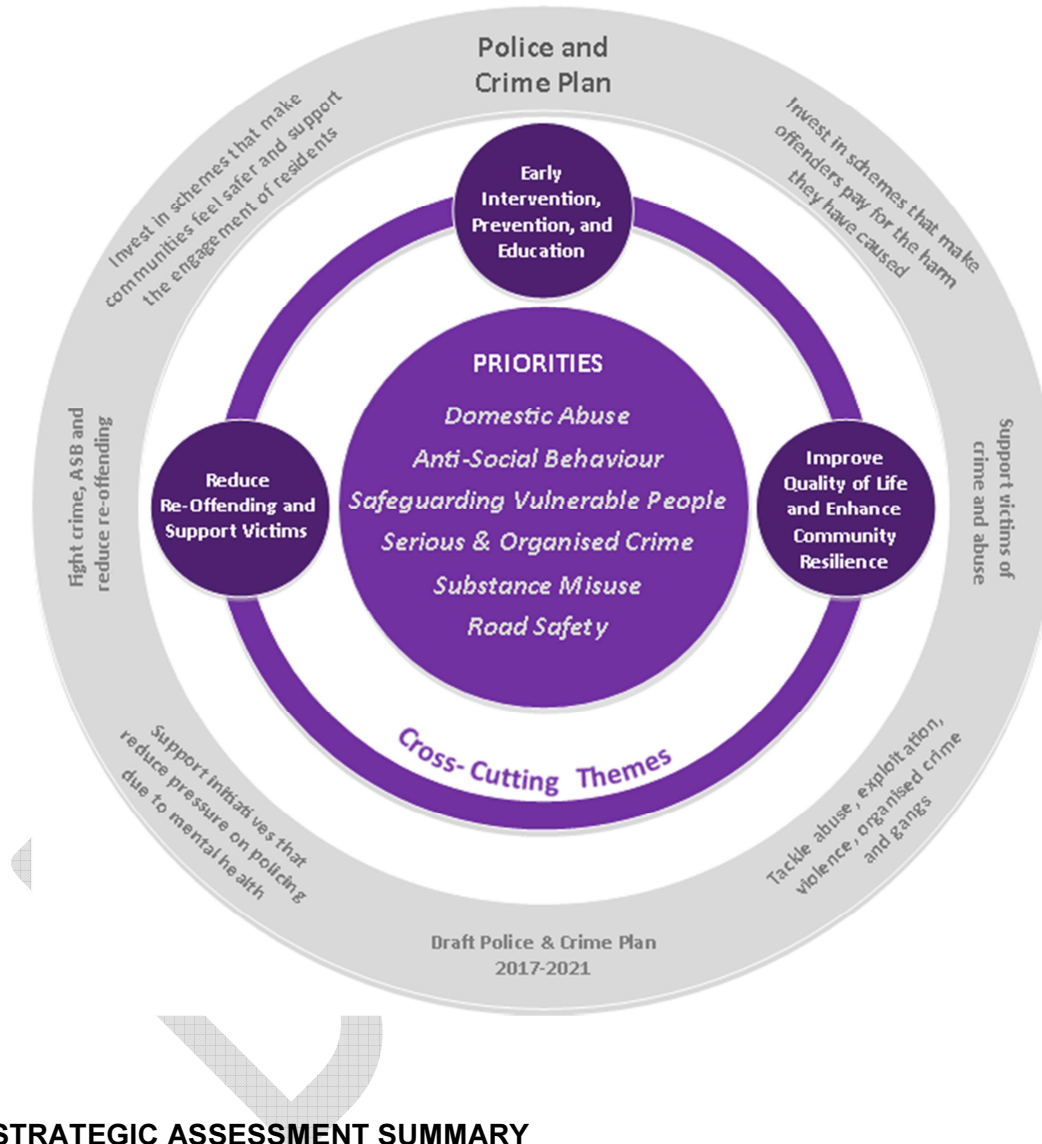
The Draft Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) for 2017 outlines the key community safety priorities for Kent and replaces the previous agreement which expired on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

The common issues and priorities from the District-level strategic assessments have been identified and key stakeholders consulted to identify any potential gaps and cross-cutting themes for inclusion in the agreement.

