



Agenda

Meeting: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **26 October 2022**
Time: **7.00 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone**

To: **All members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The committee will consider the matters, listed below, at the date, time and place shown above. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Members of the committee, who wish to have information on any matter arising on the agenda, which is not fully covered in these papers, are requested to give notice, prior to the meeting, to the Chairman or appropriate officer.

This meeting will be webcast live to the council's website at <https://folkestone-hythe.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. Although unlikely, no guarantee can be made that Members of the public in attendance will not appear in the webcast footage. It is therefore recommended that anyone with an objection to being filmed does not enter the council chamber.

Please note there are 37 seats available for members of the public, which will be reserved for those speaking or participating at the meeting. The remaining available seats will be given on a first come, first served basis.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest (Pages 3 - 4)**

Members of the committee should declare any interests which fall under the following categories:

- a) disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI);

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact James Clapson – Tel: 01303 853267
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our
website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

- b) other significant interests (OSI);
- c) voluntary announcements of other interests.

3. **Safeguarding Update (Pages 5 - 10)**

The Council is part of the statutory safeguarding role within the wider public sector, with responsibilities to children, young people and vulnerable adults. This report provides updates since the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved the Council's revised safeguarding policy in Autumn 2021.

4. **Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership Annual Review (Pages 11 - 34)**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee acts once a year as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel as set out in legislation to ensure that the Community Safety Partnership is working effectively, and responsible authorities are discharging their statutory functions in respect of community safety.

Declarations of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 3

This Report will be made public on 18.10.2022



Report Number **OS/22/06**

To: Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 26th October 2022
Status: Non - Key Decision
Responsible Officer: Jyotsna Leney
Responsible Member: Cllr Jennifer Hollingsbee, Cabinet Member for Communities, Lifeline, Area Officers & Street Homeless

SUBJECT: SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

SUMMARY: The Council is part of the statutory safeguarding role within the wider public sector, with responsibilities to children, young people and vulnerable adults. This report provides updates since the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved the Council's revised safeguarding policy in Autumn 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a. To receive and note the report

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Section 11 of The Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key organisations to ensure that, in discharging their functions, they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable young people. Similar obligations apply to vulnerable adults under The Care Act 2014.
- 1.2 The Council is part of the statutory safeguarding role within the wider public sector, with responsibilities to children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- 1.3 The Council's safeguarding policy was updated in November 2021 as part of a regular 2 year cycle of updates. When reviewing this policy the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee made some recommendations and comments and this report provides updates on these and other safeguarding matters.

2. Recruitment of Designated Safeguarding Officers

- 2.1 In Autumn 2021 concerns were raised about the number of Designated Safeguarding Officers (DOs) within the Council. It was noted that this number had fallen through routine staff turnover. The Council's DOs operate on a fortnightly rota system, with one main DO and at least one reserve available to handle safeguarding concerns each day. The number of DOs had fallen to the extent that individual DOs were having to cover too many days on the rota, which many were finding unsustainable on top of their existing workloads, and there was insufficient resource to cover for staff leave within the rota. In addition to these difficulties, in November 2021 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised a concern that all of the current DOs were female.
- 2.2 In January 2022 a recruitment drive was launched across the Council to find new DOs. This drive was targeted primarily towards departments and teams which did not currently have a member of staff trained as a DO, following an audit of the cross-Council spread of existing DOs. A secondary focus of the recruitment drive was to recruit male staff members to the team.
- 2.3 As a result of this recruitment drive, the Council has increased the pool of DOs from 15 to 21, an increase of 6. These 6 include 3 male members of staff and have been recruited from a range of departments including Private Sector Housing and ICT. This has taken the pressure off the existing DOs and the duty rota, as well as increasing the spread of safeguarding knowledge and awareness across departments.

3. Safeguarding Audits

- 3.1 The Council has been required to participate in several statutory safeguarding audits in 2021-2022.

