

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Community Safety Partnership is to deliver safer communities as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and relevant legislation. In so doing, the Partnership will coordinate community safety activity in Gravesham at a strategic level with the aim of:

- Reducing crime and the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse;
- Reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the negative impact this has on quality of life and the local environment;
- Address the risk, threat and harm posed by crime and ASB to victims and local communities;
- Strengthen communities in Gravesham through the delivery of local initiatives.

2. Key Areas of Responsibility

Gravesham Community Safety Partnership will:

- Be a strategic partnership body accountable for the delivery of safer communities by fulfilling duties conveyed by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation in an open and transparent way;
- Deliver the functions related to our legal duties through the most relevant group within the overall Community Safety Partnership structure, making best use of available tools and powers;
- Develop strong links with between local agencies and organisations within the statutory and voluntary sector to assist with the delivery of local priorities;
- Develop appropriate mechanisms for the engagement of local people in tackling crime and ASB in their neighbourhoods;
- Hold statutory partners to account under s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for access to and use of resources and expertise needed to mainstream community safety activity;
- Ensure that systems are in place to facilitate the effective and lawful sharing of information and intelligence between partner agencies to address crime and improve community safety and protect people from harm;
- Monitor performance against agreed community safety priorities at a local level;
- Be responsible for reporting and explaining performance against a management framework across the Gravesham Bough Council area;
- Be sighted on emerging threats and issues in Gravesham and instigate actions to mitigate against them;
- Ensure that statutory guidance and good practice in respect of approaches to dealing with certain crime types including Domestic Abuse, Serious Organised Crime, Modern Slavery is adopted and that regard to Safeguarding responsibilities is fully maintained;

- Publish a Community Safety Strategy, setting out the Partnership’s priorities for tackling crime and disorder and approaches to be taken in meeting agreed objectives.

3. Statutory Duties

Legislation places a number of statutory duties on Community Safety Partnerships including the following primary responsibilities:

Statutory Duty	Details
Annual Partnership Strategic Assessment	Completion of an annual audit of crime and disorder, pooling data from across partner agencies to assist in the early identification of community safety trends and provide baselines against which performance can be monitored.
Community Engagement and Consultation	To ensure that local people have an opportunity to raise issues of concern within their local communities in order that these can be taken into consideration when determining the Partnership’s Community Safety priorities.
Community Safety Strategy	Production of a Community Safety Strategy informed by the findings of the Strategic Assessment and the outcomes of the public consultation. The Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis to take account of changing circumstances and to enable the Partnership to respond effectively to emerging priorities, changing circumstances and any new legal obligations.

4. Membership

4.1 The membership of the Gravesham Community Safety Partnership will be:

Core

- Gravesham Borough Council
- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company/Probation Service
- NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group
- Kent County Council

The quorum for Partnership meetings will be three core members. There is an expectation that each partner agency falling within the core membership will be represented by at least one member of staff. In cases where a named representative is unable to attend, they should seek to nominate a deputy to represent their organisation in their place. In the event that this is not possible, they should provide a written update in respect of any actions for which they have accepted lead responsibility in advance of any meetings.

Other members

Other community safety partners, such as the Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, North Kent Neighbourhood Watch Association, Victim Support, British Transport Police and others who may be able to contribute to collaborative work to address specific community safety issues, will be invited to attend the meetings as appropriate. A

representative from each of the Partnership's operational groups, as outlined in the Community Safety Structure outlined below, will be required to attend Partnership meetings to report on performance and activity being undertaken by that operational group.

Individuals with specialist knowledge and/or experience may be invited to attend meetings without requiring a commitment of regular attendance.

5. Governance Arrangements

Chairmanship

The Chair of the Partnership will be Gravesham Borough Council's Elected Member holding Community Safety within their portfolio of responsibilities or as delegated to them. The position of Vice-Chair will be drawn from the Core membership.

Decision-making

Decisions will be made in a democratic manner with all statutory partners equal. Each core member will have one vote. If there are equal numbers of votes for and against a recommendation or decision, the Chair will have a second or casting vote. Other regular attendees and observers do not have voting rights.

Frequency of meetings and representation

Partnership meetings will be held four times a year and will offer the option of being attended remotely. Should an urgent and serious need arise, an extraordinary meeting of the Partnership may be called by any of the core members of the Partnership.

Agenda-setting and Administration

The inaugural meeting of the Gravesham Community Safety Partnership will determine whether there are specific items that will need to be included as standing items on each Agenda (which may be revised at subsequent meetings by majority agreement). All core partners may request a particular issue to be itemised on a forthcoming Agenda.

