



# 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.

#### **Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is the movement of a person from one place to another into conditions of exploitation, using deception, coercion, the abuse of power or the abuse of someone's vulnerability. It is possible to be a victim of trafficking even if your consent has been given to being moved.

### **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.

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

### 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.

## 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 pop.	2014 rate per 1,000 pop.	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.

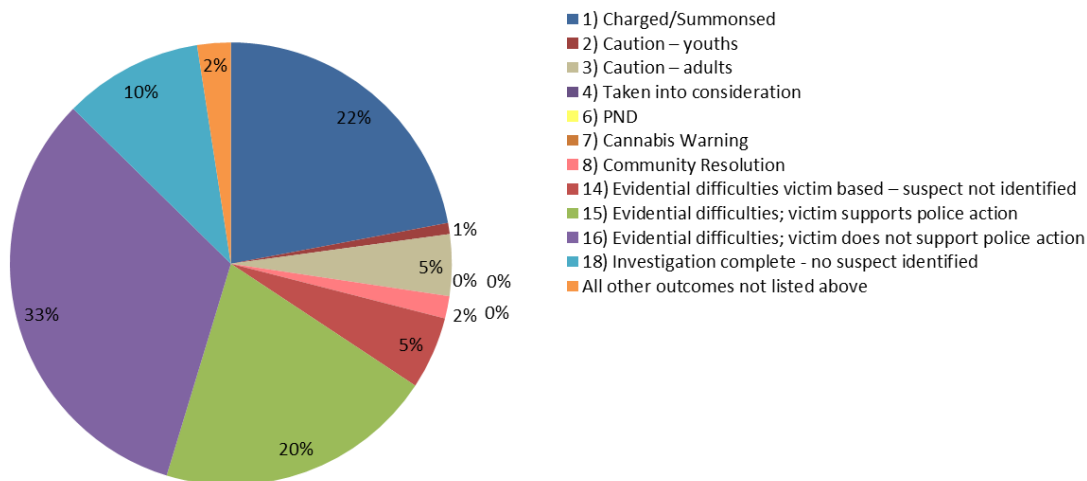
#### Violent Crime October 2014-September 2015

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
<b>Maidstone</b>	<b>2943</b>	<b>2612</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>6</b>
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. It should be noted that for this assessment there is no differential for offences in the High Street ward, to say if they were related to residential addresses or as is most probable for the majority, to businesses, shopping areas and the night time economy in general. Future assessments will separate this data so as not to portray such a skewed view of the ward.

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		Per 1,000 pop.		Apr 2013- Mar-14	Apr 2014- Mar-15
	Volume		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%
<b>Maidstone</b>	<b>2278</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24.30%</b>	<b>26.00%</b>
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 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	n/a
Sittingbourne	107	123	140	146	200	37.0
Sevenoaks <sup>3</sup>	6	12	16	25	16	46.0
Thanet	49	71	117	215	223	3.7
Tonbridge <sup>4</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	55	687.5
Tunbridge Wells <sup>5</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
<b>Total</b>	891	1054	1259	1835	2410	31.3

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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- Sep-13	Oct 2013- Sep-14	Oct 2014- Sep-15	13/14 to 14/15 % change	2014/15 per 1,000 population	Ranking
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
<b>Maidstone</b>	<b>4026</b>	<b>3679</b>	<b>3608</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>5</b>
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
<b>KCC Districts</b>	<b>44191</b>	<b>40534</b>	<b>38259</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>25.3</b>	
Medway	10065	9250	8998	-2.7	32.8	
<b>Kent</b>	<b>54256</b>	<b>49784</b>	<b>47257</b>	<b>-5.1</b>	<b>26.5</b>	

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

In 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. 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.