- 3.2 In November 2021 the Council was audited by the East Kent Audit Partnership (EKAP). This audit focussed on the Council's safeguarding policy and procedures and identifying any significant risks. The result of this audit was to give Reasonable Assurance to the Council's safeguarding practice – this is the second highest level of assurance that can be given.
- 3.3 In June 2022 the Council was asked to complete returns for two audits being undertaken by the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board (KMSAB). The first of these was the Annual Inter Agency Report, in which the Council was asked to demonstrate the ways in which we met the KMSAB priorities for 2021-2022 – Prevention; Awareness; Quality. The council were able to provide detailed information for each section and self-assessed our work as Extremely Good.
- 3.4 The second audit for KMSAB was the Self-Assessment Framework (SAF), which also took place in June 2022. Unlike the previous SAF, this year's was described as Thematic, and focussed specifically on four key areas of adult safeguarding – Legal Literacy; Self-Neglect and Hoarding; Person Centred Practice; Learning Embedded from Safeguarding Adult Reviews. There was much overlap between this audit and the Interagency Report in terms of the information we were asked to provide. The Council's return has now been peer reviewed, and we were graded as 'Met' in 12 sections and 'Partly Met' in three sections (plus one 'N/A'). No area was found to be 'Not Met' and the Council has created an action plan to address the three areas where more work is required, which relate to use of the Mental Capacity Act when working with clients, and to sharing of information and learning both internally and externally.
- 3.5 In September 2022, the Council had to complete the Section 11 Audit for Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP). This audit required the Council to demonstrate how we are meeting the requirements for safeguarding children, with a focus on key areas such as a management commitment to safeguarding; staff training; inter-agency working; and information sharing. In the Council's initial submission, we have graded ourselves as 'Met' in 49 sections and 'Partly Met' in two sections, and again there were no areas felt to be 'Not Met'. The peer review stage of this audit is due to take place in October 2022, where we will be asked to explain our gradings.

4. Safeguarding Training Update

- 4.1 All staff are required to complete mandatory eLearning courses in Child Safeguarding, Adult Safeguarding, and Prevent – the Adult Safeguarding course became mandatory in Autumn 2021. This eLearning is mandatory for new starters and must be repeated every three years. Adhering to safeguarding policies and procedures, and undertaking relevant training is an aspect in everyone's job descriptions. Newly recruited Designated Officers have also completed further eLearning (provided by KSCMP) to ensure they have the greater knowledge and understanding required for their role.

- 4.2 In addition, in January/February 2022 in person training was delivered to staff in the Grounds Maintenance team, as this team has limited access to computers to complete eLearning. This training gave a brief overview of safeguarding and how to recognise the signs of abuse and was focussed on the types of issues and concerns that members of the Grounds Maintenance team might encounter during their work around the district. Following this training a member of the Grounds Maintenance Team volunteered for Designated Officer training, to provide the team with advice and guidance should concerns arise.
- 4.3 Face to face training for Council staff has been on hiatus over the last two years, due to both the pandemic and staffing changes where the Council did not have any certified safeguarding trainers remaining to deliver training. Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP), who deliver the Associate Trainer training, had suspended this programme during the pandemic and have only just restarted it in Autumn 2022. The Council's Safeguarding Specialist is now booked onto the Associate Trainer Course and once this has been completed, they will begin work to devise a training plan for all Council Staff.

5. Domestic Homicide Review

- 5.1 In February 2022 the Council received its first request to provide information to, and participate in, a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR). A DHR is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. Involvement in DHRs is a statutory function of the Council.
- 5.2 The review process required the Council to gather any information held in relation to the individuals involved in the case, and to then write a report setting out that information and identifying if there were any missed opportunities or learning that could be taken from the case. The Council held comparatively little information relating to the case (with the majority of contact relating to routine Council Tax and benefits payments).
- 5.3 Some learning for the Council was identified from the report. In particular there was a lack of knowledge across the Council as to the role of the Community Safety Unit (CSU), and how to refer individuals into the CSU. This has already been addressed by delivering a short presentation about the CSU to a Management Meeting as well as to the All Staff Briefing. In addition, information about the CSU was included in an all staff Friday email.
- 5.4 The DHR process remains ongoing and is unlikely to be completed until 2023 at the earliest, although Council involvement is likely to be minimal going forward.

