

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Ashford Community Safety Partnership: an update on community safety activity in the borough 2018/2019

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked:

1.

Date of O&S meeting: 26th February 2019

Chair of O&S Committee: Cllr. Chilton

Relevant Portfolio(s): Cllr. Bradford

Summary: This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny with the Community Safety annual update. The report pays particular regard to the Council's statutory obligation to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder, this work being progressed through the Ashford Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

It gives information on current community safety priorities, actions that have been taken to meet the priorities and raises awareness of emerging issues. It also supports the delivery of the priorities set by the Police and Crime Commissioner and Kent Police.

Exempt from Publication: NO

Background Papers: N/A

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Agenda Item No.

Report Title:

Ashford Community Safety Partnership: an update on the community safety activity in the borough

Introduction and Background

1. It remains a statutory requirement for local authorities to work in partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). We achieve this through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), where 'responsible partners' namely the local authority (district and county), Fire and Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation and the local Police, work collaboratively make the community safer, reduce crime and the fear of crime, reduce ASB and work with business and residents on the issues of most concern. The chair of the Head Teachers Forum and chairs of the CSP subgroups also support the CSP.
2. In order to sett the current priorities, the CSP used police data and the local crime profile. A stakeholder engagement event also assisted in the development of priorities which for 2018/19 are:
 - Anti-social Behaviour
 - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences
 - Safeguarding Adults
 - Safeguarding Children
 - Serious and Organised Crime

These are explored in detail in the next section of this report.

3. Community Safety Partnerships have a responsibility to convene a strategy group of all responsible authorities (although it can invite other organisations), prepare a strategic assessment of local crime and community safety priorities using information provided by partner agencies and the community, and produce an action plan to meet those priorities. Due to the nature of this requirement, the Council's Community Safety Unit (CSU) takes responsibility for coordinating activities and events.
4. Under the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007, district and borough CSPs are required to:
 - Produce an annual strategic assessment
 - Produce a rolling partnership plan setting out priorities, with actions to deliver these priorities
 - Have a dialogue with communities to inform these processes and explain outcomes
5. Our actions over the course of 2018/19 flow from the annual strategic assessment that is undertaken in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The

actions are informed by the Kent Community Safety Partnership Plan and Safer Kent 2017 – 2021, the plan of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner.

6. Overall, the ASP is responsible for ensuring that the priorities, actions and targets that we have identified will be delivered through a multi-agency approach by having:
 - Strong strategic management
 - Tasking our joint resources through well-established partnership operational structures, including identifying, managing and reducing risk
 - Strong performance management
7. CSP governance has three key levels of decision-making, strategic, operational and from next year a formalised separate performance level.

Our approach

8. The CSP has a whole system approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Our experience tells us that investing in one type of intervention alone does not resolve the problem. For example, enforcement is most effective if it is supported by local communities and other activity is taking place to change behaviours.
9. A triangle of intervention is applied when we are looking at any type of crime or anti-social behaviour issue that requires the engagement of a range of services, voluntary and community groups to find long-term solutions.

Anti-social behaviour – lead agency Ashford Borough Council

10. All residents have the right to feel safe and secure where they live and the right to enjoy a peace and quiet in their homes. The CSP is committed to effectively tackling ASB which can have a serious impact on wellbeing.
11. Although we have prioritised women and girls as victims of domestic abuse, we recognise that men can also be victims and our services provide support for men as well as women.
12. Any behaviours that are regarded as a nuisance may be considered to be anti-social. In some instances, this behaviour may also constitute a criminal offence. This can range from domestic noise, littering, damage to property, drunk or rowdy behaviour, neighbour nuisance to serious intimidation, drug dealing or harassment.
13. We aim to take enforcement action against those responsible for ASB. When dealing with problematic individuals, our emphasis will be on taking action at an early stage for problems can escalate. Work with the police ensures that repeat victims are identified and supported.

ASB - Kent Police data

14. The data provided by Kent Police below shows the number of incidents of ASB reported to Kent Police for the borough of Ashford.

15. The Kent Police data shows a decrease of 361 reported incidents of ASB over the past 12 months. The table below shows that there has been an overall decrease of reported ASB to Kent Police across the county. This reduction is being attributed to a change in counting rules utilised by Kent Police. It was identified that criminal offences were being incorrectly recorded as ASB incidents, rather than the correct crime type. It is expected that figures next year will remain stable due to greater consistency over data recording.

