



# Partnership Strategic Assessment 2012 - 2013

Produced by:

Community Partnerships Team, Maidstone Borough Council

Community Safety Unit, Maidstone Borough Council

Safer Maidstone Partnership

SMP Sign Off Date: July 2012

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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 The Aim of this Strategic Assessment**

This is the strategic assessment produced for the Safer Maidstone Partnership for the period April 2012 to March 2013 and puts in place the priorities and planned activities for the 2012-14 Community Safety Partnership Plan.

The purpose of this strategic assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety problems to the members of the Safer Maidstone Partnership. 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 and an update of those issues that the local community consider to be emerging priorities.

## **1.2 The Background to 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.

The strategic assessment would identify current and possible future crime, disorder and substance misuse issues from sound evidence and robust analysis. The introduction of strategic assessments hoped to move partnerships toward a more intelligence-led business planning approach. It was also hoped that by removing the need to produce a three year audit and replacing it with the requirement to produce a strategic assessment at least yearly, that partnerships will improve their understanding of problems and their potential causes and also respond more effectively to the communities they serve.

The Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) has a duty to undertake an annual strategic assessment of local community safety priorities to inform the

Partnership Plan. The strategic assessment is intelligence led and considers changes in the level and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse since the last assessment, and why these changes have occurred.

The Safer Maidstone Partnership's objectives are to:

- Promote Maidstone as a safe place to live;
- Take a preventative approach to tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour;
- Reduce violent crime and reduce serious crime in the wards where the trend is higher than the borough average;
- Reduce alcohol related crime in the town centre;
- Reduce drug offences;
- Tackle domestic abuse;
- Reduce those killed or seriously injured on our roads.

The SMP is one of five Delivery Groups<sup>1</sup> who report to the Maidstone Locality Board. The Partnership's present structure is at Appendix 1. Further details can be found at the dedicated Locality Board website [www.maidstonematters.org.uk](http://www.maidstonematters.org.uk)

Although the Maidstone Locality Board replaced the Maidstone Local Strategic Partnership in January 2012, the Safer Maidstone Partnership, will continue as they are presently constituted, subject to a review of all Groups and Sub-Groups in 2012.

### 1.3 Who Produced this Strategic Assessment?

The Strategic Assessment has been produced on behalf of the Safer Maidstone partnership by the Community Partnerships Team with consultation with Safer Maidstone Partnership members. See below for full details:

John Littlemore	Head of Housing & Community Safety	Maidstone BC
Sarah Robson	Community Partnerships Manager	Maidstone BC
Duncan Bruce	Community Partnerships Officer	Maidstone BC
Alan Newman	Anti-Social Behaviour Officer	Maidstone BC
Martin Adams	Area Manager	KFRS
Adrian Futers	Chief Inspector	Kent Police

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<sup>1</sup> The other four are:

Local Children's Trust Delivery Board  
Economic Development and Regeneration Delivery Group  
Health and Wellbeing Delivery Group  
Environmental Quality Delivery Group

## 1.4 Methodology

Data collected for this Strategic Assessment relates to the time period October 2010 to September 2011.

The main body of this assessment is broken down into two sections. The first, known as the 'Scanning Exercise', will give a brief overview of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Disorder and Substance Misuse issues affecting the partnership area resulting in a list of issues to look at in-depth for the upcoming year. This will be done through time series analysis since the previous assessment was undertaken and reasons for any changes in a particular issue. It will also include a review of any emerging issues from the community prioritisation process.

The second section of this assessment, 'The In-Depth Analysis', will first look at the current partnership priorities with emphasis on the assessment of performance against these. Then it will further analyse those emerging potential issues identified from 'The Scanning Exercise'. Greater detail on the scope of the problem will be discussed, including the scale of the problem, any reasons for changes in levels and the suggested cause of the problem including the relevance of location, time, the offender or the victim.

Following this further analysis, after going through a priority selection process, a final list of recommended partnership priorities for the upcoming year will be produced.

The community prioritisation process allowed for the views of the local community of what issues should be deemed an emerging priority for the local area and was gathered through the community prioritisation process allowed for the views of the local community of what issues should be deemed an emerging priority for the local area and was gathered through the Maidstone Resident Satisfaction Survey. In addition, PCSO's and CSU Police staff undertook engagement with the public at public events such as Maidstone Mela, 36 Engineers Day, Switch on the Music and Up-Rockin' young people's festival. Also public opinion and those categories that are of most concern are highlighted through the quarterly Kent Crime and Victimisation Survey.

## 1.5 Information Sources

The list below includes the details of those data sources used to inform this strategic assessment, including the agency supplying the data, the time period the data refers to and any issues surrounding the validity and reliability of the data. All information was correct at time of document production.

### **County Community Safety Unit crime data** (October 2010 – September 2011)

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

### **Kent Police Intelligence Analysis data** (October 2010 – September 2011)

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

### **Ambulance data** (October 2010 – September 2011)

All ambulance pickup submissions have been compiled by the County Community Safety Unit utilising data supplied by the South-East Coast Ambulance service. This data has been cleansed and sanitised for use on CrimeView, and some data loss does occur within the cleansing process.

Other data sources include:

- Clean Kent
- Domestic Abuse
- Kent Families and Social Care
- Kent Highways
- Kent Police
- HM Probation
- Kent Youth Services
- Rail Transport Incidents
- Kent Supporting People
- Kent Trading Standards
- Youth Offending Service

## 1.6 Contextual Information

### Maidstone demographic and economic summary

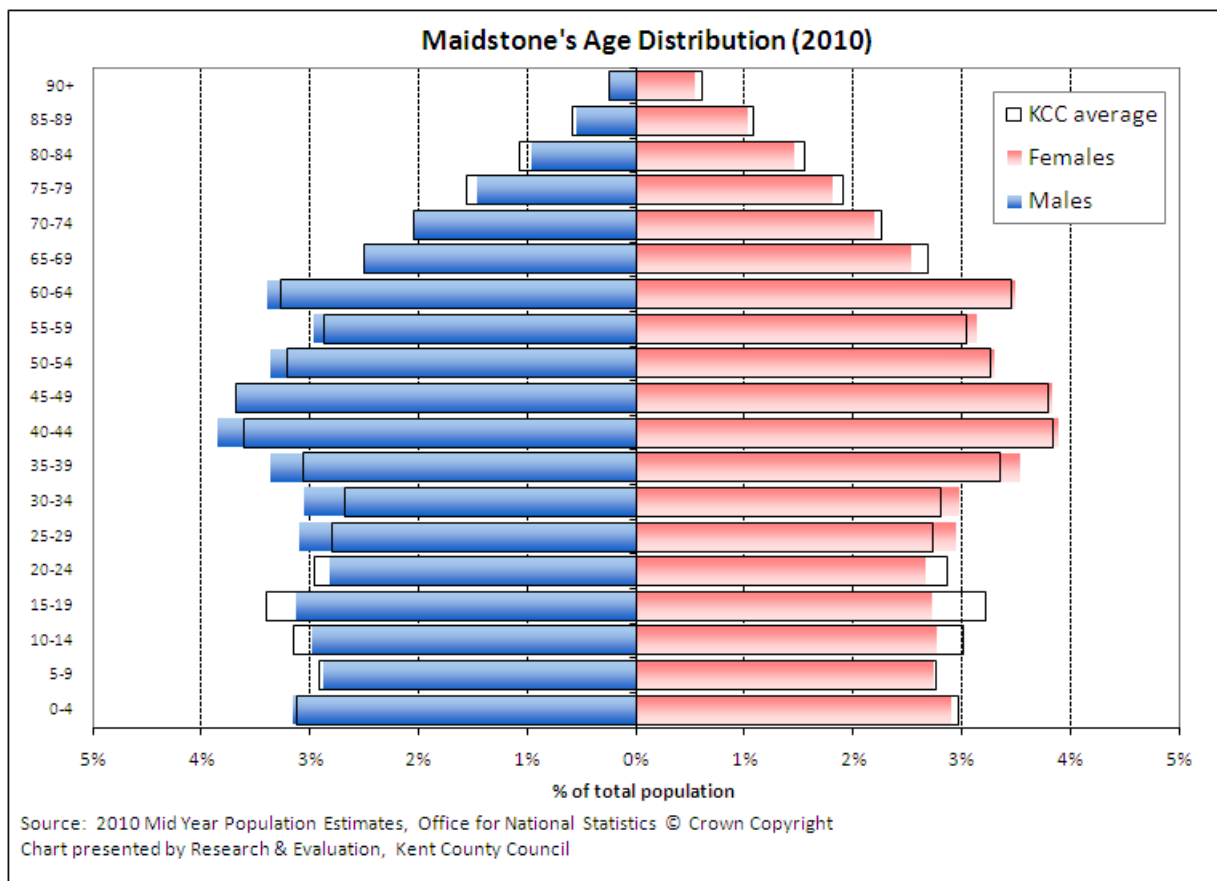
The latest population figures for mid-2010 estimate that there are 149,800 people living in Maidstone Borough in 60,200 households<sup>2</sup>. This population size makes Maidstone Borough the second highest Kent local authority district area.

72% of the borough's population live in the Maidstone urban area with the remaining 28% living in the surrounding rural area and settlements<sup>3</sup>. The age profile of Maidstone's population is shown in Chart 1.

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<sup>2</sup> 2010 Mid Year Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)

<sup>3</sup> 2009 Lower Super Output Area population estimates (experimental), Office for National Statistics, aggregated to 2009 ward level population estimates by Research & Intelligence, Kent County Council



**Demographic Trends:** According to demographic data provided by KCC, the following major population changes will occur by 2021:

- The 0-15 age-group is forecast to decrease 600 (2.2%);
- The 16-24 age-group is forecast to decrease 400 (2.9%);
- The 25-44 age-group is forecast to decrease 6,100 (15.3%);
- The 45-64 age-group shows an increase in numbers of 3,300 (9%);
- The two most significant rises are in the 65-79 and 80+ age-groups which are forecast to rise 8,400 (44.4%) and 2,100 (65.6%) respectively.

Overall Maidstone has a very similar age profile to the county average. Maidstone has a slightly higher proportion of people in the 25-59 age groups, and a smaller proportion of teenagers and retired people compared to the KCC average. 94.6% of Maidstone's population is of white ethnic origin, with the remaining 5.4% being classified as of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) origin. The proportion of Maidstone's population classified as BME is lower than the county average of 6.3%.

**Deprivation:** In 2007 Maidstone Borough was ranked as the 9<sup>th</sup> most deprived district in Kent (out of 12 districts, with the most deprived being ranked 1). Nationally, Maidstone ranks 248<sup>th</sup> out of 354 local authority districts in England. This rank places it just outside of England's top 60% deprived authorities. The county rank of Maidstone has remained at number 9 between 2004 and 2007. On the national ranking, Maidstone has moved up 22 positions from 270<sup>th</sup> in

2004 to 248<sup>th</sup> in 2007. This indicates that Maidstone's level of deprivation has increased, relative to other areas in England.

## Unemployment

	<b>Maidstone Borough</b>	<b>Kent (inc Medway)</b>	<b>South-East</b>
No. Unemployed June 2011	2,338	33,320	132,561
% Rate Unemployed	2.5	3.2	2.5
No. Change since 2010	172	2,324	2,119
% Change since 2010	7.94	7.50	1.62

(Source: KCC, figures taken from the Jobseekers Allowance Claimant Count)

Unemployment has increased in Maidstone Borough between 2010 and 2011, by 7.94%. This percentage change is higher than in Kent and the South-East. However, the percentage of resident unemployment in Maidstone remains lower than for Kent, and is the same as the South-East rate.

## Local context - Maidstone the place

Maidstone Borough, which covers 40,000 hectares, sits at the heart of Kent, positioned between London and the Channel ports and is home to 143,000 people. Maidstone, as the County Town of Kent, is the administrative and retail capital. The Borough combines the services provided by a large urban area, with excellent schools, shopping and a general hospital, with a very attractive rural hinterland, which includes the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB) and thriving villages. Housing in Maidstone Town has traditionally been considered relatively affordable compared to the south east average, but this is not the case in rural Maidstone and for those on average or low incomes.

Maidstone is considered a good place to live and work: the Halifax Building Society recently ranked Maidstone in 8<sup>th</sup> place in England for quality of life. The Borough has a very mixed business sector with large numbers of small and medium size businesses with particular strengths in professional services (law and accountancy) and construction. There is a growing media industry led by Maidstone Studios and the Kent Messenger Group. Maidstone has an extensive further education campus (Mid Kent College) and a growing higher education offer with both the University for the Creative Arts and Mid Kent College seeking to increase their range of courses and facilities. Larger numbers of people commute into than out of the Borough. Residents living in the Borough have relatively high wages (although many higher earners commute out of the Borough to achieve these).

Maidstone has the largest town centre shopping offer within Kent with approximately 700 shops, 75 cafes and restaurants, employing some 4,400



people. The Borough also boasts the largest night time economy in Kent, creating £75 million a year and employing around 1,500 people.

Maidstone is an exceptionally green Borough with a number of parks, the largest of which is Mote Park, which is Grade II on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks, and home to thriving rugby and cricket clubs. There are numerous smaller parks and squares within the town and villages which have benefited from a major playground and sports facility investment programme in recent years.

Maidstone's Local Strategic Partnership carried out work in 2010 looking at how public money is spent locally. They have identified that £602 million was been spent in Maidstone in 2010 by various bodies including Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, the Police and the local Primary Care Trust. Just over 35% of the money is spent on health and social well-being, with nearly 17% spent on education and 15% on housing. Overall, crime has fallen within the Borough and is relatively low compared to other areas in Kent.

