

APPENDIX A

DARTFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**CRIME AND DISORDER
(OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY)
COMMITTEE**

Draft Annual Report 2016-17

Introduction and Background

The Council has a legal duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all of its various functions with regard to the need to prevent crime and disorder and reduce re-offending in its area. '**Crime and Disorder**' is defined as including forms of crime and disorder that involve anti-social behaviour or other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment or the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

The Council appointed the **Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee** in October 2009 under the provisions of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and in direct response to the provisions of the subsequent Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

The 2006 and 2007 Acts and the 2009 Regulations granted the Council the power to scrutinise both crime and disorder matters and hold the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (the CSP) and other partner organisations to account for their performance; including their work with the Council to meet specific local targets as set out in detail in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Council and the CSP (Appendix D).

The **Crime and Disorder** Committee's Protocol (attached as Appendix B) requires it to review, scrutinise, and make reports and recommendations regarding the functioning of the responsible authorities listed below which comprise the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP):

Dartford Borough Council

Gravesham Borough Council

Kent County Council

Kent Police

Kent Fire and Rescue Service

Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company [formerly Kent Probation]

Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group

Work carried out by the **Crime & Disorder** Committee compliments the work of the Scrutiny and Policy Overview Committees, whose specific remits are set out in their respective Protocols.

The Committee's Protocol requires it to report to the Council annually on the work it has undertaken in the preceding municipal year. This Annual Report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Committee during the **2016-17** Municipal Year, drawing on the comprehensive Minutes of the

Committee's meetings held during 2016-17 as published in full on the Council's website.

Annual Report 2015-16

On **27 July 2016** at the first meeting of the Committee in the 2016-17 municipal cycle Members considered the contents of the draft Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee Annual Report for the preceding 2015-16 municipal year and agreed to submit the document to the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Council.

Standing Invitations

The Committee renewed standing invitations to attend and contribute to their meetings in the forthcoming municipal cycle to; Councillor Mrs Ann Allen MBE (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Development) and Councillor Chris Shippam (Deputy Leader and Dartford representative on the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel (PCC)).

Standing invitations were also extended to the Strategic Director (External Services), Dartford's District Commander (Kent Police) and all Dartford CSU staff (Council and Police) to attend the Committee's proceedings as appropriate and when their principle duties permitted.

WORK PROGRAMME

In accordance with its Protocol [attached as Appendix B to the report] the Committee is required on a *statutory* basis each year to consider the Dartford & Gravesham's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Strategic Assessment (SA) document, in addition to, the CSP's three year Community Safety Strategy together with any annual Refresh documents.

On a *discretionary* basis and with the prior agreement of the CSP as appropriate; the Committee reviews on a rolling basis the contributions made by CSP partner Agencies to the aims of the Partnership as a whole. In addition, the Committee considers the CSP's mid-year Performance Report, receives updates from Dartford's Representative on the Kent & Medway Police & Crime Panel (PCP), an annual update from D-TAC (Dartford Town Against Crime), plus ad-hoc topics drawn-down with the agreement of the Strategic Director (External Services) and the Managing Director as appropriate.

The Committee met twice during the **2016-17** municipal cycle. At its first meeting on **27 July 2016** the Committee undertook a review of its work programme and agreed an *initial* rolling Work Plan (WP) document for the ensuing **2016-17** municipal year (and beyond) as set out in the table overleaf:

Initial Rolling Work Plan 2016-17 and Beyond

Meeting	Work Plan Items		
Summer 2016 (July)	CSP Community Safety Strategy 2016 to 2019 CSP Performance Report June 2016	D-TAC Update [Annual each July] PCP Update	Domestic Abuse Framework Update Committee Annual Report 2015-16 Work Plan for 2016-17
Winter 2017 (February)	Presentation by PCC [subsequently cancelled by PCC's office] CSP Strategic Assessment 2016	Update on implementation of new ASB Powers	Review Work Plan
Summer 2017 (July)	CSP Community Safety Strategy (2016 to 2019) 2017 Refresh doc. Presentation by North Kent Crime Prevention Partnership / KP: Neighbourhood Watch – Sharing Best Practice	CSP Performance Report June 2017 Kent Police presentation on Bluewater Safety Shop / Community Safety at Home facility D-TAC [Annual] Update	PCP Update Review Work Plan [Domestic Abuse Framework Update]
Winter 2018 (February)	CSP Strategic Assessment 2017	Presentation by Kent, Surrey and Sussex CRC	PCP Update Review Work Plan

