

AGENDA

COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ACTING AS THE CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE



Date: Tuesday 15 March 2016

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Town Hall, High Street,
Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors D Mortimer, Newton, Mrs Parvin,
Perry, Mrs Ring (Chairman),
Mrs Robertson, Webb, Webster and
J.A. Wilson

Page No.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Substitute Members
3. Urgent Items
4. Notification of Visiting Members

Continued Over/:

Issued on Monday 7 March 2016

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 Caroline Matthews on 01622 602743**. To find out more about the work of the Committee, please visit www.maidstone.gov.uk

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

5. Disclosures by Members and Officers
6. Disclosures of Lobbying
7. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information.
8. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 17 November 2015 1 - 2
9. Presentation of Petitions (if any)
10. Questions and answer session for members of the public (if any)
11. Report of the Head of Housing and Community Services - 2016-17 Strategic Assessment & 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh 3 - 54

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE **ACTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER **2015**

Present: Councillor Mrs Ring (Chairman), and
Councillors Hemsley, D Mortimer, Newton, Perry,
Webb, Webster and J.A. Wilson

50. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Parvin.

51. **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was noted that Councillor Hemsley substituted for Councillor Mrs Parvin.

52. **NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS**

There were no visiting members.

53. **DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

There were no disclosures by members or officers.

54. **DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING**

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

55. **TO CONSIDER WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE**
BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION.

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

56. **SAFER MAIDSTONE PARTNERSHIP MID-YEAR UPDATE**

John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Community Services introduced the Safer Maidstone Partnership – Mid-year Update. The report outlined the Safer Maidstone Partnerships achievements to date and future priorities and challenges.

Chief Inspector Mick Gardner gave a presentation. During the course of the presentation and in the discussion that followed, the following points were made:

- There were financial challenges ahead in terms of savings to be made for Kent Police;
- There would be a new policing model under which the Chief Inspector would be District Commander for Maidstone and Ashford;
- There would be a move away from reporting crime statistics; a more holistic approach was to be taken which would be an assessment of threat, harm and risk;
- In terms of Violent Crime, all incidents were being recorded so that analysis could be undertaken to address the 'spikes' in this type of crime;
- In response to concerns raised about the SMP priorities and the areas of the borough targeted, it was explained that a strategic assessment was undertaken on an annual basis which would come to the Committee in March 2016;
- It was clarified that it was the Committee's duty to hold the partnership to account but that the partnership held each other to account on a weekly basis as well as at the DV (Domestic Violence) forum;
- In relation to Domestic Abuse (DA), the Committee was informed on MARIC, the multi-agency approach to case management;
- The One Stop Shop had seen a 60% rise in attendance;
- It was confirmed that the One Stop Shop was a drop in service, no referral was needed;
- The Committee was informed about projects with young people. It was emphasised that the focus should be on prevention. To achieve this DA needed to be addressed early within the education system;
- Choices (Specialist Domestic Abuse Services) was responsible for commissioning DA services for high risk, there was no medium risk commissioning in Kent which was an issue;
- West Kent Recovery Service – CRI, worked with anyone with any type of addiction. They described the overarching issues for clients including housing, safeguarding and employment which needed to be addressed; and
- People came in crisis; CRI were trying to get the message to GPs to refer early.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

57. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30pm to 7.56pm

Community, Housing & Environment

March 15th 2016

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

No

2016-17 Strategic Assessment & 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan refresh

Final Decision-Maker	Council
Lead Director or Head of Service	John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Community Services
Lead Officer and Report Author	Nicolas Rathbone, Community Safety Partnerships Officer
Classification	Non-exempt
Wards affected	All wards

This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:

1. That the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee recommend to Council that the 2016-17 Strategic Assessment is adopted and implemented by the Safer Maidstone Partnership.
2. That the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee recommend to Council that the 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership document refresh is adopted and implemented by the Safer Maidstone Partnership.

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

- The Strategic Assessment will continue to create safer communities and deter and reduce crime & anti-social behaviour.
- It will contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Plan priorities; for Maidstone to be a decent place to live and Corporate and Customer Excellence.
- The Community Safety Partnership Plan also supports tackling disadvantage and building stronger communities.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Safer Maidstone Partnership	February 24 th 2016
Communities, Housing and Environment Committee	March 15 th 2016
Council	April 13 th 2016

2016-17 Strategic Assessment & 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan refresh

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on the work of the Safer Maidstone Partnership since last year and ask for the two aforementioned documents to be accepted for implementation.
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2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 The Maidstone Community Safety Strategic Assessment is a report published by the council each year as required under the Crime and Disorder act 1998. The act requires Local Authorities in conjunction with key partners to produce a detailed crime and disorder audit. This identifies community safety issues, emerging trends and future priorities for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

2.2 The Maidstone Community Safety Plan 2013-18 is a five year rolling document, which highlights 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 can be taken into account and used to direct the SMP's strategy.

2.3 Last year's Strategic Assessment raised the following priorities:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Reducing Re-offending
- Road Safety (Killed or seriously injured)
- Substance Misuse
- Violent Crime – Domestic Abuse
- Violent Crime – Night-Time Economy

Emerging themes that occurred through the year were:

- Safeguarding, educating and engaging young people (Child Sexual Exploitation and Prevent)
- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Legal highs
- Self-Neglect and Hoarding
- Victim support and restorative justice

2.4 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

(2015/16) year. Based on the information in the Strategic Assessment, it is recommended that the Committee confirm the following 2016/17 priorities:

- Violent Crime (specifically Domestic Abuse and Night Time Economy)
- Substance Misuse
- Reduce Re-offending
- Road Safety – Killed & Seriously Injured
- Community Resilience (emerging issues around CSE, Prevent, SOC and Safeguarding)

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Do nothing (not recommended). This is not a recommended option as the data sourced from the Kent Safer Communities portal shows that some community safety trends have changed. Other emerging issues need to be tackled within the partnership and if not picked up by the SMP, this will potentially result in more victims of crime, especially amongst the most vulnerable of society.
- 3.2 Support the identified priorities for 2016/17 so they can be implemented and developed by the SMP. These priorities have been clearly evidenced and some also raised by other Community Safety Partnerships around the county. This assists with cross borough interventions and valuable information sharing around similar issues.

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Move forward with the acceptance and implementation of the listed priorities. These will be delivered under the umbrella of the Safer Maidstone Partnership. The annual Strategic Assessment and refresh of the Partnership Plan demonstrate that issues do change and even emerge between assessments. Often this is as a result of partnership working targeting specific issues or crime types. It also shows that keeping up to date with current issues allows partners to be at the forefront of innovation and try to keep within one step of the perpetrators of crime.
- 4.2 It is recommended that ASB is removed as a priority based on a continued reduction in ASB and the mandatory legislation and partnership working that is in place. It is advised that given the importance of ASB, support is continued and made available through the existing CSU meetings and referral pathways. ASB is more of a service lead response than a targeted project based intervention. The sub group shall remain but will meet when a Community Trigger is prompted and if there is an emergence of new ASB powers.

5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 5.1 Both reports have been sent out to members of the SMP for consultation. These comments have been carefully considered and the reports updated accordingly in line with the desired direction of the majority of the partnership. The comments mainly related to specific wording within the documents and changes made to avoid confusion or misrepresentation of data. Other responses have queried where certain issues would sit best in the priorities. They will be discussed further after sign off as this do not affect the SMP's response to them.
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6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 Following final approval from Council and implementation of the decision, the Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan will be disseminated to all partners for their information and for action through the priority subgroups. This year's Police & Crime Commissioner's community grant will then be able to be advertised externally. Part of the criteria for bids is their alignment with the SMP's priorities and applications will need to be submitted, sifted and a report sent to the PCC's office for invoicing by May 27th.
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7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	The Community Safety Partnership Plan will contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Plan priorities; for Maidstone to be a decent place to live and Corporate and Customer Excellence. In addition, the Community Safety Partnership Plan supports the delivery of Tackling Disadvantage and Building Stronger Communities.	Head of Housing and Community Services
Risk Management	None.	Head of Housing and Community Services
Financial	All Community Safety Grant funding is allocated directly to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) who uses this money to target her identified priorities and support the ongoing delivery of the Crime Plans. Having evidenced and demonstrated its ongoing successes, Maidstone Borough Council attracted PCC funding of £37,104 for 2016-17. However, the plans and strategies	Head of Finance and Resources

	detailed within the plan cover a wide range of services provided by the Council and partner agencies with the majority of activity being either mainstream funded or funded via other grants or allocations not directly allocated to community safety.	
Staffing	The priorities within the Plan cross cut the agencies that make up the Safer Maidstone Partnership. Delivery against the priorities will be via mainstream activity and any grant funding that the borough is able to secure, including this year's Community Safety Grant allocation.	Head of HR Shared Service
Legal	<p>Sections 5 to 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the 1998 Act), headed "Crime and Disorder Strategies", require "responsible authorities" to comply with section 6 of the 1998 Act which states that "responsible authorities" shall formulate and implement;</p> <p>a) A strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area; and</p> <p>b) A strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and</p> <p>c) A strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.</p> <p>By virtue of section 5(1)(a) of the 1998 Act, the Council is the "responsible authority". By completing an annual refresh of the Community Safety Plan based on the findings of a comprehensive Strategic Assessment, Maidstone is fulfilling its statutory requirement. There are reputational, environmental, economical and legal risks to the Council for not pro-actively pursuing an improvement in crime and disorder levels. The recommendations in this report recognise the importance of constructive dialogue with the partner organisations comprising the Community Safety Partnership and also the importance of coordinated and collaborative working.</p>	Head of Legal Partnership
Equality Impact Needs Assessment	The benefits of delivery against the plan will apply across the Maidstone borough, although by adopting an evidence based approach more benefit should be felt in areas where identified problems are greatest.	Policy & Information Manager
Environmental/Sustainable Development	None.	Head of Housing and

		Community Services
Community Safety	The Community Safety team is under the reporting line of the Community Partnerships and Resilience Manager. The focus is strongly on preventative work while continuing to be co-located and working closely in partnership with the police and other community safety related partners.	Head of Housing and Community Services
Human Rights Act	None.	Head of Housing and Community Services
Procurement	None.	Head of Finance and Resources
Asset Management	None.	Head of Housing and Community Services

8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Strategic Assessment 2016-17
- Appendix II: SMP Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-18



Strategic Assessment 2016-17

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 What is a Strategic Assessment?

