
THANET COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN FOR 2016 – 2017

To: **COUNCIL – 31 March 2016**

Main Portfolio Area: **Community Services**

By: **Community Safety Team Leader**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: **This report details the process undertaken by Thanet Community Safety Partnership to develop the Thanet Community Safety Plan for 2016-17.**

The report asks for the provisional themes and focus areas for the Community Safety Plan to be agreed, to enable partner agencies to work jointly to help improve Community Safety in the district.

For Decision

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The council has a statutory duty via the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work jointly with other 'responsible authorities' which includes County Council, Police, Fire, Probation and Health services, to reduce crime and disorder and reoffending through the facilitation of a Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Thanet District Council facilitates the CSP on behalf of these agencies.
- 1.2 Each CSP is required to undertake an annual assessment of all relevant agency data to identify emerging crime and disorder trends. These trends, along with feedback from public and partner consultation, then inform focus areas and themes for Community Safety Plan activity for the coming year.
- 1.3 This report identifies the process undertaken to develop the Community Safety Plan for 2016-17 and asks members to agree the focus areas and the process for monitoring delivery.
- 1.4 These draft documents have already been considered by the Community safety Working Party that met on the 01 February, the OSP that met on the 09 February and by Cabinet of the 03 March 2016. Recommendations and feedback have been incorporated into the revised draft submission in annex 1.

2.0 Thanet Community Safety Plan 2016/17 – Process

- 2.1 The focus areas for the Community Safety Plan are established through a process of data analysis, consultation and collaborative planning.
- 2.2 Partnership data is firstly provided by all agencies, assessed by Kent County Council Community Safety Unit and then reviewed locally.

- 2.3 The initial review of data for Thanet shows a positive reduction in all crime, of 4.9%, (Jan- Dec 2015 compared to Jan – Dec 2014), which is consistent with county trends. Thanet does however still face some challenges with regards to some crime categories, deprivation and vulnerability indicators.
- 2.4 Following the data analysis, a practitioner stakeholder event is then held, where officers, informed by the data and local knowledge, discuss emerging issues and share their own organisation's objectives. Over 90 stakeholders from 16 public, private and voluntary agencies attended the event, held in December 2015.
- 2.5 A draft set of focus areas are formulated and residents are then consulted for their views based on local perceptions of safety in the district. The consultation is being held during January 2016 and although final figures are currently still being processed, initial analysis shows 393 responses, which already exceeds the joint sum of previous years and 72% of respondents are in support of the proposed themes.
- 2.6 Proposals for the Community Safety Plan for 2016-17 continue on a similar focus to last year, looking at broader themes rather than individual crime types. By taking a holistic approach, action can be taken simultaneously on both disrupting those offenders that continue to cause significant harm, but also to provide continued support to those vulnerable people in greatest need.

3.0 Proposed focus areas for 2016-17

3.1 The Community Safety Plan will focus on the following focus areas;

- **Reducing Offending and Reoffending**

- Divert first time entrants and repeat offenders from the criminal justice system
- Prevent nuisance and anti-social behaviour from escalating into criminality
- Tackle violence and crimes that cause the most harm to communities
- Work jointly to address drivers of crime, including substance misuse and alcohol

- **Safeguarding our most vulnerable people**

- Target resources to support domestic abuse and mental health
- Identify and support those susceptible to all forms of exploitation
- Break cycles of abuse and vulnerability
- Address isolation and improve community based support

- **Improving community confidence and agency collaboration**

- Raise awareness and education of community safety activity, including road safety
- Integrate and co-locate services to improve delivery and replicate innovation
- Engage and empower communities through positive re-enforcement
- Use reparation and volunteer support to improve the physical environment

3.2 These compliment the strategic priorities of the new Thanet Leadership Group which have oversight of the CSP and other key boards such as Health and Well-Being and Invest Thanet.

3.3 They also allow each of the partners to relate them to their own objectives such as the Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue Service control strategies. This will ensure partnership efforts compliment but don't duplicate ongoing work.

