

# Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 02/24

Date: September 2024

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: Community Safety Partnership to brief Members on the innovative developments and partnership initiatives referred to on the introduction to the Community Safety Plan.

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## **Safer Streets**

There have been 3 successful bids into the previous governments Safer Streets funding through the Home Office. Safer Streets 5 funding work is ongoing to assist in the prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in public, neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour. The projects rolled out extra CCTV and streetlighting in communities and expanded work to change attitudes and behaviours and prevent these crimes happening in the first place. This project has been overseen jointly by Medway Council and Kent Police and has resulted in a number of focussed workstreams utilising the additional funding, including:

- Neighbourhood Watch - to establish new NHW in the target area.
- Door staff and security training - provided six training courses to all door staff/security guards in the night economy within the target area to support new and emerging potential ASB / crime trends.
- Additional CCTV - expanded monitoring capability to cover 3 new sites for a period of 18 months. Purchase of 3 permanent CCTV cameras and associated software and hardware.
- Environment including tackling fly-tipping - investigation and removal of fly tipping and other waste related issues (household/business), reporting and removal of graffiti and nuisance vehicles.
- To provide gates to Chatham Memorial Synagogue which was subject to trespass, ASB and vandalism.
- Youth Development Worker - outreach activities with young people using Chatham High Street, including with those who are at heightened risk of Child Criminal Exploitation and or use the High Street. Core age group is 13-19 years old and those up to 25 with additional needs. Concerns around safety and anti-social behaviour explored as part of a contextual safeguarding approach, whereby young people make their community and areas they spend time safer for themselves and others. Explore attitudes impacting Chatham, identifying three key issues. Goals will be benchmarked for each issue including how we will know when progress has been made. Progress recorded showing attitudinal change in each area. The Youth Service van facilitate work on the High Street and some funds will be used

- to develop its educational provision. The workers will co-develop pieces of work with young people responding to their views.
- A total of 18 sessions over 4-6 weeks for women and girls - a variety of activities for the community and women and girls in the target area, along with 4 family events, these are hosted in safe and inclusive spaces. This is a multi-agency approach, providing vital awareness raising and engagement opportunities. The aim of these community events is to undertake and address perceptions and concerns of crime, ASB and VAWG in the area. Providing prevention activities and support communities to understand how they can support crime prevention and report ASB and provide tools and advice to help them feel safe and change perceptions of safety in the area. It also provides community support for physical changes in the area plus understand community needs. Partners raise awareness of support, services and materials available to them to report crime and ASB in the area, and aid their safety, including VAWG. The programme planned 8 large scale events for VAWG and 4 family events during school half terms. Activities aimed at building resilient communities to build confidence to address reporting crime and ASB. As well as supporting communities to connect participants to combat social isolation and to build confidence and skills, alongside connecting them to their local community and resources available.

### **Public Space Protection Orders**

Following a number of complaints around nuisance off road vehicles and car meets, we saw the successful implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) targeted those that cause this nuisance.

PSPO Enforcement - Medway Council Community Safety Officers have been carrying out pro-active patrols in marked police vehicles with police colleagues to tackle nuisance vehicles which has resulted in educating drivers and FPNs being issued to drivers breaching the PSPO. Community Safety Officers have also been carrying out joint patrols with Kent Police in Gillingham to enforce the alcohol PSPO which has resulted in warnings and FPNs being issued.

Recent updates on work in Town Centres - Kent Police have been out enforcing the PSPO regarding street drinking and issuing FPNs for those repeatedly told to stop drinking on the High Street. Through educating the regular drinkers the shops have noticed a massive reduction in people drinking. They have also been working with our Town Centre Management Team about issues they have with the bench on Green Street and how it is a focal point for anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Town Centre Management Team are arranging for this to be moved.

We are also currently working to introduce a PSPO a Medway wide to tackle nuisance behaviour in relation to dog ownership.

### **Medway Council Community Safety Team**

Two examples of partnership working:

Firstly, Medway Council Community Safety Officers, in partnership with MHS Homes and Community Liaison Officers from Kent Police, worked closely with a young person

reported to be causing ASB directed at a neighbour. The young person concerned was identified as being vulnerable themselves due to former gang activity and being under CAMHs and referrals were therefore raised with Victim Support, Catch 22, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Kent Fire and Rescue for a flame retardant letter box to be installed, along with Children's Services.

