

Agenda

Community Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 9 January 2024

Time 7.00 pm

Venue: Committee Room, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT*

Membership:

Councillors Shelley Cheesman, Elliott Jayes (Vice-Chair), Mark Last, Peter Macdonald, Claire Martin, Lee-Anne Moore, Pete Neal, Tara Noe, Tom Nundy, Richard Palmer (Chair), Hannah Perkin, Ashley Shiel, Terry Thompson, Karen Watson and Tony Winckless.

Quorum = 5

Pages

Information about this meeting

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 - (d) Anyone unable to use the stairs should make themselves known during this agenda item.
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 31 October 2023 (Minute Nos. 384 – 392) as a correct record.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families or friends.

The Chair will ask Members if they have any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or disclosable non-pecuniary interests (DNPIs) to declare in respect of items on the agenda. Members with a DPI in an item must leave the room for that item and may not participate in the debate or vote.

Aside from disclosable interests, where a fair-minded and informed observer would think there was a real possibility that a Member might be biased or predetermined on an item, the Member should declare this and leave the room while that item is considered.

Members who are in any doubt about interests, bias or predetermination should contact the monitoring officer for advice prior to the meeting.

Part B reports for the Community Committee to decide

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 5. | Leisure Centre Options - Progress report on the Member Working Group | 5 - 14 |
| 6. | Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) - update on further sports recommendations | 15 - 26 |
| 7. | Community Safety Priority Setting Consultation | 27 - 44 |
| 8. | Forward Decisions Plan | 45 - 46 |

Issued on Wednesday, 20 December 2023

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in alternative formats. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, please contact **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES** at democraticservices@swale.gov.uk To find out more about the work of this meeting, please visit www.swale.gov.uk

**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**

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Community Committee	
Meeting Date	6 January 2024
Report Title	Leisure Centre – Progress report on the Member Working Group
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Jay Jenkins, Leisure & Technical Services Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members are asked to agree the Vision, Aims and Outcomes in appendix I. 2. Members are asked to agree the continued work programme and timescales in appendix II.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is to update the Community Committee on the Future Leisure Options work that has been undertaken to date by the members working group.

2 Background

- 2.1 The existing leisure contract (covering Swallows & Sheppey sites) is due to expire on 31 March 2025. Faversham Pools Trust has a long-term lease which is linked to an annual grant agreement.
- 2.2 The initial fifteen-year Leisure Centre management contract with Swale Community Leisure (SCL) & Serco Leisure was due to end in September 2019, but due to uncertainty in the leisure market and further investigations needed on facility investments, the contract was subsequently extended by 5 years and 5 months (to bring it in line with SBC’s financial year). The pandemic created massive disruption to the leisure market and has only just started to recover. Therefore, now is the time to restart the work to look at future options.
- 2.3 The working group have met on five occasions and have prepared a draft vision, a set of four ambitions and four outcomes. See Appendix I.
- 2.4 The working group have considered and discussed several key areas at each meeting, full details are attached at Appendix II, but this included the pros and cons of a range of different operating models, potential short and long term options, facility improvements and potential funding sources.
- 2.5 The working group has considered 6 possible options which are detailed at Appendix III.

- 2.6 Options 1 (cease the service) and 2 (lease out the facilities) were discussed in detail but members felt that neither were options to be considered at this time. As can be seen by the draft vision and outcomes, Members recognised the benefits of the leisure service and therefore did not want officers to work up closure as an option. A new service may be able to deliver budget savings whilst adapting the offer to what residents want. Leasing out the facilities transfers long term direction of the service to a third party with very little influence on how the centres are run retained. Members wanted to maintain control of how the service operates.
- 2.7 Discussions have taken place with the co-chairs of Faversham Pools. They have agreed to take the principle of the Pools being included in the chosen operating model to a Trustee Board meeting on the 8th January 2024, and will write updating the Council shortly afterwards.
- 2.8 Members also discussed whether a short-term option (1–2 year extension) would enable a wider, full procurement process to be undertaken by officers, given the need to fully analyse the recovery from the pandemic closures and facility investment requirements.
- 2.9 A decision is then required on which long term option(s) should be worked up by officers, with support of the consultants. This will be debated by the Committee in March 2024.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree the Vision, Aims and Outcomes in appendix I.
- 3.2 Members are asked to agree the continued work programme and timescales in appendix II.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 To not continue with a Leisure Options working group. This is not recommended as it is a key service for the community and there needs to be time to work through the options before the contract expiry date. Failure to do so would leave us without a leisure centre service.
- 4.2 To reject or amend the draft vision, aims and outcomes – this is not recommended as the Member working group is cross party and all groups therefore had an input in them.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with a range of key leisure stakeholders, including Swale Community Leisure, Serco Leisure Ltd & Faversham Pools Trust.

- 5.2 In addition, Strategic Leisure has undertaken a soft market testing consultation with the main operators in the industry to help inform current thinking about any future opportunities in Swale.
- 5.3 Once Members confirm the options that we will look at, public consultation will be required to help understand what residents want provided within the leisure service.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The new Corporate Plan is currently being developed. The existing Corporate Plan identifies the importance of health and wellbeing on our communities. Under Priority 3 objective 5 states 'Promote wellbeing and enjoyment of life by signposting and encouraging a wide range of sporting, cultural and other leisure activities appropriate and accessible to each age group.'
Financial, Resource and Property	<p>The leisure service is a considerable cost to overall Council budget (circa £580,000 in 2022-23). The working group need to consider which options can contribute to reducing the cost of the service. The estimated cost for the current financial year is £630,672.</p> <p>As well as annual running costs, the future investment requirements are a key consideration as the buildings are all circa 30 years old. Initial discussions have been held with Active Kent and Medway and Sport England on potential funding routes.</p>
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	The route to deliver the Leisure Service is dependent upon the decisions of the working group but will require procurement/legal intervention throughout 2024.
Crime and Disorder	None identified.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	Any investment in the buildings need to consider reducing the carbon footprint of the service, due to their high energy usage.
Health and Wellbeing	Healthy & Wellbeing is a key output of any Leisure contract. Social impact outcomes are directly linked to the Borough's ability to offer a suitable and easily assessable leisure offering
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified.

Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified.
Equality and Diversity	Links with disability and mental health provision in the borough and a community impact assessment
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix I - Draft vision, ambitions, and outcomes.
- 7.2 Appendix II - Working Group Meetings Agenda Items.
- 7.3 Appendix III - High-Level long-term options.

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 [Leisure Options Working Group - Community Committee 31 October 2023](#)
- 8.2 [Leisure Options Working Group - Terms of Reference](#)

Our Vision

For Swale to be a borough where health inequalities reduce because more people are physically active. We will work collaboratively to develop and deliver inclusive and accessible indoor and outdoor environments which make it easier for all residents to be more physically active, more often, in good quality places and spaces.

Our Shared Ambitions are:

- To target our available resources where they will have most impact in changing lifestyle behaviours and improving quality of life
- Ensuring every resident in the borough has the opportunity to learn to swim
- To reduce long-standing health inequalities by tackling mental ill-health, diabetes, and obesity through increasing regular levels of physical activity
- To develop co-located health and wellbeing hubs, with physical activity at their core

The Outcomes we want to deliver are:

- Improved community health and well-being
- Extended partnerships with education, health and the voluntary and private sectors
- Opportunities for commissioned physical activity services
- Physical activity facilities and services which are cost neutral

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Appendix II

Leisure Options 2023 - Members Working Group

Previous Meetings

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
Meeting 1 10 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terms of Reference• Summary of current contract• Strategic outcomes for a Leisure Service• Update on the recent soft market testing• A high-level look at the long term options - what are the considerations/implications on each option
Meeting 2 7 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terms of Reference Feedback• Feedback on Strategic Outcomes• Review of Data Sets• Short Term Options
Meeting 3 20 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VAT Implications• Operating Models<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Management Agreement○ In House○ LATCO○ Outsourced
Meeting 4 5 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portfolio Scope• Specification Development• Capital Development
Meeting 5 18 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial Modelling of different operating models

Future Meetings

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
Meeting 6 TBC January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap on items covered• Short term options detailed consideration
Meeting 7 TBC February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback from each Group on their position
Community Committee 6 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report to agree way forward

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Appendix III - High Level long term options considered

	Option	Comments
1	Cease service.	This would be letting the current contract for Swallows and Sheppey run its course and not reopening the centres from 1 st April 2025. Consideration needs to be given to Levelling Up Fund investment in Sheppey and recent expenditure at Swallows. It also would not meet identified local needs for physical activity and sport
2	Lease out facilities.	This option would see us relinquish control over their operation and match the arrangement as with Faversham Pools Trust. This could be done with Trusts, operators or Town Councils (not in the case of Swallows).
3	Deliver the Status Quo – contract out.	This would be about maintaining the existing offer of managing the two sites under a new contract. Ability to make changes and refocus the service for new strategic outcomes during a tender process.
4	Change the operating model.	As per option 3, keep the focus just on the two existing sites but via an alternative delivery method such as in-house/LATCo.
5	Upgrade some or all facilities – and then proceed with option 3 or 4.	Considerable investment is required to bring all facilities up to specification, which will then drive the commercial opportunities for the service and help meet other priorities such as reduced carbon footprint/increased resident participation etc. The need for at least some capital investment could be included in the procurement process.
6	Include Faversham Pools in a combined Leisure Service.	This is not within the gift of SBC. A Board decision would be required by Faversham Pools Trust and potentially sign off from the Charities Commission. The option to include Faversham Pools makes it a potentially more attractive offer for leisure operators and provides an opportunity to place the Pools on a firmer financial footing. The inclusion of the Pools offers the potential for economies of scale which could in turn generate capital investment.

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Community Committee	
Meeting Date	9 January 2024
Report Title	Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) – further sports recommendations
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Jay Jenkins, Leisure & Technical Services Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. Members to discuss the content of the report and agree that the draft recommendations for the four sports are sent forward for review by key stakeholders as the next stage of the Sport England process.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks Committee approval for the draft recommendations for football, netball, bowls and tennis as part of the new Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for a period in line with the Local Plan.
- 1.2 The Strategy work was undertaken by independent consultants (Strategic Leisure) and uses the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and mapping that underpins the study to set direction and determine priorities for future provision. The Strategy provides an assessment of the current supply and demand of playing pitches within the Borough.
- 1.3 The strategy analyses the Borough’s sports pitches in terms of quantity, quality, and accessibility. It considers pitches that are available for public use provided by the Council and other organisations. It also sets out the Council’s intended approach with partners, and the priorities for ensuring there is sufficient provision to meet current and future demand.
- 1.4 The process follows Sport England guidance and is supported by National Governing Bodies of Sport. This helps to provide robust evidence for supporting the Swale Local Plan.
- 1.5 The document recognises the balance needed between setting priorities for action and the pressure on budgets in the public sector. It therefore identifies the need for a partnership approach with Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport, schools, local clubs, and private facility operators, to enable delivery of the action plan as resources allow.

- 1.6 The findings are based on a technical assessment which pulled together the baseline data that the recommendations are informed by. This included physical visits to sites, consultation with site owners, and consultation with users.