6. Figures on Safeguarding Concerns

- 6.1 In the last 12 months, the numbers of safeguarding concerns raised with the Council's safeguarding officers are as follows:

Quarter	Adult Concerns	Child Concerns	Total Concerns
01/10/2021 – 31/12/2021	17	4	21
01/01/2022 – 31/03/2022	27	6	33
01/04/2022 – 30/06/2022	13	8	21
01/07/2022 – 30/09/2022*	25	8	33
Total	82	26	108

*Figures to 23/09/2022

- 6.2 The Council continues to receive more concerns in relation to adults than to children, although the number of child cases has increased slightly in 2022.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 7.1 There is not a great deal of risk management involved in this issue:

Perceived risk	Seriousness	Likelihood	Preventative action
Safeguarding duty not met	high	low	Continue with training, ongoing development work and ensure safeguarding remains at the forefront of thinking when dealing with issues in the community

8. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

8.1 Legal Officer's Comments (NM)

This report supports the Council in discharging its statutory duties under the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014.

8.2 Finance Officer's Comments (RH)

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

8.3 Communication Officer Comments (KA)

There are no communications implications arising from this report.

8.4 HR Officer comments (RB)

There are no HR implications emanating directly from this report.

8.5 Equalities and Diversities comments (GE)

Safeguarding by its very nature protects vulnerable people and all protected groups against harm and abuse. The Safeguarding policy has an up to date EQIA.

8.6 Climate change implications (JL)

There are no climate change implications directly arising from this report and neglect issues may uncover some environmental problems that could be addressed and therefor the contribution would be positive.

9. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting.

Jyotsna Leney

Health Wellbeing and Partnerships Senior Specialist

Tel: 01303 853460

Email: jyotsna.leney@shepway.gov.uk

This Report will be made public on 18.10.2022



Report Number **OS/22/05**

To: Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 26th October 2022
Status: Non key
Responsible Officer: Ewan Green - Director of Place
Cabinet Member: Councillor Jennifer Hollingsbee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities

SUBJECT:

Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership Annual Review

SUMMARY:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee acts once a year as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel as set out in legislation to ensure that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is working effectively, and responsible authorities are discharging their statutory functions in respect of community safety.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report OS/21/07 and CSP plan attached.
2. To receive presentations from Subgroup leads of the CSP

Scott Butler, Community Safety Specialist.
FHDC Introduction, Community Safety Partnership overview
Community Safety subgroup.

Rebekah Button, Interim Integrated Family Service Manager.
KCC Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse subgroup.

PS Sarah Williams, Local Policing Team, Kent Police.
Presentation on Crime & Community Resilience subgroup.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Folkestone and Hythe CSP has published its community safety plan. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee acts once a year as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel to oversee community safety work across the district.
- 1.2 The Committee will receive presentations from representatives who chair the various sub-groups of the CSP to address issues facing our District. The CSP has to take into regard the priorities of a number of other strategies including the Police and Crime Commissioner's plan and the County Community Safety Agreement.

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 set out the need to scrutinise the work of partners in addressing crime and disorder matters and section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 provided further details on the operation of local authority crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committees in England and Wales. These provisions for further supplemented by The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.
- 2.2 The 2009 regulations gave more details around co-opting members to the Committee and addressed other matters e.g. frequency of meetings (not less than once a year). As a result, the Council's constitution reflects this and the OSC takes on the scrutiny function for the CSP once a year.
- 2.3 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review and scrutinise and make reports and recommendations regarding the functioning of responsible authorities.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

- 3.1 2021 saw the development of The Folkestone and Hythe Community Safety Partnership (CSP) three-year partnership plan, covering the period 21-24 (refer to Appendix 1). This contains an overview of the work of the partnership, how it is structured e.g. its sub groups and cites key supporting legislation.
- 3.2 The plan also reflects on issues impacting the work of the partnership including Covid 19 recovery, new legislation such as the violence reduction bill and Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- 3.3 Practical examples of projects delivered e.g. from Police and Crime Commissioner funding (PCC) funding are also set out. The plan has been kept deliberately succinct and will be reviewed annually. OSC will have the opportunity to hear about the annual review.
- 3.4 The key priorities of the partnership are set out on page 10 of the plan and are split across the 3 sub-groups, across all of these priorities the following cross cutting themes feature:

- violence reduction
- covid recovery
- reducing offending

3.5 The F&H CSP does have regard to the KCC County Community Safety Agreement (CSA) and they in turn have regard to the priorities contained within District CSP plans. The plan contains some information relating to the County CSA which is also a statutory requirement.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 There is not a great deal of risk management involved in this issue

Perceived risk	Seriousness	Likelihood	Preventative action
Concerns regarding priorities, or how officer time is being allocated	Medium / High	Very unlikely as priorities signed off and agreed only last year.	CSP priorities link in with PCC, KCC, LCPG priorities.

5. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

5.1 **Legal Officer's Comments** – There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

5.2 **Finance Officer's Comments** - There are no finance implications relating to this report (TM)

5.3 **Communication Officer Comments** - There are no Communications implications relating to this report (TA)

5.4 **HR Officer comments** – There are no HR implications emanating directly from this report (RB)

5.5 **Equalities and Diversities comments** – There are no Equalities and Diversities implications relating to this report (KW)

6. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Scott Butler,
Community Safety Specialist
 Office: 01303 853376
 Email: scott.butler@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Plan 21-24

This page is intentionally left blank

FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2024



FOLKESTONE & HYTHE
**COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**

Page 15



Introduction

Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory body bringing together a number of public sector agencies to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce re-offending.

The Community Safety Partnership is overseen by an executive group, comprising senior personnel from the responsible authorities and other agencies, including the voluntary and community sector. Sub-groups, addressing the agreed directions of action, have been set up to deal with priorities of the CSP. Each sub-group has an action plan to address the objectives set by the Community Safety Partnership Executive. Additionally the CSP utilises its multi-agency Community Safety Unit – CSU (co-ordinated by Folkestone & Hythe District Council) to carry out operational delivery.

This plan has in the past been renewed on a yearly basis, however the CSP is now moving to a three yearly partnership plan but with an annual review. The plan is informed by an annual strategic assessment process (statutory requirement and a restricted document).

The purpose of a Strategic Assessment (SA) is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety issues to partners of the CSP, support development of the plan and help identify key priorities for the CSP. This is done through intelligence analysis to identify the emerging priorities by considering the patterns, trends and shifts relating to community safety. The yearly SA process will help identify any revisions required to the plan over its three year life span (the time span for data is October – September i.e. for this year 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020).

The CSP also works closely with other relevant agencies, the voluntary and community sector, the business sector and local residents.

In addition the Kent wide CSP also influences activity and the County Community Safety Agreement (CSA) produced by Kent County Council (statutory requirement) requires local CSPs to have regard to the activity contained within the CSA. KCC also takes into account the priorities of District CSPs in Kent when formulating the CSA.

The current global pandemic and the introduction of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 will have had an impact on activity in the last year and will have an ongoing impact within the district.

The full effect of Brexit on Kent and its businesses is still largely unknown at the time this plan was produced. Finally, consideration must be given to issues such as the Prevent strategy, which focuses on safeguarding people and communities from extremism and radicalisation, modern day slavery and other vulnerabilities that our communities face.

Background

The latest population figures from the 2019 mid-year population estimates show that there are 113,000 people living in the Folkestone & Hythe district. This population size ranks Folkestone & Hythe as the third smallest Kent local authority district area. 63% of the district's population live in urban areas with the remaining 37% living in the surrounding rural area.

The Folkestone urban area is home to 48% of the total population whilst 16% of the district's residents live in the Hythe urban area. The age profile of the Folkestone & Hythe population shows that the district has an older age profile compared to the county average, with a greater proportion of people aged over 50 than the average for the Kent County Council (KCC) area.

In terms of crime, the area has one of the lowest rates in Kent for vehicle offences, shoplifting and some theft offences, public order offences and violence with injury. However it has a higher rate than some other districts for violence without injury, violence against the person and victim based crime. (For further information see appendix 1 to this plan.)

Key issues facing the area include the necessary adjustments from leaving the EU and changes to legislation including the new Domestic Abuse Bill, the Policing Bill and Violence Reduction bill and the resulting impact on partnership activity.

Other tensions may impact from time to time around national and international issues such as Black Lives Matter, wider inequalities and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impacts of COVID-19 will bring about its own challenges as the area recovers. However support continues to be provided to communities e.g. through the community hubs and keeping people safe is a priority as restrictions are eased.

