

AGENDA

COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (acting as the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee)



Date: Tuesday 17 November 2015
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

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1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Substitute Members
3. Notification of Visiting Members
4. Disclosures by Members and Officers
5. Disclosures of Lobbying

Continued Over/:

Issued on Monday 9 November 2015

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 Orla Sweeney on 01622 01622 602524**. 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**

6. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information.
7. Safer Maidstone Partnership mid-year update 1 - 6
8. INFORMATION ONLY: MAIDSTONE PROTOCOLS FOR CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 7 - 13

Safer Maidstone Partnership

Mid year update

John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Community Services
Maidstone Borough Council
17 November 2015

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Committee on the Safer Maidstone Partnership's community safety work to reduce crime and disorder in the Maidstone borough. The report outlines achievements to date and future priorities and challenges.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on councils to do all they reasonably can to reduce crime and disorder locally and improve people's quality of life as a result.
- 2.2 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, Probation services and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (which have the responsibility for health services locally). 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.
- 2.3 Locally, the priority areas for the Safer Maidstone Partnership are informed by the annual Strategic Assessment, which looks at the range of detailed information that exists about crime, disorder, substance abuse and other community safety matters affecting Maidstone. 2015's Strategic Assessment identified the 6 priorities for the Borough in reducing and tackling crime and disorder:
- Antisocial Behaviour
 - Reducing Re-offending
 - Road Safety (killed or seriously injured)
 - Substance Misuse
 - Violent Crime - domestic abuse
 - Violent Crime - night-time economy
- 2.4 Additionally the strategic assessment process has identified four subsidiary priorities:
- Safeguarding, educating and engaging young people
 - Hoarding and Self Neglect
 - Legal Highs
 - Victim Support and Restorative Justice

3. 12-month performance update (year to date)

3.1 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

	October 2014 to September 2015	October 2013 to September 2014	Difference	% change
Victim based crime	8483	8457	+26	+0.3%
Violent Crime	2945	2612	+333	+12.7%
- Violence Against The Person	2643	2349	+294	+12.5%
- Sexual Offences	224	203	+21	+10.3%
- Robbery	78	60	+18	+30%
Burglary Dwelling	361	468	-107	-22.9%
Burglary Other than Dwelling	505	568	-63	-11.1%
Vehicle Crime	601	642	-41	-6.4%
- Theft Of Motor Vehicle	129	160	-31	-19.4%
- Theft From Motor Vehicle	472	482	-10	-2.1%
Vehicle Interference	81	60	+21	+35%
Theft and Handling	2620	2728	-108	-4%
- Shoplifting	1056	1108	-52	-4.7%
- Theft of Pedal cycle	111	138	-27	-19.6%
- Other Theft	1453	1482	-29	-2%
Criminal Damage	1370	1379	-9	-0.7%

Crimes against society	695	953	-258	-27.1%
Drug Offences	279	431	-152	-35.3%
Possession of weapons	47	47	-	-
Public order offences	228	305	-77	-25.2%
Other crimes	141	170	-29	-17.1%

All crime	9178	9410	-232	-2.5%
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3.2 Performance headlines

- 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 a drop of 232 crimes or 0.64 fewer crimes per day.
- Victim based crime rose in the period October 2014 to September 2015 compared with the same period the previous year by 0.3%, or an extra 26 crimes, whilst non-victim based crime (classified as drug offences, possession of weapons and public order offences) fell by 27.1%, or 258 fewer crimes.

- The largest % rise in the period October 2014 to September 2015 compared with the same period the previous year was for 'vehicle interference' up from 60 to 81 – a rise of 35%. Other large rises were recorded for 'Robbery' (up from 60 to 78 +30%) and for 'violence against the person' (up from 2349 to 2643 +12.5%)
- The biggest % decrease in the period October 2014 to September 2015 compared with the same period the previous year was for 'drug offences' down from 431 to 279 – a decrease of 35.3%. Other large falls were recorded for 'Public Order Offences' (down from 305 to 228, -25.2%) and for 'Burglary Dwelling' (down from 468 to 361 -22.9%)

3.3 Antisocial behaviour

The number of antisocial behaviour incidents recorded in Maidstone continues to fall in the period April to September 2015 compared to the same period in previous years:

	Apr-Sept 2012	Apr-Sept 2013	Apr-Sept 2014	Apr-Sept 2015	% change 2015 on 2014
ASB incidents in Maidstone Borough	2,489	2,189	2,117	1,925	-9.1%

Since 2012, recorded antisocial behaviour incidents in the Borough have fallen from 2,489 to 1,925 - a fall of 22.7% for the comparable period year on year.

