

Classification:

Public

Key Decision:

No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Date: 10 October 2019

Reporting Officer: Strategic Manager, Community Safety Unit

Subject: Mid-Year Position 2019-20 – Progress and Performance Report

Purpose and summary of report:

This report provides Members with details of key work that has been undertaken during the period April-September 2019 or that is planned for delivery this year in addressing the strategic priorities identified in the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Strategy 2019-22.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note and comment upon the content of the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Members have been made aware of the strategic priorities of the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) through the preceding Agenda Item. The CSP's Community Safety Strategy provides the foundation for partnership activity which may include projects and initiatives delivered by statutory partners working jointly across our two Boroughs or activity driven by Community Safety Units (CSUs) at a local level.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to give Members' an overview of the progress that has been made in addressing our new strategic priorities as we reach the mid-point of this financial year. Each of the priorities is considered individually below highlighting some of the key work that has either already taken place or that is planned for delivery during the remainder of this year.
- 1.3 Where available, the most recently published recorded crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) figures have been considered with comparisons being drawn between figures for the period April-August 2019 and the same period last year. Following a number of changes in Home Office Counting Rules, definitions in crime categories and increased accuracy in the recording of crime generally, we are now in a position to be able to reliably make year-on-year data comparisons in considering the impact of local activity.

2. Kent Police Recorded Crime

- 2.1 Whilst the table below demonstrates that rates of total recorded offences per 1,000 population are higher in North Division (Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale), it is very positive that (with the exception of Dartford), our Districts have recorded greater decreases in total crime than the Kent average. In Gravesham, a total of 5,370 offences were recorded between April-August 2019 compared to 5,915 offences in the previous year – a drop of 9.2% (545 fewer crimes). This compares to an average decrease across Kent and Medway of 8.8%.

**Kent Police Recorded Crime – Kent and Medway Comparisons
Total Crime - Apr-Aug 2018 and Apr-Aug 2019**

Area	Apr-Aug 18	Apr-Aug 19	% change	Per 1,000 popn.
Ashford	5,878	5,250	-10.7	40.6
Canterbury	7,286	6,702	-8.0	40.7
Dartford	6,028	5,687	-5.6	51.8
Dover	5,659	5,014	-11.4	42.8
Gravesham	5,915	5,370	-9.2	50.5
Maidstone	7,842	7,239	-7.7	42.6
Medway	15,924	14,182	-10.9	51.0
Sevenoaks	3,976	3,636	-8.5	30.2
Shepway	5,420	4,931	-9.0	43.8
Swale	8,066	7,231	-10.3	48.7
Thanet	9,938	9,150	-7.9	64.5
Tonbridge and Malling	4,419	4,322	-2.2	33.1
Tunbridge Wells	4,137	3,822	-7.6	32.4
Kent	90,488	82,537	-8.8	44.7

2.2 Following several years of increases in crime, some of which would have been directly related to the changes in recording practices mentioned earlier, most recent data suggests that we may be seeing the beginning of a downward trend. The table on the following page clearly indicates that reductions have been achieved across virtually all crime categories and that in most instances where increases are seen, these are numerically very small. The one slight exception is vehicle crime which has increased from 362 offences (the combined figure for both theft of and theft from motor vehicle offences) in April-August 2018 to 417 offences in the same period this year. Motor vehicle offences are generally more likely to be formally reported to Police than some crimes due to insurance policy requirements and therefore, data is generally reliable. However, maintaining some perspective is important - 417 offences translates to approximately 80 offences per month across Gravesham as a whole – where we have over 40,000 households, the majority of which have at least one vehicle.

2.3 Violent crime

2.3.1 In the time periods considered, violent crime (comprised of violence against the person, sexual and robbery offences) has reduced by 7.3% or 190 fewer crimes from 2,610 to 2,420 offences. Whilst violent crime stills accounts for the greatest proportion of total crime (45.0%), it is important to note that only 23.8% of violent crimes involved any injury – the vast majority of which are very minor indeed. In terms of ‘most serious violence’, there were 51 offences recorded over the 5 months April-August 2019 – just over 2% of all violent crime and approximately 2 incidents per week.

