

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD

1 April 2014

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 OVERVIEW OF THE TONBRIDGE & MALLING COMMUNITY SAFETY DEVELOPMENT

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 The Community Safety Unit (CSU) was established in 2011 to improve the quality of life for the residents of Tonbridge & Malling by pulling together organisations involved in helping people feel safer, such as the Police, Borough Council and KCC Community Wardens. Reports of anti-social behaviour and crime are discussed regularly and actions put into place to resolve these issues.

1.1.2 Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council officers within Community Safety are:

Licensing and Community Safety Manager;

Safer and Stronger Communities Manager;

Community Safety Assistant;

Safer Towns Coordinator; and

Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

1.1.3 Daily briefing telephone conference calls are held linking the CSU with Tonbridge Police station and other partners (such as Russet Homes, Moat). At this meeting we discuss all reports of anti-social behaviour that have come in to the police and key crime issues. Actions are put into place to resolve the issues and these are followed up at the next meeting. Since starting, the CSU has dealt with over 1,100 incidents.

1.1.4 Much of the work of the CSU involves dealing with anti-social behaviour and the police work closely with the Council's Anti-social behaviour officer to tackle those committing the offences.

1.1.5 Staff also deal with calls directly from residents regarding neighbour nuisance, vandalism and rowdy behaviour.

Kent Police staffing at the CSU

- 1.1.6 Currently the Community Safety Unit is based in Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's offices in Kings Hill. It consists of the Council's Community Safety Team, six Police officers and partners, including Kent County Council wardens, Youth Workers and KCC Trading Standards. Representatives from other areas of the Council and Partnership also attend daily meetings.
- 1.1.7 The new Chief Constable, Alan Pughsley, took up his post on 4th January 2014. Prior to this appointment he was Kent's Deputy Chief Constable which is a post he has held since 2011.
- 1.1.8 From June 24 2014 will see the launch of Community Safety Delivery in Kent with the reorganising of Kent Police. Each of the 13 districts will have a Chief Inspector focusing resources locally. The Emergency response vehicles which currently run across Kent will also operate within local areas.
- 1.1.9 Each CSU will have 3 Sergeants and four Police Officers with the PCSO's and Special Constables also working out of the CSU.

Tackling anti-social behaviour

- 1.1.10 Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can cause disturbance to communities and distress to individuals. Examples of ASB can include neighbour nuisance, verbal abuse or threats, groups of youths causing problems and vehicle related nuisance.
- 1.1.11 ASB calls can be made to the police (via 101 or 999) and also to the Borough Council's ASB officer. The Police and Borough Council deal with both victims of ASB and those committing the offences. Persistent offenders are discussed at a monthly Tasking meeting, chaired by the Borough Council's ASB Officer. At this meeting actions are taken to try and stop the behaviour of the offenders. These actions can include visiting the offenders, issuing warning letters or Acceptable Behaviour Agreements. Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are only applied for once all other actions have been tried and have failed to stop the behaviour. Currently there are only four ASBOs in place for the borough.
- 1.1.12 Reports from victims are investigated where appropriate and any vulnerable or repeat victims are discussed in the daily briefing meeting, where actions are taken to resolve the issues being experienced. By helping victims and working with offenders the CSU aims to make residents feel safer.

Kent Community Alcohol Programme (KCAP)

- 1.1.13 The Community Safety Partnership has launched a Kent Community Alcohol Programme (KCAP) in Snodland. This is a partnership between KCC Trading Standards, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Kent Police, Snodland Town Council, local organisations and the retailers aimed at reducing incidents of

underage drinking, informing licenced premises about underage sales and working with parents and residents to inform them about safe, sensible drinking.

- 1.1.14 The KCAP will involve Trading Standards undertaking random test purchases, youth organisations will work with the young people to inform them about the dangers of drinking and a parents event will be arranged to inform parents of the law around children drinking alcohol.

Alcohol Control Zones

- 1.1.15 Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council have “Alcohol Control Zones” in the borough giving police new powers to tackle drink related anti-social behaviour in public places. These zones have been established in West Malling, Borough Green, Wrotham, Platt and Leybourne. The existing zone in Snodland has been extended.

- 1.1.16 The areas to be covered by the alcohol control zones are:

Borough Green & Platt;

Leybourne;

Snodland;

Tonbridge;

West Malling; and

Wrotham.

- 1.1.17 The legislation does not ban responsible adults from drinking alcohol in public places but it will help to prevent problems arising from drink related anti-social behaviour. The police have the powers to stop a person drinking in a public place if asked to do so, confiscate alcohol from anyone causing problems and to arrest anyone who, without reasonable excuse, fails to stop drinking or surrender alcohol when requested.

