

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

Date: Tuesday 17 March 2020  
Time: 6.00 pm  
Venue: Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone

## Membership:

Councillors M Burton, Joy, Khadka, Mortimer (Chairman), Powell (Vice-Chairman), Purle, D Rose, M Rose and Young

*The Chairman will assume that all Members will read the reports before attending the meeting. Officers are asked to assume the same when introducing reports.*

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## AGENDA

Page No.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Substitute Members
3. Urgent Items
4. Notification of Visiting Members
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 24 September 2019 1 - 8
9. Presentation of Petitions (if any)
10. Questions and answer session for members of the public (if any)
11. Questions from Members to the Chairman (if any)
12. 2019/2020 Strategic Assessment and revised Community Safety Plan 9 - 78

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING AND ALTERNATIVE FORMATS**

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**Issued on Monday 9 March 2020**

**Continued Over/:**

*Alison Broom*

**Alison Broom, Chief Executive**

In order to speak at this meeting, please contact Democratic Services using the contact details above, by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting, i.e. by 5 p.m. on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. If asking a question, you will need to provide the full text in writing. If making a statement, you will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on. Please note that slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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## MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

**Present:** Councillor Mortimer (Chairman), and  
Councillors M Burton, Joy, Kimmance, Powell, Purle,  
D Rose, M Rose and Young

**Also Present:** Councillors Brindle, Mrs Gooch, McKay,  
Perry, Round and Vizzard

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Khadka.

2. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that Councillor Kimmance was substituting for Councillor Khadka.

3. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had agreed to take Councillor Purle's Call for Action as an urgent item, which could be found on the Amended Agenda.

4. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

It was noted that Councillors Brindle, Mrs Gooch, McKay, Perry, Round and Vizzard indicated that they wished to speak on Item 11 – Serious, Violent and Organised Crime in Maidstone.

5. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures by Members or Officers.

6. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

Councillors M Burton, Mrs Joy, Mortimer, Powell and D Rose stated that they had been lobbied on Item 11 – Serious, Violent and Organised Crime in Maidstone.

7. EXEMPT ITEMS

**RESOLVED:** That all items be taken in public as proposed.

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2019

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

9. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

10. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

11. SERIOUS, VIOLENT AND ORGANISED CRIME IN MAIDSTONE

The Chairman informed the Committee that the agenda item would start with a presentation from the Police and the Community Protection Manager which would include a couple of videos to provide context to the subject matter. He requested that the Committee took a strategic look in terms of the content of the presentation, but also take into account the local perspective.

The witnesses contributing to the meeting were asked to introduce themselves to the Committee:-

Kent Police - Chief Inspector Ray Quiller and Inspector Mark Hedges

Ilsa Butler Manager from One Maidstone which heads the Business Improvement District for the town centre

Dan Bride, Assistant Director for North and West Kent Adolescent Services and Head of Youth Justice Services in Kent

The Community Protection Manager, in introducing the report, stated that the presentation would provide some context and real life experiences surrounding the issues highlighted in the report which included an introduction to the new Kent Police Violence Reduction Unit funded by the Home Office. It would also give an update on the state of serious, violent and organised crime within the Maidstone area.

Members were also informed that the role of the Serious Organised Crime Panel (SOCP) would be explained, together with context around the 4 P approach which was adopted by the SOCP and what is meant by disruption activities. The presentation would culminate in providing evidence on how knife crime was being tackled, including reporting and intelligence sharing to provide a solution to this problem and would look at how the Police are working with partners to tackle domestic abuse.

Chief Inspector Quiller gave a brief history of his 20 years career in the Police and advised that Kent Police had recently been graded as outstanding and that illustrated how hard the Force worked to maintain

and constantly improve the service they provided to the public and had a long and proud tradition of bringing offenders to justice.

He thanked Councillors and Officers for their support in keeping the district safe and outlined various initiatives that had been introduced, particularly in regard to intelligence gathering and CCTV deployment.

### Crime in Maidstone

Inspector Hedges presented the crime data comprising of 2018/19 and 2019/20 (financial years).

The Committee noted that the Police had been recording their data differently since 2018 and therefore it would not be possible to provide comparisons with previous years as they would not be like for like. Therefore the current data could only be prepared to last year.

Highlights included that overall Crime in Maidstone was down by 6.1% which equated to 400 less victims. Serious Violent Crime was down to 8.3%, with violent crime down by 8.1% and Public Order offences were down by 36.5% and Robbery incidences down by 31.4%

However, the number of possessions of a weapon were up by 13.5%, Drug Offences were up by 83.7%

### Maidstone's Community Safety Plan 2019-2022

The Committee were reminded of the priorities set within the Community Safety Plan 2019-2022 which were:-

- Protecting our communities against serious and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)
- Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)
- Keeping children and young people safe
- Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable
- Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community

### Perception

The Committee heard that perception is key to making us feel unsafe or vulnerable. This was illustrated by the type of language used and how we use it and the impact it has on young people.

Social media has its part to play in keeping to the facts, not retweeting unsubstantiated information or opinions which become the reality in people's minds. Using words like 'knife crime' would make a young person fearful and they would carry a knife themselves to feel 'safe'.

Just because a few young people congregate and wear hoodies, does that make them a gang? The perception is that this is gang but it's their behaviour and activities that define them, not what they look like.

### Definitions of Groups

It was felt important that there was a clear definition in the way that the Police and others refer to gangs, for example:-

Peer Group - A small unorganised, transient grouping but are not motivated by crime.

Street Gang – A predominantly street based group of young people who see themselves and are seen by others as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group's identity.

An Organised Criminal Network – A group of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain. The gain is mostly measured in financial terms so crime is their occupation.

### The Role of the Serious and Organised Crime Panel

Inspector Hedges explained to the Committee the role of the Serious and Organised Crime Panel who meet every 4 weeks with multi-agency partners. Their work involved tackling crime trends and clusters, county lines, human trafficking and modern day slavery offences, prison releases, top threat risk and harming people in the district and finally high risk offenders being managed in the community.

The Committee heard that the Panel tackle Organised Criminal Gangs through a partnership intervention (the four P's) which was:

Pursue – Relentless disruption and prosecution

Prevent – people becoming involved in SOC

Protect – reduction of the vulnerability amongst our communities from the threat of SOC

Prepare – ensure the necessary capabilities exist to tackle SOC

These principles were applied when dealing with organised crime groups. Currently Maidstone had two active serious organised and violent gangs in Maidstone.

The Community Protection Manager advised that knife crime nationally had increased, in an effort to decrease this, measures had been put in place in Maidstone which included 623 stop and search searches since April 2019 (an increase of 239%), over 300 of those were in the town centre and surrounding area. Numerous arrests for drug and possession of weapons had been carried out and 3 Section 60 Stop and Search Orders used in Maidstone since April 2019.

The Committee were advised that a lot of work had been done with the KCC Youth and Community Services around the narrative of knife crime, essentially about youths carrying knives for protection.

Other initiatives included the seizure of knives from secondhand stores, visits from Trading Standards to stores where knives are sold, visits to Schools to talk to pupils, staff and parents about the dangers of carrying knives, carrying out surveys with young people about why they carry knives and increased Stop and Search.

Chief Inspector Quiller added that there had been a lot of positive and exceptional work being carried out by his Officers and partners following the tragic events surrounding the serious, violent incident in Jubilee Square recently.

A knife bar was being utilised in the town centre (particularly in areas such as Brenchley Gardens) and Officers were working with Nightclubs to see if a similar initiative could be incorporated in those establishments as well.

#### Domestic Abuse Awareness

The Committee was informed that domestic abuse was the silent killer as its not talked about as it's a personal thing and domestic abuse exists in silence. Initiatives had been introduced whereby professionals such as GPs, nurses and hairdressers are trained to be aware to the signs of domestic abuse when they come into contact with their patients or clients.

The Community Protection Manager explained that domestic abuse took on many guises such as controlling behaviour, physical and psychological abuse. It was noted that there was an increase of 20% in recorded crimes involving domestic abuse.

Work of multi-agencies was to ensure that victims had the facilities and ability to report incidents and the confidence to come forward. Although the number of incidents had risen this could be because victims were more confident about reporting it.

The Committee also heard about the role of the Domestic Abuse Forum which aimed to protect victims by ensuring they have access to the services they need and helped to prevent future incidents by improving understanding and ensuring young people enjoy healthy relationships.

An invitation to a Briefing on the work being carried out on Domestic Violence would be sent out to Members to make them aware of the one stop shop service, refuges and outreach services.

#### Adverse Childhood Experiences

The term Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) could be used to describe a wide range of stressful or traumatic experiences that children can be exposed to whilst growing up.

The experiences could be linked to adverse mental health conditions and low life survival.

The Committee heard about the work being undertaken by multi-agencies.

### One Maidstone

Ilsa Butler from One Maidstone detailed the 'easy peas' trauma pack which was a first aid provision for the night-time economy. There would be a media campaign to illustrate where these first aid packs would be in the town centre.

The Committee commented that:-

- Section 106 contributions did not appear to be going towards youth services in the villages.
- The presentation was excellent and showcased the work of the multi-agencies.
- The statistics produced for the report differed from those set out in the Home Office report.
- Maidstone Mediation should be invited along to speak to the Committee about the work they do.
- Waiting times for mental health referral was appalling.

In response to questions from Members, Officers advised that:-

- There was a lot of Police presence in rural areas and to illustrate this, the Chief Inspector advised that around £370,000 worth of stolen property had been recovered this year alone and work had been carried out with farmers in relation to live stock worrying, fly tipping, burglaries, criminal damage, illegal caravans etc.

The Chairman suggested a section on rural crime for the next meeting of this Committee.

- The Met Police do liaise with the Transport Police regularly.
- The Police data has the highest accuracy rate in the country. They are recording more crime and are 96.6% accurate.
- That the figures collated and used by the Police were based on a financial year and the methodology used to collect the figures had been changed since 2018 following a problem identified with the accuracy of the figures. Therefore the comparison against this year's figures could only be compared with last year.

- The Police would be looking at other ways of sourcing data to illustrate performance including data around A and E Admissions etc
- A paper would be circulated to the Committee on population against crime figures.
- The Police were there very quickly when the serious crime incident happened in Jubilee Square and were able to make a lot of arrests very quickly.
- Work around dispersal orders had been undertaken in Shepway on youths congregating outside the shops. The parents of the youths had been spoken to in an attempt to tackle the issue. Youth Services Teams had also been deployed in the area. In addition, community protection warnings could be given to the parents in regard to the behaviour of their children.
- When the next Strategic Assessment is produced, a more in depth conversation could be had on the crime statistics and trends.

**RESOLVED:** That

- 1) The report be noted and the work of the Safer Maidstone Partnership be endorsed to provide reassurance to Members, constituents and the public at large that Maidstone remains a place where they can feel safe and be safe.
- 2) A letter of thanks and support be sent from the Committee to the Urban Blue staff, the Ambassadors (Business Improvement District), the Street Pastors and the Gallery door staff in recognition of their efforts and bravery during and after the incident on 25 August 2019.
- 3) A Domestic Abuse awareness event is held; open to all Members, to help raise awareness of the services available to support victims, preventative and early intervention activities being delivered by the Safer Maidstone Partnership.
- 4) The Committee declares Appendix 1 to the report of the Head of Housing and Community Services incomplete on account that it presents a partial and incomplete analysis of crime and disorder in the Borough that fails to recognise a) substantial increase in crime and disorder afflicting the Borough in recent years, b) where increases are impacting, or c) the deteriorating position of Maidstone wards relative to the wider Kent Police Area.
- 5) The Council continues to work with other responsible authorities in the reduction of knife crime and domestic violence ensuring that the Police have every support.
- 6) The Committee **Recommends to the Licensing Committee** that it be asked to consider a review of its policy following the recent

serious incident of concern which may include means for better security.

- 7) The Committee **Recommends to the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee** that a review is undertaken into the Council's use of its anti-social behaviour powers, including taking into consideration a) tightening the public space protection order (PSPO) to include a comprehensive ban on street drinking in the town and b) preventing known offenders from returning to known crime and anti-social hotspots, for example Brenchley Gardens, Week Street, High Street etc.
- 8) That a Working Group be established, led by relevant Ward Members to examine the causes of crime and disorder in the rural wards to the south and east of the Borough, and to report to the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee on measures the Council might take and to the Crime and Disorder Committee on measures other responsible authorities might take, to address matters.

12. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 9.55 p.m.

**Communities, Housing & Environment  
Committee Acting as the Crime and  
Disorder Committee**

**17 March 2020**

## 2019/2020 Strategic Assessment and revised Community Safety Plan

<b>Final Decision-Maker</b>	Council
<b>Lead Head of Service</b>	John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Community Services
<b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b>	Martyn Jeynes, Community Protection Team Manager
<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

### **Executive Summary**

The Safer Maidstone Partnership’s Community Safety Plan for 2019-22 has been refreshed following the annual undertaking of a strategic assessment. The Strategic Assessment provides members with an update on the progress made during year one of the plan and the latest figures relating to the priority areas and other areas of concern. The revised CSP Plan replaces the previous version with minor changes that provide greater focus on growing trends or changes in service delivery. It sets out the strategic direction for the Partnership for the remaining two years of this Plan.

### **Purpose of Report**

*Decision*

### **This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:**

1. That the Committee notes the Strategic Assessment and the updates that it provides members on areas of concern highlighted by committee previously, particularly the growing and effective use of powers under the Anti-social behaviour crime and Policing Act 2014.
2. That the Committee approves the revised “April 20 Revision” of the Community Safety Plan 2019-22 and recommends to Council that it be adopted. This will allow for the plan to be implemented by the Safer Maidstone Partnership and its subgroups

### **Timetable**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Communities, Housing & Environment	19 March 2020
Council	8 April 2020

**CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Sign-off</b>
<b>Impact on Corporate Priorities</b>	The Community Safety Partnership Plan will contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Plan priority of; Clean Safe and Green, where People feel safe and are safe. The Community Safety Partnership Plan also supports good health and wellbeing, enhancing the appeal of the borough for everyone.	Community Protection Manager
<b>Cross Cutting Objectives</b>	The report recommendations supports the achievements of the Health Inequalities cross cutting objectives by ensuring there is a strong focus on preventative work that is intelligence driven so as to maximise the opportunities to reduce health inequalities in partnership with the police and other community safety related partners.	Community Protection Manager
<b>Risk Management</b>	It is a statutory requirement for Maidstone Borough Council to provide a CSP Plan.	Community Protection Manager
<b>Financial</b>	The Community Safety Grant funding is allocated directly by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Maidstone Borough Council is due to receive a grant of £40k for 2020-21. This will include a 'tactical pot' to be used throughout the year as and when other initiatives or issues are raised outside of this current funding round. Further funding has and will be utilised from the Kent Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) as it becomes available. However the plans and strategies 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.	[Section 151 Officer & Finance Team]
<b>Staffing</b>	The priorities within the Plan crosscut 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.	Community Protection Manager
<b>Legal</b>	Sections 5 to 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act	Legal

	<p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area; and</li> <li>b) A strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and</li> <li>c) A strategy for the reduction of reoffending in the area.</li> </ul> <p>By virtue of section 5(1)(a) of the 1998 Act, the Council is the "responsible authority". Regulation 4 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 require Full Council to adopt the partnership plan. The Community Safety Plan is based on the findings of a comprehensive Strategic Assessment, therefore Maidstone Borough Council is fulfilling its statutory requirement. There are reputational, environmental, economic and legal risks to the Council for not pro-actively pursuing any reductions 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>	
<b>Privacy and Data Protection</b>	No implications.	[Policy & Information Manager]
<b>Equalities</b>	The key priority themes are evidence based and developed via the partnership's strategic assessment. The ongoing monitoring of these priority areas provides an established evidence base to support wider decision making across the Council. An understanding of equalities impacts is essential and would be identified via an EqIA as part of any decision making process.	[Policy & Information Manager]

<b>Public Health</b>	The Community Protection team is under the reporting line of the Head Housing and Community Services. The focus is strongly on preventative work that is intelligence driven so as to maximise the opportunities to reduce health inequalities in partnership with the police and other community safety related partners.	Community Protection Manager
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	The Community Protection team is under the reporting line of the Head Housing and Community Services. The focus is strongly on preventative work that is intelligence driven so as to maximise the opportunities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in partnership with the police and other community safety related partners.	Community Protection Manager
<b>Procurement</b>	None	Community Protection Manager

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 On 19 March 2019 this Committee recommended the adoption of our then new Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan to Council in April 19. The plan was duly adopted and the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) set about delivering year one of the plan.
- 1.2 We have now undertaken a new Strategic Assessment and we are pleased to share this with members in Appendix 1. The assessment demonstrates the positive steps taken by the Partnership in the last 12 months against the priorities set by the CSP plan. It also provides updated statistics from across the partnership to help us identify trends and any growing concerns.
- 1.3 As was outline in the March 19 report, the Strategic Assessment has identified that the Community Safety Plan 2019-22 requires some minor amendments to:
  - a. provide a greater focus on an area of concern
  - b. to reflect changes of delivery, particularly in relation to the subgroup responsible for the Keeping Children and Young People Safe priority.