Regular monitoring visits were arranged and carried out to support and educate the young person about their behaviour, and to provide support to the young person's family who were also being affected by the ongoing neighbour dispute and previous gang activity involving the young person. After careful consideration, alternative accommodation was found by MHS Homes, and with supporting letters from the Community Safety Team and Kent Police, the family moved home. No further complaints have been received relating to this young person being involved in ASB and upon the last monitoring visit, the young person was in employment.

Secondly, Medway Council received a report of an older gentleman, whose daily visitors were causing noise nuisance and ASB impacting neighbours. A joint visit was carried out by the Community Safety Team and Kent Police, during which the gentleman was identified as being a victim of cuckooing and being vulnerable. During the visit it became evident that the gentleman, although residing in a two-bedroom house, was confined to sleeping downstairs due to mobility issues and following a recent fire at the address, there was no working washing machine. It was also noted that the gentleman had limited food provisions, most of which was past its use by date, and the downstairs toilet was damaged presenting as a health and safety hazard.

The gentleman's registered social landlord was contacted who then replaced the toilet and carried out a repair to the front door and rear fence. Referrals were made by the Community Safety Team to DWP who arranged vouchers for the gentleman to purchase a new washing machine and provided him with a mobile phone so that he could communicate with services. Referrals were raised with Adult Social Care and the gentleman was allocated a social worker.

An Acceptable Behaviour Contract was drafted by the Community Safety Team and Kent Police and was served on the gentleman, which the gentleman used to discourage the visitors who had been frequenting his address from attending. Regular monitoring visits were carried out by Community Safety Officers and Kent Police and a referral was made by the Community Safety Team to Kent Home Choice, for the gentleman to have a supported move to more suitable accommodation. No further reports relating to ASB have been received for this gentleman.

#### Unauthorised Encampments.

To date there has been had 12 unauthorised encampments on Medway Council owned greenspaces. With the support of Kent Police in conducting joint visits, as no significant welfare concerns were presented or identified, all these unauthorised encampments were successfully moved on expeditiously following a civil legal process. Kent Police have prevented access by an unauthorised encampment to a Medway Council owned greenspace, resulting in one arrest being made. Kent Police Beat Officers have been supporting Community Safety Officers in conducting joint visits to individual occupied caravans being parked on the public highway.

## Tents

During 2024 there has been a significant rise in the number of tent dwellers requiring enforcement action to move them on by the Community Safety Team, most notably for failure to engage with services, having alternative bricks and mortar accommodation, or engaging in antisocial behaviour. Kent Police Beat Officers have conducted multiple joint visits with Community Safety Officers and have made some arrests relating to rough sleepers who have been wanted for offences.

## **Personal Safety Items**

The CSP has provided funding for all agencies to give out personal safety equipment. Merchandise such as purse chains, personal attack alarms, property marker pens, anti-spike bottle tops and literature to advise to the public about staying safe. The engagements (such as Freshers Fayres) were also be aimed at those more vulnerable communities, especially women and girls.

Some of the resources were to support the VAWG message to give out to the women and girls attending Child Friendly Medway events, for example personal alarms, card defenders, purse cables, bottle protectors, CYD stripes, faraday pouches and impact torches.

## **Firesetter Campaign**

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) crews support the Firestopper campaign to enable the public to report intelligence confidentially. This enables KFRS to gather information and target these areas with Home Fire Safety Visits and carry out response assurance visits either commercial or residential.

The Firesetter Team at KFRS now sits as part of their Education Intervention Team. The Education Intervention Team deliver effective, targeted, and bespoke education to individuals and groups who are at higher risk of fire related injury. The aim is to work with individuals and groups to adopt safer behaviours through engaging education, and the team provides the following:

- Fire safety Intervention for young people (under the age of 18 years) who have an unhealthy interest or fascination with fire (formally known as Firesetters).
- Targeted education to schools (including assemblies, workshops and small group sessions).
- Targeted education to Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and other education groups such as those home schooled.
- Fire safety sessions to customer groups where there is an identified risk or vulnerability e.g. mobility issues, medical or learning requirement.

## **Policing**

Proactive policing has made improvements with thefts from store with arrests made and the identification of others. Officers have worked with shops giving crime reporting advice as they have found that they were not reporting some crimes and have supplied them with

information booklets about proper use of the shop safe radios and have found that has had an increase of them using their radios and speaking with each other warning other stores or known shoplifters and suspects ones.