Ongoing education and advice on any current or new guidance around minimising COVID spread, as well as preparedness for any major increases in infection level, will continue as areas of work. More information is available at: folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/community-hub



Legislation

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities commonly referred to now as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced scrutiny arrangements in the form of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, as well as introducing a number of amendments to the 1998 Act including the addition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within the remit of the CSP strategies. Reducing reoffending was subsequently added by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out further revisions to the 1998 Act, the most notable of which at district/borough level included the requirement for producing annual strategic assessments and triennial partnership plans. For two tier authorities such as Kent, the statutory Community Safety Agreement was introduced.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. This brought with it a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation

with each other in exercising their respective functions. The Kent and Medway Police Panel meets on a quarterly basis and is attended by a Cabinet councillor from Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). In Kent and Medway it was agreed that these would be commissioned by the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) utilising pooled funding on behalf of the local CSPs including Medway. The DHR process has been developed and enhanced since its introduction including the implementation of updated statutory guidance from the Home Office.

All CSP partners will have other duties around enforcing key legislation such as the Modern Day Slavery Act 2015, Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014, Prevent Duty, safeguarding legislation etc. and this features in some of the activities that the CSP carries out.

Work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Strategic assessment

It is a statutory requirement to analyse crime and other trends and to use this data in defining priorities. This analysis is collated in a document (SA) and will include school exclusions, hospital admissions from substance misuse, self-harm etc as well as key crime data and levels of anti-social behaviour. The SA is a restricted document and contains further analytical data to support the production of this plan and helps partners to assess which areas of work to prioritise.

Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership

The statutory CSP meets quarterly and has a number of sub groups with links across to many other key partnerships and plans. The CSP ensures activity to address priorities and that other emerging trends are dealt with appropriately. The CSP has many statutory functions that it discharges and these include addressing counter terrorism through Prevent and tackling issues such as modern day slavery, domestic homicide, gangs and county lines via violence reduction initiatives and drugs and alcohol misuse strategies. The sub groups of the CSP are shown in the chart below and their activity later in the plan.

Structure of the F&H CSP



Community Safety Partnership priorities – 2021-24

Safeguarding & Domestic Abuse Subgroup

- Domestic abuse
- Mental health
- Drugs and alcohol
- Safeguarding children and adults
- District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting (DCSM) – Children
- Missing children

Cross Cutting Themes

- Violence reduction
- COVID Recovery
- Reducing offending

Crime & Community Resilience

- Modern slavery and human trafficking
- Cuckooing, gangs, county lines and criminal exploitation
- Fraud
- Financial and acquisitive crime
- Drug dealing
- Integrated Offender Management
- Hate/mate crime
- Prevent strategy
- Violence reduction
- Serious and organised crime (SOC) and Organised crime groups (OCGs)
- District Vulnerabilities Panel (DVP) – adults

Community Safety Unit

- Anti-social behaviour
- Public Spaces Protection Order
- Environmental crime/environmental health
- Town centres
- Licensing
- Events
- Hotspot locations
- Substance misuse
- Diversionary activities
- Housing
- Homeless
- High risk adults and young people
- Community triggers
- Prison releases
- Community protection warnings and community penalty notices
- Unauthorised encampments

Delivery of some of the activities that the CSP is responsible for occurs through a range of multi-agency meetings and task and finish groups.

Working on issues that matter to residents

During 2019-20 local engagement meetings were held to enable the community to raise issues with agencies and councillors. Potential resolutions to local problems, such as anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, were addressed as well as the need for patrolling hot spot areas.

Joint patrols were carried out in areas where anti-social behaviour was a problem. Work was also undertaken with those who were homeless and with vulnerable people to ensure they could be housed safely through the pandemic. The patrolling enabled engagement with the community to support education and adherence to COVID-19 regulations to minimise spread of the virus.

Prior to the pandemic multi-agency patrols (Op Ariel) were a way of engaging with communities and listening to their issues.

The operation enabled a very localised and immediate response to particular issues including taking direct enforcement action if a breach of legislation was witnessed during the operation. These, as well as other multi agency operations, will be continued as resources allow.



Community Safety Unit

The multi-agency weekly meeting of the Community Safety Unit (CSU) provides an essential operational delivery arm for the CSP. Attended by over 40 partners including Kent Police, Kent County Council Social Services, the National Probation Service, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Folkestone & Hythe District Council and the voluntary sector including Porchlight and the Rainbow Centre. The CSU addresses issues ranging from anti-social behaviour to serious mental health issues in vulnerable people impacting the community and street homelessness. It acts as a sub group of the CSP and details of its activity are shown later in the plan.

Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) funding

Each year the CSP receives PCC funding.

This funding enables projects to be delivered that help meet the priorities of the PCC as well as the priorities of the CSP.