Locally, our CSP is known as the 'Safer Maidstone Partnership' (SMP).

The assessment will also 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 Safer Maidstone Partnership in March each year. It is also independently assessed by Kent CSU.

1.2 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 were:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Reducing Re-offending
- Road Safety (Killed or seriously injured)
- Substance Misuse
- Violent Crime – Domestic Abuse
- Violent Crime – Night-Time Economy

Emerging themes that occurred through the year:

- Safeguarding, educating and engaging young people (Child Sexual Exploitation and Prevent)
- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Legal highs
- Self-Neglect and Hoarding
- Victim support and restorative justice

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:

Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

Threats exist both in terms of an attack by foreign-influenced terror groups, and from individuals returning from fighting abroad. An emergence of the Prevent strategy underpins the work planned to tackle extremism both from radicalisation to far right wing extremism.

Child Abuse & Exploitation

Exploitation refers to activity which makes a gain for an individual or organisation. Sexual exploitation or criminal exploitation are the most common reasons for young people to be trafficked. Threats within this area are the production of indecent images or videos; online abuse; and exploitation of a child victim by individuals who are unrelated to them, or by groups or gangs.

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is a brutal form of organised crime in which people are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain. Victims may have entered the United Kingdom illegally, using forged documentation or they may be British citizens living in the United Kingdom.

Gangs

The Government defines a gang as ‘a group who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a noticeable group, and engage in criminal activity and violence. They may also identify with or have claim over territory; and/or be in conflict with other, similar gangs.’

In the context of the Control Strategy and wider police work, a gang relates to a group who carry out criminal activity and violence; rather than a group which congregate in an area causing anti-social behaviour such as noise, drinking or the misuse of illegal substances such as cannabis or ‘legal’ highs such as nitrous oxide.

Intelligence shows that members of London-based gangs travel into Kent and other counties to sell drugs, often exploiting vulnerable individuals and using their properties to deal drugs from. Violence can also occur between rival gangs, or as punishment for unpaid debts.

Organised Acquisitive Crime

An Organised Criminal Network is a group of individuals who persistently commit crime in order to gain from their activities in some way; either in terms of material wealth or items to depict status.

There can be crossover between whether a group is a ‘gang’ or an Organised Criminal Network, however differences are primarily about the level of criminality, organisation, planning, and control.

Domestic Abuse, serious violence, and sexual offences

The CSP has acknowledged the importance of tackling domestic abuse since the Partnership was formed, and the Control Strategy recognises that crimes committed by intimate partners or family members account for around a third of all violent crime.

1.3 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.

It is important to note that most of the data relating to crime and disorder collated for this strategic assessment covers the period October 2014 – September 2015 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 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.

1.4 Demographic and Economic Information

Population profile

The latest population figures from the 2014 Mid-year population estimates show that there are 161,800 people living in 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.

Unemployment rates

Maidstone’s claimant rate is currently 1.2%. This is slightly lower than the county average of 1.4% and is considerably lower than the national average of 1.9%. The majority of those unemployed are aged between 16-24, this age group accounts for 26% of all those unemployed in Maidstone.

District	Total unemployed as at September 2015	Resident based rate %	Change since previous month		Change since last year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Maidstone	1,171	1.2%	12	1.0%	-86	-6.8%
Kent	12,907	1.4%	105	0.8%	-3,255	-20.1%
Great Britain	751,795	1.9%	-29,169	-3.9%	-334,498	-38.0%

Source: NOMIS - JSA Claimant Count; DWP Stat Xplore Universal Credit Claimants

1.5 Headline information aligned to key priorities 2014-2015:

- ASB – a reduction of 9.1% in Maidstone. Since 2012, recorded ASB incidents in the borough have fallen by 22.7% from 2,489 in September 2012 to 1,925 in September 2015
- Substance Misuse - a reduction in offences of 35.3% in Maidstone. This equates to a reduction of 152 recorded drug offences since September 2014 to September 2015
- Violent crime (domestic abuse) – an increase of 28.6%
- Violent crime – an increase of 12.5%
- Road Safety (killed or serious injured) – an increase of 5.5% (over two years 2013-2015)
- 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 a 32% reduction in offending for the West division cohort of prolific offenders.

2. Total Recorded Crime

2.1 Total recorded Crime in Maidstone October 2014-September 2015

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.

All crime in the borough fell by 2.5% in the period October 2014 to September 2015 compared with the same period the previous year, from a total of 9,410 crimes to 9,178 crimes, This equates to 56.7 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 6th out of all of the districts in Kent.

2.2 Total recorded crime per 1,000 population in Kent October 2014-September 2015

Area	No. of offences	2015 rate per 1,000	2014 rate per 1,000	County ranking
Tunbridge Wells	5040	43.4	43.2	1
Tonbridge & Malling	5633	45.3	45.7	2
Sevenoaks	5592	47.5	48.2	3
Ashford	6361	51.6	57.5	4
Canterbury	8997	57.1	58.7	5
Maidstone	9178	56.7	59	6
Dover	6537	57.8	59.1	7
Shepway	6197	56.6	59.6	8
Swale	9533	67.7	73.9	9
Gravesham	7243	68.8	74.2	10
Dartford	7986	78.1	82.7	11
Thanet	11346	82	91	12
KCC Total	89643	59.4	62.7	
Medway	19260	70.3	67	
Kent	108903	61	63.4	

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

2.3 The table below shows the volume of crimes by type within Maidstone for October 2014 – September 2015 and the same time period in 2013-2014

Category	October 2014 to September 2015	October 2013 to September 2014	Difference	% change
Victim based crime	8483	8457	26	0.30%
Violent Crime	2945	2612	333	12.70%
- Violence Against The Person	2643	2349	294	12.50%
- Sexual Offences	224	203	21	10.30%
- Robbery	78	60	18	30%
Burglary Dwelling	361	468	-107	-22.90%
Burglary Other than Dwelling	505	568	-63	-11.10%
Vehicle Crime	601	642	-41	-6.40%
- Theft Of Motor Vehicle	129	160	-31	-19.40%
- Theft From Motor Vehicle	472	482	-10	-2.10%
Vehicle Interference	81	60	21	35%
Theft and Handling	2620	2728	-108	-4%
- Shoplifting	1056	1108	-52	-4.70%
- Theft of Pedal cycle	111	138	-27	-19.60%
- Other Theft	1453	1482	-29	-2%
Criminal Damage	1370	1379	-9	-0.70%
Crimes against society	695	953	-258	-27.10%
Drug Offences	279	431	-152	-35.30%
Possession of weapons	47	47	-	-
Public order offences	228	305	-77	-25.20%
Other crimes	141	170	-29	-17.10%
All crime	9178	9410	-232	-2.50%

The data clearly illustrates a reduction in crimes against society, theft and handling and vehicle crime; (burglary -22.90%, public order -25.20%, drug offences -35.30% & TOMV -19.40%); there has

however been a significant increase in violent crime which could partly be due to new police recording measures.

Robbery and Vehicle interference has also increased by 30% and 35% compared with the previous year however this is only represented by an increase of 18 offences for robbery and 21 offences over the year for vehicle interference.

Legal definition of vehicle interference

Criminal attempts act 1981 section 9

(1) "A person is guilty of the offence of vehicle interference if he interferes with a motor vehicle or trailer or with anything carried in or on a motor vehicle or trailer with the intention that an offence specified in subsection (2) below shall be committed by himself or some other person."

(2) The offences mentioned in subsection (1) above are:

(a) Theft of the motor vehicle or trailer or part of it.

(b) Theft of anything carried in or on the motor vehicle or trailer; and

(c) The offence under Section 12(1) of the Theft Act 1968 (taking and driving away without consent).

A reduction in the offence of motor vehicle theft could be attributable to the increase in the number of offences recorded related to vehicle interference.

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 12.7% in violent crime compared with the period of October 2013 – September 2014 it is important to mention that this may be attributable to a change in police recording. Whilst Maidstone has seen the 4th highest yearly rise in Violent crime per 1,000 of the population in Kent Maidstone is still ranked 6th in the county for violent crime and is lower than the county average.

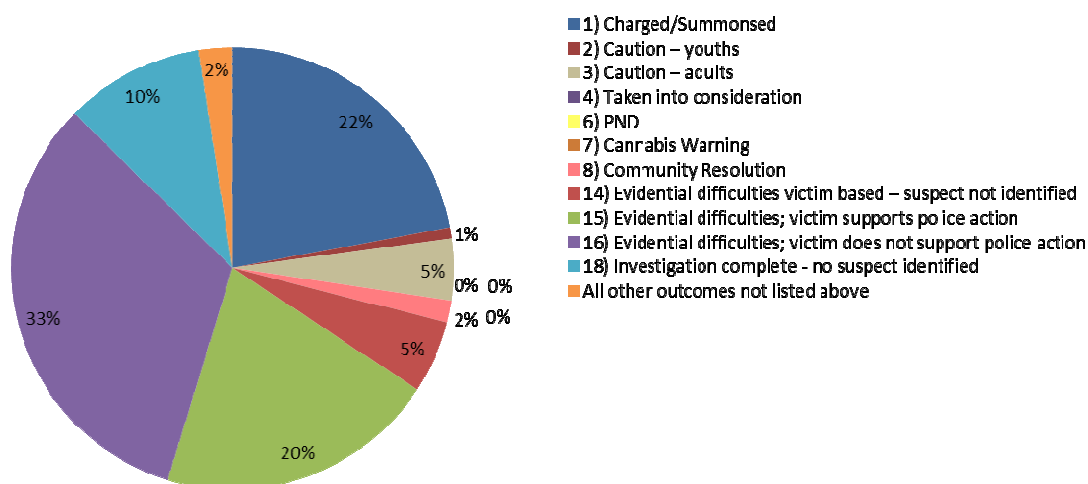
Violent Crime October 2014-September 2015

Area	No. of offences 2015	No. of offences 2014	% Change	2015 offences per 1,000 pop.	County Ranking
Sevenoaks	1283	1213	5.8	10.9	1
Tonbridge & Malling	1579	1376	14.8	12.7	2
Tunbridge Wells	1605	1395	15.1	13.8	3
Ashford	1893	1858	1.9	15.4	4
Canterbury	2849	2483	14.7	18.1	5
Maidstone	2943	2612	12.7	18.2	6
Swale	2843	2657	7	20.2	7
Dover	2300	2161	6.4	20.3	8
Shepway	2241	2110	6.2	20.5	9
Gravesham	2244	2278	-1.5	21.3	10
Dartford	2215	2109	5	21.7	11
Thanet	4024	3750	7.3	29.1	12
KCC Total	28026	26002	7.8	18.6	
Medway	6367	5642	12.9	23.2	
Kent	34393	31644	8.7	19.3	

The majority of violent crime offences occurring in Maidstone within the 12 months ending 30th September fell 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 2643 VATP offences in Maidstone spanning the same period of time. 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 December 2015 where only 22% of perpetrators were charged or summonsed as a result of a violence against a person offence.