2.4 Domestic abuse

2.4.1 The number of domestic abuse crimes and serious incidents recorded across the County has continued to rise. The increase seen in Gravesham in the timeframes considered is slightly below the Kent average however, the rate of offences per 1,000 population remains amongst the highest in the County.

2.4.2 It should be noted that these increases will have been affected by several factors: firstly, the broadening of the definition of domestic abuse and the recording of historical offences; secondly, the national and international focus on domestic and sexual abuse together with a wide-scale public campaign to encourage victims to come forward; and finally, the availability of Central Government funding that has been used locally to help identify and fill gaps in service provision to reach more victims and better tailor assistance provided to meet victims’ needs.

**Total Crime by Offence Category
Gravesham – Apr-Aug 2018 and Apr-Aug 2019**

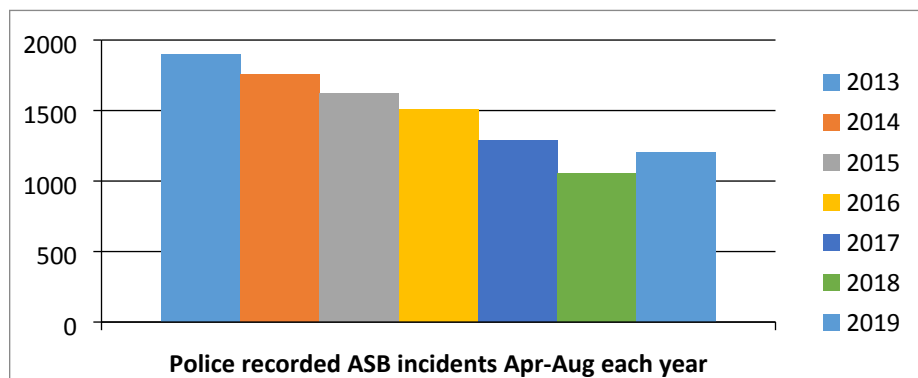
Offence category	Apr-Aug 18	Apr-Aug 19	No. change	% change
Violence against the person	2,377	2,199	-178	-7.5
- Homicide	1	0	-1	-100.0
- Death/SI (unlawful driving)	0	2	2	n/a
- Violence with injury	655	577	-78	-11.9
- Violence without injury	1,053	1,070	17	1.6
- Stalking and harassment	668	550	-118	-17.7
<i>Most serious violence</i>	38	51	13	34.2
Sexual offences	158	164	6	3.8
- Rape	50	54	4	8.0
- Other sexual offences	108	110	2	1.8
Robbery	75	57	-18	-24.0
Violent crime	2,610	2,420	-190	-7.3
Burglary – residential	225	217	-8	-3.5
Burglary – business and community	69	67	-2	-2.9
Vehicle crime	362	417	55	15.2
- Theft of motor vehicle	152	186	34	22.4
- Theft from motor vehicle	210	231	21	10.0
Vehicle interference (VI)	80	85	5	6.2
Theft and handling stolen goods	800	757	-43	-5.4
- Shoplifting	202	235	33	16.3
- Theft of pedal cycle	44	26	-18	-40.9
- Other theft	554	496	-58	-10.5
Criminal damage	721	675	-46	-6.4
- Arson	23	25	2	8.7
- Criminal damage	698	650	-48	-6.9
Victim-Based Crime	4,867	4,638	-229	-4.7
Drug offences	87	93	6	6.9
- Trafficking	32	40	8	25.0
- Possession	55	53	-2	-3.6
Possession – weapons	50	39	-11	-22.0
Public order offences	735	440	-295	-40.1
Other crimes	176	160	-16	-9.0
Crimes Against Society	1,048	732	-316	-30.1
Total Crime	5,915	5,370	-545	-9.2