2 Background

- 2.1 The existing Swale PPS expires in 2023. The new strategy will cover the period in line with the Local Plan. We have received an initial draft and an overview of the report but as yet have not agreed a final version.
- 2.2 In order to ensure there are sufficient pitches and ancillary facilities such as changing rooms and social facilities, the Council has worked with external consultants to analyse the currently available provision and develop a series of recommendations to ensure unmet and future demand can be met cost effectively.
- 2.3 Following the review process the final document will inform the Borough's Local Plan (a requirement of the Local Plan process is to provide robust evidence base for decisions) and will help to ensure that appropriate contributions are made by developers, and suggested levels of provision are maintained.
- 2.4 Whilst the Council have undertaken this work, it recognises that we are not the sole provider of sports facilities, and so the Strategy suggests a partnership approach, making sure wider organisations understand the role they can play. Stakeholder meetings with the relevant operators and governing bodies will be held to help deliver the actions.
- 2.5 It was also important to note the tough budgetary position of public sector organisations. The document therefore regularly refers to the need to look at all options for investment, balancing out Swale BC expenditure with external income from grants and developer contributions.
- 2.6 The recommendations set out which sites/sports are a priority and provides guidance for how improvements could be made should the resources become available.
- 2.7 It is important that Sport England sign-off the document as this will ensure the sports sections in the Local Plan are supported in the Local Plan approval process. It will also ensure that the Strategy can be used for decisions in planning applications and developer contribution negotiations.
- 2.8 Members approved the recommendations for Rugby, Hockey and Cricket at the previous Community Committee on 31 October 2023. This report brings the remaining sports for approval prior to the overall Strategy being sent to Sport England for its views. The final Strategy will then come back to the Committee in March for final approval.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Members to discuss the content of the report and agree that the draft recommendations for the four sports are sent forward for review by key stakeholders as the next stage of the Sport England process.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 To not proceed with any further work on the PPS. Failure to adopt a Playing Pitch Strategy would severely limit the ability of the Council to gain developer contributions and national funding to support the development and delivery of playing pitch provision in the Borough, and so is not recommended.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Targeted consultation as part of the audit was undertaken with facility providers, clubs, schools, appropriate National Governing Bodies of Sport, Sport England.
- 5.2 The Strategy and individual sports recommendations will go forward to Sport England and key stakeholders. After it returns to Community committee in March 2024, there will be an option for members to consider any future wider public consultation.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The new Corporate Plan is currently being developed but this process is included in the new Community theme.
Financial, Resource and Property	<p>This Strategy will ensure that the Council and its partners are providing cost-effective services and are making best use of the appropriate resources and property.</p> <p>By adopting a robust Playing Pitch Strategy, the authority will stand a better chance of being successful with external grants and developer contributions to assist in delivery of the action plan.</p> <p>At this stage, no additional costs to the Council have been identified. However, there may be requests for contributory funding for individual projects as they are developed which would be considered on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Any future reviews of the Grounds Maintenance Contract will need to consider the best value that the new contract can provide for pitches.</p>
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	The Strategy will underpin key sections of the Local Plan relating to Open Space. This is a required element of the Local Plan

	process, providing a robust evidence base for decisions. It will therefore assist in the Planning Inspectorate process.
Crime and Disorder	The provision and good management of a broad range of playing pitches and changing rooms can make a positive contribution to managing issues of crime and disorder by providing diversionary activities and encouraging community cohesion.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	Where possible, environmentally friendly maintenance regimes will be considered and adopted.
Health and Wellbeing	By providing and supporting a broad range of quality facilities across Swale, there will be greater opportunities for people to participate in healthy activities.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Without a strategy that is endorsed by Sport England, the Borough will be at risk of not having the Local Plan agreed, missing funding opportunities, losing challenges to planning applications by developers, and not providing high quality facilities for its residents. By maintaining its own pitches to agreed standards, the Council will ensure their facilities are safe and fit for purpose.
Equality and Diversity	Issues of equal opportunity will be addressed through applications for any changes to existing or new developments, ensuring that such facilities are compliant and fit for purpose.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified.

7 Appendices

7.1 Summary of Recommendations Football

7.2 Summary of Recommendations Netball, Tennis & Bowls

8 Background Papers

8.1 [Playing Pitch Strategy - Community Committee 31 October 2023](#)

8.2 [PPS Draft Recommendations \(Rugby, Hockey & Cricket\)](#)

8.3 [3G Pitch Summary](#)

Appendix 7.1

Swale Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Football Summary

No	Findings/Recommendations
1	Protect existing quantity of pitches unless replacement provision is able to meet Sport England Playing Fields Policy and suitable mitigation, or replacement provision is agreed and delivered
2	Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as 'Poor' quality, prioritise investment (likely to be externally driven) and review delivery model of maintenance. This is to ensure maintenance is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality to 'standard' or 'good'.
3	Encourage use of PitchPower Assessments to assess pitch quality across all providers, especially local authority-maintained provision to maintain a current technical understanding of pitch quality and to evidence need for increased investment at priority sites
4	Support clubs and other eligible organisations to access funding through the likes of Football Foundation to improve quality of grass pitches and to sustain good quality once improved
5	Consider the potential and feasibility for asset transfer or long-term leasehold to clubs or parish councils which express interest and are considered realistically able to sustain and maintain sporting provision as required, allowing for greater opportunities to access external funding streams for facility development
6	Work to accommodate future demand as well as unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity, or at sites not currently available for community use that could become so, moving forward
7	Provide security of tenure for clubs using remaining unsecured sites through community use agreements or through conditions of external investment, particularly at key education sites used by community clubs and teams
8	Ensure all teams are playing on the pitches of the correct size
9	Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer. Ensure any works provide suitability for female and disability access to facilitate increased football formats. Prioritise multi - pitch sites and key sites for female participation and development, seek to provide access to toilet facilities as a minimum requirement at all sites

10	Where a residential development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, (2 pitches or more) focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that meet the new demand created by the development and existing shortfalls where possible, with accompanying clubhouse, access and car parking provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable
11	Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, secure contributions to improve existing sites within the locality, guided by the priorities identified within the PPS Action Plan and Swale Local Football Facility Plan
12	Update with Input from partners the Swale Local Football Facility Plan based on the key findings of the PPS to focus plans for investment into Football Foundation investment into the improvement of facilities with partners