3.2 Levels of Violence in the Borough Wards April 2015–September 2015

High street ward had the highest number of recorded violent crimes in the borough with 452 incidents reported alongside Fant with 108, Heath 103, Parkwood 100 and Shepway North 95. The Wards with the lowest levels of violent crime were Loose and Leeds with 9 reported incidents each, Barming 10 and Detling and Thurnham 12.

Maidstone has a highly active night time economy 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.

3.3 Violent Crime - Night time economy

Violent crime has 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 can be seen below.

- In conjunction with Pubwatch, excluded violent individuals from the Town Centre premises.
- Shared information proactively from CCTV control room and Kent Police via MaidSafe network radios provided to door staff of key premises.
- Supported the town centre Street Pastors initiative.
- Used CCTV to protect and prevent crime.
- Enforced Alcohol Control Zones.
- Supported the county-wide Hate Crime Reporting Line.

Whilst the partnership delivers these proactive activities, further work needs to be done to ensure a reduction in violent crime. The emergence of NPS and rise in practices such as pre loading are all contributing factors that add towards the increase in violent crime.

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 has and continues to account for a considerable proportion of violent crime; nationally it is acknowledged that DA attributes to 25% 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 October 2014 - September 2015, Maidstone has recorded 2278 incidences of Domestic abuse which translates to 14.1 offences per 1,000 of the population. This is below the Kent average of 16.3 and ranks Maidstone 5th place in the county.

	Domestic abuse incidents				
	Oct 2014-Sept 2015			% of repeat victims	
Area	Volume	Per 1,000 pop.		Apr 2013- Mar-14	Apr 2014- Mar-15
			Ranking		
Sevenoaks	1194	10.1	1	23.80%	22.80%
Tunbridge Wells	1319	11.4	2	25.00%	25.80%
Tonbridge and Malling	1519	12.2	3	26.20%	25.40%
Canterbury	2125	13.5	4	24.90%	23.90%
Maidstone	2278	14.1	5	24.30%	26.00%
Ashford	1753	14.2	6	24.20%	37.30%
Shepway	1695	15.5	7	25.00%	25.40%
Dartford	1638	16	8	24.70%	23.40%
Dover	1863	16.5	9	24.60%	25.00%
Swale	2622	18.6	10	24.90%	23.40%
Gravesham	2042	19.4	11	25.20%	23.90%
Thanet	3417	24.7	12	25.00%	25.10%
KCC Districts	23465	15.5		24.80%	25.60%
Medway	5613	20.5		25.70%	24.60%
Kent	29078	16.3		25.00%	25.30%

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 is such 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 gateway 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 2014-June 2015, and previous 12 month periods.

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	% increase/decrease in visitors (compared to previous year)
Ashford	75	169	239	316	317	0.0
Canterbury	169	262	214	232	253	9.1
Dartford	60	46	52	74	116	56.8
Dover	102	54	83	81	86	6.2
Gravesend	52	31	52	64	134	109.4
Herne Bay ¹	n/a	n/a	43	125	147	17.6
Maidstone	n/a	20	65	97	156	60.8
Medway	128	146	147	287	508	77.0
Shepway	143	120	91	165	183	10.9
Sheerness ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	n/a
Sittingbourne	107	123	140	146	200	37.0
Sevenoaks ³	6	12	16	25	16	46.0
Thanet	49	71	117	215	223	3.7
Tonbridge ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	55	687.5
Tunbridge Wells ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
Total	891	1054	1259	1835	2410	31.3

¹ Opened in November 2012.

² Converted from a drop in service in May 2015.

³ Swanley opened twice a month until January 2013; weekly service thereafter. Moved to Sevenoaks in November 2014.

⁴ Opened in April 2014.

⁵ Opened in November 2014, closed in April 2015.

Maidstone has seen a 60% increase in attendance at the one stop shop since last year which is the 4th highest increase in the county. 86% of all visitors were from Maidstone with the remaining 14% coming from other districts, 14% 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, 1% didn't mention what background they were from and 19% identified themselves as Asian or Asian British. This is the highest percentage of Asian or Asian British grouping in Kent attending the one stop shop.

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.

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 146 MARAC cases between the periods of October 2014 - September 2015, 30 of those cases were repeat cases, this equates to 21% of all cases, which is lower than the county average of 26.37%.

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. Below are the projects that have been delivered by the SMP.

- 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.
- 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 DA services.
- Promoted the DA Schools Project (SAFE).
- Provided support for male offenders wishing to rehabilitate.
- Helped facilitate the Sanctuary Scheme and assisted 49 victims to stay in their properties.
- Increased referrals for domestic abuse victims who are street homeless.

- Assisted in providing a domestic abuse One Stop Shop in the borough.
- Domestic Homicide review training undertaken by Community Safety Unit.
- Delivered targeted training to internal and external teams and supported the process of creating champion roles.

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).

Under the ASB, Crime & Policing Act 2014, anti-social behaviour is described as:

- a) conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person,
- (b) conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises, or
- (c) conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

Maidstone has seen a yearly reduction in ASB largely as a result of the great partnership working that is delivered across the Borough. Currently the council and its partners:

- Identified repeat and vulnerable victims through the Weekly Partnership ASB Briefing.
- Sought ASB/Injunction orders where appropriate.
- 5 action days have been held with multiple agencies visiting 4 targeted areas as part of Operation Civic.
- Community Trigger launched as a tool to deal more effectively with ASB through improving investigation techniques.
- Engaged young people in projects, such as Zeroth Gym and Challenger Troop.
- Identified NEET's (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and referred them to Maidstone Engage programme.
- Referred perpetrators to troubled families and early help.
- PredPol launched by Kent Police.
- Worked with partners to maximise environmental protection.
- Carried out targeted substance misuse and mental health support with offenders.
- Supported vulnerable families where self-neglect has led to environmental forms of ASB
- Co-located Golding homes neighbourhood advisor within the CSU to aid information sharing and explore the use of ASB tools
- Increased use of new ASB tools by all partners including early interventions, criminal behaviour orders, injunctions, community protection notices and dispersal powers.
- Consulted on a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the town centre
- Task and finish groups set up throughout the year to deal with specific ASB issues.

Maidstone currently has the 5th lowest rate of ASB in Kent and has seen a 1.9% reduction in the reporting of ASB. That means currently there are 22.3 offences of ASB per 1,000 of the population, this is lower than the Kent average of 26.5 offences per 1,000 of the population.

	Oct 2012-	Oct 2013-	Oct 2014-	13/14 to 14/15	2014/15 per 1,000	Ranking
Area	Sep-13	Sep-14	Sep-15	% change	population	
Ashford	3191	1850	1641	-11.3	13.3	1
Sevenoaks	2297	2141	1970	-8	16.7	2
Tunbridge Wells	2534	2302	2236	-2.9	19.3	3
Tonbridge & Malling	2598	2533	2493	-1.6	20	4
Maidstone	4026	3679	3608	-1.9	22.3	5
Dartford	2895	2949	2592	-12.1	25.4	6
Canterbury	4755	4353	4240	-2.6	26.9	7
Shepway	3795	3163	2940	-7.1	26.8	8
Swale	4303	4088	4059	-0.7	28.8	9
Gravesham	3807	3616	3355	-7.2	31.9	10
Dover	4002	3700	3690	-0.3	32.6	11
Thanet	5988	6160	5435	-11.8	39.3	12
KCC Districts	44191	40534	38259	-5.6	25.3	
Medway	10065	9250	8998	-2.7	32.8	
Kent	54256	49784	47257	-5.1	26.5	

The wards most affected by ASB in order of number of offences recorded are High street ward, Fant, East, Parkwood and Shepway South.

In 2015 there were no applications for the Community Trigger in the Maidstone borough.

Based on the reduction in ASB, the current legislation and partnership working that is in place; it is recommended that ASB is removed as a priority. It is advised that given the importance of ASB, support is continued and made available through the existing CSU meetings and referral pathways but that ASB is more of a service lead response than a targeted project based intervention. Successes and promotion of joint working under ASB will continue and be spread as best practice. The sub group shall remain but will meet when a Community Trigger is prompted and if there is an emergence of new ASB powers.

5. Substance Misuse

5.1 Substance Misuse in Maidstone

Substance misuse relates to the use of drugs, alcohol including New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) also known as 'legal highs'. Neither alcohol nor NPS are included in the recorded drug offences as they are both legal. 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 35.3% reduction in drug offences when compared to last year's data. This is a reduction from 431 offences last year to 279 offences; this equates to 152 fewer crimes this year.

Despite this noticeable reduction in recorded drug offences, data from the Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory suggests a higher number of admissions to hospital for mental and behavioural disorders relating to psychoactive substances.

5.2 Hospital Admissions as a result of Substance Misuse

The following table details hospital admissions for mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use, substances include alcohol, opioids, cannabinoids, sedatives, hypnotics, cocaine, hallucinogens, volatile substances and other psychoactive substances.

