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Our ref: **Community Safety Partnership WP/Agenda**
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COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WORKING PARTY

12 DECEMBER 2016

A meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Working Party will be held at **7.00 pm on Monday, 12 December 2016** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Membership:

Councillor Curran (Chairman); Councillors: Campbell, Dixon, Falcon, Hayton, Martin and M Saunders

A G E N D A

Item
No

Subject

1. **ELECT CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies were received from Councillor Curran, Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership Working Party.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
To receive any declarations of interest. Members are advised to consider the advice contained within the Declaration of Interest form attached at the back of this agenda. If a Member declares an interest, they should complete that form and hand it to the officer clerking the meeting and then take the prescribed course of action.
4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 1 - 4)
To approve the Minutes of the Community Safety Partnership Working Party meeting held on 03 October 2016, copy attached.
5. **SEXUAL OFFENCES VICTIMS SUPPORT IN THANET** (Pages 5 - 8)
Members to receive a follow-up joint presentation on 'Sexual Offences Victims Support in Thanet,' from Jane Skeets (EK Rape Crisis Centre) and David Naylor (Victim Support).

Declaration of Interests Form

Item
No

Subject



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COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2016 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Curran (Chairman); Councillors Falcon, Hayton, Johnston, Martin and M Saunders

In Attendance: Councillors: L Fairbrass and D Saunders

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Campbell, substituted by Councillor Johnston.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Falcon proposed, Councillor M. Saunders seconded and Members agreed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting that was held on 30 June 2016.

4. SEXUAL OFFENCES VICTIMS SUPPORT IN THANET

After explaining the brief background to the identified topic for discussion, Councillor Curran, Chairman of the working party invited Acting Detective Chief Inspector Max Davidson, Kent Police to make the presentation. The reason for the invitation was for Members to seek clarification on the facts regarding the discrepancies between reported rape crimes and conviction rates in Thanet. Acting DCI Davidson gave some contextual background to the presentation.

Pre 2013: Before the referral Clinical approach was adopted, each of the three police divisions in Kent had a rape investigation unit. There were approximately eight rape case suites in various districts. Part of the investigation process was to take victims away from the police station to these suites in order to carry out medical examinations and interview by video. These have now been replaced by a new approach that introduced Sexual Assault Referral Clinics (SARC).

New Approach since the 2013 Report: These clinics capture forensic evidence (a task that was previous done through these suites). After the national review that led to the Home Office report in 2013, a decision was made to standardise at high specifications, the collection and processing of evidence relating to sexual offences in England and Wales through SARC. This was now being done with the support of the NHS, as the main commissioning group. Thirty nine clinics were set up across England and Wales, to manage a high standard of interviewing process and evidence gathering.

Kent has one such clinic in Maidstone and it is called Beach House. The process for collecting forensic samples and conducting medical examination was now being done by specialised staff in Kent; Mountain Health Care is the company that is contracted to deliver this service. The unit is part of Maidstone Hospital and has a nurse led forensics team.

Mountain Health Care is familiar with the Police requirements for evidence collection and works to those standards. They are able to write up forensic strategies to the required police specifications within the agreed timescales.

There are other victim support services in the county. These include the East Kent Rape Line, an independent service that provides support to victims of sexual violence and is based in Canterbury. There is Family Matters in Gravesend, as the counterpart to EK Rape Line.

The referral clinics provide twenty four hour service for actual victim support and strategy discussions. Rape Crisis, a national charity to which the EK Rape Line is an affiliate member. Victims living in Thanet can be referred to the EK Rape Line in Canterbury or they have the option to report to the Police or Accident & (A&E) at QEQM Hospital. Victims can also report to their GPs who are familiar with the SARC, and can refer them to the appropriate services for further support.

Max Davidson referred to the 114 cases highlighted in the Freedom of Information request were sexual offence cases that were reported in Thanet in 2015. Of these cases, three had resulted in convictions at the time. He advised Members on the process for handling rape case as follows:

- A rape investigation can take approximately 9 months;
- Crime Prosecution Services (CPS) make the final decision on cases submitted to them whether to prosecute or not;
- Due to the complexities around such cases, CPS has an approximate 3 months turnaround before making a decision regarding prosecution;
- The judicial process can take up to 9 months; This means that a proportion of the 2015 cases (114) are still to be confirmed as going ahead for prosecution or not;
- In 2015, 10 cases were charged;
- Conviction rate in Kent was approximately 53% (rolling year data August 2016).