The Committee agreed the Work Plan (WP) as set out above, with two amendments at the direction of the Strategic Director (External Services) and three subsequent changes in timing:

- (i) Review of Kent's Domestic Abuse (DA) Framework would be considered in **July 2017**;
- (ii) D-TAC 6 monthly Update would become an Annual Review each **July** to coincide with the CSP's mid-year Performance Report;
- (iii) Presentation by Kent PCC in **February 2016** cancelled by PCC's office, new date to be explored;

- (iv) Presentation by North Kent Partnership on 'Neighbourhood Watch – Best Practice' b/f to **February 2017**;
- (v) Kent Police presentation on 'Bluewater Safety Shop/Community Safety at Home' b/f to **February 2017**.

Details of all WP items considered by the Committee in the **2016-17** municipal cycle are summarised below.

WORK PLAN ITEMS completed in the 2016-17 MUNICIPAL YEAR
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27 July 2016

Item 1: Committee Protocol & Lead Member Participation

Members considered a report from the Head of Legal Services which enclosed the Committee's Protocol, revised to include details of the process for Lead Member participation at the Committee's meetings.

The Strategic Director (External Services) confirmed that the Scrutiny Committee Protocol had undergone a similar revision to provide for the participation of Lead Members in the proceedings of that Committee.

The Committee resolved to note the report from the Head of Legal Services and adopt the revised Protocol as attached at Appendix B to the report.

Item 2: Kent Police and Crime Panel (PCP) – Update

The Committee received a verbal update from the Chairman, who had attended the PCP meetings held in November 2015 and February 2016 on behalf of the Deputy Leader, Dartford's nominated PCP representative.

Members were referred to the relevant PCP Minutes enclosed in the agenda papers and advised that the principal item of note in the period under review had been the election of the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Kent and Medway, Mr Matthew Scott.

Members resolved to note the contents of the PCP Minutes as submitted, congratulated Mr Scott on his election as PCC and welcomed his attendance at a future meeting of the Committee.

Item 3: Dartford Town Against Crime (D-TAC) – Progress Report

The Committee received a progress report and presentation on the Dartford Town Against Crime (D-TAC) Scheme. Principal points highlighted by Officers included:

- The D-TAC Scheme had been established in December 2002 and comprised the local business community, Kent Police, the Council and other public service providers with the aim to promote the concept of a

safe and secure Town Centre environment to encourage investment and growth;

- The Scheme identified and targeted the most serious and prolific professional criminals operating in the Town Centre, plus those engaged in petty crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB);
- The Scheme had grown to 66 full members who generated £31K in fees, to help fund the provision of digital radio handsets for the '*Shop Safe Radio*' system for shop owners to communicate with Kent Police, the Council, Town Centre security and each other to help identify, track and apprehend offenders operating in the Town Centre – in particular 'Dartford's Top 10' known offenders;
- The fundamental benefit of the Scheme for members was information sharing [under the Data Protection Act 1988]. D-TAC members had access to DISC (Database for Safer Communities) to share data on known offenders, shared the Council's CCTV facilities and had access to the D-TAC Intelligence Manager and the Orchard Shopping Centre Control team;
- Monthly D-TAC meetings involved retailers, licensed premises owners, drugs charities, Council Officers, Kent Police and representatives of the Probation Services and addressed issues of criminal gangs, mobile criminals, individual offenders, persistent offenders and those involved in ASB. Information sharing strengthened the partnership mechanism and created *added value benefits* for individual members of the Scheme;
- D-TAC operated as a sub-group of both the Dartford Town Centre Partnership and the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership and had its own formal constitution, terms of reference, Board of Management and active Steering Group;
- The Council's Intelligence Manager co-ordinated the dissemination of information and promoted activity which resulted in positive action being taken against persistent offenders;
- D-TAC together with the business community and relevant agencies had identified five (5) areas for growth in the next 3 year cycle to 2019 including; increased *Shop Safe* radio coverage across the whole Borough, expansion of the membership to 140 (including affiliates), increased use of DISC and the provision of radios for lone workers across the Borough. It was hoped to increase D-TAC revenue by some 50% to £42K per annum.