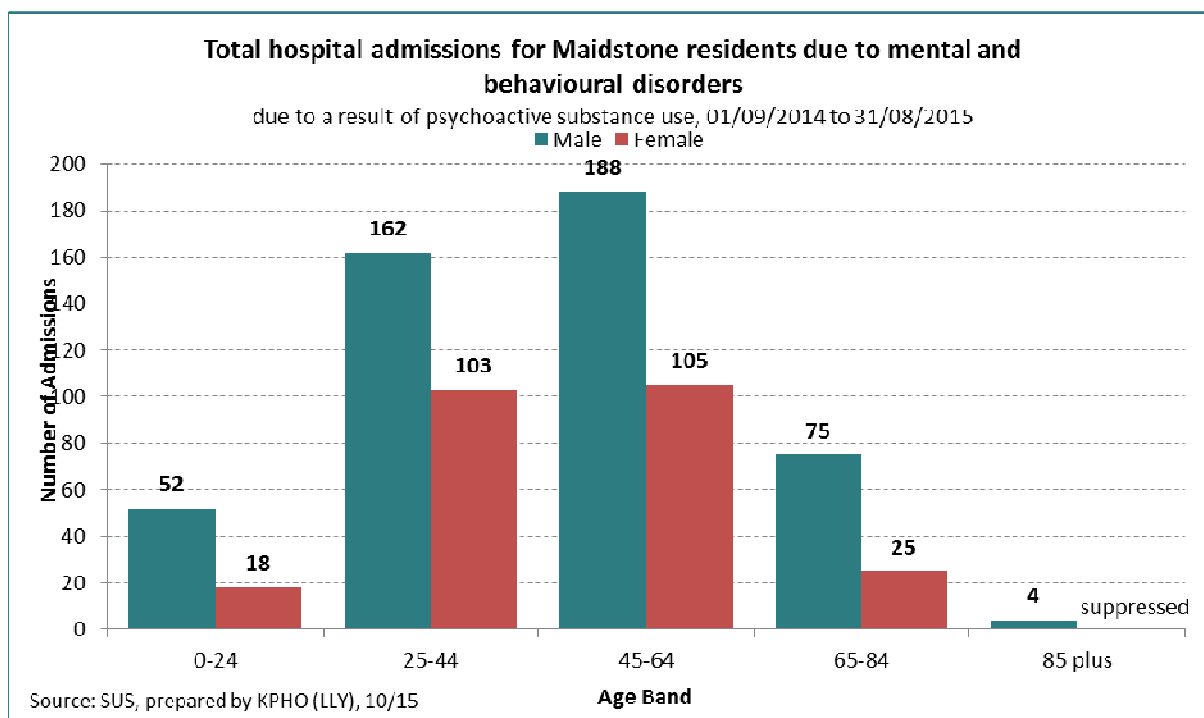
Data within this section refers to hospital admissions and not to Accident & Emergency attendances. Local Authority Ward references relate to the patients' place of residence.

Ward Name	Total number of admissions	Ward Name	Total number of admissions
High street	121	South	17
Fant	59	Allington	15
East	54	Harrietsham and Lenham	15
Marden and Yalding	53	Bridge	13
Shepway North	53	Boxley	11
Shepway South	53	Barming	10
North	42	North Downs	8
Coxheath and Hunton	38	Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton	7
Parkwood	36	Sutton Valence and Langley	7
Heath	27	Downswood and Otham	5
Staplehurst	23	Leeds	*
Headcorn	22	Detling thurnham and	*
Bearsted	21	Maidstone	734
Loose	18		

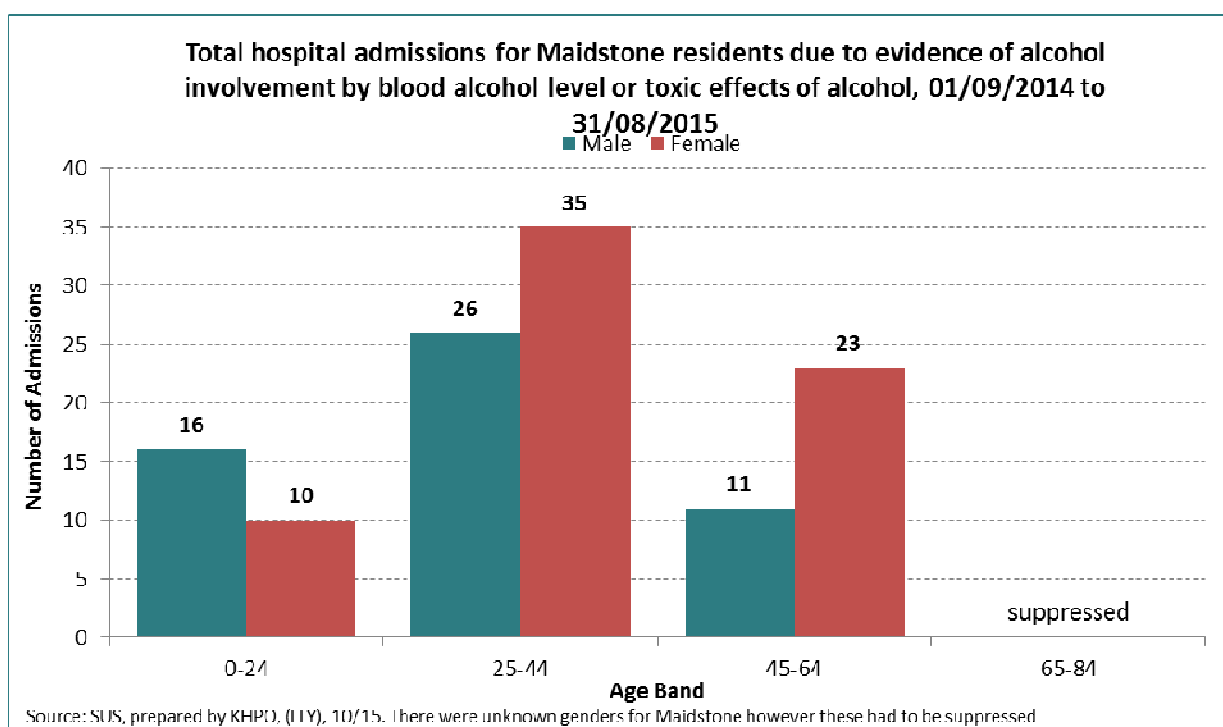
Admissions to hospital for substance related mental and behavioural conditions in the year spanning 2012-2013 where 542 and attributed to 398 individuals, when compared to this year's data where 734 admissions to hospital were made by a total of 487 individuals we can see a clear rise in substance misuse.

There is a clear connection between the wards with the highest anti-social behaviour rates and the wards with the highest substance misuse admissions.

As can be seen from the graph on the next page, men aged between 45 and 64 have the highest rates of substance misuse related hospital admissions; followed by men aged between 25 and 44. Whilst women are less prevalent in this area of substance misuse contributing 34% of all admissions, the age groups that have the highest admissions rates are similar to that of the men's group.



This is different to the number of admissions for alcohol where we see a lower number of total admissions to hospital but a higher rate of women affected by alcohol.



The rise of NPS use over the past 7 years is a potential contributor to the reduction in drug offences. Many people are misled by the term 'legal high' and consider that as the substance is legal it should also be safe. Anecdotal information from frontline practitioners, police officers and drug and alcohol support groups have suggested that NPS have played a part in violent crime in the borough as well as creating further mental health issues.

5.3 Substance Misuse SMP Actions:

- Targeted multi-agency evening operations have been delivered with Trading Standards, Kent Police and Borough Council teams to tackle underage sales and licensed premises.
- Partners launched An NPS awareness campaign aligned with national campaigns.
- Delivered through Addaction x 2 Professionals training days around NPS to Teachers, Police, NHS etc and 'Early Help' frontline staff.
- Bespoke NPS programme delivery by Addaction to targeted cohorts of young people through schools and temporary accommodation providers, funded through the PCC.
- Through CRI, recommenced a needle exchange scheme in a Week Street pharmacy. In Quarter 3 of 2015/6, there were 527 exchanges in this new location.
- Implementing the SMP's actions from the West Kent Alcohol Action Plan, the Kent Alcohol Strategy and continue to work closely with the West Kent Health & Wellbeing Board.
- Maidstone Substance Misuse Action Plan brings together priorities from the Community Safety Plan and Maidstone Health Inequalities Action Plan.
- Part of the evaluation panel for exploring single use 'Smart Syringes' – no needle stick injuries/sharing issues.
- Working with Licensing and Kent Police around a voluntary Reduce the Strength scheme for the town centre.
- KCC Trading Standards successfully used forfeiture orders to tackle NPS across Kent, including 'head shops' in Maidstone, who did not oppose the application and have been closed down.
- Increased number of street population referred and engaged in CRI support services as a result the Maidstone Assertive Outreach programme.
- Service provision provided by CRI has been integrated into the partnership. Outreach workers have delivered additional sessions to engage with hard to reach individuals (e.g. street population) misusing substances.
- 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 pilot launched in Brenchley Gardens, reducing needle finds by 50%.

Moving forward we will continue to:

- Discuss the latest local drug & alcohol trends and adjust our delivery accordingly.
- Work closer with the health & wellbeing board and implement their aims locally.
- Uphold the aims of the SMP subgroup under the terms of reference.

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 including alcohol and NPS (Legal Highs) remains as a priority.

6. Reducing re-offending

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.

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

In October 2015 there were 233 adult offenders on the IOM cohort in Kent, 120 of which were in prison, this equates to 44% of the overall cohort. From the period of January to December 2015 the members of this cohort committed 123 offences throughout the year compared with the previous year where the cohort had collectively committed 275, this is a reduction of 152 cases which equates to 55%. The main reductions were in burglary of a dwelling which saw a reduction of 63 offences.

IOM is predominantly populated by Male offenders with only 7 women subjected to the process this year.

West division

West division had the lowest IOM cohort with only 64 offenders open to the process, this equates to 27% of the overall cohort in Kent and Medway. Despite this we made the biggest savings in Kent by reducing the cost of offending by £198,726 this year. In the west division we experienced a 56% reduction in re-offending which is well above the county average of 44%.

Cost of offending

Division	Cost of crime before joining IOM	Cost of crime 6 months after joining IOM	Difference	Number of Adults @nil cost 6 months after
East Division	£316,924	123,522	£191,402	9
North Division	£197,312	£36,524	£160,788	19
West Division	£441,365	£242,639	£198,726	18
Total	£955,601	£404,685	£550,916	46

It was stated that the predominate causes of offender behavior across Kent related to thinking and behavioral needs which accounts 85% of the attributable needs amongst the cohort, the lowest criminogenic needs mentioned were emotional wellbeing and alcohol abuse which both accounted for 36% of offenders each.