### **Strategic Assessment 2020/21**

- 1.4 Our new look Strategic Assessment has been developed over the last 3 months to allow members and the wider public to understand clearly why our SMP is quickly being recognised as one of the most innovative and progressive CSPs in the South East. As detailed in the Strategic Assessment, the partnership has galvanised to deliver an exceptional amount in the last 12 months.
- 1.5 The Strategic Assessment provides an update on the outcome-based action plans developed by each of the identified sub-groups. Amongst the highlights are the following:

#### Protecting our communities against serious and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)

- Improved safety in the Night-Time Economy (NTE) through the introduction of a new Red, Amber Green (RAG) rating system, encouraging premises to risk assess their activities and make adequate provision to support safety
- 8 Emergency Trauma Packs (ETPs) provided by Maidstone BID, a scheme subsequently supported by the VRU across the other boroughs in the county. A further 2 large ETPs and over 30 small packs will be rolled out by the end of March

### Keeping children and young people safe

- The Voice of Young Maidstone Safety Survey has been developed and will be launched in April 2020 through to June 2020, asking children and young people in the borough to share with us their thoughts on safety in and around their school, in their neighbourhoods, online and the risk taking behaviour in their peer group
- A multi-agency, SMP team won the inaugural VRU Hackathon, beating 25 other teams to the coveted £5000 prize to help launch a pilot of their innovative initiative called "My Place". The scheme will look to proactively engage with young people who are moved to Maidstone where they have links to Gangs or serious ASB. The scheme will look to provide diversion and support to help them integrate into our Borough and reduce the risk of ASB and Crime caused by their introduction to the borough and falling into the wrong cohorts

### Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)

- Two awareness raising sessions have been delivered by the SMP to over 60 GPs and other CCG staff, raising awareness of the signs of domestic abuse, the services available for victims and the impact of abuse on the development of children
- A practitioners' conference is planned for 27 March. The "Domestic Abuse- Cradle to the Grave" conference will invite practitioners, from across services and sectors, to one of two sessions at County Hall. An awareness session is also scheduled for members on the 23 March

### Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community

- The new Police Licensing Officer has undertaken over 1000 proactive inspections since April 19, issuing warnings and penalty notices and taking 2 reviews for breaches of licensing conditions. He has been recognised as the most proactive licensing officer in Kent
- The Homeless Outreach team were able to secure a Change, Grow, Live officer within their team to support those with habitual substance misuse issues amongst a hard to reach cohort. The results have been fantastic, as members are already aware

### Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community

- Data for the last year has been collated which shows that 63% of the cases brought to the CSVG relate to issues where mental health, diagnosed or undiagnosed, is believed to be a factor. New terms of reference and a new referral scheme have been developed for introduction in April 2020

- 1.6 The Strategic Assessment also provides data from across the Partnership. Crime data shows an overall reduction in crime, particularly with public order offences reducing. Drug and Weapon offences have seen an increase, but this is as a result of increased proactive policing, using stop and search powers more frequently than any other force in Kent. A visual representation of the data in the Strategic Assessment is provided in Appendix 2.
  - 1.7 The data provided in the Strategic Assessment shows that whilst many areas, such as the number of young offenders and Organised Crime Groups, are improving, there remains concerns in some of the areas. Domestic Abuse and Mental Health where continued effort is needed to protect vulnerable people.
  - 1.8 The introduction nationally of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) signifies a new approach to tackling violent crime based on the learning from Glasgow, London and Cardiff. Kent has been identified as one of 18 counties that could benefit from this approach. Maidstone, with its vibrant night-time economy, is exploring how we can improve prevention. Elsewhere this has been achieved through actions with Public Health and tackling deprivation.
  - 1.9 Unfortunately, unforeseen service issues meant that we were unable to provide the Strategic Assessment in advance of the adapted CSP Plan, but the changes identified are relatively minor and do not materially change the focus of the plan itself. The changes required are outlined in section 4.
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## **2. AVAILABLE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Option one; Do not approve the revision of the Community Safety Plan. This is not recommended as the Community Safety Plan sits behind the work of the SMP and should reflect current trends and working practices
  - 2.2 Option two; That the Committee approves the revised "April 2020 Revision" of the Community Safety Plan 2019-22 and recommends to Council that it be adopted. This will allow for the plan to be implemented by the Safer Maidstone Partnership and its subgroups
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## **3. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The "April 2020 Revision" of the plan is provided in Appendix 3. The Strategic Assessment recommends changes as follows:

### **Rewording of priority**

- 3.2 It is recommended that this priority be amended to read "Protecting our communities against serious, violent and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)."

- 3.3 This amendment reflects an increase in reported incidents and fear around knives and violent crime on a local and national level. The introduction of the VRU will lead to a number of further opportunities to source funding to undertake more initiatives to raise awareness and tackle offenders, which will also impact on children and young people priority.

#### **Changes in working practices**

- 3.4 The Community Youth Safety Group (CYSG) will shortly be rebranded to reflect an opportunity to pioneer a new approach in West Kent. The meeting, which will be rebranded as the District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting, will build on the success of the CYS. A revised structure will link Adolescent Risk Management, with the priorities of the new VRU and the refreshed Local Children's Partnership Group (LCPG), tackling those children at risk and the deeper areas of concern set out as priorities for the LCPG, resilience, communities and families.
- 3.5 The April 2020 revision of the CSP Plan, provided in Appendix 2, has a number of minor amendments in the relevant sections, so as to better reflect the focus and work of the SMP and to draw out the key actions for year 2 of the action plans.
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#### **4. RISK**

- 4.1 The risks associated with this proposal, including the risks if the Council does not act as recommended, have been considered in line with the Council's Risk Management Framework. That consideration is shown in this report. We are satisfied that the risks associated are within the Council's risk appetite and will be managed as per the Policy.
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#### **5. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

- 5.1 Once approved the Partnership Plan will be disseminated to all partners for their information and implementation through the subgroups.
- 5.2 The Plan will also be shared with the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- 5.3 The PCC provides the SMP with a grant to enable community safety projects to be undertaken which deliver on both the PCC's priorities and those of the SMP. Projects will be put forward the PCC's office by the end of March 2020.

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## **6. REPORT APPENDICES**

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

- *Appendix 1: Strategic Assessment 2020-21*
  - *Appendix 2: Strategic Assessment data on a page*
  - *Appendix 3: Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Plan 2020 refresh  
(draft)*
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## 1. Executive Summary

2019-2020 was a year where the SMP grew in both understanding and strength. It put in place stronger foundations for more partnership working, greater understanding and better use of powers that will keep Maidstone a safe place to live, work, visit and learn.

It was another year of challenges, with national concerns, such as Brexit, knife crime and now the risk of a world-wide pandemic from COVID-19. Locally there have been challenges that are both home-grown, but more often from outside the borough. These challenges continue to galvanise the partnership, ensuring that the right people, personalities, processes and policies are in place to support the services that are delivered across the partnership. The outcomes based approach, delivered synergistically, has been life changing. Our growth has raised awareness, challenged tired processes and reached the most vulnerable people in our borough, supporting their needs, no matter how complex.

Delivery throughout 2019/2020 across the SMP priorities, outlined in the report, shows the adaptability of the partnership to understand the intricacies of complex and emotive issues and to find new or improved ways to protect those affected. Whether that's delivering seminars on domestic abuse or knife crime. Or supporting/protecting vulnerable people/communities by adapting services. Or challenging inappropriate behaviour through enforcement. The SMP's innovative approaches have been recognised across the County and by Partnerships across Britain, with much of our work seen as "best" and "good" practice.

The report shows that these foundations will be necessary to continue to deliver a safe borough. Whilst overall crime has dropped by nearly 2%, key areas still provide challenges. Analysis supports the SMP Priorities set out in the 2019-2022 Community Safety Plan, with only minor changes to provide greater focus on growing trends and changes in service delivery. The priorities for 2020/2021 are:

- Protecting our communities against serious, violent and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)
- Keeping children and young people safe
- Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)
- Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community
- Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community

Beyond the SMP, our priorities are reinforced by the priorities of other key partnership entities. We continue to support the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, particularly around violence and young people. They also compliment the work of the newly introduced Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the new look Local Children's Partnership Board.

These priorities provide a clear understanding for those in the partnership and the wider public of the areas where we will focus our combined resources and will continue to develop services and initiatives.

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### **3. The Aim of this Strategic Assessment?**

This is the strategic assessment produced for Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) for the period 2019-20 and puts in place the priorities for the 2020-21 Partnership Plan.

The purpose of this strategic assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety problems to the members of the SMP. This will be done through intelligence analysis and will identify the emerging priorities by considering the patterns, trends and shifts relating to crime, disorder and substance misuse. Additionally, it will include a performance assessment of how far the partnership has achieved its previous priorities.

By setting the local SMP priorities and providing detailed analysis, the various strategic and operational working groups will be able to evolve their action plans for the upcoming year.

### **4. The Background of Strategic Assessments?**

In 2006, a review of the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police Reform Act 2002 led to a series of recommendations to strengthen and extend existing requirements further through the experience gained from partnership working. This resulted in a new set of national minimum standards which came into force in August 2007.

The 1998 Act included the requirement to produce a detailed crime and disorder audit through consultation with key agencies and the wider community and had to use the findings to identify strategic priorities and set targets and performance measures. The new national standards placed a legal obligation on responsible authorities to comply with the specified requirements, one of which was the creation of a strategic assessment in place of the previous 3 yearly audit.

### **5. Methodology**

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

Maidstone Borough Council and other authorities in Kent have again incorporated the MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) scoring matrix methodology of ranking offences based on threat, risk and harm within this year's Strategic Assessment see Appendix 1

## **6. Priorities for the Safer Maidstone Partnership for 2020/2021**

The information collated for this year's Strategic Assessment, detailed within this document and summarised in section X identifies that the priorities for the SMP for the following year should be:

- Protecting our communities against serious, violent and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)
- Keeping children and young people safe
- Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)
- Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community
- Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community

This is a minor amendment to the priorities set out in the Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Plan 2019-2022 which will be updated accordingly to reflect the progress made to date.

## **7. Delivery of Maidstone's Community Safety Partnership Plan 2019-2022 Priorities**

Strategic subgroups, operational groups and specialist teams work collectively to develop, co-ordinate and deliver activities which were developed primarily to help launch the new CSP Plan and lay down the foundations for the next two years before the CSP Plan is refreshed. For each priority, the partnership has:

- Produced an active action plan containing measurable activities and indicators
- Ensured that there are resources available to deliver these plans
- Submitted funding applications to obtain additional resources where required

Details of what has been delivered to date in each area is summarised in the tables that follow. As these are active action plans, designed to evolve over the life of the current CSP Plan, some of the actions are ongoing and new actions will be added in the coming months, specifically as a result of the data provided within this report to members of the SMP.



## Protecting our communities against serious and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)-Delivered through the Serious & Organised Crime Panel

Organised Crime is defined as planned and co-ordinated criminal behaviour and conduct by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain. Organised crime in this and other countries recognises neither national borders nor national interests.

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Actions currently identified or delivered	Status	Update
Deliver a minimum of four days of action spread over the year to disrupt criminality linked to OCGs. At least one day per quarter focussing on Rogue Trading, Trafficked workers/modern day slavery, Waste Crime, Night-Time Economy (NTE) and Brothels.	Ongoing	Partners have collaborated in a number of planned actions and operations to disrupt organized crime in the borough. These have resulted in enforcement action, including vehicle seizures.
Increase intelligence reporting by holding a training session with KCC and Kent Police Intel teams to ensure information is shared appropriately.	Ongoing	Increased engagement with the SOCP has led to greater levels of intelligence sharing across the partnership, particularly in relation to active OCGs. A training event is being planned for 2020.
Ensure prolific offenders identified within OCGs are referred to the Integrated Offender Management Scheme for robust multi-agency management of their offending behaviour	Delivered	Integrated Offender Management (IOM) are an integral part of the SOCP, attending regularly and contributing to the strategies in place to tackle active OCGs.
Deliver a series of events to raise awareness of the risks and dangers of Illegal Money Lending and support services	Ongoing	Following on from multi-agency training provided in January 2019, MBCs Community Protection Team, on behalf of the SMP, were the only district authority in the South East to secure funding to run an awareness raising event in January 2020. The event incorporated a multi-agency signing of the National Illegal Money Lending Team’s “Stop Loan Sharking” Charter committing those agencies to taking steps to prevent and protect people from Illegal Money Lenders as part of their service.

Support KCCs Doorstep Crime initiative to help safeguard the vulnerable from opportunist serial offenders

Ongoing

Support was provided through the PCC's Tactical Fund to appoint an analyst to undertake a review of data around vulnerability in order to identify those at risk of doorstep crimes. The outcome of the analysis is expected shortly and will help to inform future actions.

Introduce a scheme to promote safer socialising in the borough to prevent / reduce violent crime in the NTE.

Ongoing

The SMP have looked to support licensed premises in providing a framework that enables them to further prevent violent crime in the NTE. A new Red, Amber Green (RAG) rating system was introduced encouraging premises to risk assess their activities and make adequate provision to support safety. Emergency Trauma Packs were also provided by Maidstone BID, a scheme now supported by the VRU across the county. Safer Socialising will build on this initiative, further encouraging premises to introduce awareness training for domestic abuse, substance misuse and other activities that threaten safety in the NTE. Consideration is currently being given to undertaking a survey of NTE users to better understand their thoughts and concerns around safety whilst socializing in Maidstone.

The work of the SOCP has successfully disrupted the activity of four Organised Crime Groups to the point where they have been archived. This is because they are no longer deemed to be criminally active in the area. Over the year the SOCP has been working on up to 3 OCG's at any one time, with each group being subject to a 4P Plan, coordinating the actions of officers from across the SMP. Currently the SOCP has only one active OCG on our area, with intelligence on other potential groups being considered.

Kent Police also has a very effective RAPTOR team operating in the area. This team targets gang related activity. With no home grown gangs active in the borough the work of this team is predominantly focused on the growing threat of the well documented "County Line" gangs. The success of this unit has included operations in Metropolitan Police areas to take action against the gangs trying to establish themselves in the borough. This threat remains active, with young people in particular being targeted for recruitment.



## Keeping children and young people safe - Delivered through the Community Youth Safety Group (CYSG)

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. When a child or young person is exploited they're given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities.

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Actions	Status	Update
Review locations where ASB is prevalent to understand what action can be taken to reduce incidences	Delivered	Hots Spot Meetings have been introduced, looking at issues in Marden, Ringlestone, Yalding and Shepway, using a contextual safeguarding model. Outreach, location-based assessments and enforcement have reduced ASB in these areas. A specific training session on "Tackling ASB in Partnership", hosted by MBC, covered tools/powers that protect young people and encourage parents to prevent their children from engaging in ASB.
Undertake a youth safety survey that will improve understanding of young people's fears, particularly around carrying knives	Ongoing	In March 2020 the SMP launched their Voice of Young Maidstone Safety Survey. Funding secured from the VRU was used for a launch event for schools and their "Young Ambassadors". The survey for 10-18 year olds collate their views on areas such as their own safety in and around school, safety where they live and the risk taking behaviour of their closest friends. The survey will help parents and professionals truly understand the safety profile of Maidstone's young people.
Deliver an event for senior secondary schools' staff, raising awareness of the threats young people face with the possibility of delivering further education packages to students and staff across the borough	Delivered	The event at Kent Police Training college was attended by senior staff from most of Maidstone's Secondary Schools. Presentations on the threat of gang culture, knives and violent crime, youth service provision across the borough and how to engage with local support services were delivered
Improve the knowledge of employees within partners around gang / CSE issues to ensure frontline staff recognise the risk factors and are empowered to safeguard and signpost appropriately	Delivered	Online training was provided that can be accessed by partners via a Kent County Council service.