3.4 Road Safety (killed or seriously injured)

The number of people of all ages killed or seriously injured (KSI) in Maidstone had fallen from an average of 115 per year for the period 1994-1998 to 57 in 2012, a reduction of over 50% . However, in 2013 the number KSI in Maidstone rose to 63 and 2014 saw a further increase to 74. For the period April to August 2015, the number of people killed or seriously injured is reported as 20.

3.5 Violent Crime (domestic abuse)

There has been a rise of reported domestic abuse incidents in Maidstone of 294 cases for the same six month period since 2013, an increase of 32.6%

		Apr-Sep 2013	Apr-Sep 2014	Apr-Sep 2015
Maidstone Borough	Total	903	1,076	1,197
	Repeat victims	247	305	342
	% repeat victims	27.4%	28.3%	28.6%

4. Current projects

4.1 Antisocial Behaviour

- Identified repeat and vulnerable victims through the Weekly Partnership ASB Briefing.
- Sought ASB/Injunction orders where appropriate.
- 14 action days have been held with multiple agencies visiting targeted areas as part of Operation Civic.
- Community Trigger launched.
- 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.
- Identified troubled families and referred to the Maidstone Families Matter programme.
- PredPol launched by Kent Police.
- Worked with partners to maximise environmental protection.
- Carried out targeted substance misuse and mental health support with offenders.

4.2 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.
- 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).

4.3 Road Safety (killed or seriously injured)

- 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.

4.4 Substance Misuse

- 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 a Legal Highs awareness campaign aligned with national campaigns.
- Delivered x2 Professionals training days around NPS/Legal Highs to Teachers, Police, NHS etc and 'Early Help' frontline staff.
- Riskit type NPS programme delivery to targeted cohorts of young people.
- Increased the needle exchange scheme in town centre.
- Aligning Kent Alcohol Strategy with Kent Public Health.
- Exploring use of 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 legal highs across Kent, including 'head shops' in Maidstone, who did not oppose the application and have been closed down.
- Over 1,800 young people attended 'SNAP' disco, where targeted messages were

- delivered regarding the misuse of drugs and alcohol.
- 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.
- Needle bin pilot launched in Brenchley Gardens, reducing needle finds by 50%.

4.5 Violent Crime - domestic abuse

- 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.
- 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.

4.6 Violent Crime - night-time economy

- 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.

5. Emerging issues

5.1 Priority 1: Vulnerable and Emerging Communities

- The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent on 12 February 2015. Among other provisions, the act places the Prevent programme on a statutory footing. This means all local authorities have a duty to have due regard to preventing people being drawn into terrorism. The SMP finalised its Prevent Action Plan in July this year and it was adopted as the county template across all Kent districts.
- The Prevent agenda also encompasses Serious and Organised Crime networks (including modern slavery, forced labour, drug and human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, cyber and gang crime etc.) and there are opportunities for the SMP to apply for funding to explore its impact on the borough and how partnership working can prevent and tackle it, including the use of POCA (Proceeds of Crime Act). It is recommended that the SMP work with Kent Police to produce a local profile to progress the work of the Partnership in tackling organised crime and develop a common understanding among local partners of the threats, vulnerabilities and risks.

5.2 **Priority 2: To understand the complex needs of those with substance misuse and mental health issues and to work with partners across these two issues**

- Drug users will have a substantial impact on crime, health and associated social care needs. One in four people will experience a mental health problem in any one year and while not all of these will come into contact with partners, some will either as victims, witnesses, offenders and suspects.
- The SMP needs to work with partners to improve sharing data which is collated, establishing links with the substance misuse and mental health service providers to ensure all partners are working together and processes are in place to help high risk victims.

5.3 **Priority 3: Safeguarding**

- Child sexual exploitation (CSE) has been highlighted by Kent Police as potential high risk, but currently the SMP does not have sufficient information to fully understand the threat, risk and what actions need to be undertaken in Maidstone. CSE is sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involving exploitive situations, context and relationships where the young person receives something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing and/or others performing on them sexual activities. CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. Violence, cohesion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice, as a result of their social, economic or emotional vulnerability. A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.
- The SMP will work with partners to undertake a piece of work to identify the extent of CSE in Maidstone and to use this piece of work to create a local action plan. It is recommended that our local response should: raise awareness; understand what is happening; develop a strategic response, support victims of exploitation; and, facilitate policing and prosecutions.