Area	January to December 2017	January to December 2018	Diff. in no.	Dif. In %
Ashford	2001	1640	-361 (decrease)	-18% (decrease)
Kent	40151	31353	-8798 (decrease)	-6% (decrease)

16. Appendix A shows the ASB figures for all districts, this can be used to benchmark Ashford against other Kent districts. It shows that we have the 10th lowest recorded ASB in the county.
17. Data provided by Kent Police as shown below highlights the five wards with Ashford borough with the highest recorded ASB:

Ward	November 2016 to October 2017	November 2017 to October 2018	Difference (numbers)	Difference (percent)
Victoria	492	414	-78 (decrease)	-15% (decrease)
Beaver	169	145	-24 (decrease)	-14% (decrease)
Stanhope	137	92	-45 (decrease)	-32% (decrease)
Godinton	85	81	-4 (decrease)	-4% (decrease)
Stour	98	75	-23 (decrease)	-23% (decrease)

18. This indicates that there has been a decrease in all wards. The data shows that Victoria ward still has the highest levels of reported ASB within the borough.

ASB - Borough Council data

19. In addition to the above, the borough council can now provide further ASB data. This is due to the introduction of the 'Report it app' that was launched in October 2016.

	Jan 2017 to Dec 2017	Jan 2018 to December 2018	Diff. in no.	Dif. In %
Ashford	145	278	+133 (increase)	+48% (increase)

20. The reports received cover a number of different types of ASB but the highest type is relation to gathering of youths who are causing nuisance.
21. A full breakdown of ASB reports to Ashford Borough Council can be found at Appendix B.
22. As the 'Report It' app is relatively new, it is likely that much of the reported increase is due to greater awareness and ease of reporting rather than an actual increase in the level of ASB. Figures for 2019 are more likely to give an indication of whether ASB is increasing or not.

Use of ASB legislation (Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, as amended)

23. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are designed to reduce and address ASB being committed in a public place. If the order is breached then police and council officers have the ability to issue a fixed penalty notice (FPN) to the value of £100. There are currently five PSPOs within the borough (three are gating orders and two are linked to specified locations and particular behaviours). In 2018, six FPNs issued in relation to the Singleton Lake PSPO.
24. There have been no ASB case reviews during the period of this report. This is a positive sign as it indicates that ASB victims are satisfied their issues are being resolved.
25. Housing officers have secured three ASB closure orders in the borough. These orders are obtained from the Magistrates Court and enable a premises to be closed for a maximum of six months where there has been evidence of drugs, persistent disorder or nuisance such as noise. Such closure orders have had a positive impact on their communities by addressing the behaviour or people attending these premises.
26. Finally, a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) relating to ASB within the town centre has been issued. This was a result of collaborative work by the Ashford Community Safety Unit (CSU) members. Monitoring activity continues to ensure compliance with the order.

ASB action plan

27. The ASB working group with the support of the CSP has completed the following work:
 - A number of multi-agency operations have taken place to reduce ASB in areas where numerous complaints have been received. An example of this was in relation to a substantial increase of ASB in the new play park. There was positive liaison with the Parish Council, local residents and the PCSO for the area. There was also a temporary deployment of a CCTV camera to help monitor ASB and Ashford Monitoring Centre carried out camera patrols of the areas as requested. This work led to a reduction in ASB and minor offences and encouraged the residents to use the park.

- The CSU held a residents meeting to help tackle reports of ASB and parking concerns in relation to two properties in the Kingsnorth area. The powers that the local authority and Kent Police have in order to deal with their concerns were explained to the residents. The residents received updates in relation to the work that had already taken place such as an eviction of a resident and investigation around commercial activity operating from the properties. It produced a positive result and the residents were satisfied with the action taken.
 - A high-risk ASB case was identified in the Godinton area. This was in relation to a vulnerable resident where reports had been received by other residents and neighbours due to ASB. There was continual work from the CSU and Kent Police to help mitigate the concerns and it ended with a visit from the vulnerability PCSO to support the resident and suitable referrals were made.
 - A funding bid was submitted to a KCC member to provide funding for a Crimestoppers initiative. This involved four interventions covering the cost of bespoke marketing material (including social media presence), support from Crimestoppers for engagement and education events and the programme evaluation. This campaign aims to increase awareness of Crimestoppers in key areas across Ashford and to contribute to the actionable information and positive outcomes received by Kent Police.
 - A grant was obtained to purchase a third deployable CCTV camera; these can be rapidly deployed into high-risk ASB areas to deter activity and identify offenders.
28. Members will also be aware of the work of the Compliance and Enforcement Board around ASB and the proposal to increase the resources of the borough council through the appointment of a Community Safety Officer to specialise in the handling of complex ASB cases.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences – lead agency Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum

29. We recognise that domestic abuse is a serious and life-threatening crime that affects victims and their families. Our priority is that victims and any children are safeguarded from further abuse.
30. Domestic abuse is a key part of our community safety work and requires the same level of multi-agency engagement alongside the other community safety priorities such as anti-social behaviour and safeguarding.
31. The domestic abuse coordinator role is to provide support to the Ashford Domestic Abuse Forum (ADAF), coordinate the One Stop Shop (OSS) and facilitate group courses for victims of domestic abuse such as the “Freedom” programme and ‘Recovery Tool Kit’.
32. In addition to funding the domestic abuse coordinator post, the borough council assists by providing funds towards an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) for Ashford through the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service.

Commissioned Services in Ashford

33. The contract for Ashford, Canterbury and Shepway is delivered by Centra, with Rising Sun subcontracted to provide the IDVA support from 2017 to 2024. Centra have considerable experience of providing refuge support within the borough. A new domestic abuse support service and referral pathway was created in April 2017.
34. Over the next six years, Rising Sun will continue to provide the IDVA and outreach provision for the borough. This will maintain consistency as Rising Sun have been the service provider within Ashford for many years and have delivered an outstanding service to victims of domestic abuse.
35. IDVAs act as the primary contact for victims of domestic abuse. The IDVA proactively works with a client from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of options available and act as the client's advocate. This service aims to encourage and enable the voice of the victim to be heard by the required service providers ensuring that advice and support given safeguards the victim and their family.
36. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, probation, health, child protection, housing practitioners, IDVAs and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.
37. The table below shows the number of Ashford cases which have progressed through the MARAC process:

Year	Ashford Cases	Number of repeat victims
April 2016 to March 2017	141	33
April 2017 to March 2018	129	28

38. The table below shows the reported Domestic Abuse related crime recorded by Kent Police.

Year	Ashford Domestic Abuse Crimes Cases	Increase
January to December 2017	2363	-
January to December 2018	2770	+407 (increase)

Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (OSS)

39. The Ashford OSS is a drop-in service for anyone affected, in any way, by domestic abuse where support, help and advice is given. It is a free and confidential service and no appointment is necessary. This is currently available one morning a week in a safe environment.
40. The figures below show the attendance at the Ashford OSS for the previous two years:

Location	No of visitors 2016/17 (July 2016 to June 2017)	No of visitors 2017/18 (July 2017 to June 2018)	% increase/ decrease in visitors (compared to previous year)
Ashford	442	503	+12% (increase)

41. Attendance has increased and this is believed to be due to rising awareness of the facility and the quality of the service as developed by the council's domestic abuse coordinator. It is also a testament to the confidence that users have of the service and the support provided.
42. Between July 2017 and June 2018, 33 male victims attended the OSS accounting for just 6.5% of the total attendance.
43. The OSS continues to be an area for professionals to work together to provide a coordinated response to domestic abuse. This year has seen the borough council's Housing Options Team strengthen commitment to attending weekly slots ensuring that anyone attending with urgent housing needs can be seen quickly and given effective support. This is proving highly successful for clients at the OSS with positive feedback being given by both victims and professionals.

Pro-active group work

44. Ashford has a consistent approach to delivering support groups services. The main service offered being the 'Freedom Programme'. This is a 12-week course to help victims of domestic abuse understand the impact on their lives and their children's lives. It enables them to understand the behaviour that they were exposed to and to be aware of warning signs in possible future relationships.
45. The Freedom Programme is organised by the domestic abuse coordinator and delivered by a number of partners including Early Help and Preventative Services (EHPS), KCC Education Service and Centra. The venue for these courses and any required crèche facilities are provided free of charge via the Beaver Community Trust, a commissioned service within Ashford.
46. In the past year (December 2017 to December 2018) there were four Freedom Programmes run as well as a new pilot programme called Phoenix. The Phoenix programme will replace Freedom once the pilot has been evaluated and facilitators have been trained. The programmes have supported a total of 42 victims of domestic abuse. There are currently two groups running through during January and February and this will support a further 32 victims.
47. In 2015, funding was secured by the ADAF to run 'The Recovery Toolkit' and this funding continues to date. The Recovery Toolkit is a psycho-educational resource that includes a cognitive behavioural therapy module. In the last 12 months, two courses have run in the borough and were offered to 27 women of which 12 engaged.

