

Chief Constable's Report
to
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board

SAFER IN KENT PLAN: DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

Wednesday 5th June 2019

1. Strategic Overview.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (section 7) sets the statutory requirement for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to have a Police and Crime Plan.

The Police and Crime Plan set by the PCC in consultation with the Chief Constable is called "*Safer in Kent: The Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan*" which sets out the priorities that will drive the work of the force, partners and the PCC's resources between 2017 and 2021, and the overall strategic direction for policing and community safety in the county.

The plan has six key priorities:

- Put victims first
- Fight crime and anti-social behaviour
- Tackle abuse, exploitation and violence
- Combatting organised crime and gangs
- Provide visible neighbourhood policing and effective roads policing
- Deliver an efficient service

2. Aims of the report.

This report provides an overview of the key activities being undertaken by the Force to deliver against each of the priorities of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan since the last Performance and Delivery Board on 20th March 2019.

3. Putting Victims First.

The Force is dedicated to ensuring that victims and witnesses are at the heart of everything we do and this priority, supported by the PCC is the first within the Force's "Mission, Vision, Values and Priorities".

3.1 Local Operational Activity. Officers and staff working across the county understand and support the PCC and Chief Constable's priority to put the victim first and consistently demonstrate this in the work they carry out, examples of this are included herewith.

Police were contacted by a victim disclosing that she had been assaulted by her ex-partner who had recently been released from prison. She had been strangled and then thrown in front of a car outside of a pub in Rochester. She also disclosed that the offender had smashed her phone during the incident and she had no effective form of contact. She engaged with the attending patrol and immediate safeguarding was put in place for her and her two children aged 2 and 5. Following the initial disclosure numerous serious historical events were then revealed and the attending officers facilitated a fully recorded disclosure. The offender was located and arrested and the victim fully updated. Future safeguarding arrangements have been undertaken including providing security advice, alarms and provision of a mobile phone to aid effective communication. The Vulnerability Investigation Team continue to work on the investigation, providing full updates to the victim.

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An address in Larkfield was identified as having suspicious visitors on a regular basis and there were concerns the resident was being 'cuckooed' by a county lines suspect. The Community Policing Team made several visits to check on the welfare of the resident before gaining access to the address while his son was visiting. The resident was not present but a nominal associated with county lines with a quantity of drugs was. He was arrested and the resident was safeguarded by the Community Safety Unit (CSU) in partnership with the Housing Association to facilitate a managed move. This prevented a foothold by a county lines gang and safeguarded a vulnerable adult in the community.

Medway Local Policing Team (LPT) undertook some exceptional work during a night shift in order to arrest a high risk domestic abuse perpetrator. Patrols had been called to an address in Rochester regarding a female victim who had suffered significant injuries earlier that day from a male who had fled the scene. Due to excellent engagement with the victim, officers established that she was 20 weeks pregnant and had suffered a long history of abuse from the male, including a previous assault which resulted in him receiving a custodial sentence. Alarms and other appropriate safeguarding was initiated and enquiries were commenced to locate him. Officers attended his address where the suspect resisted arrest resulting in a police officer being assaulted. The assault against the victim was particularly nasty and was against a very vulnerable woman. The suspect was charged with Grievous Bodily Harm, Actual Bodily Harm, Common Assault and Assaulting an Emergency Services Worker and was remanded into police custody. The incident management, victim care and subsequently well executed plan to arrest the suspect demonstrated that the officers are fully engaged in the Chief's vision of putting victims at the heart of everything we do and providing a quality service in an area of demand highlighted in the Force Control Strategy.

Officers received reports of a person taking inappropriate photographs of school children travelling daily on a bus. The witness was distressed by what they had seen and officers quickly identified the potential risks to young children. Local officers changed their shifts at short notice and worked in plain clothes ensuring an officer travelled on the relevant bus journey. They quickly located and arrested the suspect who is now on bail and controlled by strict conditions whilst the investigation continues. The prompt and efficient actions of the officers involved prevented any further children becoming a victim of crime and provided reassurance to the witness.

3.2 Victim Satisfaction. Victims of hate crime and rape have continued to be surveyed for the period February to April 2019 in order to seek their opinion on the service they have received from their initial contact from the police through to the end of the investigation. These surveys are managed sensitively by police staff due to the nature of the offences. This feedback is essential to identify that victims continue to receive a first class service.

Surveys to the end of April 2019 show that victims of hate crime were satisfied with the overall service they received in 82.9% (34 out of 41 cases), which is a 6.6% percentage increase on the previous quarter. Generally, victims were satisfied with outcomes where it was considered that words of advice was the most suitable outcome, they were pleased with response times from officers and they felt that they had been listened to and been taken seriously. They also praised officers for their high standards of professionalism. Hate crime is discussed monthly at the Force Performance Committee to ensure scrutiny and strategic oversight. It also features at the Diversity and Inclusion Board meeting which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable and attended by Chief Officers.

Monthly data from hate crime surveys is provided to senior leaders and their staff, including Community Liaison Officers to ensure any learning is captured which assists to continually improve our service delivery. The Force holds hate crime forums where information from the surveys is discussed and reviewed which assists in ensuring that the best possible service is provided to victims. These meetings are supported by our partner agencies and by members of the Independent Police Advisory Group.

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Surveys conducted between February 2019 and April 2019 show that victims of rape were satisfied with being treated fairly in 91.9% (57 out of 62 cases) of surveys conducted, which is a 1.9% increase on the previous period at 90%. Particular care is taken to ensure these surveys are conducted with sensitivity to understand the service provided to victims. Initial comments show that victims were well looked after, were cared for and were believed, which left them reassured. The Force has recently introduced a number of new Sexual Offence Liaison Officers (SOLOs) who have responsibility to liaise with victims to improve and enhance the service that is provided to them.

4. Fighting Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Force understands the impact crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) has on victims, witnesses and the wider community and is committed to tackling this, wherever it takes place. The Force cannot judge success merely on whether crime has fallen. Responding to the needs of local communities, carrying out quality investigations, apprehending wanted persons and ensuring offenders are brought to justice are just a few of the measures of success.

4.1 Anti-Social Behaviour. During the period February to April 2019 there has been an overall increase of 5.2% in ASB incidents in Kent compared to the same period in 2018. This can be further analysed by month:

February 2019 actually experienced an overall decrease of 3.9% in ASB with a reduction of 84 incidents compared to the previous year (2219 to 2135 incidents). The largest reductions were in Medway (-58) and Swale (-35).

The ASB categories that experienced the greatest reductions in February 2019 were:

- Rowdy or nuisance gathering in public/impeding public access experienced 113 fewer incidents (-53 in Medway and -40 in Thanet).
- Drunken or rowdy behaviour experienced 73 fewer incidents (-31 in Gravesham).

March 2019 experienced the highest increase in ASB incidents, a 10.9% increase with 297 more incidents (2,711) compared to that of March 2018 which was 2,414. The largest increases were seen in Shepway (+67) and Medway (+43).

The ASB categories that experienced the greatest increases in March 2019 were:

- Neighbour - disputes / nuisance including noise experienced 76 more incidents (increase of 24 in Swale and 18 in Medway).
- Drunken or rowdy behaviour experienced 72 more incidents (+19 in Medway and +18 Gravesham and Tunbridge Wells).
- Motor vehicle nuisance on road including noise experienced 59 more incidents (+20 in Medway and +14 in Maidstone).

April 2019 also experienced an increase of ASB incidents, an 8.6% increase with 231 more incidents (2,667) compared to that of March 2018 which was 2,414. The largest increases were in Maidstone (+100) and Dartford (+41).

The ASB categories that experienced the greatest increases in April 2019 were:

- Rowdy or nuisance gathering in public/impeding public access experienced 57 more incidents (notably +23 in Maidstone and +21 in Thanet).
- Rubbish/discarded drugs paraphernalia etc. experienced 50 more incidents (notably +16 in Gravesham).
- Drunken or rowdy behaviour experienced 48 more incidents (notably +24 in Canterbury and +23 in Maidstone).

4.2 Residential Burglary. In April 2017, the definition of 'residential burglary' changed under the Home Office Counting Rules. All Forces in the country now record 'residential burglary' in a different way, as sheds and garages were included in the definition for the first time, (previously a house burglary was referred to as 'burglary dwelling').

Nationally for the rolling year to February 2019, only 10 forces have experienced an increase in overall burglary with Forces ranging from -23.4% to +24.2%. Kent experienced a slight increase of 1.1% for this period, the seventh highest across all Forces. The national average is a reduction of 4.2%.

Following the significant changes introduced by the Home Office Counting Rules in April 2017 it is now possible to provide a comparison for each of the respective categories:

- Burglary residential increased by 2.3% or 197 more offences to 8,642 offences.
- Burglary Business and Community decreased by 5.7% or 203 less offences to 3,371 offences.