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Appendix 7.2

Swale Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2023 Netball Summary

No	Findings/Recommendations
1	The Protection of all community use netball courts across Swale Borough Council. Any courts proposed to be lost should be replaced with at least equivalent provision in terms of quantity and quality
2	Swale Borough Council and England Netball to work together to rebuild England Netball participation programmes in Swale Borough including Back to Netball, Walking Netball, Netball now and Bee Netball
3	When developing new Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) in the future. This is to ensure that netball courts are marked on all MUGAs to promote the expansion of the game
4	Negotiate formal community use agreements as part of the planning process on education sites current and at new school developments to ensure use by the community of sports courts on education sites in the future,

Swale Borough Council
 Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
 Tennis Summary

No	Findings/Recommendations
1	The Protection of all community use tennis courts across Swale Borough Council. Any courts proposed to be lost should be replaced with at least equivalent provision in terms of quantity and quality.
2	<p>Swale Borough Council and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to work together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strong local park and other community tennis venue partnerships to deliver inclusive and sustainable tennis provision for all. • Invest in great people delivering great experiences in parks. • Target investment in “welcoming “park facilities for people to socialise and play.
3	Monitor and use the gate access systems installed to identify demand currently and for the future and use the findings to promote tennis across the Borough. There is a need to consider a review of tennis usage on the parks bookable courts so actual demand/use can be understood and future provision planned for more accurately.
4	Future trends may be the need to improve ‘wrap around’ facilities in parks. This includes floodlighting of courts to improve all year round play and ensure coaching income in parks is not too seasonal. This also includes toilet, pavilion, and path lighting around tennis facilities to encourage comfortable and safe routes to and from courts. These facilities will also be key to driving junior and adult coaching programmes and competitions within parks.
5	Swale Borough Council needs to broadly encourage and support the work to link between venues, coaches, and schools to ensure the young people across Swale have an opportunity to participate in tennis.
6	The LTA to work with clubs through its club network to develop opportunities for growth in the tennis workforce to support the tennis environments.
7	There is a need to monitor the capacity of use at Faversham Tennis club and to consider how an additional court can be provided for use by the club in the future if required.

Swale Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Bowls Summary

No	Findings/Recommendations
1	Protecting existing bowls greens through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility or create improvements to be able to increase capacity at nearby bowls greens. This includes protecting the disused green at Woodstock Broadoak Road Sittingbourne.
2	Future housing developments should be asked for development funding contributions to ensure that existing bowls clubs have sufficient pavilion space and good quality greens to provide for new residents across Swale Borough.
3	Where clubs have larger memberships artificial grass greens should be considered to replace the fine turf green and provide for all year-round participation.

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Communities Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	9 th January 2024
Report Title	Swale Community Safety Priority Setting Consultation
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Stephanie Curtis, Community Services Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That the Communities Committee provides feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to inform its strategic assessment and priority setting process for 2024/25.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Swale community safety strategic assessment process and asks the Committee to provide feedback on the current CSP performance as well as any emerging issues it feels the CSP may need to focus on.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP), of which Swale Borough Council is a statutory partner, is required to complete a strategic assessment annually. Also, section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area.
- 2.2 The purpose of this strategic assessment is to provide an understanding of community safety problems within the borough, in order to inform and help determine partnership problems for the following year. It includes a performance assessment against the current priorities; discussion around emerging issues; and consideration of wider threats and opportunities that may impact upon the work of the CSP.
- 2.3 The strategic assessment, along with information from partners will be considered by the Swale CSP Executive Group at their meeting in early February 2024 once the assessment is completed. This group will agree the Community Safety Priorities for 2023/24 and the Community Safety Plan will be revised based upon this. The overall priorities have not changed for a number of years, but the specific focus within these has been amended.

- 2.4 Part of the process of compiling the strategic assessment is to review previous performance of the CSP. Part of this is a data exercise, with data being supplied to the CSP for this purpose throughout December. Additionally partner agencies are asked to submit their own views on the current performance of the partnership and any emerging community-based issues they feel the CSP should now prioritise.
- 2.5 Due to the Scrutiny function of this Committee, the CSP would welcome views on the Committee feel the Partnership is currently performing against its current priorities and any emerging issues Committee members feel they should be tackling.
- 2.6 The current Swale Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2023/24 are shown in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 provides an overview of work of the CSP during 2023/24 and some key statistics as of September 23, which was presented to the Swale Community Safety Partnership Executive Group at their meeting in November 23.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 That the Communities Committee provides feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership to inform its strategic assessment and priority setting process based upon the following questions:
 - 1. From reviewing the current performance of the CSP against its identified priorities, do you feel the Partnership is serving its communities effectively?
 - 2. Are there any other community-based issues you feel the CSP should consider in its priority setting process for 2024/25?

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 To not provide any feedback to the Swale Community Safety Partnership: This isn't recommended as members of the Committee have a good understanding of issues facing the local community which may not fully be known by other agencies and are required to undertake a Scrutiny function through the Police and Justice Act.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Consultation on the Community Safety priorities for Swale will take place with the CSP in January and will form the basis for the annual refresh of the Swale Community Safety Plan.
- 5.2 Discussions are taking place with Area Committees during December 2023.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The community safety strategic assessment supports the Corporate Plan priority 'tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone' and the objective of 'ensuring that the council plays a proactive role in reducing crime and ASB, including through the modernisation of CCTV provision'.
Financial, Resource and Property	There are no additional finance, resource or property implications in completing the community safety strategic assessment. Resource is in place within the Community Safety Unit to create the document and assist the Community Safety Partnership in its priority setting process and refresh of the Community Safety Plan.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	<p>The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave agencies a duty to work together to tackle crime and disorder. Responsible authorities, which include district/borough councils, must work together to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area.</p> <p>The Police and Justice Act 2006 updated the Crime and Disorder Act 98, expanding the number of responsible authorities and placing a duty on them to share evidence based data and carry out frequent strategic assessments.</p> <p>Section 19 of this Act also requires local authorities to have a crime and disorder committee with power to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the CSP in their area.</p>
Crime and Disorder	The contribution to the Swale community safety strategic assessment by the Communities Committee will assist in ensuring that the priorities considered by the CSP are as reflective as possible of those crime and disorder issues faced by our communities.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	Environmental ASB/crime is recognised within the current ASB priority for the CSP and partnership working to tackle this has remained an area of focus for the last number of years.
Health and Wellbeing	The existing community safety priorities contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community by ensuring there is a partnership response in place to many issues that may affect this agenda specifically around domestic abuse and supporting vulnerable people.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The existing Swale community safety priorities are closely linked to the safeguarding agenda. Swale BCs safeguarding policy and soon to be adopted domestic abuse policy sit alongside the community safety plan and associated action.