## Appendix 2

The diagram below not only includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA, but also shows the strategic priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan, illustrating the importance of integrating the work of all partners.

### 2017 Priorities & cross cutting themes for the CSA and the PCC



## 6. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Each year the Safer Maidstone Partnership undertakes a Strategic Assessment of the district to identify any crime and disorder trends, which can then be used to inform the priority planning for the coming year. This ensures we are focusing our efforts collectively on the areas that are most in need. This is done by analysing data and intelligence reports from the previous year to produce recommended priority areas the data is telling us are a concern or that residents have highlighted.

This year's methodology includes the use of a risk scoring matrix called MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement). It differs in that it ranks priorities/themes based on threat risk and harm as opposed to relying mainly on volume of crime figures. Further information on this and other methodology used in this year's Strategic Assessment can be found in Appendix 1.

## Appendix 2

The priorities are then ranked against a number of factors, including volume, trend over time, residents' perceptions and how much it is felt that the partnership can influence. This is then reviewed by our stakeholders and finally the top ranked priorities are analysed in depth, to help guide practitioners in formulating actions that they feel will have an impact on each priority.

The following areas were **2016-17's** identified priorities and the completed actions for each priority are listed below:

### Community Resilience

A multi-agency subgroup was created to discuss all the themes for the Community Resilience priority that was identified through last year's Strategic Assessment. These included Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), extremism and radicalisation (Prevent), human trafficking, modern slavery and Serious Organised Crime (SOC).

It was soon realised that although the topics sat under Community Resilience, they were too complex and far reaching to discuss them all in detail at a subgroup meeting. As a result the SMP will now establish two sub-groups namely i) Organised Crime Groups (OCG) including modern slavery, and ii) Gangs & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). These groups will continue to build on newly formed relationships and working practices.

#### Priority completed actions:

- Serious Organised Crime presentations from the police Regional Organised Crime Unit were delivered to partners and explained what to look out for on site visits, the type of information that could be exchanged between partners and explored different powers of entry.
- Multi-agency awareness days held at key sites in the borough for CSE awareness week
- A desktop exercise looking at a local OCG took place to help develop a case working strategy and explore agencies powers & information sharing.
- 'Local Profiles' have been published by the police to highlight areas of risk for victims under the police Control strategy topics in the borough. The sub headings align with the subgroup topics and gave an idea of the size of a specific issue locally.

### Substance Misuse

Substance misuse relates to the misuse of drugs and alcohol. Previously, neither alcohol nor New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) were included in the recorded drug offences as they were both legal. Since the introduction of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, the offences of distribution and sale of NPS and their possession in a custodial setting are now illegal and included in recorded drug offence figures. It is still important to mention? alcohol as there is a clear connection between criminal activity and the excessive use of this substance.

Kent police recorded drug offences include both offences of drug supply and possession. Under this category of crime Maidstone has seen a **22.3% increase** in drug offences from Nov 15 – Oct 16 when compared to the previous year's data. This is an increase from 282 offences to 345 offences; this equates 63 more crimes this year.

Data from the Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory suggests a lower number of admissions to hospital for mental and behavioural disorders relating to psychoactive substances than in the past. 637 admissions from Jul 15 – Jun 16, compared to 734 from Sep 14 – Aug 15. This is a reduction of 13%. Next year's comparable data will provide a

clearer picture of what impact the Psychoactive Substances Act has had in related hospital admissions.