Burglary is considered a high harm impact crime which is discussed daily on each Division and there is specific grip and focus on this particular crime type. Burglary is one of a number of crimes which are referred to as Control Strategy Offences, where they receive a priority policing response from the Force. The Community Safety Units (CSUs) also ensure that a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) is deployed to every victim of residential burglary. They provide reassurance to the victim and also crime prevention and merchandise advice (eg UV pens, timer switches, alarms etc).

The Kent Police attendance criteria for all burglary offences where the offender is still at the crime scene, is an immediate police response from uniformed officers. If the offender is no longer at the scene, an experienced Detective Sergeant will review the circumstances and deploy an investigative officer if necessary. The vast majority of burglary residential offences are attended by a Scene of Crime Officer who will establish and retrieve any forensic evidence left by a suspect.

Every CSU on each of the thirteen policing districts reviews each burglary report in order to establish if the victim is either vulnerable or a repeat victim and if they are then a PCSO will attend to offer advice, support and reassurance to the victim. Each dwelling burglary with any lines of enquiry are investigated and none of these offences are investigated over the telephone.

From February 2019 to April 2019, there were 327 reports of Burglary Residential, 254 of these offences or 78% of residential burglaries had an officer attend and visit the scene. From the residential crimes reported, a total of 103 fingerprints were taken with 26 leading to identification, and 226 DNA samples were taken with 54 being identified. Any forensic identifications which relates to any burglary offence are prioritised.

All three policing Divisions have excellent links with their colleagues in surrounding Force areas, in particular in the Metropolitan Police and Surrey Police. Information is shared on travelling criminals whose vehicle details are notified to officers from the Tactical Operations Department, who utilise the Proactive Targeting Team and the Roads Policing Unit to stop these vehicles, utilising the latest ANPR technology. Kent Police work very closely with various departments and boroughs within the Metropolitan Police and surrounding Forces in order to deter and disrupt travelling criminals.

4.3 Chief Constable's Crime Squad. With the support of the Police & Crime Commissioner the Force have been able to recruit additional officers to create and implement a Chief Constable's Crime Squad, which is a dedicated team of experienced investigators who will be investigating linked offences of burglary. This team consists of 32 officers and is divided into three investigative teams, located on each of the three Divisions and was introduced in late February 2019. The teams are directed by and report to the Deputy Chief Constable and have the flexibility to respond to increased crime trends, such as burglary and other similar crime types.

The introduction of this team has already led to a prolific criminal gang being charged and remanded into custody for Conspiracy to Commit Burglary in the East Division. This gang was charged with 44 offences in the Canterbury and Dover areas and numerous items of stolen property such as electrical items which had been stolen were successfully reunited with their owners.

In Margate, two males were identified as being responsible for committing three daytime burglaries in close proximity to each other. Following their arrest, a number of stolen items were recovered, identified and returned to their owners. The males pleaded guilty at court and received sentences of five years imprisonment.

On West Division, a male was very quickly identified through ANPR research shortly after two armed robberies had been committed at shops in Aylesford. The male was charged and has been remanded into custody.

On North Division, an armed robbery occurred at a bookmakers in Gravesend where £8,000 was stolen. Within 16 hours of the robbery taking place, the offender was identified through extensive CCTV enquiries and arrested where he was found to be in possession of £7,700 cash. He has been charged and remanded into custody.

The Chief Constable's Crime Squad has already made 82 arrests, they have executed 28 warrants and have secured 131 charges in just over two months. Kent Police is committed to targeting those prolific offenders who commit residential burglary offences.

4.4 Rural Activity. Kent Police has a dedicated team of specialist officers in the Rural Liaison Team (RLT), who work in our rural communities and deal with rural, wildlife, environmental and heritage crime. Together with the Gypsy Liaison Team (GLT) they form the Rural Task Force (RTF) tackling serious and organised crime.

As a result of the funding made available by the PCC through the increase in precept, the RLT have recruited an additional six constables. The increase in resources ensures daily rural police capability all year round, providing communities with improved continuity and accessibility to specialist rural officers. The PCC and Chief Constable continue to recognise and respond to the needs of rural communities in Kent. Investment in the Rural Task Force (RTF) provides rural communities both reassurance and continuity of a specialist rural police officer being accessible every day of the week. Improvements made have seen a more co-ordinated, visible and accessible rural policing response, with tangible results in delivering performance against Force priorities, including rural, wildlife, environmental and heritage crime.

The Gypsy Liaison Team

The GLT are a highly skilled proactive team who have the technical capabilities and skills to carry out enforcement work. The surveillance support they provide has played a critical part in the successful disruption and dismantling of organised crime groups (OCGs). These OCGs include high level and dangerous offenders involved in drug supply, large-scale fraud, murder/serious violence as well as human trafficking.

As well as providing an enforcement capability for covert operations the GLT are often asked to trace and arrest suspects who may be wanted for serious and major crime. There have been a number of murder suspects who have been traced and arrested over the last year, including suspects who have fled the county. Through their research and development capability, they are able to develop intelligence in 'quick time' as well as for pre-planned operations.

The GLT also support divisional policing either through specific tasking requests or for the agreed Force Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group agreed priority bids. As an example, the GLT has

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recently carried out proactive policing under a knife crime initiative that has resulted in a number of arrests. They are also tasked to carry out inbound and outbound extraditions (they are the only Force asset who can carry out inbound extraditions). Nearly half of the Force's outbound extraditions in 2018 were carried out by the GLT. Extraditions can take several hours to complete and return.

Although not a core function, there are occasions whereby the GLT will be tasked with public order commitments such as football and other Force/mutual aid public order. The GLT also utilise public order skills for tactics such as door entry, dynamic entry and Taser tactics that are essential to their day-to-day role and the danger posed by the targets they work on. They have an excellent knowledge and understanding of the gypsy traveller community. They can also be tasked with specific actions in relation to the sites due to their knowledge.

The GLT will soon be up to full strength with 2 newly recruited officers arriving in the middle of June. During the past 3 months they have supported proactive enforcement operations for Serious Organised Crime and Major Crime Departments. This has resulted in arresting suspects and seizing drugs whilst tackling county lines drug supply, burglary, fraud and murder. The GLT have proactively addressed crime and anti-social issues at both Chilmington and Denton sites that have resulted in arrests for drug supply and drugs seizures.

During the last 3 month period the RTF successfully prosecuted three offenders when investigating extensive criminal damage to a championship golf course in Sandwich. With no witnesses to the initial report, the team were able to identify and locate the offenders and secure a conviction for the damage caused to the 125 year old heritage site.

The RTF are firmly embedded into rural communities and work closely with local police staff by reporting from local police stations. This was evident recently when RTF officers responded with colleagues to a burglary in progress at a farm in Faversham. With air support, officers were able to quickly contain, locate and arrest the three suspects involved and seize their vehicle.

Livestock worrying (primarily sheep attacks) are being reported to the same levels experienced over the last 3 years (100 attacks in 3 years). The RTF have taken ownership of all such offences force wide, created a response plan and introduced DNA swabbing to capture early evidence of the dog responsible. This has seen successful prosecutions at court and restorative outcomes for victims.

RTF officers have also made arrests of dangerous offenders wanted for domestic assaults and a recall to prison, after the suspects rammed police vehicles causing RTF officers injury.

Further rural activity within the Force and specifically information regarding the work the RTF has conducted with partners has been included in the Collaboration & Partnership Working paper.

4.5 Local Policing. Across Divisions, Local Policing Teams (LPT), Community Safety Units (CSU) and Community Policing Teams (CPT) are working hard to fight crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in their respective areas on a daily basis. Through intelligence analysis and the assessment of threat, risk and harm, Divisional Commanders are able to understand their demand, identify issues and direct their resources accordingly, working with other teams across the Force and partner agencies on a regular basis. Examples of the work being undertaken are detailed below.

Officers in Thanet conducted an operation focussing on ASB in Margate High Street and the surrounding roads following a rise in youth-related ASB outside the fast food outlets in the evenings. Using a variety of tactics including Dispersal Orders, a number of youths responsible were identified and their names and addresses provided to the local Joint Family Management Program Officer to support them and their parents to reduce reoffending. Due to its success, this approach has been replicated across Thanet District in order to tackle crime and ASB leading to a marked reduction of ASB in this areas due to the increased police presence.

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North Kent officers launched an operation with the aim to reduce crime and ASB specifically in Dartford. Since 29th January the CPT have been supported by additional officers carefully selected from LPTs focussing on this operation. During this time 40 arrests were made for a variety of offences including high harm crimes such as burglary and robbery. Officers attended the scene of one burglary and conducted extensive enquiries to identify the suspect and then commenced a relentless pursuit of the suspect until he was arrested, charged and remanded to prison. The suspect was already on a Prison Licence for the offence of burglary.