Risk Management and Health and Safety	No specific implications on risk management or health/safety have been identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	No specific implications on groups with protected characteristics have been identified.
Privacy and Data Protection	The Swale community safety strategic assessment is a partnership document, but its completion is led by Swale BC on behalf of the CSP. Data is shared with the CSU staff completing this through the Information Sharing Agreement from partner agencies. Some data shared has restrictions placed upon it (particularly from the Police) and this limits how widely the final assessment can be shared.

7 Appendices

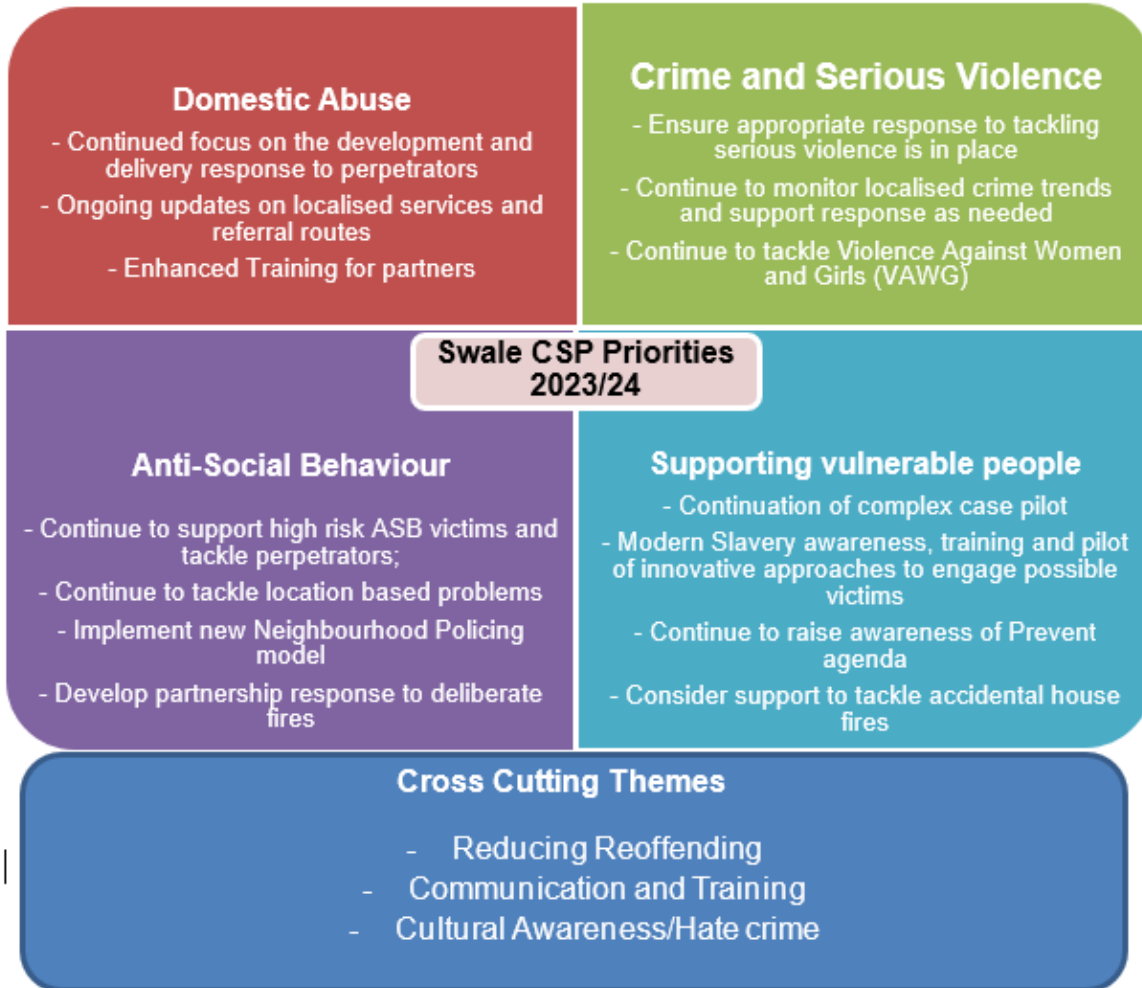
7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix 1: Swale Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2023/24
- Appendix 2: Swale Community Safety Partnership Strategic Lead Report November 23

8 Background Papers

Swale Community Safety Plan 2023/24 - https://swale.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/420579/FINAL-Swale-Community-Safety-Plan-2023-24-A.pdf

Appendix 1: Swale Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2023/24



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TO: Community Safety Partnership Executive
DATE: Friday 3rd November 2023
SUBJECT: Quarter 2 - Strategic Leads Update Report

1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of the key action and performance updates for discussion in the 2023/24 Swale Community Safety Plan.