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

6.3 Reducing Re-offending

- A steering group was established involving all key agencies to provide strategic direction to the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and Deter Young Offenders (DYO) groups.
- 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.
- Awarded £10,000 funding from Kent PCC towards Restorative Justice programme.
- Employability and physical activity have 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.
- Electronic 'Buddy' tracking is being piloted in partnership between Kent Police and Probation. At present this can only be undertaken with the agreement of the offender.
- Yes Plus and Challenger Troop commissioned to provide diversionary and personal development programmes at Kings Reach Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).
- 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.

Moving forward we will be looking at:

- Exploring the greater use of the 'Buddi Tag' system where an offender's movement is tracked. This allows police to effectively discount serial offenders from criminal activity which saves time, resources and helps an ex-offender to advance with their rehabilitation.
- To concentrate initiatives and services to those young people in the 'pre-conviction' stage of criminality. This will hopefully reduce the future cohort of the most prolific offenders at the highest risk of reoffending and further save costs associated with it.
- Increase the use of the Community Payback scheme in the borough, as reparation work has proven to be effective in reducing reoffending, makes an offender think about their actions and helps them to contribute to society.
- Encouraging more private sector companies into social responsibility work. This can include the training and employment of ex-offenders and the capital expenditure in community projects. A target for this could be to sign up one company a month to commit to either employing an ex-offender or contribute to a community project in some way.

The reduction of offending is a key priority of the partnership and as such reducing re-offending rates in the borough is considered a theme that spans across all of the other priorities. Therefore the recommendation is made that this continues to be a 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 as it recognises the importance of making Maidstone's roads safe.

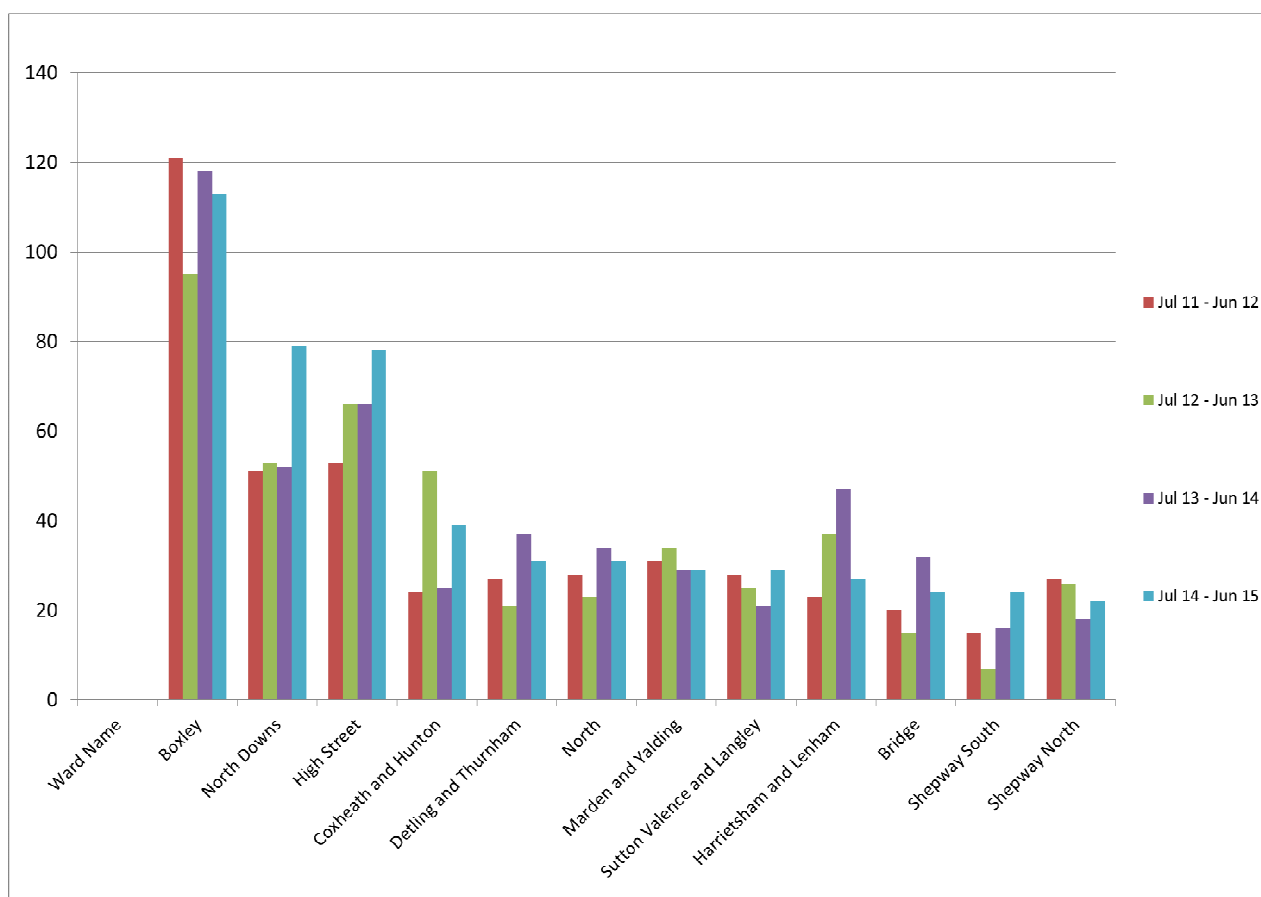
Maidstone has had the highest rate of road traffic collisions in Kent for the 5th year with 709 collisions recorded from July 2014 - June 2015. This is an increase of 2.3% from last year. We have the second highest increase in the County and are well above the Kent averages where an overall 3.2% reduction was achieved.

	Jul 2011-	Jul 2012-	Jul 2013-	Jul 2014-		County
Area	Jun-12	Jun-13	Jun-14	Jun-15	% +/-	Ranking
Maidstone	622	672	693	709	2.3	1
Dartford	550	558	642	631	-1.7	2
Swale	487	447	615	564	-8.3	3
Thanet	464	432	529	532	0.6	4
Sevenoaks	556	546	553	527	-4.7	5
Tonbridge and M	498	463	510	510	0	6
Ashford	488	524	535	504	-5.8	7
Canterbury	477	518	526	481	-8.6	8
Tunbridge Wells	383	409	465	432	-7.1	9
Shepway	376	350	352	390	10.8	10
Dover	351	395	391	354	-9.5	11
Gravesham	369	354	369	351	-4.9	12
Kent Districts	5621	5668	6180	5985	-3.2	

The wards with the highest incidents of Road traffic collisions were Boxley and North Downs and High street ward. The wards with the lowest recorded incidents were Loose, Downswood and Otham and Allington.

Ward Name	Jul 11 - Jun 12	Jul 12 - Jun 13	Jul 13 - Jun 14	Jul 14 - Jun 15
Boxley	121	95	118	113
North Downs	51	53	52	79
High Street	53	66	66	78
Loose	11	5	2	6
Downswood and Otham	3	8	5	3
Allington	2	5	9	2

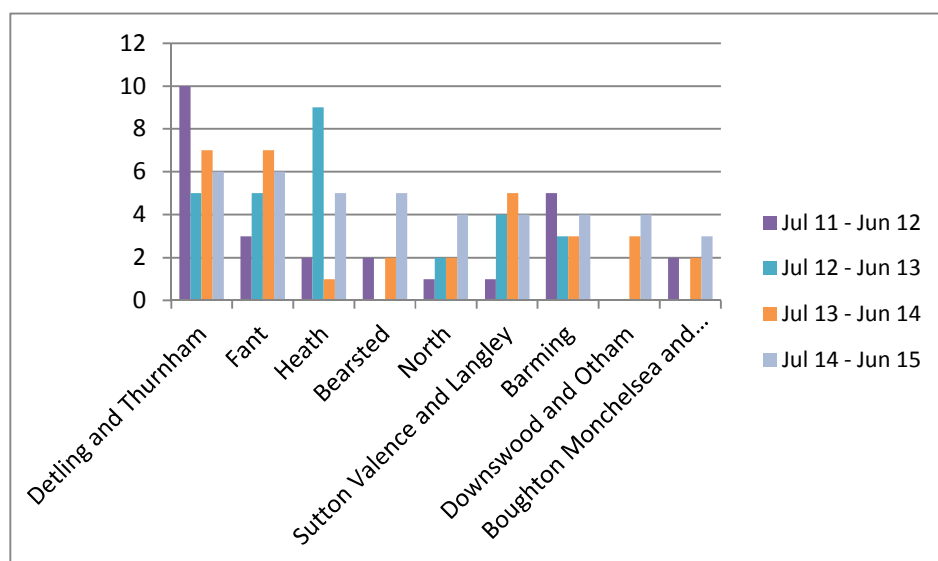
As you can see from the bar chart below, Maidstone has seen a real increase in RTCs in the wards North Downs and High street.



Maidstone currently has the 3rd highest rate of killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties in Kent; we have seen a reduction in the number of people KSI however compared with data from the years 2011 to 2013 KSI has stayed relatively the same in Maidstone.

Area	Jul 11 - Jun 12	Jul 12 - Jun 13	Jul 13 – Jun 14	Jul 14 – Jun 15	County Ranking
Sevenoaks	75	50	69	74	1
Swale	48	38	61	59	2
Maidstone	58	54	76	57	3
Tunbridge Wells	41	46	58	56	4
Ashford	47	72	78	55	5
Thanet	43	35	51	53	6
Shepway	31	39	47	47	7
Canterbury	56	51	72	41	8
Dartford	34	43	38	41	9
Gravesham	16	17	27	39	10
Dover	28	38	46	33	11
Tonbridge and Malling	40	45	44	32	12
KCC Districts	517	528	667	587	

The Wards most affected by incidents of KSI are Detling and Thurnham, Fant, Heath and Bearsted whilst Boxley, Harrietsham and Lenham, Shepway south and Parkwood had no incidents of casualties KSI.



When comparing the number of RTCs by ward with the number of KSI it is clear that Boxley has no KSI incidents despite its large recorded RTC incidents of 113 for this year. This is reflected consistently since July 2011.

Given the relatively low numbers relating to wards where incidents of KSI have occurred, it is difficult to reflect the true trends of KSI across Maidstone in an analytical and meaningful way.

