

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Date: Wednesday 11 April 2018
Time: 6.30 p.m.
Venue: Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Adkinson, Barned, Mrs Blackmore, Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Butler, Clark, Cox, Cuming, Daley, Ells, English, Fermor, Field, Fissenden, Fort, Garland, Garten, Mrs Gooch, Greer (Mayor), Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Mrs Hinder, Joy, Lewins, McLoughlin, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Perry, Pickett, Powell, Prendergast, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Round, J Sams, T Sams, Spooner, Springett, Mrs Stockell, Vizzard, Webb, Webster, de Wiggondene-Sheppard, Wilby, Willis and Mrs Wilson

AGENDA

Page No.

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Dispensations (if any)
4. Disclosures by Members and Officers
5. Disclosures of Lobbying
6. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information.
7. Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough Council held on 7 March 2018 1 - 17
8. Mayor's Announcements
9. Petitions
10. Question and Answer Session for Members of the Public
11. Questions from Members of the Council to the Chairmen of Committees

Issued on Tuesday 3 April 2018

Continued Over/:

Alison Broom

Alison Broom, Chief Executive

12. Current Issues - Report of the Leader of the Council, Response of the Group Leaders and Questions from Council Members
13. Report of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee held on 6 February 2018 - Planning Service Improvement Project (PSIP) 18 - 24
14. Report of the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee Acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee held on 13 February and 20 March 2018 - 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh and 2018-19 Strategic Assessment 25 - 99
15. Oral Report of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee to be held on 10 April 2018 (if any)
16. Notice of Motion

Notice of the following motion has been given by Councillor B Mortimer, seconded by Councillor D Mortimer:

In view of the recent press coverage of pot holes within the Borough of Maidstone, I am getting very upset, if not angry, that as a Borough Councillor, and I am sure that I speak on behalf of many other Borough Councillors, at many times we the Borough Council are blamed for the bad state of our roads, which as we are all aware is the responsibility of Kent County Council.

My motion is that we instruct Officers to investigate possible options which will include the Highway Act of 1980 Section 42, which could give us the ability to change the existing dire situation. Once that report is complete, it should be presented at the earliest opportunity to Policy and Resources Committee and their recommendation should go to Full Council.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

If you require this information in an alternative format please contact us, call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk.

In order to speak at this meeting, please contact Democratic Services using the contact details above, by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting. If asking a question, you will need to provide the full text in writing. If making a statement, you will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on. Please note that slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE ON 7 MARCH 2018

Present: Councillor Greer (The Mayor) and Councillors Adkinson, Barned, Mrs Blackmore, Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Clark, Cox, Cuming, Daley, English, Fermor, Field, Fissenden, Fort, Garland, Garten, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Mrs Hinder, Mrs Joy, Lewins, McLoughlin, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Perry, Pickett, Powell, Prendergast, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Round, J Sams, T Sams, Spooner, Springett, Mrs Stockell, Vizzard, Webb, Wilby, Willis and Mrs Wilson

103. MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Council stood in silence for one minute in memory of Paul Alcock, former Premier League Referee, Manager of The Mall, Maidstone and Chairman of Maidstone Town Centre Management, and Tony Morris, a former member of the Parks and Leisure Team, both of whom passed away recently.

104. PRAYERS

Prayers were said by the Reverend Canon Andrew Sewell, Area Dean and Priest in Charge of St Paul's Church, Boxley Road.

105. CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor announced that he intended to change the order of business to take the following item after agenda item 13 (Current Issues – Report of the Leader of the Council, Response of the Group Leaders and Questions from Council Members):

Item 17 - Report of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 14 February 2018 – Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals 2018/19.

106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Butler, Ells and de Wiggondene-Sheppard.

107. DISPENSATIONS

There were no applications for dispensations.

108. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Chief Executive, on behalf of herself and all other members of staff present, disclosed an interest in the report of the Employment Committee held on 15 February 2018 - Pay Policy Statement 2018.

109. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

110. EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: That all items on the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

111. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Borough Council held on 6 December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

112. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Borough Council held on 6 December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

113. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor updated Members on recent and forthcoming engagements.

The Mayor also took the opportunity to thank staff for their efforts in maintaining services during the recent severe winter weather conditions.

114. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

115. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

116. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO THE CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Question to the Chairman of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee from Councillor Harper

Councillor Harper asked the following question of the Chairman of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee:

I understand that the Government has allocated a sum of pounds for electric car charging points at blocks of flats and in Council owned car parks. Can the Chairman of Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee inform the meeting what active ongoing measures the authority is doing to install electric car charging points throughout the Borough and to promote electric cars and transport to reduce air pollution and move towards carbon neutral transport?

The Chairman of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee replied that:

We as a Council through, probably, the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee will tap into any pot of money that exists so that we can encourage the additional installation of electric car charging infrastructure to promote electric vehicle use.

I can report that there are some measures that we have undertaken already and intend to undertake. For example, the Maidstone Integrated Transport Strategy promotes electric vehicle use. It is a core part of the Strategy. In particular, Action H6 seeks the installation of additional electric charging points and the promotion of electric car use.

The Strategy also includes a target to double the number of electric charging points in Maidstone by 2021 and to double again by 2031.

When I first started talking about electric vehicles in this Chamber, I was met with cynicism and scepticism, but I am really encouraged tonight that this question demonstrates cross-party support to accelerate the process. Action H6 is a very positive measure, but we need to go further.

Our recently adopted Local Plan has embedded policies and proposals that are intended to promote electric vehicle use. In particular, Policy DM6 on Air Quality supports the Maidstone Integrated Transport Strategy by facilitating the installation of charging points. Policy DM23 also seeks to ensure that new developments incorporate electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

As recently as December 2017, the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee adopted the Council's Low Emission Strategy, and one of the actions in the Strategy relates to the introduction of Air Quality Planning Guidance which includes provision for the incorporation of electric vehicle charging points in new builds. I was pleased to champion that piece of work and that it was unanimously supported by everyone.

These are examples of some of the measures we are taking that will tangibly improve the air quality of our residents.

We need to be aware that this is the technology of here and now, but it is changing and we should not restrict our thinking to, for example, the idea of fixed electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Let's be really ambitious and make Maidstone a pioneer and leader in this area.

I am pleased to tell you that through the Quality Bus Partnership, working with one of the bus companies, an electric bus will be trialled very soon – another exciting example of new technology.

This is a very exciting time; there is much more we can do. Let's not rest until Maidstone is the exemplar in encouraging and promoting electric vehicle usage and improving air quality.

Question to the Chairman of the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee from Councillor J Sams

Councillor J Sams asked the following question of the Chairman of the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee:

60,000 homes in England have remained vacant for at least 2 years and 11,000 homes across the country have remained uninhabited for a decade or more.

Councils have the opportunity to make use of Empty Dwelling Management Orders which allow Local Authorities to bring unoccupied properties into use as housing.

Whilst this 2004 Housing Act legislation was aimed at properties that have been empty for 6 months or more we can show you properties in Harrietsham that have been empty for over 10 years.

In light of the housing shortage in Maidstone what steps will this Council take to use this legislation for the benefit of local residents?

The Chairman of the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee replied that:

The Housing and Health team works hard with the owners of empty properties to bring them back into use. However returning empty properties back into use is often not straightforward. This is because the reasons properties are left empty for long periods of time are often complex and difficult to resolve. Empty Dwelling Management Orders were introduced in 2006. In reality they are difficult to obtain. During the period 2006-2011 only 43 EDMOs were issued nationally.

Our Council Tax records show that there are currently 116 properties in the Borough classified as empty and unfurnished for over two years. However there may be further properties that are not being lived in but are not classified as empty on our system for the purpose of Council Tax.

The Housing and Health team has liaised with the owners of eight long term empty properties in Harrietsham. None of these properties would be suitable for consideration of an Empty Dwelling Management Order for a variety of reasons, including being subject to probate, being part of commercial premises, being about to be demolished or currently being marketed for sale. If there are other properties we are not aware of

please do contact the Housing and Health team and we can investigate further.

117. CURRENT ISSUES - REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, RESPONSE OF THE GROUP LEADERS AND QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

There was no report from the Leader of the Council on this occasion.

118. REPORT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2018 - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/19

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Wilson, seconded by Councillor Harper, that the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals 2018/19 be approved subject to the amendment of recommendation no.16 to refer to Appendix C, not Appendix D.

Amendment moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Boughton, that the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals 2018/19 (as amended) be approved subject to the following changes with the consequences set out in the papers circulated:

3. That a proposed Council Tax of £250.56 at Band D be agreed.
4. That the revenue estimates for 2018/19 incorporating the growth and savings items set out in Appendix A be agreed, including an additional saving of £45,000 in the budget for Communications.
9. That a revised Strategic Revenue Projection be endorsed, showing the ongoing impact of the proposed change in Council Tax and removing the projected surplus of £97,000 for 2018/19, with a corresponding increase in the budget deficit in 2019/20.

As a consequence of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken on the amendment as follows:

FOR (21)

Councillors Barned, Mrs Blackmore, Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Cuming, Fort, Garten, Greer, Mrs Hinder, McLoughlin, Newton, Perry, Powell, Prendergast, Mrs Ring, Round, Spooner, Springett and Mrs Stockell

AGAINST (29)

Councillors Adkinson, Clark, Cox, Daley, English, Fermor, Field, Fissenden, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Mrs Joy, Lewins, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Pickett,

Mrs Robertson, J Sams, T Sams, Vizzard, Webb, Wilby, Willis and Mrs Wilson

ABSTENTIONS (1)

Councillor Garland

AMENDMENT LOST

Amendment moved by Councillor Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gooch, that the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals 2018/19 (as amended) be approved subject to the following changes with the consequences set out in the papers circulated:

4. That £20,000 in the budget allocation for Environmental Enforcement is deleted and reinstated in the budget for the Communication Section and that a one off amount of £20,000 is allocated to Environmental Enforcement from the 2018/19 surplus.
9. That a revised Strategic Revenue Projection be endorsed, reducing the projected surplus of £97,000 for 2018/19 to £77,000.

As a consequence of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken on the amendment as follows:

FOR (33)

Councillors Adkinson, Barned, Mrs Blackmore, Clark, Cox, Daley, English, Fermor, Field, Fissenden, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Mrs Joy, Lewins, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Pickett, Powell, Mrs Robertson, J Sams, T Sams, Vizzard, Webb, Wilby, Willis and Mrs Wilson

AGAINST (15)

Councillors Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Cuming, Fort, Garland, Garten, Greer, Mrs Hinder, Perry, Round, Spooner, Springett and Mrs Stockell

ABSTENTIONS (3)

Councillors McLoughlin, Prendergast and Mrs Ring

AMENDMENT CARRIED

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

As a consequence of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a named vote was taken on the substantive motion as follows:

FOR (34)

Councillors Adkinson, Barned, Mrs Blackmore, Clark, Cox, Daley, English, Fermor, Field, Fissenden, Garland, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harvey, Harwood, Hastie, Mrs Joy, Lewins, B Mortimer, D Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Pickett, Powell, Mrs Robertson, J Sams, T Sams, Vizzard, Webb, Wilby, Willis and Mrs Wilson

AGAINST (17)

Councillors Boughton, Brice, D Burton, M Burton, Cuming, Fort, Garten, Greer, Mrs Hinder, McLoughlin, Perry, Prendergast, Mrs Ring, Round, Spooner, Springett and Mrs Stockell

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION CARRIED

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised revenue estimates for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed.
2. That the minimum level of General Fund Balances be set at £2m for 2018/19.
3. That the proposed Council Tax of £252.90 at Band D for 2018/19 be agreed.
4. That the revenue estimates for 2018/19 incorporating the growth and savings items, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed except that £20,000 in the budget allocation for Environmental Enforcement is deleted and reinstated in the budget for the Communication Section and that a one off amount of £20,000 is allocated to Environmental Enforcement from the 2018/19 surplus.
5. That the Statement of Earmarked Reserves and General Fund Balances, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed.
6. That the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed.
7. That the funding of the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed.
8. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be agreed.
9. That the Strategic Revenue Projection, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be endorsed as the basis for future financial planning subject to the projected

surplus of £97,000 for 2018/19 being reduced to £77,000 as a consequence of the decision set out in paragraph 4 above.

10. That it be noted that the Council's Council Tax Base for the year 2018/19 has been calculated as 60,921.6 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992.
11. That it be noted that in accordance with Government guidance the yield from business rates has been calculated as £56,621,934.
12. That it be noted that the individual parish area tax bases set out in Appendix B are calculated in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations and are the amounts of the Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of the Council's area to which a special item relates.
13. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 (excluding Parish precepts) is £15,407,072.
14. That the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Section 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011:-
 - (a) £89,367,784 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £72,149,614 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £17,218,170 being the amount by which the aggregate at 14(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 14(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 32(4) of the Act).
 - (d) £282.63 being the amount at 14(c) above (Item R), all divided by the figure stated at 10 above (Item T in the formula in section 33(1) of the Act), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33 of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £1,811,097 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).
 - (f) £252.90 being the amount at 14(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 14(e)

above by the tax base given in 10 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

15. That it be noted that for the year 2018/19 Kent County Council, the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<u>Valuation Bands</u>	<u>KCC PRECEPT</u> <u>£</u>	<u>KCC ADULT SOCIAL CARE</u> <u>£</u>	<u>KPCC</u> <u>£</u>	<u>KMFRA</u> <u>£</u>
A	779.76	45.36	112.77	50.34
B	909.72	52.92	131.56	58.73
C	1039.68	60.48	150.36	67.12
D	1169.64	68.04	169.15	75.51
E	1429.56	83.16	206.74	92.29
F	1689.48	98.28	244.33	109.07
G	1949.40	113.40	281.92	125.85
H	2339.28	136.08	338.30	151.02

16. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 14 (d), and 15 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets out in Appendix C, the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.
17. That the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 and the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators, outlined in Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be adopted.
119. REPORT OF THE DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2017 - APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE JOINT INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

It was moved by Councillor Newton, seconded by Councillor Harper, that the recommendation of the Democracy Committee relating to the appointment of an Independent Person to serve on the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel be approved.

RESOLVED: That Mr Christopher Webb be appointed as the Independent Person for the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel.

120. REPORT OF THE DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2018 - REVIEW OF OUTSIDE BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Newton, seconded by Councillor Harper, that the recommendations of the Democracy Committee arising from the review which has been undertaken of the Council's representation on Outside Bodies be approved.

Amendment moved by Councillor Harper, seconded by Councillor English, that the following changes be made to the Outside Bodies on the list:

Removal of Bentlif Wing Trust - *As the Mayor is automatically appointed as an ex officio Trustee*

Collis Millennium Green Trust – HCL Committee **to appoint one High Street Ward Member**

KCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – CHE Committee (Chairman automatically appointed **or Chairman to delegate to another Member**)

Kent and Medway Civilian-Military Partnership Board – P&R Committee (Chairman automatically appointed **or Chairman to delegate to another Member**)

One Maidstone – P&R Committee **to appoint one Member as the Liaison Group no longer exists**

Rochester Bridge Trust – **P&R Committee**

Upper Medway Internal Drainage **Board**

Vinters Valley Park Trust – CHE Committee **to appoint a Ward Member**

Kent and Medway **Police** and Crime Panel – Leader automatic appointment **or Leader to delegate to another Member**

Kent and Medway Economic Partnership – Leader automatic appointment **or Leader to delegate to another Member**

West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board – Leader automatic appointment **or Leader to delegate to another Member**

AMENDMENT CARRIED

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION CARRIED

RESOLVED:

1. That the following Outside Bodies be retained and appointed by the relevant Service Committee as listed:

Action with Communities in Rural Kent – CHE Committee

Age UK – CHE Committee

Brenchley Charity Trust – HCL Committee

Citizens' Advice Bureau – CHE Committee

Collis Millennium Green Trust – HCL Committee to appoint one High Street Ward Member

Cutbush and Corral – CHE Committee

KCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – CHE Committee
 (Chairman automatically appointed or Chairman to delegate to another Member)
 Kent and Medway Civilian-Military Partnership Board – P&R Committee (Chairman automatically appointed or Chairman to delegate to another Member)
 Kent Community Railway Partnership – SPS&T Committee
 Kent Downs AONB Joint Advisory Committee – SPS&T Committee
 Local Government Association General Assembly – P&R Committee to appoint non-Voting Member (Leader automatically appointed as voting Member)
 Maidstone Area Arts Partnership – HCL Committee
 Maidstone Beauvais Twinning Association – HCL Committee
 Maidstone Cycling Forum – SPS&T Committee
 Maidstone Mediation – CHE Committee
 Maidstone Quality Bus Partnership – SPS&T Committee
 Maidstone Sea Cadets – HCL Committee
 Medway Valley Line Steering Group – SPS&T Committee
 One Maidstone – P&R Committee to appoint one Member
 PATROLAJC – SPS&T Committee
 Relate West and Mid Kent – CHE Committee
 Rochester Bridge Trust – P&R Committee
 South East Employers – Employment Committee
 South East Rail Passenger Group – SPS&T Committee
 Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board– P&R Committee
 Vinters Valley Park Trust – CHE Committee to appoint a Ward Member

2. That the following Outside Bodies be retained and appointed by the Democracy Committee:

Allington Millennium Green Trust – Allington Ward Member
 Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee – Headcorn Ward Member
 Howard de Walden Centre – East and North Ward Members
 Hayle Park Nature Reserve – South Ward Member
 Maidstone Street Pastors – High Street Ward Member
 Relief in Need Charity
 Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel – Leader automatic appointment or Leader to delegate to another Member
 Kent and Medway Economic Partnership – Leader automatic appointment or Leader to delegate to another Member
 West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board – Leader automatic appointment or Leader to delegate to another Member

3. That the following Outside Bodies be deleted:

KCC Youth and Community Charity
 KCC Youth and Community Management Committee
 Kent County Playing Fields Association
 Maidstone Mind
 Maidstone YMCA

Mid Kent Downs Steering Group

4. That each Outside Body representative reports to the appointing Committee at least on an annual basis providing an update.
5. That the Monitoring Officer be given delegated powers to make the necessary changes to the Constitution.

Note: Councillor Harper left the meeting after consideration of this item (8.00 p.m.).

121. REPORT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2018 - STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-20, 2018-19 REFRESH

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Wilson, seconded by Councillor Barned, that the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee relating to the Strategic Plan 2015-20, 2018-19 Refresh be approved.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Plan 2015-20, 2018-19 Refresh, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Policy and Resources Committee, be approved.

122. REPORT OF THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2018 - PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Gooch, seconded by Councillor Mrs Wilson, that the recommendation of the Employment Committee relating to the Pay Policy Statement 2018 be approved.

RESOLVED: That the Pay Policy Statement 2018, attached as Appendix B to the report of the Employment Committee, be approved for publication on the Council's website by 31 March 2018.

123. NOTICE OF MOTION - INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REDUCE THE VOTING AGE TO 16

The following motion was moved by Councillor Clark, seconded by Councillor Harvey:

"This Council supports reducing the voting age to 16 and agrees that our worshipful Mayor should write an open letter to the Prime Minister urging her to introduce legislation to reduce the voting age to 16."

The Mayor said that he considered it convenient and conducive to the despatch of business that the motion be dealt with at this meeting, and that a factual briefing note had been circulated.

Amendment moved by Councillor M Burton, seconded by Councillor D Burton, that the motion be amended to read:

That this Council supports reducing the voting age to 16 and agrees that the Chair of a relevant committee should write an open letter to the Prime

Minister, the Secretary of State for Education and our own local MPs, urging them not just to work to bring forward legislation to reduce the voting age to 16, but also to investigate, report on and implement proper economic and political education for all.

The mover and the seconder of the motion indicated that they accepted the amendments to the motion.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION CARRIED

RESOLVED: That this Council supports reducing the voting age to 16 and agrees that the Chair of a relevant committee should write an open letter to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Education and our own local MPs, urging them not just to work to bring forward legislation to reduce the voting age to 16, but also to investigate, report on and implement proper economic and political education for all.

124. NOTICE OF MOTION - HIGH SPEED TRAIN SERVICE

The following motion was moved by Councillor Adkinson, seconded by Councillor Willis:

That in light of the all-party support for the continuation of the direct high speed train service from Maidstone West to St Pancras International, this Council resolves to:

- 1. Formally adopt a position of support for the continuation of the high speed train link.*
- 2. Ask our Members of Parliament to lobby Ministers for the service to be extended throughout the day.*

The Mayor said that he considered it to be convenient and conducive to the despatch of business that the motion be dealt with at this meeting, and that a factual briefing note had been circulated.

With the agreement of the mover and the seconder, the motion was amended to read:

In light of the all-party support for the continuation of the direct high speed train services from Maidstone to London stations, this Council resolves to formally adopt a position of support for the continuation of the high speed train link and no delay to the December 18 adoption of Thames Link services to London Bridge, the City and Cambridge.

Amendment moved by Councillor D Burton, seconded by Councillor English, that the motion, as amended, be replaced by the following:

This Council resolves to:

1. Support the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee in its continuing work in assessing proposed changes to rail services in the Borough and continue to respond to all consultations and to seek all improvements in rail services for the Borough; and
2. Thank our Members of Parliament for their efforts in lobbying Ministers on all aspects of improving rail services in the Borough and offer our support to them in their continued efforts.

The mover and the seconder of the original motion, as amended, indicated that they accepted these changes.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION CARRIED

RESOLVED: That this Council resolves to:

1. Support the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee in its continuing work in assessing proposed changes to rail services in the Borough and continue to respond to all consultations and to seek all improvements in rail services for the Borough.
2. Thank our Members of Parliament for their efforts in lobbying Ministers on all aspects of improving rail services in the Borough and offer our support to them in their continued efforts.

Note: Councillors Harwood and B Mortimer left the meeting after consideration of this item (9.00 p.m.).

125. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNANCE - REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES/MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Wilson, seconded by Councillor Perry, that the recommendations arising from the review which has been undertaken of the allocation of seats on Committees be approved.

RESOLVED:

1. That the allocation of seats on Committees be as set out in Appendix 1 to the report of the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance.
2. That the wishes of the Group Leaders with regard to the consequential changes to the membership of Committees, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be accepted.

126. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNANCE
- CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018/19

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Brice, and

RESOLVED: That the Calendar of Meetings 2018/19, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance, be approved.

127. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR SELECT 2018/19

It was moved by Councillor English, seconded by Councillor Newton, supported by Councillors Round, Mrs Gooch and Adkinson, and

RESOLVED: That Councillor David Naghi be appointed as Mayor Select for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

128. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR SELECT 2018/19

It was moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Mrs Joy, supported by Councillors Mrs Gooch, Barned and Adkinson, and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Marion Ring be appointed as Deputy Mayor Select for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

129. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 9.10 p.m.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL TAX 2018/2019

Schedule of Council Tax Base and Additional Basic Amounts of

Council Tax in parts of the area with Parish Precepts

PARISH	TAX BASE	PRECEPT £	BAND 'D' TAX £
Barming	742.9	27,460	36.96
Bearsted	3,626.8	117,907	32.51
Boughton Malherbe	225.2	5,405	24.00
Boughton Monchelsea	1,496.5	69,752	46.61
Boxley	3,862.1	107,437	27.82
Bredhurst	174.0	12,418	71.37
Broomfield & Kingswood	716.5	55,500	77.46
Chart Sutton	415.9	21,000	50.49
Collier Street	371.5	14,054	37.83
Coxheath	1,577.0	74,500	47.24
Detling	393.1	34,383	87.47
Downswood	838.7	30,000	35.77
East Sutton	142.8	6,434	45.06
Farleigh East	671.3	49,703	74.04
Farleigh West	230.2	23,000	99.91
Harrietsham	1,242.8	117,723	94.72
Headcorn	1,578.4	172,681	109.40
Hollingbourne	473.3	24,058	50.83
Hunton	314.5	26,000	82.67
Langley	497.4	15,000	30.16
Leeds	337.4	32,443	96.16
Lenham	1,431.0	124,497	87.00
Linton	252.0	12,578	49.91
Loose	1,113.2	79,019	70.98
Marden	1,723.2	125,414	72.78
Nettlestead	306.1	16,927	55.30
Otham	326.5	12,268	37.57
Staplehurst	2,404.5	145,000	60.30
Stockbury	324.5	14,370	44.28
Sutton Valence	688.0	49,147	71.43
Teston	313.9	24,000	76.46
Thurnham	568.7	17,714	31.15
Tovil	1,423.6	68,043	47.80
Ulcombe	387.4	20,262	52.30
Yalding	987.4	65,000	65.83
		1,811,097	

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL TAX 2018/2019
Schedule of Council Tax Levels for all Bands
and all Parts of the Area including District Spending and all Precepts.