Undertake assertive outreach work to safeguard young people in areas where CSE and gang activities are believed to be taking place	Ongoing	Alongside the ASB Hotspots meeting, assertive outreach has continued throughout the year, with officers from across the SMP engaging with groups of young people on a regular basis, providing diversionary activities, support and advice to those who engaged.
Hold 10 meetings per year with partners to discuss both local youth ASB and CSE concerns utilising a multi-agency approach	Delivered	Previously the gang's intelligence meeting, the CYSG has been refocussed on to keeping children and young people safe. The group meets regularly to discuss this action plan alongside any concerns around ASB or young people at risk. The group has linked into the Local Children's Partnership Board, actively working to align their priorities with the needs of the group at a strategic level. The group also sent a multi-agency team to the VRU Hackathon, competing against 25 other teams and was able to secure funding for a pilot initiative called "My Place".
Raise awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) across all sectors	Delivered	ACEs are now a fundamental part of service delivery across the SMP. "Trauma Informed Approach" training has been provided by KCC Public Health to NHS and Social Services staff. ACEs awareness is also a key delivery strand for awareness training around Domestic Abuse, as detailed later in the document.
Increase support for depression, self-harm and suicide awareness in young people (schools, GPs etc) to address their vulnerability (From Mental Health Plan)	Ongoing	A public health approach is being adopted to tackling issues that affect young people. Work is ongoing to increase suicide awareness and to develop mechanisms to support those in need.
Introduce a scheme to support Young People who are relocated to Maidstone by other local authorities in order to minimise the risk of ASB	Ongoing	As detailed above, a CYSG team was successful in obtaining £5000 to pilot an initiative of their own creation. "My Place" will proactively engage with Young People who are moved to Maidstone where they have links to Gangs or serious ASB. Providing diversion and support to help them integrate into our Borough.

## Youth Justice

Over the previous year youth offences have increased from **97** to **110**, an increase of **13 (13%)**; these crimes were committed

### Breakdown of Young Offenders across the borough

Ward	2018-19
Bearsted	
Bridge	
Coxheath and Hunton	
Detling and Thurnham	
East	
Harrietsham and Lenham	
Headcorn	
Heath	
High Street	
Leeds	
Marden and Yalding	
North	
Park Wood	
Shepway North	
Shepway South	
Staplehurst	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>

Age and Gender of Offenders	Female	Male
Age 13		
Age 14		
Age 15		
Age 16		
Age 17 +		

by **35** individuals. However, there has been a decrease in the number of individuals committing crime, from **51** to **35 (31%)**.

Comparing this to the population totals for that age group, which equates to approximately **15,900** young people, the number of offenders is very small with only **0.2%** convicted of an offence. The approximation is due to the population figures ranges not being exact with the youth offending data; see table below. The following table shows the number of convicted children broken down by their ward, gender and age group.

There are varying reasons that could be associated with this, including outreach that is conducted in the community with young people at risk, early interventions as part of the 'Prevent' agenda, effective monitoring of previous offenders, the Police ethos to view young people as victims as opposed to offenders in order to avoid criminalising young people or changes in attitudes towards groups of youths and their perception as a gang. In order to fully explore the reasons, further work will be required by way of an in-depth thematic study.

In referring to 'gangs' it is imperative that labels are not assigned without evidence, thought or research; to assume that a group of young people are a gang would not serve the priorities of the SMP and seek to reduce the effectiveness of work on confirmed gang members. Hallsworth and Young (2006) defined the following:

- Peer Group - A small, unorganised, transient grouping occupying the same space with a common history. Crime is not integral to their self-definition.
- Street Gang - A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group's identity.
- An Organised Criminal Network - A group of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain. The gain is mostly measured in financial terms. Crime is their 'occupation'.

These definitions will be important in order to focus resources and priorities where required.

Whilst risk presented by County Lines Gangs, Gangs from other areas and Gang Culture remains a threat in Maidstone, these are proactively policed. There are currently no "home-grown" gangs active in the borough. There are a number of active Peer Groups who are subject to engagement and disruption plans.

#### Introduction of District Contextual Safeguarding Meetings.

The success of the CYSG has been recognised by KCC who's Adolescent Services team have asked that the SMP use the group to adopt a format already piloted in East Kent. The partnership engagement in the CYSG makes Maidstone one of the most suitable authorities to adopt the new format ahead of a role out across the rest of Kent. The changes to be introduced from April will see the CYSG rebranded as the District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DCSM) with a revised agenda that will reflect a stronger contextual safeguarding approach and will see the hot spot meetings rebranded as Complex Adolescent Risk Meetings (CARMS). CARMS will now sit as an escalation pathway for individuals, groups or places, whereby a multi-agency plan of action, based on the OSARA and 4 Ps models, will be introduced to manage the risks of those involved. This meeting will continue to update the SMP but will build stronger relationships with KCC's Adolescent Services team and provide trends and risk data for the Strategic Local Children's Partnership Board. The SMP, including the new VRU, will work closely across these groups and the revised action plan will reflect, but not duplicate any plans created by these strategic and operational groups.

## Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)-



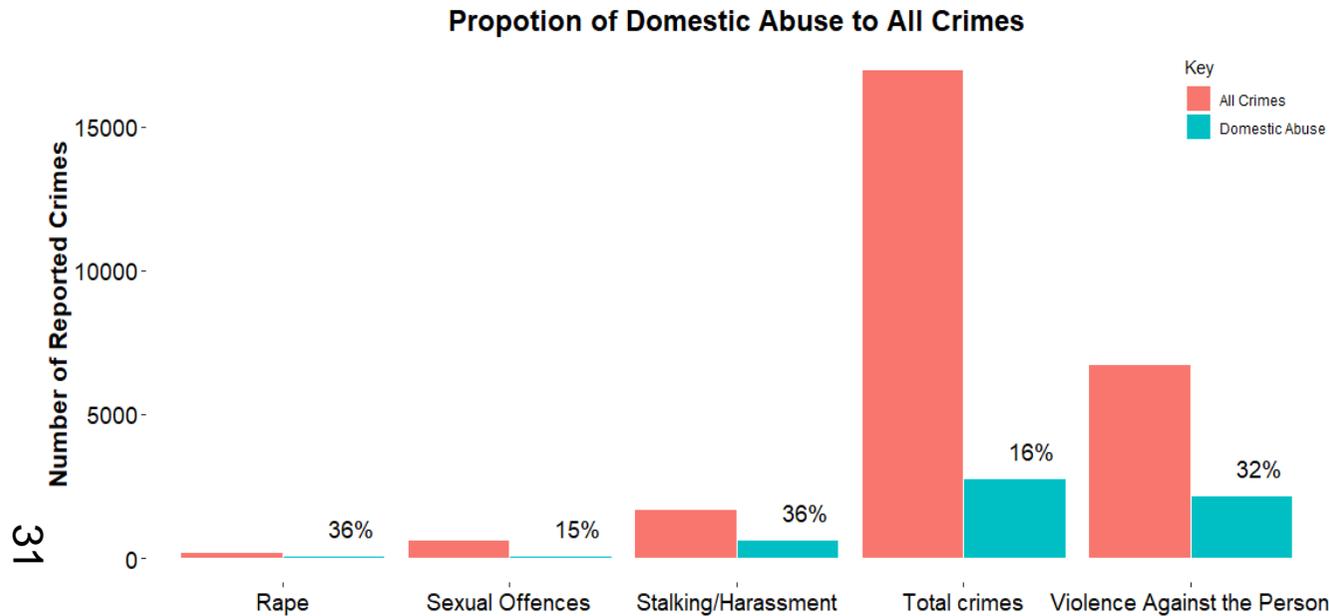
### Delivered through the Domestic Abuse Forum

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. This can encompass but is not limited to physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial.

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Actions	Status	Update
Continue delivery of the White Ribbon campaign. Encourage men to challenge violence against women. A Charity Football Match is being organised in collaboration with Maidstone FC to raise awareness of the issue.	Delivered	In May 2019 Maidstone Borough Council competed with Kent Police for the inaugural "One Maidstone Shield". The event was used to raise awareness and funding for the White Ribbon and More Than Words, a charity helping parents whose children are disabled.
Heads Up - Campaign to raise awareness of Claire's Law and Stalking. Work with businesses and with Mid Kent College who run a hair and beauty course. Provide training to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the support services available (such as the One Stop Shop, DA Helplines and Freedom Programme).	Ongoing	Work is ongoing to deliver an event for hairdressers. An initial event in October 2019 was cancelled due to a limited number of delegates committing to attend. However, sessions are planned for delivery at Saks Academy Maidstone and Mid Kent College.
Use crime data to produce hot spot maps of the borough to establish where this campaign should be targeted		Kent Police have produce data that shows the distribution of Domestic Abuse across the borough. High Street Ward was highest for incidents, significantly higher ahead of the second highest, Park Wood. The wards surrounding High Street (North, East, Fant, Bridge and South) also all feature in the top 10 wards. These six wards accounted for 42.5% of the boroughs Domestic Abuse. Marden and Yalding are the only rural wards to feature in the top 10. The figures show that the urban One Stop Shop provision in the High Street Ward is reasonably well placed. Rural One Stop Shops were trailed at focal points within Marden, Headcorn and Staplehurst. However, there was very little use of the service. This may have been due to victims fearing being identified whilst accessing the service. An alternative provision, using community based Domestic Abuse Champions is being developed instead.

Deliver a training session to GPs to raise awareness of DA to improve understanding of the services available and the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences.		Two sessions have been delivered by the SMP to over 60 GPs and other CCG staff, raising awareness of the signs of domestic abuse, the services available and the impact of abuse on the development of children.
Launch the Zero Tolerance campaign to tackle sexual harassment and abuse against women in the night time economy. Working with Mid Kent College, One Maidstone and NTE businesses.	Ongoing	Linked to Safer Socialising, the SMP have created DA Guardians in the NTE, who have been given training to help them recognise abuse and to help those in need by referring them to the appropriate services. This will continue to be rolled out to more NTE businesses and to Day Time Economy businesses too.
Through temporal analysis of reported DA arrange for domestic abuse support workers to attend calls to domestic incidents with Kent Police officers over periods where reports of domestic abuse are highest.	Ongoing	The logistic of this is still being investigated by Kent Police and other SMP Partners to determine the viability of undertaking an initiative around events that are known to lead to increased incidents of domestic violence.
Listen to the voice of survivors. Establish the means to capture the views of those who have been subject to domestic abuse to ensure that the services we are delivering provide the right support needed.	Ongoing	Clarion have reviewed their processes to ensure they capture feedback from survivors. KCC Children Services, who run a Freedom programme to support victims of abuse, have supported one survivor to become an ambassador for survivors, contributing actively to raising awareness and developing support programs.
Arrange and host a practitioners' conference to increase networking, knowledge sharing and understanding of DA issues in Maidstone and the support available.	Ongoing	A practitioners' conference has been arranged for March. Titled "Domestic Abuse- Cradle to the Grave" the conference will invite practitioners, from across services and sectors, to one of two sessions at County Hall. An awareness session will also be provided to Elected Members at March's Member's Briefing.
Develop a Domestic Abuse Champions Network (concept developed for delivery in Year 2)	Ongoing	Building on the DA Champion Role in KCC Children Services, their Survivor Ambassador and the NTE DA Guardians , work is ongoing to create a Champions Network, creating Champions across sectors, who can act as a source of support and awareness in their business or community.



Domestic abuse sits as both a local, county and national priority that 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.

Currently, **16%** of all crime is related to Domestic Abuse and Domestic Abuse equates to **32%** of all violent crime.

It is a seasonal problem, the probability increases in the summer months and shorter periods throughout the year due to an increase in socialising and celebrating around May and August Bank Holidays, Valentine's Day, Father's Day, Christmas and New Year.

### **One-Stop Shops & Sanctuary**

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 hosted at the Salvation Army in Union Street and provides advice on housing, legal matters, policing and specialist DA advice.

In the year 2018/19 (Oct 2018 - Sep 2019) the table below demonstrates that there were 262 attendances at the Maidstone One-Stop Shop, a rise of 3 compared the same period last year.

Year	Female	Male	Total
2017/18	247	12	259
2018/19	242	20	262

As part of the 'Sanctuary' scheme home visits are conducted that help keep victims of domestic abuse in their own homes by installing extra security measures. Over the reporting period October 2018 – September 2019 there have been 37 Sanctuary Referrals which is consistent with the 38 referrals in the previous period.

### **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs)**

MARACs are meetings where information about high-risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of 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 202 MARAC cases between the periods of Oct 2018 - Sep 2019. This compares to 209 cases the previous 12 months, a decrease of 7 cases. Of the 202, 66 were repeat cases, this equates to 33% of all cases which is down by 1 case from last year. There were 232 children in the households with 2 under 18 victims.

Again the data across this area of work demonstrates a continued need for the SMP to focus on reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking). Significant steps have been taken in the last 12 months to raise awareness across the Public Sector, but with 6 women a week losing their lives as a result of violence or suicide after domestic abuse nationally, there is still work to be done to support men and women with abusive partners.



## Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community - delivered through Community Protection Team, Housing Outreach Service and Licensing

Substance abuse or misuse is formally defined as the continued misuse of any mind-altering substance that severely affects person's physical and mental health, social situation and responsibilities.

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Actions	Status	Update
Review the current PSPO to ensure the power is still necessary/proportionate or needs amendment	Ongoing	A report will be brought to CHE Committee during 2020, outlining the results of the review and the associated recommendations.
Utilise One Maidstone Ambassadors to enforce Town Centre PSPO	Delivered	An agreement is in place for One Maidstone Ambassadors to work alongside Kent Police and Maidstone Officers in enforcing the PSPO where necessary in the town.
Launch the Blue Light project to help treat resistant drinkers who place a burden on public services	Discontinued	This initiative was investigated but deemed unnecessary, as the Housing Outreach team secured funding for a Change, Grow, Live officer within their team to support those with habitual substance misuse issues.
Investigate the use of closure orders against illegal sales of tobacco/alcohol	On-hold	Alternative powers are being considered to support KCC Trading Standards and Licensing as necessary.
Carry out a minimum of 12 licencing inspections on local off licences and convenience stores identified as an issue in regard to street population and ASB Nominals	Delivered	The new Police Licensing Officer has undertaken over 1000 proactive inspections since April 19, issuing warnings and penalty notices and taking reviews for breaches of licensing conditions. He has been recognised as the most proactive licensing officer in Kent
CPT to submit intel reports to licensing relating to premises identified as linked to Street Population (PSPO Process)	Delivered	This is now an adopted process due to the close working relationship of both teams.
Develop a bottle watch program that is deliverable where alcohol is sold or consumed by people at risk, such as vulnerable or young people (Year 2)	On-hold	Will be reconsidered in 2020 if deemed necessary and proportionate.

Substance misuse relates to the use of drugs, alcohol and includes New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) previously known as 'legal highs'.

Kent police recorded drug offences includes both offences of drug supply and possession. Under this category of crime Maidstone has seen a **23.9%** increase in drug offences from November 18 – October 19 when compared to last year's data. This is an increase from **318** offences to **394** offences; or **76** more crimes this year. The Kent area as a whole saw an increase of **13%** and only Medway (**-8.7%**) and Shepway (**- 9.7%**) saw a decrease. As detailed later in this report, this is largely due to the proactive work of Kent Police who undertook significantly more Stop Searches in this period in comparison to previous



**23.9%**

**Increase in Drug offences**

### Alcohol related hospital admissions



**14.4%**

**Increase in Kent Admission**

Maidstone has the highest hospital admission in the whole of Kent with year on increase of **18.7%** higher that Kent's average. The table below shows the number of alcohol related hospital admissions in Kent districts.

District	Sep-17 to Aug-18	Sep-18 to Aug-19	Difference	% change from previous year
Ashford	41	53	12	29%
Canterbury	51	95	44	86%
Dartford	62	45	-17	-27%
Dover	37	67	30	81%
Gravesham	62	55	-7	-11%
<b>Maidstone</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19%</b>
Sevenoaks	60	42	-18	-30%
Shepway	38	54	16	42%
Swale	59	60	1	2%
Thanet	67	111	44	66%
Tonbridge & Mallin	98	72	-26	-27%
Tunbridge Wells	70	78	8	11%
<b>All Kent</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>14%</b>

## Substance Misuse Services

Over the past year KCC have commissioned 513 services of structured treatment for adults and young people across Kent; this was in comparison to 508 the previous year, an increase of 5. The below table shows how these services were made up.

Age	Oct 17 - Sep 18	Oct 18 - Sep 19	% change		Oct 17 - Sep 18	Oct 18 - Sep 19	% change
17 and under	16	7	-56%	Alcohol Only	164	179	9%
18 - 24	46	32	-30%	Non-Opiate Only	50	48	-4%
25 - 34	117	128	9%	Non-Opiate & Alcohol	81	68	-16%
35 - 44	151	160	6%	Opiate	213	218	2%
45 - 54	120	124	3%	Total	508	513	1%
55 - 64	51	56	10%				
65+	7	6	-14%				

## Needle Finds

The following table shows the official annual figures for needle finds in the borough from October-18 to September-19 that were removed by the council's waste management service. These figures include the contents of external needle bins that are strategically placed in the town to try and reduce discarded needle. There has been an increase of a **5%** increase of needles found/retrieved from last period.