7.2 Categorisation

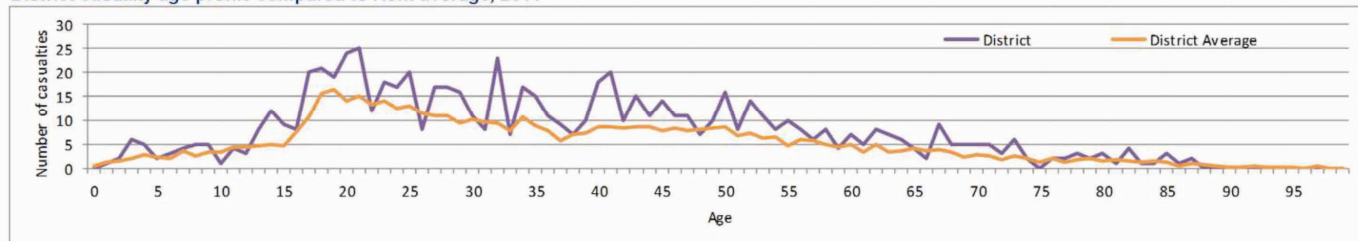
According to the Road Casualties review published by KCC in August 2015, 69% of all road casualties were car occupants compared with the Counties 67%. Maidstone's second highest road user casualty were pedestrians with 10% of all a road casualties reported in 2014 were pedestrians which is below the county average of 11%

Road user casualty comparison, 2014

Road user casualty	2014 - Proportion of all casualties		2014 - Casualties	
	Maidstone District	Kent	Maidstone District	Kent
Pedestrian	10%	11%	77	673
Pedal cyclist	4%	8%	32	478
Motorcyclist	9%	10%	72	610
Car occupant	69%	67%	526	4192
Goods vehicle occupant	4%	3%	28	196
Other vehicle occupant	3%	2%	23	154

With regards to the age profile of residents having accidents in Maidstone we have a higher than average number of young people aged between 17 and 22 in RTC's. As you can see from the chart on the following page we also have a higher than average accident rate for residents in their 30s all the way through to the age of 42.

District casualty age profile compared to Kent average, 2014



7.3 Road Safety (killed or seriously injured) SMP 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 walking buses and 20 MPH zones around schools.
- Promoted bus safety driver and pedestrian awareness
- Signposted to bicycle and marking events
- Created a road safety awareness DVD for Schools
- Piloting a road safety project in partnership with Kent Fire and rescue, community wardens, parking enforcement, local schools and Kent police.

Due to the high numbers of RTCs and KSI's it is recommended that Road safety remains a priority for the SMP.

7.4 Subsidiary priority relating to Safeguarding

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 has coordinated 17 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, ensured that an ongoing plan is in place to support local residents. Case studies can be found in appendix 2.

8. Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

8.1 National Policy – PREVENT

For several years, work at a local level has concentrated on delivery of the Government's Prevent Strategy. Prevent is a key part of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy that aims to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those who promote it, prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

The CONTEST strategy is based around four key areas of work;

- Pursue: the investigation and disruption of terrorist attacks;
- Prevent: work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and extremism; (this is the key strand for local authorities)

- Protect: improving our protective security to stop a terrorist attack; and
- Prepare: working to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover from it as quickly as possible.

Work includes disrupting extremist speakers, removing material online and intervening to stop people being radicalised. The most significant terrorist threat is currently from Al Qai'da-associated groups and from terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq, including ISIL. Individuals and groups associated with the 'extreme right' are also considered to pose a potential risk.

8.2 Channel – a Partnership Approach to Protecting Vulnerable People

Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity or who are in danger of being radicalised. Channel forms part of the wider Prevent Strategy but seeks particularly to:

- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity;
- Ensure that individuals and communities have the ability to resist all forms of terrorism and violent extremism activity likely to lead to terrorism.

The Channel process identifies those most at risk of radicalisation and refers them via the Police or Local Authority for assessment by a multi-agency panel. Panels will consider how best to safeguard them and support their vulnerability through a support package tailored to individual needs. Partnership involvement ensures that those at risk have access to a wide range of support ranging from mainstream services, such as health and education, through to specialist mentoring or faith guidance and wider diversionary activities.

8.3 Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Central Government has advised that the terrorism threat to the United Kingdom is considerable: in August 2014, the Independent Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre raised the UK national terrorist threat level from 'substantial' to 'severe' and it has remained at this level since.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 received Royal Assent in February 2015 and is relevant for consideration within this Assessment as the Act concerns the role that Local Authorities will be expected to play in reducing the risks of terrorism and particularly of the potential radicalisation of vulnerable people.

The Prevent programme relies on the co-operation of many organisations to be effective – most of those organisations that will have a role will already be actively engaged in Community Safety Partnerships.

8.4 In respect of Prevent and Channel

The relevant provisions of the Act are contained in Part 5 Chapters 1 and 2. Section 26 places a general duty on specified authorities which includes 'a county council or district council in England' (as listed in Schedule 6) 'in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. As well as applying to Local Authorities, the duty will apply to the police, prisons, providers of probation services, schools, colleges and universities. In two-tier areas such as ours, Government have advised that County and District Councils will need to agree proportionate arrangements for sharing the assessment of risk and for agreeing local Prevent action plans. The council implemented a Prevent plan in June.

8.5: SMP actions (Prevent)

- Established a multi-agency group to coordinate prevent activity and monitor the impact of prevent work. The channel multi agency group has representatives from Maidstone Borough Council, Kent police and the voluntary and community sector
- Familiarised the partnership with existing counter terrorism profiles to assess risks of individuals being drawn into terrorism.
- Mainstreamed the prevent duty into the day to day work of the authority in particular children's safeguarding duty. The safeguarding producer is currently being reviewed.
- Provided training for internal and external staff through online and face to face training sessions.

9. Community Resilience (SMP) recommendation for priority

Over the year emerging trends in Child sexual exploitation (CSE) extremism and radicalisation, human trafficking 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 it is recommended that the Safer Maidstone Partnership supports the control strategy through making a priority orientated around CSE, Prevent, Human trafficking 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.

9.1 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 (2015/16) year. Based on the information in this Strategic Assessment, it is recommended that the Safer Maidstone Partnership confirm the following 2016/17 priorities:

- 1. Violent Crime (specifically Domestic Abuse)**
- 2. Substance Misuse**
- 3. Reduce Re-offending**
- 4. Road Safety – Killed & Seriously Injured**
- 5. Community Resilience (emerging issues around CSE, Prevent, SOC and human trafficking)**

As mentioned, ASB is well embedded into the service delivery of the community safety unit and as such the SMP recommends that the issue of ASB maintains as a consistent service; continuing to supply feedback on the successes of joint working. 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.

9.2 How to get further information

If you would like further information about the Safer Maidstone Partnership, please contact: Community Partnerships Team, 6th Floor, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Tel: 01622 602000. 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)
- Home Office
- 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:

Mr B was referred to me from the CSU to visit. He was a Victim of Crime. On my visit we sat and chatted and Mr B came across as depressed. The house was very cold (12 degrees) and I encouraged him to put the heating on due to his bad health. During the chat he informed me that his benefits weren't much and looking at the paper work I gave advice and contacted MBC re: forms and helped fill them in when they arrived.

I also suggested a visit to the Doctors. Mr B recently lost his wife and died suddenly at home and this has affected him deeply. Between visits Mr B was admitted to hospital and mental health unit due to infection and depression. When he returned home equipment was installed and a Key Safe be installed. On last visit Mr B has now been given PIP / back paid and the money will encourage him to keep the heating on and feels safer with the medical help given. Weekly visits made and referral to Age UK for other suggestions for support.

Priority Target Achieved: Referral to Age UK, MBC, Doctors.

Case 2:

Vulnerable person living on £72 a month, Hoarder. Property unfit for habitation. Not adequately caring for dog.

I contacted the Salvation Army to arrange weekly food parcels and engaged with resident to work with AgeUK & Step Change Debt Charity to sort out her financial problems: benefits, pension, debt, probate.

I arranged for the front door to have a new lock fitted to prevent the resident from being a victim of crime and antisocial behaviour. The resident had sold items of jewellery for a far lower price than their true value to another resident. This was reported to Kent Police because it was felt that he had been taking advantage of her situation. The resident was encouraged not to sell any more.

I assisted by cleaning the kitchen and disposing of unwanted items to create space, with the resident. Resident has agreed to allow environmental health to clear property to enable a 'deep clean' to be instructed by Social Services. These actions also supported KFRS and the RSPCA.

I contacted Maidstone Borough Council Private Sector Housing to arrange for an assessment to carry out home improvements as there was no heating and water was leaking from a pipe, inside the property, near the front door. Family Mosaic are completing an assessment to apply for a new central heating system and repair the water leak.

I am continuing to work with this resident as she is very vulnerable.

Priority Target Achieved: Reduced the potential for acquisitive crime and antisocial behaviour.

Police Community Safety Unit:

There was a family of 7 living in a 2 bedroom flat in Maidstone. Single Mum and 6 children -One has a disability, another had an illness. The family were experiencing asb from their neighbours. The flat was immaculate and Mum tried really hard, her children were spotless but she struggled with her mental health. Working with the housing association, the schools and early help we were able to support a managed move to a bigger property. Before the move took place the local PCSO regularly patrolled to provide visible presence to reassure the Mum.



Safer Maidstone Partnership

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013–2018

'Delivering Safer Communities'

Refreshed February 2016

1. Introduction

Welcome to the annual refresh of the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2016-17. 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 highlights 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 can be taken into account and used to direct the SMP's strategy.

3. Priorities

Data analysis identifies that we continue to face challenges across our district and as such this year the SMP has agreed to focus on five key issues:

- Reducing Re-offending
- Road Safety (killed or seriously injured)
- Substance Misuse
- Violent Crime (specifically Domestic Abuse)
- Community Resilience (Prevent, CSE, SOC and human trafficking)

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has been a priority since the formation of the Safer Maidstone Partnership. It has however been removed as a priority this year as it is felt that ASB should be a service the council automatically delivers as part of its strategy. Effective protocols are embedded into the Community Safety Unit (CSU) through the weekly CSU/ASB meetings. Golding Homes, the local housing provider which has a stock of around 6000 properties in Maidstone, currently co locate within the CSU to aid information sharing and create joint solutions for ASB.

ASB is a cross cutting theme that is linked to substance misuse, road safety, domestic abuse and reducing reoffending and as such is well accommodated under the priorities selected. It is recommended that the ASB sub group will remain intact and will convene as and when issues outside of the current protocols arise. These issues will include the Community Trigger, alterations to ASB legislation and changes to the current arrangements already embedded into the CSU. In 2015 there were no Community Trigger applications for the Maidstone borough.