The CSP has worked with the Safer Medway Partnership who manage the Shop Safe scheme to provide funding to renew to upgrade the radio network in Gillingham and Twydall from an old analogue system to digital, which improved the quality of the signal for users including Kent Police, CCTV operators and SMP members. It had a direct impact on intelligence sharing to cut shoplifting and anti-social behaviour at a time when businesses – particularly small operators - are struggling financially to keep their heads above water. The upgraded system brought it up to the same quality as Rochester, Strood and Chatham. It involves three new transmitters and the associated equipment along with new radios for the existing 50 users.

The CSP has this year funded SMP to upgrade the 15-year-old SMP control system at the Medway Council CCTV Control Centre which unfortunately suffered a number of breakdowns and faults.

### **County Lines**

The disruption to County Lines continued to be a priority for the CSP; Kent Police working in partnership with Medway Council's Community Safety Team, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and Child Centred Policing Team (CCPT) around prevention, focused deterrent work and safeguarding. The working relationship between the CCPT and the VRU has gone from strength to strength, this has had an impact on young people across Medway and enhanced contextual safeguarding as a result. Op Checker focussed on individuals at risk. Operation Start was a multiagency focussed deterrent work that took place with young street groups who were on the periphery of serious violence and placing themselves at risk of becoming victims. Police and partners played a joint role in engagement, disrupting criminal activity, diverting and safeguarding a small cohort of individuals.

Medway's Serious and Organised Crime Partnership meeting takes place every month. This multi-agency partnership helps to identify emerging threats and feeds into intelligence gaps around divisional targets and Organised Crime Groups (OCG's).

### **Safety In Action**

The Community Safety Team instigated an innovative way to present 'Safety In Action' a multi-agency approach where safety messages are delivered to young people as they prepare to transition to secondary school, providing them with tips and advice about how they can stay safe, access services and develop personal and social skills. The event was designed to develop citizenship and safety skills and to increase awareness of dangers.

As a result of Covid the traditional way of delivering this project whereby year 6 school pupils visit a site which provides pupils with an interactive, educational, fun learning experience to discuss and learn about personal safety situations based upon realistic life situations had to be addressed in an innovative way. Pupils rotated around different scenarios on site, delivered by Project Salus and other organisations, where they have time to talk and ask questions as well as learn.

The team worked with a number of partners to produce this virtual Safety in Action which provided a combination of live streaming and pre-recorded content. These were put together with the help and support of a number of agencies and organisations – all of which were keen to be involved. The areas were Fire Safety, Road Safety, Internet Safety, Water Safety and Personal Safety. Each session lasted 30-40 minutes; one session per week for 5 weeks. Schools joined a Teams Webinar which enabled pupils to ask questions and undertake live voting. Pupils remained in their classrooms or school hall within their own bubbles.

A Safety in Action workbook complemented the sessions but could also be sent as a standalone to other schools. It contained activities and important facts and information about the safety sessions.

A total of 22 Schools participated in 5 live safety sessions resulting in 1,275 year 6 pupils ultimately taking part in this initiative. All 63 schools received Safety in Action workbooks, safety packs and pens resulting in over 3,500 year 6 pupils receiving these items. Details of the sessions were provided to home educated children with several able to participate in the live sessions.

There were 15 presenters involved across 10 different departments and organisations. Colleagues from over 20 different teams and organisations were involved in developing the programme. From feedback received from young people, 100% said they had enjoyed the programme. Every school that has responded so far said they would like to take part again and would recommend the programme to other schools; 71% of young people said they would discuss what they had learnt with their parents/guardians; 41% would discuss with friends and 46% with siblings.

Following this success, the Community Safety Team worked on a Safety In Action event for the whole family in partnership with Chatham Historic Dockyard. Visitors of all ages attended and took place at Chatham Historic Dockyard in their main Museum Square area. Feedback from Safety in Action virtual sessions identified that young people shared their learning at home. We wanted to maximise the use of 'pester power' to encourage families to learn about safety together while having fun. Safety is one of the most talked about topics during events for Child Friendly Medway and an event like this showed the public the different ways they can keep themselves safe and where agencies can assist. It was also a great opportunity for adults and young people to see the vast number of agencies and people working behind the scenes to keep them safe. It was key that the event was not about the agencies and what they can do, like an open day, but more about what we could teach people to do to look after themselves.

