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

Date: Tuesday 19 March 2019
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors M Burton, Garten, Joy, D Mortimer (Chairman), Powell (Vice-Chairman), Purle, Mrs Robertson, Rose and Webb

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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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 12 February 2019	1 - 4
9.	Presentation of Petitions (if any)	
10.	Questions and answer session for members of the public (if any)	
11.	Verbal Update - Low Level and Nuisance Crime	
12.	Community Safety Plan 2019-22	5 - 33

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

If you require this information in an alternative format please contact us, call **01622**

Issued on Monday 11 March 2019 **Continued Over/:**

Alison Broom

Alison Broom, Chief Executive

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

602899 or email **committee@maidstone.gov.uk**.

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. Friday 15 March 2019). 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.

To find out more about the work of the Committee, please visit www.maidstone.gov.uk.

Should you wish to refer any decisions contained in these minutes to Policy and Resources Committee, please submit a Decision Referral Form, signed by three Councillors, to the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance by: 26 February 2019.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019

Present: **Councillors M Burton, Garten, Joy, D Mortimer (Chairman), Powell, Purle, Mrs Robertson, Springett and Webb**

138. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rose.

139. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that Councillor Springett was present as a Substitute for Councillor Rose.

140. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

141. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

There were no Visiting Members.

142. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures by Members or Officers.

143. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

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

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

145. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2018

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed.

146. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were no petitions.

147. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY)

There were no questions from members of the public.

148. 2019 - 20 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Mr Matt Roberts, Community Partnerships & Resilience Manager, addressed the Committee. Mr Roberts explained that:

- Data regarding specific crimes had demonstrated notable rises. Sexual Offences (All) had increased by the highest percentage (48.2%), followed by Violence Against the Person (40.9%), Most Serious Violence (38%) and Violence Without Injury (37.9%). On the other hand, Theft from the Person (20.5%) and Drugs (Possession) (19.3%) had decreased.

- 15% of all crime was related to Domestic Abuse. Domestic Abuse was therefore a focus of the Safer Maidstone Partnership for the year 2019/20.

- 0.4% of the youth population in Maidstone had received a sentence relating to crime, demonstrating the positive impact of work undertaken to tackle issues with gangs.

- Although work regarding gangs and County Lines was ongoing, the focus had shifted towards minimising Anti-Social Behaviour.

- The data regarding needle finds suggested that Lower Boxley Road was a hotspot, and that there was potential to link this to a needle collection scheme.

- Data from CGL - West Kent Recovery Service Maidstone, regarding the exchange of needles, was to be incorporated in the Strategic Assessment at a later date.

- Substance Misuse was to be embedded as an overarching priority for the Safer Maidstone Partnership, rather than being addressed through a specific sub-group.

- The service provided for victims of Domestic Abuse was good, however, it could take a significant amount of time for victims to be identified. Consequently, early interventions, such as promoting responsible relationships for teenagers, were to be undertaken.

In response to questions from the Committee, Inspector Mark Hedges (Kent Police) stated that:

- 200 additional full-time Police Officers and Staff were recruited in 2017/18, with a further 180 recruited in 2018/19. As it took two

years to complete training and probationary periods, it was expected that an increased Police Officer presence was to be noticeable shortly. The recruitment also meant that there was the potential to establish dedicated teams in Wards.

- Kent Police had been rated as "Outstanding" by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). This meant that victims of crime in Kent were more likely to have the crime recorded than elsewhere nationally.

- The approach to data recording had recently changed. Multiple crimes that took place during one incident were now recorded separately. Although the figures subsequently demonstrated an increase in crime as a result of the change in data recording, crime in Maidstone had remained static when compared to the rest of the County.

- A problem solving approach, comprising of scanning, analysis, response, and assessment (SARA) was being used to disperse groups such as the Shepway Boys.

- Core individuals of groups such as the Shepway Boys were being targeted. Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) had proven effective in dealing with gang related issues, with approximately 2% of individuals issued with a CPW then receiving a Community Protection Notice (CPN).

- Groups were known to congregate near free Wi-Fi spots, which could be intimidating for other members of the public. This had been tackled by disabling Wi-Fi at specific times.

- Work was undertaken with property developers, such as the "Secure by Design" scheme. This was designed to make homes as safe as possible when they were built. It was difficult to anticipate the impact of housing developments on crime as there was uncertainty regarding who would move to the developments. Data suggested, however, that those responsible for crime at new developments were not those who had moved to the area.