**Domestic Abuse Crimes and SIs
Apr-Aug 2018 and Apr-Aug 2019**

Area	Apr-Aug 18	Apr-Aug 19	% change	Per 1,000 popn.
Ashford	1,225	1,429	16.6	11.0
Canterbury	1,593	1,644	3.2	10.0
Dartford	1,335	1,421	6.4	12.9
Dover	1,350	1,415	4.8	12.1
Gravesham	1,508	1,548	2.6	14.5
Maidstone	1,801	1,861	3.3	10.9
Medway	4,194	4,297	2.4	15.5
Sevenoaks	928	946	1.9	7.9
Shepway	1,353	1,453	7.4	12.9
Swale	1,984	2,088	5.2	14.0
Thanet	2,345	2,679	14.2	18.9
Tonbridge and Malling	1,078	1,270	17.8	9.7
Tunbridge Wells	971	1,051	8.2	8.9
Kent	21,665	23,102	6.6	12.5

3. Kent Police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents (ASB)

- 3.1 The most recent Police recorded data for ASB suggests that we have been seeing a slight increase in incidents (both locally and across the County) between April-August 2019 compared to the same period last year. However, this needs to be considered in the light of a longer-term steady decline in ASB over recent years.



- 3.2 As is reflected in the table below, increases in ASB incidents have been seen in almost every part of the County and the increase in Gravesham is on a par with the Kent average. In terms of rates per 1,000 population, the rate of 11.3 incidents is higher than average however, considerable partnership activity takes place locally to encourage the reporting of ASB and past surveys have indicated good levels of public confidence and satisfaction in the way that the Police and the Council handle complaints of ASB. This may contribute (even if only slightly) to a higher reporting rate.

Kent Police recorded ASB Incidents – Districts and Medway Apr-Aug 2018 and Apr-Aug 2019

Area	Apr-Aug 18	Apr-Aug 19	No. change	% change	Per 1,000 popn.
Ashford	745	846	101	13.5	6.5
Canterbury	1,229	1,366	137	11.1	8.3
Dartford	802	968	166	20.7	8.8
Dover	1,013	1,005	-8	-0.8	8.6
Gravesham	1,055	1,200	145	13.7	11.3
Maidstone	1,250	1,632	382	30.6	9.6
Medway	2,715	2,782	67	2.5	10.0
Sevenoaks	673	749	76	11.3	6.2
Shepway	824	1,056	232	28.1	9.4
Swale	1,315	1,463	148	11.2	9.8
Thanet	1,821	2,018	197	10.8	14.2
Tonbridge and Malling	662	869	207	31.3	6.6
Tunbridge Wells	608	734	126	20.7	6.2
Kent	14,712	16,688	1,976	13.4	9.0

4. Key work undertaken April-August 2019 in addressing Community Safety Priorities

4.1 Violent crime including Domestic Abuse

4.1.1 Altogether Safer – Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Project

The Altogether Safer Project has been funded by the Home Office, having been awarded c. £248,000 over three years (including additional funding awarded in 2018-19) from the VAWG Transformation Fund. The Project is due to end in March 2020 and has continued

to fill gaps in service provision for victims of domestic abuse; carry out preventative work with boys and young men through the Choose Respect Programme; and, raise awareness and encourage reporting by victims from BAME backgrounds. The Project is a joint venture between Gravesham Borough Council, Kent Police, Choices Domestic Abuse Services, Rethink Mental Illness, Kent Equality Cohesion Council (KECC) and Dartford Borough Council

Key components of the Project are:

Provision of an Out of Hours (OOHs)/Weekend Police-Station-based IDVA Service – Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) have been introduced at North Kent Police Station since late 2017 for 12 hours per week. The intention is to provide victims with expert support and advice at the right time, reducing the risk of repeat victimisation and prosecution withdrawals. Most recent data for the period April-September 2019 is being collated at the time of writing for mid-year progress returns to the Home Office, however, it is still be useful to provide some details of victims supported since commencement of the service to end of March 2019. The OOHs IDVAs have supported 232 adult victims during that time who between them had 306 children who would have potentially witnessed or experienced some of the consequences of domestic abuse in the home. These are all families who could easily have fallen through the net without the OOH IDVA intervention.

Hours of operation have been tested on different days/times. Demand has been found to be high between 12:00noon and 18:00 hours, which has linked well with Police mid-late shift patterns allowing for more flexibility and positive forward-planning.