For 2021 examples of projects to be funded include:

- Urban Pastors – to address hot spot anti-social areas and engage with people during the night time economy to keep people safe as well as engagement and intervention with vulnerable groups.
- Kent Community Domestic Abuse (DA) Programme – a support programme to change behaviours (for perpetrators of DA) and the One Stop Shop Clinic to support victims of abuse.
- Youth Safeguarding Conference – interactive programme with schools on a range of safeguarding issues to tackle abuse, exploitation, violence and organised crime and gangs.

Delivery of priorities

Safeguarding and domestic abuse subgroup

Led by Kent County Council • Meets every six weeks

Example activities to tackle the issues

- A Safeguarding Adult Awareness week is carried out each October and plans for October 2021 are underway to raise awareness within the wider community on all aspects of adult abuse.
- A 'Toxic Trio' conference, delayed due to COVID-19, will be carried out to raise awareness and develop strategies to work with families where there are issues of domestic abuse, mental health and alcohol and substance misuse. This will look at the impact of living with these issues and how those with adverse childhood experiences can move into their adult lives.
- Raising awareness about staying safe online.
- Continuing to provide training and raise awareness around all aspects of safeguarding and supporting vulnerable people. This will include work towards a safeguarding conference for young people
- Addressing the implications of the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Ensuring efficiency of One Stop Shop clinics and weekly attendance by partner agencies.
- The group will be a key contributor to the community safety meetings and District Vulnerabilities Panel meetings.

Crime and Community Resilience

Led by Kent Police • Monthly sub-group

Example activities to tackle the issues

- The Crime and Community Resilience Sub-Group will focus on the delivery of a partnership approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Focus areas will be in line with the Kent Police Control Strategy.
- The Serious and Organised Crime Panel will continue to meet regularly to agree priorities and actions for dealing with most serious crimes (such as burglary and robbery), Organised Crime Groups, recidivist offenders, and crime series/clusters.
- Joint work and operations with specialist Kent Police teams will focus on county lines drug dealing, gangs/young criminal groups and criminal exploitation of the vulnerable.
- The Violence Reduction Unit will support local delivery of education and awareness training on knife crime and gang culture, providing opportunities for diversion and intervention. Work with partners to identify the most vulnerable and prosecute those that exploit them will continue. Implications of the new Violence Reduction Bill and requirements on CSPs including funded projects will be led by this group. Op Finnish, is the local response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The “Ask Angela” initiative is to be explored together with focused work with taxis and the more problem night time locations.
- The group will support the production of an updated Prevent action plan.
- The Kent and Medway Gangs strategy aims will be a key document to help drive activity.

- Hate crime will remain a focus for enforcement and investigative activity. Working with our hate crime investigation team to support victims and target offenders and those that display intolerant or bigoted attitudes and behaviours.
- A positive and proactive approach to domestic violence, providing support, protection and guidance to victims while pursuing all opportunities to put offenders before the courts will be taken.