The event opened at 10am, with staggered arrival in time slots to prevent large queues and closed at 5pm. Visitors were able to visit and interact with many different agencies offering safety advice as well as general health and wellbeing information. The event was attended by over 5,500 people.

### **Crime Reduction Grant**

The CSP has worked with partners on a number of innovative projects utilising the Crime Reduction Grant provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- Brief Intervention Project - The project delivers 2 hours a week of counselling for young people in each of the Children's Services Hub areas. The provision works with young people who either do not meet the threshold for existing CAMHS services or where early / brief intervention could have a greater impact.
- The Community Safety Team work with Kyndi as well as Kent Police colleagues to oversee the deployment of rapid deployment CCTV cameras to address emerging issues. This has been utilised to tackle issues such as nuisance motorbikes, drug supply, criminal damage, sexual offences and general hotspot location ASB as well as permanent CCTV, for example at Chatham Memorial Synagogue and Barclays Bank in Chatham to provide coverage of vulnerable buildings. Partners have been able to target resources at those areas of need, either identified through work carried out by the Neighbourhood Task Force, Kent Police CSU and Medway Council Community Safety Team. There was also the need to replace those cameras that came to the end of their life. There was also the need for pan, tilt, zoom cameras (some existing stock are still fixed-point cameras). Deployments have varied in need from ASB, to nuisance motorbikes, VAWG, drug use/supply, theft and criminal damage.

The CSP has supported a number of diversionary projects to tackle ASB and give young people life opportunities, in partnership with Youth Services and Child Friendly Medway.

- Rainham Detached Project - 12-week boxing programme at Rainham Recreation Ground and Cozenton Skate Park:
- Strood and Peninsula Boxing Programme - delivered 3 Boxing programmes for young people in Hoo, and 3 programmes in Grain. The programme was delivered within the community by Olympia Boxing. Of those participating 10 young people from each group enhanced this engagement by completing ASDAN Short Course in Sport and Fitness.
- Strood and Peninsula Music Programme – For Young People aged 11-19 years. Funding delivered two music programmes within the Strood Youth Centre. Young people enhanced this engagement by completing a Bronze Arts Award.
- Strood and Peninsula Cooking and Arts Discover Award Project - Food hygiene (For ages 15 plus) - 5 Food Hygiene Courses for 25 young people in Strood, Hoo and the Peninsula. Provided the opportunity for 25 young people to gain a Level 2 certificate in food hygiene. Teaching them cooking skills, training in health and safety in a kitchen, and food safety.
- Drop In Football – These free sessions came to be when it was reported that young people were breaking into the Strood Sports Centre to play football. The Child Friendly Medway Team worked with the CSP to address this with positive action in the form of weekly, free drop-in football sessions. Over 120 young people attend and have built relationships with staff at the Sports Centre as well as Youth Service and Policing colleagues.

Youth Services were also supported in carrying out detached works around Extra-Familial Environments – this work supported young people through developing a coordinated approach to detached youth work and identifying extra-familial harm within an assessment process. Medway Youth Service were able to offer 8 weeks of intervention to 12 environments of concern in a cross-area response. Environments of concerns were defined as public spaces, retail space and areas informed by peers and relationships. One

where youth workers develop responses to young people and community needs in the spaces where they meet. Each environment supported engagement activities to explore extra-familial harm and peer mapping to identify key safety concerns and/or barriers to accessing activities.

The CSP worked with the Greenspace Development Team to install a graffiti board at Hillyfields Park, Gillingham. Hillyfields Community Park had been targeted and suffered abuse with graffiti within the park. It was on notice boards, walls, signs, bins, furniture, and any available surface. For this project, young people learnt the skills of responsible graffiti (not tagging) led by a graffiti artist from London. They also learnt how to write rap lyrics led by Brixton Rapper 'Logic'. They then decorated the youth shelter, and a celebration event was held on the last day attended by partners and The Deputy Mayor. The team conducted a survey with the young people present at the event. An outcome of the event is that participants requested a permanent space to practice graffiti.

Secure Motorcycle Parking – Following discussions with North Kent Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) and Transport Team, 5 public car park locations were identified for secure motorcycle parking, whereby funding for 9 hoop barriers was provided to for existing motorcycle parking spaces. Based on surveys and reports completed by the North Kent MAG and collaboration with Council officers, these 5 public car park locations were identified without any form of secure motorcycle parking barriers (locking bars) and therefore a successful funding bid specifically to help reduce the number of motorcycle thefts in Medway.