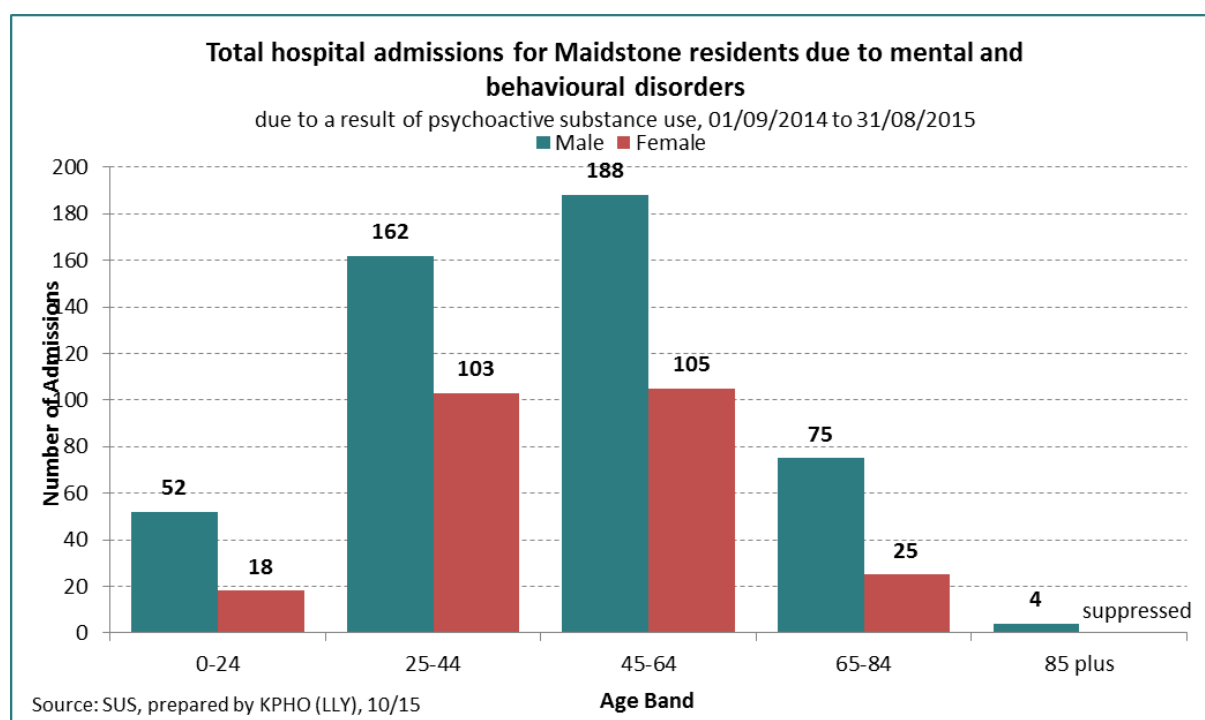
Ward Name	Total number of admissions	Ward Name	Total number of admissions
High street (no separate figures for residential or public areas)	121	South	17
Fant	59	Allington	15
East	54	Harrietsham and Lenham	15
Marden and Yalding	53	Bridge	13
Shepway North	53	Boxley	11
Shepway South	53	Barming	10
North	42	North Downs	8
Coxheath and Hunton	38	Boughton Monchelsea and	7

		Chart Sutton	
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.

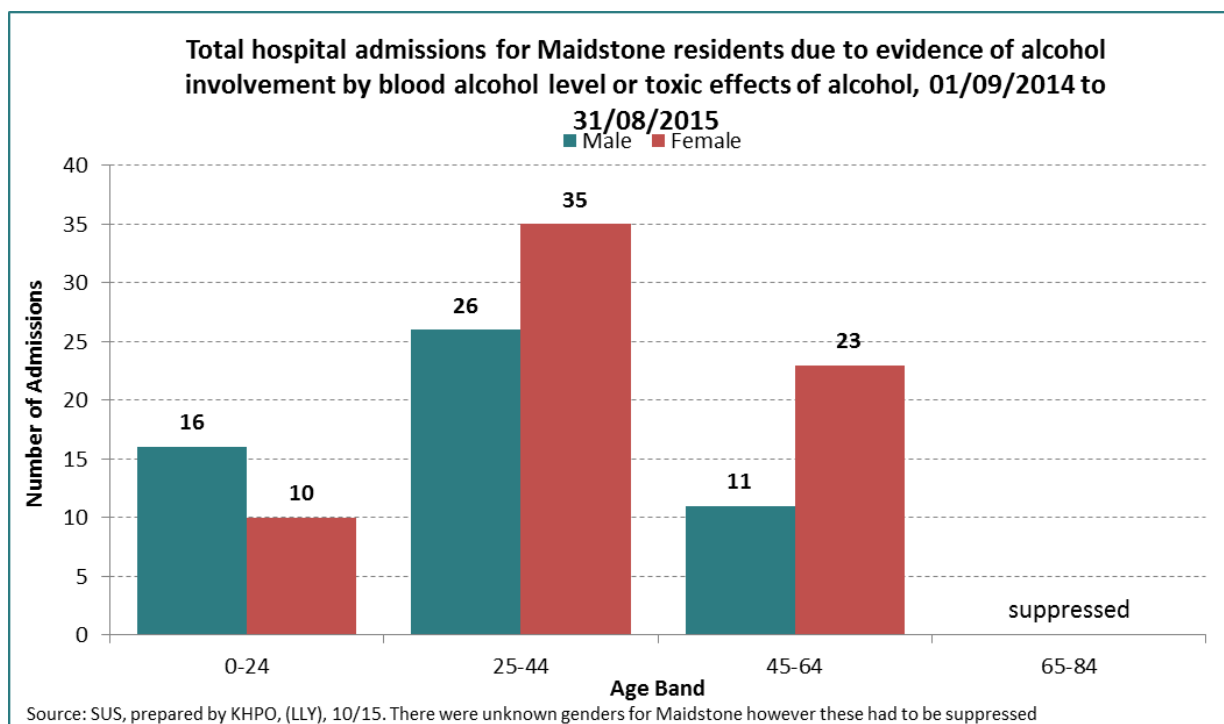
There is a clear connection between the wards with the highest anti-social behaviour rates and the wards with the highest substance misuse admissions.