Community Safety Unit

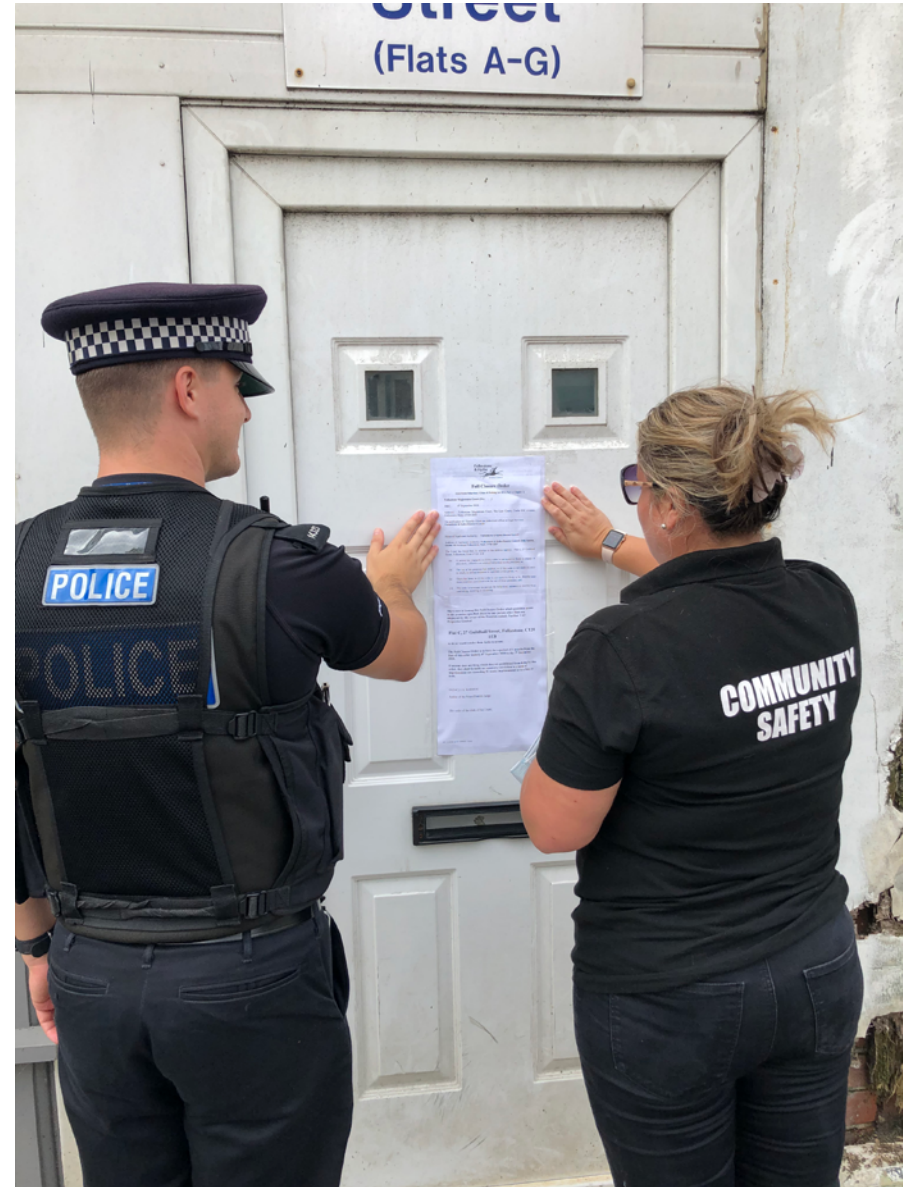
Led by Folkestone & Hythe District Council • Weekly sub-group

Example activities to tackle the issues

The multi-agency weekly meeting of the CSU (Community Safety Unit) provides an essential operational delivery arm for the CSP.

- The CSU is well established and seeks to support higher risk victims of anti- social behaviour (ASB) and to tackle ASB in hotspot locations. Enforcement action is led by the CSU. The CSU also focuses on tackling youth related ASB and seeks to engage young people in services and diversionary activities.
- The CSU will continue to support a number of vulnerable individuals who may be exploited through cuckooing or other means.
- The CSU will concentrate work on areas where there is a high level of crime and ASB. We will seek to increase engagement and reporting from residents so that all issues can be understood and tackled.
- There will be the continuation of multi-agency operations as resources allow.
- The Community Trigger process will be managed for the CSP through the CSU. This process allows victims of ASB to raise concerns about the way in which their reports of ASB have been handled by partner agencies.
- One of the main aims of this community safety sub group is for the district to not only be a safe place but an environmentally friendly one where people want to live, work and visit.

- This sub group will develop preventative and diversionary activities to reduce incidents. Tackling ASB by focussing on its prevention, taking positive action and protecting victims and witnesses.
- The weekly multi-agency CSU meetings will continue to take place every Tuesday, hosted by Folkestone & Hythe District Council, to deal with issues of ASB and other crime eg criminal damage. When required 'task and finish' groups will be set up from these meetings to deal with a specific issue that requires a multi-agency targeted approach.
- The CSU sub group will set up a task and finish group for emerging town issues and Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) enforcement and where necessary will address wider issues.
- The CSU will collate data around the PSPO.