### **Clear, Hold, Build**

This is a national approach to tackling larger, more significant problems affecting communities that are intensified in specific areas and often linked to organised crime. The Clear Hold Build approach is being adopted in the county; this is a national initiative carried out in three phases. First police and partners carry out targeted, high-impact enforcement to 'Clear' an area.

The next phase seeks to 'Hold' an area through enhanced visibility and engagement, to prevent problems re-emerging. Finally, in the 'Build' phase, work is carried out with residents, partners and community stakeholders to encourage greater resilience and prosperity. This has been adopted in Medway focussed around; Bryant Street, Whitaker Street and Church Street in Chatham (and surrounding areas such as Chatham High Street and New Road).

The process galvanises the very best of investigative capabilities, multi-agency disruption opportunities and community-based problem-solving skills. Work is ongoing involving statutory and non-statutory partners.

### **Violence Against Women and Girls**

Kent Police and the Community Safety Unit (CSU) continue to drive proactive, and prevention work around reducing Violence Against Women and Girls. Each morning offences such as stalking and accosting are reviewed and discussed by the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Departments, looking at patterns of risk in that area, trends, and victim support. A good example was a series of indecent exposures were



identified and eradicated by the Medway Beat Team – effective communications with members of the public, other internal Police departments and stakeholders resulted in an arrest and the safeguarding of young women attending a nearby school.

Medway Child Centred Policing Team (CCPT) have been working closely with Child Friendly Medway and have been involved in several themed engagement events aimed at women and girls. There has been some excellent feedback from these events, and they are set to continue as part of Safer Streets 5. Another good piece of work and as part of the CSU's ongoing focus on VAWG the local beat officer and Medway Community Liaison Officers have been attending a multiagency monthly meeting at a church in Rainham due to accosting's in the area, this has resulted in good engagement with local people and discussions around safety and reporting incidents to Police. Medway Safe Spaces scheme has also been promoted.

Alongside this, VAWG is consistently discussed in various multiagency events across Medway to promote engagement on the subject and to raise awareness. Additionally, VAWG Walk and Talk events have taken place and continue to be planned.

High visibility patrolling has recently seen an uplift in focus areas and Rochester High Street continues to have focus from Kent Police Beat Team, Neighbourhood Task Force and licencing teams during the nighttime economy.

### **Violence Reduction**

There has been focused deterrence work to tackle Young Street Groups (YSG) which was successfully tested in Medway. The YSG was tackled through a partnership response that included a regular offer of support from Youth Workers, enhanced surveillance and disruption from Kent Police, and community engagement with local businesses affected by the behaviour of the YSG.

There has been ongoing partnership working with both Gillingham FC and Chatham Town FC, supporting ongoing or developing community provisions. There is also parent training at Gillingham FC planned for the Autumn.

Continued work with Child Centred Policing Team delivering Roadshows in Medway to 9 schools, reaching over 2,000 pupils raising awareness around Knife Crime, Active Bystander, Healthy Relationships, Prevent and Catch22.

Working in partnership with Medway Youth Service to deliver the Safe Space project created by young people. This will run alongside Safer Streets Safe Space. Working in partnership with The Music Klub to deliver a music course to those young people that need diversionary work.

Partnership work with Medway's Missing and Exploitation Lead looks at those identified as being at risk of exploitation are also not on our radar for serious youth violence and then looking at how we work together to safeguard the young people and community.

### **Young People and Railway Stations**

Southeastern Railways commissioned Medway Youth Service in 2023 to engage with young people, staff and passengers using the five train stations in Medway. The work was requested due to concerns about anti-social behaviour including young people putting themselves and others at risk and being abusive towards station staff, each other, and passengers.

The aim of the work was to:

- ensure station staff felt listened to.
- improve station staff's confidence working with young people travelling on the railway.
- build a better understanding of challenging and risky behaviours experienced by railway staff and;
- assess, engage and work to safeguard vulnerable young people.

The work aimed to better understand the potential for youth work in the railway context and to support work to improve contextual safeguarding of young people.