- Nationally, knife crime had intensified. The key issue was that young people carried knives as they were scared of being a victim of crime, which was a mind-set that needed to be reversed.

- Young people said that they felt safe in the presence of Police in the area. This was positive as it meant that the lack of trust in the Police, experienced in areas such as London, was not an issue in Maidstone.

- Kent Police had recently moved to a new IT system, which would enable improved statistical analysis of crime data.

The Committee requested that Ward Councillors be kept updated on crime reporting statistics to ensure they are informed of incidents.

RESOLVED: That the priorities recommended by the 2019 Strategic Assessment be endorsed for adoption by the Safer Maidstone Partnership for inclusion within the Community Safety Plan for 2019-20.

Voting: Unanimous

149. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Communities, Housing & Environment Committee	**19th March 2019**

Community Safety Plan 2019-22

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

Executive Summary

The Safer Maidstone Partnersip's Community Safety Plan for 2019-22 replaces the previous Plan which was a five year rolling document covering 2013 to 2018 financial years. It sets out the strategic direction for the Partnership over the next three years.

This report makes the following recommendations to Communities, Housing & Environment Committee

That Council be recommended to adopt the Community Safety Plan 2019-22.

Timetable	
Meeting	***Date***
Communities, Housing & Environment	19 March 2019
Council	10 April 2019

Community Safety Plan 2019-22

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) is required to produce a Community Safety Plan which sets out how the partnership intends to tackle the priorities that have been identified in the annual Strategic Assessment.

1.2 Following completion of the Strategic Assesment, that was presented to this Committee on the 12th Febuary 2019, it was agreed that the focus of the Safer Maidstone Partnership should be on five key priority themes for 2019-22:

- Protecting our communities against Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery)
- Reducing the harm caused by Domestic Abuse (including stalking)
- Keeping Children and Young People Safe
- Reducing 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

1.3 This Plan for 2019-22 will replace the previous Partnership Plan which was a five year rolling document covering 2013-18. It sets the strategic direction for the Partnership over the next three years.

1.4 Should the annual Strategic Assessment in early 2020 identify new emerging priorities then this plan will be refreshed to capture the changing landscape and brought back to this Committee in March 2020.

2. SMP SUBGROUPS

2.1 To successfully deliver on each of the thematic areas four subgroups, that are already well established, will lead on delivery of the Plan.

2.2 The Serious and Organised Crime Panel (SOCP) is lead by Kent Police and is focused on disrupting identified Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) that are operating in the borough.

2.3 The Domestic Abuse Forum will be working to reduce the risks and impacts of Domestic Abuse including improving awareness of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, known commonly as 'Clare's Law' and finding ways to intervene earlier, to prevent victims of abuse from becoming at high risk of harm.

2.4 Keeping Children and Young People Safe will be delivered by the Community Youth Safety Group, the rebranded Multi-Agency Gangs Group. Due to the distruptive work which has been effective in tackling the gang in Maidstone the focus is now on preventing young people from becoming victims, being groomed into becoming part of a gang and drawn into anti-social behaviour and criminality whether as part of a gand or not.

2.5 This group will also focus on anti-social behaviour and substance misuse, particularly cannabis, amoungst young people.

2.6 Mental Health was identified as a priority in the Strategic Assesment completed in 2017, due to it being a key factor in individuals discussed at the Community Safety Unit Vulnerabilities Group (CSVG) that group will lead on this priority.

2.7 The group holds a weekly multi-agency meeting to case manage people who are either a victim or a cause of crime or anti-social behaviour. Poor mental health is often a causational factor in a person's anti-social behaviour and a victim of crime whose mental health is affected by their experiences are often placed at increased risk, as was the case with Fiona Pilkington and her daughter.

2.8 For substance misuse it has been agreed that whilst the is an area of concern that justifies its status as a priority theme, it is not necessary to have a specific sub-group. It is felt that the action needed here can be delivered through specific teams within the partnership and, more importantly, through the work of other subgroups, such as Keeping Children and Young People Safe, where substance misuse is identified as a particular area of concern for that cohort. The Community Protection Team will refresh and own the relevant action plan for this theme.