**Priority completed actions:**

- Targeted multi-agency evening operations have been delivered with Trading Standards, Kent Police and Borough Council teams to tackle underage sales of alcohol and licensed premises.
- NPS education from young people's service Addaction delivered to targeted cohorts of young people based on risk and vulnerability.
- A local online system is being explored for local GP's/Professionals to help signpost clients into treatment and support.
- Through the substance misuse charity Change, Grow, Live (CGL), needle exchange schemes in Maidstone (2 pharmacies and their service centre) continue to be successful. In 2016 there was a 20% reduction in needle exchanges from the previous year (422, down from 538), helped by clients in treatment changing their status away from injecting.
- Subgroup action plan incorporates elements from the West Kent Alcohol Action Plan, the Kent Drug Alcohol Strategy and the West Kent Health & Wellbeing Board.
- Promoted KCC's alcohol 'Know Your Score' quiz via a social media advertising campaign. 9,100 middle aged, female professionals were reached who are an identified cohort of people at increased risk of alcohol related harm.
- Increased number of street population referred and engaged in CGL support services as a result the Maidstone Assertive Outreach programme.
- A Reduce the Strength scheme for the town centre has been introduced to remove from sale 'low cost high strength' beer, cider & lager above 6.5% ABV.
- Urban Blue Bus, Street Pastors & Taxi Marshals part funded through the PCC Grant to help support the customers of the Night Time Economy in Maidstone town centre.
- Part funded 'Theatre ADAD' to deliver the 'WASTED – drug & alcohol education' to 29 primary schools in the borough, this highlights to year 6 pupils the dangers of substance misuse.
- Needle bin in Brenchley Gardens, continues to reduce needle finds by 50%.
- Substance Misuse charities outreach being directed to 8 problematic areas in six months where young people congregate, consume drugs and/or alcohol and commit ASB.

## **5.5 Reducing Reoffending**

Reducing re-offending across the age range is a Government target for all CSP's. This is particularly important when those who have already been through the criminal justice system commit over half of all crime.

Reoffending data related to the NPS and the Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) is currently unavailable, with the first publication due from the MOJ in October 2017. This has unfortunately meant that reoffending data is unavailable.

However, the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme which is tasked with reducing reoffending rates of the most prolific offenders has reported a reduction of 45% in offending from the West Kent cohort compared with last year.

In line with other methodology around criminal justice, the IOM cohort is being expanded to look at those presenting the most threat, risk & harm rather than just Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) offences.

**Priority completed actions:**

- MBC are attending the West Kent Reducing Reoffending meetings to discuss IOM issues and share best practice.
- Restorative Justice has become an embedded process within IOM. All offender managers have been briefed in relation to the process and benefits of these approaches.
- Employability and physical activity has been provided as part of the IOM process by making gym memberships and training opportunities available to IOM offenders.
- Community Payback scheme used by Maidstone Borough Council and some parish councils.
- Expansion of the successful Electronic 'Buddy' tracking is being considered by Kent Police and Probation. At present this can only be undertaken with the agreement of the offender.
- Exploring further interventions through public health to assist ex-offenders where substance misuse and/or mental health issues are prevalent.
- Referring often homeless ex-offenders to housing providers and ensuring they have access to physical, mental and sexual health services.

**5.6 Road Safety (killed or seriously injured - KSI)**

Road traffic is still the biggest cause of unnatural death, injury and harm to the people of Kent, especially young people aged between 5 and 25. Kent County Council is the Highway Authority for Kent and has a Statutory Duty under the Road Traffic Act for road safety with the aim to reduce casualties. The Safer Maidstone Partnership has maintained road safety as priority for the partnership in the past as it recognised the importance of making Maidstone's roads safe.

KSI figures (killed or serious injured) for Maidstone have seen a **decrease of 20.6%** over the three years 2013-2015, 2015 – 50, 2014 – 74, 2013 – 63. This has been achieved despite limited actions or interventions from MBC. However, the number of 17-24 year-olds killed or seriously injured (KSI) as car occupants in Kent rose by 16 per cent from 51 in 2014 to 59 in 2015.