Domestic abuse and sexual offences action plan

48. Domestic Abuse and sexual offences remain a priority and the main areas of focus are detailed below:
49. A number of multi-agency awareness sessions have taken place in order to learn from the Domestic Homicide Reviews that are coordinated by KCC. Many frontline professionals attended from a range of agencies including the borough council's housing service, KCC community wardens, schools, other local authorities and mental health. Regular training has been provided for our housing colleagues who attend the MARACs.
50. Bespoke domestic abuse training was provided to William Harvey Hospital A&E staff, paediatric nurses and hospital administration staff. As a result, the hospital identified that domestic abuse knowledge could be enhanced within the hospital and the hospital has since secured funding to provide a hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA).
51. The council's domestic abuse coordinator organised and facilitated a workshop at the 'Safety in Action' event entitled "Personal Responsibilities and Consequences". In total, 1400 primary school year-six pupils engaged with this workshop over the two-week event period. The event received positive feedback from the staff and the pupils that attended. Meetings are currently taking place in preparation for the 2019 'Safety in Action' week including reflecting on what can be done to further develop the programme.

Safeguarding Adults – lead agency not allocated

52. This priority did not have a lead agency assigned due to the cross-cutting nature of adult safeguarding and the complexity of underlying vulnerabilities such as substance misuse and mental health. Agencies collaboratively to develop and deliver an action plan.
53. The following work has been completed:
 - Delivery of an Ashford Community Safety Conference (happening on 28th Feb 2019). This is covering various topics such as modern slavery, scams and drug-related criminal exploitation including 'county lines'. There are 125 frontline professionals attending and they will help to develop policy and practice relevant to a range of community safety concerns.
 - Improved working with agencies that support rough sleepers to reduce their vulnerability and provide routes into accommodation.
 - A number of cases have been passed to the Vulnerability Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who has provided timely interventions and made referrals to the relevant agencies. This has ensured the person involved receives all necessary support.

Safeguarding Children – lead agency KCC Children’s Social Services

54. The safeguarding children priority encompasses a number of aspects including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), gangs, radicalisation and substance misuse.
55. The protecting vulnerable children and young people sub-group provides strong leadership and effective systems across the partner agencies as well as other key stakeholders. The sub-group works to raise awareness and build intelligence pictures, as well as ensuring mechanisms are in place to reduce risk levels. Disrupting, arresting and prosecuting is key where exploitation and abuse of children and young people has been found.

Safeguarding action plan

56. The protecting vulnerable children sub-group designed an action plan and the following work has been completed:
 - A workshop was held at the annual Safety in Action on emotional resilience. This was well received by the students and their teachers.
 - There was a risk that a provider of service to young people was going to be withdrawn. The CSP assisted with securing a small amount of funding to enable the provider to continue operating for the remainder of the financial year.
 - Ashford Borough Council continues to safeguard children, by providing dedicated youth commissioning and support services. They offer youth engagement in both the towns and villages through outreach provision and providing ‘open access’. There are over 100 organisations in the borough delivering ‘an offer’ to young people from the 0 – 25 age bracket on top of the education establishments.

Serious and organised crime – lead agency Kent Police

57. Serious and organised crime remains a priority for Ashford CSP reflecting the aspirations of Kent Police, Police and Crime Commissioner and Home Office. The emphasis is on protecting vulnerable people throughout the borough.
58. Whilst terms of reference have been set and awareness training is ongoing, we must continue to work collaboratively to develop and progress activity under the direction of the specific 4P plans: Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue. This collaborative approach, appropriate use of enforcement powers and information sharing continues to make progress in this important and constantly changing area of work.
59. Monthly meetings take place with key partners in order to address any serious organised crime cases. This is an opportunity for key partners to share information and determine actions that can be taken. This covers, for example, violent crime, human trafficking and gang activity.

Serious and organised crime action plan

60. The serious and organised crime working group developed an action plan and completed the following work:

- A serious and organised crime local crime profile has been produced and is available to partner agencies through the Community Safety portal.
- An intelligence sharing process is in place to ensure the flow of intelligence between partners.
- Partners regularly update on drug paraphernalia finds by contractors, KCC wardens, dog wardens, community enforcement officers, waste contractors and the Aspire Team.
- A partners' awareness training event was held and this covered organised crime groups, modern slavery and human trafficking. Again, as the collective knowledge of the panel grows, this will evolve.

Crime Data

61. The following tables show the context of overall crime within the borough compared to other districts within in Kent.