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
2017/2018	125	73	283	126	218	106	155	69	189	113	9	468	1,934
2018/2019	283	381	196	143	164	84	205	87	85	85	203	120	2,036

Within the borough the top five locations for needle finds are as follows:

October-17 to September-18		October-18 to September-19	
Location	Count	Location	Count
Lower Boxley Road	364	River Steps	406
Needle bins	266	Needle bins	219
Whatman Park	190	Rear of property in Week Street	200
Amphitheatre	81	Viaduct	162
Old Palace	64	Lower Boxley Road	100

## Community Safety Vulnerability Meeting

Based on figures collected since January 19 , approximately 48 % of the cases raised had either a diagnosed or undiagnosed substance misuse concern.



## Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community

Mental health refers to our cognitive, behavioural, and emotional wellbeing - it is all about how we think, feel, and behave. The term 'mental health' is sometimes used where there is an absence of a mental disorder e.g. personality disorders.

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Actions	Status	Measure
Introducing strategic overview for the CSVG to help identify service direction, provisions and shortages	Ongoing	Data for the last year has been collated and shows that 63% of the cases brought to the CSVG relate to issues were mental health, diagnosed or undiagnosed, is believed to be a factor. New terms of reference and a new referral scheme have been developed for introduction in April 2020.
Developing a leaflet to raise awareness of vulnerable people who self-neglect and how to refer them for support	On-hold	With considerable focus on violence reduction in young people and domestic abuse this area this has not yet been actioned, but will be prioritised in 2020
Increase support for depression, self-harm and suicide awareness in young people (schools, GPs etc) to address their vulnerability	On-going	Delivered through Youth Safety Action Plan
Arrange a self-neglect summit for 2020/21 that brings together different agencies and experts to raise awareness of self-neglect and hoarding	Ongoing	Work is ongoing to develop a self-neglect summit for Quarter 2 of 2020/2021. This will utilise the knowledge from across the SMP to raise awareness of the support available for some of the most vulnerable people across the borough.
Identify funding opportunities to run a hoarding and self-neglect project	Ongoing	Funding sources are still being explored.



**27%**  
**Increase in  
The Use of  
Section 136**

Section 136 of the Mental Health Act means that the police have the power to take a person to a place of safety or keep them in a place of safety. It cannot be used to remove someone from their own home, or someone else’s home. It is most often used in public places, like a street or park.

Figures for Section 136 use in the borough (where an individual is sectioned for their own or others’ safety) have increased year on year for Maidstone and last year it was used **142** times, as opposed to **112** the previous year an increase of **30**, this equates to an increase of **27%**.

Last year in Maidstone, mental health referrals for young adults saw an increase of **5%** to **1342** cases compared to **1279** the previous year. In older adults there also saw an increase of **11%** to **849** cases compared to **763** the previous year.

**Hospital admissions for mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive Substance misuse**

37

District	Sep-17 to Aug-18	Sep-18 to Aug-19	Difference	% change from previous year
Ashford	310	366	56	18%
Canterbury	537	563	26	5%
Dartford	335	317	-18	-5%
Dover	395	456	61	15%
Gravesham	412	404	-8	-2%
<b>Maidstone</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Sevenoaks	312	308	-4	-1%
Shepway	439	486	47	11%
Swale	454	438	-16	-4%
Thanet	625	805	180	29%
Tonbridge & Mallin	404	408	4	1%
Tunbridge Wells	377	441	64	17%
<b>All Kent</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>5,628</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>6%</b>

The table lists the total number of hospital admissions (includes repeat admissions) for mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance misuse. The **636** Maidstone admissions relate to **443** individuals. Overall Maidstone had a decrease from **690** admissions last year representing a percentage change of **-7.8%**.

The data shown in the table is not broken down by substances but will include alcohol, NPS and illegal substances.

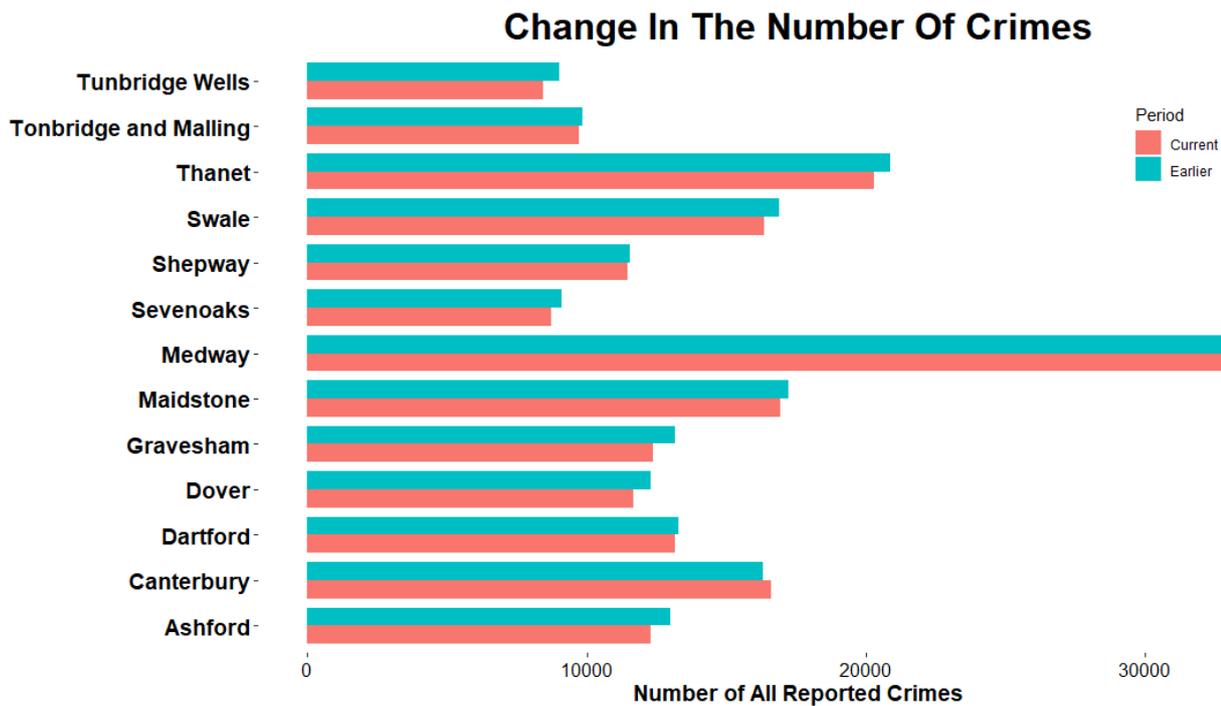
**Community Safety Vulnerability Meeting**

Based on figures collected since January 19, approximately 63 % of the cases raised had either a diagnosed or undiagnosed mental health concern.

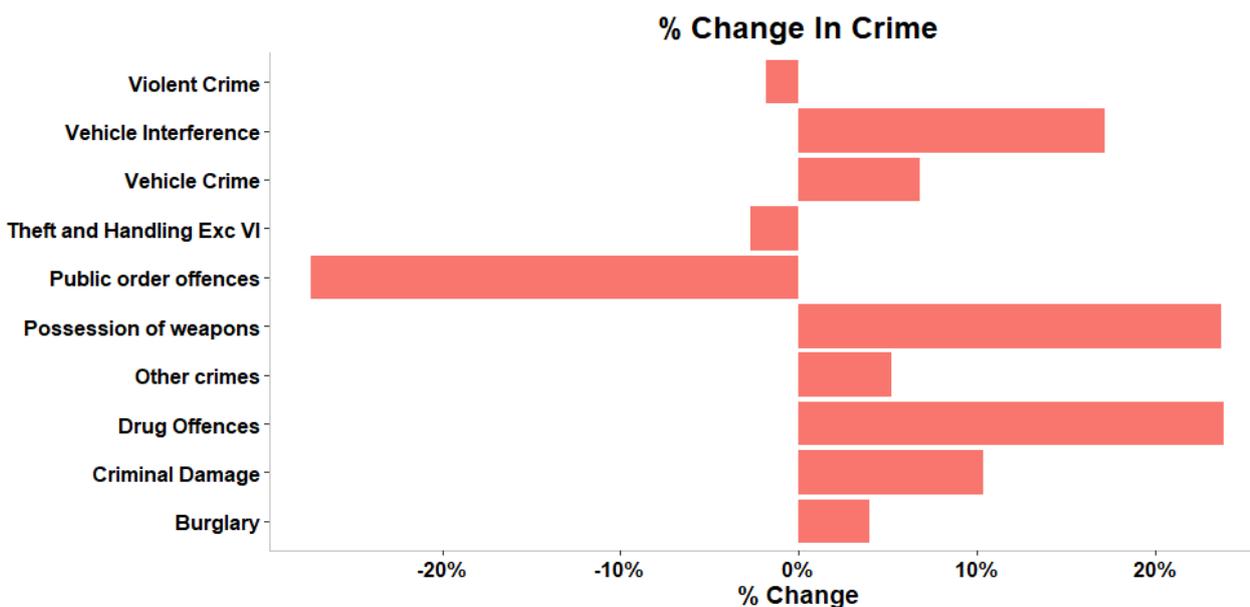
## 8. Other Data Sources Analysed

### 7.1 Police Crime Data

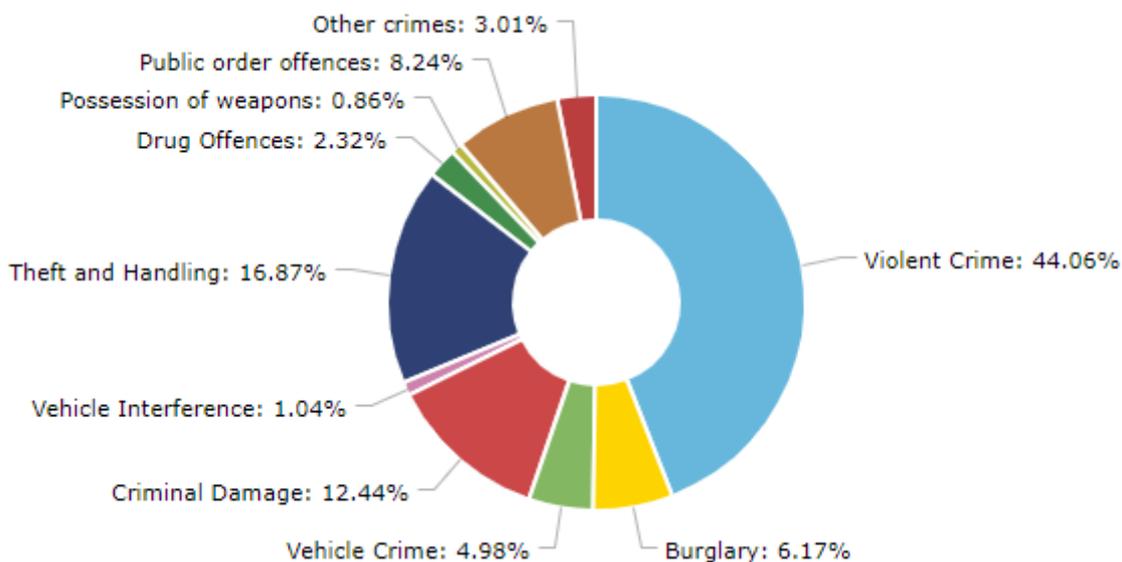
All crime in the borough dropped by **-1.7%** in the period November 2018 to October 2019 compared with the same period the previous year, from a total of **17,244** crimes to **16,947** crimes. This compares to a Kent Force wide percentage change of **-3.3%**. We can also see how the numbers of crimes have changed compared to the same time in the last period in the 'Change In Number Of Crimes' chart.



In addition, the '%Change in Crimes' chart shows how crime has changed since last period for specific crimes in Maidstone.

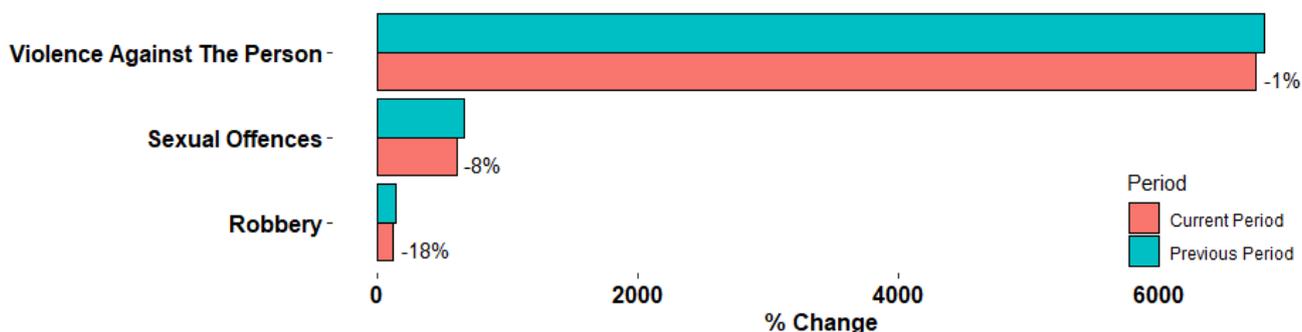


The chart below helps us to further understand the proportion of crimes. We can clearly see that violent crimes account for the most recorded crimes.



There is a **2%** drop in violent crimes, and violent crimes are split into three different categories as shown below. We can see there is a significant drop of **-8%** in sexual offences compared to the previous period.

### Change In Violent Crimes



The data above represents crime data taken for the period 1st November 2018 – 31st October 2019. All crime in Maidstone has seen a 1.7% reduction compared to the same period 2017/18. Although there is an overall reduction in crime, some crime types have seen an increase, however it is important to understand the context behind the data.

Violent Crime has seen a reduction of 2%, this is a decrease of 140 actual crimes. Whereas the more significant percentage increases of 17% seen in Vehicle interference offences is only 26 additional crimes.

Nationally, the Home Office is keen to roll out the learning achieved through Violence Reduction Units piloted in Glasgow, London and Cardiff. Kent is identified as one of 18 counties across England and Wales that could benefit from this approach. Towns with a vibrant night-time economy are acknowledged as tending to have higher instances of violent crime and Maidstone is no different in that context.

The SMP will work closely with the Kent VRU to better understand the detail behind the statistics in order to develop plans and actions to reduce violent crime. Areas of

deprivation are linked to violent crime and the Council's Strategic Plan's objective to tackling deprivation and tackling health inequality places the Council in a strong position to achieve this. Similarly, the mature partnership approach in Maidstone with Public Health aligns with the early learning from the pilot areas that prevention measures with Public Health can have positive impact in tackling this issue.

Vehicle interference offences spiked around April – May 2019 around the time a known suspect for this type of offence was brought to justice. The following months saw significant decreases in these crimes.

Domestic abuse is still a priority with 16% of all crime is related to Domestic Abuse and Domestic Abuse equates to 32% of all violent crime reported.

The two largest increases in crime are seen in offences of possession of weapons and drug related offences. Both these increases are a direct result of efficient and effective proactive policing in Maidstone including the increased use of stop search powers.

1,101 stop searches were completed in Maidstone during the relevant period this is a 90% increase in stop searches completed in Maidstone compared the same period in 2017/18.

The most significant decrease in offences is witnessed in public order offences (-30%), a figure replicated across the Kent Police Force. The Central Analytical Team have provided context to this data explaining the data reflects the integrity of crime recording systems in Kent. Incidents previously recorded as a public order offence (e.g. shouting at someone in public) are now more frequently being recorded as common assaults if the victim states they were put fear of violence being used against them.