The CPT also responded to a knife point robbery; the suspect was identified by the officers due to his description and was arrested within only twelve hours of the offence being reported. He was later charged and remanded to prison. The volume of burglaries in Dartford in 2019 have currently reduced by 57% compared to the same period in 2018. The volume of victim based crimes being reported in Dartford has seen a recent reduction with crimes in April being the lowest for three years.

Sevenoaks District has been subject of an increase in vehicle related criminality. Patrolling has been intelligence led around times, locations and recidivist offenders. In the last month there has been 14 arrests of suspects and 12 stolen vehicles have been recovered. Activities continue to reduce offending and support victims. This activity has been supported by Kent Police Tactical Operations Command and local partnerships around crime prevention messaging.

Tunbridge Wells District CSU acted effectively upon locally sourced intelligence to target and reduce crime and protect local residents from a drug dealer and violent offender known to use weapons; he was believed to be carrying a machete in his vehicle and driving whilst disqualified. The CPT liaised with the intelligence department and conducted an operation in order to target the nominal, who was promptly stopped whilst driving and arrested for disqualified driving and driving with no insurance. His vehicle was searched and then seized; he was charged and bailed to court for offences.

Canterbury CSU identified an increasing volume of theft from motor vehicle offences and a negative public perception of policing handling of the offences. LPTs working alongside the CPT and the Divisional Support Unit were tasked to carry out both plain clothed and high visibility patrols which resulted in a number of arrests whilst some investigations continue. A media strategy has been implemented for prevention, reassurance and detection opportunities.

Canterbury has also been involved in a multi-agency safety hub deployed at key times to promote safety at night to reduce sexual offences. Working in conjunction with local licenced premises, street pastors and taxi firms it is having a positive impact on safeguarding vulnerable people ensuring they are safe when enjoying a night out in the city.

4.6 Investigation Management Unit (IMU). The IMU Hub carry out an extensive array of enquiries to add tangible value to many volume crime investigations, which subsequently are further investigated by officers once a suspect is identified. The team undertake a high-level of additional research, identifying CCTV and forensic opportunities and drawing together supplementary information, such as MOs, locations, vehicle and suspect descriptions, ANPR and open source research, which together starts to build a picture of the offending behaviour and give the best opportunity to identify suspects. The team are sharply focussed on tackling crime and providing a first class service to victims and witnesses.

The IMU have been working on a recent specific operation where intelligence was received regarding two suspects having been arrested in Cheshire for distraction thefts. The suspect's vehicle was registered in Nottingham but had been in Kent a few days earlier. Analysis by the IMU identified that the vehicle had been associated with four crimes which appeared related. As a result of this, the IMU scoped further reports following a similar pattern, collating and co-ordinating the research. To date over 50 reported crimes have been identified for which these suspects are believed to be responsible. Enquiries are continuing and are being co-ordinated

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across numerous Police Forces and evidence is being secured in order to bring these criminals to justice.

The IMU have also identified a series of vehicle related crimes which involved thefts of tools from vehicles in hotel car parks. A trend was identified by the team who analysed hours of CCTV and worked closely with other specialised teams within Kent as well as officers from the Metropolitan Police. The teams worked together and managed to identify the offender's vehicle which resulted in two offenders being arrested. Further enquiries were made and two further suspects have been arrested and remanded.

5. Tackling Abuse, Exploitation and Violence.

Abuse, exploitation and violence are a crime and a violation of an individual's fundamental human rights. The Force is committed to tackling these crimes and safeguarding vulnerable people from serious harm.

5.1 Serious Crime Directorate (SCD) Structure Change. The proposal for the Serious Crime Directorate (SCD) structure review began late 2017 when the directorate was tasked to look at its operating model, taking into account the changing regional context for delivering specialist capabilities whilst exploring the effectiveness and efficiency of how the Force work. There were also savings that needed to be made.

The wide-ranging review and its outcomes began implementation over the following year and in late March 2019 the final stages were put in place with the following structural changes:

Combined Serious Organised Crime and Covert Policing Structure

The existing Serious Organised Crime Investigation teams have been combined with dedicated proactive money laundering teams, modern slavery and human trafficking teams and covert surveillance and technical surveillance units. This will mean that the Force can deliver relentless disruption and targeted action against the highest harm serious organised criminals and groups across the county. Incorporating the proactive money laundering capability will ensure maximum ability to disrupt organised criminals by taking away their proceeds of crime.

The surveillance team will have a sufficient number of trained and accredited operatives to be able to deliver covert support for SCD lead operations as well as being able to support local policing investigations such as tackling residential burglary, county lines criminality, high risk sex offenders and other Control Strategy threats.

Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking Team

The review has enabled a dedicated Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking Investigation team which comprises a Detective Sergeant, four Detective Constables and four Investigating Officers with the team expecting to grow over the next year. The creation of this team will ensure that every allegation or indication of modern slavery and human trafficking is thoroughly investigated and effectively supervised by teams with the right skills and experience to undertake them. Joint investigation teams will also be established with agencies overseas where necessary, to share intelligence and evidence.

Prevent/Protect Team

A dedicated Prevent/Protect team has been created with specialist co-ordinators for modern slavery/human trafficking, gangs, fraud, cyber crime and organised crime groups. This will raise the awareness of the community, partner agencies and local businesses of the threat posed by serious organised crime and how to protect themselves. They will work closely with SCD

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investigation teams and local policing commands so that prevention powers are utilised effectively to restrict the activity of those criminals threatening our communities.

Three additional Organised Crime Group (OCG) co-ordinators will be recruited this year to improve the co-ordination and delivery of the Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare work against serious organised crime. Three more staff will also be recruited to take responsibility for co-ordinating and delivering crime prevention support to vulnerable victims of fraud.

5.2 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT). As detailed above the dedicated Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Team investigate the more complex slavery and trafficking offences and are the Force lead in this area, providing advice and support to other investigators. The team work closely with the Prevent Protect Officers for Modern Slavery and the Victim Navigator who supports victims.

The Victim Navigator Role

SCD now have a Victim Navigator in Kent and another will start in Essex in the summer.

The Victim Navigator in Kent works for a charity and will work alongside Kent Police to support victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. They commenced work with Kent Police in February 2019. Their role is to act as the bridge between victims of this type of offence and the police. They will manage day to day contact with victims and provide strategic advice on victim care and safety.

The aim is that this role will provide complete support throughout the process which means supporting victims beyond police involvement too, which can provide advocacy to victims and help them navigate to the right services that will help and support them. In addition to this, some of the wider aims of the role will be to establish greater trust between victims, the police and the wider criminal justice process. By fostering greater engagement this will in turn aid police investigations and prosecutions, strengthening efforts to bring offenders to justice.

This is a very new role and so far the Victim Navigator is currently supporting one victim as well as assisting during a MSHT trial which commenced on 7th May 2019, with the main purpose of supporting the victims throughout the court process.

SCD continue to work protecting the public from the crimes which cause the highest harm to the community. The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking team (MSHT) have been commissioned within the SCD review providing specific focussed support for the Force. This team will form part of Serious Organised Crime and will be based at North Kent Police Station. The team will comprise of 1 Detective Sergeant, 4 Detective Constable and 4 Police Support Employee's. Two Detective Constables are currently in post, with four selected and awaiting posting. A process is now in place for the team to review all new reported MSHT crimes. Investigation plans are being reviewed and where needed help and advice is being offered to officers on division.

During the past 3 months there have been 16 MSHT arrests, 89 MSHT offences committed and 88 National Referral Model (NRM) referrals. 59 offences were against male victims, 26 offences against female victims and 4 being defined as unknown.

The MSHT offences are fairly evenly spread throughout the county as follows:

North – 26, West – 30, East – 33

An investigation into human trafficking and modern day slavery which has recently taken place saw a deployment to Maidstone in March which led to an 18 year old Romanian being found with hallmarks of being trafficked. The victim had been in the UK for a week. An older female was arrested at the premises for prostitution offences and has been bailed pending further enquiries.

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In the west of the county CPT officers have worked alongside the SCD in an operation to safeguard vulnerable persons in the community. These operations have led to the identification and safeguarding of young females that were believed to be involved in the sex trade. A number of properties have been visited, relevant intelligence gathered and arrests made. This action has led to a greater understanding by district officers around the safeguarding issues faced locally. Further work continues to prevent recurrence at the properties and to identify new concerns.

Tonbridge CPT has focused on human trafficking identified in the town through local intelligence. An operation took place which focussed on concerns around a local massage parlour. During an enforcement visit a Chinese national was arrested for overstaying their visa and subsequent enquiries revealed she had been trafficked and was herself a victim. Appropriate safeguarding was put in place and activity around the massage parlour and concerns from local residents addressed.

5.3 Missing and Child Exploitation Team (MCET). Protecting vulnerable children runs as a key theme through the Force Control Strategy and is a key component of the policing model.

The Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation Group (MASE) chaired by the Kent Police strategic lead for child sexual exploitation (CSE) meets quarterly and compares activity against the CSE action plan. The same Detective Chief Inspector chairs monthly meetings with the MCET Detective Inspectors to ensure best practice and compliance with the CSE action plan.

In the period January to March 2019 there has been a countywide year on year reduction in the number of missing reports of children as well as a decrease in the number of individual children missing as follows:

West Division has seen a 27% decrease from 327 to 247 of missing reports of children
North Division has seen a 1.6% decrease from 693 to 682 of incidents, and
East Division has seen a 9.3% decrease from 993 to 901 of incidents.

The work of the MCET continues to develop and improve. An example of this is that every missing child is now assessed for risk of exploitation using the Child Exploitation Screening Tool. This ensures that the overall risk of exploitation to that child is assessed, as well as the risk associated with the particular missing episode. Key to the success of the MCET is the consistent and positive engagement with repeat missing children. A recent engagement with a child led to a disclosure of recent drug use and extreme vulnerability, resulting in an emergency strategy meeting with the Social Services Department. The child was able to be placed into temporary foster care and this has already started to have a positive impact on the child's wellbeing.

Another example was a 16 year old juvenile female who was deemed to be at high risk of Child Sexual Exploitation/Child Exploitation. This individual initially came to the notice of Kent Police due to concerns for her welfare when missing from foster care and it was established that this female had allegedly been raped. The North Division MCET allocated a single point of contact to try and work with this individual to protect her from harm and reduce the missing episodes. Initially she wouldn't speak to anyone other than her nominated person, however a development of the professional relationship encouraged her to have the confidence to make disclosures relating to offences committed against her and provided the opportunity for forensic capture/evidence gathering and the undertaking of an interview. The MCET officer worked closely with Social Services, Child Adolescent Mental Health Services and mentoring services resulting in the individual re-engaging with her education and is working with a tutor to obtain her GCSEs.

Officers from East Division MCET targeted a male who was exploiting a number of children for use in county lines drug dealing across South East England. Recognising that the man would remain a significant risk to children, the team took the innovative approach of successfully applying to a Magistrates Court for a Slavery Trafficking Risk Order, the first one of its type issued in Kent. This prevents the man travelling or having unsupervised contact with anyone under the

age of 18, staying in a hotel or hostel with any person unless he supplies the name of the accompanying person to police. It also prevents the person from carrying or using any mobile phone without giving the IMEI number to police. These conditions will remain in force for the man's lifetime and safeguard numerous children at risk of exploitation.

Also in the East of the county, the MCET worked with a vulnerable child who, as the daughter of a drug addict was leading a chaotic lifestyle and had been exposed to numerous adverse childhood experiences and was frequently going missing. Despite being driven by anger towards the police and those attempting to help her, MCET officers worked patiently to build trust with the girl leading to her feeling confident enough to call the officers when her mother was being attacked, something she had never previously done. Working in partnership with Social Services, the team agreed for her to be relocated to a safe environment where she is now thriving.

The Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Command works closely with the Divisional MCETs to enhance the Force's response to Missing and Child Exploitation. The central CSE team is currently being devolved to the Divisions, supported by a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). This supports the Force Control Strategy, which is underpinned by the Child Centred Policing Plan. This work is being progressed in a multi-agency arena via Local Child Safeguarding Boards (LSCBs), Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation panel (MASE) and the Risk, Threats and Vulnerability Board (RTV).

The Kent and Medway Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Meeting convened on Friday 22nd March 2019 and was well attended by various Multi Agency representatives. The meeting received a presentation from Barnados with regard to their 'Trauma Informed Growth and Empowered Recovery' (TIGER) programme. TIGER CSE is an augmentative and innovative trauma-informed project. The intervention programme supports young people and parents/carers over a period of 20 weeks, where there are known concerns around CSE.

The recommendations from a recent Medway CSE Themed Audit will be utilised to inform the review of the Medway Safeguarding Children's Board Multi Agency CSE Training Package which is due for review in June. Partners reported that Lessons Learned identify that there is a need to further understand the impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) on individuals and families and partners in Kent and Medway are working together on 'Making Kent and Medway ACE aware'.

Both Kent and Medway partners updated the meeting that their Multi Agency 'CSE Champions' are going to extend their remit to consider the wider exploitation of children. As a result of Gang activity and County Lines it is no longer useful to focus solely on the sexual element of exploitation in isolation of these wider issues affecting children and young people.

Kent Police are in the process of reorganising their central resources in response to CSE, following a successful three year initiative, which has embedded the identification and investigation of CSE into daily policing business in Kent and Medway. The redeployment of resources will enhance the successful Divisional MCETs.

5.4 Protecting Vulnerable People. This is key to the Force's Values and Priorities and underpins the Kent Police Priority 'Protect the public from harm and ensure an effective response to those who are most vulnerable in our communities. Safeguarding vulnerable people from serious harm and managing risk with partners is demonstrated in the following examples of activity which have taken place since the last Performance and Delivery Board meeting.

On West Division a male offender attended his ex-partners address which is a block of flats where vulnerable people live. The male threatened to burn the flat down and took a pushchair belonging to another victim. He placed it against the door of his ex-partners flat and proceeded to set light to it and left the property. The fire was tackled and extinguished by the residents. The offender

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was arrested and was charged with 'Arson with Intent' and 'Possession of Cannabis' and remanded to Court.

In East Division a female from Dover has recently been charged and remanded for 5 counts of Fraud on elderly vulnerable adults. She was also charged with 5 offences of shoplifting, a burglary and Assault on an Emergency Worker. She pleaded guilty to all apart from the burglary, which was committed to Crown Court and awaits sentencing.

As part of the District Safer Spring campaign, the CSU in Tonbridge identified the top twenty most vulnerable individuals, susceptible to "cuckooing," by drug users/gangs. A plan of regular home visits was introduced with the support of partners including housing providers and mental health services. The initiative has proved very successful with a number of positive interventions. In one particular case the Vulnerable Adult Intervention Officer (VAIO) and the CPT intervened with a particularly vulnerable victim, making regular visits to the address, checking on the female's welfare, gaining intelligence and removing those drug users preying on her from the address. Vulnerable and homeless people using her address were supported and signposted for further help. The VAIO and CPT have involved other agencies in resolving this issue and during a recent visit, KFRS, the local housing officer and a mental health support worker also attended. During this visit smoke alarms were fitted and the locks to the front door were changed. Other residents have been encouraged to engage with services that will safeguard them from being victimised. The female's mental health has improved and there are no longer any drug users/suppliers attending the premises. Emergency service calls to the address have dramatically reduced.

5.5 Domestic Abuse. Some great work has taken place across the county by the Vulnerability Investigation Teams (VIT) from the 3 divisions. VITs provide a specialist investigative response to Domestic Abuse (DA) and vulnerable people. They assess and prioritise case investigation based on potential for harm and provide a consistent, bespoke specialist service to safeguard and improve the safety of DA victims and their families. They also ensure that the right services are involved to reduce risk posed by those that target DA victims at the earliest opportunity.

Some examples of DA across the county where VIT have intervened include a case in the North of the county where a 24 year old female reported to the police that her ex-boyfriend, since the end of the relationship, had been displaying worryingly jealous behaviour whereby he would text and call her continuously and wait outside her address. On one of these occasions he assaulted her and called her derogatory names whilst in a public street. The VIT for DA undertook the investigation after ensuring that the victim was safeguarded and the suspect was then arrested. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) authorised a charge for Common Assault by Beating and Using Violence to Secure Entry. The defendant eventually pleaded guilty and the Court made a restraining order against him and a Community Order to carry out 100 hours unpaid work and a Rehabilitation Order.

On East Division a violent male was arrested by officers in Thanet having breached a restraining order and brutally assaulted his ex-partner. Following a comprehensive investigation by VIT officers he was charged with eight offences including Grievous Bodily Harm and is currently remanded in prison.

A known offender in West Kent had previously been charged with Violence to Secure Entry and Malicious Communications in September 2018. He began reoffending with harassment against his ex-partner, using over 38 different phone numbers to contact the victim, four fake Facebook profiles and a fake Plenty of Fish dating profile. He harassed her at her home address, entered her garden, sent Instagram messages to her son, left voicemails and made calls to her father and messaged her daughter. He was arrested and presented to the courts and given stringent bail conditions including electronic tag, however he failed to meet all bail conditions and went into hiding. Following a warrant in London the offender was located and arrested and charged with Harassment, Witness Intimidation and Malicious Communications. He is currently on remand awaiting trial.

The high risks associated with Stalking offences are being mitigated through the introduction of Single Points of Contacts (SPOCs) and a refreshed training package is soon to roll out across the Force which will include updates on the nature of stalking and offender risk behaviours. This includes the recent HMICFRS report where breaches of prevention orders are very much indicators of wider stalking behaviours.