KCC Road Safety Team and Kent Police have responsibilities and powers in relation to road safety that Maidstone Borough Council and others do not. There are 2 major motorways that run through the borough which contribute to a high number of casualties. Kent has the 7th highest amount of driver mileage (163 million km's per year) out of 42 police forces. Maidstone Borough Council has little or no influence or resources to affect casualty figures on these major routes through the borough.

**Priority completed actions:**

- Identified hotspots of concern.
- Identified repeat offenders for speeding and promoted Speedwatch.
- Held multi-agency events around speed enforcement and safety.
- Delivered Safety in Action programme to all primary school children transitioning to secondary school, providing road safety education and pedestrian awareness.
- Promoted bus driver safety and pedestrian awareness
- Created a road safety awareness DVD for Schools & Arriva buses.
- KFRS Road Safety Experience in Rochester has opened, providing essential road safety skills for young people (14-25yr old) across the county.

### 5.7 Violent Crime (domestic abuse)

It is widely recognised that increased recorded incidents of domestic abuse are not necessary indicators of a worsening situation. Domestic abuse is an under-reported crime so that increased reports indicate that DA victims are coming forward to report the abuse they are suffering.

Between the periods September 2015 - August 2016, Maidstone had recorded 2683 incidents of Domestic abuse (26.4% average repeat victims) compared to 2258 incidents (26.2% repeat victims) in the same period in the previous year. This translates to a 34% increase in cases, though percentages of repeat victim figures are virtually unchanged.

Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops offer free advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse. Maidstone's one stop shop is currently hosted at the Salvation Army and provides advice on housing, legal matters, policing and specialist DA advice.

Maidstone has seen a 42.3% increase in attendance at the One Stop Shop since last year which is the 2nd highest increase in the county. 93% of all visitors were from Maidstone with the remaining 7% coming from other districts, 11.7% of all visitors made a repeat visit compared with the previous year where 22% of attendees made a repeat visit.

#### Priority completed actions:

- Partners have continued to run regular seasonal awareness campaigns aligned with national campaigns.
- Work Place Health employee awareness campaign launched.
- Supported the Freedom programme and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service.
- DA awareness day for professionals with 121 attendees.
- Facilitated support for Specialist Domestic Violence Court workers.
- Promoted and supported the Community Domestic Abuse Programme (CDAP).
- Referred all High Risk cases to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
- Provided support to male and female victims of DA through Choices.
- Provided support for male offenders wishing to rehabilitate.
- Helped facilitate the Sanctuary Scheme and assisted 25 victims to stay in their properties by making home security improvements
- Increased referrals for domestic abuse victims who are street homeless.
- Part funded theatre projects to secondary schools around healthy relationships.
- Assisted in providing a domestic abuse One Stop Shop in the borough and supported its relocation.
- Delivered targeted training to internal and external teams and supported the process of creating champion roles.
- Running a social media DA questionnaire campaign targeting over 18's in Maidstone.

#### Violent Crime (other)

Violent crime covers a wide range of crimes, from assault by beating through to grievous bodily harm, and murder. Please note however, the crime types which have been most affected by changes to recording practices are violence related offences, including Assault and Violence Against the Person (VATP).

Maidstone has seen an **increase of 26.3%** in violent crime compared with the period of November 2014 – October 2015. It's important to mention that this may be attributed to a





'business as usual' with strong partnership working and information sharing continuing to resolve issues.

Figures have shown this year that there has been a slight increase of ASB of 3% in Maidstone from November 2015 – October 2016 with 3697 cases compared to 3588 in the previous year. District wide saw an increase of 0.5% in cases over the same period. Since 2010, recorded ASB incidents in the borough have fallen though by 33.1%.

Reports of ASB direct to the MBC CSU for the 12 months from December 15 - November 16 amounted to 113 cases. The majority of these were neither investigated fully or the direct responsibility of MBC CSU staff. They were however appropriately signposted to other departments and organisations, sharing necessary information and keeping an audit trail of data.