#### Maidstone Night Time Economy:

The SMP have fostered close working with Police, Street Pastors, Urban Blue Bus, The Mall and the Town Centre Management Initiative to ensure that Maidstone has a safe night time economy. This has resulted in much positive press and TV coverage.

#### **What matters to Maidstone residents:**

In the 2008 Place Survey, the top five factors identified by residents as making an area a great place to live were level of crime, health services, clean streets, affordable decent housing and education provision. The Place Survey also asked what factors required most improvement: road and pavement repairs and the levels of congestion came out top closely followed by activities for teenagers and public transport.

Although the same question was not asked in the latest residents' survey (February 2012), respondents were asked to describe what important issues they thought Maidstone BC should be tackling. Four years on from the 2008 survey, the three top issues are now: refuse collection, road maintenance, and reduce Anti Social Behaviour and crime levels in general.

## The Strategic Assessment in Context

The Strategic Assessment does not exist in isolation, but is linked to a number of partnership strategies and plans. The Strategic Assessment informs the work of the Safer Maidstone Partnership and is a key document which feeds into partners' service and operational plans.

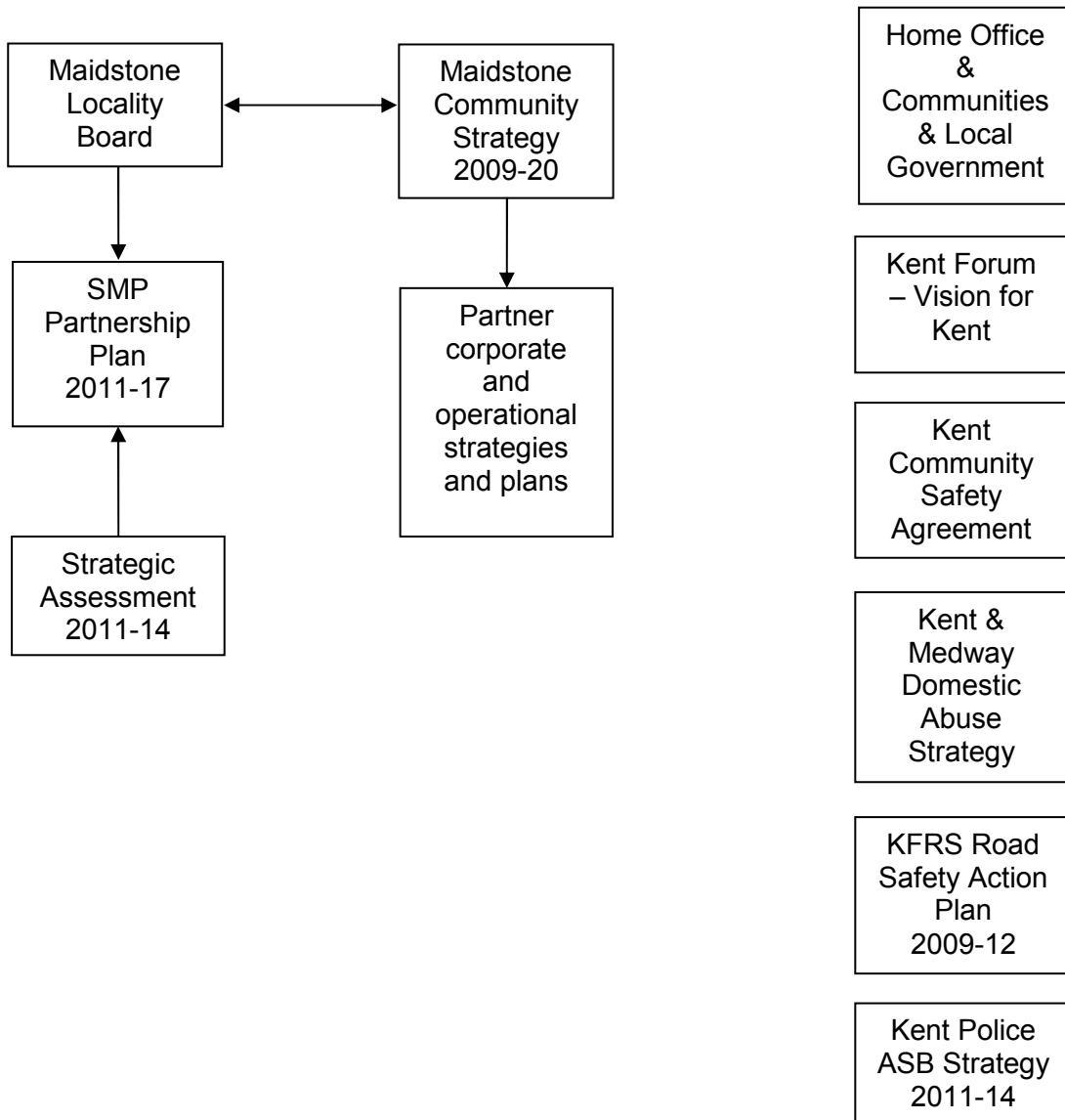
The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is the topmost level of policy making for the locality. Its purpose is to set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Maidstone. Our SCS was published in April 2009, and is currently in the process of being refreshed.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. A formal review of the 1998 Act took place in 2006, which resulted in a revision to these requirements. Under this legislation district/borough level Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were required to carry out 3 yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies. For two tier authorities such as Kent, a statutory Community Safety Agreement was introduced to develop a more joined-up approach to public service delivery, enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes.

The Kent Community Safety Agreement sets out how partners in Kent will work together to address the key community safety priorities for the County, identifying the shared objectives and outcomes required to improve the lives of the people of Kent.

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/community-and-living/community-safety/community-safety-unit/Kent%20Community%20Safety%20Agreement%202011-14.pdf>).

The chart overleaf shows how the Strategic Assessment informs the Partnership Plan and how both inform the Locality Board and sit alongside national and county level policy documents.



## 2. Executive Summary

### 2.1 Overview

Crime in Maidstone has continued to fall, albeit marginally by 0.3%, in the period covered by this assessment. Against this overall drop in crime some types of crime have seen increases that do not match the downward trend seen elsewhere in the county, e.g. burglary, or if a reduction in a certain crime type has occurred e.g. drug offences, Maidstone's position compared with the rest of the county has not improved.

### 2.2 Key Facts

The following key statistics are summarised from this assessment: they should not be read out of context and are a guide to key crime highlights in 2010-11.

**All crime** has reduced by 29 from 9,395 crimes in 2009-10 to 9,366 in 2010-11, an outcome which places Maidstone in 8<sup>th</sup> place county-wide, with 62.1 crimes per 1,000 population.

**Violent against the person** has reduced overall by 4% from 1,788 incidents to 1,716. Within this overall figure burglary of dwellings offences have increased by 18%, although robbery has decreased by 21% from 57 offences to 45 offences. Overall, Maidstone is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the county for violent offences.

**Domestic Abuse** has increased year on year for both the number of incidents and the number of repeat victims. This rise should be viewed in a positive way, since domestic violence is a most underreported crime, with an estimated 35 occurrences before a victim feels able to report. Thus this is an area that should remain a focus for the Partnership, particularly given the major sporting events in the summer 2012.

Due to fundamental changes in the definition of **Anti-social behaviour** (ASB), data is only available for the 6 month period April 2011 – September 2011. For this period Kent Police recorded 2,948 incidents of ASB in Maidstone. Per 1,000 population, Maidstone ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the County and is the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest volume in Kent.

At ward level High Street, Park Wood and Shepway North recorded the highest volumes of ASB with 668, 253 and 230 recorded incidents respectively. Per 1000 pop, High Street ward ranks 279<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards in the KCC area and Park Wood ranks 265<sup>th</sup> with rates of 79.18 and 48.96 respectively. The KCC average is 20.84.

**Drug offences** have decreased from over 500 in 2009/10 to 457 in 2010/11, a reduction of 12%, although Maidstone still remains in 12<sup>th</sup> place county-wide.

**Theft and handling stolen goods** has increased 8% to 2,903 which has lowered Maidstone's position county-wide to 11<sup>th</sup> place.

**Metal theft** - A rise in the price of copper, lead and other non-ferrous metals has led to a dramatic increase in the number of metal thefts across the UK due to their scrap value. Metal theft is a problem through out Kent and operations are planned to combat it.

The Safer Maidstone Partnership will monitor levels of metal theft in the locality devising plans, if necessary, to tackle any further increases. The Partnership is working with scrap metal dealers, recyclers and other agencies to promote the use of SmartWater forensic technology. New laws are expected to come into force by April 2012, banning all cash transactions and unlimited fines for people caught trading the metal.

**Vehicle crime** both theft of and from motor vehicles decreased significantly by 22% and 13% respectively, although despite these reductions these two crime categories rank Maidstone in 9<sup>th</sup> (theft of) and 7<sup>th</sup> (theft from) place county-wide.

**Deliberate primary fires** reduced by over a third from 95 to 60, or 4 per 1,000 population, which places Maidstone 7<sup>th</sup> in the county.

**Road Safety** has improved, although Maidstone recorded the highest number of casualties in 2010 (649), this has reduced from 726 in 2008. The number of KSI casualties have reduced at an even greater rate over the last 3 years from 89 in 2008 to 59 in 2010. However, within this good performance, Maidstone again recorded the highest number of 17 to 24 year old car driver casualties (71) on KCC roads.

In 2010 Maidstone recorded zero child pedestrian KSI casualties and amongst the lowest number of child pedestrian slight casualties (14).

### 3. Crime Overview: Annual changes (2011-12)

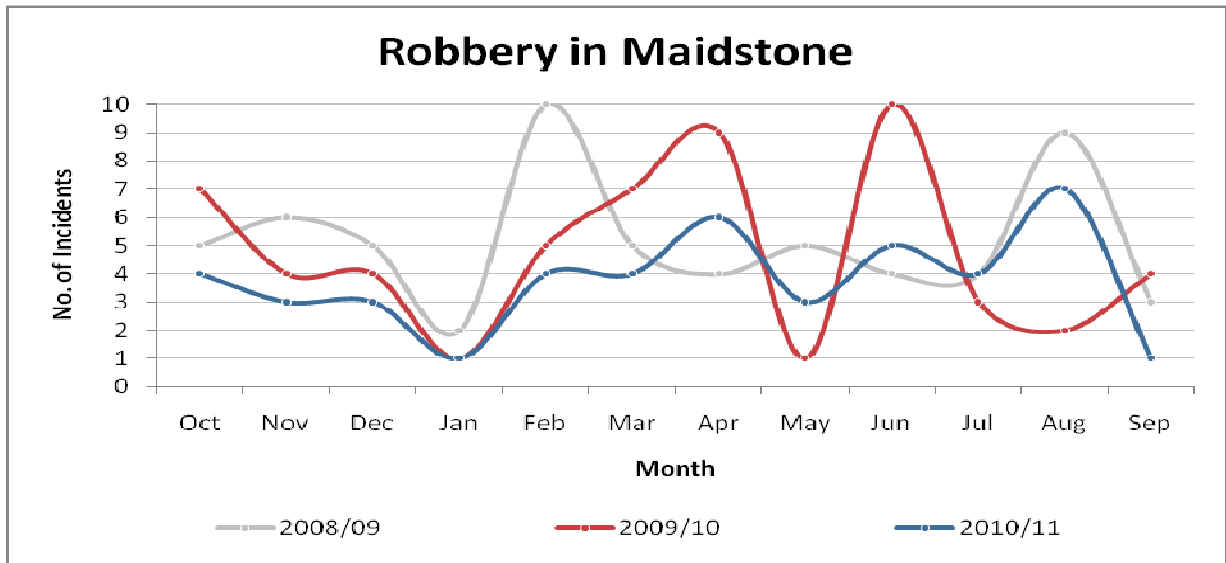
Category	Oct-Sep 10	Oct-Sep 11	Volume change	% Change	Per 1,000 pop	County position <sup>4</sup>
All crime	9,395	9,366	-29	-0.3%	62.51	8
Burglary – dwelling	347	410	63	18.2%	6.81	9
Burglary – other	672	715	43	6.4%	4.77	10
Robbery	57	45	-12	21.1%	0.30	5
Violence against the person	1,788	1,716	-72	4.0%	11.45	6
Sexual offences	132	129	-3	2.3%	0.86	7
Theft from a motor vehicle	647	561	-86	13.3%	3.74	7
Theft of a motor vehicle	331	258	-73	22.1%	1.72	9
Criminal damage	1,588	1,518	-70	4.4%	10.13	4
Theft & handling stolen goods	2,686	2,903	217	8.1%	19.38	11
Drug offences	519	457	-62	11.9%	3.05	12
Fraud & forgery	392	430	38	9.7%	2.87	10
Deliberate fires – primary	95	60	-35	36.6%	4.00	7
Deliberate fires – secondary	95	112	17	17.9%	7.48	2
Domestic abuse – number of incidents	1,698	1,842	144	8.5%	15.58	6
Domestic abuse – no of repeat victims	401	434	33	8.2%	3.67	6
Domestic abuse – % of repeat victims	23.6%	23.6%				5
Offences committed against all victims	6,694	6,679	-15	-0.2%+	44.58	7
Offences against repeat victims	1,129	1,107	-22	-1.9%	7.39	6
Repeat victim rate	16.9%	16.6%	-0.3%			3

<sup>4</sup> County Position is the Maidstone SMP position in the county (including Medway) out of 13 for each incident type, where 1 is top or best, 13 worst.