Members enjoyed a wide-ranging Q&A session with D-TAC and CSU Officers and the CSU Kent Police Inspector. Principal points confirmed for the Committee included:

- Extension of the D-TAC Scheme from the Town Centre across the Borough including Eastern Dartford;
- Historical problems of ASB around Co-op stores in Swanscombe and Longfield would be re-examined and solutions sought;
- A new transceiver would extend the present 'Shop Safe Radio System' beyond Temple Hill to the wider Borough in cooperation with shop managers;

Members agreed that D-TAC, together with the Council's CSU team and Kent Police had dealt effectively with a wide range of crime in the Town Centre in the period under review, and resolved to note the report and approve the Strategic Director's proposal that the Committee receive a D-TAC Update on an annual basis (each summer) to coincide with the presentation of the CSP's Performance Report.

Item 4: CSP Community Safety Strategy 2016-19

The Committee were briefed on the contents of the Dartford & Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP's) new *Community Safety Strategy 2016-19* document as agreed by the CSP at their meeting on 24 March 2016.

The new Strategy document covered a 3 (three) year period and replaced the previous CSP Annual Plans. Key points highlighted in the new Strategy for Members included:

Priorities

- Violent Crime and Domestic Abuse
- Anti-Social Behaviour (incorporating Criminal Damage related to ASB)
- Acquisitive and Property Crime
- Substance Misuse
- Reducing Re-offending
- Road Safety

Common factors and links between the six (6) priority areas of work contributed to the CSP's three (3) overarching Strategy themes of:

- Protecting vulnerable people from harm;
- Disrupting and preventing organised acquisitive crime; and
- Protecting and strengthening communities.

Members were advised that within the CSP; the role of Kent Police was to focus on the arrest and detention of perpetrators and that the focus and core business of the two Community Safety Units (CSUs) was to address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Environmental crime, Alcohol-related violence and Domestic Abuse (DA).

Areas of CSP work which required a multi-agency approach included; CSE (child sexual exploitation), modern slavery and human trafficking, combatting

terrorism and the adoption of the Government's Prevent & Channel strategy to protect people at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Members participated in a wide-ranging Q & A session with Council and Kent Police officers which identified the following principal areas of concern for concerted and continued action:

- **CSP data accuracy;** gathering CSP partner agency data from various sources who used varying calculation methods was challenging;
- **Domestic Abuse (DA) data** - obtaining data for victims attending hospital A&E and GP surgeries was hampered by doctor/patient confidentiality requirements;
- **Awareness Training** - Dartford's changing demographic had highlighted a need for relevant Council staff to receive 'awareness' training to identify vulnerable people and institute safeguarding measures for victims of Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery and Domestic extremism;
- **Protecting Vulnerable People from Harm** - The Government's Prevent Strategy allied to recent Acts of Parliament which had addressed Policing, Serious Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Modern Slavery, Safeguarding and Child Exploitation; required the Police and other CSP partner Agencies to co-operate and evolve their working practices to meet the requirements of the new Legislation.

The Committee resolved to note the contents of the *Dartford & Gravesham Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) Community Safety Strategy for the period 2016-19*.

Item 5: Performance

The Committee considered the Performance Report (PR) approved by the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) on 13 June 2016 *in camera* with all members of the press and public excluded.

The PR detailed performance in relation to recorded levels of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and other indicators as set out in the *Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Strategy 2016-19* document.