Priority 1	Domestic Abuse		
Lead	SATEDA – Carey Philpott		
Performance Stats	Previous Rolling Year (October 2021 – end September 2022)	Current Rolling Year (October 2022 – end September 2023)	Change
No. of Domestic Abuse incidents across the Borough of Swale (Kent Police).	5326	4759	-567 -10.7%
Actions	Status <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	Update	
1.1 Promotion of services available to both professionals and the community	In progress	<p>The professionals' day at The Appleyard was well attended on 9th October.</p> <p>The Marketplace event at Sittingbourne School: Emotional Wellbeing Network event on 17th October, 3.30-6pm, at The Sittingbourne School</p> <p>Kent wide training including DHRs and Victim Blaming available to all <u>book here</u></p> <p>Adult safeguarding week training on trauma informed responses <u>KMSAB website</u></p>	
1.2 Training regarding the link between domestic abuse and radicalisation; and other specialist areas such as cultural awareness	In progress	<p>Prevent & Serious Organised Crime week of action 2023</p> <p><u>Prevent & Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Week of Action - 20/11 - 24/11/2023 Tickets, Mon 20 Nov 2023 at 09:00 Eventbrite</u></p> <p>CP met with KCC to discuss work with GRT. They are looking to understand the</p>	

		community to inform health inequalities. If anyone has any links they would appreciate the support.
1.3 Continue to promote perpetrator services within agencies and consider how to ensure adequate provision aimed at young people	In progress	<p>Mapping of services to be reviewed and shared. CDAP continues to run, delivering a Swale specific programme.</p> <p>SALUS are to start delivering CYP activities in safe accommodation</p> <p>SATEDA are supporting YP 13-16 (girls) who are experiencing abuse in their own relationships, it is hoped that this can be expanded to boys with further funding.</p> <p>CYP services all have waiting lists</p>
1.4 Support delivery of County Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan	In progress	<p>Strategy consultation has now ended. Swale DA forum are meeting regularly with a review of the meetings to ensure appropriate representation. Early indications from KCC team is that priority will be given to accommodation based services as opposed to community provisions.</p> <p>MARAC – a new MARAC manager is due to start in post and a steering group will be established soon after. This will ensure the new process is embedded.</p>
1.5 Delivery of response to adolescents regarding healthy relationships	In progress	<p>SATEDA - 16 days of action awareness cards being delivered end of Nov.</p> <p>SALUS – strict criteria for supporting only those in safe accommodation.</p>

Key Issues/Emerging Trends

NB: cases/referrals –
 SATEDA saw a 39% increase in the same reporting period as the data from Kent police.
 New leaf saw a reduction of -4%
 Victim support are reporting a reduction

Data from other Swale delivery services has been requested.

LA Safeguarding figures in relation to DA (July to October 2023) :
 The highest category this quarter is Domestic abuse which is a massive increase from 14 last quarter to 34, this is closely followed by Homelessness (29). This is linked to the Domestic abuse figures due to victims fleeing their homes resulting in homelessness.

13 cases referred MARAC
8 to specialist DA support services

Family court system - Increasing trend of perpetrators not returning children after child contact and citing mental health concerns for mothers to manipulate court hearings. KCC are keen to learn more about this and if anyone has additional examples please forward to CP.

Women's Aid latest report ['Influencers and Attitudes: How will the next generation understand domestic abuse?'](#)

Some of the key findings of the report include:

Children and young people exposed to misogynistic social media content like Andrew Tate were almost 5x more likely than those not exposed to view hurting someone physically as acceptable if you say sorry afterwards.

1 in 3 women experienced the RSHE they had in school as rushed and awkward.

1 in 4 women felt that it had no understanding of pre-existing trauma.

Whilst 70% of children and young people said they would seek support if affected by domestic abuse, 61% of them were unsure or did not know where to go for this.

Male refuge: Clarion will manage this – opens in November – it is a west Kent service and has spaces for 3 men and 2 children. Referral pathway is the same as access to other Clarion services.

DA Sub Group – Key Updates

Last meeting cancelled as lots of apologies.

*16 Days of action – CSP proposal

Cross Cutting Themes (Comments/Impact on priority/specific actions undertaken)

*Reducing Reoffending
Communications and Training
Cultural Awareness and Hate Crime*

Priority 2	Crime and Serious Violence		
Lead	Kent Police – Diane Middlemiss		
Performance Stats	Previous Rolling Year (October 2021 – end September 2022)	Current Rolling Year (October 2022 – end September 2023)	Change
Violence Against the Person (VATP)	7268	6505	-763 -10.5%

Burglary (Business and Community)	183	172	-11 -6%
Criminal Damage	1882	1830	-52 -2.8%
Shoplifting	1068	1704	+636 +59.6%
Actions	Status (<i>delete as appropriate</i>)	Update	
2.1 Work with Kent-wide partners to establish and implement response to Serious Violence	In progress	<p>Vulnerability Panels run once per month with partners to review opportunities to support vulnerable people. Whether victims or involved in crime, including serious violence.</p> <p>Serious Organised Crime Panel takes place once per month to review County Lines/OCG/Serious Violence with partners to support information sharing and collaborative working to reduce serious violence/crime.</p> <p>Weekly Partnership Meetings with Council/Police includes review of any serious violence concerns/individuals/locations.</p> <p>VAWG – multi agency walk and talk, and NTE visits to licenced premises. Including some of the key caravan parks</p> <p>Next Steps: Use of Problem Orientated Policing funding to support further initiatives to reduce violent crime</p>	
2.2 Continue to monitor and respond to as required, for key crime types including burglary (business and community) and vehicle crime	In progress	<p>Burglary - There has been a 21% reduction in Burglary this year compared with last year. The Neighbourhood Team and Crime Group continue to work together to ensure all burglary dwelling victims are visited, to provide crime prevention advice, offer reassurance and complete enhanced</p>	