## 4. Findings from County analytical product

### 4.1 Violent Crime

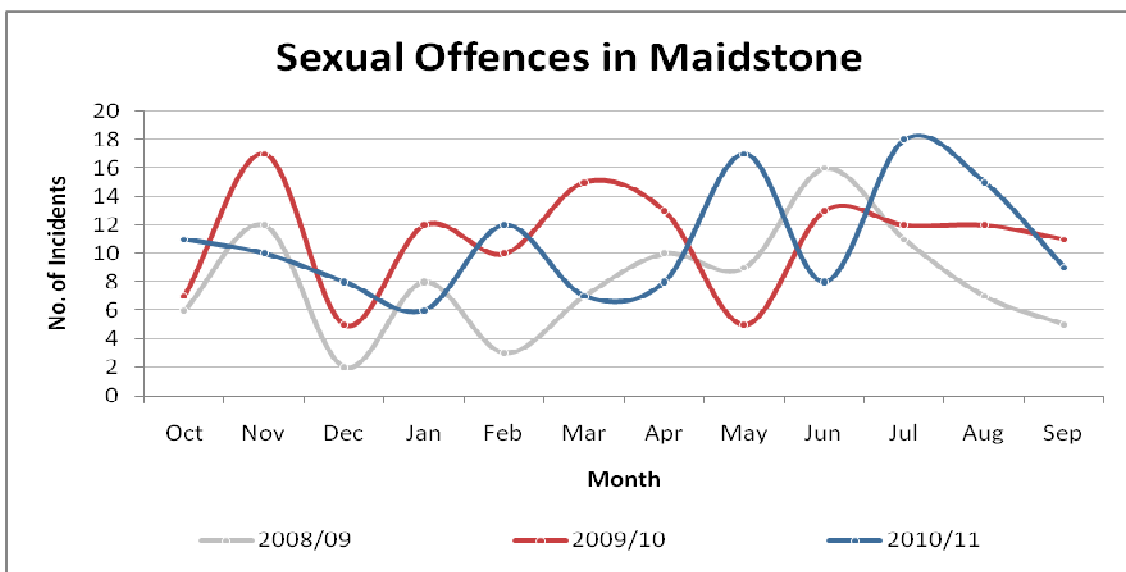
#### Robbery



Robbery has decreased by 12 incidents (-21.1%), from 57 to 45. This rate of decrease is ahead of the County reduction of 15.3% and Maidstone has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest volume in Kent, and 10<sup>th</sup> in its most similar group (MSG). The graph shows that robberies tend to now average around 4 per month and levels are likely to remain similar going forward.

At ward level, High Street ward accounted for 15 robberies in Maidstone in 2010-11. Per 1000 pop, the same ward ranks 273<sup>rd</sup> in the KCC area with a figure of 1.78. The KCC average is 0.42.

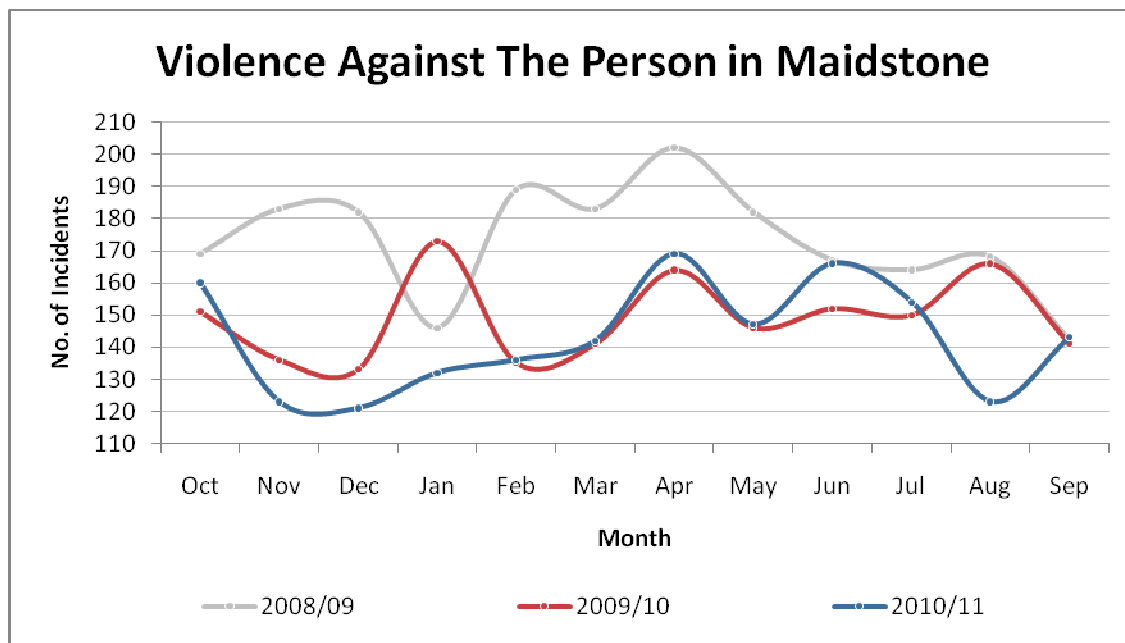
#### Sexual Offences



Sexual offences have decreased slightly by 3 (-2.3%), from 132 to 129. This rate of decrease is below the County reduction of 12.7% although Maidstone has the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest volume in Kent. Like robberies, sexual offences are low volume in nature and the graph shows no discernable trends and it is difficult to suggest whether levels will rise or fall moving into next year.

At ward level, in 2010-11 High Street and Shepway North had the highest volume of sexual offences in Maidstone. Against the KCC average of 0.77 per 1000 pop, High Street's rate of 2.73 ranks 279<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards in the KCC area, whilst Heath and Park Wood wards rank 276<sup>th</sup> and 269<sup>th</sup> with rates of 2.25 and 1.93 respectively.

Violence Against the Person



Violence against the person (VAP) offences decreased by 72 (-4.0%), from 1,788 to 1,716. This rate of decrease is in line with the County reduction of 5% and Maidstone has the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest volume in Kent. VAP accounts for 91% of all violent crime and 18.3% of all recorded crime in Maidstone. The graph shows that numbers of offences are significantly lower than two years ago and are similar to those seen last year. Trend suggests that levels of violence against the person will remain similar moving into next year. Per 1000 pop, Maidstone ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the County and 10<sup>th</sup> in its MSG.

At ward level, in 2010-11 High Street accounted for 572 incidents of violence against the person in Maidstone. Per 1000 pop, High Street has a rate of 67.80 which ranks it 280<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards in the KCC area. Park Wood ward ranked 267<sup>th</sup> with a rate of 28.64. The KCC average is 11.50.



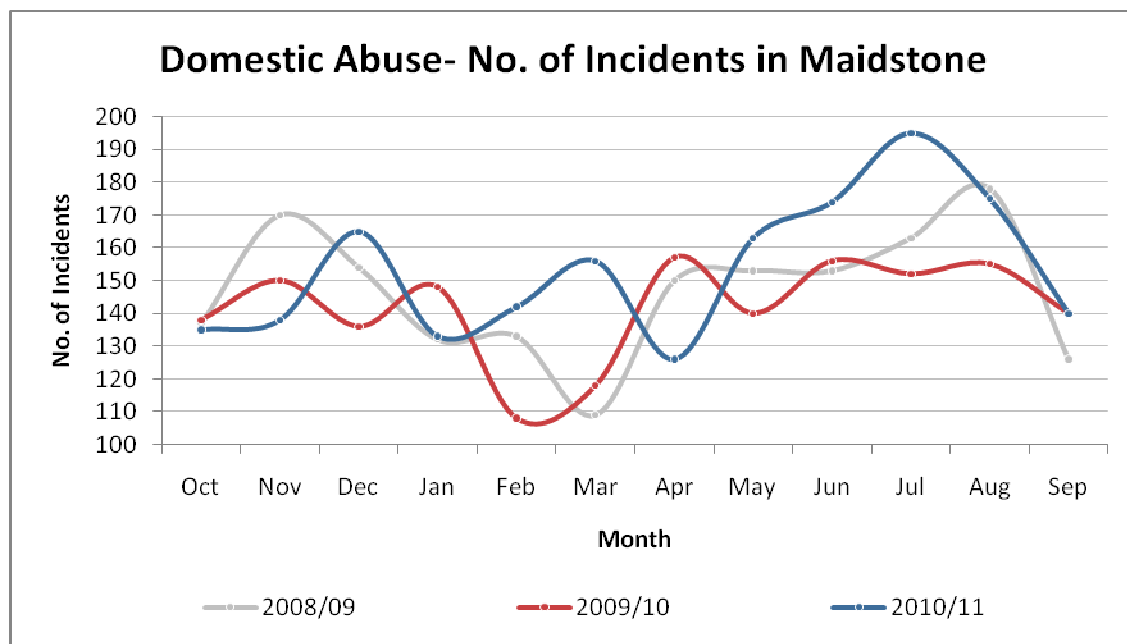
## Youth Offending - Violent Crime

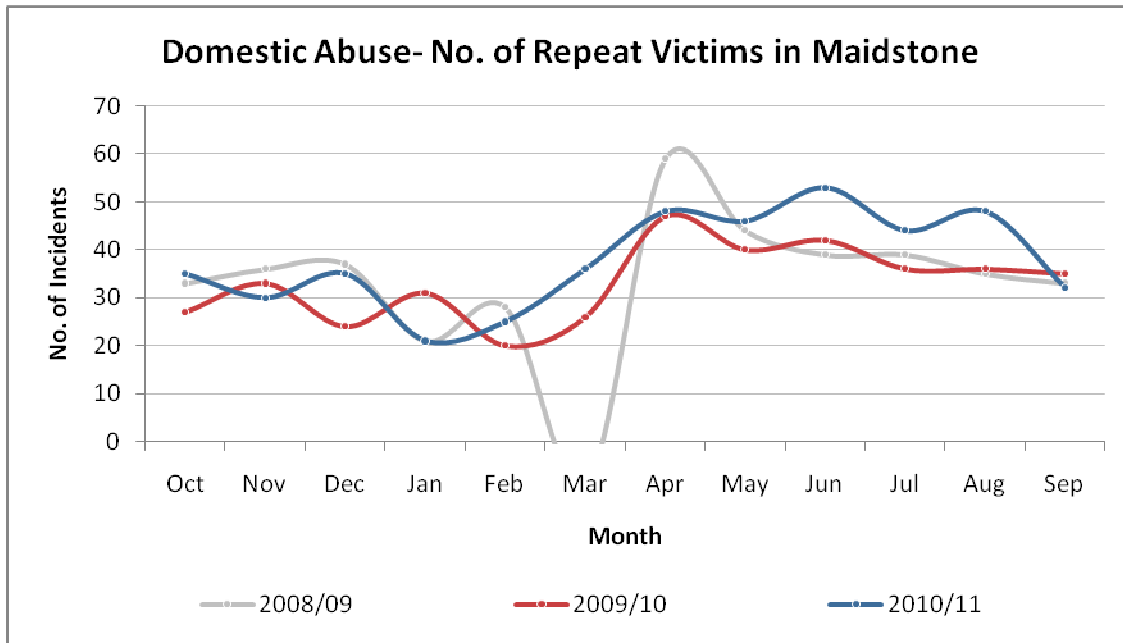
The number of violent offences reduced from 91 in the 12 month period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, to 71 – a reduction of 22%. Just 50 children and young people (22.3% of the youth offending population in Maidstone) were responsible for the 71 offences of 'Violence against the Person' - of these 15 were females and 35 were males.

An analyses of the 71 violent incidences shows that the vast majority (77.5%) of recorded violent offences were of a less serious nature (i.e. a gravity score of 3), and only one incident had a gravity score as high as 7.

Analysis of violent crime related data from a county-wide perspective shows that High Street, Park Wood and Fant wards were the most problematic (highest scoring) in Maidstone. High Street has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest score out of all wards in the KCC area and Park Wood has the 22<sup>nd</sup>, highlighting these as priority areas.

### 4.2 Domestic Violence





The number of domestic abuse incidents in Maidstone have increased by 144 (8.5%), from 1,698 to 1,842. Per 1000 pop, this ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the County. This rate of increase is significantly higher than the Kent average of 1.8%. The first graph (page 17) shows that numbers of domestic abuse incidents were higher during the summer months compared to last year and reached a peak in July of 2010.

The second graph (this page) shows the numbers of repeat victims of domestic abuse month by month. Figures have remained similar over the past 3 years although this summer's figures are higher. The anomaly seen in March 2009 is due to a correction figure. There were 434 recorded incidents with repeat victims which is an increase of 33 when compared to last year. Per 1000 pop, this ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the County and gives rise to a repeat victims percentage of 23.6%, the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest in the County. Kent Police data shows that High Street, Park Wood and Fant wards are potential hotspots for domestic violence ranking 281<sup>st</sup>, 278<sup>th</sup> and 266<sup>th</sup> respectively out of the 283 wards in the KCC area.

### Domestic Abuse Services

In the past 12 months, the Mid Kent Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) has dealt with 149 high risk victims, with a repeat victimisation rate at MARAC of 15%. At the August 2011 MARAC meeting, nearly two thirds (61.5%) of the referrals were for Maidstone's victims.

K-DASH (Kent Domestic Abuse Support and Help), previously Maidstone Women's Support Service, provide IDVA services in the Maidstone area. During 2010/11 they supported 255 clients. Additionally, they delivered 3 Freedom Programmes, 2 Recovery Toolkit Programmes and 2 New Horizons Programmes (Mothers and Children). During 2010 WSS piloted an out of hours

service from Maidstone Police Station which now operates from 9-3 on Saturdays and Sundays from the Community Support Centre in Marsham Street, Maidstone. They also provide drop-in sessions at Greenways & Meadows Sure Start Centres and at Maidstone Community Support Centre. Working closely with the Maidstone Domestic Violence Forum (MDVF), the K-DASH established a weekly Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop in January 2012, and early results show a high level of usage, although regular attendance by all relevant agencies can be problematical on occasion.