The Kent Police Force lead sits on the regional and national NPCC stalking working groups and has organised a continued professional development conference on stalking that is to be held in July. The Force has also secured places on the Stalking Risk Profile (SRP) training course to ensure our internal training and assessment is able to appropriately risk assess High Risk Stalking incidents.

Also to note is that Kent Police is one of the pilot Forces that will be trialling the College of Policing Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment tool (DARA) that is due to be implemented July 2019. Updates will be provided in the September paper.

5.6 Violent Crime. As a Force priority SCD continue to support the disruption of criminality involving the use of violence.

A number of police investigations have taken place in the past reporting period including three murders in the county, 2 occurring in the Medway towns. The first one in Gillingham occurred on 14th February 2019. Kent Fire & Rescue Service attended an address that was on fire and located a male in the flat. He was removed from the address but was unfortunately deceased. A suspect was arrested the following day and charged with Murder.

The second murder happened in Chatham just a month later on 16th March 2019. Police attended an address after receiving a call from SECAMB and the victim was taken to hospital with serious head injuries but died on 18th March 2019. Two males and two females have been arrested and have been conditionally bailed.

The third murder took place in Maidstone on 17th March 2019 whereby the victim was shot with a firearm. A suspect has been arrested and charged with the murder.

Violence Reduction Challenge

As part of the Violence Reduction Challenge, SCD are profiling habitual knife carriers for intervention / targeting and profiling previous knife and Serious Violent Crime locations for disrupting policing opportunities, learning from research that these are likely to be future street homicide locations.

The Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) team have created a Knife Crime package for delivery to 7-9 and 11+ year olds, delivered by Police at key schools with train the trainer for school delivery. This consolidates all the previous training packages to ensure consistency in approach.

Kent County Council (KCC) are in the process of delivering their Adolescent Risk Hubs across the county and will be considering contextual safeguarding matters. Work continues looking at the Adolescent Risk Matrix to update this and consider Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) to assist with a trauma based approach. KCC have a project manager appointed and working with the PVP team.

Knife Crime

On 11th March 2019 Kent Police commenced a county wide knife crime operation, a month long period of intelligence led sustained pursue activity deploying all district CPTs to target knife crime, gangs and county lines.

The initial four weeks activity resulted in:

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	Warrants	Stop Search	Arrests
North	15	129	80
West	15	95	68
East	18	94	92
TOTAL	48	318	240

On 8th April 2019, the Operation was extended by a further six weeks and officers from across the Force were brigaded to form a Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF) supplementing the ongoing CPT activity. Ten officers per division were aligned to the teams with the VCTF focussing their activity in Medway, Thanet and Maidstone but providing the ability to deploy to any location in the county when demand/intelligence dictates.

During the period 8th April – 22nd April 2019, activity resulted in:

	Warrants	Stop Search	Arrests
North	9	95	43
West	13	80	50
East	6	95	36
TOTAL	28	270	129

Local officers across the county have also been working on operations relating to this to target habitual knife carriers. This includes conducting 'sweeps' of geographical areas where information indicates knives or weapons have been secreted, as well as stopping and searching individuals believed to be in possession of weapons. This activity has yielded numerous positive results such as arrests, seizures of knives and controlled drugs as well as providing visible reassurance within local communities. Focussed work has been conducted in the Medway town centres and all Town Centre officers have been checking areas that have experienced previous knife crime /weapon activity or areas frequented by persons known to be involved in crime. During this activity a member of the public approached officers and informed them of a knife being seen which resulted in a 6 inch knife being located in an alleyway near Rochester High Street. As part of these checks Town Centre officers located 4 weapons in a 2 week period across the 3 main town centres. The weapons were located in places of high foot fall and therefore removal of them helps to keep town centres safe places to work, live and visit.

Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers campaigns targeting knife crime and serious violence plan to be run throughout the year and will be targeted at specific geographic locations where serious violence and knife crime is more prevalent in Kent. Kent Crimestoppers reports are processed initially within the Kent Intelligence Bureau (KIB) before being disseminated to appropriate recipients for action. Urgent Crimestoppers reports received are passed directly to the Force Control & Incident Room for immediate assessment.

The KIB received 3,698 reports between October 2017 and September 2018 (latest reporting quarter). This led to 106 positive outcomes and 53 suspects arrested and charged for offences. These figures continue to rise on a yearly basis and this has been acknowledged by Crimestoppers themselves.

One example of a case that derived from Crimestoppers was in September 2018 when a child protection investigation / referral was put in place as a result of information passed to Kent Police by Crimestoppers highlighting concerns around a risk to children. These concerns were not previously known to Police. In October 2018, information was processed from Crimestoppers regarding the location of a person wanted for offences. The person was later arrested at this

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location. In April 2019, following information received from Crimestoppers, procedures were put in place to prevent a significant incident occurring which may have resulted in loss of life.

6. Combatting Organised Crime and Gangs.

The Force understands the challenges in tackling organised crime and gangs (OCGs) and the significant impact the associated crime types can have on victims and the wider community. Led through the Kent and Essex collaborated SCD and delivered locally through CSUs and local teams, the Force is actively combatting OCG related activity.

6.1 Organised Crime Groups (OCG), County Lines and Gangs. A specific police operation was implemented to deal with and enhance our local to global response to OCGs. The OCG mapping process is now completed through the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) who provides a co-ordinated approach and detailed intelligence picture ensuring that the OCGs causing the most threat, harm and risk to Kent are scored appropriately.

The Force has dedicated OCG co-ordinators who have responsibility for co-ordinating the strategic and tactical response in relation to the 4P approach (Prevent, Prepare, Pursue and Protect) to tackle OCGs in line with national policy, working with district Chief Inspectors and district Community Safety Partnerships to develop consistent plans force wide in order to maximise opportunities to disrupt and dismantle OCGs and prevent people joining OCGs.

The Regional County Line Intelligence Collection Matrix (CLICM) shows that within the Eastern Region, Kent Police have the second highest number of County Lines behind Essex, but only a small number of individuals linked to County Lines in comparison to other forces. It also shows that there are 15 towns across the UK that have 10+ County Lines operating in them, 6 of which are within Kent and Essex. Medway have 13 at the time of writing, and Gravesend have 10.

Local gangs are mapped, scored on a harm matrix and allocated a local Lead Responsible Owner. Each has a Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Pursue plan. Significant disruption against these gangs mean that the county no longer has much of a problem from home grown gangs. This continues to be monitored to ensure any new threats are quickly identified.

Kent currently has 32 active OCGs and between January and March 2019, Kent had the most OCG Disruptions in the Eastern Region with 55, compared to 47 for Bedfordshire, 19 for Cambridgeshire, 19 from Suffolk, 15 from Essex, 4 from Norfolk and 4 from Hertfordshire.

Some operational activity conducted by both SCD and local divisions is detailed as follows:

In March officers from Thanet were involved in a police operation which was an OCG day of action. During the Operation officers stopped and arrested a 39 year old male suspect in his car. Inside the vehicle was a large quantity of Class A drugs valued at £12,000, Class B drugs, an offensive weapon and approximately £2,000 in cash. A further search was carried out at a local address connected to the male and approximately £50,000 in cash was seized along with a motorcycle valued at £10,000, a high value piece of art and a number of high value watches.

SCD have been working on a number of Fraud cases and one in particular relates to a series of courier frauds being investigated by the Economic Crime Unit, whereby offenders from London ring elderly victims across the country claiming to be from their banks and persuading them to hand over their bank cards, which are then used to obtain cash. Approximately 45 offences committed between 2nd May 2018 and 3rd January 2019 have taken place in North Kent and Sussex connected to two identified suspects who have been mapped as an OCG. Two main suspects have been located and arrested.

Another Fraud investigation led to an arrest in a London hotel where £1m of gold bullion was discovered along with £150,000 worth of watches, and £30,000 cash. Within the suspect's vehicle were documents relating to fraudulent passports and approximately £50,000 of silver. The suspect has been arrested.

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Ashford District have continued to work hard to combat the issues that OCGs bring. Within the last three months officers have arrested both principle members and a number of peripheral members for multiple offences including Burglary, Theft, Handling and Drugs Offences. A significant amount of stolen property including two Land Rovers and a number of valuable birds have been recovered as a result of the work undertaken to disrupt the OCG. Officers have been working with partners and other Forces to ensure there is a united approach to dealing with the group. Investigations are on-going but officers are confident of securing charges that will have a significant impact on the group's criminal activity.