Total published all crime data

Area	November 2016 - October 2017	November 2017- October 2018	Difference in number	Percentage change
Ashford	10205	13,012	+ 2,807	+ 27.5%
Canterbury	14076	16302	+ 2,226	+ 15.8%
Dartford	11,413	13,303	+ 1,890	+ 16.6%
Dover	9,894	12,315	+ 2,421	+ 24.5%
Gravesham	11,008	13,169	+ 2,161	+ 19.6%
Maidstone	13,594	17,244	+ 3,650	+ 26.9%
Medway	28,383	35,183	+ 6,800	+ 24.0%
Sevenoaks	7,796	9,120	+ 1,324	+ 17.0%
Shepway	9,123	11,562	+ 2,439	+ 26.7%
Swale	13,271	16,888	+ 3,617	+ 27.3%
Thanet	16,621	20,871	+ 4,250	+ 25.6%
Tonbridge and Malling	8,230	9,870	+1,640	+ 19.9%
Tunbridge Wells	6,575	9,021	+ 2,446	+37.2%
Kent	160,189	197,860	+ 37,671	+ 23.5%

Victim based crime

Area	November 2016 - October 2017	November 2017- October 2018	Difference in number	Percentage change
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Ashford	9,191	11,193	+ 2,002	+ 21.8%
Canterbury	12,578	13,671	+ 1,093	+ 8.7%
Dartford	10,285	11,373	+ 1,088	+ 10.6%
Dover	8,762	10,197	+ 1,435	+ 16.4%
Gravesham	9,703	11,085	+ 1,382	+ 14.2%
Maidstone	11,890	14,401	+ 2,511	+ 21.1%
Medway	25,117	29,510	+ 4,393	+ 17.5%
Sevenoaks	7,093	7,843	+ 750	+ 10.6%
Shepway	7,923	9,537	+ 1,614	+ 20.4%
Swale	11,818	14,263	+ 2,445	+ 20.7%
Thanet	14,702	17,348	+ 2,646	+ 18.0%
Tonbridge and Malling	7,245	8,330	+ 1,085	+ 15.0%
Tunbridge Wells	5,816	7,694	+ 1,878	+ 32.3%
Kent	142,123	166,445	+ 24,322	+ 17.1%

Most Serious Violence (e.g. actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm)

Area	November 2016-October 2017	November 2017-October 2018	Difference in number	Percentage change
Ashford	49	93	+ 44	+ 89.8%
Canterbury	61	116	+ 55	+ 90.2%
Dartford	64	71	+ 7	+ 10.9%
Dover	62	85	+ 23	+ 37.1%
Gravesham	63	110	+ 47	+ 74.6%
Maidstone	79	109	+ 30	+ 38.0%
Medway	163	247	+ 84	+ 51.5%
Sevenoaks	40	54	+ 14	+ 35.0%
Shepway	51	76	+ 25	+ 49.0%
Swale	78	147	+ 69	+ 88.5%
Thanet	110	184	+ 74	+ 67.3%
Tonbridge and Malling	48	43	- 5	- 10.4%
Tunbridge Wells	36	45	+ 9	+ 25.0%
Kent	904	1,380	+ 476	+ 52.7%

Procession of Weapons Offences

Area	November 2016-October	November 2017-October	Difference in number	Percentage change
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	2017	2018		
Ashford	40	57	+ 17	+ 42.5%
Canterbury	69	112	+ 43	+ 62.3%
Dartford	52	72	+ 20	+ 38.5%
Dover	44	80	+ 36	+ 81.8%
Gravesham	62	85	+ 23	+ 37.1%
Maidstone	85	118	+ 33	+ 38.8%
Medway	160	202	+ 42	+ 26.3%
Sevenoaks	20	44	+ 24	+ 120.0%
Shepway	118	220	+ 102	+ 86.4%
Swale	66	106	+ 40	+ 60.6%
Thanet	77	139	+ 62	+ 80.5%
Tonbridge and Malling	32	53	+ 21	+ 65.6%
Tunbridge Wells	25	37	+ 12	+ 48.0%
Kent	850	1,325	+ 475	+ 55.9%

Police and Crime Commissioner grant to the CSP

62. The 2018/9 PCC granted £31,744 to the CSP. This was used to support several projects that have contributed to the PCC and CSP priorities. Further information on some of the main projects is provided as follows:

Dads Unlimited

63. This mentoring service works with males who are suffering the isolation of being a single parent and the stress that this can bring. They provide an immediate and robust support system through one-to-one mentoring. The funding paid for two mentors over a 3-month period and supported 57 clients which led to a reduction in suicidal thoughts and domestic disputes.