		<p>enquiries in the location to support crime prevention and identify vital evidence.</p> <p>Robbery- Swale has seen a 26.4% reduction in robbery to date this year, compared with last year. This equates to a drop from 91 to 67 robberies. There have been no identified Robbery crime series. Violence against women and girls, burglary and robbery remain a priority for Kent Police and as such reported incidents, and the policing response and support for victims remains under close daily scrutiny by the Senior Management Team to ensure enhanced service delivery.</p>
<p>2.3 Deliver localised response to Violence Against Women and Girls</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The Swale Neighbourhood Policing Team and CSU have continued to deliver Walk and Talk events across the Summer. Since the last meeting 8 events have taken place throughout Swale, and resulted in the identification of areas of concern within the Community that need remedial action. These have been highlighted to relevant organisations responsible. We have also trialled VAWG events based in primary schools with the first being held at Newington Primary. This was positively received and we found that the turnout is greater than those held within Walk and Talk locations in Town Centres. These events are important to police and partners as it provides an opportunity for local people, women and girls to join a walk and talk, to share experiences and speak about areas where they may feel vulnerable to enable partners/police to address these. Such as lighting, or CCTV. For the Autumn each Beat Officer is in the process of planning further activities which are advertised on @KentPoliceSwale Twitter/X platform and My Community Voice. This will include activities during the Night Time Economy, including licencing checks and visits. This includes the proactive patrolling of venues in the NTE looking for predatory behaviours. During licensing checks Officers liaise with licensees and promote the use of Ask for Angela and Hollie Guard App. Officers identify any knowledge gaps in NTE staff</p>

		<p>regarding risk factors of potential perpetrators of VAWG and promote staff being active bystanders. Where there is insufficient knowledge amongst NTE staff this is highlighted to our Licensing officers for refresher training.</p>
<p>Key Issues/Emerging Trends</p>		
<p>Shoplifting has increased over the summer period, and has been subject to local and national media attention. Local Policing Teams and NHP Teams continue to work collaboratively to target the most prolific offenders, seeking CBO and remands. This remains a threat particularly when prolific shoplifters are released from custody. Shop Safe has been promoted and welcomed by some businesses, but they are several months later, still waiting on their radios. Emerging threat will be if due to the prison capacity issues offenders are released early or not given custodial sentences.</p> <p>Burglary increased in Sept 23 with one nominal being linked to 5 burglaries, charged and remanded. Threat, again due to prison capacity issues.</p> <p>ASB has reduced in Sept 23, compared with July and August 23. September peaked with the hot weather and Faversham Hop Festival. Halloween/Fireworks and NTE (Xmas related) remains a threat with regards ASB, Serious Violence, DA and VAWG. Safer Autumn plans are in place to mitigate this.</p>		
<p>Serious and Organised Crime Panel – Key Updates</p>		
<p>Swale has one OCG, nothing to report in this forum.</p>		
<p>District Contextual Safeguarding Meeting – Key Updates</p>		
<p>Verbal update will be provided at meeting.</p>		
<p>Cross Cutting Themes (Comments/Impact on priority/specific actions undertaken)</p>		
<p><i>Reducing Reoffending Communications and Training Cultural Awareness and Hate Crime</i></p>		
<p>Reducing reoffending: As outlined above repeat offenders, prison releases and prolific offenders are targeted and supported through various multi agency forms, including engagement from Probation and IOM.</p> <p>Hate Crime Awareness Week – Will require multiagency plan for next year 2024 and regular activities throughout the year to build trust/confidence in reporting and safeguarding victims.</p>		

Priority 3		ASB	
Lead		Southern Housing – Matthew Robbins	
Performance Stats	Previous Rolling Year (October 2021 – end September 2022)	Current Rolling Year (October 2022 – end September 2023)	Change
ASB Incidents reported to Kent Police	2595	2668	+73 +2.8%
ASB Incidents reported to Southern Housing	162	237	+ 75 +31%
Actions	Status (delete as appropriate)	Update	
3.1 Continue joint response to tackle ASB through the Community Safety Unit	In progress	Weekly partnership meetings continue to focus on operational issues and responses through the CSU	
3.2 Implement Kent Police new Neighbourhood Policing Model	In progress	Verbal update to be provided at meeting	
3.3 Monitor incidents of grass/rubbish fires and develop response plan as required.	Not yet started	To be discussed at meeting	
3.4 Delivery of Safety in Action	In progress	Safety in Action has been delivered in Swale. Awaiting final evaluation report.	
3.5 Delivery of dedicated operations and campaigns	In progress	<p>Prior to the summer local officers attended many schools in the local area to provide advice to children about the consequences of Anti Social Behaviour and Crime. Safer Summer plans were created early and had a specific aim to provide visible and robust policing with regards ASB, crime and nuisance youths.</p> <p>The Sittingbourne Skate Park, Sittingbourne Retail park, Bourne Place, and the High street Sittingbourne were repeat locations of ASB, crime/theft and nuisance youth behaviour during the summer, with very large groups of youths with some intent on causing a nuisance and committing crime. Additional patrols and robust policing was deployed daily throughout the summer at these locations, supported by funding from the Home Office Grip funding (ASB Hot Spots). Prompt and</p>	