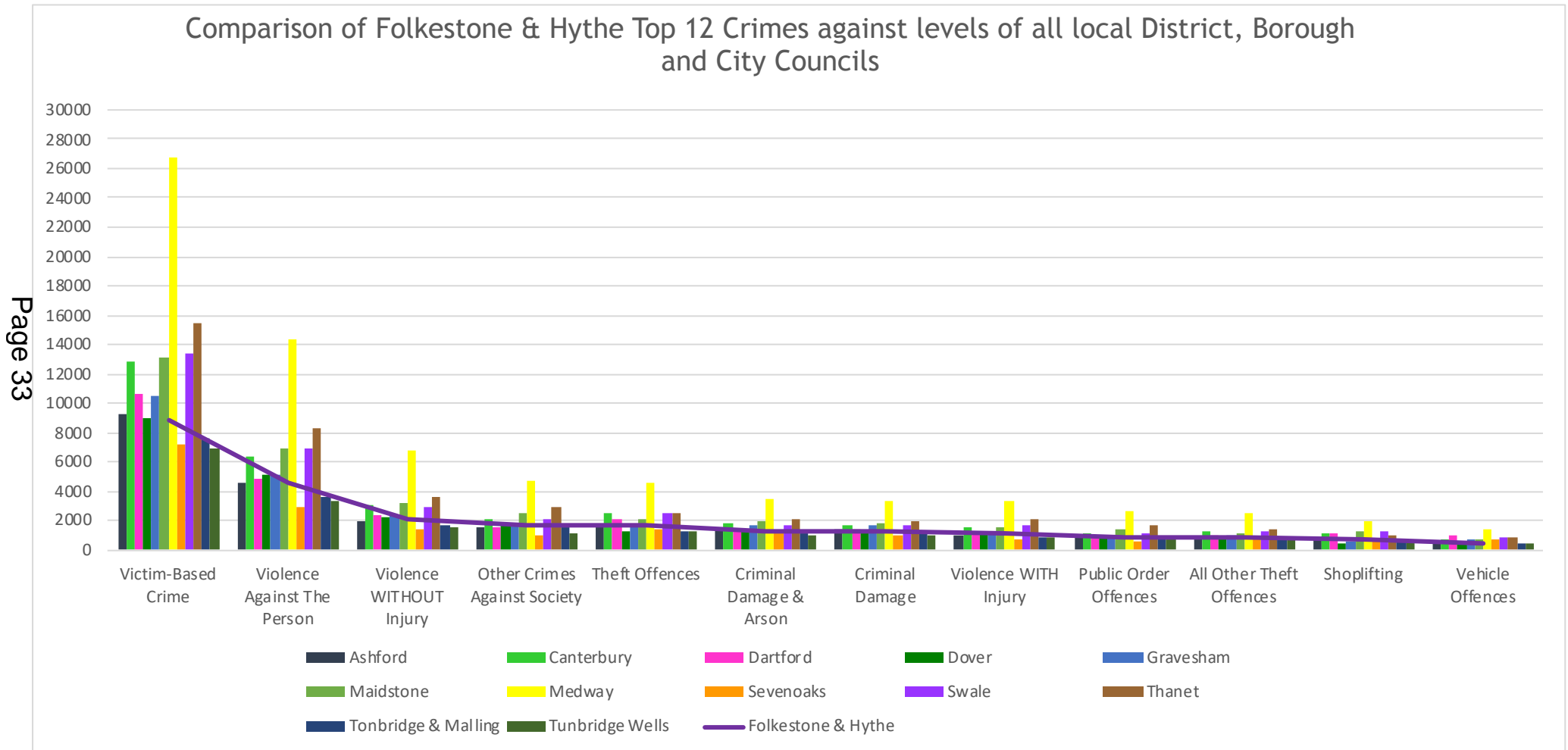


Appendix 1

Table 1 Table showing how the Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership compares with Kent as a whole on different crime types

Crime Type	Folkestone & Hythe		Kent	
	Nov 19 - Oct 20	Rank	Nov 19 - Oct 20	Rank
Victim-Based Crime	8826	1st	151743	1st
Violence Against The Person	4629	2nd	77293	2nd
Violence WITHOUT Injury	2062	3rd	34714	3rd
Other Crimes Against Society	1691	4th	26207	5th
Theft Offences	1650	5th	26823	4th
Criminal Damage & Arson	1251	6th	21266	6th
Criminal Damage	1214	7th	20563	7th
Violence WITH Injury	1125	8th	18088	8th
Public Order Offences	860	9th	14639	9th
All Other Theft Offences	801	10th	14174	10th
Shoplifting	756	11th	11354	11th
Vehicle Offences	398	12th	8954	12th

Table 2 Table showing how the Folkestone & Hythe Community Safety Partnership compares with Kent as a whole on different crime types



FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2024

Contributing Statutory Partners