### **Prevent – Gaming Bus**

The Kent and Medway Prevent team have run this project in partnership with Medway colleagues and will continue in 2024/25: Gaming – Awareness of Hate and Extremism. The Gaming Bus and the Prevent team alongside our Community Safety and youth partners looks at countering hateful extremism and spreading awareness around gaming and safety online. This risk has continued to increase. Radicalisation can happen anywhere and in particular the online gaming spaces. The bus is fully equipped with virtual reality and games. Games with extreme gun use and games that promote violence are not.

### **Gaming – Awareness of Hate and Extremism**

The Gaming and Extremism project is a community engagement initiative to promote awareness of how hateful extremism and potential radicalisation is spread via gaming and how it can be countered. The project was delivered in October 2023 by the Kent and Medway Prevent team supported by the CSP. The project was promoted through local Community Safety Partnerships, Community Safety Units with Youth Hub partners and advertised on various associated social media pages. In addition to the display information, all those who entered the bus were made verbally aware of its purpose.

### **Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP)**

The partnership was set up in response to the Harm to Hope Drug Strategy. The aims are to break drug supply chains, increase impact of treatment services and prevent people from initiating drug use through a collaborative approach.

A Joint Needs Assessment was written to inform the strategic action plan. There is a quarterly meeting and annual conference that includes partners from Criminal Justice, Health and Social care, and the third sector. There is strong buy in from partners and the majority of the work takes place outside of the meetings. The CDP has the following sub-groups, some of which are shared with other aligned partnerships.

- Local Drugs Information System (LDIS) - The LDIS receives, screens, assesses and shares information relating to any substance that presents higher risk of death or other immediate health harm, regardless of legal status. It aims to reduce harm by ensuring that evidence-based information rapidly reaches the right people, whilst reducing misinformation in the system. The Local Drugs Information System Alerts Panel will include reporting agency and other orgs as indicated, Emergency planning and Press Office (on standby), and the Standing LDIS Alerts Panel. The Standing panel included partners from Public Health, Safeguarding, Treatment Providers, Voluntary sector, Police, Housing, ICB, Youth Services and Mental Health services. The panel will ensure that appropriate actions are put in place to reduce drug related harms.
- Drug and Alcohol Related Death (DARD) Panel - When drug deaths occur, they are reviewed by the DARD Panel to identify where lessons should be learned, and practices changed. The panel representatives include Public Health, Hospital Safeguarding, Treatment Providers, Community Mental Health Treatment, ICB, Probation and Police. Partners will feed in any information from their service and will then support the writing of recommendations. Where themes reoccur, they can lead to other projects; for example, a death of a male who was a frequent user of criminal justice, emergency and hospital services has led to a project to review Alcohol Related Brain Damage and Cognitive Impairment.
- Continuity of Care Group - People leaving Prison where they have accessed substance misuse treatment need to be engaged with community treatment services in a timely manner. The continuity of care pathways across the system have been reviewed and a project group consisting of prison and community treatment providers, Public Health commissioners, Probation and 'through the gate' support services, is looking to improve the client journey. This will increase engagement with treatment services, reduce drug harms and reduce the likelihood of people of people returning to the criminal justice system.
- Co-occurring Conditions Group - A multi-agency approach has been taken to evaluate if there is a shared understanding and consistent implementation of the co-occurring conditions (mental health and substance misuse) protocol in Medway. The task and finish group consists of key agencies who have committed to the protocol: substance misuse services, mental health services, social prescribing, public health, adult social care and the ICB. The report and associated recommendations have been shared with system groups including the Combating Drugs Partnership and South East Drug and Alcohol Network for feedback. Following this, a project has commenced to better understand the support offer for people with substance use needs under the Mental Health Together pathway, considering how to better collaborate to deliver improved outcomes.
- Medway Multiple Disadvantage Network - A network to bring together funded projects that support people who face multiple disadvantages including homelessness (or at risk if homelessness), who have experience of rough sleeping, are involved with the criminal justice system or are at risk of premature death. Partners from the voluntary, statutory and health sectors work together to

reduce the likelihood of people falling between the gaps in services where a multi-agency approach could make a significant difference.

#### South East Drugs and Alcohol Network.

A regional information and best practice sharing group chaired by OHID (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities). Medway have presented their work on Co-occurring conditions (mental ill-health and substance misuse) and have received support establishing a Local Drugs Information System

#### South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (Regional County Lines Tactical Delivery Group).

Medway Public Health regularly attend this group and have presented the aims and benefits of the CDP approach. Kent Police have submitted a 4P plan to the group which has been shared with PH to inform the CDP.