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barming	1,181.47	1,378.38	1,575.29	1,772.20	2,166.02	2,559.85	2,953.67	3,544.40
Bearsted	1,178.50	1,374.92	1,571.34	1,767.75	2,160.58	2,553.42	2,946.25	3,535.50
Boughton Malherbe	1,172.83	1,368.30	1,563.77	1,759.24	2,150.18	2,541.13	2,932.07	3,518.48
Boughton Monchelsea	1,187.90	1,385.88	1,583.87	1,781.85	2,177.82	2,573.79	2,969.75	3,563.70
Boxley	1,175.38	1,371.27	1,567.17	1,763.06	2,154.85	2,546.64	2,938.44	3,526.12
Bredhurst	1,204.41	1,405.14	1,605.88	1,806.61	2,208.08	2,609.55	3,011.02	3,613.22
Broomfield & Kingswood	1,208.47	1,409.88	1,611.29	1,812.70	2,215.52	2,618.35	3,021.17	3,625.40
Chart Sutton	1,190.49	1,388.90	1,587.32	1,785.73	2,182.56	2,579.39	2,976.22	3,571.46
Collier Street	1,182.05	1,379.05	1,576.07	1,773.07	2,167.09	2,561.10	2,955.12	3,546.14
Coxheath	1,188.32	1,386.37	1,584.43	1,782.48	2,178.59	2,574.70	2,970.80	3,564.96
Detling	1,215.14	1,417.66	1,620.19	1,822.71	2,227.76	2,632.81	3,037.85	3,645.42
Downswood	1,180.68	1,377.45	1,574.24	1,771.01	2,164.57	2,558.13	2,951.69	3,542.02
East Sutton	1,186.87	1,384.68	1,582.49	1,780.30	2,175.92	2,571.55	2,967.17	3,560.60
Farleigh East	1,206.19	1,407.22	1,608.25	1,809.28	2,211.34	2,613.41	3,015.47	3,618.56
Farleigh West	1,223.44	1,427.34	1,631.25	1,835.15	2,242.96	2,650.77	3,058.59	3,670.30
Harrietsham	1,219.98	1,423.30	1,626.64	1,829.96	2,236.62	2,643.28	3,049.94	3,659.92
Headcorn	1,229.76	1,434.72	1,639.68	1,844.64	2,254.56	2,664.48	3,074.40	3,689.28
Hollingbourne	1,190.72	1,389.16	1,587.62	1,786.07	2,182.98	2,579.88	2,976.79	3,572.14
Hunton	1,211.94	1,413.93	1,615.92	1,817.91	2,221.89	2,625.87	3,029.85	3,635.82
Langley	1,176.94	1,373.09	1,569.25	1,765.40	2,157.71	2,550.02	2,942.34	3,530.80
Leeds	1,220.94	1,424.42	1,627.92	1,831.40	2,238.38	2,645.36	3,052.34	3,662.80
Lenham	1,214.83	1,417.30	1,619.77	1,822.24	2,227.18	2,632.13	3,037.07	3,644.48
Linton	1,190.10	1,388.45	1,586.80	1,785.15	2,181.85	2,578.55	2,975.25	3,570.30
Loose	1,204.15	1,404.84	1,605.53	1,806.22	2,207.60	2,608.99	3,010.37	3,612.44
Marden	1,205.35	1,406.24	1,607.13	1,808.02	2,209.80	2,611.59	3,013.37	3,616.04
Nettlestead	1,193.70	1,392.64	1,591.60	1,790.54	2,188.44	2,586.34	2,984.24	3,581.08
Otham	1,181.88	1,378.85	1,575.84	1,772.81	2,166.77	2,560.73	2,954.69	3,545.62
Staplehurst	1,197.03	1,396.53	1,596.04	1,795.54	2,194.55	2,593.56	2,992.57	3,591.08
Stockbury	1,186.35	1,384.07	1,581.80	1,779.52	2,174.97	2,570.42	2,965.87	3,559.04
Sutton Valence	1,204.45	1,405.19	1,605.93	1,806.67	2,208.15	2,609.64	3,011.12	3,613.34
Teston	1,207.80	1,409.10	1,610.40	1,811.70	2,214.30	2,616.90	3,019.50	3,623.40
Thurnham	1,177.60	1,373.86	1,570.13	1,766.39	2,158.92	2,551.45	2,943.99	3,532.78
Tovil	1,188.70	1,386.81	1,584.93	1,783.04	2,179.27	2,575.50	2,971.74	3,566.08
Ulcombe	1,191.70	1,390.31	1,588.93	1,787.54	2,184.77	2,582.00	2,979.24	3,575.08
Yalding	1,200.72	1,400.83	1,600.96	1,801.07	2,201.31	2,601.55	3,001.79	3,602.14
Basic Level of Tax	1,156.83	1,349.63	1,542.44	1,735.24	2,120.85	2,506.46	2,892.07	3,470.48

Agenda Item 13

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

11 APRIL 2018

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING, SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2018

PLANNING SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PSIP)

Issue for Decision

To consider the recommendations relating to the Planning Service Improvement Project.

Recommendation Made

That the Monitoring Officer be instructed to amend the Constitution to reflect the changes agreed by Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee (see Appendix 1 to the report), effective from the new municipal year (2018/19).

Reasons for Recommendation

The Planning Review was concluded by Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee at its meeting held on 13 November 2017. The next stage in the process is the Planning Service Improvement Project, which is the implementation of the selected recommendations.

The recommendations relating specifically to Members and Committee were considered at a working group held in December 2017 consisting of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Planning Committee and Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee, Councillor Munford and Officers.

Out of the 7 recommendations relating to Members and Committee, 3 were not favoured to be taken forward, but 4 were (albeit to a greater or lesser degree). The working group focussed its discussion around 3 of the recommendations it was minded to take forward, relating to; Member induction and training (in relation to Planning Committee), the Parish "Call In" process, and the operation of the Planning Committee. In respect of the recommendation around the operation of Planning Committee (recommendation 5), the working group developed 6 suggested improvements (A-F) for consideration by Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee to accept, amend or reject.

The Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee at its meeting held on 6 February 2018 considered the recommendations and the

Committee's amendments to the Planning Service Improvement Project can be seen in the far right column in Appendix 1.

Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended

If the Council chooses not to instruct the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution to reflect the changes agreed by Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee it would mean that the changes could not be applied.

Background Documents

Appendix 1 – Planning Service Improvement Project Recommendations

MBC acceptance or rejection of IESE Planning Review Recommendations – Nov 2017					SPST Committee Amendments Feb 2018
Line of Enquiry	MBC interpretation and commentary	Implement Yes / No	Timescale	Working Group Comment	
Members and Committee					
1) Develop and establish a Member Development Programme to include Peer to Peer support	Given the desired approach set out in 2, this was not felt to be necessary.	No	N/A	The working group was not minded to pursue this recommendation	
2) Review the Member induction programme and Member training for Planning Committee to ensure that key elements and responsibilities are covered and embedded	Yes, but this to be redesigned and commissioned by the Head of Planning to a specialist training provider such as the Planning Advisory Service or the Local Government Association, with the cost to come from the Members development budget. It is envisaged that in time this could be facilitated and or supplemented by modern learning methods / greater use of IT. I.e. Officers should no longer provide this training service. This programme should cover all planning training, to include introduction, refresher and specialist topics.	Yes	June 18	The working group was minded to pursue this recommendation at least in part.	That greater use of e-learning modules be included in the Member induction programme and training for Planning Committee to ensure that key elements and responsibilities are covered and embedded. This would save time and be accessible for all Members.
3) Review the Parish Call in process with the view to removing the automatic right of call in and replacing with the need to provide material planning reasons and consider whether all Parish call-ins should come via the Ward Member	The call can only be made on a material planning consideration, and so this revised process would need to be facilitated by a menu based online form that would need to be completed for consideration by the Head of Planning and Development. This process should apply for	Yes	June 18	The working group was minded to pursue this recommendation	That the line of enquiry relating to the parish call-in process is not implemented.

	Members too, however, the Parish call in need not be via the Ward Member.				
21	4) Review Officer attendance at Committee to ensure appropriate use of officer time, including the requirement for Legal representation	No	N/A	The working group was not minded to pursue this recommendation other than by reducing the length of Officers' opening presentations and also improvements to be brought about in recommendation 5.	
	5) Review the operation of the Planning Committee and the way the agenda is drawn up with a view to minimising the length of the Committee, the movement of items around the agenda and deferrals	<p>The suggestions are based upon discussions at the working group;</p> <p>A) <u>Speaking Arrangements</u></p> <p>The principles of (a) limiting the number of speakers and (b) imposing time limits are essential if the recommendation about limiting length of Committee meetings is to be implemented. However, in practice the Chairman can of course waive these rules.</p> <p>There should be a maximum of four speakers allowed, to be as</p>		5A to 5F to be considered by SPS&T.	That the speaking arrangements proposed are not implemented, but that the slot for the parish or residents association go to any other concerned resident if no parish or residents association registers to speak, with the Chairman's discretion.

follows;

- One agent / applicant
- One objector
- One Parish or resident's association
- One Ward Member

*If the Parish wish to speak, they take this speaking slot at the expense of the residents association.

Each speaker must register their intention to speak 48 hours before the start of the meeting.

Each speaker is allowed three minutes.

B) Officer Opening Presentations

These will be no longer than five minutes.

The recommendation was supported by the Committee. However, the Committee did not support an absolute restriction of 5 minutes. In order to keep Officer Introductions concise, the Committee raised the possibility of including a caveat at the top of each agenda which stated that it was assumed that all Members had read the papers.

C) Committee Member Debate

Committee Members will speak for no longer than three minutes per application and this will be managed by the Chair, and some flexibility would be required here at the summing up stage, in terms of formulating grounds for refusal.

D) Late representations

Any relevant new information received up to 24 hours before the Committee will be reported in writing via a written urgent update.

Late representations received less than 24 hours before the Committee meeting will only be reported verbally to the Committee.

E) Reduce the size of the Planning Committee

To consider reducing the number of Members from 13 to 11.

F) Hold the Planning Committee in the afternoon rather than the

That the Committee Member Debate should not be restricted by time.

That the Planning Committee should not be reduced to 11 Members.

That the Planning Committee should not be held in the

	<p><u>evening</u></p> <p>With an expectation that the meeting is concluded by 6.30pm. There was not consensus upon this proposal from the working group however.</p>				<p>afternoon rather than the evening.</p>
<p>6) Implement constitutional change to ensure that Planning Committee can only refuse Outline Planning Permission on an allocated site where it is not compliant with policy</p>	<p>Or alternatively, allocated sites could instead be considered by SPS&T at outline application stage.</p>			<p>The working group was <u>not</u> minded to pursue this recommendation</p>	
<p>7) Streamline Committee reports to a maximum of 10 pages – Develop a template to be used by all Officers with brief summary and recommendations at start, body of report to contain relevant information only with links as necessary to other documents. Reports should detail fees attracted i.e. pre-app, PPA, planning fees and projected New Homes Bonus and Council Tax/Business Rates receipts to provide a full picture of the financial implications of the development.</p>	<p>This concept is already in place, in terms of more concise report writing, but will not be rigidly applied (in terms of adhering to a maximum length of report in all cases). The team have now undertaken specialist training on this matter.</p>				<p>That the idea of concise reports be supported but the Committee did not want arbitrary restriction on the number of pages.</p>

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

11 APRIL 2018

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, ACTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2018 AND 20 MARCH 2018

2013-18 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN REFRESH AND 2018-19 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Issue for Decision

To adopt the 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh and 2018-19 Strategic Assessment to be implemented by the Safer Maidstone Partnership and its priority subgroups.

Recommendation Made

That the Council adopt the 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh and the 2018-19 Strategic Assessment to be implemented by the Safer Maidstone Partnership and its priority subgroups.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Communities, Housing and Environment Committee, acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee, at its meeting held on 13 February 2018 approved the 2018-19 Strategic Assessment for adoption by Council. In addition, at its meeting on 20 March 2018 the Committee approved the 2013-18 Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh for adoption by Council, subject to some minor amendments. It was noted that:-

- The priorities from the Strategic Assessment for 2018/19 remain unchanged, although it was agreed at the Safer Maidstone Partnership meeting that 'Other Violent Crime' would be removed to allow for a greater focus on tackling domestic abuse, which makes up a significant proportion of all recorded violent crime. Therefore the priorities are as follows:-

Domestic Abuse

Organised Crime Groups (including Modern Slavery)

Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Substance Misuse

Mental Health

- The refreshed plan and its action plans will be delivered under the umbrella of the Safer Maidstone Partnership via the subgroups set up for each priority.

Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended

1. Do nothing. This is not a recommended option as the Strategic Assessment shows that community safety trends have changed. Other emerging issues need to be addressed by the partnership and if not picked up would potentially result in more victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, especially amongst the most at risk and vulnerable of society.
2. By approving the Partnership Plan (refresh) and the identified priorities for 2018/19 would allow for it to be implemented by the SMP and enable the action plans to be delivered by its subgroups. The priorities have been clearly evidenced within the Strategic Assessment and have been highlighted as priorities by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and other Community Safety Partnerships, both in Kent and nationally.

3. **Appendices**

Appendix A – SMP Community Safety Partnership Plan Refresh 2013-18 and Combined CSP Action Plan 2018

Appendix B – SMP Community Safety Partnership – Strategic Assessment 2018/19



Safer Maidstone Partnership

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013–2018

'Delivering Safer Communities'

Refreshed March 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the annual refresh of the Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2018. This document outlines how we are going to collectively tackle community safety issues in the Maidstone borough, how we have achieved against the targets set in the previous year and what we will prioritise this year.

2. BACKGROUND

The Maidstone Community Safety Plan 2013-18 was a five year rolling document, which highlighted how the SMP planned to tackle local community safety issues that were of the highest threat, risk and harm to the local community. We now need to develop a new plan which can be revised annually through reviewing information set out in the Strategic Assessment to ensure that current issues can be taken into account and used to direct the SMP's strategy. An away day to discuss and start to formulate the action plans for the Community Safety Plan for 2018/19 took place in late February 2018.

3. PRIORITIES

Our aim is to keep Maidstone an attractive place for all and provide a clean and safe environment for those who live, work and visit the borough. Data analysis identifies that we continue to face challenges across our district and as such the SMP has agreed to focus on five key issues for **2018-19**:

- **Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery);**
- **Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);**
- **Substance Misuse;**
- **Domestic Abuse;**
- **Mental Health.**

This year, no new emerging themes or trends occurred through the year that were not already named priorities. However, it was suggested and agreed at the Safer Maidstone Partnership meeting that 'Other Violent Crime' be removed as a priority in name.

This was due to the fact that a substantial proportion of violent crime incidents were Domestic Abuse related. Any non-related serious violent crime is already dealt with robustly by the police and a degree of cases have a cross-over into other areas such as Gangs, OCG's and Substance Misuse. It is not therefore necessary to be included as a specific priority alongside Domestic Abuse.

These priorities have again been identified by applying the "MoRiLE" scoring matrix which is a technique for the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement. It ranks crime and disorder issues based on threat risk

Appendix A

and harm to individuals, communities and organisations and which also takes into consideration vulnerability and the capacity and capability of the Safer Maidstone Partnership.

Work around the Government's Prevent duty and Reducing Reoffending continue to be cross cutting themes rather than named priorities along with Anti-Social Behaviour. All the priorities will require a robust multi-agency response, but because they are important for residents and communities, achieving them will have a positive impact on people's quality of life.

The SMP will endeavour to make their approach to these priorities victim focused, also emphasising this in the associated action plans. This is most important now that vulnerabilities, threat, risk and harm are becoming embedded in different agencies' priorities and approaches to investigation and enforcement.

4. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 changed the way crime and anti-social behaviour were to be tackled. It recognised that in order to be effective, agencies needed to work together to address the issues collectively. Each local area formed a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which are now called Community Safety Partnerships.

The Safer Maidstone Partnership is made up of Responsible Authorities (those bodies for whom membership of the CSP is a statutory obligation) and voluntary members. Our statutory partners are: Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company and the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (which has the responsibility for local health services).

In addition to our statutory partners we also work with a large number of voluntary and private sector partners as well as community groups to collectively implement and deliver initiatives that will help keep the Maidstone borough a safe place to live, work and visit.

The SMP has co-chairs Alison Broom, Chief Executive of Maidstone Borough Council and Chief Inspector Mick Gardner of Kent Police.

Under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, every local authority is required to have in place a Crime and Disorder Committee with power to review and scrutinise, and make reports and recommendations, regarding the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions; the Committee must also ensure:

- Crime and Disorder Committees must meet at least once a year;
- Responsible authorities or co-operating bodies (non-statutory CSP members) must provide such information requested by the Crime and Disorder Committee within the timescales identified in the request;
- Crime and Disorder Committees can request the attendance of a representative of a responsible authority or co-operating body in order to answer questions;
- Responsible authorities or co-operating bodies must respond to any recommendations made by the Crime and Disorder Committee within 28 days.

5. ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

Community Safety Unit

The way in which the Maidstone Community Safety Unit (CSU) operates continues to evolve. The weekly meeting of the CSU Vulnerabilities Group has a broader range of partners now engaged, a wider range of people and incidents are discussed with a particular focus on threat, risk and harm for the most vulnerable people. This has re-energised the meetings and improved information sharing and joint working.

As well as Borough Council officers and Kent Police, partners include Kent Community Wardens, local housing Registered Providers including Golding Homes, KCC children's specialist social services, Substance Misuse services, Mental Health, Domestic Abuse support and Mediation services. Increasing the range of partners working as part of the CSU is key to ensure community safety related issues are tackled holistically.

Community Protection Team

In July 2017, the council's Community Safety Officers joined with the Environmental Enforcement Officers to create the Community Protection Team. A team of specialists bringing together various elements of enforcement into one team.

Historically, there had been a degree of input on the same case from both teams. This new team now takes a broader approach to case working, making the service more efficient and proactive when dealing with threat, risk, harm and vulnerabilities. Training has taken place by all staff in the areas that they were not so experienced in, resulting in greater resilience.

They also take a closer interest in unauthorised development cases where 'matrix' sites or sites of significant interest require a multi-agency approach. This could be where planning breaches may have occurred or co-ordinated targeting to disrupt an organised crime group is required.

The team is built around the following delivery model that challenges them to be intelligence driven to protect those that are most vulnerable and to build realistic solutions to the issues they face:



Kent Police

The Kent Police mission is to provide a first class service protecting and serving the people of Kent. The vision of the Chief Constable and PCC is 'for Kent to be a safe place for people to live, work and visit. By protecting the public from harm, we will allow our communities to flourish and by working with the public and partners, we will provide a first class policing service that is both visible and accessible. We will retain neighbourhood policing as the bedrock of policing in Kent. We will be there when the public need us and we will act with integrity in all that we do'.

Kent Police have also had an organisational restructure. 'New Horizon' structural changes have been specifically designed to enhance the quality of service to vulnerable victims by ensuring crime is allocated based on the victim's needs, not the motivation of the offender or the seriousness of the offence. There are now designated PCSOs in different areas including: Missing Child Exploitation Team Officers, Vulnerable Adult Intervention Officer, Youth Engagement Officer and Domestic Abuse Support Officers.

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

PCCs are responsible for the appointment of Chief Constables, holding them to account for the running of the force, setting out a Police and Crime Plan based on local priorities, setting the local precept and force budget and making grants to external organisations. The current PCC for Kent, Matthew Scott, was elected in May 2016 and will remain in office for a period of four years.

The PCC has pledged to continue to support a number of agencies through the main policing grant and has announced his commitment to his wider duties around crime and community safety. Funding for Community Safety Partnerships was confirmed for 2017/18 and will be used to address our local priorities.

Appendix A

The Kent Police & Crime Plan is a four year plan and was reviewed in February 2017. The plan sets out the Commissioner's vision and priorities for policing in the county which includes placing victims first, focusing on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and protecting the public from harm. To achieve the aims in the plan the following strategic priorities are set out:

- Hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of Kent Police's priorities
- Support all victims of crime and abuse
- Commission services that reduce pressure on policing due to mental health
- Invest in schemes that make people safer and reduce re-offending
- Make offenders pay for the harm that they have caused
- Actively engage with residents in Kent and Medway

West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group

Since 1 April 2013, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have become 'responsible authorities' on CSPs. This means that the CCGs now have a statutory duty to work in partnership to tackle crime and disorder. The act places a duty on CCGs to:

- Participate in a strategic assessment of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, and drug and alcohol misuse for the CSP area or areas in which they fall.
- Contribute to the development of local strategies that effectively deal with the issues where they are identified.

Joining their local CSPs gives CCGs more influence in shaping local action to tackle crime and the causes of crime, for example the delivery of services which have an impact on crime and disorder, including mental health services.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board brings together key organisations and representatives of the public to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of West Kent.

It has been set up in West Kent as part of the recent national health and social care reforms. Kent Public Health, the four West Kent authorities (Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councils), West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group, (who are responsible for commissioning health services locally) and patient and public representatives are all part of this Board.

The key themes for health and wellbeing are drawn from the West Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

Probation Services

The Probation services are organised in two parts - the National Probation Service (NPS) and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). The NPS is a statutory criminal justice service whose supervision and support includes not only Service users who have never been in custody and have only solely been in the community, but also high risk offenders who are released into the community; this service is provided nationally by the government.

The CRC supports the rehabilitation of low to medium risk offenders and is commissioned out to private companies. Kent is covered by the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) who alongside the NPS play an active part in the SMP's partnership.

The Kent County Perspective

The Draft Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) for 2017 outlines the key community safety priorities for Kent and replaces the previous agreement which expired on 31st March 2017. The common issues and priorities from the District-level strategic assessments have been identified and key stakeholders consulted to identify any potential gaps and cross-cutting themes for inclusion in the agreement.

The diagram below not only includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the CSA, but also shows the strategic priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan, illustrating the importance of integrating the work of all partners.

2017 Priorities & cross cutting themes for the CSA and the PCC



6. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Each year the Safer Maidstone Partnership undertakes a Strategic Assessment of the district to identify any crime and disorder trends, which can then be used to inform the priority planning for the coming year. This ensures we are focusing our efforts collectively on the areas that are most in need. This is done by analysing data and intelligence reports from the previous year to produce recommended priority areas the data is telling us are a concern or that residents have highlighted.

It should be noted that part of the reason for increases in certain offences is because of changes in the recording of incidents from April 2017. For example, a single offence of affray involving 6 people will now be counted as 6 incidents instead of being collated together as one.

Included in Appendix 4 is a summary of the 2017 Maidstone Residents Survey Community Safety questions. This illustrates how at risk residents feel in relation to: Safety in the home, safety walking during the day-time, night-time and other crime specific concerns. Ward level comparisons are displayed in both the Strategic Assessment.

They show some interesting contradictions when resident’s perceptions of being a victim of crime are compared to the reality of the crime data in their area. This tells us that the borough would benefit from greater awareness raising and promotion of ‘good news’ stories of recently convicted offenders or other successful partnership operations through a wide variety of different media.

This year’s methodology again includes the use of the risk scoring matrix ‘MoRiLE’ (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement). It differs in that it ranks priorities/themes based on threat risk and harm as opposed

Appendix A

to relying mainly on volume of crime figures. Further information on this and other methodology used in this year's Strategic Assessment can be found in Appendix 1.

The priorities are then ranked against a number of factors, including volume, trend over time, residents' perceptions and how much it is felt that the partnership can influence. This is then reviewed by our stakeholders and finally the highest ranked priorities are analysed in depth, to help guide practitioners in formulating actions that they feel will have an impact on each priority.

The following areas were **2017-18's** identified priorities and the completed actions for each priority are listed below:

Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery)

Organised Crime Groups including modern slavery is a new priority which was removed from 'Community Resilience' to form one separate theme for 2017-18. This priority relates to Serious Organised Crimes being committed in the borough by well organised and often complex criminal organisations. Some of whom will have exploited vulnerable individuals through modern slavery/human trafficking.

The purpose of the associated sub-group is to build an intelligence picture of the Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) with the help of information sharing from a number of different agencies. An 'outcome based accountability' type action plan is then populated with ways to disrupt or respond to the OCGs activities, looking at the areas of Prevent, Prepare, Pursue and Protect.

Priority completed and future actions:

- Partners and Police have established a District based forum to share information and formulate actions around OCGs.
- These have been used to target a local carwash based OCG and disrupt the criminal activity linked to it.
- A number of brothels have been closed down with a significant eastern European OCG dismantled and brought to justice; this investigation has also led to arrests in both Lithuania and Poland.

As a local authority, we are also seeking to create a Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MSHT) corporate statement. One of the purposes is to work in partnership with our suppliers to ensure that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in the supply chain.

We would encourage our suppliers to achieve high ethical standards and practices including fair and right working conditions across the supply chain. This is a statement that Kent Police already has in place and it supports the responsibilities on large co-operations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Kent & Essex Serious Crime Directorate have heralded the Maidstone district's multi-agency case management of OCGs as a text book example of how agencies can join together and share information to successfully disrupt and prosecute OCGs. Kent was not one of the pilot areas for this way of working but is now leading the way in this field.

Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Similar to OCGs, 'Gangs and CSE' was a new priority in name last year as a result of previously being within the 'Community Resilience' priority. It was created as a standalone priority based on the high risk of harm associated with the two themes.

Within the borough there appears to be a two tier Gang issue, ranging from local associated groups of youth's causing anti-social behavior and low level crime to higher, more organised criminal gangs often originating from London and dealing class A drugs along 'County Lines'.

'County Lines' can be described as when a group (not exclusively affiliated as a gang) establishes a network between an urban hub and county location, into which drugs (primarily heroin and crack cocaine) are supplied. A branded mobile phone line is established in the market, to which orders are placed by introduced customers. The line will commonly (but not exclusively) be controlled by a third party, remote from the market.

Appendix A

Both tiers tend to recruit and/or exploit those most vulnerable in society. This can be by way of material goods and the feeling of inclusion within the 'family' or through taking over a vulnerable person's property to be used as a base for criminal activity (known as 'cuckooing').

Once indebted to the gang for whatever reason, the victims are then exploited further to carry out criminal activities or sexually exploited by the gang for financial gain.

Priority completed and future actions:

- The Maidstone Gangs meeting discusses intelligence relating to local gangs and forms action plans to disrupt their behaviour. As well as lower level local gangs, a number of London street gangs are associated with the area and their drug networks, exploiting vulnerable people.
- A number of targeted multi-agency operations have taken place which had the positive outcome of disrupting gang activities in the borough including bringing charges and restrictions against some members.
- Support is being delivered in secondary schools and young people's supported accommodation to help educate young people on the risks of becoming a gang member, gang culture and their vulnerability.
- Exit strategies, debriefs and intensive support are also avenues open to those already involved in a gang.
- A multi-agency street outreach scheme is being piloted to help take these services to areas where these individuals are known to congregate and operate.

Gangs & CSE awareness raising and training ensures that both practitioners and young people are best placed to challenge and become more resilient when confronted with these issues. A continued multi-agency approach to information sharing and joint operations will assist in the disruption and prosecution of these criminal groups whilst also providing the much needed aforementioned support.

Our Multi-Agency Gangs Group (MAG) Action Plan, included with this document, describes how we will work with in conjunction with the Kent and Medway Gangs Strategy 2018 -2020 and sets out our joint clear vision:

To protect and prevent young people from becoming involved with gangs; to tackle gang-related harm and youth violence; and to pursue effective enforcement action to deal with those embroiled in gang activities

We will achieve this by working together across our local agency partnership to deliver the key objectives. These are:

1. Create a shared understanding of local gangs across our local partnership and a common language and approach to our work with gangs and groups.
2. Strengthen local early intervention and preventative work to stop young people becoming involved with gangs, and to dissuade those on the cusp of becoming drawn into gang activity.
3. Protect vulnerable individuals targeted by gangs and who are vulnerable to criminal behaviour.
4. Develop support pathways to help young people out of gangs and violent behaviours.
5. By utilising effective enforcement and offender management to deal with those individuals involved in gangs who refuse to reform.

Within our local gang strategy we have also included the objective to increase partnership awareness in Child Sexual exploitation including the identification, safeguarding and signposting these vulnerable victims appropriately.

We will deliver these objectives through adopting the nationally recognised 4P Plan approach to tackling gangs and organised crime; Prevent, Protect, Pursue and Prepare.

Substance Misuse

Substance misuse relates to the use of drugs, alcohol and includes New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) previously known as 'legal highs'. Neither alcohol nor NPS were included in the recorded drug offences as they were both legal. Since the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 became law in May 2016, NPS supply would be included in drug offence figures but not possession. It is however important to mention alcohol and NPS as there is a clear connection between criminal activity and the excessive use of these substances.

Kent police recorded drug offences includes both offences of drug supply and possession. Under this category of crime Maidstone has seen an overall 1% decrease in drug offences from November 16 – October 17 when compared to the previous year's data (this included a -13% reduction in possession and a 60% increase in trafficking). This is a decrease from 345 offences to 342 offences; or 3 less crimes this year. The force as a whole saw a reduction of 4.8% and only Gravesham (+43.1%) and Canterbury (+6.4%) saw a rise.

With regards to outcomes of drug related offences the last 12 months, Maidstone has seen a drop in adult and youth cautions (-43% and -40% respectively). Also a 20% drop in penalty notices and cannabis warnings. There was an increase of 21% in those charged or summonsed.

Data from the Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory suggests a slightly higher number of individuals admitted to hospital for mental and behavioural disorders relating to psychoactive substances than in the past. 583 admissions from September 16 – August 17, compared to 504 from September 15 – August 16 (an increase of 15%). With 4000 of these admissions across the county, the highest proportion of these (1090) were males aged between 45 – 64.

These figures *will* include alcohol, narcotics and other substances; not just what were previously known as 'legal highs'. Maidstone did however have more 'head' shops than any other area in Kent selling NPS before the Psychoactive Substances Act came into being. As such, there may be a higher proportion of regular NPS users in the borough and/or more prevalence of its use in the large night time economy.

There has also been a 12% rise in alcohol related hospital admissions in the borough over the past year. It is difficult to ascertain whether they had been received into hospital as a result of drinking excessively in the night time economy of Maidstone as a visitor, or as a resident of the borough with a history of substance misuse. Kent wide saw 755 alcohol related admissions with the highest proportion of these (187) being females aged 25 – 44.

Substance misuse charity Change, Grow, Live (CGL) saw a 13% increase in needle exchange use and a 29% increase in clients in treatment. This is a good sign that an increasing majority of those using the syringe exchanges are accessing treatment. Those that aren't, are in the main known to CGL and are serial presenters to treatment. They are also seeing fewer new clients accessing services.

Needle finds in the borough continue to show a steady decline, with the strategically placed needle bins remaining well used. Between 15 – 60% of recorded needle finds originated from these bins. Swift removal of needles, the promotion of the bins to service users and the increased use of the needle exchanges have helped reduce the numbers of syringes being found in publicly accessible places.

Addaction's Young Peoples Service was awarded a new 5 year contract for supplying substance misuse services to young people in Kent. This will provide a consistent service and build on the successful work that they have already delivered. They have stated that one worrying trend on the rise is that of Steroid use among young people (some as young as 13). This is very much an under-reported drug and Addaction have received no referrals into treatment regarding steroids as a primary or secondary substance for young people.

Those using do not access treatment groups (often affluent, high achieving young people) and often do not associate their use with a drug service, more with peers within the gym setting. It also raises the question of young people's perceptions of their own body image and the associated psychological issues

Appendix A

that they may be experiencing.

Long term steroid use can be dangerous and have life changing repercussions. These are more worrying when a young person's body and mind are still in the development stage both physically and psychologically. We need to generate awareness, work with local gyms and schools and promote conversation and resources to these otherwise hidden cohorts.

Priority completed and future actions:

- Targeted multi-agency evening operations have been delivered with Trading Standards, Kent Police and Borough Council teams to tackle underage sales of alcohol and licensed premises.
- Through the substance misuse charity Change, Grow, Live (CGL), needle exchange schemes in Maidstone (2 pharmacies and their service centre) continue to be successful. In 2017 there was a 13% increase in needle exchange use and a 29% increase in clients in treatment.
- Subgroup action plan incorporates the ethos of the 5 strategic themes from the Kent Drug & Alcohol Strategy around: Resilience, Identification, Early help & harm reduction, Recovery and Supply.
- Increased number of street population referred and engaged in CGL support services as a result the Maidstone Assertive Outreach programme.
- A 50% sign up from those retailers approached to participate in the Reduce the Strength scheme for the town centre, removing from sale 'low cost high strength' beer, cider & lager above 6.5% ABV.
- Urban Blue Bus, Street Pastors & Taxi Marshals were part funded through the PCC CSP Grant to help support the customers of the Night Time Economy in Maidstone town centre.
- Part funded 'Theatre ADAD' to deliver the 'WASTED' – drug & alcohol education performances to 29 primary schools in the borough, this highlights to year 6 pupils who are moving up to secondary school, the risks of substance misuse.
- Needle bins including in Brenchley Gardens, continue to reduce needle finds in other open spaces.
- Worked with 'Community Payback' to turn an ASB hotspot in the town centre frequented by street drinkers and drug users into a community garden.
- Enforced the town centre's Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) that tackles aggressive begging and anti-social street drinking, and used new powers to disperse problematic individuals.

Education, prevention, enforcement and treatment remain at the forefront of the SMPs response to substance misuse issues in Maidstone. Young Addaction's successful Mind & Body programme regarding young people's substance misuse and mental health issues has highlighted the importance of how substance misuse can be part of the trigger or coping mechanism for mental health.

As a result, the sub-group is exploring a new primary prevention programme looking at assisting those not open to treatment with their coping strategies for stress by way of natural alternative activities instead of resultant substance misuse and petty crime. One aim will be to reduce those open to secondary drug treatment services.

Domestic Abuse and other Violent Crime

Violent Crime (domestic abuse)

Between the periods November 2016 - October 2017, Maidstone had recorded 3096 incidents of Domestic abuse (25.7% average repeat victims) compared to 2683 incidents (26.4% repeat victims) in the same period in the previous year. This translates to a 15% increase in cases, though percentages of repeat victim figures are virtually unchanged.

Appendix A

Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops offer free advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse. Maidstone's one stop shop is currently hosted at the Salvation Army in Union Street and provides advice on housing, legal matters, policing and specialist DA advice. Data shows One Stop Shop visits were down 7% in Maidstone in 2016-17.

Home visits for the 'Sanctuary' scheme that helps keep high risk victims of domestic abuse in their own homes by installing extra security measures, seems to have plateaued to 35 referrals last year. This suggests that more DA victims are receiving an earlier intervention and not escalating to 'high risk' though MARAC and DA figures overall increase.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs) are meetings where information about high-risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies. By bringing all agencies together at a MARAC, a risk-focused, co-ordinated safety plan can be drawn together to support the victim. MARACs now cover all persons aged 16 years and over.

Maidstone has had 177 MARAC cases between the periods of October 2016 – September 2017. This compares to 161 cases the previous 12 months, an increase locally of 10% and countywide increase of 4%. 58 of those cases were repeat cases, this equates to 33% of all cases which is up from 18% on last year. This is a mid-range increase over other areas in Kent and the county average is 33.46%. Last year the county repeat case figure was 31.6%.

Priority completed and future actions:

- Partners have continued to run regular seasonal awareness campaigns aligned with national campaigns.
- Supported the Freedom programme and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service.
- Referred all High Risk cases to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
- Provided support to male and female victims of DA through Centra and Choices.
- Provided support for male offenders wishing to rehabilitate.
- Helped facilitate the Sanctuary Scheme and assisted 35 victims to stay in their properties by making home security improvements.
- Part funded theatre projects to secondary schools around healthy relationships.
- Assisted in providing a domestic abuse One Stop Shop in the borough.
- Supported in developing a new DA Forum.
- Supported in developing the new DA vulnerable victims professionals group.
- Running a social media DA questionnaire campaign targeting over 18's in Maidstone.

It is widely recognised that increased recorded incidents of domestic abuse are not necessary indicators of a worsening situation. Domestic abuse is an under-reported crime so reports will continue to increase as the public are reassured that they can be safeguarded if they come forward and report domestic incidents.

Sexual offences (especially rape) is on the increase, but up to 75% of this is historic reporting often by domestic abuse victims who are no longer frightened to come forward and report offences. The new vulnerability police model for investigation is providing an enhanced service to victims and there continues to be more reporting as police and partners increase accessibility to services and safeguarding.

Violent Crime (other)

'Violent Crime' covers a wide range of offences including murder, manslaughter, GBH, ABH and other assaults without injury, threats to kill, harassment, sexual offences and robbery. Maidstone has seen an

Appendix A

increase of 43.7% in violent crime this year compared with the period of November 2015 – October 2016. It is important to mention that this may be partly attributed to a change in police recording. This increase is however below the division and county percentage and the 4th lowest increase out of 13 areas.

Maidstone has a highly active night time economy (NTE) which generates around £60 million each year; this is considered to be a key contributing factor to the heightened levels of violence in High street ward for example. Bearing in mind Maidstone has the largest NTE in the county, it is still considered by agencies and the public as a relatively safe place to visit compared to similar large towns/cities. This was enforced by an overall sense of feeling safe in the town via a public consultation into the town centre and NTE.

The majority of violent crime offences occurring in Maidstone within the 12 months ending 31st October came under the 'Violence Against The Person' (VATP) category. This category covers offences ranging in severity from assault without injury to murder, however does not include robberies or sexual offences.

There were 4833 VATP offences in Maidstone spanning this period of time. This is up from 3390 in 2015-16, an increase of 42%. It should be noted that many VATP offences will be minor assaults and on further investigation some of these will be found to be accidental contact with no malicious intent, rather than situations where force has been used intentionally.

Priority completed and future actions:

- In conjunction with MaidSafe, excluded violent individuals from the Town Centre premises.
- Shared information proactively from CCTV control room and Kent Police via MaidSafe network radios provided to door staff of key premises.
- Promoting the work of the Taxi Marshals, Street Marshals and the town centre Street Pastors initiatives.
- Used CCTV to protect and prevent crime.

Whilst the partnership delivers these proactive activities, further work needs to be done to ensure a reduction in violent crime in both the town centre wards and other high volume wards in the borough. The continuance of NPS use and rise in practices such as pre loading are all contributing factors that add towards the increase in violent crime.

However, Maidstone has the second largest night time economy in the south and stranger violence in the town centre was the lowest for some time this last festive period. The associated risk of violence against visitors and residents to the town centre especially, remains proportionately low in relation to the amount of visitors Maidstone sees each year.

As a large proportion of Violent Crime incidents relate to Domestic Abuse, 'Other Violent Crime' is being removed as a named priority. Serious violent offences continue to be dealt with robustly by the police and that work also cuts across the Gangs, OCGs and Substance Misuse priorities.

Mental Health

Approximately 75% of all cases discussed in the weekly community safety & vulnerabilities group meeting have a degree of mental health associated with them. This is also true of previous self-neglect & hoarding cases. Figures for Section 136 use in the borough (where an individual is sectioned for their own or others safety) have increased year on year for Maidstone and last year it was used 72 times. This is an increase of 38% over the previous 3 years. 2017/18 figures year to date already show 67 occurrences of Section 136 use, suggesting a forecast increase by April 2018.

Last year in Maidstone, mental health referrals for young adults were down by 10.9% to 1,232 and older adults saw a rise of 8.3% to 756. There is a continued effort taking place to avoid where possible those with mental health issues from being kept in police custody as a 'safe place' when their behaviour is causing concern (Section 136 use).

Appendix A

However, the pilot project that ran in Kent that saw a 30% reduction in the number of people being sectioned by the force by pairing a mental health nurse with a police officer so that immediate triage could be offered, has ceased in its current format. To provide a street triage countywide is very difficult under current operating restrictions, though police are now able to take advantage of a call system where officers at the scene can seek the advice of a mental health expert on a 24/7 basis.

There is a standard operating procedure (SOP) published to provide operational police officers with clear guidance when considering detaining people under Section 136, Mental Health Act 1983. The Force Mental Health Liaison officer will monitor this standard operating procedure and conduct an annual review to ensure it is fit for purpose, reflecting changes in legislation, national police practice, the NICE Guidelines and developments in local partner practice.

Priority completed and future actions:

- The SMP held a sub-group meeting for the Mental Health priority which conducted a 'horizon scanning' exercise on the provision, trends and risks around mental health in the borough.
- It was noted that there were already other forums where mental health is discussed at a strategic level such as the Mental Health Action Group and the Kent & Medway Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat. We have decided to link in with those groups rather than introduce a specific sub-group for this priority.
- We seek to raise the profile and lower the stigma of mental health through the promotion of awareness campaigns and the inclusion of mental health considerations in organisations operating procedures and policies where possible.
- A pilot project offering Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) to assist those who are presenting signs of hoarding that require a multi-agency approach is being launched in the borough.

Anti-Social Behaviour in Maidstone

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requires responsible authorities to consider crime and disorder (including antisocial behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment). ASB was removed as a priority in name last year as it was seen as 'business as usual' with strong partnership working and information sharing continuing to resolve issues.

Figures have shown this year that there has been a decrease in ASB of 12% in Maidstone from November 2016 – October 2017 with 3243 cases compared to 3697 in the previous year. County wide saw a decrease of 11% in cases over the same period.

The further reduction in ASB cases supports our decision to remove ASB as a priority in name, which allows us to explore more emerging issues. The weekly Community Safety Vulnerabilities Group focuses on repeat locations as well as individuals. Many of those on the case list have a degree of mental health issues which benefit from wider partnership involvement.

2018-19 SMP Priorities

As a result of the above summaries for each of the current priorities, the table below outlines the **2018-19** priorities and cross-cutting themes.

Data analysis acknowledged that the priorities are often inter-related and has identified three distinct cross cutting themes that run through all of the priority focus areas. Actions contained within this plan are therefore built around the five identified priorities and three cross cutting themes:

Priorities & cross cutting themes				
Organised Crime Groups (including Modern Slavery)	Gangs & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Substance Misuse	Domestic Abuse	Mental Health
ASB & Reducing Reoffending				
Identifying Vulnerabilities				
'Prevent' and Radicalisation				

How we are going to tackle these issues

The SMP will create action plans detailing how each priority will be addressed, which is shown in section 6. Though these plans will evolve, the activities will range from revising current processes to ensuring that services are delivered as effectively as possible, creating value for money and also commissioning new services and projects in areas of need. The SMP is committed to achieving these priorities and will set targets against what we are planning to achieve.

Priority leads

Lead officers for each of the new priorities will be identified and have the responsibility for developing and delivering, with partners, the action plans to deliver the Maidstone borough priorities.

The leads will also act as a champion for the designated priority and provide regular progress updates for the Safer Maidstone Partnership and the borough council's Community, Housing and Environment Committee as required.

Priority sub-groups	Lead Officer/Agency
OCGs including Modern Slavery	Insp Mark Hedges & Sgt Nick Hatcher, Kent Police
Gangs & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Insp Mark Hedges, Kent Police
Substance Misuse	Nic Rathbone, Maidstone Borough Council
Domestic Abuse	Paul Kennedy, Kent County Council & Stacey Stewart, Golding Homes
Mental Health	Martyn Jeynes, Maidstone Borough Council

7. ACTION PLANS

The Action Plan sets out a series of actions and performance targets through which the five priorities supporting the CSP Plan will be delivered for the period 2013–2018. The Action Plan makes clear arguments for building stronger and safer communities in Maidstone, with the actions identified against each priority supporting the overarching aim to reduce crime and disorder and its impacts. This year, the format for the plans will be created using 'outcome based accountability' and be reviewed regularly by the priority subgroups to allow for new projects, emerging trends and priorities to be added. These have begun to be populated after the SMP away day in late February.

8. CONSULTATION ON PRIORITIES AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Maidstone has some clearly defined urban as well as rural areas, often with competing demands on resources and emphasis on what local priorities should be. Through the annual Strategic Assessment and future consultation events, stakeholders will be informed of progress against the Partnership Plan to ensure there are no other compelling issues that should be included in the Plan.

9. FURTHER INFORMATION

Maidstone Community Safety Unit
Tel: 01622 602000

Maidstone Borough Council Community
Protection Team
Tel: 01622 602658

Maidstone Police Station
Non-emergency Tel: 101
Emergency Tel: 999

Kent Fire and Rescue Service
Tel: 01622 692121

One-Stop Shop
The Salvation Army, 74-80 Union St, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1ED
Tel: 01622 761146

Domestic Abuse Hotline Domestic Abuse
Support and Services in Kent
Tel: 0808 2000247
www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

Change, Grow, Live (CGL)
Tel: 01622 690944

Young Addaction
Tel: 01795 500881

Anti-Terrorist Hotline
Tel: In confidence on 0800 789321

Mental Health
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care
Partnership Trust
Tel: 01622 724100
www.kmpt.nhs.uk

Restorative Justice
Maidstone Mediation
Tel: 01622 692843

Project Salus
Tel: 01303 817470

Action Fraud
Tel: 0300 123 2040

Citizens Advice
Tel: 03454 04 05 06

Text service for the deaf or speech-impaired If you're deaf or speech-impaired, you can text Kent Police. Start the message with the word 'police' then leave a space and write your message including what and where the problem is. Send your text to 60066 (the Kent Police communications centre) and they will reply with a message.

APPENDIX 1

Methodology Notes:

SPC Charts Explained

Statistical Process Control (SPC) Charts are a tool used by Kent Police to help identify whether there has been any significant improvements or deteriorations in a particular crime type.

When a category is stable and in control, the data will appear within a set of predicted limits based on past knowledge and experience. Although there will be some natural variation around the average (*also known as common cause variation*) as long as the figures remain within the control limits there has been no significant changes to what was anticipated.

If the category was unstable and displayed uncontrolled variation (*also known as special cause variation*), the data would not follow a predicted pattern and would indicate that something had changed and action might be required.

Natural variation indicates that any change from month-to-month is expected, e.g. the time you come to work every day varies by a few minutes around an average, however if there was an accident on the road then the time taken to come to work would be significantly longer, this would be unnatural variation indicating that something has gone awry.

SPC charts are generated based on historical data to produce the following:

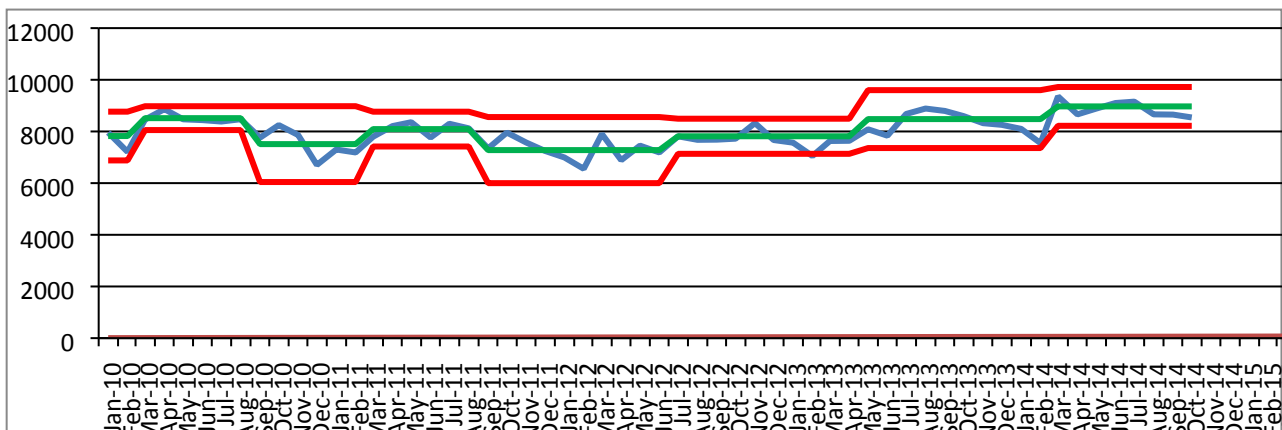
- The Centre Line (CL) which is the average no. of recorded crimes / incidents
- The Upper (UCL) and Lower Control Limits (LCL) which are the limits of natural variation

Any result above the UCL suggests that there may be a problem. In addition, other indications that a category is out of statistical control includes when several results in a row are above the CL or when several results in a row show an increasing trend.

If the figures are consistently below the CL this indicates an improvement and will result in the centre line and the control limits being lowered, often referred to as a 'step change'. Similarly if the figures for a specific category rise due possibly to an increase in activity; a revision to the data (i.e. back-record conversion); or possibly a change in what is recorded within each category then the CL and control limits may need to be raised.

NB. If the control limits are closer together this indicates a low level of variation around the average and shows that the category is in control, a wider gap between the limits indicates greater variation and less control.

Example of a Kent Police SPC Chart:



MoRiLE:

The Kent Community Safety Unit has explored the use of the MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) scoring matrix to look at ranking offences based on threat, risk and harm. Maidstone Borough Council and others in Kent have incorporated this methodology within this year's Strategic Assessment.

The ideology behind MoRiLE is that it targets resources at offences that would have the biggest impact on individuals and organisations/areas. This is in contrast to concentrating solely on crime figure tables which can sometimes provide a skewed view on threats and risk based only on the frequency/volume of crimes.

Each thematic crime area is scored individually against various criteria. There is then a formula that calculates a final score. These are then ranked high to low, listing priorities based on threat, risk & harm which can then contribute to the SMP's final recommendation of priorities.

Serious Organised Crime Local Profiles:

Aims:

- To develop a common understanding among local partners of the threats, vulnerabilities and risks relating to serious and organised crime.
- To provide information on which to base local programmes and action plans.
- To support the mainstreaming of serious and organised crime activity into day-to-day policing, local government and partnership work.
- To allow a targeted and proportionate use of resources.

Purpose:

- Local Profiles should inform local multi-agency partnerships, in particular police and crime commissioners, policing teams, local authorities and other relevant partners (such as education, health and social care and Immigration Enforcement); of the threat from serious and organised crime and the impact it is having on local communities.