Despite the slight rise, this supports our decision to remove ASB as a priority in name last year which allowed us to explore more emerging issues. The weekly CSU partnership meeting has recently evolved into a vulnerabilities group focusing on repeat locations as well as individuals. It was found that many of those on the case list had a degree of mental health issue which would benefit from wider partnership involvement.

### 2017-18 SMP Priorities

As a result of the above summaries for each of the current priorities, the table below outlines the **2017-18** priorities and cross-cutting themes.

Data analysis acknowledged that the priorities are often inter-related and has identified three distinct cross cutting themes that run through all of the priority focus areas. Actions contained within this plan are therefore built around the five identified priorities and three cross cutting themes, (see below).

Priorities & cross cutting themes				
Organised Crime Groups (including Modern Slavery)	Gangs & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Substance Misuse	Domestic Abuse and other Violent Crime	Mental Health
ASB & Reducing Reoffending				
Identifying Vulnerabilities				
'Prevent' and Radicalisation				

### How we are going to tackle these issues

The SMP has created an action plan detailing how each priority will be addressed, which is shown in section 6. These activities range from revising current processes to ensuring that services are delivered as effectively as possible, creating value for money and also commissioning new services and projects in areas of need. The SMP is committed to achieving these priorities and has set targets against what we are planning to achieve.

### Priority leads

Lead officers for each of the new priorities will be identified and have the responsibility for developing and delivering, with partners, the action plans to deliver the Maidstone borough priorities.

The leads will also act as a champion for the designated priority and provide regular progress updates for the Safer Maidstone Partnership and the borough council's Community, Housing and Environment Committee as required.

<b>Priority sub-groups</b>	<b>Lead Officer/Agency</b>
<b>OCGs including Modern Slavery</b>	Matt Roberts, Maidstone Borough Council & Inspector Jody Gagan-Cook, Kent Police
<b>Gangs &amp; Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</b>	Inspector Jody Gagan-Cook, Kent Police
<b>Substance Misuse</b>	Nic Rathbone, Maidstone Borough Council
<b>Domestic Abuse &amp; other Violent Crime</b>	Nick Fenton, Kent County Council & Stacey Stewart, Golding Homes
<b>Mental Health</b>	To Be Confirmed

DRAFT

## 6. Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Action Plan and Targets

The Action Plan sets out a series of actions and performance targets through which the priorities supporting the CSP Plan will be delivered for the period 2013–2018. The Action Plan makes clear arguments for building stronger and safer communities in Maidstone, with the actions identified against each priority supporting the overarching aim to reduce crime and disorder and its impacts. The plan will be reviewed annually to allow for new projects and priorities to be added.

### PRIORITY 1: Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery)

For the Maidstone borough to be well placed to tackle the issues of existing and new Organised Crime Groups (OCG)		
<b>Outcome (what we aim to achieve):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the OCG ‘make-up’ in the Maidstone borough</li> <li>• Fewer young people joining OCGs</li> <li>• Resilient communities which promote inclusion</li> <li>• Increased multi-agency working and information sharing around OCGs</li> </ul>		
<b>Action (how we aim to do it):</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>By When:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop information and data sharing protocols, look at barriers to sharing intelligence and share local knowledge via the OCG subgroup</li> <li>• Deliver education and awareness to schools, parents and community groups</li> <li>• Multi-agency work to disrupt, utilising other agencies to gain entry and trust</li> <li>• Regular updates from the Police to partners around OCG issues in Maidstone</li> </ul>	<b>SMP Subgroup</b>  <b>Police &amp; partners</b> <b>Subgroup partners</b> <b>Police</b>	<b>August 2017</b>  <b>March 2018</b> <b>Ongoing</b> <b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Indicators (how do we measure it):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a quarterly review of ‘Local Profiles’ on OCGs</li> <li>• A reduction in the level of activity of OCGs in the borough</li> <li>• Number of people outside the SMP that training/awareness is delivered to in 12 months</li> <li>• Number of OCGs subject to desk top exercise management</li> </ul>		

## PRIORITY 2: Gangs & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

To recognise the different networks and situations that may feed into making an individual vulnerable to Gangs/CSE, make the community more resilient towards the risks of Gangs/CSE.