#### **Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group**

The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group oversees activity across the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse partnerships to ensure aims identified within the strategy are effectively taken forward. The overarching aim is to reduce the prevalence of domestic and sexual abuse, and ensure that where abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, quickly.

The Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group, and the associated governance structure supporting this work, brings together experts in the field of domestic abuse, who work in partnership to strengthen responses across Kent and Medway. The Executive Group is supported by a number of meetings including the statutory Local Partnership Boards within Kent and Medway which ensure delivery of legal duties linked to the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act.

#### **Medway Sexual Health Partnership**

This partnership meets quarterly and is made up of partners across the health and voluntary sectors to improve sexual health. Areas of overlap with CSP priorities are limited but could include social aspects of Teenage Pregnancy prevention and support for people who sell sex. Partners include Public Health, Integrated Sexual Health Services, Termination of Pregnancy Providers, Young People's Charity, ICB, Sexual Assault Referral Centre, NHS England, Sex Worker outreach project, and domestic abuse commissioner.

#### **Serious Violence Prevention Partnership (SVPP)**

The Serious Violence Duty placed a requirement on local areas to assess and address serious violence. In Kent this work is led by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Serious Violence Partnership. One of the strands is to address violence associated with Drugs and Alcohol. Due to the close parallels with the Combatting Drugs Partnership, Medway Public Health are taking the lead and piloting a response that will look at violence associated with substance use and violence associated with drug supply.

This will map strategies and interventions to promote a joined-up response to drug related serious violence.

The SVPP has representation from Office of the PCC, Police, KFRS, Social care, Kent Districts, the Violence Reduction Unit, Public Health, The Probation Service and the Integrated Care Board.

### **Homelessness forum**

The Medway Homeless Forum is a provider forum hosted by Medway Council and attended in person by partner agencies every 3 months. Local services concerned with homelessness in Medway are invited to attend to share updates and best practice within their service often via presentations. The Forum is also an opportunity to raise any emerging concerns and to have open discussions regarding issues arising. Out of the Homeless Forum there are smaller Task and Finish groups to work through topics involving homelessness such as rough sleeping, young people and ex-offenders.

### **Ladies Night**

In 2019 a forum was hosted by Medway Housing Strategy and Partnerships for women who at the time were rough sleeping and not engaged in services in Medway. The forum explored reasons why this cohort although vulnerable, were not attending support services in the area. The group explained some of the barriers in attending services which included having to give personal information to reception staff, not wanting information shared between services about their situation which also included participating in sex work and services not being open at night which is when they had more capacity to attend. The forum attendees explained that the ideal would be to have the opportunity to speak to service providers to ask them about the service they offer and ask questions without having to give their own details first or without going through a receptionist. They also requested a safe place for women only where they could meet the staff from different services in one place that would be open at night. This created the basis of the lady's night project funded from the PCC fund.

Strong partnership work, with key support services in Medway operate the Ladies Night project. The project operated monthly from 8pm to 11pm; service providers attend in casual dress and without ID badges. The targeted cohort are women that are sex working and/or homeless. They are invited to attend the evening but do not have to give any details, unless they choose to, after being issued with a menu of services that are in the venue. The option to engage is on the women's own terms and they can get initial advice and information on services without disclosing who they are.

Services that work together in partnership for the success of the project include:

- River Substance Misuse Service.
- Oasis Domestic Abuse.
- Clover Street Sexual Health.
- Kent Police Rape and Sexual assault specialist.
- Pathways to Independence.
- Clarion Young People.
- Neighbourhood Task Force.

- One Big Family.
- Medway Street Angels.
- Caring Hands.
- Complex Needs Nurse, Public Health.
- Peer 2 peer Support.
- Medway Rough Sleeping Initiative.
- Medway Housing Services.

All services are briefed prior to the event, so that we do not take any personal details from the women unless they offer the information, no service is to carry out any interventions as the women's engagement is strictly on their own terms. We also ensure that no information regarding the women is shared outside of the event as it is important that the women don't feel tracked or monitored as this is key for ensuring engagement with this client group.

During the night we also deliver information workshops with different services sharing information on their subject matter. These have included workshops on:

- Sexual Health delivered by Clover Street.
- Police and offending behaviour delivered by Kent Police.
- Naloxone – Delivered by Forward Trust.
- Personal safety – Neighbourhood Task Force.
- Domestic Abuse workshop – Oasis.