Acting DCI Davidson said that in November 2014, Kent Police set up a centralised Sexual Offences Investigation Team which is in the Public Protection Unit and they specialise in serious sexual offence investigations.

The unit is split into two with one half focusing on the north and western of the county whilst the other is responsible for the eastern side. The officers are supervised by Detective Sergeants and detective Inspectors assigned to serve on these two areas. He then gave some approximate data around the number of sexual offences (including rape cases) reported in Kent advising that the number had increased over the past five years.

In response to a Member question, Max Davidson reported that:

- Although he did not have the exact figures of male rape victims, 10-15% were male and 80-85% were female victims;
- Within those figures were child rape victims as well;
- The SARC process works on strategies that recognise:
 - Transgender victims;
 - Female victims (of Female Genital Mutilation);
 - Child victims (Child Sexual Exploitation – CSE);
 - Male victims;
 - Victims from different cultures.
- The increase in the number of reported rape cases was in part due to the work done to encourage victims to come forward;
- Operation Yewtree (especially around the Savile Inquiry) has encouraged historical offences victims to come forward as well;
- The Home Office approach where the Police would ask a question on sexual offending when they are processing other reported crimes (specifically within domestic violence);
- Marital rape was also investigated;

- Mental health services staff were very well trained to support rape victims (i.e. alcohol/drug intake is considered and questions are asked in order to offer the best possible support to the victims).

Members observed that victim support was a very important part of the process of investigating and prosecuting sexual offences. They also said that the public should be made aware of the importance of keeping safe and being aware of their environment.

Members acknowledged that there was an improvement in approach by the Police since 2013. They further asked the following:

- How many of the reported rape cases were withdrawn before they went up to CPS? In response Max Davidson said that although he did not have the exact figures, across the board, approximately 35-40% of sexual assault victims did not want to proceed further with their cases.
- How many cases did CPS decline to prosecute? Acting DCI Davidson said that the unit he worked for was a victim-focused organisation that made decisions for the good of the victims and public. He was currently seconded to the Crown Prosecution Service and they were working on quality in decision making.
- Max Davidson said that although he did not have the statistics for the cases that the CPS declined to prosecute, all were subject of careful consideration by experienced and dedicated lawyers. It could take between four to six hours for the lawyers to make such a decision after consulting with the Police before deciding not to prosecute.

There are currently 400 highly trained police officers, who have received additional training (called Initial Response Officers) who attend sexual assault investigations in Kent. In response to another member question, Max Davidson advised that there was a team in Kent that manages violent offenders and the team provides information to the investigation each time a case was reported. This would help rule in or out any of the ex-offenders they manage.

Chief Inspector Sharon Adley added that all police officers are trained to respond effectively to reports of rape and sexual offences; they also have the ability to contact their supervisor from the scene if they wish to seek guidance.

One Member requested for information regarding reported sexual offence cases reported in Thanet in 2015. Members requested for that information as it would provide a clear picture of the challenges in the district regarding that problem. Members also requested for contact details for all the sexual offence victim support organisations in the district or neighbouring areas.

Members asked if there was any protection against child sexual exploitation in the district. Max Davidson informed the meeting that Kent Police were currently conducting Operation Willow which provides awareness to the local communities about sexual exploitation of children. This was a top of the list priority for the government and Kent Police. Whilst the victims are young boys, the higher percentage of this exploitation was towards the young girls. This issue was closely linked to missing children and the police and partner agencies are working on this problem.

CI Adley said that her staff are highly trained in this area, as are partners in identifying signs of CSE. For example taxi drivers are undergoing training by Thanet District Council, before being issued with operating licences.

There was also some ongoing work in schools to raise the awareness amongst school children. CI Adley and Members accepted that a multi-agency presentation on

'awareness about child sex exploitation in Thanet' be made at the next meeting of the working party.

The Chairman thanked Acting DCI Davidson and CI Adley for the presentation.