Examples of support provided to victims include:

- coordinated activity between Police and IDVAs, for e.g. an initial assessment by Police had determined that a victim who was being stalked at work rather than at home was not at high risk of imminent harm. The IDVA flagged the seriousness of the stalking as it was threatening the victim's ability to work/her job. Measures were put in place to manage risks working with the Police and the victim's employer. The victim was subsequently supported through the commissioned high risk service for the Dartford area;
- introducing a new scheme enabling IDVAs to provide mobile phones to victims at the point of crisis;
- carrying out practical security improvements to enable victims to remain in their homes.

Numerous detailed case studies have been collated throughout delivery of the service and can be provided on request from the Community Safety Unit.

Kent Police have also provided an analytical report on the impact of the Out of Hours IDVA Service from the police perspective. Between 1 April-31 December 2018, 4,636 DA crimes were reported to Kent Police across Dartford and Gravesham. In respect of 1,331 crimes, the victim was supportive of police action and prosecution. This is a considerably greater number than for the same period the previous year when 921 crimes recorded concluded with the victim supporting a prosecution – a notable increase of over 40% in the number of perpetrators of domestic abuse being brought to justice. Whilst data is not available to categorically verify that it is the impact of the Out of Hours IDVA Service is behind this increase, cases studies provided by Kent Police illustrate its valuable input (these can be shared on request from the Community Safety Unit).

Choose Respect Programme

Boys/young men taking part in the Programme are interviewed on completion and feedback on changes in behaviour sought from relevant adults e.g. parents, teachers etc. 4 Dartford

schools and 8 schools in Gravesham (including a specialist school for Behavioural and Special Needs covering both areas and a Pupil Referral Unit), have embraced the Programme. Referrals have also been taken separately from The Gr@nd Project and Early Help Teams.

As with the OOHs IDVA Service, most recent data is currently in the process of being collated for submission to the Home Office. However, between September 2017-end of February 2019, 148 assessments had been completed of the target group of 180 boys/young men benefiting from Choose Respect to date. 86 received sessions on a 1:1 basis as well as small group work.

A target of 70% was set against each of the following measures – end assessments demonstrating these were exceeded for each indicator with the following results:

- 100% were able to identify respect, honesty and empathy as helpful for effective communication;
- 100% now had the ability to be assertive (i.e. not to bow to peer pressure to behave in a particular way);
- 100% agreed their aggression had decreased;
- 100% were able to identify 3/+ healthy behaviours;
- 100% felt their understanding of feelings had increased;
- 100% felt able to identify strategies for managing feelings as a result of Choose Respect;
- 98% were able to identify relationship skills/factors including self-esteem, assertiveness and healthy boundaries;
- 92% felt their ability to cope with stressful situations had increased;
- 87% were able to identify that abuse occurs in relationships because of power and control;
- 78% felt feelings of anxiety and worry had decreased.

Choose Respect case studies are available from the Community Safety Unit on request.

Improving access to services – BAME communities and hard to reach groups

Awareness-raising, service promotion, peer-led support and initiatives to remove the stigma associated with seeking help within certain cultures have all been used to break down barriers preventing victims from coming forward.

KECC and Rethink have organised and delivered a range of community engagement events, used as opportunities to open discussions about VAWG issues and increase awareness of services. A major initiative has been the delivery of an annual women and girls only conference and social event – the latest having just taken place in September 2019. The Sadi Awaz Suno (Listen to our Voices) event has been incredibly successful: the original target of 150-200 attendees has been totally exceeded with approximately 300 local women and girls in attendance each time, ranging from grandmothers for whom English is their second language to young professionals and newly-arrived brides from the Indian sub-continent.

The first conference concentrated on the issues of: honour-based crime and on-line grooming; DA and the use of social media; mental health and well-being; dealing with child disability; positive female role models; and the promotion of services.

The 2018 conference focused on the taboo issue of alcohol misuse /dependency, its impact on relationships and harm caused by the cultural practice of staying silent.

This year's conference considered modern slavery and trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), alcohol misuse and mental health. Interpreters and translators were

present throughout to encourage audience participation in discussion. The conferences have received considerable publicity locally, generating debate about these issues.