4. Background and Context

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 changed the way crime and ASB was 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 Clinical Commissioning Groups (which have the responsibility for health services locally).

Successes and promotion of joint working under ASB will continue and be spread as best practice. We also work with a large number of public and private sector partners as well as voluntary and community groups to collectively implement and deliver initiatives that will help all areas of the Maidstone borough become a safe place to live, work and visit.

5. Organisational changes – a local overview

Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP)

The SMP brings together people from local government, the NHS, Police, Fire service, Probation, local businesses, housing providers and voluntary and community organisations. They work as a team to tackle issues such as crime, education, health, housing, unemployment and the environment in the Maidstone Borough.

SMP membership is made up of the public sector agencies including Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Kent Police, Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS Health Trusts, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company and also incorporates members from other key partners including Maidstone Mediation, CRI, Golding Homes and Town Centre Management. The SMP is currently chaired by Alison Broom, Chief Executive of Maidstone Borough Council.

Community Safety Unit

The Maidstone Community Safety Unit (CSU) continues to grow. In recent years, existing Borough Council and Kent Police staff have been joined by partners from Kent Community Wardens and local housing Registered Providers, such as Golding Homes. 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

Three policing divisions, North, East & West ensure local policing is at the heart of the new Policing model and there has been a significant increase in neighbourhood constables and sergeants to provide strong local leadership across the county.

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

PCC's 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, Ann Barnes, was appointed in November 2012 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 her commitment to her wider duties around crime and community safety. Funding for Community Safety Partnerships has been confirmed for 2016/17 and will be used to address our local priorities. The PCC has announced that there will be no in year targets and that there will be a focus on encouraging sustainable improvements in performance.

The Kent Police & Crime Plan is a four year plan from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2017 and is refreshed annually. 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 set out in the plan the following strategic priorities are set out:

Cutting crime & catching criminals

Ensuring visible community policing is at the heart of Kent's Policing model

Putting victims and witnesses first

Protecting the public from serious harm

Meeting national commitments for policing

Delivering value for money

The plan also references a commitment to working closely with community safety and criminal justice agencies across the county to ensure that a seamless service is provided to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, with a particular focus on:

Tackling the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour

Reducing re-offending and repeat victimisation

Improving joined up working between agencies

Maidstone Families Matter

The Government has placed a significant focus on tackling the 'Troubled Families' agenda. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) defines a troubled family as a family with multiple and complex issues and has estimated that these families cost the tax payer £9 billion a year.

The project is now in its second phase after a very successful first three years and is set to target a further 400,000 families nationwide. To ensure this is achievable, KCC have restructured their preventative services to support families holistically. Each family referred to Early Help (the new preventative service that has been created) will be screened for the widened troubled families' criteria which are as follows:

Financial exclusion (rent arrears, claiming out of work benefits and debt)

Crime and anti-social behaviour

Educational difficulties (poor school attendance, exclusion and head teachers concern)

Health issues (Not signed up to a GP, poor mental health, Substance misuse and obesity etc)

Domestic Abuse

Children in need (open to social services or referred to early help)

Families meeting two of the above criteria will be provided with holistic support which is aimed at reducing ASB, improving school attendance, reducing rent arrears and safeguarding children.

The Troubled families' project in Maidstone which is locally known as 'Maidstone Families Matter' is delivered by the borough and county council through a district partnership manager who oversees the allocation of family intervention project workers who alongside Early Help, seek to turn families around.

West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group

Since 1 April 2013, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) have become 'responsible authorities' on CSP's. Schedule 5, Paragraph 84 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 replaces primary care trusts with CCG's as responsible authorities on CSP's from April 2013. This means that the CCG's now have a statutory responsibility to work in partnership with other responsible authorities to tackle crime and disorder. The act places a duty on CCG's 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 are identified.

Joining their local CSP's gives CCG's more influence in shaping local action to tackle crime and the causes of crime, for example the delivery of action on drugs, alcohol, crime and disorder.

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 under the reforms 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.

Probation Services

The Probation services have officially separated into 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

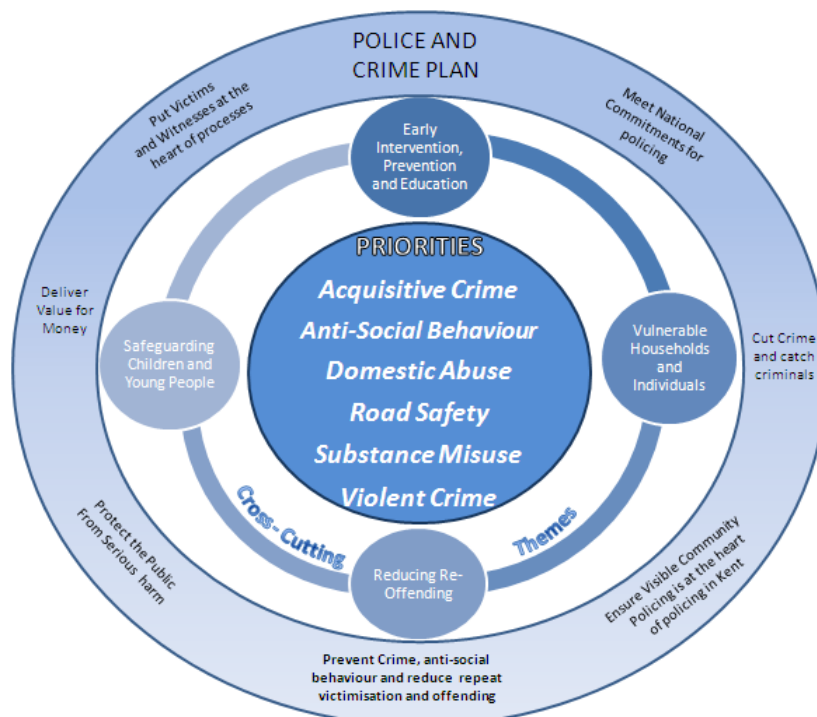
Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) who alongside the NPS, play an active part in the SMP's partnership.

The Kent County Perspective

The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) for 2014-17 outlines the key community safety priorities for Kent and replaces the previous agreement which expired on 31st March 2014. Data analysis, partnership consultation and examination of the most recent local strategic assessments indicated that the priorities and most of the cross-cutting themes identified in the 2011-14 Agreement should remain, and would continue to benefit from support at a county level.

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. 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.

The CSA will be refreshed shortly due to emerging trends from the police and other community safety partners:



2016 Strategic Assessment summary

Each year the Safer Maidstone Partnership has to produce 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, which is usually 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015 to produce recommended priority areas the data is telling us are a concern or that residents have highlighted.

The priorities are then compared with other areas and ranked against a number of factors, including volume, trend over time, resident's perception and how much it is felt 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 identified by this process and recommended as emerging priorities for the 2016-17 Partnership Plan:

Substance Misuse – including alcohol and NPS

Substance misuse relates to the use of drugs, alcohol and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) also known as 'legal highs'. Neither alcohol nor NPS are included in the recorded drug offences as they are both legal. 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 include both offences of drug supply and possession. Under this category of crime, Maidstone has seen a 35.3% reduction in drug offences when compared to last year's data. This is a reduction from 431 offences last year to 279 offences; this equates to 152 fewer crimes this year.

Despite this noticeable reduction in recorded drug offences data from the Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory suggests a higher number of admissions to hospital for mental and behavioural disorders relating to psychoactive substances.

Due to the Increasing levels of hospital admissions related to substance misuse, recommendation is made that Substance Misuse including alcohol and NPS remains as a priority.

Current projects

- Targeted multi-agency evening operations have been delivered with Trading Standards, Kent Police and Borough Council teams to tackle underage sales and licensed premises.
- Partners launched an NPS awareness campaign aligned with national campaigns.
- Addaction have delivered 2 well attended professionals training days around NPS to Teachers, Police, NHS and Early Help frontline staff.
- Bespoke NPS programme delivery by Addaction to targeted cohorts of young people through schools and temporary accommodation providers, funded through the PCC fund.
- Through CRI, recommenced a needle exchange scheme in a Week Street pharmacy. In Quarter 3 of 2015/6, there were 527 exchanges in this new location.
- Implementing the SMP's actions from the West Kent Alcohol Action Plan, the Kent Alcohol Strategy and continue to work closely with the West Kent Health & Wellbeing Board.
- Maidstone Substance Misuse Action Plan brings together priorities from the Community Safety Plan and Maidstone Health Inequalities Action Plan.

- The Council is part of the evaluation panel for exploring single use retractable 'Smart Syringes' – no needle stick injuries/sharing issues.
- Working with Licensing and Kent Police around a voluntary 'Reduce the Strength' scheme for the town centre.
- KCC Trading Standards successfully used forfeiture orders to tackle NPS across Kent, including 'head shops' in Maidstone, who did not oppose the application and have been closed down.
- Increased number of street population referred and engaged in CRI support services as a result the Maidstone Assertive Outreach programme.
- Service provision provided by CRI has been integrated into the partnership. Outreach workers have delivered additional sessions to engage with hard to reach individuals (e.g. street population) misusing substances.
- 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 pilot launched in Brenchley Gardens, reducing needle finds by 50%.

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 32% in offending from the West Kent cohort compared with last year.

The recommendation is made that Reducing Re-offending remains as a priority, being a cross cutting theme across all priorities

Current projects:

- A steering group was established involving all key agencies to provide strategic direction to the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and Deter Young Offenders (DYO) groups.
- 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.
- Awarded £10,000 funding from Kent PCC towards Restorative Justice Programme.
- Employability and physical activity have 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.
- Electronic 'Buddy' tracking is being piloted in partnership between Kent Police and Probation. At present this can only be undertaken with the agreement of the offender.
- Yes Plus and Challenger Troop commissioned to provide diversionary and personal development programmes at Kings Reach Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).
- 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)

Maidstone has had the highest rate of road traffic collisions in Kent for the 5th year with 709 collisions recorded from July 2014 - June 2015. This is an increase of 2.3% from last year. We have the second highest increase in the County and are well above the Kent averages where an overall 3.2% reduction was achieved.

Due to the high numbers of Road traffic collisions in Maidstone, recommendation is made that Road Safety remains as a priority.