What do we do with the Local Profile?

- The profile outlines key serious and organised crime issues within your district and provides information on what the offences are, what to look for, recognised serious and organised crime within your community and what to do if you see or suspect anything. This allows us all to PREVENT young people and vulnerable adults from becoming involved in crime and helping to protect and safeguard those that may already be involved through identifying and working together.

APPENDIX 2

Acronym Glossary:

ASB = Anti-Social Behaviour

BOTD = Burglary Other Than Dwelling

CCG = Clinical Commissioning Group

CDAP = Community Domestic Abuse Programme

CDRP = Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

CGL = Change, Grow, Live

CPT = Community Protection Team

CSA = Community Safety Agreement

CSE = Child Sexual Exploitation

CSP = Community Safety Partnership

CSU = Community Safety Unit

DA = Domestic Abuse

HMIC = Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary

IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

IOM = Integrated Offender Management

JSNA = Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

KCC = Kent County Council

KFRS = Kent Fire & Rescue Service

KSSCRC = Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company

MARAC = Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MBC = Maidstone Borough Council

MOJ = Ministry Of Justice

MoRiLE = Management of Risk in Law Enforcement

MSG = Most Similar Groups

NPS = National Probation Service or New Psychoactive Substances depending on context

NTE = Night Time Economy

OCG = Organised Crime Group

PCC = Police & Crime Commissioner

PS = Psychoactive Substances

SMP = Safer Maidstone Partnership

SOC = Serious Organised Crime

SPC = Statistical Process Charts

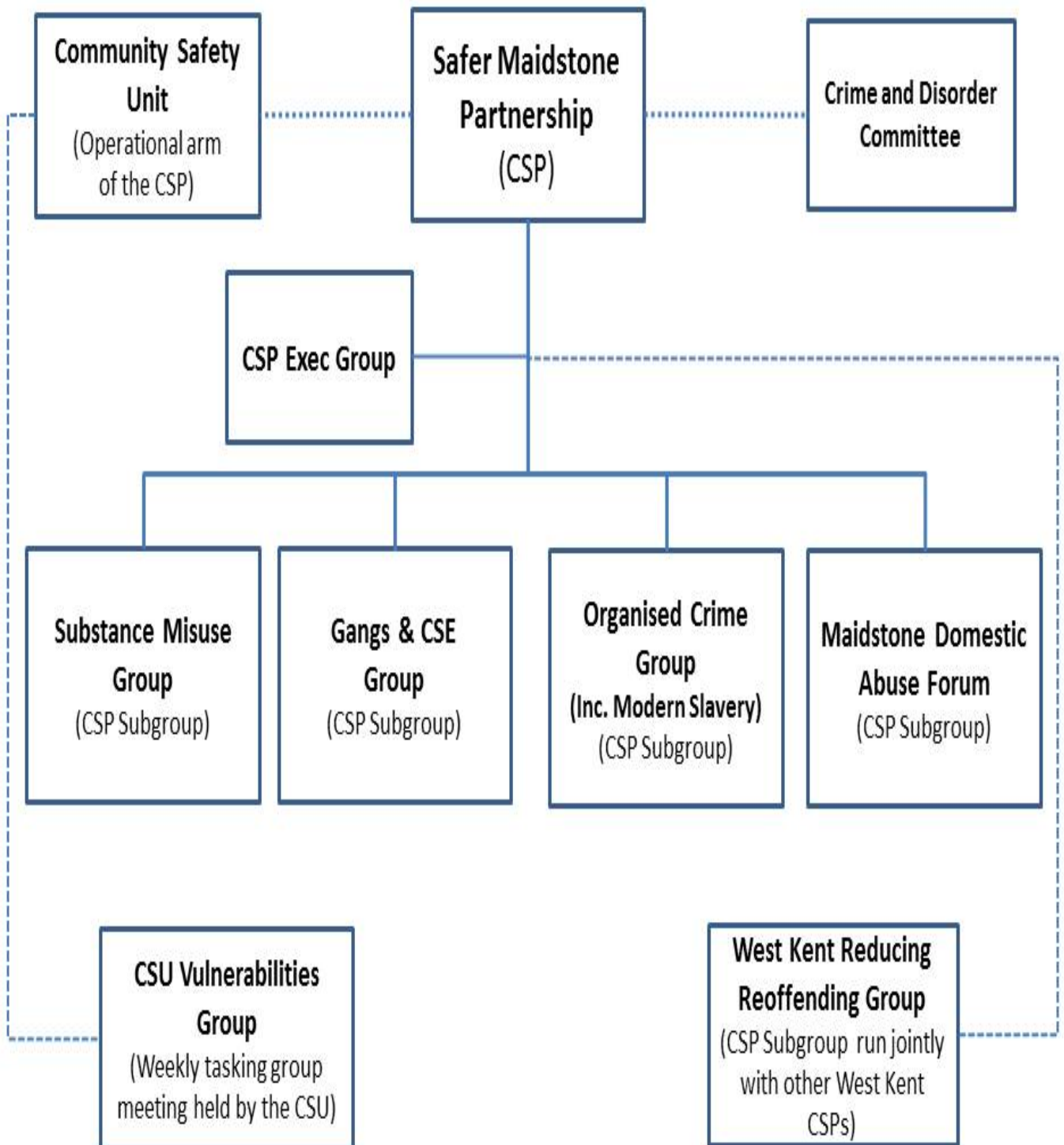
UE = Unlawful Encampments

VATP = Violence Against The Person

VCS = Voluntary & Community Services

APPENDIX 3

CSP Organisational Chart



APPENDIX 4

Maidstone Crime Survey 2017 – Community Safety Questions

In 2017 the Council carried out its biennial Resident Survey which included questions on Community Safety. A summary of what the data from these questions tells us is outlined below. More information on the resident survey results is available on our [website](#).

About the survey

The consultation was undertaken between the 21st June and 20th August 2017 and involved a direct mailing to 6,100 randomly selected households, a direct email to the consultation mailing list as well as being promoted online, through social media and at roadshows around the borough. A total of 2,350 people responded.

The survey was open to all Maidstone Borough residents aged 18 years and over. Data has been weighted according to the known population profile to counteract non-response bias (weighting was applied to 2008 responses where both questions on gender and age were answered). It should also be noted that respondents from BME backgrounds are slightly under-represented at 4.1% compared 5.9% in the local area. Residents aged 18 to 24 years were also under-represented but to a greater extent therefore the results for this group are not discussed.

The overall results in this report are accurate to $\pm 2.0\%$ at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% certain that the results are between $\pm 2.0\%$ of the calculated response, so the 'true' response could be 2.0% above or below the figures reported (i.e. a 50% agreement rate could in reality lie within the range of 48% to 52%). Therefore this section only looks at variation greater than 8%.

The Council uses the customer segmentation tool Acorn to create customer profiles. This allows us to classify households using postcode data into categories and gain greater understanding about the behaviours, attitudes and characteristics of our communities.

Safety in the Home

The survey showed that 93% of residents feel safe in their own home, when we assessed the different demographic groups the data showed respondents from BME backgrounds were more likely to feel unsafe in their own homes than respondents from white backgrounds. Respondents with a disability had greatest proportion that has no strong views either way with 9.2% (29 respondents) selecting this answer.

Safety walking during the day-time

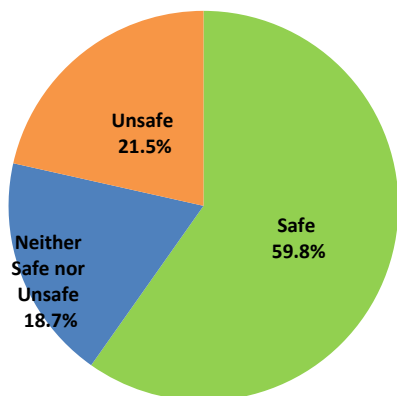
Respondents were also asked how safe they feel walking in their local area during day-time and night time. Overall, 94% said they feel safe walking in their local area in the daylight, within this figure; 53% responded that they feel very safe.

There is a 10.6% difference in the number of Very and Fairly Safe responses from respondents from white backgrounds and those from BME backgrounds. While the proportion answering negatively are not significantly different, respondents from BME backgrounds were three time more likely to have no strong opinion either way.

In terms of age, the 35 to 49 years group had the greatest proportion responding negatively (Unsafe and Very unsafe) at 4.4% (14 respondents), interestingly this is only made up of respondents answering unsafe as there were no respondents in this group who said they were very unsafe.

Safety walking during the night time

How safe do you feel walking in your local area during night time?



Overall, 59.8% of respondents said they feel very or fairly safe walking in their local area in the night time, just over one in five (21.5%) respondents said they feel unsafe or very unsafe. Across the different demographic groups there were some significant variations.

Male respondents had the greatest proportion responding that they feel very or fairly safe at 68.6% and significantly greater than women by 17.5%.

Respondents with a disability had the greatest proportion responding unsafe and very unsafe with one in three (33.3%) in the group selecting these answers. There was also a difference of 19.1% of the proportion responding that they feel safe between those with a disability and those without a disability, those with a disability were more likely to feel unsafe.

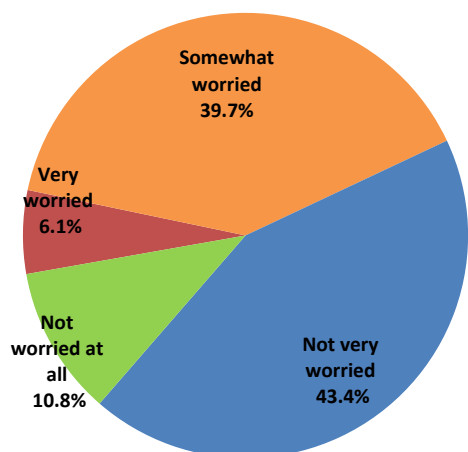
disability were more likely to feel unsafe.

There was also a 22.1% difference between respondents from BME backgrounds when compared to respondents from white backgrounds, with those from BME backgrounds more likely to feel unsafe than those from white backgrounds.

Customer profile shows that the residents who feel unsafe are more likely than average Maidstone resident to live in small flats or terraced properties that are privately rented and have a household income of less than £40,000. Single person households were also over-represented in this group which could contribute to lower feeling of safety at night.

The customer profile for people that responded safe or very safe to this questions shows they are more likely than average to live in detached properties with three or more bedrooms, either owned outright or with a mortgage. Households with three or more people are over-represented in this group as are those with household incomes in excess of £60,000.

How worried are you about someone breaking into your home?



Crime specific concerns

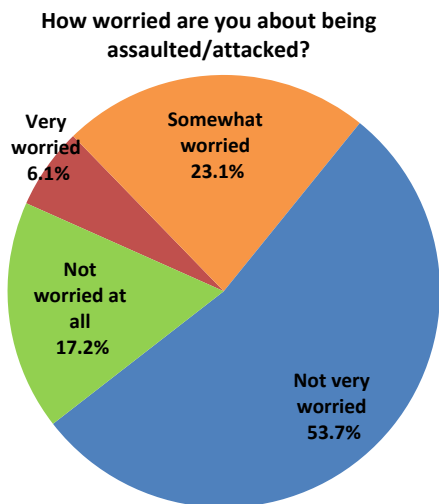
The resident survey also asked people how worried they were about particular crimes affecting them.

45.8% of respondents say they are very or somewhat worried about someone breaking into their home. There was only one significant difference in response levels across the different demographic groups: respondents with a disability were 12% more likely than those without a disability to say they feel very or somewhat worried about somebody breaking into their home.

Customer profiling shows that those who responded they are worried about someone breaking into their home are more likely than the average Maidstone resident to own their own home either outright or with a mortgage, they tend to have household incomes in excess of £40,000 and are likely to have continued their education after 16 years. The self-employed were over-represented in this group.

Appendix A

Those who responded that they are not very worried or not worried at all about having their house broken into had a similar customer profile to those that responded very or somewhat worried. However, this group were slightly more likely to have children in the household and slightly less likely to be self-employed.



When asked about how worried they were about being attacked or assaulted 29.2% of respondents said they were very or somewhat worried about being assaulted or attacked, and 70.8% said they were not very worried or not worried at all.

Across the different demographic groups there was a significant difference in the response levels of those with a disability and those without a disability. Those with a disability were more likely to respond very worried or somewhat worried, with more than two in five responding this way compared to just under one in four for those without a disability.

There was also a 12.4% difference between men and women responding very or somewhat worried, with women being more likely to be worried than men.

The customer profile for residents who responded very or somewhat worried shows people in this group are more likely than the average Maidstone resident to live in a flat or terraced property that is privately rented. Students and single person (non-pensioner) households are over-represented and people aged over 50 years are under-represented. This group is more likely than average to have a household income of less than £60,000 and may have had difficulty accessing credit in the past.



The profile for those that responded not very worried or not worried at all shows people in this group are more likely than average to have a household income in excess of £40,000, reside in a detached property that is owned outright or with a mortgage. Those that undertook higher education are slightly over-represented.

In the Resident Survey one in three respondents (33.4%) are worried about their car being stolen.

Respondents with a disability had the greatest proportion saying they are very or somewhat worried about having their car stolen at 50.0%. There is a difference of 20.9% between this group and those without a disability.

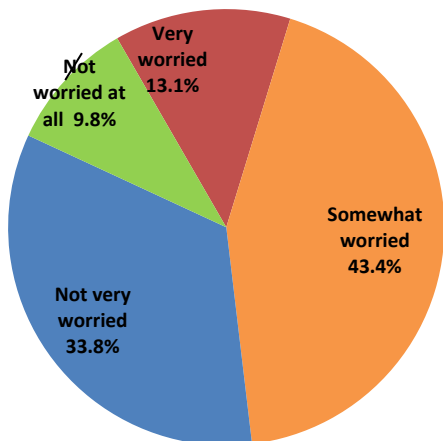
There was also a difference of 8% in the proportion of people who were worried about have their car stolen between those that were economically active and those that were economically inactive, the economically inactive were more worried than the economically active counterparts.

The customer profile for the people that responded very or somewhat worried shows that 82% of this group have at least one car in the household with 35% having two or more cars in the household. The majority of this group this group are in employment with slightly higher levels of employment in public sector and professional roles and self-employment. 70% own their home outright or with a mortgage.

Appendix A

Those that said they were not very worried or not worried at all as a group has a similar level of car ownership at 84%, with 38% having two or more cars in the household. However, this group are 20% more likely to own a luxury or executive car than the average Maidstone resident. Both profiles show that these groups have a marginally higher than average likelihood of driving to work but those that said they were not worried about car theft were more likely to take the train or work from home than those who said they were worried about having their car stolen.

How worried are you about being the victim of fraud or identity theft



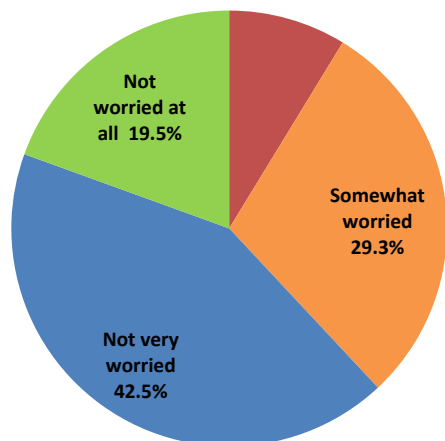
Overall, 56.4% of respondents are very or somewhat worried about being the victim of fraud or identity theft.

There is a significant difference between the levels of worry between the economically active and the economically inactive, with a gap of 11%. Those who are economically inactive have a greater proportion of people saying they are very or somewhat worried.

There is also a significant difference in the worry levels of those with a disability and those without, an 18.2% gap, a greater proportion of those with a disability were worried about being the victim of fraud or identity theft than those without a disability.

There were no significant differences in the customer profiles between those who said they were very or somewhat worried about being the victim of fraud or identity theft and who responded not very worried and not worried at all.

How worried are you about being pestered or insulted while in a public place or on the street



Overall, 38.0% of respondents are very or somewhat worried about being pestered or insulted while in a public place or in the street.

The data shows a significant difference in the response levels between respondents from white backgrounds and those from BME backgrounds. Those from BME backgrounds had a greater proportion responding that they are worried about being pestered or insulted while in a public place, by 14.2%, when compared to the response level of people from white backgrounds.

The data also suggests that women are more worried about being pestered or insulted in public than men.

The customer profiles for those worried about being pestered or insulted while in public and those who were not worried about this show those that said they were worried are likely to be younger (35 to 49 years) than those who said they were not worried (50 to 64 years). Those that were worried are more likely than average to live in privately rented accommodation and those that were not worried are more likely than average to own their property outright or with a mortgage. Those who were not worried were also more likely than average to be educated to degree level.

APPENDIX 5

KCC Community Warden case studies:

Case 1:

I received a call from the manager of a local club concerning a resident they were worried about. He had fallen at the club several weeks ago and hit his head on the floor. An ambulance was called and he received treatment but declined to go to hospital. Since then he has collapsed in Maidstone and was taken to hospital. He has also attended the local doctor's surgery.

While in hospital the resident missed his signing on appointment and his benefits were stopped. This has triggered a number of financial problems for him. A fellow club member has been assisting him but his memory has been affected which has caused further delays in rectifying the issues.

I attended the resident's home and with his permission liaised with his doctor's practice manager to ensure they were aware of people's concerns. Further medical referrals are under way.

I also liaised with CROP (Citizens Rights for Older People) on his behalf to arrange an advocate to support him with completing several forms related to housing benefit and banking and also in discussions with his Housing Association about rent arrears.

Concerns were also expressed about his ability to drive safely. When I spoke to him he had already decided to stop driving and stated that he wished to sell his car. I liaised with another club member who organised the purchase of his car.

I will continue to visit the resident and liaise with his friends at the club to ensure that he continues to receive the necessary support.

Case 2:

Mr A is in his early 90's and attends the Age UK Tea and Exercise club every Tuesday, and is a very fit gentleman. However on this occasion at the club he was doing the normal exercises and started feeling unwell. I was concerned for him so assisted him with First Aid at the club, he did start to feel better, but something told me that this situation wasn't right; I then suggested to him that I would like to visit him in his home. He agreed to this.

I did a visit to Mr & Mrs A; they live alone and have no children or family. The visit did in fact flag up a lot of concerns, it turns out that he is his wife's carer and his wife is his carer, (they are both in their 90's) however that week they both had, had a fall at home at the same time so neither of them could help each other and they couldn't get immediate help of Ambulance could neither of them could get to the phone, so it was a good few hours before the ambulance arrived.

Mrs A is registered partially blind due to Glaucoma.

After a lengthy chat with them both, I was able to establish that Social Services have been out to the property and fitted grab rails, hand grips and a stair rail, however they don't have lifeline services installed, I did explain about this service and how it would of helped them both following the fall earlier that week, he did confirm that he had arranged for this to be fitted in the week.

I also noticed that no smoke alarm was fitted in the chalet part of the bungalow, which I wasn't happy with – he said that he took it out as every time he showered the old smoke alarm would go off, I asked him if I could get Kent Fire and Rescue around to access the bungalow for Fire Safety – he agreed. KFR have been contacted to attend this property.

There will now be ongoing visits to the house, due to concerns for both of the couple's welfare.

Case 3:

I was contacted by a neighbour re Mr H (70+). On my visit I noticed how thin he was. I sat and chatted and advised Mr H to see a doctor. I spoke to the neighbour and was informed his has a daughter but she doesn't visit much and gave me her details to contact. I called the doctors and was told to get him there and they would put him at the front of the queue. I called and left a message for the daughter with these details.

I later received another call from the neighbour and did a joint visit with another warden. Once again I noticed his weight loss and offered to make him something to eat. We sat and chatted and informed Mr H we had a duty of care and informed him of the next action. I contact the doctors and requested a home visit and later that day done a joint visit with the doctor and straight away called an ambulance. I again left a message for the daughter to contact the hospital regarding her father.

When I returned from annual leave I contacted the hospital to see how Mr H was doing and this wasn't good news. They asked me if he had any next of kin and I was surprised to find that no contact on the past 10 days to the hospital had been made. I said I would again contact the daughter and inform her. I again spoke to the neighbour and was given information regarding her work place.

I made contact and was able to inform her regarding her father. She said she didn't know and hadn't received any messages because she doesn't use the house phone. Detail were given and a direct number to the hospital. I later received a call thanking me for the help and advice. Mr H has cancer and was very ill. He is now in hospital and the family are aware. I informed Golding Homes regarding this matter.

Priority Target Achieved:

Working in partnership,

Housing Association.

Doctors

Golding Homes

NHS

ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS & MODERN SLAVERY

It is the Safer Maidstone Partnership’s intention to continue to work together and take a coordinated approach to tackle those involved in serious organised crime by disrupting their activity and reduce the impact they have on vulnerable people and the environment.

Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of OCGs that have been locally identified through the multi-agency working group. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of disruptive activities that have been undertaken by the multi-agency working group. (Arrests, visits, prosecutions, days of action...) 	All agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of OCGs which have been disrupted (through above activity) resulting in a reduction in criminality and disorder. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote awareness of modern day slavery and; • See an increase in the number of reports of modern slavery offences. 	All agencies Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of persons referred through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). 	Kent Police
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop 4P Plans in relation to OCGs. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coordinate four days of action spread across the year to disrupt criminality linked to OCGs. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify opportunities to undertake operations to target fly-tipping activities linked to OCGs in partnership with the waste enforcement team. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure consideration is given to proceeds of crime with any prosecutions that are sought. 	All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase intelligence reporting and how to disseminate information appropriately. 	All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake multi-agency ‘days of action’ where OCGs/Premises or Businesses have been identified where there are concerns about modern day slavery taking place. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify relevant agencies who have a key role in tackling organised crime and ensure, where possible, that they are invited to and do attend the multi-agency OCG group meetings. 	

GANGS AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

We will deliver these objectives through adopting the nationally recognised 4P approach to tackling gangs and organised crime. Prevent, Protect, Pursue and Prepare.

Prevent	
Identify and target young people at risk of joining gangs and participating in illegal activities/actions which may cause harm, and divert them from this path.	
Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of criminal justice interventions delivered to identified gang members. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of violence offences linked to identified gang members. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of drugs offences linked to identified gang members. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of knife incidents reported linked to matrixed gang members. • Number of young people being offered mentoring • Number in young people at risk of gang involvement being provided support. 	Kent Police KCC KCC
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake multi-agency work problem profiling of gangs, gang nominals and associates both within the Maidstone area and those with links to the Maidstone area. This will enable better targeting of resources. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve the knowledge of employees within partners around gang / CSE issues to ensure frontline staff recognise the risk factors and are empowered to safeguard and signpost appropriately. 	All agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake awareness raising activities with members of the public, local business and including working with local schools to raise awareness of Gangs and CSE to staff, pupils and parents /carers. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake assertive outreach work to safeguard young people in areas where CSE and gang activities are believed to be taking place. 	MBC / KCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explore opportunities for young people at risk of gang involvement to be offered mentoring. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish information sharing arrangements with other Local Authorities who are placing young people and their families into Maidstone to break the cycle of gang involvement. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local Authority officers to review target hardening opportunities around identified gang locations to prevent / reduce gang / CSE opportunities. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with young people to reduce their fear of crime and their perceived need to carry weapons in order to feel safe. 	MBC / KCC

GANGS AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) Continued...

Protect:

The protect approach aims to safeguard individuals and the wider community from gangs and gang related activity

Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at the Multi Agency Gangs meetings. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals convicted for Gang / CSE related offences 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people who receive training or awareness sessions on Gangs / CSE 	All agencies
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
➤ Enhance current information sharing and intelligence across the local multi agency partnership.	All agencies
➤ Increase partnership knowledge and use of signposting to relevant services and promote pathways.	All agencies
➤ Improve links with the local Child Sexual Exploitation Team (CSET) via the Community Safety Unit.	All agencies
➤ Deliver four days of action throughout the year aimed at education of young people and parent's /carers.	CSU
➤ Identify key people within the voluntary sector to increase community and partnership involvement to best tackle issues caused by local gangs.	All agencies
➤ Create a single point of contact within local partners to act as a Gangs specialist / Champion.	CSU

GANGS AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) Continued...

Pursue:

As part of the pursue theme, we will work together in partnership to progress enforcement action against those who perpetrate gang activity and youth violence. We will seek to disrupt gangs from crime and to prosecute those responsible.

Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of arrests for Gang / CSE offences including breaches of CBO's 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of intelligence reports submitted to the Child Sexual Exploitation team (CSET). 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of intelligence reports submitted concerning local gang activity 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals convicted for Gang / CSE related offences 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in gang related criminality and ASB 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Civil powers to deter offender's e.g. anti-social behaviour legislation and CPW, CPN and CBO's issued to the identified gang members. 	All agencies
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We will seek to work with those involved in low level criminality, but will actively pursue those involved in medium and high level criminality as appropriate. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop a strategic intelligence requirement around local gangs to continue to identify the hierarchy of gang members to ensure appropriate, tiered response. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete 3 operations with BTP deploying drugs dogs and the knife arch to local stations where gang activity is known to take place. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Utilise risk management tools to recognise threat and risk and to ensure the most appropriate response. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Better and widest possible use of civil powers to deter offenders e.g. anti-social behaviour legislation 	MBC / Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Working across the Integrated Offender Management Scheme to ensure the correct individuals are referred for robust multi-agency management. 	Kent police

GANGS AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) Continued...