A CSP Executive Group will meet (or consult with each other remotely) in advance of CSP meeting to agree the Agenda. This will also serve as an opportunity to consider any new/merging priorities of which the wider Partnership should be made aware. This Group will comprise the Director (Communities, GBC), the Elected Member/Community Safety Portfolio and Council officers as appropriate. Other statutory partner representatives may be invited or will be welcome to attend an Executive Group meeting if a specific issue has arisen that will make their participation beneficial.

The Executive Group will have delegated authority to take a decision on behalf of the Partnership (in consultation with relevant core partners) in the event of a needing to resolve a resource implication or if a major change in partnership activity is required that needs to be resolved more promptly than the quarterly meeting cycle would allow.

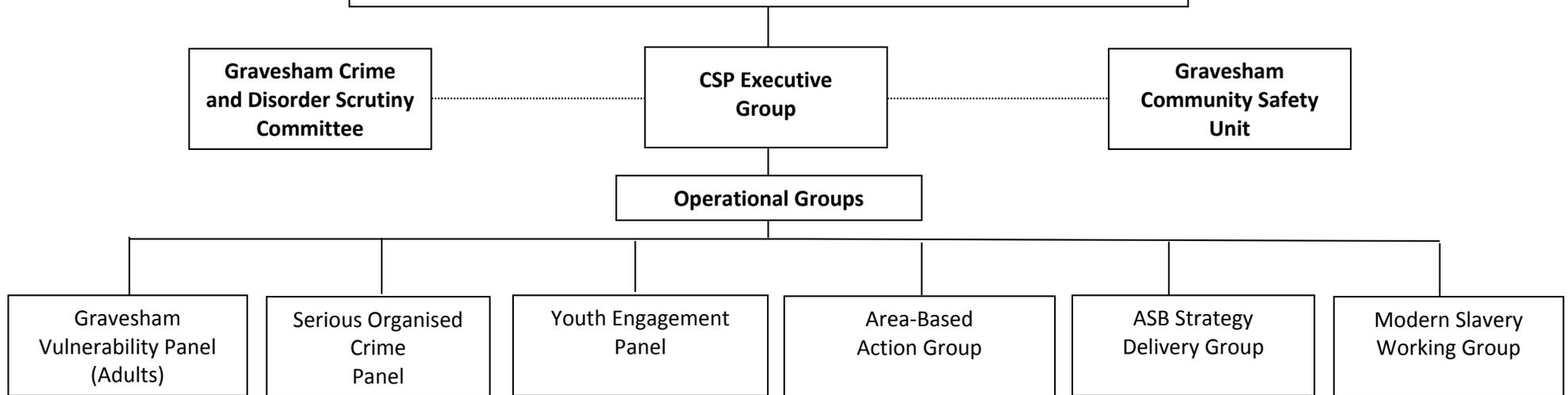
Meetings will be administered by Gravesham Borough Council's Community Safety Unit. Agenda papers will be circulated to attendees no less than five working days prior to the date of any meeting.

6. Accountability

The Partnership will make its Community Safety Strategy publically available on Gravesham Borough Council's website. Findings of the annual public consultation exercise and details regarding key activity will also be published together with details of any changing priorities.

The Partnership's performance in fulfilling its legal responsibilities will be taken into account by Gravesham's Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee that will meet no less than twice yearly.

Gravesham Community Safety Partnership



Other Groups/Meetings into which Gravesham's Community Safety Unit has a direct input and whose work is closely aligned to that of the Community Safety Partnership and its priorities:

- North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board
- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Kent Protecting Vulnerable People Panel
- Kent and Medway Multi-Agency Joint Exploitation Group
- KSCMP Safeguarding Leads
- Gravesham Rough Sleeper Initiative/Rough Sleepers Action Group
- CCTV Partnership and Operational Group
- County Lines Collaboration Board
- County Lines Tactical Group
- Channel Panel Referral Meetings
- Hopeful Towns Project
- Kent Substance Misuse Alliance

Gravesham Community Safety Unit

The Community Safety Unit (CSU) is based within the Communities Directorate of Gravesham Borough Council. The CSU has primary responsibility for coordinating Community Safety Partnership activity and ensuring that legal obligations are being met on behalf of statutory partners.

The Unit also serves as the main single point of contact for other organisations, agencies, businesses and members of the public in the Borough for information relating to Community Safety Partnership activity.

In addition to its CSP responsibilities, the Unit is the Council's main vehicle for coordinating Council-led activity in addressing:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Environmental crime
- Safeguarding and protecting vulnerable people