Members requested for more signposting information which they can share with communities in their respective wards. Penny Button summed up requests from the working party as follows:

- Need for signposting information about sexual offences victims support that Members can share with residents;
- More information about SARC open day and share with Members;
- Community Safety Unit (CSU) to provide figures about sexual violence offences reported in Thanet in 2015;
- Circulate information on EK Rape Line;
- Campaign about signposting;
- Invite Victim Support, Rape Crisis to make a presentation at the next meeting of the working party.

Councillor Johnston proposed and Councillor Falcon seconded the following recommendations that:

1. Members note with gratitude the presentation and the clarification on several points;
2. The Overview & Scrutiny Panel request the Chairman of Council invites Kent Police and other relevant bodies to give a presentation to Full Council so that all councillors are fully informed of the very valuable work that the Police, Rape Crisis and others do.

When put to vote the motion was lost.

Officers suggested that the topic could be forwarded to the Corporate Management Team for consideration as a possible Members Briefing topic. However one Member felt that these were not very well attended by councillors.

Councillor Martin proposed, Councillor M. Saunders seconded and upon a casting vote by the Chairman, Members agreed that an invitation be made for a follow-up multi-agency presentation before the working party can come up with recommendations on the way forward.

Meeting concluded: 8.25 pm

Sexual offence support services for Thanet

Community Safety Partnership **12 December 2016**
Working Party

Report Author **Jessica Bailey, Community Safety Team Leader**

Portfolio Holder **Cllr Lin Fairbrass, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Community Services**

Status **For Recommendation**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Key Decision **No**

Ward: **All wards**

Executive Summary:

The first topic that the Community Safety working party wanted to better understand and scrutinise in their role as an OSP sub group for 2016-17, was the volume of offences committed and support services available to victims of sexual assaults in Thanet.

An initial presentation was made by Acting Detective Chief Inspector Max Davidson, from Kent Police Sexual Investigation Team. A follow up joint presentation to be led by Jane Skeets (Rape Crisis Centre) and David Naylor (Victim Support) was requested by the working party.

It was expected that after this second presentation, Members would come up with a view on the subject and make recommendations as they see fit and also take a view as to what further scrutiny may be required.

Recommendation(s):

To be determined following the meeting.

- 1 Note the presentation;
and either
2. Request further information and agree on further lines of enquiry for scrutiny;
or
3. Formulate and forward any recommendations to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel for onward submission to the Police Crime Panel.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	There are no financial implications currently arising from this information report.
Legal	There are no legal implications currently arising from this information report.

Corporate	There are no corporate risks associated with this report.								
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	<p>Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td>X</td> </tr> </table> <p>There are no equity and equalities issues arising directly from this report but the Council needs to retain a strong focus and understanding on issues of diversity amongst the local community and ensure service delivery matches these. It should also be noted that a review to be conducted by one of the working parties focuses on protecting vulnerable individuals of the local community from violence.</p>	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.		Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	X	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	X	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	X
Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.									
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	X								
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	X								
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	X								

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	✓

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	✓

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At the meeting held on the 30th June 2016, Community Safety Working party members agreed a different approach undertaking their role as a scrutiny sub group of OSP for 2016/17 in that they would focus on a smaller number of subjects in greater depth.
- 1.2 The first topic that the working party wanted to better understand and scrutinise was the volume of offences committed and support services available to victims of sexual assaults in Thanet.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 Members raised concerns about the issue and the following questions were submitted for further scrutiny:
- What support is available in Thanet to victims of sexual offences?
 - Where is the nearest rape crisis centre for providing victim support?

- What are the reasons for the low proportion of rape allegations that result in conviction in Thanet?
- 2.2 Acting Detective Chief Inspector Max Davidson, from Kent Police Sexual Investigation Team made a presentation at the meeting on 03 October 2016 and Chief Inspector Sharon Adley was in attendance to support the presentation.
- 2.3 An overview was given updating on the current situation and service provision in response Member queries on the subject. For a reminder of the highlights to the presentation made, Members may wish to refer to the minutes reported elsewhere in the agenda.
- 2.4 This follow-up joint presentation is meant to provide additional information that the working party can use to form a view on the subject and draw conclusions to the review.