Prepare:

Reduce the impact of gang criminality where it takes place.
 The prepare theme aims to strengthen the resilience of victims and communities to mitigate the harm caused by gangs and youth violence.

Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified community members able to act as positive role models. 	KCC / St Giles Trust
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in youth provision in areas identified as hotspot locations for Gang / CSE activity. 	KCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance and partnership representation at the local Gangs / CSE meetings. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge with local partners concerning gangs and CSE. 	All Agencies
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify key community members, who have the influence and experience to work within those communities most likely to be affected by gangs and those at risk. These individuals can also be positive role models for young people, and help to dissuade them from entering gangs and criminality in early life. 	KCC / MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Engage with relevant Voluntary and Community sector bodies to make sure our provision is joined-up, accessible and that we are working together to best effect 	KCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Foster a greater understanding of Gang / CSU issues across the partnership. 	All agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to hold monthly Gangs / CSE meetings with partners to discuss both local gangs and CSE concerns utilising a multi-agency approach. 	Kent Police

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

The misuse of drugs and alcohol has a negative impact on our communities and causes harm to the most vulnerable. By working in partnership we will encourage people to seek the support to overcome addiction, particularly those who are part of ‘high risk’ cohorts such as those who are being released from prison, street homeless and those with poor mental health.

Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of positive criminal justice interventions for individuals where drugs or alcohol is linked to the offence. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A&E Admissions due to use of drugs and/or alcohol. 	NHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A&E Admissions due to violence linked to the NTE due to being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. 	NHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discarded needle data (MBC needle finds) 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of CSVG cases where substance misuse is a factor in the case. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) made by the courts 	CRC/Probation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) made by the courts 	CRC/Probation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of referrals to treatment providers. 	CGL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the Public Spaces Protection Order powers in Maidstone Town Centre for alcohol misuse 	MBC
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use of CGL Outreach officer to refer hard to reach cohort into treatment. 	CGL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued promotion of needle exchanges and needle bins. 	MBC/CGL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drugs & alcohol and interaction with mental health via social and other media particularly around key events/locations, such as Football World Cup 2018, Steroid use in Gyms etc. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Look for opportunities to engage local off licences to understand their responsibilities in relation to the street population and ASB Nominals. 	MBC/MaidSafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Revisit the use of amnesty bins in licensed premises. 	MBC/MaidSafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consider the town centre area for a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) zone. 	SMP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bottle watch, targeting the alcohol sold or consumed by young people. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Revisit the Reduce the Strength campaign within the borough. 	MBC

SUBSTANCE MISUSE CONTINUED...

By promoting healthy lifestyles we will highlight the risks of high alcohol consumption and abuse of substances. Ensure young people are given the facts they need to make informed choices and are aware of the law, particularly concerning cannabis and prescription medication.

Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of schools delivering educational sessions on drugs and alcohol. 	KCC/SMP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of young people reached by ADDACTION. 	Addaction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people reached on awareness campaigns. 	KCC/SMP
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion of awareness campaigns for substance misuse and dual diagnosis tailored to different high risk cohorts including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Street population – NPS etc ○ Gym users – Steroid use ○ Secondary schools – Cannabis use ○ Middle aged, professional women – ‘Know your score quiz’ 	SMP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support for commissioned services in schools/young people’s settings 	SMP

DOMESTIC ABUSE

All communities residing in the Borough can live their lives in safety without the fear or experience of Domestic Abuse

Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reported incidents of Domestic Abuse in the Borough 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims refusing to take DA incidents forward to prosecution (NFA) 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of A&E attendees linked to Domestic Abuse 	NHS Trust
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reported incidents categorised as High Risk (i.e. MARAC) 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of BME reported incidents of Domestic Abuse in the Borough 	Kent Police
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete a mapping exercise to establish incidence of DA across the Borough, establishing hot spots within local communities and identifying cultural/minority subsets that could require a bespoke approach. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support for commissioned services in schools/young people’s settings 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish availability of perpetrator programmes and assess their effectiveness. Source good practice examples and training for professionals for working with perpetrators. 	KCC / Probation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review and update key processes related to DV bringing forward improvements facilitating enhanced support for victims (e.g. DANs, DASH, MARAC, DVPO/N, Injunctions). 	Kent Police / Golding Homes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure MBC Housing are fully represented at One Stop Shop to support victims. 	MBC

DOMESTIC ABUSE Continued...

Communities and residents have a good understanding of the support available and how they access help if they need it. Professionals have a robust working knowledge of the range of services available in the borough and associated referral mechanisms.

Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at One Stop Shop 	KCC CSU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people accessing Domestic Abuse web content 	Web Hosts for relevant systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of referrals made by partner agencies 	Kent Police
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arrange and host a practitioner’s conference to increase networking, knowledge sharing and understanding of DA issues in Maidstone and the support available. 	KCC/Golding Homes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Roll-out training to all relevant professionals to ensure that all have a sound knowledge of Claire’s Law and how this should be applied in the Borough. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to promote Freedom and Recovery Toolkit programmes. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake a mapping process of job roles and training needs in order to define a programme of training for all partners. 	MBC Kent Police

DOMESTIC ABUSE Continued...

Young people in the borough have an understanding and engage in healthy relationships and are able to make informed choices	
Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of Young People in the Borough receiving positive relationship support 	KCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Young People perpetrating DA 	KCC / Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Young People in the Borough engaged in abusive relationships 	KCC / Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Young People in the Borough reporting concerns about DA 	KCC / Kent Police
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify the current input provided for/by schools for young people and assess its effectiveness and scalability. 	KCC (EH & YOT) / Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bring forward new proposals and seek funding to increase effectiveness and reach of positive relationship input for Young People 	KCC (EH & YOT) / Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish support available to families suffering adolescent to parent violence and assess effectiveness bringing forward recommendations for change. 	Centra

MENTAL HEALTH

Reduce the community impact of poor Mental Health where it results in Crime and Disorder and support those whose poor mental health makes them more vulnerable to crime and anti-social behaviour and address cases of hording and self-neglect by working with other agencies following the principles of the Kent Self-Neglect policy.

Indicators (how will we measure progress)	Data Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of instances s136 is used. 	Kent Police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of individuals who access the crisis café. 	Maidstone MIND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of hording / self-neglect cases identified 	MBC/Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of CSVG cases where mental health is a factor. 	MBC
Actions (how we will do it)	Nominated Lead / Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work proactively with partners to identify incidents of self-neglect and work to provide the correct support and engage appropriate agencies. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased awareness in the community about vulnerable people who self-neglect and how to refer them for support. 	MBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase support for depression, self-harm and suicide awareness in young people (schools, GPs etc) to address their vulnerability. 	Early Help/Head Start
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with our partners to map the provision of services in Maidstone and ensure that vulnerable people are referred to the most appropriate support service available for them. 	All



Strategic Assessment
2018-19

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Introduction	3
1.1 What is a Strategic Assessment?	3
1.2 Local perspective	3
1.3 Headline information aligned to key priorities 2017-2018	4
1.4 Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP)	5
1.5 Priorities recommended to the SMP for 2018-2019	5
1.6 Methodology	6
1.7 Demographic and Economic Information	6
2. Total Recorded Crime	7
2.1 Total recorded Crime in Maidstone November 2016 - October 2017	7
2.2 Police SPC Charts – Force wide Jan13 – Nov 17	8
2.3 Police SPC Charts – Maidstone Jan 13 – Nov 17	9
2.4 Maidstone Crime Survey 2017 results	10
2.5 Total recorded crime per 1,000 population in Kent – year ending March 2017	13
2.6 Volume of crimes by type within Maidstone for November 2016 – October 2017 and the same time period in 2015 - 2016	13
3. Violent Crime	14
3.1 Total Violent Crime	14
3.2 Levels of Violence in the Borough Wards April 2017 – October 2017	16
3.3 Violent crime – Other	16
3.4 Domestic Abuse	17
3.5 One-Stop Shops & Sanctuary	18
3.6 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs)	18
4. Anti-Social Behaviour & Statutory Nuisance	19
4.1 Anti-Social Behaviour in Maidstone	19
4.2 Statutory Nuisance	20
4.3 Community Trigger	20
5. Substance Misuse	20
5.1 Substance Misuse in Maidstone	20
5.2 NPS related hospital admissions	21
5.3 Alcohol related hospital admissions	21
5.4 Clients in treatment	22
5.5 Countrywide Young People's statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)	23
5.6 Needle Finds	24
5.7 Substance Misuse recommendations	24
6. Reducing Re-Offending	25
6.1 Availability of 'Proven adult reoffending' Data	25
6.2 Integrated Offender Management (IOM)	25
6.3 Reducing Re-Offending recommendations	25
7. Local Profiles	26
8. Safeguarding (self-neglect & hoarding)	26
9. Mental Health	26
9.1 Mental Health recommendations	27
10. Unlawful Encampments (UE's)	27
11. Environmental Crime	27
12. Recommendations to Safer Maidstone Partnership	27
13. How to get further information	27
APPENDICES	
Appendix 1 – Information sources	28
Appendix 2 – KCC Community Warden Case studies	29
Appendix 3 – Methodology notes	31
Appendix 4 – Acronym glossary	33
Appendix 5 – Maidstone Crime Survey 2017 – Community Safety questions	34

1. Introduction

V3. 25/01/18 Nic Rathbone

1.1 What is a Strategic Assessment?

Section 6 of the 1998 Crime & Disorder Act requires the responsible authorities (commonly referred to collectively as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in a local government area to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area. The 2007 Regulations set out the way in which the responsible authorities should carry out their functions as a CSP under Section 6 of the Act, and require the preparation of a partnership plan for the local government area, setting out the CSP's priorities;

Locally, our Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is known as the 'Safer Maidstone Partnership' (SMP). Each year an assessment is completed that identifies any crime and disorder trends which can then be used to inform the priority planning for the SMP in the coming year. This then feeds into the partnership plan and ensures we are focusing our efforts collectively on the areas that are most in need. This is done by analysing data and intelligence reports from the previous year to produce recommended priority areas that the data is telling us are of most threat, risk and harm to the community.

1.2 Local perspective

It should be noted that part of the reason for increases in certain offences this year is because of changes in the recording of offences from April 2017. For example, a single offence of affray involving 6 people is now counted as 6 incidents instead of being collated together as one.

Certain crimes have also been re classified into other thematic areas, also where a particular offence has been targeted for enforcement and individuals have been caught and charged; there will inevitably be a percentage increase in offences recorded. The results of reclassifications and targeted enforcement will be known in future quarterly crime briefings and strategic assessments.

Kent Police have had an organisational restructure. 'New Horizon' structural changes have been specifically designed to enhance the quality of service to vulnerable victims by ensuring crime is allocated based on the victims needs not the motivation of the offender or the seriousness of the offence. There are now designated PCSOs in different areas including: Missing Child Exploitation Team Officers, Vulnerable Adult Intervention Officers, Youth Engagement Officers and Domestic Abuse Support Officers.

The latest (2017) HMIC PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) assessment of Kent Police reported: 'Kent Police is judged to be **good** in the efficiency with which it keeps people safe and reduces crime. Our overall judgment this year is the same as last year. The force is judged to be **outstanding** in its understanding of demand; its use of resources to manage demand is assessed to be **good**; and its planning for future demand is judged to be **good**'.

In July 2017, the council's Community Safety Officers joined with the Environmental Enforcement Officers to create the Community Protection Team (CPT), a new specialist team bringing together various elements of enforcement into one team. Historically, there had been a degree of input on the same case from both teams. This new team now takes a broader approach to case working, making the service more efficient and proactive when dealing with threat, risk, harm and vulnerabilities. Training has taken place by all staff in the areas that they were not so experienced in, resulting in greater resilience across the team.

The CPT also takes a larger role in unauthorised development cases such as 'matrix' sites or sites of significant interest. These may require a multi-agency approach where planning breaches may have occurred or co-ordinated targeting to disrupt an organised crime group is needed for example.

1.3 Headline information aligned to key priorities from 2017-2018:

Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery)

Partners and Police have established a District based forum to share information around Organised Crime Groups (OCGs). This has been used to target a local carwash based OCG and disrupt the criminal activity linked to it. A number of brothels have been closed down with a significant eastern European OCG dismantled and brought to justice; this investigation has also led to arrests in both Lithuania and Poland.

Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The Maidstone Gangs meeting discusses intelligence relating to local gangs and forms action plans to disrupt their behaviour. As well as lower level local gangs, a number of London street gangs are associated with the area and their drug networks, exploiting vulnerable people. A number of targeted multi-agency operations have taken place in the town which have had the positive outcome of disrupting gang activities in the borough. Work is being done in secondary schools to help educate young people on the risks of becoming a gang member and gang culture.

Substance Misuse

Education, prevention, enforcement and treatment remain at the forefront of the SMPs response to substance misuse issues in Maidstone. Figures this year show a **1% drop** in drug offences, a 50% sign up to the 'Reduce the Strength' scheme from off-licences that were approached in the town centre and a **12% rise** in alcohol related hospital admissions. We continued to fund a theatre project delivered to all year 6 pupils raising the awareness of substance misuse and worked with 'Community Payback' to turn an ASB hotspot in the town centre frequented by street drinkers and drug users into a community garden.

Domestic Abuse and other violent crime

Maidstone has seen an **increase of 11.6%** in DA crimes and serious incidents (Kent Force **increase was 10.3%**). Other Violent crime **rose by 43%**. One Stop Shop use is **down 7%**. Maidstone has the second largest night time economy in the south, and stranger violence in the town centre was the lowest for some time this festive period. Domestic violence accounts for 60% of all violent crime and this will continue to increase as the public are reassured that they can be safeguarded if they come forward and report domestic incidents.

Sexual offences (especially rape) is on the increase, but up to 75% of this is historic reporting often by domestic abuse victims who are no longer frightened to come forward and report offences. The new vulnerability police model for investigation is providing an enhanced service to victims and there continues to be more reporting as police and partners increase accessibility to services and safeguarding.

Mental Health (including identification of vulnerabilities)

In Maidstone during 2016-17, the use of Section 136 (where those experiencing a mental health episode are detained under the mental health act for their own or others safety) **rose by 7.5%** to 72. Young Adult mental health referrals were **down by 10.9%** to 1,232, Older Adult referrals **rose by 8.3%** to 756.

The SMP held a sub-group meeting for the Mental Health priority which conducted a 'horizon scanning' exercise on the provision, trends and risks around mental health in the borough. It was noted that there were already other forums where mental health is discussed at a strategic level such as the Mental Health Action Group and the Kent & Medway Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat. We have decided to link in with those groups rather than introduce a specific sub-group for this priority.

We seek to raise the profile and lower the stigma of mental health through the promotion of awareness campaigns and the inclusion of mental health considerations in organisations operating procedures and policies for example.

1.4 Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP)

The SMP brings together people from local government, the NHS, the police, the fire service, probation, local businesses, housing providers and the voluntary and community sector to work as a team to tackle crime.

The priorities identified from the last strategic assessment (2017-18) were:

- **Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery)**
- **Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
- **Substance Misuse**
- **Domestic Abuse and other violent crime**
- **Mental Health (including identification of vulnerabilities).**

Emerging themes that occurred through the year:

This year, no new emerging themes or trends occurred through the year that were not already named priorities. However, it was suggested and agreed at the Safer Maidstone Partnership meeting that 'Other Violent Crime' be removed as a priority in name.

This was due to the fact that a substantial proportion of violent crime incidents were Domestic Abuse related. Any non-related serious violent crime is already dealt with robustly by the police and a degree of cases have a cross-over into other areas such as Gangs, OCG's and Substance Misuse. It is not therefore necessary to be included as a specific priority.

These priorities were closely aligned with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer in Kent plan and that of the Kent County Council community safety agreement to ensure a continuity of strategy locally. Consideration has also been given to the Kent Police 'Control' strategy which is a 4-year plan that's reviewed yearly. Their current 6 key priorities are:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
- **Gangs**
- **Human trafficking and modern slavery**
- **Organised acquisitive crime**
- **Counter terrorism and domestic extremism**
- **Domestic abuse, serious violence and sexual offences**

1.5 Priorities recommended to the Safer Maidstone Partnership for 2018 – 2019.

Our priorities for this year have been extracted from a wide variety of information shared with our partners and represent the most important issues to focus on this (2017/18) year. Based on the information in this Strategic Assessment, it is recommended that the Safer Maidstone Partnership confirm the following five **2018/19** priorities:

- **Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery);**
- **Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);**
- **Substance Misuse;**
- **Domestic Abuse;**
- **Mental Health.**

These priorities (except violent crime) are the same as last year and have again been borne out by the use of the MoRiLE scoring matrix which ranks priorities based on threat risk and harm to the public and organisations. They are similar to the Police Control Strategy priorities and that of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Safer in Kent Plan.

'Prevent' and Reducing Reoffending continue to be cross cutting themes rather than named priorities along with ASB. All the priorities require a robust multi-agency response, but as they are important for residents and communities, achieving them will have a positive impact on people's quality of life.

1.6 Methodology

Data for this year's Strategic Assessment has been sourced by the Kent Community Safety Unit from a variety of statutory partners including Police, Health, Probation and KCC Services. They are available in the Partnership data sets section on the Kent Safer Communities portal. A number of different data display tools have been included in this year's assessment for the purpose of putting the context of crime data into more perspective, over a longer period of time.

Maidstone Borough Council and other authorities in Kent have again incorporated the **MoRiLE** (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) scoring matrix methodology of ranking offences based on threat, risk and harm within this year's Strategic Assessment. (Appendix 3).

Statistical Process Control Charts (SPCs) have been used again this year. These give a clearer visual perspective of crime figures over a specified timescale and allow for natural variations within the control limits. (Appendix 3). Serious Organised Crime **Local Profiles** are published by Kent Police for each Local Authority area. They highlight the risk for each topic in the Police 'CONTROL' strategy and offer advice to partners around what to look out for. (Appendix 3).

Most of the data relating to crime and disorder collated for this strategic assessment covers the period November 2016 – October 2017 unless otherwise stated. Changes to crime definitions in 2013 and to data collection practices, means that comparisons before 2014 were not always possible. The data in this assessment will be used to identify trends in criminal activity in Maidstone and is cross referenced with other districts and previous Maidstone data sets to highlight specific issues in Maidstone.

The Maidstone Residents Survey 2017. Often, the perception of levels of crime and the likelihood of being a victim of crime don't always correlate. Indeed, many older members of the community may feel at risk when they are less likely to be a direct victim. Adversely, teenagers may feel less at risk despite being a cohort who statistically are more likely to be victims.

The resident's survey is a large document full of data explaining the social demographic of the borough and people's views on a number of issues. The survey will be published in due course. Within the Strategic Assessment, we take a snapshot at these results at ward level and compare people's perceptions to the numerical reality of different crime types in different areas. A precis of the survey specific to community safety issues is attached (Appendix 5).

To assist with conveying the message that the likelihood of being a victim of crime may not be as high as is once thought, positive media messages from all agencies will be promoted. Not only around crime prevention but also championing success stories such as convictions of offenders etc.

1.7 Demographic and Economic Information

Population profile

The latest population figures from the 2016 Mid-year population estimates show that there are 166,400 people living in the Maidstone Borough. This population size makes Maidstone Borough the largest Kent local authority district area.

75% of the borough's population live in the Maidstone urban area with the remaining 25% living in the surrounding rural area and settlements.

Over the last 10-years Maidstone's population has grown by 14.5% (an additional 21,100 people). This is the second highest rate of growth of any Kent district. The growth in Maidstone's population is set to continue with current forecasts suggesting a further increase of 24.3% between 2016 and 2036. This rate of growth is higher than the county average (22.2%).

This forecast is based on KCC's assessment of the district authority's future housing targets as at September 2017. Such targets will be subject to changes as district authorities develop their Local Development Framework.

In 2015 Maidstone Borough was ranked as the 9th most deprived district in Kent (out of 12 districts, with the most deprived being ranked 1). Nationally, Maidstone ranks 198th out of 326 local authority districts in England. This rank places it within England's least deprived half of authorities.

Unemployment rates

Maidstone's unemployment rate is currently 1.2%. This is lower than the county average of 1.7% and the national average of 1.9%. In September 2017 there were 1,230 unemployed people in Maidstone which is 0.4% higher (5 more people) than August 2017 and 0.8% higher (10 more unemployed people) than September 2016.

District	Total unemployed as at September 2017	Resident based rate %	Change since previous month		Change since last year	
			Number	%	Number	%
Maidstone	1,230	1.2%	5	0.4%	10	0.8%
Kent	15,640	1.7%	15	0.1%	875	5.9%
Great Britain	765,760	1.9%	-5,805	-0.8%	31,075	4.2%

Source: NOMIS - Claimant Count

2. Total Recorded Crime

2.1 Total recorded Crime in Maidstone November 2016 - October 2017

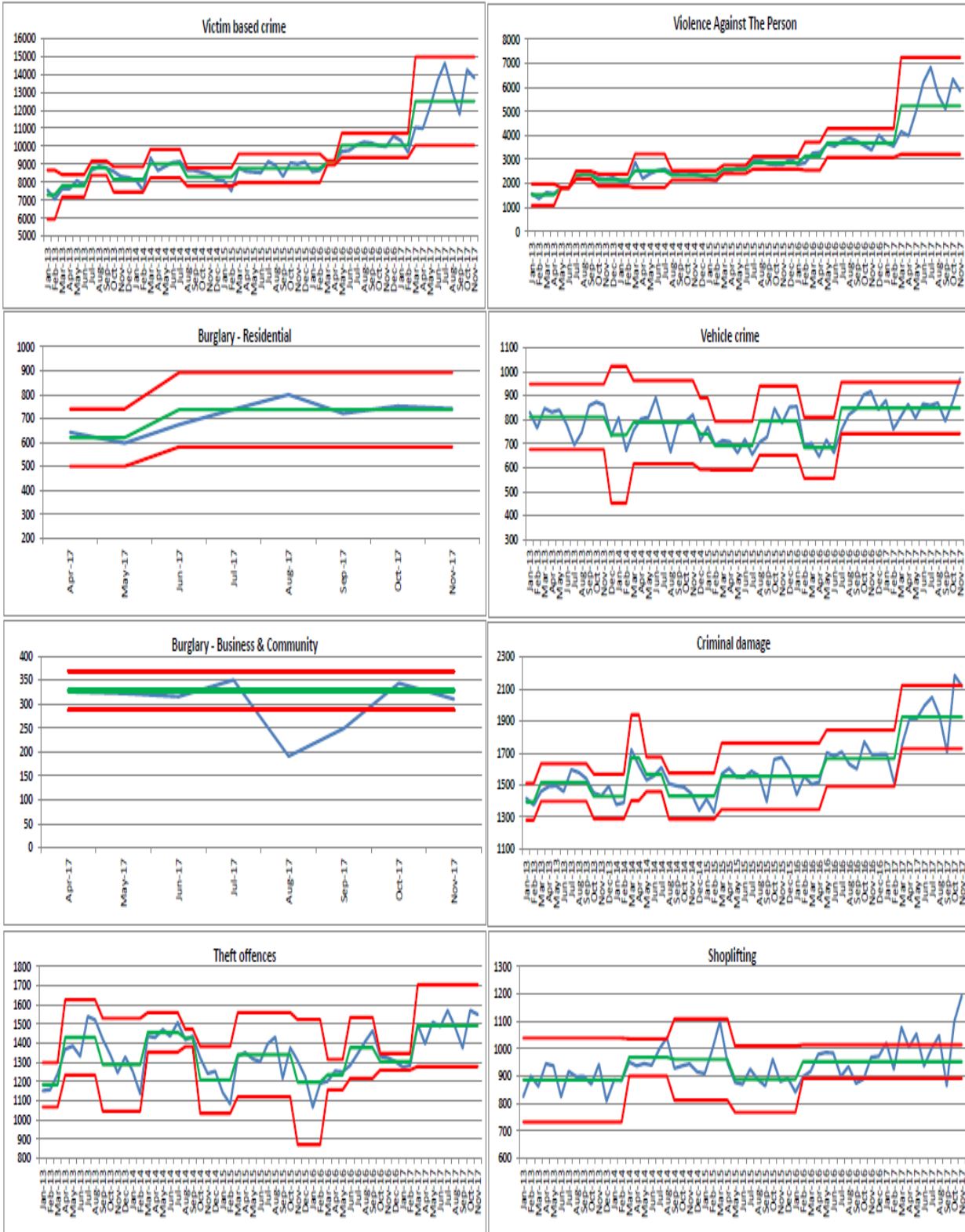
This section looks at total crime data and is followed by a more detailed analysis of the crime categories that have formed Maidstone's strategic assessment.