6. **Conclusions**

- Over the past year the SMP has worked to gain a deeper understanding of the local community collating different data sets, intelligence and community needs.
- The SMP has agreed an approach to look at priorities on the 'hidden harms' (e.g. hoarding and self neglect) that affect our residents and our communities. We will continue to increase our understanding and awareness of the hidden harms our communities face, but also encourage those who are suffering to have the confidence to come forward and seek help from the Partnership and our services.
- The CSP has built up a strong base to support crime reduction, and offers crime prevention and reassurance in the community. This will continue.
- The annual Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Partnership Plan is due to be refreshed in December 2015 and discuss in detail key emerging issues and considerations that have been identified for 2016.

- End -

Sarah Robson
Housing and Community Manager

Tony Stewart
Senior Enabling Officer

MAIDSTONE CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP PROCEDURE RULES

Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires various 'Responsible Authorities' to work together to develop and implement a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for the area as well as a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and a strategy for reducing re-offending. The Responsible Authorities are the Council, along with:

- Kent County Council;
- Kent Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Kent Chief Constable;
- Kent Fire and Rescue Authority;
- Clinical Commissioning Groups; and
- Probation providers

In exercising their functions the Responsible Authorities must also co-operate with various other bodies, known as 'Co-operating Authorities' including:

- Parish Councils
- NHS Trusts/NHS Foundation Trusts
- Governing bodies of schools
- Proprietors of independent schools
- Governing bodies of an institution
- Social landlords

The Safer Maidstone Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership fulfils this function.

Every local authority must also establish a committee with responsibility for Crime and Disorder matters that has the power to:

- Review decisions made or action taken by the Responsible Authorities in connection with their crime and disorder functions; and
- Make reports or recommendations to the authority with regard to the discharge of these functions.

The Council has adopted the following rules and protocols for when the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee exercises the crime and disorder functions.

1. This document assumes:

- The continued operation of the Police and Justice Act 2006;
- The continued existence of a Crime and Disorder Committee function within the Maidstone Borough Council Communities, Housing and Environment Committee;

- The existence of a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for the Borough of Maidstone (currently the Safer Maidstone Partnership);
 - A partnership approach, working with responsible authorities within the Borough (and, where appropriate, beyond) as a “critical friend”.
- 2.** The purpose of this document is to ensure effective interaction between the Safer Maidstone Partnership and the Crime and Disorder Committee to:
- Enhance the public accountability of the Safer Maidstone Partnership;
 - Establish acceptable and appropriate ways of working between the two bodies; and
 - Develop and maintain a positive working relationship for the benefit of the residents of the Borough of Maidstone.
- 3.** The protocols are based on the following principles:
- The Safer Maidstone Partnership should focus on supporting the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour and reducing fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Borough of Maidstone.
 - Safer Maidstone Partnership should seek to minimise any unnecessary additional administrative burdens on responsible authorities.
 - Crime and Disorder Committee agendas need to be developed in conjunction with the Safer Maidstone Partnership.
 - It is the intention of the Crime and Disorder Committee to require the Safer Maidstone Partnership to demonstrate added value in the work it does.
- 4.** The Crime and Disorder Committee has the statutory power to:
- Consider Councillor Calls for Action made in relation to community safety matters (that is the ability for any Councillor to refer a matter to the Crime and Disorder Committee for consideration and for the Committee to place the matter on the agenda and consider the matter).
 - Review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions; and
 - Make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.
- 5.** Maidstone Borough Council has a responsibility to work with Kent County Council and other district councils on community safety issues where this is possible, for example through joint development of work programmes.

6. Communication

- 6.1 The Crime and Disorder Committee and the Safer Maidstone Partnership will each nominate a named officer to be the main point of contact. That officer will direct all correspondence to the appropriate person.
- 6.2 The Democratic Services Team will inform the Safer Maidstone Partnership of all Committee work programmes on a six monthly basis to give Partners the opportunity to comment on any items that they feel appropriate to their own work. The Safer Maidstone Partnership will also be invited to propose future work items for the Crime and Disorder Committee where it wishes to do so, though the Committee is under no obligation to take these on.
- 6.3 The Safer Maidstone Partnership will inform the Crime and Disorder Committee of its forthcoming work on a six monthly basis and consult the Committee on its work where appropriate. In particular, the Safer Maidstone Partnership should consult the Crime and Disorder Committee on its Partnership Plan.
- 6.4 Both parties will inform the other of structure changes and significant changes to priorities or future plans to ensure accuracy of information.

7. Information Sharing

- 7.1 The Safer Maidstone Partnership will distribute public minutes of full Partnership, Policy group and Strategy group meetings to members of the Crime and Disorder Committee as soon as these are agreed.
- 7.2 The Crime and Disorder Committee may also request informal notes of delivery group meetings where this is relevant to work being carried out by the Committee.
- 7.3 The Safer Maidstone Partnership is required to respond to requests for information by the Crime and Disorder Committee "as soon as reasonably possible". These requests from councillors should be well focussed and thought through.
- 7.4 Information provided to the Crime and Disorder Committee by responsible authorities should be depersonalised and should not include any information that would be reasonably likely to prejudice legal proceedings or current or future operations of the responsible authority. These requirements cannot be bypassed by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 i.e. by putting an item onto Part II of a committee agenda.

