

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Date: 24 October 2024

Reporting officer: Strategic Manager, Community Safety Unit

Subject: Gravesham Community Safety Partnership – Community Safety Strategy 2024-28

Purpose and summary of report:

This report provides the Committee’s Members with a new four-year Community Safety Strategy for Gravesham’s Community Safety Partnership (CSP). In its completion, account has been taken of both the findings of the Strategic Assessment 2023 and the responses received from local people to a Community Safety Public Consultation held between mid-October and mid-December 2023. The final version of the Strategy is appended.

Recommendations:

1. Members are asked to consider and comment upon the content of the Strategy.

Key Implications:	
Item	Implications
Legal	‘Responsible authorities’ as identified in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 have a legal duty to work together to audit levels of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in their area annually and to develop, deliver and regularly review, plans to address these issues.
Finance and Value for Money	Delivery of the Strategy will be resourced by CSP partner agencies, primarily in kind, and through the securing of external funding when possible.
Balancing the Budget	a. Does this report form part of the balancing the budget delivery plan? No
	b. If yes to question a, when will the projected savings be recognised in the budget? N/A
	c. If no to question a, should it form part of the plan? No
Corporate Plan	This Strategy makes a positive contribution to all three objectives of the Council’s Corporate Plan: One Borough, One Community and One Council.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 All CSPs have a statutory duty to produce a Community Strategy or Plan to structure partnership activity in meeting the objectives of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). In January 2024, the CSP considered the findings of the annual Strategic Assessment 2023 as the first stage in the process of developing a new Strategy, allowing an opportunity to identify changes in levels of offending within different crime categories and ASB, any emerging trends and changes in legislation that have created new responsibilities for partner agencies since the previous Strategy was produced.
- 1.2 The Partnership has always recognised that it should not rely solely on recorded statistics in determining its priorities but that data-based intelligence needs to be supplemented by the views of local people. A Community Safety Public Consultation was conducted over several months in late 2023 in order that the experiences and concerns of local residents, those who work in the Borough and those who visit Gravesham, could also be taken into account. The key findings of the consultation have been incorporated into the Strategy itself and have served to support the priorities that have been identified.
- 1.3 In addition to the findings of the Strategic Assessment and the responses received through the Public Consultation, certain other considerations are taken into account to help identify those areas of work that now form the priorities contained in this new Community Safety Strategy. These include:
- Volume – the level of offences within a crime category as a proportion of total crime;
 - Level of harm – the impact that a type of offending has on victims and communities;
 - Community concern – the level of priority that local people have attributed an issue;
 - Partnership added-value – the extent to which a multi-agency approach can enhance the ability of agencies to tackle a particular strand of offending behaviour;
 - Trend analysis – patterns of increase in an offence type (where it is possible to ascertain)
 - Horizon-scanning – social and economic factors that could influence patterns of crime and ASB, anticipated national events and legislative changes that may create new responsibilities for statutory partners.
- 1.4 Existing and emerging national priorities, policing priorities contained within the Kent Police Control Strategy and the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Policing and Crime Plan, have also been taken into account.

2. The New Priorities

- 2.1 Having given due attention to the above, the following broad priorities have been identified:
- i) Tackling ASB
 - ii) Reducing Violence (including Serious Violence, Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG))

- iii) Preventing and Reducing Offending
- iv) Tackling Hate Crime, Guarding Against Extremism and Strengthening Community Cohesion
- v) Improving Public Confidence and Trust

2.2 The rationale for the selection of each of these priorities is detailed in the Strategy together with information that describes what the Partnership's focus will be, what it hopes to achieve, how it will be monitoring progress and how it will be accountable.

3. Appendices

3.1 The following documents are to be published with the report:

Gravesham CSP - Community Safety Strategy 2024-28

4. Background Documents

4.1 There are no background documents.

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Secondary Implications	
Risk Assessment	The Council and other CSP partners have a statutory duty to deliver work to address crime and disorder issues in their area; a failure to do so would be both a breach of a legislative requirement and of the Council's duty of care in respect of Safeguarding.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) 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>
	Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of personal data or special category data or criminal offence data ? No If yes, you should complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment and/or seek advice from the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk .
Equality Impact Assessment	Does the content of this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against those with a protected characteristic? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Disability • Gender reassignment • Marriage and civil partnership • Pregnancy and maternity • Race • Religion or belief • Sex • Sexual orientation No. If yes, you need to complete an equality impact assessment <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</i>
Other Considerations	How will the content of report support or affect the following:
	Socio-economic Impact: Reducing crime and ASB will contribute to positive perceptions of the Borough as a safe place in which to invest, will help to retain existing business investments and encourage visitors to the area. Work to divert young people from crime and ASB and to rehabilitate both young and adult offenders will improve their opportunities to progress through education and training into employment.
	Crime and Disorder: The CSP is the main vehicle for delivering work to reduce crime and disorder in the Borough and the Strategy provides the structure and direction for Partnership activity.
	Safeguarding Children and Adults: The Strategy makes a significant contribution to the protection of children and vulnerable adults from harm.

<p>Consultation & Engagement</p>	<p>Has there been any consultation or engagement, including future planned consultation/engagement, in relation to this paper?</p> <p>Yes - A public consultation exercise was conducted to assist in the identification of the priorities contained within the Strategy.</p> <p>Please liaise with the Community Involvement team for assistance if required. community.involvement@gravesham.gov.uk</p>
<p>Involvement of other services</p>	<p>Have any other departments been involved or engaged with during the creation of the report:</p> <p>Communications – assisted in publicising the public consultation exercise referenced and in designing the public-facing document, Community Safety Strategy 2024-28.</p> <p>Digital or IT – will be asked to publish the new Strategy on the ‘Keeping Gravesham Safe’ pages on the Council’s website.</p>