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 Months 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 exoffender 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.

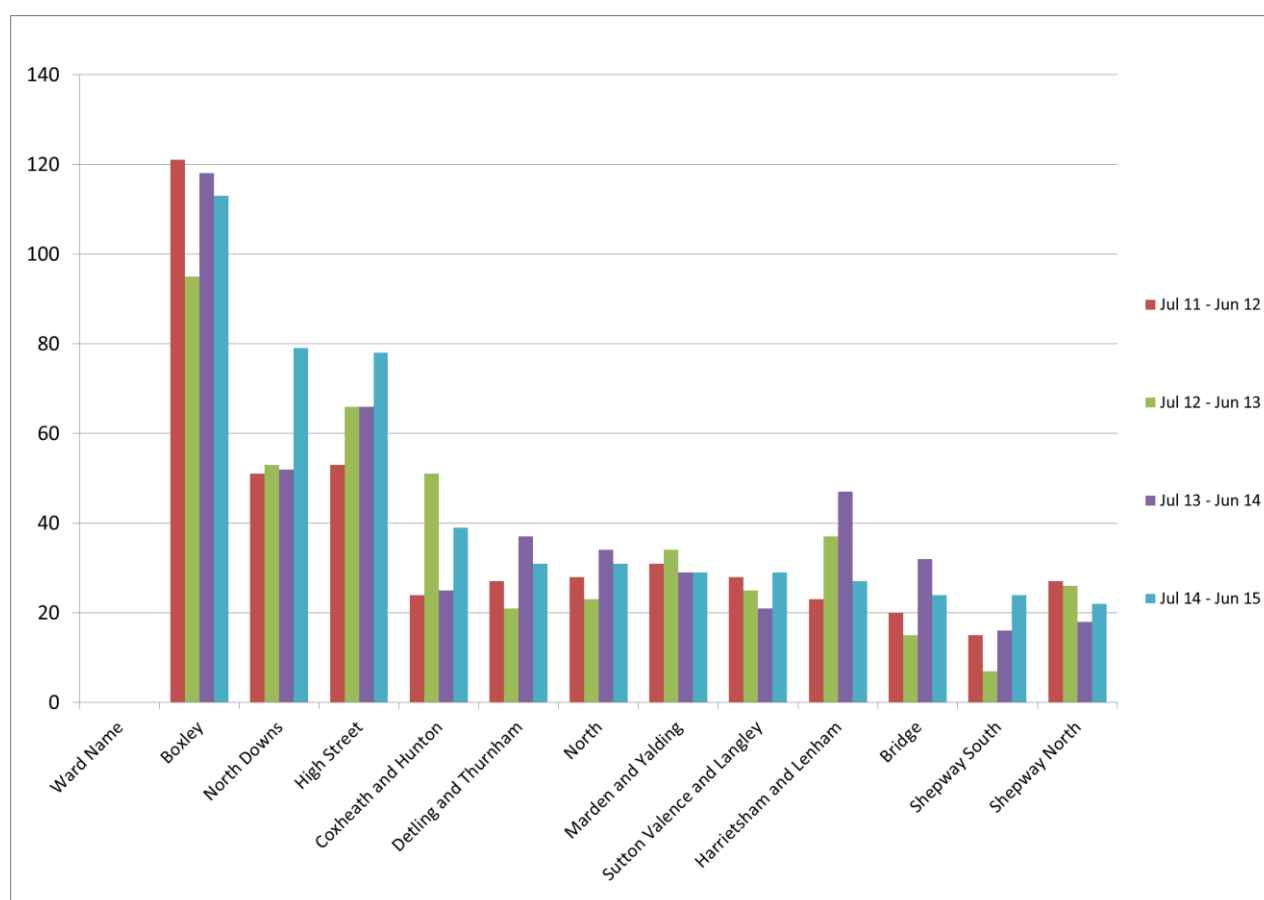
Maidstone has had the highest rate of road traffic collisions in Kent for the 5th year with 709 collisions recorded from July 2014 - June 2015. This is an increase of 2.3% from last year. We have the second highest increase in the County and are well above the Kent averages where an overall 3.2% reduction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

	Jul 2011- Jun-12	Jul 2012- Jun-13	Jul 2013- Jun-14	Jul 2014- Jun-15	% +/-	County Ranking
<b>Maidstone</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1</b>
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.