Countywide there were 313,628 emergency '999' calls received to the Kent Force Control Room from November 16 – October 17. This was an **increase of 4.4%** on the previous 12 months. '101' non-emergency calls stood at 564,705, a **decrease of 3.2%** on the previous 12 months. The average percentage of 999 calls answered was down 0.25% at 98.6%. The average percentage of 101 calls answered was down 0.7% at 81.7% in the same period.

All crime in the borough **rose by 32.4%** in the period November 2016 to October 2017 compared with the same period the previous year, from a total of 10,271 crimes to 13,594 crimes. This compares to a Kent Force wide increase of 30.0%. Using financial year data (April 16 to March 17), recorded crimes equated to 68 offences per 1,000 population in Maidstone. When compared to the county, Maidstone has a below average number of offences per 1,000 of the population and is ranked 6th out of all of the districts in Kent. This is a continuing position on previous years.

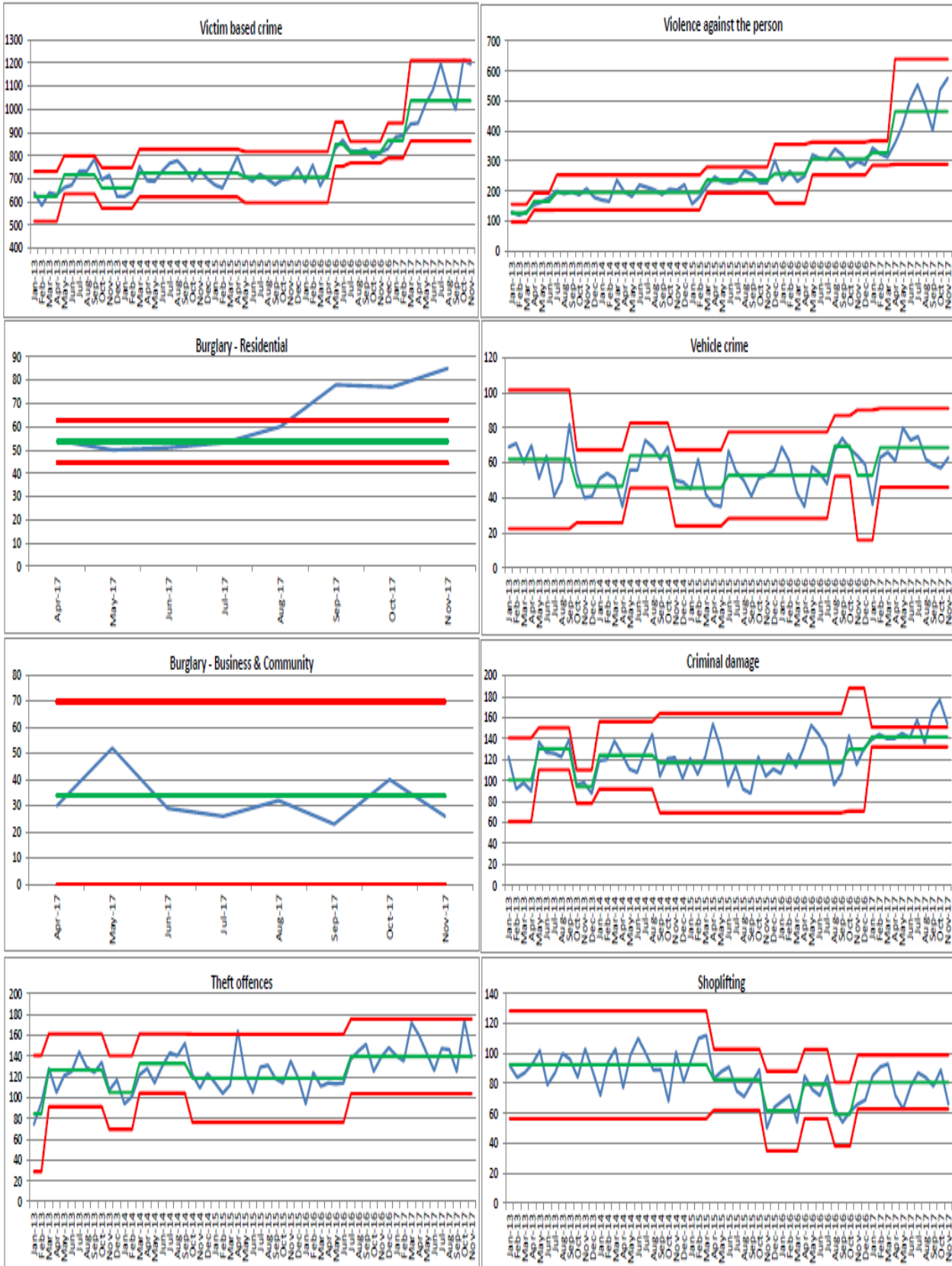
2.2 Police SPC charts - Force wide Jan13 – Nov17

Force - Monthly SPC charts (Jan-13 to Nov-17) - 5 data point step change:



2.3 Police SPC Charts - Maidstone Jan13 – Nov17

Maidstone - Monthly SPC charts (Jan-13 to Nov-17) - 5 data point step change:



Police SPC Charts

The above Police Statistical Process Control (SPC) Charts for Kent force wide and Maidstone cover the period January 2013 – November 2017

They show the trends in crime figures of 8 offences:

- Victim Based Crime
- Violence Against The Person (VATP)
- Burglary - Residential
- Burglary – Business & Community
- Vehicle Crime
- Criminal Damage
- Theft
- Shoplifting

It can be seen that locally, victim based crime and VATP have seen an increase in the period. This will be in part due to recording of offences individually rather than grouping them into one offence (for example an affray). Also from April, Burglary has been split into Residential and Business/Community so won't give a true comparison until next year. Shoplifting is still decreasing and against the Force trend. The remaining 3 crime types have held relatively steady over the period.

The methodology for the charts is attached but put simply; SPC charts are generated based on historical data to produce the following:

- The Centre Line (CL) which is the average no. of recorded crimes / incidents
- The Upper (UCL) and Lower Control Limits (LCL) which are the limits of natural variation

Any result above the UCL suggests that there may be a problem. In addition, other indications that a category is out of statistical control includes when several results in a row are above the CL or when several results in a row show an increasing trend.

If the figures are consistently below the CL this indicates an improvement and will result in the centre line and the control limits being lowered, often referred to as a 'step change'.

This shows over a near 5 year period, a better visual picture of how crime figures for different offences have fluctuated. Rather than relying just on a table showing a percentage change from the previous year, it allows for naturally occurring rise and falls in offences year on year.

2.4 Maidstone Crime Survey 2017 results

The tables below compare crime type figures at ward level against resident's perceived risk of being a victim of crime in the areas of residential burglary and violence against the person. Figures for Leeds & Loose should be ignored due to a small response rate to the survey in those areas.

How worried are you about...someone breaking into your home (excluding N/As)									Very worried or somewhat worried	Residential Burglary
	Very worried		Somewhat worried		Not very worried		Not worried at all			
Allington Ward	5.3%	4	32.5%	24	52.6%	39	9.6%	7	37.8%	3
Barming Ward	5.2%	1	36.0%	8	53.0%	12	5.8%	1	41.2%	5
Bearsted Ward	3.9%	3	39.7%	31	49.8%	39	6.6%	5	43.6%	13
Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton Wa	3.5%	1	52.4%	11	36.8%	8	7.4%	2	55.8%	13
Boxley Ward	2.4%	2	42.2%	41	46.5%	45	8.8%	9	44.7%	14
Bridge Ward	8.0%	5	41.0%	26	38.1%	24	12.9%	8	49.0%	16
Coxheath and Hunton Ward	2.5%	2	47.1%	33	40.2%	28	10.2%	7	49.5%	24
Detling and Thurnham Ward	9.5%	3	31.0%	9	52.6%	16	6.9%	2	40.5%	10
Downswood and Otham Ward	3.2%	2	52.4%	27	30.3%	15	14.1%	7	55.6%	4
East Ward	2.9%	4	29.0%	39	58.3%	79	9.8%	13	31.9%	29
Fant Ward	3.9%	5	36.1%	47	45.8%	59	14.2%	18	40.0%	26
Harrietsham and Lenham Ward	3.9%	2	36.6%	17	46.6%	22	12.9%	6	40.5%	13
Headcorn Ward	10.1%	7	53.3%	36	25.6%	17	10.9%	7	63.4%	10
Heath Ward	1.5%	1	31.6%	15	59.2%	28	7.6%	4	33.2%	7
High Street Ward	4.9%	7	42.3%	61	38.1%	55	14.7%	21	47.1%	30
Leeds Ward	18.8%	4	26.5%	6	50.3%	10	4.4%	1	45.4%	16
Loose Ward	2.8%	1	34.2%	6	37.0%	7	26.0%	5	37.0%	5
Marden and Yalding Ward	9.4%	7	28.4%	22	46.4%	36	15.8%	12	37.8%	37
North Downs Ward	11.1%	2	26.2%	4	47.6%	7	15.1%	2	37.3%	13
North Ward	11.7%	10	40.1%	33	46.2%	38	1.9%	2	51.9%	20
Park Wood Ward	11.1%	7	42.6%	27	36.3%	23	10.0%	6	53.8%	13
Shepway North Ward	7.3%	5	33.3%	25	42.3%	32	17.1%	13	40.6%	21
Shepway South Ward	12.1%	5	53.1%	22	31.5%	13	3.3%	1	65.2%	14
South Ward	5.6%	6	38.8%	40	42.0%	43	13.5%	14	44.5%	29
Staplehurst Ward	5.8%	4	42.9%	30	44.8%	31	6.6%	5	48.7%	22
Sutton Valence and Langley Ward	4.8%	2	44.7%	15	48.9%	16	1.5%	1	49.5%	15
Invalid Post Code	6.7%	21	43.3%	137	38.3%	121	11.7%	37	50.0%	0
Grand Total	6.1%	121	39.7%	792	43.4%	865	10.8%	216		

This table shows that in areas where residents were very or somewhat worried about having their house broken into, the reality is not always the case. Areas such as Downswood & Otham and Headcorn are good examples of this where over half fear the crime happening but residential burglary figures are very low in those areas. Adversely, Marden & Yalding wards are at the lower end of fearing burglary but statistically they are more likely to be a victim.

Interestingly for this question there was not much difference in responses depending on someone's age. For example, a similar percentage of those over 75 years old and those aged between 35 – 44 years old were very or somewhat worried about having their home broken into.

How worried are you about...someone being asulted/attacked (excluding N/As)									Very or somewhat worried	Violence against the person
	Very worried		Somewhat worried		Not very worried		Not worried at all			
Allington Ward	5.3%	4	17.4%	13	56.3%	41	21.0%	15	22.7%	60
Barming Ward	0.0%		12.6%	3	81.8%	17	5.6%	1	12.6%	21
Bearsted Ward	1.9%	1	23.4%	18	62.1%	49	12.7%	10	25.2%	43
Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton W	11.0%	2	21.6%	5	54.3%	12	13.2%	3	32.6%	27
Boxley Ward	1.5%	1	15.1%	15	60.2%	58	23.3%	23	16.5%	75
Bridge Ward	6.5%	4	36.9%	23	47.1%	30	9.5%	6	43.4%	175
Coxheath and Hunton Ward	2.3%	2	9.7%	7	58.2%	40	29.8%	20	12.0%	60
Detling and Thurnham Ward	2.2%	1	20.9%	6	51.3%	16	25.6%	8	23.0%	25
Downswood and Otham Ward	4.6%	2	15.3%	8	47.0%	24	33.2%	17	19.8%	27
East Ward	5.6%	8	15.8%	21	60.5%	82	18.0%	24	21.4%	161
Fant Ward	5.7%	7	31.8%	41	51.3%	66	11.2%	15	37.5%	232
Harrietsham and Lenham Ward	3.9%	2	19.0%	9	63.5%	30	13.6%	6	22.9%	82
Headcorn Ward	6.6%	4	22.9%	15	48.5%	33	22.0%	15	29.5%	65
Heath Ward	3.8%	2	22.6%	11	70.5%	34	3.0%	1	26.5%	202
High Street Ward	12.0%	17	34.3%	50	40.3%	58	13.4%	19	46.3%	769
Leeds Ward	0.0%		24.4%	5	63.1%	13	12.4%	3	24.4%	28
Loose Ward	2.8%	1	32.4%	6	57.4%	11	7.5%	1	35.1%	17
Marden and Yalding Ward	1.6%	1	13.2%	10	49.6%	37	35.7%	27	14.7%	100
North Downs Ward	6.1%	1	24.1%	4	38.3%	6	31.5%	5	30.2%	42
North Ward	6.3%	5	27.0%	22	55.8%	46	10.9%	9	33.3%	166
Park Wood Ward	15.4%	9	33.9%	21	39.1%	24	11.7%	7	49.2%	228
Shepway North Ward	4.2%	3	32.2%	23	50.2%	36	13.4%	10	36.4%	160
Shepway South Ward	19.8%	8	25.5%	11	47.6%	20	7.1%	3	45.2%	132
South Ward	3.7%	4	21.6%	22	59.3%	61	15.3%	16	25.3%	154
Staplehurst Ward	5.3%	4	12.9%	9	57.9%	40	23.9%	17	18.2%	72
Sutton Valence and Langley Ward	0.0%		8.7%	3	64.9%	22	26.4%	9	8.7%	48
Invalid Post Code	8.3%	26	24.7%	78	50.7%	159	16.3%	51	33.0%	94
Grand Total	6.1%	120	23.1%	458	53.7%	1064	17.2%	341		

The above table relates to how worried residents are about being assaulted/attacked. Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton had quite a high fear percentage despite having low 'Violence against the Person' (VATP) figures. Again, similarly to the previous table, Marden & Yalding don't fear assault or attack as much as other areas despite relatively high VATP figures.

Expectedly, High Street ward features highest in both tables. Figures for VATP especially are with no doubt skewed because of the size of the night time economy in Maidstone being the largest in the county and the sheer numbers of visitors the town has throughout the year. Also not forgetting that offences involving more than one person are now recorded as separate incidents.

2.5 Total recorded crime per 1,000 population in Kent – year ending March 2017

Area	Number of offences	2017 rate per 1,000 pop.	2016 rate per 1,000 pop.	2015 rate per 1,000 pop.	County Ranking
Tunbridge Wells	5140	48	44	43.4	1
Sevenoaks	5894	53	50	47.5	3
Tonbridge & Malling	5961	55	48	45.3	2
Ashford	6551	65	53	51.6	4
Dover	6581	66	58	57.8	5
Maidstone	9332	68	58	56.7	6
Canterbury	9557	70	61	57.1	7
Shepway	6671	71	61	56.6	8
Swale	10059	77	71	67.7	9
Dartford & Gravesham	15650	91	75	68.8	11
Thanet	11980	98	87	82	12
KCC Total	89643	69	59	59.4	
Medway	20285	84	74	70.3	10
Kent	109928	73	64	61	

2.6 Volume of crimes by type within Maidstone for November 2016 – October 2017 and the same time period in 2015-2016

The table below and overleaf identifies the different categories of crime reported in Maidstone and highlights the main areas where crime has increased/decreased.

	Month	Rolling year		Number change	% change
	October 2017	RY ending Oct 2017	RY ending Oct 2016		
Victim based crime	1214	11890	9245	+ 2645	+28.6%
Violent Crime	588	5378	3743	+ 1635	+43.7%
- Violence Against The Person	539	4833	3390	+ 725	+21.4%
- Sexual Offences	40	446	284	+ 162	+57.0%
- Robbery	9	99	69	+30	+43.5%
Burglary Residential	77	N/A*	286	##	##
Burglary Business and Community	40	N/A*	532	##	##
Vehicle Crime	57	755	686	+ 69	+10.1%
- Theft Of Motor Vehicle	20	254	182	+ 72	+39.6%
- Theft From Motor Vehicle	37	501	504	-3	-0.6%

Vehicle Interference	6	97	110	82	-13	-11.8%
Theft and Handling	269	2868	2422	2633	+446	+18.4%
- Shoplifting	89	955	804	1077	+151	+18.8%
- Theft of Pedal cycle	6	158	136	111	+ 22	+16.2%
- Other Theft	174	1755	1482	1445	+ 273	+18.4%
Criminal Damage	177	1732	1466	1372	+ 266	+18.1%
Crimes against society	232	1704	1026	701	+ 678	+66.1%
Drug Offences	27	342	345	282	-3	-0.9%
Possession of weapons	14	85	50	45	+ 35	+70.0%
Public order offences	156	923	402	227	+ 521	+129.6%
Other crimes	35	354	229	147	+ 125	+54.6%
All crime	1446	13594	10271	9189	+ 3323	+32.4%

The data clearly illustrates an increase in almost all crimes with the exception of vehicle interference, theft from motor vehicle and drug offences. Crime increases are partly be due to new police recording measures. Some crimes against society figures have increased because of different classification of crimes and will be reflected better in subsequent Strategic Assessments.

*Please note: Due to Home Office Counting Rule changes Burglary Dwelling and Burglary Other only apply to offences up to 31st March 2017. From 1st April 2017 the new categories are Burglary Residential and Burglary Business and Community. As such it is not possible to provide a comparison.

3. Violent Crime

3.1 Total Violent Crime

Maidstone has the second largest night time economy in the south, and stranger violence in the town centre was the lowest for some time in this last festive period. Domestic violence accounts for 60% of all violent crime and this will continue to increase as the public are reassured that they can be safeguarded if they come forward and report domestic incidents.

Sexual offences especially rape is on the increase but up to 75% of this is historic reporting often by domestic abuse victims who are no longer frightened to come forward and report offences. The new vulnerability police model for investigation is providing an enhanced service to victims and there continues to be more reporting as police and partners increase accessibility to services and safeguarding.

'Violent Crime' covers a wide range of offences including murder, manslaughter, GBH, ABH and other assaults without injury, threats to kill, harassment, sexual offences and robbery. Maidstone has seen an **increase of 43.7%** in violent crime this year compared with the period of November 2015 – October 2016. It is important to mention that this may be partly attributed to a change in police recording. This increase is however below the division and county percentage and the 4th lowest increase out of 13 areas.

Violent Crime	Month	Rolling year			
	October 2017	RY ending October 2017	RY ending October 2016	Number change	% change
Dartford	437	4125	2956	+ 1169	+39.5%
Gravesham	494	4488	3116	+ 1372	+44.0%
Medway	1278	11871	8252	+ 3619	+43.8%
Swale	565	5343	3701	+ 1642	+44.4%
North Division	2774	25827	18025	+ 7802	+43.3%
Maidstone	588	5378	3743	+ 1635	+43.7%
Sevenoaks	288	2582	1702	+ 880	+51.7%
Tonbridge and Malling	335	3150	2117	+ 1033	+48.8%
Tunbridge Wells	315	2694	1962	+ 732	+37.3%
West Division	1526	13804	9524	+ 4280	+44.9%
Ashford	396	3951	2378	+ 1573	+66.1%
Canterbury	634	5570	3874	+ 1696	+43.7%
Dover	479	4653	2799	+ 1854	+66.2%
Shepway	413	4011	2960	+ 1051	+35.5%
Thanet	786	7242	5262	+ 1980	+37.6%
East Division	2708	25427	17273	+ 8154	+47.2%
Force	7008	65058	44823	+ 20235	+45.1%

Violent Crime November 2016 - October 2017

The majority of violent crime offences occurring in Maidstone within the 12 months ending 31st October came under the 'Violence Against The Person' (VATP) category. This category covers offences ranging in severity from assault without injury to murder, however does not include robberies or sexual offences.

There were 4833 VATP offences in Maidstone spanning this period of time. This is up from 3390 in 2015-16, an **increase of 42%**. It should be noted that many VATP offences will be minor assaults and on further investigation some of these will be found to be accidental contact with no malicious intent, rather than situations where force has been used intentionally.

The table below shows the outcome percentages for VATP offences in Kent compared to the most similar group (MSG) of police forces and against the previous year's percentages.

MSG	Recorded VATP crimes		Charge/ Summons		Cautions		Comm Res.		No suspect identified		No victim support	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Kent	51,637	40,090	9.4%	10.8%	2.1%	3.0%	1.5%	1.8%	6.4%	4.8%	36.4%	41.3%
Nottinghamshire	22,910	18,423	16.6%	19.9%	2.8%	2.9%	2.9%	5.2%	5.7%	3.5%	28.7%	22.2%
Essex	34,619	32,578	11.4%	15.0%	1.6%	3.3%	5.5%	6.4%	12.3%	11.5%	32.2%	27.9%
Staffordshire	26,131	25,433	11.8%	14.9%	2.1%	2.3%	2.7%	2.6%	6.1%	4.9%	39.6%	33.4%
Avon & Somerset	35,211	35,968	11.9%	10.7%	2.6%	2.8%	1.3%	1.4%	7.6%	7.4%	37.0%	34.4%

Northamptonshire	14,429	14,251	12.5%	14.0%	2.9%	3.8%	3.1%	5.8%	6.7%	6.5%	35.1%	24.3%
Derbyshire	11,158	12,465	23.4%	23.7%	5.1%	5.9%	10.1%	10.8%	3.1%	2.3%	13.0%	11.2%
Hertfordshire	20,260	18,184	10.8%	16.1%	3.5%	6.4%	1.2%	1.5%	7.3%	7.3%	32.8%	33.0%

We can see from this table that almost all MSG areas with the exception of Kent and Hertfordshire have seen an increase in the victim not supporting. All but Avon & Somerset saw a reduction in charge/summons figures too with Kent having the lowest charge/summons percentage of 9.4%.

3.2 Levels of Violence in the Borough Wards April 2017 – October 2017

High Street ward had the highest number of recorded violent crimes in the borough with 863 incidents reported (up 42% from 607 on same period in 2016) alongside Fant with 250 (up 41% from 178), Parkwood 243 (up 48% from 164) and Heath with 227 (up 91% from 119).

The wards with the lowest levels of violent crime were Loose with 18 incidents (down 18%), Barming with 23 (up 44%) and Detling & Thurnham and Downswood & Otham both had 28 incidents (increases of 8% and 180% respectively). Apart from High Street ward, the highest numerical increases were Heath +108, North + 98 and Bridge + 94. In contrast, Loose had 4 less incidents than the previous year (18 from 22) and Shepway North saw just 9 extra incidents (180 from 171).

It should be noted that some of these rises are attributed to new ways of recording crime from April 2017. This now records an incident such as Affray as one incident per person involved instead of a single incident. Also, there is no differential for offences in the High Street ward, to say if they were related to residential addresses or as is most probable for the majority, to businesses, shopping areas and the night time economy in general. At this time it is not possible for future assessments to separate this data so as not to portray such a skewed view of the ward.

The table below illustrates hospital admissions for assaults covering the last 2 years. Maidstone has seen a sizeable increase on last year compared to most other authorities (5th largest increase). It must be taken into account however that Maidstone has the largest of night time economies in Kent and some admissions may not be resident in the borough.

Hospital Admissions due to Assault (ICD10: X85-Y09)

Number of Individuals

District	September 2015 to August 2016	September 2016 to August 2017	Number Difference	% change from previous year
Ashford	37	26	-11	-29.7
Canterbury	32	25	-7	-21.9
Dartford	36	38	+2	5.6
Dover	30	26	-4	-13.3
Gravesham	31	64	+33	106.5
Maidstone	73	97	+24	32.9
Sevenoaks	25	41	+16	64.0
Shepway	38	29	-9	-23.7
Swale	59	64	+5	8.5
Thanet	36	31	-5	-13.9
Tonbridge & Malling	36	54	+18	50.0
Tunbridge Wells	30	56	+26	86.7
All Kent	463	551	+88	19.0

Source: SUS, KPHO (LLY), 11/17

3.3 Violent Crime - Other

V3. 25/01/18 Nic Rathbone

Maidstone has a highly active night time economy (NTE) which generates around £60 million each year; this is considered to be a key contributing factor to the heightened levels of violence in the High street ward. Bearing in mind the size of the County town's NTE though, it is still considered by agencies and the public as a relatively safe place to visit compared to similar large towns/cities. This was enforced by an overall sense of feeling safe in the town via a public consultation into the town centre and NTE.

Violent crime has seen a year on year increase in Maidstone and it is clear that focus needs to remain to ensure violence is reduced. Current work undertaken to reduce the levels of other violent crime in Maidstone is reported in the CSP rolling plan but as a large proportion of Violent Crime incidents relate to Domestic Abuse, 'Other Violent Crime' is being removed as a named priority. Serious violent offences continue to be dealt with robustly by the police and that work also cuts across the Gangs, OCGs and Substance Misuse priorities.