Two other joint projects were undertaken in 2011 by K-DASH and MDVF – the Directory of DV Services was refreshed, and the DV poster campaign was continued through the year.

The Central Kent Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC), located within Maidstone Magistrates Court, is in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of operation. It is currently only funded until March 2012. The Central Kent SDVC also has its own dedicated IDVA post; during 2010/11 the court IDVA supported to 147 clients. Between April 2011-August 2011, an additional 105 clients have been supported by the court IDVA.

During 2010-11, Kent Supporting People received 23 referrals for Maidstone residents to receive Domestic Abuse Floating Support Services. KCC Domestic Abuse Floating Support Services provide advice and guidance to anyone experiencing domestic abuse who finds that they are experiencing difficulties in the housing and everyday living situation.

In Kent 1 unit = 3 hrs of support per/wk.

In Medway 1 units = 2 hrs of support per/wk.

Nos. of clients assisted by DA Floating Support Services

	Units of Support Available	Nos of clients supported during 2010/11
Kent	302	461
Medway	30	63

Domestic Abuse Refuges

Refuges provide emergency accommodation for women fleeing from domestic abuse. Refuges provide somewhere safe for women and their children to stay and allow some time and space for the woman to think about what to do next.

Staff at refuges are specialised in dealing with domestic abuse, and can therefore give a lot of emotional and practical support, for example, advice on

benefit claims, which solicitors to use and, if necessary, how to contact the police.

A network of domestic abuse refuges exists across Kent and Medway.

1 unit = 1 bed space

Nos. of clients assisted by DA Refuges

	Units Available	Nos of clients supported during 2010/11
Kent	93	318
Medway	14	20

Additionally by February 2012, it is anticipated that another 7 unit refuge will be operational within Kent.

Countywide Issues

### ***Lack of Sustainable Funding:***

Across Kent and Medway service provision for people experiencing domestic abuse varies. Some areas have a variety of services in place, whilst others struggle to provide any specialist services. Traditionally the majority of domestic abuse services have been provided by voluntary sector agencies, with a shift occurring over the past few years from grant giving to commissioning. A significant amount of funding for domestic abuse services is secured for only 12 month periods at a time e.g. Community Safety Partnership funding. With only a few service providers managing to secure more medium/long term 3-5 years funding e.g. Supporting People Grant, Comic Relief or National Lottery Grants.

### ***Domestic Homicide Reviews***

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004), which was brought into force on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The statutory requirement for initiating and undertaking a DHR is now the responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership in which 'the victim was normally resident' or where 'the victim was last known to have frequented.'

Within Kent and Medway it has been agreed that the Kent Community Safety Partnership will fulfil this role on behalf of all local Community Safety Partnerships and also in partnership with Medway Community Safety

Partnership. Therefore we now have in place one Domestic Homicide Review Protocol for all of Kent and Medway.

To conduct a full Domestic Homicide Review, it is necessary to appoint an Independent Chair/Overview Report Writer. Whilst difficult to provide exact costs in relation to this at the current time, it is anticipated that this could be in the region of £10,000 per review, although a complicated case may cost more. This cost will now also have to be met by partners. Since the duty to conduct DHR came into force, 5 domestic homicides have occurred across Kent/Medway with 2 going forward to DHRs and 2 still to be considered by the DHR Core Group.

### ***Kent Domestic Abuse Partnership (KDAP)***

The Lean-Management event held during 2010 proposed that establishing a domestic abuse multi-agency team would improve the current fragmented and confusing domestic abuse services environment with agencies pooling their current resources and expertise at a time when funding for domestic abuse services is likely to be under increasing pressure.

A pilot KDAP project commenced at Maidstone in May 2011, where a team of skilled professionals including, IDVA, Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker, Domestic Abuse Housing Officer, Police and Domestic Abuse Health Professional, will work together to reduce domestic abuse, maximising safety and well being of those affected by domestic abuse and holding perpetrators to account.

The project will be evaluated over the coming months and if successful, over time, teams comprised of the various professionals available in each area, could be established across Kent and Medway if agencies are willing to work in this new collaborative way.

### Hotspots/comparisons with other areas

As in the previous year, the highest numbers of incidences were recorded in Thanet, Swale and Maidstone. The highest rates per 1,000 of population were recorded in Thanet. In Maidstone, 1,769 incidents were recorded (**up 48 from the previous year**). Referral rates for **floating support** services across Kent April 2010-March 2011 show 469 individuals referred (**up 28 from the previous year**), with Maidstone recording 23 referrals. This places the district in the lower range of referrals when compared to other Kent districts/boroughs (**and down 5 from the previous year**). Demand continues at strong levels across the county, and Maidstone is no exception.

## Key issues

- Some of the current refuges cannot support women with larger families or women with complex needs. In addition, within limited resources some refuges have to prioritise the needs of younger women with dependent children over those of single women.
- Data from the annual homelessness statistics (P1Es) 2010 -11 shows that across Kent 26 individuals were accepted as statutory homeless under a priority heading of 'fleeing domestic violence' (**compared to 22 such acceptances in the previous year**) with more or less half recorded in Canterbury. 1 such acceptance were recorded in Maidstone. However, women fleeing domestic abuse might be accepted as being owed a duty on other priority grounds such as being a household with dependent children. According to client records, out of 396 individuals newly accessing services 2010-11, 82 women fleeing domestic abuse had been accepted as being owed a housing duty. 9 of those women accessed the refuge in Maidstone. (An additional 86 had been identified as homeless but not being owed a duty to house.)
- Need to monitor numbers of members of Asian communities in Kent accessing refuge provision in Kent. Women from such Minority Ethnic groups experience particular difficulties in accessing support. The most significant barriers to access are language difficulties and cultural concepts such as 'shame' and 'family honour'. There has been an increase in women from Asian communities accessing refuge provision.
- There is also a need to monitor provision to women from Gypsy/traveller backgrounds that are also known to experience difficulties in fleeing domestic abuse.
- Continuing high demand for specialist floating support services
- The Supporting People Programme is in the process of bringing new refuge provision in Sevenoaks on line by April 2012. This leaves Tonbridge and Malling as the only district where such a service remains to be commissioned.
- Demand for housing-related support services is likely to increase due to the impact of the economic recession, changes in the benefit system, and general lack of affordable housing. There are going to be likely increases in substance misuse, incidences of domestic abuse and general poverty and homelessness.

Analysis of domestic abuse related data from a county-wide perspective shows that **High Street, Park Wood and Shepway North wards** were the most problematic in Maidstone. All 3 of these wards, as well as Fant, feature in the highest scoring 10% of all wards in the KCC area highlighting them as priority areas.

### 4.3 Anti-Social Behaviour

Although overall Maidstone is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the County, at ward level High Street, Park Wood and Shepway North recorded the highest volumes of ASB with 668, 253 and 230 recorded incidents respectively. Per 1000 pop, High Street ward ranks 279<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards in the KCC area and Park Wood ranks 265<sup>th</sup> with rates of 79.18 and 48.96 respectively. The KCC average is 20.84.

#### Youth Related ASB

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Kent Police recorded 147 incidents of ASB involving youths in Maidstone. High Street and Shepway South wards recorded the highest numbers of incidents with 35 and 22 respectively. By volume, High Street ward is the highest in KCC area and Shepway South ranks 275<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards in the KCC area. Despite this, Maidstone has the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest volume of youth related ASB in the KCC area.

#### Repeat ASB Venues

For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Kent Police recorded 466 repeat ASB cases. High Street ward has the third highest number of repeat cases in the KCC area with 100. Park Wood ranks 268<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards with 53 repeat cases. Maidstone has the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest volume of repeat ASB venues in the KCC area.

#### KCVS Perception Data

	Oct-Sep 10	Oct-Sep 11	Diff	Rank	Comparison to Kent	
Teenagers hanging around	20.2%	14.1%	-6.1%	6	16.5%	-2.5%
Drunk or Rowdy	11.8%	7.7%	-4.1%	5	12.1%	-4.3%
Vandalism, Graffiti etc	12.9%	10.1%	-2.8%	4	13.8%	-3.6%
Rubbish/Litter	21.2%	17.2%	-4.0%	6	19.2%	-2.0%
Noisy Neighbours	5.9%	5.4%	-0.5%	6	6.4%	-1.0%
Using/dealing drugs	9.6%	4.3%	-5.3%	<b>1</b>	11.4%	-7.1%
Abandoned/burnt out cars	3.5%	2.1%	-1.4%	8	2.3%	-0.2%
Perceived High Level of ASB	5.4%	2.2%	-3.2%	3	4.5%	-2.3%
Fly Tipping	10.3%	10.7%	0.4%	7	10.5%	0.2%
Speeding Vehicles	u/a	27.4%	u/a	5	28.0%	-0.5%

Worry About Crime	26.0%	24.0%	- 2.0%	4	28.0%	-3.9%
Overall Feelings of Safety	95.5%	95.8%	0.3%	6	94.2%	1.5%

With the exception of fly tipping, perceptions of all categories in Maidstone have improved since last year and likewise all are above the Kent average. Residents are most worried about speeding vehicles and rubbish or litter lying about. Perceptions of using or dealing drugs are the lowest in the County.

#### Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is the common term used to describe waste illegally deposited on land as described under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Local and central government narrow this term down to represent any waste dumped that is too large to be removed by a normal hand-sweeping barrow. There are no discernable "hot spots" in the Maidstone district. MBC set up an Environmental Enforcement Team to tackle on-street littering, particularly smoking related litter. The team work closely with CSU staff and Parish Councils and are able to provide local enforcement action if intelligence warrants such action.

Despite perceptions, the number of fly-tipping incidents has halved since 2005/06, which places Maidstone 5<sup>th</sup> county-wide.

## **4.4 Substance Misuse**

### Trends over time

- According to client records April 2010-March 2011 a total of 100 new clients classified as primary client group 'people with drug problems' gained access to Supporting People services **(as against 93 and 103 in the two preceding years)**. For people with alcohol problems, a total of 136 new clients classified as primary client group 'having alcohol problems' gained access to Supporting People services **(as against 121 and 137 in the two preceding years)**. The majority of individuals were provided with floating support.
- People with substance misuse problems are in general a mobile group, meaning significant numbers accessing client group specific accommodation-based services originate from out of Kent some of who first move to Kent to access rehabilitation services.
- Many individuals not moving on from residential treatment are unable to access specialist provision and instead enter provision for other groups such as single homeless people. According to client records, April 2010-March 2011 overall 31% of all people identified as primary client group 'alcohol problems' and 36% of all people with drug problems newly accessing accommodation based services originated from out of Kent with some



spending relatively short periods of time in Kent before accessing Supporting People funded services.

- Drug and alcohol problems transcend most client groups. Analysis of client record data April 2010-March 2011 shows that alcohol and drug problems are more endemic across client groups: out of a total 3,798 new clients accessing support services, 526 (14%) were identified as having alcohol problems (**up from 12.8% in 2009-10**) and 447 (11.7%) were identified as having drug problems (**similar rate in 2009-10**).
- The number of people with drugs problems accessing accommodation-based services is steadily decreasing, with 30% accessing such services April 2010-March 2011 (**as against around 50% and 62% in the previous two years**). Overall, 5 accessed services following rehabilitative care. The number of those accessing services following discharge from prison is decreasing (**from 9 in 2009-10 to 2 in 2010-2011**). 9% had slept rough immediately prior to accessing services. 24 (**24% as against 29% in 2009-10**) were receiving services under Probation or the Youth Offending Service and 35 received a drug intervention programme (**a drop of 10% from the previous year**). 8 individuals had been assessed as higher risk under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) (**as against 3 in the previous year**).
- Regarding people with alcohol problems, numbers accessing accommodation based services are also decreasing, with 72% accessing floating support services in April 2010-March 2011. 8 immediately prior to accessing services stayed in rehabilitation facilities. 13 individuals were receiving services under Probation or the Youth Offending Service. Only 8 (6%) received a drug intervention programme and 5 had been assessed as higher risk under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) (**similar to the previous year**).
- In general, there is only little by way of client group specific accommodation based resources in Kent. There is a small service in Maidstone which is part of a larger service covering Gravesham, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. Many people with substance misuse problems access accommodation-based services for single homeless people. According to client records 8 individuals newly accessed the specialist service of whom only 5 spent albeit only a short time in Maidstone before accessing the service. All accessed the service following rehabilitation. 6 individuals originating from Maidstone and identified as primary client group 'people with alcohol problems' or 'people with drug problems' accessed specialist accommodation elsewhere in the county and 2 such individuals newly accessed local provision for single homeless people. A further 13 local people newly accessing accommodation based services for single homeless people in Maidstone had substance misuse problems.
- According to the provider delivering the rough sleeper service across Kent, 20% of clients have drug problems and 27% of alcohol problems. In Maidstone, April 2010-March 2011 the rough sleeper service received 76

referrals for individuals sleeping rough at time of referral. In the first quarter of 2011-2012 (April-June) the service received 16 referrals.