		<p>robust policing did result in short lived episodes of this type of nuisance behaviour, resulting in many arrests for shoplifting, youths being taken home to parents, letters to parents and seizure of items such as E Scooters. Local officers continue to support stakeholder meetings and visits to local businesses to encourage joint working and longer term crime prevention opportunities. Many of the businesses have been very supportive and have worked incredibly hard implementing their own measures to reduce and tackle nuisance and criminal behaviour.</p> <p>Summer Demands: Spring and summer always creates significant demands as local communities and visitors enjoy the better weather, beaches and what Swale has to offer. Good weather, and longer days also result in other call demands, such as missing people/children, mental health concerns and road traffic incidents. It has been an incredibly challenging, long summer for our officers who have worked tirelessly long hours to protect our communities. I am so incredibly proud of them all, for their braveness, hard work and the incredible resilience they show each and every day.</p> <p><u>Road Safety</u></p> <p>Swale Community Safety Unit continues to address Road Safety concerns and with the support of the Special Constables deliver regular activities to support road safety and target nuisance vehicles.</p> <p>E Scooter use remains a concern in our local communities in terms of road safety and nuisance behaviour. Several days of action have taken place, resulting in over 30 E Scooters being seized and removed from our streets, permanently. This remains a priority, and activities to educate and remove illegal E Scooters from our streets will continue.</p> <p>On Saturday 12th August the Special Constabulary conducted a road safety operation. 40 vehicles were stopped and checked, resulting in 26 traffic offence reports being reported, from use of mobile phones, not wearing seatbelts, speeding</p>
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		<p>offences as well as many other construction and use offences.</p> <p>Our Beat PCs continue to review reports and engage with communities to better understand their concerns regarding road safety, so that targeted activities continue into the autumn and winter period.</p> <p>Safer Autumn Plan – Education and visible policing activities will be taking place during the Halloween and Bonfire Night periods, to provide reassurance and deter anti social behaviour.</p> <p>Kent Police are taking part in the National Week of Intensification into Knife Crime taking place from the 13th to the 19th November 2023. Our officers will be undertaking a range of activities including targeted operations, engagement and education to reassure young people they are safer not carrying knives, and to walk away from harm.</p>
<p>Key Issues/Emerging Trends</p>		
<p>KCC arrange a contextual safeguarding meeting which focusses on young people and where ASB is occurring. Information from this meeting could be used to identify hot spots</p> <p>While the weekly partnership group provides a valuable operational oversight, there may be an opportunity for a less frequent meeting to analyse trends or identify gaps that may exist</p>		
<p>Weekly Tasking and Coordination Group – Key Updates</p>		
<p>The weekly partnership meetings provide an opportunity to share information between the police, community wardens, ERT and social housing providers.</p> <p>It provides a useful way to raise operational issues seeking solutions in a timely way.</p>		
<p>Cross Cutting Themes (Comments/Impact on priority/specific actions undertaken)</p>		
<p><i>Reducing Reoffending</i> <i>Communications and Training</i> <i>Cultural Awareness and Hate Crime</i></p>		
<p>Police participated in National Hate Crime Week from Saturday 14 October</p>		
<p>Priority 4</p>	<p>Supporting Vulnerable People</p>	
<p>Lead</p>	<p>SBC – Steph Curtis</p>	

Performance Stats	Previous Rolling Year (October 2021 – end September 2022)	Current Rolling Year (October 2022 – end September 2023)	Change
Vulnerable/repeatedly targeted callers (Kent Police)	573	827	+254 +44.3%
Actions	Status <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	Update	
4.1 Continuation of complex needs pilot	In progress	Funding has been confirmed until end March 25 by KCC. The project is also being rolled out to wider areas, with support from Swale. Monitoring of impact of the project continues.	
4.2 Delivery of training for a greater range of partners on modern slavery and preventing extremism	In progress	KCC Modern Slavery Coordinator is able to deliver some online MSHT sessions for Swale CSP. This request was raised at the last meeting, but no interested partners have yet come forward.	
4.3 Continuation of pilot family hub at Dunkirk	In progress	Further funding was confirmed for the Dunkirk Hub at the end of June – this delay meant that the hub did have a hiatus. A review has taken place of engagement to date and following discussions with partners, will recommence with delivery directly on the target site with a number of partners onboard. If needed, a second off-site location will be added in.	
4.4 Consider partnership response to tackle accidental dwelling fires	In progress	Specific cases where there is a risk of accidental dwelling fires are referred into the vulnerability panel. KFRS have in place their home fire safety team to undertake checks at target locations. SC to link in with KFRS as to whether further partnership action is needed.	
Key Issues/Emerging Trends			
No identified key issues or emerging trends.			
Vulnerability Panel – Key Updates			
<p>Although there has been improvement in CMHT attendance at vulnerability panel, this tends to be when they have made a referral rather than as a standing attendee and their regular participation would be welcomed.</p> <p>Good level of attendance from other partners and good level of new cases.</p> <p>An issue has been raised about some of the commissioned services that refer into the panel, but not being signed up to the Kent and Medway information sharing protocol. Therefore</p>			

meaning they are not able to attend the vulnerability panel meeting to engage with the conversation about their case.

Brotherhood Wood Strategic Group/Dunkirk Hub Project Group – Key Updates

The Brotherhood Wood Strategic Group has not met in a number of months due to apologies given. However, with the re-launch of the hub directly on the site, this is hoped this will increase engagement and allow for increased evidence of any issue on site. KFRS are engaged with the hub now and will seek to engage with residents over fire safety concerns. A review has also taken place of risks to staff in attending the site, which is currently felt to be reduced, hence the refreshed hub taking place on the site. Agency attendance and community engagement will continue to be monitored.

Cross Cutting Themes (Comments/Impact on priority/specific actions undertaken)

*Reducing Reoffending
Communications and Training
Cultural Awareness and Hate Crime*

Safeguarding Adults Week 2023 will take place in November from the 20th to the 25th. KCC are coordinating activity by partners.

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Community Committee Forward Decisions Plan

Report title, background information and recommendation(s)	Date of meeting	Open or exempt ?	Lead Officer and report author
Parking Policy Consultation	6 March 2024	Open	Lead Officer: Emma Wiggins Report author: Janet Dart
Built Facility Strategy (BFS)	6 March 2024	Open	Lead Officer: Emma Wiggins Report author: Jay Jenkins
Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) – final report	6 March 2024	Open	Lead Officer: Emma Wiggins Report author: Jay Jenkins
Leisure Centre Options Report	6 March 2024	Open	Lead Officer: Martyn Cassell Report Author: Jay Jenkins

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