3.0 Options

Following the presentation and question responses, working party members can:

- 3.1 Note the information and explanations given;
- Or either
- 3.2 Request further information and agree on further lines of enquiry for scrutiny;
Or
- 3.3 Formulate and forward any recommendations to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel for onward submission to the Police Crime Panel.

4.0 Other considerations

- 4.1 Kent Police are a partner of Thanet Community Safety Partnership, and Members need to be clear what is within the remit of OSP to influence and what may be more appropriate to refer to the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel.
- 4.2 The function of the Police and Crime Panel is to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account in securing efficient and effective policing, working with local partners and criminal justice bodies to achieve the Police and Crime Plan and have jurisdiction over county resourcing.
- 4.3 All districts are represented in the membership; Councillor Chris Wells and Councillor Roger Latchford sit on the panel for Thanet.

Contact Officer:	Jessica Bailey, Community Safety Team Leader
Reporting to:	Penny Button, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods

Annex List

None	N/A
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Matt Sanham, Corporate Finance Manager
Legal	Ciara Feeney, Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM

Do I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and if so what action should I take?

Your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) are those interests that are, or should be, listed on your Register of Interest Form.

If you are at a meeting and the subject relating to one of your DPIs is to be discussed, in so far as you are aware of the DPI, you **must** declare the existence **and** explain the nature of the DPI during the declarations of interest agenda item, at the commencement of the item under discussion, or when the interest has become apparent

Once you have declared that you have a DPI (unless you have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee or the Monitoring Officer, for which you will have applied to the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting) you **must:-**

1. Not speak or vote on the matter;
2. Withdraw from the meeting room during the consideration of the matter;
3. Not seek to improperly influence the decision on the matter.

Do I have a significant interest and if so what action should I take?

A significant interest is an interest (other than a DPI or an interest in an Authority Function) which:

1. Affects the financial position of yourself and/or an associated person; or Relates to the determination of your application for any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration made by, or on your behalf of, you and/or an associated person;
2. And which, in either case, a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest.

An associated person is defined as:

- A family member or any other person with whom you have a close association, including your spouse, civil partner, or somebody with whom you are living as a husband or wife, or as if you are civil partners; or
- Any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors; or
- Any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000;
- Any body of which you are in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Authority; or
- any body in respect of which you are in a position of general control or management and which:
 - exercises functions of a public nature; or
 - is directed to charitable purposes; or
 - has as its principal purpose or one of its principal purposes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

An Authority Function is defined as: -

- Housing - where you are a tenant of the Council provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease; or
- Any allowance, payment or indemnity given to members of the Council;
- Any ceremonial honour given to members of the Council
- Setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992

If you are at a meeting and you think that you have a significant interest then you **must** declare the existence **and** nature of the significant interest at the commencement of the

matter, or when the interest has become apparent, or the declarations of interest agenda item.

Once you have declared that you have a significant interest (unless you have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee or the Monitoring Officer, for which you will have applied to the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting) you **must**:-

1. Not speak or vote (unless the public have speaking rights, or you are present to make representations, answer questions or to give evidence relating to the business being discussed in which case you can speak only)
2. Withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the matter or immediately after speaking.
3. Not seek to improperly influence the decision.

Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality

Councillors must declare at meetings any gift, benefit or hospitality with an estimated value (or cumulative value if a series of gifts etc.) of £25 or more. You **must**, at the commencement of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, disclose the existence and nature of the gift, benefit or hospitality, the identity of the donor and how the business under consideration relates to that person or body. However you can stay in the meeting unless it constitutes a significant interest, in which case it should be declared as outlined above.

What if I am unsure?

If you are in any doubt, Members are strongly advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or the Committee Services Manager well in advance of the meeting.

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS AND GIFTS, BENEFITS AND HOSPITALITY

MEETING.....

DATE..... AGENDA ITEM

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

GIFTS, BENEFITS AND HOSPITALITY

THE NATURE OF THE INTEREST, GIFT, BENEFITS OR HOSPITALITY:

.....
.....
.....

NAME (PRINT):

SIGNATURE:

Please detach and hand this form to the Democratic Services Officer when you are asked to declare any interests.