#### Hotspots/comparisons with other areas

- According to provisional data published by the North West Public Health Observatory, in the first three quarters of 2010/11 there were a total of 20,565 alcohol related hospital admissions Kent (**a rise of 11% when compared with the first three quarters 2009/10**). Highest admissions rates per 100,000 of population were recorded in Thanet, Canterbury and Gravesham. The rate of admissions in Maidstone rose by **7%** when compared to the same period in the previous year.
- According to latest data from the Office for National Statistics, the highest levels of alcohol-attributable deaths per 100,000 population in Kent amongst males in 2009-10 were recorded in Thanet, Gravesham and Swale. Amongst females the highest rates were recorded in Thanet and Shepway. Maidstone had the third lowest rate for males but one of the higher rates for females in Kent when compared to other districts/boroughs.
- According to the Kent Drug and Alcohol Team, in 2009-10 there were 211 problem drug users in treatment in Maidstone. The highest numbers were shown to live in Thanet and Swale and lowest numbers in Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and Malling.
- According to the Kent Drug and Alcohol Team, in 2009-10 there were 40 clients aged over 18 with an indication of dual diagnosis in structured treatment in Maidstone. This is the third highest number when comparing with other Kent districts/boroughs.
- April 2010-March 2011, 169 people who were identified as primary client group 'people with drug problems' (**22% fall from the previous year**) and 185 people who were identified as primary client group 'people with alcohol problems' (**an increase of 11% from the previous year**) were referred for **floating support**. A referral rate of altogether 36 individuals in Maidstone (**as against 36 in the previous year**) puts the district in the higher range of referrals across the county; highest referral rates were recorded in Gravesham and Thanet.

#### Drivers/Reasons

- In Kent, the estimated problem drug using population aged 15-64 is around 4,606 individuals. The figure for Problematic Drug users accessing structured treatment in 2009-10 was 2,489 the largest numbers of who lived in Thanet and Swale.
- Total Kent population aged 18-64 predicted to be dependent on illicit drugs in 2010 was 32,098.
- According to the 'Mental Health Policy Implementation Guide: Dual Diagnosis Good Practice Guide', Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) typically reports that 8-15% of people on their caseload are likely to have mental

health and substance abuse (dual diagnosis). In 2010-11 (to the end of October) 500 Maidstone service users were registered as dual diagnosis clients.

- According to East Kent Coastal PCT, a GP in Thanet carried out a manual trawl of records of individuals living in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in deprived areas and people not living in such housing: People in HMOs had disproportionately high levels of drug, alcohol, mental health problems.

Home Office data indicates that:

- 7.4% of the population is alcohol dependant. In Kent, this indicates around 60,000 people aged 15-65.

According to the Drug Strategy 2010:

- Around 400,000 benefit claimants (8% of all working age claimants) in England are dependent on drugs or alcohol

Research indicates that:

- Alcohol dependence is an important cause of homelessness, which exacerbates the health and social problems associated with alcohol. Up to 50% of rough sleepers are dependent on alcohol. For single homeless people, the figure is 33%.
- There is generally a high overlap between drug and alcohol users and also a high level of overlap between both drug and alcohol users and other groups such as those with mental health problems, offenders, rough sleepers and single homeless. As many as two thirds of those with known substance misuse problems also have a mental health problem.

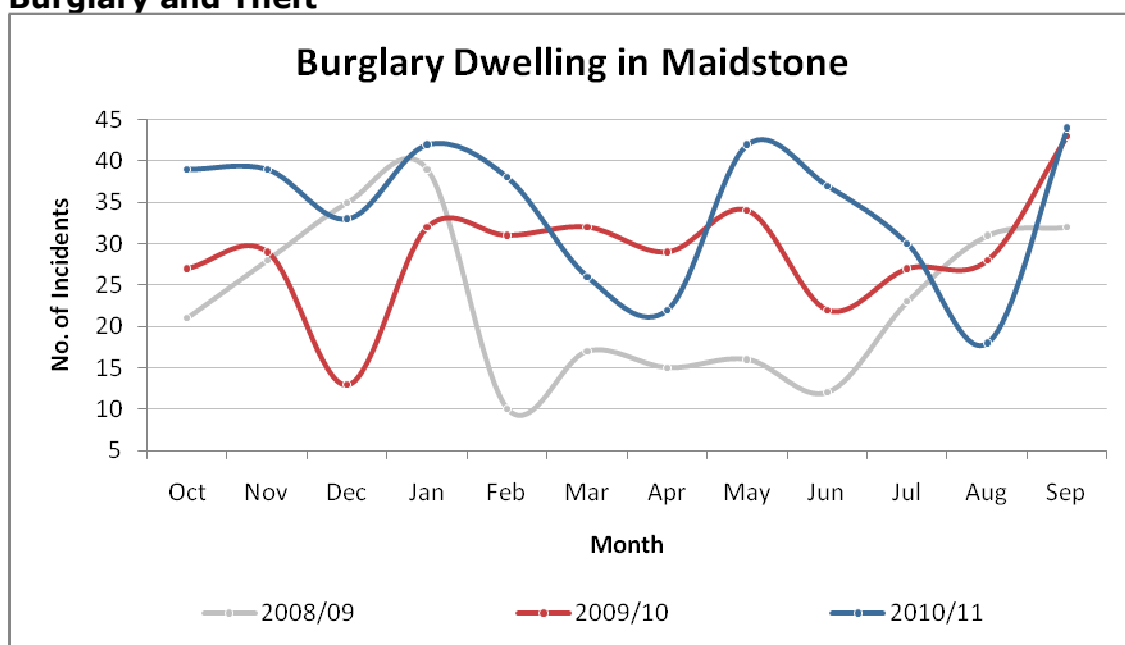
#### Key issues

- There has been a change in policy context, with the Coalition Government introducing a new drug strategy <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/alcohol-drugs/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010?view=Binary> with a focus on freedom from dependence on drugs or alcohol with an emphasis on recovery and a more holistic approach.
- According to the Kent Drug and Alcohol Team, 5,478 Kent residents with either alcohol or drug problems accessed structured treatment in 2010-11. Of those, at time of treatment start 308 (6%) were classed as having no fixed abode and 495 (9%) had housing problems, i.e. were in unstable accommodation.
- Of those identified as having housing problems, the highest numbers were recorded in Thanet, Canterbury and Dover. When looking at those individuals as percentages of those accessing treatment, the highest percentages are recorded in Tunbridge Wells, Gravesham and Dover. In Maidstone 34 individuals were recorded as having housing problems.

- Of those classed as being of no fixed abode, highest numbers were recorded in Canterbury and Thanet. When looking at those individuals as percentages of those accessing treatment, highest percentages were recorded in Dartford, Shepway, and Gravesham. In Maidstone 36 were recorded as having no fixed abode.
- People with drug or alcohol problems are two of the client groups least likely to be accepted as statutorily homeless: according to client records, out of 100 new clients with drug problems newly accessing services 2 had been accepted as being owed a homeless duty but another 23 had been identified by providers as being homeless. 2 people with alcohol problems had been accepted as statutorily homeless and being owed a duty but providers identified another 22 as being homeless. Data from the quarterly homelessness statistics (P1Es) for 2010-11 shows in that period in Kent only 2 individuals were accepted as being owed a main homelessness duty because of alcohol or drug dependency. No such acceptance was recorded in Maidstone.
- Potential low levels of awareness among Minority Ethnic communities about support services. In addition, members of such communities may be reluctant to access mainstream services because of a perceived stigma.
- Supporting People has identified a gap in accommodation-based provision specifically for people with dual diagnosis in east Kent and a gap in accommodation-based provision for people with alcohol problems in west Kent.
- Demand for housing-related support services is likely to increase due to the impact of the economic recession, changes in the benefit system, and general lack of affordable housing. There are going to be likely increases in substance misuse, incidences of domestic abuse and general poverty and homelessness.

Analysis of substance misuse related data from a county-wide perspective shows that High Street, Park Wood and Shepway North wards were the most problematic (highest scoring) in Maidstone. High Street ward is the 13<sup>th</sup> highest scoring ward in the KCC area highlighting it as a priority area.

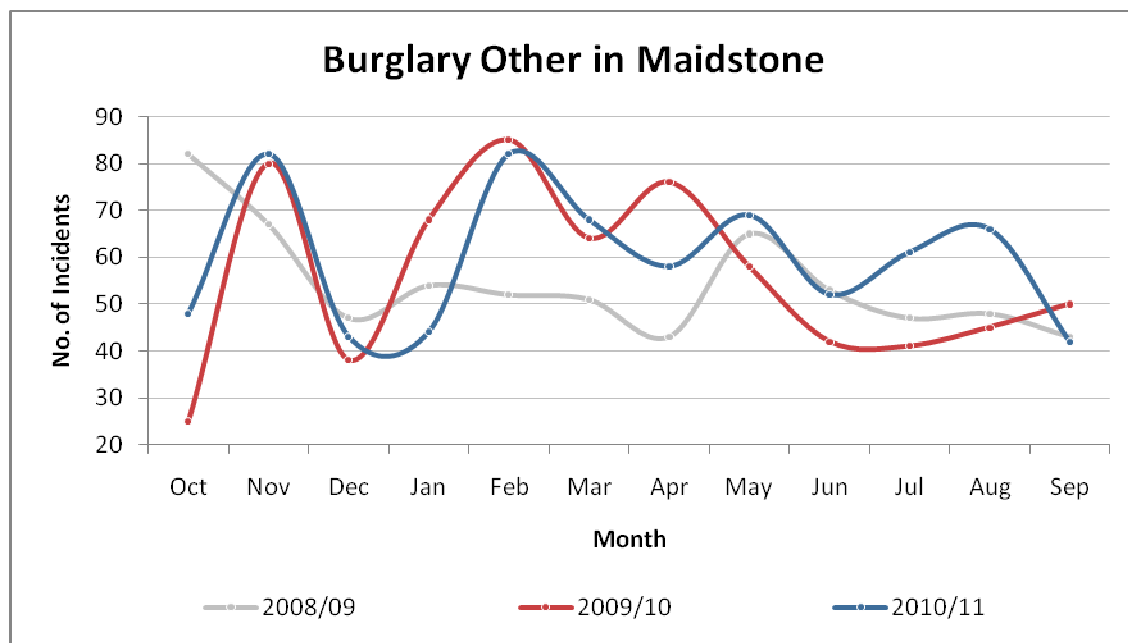
#### 4.5 Burglary and Theft



Burglary dwelling has increased by 63 (18.2%), from 347 to 410. This rate of increase is against a County reduction of 13.8% although Maidstone has the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest volume of domestic burglaries in Kent. As the graph shows, levels of burglary dwelling have been consistently higher than the previous 2 years and trend suggests that burglary dwelling will continue to increase moving in to next year. Although Maidstone has the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest volume of dwelling burglaries in the County, intelligence suggests it is usually carried out by persons operating in their own locality, and is linked to drug use and ASB.

At ward level, High Street, Fant and East have the highest volume of domestic burglaries in Maidstone. However, per 1000 households Park Wood has the highest rates in Maidstone with a figure of 14.21. This ranks it 267<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards in the KCC area. The KCC average is 6.68.

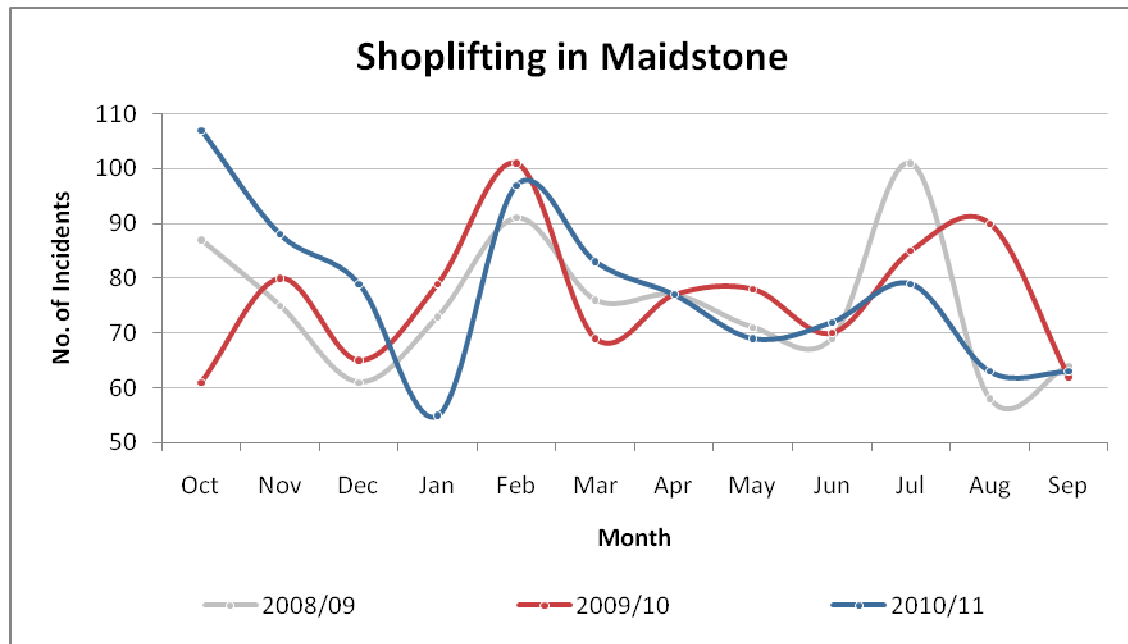
### Burglary Other Than Dwelling (BOTD)



Burglary other than dwelling offences have increased by 43 (6.4%), from 672 to 715. This increase is against a County reduction of 5.8% and Maidstone has the 11<sup>th</sup> lowest volume in Kent. The graph shows that BOTD offences are generally higher during the late autumn and late winter and trend suggests that BOTD is likely to rise moving into next year. Per 1000 pop, Maidstone ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the County and 10<sup>th</sup> in its MSG.