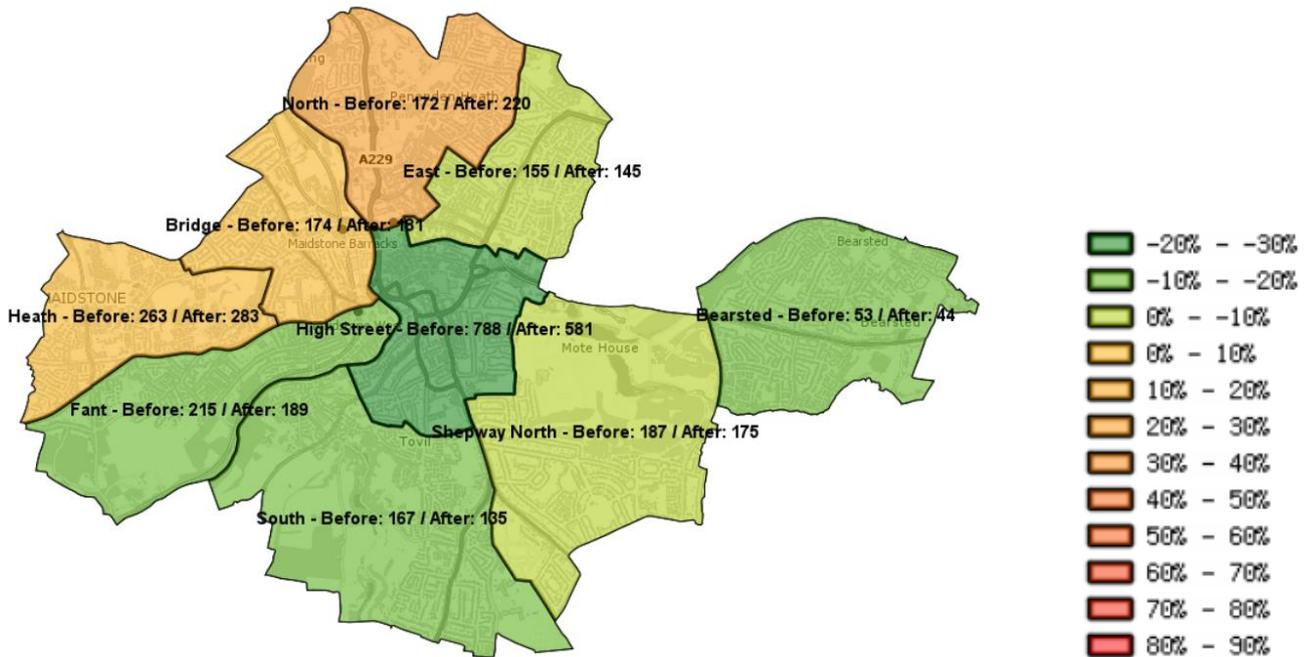
Processes have been implemented through the vulnerability investigation teams to support repeat victims of sexual assault and it is believed this has contributed to the 8% decrease in sexual offences reported.

In supporting the above figures supplied by Kent Police, the National Probation Service (NPS) has seen a percentage change of -23% (from 218 to 167) in total violent crimes from last year for individuals they manage.

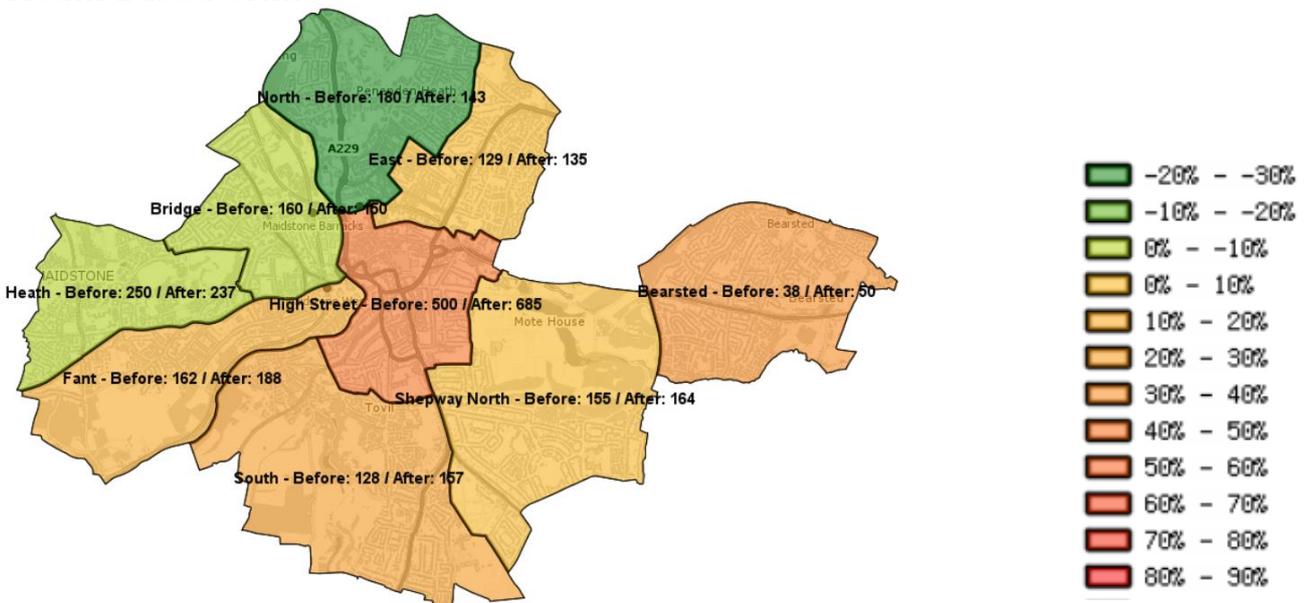
## 7.2 Results of deploying Town Centre team

On the 12th October 2019 a Town Centre team was introduced in the High Street. The analysis below shows the percentage change in crime after the introduction of the Town Centre team. The period we are looking at is from the date the Town Centre team was introduced to the day before the data was extracted (19 February 2020). We compare this with the same 12 month period to account for seasonality.

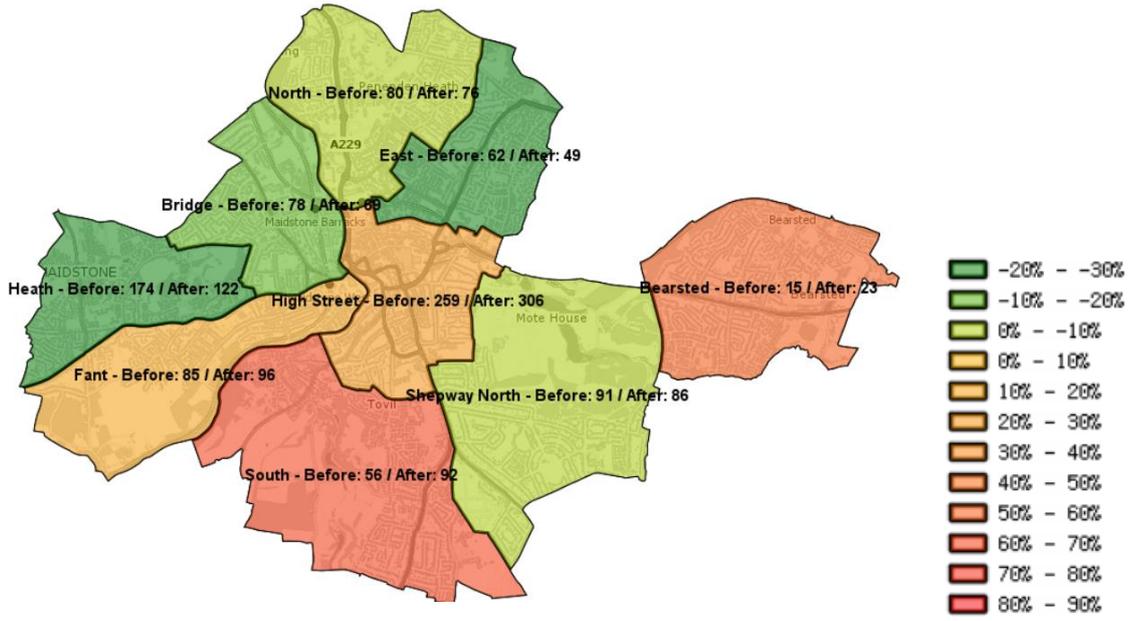
### All Crimes



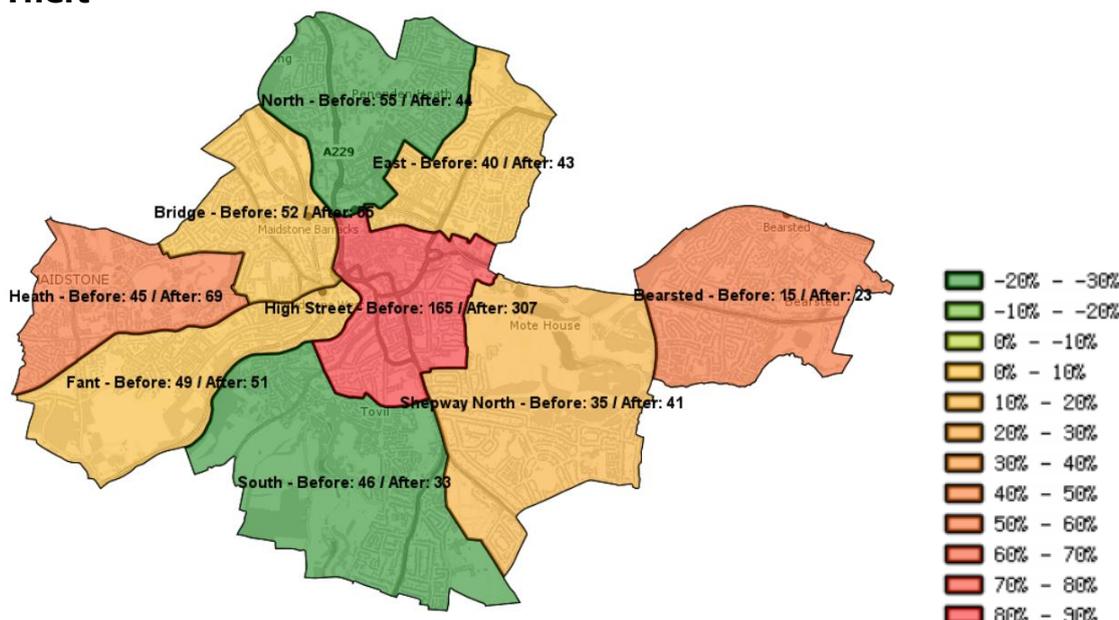
### Victim Based Crime



# Violence Against the Person



## Theft



The police team dedicated to the Town Centre was only recently implemented, making it difficult for the purpose of this report to assess the impact this will have on the existing data. Since their introduction, the Town Centre team have made over 120 arrests, completed over 180 stop and searches and taken details for over 150 crime reports. In addition they have secured evidence, including statements and CCTV footage for numerous cases leading to improved evidence gathering resulting in an increase in the quality of investigations.

They are completing high visibility patrolling on a daily basis in the town ensuring they frequently patrol areas of concerns and have worked with partners in MBC Community Protection Team to issues numerous Community Protection Warning to person acting in an Anti-Social Manner in the town centre. The team have utilised the Knife-bar on numerous occasions and have seized drugs and weapons making Maidstone safer for everyone.

Although the data does show that all crime data in three of the seven wards appears to be higher this year after the introduction of the town team the numbers are low and there is no evidence this crime is displaced from the town.

In fact and examination of the High Street data suggests that the greatest impact in crime levels has been within this actual ward. Within the High Street we have seen Theft rise from 165 offences last year pre the Town Centre team to 307 recorded offences this year over the same period. This suggests that having proactive visible officers in the town is giving retailers and the public the confidence to report incidents to police.

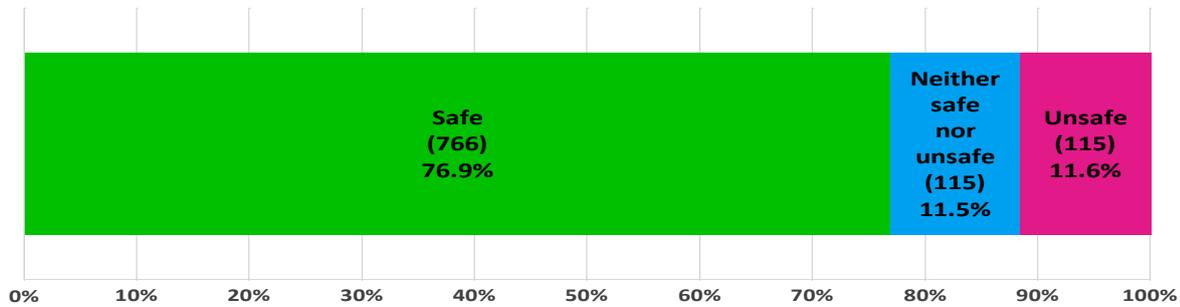
### 7.3 Public opinions on feelings of safety

Respondents were asked about how safe or unsafe they feel in their local area during the day and during the night. These questions were previously asked in the 2017 Resident Survey. The original question gave respondents six answer options, to show strength of answer and provide a N/A answer options. The results shown below excluded the N/A responses

#### During the Day

A total of 996 respondents gave an answer to this question. Overall, 76.9% responded they felt Very safe or Fairly safe. The most common response across all answer options was 'Fairly safe' with 41.9% answering this way

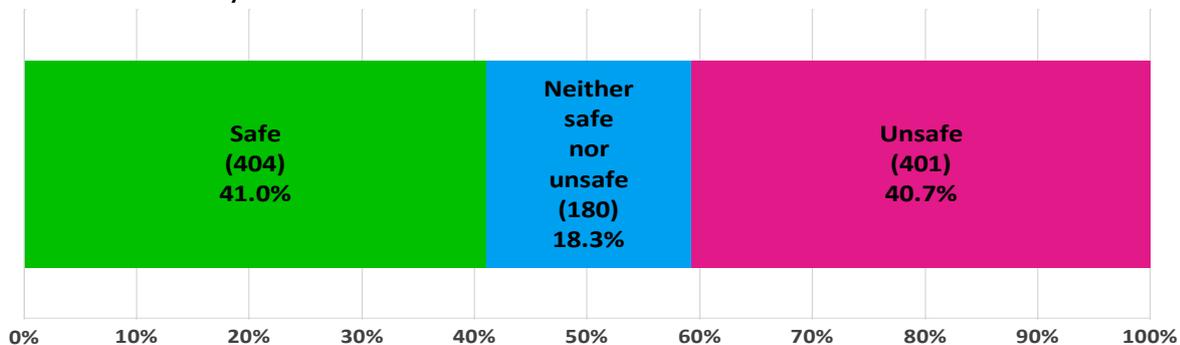
When this question was asked in the 2017 Resident Survey 94% of all respondents said they felt 'Very safe' or Fairly safe' and just 2.5% said they felt 'Unsafe' or 'Very unsafe'.



#### During the Night

A total of 985 respondents gave an answer to this question. Overall, 41.0% responded they felt 'Very safe' or 'Fairly safe'. The most common response across all answer options was Fairly safe with 33.1% answering this way.

When this question was asked in the 2017 Resident Survey 60% of all respondents said they felt 'Very safe' or Fairly safe' and just 22% said they felt 'Unsafe' or 'Very unsafe'.



## 7.4 Anti-Social Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person. Whether it is an individual or a large group whose behaviour is causing annoyance or distress, the work of the Community Safety Unit, Community Protection Team and other SMP Partners has sought to find innovative ways to use the powers available to disrupt or stop ASB.

Amongst the most effective tools is the Community Protection Notice introduced by the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The CPN allows authorised officers to require those who are behaving or allowing behaviour to occur to take action to prevent its recurrence. It is the legislations' requirement to issue a formal written warning, referred to by officers as a CPW, that has proven the most effective aspect of this power, because the compliance rate for warnings, over the notices themselves, is around 90%. The Community Protection Team has issued **27** CPWs in the reporting period and only **3** Community Protection Notices (CPNs). Kent Police have issued a further **4** CPWs and **1** CPNs. However, a recent partnership training input on the use of these powers will see a significant increase in the use of this diverse tool. No CPNs were breached in the reporting period.

Another powerful tool is the Public Space Protection Orders. Maidstone currently has three PSPOs, one for ASB associated with Begging and Drinking and two for dog control (Fouling and Exclusion areas). All the PSPOs will be reviewed in 2020 to ensure that are still effective. Data from the reporting period shows that there has been only one recorded breach of the Town Centre PSPO for begging. This compares to 31 breaches for the equivalent period last year. A review of this has found that this is largely due to the effectiveness of MBCs Homeless Outreach Team who have significantly reduced the homeless population in Maidstone and tackled the associated ASB with effective support to those who were frequent offenders. An MOU with Kent Police and One Maidstone will empower officers from the Borough Council to work alongside Police Officer and BID Ambassadors to tackle offenders not engaging with the support that is so readily available from the Outreach Team

Further changes have been made to the process allowing customers to report issues with noise from neighbours etc. A new advanced triage provides customers with the opportunity to report and upload evidence of a noise nuisance online. Where the noise is not considered overly detrimental, advice is provided automatically. However, where evidence is provided, officers are now able to assess the impact of the noise more efficiently and to focus more time on investigations where a significant issue has been identified. The new process has reduced the number of neighbour related nuisance noise complaints reaching the back offices by over 40%.