Homestart

64. The funding was used to organise family events and after school activities for those families that need support in managing their emotions. These activities allowed their work to continue during the summer holidays when a lot of agencies contact is lost. The summer activities involved a family sports day, family craft activity day and a family trip to Kent Life.
65. The after school activities were family based and allow families to bond and work together. A strong family unit builds children's self-worth and the benefits that go with it.

Ashford Street Pastors

66. Ashford Street Pastors continue to have a visible presence in the night-time economy and engage with nearly 2000 people a year.
67. A number of the street pastors are unable to carry the existing defibrillator they have for any period of time due to the weight. There is no access to a defibrillator in the town once County Square closes at 1800 hrs, therefore, the funding allowed them to purchase a lightweight defibrillator that weighs only 500g and fits into a pocket. As well as purchasing the defibrillator the funding

allowed them to purchase the basic equipment that enables them to assist vulnerable clients, including flip flops, water, lollipops, foil blankets, anti-spiking drink stoppers, hair bands and first aid supplies.

DC Breathe

68. DC Breathe is an emotional wellbeing company that has a background in working within schools to provide specialised support in emotional wellbeing.
69. The project undertaken, 'Breathe4kids' involved working with 10 primary schools to run a unique, fun and interactive 6-week programme for Year-5 pupils. They covered issues such as self-esteem, resilience, stress, worry and anxiety. As part of this, the classes made a calm box to keep in the classroom so they are able to continue the techniques after the programme finished.
70. At the end of the 6-week course, the families were invited in for a family session so they could see what the children had been working on and how to embed these techniques at home.

Excelsior Safeguarding

71. Excelsior Safeguarding is a non-profit organisation established to provide help and support to vulnerable people and adults affected by group violence (gangs), drugs and other forms of exploitation such as human trafficking, CSE and extremism. They work successfully in close collaboration with statutory organisations, commissioned services and charities.
72. The funding allowed them to deliver 29 x 45 minute 'Need to know' gang sessions based on 'Josh's story - say No to Violence and drugs'. The sessions reached 860 pupils who are in their last year of primary school.

Ashford Vineyard

73. The Ashford winter night shelter has been running for the past four years. During the night shelter operational period, they have engaged with 65 individuals and supported 15 into housing, three into employment and three into training. The funding was able to provide the shelter with two laptops and a printer to enable the night shelter volunteers to help the individuals apply for housing, benefits, employment and training. The equipment remains with the organisation and it can be reused for other projects. A vehicle was leased to allow the volunteers to move the equipment around the various night shelter locations within the borough. The vehicle was used each night for 3 months (duration of night shelter period).

Multi Agency ASB Panel

74. Operation Beacon was a joint venture between Cookham Wood Young Offenders Centre, Police, local schools and youth clubs. Young offenders are brought to meet a group of invited local youths who are either already offending

or at the beginning of their offending career. This led to a reduction in ASB and crime linked to the attendees.

Ashford Black and Minority Association

75. The Ashford Black and Minority Ethnic Association identified that women and young girls from their communities did not engage with services in relation to culturally sensitive issues such as domestic abuse and mental health. The funding was used to support the following:
- Group work – Twelve sessions were delivered aimed at women and young girls covering domestic abuse, female genital mutilation and mental health. These two-hour sessions provided an opportunity for developing friendships and remove any isolation and the stigma that is linked to these topics.
 - Ten mentors to work with individuals to support them through their journey and improve their confidence and broaden their horizons.

Other Community Safety Events

Safety in Action

76. This annual event was held for two weeks in June 2018. For the first time, it was held at Ashford Fire Station. The venue was highly successful with positive feedback being given by the pupils and the agencies delivering the sessions. The event is open to all Year-6 pupils within the borough. They attend for a half-day and participate in 11 safety-based workshops covering fire safety, personal choices and responsibilities, internet safety, ASB, police, school attendance, first aid, drugs and alcohol, road safety, rail safety, mental health and finally water safety.
77. Following feedback received in 2017, the need for a basic first aid workshop was highlighted. This was run for the first time in 2018 a local first aid company trained Ashford College students to deliver the sessions. They were well received and the pupils gave positive feedback so it will become part of the programme for next year. A teacher said “it was a fantastic event and our pupils learnt an amazing amount in a short space of time”.
78. In total 1,400 pupils attended over the two-week period with only two schools from the borough did not attend due to other commitments. This reflects how well received the event is and the importance placed on it by the schools.
79. The agencies and volunteers involved in this event are always recognised and thanked as without them, the event would not take place and the important messages would not be shared. In particular, this year, special thanks were given to Andrew Judd from the Kent Police Neighbourhood Watch Team for all the support he gave the event and the running of a tight ship to ensure that all the workshops ran on time and each child had a positive experience.
80. For the 2019 event, we will focus on encouraging feedback from teachers during the actual session and also from all the children who attend. Previously we have requested feedback after the event resulting in very few responses