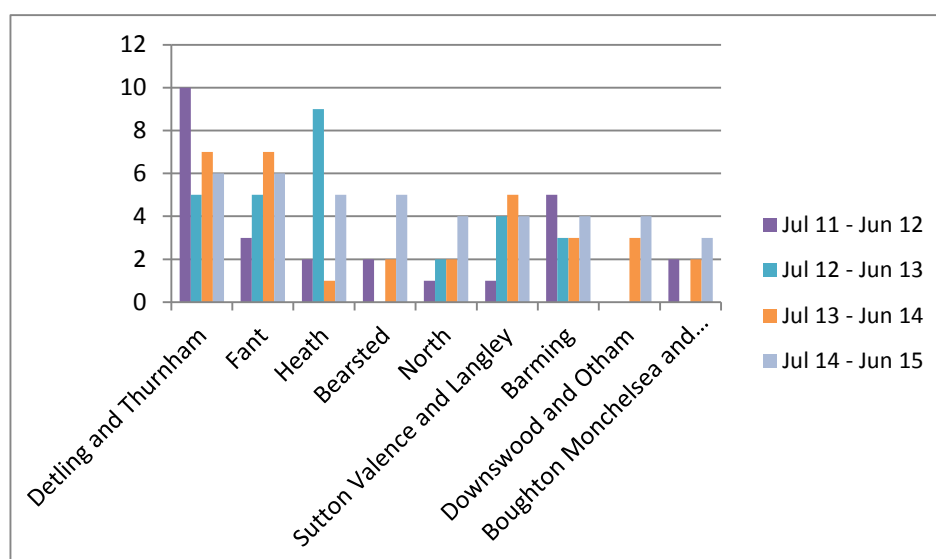


Maidstone currently has the 3rd highest rate of killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties in Kent; we have seen a reduction in the number of people KSI however compared with data from the years 2011 to 2013 KSI has stayed relatively the same in Maidstone.

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

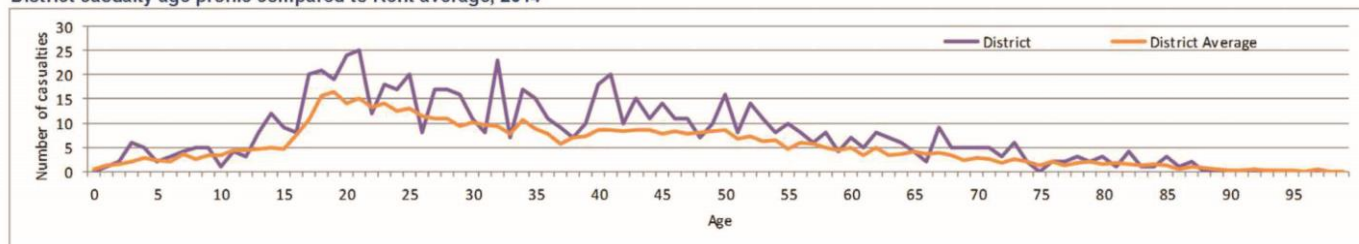
According to the Road Casualties review published by KCC in August 2015, 69% of all road casualties were car occupants compared with the Counties 67%. Maidstone's second highest road user casualty were pedestrians with 10% of all a road casualties reported in 2014 were pedestrians which is below the 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, modern slavery and serious organised crime (SOC) have presented as significant issues across the country. To tackle these issues the police have implemented these areas into their control strategy

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

#### **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 and Night Time Economy)**
- 2. Substance Misuse**
- 3. Reduce Re-offending**

- 4. Road Safety – Killed & Seriously Injured**
- 5. Community Resilience (emerging issues around CSE, Prevent, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, SOC and Safeguarding)**

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. 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, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Tel: 01622 602000. [www.maidstone.org.uk](http://www.maidstone.org.uk)

## **Appendix 1**

### **Information sources**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Other data sources**

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

- Association of Chief Police Officers
- Association of Police Authorities
- Association of Public Health Observatories (PHO's)
- Choices DA Services (formerly North Kent Women's Aid)
- 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.