- 1.1.18 The Alcohol Control Zones will change and be incorporated into the new The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act within a “Public space protection order”.

Community Safety operational activities for 2013/14

- 1.1.19 The key priorities for 2013/14 are anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and substance misuse (drugs and alcohol).

- 1.1.20 The Borough Council’s Anti-social behaviour (ASB) Officer, the Russet Homes ASB Officer and the Police visited individuals causing this anti-social behaviour in their own homes and warned them about their behaviour.

1.1.21 They were also able to work with KCC Integrated Youth Services to provide diversionary activities. This work led to a reduction in ASB within East Malling.

Meetings

Meeting	Frequency	Chaired by
Community Safety Advisory Board	Twice a year	Cllr Roger Dalton
Community Safety Partnership	Twice a year	Cllr Mark Rhodes
Tasking & Co-ordinating Sub-Group	Quarterly	Kent Police
ASB Working Group	Quarterly	Russet
Domestic Abuse Working Group	Quarterly	Kent Police
Substance Misuse Working Group	Quarterly	KDAAT
Weekly CSU Meeting	Weekly	Kent Police
Daily CSU Meeting	Daily	Kent Police
Snodland KCAP	Every 2 Months	TMBC

1.2 Funding

1.2.1 Funding for 2013-14

Income

Organisation	Amount
Police & Crime Commissioner	£34,836
TMBC	£42,000
Kent Fire & Rescue	£2,000
Carry Forward	£15,850
Russet	£10,000

Funding

Organisation	Amount
DA Services	£10,000
Kenward Trust	£15,000
Maidstone Mediation	£1,370
CDAP - (Male perpetrator scheme)	£2,880
ISVA (Independent Sexual Violent Advisor)	£1,000
Y2 Crew (Youth Diversion)	£3,500

Organisation	Amount
Race Lines	£240
Community Development Projects	£10,000
IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors)	£12,200
Mental Health	£10,800
Freedom Programme	£1,000
Miss (Purse chains alarms)	£2,117
Kent Peoples Trust Donation	£500
WASTED programme (Theatre ADAD)	£2,000

1.2.2 Police & Crime Commissioner Funding

Ann Barnes, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner has confirmed the funding for TMBC for the next three years:

Year	Amount
2013-14	34,836
2014-15	28,988
2015-16	27,974
2016-17	26,995

Funding for 2013 – 2017

1.2.3 Knowing the funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for the next three years enables the Community Safety Partnership to allocate funding for the different organisations 2014-15.

1.2.4 The funding for 2015-16 and 2016-17 will be allocated dependent on the Community Safety Partnership priorities.

Community Safety Partnership priorities for 2014/15

1.2.5 For 2014/15 the Community Safety Partnership will tackle and reduce incidents of:

- anti-social behaviour;
- domestic abuse; and
- substance misuse (drugs and alcohol).

1.3 Tonbridge & Malling Safer Towns

- 1.3.1 The Tonbridge & Malling Safer Town's Partnership has been established as a stand-alone scheme for three years and consists of businesses who rent a radio which is linked to other businesses, the CCTV Control Room, the Safer Town's Co-ordinator and the police. They also share information about criminals and can ban persistent offenders from their premises.
- 1.3.2 At present, there is one scheme in the borough located in Tonbridge town centre and there are approximately 45 shops and pubs signed up to the scheme. Each of these businesses rents at least one radio.
- 1.3.3 The Partnership employs (through the Borough Council) a Safer Town's Co-ordinator, who is based in the Community Safety Unit at the Borough Council offices. The Partnership generates income through the rental of the radios. The Partnership also has some reserves in its bank account to cover any expenses such as radio breakdown and/or call out charges.
- 1.3.4 There is a Board of Management (BOM) which acts as governance which is made up of three principle members (chairperson/vice, treasurer and secretary). The BOM has responsibility and accountability for the management and operation of the partnership and for all data protection matters.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 The responsible authorities – the police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, Clinical Commissioning Group and Probation, - set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation are under a duty to formulate and implement a strategy to tackle crime and disorder in their areas.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 No financial issues to consider

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 The Council can effectively help to control anti-social behaviour by using the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and subsequent legislation, which contains a variety of measures to protect the public, including from anti-social behaviour. Without using the powers under this Act will encourage the potential growth of anti-social behaviour.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 Members are asked to note this report

Background papers:
 TMBC Key Priorities
 Strategic Assessment 2013

contact: Anthony Garnett
 Alison Finch

Julie Beilby
 Chief Executive

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is the point of reference for all different groups in the community and Responsible Authorities when dealing with anti-social behaviour issues
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.