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3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

3.1 Option one; Do not approve the adoption of the Communtiy Safety Plan. This is not recommended as the Safety Maidstone Partnership is required to produce a Plan and make it available from the start of the financial year. Without a suitable Plan the Partnership and its subgroups will not be able to operate effectively and will potentially lead to an increase in the number of victims of crime and disorder.

3.2 Option two; Approve the Community Safety Plan 2019-22 and the identified priority themes and recommend that it is adopted by Council. This will allow for the plan to be implemented by the SMP and its subgroups.

3.3 The Plan will form part of the delivery of the Council's strategic priority around a 'Safe, Clean and Green' borough.

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4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Option two is recommended. It allows the Safer Maidstone Partnership to move forward and focus on delivery of the plan over the next three years.

4.2 The chairs of each of the subgroups will then have a clear mandate to drive forward delivery of the Community Safety Plan.

5. RISK

5.1 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.

6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

6.1 Once approved the Partnership Plan will be disseminated to all partners for their information and implementation through the subgroups.

6.2 The Plan will also be shared with the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC).

6.3 The PCC provides the SMP with a grant to enable community safety projects to be undertaken which delivers on both the PCC's priorities and those of the SMP which forms part of the criteria for bids.

6.4 The applications for projects commissioned using this grant need to submitted, sifted and a report setting out proposals on how the grant is to be spent must be sent to the PCC's office by the end of March 2019 .

6.5 A report will be presented to this Committee in September that sets out the projects commissioned and the progress made in delivering them.

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7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	The Community Safety Partnership Plan will contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Plan 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
Risk Management	It is a statutory requirement for Maidstone Borough Council to provide a CSP Plan.	Community Protection Manager
Financial	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 2019-20. 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. 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.	Paul Holland, Senior Finance Manager (Client)
Staffing	The priorities within the Plan cross cut the agencies that make up the Safer Maidstone Partnership. Delivery against the priorities will be via mainstream activity and any grant funding that the borough is able to secure.	Community Protection Manager

Legal	Sections 5 to 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the 1998 Act), headed "Crime and Disorder Strategies", require "responsible authorities" to comply with section 6 of the 1998 Act which states that "responsible authorities" shall formulate and implement; a) A strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area; and b) A strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and c) A strategy for the reduction of reoffending in the area. 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	Team Leader (Corporate Governace), MKLS

Privacy and Data Protection	No implications.	Team Leader (Corporate Governace), MKLS
Equalities	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.	Equalities and Corporate Policy Officer
Public Health	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 reduces health inequalities in partnership with the police and other community safety related partners.	Community Protection Manager
Crime and Disorder	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 behahaviour in partnership with the police and other community safety related partners.	Community Protection Manager
Procurement	None	Community Protection Manager

8. REPORT APPENDICES

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

- Appendix 1: Draft Safer Maidstone Partnership Community Safety Plan 2019-22.

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Maidstone Community Safety Partnership Plan 2019-2022

'Where people feel safe and are safe'

Safer Maidstone Partnership

maidstone.gov.uk

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Hello and Welcome from the Leader of Maidstone Borough Council

Councillor Martin Cox, 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.**

To do this, we work as a partnership, bringing together those who are able to help 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 to stand up 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

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Forward by Co-chairs of the Safer Maidstone Partnership Executive

Alison Broom

Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council

Ray Quiller

Chief Inspector Kent Police

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.

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.in reporting

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. A partnership of agencies and interest bodies from across the borough and beyond 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 or SMP is the name given to, Maidstone's Community Safety Partnership (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 the threaten our communities the most. The 2019-2022 CSP Plan is a continuation of previous plans, building on 20 years of work by the partnership tackle crime and improve 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 (65.7%) 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 that they are feeling safe in their local area in the day. Whilst less people said they feel 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 respondent 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, with a further 38% worried about being pestered or insulted in the street which again can be linked to substance misuse and mental health issues, 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 will shortly be publishing its Strategic Plan 2019-2024 which includes Safe, Clean and Green as a priority. (This was identified as a priority through a budgeting survey.)

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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.

Where our borough is located and our economy, including the sheer numbers 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 illegal 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 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), but also more specific crimes that affect our rural communities.

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Priority Setting:

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, has identified that the CSP priorities for 2018-19 continue to be areas where the SMP should continue to work to reduce the current trends. The 2017 Resident's survey, whilst not containing specific details of the types of crimes and issues that people have faced, provide information that can be linked to the priorities identified in this and previous CSP plans.