8. Meeting Procedures and Protocols

- 8.1 The Committee has a duty to meet at least once a year and is recommended to meet at 6 monthly intervals to ensure the ongoing building and maintenance of knowledge.

- 8.2 Review task and finish groups may meet outside of these formal meetings with the requirement to report findings in full at a Crime and Disorder designated meeting of the Communities Housing and Environment Committee.
- 8.2 Officers or employees of responsible authorities and co-operating persons or bodies are required to attend meetings of the Crime and Disorder Committee to answer questions or provide information. The Committee will endeavour to give at least one month's notice to persons requested to attend. The person required must attend on the specified date unless they have a reasonable excuse not to.
- 8.3 Prior to meetings between the Crime and Disorder Committee and the Safer Maidstone Partnership, the Democratic Services Team will:
- Agree meeting dates as far in advance as possible;
 - Provide meeting paperwork at least 5 working days prior to the meeting;
 - Provide the Safer Maidstone Partnership with a list of proposed questions or key areas of inquiry.
- 8.4 When representatives of the Safer Maidstone Partnership are invited to attend meetings of the Crime and Disorder Committee, the following protocols will apply:
- Committee Members should endeavour not to request detailed information from representatives of the Safer Maidstone Partnership at meetings of the Committee, unless they have given prior notice through the appropriate officer. If, in the course of question and answer at a meeting of the Committee, it becomes apparent that further information would be useful, the representative being questioned may be required to submit it in writing to members of the Committee through the appropriate officer.
 - In the course of questioning at meetings, representatives of the Safer Maidstone Partnership may decline to give information or respond to questions on the ground that it is more appropriate that the question be directed to a more senior representative.
 - Representatives of the Safer Maidstone Partnership may decline to answer questions in an open session of the Committee on the grounds that the answer might disclose information which would be exempt or confidential as defined in the Access to Information Act 1985. In that event, the Committee may resolve to exclude the media and public in order that the question may be answered in private sessions.
 - Committee members may not criticise or adversely comment on any individual representative of the Safer Maidstone Partnership by name.
- 8.5 A record will be made of the main statements of witnesses appearing before the Committee and will be agreed with the witness prior to publication or use by the Committee. Committee meetings may be electronically recorded and web-cast.

9. Reporting and Recommendations

- 9.1 Section 19(2) of the Police and Justice Act 2006 states that where the Crime and Disorder Committee makes a report or recommendations, a copy shall be provided to each of the Responsible Authorities.
- 9.2 In accordance with Section 19(8) of the Police and Justice Act, the authority, person or body to which a copy of the report or recommendations is passed shall:
- a) Consider the report or recommendations;
 - b) Respond to the Crime and Disorder Committee indicating what (if any) action it proposes to take; and
 - c) Have regard to the report or recommendations in exercising its functions.
- 9.3 The relevant partner (or partners, including the full Safer Maidstone Partnership) will have 28 days to formally respond to any recommendations made by the Committee, or if this is not possible as soon as reasonably possible thereafter. The relevant partner(s) will inform the Crime and Disorder Committee Chairman if delays are expected.
- 9.4 The Democratic Services Team will ensure that drafts of Committee reports are made available for comment by the Safer Maidstone Partnership Strategy Group and any adverse comments or concerns reported to the Committee before the final report is published.
- 9.5 The Chairman of the Safer Maidstone Partnership will be given advance notice of the date of publication of the report and consulted on the text of any accompanying press release.

10. Co-option

- 10.1 The Crime and Disorder Committee may co-opt additional members as it sees appropriate. These co-optees will be non-voting. The relevant Responsible Authority will be consulted as to the most suitable person prior to co-option, and the membership of the co-optee can be withdrawn at any time.
- 10.2 In addition to Co-option, the Crime and Disorder Committee will invite the Chief Inspector from Kent Police (Maidstone) to attend committee meetings when items on community safety are being considered.

11. Changing the Rules and Protocols

These rules and protocols will be reviewed on an annual basis, at the first meeting of the Crime and Disorder Committee each Municipal Year by the Committee and the Safer Maidstone Partnership Chairman to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. The Communities Housing and Environment Committee may change these rules and protocols as considered appropriate and the Head of Legal Partnership may update these rules (in

the same way as the rest of the Council's Constitution) to deal with any changes in legislation and to remove ambiguity or inconsistency etc.