### Outcome (what we aim to achieve):

- More reporting of suspected Gangs & CSE cases
- Understand the Gangs 'make-up' in the Maidstone borough
- Improved education and awareness raising around CSE
- Establish Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH)
- Improved information sharing and local links

### Action (how we aim to do it):

- Improve links with the local Child Sexual Exploitation Team (CSET) via the Community Safety Vulnerabilities Group (CSVG) meetings
- Quarterly multi-agency CSE meetings
- Early intervention for victims (identification and support)
- A common database for information exchange and/or case management

### Lead Agency

### By When:

### Indicators (how do we measure it):

- Number of CSE cases reported (like DA reporting, an increase could be seen as a positive)
- Number of early intervention actions made by partners feeding back to the subgroup
- Number of individuals Gangs & CSE awareness training is delivered to by subgroup members
- A reduction in the level of impact from Gangs in the borough

### PRIORITY 3: Substance Misuse

To reduce the impact of drug and alcohol misuse on individuals and the local community, including underage drinking.		
<b>Outcome (what we aim to achieve):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduction in discarded needles in the borough</li> <li>• Fewer young people regularly using substances</li> <li>• Increase in percentage of charges and positive outcomes of drug arrests</li> <li>• Raised awareness of the risks of drugs &amp; alcohol to high risk cohorts</li> </ul>		
<b>Action (how we aim to do it):</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>By When:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued support with needle exchange schemes and needle bin placements, 'reporting app' to be used by more agencies</li> <li>• Promoting awareness campaigns on the risks of drugs &amp; alcohol and interaction with mental health via social and other media</li> <li>• Awareness and education around substance misuse to young people delivered through commissioning of new or existing services</li> <li>• Interrogate reasons for a 'no charge' for drug offence arrests and look at alternatives</li> </ul>	CGL  Substance Misuse subgroup  Substance Misuse subgroup  Police	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Quarterly
<b>Indicators (how do we measure it):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in number of people in treatment choosing to inject drugs</li> <li>• Annual number of needle finds collated by street scene team (keep below 1,000)</li> <li>• Number of people reached on awareness campaigns</li> <li>• Number of pupils having substance misuse awareness delivered to them</li> <li>• Increase in charges laid as a percentage of outcomes from previous year</li> <li>• An increase in public perception of safety in the night time economy</li> </ul>		

#### PRIORITY 4: Domestic Abuse & other violent crime

*N.B. Due to the Maidstone Domestic Violence Forum recently changing to the Domestic Abuse subgroup, a full action plan for inclusion into the Partnership Plan has yet to be completed. This will be formulated by the subgroup at their next meeting.*

Outcome (what we aim to achieve):

Action (how we aim to do it):	Lead Agency	By When:

## PRIORITY 5: Mental Health

A persons mental health affects the way they respond to challenges in their daily life, either as a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour or how they behaviour in their community, often making them a perpetrator due the anti-social behaviours they exhibit.

### Outcome (what we aim to achieve):

To better understand the landscape of mental health; the issues and the demand for services and support in order to build resilience and reduce the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on people with poor mental health and prevent them from becoming perpetrators during periods of crisis.

### Action (how we aim to do it):

### Lead Agency

### By When:

N.B. *A full list of actions will be completed for this new priority by the subgroup at their first meeting.*

### Indicators (how do we measure it):



## **7. Consultation on Priorities and Partnership Plan**

Maidstone has some clearly defined urban as well as rural areas, often with competing demands on resources and emphasis on what local priorities should be. Through the annual Strategic Assessment and future consultation events, stakeholders will be informed of progress against the Partnership Plan to ensure there are no other compelling issues that should be included in the Plan.

