

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="3">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></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></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></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