This limb of the Project has also seen the creation of several short film clips (the final one will be created before the end of March 2020) used to raise awareness of services. The first was written, filmed and edited by KEEC colleagues but importantly, all of its cast are local women and girls who volunteered their time. This has been shown at various community events and is available as a tool to initiate group discussion. The second talks about the extent of domestic abuse and particularly how it affects BAME communities and provides details of support services.

Links to view the films are given below:

Ladies Sangeet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5t1W62-2svM>

Please report!: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClnJqp00IDE&t=5s>

Altogether Safer has been recognised as a good practice model for partnership work to tackle VAWG. At the recommendation of senior Kent Police colleagues the Project is now going to be submitted as an entry to the international Tilley Awards 2019.

4.1.2 Step Change Project

A successful bid prepared by Gravesham CSU and submitted to the MHCLG's Domestic Abuse Services Fund was awarded £137,880 to deliver the Step Change Project. This new initiative, being delivered by Choices Domestic Abuse Services provides specialist DA workers to give intensive, 'wrap-around-the family' support to victims with complex needs and victims from hard to reach groups across Dartford and Gravesham. Victims' needs are assessed alongside those of any children/other family members and that will give the victim greater control. The service also provides a respite bed space that can be used by a victim/family temporarily (where they are not victims that would normally access refuge accommodation). Mid-year reporting processes will shortly be collecting data on the numbers of individuals/families supported this year together with case studies that the CSU will be able to share with partner agencies/Members on request.

4.1.3 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Earlier this year, the Council's Modern Slavery and Trafficking Statement was updated and published on its website. Training was also delivered to 60 frontline Council and partner agency staff by national charity, Stop the Traffik in July as part of this year's activity to raise awareness and enable staff to spot signs of modern slavery/trafficking early on.

4.2 **Persistent Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Environmental Crime**

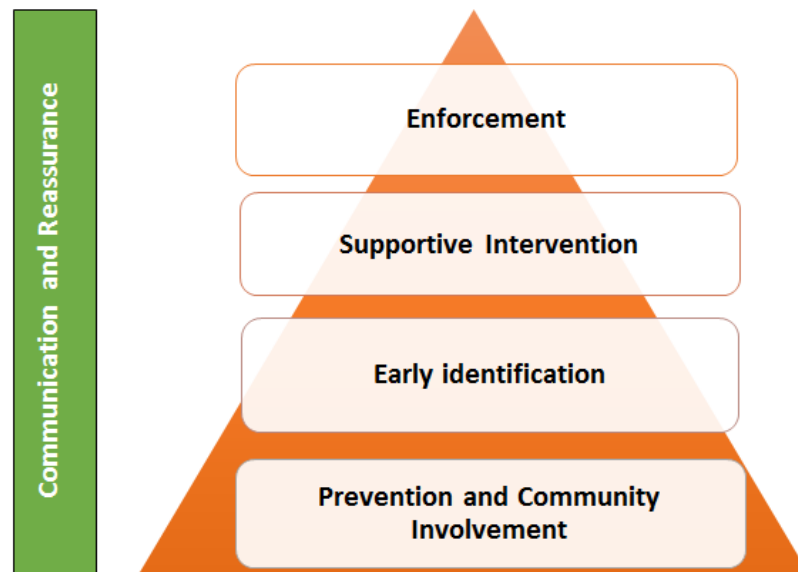
4.2.1 Draft ASB Strategy 2019-2023

In recognition of the significant impact that persistent ASB can have on the quality of life of individuals and their families as well as on neighbourhoods and the demands it places on a range of public services, an ASB Strategy has just been prepared by the CSU. The draft Strategy aims to provide a new more coordinated and cross-departmental approach to addressing reports of ASB received by the Council and is closely aligned to the objectives identified in the Council's new Corporate Plan.

An ASB Strategy Delivery Group will be established to bring together the different service areas across the Council with the aim of ensuring there is a 'tied-up' and collaborative approach to addressing ASB. This aims to improve communication between departments/teams that may all be dealing with a particular case to ensure that we achieve the best possible outcomes for those affected by the ASB. The Strategy Delivery Group will be creating an Action Plan to ensure that the Strategy is fully implemented and regular reports on progress will be provided to both the Community and Leisure Cabinet Committee

and the Dartford and Gravesham CSP. It is anticipated that the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee may also wish to receive an update as this work is developed.