Following some refinement of the process, the figures provided in last year's assessment have been adjusted to better reflect the work undertaken by the Community Protection Team. The remit of the Community Protection Team includes statutory areas outside the scope of this report, but the following covers behaviour based issues, particularly those considered, or closely linked, to be anti-social behaviour for the reporting period

Description	2018	2019	Comments
All Anti-social behaviour complaints	143	190	As more proactive of the Community Protection Team has seen more cases recorded than previous years.
Dangerous and Nuisance dogs (Not strays)	36	53	The most significant increase relates to concerns raised about dogs that are alleged to be dangerous (10 more cases) but this is not considered to be a significant risk area.
Dog Fouling	41	13	The team have not actively campaigned against dog fouling for a number of years. Whilst it remains an issue in some areas, responsible dog ownership and greater awareness of the use of litter bins for bagged dog waste is leading to a reduction in irresponsible dog owners.
All noise nuisance including amplified music and barking	728	587	As previously detailed, the new noise process provides customers with advice, without necessarily needing the back-office resource. The requirement to provide evidence also reduces/prevents malicious noise complaints.
Other Nuisance (Odour, dust etc.)	204	210	No significant change
Street trading enquiries/complaints	9	12	No significant change
Straying and lost dogs' enquiries	475	438	It is felt that the introduction of the requirement for dogs to be chipped may have led to a reduction in strays, however further work is required to understand the extent of the issue and to determine whether more effective powers can be introduced to encourage dog owners to proactively prevent their dog from straying.

## Breakdown of Community Protection Notices

Reason	Warnings		Reason	Notices	
	2018	2019		2018	2019
ASB	13	17	ASB	3	2
Nuisance/Dangerous Dog (inc Barking)	12	4	Nuisance/Dangerous Dog (inc Barking)	1	0
Noise	11	4	Noise	0	1
Nuisance	12	1	Nuisance	2	0
Unauthorised Encampments	0	5	Unauthorised Encampments	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>

## Unauthorised Encampments

Year	No. Encampments	No. Locations	Avg Time in Situ	Total Days of disruption	No. of
2018	10	6	3.7	37	
2019	7	5	1	11	

As reported in the last Strategic Assessment the Community Protection Team have reviewed the powers used to tackle Unauthorised Encampments, focussing on the behaviour of those present through the Community Protection Powers. As detailed above the use of formal warnings has had a significant impact on the disruption caused by unauthorised encampments. Alongside welfare checks, officers assess whether any of the behaviour can be considered unreasonable, such as parking on a recreation area, driving dangerously or other forms of anti-social behaviour affecting the local community. Where an issue is identified a warning issued asking the occupants to leave the borough.

### 7.5 Community Trigger

The 'Community Trigger' gives victims of persistent anti-social behaviour the ability to demand a formal case review where the locally defined threshold is met, in order to determine whether there is further action that can be taken. In the period being reported on there have been no community triggers actioned, this is a reduction on the previous year where there had been one community trigger application. The number of Community Trigger applications made across the County remain very low.

### 7.6 Hate Crime Data

**15%**  
Increase in  
Hate Crimes



The term 'hate crime' can be used to describe a range of criminal behaviour where the perpetrator is motivated by hostility or demonstrates hostility towards the victim's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

Over the last reporting period there have been **426** reported hate crimes this is compared to **370** the previous year which is a **15%** rise. Race prejudice accounts for **69%** of the hate crime and we have seen an increase of **23** more cases. On a positive side, there was no crimes relating to gender prejudice this year compared to 8 in the previous year. The table below show a breakdown of the hate crimes (*need to keep in mind that can be categorised into multi groups*).

	This Year	Last Year	Change
Race (Ethnic) prejudice	309	286	+23
Religion/faith/belief prejudice	32	16	+16
Gender prejudice	0	8	-8
Disability prejudice (inc mental)	48	26	+22
Age prejudice	3	3	0
Transgender	3	3	0
Sexual Orientation	51	51	0

## 7.7 Integrated Offender Management

The IOM process is a multi-agency approach to manage individuals, both young and adult, who are at risk of causing the most harm to their communities. The emphasis has moved away from solely Serious and Acquisitive Crime (SAC) to a more Threat, Risk and Harm approach which includes not only SAC, but Domestic Abuse (DA), Serious Violence, Gang activity, Organised Crime Groups (OCG), Troubled Families, Terrorism, Trafficking and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The IOM Cohort is currently at **241**, this is **3%** decrease (**-10**) compared to the same time last year which was expected due to the IOM emphasis transition. West Division represents

**36%** of the cohort followed by East Division (**34%**) and North (**30%**).

The current cohort is made up of:

- **240** males aged 16 – 70
- **1** female aged 31
- **15** individuals managed by Youth Justice Services (2 of which are in Medway)

In Maidstone, 58% of the cohort in the community committed no offences in the last 3 months. Between them they committed 147 offences before starting IOM and only 61 offences whilst on IOM.

## 7.8 Maidstone Mediation

Maidstone Borough Council supports Maidstone Mediation in its role of effecting change and positive relationships between adults, families, and adolescents. In Maidstone they have undertaken **57** anger management referrals in school and direct referrals to the charity.

- **21** Family and parent/teen referrals
- **33** serious student conflict mediations in school environment
- **2** Restorative Processes
- **25** Schools in the Borough that have received Peer Mediation Training, approximately 300 children.
- **15** Neighbour mediated interventions for varying issues.

## 9. Key Conclusions and Recommended Changes to the Community Safety Plan 2019-2022

- **Protecting our communities against serious and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)**

To reflect the emerging positive learning from the national Violence Reduction Unit pilots, it is recommended that this priority be amended to read "Protecting our communities against serious, *violent* and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)."

This amendment reflects an increase in reported incidents and fear around knives and violent crime on a local and national level. The introduction of the VRU will lead to a number of further opportunities to source funding to undertake more initiatives to raise awareness and tackle offenders, which will also impact on children and young people priority.

The SMP acknowledges that the Town Centre with its vibrant night-time economy will by its nature feature more prominently in violent crime statistics. The SMP is ready to embrace new ways of tackling violent crime through better prevention models with Public Health and by tackling social and financial deprivation. This approach will sit alongside existing measures, such as the increase in the use of police stop search powers that has led to an increase in people found in possession of weapons; and building on other initiatives such as RAG rating for premises and the planned Safer Socialising initiative, which will ensure our NTE in particular remains a safe but vibrant place.

Despite the efforts to disrupt and reduce the impact of OCG's and Gangs in the borough the intelligence and threat, particularly from County Lines supports the need for this priority to remain a priority for the SMP.

- **Keeping children and young people safe**

Young people and their safety is a factor across all of the CSP Plan priorities. Whether that is through the impact of ACEs on their development or their own risk-taking behaviour, they remain a core area of focus for the SMP. The introduction of the VRU and the evolution of KCC led Adolescent Services and Local Children's Partnership Group will see a more structured approach to not only tackling those children at risk, but will also look at those deeper areas of need around resilience, communities and families, so as to put in place strategic level changes to service delivery in the borough. The Voice of Young Maidstone safety survey will play a key role in understanding how our young people feel about the borough and the risks that exist in their world. Initiatives, such a "My Place" will target the most vulnerable and will be supported, alongside other initiatives, through a new DCSM and CARMS meetings structure to pioneer more consistency across the county. The CSP Plan should be amended to reflect this.

- **Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)**

Whilst Violent Crime as a whole saw a reduction, domestic abuse remains an area of concern. As a traditionally underreported crime, the increases are seen largely as a positive as we work together to break the silence that conceals this crime in too many households. It remains vital that we continue to raise awareness of the support that is available to victims and support them to becoming survivors. In order to do so we must continue to look at the data available and ensure that our services support the most vulnerable in their homes, whether that is in the urban or rural communities. Initiatives such as the DA Guardians and DA Champions, in urban and rural areas respectively, will continue to be key areas of focus for the DA Forum over the next year, alongside ensuring we take a trauma informed approach to understanding the impact domestic abuse has on the development of children. The CSP plan should be updated to reflect this.

- **Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community**

The CSP Plan 2019-22 agreed that substance misuse, whilst an area of concern did not require a specific sub-group as many of the actions identified are delivered through specific teams within the partnership. Substance misuse is a cross-cutting issue that remains an aggravating factor in the concerns raised by the other subgroups, although the data suggests a significant decrease in young people requiring structured treatment.

The work of the housing outreach team at Maidstone Borough Council has had a significant impact on the behaviour of a cohort with complex needs, reducing the concerns from previous years. Their intensive engagement with this cohort has meant there has been less need to use the PSPO or other powers to tackle ASB in the Town Centre. Whilst there has been a small increase in the number of needles found, this figure was skewed by the needles found in a property off of Week Street, many of which had been in that property for many years. Usage of the needle bins remains positive too. Substance misuse remains an area of concern, not least because of its relationship to the other priorities in the CSP Plan.

- **Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community**

Like substance misuse, mental health remains an area that requires further work, particularly because of the impact across the other priorities and the welfare of the individuals concerned. Increased awareness at a global level is reflected in the local profile of mental health and its impact on our communities. It is estimated that 68% of cases brought to the weekly Community Safety Vulnerability Meeting involved someone with or with a suspected mental health concern.

Much of the work undertaken by the SMP has a positive impact on mental health in the borough but some key areas of concern remaining, particularly with some of the more vulnerable groups in our society. The growing impact is also reflected in concerns around suicide, particularly in men and young people. It is felt that mental health should receive more attention in year 2 of the plan to reflect the growing impact it has across the priorities.

- **Other areas considered**

The 5 priorities identified in this section are echoed across the SMP with multi-agency working remaining pivotal. Growing levels of engagement across public, private and voluntary sectors is protecting residents and communities and continues to identify those still at risk of exploitation from those whose behaviour creates that risk.

ASB in general, Prevention against radicalisation and reducing reoffending, have also been considered as priorities in their own right. It remains our view that these are intrinsic elements of the work undertaken across the five main priorities and therefore do not need to be prioritised separately at this time.

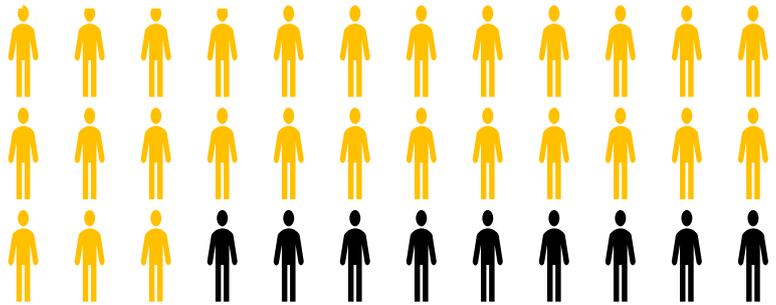
The data within this document does not identify any further areas of concern that cannot be incorporated into the 5 priorities identified in the 2019-2022 plan. Therefore the plan should be updated as described in this section.

## Appendix 1 Demographics

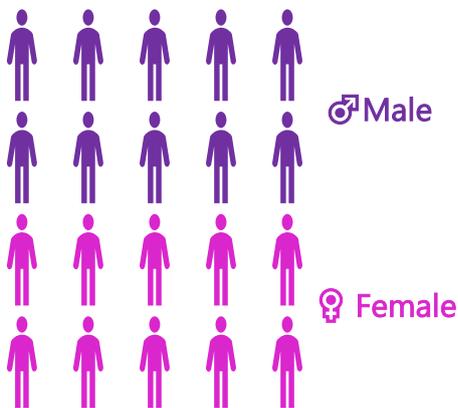
### 170,000 People Live In Maidstone

Maidstone Borough is the largest Kent local authority district area. Over the last 10-years Maidstone's population has grown by 13.5%. The growth in Maidstone's population is set to continue with current forecasts suggesting a further increase of 18% by 2037.

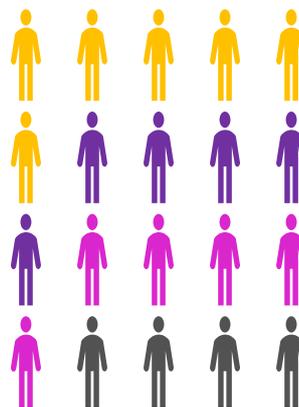
### 75% Of People Live In an Urban Area



49%



51%



#### Age Groups

-  18 - 24
-  25 - 44
-  45 - 60
-  61+

## Appendix 2

### MoRiLE:

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

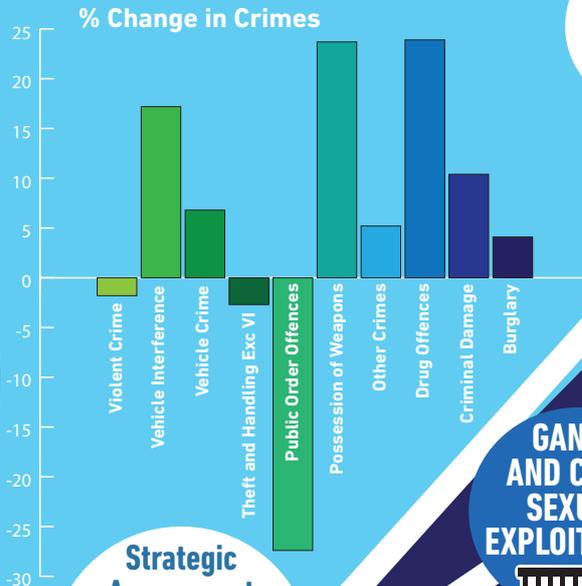
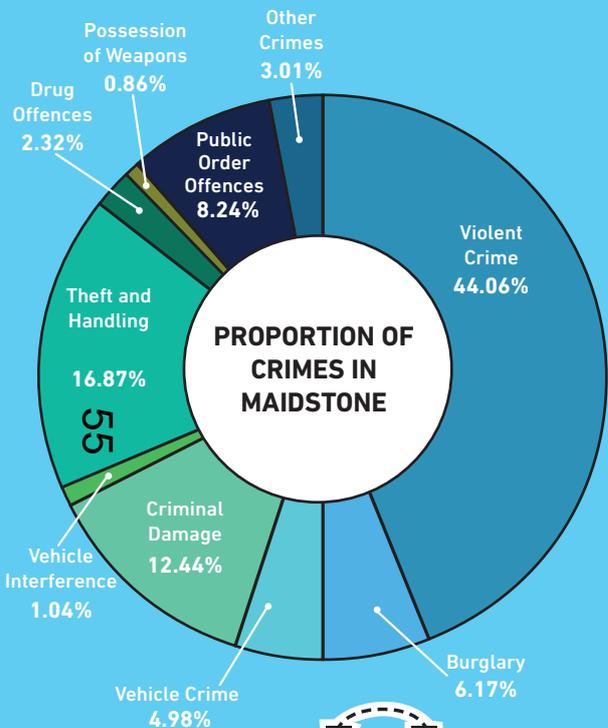
The rationale behind MoRiLE is that it targets resources at offences that would have the biggest impact on individuals and organisations/areas. This is in contrast to concentrating solely on crime figure tables which can sometimes provide a skewed view on threats and risk based only on the frequency/volume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

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

## Appendix 3

### Acronym Glossary

- **ASB** = Anti-Social Behaviour
- **BOTD** = Burglary Other Than Dwelling
- **CCG** = Clinical Commissioning Group
- **CARM-** Complex Adolescent Risk Meeting
- **CDAP** = Community Domestic Abuse Programme
- **CDRP** = Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
- **CGL** = Change, Grow, Live
- **CPT** = Community Protection Team
- **CSE** = Child Sexual Exploitation
- **CSP** = Community Safety Partnership
- **CSU** = Community Safety Unit
- **CSVG** = Community Safety Vulnerability Group
- **CYSG** = Community Youth Safety Group
- **DA** = Domestic Abuse
- **DCSM** = District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting
- **HMIC** = Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary
- **IDVA** = Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
- **IOM** = Integrated Offender Management
- **JSNA** = Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- **KCC** = Kent County Council
- **KFRS** = Kent Fire & Rescue Service
- **KSSCRC** = Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
- **MARAC** = Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
- **MBC** = Maidstone Borough Council
- **MOJ** = Ministry Of Justice
- **MoRiLE** = Management of Risk in Law Enforcement
- **MSG** = Most Similar Groups
- **NPS** = National Probation Service or New Psychoactive Substances depending on context
- **NTE** = Night Time Economy
- **OCG** = Organised Crime Group
- **OSS** = One Stop Shop for DA
- **SOCP** = Serious and Organised Crime Panel
- **PCC** = Police & Crime Commissioner
- **PS** = Psychoactive Substances
- **SMP** = Safer Maidstone Partnership
- **SOC** = Serious Organised Crime
- **UE** = Unlawful Encampments
- **VATP** = Violence Against The Person
- **VCS** = Voluntary & Community Service
- **VRU** = Violence Reduction Unit



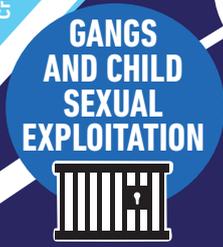
**16%** OF ALL CRIME IS RELATED TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

AND DOMESTIC ABUSE EQUATES TO **32%** OF ALL VIOLENT CRIME.