from only a handful of schools. This change should provide much richer information upon which we can develop the initiative further.

CSU conference

81. The Ashford CSU is organising a one-day multi agency conference, which is due to take place on Thursday 28th February 2019. It will be hosted within the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre and the focus is on 'Vulnerabilities. There is a number of keynote speakers are booked and 125 people are due to attend.

Multi-agency operations

82. There have been a number of multi-agency community based operations run throughout 2018. Known as Operation Clean Sweeps they took place in June, September and December 2018 and concentrated enforcement activity within the town centre, Singleton Lake and South Ashford. Clean Sweeps provide a visible presence to the communities and tackle issues such as fly tipping, ASB, premises licensing, homelessness and identifying Houses in Multiple Occupancy.
83. Most of the issues uncovered are addressed at the time of the event and for those matters where this is not possible they are assigned to the relevant agencies to follow up.
84. The CSU has worked closely with the council's housing and the Police Operation Raptor Team to support individuals who have been 'cuckooed' (i.e. a form of crime in which drug dealer take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing). This links to the ASB closure activity which is described above.
85. Op Jump is a knife awareness campaign led by Ashford CSU. The aim is to deliver key information about the dangers and law surrounding the carrying and use of knives. It involves a first-hand account from a former London gang member who explains, in detail, his personal journey which culminated in a period of imprisonment for an offence involving the use of a knife. The inputs across all secondary schools on the district will reach around 8,000 pupils.

CSP priority setting process and identified priority areas for 2019/20

86. In February 2019 a working group of the CSP came together to consider performance over the past year and to agree the priorities it wishes to recommend for adoption by the CSP for 2019/20. Building on feedback from this Overview & Scrutiny meeting, the intention is to agree formally the priorities for the CSP at its next meeting in March 2019.
87. The process being following this year involves three key phases. Phase 1 which was completed by the workshop has established priority crime/problem types through a value setting process reviewing volume, trends, performance (against most similar family groups), seriousness, generator, public concern,

priority, costs and PESTELO analysis¹. This has enabled us to effectively rank crime types and identify emerging priorities.

88. The following were identified as priorities:

- Tackling violence (including serious and organised crime and gangs)
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Tackling domestic abuse and sexual offences
- Building community capacity

A cross-cutting theme of vulnerabilities was also identified.

89. Phase 2 will involve a deeper analysis of crime types relevant to these priorities in order to examine who is being affected or perpetrating the crimes, locational analysis at ward level and temporal analysis. This will enable the CSP to focus on the crime/problem having the most impact on our borough and have the data to drill down to exactly whom the crime/problem is affecting, when and where.

90. Phase 3 will feed all of this information into the rolling action plan process. Partnership interventions can then be designed based on this and will ensure our investments and activities will achieve the most positive impacts possible. Not only will the strategic assessment inform our rolling plan but it will also be the basis and rationale behind commissioning/grant making decisions moving forward.

91. Key to the success of this new methodology is 'rich picture' data. This means moving beyond our usual data sources and adding in as many data sets as possible. All partners will need to share their key relevant data.

92. A sub-group of the CSP will take responsibility for the delivery of each priority identified by the strategic assessment and rolling action plan. They will take the top-level action plan, build and develop it into a full, SMART action plan and ensure delivery against it.

93. The action plans created by the sub-groups are approved by the CSP and progress against them is assessed at each quarterly meeting. A performance group will be established for the start of 2019/20, which will be responsible for monitoring progress against our key crime and fear of crime indicators, following on from sub-group intervention.

Conclusion

94. Ashford's Community Safety Partnership only exists because of the significant support given by its individual partners and by those from a whole range of

¹ Political, economic, societal, technological, environmental, legal and organisational.

organisations who are dedicated every day and night to protecting our community.

95. There has been a number of changes in the community safety arena over recent years and this has shown a change of working for most partners involved in the CSP. This report hopes to recognise this work and thank everyone involved.