The new Strategy is based on a structured approach that includes the following strands:



4.2.2 Safer Place Officer Team Activity

The Safer Place Officers have continued to provide a uniformed presence in Gravesend town centre, educating and advising members of the public and local businesses in respect of issues such as littering and the responsible disposal of trade waste. Between 1 April-25 September 2019, the Officers have issued 28 fines for littering (2 of which are now being processed by Legal Services for non-payment); assisted homeless people and rough sleepers by signposting them to support services and taken part in multi-agency days of action in the town alongside Kent Police and other partner agency colleagues.

The Officers also carry out Street Checks twice weekly in key locations in the town centre reporting any issues e.g. graffiti, abandoned vehicles, flytipping etc. to appropriate departments in order that they can be resolved as quickly as possible. They report issues directly using smartphones and a dedicated App.

The CSU is currently in the process of recruiting two further Safer Place Officers who will have a vehicle to be able to carry out the same duties in other areas outside the town centre coming to our attention.

In June 2019, the Officers carried out a day of activity in the town centre, focusing on educating members of the public against littering, particularly targeting smokers (as these have been the most prevalent group to be issued with fines), promoting the use of appropriate bins, raising awareness of the risk of the £150.00 fine and distributing Stubbi pouches.

Safer Place Officers also assist with ensuring that unauthorised camping in tents does not result in ASB. A typical example would be action taken following reports of a tented community on Windmill Hill this summer. The Officers engaged with the campers on the same day the report was received, served Notice and then referred the individuals to Housing Needs who were able to provide temporary accommodation.

4.2.3 Rough Sleeper Initiative

ASB can be linked (and inadvertently be caused) as a result of people sleeping rough. Joint work has been taking place led by Housing Services' Homelessness Outreach Coordinator

but supported by the CSU and partner agencies including Porchlight, Sanctuary, Change, Grow, Live (CGL). This multi-agency group meets fortnightly to monitor which interventions have been utilised with rough sleepers who have had little engagement with agencies and whether they have been effective. Information is shared to try to establish what has contributed to individuals finding themselves homeless and identify support services that may be able to assist them. When the Group first began meeting as a pilot, 7 individuals were identified as long-term rough sleeping and were provided with short-term accommodation whilst housing plans were set up (including arrangements for Benefit payments) and arrangements were also made for those requiring treatment from drug and alcohol services to attend sessions with them. 6 of the 7 individuals supported were consequently housed either within Gravesham or out of Borough.

In addition, the group has now identified a further 6 people with whom agencies are working with a view to providing them with temporary accommodation if appropriate.

4.2.4 Tackling Seasonal ASB

It is generally acknowledged that there are certain times of the year when issues of ASB become more prevalent e.g. during summer months/lighter evenings, Halloween/Bonfire Night, the lead up to Christmas and New Year. In the town centre, the Riverside Leisure Area (Fort Gardens and the Promenade) has historically recorded an increase in ASB reports in the summer period – generally linked to young people and adults using the park areas late into the night and causing a disturbance to neighbouring residents and remaining or entering the area after gates have been locked. In anticipation of this, the CSU liaised with KCC Youth Outreach Team and workers were able to visit the Riverside Leisure Area on Tuesday evenings, engaging with groups playing football and encouraging them to use the football pitch at Ordnance Road instead. The Gr@nd workers also delivered a Kick Racism Out of Football Project and used the Ordnance Road site for training sessions when possible.

Reports of drug-related ASB and concern over more serious misbehavior has been addressed by the use of security staff in August-September between 6.00pm and 10.00pm daily. Security officers have been working closely with Kent Police colleagues (both CSU officers and the Community Policing Team) and they have been returning daily reports that have provided Police with useful intelligence.

The CSU's Safer Place Officers routinely also give attention to specific locations that are known to experience seasonal higher levels of ASB and that often see an increase in issues related to e.g. littering, and have taken enforcement action when appropriate.