YOUTH OFFENCES HAVE INCREASED FROM **97 TO 110**

AN INCREASE OF **13%**



HOWEVER THERE HAS BEEN A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS COMMITTING CRIME, FROM **51 TO 35**

Strategic Assessment for the **Safer Maidstone Partnership**

**4** OUT OF **5** OCGs ARCHIVED

**SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME PANEL**

SECTION 136 FIGURES HAVE INCREASED FROM **112 TO 142**

AN INCREASE OF **27%**

**MENTAL HEALTH**

**SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

INCREASE IN DRUG OFFENCES **23.9%**

AN INCREASE FROM **318 TO 394** OFFENCES



**Maidstone Community**  
**Safety Partnership Plan**  
**2019-2022**

**April 2020 update (DRAFT)**

**'Where people feel safe  
and are safe'**

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## Hello and Welcome from the Leader of Maidstone Borough Council

Welcome to the Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Plan - our aim is that Maidstone will be a place **where People feel safe and are safe.**



**Councillor Martin  
Cox, Leader of  
Maidstone Borough  
Council**

To do this, we work as a partnership, bringing together both those who have a duty to participate, with others who are able to help, so that we make a difference. Under the stewardship of Maidstone Borough Council's Chief Executive, Alison Broom, and Kent Police Chief Inspector, Ray Quiller, senior officers from the Maidstone Borough Council, the Police, Health, Probation, Fire Service and the County Council work with other key agencies to improve community safety in our borough. With additional support from housing providers, community groups and other organisations, many representing the voice of local people, the partnership tackles areas identified as a priority for Maidstone as a borough.

Together they form a Community Safety Partnership, a statutory multi-agency board set up in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and known locally as the Safer Maidstone Partnership or The SMP for short.

We know we face some challenges in the borough with reductions in funding, resources and increases in confidence to report crimes putting more pressure on these stretched resources. By working together as a partnership with our local communities, we can make a positive difference to community safety and reduce the fear of crime, bringing our communities together so that we all stand up to the threats we face.

We have asked our partners, residents and those that work, study and visit the Borough what our priorities should be. We have assessed our performance as a partnership against the priorities from our last Community Safety Plan. We have listened to both what people are telling us are their priorities and what the figures say.

This three-year plan aims to address our new priorities, work together in both new as well as tried and tested ways, to show how we will measure our performance against these aims.

This Community Safety Partnership Plan will tell you:

- a) What we want to do
- b) Why we have chosen these areas to focus on
- c) What we plan to achieve

## Forward by Co-chairs of the Safer Maidstone Partnership Executive



**Alison Broom**  
**Chief Executive,**  
**Maidstone Borough**  
**Council**

The Maidstone Community Safety Partnership has a good track record of collaborative working to keep our communities safe and feeling safe. Our 2019-22 plan builds on extensive experience of working together and the productive and resilient relationships developed, which enable us to identify and tackle local community safety issues that matter to Maidstone residents. The plan will be revised annually following review of information and the details of this will be set out in our Strategic Assessment.

We want our approach to be evidence based, objective led, and outcome focussed – but just as importantly to include proper consideration for both the victims and the witnesses and their needs.



**Ray Quiller**  
**Chief Inspector**  
**Kent Police**

The plan seeks to build on what has already been achieved and give greater emphasis to prevention and reducing harm. Overall our aim remains to reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour and the number of crimes which occur in the Maidstone borough and the harm caused. However, some crimes, for example domestic abuse, are historically under-reported and so our aim is to create an environment where people are confident to come forward and report it.

This will ensure we have a more accurate picture, and can use our resources to reduce the threat, risk and harm for the most vulnerable members of our community.

We all have a responsibility to prevent crime and disorder from happening in the first place – SMP partners will work not only with each other but also with communities to achieve this, as well as tackling crime and disorder when it occurs. The Safer Maidstone Partnership will work to strengthen community cohesion as part of its community safety role, protecting the vulnerable and supporting our communities by providing a borough where people feel safe and are safe.



## Introduction

Community safety in Maidstone is not the sole responsibility of one agency or body. Regulation requires that we form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) made up of 'responsible authorities'; those agencies with a duty participate, as well as other interested bodies from across the borough and beyond. The CSP work to implement and deliver initiatives that will help keep Maidstone a safe place to live, work, learn and visit.

In Maidstone, the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) is the name given to Maidstone's CSP, who work collectively to protect the vulnerable, pursue those who do not respect our borough or the law and to raise awareness of priority themes that the data we collect and the people we speak to say are the areas that threaten our communities the most. This refreshed version of the 2019-2022 CSP Plan is a continuation of previous plans, building on 20 years of work by the partnership, tackling crime and improving safety in the borough.

The SMP, which is co-chaired by Alison Broom, Chief Executive of Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and Chief Inspector Ray Quiller of Kent Police, is made up of responsible authorities (those bodies for whom membership of the CSP is a statutory obligation) and many community, voluntary and private sector partners. Collectively we work to deliver the CSP Plan, forming specialist sub-groups and measurable action plans that deliver against high level outcomes for each of the priority themes.



## Safer Maidstone Partnership Priority Setting:

### What data we used and what it told us:

The SMP has a duty to produce an annual strategic assessment to measure our performance against priority performance areas under the CSP Plan 2013-18 and other crime and disorder issues in the borough. It gathers research, evidence and intelligence from local and Kent-wide sources, as well as drawing upon the professional expertise of those working at District level.

The data provided by Kent Police is recognised for its high ethical standard of crime recording. Changes in the way that crime is now recorded makes it difficult to compare with previous years, but we are still able to analyse the data to see what current trends exist.

### What people told us:

The 2017 Resident's Survey captured individual's perceptions or feelings of safety. These can be influenced by a number of factors which may or may not relate to whether someone has been a victim of crime.

The survey received 2350 responses; most respondents (66%) said that "a clean and safe environment" was the most important of our Council priorities to them. It also showed that whilst in general our residents feel safe in the borough with 93% of people saying they feel very safe or fairly safe in their home and 94% people said that they felt safe in their local area in the day. Whilst less people said they felt safe in their local area at night (60%).

Residents also provided information about their fears of specific crimes which we can link to wider CSP issues; 46% of respondents were concerned about someone breaking into their home and 56% were worried about being a victim of fraud or identity theft. We know that burglary and rogue trading, a type of fraud, are common amongst serious organised crime groups and that burglary is also often used to fund dependencies associated with substance misuse.

Some residents (29%) are worried about being attacked or assaulted. A further 38% are worried about being pestered or insulted in the street. These can be linked to substance misuse, mental health issues or general Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), but can also be linked to domestic abuse, with 50% violent crime not occurring in a public place.

Overall the survey showed that residents support the need to continue to actively work towards reducing and preventing crimes in our community. More information on the resident survey results is available [here](#).

MBC's Strategic Plan 2019-2024 includes Safe, Clean and Green as a priority. This was also identified as a priority through a budgeting survey.

### Local Community Safety Considerations:

The borough of Maidstone covers 40,000 hectares and is situated in the heart of Kent. The borough's population is the largest in Kent with approximately 70% of its population living in urban areas and is strategically located between the Channel Ports and London, with direct connections to both via the M20 and M2 motorways. Maidstone is the county town of Kent and hosts one of the largest retail centres in the South East and is serviced by three central railway stations which connect to London, the coast and to the Medway towns. It also boasts one of the largest night time economies in the county. The town itself now benefits from the introduction of the Maidstone's Business Improvement District which, alongside a growing MaidSafe community, works in partnership with the police, local authorities and local businesses to reduce business crime in Maidstone, increase trade and make Maidstone a safer environment for its staff, customers and visitors.

Where our borough is located and our economy, including the sheer number of visitors the borough has throughout the year, are all factors that are considered as part of our priority setting.

Direct links to London and the Medway towns provides fantastic opportunities for people to live and work in the borough, which also provides opportunities for criminals to exploit these networks. A direct example of this is the threat of County Line gangs who use the rail networks to illegally distribute and deal dangerous drugs from one city/town to another.

Currently, due to the collection format of the information collated by partner agencies, the geographical breakdown is not available, but consideration is given to trends and concerns are raised in both urban and rural communities. This includes those issues that are experienced by both communities, such as ASB, but also more specific crimes that affect our rural communities.

### Priority Setting- 2020 Update:

The SMP sets the priorities for the CSP Plan based on the analysis and interpretation of the data and survey information analysed through the strategic assessment.

Analysis of the data, alongside the professional knowledge of the existing sub-groups in the 2020 Strategic Analysis supports the SMP Priorities set out in the 2019-2022 Community Safety Plan, with only minor changes to provide greater focus on growing trends or changes in service delivery. The priorities for 2020/2021 are:

- Protecting our communities against serious, violent and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)
- Keeping children and young people safe
- Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)
- Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community
- Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community

National concerns around violent crime, particularly with a bladed weapon, has seen the "violent" added to the priority overseen by the Serious Organised Crime Panel (SOCP) to provide greater emphasis of this risk. It will also be a core theme for the Keeping Children and Young People Safe priority as well, particularly with the introduction of the new Kent Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

Changes in KCCs Adolescent Services and Local Children Partnership will also see the introduction of a District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DCSM), replacing the Community Youth Safety Group which will feed into both strategic and operational priorities that protect our young people.

In addition to these priorities, work will continue around the Government driven Prevent duty, reducing reoffending and the general duty to reduce ASB as cross-cutting themes. The priorities identified for Maidstone are reflective of those identified across the county and collated by the Kent Community Safety Partnership in the 'Kent Community Safety Agreement' (KCSA). They also link to the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) 'Safer in Kent Plan 2017-22\*'. An illustration of the KCSA and PCC Plan priorities is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

\*refreshed annually

## Safer Maidstone Partnership Governance:

The success of the SMP is linked to the work of its sub-groups and the leadership of its Executive Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This section, supported by the diagram in [Appendix 2](#), describes how the Partnership works as a structured entity and how it delivers its community safety priorities through the work of its sub-groups against specific and cross-cutting priority themes.

### Safer Maidstone Partnership Executive Group (SMPEG):

The Safer Maidstone Partnership Executive Group (SMPEG) works with all other strategic boards in the borough. It offers strategic governance to ensure high quality and cost-effective services are provided within the borough. The key functions of the executive group is to:

- Provide strategic leadership and vision to make Maidstone a safer borough
- Be a strategic driver, working with all partners to support the direction of the partnership
- Delivering sustainable Community Safety Strategy (CSS) priorities and any relevant targets arising from these priorities
- Deliver statutory responsibilities held by the SMPEG
- Have oversight, receive and agree funds and funding applications relating to community safety within Maidstone

### Crime and Disorder Committee:

Under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, every local authority is required to have in place a Crime and Disorder Committee. The Committee is empowered to review, scrutinise and make recommendations regarding the work of the responsible authorities regarding their crime and disorder functions. The Communities, Housing and Environment Committee undertake the role of the Crime and Disorder Committee at specified meetings throughout the year. MBC Elected Members are also invited to 'Members Briefings' and training sessions, where specialist training is provided to support members in their understanding of the priorities themselves and the work that is being undertaken to address them.

### Safer Maidstone Partnership:

The SMP is responsible for:

- Delivering CSP strategic priorities and any relevant targets arising from these priorities on behalf of the SMPEG
- Fulfil statutory responsibilities held by the SMPEG under the legislation
- Respond to other issues relating to community safety, which include those that may arise, from government policies or other developments

### SMP Subgroups:

The Partnership is structured so that it has strategic subgroups and operational groups to develop, co-ordinate and deliver the activities of the priority themes. Each sub-group is responsible for:

- Reproducing an annual action plan containing measurable activities and indicators
- Ensuring that there are resources available to deliver these plans
- Submitting funding applications to obtain additional resources where required

The nature of some of the work is such that it is difficult to measure or show a direct impact of the work undertaken. For example, it is not possible to measure how many people are able to avoid an abusive relationship after an awareness raising event but we are able to measure the usage of the 'one-stop-shop' for people seeking further advice and assistance with domestic abuse.

For each priority theme an action plan will be agreed that has:

- A high-level outcome which set out what the Partnership is aiming to achieve
- Indicators which measure trends in associated behaviours, crimes, service usage, etc
- A series of measurable actions that the partnership believes will achieve the higher-level outcome

Using the same example, one such action is to ensure that temporal and geographical data from the 'one-stop-shop' usage is reviewed to ensure it is available to those at risk but might not be able to visit the current town centre location. The potential is to have 'pop-up' sessions if the review finds it to be necessary.

It has been agreed that the CSP governance structure for 2019-20 will not have specific working groups for mental health or substance misuse.

For mental health it was agreed that there were already strategic and operational meetings which focus on this area of work and therefore the creation of a group for the SMP was unnecessary. The weekly Community Safety and Vulnerability Group (CSVG) provides an opportunity to help the most vulnerable and to gather grass roots intelligence that help partners to understand any growing trends. In the absence of a specific subgroup it was agreed that the terms of reference for the CSVG would be reviewed to maximise its effectiveness. And that consideration would be given to the possibility of introducing a new strategic group to oversee the governance of this operational group and potentially the relevant action plan.

For substance misuse it was also agreed that whilst this is an area of concern that requires its status as a priority theme, it was not necessary to have a specific subgroup as many of the actions identified can be delivered through specific teams within the partnership. As substance misuse is often an underlying factor in the concerns raised by the other subgroups, such as 'Keeping children and young people safe', where substance misuse is identified as a particular area of concern, the work of those sub groups will also include actions for the substance misuse theme.

[Appendix 3](#) provides a summary of the sub-groups and working groups that work in each of the priority areas.

Each sub-group is also responsible for ensuring that equalities analysis is carried out to ensure that their plans conform to duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

### Linked Boards

Although there is no longer a requirement for Local Strategic Boards, the Partnership and its officers are just one of a number of strategic and statutory groups across the borough where cross-cutting themes are discussed. Where possible the priority themes of this plan will be carried through into these groups to ensure that community safety priorities are embedded in other partnership strategies and in turn, those strategies are taken into account in both the CSP Plan and the work of the Partnership.

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# Priorities



Protecting our communities against serious, violent and organised crime (including modern-day slavery)



Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking)



Keeping children and young people safe



Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community



Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable



## Protecting our communities against serious, violent and organised crime (including modern-day slavery):

### Why is this important?

Serious and organised crime cost the UK billions of pounds each year and pose a risk to both our communities and our national security. This can clearly be seen in the rise in violent crime and knife crime on a local and national level. The Serious Violence Strategy (2018) recognises that a range and powers are held by agencies, such as local authorities, that play a vital role in supporting the police to disrupt serious and organised crime activities in the borough. Organised Crime Groups (OCG) are groups of individuals involved in serious or organised crime for personal gain. Crime is often regarded as their 'occupation'. The work of the SMP can often disrupt OCGs activity, particularly targeting those outside the protected core. Serious organised crime, whilst often linked to OCGs, can also be undertaken by individuals exploiting opportunities and vulnerabilities to undertake criminal activities for gain. These can be broad ranging from burglary through to gang related activities, such as moving drugs (County Lines) into the borough or exploiting women sexually.

In Maidstone, we have an established SOCP. The Panel meets regularly to tackle the threat, risk and harm of serious organised crime through a coordinated approach. Over the last year the SOCP have worked to actively disrupt four OCGs in both rural and urban areas, where their activities have threatened vulnerable people and the environment. Work has also disrupted repeat offenders of organised crime.

**SMP Objective:** The SMP will protect our communities from the illegal practices of serious organised crime groups.

### What is our focus?

The SOCP has adopted the national SOC 4Ps framework, which from a local perspective, means that in relation to OCGs and crime series:

**Pursue:** prosecuting and disrupting criminal activity

**Prevent:** deterring individuals, including previous offenders from SOC

**Protect:** helping communities protect themselves against SOC

**Prepare:** manage the impact or consequence of SOC to protect communities

### Year 2 - What will we do?

The SOCP will refresh its action plan to help deliver on our SMP Objective. Actions from the plan will include:

- Develop the use of powers across the SMP to tackle entrenched criminal behaviour in a new way
- Continue to raise awareness across the partnership of the importance of intelligence reporting and how to disseminate information appropriately



## Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse (including stalking):

### Why is this important?

Domestic abuse is broadly described as any incident(s) of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members. The abuse can be, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.



Domestic abuse continues to be under-reported and SMP has worked locally to raise awareness, which has led, in part, to a year on year increase in both reports to the police and recorded levels. Sexual violence, including rape, have also seen an increase of recorded incidents in last year, which is in part down to changes in the way crimes are recorded, but also indicates a confidence in reporting incidents.