Tunbridge Wells District has been working closely with SCD, along with the Divisional Intelligence Department and Crime Group, in order to target and disrupt County Lines drug dealing especially linked to Albanian gangs. The level of drug supply from Albanian drug gangs is significant across the area. The CPTs for both Districts are focused on targeting the suppliers and couriers and receive intelligence updates on linked vehicles and dealing locations from the intelligence team. Two Albanian males have been arrested for possessing cocaine with intent to supply. Partners are encouraged to contribute information and intelligence on emerging Albanian communities through the District Serious Crime Board to help the CSU understand the impact of criminality and protect members of the Albanian community from exploitation.

6.3 Proceeds of Crime Seizures. The Force continues to use the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) to seize and retain assets obtained from criminality.

POCA Confiscation (April 2018 – March 2019) - money found in possession of offenders on arrest:

	Kent	Serious Crime Directorate (including Essex)
Number of Orders	116	219
Value of Orders	£1,198,204	£19,061,106

POCA Forfeiture (April 2018 – March 2019) – Court decision to retain the confiscated assets:

	Kent	Serious Crime Directorate
Number of Orders	69	101
Value of Orders	£837,049	£1,451,538

Cash Seizures (April 2018 – March 2019)

	Kent	Serious Crime Directorate
Number of Orders	254	329
Value of Orders	£2,831,141 €239,625	£3,473,145 €284,425 \$4,500

7. Provide Visible Neighbourhood and Effective Roads Policing.

Providing visible, local policing at the heart of our policing model remains a priority for Kent Police. The challenge however is clear in respect of maintaining a visible presence balanced against an increase in demand and fewer resources.

7.1 Local and Community Policing. The 13 Community Safety Units (CSUs) are the bedrock of neighbourhood policing focusing on vulnerability and community based crime and ASB, driving forward solutions to local problems in partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies. CSUs provide the neighbourhood policing footprint for each district, providing a named PCSO for all residents of Kent.

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The Chief Constable places PCSOs at the heart of the local policing model and with the support of the PCC has protected PCSO numbers and functions in Kent where their value is recognised by the public and police officer colleagues alike. The Force (at the time of writing) has over 289 PCSOs, 82 of whom sit in specialist roles covering youth engagement, vulnerable adults and domestic abuse.

Across all districts, PCSOs are generally geographically aligned to provide consistency for the wards they have responsibility for. PCSOs attend calls, take responsibility for problem solving, carry out reassurance visits and generally provide a visible presence in local communities. PCSOs deploy according to the needs of their respective communities and threats for example, working with the local authority to provide safety advice to students in Canterbury, supporting community sports outreach programmes in Medway or high visibility patrolling in support of day time economy in the run up to Christmas in Tunbridge Wells.

Officers and PCSOs engage with local communities through a range of activity from foot patrols, attendance at partnership events, engagement in schools and by holding ward meetings and surgeries. Visible and meaningful engagement is now being further enhanced with harder to reach communities through the use of the specialist PCSOs targeting particular groups such as young people at risk of involvement with gang related crime, vulnerable adults at risk of exploitation and victims of domestic abuse.

The importance of CSUs and specifically PCSOs play in providing visible policing to the communities in Kent cannot be underestimated and below are just a few examples of the varied work undertaken on a daily basis.

Two youth engagement PCSOs arranged workshops and presentations on the dangers of knife crime and gangs for over 8,000 school students across the Ashford area. To ensure this powerful message was delivered with credibility and authenticity they engaged a reformed gang member to speak to the young people about his experiences and devastating impact on lives when knives are carried and used. Identifying the students most vulnerable to being drawn into knife crime, the PCSOs brought them together in small groups for thought provoking discussions on the consequences of violent offending. Feedback from young people participating and from their teachers has demonstrated exceptional impact of this important work.

Following complaints from residents in the Medway area regarding nuisance off road bikes, the CSU in partnership with the Local Authority collated information and intelligence. The impact on the local community was significant. The local PCSOs have subsequently issued 13 Section 59 notices for driving offences including driving without due care and attention, driving otherwise in accordance and causing alarm and distress regarding noise level.

Maidstone Town centre PCSOs have worked tirelessly to build up excellent relationships with the street homeless and the service providers available to safeguard these vulnerable people. Due to the rapport building a well-known homeless individual, who is often difficult to engage with, disclosed to an officer that he had been the victim of a serious sexual assault. This was his first disclosure and he explained he had not told anyone else about the incident. The PCSO was extremely professional and was able to obtain a first account and provide initial safeguarding for the victim. Due to her excellent local knowledge of the community she was also quickly able to identify the suspect leading to a swift arrest and the securing of evidence.

Officers regularly work with partner agencies to ensure the safety of the High Streets. Recently the officers worked with Trading Standards in relation to illegal Tobacco, together they seized approximately £10,000 worth of illegal tobacco from several different stores across Medway. One of the stores had gone to great lengths to hide their illegal activities and as such had constructed a hidden drop down cupboard in the ceiling to try and evade capture.

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Officers in Folkestone have engaged in a multi-agency initiative to tackle ASB, littering and alcohol abuse associated with rough sleeping. Working closely with colleagues from the council and support charities, officers have identified the most vulnerable rough sleepers and offered pathways to professional support for substance misuse and housing services whilst dealing with behaviour that was having a detrimental impact on businesses and the community.

Tonbridge and Malling PCSOs have been addressing inconsiderate and dangerous parking outside school premises when parents drop off children. Working with partners from Parking Enforcement at Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, PCSOs have been working as a team which maximises the effectiveness of the operation through increased visible presence together with enforcement at specific schools. It is much more effective than individuals working alone and they can respond effectively to safety issues brought to the attention of the CSU by schools and parents.

7.2 Citizens in Policing. The Force continues to utilise a variety of volunteer roles to extend the policing family and provide visible policing. Our Special Constables (SCs), Cadets, Community Police Volunteers (CPVs) and volunteers support officers and staff, work and engage with the local community in both urban and rural locations. Below are some updates on activity since the last meeting.

The Special Constabulary have been working alongside The Joint Response Unit (JRU) in North Division and due to its success it will be extended to each of the Divisions. It is likely that both West and East Division will be working with SECAMB by the end of October 2019. An extension of the initiative is a pilot that will be run on North Division where regular officers will crew up with either a CPV or SC to increase capacity which is likely to commence in June 2019.

SCs have also been taking part in a monthly proactive operation to assist in combating local violent crime and ASB in and around the town centres. The operation was led by the LPTs in consultation with Divisional Intelligence Units. It has now run on consecutive months since February with further operations scheduled. The outcome has been an increase in those that are stop-searched, increased deployments of the knife detection bar and a number of arrests. Of note were 2 males arrested by the officers for supply of class A drugs. Over £1000 worth of cocaine was seized and around £1000 in cash. One of the arrested males was also wanted for a serious DA incident.

Each month, the Special Constabulary attends a designated district and takes responsibility for calls from the public and undertakes a number of pro-active initiatives, some with police cadets which include Speedwatch enforcement, high visibility patrolling and leaflet drops

There has been an increase in interest to join as a SC with 60 new applicants in March. At the time of writing the Force currently has 276 SCs with a number specialising in different areas, e.g. Roads Policing, the Dog Section and more recently Special Branch.

Community Police Volunteer (CPV) numbers remain steady at 45 with a number of people waiting to commence in the role with an increase in interest from members of the public from the rural community with a particular interest in equine patrol duties. Following a review of the Manchester Bombing incident it was determined that there were opportunities to utilise members of the public in certain industries to support the emergency services. Kent Police have been recognised as the lead force in the design and delivery of a course that will see the security industry undertake a series of modules that on completion, will see CPVs trained to provide specific first aid, manage a scene, place and remove a cordon and road incident management.

The Force currently has over 343 Volunteer Police Cadets located at 9 units, Dover, Canterbury, Maidstone, Tonbridge, Medway, Sittingbourne, Swanley, Ashford and Gravesend with a waiting list in excess of 300. Thanet will open in May and Folkestone and Dartford will open in the latter part of 2019. Development work is being undertaken to design the four nationally recognised strands of cadet volunteers which are Mini cadets, Junior Cadets, Cadets and Cadet Leaders. A meeting

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was held in London to explore the programmes, the training commitment and its design and delivery. This is expected to commence with Mini cadets later in the year.

Community Speedwatch

Community Speedwatch continues its excellent work at a local level tackling repeat or extreme offenders and issuing letters of advice and working towards keeping Kent roads safe. The Community Speed Watch manager co-ordinates with local CSUs, the Camera Partnership Team (CPT), the Roads Safety Co-Ordinator and the Roads Safety Team identifying the repeat venues and offenders. The CPT attend the locations to support the local community providing enforcement and maintaining a high visibility presence around the area. The Roads Safety Co-Ordinator will receive details of all drivers that have been monitored driving at excess speed, risk assess and will then be targeted accordingly by the Road Safety Team.

The table below highlights local Community Speedwatch activity for January and March 2019.