At ward level, East, High Street and Marden and Yalding have the highest volumes of non domestic burglaries in Maidstone. However per 1000 pop, North Downs ward has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate in the KCC area with a figure of 16.37. The KCC average is 4.06.

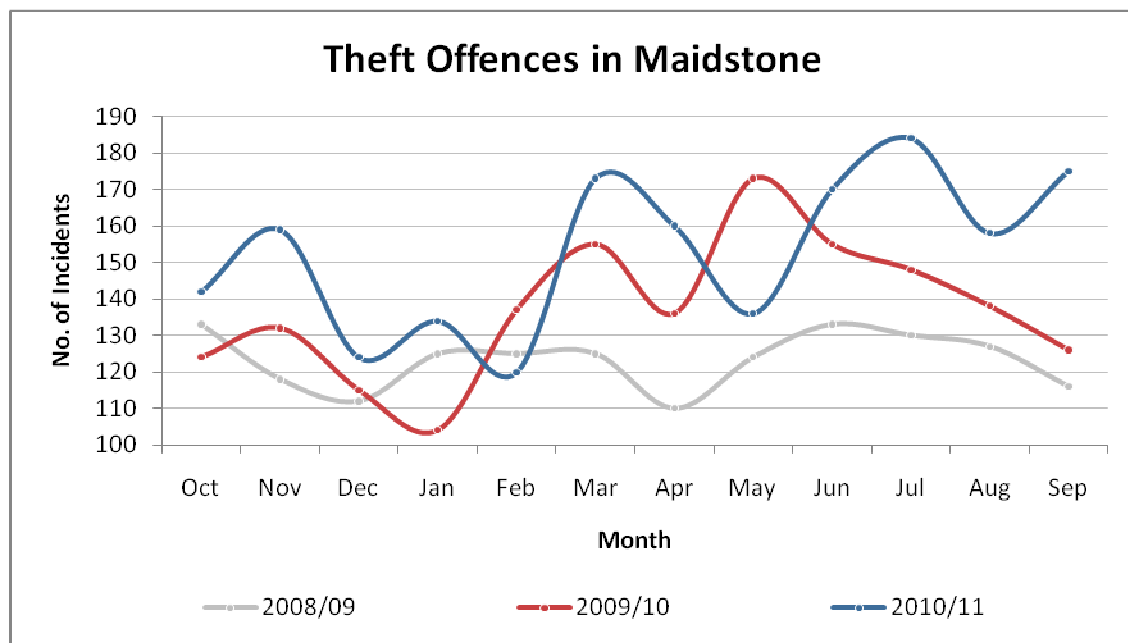
## Shoplifting



Shoplifting has increased slightly by 15 (1.6%), from 917 to 932. This rate of increase is against a County reduction of 3.2% and Maidstone has the 11<sup>th</sup> lowest volume in Kent. Shoplifting accounts for 32.1% of theft and handling stolen goods offences and 10.0% of all recorded crime in Maidstone. The graph shows that levels of shoplifting are consistent with previous years with the exception of a large spike in October 2010. Trend suggests that shoplifting will remain at similar levels moving into next year. Per 1000 pop, Maidstone ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the County.

At ward level, High Street accounted for 555 shoplifting offences in Maidstone. Per 1000 pop, the same ward had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate in the KCC area with a figure of 65.79. Bridge ward ranked 270<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards with a rate of 25.80. The KCC average is 5.66.

## Theft Offences



Theft offences have increased by 192 (11.7%), from 1643 to 1835. This rate of increase is consistent with the County increase of 10% but only Medway has more theft offences in Kent. Theft offences account for 63.2% of theft and handling stolen goods offences and 19.6% of all recorded crime in Maidstone. The graph shows that theft offences tend to be higher during the summer months and trend suggests a continuing increase moving forward into next year. Per 1000 pop, Maidstone ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the County.

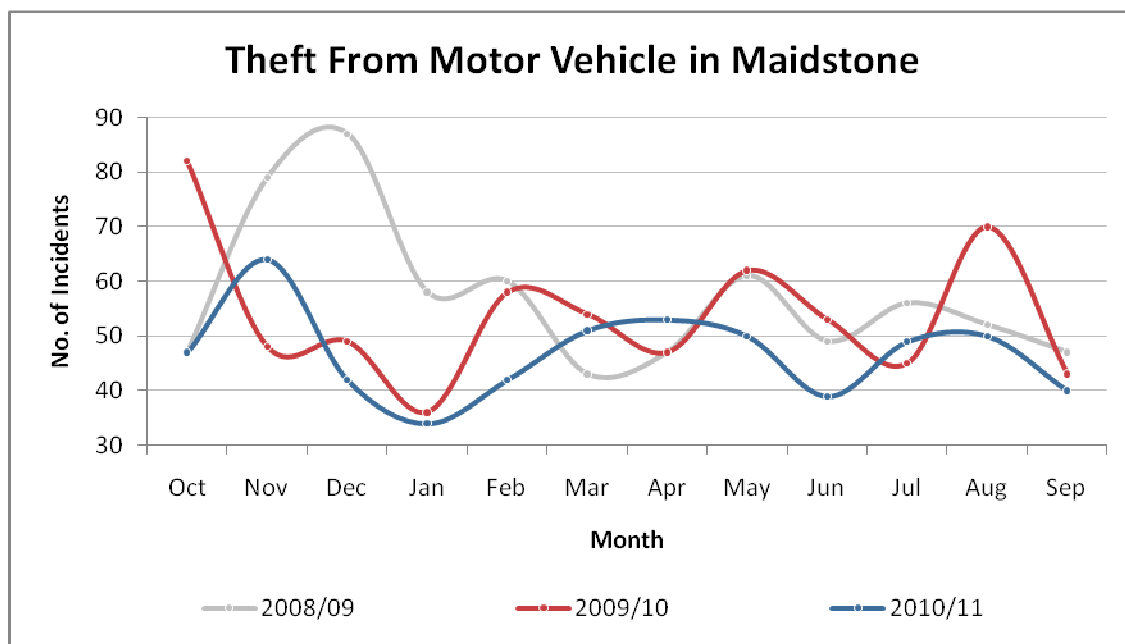
At ward level, High Street accounts for 412 theft offences in Maidstone. Per 1000 pop, the same ward has the third highest rate in the KCC area with a figure of 48.84. North Downs ward ranks 278<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards in the KCC area with a rate of 32.34. The KCC average is 10.44.

Thefts of pedal cycles have increased by 10 (7.9%), from 126 to 136. This increase is against a slight County reduction of 0.4% and Maidstone has the 9<sup>th</sup> lowest volume in Kent. The graph shows that levels of pedal cycle thefts are generally higher during the summer. Trend suggests that theft of pedal cycles will increase slightly moving into next year. Per 1000 pop, Maidstone ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 13 in the County.

At ward level, High Street and Fant have the highest volumes of pedal cycle thefts in Maidstone, accounting for 65 offences. Per 1000 pop, High Street. The KCC average is 1.12.

## 4.6 Vehicle Crime

### Theft from a Motor Vehicle



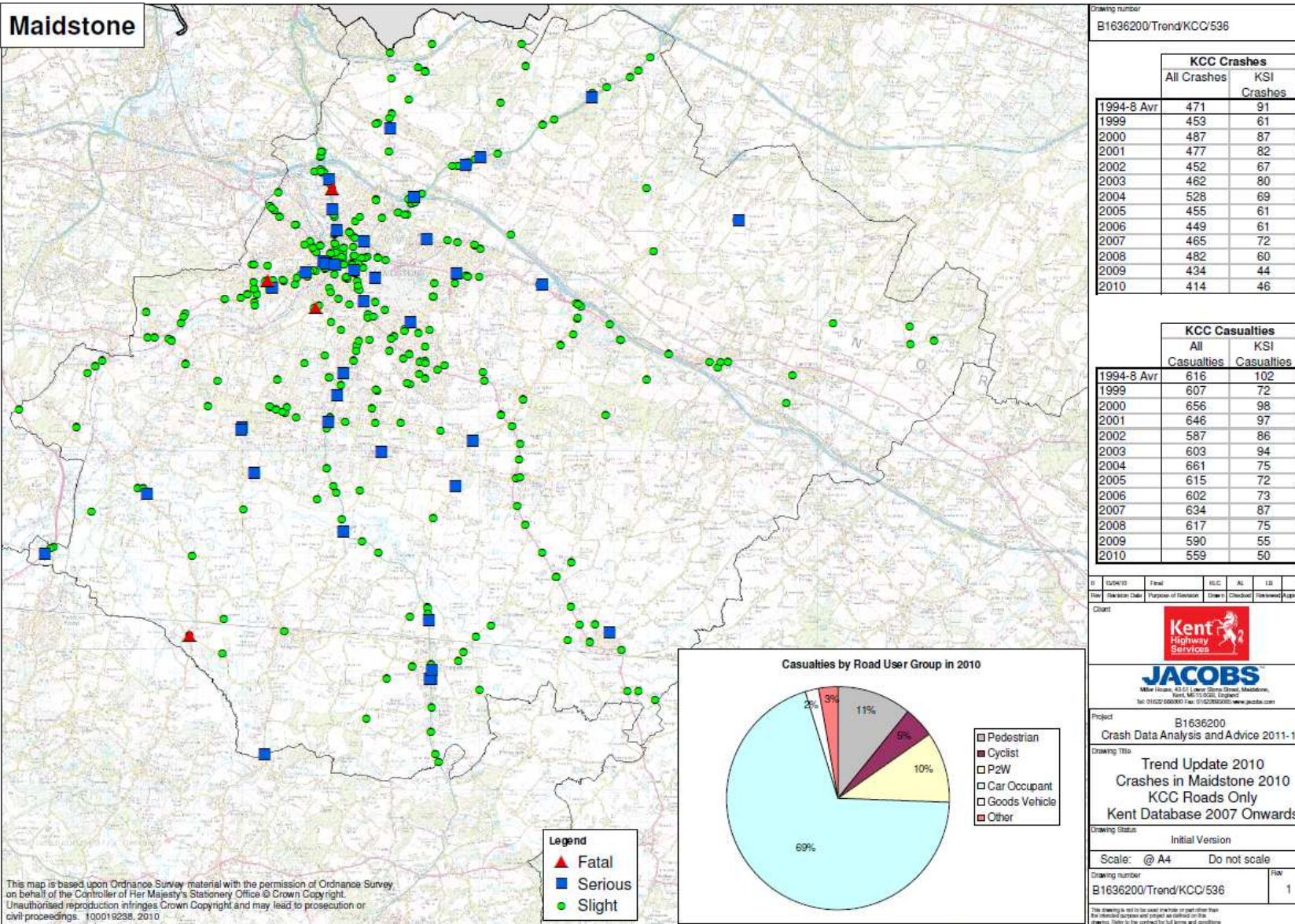
Theft from motor vehicle offences have decreased by 86 (-13.3%), from 647 to 561. This rate of decrease is in line with the County reduction of 10.1% but Maidstone has the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest volume in Kent. The graph shows that levels have become more consistent, tending to stay between 40 and 50 offences per month. Trends suggest that levels of thefts from motor vehicles will most likely decrease slightly moving into next year. Per 1000 pop, Maidstone ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the County and 12<sup>th</sup> in its MSG.

At ward level, High Street, Boxley and North have the highest volumes of thefts from motor vehicles. However per 1000 pop, it is North Downs ward that has the highest rate in Maidstone at 9.41 which ranks 279<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards in the KCC area. The KCC average is 3.79.