Portfolio Holder's Views

96. The council continues to play an important role in coordinating the Community Safety Partnership. This ensures that Ashford continues to be a borough that benefits from strong multi-agency work supporting the community safety priorities. This report highlights the marvellous work that has been undertaken including the joint operations for tackling ASB within the borough.
97. The continued financial support from the Police and Crime Commissioner shows his commitment to the CSPs and the importance of the work that they do in supporting the community

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Appendix A

Kent wide ASB figures

Area	January to December 2017	January to December 2018	Difference (number)	Difference (percent)	Position in County (highest to lowest)
Ashford	2001	1640	-361 (decrease)	-18% (decrease)	10
Canterbury	3456	2704	-752 (decrease)	-21% (decrease)	5
Dartford	2385	1732	-650 (decrease)	-27% (decrease)	9
Dover	2852	2135	-717 (decrease)	-25% (decrease)	7
Gravesham	2733	2312	-412 (decrease)	-15% (decrease)	6
Maidstone	3176	2791	-386 (decrease)	-12% (decrease)	3
Medway	7862	5588	-2274 (decrease)	-28% (decrease)	1
Sevenoaks	1691	1399	-292 (decrease)	-17% (decrease)	12
Shepway	2150	1754	-396 (decrease)	-18% (decrease)	8
Swale	3471	2764	-707 (decrease)	-20% (decrease)	4
Thanet	4493	3725	-768 (decrease)	-17% (decrease)	2
Tonbridge and Malling	2000	1417	-583 (decrease)	-29% (decrease)	11
Tunbridge Wells	1787	1308	-479 (decrease)	-26% (decrease)	13
Kent	40151	31353	-8798 (decrease)	-6% (decrease)	NA

Appendix B = ASB data recorded by Ashford Borough Council

DESCRIPTION	%	TOTAL	O/S	COMPLETE	FIRST RESP. AVE(DAYS)	COMPLETED AVE(DAYS)
AB07 Broken Glass	1.0	3	0	3	0.0	9.0
AB13 Damage to Vehicle	1.0	3	0	3	0.0	5.3
AB16 Danger/Obstr Parking	2.0	6	0	6	0.2	12.3
AB19 Deliberate Fire	1.0	2	0	2	0.0	3.5
AB22 Dog Fouling	1.0	3	1	2	6.0	63.0
AB28 Drug Misuse	3.0	7	0	7	1.0	13.7
AB29 Drug Misuse	0.0	1	1	0	46.0	0.0
AB31 Drug Paraphernalia	4.0	10	0	10	0.1	8.7
AB34 Drunken behaviour	2.0	6	0	6	0.2	26.5
AB40 Fly Tipping	1.0	2	0	2	0.0	11.5
AB43 Gath Nuisance Youths	17.0	47	0	47	0.2	12.0
AB45 Gath Nuisance Youths	0.0	1	0	1	0.0	15.0
AB46 Graffiti	1.0	2	0	2	0.0	13.0
AB49 Harassment	3.0	8	0	8	0.0	14.5
AB58 Litter/Rubbish	4.0	12	1	11	0.1	6.7
AB64 Noise-Business	0.0	1	0	1	0.0	4.0
AB70 Noise-Pub/Club	1.0	4	0	4	0.0	19.3
AB73 Noise-Residential	2.0	5	0	5	0.2	9.0
AB79 Noisy Neighbours	9.0	24	4	20	0.1	14.0
AB82 Nuisance Vehicles	9.0	25	1	24	0.1	14.1
AB94 Rowdy Behaviour	3.0	9	0	9	0.1	9.7
AB97 Rubbish/Bin Shed Fire	1.0	2	1	1	0.0	35.0
AC01 Sexual Activity in Public/WC	1.0	2	0	2	0.0	2.5
AC07 Speeding Motor Vehicles	3.0	9	0	9	0.0	7.2
AC10 Suspicious Activity	4.0	11	0	11	0.3	18.5
AC13 Temp Traveller Encampment	1.0	3	0	3	0.0	3.7
AC16 Throwing Objects in Public	0.0	1	0	1	0.0	5.0
AC19 Underage Drinking	1.0	3	0	3	2.7	9.3
AC23 Neighbour Dispute	7.0	20	2	18	0.1	18.1
AC26 Rough Sleeper/Homelessness	1.0	3	0	3	0.0	14.7
AC29 Vandalism	15.0	43	0	43	0.1	10.1
Total:		278	11	267	3.6	