4.0 Delivery of the Plan

- 4.1 Unlike previous years, partners have decided not to create the action plan straight away. As the development process starts in December, some objectives that were set were either no longer feasible for implementation by April or had changed direction. This restricted the partnership's ability to be able to respond dynamically to the most challenging issues facing the district.
- 4.2 Having broader themes, will enable a fluid partnership response to Community Safety, which can evolve and adapt as required, and be more flexible and responsive to crime trends and issues that emerge as the year progresses.
- 4.3 This also takes into consideration feedback from Community Safety practitioners and that public when they have raised additional emerging issues throughout the year, that the partnership has been restricted by the rigidity of the pre-set action plan, to having to potentially commit to resources via a plan written before the new financial years allocations were confirmed.
- 4.4 It is proposed that delivery will be managed by the establishment of task and finish groups, in early April 2016, focussing on each of the three focus areas.
- 4.5 Each group will be co-ordinated and driven by an operational lead officer, who will be supported and overseen by a strategic lead officer from a mixture of partnership agencies. This two tier structure at both an operational and strategic level, will provide a more thorough mechanism for delivery of the Community Safety Plan for 2016-17.
- 4.6 On inception, each Task and Finish project group will complete action plans and establish measures of success. It is proposed these action plans are submitted to the Community Safety Working Party for agreement at their first meeting in 2016-17.

5.0 Accountability and performance management

- 5.1 Each task and finish group will report back to the Community Safety Working Party and Executive Board at each meeting to ensure accountability.
- 5.2 Update will also be provided at a strategic level to the Leadership Board, to ensure priorities remain aligned with wider remits, and to prevent duplication with other multi agency groups.

6.0 Options

- 6.1 To approve the Draft Thanet Community Safety Plan 2016/17 themes and focus areas, as set out in Annex 1.
- 6.2 To make suggestions for improvement and then approve the Draft Thanet Community Safety Plan 2016/17 themes and focus areas, as set out in Annex 1.

7.0 Corporate Implications

7.1 Financial

- 7.1.1 District Council Community Safety staff facilitate the Community Safety Partnership alongside their TDC function of anti-social behaviour case management. Salaries for these staff are covered within the budget for 2016-17.

7.1.2 The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has confirmed the CSP will be awarded a grant of approximately £31957 depending on their final government settlement. This will be available for the Task and Finish groups to ensure delivery of the actions and expenditure will be agreed by the TCSP Executive Group.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 In relation to any decision or project implemented by any department in the local authority, under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the local authority has a duty to do all that is reasonable to prevent crime and disorder.

7.2.2 This Community Safety Plan provides evidence of compliance by the District Council and other responsible authorities of the statutory functions contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent updates in other legislation.

7.3 Corporate

7.3.1 The draft Community Safety Plan priorities in 2016-17 support the corporate plan objectives, Priority 1: A clean and Welcoming Environment and Priority 2: Supporting neighbourhoods. This directly supports 'continuing to work with partners to improve community safety'. Taking a partnership approach also supports corporate value 1: Delivering value for money, particularly around targeting resources and delivering more cost effective services.

8.0 Recommendation(s)

8.1 That, taking into consideration any recommendations from the CSP Working Party from 01 February, Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 09 February, and Cabinet meeting on the 03 March 2016, it is recommended to Council that the focus areas in the Thanet Community Safety Plan 2016/17 as set out in Annex 1 are approved.

9.0 Decision Making Process

9.1 As the Community Safety Plan is a policy framework document, this report will go to Cabinet with final approval reserved to Council.

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Reporting to:	Penny Button, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods

Annex List

Annex 1	Draft Community Safety Plan 2016-2017
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Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Matt Sanham, Financial Services Manager
	Clive Bowen, External Funding Officer
PR	Hannah Thorpe, Head of Communications
Legal Services	Ciara Feeney, Head of Legal Services