Members were advised of a format change for the June 2016 PR from previous years, with a revised set of *Performance Indicators* (PIs) which corresponded to those used in the CSP's new *2016-19 Safety Strategy* document.

The new PIs were less Police-led and more reliant on data from other CSP partner Agencies, some of which was not in the public domain. The new PI data varied in terms of frequency and reporting period covered but, wherever possible had been compared to data provided for the 2015 and 2016 PR documents. Other Kent CSPs had also adopted a range of alternative measures [to the traditional statistical Police-led approach] to demonstrate progress in tackling risk and harm and improving life for Kent residents.

In a subsequent Q&A session with CSU and Kent Police Officers, the following principal points were confirmed for Members:

- **Domestic Abuse (DA) - One Stop Shop (OSS) Services** - relocation of the Dartford OSS would provide an increased range of services, Health workers had a vital role to play in identifying domestic abuse (DA) and caring for children who had witnessed DA, the DA Forum provided good working links to tackle DA including programmes to support young people at risk of DA / becoming perpetrators of DA;
- **Increased issue of 'Cannabis Warnings'** - The new Cannabis Website whereby residents reported their concerns direct to the Police (including via a mobile App.) had proved to be a great success;

The Committee resolved to note the June 2016 Performance Report approved by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) on 13 June 2016.

15 February 2017

Item 1: Kent Police and Crime Panel (PCP) Update

The PCP met twice in the period under review, on 8 September and 15 November 2016 respectively, as detailed in the published PCP Minutes enclosed in the agenda papers. In the absence of any Dartford Member representation at either meeting, the Committee resolved to note the Minutes as published.

Item 2: Neighbourhood Watch (NW) – Sharing Best Practice

The Committee received a verbal presentation (originally scheduled for July 2017 in the Work Plan) from Ms Erin Scott, Neighbourhood Watch (NW) & Volunteer Liaison Officer, Kent Police. Principal points advised to Members included:

- The NW Scheme was founded in Cheshire in 1982 as a public response to a local murder;
- More than 1 million NW Schemes now operated across the UK with over 6,000 in Kent and Medway, including some 600 Schemes in Dartford and Gravesham;
- The NW Scheme represented a partnership between the Police and the Public with individual Schemes led by Volunteers appointed by local Police Forces as Scheme Co-ordinators and Deputy Co-ordinators following vetting and training;
- Schemes could raise money for their activities and on average watched over two (2) streets with NW Notices displayed in residence windows at either end of a Scheme to deter potential perpetrators;
- Home Office surveys of HM Prisons revealed that NW Schemes played an effective role in dissuading criminals who tended to 'move on' when they observed NW Notices in an area;

- Schemes were encouraged to report their observations to their local Police partners who in return updated Scheme with the latest Police intel, statistics, crime trends and scams operating in their areas;
- Police numbers in Kent, including beat officers had increased; but public co-operation and help continued to be vital with notable Police successes secured from observation and feedback from NW Schemes e.g. recent closure of a brothel in Ashford;
- More NW Schemes were needed in Kent, the 600 Schemes currently operating in the Dartford & Gravesham CSP area was viewed as a comparatively 'low' figure, however, many existing Schemes were already carrying vacancies for the position of Volunteer and a recruitment drive was being undertaken by Kent Police aimed at colleges and other institutes of higher education in an effort to attract a younger more IT savvy profile of candidate for Neighbourhood Watch, whilst retaining the older more traditional members.

Members participated in a subsequent Q&A session with Kent Police representatives and CSU officers in which the following principal points were confirmed:

- There was no optimum figure for the number of NW Schemes for North Kent; demand was public led and dependant on the recruitment of Volunteers to manage individual Schemes, with an existing vacancy for new Chairman of North Kent Neighbourhood Watch (NKNW) being carried. Once an appointment had been made a re-assessment of overall provision would be made;
- 'Information overload' was a danger for Kent Police (KP) given the 6,000 NW Schemes operating in Kent and was addressed through a '*sift and review*' process, whereby non-relevant and/or over-taken information was discarded, with Scheme Co-ordinators advised accordingly. Calls from the 101 Service were subjected to a similar sift, review and feedback operation;
- The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) had allocated start-up funding for the re-branding of the NW Scheme, including a new social-media App. for NW, to try and attract younger members. Given the Scheme's traditions and the age profile of the majority of its members, progress had been slower than hoped for, but was being made.