The SMP met on 14 January 2019 to review the findings of the Strategic Assessment and to agree both the priorities for this new CSP Plan and to re-align the governance structure to those priorities.

It was agreed that the focus of the SMP should be based on five key priority themes for 2019-22:

- Protecting our communities against Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) (including modern-day slavery)
- Reduce 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 to becoming a victim or where it leads to an impact on the wider community

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 the cross-cutting themes prioritised by the office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner in their 2017 Police Crime Plan. A graphical summary of the PCC Plan is provided in Appendix 1.

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Safer Maidstone Partnership Governance:

The success of the SMP is linked to the work its sub-groups and the leadership of its Executive Board and its 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 may arise, from government policies or other developments

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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 if 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. It was agreed that the work of the weekly Community Safety and Vulnerability Group (CSVG) would be reviewed, and 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 the is an area of concern that requires its status as a priority theme, it was not necessary to have a specific sub-group as many of the actions identified can be delivered through specific teams within the partnership. More importantly, through the work of other subgroups, such as 'Keeping children and young people safe', where substance misuse is identified as a particular area of concern.

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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 we 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 Organised Crime Groups (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 Organised Crime Groups (including modern-day slavery)

Why is this important?

Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) cost the UK billions of pounds each year and pose a risk not only to our communities but also to our national security. The National Crime Agency (NCA) recognises that the range and powers held by agencies, the local authority in particular, are such that we can play a vital role in disrupting OCG activities in the borough. An OCG is groups of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal, mostly financial, gain. Crime is often regarded as their 'occupation'. OCGs often consist of a durable core protected by a cluster of subordinates and other more transient members. Those closest to the core can only be removed through intelligence led policing. The work the SMP can often disrupt OCGs activity, particularly targeting those outside the core, whilst providing vital intelligence on the core. For example, OCGs are often funded by waste crime and rogue trading.

In Maidstone, we have an established Serious Organised Crime Panel (SOCP). The Panel meets regularly to tackle known OCGs through a coordinated approach. Over the last year the SOCP have worked to actively disrupt four OCGs in the borough both in rural and urban areas whose activities have threatened vulnerable people and the environment.

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:

Pursue: prosecuting and disrupting the criminal activity of OCGs.

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

First 12 months - What will we do?

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

- More days of action, spread across the year, to disrupt criminality linked to OCGs, focussing on areas of risk such as rogue trading and illegal workers
- Raise awareness across the partnership of the importance of intelligence reporting and how to disseminate information appropriately.
- Working across the Integrated Offender Management Scheme (IOMS) to ensure the correct individuals are referred for robust multi-agency management

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 increases 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, put 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 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 SMP should to continue to support the victims of domestic abuse, through the provision of local mechanisms like MARAC, Sanctuary and IDVA.

The partnership needs to continue to find innovative ways to raise awareness so that people can seek advice and are confident in reporting abuse when it occurs. The continued 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 we will promote safer relationships, helping young people make better choices and increasing their confidence to report issues.

First 12 months - 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:

- Raise awareness of Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Claire's Law) and stalking through tailored training, such as a campaign for hairdressers, barbers and hair and beauty colleges.
- Review of the OSS usage to identify whether it is reflective of the reported incidents in the borough. Identify whether specific OSSs are needed in rural areas. And to ensure Men and Women can access the current OSS independently.

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. Children 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 abuse. 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 continued to increase steadily 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 the communities at risk and that increases in our young people's own fear is leading to a worrying national trend of carrying knifes for safety.

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

What is our focus?

Our Gangs intelligence meeting has been refocussed as the Community Youth Safety Group (CYSG) which aims to raise awareness for professionals and the young people themselves of the risks they face and the support that is available to them. With no "home grown" gang in Maidstone, we must remain vigilant to ensure our young people are aware of the threat posed by London and other Kent based gangs, gang culture and the associated CSE and substance misuse issues.

The broad membership of the CYSG, including representatives from our secondary schools and our youth outreach specialists, has enabled the group to identify children in our community who are at the highest level of risk and those individuals that pose a threat to our communities. The support, enforcement and diversionary activities introduced have reduced the risk to those individuals and their communities. The CYSG will ensure that our outreach work continues to be intel driven and that appropriate levels of diversion are in place. It will also listen to the voices of those who are at risk or in fear of crime in our borough.

First 12 months - What will we do?