The partners also contribute to the goodie bags issues at the end of the night which include Holly guards, personal alarms, and a range of information leaflets on all the services that attend Ladies Night.

Women who are in immediate need are also issued with food vouchers on the night from the household support fund. The most recent outcomes recorded from 2023/24 include:

- 91 individual women have attended at least 1 ladies' night (average 22 attendees per night).
- 5 women who are EU national have received ongoing supported with health and housing. 1 is suspected of being trafficked.
- 1 woman and 1 family fleeing domestic abuse on the night attended. Both were found temporary accommodation (the family on the night and the female the following day).

Other outcomes for 2023/24 include:

- 5 women supported with benefit advice.
- 11 women supported with housing advice.
- 8 women engaged with Streetlight.
- 27 women engaged with Sexual health.
- Forward trust engaged with 4 women who had disengaged with the service would want to reattend.
- 9 women received treatment during the night from the wound clinic nurses and 3 had follow on appointments for other health needs.

- During the lady's night outreach (March 24) – a 16-year-old rough sleeper was found and reported to the police who attended. We also identified a pattern of women selling sex through the high street which has been reported to the Neighbourhood Task Force.

## **StreetScene**

Street Scene Officers work closely with partner agencies, part of this work involves multi-agency projects bringing together officers for Street Scene, Kent Police, DWP, KFRS, Private Sector Housing (and others). The purpose of these multi-agency projects is to engage with residents in nominated areas to address issues such as refuse/fly-tipping/ASB/housing and to provide support and advice for more vulnerable residents.

There has been very positive feedback from residents for these events and are pleased that the services collaborate in this way. We have also seen marked improvements in the locations, 2 areas of note where this approach has proven very successful are: -

John Street/James Street/Delce Road, Rochester – A multi-agency project was carried out including colleagues from Medway Council (Street Scene/Environmental Enforcement/Kent Police/DWP/MHS Homes), outcomes were: -

- 1.6t of waste removed (Litter/Fly Tip).
- 78 Door knocks providing advice on Council/Police and MHS services.
- 17 trade waste visits to local businesses.
- New fly tipping/dog fouling signage.
- 1 x referral to KFRS for smoke alarms.
- 3 x Graffiti referrals.

James Street/Railway Street, Gillingham - A multi-agency project was carried out including colleagues from Medway Council (Street Scene / Environmental Enforcement / Kent Police / DWP / KFRS), outcomes were: -

- 30 Doors knocked providing advice on Council/Police services.
- 1 Landlord.
- 3 DWP Advice.
- 3 Intel reports.
- 12 Fire alarms fitted.

## **Environmental Enforcement**

The Environmental Enforcement Team (EET) continue their long standing, close working relationship with Kent Police Rural Task Force, Environment Agency, all Kent Districts and KCC in tackling fly tipping, illegal waste carriers, illegal waste transfer sites and other associated offences. This includes the sharing of intelligence between all partners and joint operations as required.

KCC are used as the intelligence collator with information sent to them and analysts gather and share all relevant information as required. In the 15 months there has been 8 operations with Kent Police resulting in 104 vehicles stopped, various legal notices served,

fixed penalty notices issued, and 7 investigations undertaken. Local policing teams continue to carry out joint operations with EET.

EET work closely with Medway Council Licensing regarding street trading, scrap metal sites, scrap metal collectors and the enforcement that comes with this.

### **Trading Standards**

Following a successful bid for Safer Streets 4 funding, Trading Standards were able to employ, on a temporary basis, a dedicated officer to deal with illegal tobacco sales. Working in partnership with Kent Police and HMRC this led to a total of 10,372 packets of illegal cigarettes (207,440 individual cigarettes), 1,012Kg of Hand Rolling Tobacco and 904 packets of 'Shisha' being seized and destroyed. This work has also led to the detection and seizure of over non-compliant Vape products

Working with our partners at the National Trading Standards Estate and Letting Agency Team the team have embarked on a programme to inspect all agencies in Medway to offer advice and guidance on their legal responsibilities. This has led to a number of traders updating their procedures and policies to ensure compliance.

Information from the National Scams Hub has allowed the team to carry out visits to vulnerable consumers in Medway to provide education, and in some cases return funds that had been sent to scam businesses but intercepted by the National Scams Hub.

### **Neil Howlett**

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