# 4.7 Road Safety

## Crash Map





### Killed & Seriously Injured (KSI) Casualties by Month for Maidstone District

Maidstone KSI Casualties including Motorway & Trunk Roads	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2007	8	10	7	7	14	7	2	14	5	10	5	8	97
2008	9	3	5	3	10	10	9	13	5	5	9	8	89
2009	4	6	10	6	2	8	8	7	6	2	2	3	64
<b>07 - 09 Avr</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>83</b>
2010	4	6	5	4	2	7	4	6	8	1	4	7	58
<b>08-10 Maid Avr</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>08-10 All District Avr</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>50</b>

Maidstone KSI Casualties excluding Motorway & Trunk Roads	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2007	5	10	3	7	14	7	2	14	5	8	4	8	87
2008	8	3	4	3	9	7	8	11	5	5	7	5	75
2009	4	5	8	5	1	6	7	7	6	2	2	2	55
<b>07 - 09 Avr</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>72</b>
2010	4	6	4	4	1	6	4	5	7	1	4	4	50
<b>08-10 Maid Avr</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>08-10 All District Avr</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>41</b>

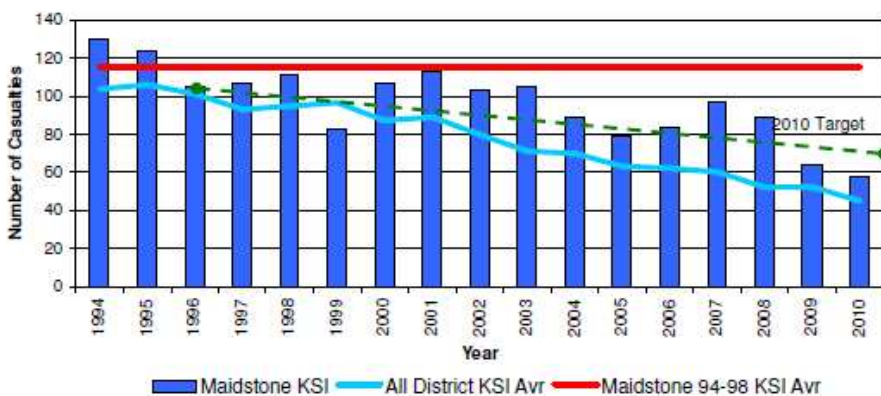
KSI Casualties for Maidstone District inc. Motorway & Trunk Roads



KSI Casualties for Maidstone District exc. Motorway & Trunk Roads



Maidstone KSI Casualties on Kent's Roads by Year



Kent KSI Casualties

Maidstone District	Target	Actual
94-98 Average		115.4
2010 40% reduction	69.24	
2010 45% reduction	66.22	
Annual Average based on 2007-2009*		83
Annual Average based on 36 months 2008-2010*		70
% Change between 3yr Avrs*		-16%
2010 Total		58

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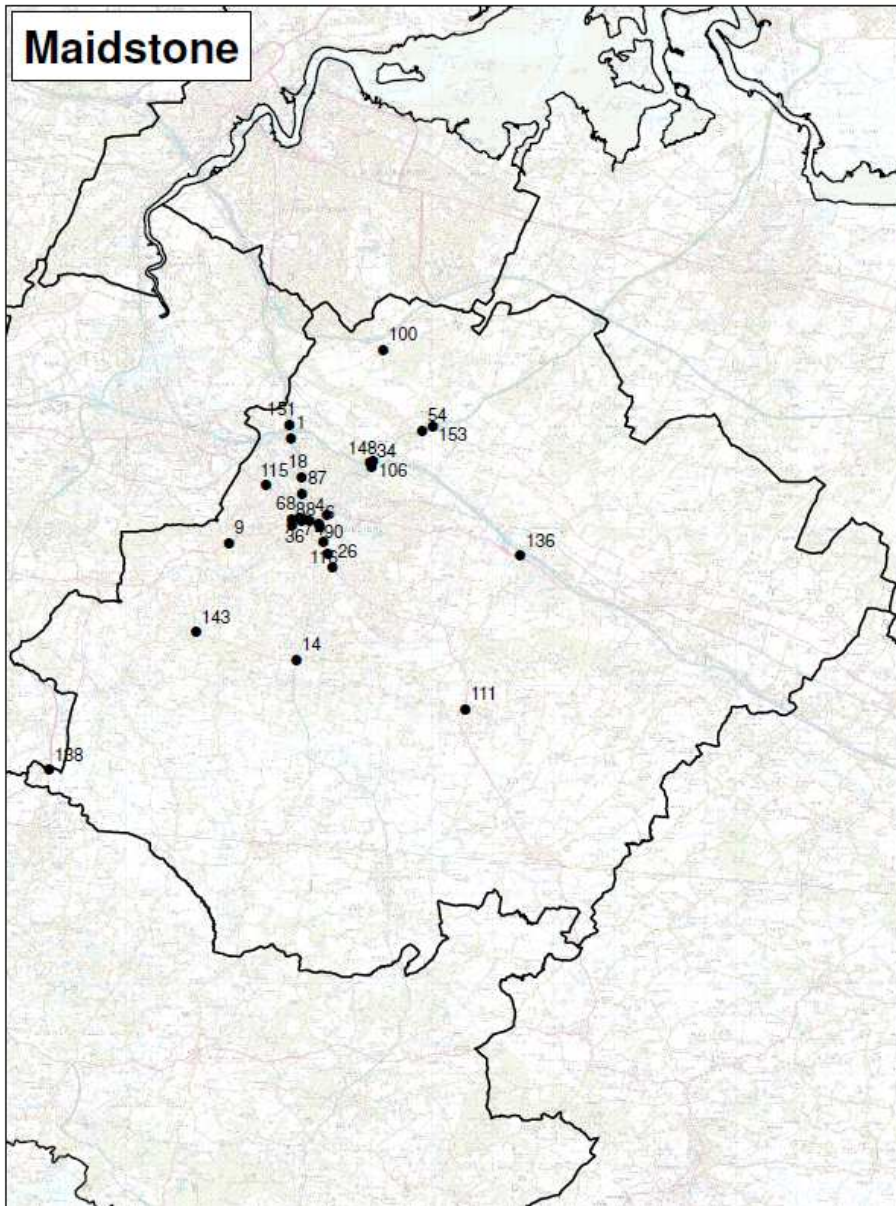
\*People Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) in road traffic crashes (includes crashes on Motorways and Trunk Roads). The percentage change in the number of people killed or seriously injured from one year to the next, using a 3 year rolling average.

Note:

2010 figures show a 50% decrease in KSI casualties compared to the 1994-98 average



## Casualty Remedial Measures



## Casualty Remedial Measures – Outcomes 2010

Casualty Remedial Measures (CRMs) are implemented based on the annual cluster site analysis package which is carried out to identify clusters of crashes on the KCC road network (excluding Medway and Highways Agency roads). The initial criteria is for 6 crashes in urban areas or 4 in rural areas within a minimum 50m radius. These results are then sent to the Safety Critical Schemes Team for further analysis. The table and map below shows last years cluster sites with the action taken.

The district recorded 32 cluster sites which are listed below and plotted on the adjacent map.

At the time of publication no information on actions taken had been received for Maidstone.

No.	Road	Location
2	A229	RUNNING HORSE ROUNDABOUT
5	A229	MILL STREET/PALACE AVENUE, MAIDSTONE
6	A229	ROYAL ENGINEERS ROAD, ROUNDABOUT
8	A20	A20 BROADWAY NORTH OF ST PETERS STREET, MAIDSTONE
11	A20	A20 ASHFORD ROAD / KINGS STREET, MAIDSTONE
20	A26	A26, MAIDSTONE JUNCTION WITH TONBRIDGE
22	A249	A249 JUNCTION 7 WITH M20, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE
23	A26	FOUNTAIN LANE AT J/W TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE
25	A229	UPPER STONE STREET- 2 MTRS FROM FOSTER STREET, MAIDSTONE
30	A229	LOOSE ROAD J/W ARMSTRONG ROAD, MAIDSTONE,
34	A229	LINTON HILL / HEATH ROAD MAIDSTONE KENT
35	A20	ST PETERS BRIDGE J/W FAIRMEADOW, MAIDSTONE
54	A229	SHEAL'S CRESENT / LOOSE ROAD MAIDSTONE
58	A26	TONBRIDGE ROAD J/W BOWER MOUNT ROAD
62	A229	FAIRMEADOW J/W STACEY STREET, MAIDSTONE
73	C97	LIDSING ROAD AT J/W YELSTED LANE MAIDSTONE
90	A20	PENFOLD HILL J/W A20, LEEDS
96	A274	A274 SUTTON ROAD 20M SOUTH WEST OF MANGRAVET AVENUE
98	A229	A229 HIGH STREET J/W STAPLEHURST
99	A228	B2160, MAIDSTONE ROAD, TONBRIDGE
101	A20	BROADWAY (RIVERBAR) 20M SOUTH OF BARKER ROAD, MAIDSTONE
102	A229	A229 FAIRMEADOW J/W ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE
111	A229	A229 PALACE AVENUE J/W LOWER STONE STREET
119	A26	A26 TONBRIDGE ROAD, BARMING, MAIDSTONE
127	A20	A20, GREAT DANES HOTEL, MAIDSTONE
137	A249	A249, DETLING HILL, DETLING, MAIDSTONE
142	A20	LONDON ROAD J/W ROCKY HILL, MAIDSTONE
146	A249	A249 STOCK BURY, HILLSIDE FARM
160	A249	A249, DETLING HILL, MAIDSTONE
172	A249	A249 J/W M20 BOXLEY
176	C68	MARDEN ROAD, STAPLEHURST, MAIDSTONE
180	F0341	PESTED BARS ROAD BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA MAIDSTONE

### Road Safety summary

Maidstone recorded the highest number of casualties in 2010 (649) although this has reduced from 726 in 2008. The number of KSI casualties have reduced at an even greater rate over the last 3 years from 89 in 2008 to 59 in 2010.

Car user casualties on KCC roads only (388 in 2010) account for the largest proportion in Maidstone – 69%; however there were more motor-cycle KSIs (20) than car user KSIs (16) on KCC roads in the District in 2010. This fact is a result of car user KSIs in Maidstone reducing from 38 in 2008 to 16 in 2010, whereas motor-cycle KSIs have increased marginally from 16 to 20 over the same time period. It should be noted that there are a higher number of car user KSIs compared to motor-cycle KSIs on the HA network in Maidstone.

Maidstone has again recorded the highest number of 17 to 24 year old car driver casualties (71) on KCC roads however Canterbury recorded more 17-24 year old casualties (any road user) overall in 2010 with 151. In 2010 Maidstone recorded zero child pedestrian KSI casualties and amongst the lowest number of child pedestrian slight casualties (14).

## 5. Initial Findings

### 5.1 The SMP Priorities for 2008-2011 were:

- 1. Reduce Crime in line with Kent Area Agreement 2 (KAA2) Targets -**  
To work with partners to reduce crime and disorder, with an emphasis on domestic abuse, criminal damage and alcohol related disorder in the night time economy;
- 2. Reduce the Fear of Crime –** By engaging with communities and promoting public confidence through publicity of the true picture of Maidstone as a safe place;
- 3. Anti-Social Behaviour –** To reduce all aspects of anti-social behaviour: Each statutory agency having ownership of one category of anti-social behaviour;
- 4. Reduce Harm done by Alcohol and Drugs –** By further developing the three strands of education, intervention and enforcement, particularly in relation to binge drinking and the night time economy;
- 5. Young People –** To reduce the number of young people being victimised or involved in criminal behaviour. To continue to work with partners, including Children’s Trusts to promote methods of diverting vulnerable young people away from crime and disorder. In addition, to work with partners to ensure that opportunities for sport and leisure are also promoted as a method of crime diversion.

### 5.2 SMP Priorities for 2012-2013:

Based on the Strategic Assessment, the SMP established its new priorities based on the areas where maximum impact could be achieved with an anticipated reduction in resources and capacity. Our revised priorities for this year have been distilled from a wide variety of information shared with our partners and represent the most important issues to focus on this year.

**Priority actions to make communities safer in 2012/13 are confirmed**

- as:**
1. Anti-social behaviour
  2. Domestic Abuse
  3. Substance Misuse
  4. Road Safety - Persons Killed or Seriously Injured
  5. Reducing Re-offending

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

### **5.3 Looking Forward – Future Challenges**

Although the UK economy is no longer contracting at the rate seen in 2008/9, most economic indicators remain flat. This is reflected in the local economy which remains sluggish. Maidstone's unemployment rate (2.3%) is lower than the county average (2.8%) and much lower than the national rate (3.5%<sup>5</sup>). Unemployment rates vary across the borough, with lowest in Bearsted ward and highest Park Wood ward. The majority (28%) of those unemployed are aged 18-24, and this group is most likely to exhibit risky behaviour in terms of alcohol, drugs, vehicle crime and other related anti-social behaviour. The effects of continuing economic hardship could result in increased prevalence of these crime categories.

Maidstone has the largest night time economy in Kent and prides itself on ensuring that visitors to the town's entertainment venues are as safe as possible. The Government has proposed a Night Time Levy to relevant businesses and there will be a continuing need to tackle alcohol related incidents, including revellers arriving in the town centre already drunk.

The two major sporting events in 2012 – the football European Championships and the Olympics – will undoubtedly see increased rates of alcohol-related crime and domestic abuse.

Young drivers (17-24yrs) are particularly at risk of death/serious injury and education and publicity at Christmas and in the summer will be needed.

### **5.4 Terrorism – 'Prevent'**

'Prevent' is about stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremists. There five elements:

1. Challenging violent extremist ideology and supporting mainstream voices;
2. Disrupting those who promote violent extremism and supporting the institutions where they are active;
3. Supporting individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism;
4. Increasing the resilience of communities to violent extremism;

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<sup>5</sup> Unemployment rate as at September 2010, Office for National Statistics

## 5. Addressing the grievances that ideologues are exploiting.

The current international terrorist threat is quite different from previous threats, with contemporary terrorists groups claiming a religious justification for their actions. They seek mass casualties and are both sophisticated and unconventional in their techniques: they do not provide warnings and seek out soft targets, in particular crowded places.

The responsibility for preventing violent extremism and supporting those individuals and communities who may be vulnerable rests with us all, including partners and communities. The threat is very real and will be around for a number of years, but despite the threat, the Police must be proportionate and measured in their response. Delivering an effective Prevent programme requires action by a range of agencies, front line workers and, in particular, neighbourhood policing teams who come into contact with communities and vulnerable individuals.

## **6. In-Depth Analysis: Progress on Current Priorities**

### **6.1 Anti-social behaviour**

Although the evidence shows that overall Maidstone is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the County, at ward level High Street, Park Wood and Shepway North recorded the highest volumes of ASB with 668, 253 and 230 recorded incidents respectively. These volumes mean that High Street ward ranks 279<sup>th</sup> out of 283 wards in the KCC area and Park Wood ranks 265<sup>th</sup> with rates per 1,000 pop of 79.18 and 48.96 respectively, when the KCC average is 20.84.

In terms of public perception, the relatively highly concentrated nature of ASB in Maidstone means that overall the borough performs well compared with the rest of Kent. Despite the large night time economy (NTE), public perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour or teenagers hanging about are well below Kent average levels.

Given the position of Maidstone as the County town with the counties largest NTE, and the concentration of most ASB away from the town centre, there is a need to support both town centre safe socialising and more focussed work in specific locations.