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

- Review locations where ASB is prevalent to understand what action can be taken to reduce incidences
- 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.

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. It 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, 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 and Community Youth Safety sub-groups.

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 Community Youth Safety Group, 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 reach, 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 PSPO for drinking is enforced to empower officers to tackle people who are drinking and are anti-social in a public place.

First 12 months - 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:

- Review the current PSPO to ensure the power is still necessary/proportionate or needs amendment
- Launch the Blue Light project help treatment resistant drinkers who place a burden on public service

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 isolate, loose 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 mores 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's 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 at 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.

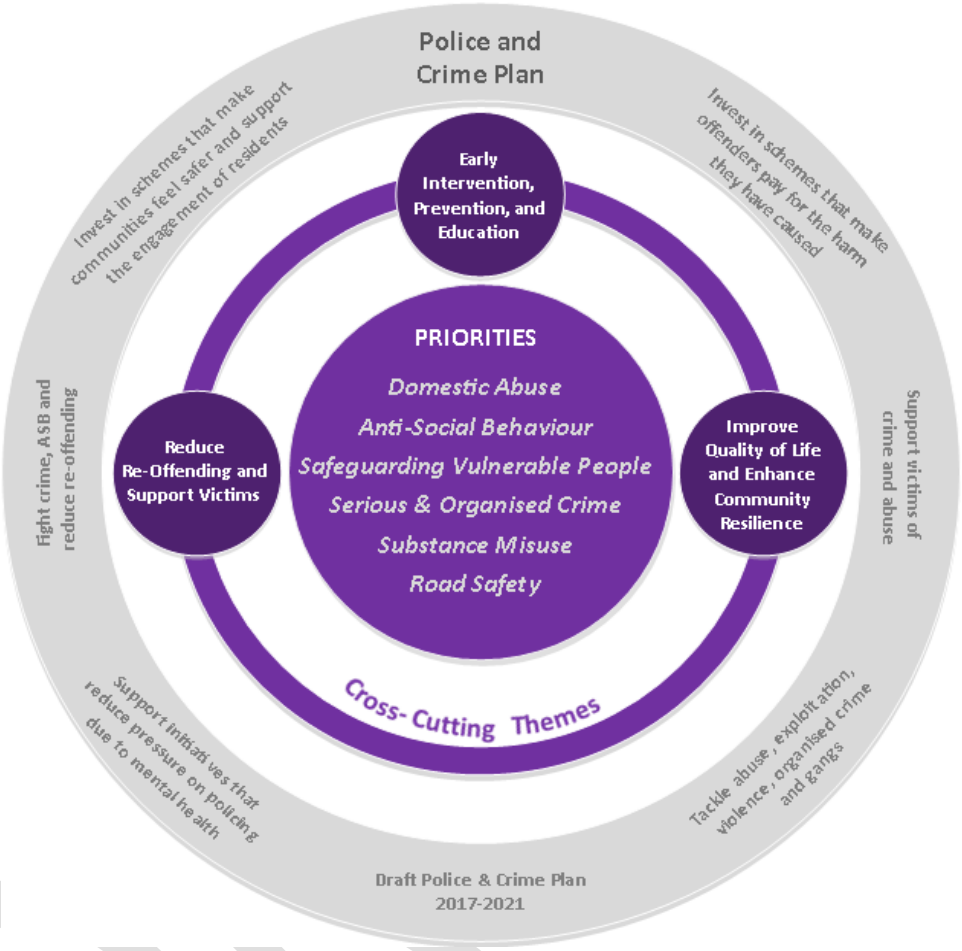
First 12 months - What will we do?

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:

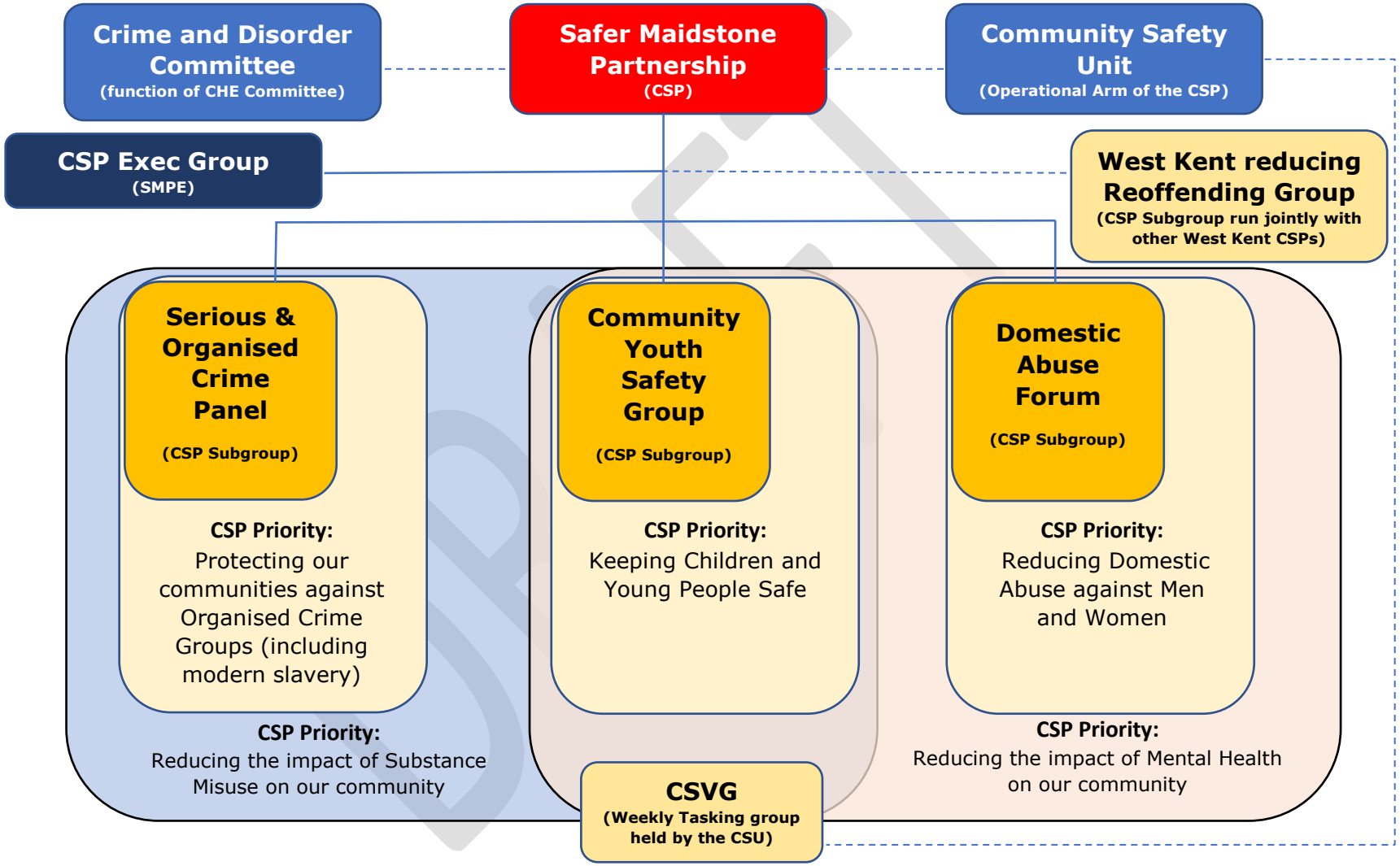
- Introducing strategic overview for the CSVG to help identify service direction, provisions and shortages
- Developing a leaflet to raise awareness of vulnerable people who self-neglect and how to refer them for support

Appendices

Appendix 1- 2017 Priorities & cross cutting themes for the CSA and the PCC:



Appendix 2- Safer Maidstone Partnership Structure and Priorities:



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

Priority Theme	Sub-groups and Working Groups delivering the action plans (not an exhaustive list)
Protecting our communities against Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery)	• Serious & Organised Crime Panel • Kent Environmental Crime Waste Practitioners Group
Reducing Domestic Abuse against Men and Women	• Domestic Abuse Forum • Vulnerable Investigation Team Professionals meeting for repeat victims
Keeping Children and Young People Safe	• Community Youth Safety Group • Maidstone Local Children's Partnership Group • West Kent Adolescent Risk Management panel
Reducing the impact of Substance Misuse on our community	• As part of Community Youth Safety Group • The work of the Community Protection, Homeless Outreach with Change Live Grow (CGL) and Licensing teams
Reducing the impact of Mental Health on our community	• Community Safety and Vulnerability Group and its steering group • MBC Safeguarding Board

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Appendix 4- Glossary of terms and acronyms:

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

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