## **8. Further information**

**Maidstone Community Safety Unit**  
Tel: 01634 602000

**Maidstone Police Station**  
Non-emergency Tel: 101  
Emergency Tel: 999

**Kent Fire and Rescue Service**  
Tel: 01622 692121

**One-Stop Shop**  
Maidstone Gateway reception, Maidstone Borough Council, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6GY  
Tel: 01622 761146

**Domestic Abuse Hotline Domestic Abuse Support and Services in Kent**  
Tel: 0808 2000247  
[www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk](http://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk)

**Anti-Terrorist Hotline**  
Tel: In confidence on 0800 789321

**Mental Health**  
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust  
Tel: 01622 724100  
[www.kmpt.nhs.uk](http://www.kmpt.nhs.uk)

**Restorative Justice**  
Maidstone Mediation  
Tel: 01622 692843

**Project Salus**  
Tel: 01303 817470

Text service for the deaf or speech-impaired  
If you're deaf or speech-impaired, you can text Kent Police. Start the message with the word 'police' then leave a space and write your message including what and where the problem is. Send your text to 60066 (the Kent Police communications centre) and they will reply with a message.

## Appendix 1

### Methodology Notes:

#### SPC Charts Explained

Statistical Process Control (SPC) Charts are a tool used by Kent Police to help identify whether there has been any significant improvements or deteriorations in a particular crime type.

When a category is stable and in control, the data will appear within a set of predicted limits based on past knowledge and experience. Although there will be some natural variation around the average (*also known as common cause variation*) as long as the figures remain within the control limits there has been no significant changes to what was anticipated.

If the category was unstable and displayed uncontrolled variation (*also known as special cause variation*), the data would not follow a predicted pattern and would indicate that something had changed and action might be required.

*Natural variation indicates that any change from month-to-month is expected, e.g. the time you come to work every day varies by a few minutes around an average, however if there was an accident on the road then the time taken to come to work would be significantly longer, this would be unnatural variation indicating that something has gone awry.*

SPC charts are generated based on historical data to produce the following:

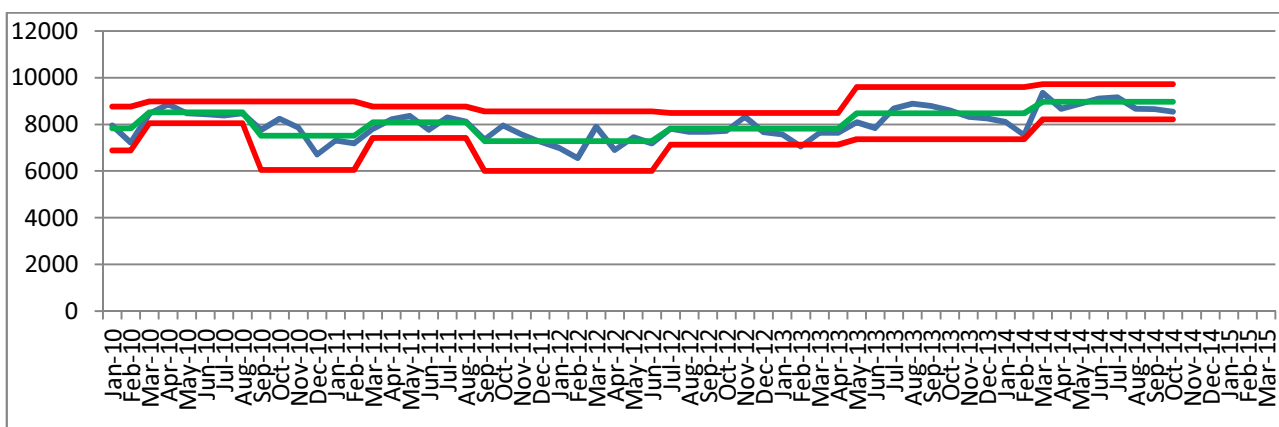
- The Centre Line (CL) which is the average no. of recorded crimes / incidents
- The Upper (UCL) and Lower Control Limits (LCL) which are the limits of natural variation

Any result above the UCL suggests that there may be a problem. In addition, other indications that a category is out of statistical control includes when several results in a row are above the CL or when several results in a row show an increasing trend.