4.3 **Preventing Offending and Reducing Re-Offending**

4.3.1 CCTV Service

CCTV acts as a major deterrent to those who might otherwise engage in criminal or anti-social behaviour in addition to providing reassurance to local people and strengthening evidence allowing authorities to take action against perpetrators. The CSU completed a full review of all of Gravesham's permanent CCTV stock in May 2019 and the upgrading of key town centre cameras has now been carried out. A programme of work was also developed that has included the decommissioning of certain cameras that are at the end of their life/no longer justified and the installation of 4 new permanent cameras in the Riverside Leisure Area that will be completed this autumn.

The CSU has now also added 3 state of the art mobile cameras with ANPR capacity to its temporary camera stock (utilising external funding sought from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office through the Crime Reduction Fund made available to District CSUs). These cameras will be particularly useful in supporting multi-agency activity to address organised criminal activity (especially activity that is drug-related and that involves

vehicles) and to help gather evidence to take action against those involved in serious environmental crime e.g. fly-tipping. New signage for all of the Council's public space CCTV has also been ordered and this will be installed shortly, ensuring that our systems are fully compliant with the regulations specified by the Surveillance Commissioner.

4.3.2 Multi-agency Organised Crime Group (OCG) Activity

Joint working between all the members of Gravesham's Organised Crime Group (OCG) has continued to be very effective. The Group meets on a monthly basis and there have been some positive outcomes:

- Principal member of one of our first OCGs is now serving a lengthy prison sentence (smuggling of people and importing/trading in high-end vehicles);
- Considerable disruption caused to a further OCG and linked multi-agency activity has led to considerable work involving Licensing, HMRC, Police and Trading Standards resulting in the seizing of significant quantities of illegal tobacco. Information-sharing took place over a number of months that made a positive contribution to coordinated activity that took place targeting particular locations and premises in Gravesend and Northfleet in May this year. Approximately 60,000 illegal cigarettes were seized worth an estimated £22,500 in duty and VAT evaded. Further activity in July this year resulted in 6 arrests being made, 3 individuals involved in supplying/selling illegal cigarettes being from Gravesend and receiving custodial sentences.
- Investigations into one suspected OCG did find a number of people believed to be being used for labour exploitation. Although adults in the group did not want action to be taken, a 16-year-old Bulgarian male was taken to a safe house.

4.4 **Protecting Vulnerable People and Strengthening Communities**

4.4.1 Gravesham Vulnerability Panel – this is the key multi-agency vehicle (Kent Police-led) that works to safeguard identified vulnerable adults (excluding homeless individuals who are supported through the Rough Sleeper Initiative Group mentioned above). The Panel has an extensive membership from a range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies and is attended by representatives across Council Departments. Referrals of adults with a variety of complex needs who are not engaging effectively with service providers are made to the Panel who will then consider appropriate support and interventions for them. The Panel meets on a monthly basis and has successfully dealt with a number of cases (6 cases were able to be closed at the last meeting in September), 2 new referrals has been received and 1 case continues to be monitored.

4.4.2 Altogether Stronger Project - Gravesham CSU submitted a successful bid to the Migration Fund for c. £149,000 over 2018-19 and 2019-20 that has 3 key strands described below.

(NB. Very late announcements of successful bids and release of funding have meant the project's commencement was delayed to earlier this year).

- Youth-specific activity to help young people integrate across communities, reduce crime/ASB and safeguard them from harm (working very closely with The Gr@nd Project in Gravesend town centre and enabling the latter's premises to be open on Friday/Saturday night). The Gr@nd is one service that has actively engaged with young migrants, some who are not attending mainstream education/are NEET, who use the Project's drop-in services, attend Centre-run activities or use the premises café to socialise. Premises are normally closed on Friday/Saturday evenings – key nights when young people (migrants and resident youth) without financial resources to go elsewhere, might gather in the town centre. This had at times resulted in reports of ASB, had a negative impact on businesses and public perceptions of safety and placed pressures on Police and Council resources. Locations being used to gather were also identified as hotspots for criminal activity and could present a safeguarding concern. Since The Gr@nd has begun opening its doors on a Friday evening between 7.00pm and 10.00pm,

approximately 25-30 young people have been regularly attending each week. The majority of attendees (approximately 75%) are male and culturally they are a diverse group – chiefly Slovakian, Bulgarian and British. They have been engaging well in the activities available that include; music, recording, playing keyboard/guitar and freestyle rapping; cooking meals and eating together; playing team games and craft activities. Themed, quiz and movie nights are also being planned. The Gr@nd workers have reported that there has been an improvement in behaviour generally and an appreciation of what the sessions provide. Those attending are integrating well, recognising that they actually have much in common and cultural barriers are being broken down.