Station for Period	Total Observed	1st Record Observed	Active Enforcement	Hand Delivered	Letters Sent	Unprocessed	No MOT	Not Taxed	Number of sessions undertaken
East Division	1025	759	0	0	20	76	4	1	34
West Division	5095	3641	12	8	600	452	114	110	681
North Division	223	161	1	0	44	16	7	10	63
Totals	6343	4561	13	8	664	544	125	121	748

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is a way for communities to help themselves to stay safe. Groups of local volunteers work in partnership with the police and their local council to distribute safety advice, help ensure elderly and vulnerable residents aren't targets for criminals, gather information to help police tackle local problems and alert residents when there's a particular crime problem in an area. It can help to reduce burglary, anti-social behaviour, doorstep crime and environmental problems.

Kent Police has around 200 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators/Police Support Volunteers registered. NHW schemes continue to increase with the largest growth area being the East of the county. This year alone has seen an increase of 50.

7.3 Tactical Operations Command. Tactical Operations deliver a range of assets to support policing operations at all levels of criminality and provide a visible presence on the streets of Kent. Teams include Firearms, Dog Section, Tactical Support, Search and Marine Unit, Roads Policing, Proactive Targeting Team and the Rural Liaison Team.

Officers within Firearms and Dog Section regularly undertake proactive taskings to areas of high demand and respond to immediate and high calls across the county. Patrolling and engagement

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with the community takes place at key iconic sites such as Bluewater and Canterbury Cathedral whilst also carrying out anti-crime messaging at clubs, demonstrations etc. The Roads Policing Unit are deployed across the county responding to threat and harm across the strategic road network. In addition they undertake proactive tasking and engagement activity such as the delivery of education messages to young people across Kent on road safety issues.

7.4 Roads Policing. Kent is the 'Gateway to Europe' with a high concentration of motorways therefore targeted effective patrolling regimes are essential in ensuring the safety of road users and as a disruption tactic for combating the unlawful activities of OCGs and criminals using the strategic road network to commit crime. The Roads Policing Unit (RPU) provides this by operating 24/7 across the county. The RPU are a highly proactive unit as detailed in the 132 arrests over the period of February-April 2019.

Following the uplift in resources funded by the PCC a bespoke Road Safety Team (RST) was formed in December 2019 supporting the National Roads Policing Operations in relation to the 'fatal four' which are: - speeding, alcohol and substance misuse, seatbelt offences and mobile phone use. The RST also focuses on other strategic threats on the road networks.

Enforcement activity in relation to road safety by officers in Kent are outlined below.

Road Safety Team Enforcement Activity						
Month 2019	Speed	Seatbelt	Mobile Phone	Careless Driving	Traffic Offence Reports	Graduated Fixed Penalty Notices
February	37	14	26	6	30	12
March	42	55	37	14	34	52
April	42	14	17	11	3	2
Total	121	83	80	31	67	66

The internal move of the Camera Safety Partnership vans and team to co locate with the RST was completed on the 1st April 2019. This allows coordinated activity between all the elements of the team and promotes a joined up response to all road safety related matters.

The RPU continue to support the National Police Chief Council (NPCC) Calendar in respect of road safety. In March there was the National Seatbelt Campaign which resulted in 301 seatbelt offences and 78 other offences being identified in Kent through wider enforcement activity.

The Commercial Vehicle Unit (CVU) has also run a number of bespoke operations during the months February to April 2019 resulting in 501 offences being detected. The CVU work closely with partners such as the DVLA, Border Force and HM Revenue & Customs.

Through the Road Safety Coordinator, the RPU continues to use intelligence to identify those that are identified as posing the highest risk to others' safety on the road. Subjects are categorised as High, Medium or Standard dependent on the severity of the risk and their involvement in criminality, especially when in contravention of the Control Strategy.

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The cumulative data is as follows:

Month 2018	High	Medium	Standard	Vehicles seized	Arrested	Stopped
February	1	1	0	2	1	3
March	1	3	0	4	1	4
April	5	4	0	0	1	0

During this reporting period two offenders who were posing a high risk to road safety were imprisoned and disqualified following proactive targeting.

The Serious Crash Investigation Unit (SCIU) attends all serious injury, serious police vehicle related accidents as well as all fatal collisions. In 2019 to date SCIU have attended 12 road deaths, 16 road traffic collisions which have resulted in serious injuries and currently have 75 ongoing case files. SCIU have recently ensured several convictions all resulting in lengthy custodial sentences including offences of Death by Dangerous Driving and Dangerous Driving Causing Significant Injury.

Kent Police are fortunate to benefit from a Special Constabulary Roads Policing Unit. This unit consists of 20 officers; an increase of three following a recent recruitment campaign. During February - March 2019 the unit committed 1,968 hours of their time and contributed significantly to supporting their regular colleagues and enhancing road safety.

8. Delivering an Efficient Service.

The Force continues to review its processes to ensure that communities in Kent receive a first class service whilst delivering value for money. The Force has a strong commitment to joint working, in particular with Essex Police, and is an active member of the seven-force strategic alliance.

Both the Chief Constable and PCC are committed to the continued drive for financial savings and process gains for which there will be no change to the momentum of the local plans to deliver positive outcomes regardless of the increased flexibility afforded to the PCCs in setting the Force's budget.

8.1 Mental Health and s.136 Detentions. The police use of s.136 of the Mental Health Act (1983) to detain individuals who appear to be suffering from a mental health crisis is increasing year on year. The table below shows its usage:

	FY 11/12	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18	FY 18/19
Apr	93	96	87	73	80	96	117	146
May	117	105	103	102	84	138	144	143
Jun	111	100	132	91	94	107	129	144
Jul	104	78	134	107	94	120	147	159
Aug	122	90	113	103	99	116	151	166
Sep	97	98	117	91	84	120	146	146
Oct	91	94	102	94	66	100	125	152
Nov	104	72	89	76	110	88	109	137
Dec	92	93	65	66	116	97	97	128
Jan	100	75	79	67	84	114	118	155
Feb	94	88	74	58	85	117	101	147
Mar	97	112	91	73	93	117	148	152
Total	1222	1101	1186	1001	1089	1330	1532	1775

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Kent has experienced a 45.2% increase between the 2011/12 and 2018/19 financial years. There are no discernible patterns regarding days and times for the exercise of detention powers but areas with higher social deprivation tend to see increased numbers.

The Force Inspectorate have been commissioned to conduct a review of how Kent Police officers exercise their powers of detention under the Mental Health Act. Furthermore, Kent, along with a number of other Forces are participating in a national piece of work led by the College of Policing examining a 24 hour 'snapshot' of mental health related demand to better understand the key issues; this will take place later on this year.

Data is collated regarding how long our officers are waiting with patients for medical clearance or to access a place of safety, times shown are in hours and minutes (00:00) and is based on the latest reporting period:

Demand	July 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19
Average time spent at A&E for clearance/treatment	06:34	07:36	06:45	07:45	08:14	05:25	08:03	07:09	9:30
Average time to s136 suite when available (exc A&E attendance)	01:27	2:47	01:48	01:22	01:35	02:08	01:30	02:05	02:20

Average wait times at A&E continue to increase where the s.136 patient requires medical clearance (usually as a result of intoxication or overdose) prior to the Mental Health Act assessment, or where the patient is waiting at A&E purely because there is no s.136 assessment suite immediately available.

Joint training with the Kent and Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership on mental health awareness continues with 839 police officers and staff including 151 partner agency staff having received the training. This course is now delivered by police trainers only, KMPT have not replaced their trainer who jointly delivered this training.

In November 2018 KMPT ceased bi-monthly interface meetings whilst a review of all meetings took place. Notwithstanding the anticipated implementation of a revised governance structure, a smaller KMPT/Police group co-chaired by both organisations focused on tactical and operational delivery will be implemented in the next three months.

The Mental Health Policing Team continues to support both the NHS and Local Policing Teams by investigating crimes that occur within the NHS units that they have responsibility for, they average 80 crime report investigations each month and at the time of this report are case building 28 case files for prosecution.

The Force continues to work with partners to ensure that the appropriate support is available for people that are in crisis. This includes the development of an Alternative Place of Safety in the east of the county which is tentatively scheduled to open in early 2020.