3.4 Domestic Abuse

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- *psychological*
- *physical*
- *sexual*
- *financial*
- *emotional*

Domestic Abuse (DA) has and continues to account for a considerable proportion of violent crime. In Maidstone, DA attributes to 58% of all violent crime offences, as well as being a fundamental feature of other offences such as criminal damage. Its prioritisation is not just in response to the serious nature of the behaviour involved but is also necessitated by the volume of incidents that are being recorded – made all the more significant as this is one crime category that has historically suffered from considerable under-reporting.

Domestic abuse sits as both a local, county and national priority which is supported through local mechanisms such as the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which provides support and protection to families and individuals in high risk domestic abuse situations. There is also the commissioning of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service (IDVA) which provides support and guidance to victims of DA. Each district also delivers a 'one-stop shop' where all victims of domestic abuse can receive advice and support.

Recorded Incidents of Domestic Abuse and Repeat Victims

Between the periods November 2016 - October 2017, Maidstone had recorded 3096 incidents of Domestic abuse (25.7% average repeat victims) compared to 2683 incidents (26.4% repeat victims) in the same period in the previous year. This translates to a **15% increase** in cases, though percentages of repeat victim figures are virtually unchanged.

Whilst our incidences are lower than the average in the county our rate for repeat victims is the second highest in Kent with a **26% rate of repeat victimisation**. Domestic abuse is a complex crime which puts great pressure on victims to return to their relationships on the basis of fear, low self-esteem, family ties and a hope for change.

It is widely recognised that increased recorded incidents of domestic abuse are not necessary indicators of a worsening situation. Since domestic abuse has been an under-reported crime,

increased reports indicate that DA victims feel more confident to come forward to report the abuse they are suffering. Many of our partners on the domestic abuse forum champion domestic abuse in their respective services encouraging clients and service users to be open about their circumstances and feel confident in the services that can support them to move out of domestically abusive relationships.

3.5 One-Stop Shops & Sanctuary

Domestic Abuse 'One Stop Shops' offer free advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse. Maidstone's one stop shop is hosted at the Salvation Army in Union Street and provides advice on housing, legal matters, policing and specialist DA advice. Information regarding the One-Stop Shop usage has been provided by the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group for the period of 2010/11 – 2015/16. This year's figures (July 16 – June 17) for attendance at the Maidstone One Stop Shop were 205. This was a reduction of 17 on last year's total.

Number of Visitors

Between July 2015 and June 2016 **3,173** people were assisted at the domestic abuse one stop shops, an increase of **31.7%** compared to the previous year.

Table 1:

Location	No of visitors 2010/11	No of visitors 2011/12	No of visitors 2012/13	No of visitors 2013/14	No of visitors 2014/15	No of visitors 2015/16	% increase/ decrease in visitors (compared to previous year)	Visitors per 10,000 LA population (based on KCC 2016 projection data)
Ashford	75	169	239	316	317	362	14.2	28.2
Canterbury	169	262	214	232	253	328	29.6	31.1 ⁶
Dartford	60	46	52	74	116	138	19.0	13.0
Dover	102	54	83	81	86	188	118.6	16.4
Gravesend	52	31	52	64	134	135	0.7	12.7
Herne Bay ¹	n/a	n/a	43	125	147	163	10.9	31.1 ⁶
Maidstone	n/a	20	65	97	156	222	42.3	13.4
Medway	128	146	147	287	508	638	25.6	22.9
Shepway	143	120	91	165	183	260	42.1	23.5
Sheerness ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	167	n/a	26.2 ⁷
Sittingbourne	107	123	140	146	200	208	4.0	26.2 ⁷
Sevenoaks ³	6	12	16	25	16	13	-18.8	1.1
Thanet	49	71	117	215	223	281	26.0	20.0
Tonbridge ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	55	70	27.3	5.5
Tunbridge Wells ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	891	1054	1259	1835	2410	3173	31.7	17.5

¹ Opened in November 2012.

² Converted from a drop in service in May 2015.

³ Swanley opened twice a month until January 2013; weekly service thereafter. Moved to Sevenoaks in November 2014. Closed in April 2016.

⁴ Opened in April 2014.

⁵ Opened in November 2014, closed in April 2015.

⁶ Canterbury and Herne Bay total visitors are combined as within the same LA area.

⁷ Sheerness and Sittingbourne total visitors are combined as within the same LA area.

(Comparisons with other boroughs for One Stop Shop figures will be published in the final draft of the Strategic Assessment). Home visits for the 'Sanctuary' scheme that helps keep high risk victims of domestic abuse in their own homes by installing extra security measures seem to have plateaued in the past 12 months to 35. This suggests that more DA victims are receiving an earlier intervention and not escalating to 'high risk' despite a rise in MARACs and overall DA incidents.

3.6 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs)

MARACs are meetings where information about high-risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies. By bringing all agencies together at a MARAC, a risk-focused, co-ordinated safety plan can be drawn together to support the victim. MARACs now cover all persons aged 16 years and over.

Maidstone has had 177 MARAC cases between the periods of October 2016 – September 2017. This compares to 161 cases the previous 12 months, an increase locally of 10% and countywide increase of 4%. 58 of those cases were repeat cases, this equates to 33% of all cases which is up from 18% on last year. This is a mid-range increase over other areas in Kent and the county average is 33.46%. Last year the county repeat case figure was 31.6%.

Violent Crime - domestic abuse

The Safer Maidstone Partnership has put considerable effort into raising the awareness of domestic abuse in the borough and has also put in practical measures at the home of victims to keep them safe from their abuser. A number of initiatives have been supported this year and are outlined in the CSP plan. Due to the high levels of domestic abuse and repeat incidents, recommendation is made that Domestic Abuse reverts again to a priority on its own.

4. Anti-Social behaviour & Statutory Nuisance

4.1 Anti-Social Behaviour in Maidstone

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requires responsible authorities to consider crime and disorder (including antisocial behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment). ASB was removed as a priority in name last year as it was seen as 'business as usual' with strong partnership working and information sharing continuing to resolve issues.

Figures have shown this year that there has been a **decrease in ASB of 12%** in Maidstone from November 2016 – October 2017 with 3243 cases compared to 3697 in the previous year. County wide saw a decrease of 11% in cases over the same period. The MBC CSU/CPT received 130 ASB cases between January 17 – December 17.

	Nov 2016 – Oct 2017	Nov 2015 – Oct 2016	Nov 2014 – Oct 2015	Number difference	% difference	County ranking
Shepway	2374	2948	2890	-574	-19.5%	1
Tunbridge Wells	1877	2287	2200	-410	-17.9%	2
Dartford	2467	2990	2620	-523	-17.5%	3
Sevenoaks	1691	2012	1970	-321	-15.9%	4
Thanet	4670	5368	5337	-698	-13.0%	5
Gravesham	2850	3274	3337	-424	-12.9%	6
Maidstone	3243	3697	3588	-454	-12.3%	7
Dover	2975	3380	3701	-405	-12.0%	8
Tonbridge & Malling	2089	2326	2469	-237	-10.2%	9
Canterbury	3502	3852	4231	-350	-9.1%	10
Swale	3553	3904	3991	-351	-9.0%	11
Medway	8124	8747	8983	-623	-7.1%	12
Ashford	2073	1856	1582	+217	+11.7%	13
Kent district	41488	46641	46897	-5153	-11.0%	

The decrease in ASB further supports our decision to remove it as a priority in name which allowed us to explore more emerging issues. The weekly Community Safety Vulnerabilities Group focuses

on repeat locations as well as individuals. Many of those on the case list have a degree of mental health issues which benefit from wider partnership involvement.

The wards most affected by ASB in order of number of offences recorded are High Street ward (although no differential between residential locations and public), Fant, East, Parkwood and Shepway South.

4.2 Statutory Nuisance

As the newly formed Community Protection Team tackle statutory nuisance as well as from October - ASB, this year's assessment includes some data on the breakdown of those nuisance cases by case type. The table below compares 2016 and 2017 figures and shows an overall decrease of 4.5% in cases (allowing for the removal of ASB cases). This reduction enforces the targeted promotion of issues through social media and poster campaigns such as responsible dog ownership.

There have also been changes made to customer responses put into place which offer advice and empower customers to seek resolution to their reported issues at an earlier stage. This will have led to less repeat cases as a result.

Code	Description	2016	2017
ASB	All Anti-social behaviour complaints	0	40
CARA	Caravan Licensing enquiries/complaints	11	7
DOG	Dangerous and Nuisance dogs (Not strays)	73	45
DRAIN	Drainage enquiries/complaints	33	47
ENV	Environmental Enquiries (Most of which are now dealt with by the Waste Crime team. CPT still deals with some accumulations relating to pest and public health matters.	350	191
FOUL	Dog Fouling	78	47
FPN	FPN enquiries/complaints	0	3
GEN	General enquires including Smoke free and non-coded enquiries/complaints	103	80
NOISE	All noise nuisance including amplified music and barking	713	732
NUIS	Other Nuisance (Odour, dust etc	314	361
PEST	Pest Control enquiries/complaints	202	194
STRAD	Street trading enquiries/complaints	7	9
STRAY	Straying and lost dogs enquiries	522	488
		4422	4261

4.3 Community Trigger

The 'Community Trigger' gives victims of persistent anti-social behaviour the ability to demand a formal case review where the locally defined threshold is met, in order to determine whether there is further action that can be taken. In 2017 there was one application for the Community Trigger, this met the threshold for investigation but it was concluded that everything that could have been reasonably done to assist with the issue had been.

5. Substance Misuse

5.1 Substance Misuse in Maidstone

Substance misuse relates to the use of drugs, alcohol and includes New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) previously known as 'legal highs'. Neither alcohol nor NPS were included in the recorded drug offences as they were both legal. Since the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 became law in May 2016, NPS supply would be included in drug offence figures but not possession. It is however important to mention alcohol and NPS as there is a clear connection between criminal activity and the excessive use of these substances.

Kent police recorded drug offences includes both offences of drug supply and possession. Under this category of crime Maidstone has seen a **1% decrease** in drug offences from November 16 – October 17 when compared to last year's data. This is a decrease from 345 offences to 342 offences; or 3 less crimes this year. The force as a whole saw a reduction of 4.8% and only Gravesham (+43.1%) and Canterbury (+6.4%) saw a rise.

5.2 NPS related hospital admissions.

The table below illustrates hospital admissions for mental and behavioural disorders (due to psychoactive substance misuse) for Maidstone compared to last year. It shows a slight rise in Maidstone's figures which is against the county trend. Maidstone did however have more 'head' shops than any other area in Kent selling NPS before the Psychoactive Substances Act came into being. As such, there may be a higher proportion of regular NPS users in the borough and/or more prevalence of its use in the night time economy.

Mental and Behavioural Disorders due to Psychoactive Substance Use (ICD10: F10-F19 Excluding F17)

Number of Individuals

District	September 2015 to August 2016	September 2016 to August 2017	Number Difference	% change from previous year
Ashford	209	210	1	0.5
Canterbury	539	365	-174	32.3
Dartford	231	268	37	16.0
Dover	334	273	-61	18.3
Gravesham	321	319	-2	0.6
Maidstone	504	583	79	15.7
Sevenoaks	251	253	2	0.8
Shepway	286	257	-29	10.1
Swale	393	370	-23	5.8
Thanet	561	440	-121	21.6
Tonbridge & Malling	276	334	58	21.0
Tunbridge Wells	241	325	84	34.9
All Kent	4,146	3,997	-149	3.6

Source: SUS, KPHO (LLY), 11/17

5.3 Alcohol related hospital admissions.

This table illustrates alcohol related hospital admissions in Maidstone. Maidstone is mid table in terms of percentage change with a slight increase in admissions over last year. This is against a Kent wide reduction in admissions.

Evidence of Alcohol Involvement by Blood Alcohol Level/ Level of Intoxication (ICD10: Y90/Y91) or Toxic Effects of Alcohol (ICD10: T51)

Number of Individuals

District	September 2015 to August 2016	September 2016 to August 2017	Number Difference	% change from previous year
Ashford	57	34	-23	-40.4
Canterbury	191	95	-96	-50.3
Dartford	31	61	30	96.8
Dover	83	40	-43	-51.8
Gravesham	50	49	-1	-2.0
Maidstone	111	125	14	12.6
Sevenoaks	40	58	18	45.0
Shepway	57	37	-20	-35.1
Swale	93	46	-47	-50.5
Thanet	117	72	-45	-38.5
Tonbridge & Malling	52	72	20	38.5
Tunbridge Wells	55	66	11	20.0
All Kent	937	755	-182	-19.4

Source: SUS, KPHO (LLY), 11/17

5.4 Clients in treatment.

The substance misuse charity 'Change, Grow, Live' (CGL) has seen a rise in the use of the 3 needle exchange schemes in Maidstone over the past 12 months:

	January 2017- December 2017	January 2016 – December 2016	January 2015 – December 2015	Number difference	% difference
Clients on exchange programme	478	422	538	56	+13.3%
Clients in treatment	406	313	316	93	+29.7%

This represents a **13% increase** in needle exchanges and a larger increase in those in treatment, further narrowing the two totals. CGL explained this is a good sign that an increasing majority of those using the syringe exchanges are accessing treatment. Those that aren't, are in the main known to CGL and are serial presenters to treatment. They are also seeing fewer new clients accessing services.

From April 2017 – November 2017, CGL had 82 positive discharges in Maidstone (38 drug & 44 alcohol). Positive discharge for Opiates is drug free and completion of opiate substitute medication. Alcohol is either abstinence via a detox or reduction regime or controlled drinking – within government guidelines, if that was their goal. Other drugs such as cocaine, cannabis etc can be occasional users but will have made significant reduction/changes to substance misuse.

As at 30th November 2017, CGL had 141 Opiate only, 59 Alcohol only and 44 Non Opiate & Alcohol clients.

5.5 Countrywide Young People's statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)

Data collected from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, show specialist substance misuse services saw fewer young people in 2016-17 than in the previous year (16,436, a decrease of 641 or 4% compared to 2015-16). This continues a downward trend, year-on-year, since a peak of 24,053 in 2008-09. Although the number of younger children (under 14) in treatment is relatively low, it has increased from 1,219 in 2014-15 to 1,342 in 2016-17 (a 10% increase).

The proportion of young people reported by specialist services as having problems with NPS fell by 45% (from 1,056 in 2015-16 to 585 in 2016-17). 2016-17 is the first year since data on NPS use was added to NDTMS that the number of young people in treatment with problematic NPS use has decreased. It also partly reflects the impact of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 which stopped the general sale of these products from 'Head shops' and UK based websites.

Addaction's Young Peoples Service has stated that one worrying trend on the rise is that of Steroid use among young people. This is very much an under-reported drug and Addaction have received no referrals into treatment regarding steroids as a primary or secondary substance for young people.

Those using do not access treatment groups (often affluent, high achieving young people) and often do not associate their use with a drug service, more with peers within the gym setting. It also raises the question of young people's perceptions of their own body image and the associated psychological issues that they may be experiencing.

Long term steroid use can be dangerous and have life changing repercussions. These are more worrying when a young person's body and mind are still in the development stage both physically and psychologically. We need to generate awareness, work with local gyms and schools and promote conversation and resources to these otherwise hidden cohorts.

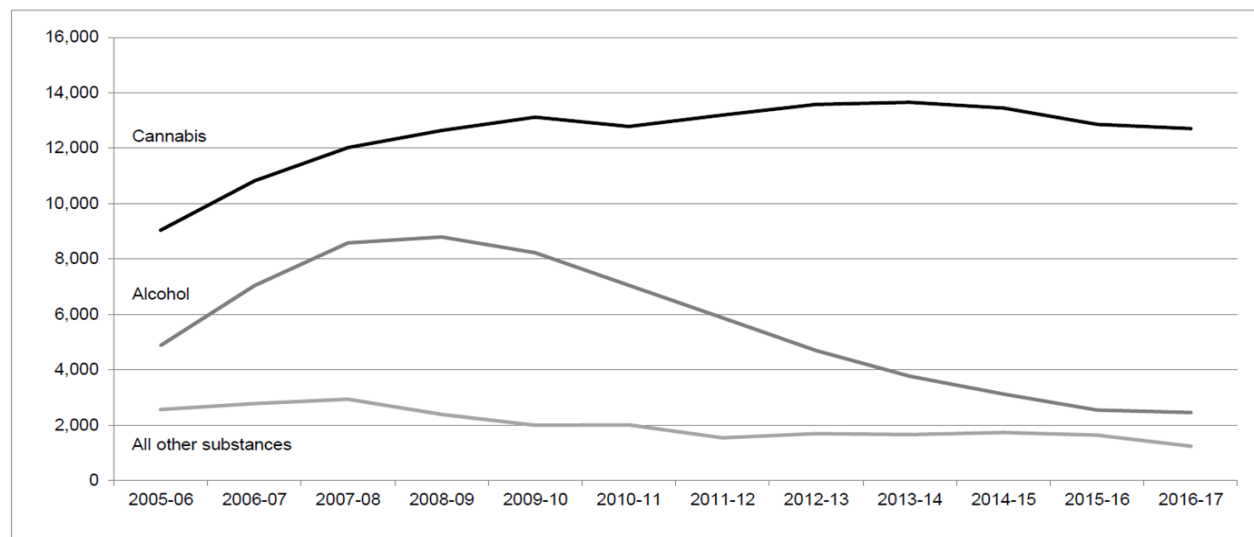
Table 2.3.2 Substance use (primary and adjunctive combined) by age of all young people in treatment 2016-17^a

Substance	Under 13 ^b		13-14		14-15		15-16		16-17		17-18	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cannabis	247	70%	807	82%	2,261	87%	3,921	90%	3,682	90%	3,531	88%
Alcohol	175	50%	473	48%	1,352	52%	2,095	48%	2,000	49%	1,963	49%
Ecstasy	18	5%	64	6%	257	10%	494	11%	503	12%	479	12%
Cocaine	8	2%	28	3%	117	4%	305	7%	412	10%	603	15%
New psychoactive substances	10	3%	21	2%	75	3%	142	3%	164	4%	173	4%
Amphetamines	*	-	10*	1%*	60*	2%*	120*	3%*	145*	3%*	155*	4%*
Solvents	31	9%	32	3%	81	3%	129	3%	84	2%	73	2%
Opiates †	0	0%	*	-	13	0%	28	1%	50	1%	85	2%
Crack	0	0%	*	-	*	-	11	0%	20	0%	48	1%
Total^v	352	100%	990	100%	2,610	100%	4,346	100%	4,109	100%	4,029	100%

The above table shows the breakdown of substances used by age of all young people in treatment in 2016-17. Cannabis and Alcohol are by far the most prevalent substances used.

The table below shows this prevalence and trend between the periods 2005/6 – 2016/17. This shows a decline over time of alcohol as a primary substance being used by young people. Cannabis use seems to be at a stable level after peaking in 2009 -10.

Figure 5.2.1 Number of young people in treatment by primary substance (2005-06 to 2016-17)



5.6 Needle Finds

The following table shows the official annual figures for needle finds in the borough from April to March that were removed by the council's waste management service. Even if you exclude last year's very low figures, the trend over the past six years has very much been on the decrease. This year's figures look to be on target to be similar to 2015/16 numbers. These figures include the contents of external needle bins that are strategically placed in the town to try and reduce discarded needles and make up between 15% – 60% of the monthly figures.

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Yearly Total
2007/08	599	507	290	220	143	550	260	233	63	778	957	239	4839
2008/09	185	182	178	328	171	181	36	100	125	84	78	117	1765
2009/10	68	56	93	216	189	163	111	46	21	90	1082	162	2297
2010/11	248	622	166	253	149	252	290	57	108	55	193	290	2683
2011/12	114	76	113	285	246	201	444	243	140	204	245	202	2513
2012/13	55	214	149	223	94	161	157	95	146	84	279	308	1965
2013/14	269	291	41	107	204	266	198	134	266	110	54	233	2173
2014/15	233	119	214	226	143	243	206	162	78	138	255	81	2098
2015/16	197	109	172	226	67	106	113	136	230	156	131	47	1690
2016/17	39	7	24	48	40	18	64	66	70	56	209	164	805
2017/18	121	138	227	95	424	181	125						1311

5.7 Substance Misuse recommendations.

Substance Misuse actions and examples of partnership working are covered in the CSP plan. Due to the continued need for substance misuse education, prevention, enforcement and treatment, it is recommended that Substance Misuse remains as a priority.

6. Reducing Reoffending

6.1 Availability of 'Proven adult reoffending' data

As of June 2014, the former Kent Probation divided into two organisations; National Probation Service (NPS) and Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) that manage two separate cohorts of service users. Reoffending data related to the KSS CRC is currently unavailable, with the first publication due for release by the MOJ in October 2017 (not available at the drafting of this document).

As a result of this no information can be used in this strategic assessment that is up to date and is reflective of the current re-offending rate in Kent or Maidstone.

Youth Justice first time entrant's figures for Maidstone have reduced year on year from 222 new offenders in 2013/14 to 183 in 2015/16. 2016/17 figures to date stand at 133 so are on target for another annual reduction by the end of quarter 4. This represents a **17.6% decrease** over 3 years. This is particularly encouraging as this will help reduce the prevalence of future 'prolific offenders' and the stigmatisation of young people with a criminal record.

6.2 Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) brings a cross-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together.

The emphasis has moved away from solely Serious and Acquisitive Crime (SAC) to a more Threat, Risk and Harm approach which includes not only SAC, but Domestic Abuse (DA), Serious Violence, Gang activity, Organised Crime Groups (OCG), Troubled Families, Terrorism, Trafficking and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Maidstone has run the most successful IOM programme in the force with the IOM Sergeant ensuring that new methods such as the 'buddy tag' both prevent crime (particularly burglary) and for bringing offenders to justice.

The Kent IOM Cohort is currently at 203 members, this is 14% increase (+25) compared to the same time last year and is expected to continue to increase as the IOM emphasis continues to transition. West Division represents 42% of the cohort followed by East Division (30%) and North (28%).

Those in the community have collectively reduced their reoffending by 88%. Shoplifting, Violence Against the Person, and Burglaries have seen the highest reduction in offending. Thinking and behaviour as well as lifestyle and associates are the two highest need categories linked to offending.

In Maidstone, 92% of the cohort in the community committed no offences in the last 3 months. Between them they committed 33 offences before starting IOM and only 8 offences whilst on IOM.

It is clear from the information provided that IOM is a successful way of supporting the most prolific ex-offenders to change their lives.

6.3 Reducing Re-offending recommendations.

Reducing reoffending rates are key to the reduction of crime and thus fewer victims. In the borough it is considered a theme that spans across all of the other priorities. The recommendation is made that Reducing Reoffending continues as a cross cutting theme.

7. Local Profiles.

The police Local Profiles have been published for each CSP and for Maidstone highlight the following redacted points for the following topics:

- **CSE** - 5 CSE crimes or incidents have been recorded and 32 children at risk of CSE have been identified.
- **Gangs** – A number of London street gangs are associated with the area and drug networks, vulnerable people being exploited.
- **Organise Crime Groups** - There are 19 active OCGs in the West Kent division. The crime types associated with these groups is commonly drugs related which mirrors the local and national trend.
- **Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery** - There are links to some car washes, nail bars and brothels in the District linked to human trafficking via intelligence.
- **Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism** – Threat posed by individuals travelling through Kent ports raising funds for terrorism. Combating the threat from unlawful protest from extreme left and right wing groups.

8. Safeguarding (self-neglect & hoarding)

ASB cases relating to hoarding and self-neglect continue to play a part in the Community Safety & Vulnerabilities Group meetings in Maidstone. ASB was caused by the lack of care residents took over their properties which increased the levels of vermin in the areas they lived in. The SMP had coordinated many multi-agency case conferences to address the issues highlighted by self-neglect and hoarding. Partners involved in this process include adult social services, voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations with specialism relating to mental health, housing and health, environmental health/enforcement and the CSU.

The coordination of self-neglect cases has proved affective by enabling multiple agencies to support people in the community. This has reduced the environmental health issues and ensured that an ongoing plan is in place to support local residents. It has also lead to this process being embedded into agencies case management and is now business as usual.

A pilot project offering Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) to assist those who are presenting signs of hoarding that require a multi-agency approach is being launched in the borough and is explained further in the CSP Plan.

9. Mental Health

Approximately 75% of all cases discussed in the weekly community safety & vulnerabilities group meeting have a degree of mental health associated with them. This is also true of previous self-neglect & hoarding cases. Figures for Section 136 use in the borough (where an individual is sectioned for their own or others safety) have increased year on year for Maidstone and last year it was used 72 times. This is an **increase of 38%** over the previous 3 years. 2017/18 figures year to date already show 67 occurrences of Section 136 use, suggesting a forecast increase by April 2018.

Last year in Maidstone, mental health referrals for young adults were **down** by 10.9% to 1,232 and older adults saw a **rise** of 8.3% to 756.

There is a concerted effort taking place to avoid where possible those with mental health issues from being kept in police custody as a 'safe place' when their behaviour is causing concern. Pilots have commenced elsewhere in Kent for designated places for this use and more access to mental health professionals. A future evaluation will determine what provision suits best and can be rolled out across the rest of the county.