The ASB Sub-Group has:

- Hosted the weekly SMP Partnership Tasking and Action Group meeting (including MBC and Kent Police ASB teams, PCSOs, KCC Wardens, Kenward Trust, and Registered Providers etc.) to identify cases and hot-spots and promote joint working.
- Supported the work of the SMP ASB sub-group and 'Prevent and Deter' to ensure early intervention for young people.
- Supported a harm-based approach to managing ASB by prioritising victims of ASB using risk identification and assessment as a key part of the response process.
- Supported the SMP Communication Plan to ensure that an accurate and balanced view is given on community safety and ASB.
- Promoted schemes that identify and work with vulnerable children who may become involved in ASB.
- Ensured Section 106 contributions are secured to ensure appropriate crime prevention measures are considered at the earlier stage of the design process in order to prevent ASB and crime.
- Produced a Noise Information leaflet
- Developed and promoted Youth Diversionary Activity:  
Community football



Community boxing  
Switch on the Move  
In the Stone website  
Zeroth Gym  
Hotfoot play schemes  
DMax sports schemes

## 6.2 Domestic Abuse

Evidence shows that DA in Maidstone **Domestic Abuse** has increased (by 144 (8.5%), from 1,698 to 1,842), which places Maidstone 6<sup>th</sup> in the County. Given the underreported nature of domestic abuse, this is an area that should remain a focus for the Partnership, particularly given the major sporting events in the summer 2012. Based on the patterns of DA seen in previous years we can expect a peak in July this year. Kent Police data shows that High Street, Park Wood and Fant wards are potential hotspots for domestic violence ranking 281<sup>st</sup>, 278<sup>th</sup> and 266<sup>th</sup> respectively out of the 283 wards in the KCC area.

The DA Sub-Group has:

- Worked with the Maidstone Domestic Violence Forum in raising awareness and increase reporting.
- Worked with the main social housing providers to increase awareness of DA issues
- Supported the establishment of a DA One-Stop Shop to ensure all services are available under one roof.
- Supported the Specialist Domestic Violence Court and the work of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.
- Delivered domestic abuse prevention training to primary and secondary schools, through the Rising Sun project 'Love Shouldn't Hurt' programme.
- Delivered – through the Maidstone DV Forum - a poster publicity campaign
- Delivered - through the Maidstone DV Forum - training for DA practitioners
- Refreshed the Domestic Violence Handbook.

## 6.3 Substance Misuse

Although the public perception of drugs and misuse is low in Maidstone, the evidence suggests that

The ASB Sub-Group has:

- Directed operations and supervision (to be undertaken by police and MBC Licensing Officers) to ensure that premises are well run.
- Worked with licence holders through the Night-time Economy Forum and

other direct liaison

- Promoted Maidstone as a safe place to visit for leisure and entertainment.
- Worked with local schools and hospitals to develop initiatives – such as 'Wasted' - aimed at raising young people's awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol through the SMP Substance Misuse Sub-Group.
- Produced a Directory of Substance Misuse, in hard copy and web forms.
- Developed a multi-agency weekly street outreach to address drug litter, illegal/counterfeit goods and street sex workers.

#### **6.4 Road Safety - Persons Killed and Seriously Injured**

Evidence shows that road safety has improved on Maidstone's road over the last 10 years. However, young drivers in the 17-24 age group have a disproportionate number of RTC's, and the collisions they have are more serious.

The Road Safety Sub-Group has:

- Proactively targeted young drivers and drivers of two-wheeled vehicles.
- Promoted focussed campaigns on discouraging drink driving and using mobile phones.
- Worked with the hospitals, A&E, Primary Care Trust and GPs to improve data collection.
- Engaged with the business community (which often includes young drivers).
- Developed a joint communications and community engagement strategy with partners.
- Supported KFRS to promote their demonstration/learning events:
  - Car'n'Age
  - Carmageddon
  - Rush
  - Jack & Jill
  - Licence to Kill

## 7. In-Depth Analysis: Emerging Priorities and Current Partnership Activity that Addresses these Priorities

### 7.1 The impact of the recession

Although the UK economy is no longer contracting at the rate seen in 2008/9, most economic indicators remain flat. This is reflected in the local economy which remains sluggish. Maidstone's unemployment rate (2.4%) is lower than the county average (2.9%) and much lower than the national rate (3.6%) – see table below. Unemployment rates vary across the borough, with lowest in Bearsted ward and highest Park Wood ward. The majority (28%) of those unemployed are aged 18-24, and this group is most likely to exhibit risky behaviour in terms of alcohol, drugs and vehicle crime and other related anti-social behaviour.

Worklessness - People aged 16-64						
	Maidstone		KCC Area		Great Britain	
May 2011	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Out of work benefits</b>	<b>8,240</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>92,680</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>4,746,910</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
Jobseekers	2,260	2.4%	25,940	2.9%	1,403,910	3.6%
Those claiming incapacity benefits	4,380	4.6%	49,510	5.5%	2,560,470	6.5%
Lone parents	1,240	1.3%	13,110	1.5%	595,370	1.5%
Others on income related benefits	350	0.4%	4,110	0.5%	187,160	0.5%

The effects of continuing economic hardship could result in increased prevalence of the following two crime categories:

**Metal theft** – The Safer Maidstone Partnership will monitor levels of metal theft in their localities devising plans, if necessary, to tackle any further increases.

### 7.2 Our Night Time Economy

Maidstone has the largest night time economy in Kent and prides itself on ensuring that visitors to the town's entertainment venues are as safe as possible. The Government has proposed a Night Time Levy to relevant businesses and there will be a continuing need to tackle alcohol related incidents, including revellers arriving in the town centre already drunk.

### **7.3 Plan for and Effectively Police Major Events in Maidstone and Prepare for the 2012 Olympics**

The two major sporting events in 2012 – the football European Championships and the Olympics and Paralympics – will undoubtedly see increased rates on alcohol related crime and domestic abuse. In addition, as part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Maidstone will welcome the Olympic Torch to Leeds Castle on 19 July 2012.

The Safer Maidstone Partnership will work in partnership with emergency services, district councils, other police forces, businesses and the community to ensure security planning is consistent across all agencies.

Prioritising the Olympic year will also assist the Safer Maidstone Partnership to keep the Prevent initiative high on colleagues and the public agendas.

## 8. Implementation and Monitoring

### **Partnership performance management arrangements:**

To ensure that the five Priorities are delivered, the Partnership will review and monitor progress as follows:

- At Locality Board level through SMP Chair reports;
- At SMP level through Sub-group Chair reports;
- At Sub-group level through Action Plan monitoring;
- Performance data is published regularly on the dedicated Maidstone Locality Board website [www.maidstonematters.org.uk](http://www.maidstonematters.org.uk)

## 9. Strategic Assessment Review Date

This document will be reviewed annually. It will use information gathered from partners and analysed by Kent CSU for the period October-September each year. This document will be independently assessed by Kent CSU and agreed by the Safer Maidstone Partnership in March each year.

Recent Government legislation has introduced elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Elections will take place on 15 November 2012, and Police Authorities will hand over to PCCs on 22 November 2012.

### **PCC's will determine:**

- The policing strategy for an area
- The force budget
- Set up the local tax precept (police element)
- Appoint - and if necessary dismiss - the Chief Constable

PCC's apply to every police force (apart from the Metropolitan Police) and will have to produce a five year Police and Crime Plan, but this will address wider issues than just the police role in tackling crime. PCC's have a duty to cooperate with the broader Criminal Justice System, but are not a responsible authority on a Community Safety Partnership. PCC's will be scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel (PCP). The PCP will scrutinise the actions of the commissioner, but not the Police Force.

For the present all community safety partnerships will be required to undertake an annual Strategic Assessment. However, the PCC may require a county-wide rationalisation of Strategic Assessments at a later date.

## 10. Glossary

Although many of these terms may not be specifically discussed in this Assessment, the following table of abbreviations are in common usage in policing and community safety.

ABA	Acceptable Behaviour Agreement
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ASBO	Anti-Social Behaviour Order
CDAP	Community Perpetrator Programme
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CST	Central Support Team
CSU	Community Safety Unit
DA	Domestic Abuse
DV	Domestic Violence
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Adviser
JFMO	Joint Family Management Officer
KCC	Kent County Council
KCVS	Kent Crime and Victimisation Survey
KDAAT	Kent Drugs and Alcohol Action Team
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NDTMS	National Drug Treatment Monitoring System
NEET	(Children) Not in Education, Employment or Training
NTE	Night Time Economy
PACT	Partners and Communities Together
PCSO	Police Community Safety Officer
PDU	Problematic Drug User
PPO	Prolific Priority Offender
RTC	Road Traffic Collision
SMP	Safer Maidstone Partnership
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
VATP	Violence Against the Person
WSS	Women's Support Service
YOS	Youth Offending Service

## 11. How to get further information

If you would like further information about the Safer Maidstone Partnership, please contact:

Community Partnerships Unit  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Maidstone House  
King Street  
Maidstone  
Kent, ME15 6JQ  
Tel: 01622 602000

[www.maidstone.org.uk](http://www.maidstone.org.uk)

## 12. Acknowledgement

This Partnership Strategic Assessment has been developed in the spirit of true partnership with a wide range of organisations and individuals. The Safer Maidstone Partnership wishes to record its thanks to all those members of the public, staff and partner organisations who have taken the time to help shape our understanding of community safety problems and ultimately set the direction and priorities of this Assessment.

All data contained in this Assessment was correct at the time of publication.

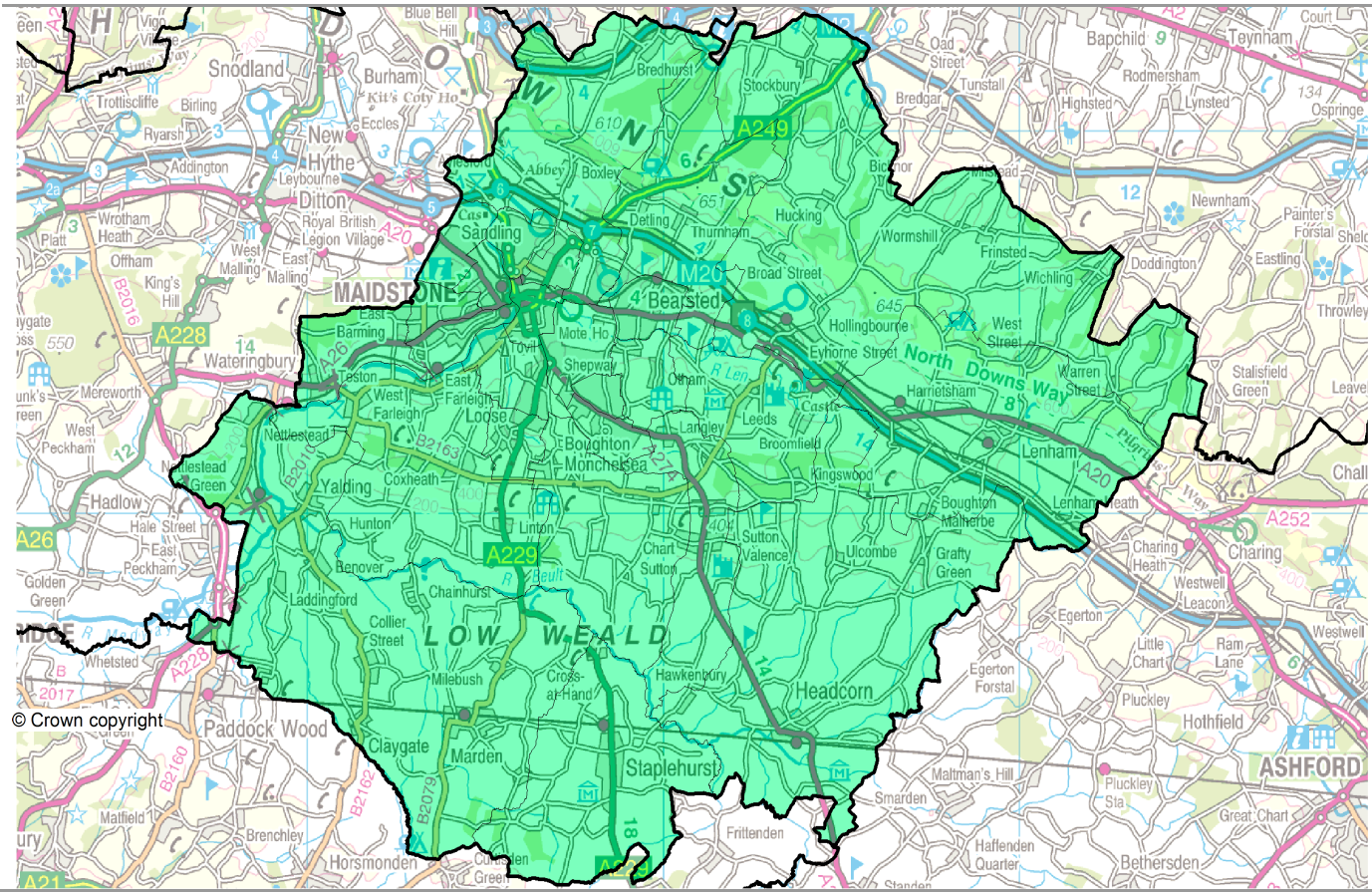
Maidstone Police Station  
Palace Avenue  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME15 6NF  
01622 690690

Kent Fire & Rescue Service  
The Godlands  
Tovil, Maidstone  
Kent  
ME15 6XB  
01622 692121

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**Safer Maidstone Partnership Area**

**Maidstone Borough Council**





## Safer Maidstone Partnership Structure

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