8.2 Making Contact. Call handling performance for emergency and non-emergency calls for this financial year to date is set out in the table below:

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Jan-18 to Apr-19	Call volume 999	Calls Answered %	Average answering time (999) [mm:ss]	Call Attrition	Call volume 101	Calls Answered %	Average answering time (101) [mm:ss]	Call attrition
January 18	23,976	98.07%	00:16	1.93%	41,358	80.78%	02:30	19.22%
February 18	22,558	99.34%	00:09	0.66%	38,151	82.19%	02:10	17.81%
March 18	25,478	98.94%	00:09	1.06%	43,627	79.98%	02:17	20.02%
April 18	25,701	98.89%	00:10	1.11%	42,540	78.06%	02:35	21.94%
May 18	28,203	99.13%	00:10	0.87%	46,534	78.84%	02:46	21.16%
June 18	28,386	99.39%	00:08	0.61%	46,525	89.85%	01:25	10.15%
July 18	32,593	99.30%	00:09	0.70%	43,568	92.95%	01:24	7.05%
August 18	28,839	99.56%	00:07	0.44%	39,141	95.27%	01:03	4.73%
September 18	27,497	99.60%	00:08	0.40%	37,454	94.57%	01:26	5.43%
October 18	27,659	99.02%	00:09	0.98%	34,773	93.62%	01:38	6.38%
November 18	28,136	99.00%	00:10	1.00%	32,563	90.24%	02:05	9.76%
December 18	28,155	99.19%	00:08	0.81%	29,954	92.09%	01:23	7.91%
January 19	25,483	99.30%	00:09	0.70%	33,654	90.41%	02:10	9.59%
February 19	24,860	99.21%	00:10	0.79%	32,185	88.78%	02:13	11.22%
March 19	28,456	98.98%	00:13	1.02%	36,706	85.24%	02:09	14.76%
April 19	26,564	99.43%	00:09	0.57%	36,217	93.68%	00:59	6.32%

Call performance has continued to demonstrate the sustained improvement evident since June 2018. The additional call handlers employed as a result of the investment made are helping to achieve the significant increases in the percentage answered on both the emergency (999) and non-emergency (101) lines.

Call performance over the past 3 months has continued to be strong and new working practices and an enhanced performance framework have contributed to this. Staffing in the FCIR is strong and sickness has reduced. Over the past 3 months more calls have been answered for service both on the telephone and also via Live Chat and Online Crime Reporting.

In comparison in February 2019 the FCIR answered 88.78% of all 101 calls (February 2018 was 82.19%)

In March 2019 the FCIR answered 85.24% of all 101 calls (March 2018 was 79.98%)

In April 2019 the FCIR answered 93.68% of all 101 calls (April 2018 was 78.06%)

The way that the control room staff work remains under constant review in order to ensure the best possible service to the public is achieved. Key to this is maximising the benefits obtained from the inter relationship between the different roles within the operational floor. For example, a team of staff who are utilised to review incidents that are awaiting attendance will move to assist with call taking during periods of peak demand.

This complements work recently undertaken to review the operating hours of the switchboard, as a result of which the hours of operation were increased to 10pm on Monday to Saturday and 6pm on Sunday in order to resolve as many calls as possible at the very first point of contact. Approximately one third of calls from the public, received by the police do not require a police response. This may be due to them either requiring only basic information, wishing to update an officer about an existing matter or reporting an incident that is not dealt with by the police. Training is ongoing for the switchboard staff to equip them with all the additional skills and knowledge that they need to deal with the whole range of calls, thereby removing additional call demand from the operational floor.

Work in relation to dealing with and improving the service that is provided to vulnerable callers also remains a key focus within the control room. Focusing on those callers suffering from a mental health related matter, additional funding from the PCC has meant that the services of staff from

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MIND has been retained within the control room three days a week. The benefit of their presence is significant in relation to them being able to provide expert advice to call takers as well as to speak with some callers directly in order to offer support and signposting to other agencies or their own MIND run cafes that best suits their needs. This initiative also has the benefit of freeing up call taker and police officer time to deal with other calls from the public.

Click Before You Call Campaign

This campaign has only recently been launched across Force social media channels, radio commercials and advertisements on local buses. The public are being encouraged to consider self-serving online services as an alternative to traditional contact channels which are quick and easy to use and can be accessed at the public's convenience. The Force recognises that there are some situations where digital services are not appropriate and will continue to respond to 101 and of course, 999 for emergencies. However with increased usage of online services the Force will be better placed to allocate resources and prioritise responses where the public need them the most. At present the average number of daily online reports submitted over the past three months has been 79, which equates to about 8% of total recorded crime. With the new campaign it is hoped this figure will increase.

8.3 Mobile First.

Since the last update work with the mobile application developers (HCL) has continued with a focus on developing the digital Stop and Search and Traffic Offence Reporting facility. A number of forms including Medical Consent and Sudden Death are also close to being ready for release. As the functionality of the application is increased further benefits are delivered, officer efficiency increases and returns to the police station are reduced. In the period January to March 2019, Kent officers and FCR staff have saved a total of 11,907 hours by officers changing their way of working to self-service via the application. This has allowed officers and FCR staff to make better use of their time and be deployed to other demands. The total number of hours saved in the financial year 2018/19 was 31,600.

Currently the Mobile First team are working with HCL to develop geo-fenced tasking and briefing. This will be available later in 2019, which will further save officer time with reduced briefing times. Officers will receive push notifications when they enter an area with relevant intelligence to their role too. The electronic pocket note book will also be refreshed in 2019, with the aim to give officers a more user friendly experience.

8.4 Innovation. The Innovation Task Force (ITF) has continued to deliver on the projects set by the Chief Constable with 16 key projects prioritised for 2019/20. Significant progress has been made on a number of key work streams, a summary of the major ongoing projects are:

E-BIT is one of Kent's evidence based investigative tools to assist decision making, providing a structured investigative response to victims reporting particular crime types. The tool examines solvability, vulnerability and public interest focusing on a more appropriate, proportionate and tailored service to victims of crime. The tool has recently been expanded to include the investigation of Criminal Damage offences and a retrospective public satisfaction survey is planned for summer 2019. Further enhancement of EBIT for use in investigations across other volume crime types is expected in the near future.

Kube – The Force is continuing to explore crime forecasting and predicting technologies capable of supporting an effective crime reduction / prevention strategy. Scoping continues to develop a capability far beyond the previous predictive system utilised in the Force.

Domestic Abuse – Significant work has progressed in respect of the Force's plan to trial a three-way pilot of a new innovative approach to policing Domestic Abuse. This project proposes a three strand response to Domestic Abuse – victim, children within the family and the perpetrators.

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Interventions will be based on the level of risk that the victims or children face, alongside the risk that the perpetrator presents with safeguarding being the primary objective.

Knife Crime - The purpose of this project is to effectively analyse patterns of knife crime and in particular the changes over time in patterns and trends which is carried out by analysing crime type, exploring victim / suspect relationships, motive, level of injury and crime outcome. This will aid investigations and assist with effective police response to this crime type in Kent.

Evidence Based Call Handling (FCR) – Initial scoping work is underway for developing an evidence based tool to allow more effective prioritisation, identification of risk and the timely allocation of police resources in the handling of all non-crime call types in order to provide the most efficient service to the residents of Kent.

Sex Offender Control Regimes – This is an analysis-led project utilising large volumes of data to relate patterns in re-offending to control regimes amongst Registered Sex Offenders. The purpose is to inform future strategy by identifying best practice and periods of risk.

8.5 Athena. Athena has been live for 6 months now, it continues to be embedded and adopted by the Force which is evidenced by a significant reduction in calls to the Helpdesk and increased ownership of development and problem resolution by departments across the Force. During this time Athena has been relatively stable however along with the other Athena Forces we suffer from the system having recurrent performance problems which causes delays and end user frustration. Work continues to identify and address these issues.

ATHENA has brought numerous successes following the implementation particularly in relation to intelligence gathering from other Forces. Some examples are as below:

Officers investigating an offence of theft from dwelling in another Athena Force identified a Kent suspect by searching Athena on the mobile telephone number given by him to the victim. Following his arrest in Kent the suspect's phone was examined and evidence found connecting him to the offence in the originating Force but also identifying other potential victims across a number of other counties including Kent.

In another investigation following a residential burglary, DNA was obtained by CSI where a hit was received on ATHENA for a suspect who was at the time wanted for five separate offences. The suspect was a member of an OCG operating from Cambridgeshire. The system identified that he was in custody at Cambridge having very recently been arrested. Athena allowed the Officer in Charge (OIC) to access his custody record relating to his detention in Cambridge and immediately ascertained the status of his detention and local OIC details. The Kent OIC was able to upload his case file and Cambridge officers were able to interview the suspect for the Kent offences and subsequently secured a burglary and remand for several offences including the Kent burglary.

9. Summary.

The Force is performing very strongly across a range of performance variables and has achieved excellent gradings from HMICFRS in their robust PEEL inspection process. Kent Police is the only Force in the country to have received an 'Outstanding' grading for legitimacy for four years in a row. In the five domains independently inspected, the Force is graded 'Outstanding' in four and 'Good' in one. That success has been achieved through the efforts of every officer, member of staff and volunteer. The Force makes good use of its community policing teams and puts victims and witnesses at the heart of every investigation which has been demonstrated with examples throughout this paper. This has been achieved during a period of unprecedented growth in the demand for policing services and the complex management of today's challenges where new crime types are emerging such as modern slavery, human trafficking and cybercrime.