Item 3: Bluewater Safety Shop and Safety at Home Facility

The Committee received a presentation (originally scheduled for July 2017 in the Work Plan) from the CSU Inspector and Kent Police's Safety Store and Safer Home Manager from the Bluewater Shopping complex. Principal points covered in the presentation included:

The Safety Store had expanded its operation significantly since 2014, when it had operated as a '1 Stop Shop' for Kent Police, the RSPCA, Kent Fire & Rescue and the North West Kent Crime Prevention Panel. The facility had been re-branded with a definitive image and expanded into the current Safety Store facility, which operated as a 'mock house' to demonstrate 'best practice'

procedures to the public in the home environment for; better health & safety, protection of valuables, combat theft, prevent cyber-crime and alert parents and children to the dangers of on-line grooming.

In addition to the support of Kent Police, who now maintained a new 'back-office' facility in the safety store, Bluewater Management had given financial help to the development, including rent-free tenure.

The Safer Home Objectives were identified as:

- To provide Kent Police (KP) with a wider public showcase to demonstrate professional crime prevention products and information;
- To provide KP with a Bluewater working environment to conduct interviews and complete paperwork, improve the Bluewater team's profile and efficiency within the complex and compliment the Bluewater Community Engagement Strategy;
- Raising public awareness of policing priorities to mobilise community involvement;
- To provide a platform/opportunity for relevant Community Stakeholders/Partners to compliment the Safer Home objectives;
- The Vision of the 'The Safer Home' facility was to educate the public in terms of safety within the home environment with an added crime prevention dimension.

The 'Safer Home' store construction as a family home included the following features:

- **Public Entrance** – this resembled a brick-build house with Bluewater and Kent Police logo branding;
- **Kitchen** – used to demonstrate good safety measures and tips in a 'real' environment e.g. plugs and sockets etc.;
- **Lounge** – fully furnished to reflect a home with safety and security videos e.g. 'Stay Safe' running on a loop on the 'family' TV;
- **Study** –also fully furnished to reflect a common home environment to demonstrate crime prevention measures, and to host workshops for demographic groups e.g. to educate the elderly on current fraud 'scams' being perpetrated in the area;
- **Technology** –Play Stations, X-Boxes, laptops and tablets (all with internet access) used to raise parental awareness of how common technology can be used to groom children on-line;
- **Work Stream Ideas** – Young adults were able to test their knowledge of Child Safe-Guarding measures by taking the CEOP's 'Thinkuknow' module test on a dedicated computer terminal; examples of scam emails and letters were available for public view and education; literature on Domestic Violence awareness and tell-tale signs of abuse in the home environment were also displayed;
- **Police Back Office** – this provided a crucial working facility for Kent Police to conduct witness and victim interviews and take statements, saving police time and increasing police presence on high visibility patrol around the Bluewater complex;

- **Future Steps in 2017** - on 31 March 2017 the Home Store would move to a new unit within Bluewater and undergo a 'refresh'; a charity rowing event was planned for August against *Macey's* Department Store in New York with the proceeds going to local charities in the Dartford area; in October /November 2017 Kent's Chief Constable or Kent's Police & Crime Commissioner was due to host a Chief Officer event at Bluewater.

In subsequent discussion with Kent Police representatives, Members made the following principle suggestions for increased use of the Home Store facility at Bluewater:

- Increase co-ordination between the Bluewater and Dartford Town Centre Shop Safe Scheme teams;
- Institute measures at Bluewater, similar to The Orchard Centre scheme in Dartford, to help adults with learning difficulties';
- Use the Home Store facility to conduct routine health checks on the elderly and to host a meeting of Dartford's Elders Forum;
- Develop existing contacts and co-operation with Darenth Valley Hospital over measures to identify and combat Domestic Violence (DV) and educate the public on those measures;
- Host a maternity event at the Store for expectant and new mothers on e.g. social awareness over 'breast-feeding' in public;
- Continue the tradition with the new Dartford Mayor [from May 2017] of sponsoring charity events within Bluewater and the Home Store facility.

