

**Classification:** Public  
**Key Decision:** No

## **Gravesham Borough Council**

**Report to:** Community and Leisure Cabinet Committee  
**Date:** 26 September 2019  
**Reporting officer:** Strategic Manager (Community Safety Unit)  
**Subject:** Overview of the Community Safety Service Area

### **Purpose and summary of the report:**

At the meeting of the Community and Leisure Cabinet Committee in June a report was presented to Committee Members that provided an overview of the different service areas included within the Committee's Portfolio. Community Safety has since been integrated into this Portfolio and therefore, this report now provides an overview of the work of the Community Safety Unit (CSU).

### **Recommendations:**

Members are asked to note the content of the report.

## **1. Overview of the Service Area**

- 1.1 The Community Safety Unit (CSU) is the Council's primary vehicle for delivering services aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and improving the safety and well-being of local people. CSU officers are co-located at the Civic Centre with Kent Police colleagues, the G-Safe Town Centre Crime Reduction Initiative Coordinator and a Kent County Council Community Warden. Daily briefing meetings are held to share intelligence on overnight crime and ASB reports received so that necessary action is taken promptly. The Council's Safer Place Officers are also part of the Community Safety Team, providing a positive uniformed presence in the town centre, signposting people to local services and carrying out littering enforcement as appropriate.
- 1.2 The CSU ensures that the Council meets its legal obligations to work in partnership with other statutory and voluntary agencies through the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the delivery of the CSU's own corporate business plan.
- 1.3 The CSU has 6 staff: a Strategic Manager, an Operational Manager, an Administrator and 3 Safer Place Officers. Recruitment is underway for 2 additional Safer Place Officers.

## **2. Activities/Current Issues**

- 2.1 **Activity to improve public safety and protect people from harm**
  - Coordination of the delivery of a three-year Home Office funded project, Altogether Safer – Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls in North Kent. The project is in its final year and has introduced an Out of Hours Police-Station based Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service; delivered the Choose Respect Programme to boys/young men aged 11-18 years; and carried out targeted work with BAME women and girls to raise awareness and encourage access to services;
  - Working in partnership with Choices Domestic Abuse Services to deliver the Step Change Project to assist victims of domestic abuse with complex needs and their children (funded by the MHCLG Domestic Abuse Fund);

- Safeguarding vulnerable people from harm through the work of the Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) ensuring that tailored interventions are provided to meet their needs;
- Completing an annual review of the Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement ensuring transparency in supply chains and raising awareness;
- Attending Prevent/Channel meetings (addressing risks of extremism, radicalisation and counter-terrorism activity);
- Participating in a multi-agency Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation Group to identify interventions to protect young people at risk of criminal exploitation/gang-related activity.

## 2.2 **Preventing and disrupting acquisitive crime**

- Working with Kent Police Serious and Organised Crime Directorate and partner agencies through Gravesham's Organised Crime Group meetings to share intelligence and carry out joint operations to help identify and disrupt organised criminality;
- Working with Kent Police and the G-Safe Town Centre Crime Reduction Initiative to share intelligence and carry out joint activity to reduce shoplifting and theft offences;
- Delivering crime prevention events and seasonal work to raise awareness and advise local people on protecting their property.

## 2.3 **Protecting and strengthening communities**

- Tackling and challenging ASB through the preventative and enforcement work of the Safer Place Officers and through the Gravesham ASB Group;
- Dealing with reports of ASB through direct contact with the CSU or via daily briefing meetings with Kent Police to provide timely support to victims;
- Working with cross-departmental colleagues to review the existing corporate approach to addressing ASB and developing a new ASB Strategy;
- Working with the Council colleagues and The Gr@nd Project to deliver the Altogether Stronger Project (funded by the MHCLG Migration Fund) to include activities at The Gr@nd to encourage the social integration of young people; delivery of international food and music events; and, additional training for staff to recognise and effectively support victims of hate crime through the No Space for Hate Campaign.

## 2.4 **Meeting Partnership responsibilities**

- The CSU works closely with Dartford CSU colleagues to ensure that responsibilities for working in partnership specified in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 are met through the joint Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership. This includes the completion of the Strategic Assessment (yearly audit of crime and ASB levels) and ensuring that activity is aligned to changing circumstances and statutory responsibilities.

## 2.5 **Overseeing the delivery of the Council's CCTV Service**

- Community Safety oversees the delivery of the CCTV Service (the Council's permanent public space cameras and mobile/rapid deployment camera units) that is managed and operated externally through contractual arrangements.

### **Background information:**

The full Dartford and Gravesham CSP Community Safety Strategy 2019-22 and a summary of the Strategy can be found at the following links:

<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/community-and-leisure/safety-and-crime/community-safety-partnership>  
[http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/764008/CS-Strategy-on-a-Page.pdf](http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/764008/CS-Strategy-on-a-Page.pdf)

### **Officer Contact:**

Kath Donald (Strategic Manager) Community Safety Unit

Email: [kath.donald@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:kath.donald@gravesham.gov.uk)

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b>Legal</b>	No implications – the report is for information only.
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	No financial implications.
<b>Risk assessment</b>	No implications – the report is for information only.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<i>A data protection impact assessment (OPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i>
	a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of <u>personal data</u> or <u>special category data</u> or <u>criminal offence data</u> ? No.
	b. If yes to question a., have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/a
	c. If no to question b., please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at <a href="mailto:gdpr@medway.gov.uk">gdpr@medway.gov.uk</a>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? No.
	b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? N/a
	<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>
<b>Corporate Business Plan</b>	Strategic Objective – Safer Gravesham.
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – the report details the work of the CSU which fulfils statutory obligations contained in the Act.
<b>Digital/website website implications</b>	No implications. The report is for information only.
<b>Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</b>	The overview highlights key strands of work of the Community Safety Service that contribute to our Safeguarding Agenda.