In Maidstone, we have continued to support and protect families and individuals in high risk and repeating incidents of domestic abuse. The interventions of services such as MARAC, the commissioned Independent Domestic Violence Advisor support service (IDVA), Sanctuary Scheme and the Professionals group for repeat victims have enabled victims to reduce the impact of domestic abuse in their lives.

**SMP Objective:** The SMP will ensure that all communities residing in the borough can live their lives in safety without the fear or harm caused by domestic abuse.

### What is our focus?

The continued increases in reporting and attendance at the 'one-stop-shop' indicates that the SMP should prioritise supporting the victims of domestic abuse through the provision of local services like MARAC, Sanctuary and IDVA.

The partnership needs to find new innovative ways to raise awareness so that people can seek advice and are confident in reporting abuse when it occurs. The increase of victims coming forward should not be seen as a negative as we need victims to continue to come forward so that we can determine the full extent of the issue within our borough.

We will support children who witness domestic abuse in their home and through our Keeping Children and Young People Safe group will promote safer relationships, helping young people make better choices and increasing their confidence to report issues.

### Year 2 - What will we do?

The Domestic Abuse Forum will refresh their action plan to deliver on our SMP Objective. New actions for the plan will include:

- Develop the role out of Domestic Abuse Champions across all partners and the private sector to continue to break the silence on Domestic Abuse.
- Introduce Domestic Abuse Champions into rural communities to provide victims in more isolated communities the opportunity to get support when they need it.

## Keeping children and young people safe:

### Why is this important?

We know that some of our children and young people live in abusive and violent households and some are affected by drugs and alcohol. We also know that many are confident and driven. Young people are often affected by issues across our priority themes which affect them more deeply, causing longer term damage. We must safeguard our young people from individuals that intend to cause them harm through the supply of drugs and sexual exploitation (CSE). We must also challenge growing trends such as knife crime, serious youth violence and the impact of gang culture in our young people.



In Maidstone, cannabis use continues in our young people is high and has increased steadily over the last 8 years. For young people, cannabis is more readily available than alcohol but can be expensive, resulting in more young people becoming involved in offending to fund their drug use.

There also remains a concern that the behaviour of some of our young people puts individuals and communities at risk and that increases in our young people's own fear is leading to a worrying national trend of carrying knives for safety.

**SMP Objective:** The SMP we will protect our young people from those that put them at risk.

### What is our focus?

Our refocussed Community Youth Safety Group (CYSG) has been identified as being suitable for rolling out an Adolescent Risk Management meeting structure that has been piloted in West Kent. The new District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DCSM) will continue to raise awareness of the risks our young people face, with a new escalation pathway for individuals, groups and places to a Complex Adolescent Risk Meeting (CARM). With no "home grown" gang in Maidstone, vigilance is needed to ensure our young people are aware of the threat posed by London and other Kent based gangs, gang culture itself and the associated CSE/substance misuse issues. We must also identify and divert the activities of disruptive groups of young people within our communities where their behaviour causes an increase in the fear of crime.

The DCSM will continue to have a broad membership, with representatives from schools and our youth outreach specialists. The SMP will also ensure the DCSM feeds into the revamped Local Children's Partnership Group and their strategic priorities around Communities, Resilience and Families and the new VRU.

### Year 2 - What will we do?

The DCSM will update their action plan to help deliver on our SMP Objective. Actions from the revised plan will include:

- Adopt the new DCSM meeting structure
- Introduce the new "My Place" initiative, supporting young people whose families are placed in Maidstone as a result of violent or gang related concerns
- Maximise the reach of the Voice of Young Maidstone survey to ensure the results provide an excellent analytical product for professionals and parents in the borough
- Utilise further funding opportunities provided by the VRU to deliver the improved services and opportunities

## Reduce the impact of substance misuse on our community:

### Why is this important?

People who misuse drugs, alcohol or other substances cause considerable harm to themselves and to our communities. The harm they cause is not only their own physical and mental health but can also impact on the wellbeing of their families. The communities in which they live can also be harmed through crime, disorder and ASB associated with substance misuse. The impact of substance misuse across each of the

priorities has led to this area being kept as a priority, not just a cross-cutting theme. It has been agreed that whilst it is not necessary to have a specific sub-group for this theme in itself, there is still a need for an action plan that can be delivered through specific teams and through the work of Serious Organised Crime Panel (gangs and supply chains) and Youth Safety sub-groups (cannabis, cigarette and alcohol abuse in young people).

**SMP Objective:** The Safer Maidstone Partnership will encourage people to seek the support to overcome addiction, particularly those who are part of 'high risk' cohorts.

### What is our focus?

The Serious Organised Crime Panel, and associated policing teams, will play a key role in ensuring that drugs and illicit substances are difficult, if not impossible to find in Maidstone. Where this extends to illicit tobacco, relationships are being put in place with KCC Trading Standards to undertake joint action to rid the borough of this illegal trade. For the DCSM, there will be a focus on ensuring that our young people are reminded of the dangers that exist, particularly in relation to gangs and County Lines trafficking. We will build on the success of the Housing First project in supporting our street homeless, particularly those individuals that are the hardest to engage, to assist them accessing the support they need to overcome their addictions. A new project will be launched to help reach treatment-resistant drinkers and we will change the way the enforcement of the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for drinking is enforced to empower officers to tackle people who are drinking and are anti-social in a public place.

### Year 2 - What will we do?

The Community Protection Team on behalf of the Safer Maidstone Partnership will develop an action plan to help deliver on our SMP Objective across the sub-groups and services. Actions from the plan will include:

- Revisit the powers available to disrupt the illegal sale of tobacco/alcohol including closure orders
- Support the introduction of the Safer Socialising Scheme
- Review the substance misuse responses to the Voice of Young Maidstone Survey and adapt services as necessary



Safeguard people whose mental health makes them vulnerable to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community:

### **Why is this important?**

The mental health of our residents can be affected greatly by the behaviour of others, particularly where the behaviour goes unchallenged. Whether that is the behaviour of inconsiderate neighbours or a coercive and/or controlling partner, the impact can have a significant impact on an individual's quality of life. Mental Health concerns can lead to people targeting their vulnerability and abusing them for financial or other forms of gain. People with mental health concerns can also be the cause of anti-social behaviour themselves, which affects others or a wider community. They can also become isolated, lose their support network and neglect their own care.



Mental health, like substance misuse, cuts across all our priority themes and is a growing concern in Maidstone with more police and local authority investigations containing concerns about the mental health of either the victim or the perpetrator. This is evident in the weekly Community Safety and Vulnerability Group (CSVG) where an estimated 75% of cases relate to Mental Health for either the perpetrator or the victim.

Across the priority themes there are also cohorts, like our young people, the victims of domestic abuse and those who misuse substances, that are experiencing higher prevalence of mental health problems.

**SMP Objective:** The Safer Maidstone Partnership will work to reduce the community impact of Mental Health, particularly where a person's poor mental health results in them being either the cause or the victim of anti-social behaviour or crime.

### **What is our focus?**

The CSVG will continue to meet weekly to support the most vulnerable in our community. We will look to introduce a steering group for vulnerability to oversee the CSVG and support its work and identify trends that need more support. Across the Priority Themes we will ensure the mental health of the vulnerable is protected from activities and behaviours that threaten to cause harm.

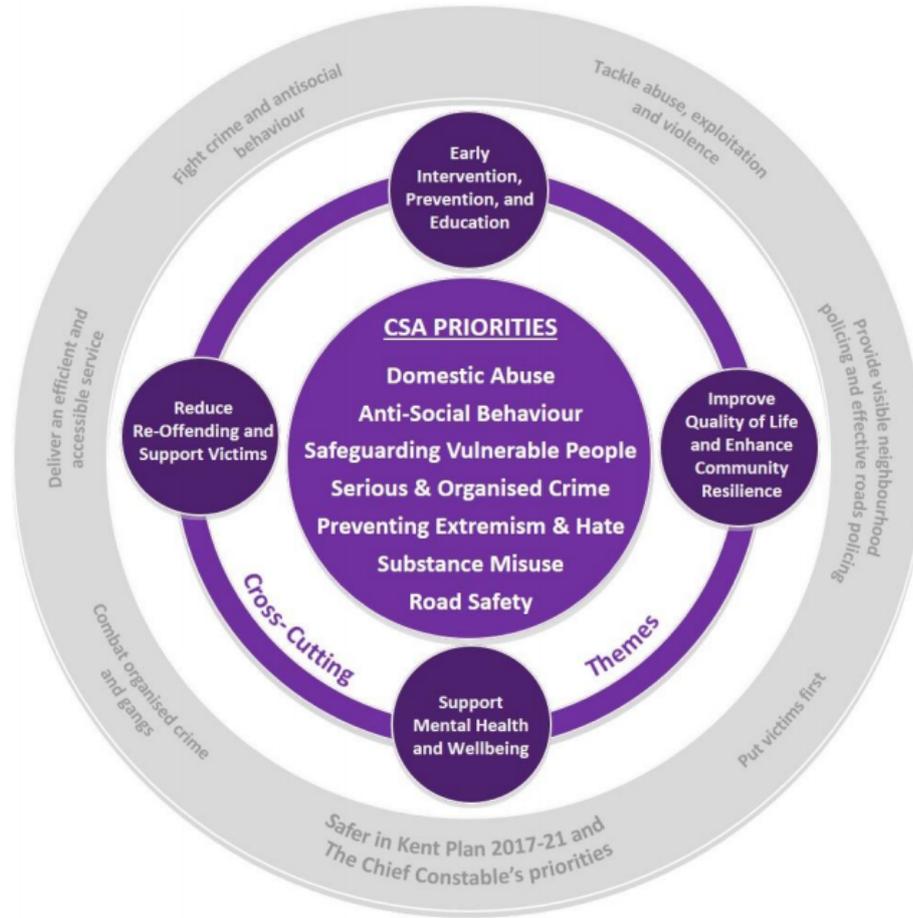
### **Year 2 - What will we do?**

The Community Safety Unit, including the Community Protection Team, will develop a revised action plan to help deliver on our SMP Objective across the sub-groups, the CSVG and relevant services. The action plan will include:

- Refresh the CSVG terms of reference to incorporate and new referral process
- Host an awareness raising summit that ensures partners are aware of the signs and dangers of self-neglect in the community

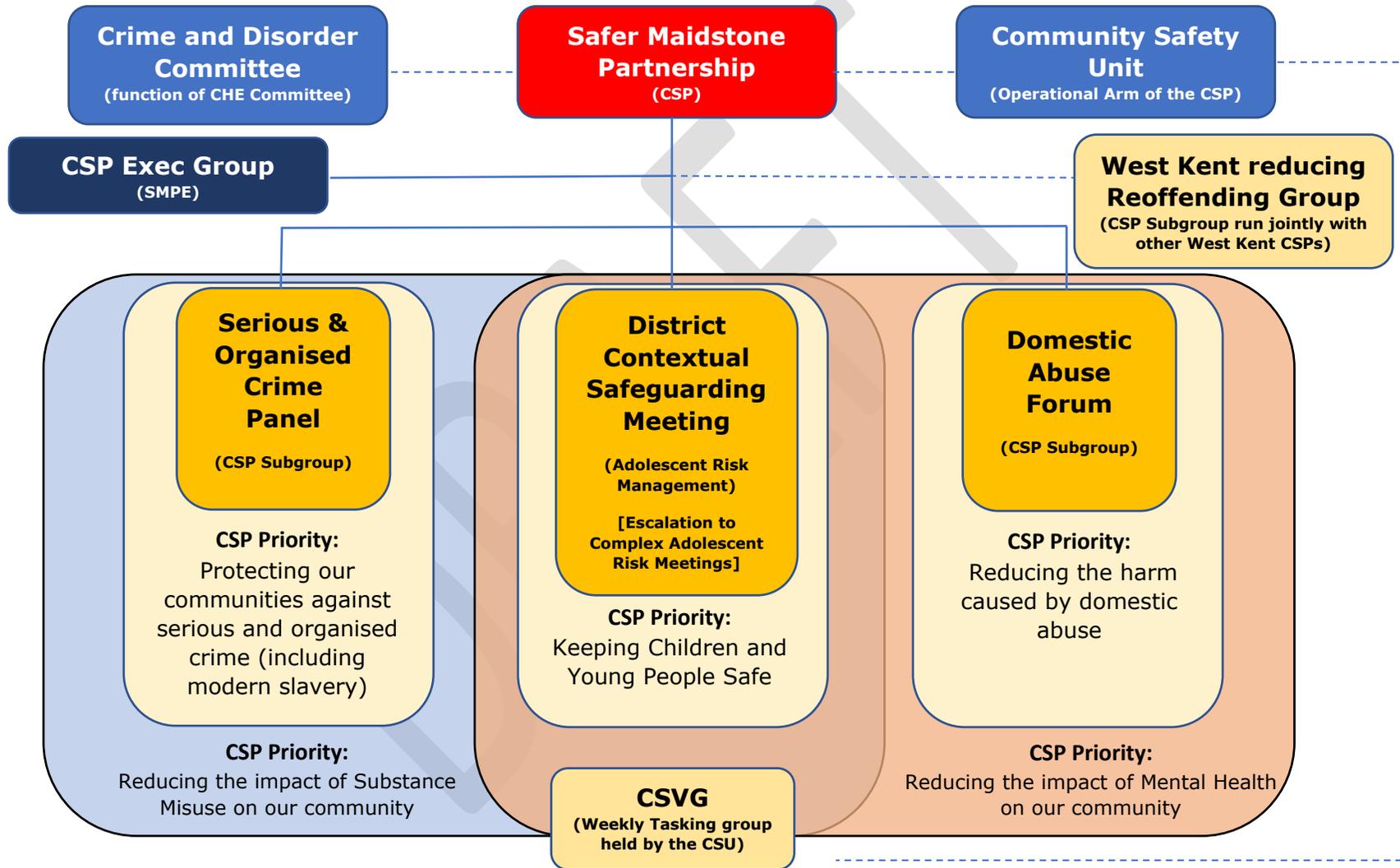
# Appendices

## Appendix 1- Priorities & cross cutting themes for the CSA and the PCC:



Source= Kent Community Safety Partnership 'Kent Community Safety Plan- April 2018'

Appendix 2- Safer Maidstone Partnership Structure and Priorities:



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Appendix 3- Summary of the sub-groups and working groups that work in each of the priority areas:

Priority Theme	<u>Sub-groups and Working Groups delivering the action plans (not an exhaustive list)</u>
<b>Protecting our communities against serious and organised crime (including modern slavery)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Serious &amp; Organised Crime Panel</u></li> <li>• Kent Environmental Crime Waste Practitioners Group</li> </ul>
<b>Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Domestic Abuse Forum</u></li> <li>• Vulnerable Investigation Team Professionals meeting for repeat victims</li> </ul>
<b>Keeping Children and Young People Safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DSCM), with escalation to Complex Adolescent Risk Meetings</li> <li>• Maidstone Local Children's Partnership Group</li> <li>• Adolescent Risk Management panel</li> </ul>
<b>Reducing the impact of Substance Misuse on our community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of DCSM</li> <li>• The work of the Community Protection, Homeless Outreach with Change Live Grow (CGL) and Licensing teams</li> </ul>
<b>Reducing the impact of Mental Health on our community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Safety and Vulnerability Group and its steering group</li> <li>• MBC Safeguarding Board</li> </ul>

## Appendix 4- Glossary of terms and acronyms:

ASB = Anti-Social Behaviour	IOM = Integrated Offender Management
CCG = Clinical Commissioning Group	KCC = Kent County Council
CDAP = Community Domestic Abuse Programme	KSSCRC = Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company
CDRP = Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	MARAC = Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CARMS= Complex Adolescent Risk Meetings	MBC = Maidstone Borough Council
CGL = Change, Grow, Live (West Kent Drug & Alcohol Wellbeing Service in Maidstone)	Modern-day slavery= Human trafficking– involves transporting, recruiting or harbouring people for the purpose of exploitation, using violence, threats or coercion.
County Lines= County lines commonly involves the illegal distribution and dealing of seriously dangerous drugs from one city/town to another.	NPS = National Probation Service or New Psychoactive Substances depending on context
CSE = Child Sexual Exploitation	OCG = Organised Crime Group
CSP = Community Safety Partnership	One Stop Shop= Drop in service for victims of Domestic Violence.
CSU = Community Safety Unit	PCC = Police & Crime Commissioner
CSVG= Community Safety and Vulnerability Group	PSPO = Public Space Protection Order
DA = Domestic Abuse	SMP = Safer Maidstone Partnership
DCSM = District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting	SMPE= Safer Maidstone Partnership Executive Group
IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Advisor	VRU = Violence Reduction Meeting

**'Where people feel safe  
and are safe'**



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