Kent Police were thanked by Members for a second excellent presentation.

Item 4: Update – New Anti-Social Behaviour Powers – Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Committee received a summary of the report from the Community Safety Officer and in a subsequent Q&A discussion with the Strategic Director, CSU Officers and the Kent Police Inspector; the following principal points were confirmed for Members:

Community Trigger (CT):

- The *CT* process gave victims of anti-social behaviour (ASB) the ability to demand a review of their cases where the locally defined threshold for ASB had been met, but did *not* replace the formal complaints process for individual organisations within the CSP;
- No *CTs* had been activated in Dartford (as at February 2017). However, the co-location of the local policing team within the Council's Community Safety Unit together with the Council's Housing Services team also located in the Civic Centre building; enabled those three principal bodies to readily exchange information and review ongoing ASB cases; thus effectively undertaking the *CT* process *albeit* in a less formal manner;

Civil Injunctions (CIs) and Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs):

- *Civil Injunctions (CIs)* were used primarily against anti-social individuals;
- *PSPOs* were designed to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a designated area;
- The Council considered use of both *CIs* and *PSPOs* as they deemed appropriate;
- *CIs* and *PSPOs* could be used in tandem or consecutively, e.g. a *PSPO* could be imposed to provide an underpinning solution to an area based problem, followed by a *CI* applied against a persistent ASB offender(s) within the area of the *PSPO*.

Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs):

- DPPOs were due to be replaced by PSPOs in October 2017 - some 3 years after the 2015 Act came into effect;
- The extant DPPO for the Town Centre during the hours of the 'Nighttime Economy' would be replaced by a revised PSPO with similar conditions;
- All existing DPPOs would be reviewed and relevant conditions transferred to new PSPOs as relevant, with further new conditions added if appropriate.

Members resolved to note the contents of the report.

Item 5: Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) – Strategic Assessment 2016

The Committee considered the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership's annual Strategic Assessment (SA) 2016 document, approved by the Partnership on 26 January 2017.

The covering report advised Members that the Council was under an 'obligation of confidence' with regard to the Strategic Assessment 2016 document, because it contained data that had been provided *In-Confidence*. As a consequence, the document had been classified as EXEMPT in the agenda papers and was considered by Members in closed session.

The SA 2016 document advised that the CSP was required, under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to produce a Strategic Assessment (SA) on an annual basis. The SA was based on research, evidence and intelligence, gathered from both local and Kent-wide sources for analysis wherever possible, at a Dartford [and Gravesham] level. SA 2016 detailed recorded crime and disorder offences for both Boroughs separately, for the period **1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016** and fed into the CSP's 3 year Community Safety Strategy for the period 2016-19.

The main aim of the annual SA was to identify any changes in circumstance that might necessitate amendments being made to the existing Strategy and

to ensure that new or emerging local priorities were addressed. SA 2016 also provided the CSP with its first opportunity to make a year-on-year comparisons with its SA 2015 document, since changes to several definitions of crime types and the application of new Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime were introduced in 2014.

The SA also drew comparisons between the Partnership and other CSPs within its Most Similar Group (MSG) of CSPs. In this context the Partnership continued to 'suffer' on a comparative basis, because of Kent Police's high level of accuracy for the recording of reported crime [assessed at 96% by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in 2014]. In comparison, other CSPs within the Partnership's MSG had assessed levels of accuracy for the recording of reported crime that ranged from 94% down to only 85%. These differing levels of reporting accuracy by Police Forces represented within the MSG made a truly objective assessment of the Partnership's performance difficult to properly assess. Based on levels of crime recorded locally per 1,000 of the population, the position of the Partnership within its MSG remained unchanged from 2015 at 13th out of 14 CSPs assessed in the Group; the Partnership had recorded crime levels above the average experienced by other areas in England and Wales with similar demographics for the period under review.