If the figures are consistently below the CL this indicates an improvement and will result in the centre line and the control limits being lowered, often referred to as a 'step change'. Similarly if the figures for a specific category rise due possibly to an increase in activity; a revision to the data (i.e. back-record conversion); or possibly a change in what is recorded within each category then the CL and control limits may need to be raised.

NB. If the control limits are closer together this indicates a low level of variation around the average and shows that the category is in control, a wider gap between the limits indicates greater variation and less control.

Example of a Kent Police SPC Chart:



## **Appendix 1**

### **MoRiLE:**

The Kent Community Safety Unit has explored the use of the MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) scoring matrix to look at ranking offences based on threat, risk and harm. Maidstone Borough Council and others in Kent have incorporated this methodology within this year's Strategic Assessment.

The ideology behind MoRiLE is that it targets resources at offences that would have the biggest impact on individuals and organisations/areas. This is in contrast to concentrating solely on crime figure tables which can sometimes provide a skewed view on threats and risk based only on the frequency/volume of crimes.

Each thematic crime area is scored individually against various criteria. There is then a formula that calculates a final score. These are then ranked high to low, listing priorities based on threat, risk & harm which can then contribute to the SMP's final recommendation of priorities.

### **Serious Organised Crime Local Profiles:**

#### **Aims:**

- To develop a common understanding among local partners of the threats, vulnerabilities and risks relating to serious and organised crime.
- To provide information on which to base local programmes and action plans.
- To support the mainstreaming of serious and organised crime activity into day-to-day policing, local government and partnership work.
- To allow a targeted and proportionate use of resources.

#### **Purpose:**

- Local Profiles should inform local multi-agency partnerships, in particular police and crime commissioners, policing teams, local authorities and other relevant partners (such as education, health and social care and Immigration Enforcement); of the threat from serious and organised crime and the impact it is having on local communities.

#### **What do we do with the Local Profile?**

- The profile outlines key serious and organised crime issues within your district and provides information on what the offences are, what to look for, recognised serious and organised crime within your community and what to do if you see or suspect anything. This allows us all to PREVENT young people and vulnerable adults from becoming involved in crime and helping to protect and safeguard those that may already be involved through identifying and working together.

## Appendix 2

### **Acronym Glossary:**

ASB = Anti-Social Behaviour  
CCG = Clinical Commissioning Group  
CDAP = Community Domestic Abuse Programme  
CDRP = Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership  
CGL = Change, Grow, Live  
CSA = Community Safety Agreement  
CSE = Child Sexual Exploitation  
CSP = Community Safety Partnership  
CSU = Community Safety Unit  
DA = Domestic Abuse  
IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Advisor  
IOM = Integrated Offender Management  
JSNA = Joint Strategic Needs Assessment  
KCC = Kent County Council  
KSI = Killed or Seriously Injured  
KSSCRC = Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company  
MARAC = Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference  
MBC = Maidstone Borough Council  
MoRiLE = Management of Risk in Law Enforcement  
NPS = National Probation Service or New Psychoactive Substances depending on context  
NTE = Night Time Economy  
OCG = Organised Crime Group  
PCC = Police & Crime Commissioner  
SMP = Safer Maidstone Partnership  
SOC = Serious Organised Crime  
SPC = Statistical Process Charts  
VATP = Violence Against The Person

## Appendix 3

### CSP Organisational Chart