- Strengthening cohesion through public cross-community events
The aim is to run 6 International Food and Music Events to encourage participation across cultural backgrounds, particularly drawing in residents from EU8 countries as well as new migrants from Nigerian and Afro-Caribbean backgrounds. Focusing on food and music (rather than the traditional approach of celebrating e.g. different cultural/religious festivals) events should lead to broader participation from the wider community and support integration by celebrating the interests people have in common in a social environment. Events will be supported by multi-agency partners to develop confidence in authorities and service providers to encourage greater engagement and accessing of services generally. A part-time Altogether Stronger Project Worker has been recruited and is coordinating these events. A first event - an African Caribbean Experience – is taking place on Saturday 5 October, 12pm – 5pm, Gravesham Borough Market. The event aims to break down barriers and promote community cohesion and will have healthy/easy cooking demonstrations, free tasters, free recipe booklets, music, an exhibition, dance workshop and more on offer.
- Further development of No Space for Hate Campaign and Training
Part of the Altogether Stronger Project includes further developing promotional/marketing materials to be used in engagement events well as through other community-based activity to address hate crime. We will also be arranging training sessions for key staff on recognising extremism/extremist behaviour which presents itself as hate crime and how to signpost and better support victims that may report to the Council.

4.4.3 Origins Atlas Project – Understanding our Communities and Promoting Cohesion

Dartford and Gravesham Councils joined forces with LB of Havering who agreed to be the Lead Authority in a successful joint bid to MHCLG's Migration Fund to give our areas access to the Origins Atlas software and analysis system to develop our intelligence in respect of migration and cohesion. Origins Atlas overlays a variety of demographic information with other data to help identify population change (based on surnames) and geographical areas where change is more prevalent or where there is a 'clustering' people from certain backgrounds. This will help us to better understand the diversity of our population and help us to more effectively plan and target service provision and identify need. An initial presentation of the findings of the first analysis of local data was provided to a cross-departmental officer group in August and a further report is anticipated in late October/early November.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The above is not an exhaustive list of all Community Safety activity over the last 6 months but hopefully provides an overview of some of the most significant work that has been undertaken and that continues to be developed. The second half of the year will have a strong focus on ASB and putting in place measures to ensure that the implementation of the new ASB Strategy is realised will be a flagship project locally with the potential to establish good practice that will be capable of being replicated by CSP partners across their own agencies.

- 5.2 Other areas that will be central to the work of the CSU include implementing exit strategies for several projects e.g. Altogether Safer – Reducing VAWG for which external funding comes to an end in March 2020 and identifying opportunities through which some of this work can be sustained and strengthening the Council’s approach to Safeguarding.

APPENDIX 1

IMPLICATIONS	
Legal	The Council has a statutory obligation to work with partner agencies to address crime and ASB (Crime and Disorder Act 1998).
Finance and Value for Money	None.
Risk assessment	Failure to work effectively in partnership help tackle crime and ASB will reduce public confidence in the Local Authority's ability to support individuals and communities and allow negative perceptions of the Borough to develop.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<p><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></p> <p>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.</p> <p>b. If yes to question a., have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/a</p> <p>c. If no to question b., please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk</p>
Equality Impact Assessment	<p>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.</p> <p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? Yes – all communities will benefit from partnership activity to reduce crime and ASB.</p>
	<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>
Corporate Business Plan	The Strategy makes a direct contribution to addressing a significant number of the commitments contained within the new Corporate Plan 2019-23.
Crime and Disorder	s.17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – as mentioned above.
Digital/website website implications	None.
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	The safeguarding of vulnerable young people and adults is a high priority for the Council and partner agencies reflected in the Dartford and Gravesham CSP's Community Safety Strategy.