Current projects:

- 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 walking buses and 20 MPH zones around schools.
- Promoted bus safety driver and pedestrian awareness
- Signposted to bicycle and marking events
- Created a road safety awareness DVD for Schools
- Piloting a road safety project in partnership with Kent Fire and rescue, community wardens, parking enforcement, local schools and Kent police.

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 October 2014-September 2015 Maidstone has recorded 2278 incidences of Domestic abuse. This is below the Kent average when compared to number of incidents per 1,000 population. 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.

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, focusing on those areas with frequent reports of domestic abuse.

Current projects:

- 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.
- 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

- Promoted the DA Schools Project (SAFE).
- Provided support for male offenders wishing to rehabilitate.
- Helped facilitate the Sanctuary Scheme and assisted 49 victims to stay in their properties by making home security improvements
- Increased referrals for domestic abuse victims who are street homeless.
- Assisted in providing a domestic abuse One Stop Shop in the borough.
- Domestic Homicide review training undertaken by Community Safety Unit.
- Delivered targeted training to internal and external teams and supported the process of creating champion roles.

Violent Crime (night-time economy)

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 (VAP).

This has resulted in a significant number of crimes added back during the year. With this change in recording, it is not safe to directly compare the current year with previous years. This year has therefore seen a 12.5% increase in violent crime. Whilst Maidstone has seen the 4th highest yearly rise in Violent crime per 1,000 of the population in Kent, Maidstone is still ranked 6th in the county for violent crime and is lower than the county average.

Current projects

- In conjunction with Pubwatch, excluded violent individuals from the Town Centre premises.
- Promoting the work of the Taxi Marshal Scheme and town centre Street Pastors initiative.
- Shared information proactively from CCTV control room and Kent Police via MaidSafe network radios provided to door staff of key premises.
- Used CCTV to protect and prevent crime.
- Promoted the 'Urban Blue Bus' initiative.
- Enforced Alcohol Control Zones.
- Supported the county-wide Hate Crime Reporting Line.
- Provided school based work (Don't Abuse the Booze project) with high risk individuals around violence and drugs.

Whilst the partnership delivers these proactive activities, further work needs to be done to ensure a reduction in violent crime. The emergence of NPS and rise in practices such as pre loading are all contributing factors that add towards the increase in violent crime.

Due to the continuing rise in violent crime in the night-time economy, recommendation is made for drug and alcohol related violence to remain a priority for the partnership under Violent Crime.

(This also links in with the cross cutting themes of substance misuse, domestic abuse and reducing reoffending).

Community Resilience

Over the year emerging trends in Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), extremism and radicalisation (Prevent), human trafficking 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 Kent Police Control strategy.

Given the prominence of Kent in regards to its links with Europe through Dover, it is recommended that the Safer Maidstone Partnership supports the Control strategy through making a priority orientated around CSE, Prevent, Human trafficking 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 these issues. To ensure the SMP can respond effectively to these issues it is recommended that the sub group incorporates all of these into its action plans as the actions and responses will be similar. These actions will look at preparing, preventing and protecting against the issues highlighted in the Control strategy.

The SMP has already raised awareness of the Prevent strategy through providing internal and external training opportunities, integrating CSE into the councils new safeguarding policy and adapting internet safety training sessions around the agenda of grooming for the purpose of CSE and Prevent.

Cross Cutting Themes

Data analysis also 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, as shown in the chart below:

Cross cutting themes				
Reducing Reoffending	Violent Crime (specifically Domestic Abuse)	Community Resilience	Road Safety (KSI)	Substance Misuse (including alcohol)
Targeting prolific offenders / repeat locations				
Safeguarding vulnerable and young people				
Prevention and early intervention				

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 7. 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, shown in item 8.

Priority leads

Lead officers for each of the priorities have been identified as set out below 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.

Priority sub-groups	Lead Officer/Agency
Anti-Social Behaviour	Inspector Jody Gagan-Cook, Kent Police
Substance Misuse	Nic Rathbone, Maidstone Borough Council
Reducing Re-Offending	John Littlemore, Maidstone Borough Council
Road Safety (killed or seriously injured)	Sam Scales, Maidstone Borough Council
Violent Crime (specifically domestic abuse)	Inspector Jody Gagan-Cook, Kent Police
Community Resilience	TBC

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: Antisocial behavior

Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
Although no longer listed as a specific priority, work in partnership to reduce incidents of ASB towards repeat or vulnerable victims / locations, targeting rowdy nuisance behaviour, fly-tipping and noise will continue. To reduce the perception of the local community that believes ASB is a large problem in their local area, with emphasis on noisy neighbours and increase the satisfaction of those that we deal with.	Identification of ASB hotspots and multi-agency tasking through the weekly CSP Partnership Tasking and Action Group meeting and monthly ASB meeting.	Reduction in reported ASB across the borough. Quicker targeted response to priorities for CSP.		Maidstone Community Safety Unit (CSU)
	Promote the Community Trigger, ensuring an effective customer response to incidents of ASB (contact, treatment, actions and follow up)	Reduced percentage of community who consider there is a high level of ASB. Increased awareness of work undertaken to tackle ASB. Increase in customer satisfaction		Maidstone CSU
		2014/2015	Kent-wide comparison	Target (by 2018)
ASB incidents per 1,000 population		22.3 Maidstone is currently ranked 5 th in Kent.	26.5	Reduce to average of best 4 Kent Districts (19/1,000 population) in the Kent-wide comparison by 2018

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Priority 3: Road safety - killed or seriously injured (KSI)

Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
To continue multi-agency work promoting road safety awareness to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads.	Deliver a multi-agency response to dangerous parking at drop off and collection points at schools across Maidstone.	Improve safety for students around the school area.		Maidstone Borough Council
	Promote the annual road safety signs and support awareness campaigns delivered by KFRS	Reduced road fatalities and serious injury caused by road traffic accidents.		Kent Road Safety team and Kent Public Health
	Support the delivery of speed watch, a volunteer led programme to highlight the issues of speeding on Maidstone's road	Fewer Complaints of inappropriate speed in villages, Fewer road traffic accidents		Kent Police and SMP Road safety KSI sub group
Indicator		Maidstone July 2014 – June 2015	Kent average July 2014 - June 2015	Target (by 2018)
Reported Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) casualties all ages		57	49	To aim for below Kent average
Reported Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) casualties (under 16)		3	5	Maintain below Kent average
Delivery of RUSH education programme to Year 11 students		3,000	Not applicable	RUSH delivered to 3,000 Year 11 students annually

Priority 4: Substance misuse

Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
To continue multi-agency work to reduce the impact of drug and alcohol misuse on individuals and the local community, including drunken behaviour, binge and underage drinking.	Support Kent Alcohol Strategy and the West Kent Alcohol Action Plan, developing local, targeted projects with young people.	Reduction in underage drinking across Maidstone. Raised young people's awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.		SMP Substance Misuse sub-group
	Assess needle finds and needle drop locations in Maidstone and develop a targeted partnership action plan to increase outreach support and services.	Reduce needle finds and increase use and provision of needle drop locations.		SMP Substance Misuse sub-group
	Implementation of multi-agency street outreach to support street population through CRI, GPs and other providers.	Increased referrals to targeted interventions against these individuals and reduce the impact on the community		SMP Substance Misuse sub-group
	Trial a Reduce the Strength initiative targeting town centre based off-licenses	Fewer reports of drink related ASB and violent crime, fewer admissions to hospital		SMP substance misuse sub-group
Indicator		Maidstone 2015	Kent-wide comparison	Target (by 2018)
Number of drug offences per 1,000 population		1.74	1.79	Maintain under Kent average
Alcohol related hospital admissions per 10,000 population		4.58	5.83	Maintain under Kent average
Number of discarded needles picked up		1,610	N/A	Reduce to 1,200pa

Priority 4: Violent Crime (domestic abuse)

Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
To work to reduce repeat victimisation of domestic abuse victims and to ensure effective services are in place to support and meet the needs of victims.	Support the delivery of the Maidstone Domestic Abuse Action Plan to support the CSP Plan.	Increased access to information for agencies, victims, families and friends; improved referral routes; improved awareness and access to services for adults, children and teenage victims.		Maidstone Domestic Violence Forum
	Support the Specialist Domestic Violence Court and the work of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.	Increased number of domestic abuse cases seen at Court. Reduction in repeat victims.		HM Court Services
	Continuation of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in Maidstone.	Increased referrals from wider range of agencies. Support to high risk victims of domestic abuse.		Maidstone Domestic Violence Forum
	Implement a robust recording process for uncovering the emergence of adolescent to parent violence (APV) by working closely with the Early help and social services team.	A greater understanding of APV in Maidstone.		Maidstone Family Matters
Indicator		Baseline Oct 2014-15	Kent-wide comparison	Target (by 2018)
Number of DA incidents per 1,000 population		16.08	18.19	Encourage reporting to match the Kent-wide comparison
% who are repeat victims		25.1%	25.2%	Maintain under the Kent-wide comparison
Number of visitors to DA One Stop Shop				
(a) Actual		156	2410	Increase to 180
(b) Per 10,000 population		9.75	15.06	Increase to 12/10,000 pop
% of repeat MARAC cases		18%	25%	Maintain current levels

Priority 5: Community Resilience (Prevent, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Serious Organised Crime (SOC) and Safeguarding)

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Aim	Action	Anticipated Outcomes		Lead Agency
<p>To prevent, prepare and protect the community from radicalisation, extremism, CSE, SOC, human trafficking and safeguarding.</p>	<p>To identify local vulnerabilities in Maidstone for each area of the Kent control strategy.</p>	<p>An established understanding of the issues locally</p>		<p>Community resilience sub group</p>
	<p>To establish a multi-agency sub group to focus on the emerging issues in Maidstone.</p>	<p>The group will formulate an action plan based on the needs identified through multi-agency data around these evolving topics.</p>		<p>Community resilience sub group</p>
	<p>Provide training and awareness raising sessions to appropriate partners and residents on the community resilience themes.</p>	<p>To maximise opportunities for safeguarding young people, preventing SOC, CSE and human trafficking.</p>		<p>Community resilience sub group</p>
Indicator				
<p>To train up to 200 people per year in the resilience topics.</p>				

9. 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.

10. 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

Kent Hate Incident Reporting Line

Tel: 0800 1381624

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

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.