Members were advised that within the Partnership's overall performance for the period **1 October 2015 - 30 September 2016** total recorded crime in Dartford had risen by 12.8%. This mirrored an average increase in crime of 12% for every Kent and Medway District in the period under review.

Dartford had experienced a significant rise in the volume of violent crime during 2015-16 with offences of violence against the person increasing by 29% - slightly above the Kent average of 28%. This significant increase was mainly attributed to an increase in the number of domestic abuse [DA] cases and the accuracy now used in reporting such cases, making DA the single category placing the greatest demand on CSP resources. Offences of ASB had also increased in the period under review, by 12.8%, with the related offence of Criminal Damage identified as a new priority for the CSP to address in Dartford going forward.

In response to specific questions and expressions of concern from Members, the Strategic Director, CSU Officers and the CSU Kent Police Inspector, confirmed the following points for the Committee:

- Dartford's increase in crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) recorded in SA 2016 was a reflection of an increased crime rate across the County, coupled with changes to the recording of historic crime, in particular cases of Domestic Abuse (DA) where every incident had to be recorded separately;
- Increased reporting and recording of Domestic Abuse (DA) offences, (including historic incidents) had significantly driven up statistics for Dartford. Increased recording of cyber-crime and fraud in the Borough had also pushed up statistics and reflected the national trend in increased fraud and cyber-crime which had seen a new national centre opened recently to combat these offences;

- The performance of Dartford [and Gravesham] within its Most Similar Group (MSG) of CSPs continued to suffer in comparative terms with some Police Forces represented within the MSG recording fully 11% less reported crime than Kent Police, to the Partnership's detriment in terms of fully comparative assessment;
- The 50% increase in the number of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system recorded in SA 2016 was a cause of concern for Dartford CSU Officers and the local police team. Dartford Children and Young People's Board had noted the increase as being the opposite of the trend encountered in Dartford in previous years and agreed work was required to identify possible causes and solutions. The profile of other offences recorded in SA 2016 remained much the same as for 2015, with offences committed at Bluewater continuing to be a major contributor to Dartford's statistics;
- Increased gang related crime, including by gangs displaced from adjoining Boroughs and the Metropolis, was being tackled by Kent Police under a variety of Protocols, including measures to tackle child sexual exploitation and modern-day slavery with the aim of making Dartford a difficult place for gangs to operate: public feed-back and information had an important role to play in achieving this goal;
- The Council had no powers to prevent the placement of offenders and vulnerable persons in Dartford by London Boroughs and other agencies, but did address any issues that arose [from such transfers] with CSP partners post arrival. The KCC Community Warden Scheme had played an increasingly useful role in the period under review and KCC Wardens attended daily CSU briefings at the Civic Centre;
- CSU Officers had undertaken anti-social behaviour (ASB) training delivered by a barrister specialising in use of the new powers in December 2016. This had increased awareness of the options for using the new powers;
- Kent Police had carried out a joint initiative with the Metropolitan Police aimed at dismantling criminal businesses operating in the Borough and neighbouring Bexley;
- The Council was pressing KCC to introduce a new template for the Strategic Assessment (SA) to cater for the reality of differing reporting methods and methodologies across Kent CSP's and to introduce greater reality to comparative performance against statistics. Dartford was prepared to pilot a new risk assessment based model for a future SA document, reflecting the MORILE [Management of Risks in Law Enforcement] methodology.

The Committee resolved to note the contents and the priorities contained within the Strategic Assessment 2016 document, and noted the intention of the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership to refresh the Community Safety Plan to address the priorities contained within SA 2016.

Item 6: Work Plan 2016/17 – Update

Members agreed the contents of a revised rolling Work Plan for the remainder of the 2016-17 Municipal Year, plus the summer and winter meetings of the forthcoming 2017-18 Municipal cycle.