9.1 Mental Health recommendations.

Because of Mental Health issues being prevalent in so many topics and there being a continued rise in the use of Section 136, it is recommended that it continues to be an SMP priority.

10. Unlawful Encampments (UE's)

The last 12 months have seen a total of 12 unlawful encampments set up on Council owned land. Approximately 3 others have been reported that were on private land. A revised protocol and documents will be published by the end of the financial year 2017/18 and will see a wider range of enforcement options at our disposal, dependent on the threat and risk the UE's present to predominantly publically accessible land. Due to the swift reaction and enforcement times of Community Protection Officers, Maidstone borough has gained a positive reputation when dealing with unlawful encampments.

11. Environmental Crime

With the formulation of the CPT bringing together specialists from a wide range of subjects, we now include more data with regards to the amount and types of complaints and crimes investigated.

12. Recommendations to Safer Maidstone Partnership

Our priorities for this year have been extracted from a wide variety of information shared with our partners and represent the most important issues to focus on from this year. Based on the information in this Strategic Assessment, it is recommended that the Safer Maidstone Partnership confirm the following 2018/19 priorities:

- **Organised Crime Groups (including modern slavery);**
- **Gangs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);**
- **Substance Misuse;**
- **Domestic Abuse;**
- **Mental Health.**

These priorities have also been borne out by the scoring matrix used in 'MoRiLE' which ranked these priorities based on threat risk and harm to the public and organisations.

Prevent and Reducing Reoffending continue to be cross cutting themes alongside ASB. All the priorities will require a robust multi-agency response, but because they are important for residents and communities, achieving them will have a positive impact on people's quality of life.

13. How to get further information

If you would like further information about the Safer Maidstone Partnership, please contact: Community Protection Team, 6th Floor, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Tel: 01622 602000. www.maidstone.org.uk

Appendix 1

Information sources

The list below includes the details of those data sources used to inform this strategic assessment, including the agency supplying the data. All information was correct at time of document production.

Kent Community Safety Unit crime data – Safer Communities Web Portal

All data provided by the County CSU is using recorded crime data provided by the Business Information Unit at Kent Police. This data places the incidents at the time at which they were recorded by the Police.

Kent Police Intelligence Analysis data

Data provided by Kent Police is 'committed' data. The 'date' used is the midpoint between the earliest and latest dates that the offence could have been committed.

Other data sources

Data and information used in producing this Assessment has been provided, directly or otherwise, from the following organisations:

Association of Chief Police Officers
 Association of Police Authorities
 Association of Public Health Observatories (PHO's)
 Centra DA Services
 Change, Grow, Live (CGL)
 Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary
 Home Office
 IQuanta
 Kent Community Wardens
 Kent County Council
 Kent Police
 Maidstone Borough Council
 Maidstone Resident's Survey 2017
 National crime agency
 National Drug Treatment Monitoring System
 Nomis
 ONS Labour Market Statistics
 Public Health England

Appendix 2

KCC Community Warden case studies:

Case 1:

I received a call from the manager of a local club concerning a resident they were worried about. He had fallen at the club several weeks ago and hit his head on the floor. An ambulance was called and he received treatment but declined to go to hospital. Since then he has collapsed in Maidstone and was taken to hospital. He has also attended the local doctor's surgery.

While in hospital the resident missed his signing on appointment and his benefits were stopped. This has triggered a number of financial problems for him. A fellow club member has been assisting him but his memory has been affected which has caused further delays in rectifying the issues.

I attended the resident's home and with his permission liaised with his doctor's practice manager to ensure they were aware of people's concerns. Further medical referrals are under way.

I also liaised with CROP (Citizens Rights for Older People) on his behalf to arrange an advocate to support him with completing several forms related to housing benefit and banking and also in discussions with his Housing Association about rent arrears.

Concerns were also expressed about his ability to drive safely. When I spoke to him he had already decided to stop driving and stated that he wished to sell his car. I liaised with another club member who organised the purchase of his car.

I will continue to visit the resident and liaise with his friends at the club to ensure that he continues to receive the necessary support.

Case 2:

Mr A is in his early 90's and attends the Age UK Tea and Exercise club every Tuesday, and is a very fit gentleman. However on this occasion at the club he was doing the normal exercises and started feeling unwell. I was concerned for him so assisted him with First Aid at the club, he did start to feel better, but something told me that this situation wasn't right; I then suggested to him that I would like to visit him in his home. He agreed to this.

I did a visit to Mr & Mrs A; they live alone and have no children or family. The visit did in fact flag up a lot of concerns, it turns out that he is his wife's carer and his wife is his carer, (they are both in their 90's) however that week they both had, had a fall at home at the same time so neither of them could help each other and they couldn't get immediate help of Ambulance could neither of them could get to the phone, so it was a good few hours before the ambulance arrived.

Mrs A is registered partially blind due to Glaucoma.

After a lengthy chat with them both, I was able to establish that Social Services have been out to the property and fitted grab rails, hand grips and a stair rail, however they don't have lifeline services installed, I did explain about this service and how it would of helped them both following the fall earlier that week, he did confirm that he had arranged for this to be fitted in the week.

I also noticed that no smoke alarm was fitted in the chalet part of the bungalow, which I wasn't happy with – he said that he took it out as every time he showered the old smoke alarm would go off, I asked him if I could get Kent Fire and Rescue around to access the bungalow for Fire Safety – he agreed. KFR have been contacted to attend this property.

There will now be ongoing visits to the house, due to concerns for both of the couple's welfare.

Case 3:

I was contacted by a neighbour re Mr H (70+). On my visit I noticed how thin he was. I sat and chatted and advised Mr H to see a doctor. I spoke to the neighbour and was informed his has a daughter but she doesn't visit much and gave me her details to contact. I called the doctors and was told to get him there and they would put him at the front of the queue. I called and left a message for the daughter with these details.

I later received another call from the neighbour and did a joint visit with another warden. Once again I noticed his weight loss and offered to make him something to eat. We sat and chatted and informed Mr H we had a duty of care and informed him of the next action. I contact the doctors and requested a home visit and later that day done a joint visit with the doctor and straight away called an ambulance. I again left a message for the daughter to contact the hospital regarding her father.

When I returned from annual leave I contacted the hospital to see how Mr H was doing and this wasn't good news. They asked me if he had any next of kin and I was surprised to find that no contact on the past 10 days to the hospital had been made. I said I would again contact the daughter and inform her. I again spoke to the neighbour and was given information regarding her work place.

I made contact and was able to inform her regarding her father. She said she didn't know and hadn't received any messages because she doesn't use the house phone. Detail were given and a direct number to the hospital. I later received a call thanking me for the help and advice. Mr H has cancer and was very ill. He is now in hospital and the family are aware. I informed Golding Homes regarding this matter.

Priority Target Achieved:
Working in partnership,
Housing Association.
Doctors
Golding Homes
NHS

Appendix 3

Methodology Notes:

SPC Charts Explained

Statistical Process Control (SPC) Charts are a tool used by Kent Police to help identify whether there has been any significant improvements or deteriorations in a particular crime type.

When a category is stable and in control, the data will appear within a set of predicted limits based on past knowledge and experience. Although there will be some natural variation around the average (*also known as common cause variation*) as long as the figures remain within the control limits there has been no significant changes to what was anticipated.

If the category was unstable and displayed uncontrolled variation (*also known as special cause variation*), the data would not follow a predicted pattern and would indicate that something had changed and action might be required.

Natural variation indicates that any change from month-to-month is expected, e.g. the time you come to work every day varies by a few minutes around an average, however if there was an accident on the road then the time taken to come to work would be significantly longer, this would be unnatural variation indicating that something has gone awry.

SPC charts are generated based on historical data to produce the following:

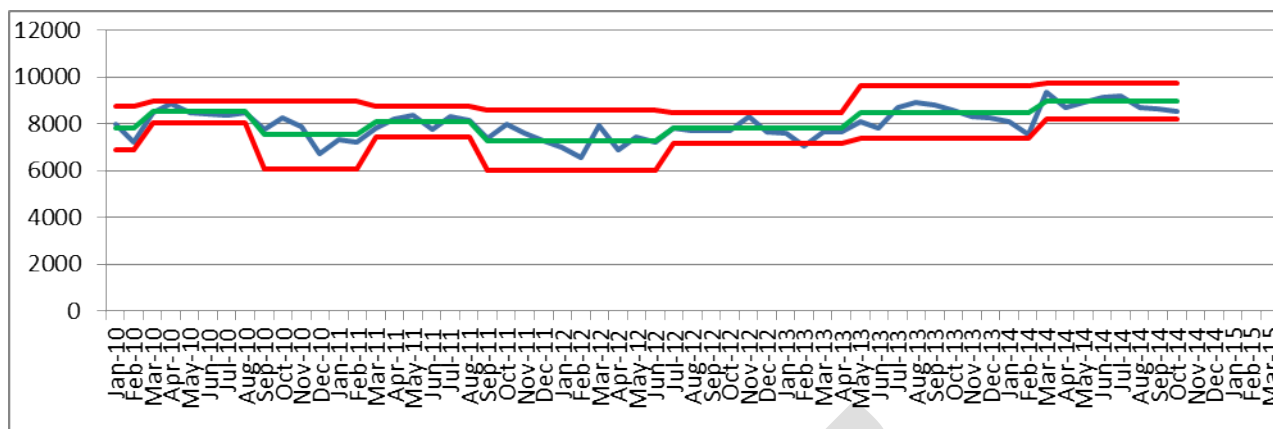
- The Centre Line (CL) which is the average no. of recorded crimes / incidents
- The Upper (UCL) and Lower Control Limits (LCL) which are the limits of natural variation

Any result above the UCL suggests that there may be a problem. In addition, other indications that a category is out of statistical control includes when several results in a row are above the CL or when several results in a row show an increasing trend.

If the figures are consistently below the CL this indicates an improvement and will result in the centre line and the control limits being lowered, often referred to as a 'step change'. Similarly if the figures for a specific category rise due possibly to an increase in activity; a revision to the data (i.e. back-record conversion); or possibly a change in what is recorded within each category then the CL and control limits may need to be raised.

NB. If the control limits are closer together this indicates a low level of variation around the average and shows that the category is in control, a wider gap between the limits indicates greater variation and less control.

Example of a Kent Police SPC Chart:



Appendix 3

MoRiLE:

The Kent Community Safety Unit has explored the use of the MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) scoring matrix to look at ranking offences based on threat, risk and harm. Maidstone Borough Council and others in Kent have again incorporated this methodology within this year's Strategic Assessment.

The ideology behind MoRiLE is that it targets resources at offences that would have the biggest impact on individuals and organisations/areas. This is in contrast to concentrating solely on crime figure tables which can sometimes provide a skewed view on threats and risk based only on the frequency/volume of crimes.

Each thematic crime area is scored individually against various criteria. There is then a formula that calculates a final score. These are then ranked high to low, listing priorities based on threat, risk & harm which can then contribute to the SMP's final recommendation of priorities.

Serious Organised Crime Local Profiles:

Aims:

- To develop a common understanding among local partners of the threats, vulnerabilities and risks relating to serious and organised crime.
- To provide information on which to base local programmes and action plans.
- To support the mainstreaming of serious and organised crime activity into day-to-day policing, local government and partnership work.
- To allow a targeted and proportionate use of resources.

Purpose:

- Local Profiles should inform local multi-agency partnerships, in particular police and crime commissioners, policing teams, local authorities and other relevant partners (such as education, health and social care and Immigration Enforcement); of the threat from serious and organised crime and the impact it is having on local communities.

What do we do with the Local Profile?

- The profile outlines key serious and organised crime issues within your district and provides information on what the offences are, what to look for and recognised serious and organised crime within your community and what to do if you see or suspect anything. This allows us all to PREVENT young people and vulnerable adults from becoming involved in crime and helping to protect and safeguard those that may already be involved through identifying and working together.

Appendix 4

Acronym Glossary:

ASB = Anti-Social Behaviour

BOTD = Burglary Other Than Dwelling

CCG = Clinical Commissioning Group

CDAP = Community Domestic Abuse Programme

CDRP = Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

CGL = Change, Grow, Live

CPT = Community Protection Team

CSA = Community Safety Agreement

CSE = Child Sexual Exploitation

CSP = Community Safety Partnership

CSU = Community Safety Unit

DA = Domestic Abuse

HMIC = Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary

IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

IOM = Integrated Offender Management

JSNA = Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

KCC = Kent County Council

KFRS = Kent Fire & Rescue Service

KSSCRC = Kent Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company

MARAC = Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MBC = Maidstone Borough Council

MOJ = Ministry Of Justice

MoRiLE = Management of Risk in Law Enforcement

MSG = Most Similar Groups

NPS = National Probation Service or New Psychoactive Substances depending on context

NTE = Night Time Economy

OCG = Organised Crime Group

V3. 25/01/18 Nic Rathbone

PCC = Police & Crime Commissioner

PS = Psychoactive Substances

SMP = Safer Maidstone Partnership

SOC = Serious Organised Crime

SPC = Statistical Process Charts

UE = Unlawful Encampments

VATP = Violence Against The Person

VCS = Voluntary & Community Services

Appendix 5

Maidstone Crime Survey 2017 – Community Safety Questions

In 2017 the Council carried out its biennial Resident Survey which included questions on Community Safety. A summary of what the data from these questions tells us is outlined below. More information on the resident survey results is available on our [website](#).

About the survey

The consultation was undertaken between the 21st June and 20th August 2017 and involved a direct mailing to 6,100 randomly selected households, a direct email to the consultation mailing list as well as being promoted online, through social media and at roadshows around the borough. A total of 2,350 people responded.

The survey was open to all Maidstone Borough residents aged 18 years and over. Data has been weighted according to the known population profile to counteract non-response bias (weighting was applied to 2008 responses where both questions on gender and age were answered). It should also be noted that respondents from BME backgrounds are slightly under-represented at 4.1% compared 5.9% in the local area. Residents aged 18 to 24 years were also under-represented but to a greater extent therefore the results for this group are not discussed.

The overall results in this report are accurate to $\pm 2.0\%$ at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% certain that the results are between $\pm 2.0\%$ of the calculated response, so the 'true' response could be 2.0% above or below the figures reported (i.e. a 50% agreement rate could in reality lie within the range of 48% to 52%). Therefore this section only looks at variation greater than 8%.

The Council uses the customer segmentation tool Acorn to create customer profiles. This allows us to classify households using postcode data into categories and gain greater understanding about the behaviours, attitudes and characteristics of our communities.

Safety in the Home

The survey showed that 93% of residents feel safe in their own home, when we assessed the different demographic groups the data showed respondents from BME backgrounds were more likely to feel unsafe in their own homes than respondents from white backgrounds. Respondents with a disability had greatest proportion that has no strong views either way with 9.2% (29 respondents) selecting this answer.

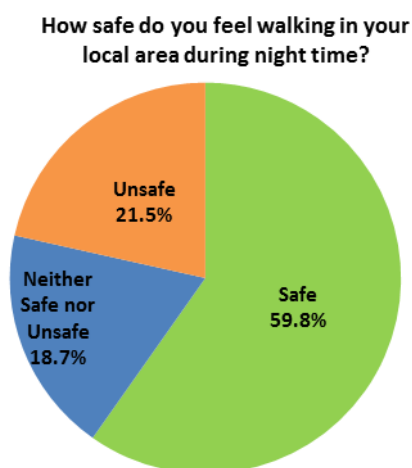
Safety walking during the day-time

Respondents were also asked how safe they feel walking in their local area during day-time and night time. Overall, 94% said they feel safe walking in their local area in the daylight, within this figure; 53% responded that they feel very safe.

There is a 10.6% difference in the number of Very and Fairly Safe responses from respondents from white backgrounds and those from BME backgrounds. While the proportion answering negatively are not significantly different, respondents from BME backgrounds were three time more likely to have no strong opinion either way.

In terms of age, the 35 to 34 years group had the greatest proportion responding negatively (Unsafe and Very unsafe) at 4.4% (14 respondents), interestingly this is only made up of respondents answering unsafe as there were no respondents in this group who said they were very unsafe.

Safety walking during the night time



Overall, 59.8% of respondents said they feel very or fairly safe walking in their local area in the night time, just over one in five (21.5%) respondents said they feel unsafe or very unsafe. Across the different demographic groups there were some significant variations.

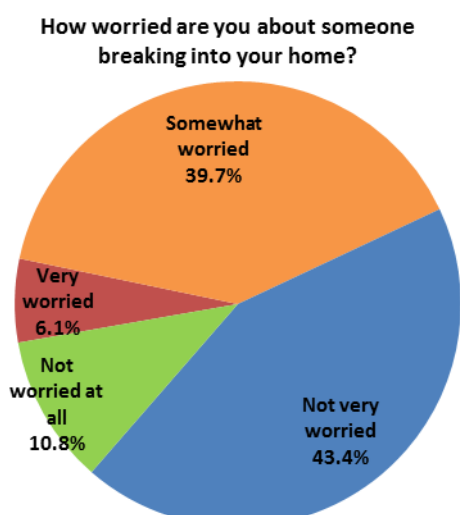
Male respondents had the greatest proportion responding that they feel very or fairly safe at 68.6% and significantly greater than women by 17.5%.

Respondents with a disability had the greatest proportion responding unsafe and very unsafe with one in three (33.3%) in the group selecting these answers. There was also a difference of 19.1% of the proportion responding that they feel

safe between those with a disability and those without a disability, those with a disability were more likely to feel unsafe.

There was also a 22.1% difference between respondents from BME backgrounds when compared to respondents from white backgrounds, with those from BME backgrounds more likely to feel unsafe than those from white backgrounds.

Customer profile shows that the residents who feel unsafe are more likely than average Maidstone resident to live in small flats or terraced properties that are privately rented and have a household income of less than £40,000. Single person households were also over-represented in this group which could contribute to lower feeling of safety at night.



The customer profile for people that responded safe or very safe to this questions shows they are more likely than average to live in detached properties with three or more bedrooms, either owned outright or with a mortgage. Households with three or more people are over-represented in this group as are those with household incomes in excess of £60,000.

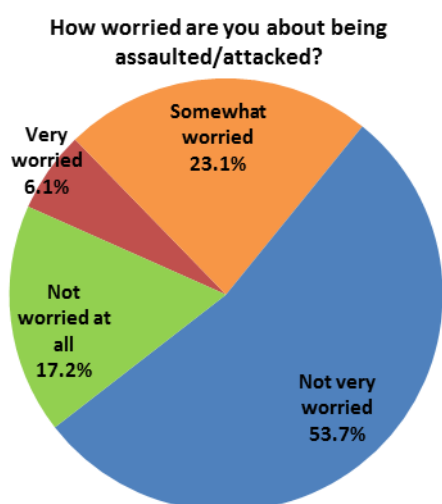
Crime specific concerns

The resident survey also asked people how worried they were about particular crimes affecting them.

45.8% of respondents say they are very or somewhat worried about someone breaking into their home. There was only one significant difference in response levels across the different demographic groups: respondents with a disability were 12% more likely than those without a disability to say they feel very or somewhat worried about somebody breaking into their home.

Customer profiling shows that those who responded they are worried about someone breaking into their home are more likely than the average Maidstone resident to own their own home either outright or with a mortgage, they tend to have household incomes in excess of £40,000 and are likely to have continued their education after 16 years. The self-employed were over-represented in this group.

Those who responded that they are not very worried or not worried at all about having their house broken into had a similar customer profile to those that responded very or somewhat worried. However, this group were slightly more likely to have children in the household and slightly less likely to be self-employed.

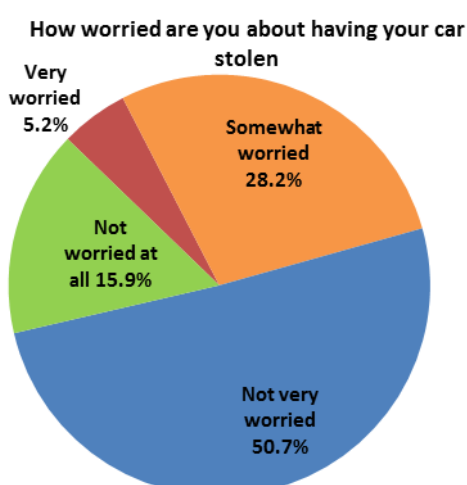


When asked about how worried they were about being attacked or assaulted 29.2% of respondents said they were very or somewhat worried about being assaulted or attacked, and 70.8% said they were not very worried or not worried at all.

Across the different demographic groups there was a significant difference in the response levels of those with a disability and those without a disability. Those with a disability were more likely to respond very worried or somewhat worried, with more than two in five responding this way compared to just under one in four for those without a disability.

There was also a 12.4% difference between men and women responding very or somewhat worried, with women being more likely to be worried than men.

The customer profile for residents who responded very or somewhat worried shows people in this group are more likely than the average Maidstone resident to live in a flat or terraced property that is privately rented. Students and single person (non-pensioner) households are over-represented and people aged over 50 years are under-represented. This group is more likely than average to have a household income of less than £60,000 and may have had difficulty accessing credit in the past.



The profile for those that responded not very worried or not worried at all shows people in this group are more likely than average to have a household income in excess of £40,000, reside in a detached property that is owned outright or with a mortgage. Those that undertook higher education are slightly over-represented.

In the Resident Survey one in three respondents (33.4%) are worried about their car being stolen.

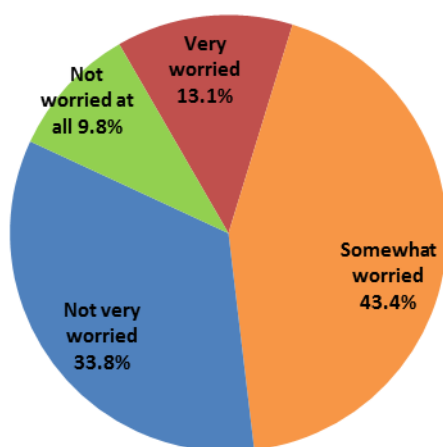
Respondents with a disability had the greatest proportion saying they are very or somewhat worried about having their car stolen at 50.0%. There is a difference of 20.9% between this group and those without a disability.

There was also a difference of 8% in the proportion of people who were worried about have their car stolen between those that were economically active and those that were economically inactive, the economically inactive were more worried than the economically active counterparts.

The customer profile for the people that responded very or somewhat worried shows that 82% of this group have at least one car in the household with 35% having two or more cars in the household. The majority of this group this group are in employment with slightly higher levels of employment in public sector and professional roles and self-employment. 70% own their home outright or with a mortgage.

Those that said they were not very worried or not worried at all as a group has a similar level of car ownership at 84%, with 38% having two or more cars in the household. However, this group are 20% more likely to own a luxury or executive car than the average Maidstone resident. Both profiles show that these groups have an marginally higher than average likelihood of driving to work but those that said they were not worried about car theft were more likely to take the train or work from home than those who said they were worried about having their car stolen.

How worried are you about being the victim of fraud or identity theft



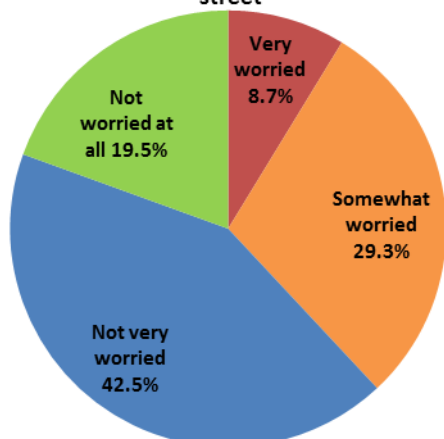
Overall, 56.4% of respondents are very or somewhat worried about being the victim of fraud or identity theft.

There is a significant difference between the levels of worry between the economically active and the economically inactive, with a gap of 11%. Those who are economically inactive have a greater proportion of people saying they are very or somewhat worried.

There is also a significant difference in the worry levels of those with a disability and those without, an 18.2% gap, a greater proportion of those with a disability were worried about being the victim of fraud or identity theft than those without a disability.

There were no significant differences in the customer profiles between those who said they were very or somewhat worried about being the victim of fraud or identity theft and who responded not very worried and not worried at all.

How worried are you about being pestered or insulted while in a public place or on the street



Overall, 38.0% of respondents are very or somewhat worried about being pestered or insulted while in a public place or in the street.

The data shows a significant difference in the response levels between respondents from white backgrounds and those from BME backgrounds. Those from BME backgrounds had a greater proportion responding that they are worried about

being pestered or insulted while in a public place, by 14.2%, when compared to the response level of people from white backgrounds.

The data also suggests that women are more worried about being pestered or insulted in public than men.

The customer profiles for those worried about being pestered or insulted while in public and those who were not worried about this show those that said they were worried are likely to be younger (35 to 49 years) than those who said they were not worried (50 to 64 years).

Those that were worried are more likely than average to live in privately rented accommodation and those that were not worried are more likely than average to own their property outright or with a mortgage. Those who were not worried were also more likely than average to be educated to degree level.

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